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CRITICS CLOSE DOWN PALAU NEWSPAPER

SAIPAN (MV) Tia Belau, a biweekly newspaper in Palau, has been closed, according to reports from Palau.

The bilingual newspaper was closed because of "political pressure from local Palauan leaders," according to Moses Uludong, the 23-year-old publisher and editor of the paper.

The newspaper has been

publishing articles critical of not only local leaders in Palau but also members of the Congress of Micronesia from Palau.

The newspaper is housed in a building owned by Modekngai, a religious-economic group in Palau that supports the Liberal Party, the dominant political party in Palau. The party controls both the Palau

District Legislature and the congressional delegations.

In its last issue, Tia Belau ran editorials and news stories critical of most of the Liberal members. It is reported that the Liberal Party had pressured Modekngai to close the newspaper office.

"I went to my office one afternoon and I saw ano-

other lock on the door," said Uludong, "Our leaders are not used to public criticisms and discussion, especially if it comes from the younger generation. Even our congressmen who are supposed to be more enlightened about the role of the press get all pissed off when someone questions their actions."

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Will Rota leave?

As goes Kusaie, so would like to go Rota.

Yet another island's desire to attain status as a separate administrative district of the Trust Territory is underscored in a resolution adopted by the municipal council of Rota urging that Rota be separated from the rest of the Mariana Islands District to form its own district -- the island's status prior to 1962. This news was politely placed in the laps of the United Nations Visiting Mission when it stopped on Rota last weekend as part of its inspection tour of the Marianas. Although the mission had little time on either Rota or Tinian, mission members were able to talk with some of the people and meet briefly

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St. Pierre sues Micronitor for libel

The Micronitor -- which bills itself as "Micronesia's only Independent Newspaper" -- is being sued for libel by Roger L. St. Pierre, Chief Public Defender for the Trust Territory. The complaint against the newspaper, its

printing company, publisher and four of its editors contends that because of several "libelous articles" printed in Micronitor, St. Pierre "has undergone extreme embarrassment, humiliation and mental anguish in the sum of \$100,000.00."

The complaint seeking \$100,000 in damages was filed February 22 in the Trial Division of the High Court of the Trust Territory. The defendants have 30 days from that date in which to answer the complaint. (In its March 5 story relating the suit, the Micronitor erroneously reported that the action had been filed in the Marianas District Court.)

Named as defendants in the suit are the newspaper's editors, Henry Asugar, Joe Murphy (no relation to the Pacific Daily News editor), Derson Ramon and Ann Haymaker, as well as Takaji Abo, its publisher. The Micronitor is published on Majuro in the Marshall Islands but is circulated throughout the Trust Territory.

At particular issue, states St. Pierre's complaint, are two recent Micronitor stories dealing

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A boy of 3 found after 10 hrs.

By FRANCISCO T. ULUDONG

TT Agriculture Division, and Penny Weilbacher, 10th and 12th grade teacher at Marianas High School.

At about 6:30 p.m., little Burt was found about 300 yards from the closest house and about three miles from his home. He was sitting, calmly and unemotionally, under a thick bush and in a rugged, unpenetrable terrain, north of Capitol Hill.

Dwayne Tomson, Administrative Officer of the

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One of the strangest lost and found cases on Saipan involving a little boy ended at dusk Tuesday, March 6, after 10 hours of searching.

The three-year-old boy, Burt Weilbacher, had wandered off in the company of his two dogs, Gamble and Kicky, shortly after his parents had left for work in the morning. Burt is the son of Bermin Weilbacher, Chief of the

Editorial

There is one political fact which our Marianas leaders seem to overlook. The fact is that people anywhere in the world will eventually get tired of political antics, especially when it comes from the mouth of political leaders. And when the people get tired, they will rebel against their leaders.

Such a situation appears to be under way in the Marianas. Two years ago a "go-to-hell" resolution from the Marianas Legislature found ready-made sympathy and support among our population, but not any more. For example, a similar resolution by the Honorable Daniel T. Muna in the last Legislature session excited no one, perhaps except himself. The people are getting smarter. They are beginning to know that such antics can come only from childish and politically immature persons. What the people want particularly at this time in the Marianas Legislature is leadership whose integrity is never questioned, whose judgment and intelligence are never doubted.

The Marianas Variety lauds the Congress of Micronesia for its continued support of the needs of the Marianas District. It is clear that our leaders in the Congress can understand and forgive our district antics. Despite the seeming antagonism shown by the likes of Daniel Muna, the Congress appropriated on the last day of the last session over \$400,000 for our district. If you recall, too, the Congress during the Ponape session last August passed the only appropriation of \$250,000 for our electric power when our power plant was consumed by a fire. The Marianas Variety is sure that the people know and appreciate such help from the Congress and will not heed any "go-to-hell" antics.

We suggest that before the Legislature loses support of the people, it had better tend to the real and pressing needs of our people. A list of such needs is endless but includes a paved road around the hospital, more classrooms to eliminate the double session in effect in most of our schools, more scholarships, etc. We are not suggesting any misuse of the people's taxes by the Legislature, but \$50,000 is adequate to relieve our district of some its real and pressing needs.

The people are not blind and they now want good leaders.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

WHAT THE PEOPLE KNOW

Dear Editor:

I'm sorry I do not know where to begin to express some of my feelings concerning our (Marianas) separate political status from the rest of Micronesia. I'll try to set down some of them.

I believe that we, the people of the Marianas, are being misrepresented in both the District Legislature and in the Congress of Micronesia by our representatives. I also believe that our representatives are assuming what is best for us without first determining the wishes of the communities.

Is there a survey or a meeting being conducted in each of the villages to really find out what the people want? Are they (the people in the communities) well informed of the good things and the bad things about the American governmental system?

I have talked with lots of people, both Carolinian and Chamorro, about what they know about the Marianas being separated from the rest of Micronesia to become a part of the United States and what they know about the United States governmental system. It surprised me that most of them do not know that the Marianas would become separated from the rest of Micronesia. The majority of them also do not know what the American governmental system is like.

