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DAILY Marianas Variety News & Views

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Vol. 23 No. 203 ©1995 Marianas Variety | Thursday • December 21, 1995 | Saipan, MP 96950 Serving CNMI for 23 Years | 50¢

Tenorio drops casino

By Rafael H. Arroyo
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio has given up his bid to have casino gaming legalized by law and said he will no longer be pushing for it.

In an interview yesterday, Tenorio said he has accepted the fact that the Legislature will not allow his gaming legislation through.

"If that's the wish of the Legislature, then I accept it," an upbeat Tenorio said. "I accept their decision. If they don't like casinos, then that's it.

Tenorio had earlier said he would give his casino legislation one more push with the hope that it passes the House before the end

Froilan C. Tenorio

of the Ninth Legislature's term.

But if the House decides otherwise, Tenorio had also said he does not care anymore, as he is already "on the way out."

Tenorio two weeks ago announced he is not seeking reelection in 1997. He said he will be endorsing Lt. Gov. Jesus C. Borja as gubernatorial candidate in the next elections.

During yesterday's interview, Tenorio said he is no longer pushing for casinos even in the Tenth Legislature.

He, however, refused to say he has abandoned the issue.

"I only wanted casinos for additional revenues we need. So now, no casinos, no revenues. Whenever I need revenues, like for the acquisition of private lands for public purposes, I am just going to sign the documents and send them over to the Legislature for them to find the money," the governor added.

Tenorio's belligerent attitude is apparently borne on the premise that the chances of any casino bill getting passed has become dim.

Last Friday, the House voted to "kill" H.B. 9-371, a strong statement that it prefers the issue decided through referendum.

Asked if he will continue his casino campaign in the Tenth Legislature, Tenorio said "no way."

"That will be it for the casino proposal. I will just throw my support for the casino industry on Tinian. That's where it is legal. It's legal over there so let the developers go to Tinian," said the governor.

The Constitution prohibits gam-

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Fish in NMI waters are fast diminishing

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

A LACK of fish has been noted in Saipan waters, a study conducted last month showed.

Manuel C. Sablan, director of the Coastal Resources Management, said the Institute of Marine Science in Australia did the study and that its initial finding showed that while the condition of Saipan's reefs is "pretty healthy," the biodiversity of the fauna within the reefs is a cause for concern.

"There's not that much fish that are supposed to be there, so we are concerned about that," Sablan said.

Sablan said they are waiting for the full report from the Australian survey team and that, based on the report, "we'll probably have to made a decision."

This decision may involve the imposition of "some sort of a control on the taking of the fishes in the reefs," the CRM head said.

He said there may be a need for a conservation program to "make sure that we do get the fish back."

Sablan said that there might be overfishing on Saipan waters since "there is a significant absence of certain sizes of the fish."

He said a survey on the waters of Rota and Tinian has yet to be made.

"We will be doing that survey," Sablan said.

Sablan pointed out the importance of the marine resources to the CNMI since "we are limited in land masses."

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Man arrested for bribe try on cop

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

A 35-year-old man was arrested for allegedly trying to bribe a police officer who caught him for traffic violation along Beach Road in Chalan Kanoa Tuesday afternoon.

Acting Public Information Officer Sgt. Edward Manalili said arrested was Jun Shao Zhung.

Manalili said initial investigations showed that a patrol officer pulled over a vehicle driven by Zhung who was found not wearing a seatbelt near a traffic signal.

Zhung told the officer he could not speak English.

Zhung then called a woman through his cellular phone.

The woman who served as an interpreter told the officer to wait for her.

The woman later arrived and talked with Zhung briefly.

Zhung handed $50 cash to the woman who in turn tried to give it to the officer.

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HILLBLOM DAUGHTER? *Julie Cuartero with her child, Jellian Cuartero Hillblom, alleged daughter of the late businessman Larry Lee Hillblom, in a reproduced photo.*

Jane Doe's identity known

Mother recounts sexual relationship with Hillblom

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

JANE Doe, the alleged daughter of the late multimillionaire Larry Lee Hillblom, is a seven-month-old child of a Filipina club entertainer.

Lawyer Randall T. Fennell, counsel for petitioner David Moncrieff, guardian for the baby, yesterday identified Jane Doe as Jellian Cuartero Hillblom.

Pursuant to a court order, Fennell also submitted before the Superior court documents disclosing the identity of Jellian's mother as Julie Cuartero, a native of Surigao Del Sur province in southern Philippines.

In an affidavit, Julie said as a dancer of the Visions Night Club in Pasay City, Metro Manila, one of the floor managers introduced her to Hillblom in late July or early August 1994.

Hillblom was seated at a table with two other girls at the time, Julie claimed.

Prior to that, Julie said she remembered having seen Hillblom before visiting the club. Other girls told her she was a big tipper.

"Larry (Hillblom) bought me a fruit juice and gave me a tip of P500 (approximately $200). I found him to be nice. He told me also that he would take me out the following day and had already made arrangements with the club management for this purpose," said Julie in the affidavit.

The following evening, Julie said, Hillblom took her in a red van with a driver to a room on the 11th floor of the Chateau de Baie, a condominium along Roxas Boulevard allegedly owned by the late businessman.

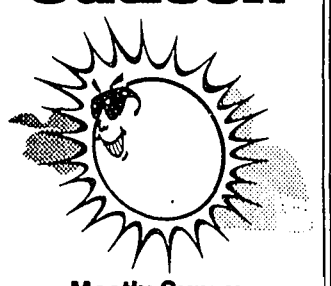
Julie said it was a painful experience as she had bled when Hillblom succeeded in "penetrating her."

Hillblom gave her P1,600 and $200.

After her August menstruation, Julie said Hillblom took her from the club. He gave her P3,500 after

Continued on page 8

Weather Outlook



Mostly Sunny with isolated showers

PAC NEWSPAPER STACKS

In opening of historic trial

Assassin grins, chews gum

By DAN PERRY

TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) - The dark, grainy video shows a gunman loitering in a supposedly secure area near Yitzhak Rabin's car. As the prime minister approaches, the gunman sneaks around behind him, then lunges forward through security men.

A shot flashes from the gun. The grimacing prime minister glances behind him, then collapses.

The amateur video was broadcast Tuesday night and transfixed Israelis still trying to recover from the shock of the Nov. 4 assassination. It also dramatically illustrated the security breakdown that cost the life of the Israeli prime minister.

Yigal Amir, a 25-year-old student, surrendered to police at the scene. On Tuesday, he went on trial for the crime.

Yigal Amir

Grinning, Amir entered the crowded Tel Aviv District Court without handcuffs and wearing a black skullcap and white shirt. A gray-and-white sweater slung over his shoulders.

Judge Edmond Levy read out the murder charges. Asked whether he understood the accusations, Amir, flanked by eight guards, nodded. Levy ordered a recess until Jan. 23, when Amir will enter a plea and daily sessions will begin.

Throughout the one-hour session, Amir smiled confidently, chewed gum and waved to his parents, at one point drawing his hand across his throat in a slitting gesture.

If convicted, he faces a mandatory life sentence and a maximum of life plus 49 years. The death penalty is reserved for Nazi war criminals and those convicted of harming state security, such as spies.

Amir has said he killed Rabin to wreck Israel-PLO peacemaking because he opposes transferring the West Bank to Palestinian rule.

Despite the prosecution's seemingly rock-solid case, the trial is expected to be one of the most dramatic in Israel's history.

Prosecutor Pnina Guy, asked whether this was an open-and-shut case, said: "He was caught red-handed, wasn't he?"

Amir's lawyer, Mordechai Offri, said he has no defense strategy yet. In the past, he has said Amir might plead not guilty.

According to the indictment, Amir decided sometime after the first Israel-PLO accord in 1993 to kill Rabin, and recruited his brother Hagai, 27, and a friend, Dror Adani, to help him.

They considered blowing up Rabin's car or firing an antitank rocket into his apartment, but in the end Yigal Amir settled on shooting Rabin with his 9mm Beretta pistol, it said.

Hagai Amir and Adani are to be tried separately on conspiracy and weapons violations. The Amir brothers and Adani also are charged in a separate indictment with setting up an underground group that planned to attack Palestinians.

