



News

The Voice of Guam's Working Families

AUGUST 2008

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FREE



Matt Rector "Together, we win!" GFT President

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Spending
Guam - \$4,000 -
U.S. Average - \$9,000 -
Net. Further Cuts!

TOO!!

August/Tenhos

Sunday Damenggo Monday Lunes Tuesday Måttes Wednesday Metkoles Thursday Huebes Friday Betnes Saturday Såbalu

						1 Organizing Committee Meeting 5:15 PM - 6:15 PM (GFT Union Hall)	2 Tamuning Fiesta
3 1981: 11,500 PATCO airtraffic controllers strike. President Reagan fires them	4 1997: UPS strike by 185,000 Teamsters. Historic victory creates more full-time jobs and protects pension fund	5	6	7	8 Organizing Committee Meeting 5:15 PM - 6:15 PM (GFT Union Hall)	9 Piti Fiesta	
10	11 GPSS: Teacher Orientation	12 GPSS: School Starts Executive Council Meeting 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM (GFT Union Hall)	13	14 1935: Social Security Act signed by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.	15 Organizing Committee Meeting 5:15 PM - 6:15 PM (GFT Union Hall)	16 1894: Birth of George Meany, first AFL-CIO president Barrigada Fiesta	
17	18 1920: Nineteenth Amendment to U.S. Constitution gives women right to vote	19	20 1988: Cesar Chavez ends 36-day fast protesting dangerous pesticide use in fields	21 1831: Nat Turner leads slave revolt in Virginia	22 Organizing Committee Meeting 5:15 PM - 6:15 PM (GFT Union Hall)	23 1927: Labor activists and anarchists Sacco and Vanzetti executed Agat Fiesta	
24	25	26 Executive Council Meeting 5:30 PM - 6:30 PM (GFT Union Hall)	27	28 1963: Martin Luther King Jr. delivers "I have a dream" speech	29 Organizing Committee Meeting 5:15 PM - 6:15 PM (GFT Union Hall)	30 Canada Barrigada Fiesta	
31 Labor Day Picnic	National Immunization Awareness Month; National Psoriasis Awareness Month						

NEWS

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Publisher
Matt Rector (President)
mrector@gftunion.com

Executive Editor
Tim Fedenko (Vice President)
tfedenko@gftunion.com

Director
Irish Olivares
irish@gftunion.com

Graphics
Cory Loomis
cory@gftunion.com

Special Thanks
Joe Von Rodeck &
Charles Hardy

HAPPY LABOR DAY!

Once again GFT, Guam's Local Union is celebrating at the GovGuam Labor Day picnic with free Coke floats for everyone, balloons for the kids and free temporary tattoos for kids of all ages. And once again we need volunteers to help distribute, serve and apply all of our goodies. We will also be raffling off a GFT MP3 player every hour so come on by our canopy, sign up, participate, enjoy and win.

BACK TO SCHOOL

I have a dream. That when the school year starts all of our children will attend public schools that are 100% staffed with fully qualified teachers, counselors, librarians and nurses that have the tools they need to be successful at their jobs. Where our schools have fully staffed school aides, custodians, and cafeteria workers that are true members of our school communities because they are once again classified employees of GPSS. We know how to make these things happen but it takes all of us to see this dream come true.

FIREFIIGHTERS

This Labor Day our brothers and sisters at GFD get to celebrate with the signing of their first collective bargaining agreement which is one of the finest in the Nation. Not only has this CBA won back benefits that

the legislature has taken away over the last few years, but it guarantees that our firefighters have the tools they need to keep all of our families safe.

GWA

GWA members also get to celebrate their first CBA. This was an incredibly long negotiation but in the end every one of our union brothers and sisters that ensure all of our families have clean, safe water to drink and our environment is protected from our waste have a great CBA that ensures that they will be treated with the dignity and respect that they deserve.

DPW BUS DRIVERS

They say three's a charm but unfortunately DPW isn't the case. After knocking out a great CBA we only had three clauses left to sign off on when DPW attempted to null and void the entire agreement introducing an illegal, bad faith clause. At press time our attorney was going to court for an order for DPW to negotiate in good faith.

PORT AUTHORITY OF GUAM

Our brothers and sisters that ensure and unload the food and supplies, that make life on Guam civil, at Guam's only commercial Port have begun negotiating their first collective bargaining agreement. These hard working people do an incredibly important and dangerous job that deserves to be safe and fairly compensated. Sometimes we take for granted all of the stuff that fills the shelves of our stores and refrigerators but we must never forget that none of it would be there if not for the hard work of our union brothers and sisters and together we will make sure that they get the dignity and respect they deserve.

OUR DEMOCRACY

Thanks to hard lobbying we have won a forty percent raise for our public safety officers. This is their first raise in 15 years and we couldn't be happier for their families. When we participate in our democracy all of our families win. That's why we must all work hard to ensure that we elect Senators that will fight for our families to have a better quality of life, not ones that are willing to sacrifice our families in order to protect the tax breaks of big corporations and the rich and powerful. **TOGETHER WE WIN!**

STATUS

- IN GFD Chief Peredo, and Fire Chiefs Uncangco and Rabon working with GFT through the collective Bargaining process to give the people of Guam the Fire Department that all of our families deserve.
- OUT Directors and Managers that would rather fight than work together for the good of all
- IN Participating in your Democracy so that your family is truly represented
- OUT Thinking that leaders will simply do the right thing without your help
- IN Labor Day, Weekends, Retirement, Social Security, over time pay, the 8 hour day, the fair labor standards act and every other thing that has been won for Working Families by American Unions and the labor movement.
- OUT Forgetting where these benefits came from
- IN Electing a Labor leader on Guam
- OUT Thinking that a business man is going to represent working families

&

- IN Kickin' @ss for Guam's working class
- OUT Not joining the struggle for a better life for our families
- IN Winning Great new Union contracts (Collective Bargaining Agreements) for GWA, GFD and DPW Bus drivers
- OUT Incompetent managers that attempt to cover their inadequacies by exploiting their workers.

INS

- IN Working Families working together to win a better
- OUT Complaining without acting
- IN Having quality health care and prescriptions available to all of Guam's citizens at little or no out of pocket costs.
- OUT Preserving the Status quo, which is bad for just about everyone
- IN Orange and Blue
- OUT Black and Blue

INI

- IN Caring compassionate leaders
- OUT Greedy selfish leaders



UNITED WE STAND

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

CHANGE CAN OCCUR FROM WITHIN




by Dan Somerfleck

Although the Union is called the Guam Federation of Teachers, in working here over the past year, I have realized that GFT is much more than a Union for teachers and have tried in my articles not to focus solely on issues regarding education. However, this month, with the start

of school it is hard to avoid, if not impossible, the multiple challenges that have been faced in getting this school year started. When we ended last school year, there was controversy regarding pay for teachers whom worked beyond the one hundred eighty six (186) day working year. Again, as we start this school year, that question has arisen with six (6) schools not ready to open on the first day of class. In addition, the starting of the school year and the working environment for many GPSS employees is far less than ideal. If necessary, it may fall upon Union members to ensure an adequate education and the standards of our law are followed.




For example, classroom sites, classroom temperature, are all things controlled by law and contract, where the environment is not adequate. It falls upon Members to bring these issues forward through the grievance process. In essence, if the administration turns a blind eye to providing an adequate education or for that matter safety equipment for other workers, it falls upon the Members to seek to correct what Management fails. As professionals, GFT Members should always strive not only to provide adequate services to the community, but high quality service change can occur from within.



UNDERWATER WORLD

Family Fun Day

Sunday, Oct 12th



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GAMES

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\$10 SPECIAL PRICE ON UWW FAMILY PHOTO EXCLUSIVELY FOR GFT MEMBERS!

Must present valid GFT Membership card & photo ID required

Standard local promotion applies (Adults \$11.50 / Children \$6)

ER&D's 2008 Summer Schedule

Reading Comprehension Instruction (K-12)

Instructor: Gerri Francisco

Date: September 22 - October 3th; Mon-Fri from 5:30 p.m. - 7:30 p.m.
September 27 and October 4; Sat 8:30 a.m. - 3:30 p.m.

