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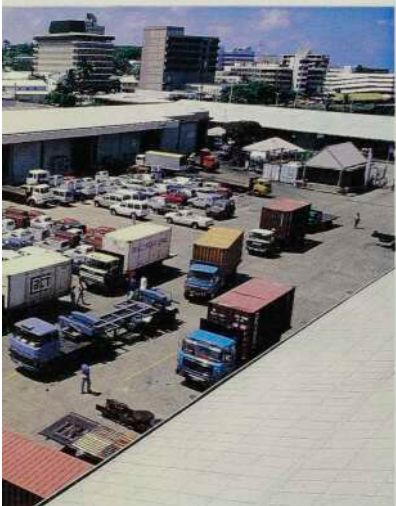
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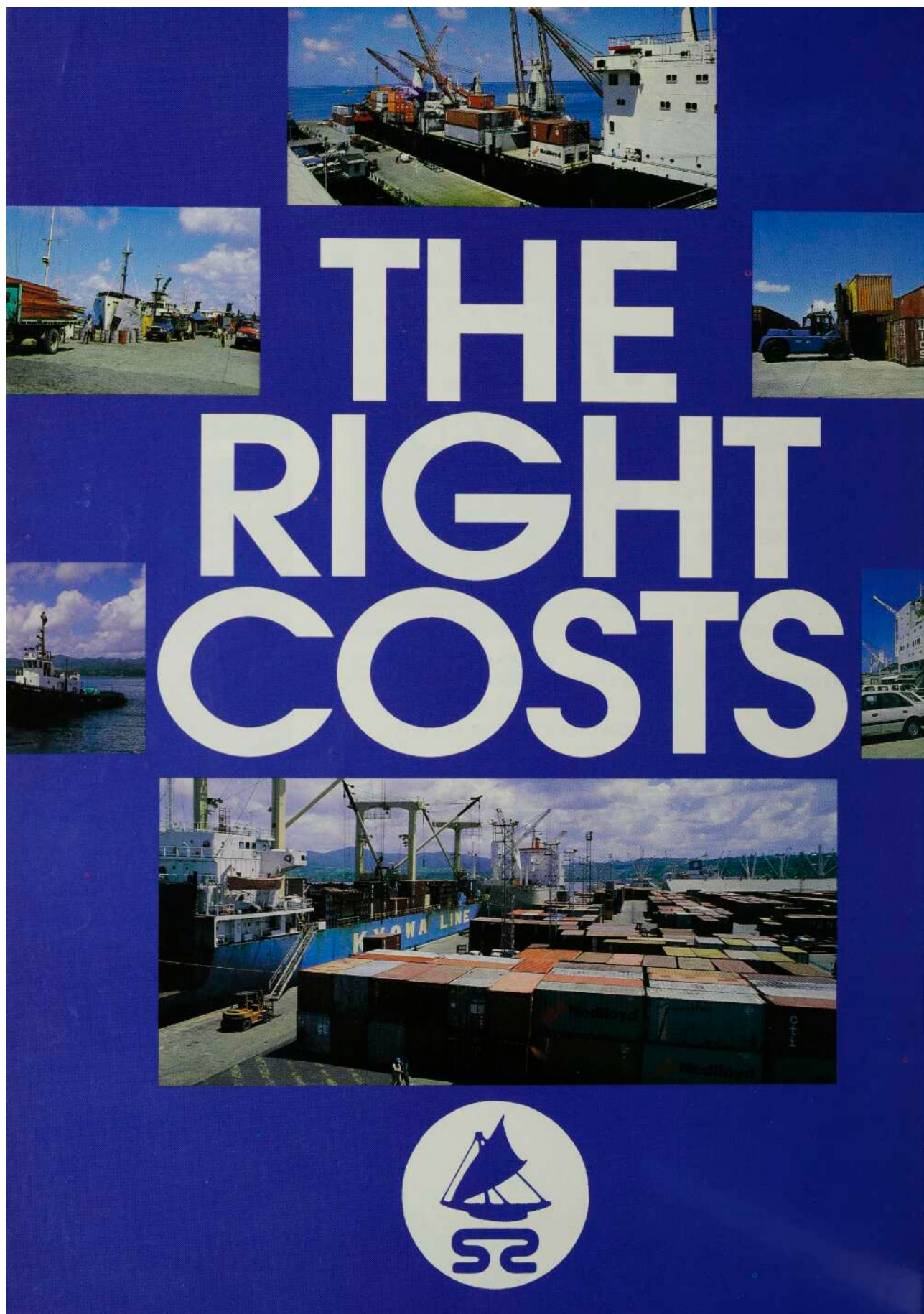
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PACIFIC ISLANDS

M O N T H L Y

Vol 62 No. 7

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JULY 1992

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Publisher: Gene Swinstead
Editor: Mala Jagmohan
Senior Writer: Martin Tiffany

Correspondents: Al Prince, Angela McCarthy, David North, David Robie, Diana McManus, Dykes Angiki, Frank Kolma, Franck Madoeuf, Ian Williams, Irene Visbet, John Hunter, Karen Mangnall, Lovenia Enari, Jilo Vilisoni Macel Manua, Nicholas Rothwell, Pesi Tonua, Richard Dinnen, Ulafala Alavao, Wally Lamborn.

Columnists: David Barber (Wellington), Futa Helu (Tonga, covering the Pacific Islands), Jemima Garrett (Sydney), Margot O'Neill (Washington), Julian Moti (Pacific Law), Alfred Sasako (The Forum).

Business and Advertising Manager, Charlotte Thomas

Advertising Sales:

● Regional Sales (South Pacific): Salendra Narayan, Tel (679) 304111, Fx (679) 303809
● Sydney, Melbourne: Fergus MacLagan, Tel (61-2) 4134689, Fx (61-2) 4123918
● Brisbane: Robert Walker, Media House, Tel (61-7) 3710533, Fx (61-7) 371-8904
● Adelaide: Hastwell Williamsons Representations, Tel (61-8) 799522, Fx (61-8) 799735
● Auckland: McKay International Media Reps Ltd, Tel (64-9) 4190561, Fx (64-9) 4192243
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LETTERS

Toxic New Caledonia

While applauding *Pacific Island Monthly's* decision to publish something on Kanaky/New Caledonia from the perspective of a Kanak activist, the article by Susanna Ounei "Kanak Laments French Ploy" fails to extend a discussion on what has, and is, happening in Kanaky/New Caledonia beyond the polemic of the Matignon Accords and the assassination of Jean-Marie Tjibaou. In fact, the most insidious French ploy ever to have been conducted in this ancient archipelago does not even rate a mention — the deliberate destruction and unchecked abuse of the Kanak people and their natural environment from a century and a quarter of relentless mining and smelting of nickel.

The recent disclosure by the territorial medical authorities that Kanaky/New Caledonia holds the world record for asthma-related deaths, comes as no surprise. After all, the territory holds yet another record that of lung cancer in the Central and South Pacific, already linked to the nickel mining industry. Asthma, caused by sensitivity of nickel dust, was diagnosed in Europe as long ago as the early 1950's, yet

several decades later doctors working on the problem in Kanaky/New Caledonia have chosen to ignore any relationship between the illness — which is estimated to effect up to 10 per cent of the population — and pollution from mining and smelting practice, blaming it instead on allergy to pollens.

The majority of the Kanaks who live in the capital, Noumea, are housed in low-income ghettos, some built within a few metres of the smelter's guarded gates. They innocently grow their food next to highly toxic tailings' dumps and fish from the smelter effluent canal. The prevalent wind covers these ghettos in an incessant daily and nightly dose of red and black dust from the smelter's array of stacks, and people living in these death-traps have been complaining of asthma and respiratory problems for years. Smelter regulations forbid emissions when the wind is blowing in the opposite direction, and last year a public apology was issued by the mining industry when an inadvertent change of wind direction covered tourist sun-bathers in 'illegal' smelter dust. Built within metres of the lagoon, considered one of the most beautiful in the world, the smelter covers the waters' surface with a cloak of dust, visible from the air, which

suffocates plankton and kills the reef. High levels of heavy metals have been found not only in the lagoon, but throughout the territory in both the rural and urban drinking water.

With the majority of the medical sector in Kanaky/New Caledonia still in control of the military, and the major mining company owned by the French government, the territorial mining laws and the Mining Pollution Control Commission answerable to the French Atomic Energy Authority, there is obviously a vested interest in ignoring the very real connection between pollution from the industry and the territory's alarming health and environmental problems. Forty per cent of the world's resources of nickel, a strategic metal used among other things, in the nuclear industry, with deposits predicting too last another 200 years, are to be found in New Caledonia.

Unfortunately, various members of the Kanak independence movement whose charter adopts an anti-nuclear position view nickel as a tried and tested means of 'easy' development. This they have done without having really challenged the damage this industry has done to the health of the people they represent. At the FLNKS Congress in April 1991, no acknowledgment was made by their Health Com-

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mission of the already proven relationship between the mining and smelting pollution and the poor health of the Kanak people. In 1990, the territory's Loyalist leader and nickel millionaire, Jacques LaFleur, gave the Kanak-controlled Northern Province a 49 per cent share in a nickel mine. A 10-year export deal signed earlier this year has made this mining company the country's top nickel exporter.

Both nickel and many of its compounds released during the smelting process, have been classified as carcinogenic, mutagenic and teratogenic by the International Agency for Research on Cancer. The Environmental Protection Agency in the US lists nickel as an "Extremely Hazardous Substance". World Health Organisation emission standards for the smelting of nickel are set at levels far, far lower than currently in practice in Kanaky/New Caledonia where there is a paucity of official information on health problems and risks associated with the industry.

Yet amazingly, the French ploy remains undetected, even by self professed Kanak 'extremists' — that of involving the Kanaks themselves as unsuspecting accomplices in the steady flow of a strategic metal France's continuing courtship with all things nuclear requires, but also as innocent participants in the destruction of their own health and environment.

Susi Newborn
Auckland

LETTERS

Continental correction

I WOULD like to correct the impression you have given to your readers in the May issue of *Pacific Islands Monthly* that Continental Airlines has withdrawn operations from the South Pacific effective June.

The article headed "Continental slashes routes — Sydney Auckland trips likely to end" is not only misleading but incorrect.

On February 8 of this year, Continental Airlines announced that it was re-arranging schedules to Melbourne and Brisbane to more closely align capacity to the current market needs. This resulted in withdrawing three non-stop services per week between Melbourne and Honolulu and increasing Melbourne/Auckland services by one per week giving a total of five services a week from Melbourne to the USA via Auckland. In the case of Brisbane the three DC-10 services a week to Honolulu via Auckland were replaced by two B747s per week.

Services between Sydney and Honolulu and Auckland were not affected and remain at seven per week on each route.

With a total of 24 flights per week into and out of Australian cities Continental Airlines is still the fourth largest international carrier operating to Australia and is now in its 14th year of operations in the South Pacific.

So as you can see the source of your information is incorrect and therefore the article is totally misleading and damaging to Continental Airlines.

I would appreciate if you could correct the impression you have given your readers.

Brian W. Wild
General Manager Australia

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR must include writer's full name, address and home telephone number. All letters may be edited for purposes of clarity and space.

Letters should be addressed to:
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SOUTH PACIFIC REGIONAL ENVIRONMENT PROGRAMME (SPREP)

VACANCY — COASTAL MANAGEMENT OFFICER

Applications are invited for the position of Coastal Management Officer with the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP), based in Apia, Western Samoa.

SPREP is a regional organisation established by the governments and administrations of 22 Pacific Islands countries and territories and 4 developed countries. * Its aim is to assist the Island countries and territories to protect and improve their shared environment and to manage their resources so as to enhance the quality of life for present and future generations. SPREP undertakes a wide range of environmental activities throughout the region, particularly in the areas of Conservation of Biological Diversity, Climate Change and Sea Level Rise, Environmental Planning and Management (Terrestrial), Coastal Planning and Management, Prevention of Pollution and Management of Pollution Emergencies, Environmental Information, Education and Training and Regional Environmental Concerns.

The SPREP Secretariat, which has been based in Apia since early this year, is responsible for executing the policies and directives of its members, for providing advice and assistance to those members (either directly or through consultants), for formulating and implementing projects under the SPREP Action Plan and for securing donor assistance. It is headed by a Director, assisted by a Deputy Director, and aided by a team of professional staff recruited from within and outside the region and support staff recruited in Western Samoa.

Coastal lands and nearshore waters are of great importance to Pacific Island peoples, cultures and economies. The coastal areas of all islands in the Pacific are the location of the majority of human habitation, the focus of subsistence and commercial agriculture and fisheries activities and the target of most economic development. Coastal management and planning problems are widespread in the region, and in some areas urgent as the potential for ecologically sustainable development and protection of coastal areas is being permanently lost or compromised. In addressing these problems, SPREP'S Action Plan calls for the promotion of a comprehensive, multi-sectoral, integrated approach to the use and conservation of coastal areas, habitats and resources.

The Coastal Management Officer will be responsible to the Director, through the Deputy Director, for assisting the strengthening of national capabilities to formulate and implement coastal management and planning programmes through training activities, workshops and projects; for developing and implementing coastal management and planning programmes; for improving understanding and developing expertise within communities and private and government sectors regarding the benefits of coastal management and planning; for coordinating coastal management and planning activities in the region and for undertaking other coastal management and planning activities, including coastal resource surveys and management plan development. The position entails considerable travel.

Candidates must have appropriate tertiary qualifications from a recognised institution and at least five years' work experience in a field related to this position. Other essential requirements are the abilities to work as part of a small, inter-disciplinary team, to manage the work of consultants, to meet project deadlines (often under difficult circumstances) and to adapt to living in tropical island communities. Applicants with a demonstrated interest and involvement in economic and social issues affecting the region, particularly as they relate to the management of coastal resources, will be highly regarded.

Appointment will be at Project Officer level and will be for three years in the first instance, renewable for a further three years by mutual agreement. An attractive remuneration package, will be offered, with commencing salary dependant on qualifications, experience and current salary in country of recruitment, and will include return airfares from country of recruitment for the appointee and dependants, establishment grant, housing subsidy, leave fares, Provident Fund and child and education allowances where applicable. For non-Western Samoan citizens, salary and allowances will be tax-free in Western Samoa.

Applications must be accompanied by detailed curricula vitae containing full information on qualifications and experience for the position as well as names, addresses and telephone or fax contact numbers of three persons associated with the applicant professionally and who would be prepared to provide testimonials.

Applications should be addressed to:

The Director
South Pacific Regional Environment Programme
P.O. Box 240
APIA
Western Samoa
Fax (685) 21 929 Telephone (685) 20 231

Further information, including a full duty statement and schedule of terms and conditions of appointment, can be obtained by contacting SPREP'S Administrative Officer, Mr Ueligiton Sasagi, at these numbers.

Applications close on 31 August 1992.

* SPREP member countries and territories are: American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, France, French Polynesia, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, New Zealand, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, United States of America, Vanuatu, Wallis and Futuna and Western Samoa.

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POLITICS

Politics boils in American islands

By David North

"The Battle of the Dinosaurs" is how the upcoming election for governor of American Samoa is being described.

Samoa's only two elected governors, life-long political opponents, will probably be battling again later this year when Governor Peter Tali Coleman's four-year term nears an end. The 72-year-old governor is expected to announce for re-election shortly, and he already has the endorsement of the territorial Republican Party.

Senator A.P. Lutali, also, 72, who served as governor from 1985 through 1988, has already announced his candidacy, and he has the support of the islands' Democrats. Coleman, the territory's first elected governor, has never lost an election; a constitutional provision barring more than two successive four-year terms kept him off the ballot in 1984 when Lutali won. After Coleman beat Lutali in 1988 Lutali was elected to the territorial senate, where he continues

to serve.

While Lutali and Coleman are expected to secure 80-90 per cent or more of the votes between them, there are other candidates as well. Falema'o "Phil" Pili, for example, resigned as Deputy Treasurer of American Samoa to make the race.

Meanwhile, there are a series of other political contests in the American islands, all timed to coincide with the presidential election on the Mainland in November.

● Congressman Eni F.H. Faleomaveaga, a Democrat is running for re-election in American Samoa, and Congressman Ben Blaz, a Republican, is similarly engaged in Guam. Both these seats carry with them votes in committees and party caucuses, but not on the floor of the House of Representatives in Washington.

● The 21-member Territorial Legislature of Guam, now held by the Democrats 11-10, is up again, for two-year terms. It is the only legislative body in Guam.

● 2 All the members of the popularly-elected Samoan House of Representatives, and half of the matai-elected Senate, are also due for election, with the lower house getting two year terms, and the upper house, four years. Members of these bodies, collectively called the Fono, usually do not divide along party lines.

● American Samoa also has an elected Lieutenant Governor; candidates for this office are selected by the candidate for governor; voters then vote for a Governor-Lt. Governor team.

Fourth-term Congressman Blaz faces his toughest race this November since he defeated Congressman Antonio Won Pat back in 1984. The likely Democratic candidate for the seat is well-known, articulate, and the leading spokesman for the Chamorro Rights movement. He is Dr Robert Underwood, a professor at the University of Guam. Grandson of a U.S. Navy officer — and three Chamorro grandparents — he led the Organization of People for Indigenous Rights, a group which made a major input to the Draft Commonwealth Act, which island leaders are using to try to secure a better relationship with Washington. Underwood is said to be a better campaigner than the somewhat aloof Blaz, a Republican and a former U.S. Marine Corps Brigadier General.

Faleomaveaga, now finishing his

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The Pacific Islands Council for Blind Persons (P.I.C.) invites written applications for the position of

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

P.I.C. is a regional coordinating body based in Suva, serving the developing nations of Micronesia, Melanesia and Polynesia. The goals of P.I.C. are to assist indigenous organisations and agencies in preventing blindness and in serving incurably blind persons.

P.I.C. is looking for a Pacific Islander with broad management, leadership, public relations and fund raising experience. Knowledge, experience, training and proven success in a top management position with a for-profit or not-for-profit organisation are required for the person selected.

Knowledge and skill in the areas of personnel, training, budgeting, financial reporting, grantsmanship and working with a board of directors will be an advantage.

The position requires extensive overseas travel, strong planning and coordination skills and the ability to relate well to both governmental and non-governmental organisations that are members and potential members of P.I.C.

Persons interested in applying should submit a letter of application, copies of all degrees, diplomas, certificates and other qualifications, a complete and current curriculum vitae and three letters of reference to:

Pacific Island Council for Blind Persons,
P.O. Box 14450,
Suva, FIJI.

No phone calls regarding this position can be accepted. The P.I.C. office will contact those persons short-listed to arrange for interviews. The deadline for all complete applications to be in the P.I.C. office is 4.30pm, Suva time, 31st July, 1992.

POLITICS

second term, has battled with Governor Coleman on a series of issues, and the Governor is sure to have a candidate to run against him, but who it will be is not yet known. Two years ago Faleomaveaga soundly trounced Coleman's candidate, Territorial Treasurer Ace Tago, who is not expected to run again.

Coleman's candidate for the seat in Congress might be his son and chief of staff, William "Dyke" Coleman, but the betting is that it will be the territory's Attorney General, Aviata F'alevao. Meanwhile another candidate has announced. He is Tuika Tuika, a firebrand, and a one-time member of the Fono.

Lutali's candidate for Lt. Governor this time is Tauese Sunia, brother of Faleomaveaga's predecessor in the U.S. House of Representatives, Fofu Sunia. Tauese, a former member of the Fono, had served Lutali earlier as his campaign manager and as director of education. A non-lawyer, he is a recognised Legal Practitioner, specialising in land and titles disputes.

Coleman's candidate for Lt. Governor is not known at the moment. The current Lt. Governor, Galea'i P. Poumele, is in a hospital in Honolulu; should his health improve, he might run again. Otherwise it might be Treasurer Tago.

The American islands do not cast votes for the President. But while the U.S. islands do not take part in the White House voting in November, they do play a small role at the party conventions which nominate the two rivals for the office. The Republican delegates from Guam and Samoa are all pledged to George Bush, but the American Samoan delegation to the Democratic convention might play an interesting role. The Samoans have four votes (out of four thousand) at the convention, but the entire delegation is uncommitted, probably the only totally uncommitted delegation at the convention. If Governor Bill Clinton stumbles some more in the primaries, the delegation from Pago Pago will be heavily wooed at what will be an unusual event in recent American political history, a truly open convention, where the delegates actually chose the presidential nominee.

The Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) is not involved in any of this year's elections. It elects its own officials in November of odd years, and its leaders have decided (unlike Guam and American Samoa) not to have a delegate in the House of Representatives. Should CNMI ever decide it wants a voteless seat in Congress, or to play a voting role in the conventions, all it has to do is ask. □

Keeping politicians money-honest

Disclosure laws can make a difference

By David North

HOW do you keep elected politicians money-honest? That's a problem throughout the Pacific — and much of the world. While there's no cure-all for greed, the U.S. islands approach this problem with a collection of techniques including a series of spotlights pointed at the individual politician's public and private finances. As a result, we know that:

- Congressman Ben Blaz (R — Guam) pays \$390 per month to Maids To Order, a cleaning service which takes care of his office on the island. We also know that these maids don't do rugs — his office paid someone else for carpet cleaning.

- Speaking of home island offices, Congressman Eni F. H. Faleomavaega (D — American Samoa) must grit his teeth every time the office rent is paid; he has to make out a monthly check for \$800 to the Treasurer of American Samoa, Ace Tago — the very man who ran against him for Congress two years ago. Faleomavaega rents space from the American Samoa Government (ASG), and pays about a fifth as much rent as Blaz, who represents a more affluent island.

- Joseph Tighe, director of one of the Guam's public agencies, says he has assets of \$3000 and liabilities of \$96,000, despite an annual income of \$93,817.48.

- Then there is Tighe's colleague, Giovanni Sgambelluri, another Guam official, who has a slightly lower income but assets of \$2,244,000 and liabilities of \$106,000. Maybe their financial standings reflect their lines of work: Tighe does educational television and Sgambelluri is the Director of the Territorial Bureau of Budget and Management Research.

- Further, both Faleomavaega and Blaz have mobile phones in their cars but the former pays \$22.47 a month for his, while Blaz's pays only \$20 a month.

All of these tidbits come from the official records of the U.S. Congress, and from the Territory of Guam; anyone wanting this information can secure it by visiting the office in question, or, in the

case of the Guam official's financial statements, by reading them in the *Pacific Daily News*.

Journalists can, and do, have fun with this kind of financial trivia, but the underlying theme is a serious one. Carefully drawn financial disclosure legislation, even if indifferently enforced, can make a major difference in the way politicians behave; these "sunshine laws" are a major part of the efforts in the U.S. islands to keep politicians money honest.

These disclosure laws bring results. The rental arrangements noted above, for example, remind me of the former Congressman from Indiana who had to report that government funds were being used to rent his front porch, as a district office. He was laughed and voted out of office — and other Congressman avoided renting space in buildings that they owned.

More significantly, forcing Congressmen to report on lecture fees, the norm was \$2000, paid to them while speaking to interest groups, has virtually ended that practice. The interest groups were not intrigued by what the Congressmen would say to them, what they were buying, it is generally believed, was access to the Congressman before and after the little speech.