As Levy read the charge sheet, Amir's father Shlomo prayed quietly, swaying back and forth in his seat. At the end of the session, he walked up to one of Rabin's closest aides, Eitan Haber, to beg forgiveness. Haber said he told the elder Amir to stay away, and then Geula Amir, the gunman's mother, called him a monster.

Mrs. Amir, who runs a kindergarten, told Israel TV on Tuesday: "I don't support the act. But he's my son and I'll support him ... because I love him." The video of the shooting, broadcast on Israel's Channel Two TV, at one point showed Amir and then-Foreign Minister Shimon Peres together in the same frame, meters (yards) apart. The charge sheet says Amir also wanted to kill Peres.

The video was made by Tel Aviv resident Ronni Kempler, 37, who filmed the murder from a rooftop overlooking the parking lot where Rabin was shot.

Asked why he filmed the lot, Kempler told Yediot Ahronot: "The whole time I had the feeling that something bad would happen. There was anxiety in the air. Maybe because in the (army) reserves I deal in security, I am more sensitive to that."

Channel Two and the Yediot Ahronot newspaper bought the tape for $ 350,000, said Channel Two director Nachman Shai.

Malaysia: AIDS test for Muslim before marriage

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) - A new government rule forcing Muslims to undergo an AIDS test before they marry is aimed at ensuring a healthy next generation, a senior official was reported Wednesday as saying.

The government will go ahead with the rule despite complaints that it invades privacy, said the minister in the Prime Minister's Department, Abdul Hamid Othman, in an interview published in the New Straits Times.

Under the new law, which will be implemented in 1997, couples will not be allowed to marry if one of them tests positive for the AIDS virus.

Since Islam allows divorce if one of the partners suffers from even an ordinary disease that causes skin discoloration, Abdul Hamid said, it is natural to ensure that prospective couples are free of HIV, the virus that causes AIDS.

In a statement Tuesday, the Malaysian AIDS Council objected to the tests, saying they were an invasion of privacy and would encourage Muslims to get married abroad.

Islam is the official religion in Malaysia and followed by 55 percent of the country's 20 million people. The population is 35 percent Chinese, mostly Buddhists, and 7 percent Indians, largely Hindus.

Muslims in Malaysia are governed by Islamic courts. The new rule will apparently not apply to the minorities.

Details of the proposed law have not been officially released, but only reported by the local media this week quoting government officials.

Powell will decline vice presidential nomination

By LISA HOLEWA

SARASOTA, Florida (AP) - Colin Powell says he's flattered, but disagrees with Republican presidential frontrunner Bob Dole's speculation that he would accept the Republican's vice presidential nomination if it were offered.

"I have great respect for Senator Dole," Powell told about 800 people at a speech Tuesday night in Florida. "We have never discussed this issue, but at this point in my life I am still of the view that for me and my family I should make my contribution in private life.

"So I'm still where I was when I made my announcement in November," Powell added.

On Sunday, Dole said he understood Powell had disavowed interest but predicted the retired general might change his mind if called by the Republican nominee.

Colin Powell

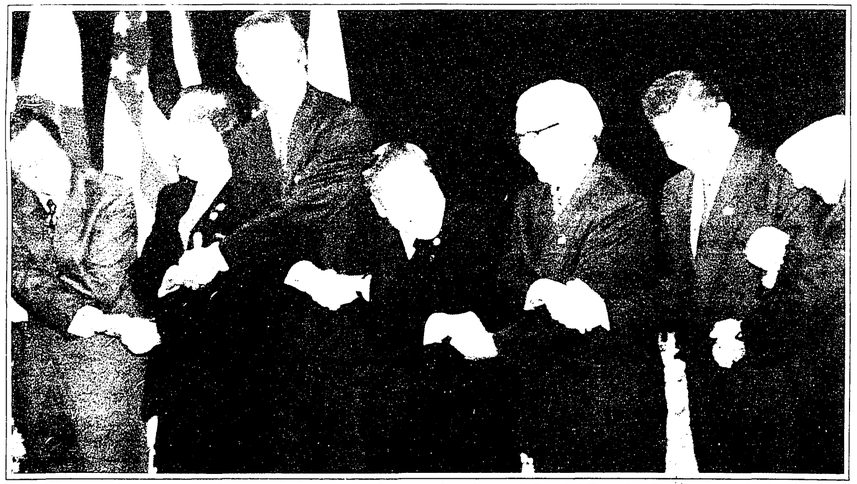
Powell did not flatly rule out accepting such an offer, but he said, "I don't sense myself wavering." However, he added: "I don't know what the future will hold."

Last month, Powell ended months of speculation by announcing he would not run for president or vice president in 1996 because it would demand "a passion and commitment that, despite my every effort, I do not have for political life."

In his speech Tuesday night as part of the Gulf Coast Speaker Series, a town-hall style program, Powell discussed his decision not to run for president.

"It's a heck of a job choice when you are entering, not at the apprentice level, but at the top level," he said.

The crowd, which only half filled the auditorium, included business people and school children.



ASEAN leaders hold hands with each other at the first session of the summit conference in Bangkok Thursday. They are from left; Malayan Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad; Philippine President Fidel Ramos; Singapore Prime Minister Goh Cok Tong; Thai Prime Minister Banharn Silpa-Archa; Vietnamese Prime Minister Vo Van Kiet; Burnei Sultan Hassanal Bolkiah and Indonesian President Sharto. (AP Photo)

$2M suit vs Governor's Office

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

TWO former employees at the Governor's Representative Office in Rota filed a $2 million civil lawsuit yesterday against a public official and the government for allegedly humiliating them and illegally terminating their employment.

Rosa A. Jasper and Lourdes T. Manglona, both residents of Rota, demanded $1.5 million as punitive damages against Antonio O. Quitugua, special assistant for administration assigned at the Governor's Representative Office in Rota.

Jasper and Manglona, through counsel Perry B. Inos, asked $500,000 as punitive damages against the Governor's Office.

The plaintiffs also sought for a court order directing the defendants to pay for compensatory damages, attorney's fees and cost of action.

The two cited assault, battery and intentional infliction of emotional distress as causes of action in filing the case against Quitugua.

They sued the Governor's Office for breach of contract.

In the complaint, Inos said his clients, Jasper and Manglona, entered into an excepted service employment contract for two years with the government.

The Governor's Office assigned Manglona and Jasper at the Governor's Representative Office effective in October and July 1994 respectively.

Last Dec. 5, Inos said when the plaintiffs reported to work, a timekeeper told them that Quitugua instructed her to tell them that their employment had been terminated.

The timekeeper said according to Quitugua their termination letters were sent by mail four days before.

The plaintiffs refused to leave the office until they see a copy of the letters which they have not received.

The timekeeper told Quitugua by phone that the two refused to leave unless the letters will be shown to them, said Inos in the complaint.

While Manglona was in the restroom, Quitugua arrived and confronted Jasper that she was already terminated.

Jasper asked a copy of the letter.

Quitugua pointed his finger at Jasper's chest and shouted at her, "You are a political hiree, so you do not need a termination letter."

When Quitugua saw Manglona coming out from the restroom, he pointed at her (Manglona) and shouted, "You too, Lourdes you are terminated."

Manglona told him she wanted to see the letter first before leaving the office.

Quitugua claimed that Victor Hocog, Governor's Representative for Rota, and Governor Froilan Tenorio instructed that they will be fired.

While Manglona was leaning on a chair, Quitugua grabbed the chair, causing her to lose her balance, according to the complaint.

Quitugua then shouted that there were no chair for them to sit on.

The defendant went to Jasper and grabbed the chair under her, causing her to jerk forward against a desk.

Standing within one foot at Manglona's face, Quitugua shouted and pointed his finger on her on the chest area before pushing her.

Feeling exhausted, dizzy, and pain in the chest, Manglona approached a telephone to call the hospital for help.

Quitugua, however, prevented her from using the telephone by shouting at her not to use the phone, Inos said.

When Quitugua left out of sight for a moment, Manglona called police for help.

While Manglona was talking with a police officer on the phone, she collapsed on the floor and fell unconscious.

