



# Diocese of Chalan Kanoa

## KATTAN PASTORAT

Sunday, February 25, 1996

Mangineñi'e'-hu gi as Jesukristo.

I Konstitusion kada komunida ha sasangan i mas taikilo' na direcho yan ayu i mas yahululo' na lina'la' ni unaidentifikika i minalago' este na komunida, yan kon todú i minalago' enao na komunida para hafa fairmanu para u magoblema. Este i mamamaila' na Sabatu para ta disial unos kuantos tinilaika gi Konstitusion i Commonwealth i Sankattan na Marianas. Impotante i boto para este na tinilaikan i konstitusion, sa' i disision-ta para u afekta i kai siha guini na komunida yan fairmanu para ta gobletman maisa hit. Hu fafaisen todos para u mabatu maolek i tinilaika ni manmapropoponi yan en fanmambota hafa hnasso-miyu mas kombeni.

Unu guini na tinilaika i para mana'suha ayu i sen klaru na ha prinibi i *abortion* ya para mana' tinahgué ni ayu i ha embrarasa mas ancho ni ha respeta i lina'la' taotao. I Amendsion Numeru 2, Seksiona 11: Lina'la'- "i direchon kada indibidu'at para u la'la' ginen makonsepta asta i finalta' na u ma respeta, u ma onra yan u maprotehi gi Commonwealth. Este na direchu u man na'claru mas ginen regulasion yan determinasion i Lehislatura." *Attorney General's Office* hnasso-na na i presente ni gaigi gi konstitusion i siha mapraktika sin u guaha lai mafa'inas ni kongresu yan lokkieu' ti siha mapraktika sin u kinentra i *U.S. Supreme Court*. Este i mapropoponi na tinilaika un sinisyu na minalago' para u na'annok na i direcho para luma'la' era i mas yahululo' ni unaidentifikika i taotao Marianas ya enao na direcho debi di u maprotehi yan u marespeta ni gobletnamento. I direcho para luma'la' ha prototehi i ti manmatananagu, i manamko', yan i maninutet, yan todú ayu siha i ti siha maprotehi i direchon-niha pot i inamko-niha yan i chetnot-niha.

Taya' sinifikasion na este na amendsion yanggen mapasa solu mama'inas lai i kongresu. I kongresu debi di u fanmama'inas lai para u guaha kumeke lek-na este na amendsion. Debi di u fanmataingá i kongresu para u maprotehi i taotao siha guini na komunida. Este na asunto na siha ha' guaha problemán ligat sa' pot ayu i sinko na lalahi gi maloffan na 22 anos anal mana'halom i *abortion* gi *U.S. Constitution*. Lao ga' impotante na ta cho'gue kuantu i siha para ta protehi i lina'la' kada unu giya hita, espezialmente ayu siha i ti siha manguentos para siha.

Hunggan, i gobletnamento guaha obligasion-na para u protehi i famogu'on siha, lao i mas dangkulo na obligasion gaige gi kada unu giya hita. Maseha legat pat ahe', ti u sinatba i problema ginen i *abortion*. Yanggen guaha palao'an gumalproblema sa' pot i mapotge gue', hita debi di ta na'fanlisto hit para ta supotta enao na palao'an, ahe' ti para ta kondena gue'. Siempre ha' guaha problema achokka' hafa lek-na i lai ya debi di ta ayuda i numisista kon karinu yan i guinaha-ta. Isao i *abortion* ya ti para ta konsidera este para u satba i problemán este na komunida, yan fuera di enao ti prisisu i *abortion*.

Sinceramente gi Kristo.

*T. Camacho*  
 Si +Tomas A. Camacho  
 Obispon Chalan Kanoa,  
 Sankattan na Marianas

Dear Sisters and Brothers in Christ,

The Constitution of any community is the statement of the fundamental rights and values that characterize the community, as well as a framework for its governance. Next Saturday we will decide on a number of possible amendments to the CNMI Constitution. The vote on the constitutional amendments is very important, as our decision will affect the laws of this community and how we govern ourselves. I urge everyone to consider the amendments that are being offered and to vote as they think best.

One of the amendments proposes removal of the clear prohibition on abortion and its replacement with a broader statement recognizing the right to life. The amendment reads, "The right to life for every individual during the entire span from conception through old age is respected, honored and protected in the Commonwealth. This right is subject to definition and regulation by the legislature." The Attorney General's Office seems to feel that the current provision is unenforceable without enabling legislation and in the face of the decisions of the U.S. Supreme Court. The right to life amendment is a sincere attempt to assert that the right to life is a fundamental value held by the people of the Mariana Islands and that this right must be protected and respected by the government. The right to life is not only for the unborn, but protects the elderly, the handicapped, and all who may not be able to assert their rights due to their age or ill health.

If the amendment passes it will not have much effect by itself unless the CNMI Legislature passes enabling legislation. This is required by the amendment to translate good intentions into law. It will take courage by the legislators to define the extent to which they are willing to respect and protect the people of this community. It is here that we may find legal obstacles because of the decision five men made twenty two years ago when they read abortion into the U.S. Constitution. Yet, it is important that we assert our values as a people and attempt to protect the lives of all of us, especially those who can not speak for themselves.

While there is a role for the government in protecting the lives of our children, the fundamental responsibility lies with each one of us. Whether it is legal or not, we must remember that abortion is not a cure for our problems. When there is a problem pregnancy we must reach out to the woman and support her, not judge. There will be difficult situations no matter what the laws of this community say and we must help those in need with compassion and with our resources. Abortion is wrong and must not be considered as an option in this community, not only because it is morally wrong, and contrary to our laws, but because it is unnecessary.