The "sunshine laws," however, do not stand alone, they are part of a larger U.S. system of checks and balances, all designed to keep politicians money honest. There are four principal elements in this larger system: two or more levels of government eyeing each other; three quite separate and quite independent branches of each of these levels of government (executive, legislative and judicial); an independent auditing authority, and an independent and often assertive press. When legislators adopt "sunshine laws" within this system they not only limit their ability to gouge the taxpayers, should they feel so inclined, but they set a precedent for years or decades to come. It is politically awkward to undo "sunshine" arrangements, though Peter Tali Coleman, Governor of American Samoa, has moved in that direction.

POLITICS

The most controversial of these elements is that of the layers of government; U.S. flag islands continue to seek money from Washington, but do not want strings tied to that money, or to have federal auditors pay attention to how it is spent. And it was federal prosecutors who, in recent years, ended the political career of Congressman Fofu Sunia (D — American Samoa), who plea bargained a charge of stealing Congressional funds, and of Governor Ricky Bordallo (D — Guam) who killed himself rather than go to prison for misusing public funds.

While both Sunia and Bordallo were Democrats prosecuted by the Reagan Administration, it is not only Democrats who get in trouble with the feds. Currently both the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and the ASG (both with Republican Governors) are fighting with federal auditors.

Strictly speaking, the CNMI issue is more of a policy issue than an investigation of individual malfeasance. The Inspector General of the Mainland Department of Interior, wants to examine the way CNMI collects income taxes. The Governor, Larry Guerrero, argues that these are local funds, and that the feds have no right to look at them.

Without anyone saying so very loudly, the feds apparently suspect that the CNMI taxation system produces relatively little revenue (hence the requests for federal funds), and that the system is tilted heavily against low income residents of the islands. CNMI's income tax

system has three elements: 1) starts with the graduated federal income tax system (though the money all stays on the island); 2) heavy refunds, 95 per cent for those with incomes under \$7 million, are then sent to the taxpayers; 3) and then another, island-oriented tax system is imposed on income, with a heavier burden on the lower income residents



Faleomavaega: must grit his teeth

than on well-to-do ones. The IG would like to look at this, and has been forced by the Governor to go into federal court, where the IG will probably win.

The auditors' work in American Samoa is more sweeping than the efforts of the IG in CNMI. Encouraged by Faleomavaega, and the House Interior

Committee, Washington's independent audit agency, the General Accounting Office (GAO) sent a team of inspectors to look at the books in Pago Pago. They also worked with a thick pile of critical reports assembled over the years by the IG's office.

GAO found that: American Samoa's deficit was large and rising rapidly, that it failed to collect taxes very well, and may have let some major politicians get away without paying taxes, that officials often spent money that had not been budgeted, that procurement regulations were regularly violated, and that there were conflicts of interest with ASG officials favoring their kinfolk when making ASG purchasing decisions. It also found that there was a long and persistent pattern of these problems.

The House of Representatives Interior and Insular Affairs Committee held a hearing on the subject.

Although the Fono and the Governor are often at odds with each other, the legislature did not rise to the opportunity to criticize the Governor. As a matter of fact, a close reading of the exchange between the House Committee and the Fono displayed the much larger cultural gap between Washington and Pago Pago, than it did any island-based division between the executive and the legislature.

The Committee's questions were sharp, focussed precisely on the issues at hand (fiscal mismanagement and corruption), and business-like to abrupt in tone. The Fono's replies were fuzzy to non-responsive, often dealt with a broader context (like the island's poverty), and were expressed with a soft grace. The Committee wrote, for example: "The GAO has reported widespread ignoring of procurement policies and conflicts of interest in contracting involving high-ranking officials. The Samoan administration doesn't admit some of the procurement system's failures. Do you agree with the administration? If not, what should be done?"

The Fono's reply, over the signature of Tuana'itau F. Tuia, Speaker of the House of Representatives, started on an odd note: "I was surprised by the submission of additional questions since I was under the assumption during the course of the hearing, Mr. Chairman, that sufficient information was provided to address the audit findings. Nevertheless, the following pages contain the responses to the questions directed to me."

Congressional committees have been asking additional questions, following hearings, since time immemorial; one wonders who was advising the Speaker.

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The Foundation of the Peoples of the South Pacific International (FSPI), a non-governmental executing agency working in international development, is in the process of expanding the scope of its environmental and business related project activities through its field offices in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, Kiribati, Tonga and Western Samoa. Resumes/curriculum vitae are currently being solicited from qualified Pacific Island consultants interested in long, or short-term, country-specific and/or regional assignments. Consultants with experience in natural resource management (forestry and marine), private sector enterprise development, institutional development, information systems, project design and evaluation are urged to apply by sending a current resume/curriculum vitae and cover letter indicating type and duration of assignment desired and dates of availability to: **David Wyler, FSPI, P.O. Box 14447, Suva, FIJI.**

POLITICS



Blas: pays \$390 a month to clean his office

As to the conflict-of-interest question, the Speaker replied: "It should be noted that American Samoa is far removed from the mainstream. Therefore, it does not have the luxury of having many contractors to choose from ... It would be unfair to prevent companies owned by some of the ranking officials from the bidding process based on their position."

The GAO and Interior's IG had focussed on a glaring instance of conflict of interest; the ASG's Director of Communications was charged with setting the specifications of a purchase in such a way that the only way that the product in question, which related to mobile telephones, could be purchased in American Samoa was to buy it from his family's firm, which had an island-wide sales monopoly.

On the even more fundamental question of fiscal mismanagement, generally, the committee had written: "You say in your statement that 'no measure of efficiency is ... going to relieve the territory ... of its financial woes.' But wouldn't government integrity measures help, given the apparent amount of misspending in Samoa?"

In reply the Speaker while bowing in the direction of "stated rules and regulations" (often laws passed by his own legislature), wrote of the islands "very fragile economic system. Misspending, as the GAO labeled it, emerged as a result of not having sufficient funds to meet the needs of the people of the territory."

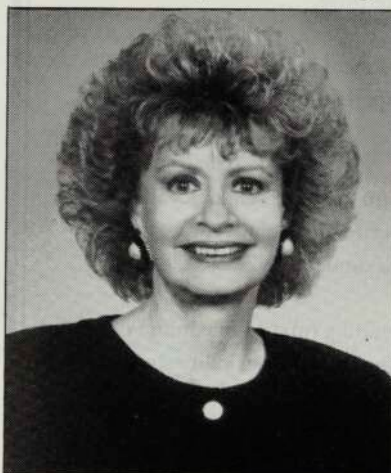
One of the underlying tensions between Washington and the islands revolves around government structures. Washington would be willing to pay less attention to island finances if it were convinced that the balance of powers arrangements — separate and self-confident executive, legislative, judicial and auditory branches — were alive and

well in the islands.

American Samoa has a governmental structure which is quite unlike the Mainland model. Samoa, unlike either Guam or CNMI, has no resident federal attorney, to prosecute lawbreakers. The ASG Attorney General, unlike most in the Mainland state governments (who are elected independently), is appointed by the Governor, and is regarded as unlikely to take action if laws are broken by another gubernatorial appointee in good standing with the Governor. The ASG auditor's office appears to Washington with the Governor. The ASG auditor's office appears to Washington to have little independence, and the flabby response by the Fono to the GAO investigation has already been noted.

Although American Samoa is nominally organized on the Mainland model of an independently chosen legislature, the de facto concentration of power in the executive's hand is much like that in a parliamentary executive's hand is much like that in a parliamentary democracy, such as the one in nearby Western Samoa.

In fact, if it were not for the local press — and Faleomaveaga off in Washington



Bordallo: net worth in excess of \$1 million

— the various audits by the Interior Department and the GAO apparently would produce little change. The *Samoa News*, however, pays close attention to the audits done by other organizations, and raises a series of detailed fiscal honesty questions of its own on a regular basis.

Why was the former owner of the SPIA airline given an insurance check by ASG after a former SPIA hanger was damaged in a hurricane, the *News* asked, when the hanger was owned by ASG at the time of the storm? Why did Governor Coleman end the long-established practice of listing everyone who left the island on an airplane ticket

purchased by ASG? This time the *News* must have had a double motive for the question — there was, of course, the matter of the public's right to know how the public's money was being spent, but there also was the denial of the best kind of news story, a list of names (and names make news) of the folks who managed to wangle an off-island trip at government expense.

It is the combination of the described ingredients which brings pressure for financial honesty to bear on the politicians. It includes the easy availability of the detailed records, a regular pattern of independent audits, independent prosecutors and judges if the situation is bad enough, and the use of these records and audits by both political opponents and a nosy press. All of this helps produce an environment in which financial honesty become not only morally correct but the better part of valor, as well.

Returning to the financial filings in Washington and Guam, we find a number of items worth noting, for example:

- The Lt. Governor of Guam (R), Frank Blas, and four of the nine Senators filing their returns on time, reported net worths in excess of one million dollars. The well-to-do senators are Madeleine Bordallo, widow of the late Democratic Governor, and Senators Elizabeth Arriola, Carl Gutierrez and Martha Ruth. A dozen senators and Governor Joe Ada (R), asked for an extension of the filing period, and will probably submit their documents in October.

- Both Congressmen Blas and Faleomaveaga use, for Capitol Hill, rather modest pay scales. No one was paid at rates higher than \$55,000 a year. Faleomaveaga's predecessor, Sunia, paid his top aide nearly \$80,000 a year before they were both indicted for corruption.

- Neither Congressman received any outside income during 1991, and both reported minimal travel at the expense of other organizations; in terms of gifts, Blas had none, and Faleomaveaga got a peace-pipe, a quilt and a painting, all worth \$185, from the National Congress of American Indians.

- Both Congressmen report limited holdings, other than their homes, and automobiles (which do not count.) Blas had two bank accounts, one valued at between \$1000 and \$15,000 and the other between \$50,000 and \$100,000, a rental house, but no stock or bonds. (Congress, to blur things a bit, uses ranges rather than hard numbers.) Faleomaveaga, similarly, had no stock or bonds, and two bank accounts, both between \$1000 and \$15,000.

- Neither Congressman Blas nor Faleomaveaga gets high marks for neatness and completeness in their filings, however.



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For further information on conditions and appraisal procedures, and instructions for submitting applications for funding under the scheme, please contact your local New Zealand Representative, or the South Pacific Trade Office, P.O. Box 774, Auckland 1, New Zealand — (fax + 64 9 377 6642).

(The South Pacific Trade Office is able to assist entrepreneurs interested in the scheme with the identification of potential New Zealand or Pacific Island partners.)

POLITICS

Blaz reported that his rental house, in Auburn, Alabama, is worth between \$50,000 and \$100,000 and his income from it is also in the same range. Both those statements, a real estate broker told me, can not be accurate. If a house is rented for, say \$50,00 a year, it is probably worth about \$500,000; a house valued between \$50,000 and \$100,000 probably produces yearly rent in the \$5000 - \$10,000 range. The changes are that Blaz checked the wrong column, several years in a row, when filling out this report. Similarly, Blaz reports a disputed debt among his liabilities in the \$15,000 - \$50,000 range. The name of the debt holder, a resident of New Jersey, is spelt differently in different years.

● Faleomaveaga, in May of this year, noticed that he had not reported either of the bank accounts in the 1991 filing, and sent a letter to the Clerk of the House with a correction; similarly he had not reported a job his wife had with Pan American last year. This year he reported both bank accounts and no job for his wife. (Pan Am, sad to say, no longer hires anyone, anywhere in the world.)

Earlier in the year both Congressmen reported that they, like most of their colleagues, had written overdraft checks on a payroll facility run by the House. (Blaz wrote a handful, Faleomaveaga a few more.) The listing of the overdraft check writers, which caused a big stir in American politics, and the defeat in primary elections of a couple of Congressmen, was an example of the "sunshine tradition" carried to a ludicrous extreme. None of the checks bounced. No government money was lost. A few Congressmen, in effect, got interest-free loans from other, unwitting members of the House, but the media and the White House (always interested in distracting the public from the real problems in Government, such as the massive deficit) had a field day. The overdrafts were reported in both Guam and American Samoa, but there has been little additional discussion of them. □

□ Anyone in a US jurisdiction wanting to see a free (and voluminous) sample of US financial disclosures can write to : **Donnald K. Anderson, Clerk of the House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., 20515**, and ask for a copy of the most recent quarterly report of the Clerk of the House; readers in non-US jurisdictions can write to : **PIM, 3113 N. Kensington St., Arlington, Virginia, 22207, USA**, for the same document.

POLITICS

Resource development — the dividing line in PNG politics

By Frank Kolma

ECONOMIC independence will be the central issue of Papua New Guinea's fourth Parliament, just elected. At the time of writing the make-up of that Parliament is subject to a national general election.

With proceeds from mineral and petroleum developments, the chief means of funding government activity, the resource sector has become a target for differing political party policies.

Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu's Pangu Pati has had a run of bad public opinion very close to the election. Namaliu's own achievements of the last four years in trying to assure foreign multi-national joint ventures were torpedoed by party's founder and Foreign Affairs Minister, Sir Michael Somare, when he declared that he would personally influence the party after the elections to renegotiate all agreements. Somare said he would get more Papua New Guinea interests in the developments.

Prominent companies and Namaliu himself tried to make light of the suggestion, declaring that it was made in the heat of the moment on the campaign trail. Somare's seniority, however, forced over K220 million to be wiped off the shares of most PNG-based resource developers on the Australian stock exchange.

Opposition leader Pias Wingti grabbed the chance to put his own views on the matter.

Said Wingti: "We intend to put a ban on logs and certain things that are leaving the country in raw form. We want to see an oil refinery, a gold refinery, a copper smelter in the country.

"As a policy that is what we want to do. It will definitely be a priority."

Earlier, again at the insistence of Somare, Cabinet agreed to set up a local National Oil and Gas company to carry out local processing of mineral and oil. Namaliu announced that he had struck an agreement with a Japanese firm to forward sell K600 million worth of Kutubu oil. He quickly recoiled at the reaction from the business community and the idea has not been heard of since.

Debate on on-shore processing of gold and oil has flared from time to time and a consultant couple with very close links to Cabinet ministers revealed they had

plans to raise money to build a K600 million gold refinery and plans for a similar project in gold. Controversy on the links with senior ministers shelved that idea.

In this light, the June elections were critical.

As they were lined up for the elections, the government coalition parties of Pangu, People's Action Party, League for National Advancement and one half of the National Party were declaring that they were committed to each other. The Opposition parties, comprising the People's Democratic Movement, People's Progress Party, United Party and the other half of National Party were equally committed to each other.

Opposition leader, Pias Wingti, said, however: "In politics, we have no permanent enemies."

If the current Prime Minister were to lead the government again, it would have meant a continuing of current policies relating to mineral and petroleum development, but with Somare as a persistent thorn in his side.

Should Opposition leader, Pias Wingti lead his coalition into government, there is likely to be a drastic shift in policy.

It is an election that has fallen short of many expectations. It was thought, for instance, that 16 years after Independence, this election would see a maturing of PNG politics.

University of PNG lecturer in politics Nao Badu states that so such development has taken place.

Badu said: "There are no clear ideological differences between the parties. All parties can be classified near the centre.

"All want the market economy, but under national control. They want state control of welfare services.

"This is not necessarily bad. Papua New Guinea has peacefully passed that critical 15 years of independence which have seen nations of Africa go down the road to dictatorships and revolutions. We are still a thriving democracy. That is something to be proud of."

But it is bad when the aspirations of the people supercede those of the leaders.

Over 2000 policemen, 200 soldiers and 19,000 electoral officers are ready with over 100 tonnes of ballot papers and election equipment.

Twelve political parties are jostling to be in government on July 4. With no party clearly ahead of the others, the fourth Parliament looks set to be another coalition government.

Predictions on what party leads that coalition is pure guess-work at this stage, although it can be narrowed down to the Pangu Pati of current Prime Minister Namaliu and the Opposition People's Democratic Movement led by Pias Wingti.

Campaigning has been boring recently, with candidates from every camp offering the same roads, bridges, hospitals and schools. Only the issue of resource development has seen clear divisions in policies.

With more educated candidates and a public outcry for Constitutional reforms and stable government it was thought this election would see the maturing of PNG politics. It has not.

Democracy, PNG style is tribal. Free choice is the tribal leaders' will.

Since Independence on September 16, 1975, when the Australian flag was peacefully lowered, this South Pacific nation has taken the Westminster parliamentary system of government and grafted on it its own special brand.

With so many candidates running for power and a first past the post electoral system it is most likely the candidate with the biggest number of tribesmen supporting him will win.

Election is loud and open. The principle of secret ballot remains that — principle only. Tribal leaders discuss openly and decide who their people should vote for.

Wendu Mek, a woman from the Southern Highlands province who decided to follow her own counsel last election wound up in hospital and, when discharged from the hospital, she found she was without a husband, as well.

She warned fellow women in this election: "Somehow they have spies who will find out who you vote for. I did not like the person the village decided to vote for so I voted a different person.

"I thought it was secret, but when I returned my husband broke my hand. Later he threw my clothes out of the house. He said I brought shame to his name because he had guaranteed the village that his family would vote the man they had decided on."

Other villages see election as an opportune time to make money. "We are a market good," a leader in Chimbu province of the populous highlands region, "whoever wants our vote can buy it."

In one province election has taken on a totally different turn.

A three-year secessionist uprising on Bougainville has forced a halt to government services to the island and closed down one of the world's largest open cut mines, Bougainville Copper.

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POLITICS



Local resource development: remains a bone of contention

Hundreds have died directly or indirectly from the conflict.

There the people and their aspiring leaders have not yet met.

Businessman and candidate for Bougainville South, Paul Nerau said, "I have not had the opportunity to campaign. My people will not be voting freely. It will not be a democratic process where people exercise their right to vote freely. Even the common roll is not up-dated.

"These are sufficient reasons for me to dispute these elections if I lose."

Other Bougainville candidates, including Minister for Provincial Affairs, John Momis, have conducted their election campaigns by post and messengers from the capital, Port Moresby.

In turn, they expect their loyal supporters to vote for them by post, until now a privilege reserved for diplomats and students serving overseas. Others, in areas under security forces control in the north and south of Bougainville, will have to cast their votes under armed guard supervision.

None of the 12 parties going to the elections have selected Bougainville as a campaign issue. In a nation where corruption, crime and unemployment problems are endemic, Bougainville is a can of worms all have silently told themselves they cannot open.

Of the familiar campaign cries, corruption has once again become the chief

issue in the debate leading up to the election.

Again, it is this nation's clinging to and putting tribal and regional allegiances before national considerations that has been responsible for this adolescent nation's problems with corruption.

In a nation of many different customs and beliefs, parliament is an imposed and imposing institution. Rather than it serving to unite the differing tribal groupings as it was intended to, Parliament has become a mini-United Nations assembly. Members are like ambassadors to this assembly presenting the case for their little tribal nations, or to delve into the general coffer to bring home something to the people.

A member is a hero when he brings home something, regardless of how he came by it. And when the time comes he will be returned to Parliament. A former works Minister, Peter Kuman was found by a Parliamentary committee of having grossly misused K750,000 in building useless roads in his province. He was returned to Parliament. Former deputy Prime Minister, Ted Diro, had serious allegations of corruption made against him — later found guilty on 73 counts — by a royal commission of inquiry in 1987. He was returned by his people in that election.

The traditional welfare system has a hand in nurturing corruption. When the tribe gets its member elected, it completes its side of the responsibility. The

member is expected to return the favour by helping out at weddings, funerals, travel or accommodation. His salary of K16,000 per annum is not enough so he turns to the richer K100,000 a year electoral development fund, many a member corrupting his name in the name of his people.

The Ombudsman Commission last year revealed that nearly 90 out of the 109 members were being investigated by his office, mainly for use of the electoral fund.

It is on the issue of resource developments where clear division in policies and ideologies exists.

The government is looking to fund the bulk of its budget into the year 2000 from the resource sector. Projections based on projects already approved by economists David Parsons and David Vincent from the Australian National University indicate that —

- Gold production in 1993 to more than double in 1993;
- Growth in petroleum production from zero in 1991 to 46 million barrels a year in 1993 and 1994; and
- Export earnings from minerals and petroleum in 1993 and 1994 to exceed K2 billion compared with 636 in 1990.

In the absence of deeper ideological differences in politics in PNG, the policies of the principle parties on the development of the resource sector is one of the few major differences which people will base their choice upon.

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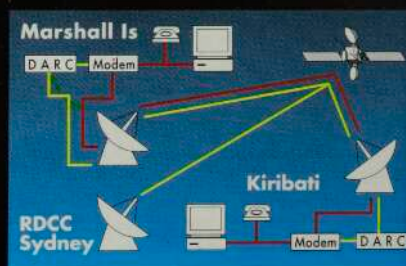
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Fiji — the past forgotten

Fiji has finally put the 1987 coups behind it. That is the conclusion which has been drawn across the political spectrum in Australia after Fiji's first post-coup election in May.

Considering the Australian government's loud and long condemnation, not only of the racially inspired coups but of the post-coup constitution, the warmth with which former coup leader Major-General Sitiveni Rabuka has been welcomed as Prime Minister could come as a surprise.

But a lot of things have changed.

Prime Minister Rabuka is emphasising his new moderate, consultative approach which values "consensus solutions" to Fiji's problems.

Like others in his party, the Soqosoqo ni Vakavulewa ni Taukei (SVT), General Rabuka has promised changes to the constitution.

While the new Prime Minister says there will be no going back on his promises to safeguard the heritage of indigenous Fijians he also told me in interview in Suva shortly after his appointment that he would be prepared to consider an amendment to re-introduce cross-voting.

That would be a major step. It would mean at least a partial breakdown of the post-coup voting system which rigidly divides the races and has encouraged communal thinking.

But the biggest change in General Rabuka since 1987 has been in his attitude to the Fiji Labour Party — one of the main victims of his coups.

The Labour Party won 13 of the 27 seats allocated to Fiji Indians. In return for Labour support for his bid for the prime ministership General Rabuka promised to review the constitution and land tenure arrangements for Indian cane farmers, to scrap the Value Added Tax and revoke controversial labour decrees.

While that deal with Labour may well turn out to be the source of many of Prime Minister Rabuka's problems (it cuts across the policy of both his own party and his main coalition partner, the General Voters Party) it is also a crucial source of his strength.

The Labour deal not only gives the new Prime Minister credibility on the racial question, but by opening the door to a more consensual style of politics, has the potential to break down that confrontational industrial relations climate which developed under the interim government.

It's a step which has won instant recognition in Australia.

Australia's Prime Minister, Paul Keating, sent warm congratulations to General Rabuka adding that a significant aspect was that his appointment had been supported by the Fiji Labour Party.

Keating said he particularly welcomed Prime Minister Rabuka's "statement that he has agreed to consider a review of the constitution" and was encouraged by his commitment to develop an environment for dialogue, compromise and agreement.

Among Australian business leaders, too, General Rabuka's appointment has been greeted with optimism.

Australia is by far the biggest investor in Fiji with total investment conservatively estimated at \$700 million and

AUSTRALIA



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growing. Despite the hesitancy of many Australian investors to put their money into Fiji before the outcome of the election was known, the fact that the former coup leader was elected Prime Minister has not concerned them.

One large investor I spoke with summed it up for many when he said "thank goodness Fiji has finally got a democratically elected government".

For Australian business it has been the election itself which has been by far the biggest hurdle.

The two points in Prime Minister Rabuka's agreement with Labour which have most frightened Fiji business, the promise to scrap the Value Added Tax and revoke the labour decrees, have had little impact in Australia.