Ambulance came and transported Manglona to hospital.

On the other hand, Jasper was shaking nervous, frightened believing Quitugua was about to physically harm them anytime.

Inos said as a direct and proximate result of Quitugua's actions, plaintiffs "suffered severe mental pain and anguish and were rendered highly nervous, frightened and upset."

He added that Quitugua, the Governor's Office, through instructions from Hocog and the governor, terminated plaintiffs contract without cause.

The Variety tried, but failed to get Quitugua's side.

Poll protest in Rota hampers BOE plans

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

THE ELECTION protest filed by a losing candidate for Board of Education's Rota seat might leave the position temporarily vacant when the incumbent board member's term expires next month.

This predicament, according to Board Chairman Daniel Quitugua, hampers the board's preparations for next year.

"The court has yet to decide on the challenge petition filed by candidate (Marja Lee) Taitano," Quitugua said. "It appears that it will take some time for the court to resolve the case."

Taitano had filed a lawsuit against the Board of Election and "certified winner" Aniceto Mundo citing "irregularities and improper conduct during the Nov. 4 elections."

Taitano was leading in the initial counting. But challenge petitions filed by Rota voters changed the final tally, showing Mundo overtaking her by nine votes.

The incumbent board member for Rota, Fermin Atalig, will leave the office in January.

The law, Quitugua said, does not provide for holdover term for board members.

"A board member has a four-year term," he said. "But some (board members) are still in and some are out because that is how it was designed— staggered so that there is always continuity in the members of the board."

Quitugua could not say if Mundo would be allowed to assume his post in the education board.

Daniel Quitugua

"As far as the Board of Elections is concerned, Mundo was the winner but if the court issues a restraining order against Mundo, we couldn't act," he said. "We have to wait until the court decides."

Quitugua hopes the case would be resolved before Jan. 8, the date set by the education board for inauguration of the new members.

He said the incumbent board members are planing to hold an orientation meeting with the newly elected members before the inauguration, but the court's "inaction" on the Rota case snags the plan.

"As soon as we get a clear idea (of how the case will come out)," Quitugua said, "we will have the schedule. "

But if the court does not decide soon, Quitugua said, the board will still push through with the inauguration of the two new members— Esther Fleming and Thomas Pangelinan—who represent Saipan.

Puerto Rico dump, monofill to close

THE Department of Public Works (DDPW) wishes to inform the public that the Puerto Rico Dump and the MARPI Monofill will be closed on Christmas on Christmas Day, Monday, Dec. 25 and on New Year's Day, Jan. 1, 1996.

However, the dump and the monofill will open and resume normal operation on Tuesday, Dec. 28, and again on Jan.02, 1996.

The Department of Public Works is asking for the patience and cooperation of the general public and apologizes for any inconvenience.... And remember, Please Do Not Litter!

Benavente wants 4-year limit bill shelved for now

By Rafael H. Arroyo
Variety News Staff

THE NINTH CNMI House of Representatives may likely shelve the bill seeking to impose a four-year limit on the length of time non-resident workers may stay in the Commonwealth.

According to House Speaker Diego T. Benavente, he would rally the House membership into deferring action on House Bill 9-483 and to let the incoming Tenth Legislature address the issue.

H.B. 9-483, authored by Rep. Ana S. Teregeyo, seeks to require guest workers to exit the Commonwealth after four consecutive years of employment here.

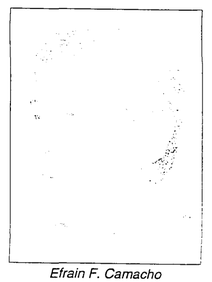
The bill was introduced at the height of the ongoing organized labor movement in the hotel industry and may have been seen by some as a reaction to alleged union promises of continued employment for workers.

Under previous CNMI law, alien workers in the CNMI who have completed four straight years of employment used to be classified as excludable aliens who may not be allowed to reenter within three years after they left the Commonwealth.

Such a provision in the Immigration statute, however, was deemed disruptive and was subsequently repealed in 1992 by the Eighth Legislature and then Gov. Larry I. Guerrero.

Months back, Rep. Vicente T. Attao introduced a similar bill to revive the restriction but with a provision that allows exiting workers to return after 30 days.

Diego T. Benavente



Efrain F. Camacho

The bill languished in the House without getting acted on.

During an interview yesterday, Benavente said he sees no need for the restriction to be revived as it would adversely affect the business community.

The speaker received a letter yesterday from the Saipan Chamber of Commerce airing the business sector's concern over H.B. 9-483.

The letter, sent by Chamber Chairman Efrain F. Camacho, called on the Legislature "not to act too hastily on the measure."

"While the Chamber has great sympathy with the underlying purpose of the legislation, we believe that as crafted, it is possibly too comprehensive and would result in substantial hardship to many of our local families and employers," Camacho said in the one-page letter.

Camacho urged the speaker to put off final approval of the bill and to allow it to come before the next Legislature so there will be time for proper consideration on its full impact.

In yesterday's interview, Benavente said he fully agrees with Camacho on the issue.

"I personally feel that this bill is not necessary, I feel that present laws concerning non-resident workers is sufficient to accomplish the intent of this legislation.

"I was part of the Seventh Legislature when this matter was discussed and I think that the outcome of the hearings should still be the same right now because nothing has changed," said the speaker.

According to Benavente, the bill is only going to create more burden to the business community.

"If the members are serious in pushing this legislation, I don't think we have the time to do it in this Legislature. The Chamber is recommending that it be put off till the Tenth and I totally agree with that. I will support that move and encourage members to put this off so public hearings can be held and committees can discuss this more thoroughly," Benavente said.

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

I Proan Natibo

by John S. DelRosario, JR.

Amendasion Numero Disi-Ocho (18)
(Amendasion Konstitusion yan Inayan Konsentimiento)

Punto: U ma'aregla i probleman legat gi papa' Konstitusion Amerika gi uson un'areglamineto 'nai ma'apruereba amendasion konstitusion iya Marianas. Ilelegña i Offisinan Attorney General na i ma'u'usa na sisientai sais pot siento gi kada isla (gi dos islas) ti legat. Matulaika este na sistema guato gi sisienta pot siento (60%) gi entero Marianas.

Punto: U maprebeniye taotao Marianas pudet gi maseha hafa na tinilaika gi Covenant. I Covenant orihinatmente ma'apprueba nu taotao gi hechuran balotu ayo mina' ti siña matulaika sin mismo esksisio. Inapprueban i lehislatura, i gobietno yan i taotao obligao antes de u'guaha tinilaika gi Covenant.

Punto: Ma limitte inamendan konstitusion gi man mamamaila ' siha na tiempo soluke mapropone ginen ayo i mafananaan "popular initiative".

I fuetsan lehislatura manpropone tinilaika gi konstitusion ginen sineyo' lehislatibo malagnos enteramente. Mana' para lokue' atoridatña man'sita konbension konstitusion.

Mas makat manpropone huntan konbension konstitusion ginen i mafananaan "popular initiative"—ma hatsa i ginagagao na fitman botadot pago deste bente-sinko pot siento (25%) esta i trenta pot siento (30%) gi man kualifikao na botadot.

Taya' konbension konstituson masede para i mamamaila' na bente-sinko años (25). Mas libiano manpropone un amendasion gi konstitusin gi hechuran "popular initiative"—i manesesita na fitman botadot ma rebaha deste sinkuenta pot siento (50%) esta i trenta pot siento (30%).

Punto: U masede kinunduktan konbension konstitusion sin inentalo' i lehislatura gi man mamamaila' siha na tiempo. I areglamienton konbension u mafotma nu i delegado mismo. Ni un ma'elihe na offisiat publiko siña sumaonao komo delegado. Eleksion delegado u makondukta sin pattidan politika. I konbension siña ha espesifika superiot na majoria gi inappruebán amendasion siha, osino tinilaika ni prineponen i konbension u'saga gi majoria.

Amendasion Numero Disi-Nuebe (19)
(Dinaña I Commonwealth)

Punto: U mana' halom gi Konstitusion iya Marianas deklarasion pot dinaña gi dicho yan likido interes gi entre tres islas ya uma'abiba impottansiaña para i man mamamaila' na tiempo.