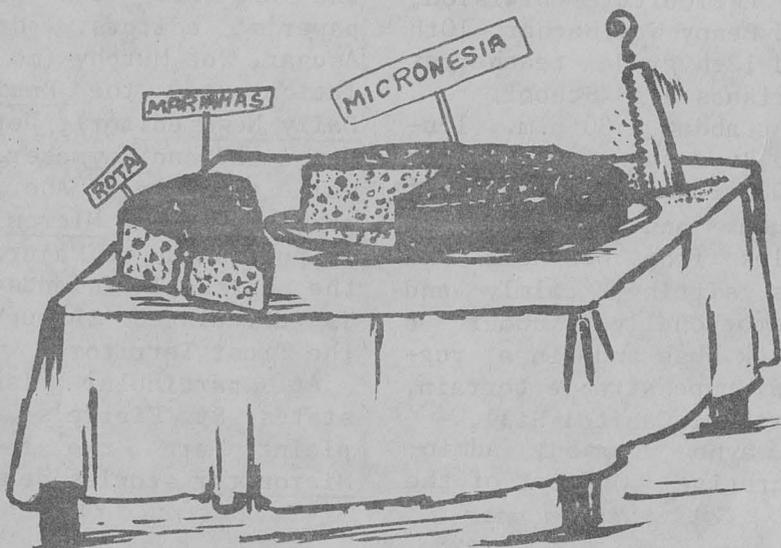
Of course there are newspapers, radio and television to inform the people about the important issues, but none of these help because they are done in the English language. Nothing is being done in the Carolinian or the Chamorro languages. Do we expect 40, 50, 60-year-olds to understand?

I believe that we, the people of the Marianas, are dragged by our representatives into an artificial system of government that we do not know anything about.

If all the people here in the Marianas District understand what the American governmental system is like, they will not allow the Marianas to become part of the United States or to be separated from the rest of Micronesia.

I believe in unity of all Micronesia. I'm also advocating independent status. Let's not forget that to become independent there will be lots of hardships and fighting among us Micronesians, but at the end we will have government that will really fit our very own way of life.

LINO M. OLOPAI
Chalan Kanoa, Saipan



WHO IS NEXT?

MARIANAS
VARIETY NEWS VIEWS

P.O. BOX 231 SAIPAN

Published by:
YOUNIS ART STUDIO
SAIPAN

NOTE: Letters to the Editor should be received by Wednesday each week, and must bear the signature of the writer; names will be withheld from publication upon request.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR...

FEEDING AT THE 'PUBLIC TROUGH'?

Dear Editor:

Having just finished reading the District Legislature special whitewash committee report, I am mad. Since we have learned most of our government from the Americans, I am not surprised at this whitewash.

The most interesting aspect of this audit report is the fact that apparently neither the auditors nor the District legislators are aware of the law governing District expenditures. The Trust Territory Code states in part as follows:

The District Treasurer shall:

- "(1) Receive, maintain, and disburse funds under the authority of the district legislature and under the direction and supervision of the District Administrator.
- (2) Keep complete and accurate records of all funds received, maintained and disbursed by him in such manner as prescribed by the District Administrator. Such records shall be open to inspection and audit by the district legislature, District Administrator, and the territorial government..." (Underlines supplied)

It is obvious from the above that the DistAd should have promulgated the procedures for disbursement of District funds and surely, as a minimum, he requires expenditures to be documented. In the absence of documentation no one can tell whether payments were duplications or illegal or whatever. Hopefully, the DistAd will thoroughly review the "justification" submitted by Santos and belatedly cross-reference these reimbursements expenditures to determine if any wrong-doing actually exists.

Further, the DistAd should make Santos' "justifications" public, along with whatever action the DistAd proposes to take to prosecute if appropriate or to require reimbursement from Santos. If Santos is cleared from wrong-doing by the DistAd, then that too should be made public.

The special committee certainly was a misguided exercise at best and a whitewash for Santos at worst. Their attitude "That the financial matters of the Legislature is the business of the Legislature and it should remain so without any requirement to report to anyone except to the members thereof" is a blatant slap in the face of all of us taxpayers not in accordance with the law, we cannot let that stand. The District Legislature is fully accountable to the people and not

just to themselves. Finding No. 4 of the special committee implies that Santos does not have to substantiate prior expenditures and if this is what is intended by the language "Upon the adoption of this report...," "this writer is considering a public law suit enjoining the District legislators as incompetent pigs at the public trough and sue for an accounting of all funds spent.

In addition, the contract agreement signed by Santos with Profile construction Company was the most incompetently written contract for an architectural design to build a new \$175,000 District Legislature building. Such a contract should require more than 27 pages, not lines, and Santos authorized over \$10,000 to be paid to Profile based on this inadequate, incompetent, incomplete contract document. Will the DistAd please advise the public whether or not it would be feasible to use the drawings we taxpayers got for out \$10,000 + or are the architectural drawings, as we suspect, merely draftsmen's work? The incompetence displayed by Santos and whoever advised him on this contract is, in our opinion, sufficient justification alone to start impeachment proceedings.

NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST

STATING THE OBVIOUS

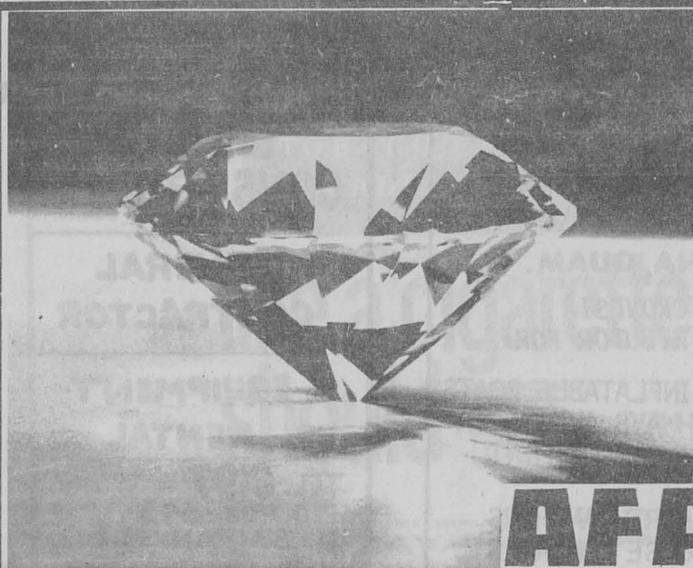
Dear Editor:

A recent flurry of articles in both the Saipan and Guam newspapers about audits and management of funds points up an obvious but never acknowledged fact. One columnist takes issue over resistance to gains in self-government and control over internal affairs from the TT government.

