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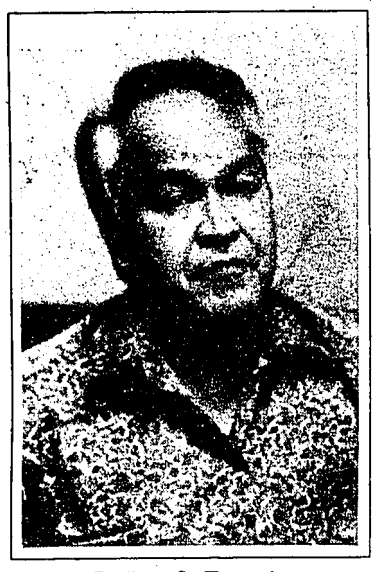
50¢

$500 worker fee soon



Froilan C. Tenorio

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio yesterday disclosed he will push for the immediate imposition of a $500 nonresident workers fee unless the Legislature comes up with an acceptable tax reform proposal that could raise the needed revenues for government.

"They just got to act on this tax bill," the governor said, referring to a 20% interim surtax measure. If not, I will instruct my people to finalize the $500 non-resident worker fee as soon as possible. I am just fed up," he said in a news conference yesterday.

Tenorio yesterday aired disappointment at the tax reform bill being considered by the Legislature as it only imposes a 10% surtax, half of the percentage rate he wants.

Given that, the chief executive said he would immediately pursue a plan to raise the worker fees.

Currently, the fee charged for alien labor applications, new and renewals, is at $200 per non-resident worker. With about 25,000 non-resident workers in the Commonwealth, the fees collected at such a rate could amount to over $5 million.

Tenorio in an earlier press conference said a new set of regulations is just about ready for immediate promulgation if and when the tax reform proposal that comes out of the Legislature fails to generate at least $25 million.

He said he will only rescind such a regulation if the approved tax reform measure could raise at least $25 million in additional revenues.

According to the governor then, the additional amount to be raised with the worker fee hike would be used mainly to retire the deficit, while operations will be funded by regular tax collections.

The $500 non-resident worker fee, stiff as it may seem to the business community, is a lot more "conservative" compared to what the governor earlier planned on doing.

An earlier interview with Governor Tenorio had the chief executive disclosing plans of raising the fee up to $1,000 per worker, not only as a means to raise revenues but also to discourage hir-

Continued on page 19

Only 20% surtax is okay for governor

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio yesterday said he would not accept the latest tax reform bill currently under consideration at the House of Representatives if it would only impose something less than a 20% surtax.

At the same time, he indicated plans of pushing through with regulations to increase non-resident worker application fees up to $500 per person to help generate the needed revenues if the House does not act on a 20% surtax measure.

During a press conference yesterday, the governor sounded irritated upon learning that the new bill being studied by the House of

Continued on page 20

Saipan International School parent Yoshiko Hayashi, right, ties a headband around the head of her daughter, Maria in yesterday's Christmas Open House at the San Jose school. Eight-year-old Maria represented her country in yesterday's affair. Several other countries were featured during the event where guests and parents were briefed about each country, its historical landmarks, culture as well as food.

Employers here being abused, too -- Senator

By Rafael H. Arroyo
Variety News Staff

SENATOR Paul A. Manglona yesterday wrote Philippine Senator Gloria Macapagal pointing out that Filipino employees are not the only ones vulnerable to abuse in the CNMI.

In a letter date December 14, Manglona pointed out there are also incidents where employers are also being abused but that they are not as well-protected as the workers.

"Admittedly, our system needs improvement, but your citizens can find justice here. Guest workers can easily file a complaint and under our current system, the law actually favors the employee over the employer," said Manglona.

Manglona wrote Macapagal apparently in response to the latter's remarks critical of the alien labor situation in the CNMI.

Macapagal earlier wrote US President Clinton expressing concern about the plight of Filipino workers in the CNMI, in light of reports on how they are being abused in the islands.

But according to Manglona, Filipino workers are not the only ones being abused in the CNMI, as the situation can also

Continued on page 14

Paul A. Manglona

No mass exodus of teachers, says PSS

By Rafael I. Santos
Variety News Staff

EDUCATION officials have clarified that there would be no mass exodus of alien teachers from the CNMI next year, allaying fears that the Public School System may be paralyzed as a consequence.

The clarification was made as the cutoff date for the hiring of non-U.S. or non-CNMI educators is fast approaching.

Under the law, the government should no longer hire nor renew the employment contracts of public school teachers who are not citizens of the United States or who are not from the Northern Marianas after September 30, 1995.

Public Law 7-45 should have been implemented six years ago, but PSS has been asking for extension, Daniel Quitugua, Chairman of the Board of Education said yesterday.

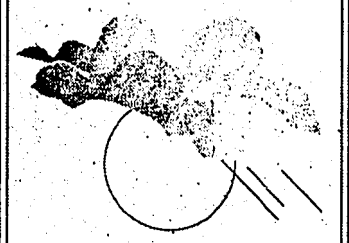
There are between 120 to 130 alien teachers that are under the employ of PSS at present, BOE chairman said. Most of these educators come from the Philippines.

He stressed that not all of these teachers will automatically leave the CNMI come September as many have thought. Quitugua estimated that only about 25% will exit before the end of 1995.

Quitugua explained that some employment contracts of alien teachers will not expire in September. While some will have to depart

Continued on page 19

Weather Outlook



Continued mostly cloudy with isolated light showers.

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Vietnam lures tourists with casinos

DO SON, Vietnam (AP) - Only diehard gamblers would open a casino at a nearly deserted seaside resort in a country that long condemned bourgeois diversions like blackjack and baccarat.

Investors in the Do Son Casino bet they would come out ahead catering to foreign tourists and people in Vietnam on business. Yet two months after the opening, it still looks like a long shot.

On a recent Saturday night, five emigre Vietnamese in designer clothes and gold chains, a pair of middle-aged Chinese businesswomen out for adventure and two taciturn men from Hong Kong were the only customers at the casino, capacity 400.

At a dice table, the croupier waited with an encouraging smile while the Chinese women pulled green $1 chips from their pockets one at a time, studied them carefully and slid them onto the board.

"Take it slow," one of the women, named Li, murmured to herself as she watched her chip raked away.

That might be the Do Son Casino's motto - and the motto of Vietnamese officials toward the whole business of legalizing gambling in a socialist people's republic.

After all, gambling was one of the vices of capitalist, corrupt South Vietnam. Only by exploiting the poor, the reasoning went, could the upper classes amass enough wealth to throw it away at gaming tables.

"They think a casino means yelling, fighting, killing. They worry about crime and disaster to society," Tom Diep, a representative of the casino's Hong Kong partner, the United International Business Group, said of the Vietnamese government's early reaction.

"We explained that the casino is just like Robin Hood - to capture the rich and help the poor," Diep said. "A casino is really a well-organized enterprise for earning foreign currency."

But the government refused to let UIB put the casino in the former South Vietnamese capital, Saigon, now called Ho Chi Minh City. Several other popular tourist spots were also rejected before both sides agreed on Do Son, a barely active beach resort about 12 miles (20 kilometers) south of the sleepy port city of Haiphong.

Only foreigners are allowed to gamble. Domestic publicity is forbidden.

Hoang Cong, who represents the Vietnamese partner, the Haiphong City Union Tourist and Service Co., acknowledged the number of foreigners visiting Do Son every year has averaged in the hundreds, hardly enough to support a casino.

Deip said they hope to bring in international flights and tour boats from Hong Kong and southern China, which has a growing population of nouveau riche. But heavy silting has made it hard for ocean liners to use Haiphong's harbor. Its airport averages fewer than two incoming flights a day, none of them international. The road from Haiphong to Do Son is two narrow lanes wending through fishing villages.

"We already suggested that the local government upgrade the road," Diep said. They also realize they will have to streamline visa procedures, he said.

The casino is intended as the centerpiece of a resort that will eventually include a disco, karaoke bar, restaurants and a luxury hotel. All but the casino will be open to Vietnamese, Diep said.

Britain to Northern Ireland's extremists

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) - Last week British officials sat down for the first time with delegates from the IRA's political ally, Sinn Fein. Now representatives of the pro-British "loyalist" gunmen get their turn.

As with Sinn Fein, Britain was expected to press the loyalists Thursday for a surrender of the pistols, submachine guns, grenades and plastic explosive they have hidden in hard-line Protestant areas of Northern Ireland.

Unlike Sinn Fein, which gets about 11 percent of the vote in Northern Ireland, the bulk from working-class Catholics, the loyalist politicians have made little impact at the ballot box.

And unlike Sinn Fein, which bristles at being lumped with the Irish Republican Army, the Progressive Unionists and Ulster Democrats are candid about their links with their side's killers.

Loyalist paramilitaries have murdered hundreds of Catholics for the cause of maintaining British rule in Northern Ireland. Nearly 3,200 people have been killed in Northern Ireland's quarter-century of violence, about 1,800 by the IRA.

David Ervine, acting leader of the Progressive Unionist Party, spent five years in prison in the 1970s after being caught with explosives and has described himself as an "ex-terrorist."

His party is allied with the outlawed Ulster Volunteer Force, while the Ulster Democrats are linked with the Ulster Defense Association, which is also banned.

The two paramilitary groups declared a cease-fire Oct. 13, about six weeks after the IRA.

In the latest twist of politics, the allies of the Protestant gunmen now appear more flexible than Northern Ireland's most popular Protestant politician, the Rev. Ian Paisley.

Paisley and his Democratic Unionist Party say they will have nothing to do with the projected peace talks because of Sinn Fein's expected involvement. This week, two members of Paisley's party resigned to cast their lot with the Ulster Democrats.

"Paisley didn't want to engage in any talks, and we need to negotiate our way to a peaceful future," said one defector, Tom Kircum. The Ulster Democrats' delivery of a loyalist cease-fire and discussions with Britain represent "a progressive way forward," he added.

Officials in Northern Ireland's top-security Maze Prison say loyalist inmates have smuggled in cellular telephones to keep in contact with their political representatives outside, but several searches have turned up only one battery pack.

Some observers think the loyalists' decision to escalate their level of violence in the early 1990s, pursuing a strict policy of tit-for-tat in relation to IRA attacks, contributed to the IRA's decision to halt its campaign against British rule.

Most of the loyalists' victims have been Catholics selected at random, though in recent years they have struck increasingly at Sinn Fein and IRA figures.

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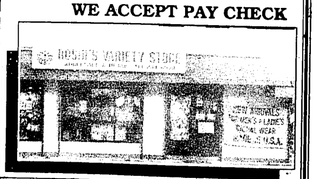


Motion to dismiss George suit denied

By Rafael I. Santos
Variety News Staff

THE CNMI government, Civil Service Commission members and Personnel Director Luis Camacho have failed to convince the U.S. District Court to dismiss a lawsuit that alleged discrimination and conspiracy.

However, federal court judge Alex R. Munson ordered complainant Kathleen George, a former Personnel specialist/trainer, to clarify her due process claims against the defendants.

In a decision issued yesterday, Munson ruled that the assertions made by the defendants including the CNMI government were without merit, thus he refused to dismiss the complaint.

The judge however dismissed George's due process claims and ordered her to file within 20 days an amended suit. Her new complaint must be definite as to what Fourteenth Amendment right or rights were allegedly violated by the respondents.

George, who has been a critic of the administration, filed a suit in September alleging that she was wrongfully terminated. She also alleged that she was never given any chance to be heard.

Later she amended her complaint and claimed that all actions by defendants were due to her race, sex and political affiliations. Further, she alleged that defendants conspired between themselves and with others to deprive her of her rights.

Defendants CNMI, Camacho, Northern Marianas College President Agnes McPheters and Civil Service commissioners moved for the dismissal of her complaint for various reasons.

According to them, the court has no jurisdiction over the CNMI or its officials in their official capacities; George cannot prevail because she does not have a property right in continued employment; and McPhetres cannot be sued because she committed no state action.

They also asserted among other things that the commonwealth is immune to lawsuits under U. S. C. Section 1981 claims; and George's conspiracy claims lack requisite specificity.

Munson found that the complainant made inconsistent assertions as to her status as a government employee. At the same time, she raised allegations that were not contained in her complaint. George was ordered to amend her complaint on these grounds.

The rest of the defendants' contentions were all rejected by the court. The court said each assertion was either without merit or not well taken.

Munson ruled that the court has jurisdiction over the complaint and that McPhetres and the CNMI have no immunity in this particular case. He also found George's amended complaint to be definitive as to the specific acts that alleged a conspiracy.

An alternative motion to strike irrelevant or prejudicial claims was also thrown out by the court.

Deferred pay hike to invite US takeover

By Rafael H. Arroyo
Variety News Staff

REPRESENTATIVE Heinz S. Hofschneider has lashed out his colleagues in the House of Representatives over the passage of the bill that would suspend the next scheduled 30-cent wage increase next month.

In an interview at his Capitol Hill office, Hofschneider said the lower chamber's approval of House Bill 9-322 could spell disaster for the CNMI as this might trigger harsh reactions from the US Congress with regards to immigration control.

"This has been one of the issues the federal government wants our local government to settle," said the lawmaker from Gualo Rai. "And to further prolong the wage reform process towards the federal minimum wage is enhancing the chances of a federal takeover of immigration."

According to Hofschneider, if the US takes away local control of immigration, the automatically, a federal minimum wage will be implemented.

House Bill 9-322, authored by Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas, passed the House in a session early this month.

Aside from seeking to defer the next 30-cent minimum wage increase scheduled to take effect early January next year, it also proposes to reestablish the wage and salary review board which was earlier abolished by executive order.

Heinz S. Hofschneider

The wage board was a statutorily-created body charged with studying wage and salary issues in the Commonwealth. It was first established through Public Law 8-21, the same statute that increased the local hourly minimum wage from $2.15 to $2.45 in December 1993.

Under that law, the minimum wage was to rise by 30 cents at the start of every year until it reaches the current federal minimum wage of $4.25.

If enacted, the Mafnas amendment measure will maintain the $2.45 wage until the wage board is reestablished and until the latter completes a study on the feasibility of a $2.75 wage.

Hofschneider, who was absent in the session that saw the wage hike suspension bill passed, said he does not see the need to establish a wage review board since the CNMI is supposed to have already passed that stage.

"The intent to create a wage review board to give recommendation is passed its usefulness. We're passed that time already," said Hofschneider.

The Saipan lawmaker said the wage board may not be in the best interest of the CNMI since the economy is so small it is controllable as to what can be done on the issue of wages.

"To have a wage review board is a ploy to derail any move to increase the minimum wage," said Hofschneider. "This is because it prolongs the recommendation process on wage."

"To create a board takes several months; to get a study done despite the fact that we have all the statistics available here in the CNMI is further delaying the increase," said Hofschneider.

"It is really a ploy to derail any move to get into a comparable minimum wage.

Hofschneider said maybe $4.25 is not the rate needed but what needs to be done is to look at what is a fair profit margin for industries to be able to arrive at a fair wage level.

Gov't perks mulled for private sector workers

By Rafael H. Arroyo
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio yesterday said he is planning to initiate a program that would provide private sector employees the same kind of benefits government employees get.

During his weekly press conference, Tenorio said he is looking at generating more revenues enough to subsidize a private sector employment incentive program where employees get retirement, pension, annual leaves and other perks currently provided government employees.

"This is a program I would like to consider in the future. We have to start providing the same kind of benefits to the private sector so everybody would not seek to work in government," said the governor.

The CNMI, according to Tenorio, is one of the few places where jobseekers frown on the idea of working in the private sector and prefer landing jobs in government.

He said this is because public service offers better incentives than private sector jobs in the Commonwealth.

"Anybody who does not work for government is crazy, under the present system. Why should say, a high school graduate work in the private sector for $3.00 when he can get more from government," Tenorio said.

According to the governor the situation here is a lot different from that in the US where private sector jobs are more promising.

"In the US, a carpenter may get paid for about $25 an hour, plumbers, maybe more. That is why they prefer not to work in government," said the governor.

"Here, its just the opposite. One of the reasons is because we have plenty low-paid non-resident workers. That's the trouble. We got to do something about it. Let's provide all the benefits to private sector employees and let's provide good salaries," said Tenorio.

The chief executive maintains that it is but natural for workers here to pursue landing government jobs because not only are they higher paying, they also offer a lot more perks.

"Why should anybody stay here and work at $3.00 when she could just go to Guam and work at $7.00 an hour. And the more people going out of the Northern Marianas the more we would need to bring in people from the outside," he added.

According to the governor, even private sector alien workers get better incentives than local workers in that they get benefits not given the latter like free housing, transportation and health insurance.

On the other hand, those working for government currently enjoy pension, retirement, health insurance, and other benefits including annual and sick leaves.

"So you see, everybody who can work with government would rather work over there, as they get retirement, health insurance, annual and sick leave, things like that," said Tenorio.

That is why, he said, he is soon acoming up with a program that would help private companies provide their workers benefits comparable to those given government workers.

"Let's provide everybody the same type of benefits, so there won't be any incentives to work for the government. Why should only government employees have health insurance. Why should only allen workers enjoy these from their employees. Why shouldn't we all pay for everyone's insurance. If the private sector has the same kind of benefits government employees get, there would be no reason for anyone to want to work for the government," said the governor.

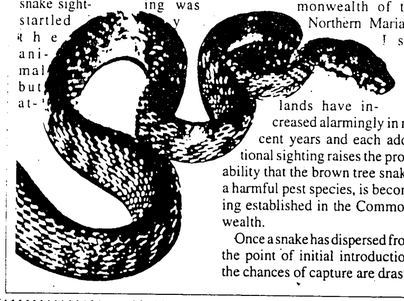
"We got to be imaginative, innovative, think of this program and revenue sources. Let's use the revenues to subsidize private sector employers into providing benefits that government employees get," he added.

Snake sighting in As Teo

A SNAKE sighting was reported to the Division of Fish and Wildlife on Monday, December 12th, a news release said yesterday.

The snake was actually seen three weeks prior to the report. The snake was apparently hiding in a storage space below a concrete sink outside a house in As Teo.

The person who reported the snake sighting was startled when the animal but at-



tempted to hit it with the handle of a rake. Unfortunately, she was not able to kill it and it escaped into the nearby bushes.

It is believed that this person saw a brown tree snake because of the description she gave. She also confirmed it after a DFW employee showed her a preserved specimen of that particular snake.

Snake sightings in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands have increased alarmingly in recent years and each additional sighting raises the probability that the brown tree snake, a harmful pest species, is becoming established in the Commonwealth.

Once a snake has dispersed from the point of initial introduction, the chances of capture are drastically reduced," the DFW said. Unless the brown tree snake is eradicated, it will become established in the CNMI and threaten the qualify of life in the Commonwealth.

Anyone who happens to see a snake and is unable to kill it, is requested to please mark the exact location of where it was seen and to report it immediately to the Division of Fish and Wildlife at 233-9095/9729 or 322-9830/9834 during daytime.

If it is nighttime and the government offices are closed, the offices of Civil Defense or the Department of Public Safety should be contacted because they have people on duty 24 hours a day.

The number for the Department of Public Safety is 234-6333 or 6431 and the numbers for the Office of Civil Defense are 322-9529, 322-9572, 322-9530, 9528 and 322-9274.

FORUM A Meeting Place For Our Opinions. . .And Yours. . .

EDITORIAL

Just where is justice?

The point raised yesterday by Senator Paul A. Manglona in his letter to Philippine Senator Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo is one that many of the people of the Commonwealth will stand up and cheer about.

The way the letter was written eloquently reflects how employers in his island of Rota and the whole CNMI, for that matter, feel about the state of labor affairs in the Commonwealth.

Manglona's admission that the CNMI labor system still has much room for improvement demonstrates a keen sense of diplomacy without sacrificing the urgent need for someone to stand up and tell the whole world of the real score.

Much has been written about how guest workers have been abused, slammed and exploited in these pearly isles, yet indeed there may seem to be an obvious disparity as to how incidents of employer abuse have not made it to the six o'clock news or on the front pages of the islands six eager newspapers.

Taking up the cudgels for his native island, the senator took issue with the term labor abuse, as such has incorrectly gotten to mean worker abuse when there are indeed two sides to the abuse coin.

Come to think of it, there may be truth to some people's (mostly locals') observation that employees also have enough faculties to abuse the person who brought them into the CNMI. But who cares.

There are quite a substantial number of "employer-abused-worker" scenarios, no doubt about that, but isn't there also a disturbing rise in incidents where it was the other way around, albeit the news don't carry them.

And more amazing is the fact that employers here become victims of abuse even before their employee arrive, by virtue of laws that are very restrictive to the point of oppression.

Employers, once they decide to hire workers from the outside, are immediately taken for a ride down abuse avenue.

After being charged some $250 by employment agencies for every employee he is planning to bring in, he is immediately tossed into a whole myriad of reprehensible spending. .

He pays the insurance company for bonding fees; Labor for filing fee and the nonresident worker application fee (which is currently being raised from the current $200 to $500); the Philippine Consulate for authentication and agency fees; and other costs that are either unnecessary or just being intentionally jacked up under the guise of discouraging off-island hiring.

The poor employer, understanding the need for workers to run his business, seems to have no other choice but to get himself exploited.

Nevertheless, he normally would not mind as long as he gets what his business needs — good quality workers.

But what if the application is rejected, or if the consulate does not authenticate because wages are too low.

By then there has already been money lost and time spent needlessly put to waste.

Moreover, the spending does not end once the application is approved. In fact it is only then that it really begins.

The employer has to put up with costly airline tickets after which he then deals with health insurance, housing and transportation and all the required perks. Not to mention the torture of thinking about wage hikes and tax increases.

But the ultimate nightmare then comes — the worker performs in mediocre fashion and yet turns up at the Labor office one day reading a litany of complaints designed to pave the way for a smooth transfer to a better paying job.

Only when all is said and one will the employer realize that he has become the loser in the whole game left with no worker, money lost and less business productivity.

Although we condemn abuse of workers, we also share in the plight of some of the very people who turn the key to the islands' progress — the employers.

They pay taxes, they are overregulated and yet they take all the flak of the system.

At least when employees are abused, there is the "pro-labor" law on their side.

Employers when abused, find themselves also abused by government through laws and regulations biased in favor of workers.

A case of a dead horse

Just where is justice?

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Publishers:
Abed and Paz Younis

Abed Younis ..... Editor
Rafael H. Arroyo ..... Reporter
Rafael I. Santos ..... Reporter
Ferdie P. de la Torre ..... Reporter

Member of The Associated Press

P.O. Box 231, Saipan MP 96950-0231
Tel. (670) 234-6341/7578/9797
Fax: (670) 234-9271

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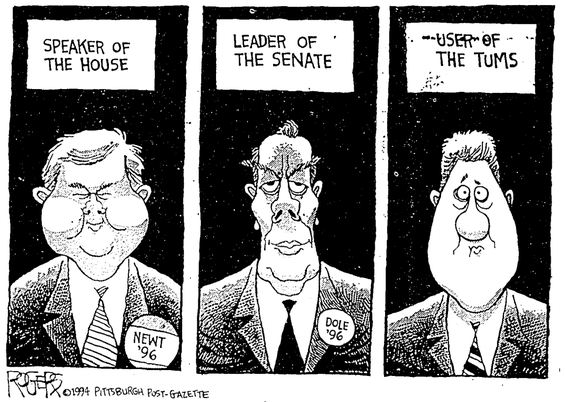

JR's Agenda

by John S. DelRosario, JR.

Fanning Fire of Instability

As recently as five years ago, we started demonstrating our penchant for promoting our own instability in the laws we approve, amend or repeal. For instance, we wanted to prohibit noncitizens on certain work categories. The following year we changed canoe right in mid-stream by opening up the same work categories for noncitizens.

A year ago we approved the current minimum wage law which grants an annual increase to the working class in hopes that in two to three years we would have attained comparable federal minimum wage level at $4.25. Just last week, the House of Representatives (through Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas) voted to roll back the thirty-cent increase, a move sought by a special friend in the garment industry. It is a glaring example of our inconsistency on matters affecting policy decisions. It gives an aura of instability which rubs against dedicated efforts to strengthen opportunities for sound investments.

This instability depicts our unwillingness to make principled-centered decisions. Perhaps our agility to change canoe in mid-stream is rooted in the fact that most of our lawmakers have not been able to read the signs of the time. Gentlemen, we no longer can afford wallowing in the same old, tired and vacuous argument that the issues we've faced since three years ago, i.e., taxation, immigration and minimum wage and labor abuse are solely the sovereign purview of the CNMI. A quick glimpse of the Covenant Agreement on these matters will show you that unilateral control is strictly in the hands of the federal government.

I am not advocating federal intrusion or interference anymore than what's spelled out under the terms and conditions of the Covenant Agreement. I am saying however that we need to meet our share of responsibility forthwith. Part of that responsibility is instilling pride and dignity in the very people you represent by improving—through policy decisions—the economic lot of every family in paradise. The challenge isn't in political posturing at the wrong fora, rather it is in your ability to buckle down and get to work!

Speaker Benavente's Disappointment

I admire Speaker Diego T. Benavente's differing position on the move to roll back the thirty cent increase. It reflects his ability to climb a tree and tell his colleagues: "Hold it. It's the wrong jungle, let's head the other way". Simultaneously, however, Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas and cabal shot right back: "It's okay, we're making progress!" Progress in what?

The Speaker's argument rests in the commitment to gradually increase wages until we attain comparable federal minimum wage level.

Mafnas' argument that a Wage Review Board be given the opportunity to study the legitimacy of the proposed increase is fluid. As recently as last week, the Secretary of the Department of Commerce mentioned that the average wage in the private sector is about $4.68 an hour. *Why then is Mafnas and cabal genuflecting to a certain friend in the garment industry to continue dictating minimum wage rate over the livelihood and welfare of the majority in the public sector?* This action reflects the unquestionable loyalty of a well connected group of lawmakers whose recent approval to roll back the impending increase gives credence to the popular rumor that they are in the pockets of the "we few" rich friends in the garment industry.

In the words of Representative Heinz Hofschneider: "The decision to roll back the increase in minimum wage may be the *final invitation for the US Congressional Leadership-In-Waiting to step in and take over immigration, labor, minimum wage and taxation.* It will be a grave error for this legislature to wholesale and compromise the Covenant Agreement solely on the basis of a vacuous political vision. We're capable of resolving these issues. Therefore, it will be an injustice to our children if, through vicious local politics, we compromise the basic intent of the Covenant Agreement by allowing the federal government to take-over these issues."

It is very unsettling that the Mafnas House Leadership hasn't been able to listen to the little voices of our people especially those earning the current minimum wage. *There's no assimilation nor reflection of the economic aspirations of the people they lead or represent.* It is a failure in leadership or the parting of leader and his constituents. A sad parting in that the leader now permanently suffers from intellectual atrophy and couldn't keep up with the issues. By the same token, he loses all his courage to stand and defend his time proven principles. He is eventually ousted out of office.

For all the problems and international humiliation that we had to endure which started at a certain garment company here, there's a dire need right here and now to solve this matter once and for all. *It is an embarrassment that has gone beyond tolerance.* What then is the answer? May I request the US Congress to repeal the entire Headnote 3A provision strictly on garment manufacturing? This should put to rest the misery that this industry has brought to the shores of paradise. *The saddest aspect in this controversy is the Mafnas cabal co-opting with friends in the industry to compromise the privileges given the CNMI under the Covenant Agreement. It is a complete betrayal of the trust we've given our astute lawmakers.* What a legacy he and cabal would leave to indigenous posterity.

JACK ANDERSON and MICHAEL BINSTEIN

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Terrorism undergoes an ominous rebirth

WASHINGTON — The dawning new age of terrorism—inaugurated with last year's blast at the World Trade Center—will be more virulent, more dangerous and more difficult to stop.

Though there has been a recent lull in major terrorist attacks against the United States, several sources believe it is the calm before a veritable storm.

One reason is that the Mideast peace process is unraveling day by day—despite the recent peace treaty between Jordan and Israel~, and the historic visit by President Clinton to Syria. Yasser Arafat's influence among Palestinians is waning by the day, giving new strength to radical rejectionist groups who believe terror, not truce, is the best way to push their agenda.

Most of these groups do not fit the profile of "traditional" terrorist organizations, whose ranks have been infiltrated by spies in recent years. Rather, this new threat comes from smaller, ad hoc groups that are bent on violence for religious, ethnic or economic reasons. As mainstream groups in the Mideast try to accommodate peace, these radical new offspring will gain power and influence by fanning the flames of fear and hatred that continue to consume many in the region.

Hussein Mussawi may have put it best. He is leader of Hezbollah, a virulently anti-American group based in Lebanon and sponsored by Iran. He has said: "We are not fighting so that the enemy recognizes us and offers us something. We are fighting to wipe out the enemy."

What set the February 1993 World Trade Center bombing apart from previous terrorist acts is what did not happen: The bombers made no demands, asked for no concessions and made no claims. It was an indiscriminate act of pure aggression, and very indicative of what terrorism will look like in the years ahead.

The usual suspects are still around, and just as nasty as ever. States that still sponsor terrorism include Syria (which Clinton recently placated with a state visit), Iran, Iraq, Libya and Sudan.

While these traditional threats continue to keep the West on guard, several newer threats have also emerged that are worrisome to counter-terrorism officials:

—Islam has long been split into two main sects, Sunm and Shiite. Sunni Muslims rule most Arab countries, such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt and so on. The minority Shiites gained control in Iran during the 1979 revolution and have been "exporting" their revolution ever since.

The Sunnis have never been known to view terrorism as a viable political strategy against the West. But that is now beginning~ to change. In Egypt and Argeria, some orthodox Sunnis have become convinced that the only way to topple secular governments is through terrorism.

—The war in Afghanistan during the 1980's was a breeding ground for thousands of potential Muslim terrorists. "Thousands of Muslims from roughly 40 countries flocked to Afghanistan following the 1979 Soviet invasion," James Phillips of the conservative Heritage Foundation recently wrote. "Radicalized veterans from the Afghan war... have returned home and have become the spearheads of radical Islamic movements in Algeria, Azerbaijan, Bosnia, Egypt, Sudan and many other places around the world. Hundreds of these 'Afghanis' are being trained by Iranian Revolutionary Guards in Sudanese training camps."

—Weaponry has become more widespread and sophisticated. While world attention has focused on the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, conventional explosives are getting smaller, deadlier and easier to conceal.

One top-secret report by the Central Intelligence Agency, to which our associate Dale Van Atta was given access, warns of the potential proliferation of "invisible bombs." These are described as secret, sophisticated explosives undetectable by standard bomb-searching techniques.

Several years ago, CIA agents were tipped off to this by a defector from a radical Palestinian guerrilla group who told of an explosive molded into the cardboard of a suitcase which he carried into a Geneva hotel room. The bomb was located and, indeed, was not detectable by modern bomb-sniffing devices. Its only distinction was an odor like vanilla, according to our CIA sources.

—FBI and CIA officials fear that the recent crash of a private plane on the South Lawn of the White House, and the lone gunman who opened fire through a White House gate have alerted foreign extremists to possible weak spots in the president's security. They fear copycat incidents may not be quite as harmless.

As recent history suggests, terrorism in the future is likely to be even more random and deadly than we've come to expect. As the former Soviet Union has splintered, so too have the radical organizations that keep a deadly vigil against peace and cooperation.

Letters to the Editor

Ban the poker machines

Dear Editor,

I WISH and hope our governor will not sign the Pachinko Bill for another reason such as, the "cap" that was set for every island. It will be interesting to know what was the rational behind the Legislature's move when they set a cap on this type of business.

Frankly, I can only assume that the people behind this bill are the very same people that are controlling the Poker Industry. The Poker industry scheme or scam is so great that they are extending the same process to the Pachinko. For all I know, this is the only government that is limiting their own revenue sources. I thought maybe that our legislature will certainly learn a great deal from the wrong that were done in the past, when they placed a cap on the poker industry and now, they are again doing the very same thing that will create a chaos to whoever wants to get into the business because a few people or maybe one individual is already controlling the license for the 500 machines. To be honest, it is sad to know that our government is operating worst than any Communism Government. For one thing, I never heard that a Cummy Government will place a cap to deny them their revenue.

Second, I never heard that they will place a cap to the type of business that will greatly benefit their people. But out here in the Marianas, we are practically restricting everything from good and bad. Especially, the restriction on the banking industry and other sorts that will help the community. I hope I will not live to see that K-Mart or Wal-Mart is being dented entry into the Marianas.

Continued on page 26

CUC explains cost of power

Dear Editor,

THE COMMONWEALTH Utilities Corporation (CUC) extends its appreciation to the Marianas Variety for printing the letter from Mr. Nick C. Sablan in Wednesday's edition regarding the utility's successful electrical generation operations.

As a community utility, we sincerely acknowledge citizens, like Mr. Sablan, who offer our Board of Directors and management their opinions, comments and suggestions.

On Saipan, the utility owns four power plants. Most of your electricity is generated at Power Plant I in Lower Base. By the time the generators run from eight to ten thousand hours, they must be taken off line for routine maintenance. As the maintenance schedule rotates, the utility has the option of getting extra electricity from one of the other three power plants.

For example, the Isley Power Plant IV may be brought on line at any time to run the International airport and the Isley water wells. Power Plant III is located in Puerto Rico. Electricity generated at the Puerto Rico plant can merge into the main power supplies at Lower Base or hooked-up directly to the Commonwealth Health Center (CHC).

It is important to note that the Puerto Rico Power Plant used to be Saipan's main facility until it was destroyed by Typhoon Kim in 1986. Many residents still recall what those powerless days were like.

At the same time, Saipan was booming. Based on the escalating population and development, the Corporation's Master Plan dictated CUC find extra electricity and fast.

In January 1992, a private company entered into a ten year con-

Continued on page 24

Red Cross gives thanks

Dear Editor:

PLEASE print this letter of appreciation to the people of the Commonwealth that continuely supports the American Red Cross. As Chair of our recent Fundraising campaign "Holiday Charity Dinner" which was held on December 3, 1994, I wish to tell everybody how much I appreciate all the work and contributions everyone have extended to the American Red Cross, Northern Mariana Chapter. Considering the many difficulties we have encountered, your support and cooperation were indeed commendable.

It is noteworthy to mention that due to this Chapter's adherence to its charter objectives and guidelines, as well as the services rendered to the community through numerous charities that are part of the united campaign, the National Chapter have been very responsive and generous in providing much needed help and assistance whenever necessary, as demonstrated during the most recent typhoon calamities that have devastated the CNMI. This just shows that the splendid work and efforts by our volunteers/community here in the CNMI are not being left unnoticed.

I would like also to extend my thanks and appreciation to the people who have supported us through this "Holiday Charity Dinner" fund drive. In this en-

Continued on page 24

An unhappy subscriber

Dear Editor:

WE, THE people of Tinian, have no choice to choose between Saipan Cable Vision and MCV.

It is our understanding that most of Saipan is back on cable now. We know that Saipan was hit harder than Tinian with both typhoons in October.

We the people of Tinian want to know why Saipan Cable TV will not make repairs to connect us to the world.

We ask you to print our case in your news papers.

Thanks/regards,

/s/DON CONNER

ALAN GREENSPAN IN LOVE

Tenorio gets tough vs drug couriers

By Rafael H. Arroyo
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio is looking at adopting a tough policy on drug traffickers including possible automatic deportation for anyone caught bringing in illegal substances into the CNMI.

During a news conference yesterday, Tenorio said he can no longer tolerate the influx of drugs in the CNMI so he will come up with a tough legislation to deter drug smuggling.

"I don't like what's happening, a lot of people bringing drugs into our Commonwealth. I hope by next week to appoint a special assistant on substance abuse whose first job is to come up with legislation that will very tough on drug trafficking," said Tenorio.

Tenorio said he wants to explore the possibility of automatic deportation of persons without going through the trial process, which according to him is costing the government a alot of money.

"We're spending a lot of money because of this problem. It is causing damage to our youngsters and even our adults," said the governor.

If we can do something to deport them without having to go to court, we'll do it. I don't know why we allow them to bring in and then spend thousands of dollars to prove they are guilty," he added.

What the governor wanted to do is to send drug couriers back to their origin immediately after they are caught and charge their governments for the cost of bringing drugs into the CNMI.

Tenorio said although government would have to deal with such a thing as due process of law, he wants to check with the US State Department if an agreement could be signed with all countries that send people to the CNMI — workers, or even tourists so that they bear the cost of their citizens' actions.

"If somebody, for example, from Thailand brings in drugs and we end up spending $15,000 to prosecute him, we'll deport him and send the bill to government of Thailand. We would talk with State Department to find out if we can do that," said Tenorio.

Currently, Tenorio estimates that the government spends around $30,000 a year per person caught trafficking drugs, a tremendous amount of money which, he said, the government could not afford.

Governor Tenorio (left photo) addresses the anti-drug abuse rally at Hopwood Junior High School Wednesday. He wants automatic deportation for drug traffickers. Right photo shows students making their point known by means of an anti-drugs banner.

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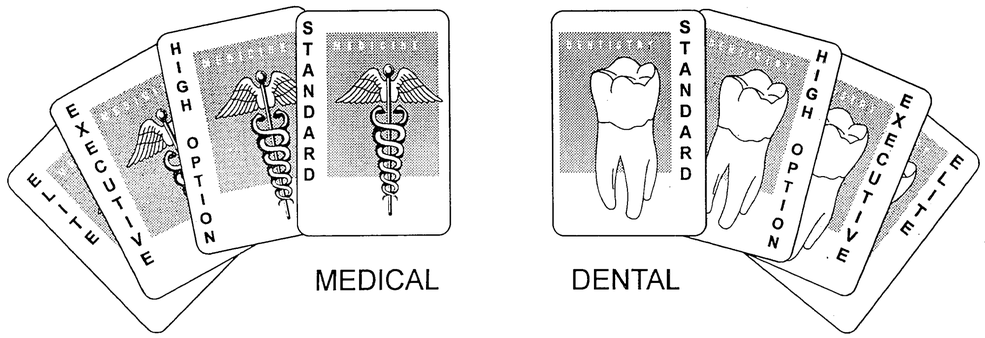

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End to MDC Tinian lease sought

By Rafael H. Arroyo
Variety News Staff

TINIAN Senator David M. Cing has asked Governor Froilan C. Tenorio to go against the possible renewal of a land lease covering some 7,500 acres of public land on Tinian, warning that such an extension may not be to the best interest of the CNMI.

In a letter to Tenorio dated December 14, Cing said the benefits of the current lease of Micronesian Development Corp. to the people of Tinian have been minimal and thus may not be worth the large acreage being covered on the island.

He stressed that such land could have been put to better use, that is for other forms of investments.

"To date, the revenue produced by the MDC property has been little. Currently, there is a small amount of cattle production on the property. It is our desire that the land be used for tourism purposes specifically a golf course," Cing told the governor.

Cing wrote the chief executive to initiate a dialogue process prior to any decision on the renewal of the lease.

Central government, according to Cing, still has the authority to terminate the lease based on the "use of the land to greatest advantage clause in the original lease agreement."

And since the governor's office negotiates and signs any and all land leases, Cing said he would like Tinian leaders to be able to discuss the matter with the chief executive.

The MDC lease involves the use of the land solely for the purpose of breeding, raising, importing, exporting and dealing in cattle and livestock and to carry on a general cattle grazing and agricultural business.

The lease was originally negotiated between MDC and the Trust Territory and was formally executed in January 1965. The lease payment for the land has not exceeded $2.00 per acre over the last ten years despite the fact that lands on Tinian have been leased for over $100 per acre, said Cing.