Plus 11 hours practicum in your classroom

Venue: Price Elementary

Educator's Rights and Responsibilities

Instructor: Matt Rector

Date: September 8 - October 29; Monday, Wednesday and Thursday
4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Venue: GFT Union Hall, Mangilao

Cost: \$285

This class is open to GFT Members Only!

Cost* for GFT Members		Cost* for Non-Members	
3 USD Graduate Credits	\$450.00	3 USD Graduate Credits	\$600.00
45 Professional Hours	\$285.00	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.

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.

GET READY FOR THE NEW SCHOOL YEAR!

After a long summer of fun, it's finally over and time to get back to school! Let's take this time to jot down a list of things to improve in your classroom or your child's education. Improving on the little things can lead to great changes in the future.

GPSS TEACHERS FIGHT FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

At a public hearing at the Guam Legislature, GPSS Teachers shared their view on how Charter Schools are bad for Guam. Teachers voiced their concerns that Charter Schools discriminate against the underprivileged as well as those with special needs. Charters Schools are proven to do a worse job educating our children all across the nation. Please take a few minutes to tell your Senators that you think that Charter schools are bad for Guam. Click here to take action

NO JESSE WE'RE NOT THAT STUPID

Senator Jesse Lujan's Bill 122 proposing Power Deregulation would increase power rates if passed. The idea behind deregulating power is to stimulate competition by allowing independent power suppliers to sell power to GPA and directly to ratepayers provided their rates are 10% lower than GPA's. Several states have implemented the bill but have not had any success. The bill increased power rates almost triple the amount and caused rolling blackouts in California.

GFT ENDORSES MATT RECTOR FOR SENATOR

The Executive Council met on Tuesday and has officially endorsed Matt Rector for Senator 2008.

GFT MEMBERS LOG ON TO YOUR MEMBERS ONLY SITE

GFT members can access more info on all political action, access members only info and more by logging on to GFT's new website at www.gftunion.com.

CONGRATULATIONS FOR WINNING A GFT MP3 PLAYER!

Paula Duenas was the lucky winner of our custom-made GFT Mp3

Player. Thank you to those of you who have registered your account in our new website. If you have any problems registering, please call the GFT Office at 735-4390.

CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR NEW AFT PRESIDENT

The AFT's 80th convention is over, but you can get complete coverage of the recently concluded meeting in Chicago on the AFT Web site. The special convention section includes "e-book" versions of the daily summaries of the proceedings, prepared by the AFT's editorial department, as well as more than a dozen videos of convention highlights and other videos specially made for the convention. Newly elected AFT president Randi Weingarten

recaps some of the themes of her first convention speech in a July 16 posting on the "Huffington Post" blog.



WE SHOULD HAVE PAID FAMILY AND MEDICAL LEAVE FOR ALL NEW MOTHERS

Unlike the rest of the world, the United States doesn't (yet!) have Paid Family and Medical Leave for all new mothers (which is paid time off after the birth of a baby). Without this kind of policy in place, Selena (right) gave birth on Thursday, and was back at her desk on Monday while her newborn son remained in intensive care in the hospital.

But right now, Congress is considering a bill that will fix this problem. Help build much-needed support for a strong, groundbreaking bill for all moms and families--Contact your Congressperson today!

LOCAL BARISTAS JOIN NATIONWIDE DRIVE TO ORGANIZE STARBUCKS WORKERS

As the world's largest coffee company announced plans to close 27 stores statewide, several baristas in the Twin Cities announced plans of their own to fight back. Those plans begin with forming a union. "We are not the first Starbucks workers to take this step, and we will not be the last," said Erik Forman, a former barista at the first-floor Mall of America Starbucks and member of the Starbucks Workers Union (SWU). "Even at Starbucks workers can come together and make the kind of changes we need to see in this country."

OBAMA BACKS FREE CHOICE ACT, NEW LAW WOULD MAKE FORMATION OF UNIONS EASIER

Sen. Barack Obama has promised to back changes in federal labor law that local union leaders say have been long overdue. In a conference call Thursday with members of unions who have endorsed him, the presumptive Democratic presidential nominee talked of the "need" for a stronger labor movement and the passage of a bill that would change the way unions can organize workplaces. "We're going to sign the Employee Free Choice Act into law because if a majority of workers want

a union they should get one," Obama told the hundreds of union members taking part in the call.

WE HAVE 300,000 SIGNATURES URGING THE NEW CONGRESS AND PRESIDENT TO ENACT THE EMPLOYEE FREE CHOICE ACT WHEN THEY GET TO WASHINGTON NEXT YEAR.

Can you imagine a CEO agreeing to work without a contract that guarantees pay and benefits? It would never happen. But when companies prevent workers from forming unions, that's exactly what they're making employees do: work without any assurance of pay and benefits. If we collect enough signatures and elect friends of working families, next year we can enact the Employee Free Choice Act, which would:

- Establish stronger penalties for violations of employee rights when workers seek to form a union and during first-contract negotiations.
- Guarantee that workers who choose union representation will have a contract.
- Remove barriers that deny workers the opportunity to form unions and bargain for better wages, healthcare and pensions.

FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TRAILS 23 STATES ON MINIMUM WAGE

Last year, the federal government strengthened its commitment to workers by increasing the minimum wage. This multi-stage federal minimum rate hike occurred, in large part, because inflation had eroded the value of the 1997 federal increase--leading to a tide of minimum wage increases across the states. On July 24, the federal minimum wage increases from \$5.85 per hour to \$6.55, but it will remain below the minimum rate in 23 states and the District of Columbia (see Map below). At the new federal level, a full-time, minimum-wage worker earns below the poverty line for a household of two. Even when it sees its final legislated increase to \$7.25 next summer, the federal minimum wage will be below the minimum rate in at least 11 states and the District of Columbia. This reflects a stark reality in America: in the face of the rising cost of living for low-wage workers, the federal government is not guaranteeing a fair wage. Workers across the United States are struggling to cope with rising household costs and an insufficient federal response. Many states are leading the charge to

boost the minimum wage, but Congress must do more to provide a reasonable wage floor.

PINOY WORKERS TO SHARE \$500K IN BACK WAGES FROM SAIPAN FIRM

The US Department of Labor is seeking 151 Filipino construction workers who are owed \$500,000 in back wages by a company in the Northern Mariana Islands. The department says the money is now available under an agreement it reached with Sablan Construction Co. of Saipan. The workers were employed by Sablan between March 19, 1999, and Dec. 7, 2001, in the US commonwealth located about 3,800 miles (6,115 kilometers) southwest of Hawaii. Labor Department officials say the workers were not paid overtime wages for all hours worked in accordance with the federal Fair Labor Standards Act. The officials say they are trying to locate all of the workers, many of whom left Saipan to return home to the Philippines.



DEMOCRATS GEAR UP NEW PUSH FOR UNIVERSAL HEALTH CARE

The group, which has dubbed itself "Health Care for America Now!" plans to spend its money running ads in battleground states, canvassing 45 states to get people to sign petitions supporting the initiative and trying to get every member of Congress to sign a pledge to expand health insurance to all Americans.

DEMOCRATIC PRESIDENTS MEAN BETTER WAGES

During Hillary Clinton's gracious concession speech she mentioned that during the 40 years that she's been involved in politics and public life the country has voted 10 times for president, with a Democrat winning the seat only three times. "Just think how much more progress we could have made over the past 40 years," Clinton said, "if we had a Democratic president." From the perspective of protecting the environment, expanding access to health care, promoting a progressive energy policy and even fiscal responsibility, I agree with this statement. But it was interesting to read an analysis by Larry Bartels, a professor of politics at Princeton, bearing this out in hard numbers for the daily-grind worker.

Habitat for Humanities is hosting a rummage sale on September 6 from 7:30 AM to 10:00 at St. Johns in Upper Tumon



MORE MOTIVATION!