I probision man hula' offisina estaba gi separao na attikulo. Ha ekspreresia i fundamento na ideo pot dinaña Commonwealth. I probision siha gi seyu, bandera, yan offisiat na iiñguahe man'estaba gi separao attikulo. I seyu yan bandera ha represesenta dinaña Commonwealth. I dos attikulo (Attikulo 17 yan 22) mana daña' kosake i konstitusion u'fagpo' matuge'ña gi hilo' dinaña.

Estague' muna' komplido i disi-nuebo attikulo ni man mapropopone komo amendasion gi konstitusion iya Marianas.

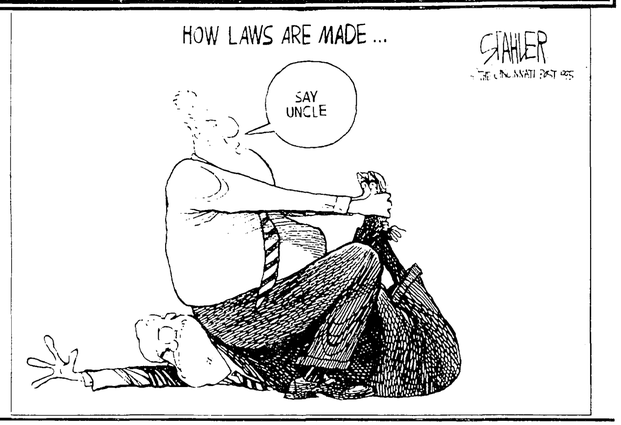
Na guaha tiempon miyo tumaitai pot para inkemprende hafa sustansian kada prinepone ni prinudusen i delegado siha gi mina' tres na konbension konstitusion.

Yangin guaha ti un'komprende, libre hao mamaisen kuestion yangin matto i Komitean Post Convention gi señgsoñg miyo, osino agañg i Offisinan Post Convention gi telefon numero 235-0843.

I monhayan na amendasion siempre uma eksplika ni Post Convention na Komitea gi hechuran edukasion publiko. Ti siña esta matulaika este siha na attikulo sa' monhayan esta ma'estudia yan madibate gi huntan konbension.

Yangin guaha ti konfotmemo, chamo ma'lefa na sobla abiso gi publiko pot checho' komitean i konbension 'nai man masisita publiko para ufañaonao umekspresia sentimentoña.

Iya huliulo' gi este na inasodata pot para inkemprende i attikulo siha ni prinudusen delegado siha. I mas impottante i para un'komprende sustansian i mapropopone siha na tinilaika. Fañgonbetsasion pot para inlie' mas merituña i man mapropopone na tinilaika Si Yuus Maase yan Ghilisow!



Dole to Nixon after Watergate: No big deal

By MIKE FEINSILBER

WASHINGTON (AP) - Bob Dole guessed wrong about Watergate. He thought it would be forgotten and, according to newly opened papers of Richard Nixon, sought a private meeting with the president "to offer his personal encouragement."

That was on May 22, 1973. Less than a month earlier, Nixon, attempting to save his presidency, threw overboard White House Chief of Staff H. R. Haldeman and domestic adviser John D. Ehrlichman, calling them "two of the finest public servants it has been my privilege to know." He also went on television to declare, "There can be no whitewash at the White House."

Nixon resigned 15 months later.

Among thousands of papers opened to the public for the first time Tuesday by the National Archives, where they were sent after Congress passed a law taking possession of the papers from Nixon, were others that shed light on the role played by Dole, now the front-runner in the race for the Republican presidential nomination.

In January 1973, Dole had been forced out as chairman of the Republican National Committee and replaced by George Bush, who preferred a diplomatic job instead.

But Dole remained loyal to Nixon.

Dole's congressional liaison, William E. Timmons, sent Nixon a memo laying the ground for a meeting between the Kansas senator and the president.

"Dole wants to see you alone for a few minutes," it read, the "alone" underlined. "He considers himself a loyal, old friend and wants to offer his personal encouragement. Bob believes Watergate is not nearly as big an issue outside Washington."

Another memo, dated Feb. 15, 1971, chastised Dole for being too loyal -and for criticizing Walter Cronkite, the CBS television news anchorman who had such a strong following that there was occasional talk of him as a Democratic presidential candidate.

Dwight Chapin, Nixon's appointments secretary, wrote the president's political adviser, Lyn Nofziger. He noted that Dole, in attacking television coverage of the Republican Party, had said, "Walter Cronkite can't even pronounce Republicans."

"This is strictly my own feeling," Chapin wrote. "However, taking on Walter Cronkite cannot do us any good whatsoever. It is like attacking the Lord himself."

"I can see the merit in keeping the heat on the networks, but I think to take on an individual such as Cronkite may be a mistake," Chapin added. The files give no indication whether Dole was given the message. At the time, the networks were under broad administration attack.

US seeks continued German support in Iraq

By CARL HARTMAN

WASHINGTON (AP) - The Clinton administration, upset over a German decision to end its air-transport role in searching for hidden Iraqi weapons, said Tuesday that any curtailment of support for the operation threatens its success.

Iraq is cheating on pledges to stop threatening its neighbors with weapons of mass destruction, State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said, and everybody should give full support to the international effort to seek out the arms, "including airlift."

Germany has been flying three CH-53 helicopters and two C-160 transport planes with UNSCOM, the U.N. Special Commission on Iraq, to seek out and inspect concealed Iraqi weapons of mass destruction.

Bonn informed the commission Dec. 8 of a decision to end its participation. A German news agency reported Tuesday a statement from a Foreign Ministry spokesman that German forces would fly two helicopters and a transport plane from Jan. 1 to the end of June as a search proceeds to another country to take up the mission.

"It's very clear for all to see that Iraq has been cheating, for many years, and lying to the United Nations and to the international communipport - including airlift - so that it can do its job."

After a U.S.-led coalition defeated Iraq in the 1991 Gulf War, the United Nations imposed strict limits on Iraqi weaponry.

U.N. observers, whose main transport in Iraq and between Iraq and Bahrain is provided by the German aircraft, have specially targeted Iraq's efforts to develop atomic, biological and chemical weapons.

Burns praised the German contribution in Iraq but added "We hope very much that the current level of support will be maintained," he said. Without the German aircraft, an official at the U.S. Defense Department said, moving inspectors around Iraq will be much more difficult.

In a story published Tuesday, The Washington Post quoted a report to the U.N. Security Council by Rauf Ekeus, the commission's Swedish chairman. The newspaper quoted the report as saying the German flight capability is crucial.

Torres bats for Kagman school

William S. Torres

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

EDUCATION Commissioner William S. Torres is pushing for the completion of the Kagman school project earlier shot down by the Office of Public Auditor because of a "questionable" design contract.

In an interview with reporters, Torres said the Department of Public Works, which undertakes the project, should make do with the $4 million allotted to it and do away with the architectural and engineering (A&E) design contract.

"The funding of $4 million is available...sitting there for almost two years now and people in authority should make the decision," Torres told reporters at the William Reyes Elementary School where he led the groundbreaking ceremony for a Head Start building.

"If the A&E continues to be a snag and I believe it (does), then we should find alternatives to get (the project) going," Torres said.

The Office of the Public Auditor earlier recommended that the project be scrapped because the cost of construction was far beyond the the Capital Improvement Project allotment.

The project was estimated to cost $45 million.

The public works department, despite the Department of Interior's disapproval, entered into a $1.25 million A&E contract for the project design alone.

"The estimated cost of $45 million is for the construction of the whole campus—kindergarten, elementary and high school and other facilities— and if we use that $45 million as the total of construction costs, then the A&E is on target," Torres said. "But if only we use what is available which $4 million, then it's a different story."

Torres said the $4 million is "still intact" and could be used for the construction of the elementary and high school buildings in Kagman excluding other facilities which were supposed to be covered by the A&E design.

The masterplan included facilities such as cafeterias auditorium and landscape.

In an earlier interview with the Variety, DPW Secretary Edward DL Guerrero said he had proposed that the money for the project be taken from the $240 million bond being prepared by the CNMI government.

He said he had resubmitted the plan to the DOI.