This never-stated fact is that there are very few organizations in the Marianas District, private or public, that are capable of managing their funds in a businesslike manner. The paternalism of the TT government had to come to an end some day. It is ridiculous for an individual, a company or a public body to try to lay the blame upon the government for its inability to account for its dollars and cents and to hold its personnel liable for discrepancies in their accounts. Numbers do not lie and certification of an auditor does not change the numbers.

Reviews of the income and expense statements and balance sheets of individuals, partnerships, corporations, cooperatives, associations, credit unions and public bodies disclose that the bare rudiments of fiscal control seldom are met. Articles of Incorporation that specify reserve accounts for credit unions are ignored.

Continued on page 4



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LETTERS.....

Revenue laws that designate accounting methods and use of specific funds go unheeded. Patronage refunds are made from funds that would not exist if reserve requirements were met. Receipts, invoices and other proof are not expected of supposedly responsible public officials.

Many of our best paid government employees, business, political and appointed leaders are deeply in debt to banks, credit unions and development funds, yet they add to this debt by purchasing real property and new cars and traveling when they know they will be caught up at some later date. Audits of public accounts should not be necessary. The individuals elected or appointed to commissions and committees have the education and experience to set their financial house in order if they so desire, but if they are derelict in their personal finances they simply do not care. How can tax and economic development officers expect businessmen to keep accurate books and records if public bodies refuse to set a good example?

The tendency and practice of both business and political organizations is to blame past failures on the TT government and to expect this same government to do everything for them in the future. So long as this attitude persists, neither the Marianas nor any other part of Micronesia is ready for independence of either a political or economic nature, much less both.

NAME WITHHELD BY REQUEST

AUDIT INVESTIGATION: HAYE UN KEKE FABABA

Dear Editor:

This refers to your article of March 2, 1973, regarding the Mariana Islands District Legislature's select committee that investigated the audit report for fiscal years 1971 and 1972.

I read the committee's findings and recommendations and found them to be very disappointing and quite ironic. Ironic in the sense that the committee asserted that the "Internal Auditors" of the TT government "have no business addressing themselves to the reasonableness of appropriations," while by definition an internal auditor is an expert in accounting and auditing capable of expressing expert opinions as to the reliability of accounting information that he has examined. Moreover, the members of the select committee assigned to investigate the audit report were all but 13-day-old legislators, who had no experience and, more importantly, practical knowledge in governmental fund accounting. Now, it is very disappointing inasmuch as the committee did not intelligently and thoroughly investigate the irregularities pointed out in the report, such as non-documentation of all the disbursements made to the President for entertainment and travel expenses.

I fully disagree with the committee's first finding, which states that the Legislature is not required to report its financial matters to anyone but the members of the Legislature. This is ridiculous. The Legislature and its members are accountable to those who provide the resources (taxes) they use. They are accountable to the electorate, which is the ultimate source of all governmental funds. Consequently, they

should be providing appropriate reports to those to whom they are accountable. Basta Fan Mafababa I Publiko Ni Salape Niha.

Additionally, the select committee stated that there

was no illegal expenditure of public funds made by the President. Perhaps the committee was misled and misinterpreted the term irregularity to mean illegal. The audit report did not point out that there was illegal expenditure. It merely reveals that there are certain irregularities concerning accountability and documentation of disbursements. To cite as an example, there was an \$18,932 payment made to President Santos which was questionable because, according to the report, all payments were (1) self-initiated, (2) self-authorized, (3) not reviewed and (4) not substantiated or supported by valid documentation. This may not seem illegal but is surely irregular. Nos Pot I Kantida Lao Pot I Finatinas.

I reserve the right to expound on the third finding for the other taxpayers to scrutinize. Yangin Un Atan Siempre Unlie.

The fourth finding of the committee clearly indicates that the Legislature since its inception on January 7, 1963, has been mishandling public funds for not establishing rules, regulations or guidelines on the disbursements of its funds. I understand that the fundamental tenet of a democratic society holds that governments and agencies with public resources and the authority for applying them have a responsibility to render full accounting of their activities. This accountability is inherent in the governmental process and is not always specifically identified by legislative provision. This governmental accountability should identify not only the objects for which the public resources have been devoted but also the manner and effect of their application. Kana Mandadana Hit Yan America.

Lastly, the fifth and sixth findings of the committee disclose that there has been mishandling of Legislature funds. Such findings imply that the committee acknowledges that there are irregularities in the management of public funds, thus recommending annual audit of the Legislature by the Trust Territory government or a private audit firm. The Trust Territory government should not be blamed for the "present state of affairs" of the Legislature. Haye Un Keke Fababa.

In conclusion, I hope the Legislature will consider the intent of this letter and perhaps re-examine the select committee's findings because I am sure there are many more yet to be found. I strongly recommend that the membership of the investigating committee be comprised of individuals who have full knowledge of the accepted accounting standards and practices and who are not personal friends of Santos.

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BOY FOUND....

Trust Territory courts, first spotted him. "He was very dirty, seemed calm and was not upset. He sat under a very thick bush, looking straight ahead. If he had not returned our calls, we would have surely missed him."

It was Dwayne, along with Roger Ludwig of the District Education Department and Douglas Collins of Continental Airlines, who had together gone off into the area which had during the previous 10 hours been combed several times by a search effort of more than 500 people from all over Saipan, including police, prisoners, students, government employees and two detective dogs flown in from Ander-

sen Air Force Base on Guam

According to the parents, the boy was playing outside the home when they left for work at 7 a.m. Bermin, his father, was notified an hour later by a girl working for them. Bermin reckoned that the boy wandered off within that hour. After checking all the surrounding areas for another hour, Bermin called the police, who immediately came to the scene. By noon, a radio notice was out and more people were coming to join the search. Boys Scouts from Tanapag and San Roque and volunteers from Marianas High arrived. The searchers went over an area of more than nine square miles, all the way

to the Tanapag road.