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*T. Camacho*  
 +Tomas A. Camacho, D.D.  
 Bishop of Chalan Kanoa

# VOTE YES

ON PROPOSED CON-CON AMENDMENTS



Bernadita T. Seman  
"BENNET"

YES: AMENDMENT #13  
BETTER SCHOOLS



YES: AMENDMENT #2  
BETTER LEGISLATURE



YES: AMENDMENT #15  
VOTERS' CHOICE ON  
GAMBLING



YES: AMENDMENT #18  
PROTECT THE  
COVENANT



**YOUR ELECTED CON-CON DELEGATES WORKED ON A  
NON-PARTISAN BASIS. WE PROPOSED IMPORTANT  
CHANGES TO SECURE PROGRESS AND GROWTH IN OUR  
COMMONWEALTH. PLEASE SUPPORT ALL OF THE 19  
PROPOSED CON-CON AMENDMENTS.**

## BOTA HUNGGAN

Paid for by Bernadita T. Seman

Variety - Feb. 28, 1996

# **The Legislators Are After Your Money Again!**

**THE FACTS:** The voters rejected the Legislature's proposal last November that would have given them an annual budget in excess of \$9 million. Proposed Con-Con Amendment #2 would give a smaller legislature an annual budget of \$4.5 million.

**GUESS WHAT?** The Senate on February 16, 1996 passed Senate Initiative 10-11 to increase the Legislature's annual budget to about \$7 million. The House is considering this matter. Were you aware of this?

**WHAT TO DO?** That's easy. Vote "YES" on proposed Amendments ##2 and 18.

## **Enough is enough!**

# MARIAN DLG. ALDAN-PIERCE

## YOUR ELECTED CON-CON DELEGATES ARE QUALIFIED AND NON-PARTISAN

- 2 MEDICAL DOCTORS
- 7 PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS
- 2 FORMER MUNICIPAL COUNCIL MEMBERS
- 1 FORMER MAYOR
- 1 FORMER FINANCE DIRECTOR
- 1 FORMER SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE
- 5 PRIVATE SECTOR BUSINESS LEADERS
- 1 PROFESSIONAL ENVIRONMENTALIST
- 1 CNMI LAWYER
- 2 YOUNG PEOPLE UNDER 25
- 1 RETIREMENT PROGRAM SPECIALIST
- 1 STAFF EMPLOYEE OF THE LEGISLATURE



CON-CON DELEGATE  
MARIAN DLG. ALDAN-PIERCE

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**Remember to  
vote! March 2**

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WE TOOK OUR DUTY TO THE PEOPLE VERY SERIOUSLY. WE WORKED HARD TO PROPOSE PRACTICAL SOLUTIONS TO PROBLEMS. WE LIVE HERE. WE UNDERSTAND WHAT IS NEEDED. WE WILL SUFFER WITH EVERYONE ELSE IF NOTHING IS DONE.

# GIVE REFORM A CHANCE YES ON THE CON-CON AMENDMENTS

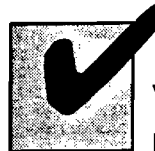
Paid for by Marian DLG. Aldan-Pierce

# PLEASE VOTE YES IN THE CON-CON ELECTION



Herman Tenorio Guerrero

**THESE ARE GOOD  
IMPROVEMENTS THAT WILL  
BENEFIT THE ORDINARY CITIZENS  
AND MAKE OUR FUTURE BETTER**



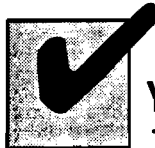
## **YES ON AMENDMENT #2**

I served in the Commonwealth Legislature and I support these reforms. They are necessary to make the Legislature more responsive to citizen needs.



## **YES ON AMENDMENT #3**

I have also served in the executive Branch. The changes on the budget, temporary office-holders, and protection for the Retirement Fund will make the Executive Branch better.



## **YES ON AMENDMENT #4**

This provides constitutional status for our Supreme Court. The courts are very important and should be a co-equal branch.

**VOTE ON  
SATURDAY,  
MARCH 2**

# **SUPPORT YOUR ELECTED DELEGATES**

Nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan, center, poses with African Muslim students at the international Islamic University in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, Thursday. Ending an 18-nation tour that included meetings with the radical leaders of Libya and Iran, nation of Islam leader Louis Farrakhan called Thursday for the Muslims of the world to unite and form a superpower.

He challenged the call of U.S. Rep. Peter King, a New York Republican, for congressional hearings in response to

the black community and increase its political power. He said he told Gadhafi violence is not his way, although he issued several veiled threats Sunday against the U.S. government.

"Gadhafi's a revolutionary. He's my friend, he's my brother and I would never deny him because you don't like him," Farrakhan said. "If you're going to deny black people the help of our brother, then we're going to rise up against you."

Supporters blamed the controversy surrounding Farrakhan on veiled racism. "Sometimes there may be a need for an African-American to engage in shadow diplomacy to bring Africa together," said Bob Storman, spokesman for the African-American Leadership Summit. "There's a long history of this kind of thing," Storman said. "I don't think America is quite ready to see African-Americans play a major role in global affairs."

Farrakhan's tour of countries on the U.S. list for sponsoring terrorism came only four months after his Million Man March was thought to have brought him somewhat closer to the political mainstream.

Farrakhan said the march of black men on the nation's capital brought the plight of American blacks to the world's attention.

Tens of thousands of black men participated in the march, vowing to take responsibility for their own lives and families, and to dedicate themselves to fighting drugs, violence and unemployment.

The State Department indicated Farrakhan's passport would be scrutinized for evidence that he used it illegally to enter Libya or Iraq. He underwent normal federal entry procedures upon his return.