According to the senator, the original term of the lease expires on June 9, 1994 but regardless of future options or conditions of the land, the conditions of the original lease agreement are in effect until June 9, 1995.

MDC has the option to extend the lease at the end of 1994, although the government has also the right to terminate it if it determines that the subject land can be utilized for a greater advantage.

According to Cing, the area occupied by MDC has provent to be significant in that it constitutes 50% of the total land area available for development without military approval under the US military rentention land lease.

Cing stressed that MDC's agricultural operations have been decreasing significantly over the previous few years until at present, less than 100 heads of cattle graze on the land.

The Tinian senator also pointed out to the governor that MDC has not invested significant amounts of money in the property over the years and has not constructed any structures on it for the last five years.

MDC also has forwarded no plans for continued use of the property in any manner related to agricultural use and have instead expressed plans for development of tourist related activities, prohibited plans under the current use of the lease.

David M. Cing

Requirements for non-US minors travelling to RP.

By Rafael I. Santos
Variety News Staff

NON-FILIPINO children under fifteen years of age cannot enter the Philippines unless they possess waiver of exclusion and are accompanied by parents or are coming to their parents, the Philippine Consulate said yesterday.

Consul Renato Villapando issued a travel advisory yesterday following an incident in which a minor child was not allowed to board a flight to Manila.

Philippine Immigration Law imposes an administrative fine of $200 on an airline company which allows unaccompanied minor to board a flight to the country. The carrier may also be assessed a $25 fee for Waiver of Exclusion Ground, the announcement from the consulate said.

Under the Philippine Immigration Act of 1940, "Children under 15 years of age, unaccompanied by or not coming to a parent, except that any such children may be admitted in the discretion of the Commissioner of Immigration [are excludable aliens]."

Villapando made it clear that the required waiver, which can be obtained from the consulate, applies only to non-Filipinos.

The consul urged Filipino parents here to secure passports for their minor children as birth certificates are not valid travel document to the Philippines. Doing so would also avoid inconvenience when they travel to the Asian country.

Villapando recalled that a parent and a minor child had to come to the consulate at a time they were about to fly to the Philippines. The child was not allowed to board the plane due to the restrictions under the 1940 law.

For Filipino children, it is enough that their biological parents execute an affidavit before the consul authorizing a person to accompany such children in their trip to the Philippines.

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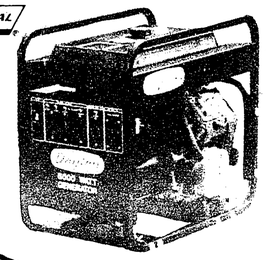

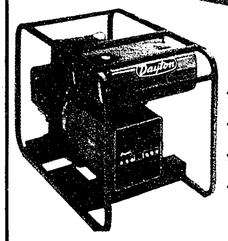

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Art therapist pioneers art class for kids

By Rafael I. Santos
Variety News Staff

FOR a number of weekends, close to twenty school children had the rarest opportunity to express themselves freely through the many forms of arts.

Tomorrow, these elementary school kids will bid goodbye to the Joeten-Kiyu Library which has offered its facilities for free for the Saturday Arts Class for kids. These young artists will also miss their sessions in which they learned to express themselves through arts, socialization and arts appreciation.

Saturday Arts Class was a pilot project. Ana Baer, probably the only child and family art therapist throughout Micronesia, volunteered her Saturdays to teach kids the basics of arts.

Baer, who works for the Center for Child and Family Guidance at the Department of Health Services, holds a fine arts degree. She is also a holder of a masters degree in art therapy at the University of New Mexico.

Baer has various reasons for pioneering the project. Aside for her love for the arts, she cares for the little children whose talents and potentials remain untapped because of lack of available facilities and avenues where they could express themselves and develop their potentials.

Due to lack of alternative activities, children are left with nothing but the television, she said. It's unfortunate that some parents are not even aware of the negative impact of the boob tube to the lives of their kids, she added.

Aside from picking up violence and other trash, kids learn very little by watching television, claimed Baer.

Television does not help viewers especially the children that much, she said. The idiot box, she said, spoon-feeds kids and does not give them the chance to develop their other faculties.

"When you watch TV, you're only using your eyes. Viewers get all the images through the eyes," Baer said.

Another reason for holding the arts class is Baer's commitment to serve the community. "I was gone for awhile...Now I need to minister to...kids," she said in an interview.

Baer has just returned to the CNMI last February after residing in South Pacific for 8 and a half years.

While at the Center for Child and Family Guidance, Baer, 50, helps abused kids to recover from their traumatic experiences through art expression.

At the Joeten-Kiyu Library, Baer teaches encourages kids to harness their potentials and talents in arts.

About 28 students registered in her class. One thing good about the class is that it's free. Students do not also pay anything for the materials they use, thanks to two Saipan companies which made donations for the kids.

Due to lack of financial resources, Baer has to teach the small kids how to be resourceful. Since the start of the class, recycling was part of every activity.

Children were provided with small pieces of materials such as buttons, beads, used ribbons and laces, tin cans and the like. Mediums used to express themselves included water color, paint, and crayons.

In one of their sessions, Baer, assisted by her fellow volunteers, taught children the art of hat making using old newspapers.

Such activities were a welcome thing for the kids who said they liked and enjoyed painting. One of the reasons while her students where having fun was because they could do whatever they want, Baer said. In other words, the children were free to choose the sizes, shapes and colors. Not only that, they were not under pressure to produce a number of works. Neither were they under time pressure.

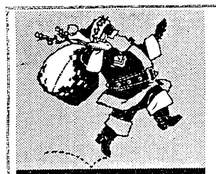
Parents also want the arts class to continue. According to her, parents were happy because their kids have a place to go to during weekends. "This is wonderful!," she said echoing parents' previous comments.

Baer said she is willing to train art teachers about for free. Some schools have expressed support for the arts class and are yet to decide whether they would have the same on a regular basis.

Now that the arts session is closing this weekend, the Saipan artist has one wish — that is to see the Saturday Arts Class continue, either at the library or other areas.

"I want to do it in a yearly basis," she said, but acknowledged that funding is a big problem. "Our materials are very expensive." That's the reason why she and he students had to do a lot of recycling.

Saturday Arts Class students Connita Guerrero, Lakisha Ludwig and Jaymianne Sizemore get assistance from art therapist Ana Baer in one of their sessions at the Joeten-Kiyu library. The three kids are among those who are going to "graduate" tomorrow.



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			◦ Steak & Lobster Night from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.	◦ International Curry Night from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Adult: $22.00/Kids: $11.00	◦ Seafood Dinner Buffet from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Adult: $22.00 Kids: $11.00	◦ Traditional Christmas Eve Dinner Buffet Adult: $22.00/Kids: $11.00 from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. ◦ Christmas Eve Gala Dinner at the Raraina (fine dining) $65.00
25	26	27	28	29	30	31
◦ Eggnog & Champagne Sunday Brunch from 10:30 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. Adult: $20.00/Kids: $10.00 ◦ Christmas Dinner at the Raraina (fine dining)-$55.00 ◦ Steak & Lobster Night from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.	" Daily Breakfast Buffet at the Costa Terrace Restaurant from 7:00 a.m. to 10:30 a.m. " " Light & Easy Sandwichboard Lunch Buffet from Monday to Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. " ◦ Asian Dinner Buffet Adult: $22.00Kids: $11.00	◦ Seafood Dinner Buffet from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Adult: $22.00 Kids: $11.00	◦ International Curry Night from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Adult: $22.00/Kids: $11.00	◦ South of the Border " Mexican Style " from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Adult: $22.00/Kids: $11.00	◦ Seafood Dinner Buffet from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m. Adult: $22.00/Kids: $11.00	" New Years Eve Gala Dinner " from 6:30 p.m. to 1:00 a.m. • POOLSIDE: Adult:$70.00/Kids: $35.00 • Raraina (fine dining) Adult:$65.00/Kids: $35.00 COSTA -Closed for dinner
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
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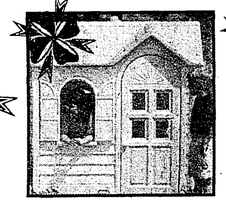

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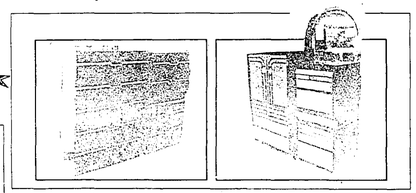

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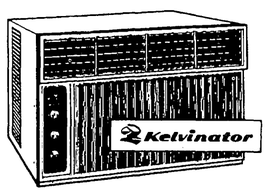

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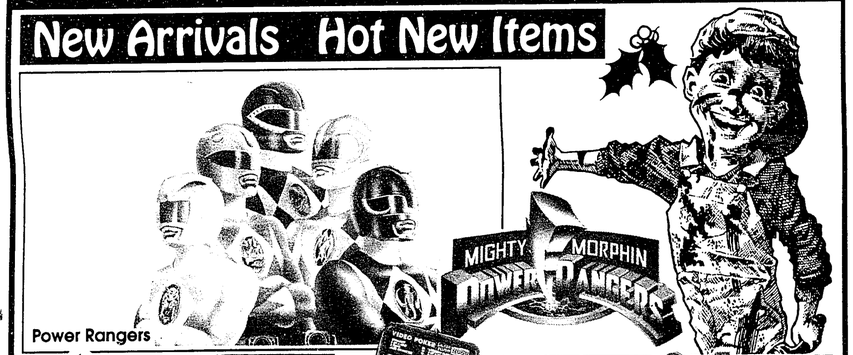
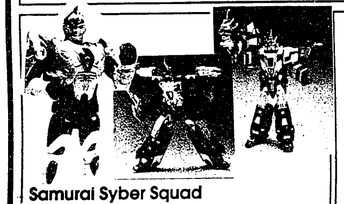
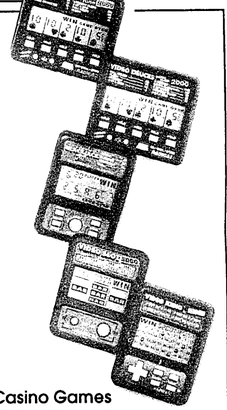
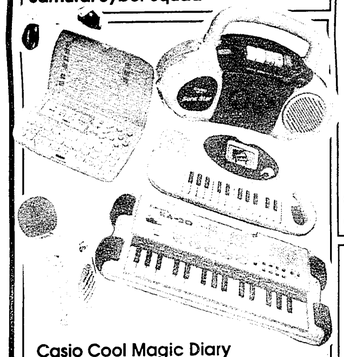


Power Rangers

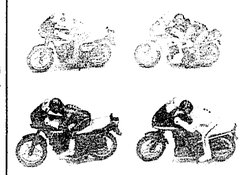

Samurai Syber Squad


Casino Games (Poker Games)

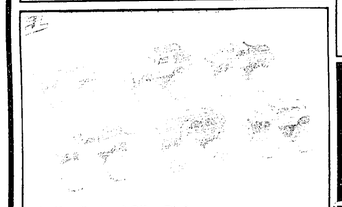
Buckaroo Bank


Casio Cool Magic Diary
Secret Sender 6000
Sing-A-Long
Picture Sound Keyboard

Maito Mega Moto-Bot


Maito Power Rider

Lion King
2-Bots
Exo Squad
Stargate
Puzz 3D
Polly Pockets from
And Lots More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Vicente Naputi Muna

By Rafael I. Santos
Variety News Staff

THE Superior Court convicted yesterday a tour bus driver of assault and contempt of court, three days after the same man was found guilty of similar charges.

Vicente Naputi Muna, a former police officer, was found guilty of violating a court order by punching his wife, Anna Marie early this year.

Anna Marie, an employee of the Duty Free Shoppers, took the witness stand yesterday morning, relating to the court how she was assaulted by her estranged husband.

On February 23, Anna Marie said she was punched on her right eye by the defendant during an argument. The struggle was prompted by Ana Marie's insistence to driver their pick-up truck.

She said she tried to hide her black-eye but her father noticed it and told her to report the assault to the police the following day.

The government said Muna assaulted his wife despite a court order restraining him from getting close, harassing or hurting her.

Muna said in his testimony in the afternoon that he was forced to hit his wife because he did not want her to drive the pick-up. He said he was worried about the safety of his two kids who were at the back of the vehicle.

Anna Marie tried to leave aboard the vehicle because she was mad at the manner Muna drove the vehicle from his mother's house to their home in Dandan.

On Monday, Muna was found guilty of battering his wife. He was the second man on Saipan to be convicted of charges related to spouse abuse in less than a month.

The court said it did not doubt that Muna battered his wife at the Diamond Hotel on August 22. In her testimony last Monday, Anna Marie said she was punched, kicked and choked by the former policeman.

The attack took place while a temporary restraining order was in effect.

Judge Marty Taylor ordered a pre-sentence report after finding the defendant guilty of one count of assault and battery and one count of contempt of court yesterday.

Steven Pixley, lawyer for Muna, said he will seek a suspended sentence for his client. Muna is looking at about three years in jail for the conviction according to the lawyer.

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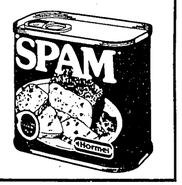

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SGMA not after pay hike suspension

THE SAIPAN Garment Manufacturers Association (SGMA) this week expressed its support for the Legislature to revive the now-dormant Minimum Wage Boards. "Legislative leaders on this issue recognize the need for a more detailed debate on minimum wage boards," said SGMA Executive Director Richard A. Pierce, "and the reestablishment of the minimum wage boards will ensure that the next time the Legislature makes a decision on minimum wage, it will be an informed one."

The Association has consistently supported establishing wage boards, such as those used in the Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico and American Samoa.

The implementation of the Minimum Wage and Salary Review Board, and its subsequent findings, will identify the differences in each industry's overhead, market and other factors, allowing the CNMI to have wage rates for each industry at levels at which firms could afford to maintain their viability.

Richard A. Pierce

SGMA stressed that the Association has always supported U.S. minimum wage in those industries which could afford to pay it.

"SGMA has always supported a U.S. minimum wage equivalent standard in determining the appropriate minimum wage levels by industry. Such a standard would take into account the costs of those industries which are predominately comprised of a non-resident workforce, such as the construction, hotel and garment industries, which incur additional expenses in meeting the needs of their employees," said Pierce.

He noted that in the garment industry, transportation, housing, food, medical, labor permit fee and incidental costs effectively raise the actual per hour wage rate to nearly double the current CNMI minimum wage.

Pierce expressed concern that previous debate on this issue has been too politicized, and has not dealt with the substance of the issue.

"Washington has indicated its belief that the minimum wage is too low," Pierce continued, "but they don't have the economic data to back up that contention.

He said, "only through Minimum Wage Board industry review process can a decision be made as to what is the right wage, industry by industry, for the CNMI."

SGMA also lamented recent press reports, including those of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, scapegoating SGMA on minimum wages. SGMA states that some recent press reports on the minimum wage debate in the Legislature, especially regarding allegations of SGMA lobbying to prevent the scheduled January 1, 1995 increase in minimum wage, did not accurately portray SGMA's role.

Pierce noted that the Board of Directors of SGMA, in expressing its support for the Minimum Wage Review Boards, voted to comply with whatever minimum wage is set in the Commonwealth, and pointed to the fact that no SGMA officers have lobbied the Legislature on a minimum wage freeze.

"The Association has taken the position that we do not oppose the January 1 minimum wage increase," Pierce said.

He noted that this doesn't stop individual member companies who have their own concerns from expressing those concerns directly.

"We haven't tried to stop anyone, we shouldn't try, and we won't," Pierce continued: "This is the United States, and you don't do that. But despite press reports to the contrary, the Association does not oppose the January 1 increase, and whatever decision is made our member companies will obey the law."

"SGMA has in recent years supported the process of reform in the Commonwealth, and has been a leader in promoting worker safety, housing, and minimum wage compliance," said Pierce.

Employers

Continued from page 1

be said of employers.

"In other words, abuse can be a two-way street and sometimes our employers become the victim," said Manglona.

Manglona explained that because they have to bear the costs of transportation, medical expenses, bonding, workers' compensation, CNMI employers are also on the losing end as they often become prone to complaints that sometimes are ill-motivated and frivolous.

Manglona pointed out that many employers in the CNMI have been complaining of a growing practice among workers to file a complaint with the Labor Office shortly before the expiration of his or her contract.

According to the Rota senator, by doing so, a worker gets to extend his or her stay in the islands and at the same time is assigned to a new employer.

"Employers argue that by permitting such transfers so easily, we have actually encouraged some workers to fabricate labor complaints," said the Rota senator.

To help prevent this practice, and to further protect workers, Manglona said government is currently developing legislation to require that all incidents of abuse be reported promptly to authorities, not many months later.

He said a legislation is also being proposed so that transfers resulting from such complaints should involve a presumption of lack of merit to ensure they are scrutinized very closely, except in extreme cases.

In his letter, Manglona aired concern that the Philippine senator's letter may hurt efforts at addressing current problems on labor.

"Indeed, I am concerned that your letter could jeopardize the ongoing corrective process for labor and immigration problems," said Manglona.

The Rota senator assured his Philippine counterpart that the CNMI government is making every serious effort to solve these problems and that labor abuse is not to be tolerated under any circumstances.

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Political donations flow in Japan

By ERIC TALMADGE

TOKYO (AP) - After a year on the sidelines because of corruption scandals, Japanese corporations are once again making political donations, zhoping to get on the right side of the powerful in Japan's sweeping political realignment.

While that may be good news for Japan's top parties, it has raised concern that the renewed flow of corporate money may drown efforts to reform this country's notoriously money-hungry politics.

"We feel like moaning," lamented an editorial Thursday in the Asahi Shimbun, a major liberal-leaning newspaper. "What we have dreaded has come true."

So far this month, groups representing the oil, automobile, steel, life insurance and banking industries have pledged to resume their political donations. More industries are expected to follow.

"We took into account the actions of other industry groups and decided to make our own contributions," said Tadashi Maekawa of the Petroleum Association of Japan, which this month will donate 50 million yen ($5 million) to the Liberal Democratic Party.

Japan's current political realignment was prompted by a series of corruption scandals over the past few years that involved large amounts of cash flowing between big business and politicians.

The seemingly endless series of scandals sullied many of the nation's most powerful leaders, and the resulting public outrage helped bring an end last year to the 38-year reign of the pro-business Liberal Democrats.

The scandals also led the Japan Federation of Economic Organizations (Keidanren), the country's influential business group, to criticize the practice of making corporate donations and urge companies to avoid excesses. Corporate donations fell off drastically soon afterward.

Maekawa said his association took such concerns into account in making its decision to resume political donations. He said the political situation had changed over the past year, and said he was confident donations will not pose a problem.

The recent slew of corporate pledges comes just before new, stricter political contributions and funding laws take effect on Jan. 1, and critics say they are a last-minute attempt to curry favor.

Under the new laws, a ceiling of 500,000 yen ($5,000) will be placed on corporate donations to individual politicians, and the amount of subsidies a party will be able to receive from the government will depend largely on how much it receives in contributions this year.

In its editorial, the Asahi pointed out that many corporations are expected to divide their donations among the leading parties to hedge their bets.

Until the Liberal Democrats fell from grace last year, their monopoly of government made such hedging generally unnecessary.

Since then, however, no single party has been able to secure a dominant position and Japan has been ruled by often-fragile coalitions. Currently, the Liberal Democrats are back in power, but must share the leadership with the Socialists.

Last week, several opposition parties representing a broad range of political ideas banded together to form the New Frontier Party, which is expected to be a potent force in the next elections. No date has been set for the elections as yet.

Laotian refugees repatriated as camp nears closing

By GRANT PECK

BAN NAPHO REFUGEE CAMP, Thailand (AP) - More than 200 refugees from Laos returned to their Communist homeland Thursday, some of them after spending almost two decades in Thai camps.

The 207 highland people from the Hmong ethnic minority and two lowland Lao took boats across the Mekong River into Laos from the Thai town of Chiang Khong, 675 kilometers (420 miles) north of Bangkok.

The refugees had been staying at the Ban Napho camp in Thailand's Nakorn Phanom province, 525 kilometers (315 miles) southeast of Chiang Khong. They are among the 5,000 people repatriated from the camp so far this year, officials said.

"Even though we stayed here a long time, it cannot be our home," said Ing Xing, a Hmong man who was returning with his family.

"They just let us stay temporarily, so to go back home is better," he said as his bus was leaving Ban Napho Wednesday for the 16-hour drive to the river crossing point.

Most of the 9,000 people still in the camp are Hmong, many of whom fled after the 1975 Communist takeover of Laos. Through the 1960s and early 1970s, the Hmong - with American aid and encouragement - had fought alongside right-wing Laotian governments backed by Washington.

Even now, there is considerable reluctance to return among the Hmong refugees, who say they fear persecution. Several thousand have not yet agreed to go back, even though Thailand plans to declare the camp officially closed by the end of the year. Thai authorities have warned that people who have not agreed to go back by then will be treated as illegal immigrants with none of the privileges of refugees, who receive some benefits from the office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

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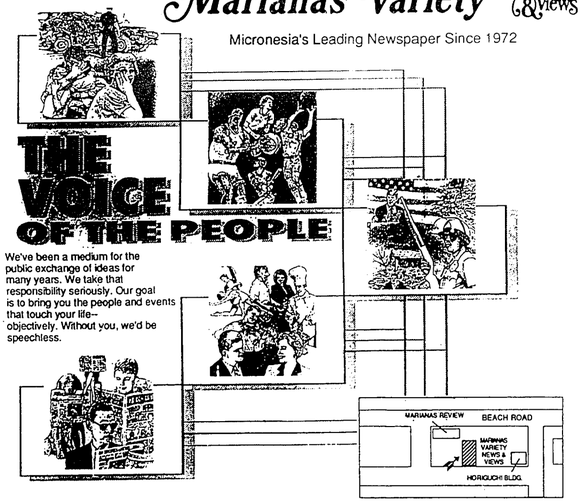

STAY ALIVE DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE!

Kris Aquino pregnancy talk of town in Manila

By OLIVER TEVES

MANILA (AP) - Corazon Aquino led the country's uprising against dictatorship and survived seven coup attempts - but now, newspapers say, she's got real trouble.

Her daughter is pregnant out of wedlock.

It is "perhaps the toughest crisis in her life," the Philippine Star newspaper said Wednesday.

That may not be much of an exaggeration.

The Philippines is intensely Roman Catholic, and the former president is famously devout. Next month's scheduled visit of Pope John Paul II makes faces even redder over the circumstances of Kris Aquino.

The 23-year-old actress admitted this week that she is three months pregnant by an actor who is not only twice her age but also married. He already has three children with his wife of 20 years, and a fourth by a former model.

Rumors about Kris Aquino and 45-year-old Philip Salvador had been circulating for some time, and were repeatedly denied by the actress. Then a columnist broke the news Monday in the Malaya newspaper.

Aquino admitted she was living with Salvador and that her mother disapproved. "But in time, we hope to prove to her we did the right thing," she said.

"I love Ipe and I don't think I can ever live without him," she said. "We hope to spend the rest of our lives together."

The affair bloomed after Aquino, known in the local movie press as the "massacre queen" for portraying massacre victims in several films, starred as Salvador's leading lady in the action flick, "Nandito Ako (I'm Here)," several months ago.

Kris, the youngest and most outspoken of Mrs. Aquino's five children, told a talk show several years ago that she disapproved of premarital sex.

"The man I would marry would be lucky because he will get me whole," she said.

Kris first attracted public attention as a 7-year-old who made an emotional appeal at a rally for support for her father, Sen. Benigno Aquino Jr., who was jailed by the late strongman Ferdinand Marcos.

She accompanied her mother on their return from the United States after Acquino was assassinated in 1983.

Official says help for Fijians not anti-Indian

FIJI's minister for multi-ethnic affairs, Ratu Jo Nacola, says special government schemes to help indigenous Fijians should not be viewed as anti-Indian policies, the Fiji Times reported Monday.

He said that in due course, the government would provide special programs for the needy, irrespective of race.

Ratu Jo said it was unfortunate that affirmative policies for Fijians and Pacific islanders were seen as anti-Indian. He said the real intention of such policies was to "bridge the gap between the races."

He said affirmative programs are of limited duration and will end when the goal of equity is achieved. (Pacnews)

Worker in armed assault yields

By Rafael I. Santos
Variety News Staff

A CONSTRUCTION worker who has been ordered arrested on charges of assault with dangerous weapon turned himself in to police yesterday.

Basilio Castro, 35 surrendered to the Department of Public Safety yesterday morning, a day after the Superior Court issued a warrant for his arrest.

Castro, a construction worker at JG Sablan Construction, was arrested immediately after surrendering to the authorities, Assistant Attorney General Nicole Forelli said in a bail hearing yesterday.

The defendant made an initial appearance before Judge Marty W.K. Taylor yesterday afternoon. He was charged with assault with a dangerous weapon and assault and battery.

Details surrounding the case were not immediately available. But during the hearing, the government said the alleged victims in the assault case were brought to the Commonwealth Health Center where they were treated for injuries.

Forelli told the court that the victims' condition was not life-threatening.

Taylor refused to release the defendant to his own recognizance, a release which would not require a bail. The court will entertain the matter again today at 10:00 a.m.

Assistant Public Defender Ted Christopher earlier asked the court to release the defendant without bail because of his close family ties in the community. Castro has lived in the commonwealth for ten years, according to Christopher.

Another consideration for a release without bail was the fact that the defendant turned himself in to the authorities, he said

The judge denied the motion due to the seriousness of the offenses charged. A third party custodian may be considered by the court today.

Meanwhile, a teenager who was accused of robbery was released to his aunt yesterday afternoon. Jeremy Rabausch, 19, was released to Regina Aguon, a retired CNMI government employee.

Rabausch, a citizen of the Republic of Palau, was arrested two days ago in connection with a purse-snatching incident in Garapan early this week.

Police reports said the defendant grabbed a purse belonging to a Japanese tourist while the victim was walking on Beach Road near Winchell's restaurant.

Sgt. Edward Manalili, spokesman for DPS, said Rabausch fled with the purse toward the Garapan Elementary School. However, patrol policemen who happened to be in the area pursued the suspect.

The police officers were able to catch him and recover the purse, Manalili said.

Palau flag to fly with others at UN

By Sarah Clayton
For the Variety

KOROR, Palau - President Kuniwo Nakamura and a delegation of 10 were in New York Thursday for ceremonies honoring Palau as the newest member of the United Nations.

"This is the goal of any country - to be recognized as an independent nation and take its seat among independent countries of the world," Temmy Shmull, the president's chief of staff, said before leaving for the United States Monday.

Palau ended almost 50 years as a U.N. trusteeship under U.S. administration with the signing of the Compact of Free Association Oct. 1.

The delegation included Paramount Chief Ibedul Yutaka Gibbons; State Minister Andres Uherbelau; Senate President Peter Sugiyama; House of Delegates Speaker Surangel Whipps; Senate Ways and Means Chairman Harry Fritz; and House Ways and Means Chairman Alan Seid.

The day will begin with the U.N. General Assembly's vote to formally approve the nation's application for membership and an acceptance speech by Nakamura as Palau becomes the U.N.'s 185th member nation.

Afterward Nakamura will meet with Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, and Palau's national flag will be raised alongside those of its peers.

The ceremonies will end with a reception hosted by Nakamura at the U.N. Building.

Once the president returns to Palau on Monday, attention will turn to who is to represent the nation as its first ambassador to the U.N.

According to Shmull, Nakamura has already interviewed some candidates for the position.

"It's an important matter," he said. "The president will take action on it as soon as possible."

Shmull stressed that the appointment must also receive Senate approval.

In the interim, Shmull said he foresees the placement of a charge d'affaires in Washington, D.C., to oversee relations with the U.N. and the U.S.

To pay for the membership, the president has put aside $258,200 in the proposed budget for fiscal year '95.

Earlier in the week, Nakamura was in Washington, D.C.

There he hosted a reception Tuesday and met with Assistant Secretary of State Winston Lord Wednesday.

Nakamura and Lord reportedly discussed the establishment of an embassy in the U.S.

Kuniwo Nakamura

$500. . .

Continued from page 1

ing of non-resident workers.

But the current $200 fee alone is already subject to grumblings from the House of Representatives on the argument of its leaders that the administration cannot just raise such fees that high through regulation.

"This is not cost recovery anymore, it is taxation," said Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas, referring to the $200 rate.

House Speaker Diego T. Benavente, when interviewed yesterday said he believes raising the fee to high levels is illegal.

"I cannot believe that he continues to feel he can illegally tax people. Basically, this is what he's doing," said Benavente, referring to a $500 fee.

"I am really frustrated that the Attorney General's Office continues to allow the governor to do this," he added.

According to the House speaker, the fee being proposed by the governor is excessive of the amount the administration is authorized by law to impose.

He said the law is very specific on what fees the administration can charge and basically he said that such rate should just cover the cost of processing the applications.

However, the governor said it is just alright for the administration to raise the fee owing to big government costs associated with issues concerning alien workers.

"We can justify $500 fee if we are to include everything we are spending to take care of non-resident workers. We have at least 10 such workers in prison currentlt. That's $30,000 per person per year in cost. This is part of expenses we have," said the governor during yesterday's press conference.

"We can include everything that is costing our government to prosecute such offenders. So all this money is coming out of our funds unbudgeted. So we have every right to increase fee to at least $500," he said.

"I dont wanna do this if the Legislature is ready to adopt our tax reform and the budget bill," he added.

No mass. . .

Continued from page 1

before the cutoff date as stipulated in their contracts, others may stay with PSS beyond 1995 until their contracts expire, the chairman said.

"We haven't figured out yet when [all alien teachers are] going to leave," he told the Variety.

PSS is now in the process of making final preparation for hiring new teachers to replace those that are due to quit PSS as mandated by Public Law 7-45.

Officials are targeting teachers from continental United States, Hawaii, Guam and even the CNMI. He added that PSS may also hire teachers from other Asian countries such as the Philippines as long as they are American citizens.

PSS, he said are considering all recruitment options and will choose the best way to get new teachers. A recruitment agency has proposed that it would do the hiring of teachers for PSS — a proposal which is yet to be considered by the BOE, he said.

The departure of non-American teachers will affect public schools and the CNMI government, Quitugua admitted, but did not elaborate on the subject. Quitugua also acknowledged the many contributions of alien teachers some of whom have been awarded best teachers and scholarships as a result of their outstanding performance.

"We will miss these people. Many of them have performed well and have been honored. [Their departure] will have an effect on the system," the board chairman said.

Quitugua reiterated that PSS maintains only a single salary scale for American and non-American teachers. "We don't have dual salary pay scale," he said.

The U.S. Justice Department has sued the board, its officials and the PSS for alleged discriminatory policies. The suit claimed Filipino teachers received lower salaries and less benefits compared to their counterparts from the mainland and the commonwealth.

PSS has denied any wrongdoing although it agreed to end the dispute by agreeing to pay more than $2 million to the affected teachers.

Only 20%. . .

Continued from page 1

Representatives and the business community only imposes a 10% surtax.

He indicated he will not settle for that and would not go lower than what he earlier proposed.

"I'm getting fed up with all this. I think I will just instruct my people to finalize the $500 worker's fee and I am going to put that in," said the governor, almost angrily.

"I will tell the Legislature to forget about it. Forget about tax reform, forget about the budget. Let everything stay as it is and just wait until the next elections, let's fight it out in the next elections," he added.

The governor at one point during yesterday's news conference sounded satisfied on learning that the House Subcommittee on Tax reform and the business community have started working on a tax bill proposed by prominent Saipan businessman Larry Hillblom.

But later on, he reacted angrily when he found out that the measure being considered only involves a 10% surtax.

The governor earlier said he supports a proposal which imposes a surtax on an interim basis while a final and more comprehensive, omnibus tax measure is being developed by a proposed tax task force.

The chief executive has made his preference of the Hillblom proposal known to the House in a letter December 12, specifically saying he wants a 20% surtax.

He reiterated during the press that he would only go for such a surtax.

"If they want 10%, then maybe it's time to forget the whole idea," said the governor. "I don't want them to touch anything and let's just wait until the next election.

"Let's just have continuing resolution. If they are to submit anything other than the 20% surtax, I am going to veto it. We'll try to run this government under continuing resolution and wait until next elections. Let the people decide," he said.

Asked how current revenue needs of government will be addressed without tax reform, Tenorio said government would just have to generate more through the imposition of a $500 non-resident worker fee.

"$500 may not be enough but it can help a lot. It will cut our costs in addressing non-resident workers here in the CNMI," he said.

When asked for comment, Vice Speaker Jesus P. Mafnas who chairs the Tax Reform Subcommittee, said the governor's statement was uncalled for.

"It is very discouraging for the governor not to give the working team a chance to work it out and see what is affordable for the community," said Mafnas.

The team he is referring to is the coalition of all business groups who have been tasked to study the Hillblom bill and come up with recommendations on it within two weeks.

Despite the governor's threat to veto any bill other than a 20% surtax, the vice speaker said his subcommittee will still do its best to work with the business community and the administration on the new proposal.

"In good faith, we will still try to come up with a good product on the Hillblom bill. I just hope when we're done, he will have a change of heart," said Mafnas.

The Hillblom bill, intends to provide urgently needed interim revenues to the CNMI government through the surtax, to retire the ballooning government deficit. This is to be done through the establishment of a special deficit reduction trust account funded out of 75% of all surtax revenues.

Another section of the new bill proposes a temporary rebate reduction, meaning that for a certain number of taxable years, the rebate percentage shall be 90% of the percentage.

Information Superhighway

By Eldref Encknon
For the Variety

GAME RATING. The Software Publishers Association has come up with new ratings for computer games, like Sega and Nintendo video games which sometimes feature simulated violence and sexual overtones that parents may find very objectionable for their children. These new ratings will indicate levels of violence, profanity, and nudity. Consumers can start deciphering labels when purchasing video games or computer softwares. The ratings detail violence containing destruction of nonhuman life, destruction of human life, destruction of life with blood and gore, and wanton or gratuitous violence. Then for nudity/sex there are the revealing attire, fleeting nudity, partial nudity, and full-frontal nudity. Language is the last major rating in mild profanity, moderate expletives, obscene references, and sexually explicit language.

****

VOICE OF POWER. Telephones, computers and improved voice recognition technology has turned talking to your computer an increasingly common practice. Newly invented devices use an audio-interface standard, sporting from the fit and weight of computer headsets to compatibility and volume control issues designed in forms of wireless devices and connections through PCMCIA cards. With voice command programs and computer-based phone answering systems the headset becomes a common PC peripheral.

****

MAGIC OF SOUND. What do we have now is a standard, Dolby Pro Logic, which produce the surround (rear) and center-channel signals from only two stored or transmitted channels (left and right stereo) for a total of four channels. Expecting to have is the upcoming Dolby Surround Digital System, this provides five discrete, full-frequency audio signals for the left, center, and right speakers in front and the right and left speakers in back. This also renders a dedicated low-frequency channel for a subwoofer speaker, which is the 5.1-channel designation. We mean here is that the digital surround sound given to you at the movies will soon dazzle you at a home theater.

****

COMPUTER VIRUS. These are computer programs created to annoy or inflict damage to users in an unlimited methods. Industry-standard softwares are available to clean and disinfect systems, and even ready to protect against any new virus hoping to sneak into the market.

****

SUPERMAN. Twenty-five years ago, we have seen Buck Rogers flew across comic stories with his magnificent flying belt, then we saw James Bond zoomed up into an espionage adventure, finally we saw Rocketman and Superman. Now, a practical flying belt is for real as offered to the market by Textron's Bell Aerosystems' Jet Belt with the new WR-19 gas turbine engine having a miniaturized fanjet engine which provides a ten-mile range and a 60-mph top speed.

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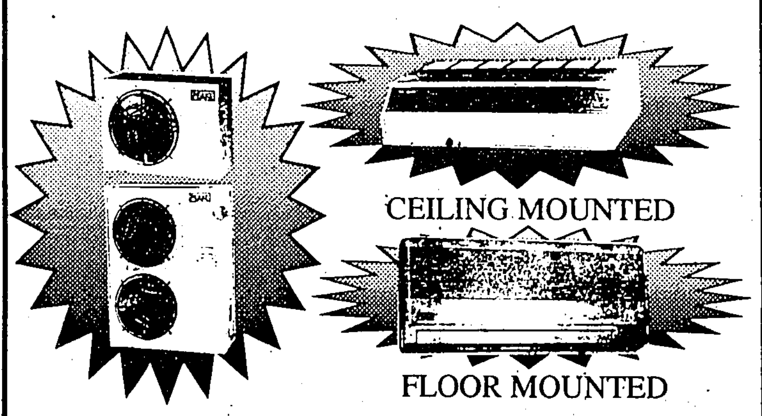

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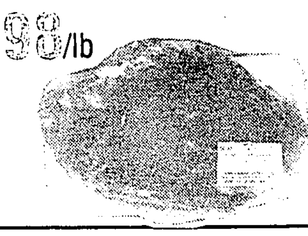
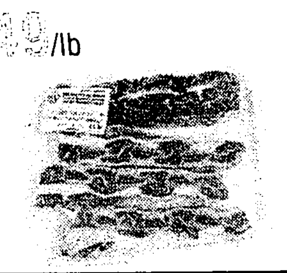
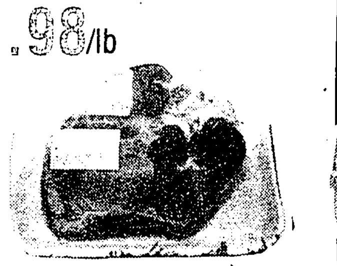


Beef Short Ribs $2.49/lb

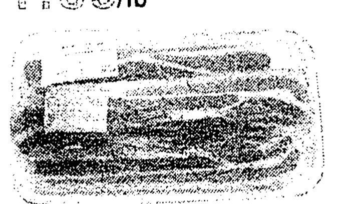


Beef Round Roast $1.98/lb

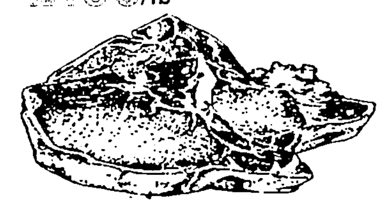


Monfort Ground Beef 5 lbs/tube $8.00/tube

Pork Bellies $1.89/lb



Pork Chop $2.39/lb



Beef Rib Eye Steak **3.98**/lb
Beef Shoulder Steak .. **1.98**/lb
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Beef Feet Skin-On **1.39**/lb
Blue Ribbon Frying Chicken .... **98¢**/lb
Pork Shoulder Steak .. **2.39**/lb
Pork Hocks **1.49**/lb
Pork Feet .... **89¢**/lb
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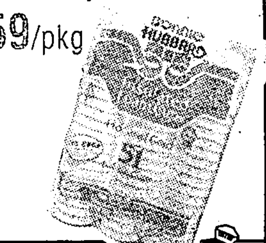
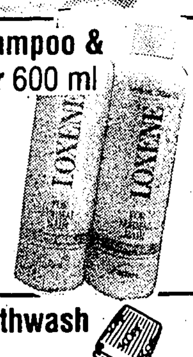
BH Foam Cups 51 cts $1.59/pkg



RBO Table Napkins 250 ct **$2.98**/pkg
Charmin Toilet Tissue 4 rolls/pkg **$2.29**/pkg
Ivory Bath Soap 4/pkg **$1.98**/pkg
Crest Toothpaste 6.4 oz **$2.19**/ea
BH Aluminum Foil 18z25 ft. **$1.98**/ea

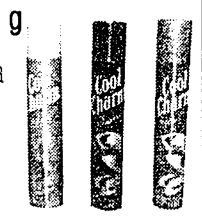
Loxene Shampoo & Conditioner 600 ml $1.99/ea



Joy Dishwashing Liquid 32 oz $2.59/ea

Scope Mouthwash 3 oz 99¢/ea

Cool Charm Body Spray .75 g $1.99/ea



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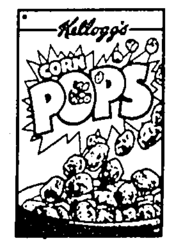
Aji-No-Moto 16 oz **$1.59**/pkg
Home Garden Spring Water 1 gal **$1.69**/ea
Kellogs Rice Krispies 15 oz **$4.69**/ea
Del Monte Stewed Tomatoes 14.5 oz **89¢**/ea
Del Monte Tomato Ketchup 32 oz bottle **$2.39**/ea

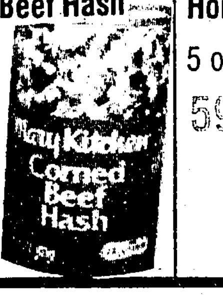
Morinaga Pan Cake Mix

Three Diamond Tuna 7 oz

Kellogs Corn Pop Cereal 15 oz



MK Corned Beef Hash 15 oz $1.79/ea.