ORGANIZING DRIVE 2008

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- 1**
- 3**
- 20**

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Charles Hardy

Band Instructor / Simon Sanchez HS

Charles Hardy has been a GFT member for twenty-four years now! Hardy joined GFT to have support in case he has a problem with administration, "fortunately that has not been a major issue, but having the security is important". Other reasons he joined GFT is for the liability insurance being a part of an organization that understands his problems and responsibilities. You can find Mr. Hardy as a Band Instructor at Simon Sanchez High School. Mr. Hardy enjoys helping students make music and seeing that transition from academic to functionality. Aside from classroom instruction, his band class performs musical concerts and supports home athletic events. He is the Department Chair for fine arts and club advisor for the Band Club and Tri-M Music Honor Society. The biggest improvement he would like to see at his school is the availability of funding for instructional supplies. Mr. Hardy also plays for the Guam Symphony and helps music organizations such as the Guam Territorial Band and newly formed National Guard Band, Unit 721.

WHY SHOULDN'T THE AIRLINES CHARGE FOR OVERSIZED CARRY-ONS RATHER THAN FOR CHECKED LUGGAGE? WOULDN'T THAT BE MORE SENSIBLE?

BY ARTHUR FROMMER

We all know that most major airlines are now charging \$15 for the first suitcase checked aboard and \$25 for the second suitcase -- each way. And we all expect that these charges will greatly worsen the boarding of aircraft by passengers with carry-ons. Stories already are emerging of people battling for space in the overhead racks, spending far too much time squeezing oversized carry-ons into that small space, endangering other passengers with the possibility of overheads opening in flight and generally holding up the entire boarding process. Wouldn't the airlines do better, and improve their own situations, by charging for oversized carry-ons (anything other than a laptop-size case or briefcase), rather than checked luggage? A reader has made that suggestion in a response to one of my earlier columns on the subject, and her comments are so apt and interesting that I think they should be reprinted here. Here's what she wrote:

Fees on checked luggage will increase the amount of baggage that travelers try to carry onboard,

causing both space and security problems. The more bags that have to be quickly screened by security



as passengers line up to go through security gates, the more likely it is that weapons and explosives will slip through (as they do already, repeatedly, in undercover tests). Charging for checked baggage will lead to a dangerous increase in the amount of carry-ons passing through the already overburdened security gates. Passengers are required to put certain items in checked luggage that are not

allowed through security. As long as that is a requirement -- not an option -- fees on checked luggage are grossly unfair and should not be allowed. There already is insufficient room in the overhead bins on many full flights, and passengers boarding last are often required to check their luggage from the plane, causing further delays. Passengers are shoving more items into carry-on bags, and watching them struggle to place the bags in overhead bins, it is obvious that many are extremely heavy. Overhead bins not only have a weight limit, they were and are designed for what has been, in the past, a normal amount of luggage. The possibility that heavy baggage may fall from the overhead racks in flight and injure passengers is both real and dangerous. Think these complaints are far-fetched? On the overburdened nature of the security gates, through which passengers pass with their carry-ons,

take a look at the records of what security screeners already miss. Read Consumer Reports and consider these additional facts:

In April 2007, the House Committee on Homeland Security's 2007 Annual Report Card gave the Transportation Security Administration a 'C' for Aviation Security and an 'F' for Employee Morale. In February 2007, the Government Accountability Office found the TSA has made limited progress in developing and deploying technologies, and faces management, planning and funding challenges in security-screening staffing. During the past several years, the Office of the Inspector General for the Department of Homeland Security has repeatedly documented extensive weaknesses in TSA airline security programs, both on the ground and in the air, including problems with passenger screening, baggage screening, training employees, developing technology and several other areas. Let's not saddle this harassed security staff with any more luggage to screen in a hurry!"

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Joining The Green Scene: Eco-Awareness and Eco-Friendly Living

By: E.s. Cromwel

In the position of a present-day, average and all-too-busy person, what they're concerned about is how to get by well enough day to day. Their thoughts are typically centered around education, work, families and financial situations. What they don't think about, at least enough of (or at all, being the worst case), is the way in which they're living effects the environment they directly interact with and live in on a daily basis. And even when these individuals do ponder their living ways, they consider them as routine, in line with the many others like themselves in today's world. They feel how they live is just peachy, even a bit simplistic in nature, encapsulating lifestyles pushed by actions and motions that, they feel, are not contributing factors to the apparent environmental meltdown which has been worsening for a number of years now.

The Harsh, Non-Green Living Truth - The Hurt of The Earth

Yet, what they don't realize is that they are in fact living in a manner which is hurtful to the one thing in which we need most - our planet and our home, earth. In all honesty, the lifestyles that most of us lead are not peachy or earth-friendly. At best, they are infused with an environmental stubbornness and ignorance showcased by acting and living in denial amid the current eco-catastrophe we've placed ourselves in. And it's not as if eco-concerns aren't announced or are completely non-existent. It's merely a matter of who's paying attention to such notifications, which sadly, isn't many.

An awareness toward the current environmental mess our planet is in must be properly instilled into these unaccepting individuals. Once this occurs, they need to acknowledge and evaluate the situation and act accordingly to combat their current non-green scene ways.

All It Takes Is A Willingness To Learn and Change

Leaving standard and non-eco-friendly actions behind isn't all that difficult. Even if you're unaware of the specifics to what makes the 'green movement' green, you can research and inform yourself of the thoughts, principles and actions behind the global, green movement.

In simplistic terms, the entire green movement revolves around sustainability, in an environmental sense. The notion that a balanced environmental state can be maintained at a certain, healthy level, indefinitely speaking, is what separates green individuals' motives from standard individuals lack of action. The green aim is one with intent and it strives to promote longevity (whether it be potential or actual) of vital human ecological support systems - such as climatic, agricultural, industry and other various issues that directly impact our environment.

Making Green Changes, Both Big and Small

By simply changing a few aspects about the way you live day to day you can do your eco-friendly part and ease your way into the green scene. Just think eco-consciously. To ease the obstacles our environment is currently trying to bob and weave through you can start by living a life with conservation in mind. Save our environment by using less water, minimal amounts of electricity and lesser gallons of gas and so forth. This can all easily be done simply by showering in a quicker manner, not letting water run



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"THE DARK KNIGHT"

(Action drama, PG-13, 152 minutes)



"The Dark Knight" is not a simplistic tale of good and evil. Batman is good, yes; the Joker is evil, yes. But Batman poses a more complex puzzle than usual: The citizens of Gotham City are in an uproar, calling him a vigilante and blaming him for the deaths of policemen and others. And the Joker is more than a villain. He's a Mephistopheles whose actions are fiendishly designed to pose moral dilemmas for his enemies.

The key performance in the movie is by the late Heath Ledger, as the Joker. Will he become the first posthumous Oscar winner since Peter Finch? His Joker draws power from the actual inspiration of the character in the silent classic "The Man Who Laughs" (1928). His clown's makeup more sloppy than before, his cackle betraying

deep wounds, he seeks revenge, he claims, for the horrible punishment his father exacted on him when he was a child. In one diabolical scheme near the end of the film, he invites two ferryloads of passengers to blow up the other before they are blown up themselves. Throughout the film, he devises ingenious situations that force Batman (Christian Bale), Commissioner Gordon (Gary Oldman) and District Attorney Harvey Dent (Aaron Eckhart) to make impossible ethical decisions. By the end of the film, the whole moral foundation of the Batman legend is threatened.

Because these actors and others are so powerful, and because the movie does not allow its spectacular special effects to upstage the humans, we're surprised how deeply the drama affects us. Eckhart does an especially good job on Harvey Dent, whose character is transformed by a horrible fate into a bitter monster. It is customary in a comic book movie to maintain a certain knowing distance from the action, to view everything through a sophisticated screen. "The Dark Knight" slips around those defenses and engages us.

