



News

The Voice of Guam's Working Families

April 2008

www.gftunion.com

FREE

Charter Schools: Bad For Guam

Fix my school first!



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April/Lumuhu

Sunday
Damenggo

Monday
Lunes

Tuesday
Måttes

Wednesday
Metkoles

Thursday
Huebes

Friday
Betnes

Saturday
Såbalu

		1 APRIL FOOL'S DAY	2	3 1965: GFT is born by receives charter from the AFT	4 National Library Workers Day; 1968: Martin Luther King Jr. assassinated while supporting striking sanitation workers	5 National Day of Hope Barrigada Fiesta
6	7 GPSS: Middle School PTC	8 GPSS: High School PTC	9 GPSS: Elementary School PTC	10	11 1968: The Civil Rights Act becomes law	12 Passover Begins
13 National Library Week Begins Mawlid-an-Nabi (Mohammed's Day)	14 1939: John Steinback's The Grapes of Wrath published	15	16	17 Hillary Clinton Wave at Micronesia Mall Intersection 4-6PM	18	19 GFT: Family Day at Tarza Water Park Agafa Gumas Fiesta
20 1914: Company gunmen attacked striking miner's tent colony in Colorado known as Ludlow Massacre	21 TV Turnoff Week	22 Earth Day	23 Administrative Professionals Day; 1993: Cesar Chavez dies near his birthplace of Yuma, Ariz.	24	25 Arbor Day	26 Inarajan Democratic Party Elections Merizo Fiesta
27 1994: Nelson Mandela elected to lead South Africa in country's first all-race election	28 Workers Memorial Day	29	30 El Dia de los Ninos National Secretary's Day Administrative Professionals Day			

NEWS

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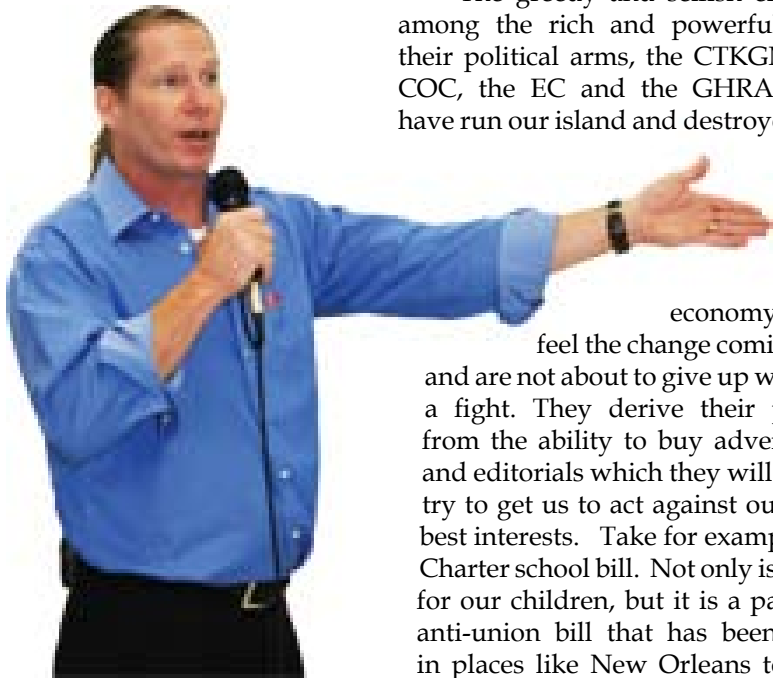
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Special Thanks
Deedee Babauta

Spring has always been the growing season, even on Guam. With the first showers of the wet season our entire island seems to spring to life. But this spring, plants aren't the only things that are growing. This spring the power for working families to win a better life is growing like tãngantãngan



by big corporations and by the rich and powerful. But the exciting thing is not that we are not downtrodden and not giving up; the exciting thing is that we are standing up and we are ready to make our democracy and our economy start to work for us and our families.

The greedy and selfish element among the rich and powerful, and their political arms, the CTKGM, the COC, the EC and the GHRA, who have run our island and destroyed our

economy can feel the change coming too and are not about to give up without a fight. They derive their power from the ability to buy advertising and editorials which they will use to try to get us to act against our own best interests. Take for example the Charter school bill. Not only is it bad for our children, but it is a patently anti-union bill that has been used in places like New Orleans to bust and hurt the union (at the children's expense). That's not the only way they are attempting to attack and weaken working families' power: they are again going after the legislature.

Our legislature should be raised back to 21 not lowered. Think about it. They said that by reducing the

legislature things would get better. Did they? No, they got worse! Since that happened, our health insurance has gotten worse, our schools have become funded less, our standard of living has gone down, Public health and Mental health are in worse shape, our parks are worse, and the public services that make our island a decent place to live have suffered. But has everyone's standard of living and quality of life gone down? No! Million dollar condos in gated communities are selling as fast as they can build them and luxury cars are selling like hot cakes.

Yes, the rich and powerful are doing quite well for themselves, unfortunately at our families' expense.

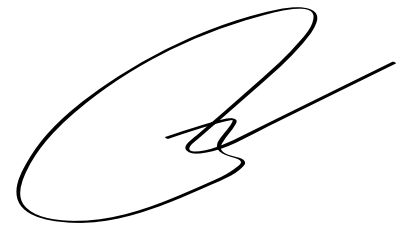
In FY2005 Washington DC spent \$12,949 per annum per child (www.nces.ed.gov) in their public school system. The Federal Government has determined that the cost of living on Guam is 25% higher than Washington DC. If we were to spend approximately the same amount on our children, we would be spending \$16,186 per child or GPSS would have a total budget of \$534 Million.

In FY2006 GPSS received only \$160 million. When you look at these numbers you realize what a phenomenal job our public schools are doing! This is just one example of how our families are suffering from the horrible economy we have allowed them to create. Similarly, the rest of our

public structure is being short changed by about the same amount. It doesn't have to be that way, and together we are going to make it right.

All of our families deserve MORE. We deserve a fair pay check for a fair day's work. We deserve to have decent health care, a decent public structure, decent public schools and a decent retirement structure. We deserve to have elected leaders that look out for our families' best interest not make excuses. The strength to win for our families comes from our solidarity, our overwhelming numbers, and the growth of workers joining unions. We deserve to live a decent life and this spring the seeds we have planted will begin to grow so that we can harvest the fruits of justice next fall.

UNITED WE STAND



Matt Rector
President
GFT, Guam's Local Union
AFT Local 1581, AFL-CIO

in the wet season. We can feel it in the air, at the BBQ's on Sundays, at church, around the water cooler at work and at legislative hearings. We can feel that Guam's working families are tired of losing. We are tired of getting less and less. We are tired of being exploited

- S** IN GFT's first annual convention
OUT If you missed it
- T** IN Fully funding GPSS (GPSS got \$4848 per child the National median is \$8900 per child)
OUT Charter Schools
- O** IN Equal opportunities for all of Guam's Children
OUT Trying to create a separate and unequal Charter School system.
- D** IN Port Authority Ops finally getting exclusive recognition so they can start negotiating their first contract.
OUT That it's taken so long
- S** IN PAG and GIAA Police applying for recognition
OUT That we pay the people we trust to protect our families poverty wages
- &** IN Department of Mental Health workers applying for exclusive recognition
OUT That almost have of DMH's position are left unfilled, endangering all of us
- S** IN Getting our Democracy back on track
OUT That we have let the rich and powerful and off island corporations do so much damage to our families
- I** IN Joining the largest and most powerful union in the western pacific, the GFT, Guam's local Union
OUT Not having the safety and security of over 2500 union brothers and sisters there when you need them.

MEMBER BENEFITS

Our mission is to improve the quality of life for our members and their families. Members enjoy the strength over 2500 union brothers and sisters and a professional staff that are there when you need them.



Members
Enjoy great
Benefits like:

- \$1 Million Professional liability Insurance
- \$35,000 Legal reimbursement Insurance
- \$25,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment Insurance
- \$12,000 Free Life Insurance
- Huge Discounts at Island Businesses

Some conditions may apply. For more information Please call 735-4390.



R-E-S-P-E-C-T

I started to realize that just because this was my profession doesn't mean that people do not or will not become upset at me and perhaps stay that way for the rest of their or my life. Since coming to this conclusion many years ago I have since been amazed at the number of times when after have done something to another I hear that same mantra of "doing my job".

Does everyone deserve respect and in doing our jobs must we always look to show that respect? Clearly, as with most people whom are victims of crime, they may forgive the perpetrator. It is doubtful; however, that the victim will ever have respect for the perpetrator of the crime against them. As in my wife's case there was too much of a breach of her trust to forget and return to her prior view of those involved. But what about those who are just "doing their job", and cause us hardship; should they to lose our respect? Maybe so, if a person takes pleasure in another misery, then they are perhaps doing

more than their job. Also, if a person takes actions that are not necessary, solely to cause another hardship then equally so they are not just doing their job. In working with others we must not only show the respect that we should show to all individuals such as respecting their person and property, respecting their opinion even if we don't agree, or respecting their efforts. But, we must also show respect in addressing people's shortcomings. This is not to say that we should in the work setting ignore a worker's shortcomings or errors, but when addressing the same it should always be in a constructive manner not destructive.

Everyone in the work setting should focus on the end product and obtaining that product as cooperatively as possible. In relating to fellow employees respect of the individual is key; it should and must be part of "doing our jobs" to show the same respect we expect to those whom we work with.

by Dan Somerfleck

Recently after a couple of thefts from my wife's classroom I was personally challenged with how people should treat one another. As an attorney I often times deal with less than pleasant issues that affect people's lives. As a lawyer that works as a litigator or a trial attorney, it is often my job to point out the worst in people. When I first started practicing law, I was always surprised by how upset people became at me for "doing my job". After a few years



Attention
ALL Classroom Teachers!



Join UnderWater World and Sam Choy's for a special presentation on
UnderWater World's Education Programs!

Saturday, April 19th, 2008 From 9:00am-11:30am
(followed by Lunch at Sam Choy's)

Free Teacher Workshop At UnderWater World & Sam Choy's

Presentation Registration will include:

- Curriculum ideas on marine topics for all grade levels,
- An introduction to the new UnderWater World Website with on-line resources and request forms
- A guided tour of the aquarium and "Behind the Scenes", and complimentary lunch at Sam Choy's!