At 5:30 Sgt. Don Dalrymple and Sgt. Ignacio Diaz, 43rd Security Police Squadron K-9 Section of Andersen Air Force Base, arrived with two detective German Shepherds.

By 6 p.m., with the dusk settling in, all hopes of finding Burt were fading and almost everyone was returning from the boonies with the exception of Roger, Dwayne and Douglas and a few others.

At 6:45 the voice of Linda, Douglas Collins' wife, broke the silence. "Bermin, we have found your son." She took Burt's mother over to their house to wait for the boy, who was being brought up from below their isolated home.

I accompanied Bermin fifteen minutes later to the Collins' home. We found the boy eating an apple and a sandwich in the company of his mother and police detective, Joe Babauta and Greg Camacho.

Bermin pick him up and in a joyous reunion, sobbing and repeatedly asking him, "Where did you go?" Burt only said, "I went into boonies with Gamble and Kicky."

The dogs apparently never left the boy and when he was spotted, Kicky was with him.

The mother said that the first thing he said at the Collins' house was that he wanted to ride his horse. Later he said he was hungry and asked for sandwiches. Penny said he had only a glass of chocolate milk and two bananas in the morning.

In an interview the next morning, Bermin said that after six hours of search with no signs of the boy or the dogs, all sorts of things went on in their minds but they never lost hope of finding him.

"Towards the evening, I was beginning to get afraid that something terrible might have happened to him--lying down someplace badly hurt. I was really concerned about his condition. A glass of chocolate and two bananas for the whole day!"

Burt was sitting at the table, all smiles and answering his father's questions as we tried to reconstruct his wanderings. For a three-year-old, he had a fantastic memory. "Gamble and Kicky took me into the boonies; "I saw birds in the sky; little farmer walked into the water and lost my zories; little farmer went to sleep on a small rock."

Other than the small scratches on his fingers and arms, Burt was in good physical and mental shape. He noted yes to his father when he asked him to take him to the boonies but added, "You will have to carry me, ok?" Bermin said that in a day or two, they are going to retrace his son's wanderings.

"We are so grateful to our friends and the many people who came to assist in the search. We are very happy for we saw a lot of people around here whom we have never met or seen before. The response from the Marianas people was tremendous," said Mrs. Penny Weilbacher.

Continued on page 12

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St. Pierre

with last November's "raid" on the Chief Public Defender's office by TT Public Safety Director Carl Lindh. This incident, which resulted in the arrest and jailing of Acting Public Defender Arthur Rothenberg and Assistant Public Defender Jose A. Tenorio, was analyzed by columnist Harrison S. Clark in the Marianas Variety (December 1, 1972 for its possible connections with the government's inquiry into what Clark called a "year-old, trumped-up charge that St. Pierre once accepted a fee from a client."

As bases for its allegations of libel by the Micronitor, St. Pierre's suit states: "On the 12th day of December, 1972, defendants falsely and maliciously composed and published in said newspaper, an article, entitled "say who's Harrison S. Clark," of which the following is a true and correct copy: "was Roger St. Pierre guilty of extorting \$7,500 from a Marshallese woman?"

"On the 29th day of January, 1973," continues the complaint, "defendants

falsely and maliciously composed and published in said newspaper an article entitled 'Johnny Kijidrik of which the following are true and correct excerpts: 'Rothenberg say's (sic) he's leaving the TT because he got thrown (sic) in jail while trying to protect the files of TT Chief Fallen Angel, Roger St. Pierre. 'Saint' Pierre's highly questionable activities down here in the Marshalls. But would he keep his mind open to the possibility that just maybe St. Pierre was involved in some underhanded dealing and that the police were right?"

St. Pierre's complaint for libel further relates that "printed together and adjacent to the foregoing article was a caricature of a rodent known as a shrew. By its association with the article, said caricature falsely and maliciously suggested the plaintiff was a scoundrel and a wicked or evil person, and was displayed in connection and identified with said defamatory articles.

"The foregoing libelous articles," adds the complaint, "clearly charged plaintiff with commission of a crime, and falsely

imputed guilt of that crime to plaintiff; constituting malicious and reckless conduct by defendants and is libel per se."

These articles in the Micronitor also, states the complaint, "charged plaintiff with improper practices in the performance of his duties as an attorney, to wit, dishonesty, disloyalty to his client's interests, extortion, unprofessional and unethical conduct; all of which constitutes libel per se." In addition, St. Pierre was "held up to public scorn, hatred and ridicule and was damaged in his professional capacity as Chief Public Defender," the suit contends.

As the Micronitor articles in question were unsigned, St. Pierre's complaint was filed against all the above-named defendants. "If the responsible party would own up," St. Pierre told the Marianas Variety this week, he would drop charges in order to direct his complaint specifically to the author of the disputed stories.

"The inescapable conclusion," wrote Assistant Public Defender Benjamin M. Abrams to Micronitor

editor Joe Murphy on February 22, "was that what you wrote about us far exceeded the scope of free journalism... Libelous publications are in fact a crime under 11 T.T.C.S. 901."

Abrams, formerly Public Defender in the Marshalls, added that "your selection of the Public Defender's Office as an object of such strident invective seems most unwarranted in terms of our nature and function. Of all T.T. departments, ours by description, sentiment and reputation consistently places interests of Micronesians above 'any' other. Against all kinds of 'obstacles' this office proudly does its utmost to assert and protect rights of the Micronesian people. Mr. Roger St. Pierre, has with tremendous effect, dedicated the better part of his life to this end.

"Joe," concluded Abrams, "you have joined forces with the long-standing adversaries of the Public Defender, who would seek to burn him using a fire with no wood. We'll fight back Joe, with a different kind of fire."

Abrams explained in this letter that the libel suit, in which he is serving as attorney for the plaintiff, was filed "only after careful consideration."

"The articles were libelous per se," said St. Pierre. "I don't have to prove a thing. He added that he thought the Micronitor was "judgement proof," in other words, it doesn't have the \$100,000 sought in damages.

So far there have been no further developments, in public at least, in the alleged government investigation of the Marshalls fee incident involving St. Pierre. The much-touted intent to arrest the Chief Public Defender as soon as he stepped off the plane returning him to Saipan simply vanished, and St. Pierre is still a free man.

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Telling it like it is....