# Please vote for the Con-Con Amendments Frances Leon Guerrero Borja



Frances Leon Guerrero Borja

(OLYMPIO)

THE SIZE AND EFFICIENCY OF OUR  
GOVERNMENT MATTERS GREATLY TO  
THE FUTURE OF OUR CHILDREN AND  
THIS ISLAND PARADISE

**AMENDMENT #2:** REDUCE THE SIZE OF THE LEGISLATURE AND PROVIDE RULES UNDER WHICH IT WILL OPERATE BETTER

**AMENDMENT #3:** REQUIRE REALISTIC BUDGETS, AND END DEADLOCKS WITH THE LEGISLATURE ABOUT JOB APPOINTMENTS

**AMENDMENT #4:** MAKE OUR COURTS A CO-EQUAL BRANCH IN THE CONSTITUTION AND HAVE THEM SOLVE GOVERNMENT DISPUTES QUICKLY.

**AMENDMENT #5:** DECLARE OUR GOAL OF GETTING REPRESENTATION IN THE U.S. CONGRESS

**AMENDMENT #6:** LIMIT THE DEPENDENCE OF MAYORS AND MUNICIPAL GOVERNMENTS ON COMMONWEALTH FUNDS; MAKE THEM MORE EFFICIENT

**AMENDMENT #7:** BAR CONVICTED FELONS FROM HOLDING HIGH ELECTED OFFICES

**AMENDMENT #9:** MAKE RECALL EASIER SO WE CAN GET RID OF ELECTED OFFICIALS WHO ARE NOT DOING THEIR JOBS.

PAID FOR BY FRANCES LG. BORJA

**Save Power**

Marianas Variety - FEB. 28, 1996

closely watched for pointers to China's tolerating views

of dis- 1997

and not for discussion and debate," he said. The Preparatory Committee

1993. They staged a coup and seized power in late 1979.

businessmen in exchange for major government and favors.

judge his two predecessors as changed his mind when allegations of massive corruption surfaced.

# OUR COMMONWEALTH NEEDS FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT

THE VOTERS ELECTED ME AS A CON-CON DELEGATE SO I COULD BRING YOU PROPOSED CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENTS THAT WOULD MAKE OUR GOVERNMENT MORE FISCALLY RESPONSIBLE. I HAVE DONE WHAT I PROMISED TO DO.



**AMENDMENT #2:** CAP ON LEGISLATURE'S BUDGET

YES



**AMENDMENT #3:** ON-TIME AND REALISTIC BUDGETS;

YES

PROTECTION FOR THE RETIREMENT FUND



**AMENDMENT #6:** CAP ON MAYOR AND MUNICIPAL

YES

COUNCIL BUDGETS



**AMENDMENT #10:** CONTROLS ON DEFICITS

YES



**Tomas Benavente Aldan**

## PLEASE VOTE YES ON THE PROPOSED AMENDMENTS

Paid for by Tomas B. Aldan

*Marianas Variety - FEB 28, 1996*



A man carries out his belongings from his ruined house in Blak, an island off the Northern Coast of Indonesia's Irian Jaya province Wednesday. The magnitude 7.0 killer quake and the ensuing tidal waves last Saturday killed at least 84 people with 57 missing. AP

lances rushed to the scene but there was no immediate word of casualties.

Residents near the downtown store said they heard several blasts from inside around 9 a.m. (0800 GMT).

Two cars parked outside were destroyed by fire. Two kiosks nearby were also destroyed, and windows were blown out in the area.

Dozens of squad cars converged on the site of the explosions and police cordoned off the building.

# LOOK TO OUR FUTURE PRUTEHI I DIRECHO YAN I TANO NATIBU

OUR FUTURE GENERATION DESERVES --

- LOWER COST GOVERNMENT
- ACCOUNTABILITY IN GOVERNMENT
- BETTER EDUCATION
- PRESERVATION OF PARKS AND BEACHES
- PROTECTION OF LANDS

WE HAVE DONE OUR BEST TO HELP ENSURE THE ABOVE.

THE CHOICE IS YOURS.



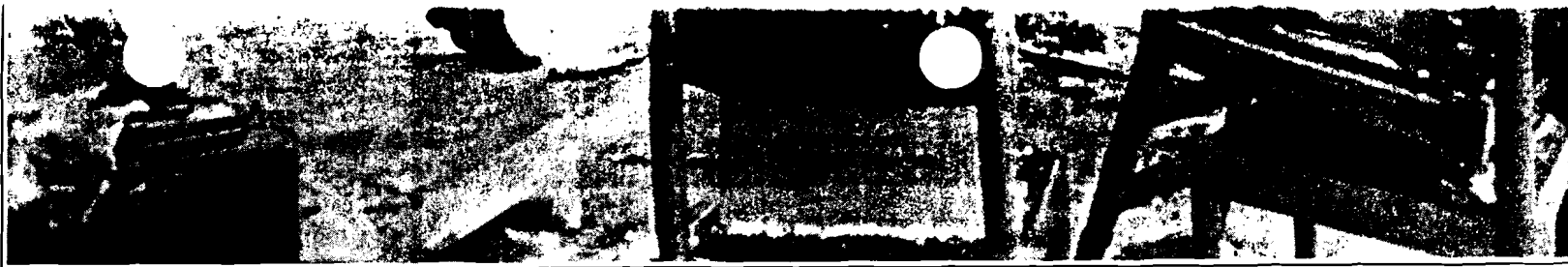
DELEGATE JOHN OLIVER DLR GONZALES (SAIPAN) AND DELEGATE J.P. SAN NICOLAS (TINIEN)

## PLEASE VOTE SATURDAY, MAR. 2

Paid for by John Oliver DLR Gonzales and J.P. San Nicolas

Marianas Variety - FEB. 28, 1996





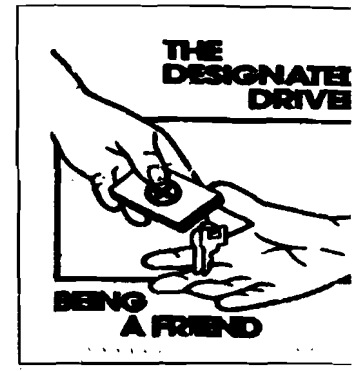
Bosnian Serb men load trucks with their furniture before fleeing the northern Sarajevo suburb of Vogosca, Wednesday. According to Dayton peace agreement the Serb-held town of Vogosca will be transferred to the Bosnian-Croat federation by Friday. AP

of them wanted to leave. Although the Dayton peace agreement left no side feeling it was the clear winner, around Sarajevo Serbs clearly feel they lost because they must turn their districts over to government.