Space is limited. Open to all Classroom Teachers.

Sign in will begin at 8:45am in the UWW lobby located on the 1st floor across from the DFS Galleria, Tumon.

Please RSVP on or before April 14th by calling Jennifer at 649-9191 Ext. 120
or email Jennifer@aquariumteam.com.

THE PORT HAS UNION RECOGNITION!!!

Finally, DOA finished their research and drafted the recognition statement for our brother and sisters in operations and maintenance at the Port Authority of Guam. As of 10AM on Friday it was signed by DOA Director Lou Perez and was hand carried over to the Governor's office. George Bamba assured GFT that he would make every effort to get it through legal and signed by this afternoon Governor Camacho. What a great way to kick off GFT's first annual convention than the recognition of our newest union!!! Congrats to everyone at PAG and thanks to the Gov's office for expediting the signing.

GPSS NEW DAP SETS A BOLD NEW PATH

Thanks to the hard work and input of GFT members, the professional staff at AFT headquarters in Washington D.C., management at GPSS and members of the GEPB, GPSS has a drastically new plan that plots a bold new future for GPSS. Every section of the GPSS's new district action plan will be overseen by a committee made up of an equal number of teachers (appointed by GFT) and administrators which will ensure unbiased evaluations. It also has Board-Union committees throughout formulating policy and evaluating its implementation. This truly signifies and solidifies teachers having meaningful input in our public school system.

GMH NURSES' MONEY JUST WAITING FOR JUDGE

After years in the courts, and battles with the management of GMH there a stipulated judgment has finally been signed by both sides and is just waiting for Judge Barrett-Anderson. This victory will provide Nurses' families with over \$3Million in back pay.

FOOD FOR YOUR CHILDREN OR MEDICINE YOU NEED. WHAT WOULD YOU CHOOSE?

Like most parents, Marie from Wisconsin puts her children's welfare above her own, even when it means foregoing the medicine she needs so she can feed her kids.

Employed and with health insurance, Marie told the AFL-CIO/Working America 2008 Health Care for America Survey that the nation's broken health care system has failed her, as it has for too many millions of others in the nation.

What would you do if you had to choose between food or medicine? Because of rising health care costs, that is a question that is frequently asked in my home. I work full time and have health care through my employer, but only a percentage is paid by them. I need a better-paying job, but as a single parent? I cannot go to school and work at the same time—I need the money to pay for myself and my two children to keep

a roof over our heads and food on the table. Adding extra things to our budget is devastating.

THE SOCIAL DETERMINANTS OF HEALTH

This morning, let's consider the case of Fay Derricote, an obese, 44-year-old former government contract worker confined to a wheelchair with multiple sclerosis. For the first time in her life, she has good health insurance -- provided by Medicare because she is disabled. That's precisely what her former employer, the food service firm that ran a government cafeteria in the nation's capital, didn't provide her while she was working, according to this morning's Wall Street Journal. "How Government Adds To Ranks of Uninsured: Many Outsourced Federal Jobs Don't Offer Health Insurance," the headline read.

THE RESULTS OF AFL-CIO HEALTH CARE SURVEY ARE IN

Over a period of seven weeks, more than 26,000 people took the online 2008 Health Care for America Survey sponsored by the AFL-CIO and Working America. Most are insured and employed. Most are college graduates. More than half are union members.

These are the people, it would seem, most likely to have positive experiences with America's health care system. Instead, their responses tell a sobering story about the breadth of the problems with health care in America. They say our system has fundamental problems that must be fixed.

And they're ready to vote about it.

MEMBERS MAKE FIRST GFT CONVENTION A SUCCESS

Thanks to the hundreds of members and their families GFT's first annual convention was a huge success!!! AFT's Secretary Treasurer Nat Lacour (Click here to watch) and the Director of the Public Employees division, Steve Porter(Click here to watch), sent video greetings and congratulations to GFT members which were shown. The AFT Western Regional Director, Sol Smith, who was here in person, gave a fantastic key note speech and then proceeded to swear in President Rector, VP Fedenko, Sec Sharma and Treasurer Lujan for their new three year term. The food was fantastic and unique. The MC, Ambrosia Mae, did a great job. The band Natural Rhythm was rockin', which led to lots of dancing and thousands of dollars worth of prizes were given away. The winners of the round trip plane tickets were Bennet Gertz and Lilly Delo Santos. Next week we'll load up videos of some of the other key speeches.

TAXPAYER PAY \$280+ PER HOUR TO STOP GIAA HEARING

What are they afraid of? The GIAA General manager is paying, with tax payer money, David Mair of the law firm Mair, Mair, Spade

and Thomson approximately \$280 per hour to try to stop an oversight hearing of the Airport. Every time we hear his attorney on the air or see him on TV the tax payers are paying. This law firm has already racked up hundreds of thousands of dollars in billings this year alone. These insane legal fees alone are enough for an oversight hearing as it is and must be questioned. Why do Guam's children suffer in subpar schools when private firm attorneys get rich off of GovGuam billings?

MENTAL HEALTH STAFF SHORTAGE ENDAGERS GUAM

Did you know that there are 92 vacancies at the Department of Mental Health and Substance abuse? There are only 220 positions, which means that there is a 42% vacancy rate! This leaves every man, women and child on our island in danger. While the fortunate few that have decent health insurance can see a mental health professional, the overwhelming majority of our island relies on the department of mental health. When people in trouble can't find the help they need disasters like Virginia Tech happen and that affects everyone.

SENATOR GUTHERTZ PULLS SUPPORT FOR CHARTER SCHOOLS

After talking with President Rector

about GFT's concerns over the dire effects Senator Won Pats Charter School bill would have on our island's children, Senator Guthertz removed her name from bill 248 as a co-sponsor. Charter Schools do not work and have never worked and GFT congratulates Senator Guthertz on having the courage to change her mind when faced with the irrefutable evidence.

DOCTORS SUPPORT UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

More than half (59%) of U.S. doctors now favor switching to a national health insurance program ; fewer than a third (32%) oppose the idea, according to a new survey published in the journal Annals of Internal Medicine.

AFT WANTS TO HEAR FROM YOU!

Visit AFT Voices to share your opinion on the challenges you face in the workplace by answering our new survey question posted on the site. What contract language has had the most positive impact on your work life (click here)? We'll be posting your answers to this important question on the site. Visit AFT Voices to read AFT member comments from previous questions and participate in surveys, polls and other activities.

ER&D's 2008 Spring Schedule

Managing Anti-Social Behavior

Instructor: Jennifer San Nicolas
Date: June 3 – July 8th; Tuesday/Thursday
From: 8 a.m. – 12 noon
Venue: JFK, Room C-2

Beginning Reading Instruction

Instructor: Corazon Mucho
Date: June 9 – July 7th; Mon/Wed/Fri
From: 8 a.m. – 12 noon
Venue: G.W. High School

The School, Family and Community: Supporting Student Learning

Instructor: Liz Pickelsimer
Date: June 16 from 9 a.m. – 2 p.m., June 17 – 30th; Mon - Fri
Venue: JFK Room 110

Reading Comprehension Instruction

Instructor: Neeti Prakash
Date: July 14 – July 24th; Mon/Wed/Fri
From: 11 a.m. – 4 p.m.
Venue: JFK

Foundations of Effective Teaching I: Organizing the Classroom Environment for Teaching and Learning

Instructor: Roberta Abaday
Date: August 18 – September 29th; 9:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.; Mon/Wed/Fri and August 18 – September 29th (no class Sept. 1); 4 – 6 p.m.; Mon/Wed
Venue: JFK room 110

Cost* for GFT Members

3 USD Graduate Credits \$450.00
45 Professional Hours \$285.00

Cost* for Non-Members

3 USD Graduate Credits \$600.00
45 Professional Hours \$435.00

*Because we understand the difficult times that each of us is experiencing financially, payment plans are possible. Courses may be taken for 45 professional staff development hours to renew your teaching certificate or for 3 graduate credits from the University of San Diego which may be used for certification renewal and reclassification. Courses are eligible for Yamashita Corps reimbursement.

Leadership I

(1 Graduate Credit Course)

Instructor: Matt Rector
Dates: April 24, 28, 30 and May 1, 2008 4pm to 6pm.
Cost: \$95 Members Only (Free for non-credit)
Place: GFT Union Hall

Register at the GFT office in Mangilao Monday thru Friday from 8 - 5.
For more information
Phone 735-4390 and ask for Dana Fig or Gerri Guerrero.

WE ARE...

Deedee Babauta Social Worker

DeeDee Babauta is a Social Worker at the University of Guam's National Family Caregiver Support Program. One of her main responsibilities is to assess the needs a caregiver of an elderly person or an elderly caregiver of a child with a disability. Deedee loves working with people and enjoys the opportunity to learn from the people she meets. On her free time, she likes watching movies, hanging out with friends, and participating in fundraising events.

DeeDee recently joined GFT when she learned about it through one of our organizers, Joliene Hasugulayag. Deedee has always heard about GFT; however she was not fully aware of the services the Union offers. "Once I knew more about GFT, I knew I had to be part of this organization. The reasons why

I joined GFT are that it provides support to the professionals in the community, advocates for employee rights, and has a network system that I benefit from."

We represent the hardworking men and women of Guam. If you know a brother or sister worker that deserves a little attention, please contact us at GFT News. Call Irish Olivares at 735-4390 or email irish@gftunion.com

...SOCIAL WORKERS



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FREE CALLS TO GFT OFFICE BY DIALING *GFT



Plan	Price	Minutes Included	Add. Mins	Long Distance
Basic Plan	\$14.⁹⁵	100 Minutes Mon-Fri / 300 Minutes on Weekend	35¢	20¢
Plus Plan	\$34.⁹⁵	500 Minutes Mon-Fri / Unlimited Nights & Weekends	30¢	10¢
Promo Plan	\$54.⁹⁵	3000 Minutes	30¢	10¢

SMS Plans: 200 Text Messages \$2.⁹⁹/Month OR Unlimited Text Messages for \$5.⁹⁹/month
BlackBerry plan for only \$34.⁹⁵ (Unlimited Internet Email & Web Browsing)

For more information call GTA at 644 - 4482 or the GFT office at 735-4390.



