

1 University for a (audience interruption) years, majored in
2 computer science and business administration.

3 He has a few employment information -- business
4 services; shop owner; and manager; photojournalist for three
5 California newspapers; and IP tech support for internet service
6 providers; self-employed in graphic and photo services.

7 And his interests include: Karate, he's a black belt
8 candidate for (audience interruption) and cycling. On and off
9 cycling is one of these interests.

10 Well, I'll let him speak, and I'll continue on after
11 his speech. Okay? Aenet.

12 Yokwe.net

13 BY MR. AENET ROWA:

14 Some of you might wonder why a Marshallese living in
15 California. Please understand, in the conference, Micronesian,
16 focus of Micronesians in Hawai`i. (Indiscernible) when Dr.
17 Hanson invited me.

18 Let me read to you something that former and late
19 senator (indiscernible) posted on the web site. It was what
20 (indiscernible). He called it -- I'm sorry. I'll just go to
21 this message.

22 We Marshallese are no longer bound by the traditional
23 boundaries (indiscernible) Marshall Islands. That's
24 (indiscernible) because of wonders like the internet,
25 telecommunications and technology. This is the link, the

1 (indiscernible) force that hopefully will tie to keep up
2 together as (indiscernible) scattered around the globe. This is
3 a new waters (indiscernible) tomorrow.

4 These prophetic words answer the question why I'm here
5 today. (Speaking in foreign language) April 1998 continues to
6 serve Marshallese in Hawai`i, the Mainland, all over the world,
7 including (indiscernible) back in the islands.

8 (Indiscernible) our resources. We are not limited by
9 state or national boundary, only by our owning willingness for
10 change.

11 Today, I'd like to talk previously from my experience
12 about things that have helped us to make communication, make it
13 available to the people. There are four things that I'd like to
14 talk about: Maintain, retain, sustain, and transform.

15 Maintain (indiscernible), the main factor for success.
16 In our case, focusing on small and narrow audience has provided
17 us comfort zone for Marshallese and for Marshallese people
18 (indiscernible) on the internet. Call it their home. These
19 have made Marshallese very comfortable in sharing information
20 with us and for us to keep up the information that we get from
21 them.

22 What is the (indiscernible). Such as (audience
23 interruption), labor abuse, immigration problems,
24 (indiscernible) or about why the nature such as (indiscernible).
25 The Marshallese perspective for home. We have to keep the

1 Marshallese perspective the foremost because (indiscernible)
2 otherwise we won't get their trust.

3 And when we get the (indiscernible), we need to share.
4 We give (indiscernible) share. That's not only from the people
5 (indiscernible). (Indiscernible) nongovernmental organizations.
6 We need the funds to ask. We need the funds to post the
7 information. Let the people know.

8 It's our responsibility to share that information.
9 (Indiscernible) I like the power of a web-based community.
10 During, before, and after the elections, I maintain a form.
11 (Indiscernible) legislation block with breaking news as it was
12 happening in the islands. As the news was happening, our
13 spokesman and people were coming in with the news. And that's
14 the point. We want to get the information out.

15 There were (indiscernible) posted on our
16 (indiscernible). (Indiscernible). And at the same time, the
17 people were keeping information for research. There was a
18 (indiscernible), picture. We like to post pictures. We
19 encourage people (indiscernible). (Indiscernible) help some
20 service provider. People like to help if you ask them for help.

21 And something I learned from this morning -- and I
22 never heard of this -- (indiscernible) service provider, how to
23 try to get the information from the people. Well, we could
24 usually (indiscernible). It's really cheap. It's available.
25 And really the younger people go for that kind of stuff. So we

1 encourage people to do that.

2 Even the younger audience, because this is your place,
3 you (indiscernible) come for yourself as you want it, the way
4 you want it. (Indiscernible) We try to do it as much we can.
5 And we also need the help from the -- me, myself as a web
6 master, I always ask for permission from people to go online.

7 If you were not here yesterday, you missed a great
8 presentation that was given by Ben Graham. It's already on our
9 web site. You can download p-t-t-p-t-s-f-t-p. And
10 (indiscernible). Already, we have posted last night or couple
11 nights ago. I'm sorry, (indiscernible).

12 So the information web moves fast. We have to move
13 really fast. We wait longer, and it (indiscernible). I found
14 that out. By (indiscernible) that same night, I missed the
15 opportunity.

16 So that's why I always say if you have the
17 information, give it to me right now and I'll post it. And
18 people (indiscernible) they'll do that. And that might help
19 some of you folks, uh, providers today as you try to
20 (indiscernible). You can go through the internet connection.

21 (Indiscernible) for the web site. That's number two.
22 Earlier on, I decided on noncommercial advertisement format. In
23 doing so, we just (indiscernible) concern. Making money is
24 not -- although I like money, just like everybody else.

25 I (indiscernible) information out, laid out with the

1 people (indiscernible), whoever (indiscernible). All
2 (indiscernible) on our web site are accessible to the general
3 public. But only thing (indiscernible) people to do is post
4 (indiscernible). That's because (indiscernible) I open it up.
5 You'll get all those crazies from all over the world
6 (indiscernible), and that's not what we want. And also by doing
7 that, we also make it comfortable for people. They know that we
8 trust them; they can trust us.

9 What material we put on the web site is
10 (indiscernible). It's very important (indiscernible) the front
11 page. Go down a little bit, it's all about news. Nothing is
12 posted by anybody else, but me. And by doing that,
13 (indiscernible) that goes on the web site, I double-check to
14 make sure it's factual.

15 And that is (indiscernible). And that is what we're
16 doing. We're trying to (indiscernible) the information.
17 (Indiscernible) do that, we're successful. Even if we don't get
18 money, we're successful.

19 If you look at the (indiscernible) of our web site, it
20 says everything Marshall Islands. But (indiscernible) narrow.
21 We want everything Marshall Islands. We have narrowed it down.

22 So many people have asked me, if this is a Marshall
23 islands web site, why is it in English? (Indiscernible). Two
24 reasons why, what I call -- (speaking in foreign language).
25 Everything that is put on the web site, since five years now, is

1 because (indiscernible) as news, as a source for Marshallese.

2 (Indiscernible) and Marshall Islands, you'll see all
3 our news. (Indiscernible). We put the news on. That's why
4 it's in English. If it was in Marshallese only, only
5 Marshallese would understand. But the Marshallese have friends
6 and (indiscernible) as well. And the Micronesians are your
7 friends as well.

8 Number 3. (Indiscernible). Like I said earlier, we
9 welcome material from government offices, NGOs, and community
10 groups. We (indiscernible) that information without charge.
11 This month we posted a story from (indiscernible) society, a
12 (Indiscernible) traditional Marshallese music.

13 And an American teacher in Washington state
14 (indiscernible) web site and saw the information. She's working
15 with some kindergarten kids, and she mailed and asked me for
16 information. I was able to give her some contacts. That is a
17 success story. (Indiscernible). Same thing.

18 And No. 4, and it's the last one, it's transforming
19 the coconut wire. I have found that because the digital
20 providers (indiscernible) resources, but the lack of commitment
21 to change the way of doing things.

22 The problem is there. (Indiscernible) no longer
23 there. The days of coconut wire are over, are almost over.
24 Internet communication technology is here. We need to accept
25 it. We need to learn to live with it.