Before the war, more than a quarter of the half-million population in greater Sarajevo was Serb. They now make up about 10 percent of the 300,000 people left.

Many Serbs say they are fleeing for fear of Muslim revenge. Thousands of Muslims were gunned down and thousands fled or disappeared in a Bosnian Serb offensive on the eastern enclave Srebrenica last summer.

"In these bleak times, people are ready to fear anything, even rumors," said Djindjic Negovanovic, who fled the Serb-held Sarajevo district of Grbavica. "But we could take chances."



# PLEASE VOTE NO ON THE FOLLOWING HAZARDOUS CONCON AMENDMENTS

AMENDMENT NO.	ARTICLE	VOTE
#11	Commonwealth Lands	<b>NO</b>
#12	Alienation of Land	<b>NO</b>
#13	Education	<b>NO</b>
#15	Gambling	<b>NO</b>
#18	Constitutional Amendment	<b>NO</b>

Paid for by a group of concerned citizen of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Marianas Variety - FEB. 28, 1996

For inquiries!  
Tel: 22-3043  
Fax: 22-5305

because it had issued several warnings to the exile group which he said had been flying the planes over Cuban waters.

Vote  
**YES**  
on  
Amendment  
**13**  
Parents will be more  
involved with their schools.

Paid for by the Concerned Citizens for a  
Fiscally Responsible Legislature



**BETTER DRIVERS  
BUCKLE UP**

Marianas Variety - FEB. 28, 1996

Phyllis Schlafly, president of the Eagle Forum and national chairman of the Republican National Committee, endorses Pat Buchanan, left, for president during a news conference in Columbia, S.C., Wednesday. The Carolina presidential primary is March 2.

# Buchanan, Forbes focusing on Arizona; Dole seeks Bush help

By TOM RAUM  
ATLANTA (AP) - Republican presidential candidates Pat Buchanan and Steve Forbes were making a final push to sway votes in Arizona while Bob Dole was seeking to solidify support in Georgia where he hoped to have a clearer shot.

Dole also was playing the endorsement game, making a pilgrimage on Sunday to the Arizona hilltop home of Republican conservative patriarch Barry Goldwater and courting former President Bush.

Both conservative commentators Pat Buchanan, winner of last week's New Hampshire primary, and millionaire publisher Steve Forbes, winner of the largely uncontested Delaware primary on Saturday, were focusing on Arizona.

Arizona is the big prize among the three states holding primaries on Tuesday, with 39 delegates up for grabs - the most so far in this year's primary schedule.

Races are also being held Tuesday in North Dakota and South Dakota, followed by a "first-in-the-South" contest in South Carolina on Saturday.

The primaries are to select delegates who will choose a presidential candidate at the Republican Na-

tional Convention in San Diego in August. Dole, the Senate majority leader, reorganizing his staff and trying to overcome two straight losses in New Hampshire and Delaware, disclosed that he had talked to Bush soon after the New Hampshire vote.

Asked if he expected an endorsement, Dole said, "Well, it would be nice. I don't know. It's above my pay grade."

Of the call to Bush, Dole said, "I talked to him after New Hampshire, told him not to worry. I'd lost New Hampshire before." Bush defeated Dole in the 1988 New Hampshire primary.

Dole said he told Bush: "As soon as we get out of these states where Forbes has spent so heavily, I think we're all right. I just sort of gave him an update." Dole identified those states as Iowa, New Hampshire, Arizona, South Dakota and South Carolina.

Dole had campaign stops Monday in Atlanta, Macon and Columbus. Georgia's primary, which the Dole campaign views as one of his better prospects in the South, is March 5.

Dole was holding a morning rally in Atlanta, then visiting a McDonnell Douglas plant in Macon and a veterans rally in Columbus, before heading

back to Washington.

Georgia might give a better shot than South Carolina, where the conservative movement has a stronger hold - and Buchanan might be able to do better.

Former Tennessee Governor Lamar Alexander, running behind the others in the far, was also campaigning in Georgia on Monday.

Dole, Buchanan, Forbes and Alexander all campaigned in Arizona on Sunday. Dole showed a tight race with Buchanan, but Dole supporters in the state were suggesting in the past that a Buchanan victory was likely.

Buchanan accused the Republican establishment of not being "fit" over his early success. "Take a couple of Prozac pills," he said Sunday, referring to anti-depressant medication.

Dole, meanwhile, made a stop to Goldwater's hilltop Paradise Valley, Arizona, on the outskirts of Phoenix.

Goldwater, 87, gave his blessing and predicted victory for him on Tuesday. And he called Buchanan a Democrat.

control of the car.

Three people were briefly detained, but it was not known whether anyone would be charged.

Hundreds of Israelis gathered at the scene of the Jerusalem bombing on Monday, arranging memorial candles on the sidewalk to spell the word "maspik" - Hebrew for "enough."

Military funerals were held at Jerusalem's Mount Herzl Cemetery for five young soldiers killed in the blast.

Hundreds of people stood in the rain at services for 20-year-old Yonathan Bamea, an army sergeant who was the son of well-known newspaper columnist Nahum Bamea.

