

Nuclear tests worry Pacific islanders

By Helen Connell
of The Free Press

People in the South Pacific say that when the "big boys" sneeze the islanders catch the flu.

The "big boys" are the governments of the United States, France and Japan, which have picked the Pacific paradise to play one of the most lethal games known to man, and the islanders fear they are the ones who will do the dying.

Tufuga Pule, treasurer of the Congregational Christian Church in Western Samoa, and Rev. Allan Nafuki of Vanuatu were in



TUFUGA PULE
--- 'why don't they use New York?'

London Friday on a cross-Canada tour to express their concern about nuclear testing and weapon storage in the area. Their trip is being sponsored by the United Church of Canada.

"We are here especially to tell you that we down in the South Pacific want a nuclear-free zone," Nafuki said. "We want to make it clear to the world there are six million people on these little islands."

Nafuki said U.S. scientists have assured them there is no danger to the island population but he said his people know differently.

"The effects have been our people are dying because of skin diseases."
He said the fishing industry is diminish-



REV. ALLAN NAFUKI
--- wants nuclear-free zone

ing and the islands are becoming more and more dependent on food imports.

"One island is already sinking. . . . This is the result of testing of French bombs."

Pule added, "If it is true that this is safe and that no harm will come to humans, why don't they use Tokyo as the nuclear dumping site? Why don't they use New York City for a nuclear storage site and why don't they use Paris, France, as a nuclear testing zone.?"

Nafuki said a number of the islands are colonies of the nuclear testing and storing countries, making it even more difficult to fight them. He said as they become independent, as Vanuatu did two years ago, they will have a stronger voice.

He said the islanders want to use that voice to join a growing international protest against nuclear expansion by the world powers.

Pule said the purpose of his and Nafuki's visit is not to tell Canadians what to do but "we must share our concerns."

It was white missionaries who brought the Christian faith to the islands and Nafuki said it is people from these same nations who now threaten the future of the islands.

"They brought us peace and justice and now they bring us injustice and no peace."

Pule concedes the "the big boys hardly listen to us," but, he added, "all we can do is pray that some day the Holy spirit will speak to those big nations and tell them to consider the people who live in those islands."

Brown's

Get well wishes go out to Mr. Chester West, who is still a patient in Victoria Hospital in London. Our thoughts are with you Chester and we hope you will soon be able to be home.

Miss Heather West of Saudi Arabia is spending three weeks, with her mother and visiting her father, who is a patient in hospital.

The first of the Institute Euchres will be held at Brown's this Thursday night at 8:30 p.m. Everyone is welcome.

Mr. and Mrs. Reg. Harris visited with Mr. and Mrs. Jack Clark, in Woodingford Lodge, Woodstock, last Sunday.

November 10, 1982

Browns

Mrs. Chester West and Monty attended the Brant-Oxford Ayrshire Banquet at Mount Vernon United Church last Friday night where Monty received the award for the highest score for a 4-H Ayrshire calf in Oxford County.

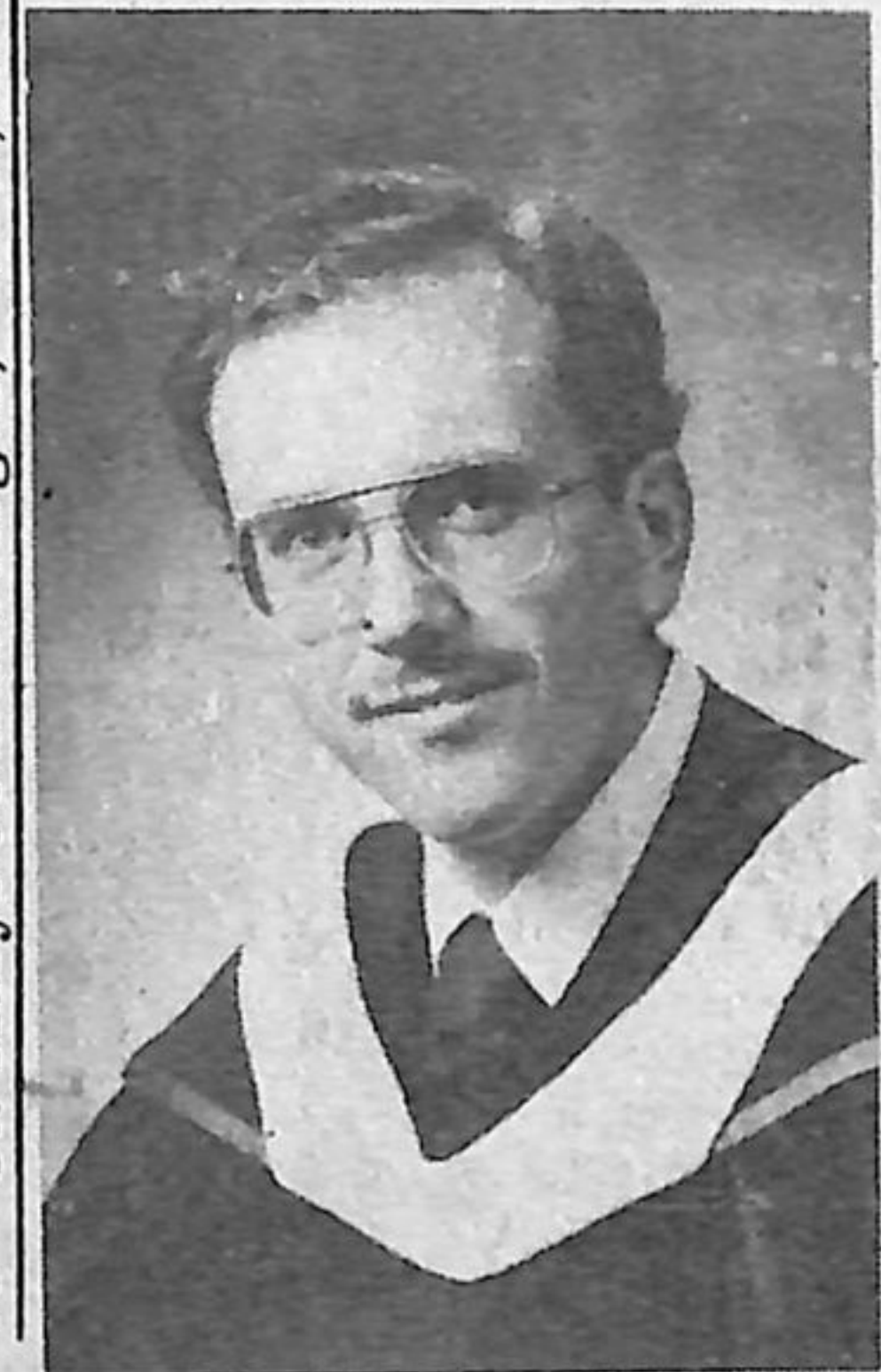
The community was shocked and saddened to learn of the sudden passing of Mr. Chester West in Victoria Hospital on Monday.

The community extends its sincere sympathy to his wife Joyce and family. Mr. West farmed at Medina for several years.

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Recent Graduate



DAVID MOORE, son of Rev. and Mrs. Wm. J. Moore of St. Marys, received his Bachelor of Arts degree in Psychology at the Autumn convocation of the University of Western Ontario held Oct. 30. Dave is presently attending Emmanuel College, Victoria University, Toronto, where he is studying towards his degree in Theology in preparation for the ministry.