Abraham, gov't sued over assault on Bangladeshis

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

PUBLIC Health Secretary Isamu Abraham and certain government agencies as well as the CNMI government were sued before the District Court Monday in connection with the alleged assault and battery of three Bangladeshis by a labor investigator five months ago.

The investigator, Jose Lairopi Itibus, was included among the defendants by the complainant, Mizanur Rahman Khan, an embroidery supervisor of Island Apparel in Saipan.

Khan sought damages amounting to over $2 million from the accused, who were summoned by the court to answer the charges.

The complaint was for deprivation of civil rights, violation of the Fourteenth Amendment, assault and battery, negligence, and infliction of severe emotional distress.

Khan, in his complaint filed by lawyers Rodney J. Jacob and Charles Rotbart, recounted that last July 11, Itibus struck him in the face and kicked his head as well as kicked and punched his two co-workers Md. Zahidul Islam and Ranjan Mondal during a lunch break in an abandoned house in Chalan Kiya.

The day before, also during lunch break, Itibus had approached Khan and his two companions and, without introducing himself, demanded Khan's nonresident permit.

When Khan asked Itibus why he wanted to see his permit, Itibus replied that he worked for the Department of Labor and Immigration. Later as Itibus was reading Khan's permit, he allegedly uttered: "Mizanur Khan, you will be checked out."

Khan then asked for Itibus' business card, but the labor investigator did not have any; instead he wrote on a piece of paper: "Commerce and Labor, Jose Lairopi Itibus, 664-2000/06, Investigation Section."

On July 11 during lunch break, Islam and Ranjan arrived at the abandoned house ahead of Khan, and Itibus again approached the two Bangladeshis. He demanded to see Islam's nonresident worker's ID, but Islam did not have it with him. Itibus then demanded the same thing from Ranjan. When Khan arrived and asked what was going on, Itibus allegedly called Khan "mother fucker" and said, "You don't know, you don't know who I am."

Isamu Abraham

The investigator allegedly struck Khan repeatedly in the face with his fist until Khan fell. Itibus, according to the complaint, then "kicked Islam and punched and kicked Ranjan."

Khan said he got up and tried to flee but that Itibus chased and kicked him again, causing him to fall down.

The police arrived later and paramedics took Khan to the health center for treatment.

Itibus has since been charged criminally, tried, and convicted by the Superior Court for three counts of assault and battery.

Khan sued the CNMI government, the Department of Labor and Immigration (DLI), and Abraham for their alleged failure to prevent Itibus from being employed at the DLI.

"They knew or should have known that Itibus was predisposed to engage in violent or threatening conduct on the job and that he was unfit for employment as labor investigator," the complaint said.

Accusing them of negligence, Khan claimed Abraham and the health department "facilitated Itibus' transfer for, among other reasons, the purpose of removing Itibus from the [Department of Public Health] and ridding [it] of an employee known to have a violent disposition."

Three months before the assault took place, Itibus had been transferred to the DLI from the Commonwealth Health Center.

Khan asked for at least $1 million in general damages and another $1 million in punitive damages.

PSS Commissioner William Torres (left) leads yesterday's ground-breaking ceremony for the Head Start School Building at the William Reyes Elementary School in Chalan Kanoa. Photo by M.C. MUNAR

Hark! The herald angels sing...

Rejoice and celebrate the many blessings of the holiday season.
Merry Christmas
and
Happy New Year
to you and yours.

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Parents to escort 'unruly' students

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

MISBEHAVING students at the Hopwood Junior High face what they may consider the most embarrassing punishment: having their parents around during class hours throughout the week.

School authorities call it Parental Escort Program.

"It has proven to be an effective corrective measure" Hopwood principal David Borja said.

Under this measure, the parents of a student who cuts classes are required to come to the class and monitor their child's behavior for five days.

Borja said since the program was implemented some years ago, the number of students who skip classes has decreased.

"This is because the students don't want their parents to come to the school," Borja said. "They are embarrassed to be seen by their peers being escorted by their parents."

The Parental Escort Program, Borja said, is part of the school's measures to "correct a student's misbehavior."

The program has a dual purpose.

"It gives the parents the opportunity to monitor their children's behavior and, at the same time, the chance to observe the teachers' performance," Borja said. "That way, the parents are able to trace where their children's problems lie."

The suspension policy for erring students is also in place, Borja said. However, he said most parents prefer that their children be allowed to continue attending classes even "under suspension."

Hopwood authorities, consequently, formulated the in-school suspension where the erring student is required to do community work inside the campus.

Hopwood, which is one of the two biggest public schools in the Commonwealth, is believed to be most prone to violence.

A stabbing incident inside a classroom at Hopwood recently hugged the headlines, triggering education officials to rpose the installation of metal detectors in campuses.

Borja supports the proposal.

"Majority of our students are peaceful. The violent ones represent only a small portion of the population," Borja said, "but all the same, that small portion has impact on the majority. So we have to start dealing with it."

CNMI student lands in Nat'l Dean's list

Paul C. Krouse, publisher of the 18th annual edition of The National Dean's List has commended Sherrie Barcinas San Nicolas, a CNMI student at Gonzaga University in Spokane, Washington for her fine achievements.

Sherrie Barcinas San Nicolas

Sherrie's major field of study is English, (Pre-Law) and minor in Criminal Justice. Her career plans is law.

A top ten Marianas High School graduate in 1994 she received the Principal's Leadership Award, Presidential Academic Fitness Awards Program, Dean's Scholar Gonzaga University, and Subject Area Award Honors in English.

More than 2,500 college and university deans and administrators use THE NATIONAL DEAN'S LIST as an integral part of their student recognition programs to convey honor and respect to students with outstanding academic achievements. Only one half of one percent of the students from our nation's 3,000 colleges and universities are honored in THE NATIONAL DEAN'S LIST each year.

Her parents are Ramon M. and Nenita San Nicolas.

Borja to hand certificates to 20 'Haz-Mat' graduates

Lt. Governor Jesus C. Borja will present certificates to the latest "Haz-Mat" graduates in ceremonies at the Emergency Management Office in Marpi tomorrow, December 21, 1995 beginning at 4.p.m.

Twenty (20) personnel from various governmental agencies and private sector companies have successfully completed 32-hours of study in Hazardous Materials First Responder Awareness and Hazardous Materials First Responder Operational courses to qualify for certification.

The course of instruction meets Federal requirements for "Haz-Mat" personnel, the Emergency Management Office said in a news release.

The two courses were taught by Lt. Francis S. Taimanao of the Department of Public Safety Fire Division and Environmental Specialist I David T. Chargualaf of the DPW Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ).

Both Taimanao and Chargualaf are certified instructors through the California Specialized Training Institute.

Upon completion of the course of study, the graduates from DPS, CUC, EMO, DEQ, Customs, Mobil Oil and Shell Oil will be able to identify hazardous materials and initiate a Ist response to any "Haz-Mat" incident that might occur in the future.

The "Haz-Mat Ist Responder Awareness Course and Ist Responder Operational courses are part of a continuing education program conducted by the Emergency Management Office to train government employees and members of the private community in safety procedures when dealing with hazardous materials.

The training was funded in part by the U.S. Department of Transportation and The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Emergency Management Office.

Jesus C. Borja

DEQ: Beaches clean

THE Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) analyzed water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm water drainages this week. None of the samples collected contained excessive concentration of fecal coliform bacteria, which exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

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 encourage to contact DEQ at 234-6114 with any questions concerning this matter.

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Mr. Vic Mateo
From:
ex-SMI Employees

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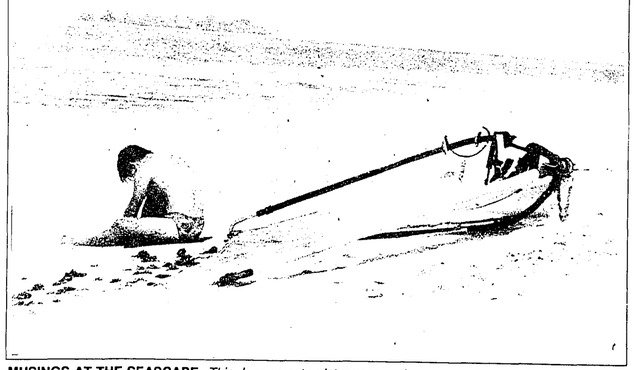

MUSINGS AT THE SEASCAPE *This Japanese tourist muses as he takes a time out from windsurfing Saturday at the Micro Beach. Ah, life.* *Photo by* **MAR-VIC C. MUNAR**

Firm files claim for damaged cargo

AN American insurance firm has laid a maritime aclaim for damage to an insured cargo before the District Court.