Yes, the special effects are extraordinary. They focus on the expected explosions and catastrophes, and have some superb, elaborate chase scenes. The movie was shot on location in Chicago, but it avoids such

familiar landmarks as Marina City, the Wrigley Building or the skyline. Chicagoans will recognize many places, notably LaSalle St. and Lower Wacker Drive, but director Nolan is not making a travelogue. He presents the city as a wilderness of skyscrapers, and a key sequence is set in the still-uncompleted Trump Tower. Through these heights the Batman moves at the end of strong wires, or sometimes actually flies, using his cape as a parasail.

The plot involves nothing more or less than the Joker's attempts to humiliate the forces for good and expose Batman's secret identity, showing him to be a poser and a fraud. He includes Gordon and Dent on his target list, and contrives cruel tricks to play with the fact that Bruce Wayne once loved, and Harvey Dent now loves, Assistant D.A. Rachel Dawes (Maggie Gyllenhaal). The tricks are more cruel than he realizes, because the Joker doesn't know Batman's identity. Heath Ledger has a good deal of dialogue in the movie, and a lot of it isn't the usual jabs and jests we're familiar with: It's psychologically more complex, outlining the dilemmas he has constructed and explaining his reasons for them. The screenplay by Christopher Nolan and his brother Jonathan (who first worked together on "Memento") has more depth and poetry than we might have expected.



Morgan Freeman



Heath Ledger



Christian Bale



Maggie Gyllenhaal

Rating: Four stars

CAST

Bruce Wayne	Christian Bale
Alfred	Michael Caine
Joker	Heath Ledger
James Gordon	Gary Oldman
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BIRTHDAY WISHES

GUAM'S LOCAL UNION

<p>8/1 Betty B. Diaz Jo Ann Canovas Jeffrey J Quinata</p> <p>8/2 Steven Sabalboro Maria C. Salalila Angel S. Legaspi Alexander P Delorie Mark Olin Patsy A Acfalle Timothy R. Fedenko Elizabeth Quinene</p> <p>8/3 Ralph A Meyer Agnes B. Castillo Thomas M. Calvo Jerry I Narcis Ricky H. Flores David G. Cepeda Kimberly N Ada Jose P Ananich</p> <p>8/4 Josephine Medler Alfonso DC Puno Linda R.S. Elliott</p> <p>8/5 Marilyn P. Tablante Elsie N Romero Raymond M. Perez Maria (Ma.) Renne S Reyes Timothy E. Certeza</p> <p>8/6 James S.N. Barcinas Edgar S Bueno Frank J. Sablan</p>	<p>8/7 Alberto V. Amerna Graziella Griffin Vincent C Tajalle Sheila J.C. Tyquiengco</p> <p>8/8 Josephine M. Quintanilla Maria-Elena A. Blas Debra M Whitt Barbara J Quinata Adrian A Guerrero Joseph V.T. Rojas</p> <p>8/9 Ramona C. Castro Patrick C. Cruz Pascual J Robles</p> <p>8/10 Rosela E. Padernilla Salvacion N. Naz Callen C Reyes Nelia T Tanaliga Andrew S Mantanona Mandy E Pajela Noreen A Permalino Mariana Christina Guzman Gracelyn D Odavar Joseph Cruz Nicole Y Manibusan</p> <p>8/11 James Lyle C Santiago Jacqueline R Cruz Peter A. San Nicolas Joey B Retuyan Christine E Garcia Tommy King Lina M. Quinata Ronald Gary Hartz</p>	<p>Annie F. Entilla</p> <p>8/12 Dora P. Cruz Joseph M. Santos Jr. Hazel Q. Reyes Julian A Taitano Ramona Parks</p> <p>8/13 Dianne C Shelton Roque C Blas Robert R Salas Agnes Rose E. Indalecio Loressa M Melegrito</p> <p>8/14 Vito Kisa Calvo Jr. Hope Marie Pangelinan Haydee R. Acebedo Cynthia G. Johnson Augusto C Santos Mary C. Lopez David F Flores Joseph BF Tenorio</p> <p>8/15 Joseph C Quintanilla Agustin E Garrido Vincent E. Indalecio Ramona A Mantanona Elbert G. Piolo</p> <p>8/16 Peter P. Leon Guerrero Estella Saloma Catherine Q Castro Rose B Gomez Julie J. Pangelinan Emiliana EB Limtiaco Bernice Tessei-Loftis</p>	<p>Rene LG Topasna Garrick L.G. Taitague</p> <p>8/17 Ann A. Soares Bennet J Gehrts Geraldine U. Francisco Juliana M Quijano</p> <p>8/18 Alicia B. Capulong Donna T. Meno Chelsa D Muna-Brecht Mark Tolenoa Benny C Rosalin</p> <p>8/19 Elvira A. Dorion Gisela Guile Marcella D. Yohn Angie M Susuico Sid G. Guzman Jr. Joey C San Nicolas</p> <p>8/20 Catalina C. Laxamana Norma Jean D. Murphy Maria Luisa V Tovillo Ricky R. Barrow Caroline Ferreras Girard W. Almeida Brian F. Chargualaf Florina G. Perez Terence T Walker</p> <p>8/21 Krishnan Seerengan Donna Cruz Penn Elizabeth C. Brooks Michael S. Santos Arlene DLG Carbullido</p>	<p>Jesse J Aguon Anna Liza Ganeb Monica Flis</p> <p>8/22 Bernard Leon Guerrero Anthony N San Nicolas Winifredo T. Galino Delia F A Castro Anthony P Yamasta Edelienne F Hernandez Alma Gay Sazon Siapengco</p> <p>8/23 Adelaida N. Penafior Antonia P. Cruz John G. Borja Anthony M. Garrido Janet M.T. Meno Daniel Alig Armine Adoc Loyola</p> <p>8/24 Richard Carlos L Velasco Frances T. Tudela Roderick R. Meno Steven G. Dumaran Michelle S Cruz</p> <p>8/25 Joseph F San Miguel Arlene N. Reyes Joseph B Perez Rose S.N. Leon Guerrero Albert E Santos Stephanie Q Cruz</p> <p>8/26 Stella L.G. Salas Rosario E. Lazaga Roque C Santos</p>	<p>Frank V Lujan Annettemarie Cruz Gabriel Lau</p> <p>8/27 Crystal Q Unsiog Amy J. Martin Delia A. Alcampor Charles F. Aguon Ignacio M. Meno Jr. Rosalind C Aguero Terry J. Huber Nanette Marie Nededog</p> <p>8/28 Josie Socorro J Mercado Kenneth N Camacho Albert D. Blas Jr. Katherine L. San Nicolas Ricky E Garrido</p> <p>8/29 Michelle R. Santos Rosa M. Cruz Leticia S. Enderes Rosanne D.U. Lastimoza David T. Gofigan Michelle A.B. Santos Patricia A Mendiola</p> <p>8/30 Joseph A Paulino Keith J Santos Herminio R. Martinez</p>
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Appointments: 647-3856

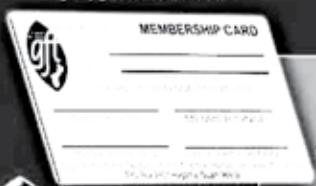
SDA Wellness Center
Appointments: 647-7520-4
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- 2** POWER to be part of the Solution. Members decide what goes into GFT's Collective Bargaining Agreements (contract), participate in Board - Union policy making committees, as well as GFT committees.
- 3** SECURITY of not being discriminated against, wrongfully terminated, suspended or furloughed.
- 4** PRIDE in being part of the only organization fighting for Guam's working families.
- 5** FREE \$1 million in Professional liability insurance (\$2M for healthcare workers) so if someone sues you on the job, you're covered.
- 6** FREE \$25,000 Accidental Death and Dismemberment insurance on or off the job.
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- 9** DISCOUNTS, both local and national which makes membership essentially free.
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Hafa Adai

to all the MEMBERS OF GFT

Thank you for your hard work and dedication.

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How can we improve our PUBLIC SCHOOLS?

A teacher's perspective.

written by
Joe Von Rodeck

"Many eyes make shallow bogs."