THE 15 MOST SIGNIFICANT DEVELOPMENTS IN TRAVEL

BY ARTHUR FROMMER

A smart traveler takes the time to review the big developments in travel, because these larger trends can inform your own vacation decisions. Some are awfully obvious, and yet deserve renewed attention:

1. The dramatic decline of the U.S. dollar. This affects not only a possible trip to Western Europe (whose euro and British pound have risen greatly in worth), but also trips to Canada, Australia, New Zealand and Japan, whose currencies also have risen dramatically. Your most obvious course is to substitute a trip to Central or South America, or to Asia (other than Japan), where the U.S. dollar remains relatively strong. Or else you must adopt radically different policies for arranging your lodgings (vacation homes or apartments, rooms in private homes, hostels) in travel to Western Europe.

2. The ever-larger cruise ship. The cruise lines continue to build vessels for up to 4,000 passengers, and the only smaller new ships are those of "premium" lines, costing an arm and a leg. If you are to avoid the cruise-ship crowds, you must learn how to use the Web sites of the various cruise discounters, who occasionally -- very occasionally -- have bargains to offer on the smaller luxury vessels.

3. The emergence of the airfare "aggregators." Such names as Kayak.com, Sidestep.com, Farechase.com, Momondo.com and Mobissimo.com are becoming increasingly popular because

they impartially list all the low-cost airfares available to you. They do not sell air tickets, but simply direct you to the relevant airlines.

4. The growth of the vacation-exchange industry. "You stay in their home while they stay in yours." The Hollywood film "The Holiday" has caused a torrent of Americans to pay attention to this most logical, sensible and effective method of reducing your lodging costs.

5. The increasing popularity of free hospitality services. Internet sites like Couchsurfers.com, GlobalFreeloaders.com and USServas.org enable you to enjoy free hospitality.

6. The growing trend toward the rental of vacation homes and apartments. It's a giant movement. More and more Americans have learned that a vacation home or apartment can cost considerably less than an equivalent hotel room or rooms. Try Homeaway.com, among others, for obtaining such a lodging.

7. The growing travel popularity of Central America. Costa Rica was the first success story, but now Panama, Nicaragua and Honduras are coming up fast.

8. The increase in bargain-price

repositioning cruises. As more and more cruiseships alternate between the Caribbean (winter) and European waters (spring and summer), and need to move between one area and the other ("repositioning"), there's been a tremendous rise in the number of repositioning cruises, costing as little as \$60 a day. Go to Vacationstogo.com for the most clearly identified listing of repositioning cruises.

9. The emergence of the European river cruise. Cruises along the Rhine and the Danube, in particular, are soaring in popularity and increasing in frequency. For an unusually relaxing and very different form of vacationing, you might consider one.

10. The emergence of medical and dental tourism. Urged on by a new book entitled "Patients Beyond Borders," by Josef Woodman, many thousands of medically uninsured Americans are now seeking low-cost medical or dental care abroad, in clinics and hospitals accredited by the same organizations that accredit clinics and hospitals in the U.S.

11. The almost universal need for a passport. As directed by the Department of Homeland Security, it is now necessary to possess a passport if you plan to fly anywhere in the world -- even simply

within the Western Hemisphere. Get one.

12. The comeback of Priceline.com. By first using a Web site called BiddingforTravel.com, which tells you how other travelers have succeeded in using the "opaque" Priceline, an increasing number of savvy travelers have had success with Priceline. Some, who regard Priceline as unsuitable for air travel, are making use of it for hotel rooms.

13. The increasing regard for Amtrak. At last, serious efforts are afoot in Congress to place Amtrak on a firm financial footing. Ridership on the national train system is increasing each year.

14. The emergence of hidden hotel fees. To their discredit, hotel executives have greatly increased their use of this improper tactic -- like charging \$15-a-day resort fees for beach towels that remained in your room. Never make a booking without demanding to know whether hidden fees will increase your bill.

15. The startling increase in zany Las Vegas weddings. Your minister is dressed as Elvis Presley. Another rises eerily from a coffin. The wedding march is to the melody of "Viva Las Vegas." For a reason I will never understand, increasing numbers of couples are opting to be married in a weird Las Vegas wedding chapel -- and that, too, is a major recent development in travel.

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\$80 a month. That's how much my power bill went up after I started plugging in my electric truck. To some folks that may seem like a lot of money but let's compare the actual costs. The Ford Ranger ev ended up with shipping and taxes costing me around \$30,000 which is a little high but on my monthly payments work out about the same as any other car so we'll consider these costs and other maintenance issues to be equal (The Ranger ev uses standard tires, coolant etc). Hence forth what we need to compare is the cost of energy to make it go!

I drive approximately 1000 miles per month which costs approximately \$80 in electricity for the Ranger ev. My Chevy Silverado gets great mileage for a full size pick up with a V8 at 14 miles per gallon. So with gas a \$4 per gallon it would cost \$285 in gasoline to drive the Silverado the same distance. Henceforth I am saving approximately \$200 per month!!! That is a significant savings of \$2,400 per year. As gas continues to increase the amount of savings will increase as well. Even though the price of power continues to rise as well it doesn't rise as fast. It is more efficient to make electricity

go into "Power saver" mode where it would only go 20 miles per hour, even though the gage said I had plenty of juice in the batteries. I also had the 12 volt battery, which operates all of the normal car systems (lights, wipers, stereo etc), go flat a couple of times. It's supposed to be recharged by the main 300 volt battery pack. As one might imagine this had me slightly freaked out.

The internet to the rescue. Once again this miracle of modern communications helped me find the answers that I needed. I had found a Ranger ev club with a forum page and once I started asking questions and using my own brain I figured out that the 12V ground cable that I had made the dealer replace had come loose and a couple of turns with a wrench solved all my problems. Boy I wish every problem in life were so easy to solve. Since then it has run like a champ with the only problems being watching the battery gauge.

"How far can you go on a charge?" People always ask me, and I usually answer 60 miles, but it's not quite that simple. Just like in your gas

powered car, mileage depends on a number of factors, how fast you drive, how much weight you're hauling or whether you have the AC on. The difference is there is only one place to put energy

by burning fuel oil in a gigantic generator than it is to burn gas in a little internal combustion engine.

Thank God, I'm actually saving a substantial amount of money, because it was a significant financial risk that had me on edge for the first month while I worked out some of the bugs. When I first hopped behind the wheel to drive it home the little wrench light came on, indicating I needed to take it to the shop. Seeing as the shop was 30,000 miles away I started to sweat a little. As I drove it I also had some other weird things happen, like it would

into the Ranger ev currently, my house, and a full charge takes about five hours. This means that I have to plan every trip so that I have enough power to get home. As one might imagine, this can be a bit of a challenge from time to time.

The first big challenge was a trip to FQ Sanchez elementary school in Umatac. In order to conserve energy I turned the AC off for the entire ride down and the gauge said I still had 38 miles left when I got there. On the trip back to the office I turned on the AC. Oops! The next time I looked at the Gauge I was approaching the

RANGER

Electric



danger zone. I turned the AC off and managed to make it back to the office with just enough to get me home after work. There have been a couple of close calls since then but I am better at planning now. The most difficult thing is forgetting to plug the darn thing in at night, but like any new routine it just takes getting used to. Next month we'll look at how I "Guamized" the truck to withstand our environment. For more info, check out the Going Green section of our website. www.gftunion.com

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BIRTHDAY WISHES

GUAM'S LOCAL UNION

4/1 Antoinette J.R. Arriola Eric J.L. Bamba Beverly C. Cabreza Kenneth A Cruz Marilyn R. Cruz Jeffrey J. Dela Cruz James Nichols Sharon K Quintanilla Lorna G. Ulloa	Johnny T. Quinata Vincent C Quitugua Laura Smith	Roy Sablan Manley Vincent C. Quintanilla	Benny T Perez Eva B. Sumbo	Renato G Jardeleza Annie Marie Lujan John Paul Naputi Angelina F.S. Quinene	4/26 Eddie N Castro Jamie Lynn K. Fegurgur Carl Wilson Jr.
4/2 John M. Camacho Jonathan Camacho Monica C. Crisostomo Robert J. Quinata April Teresa M Rabon Ana O Tamayo	4/6 Anita Linda M Arile Marilyn N. Castro Rose M. Quitugua Delia Tajieron Doreen Y Teria	4/11 James V Calvo Anthony Q Cruz Joey H. Mesa Lillian T. Perez Peter F Sablan	4/16 Cecilia B. Concepcion Ann R Dacanay Jeanette MC Guerrero Lara Maquera Jesse F. Reyes	4/21 Esther Muritok Sylvia Q Taitingfong Aprilyn F. Villaflo Vincent C Villasoto	4/27 Gilbert F. Arciga Patrick Q. Benavente Josephine R De Guzman Dennis E. Lujan Carrie Dulla-Perez Ronald A. Ruiz Jr. Felix Roberto Santos, Jr. Joseph T. Terlaje
4/3 Frank SN Cepeda Aimee Rae Rosario Lizama Sheila M Meno Nino C. Pangilinan	4/7 Joseph Anthony Blas Mary L. Garvilles Michael R. Mafnas Raymond N Reyes Joaquin LG Tayama	4/12 Monica D. Baza Gloria C. Molano Renee-Lynn A. Layson Sanchez	4/17 Laurie T Atoigue Anthony O. Quinene Keven J. Wusstig	4/22 Israel S Alfred Catherine Artero Donna Therese C Borja Evan Carpenter Andrea H Cruz Hernando F Ganon Joseph C. Sayama	4/28 Marieta J Escano Erlinda C. Estrella Arlenemae Q Flores Ken J Nangauta Denise Taimanglo
4/4 Aniceto J. Golveo William S Manibusan Frances U. Rivera Leilani A. Toves Janet L. Wiggins	4/8 Fred Q Aguon Ruth G Aguon John M. Kitchar Carl J Lizama Veronica S.T. Lizama Barbara Lee Manibusan Maria Y. McDonald Doris G.C. McJohn Patria U. Sablan	4/13 Patricia Pereda Bamba Hermie R. Basa James A.C. Lujan Belta C. Ueda	4/18 Robert T Auayan Catherine D. Diniega Matsue T Evans Soledad R. Guerrero William E Lujan Arthur A Naputi Ricky V. Pangelinan Nenita D. San Nicolas Glenn G Santos Mary Ann Santos	4/23 Frederick G Guzman	4/29 Joseph R Benavente Imelda D.S. Clymer Evangeline Q Dela Cruz Marilyn G Deplata Patrick L. Francisco Marjorie C. Martinez Roger S Padios
4/5 Rowena Dimla Darlene Perez Flores Norma G Guevara Angela M.S. Limtiaco Robert FC Maratita	4/9 Barbara O Cruz Dolores SN Gumataotao Vincent F. Paulino Jesus S.N. Quintanilla	4/14 Ludovina O. Antolin Maria Ester A DeLeon Guerrero Raymond Q. Duenas Anilita Basto-Gurwell Laura Jean P. Lujan Vanessa A. Quintanilla	4/19 Carmen P. Bermudes Maria S. Cruz Albert Fejeran Marife Ganeb (Fernandez) Rogelio B Garcia Robin R. Malicsi John Mesa	4/25 Francisco P. Campos Luis V.I. Castro Liza O. Cruz Mildred Lape Victor Perez Susie A. Torres	4/30 Leah I. Duenas Lenny R Hernandez JoAnnelle D Nededog Albert J Perez
	4/10 Rodney Akima William JQ Casil Bertha R. Cruz	4/15 Vincent C Bermudes Charlene C. Candaso Chris B Guillermo Salvacion P. Labella Beverly C Lujan Arnell F. Medler Anita R. Ngiraingas	4/20 Ines E. Bukikosa		