By FRANCISCO T. ULUDONG

HiCom Rumors. Capitol Hill is still teeming with rumors as to who is the real candidate for the position of High Commissioner. For whatever it is worth, it is now said that Pete Coleman is the man on President Nixon's mind. There is some credibility to this story in view of the fact that Coleman is reported to have been summoned immediately to Washington soon after a meeting in American Samoa last month. I have previously thrown my support to Ed Johnston and I still think he is the right man for the job at this point in our political development. Should Nixon select Pete I will have no problems with him as we are friends, but I sure hope that Pete -- if he has actually been approached -- would turn down the job. As an islander himself and Samoan at that Pete will understand that he will face a tougher job than a haole American in the same position.

John Richard Again. John Richard, the Acting Director of Education, is back again but nobody seems to know whether he lined up a job in Washington. Soon after the word was out last month that his subordinates had petitioned the HiCom for his removal, the HiCom reportedly passed the word around that he would soon be replaced and that he was going to Washington to job-hunt. Whatever the score is, it is better for the health of all concerned for John to beat it. The Congress does not want him. His staff can't stand him any longer. The HiCom is embarrassed. And John himself is now ineffective. Simple common sense calls for no other alternative but out....!

Would You Buy a Used Car from This Man? Dick Williams, the writer of the articles that appeared in the Guam papers favoring PanAm in the Japan/Saipan air route case, is a car salesman on Guam. Newswriting is only a part-time, supplemental occupation for him. He has never set foot in Micronesia except for the day, last year, when the first PanAm chartered flight from Japan arrived at Kobler Airfield. Even then he was on Saipan for only a few minutes, taking pictures presumably for PanAm's public relations purposes. His wife is said to be in the employment of Pan American World Airways. It is thus unfortunate that the Pacific Daily News and Tateline would use his articles without first double-checking the facts. Both papers were equally irresponsible for printing articles from such an irresponsible writer.

As a staff member of the Congress, I think I am in a better position to judge the actions of the Congress regarding the "battle of the airlines" business. It is unfortunate that the Congress spent more time and effort on the airlines than on other more important matters and allowed the airlines, especially PanAm and Continental, to play Congressmen against each other. The division occurred not only among district delegations but also among members of each delegation, to the point that one congressman who supports Pan American became unnecessarily emotional -- as if the airline business was a matter of life and death for him and his constituents.

The Congress of Micronesia was first confronted with the airline "question" during the Congress session in Palau last January. Representatives of both PanAm and Continental lobbied like hell for their respective resolutions. The House then adopted a resolution favoring PanAm but the Senate refused to go along,

endorsing a neutral position of merely asking the Civil Aeronautics Board to hasten the current hearings on the route. Advocates of Pan American in the House, who included members of the Palau, Truk, Marianas and Marshalls delegations, maintained that the awarding of the route would affect only the Marianas, so the Congress should endorse the position taken by the Marianas people. The Pan American resolution failed because there was strong support for Continental in the Senate. The picture, however, has changed since the Palau session. The Continental proposal now offers a single service flight to all districts in Micronesia. This factor was pivotal in changing the "winds" in the Congress to blow in Continental's direction. As the congressional report by the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations asked, "Which airline will bring the most advantage to all Micronesia? It is clear that there can be only one answer to this question: Continental/ Air Micronesia."

In endorsing Continental, the Congress was not oblivious to the stated position of the Marianas (although a majority of the Marianas Legislature members and the Rota Municipal Council are said to support Continental); the J&GO report said in part: "For Saipan there appears to be little difference as to which carrier is awarded the route. Saipan will obtain a large number of tourists in any case: A minimum of 300 a day, far greater than Saipan's present capacity to handle. We recognize the desire of a number of the people of Saipan for service by Pan American, but believe that Continental/Air Micronesia, if not offering any greater advantage, offers no great disadvantage, either."

In the final analysis, it seems that the Congress made its decision based on the good of all the districts rather than on the personal reasons of those who support Pan American. To read a political meaning into the Congress endorsement, as did Williams in his articles in the Pacific Daily News, is too far-fetched and appears to have been designed to elicit certain political reactions from a sector of our population. As Micronesians, we must be careful about Americans like Dick Williams who are out to "divide and conquer" us. Let's beware!

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The dead theory

By SUDA

A few years ago, Micronesians in general gave a great deal of attention to the activities of the Congress of Micronesia. They followed its deliberations and teachings as they did the teachings of the Bible. They looked upon the Congress as not only a law-making body, but also as their "teacher," religious leader and faithful friend and benefactor.

But times are changing. Most recently many Micronesians have begun to experience displeasure over the attitude which their "faithful friend" has taken toward the future of the islands.

As the tensions between the United States and the USSR, Vietnam and Red China have diminished, the old theory that placed Micronesia at the heart of the U.S. defense system has become a thing of the past.

Logically, this raises in the minds of many Micronesians the question: If the United States, the Russians and Mainland Chinese can live and work together in peace, are our islands still important to the United States? And: Does our faithful friend and benefactor push our luck too zealously in its demands upon the U.S.?

The initiative which the Marianas has taken toward its future is considered in some quarters to be appropriate and reasonable. Enlightened Micronesians are thinking along the lines of: "If the Marianas can do it and get away with it--why not us?"

It is not unwise to remember the attitude the U.S. has taken toward Micronesia in the past. But it would indeed be unwise to consider ourselves "for sale" to the United States now. The offer, however, that the United States has proffered in past and recent negotiations seems to embody the aspirations of the Micronesian people, and especially the Marianas residents.

If our "faithful friends" insist on pressing their luck in making demands on the U.S., one suggestion might be to rent ourselves out to the U.S. Realistically, we are only good for the following:

- a. An international zoo and park area--Palau
- b. A United Nations center--Truk
- c. An international scientific center--Marshalls
- d. An Olympic Games field--Yap
- e. An international outer space center--Ponape

Other than the U.S. proposed future for Micronesia, and the above, let's all go to hell together!

A Personal View

By JON A. ANDERSON

I ran across a statement by Wes Gallagher, President of the Associated Press, in a recent issue of Columbia Journalism Review. I'd like to share it with you not only because I agree with it, but because it may provide some food for thought to those who disagreed with my recently stated position questioning the wisdom of the publication of unsigned opinion or rumor columns.