In the post-election euphoria the same big investor confided that many of his colleagues had "thought the Labour Decrees too draconian".

Even the VAT, which has become a sacred cow among many sections of business in Fiji (mainly because reductions in import duty predicated on the VAT have already been made), was described by one Australian business leader as "not a life and death issue".

The untried nature of this new government may mean investors take slightly longer to feel satisfied about its stability but there is already a sense of optimism about the future.

That optimism is based not only on the new Prime Minister's insistence on his new more mature and measured approach to government but on the talent and track record of his new cabinet.

Prime Minister Keating praised General Rabuka's cabinet as "experienced and moderate".

He went on to tell Parliament that Fiji was an "important partner of Australia in the South Pacific and we do look forward to developing a constructive and positive relationship with them and of course wish their new government well in its deliberations in managing the affairs and prospects of the Fijian people".

While those who have kept up with Fiji politics, have backed away from their past reservations and feel comfortable about the new government despite some remaining differences, the same cannot necessarily be said about the vast bulk of Australians, many of whom might eventually visit Fiji as tourists.

With few Australian journalists allowed into Fiji over the past four years and little reporting of the changing political climate, many ordinary Australians still carry around the images of the coups in their heads.

For the Fiji tourist industry which has been suffering a major slump General Rabuka's agreement with Labour may have an unexpected spin-off.

Not since the death of former Prime Minister, Timoci Bavadra, has Fiji made such a splash in the newspaper headlines nor touched the emotions of ordinary folk.

The new talk of consensus may just get the message across that Fiji is still the safe and delightful place for a holiday it has always been. □

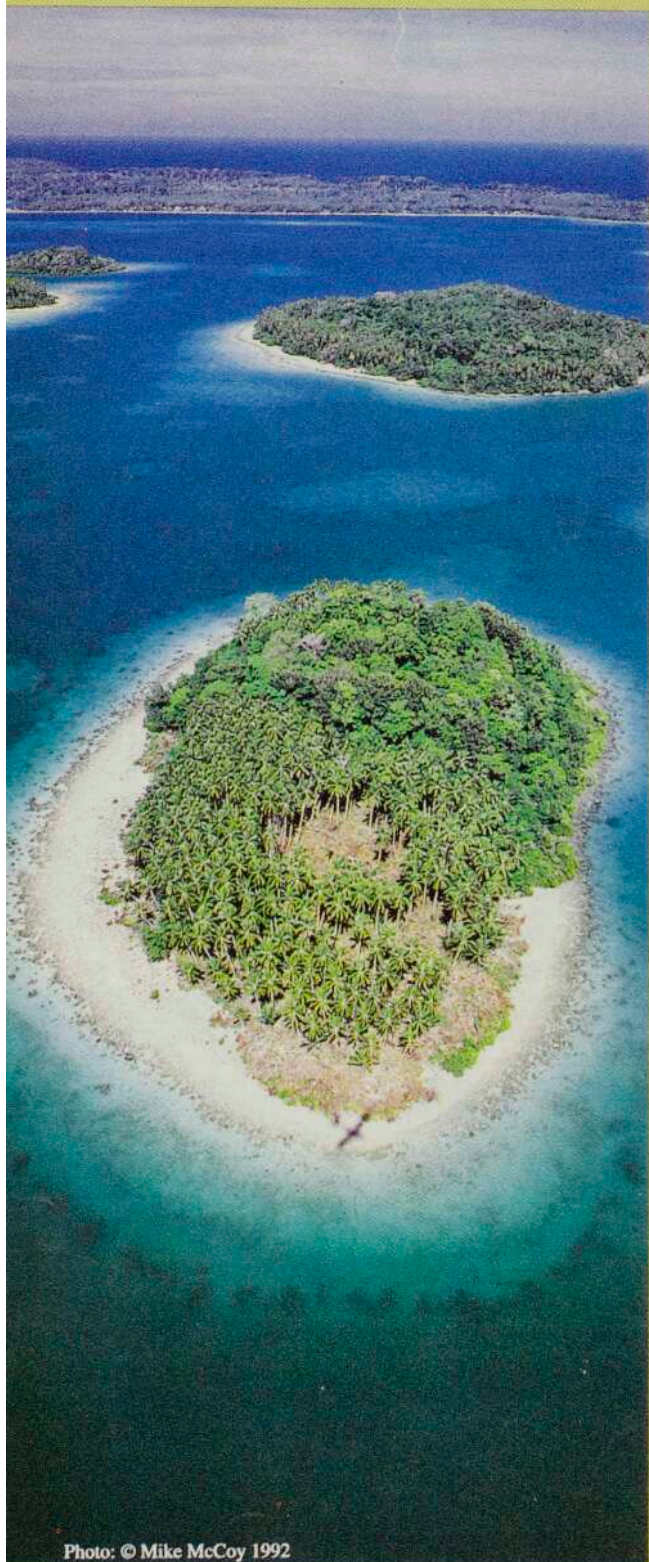


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ENVIRONMENT

Paradise Lost?

Treading the delicate balance between economy and ecology

By Sean Weaver

The balance of trade, international relations, the cost of foreign borrowing, the burden of debt servicing, protectionism in developed market economies . . . sounds like the overtures of an economic summit held in the depths of a finance ministry somewhere. But without a doubt, this is also the language of conservation.

There are currently many different plans and strategies being developed for improving environmental management in the Pacific. National environmental management strategies are currently being prepared in Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Cook Islands, the Marshall Islands, and Tonga. Much in the way of technical expertise is being gathered together from all over the world in order to prepare the environmental panacea for the Pacific.

It all sounds fine and dandy, and one could be excused for feeling a warm sense of well being in thinking that environmental disfigurement in the Pacific has had its day. Are we really heading for a new and benign era, when pollution will be a thing of the past, the threat of nuclear poisoning a distant memory, where the remaining native forests are kept standing tall and majestic in national parks, and where economic production follows nothing but an environmentally friendly path?

Think again.

In some isolated cases a government may be willing to allow its "conservations sector" to manage a resource for purposes of protecting national heritage. The novelty of things like national parks, however, may soon wear off as the same government does battle on the international economic stage. Here it attempts to keep the country's economy afloat in a fast Pacific ocean (where the sea levels are predicted to rise due to global warming threatening to drown us all anyway).



The local manifestations of international pressures on Pacific Island economies are alive and well. These economic pressures are a breeding ground for environmental problems and yet they are not being fully addressed in national environmental strategies. With all the technical assistance pouring into the region we can do well in identifying the dismal state of the environment, and the types of management that should be undertaken. But little regard is being given to address the underlying causes of our environmental problems. To realistically address these causes we must seek out their roots in the economic order that forces island governments to squeeze all they can from their nations resources

regardless of the ecological cost.

Failing to tackle the economic problems that underpin environmental degradation confines most environmental protection programs to the realms of symptom management. Unless the causes are fully understood, many environmental management programs designed to bandage the symptoms are destined for eventual failure.

But in many cases time is already running out. When the goats have chewed the land down to the quick and the soil blows away what will the landowners grow on the bedrock? Industrial pollution levels in Pacific urban centres are getting worse by the day, reefs are being destroyed, and the few remain

ENVIRONMENT

ing natural forests continue to be converted to plantations or non-forest landuses. We must move quickly, there is no time for delay.

Environmental protection programs throughout the world have been economically naive for too long. We celebrate the establishment of a small protected area here, a beach clean-up there against a swelling tide of gruesome economic realities that threaten to make a farce out of past efforts.

We cannot hope to be realistic environmental managers, for the benefit of the people and ecosystems of the Pacific, unless we are able to reshape the economic instruments of ecological plunder.

Island governments do all they can to bring in much needed foreign exchange and also attempt to create a balance in domestic activities under the principles of optimal distribution. But what the Pacific island nations need more than anything else is to establish an optimal carrying capacity. Their economy itself must be ecologically sustainable.

But how on earth will these countries be able to take sustainability seriously in an economic climate when the balance of trade is against them, where they are forced (through protectionism in developed market economies) to trade in little else but raw materials, where foreign investment can only be attracted through the creation of tax free zones, where trans-national giants bleed their economy through transfer pricing, where they suffer from the rising burden of debt, where aid flows are stagnating amid an increase in the cost of foreign borrowing?

Get real. What can conservation hope to achieve if it does not begin to address these kinds of issues?

Pacific island economies are locked into the international game of world trade. This is no revelation. But for ecologists and environmental managers in the Pacific it is something we must come to grips with. These economic pressures set the context for the current historical phase of environmental degradation. Failing to comprehend their ecological ramifications will simply help to perpetuate the role of environmental management as a soft option for Pacific island governments.

The links between underdevelopment and environmental depletion

were well recognised in 1986 by the World Commission on Environment and Development. This commission was convened by the United Nations to assess the state of the global environmental situation vis-a-vis world development. It also presented a set of minimum guidelines required by all nations to avert a potentially horrendous global environmental crisis. This is otherwise known as the Brundtland Report. The Earth Summit, held in Brazil in June, is a follow up of the 1986 commission findings to see how much or how little progress has been made since then.

Much of the Brundtland Report concentrates on international economic issues, highlighting economic



Arid land: a result of bad management

inequities that have substantial impacts on the environment of both developing and developed countries. Little international economic readjustment has happened since 1986 to help developing countries out of the economic shackles that bound them during their colonial histories. This is in spite of the Brundtland Report demonstrating that such moves form a vital prerequisite for an ecological and economic future for the planet.

Thus, the economic legacies of the colonial era live on in the current economic order of the Pacific region and perpetuate the dismal patterns of metropolitan hegemony. This, of course, has been an on going complaint of independent Pacific island nations trying to dig themselves out of the underdevelopment pit. But as we have seen, it is also the root of a pervasive

environmental evil. For sustainability to be a reality for the Pacific we need no less than a new international economic (and hence ecological) order. This will require a more equitable distribution of the international division of ecological (and human) labour.

The subordinated economies of Pacific island nations are still heavily dependent on aid inputs and market outlets supplied and regulated by developed market economies outside the region. These nations maintain a trading relationship with island nations that preserves a trade balance in their own favour, which sustains their economic dominance in the region. As a consequence these countries are helping to perpetuate the environmental problems arising from economic pressures on natural resources in the Pacific. Because of this it is conceivable that they should play a major part in assisting Pacific island nations in the struggle towards a sustainable future.

Here is where international assistance for economic development can be linked directly with the protection of the Pacific environment. What is good for the Pacific island economies can also be good for the ecosystems, as to relieve the pressure on their resources will create the breathing space required to implement effective environmental management. This in turn will help to remove some of the principle causes of environmental degradation. Moves towards ecological sustainable development in the Pacific become entangled in the essential problems associated with any form of development in an economy subordinated by its trading partners. Because of this the Pacific will be unable to make any real environmental improvements without substantial international support.

International environmental management assistance will have to involve an improvement in the economic conditions within Pacific island nations and between these nations and their trading partners. Recognition of this within Pacific countries is an important step in the pursuit of ecological sustainability. But unless people begin to realise that environmental degradation and underdevelopment are woeful siblings in the same underprivileged family, an ecologically sustainable future for the Pacific will not lie at the end of the rainbow. □

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ENVIRONMENT

National Park

Recently Tonga has decided to protect and manage a forested area on 'Eua Island. The decision represents a significant step by which Tonga joins in the global effort to preserve biodiversity.

In terms of the number of plant species, 'Eua is perhaps the richest island in all of Tonga. Several species are endemic to the island, a larger number are endemic to Tonga, while still larger numbers are endemic to the Tonga-Samoa-Fiji region of the South Pacific. The forests provide habitat for several important animal species. These include a sub-species of the red-breasted musk parrot found only on 'Eua and on the island of Gau in Fiji, the banded iguana, and the insular flying fox.

A narrow strip of the entire east coast of 'Eua island would be included in the project. By containing such a long area, the National Park would be able to include all 10 of the plant communities found. Also, this would enable regeneration of plant species in the event that a



Wildlife: could get a sanctuary

cyclone or large fire were to destroy one part of the forest.

The decision to protect the forests on eastern 'Eua island represents the first step toward preservation, but establishing and maintaining a national park takes considerably more money. The South Pacific Regional Environment Program will play a major role in the program.

Kiribati

A report by the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) on Kiribati says unless global greenhouse emissions are considerably reduced, the trend of sea level rise will persist, and 100 years from now it could be as much as two metres above its present level. The predictions of the impact of sea level rise on the low islands are based on an assumption that coral growth will not keep pace with sea level rise. However the SPREP report says it is likely, "depending on a number of biological factors, that coral growth will be able to keep pace with even rapidly rising sea levels, ... if such rises occur no more rapidly than three metres per 100 years".

Kiribati also has other environmental and resource issues to be concerned about. Recent population increases have led to overcrowding, problems of rubbish disposal and pollution of ground water through infiltration of sewerage or effluents from domestic animal production.

There are also problems related to the disposal of toxic or non-biodegradable household and minor industrial wastes.

The increase in sea level is also expected to affect the water table making the fresh water shortage worse.

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS RELY ON THE ENERGY OF BORAL

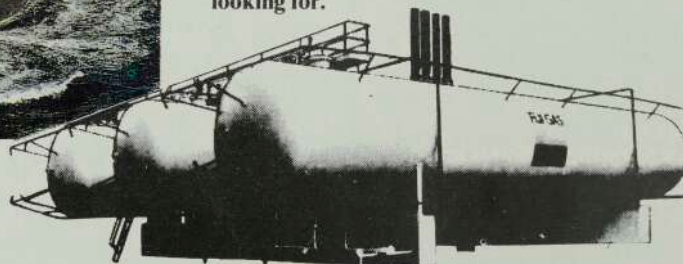


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ENVIRONEMNT

It's a matter of political will

Are governments sufficiently committed to protecting the world?

By Martin Tiffany

"Man loses sight of the fact that he is the most short term occupant of the earth to date. There are many other species who have managed to survive on earth for millions of years longer than man and yet man is the one animal that has been able to transform the entire earth on his own in such a rapid amount of time.

"He is really jeopardising the survival of the species."

These sobering thoughts from Stuart Chape, manager of Fiji's National Environment Management Project (NEMP).

According to Chape, Fiji is at an environment crossroad. A junction where it must make the right decisions or suffer the consequences.

"The country is very fortunate compared to many others in the world in terms of the environment. Its environment problems are not at a point where it is confronted with total devastation or massive pollution. But the warning signs are definitely there and if the country continues on the present path it will be confronted with some major environmental problems in the not too distant future," Chape cautioned.

Chape recently co-compiled a report on Fiji's environment titled *Environment : Fiji The National State of Environment Report*. Dick Watling of IUCN — The World Conservation Union for NEMP compiled the report with Chape.

While the two are not doom and gloom merchants they point out many of Fiji's environmental failings. Perhaps one of the most important issues it brings to light is the country's pollution laws or rather their ineffectiveness.

According to the report, prosecution of anyone causing pollution is practically impossible and has never been carried

through. This allows some of the most blatant offenders to operate effectively uncontrolled, despite many years of muted public concern.

A fine example of this is the cement factory on the outskirts of Suva. For years it has been spewing smoke from its chimneys and covering everything in the vicinity with a fine white coating.

Apart from a few sporadic outbursts — via the Letters-to-the-Editor columns in Fiji's two dailies — from the cements factory's neighbours there has been little other opposition.

Used car batteries being dumped into the sea at the edge of Suva's city centre from the industrial area makes a mockery of the recently introduced anti-litter decree. More importantly these batteries contribute lead and other toxins to the sea which harm marine life.

Another example of uncontrolled pollution to marine life is through the anti-fouling tributyl tin used by boat yards.

According to Chape this deforms the sex organs of shell fish making it difficult for them to mate and reproduce. The Ports Authority of Fiji has recently introduced emission standards for effluents into the harbour but the existing high levels of heavy metals and tributyl tin will remain in sediments for many years to come, according to the report.

In general the report says pollution is of grave concern, not so much because levels are dangerously high, but because there is no monitoring in place for the nation to learn whether there is a danger.

On the question of law and legislation the report says, "one of the great ironies concerning laws and administration for the protection of the environment is that they are seldom, if ever, passed or set up before the resources they are designed to protect are already seriously depleted".

But the two authors are quick to point out that laws do not automatically solve problems. The report concludes it is up to the government to ensure laws are enforced and the population is given better environmental education.

Watling says it is a matter of "political will". "There are laws that could be utilised tomorrow if the political will was used."

One of the most obvious examples of this — which Chape says he is "sick and tired" of referring to — is vehicle pollution. There is a regulation in the



Clean-up: Laws have to be enforced to be effective



ENVIRONMENT

Traffic Act to control that problem which carries a fine of \$100 or three months jail for offenders. Little heed has been paid to the penalty and the authorities turn a blind eye as cars, trucks and buses continue to belch black exhaust.

An effort was made last year under the program "Operation Countdown" when vehicles were randomly checked for road-worthiness and exhaust emission but it seems to have been little more than a token effort as anyone who walks or drives around the streets of Suva can tell you.

One bright spot for Fiji is the appointment of a Minister of State for the Environment by the recently elected Fiji government which is hopefully an indication of their concern for the environment. The minister, Joeli Kalou, last month attended the Earth Summit in Rio De Janeiro. The gradual introduction of unleaded petrol is one way that could help protect the environment — not to mention the people — but, according to the report, there is no programme in place for gradual conversion to lead-free petrol. Despite the fact that unleaded petrol is widely available elsewhere in the world.

Chape has had discussions with the Fiji National Petroleum Company about the possible phasing-in of unleaded fuel. If Fiji is serious about doing this it will take at least 10 years for the transformation as the cars themselves will have to be converted or replaced.

All petrol sold in Fiji contains lead additives. Compared to lead-free petrol it is extremely toxic and studies in Australia have shown a marked decrease in intellectual capacity of children who have been exposed to high lead levels from vehicle emission.

The decision to convert to unleaded petrol again comes back to political will.

Deforestation is an issue that usually raises the hackles of environmentalists like nothing else. The National Environment Management Project has undertaken a specific study on deforestation in Fiji.

Chape says it is quite clear that deforestation is occurring at a rate of about 0.5 per cent to 0.8 per cent per year. Chape said it is generally supposed that logging is one of the major causes of deforestation in Fiji when in fact it is not. He said it facilitates deforestation but it does not necessarily cause deforestation.

According to Chape fire is one of the major causes of deforestation. Agricul-



Dolphins: Caught in driftnets.

tural activity at the subsistence level and clearing areas for cash crops also contribute to deforestation.

He said there was a need to address the question of annual burning getting out of control and destroying forest and intermediate foliage.

Warning was also made by the report in the area of agriculture and fisheries.

Over the past thirty years there has been a small but steady loss of good arable land to non-agricultural uses. The report says there are now basically no extensive areas of unused agricultural land and the major drive is currently to increase productivity. One problem that can arise from this is soil erosion.

Ginger cultivation, for example, is associated with severe erosion as it is almost entirely grown on slopes. The ginger industry should provide a test case for the government's resolution to promote sustainable agriculture and curb land-degradation.

Perhaps if people were able to see the relationship between soil loss and economic loss to the country there might be a change of attitude.

The report cites the example of sugarcane farmers who have complained of declining yield and have blamed this on the quality of the fertilizers imported. Tests on the fertilizer showed little or no change had occurred. A more logical explanation for the decline in yields is the impact of erosion on soil productivity.

Given that agriculture remains the single largest sector of the Fiji economy, accounting for some 20 per cent of the Gross Domestic Product and 80 per cent of employment, this problem should be taken seriously.

Fisheries is another important sector of Fiji's economy. This industry too is facing problems.

Several individual resources are already over-fished. Both the clam meat and beche-de-mer industries have crashed because of resource depletion.

In general the report is concerned about unsustainable resource use. It says Fiji is fortunate in having considerable

resources — timber, land, marine products and some minerals — but in recent years their exploitation has not been sustainable and in effect they have been 'mined' for quick economic return without effective environmental and social considerations and regard for the future.

The report calls Fiji's waste disposal a "national dilemma". It says the location and management of every municipal tip in Fiji indicates a total disregard for international standards and unless government can establish meaningful environmental direction, control and management, there is a real possibility of a rapid and perhaps irreversible deterioration in resource use and an increase in general pollution.

"Fiji is too small, too vulnerable, to ignore such problems for any length of time," the report warns.

The report also warns that Fiji "cannot afford to be complacent with respect of international 'green' bans which could damage certain exports of national significance, notably native timbers, ginger and sugar".

On the question of mining, Chape says for future mining Fiji needs to conduct environmental studies and assessment properly before mining begins. Also mines need to be developed in accordance with environmental guidelines.

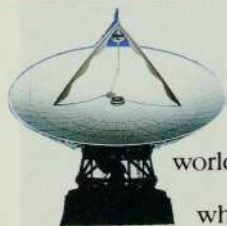
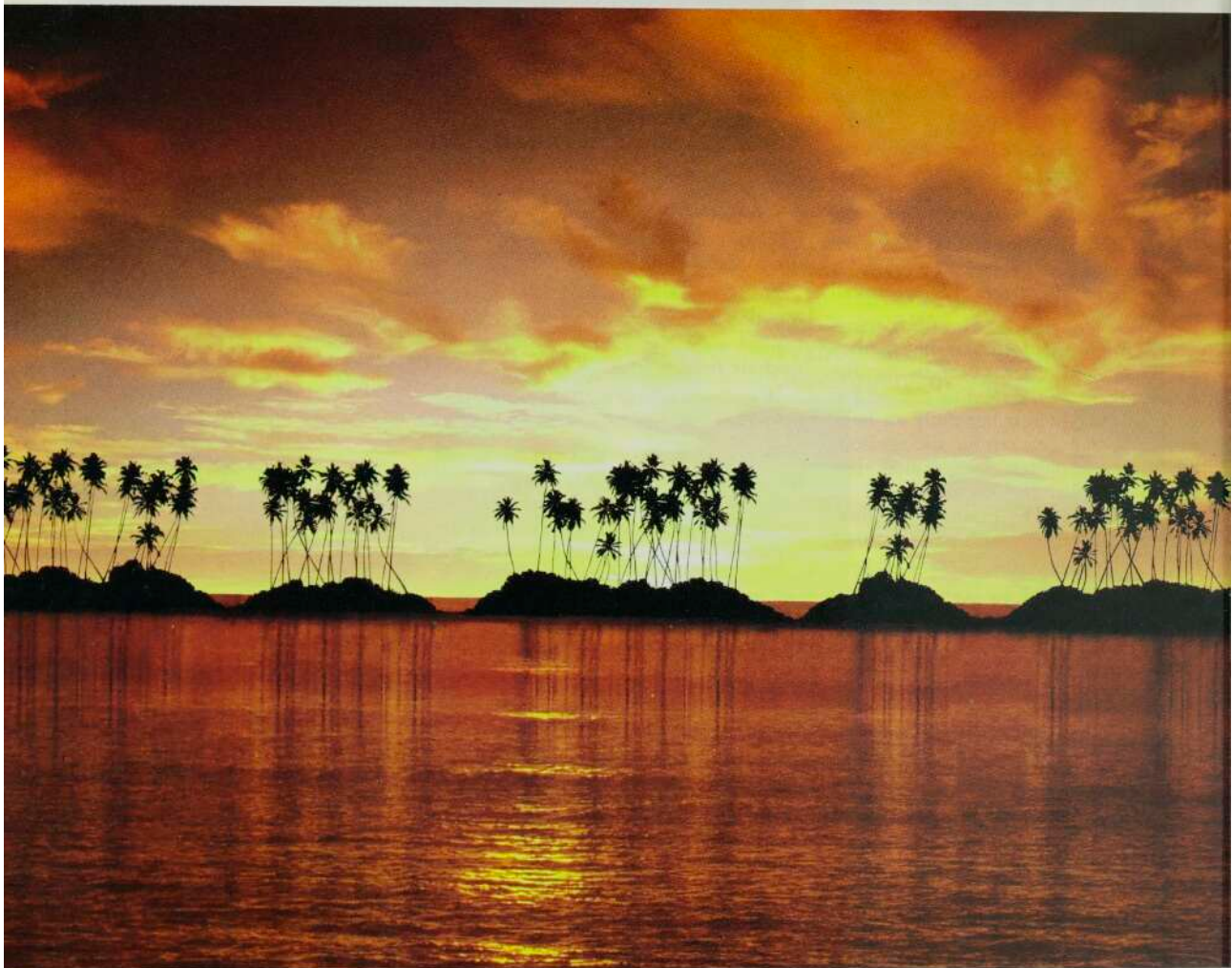
Basically what the report is saying leads back to Chape's image of a crossroads. Fiji is not facing critical problems now, but if it doesn't take stock of its present environment situation, learn from the mistakes of the industrialised nations and act accordingly it will pay the price.