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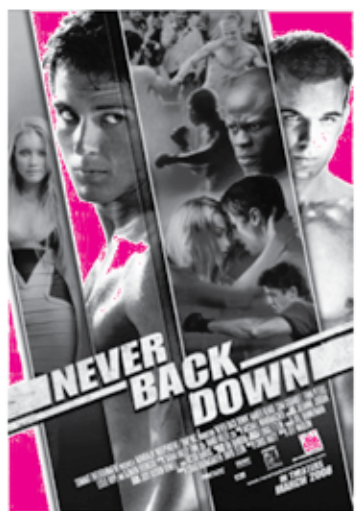
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Never Back Down

(Action drama, PG-13, 110 minutes)

This fun and shamelessly formulaic tale provides a dazzling highlight reel for mixed martial arts fighting. Essentially a remake of "The Karate Kid," Sean Faris is the new kid, humiliated by the local bully (Cam Gigandet) for having a crush on his girlfriend (Amber Heard). Djimon Hounsou is the stoic African MMA master who teaches the kid to fight. Rated: Two and a half stars. (Bryant Manning)



"That old school boxing stuff doesn't fly around here. You gotta mix it up," says Ryan McCarthy, the righteously tanned punk who's out to make newcomer Jake Tyler's life hell.

In Jeff Wadlow's brawl opus "Never Back Down," Jake's only chance of high school survival is if he embraces mixed martial arts (MMA). With pay-per-view Ultimate Fighting Championship duels more popular than ever, this fun and shamelessly formulaic tale provides the sport with a dazzling highlight reel, and even manages to sneak in some real tenderness along the way.

Jake (Sean Faris) is a good-hearted but distraught teenager pent up with latent rage in the wake of his father's untimely death. Moving from Iowa to Florida, he starts anew with his irritable mom and

cutesy younger brother who hope to develop the latter's promising tennis career. When Jake spots classmates pulverizing each other ala "Fight Club" behind the bleachers, he's eventually persuaded to take up the craft.

Although admired for his toughness, Jake's humble Midwestern style clashes in the glitzy world of Orlando, where most of his classmates drive costly European SUVs and live in perpetual pool parties. When his new friend, Max (Evan Peters), invites him over to his McMansion, Jake asks, "Is everyone's home this big down here?" "Actually," Max responds, "this is just our guest house."

Whether writer Chris Hauty wants to admit it or not, this is a remake of "The Karate Kid" (1984). The parallels run everywhere from scene to scene: good kid reluctantly moves with single mom from a temperate climate to a subtropical one; good kid has trouble fitting in; good kid gets a crush on a girl who happens to be dating the chief nemesis; bad kid humiliates the good kid at a social gathering; good kid determinedly learns to fight from a lonely philosophical outsider; good kid seeks closure through one final duel tournament.

It's a strong formula for each new generation of kids, but becomes a little trite for adults. The real rewards are the intense training sequences, mixed martial arts beatdowns and first-rate sound design. A slo-mo kick to the faceshows teeth

cracking and cheeks stretching, and you feel wrapped up inside the action. The rough "Se7en"-style cinematography adds to the crunch too.

The cast is surprisingly strong. Djimon Hounsou thrills as the statuesque Jean Roqua, the stoic African master fighter and espouser of ancient wisdom. He owns an MMA gym that becomes Jake's sanctuary and school of life's lessons. Jake, however, is not to fight outside the gym or Roqua will cut him off. Roqua is similarly wresting a haunting past, and his mentorship of Jake is genuine and tough-loving.

A well-rounded supporting cast delivers too. Baja (Amber Heard), Jake's flirtatious love interest, may resemble Barbie, but she's also struggling to fit in. Raised by New-Age stoners, it's hinted that without dating Ryan, she wouldn't be as popular. Ryan, the lunatic possessed, played by Cam Gigandet, was raised by a tyrannical father, a fact that sheds a forgiving light on his own arrogant self.

"Fight him so you won't have to fight again," becomes Jake's inner directive after Ryan's antics go too far. Stave off a menacing foe or lose the newfound peace Roqua's provided him. Like most aspects of this movie, that's a plausible, even entertaining scenario. If only the writers had "mixed it up" a little more, what a fresher fight flick this might have been.

by Bryan Manning



Sean Faris



Amber Heard



Cam Gigandet



Evan Peters

CAST

- Sean Faris...Jake Tyler
- Amber Heard...Baja Miller
- Cam Gigandet...Ryan McCarthy
- Evan Peters...Max Cooperman
- Leslie Hope...Margot Tyler
- Djimon Hounsou...Jean Roqua
- Wyatt Smith...Charlie Tyler
- Affion Crockett...Beatdown DJ Swagga
- Neil Brown Jr...Aaron
- Lauren Leech...Jenny
- Tilky Jones...Eric
- Steven Crowley...Ben Costigan
- Tom Nowicki...Mr. Lloyd
- David Zelon...Ryan's Dad
- Chris Lindsay...Beat Down Referee

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Charter Schools: Bad for Guam

Our children deserve more; more opportunities, more funding for education, more highly qualified teachers and more decent schools. What they don't deserve is to have what little they have taken away by Charter Schools. Charter schools are bad for kids. Students that attend charter schools do worse on tests, have less educational opportunities, are robbed of cultural diversity and are discriminated against for being poor. Of course these aren't the only problems with Charter schools; charter schools have higher administrative costs, lack fiscal and education accountability and discriminate against children with severe special needs. All of these statements are facts supported by the 10-year study "Do Charter Schools Measure Up?", and based on this study's findings, it is clear that the recently introduced Bill 248 would hurt our already damaged public education system.

When the Adequate Education Act became law the people of Guam were excited. Here was a law that had actual hard and fast definitions of 14 specific things that are necessary for our children to receive an adequate education. Unfortunately, the law was not funded properly, so instead of raising new revenues by having corporations start to pay their fair share of taxes, the legislature made the law even more difficult to enforce, by creating a new level of bureaucracy a "Suruhanu". As if this wasn't bad enough, Senators Won Pat, Espaldon, and Muna-Barnes want to create a new type of school that is funded with public monies but is exempt from the very things that protect our children, public laws (including the Adequate Education Act), rules, policies, regulations, and collective bargaining agreements.

Ultra-right wing, anti-family/union, think tanks, from the Mainland and their local counterparts, like the Heritage Foundation, have been waging war on Guam's working families for decades and look for every opportunity to destroy our civil society where every child has an opportunity to succeed no matter whether they are rich or poor, and Charter Schools and Vouchers programs are high on their list. The Charter School Bill 248 fits right in with this anti-family / union agenda agenda.

CHARTER SCHOOLS WOULD BE WELFARE FOR THE RICH!!!

These "Charter Schools" will be funded by GPSS and will receive the same amount of money per student as Public Schools. While the Law would prohibit Charter Schools from charging tuition, it does allow them to "impose fees or otherwise require payment, at rates established by the Trustees of the school, for any program, educational offering, not funded in whole or part through appropriation by I Liheslaturan Guahan." So here's how it would work GPSS spent approx. \$4848 per student in FY06 so the School would get that much then their "Trustees" would establish annual fees like \$1000 sports fee, \$1500 Computer Lab fee, \$2500 Science Lab fee and a \$2,000 materials fee. This would

give this child a \$12,000 per year education at the cost of only \$7,000! Seeing as almost 90% of our children qualify for free and reduced lunches one would think that their parents would be able to pay the additional fees required for their kids to attend a Charter school.

CHARTER SCHOOLS WOULD BE CORPORATE WELFARE AS WELL!!!

Not only would taxpayers be paying for rich kids to get a better funded education, we would be robbing the public structure of much needed funds by allowing Corporations to "Donate" to Charter schools. Donations such as this are tax deductions! This would allow a business owner to fund their kid's school while at the same time avoid paying the taxes

that fund the public's schools.

CHARTER SCHOOLS DO A WORSE JOB OF EDUCATING KIDS THAN PUBLIC SCHOOLS

The number one purpose of Bill 248 is to "Improve student learning", but Charter Schools have been proven to do the opposite! In 2004, the U.S. Department of Education, released a nationwide study that showed that Charter school students performed statistically worse than public school students. CS advocates will pull out snapshot schools that perform better than public schools for a short period of time but these don't give a true reflection of how the system performs like the NAEP study does.