We believe that at the GFT. The more brains working on a problem, the better. So we put it out there to our membership, et al: How can we improve our public schools?

Let's face it; this is the most chaotic year ever. JFK High School Islanders, fighting for accreditation, don't even know if they have a school anymore. But with new superintendent Dr. Narissa Schaefer; calmness is at the helm, many actually seem rejuvenated by the challenge, general optimism is still alive, and the given is that the people of Guam are nothing if not resilient.

As we all take a deep breath as we begin the School Year 2008-09, it's natural to start thinking about how can we do this school thing better? What do we have to learn? For that matter, what do we have to unlearn? I'm a Keep-It-Simple-Stupid, back to the basics type; but as my old friend Joe Murphy once chided, "If everybody listened to me this would be a pretty good island!" Fundamentally, I believe it begins with the restoration of the prestige of the American teacher; something more like the sensei has in Japan. While we may well

have not liked it at the time, there are few educators who will ever say that they regret that their professors were as tough as they were. Why shouldn't we then be accorded the same amount of respect? By the student. By the parent. By society.

The GFT Guam's Local Union does as much as it can to make sure our public school educators get the respect they deserve. That's what our contract negotiations are all about. To us it's a hand-in-hand effort to make our system as good as it can possibly be. Rather than butt heads with administrators, we'll tell our teachers that we expect adherence to our contract just as much. "It's the handbook on behavior," as GFT President Matt Rector describes it. The public school system itself must get more respect; certainly, the panacea of charter schools isn't going to get it for us. Indeed, that concept will send our schools down the tubes--forgive the clichés--with a loud,



It's an indescribably special feeling a teacher gets when he or she sees the new faces in the beginning of a school year. Were they this young last year?

flushing noise! We have to be careful also with gimmicks and cosmetic fixes; for example, the idea of academies and smaller learning communities falls flat if we find that they could care less if other students fall by the wayside. I hope the next mission statement I see includes something like "balance," "flexibility."

As my first high school principal on Guam, Gayle Hendricks, put it: "And what are we going to do about the rest of these kids?" Teachers will say "Get rid

of five percent of the kids, and you'll get rid of 30% of the problems." Whereas, administrators will suggest that is a cop out. But how many think the three-day holiday called suspension is particularly effective? I caught a kid red-handed smoking a cigarette in a conspicuous place and had no alternative but to drag him in. The

point of this anecdote is that when the student denies it, it seems like the teacher is the one in the hot seat for lying. I've seen a judge court order a student back to school. The charges: possession with intent to distribute. Sometimes you think they just want the easiest way out with parents. I'd go as far as the semester expulsion. Let's try this again after Christmas. Bottom line is no student should be allowed to prevent another student from learning.

As expected, our survey turned up the usual responses;



Always remember these children are the future of our island, our home, our community--we have to make sure they are ready to take on the challenges of life that face our island today and in the future--in continuing to make GUAM an enticing paradise and where the public school system is the main contributor (via our students) to this improvement and success!

"money, money, money," a 17% raise for teachers to recruit and retain them, site-based management. Lack of communication is usually mentioned. Thanks to our responders. Here are some highlights:

Alpha Espina, a 7th grade math teacher at FBLG Middle School, looked at our question thoughtfully and suggests the following:

- Organizing consistent and effective professional development programs for teachers.
- Establishing a teacher efficacy program that involves extensive training on educational issues such as behavior management, effective teaching strategies, public speaking, workplace professionalism, and interpersonal teacher/student relations; and workplace professionalism.

Onlookers might be quite surprised to find that many teachers would actually like more admin visitations. "Dependable site administrators who are available and frequent visitors who are supportive of teachers and mission," Kirk Drygas offered. "A collective effort on the part

of all GPSS campus employees island-wide to include and embrace our parents and community for maximum school involvement. "Mentoring, specialized programs, tutorials, and orientations for new teachers to help them navigate through the perils of the first few years and to guide them towards the right decisions for professional success and student achievement," he added.

Amy Martin touched a nerve on technology. "The GPSS Internet is slower than SLOW," she states. All too true. For several years now, it still seems like two minutes per web page and such unbelievable filtering standards that even phrases such as "high school" or "scholarship" bring up the frustrating "SITE BANNED . . . OUR INTERNET USAGE POLICY." When you report the frustrating situation, the answer is usually something vague about Hawaii.

As expected, many want to dump the controversial Direct Instruction (DI) program. One argument (of too many!) is that it short shrifts the basics. "Some students in the fourth grade don't even know what a noun or a verb is," Susan

Gogo explained. "Come on . . . should have been mastered in second grade!"

Karl Quitano, SSHS, submitted his allocation ideas: "Individualized Teacher Budgets - (Not Department Budgets) Example: (Yearly Expenditures) Projector Bulb: \$350 minimum, Classroom Cleaners and Air Fresheners (\$75), Candles (\$15 x 10), Rewards and Incentives (\$200), Computer Ink (\$29 x 10), Educational Materials (\$300), Student Club Advisory material."

Okkodo High School US History teacher Barbara Janssen, recognizes the value of role models and would like more energy applied to that area: "A systematic, ongoing campaign publicizing role models to show students and their families that a GPSS education can be a pathway to success," she believes.

It's an indescribably special feeling a teacher gets when he or she sees the new faces in the beginning of a school year. Were they this young last year? Good luck and God bless our teachers and students in these, the most important, years of our lives.

More Thoughts

- Increase teacher salary by 17% so that GPSS does not have to worry about recruitment/or retention. We lose many good teachers this way.
- Pay teachers the pay that is promised to them (the payment that was ordered by the courts, and the DEED back pay that is promised to the teachers.
- Have enforced evaluations, feedbacks, interventions, consequences on substandard teaching, principal, performance and training programs to help our teachers/principals become PROFESSIONAL EXPERTS at what they do.
- Increase the amount of funding GPSS gets through an adequate, consistent and reliable revenue source.
- Adopt site-base management so that the stakeholders do not have to worry about repair and maintenance of the school. GPSS should give up some of the financial burden to school level administrators so that repairs or improvement of the school be taken care of.
- Site administrators that are available, dependable and frequent classroom visitors who are truly supportive of teachers and their mission.
- Ensure that all those involved in the planning and the decision making process affecting the school(s) are on the same page. Rather than passing blame or the puck as to who and when things should be done.
- With the exception of payroll and textbook funds, give all remaining requested money for supplies, equipment, maintenance and repairs directly to each school principal. The principals have to defend their schools' budgets in front of critical legislative review. Give them the resources and means to improve learning conditions.
- Constant communication between administration and staff/employees.
- A better timeline of activities that are to be done as opposed to waiting to the very final deadline.
- Do things in a TIMELY MANNER, rather than wasting time and for that last minute.
- Hold consistent accountability from the top down of all GPSS personnel and division managers. Make all stakeholders responsible and liable for the QUALITY EDUCATION of our children.
- Creating a budget plan that caters to all areas and "sticking to it." Many times money is supposed to be given to a particular area/department, and then it is moved to given to another "priority" department.
- AG should continue to conduct inspections so that GPSS is kept in check of issues affecting students and teacher (must in compliant with the 14pts).
- Assistance (via mentoring, specialized school programs, administrative tutorials, extensive orientations, etc.) to new teachers in the system to help them navigate the perils of beginning teaching, make the right decisions and feel successful, personally and professionally as evidenced in student achievement.
- Take care of fixing up what needs to be fixed up in ALL our schools ---NO SHORTCUTS and then keep consistent on its long term maintenance so that its usage and life expectancy under GPSS' care is worthwhile.
- Maintain working air conditioning in classrooms at all times.
- Increase support for teachers (i.e. photocopying needs, keeping rooms cleaned at all times, providing materials and supplies as needed such as individual teacher accounts at local school supply and office supply stores).
- Have access to proper materials, supplies and copying (without an argument) - I'm tired of buying my own stuff.
- Adequate supplies such as textbooks, paper (Xerox, art) and all school supplies needed to improve and enrich our children creativity
- Access to technology and a coordinators to assist. The GPSS Internet is slower than SLOW.
- Get rid of the DI Language program. We need to go back to teaching the foundations of the English language (skills). Some students in the fourth grade do not even know what a noun or a verb is. Come on, that should have been mastered in the 2nd grade. How can a child write paragraphs or even express himself, if he doesn't even know what these are.
- Actually making the children a priority, which means allowing teachers in their respective school to see which program will work for their students and being able to teach, not just DI.
- A collective effort on the part of all GPSS campus employees island-wide on the best ways to embrace/include the community (parents) for maximum school involvement.
- Provide music and art programs with certified teachers at all elementary schools. Extend the school day by 20 to 30 minutes to accommodate these programs. Currently enrolled students' achievement and attendance will improve as numerous studies have shown. Public schools offering these programs will attract more, higher achieving students from the private schools.
- All stakeholders (government, community businesses, parents, teachers, entire school family, etc.) should take this education for our islands' children to heart and make it a personal accomplishment--their academic and social accomplishments.