□



Clams: could be endangered.

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ENVIRONMENT

Success for Pacific nations at Rio

Now, to put that into action

By Ian Williams

Apart from the Brazilian hoteliers and taxi drivers, who made a killing, few people came away from the Earth Summit entirely satisfied. Even President Bush — whose insistence on watering down the Climate Change Convention and refusal to sign the Bio-diversity Convention was such bad news for everybody else, could draw little comfort. In an election year, the American media ridiculed his pretensions to being the "Green President" and seemed to give general support to Friends of the Earth's claims that his message is "Industry first, the environment last". In fact several American-based organizations got together to prepare a school report on the President — giving him an overall grade of "D".

But, insofar as anyone is successful, it was the island states of the Pacific and other Oceans. As Resio Moses, Micronesian Secretary of External Affairs told the plenary, "The mental picture of entire island nations slowly disappearing beneath the waves is a graphic one, and Micronesia is grateful that the grim prospect is recognized in the Climate Change Convention." He added that "low-lying island countries are already experiencing the first effects of climate change brought on by global warming. Patterns and intensity of storm activity throughout the Pacific have changed noticeably for the worse within the past decade, and the Micronesian region has also been experiencing a prolonged drought brought on by the shift in Pacific Ocean currents".

The Climate Change Convention did, however, fail to mandate guidelines and deadlines for reduction of Greenhouse gas emissions, or any serious transfer of resources to help developing countries



Tarawa Atoll: threatened by the rise in sea level

avoid the mistakes of the already industrialized world. On the other hand, Pacific delegations noted that at least the Convention gives a solid platform for the regional organizations like SPREP, the Forum and AOSIS, the Alliance of Small Island States, to ask for more. In the past the "Aquatic Continent", has also been the Amnesia continent, forgotten by much of the world, but the Conference allowed the islands to push their presence on the world's newspaper readers and TV viewers.

Indeed AOSIS even made its mark procedurally when the Maldives and Vanuatu were elected vice-presidents of the Conference after giants like Japan and India stood down in their favour. The occasion also allowed the highest level summit of AOSIS when the ranking heads of government agreed that the organization should continue its work, and remain based in New York at U.N. headquarters.

To demonstrate the spirit, Tuvalu and Nauru, neither a UN member, were the first to sign the Climate Change and Bio-diversity Convention, but were soon followed by all the other Forum members. "We were quite satisfied with the level of participation from the Pacific," said Renagi Renagi Lohia, PNG's man at the UN. "But of course the biggest disappointment was President Bush's decision not to sign the Bio-diversity Convention".

In addition, Nauru raised the question of shipments of plutonium and nuclear waste for processing between Japan and Europe, which on the face of it, contravenes the South Pacific Nuclear Free Zone. Japan intends to ship one ton (the equivalent of 100 atom bombs) of plutonium at a time — which would have to go through the Pacific. The issue will be taken up officially by the South Pacific Forum and is already a hot

domestic issue in the USA, where Hawaiian Congressman Neil Abercrombie has warned of "floating Chernobyls" pulling into American ports.

Summarizing it all, Ambassador Lohia told *Pacific Islands Monthly*, "For us it was all worthwhile — but the job now is the translation of the Conventions into national and regional legislation."

To demonstrate the forms that co-operation can take, Marshall Islands delegation revealed their "Doomsday" scenario of global warming which showed that it would be hopelessly uneconomic to try to save Majuro if sea levels continue to rise. The delegation proposed establishing a centre to study climate change to investigate the implications for island countries in Majuro, and sought \$250,000 international funding for the project. The centre would certainly have a big incentive to succeed, but this is the type of resource transfer which the industrialized nations, taking their cue from Washington, have strenuously resisted!

On the lighter side, the Brazilians exerted themselves to provide heads of government with full honours. When the Prime Minister of Tuvalu landed he modestly joined the queue for immigration and was heard remarking to his companion that there must be somebody important coming to warrant such a big reception party. It was, of course, for him.

Despite their efforts, Brazil earned at least \$100 million from the 30,000 attenders, added to which grateful guests pledged up to \$4 billion dollars in aid to their host country. It is a strange world. The same generous guests would only put up \$2.5 billion world-wide for the type of environmental projects that the Conference was intended to promote.

□

ENVIRONMENT

Doomsday delayed?

By Davendra Sharma

GOVERNMENT leaders in Tuvalu, Marshall Islands, Kiribati and Niue, among others, can rest their fears of the Greenhouse effect for a while — thanks to a new United Nations study.

Several previous researches have indicated catastrophic changes in the earth's climate by the middle of the 21st century.

But the new and independent study, carried out over two years, shows average temperatures will rise by only 1.5 centigrade during the next 70 years, a fraction of the increase feared by early scientists and experiments.

The UN study explains that sea levels would rise by significantly less than predicted — thus giving low-lying islands a reprieve from the threat of floods. The report's conclusions, based on a computer model of the world's climate are the result of the fullest assessment possible of changes in vegetation, ocean circulation and cloud cover. They show temperatures will rise by an average of only 0.2 centigrade per

decade and suggest that previous predictions have substantially underestimated the oceans' capacity to absorb heat and slow down the damage caused by pollutants trapping warmth in the atmosphere.

Sir John Houghton, chairman of the United Nations-appointed scientific group, said early environmentalists are guilty of scare-mongering. "The doomsday scenario was never credible," he said. "It is certain there will be some global warming. The question is how much that will be."

Most islands in Tuvalu, Kiribati, Niue and some parts of the Cook Islands, Marshall Islands and even low-lying islands in the Fiji group were feared would be submerged from rising sea levels as a result of the Greenhouse Effect.

The UN research found that sea levels would rise about 63 centimetres before the end of the next century, compared to five metres suggested in the gloomiest forecasts.



Mikhail Gorbachev: heads new body

Green Cross

Former Soviet president Mikhail Gorbachev has been elected head of a new international Green Cross, the environmental equivalent of the Red Cross.

At a parallel meeting in Rio de Janeiro where the United Nations conference on Environment Development is being held, 270 parliamentarians and spiritual leaders voted for Gorbachev to head the new organisation.

Gorbachev first proposed creating an international Green Cross two years ago.



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ENVIRONMENT



Nauru: after years of phosphate mining

Nauru's experience after strip-mining

THE CENTRAL Pacific Island Nation of Nauru used the occasion of the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development in Rio De Janeiro to launch a book outlining environmental damage under international trusteeship. It is based on Nauru's experience as a former trusteeship.

Nauru president Bernard Dowiyogo who was in Rio De Janeiro for the UNCED Summit launched the book titled *Nauru — Environmental Damage Under International Trusteeship*.

The book deals with Nauru's pre-independence experience as a trusteeship up to 1968 when foreign powers mining the country's rich phosphate deposits failed to institute a mining policy that enhanced sustained development.

Nauru was strip-mined by Britain while under a League of Nations mandate from 1920 to 1947. The United Nations then put the island under the administration of Britain, Australia and New Zealand until independence in 1968.

According to Nauru's presidential counsel Leo Keke, the book is a summary of the report by an independent commission of inquiry following two years of investigation.

Among other things, the commission concluded that foreign powers which were partner governments in Nauru's

administration prior to independence in 1968 were liable to rehabilitate the mined-out land on the island nation.

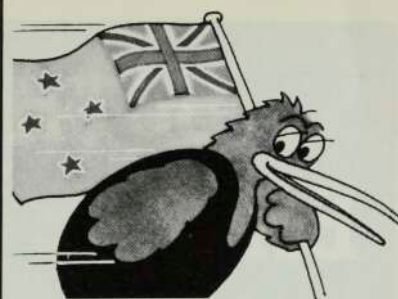
According to the book, the partner governments had made substantial profits estimated at \$US760-million, compared with the cost of rehabilitation which has been put at only \$US54-million. The book says the world cannot be insensitive to Nauru's problems because its phosphate was scattered throughout the world in the form of cheap fertilisers which helped grow food for everyone.

The author of the book, Christopher Weeramantry, a judge at the World Court in the Hague said Australia, New Zealand and Britain kept secret accounts to conceal illegal profits they made from mining phosphate in Nauru.

Weeramantry, a Sri Lankan who was Professor of Law at Melbourne's Monash University, had chaired the Nauruan commission of inquiry which had produced a 10-volume report not publicly available.

He says, in his book, that Britain, Australia and New Zealand were both sellers and buyers of phosphate which ensured Nauruans did not get the world price for the phosphate.

The three nations have refused to accept liability, claiming that all issues, as Britain put it, were part of a "comprehensive phosphate settlement signed prior to independence". □



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BUSINESS

PNG relaxes investment policy

PAPUA New Guinea has relaxed its investment policy and set up a new statutory agency which is expected to cut through bureaucratic red tape halving the time taken for potential investors to have projects certified.

The national investment body set up 18 years ago has been dumped in favour of a new agency set up to smooth the way for companies trying to do business in the country. And the man who has steered a path towards the more open policy, Nigel Agonia, heads the agency.

In 1974 a year before independence, Papua New Guinea established the National Investment Development Authority to "promote, monitor and control" foreign investment in the new South Pacific nation. In the time since then, says Agonia, who was NIDA's executive director, it declined as an effective organisation.

Officials let the agency slide to the point where its secretariat had become "negative and regulatory". Thus NIDA became a hurdle to foreign investors and service organisations trying to get quick action on the processing of applications.

"NIDA," admits Agonia, "became a punching bag for everybody. Several attempts were made to either restructure the organisation and its functions — or abolish it altogether". Not any more. NIDA was replaced in May by the new Investment Promotion Authority (IPA) with Agonia, one of Papua New Guinea's most dynamic economy leaders, at the helm as managing director.

It wasn't until almost three years ago that serious moves began to review the role of NIDA. The World Bank's structural adjustment programme for PNG included provisions for a major reform of the country's regulatory investment framework. A key part of this reform was changing the institutional and regulatory machinery governing foreign investment. The idea was to free up the regulatory controls on investment, especially in agencies such as NIDA (registration of activities), Immigration Department (visas), Labour Department (work permits), Registrar-General's Office (registration of companies) and Finance and Trade Industry (tax, business incentive and import duties).

"The impact of the Bougainville crisis and the law and order problems forced the government to undertake these measures," recalls Agonia. "With private domestic and foreign investment declining, the government — with the urging of the World Bank — embarked on the liberalisation. Business activities outside of the mining and petroleum sector had to be stimulated so that employment opportunities would be provided to



Nigel Agonia: a dynamic economy leader

Papua New Guineans"

Addressing the Port Moresby Chamber of Commerce and Industry in June 1990, Prime Minister Rabbie Namaliu announced that among other measures NIDA would be abolished and replaced by a new investment board which would be "promotional, not regulatory". Last February, the Investment Promotion Act was finally passed by Parliament.

While NIDA was non-promotional, IPA is now definitely promotional.

The old NIDA board comprised 11 members — eight government representatives, two private sector members and the executive director. Now the IPA swings the pendulum in favour of the private sector — seven private sector members, two government representatives and the managing director. NIDA met monthly but the IPA will meet less frequently, once a quarter.

Processing of applications for registration (certification) will not be speeded up. Instead of taking 103 days — or even longer — as under NIDA, they are now expected to take up to 45 days.

Project proposals used to be assessed by NIDA and views canvassed from relevant departments and the provisional governments before a recommendation was made to cabinet minister. Now the role is reversed. Instead certification to carry on business activity is obtained and then an application can follow up with applications to ministries, provincial governments and other agencies to get approval. While NIDA set conditions such as equality and investment terms, no conditions are being set under IPA.

Under the formal National Investment Priorities Schedule, a list of activities was reserved for Papua New

Guineans only. Under the IPA this will continue and another set of activities will be reserved for national enterprises only — those containing up to 49 per cent foreign ownership.

"There is only one thing important that is common in both acts — and that is the absence of incentives," says Agonia. "All tax and business incentives are covered by other legislation such as the Tax Act, Industrial Development [Wages Subsidy] Act and Industrial Development [Incentives to Pioneer Industries] Act. All existing NIDA registrations have been preserved under the IPA legislation."

Resource project investment still remains the most attractive in Papua New Guinea in spite of the complexities and frustrations of reaching a deal with traditional landowners. Gold and copper deposits are present in many of the country's 19 provinces. Papua New Guinea is the world's seventh-largest producer of gold and among the world's 12 biggest copper producers. The mines are estimated to have accounted for one-seventh of the country's gross domestic product of 3.5 billion kina during 1991.

Among highlights over the past year indicated by the PNG Chamber of Mines and Petroleum have been the first commercial hydrocarbon development at Hides, a second potential oil field at SE Gobe in the Gulf, the passage of a new Mining Act, the pouring of one million ounces of gold in the first year of operation at Porgera mine and the opening of the Mining School at Unitech. Good production continued at Ok Tedi and Misima, and the construction of the massive Kutuba outfield and pipeline project has been on schedule.

□

BUSINESS

Islands experiment with minimum wages

By David North

HOW much money should the island's rank-and-file workers earn for an hour's work? This is a basic economic and equity question that can be asked throughout the South Pacific.

Some island states let the market take its course, which can be hard on the workers involved, but three US flag islands are experimenting with quite different approaches to the question.

In American Samoa there's a vigorous effort underway to get Washington to raise the wages of tuna workers and others to Mainland levels.

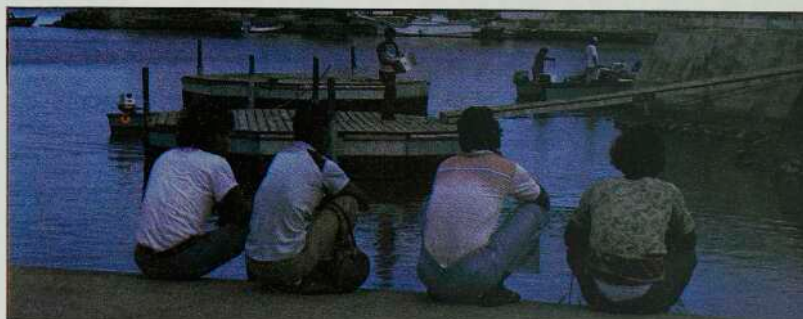
In Guam, where prevailing wages are higher, there is a drive in the Territorial Legislature to raise the minimum wage above the federal level, \$4.25 an hour.

Meanwhile, a few miles away in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) a Hong Kong-based sports clothes entrepreneur, Willie Tan, is in serious trouble for failing to pay the CNMI minimum wage, which is only \$2.15 an hour.

The central questions in the three jurisdictions are similar — how high should it be, how vigorously should it be enforced, and, sometimes, what agency should set the minimum wage? There's another theme, however, that is rarely discussed — if many of the affected workers are voters (as they are in Guam) the politicians' interest in their pay is stronger than in cases where most of the workers are from off-island (as in the case of American Samoa and CNMI).

The best-publicised of these battles has taken place in Saipan, between Willie Tan and his numerous lawyers and political allies on one hand, and the Mainland Labor Department on the other. Here the question is enforcement, not the level of the wage. (CNMI sets its own minimum wage, but federal agents enforce it.)

Garment maker Tan was charged by the Labor Department with a blistering list of exploitive practices, such as working his people 74.5 hours a week without paying overtime, making a series of large and illegal deductions from their wages, keeping the workers behind fences when they were not working, coercing workers to return checks for back-wages



Workers: getting a fair wage

due, fiddling with the books, and the like.

Tan has since settled with the Labor Department by agreeing to obey the law in the future, and to pay his largely Mainland Chinese workers \$9 million in back wages. For these 1500 or so operators of sewing machines, now mostly back in China, it will mean about \$6,000 each, a small fortune in a rural Chinese village.

Tan's busy public relations machine said that the \$9 million payment was a moral victory for the employer, because the figure was lower than one used in the past by the Labor Department, and because the criminal charges were dropped. Labor Department insiders make two points — yes, Willie Tan stayed out of jail, but \$9 million is a hefty sum to be extracted from an employer, particularly during the pro-business Bush Administration.

Meanwhile, the adverse Mainland publicity received by Tan's labour violation probably cost him more money than the \$9 million settlement. Many top-ranking US clothing houses — Liz Claiborne, Levi Strauss and others — simply stopped buying clothes from Tan.

Most of the island establishment, however, rallied around Tan, in an effort to limit damage to the important clothing industry. The Governor, Larry Guerrero (Republican), publicly expressed his pleasure with the settlement which showed, he said "that the adverse allegations concerning the labour situation here in the CNMI missed their mark."

The minimum wage situation in nearby Guam could not be more different. Here a member of the Democratic

majority in the Territorial Legislature, Senator Don Parkinson, has introduced legislation which will supplant the Mainland minimum wage of \$4.25 an hour with a Guam-only rate of \$7.00 per hour. The Chamber of Commerce is opposed, and if the bill were to be passed, which is unlikely at the \$7.00 level, it might be vetoed by Governor Joe Ada (Republican).

Would George Bush do the same for a higher minimum wage in American Samoa? That's a somewhat distant possibility.

The Bush Administration has never been supportive of higher wages for the Western Samoans who do most of the hard, dirty work in American Samoa's two tuna canneries. While the Mainland minimum wage level applies to Guam, and the US Caribbean islands, a different and less generous mechanism sets the rates in Pago Pago. Currently a six-member board, appointed by US Labor Department, sets these wages at two-year-intervals; in recent years the board has held down wages in response to pleas from the Governor of American Samoa, Peter Tali Coleman, a Republican, and by the two big tuna canneries. (American Samoa wage rates vary by occupation, but most are currently set below \$3.00 an hour.)

In June, however, there was a first-ever hearing on a proposal to bring the Samoa minimum wage up to the Mainland level. Held by a House of Representatives Labor Committee panel, it paid attention to comments made by Congressman Eni F.H. Faleomaveaga (Democrat-American Samoan) about the inequities of the Samoan wage scale.

Presiding at the Washington hearing

BUSINESS

was Congressman Austin Murphy, a Democrat from Pennsylvania. The bill before it was Murphy's own creation, and would bring Samoan minimum wages up to the Mainland level over a period of years.

Representatives of the Bush Administration, and of the tuna industry argued against its passage. The tuna lobbyists were hampered, however, by news accounts in *Pacific Islands Monthly* (March, 1992), and in the *Samoa News* that the boss of H.J. Heinz, owner of one of the tuna plants, earned \$75,000,000 in 1990, more than four times as much money as the 2500 workers in the Pago Pago plant.

The president of Van Camp Seafoods, which owns the other tuna factory on Pago Pago Harbour, made it very clear to the Congressmen that he was not paid \$75,000,000 a year.

Faleomaveaga is concerned about the level of wages paid to the tuna workers, but has not devised a position on Murphy's bill; his position on this matter will be important to the Labor Committee.

The House Labor Committee is considering another hearing on the same subject in Pago Pago. (Congressional hearings are sometimes held outside of Washington, but no one can remember one in American Samoa.) With the election coming up in November, time is running short; often bills introduced in one Congress do not pass on their first try, and are passed in a later Congress.

Meanwhile, a major threat to Saipan's clothing industry may be on the horizon — an effort in Congress to eliminate the "Made in USA" label from garments made there.

A powerful collection of 30 Congressmen have asked the House of Representatives' Interior and Insular Affairs Committee to hold a hearing on whether or not clothes made in the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands should continue to be allowed to show the label. Without the label, it would be more difficult to sell the clothes on the Mainland.

The argument of the Congressmen, most of whom have clothing factories in their districts, is that since Washington does not control immigration to the islands, does not set the minimum wage there, and does not (they argue) effectively assure the payment of a decent wage scale — why should Saipan be able to claim clothes are "Made in the USA?" Given the wages paid in CNMI, its clothes compete well with Mainland-produced clothes.

CNMI, unlike American Samoa and Guam, does not have a delegate sitting in the Congress because the local leadership has not wanted such a delegate. It may rue that decision after he July 9 hearing. □

Don't buy these shares

By David North

CONFIDENCE men used to try to sell gullible investors New York City's Brooklyn Bridge. Now they are being asked to finance an electrical generator in Palau.

That's the thrust — if not the exact wording — of the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission's warning about a firm called Pacific Waste Management Inc. of Reno, Nevada (the old gambling town.)

The SEC regulates America's stock markets; when stock offerings are really suspect it takes the unusual step of suspending trading of the stock in question. It did so earlier this year for Pacific Waste's proposal to build an electrical generator in Palau, to be fueled by toxic wastes, such as sewage sludge, used chemicals, and coal tailings. Pacific Waste said that the plant would burn the material while generating inexpensive power and would not hurt the environment.

Both the Mainland and the island environmental protection agencies said it was a bad idea; SEC passed along that information, and noted that the plant did not yet exist, and that the constitution of Palau had a provision banning nuclear materials and other toxic matter.

SEC also said that "questions had been raised about the company's financial ability to build and operate such a plant."

A mildly vigilant investor might have noticed some other warning signals, for instance:

- The firm in question was incorporated a couple of years ago as Pacific Water Sports, Inc., then became the Detroit Engine Corporation, and then Pacific Waste Management, Inc. (Solid companies rarely change their names, certainly not repeatedly.)

- The firm's principal ally in Palau was John O. Ngiraked, a special assistant to the President of Palau (Ngirakel Etpison) who had endorsed the proposal; Ngiraked, a former Minister of State, was recently indicted for plotting to kill Palau's first president, and is now under house arrest in Palau.

- Overseas investors were badly burned a few years earlier when a collection of fast-talking folk from the First and Third Worlds put together the IPESCO power plant in Palau. Costing more than \$30,000,000 originally, the generator makes all the electricity the islands need, and more, but thanks to a combination of chicanery, corruption and the bankruptcy of the plant's builder, nobody has paid anybody anything for the construction of the plant. □

Oil deal looks doubtful again

THE three oil companies operating in Fiji — Shell, Mobil and British Petroleum — say they won't finalise an agreement with the government-owned Fiji National Petroleum Company (FINAPECO) until the Rabuka government clarifies its position on the new arrangement.