"You had no hatred, you had no hatred because I think that you grew up in a place where hatred was not a way of life," his father said in a eulogy.

A young American couple was among those killed in the Jerusalem bombing. After separate funerals, they were to be buried later this week in adjoining plots in Connecticut, a Connecticut funeral home said. Twenty-five people were killed when a bomb exploded on a crowded Jerusalem city bus during Sunday morning rush hour. Less than an hour later, another bomb exploded in Ashkelon, killing two people. The bombers were apparently among the dead.

Peres said the bomber in the Jerusalem attack came from Hebron, the only Palestinian town in the West Bank still under Israeli control. Peres said the bomber was known by security forces but his identity was not made public.

Both bombers apparently disguised themselves in Israeli army uniforms, Peres said.

Peres criticized Yasser Arafat's self-rule government for allowing Hamas, which opposes the peace process and has claimed several other deadly bombings, to operate openly in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The Palestinian Authority must decide whether there is room in the Gaza Strip for paramilitary organizations that want to harm peace," he said. "The Palestinian Authority must decide to disarm the terrorists or risk endangering its authority."

About 35 Hamas members were

tions May 29.

Peres came under sharp criticism for lifting a previous closure

Benjamin Netanyahu.

New polls released Monday showed the two men's standing

from politicking after the bombing, but told parliament Monday that "instead of diminishing, ter-

recognize the truth. We cannot put the safety of our children in the hands of the Palestinian Authority."

# MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST

## TRUSTEES' POSITION STATEMENT REGARDING CONSTITUTIONAL AMENDMENT NO. 11

**IT IS FOR THE FOLLOWING REASONS THAT THE TRUSTEES OF THE MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST REQUEST THE PUBLIC TO VOTE NO ON AMENDMENT NUMBER 11.**

1. Section 8 of the Amendment, dealing with MPLT, is commingled with other provisions affecting the management of public lands currently being performed by the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Public Lands (formerly MPLC). The objectives of each entity are different and any proposed amendment affecting them should have been structured separately.
2. Section 8 (b) of the amendment restricts the investment policy of the Trust by (1) setting the investment asset allocation as to how much may be invested in fixed income and equities and (2) limiting such investments to only securities traded on the "United States stock exchange with the highest requirements for listing." It is unclear if this stock exchange limitation is for only one exchange versus the other the U.S. exchanges. What about the ability to invest in foreign markets? **The Trust should be free to examine its investment policies and modify them as needed.** This is not a matter to be addressed in the Commonwealth Constitution. This is a Board policy matter!

THIS ADVERTISEMENT HAS BEEN PAID FOR BY THE MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST.

Marianas Variety - FEB. 28, 1996

**Letters to the Editor**

**Mayor irked over 'abusers tag'**

Dear Editor:  
 "Welcome to the Island of Abusers", reads the sign displayed by three individuals posing for a media photo last week. The message on the sign is spiteful of our island and its people. Its sole intent is to insult every man, woman and child who calls Saipan, home.

"Abuse" is not condoned in the Commonwealth. Our constitution guarantees every person due process and equal protection of the laws.

There is no instant cure-all for every social ill that plagues our island; and anyone who believes otherwise is aiming to set the Thames on fire.

The Commonwealth is barely out of its infancy, yet the maturity of its

people equals or surpasses those of its neighbors with long standing sovereignty.

Finally, let me say that with all the criticism being hurled our way from Washington and Manila regarding labor abuse, we are strong in our conviction that we are doing our best and accomplishing a lot in dealing with the problem. And with equal certainty, may I add that with all our shortcomings the Commonwealth is still a much better place to live than where those sign carriers come from. Welcome to Saipan!

Hafa A dai,  
**JESUSS DELEON GUERRERO**  
 Mayor of Saipan

**Stop 'lying' to the public**

Dear Editor:  
 Who the hell are the Concerned Citizens for a Fiscally responsible Legislature and why are they LYING to the public? In their ad supporting Amendment #13 they say, "the college is fully protected as an institution of higher education." That's crap. Amendment 13 takes away our existing constitutional protection and replaces it with nothing.

As one heavily involved in NMC's little campaign against Amendment 13 (using funds

raised through a lunch and solicitations NOT public funds) I know that our Board of Regents, President, Vice-presidents, and legal counsel ALL believe NMC will lose its strong constitutional protection if Amendment 13 passes.

Who are these concerned citizens that they know more about college matters than ALL the top leaders of our college?

Somebody please lift up the right rock and tell me who they are.

PHILIP SWETT

**Justify reconnection fee**

Dear Editor:  
 I would like to address an issue that has been troubling CUC customers for sometime.

CUC reconnection fees. Can you really justify a \$150.00 reconnection fee?

Is it just a form of extortion designed to penalize the less well off of the CNMI or is it being utilized to fill the coffers of a mismanaged company that has

been operating in the red for years?

If you feel you can justify the CUC reconnection policy to the people of the CNMI, I challenge you to respond with an itemized list with regards to cost incurred your personnel in reconnecting CUC customers.

Sincerely,

Alan Elder

**City seeks \$2M for Tinian. Rota needs**

**Rota summit debates on Amendment #13**

THE Rota Parents' Summit meeting last Friday devoted part of their agenda to the proposed Amendment #13 that would change the governance of the public school system.

A lively debate pitted former Lt. Governor Benjamin T. Manglona, one of the three delegates who refused to sign the product of the Convention's work, against three delegates who did sign, including Rota delegate Justo S. Quitugua, Board of Education member Esther S. Fleming, and Saipan delegate John Oliver DLR Gonzales.

According to a ConCon news release, Manglona, who voted YES on Amendment #13 in the Convention, now opposes the amendment, citing the concerns of the Rota member and former Chairman of the Board of Education, Daniel Quitugua.

