

THE KWAJALEIN HOURGLASS

Volume 41, Number 92

Tuesday, November 20, 2001

U.S. Army Kwajalein Atoll, Republic of the Marshall Islands



(Photo by Peter Rejcek)

On the road again

And you thought Kwaj folks could really load down their bikes. Bicycles, motorcycles and scooters are the preferred method of transportation in Hanoi, Vietnam. We follow one writer who spent about five weeks traveling through Vietnam and China this summer. The first of two parts is in today's middle four pages.

Library reopens, to expand space on second floor

By Peter Rejcek
Associate Editor

It may seem like the never-ending story, but a happy ending is still planned for Grace Sherwood Library.

The library will reopen its doors Wednesday and resume normal business hours and all services, including book checkout, until further notice. The library closed Saturday, with the intention of recarpeting the whole facility, a process estimated to take three to four weeks. But the command is rethinking how it wants to use the second-floor space of Building 805, where the library is located.

Now the most likely plan is to expand the library east into the *Hourglass* offices, along with an adjacent office belonging to the CPN chief engineer and a nearby storage room, netting an additional 960

(See LIBRARY, page 9)

Marshalls pushing tourism of outer island atolls

By KW Hillis
Feature Writer

When island fever hits, residents look for interesting and affordable places to get away from it all, where no one knows your name. But for just a short respite, the cost of a ticket to Honolulu is a bit steep these days.

"So far, [Kwaj residents] have found Polnpei and Kosrae as the most interesting places," said Mark Stege, Marshall Islands Visitors Authority general manager. Stege wants to change that.

The MIVA rep was on Kwajalein and Roi-Namur last week

promoting five of the "most hospitable" atolls in the Marshall Islands — Likiep, Jaluit, Mili, Arno and Majuro — as vacation destinations.

Not a travel agency, MIVA is an independent agency of the RMI government. It is uniquely suited to provide information about accommodations and activities available to visitors, Stege said. The MIVA board is mostly made up of partners in the tourism industry in the Marshall Islands.

Stege said he thinks that "a lack of information" about what is

(See RMI, page 4)

Luncheon recognizes contributions, sacrifices of Native Americans



Dr. John Leeper was the keynote speaker for last Friday's monthly heritage luncheon honoring Native Americans.

"How can one buy or sell the air, the warmth of the land?

That is difficult for us to imagine.

If we don't own the sweet air and the bubbling water, how can you buy it from us?"

—Chief Seattle, 1854

By Peter Rejcek
Associate Editor

Dr. John Leeper, drawing upon his Choctaw heritage, said he

knows what it's like to come from a different culture and try to weave one belief system onto the American landscape.

It's no different, he said, than the obstacles faced by Irish-Americans or Asian-Americans. Well, except for one small difference: "We all go through that transition ... except we got here first and met the boat," he said.

Leeper combined heartfelt personal anecdote with levity during a

brief speech at Friday's Native American Heritage Month luncheon at the Yokwe Yuk Club.

Leeper, site manager for MIT/Lincoln Lab and on his third tour at Kwaj, is a voting member of the Choctaw Nation of Oklahoma and can trace his Indian roots back to the early 1800s.

Leeper's speech rambled like a river over many of the themes that have become associated with Na-

(See NATIVE, page 9)

Editorial

Thanksgiving: A time to recognize sacrifices for country

In gratitude for God's gift of freedom and "for all the great and various favors which he hath been pleased to confer on us." President George Washington made Thanksgiving his first proclamation for the new Nation.

We have been privileged, as a nation, to renew that proclamation for more than 200 years. And, like the Pilgrims who celebrated Thanksgiving more than 300 years ago, we are thankful for the blessings that are the result of our national heritage.

Each of us in the Kwajalein and Roi-



Namur communities deserves special recognition for the unique sacrifices made in the service of our country. Living in a remote part of the world, and in many cases, without loved ones, requires adjustments.

And, we make them. We make new friends. We celebrate and look forward to the time we will be home again. Through this selfless service, courage, commitment and loyalty we are making the extra sacrifice to ensure that the ideals of freedom and democracy continue for all Americans.

I encourage each of you in this holiday season to express heartfelt gratitude for the many blessings of life and to reach out in friendship to neighbors and friends and especially to our friends from the host nation. They too serve our nation.

Happy Thanksgiving everyone!

FD: Happy Thanksgiving

Traditionally, each fourth Thursday of November is a day of giving thanks and feasting. It commemorates the Pilgrim's celebration of the good harvest of 1621.

It is a time to reflect upon our family, our well-being and the ability to celebrate such a holiday. We owe this to the men and women of the armed services worldwide to maintain such freedom.

On behalf of Ragnar Opiniano, fire chief of the Fire and Emergency Services, we would like to thank you all for being a part of our team, keeping a safe fire environment throughout this season and continuing good fire-safe practices for many years to come.

Michael Kearney
chief of Fire Prevention

Bush recognizes Military Family Week

I am proud to offer my sincere thanks to the brave wives, husbands, children and other family members of our soldiers, sailors, airmen and Marines during Military Family Week.

Many military families serve our country by sacrificing personal comfort as their loved ones help protect our nation. The men and women who serve in America's military depend on their families for solace and strength as they defend our people and our interests around the world.

Your active support of our service

members plays a vital role in our national defense and in making our country's Armed Services the finest in the world.

As we work to eradicate the evil of terrorism, military families must continue to meet their distinctive challenges with the American spirit of honor and courage. Your selfless dedication to your loved ones and to our country sets an example of patriotism of all Americans to follow. Laura joins me in sending our prayers, gratitude and best wishes.