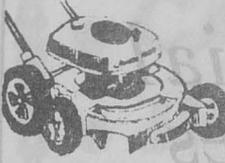
"It certainly is true today that the journalist is being assaulted even more frequently than a woman's virtue--fortunately with less drastic results. But, at no time in history has the profession has so many challenges. At no time has the world needed the professional journalist more.

"It is the journalist's task to be a clear, cool, objective voice bringing reason to an inflamed and confused world. The strident, partisan voices in today's society contribute heat but no light to a society drowning in problems. They are not in short supply. Someone must make sense out of the heated rhetoric. Someone must search for the facts--all the facts--not just those that fit his point of view, and present them to the public.

"There are those within the profession who quibble that no one can be impartial or objective. This makes about as much sense as the ancient religious argument as to how many angels could sit on the head of a pin. Granted that no human can be infallible in any profession. But it makes about as much sense to say a journalist can't be impartial as to argue that a judge can't dispense justice, or that a lawyer can't give a sound defense because he finds a prisoner or client personally obnoxious or a teacher can't teach history because he disagrees with the policies of Winston Churchill. The journalist is just as dedicated to his profession as a doctor, scientist or judge."

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Micro students signed petition "OUR STRUGGLE IS BETWEEN LIBERTY AND AUTHORITY OUR GOAL? SELF-DETERMINATION"

Asking for a return to the people of all public lands in Micronesia, a relevant educational system, control of the economy, a constitution for Micronesia, an end to "military occupation in Micronesia," the removal of "foreign influence" -- in short, the end of "psychological dependence" by Micronesians -- a group of "some concerned Micronesian students" at the University of Guam submitted the following petition to the United Nations Visiting Mission when it convened a two-hour "rap" session on February 28 expressly to hear what the Micronesian university students had to say.

We, as concerned Micronesian Students, knowing fully well that though we come from a conglomeration of different yet unique cultures, and also knowing that we have different philosophies concerning each other's own life, hereby take upon ourselves the burden to write and draw up this petition as an expression of our sincere feelings towards the basic question of 'Self-Determination' as a right: Unfinished and fragmented. Thus, the following is our testimony:

"WE PETITION ALL PUBLIC LANDS IN MICRONESIA RETURNED TO THE PEOPLE"

According to the Statistics, 91% of the land in the Mariana District is "Public Land." (Public Lands, by the way, are owned, controlled, and operated by the Government of the Trust Territory which is an extension of the United States Government). It is also reported that 68% of the lands from each district of Palau and Ponape is Public Land. The use of a Military Missile Testing Site in the Marshall islands brought the district's "contribution" to the Public Land up to 87%. Truk, the most populated district in all Micronesia, was robbed 19% of her soil by Mr. Public Land. Yap District almost escaped this "rotten theft" when she yielded only 4% of her land. In general, Statistics reveals that 56% of the total landmass in Micronesia is Public Land.

LEASE AGREEMENT: All the public land must be taken away from the Trust Territory Government and be put under the direction of our District Legislatures, Chiefs, or the Mayor of each district where the por-

tioning and the division of the said Public Lands are more reasonable fitting to the moods, aspects, and customs of our places. Moreover, all the public Land for "LEASING" should be put under the responsibility of the said about leaders, anyway!

HOMESTEAD: All the land involved in the "Homestead" policy should be controlled by the above said leaders, too.

SOLUTION: It is our belief that the most viable solution to our land problem is to turn the so-called "Public Land" over to us Micronesians. Since "land" to us is a basis to our Traditional way of life, and since it is our duty to safe-guard our own economy in the near future, we therefore believe that the control of our land must be strictly ours and not that of the United States Government.

"WE PETITION AN EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM SUITED AND RELEVANT TO MICRONESIA"

In recent history of Micronesia, especially during this American Administration, we have had educational systems aimed at divorcing Micronesians from our island societies and cultures. These past educational systems have conditioned Micronesians to be more and more dependent upon the United States values and custom which make us blindly desire for a non-attainable and irrelevant technological prosperity...that is, in our Agrarian society. As a result of these systems, the American Education which was say supposed to have used as a means of alleviating us with our problems as such, was used in a manney of indoctrination to suppress our way of life. (Indoctrination is what we define as a process of conditioning an ethnic group with alien ways).

SOLUTION: We would like to petition for an educational system that enhance our customs and traditions and is oriented towards the physical circumstances and realities of Micronesia. We strongly believe in the implimentation of an educational system that which while promotes and protects communalism at the same time strengthens our sense of individualism.

Continued on page 10

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Students Petition....

"WE PETITION THAT MICRONESIA CONTROLS ITS OWN ECONOMY"

Micronesia will ultimately depend on whoever controls her economy. We truly discourage all foreign enterprises (investments) that are not controlled and operated by Micronesians. We are, by nature, an independent people!

SOLUTION: We suggest that 90% of the "shares" of each foreign enterprise already existed in Micronesia today must be owned and controlled by the Micronesians themselves. This is our right.

WE PETITION 'A STOP' TO IRRELEVANT AMERICAN LAWS IN MICRONESIA. WE THEREFORE REJECT ALL FORMS OF FOREIGN OPPRESSION. A CONSTITUTION, IN OUR OWN WORDS, IS NEEDED.

Micronesians are fenced in with American Laws which inadvertently prohibited and/or limited us, an ethnic group, from practising our traditions and customs. This is "CULTURAL IMPERIALISM"! We believe that there is no one culture in existence at the present that is superior to another.

SOLUTION: We firmly believe that it is our prerogative right to draft our own National Constitution promulgated by our Representatives and adopted by our own people. For no nation has the right to grant another country the "right" to adopt a constitution. For the same token, no nation can grant Micronesia SOVEREIGNTY! Micronesian People have this right from God, not from men. For centuries, we have been ruled by laws we did not make. We advocate for a Constitution that will reflect the customs and traditions of our cultures.