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Regional News Roundup

Fiji to lessen its foreign missions

A SENIOR Fiji government official says the Fiji government is to reduce the number of Fiji's foreign missions early next year as a cost-cutting measure, Fiji Times reported Tuesday.

However, restructuring would see Fiji strengthen its links with its trading partners in Asian nations by upgrading the missions there.

Fiji Times says it is understood the government is looking at a roving ambassador based in Suva for the Forum island countries, and it is also likely to appoint honorary consuls to replace consular missions in Sydney and Auckland as they are cheaper to maintain.

One of the foreign missions likely to be affected is in Papua New Guinea where the government thinks it is too expensive having an embassy there.

The foreign affairs minister, Filipe Bole, told the Upper House the government was now reviewing all existing missions to determine their diplomatic desirability and affordability. Although Bole would not give any numbers, he said the retention of embassies would depend on their potential values to the pursuit offshore of Fiji's interests. (Pacnews)

Save Power

Fiji church addresses unemployment

FIJI's Methodist Church has announced plans to step up its agricultural training programs to help combat the critical problem of unemployment among youths.

The scheme will provide opportunities for about 300 school dropouts, particularly those from rural areas, to obtain diploma certificate courses in agriculture from the church's Navuso Agricultural School.

Church president Manasa Lasaro says the scheme is still in its infancy and he hopes to have more details next week on costs and funding.

The courses are to be conducted with the Brisbane-based Gaton Agricultural College, a faculty of Australia's Queensland University, and will be held in co-operation with the National Youth Service Scheme.

Reverend Lasaro says the large number of unemployed young people in Fiji led to a church decision to upgrade the Navuso school, which has potential to develop into one of the best agricultural institutions in the Pacific. (Pacnews)

Civil service pay discussed

THE FIJI government has announced that it will hold a forum to negotiate civil service pay, RNZI reported Wednesday.

This follows the widespread negative reaction to its introduction of statutory restrictions on civil servants wages.

Finance minister Berenado Vunibobo has ordered that wage rises for the country's 20,000 government workers be restricted to one per cent in 1995 to check inflation.

But, senior government ministers lifted the order following heated opposition from unions that threatened to call a strike in February.

Information minister Ratu Josefa Dimuri says the forum will conduct the negotiations.

Mahendra Chaudhry, general secretary of the Fiji Public Service Association, says he's happy wise counsel has prevailed, but he will not rule out industrial action.

He says the union will wait and see how the government responds to their claims for a pay increase. (Pacnews)

Fiji fights crime

THE FIJI government is to allocate an additional $263,000 this year to help police combat crime, Fiji media reports said Wednesday.

This was announced by the information minister, Ratu Josefa Dimuri after a cabinet meeting next Tuesday to specifically address the country's crime problem.

He says the government is looking at savings from other ministries this year to divert them to the police.

Ratu Jo says the government is convening a special cabinet meeting next Tuesday to specifically address the country's crime problem.

The information minister also says the government is concerned at the number of Fijians involved in crime. And it wants the ministry of Fijian affairs to come up with suggestions to tackle this issue, at village level with the help of the chiefs. (Pacnews)

Air Pacific

FIJI's national airline Air Pacific will wait for international acceptance before installing specialized medical equipment to treat heart attack victims on its planes, The Fiji Times reported Monday.

Air Pacific chief executive Andrew Drysdale was reacting to the call by the American Heart Association for all airlines to follow the lead by Qantas which has the equipment which saved two lives last month.

The heart defibrillators, used to apply an electric shock to restart the heart, were used in November on two separate Qantas flights for the first time to successfully resuscitate two heart attack victims.

A Qantas flight service director, David Furey, who revived one of the men, said the Qantas experience is that even with current technology, non physicians with reasonable training can save people lives and do so dramatically. (Pacnews)

Pilots complain

FIJI airline pilots are complaining that they are being used as guinea pigs for a new American satellite navigation system used nowhere else in the world, according to an annual survey of Pacific Islands civil aviation by Islands Business magazine's December issue.

Earlier this year Fiji became the first country in the world to allow local airlines to use global satellites as their sole means of navigation.

Equipment supplied free by the United States Civil Aeronautics Board enables pilots to obtain minute by minute fixes on their position accurate to within 100 meters using data transmitted by a cluster of American military satellites. (Pacnews)

Fiji education hit

IN FIJI, the administering of the $3.3 million for scholarships under the Fijian Education Program came under fire in the Upper House Monday, Fiji Times reported Tuesday.

Senator Ratu Jale Vasutoga questioned the managing, controlling and distribution of the fund and whether it was being monitored for evaluation.

Senator Vasutoga was speaking in support of the 1996 budget but he questioned the fairness and honesty of the distribution of the scholarship fund. He said the government should regard education as a top priority, "money invested in education is invested in people." (Pacnews)

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Springfield **9" PAPER PLATES** 100 ct. $2.29

Gold Label

Rocky Road, Double Dutch Swiss Mocha, Ube, Mango Manila, Halo-Halo, Macapuno Special

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Kraft **AMERICAN CHEESE SLICES** Singles 12 oz. $2.49

Dubuque **ROYAL BUFFET HAM** 3 lb. $4.99

PRODUCE

RED GRAPES 79¢ lb.

GREEN CABBAGE 59¢ lb.

JUICY ORANGES 59¢ lb.

FUJI APPLES 99¢ lb.

MEAT/POULTRY/SEAFOOD

TRI-TIP **STEAKS & ROAST** $3.49 lb.

Australian **GROUND BEEF** $1.79 lb.

CHICKEN PARTYWINGS Regular or Breaded 4 lb. Bag $5.29

MILKFISH $1.99 lb.

TILAPIA $1.59 lb.

BEER

MILLER LITE case $13.49

LITE ICE case Limit 4 $10.99

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News censored in Vanuatu?

ALL NEWS from Radio Vanuatu and the Vanuatu Weekly news is now being censored by the office of the prime minister, RNZI reported Wednesday.

Reliable sources from the Vanuatu Broadcasting and Television Corporation say news stories have to be approved by the prime minister's private secretary, Yvette Sam, before they can be broadcast or printed.

The government intervened after VBTC general manager, Godwin Ligo, suspended the deputy general manager, Kaltau Ayong, this week, who also held the position of news manager.

Ayong was alleged to have forced staff to sign a letter calling for Ligo's resignation over the dismissals of six members of the staff.

This has been denied by the staff who say the letter was written after a consensus decision.

Political observers in Port Vila have blamed the current situation on political interference which they say has led to the reinstatement of the six who had been dismissed. (Pacnews)

Currency crisis no worry in Cook Isles

THE COOK Islands prime minister, Sir Geoffrey Henry, says there's no reason for panic over the latest revelation that his country may be headed for a currency crisis over demand there for New Zealand dollars, RNZI reported Tuesday.

Two international banks in Rarotonga, Westpac and ANZ, have rationed New Zealand currency in conversion transactions to prevent a potential run on the currency.

Sir Geoffrey says that decision was made by the banks themselves who some time ago decided to transact in Cook Island currency instead of New Zealand currency.

The prime minister says the Cook Island's currency has never been by law a transactable currency outside the countrv. (Pacnews)

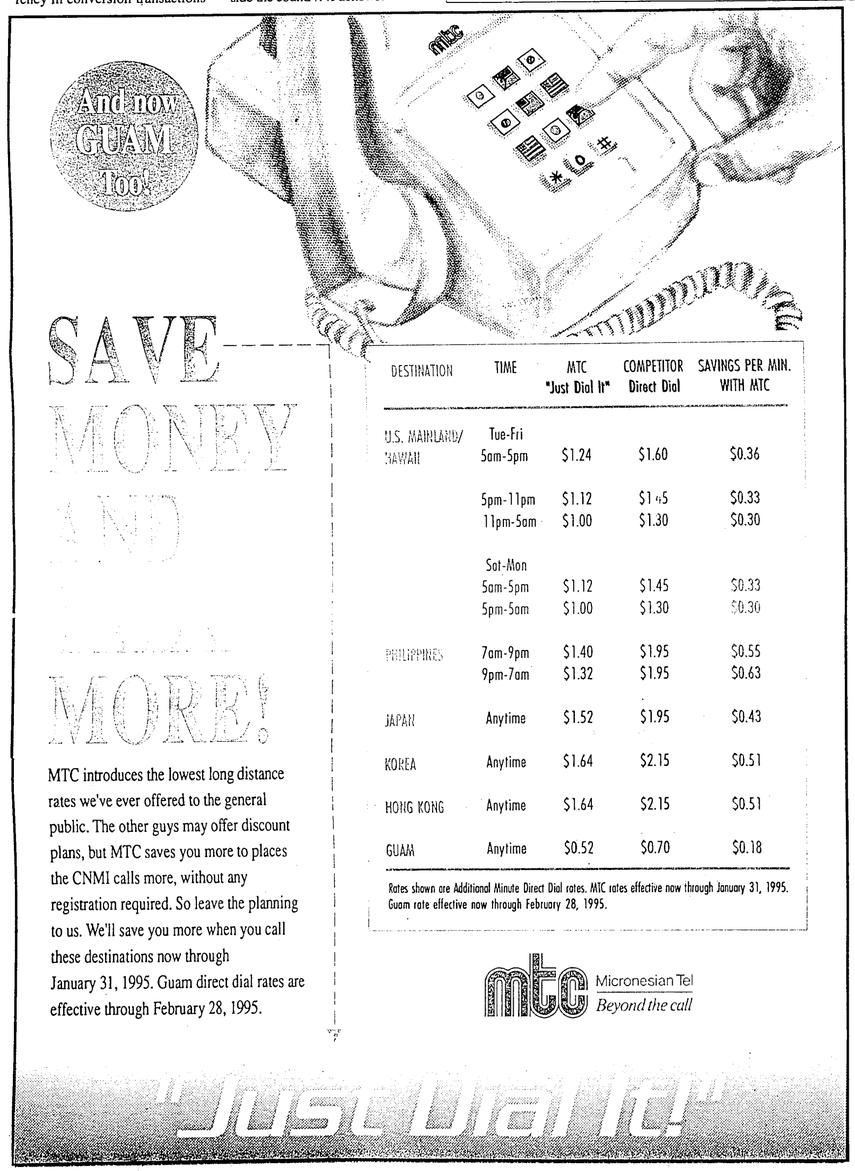
Tuna cannery to pay $1.8M in OSHA fines

AN AMERICAN Samoa tuna cannery has agreed to pay $1.8 million in penalties for occupational safety violations, Hawaii Public Radio reported Wednesday.

The US Occupational Safety and Health Administration - OSHA says StarKist Samoa Incorporated also agreed to significantly improve employee safety and health at its Atu'u fish processing plant.

Assistant secretary of labor, Joseph Dear, says although StarKist failed earlier to address numerous safety and health hazards previously cited by OSHA, it is committed to correcting all hazards found in an inspection that began last June. OSHA cited StarKist for nearly 100 violations.

OSHA said StarKist cooperated in the inspection and has already made significant progress toward correcting the problems. The company has until next March 30 to correct all the violations. (Pacnews)



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	5pm-11pm	$1.12	$1.45	$0.33
	11pm-5am	$1.00	$1.30	$0.30
	Sat-Mon 5am-5pm	$1.12	$1.45	$0.33
	5pm-5am	$1.00	$1.30	$0.30
PHILIPPINES	7am-9pm	$1.40	$1.95	$0.55
	9pm-7am	$1.32	$1.95	$0.63
JAPAN	Anytime	$1.52	$1.95	$0.43
KOREA	Anytime	$1.64	$2.15	$0.51
HONG KONG	Anytime	$1.64	$2.15	$0.51
GUAM	Anytime	$0.52	$0.70	$0.18

Rates shown are Additional Minute Direct Dial rates. MTC rates effective now through January 31, 1995. Guam rate effective now through February 28, 1995.

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"Just Dial It!"

Letters... CUC...

Continued from page 5

tract to co-generate with the public utility.

The CUC maintains ownership of the plant and it supplies all of the expensive lube oil and fuel. In fact, fuel is one of CUC's largest expenses at approximately $1.4 million dollars every month.

Since CUC provides one of the largest expenses for the Puerto Rico plant, the private company charges CUC the rate of 4.5 cents per kilowatt hour. If the private company had to pay for the fuel and engine operating expenses, the cost of generation would be 10.5 cents per kilowatt hour.

Next, consider the fact that once the electricity is generated, it has to get from the power plant to your homes and businesses. The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is proud to operate seven power distribution systems. The systems aren't cheap, they're vitally necessary. When, for example, a motorists takes out one of our power poles on one end of the island, the whole island does not have to suffer.

Similarly, during Typhoons Wilda and Zelda, the majority of our customers receive electricity services in record time precisely because of the investments made in our power distribution system.

When you consider that the average cost of every installed and fully-loaded power pole is two to three thousand dollar, add necessary maintenance to that, add manpower services, build new lines to new homesteads, order spare parts and pay for all of the community's past debts, the utility's overhead is extensive.

Any public or private utility must take these factors into account before customer rates are determined.

We want to assure Mr. Sablan and all of your readers that the Board of Directors and Executive Director continue to scrutinize every expense at the utility. It is the Corporation's mission to provide the most reliable and efficient services while protecting the environment, the public's safety and while we continue to improve customer services.

To that end, our Board and Governor Tenorio are evaluating all options for operating the most efficient public or non public utility.

/s/PAMELA MATHIS

Red Cross...

Continued from page 5

deavor, our donations put together will give our brothers and sisters in need a tremendous return in general well-being. This event may be momentary; but the charity and friendships created are lasting... May we continue to count on your support to the many projects which have made this Chapter so estimable...

Again, thank you very much and I look forward to continuing to work with you during the days ahead as we strive to make the American Red Cross, NMI Chapter, even more responsive to the needs of the community....

Happy Holidays...

/s/JEAN D. SABLAN
Honorary Director

Papua New Guinea News Briefs

Air Niugini puts new aircraft on

AIR NIUGINI domestic services of Papua New Guinea is putting its newest acquisition, a Fokker Eff twenty-eight-four-thousand aircraft into service this week, NBC reported Wednesday.

The aircraft bought at a cost of $6.5 million was acquired from the Dutch Company, Fokker in August this year.

The eighty-seater aircraft arrived in Port Moresby last Thursday and has been undergoing checks by Civil Aviation Authorities.

The Eff-Twenty-Eight went into commercial service yesterday after a maiden flight to the provincial town of Kavieng last Wednesday. (Pacnews)

PNG worst in Child health

PNG has the worst maternal and child health problem in the world because of poor health services, high illiteracy rate among the rural women and the geographical terrain of the country, Post Courier reported Wednesday.

Assistant secretary for health in Morobe Province, Dr. Likei Theo, highlights these problems at the graduation of the Village Birth Attendants (midwives).

He said that maternal health care problem in the country is far worse than what the authorities may think because the geographical terrain makes the health and other government services reaching the rural population very difficult.

Theo stressed that Morobe, having the highest population in the country, also faces difficulty tackling the maternal health care problem in rural areas.

He told trainers, they will be the implementors of policies regarding maternal problems in the remote areas. (Pacnews)

Tree crop subsidy backed

THE PAPUA New Guinea Growers Association is strongly supporting the government's stand on support prices for tree crops, NBC reported Tuesday.

The association president, Mike Manning, says it is important PNG continues to subsidize tree crops when they fall below economic production levels.

Manning's comments follow reports that a suggestion by the Asian Development Bank to remove subsidies to growers has angered the prime minister, Sir Julius Chan and his deputy, Chris Haiveta.

The ADB had argued that the subsidies should be removed and farmers respond to economic pressures by switching to other crops.

However, Manning says this idea may work in advanced economies but not in a small economy like Papua New Guinea. (Pacnews)

Top newsman spearheads press freedom

ONE OF Papua New Guinea's top journalists has been named to spearhead Pacific Islands News Association's efforts to develop and defend freedom of expression and information, a PINA news release stated Wednesday.

Sinclaire Solomon, the executive editor of The National newspaper and president of the PNG National Press Club, becomes PINA's information freedom resource developer.

He was appointed by the PINA executive to replace Sione Tu'itahi, assistant editor of the Tonga Chronicle, who is undergoing a long and continuing recovery in New Zealand from a fall in Nuku'alofa, Tonga.

PINA's president, Monica Miller, of American Samoa, said she is delighted to have someone of Solomon's stature and ability take on this important role. (Pacnews)

PNG goes after overstayers

PAPUA New Guinea is conducting an investigation to flush out overstayers from the country, NBC reported Monday.

The prime minister, Sir Julius Chan, announced the move Sunday, a day after the departure of Australian national, Dennis Reinhardt, whose entry visa had expired in September. Reinhardt unsuccessfully sought court assistance to have his order to leave PNG overturned.

Sir Julius said the PNG government is aware that there are quite a number of foreigners who are overstaying their visas.

Sir Julius said he will order an investigation to have such people removed from the country. He warned that PNG will NOT tolerate any moves by foreigners and their Papua New Guinea friends to play around with the country's migration laws. (Pacnews)

Minister apologizes for punching incident

PAPUA New Guinea's minister for commerce and industry, David Mai, has apologized to the prime minister, Sir Julius Chan, over his behavior at a Port Moresby restaurant last week, PNG media reported Wednesday.

A spokesman for the prime minister said Sir Julius has accepted the apology and explanation.

Mai said in a statement Tuesday he accepted full responsibility for his behavior.

Mai and some people were reported to be involved in a punch up at a Port Moresby last Thursday.

Sir Julius impressed on Mai that such behavior should not be expected of a national leader. (Pacnews)

New debit card system in PNG

A JOINT venture company in Papua New Guinea plans to introduce the country's first "debit card" system, linking commercial banks, merchants and customers around the country for easy money transaction, Post Courier reported Tuesday.

Major commercial banks in the country are said to have shown interest in joining up with Monikad Bureau, which is introducing the new card system.

The idea involves linking banks into the Monikad Bureau which will then be linked to the customers through merchants. (Pacnews)

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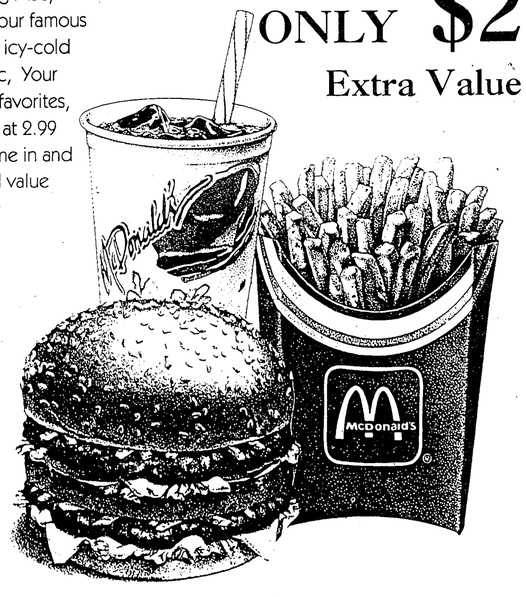

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More letters, more letters

Concerned about solon's power

Rep. Stanley T. Torres
House of Representatives
Ninth Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature
P.O. Box 610
Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Rep. Stanley T. Torres,

THIS letter is in response to your letter to me dated November 9, 1994 as appeared in one of the local papers. Since previous letters written by each of us have appeared in a local newspaper on this matter, we decided to furnish a copy of this letter to the "Pacific Star" so that the public may continue to be informed.

You continue to insist that the median on the road at the bottom of Capitol Hill be referred to as an "island." In referencing Part 5 of the Manual on Uniform Traffic Control Devices (MUTCD) which is entitled "Islands," you clearly neglected to read as far as page two of that Part. Page two states "Where divisional islands are continuous, they are called medians." The underline is our emphasis. Your terminology remains incorrect. The MUTCD continues on that same page to state that an important function of medians is to "provide protection and control of cross and turning traffic."

You have criticized our reliance on a computer-based analysis which determined the length of the median. You point out that "there is an on-going debate in the engineering community as to how much an engineer should depend on a computer-based design." We use only computer programs for which we thoroughly understand the design principals incorporated and the specific data that is required for input to give a meaningful analysis and yield the appropriate results. Our use of computers both reduces the chance of human error in lengthy calculations and reduces the cost of our services.

Perhaps you are unaware that we advised the Secretary of Public Works by letter dated September 16, 1994 that the median could be shortened by seventy feet in order to satisfy a complaint from the proprietor of the two story commercial building on the south side of Cross Island Road. This is a nineteen percent reduction in the original length of three hundred and sixty-six feet as designed by us. We could call to your attention that this was fully one week before your letter of criticism to the Secretary of Public Works appeared in the "Pacific Star" on September 23, 1994. The median length was further reduced by DPW to a length of one hundred fifty feet with our knowledge but without our recommendation. You ask "I notice that the 'island' has now been shortened. Are you implying that is now unsafe?" Our reply is that the situations is certainly less safe than as originally designed. We discussed the safety elements of our design with the Department of Public Safety during the design process. At that time, we arranged to review the accident records one year after the signalized intersection goes into service. We will make further recommendations as appropriate at that time.

You ask "Did you evaluate the alternative of using raised pavement markings instead of an 'island'?" The answer is yes. A median formed by raised pavement markings with the familiar diagonal yellow stripes forms an area that is illegal to cross with a motor vehicle. This type of control of cross traffic is not very effective as it only invites motorists to violate the law and perform an unsafe movement at the same time. A median without the yellow stripes is no median at all and does not accomplish that important function of controlling cross traffic.

We agree as you state that there are examples of intersections that do not use long, raised medians. Each intersection has its own personality, if you will, which involves the amount of traffic, roadside uses and other factors which influence a proper design. Based on each intersection's relevant factors, a median may or may not be necessary, but by proper analysis of these factors the most effective "divider" will be used.

You described a convoluted procedure for vehicles coming down from Capitol Hill to get turned around. A U-turn is not prohibited by our design or by any sign appearing in our design at this intersection. A U-turn is both safe and allowed in this instance.

In closing, Rep. Torres, we must state that we are concerned about the use of power that comes to you as a member of the House of Representatives. We wonder just who you are intending to serve. Is it the motoring public of Saipan or some other more narrowly defined political objective?

Your reference to the MUTCD implies one of three things: 1) you have a copy of the MUTCD in your office; 2) you have a civil engineer working for you in your staff; 3) you consulted with a civil engineer to respond to my letter. Unfortunately, the information you received from any of the above conditions was incorrect. Maybe you should stay out of the practice of engineering.

Sincerely,
JUAN C. TENORIO & ASSOCIATES, INC.

/s/JUAN C. TENORIO, P.E.
President

Ban. . .

Continued from page 5

My dear friends in congress, please end the maximizing business. This is no help to our government's coffer nor to your constituents, and we must understand that we are a free country. If you decide to end it, you can start with the Banking Industry and the poker industry. There are tons of money that can be collected out of these businesses. On the other hand, you ought to consider banning the Poker Machine since the tourist are not the players and is a menace to the community with a few local individuals enriching themselves and the major portion of the money is going into the pocket of an outsider. Oh! and please, consider the "sin taxes bill." I think it will be a healthy bill.

Mery X-Mas!

/s/NICK C. SABLAN

Penfriends section

Request for my name and address to be published in your most esteemed newspaper in order for me to get a pen-pal from your dear country

Dear Sir,

OWING to the need for Universal Friendship which give rise to friends sharing ideas about the cultures in their respective countries, I am writing to you in order for you to have my name and address published in your most esteemed newspaper in order for me to get a pen-pal from your country.

I am a girl of exactly 17 years of age. I hail from the eastern part of Ghana and I am a high school graduate.

My hobbies are:

Writing, reading, travelling, exchange of gifts of all kinds and sports. I am very friendly and kind.

Sir, if any other foreign national (non-American) who is living in the U.S.A. wish to consider me as a pen-pal, I should be very grateful.

Any other help from you which can lead to possible solution to my pen-pal(s) problem should highly be appreciated.

Counting on your help and patience.

Yours faithfully,

/s/ROSEMOND SMITH
c/o Abraham Anderson
P.O. Box 3D
Akropong-Akwapim
Eastern Region, Ghana
West Africa

P.S. If any member of your newspaper board is willing and is interested to be my pen-pal, I should be very glad to hearing from him or her. Meanwhile, I am targeting mainly a male pen-pal though any sex who is interested shall be accepted.

Dear Sir/Madam,

WE WISH to apply through your esteemed newspaper as penfriends.

We are Ghanaians and will be pleased enough to correspond with persons from your country and worldwide.

Our aim is to make friends to promote friendship, understanding each other, sharing the hobbies and curiosity. This has therefore necessitated our humble request for publication in your highly esteemed journal.

We hope our request will receive your kindest consideration.

Thank you.

Yours faithfully,

VENESSA BAKER
P.O. Box 990, Cape Coast, Ghana, W/A
Age: 28 years old
Sex: Female, single
Hobbies: Travelling, reading, friendship, shares intimate relations, sports & exchanging thoughts.

ROSELINE BORBOH
P.O. Box 903, Cape Coast, Ghana, W/A
Age: 29 years old
Sex: Female, single
Hobbies: Cooking, reading, exchange of views, friendship, soccer & share intimate affair

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Encounter with US sub concerns China

BEIJING (AP) - China said Thursday it was concerned about an encounter between one of its submarines and a U.S. aircraft carrier, but declined further comment until the details are clear.

"We are in the process of clarifying what has happened," Foreign Ministry spokesman Chen Jian said at a weekly briefing. "That in itself says that we are concerned."

Chen suggested that the U.S. tracking of a Chinese nuclear submarine might have violated agreements that are the basis of Sino-U.S. diplomatic relations, but stressed again that the Chinese side was still looking into the incident.

"The United States has the obligation to follow those principles in earnest so that its relations with China will not be damaged," the spokesman said.

The State Department has confirmed that the U.S. carrier Kitty Hawk had an encounter with the Chinese submarine in the Yellow Sea in late October.

News reports said the Kitty Hawk's antisubmarine aircraft tracked the sub for three days. At one point, Chinese jet fighters were scrambled and flew within sight of the U.S. airplanes.

The encounter ended when the submarine returned to the main naval base in the Chinese port city of Qingdao and the Kitty Hawk moved out of the area. But an American military attache attending a dinner in Beijing was reportedly told after the incident that China would use force if such an incident recurred.

The State Department said Wednesday that the Kitty Hawk was on a routine patrol in international waters and sought to establish "contact" with the submarine.

"We don't think that this type of incident ought to pose any unnecessary threat to the relations between our two countries," spokesman Michael McCurry said.

Pirates on loose in Indonesian waters

By GREG MYRE

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) - Pirates have been on a rampage in Indonesian waters, with nine reported attacks on commercial ships since late October, the International Maritime Bureau reported Tuesday.

All the ships were attacked between the islands of Bangka and Belitung, about 300 to 500 kilometers (180 to 310 miles) north of the capital of Jakarta, the bureau said.

"Crews have been tied up, ships have been left without navigation and money and crews' effects stolen," said the bureau, which is based in London and has a office in Kuala Lumpur to monitor piracy.

"These attacks are similar ... to the attacks that occurred in the waters in 1991-92," it added.

The trouble began Oct. 25, when pirates boarded the Dutch container ship Reestborg and robbed the crew. The most recent case came Dec. 6, when assailants stormed the Panamanian container ship Eagle Tide.

The bureau had said in July that piracy in Indonesian waters accounted for 12 of the 42 attacks worldwide in the first half of 1994.

The bureau said then, however, that piracy was on the decline worldwide due to stricter patrols and improved law enforcement.

The latest attacks show the problem remains serious, particularly in Asia.

There have been about 400 cases of piracy reported worldwide over the past four years and losses have amounted to about $200 million a year, said Eric Ellen, the bureau's executive director.

The recent attacks in Indonesian waters have been less than 500 kilometers (300 miles) from the Straits of Malacca, one of the world's busiest shipping channels and a favored hunting ground of pirates for centuries. Some 2,000 ships pass each day through the straits, which connect the South China Sea with the Indian Ocean.

A Vietnamese man who resisted repatriation back to his communist homeland, is carried aboard a plane rolled in a blanket by Hong Kong security officers. There are about 24,000 Vietnamese remaining in Hong Kong awaiting repatriations to Vietnam or resettlement elsewhere. (AP photo).

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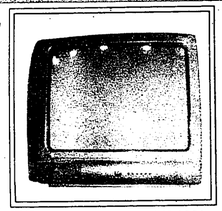

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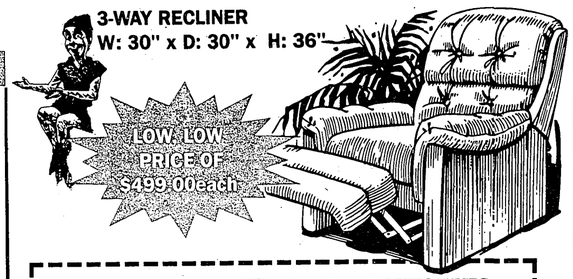

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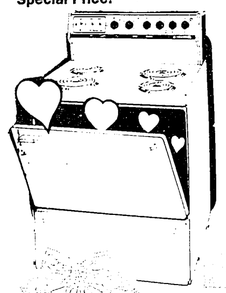

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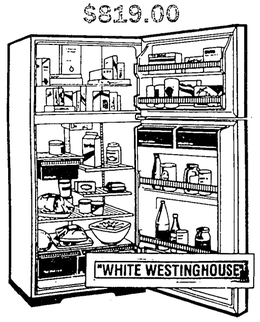

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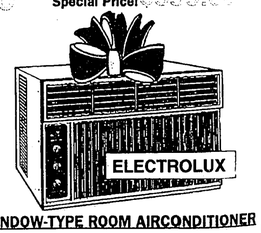

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Walkman #353939 G.E.	$30.00
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Walkman #RE75	$14.00
Walkman #TW18	$16.00
Music Center Component #AN-9000	$550.00
Music Center Component #AN-992	$350.00
CD Music System #RP7944 RCA	$155.00
Component System #MX4 SEIKO	$305.00
Component System #XO-D201 SONY	$580.00
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• Fiesta Teak, Rice 9-pc. set AP2703	850.00
• Fiesta Walnut, Earth 9-pc. set AP2704	850.00
• Jazz Black, Sorrel 9-pc. set AP2708	905.00
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#NRC-18 (10 cups)	Special Price $178.00ea.
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#ECJP18 (10 cups) ..... Special Price $145.00ea.

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(6.5 cups) ..... Special Price $85.00ea.
(10 cups) ..... Special Price $108.00ea.

Fiji's deficit drops by $24M to $36M

FIGURES show that Fiji's deficit for the first half of 1994 dropped by $24 million, Fiji Times reported Tuesday.

Provisional estimates by the Fiji Bureau of Statistics show that Fiji's international transactions to June 1994 resulted in a balance of payments deficit of $36 million, compared to deficit $52.7 million for the same period last year.

The deficit was the excess of payments made of $618 million over receipts of $582 million.

On a balance of payments basis, Fiji earned 198.4 million from the export of goods during the first half of 1994. Import of goods during this period, amounted to $295.7 million.

The trade account was in deficit by $97.3 million compared with deficit of $135.1 million during the same period last year. The improvement in the trade balance was due to fairly significant increases in export earnings together with declines in import spending. (Pacnews)

Fishing firm in FSM bribing officials?

ALLEGATIONS are being made that the Taiwanese fishing company, Ting Hong, has been bribing government officials in Federated States of Micronesia, Radio FSM reported Tuesday.

The allegations stem from recent reports in FSM newspapers that the company bribed government officials with money, jewelry and free travel.

The Ting Hong company specializes in longline fishing and has approximately 270 fishing vessels in the Federated State of Micronesia.

Radio FSM says while the company's profits are estimated at between $100-200 million annually. the Micronesian Maritime Authority issues a yearly foreign fishing license for just $15,000.

The FSM government receives between $12-14 million a year from foreign fishing companies operating in the century. (Pacnews)

Papal visit to PNG may get some snags

IN PAPUA New Guinea, preparations for the visit of Pope John Paul 2 to the country were upset Monday with the withdrawal of a group involved in the visit, Post Courier reported Tuesday.

The Rabaul-based fundraising committee for beatification of martyr Peter ToRot has taken away support for the program.

Committee chairman Dominic ToMar told the Post Courier his members were not happy with the level of preparations for the Pope's visit, which is only five weeks away. The Pope is to visit Port Moresby on January 10 to 18, with an earlier program for a visit to ToRot's home village, near Rabaul cancelled after the volcanic eruptions.

ToMar said Port Moresby organizers had also blatantly disregarded traditional and spiritual values of the Tolai people when they exhumed the body of ToRot on Friday.

But a church spokesman, Father Adrian Meaney, said arrangements were going smoothly and the Tolai withdrawal would not affect preparations. (Pacnews)

Islands unite on fisheries

THE 5-DAY Multi-lateral High-Level Conference on South Pacific Tuna Fisheries in the Solomon Islands capital, Honiara, last week reached common understanding on six key areas of the region's fisheries industry, the SIBC reported Monday.

In a joint statement the states and territories of the South Pacific and distant water fishing nations agreed there was a need for sustainable development of tuna resources of the region and the importance of fishing responsibility.

Agreement was also reached on effective enforcement in the conservation and management of tuna stocks and the need for cooperation between the coastal states and distant water fishing nations.

The conference also agreed that member countries of the Forum Fisheries Agency and distant water fishing nations would consult on the development of a regional vessel monitoring system.

They will also consider ways to improve the collection and exchange of fishery data and exchange stock assessment information.(Pacnews)

Fiji man faces rape raps in Australia

A FIJI man is to be extradited to Australia to face charges of rape, Fiji media reported Wednesday.

The extradition follows the signing of relevant documents by Fiji's foreign affairs minister, Filipe Bole Tuesday after a ruling by the courts that Netani Gucake stand trial in Australia.

The Australian government had applied for extradition through the office of the director of Public Prosecutions.

Two Australian federal police officers were scheduled to arrive Wednesday in Fiji to escort Gucake to Australia.

In the meantime, Gucake has been remanded in custody awaiting his extradition. (Pacnews)

Floods damage villages

HEAVY rains and flooding have caused widespread damage to villages at the foot of Mount Kabiu in Papua New Guinea's East New Britain Province, NBC reported Monday.

Unconfirmed reports reaching NBC say half the houses in three villages have been washed out to sea. And the people along the North Coast villages are reported to be salvaging bits and pieces from their floating houses.

NBC also reports that the road linking the villages has been completely washed away. A team of disaster officials is on its way to the area to check on the extent of the damage.

The area has been experiencing very heavy rain since last Wednesday and NBC says this is expected to continue for sometime. (Pacnews)

Ex-AG, businessman face fraud charges

SUVA businessman, Tony Stephens, and the former Fiji attorney general, Apaitia Seru, who were implicated in the Kermode report, appeared in court Monday, Daily Post reported Tuesday.

The two, charged with fraud, were the only ones taken to court by the office of the Director of Public Prosecutions from the many names involved in the aborted $7 million Tony Stephens' out-of-court Deed of Settlement.

The Kermode report, which was rejected by the government, branded the prime minister, Sitiveni Rabuka's actions in the lead-up to the signing of the deed as prima facie illegal.

No plea was taken and the chief magistrate, Sekove Naqiolevu, has adjourned the case until Wednesday for mention. (Pacnews)

12 political assistants end up without jobs

THE FIJI government has decided to terminate the appointment of political assistants to cabinet ministers, the Fiji Times reported Monday.

According to a senior official the lay-off of the 12 assistants would save about $750,000 annually. The official said the decision was taken as the cabinet began cuts in government expenditure as it had promised to during the 1994 budget debate.

The assistants were appointed to help ministers attend to matters relating to their constituencies. (Pacnews)

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Freedom proponents rap PNG government

WEST Irian people fighting for their territory's independence from Indonesia have accused Papua New Guinea of turning its back on them, NBC reported Monday.

A gathering in Port Moresby Saturday to commemorate World Human Rights Day was told that despite the use of expression, "Our brothers from the other side of the border," past and present PNG governments have failed to address the refugee status of West Irians living in the country.

A spokeswoman for the West Irianese in Port Moresby told NBC they also suffered from freedom of movement, expressions as well as other abuses - treatments that they would receive in Indonesia.

A small but vocal crowd comprising of non-government organizations, West Irianese and human rights activists held a demonstration in Port Moresby to commemorate World Human Rights Day.

Addressing the activists, the president of the PNG Trade Union Congress, John Paska, said democracy in PNG has been mutilated. He said PNG had the worst record of human rights abuses in the South Pacific.

NBC says successive PNG governments have been taking the stand that West Irian's struggle for independence from Indonesia is an internal matter and that they cannot meddle in another country's affairs. (Pacnews)

Britain's Queen Elizabeth II drives herself away from Windsor Castle, west of London Tuesday, Dec. 6, 1994, after it was disclosed by seismic studies that oil lies beneath the castle. The Queen has given permission for exploratory drilling to take place. The Press Association national news agency said experts believe up to $1.5 billion worth of oil lies under the palace - but chances of raising commercially viable amounts are only one in eight. (AP Photo)

Air Caledonie operations disrupted by strike

A NUMBER of flights by Air Caledonie Internationale were cancelled because of a sudden strike, RNZI reported Monday.

The strike was brought on by unions in a protest against the carrier's latest intake of new staff which did not include any native New Caledonian Kanaks.

The action was taken after talks with the management ended without agreement. Subsequently, the strikers used vehicles to block the company's Boeing 737 at Noumea airport.

Three flights to Sydney, Wallis and Papeete were cancelled. (Pacnews)

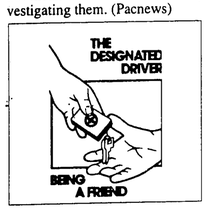
Solomons officials told to declare finances

THE SOLOMON Islands Leadership Code Commission has warned public officers in the country that failing to declare their financial affairs is an offense under the Leadership Code Act.

The warning comes from the secretary of the Leadership Code Commission, Sam Fangaria, who has been issuing leadership code declaration forms for public officers to fill.

The form requires public officers to state their financial interests and that of their spouse and children.