The Delaware-based Cigna Insurance Co. of North America asked for damages from the Philippines, Micronesia & Orient Navigation Co. (PMONC) in an amount proven during the trial.

In its complaint filed by lawyer David A. Mair Tuesday, Cigna alleged that PMONC had been negligent in transporting two tour buses from the US to Saipan, inflicting damage to the cargo.

The damage was estimated at $54,000.

The complaint said that on Nov. 24 last year, Tasi Tours and Transportation, Inc., through an agent, entered into a contract with the defendant on the transport of two couch passenger buses from Los Angeles, California, to Saipan.

The cargo had been insured by Cigna.

The cargo arrived in Saipan on Dec. 19, 1994, but according to the complainant, the Saipan-based cargo firm violated the transport contract by failing to deliver the cargo "in the same good order and condition as when shipped, due to the fact that the cargo had been negligently cared for during the transit, thereby causing cargo to sustain serious damage and/or complete loss."

The complaint stated that the cargo was damaged because it was "parked on the grounds of the port in Saipan. The defendant, by and through its agents and/or contractors....negligently caused a shipping container to fall upon the cargo."

—Rick Alberto

NMC offers free OSHA workshop

THE Northern Marianas College will be offering a free workshop for employers preparing for an Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) inspection on Dec. 27 and 28 from 7:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Hyatt Regency, Gilligans.

"This 2-day training event is of particular interest to all industries because it will focus on company policy statements, accident investigation, Safety and Health Programs as well as evaluating your written program. OSHA is redefining its responsibilities, and Safety and Health Programs are proving to be one of their primary priorities," Johnson said.

The event is part of a new program at NMC developed in cooperation with the Occupational Safety and Health Administration and the Department of Interior.

To reserve your seat call the NMC Occupational Safety and Health Outreach and Training Office at 235498 ext. 1102. Registration will be at the door.

Ordnance detonation

THE United States Naval Explosive Ordinance Detachment Team from Guam will be on Saipan to detonate World War II live ordinance explosives tomorrow Dec. 22.

The set time for the detonation will be from 2:00 p.m. until 4:00 p.m. at the Marpi depression, east of Cow Town.

The general location of the detonation will be at the Marpi depression, east of Cow Town, 15 degrees 16 minutes 25 seconds North 145 degrees 49 minutes 01 second East and 5,000 feet above sea level.

Due to the danger imposed by the detonation, the general public, especially tour operators, fishermen and commercial pilots are advised to stay at least one (1) mile away from the area during the date and time indicated.

Should you have any question, please do not hesitate to contact the Emergency Management Office at 332-9529/9572. The cooperation of the general public is solicited.

When it comes to choosing a HEALTH PLAN
more and more
CNMI Government Employees
are choosing
STAYWELL

33 CNMI government employees know what's important to look for in a health plan. They know only StayWell offers...
- ✓ Low cost health insurance for singles and families,
- ✓ Cash refunds on unused services,
- ✓ Quality medical coverage with optional dental plan,
- ✓ Your choice of doctors, clinics and hospitals anywhere in the world,* and
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What's more, members consistently rank StayWell as the NUMBER 1 health plan for customer service and satisfaction—far above other plans.

CNMI *Gov't Employees*
Enroll Now *thru* Dec. 31st

CNMI government employees are invited to enroll in StayWell now through December 31 for coverage starting January 7, 1996.** Give us a call today at 233-4260/1/2 to sign up. We'll help you cut the cost of your health care without cutting the quality.

*As applies to covered benefits stated in your policy.
**Coverage begins after completion of enrollment forms & payroll deduction by the CNMI Gov't.
StayWell Health Plan I/Torres Building, Middle Road, Garapan.
Phone: (670) 233-4260/1/2 • Fax: (670) 233-4263
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Rota hearing center opens

THE Rota Health Center, with help from its friends will open a new hearing center on December 22. State of the art testing facilities, equal to none in the Western Pacific, will be available to Rota and CNMI residents.

"The hearing center was made possible by help from lots of people," said Paul Strauss, audiologist and speech therapist. "Rota Mayor Joseph Inos, an early supporter of the project, provided office space. The Rota Lions Club contributed the office equipment. A $22,000 grant from the FHP Foundation of California provided the testing equipment."

Don Evans, field representative for the FHP Foundation office in Yap, supported the grant.

David Blunk, technical representative for Starkey Laboratories, in Austin, Texas, travelled all the way to Rota to calibrate the equipment.

The Center is equipped with a sound booth, a two-channel diagnostic audiometer, and a clinical impedance bridge. Equipment allows for in-depth diagnostic testing of hearing disorders for patients of all ages.

"Most of the folks we test are young, school age people," said Strauss. "The preponderance of middle-ear disease occurs among the young."

Undetected hearing loss is responsible for many learning disabilities leading to poor grades and language delay.

The Rota Solidarity Lions Club sponsored a dance to raise money for the project.

"Manamko, infants, and the multiply handicapped will benefit from the Rota Hearing Center. This is a tremendous addition to health facilities in the Northern Marianas," said Paul Strauss.

(L-R) Susan Lucero, Pina Antiporoa, Julian Calvo, Paul Strauss, Bernie Mamaril, of the Rota Solidarity Lions Club help dedicate the new Rota Health Center.

Man . . .

Continued from page 1

Manalili said Zhung was only arrested because the woman merely served as a translator.

In another police report, a man identified as Juan R. Ayuyu was arrested for disturbing the peace and assault with a dangerous weapon in Koblerville Tuesday night.

Ayuyu was allegedly creating disturbance at a residence.

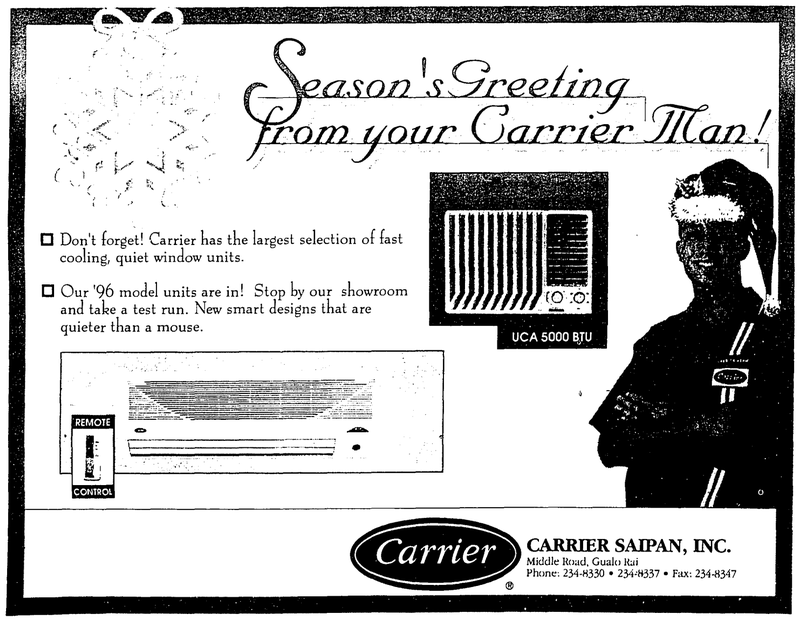
When a man tried to stop him, Ayuyu hit him with a stick and shouted profanity.

Fish . . .

Continued from page 1

"The ocean is very rich (resource) and contains a lot of diverse flora and fauna....In terms of our exclusive economic zone (0-200 miles from the east and west sides of the Mariana chain),...it makes us that much more important," he said, adding that there may be oil waiting to be drilled.

He said the CNMI waters contain manganese, a mineral that is alloyed with steel to increase strength and hardness.