"WE ARE AGAINST MILITARY OCCUPATION IN MICRONESIA"

Nearly three decades ago, the Japanese—after converting our little communities into 'Little Tokyos' and giving us new objects to marvel at—left us in the dirty "gutter" of Civilization with nothing but the remains of war. We, therefore, oppose any military use of Micronesia by any action for any purpose. Besides,

the United States Military occupation in Micronesia has been and will be always a 'crowding agent' in limiting the amount of land from our ever growing population of Micronesia. Moreover, military comes with an increase in gambling, prostitution, unwanted technology, with the great possibility of making Micronesia a battle-field target for the nuclear Nations. We are particularly skeptical toward Military operations (i.e., Missile Testing Site on Kwajalein and experimentations of H-Bomb on Bikini) in Micronesia. Military operation on Kwajalein has made the Micronesian employees there grown dependent upon a military base; this has made the said employees less and less initiative, as cultural people. Once, the Bikini People were a great beautiful people. But they were exiled from their home island and their culture was blown into bits by the H-Bomb. Now, they become ugly—apparitions—twisted by the radiation "Fall Out".

A SIMPLE SOLUTION: We believe that military bases, operations, and activities should not be granted asylum in Micronesia. We are quite aware of the implications connected with the establishment of military bases in Micronesia. We simply cannot afford to take anymore injustices than that is necessary from the power-thirsty nations of this world.

"WE PETITION THE REMOVAL OF FOREIGN INFLUENCE IN MICRONESIA"

We believe it is time now that we elect one of us Micronesians to be our national executive (High Commissioner?) for the whole Micronesia. It is simply inhumane and intolerable to be forever remained a "ward" of any nation. We therefore petition a termination of the Trusteeship Agreement with Micronesia as soon as it is fittingly possible. *Continued on page 12*

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YOUTH NEWS & VIEWS

MHS News

Youth Take Over on March 15. Youth Take-Over Day, an annual event that gives students the opportunity to participate in and experience the work done in the different branches of the government, will take place this year on March 15. Students from Mt. Carmel have been invited by the Marianas High School Student Council to participate in this year's Take-Over Day. The ratio of participating students was set at 3:1, respectively, for Marianas High and Mt. Carmel, taking into account the larger enrollment at MHS.

Josepha Camacho of MHS strikes a blow for Women's lib by taking over as HiCom, while George Sablan of MHS will play Deputy HiCom. Donald Barcinas, also of MHS, will get to be Auditor, and who knows whose books will feel his cold eye on the Ides of March? On the district level, Antonio Benavente, Mt. Carmel, will be DistAd for a day, Edward Concepcion of MHS pins on the star of Chief of Police and Frank Sablan of Mt. Carmel will be able to try his hand at keeping our lights on all day by playing Director of Public Works.

In order to take over as HiCom or DistAd this year, students had to first submit a written essay of not less than three pages. Of the 45 offices open to MHS students, 36 went to the seniors, 5 to the juniors and 4 to the sophomores. At Mt. Carmel, the available 15 offices were divided 8 to the seniors, 5 to the juniors and 2 to the sophomores.

Matsumoto Wins TT Scholarship. Carlos Matsumoto of Marianas High School has been named the only recipient of this year's \$3,000 Trust Territory scholarship. Carlos plans to major in pre-medicine, and so far has applied to schools in the District of Columbia and Minnesota. The \$3,000 scholarship (per academic year) includes tuition, room and board, transportation and personal expenses.

MHS Joins Outstanding High School Students. Seventeen students at Marianas High School have become members of the Association of Outstanding American High School Students following the recent invitation for MHS to join the association. Senior members are: Max Attao, Josepha Camacho, Leonisa Igitol, Carlos Matsumoto, David Palacios, Jim Philippo, George Sablan, Vicente Sablan and Frank Tomokane. Junior members are: Donald Barcinas, Victoria Leon Guerrero, Edward King, Leon Lizama, Margarita Mendiola, Agnes Pangelinan, Mario Taisacan and Sinforosa Villagomez. The selections were made on the basis of academic achievement, and school and civic contributions. Next year nominations will be limited to academic achievement. Evelyn Barto, an American citizen, was the only student eligible for membership last year.

MHS Mt. CARMEL Basketball tournament

J.J. Cruz, Tony Benavente, Serafin Concepcion, Leguy, Tony Santos, Ray Guerrero and Lorenzo Tenorio: They won the whole thing...the Marianas High School-Mt. Carmel Basketball Tournament held March 3 and 4, that is.

The tournament, organized by the athletic directors of the two high schools, Oscar Rasa, David Aldan and Father Edward, started off with a contest between the Mr. Carmel Junior Varsity and a team from Marianas High. The fast-moving Marianas team sustained a strong lead the whole game, but just managed to stop a last-minute Mt. Carmel drive. The final score was 41-40. Serafin Concepcion (11 points), Tony Benavente (10 points) and J.J. Cruz (9 points) provided the momentum for the Marianas team. David Blanco (13 points), Hashi Rice (10 points) and George Kaipat (6 points) kept the losing Mt. Carmel team "hanging in there" (according to Father Edward).

In the second game, the more aggressive Marianas team seemed to have the Mt. Carmel Varsity under control until, again, the last moments. The Marianas team, however, "kept its cool -- and the lead," again according to Father Edward. The final score was 43-41. Tony Satur starred in the game with 21 points, but the other starters (Mangarero, Tagabuel, Pua Odoshi and Ilo) displayed powerful rebounding and accurate shooting throughout. Joselito Bacago, Regino Celis and Jesse Sanchez scored 18, 10 and 9 points, respectively, for the losing Mt.

Carmel team.

Maybe it was the lack of school rivalry that took the zip out of the games on Sunday night. The Mt. Carmel Varsity easily defeated the Junior Varsity team in the consolation game. High scorers for the Varsity were Joselito Bacago (19 points), Jesse Sanchez (15 points) and Regino Celis (12 points). Hashi Rice bumped in 14 points, David Blanco 12 points and George Kaipat 10 points for the losing J.V.

The two victorious Marianas High teams played the second game for the tournament championship. At half-time the score was 10-9, but J.J. Cruz "went wild" (relates Father Edward) in the second half and scored 21 points to put his team in the lead. Cruz totaled 25 points for the game. Tony Satur put in a 12-point effort for the losing team.

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Tia Belau....

Didil A Chais, forerunner of Tia Belau, was closed three years ago by HiCom Edward E. Johnston. This time, however, it is the Micronesians themselves who are closing one of the three independent sources of news and information in Micronesia.