Fangaria said any false declaration may also be seen as misconduct in office. He said the form is a normal circular to be filled-in by all public officers including those of statutory authorities, and does not mean the commission is investigating them. (Pacnews)



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No lifting of Sunday ban in Fiji

THE FIJI government is unlikely to lift the Sunday Ban this month as indicated by its coalition partner the General Voters Party (GVP) in October, the Daily Post reported Monday.

Cabinet sources said the issue is not on the agenda for discussion in the cabinet meeting scheduled for Tuesday.

A cabinet sub-committee on the Sunday Ban has completed its report on the controversial issue. Sources said the sub-committee received at least 30 submissions in favor of revoking the Sunday Observance Decree, which has been in place since the 1987 military coups.

There were four submissions against lifting the decree, among them one from the Methodist church.

GVP parliamentary leader Leo Smith said in October that government had indicated it would life the decree "before December or in December." Smith said then that the GVP wished to see the restrictions return to pre-1987. He reiterated the Party's position last Friday.

A Fiji Labor Party motion calling for the House of Representatives to revoke the Sunday Observance Decree has been deferred until the next session of parliament, next year. (Pacnews)

FSM news service proposed

A NATIONAL radio News Service for the Federated States of Micronesia has been proposed this week during a broadcast training workshop in Pohnpei State, Radio FSM reported Tuesday.

The idea for the news service came about after broadcasters from the four States of the FSM decided it is important for the disseminating of information to the people of the FSM.

According to FSM Broadcasting Association chairman, Joe Commor, the introduction of the News service would mean a better news exchange in the FSM. Commor says that news will be shared between all Radio Stations in FSM as well as outside news organizations.

The one-week workshop organized by Pacific Broadcast, has covered many aspects of radio news writing including news presentation. (Pacnews)

Tongan stands by 'dictator' remark

A PRO-DEMOCRACY campaigner in Tonga, 'Akilisi Pohiva, is refusing to apologize for comments he made about the king in an interview with the American newspaper, the Wall Street Journal, RNZI reported Wednesday.

The paper quoted him as saying the King of Tonga is a dictator.

But Pohiva says he didn't mean that the king personally was a dictator but rather that the monarchial system of Tonga's government is dictatorial in nature.

Meanwhile, 400 women have signed a protest letter to parliament, calling for a reprimand of Pohiva for his comments. The letter says Tonga has no political prisoners and that the monarchy has never harmed or killed anyone for political reasons as is in the nature of dictatorships.

Under Tonga's constitution, a majority of parliamentarians are nobles appointed by the king, with only a minority of members, including Pohiva, being elected by the people. (Pacnews)

Erratum

The last name of the president-elect of the Rotary Club International of Saipan that appeared in a photo caption on page three in Wednesday's issue of Marianas Variety was incorrect. The correct name should be Frances Borja, not Bellas. In the following caption, a computer error resulted to the unintentional omission of the name of Karl Reyes, past president of RCI-Saipan. The original caption was, "Rotary Club International of Saipan Karl Reyes helps RCI secretary David Welch tabulate..." We regret the errors.

Saturday rally vs violence on women

THE FIJI Women's Crisis Center organized marches throughout the country on Saturday to call for action against violence against women, the Fiji Times reported Monday.

Center co-ordinator Shamima Ali said the march was part of an international women's network which was fighting against violence against women.

"It was Human Rights Day and the march was our call for action that violence against women was against human rights," Ali said.

Ali said women wanted to show men folk that they will not accept violence against women. She said the Women Crisis Center had been lobbying for the past 10 years and will keep doing so until legislation that treat women fairly are implemented.

Ali said petitions had been given to the United Nations and member countries that support services be provided for women victims of violence. (Pacnews)

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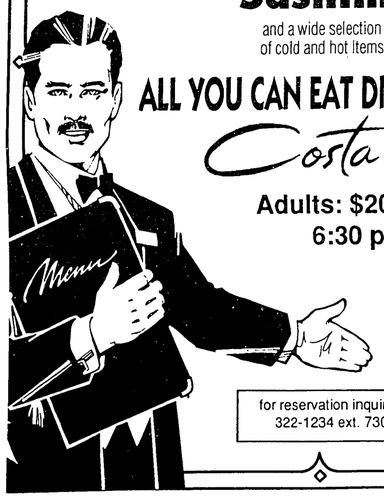

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Just about any weekend, one can see students from the high schools or college out washing cars to raise funds. Here, Pohnpei Island Central School Chuukese Club members Marçus Manuel, left, Robert Sirocy, Evelyn Conrad, and Vicarious Mizart are cleaning one of several hundred cars in an effort to raise money to rent cars to do a day cruise around the island. (Photo by Tom Panholzer)

PNG prime minister says Aussie threatened gov't

PAPUA New Guinea's prime minister, Sir Julius Chan, has revealed that controversial Australian national, Denis Reinhardt, used threats against the government to try to stay in PNG, NBC reported Monday.

Reinhardt left the country Saturday after losing a court battle to remain in PNG. The Department of Foreign Affairs ordered him to leave after his visa expired in September.

Sir Julius told reporters Moresby that Reinhardt's threats of international disfavor and toppling of the government if he left were a direct attack on PNG's sovereignty.

According to Sir Julius, Reinhardt said if he left there'd be possible negative repercussions in PNG's relations with Australia. Also, that Sir Julius would be toppled as prime minister and that investor confidence would be damaged.

Sir Julius said the threats were tantamount to attempted blackmail, adding that no visitor to PNG could be allowed to get away with threatening the government, the leader and the sovereignty of the nation. (Pacnews)

South Pacific taking part in world confab

WOMEN from non-self-governing territories of the South Pacific are meeting in Fiji this week to prepare to send a delegation to the Fourth World Conference on Women to be held in Beijing next year, RNZI reported Monday.

Ounei-Small, who represented New Caledonia's Kanak Independence Movement at the last world conference, has described this week's gathering as an historic occasion.

She says it will be the first time that Pacific women from the non-self-governing territories are getting together to discuss their problems.

Territories to be represented include East Timor, West Papua, New Caledonia and French Polynesia. Observers have also been invited from Bougainville. (Pacnews)

Tuvalu cabinet approves cost reduction proposal

TUVALU's cabinet has approved reforms to the public sector aimed at reducing government expenditure and rectifying an over-employment problem in the civil service, Radio Tuvalu reported Monday.

The reforms are the result of a report by a 3 man mission commissioned by the new government of Prime Minister Kamuta Laatasi early this year to conduct a review of the public sector.

The mission comprised John Baker from New Zealand and two prominent Tuvaluans, SPC economist Siliga Kofe and former secretary general of the Forum Secretariat, Henry Naisali.

The mission recommended making redundant 53 public servants by March 1995. To implement this the government is calling for voluntary redundancy to be followed by compulsory lay-offs of officers assessed to exhibit unsatisfactory performance.

The mission also recommended privatizing the travel office and leasing of the Vaiaku Langi Hotel completed recently at a cost of $2.3 million.

Redundancy pay will be four weeks per completed year of service up to ten years i.e. total max of 40 weeks. The estimated savings from the redundancies will be $175,000. (Pacnews)

Ban versus journalist gets lifted

THE PAPUA New Guinea government has lifted the ban on Solomon Islands journalist, Alfred Sasako, from entering Papua New Guinea, NBC reported Monday.

This means Sasako, who's currently the information and publications officer with the South Pacific Forum Secretariat in Suva, Fiji, can go to PNG's as early as February to organize media coverage of the 1995 Forum in Port Moresby.

The ban on Sasako was placed in 1991 after he entered Bougainville illegally at the height of secessionist crisis to report on the situation. He was employed by the Australian Associated Press at that time and based in Brisbane.

Announcing the lifting of the ban against Sasako, the prime minister, Sir Julius Chan, said he was satisfied that his current role with the Forum Secretariat which requires him to travel to PNG to prepare for the 1995 Forum far outweighed the reasons for which he was banned. (Pacnews)

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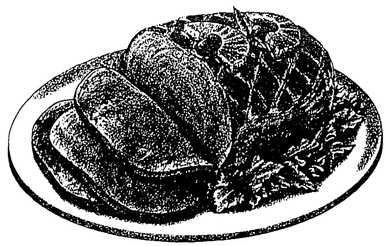

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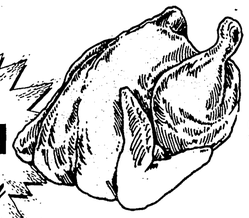

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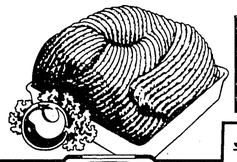

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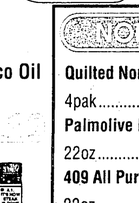
Duncan Hines Homestyle Vanilla Frosting 16oz	$1.59
Hills Bros Coffee 12oz	$2.55
Nestle Quik Chocolate 32oz	$5.18
Delmonte Fruit Cocktail 17oz	$1.29

Hormel Corned Beef 12oz
$1.89



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409 All Purpose Cleaner 22oz	$3.14
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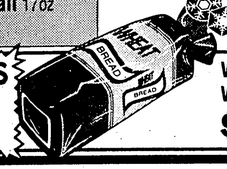

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Clinton leaning toward $50B tax cut

By TOM RAUM

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Clinton got down to final details of his tax-cut plan for middle-income families Wednesday, with officials saying he was moving toward proposing a $50 billion mix of breaks.

In addition to reviving a 1992 campaign promise for tax cuts for middle-class parents with children, the president will probably propose credits or deductions for college and other post-high school education, administration officials said.

The president has said he would propose a tax cut only if he could find a way to pay for it. The administration on Wednesday removed any doubt.

"Thanks to the president's successful deficit reduction program and the economic growth achieved largely by his export-promotion policies, we will be able to give a tax cut to the middle class," said Brian Atwood, head of the Agency for International Development, in a speech advocating continuing foreign aid programs

Generally, Clinton is expected to limit the tax breaks to those earning under $100,000 a year.

That would put him between a Republican plan for tax breaks for children in families earning up to $200,000 a year and a proposal by House Democratic Leader Richard Gephardt for a tax break for all workers earning up to $75,000 a year.

The other administration officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, also said an expansion of tax breaks for individual retirement accounts might be included in the package.

On the eve of a nationally televised speech, the president had yet to make final decisions on the tax-cut plan and exactly how to pay for it, aides said.

Clinton will only sketch out his proposals in the brief speech, with the administration expected to fill in details on Friday. "This is not a budget speech," said White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers.

As Clinton met for a third day in a row with his economic advisers, the scope of possible spending cuts was coming into focus.

According to various administration officials, they include:

- Some $1 billion in cuts from public housing programs, particularly those for renovation or upgrading. At least 12 programs may be eliminated and an undetermined number would be consolidated.

- Making the Federal Housing Administration, a Depression-era body that guarantees mortgages, a quasi-independent entity and creating a public housing corporation to sell off apartment properties that the government now controls.

- Sharp reductions in the Energy Department's environmental cleanup program at weapons plants and in money for basic science research, including a proposal to shut one of the department's prestigious research labs.

Photos of Nicole Simpson seized

By LINDA DEUTSCH

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Prosecutors in the O.J. Simpson case drilled out the lock on Nicole Brown Simpson's safe-deposit box and seized photographs of her with a bruised forehead and injured left eye, defense sources said Wednesday.

The pictures purportedly show injuries Ms. Simpson had after police were summoned to the Simpson home in 1989. Simpson pleaded no contest to spousal battery in that incident.

Prosecutors in the Simpson murder case are expected to argue that jurors should see the pictures as evidence of a pattern of domestic violence that could have led to the slayings of Ms. Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman.

Simpson's lawyers are likely to oppose any use of the photos because they are remote in time from the 1994 killings and because no cross-examination is possible to determine how Ms. Simpson got injured.

A hearing on the admissibility of domestic violence evidence is scheduled for Thursday.

Simpson, 47, a former American football star turned television sports commentator and movie actor, is charged with the knife killings of Ms. Simpson and her friend Ronald Goldman on June 12.

Authorities with a search warrant opened the safe-deposit box last month and found at least four photographs of Ms. Simpson, said sources speaking on condition of anonymity.

It was not immediately clear how the pictures ended up in the safe-deposit box.

In a TV interview, Ms. Simpson's father wept when he recalled first seeing the pictures. Lou Brown said his daughter showed the photos to him two or three days after the New Year's Eve 1989 incident.

"She never thought I got the significance of it, and I didn't at the time," Brown said.

"I don't want to blame myself for something I just didn't recognize," Brown said in an interview on CNBC's "Rivera Live" to air Thursday, "because the whole family was unaware of the situation that existed then. That's all something that we've since come to recognize - the signs that are there."

Simpson has declared he is innocent. He has referred to himself as feeling at times like a battered husband.

The photos show a bruise on Ms. Simpson's forehead and injuries to her left eye, the sources said. Another photo is of Ms. Simpson, wearing a white sweatsuit, at a police station, the sources said.

Meanwhile, a defense request to postpone a hearing on the admissibility of DNA evidence until after the trial is under way drew a disdainful reply from prosecutors, who said the hearing must be held before testimony begins.

Prosecutors said what the defense seeks to do is unprecedented - to interrupt a trial in order to argue over the admissibility of DNA evidence in front of the jury, which may or may not be allowed to consider it.

They urged that the matter be heard Jan. 4 as scheduled.

Don't Drink and Drive

US-Vietnam ties possible next year

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) - A key U.S. Senator predicted Wednesday that the United States could establish full diplomatic relations with Vietnam as soon as next year, helped along by a recent thawing in American relations with North Korea.

"I wouldn't be surprised to see something significant happen in 1995," said Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska.

Private and government financial claims left over from the Vietnam War would probably be settled by then, he explained to reporters. And the main obstacle to better relations, the American requirement that Hanoi do more to help resolve the 1,621 cases of U.S. servicemen missing from the war in Vietnam, is becoming less troublesome, he said.

"Every report we've had indicates that they are cooperative" on the MIA issue, Murkowski said of the Vietnamese.

The Republican lawmaker is likely to serve as the next chairman of the Senate Subcommittee on East Asia and Pacific Affairs. He spoke during a three-day visit to Vietnam with Sen. Paul Simon, D-Ill., a fellow member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

The senators came to Hanoi after briefly visiting North and South Korea.

The rapid improvement in U.S. ties with North Korea contrasts with the slow progress in American relations with Vietnam.

"It points out a bit of an inconsistency, where we've had a long relationship with Vietnam ... " Murkowski said. "This may cause the State Department and our negotiators to revisit the timetable here in Vietnam."

Murkowski is an outspoken critic of an accord signed in October under which the United States will give North Korea two modern nuclear reactors, oil supplies and limited diplomatic recognition in exchange for Pyongyang's promise to dismantle its capacity to make nuclear weapons.

President Clinton lifted a 19-year economic embargo against Vietnam in February, and both countries have agreed to set up liaison offices in one another's capitals in the near future. The two sides initialled an agreement last Friday to return old diplomatic properties.

But Vietnamese officials and U.S. businessmen complain that Vietnam's lack of most favored nation trading status hinders closer ties. Murkowski said he supports granting MFN status, under which Vietnam's exports to the United States would qualify for the lowest possible tariffs, as the next step in improved relations once financial claims are resolved.

Murkowski denied that the new Republican majorities in both houses of Congress would necessarily create pressure for the United States to go slow in its relationship with Vietnam.

Three Korean War MIAs to be buried after four decades

By ROBERT BURNS

WASHINGTON (AP) - More than 43 years after they were declared missing in action in the Korean War, the remains of three American servicemen shot down in a B-29 bomber over North Korea have been turned over to relatives for burial.

It is only the second time since the 1950s that remains of U.S. servicemen have been formally identified by the U.S. government and presented to family members. The first, last February, was Army Sgt. Frank M. Morales of Puerto Rico.

Funeral services for the three B-29 crew members are set for Friday, said Sandra Krueger, whose cousin, Master Sgt. Robert Wilson Jones, was among the three whose remains were repatriated with more than 100 others in late 1993 by the North Korean army.

Ms. Krueger, of Dekalb, Texas, said in a telephone interview Wednesday that Jones would be buried in Dekalb, his hometown, on Friday beside the graves of his mother and father.

"It's really a relief," she said.

The two other members of the B-29 crew whose remains have been identified are Lt. George Aaron of New York City, who was the pilot, and 2nd Lt. Elmer T. Bullock of Penacook, N.H., the plane's radar observer. Jones was the flight engineer.

Alan Aaron of New York, a nephew of George Aaron, said in an interview that he only learned of the formal identifications through Pat Dunton, president of the Korean-Cold War Family Association of the Missing. Her father, Lt. James S. Wilson Jr., of Memphis, Tenn., was the navigator on the same B-29, which was shot down by a Soviet MiG fighter over the Yalu River on April 12, 1951.

Remains that the North Korean army said were those of Mrs. Dunton's father were turned over to U.S. officials last December along with four others that the Koreans said were from the same B-29 crew. Wilson's dog tags were included.

More than 8,000 service men are officially listed as unaccounted for from the three-year Korean War.

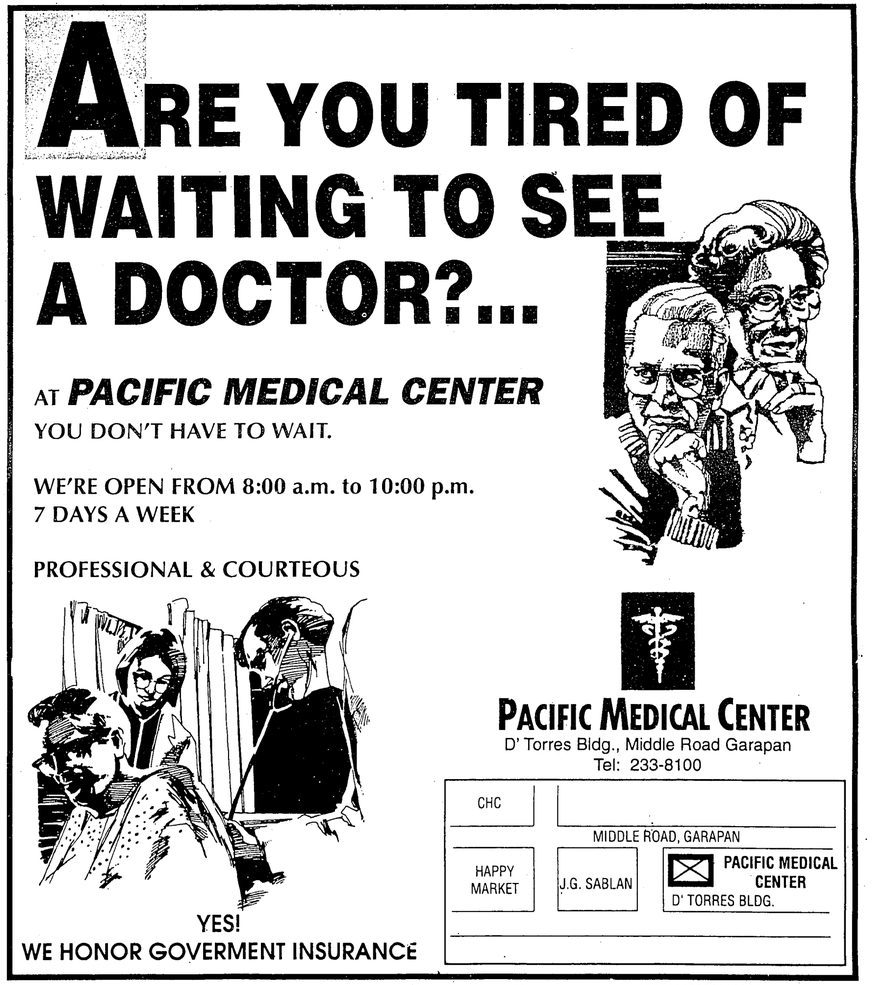
Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, who is expected to be the next chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations subcommittee on East Asian and Pacific Affairs, said he raised the issue of MIA accounting when he visited North Korea last week.

Aussie tourist falls to death

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) - An Australian tourist fell 150 meters (500 feet) to his death while hiking in a southern national park, a local news agency reported Wednesday.

Diarios y Noticias news agency said police found the body of Edlit Carnell, 55, who lost his balance and fell over a precipice while hiking Tuesday in the Nahuel Huapi National Park, 1,017 miles (1,637 kilometers) south of Buenos Aires.

Police said they were alerted Tuesday night by 11 fellow hikers who had been climbing Cerro Catredal, a peak in the Andean foothills.



Aid cut may cause int'l instability

By RITA BEAMISH

WASHINGTON (AP) - In a bid to derail Republican-spearheaded cuts in U.S. foreign aid, the Clinton administration on Wednesday warned "international disorder" will stem from ignoring conditions that create political and social instability.

With Republican sentiments emerging to cut foreign assistance, the administration is trying to make the case that working on development issues with poor countries averts more costly longterm crises like food shortages, rampant disease, illiteracy and environmental problems that cause migration, social tensions and ethnic conflict.

"We cannot simply wall out the chaos beyond our borders," J. Brian Atwood, administrator of the U.S. Agency for International Development, said in a speech Wednesday to the Center for National Policy. "Those who suggest that our nation can afford to reduce our foreign aid budget still further are playing with fire."

"The threat is international disorder and it is a strategic threat because it endangers the political, economic and security interests of the United States," he said.

He referred specifically to a study out this week by the conservative think tank the Heritage Foundation. It recommends foreign assistance be withdrawn from all countries except those establishing free market reforms.

The "Index of Economic Freedom," a study of 100 nations, concludes that central government control, restricting free markets, keeps countries poor no matter how much aid they get.

Atwood, on the other hand, contended many countries now providing large markets for U.S. exports, like South Korea, have built their economies with the help of past U.S. foreign aid.

Others poised to be substantial trading partners, such as Thailand and Chile, are also past aid recipients, USAID said. But the Heritage study also used the example of Chile, noting that despite $1.2 billion in U.S. development aid from 1946 to 1990, Chile remained stagnant economically until the last few years when it introduced market reforms and privatization.

Foreign aid, although representing less than 1 percent of total government spending, has long been a popular target of Congress, and may be in considerable jeopardy with the Republican takeover of Capitol Hill.

Republican Sen. Mitch McConnell this week proposed legislation to reduce the government's $13.7 billion foreign aid budget and abolish USAID, giving the State Department control of foreign assistance programs.

McConnell, incoming chairman of the Appropriations subcommittee on foreign operations, said he wanted to make sure that U.S. tax dollars are spent to promote free markets and advance U.S. foreign policy goals.

But Atwood portrayed an apocalyptic future unless money is spent on crisis prevention in countries that are increasingly plagued by poverty, hunger and environmental degradation and ensuing political instability.

"Millions of refugees, the spread of drug trafficking, pollution of our air and water and the disruption and loss of markets will inevitably undermine our security and our standard of living," he said, adding that the United States will pay a price "economically, politically and morally," for ignoring other countries' problems.

The agency has revamped itself under Atwood, announcing closure of 23 overseas missions in the next three years and "streamlining" operations.

But many conservative Republicans take a dim view of it's new emphasis on population problems and environment, which the Clinton administration has promoted.

Firms hired to construct the world's longest underwater telephone cable

NEW YORK (AP) - The world's largest telecommunications cable - an underwater link from Britain to Japan - will be built by AT and T Corp. and Japan's KDD Inc., an investor group led by Nynex Corp. announced Wednesday.

The $1.2 billion optical fiber link will become the world's largest telecommunications cable and touch nine other countries or territories. Construction is to begin in the spring and finish at the end of 1996.

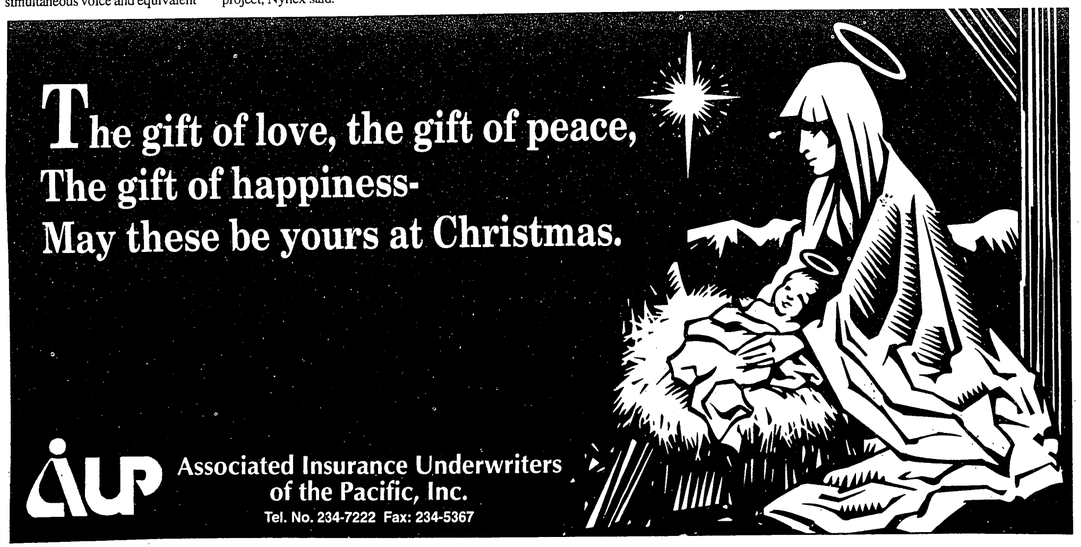
A consortium called Fiberoptic Link Around the Globe (FLAG) - led by Nynex -will pay for and operate the system. The cable will be able to transmit about 320,000 simultaneous voice and equivalent data and video messages.

In addition to the United Kingdom and Japan, the cable will have landing points in Spain, Italy, Egypt, the United Arab Emirates, India, Thailand, Malaysia, Hong Kong and Korea.

Nynex is being joined in the venture by Dallah-Al Baraka Group, an investment company in Jeddah, Saudi Arabia; Marubeni Corp., Japanese trading company; and Gulf Associates Inc., a New York developer.

TelecomAsia Corporation Public Co. Ltd. of Thailand and the Asian Infrastructure Fund, an investment firm, may also join in the project, Nynex said.

Teddy Girl," the teddy bear manufactured by Steiff of Germany in 1904 is held by its new owner Yoshihiro Sekiguchi, at Christie's auction house in London, Monday, December 5, 1994. The rare bear which accompanied its owner the late Col. Bob Henderson on a long military career sold for a record price of $171,600 at Christie's, Monday. Sekiguchi intends to put the bear in a toy museum near Tokyo. (AP Photo)



Sri Lanka hopes pope visit ends war

By NIRESH ELIATAMBY

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) - Devout Roman Catholics believe Father Joseph Vaz performed miracles when he came to Sri Lanka 300 years ago. They hope he can do another when the pope comes to beatify him.

After 11 years of civil war, many Sri Lankans believe a miracle is needed to help bring peace to this ethnically divided island nation, which lies off the southern tip of India.

Sri Lanka is dominated by Buddhist Sinhalese, who are battling a rebellion by minority Tamils who want their own homeland in the north and east. The Tamils, who contend they are discriminated against in jobs and education, are mostly Hindus but also have many Christians.

Pope John Paul II's visit in late January comes as a new government and the Tamil Tiger guerrilla movement are taking tentative steps toward peace.

The government announced Monday that the rebels accepted a proposal to start a cease-fire before Christmas. But terms of the truce remain to be worked out, and previous attempts at negotiations have foundered.

About 100,000 Catholics in the Tamil stronghold of Jaffna, a northern peninsula, have asked permission to travel to the capital, Colombo, for the Jan. 20 beatification of Vaz.

A step toward sainthood, beatification is a proclamation by the church that a person is worthy of becoming a saint.

"The church has repeatedly urged the government to negotiate with the Tamil Tigers on opening a land route to the peninsula, since almost all Jaffna Catholics are anxious to see His Holiness," said the Rev. Malcolm Ranjith, the auxiliary bishop of Colombo.

Rebels have banned traffic on the two land routes from the peninsula since 1992, while army troops block the way from the other side.

"Even the guerrillas have agreed that Catholics should use this wonderful opportunity and will allow them passage," said Bishop Thomas Savundranayagam in Jaffna.

Legends have grown about Vaz, an Indian missionary known as the "Apostle of Lanka," since he came to the island in 1687.

He sneaked in aboard a slave ship after the island's Calvinist Dutch rulers expelled 120 missionaries in an effort to stamp out Catholicism. He started his missionary work at Jaffna.

The miracle ascribed to Vaz that earned his beatification came in 1938, when the family of a dying Indian woman put his picture on her body and prayed. Five doctors testified to the Vatican that no scientific explanation could be found for her recovery.

Now, many Catholics hope for a miracle to end the bloodshed.

Peace talks that began in October were suspended after a suicide bomber killed the leader of the country's main opposition party and 56 other people at an election rally.

The interrupted round of talks was focusing on opening a route to Jaffna. "We hope the two sides will reach agreement before Jan. 20," said Ranjith.

But even without a formal agreement, the church is preparing for up to 10,000 Catholics to make the perilous crossing of the lagoon that separates Jaffna from the mainland.

Nearly half of the nation's 1.2 million Catholics are expected to attend a three-hour Mass on the Galle Face Green on Colombo's sea front.

Interest in the visit is not confined to Christians on Sri Lanka, where about 70 percent of the 17 million people are Buddhist, 15 percent are Hindus and 7 percent each are Christians and Muslims.

"Everyone is excited. This event will really put Sri Lanka on the world map. All we are known for is war, corruption and political assassinations," said Mohamed Nazeer, 37, a Muslim trader from Dharga, a town in the south.

Western Temporary Services' Santa School Santas relax poolside at a hotel in Beverly Hills, Calif., before a graduation ceremony Thursday, Dec. 1, 1994. Western Temporary Services trains about 3,000 santas yearly throughout the United States, Australia, and New Zealand for more than 25 years. (AP Photo)

Islamic nations' leaders seek unity

By ELAINE GANLEY

CASABLANCA, Morocco (AP) - The world's Muslim leaders worked to plan seeds of unity among Islamic nations and combat religious fanaticism at a summit soured by inter-Arab rifts.

The meeting, which continued past midnight Wednesday, was prolonged an extra day, as was a foreign ministers' session that preceded it.

The summit fixed its sights on an action plan for Islamic nations on behalf of the Muslim-led Bosnian government, and on improving Islam's image to give the world's more than 1 billion Muslims more clout.

But feuding between Jordan and the Palestinians that has dogged the 52-nation Organization of the Islamic Conference since last week overshadowed those efforts, emphasizing the rivalries plaguing Muslim unity.

King Hussein of Jordan left Casablanca abruptly Wednesday afternoon. He denied being angry, but his early departure underscored the schisms that exist even among friends.

Jordan had been seeking public endorsement of its role in safeguarding Muslim holy sites in Arab east Jerusalem - a move the Palestinians objected to out of fear it would weaken their claim to sovereignty over that sector of the city holy to Christians, Muslims and Jews.

It was not immediately clear who got the upper hand in the dispute.

"There is no problem over Jerusalem," Hussein said in a brief airport statement. "We do not seek to compete with anyone."

Jordanian Prime Minister Abdel-Salam al-Majali stayed on to continue summit business.

King Hassan II of Morocco went to great effort to ensure the success of the summit that marks the 25th anniversary of the OIC. More than 25 heads of state were present and an equal number of ranking delegates. Only a handful of leaders attended the previous summit, held three years ago in Dakar, Senegal.

The Moroccan monarch is pressing to give some clout to the Islamic world in a new world order under transformation since the fall of Communism. In his opening address Tuesday, he castigated Islamic extremists for "tarnishing" the image of Islam.

He denounced "fatwas," or religious decrees, against other Muslims and "jihads," or holy wars.

Without naming anyone, he was making a clear reference to the death warrant over Salman Rushdie, author of "The Satanic Verses," a novel that many Muslims believe blasphemes Muhammed, the father of Islam. The king's remarks also targeted the Islamic insurgency in neighboring Algeria, where more than 11,000 people have been killed.

"Who are these Muslims who declare jihad against other Muslims, who slash the throats of women and children, who burn schools ...," Algerian Prime Minister Mokdad Sifi said in an address to leaders at a session largely devoted to fanaticism.

The summit was expected to adopt a code of conduct forbidding the financing or other support of terrorist groups. The West has accused Iran, Libya and Sudan of state-sponsored terrorism.

Sudanese leader, Gen. Omar al-Bachir, said accusations that his nation supports terrorists was a "plot" against Islam propagated by Western media.

"It is the United States that calls us terrorists," he said at a news conference. "But up until now, they have failed to give any proof .... This is just a war against Islam."

The plight of Bosnia's Muslims was a rallying point for far-flung Muslim nations and offered an opportunity for them to prove their mettle where the West is stumbling.

Militant Islamic group seeks attacks on Israel

By SAID GHAZALI

DEIR AL-BALAH, Gaza Strip (AP) - The militant Islamic group Hamas marked its seventh anniversary Wednesday with an unruly rally where speakers demanded that Israel release their spiritual leader or face further bloody attacks.

"Israel must release Sheikh Ahmed Yassin or the brigades are preparing booby-trapped car bombs," Hamas spokesman Bassam Nassar told the 3,000-strong crowd. "There is no solution except through holy war."

Sheik Ahmad Yassin, the quadriplegic founder of the extremist movement, was sentenced to life in an Israeli prison in 1989 for ordering attacks on Israeli soldiers and informants.

The security services were on special alert for the anniversary of the founding of the Islamic Resistance Movement, or Hamas, with all leaves canceled and extra patrols. In its battle against the September 1993 Israel-PLO peace plan, Hamas has claimed most of the attacks that killed 94 Israelis. Violence claimed 187 Palestinian lives in the same period.

On Wednesday, four Israeli soldiers and a Palestinian were injured in three separate incidents.

In the occupied West Bank city of Ramallah, a reserve soldier made a wrong turn and found himself in the center of a hostile group of youths who stoned his car.

The soldier was bleeding from the head and his car destroyed before Israeli troops arrived to extract him. The army said the soldier was hospitalized in moderate condition.

Near the West Bank town of Tulkarm, two Israeli soldiers were slightly injured when they drove over a roadside bomb, the army said. No other details were available.

In the Gaza Strip, a Palestinian stabbed and injured a soldier at a look-out post near the Jewish settlement Ganei Tal. Israeli troops opened fire, wounding the assailant in the legs.

Palestinian reporters identified the attacker as Talal Abu Moussa, 19, from Khan Yunis. They said Abu Moussa, a Hamas member, was carrying a Koran.

The rally at Deir Al-Balah in the center of the Gaza Strip area under Palestinian autonomy included displays of martial arts and speeches calling for the escalation of attacks against Israel.

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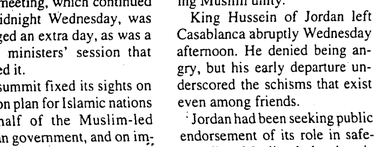

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Chiapas violence could erupt

By ANITA SNOW

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico (AP) - The army and rebel leaders are bracing for renewed fighting in Chiapas state, where two men are claiming to be the rightful governor, the alternative government said.

"There are movements by both armies, both are currently on maximum alert. The confrontation could start at any moment and just the slightest incident could make a spark that could set Chiapas ablaze," the "Transition Government in Rebellion" said in a statement Wednesday.

Amado Avendano, head of the parallel government, told reporters he feared war could erupt within two days if federal authorities did not immediately intervene to ease rising tensions.

"If the situation continues as it is, the war could erupt in 48 hours," self-proclaimed protest governor Amado Avendano told reporters.

But he emphasized that he had no inside information about rebel or army movements and was simply trying to underscore the seriousness of the conflict in this southernmost state.

Avendano is a lawyer-journalist who claims that the ruling party's candidate, Eduardo Robledo Rincon, used fraud and intimidation to steal the gubernatorial election from him during an Aug. 21 ballot.

Hours after Robledo was inaugurated last Thursday, Avendano declared himself true governor of Chiapas.

He and his supporters have taken over buildings owned by the federal National Indigenous Institute in San Cristobal de las Casas and declared them the headquarters of their parallel state government.

The National Defense Headquarters did not confirm reports of military movements on Wednesday, and no greater military presence was visible.

The army, however, has added roadblocks on the way to rebel territory deep in the Lacandon jungle. It has also increased security at the government palace.

President Ernesto Zedillo has sworn that the army will not initiate fighting.

Avendano is backed by the Zapatista National Liberation Army, which declared war against the government last Jan. 1, demanding more rights and services for the region's impoverished Indian farmers. More than 145 people were killed in the fighting in the southern state.

A government-declared cease-fire has held since Jan. 12, but Zapatista leader Subcomandante Marcos had warned fighting could resume if Robledo was inaugurated.

"Chiapas today is living one of its tensest moments," said the alternative government's statement.

It called on President Zedillo to halt the militarization. Zedillo, like Robledo, belongs to the Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI, which has governed Mexico for 65 years. Robledo took a leave of absence from the party shortly before the inauguration in an effort to defuse tensions.

Zedillo vowed Tuesday that the army will maintain its cease-fire with the rebels.

"In Chiapas there will not be war," Zedillo said in Mexico City. "The Mexican army will unilaterally maintain the cease-fire."

PAL blast in Tokyo may be time bomb induced

TOKYO (AP) - The finding of a watch and parts of a battery have raised the possibility that a time bomb caused the explosion that killed one passenger on a Philippines Airlines flight, Japanese news reports said Wednesday.

Kyodo News Service reported earlier that police had found pieces of black plastic in the Japanese victim's body, indicating the explosive could have been a plastic grenade.

Shinichi Fushimi, a spokesman of the Okinawa Prefectural Police, said only that police were examining about 120 tiny pieces of material, including plastic fragments, and were trying to identify them. He gave no details, and said police had not announced any conclusions like those in the news reports.

Police also have recovered the plane's cockpit voice recorder and flight data recorder, he added.

Kyodo and NHK television - the Japan Broadcasting Corp. - both said investigators had found parts of a battery. Kyodo said police considered it unlikely that the parts and a watch found earlier were thrown out of passengers' baggage by the blast.

In a report Tuesday, Kyodo said the plastic did not come from the victim's seat. It said investigators believed the explosive had been wrapped in the life jacket under the seat.

The body also bore traces of burning gunpowder, Kyodo added.

Japan's Transport Ministry said in a statement Wednesday that Philippine investigators would take the lead in the probe since the blast occurred over international waters, and Japan would cooperate in handing over necessary data.

It said Philippine investigators Richard B. Exconde and Saturnino Delacruz arrived Wednesday in Naha, where the Boeing 747 made an emergency landing after Sunday's explosion.

The explosion also injured six passengers on the plane, which carried 273 passengers and a crew of 20 on a flight bound for Tokyo from Cebu in the central Philippines.

The airline said in Manila Tuesday that mechanical trouble had been ruled out as the cause of the explosion.

Several hours after the blast, a caller claiming to belong to Abu Sayyaf, a Muslim fundamentalist group responsible for numerous bombings and kidnappings in the southern Philippines, telephoned The Associated Press in Manila and claimed responsibility.

But Philippine television station ABS-CBN reported Monday that a group leader denied that Abu Sayyaf was responsible. The chief of police at Manila's airport, Peter Mutuc, also questioned whether the group was to blame.