CUC San Jose office extends hours Fridays

IN a move to be more responsive to its customers, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) yesterday announced that it will keep its San Jose Branch Office open late each Friday.

According to Executive Director Timothy Villagomez, many customers do not get off work until 5:00 or 5:30 each night, leaving no time to pay utility bills.

Historically, our customers pay their bills on Fridays, especially pay-day Fridays, so we just want to make it a little bit easier to do business with CUC," Villagomez explained.

He said the longer office hours will be offered at the CUC San Jose Branch because its the most convenient and popular with the majority of the customers.

Utility employees will work staggered schedules in order to eliminate overtime expenses and maintain efficient operations. The new hours will take effect the first Friday after Christmas, December 29.

Timothy Villagomez

San Jose Branch Office Hours
Monday - Thursday 7:30 a.m. - 4:30 p.m.
Fridays: 7:30 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

Tenorio . . .

Continued from page 1

bling in the CNMI unless approved through initiative by senatorial district or by law enacted by Legislature.

Currently, the island of Tinian is the only island where casino gaming is allowed.

Apart from the current Lone Star casino operation, island leaders are looking forward to a $500 million casino hotel development project.

"I don't want to say I am abandoning the casino idea. But I have been looking for revenues and the best way to do it with less impact on the taxpayers of the Commonwealth is through casinos," said the governor.

"As you know, I have already said I am not going to agree to any more increases in any taxes. If we need additional revenues, it will now be up to the Legislature to find it. They better not send me bills to raise taxes on anybody because I am just going to veto them," the chief executive said.

Jane . . .

Continued from page 1

they had sex.

In September, Julie narrated she did not have her usual menstruation. She suspected she was pregnant.

Julie said the next time when she saw Hillblom at Visions, she told him that she missed menstruation.

Hillblom told her if she was pregnant, the child might not be his.

Julie said she explained to him she never had a sexual relation with any other man.

Hillblom gave him P1,000 while assuring her he would give her financial support if he was the father of the child.

Julie said since then she was worried because she was not seeing Hillblom at the club anymore.

"I tried contacting him through the cellular phone number he had earlier given me. I also called up Chateau de Baie, but all my efforts failed," she said.

Julie said she began to entertain doubt about Hillblom's sincerity when later a co-worker told her he was in the club.

"I was then inside the dressing room so I hurriedly (went) out to talk with Larry," Julie said. "Larry was in the company of two girls. He said he could not talk to me because he was in a hurry to leave the place."

When they met again in the club, Julie said she reminded him about his promise to support her.

Hillblom gave her P5,000 and told her to get an abortion.

"This hurt me since he had earlier claimed he would support the baby," Julie said.

As a Catholic, she decided not to abort the baby.

Julie stopped working sometime last January.

And last May 4, she gave birth to Jellian at the Dr. Jose Fabella Memorial Hospital in Manila.

Six days later, Julie said she had Jellian a medical checkup at the Department of Health.

"The nurse asked me the father's name and I said, Larry Hillblom," Julie said.

FSM eyes ties with Indonesia

Bailey Olter

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE)- President Bailey Olter and his entourage returned to Pohnpei last Friday (December 15) from a six-day state visit to Indonesia where Olter offered Indonesian President Soeharto bilateral cooperation in forestry, fishery and agriculture.

The two Presidents met at the Merdeka Palace where Olter reportedly offered Indonesian businessman to set up joint ventures in fish canning industry.

In a state banquet held for President Olter at the State Palace, President Soeharto called for the promotion of cooperation among the Asia-Pacific countries, both under bilateral and multi-lateral bases.

Adding that cooperation among developing countries, the president said it is essential in paving the way for more prosperous and peaceful world, The Jakarta Post reported.

Indonesian population ranks the fourth largest in the world. An island nation, known as among the poorest countries upon gaining independence after World War II, Indonesia has now grown economically to be self-sufficient in rice production, the country's stable food and with its rich natural and mineral resources its industrial potentials is attracting foreign investment on a larger scale from industrial countries around the world and liftirlg it up among the medium industrialized countries.

It's export of wood products including furniture the first six months of 1995 amounts to US$222.9 million and combined with plywood, rattan and pulp and paper it reached US$3.84 billion.

Indonesia has its own currency called Rupiah (Rp), its exchange rate fluctuate slightly, but on December 8, 1995, the exchange rate was Rp 2,2278.00 to US$1.00.

At it's jet aircraft assembly plant where Secretary Asterio Takesy toured, he was shown two-18 passenger short-take-off-and-landing (STOL) aircrafts, ready for delivery, were build in response to an order from by the defunct FSM Public Airline Corporation established some years back which was later abandoned for lack of fund. Each of the aircraft has a price tag of $7 million.

Islanders told to pursue development

SOLOMON Islands deputy prime minister Danny Phillip says Solomon Islanders must pursue more economic development to be able to survive future challenges, SIBC reported Wednesday.

He was speaking in parliament when moving a motion to end the present parliament meeting.

He said the policies, re-structures and re-adjustments that were being pursued by the government were aimed at improving the country and its people.

As an example Mr. Phillip said human resources development in its various aspects including the provision of more educational institutions for the growing population was important for the country's survival.

However, he said Solomon Islanders remained poor, illiterate and underdeveloped despites being under British rule for about 80 years.

Mr. Philip said while Solomon Islands appreciated the assistance from overseas countries and organizations it must try to fend for itself.....Pacnews

Fiji housing agency chief to step down

MORE than a year of tension, drama, and wrangling at Fiji's multi-million dollar housing authority came to an end Tuesday when the cabinet endorsed the resignation of its chief executive, Isikeli Kini.

Mr. Kini's resignation is effective from Wednesday (Dec. 20), the day after the report of an inquiry was released publicly by the cabinet.

Fiji Television reports the inquiry found a considerable amount of documentation on corrupt and fraudulent practice at the housing authority and says the police should investigate.

Among other issues, the inquiry found that the authority did not cater for the housing needs of low and middle income earners as required by its charter.

The inquiry report says the existing and potential clients of the housing authority have suffered and efforts to improve customer delivery services have been defeated by its uncaring attitude to its staff, clients and the public.

The report says there remains a gap in providing affordable housing and squatting has become a major problem, especially in Suva.

On the housing authority's running expenses, the report says its administration costs are double for bad debts and non-performing loans.

The housing authority has had an acrimonious relationship with its board since December last year when chief executive Kini wrote to the prime minister seeking the removal of the board chairman and one of its members.....Pacnews

PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB

CHRISTMAS TREAT

SUNDAY BRUNCH
DEC. 24, 1995
11:00 a.m.-2:00 a.m.
$19 per person

Salade Ceasar
Salade Nicoise
Crudite a la francaise

Smoked duck and Mandarin orange salad
Country style pate
Tuna carpaccio with wasabi mayonnaise
Oysters on the half shell
Chilled Shrimp
Smoked salmon roulades

Soup
Potato Leek

Entree's
Coquilles St. Jacques Aux Poireeaux Etuves With Sauce Blanc (scallops and braised leeks)
Poulet Roti a L'estragon (Tarragon roast Chicken)
Saumon Grillees with Sauce Bearnaise (Grilled Salmon Filets)
Homard Thermidor (Lobster thermidor)
Pommes de Terre en Persillade (sauteed herb potato's)
Courgettes Grillees Au Beurre (Grilled buttered zuchini)

Carving Station
Beef Wellington with Sauce Bordelaise

Omelette Station
Pasta Station

CHRISTMAS DAY BRUNCH - 25th
DEC. 25, 1995
11:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.
$17 per person

Salade Verte
Salade Nicoise
Crudite a la francaise

Prosciotto and melon
Smoked Salmon Terrine
Oriental Beef Tenderloin Carpaccio
Oysters on the half shell
Chilled Shrimp
Chilled grilled scallops with wasabi soy glaze

Soup
Garlic potato chowder

Entree's
Pates aux Coquilles St. Jacques (Pasta with scallops)
Moules a la Mariniere (mussels steamed in white wine and garlic butter)
Profiteroles aux Crevettes (cream puffs filled with curried shrimps)
Homard Grillees au Beurre (grilled lobster tails with butter)
Pommes Anna (roasted scallop potato)
Poireaux d Artichauts (braise aritchoke hearts)
Asperges with sauce hollandaise (asparagus with hollandaise sauce)

Carving Station
Roast Prime rib of beef with rosemary crust with sauce raifort

CHRISTMAS EVE DINNER
DEC. 24, 1995
6:30 p.m.-9:00 p.m.
$25 per person

Salade Ceasar
Salade Nicoise
Crudite a la francaise
Shrimp Canapes
Anchovy Fingers
Oysters with cavier
Chilled Shrimp
Smoked salmon Roulade

Soup
Lobster Bisque

Entree's
Veal Marsala
Red Snapper Kiev
Maryland Style Crabcake with cajun remoulade
Fettucini with smoked salmon and lemon cream sauce
Duchess Potatoes
Leeks braised in herb cream sauce

Carving Station
Sesame crusted sear tuna loin with Gingered dipping sauce

For the New Year's Celebration,
Join the Pacific Islands Club
NEW YEAR'S BASH
More of everything... why be anywhere else.