SIMON SANCHEZ HIGH SCHOOL

NUMBER AND PERCENTAGE OF SCHOOLS MEETING STATE PERFORMANCE STANDARDS

	CHARTER SCHOOLS		TRADITIONAL PUBLIC SCHOOLS	
	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE	NUMBER	PERCENTAGE
TEXAS	78	66%	6,308	98%
COLORADO	76	92%	1,421	98%
ILLINOIS	12	52%	3,191	82%
MASSACHUSETTS	18	64%	1,335	87%
NORTH CAROLINA	75	88%	2,022	100%

Source: "Evaluation of the Public Schools Program", US DOE Deputy Secretary-DDC#2004-08



PRICE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

CHARTER SCHOOLS HAVE LESS QUALIFIED TEACHERS

We know how difficult it is to recruit and retain the highly qualified teachers that are mandated in both local and federal law, but Charter Schools have an even tougher time! Because CS teachers are generally lower paid, have worse benefits and retirements, have a much higher work load and don't have the fairness and justice of a union, they have a huge turnover rate. This leaves students without their most valuable assets, a highly qualified, experienced teacher.

CHARTER SCHOOLS LACK ACCOUNTABILITY

Evidence from across the country show that Charter schools are not accountable and even the standards that are in place never get enforced. In fact the overwhelming cause for Charters being revoked is not for failing to meet Academic progress but for fiscal mismanagement or outright theft! The scary part is that Bill 248 allows these Charter Schools to actually borrow money which the tax payers will be responsible for!

CHARTER SCHOOLS ROB TEACHERS AND STUDENTS OF COLLECTIVE BARGAINING RIGHTS

Guam's public school children and teachers have been protected by a collective bargaining agreement that ensures decent learning conditions for over 35 years. Whereas

many districts across the Mainland have balanced their budgets on the backs of students by increasing student to teacher ratios, to 45-50 students per class, Guam's children have enjoyed reasonable class sizes (18-24 in elementary, 28 in secondary). Studies show that when student to teacher ratios increase, learning DECREASES exponentially! Bill 248 exempts these Charter schools from collective bargaining rights.



SOUTHERN HIGH SCHOOL

CHARTER SCHOOLS WON'T SERVICE CHILDREN WITH EXPENSIVE SPECIAL NEEDS

Fortunately, public schools are required to educate every student with special needs, no matter how severe. In fact, there are many students within GPSS whose disability requires that they have a full time 1 to 1 aide with them at all times and they have small class sizes making them extremely expensive students to educate. These children with special needs are usually excluded from Charter Schools due to the high costs which would put the expense burden onto the public school system. This is not fair to these kids, their parents, or the tax payers of our island.

If the kitchen sink is broken, the paint is peeling, and the tile is cracked, should we tear down the house and build a new one? Of course not! WE fix the sink, paint the house, and re-tile. The same is true with our school system. GPSS does an incredible job with very little resources thanks to the hard work of the professional teachers and staff that do the job of educating our children and their collective bargaining agreements that protect their rights to be successful professional educators. According to the National Center for Educational Statistics, Guam currently spends only about half the national average per child (www.nces.ed.gov). If we truly cared for all of our island's children we would invest in their school system so that teachers have the tools necessary to give our children the education they deserve.

AVERAGE EXPERIENCE & EDUCATION OF SCHOOL TEACHERS

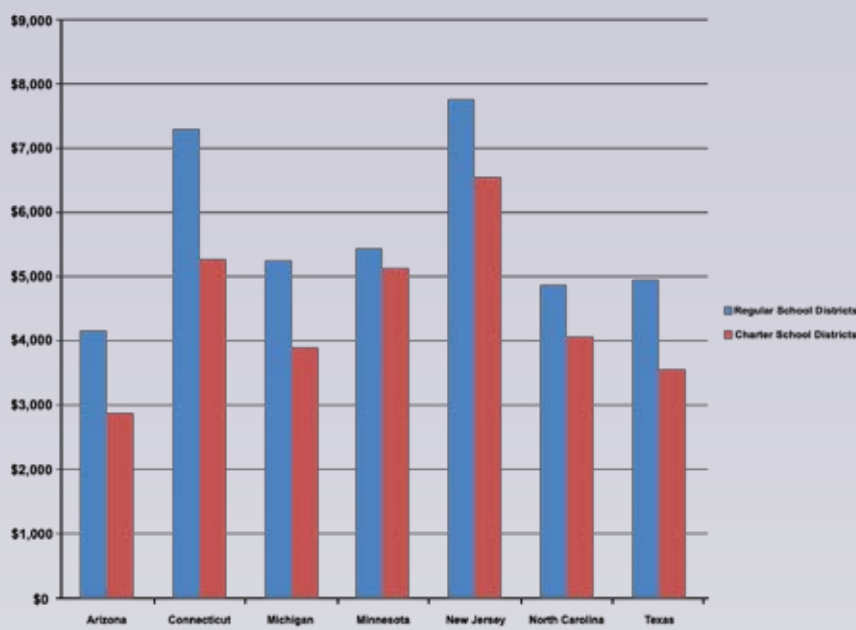
	EXPERIENCE IN YEARS		PERCENTAGE FOR WHOM B.A. IS THE HIGHEST DEGREE	
	CHARTER SCHOOLS	PUBLIC SCHOOLS	CHARTER SCHOOLS	PUBLIC SCHOOLS
CALIFORNIA	10.1	13.6	85%	73%
MICHIGAN	6.0	16.0	82%	47%
MINNESOTA	5.6	13.0	80%	55%
OHIO	3.7	9.8	NA	NA
TEXAS	4.9	12.3	79%	68%

Source: Paying for the Vision: Charter Schools Revenue and Expenditures (Nelson, Muir, and Drown, forthcoming)

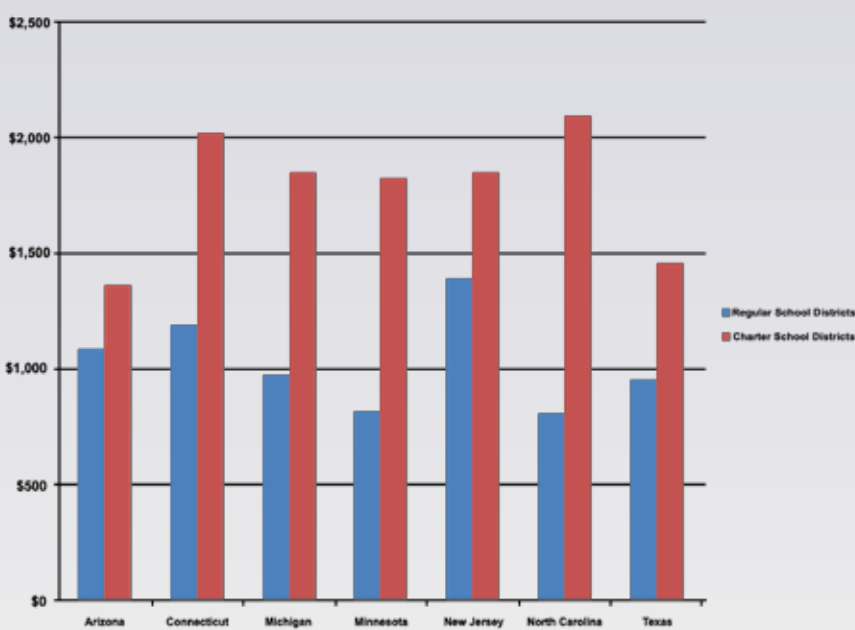
CHARTER SCHOOLS SPEND LESS MONEY ON STUDENTS AND MORE ON ADMINISTRATION

Charter Schools have to spend more on administrative costs because they don't have the economy of scale that the Public School system has. It only makes sense that you get a lower per unit cost for whatever you're buying when you buy in bulk.

Instruction-Related Costs Spent per Student



Administrative-Related Costs Spent per Student



“Remember the dead - Fight for the living”



by Joliene Hasugulayag

hazardous substances annually; 100,000 of these deaths are directly related to asbestos exposure in the work place. This equates to approximately 6,000 deaths per day or one work-related death every fifteen seconds, worldwide. In 2006 in the U.S. alone, there were more than 4.1 million workers injured and 5,073 workers killed, as a direct result of job hazards. In addition to this, 50,000 workers died due to occupational diseases.

Over thirty years ago, the Occupational Safety and Health Administration Act (OSHA) was passed in Congress. Its purpose - to protect the rights of workers to a safe work environment. Despite its intent, however, the reality is that OSHA has fallen short of its goal. According to a February 2008 Safety and Health Update on the AFL-CIO website, "...more than 8.6 million state and local public employees and other workers, including flight attendants, have no protection under the OSHA law", "The average penalty for a serious violation of the OSHA law continues to be woefully low - only \$906", and "criminal penalties under OSHA are weaker than all other safety and health laws".

So what is the problem and who is to blame? To answer these questions, I would like to share a short story. A local fisherman was fishing at his usual spot when he noticed a body floating down the river. He jumped in and pulled the body out and was able

to revive the individual. The next day, the same fisherman saw five more bodies floating down the river. Again he jumped in and pulled each of them out, reviving them as he did. After a few more days of this repeated event, the fisherman finally walked up river in an attempt to find the source of the problem. It was then that he saw that the bridge over the river had fallen. The bodies that had been floating down the river were people whose jobs were on the other side. With no way to cross safely to get to their jobs, the workers were being swept away while trying to swim through the river.

This story, in many ways, mirrors the situation that many workers face today. Because of forces beyond their control such as the rising costs of fuel, government-granted tax exemptions for large corporations, government officials and elitists who pursue their personal interests, the lack of jobs, and the increasing cost of living, people are forced to take jobs where ever they can find them regardless of whether or not the conditions are safe.

As if dealing with the stress of poor work conditions was not enough, workers are further victimized by society's stigmas and stereotypes which would have us believe that this common situation is the result of the "poor choices" of the individual experiencing it. The reality, however, is that this is NOT the

failure of any one individual. Just like the fallen bridge in the story is a structural problem, the poor working conditions that many people face is a direct result of the failure of our overall structure. It is the failure of our government. IT IS THE FAILURE OF OUR SYSTEM!