President George W. Bush

The Kwajalein Hourglass

Commanding Officer...Col. Curtis L. Wrenn Jr.
Public Affairs Officer.....Preston Lockridge
Editor.....Jim Bennett
Associate Editor.....Peter Rejcek
Feature Writers.....Barbara Johnson
KWHillis
Graphics DesignerDan Adler
Sports Writer Kim Parker

The Hourglass is named for the insignia of the U.S. Army 7th Infantry Division, which liberated the island from the forces of Imperial Japan on Feb 4, 1944.

The Kwajalein Hourglass is an authorized publication for military personnel, federal employees, contractor workers and their families assigned to USAKA. Contents of the Hourglass are not necessarily official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, Department of Defense, Department of the Army or USAKA. It is published Tuesdays and Fridays using a network printer by Raytheon Range Systems Engineering editorial staff, P.O. Box 23, APO AP 96555. Phone: Autovon 254-3539; local 53539.

Printed circulation: 2,000

Buckminster and Friends ————— By Sabrina Mumma



Reckling expands on food service future plans

By Barbara Johnson
Feature Writer

Saying that he's taking a look at all the programs from top to bottom, new Sodexo USA manager Ty Reckling spelled out some of his ideas for food services on island at Thursday's Consumer Advisory Council meeting.

"We're evaluating the Yuk program really deeply," he said, explaining that staff is looking at more programs, theme meals and lower price points at the island restaurant. "We've got a lot of challenges and opportunities."

"We've already started the monthly calendar that we've sent out to everybody in the [Hourglass]," Reckling said.

Addressing service, Reckling said the club has two new waitstaff and another chef to get food out faster.

Sodexo will publish calendars every month so everybody can see what the programs are, he said. "They will include special theme nights, entertainment—something different.

"It gets pretty monotonous. We've got to find some different opportunities where people can go and eat and do things," Reckling said.

Sodexo will also look at the "menu mixes all the way across the board, to see what makes sense and what doesn't make sense ..." he said. That includes what they offer, what the prices are and any new programs.

"I do want to welcome the community to call me with any ideas that they have in the back of their head or any issues. Call me directly or call the location manager to try to bring out any issues at the lowest level, because that will help us resolve them as soon as we can," Reckling said.

In response to a question about family dining, Reckling said, "We're trying to develop more programs for children ... We're looking at what type of meals do we offer in the dining area on Thursday, Friday and Saturday nights. We're going to try to get the families in there, in a price range that's affordable."

Also at the meeting, RSE Residential Support Manager Lloyd Jordan gave an update from Paul Divinski, RSE Provisioning and Retail manager, who is off island.

A wide assortment of merchandise is on the November barge, which, except for food, just began to be unloaded Thursday because of warehouse inventories, Jordan said. Also, merchandise has been arriving by mail, and residents will see many new items popping up for the next several weeks.

A large quantity of toothpaste, deodorant,

November barge loaded with essentials, gift items

toothbrushes, shampoo, and other health and beauty aids have arrived and more are on the way. "[This] should keep us in stock so we don't have to stockpile," Jordan said.

Also a large shipment of Cascade is already on island, he said.

Other items on the November barge or arriving by mail include TVs and electronics, toys, Christmas wrap, bows and gift bags, Christmas cards, Nike clothes, bike accessories, La-Z-Boy furniture, videos, DVDs, CDs, Christmas music and movies, more Christmas trees, 600 bikes, books and games, and housewares.

Also arriving soon are lawn chairs, fishing poles, 35mm cameras, underwater cameras, dive gear and snorkeling vests.

Some items on the December barge: futons, Waterford crystal, Swarovski, Hanes T-shirts in many colors and sizes, fabric, dresses and other clothing, and housewares.

Soon to arrive by mail are RTS logo hats and shirts, Kwaj logo merchandise, Revlon cosmetics, women's and men's underwear and Christmas gift baskets. Plants are also due in this week.

Divinsky is meeting with managers from Costco, Walmart, Sam's Club and Home Depot to work on setting up an ordering process with them.

Old business

Regarding a previous question about flies in the snack bar, CW2 Wiley Blanton, CAC chairman, said that the manager is looking into getting an air curtain, but cost is an issue.

"We'll have an answer for the next meeting," Blanton said.

He also brought up a previous comment that the *Hourglass* was not being delivered to TDY and vacationing residents' boxes.

From now on, the students distributing the *Hourglass* will put the correct number of papers in a vacation tray to be delivered by a post office employee to the hold boxes, which are in a secure area.

In other business

- The film drop-off is in place at Ten-Ten.
- Hardcover books are on order for Ten-Ten.
- Nonfat, lowfat and sugar-free products are being added to the shelves.
- The theater sound system is hooked up in the Yuk theater on a trial basis. The others will go forward based on its success.

• Three Palms pizza delivery is from the terminal back through the housing area. There's still a \$10 minimum, and delivery ends at 9:30 p.m., Blanton said.

Representatives' questions

Sgt. Elizabeth Flores said that when people come in after church at 10:30 a.m. on Sunday and want brunch or lunch, the snack bar isn't serving food between 10:30 and 11 a.m., although it is posted as open. Reckling will look into this.

Representative Annette Alley asked about the club being closed Sunday nights for dinner. She said it's like being closed on a Saturday night back in the states, and thinks people would go out to dinner more on Sunday nights than Thursday nights.

Reckling said he is looking into that, but first, "I'd like to try to get the service standards back up again. Once we get doing right what we're doing—food, service and prices—then we can try some other things."