Guam Public School System CALENDAR FOR SY 2007-2008

August 13	Monday	TEACHER ORIENTATION
August 14	Tuesday	FIRST DAY OF CLASSES / 1st QUARTER BEGINS
August 14-24	Tue-Fri	Pre-Service Training for Head Start
August 27	Monday	Head Start Parent-Child Day
August 28	Tuesday	First Head Start Classes
September 03	Monday	HOLIDAY - LABOR DAY
September 10	Monday	Head Start Assessment and Screening No Classes
September 14	Friday	First Quarter Progress Report Due
September 17	Monday	Head Start Assessment and Screening No Classes
September 24	Monday	Southern High School Parent-Teacher Conference Head Start Assessment and Screening No Classes
October 08	Monday	Flexible Make Up Day #1
October 17	Wednesday	END OF FIRST QUARTER*



Frequently Asked Questions

- Q** GMHA Nurses: How is seniority based? Is it based by years of service or by position and years of service?
- A** Seniority is based on years of employment with the agency and nothing else. This is a benefit by their contract.
- Q** GPSS Teachers: Can they hold my payroll check if I don't clear out from school?
- A** NO, they can't, but you may be susceptible to disciplinary action.
- Q** GPSS Teachers: Do 9 month Teachers get the same amount of sick leave as 12 month teachers?
- A** Yes, all teachers get 13 days of sick leave per year.

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.

Kids' Home Newspaper

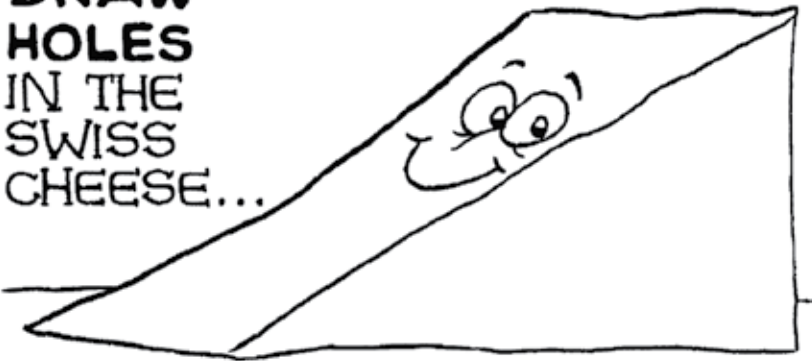


Games, rhymes and riddles for children and their parents, too!

By J. R. Rose-Creators Syndicate

DRAW IT!

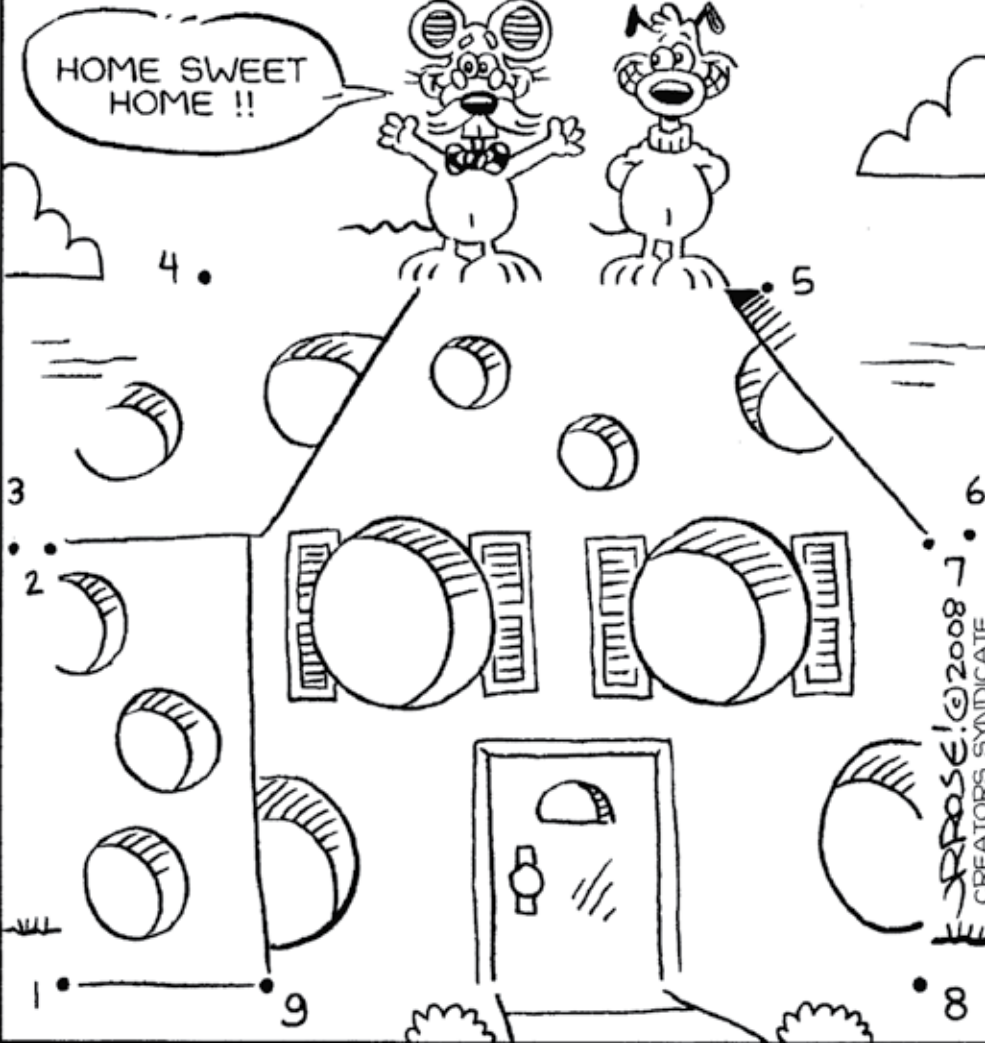
DRAW HOLES IN THE SWISS CHEESE...



GIVE ME 5 RHYMES FOR CHEESE...



I'M RIGHT HERE WITH GRANDPA MOUSE. WE'RE ON TOP OF HIS CHEESE HOUSE! JOIN THE DOTS HERE IF YOU PLEASE TO SEE GRANDPA'S HOUSE OF CHEESE!



WRITE US... WE'LL WRITE YOU BACK!
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CREATORS SYNDICATE

The Way It Is / The Way It Was

In 1968 the Vietnam War was well under way and I came to Guam to work in the operating room at GMH. When I arrived I found I was assigned to the emergency room instead.

There were no private clinics at that time. In fact there was only one motel which was reserved for the pan am crew, You most likely bought your car at Ricky's auto and lived in Government housing at a cost of \$40.00 Per month.

All patients were seen in the outpatient department which had one 9'X12' room designated as the "Emergency Room" which consisted of E.R. Table, One spotlight and one electrocardiogram machine (The only EKG machine in the entire hospital) and surgical gloves were still being washed and re-sterilized.