John Oliver DLR Gonzales responded to the Lt. Governor with a strong speech saying that the people had asked for local self determination on education and the Convention had responded with locally elected school boards. Gonzales defended Amendment #13 saying that it was essential to the future of education in the Commonwealth, and citing the failures of the current system to serve parents and students.

Lt. Governor Manglona argued that putting the education bureaucracy under a Secretary of Education, who would be the Governor's appointee, would politicize the public school system. He referred to the concerns of the Board of Education that many jobs in the education bureaucracy would be filled on a political basis.


Board of Education member Esther Fleming responded that Amendment #13 was necessary to get control of schools into the hands of parents and teachers. Under Amendment #13, budget allocations would go directly to principals and

would not be doled out by the bureaucracy. This would allow school-based management. School boards elected by Senatorial Districts would make sure that principals were responsive to the needs of the local community.

Vote  
**NO**  
 on  
 Amendment  
**13**

The amendment takes away the autonomy of N.M.C. and puts its future in the hands of politicians.

This ad is NOT paid for with public funds.



**Get a grip on your personal finances! Don't settle for 3% when you can earn as much as 8.75%**

by the use of a single wing. It takes both wings to enable the NMI Dove to fly. In other words, both branches of government must be able to work on a five basis to get anything done. We have yet to see any cooperative efforts since ago though we were inundated by speeches of cooperation last January. Is e up this alley? Many of the issues have suffered neglect as a result of clashes, an indication that we have yet to learn separating people from issues. ver we bang heads with Washington on the need for major policy reform, we our confused definition of "internal sovereignty" and substitute it with the of "s ny". We turn posturing and grandstanding into a game of "Us hem" fact our goal is the same, therefore, our working relationship e founded on a partnership. The convenient display of a faint hearted tic sentiment for greater effective homerule is sprayed our bruised ego to make al government the culprit, however, wrongly, if not, irresponsibly. We can ater autonomy if and, only if, we have attained appreciable strides in political



# ConCon COMMENTARY

(By Juan Sablan Tenorio. Mr. Tenorio served as an elected delegate to the Third Northern Marianas Constitutional Convention. Mr. Tenorio is the Chair of the Commonwealth Development Authority and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation. He is also a member of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's Water Task Force. He graduated with a degree in business administration from Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington.)

coupled with a growing local resentment against a Washington take-over. This at of my concerns. What I find most troubling though are the indecisions from the lack of it altogether. The issues before us have been brought to our attention e years ago today. Progress? None! Reason? We busied ourselves with trivial the interminable gamemanship, neglecting our responsibility in the prudent consideration of these matters. Today, we find ourselves dealing with the ems right where we started four years ago, stuck and paralyzed by our tunnel ft wrapped in complacency.

WHILE I served as a Con-Con delegate, one of the important areas I focused on was Amendment #18. This deals with Article 18 on constitutional amendment.

vote in the Commonwealth. Under the current system, my vote does not count as much as a vote on Rota or a vote on Tinian. I think that is basically unfair. We are all citizens of the CNMI and every voter's vote should count the same.

the administration makes headway in the gradual and permanent resolution of immigration problems, policymakers sit comfortably nursing their lamañana ing off federal threats like cotton balls. I find it puzzling that hardly any of them come to realize that the employment of gridlock would ultimately lead to a ce-over of the very functions that gives the CNMI the flexibility to define and icy questions so vital in fostering a more responsible and accountable The CNMI can boast of its development and progress over the last years. However, has progress fudged infavor of improving the livelihood of nous people or is it diametrically the opposite?

The Committee on Judicial Branch and Other Elected Offices had responsibility for this area. That Committee was assisted by House Legal Counsel Maya B. Kara, who was a member of the Convention's legal team. She discussed with the delegates the possible unconstitutionality of the current Article 18 and helped the Committee with the drafting of proposed Amendment #18.

Let's assume a proposed constitutional amendment is put on the ballot. And let's assume there are about 800 registered voters on Tinian, about 1,200 registered voters on Rota, and about 8,000 registered voters on Saipan. If all of them vote in a particular election, a Commonwealth-wide majority (of the total of 10,000 voters) is 5,001. However, if 268 voters on Tinian vote inoi (that is one-third plus one) and 401 voters on Rota vote inoi (that is also one-third plus one), then even though there is a Commonwealth-wide majority in favor of a particular amendment, there will not be a two-thirds majority in each of two Senatorial Districts and the proposed amendment will fail. These 669 voters on Rota and Tinian can deny the other 5,001 up to 9,331 voters who voted yes!

ter how you view it, the institution of major policy reforms must come from is a local responsibility clearly enumerated under specific provisions of the Agreement. The temporary exemption of authorities normally the purview arl government is not an excuse to continue our consistency in inconsistency adaisical consideration of policy matters. Who was it that said "consistency ly a virtue, but a foolish consistency is the hobgoblin of small minds?"

I know that there are legal arguments back and forth about the current method of amending the Constitution, which requires a majority Commonwealth-wide and a two-thirds majority in each of two Senatorial Districts. I was not particularly influenced by the legal arguments about whether the current system is constitutional or unconstitutional. I think there are much more important considerations at stake. Let me explain what they are.

I just do not believe that is fair. The votes on Rota and Tinian can deny the other 5,001 up to 9,331 voters who voted yes!

we have faltered in our responsibilities as a result of the so-called cemetery fanned by lingering belief in the cargo cult mentality. Both mentalities are and detrimental, too. Paradigms have changed and so must the ways the nds of policymakers given that they have accepted the challenge of leadership. ights but no one seems to be home. Hello, hello, hello!