In answer to a question about using planes to fly in retail items, Blanton said, Divinsky is using the postal system to get things here that haven't been here for a while and to replace items that are critically short due to hoarding and ordering problems.

Jordan said that using planes to get merchandise here is only temporary until consumer confidence grows. "We're getting to the point where we don't have to hoard or buy on the Internet," he said.

The CAC meets quarterly to discuss consumer advisory issues, concerns or complaints as they relate to consumer issues and to discuss how they can make the services better, Blanton said. CAC representatives are to be the focal point for community members' concerns.

Birth

Zoe Elizabeth Martindale was born Tuesday, Nov. 6, at 2:08 p.m. at Kwajalein Hospital to parents Jack and Kim Martindale. Zoe was 8 pounds, 5 ounces at birth, and 22¼ inches long. Grandparents are Robin Martindale of Boone, N.C., and Sherry and Steve Burkett of Chambersburg, Md.



Bush, Putin summit doesn't threaten missile defense tests

(Associated Press, Nov. 16) The United States will push ahead with aggressive testing of missile defenses, White House officials said after President George W. Bush and Russian President Vladimir Putin ended their summit without agreement on the disputed program.

"The timeline has not really changed," national security adviser Condoleezza



Rice told reporters.

"The president continues to believe that he has got to move forward with the testing program in a robust way, so that we can really begin to evaluate the potential for missile defenses," Rice said.

Putin reaffirmed his opposition to testing any kind of a weapons system that could intercept missiles aimed at the United States and its allies. Such tests would violate the 1972 Anti-Ballistic Missile Treaty as it is currently interpreted.

Putin also said that, no matter what Bush does, "Under no circumstances could it lead to any tension in the relations between Russia and the United States." U.S. officials said they viewed the remark as a signal that Putin won't try to stand in the way of coming missile tests.

That understanding, however, fell far short of a formal deal to make the ABM flexible enough to allow testing, which had been Bush's hope for the summit.

The Bush administration . . . knows negotiations now are running out of time. "I think that everybody, including the Russians, understands that we're soon going to run up against certain constraints of the treaty," Rice said.

(Reprinted by permission of Ballistic Missile Defense Organization. Use of articles does not reflect official endorsement.)

RMI tourist industry trying to grow ...

(From page 1)

available just a short flight from Kwajalein is the reason that more residents do not plan to visit another atoll in the Marshalls.

Destinations

Which atoll to choose depends on what a person is looking for, Stege said.

"When you speak of the Marshall Islands, you speak of the best diving available as far as the healthiest coral and the best wreck diving in the world," Stege said. "I would say about 99.9 percent of the Marshall Islands underwater has never been seen by anyone ... If it's diving, [go to] Majuro, Arno or Jaluit."

Majuro is recommended for shopping and nightlife, along with diving and fishing — or just going for a long drive on 30 miles of roadway.

"You can get behind the wheel and drive," Stege said. "A pretty good souvenir is to get a Marshall Islands driving license while in Majuro."

History buffs should head to Mili, Jaluit or Likiep. Stege said many of the islands have remains of World War II battles, and tours are offered on Mili.

"Historically, Likiep is where the first members of the deBrum and Capelle families arrived in the 1850s," Stege said. "The U.S. Historical Preservation Society has declared the deBrum residence as a historical building ... It still contains all of the turn-of-the-century furniture, grandfather clocks and first-edition books."

A hands-on tour of a black pearl farm is given on Arno Atoll. Fishing and snorkeling are other activities available on all the atolls.

"You don't even have to charter a boat; you can cast off of the dock and have a great day fishing," Stege said. "Try spear fishing, too. That is usually best on the outer islands ... the fish don't run off."

"If it's just to get away and for the cultural experience, go to an outer island," Stege advised. "An outer island means any island that is not Majuro, Ebeye or Kwajalein."

Amenities and costs

"The [five] atolls we are featuring on this trip are hospitable ... all have hotels with fresh running water," Stege said. Costs of hotel or bungalows "depend on what your needs are. We have backpacker rates ranging from \$35 to \$100 a day."

Stege recommended that visitors contact MIVA to get in touch with local mayors, who can help lower accommodation costs.

Majuro has a variety of accommodations, while Arno has a hotel, a bed and breakfast and bungalow facilities near the black pearl farm.

Mili has nine bungalows, with separate baths and a common kitchen. Likiep has a 12-room hotel, with some rooms air-conditioned, while Jaluit has a hotel and smaller cottages.

Food is available at the hotels on the outer islands.

"Visitors can participate in catching the day's meal, if they wish," Stege said. "There are no restaurants on these atolls, except for Majuro, where there are 14 restaurants."

Jaluit, Majuro and Arno have dive operators who will provide rental equipment for both diving and snorkeling, along with diving services. On Arno, for example, it costs \$110 for a two-tank boat dive, which includes lunch.

If diving on Mili or Likiep, a visitor will need to bring everything required to dive or snorkel, Stege said.

How to get there

Continental, Aloha and Air Marshall Islands fly to Majuro, which can be used as a jumping-off point to the other four atolls. Purchased at least three days in advance, a round-trip ticket on Continental is \$216, while Aloha costs \$190, according to Continental Travel. AMI charges \$125 one-way.

Likiep can also be reached from Kwajalein via AMI for \$77 one-way. AMI flies from Majuro to Mili once a week and twice a week to Jaluit. Arno is a 45-minute boat ride from Majuro, three times a week.

The current prices and schedule of AMI flights can be picked up at the airport terminal AMI office or by calling 53469.

For more information on accommodations, activities and prices, Stege recommends that Kwajalein Atoll residents e-mail MIVA at tourism@ntamar.com or access MIVA's web site: www.yokweyuk.com.