Shell general manager Josaia Mar, said it would be prudent to find out the position of the new government.

In the lead-up to the general elections, prime minister Sitiveni Rabuka, had said he wanted a re-examination of the supply arrangement with FINAPECO.

The company is to buy 10,000 barrels of crude from Malaysia a day for refining in Singapore and distribution in Fiji and the South Pacific.

Mar says the agreement may not be "sufficiently good" for the consumers, but the three companies have maintained they should be able to pass on the extra costs. □

Sunday work banned

TONGA'S Sunday Observance laws, which ban work of any kind on Sundays, are to be enforced for a Chinese construction company working at Tonga's international airport.

Chinese workers have been working on Sundays for some time but reports from Tonga say no one is prepared to say who gave them permission to do so.

Pro-democracy member of parliament, Akilisi Pohiva, brought the matter to public attention when he queried it in the legislative assembly there.

It is understood the palace office in Nuku'alofa has now issued instructions to the Chinese workers to stop working on Sundays. □



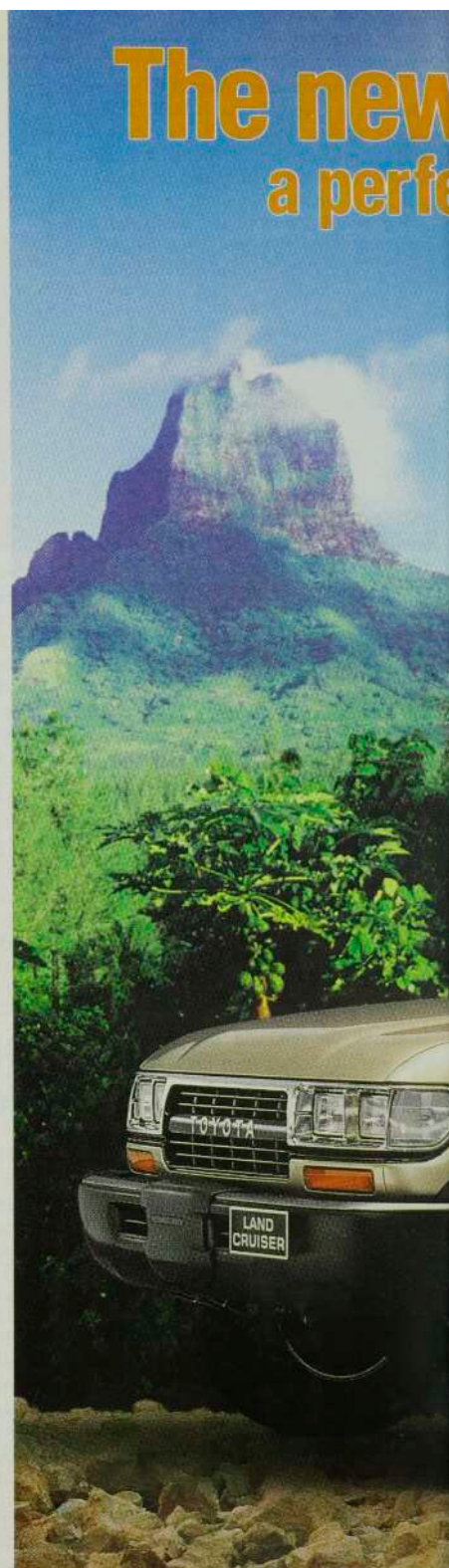
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Kicks, scrums, rucks, mauls...yuck

IT is now accepted that the Fijians are the undisputed heroes of the Hong Kong Seven-a-side annual rugby contest, and also that they shall remain so indefinitely. The Fijians go out of their way to advertise this and the country's President has graced a few group portraits with the heroes.

Tonga's Tupou College, every year, sends a football team to tour Japan, Taiwan and Australia or New Zealand. They always return with many trophies which are proudly displayed and amply chronicled in the media plus, of course, the inevitable group portrait with the King of Tonga. And, every time, one or two of the young players return to Japan or Taiwan, being invited back there by a local school or club to play for them.

The Western Samoans are increasingly recognised as the up-and-coming rugby nation of the Pacific. They fielded a great team at the World Cup Tournament in 1991 and shocked many rugby observers by beating a number of veteran teams. The ascendancy of the Samoans is attributed to their association with the New Zealanders and being proteges of the New Zealand masters of rugby. This image of Samoan rugby has spread — the Samoan team at the World Cup was unofficially referred to as the New Zealand 'B' team.

But what is this game — and especially as dished out by the New Zealanders who are thought to be among the best players in the world — that has taken the islands by storm? Papua New Guinea, the Solomons, and New Caledonia have been priming players of their own, always with New Zealand as the glowing symbol to be emulated. Let us look at it from the cultural perspective.

This game originated in a bleak and freezing climate to help generate the body heat levels required to keep people cheerful in the miserable atmosphere. But it was also partly to maintain a public school mentality that headmasters wanted to instill in young people and to awaken in them that aggressiveness and sense of domination needed to buttress and sustain the nation's imperial interests. None of these things applies to Tonga or Samoa or Fiji or PNG, etc, (though they suffered from the imperialism) except New Zealand, whose climate is right and whose people's public school mentality is so thick to be quite repellant. In fact, on the score of public school mentality, the New Zealanders have outstripped the Britons, the traditional guardians of public school spirit!

The fundamental flaw of rugby for islanders, however, is that it is a game of brute endurance and tenacity. These are foreign to traditional ideas of sport in the Pacific. There, the ruling principles of all sports were speed, sharpness of eyes, accuracy, skill and finality.

Many traditional sports were associated with economic activities like catching of fruit pigeons on artificial mounds and bonito fishing on reef fringes. There was not much athletics as we know it today, though there was boxing, wrestling, and javelin or spear hurling contests. But these were organised on

THE ISLAND



**FUTA
HELU**

a different basis altogether. For example, in wrestling matches, as soon as the contestants came in contact one of them had to be thrown down — or up. Otherwise the match was pronounced a 'foul' and discontinued. Speed was of the essence of the game. Moreover, in traditional island sports the body and eyes must be disposed in a semi-dancing fashion. In other words sport was also art. This was why tests in endurance were not generally regarded as sports. This does not mean that Pacific peoples did not have endurance or tenacity. They had plenty of opportunities to show these qualities — when at sea in their frail crafts, or withstanding the battery of cyclones. But they did not create sports out of them. Sports was for excitement and aesthetic satisfaction.

But who, in his right mind, would say there is art in the New Zealand brand of rugby where play between the 25 lines is reduced to a battle for real estate fought

out mainly by kicks, scrums, rucks, mauls and all the rest of the manifestations of dumb brutality called sports by the British and New Zealanders and now followed in that practice by the islanders. I invite anyone to name a game that is duller, more insipid and revolting than an All Blacks game. For where on earth can one find a game where the backs (to whom rugby truly belongs) dominate play less than a quarter of the whole time, and are not allowed to play in mid-field. And again, where can one find a game where the first five-eight is nothing but a kicker of balls and the forwards nothing but users of heads — in the wrong (and dangerous) way? It is an absolutely disgusting concept of sports.

I call for a rejection of New Zealand philistinism as expressed in their rugby. The islanders must adapt it to suit themselves and their social environment. In fact the Fijians' success in Hong Kong is due largely to the reduction in number of players, opening up the field for development of tactics of skill and, above all, giving the game an element of greater speed which suit the Fijians better. The British invention must be similarly overhauled to allow what is distinctive in the Pacific character to come through.

I consider that cricket, tennis and boxing would be more in keeping with the nature and experience of island peoples. But they must watch out they do not learn cricket from the Australians who are as bad in it as the New Zealanders are in rugby. Australian cricket has become a matter of waiting out the allotted time. To watch it is to run the risk of death through nausea. There is a team of Tongans playing cricket in New South Wales now. I hope they bring new life to Australian cricket as the West Indians do everytime they tour the continent. The cultures of the islands are oriented to showing off and exhibition, but it is showing off of skills, of sharpness of eye, and of agility. They are cultures of entertainment and this quality is in their sports also. The islanders must never forget this and take steps to adapt introduced games to confirm their native capabilities but not refute them.

□

The tools of the trade

AS THIS column goes to press, the Melbourne Travel Show is being mounted in Australia and will be followed a week later by the Sydney Travel Show. The shows have become the biggest drawcard of their kind in Australia, and it's expected that about 90,000 people will attend them in the week they will be open in two capitals — about 40,000 people for the Melbourne show and 50,000 in Sydney.

These are the shows at which the South Pacific islands present their considerable tourist attractions, pitting themselves against the rest of the world. The Pacific village is always popular with show visitors, and taking part in the combined presentation this year are Fiji, Tonga, Western Samoa, Cook Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu, French Polynesia and Papua New Guinea.

The Melbourne village is dominated by an eight-metre high smoking volcano, with *bure*-style stands set around its base. New Caledonia will also have a stand at the show, but outside the village. In the village there is entertainment every hour by the traditional concert party of dancers and musicians.

This year island travel will get even a bigger boost from the travel shows, because the concert party will tour between the two cities. Its members will board buses after the end of the Melbourne show in the Exhibition Building and entertain the Albury, Canberra and Wollongong (Albury and Wollongong are important NSW regional centres), before arriving in Sydney three days later for the opening of the Sydney Show at Darling Harbour.

What, if any, are the advantages of trade shows like these?

Fiji estimated that last year's Australian travel shows brought another 5000 visitors to those islands, and many will return and recommend it to others. But exactly how extensive the benefits are can be difficult to quantify for trade promotions — and I'm referring now to promotions generally, not only travel shows — can have a variety of benefits. If you're in business, these promotions have to be looked at as useful sales tools, not as an end in themselves. There may be no benefits at all to some companies who take part in them. For instance, those who expect they can display their goods or services at a trade fair and simply sit back waiting for the orders to roll in could be wasting their time and money.

And it does cost money to attend a trade promotion.

Although many of those taking part in the Melbourne and Sydney travel shows will have had the advantage of concessional air fares and accommodation, subsidies to enable them to set up their stands and other benefits and sponsorships, there will be additional costs. (Financial help in setting up this year's travel shows has come from the South Pacific Tourism Council, AIDAB and the South Pacific Trade Commission.)

Not the least additional cost will be the cost of the people

TRADEWINDS



**BILL
McCABE**

needed to man the stand to promote the product, follow leads and search out new ones. Making contacts and following them up is a vital task for anybody exhibiting at a trade show.

There are two kinds of trade promotions — those that are designed to sell to agents and the trade, and those that sell directly to the public. Sometimes they will be combined, as with the travel show, which has times set aside for trade only.

At a show mounted for trade, everybody who comes through the door is a potential customer and the businessman can be effective right away. If it's a travel show, the best business is done with travel agents, who will be selling your destination, and therefore the job is to enthruse them about what you have to offer. If they are convinced, they will sell it selectively to their customers — and they almost certainly know their customers better than you do.

Dealing directly with the general public in a trade promotion is usually not as effective as dealing with trade, but it can be effective in a travel show. Everyone of those 90,000 who will attend the Sydney and Melbourne shows, and others who will attend the concerts in Canberra and the regional centres, can be seen as a potential holiday maker — if not this year, then next year or the one after.

Trade promotions are, as I say, trade *tools*. They can be an exciting vehicle to help your business, but nonetheless a vehicle that may or may not take you to the end of the road.

The other day I attended a course in "conflict resolution" — in the methods by which conflicts of interest, particularly in business, can be resolved. It's worth noting that there are three courses open when people can't agree.

Litigation is often the first course taken, and probably the worst. It's expensive and time-consuming for the parties (and for the government and taxpayers who pay for the judicial system) and a decision is imposed on the litigants. In the end, usually nobody is happy.

Arbitration is when the parties agree to have somebody independent of them make a decision, which may not be decided strictly on the basis of law, but rather on common sense. Courts can order parties to go to arbitration and frequently do.

Mediation is a third course, and judges can also order litigants to mediate. Mediation takes a shorter time, perhaps two or three days, and decisions are not imposed on the parties. They get help to work out a solution between themselves. That way they can live with the result.

Mediation should be the first method used, not the last, particularly in the Pacific Islands, where it fits well with the consensus style of life.

□

And justice for all?

Most Americans were too traumatised by the recent devastating riots in Los Angeles to notice an eerily similar racial flashpoint involving another ethnic group in the same city — Samoans.

Shortly after parts of Los Angeles erupted in flames following the exoneration by an all-white jury of four white police officers who beat black motorist Rodney King, police were again put on alert because of an emotionally-charged case involving the fatal shooting last year of two unarmed Samoan brothers.

A 44-year old police officer, Albert Skiles, who had responded to a domestic dispute, killed Pouvi Tualaualei, 34, and his brother, Itall Tualaualei, 22, by shooting them a total of 19 times, mainly in the back.

Skiles said that the men attacked him and tried to take his gun. But a third brother, Ieti, who was 18 at the time of the shooting, testified that he heard Skiles order the men to kneel before shooting them.

Charges were dismissed against Skiles after a jury deadlocked 8-4 in favour of acquittal. A judge has since refused to re-try the case.

This has enraged the 112,000-member Samoan community in Los Angeles, which is one of the least known or understood ethnic groups in the sprawling Californian metropolis, and raised fears of rioting by Samoan gangs.

"We are just absolutely devastated," said June Pouesi, the regional director of the Office of Samoan Affairs, a private social welfare group. "There is a sense of loss, a sense of confusion. Nineteen shots, 13 of them in the back — how could wrong be made into right?"

Despite their anger, Samoan leaders have been working overtime to avert a violent clash.

"We are using the *matasi* system to talk to the young people and get them to listen to their elders and be calm," said Papaliitele Alailima, a local clan chief.

But local leaders warn that the traditional system is being severely tested. While the Samoans have so far managed to channel community anger into peaceful protest marches, they point out that one of the officers in the Rodney King case will be re-tried despite the rioting.

"This sends a very dangerous message to society," said Pouesi. "What is the difference in the two cases? One had a riot and one had a peace march. It seems that the message going out is that non-violence is not the way to go."

The prosecutor in the case against Albert Skiles, Richard Healy, said he believes that the jury was made more sympathetic to police by the Rodney King riots.

The Tualaualei family, which is related to the royal family

WASHINGTON



**MARGOT
O'NEILL**

of Western Samoa, is now pressing for federal charges to be brought against Skiles and has filed a \$100-million civil suit.

"You can't find justice in the American system," said Chief Ietitaia Tualaualei, an uncle of the dead brothers. "Someone can commit murder and get away with it."

Terry Toomata, a spokesman for the Western Samoan Embassy in Washington which is helping the family petition the US State Department on the case, described the ruling against a new trial as "the worst travesty of justice."

"We're very disappointed. The whole thing is a joke," Mr Toomata said.

Officer Skiles, who is a Filipino-American, broke down and wept upon hearing that he would not be retried. He retired from the police earlier this year on medical grounds citing the emotional turmoil of the shooting and its aftermath.

Until the shooting, Samoans have rarely been in the public spotlight in the United States. The 12,000 Samoans in Los Angeles is the biggest US enclave, although 32,000 Samoans live throughout California — almost as many as remain in American Samoa. In the last decade, the state's Samoan population has jumped by 59 per cent.

The vast majority are at the bottom of the American economic and social ladder. Samoans are more likely to be poor (21 per cent live below the poverty line) and have high unemployment and school dropout rates.

But the community is proud that while they suffer many of the same economic disadvantages as black Americans, they have maintained strong family, religious and traditional links.

A Samoan millionaire may be hard to find, they say, but is a Samoan homeless person.

Increasingly, however, the vagaries of life in America are encroaching on traditional Samoan values. Samoan youths are getting into more frequent trouble with police who say that ethnic gangs, which already grip large sections of the black and Latino populations, are becoming more active and dangerous.

Samoans also lack an effective political voice to fight their way into the system. Even though they are considered American citizens, they are not allowed to vote.

But the shooting and its aftermath have galvanised a community which is traditionally loathe to question authority. Samoans protested initial decisions not to prosecute officer Skiles and have continued to protest for justice at each turn of the legal process.

Former congressman, David Cohen, who is a Samoan of Jewish descent, has put it this way: "What you are seeing is an awakening of the Samoan community." □

Towards greater self-reliance

NIUE, which covers about 260 sq km, is the world's largest coral atoll and apart from that dubious claim to fame even native Niueans have to admit it doesn't have a lot going for it.

It has poor soil, an erratic climate that alternates droughts with hurricanes, and cannot produce the abundance of tropical fruits for which the South Pacific is renowned. It lacks the beaches that attract tourists in their droves to other parts of the region. It has an airport, but with neither tourists nor a flourishing export trade, air-links remain intermittent and economically questionable.

Most Niueans, able to take advantage of New Zealand citizenship, have given up on their homeland. About 12,000 live in New Zealand and only about 2000 remain at home, struggling to live on subsistence agriculture, on remittance payments from their kith and kin in Auckland and on New Zealand aid. (Niue is the largest per capita aid recipient in the Pacific and amongst the largest in the world.)

Ever since it became self-governing in association with New Zealand in 1974, the question has been asked: Does Niue have a future?

The four-year Niue Concerted Action Plan, introduced with such hope in 1988, ended on June 30 with the question unanswered.

Basically, the NCAP was a development program designed to sustain a living community on Niue. Devised on the recommendation of a review group comprising people from New Zealand and Niue, it was given an umbrella role over New Zealand's overseas development aid.

The programme was seen from New Zealand's perspective as a special effort to improve Niue's economic self-sufficiency by reducing its total dependence on New Zealand aid.

It was, by its very nature, a two-way effort. As the former Labour government's South Pacific Policy Review Group noted two years ago: "New Zealand is committed to do all that it can to underpin support of Niue, but at the bottom line, New Zealand efforts can only be directed at helping Niueans to help themselves."

That bottom line was underscored by the National government when it came to power. Foreign Minister Don McKinnon went to Niue early last year and politely read the Riot Act. New Zealand, he said, expected to see results for its annual injection of about \$10 million into the Niue economy — and results meant less money to an overfat public service, which at one stage had 80 per cent of the workforce on the payroll, and more to stimulate a largely non-existent private sector.

McKinnon went to Niue again this May, following New Zealand's yearly official mission to discuss the coming aid budget which had warned the government of Sir Robert Rex that severe cuts were in the offing. His trip did not begin propitiously. As he was about to leave, he heard the Fono Ekepule had voted a 10 per cent pay rise for public servants — a move that did nothing to instil confidence that Niue was thinking along the same lines as the New Zealand government.

The move, which I understand, was never approved by the Niue government, was fortunately knocked on the head. If it

WELLINGTON



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BARBER

had proceeded, one could safely say that New Zealand-Niue relations would never have been the same again. (He was also told that the public service had been reduced by about 25 per cent, a painful but necessary exercise, as New Zealand itself has discovered.)

As it was, McKinnon came away announcing the most dramatic cut yet in New Zealand's financial support down 21 per cent in the coming year from \$9.5 million to \$7.5 million. It could have been worse. The Ministry of External Relations and Trade's Development Co-operation Division had projected \$7 million for the 1992-93 year in its published forecasts, and Niue would be fooling itself if it thought this level had been delayed for more than a year or so.

Though the Niueans might not see it that way, hanging onto that extra half a million dollars for the next 12 months was a bonus. How they use it could prove very important.

The Niue Constitution Act requires New Zealand "to provide necessary economic and administrative assistance". That means New Zealand cannot and will not let Niue go down the gurgler.

But the fact that Niue has not made any progress towards a greater degree of independence — especially in economic terms — since 1974 is a matter for great disappointment in Wellington. The continuing fall in population and the continuing dismal economic performance suggests that Niue is as far from self-reliance as it ever was.

Given the circumstances, nobody expects Niue to become another economic tiger of the Asia-Pacific region, but New Zealand would like to see it *trying*. From Wellington's perspective, it has to be said there is not much sign of effort.

It's not all gloom. McKinnon returned saying he had been told that 40 private sector businesses had started since his last visit. If true, that is remarkable, but it remains to be seen how many will succeed, or even survive. More importantly, perhaps, was his belief that Niue's "expectations of New Zealand assistance are now realistic".

If, after 18 years of self-government, Niue has finally recognised that the New Zealand gravy train is not an endless series of carriages that would be no mean achievement.

But McKinnon had to hammer his main points again — that New Zealand wants to see an environment in which people are encouraged to invest, wants to see a more active Niue Development Finance Committee, wants to see a greater readiness for Niue to help itself rather than rely on an annual New Zealand bail-out.

Is this unreasonable? I think not. Sir Robert Rex, the island's only Premier, steps down next year. A considerable amount of jockeying for the succession is going on. For Niue's sake, one can only hope the winner will not be committed to maintaining the status quo, but will have the vision, and the strength, to pursue whatever radical reforms are necessary to shake off dependence and make the island a State of which Niueans and parental New Zealand can be proud.

□

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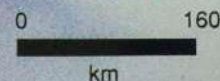
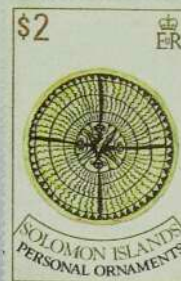
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THE REGION

Tradition lives on

By Norman Douglas

Fragments of empire still cling to republican Fiji

QUEEN ELIZABETH II of Britain gazes imperiously from the banknotes, but is more primly profiled on the coinage, minted as recently as 1990. An even more recent announcement — in early 1992 — that there would be a new issue of paper currency, informed one that the major change would be the addition of a metallic thread, not the replacement of the head of the British monarch by that of some Fijian dignitary, historic or contemporary. No serious possibility as yet of dropping the queen's likeness in favour of that of a Ganilau or a Mara, or — perhaps less controversially — a Sukuna or even a Cakobau. Almost five years after Fiji pronounced itself to be a republic and was ostracised by the commonwealth, Queen Elizabeth still maintains some kind of spiritual sway over the country's Reserve Bank.

On flag-poles all around the nation fly the standard first unfurled in 1970, as representative of Fiji now, it seems, with its status as "sovereign democratic republic", as when it was a proud and valued member of the old colonial boys' commonwealth club. Although the flag displays the coat of arms of Fiji in the fly, with a number of traditional symbols, its most immediately obvious feature is the Union Jack in the upper hoist. Never mind that in the nearby incipient republic of Australia, politicians, apparently incapable of offering the multitudes the bread of employment, have turned instead to the diversionary circus of nationalism, and are suggesting — occasionally demanding — that the removal of their flag's British component should be one of the first steps towards a brave new republican world.

If anyone thought seriously about changing Fiji's flag in the early days of

the republic, the prospect of the cost of such a change, together with the fact that no really heart-stirring alternative design was submitted, was enough to blunt any initial enthusiasm for the idea. Besides, despite official protestations to the contrary, there is still a widespread belief that the country's removal from the commonwealth is only temporary and the flag will come in handy when its

membership is restored. A postcard of the flag which enjoys wide sale in Fiji explains it this way: "While Fiji was declared a Republic in 1988 (sic), it still has close historical ties with the British Commonwealth and thus the Union Jack remains part of the flag." Simple. At the University of the South Pacific in 1989 my mature-age students in history were quick to point out that all the symbols necessary to an understanding of Fiji's

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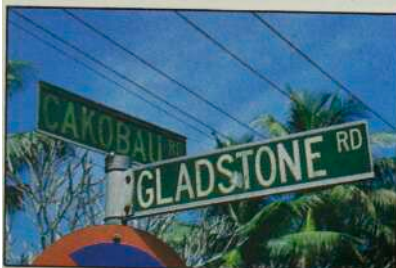
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Gladstone and Cakobau: briefly liaising

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Government House guard: if sandal-clad heels could click, these would

modern history (the British connection), economy (agricultural products illustrated in the coat of arms), and political philosophy (the dove of peace, a device that dates back to the Fijian Kingdom of the 1870s), were displayed on the flag, why then should it be changed?