Considering all this information can be quite discouraging. The problem is so massive that it is easy for one to think that nothing can be done; that those who have the money, have the power. But this is not entirely true. Workers all over Guam have a voice and THIS IS power! To quote Saul Alinsky, "Power goes to two poles - those who've got the money and those who've got the people." The only way to change the status quo, is to unite all of the people who are directly affected by this system failure. We must remember that the government exists to serve the public's best interests and if this was happening, Guam would not be in the state that it is.

The official slogan for Workers' Memorial Day is "Remember the dead - Fight for the living." On April 28, we at GFT ask that readers take a moment to remember the people who have died or were injured due to poor working conditions, and to join GFT in the "fight for the living". Things can change if we, the workers, come together and raise our voices. This one action, is the best memorial that we can build for our fallen colleagues.

If you have something to say or an opinion you want to see expressed in print, please feel free to send us an email at: gftunion.com. Include a daytime contact number and name when sending in your comments, questions or ideas. Call our office at 735-4390 for more information.

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Heritage Boat Charters (727-7873)	Nuts & Grains (646-9358) 10% Off Groceries	Tarza Water Park (647-1976) Specific Dates Only! Adults 12 & Up \$10 Children 5-11 \$5 Children 4 & under Free
	Pacific Tyre \$10.00 off per hour on all labor charges • 10-15% discount on parts; • 15% discount on tire purchases or buy 3 Tires, Get 1 Tire Free Promotion • For oil changes, the oil disposal fee is waived (a savings of \$3.00 per oil change)	Underwater World (649-9191) \$10 for Family Photo on select dates
		Wise Owl Animal Care (646-2273) 10% off

Kids' Home Newspaper



Games, rhymes and riddles for children and their parents, too!

By J.R. Rose-Copley News Service

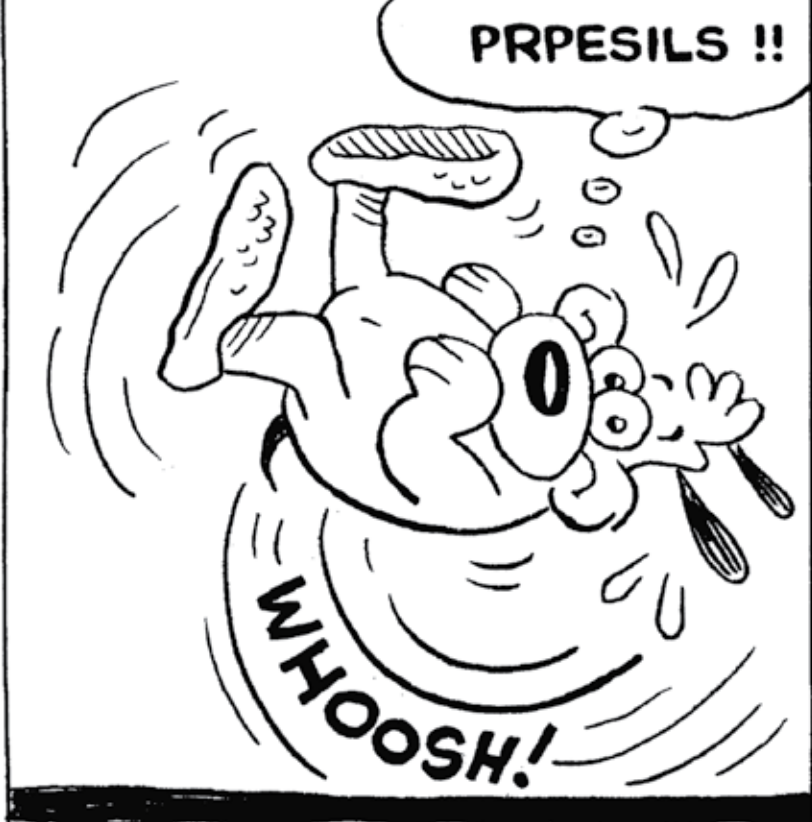
DRAW IT!



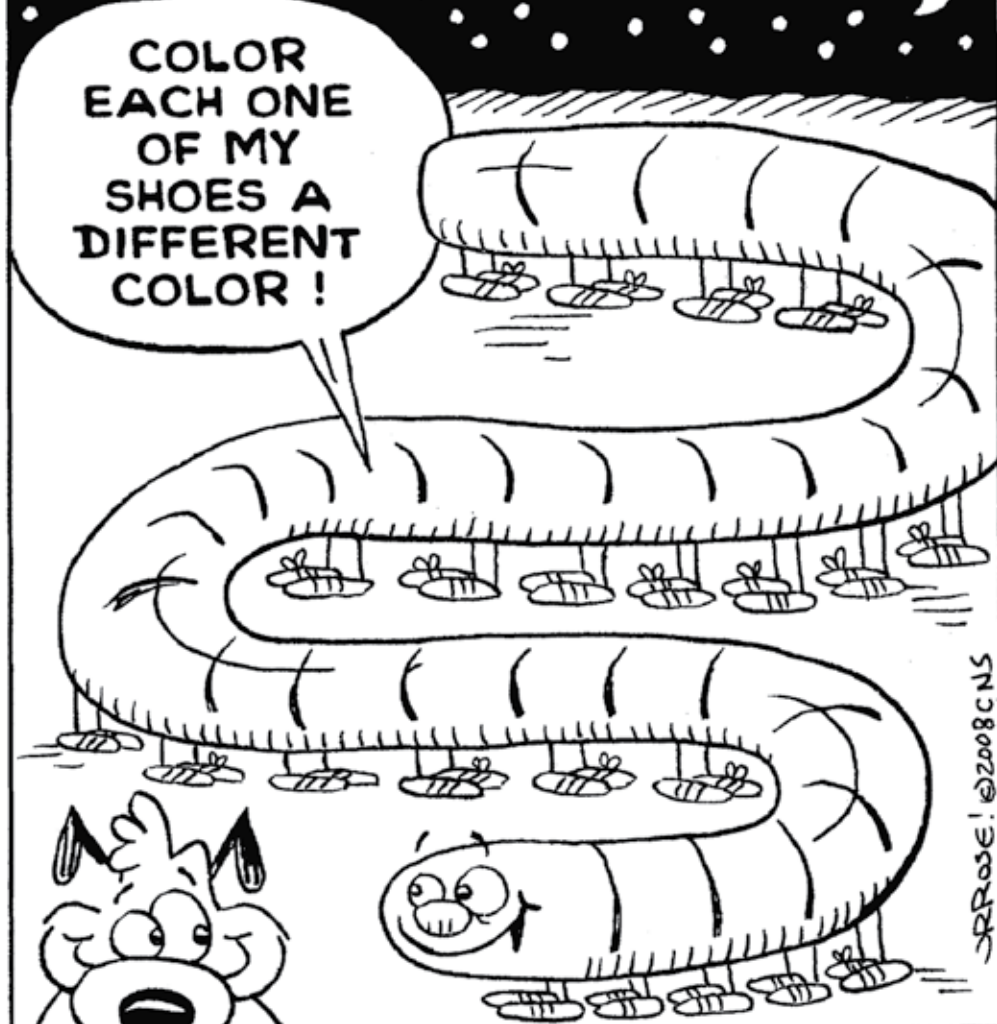
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<input type="checkbox"/> A \$5.00/person	Hotdog Sandwich One (2) Game of Bowling Fruit Punch or Ice Tea Three (3) Whimsy Tokens	Name of Representative
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<input type="checkbox"/> C \$6.00/person	Hotdog Sandwich One (2) Game of Bowling Fruit Punch or Ice Tea Three (3) Whimsy Tokens	Email Address Mobile Number
<input type="checkbox"/> D \$6.00/person	One (2) slice Popover Pizza One (2) Game of Bowling Fruit Punch or Ice Tea Three (3) Whimsy Tokens	No. of Persons Reservation Date & Time
<input type="checkbox"/> E \$7.00/person	Hotdog Sandwich One (2) Game of Bowling One (2) Soft Ice Cream Cone Fruit Punch or Ice Tea Six (6) Whimsy Tokens	Date Received Received by: (Print Name & Signature)
<input type="checkbox"/> F \$7.00/person	One (2) slice Popover Pizza One (2) Game of Bowling One (2) Soft Ice Cream Cone Fruit Punch or Ice Tea Six (6) Whimsy Tokens	Total Amount Due Deposit 20% Date Received & O.R. No.
<input type="checkbox"/> G \$9.00/person	Five (5) pcs. Hot Wings One (2) Game of Bowling One (2) Soft Ice Cream Cone One (2) Game of Hoop Fruit Punch or Ice Tea Six (6) Whimsy Tokens	Balance Due Date Received & O.R. No.

Terms & Conditions
1. Reservations are requested to be made at least one week prior to the intended date of the activity.
2. Twenty percent (20%) deposit is required two (2) days prior to the date of the activity.
3. STRICTLY No outside food allowed. A penalty will be assessed for outside food.
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**GFT's
1st Annual
Convention held
March 29, 2008 at
the GCC Multipurpose
Building was a huge
success!**

The AFT Western Regional Director, Sol Smith, who was here in person, gave a fantastic key note speech and then proceeded to swear in President Rector, VP Fedenko, Secretary Sharma and Treasurer Lujan for their new three year term. The food was delicious and the band, Natural Rhythm, kept the crowd going. Two lucky members walked away with two Roundtrip tickets to Manila and Bali! If you missed out then get ready for next year's convention!

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HOROSCOPES

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

April starts off as a collision between long term career goals and the petty demands of the day to day job. Rams begin to feel like rats on a treadmill. But as the month progresses, relief is in sight, as well as a clear professional direction. Will you leave for something better or make your mark where you are? Time will tell if you don't watch the clock.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Bulls decide to make the front pages this April. They not only itch to travel, they want to go to the outer limits and have the great adventure of a lifetime. It is all possible and all in good time. Soon things will fall into place that give you the ways and means. You might meet someone who can direct you to the best of the best. Of course the opposite is also true.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Dip into your intuitive arsenal this April, Twin. You will need to make the best use of your wits to solve a mystery and get what you need from other, greedier folks. Use any newly gain largess to solidify your home environment. Try to pay off debts and become more in control. You receive a monetary gift that may come with a hidden price. Oh what the heck!