"If you ever come to Majuro, a great place to get information would be at our office," Stege said. MIVA's phone number is (692) 625-6482.



Mark Stege

Crossing Borders

A Journey Into Vietnam and China

This is not the China of popular, modern myth.

There are no skyscrapers, just sheer cliffs that taper to jagged, irregular points, perpetually shrouded in wispy clouds. The crowds? Except for the odd pair or so of fellow hikers, our group of about a dozen international backpackers is the only large conglomeration of souls for miles around, it seems. *(Next page)*

Cover photo: A bridge on Hoan Kiem Lake in the heart of Hanoi, Vietnam.



An exotic-looking woman of the Flower Hmong ethnic tribe of northern Vietnam is caught on film unaware at a market.

Sean, our local guide, glides from the back of the pack to the front as we climb and scramble up and down the narrow, slippery trails of Tiger Leaping Gorge in Yunnan Province.

Half-Tibetan, half-mountain goat, Sean is a diminutive man with long, stringy black hair and a hyena laugh. His left arm is deformed, as if the upper half from the elbow had been squashed or melted, his hand like a lotus flower at the elbow, but still usable. During breaks in the trek, he is on a cell phone, checking weather reports, planning upcoming hikes and probably checking his stock reports.

Certainly not what we expected ... Then again, our expectations of China and Vietnam, where we spent the better part of five weeks traveling, were mostly shaped by guidebooks that exalted the cuisine and issued dire warnings against Chinese

bathrooms, which often are little more than slits in the ground that make gas station restrooms look like country clubs.

Vietnam is no Hollywood movie

But I'm getting a little ahead of myself. Our first stop was actually Hanoi, Vietnam, a city in perpetual motion. My first impressions of the city seem almost hallucinatory, following two days of plane rides that took us from Kwajalein to Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk, Guam, Taipei and Hong Kong, before arriving at about 2 a.m. at Hanoi's small international terminal.

From my journal, dated Aug. 2, 2001: "Shaken like a martini a few times, especially during the last flight from Hong Kong, as lightning flashed all around us like a strobe light at a rave party ... First impressions of Hanoi ... Horns and flashing bright lights

[from impatient motorists], near collisions; shanty towns less bleak than Peru's; motorbikes, scooters and bicycles — seemingly always at peril of being killed by a maniac car driver bleating wildly on his horn ...

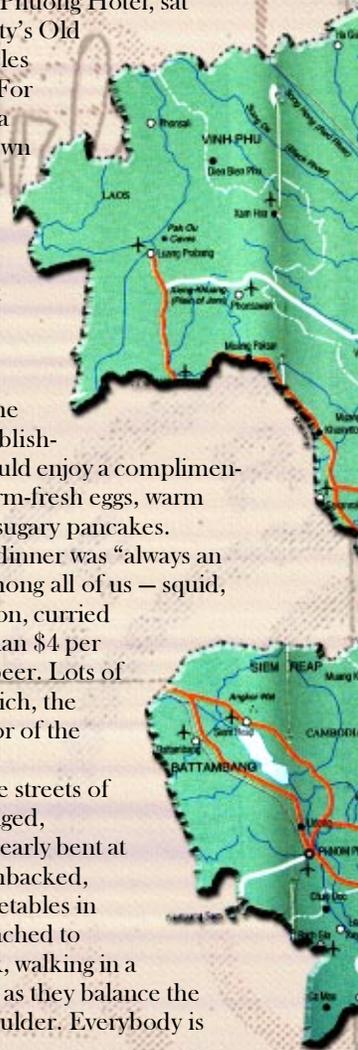
"An interesting confluence of the modern and the Vietnam of the movies — conical hats, cyclo cabs, bicycle trailers dangerously overburdened with everything from hay to beer kegs ... did I mention the horns? And rain, rain, rain ..."

But as we decompressed, the city came more into focus.

Our hotel, Nam Phuong Hotel, sat at the edge of the city's Old Quarter, which circles Hoan Kiem Lake. For something like \$16 a night, we had our own room with an attached bath and air conditioning, a necessity in the country's persistent and oppressive humidity. Each morning we would circle the block to the hotel's sister establishment, where we would enjoy a complimentary breakfast of farm-fresh eggs, warm French bread and sugary pancakes.

In the evenings, dinner was "always an elaborate buffet among all of us — squid, fish, wild pig, venison, curried vegetables ... less than \$4 per person, including beer. Lots of eggs, so fresh and rich, the yellows are the color of the rising sun."

Life is lived in the streets of the Old Quarter. Aged, wrinkled women, nearly bent at the waist and hunchbacked, carry fruits and vegetables in baskets that are attached to either end of a stick, walking in a sort of bouncy step as they balance the burden on one shoulder. Everybody is



**Story and photos by Peter Rejcek
Layout and design by Dan Adler and Peter Rejcek**



A woman tends water buffalo off the road from Hanoi, Vietnam

selling something; nearly every block is packed with tiny trinket shops and simple restaurants, where diners gather around low tables, nearly squatting next to the floor on short stools for meals of soup and meager pork dishes.

And everywhere there are markets, though we were generally leery of sampling the street stall foods. Another Aug. 2 entry: "Overwhelmed by a street market this afternoon that offered all manner of seafood and meats,

much of it still alive or in the process of butchery. We watched with grim curiosity the slaughter of a chicken by a woman — deftly holding its legs while slicing its throat open and pouring the blood into a bowl, which sat on the crowded pen of ducks and chickens. What a way to see your own fate ..."