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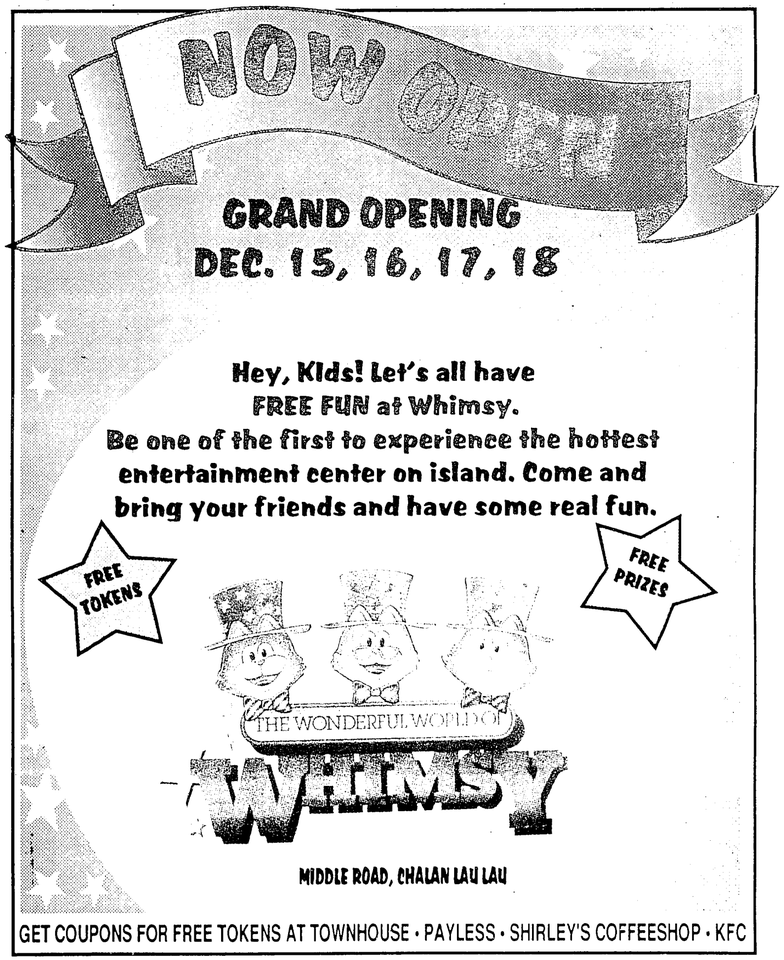

Bosnian Serb leader offers concessions

By ROBERT H. REID

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) - The leader of the Bosnian Serbs offered concessions in an attempt to get former U.S. President Jimmy Carter to help negotiate an end to the Bosnian war.

Radovan Karadzic told Cable News Network late Wednesday that he would allow the free movement of U.N. convoys, release all U.N. personnel whose movement has been restricted, and release all Muslim prisoners of war under age 19.

He also said he would order a unilateral cease-fire in and around Sarajevo, reopen the Sarajevo airport for humanitarian flights and guarantee human rights.

The concessions would return U.N. operations to the shaky status they had before an escalation of tensions last month, and appeared aimed at ensuring that the United Nations does not end its mission to Bosnia.

If the United Nations left, the Bosnian Serbs could face a rearmed Bosnian army. Bosnian Serbs are also mindful of the situation in neighboring Croatia, where the presence of U.N. peacekeepers has effectively cemented Serb territorial gains from a six-month war in 1991.

Karadzic said the proposals would be implemented within 24 hours, and said he hoped Carter would travel to the region in the next couple of days to restart talks.

Carter, who this year defused tensions with North Korea and negotiated an end to military rule in Haiti, told CNN he was willing to travel to Bosnia if the Serbs follow through on their promises.

"I think it's a good move in the right direction and he led me to believe that there were concessions he would be willing to consider in the future, but this is all he would consider unilaterally," Carter said.

U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard said he had no word on the offer from the top U.N. envoy in the former Yugoslavia, Yasushi Akashi, who met with Karadzic on Wednesday in the Bosnian Serb stronghold of Pale.

But officials at the United Nations, speaking on condition of anonymity, reacted cautiously, saying it was not clear what conditions Karadzic may have attached to the offered concessions.

Countless cease-fires have been announced in the 2 1/2-year-old war, and there appeared to be little that world leaders could do to ensure that Karadzic respected human rights.

Carter met with Bosnian Serb envoys Wednesday after being contacted by Karadzic about a week ago. Carter said he has briefed President Clinton on the meeting, but he stressed he is not acting as a U.S. government representative.

The development came as NATO brass sought ways of bolstering the U.N. mission in Bosnia and peacekeepers struggled with heavy fighting and Serb limits on their movement.

Bosnian Serbs delayed two U.N. food convoys that were headed for Sarajevo and two shells hit the center of Bihac, a U.N.-declared "safe area" in which civilians are supposed to be protected.

The convoys, with a total of 239 tons of food, arrived in the besieged city of 300,000 later Wednesday. Land convoys are necessary because Sarajevo's airlift has been suspended since Nov. 21.

There was more fighting just southwest of Sarajevo around Mount Igman, where Bosnian government forces apparently were trying to threaten a Serb supply route, and in far western Bosnia where Serbs were reportedly counter-attacking against advancing Croat forces.

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A detailed Scope of Work will be available at the Department of Public Works on or about December 02, 1994. All concerns may be referred to Mr. Oscar R. Babauta at telephone number (670) 322-9828 or 322-9436.

The Government reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals in the interest of the Government.

/s/ ELIZABETH H. SALAS-BALAJADIA. P.E.
Secretary of Public Work

Date; 11/14/94

/s/ WILLIAM S. TORRES
Commissioner of Education

Date: 1/21/94

Israel, South Korea to have closer relations

SEOUL (AP) - Israel's Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin met with South Korean President Kim Young-sam Thursday and agreed to promote trade and other ties, presidential officials said.

Rabin, a 1994 Nobel Prize winner, arrived in Seoul late Wednesday, becoming the first Israeli chief executive to visit South Korea.

Rabin and Kim, meeting at the latter's office, agreed on the need for more bilateral cooperation in trade and diplomacy and joint efforts to help support the peace process in Israel, officials said.

After the summit, the two countries signed agreements to establish a direct air route between Tel Aviv and Seoul and promote cultural exchanges.

In a meeting with Rabin, Kim confirmed his government's plans to provide $12 million in grants and loans to help rehabilitate the Palestinian autonomous regions within Israel, the officials said.

The officials quoted Kim as saying that the success of the Palestinian autonomy is a key to peace in the region.

Rabin voiced concern over North Korea's continued sales of Scud-type missiles to Arab nations, they said.

North Korea's communist government maintains close ties with Israel's traditional enemies in the Middle East, including Iran and Syria.

Israel hopes Rabin's trip will spur economic relations with South Korea, which long shunned the Jewish state because of its relations with Arab countries, upon which it relies heavily for oil.

South Korea is also eager to promote ties with Israel's advanced agricultural and defense technologies after the peace process in the Middle East has led to an easing of the Arab boycott.

Rabin, who is also Israel's defense minister, is to meet with his South Korean counterpart Rhee Byong-tae Friday. Talks on arms purchases and military technology cooperation are not ruled out, officials said.

Six representatives from defense contractors and other businessmen were accompanying him.

Before winding up a four-day visit here Saturday, Rabin plans to tour the Demilitarized Zone that separates pro-Western South Korea from the communist North.

Former UN official blames errors for Bosnia failure

By SLOBODAN LEKIC

WASHINGTON (AP) - The ineffectiveness of U.N. peacekeepers in Bosnia is a result of errors in judgment by their commanders and not a deficiency in their mandate, a former U.N. official says.

Charles Forrest, an American lawyer who resigned his U.N. liaison post in Sarajevo last week, on Wednesday accused the U.N. forces commander in Bosnia of willingly cooperating with Serbs.

By deciding to operate only with the consent of all the warring sides, the U.N. leadership has allowed the Bosnian Serbs to shackle the mission to such an extent that its work is now virtually paralyzed, Forrest said in a telephone interview with The Associated Press. He had aired some of his views in a commentary published Monday in The Washington Post.

"The Serbs' goal is to create a relationship of dependency where UNPROFOR is pleased to get any scraps they can from them. They have now largely achieved this," Forrest said. UNPROFOR stands for the U.N. Protection Force in former Yugoslavia.

Officials at United Nations headquarters in New York declined to comment on Forrest's allegations.

Rebel Russian enclave in fierce resistance

By SERGEI SHARGORODSKY

SERNOVODSK, Russia (AP) - As elders danced in a circle and prayed for the departed, Chechen villagers lowered into the cold ground the body of Umar Dugushev, killed by Russian bullets.

A dozen kilometers (eight miles) away, Russian soldiers manning a checkpoint on the main road to Chechnya questioned the wisdom of politicians who sent them to crush the region's proclaimed independence.

"They should have done this three years ago," when the southern republic broke away from Russia, one officer said. "Instead, Russia provided them with arms."

"The soldiers are coming to me asking: If Chechnya is part of Russia, who are they trying to conquer? Our own people?" he said. "These politicians should be fired. Including (President Boris) Yeltsin."

There is little doubt among the soldiers that what they are doing is necessary. Most view Chechnya, a tiny and mainly Muslim republic of 1.2 million people, as a kingdom of crime with no law or order.

But four days into the invasion, doubts are arising about their exact role. They are asking what took the Kremlin so long to deal with Chechen President Dzhokhar Dudayev and whether they are caught up in some political game at the top.

All the Interior Ministry officers and troops interviewed Wednesday at the checkpoint in Slptsova, about 50 kilometers (30 miles) outside Grozny, the Chechen capital, spoke on condition of anonymity.

Some were so worried about showing their faces that they threatened photographers with breaking their cameras and made an Associated Press correspondent expose his film.

"Our families don't know we are here," one said.

The checkpoint on the Chechen border swarmed with elite troops in camouflage and gray spotted uniforms. Some stood guard near parked armored vehicles in full metal gear. Others camped in a nearby field.

Army trucks and armored personnel carriers rushed back and forth and, at one point, two combat helicopters flew toward Russia.

"Some sleep in the APCs, some just spread flak jackets on the ground. Quite a few soldiers are suffering from colds," said an officer who gave his name as Sergei.

Further along the road, the army was showing its iron fist. Dozens of tanks were parked in a field. Artillery pieces pointed toward Grozny and soldiers were digging trenches.

Chechnya is mounting a fierce resistance. Russian officers described rocket and mortar attacks and said there were casualties. A military helicopter was downed Wednesday not far from Slptsova, and witnesses said its pilot was captured.

Dudayev vowed Wednesday to fight to the end and threatened a partisan war on the Russian army.

Tension mounted as a heavy fog fell on the outpost and darkness approached.

The partisans are right there in Sernovodsk, which lies on a back road, about 15 kilometers (10 miles) inside Chechnya, and even closer to the Russian checkpoint.

Two middle-aged men carrying Kalashnikov assault rifles stood guard on the main street of the small town of 13,000.

Men flocked to the village cemetery, where they clenched their fists at the sight of five freshly dug graves. They said the victims, young men in their mid-20s, died of Russian sniper fire and rockets fired from helicopters Tuesday.

Some apparently put up a fight. Others did not have a chance.

"There are more bodies in the woods," one Chechen said as he listened to the chanted names of those buried. Umar Dugushev. Sultan Dalyev. Isa Tazuyez.

The elders danced in a ritual circle, beating their feet into the mud and singing in a sad monotone.

Fighters gathered at the town's House of Culture, youngsters carrying Kalashnikovs, rocket-propelled grenade launchers and even shoulder rockets. Older men carried an assortment of other weapons, ranging from ancient hunting rifles to outdated grenades.

Several women were busy cooking and serving boiled meat, slices of bread with a hot sauce called adzhikh, apples and tea.

"This is our army, these our weapons," said Magosed Batayev, the regional administrative head, pointing to a crowd of men standing on the steps.

"But we'll fight. Let us live our own life. We only live once," he said as the crowd shouted in agreement.

One old man came forth and recalled the violence of the mass deportation of Chechens in 1944, of seeing an old woman shot because she could not walk, of burying relatives in the steppes of Kazakhstan.

"We would bury them, and the dogs would dig them out and eat them the next day," he said. "Do you think I will surrender to the Russians? Never!"

Three Middle Eastern nations to give oil to North Korea

SEOUL (AP) - The government Thursday said they had no information about a reported missile-oil deal between North Korea and three Mideast nations.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates reportedly agreed to provide North Korea with oil if it agreed to stop exporting missiles to the Mideast, according to an article Wednesday in the South Korean newspaper Munhwa Ilbo.

The report, quoting diplomatic sources in Seoul, said the Mideast countries offered North Korea 100,000 tons of oil in 1995 and 500,000 tons annually from 1996 if it stopped selling missiles in the region. It did not give further details.

North Korea is reportedly selling its Scud-type missiles to several Arab nations. The reclusive hardline communist state maintains close ties with Iran and Syria.

Under an agreement signed with North Korea in October, Washington promised to supply 150,000 tons of heavy oil next year and 500,000 annually after that to compensate for shutting down nuclear reactors suspected of being used for bomb development.

The reported oil shipments are to help meet energy needs in the North while two lightwater reactors, which produce far less weapons-grade plutonium, are being built with Western aid.

Completion, at a cost of about $4 billion, is targeted by 2003.

In November, South Korea's Honam Oil Refinery Co. won an international bid let by the U.S. Defense Department for the first shipment of 50,000 tons of oil, which is due to arrive in the North by the end of December.

Although Washington already had committed to providing the first 150,000 tons, there has been speculation that the new Republican-controlled Congress might refuse to fund subsequent shipments.

Munhwa Ilbo usually focuses on cultural affairs but also has broken several major news stories.

Aristide urges victims to sue their tormentors

By PIERRE-YVES GLASS

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP) - A tearful Jean-Bertrand Aristide paid tribute to a martyred follower and, with army leaders visibly uneasy, called for the public's help in prosecuting those who tortured and killed.

Since his U.S.-orchestrated return as Haiti's president, Aristide has made a point of preaching reconciliation. He has urged Haitians not to use violence against those who overthrew him in a 1991 military coup and ruled brutally for most of the next three years.

Aristide insisted that his appeal to citizens Tuesday to file criminal charges in human rights cases was not a departure from that policy.

"It is the entire nation that, through me, says we must continue to do our duty to not bring vengeance, but to bring justice to Haiti," he declared.

Haiti's right-wing army asked for an amnesty during many months of talks with the Aristide camp. The talks ended with a U.S. military occupation of Haiti in September and Aristide's return on Oct. 15.

Aristide spoke at the funeral of Marcellus Denis, who once told the president he would "die a thousand times" for him.

The 54-year-old school principal was beaten and tortured in Aristide's hometown of Port-Salut a week before the president's triumphant return. The Americans had already arrived, but had yet to fan out across the country in an effort to stop such human rights abuses.

Aristide had the ailing Denis flown to a private clinic in the capital at his own expense. But he died Dec. 6 of internal injuries.

"What I say here has no sense, no value if we can't prevent other people from dying in the same conditions," said Aristide, who at times appeared to weep during the funeral at the capital's pink-and-cream colored cathedral.

"We must take away the weapons from the people who did these things."

As Aristide spoke, some of the top officers in attendance looked down at their shoes.

Foreign diplomats, six top officers of Haiti's now-emasculated army and about 250 other people, including Roman Catholic Bishop Thomas Gumbleton of Detroit, also attended. Dozens of armed U.S. soldiers stood guard, ringing parts of the cathedral with concertina wire and keeping crowds at a distance.

In addition to praising Denis, Aristide paid homage to Capt. Fritz Pierre-Louis, his former bodyguard killed in the 1991 coup, and Guy Malary, his justice minister assassinated in 1993.

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running for elective office for five years.

The Paris Commercial Court ruled that the brash tycoon, beleaguered for months by legal woes stemming from the crumbling of his business empire, was unable to cover the debts of two companies for which he is liable.

Tapie announced he'd appeal, but if the ruling stands he will lose his seats in the European Parliament and the French National Assembly and cannot run for office again for five years.

The ruling, effective immediately, dashes the maverick leftist's dreams of being elected mayor of Marseille and definitively takes him out of the contest to succeed President Francois Mitterrand next spring.

Estimating the personal debts of Tapie and his wife, Dominique, at 53 million francs ($10 million), the court said that "the couple's liabilities far outweigh their assets."

Rene Monory, centrist president of the Senate, remarked: "You can't live on credit forever."

Tapie blamed the ruling on media "hate-mongering" and manipulation by the conservative dog, they accuse him of having rabies," Tapie said.

If the ruling was a political catastrophe for Tapie, it was a financial disaster for debt-ridden Credit Lyonnais, which cannot now reclaim the 1.2 billion francs ($222 million) the bank loaned him to finance his businesses in the 1980s.

"We won, but that doesn't mean we're happy," said Jean Veil, the bank's lawyer. "The court stated that Mr. and Mrs. Tapie cannot possibly pay their debts, which is dramatic for us."

The golden boy of French business in the 1980s, Tapie has fallen on hard times since 1990, when he overstretched himself to acquire Adidas, the world's largest sporting goods company.

But as his business empire crumbled, his political career soared. The impressive 12 percent he scored in June's elections for the European Parliament as candidate of the small Radical party led to talk of him as a first-round presidential contender.

Tapie, 51, voluntarily took himself out of the presidential race Tuesday, calling it a "bazaar" since the leftist president of the once proposed to outlaw unem-

personally responsible - the umbrella Group Bernard Tapie and a holding company for his personal estate.

The court questioned the Tapies for nearly four hours and deliberated throughout the day.

Tapie's woes aren't over. On Dec. 19, the court rules on the bankruptcy claim filed by Alain Colas Tahiti, which ran Tapie's 74-meter (243-foot) yacht, the Phocea. Tapie has been ordered to pay 66.7 million francs ($12.4 million) in taxes for falsely registering the boat as a commercial vessel.

Tuesday, Tapie endured what he called the "disgraceful" public tour of his 70 million franc ($12.9 million) Paris mansion ahead of an auction by Credit Lyonnais to recoup some of the money it is owed.

The sale was scheduled for Thursday. In light of the bankruptcy ruling, bank lawyers said it could not go forward.

A self-made millionaire from a family of modest means, Tapie emerged from obscurity in the late 1970s to forge a reputation for purchasing failing companies, rebuilding them, then selling them dal in 1993 cost him the team.

Chen Sui-bian, the opposition Democratic Progressive Party's candidate for Taipei mayor, gestures to people to vote for No. 3, the number allocated to him, as he solicited for votes on a van in a Taipei street Wednesday, Nov. 30, 1994. Taipei has elected a mayor for the first time since 1967. (AP Photo)

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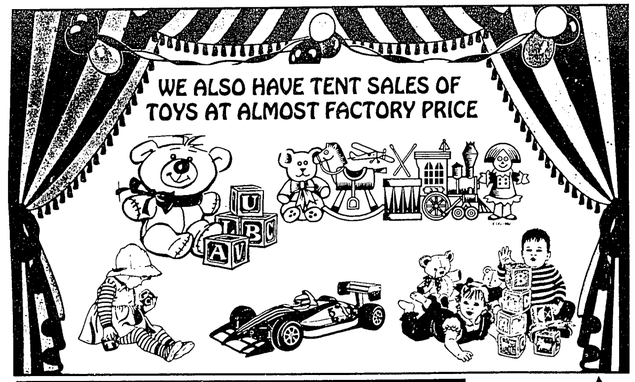

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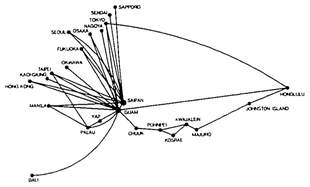

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Bulgarian socialists seek to regain power

By VESELIN TOSHKOV

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) - Inspired by the comeback across the region of former Communists like themselves, Socialists in this Balkan country are seeking to regain power in elections Sunday.

The transition from 45 years of orthodox communism has generally been peaceful, but polarization between former Communists and their foes still defines political life.

Pre-election polls indicate voters still are divided. They give the Socialists about 30 percent of the vote, followed by the staunchly anti-communist Union of Democratic Forces, or UDF, about 20 percent. A party mainly representing Bulgaria's Turkish minority ranks third.

A total of 48 parties are contesting the third early elections in Bulgaria's five post-communist years. Both the Socialists and the UDF sought elections a year before they were due, hoping to resolve the political gridlock.

Across formerly communist central and eastern Europe, one-time communists have never left power or have returned. In Hungary, they swept May elections. In Slovakia, a new party that emerged to espouse orthodox communist views is part of a new governing coalition that took power this week.

For the first time since their 45-year hold on power ended, Bulgaria's former Communists openly say their revamped party is ready to rule.

They are now supporting market reforms but pleading for slow transition to avoid hardships for those with low incomes and for Bulgaria's millions of pensioners.

Party membership dwindled from one million in communist days to 370,000. Todor Zhivkov, who ruled for 35 years, and other top Communists are no longer politically active. Zhivkov was convicted by a court but lives under a liberal house arrest for health reasons.

The Socialists increasingly rely on young, well-educated people, some of whom have Western training.

Socialist leader Zhan Videnov, a 35-year-old economist, has said he is ready to form a government if his party wins.

In the last elections in October 1991, the Socialists gained 106 seats, only second to UDF's 110. But neither had a majority in the 240-seat parliament.

That has led to a succession of weak governments unable to push through reforms and depending on the Turkish party, which held the balance of power.

UDF chief Filip Dimitrov says his party will be the first to stop the trend of ex-Communists returning to power. "The UDF is the only force which can press ahead on the road of democracy," he said.

Ih 1991, the Union formed Bulgaria's first non-communist government in 46 years, but it governed only for 10 months. Tainted by an arms scandal, it resigned after losing a no-confidence vote.

Economic development from a centralized economy to a free market has gone slowly.

People have grown increasingly disenchanted because of sharply declining living standards. Some 70 percent of Bulgaria's 8.5 million population lives on the edge of poverty, according to official statistics. About 18 percent of the workforce of 3 million people is unemployed.

After working for 25 years as a shop assistant, Kera Baxanova, 71, is disillusioned and living on a pension equal to $26 per month, barely enough to pay for food.

Politicians "take care of themselves; most probably, I shall not vote," said Mrs. Baxanova, one of the 2.5 million pensioners.

"What pensioners basically want is to survive today... They will prefer the party that offers them a humble glass of water," Stefan Angelov, a retired lawyer, said.

All parties have promised to stamp out corruption and fight crime, but many Bulgarians remain skeptical.

Sofia's shopping streets, now lined with expensive restaurants and coffee shops, are often too narrow for the luxury limousines. The newly rich with their designer clothes and the latest status symbol - a portable phone - speak volumes about new disparity in incomes and lead many to question the sources of their wealth.

UN eases Yugoslavia sanctions for one-time medical shipment

UNITED NATIONS (AP) - At the request of UNICEF, the Security Council voted unanimously Wednesday to grant Yugoslavia a one-time exemption from U.N. trade sanctions, allowing it to export a vital medicine.

Council diplomats cautioned that money from the sale of the medicine will be kept in a frozen account and that the move does not signal an easing of economic sanctions against Yugoslavia.

The resolution allows Yugoslavia to sell to UNICEF 12,000 vials of diphtheria vaccine during the next 30 days. The $144,000 payment for the serum is to be deposited by UNICEF into an account and kept until sanctions are lifted or the United Nations authorizes payment.

Diphtheria is spreading quickly in eastern Europe and Central Asia and some 2,000 to 4,000 deaths are expected this year, UNICEF said in its appeal to the United Nations.

Vaccine supplies in Europe are depleted and some 50,000 new cases are expected next year, more than double the number of cases reported in 1993, Karin Sham Poo, the acting executive director of UNICEF, wrote in a letter to the U.N. sanctions committee.

UNICEF had contacted 14 drug companies in Europe, Asia and North America, but only one supplier, the Belgrade-based Torlak, could supply the medicine on short notice. The medicine to help cure the disease is made from blood products and takes six months to produce.

Torlak was a major international pharmaceutical supplier before sanctions were imposed.

"This request responds to an urgent, life-threatening situation in the affected countries," Sham Poo wrote in her letter. "Approval of this shipment of anti-serum is likely to lead to saving a large number of lives."

Diphtheria is a respiratory disease that leads to weakness, high fever and the obstruction of breathing. It is fatal in 5 percent to 10 percent of cases.

Trade sanctions were imposed against former Yugoslavia in 1992 for fomenting war in Bosnia.

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President urged to root out injustice

By TRINA KLEIST

SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico (AP) - Two top human rights groups called Thursday on President Ernesto Zedillo to identify and prosecute army officers suspected of summary executions and other atrocities in Chiapas.

The call by Human Rights Watch-Americas and Physicians for Human Rights comes amid heightened fears that a guerrilla rebellion could soon erupt into new fighting.

The report 'Waiting for Justice in Chiapas" was one of the most exhaustive independent investigations arising from the New Year's revolt and concluded evidence exists to indict unnamed military personnel.

"To date the Mexican government has lacked the political will to issue a single arrest warrant," said a joint statement issued by Washington-based Human Rights Watch-Americas and its Boston-based counterpart.

The call for prosecution is the first by independent human rights monitors to the new president and posed a challenge to Zedillo, who announced a sweeping reform of Mexico's notoriously corrupt courts as his first act.

Zedillo, who began a six-year term on Dec. 1, said reforms would include reshaping Mexican justice from the Supreme Court on down while creating a "Mexico of justice for all."

Eric Stover, executive director of Physicians for Human Rights, told The Associated Press that several Mexican institutions investigating atrocities from the January uprising have failed to release any findings.

"It's outrageous that they ... have not done vigorous, thorough investigations," Stover said by telephone.

There was no immediate comment from Zedillo's office or the government-funded National Human Rights Commission, which has said all cases were being exhaustively investigated.

The report said both Mexican army personnel and Zapatista rebels in Chiapas were guilty of human rights violations, but suggested that many of the most serious offenses were committed by the army.

"Mexican army troops were responsible for violations of human rights and humanitarian law during the Chiapas conflict and its aftermath," said the report.

"The violations include summary executions of civilians and of wounded or captured combatants; widespread arbitrary arrests, prolonged incommunicado detention, torture and attacks on hospitals," it added.

Among recommendations, the report urged Zedillo to arrest army officers responsible for the Jan. 7 torture deaths of three civilians in Morelia, a Chiapas village near rebel territory.

On that day, villagers said they watched as soldiers dragged three men into a tiny church and tortured them until their screams echoed across the town plaza.

"They accused them of being rebels, but no one here is a rebel," said a villager, who identified himself only as Jesus, 27, in an interview with AP.

Villagers said the bodies were loaded into an army ambulance and dumped in a ravine, where peasants found them weeks later.

American forensic anthropologist Clyde Snow said he could identify the bodies as the villagers who had been beaten to death - contrary to official claims that identifications would be difficult.

The groups had also accused the federal Attorney General's office of attempting to cover up possible military involvement in the executions of five men in Ocosingo, a Chiapas town that saw fighting around Jan. 2.

While authorities were confronted with "numerous contradictions and discrepancies" about those killings in a marketplace, "the federal Attorney General's office has failed to reconsider its exoneration of military personnel as possible suspects," said the report.

Other cases of suspected military involvement included the shooting deaths of 11 wounded rebel suspects outside an Ocosingo hospital, and the deaths of 14 people in a small passenger bus near the Rancho Nuevo military base Jan. 2.

Neither the Secretary of National Defense nor the National Human Rights Commission has issued any definitive report in either case, the report said.

Number of democracies reaches record levels

By GEORGE GEDDA

WASHINGTON (AP) - Democracies are at a record number worldwide but many are threatened by internal divisions, rampant corruption and intrusions by military and financial elites, a new report says.

The report released Thursday by Freedom House, a New York-based pro-democracy group, said 60 percent of the world's nations are now formal democracies. Even so, 80 percent of the global population lacks full democratic freedoms.

One explanation for the disparity is that China and India, the most heavily populated countries, are listed respectively as "not free" and "partly free."

On the list of 21 "most repressive countries," the friendliest to the United States is Saudi Arabia. The "worst of the worst" repressive countries are Iraq, Sudan and North Korea, according to Freedom House Senior Scholar Joseph Ryan.

Seven new additions brought the number of democratic countries to 114, or 60 percent, the study said.

"Never have so many countries been trying to follow democratic rules," said Bette Bao Lord, Freedom House chairman. Major increases in the level of freedom were found in eight countries and major declines in four.

The study said that Bosnia-Herzegovina, despite democratic trappings, was listed as not free because of the government's inability to maintain basic civil order.

It said there are about 50 "inter-ethnic, secessionist or inter-state rivalries" worldwide.

India and Turkey are only "partly free" because liberties have been eroded by internal strife, the study said. It listed Russia, Ukraine, Romania and Albania among post-communist countries that still lack a truly free press and an independent judiciary.

In Latin America, corruption and the influence of drug traffickers were major debilitating factors for some countries. The report said elections in Brazil and Mexico bodes well for greater freedom. The return of President Jean-Bertrand Aristide elevated Haiti from "not free" to "partly free."

In Africa, the transition to democracy in South Africa was a high point. The major setbacks were in Rwanda and Sudan, where ethnic strife and other factors claimed the lives of hundreds of thousands of people.

Freedom House's list of the "most repressive places on Earth" included Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Bhutan, Burma, China, Cuba, Equatorial Guinea, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Mauritania, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tajikstan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan and Vietnam.

The six worst-rated territories were East Timor and Irian Jaya, Indonesia; Tibet, China; Kashmir, India; Kosovo, Yugoslavia, Nagorno-Karabakh and Armenia/Azerbaijan.

Last week, New York-based Human Rights Watch accused the major powers of engaging in a "wholesale retreat" from commitments made to confront rights violators.

"These governments shrank from the year's most urgent challenge - preventing the genocide in Rwanda," that report said. The United States mounted a relief operation there only in response to televised pictures of desperate Rwandans, it added.

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NATO bolsters UN force in Bosnia

By SALLY JACOBSEN

BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) - Fearing more bloodshed if U.N. forces are withdrawn from Bosnia, NATO defense ministers are directing military chiefs to find ways to strengthen the peacekeepers' ability to deter Serb attacks.

But it was unclear how the nations intended to give more muscle to the 24,000 U.N. international troops that have been subjected to relentless Serb harassment.

Defense ministers, wrapping up two days of talks on Thursday at NATO headquarters, were under pressure to bolster the U.N. Protection Force, UNPROFOR, or face an embarrassing pullout of the humanitarian mission.

"We want to avoid (a withdrawal) actually taking place," British Defense Secretary Malcolm Rifkind told reporters after the first day of talks on Thursday. "It would be very damaging, indeed disastrous, for the people of Bosnia if UNPROFOR had to withdraw."

Allied governments have warned that an evacuation of the forces could lead to a widening of the conflict and increased casualties among the civilian population. More than 200,000 people are dead or missing in the nearly three-year war in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In an effort to keep the forces in place, the United States and France proposed an urgent meeting of allied military chiefs on Monday and Tuesday in the Dutch capital, The Hague.

"The object is to decide and plan for the best way for UNPROFOR to do its job," said a senior U.S. official, who announced the special meeting of military chiefs. "The idea is to do this expeditiously."

The military officials, he said, would put together a report within 10 days.

U.S. Gen. John Shalikashvili, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, will take part in The Hague talks along with defense chiefs from Britain, France and other allied nations.

French Gen. Bertrand de Lapresle, the U.N. commander in former Yugoslavia, has been invited as well as senior officers from Russia and other non-NATO nations with troops in Bosnia also were invited.

Among the possibilities cited by diplomats for strengthening UNPROFOR were redeploying the peacekeepers to more secure positions; granting them increased power to return fire if attacked; extending NATO air cover; and creating a fortified supply corridor from Sarajevo to coastal ports.

But some of the ideas, such as the supply corridor, have been discarded in the past as unworkable. Moreover, they would need approval of the United Nations, which has opposed aggressive action for fear of Serb retaliation.

British Defense Secretary Malcolm Rifkind stressed that any moves under consideration would have to meet "the test of military effectiveness."

Such measures also could make it easier to withdraw U.N. troops if fighting worsened.

"We have to prepare for a situation that nobody wants," said German Defense Minister Volker Ruehe. "We are attempting once again to make UNPROFOR more effective. But at the same time, we are in the preparatory phase for a pullout."

With U.N. peacekeepers under increasing risk, President Clinton last week offered to send as many as 25,000 U.S. Marines under NATO command to help evacuate stranded peacekeepers.

The GIs would be part of a NATO evacuation plan for up to 45,000 troops, backed by thousands of armored vehicles and dozens of warplanes, to help bring the peacekeepers to safety.

The United States has refused to send any ground troops to Bosnia, angering France, Britain and other allied nations with thousands of troops under fire there.

Greece, Germany and Portugal also said they were ready to help out in any withdrawal of the 24,000 U.N. soldiers.

Australia to observe 100 years of ties with Russia

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) - On a December day in 1893, Alexei Putiata landed in Melbourne to open diplomatic relations between Imperial Russia and Her Majesty's Colony of Victoria.

He died a year later aged 39, much to the sorrow of Melburnians, who mourned his passing and buried him in the Melbourne General Cemetery.

On Friday in Melbourne, on the sidewalk outside the site of Putiata's office as Imperial Russian Consul, the latest in a long line of Russian ambassadors to Australia will watch as Foreign Minister Gareth Evans unveils a plaque in Putiata's honor.

The ceremony has been timed to mark the 100th anniversary of Putiata's death on Dec. 16, 1894.

Evans will tell the assembled dignitaries, including Russian Ambassador Alexander Losyukov and the head of Victoria's Russian Orthodox Church, that Russia was one of the first countries to base an official representative in Australia.

The native of Smolensk worked hard to develop the relationship between his nation and Victoria, whose capital in the 1890s was one of the richest cities in the world thanks to the gold boom.

Since then commercial and diplomatic relations have come a long way.

Australia recognized Soviet Russia in 1924, and opened a legation in Moscow in 1943 when the two were allies against Germany.

Although the Cold War cooled relations markedly, the two nations continued to "find ways of dealing with each other," Evans will say in his remarks.

A trade agreement in 1965 was followed eight years later by a bilateral economic relations agreement.

Trade is again expanding following disruption caused by the collapse of the Soviet Union, and reached $268 million (US $200 million) in 1993-94.

Anguar state election on Monday

THIS is to notify all registered voters of Angaur state, Republic of Palau who are in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands that its 7th General Election for Governor and members of the State Legislature will be held on Monday, December 19, 1994, from 7:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m., at the Carolinian Utt, Garapan, Saipan.

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATION
DPW95-RFP-00307

The Public School System in conjunction with the Department of Public Works is soliciting proposals from interested contractors for the construction of a Headstart Building at William S. Reyes Elementary on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The proposals must address the following:

a. Profile of the company and key personnel;
b. Past experience with similar projects;
c. Time frame for design and construction; and
d. Financial and manpower capability.

A business licenses is a requirement, plans and specifications must be prepared and stamped by a CNMI Registered Engineer or Architect.

Proposals must be delivered to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Department of Finance, no later than 4:00 p.m., December 30, 1994.

A detailed Scope of Work will be available at the Department of Public Works on or about December 02, 1994. All concerns may be referred to Mr. Oscar R. Babauta at telephone number (670) 322-9828 or 322-9436.

The Government reserves the right to accept or reject any or all proposals in the interest of the Government.

/s/ELIZABETH H. SALAS-BALAJADIA, P.E.
Secretary of Public Works

Date: 11-10-94

/s/WILLIAM S. TORRES
Commissioner of Education

Date: 11/14/94

AC#10786(12/2,9,16&23)

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CIVIL ACTION NO. 94-586

BANK OF GUAM, a Guam Banking Corporation,
Plaintiff,
-vs-
NICANOR F. NORITA,
Defendant.

NOTICE OF SALE

WHEREAS, on July 8, 1994, the Commonwealth Superior Court entered a Default Judgment in favor of Plaintiff and against Defendant in the amount of: (1) **$15,751.35**, plus interest thereon at the rate of twelve percent (12%) per annum from June 2, 1993; and (2) **$1,217.16** for attorneys' fees and costs of suit, plus any additional attorneys' fees and costs incurred by Plaintiff in its attempts to recover the judgment amount.

WHEREAS, on October 18, 1994, the Commonwealth Superior Court issued a Writ of Execution, ordering the Chief of Police of the Northern Mariana Islands, to sell, in the manner provided by law, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant to that certain real property, described as follows:

Land situated in Chalan Kiya, Saipan:
Lot No. 388 "C", containing an area of 25,000 square meters, more or less, as shown on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2055/79, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry as Document No. 8570, on the 14th day of August, 1979.

NOW, THEREFORE, notice is hereby given that on **WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1994, AT 9:00 A.M.**, at his office, the Chief of Police of the Northern Mariana Islands will sell, at public auction, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the aforementioned real property.

FURTHER NOTICE is hereby given that the terms and conditions of the sale will be as follows:
1. The right is reserved to establish minimum bids for the above-described real property, which may or may not disclosed at the sale, and to reject any or all bids, for any reason; and
2. It will be required that a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price be paid on the day of the auction. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in the aforementioned property will revert to the Bank of Guam.

DATED this 7th day of December, 1994.

/s/ CHIEF OF POLICE, NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Americans agree on GOP's ends

NEW YORK (AP) - Most Americans agree that welfare should be reformed, the budget should be balanced and prayer should be permitted in schools, a New York Times-CBS News poll released Wednesday says.

But, despite the Republican landslide in last month's legislative elections, only 27 percent of those polled said they had heard of the so-called "Contract with America," the legislative program that Republicans have vowed to pass within the first 100 days of the new Congress.

Overall, 49 percent of respondents said they disapproved of how President Clinton was handling his job, while 38 percent approved and 13 percent weren't sure.

Of House Speaker-designate Newt Gingrich, 41 percent had an unfavorable opinion, while 25 percent had a favorable opinion and 33 percent weren't sure.

Asked about school prayer, 64 percent said they thought it should be permitted, while 29 percent said it should not be.

Over four-fifths of repondents, 81 percent, said they favored a balanced budget amendment to the constitution, while only 12 percent were opposed to one.

A work requirement for women on welfare who have young children was favored by 52 percent of respondents, and yet 87 percent thought government should create jobs programs for welfare recipients, and 59 percent would be willing to pay more taxes to support job training. Thirty-seven percent would not want to pay more taxes.

Nearly two-thirds, 65 percent, agreed that "it is the responsibility of the government to take care of people who can't take care of themselves," while only 29 percent disagreed with that statement.

The telephone poll of 1,147 adults, conducted from Dec. 6 to Dec. 9, has a margin of error of plus or minus three percentage points.

Most 187's provisions won't be enforced

LOS ANGELES (AP) - A federal judge prohibited enforcement of most Proposition 187 provisions on Wednesday, saying the measure appears to conflict with the federal government's authority to regulate immigration.

U.S. District Judge Mariana Pfaelzer granted a preliminary injunction after a 2 1/2-hour hearing.

Pfaelzer's injunction bars enforcement of all but two provisions of the measure: one that prohibits illegal immigrants from receiving public higher education and another banning the sale and use of false immigration documents.

The judge blocked enforcement of bans on public school education, social services and non-emergency health services.

Pfaelzer said Proposition 187 denies health and social services to some immigrants who may be entitled to receive them under federal law, and could pressure some into leaving the country when they had the right to remain.

The judge noted that only the federal government has the authority to determine who can enter and remain in the United States.

The health care provision had serious implications, Pfaelzer said.

"The loss of medical services for illegal aliens could result in greater health risks for the general population," she said.

The injunction stays in effect until a trial to determine disputed facts in the case, but unlike the temporary restraining order the judge issued previously, the state can appeal the preliminary injunction to higher courts.