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

Crabs need to open up the line of communication with partners. There is too much that is unsaid that can cause rifts or barriers to true happiness. Mid-month, you find pals who provide new, useful perspectives on any stagnant situation. If you are looking for a relationship, pretend that you are interested in any lame conversation. You appear to be especially attractive..

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Money troubles begin to clear up in April if you concentrate on controlling your debt and learning new tricks of the financial trade. Lions might feel caged in at work where they are not appreciated or recognized for their efforts. This is a passing phase that will reconcile mid-month. While you wait, avoid mouthing off by steering clear of office politics. Oops.

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

You may have a lack of self confidence this April as a number of false starts begins to take a toll. But give yourself another chance to get out in front of the crowd and strut your stuff. You may find them more appreciative of your talents and more excited by your ideas. Then again maybe they are just humoring you. Any port in a storm.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Home and relatives are highlighted this April. Not only can you improve your surroundings, you can improve your relation to your relations. Do so and soon. They seem more open to change and compromise. Libras know just what to do and say to mend bridges and move things forward. Anything is possible to a willing heart. Are you willing?

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

Scorps can expand their social circle this April especially in their immediate neighborhood. Don't sit at home and warm your couch cushion. Step out and see what is happening around the corner. You never know who might be waiting for you there. By mid-month, things might become even more interesting with certain neighbors. How neighborly do you feel?

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

While you seem to be more attuned to the movements of the financial markets, don't be surprised if you get in over your head financially this April. That is because your eyes are too big for your wallet and everything seems affordable. But don't panic; the fates will find a way to help you pay your bills ... even if it means you have to work harder for it. *Drat!*

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

Your personal stock rises and soon you find yourself in control of the crowd. This has its advantages and disadvantages. On the one hand you can sell through your ideas easily. On the other hand, everyone may soon be a nit picky critic. When in doubt, don't take yourself or your ideas too seriously. Laugh and the world laughs with you. Err, is it "with" or "at"...

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

Aquarians may need to revamp their home environment to make it more in balance and airier. There may be some stressful areas of your life this April but you should not let anything ease you off track. Keep your attention focused and energy high. Before you know it you will discover something delightful behind the curtain. Choose the right curtain...

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Fish become the mediators between friends and lovers this April. Both sides have valid issues that need to be addressed. Not only can you smooth over any rough spots, you can bring folks together and create a nice harmony. Charm will work wonders as well as careful communication. And if all else fails, let warring factions argue and tire out. Then declare victory.

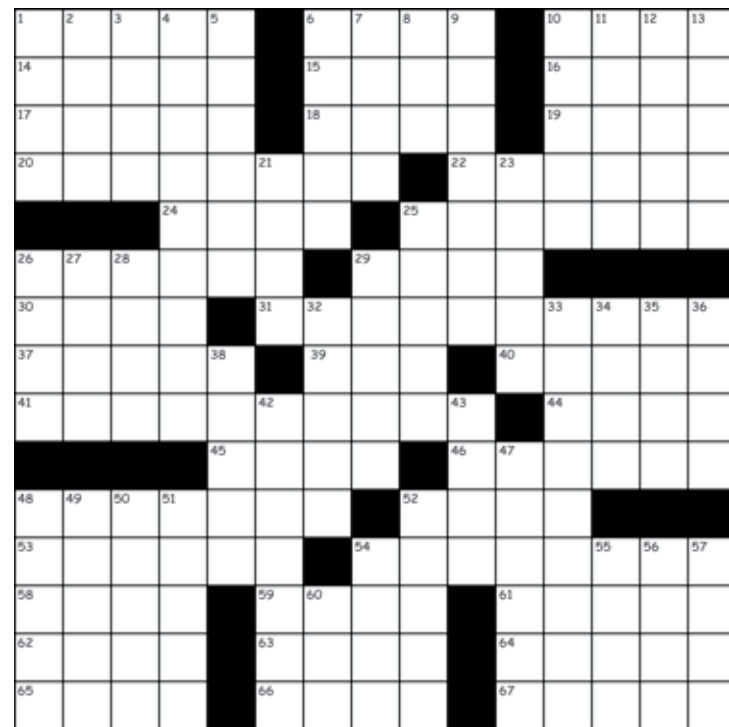
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CROSSWORD PUZZLE

- Across
- Examines closely
 - Distasteful
 - Soviet news service
 - Related to form
 - Sled
 - Batting Babe
 - Unwarranted
 - Recedes
 - Nabisco cookie
 - Mosaic pieces
 - Capital of Cuba
 - Long poem, such as those attributed to Homer
 - Small object of curiosity
 - Spreads out
 - Rescue
 - Exactly
 - Beyond the authority of law
 - Extraterrestrial
 - Center Ming
 - Napoleon on Elba, e.g.
 - Boundary line
 - Skein of thread
 - Fly
 - Separated
 - Lake in W Hungary
 - Open infection, painful
 - Mingling with
 - Shaped like a

- bagel topping
- Burden
 - Mown grass
 - Slow, musically
 - Sea-going eagle
 - Mild oath
 - Bury
 - Celestial body
 - Outstanding
 - Mote

- Down
- Brown-bag stuff
 - Volcano shape
 - Increases
 - Nauseous
 - Drowsy
 - Pertaining to the small intestine
 - Raise to third power
 - Soviet secret police
 - Orthodox Jewish school
 - Valuable collection
 - Pertaining to the ear
 - Shorthand



- taker
- Weaned pig
 - Increase in height or number
 - White poplar tree
 - Member of the nobility
 - Thrust with a knife
 - Game played on horseback
 - Den
 - Flight of steps
 - Treegum
 - Waste matter
 - Golden
 - Sheltered, nautically
 - Obscene
 - Bird homes
 - Tiny plant part
 - Epic narrative poem
 - Decorative ivy
 - Bundles
 - Lifeless
 - Woody vine
 - One who uses an abacus
 - Transmits
 - Exchange
 - Not fooled by
 - Single, individual unit
 - Small boat
 - Gone by

SUDOKU RULES

The objective of sudoku is to enter a digit from 1 through 9 in each cell, in such a way that:

- * Each horizontal row contains each digit exactly once
- * Each vertical column contains each digit exactly once
- * Each subgrid or region contains each digit exactly once

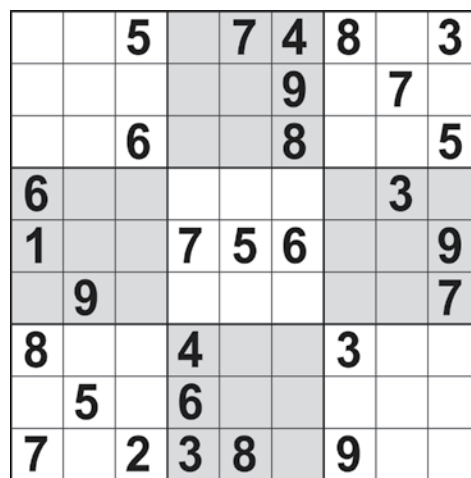
This explains the name of the game; in Japanese, sudoku means something like "numbers singly".

Solving a sudoku puzzle does not require knowledge of mathematics; simple logic suffices. (Instead of digits, other symbols can be used, e.g. letters, as long as there are nine

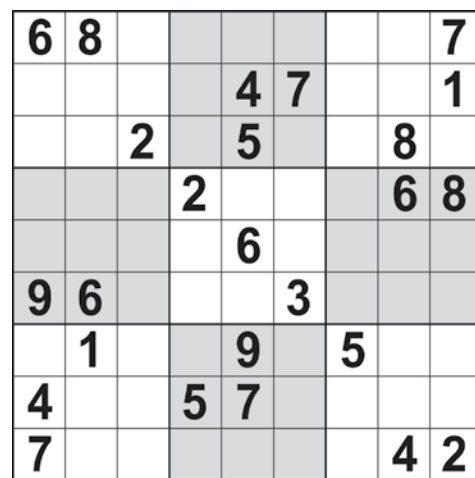
different symbols.) In each sudoku puzzle, several digits have already been entered (the "givens"); these may not be changed.

The puzzler's job is to fill the remainder of the grid with digits -respecting, of course, the three constraints mentioned earlier.

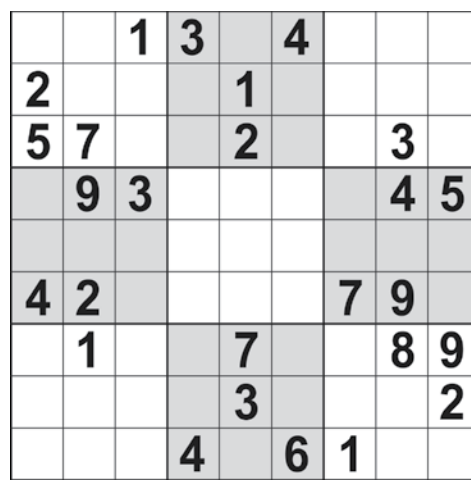
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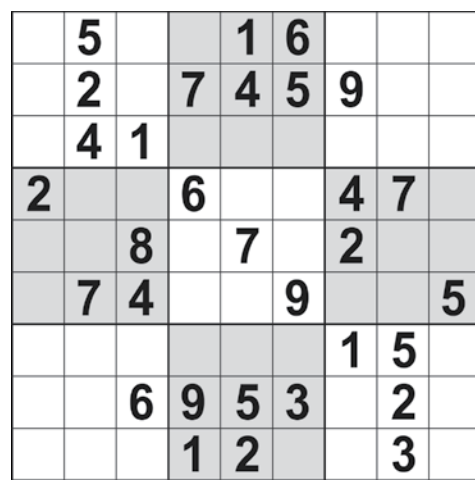
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3/30



4/6



4/13

PHOTO PERFECT

FIND THE 5 DIFFERENCES IN THE PHOTO BELOW



9	1	6	5	8	3	2	7	4	2	7	4	2	7	4	2
8	7	4	7	1	9	6	3	5	9	6	3	5	9	6	3
2	5	3	7	4	9	1	6	8	6	1	4	9	1	6	8
7	2	7	6	3	8	1	3	6	2	7	6	3	8	1	3
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1	3	1	2	5	4	2	9	8	7	6	8	7	6	8	7
5	9	5	2	8	1	3	8	4	7	6	1	3	8	4	7
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8	2	3	7	4	5	9	1	6	8	2	3	7	4	5	9	1	6
9	5	7	8	1	6	3	4	2	9	5	7	8	1	6	3	4	2

DON'T FORGET TO CHECK OUT OUR WEBSITE AT WWW.GFTUNION.COM

PETSCOPES

ARIES (MAR 21 - APR 20)

This time of year is a confident and almost pushy time for Aries pets. (Why is this time of year different from any other?) Give them loads of attention and make them feel like rulers of the roost. They are anyway...