Hanoi also assaulted our olfactory senses: "Street garbage, incense, humanity, street pollution, curry and many other smells I can't process. It alternates between vomitous and pleasant, often depending on where you are and how wet everything is."

August is still monsoon season in Vietnam. And by our third day in

Hanoi, preparing for an overnight visit to Halong Bay, a World Heritage Site, the rain had flooded the city, turning streets into knee-deep rivers. But the city pulsed on; cyclists and mopeds slogged on through, while everyone pulled out

clear plastic rain ponchos in an effort to stay dry.

Halong Bay

Naturally, to escape the wet weather we headed to the coast and the Gulf of Tonkin, specifically Halong Bay, via mini-bus, a ride as terrifyingly dangerous as a Mad Max road race across the desert. The countryside blur included jade-green rice paddies, children riding atop water buffaloes and the ubiquitous mopeds, motorcycles and



Left: The mundane life of those living on Halong Bay, Vietnam, seems exotic to the foreign visitor.

Below: The conglomeration of the familiar pointy hats of Vietnam is found in the streets of Hanoi.



bicyclists that were forever being lapped by the larger vehicles. If there was one rule of the road — and I doubted there were many rules — it was right of tonnage.

Halong Bay lives up to its World Heritage billing. About 3,000 pinnacle islands crowd the bay, somewhat resembling Palau's rock islands, but larger and not quite as lush. Our little tour, for somewhere in the neighborhood of 500,000 dong (about \$30), not only included the bus ride to the bay, but a cruise through the islands and an overnight stay at Cat Ba Island, the largest and most populated of the group.

From our hotel, we could look down into the harbor, where hundreds of boats made up a floating village. Aug. 4, 2001: "Up early this morning (5 a.m.) but mostly slept through the night, my body finally adjusting to Vietnam's rhythm ... Then out to the bay, where a flotilla city of boats — fishing, houses, taxis, restaurants, even a gas station — sit. For 40,000 dong (less than \$3) we spent an hour of leisurely cruising this floating organism — people squatting and brushing their teeth, cooking breakfast, selling wares from their boats, waving at the oddball tourists staring at them and clicking

their cameras rapidly; carrying out the daily chores of their lives — mundane to them, exotic and incomprehensible to me ...

"Our taxi driver apparently lives in his little dinghy, maybe 12 to 14 feet long. Under his rowing bench is stowed (I guess) all of his worldly possessions — from the corner, peeking out behind a blue tarp, I glimpsed a plastic cup with comb and toothbrush ..."

These are a poor people, yet they smile, often toothless, and laugh.

Sapa and sales

We returned for a couple of more days in Hanoi, where we joined our organized tour that would take us from the city through northern Vietnam and into southern China. Using what's called a backpacker tour (i.e., cheap with little frills), our group consisted of about a dozen people, from America, Canada, the U.K., Switzerland, Italy and, of course, Australia. (Apparently, Australians are the roving ambassadors of the Western world. Most Asians we met simply assumed we were Australian, despite an obvious lack of accent and a distaste for vegemite, the penultimate Aussie condiment.)

Our first and most challenging moment of

(Next page)

A floating village provides a unique way of life for residents of Halong Bay, Vietnam.



group bonding probably occurred during an overnight train ride from Hanoi to Lao Chi, near the Vietnam-China border. To those familiar with train travel in Europe, an “express” ride on the rails in Vietnam could be called adventurous or atrocious, depending on your sense of humor.

Recalling an Aug. 6 journal entry, the train ride was a “mixture of heat, cramped spaces and herky-jerky jostling and frequent stops.

“Sometime during the night ... at one of the stations, we had a prowler climbing on the screen window at our compartment. One of the popular nighttime activities is to reach through a gap in the screen and try to grab something from a sleeping passenger.” A quick bang on the screen sent the fellow scampering away, but the incident turned an already fitful sleep into an all-night vigil.

But Sapa, an hour bus ride from Lao Chi, is worth a week of such travel conditions. A small town at over 3,000 feet in elevation — reached by a slow, winding bus or jeep ride from the train station — Sapa is a perfect place to waste day after day trekking through rich countryside and time-forgotten villages. The area is home to several hill tribes, people called the Hmong, Tay and Zho, who dress in elaborate and colorful costumes.

Upon arriving at our guesthouse, we were immediately introduced to a strain of the

Hmong people called the Black Hmong, for their dark clothing. What must have been a score of young girls swallowed our group as we wearily got out of the mini-buses. In impressive English, the girls began asking us our names, our country of origin and other bits of personal history. Our new friends then quickly started peddling their wares, from jewelry (bracelets and necklaces of heavy, roughly shaped metals) to brightly colored clothes that they dye an indigo blue. The dye is all over their skinny hands, arms and legs — and can get all over you unless it is set correctly.

The novelty and attention by these young entrepreneurs quickly grew tiresome.

By Aug. 8, I wrote in desperation: “A quick trip through town quickly turns into an obstacle race as diminutive Black Hmong and the taller, red-turbaned Zho scurry after us, clutching at us with their blue-dyed hands, broken, stained fingernails ... It’s like a school for Amway salesmen. The little girls are the worst — so very cute, they make a point of learning your name, and soon every Black Hmong is saying, ‘Peter, you buy from me. You buy from me.’”

But if we thought these cherubic youngsters were tough, we weren’t quite ready for the hard sell that we found in China ...

(For the rest of the story, see part two of this travelogue next Tuesday.)

Before You Go

Documents: American tourists will need to get a visa for entry into Vietnam. Visas are valid for 30 days, and should cost \$45. Passports must be sent along with a visa application to a Vietnamese embassy. There are several online agencies that will perform this service, though the cost is as much as the visa itself. However, this may be worth it, especially if you plan on traveling to more than one destination in Asia. Bangkok makes an excellent base to secure visas for most other parts of Southeast Asia, as well.