Pride must give way occasionally to sheer pragmatism. Until very recently, when, presumably, the supply ran out, I was receiving my monthly bulletins from the Republic's Bureau of Statistics in envelopes bearing the boast that they were O(n) H(er) M(ajesty's) S(ervice). Indeed, the bureau may well be the centre of a closet society devoted to the ongoing admiration (adulation?) of the British royals. The walls of the tiny office near its library bear an interesting assortment of pictures, not all of which seem to be covering holes in the wallboard. Here is a Fijian beach resort, here a Charles and Diana. Here a Blue Lagoon cruiser, there an Elizabeth and Phillip. Come to think of it, this might actually be putting British royalty in its right context, as tourist attraction or artifact. Not so ambiguous the portrait of the queen and the duke which adorns the wall of the Fiji Club, itself verpoweringly evocative of a colonial age — members (and guests) appear to be present by their grace.

Up in the fairly unprepossessing precincts of suburban Toorak — names after another suburb in a British colony of the name — one comes across another gem — a large sign, noticeable from some distance, announces the modest building alongside it to be the Queen Victoria School Old Boys Club House. A number of beer kegs outside provide an illustration of the old boys' clubbability, and a satellite dish (the better to receive bigger telecasts presumably) gives evidence of the club's motto "Forward Fiji". Queen Victoria might have been slightly

amused. None of these splendid examples of incongruity, however, can possibly match the official Ministry of Information picture of Sitiveni Rabuka — coup leader and proclaimer of the Republic of Fiji — being sworn into office as civilian politician by President Ganilau under a portrait of the royal couple smiling benignly.

A walk through the streets of Suva is an excursion into colonial history, a kind of leg-powered time machine in which the names of the principal — and many of the supporting — players in Fiji's historical drama confront the visitor. Colonial civilians and politicians are celebrated in street names and other urban features — Scott and Thomson, Grahame and Joske, Marks and Cumming; mayors and merchants and land-grabbers, and the last a travel writer; "a tall, thin, rather masculine woman and a great pedestrian," with a lion hunter for a brother and Fiji's first substantive governor, Sir Arthur Gordon, for an uncle.

The names of colonial governors appear frequently on street signs. Posterity recalls the vigorous along with the ineffectual; the inept along with the able. Gordon is here, of course, as well as his successor and admirer Des Voeux. Gordon and Des Voeux come together to meet MacGregor, who had served with Gordon prior to his Fiji experience and briefly acted as governor in Des Voeux's place in 1885. The wives were not overlooked either — Marion Denison Pender Des Voeux is recalled — by her first name — only a little distance away, but in the once exclusive residential area called the Domain her other names appear, and serve to honour other members of her family as well. Further uptown, Goodenough Street is named, not for its condition, which was for a long time barely that, but for the Royal Navy

Commodore, who, with Consul Edgar Layard, did so much to bring about the annexation of Fiji to Britain.

Other colonial identities, some less than memorable, are done more than justice by association. The controversial sixth governor, O'Brien — recalled by Colonial Secretary Chamberlain in 1901 — has a comfortable niche in the Domain, where he sits adjoining eighth governor, Im Thurn, scholar of early Fiji as well as administrator, and a far more impressive figure. Chief Justice Gorrie, detested by Des Voeux, and suspended from his judicial duties in his post-Fijian career, sits cosily between the visionary fifth governor, Thurston, and the redoubtable anti-colonialist British Prime Minister Gladstone, who ironically flanks the colonial-era government buildings. Gladstone's successor — the arch-imperialist Disraeli, who took over the office of British PM in 1874, the year of Fiji's cession to the British Crown — occupies a lesser position further up the hill.

The colonial lumps are occasionally leavened by the gentle intrusion of Fijian names, as though issuing a reminder that Fiji was given to, rather than taken by, the British. Ratu Mara, first PM of Fiji, has not yet made his mark on the nomenclature of Suva city streets — he occurs elsewhere, in sometimes seedy Samabula, although, appropriately, he continues for some considerable distance. But historical figures and near legends Cakobau, ruler of the 19th century Fijian Kingdom, and Sukuna, was hero, politician and "Father of Modern Fiji", are here, the latter sweeping with characteristic vigour up from the sea-front to skirt the Domain and continuing well past the city into the suburbs. Cakobau, having liaised briefly with Gladstone, who would probably not have accepted his offer of cession anyway, emerges to meet Victoria — whose assistance he solicited — and her descendant Elizabeth, who is here a literal and lineal continuation of Victoria, as she is in Britain. And what more convivial place for them to meet than at the entrance to Thurston Gardens and in front of the Grand Pacific Hotel, completed in 1914 during the heyday of British rule and presently being restored to its former colonial glory.

The Fiji Military Forces may have dropped the appellation "Royal", only to retain the abbreviation RFMF (now standing for Republic (of) Fiji — what would they have done with all the surplus badges and flashes?), but their headquarters remains the Queen Elizabeth Barracks, and one-time army leader Sitiveni Rabuka assured his biographers; "She knows that my loyalty is always with her."

The police were also faced with the necessity of a change of title, but seem to have gone about it in fairly hesitant fashion. New vehicles now proclaim

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them to be simply the Fiji Police Force, and most uniforms say likewise, but some important police centres show a reluctance to part with their earlier royal-associated signs. Lami, just outside of Suva, is one; Suva headquarters is another. "Certainly sir," said the desk sergeant at the Suva station when I asked if I could photograph the sign. "It's a very nice sign." It is too, displaying not the Fijian coat of arms, but the British lion and unicorn. Almost as nice are the signs along Rodwell Road (for the 11th governor) past the markets and the bus station, which still identify certain buildings as H M Bond Store and H M Customs.

If there is one activity which best characterises Fiji's fondness for its colonial history and its respect for British-bequeathed traditions it is the changing of the guard ceremony at government house. The presence of the guard himself, in white serrated *sulu* and red tunic — a uniform which hasn't changed for decades — is a durable symbol of the 96-year



Suva police sign: the lion and the unicorn still in evidence

history of Fiji as British colony, one retained after independence in 1970. The guard is relieved daily at noon — and presumably at other less obvious times — with arm-swinging, foot-stamping precision by his replacement, accompanied by the necessary escort; if it were possible for sandal-clad heels to click, these would. But this charming and surprisingly little-watched ritual is eclipsed in spectacle on the first Friday of every month when a full-scale changing of the guard ceremony takes place. This is preceded by a march through the

streets of Suva by the Republic of Fiji Military Forces Band, resplendent in red and white and playing a selection that almost invariably includes that most flatulent of imperial airs, *Colonel Bogey*. This is the theatre of colonialism at its best.

On May 23 of this year Fiji's citizens voted for the first time since the ill-fated election of 1987. Less than one month after the election, on Monday, June 15, there was a public holiday; not to acknowledge the first popular election in nearly five years, but to celebrate the birthday of Elizabeth, Queen of England and once of Fiji also. In October, political independence from Britain — and now by implication republican status as well — will be recalled with another holiday, Fiji Day. And barely a month later, the republic will celebrate another anniversary, and be probably the only country in the world which declares (even Britain herself does not) a public holiday for this event — the birthday of Prince Charles. □

Lotto fever hits the Cook Islands

The get-rich-quick bug has struck

By Christine Hatcher

PUT IN a dollar, win a million — hail lotto, the raffle ticket is dead.

Lotto fever, two years in coming, has finally arrived and looks set to be the biggest, most infectious, totally incurable fun epidemic to hit the Cook Islands.

As part of a wider Pacific strategy already involving Norfolk and Christmas Islands, the Cook Islands, with a population of 18,000 is the first sovereign country to have had the 120-year-old Australian Tattersalls Family Games installed outside the Australian territory.

John Hycenko, managing director of the "Mail Servicee", promoter of the concept and offshore agent with the sole right to promote outside Victoria on a government to government basis, was overwhelmed, when in the first two days of operation the first NZ\$6.00 — just one number off a NZ\$ 149,000 win — was announced and 6,000 tickets, normally some weeks worth, were distributed

within two and a half days of operation.

"The euphoria has exceeded our expectations" he said delightedly and expects his original estimate of a NZ\$1 million per annum spending to double.

"The most I counted queuing were 60 people, at one time. On a quiet day 300 poolers came through, 1,200 — 1,300 on a busy one. That's with only 600 registered, so far. We expect that figure to reach three and a half thousand."

Not without teething troubles, however, the computerised system between Melbourne and Rarotonga, having a one day time difference, produced a NZ\$1 million win, which was not a win, confusion. The Australian Eastern Standard Time is printed on the ticket which must match up. In this case, the disappointed woman found she was a day out.

However, with a turnover of NZ\$15 million per week, Tattersalls does create six or seven real one-dollar millionaires every two weeks in Australia.

"My calculations, based on the odds,

with access to Australian contributions, of winning one in eight million, with minor prizes one in fives, I'd say Rarotonga will have it's first millionaire within two years," he says.

But becoming a millionaire overnight can produce problems. Grasping family, well meaning friends or fast talking sales people have parted winners from their money in under five years, statistics show.

"Part of the recommendation to government is that counselling be provided to outline money management techniques," Hycenko says.

The extensive promotional campaign with entertainer Mark Scott endeavouring to explain the system, saw the island buzzing with twice nightly seminars, followed by a hotel crawl with give-away prizes providing instant reaction and spontaneity.

Five employment opportunities have been provided with agents in 10 locations. The outer islands however will have to wait six months before they can share in the fun.

On a more global level, it's not only the individual who benefits. The Cook Islands Sports and Olympic Association (CISOA) stands to greatly benefit by creaming off 35 per cent of lotto spending, thus making obsolete the drudge of selling raffle tickets.

Terry Hagan, president of the CISOA says this money will go via the Ministry of Youth and Sports, towards the development of sports, remaining in their coffers until divisional payout, which is quarterly.

In other words, out of every dollar spent, 60 cents will return to the lotto pool and 5 cents to Tattersalls. Of the remaining 35 cents, 99 per cent (or 34.65

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cents) will go back to the State of Victoria government, Hycenko explained.

"It will be difficult to sell a raffle for a \$100 prize, when you can win millions for a NZ\$2.10 minimum entry. The Golden Kiwi in New Zealand floundered within three months!"

"Individually each country could not hope to run anything as significant. When sweeps remain unfilled there is no way of giving back the money and it tends to disappear. Here we have a controlled mechanism by which the money is raised in significant amounts then channelled under strict controlled audit. A lump sum to government each quarter will be a significant amount which they can then proportion according to their desires. Raffle money before came in dribs and drabs with no one knowing what the end amount was going to be. Budgeting was difficult because it was coming in such small amounts," he says.

Not only that, but a percentage of the profit will come back in community-based sponsorship with preference given

to infrastructure assistance.

Already Tattersalls feeds back NZ\$300 million in charity to Australia. Here, "The Mail Service" is sponsoring the filming of the sixth Festival of the Pacific Arts in October, and rugby, in conjunction with Steinlager, has already received support.

Sounds easy, but from the feasibility study conducted two years ago, much organisation has taken place behind the scenes.

Legislative changes were necessary.

When the Gaming (Tattersalls) Amendment Bill was put before Parliament the leader of the Opposition Democratic Party, Dr. Terepan Maoane, said the Act would open the door for casinos and should be referred back to the public for discussion.

Democratic MP Norman George said it would cause social disturbances. He expressed concern for low income families tempted to take an ill-afforded NZ\$10 out of a NZ\$800 a week paypacket.

Hycenko, however, says, "I don't

subscribe to that principle, it's not horse racing where people with a red hot tip rush out and withdraw their life savings, beg or borrow, it's not a casino, but a family orientated, non-addictive, low entry investment into a mammoth prize."

Soon, the 3-4 million people of the Pacific too, continuing with Nauru and the Solomons will have a chance to participate in this game which has turned around the concept of fund-raising."

Me, I'm going with what Hycenko calls the "psyche"— which gives me a perception of control because I'm picking the numbers and appeals to my "lady luck" feelings. There are 30 to 40 thousand tickets to choose from, brought in a couple of times a week. With well over a million dollars in the Kino game and three million coming up in Lotto, who cares which game, I've got a few dreams which need fulfilment.

Think I'll buy myself a lotto watch, like his, get myself a set of numbers, take my chance. After all, you've gotta be in to win!

Kia Manuia.

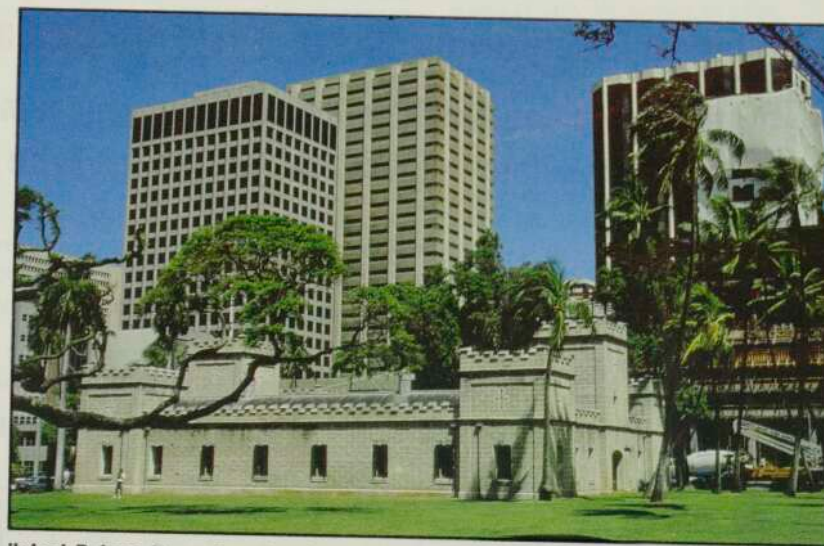
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A royal monument revisited

'Iolani — palace of pleasure and imprisonment

by Norman and Ngaire Douglas

ladies and gentlemen, a toast. God save the King!" The assembled guests use glasses of the finest crystal, filled with the best French champagne. "To His Royal Highness, the King!" The air filled with the swish and rustle of silks and satins as the ladies resume their places at the lavishly set table, gallantly escorted by escorts who wear either heavy black wool dinner suits with stiff starched collars or bright military uniforms liber-



'Iolani Palace Barracks: dwarfed by the Honolulu high rise

ally adorned with ribbons and medals. The soft waltzes drifting through the open windows are played by an orchestra discreetly positioned on the balcony outside. The delicate light bathing the splendid scene is provided by a wonderful new invention of one Mr Thomas Edison. Such style! Such splendour! This must surely be the dinner party of one of Europe's most sophisticated monarchs of

the late nineteenth century!

But observe carefully. Isn't that the heady perfume of tropical flowers? Aren't the bronze complexions and statuesque physiques of the liveried attendants unexpected in such surroundings? And what of the host and hostess? No petty monarchs of some obscure European state these, but the ruler of the Polynesian kingdom of Hawai'i and his lovely

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THE REGION



Resplendent: King Kalakaua's bedroom in the 1880s

wife; King Kalakaua and Queen Kapi'olani. The time is the 1880s and the setting is the 'Iolani Palace in Honolulu, the home of Hawaiian royalty from 1882 to 1893, and a building of style and quality quite unlike any other edifice in the South Seas, then as now.

One hundred years after many such glorious state occasions were held in this palace, ordinary, uninvited citizens may, for a small fee, be escorted through the very rooms Hawaiian royalty worked and played in. Well rehearsed *docents* (a term Americans use to describe volunteer guides) vividly describe the history of the only palace in the United States and the most ambitious royal palace in the Pacific Islands — the gingerbread cottage of the King of Tonga is the only other official Pacific palace. To preserve the highly polished wooden floors visitors are asked to put cotton slippers over their shoes — high heels are forbidden — and requested not to touch anything unless specifically invited. "No smoking, no chewing and no straying from the group," insists our hostess, dressed appropriately in long flowing gown and petite straw hat, and off we shuffle for one of the most interesting tours offered in tourist-saturated Hawai'i.

The Hawaiian monarchy began with King Kamehameha I in 1796, and endured through some eight reigns until the deposing of Queen Liliu'okalani in 1893. The royal residence was moved to Honolulu in 1845 when King Kamehameha III chose it as the capital of his kingdom. He moved into the finest house in town, which belonged at the time to the governor of Oahu, and which was located within the present palace grounds. In the spirit of Polynesia a number of residences were built within the grounds for various family members and their retainers. It was Kamehameha III in 1863 who bestowed the name 'Iolani (which in one usage means Royal

Hawk) upon the most royal of these residences.

At this point in our tour we have moved through the grand hall and into the blue room. The hall is the family portrait gallery, and location of a majestic staircase leading to the second floor. Hawaiian timbers feature in all the fittings, many enhanced with inlays of walnut. San Franciscan etched glass panels, custom made to delight the king, grace the double-doored entrance, adding a light and airy touch to complement the rich timbers. Our *docent* describes how the king and queen could make gracious descents down the staircase to greet their guests, who would be assembled in the blue room to the left of the hall. For a few moments of fantasy we are the guests awaiting our royal hosts. Today this room is empty while the Friends of 'Iolani Palace, an organisation dedicated to the restoration and upkeep of the palace, continues its search for the original furniture. When we are told that this is where Queen Liliu'okalani presented her cabinet with a new constitution in 1893, a move which precipitated the eventual downfall of the monarchy, the empty room takes on a sad quality, although it once echoed with the happy music produced by a family of skilled musicians.

Beyond doors which glide silently aside, we enter the state dining room. The table is set for dinner; a crisp white linen cloth is the backdrop for a dinner set of fine French china emblazoned with the royal crest, elegant English silver, Bohemian crystal, candelabra and cruets. Peering down from imposing portraits are Napoleon III of France, Frederick William III of Prussia (recipient of several feathered cloaks from Kamehameha III) and Admiral Richard D. Thomas of England. Rich red velvet drapes, huge, ornately carved sideboards and a luxurious carpet complete the

illusion of European grandeur. This is a beautiful room. Exiting to the right we file past the wood-panelled water closet and the dumb waiter; the former certainly a "throne" fit for a king and his guests, the latter a modern convenience of the times. And now it is time to tip-toe up the grand staircase to glimpse the private premises of the royal family.

Sp The restoration process

For the first — and probably the last — time in the collective lives of our little group, we enter a king's bedroom. Meticulous care has been taken to put the authentic furniture and fittings in their original places. Fortunately, photographs exist of several of the palace rooms — the one of the study/library even features King Kalakaua at work — and these provide invaluable information for the restoration process. The bedroom is a clutter of chairs, small tables, a heavily carved, ebony trimmed bed, paintings, portraits and pictures, lamps, mementos and mirrors, epitomising the decorating style of the Victorian era. The *piece de resistance* is an enormous blue Minton vase standing in one corner. With its Grecian style figures draped languidly over the top and the three cloven hooves on which the object balances it is quite easy to believe that it is one of only six known to exist.

King Kalakaua could rise from his bed, be bathed and dressed, breakfast and into work with a minimum of effort. His study-cum-library, also furnished in the finest detail, is adjacent to his bedroom, making getting to office a breeze. In here the pictures are mainly of British leaders and institutions, perhaps an indication of the sort of system the king most admired. The casual arrangement of the papers on the desk, a pen poised for printing, an open inkwell, all give an impression that perhaps his Royal Highness has just stepped out for a moment. This display technique has generally been taken to its highest form in historical locations and museums in the United States and certainly gives an added dimension to tours of this type.

Across the hall is the saddest room in 'Iolani Palace, for it was here that Kalakaua's younger sister and heir, Queen Liliu'okalani, was imprisoned for some nine months in 1895 after an abortive attempt to reinstate the Hawaiian monarchy. The story of the downfall of the monarchy is a sad one and best read about, to begin with, in Liliu'okalani's own account, *Hawai'i's Story, by Hawai'i's Queen*. As economic recession, bad political advice and outside interference all contributed to the

THE REGION

declaration of Hawai'i as a republic in 1893. In this front bedroom, the deposed queen was kept in isolation with only a lady in awaiting as aide and companion. Today the room is shuttered and bare and the walls seem to whisper their sorrow at what they witnessed. When she was finally released in February 1896, Queen Liliu'okalani moved across the road to her own original home — now the governor's mansion — where she lived in quiet dignity until her death in 1917.

Before her reign, the three rooms on this upper right level had been the suite of Queen Kapi'olani, various members of her family who acted as her assistants and some of their children; the royal couple had no children of their own. A "queen" sized bed with a lavishly embroidered and tasseled cover is the only furniture at present but the Friends of 'Iolani Palace continues its search to locate and acquire other authentic pieces. Each bedroom has its own ensuite and dressing room. The bathrooms were regarded as modern beyond belief in their time; in 1992 they are quaint. The corner rooms have an added little turret room in which the queen liked to play cards or sit sewing as proper Victorian ladies did. Large verandahs on all sides were perfect for strolling in the cool of the evening or for avoiding the heat of the

tropical noonday sun.

The grand finale of the tour is the throne room which occupies the full lower right side of the palace. In this beautifully restored room of gilt, crystal and velvet we are invited by our hostess to close our eyes and imagine a grand ball — it's easy to "hear" the waltzes and polkas of the Royal Hawaiian Band drifting in from their verandah location. King Kalakaua, an accomplished musician and composer, loved to dance and no guest was allowed to leave until the king chose to retire. The throne room was also used for more solemn state



Royal Hawaiian coat of arms

occasions such as the receiving of official credentials from new diplomats, meeting people's representatives with petitions or making royal proclamations. In display cases on the walls are the symbols of royal orders worn by both Hawaiian and

European monarchs of the time. Our *docent* captures the spirit of this regal room with her enthusiastic description of its uses and the tour is complete. As we leave the room by one door, the next group is being allowed entry by another, by a lady with a large key hanging from a chain around her neck, one of several unobtrusive assistants located in the fully restored rooms to control the visitor flow.

Everybody enthusiastically thanks our guide, commending her for an informative and well presented tour. A few people want to know where they can buy the cotton slippers as protection for their own floors at home! Some of us go over to the inevitable gift shop located in the palace barracks. Others wander around the spacious grounds, posing for pictures before the coronation pavilion or beneath the giant banyan trees which once provided shade for royal picnics. Resplendent within its fenced grounds, 'Iolani Palace is an endearing monument to a monarchy which lasted barely one hundred years, and which has been gone for almost another one hundred years, but which is still loved and respected by the Hawaiian people. To walk within its walls helps visitors to understand a part of Hawai'i's heritage that the bustle of downtown Honolulu and the hustle of Waikiki have not yet been able to obliterate. □

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HEALTH

Firing up the smoke debate

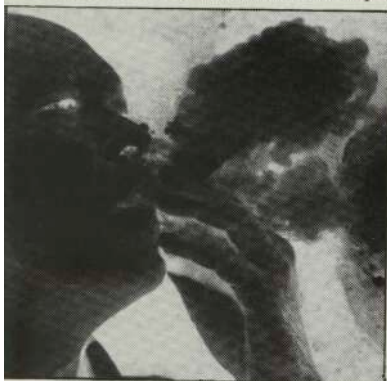
By Ulafala Aiavao

WESTERN Samoa's smoking population, and the country's sole cigarette factory, is under increasing pressure from a pro-health lobby that wants to restrict the availability and advertising of cigarettes.