A typical day consisted of having someone man the telephone. It was a rotary telephone which you had to constantly redial until you could get a connection. Then when you were finally connected a B-52 would fly over the hospital on its way to or from Vietnam, So you could not talk and had to wait to complete your conversation, then when you could talk the party on the other end of the line could not talk because the B-52 was now in their area.

Even then patients could not understand why they had to pay for hospital services since up until 1950 when GMH was built, all medical services were free, Compliments of the U.S. Naval Government. But Government of Guam had great medical insurance provided by Aetna which covered everything.

When it came to our salary, we discovered that the Firefighters were earning much more than the Nurses even though they only had a high school education (This was before and EMS existed). The typical Government response was "They were men and had to support their families" We just had to grin and bear it as there was no union at that time. Our starting salary was \$2.50/hr. (\$5,200.00/yr). the doctors were earning \$5.29/

hr(11,000.00/yr) Our work consisted of acting as clinic Nurses, Giving immunizations, Assisting with examinations, Suturing, Dressing changes, etc. We started I.V.S with Stainless steel large bore needles which were re-sterilized and reused, Becoming quite dull after time. Only the doctor gave I.V. medications or took an EKG which was then read by the internist.

Fast forward to today, Nurses start I.V.S and must be certified to do so; they give all I.V. medications and take EKG's. They must have the same certifications as the doctors for basic life support, advanced cardiac life support, pediatric advanced life support and neonatal advanced life support. Additionally they are to be certified in crisis intervention, Conscious sedation (Monitoring patients sedated by the nurses for certain medical or surgical procedures) the nurse also must pass yearly competency testing in the application of different procedures. She is responsible for all the staff under her supervision and has many other jobs too numerous to mention.

Today the nurses starting salary is \$17.07/hr, that same outpatient E.R. doctor will receive \$95.00/hr. Despite the fact that the nurse has taken over many of the duties previously relegated to the doctor. That doctor is now earning more than 5.5 times more than the nurse whereas before when the doctor shouldered most of the responsibilities he was only earning 2 times more than the nurse.

If a nurse retires and comes back to work for Gov. Guam She receives a reduced salary at step four. If a doctor retires and comes back to work for Gov. Guam he will receive the same salary he received before retirement. It appears we are on a treadmill to nowhere.

Are nurses being paid what they are worth on Guam? Obviously not! They are asked to do more and more and are falling further behind in compensation.



Log into the GFT Network at www.gftunion.com

Log in to your personal GFT Members Area

- Update Your Contact and Work Information
- Post comments on the GFT News
- Unsure who is your Steward, Find Out!
- View your membership card
- Stewards may view their workplace members and other stewards
- Submit Grievances

Access these services by registering . You must be an active member to register on the GFT Network.

For help getting logged in call 735-4390 or email cory@gftunion.com

Your comments and feedback will better help GFT improve service and support to all of our members. Tell us what you would like to see put on the website and we will do our best to make the information available.

Educator's Rights and Responsibilities Class protesting against the Charter School Bill



from left to right: Matt Rector, Senator BJ Cruz, Susan Gogo, Senator Rory Respicio, Rose Mafnas, Lisa Eclavea, Diana Tenorio and Josephine De Guzman



from left to right: Matt Rector, Christopher Calloway, Lisa Eclavea, Rose Mafnas, Diana Tenorio, and Josephine De Guzman

YOU'RE INVITED

GFT's sole mission is to improve the quality of life for our members, their families and all the working families on Guam. As a member, you'll be a part of the only organization actively winning better salaries, better working conditions, better public schools and a better public structure for Guam. GFT has a winning track record going back to 1965 and while we have made great strides in the last couple of years, we still have a long way to go.

As a member of GFT you will be covered by some of the finest collective bargaining agreements (contracts) in the country, phenomenal insurance packages and both local and national discounts on everything from gas to magazines to car parts which will make your work, home and financial life better and more secure for you and your family.

Becoming a member also gives you the power to be a part of the solution. GFT members set policy and direction for our free and democratic union and are the driving force behind every victory we win.

GFT Membership Application

I hereby apply for membership in the GFT, recognizing it as the strongest spokesperson for all laborers concerns, and as an important force in securing better education for the children, better public services and a better life for all of the Working Families of Guam. Therefore, this will authorize GFT, AFT Local 1581, AFL-CIO, to represent me in collective bargaining with my employer.

I understand that my dues will include the many services and benefits of GFT and national AFT bodies, but also include the responsibility of being an active member of our democratic union.

Commencing _____, 20____, I hereby authorize the Payroll Department to withhold from my salary a sum equal to the constitutional annual dues of the GFT. This authorization will remain in effect until further notice unless terminated by me in writing to the GFT on my anniversary date or with in 14 days there after. Membership shall be a minimum of one year from the date the application is accepted and approved. Any member who withdraws prior to the end of the one-year period will be obligated to pay the full one year dues.

PLEASE PRINT IN CAPITAL LETTERS

Name:		SS #:	-	-		
Position:		Worksite:				
Agency/Business		eMail:				
Home Phone #:	-	Cell Phone #:	-	Work Phone #:	-	
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Signature:					Date:	

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Attention ALL Teachers!

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



Saturday, August 30, 2008

From 9:00am-11:00am
(Followed by lunch at Sam Choy's)

Presentation Registration Includes:

- Curriculum ideas on marine topics for all grade levels!
- Information about UnderWater World's Education Programs!
- Introduction to the NEW UnderWater World website with on-line resources and request forms!
- Opportunity to get your new UnderWater World ID card exclusively for classroom teachers!
- Guided tour AND complimentary lunch at Sam Choy's!



Please RSVP on or before August 25th by calling Jennifer
at 649-9191 Ext. 120 or email jennifer@aquariumteam.com.
Space is limited. Open to ALL classroom teachers.
Sign-in will begin at 8:45am in the UWW lobby (1st floor), Tumon.

UnderWater World's Education Programs are designed to increase public awareness and knowledge of our planet's coral reefs, oceans, and the animals that depend on them. Through this we hope to promote individual responsibility and stewardship for the continued well-being of our environment.





"Guam's Local Union"

GFT Featured Benefits



▶ \$10 for Family Photo on select dates



▶ Double Stamps



▶ 25 Free Stickers with T-Shirt order of 50 pieces and up

Thanks to all the other businesses for giving our GFT Family discounts.

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- Pacific Tyre
- Pat's Tinting & Detailing
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- Salon Paradis
- SandCastle
- Shutter Factory
- Tarza Water Park
- Todo Maoleg
- The Venue

For a complete list of GFT Member Benefits, please visit our website at www.gftunion.com under the "Benefits" section.

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HOROSCOPES

ARIES (MARCH 21 - APRIL 20)

Rams seem to rely too much on friends to do the heavy social lifting this August. It is not that you want to be totally out of the picture or behind the scenes, its just that you think that they have all the right answers. But as the month progresses you will discover that often you are your own best advisor. So consider all their opinions and then wait.

TAURUS (APRIL 21 - MAY 21)

Retirement sounds pretty good right about now, doesn't it? But don't count your nest egg before it is hatched. This August, Bulls think they can slide off the corporate grid, work from home and still get the job done. But deep down you know that this will only serve to reinforce bad habits and lead you into wasteful diversions. Or is that the plan...?

GEMINI (MAY 22 - JUNE 21)

Great thoughts have even greater impact this August, that is if you can sugarcoat the message so everyone swallows it. Twins may desire to pursue personal glory but any notorius actions will impact your professional reputation. So if you have a hankering to join the nude Olympics, expect to see your photo on the front page of the company newsletter.

CANCER (JUNE 22 - JULY 23)

If you are asked to fund someone's pet project, find a way to politely decline. This August Crabs find themselves in the unusual position of being hit up for money by folks who weave tall tales of riches. (Usually you are passed over for this honor.) If something is too good to be true it probably is. And that goes double for any international venture.