Getting There: Lots of options. We took Continental to Guam and then used the Internet (www.ticketplanet.com) to get there and back for about \$1,000.

Where to Stay: There are plenty of accommodations in Hanoi in the \$10 to \$20 range or so, though it’s possible to spend much more. Try www.asia-hotels.com.

Getting Around: Don’t try to drive yourself, unless you have the heart of a motorcross driver. Public transportation is scary but cheap.

Native American culture keys on 'oneness' with Earth ...

(From page 1)

Native American culture, history and identity. He spoke of the Choctaw Trail of Tears, which began about seven years before the more infamous dislocation of the Cherokees in 1838. In fact, the phrase is believed to have been coined by a Choctaw chief, who called the 1831 removal of his people, a "Trail of Tears and Death."

Echoing this year's theme of "Our Children, Our Nations, Our Future," Leeper again emphasized the duality of the Native American: "I have two nations, and like you, I look to my children for the future."

The federal government, in fact, recognizes the Choctaw nation as a sovereign government, among other Native American nations. And thanks to today's leaders, it is a nation that is prospering and standing on its own, Leeper said. One can even find the Choctaw language on the Internet, Leeper mused.

"It's come a long way," he said of the culture.

Perhaps the culture's most enduring legacy is a metaphysical one.

"The one characteristic the Indians had, that I always related to, is oneness to the Earth,"



Teacher Madelain Westermann holds the microphone for Stephanie Premo, who is quoting Chief Seattle during Friday's heritage month luncheon at the Yokwe Yuk Club honoring Native Americans.

(Photo by Peter Rejcek)

he said.

"It is the land of the people; it does not belong to us," he added, referring to the sentiments expressed by the famous Chief Seattle. Seattle once said, "Humankind has not woven the web of life. We are but one thread within it. Whatever we do to the web, we do to ourselves. All

things are bound together. All things connect."

Seattle's sagacious words were repeated during the one-hour event by Madelain Westermann's third-grade class, who performed dances for the luncheon audience. Gwyne Copeland served as master of ceremonies for the event.

Library to expand next year ...

(From page 1)

square feet for library space. Where and when those offices are moved is still under discussion, though Col. Curtis L. Wrenn Jr., USAKA commander, said he wanted the office shift to be completed by June 30 of next year to make way for the library expansion.

Pat Wanslow, Grace Sherwood librarian, explained that the library used to occupy more space, but has been chipped away at over the years. She said the proposed additions would be used for a separate children's section, storage and regular library materials. The added square footage would also make plenty of room for a planned cybercafé. That project will go ahead as planned, according to Steve Snider, Community Activities acting manager.

"When the expansion takes place, we'll be able to develop it accordingly," Snider said of the cybercafé. Community Activities is purchasing four new computers that will have VDSL lines, making the connection

80 times faster than the dial-up connections residents have at home, Snider said. The computers currently at the library will be moved to the UPRC, Snider said, adding that the upgrade should happen after the first of the year.

Expanding the library east was only one of several options on the table to increase its work space. Another possibility was pushing the library west into the Community Activities offices, but that was probably more space than was needed, according to Wayne Cornell, Facilities Support Division manager. Also, finding enough office space to relocate the staff made that a less attractive option, he said.

A third scenario had the library switching places with the UPRC. For now, that alternative has been dropped.

In the meantime, Wanslow and library staff "deep cleaned" the library over the weekend for tomorrow's reopening. The new video library section, located just to the right of the main entrance, is now open for business, as well.

Island stuffed with turkeys and trimmings for holiday

By Peter Rejcek
Associate Editor

The mother of all feasts is coming Thursday, and there's plenty of food for everybody.

Cafe Pacific executive chef George Haws is expecting a bigger than normal crowd this year, thanks to the upcoming IFT-7 operation. Mission personnel, as well as Army soldiers with the 25th Infantry, will bring their appetites to the table this Thanksgiving. Haws said the chow hall is expecting as many as 1,000 people. Normally, it prepares enough food for about 600 or so, he said.

Staff will be cooking about 900 pounds of turkey. There will also be about 300 pounds of shrimp cocktail, along with a dessert display, fruit and cheese display, vegetables, carved roasted steamship round and all the trimmings.

"We're all geared up and ready to go," Haws said.

The holiday meal begins at 10:30 a.m. for unaccompanied personnel. The doors open at 1 p.m. for the rest of the community. Cost for accompanied personnel and families: \$12.95 for adults, \$6.50 for kids ages 6-12, and \$3.50 for children 5 and under.

At Surfway, the store is stocked with about 10,000 pounds of turkey and 3,000 pounds of ham, according to Ray Denham, store manager. The store also has fresh cranberries.

"[Customers] are just now starting to come in [for turkeys]," Denham said.

Classified Ads and Community Notices

HELP WANTED

The following on-island positions are open with Raytheon. For more information or to submit a resumé or application, call HR employment, Andrea Dixon, 53705.

INVENTORY MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST. Temporary full time. Research and review stock material requests with supported customers; research items in federal and Web-based systems to ensure accurate catalog information; work with acquisition and procurement staffs to update catalog database; optimize stock levels for items using material requirements planning (MRP) and inventory control techniques. Individual must have strong PC and administration skills and be fluent in English and able to work independently.

Raytheon off-island positions are updated weekly in the Career Opportunities Book at the HR counter, Bldg. 700.

WANTED

BICYCLE, basic, durable all-terrain type, for short person, will buy. Call 58172.