The group knows a complete ban on smoking is unworkable and that reducing consumption comes up against political, economic and social factors.

A few victories can be claimed by the lobbyists in the slow spread of smoke-free offices and education programmes. Difficulties remain.

In 1990 Health Department staff placed a large 'SMOKING RUINS YOUR PLAY' banner below the Rothmans-donated scoreboard at Apia



Smoking: no motivation to stop puffing

Park, resulting in a classic front-page photograph in the *Samoa Observer* newspaper which helped anti-tobacco publicity. Pressure from the company shifted the banner to a less provocative position on the side of the field.

Last February, the Department and its non-smoking Health Minister announced a sudden ban on smoking inside the buildings and compounds of all medical centres. The move, which applied to staff, patients and visitors, had some effect but was so rigid (no smokers' zone was set aside) it could not be enforced.

Such setbacks have not stopped the pro-health lobby from expanding on the establishment of annual Anti-Tobacco Days and awareness campaigns.

There is no accurate estimate of how many of Western Samoa's 160,000 people smoke cigarettes. Manager of the local Rothmans Tobacco Company Limited branch, Mike Tamati, thinks about 40 per cent of the total population smokes.

The Health Department thinks more than half Samoan males smoke and a smaller percentage of females, but is not sure yet. A national health survey covering several areas, including smoking, was carried out in 1987 and 1991, but the raw data has still not been analysed because of a lack of resources.

The tobacco industry, and smokers, count on several factors to keep lighting up. Nicotine is a powerful stimulant and cigarettes can have a relaxing effect. Others may smoke to counter stress, reduce weight, bow to peer pressure or,

more likely, because they are addicted.

The health risks from smoking cigarettes, or of non-smokers inhaling cigarette smoke, are fairly well known by the medical field (and the tobacco industry).

World Health Organisation consultant Dr Harley Stanton told a workshop in Apia that while some people might adapt better to smoke than others, "you can't fool the statistics".

"Smoking is a death-style disease, not a lifestyle disease," he said, adding that declining smoking rates in developed countries were being offset by increasing consumption in developing countries.

Such information means little without motivation to stop puffing. A group set up recently to pursue legislation against cigarette sales to children, and controls on advertising, noted that many adult role models smoked. These included politicians, teachers, medical staff, and pastors of major religious denominations.

If they can do it, why can't others? The issue of freedom of choice is one of the tobacco industry's strongest arguments.

The counter-argument is that consumers should have more awareness of the risks involved before making their decision. Similarly, that non-smokers have protection from passive smoke.

Since the tobacco industry will not voluntarily spell out the health risks, the pro-health lobby wants legislation to force the issue.

Among the proposals are :

- starker, bilingual health warnings on packets along the lines of SMOKING KILLS.

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HEALTH

a boring, and standard, layout on packets to take away the glamour.

- increasing taxes on cigarettes to reduce consumption and help pay for the cost of treating smoking-related complaints.

- banning cigarette advertising. (The local Rothmans factory has little advertising, possibly because it has a small, captive market and there is no competition.)

- printing tar and nicotine levels on packets. The New Zealand standard is favoured because 1) it is well developed and, 2) the local cigarette factory imports all its raw materials (tobacco, cigarette papers, filters, packets, plastic wrap and cartons) from New Zealand. These are then packaged before sale. The lobby believes that if the industry can print the necessary information for New Zealanders, they can do the same for the Samoan branch without too much trouble.

Rothmans in Western Samoa imports about four containers of raw materials every three weeks, and production is 40,000 to 60,000 cartons a month.

The company says this is just ahead of demand.

There is a small export trade, largely to the Cook Islands, which earned Western Samoa \$WS691,000 (\$US283,000) last year. The Central

Bank of Samoa said this was 18 per cent up on the previous year, however, 1990 production was affected by a cyclone-related shutdown of three weeks. A flourishing gift trade also exists, with travellers taking cartons with them to relatives overseas.

The Rothmans factory, which began production 12 years ago, enjoyed 10 years of duty and tax concessions as a government incentive to locate here. New Zealand aid helped set up the plant.

Since the concessions ran out, Rothmans has been paying import duty and other charges, but can still sell cheaply — about \$US1 a packet.

The Western Samoan government has shares in the joint venture, and is represented on the board by officials from the Treasury Department and the department of Trade, Commerce and Industry.

This poses a potential conflict of interest within government.

The Health Department hopes to reduce cigarette consumption. Treasury officials, mindful of Western Samoa's small economy, wants every tax and tariff dollar it can get its hands on, and the TCI is always happy to see jobs created. In Rothmans case, the local factory employs 52 people.

The Treasury might loosen its stance if it can be convinced that a much higher

level of public funds is spent on smoking-related complaints than the community gets from a tobacco industry. Such statistics are not available yet.

A local economist suggested the Treasury could cover its bets by raising taxes on cigarettes, while dropping the excise tax on the imported raw materials to compensate.

Tackling the sale of cigarettes to children faces an unusual social hurdle. Samoan children usually buy cigarettes because they are sent by their elders to the local store. Refusing the child effectively refuses the elder, which poses a conflict that village shopkeepers prefer to avoid. Education programmes work better in this area than enforcement.

While the pro-health lobby is confident that cigarette consumption in Western Samoa will eventually reduce through a range of measures, no one is predicting a sudden change. Estimates at the Apia workshop ranged from "some years" to 20 years.

Progress will rely on whether people want to listen to the pro-health message, and the counter-arguments the lobby can expect from the tobacco industry and tens of thousands of smokers. □

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SPORTS

Pacific gears up for the olympics

But will they be more than mere 'sports tourists' among the international teams?

By Brian Wightman

WITH THE exception of Fiji and Papua New Guinea it is only in the last decade that Pacific countries have been accepted into the Olympic movement.

Until 1987 there was a definite 'push' to expand the number of countries in membership of the international Olympic Committee (IOC).

Following Olympic boycotts in Montreal (1976), Moscow (1980) and Los Angeles (1984) and the advent of big profits from television rights, the IOC now pays all expenses for six competitors and two officials from all countries in the world with National Olympic Committees (NOC) to participate in the Olympics.

This system ensures full participation and means no one can use the excuse of no money' to boycott the games. It is particularly helpful in the Pacific region where countries have limited funds.

But it also gives rise to accusations of sports tourists' from many of the big countries of the world.

What this means is that some of the smaller countries, such as from the Pacific islands, can compete at the Olympics without qualifying performances, and what is more, have their expenses paid for by the IOC.

In the meantime, the system requires that if a country enters more than one athlete in an event then all must achieve the Olympic qualifying standard in that event.

It is therefore claimed that competitors from small countries such as the Pacific have things too easy. Competitors with little or no hope of winning medals are paid to go to the Olympics while athletes with much better performances from larger countries have to pay their own fares and accommodation or their country does.

Consider the case of Fiji, which is the least NOC — apart from Australia and New Zealand — in Oceania. Fiji was accepted into the Olympic movement in 1955 and began Olympic competition in

the Melbourne games of 1956.

Prior to the assistance with fares and accommodation, when all expenses had to be paid, Fiji never sent more than four or five people and this included officials.

Papua New Guinea was admitted to the Olympic movement in 1974. 1983 saw Solomon Islands and Western Samoa accepted. Tonga was recognised in 1984 (when the Eastern Bloc boycott was known) so all these teams plus Fiji competed in Los Angeles.

Vanuatu, American Samoa, Cook Islands and Guam all became NOCs in 1987 which means Barcelona will be the second Olympic Games for all the eligible Pacific countries — they first competed in Seoul in 1988.

Current indications are that most of these countries will send their full complement of six competitors and two officials, although there are indications

that some countries will send more. Fiji is likely to send one of the largest Pacific contingents, with its team of 33, including medical staff.

It can be argued that Pacific island teams may be too big when comparing them with the size of the Fiji teams over the years.

Bearing in mind the current problems of excessive numbers and overcrowding in Barcelona and the results of the South Pacific Games where performances are well below Olympic standards, perhaps there is some truth in the accusations, of teams who are paid expenses to attend the Olympics as being 'sports tourists'.

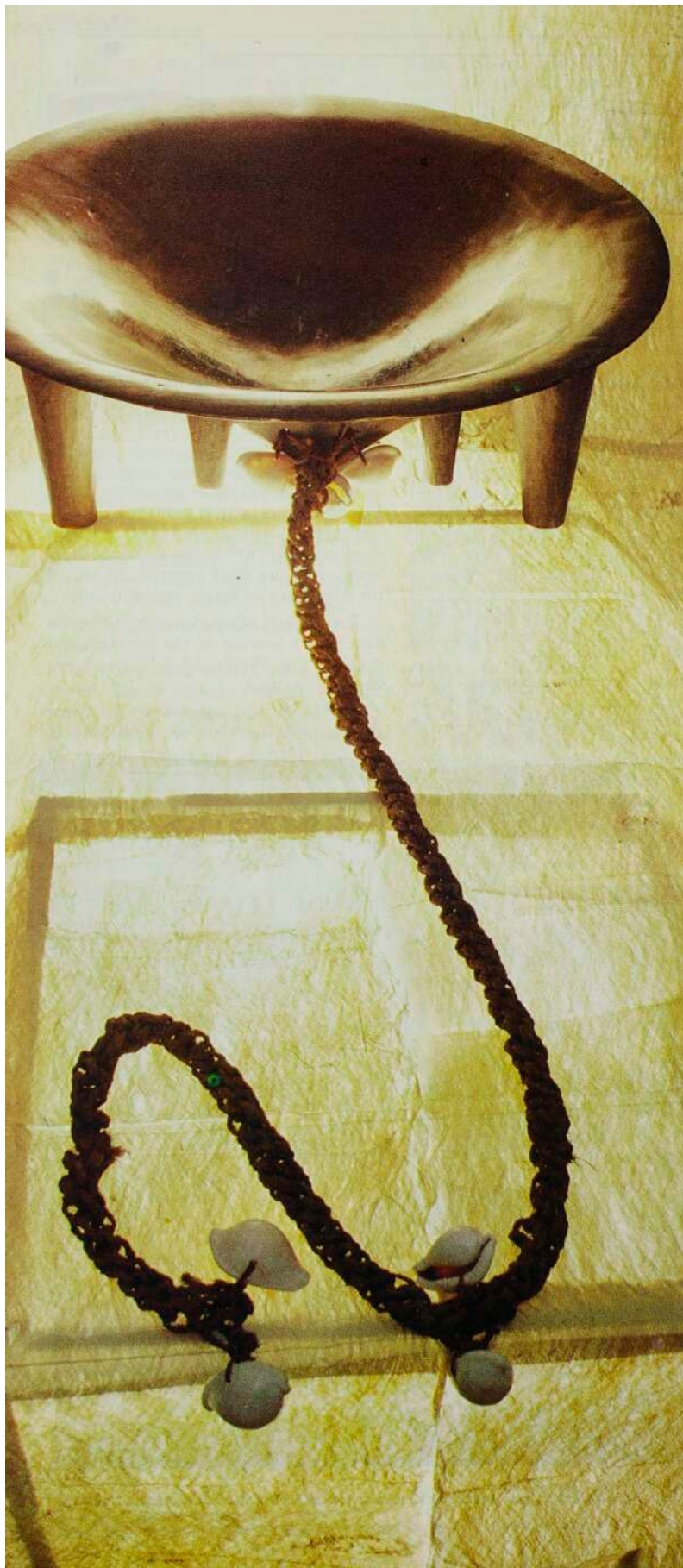
Then again, other events in the world have had a bearing on the situation and perhaps the Pacific Islands are being wrongly accused.

Firstly, the inclusion of South Africa and Namibia and then the breakdown of the Iron Curtain has meant almost 20 new teams, resulting in a rise in numbers.

And several Pacific countries have been waiting two or three years now to be included in the Olympic family. Their papers are in order but they are still



Barcelona: olympic city '92



Pacifically Speaking

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TOP

SPORTS

denied the chance of participating in the Olympics. Notable among these are Nauru and Northern Marianas. Ironically, these two countries have probably two of the top performers from the Pacific area.

We should remember the words of Baron Pierre de Coubertin, the founder of the modern Olympic Games, "They are worldwide — all people should be admitted. The important thing in the Olympic Games is not to win, but to take part."

It is important to realise that various new schemes have been instituted during the last four years to help athletes develop. Some are specifically geared for the Pacific.

All countries have a measure, having competed in Olympics before, and their administrators, while still relatively new, have increased experience.

Olympic scholarships have seen Pacific islanders going overseas. The Oceania Olympic Training Centre (OOTC), set up at the Australian Institute of Sport (AIS) in Canberra, has taken 25 people a year from the Pacific.

Olympic solidarity courses have continued and, in some cases, there have been exchanges between countries.

In other words there should be improved awareness all round.

Following is a brief on the participating Pacific countries.

American Samoa: Expected to send around 10 people, they could be a surprise. They are the only country to have been awarded an IOC scholarship in the Pacific. Their boxers have been studying in the USA for some months.

Cook Islands: As the smallest NOC in the world (18,000 population) their task is not easy. They do have the benefit of at least one athlete having attended the OOTC.

Fiji: The team of 33 may seem ambitious. But they are trying new things all the time and currently have all their athletes in Europe where they are involved in top international competition and have top coaching.

Failure to perform will see them withdraw from the Olympics. An excellent way to overcome the lack of competition in the Pacific.

One prospect is Tony Philp Junior who is second in the world in boardsailing.

Guam: Patrick Sagisi (on a swimming scholarship at university in USA) and Len Allred, who won all the women's distance races at the South Pacific

Games, have been to the OOTC and should be Guam's best prospects.

Papua New Guinea: Following their success in the South Pacific Games, PNG might be expected to do best. Their team is expected to be about 20-strong.

Solomon Islands: Their team is expected to feature only eight. They did not win a gold medal in the SPG so their prospects are rather bleak.

Tonga: A team of eight is going in athletics, weightlifting and boxing. The athletes have followed Fiji's example and headed for Europe and competition, but they do not have the same restrictions on lack of performance. Two athletes have attended the OOTC.

Vanuatu: Vanuatu is expecting to send a team of eight. Two members have been to the OOTC and won medals at the SPG, but their prospects must be rated as limited.

Western Samoa: Western Samoa is expected to send about a dozen. Its record in weightlifting is good in the SPG, but for Olympic competition their best chance is probably Jerry Wallwork.

Traditionally the Pacific countries have centred on athletics and boxing. Most people have turned in personal best performances at the Olympics.

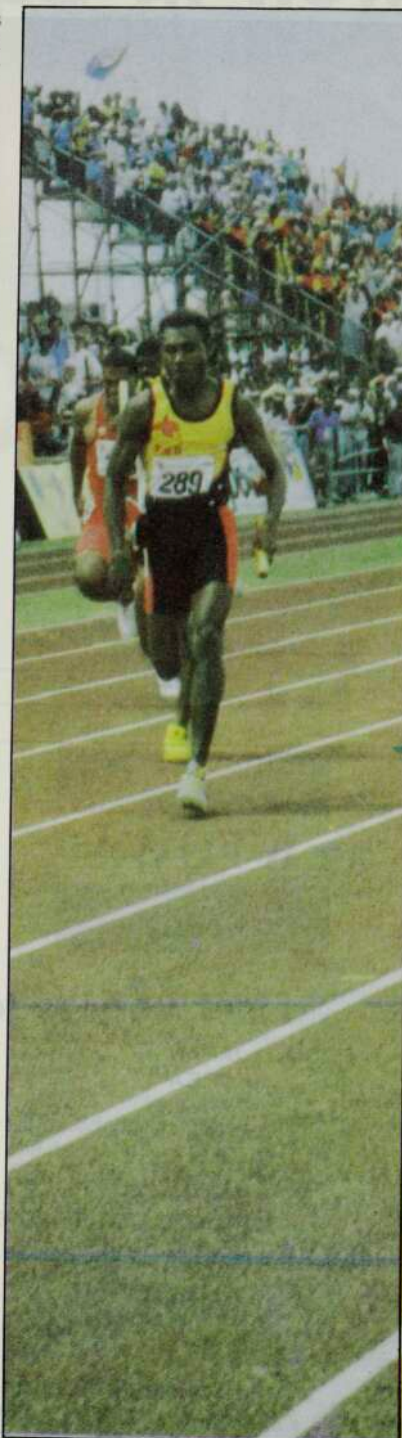
Probably the three most likely prospects from the Pacific are:

Tony Philp Junior (Fiji), boardsailing, current windsurfing world champion.

Jonathan Sakovich (Northern Marianas), swimming. Jonathan has qualified to be part of the USA team training camp. He is on a swimming scholarship in Florida but he cannot represent Northern Marianas who are not yet a NOC.

Marcus Stephen (Nauru), weightlifting. He holds the SPG and Commonwealth Games records. He won medals at the last Commonwealth Games but he too may not be able to compete as Nauru has no NOC, although it is understood that efforts may be being made for him to compete under another country's flag. The same may hold good for Sakovich.

Whatever happens each country wants to raise its flag before the world. The 30 seconds opening ceremony coverage on television would have cost one country \$US500,000 as advertising rates are \$US1 million per minute. Taking their place and flying their flag is probably uppermost for most countries and just doing their best.



Subul Babo: 400m runner from PNG

SPORTS

PNG expected to do well in Barcelona



Tony Philp: windsurfer from Fiji

AS THE country that convincingly won last year's South Pacific Games (SPG), Papua New Guinea is expected to do well at the Olympics in Barcelona.

The three SPG gold medallists Subul Babo (400m, 4 x 100m and 4 x 400m), Iammo Launa (Javelin and Heptathlon) and Ezekiel Wartovo (100m and 4 x 100m) were then joined by Mobil Elite Squad athletes Baobo Duaba Neuendorf and Kaminieki Selot to participate in the Australian Championships in Adelaide in March. The highlight was the sixth place gained by Babo in the men's

400m final.

But most of PNG's preparations for Barcelona has taken place in the country. Distance runner Rosemary Turare has been racing the men on a regular basis to make her more competitive. This has seen her break seven national records at distances between 3000m and the half marathon.

Athletics is expected to send seven competitors and two officials, but the final team will be finalised in early July after the Nationals.

Of the four boxers fighting in Barcelona, bantamweight John Sem is thought to have potential for a medal win according to PNG boxing officials. Of his 24 bouts (11 international) he has won 18 and has been the PNG title holder since 1988. In the World Championships in Sydney last year he was thought to have the upper hand against his Thai opponent, but the fight was stopped because his nose wouldn't stop bleeding. The boxers will be accompanied by three officials.

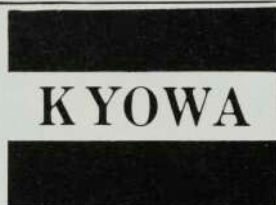
Weightlifting's sole participant will be Paul Enuki. This will be the second time PNG has entered Olympic weightlifting. The country's only credible performance in the sport was in the 1974 Christchurch Commonwealth Games when John Shea won a silver medal. To improve its performance and gain foreign assistance weightlifting has been affiliated to the International Weightlifting Federation and the Oceania Weightlifting Federation.

The fourth sport PNG will compete in is boardsailing with Graham Numa as the only entrant. Numa became the first Papua New Guinean to win the National Sailboarding Championship.

He has also competed in the Windsurfing Worlds and the Seoul Olympics in 1988. Numa teamed up with Kevin Pini and Mark Bishop to win the silver medal at last year's SPG. Pini will manage Numa to Barcelona.

Apart from the competitors and their officials there will also be a management team of two, a two member medical team and four VIPs that make up the PNG contingent.

This will be PNG's fourth Olympics, having first competed in Montreal in 1976.



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SPORTS

Fiji team prepare for the European experience



Sharon Pickering: swimming for Fiji

Probably Fiji's only contender for a top 10 spot at the Barcelona Olympics is sailboarder Tony Philp Junior. With one world title to his credit, Philp has spent the last three months training in Europe adjusting to the boards that will be used in Spain.

According to Fiji yachting team manager Rocky Moody, Philp has teamed up with an Australian and an Italian and has been doing very well in a number of European events.

Another member of Fiji's yachting team, Tony Philp Senior, has prepared for Barcelona with training at the famous Kiel Week Regatta in Germany.

The rest of the team will also get European experience before the Olympics. Bowman Colin Dunlop, middle man David Philp and Moody arrive in Barcelona 10 days before sailing starts for intensive training.

Fiji is expected to send a total contingent of 35 to Barcelona, competing in athletic, judo, swimming and yachting.

A team of nine athletes and three officials form the athletics team. As part of its preparation, members of the Olympic squad took part in various competitions in Australia, New Caledonia and the United States of America.

The final squad are currently having final preparations in the United Kingdom. Athletes are taking part in a circuit of six international competitions in England and Wales from June 21 to July 17.

For the first time, women are part of the Fiji judo team. Two women and two men make up the team, coached by former Olympian Viliame Takayawa.

Preparations included training in Japan for one of the judokas and participation by the four in the New Zealand Championships in March. Expected to do well is Nacanieli Qerewaqa, a black belt (1st Dan), who's impressive record includes four gold and a silver medal at the New Zealand Championships.

There are also four competitors in the swimming team which has recently competed in tournaments in Auckland and Tahiti.

This will be Fiji's eighth summer Olympic Games since its first participation in 1956. It is still chasing a top 10 spot, maybe Philp Jnr and his sailboard will provide it this time.

□

Tonga — building a strong base

FROM A team of seven boxers at their first Olympics in Los Angeles in 1984, Tonga is now diversifying to compete in more sports at the Barcelona Olympics.

They are taking four track and field athletes, one boxer and one weightlifter to compete in Barcelona. To the 1988 Seoul Olympics they took three track and field athletes and four boxers.

While it is doubtful that they will return from Spain with little more than the experience of international competition, the kingdom is going about sports the right way as it slowly builds its future sporting base.

It has developed sporting facilities in its country over the past few years. It now has a well-equipped indoor gymnasium built with four out-door tennis courts and it is also upgrading its national stadium.

Traditionally rugby and boxing were the strengths of the Tongans but now sports like tennis and track and field events are being nurtured. Their athletic team built up for Barcelona with a circuit of six international competitions in England and Wales from June 21 to July 17.

The team to Barcelona will be led by David Tupou, senior vice-president of Tonga's National Olympic Committee, and will also include 1987 South Pacific Games gold medallist, Sione Talia'uli, as boxing coach.

While Tonga may dream of a medal in Barcelona, perhaps through 21 year old boxer Siketi Palaki or weight-lifter Uasi Vi, the reality is they may achieve some personal bests while competing against the world's best.

But the small island kingdom is moving in the right direction. They have a full time National Olympic Committee office in Nuku'alofa and are working towards developing not only Olympic sports but all sports.

So while it may be quite a few years before Tonga can come into serious contention for an Olympic medal, things can only get better.