Actress Loni Anderson arrives at Superior Court in the Van Nuys district of Los Angeles for a hearing against Burt Reynolds on Monday, Dec. 5, 1994. Reynolds and Anderson have a 6-year-old son, Quinton. (AP Photo)

POSITION VACANCY

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Qualified, interested applicants may obtain an application and detailed position description from the FHP Sales Office, 2nd floor, Oleai Center, between 8:00AM - 5:00PM, Monday - Friday. Ask for Marcia Camacho. **No telephone calls please.** Deadline for submitting application and resume is Friday, December 16, 1994.

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT
STAFF ENGINEER

The position of Staff Engineer is a highly difficult and responsible professional position which involves, planning, developing, directing and coordinating all technical and engineering programs or related activities under the Commonwealth Ports Authority.

Duties and Responsibilities are:

1. Develops an overall program of Capital Improvement Program (CIP) for the Agency.

2. Develops scope of work, reviews procurement of contracts in engineering related, negotiates and participates in the selection process.

3. Coordinates projects with the other government agencies, Army Corps of Engineers, U.S. EPA, FAA and other federal and local agencies.

4. Reviews all designs developed in-house or by consultants to ensure that technical needs and requirements are met.

5. Monitors progress of projects or programs; makes adjustments in schedule or scope of work to ensure the fulfillment of statutory or policy requirements and technical objectives.

6. Performs other related duties as assigned.

Qualifications:

The position of a Staff Engineer must be fulfilled by an individual who has a Bachelor's Degree in Civil Engineering with at least five (5) years of progressively responsible engineering experience.

Individual must be familiar with CNMI government procurement and must have knowledge and working experience with Federal Agencies and local agencies.

The salary is negotiable.

Registered Professional Civil Engineering license issued by the CNMI is preferred but nor required.

Please submit complete resume to:

CARLOS A. SHODA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
P.O. BOX 1055
SAIPAN, MP 96950

Application forms are available at the Commonwealth Ports Authority's main office, Second Floor, Arrival Terminal, Saipan International Airport. Applications must be accompanied by an updated police clearance. Deadline for submission of application is December 30, 1994 at 4:30 p.m. For more information, please contact Mr. Shoda at 234-6084.

US company wins Sydney casino bid

By PETER JAMES SPIELMANN

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) - The American gaming company Showboat Inc. won the right Thursday to open the first casino in Sydney, Australia's biggest city, after being cleared of claims that it had organized crime connections.

The Casino Control Authority in New South Wales gave its approval on the condition that Leighton Holdings Ltd., the construction company that is the main Australian partner in the consortium, sell its equity in the casino within five years.

Lindsay Le Compte, chief executive of the Casino Control Authority, said an investigation found that Leighton isn't of "good repute" because of allegations it engaged in bid-rigging for building contracts.

Murray Tobias, who headed the investigation into the claims against the Sydney casino consortium, said he found nothing to tarnish the reputation of Showboat.

"I am satisfied that there isn't credible material before me that establishes as a matter of notoriety or otherwise, any links between (Showboat's U.S. partner) and organized crime figures," Tobias said.

Opposition state Labor party leader Bob Carr released material in August in which he said Louie Roussel - who is a joint operator of a casino with Showboat Inc. in New Orleans - had been linked in a U.S. police report to an alleged mafia figure.

As a result of the investigations, Leighton is required to sell its stake in the consortium to a trustee company, National Mutual Trustees Ltd., that in turn will sell the stake to a "suitable third party."

Leighton continues as the project developer for the Australian $1-billion (US$777-million) casino project.

LeCompte said that Leighton and its senior executives have been "quarantined" from the management of the Sydney casino consortium, named Sydney Harbor Casino.

He said this won't affect the company's ability to develop and build the casino at a site fronting Sydney Harbor.

The investigation into Leighton's past collusive dealings found Wal King, Leighton's chief executive, and the managing director, Vyril Vella, were not of good repute.

They were senior executives of the company when it was involved in the collusive tendering and false invoicing in past years.

Amtrak firing 5,500 workers

By ROBERT NAYLOR Jr.

WASHINGTON (AP) - Amtrak will begin scuttling more than a fifth of its rail passenger service and firing 5,500 workers in the next two months to address a mushrooming deficit and the prospect of reduced U.S. government subsidies.

Officials said Wednesday they would begin reducing the frequency of some routes on Feb. 1 and start eliminating others two months later.

"In the past we have tried to be every place all the time," Amtrak President Thomas M. Downs said during a news conference to announce the cuts. But he said "rail passenger services can't afford that anymore ... in a rapidly changing transportation environment."

In recent years, cheaper airline tickets resulting from frequent fare wars have cut deeply into the passenger bases of both intercity trains and buses. Amtrak is still a serious competitor with airlines in its busy Northeast corridor, but limited service in other areas and the time it takes to travel long distances by rail have taken their toll.

"The railroads need to go where the customers want to go, and where they don't want to go service doesn't need to exist," Downs said.

He said Amtrak could no longer afford to serve 530 stations.

Amtrak officials, faced with tens of millions of dollars in losses annually, have sought more money from Congress for capital investments. Amtrak has always depended heavily on federal subsidies - $952 million this year - but has faced mounting pressure to reduce them.

Officials of the quasi-government agency feared that the new Congress, where members of both parties are proposing tax cuts, might not look favorably on continuing to spend taxpayer dollars on the service. Downs said there are no guarantees that federal subsidies will continue.

The cuts are expected to save $173 million in the current fiscal year and more than $360 million in 1996 and annually thereafter. Further frequency reductions are being planned and will be announced later in the year, railroad officials said.

Amtrak lost $76.2 million in fiscal 1994, the fifth straight year it has been in the red.

Ridership fell about 300,000 from the year before.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

COMPTROLLER

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting applications for the position of Comptroller. The position requires a B.A. Degree in Accounting plus a minimum of five (5) years experience, involving increasing levels of responsibility, of accounting systems management. Prior experience in governmental or proprietary autonomous agency accounting and financial management is desirable. The successful candidate must possess knowledge of IBM compatible personal computers and integrated general ledger, spreadsheet, word processing software. A certified public accountant's license is preferred.

This position requires an accounting professional capable of supervising the accounting operation of the CPA. Duties and responsibilities include, but limited to, the following:

1. Evaluates, updates and maintains the internal control structure and performs research of accounting and technical information applicable to practices and procedures for ports authority operations for uniform statistical and financial reporting.

2. Supervises the processing of the day-to-day operational transactions of the Authority and ensuring proper recording in journals of original entry.

3. Maintains the general ledger and related subsidiary ledgers for accounts receivable, inventory, fixed assets, employees' earnings, accounts payables, etc.

4. Prepares and submits timely monthly interim financial statements presenting current statements of position and results of operations as compared to last year and current year's budget.

5. Prepares the annual financial statements and coordinates the annual audit of the Authority's operations, as well as, any special audit conducted by other audit agencies.

6. Prepares the annual budget submission and related justifications for review and approval by the Executive Director and Board of Directors in accordance with the CNMI Budget Act.

7. Prepares cost analysis, statistical reports, cost and contract evaluation and other management information reports as requested by the Executive Director and the Board of Directors.

8. Supervises the Authority's compliance to public laws, administrative regulations and such other authoritative pronouncements as may be applicable.

9. Performs such other duties as may be assigned by the Executive Director and the Board of Directors.

Please submit complete resume to;

CARLOS A. SHODA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
P.O. BOX 1055
SAIPAN, MP 96950

Application forms are available at the Commonwealth Ports Authority's main office, Second Floor, Arrival Terminal, Saipan International Airport. Applications must be accompanied by a police clearance. Deadline for submission of application is January 9, 1995. For more information, please contact Mr. Shoda at 234-6084.

French assembly approves GATT

PARIS (AP) - The National Assembly ratified the Uruguay Round world trade accords Wednesday in a routine raised-hands vote that contrasted with the bitter fight over their negotiation.

The majority right-wing Rally for the Republic and Union for French Democracy parties voted for the accords, while the small leftist opposition stood against.

The treaty lowers trade barriers worth billions of dollars to the world economy and replaces the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade with the more potent World Trade Organization.

Among all the negotiating nations in the seven-year Uruguay Round, France drove one of the hardest lines, seeking to protect its politically powerful farmers from subsidy cuts.

Paris threatened to veto European Union approval of the deal, which would have sunk the round, up to the last minute when the United States and other agricultural exporting nations gave way.

PUBLIC NOTICE

ATTENTION : ALL TAXICABS OPERATORS

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Those wishing to apply for service authorization cards must submit their completed application forms and all required documents to Personnel Office, KPS, Ltd in Marpi.

The deadline for all renewals and all new applications is January 31, 1995, After this deadline, enrollment will be closed until December 1, 1995, when KPS, LTD will once again be accepting applications for service year 1996.

For further information, please contact Mr. Joe Asanuma at 322-0770, ext 601.

US to support investment in Haiti

WASHINGTON (AP) - The United States will provide financing to support investment in Haiti, encourage trade and stimulate the Caribbean nation's economy, the Clinton administration announced Wednesday.

"The package of measures reflects President Clinton's conviction that creating productive employment for Haitians is the key to self-sustaining economic recovery and strengthening Haiti's restored democracy," White House Press Secretary Dee Dee Myers said in a statement.

She said the U.S. government will provide financing and energize its commercial policy to support investment by Haitian as well as U.S. companies.

"The immediate effort will be focused on the assembly and handicraft sectors, which can return tens of thousands of Haitians to work," she said.

Steps to be taken include:

-Creating a Joint Business Development Council to strengthen private sector cooperation and overcome obstacles to growth.

-Dispatching a presidential mission to Haiti early next year to identify trade and investment opportunities.

-The Overseas Private Investment Corporation will provide $400 million in financing and political risk insurance over the next four years and make available $5 million to $8 million to channel short-term capital to Haitian and U.S. businesses.

-Establishing a technical assistance program to provide training in fields such as port management, customs administration, export marketing and infrastructure development.

-Submitting a U.S.-Haiti investment treaty to the Senate for ratification.

Myers noted that the United States has already pledged nearly $25 million to help Haiti as it makes past due payments on its international debt. She said that should help clear the way for new loans from international lending institutions.

135 nations to spend $340M on environment protection

By CARL HARTMAN

WASHINGTON (AP) - Approval is expected early next year by 135 governments in the Global Environment Facility for the first projects in a program that will cost up to $340 million in 1995, a spokeswoman for the program said.

The first 15 to 20 projects are expected to deal with depletion of the ozone layer over eastern Europe, the preservation of endangered plants and animals, and the threat of climate changes, said Maria Subiza of the facility's external affairs office.

Later, projects dealing with the degradation of land and the state of the seas will be included, Ms. Subiza said.

The Global Environment Facility Council will meet in Washington early next year, she added in an interview Wednesday. She said 10 private environmental organizations will be invited, but meetings will remain closed to the public and news media.

For three years that ended in July, 99 projects were approved at a cost of $663 million. Most are being carried out by the World Bank and the United Nations Development Fund.

A quarterly GEF report for November, made available Wednesday, listed $713 million worth of projects under way, with the largest total - $239 million worth - in the Asia-Pacific area.

The biggest projects included $30 million being spent in China on improving methods for disposing of ships' waste, and another $30 million to develop geothermal energy on the Philippine islands of Leyte and Luzon.

In Brazil, $30 million was being spent to develop programs for preserving biodiversity, the variety of different species.

Biodiversity, climate change, ozone depletion and the management of international waters are the GEF's priority areas.

Financial Summary

New York stocks prices up

NEW YORK (AP) - Stock prices rallied Wednesday after government reports indicated the U.S. economy was strong yet inflation was still low. The numbers contained in the reports were all about what private economists had expected. The Dow Jones average of 30 industrial stocks rose 30.95 points to 3,746.29.

US consumer prices increase

WASHINGTON (AP) - A turnaround in food and energy costs sent U.S. consumer prices up 0.3 percent in November, the Labor Department said Wednesday. Meanwhile, the Federal Reserve reported that American factories operated in November at their highest capacity in 5 1-2 years. And the Commerce Department said the deficit in the U.S. current account hit $41.7 billion in the third quarter, the largest foreign trade gap in nearly seven years.

French tycoon declared bankrupt

PARIS (AP) - Bernard Tapie, the flamboyant French politician and tycoon, was declared bankrupt Wednesday in a court ruling that would ban him from holding or running for elective office for five years. The Paris Commercial Court ruled that the brash tycoon, beleaguered for months by legal woes stemming from the crumbling of his business empire, was unable to cover the debts of two companies for which he is financially liable.

Europe approved GATT accord

STRASBOURG, France (AP) - The European Union's assembly on Wednesday approved the Uruguay Round world trade agreement, removing another barrier to EU ratification of the 123-nation accord by a Jan. 1 deadline. In a 325-62 vote with 12 abstentions, deputies in the 567-seat European Parliament approved the accord, which would lower barriers to global trade in manufactured goods, textiles and a host of other areas.

European Free Trade Association tries to win back defecting members

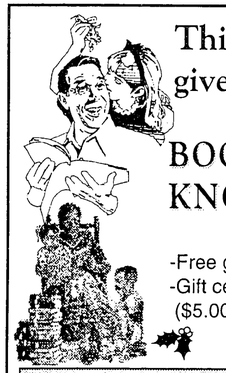
GENEVA (AP) - The European Free Trade Association sought on Wednesday to come to grips with the defection of nearly half its members to the more powerful European Union, and set a January deadline to resolve key issues. Holdouts Switzerland, Norway, Iceland and Liechtenstein were noncommittal about the prospects of boosting the association's flagging membership by adding burgeoning new democracies in Central and Eastern Europe.

China warns vs excessive terms

BEIJING (AP) - China's top trade officials warned Wednesday against excessive conditions for its membership in the world's largest trade body, suggesting that Beijing's absence would hurt the organization's effectiveness. China has said repeatedly that it wants negotiations on its membership in the General Agreement on Tariffs and Trade concluded by the end of the year so that it can be a founding member of GATT's successor, the World Trade Organization, which comes into being on Jan. 1.

Spending cuts slashed Cuba's deficit

MEXICO CITY (AP) - Spending cuts and tax increases have slashed Cuba's budget deficit, the government said Wednesday. The measures have made Cuba's peso - and jobs that pay pesos - more valuable. A report by Finance Minister Jose Luis Rodriguez estimated the year-end deficit at 3.2 billion pesos, well below the 4.2 billion recorded last year.



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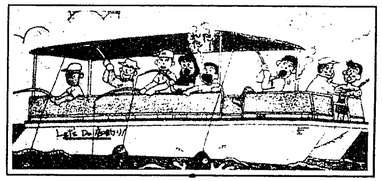

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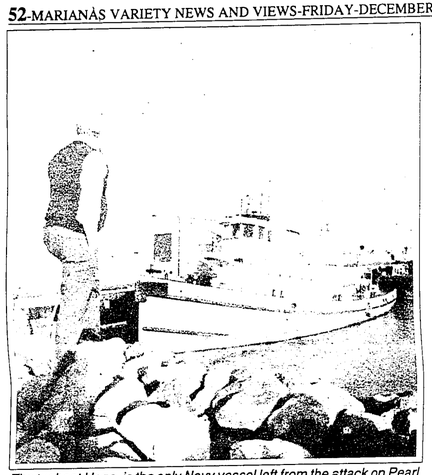

The tugboat Hoga, is the only Navy vessel left from the attack on Pearl Harbor, and remains tied up in its berth at Treasure Island, a naval base in the middle of San Francisco Bay, Thursday, Dec. 1, 1994. There are a number of plans to get the tug back to Pearl Harbor, but until enough funds can be found it won't be going anywhere. (AP Photo)

Mystery blackout affects up to 2 million in western US

By RICHARD COLE

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - An unexplained power surge in the U.S. West Coast's main electrical transmission line plunged parts of eight states into darkness early Wednesday, shutting down a nuclear plant and forcing doctors to stitch by flashlight.

Up to 2 million customers from Arizona to Washington went without power for periods ranging from a few seconds to several hours when a stretch of the giant 500-kilovolt Pacific intertie went dead just after midnight.

The blackout darkened the homes of 1 million California customers and interrupted power to patches of Arizona, Nevada, Utah, Oregon, Washington, Idaho and Montana.

An initial inspection showed no breaks in the section where the trouble began, a 60-mile (96 kilometer) line between Tracy and Fresno in California's Central Valley.

"We believe it was a power surge from outside our service area and a substation tripped to prevent an overloading of our system, just as a circuit breaker would do in your house," Bill Sessa, Pacific Gas and Electric Co. spokesman, said later.

The surge was recorded at 569 kilovolts, 69 kilovolts above the line's capacity, he said. PGandE is checking with several other power companies that meet the intertie at that point.

The intertie connects British Columbia, Washington, Oregon and California. When the section shut down, the power imbalance triggered shutdowns in transmission stations and power plants, including the Diablo Canyon nuclear plant near San Luis Obispo on the California coast, which will go back in service this weekend.

"There was a domino effect and these power plants shut down for safety reasons," said Paul Ward, a Pacific Gas and Electric Co. spokesman.

The blackouts hopscotched around eight Western states. Some neighborhoods lost power, while Christmas lights blazed away in adjoining areas.

One of the hardest-hit states was Washington, where 340,000 customers lost power, including 100,000 in Seattle.

Swedish Medical Center in Seattle went dark, and an emergency room backup system failed, said hospital spokesman Ed Boyle. One patient with cuts had to be sewn up by flashlight, he said.

$177M plan to save salmon

By BOB BAUM

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) - Hoping to save salmon from extinction in the Columbia River system, a four-state power council Wednesday adopted a sweeping $177 million plan to help the young fish make it to the Pacific Ocean.

The plan, approved by the Northwest Power Planning Council, would increase the volume and velocity of water as it moves through the eight hydroelectric dams on the Snake and Columbia rivers.

That would reduce the amount of water available to generate power and irrigate crops, and it would mean higher electricity rates.

Opponents, however, said the plan will probably never be put into action, in part because the political makeup of the council is about to change and because the new Republican Congress may be unwilling to spend the money.

Moreover, the Army Corps of Engineers, which operates the hydroelectric dams of the Columbia River system, is not required to go along with the plan.

"The costs are substantial. No one should kid themselves," said Angus Duncan, chairman of the Northwest Power Planning Council. "Recovery isn't a free ride. Recovery isn't a cheap ride."

The council, created by Congress to oversee electrical power supplied by federal installations, has two representatives each from Oregon, Washington state, Idaho and Montana.

Columbia River salmon mature in the Pacific, then return to the river of their birth to spawn and die. However, the hydroelectric turbines often chew up the baby fish as they try to make their way past the dams to the ocean.

Salmon runs have dwindled through much of the Columbia system, especially in the Snake River.

This year, only 400 to 500 fall chinook are believed to have made it past the eight dams to their spawning grounds. Sockeye salmon runs are even more depleted. In 1993, 19 sockeye made it to the Snake River.

US helps house Ukrainians who aimed nuclear weapons at US

WASHINGTON (AP) - Included in the U.S. national budget: housing for the people who once operated the nuclear weapons aimed at the United States.

The Pentagon on Wednesday announced a joint U.S.-Ukrainian venture to build a $16 million apartment complex in Khmelnitsky, Ukraine, for former Strategic Rocket Forces officers and their families.

Although they once commanded a substantial portion of the Soviet nuclear arsenal, these officers have fallen on hard times with the collapse of the Soviet empire and the devaluation of their pensions.

The money is part of a broader Pentagon effort to assist Russia and other former Soviet republics in dismantling their nuclear arsenals. Ukraine requested the funding for the housing, noting to U.S. officials that it was difficult to justify spending money taking apart weapons when military officers and retirees were homeless.

In all, the Pentagon has provided Ukraine with $277 million in aid under the Cooperative Threat Reduction law, known as the Nunn-Lugar Act.

A ground-breaking ceremony Wednesday at the construction site in Khmelnitsky, a city 186 miles southwest of Kiev, will lead to a 135-unit development. The project is expected to be completed within a year.

Save Power

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY

The Department of Public Health Services needs **home visit nurses** to work at the Division of Public Health. Candidates should be Licensed Practical Nurses or Registered Nurses. This is a position tailor made for a self-starter as salary depends on patient load. Must have own transportation. If you are qualified, please submit an application to the Personnel Specialist, Division of Public Health, Commonwealth Health Center. For further details or any questions, please call 234-8950, extension 2026.

REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATION STATEMENTS FOR DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting statements of professional qualifications for the purpose of selecting firms to perform design and construction management services in connection with CPA's projects, both for airports and harbors, within the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

At a minimum, the statements of professional qualification should address the areas generally described below:

1. Overall design and construction management experience in the Pacific area and especially in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

2. Specific work plan or approach to be engaged in the execution of projects in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

3. Resumes of personnel.

Only firms with established active offices (not field offices) in the Commonwealth with valid businesses will be considered. Also, the firm's ability to perform design activities in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as well as its ability to process and coordinate documents with the Federal Aviation Administration and the Army Corps of Engineers in Honolulu are essential considerations in the selection process. Qualified small business entities in the Commonwealth shall be given special consideration. Interested firms may submit their statements of professional qualifications no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, December 30, 1994.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all statements of professional qualifications for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest. CPA's selection of firm(s) will be for a three-year period.

Send information to: Mr. Carlos A. Shoda
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 1055
Saipan, MP 96950

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) at the Saipan International Airport has an opening for:

2 (Two) Staff Engineer

The deadline for submission of application is December 23, 1994 at 4:30 p.m. Application forms are available at the CPA Office on the Second Floor of the Arrival Building at the Saipan International Airport. They must be submitted together with police clearance dating back five years. For more information, please call the CPA at 234-8315/6/7.

/s/ Carlos A. Shoda
Executive Director

Treatment for AIDS-related blindness shows promise

By PAUL RECER

WASHINGTON (AP) - A plastic membrane that slowly releases drugs into the eye may be able to control an infection that strikes one in four AIDS patients and sentences thousands to blindness.

The double-layered plastic membrane, just four millimeters in diameter, delivers a powerful antiviral drug inside the eyeball and prevents spread of a sight-robbing infection called cytomegalovirus or CMV, researchers reported Wednesday in the Archives of Ophthalmology.

CMV is a common virus that is benign in healthy people but poses a serious threat to patients whose immune system is weak, such as people with AIDS.

Dr. Carl Kupfer, director of the U.S. National Eye Institute, said about 25 percent of all AIDS patients develop CMV infection in the eye. Unchecked, the virus can inflame the retina and eventually cause blindness.

CMV infection currently is treated with daily intravenous doses of ganciclovir or foscarnet.

Since AIDS patients lack the immune system response necessary to cure the virus, they must take the drugs for the rest of their lives.

Earlier studies showed that intravenous doses of the anti-viral drugs could control CMV infection in the eye for only about two months. The disease then progresses, often leading to the loss of sight.

"Some drug penetrates from the bloodstream into the eye, but not in high enough concentrations to control the disease progression as well as the drug introduced directly into the eye," said Kupfer.

To constantly bathe the inner eye with the drug, researchers developed a plastic film that can be saturated with ganciclovir. Once implanted in the eye, the drug is slowly released, controlling the infection.

In the clinical research, 26 patients recently diagnosed with CMV infections of the retina were identified. Among the patients there were 30 infected eyes.

Fourteen of the eyes underwent immediate surgery and the drug release device was implanted.

Experts call fat-checking device unreliable

By PAUL RECER

BETHESDA, Md. (AP) - An electronic fat-checking device that helps doctors decide if a patient is too stout or too skinny may be unreliable, and health decisions should not be based on it without more research, an expert committee said Wednesday.

A panel of doctors and scientists assembled by the National Institutes of Health said the method can give distorted or useless information, and appears to have little value in measuring small changes in body fat. The method involves a "bioelectrical impedance analysis," or BIA meter.

The committee said BIA devices are manufactured by a number of companies and are widely used in doctors' offices, sports and fitness clubs and in hospitals. In some cases, data from the devices are used to adjust diets or to direct clinical treatments.

Yet, there is little effort to standardize the measurements or to assure that devices are operated by properly trained personnel, the panel found.

The BIA machine attempts to determine the level of body fat by measuring the flow of electricity between two electrodes. In most cases, the electrodes are attached to the wrist and ankle and a very light amount of electrical current is applied. By gauging the flow of current, the device measures the water in body tissue. The water content, in turn, is used to estimate the percentage of body fat.

BIA data, however, can be affected by body shape, by the amount of moisture on the skin, by food or beverages, by nearby appliances and even by muscles mass, the experts said. As a result, formulas for converting water content to body fat estimates may not be accurate for specific individuals, the committee said.

"We're not saying that BIAs shouldn't be used, but that they should be used properly and within the limitations of the method," said Dr. Dennis M. Bier, a member of the committee and a professor at Baylor College of Medicine in Houston. Used improperly, the BIAs "gives data that is unreliable and has no meaning," he said.

Bier said BIAs should not be relied on to detect small, subtle changes in body fat content, such as by someone at a sports club who is attempting to mold his body through exercise and diet.

"A person who does a strenuous workout and goes in with elevated pulse and body temperature and is sweaty produces a reading that is unreliable," he said.

Moscow plane crash kills one

MOSCOW (AP) - A small passenger jet crashed shortly after takeoff early Thursday, killing one person and injuring at least five others, emergency officials said.

The German-owned Learjet-35, bound for Magnitogorsk in the Urals Mountains, crashed shortly after midnight at Sheremetyevo-2, Moscow's main international airport, said Karl Smolikov, a spokesman for the Ministry for Emergency Situations.

The crash of the twin-engine jet killed the pilot and trapped the co-pilot in the cockpit until rescuers could free him. The co-pilot and one passenger were hospitalized; the other three passengers were treated at the scene, Smolikov said.

Three of the four passengers were foreigners, but their nationalities were not immediately known.

There were no further details immediately available.

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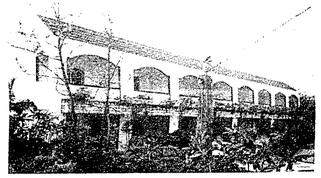

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FOR MORE INFORMATION CALL ED OR ULLIAN AT 288-2660 AFTER 5 P.M.

JOB VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is accepting applications for:

Eight (8) Fire Fighters

for the Saipan International Airport. Applicants must have at least a high school education or a GED diploma. To those who submitted applications within the past two months at the CPA need not apply as those applications are still active. Applications must accompany an updated original police clearance. Application forms are available at the CPA Main Office on the Second Floor of the Arrival Building at the Saipan International Airport. For more information, please contact the CPA office at Tel: 234-8315/6/7. The deadline for submission of application is 4:30 p.m. December 23, 1994.

/s/CARLOS A. SHODA
Executive Director

Saipan Veterinary Hospital
Middle Road, Garapan
Phone: 233-7387

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Special prices on some Services. Stop by the Office for more information. Good through Dec. 30.

Peruvian police find half ton of opium

By LYNN F. MONAHAN

LIMA, Peru (AP) - Police who seized a half ton of raw opium hidden in the jungle said the drug haul shows the opium poppy trade in Peru is much greater than they thought.

The 1,275 pounds (580 kilos) of crude opium paste was found Sunday by Peruvian anti-drug police, accompanied by agents of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration. It was buried in the jungle outside Tarapoto, 380 miles (615 kms) north of Lima, police said.

Col. Asterio Tresierra of the National Anti-Drug Office, who announced the find Wednesday night, said the opium could have been refined into 128 pounds (58 kilos) of heroin worth $8.7 million on the U.S. market.

"It was a surprise for us to find this big a drug haul, which indicates they've already sown a considerable quantity, because it took 60 hectares (150 acres) of opium poppies for this," Tresierra said.

No one was arrested in the raid, since anyone involved had ample warning and time to escape after hearing the drone of the four helicopters used to carry police to the site, he said.

However, police believe the owner of the drug went to Colombia to arrange to sell it, he said.

The jungle site where the drug was found was only a storage point, since opium poppies do not flourish in the lowlands, he said. Police were investigating to find out the source of the raw opium.

The first opium poppy fields found in Peru in recent years were discovered in April, when seven acres (three hectares) of the flowers were uncovered growing in the highlands of the department of Ayacucho.

Late Wednesday, the country's leading TV station, Panamericana, reported that 14 soldiers and six civilians were killed earlier in the day in a guerrilla ambush in another section of same Huallaga Valle where the drug was found. The Shining Path guerrilla group has been known to provide protection for drug traffickers in the area.

No official information was available on the ambush, but the TV report said the soldiers and civilians were part of a road maintenance detail. -

Tresierra said police and U.S. anti-drug agents have been using U.S. Air Force planes to scour the highland countryside favorable for poppy production looking for the plants.

FBI releases information on bombing

By RICHARD COLE

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) - A mail bomb that killed an advertising executive carried a return address for an "H.C. Wickel" at San Francisco State's Department of Economics, authorities said Wednesday.

But no one by that name has ever taught or enrolled at the school, said Daniel Hagberg, chief postal inspector in San Francisco. The FBI's Unabom Task Force asked that anyone with information about the name come forward.

Authorities say a serial killer they have nicknamed the "Unabomber" is believed to have sent the device to the suburban New Jersey home of Thomas J. Mosser. The New York City advertising executive was killed when he opened it Saturday.

The Unabomber was so named because his early targets involved people connected to universities and airlines. The person is believed to be a white man, likely very quiet and pleasant, but a loner, authorities said.

The bomber is believed to have killed two people and injured 22 others in 15 bombings since 1978. Two bombs mailed in 1993 were sent from Sacramento and had Sacramento State University listed as their return address.

Laboratory analysis of the device that killed Mosser showed it was a pipe bomb about the size of two videotapes stacked together.

"It was very meticulously made - he's a craftsman. He handcrafted parts he could have easily bought," Paul Snabel, head of the local Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, said of the bomber.

The bomb was similar to other devices constructed by Unabomber, Snabel said, but he declined to elaborate.

The package had a San Francisco postmark on it, but Hagberg said inspectors have not traced it to a particular facility and cannot say if it was dropped in a mail box or brought to a post office.

In asking for help in identifying the Unabomber, Jim Freeman, head of the FBI's San Francisco office, drew attention to an impression found on a letter sent to The New York Times last year. The letter, which authorities say was from the bomber, contained the words, "Call Nathan R Wed. 7 p.m." in the impression.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CIVIL ACTION NO. 94-95

IN THE MATTER OF THE ADOPTION OF

A Minor Child.

NOTICE OF HEARING

Please take notice that a hearing in the above-captioned matter is set for the 22nd day of December, 1994, at the hour of 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom C.
Dated this 2nd day of December, 1994.

/s/ CHARLENE TEREGEYO
DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) wishes to announce a job vacancy for one (1) Electronic Technician/ Electrician for the Operations Department of the Saipan International Airport.

Application forms can be picked up at the Office of the Executive director, Saipan International Airport, Second Floor, Arrival Building.

Interested applicants must posses an Associated Degree in Electronics and must have at least five years experience as an electronic technician and at least one year experience as electrician. Salary is negotiable.

For more information, please contact Mr. Regino Celis, Airport Manager, at the Saipan International Airport at telephone number 234-8323/24.

Interested applicants are requested to submit their application forms no later than 4:30 p.m. on Friday, December 23, 1994, together with an updated original police clearance to the Office of the Executive Director, second floor of the Arrival Building, Saipan International Airport.

/s/ CARLOS A. SHODA
Executive Director

Lawsuit fears drove experiments secrecy

By H. JOSEF HEBERT

WASHINGTON (AP) - U.S. government concern over lawsuits and public relations played a paramount role in decisions in the late 1940s to keep information about human radiation experiments secret, newly disclosed documents show.

The memos and letters, mostly exchanges between scientists and officials from the Atomic Energy Commission from 1947 to the early 1950s, suggest that national security - long cited as the reason for the secrecy - may often have been only a secondary consideration, researchers said.

The documents, many of them only recently declassified, were found by investigators among hundreds of boxes of papers in a warehouse at the Energy Department's Oak Ridge facility in Tennessee.

They "confirm, as previously hypothesized, that in the immediate post-war period information on human experimentation, including plutonium experiments, was kept secret in anticipation of public relations and legal problems," says a memo summarizing the findings.

Copies of the documents and the presidential panel staff memo were obtained Wednesday by The Associated Press. The documents are to be discussed at a public hearing Thursday by the presidential Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments.

The committee was created by President Clinton nearly a year ago to look into human radiation testing during the Cold War and assess the ethical implications.

Scientists involved in such human radiation testing, including the injection of plutonium in some ill patients to learn more about its effects on the body, stubbornly sought to publish the results of their work, but were thwarted by U.S. government officials, the documents show.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

CUC RFP NO. 95-0011
December 2, 1994

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting proposals for the acquisition of (1) or (2) Aerial Basket Trucks.

Specifications:

Tilt Hood Cab
Cab Shield
Fiberglass Upper Boom
P.T.O.
Safety Warning Light Bar (Amber)
Five Speed Transmission
Two Man Fiberglass Basket/500 lb. Capacity
Two Year Supply of Standard Maintenance Parts
Insulated Lower Boom
Diesel Engine
Fiberglass Body
Hydraulic Outriggers
55 Foot Working Height
Two Speed Rear Axle

Selection criteria will be performance capability of offered vehicle, warranty, parts availability, delivery time, organization, and cost.

The Proposals shall be marked CUC RFP 95-0011 and five (5) copies of Sealed Proposals must be submitted to the Manager, Procurement and Supply, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Lower Base, P.O. Box 1220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than Wednesday, January 3, 1994 at 1600 hours.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose or obtaining the best and final offers. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

CUC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defect in said proposals, or any of them if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

All inquiries shall be directed to Mr. David M. Koch, Chief, Procurement & Supply for CUC at Telephone number (670) 322-4033 Ext. 68, Facsimile number (670) 322-6582

/s/ Timothy P. Villagomez
Executive Director

Death for killer cop upheld in Vietnam

By BRUCE STANLEY

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) - Vietnam's highest court upheld the death sentence Thursday for a policeman convicted of murder in a case seen by many as a rare test of justice in a nation used to cover-ups of official crime.

Cheers and applause erupted from a crowd of some 5,000 people that filled the courtyard and choked the street outside the Supreme Court building in downtown Hanoi when the chief justice announced the decision over a loudspeaker.

Lt. Nguyen Tung Duong, 37, had asked the court to overturn his October conviction for murder with intent to commit robbery in the shooting death of a Hanoi youth.

"All of us will be happy when he dies," said student Nguyen Hung Son, 20, as he struggled to stay on his feet amid a surging mass of jubilant spectators.

Duong, having exhausted his only appeal, now has seven days in which to ask Vietnam's President Le Duc Anh for clemency. He will face a firing squad if Anh does not intervene.

Electric nightsticks crackled as security men waved people back from the building's front gate to make room for a convoy of five trucks and jeeps carrying Duong away after the verdict. The officers showed restraint in trying to keep order amid one of Hanoi's biggest public gatherings in memory.

The court had expected to reach a decision Wednesday but postponed it. An angry crowd reacted to the delay by throwing stones and shoes at the paddy wagon transporting Duong back to jail.

Later on the same day, young people lobbed rocks at policemen, who charged and apprehended two of the youths. The fracas was remarkable in a country renowned for its heavy emphasis on internal security.

Thursday's spectators showed their sympathies early on by applauding the mother of Duong's victim when she entered the gate before the court announced its verdict.

Duong was convicted of killing Nguyen Viet Phuong, 20, after stopping him on a bridge over the nearby Red River. Phuong was carrying 50 million dong ($4,545) - equal to 20 years' wages for most Vietnamese - which he planned to ship to his company's office in Ho Chi Minh City from Gia Lam airport on the outskirts of Hanoi.

A June 1993 issue of Dai Doan Ket (Great Unity), the newspaper of Vietnam's Fatherland Front, reported that some officials helped cover up evidence of murder, including a second policeman who helped Duong change out of the clothes he'd worn at the scene.

Other papers alleged that members of Duong's family offered money to the dead man's relatives to keep them silent.

RP cop linked in kidnapping slain

MANILA (AP) - A team of gunmen Thursday killed a police officer who had been acquitted of kidnapping charges, several months after his co-accused, also and officer, was assassinated by Communist rebels.

Maj. Jose Pring, a decorated officer who once headed Manila's anti-kidnapping task force, was shot while he was driving his car on one of Manila's busiest streets.

A news team from ABS-CBN television, which happened to be two cars behind Pring, witnessed the ambush and took video footage of the attack, but one of the gunmen seized the team's camera.

Television reporter Ces Drilon said they were making a turn on the street when she and the others in their van saw the gunmen firing their .45 caliber pistols.

Cameraman Rudy Yagumyum got out and filmed the attack.

Yagumyum said he caught one of the gunmen on camera firing at least two shots before he was seen by the assailant.

"He pointed a gun at me ... and then he took the camera, but a cord connecting it to my battery belt held it back. He thought I did not want to give it to him, so he fired a (warning) shot," Yagumyum said.

Ms. Drilon said she pleaded with the gunman not to shoot Yagumyum. The gunman seized the camera and fled on foot.

The gunmen fled on a commandeered passenger jeep, which they later abandoned together with the camera, but took the cassette.

Manila police chief Hermogenes Ebdane said police did not immediately have suspects.

No group has claimed responsibility for the attack.

In May, police Maj. Timoteo Zarcal, Pring's co-accused in the 1992 kidnapping of three Taiwanese children, was gunned down near his home by members of the Alex Boncayao Brigade.

The two officers were acquitted in April. But the Brigade kept their names in a list of corrupt policemen targeted for assassination.

The Brigade is the armed wing of a break-away Communist rebel faction based in Manila.

Four Navy teachers in sex harassment to be court-martialled

SAN DIEGO (AP) - Four teachers at the U.S. Naval Training Center face court-martial proceedings, the Navy said Wednesday in closing an investigation into alleged sexual harassment of 16 women students.

Seven other people - six instructors and one student - have been disciplined for either taking part in the harassment or failing to follow up on complaints of the incidents, which spanned 18 months.

Some of those seven have been required to undergo counseling, others have had warnings put in their files and others have had pay docked.

"The investigation is complete," Capt. John Ensch, the base's commander. The four instructors are charged with sexual harassment, indecent language and indecent assault involving 16 students at the center's internal communications school, where sailors fresh out of boot camp train for 19 weeks.

The Navy refused to say what exactly the alleged assaults and harassment involved.

Although the Navy had initially reported that the alleged misconduct included instances of sex-for-grades, Ensch said Wednesday that no such evidence of that was uncovered during the three-month investigation.

The most publicized cases of sexual harassment among Navy personnel occurred at the 1991 Tailhook convention in Las Vegas.

More than 80 women said they were fondled and molested by drunken Navy and Marine aviators.

FIFTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY

WE, MR. AND MRS. JOSE C. CABRERA (RC) AND OUR CHILDREN WISH TO INVITE RELATIVES AND FRIENDS TO JOIN US IN THE HOLY MASS OF INTENTION IN COMMEMORATION OF THE FIFTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY OF OUR BELOVED DAUGHTER AND SISTER

Letitia May Cabrera Borja

COMMENCING ON SUNDAY,
DECEMBER 18, 1994 AT 4:30 A.M.
(MISAN AGINATDO) AT THE KRISTO RAI CHURCH IN GARAPAN.

THE FINAL MASS OF INTENTION WILL
END ON MONDAY, DECEMBER 26, 1994 AT 6:00 A.M.
AT THE KRISTO RAI CHURCH.

YOUR THOUGHTS AND PRAYERS ARE GREATLY APPRECIATED.