LEO (JULY 24 - AUGUST 23)

Lions will have to find the happy balance between their personally goals and the needs of partners this August. One thing can lead to another and before you know it, the lines are drawn. Don't let things come to that. You will find that by mid month sexual sparks fly and you can either rejuvenate current relationships or ignite new scratchy ones.

VIRGO (AUGUST 24 - SEPTEMBER 23)

Are you tired and bored at work? Don't listen to your inner voice when it comes to any job-related actions. August could be a great time to unwind and bake on the beach. It is not the best time to change work processes or introduce any "creative" solutions around the office. When in doubt, stick to the tried and true, boring as it is, Virgo.

LIBRA (SEPTEMBER 24 - OCTOBER 23)

Libras love an adoring entourage and August continues to bring friends and followers to your door. Excitement brews and the good times roll. Your social calender revs into overdrive where too much can soon become too too much. And this is bad?? By mid month, you need to get back down to work. Now that will be difficult!

SCORPIO (OCTOBER 24 - NOVEMBER 22)

Scorps must be careful not to neglect their home and family this August, Your career takes off and offers wonderful opportunities and rewards. Unfortunately this can come at the expense of other areas of your life. There is only so much time in a day and only so much energy and attention that you can focus at one time. Make your money and then spend it generously.

SAGITTARIUS (NOVEMBER 23 - DECEMBER 22)

People view you as a sage this August and why not? Not only do you have some fairly good ideas, you can express them in a wise and profound manner. Of course all bets are off as the month progresses. If you insist on pushing your point around and at the top brass you might find yourself talking to yourself.... from the mailroom.

CAPRICORN (DECEMBER 23 - JANUARY 20)

Love is certainly for sale this August. Caps find that their wallet can become an aphrodisiac as lovers ask and receive. It all results in fabulously heady times. But expect a morning after headache when the bills come due. Well, maybe by then you will find someone who can support you instead of vice versa. I suppose we can only dream...

AQUARIUS (JANUARY 21 - FEBRUARY 19)

August is a good month to reinforce current partnerships or develop new exciting ones. Aquarians can capture the attention of anyone they want. Not only are you especially generous and considerate, you are also sexy and attractive. Hurry before the magic dissipates and you revert back into a frog... or at least your usual aloof self.

PISCES (FEBRUARY 20 - MARCH 20)

Stress levels can build up this August and Fish are well advised to find outlets to lower the tension. A relaxing vacation is in order. But if time and money are tight, consider various forms of meditation, yoga or even massage. The benefits will be felt by mid-month when you can more easily focus on personal projects without feeling like roadkill.

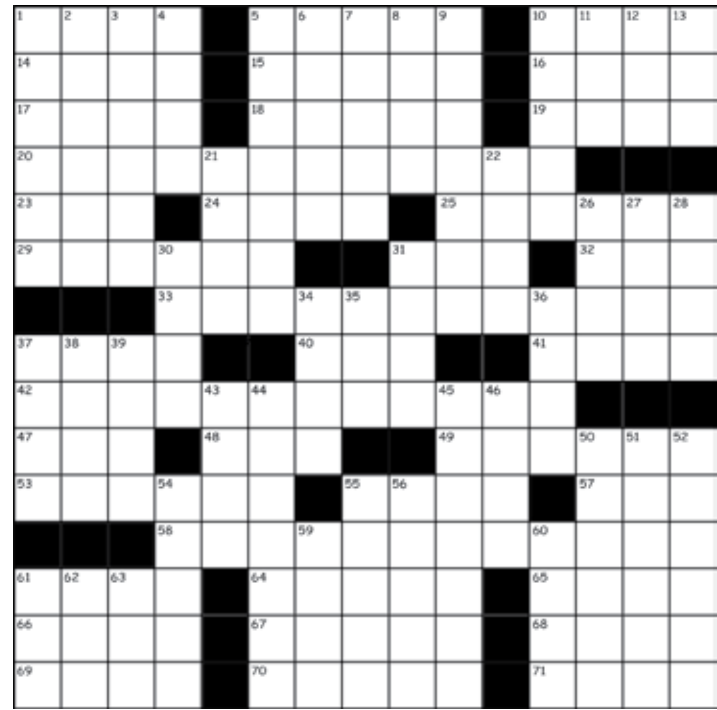
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

Across

- 1- Good fortune
- 5- Small branch
- 10- Departs
- 14- Dies ___
- 15- Gladden
- 16- Decoy
- 17- Strong wind
- 18- Juice of the rubber tree
- 19- ___ boy!
- 20- Indifferent
- 23- Tear
- 24- Scenery chewers
- 25- Ring of color
- 29- Resounds
- 31- Lennon's lady
- 32- PCI, USB, SCSI, or IDE, e.g.
- 33- Study of spiritual beings
- 37- Mission control gp.
- 40- Not neg.
- 41- Away from the wind
- 42- Act of implanting
- 47- Hawaiian acacia
- 48- ___ Grande
- 49- Monetary unit of Zaire
- 53- Off-course
- 55- Sphere
- 57- The French word for "no"

Down

- 58- Reverberation
- 61- Lone
- 64- Hipbone
- 65- Bluesy James
- 66- Voucher
- 67- Nucleus of a regiment
- 68- Narrate
- 69- Wight or Man
- 70- Mix dough
- 71- Summer coolers
- 1- Orange zircon
- 2- Pertaining to a rare element
- 3- Ruler of the Islamic world
- 4- Sharp
- 5- Free from confinement
- 6- Fright
- 7- Ships' officers
- 8- Western Indians
- 9- Astronomical instrument
- 10- Move effortlessly
- 11- Not in
- 12- Hesitant sounds
- 13- Poseidon's realm
- 21- At that time



- 22- Switch suffix
- 26- Ancient Greek coin
- 27- Sled
- 28- ___ sow, so shall...
- 30- Iridescent gemstone
- 31- Oven used to dry hops
- 34- As far as
- 35- Extinct bird, once found in New Zealand
- 36- Slender
- 37- Greek goddess of victory
- 38- Latin love
- 39- Box
- 43- "Rule Britannia" composer
- 44- Niggle
- 45- Gave light
- 46- Lubricates
- 50- Conject
- 51- Proceed in a leisurely way
- 52- Yearly records
- 54- Mountain ridge
- 55- Newly married woman
- 56- Legend maker
- 59- Pizazz
- 60- Bristle
- 61- Biol., e.g.
- 62- Sounds of surprise
- 63- Like Abner;

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.

S U D O K U

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

Puzzle 1

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

Puzzle 2

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

Puzzle 3

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

Puzzle 4

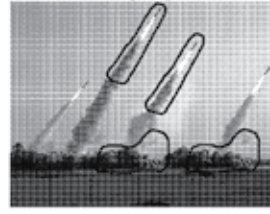
Pardon My Planet

TOM THE DANCING BUG

BY RUBEN BOLLING

THE GREAT PHOTOSHOP WAR OF 2008

The Iranian state media released this photograph of its missile tests, and it was soon discovered that at least some of the missiles pictured were graphic duplications that had been digitally inserted using the computer program Photoshop.



The digitally simulated troop surge caused a full Iranian retaliation, with a photoshopped picture of massive weaponry. Could America respond to this escalation?



But to America's horror, Iran released this nightmare: a gigantic version of that Persian guy from the movie "300," striding across the Atlantic to attack our shores! How many innocent American pixels would be destroyed before this monster could be stopped?



The U.S. military was alarmed that Iran had such sophisticated, weaponized photoshop capabilities, and in a counterstrike, released this picture, photoshopped to increase the number of troops present in Iraq.



America was ready. Highly trained military graphic designers created a montage of such fearsome military might, the Pentagon was certain the Iranians would back down.



We were saved by Fox News and its rock-bottom journalistic standards. They patriotically broadcast a report on Mahmoud Ahmadinejad featuring a photoshopped headshot that was so witheringly unflattering, a humiliated Iran could only delete the Photoshop application from its hard drive in defeat.



Pajama Diaries

TOM THE DANCING BUG

BY RUBEN BOLLING

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:
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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.
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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

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