Each vote should count the same.  
First, I want my vote to count the same as every other

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## 3rd Con Con AND THE Public

By: Stephen C. Woodruff

### Amendment 'Interlock'

VOTERS who want to make sure they don't create problems in the Constitution and who vote "no" on any of the amendments in one of the shaded areas below, need to also vote "no" on all the other amendments in the same area. The reasons are given below.

without a very good reason. And when it is changed, great care should be taken to make sure that errors are not made.

2	6	7
3	11	14
4	12	15
5	17	19
7		
16		

Some of the potential problems are more serious than others. For example, splitting amendments 13 and 15, voting "no" on one and "yes" on the other, probably won't create much of a problem.

Amendment 3 and 11 also interlock but are not shown in the above table because even in the worst case the problem is relatively small. Amendment 11 reserves funds for a council on indigenous affairs that won't exist unless Amendment 3 is approved. However, other uses for the funds are also described. Likewise, Amendment 3 refers to the reserved funds that won't exist unless Amendment 11 is approved.

sector competition in the sale of basic necessities grants consumers wider choose from. Prices would be cheaper and every vendor would have to keep abreast of twists and turns in the market place in order to stay in business. nboring Guam, the old business establishments are now being given a run for y when Price Cosco and K-Mart entered what was once a comfortable market 't require much study to stay ahead of the competition. The playing field has n that no longer is that market the same as a decade ago. It may not be good establishments who once dominated it, but the vicious competition for the ar is definitely good for consumers.

In a few cases a "no" on one in a group and a "yes" on another does not create any problem, but a "yes" and a "no" the other way around could have serious consequences. A voter who really wants to vote "yes" on one of these and "no" on some of the others in the same group should carefully study the explanation below to see if they can safely do so.

Similarly, amendments 2, 3, and 6 could have been grouped in the above table. Amendment 6

petitive trend among grocery stores and vendors on Guam will eventually MI, however, gradual. It should be welcomed in that there's really no reason umerers here are paying thrice extra for the same items that our neighbors I still haven't been able to understand the huge discrepancy in the price of basic een Guam and the CNMI. Some blame it on shipping costs, a convenient t off any further consumer probe why is there such a humongous discrepancy sit car dealers on Guam only to find your jaws dropping at how much car re have jacked the price for the same automobile. You quiz them and they go ent attributing the discrepancy to shipping costs. Little did it dawn on e we know that the wholesale source is basically the same. I think we rint stickers that say "We're not as stupid as we look!" Perhaps we talk to the Consumer Division of the AG's Office whether in fact the on shipping costs or is it more the hidden whopping mark-up that ise to secure their margin of profit at our expense. Let's think together.

The basic principle behind this table is that voters should exercise caution in amending the Constitution. The Constitution is the fundamental document controlling our government. It is of the highest importance and difficult to repair. It should not be changed.

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## Amendment . . . Continued from page 4

restructures the Governor's Council to include a position that won't exist unless Amendment 3 is ratified. Amendment 2 eliminates the power of the legislative delegations to enact local laws, in favor of municipal councils that won't be fully developed unless Amendment 6 is approved.

The convention moved all the impeachment provisions in the constitution to the proposed new Article II (Legislative Branch). A voter rejecting amendment number 2 must also vote against amendments 3, 4, and 5. Otherwise there will be no impeachment power in the constitution for removal of the governor, lieutenant governor, justices, judges, or the resident representative to the United States.

A "yes" vote on Amendment 6 and a "no" on Amendment 7 would make convicted felons eligible for election as mayor. Approval of Amendment 7

and disapproval of any of Amendments 2, 3, 5, or 6 would result in both Article VII and all the old articles containing language barring felons from public office. But the old articles permit pardoned felons to hold office and Amendment 7 prohibits it.

Amendment 5 deletes the existing exemption of staff of the Washington Representative from civil service. Civil service is covered by Amendment 16, which has broad-reaching effects. Amendment 5 also deletes the provisions for impeachment and the disqualification of felons from Article V. To restore those provisions, one must also vote for Amendments 2 and 7.

Amendment 15 proposes to delete the existing Article XXI (Gambling) and replace it with a new Article XV on gambling. But Article XV in the current Constitution is the article on education.

Protection for Managaha is deleted

by Amendment 14 but reestablished by Amendment 11. Splitting these two would mean either no specific protection for Managaha or two separate provisions protecting Managaha.

Amendment 17 proposes to delete the current Article XIX (Code of Ethics) and replace it with a new Article XVII on ethical standards. The current Article XVII is the oath of office, which the Third Con-Con proposes to place in Article XIX.

Amendment 19 proposes to delete the current Articles XVII (Oath of Office) and XXII (Official Seal, Flag, and Languages) and replace them with a new Article XIX "Commonwealth Unity," but Article XIX is the code of ethics provision. Amendment 17 would put the substance of the current code of ethics provision into Article XVII but that conflicts with the provision on oath of office.

## Con-Con Commentary . . . Continued from page 4

Tinian that were cast against the proposed amendment count either 8 times or 14 times as much as my vote cast in favor of the amendment depending on how large the favorable vote was. Majorities of more than 50% are different from a veto power

Second, I was willing to support a compromise at 60% of the vote Commonwealth-wide (instead of just a majority vote Commonwealth-wide) because under this kind of system, everyone's vote still counts the same. Here, in the example I gave where there are 10,000 votes cast, the 60% majority would require 6,000 votes cast in favor of the amendment, rather than the 5,001 votes if a straight majority rule was used.

The supporters of the amendment would need to work hard on Rota and Tinian to get votes, because they could not be sure they could get 6,000 votes all from Saipan. In a close race, where the 8,000 Saipan votes are nearly evenly split 4,000 for and 4,000 against, those who favored the amendment would need all the 2,000 votes on Rota and Tinian to get by.