JOSE AND RITA C. CABRERA
KIN AND MARGARET C. DELA CRUZ
FRANK AND BOBBIE P. CABRERA
CARMEN C. CABRERA

Seedlings of Jurassic plants sprout

By PETER JAMES SPIELMANN

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) - Only a day after announcing the discovery of a real-life Jurassic Park, where pine trees thought extinct for 150 million years still thrive, scientists have unveiled the sequel:

It's the son - or seedling - of the Jurassic Bark.

For the last two weeks, horticulturists at the Mount Annan Botanic Garden have mounted a secret, feverish effort to propagate seeds from the prehistoric pines, found only last August and christened the Wollemi Pines, after the park they were found in.

On Thursday, they announced the good news: It's a seedling!

Forty seeds recovered from the grove of Wollemi Pines have been incubating in a special plant nutrient solution and one has sprouted, said Cathy Offord, the research officer at the gardens.

The institution is also experimenting with branches and leaves brought back from the secret site of the Wollemi Pines, to see if they reproduce by sending out runners or shoots.

"Because it is a new genus, we have no prior knowledge of how to propagate the plant," Offord said.

Now the Mount Annan Botanic Garden is hoping, like the fictional founder of the fantasy Jurassic Park, to get rich by propagating prehistoric pot plants.

"Let's face it, everyone is going to want one of these plants from the age of the dinosaurs," said Mark Savio, curator of the gardens.

Modern cultivation techniques could use tissue cultures to propagate thousands of plants a year from a single bud.

On Wednesday, Carrick Chambers, director of the Royal Botanic Gardens, said the discovery of the 39 Wollemi Pines "is the equivalent of finding a small dinosaur still alive on Earth."

"It really is a living fossil," said Barbara Briggs, the institution's scientific director.

The trees were found in August in an almost inaccessible part of Wollemi National Park, about 125 miles (200 km) west of Sydney in the Blue Mountains.

The biggest tree towers 130 feet (40 meters) with a 10-foot (three-meter) girth, indicating it is at least 150 years old, said Nicholas Harord, a spokesman for the Environment Ministry.

They are covered in dense, waxy foliage and have distinctive nobby bark that makes them look like they are coated with bubbly brown chocolate.

So far only 23 adult trees and 16 juveniles have been found, making it one of the world's rarest plants. Their exact location is being kept secret to protect them, while botanists take seed samples to propagate them.

Its home is a tiny 1.2-acre (5,000-square-meter) grove of rain forest in the 1.2 million-acre (500,000-hectare) park, found by National Parks and Wildlife Service officer David Noble on a weekend hiking holiday.

Briggs hailed it as one of Australia's most outstanding scientific discoveries of the century, comparable to the living fossil finds of the dawn redwood tree in China in 1944, and the coelacanth fish in 1938 off Madagascar.

The closest relatives of the Wollemi Pines died out in the Jurassic era 195-140 million years ago, and the Cretaceous era, 140-65 million years ago. The Wollemi pine had been thought extinct for 150 million years.

Pilots planned aborting landing before American Eagle's crash

By JULIANNE BASINGER

MORRISVILLE, N.C. (AP) - An American Eagle commuter plane that crashed near the Raleigh-Durham airport suffered an engine flame out and its pilots talked about aborting their landing approach, an investigator said Wednesday.

The Jetstream 3200 carrying 18 passengers and two pilots slammed into the ground Tuesday in a rugged, wooded area about 3 1/2 miles (6 kilometers) from the airport. Fifteen people were killed and five survivors were hospitalized with serious injuries.

John Lauber of the National Transportation Safety Board said Wednesday that investigators had not ruled out any factors, including weather, as a possible cause of the crash.

But NTSB Chairman Jim Hall told reporters Wednesday night that a preliminary review of the airplane's cockpit voice recorder showed the pilots discussed an engine flame out and talked about aborting their initial approach to Raleigh-Durham International Airport.

A warning system in the aircraft then went off and no more discussion was heard, Hall said.

Both pilots were killed, but investigators were able to recover the plane's flight data and cockpit voice recorders, the so-called "black boxes," and sent them to Washington for analysis.

Earlier Wednesday, workers hacked a road through a muddy, dense forest to remove mangled, burned bodies from the plane's wreckage.

Federal officials announced new safety standards for commuter planes after the crash, the airline's second in two months.

Both crewmen were experienced. The captain, Michael P. Hillis, 29, had 457 hours flying in that model Jetstream, and his first officer, Matthew I. Sailor, 25, had 677 hours. Each had more than 3,450 hours of total flying time.

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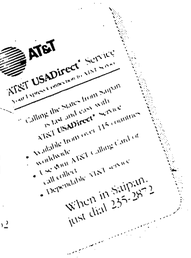

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The BAR EXAMINATION for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands is scheduled to be administered on February 23 and 24, 1995. Those individuals who are planning to take the Bar Examination [either the Regular Bar Exam or the Attorney Bar Exam] may obtain from the Commonwealth Supreme Court the necessary information and application forms by calling the Clerk of the Supreme Court at Telephone Nos. 234-5175/5176 or 5177, or by writing to P.O. Box 2165, Saipan, MP 96950.

All applications for the February 1995 CNMI Bar Examination must be submitted to the Clerk of the Supreme Court, together with the required application fee [$150.00 for Regular Applicant and $250.00 for Attorney Applicant], no later than January 10, 1995.

Dated this 8th day of November, 1994.

/s/CHARLES M. CALVO, JR.
Clerk of the Supreme Court

AC#10849(12/2&16)

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Board of Professional Licensing and the Building Safety Code Division of the Department of Public Works (DPW) wish to jointly remind Professional Architects and Engineers practicing in the CNMI of the regulations of signing and sealing technical documents. The Board's regulations, published in Volume 13, No. 10, of the Commonwealth Register, dated October 15, 1991 are comprehensive and clear in this regard.

Effective January 01, 1995, the DPW Building Safety Code Division will require that persons licensed in the appropriate professional disciplines (architect, civil, electrical, mechanical, structural, etc.) sign and seal all technical documents submitted for building permit which involve their particular branch of engineering or architecture, as set forth in the regulations of the Board of Professional Licensing.

/s/ FRANCISCO O. GUERRERO, AIA
Acting Chairperson, Board of Professional Licensing
Date: Nov. 22, 1994

/s/ STEPHEN P. LEMIEUX, P.E.
Acting Building Safety Official
Date: Nov. 22, 1994

Prince Charles' birthday remains holiday

SUVA, Fiji (AP) - Royalty means loyalty. Fiji's Senate is so reluctant to loosen ties with Britain's royal family that it voted against abolishing a holiday to mark Prince Charles' birthday.

All 20 senators who voted Wednesday to restore the holiday are Fijian tribal chiefs, who said sending Prince Charles packing after their ancestors ceded the Fijian islands to Queen Victoria in 1874 would be disrespectful.

No matter that the British themselves don't celebrate the heir to the throne's birthday, or that Fiji has been a republic since 1987; the Senate said the annual November public holiday must be kept.

The Cabinet last year scrapped the holiday, which had become widely regarded as an oddity among Britain's former colonies, saying there were too many public holidays and that one had to go.

This year was the first for many years in which the royal heir's holiday was not observed, although the Queen's Birthday holiday remains firmly entrenched.

Despite the Senate's 20-10 vote Wednesday to reinstate the holiday, the lower House of Representatives can overrule the upper house and abolish it forever.

The Foreign Affairs minister, Sen. Filipe Bole, reassured the upper house Fiji was not severing its ties with the British Crown.

Although there was deep pro-royal sentiment among senators, he said they must recognize that many younger Fijians were not as strongly tied to the monarchy.

The Rupert Murdoch-owned Fiji Times today put it more bluntly, even daring to suggest the Queen's Birthday holiday also should be scrapped.

'Even in Britain, where Prince Charles lives in splendor, his birthday goes by relatively unnoticed," said its editorial.

"One would have thought that in the wake of the scandals that have been rocking the royal family recently, good sense would have told us to forget the Prince and his birthday."

Instead of wasting two days celebrating meaningless royal public holidays, the time should be spent producing more exports, the newspaper said.

Angered Buddhist priests to boycott Pope John's visit

By NIRESH ELIATAMBY

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) - Pope John Paul II's new book has touched off a controversy in Sri lanka less than five weeks before he arrives to beatify a 17th-century Roman Catholic missionary.

Angered by what they describe as the book's insult to Buddhism, Sri Lanka's main religion, its four top priests have decided to boycott the pontiff's visit on Jan. 20-21.

"The Pope must express his sincere regret for this act of discourtesy. He has insulted Lord Buddha and attacked Buddhism," Madihe Panyaseeha, the chief priest of the Amarapura chapter of Buddhism in Sri Lanka, told The Associated Press on Thursday.

Panyaseeha said the pope's book makes a brief reference to Buddhism that criticizes its doctrine of salvation, which encourages people to withdraw from public life and meditate.

The prelates of the four Buddhist sectors in Sri Lanka, the equivalent of Roman Catholic cardinals, discussed the pope's book, "Crossing The Threshold Of Hope," last week and decided to boycott his visit.

"Earlier, we welcomed his visit to Sri Lanka, but now he has outraged the religious-susceptibilities of Buddhists throughout the country," Panyaseeha said in a telephone interview.

The pope is scheduled to meet all religious leaders in Sri Lanka during his visit, the second by a pontiff to the Indian Ocean island. About 70 percent of Sri Lanka's 17 million people are Buddhists, and seven percent are Catholics or belong to other Christian denominations.

Pope Paul VI briefly visited Colombo airport in 1970.

Dharmasiri Senanayake, Sri Lanka's media minister, said on Thursday that the government still plans to receive the Pope with all honors as the head of a religious order. "The current controversy will in no way be allowed to impair the respect the state will show his holiness, the pope," he said.

During his visit the pope will beatify Joseph Vaz, an Indian missionary credited with preserving Catholicism from Calvinist Dutch rulers trying to stamp it out in the 17th century.

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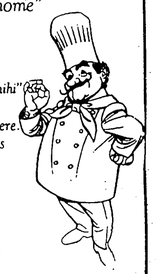

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By the management

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Student's body stolen from grave

By CHARLES RICHARDS

DALLAS (AP) - Melinda Ann Lee was a victim in death as in life.

The 20-year-old honors student died after a traffic accident involving an allegedly drunken driver. Then her body was stolen from her fresh grave.

Authorities said Wednesday they are investigating explanations ranging from the occult to an obsessed admirer. They have no motive or suspects.

Sheriff's officials are trying to tap FBI behavioral science specialists for help.

"We're looking at a very sick situation here. This is a case we were not prepared to deal with," said sheriff's spokesman Jim Ewell.

Lee died on Dec. 7 in a Lubbock hospital, where she spent 54 days after an October traffic accident. The Texas Tech junior was buried Saturday at Restland Memorial Park in Dallas.

During the night, someone burrowed six feet (2 meters) to Lee's grave and drilled a hole through a four-inch (10 cms) concrete crypt to the coffin. A hole also was broken in the coffin, through which they removed the body, officials said.

A cemetery worker discovered the unearthed grave Tuesday morning. Police say a stone found nearby may have been used to break the coffin, which was not opened.

The grave-robbing would have required up to six hours, depending on how many people were involved, said Dallas County Sheriff's Capt. Larry Williams.

Police have been interviewing Lee's friends, and a detective was being sent to Lubbock.

Lee had a large circle of friends but didn't date much, said the Rev. Byron Myrick, a pastor at Lake Highlands United Methodist Church, where the Lee family worshipped.

Man gets probation for aiding father's suicide

By STRAT DOUTHAT

HARTFORD, Conn. (AP) - A man charged with manslaughter for helping his dying father commit suicide was sentenced to two years' probation Wednesday by a judge who said he was a loving son carrying out his father's wishes.

William F. Meyer III, 65, agreed not to help anyone else commit suicide and to make a $1,000 donation in his father's name to a state prison youth program. He also agreed to drop his membership in The Hemlock Society, a group that advocates legal suicide for the terminally ill.

Meyer had admitted helping his father, William Meyer Jr., 88, end his life on July 30, 1991, at his home in West Hartford. Meyer said he helped place a plastic bag over his father's head and held his father's hands down as the older man began struggling to remove the bag.

He was arrested Sept. 27 this year after he revealed his role in the suicide in a magazine interview.

Superior Court Judge Thomas Miano said Meyer was an outstanding citizen and there was no reason to believe he would help anyone else commit suicide.

Miano also said he was swayed by a letter the elder Meyer had written to friends in which he said, after five cancer operations: "I happily decided that it was more kind and thoughtful of me to terminate my life before I reach a decadent condition of helplessness."

The judge said it was clear Meyer was a loving son who helped his father end his life after the elder Meyer's first suicide attempt failed, leaving the old man in deep despair.

Meyer was charged with second-degree manslaughter, which carries a maximum penalty of 10 years in prison.

Meyer told the judge his father threatened to kill himself by plunging a knife into his heart if he failed a second time to commit suicide by taking sleeping pills and placing a plastic bag over his head.

Meyer said he gave interviews because: "The last thing my father said to me was, 'I don't want people to go through this agony: tell my story.'"

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U94-123	1988	CAMRY LE	AAJ-949	3995
U94-155	1991	CAMRY V6 LE	AAV-943	6995
U92-188T	1991	CAMRY 2000 SDN	AAX-921	3995
U94-150	1991	CAMRY	ABC-361	5995
U93-140	1990	CAMRY	AAZ-464	4995
U93-247	1990	CAMRY	AAZ-318	4995
U94-243	1990	CAMARO	ABO-222	18995
BUICK/OLD'S				
U94-219	1991	CAPRICE CLASIC	AAX-021	4995
C94-002	1989	BUICK CENTURY	AAR-034	2695
U94-067	1987	OLD'S 98	AAO-726	2995
U94-016	1990	GEO	AAY-528	3995
TERCEL				
U94-174	1990	TERCEL	AAT-021	3995
U94-215	1991	TERCEL	ABD-272	3995
U94-244	1989	TERCEL	AAR-019	3995
COROLLA				
U94-167	1991	COROLLA GTS	AAX-081	5995
U94-230	1990	COROLLA	AAV-522	5995
U94-232	1988	COROLLA	AAM-182	2695
U94-238	1990	COROLLA	AAP-345	5595
RX-7				
U94-151	1990	RX-7	AAN-648	6195
MAZDA				
U94-239	1990	MAZDA MX-6	AAW-251	5595
U94-118	1985	MAZDA GLC	AAJ-925	895
U94-082	1990	MAZDA 626	AAS-975	4995
U94-142	1991	MAZDA B2200	AAY-242	3195
U94-201	1990	MAZDA B2200	AAT-675	2995
U94-224	1990	MAZDA 626	AA0-900	6595
NISSAN				
U94-211	1989	NISSAN PULSAR	AAM-176	2995
U94-180	1991	NISSAN 4X2	ABE-141	4695
U94-173	1991	NISSAN VANETTE	ABE-431	8995
U94-236	1991	NISSAN SENTRA	AAT-757	5695
U94-248	1990	MISSAN 240 SX	AA0-977	5495
SUBARU				
U94-234	1990	SUBARU WAGON	AAL-506	4695
MITSUBISHI				
U94-217	1993	MITSUBISHI MIRAGE	ABL-242	7995
EXCAB				
U94-242	1992	4X4 EXCUB (AUTO)	ABJ-251	11995
U94-225	1990	4X2	AAS-438	4595
U94-017	1991	4X4 EX-CABV 6	AAU-495	5995
U94-198	1991	4X4 EX-CAB	AAW-451	9695
U94-086	1988	4X4 EXTRA-CAB	AAC-265	3195
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United Airlines flight does emergency landing in Tokyo

TOKYO (AP) - Engine trouble forced a United Airlines jumbo jet with 388 people aboard to make an emergency landing at New Tokyo International Airport at Narita early Thursday, airline officials said.

Mikito Shimokawa, spokesman of the Transport Ministry's Narita office, said all aboard United's Flight 2 were safe. The plane made its emergency landing at Narita at 1:33 a.m. (1633 GMT Wednesday).

The flight was on its way to Los Angeles from Hong Kong.

Pilots felt unusual vibrations from one of the aircraft's engines while flying above the North Pacific.

They turned the plane around and flew 3410 kilometers (1,648 miles) to Tokyo's international airport, Shimokawa said.

United officials said 21 crew members and 367 passengers aboard the original flight changed to another United jet and left for Los Angeles at 6:33 a.m. (2133 GMT Wednesday).

The cause of the engine trouble was still under investigation, United officials said.

Several fire engines stood by at the time of the emergency landing at Narita airport, 65 kilometers (40 miles), northeast of Tokyo, whose official operations for the day close at 11 p.m., Shimokawa said.

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATION

DPW95-RFP-00306

The Public School System in conjunction with the Department of Public Works in soliciting proposals from interested contractors for the construction of a Library Building Facility at San Vicente and San Antonio Elementary School on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The proposals must address the following:

a. Profile of the company and key personnel;
b. Past experience with similar projects;
c. Time frame for design and construction; and
d. Financial and manpower capability.

A business licenses is a requirement, plans and specification must be prepared and stamped by a CNMI Registered Engineer or Architect.

Proposals must be delivered to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Department of Finance, no later than 4:00 p.m., December 23, 1994.

A detailed Scope of Work will be available at the Department of Public Works on or about November 25, 1994. All concerns may be referred to Mr. Oscar R. Babauta at telephone number (670) 322-9828 or 322-9436.

The Government reserves the right to accept or reject or all proposals in the interest of the Government.

/s/ ELIZABETH H. SALAS-BALAJADIA, P.E.
Secetrary of Public Work

/s/ WILLIAM S. TORRES
Commissioner of Education

Plane crashes into apartment

By DAVID KLIGMAN

FRESNO, Calif. (AP) - A Learjet taking part in a National Guard war game crashed in flames and plowed into an apartment house Wednesday, killing both crewmen and injuring at least 15 people on the ground.

The jet went down in the street shortly before noon as it was trying to land at Fresno Air Terminal, touching off fires and explosions and setting off a scramble by tenants to get out of the building.

"They were throwing their babies out the windows - TVs, all their valuables," said Kim Brown, who works nearby.

Witnesses described a large hole in the 18-unit apartment house and what appeared to be a wall peeled back. Burned cars littered the street.

A witness, David Flores, said he saw a man in a blue uniform flying through the air. Flores said he and a friend crawled through the rubble to help, only to find that the man had been decapitated.

The plane's two crewmen, both of them civilians, were killed, said Air Force Maj. Tom Schultz, a Pentagon spokesman.

Schultz reported 20 people were injured, while Laura Flemming, an ambulance service spokeswoman, said 15 people were taken to the hospital. One person was in critical condition and four others were seriously hurt, she said.

The Lear 35 jet was owned by Phoenix Air, based in Georgia, and was operated by the California Air National Guard under contract, the Pentagon said.

It was taking part in what Schultz called an electronic countermeasures targeting mission. It was carrying electronic equipment so that the plane itself could be the "target" in a war game exercise, the spokesman said.

Trains derail in fiery mountain crash

SAN BERNARDINO, Calif. (AP) - A runaway freight train barreled down a steep mountain pass and into a stopped coal train on Wednesday, leaving 10 cars in a fiery heap and injuring four people.

The 54-car Santa Fe freight train's brakes apparently began to fail about half way down its descent through the Cajon Pass on a 20-mile (32-kilometer) run that drops from 4,200 feet (1,260 meters) at the summit to 1,000 (300 meters) feet in San Bernardino.

Crews of both trains jumped free before impact. Four were hurt.

"That's a real hill in there," said Dave Watson of the National Transportation Safety Board. "It's one of the steepest grades in the United States."

The remote area in the San Bernardino Mountains is about 60 miles (96 kilometers) east of Los Angeles.

The 82-car Union Pacific coal train was waiting for an Amtrak train to pass at 5:23 a.m. when they were warned about the Santa Fe train headed their way, said Union Pacific spokesman Mark Davis.

"They were having a problem coming down the hill. Thankfully, they notified our crew," said Davis.

Witness Fred Dressler ran to help a conductor: "He said that they were sitting there waiting because an Amtrak had just passed them. Then he heard on the radio where this other train was coming down. It had no brakes."

Six locomotives and three rail cars derailed and burst into flames on impact.

The Santa Fe engineer was flown to a hospital but his condition wasn't known, said Gustis.

On-board event recorders, similar to aircraft flight data recorders, will be analyzed.

Sydney airport delays seen

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) - Police advised passengers arriving Saturday on international and domestic flights into Sydney Airport to expect delays due to a massive protest.

Thousands of Sydney residents plan to blockade the airport to protest the noise of jetliners diverted over their neighborhoods by the opening of a new third runway.

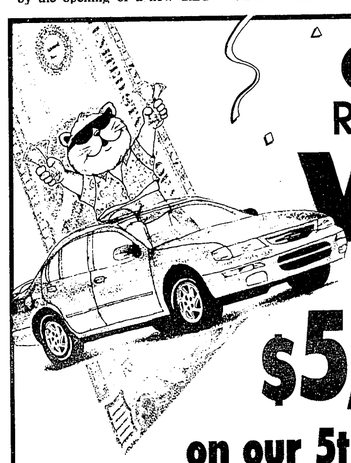
Marrickville Mayor Barry Cotter said Thursday that Saturday's demonstration could turn violent.

"I want this to be recognized as a large peaceful demonstration.

"Of course there's a danger if you have 10,000 to 15,000 people trying to give a peaceful message and police move in. Then the hotheads could take over," he said.

The chief police superintendent for Sydney's Eastern Suburbs, Dennis Gilligan, said "I strongly advise all travellers to contact their airline as there could be flight delays.

"Passengers should also allow additional time to make airport connections, as roads in the area are likely to be congested."



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People and places

Mystery fish in Sea of Galilee

JERUSALEM (AP) - The scare over piranhas in the Sea of Galilee, a favorite pleasure spot for Israelis, dissipated Wednesday when a mystery fish turned out to be a tropical variety uninterested in dining on humans.

An investigation determined the five fish caught a day earlier were colossoma, a South American breed that subsists mostly on nuts and fruits that fall into the water.

"It does not bite people, does not eat meat," said Uri Rappaport, head of the fishing division in the Agriculture Ministry.

Residents around the lake, best known as the place where Jesus is believed to have walked on water, breathed a collective sigh of relief since the scare followed on the heels of rumors of an escaped crocodile.

Crosby out after liver trasnplant

LOS ANGELES (AP) - It's been a long time coming: singer David Crosby has been released from the hospital.

Crosby, 53, left the hospital Tuesday, three weeks after undergoing a seven-hour transplant operation to replace a liver damaged by years of alcohol and drug abuse.

A hospital spokeswoman would not give details about his condition, but said doctors considered his outlook good.

De Niro plans restaurant in Harlem

NEW YORK (AP) - Robert De Niro, who likes to put his money where your mouth is, has plans for another restaurant, this one at a former jazz club in the New York City neighborhood of Harlem.

The actor and his business partner Drew Nieporent want to revive Minton's Playhouse with jazz and soul food, The New York Times said Wednesday. The jazz-club landmark opened in 1939 but has been shut down for 20 years.

"Harlem really needs to be back in the jazz world," said Melba Wilson, another partner. "When we put up the neon sign for the place one night, people actually started lining up thinking it was open."

De Niro and Nieporent are also opening a bakery in the spring between their two New York restaurants, TriBeCa Grill and Nobu.

Carter is going across America

ATLANTA (AP) - Former U.S. President Jimmy Carter is going across America with his good works.

The Atlanta Project, founded by Carter to improve the lives of inner-city residents, will go nationwide as the America Project on Jan. 1, it was announced Tuesday.

Dan Sweat, program director of the Atlanta Project, will lead the new operation.

The America Project will spread the word about the Atlanta Project to other cities, work to improve partnerships between industry and community groups and teach the value of community-based approaches to urban problems.

Duchess of York for AID's campaign

LISBON, Portugal (AP) - When it comes to AIDS awareness, the Duchess of York doesn't just talk the talk.

The former Sarah Ferguson, estranged wife of Britain's Prince Andrew, was in Portugal to help raise money for an AIDS awareness campaign.

Asked if she had had been tested for HIV, the duchess responded, "Of course! Once before I was married and once before becoming pregnant," according to Portugal's Diario de Noticias.

A report by the British agency Press Association differed slightly, saying the first HIV test was before she became pregnant with her first child and the second for an insurance policy about a year ago. The discrepancy could not immediately be resolved.

Rick James to pay $225.000

LOS ANGELES (AP) - A jury has ordered singer Rick James to pay $225,000 to a woman he was convicted of brutalizing and holding hostage in a hotel room in 1992.

The civil court verdict came Tuesday during the second phase of Mary Sauger's lawsuit. On Friday, the jury awarded Sauger $1.8 million in compensatory damages.

The 45-year-old funk singer, best known for the 1981 hit "Super Freak," was convicted last year of assaulting Sauger. He was sentenced in January to five years and four months in prison.

His girlfriend, Tanya Anne Hijazi, pleaded guilty to assault with a deadly weapon and was sentenced to four years in prison.

Weekly CNMI marine water report is out

THE DIVISION of Environmental Quality (DEQ) analyzed water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainages this week. The samples collected from the following location contained excessive concentration of fecal coliform bacteria, which exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

*DPW Channel Bridge .

High concentrations of Fecal Coliforms may be the result of stormwater runoff due to rain storms. Fecal Coliform bacteria are not usually disease causing. The bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Studies have shown that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain fecal coliform bacteria from the natural environment. To adequately address public health concerns, DEQ maintains its policy of advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location within 48 hours of this notice.

The Division of Environmental Quality analyzes samples of marine recreational and storm drainage water from 37 locations on the west side of Saipan island each week. DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 234-6114 with any questions concerning this matter.

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Israelis, Palestinians produce 'Romeo and Juliet'

By MARILYN AUGUST

PARIS (AP) - It's a road show unlike any other - Romeo proclaims his love in Arabic, Juliet responds in Hebrew.

An Israeli-Palestinian production of the Shakespeare classic is making its international debut, to the delight of audiences and the consternation of police.

Unlike Shakespeare's tale of two clans divided, then united by love and death, the Middle East still awaits a happy ending. Nevertheless, the co-production by Palestinian Fouad Awad and Israeli Eran Baniel marks a small, quiet step toward peace.

"This little cultural reality, or dream, has really been the only successful venture between Israelis and Palestinians," Baniel, 48, said in an interview Wednesday.

"We didn't want another Israeli play with Arabs in it ... We wanted equal footing."

The play, in Hebrew and Arabic with French translations projected on a screen above the stage, depicts the 16th century Verona envisioned by Shakespeare.

"We didn't want to do a folkloric version of 'Romeo and Juliet,' with the Capulets wearing skull caps and the Montagues wearing kafirs," said Awad, director of the Al Kasaba Al Quds Theater. "We wanted the bigger themes."

Security at the Villette auditorium in northern Paris was tighten after smoke bombs disrupted a performance and young Jewish militants crashed a round-table discussion shouting anti-Arab slogans. Dozens of regular police and private guards with dogs are deployed at each performance, and spectators are frisked before entry.

Baniel, director of the Khan Theater in Jerusalem, said it took more than six years to launch the project.

The Israelis play the Capulets; the Palestinians the Montagues.

The two troupes worked separately for four months before beginning joint rehearsals. While most of the Palestinians speak fluent Hebrew, the Israelis speak virtually no Arabic.

Awad, 38, was born in Nazareth. Like most of his actors, he says he carries the "conflict" of being a Palestinian living in Israel deep inside.

Baniel said he underestimated Palestinian frustrations.

"What I discovered working with the Palestinians was how much rage and bitterness they have inside," he said. "In the beginning, the violent scenes came naturally. I wondered how the Israelis could match the tour de force of the Montagues."

Months passed before the actors let down their defenses. After a Jewish settler massacred 29 Palestinian worshipers at a West Bank mosque in February, three Israelis left the troupe, fearing for their safety and convinced the project would fail.

"Now all the actors are friends - when I saw them on the plane I realized how close they are," Baniel said. "That's the big personal and professional transition.

Now they must act on stage the hatred they no longer feel."

The production premiered in Jerusalem in June. It is still seeking venues in the occupied territories and neighboring Arab countries, and will tour Germany, Italy, Belgium, and Norway in the spring.

Performances at the Brooklyn Academy of Music and the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C., are planned for late next year.

Kathleen Guzman, president of Christie's East, examines gowns worn by famous movie stars prior to the auction of Film and Television Memorabilia at Christie's East in New York Monday, Dec. 5, 1994. The gowns from left are: Tatri Garr's, worn in 1974 in "Young Frankenstein," Esther Williams' worn in 1952 in "Million Dollar Mermaid," Rosalind Russell's in 1966 in "The Trouble With Angles," Greer Garson in 1949 in "That Forsythe Woman," Joan Collins' in 1980 in "Dynasty," and a Mae West gown at extreme right. (AP Photo)

Earldom sold to mystery buyer

LONDON (AP) - Just when it appeared that no one would pay 450,000 pounds ($702,000) at auction Wednesday for a feudal earldom on a romantic Scottish isle, a mystery buyer emerged and snapped it up.

The Earldom of Arran, with 1,000 acres (406 ha) on the island of Arran and the half-ruined 14th century Lochranza castle, was the star lot of a sale of titles - many dating back to the 11th century Norman Conquest.

Arran, 20 miles (32 km) off the west coast of Scotland, is a 165-square-mile (427-square km) island of hills, glens and lochs.

Telephone bids took the money under the hammer swiftly up to 400,000 pounds ($624,000) but no further, and auctioneer Robert Smith of the Manorial Society of Great Britain announced that there was no sale. The minimum acceptable price was 450,000 pounds.

Lady Jean Fforde, 74, trying to sell the family title "to raise money," told the milling reporters and photographers, "I shall wait for another sale, another day."

But as she spoke, the auctioneer banged the gavel and said, "I am pleased to announce that the earldom has been sold."

"I can't say who the buyer was because he does not wish to be identified," Smith said, adding that the price, too, would remain secret, although it had reached the minimum.

Smith said the buyer was in the room, approached him after the auction, made his purchase and vanished.

Lady Jean Fforde said she had no regrets at losing the right to call herself the Countess of Arran, "the 20th and present holder of the lands and Earldom of Arran."

"The title hasn't been used for many years because my family had other titles and did not use that one," she said.

"I didn't even know I had it. It was discovered again a year ago by Mr. Smith and his researchers and he approached me about it."

She inherited her title from her mother, the Duchess of Montrose, who died in 1957. Her brother inherited the Montrose title.

The title she sold, unlike those that can be obtained only through inheritance, goes with land tenure and can be purchased as property.

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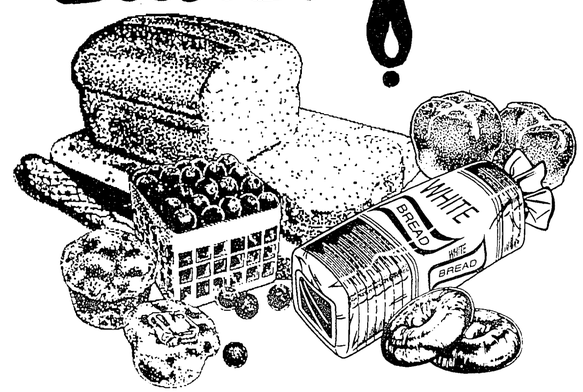

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Former top Indonesian commander approves Australia's defense strategy

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) - Indonesia's former defense minister and commander of its armed forces said Thursday that Australia and its Southeast Asian neighbors largely share a common strategic outlook.

Gen. Benny Moerdani gave the thumbs up to Australia's long-range defense plan, despite suggestions that Indonesia could be offended by some elements of Australia's defense posture.

Speaking at a conference at the Australian Defense Force Academy, Moerdani, who is now retired from public life, said the views from Jakarta and Canberra on many regional economic, political and security issues were often closer than those between Jakarta and Tokyo or between Canberra and Washington.

Some commentators have suggested that Australia's F-111 bombers, the army move to the north and Australia's membership of the Five Power Defense Arrangement - along with Malaysia, Singapore, New Zealand and Britain - could be considered provocative by Indonesia.

Moerdani said Indonesia had no problem with any of these.

He said Australia's move of its armed forces to the Northern Territory did not necessarily mean they were aimed at Indonesia.

``Possible disturbances to Australia's security can also come only from the north,'' he said.

Australia wants to threaten Australia said the issue of Australia's F-111s was not widely addressed in Indonesia.

``Even from the layman's perspective, it never comes to mind to many Indonesians why Indonesia,'' he said.

Similarly, he said, Indonesia had no problem about the Five Power alliance, although its origin remained a delicate issue. It was formed to guarantee the security of Malaysia and Singapore following their ``confrontation'' with Indonesia during the 1960s.

Moerdani said neither Australia nor Indonesia currently faced any real threat.

``This does not mean that problems may not arise in our relations in the future or that regional problems and conflicts may not be confronting us,'' he said.

``What is important is that we can talk about those emerging problems and that a forum exists for regional countries to share their views and experiences on, as well as the burden to maintaining peace and stability in the region and globally.''

According to Australia's strategic plan, its defense relationship with Indonesia is the most important in the region. Defense links have progressed steadily from near zero level following the 1986 publication of a newspaper story alleging corruption within the Indonesian ruling family.

Japanese shout away worries of '94

TOKYO (AP) - In this land where raising one's voice is considered vulgar, what were 30 people doing shouting their lungs out Wednesday in a busy Tokyo square?

Jiroyuki Sagano, a 25-year-old student, was winning money - 200,000 yen ($2,000) - for his ear-piercing "I will do karate for the rest of my life!"

Sagano's 112.9-decibel yell, slightly louder than a car horn heard from two meters (six feet) away, won the grand prize in the annual "Halls Year-End Shouting Contest."

Contestants were asked to shout about something that angered or suprised them in the past year.

Japan's emergency imports of rice, school bullying and Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama all came under attack.

Mamiko Kobayashi, a 20-year-old student, won second place for her window-rattling plea to the bushy-browed prime minister: "Tomi-baby, let me cut your eyebrows!"

In addition to sheer volume, shouts were also evaluated by the three judges for content and delivery. Judges held up numbered cards to indicate their ratings.

The Unique Prize, worth 50,000 yen ($500), went to Tomoyuki Fukumura for his 104.7-decibel response to a recent public kissing boom in Japan: "Stop smooching on the train! Why don't you people go home!!"

Some shouters belted out their concerns about age-old issues:

"I want work," screamed comic illustrator Yuriki Shimode.

"It's so cold in winter - buy me a stove!!" implored Hideki Matsui, a 29-year-old carpenter.

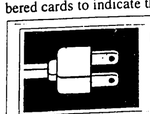
But Koji Fukuda was still thinking about this summer's record-breaking heat wave: "I couldn't sleep this summer because it was so hot and I didn't have an air conditioner!"

Some came back to the theme of Christmas, which is mainly seen in Japan as a chance to splurge on a glamorous date.

"There are couples all through my town at Christmas time," bellowed Tsunehiro Miyazaki, a 25-year-old company worker. "Hey Santa, next time bring me a girlfriend!"

Reiji Toma put it slightly differently:

"I'm sick of being a 'Single Bell' at Christmas!"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Successful candidates will have experience in solid waste landfill design and construction, in hazardous waste site investigation work, emergency response operations, and environmental sampling. Applicants must also have a knowledge of U.S. EPA regulations and procedures. Experience with municipal skills are a must and the applicant must have the flexibility to work in a demanding and culturally diverse work environment where English is a second language. Must possess a B.S. in engineering and have at least 4 years of related experience. Starting salary $35,000/yr. plus benefits, 2 yr. contract.

Please send resumes and references to:
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Public Notice

The Public School System has applied for assistance under Part 605 of the Urban Mass Transportation Regulations and the PSS certifies, in accordance with Section 605.17, that there are no private school bus operators operating in the CNMI. The Public School System wil utilize funds provided through Part 605 to support transportation projects to the students attending our system of schools.

Approved By: William S. Torres
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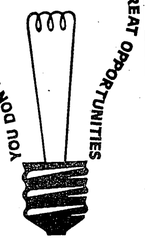
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1 FINISHING SUPERVISOR - High school grad., 2 years experience. Salary $3.00-$5.00 per hour.
Contact: MICHIGAN INCORPORATED. P.O. Box 2682, Saipan, MP 96950. Tel. No. 234-9555/6.(12/16)F/17564.

1 MARKETING MANAGER - College grad., 2 years experience. Salary $3.00-$5.77 per hour.
Contact: COMMONWEALTH GARMENT MFG. INC. P.O. Box 741 CK, Saipan, MP 96950. Tel. No. 234-3481/2/3.(12/16)F/17604.

1 SALES MANAGER - College grad., 2 years experience. Salary $2.45-$5.90 per hour.
Contact: PEACE CORP. dba Mama Store. P.O. Box 1519, Saipan, MP 96950. Tel. No. 234-7794.(12/16)F/17612.

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1 AREA MANAGER - College grad., 2 years experience. Salary $4.25 per hour.
Contact: J.C.A. INC. dba McDonald's of Saipan. P.O. Box 575, Saipan, MP 96950. Tel. No. 235-8761.(12/23)F/0968.

1 GENERAL MANAGER - College grad., 2 years experience. Salary $1,000-$3,000 per month.
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1 MANAGER, NIGHT CLUB - College grad., 2 years experience. Salary $3.00 $6.00 per hour.
Contact: PA JOO CORPORATION dba Night Club. Caller Box AAA 860, Saipan, MP 96950. Tel. No. 234-5051.(12/23)F/17656.

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Contact: JAMES H. WEATHERSBEE, CPA. dba James H. Weathersbee, CPA. P.O. Box 725, Saipan, MP 96950. Tel. No. 233-9142 or 43. (12/16)F/17567.

1 ACCOUNTANT - College grad., 2 years experience. Salary $2.45-$5.20 per hour.
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1 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR
1 MECHANIC - High school grad., 2 years experience. Salary $2.45 per hour.
Contact: AA ENTERPRISES, INC. dba Tanapag Service Station. P.O. Box 1880, Saipan, MP 96950. Tel. No. 322-4447.(12/23)F/17652.

1 ACCOUNTANT - College grad., 2 years experience. Salary $900 per month.
1 WELDER (COMBINATION)
1 TINSMITH
1 VIDEO RENTAL CLERK - High school grad., 2 years experience. Salary $2.45 per hour.
Contact: CAMILO A. ORALLO dba Universal Enterprises. P.O. Box 1751, Saipan, MP 96950. Tel. No. 234-3701.(12/23)F/17655.

1 AUTOMOBILE PAINTER - High school grad., 2 years experience. Salary $2.75 per hour.
Contact: GOLDEN NEENA CORPORATION. P.O. Box 2646, Saipan, MP 96950. Tel. No. 235-0597.(12/23)F/17657.

1 JANITOR
1 PAINTER (MAINTENANCE)
1 GENERATOR OPERATOR
9 HOUSEKEEPING (CLEANERS)
2 SECURITY GUARDS - High school grad., 2 years experience. Salary $2.45 per hour.
Contact: CHANGSHIN RESORT SAIPAN CORP. dba Hotel Riviera Resort Saipan. Caller Box AAA 928, Saipan, MP 96950. Tel. No. 235-2111.(12/23)F/17653.

1 SALES CLERK - High school grad., 2 years experience. Salary $2.45 per hour.
Contact: SAI-CHI U.S. INTERNATIONAL CORP. dba Santa Lourdes Mini-Mart. P.O. Box 5557 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950. Tel. No. 256-9904.(12/23)F/17658.