HARRY POTTER book No. 4, "The Goblet of Fire," in paperback, to borrow or buy. Call Mary, 52793.

"**HEARTBREAK HOTEL**" CD by Sha Na Na, to borrow, plus copy of the song "Blue Moon" for activity. Call Ric, 54200.

FOR SALE

YAMAHA "STAGE CUSTOM" eight-piece drum set, excellent condition, with Zildjian cymbals, all hardware, accessories and carrying cases, \$1,850. Call Stephan, 51077, after 7 p.m.

LADIES HUFFY bike with basket and lock, \$40; bike seat, \$5; radio, \$5. Call 53782.

BEAUTIFUL REDWOOD deck, 12' x 16', with railing, plenty of extra redwood and treated lumber to add on, additional hardware, stain, plenty of aluminum and galvanized piping to build a cover, \$2,000 for all.

Small Arms Range Notice

The small arms range will be in operation by USAKA soldiers and support soldiers from the 25th Infantry tomorrow, 7:30 a.m. until completion. Avoid the hazard area shown below.

All watercraft observe the red flags on the southwest end of the island.



Call 54184H or 53331W.

ELECTRONIC rowing machine, make an offer. Call 53387, days, or 52597, after 5 p.m.

CYCLE-OPS indoor bike trainer, excellent condition, great for Rustman training, \$125. Call 53875.

KWAJ-condition bike, \$30. Call 54733.

LARGE ENTERTAINMENT center, \$100; Toro Blow and Vac with extension cord, \$30; cordless weed eater, \$10; Toastmaster electric knife, like new, \$7; Kwaj-condition bike, \$20; wooden picnic table, see in front yard of Qtrs. 401-B, \$20; Fisher Price kitchen set, \$20. Call 52669.

BOATHOUSE, 20' X 8' aluminum trailer, 8' x 8' plywood shed with power and water, \$1,000. Call 58890H or 58989W.

CRYSTAL BRANDY glasses, six large, \$34 each, six small, \$29 each; crystal decanter, \$175. Call 52197.

END TABLE, purchased at Macy's, \$40; ladies beginner rollerblades, like new, size 7, with knee/arm pads and gloves, \$35. Call 52639.

55-GALLON black acrylic aquarium with oak stand and complete accessories, \$300 or best offer; blue blinds for old housing, \$5 each; single jogging stroller, \$20; double conventional curtain rod, 66"-120", \$10; redwood for fencing; large snorkeling vest,

\$10. Call 54558.

BABY ITEMS: clothes, nine-12 months, toys, bouncy chair, baby food with three-tier organizer rack; kitchen items: table with four chairs and matching wine rack, toaster oven, plastic bowls, pans, Longaberger hunter green kitchen chair pads with four valances; four cushioned lawn chairs, two Kwaj-condition bikes. Call 52667.

TWO ADULT tricycles, \$150-\$250. Call 52201.

CARD TABLE and chairs, \$35; computer desk, \$20; old foam mattress, king-size, \$35; microwave, no light, \$50; old laser disc player, \$20. Call 52815.

COMMUNITY NOTICES

RELAY FOR LIFE team leader meeting is Nov. 27, 7 p.m., in CRC Room 1. Everyone interested in being a team leader should attend. Questions? Call Beverly Schmidt, 52728W or 52470H.

ATTENTION ISLAND ladies! The annual Yokwe Yuk Women's Club Christmas Exchange Party with the Ebye Women's Club is Dec. 8, 6:30 p.m., in the Yuk Club. Cost of the dinner is \$16.50 plus a gift to exchange. Sign up now for this unforgettable night of fun. Seating is limited. For reservations, call Brigitte, 52641.

FUTURE COMMUNITY surveys will be done

Classified Ads and Community Notices

KYC's Beer Can Race

Sunday, Dec. 2, 1 p.m., at Small Boat Marina

Hot dogs after the race at the clubhouse

The graphic features a red beer can with a yellow sun and a white sailboat on top, set against a blue background.

electronically through e-mail. Adults on Kwajalein and Roi-Namur who would like to be included, but are not on the Kwaj nets, can submit their home e-mail address to USAKA Operations by calling Gwyne Copeland, 54224, or e-mail at gwyne.copeland@usaka.smdc.army.mil.

IF YOU borrowed the Yokwe Yuk Women's Club Santa suit last year, return to Qtrs. 203-A.

MARK YOUR calendars. Yokwe Yuk Women's Club Holiday Tour of Homes is Sunday, Dec. 23. Tickets on sale soon. Questions? Call Dianne, 55990.

ALLCOMMERCIAL and private organization's

requests/fundraisers must be submitted to USAKA Community Services no later than two weeks prior to the event. Late requests will not be accepted due to staffing issues. Request forms are on the mini-mall bulletin board. Mail to: Community Services, P.O. Box 26, Local. For more information, call Pamela Dykema, 53400.

KWAJALEIN YACHT Club's monthly meeting is Saturday, 6:30 p.m., at the clubhouse. Cheeseburgers and side dishes provided.

YOKWE YUK Women's Club needs tools and hardware for the Outer Island Christmas Drop. Donate at Qtrs. 126-C or call

University of Maryland

HIST 319E: The Remarkable Sixties
(location is Kwajalein)

Dr. Douglas Franklin

Monday, Dec. 3, 10 a.m.-3 p.m.
(with one-hour lunch break)

Tuesday, Dec. 4, 6-9 p.m.

Wednesday, Dec. 5, 6-9 p.m.

Thursday, Dec. 6, 6-9 p.m.

Friday, Dec. 7, 6-9 p.m.