Tia Belau, which in English means, "This Is Palau, This Is Our Land, This Is Our Nation," will continue to publish; efforts are being made to secure printing facilities on Guam. Its subscribers will receive their next issues shortly, according to Francisco Uludong, the editor's brother, who is now on Saipan for the Congress of Micronesia session.

BOY FOUND....

"When I started seeing people coming, I really felt that it was nice to live in this world when man responds to each other in time of need and tragedy," added Bermin Weilbacher.

Bermin said that the police, led by Antonio Benavente Chief of Police, were magnificent in organizing the search efforts.

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Will Rota leave...

with political leaders. Evidently, time was not too short for the mission to tap a few deep reservoirs of political feelings.

For one, Rota's council does not support separate status talks between the Mariana Islands and the U.S., Mayor Antonio Atalig told members of the UN Visiting Mission in response to its question. The people of Rota were not consulted prior to establishment of the Marianas Status Commission, explained the mayor, so the council has come out in favor of the talks between the Congress of Micronesia's Joint Committee on Future Status and the U.S.

While the people of Tinian did not join the rush toward separate district status, they did

have another petition for the Visiting Mission. This petition, presented by the Tinian Municipal Council, asked that the "most favored nation clause" in the Trusteeship Agreement be revoked, asserting that present interpretation of this clause is hurting development. One example cited was a Japanese company said to be ready to build a 400-room hotel on Tinian

as soon as the clause is lifted. Mission members replied that present interpretation by the U.S. of this clause is the problem; the clause itself does not limit investment in the Trust Territory by nations other than the United States, they said.

Petitions aside, the people of Tinian told the UN Visiting Mission that they favor the return of the United States Military to their island because of the jobs and increased economic activity they hope will result.

Students Petition....

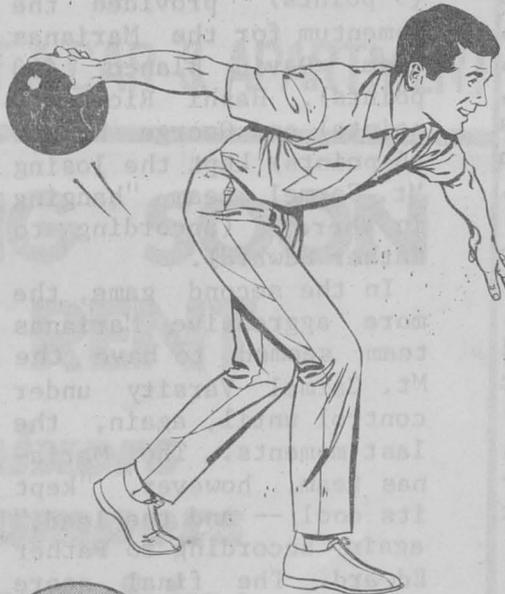
"WE ARE AGAINST PSYCHOLOGICAL DEPENDENCE"

Since we firmly believe that no one culture is superior to another; since we believe it is our prerogative right to adopt our own Constitution; and since we accept the burden of "Self-determination"; We, the undersigned Micronesian students at this University of Guam, therefore, Petition and advocate that all foreign deals heretofore committed in the name of "Psychological Dependence" should be stopped and rejected. Therefore, so ordained and signed:

(The petition was signed by 25 students)

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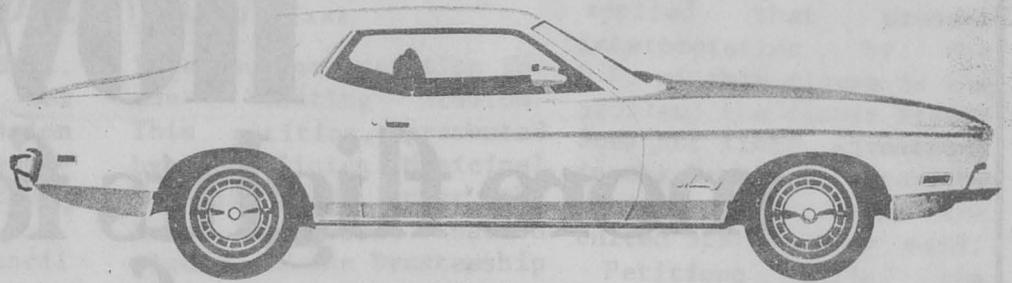
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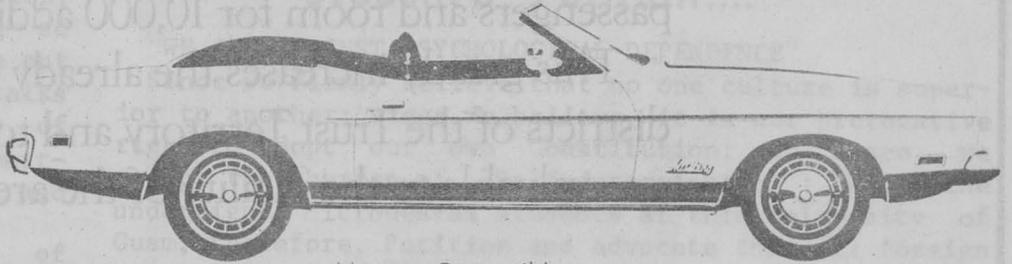
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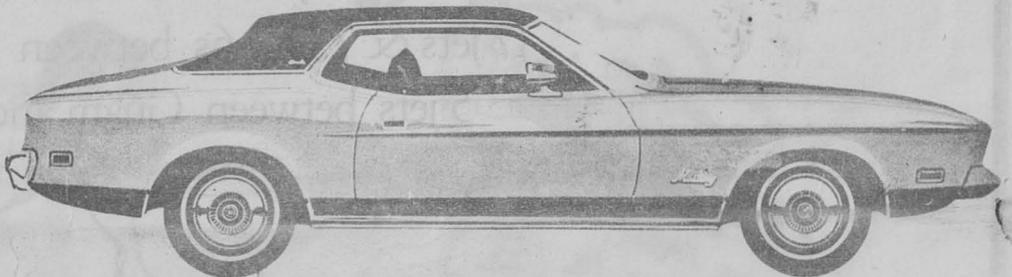
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