2 MASONS
1 PLUMBER - Two years experience. Salary $2.45 per hour.
Contact: EMILIO P. QUIATCHON SR. dba EQ Construction. P.O. Box 1073, Saipan, MP 96950. Tel. No. 234-8827.(12/23)F/17661.

1 AIRCRAFT MECHANIC - High school grad., 2 years experience. Salary $750 per month.
Contact: AVIATION SERVICES LTD. dba Freedom Air. P.O. Box 239 CK, Saipan, MP 96950. Tel. No. 234-8328.(12/23)F/17662.

1 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER - High school grad., 2 years experience. Salary $500 per month.
Contact: RTS TRADING CO. LTD. dba Papa Audio Vision Ctr. PPP 736 Box 10000, Saipan, MP 96950. Tel. No. 322-3012.(12/23)F/17666.

1 ACCOUNTANT - College grad, BSC-major in accounting, 2 years experience. Salary $900 per monthly.
2 DRESSMAKERS
2 BEAUTICIANS - High school equiv., 2 years experience. Salary $2.45 per hour.
Contact: CHRISTINE MART, INC. Caller Box AAA-46, Saipan, MP 96950. Tel. No. 234-5035.(12/30)F/1052.

1 GRAPHIC ARTIST - College grad., 2 years experience. Salary $3.25-$4.00 per hour.
Contact: YOUNIS ART STUDIO dba Marianas Variety News & Views. P.O. Box 231, Saipan, MP 96950. Tel. No. 234-6341/7578/9797.(12/30)F.

1 FOUNTAIN SERVER - Two years experience. Salary $2.45-$2.75 per hour.
Contact: JOHN I. HIRSH dba The Big Dipper Ice Cream Factory, Sundance Marketing/Tropical Oasis. Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, MP 96950. Tel. No. 234-9352.(12/30)F/17741.

5 YARDWORKERS - High school equiv., 2 years experience. Salary $2.45 per hour.
Contact: RAY S. TENORIO dba Rays Lawn Care & Maintenance Inc. P.O. Box 546, Saipan, MP 96950. Tel. No. 234-6176/4800.(12/30)F/17742.

1 (DOCUMENTATION) CARGO CHECKER - High school grad., 2 years experience. Salary $650 per month.
Contact: WESTPAC FREIGHT dba Antonio S. Camacho. P.O. Box 2048, Saipan, MP 96950.(12/30)F/17743.

1 PAINTER - High school grad., 2 years experience. Salary $2.45 per hour.
Contact: SUNG WOO HEAVY EQUIPMENT CORP. P.O. Box 2939, Saipan, MP 96950. Tel. No. 234-1760.(12/30)F/17732.

2 COOKS
1 WAITRESS, RESTAURANT - High school grad., 2 years experience. Salary $2.45 per hour.
Contact: J.L.T. CORP. dba Blue Marlin Restaurant. P.O. Box 2649, Saipan, MP 96950. Tel. No. 233-4051.(12/30)F/17733.

1 CLEANER, COMMERCIAL - High school equiv., 2 years experience. Salary $2.50 per hour.
Contact: AUGUSTIN K. CASTRO, JR. dba ACJ Enterprises. P.O. Box 1584, Saipan, MP 96950. Tel. No. 234-7856.(12/30)F/17734.

1 CARPENTER
1 WOODCARVER - High school grad., 2 years experience. Salary $2.45 per hour.
Contact: RODRIGO M. CAPATI dba Saipan Woodcraft Ent. P.O. Box 2314 CK, Saipan, MP 96950. Tel. No. 235-5607.(12/30)F/17735.

1 BLDG. MAINTENANCE REPAIRER - High school grad., 2 years experience. Salary $2.45 per hour.
Contact: JOSEPHINE S. SABLAN dba SMS Port Villa Apartments. P.O. Box 2481, Saipan, MP 96950. Tel. No. 323-8888.(12/30)F/17736.

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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID

IFB NO. IFB95-0011
FOR: FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF A VEHICLE
OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 27, 1994 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN. THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EDWARD B. PALACIOS

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID

IFB NO. IFB95-0012
FOR: FOR THE LEASE OF FOUR (4) NEW VEHICLES (2) PICK UP TRUCKS, (2) SEDANS
OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 28, 1994 TIME: 3:00 P.M.

INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN.

/S/ EDWARD B. PALACIOS

NOTICE OF CRM BOARD MEETING

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, this is to inform the general public that the CRM Agency Officials will hold a CRM Board Meeting on December 21, 1994, 9:00 A.M.
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES
Conference Room in Lower Base.

The Agenda for the meeting is as follows:

1. Opening Remarks
2. CRM Program Administrative Procedures
3. Miscellaneous Concerns
4. Adjournment

/s/ MANUEL C. SABLAN
Director, CRMO

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- PRURITUS
- LUMBAGO
- MENSTRUAL IRREGULARITY
- PARALYSIS
- FACIAL NEURALY
- FACIAL PARALYSIS
- NEPHRITIS
- HEMIPLEGIA
- CHRONIC GASTRITIS
- HYPERACIDITY
- DIABETES
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO. RFP95-0005

FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF A 2-BODY MORTUARY REFRIGATOR
OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 19,1994 TIME: 4:00 P.M.

INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP RFP FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN. THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL PROPOSALS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EDWARD B. PALACIOS
Director)

CNMI PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID

IFB NO. IFB95-0009
FOR PROCUREMENT OF FOUR (4) MACINTOSH LC 575, ONE (1) PRINTER, TWO (2) 4X4 PICK-UP TRUCK, ONE (1) 4X4 FOUR DOOR STATION WAGON, ONE (1) FOUR DOOR SEDAN, AND ONE (1) COMPUTER SYSTEM.
OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 30, 1994 TIME: 3:30 P.M.

INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN.

/S/ EDWARD B. PALACIOS

CNMI PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID

IFB NO. IFB95-0010
FOR PROCUREMENT OF DRIVING EQUIPMENTS
OPENING DATE: JANUARY 6, 1994 TIME: 3:00 P.M.
INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN. THE CNMI GOVERNMENT RESERVES THE RIGHT TO REJECT ANY OR ALL BIDS IN THE BEST INTEREST OF THE GOVERNMENT.

/S/ EDWARD B. PALACIOS

CAPITOL HILL HOUSE AND LOT FOR SALE

For sale at public auction: Tract 22845-1, I Denni. This lot contains a multi-level concrete residence containing 6,260 square feet, more or less, together with a separate guest house of 170 square feet, full functional kitchen, 15,000-gallon water catchment tank, paved driveway, two-car carport, septic tank, public power and water, and much more. Minimum bid $410,000.00 (well below appraised value). Sale will be held at the law offices of White, Pierce, Mailman & Nutting, in Susupe, on Friday, January 6, 1995, at 1:00 p.m. For further information, contact Michael A. White, P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950 (no telephone calls please).

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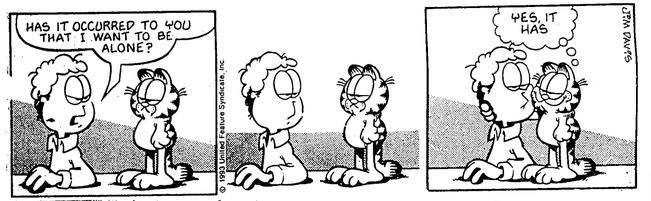

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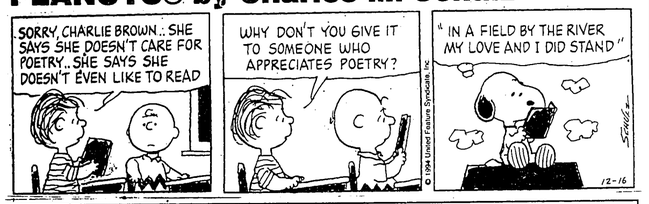

STELLA WILDER

YOUR BIRTHDAY

By Stella Wilder

Born today, you are an inspired, driven individual with such explosive creativity that you are sure to change the rules in your chosen field. You often keep to yourself, but you never lose sight of your place in the big picture. Your understanding of history will help determine the course for your life's work. You have what it takes to be one of the greats. You will enjoy all the success that the stars have in store for you if you work to overcome obstacles that face you from time to time.

It may not be clear to everyone when you are young that you hold the key to remarkable success and that your name may go down in history. Your confidence and eagerness to achieve, though, will allow you to surprise your critics again and again.

Also born on this date are: Jane Austen, author; Ludwig van Beethoven, composer; Margaret Mead, anthropologist and author; Arthur C. Clarke, scientist and author; William "Refrigerator" Perry, football player.

To see what is in store for you tomorrow, find your birthday and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

SATURDAY, DEC. 17

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Your insistence on starting prematurely today may expose you and your colleagues to unnecessary danger.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — This is a good day to focus on your inner energies and drive. There is no need to work too hard at things that benefit only others today.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — What you're looking for may be just around the corner, but make an effort to reach more certain goals today.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — You may find yourself in transit on more than one occasion today. You might need to catch up with a recent effort that has gotten away from you.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Work slowly and carefully today. Your usual style may be hazardous at this time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You are not likely to react well to negative comments today. Even constructive criticism may rub you the wrong way.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Though you may think you haven't a care in the world, something will surface today. Prepare yourself.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — A feeling of inadequacy will not last long today. You will have an opportunity to shine before nightfall.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Someone may be sending you unusual emotional signals today. Take the time to decipher these messages carefully; a mistake could prove hazardous.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You are, as the song says, in the mood for love today, but not because that particular person is near you. You may be after something new!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Your first impulse today will be to hide your feelings and show people what they want to see. Later, though, you will probably relax enough to be yourself.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — You are in no mood to follow plans today. You will be tempted to start walking wherever your legs take you, for good or ill.

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DATE BOOK

Dec. 16, 1994

Today is the 350th day of 1994 and the 85th day of fall.

TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1901, Beatrix Potter's "The Tale of Peter Rabbit" was published.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Ludwig van Beethoven (1770-1827), composer; Jane Austen (1775-1817), author; George Santayana (1863-1952), philosopher; Noel Coward (1899-1973), playwright-actor; Margaret Mead (1901-1978), anthropologist; Arthur C. Clarke (1917-), writer, is 77; Liv Ullmann (1939-), actress, is 55; Lesley Stahl (1941-), broadcast journalist, is 53; William "Refrigerator" Perry (1962-), football player, is 32.

TODAY'S SPORTS: On this day in 1979, quarterback great Roger Staubach played in his last regular-season game for the Dallas Cowboys. Trailing the Redskins by 13 in the fourth quarter, Staubach rallied the Cowboys to a late victory.

TODAY'S QUOTE: "I do not want people to be very agreeable, as it saves me the trouble of liking them a great deal." — Jane Austen

TODAY'S WEATHER: On this day in 1835, New England recorded some of its most bitter temperatures ever. Hanover, N.H., dropped to a noon temperature of -17 degrees and Norfolk, Conn., hit -15 degrees.

SOURCE: THE WEATHER CHANNEL - 1994 Weather Guide Calendar, Accord Publishing, Ltd

TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (Dec. 9) and full moon (Dec. 18).

1994 NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASSN

Smokey Robinson wrote "My Girl" for the Temptations as an answer to his composition "My Guy," which he wrote for Mary Wells. Both songs were smash hits.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 Many oz.
4 — Minor
8 "— — the Mood for Love"
12 Lamprey
13 Group of people
14 Nest of pheasants
15 Witness
16 Differently
18 Strict
20 Ox of Celebes
21 Hebrew letter
22 Guido's high note
23 Iranian currency
27 Distress signal
29 The — Gees
30 Rests
31 Type of radio
32 Household god
33 "— the season..."
34 Sun god
35 French author Albert —
37 Garland
38 Parcel of land
39 — Kristofferson
40 Unit of light
41 Gold symbol
42 Hastens
44 Sleeveless cloaks
47 Dynamo
51 Mineral
52 Egyptian goddess
53 Melon, e.g.
54 — sequitur
55 Money (sl.)
56 Snare
57 N.Y. time

DOWN

1 Smaller
2 Borscht ingredient
3 "... the lion — tonight..."
4 Conflict
5 Took a seat
6 Take in air
7 Cape Kennedy rocket
8 Toward center
9 Roman 1002
10 Components of the psyche
11 Born
17 Artificial language
19 Concerning
22 Without end (poet.)
24 Negative prefix
25 Danish island
26 Future LL.Bs.' exam
27 "Sad —"
28 Actor Sharif
29 — relief
30 Roman 3
32 Most luxuriant
33 A Ritter
36 Roman 1001
37 Gloss
38 Patti —
40 Jumped
41 Cooled lava
43 Negative prefix
44 Harvest
45 God of love
46 Dispatched
47 One-horse carriage
48 Compass point
49 Nothing
50 WW II agcy

Answer to Previous Puzzle

K	Y	L	E		L	B	S		K	H	A	N
I	S	I	S		E	I	N		R	O	B	E
L	E	S		S	T	A		O	N	I	T	
T	R	U	A	N	T		R	A	N	G	E	S
		Y	E		E	L	B	E				
K	E	Y	S		R	A	I	L	R	O	A	D
E	E	E		S	E	T	E	E		L	Y	E
G	R	A	I	N	I	E	R		K	E	E	N
		T	E	N	N		A	U				
A	B	A	S	E	D		A	T	W	O	R	K
C	A	G	E		E	I	R		A	R	U	I
E	R	A	L		E	W	E		I	S	N	T
S	E	R	F		R	O	A		T	O	E	S

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Withered

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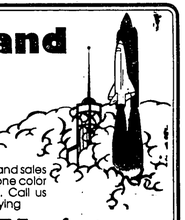

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Women's cage league a big step in '95

Another big step is about to take place in the field of local sports next year.

As 1994 ends on a high note with the birth of the first youth football league in the commonwealth, 1995 is about to be ushered in by the sports community with another milestone—the birth of the first amateur women's island-wide basketball league.

The women's amateur basketball league will start in January under the auspices of the Saipan Amateur Basketball Association (SABA).

Local women's cage mover, Elias Rangamar said, PABA is hoping that out of the 1995 Women's SABA, the commonwealth will be able to form an all-star team just in time before the Oceana games in 1996.

"We don't have enough time to form a women's team and hone their skills for the 1995 South Pacific Games. The best we can do is prepare for the Oceana games," Rangamar said.

If plans will push through and if the women's league's objectives will be realized in 1995, another sports body will be here for good to widen the CNMI involvement in regional sports.

Rangamar said that the immediate objective for the first year is to improve the skills of the women cagers.

"Our long range objective is for the women's league to serve as the CNMI's regular source of competitive players and team for the SPG, Micronesian games and other international games. Ironically, we are FIBA member but we do not have women's basketball," Rangamar said.

The SABA move was also in line with the association's bid to cope up with the development of women's basketball in the region.

"Palau alrady has a team which won silver in the last Micronesian games. Guam also has a very strong national team. It's about time we have one of our own or we'll be left behind," Rangamar added.

Women's basketball was reportedly first activated in the CNMI in 1972 or 1973.

"It was basically interschool-based. The teams were mostly from high schools like Mount Carmel, Marianas High, Hopwood. The divisions were sophomores, juniors and seniors. This time, its island-wide and the players are more mature," Rangamar said.

Women's basketball is not as hard as most women think.

"I used to play with some girls. They're a lot better than me. Women should not shy away in playing with guys because women can do anything man can do. We are in the nineties,"

Two teams have confirmed their intention to join the league.

Rangamar will field and coach a team named the "Angels." Department of Public safety reportedly will also field a team to be headed by police captain Bertha Tudela.

Many called in to inquire with Rangamar about the league. Many are reportedly interested to join but there is no one to coach them.

In the line with the coaching concern, Rangamar is calling on knowledgeable basketball players or coaches to contact him at the Ada gym so he could refer any volunteer to women's teams without coaches yet.

Rangamar said many women here have the potential of becoming good basketball players.

"Women's basketball has been on Guam for sometime now. A Guam all-star team came here one time for a series of goodwill games with the local Angels team. Our local team fared well."

The Angels were defeated twice but not after putting up a strong fight.

In the first game, the Angels were behind by 15 points. In the second game, the Angels were tailing by fifteen points.

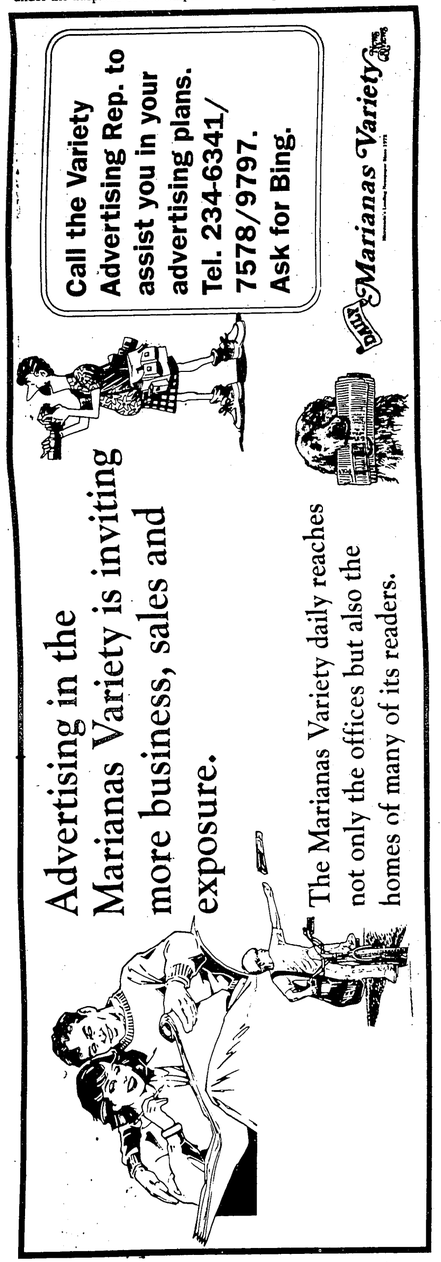
The Angels were able to narrow the lead to five points at the end of the game.

The Angels' performance impressed many observers. The Angels only had a month of practice, while some of the Guam cagers started playing since elementary to high school using good facilities.

Rangamar said they still have a lot of "pushing" to do to advance women's basketball.

"Many still cling to the conservative belief that basketball is not for women. A lot of people believe women should only engage in conservative activities. But if we start now, we will be able to catch up with the trend," Rangamar said.

Rangamar sadly noted the absence of Public School System's support in girl's basketball. "They don't support that. I wish they do in the near future," Rangamar said. (AAPD)



Achoscho...

Continued from page 68

losing four straight with the latest, to the tough Tanapag Rockets which beat them with a score of 15-10 and 15-12.

League leading Dream Team added another win to their unbeaten record as they edged out GCA in two sets, 15-8, 16-4, last Wednesday for a perfect 4 and 0 record.

The second game saw the defending champions No Fear fall for the second time as they were victimized by the Grace Christian Academy in three sets, 12-15, 15-13 and 16-14 and dropped No Fear to second place with a 4 and 2 record.

On Wednesday, December 14, Koblerville Elementary School junior girls forced GCA to go the whole three sets but fell short of winning their first watch losing to the Eagles 15-3, 11-15, and 15-1 for their six straight defeat, while GCA improved to 2 and 3 with the victory.

In the second game, the Angels defeated the Islanders for the second time with a close 15-6, 16-18, 15-5 score to tie the Islanders for second place with an identical 3 and 4 record. The Angels however, have the upperhand by taking 2 out of 3 matches against the Islanders.

Team Garapan cruised to a 15-9, 15-9 two-set victory over Koblerville in boys junior division to improved their record to 2 and 2 while the Umangs dropped to 1 and 3.

In the Senior boys action, the Marianas High School Power Slammers shut out the Grace Christian Academy in the first set with a 15-0 blow out and went on to win the match in the third set with a 15-7 score.

Team standing as of Dec. 14, 1994

	W	L
Junior Girls		
Aschoscho	4	1
Lali 4	4	1
Talabwog	3	2
GCA	2	3
Koblerville	0	6
Junior Boys		
Dream Team	4	0
GCA	2	1
Tanapag	2	1
WSR	2	2
Team Garapan	2	2
Garapan Is. Sons	0	4
Koblerville	1	3
Senior Girls		
Tipi Yeew	6	0
Angels	3	4
Islanders	3	4
GCA	1	5
Senior Boys		
MHS Power Jammers	5	1
No Fear	4	2
MHS Power Slammers	3	4
GCA	1	6

'Veteran'...

Continued from page 68

ment is reportedly planning to convert their five grass courts to hard courts just in time for the veterans tournament.

Also expected to join the tournament are tennis players from Japan and Korea. "We will advertise this tournament in those countries to encourage more participants," said Jordan.

Aside from trophies, the winners will receive cash prizes. "We have yet to determine the amount of cash prize to be given away," Jordan told Variety Sports.

In a related development, Jordan said that association officials, in their meeting last week, approved the release of $1,000 which will be spent for the repair of the American Memorial Park tennis courts.

"We are shouldering part of the expenses for the repair work because if we will not, the expenses will be passed on to those who want to use the courts," Jordan said.

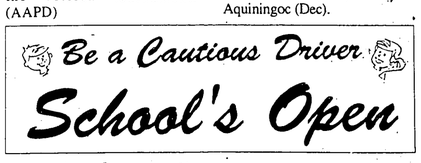
The tennis association will meet again on January 3rd at 5 p.m. at the memorial park grounds to accept nominees for the 1995 set of officers. The election will take place before the veteran tournament. (AAPD)

Camacho...

Continued from page 68

Trophies were awarded to the monthly aces as well as the Ace of Aces at the Amigos post-game barbeque.

Monthly aces were Larry Norita (Jan), Sid Taisacan (Feb - did not play), Til Cabrera (Mar), Jack Guerrero (Apr), Bob Naraja (May), Eli Maravilla (Jun), Rick Kautz (Jul), Joe Rosario (Aug), Jack Lizama (Sep), Frank Rosario (Oct), Joe Camacho (Nov) and Alex Aquiningoc (Dec).



US Major...

Continued from page 68

Thursday, they would eliminate salary arbitration - which has existed since 1974 - and force some teams to cut as much as $5.6 million from their payrolls next season. They also would eliminate rules that limit the amount a player's salary can be cut and insert clauses into contracts requiring each player to make 20 free promotional appearances per year.

The union would challenge such a move as early as Friday, asking the National Labor Relations Board to seek an injunction in federal court on grounds that there is no impasse and that owners haven't bargained in good faith.

The NLRB ruled against owners Wednesday, announcing it will file two unfair labor practice complaints, alleging that management illegally failed to make a $7.8 million contribution in August to the union's benefit plan. That case likely will be heard in March by an administrative law judge, according to Daniel Silverman, the NLRB's regional director in New York.

PABA...

Continued from page 68

game. The season ended last October.

Garcia's representative said the trophies cost a little over $500. "We did not include the plaques. We just have to buy the plaque here because its cheaper," he said.

Garcia said MarPac's involvement with PABA is to sponsor the players' uniform and help them procure trophies from the supplier at highly discounted prizes.

In return for the sponsorship, the trophies and plaques will bear the Budweiser logo and the league will carry Budweiser as part of the official league title.

"Our role is to order the plaques and trophies at more than 50 percent less than the prevailing local prices. PABA did not even bother to give 10 percent down payment of the amount in order for us to make the order," Garcia said.

Garcia said MarPac has been in the forefront of promoting the league since its inception in 1986. This year alone, MarPac spent at least $5,000 for the uniforms of the ten teams which competed in the league.

"I am disappointed with what happen. I would like to sponsor PABA again but I have to deal with the board of directors and not to just one person anymore as in the past," Garcia said.

Garcia said the league officials should never renege on their obligation to give awards to the players.

"It makes the players look bad. We tried our best to help by getting trophies at very low prize. I wonder why they failed to come up with the budget for the trophies and plaques."

League officials charge $800.00 per team in the 1994 season. Ten teams raised $8000.00 at the start of the season.

The plaques and trophies are estimated to cost more than $500 as one 29-inch championship trophy cost $1 per inch from the MarPac source.

The promotions executive said the officials should not be the only focus of the blame.

"Those who elected the officials and those who did not vote are partly responsible."

"We have no part in the election. We don't want to have part in it. Partly responsible are those who did not show up in the election so their votes will be counted to the right person.

Garcia said he has no objection with PABA enlisted teams playing in a tournament sponsored by another brand distributor.

"It is good for the sport especially if the competition is healthy. I am even willing, if someone will come and approach me, to sponsor a tournament with SABA teams playing with the PABA teams with the same or even better sponsorship," Garcia said.

When asked if he is interested for MarPac to play a part in meeting the needs of the Commonwealth basketball team Garcia gave an affirmative answer.

"We at MarPac loves sports. We sponsor many organizations and teams this year. If they want us to be of help to them, we will gladly do that," the promotions manager said.

Regarding the 1995 PABA season, Garcia said that it should be the fans and players who should take advantage of the sponsors and the sport.

"We will fulfill our commitment to the fans and and PABA but let us stop one from taking advantage of the sponsor. We will sponsor PABA in 1995 but the officials should also realize their commitments to the players, fans and sponsors," Garcia said in closing. (AAPD)

Tahiti...

Continued from page 68

school program coordinator.

He has been an avid looper since he was 15 years old. He has not been with a team to SPG but he was with the all-star team which competed in the last Micronesian games.

Lizama is one of the most bankable defensive cagers in the CNMI today. He became a Hawks team member since its inception in the youth league in 1986..

He first learned basketball when Hopwood P.E. teacher Ray Aldan introduced him to the sport. "He was my first coach," Lizama recalls.

It took Lizama only a year to develop his skills. But it was not easy.

"I spent six to seven hours a day playing basketball in those days outside the regular practice games with my team. During actual games, I worked as a rebounder and shooter."

The efforts paid off. Lizama said he was able to break the PPG record of Tim Pias in the sixties. "Tim's record was 32 PPG. I had 33.1," Lizama said.

Lizama shined in the last SABA league. In the fading minutes of the championship game, it was his power rebounds—alternated by teammates Allan Magcalas and John Carpio—which preserved the team's will power to win the crown.

Lizama joined the youth league in 1986 under now Hawks Coach Sonny Flores. He was then with Marianas High School. In the said school, Lizama made it to the all-star team which participated in the amateur league.

"I was the youngest in the team. I was lean but I did a lot of dirty jobs under the board for my team because of my desire to be the best player. That was the prime of my basketball career."

Lizama later went to Oregon. He enrolled at the Western Oregon State College where he finished B.S. Economics.

Lizama said he joined the college varsity tryout and made it to the team but did not stay long enough.

"Our coach then was Mark Adams who is the assistant coach of the Washington State University Cougars. One of my teammates, Melvin Hanes, later made it to the Portland Trail Blazers," Lizama reminisced.

Lizama said that Hanes, in a way, affected his present style of basketball.

"He taught me to use both my mind and skill, not just my body. Before, I was not smart in playing the sport."

Lizama believes he is past his prime in basketball. "the quality of basketball here is not in my level. It is not very competitive for me anymore. When it's show time, that's the only time I get inspired," Lizama said.

For Ray Lizama, the only challenging basketball for his age is international games.

"I have not decided yet if I will join the SPG tryout. If I see that some players are joining only to have fun, I will not join because I will just be wasting my time in Tahiti, my time for my family and time devoted for my work."

"If I see that those joining the tryout are determined to play for the CNMI, I might join. Basketball is a game involving skills, talent, discipline, physical endurance and shape."

Lizama does not wish to stop playing basketball. "As long as I can run and jump and able bodied, I will always play basketball." I'm past my prime and I'm just waiting for my son, Ray —my junior— to grow up so I can teach him everything I know."

Lizama married to Vivian Skilang. The couple is also blessed with a three-year-old daughter named Charnessa. Ray Junior is fourteen months old.

When asked about his concerns in the next three to five years, Lizama replied, "My family, my work and to finish my house. Basketball is the last priority."

Lizama has no regrets for the time he spent in basketball courts in the last ten years. For him, his ten years of basketball were a learning experience as a person, a cager and a father.

"To the parents whose kids have no interest yet in basketball, I ask them to encourage their children to try the sport. Basketball takes your kids away from drugs and alcohol."

"To the parents whose kids are already into basketball, give your kids your neverending support because its a big help for them." (AAPD)

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR CNMI WATER QUALITY STANDARD WAIVER

The Antidegredation Policy of the Water Quality Standards of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands requires that prior to waiving Water Quality Standards, the Commonwealth shall assure the following: 1) the lower water quality be fully protective of designated uses, 2) the impacts on water quality and economic and social development be subjected to detailed analyses, 3) that intergovernmental coordination and public participation be included in any determination, 4) the highest statutory and regulatory requirements be achieved for all new and existing point sources, and 5) that all cost effective and reasonable best management practices for nonpoint source control be applied.

Application for Water Quality Standard waivers must be submitted to DEQ. Upon receiving an application, DEQ issues a public notification which describes the potential impacts of the proposed activity on water quality aquatic life and human health. A thirty (30) day public comment period will be provided from the date of the first publication of the notice. The public comment period for this application began on December 09, 1994, with the date of the first publication. The public comment period shall end on January 08, 1995.

The Director of DEQ may conduct a public hearing to solicit comments on the waiver if a hearing is requested by the public. DEQ will issue or deny a waiver based upon a complete technical review of the application and the public comments received.

DEQ is soliciting comments on the following request for a CNMI Water Quality Standard waiver:

1. APPLICANT: Commonwealth Ports Authority, P.O. Box 1055, Saipan, MP 96950.

2. APPLICABLE STATUTORY AUTHORITIES: CNMI Commonwealth Environmental Protection Act (Public Law No. 3-23); CNMI Water Quality Standards, Part 3 (Commonwealth Register Vol. 13, No. 11, November 15, 1991).

3. LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY: Saipan shipping channel, Saipan.

4. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY: The Commonwealth Ports Authority is requesting a waiver of the CNMI Water Quality turbidity standard for dredging operations for the Saipan Harbor Improvement Project in the Saipan shipping channel area.

It has been determined by the CNMI government that this project is necessary to accommodate important economic or social development. The project has attempted all feasible options to lessen the sediment load from operations.

5. IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED ACTION: An increase in turbidity may affect benthic communities in isolated areas adjacent to the channel area.

6. COMMENTS AND INQUIRIES: The Division of Environmental Quality is seeking comments from the public, federal and CNMI agencies and officials and other interested parties in order to consider and evaluate the impacts of the proposed activity. Any comments received will be considered by DEQ to determine whether to issue or deny the waiver.

Written inquiries and comments should be submitted to DEQ within thirty (30) days of the date of this notice. Please mail comments to Director, Division of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 1304, Saipan, MP 96950.

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SPORTS

Achoscho, Lali 4 tied at 4-1

NORTHERN Islands Mayor's team Aschoscho defeated Lali 4 last Wednesday to avenge its earlier loss as they easily won in two straight sets, 15-10, 15-7, to now tie the Lali girls as front runners in the league with both sporting a 4 and 1 record.

Both are assured a shot at the pennant title with each having three games remaining in the ongoing Athletes Foot Youth Volleyball League. Also in contention for the prestigious award is Talabwog, which improved to 3 and 2 with a victory over Koblerville Elementary School on Friday in straight sets, 15-6, 15-0, dropping Koblerville further in the standing to 0 and 5.

In Senior girls action, Tipi Yeew continued their domination over their opponents as they routed the Angels in 3 sets, 15-6, 7-15, 15-6, on Wednesday and on Monday night, they crushed GCA in two straight 15-8, 15-8 enroute to a 6 and 0 record.

After the loss to Tipi Yeew, the Angels stormed back on Friday night to upset the Islanders in three sets, 15-12, 13-15, 15-7 for their second win in six tries.

In Junior boys division, Team Garapan finally put a mark on the win column after suffering two straight losses at the beginning of the season.

Team Garapan defeated WSR on Monday night by taking 2 out of 3 sets, 15-3, 14-16 and 15-7 for their first victory.

Team Garapan and Koblerville Elementary School are now tied at one win two-loss apiece.

Bad news prevails over the other Garapan team, Island Sons, as they have yet to post a victory

Continued on page 66

Palau Men's Softball Slow-Pitch League
Team standing as of Sunday December 11th, 1994

Statistics courtesy of Frank D. Palacios
For the Variety

"A-Division"

Team	Win	Loss	Pct.	GB
Kautz Glass Current	6	1	.857	-
Youth Spec	4	3	.591	2
Ngerbeched Invaders	3	4	.429	3
Mwar Mwar Warriors	2	5	.286	4
O & K Goods	2	5	.286	4
PMCI Wild Things	2	5	.286	4

"B-Division"

Korror Bombers	6	0	1.000	-
GIG Turtles	6	1	.857	.5
Korror Tigers	5	2	.714	.5
Peleliu	3	3	.500	3
L&T Red Torch	2	5	.286	4.5
Styx	0	7	.000	6.5

Batting Leaders: (based on 17 or more times at bat)

Players	Team	AB	Hit	Batting
Mel Sakisat	Bombers	22	15	.682
Ray Villagomez	Turtles	18	12	.667
Jerry Ayuyu	Current	18	12	.667
*Payton Sakuma	Invaders	17	11	.647
Frances George	Turtles	22	13	.591
Mel Teregeyo	Wild Thing	17	10	.588
Mike Guerrero	Current	17	10	.588
Salisang Ngirmidol	Red Torch	21	12	.571
Allen Aguon	Turtles	25	14	.560
Jess Peterson	Bombers	18	14	.555

Runs: (15) Kelvin Cepeda (12) Payton Sakuma, Jerry Ayuyu (11) Ray Saka, Gloyd Martin, Wills Takeo, Mel Sakisat
Doubles: (4) Tony Camacho, Gloyd Martin (3) Roland Masaharu, Payton Sakuma, Bano Babauta, Mark Quitugua
Triples: (2) Mel Teregeyo, Tony Camacho, Poland Masaharu, Sherman Ngiraidong
Homeruns: (7) Jerry Ayuyu (5) Kaleb Dulei (4) Kelvin Cepeda, Payton Sakuma
RBI's: (15) Jerry Ayuyu (13) Kaleb Dulei (10) Tony Camacho, Poland Masaharu, Steve Nagata

Sunday December 11, Game Results:

1 Invaders	16	O & K Goods	6
2 Tigers	14	Red Torch	10
3 Bombers	16	Styx	4
4 Spec Youth	11	Wild Things	3
5 Currents	7	Warriors	5
6 Turtles	16	Peleliu	6

Tahiti SPG, an arena of glory

Barely eight months from now, athletes from all over the Pacific region will flock to Tahiti for the 1995 South Pacific Games to give it theiur best shot for the glory of their flag and people.

This early, various athletes are busy polishing their skills in the hope of winning medals. This is true particularly in the CNMI.

Veteran looper Ray Lizama of 1994 SABA champion team — the Takai & Associate Hawks, shared some thoughts for local athletes to consider in joining any local team for the SPG.

"An athlete should join a tryout not simply to make it in SPG and have fun there. An athlete has to set a goal. If you're a dedicated player, your aim must be to win a medal. Joining an international competition is not like joining a picnic."

"Joining a national team is to fight for the glory of your flag and people. You must have the right attitude and determination to prepare yourself to do anything to win, not for yourself but what you represent," he said.

Lizama gave the opinion that a player without this outlook will only be wasting his time in Tahiti. It will also be, according to Lizama, a waste of time a person.

Lizama, 25, is a father of two. He works as Public School System pre-

Continued on page 67

US Major League Baseball talks fail

By RONALD BLUM

RYE BROOK, N.Y. (AP) - U.S. Major League Baseball moved toward a large-scale court fight as two years' of contract talks collapsed Wednesday, and owners prepared to cap two decades of spiralling player salaries.

Owners refused to back off their demand for costs control and players refused to consider proposals that would restrict free agency, a right they won in 1976. After two hours of bargaining, management's negotiating committee headed for Chicago, where all owners are to meet Thursday. The owners left little doubt that they will declare an impasse and impose a salary cap.

"We remain deadlocked at this time over the central issue of cost control," John Harrington, the chief negotiator for the owners, said after talks broke down Wednesday. "The union has refused to make any proposal on the critical issue of linking player costs to gross revenue."

Players struck Aug. 12 in an effort to force an agreement that would prevent a cap. But owners held firm and on Sept. 14 canceled the World Series for the first time since 1904.

Talks resumed in mid-October under the supervision of former Labor Secretary W.J. Usery, but four rounds of sessions produced scant progress.

"Sure there's disappointment, but I don't think any of us are surprised by where we're at," Atlanta Braves pitcher Tom Glavine said. "We're trying to maintain what little amount of freedom we have."

If owners impose a cap

Continued on page 67

'Veteran' tennis tourney up in '95

The Northern Marianas Islands Tennis Association will unfold another tennis tournament that will focus on non-junior players starting next year.

Dubbed as the First Annual Marianas 'Veteran' Tennis Tournament, the event begins in March at the American Memorial Park Tennis Courts.

NMITA President Chuck Jordan said the tournament will cater to players 35 years old and above.

The tournament will have five age categories in every division. The age categories are 35 to 39, 40 to 49, 50 to 59, and over 60. The divisions are women's, men's, singles, doubles, and mix doubles.

Anyone can join the tournament as long as he or she meets the minimum age requirement.

The tournament director will be Franz Reksid. Mike Mason and Jordan will be assistant directors.

Jordan said that matches will also be held at the Pacific Islands Club and the Coral Ocean Point.

Coral Ocean Point manage-

Continued on page 66

PABA sponsor unhappy over closing of season

A representative of a major sponsor of the Philippine Amateur Basketball Association is disappointed by PABA's failure to recognize the outstanding players and team in the 1994 season.

Marianas Pacific (MarPac) Distributors promotions manager, Tom Garcia, expressed his disappointment on how league officials handled the closing of the season, in an interview yesterday.

Controversy surrounded the 1994 season when league officials failed to give awards to the 1994 team champion FT/SNE and the season's outstanding cagers after the championship game.

A representative of Garcia said PABA already issued a check for MarPac three weeks ago to buy the 1994 season trophies

"We already ordered the trophies shortly after we received the check. The trophies will be here by January because the shipping takes four to six weeks," the representative said.

Traditionally, trophies and plaques are given to deserving players and the champion team minutes after the championship

Continued on page 67

Camacho is Amigos' Ace of Aces

JOE CAMACHO won the Amigos' Ace of Aces (AMIGO of 1994) on Sunday, December 11th, at the LaoLao Bay Golf Resort.

Concluding twelve months of qualifying rounds for the most coveted prize, 27 Amigos played their round of golf pitting the monthly aces against each other to determine the "best of the best."

Sunday's game saw a stroke-to-stroke race between defending champion, Jack Guerrero, and Joe Camacho who squeezed ahead on Guerrero's bogey at #8 hole to lead by 1 stroke. It was a dead-heat as the back nine ended in a tie.

Runners-up for third place were Frank Rosario, Eli Maravilla, Robert Naraja and Jack Lizama whose net scores were tied. To determine the winner for Ace of Aces, the Amigos decided to use the "hidden holes" system, as suggested by experts.

The "hidden holes" system that was used in last year's ace of aces was, used to determine the winner of this year's prize because according to experts, this system reduces the disparity between high and low handicaps.

The regular Sunday game big bucks went to the following sandbaggers: Low netters - Rick Kautz, Bob Naraja, PJ Igitol, Mel Sablan and Jack Lizama.

Continued on page 66

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