The 60% majority requirement theoretically could be met only with Saipan votes, but more likely a significant number of Iyesei votes from

Rota and Tinian would also be required.

### Rota and Tinian are protected by the signature requirement

Third, the interests of our brothers and sisters on Rota and Tinian were ably protected by their delegates. They negotiated for and got a compromise that required the signatures on an initiative petition to put a constitutional amendment on the ballot to be spread at least 25% from each Senatorial district. That is a very significant protection.

That means that, in terms of my example above, at least 200 signatures from Tinian and at least 300 signatures from Rota would have to be obtained in order to put any proposed constitutional amendment on the ballot. This means that quite a lot of voters on those islands would have to believe the proposed constitutional amendment was good for their communities before they would give their signatures.

### The legislature still has an initiative on constitutional amendments

Under Amendment #18, the Legislature would use the same method as ordinary citizens for putting legislative initiatives on the ballot. They would print up their initia-

tive, and send out their community workers to get the required number of signatures. To use an example that we had before us in the Convention, if the legislature is downsized to 19, and a majority of the Senate and a majority of the House were in favor of the proposed amendment, there would be 11 legislators supporting it (4 of 6 Senators and 7 of 13 House members). If there are 10,000 registered voters, they need 3,000 signatures (30% of the registered voters). So each of the 11 has to get 273 signatures.

I suggest that there is not a legislator elected here in the Commonwealth who cannot get 273 signatures on a petition. All that is required is to have the initiative for constitutional amendment see the light of day before it is passed. There would be no more midnight initiatives raising the Legislature's salaries and expense accounts with no public hearings, no public education, and no understanding of the ballot.

The founding fathers may have thought that the Legislature should have a special initiative privilege, under which they could put constitutional amendments on the ballot because proposals initiated by the Legislature were more likely to be sensitive to the public need than those from a constitutional convention or by popular initiative. We certainly have learned a lesson over the years that this is not true. Most initiatives put on the ballot by the Legislature were drafted by their lawyers to increase the salary and benefits of the legislators and staff

Khaled Kidreh, said several arrest warrants had been issued but he gave no further details.

Israeli soldiers on Monday enforced a closure of the West Bank and Gaza Strip that was imposed immediately after Sunday's bombings. The travel restrictions bar some 2 million Palestinians from entering Israel, including 60,000 who work in the Jewish state. Each day of closure costs the Palestin-

the death of its chief bomb maker, Yehiya Ayyash, nicknamed "The Engineer."

Ayyash was killed by a bomb-rigged cellular phone in a Jan. 5 assassination that Palestinians blamed on Israel.

In a telephone poll after the bombing, Peres lost ground to his hard line challenger, Likud Party leader Benjamin Netanyahu.

## Bombing divides family of Palestinian victims

By SCHEHEREZADE FARAMARZI

JERUSALEM (AP) - Wael Qawwami, a 23-year-old air-conditioner repairman, is fighting for his life in an Israeli hospital after being injured in a blast set off by a fellow Palestinian. His nephew Assem, in an nearby ward, may lose sight in one eye.

But Ashraf, Wael's 18-year-old brother, takes a positive view of the attack, which also killed many Jews and demoralized Israelis.

"I support the bombings," he announced to family members gathered Monday at Jerusalem's Hadeesh hospital. "It does not contradict the Palestinian cause."

And if Wael never comes out of his coma, Ashraf continued, then "it was his fate... He will be a martyr for the Palestinian cause."

The young man's comments stirred anger among his relatives, who are from the village of Azariya just north of Jerusalem. His sister Fahima Nabulsi, who is Assem's mother, stormed out of the room.

"Isn't it enough to have one tragedy? Why do you want to add to our suffering?" admonished brother Nabil. "I'm a brother too, and that's not how I feel."

The open divisions, which lent an acrimonious air to the nervous wait at the hospital, reflected Palestinians' mixed emotions about the use of terrorism against Israelis.

Many believe attacks like Sunday's twin bombings in Jerusalem and the coastal town of Ashkelon are justified in light of Palestinians' own suffering at the hands of Israel - especially during the 1987-1993 uprising in the West Bank and Gaza when more than 1,000 Arabs died. Some hope violence will push Israel toward a quicker withdrawal from occupied lands. Palestinians have won only limited self-rule in parts of the West Bank and Gaza and talks on a final settlement are to begin in

May. Others who see the peace-making as a snail's pace attack will wreck the process.

And many Palestinians had yearned for revenge for the Jan. 5 slaying of Yehiya Ayyash, the militant Hamas group's master bomber whose death by exploding cellular phone was blamed on Israel.

Hamas said Sunday's bombings - which killed 27, including two Americans, and injured 80 others, including five Palestinians - were in reprisal for Ayyash's assassination.

But other Palestinians regret the cycle of violence. And many are concerned about the likely impact of the crushing end of a six-month halt in the bombings: more restrictions on reaching jobs in Israel and poorer prospects for a peaceful solution to a century of enmity.

Issam Qawwami, another of Wael's brothers, said Sunday's bombing has changed his views on terrorism.

"When you come so close and see your dear ones hurt, it's difficult not to abhor it. One doesn't really understand how it feels until it happens to a family member," Issam said.

Their mother Nazha bowed her head, wrapped by a scarf.

"The pain is bigger because the Palestinians did this to my son," she sighed. "If it were the Jews, it wouldn't have hurt so much. They are our enemies."

In another hospital room, Assem Nabulsi, 21, groaned from pain in his legs and arms, injured and burned in the bombing. He also complained there were pieces of glass lodged in his eyes.

Nabulsi, also an air-conditioner repairman, was driving to work with Wael Qawwami when the explosion ripped through a bus as they pulled up next to it in morning rush-hour traffic. The bus and adjacent vehicles were reduced to charred wreckage.

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