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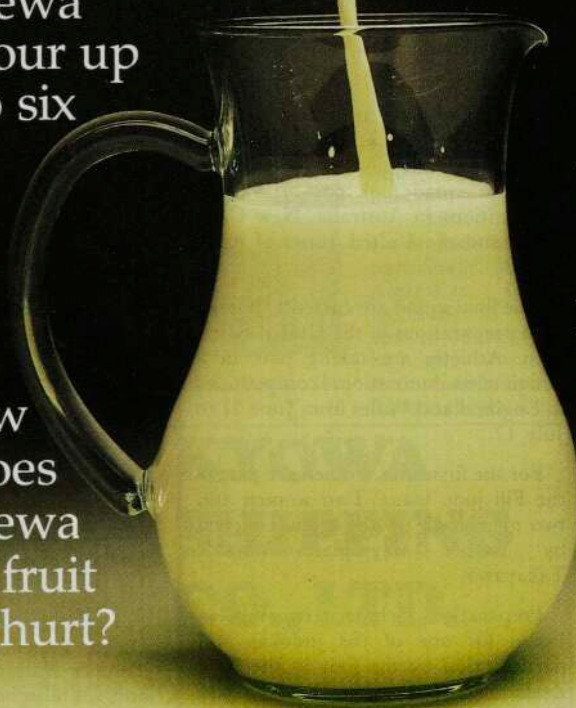
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SPORTS

The best of Guam



Jenn Allred: long distance runner for Guam

DESPITE being one of the smallest countries in the Pacific Guam is proving to be big by regional standards in Olympic competition.

The 549 sq km island with a population of little more than 120,000 is proving to be big by regional standards in Olympic competition.

Guam is sending a team of 32 athletes to compete in eight sports. While some of the 32 athletes were selected to participate at the games through local qualifying events, many had to reach the Olympics through qualifying on a regional level. The Guam National Olympic Committee (GNOC) said this was particularly difficult for athletes who had little or no international competition or who had to travel great distances to compete in strange surrounding.

Participating in their second Olympic Games, Guam will compete in athletics, cycling, swimming, archery, judo, weightlifting, wrestling and yachting. One athlete expected to perform well is long distance runner Jenn Allred who won four gold and a silver in the middle and long distance events at last year's South Pacific Games. Competing in the marathon in Barcelona, the 29-year-old former Californian college champion says the Olympics will provide the opportunity to see how she measures up with other athletes and the chance to learn new techniques.

Also expected to do well is boardsailer John Iriarte who was a member of the 1988 Olympic team. Iriarte said he has a goal "to perform in Barcelona better than I have ever performed."

Since the Guam team returned from the Seoul Olympics in 1988, GNOC and Guam athletes have been preparing for Barcelona. So Guam goes to Spain full of optimism and hope and even if they are not in contention for medals they know it will not be because they have not given it their best shot.

□

W. Samoa's achievementnt

In 1971 Western Samoan sports administrators began efforts for Olympic Games participation when negotiations were undertaken with the New Zealand National Olympic Committee. But it was not until 1983 that the Western Samoa National Committee was recognised by the International Olympic committee.

The IOC recognition provided the

impetus sporting development which saw standards gradually improve. According to Seiuli Wallwork, the president of the Western Samoa Sports Federation, this was a period of sports renaissance in Western Samoa.

It was this pride which saw the country's rugby and netball teams recently achieve world-rated achievements.

□



Cooks bank on Pera

Weightlifter Sam Pera is the only Cook Islander to qualify for this year's Barcelona Olympic Games.

Mindful of the need to have the strongest representation possible the Cook Islands Sports and Olympic Association — through its Performance Criteria Committee — adopted 1991 South Pacific Games bronze medal standards for those sports which did not have to pre-qualify for Barcelona.

While the athletes failed to make the standards, Pera, competing at the Oceania Weightlifting Championships in New Zealand in May, passed the target by five kilograms to ensure his selection for Spain.

He is a novice in international competition, but his weightlifting coach is the Cooks most successful lifter, Mike Tererui. Tereui is a former Olympic, Commonwealth Games and South Pacific Games competitor and his experience is expected to aid Pera.

Even there he will realistically be looking for personal best, national records, and a world ranking as a lifter at his stage of development. But he faces years of training and competition before he can get into the very top bracket, if ever.

While the odds against medal winning performances are astronomical the Cooks say it is the involvement in the biggest festival of sports in the world that continues to motivate their sportsmen. This is only the second Olympiad for which the Cook Islands is eligible but it has already enjoyed considerable benefits from being a part of the Olympic movement.

Besides athletics and weightlifting, the Cook Islands now have a number of established Olympic sports. Tennis, volleyball, boxing, basketball, canoeing and board sailing all have their supporters.

The Cook Islands Sports and Olympic Association pin shows a sprouting coconut which is apt for the country's sports. Most are in their infancy with long years of hard work, growth and effort facing them. But if the end result is to have several weightlifters instead of just one at the next Olympics the Cook islands will have begun to truly mature as a sporting nation.

□

YACHTING



Sally Andrew and Foster Goodfellow

About the writer

Sally Andrew and Foster Goodfellow have, between them, been yachting for 25 years. Originally from Canada, the two have sailed through places like Mexico, Alaska, the Caribbean and, more recently, the Pacific Islands. They travel on and live aboard their 33-foot sailboat, *Fellowship*.

Humpback whales

MAUI is one of the most beautiful islands in the world. Rainbows in every valley, brilliant green cane fields sprouting out of the red earth, Haleakala crater rising high above the clouds. On the windward side, a bountiful growth of flowers, vines and ferns seems to spring out of the earth and the scent of plumeria and ginger fills the air. And each winter, on the leeward side of Maui, hundreds of humpback whales make their phenomenal reappearance in the calm warm waters off Lahaina.

Fellowship arrived in Maui on a warm blue Hawaiian day after a smooth and lazy sail from Molokai and anchored in the roadstead off Lahaina. Lahaina used to be a major whaling port but today the whaling ships and the old seadogs who sailed there have disappeared. Instead, it has become a whale-watching tourist mecca. Like everyone else, we hoped to catch sight of a whale or two lazing off the Lahaina waterfront.

We often got up at dawn and found the world breathless, not a ripple on the water, not a movement in the air. On a morning such as this, as we were quietly sipping our coffee on deck, somebody bellowed, "Thar she blows!" Off to starboard and less than 50 feet away, three humpback whales were lazily swimming through the anchorage in front of the old Mala Wharf! They passed between *Fellowship* and another boat at

anchor in only 40 feet of clear water. Foster donned his mask and fins and got a peek at the whales underwater. I was momentarily mesmerized — poetically awestruck — and grabbed a view from the deck instead. I couldn't believe it!

I supposed I should have been scared to death — humpbacks are much larger than *Fellowship's* 33 feet, averaging 40 to 46 feet in length and weighing up to 40 tons. And they are much stronger than our fibreglass hull — a mere flick of their tail on the water produces a slap that can be heard at once on the shores of Maui, Molokai and Lanai. But they are graceful animals with an other-worldly voice and a strange appeal. They are the gentle giants.

Humpback whales are migratory animals, spending their summers in the high latitudes (Alaska, New Zealand and Antarctica) where there are generous food supplies. In the winter, they cruise to warmer waters nearer the equator to mate and breed. The females choose the breeding ground and in the North Pacific they winter in Mexico and Hawaii. In the South Pacific they often head for Tonga. *Fellowship* has followed a similar pattern, choosing the warmth and calmness of tropical waters in winter, and shifting poleward in the summer to avoid hurricane season. Perhaps our affinity for these mammal springs from this like-mindedness. During our travels, we have sighted humpbacks in Alaska and Hawaii, Tonga and New Zealand.

Day sailing out of Lahaina in the winter is exciting. Each time we had a different experience with the humpback

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Beautiful: a Keiki hula contestant at the Aloha Festival

YACHTING

— the gentle giants

whales. One day we sailed Lanai-ward and saw several male humpbacks breaching, slapping their flippers on the water and generally having a good time. One of the biggest breached right off the stern quarter of a commercial whale-watching boat before landing with a gigantic splash that left most of the tourists wet and thrilled! Many of the humpbacks are "singers" and sing a song that is at once magical and mystifying. On a calm day such as this, the haunting serenade of the humpbacks vibrated right through the hull of our boat and sent shivers up my spine! Another morning we watched as a mother humpback and her calf were led by two dolphins gracefully swimming in perfect unison, rhythmically surfacing and blowing. A very peaceful encounter.

Our most memorable experience was while we were becalmed in Maalaea Bay. We spotted several humpbacks in the distance — breaching, slapping the water with their long white pectoral fins and lobtailing. Lobtailing involves raising the tail high into the air and crashing back to the water in a loud report. Vhap!! With a quick but powerful thrust of their tail flukes into the air the group bounded en masse and dove deep beneath the surface of the water.

We held our distance, because although we like to whalewatch, we also respect the laws that prohibit boats from infringing on the whales' space. We were waiting for them to re-appear when two of the leviathons suddenly leaped clear of the water in a seemingly effortless display of power — less than 50 feet to starboard! Wikes! They each kept one of their huge apefruit-sized eyes on us as they rose to the height of our spreaders. We didn't blink or breathe until they fell away from our boat with a big splash, splash, and

swam off.

Close encounters like these are one of the pleasures of cruising. Sea birds often travel hundreds of miles to accompany us into port, circling high overhead for days and occasionally landing on deck. And dolphins sometimes race up to our bow and gambol in our wake. But the appearance of whales at sea is always the biggest thrill. They entertained us, played with us, and occasionally frightened us.

In the South Pacific, humpback whales use the warm waters of Tonga as their winter breeding grounds and we often saw giant humpbacks spouting in the distance. Sometimes they swim through the anchorage #16 at Vaka'eitu in Vava'u, as they did when *Westwind* was anchored there. And just west of the

island of Hunga *Fellowship* sailed past three humpbacks frolicking nearby in a charted shoal. Without a care and with a soft undulating motion they surfaced and disappeared only to resurface and disappear again. Further south, as we sailed through the Ha'apai group of islands in Tonga, we encountered several groups of humpback whales. During our passage from Uoleva to Ha'afeva we heard, and then saw, some of Melville's "spouting fishes" on the horizon. As we watched, one humpback lobbed his tail 20 times in succession in an incredible display of power and perhaps passion.

My fascination with these gentle giants is endless. I admire their mobility, their ability to navigate across thousands of miles of open ocean, and their affinity for winters in the tropics. They deserve our utmost respect and protection. □



Incredible: a humpback breaching

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BOOKS

A lesson from time immemorial

By Nicolas Rothwell

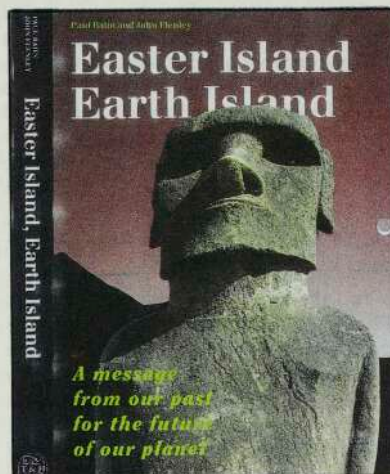
MAROONED in the empty waters of the south-east Pacific, windswept Easter Island still obsesses the western imagination, some 172 years after an expedition led by the Dutch commander Jacob Roggeveen sighted its 'low, flat' cliffs early on the evening of April 5, and christened the land 'because it was discovered and found by us on Easter Day'. In the year since, Easter Island's extraordinary culture has been much admired and its savage history pieced together.

Thor Heyerdahl, chief proponent of the idea that South Americans colonised the island, is the best known of these speculators, thanks to the exploits of his 'Kon-tiki' expedition. Now, two of the most prominent experts in Easter Island studies have produced the first general volume setting out the state of our knowledge of this most remarkable outpost of Polynesia.

Beautifully produced with some 200 illustrations by London's premier art book publisher, 'Easter Island, Earth Island', reports the latest technical discoveries while also communicating the authors' sense of wonderment of the mysterious vitality of the original inhabitants.

Bahn and Flenley painstakingly set about their explanations, and make short work of Heyerdahl's ideas. They restore Easter Island to the great Polynesian voyagers, tracing the links between its language, art and society and the rest of the Polynesian domain. But the chief message of their book is urgently tropical: Easter Island is presented as a parable of ecological disaster, a warning to the planet of what man can destroy when he tampers with nature's fragile balance.

The authors provide a judicious mix of description and argument, presenting an intriguing interpretation of the strong 'birdman' cult that flourished on the island: they regard the growth of this potent belief-system as a clear sign that environmental degradation had come to jeopardise the island's wild-life, and sketch the connection between human history and the disappearance of the rich mantle to palm-trees that originally lent the island the atmosphere of a hidden paradise. In one depressing piece of demystification, they accept the argument that the enigmatic *rongorongo* script of Easter Island, long thought to be the



Easter Island, Earth Island: by Paul Bahn and John Flenley, published by Thames and Hudson, London, June 1992

only significant trace of pre-contact literacy in the Pacific domain, was in fact a largely ritual imitation of western writing, without any significant role in Polynesian history. But even if the scripts were no more than memory aids, devised in mimicry of the initial western documents seen on the island, the symbols on these tablets, of which only 29 survive in the world's museums, include plants and animals from elsewhere in Polynesia.

This in turn raises the startling possibility that the island was in fact visited regularly by other Polynesianns, as indeed is suggested by new linguistic evidence.

Bahn and Flenley still emphasise that 'whatever the answer, and whether the islanders developed their script alone or under outside influence, it remains a crowning glory of this unique culture, one of the most highly evolved neolithic societies in human history'.

Yet admiration for the islanders is mingled with a conviction that their story should serve as a symbol for all mankind. "Given the decline of the island's culture, we should consider the parallels between the behaviour of the Easter Islanders in relation to their limited resources and our cavalier disregard for our own fragile environment, the earth itself."

For Bahn and Flenley, Easter Island society reached the skies, 'displaying tremendous continuity combined with invention and development', before crumbling under the pressures of environmental destruction and, perhaps,

overpopulation. There was no escape in giant canoes because the trees of the island had been cut down. The authors present a strong case from the new scientific findings, based on Flenley's pioneering evidence from pollen records, that the decline in the forests came before, and actually helped cause the collapse of the culture, as Easter Island's people squandered their resources while trusting in the gods to assure their future.

A global population crash similar to that experienced on Easter Island would lead to the death of 1.8 billion people, 100 times the number killed in World War II. Bahn and Flenley argue sombrely that the modern world may be putting too much faith in today's gods of science and technology to find a solution to the present problems of resource depletion and environmental decay. They ask whether true wisdom comes not from more knowledge but from better application of the knowledge we already have. Selfishness, the cardinal human trait, may help ensure survival, but in a limited environment, it leads to degradation and eventually to extinction.

"What we need to do is throw down our economic *moai* (the Easter Island word for the statues), to regain the sense of proportion we have lost, to turn to a new religion centred on the environment! Easter Island, as this concluding argument may indicate, still has the power to produce fervent convictions in those who study its majestic relics and extraordinary history.

This volume, part archaeological handbook, part passionately argued plea for the salvation of the planet, communicates a certain wild-eyed ardour, a desire for survival, that has gripped its authors. They have seen the wilderness of today's Easter Island and glimpsed global doom: rescue lies only in some form of new compact with nature, of the kind they believe the islanders reached in the brief period before western contact. 'Ultimately the Easter Islanders were reconciled with nature and achieved, for a time, a sustainable stability.

Will we Earth Islanders have the sense to do the same thing before our skyscrapers come tumbling about our ears? Or is the human personality always the same as that of the person who felled the last tree? As ocean levels begin their menacing, planet-wide rise, and political leaders bicker over the details of environmental regulation in this year of the Rio earth summit, these are timely questions. □

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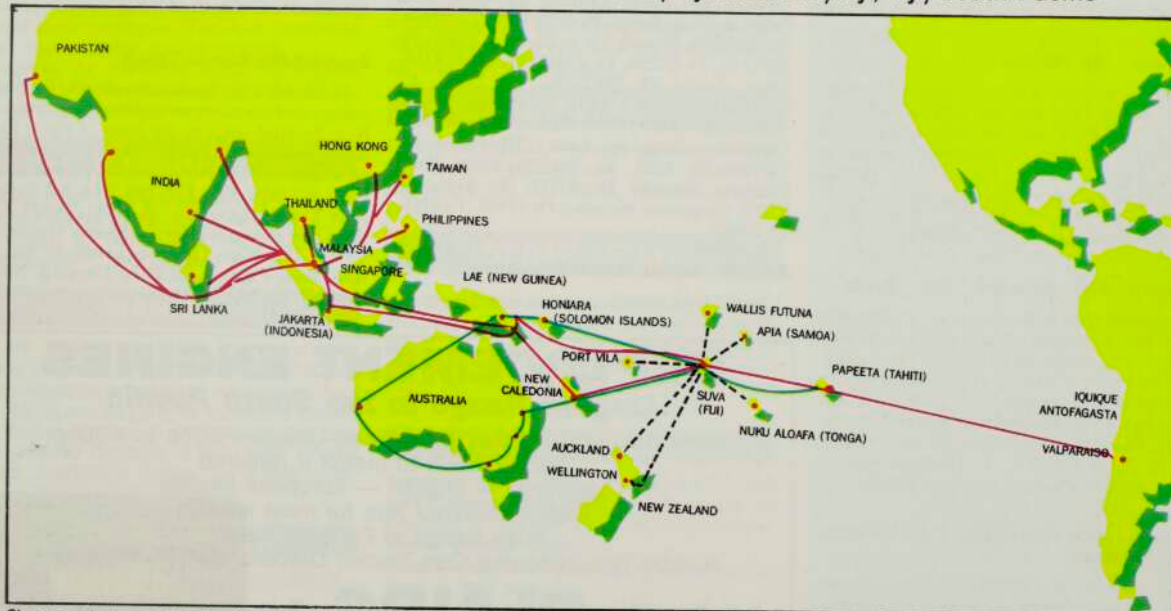
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Japan - South Pacific Service

Bali Hai Line a joint service of China Navigation, Mitsui OSK Line and NYK Line operates a fully containerised/break bulk service from Korea, Japan to South Pacific ports on a monthly basis serving ports of Pusan, Kobe, Nagoya, Yokohama, Tarawa, Lautoka, Suva, Apia, Pago Pago, Papeete, Nuku'alofa, Noumea, Vila, Santo. The ships are also fully specialised to carry vehicles on ro/ro basis. Ships are Coral Islander and Pacific Islander. Contacts: John Swire & Sons, Tokyo Ph 32309220, Tx 22248, Fax 3239288; Nippon Yusen Kaisha, Tokyo Ph 3284516, Tx 22236, Fax 32846332; Mitsui OSK Lines, Tokyo Ph 35877086, Tx 22266, Fax 35877732; Burns Philp Shipping, Suva (C/Islander) Ph 311777, Tx 2168, Fax 301127; Carpenters Shipping, Suva (P/Islander) Ph 312244, Tx 2199, Fax 301572; Burns Philp Shipping, Lautoka Ph 60777, Tx 5146, Fax 65850; Carpenters Shipping Ph 63988, Tx 5215, Fax 64896.

Europe - South Pacific Service

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Europe - Pacific Service

Columbus Line services Continental ports to Papeete and Noumea on slotbasis with CGM. Contact AMI, Papeete, phone 428972, fax 432184; CGM, Noumea phone 687 273321, fax 687 274183.

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Contact: Sitmar Cruises, Sydney Ph 2560111, Tx 20712, Fax 2560101; Burns Philp Shipping, Suva Ph 311777, Tx 2168, Fax 301127; Burns Philp Shipping, Lautoka Ph 60777, Tx 5146, Fax 65850.

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1960 First Japanese family car aerodynamically designed in a wind tunnel: the Mitsubishi 500. Forefather of the Mitsubishi Colt.

1961 First prize in the annual Japan Machinery Academy Award for the 4DP diesel engine. Regarded as the most efficient of its class.

1962 First self-loading truck in the world: the Mitsubishi Self-Loader.

1963 First high-speed sightseeing bus: the MAR820. Equipped with the world's most powerful turbocharged diesel engine (290 ps), and capable of 134 km/h.

1965 First Japanese fastback passenger car: the Mitsubishi Colt 800.

1967 First 8 ton truck with a top speed of over 115 km/h: the T810. Powered by the 6 DC 2 engine.

1975 First vibration-free differential shaft in the world: the Silent Shaft technology. Two differential shafts run with double revs, rotating a reciprocal crankshaft. They ensure silky smooth running. Many leading competitors acquired the license from Mitsubishi.

1980 First Japanese turbocharged diesel engine for passenger cars: Astron 2300. First used in the Mitsubishi Galant.

1982 First automobile manufacturer in the world to offer a complete product range of turbo engines. Used in the Mitsubishi Colt, Lancer, Galant, Sapporo and Starion.

1982 First engine in Japan with modulated engine displacement: Orion 1400 MD. First used in the Mitsubishi Lancer.

1984 First ranking automobile in Germany: the Mitsubishi Galant. Received the prestigious West German automobile award "Das Goldene Lankrad."

1985 First place in the world's most gruelling rally: Mitsubishi Pajero/Montero overall winner Paris-Dakar in the unmodified 4WD production class.

1986 First for the year: Pajero/Montero. Received 4 x 4 top award of the year from "4 x 4 Australia" and "Bushdriver" magazines, UK's "What Car" magazine, and was voted Car of the Year in Spain.

1987 First automobile manufacturer in the world to be awarded the Blue Environment Seal by a jury: for the invention of an active carbon filter system for the fuel tank inlet. Evaporating fuel is trapped and channelled to the engine after starting.

1987 First needle-bearing roller rocker arm in the world. It significantly increases engine efficiency. In contrast to conventional rocker arms, the needle roller cuts power needed for valve control by 30 to 50 percent, reducing fuel consumption and improving torque.

1987 First car in the world with permanently integrated 4WD, 4WS, 4ABS and 4-wheel independent suspension: the Mitsubishi Galant GTi 16V Dynamic-4.

1989 First Import Car of the Year in the USA: the Mitsubishi Galant. Awarded by the prestigious "Motor Trend" magazine.

1990 First electronic trace and traction control system (TCL) in the world: fitted to the Mitsubishi Sigma.

1991 First linear air-fuel ratio sensor: the Mitsubishi Vertical Vortex Engine (MVV). Ensures optimal air-fuel mix at any revs.

1992 First, second and third places in the Paris-Cape Town Rally. The Mitsubishi Pajero/Montero sweeps overall honours.

challenge of being first. It has always sparked natural competitive instinct in Mitsubishi motors. From Japan's first series production car, Model-A, to the Galant Dynamic-4, the world's first production car to incorporate both 4 wheel drive and 4 wheel steering, we have consistently pursued our goals with a singular determination to be the best.

But for all the pleasure we receive in being first through technological breakthroughs, our primary goal is not merely to finish ahead of everyone else. Rather, our pursuit of accolades is designed to keep us sharp and innovative, a necessity today as we face the

challenge of building cars which are safer for both human beings and the environment.

Most recently, this has led to research in the HSR-III, an entirely recyclable car emphasising safety and environmental efficiency. Among its many advanced functions, the HSR-III monitors the level of driver concentration, reads speed signs, and registers and corrects its position in relationship to both painted lanes and other vehicles on the highway.

Our research in the HSR-III is only one of the ways Mitsubishi Motors is investing in a future which we believe will lead to many more firsts.

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