Registration on Kwajalein at the UMUC office, Bldg. 368:
Today through Saturday, Dec. 1, 1-5 p.m.

UMUC office is closed Thanksgiving Day and Friday.

52115 for pickup.

COMMUNITY CHORUS is rehearsing tonight, 6:30 p.m., in the high school music room. Date is changed due to Thanksgiving.

DUE TO equipment failure, oil/sealing will not be done on Ninth Street as previously announced. FOM will notify the community of the next scheduled date. FOM apologizes for any inconvenience.

SMALL BOAT Marina is open Thursday, 8 a.m.-1 p.m. Normal hours resume Friday, Nov. 23.

HOBBY SHOP users: It's fall cleaning time. Identify any personal projects and materials to the coordinator by the end of this month so they will not be disposed of. Questions? Call Julie, 51700.

ROI-NAMUR BACHELOR ADVISORY COUNCIL meeting is Wednesday, Nov. 28, 1 p.m., in C Building. Council members from each BQ building are solicited. Unaccompanied personnel wishing to have input into this meeting should contact their representatives. All Roi-Namur residents are invited to attend. For additional information, call Community Services, 53400. Roi-Namur representatives are as follows: Ajax, vacant; Sprint, Tim Gernold; Apache, Robert Kersch; Nike, Dino Lakjohn; Spartan, Rick Everette; A Building, Gwen Cardoos; B Building, Trina Roynce; Trailers, Joseph Woods.

SURFSIDE

BEAUTY SALON

Say thanks on Thanksgiving with a gift certificate to Surfside Salon

The advertisement features a vertical stack of circles containing the letters S, U, R, F, S, I, D, E. To the right is a stylized illustration of a woman's face with long, wavy hair.

See you at the movies!

Saturday

The Santa Clause (1994, PG)

Everyman Scott Calvin surprises Santa Claus while the Jolly Elf is on the roof, preparing to come down the chimney with his gifts. But Santa slips and falls dead at Scott's feet. So it's up to Scott to don the red suit and finish the job he interrupted. (Tim Allen) (95 minutes)

Richardson Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Scary Movie II (2001, R)

Horror of horrors: The Wayans clan is back with a sequel of their successful movie parody of horror flicks. This time around the parody focuses on "The Haunting" when a group of students participate in a series of sleep deprivation experiments being conducted by a demented college professor in a haunted house. (Anna Faris, Tim Curry, Tori Spelling, Shawn Wayans, Marlan Wayans) (80 minutes)

Yokwe Yuk Theater, 8 p.m.

Lara Croft: Tomb Raider (2001, PG-13)

The popular video game heroine hits the big screen. (Angelina Jolie, Jon Voight) (98 minutes)

Tradewinds Theater, 8 p.m.

Sunday

Lara Croft: Tomb Raider (2001, PG-13)

Richardson Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Scary Movie II (2001, R)

Tradewinds Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Monday

Lara Croft: Tomb Raider (2001, PG-13)

Richardson Theater, 7:30 p.m.

Scary Movie II (2001, R)

Yokwe Yuk Theater, 8 p.m.

For the latest updates, call the
Movie Hotline, 52700



(Photo by KW Hillis)

With the help of her 4-year-old daughter Audrey, Lynn Cagle looks for Christmas presents at the Mic Shop stall during Monday's Kwajalein Art Guild Fall Holiday Faire.

Faire attracts droves of holiday shoppers

By KW Hillis
Feature Writer

From one-of-a-kind jewelry, paintings, pottery and holiday decorations to mass-produced T-shirts and kitschy shell lights, residents found plenty of presents for their Christmas trees this year. In CRC room 1, the Micronesian Shop drew in a huge crowd of buyers for their popular woven and wooden items.

"I'm looking for good ideas for presents to send home," Son Pham said while looking at carved wooden dolphins from Pohnpei.

Traditionally, holiday shopping for relatives and friends in the states occurs a month before

Christmas—just in time to wrap and get presents in the mail for a stateside pre-Christmas delivery. The faire is also a good time to pick up something special for local family or friends.

"I'm trying to find a present for my mom," said 10-year-old Ben Ouder Kirk, clutching a \$20 bill and scanning each table carefully for the perfect gift.

Not everyone was just Christmas shopping. "We're both Christmas shopping and [getting things] so years from now we have a piece of the Marshall Islands," said Stephanie Finley, as she purchased a string of shell lights from Bruce Johnson.

WEATHER
Courtesy of Aeromet

Tonight: Mostly cloudy with widely scattered showers.

Winds: East-northeast to east at 8 to 12 knots, with gusts to 24 knots near showers.

Tomorrow: Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

Winds: Northeast to east at 8 to 12 knots, with higher gusts near showers.

Temperature: Tonight's low 79°
Tomorrow's high 87°

November rain total: 9.95"

Annual rain total: 64.19"

Annual deviation: -25.95"

Call 54700 for continuously updated forecasts and sea conditions.



Sun • Moon • Tides



	Sunrise/set	Moonrise/set	High Tide	Low Tide
Tuesday November 20	0643/1826	1056/2249	0640, 3.9' 1855, 4.9'	0052, 1.2' 1223, 1.5'
Wednesday November 21	0644/1826	1145/2340	0720, 3.5' 1935, 4.4'	0134, 1.6' 1255, 1.9'
Thursday November 22	0644/1826	1230/	0819, 3.2' 2033, 4.0'	0229, 2.0' 1339, 2.4'
Friday November 23	0645/1826	1312/0028 1st quarter	1030, 3.1' 2223, 3.7'	0402, 2.2' 1528, 2.7'