SCORPIO (OCT 24 - NOV 22)

Scorpio pets need their rest this April. They may lack a bit of energy and may sleep more. Make life easy for them. Their dormancy is natural this time of year but expect them to come out of it later in the month.

TAURUS (APR 21 - MAY 21)

Taurean pets love to share their stuff with you and this time of year they are especially generous. They will even let you warm a spot for them on the bed. Will they surprise you with a little gift from the garden? Let's hope not.

SAGITTARIUS (NOV 23-DECR 22)

Unlike Scorpio pets, Sagittarians are brimming with energy and exuberance in April. They are not naturally graceful either and can knock over things and cause a mess. Store some of your more precious objects in the closet until May.

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUN 21)

Sociable Gemini pets will want to have their friends over for get togethers this April. Give them plenty of exercise and introduce them to new neighbors and friends. If you can find a new toy that they can get to know better, that works too.

CAPRICORN (DEC 23 - JAN 20)

Capripets are true homebodies this April and just love to cuddle up with you. This is fine as long as you are home. Try to arrange your schedule so you spend a little more time with them than usual. Otherwise they will whimper.

CANCER (JUN 22 - JUL 23)

Who loves to stay home and relax this April? Yes, its most Cancer pets. Don't try to push them to do things. They are not motivated to do anything except monopolize all your attention. Divert them with a treat.... in another room.

AQUARIUS (JAN 21 - FEB 19)

Aquarian pets are very expressive this April. They howl, meow and bark at the slightest things. They are just trying to start a conversation with you. Let them have the last growl. There may not be much that you can do anyway.

LEO (JUL 24 - AUG 23)

Leo pets may feel confined this April and can try to escape. Keep doors and windows closed around them. But try to find ways of giving them fresh air and a sense of freedom.... on a leash.

PISCES (FEB 20 - MAR 20)

The generosity of Piscean pets hits a peak this April. They manage to offer you more little gifts and goodies than usual. A worm! Enjoy the attention while you can. By next month, you'll have to catch your own gifts.

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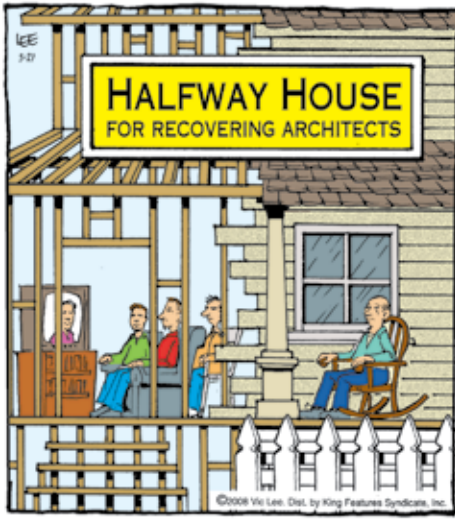
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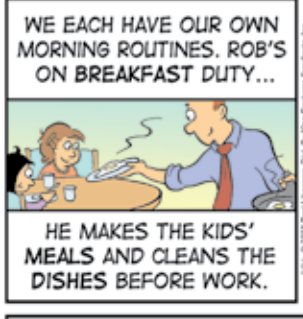
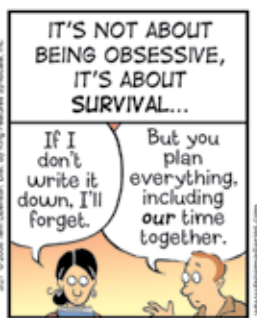
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Pardon My Planet



Pajama Diaries



TOM THE DANCING BUG

by Ruben Bolling

The Education of Louis 1. "Cause and Effect"



TOM THE DANCING BUG

BY RUBEN BOLLING

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• If you bet big and lose, we pay you even more money to leave the table!

HAVE FUN PLAYING EXECUTIVE POKER!
Take a chance! The bigger your bet, the bigger your bonus if you win! And if you lose, you don't lose a dime-- simply walk away with the money you've already won!

Don't qualify for our V.I.P. Rooms? Don't worry!!
Almost everyone who comes just plays our WORKING-STIFF SLOTS
You keep pulling the lever, and if you're lucky, you just might win enough to stay in the game. But if someone in a V.I.P. Room upstairs loses a bet, you have to leave, and your savings get wiped out!

It's the thrill ride of a lifetime!

And don't forget... Across the street is THE GOVERNMENT CASINO
play... OVAL OFFICE ROULETTE
• Bet big and win... You'll get an honored historical legacy!
• Bet big and lose... And your buddies still get rich, and you still get a Presidential Library!

Project I Famagu'on-ta - Become a Treatment Foster Parent. You can be your own boss, make more money and help improve the life of a youth. Don't wait, call today! 647-5410 (ask for Bobbie or Annie)

Are you a victim of Family Violence, Dealing with Domestic Violence... If you are in an immediate danger and need help; if you know of a child/children being abused, please call Child Protective Services: 475-2653/2672. The Alee Shelter a division of Catholic Social Service can help. Please call Monday - Friday, 472-6729/472-6709 or Hotline: 637-2533. All Information is kept confidential.

Catholic Social Service - Are you interested in becoming a volunteer for the telephone reassurance service program, a daily call to isolated seniors please call Catholic Social Service at 635-1415/1420.

Habitat for Humanity is

looking for volunteers to help make the dream of home ownership a reality for low income families on Guam. If you are interested in learning about how you can become involved in Habitat for Humanity please call 475-HOME (4663)

Island Girl Power:
LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS
Health & Wellness Coordinator - Works with Prevention Partners to schedule workshops and classes one or more per month.
Tutoring Program Coordinator - Coordinates Classes and Tutoring on weekdays for hours between 3-7pm.
Dance Instructors - Jazz, Tap or Ballet
Career & Athletic Guest Coordinator(s) - Works to promote various Career Choices by bringing in business owners, career guest speakers or setting up demonstrations for different types of career choices. One Career Activity per month.
After-School Activity

Coordinator - Coordinates Classes and Tutoring on weekdays for hours between 3-7pm.
For more information visit our website: islandgirlpower.com or to register to volunteer call 688-4752 or email islandgirlpower@yahoo.com

Sell it. Trade it. Buy it...Right Here! Members advertise free... Call 735-4390

FOR RENT

Windward Hills, 4 br, 3 ba, spacious, Re-modeled, \$1300 per month, call 472-2229

FOR SALE

Brand new in a box isqueez OSIM black Foot massager \$400.00 Call 472-3146 Sheila

Phunkee Kraftwerks
Motorola Iden Phone Ring

Tones/Mixed CDs Please call Jesse at 868-7851 or Joyce at 687-7942

20" Rims with casings \$1500 or best offer For more info. please call Joe at 482-0002

AUTOMOTIVE

'96 Toyota Celica Sport Coupe Show Condition! Must See. Rob: 735-4390/637-6277

1998 Hyundai Accent Runs great with A/C, AT \$2000 OR BEST OFFER CALL 898-3079

'98 Toyota Camry \$4,500, 2001 Ford Ranger, 45000 Miles & 18ft Tiderunner V-Haul Twin 50 Johnson Engine with Trailer both For \$19,000 CALL 898-6206 - BEN

Repo Cars for Bid
'06 Bridge Line Hunda
'08 Nissan Altima
'06 Nissan Murano
'04 Lexus
'01 BMW, 325 Series
'03 Toyota Tacoma
For more info. please call Joe at 482-0002

MISCELLANEOUS

Interested in starting your own Fine Fashion Jewelry business? Call today for details! 472-4343

Yard Services - call Ray at 777-0381

The Pampered Chef@ Quality Kitchen Tools. Phone orders welcome, fundraising opportunities. 688-6080 Sheila

Lawn Maintenance & Yard Clearing Services We'll do other odd jobs as needed. Quality A/C Cleaning for Split and Central type Air conditioner - call Tom at 777-6461

Wheels Driving School - Call Will Limtiaco @ 777-0099 for more info

Canopies-sizes Available 10x10 \$85, 10x20 \$130, 20x20 \$170, 20x30 \$250, 20x40 \$320 Barrigada 734-7789, Dededo 633-7789

Marianas Variety Half Page

WE'RE MELTING THE ICE!

TWO SHOWS A NIGHT
730PM & 930PM

SandCastle



**Last Show
May 13th**

Don't Miss it!

\$35.00* (\$105.00 Value)
ONE (1) ADULT & ONE (1) CHILD
(1 - 11 years)



Call 649-SAND (7263)

for Reservations

* ADMISSION ONLY - FOOD & BEVERAGE NOT INCLUDED - SEATING BASED ON AVAILABILITY - DINNER & SHOW \$70.00 PER ADULT (\$145.00 VALUE) \$20.00 PER CHILD - DINNER IS SERVED AT 6PM - VALID ONLY FOR RESIDENTS AND/OR MILITARY ID CARD HOLDERS

MANHATTAN BAR

Only-at-the-SandCastle-Entertainment-Complex

**HAPPY HOUR
EVERY
THURSDAY
6PM-9PM**

- April 10th - It's a WRAP**
- April 17th - Tapas & Tequila**
- April 24th - Back Yard BBQ**
- May 1st - Saddles & Spurs**
- May 7th - La Dolce Vegan**



FASHIONABLE ATTIRE REQUIRED - TWO DRINK MINIMUM

Nottage Hill

HARDYS

The best of Australia since 1853