Consider all these for just $64.00 per couple:
a) **Dinner** (Magellan Room)
b) **Party favors** (Magellan Room)
c) **Red & White Wines** (Magellan Room)
d) **Unlimited champagne at midnight** (Buoy Bar)
e) **Continental Breakfast at midnight** (Buoy Bar)
f) **Casino night** (Buoy Bar),
g) **Special Clubmate show** (Buoy Bar).
h) **Live Band until 2am** (Buoy Bar)

1996

Two dead after gas explosion

PHILADELPHIA (AP) - Natural gas seeped from a broken main into a basement and exploded, engulfing the house in flames, killing two people and critically injuring a third.

The gas company later accepted the blame and apologized, saying its delay of nearly two hours in responding to a gas-odor report was "unacceptable and regrettable."

A 75-year-old woman and her 63-year-old brother died in the Tuesday blast in Norristown, 16 miles (26 kilometers) northwest of Philadelphia. The woman's 76-year-old husband was hospitalized in critical condition with second- and third-degree burns.

The source of the explosion was traced to a ruptured 6-inch gas main adjacent to the sidewalk outside the home, said Corbin A. McNeill Jr., president and chief executive of PECO Energy Co.

The gas migrated through the ground, entering openings to the basement such as drain lines and piping holes, and ignited, he said.

McNeill said it took nearly two hours for a technician to be dispatched after a report of a gas odor. At a news conference at PECO headquarters here, McNeill apologized to the families of the victims and other Norristown residents affected by the explosion and said, "This is unacceptable and regrettable."

Judge orders Simpson's financial records opened

By JEFF MEYER

SANTA MONICA, California (AP) - O.J. Simpson's financial records must be turned over to the families suing him in a wrongful death lawsuit, a judge ruled.

Superior Court Judge Alan B. Haber also on Tuesday turned down a defense request for a stay of the order to allow time for Simpson to appeal.

The wrongful death lawsuit filed by the estate of Nicole Brown Simpson and family of Ronald Goldman seeks damages from Simpson in the pair's June 1994 stabbing deaths.

Simpson was acquitted Oct. 3 of murdering his ex-wife and her friend, but he could still be found liable in civil court because the standard of proof is not as high.

Daniel Petrocelli, attorney for Goldman's father, Fred, said he expected the records to be made available as soon as possible, but acknowledged that it could take up to two weeks.

"The whole purpose of this area of discovery is to find out what his net worth is and how much money he has made as a result of these deaths," Petrocelli said outside court.

Simpson's attorney, Robert Baker, had asked the court for a 30-day stay of the ruling to give him time to appeal. After meeting behind closed doors, the judge rejected the request.

Baker did not speak to reporters after the closed session, but Petrocelli said Baker told the judge he planned to appeal the ruling anyway.

O.J. Simpson

Simpson, who did not testify at his murder trial, is scheduled to give a deposition in the case, but the date has not been made public. The former football star was not present at Tuesday's hearing.

Robbery try leaves 5 dead in NY shoe store

By MICHAEL BLOOD

NEW YORK (AP) - A gunman killed five people, wounded three others and seized a hostage in a shoe store before he was critically wounded in a shootout with police.

Police said Michael Vernon, 22, entered Little Chester Shoes in the Bronx borough before noon on Tuesday, announced a holdup and started firing. Among those killed was Kyong Bae, 41, who was celebrating her second wedding anniversary with the store's owner, and a 12-year-old boy.

Witnesses said the gunman ran out of the store and was wounded by an officer with a shotgun. One witness said the gunman was shot again by two more officers as he fled but police said the other officers chased him until he collapsed without opening fire. Police said they found a 9mm handgun on him.

Police Chief Louis Anemone called the shooting "a robbery gone awry" but Mayor Rudolph Giuliani said the gunman may have targeted the store because of an ongoing dispute with the store over some sneakers they didn't have. He didn't comment on the apparent robbery. It wasn't immediately known whether money was taken.

Police said Vernon had a hostage when he left the store, but the hostage apparently wasn't hurt. Bratton said all the victims were shot at the store. Killed were a boy about 12 years old; a woman around 30; two men in their 20s; and the owner's wife. It wasn't immediately known if the other victims were customers or employees. The owner wasn't hurt.

Four people were hospitalized, including Vernon; a 30-year-old man shot in the head; and a 57-year-old man shot in the chest. Details on the fourth person wounded weren't immediately available. Vernon and at least one victim were in critical condition.

The shooting occurred in the Pelham Parkway section, on a commercial block near the Bronx Zoo. Merchants describe the block as safe.

Merger to form mining giant OK'd in Australia

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) - Stockholders of Australia's CRA Limited on Wednesday approved a plan to form the world's largest mining company by merging it with Britain's RTZ Corp.

The planned merger will see the two companies linked through "a dual listed companies" structure.

CRA said in a statement that 98.8 percent of the votes cast by its stockholders at a special meeting were in favor of the merger proposal.

CRA chairman John Uhrig said RTZ stockholders will vote on the plan in Britain later on Wednesday.

He said the plan requires support from stockholders of both companies before it can proceed.

RTZ and CRA announced plans in October to create the world's biggest mining group by combining their global interests.

Under the plan, CRA will remain listed on the Australian stock exchange and RTZ will stay listed in London.

However, there will be a single board and management structure for both.

Meanwhile the Australian government has removed two conditions it had placed on the merger last week.

In return, RTZ has agreed to reduce its interest in CRA from a present 49 percent to 39 percent over 10 years.

The government's conditions had included a requirement that at least one-third of the board of the dual-listed company be Australian.

The government had also insisted that the CRA side of the company be responsible for the new company's interests in Latin America.

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Global economy better in '96

By DAVID SMYTH

NEW YORK (AP) - For most of the world's economy, 1995 was a good year, figures show. And 1996 should be even better, many forecasters predict. Barring unforeseen events - shocks such as the Mexican financial crisis - that rocked many emerging stock markets in 1995.

In 1996 the global economy could grow by 4.1 percent, its fastest pace in eight years, according to the International Monetary Fund. This would outpace 1995's 3.7 percent growth and all previous years since a 4.6 percent advance in 1988, an IMF report declared.

"We are in a very encouraging phase of the economic cycle," Executive Director Michel Camdessus told a meeting of the 179-nation IMF in Washington.

World trade, which grew 9.5 percent in 1994, grew another 8 percent in 1995. It is expected to grow at a slightly slower but still healthy rate in 1996, the World Trade Organization reported from Geneva.

World trade outstripped actual production in 1995, as it has for the past 20 years, a fruitful result of freer international interchange.

"The global outlook is for moderate and steady growth in major developed countries through 1996," said the Conference Board, a New York-based international economic research organization.

For the world's three great industrial powerhouses, Deutsche Morgan-Grenfell, an international banking and financial firm, predicted slightly more than 2 percent growth in the United States and the European Union next year, and 1.5 percent in Japan.

In fact, over the next five years U.S. annual economic growth will average 2.5 percent and inflation only 3 percent a year, according to 41 forecasters surveyed by the National Association of Business Economists.

In the 15-nation European Union, 3.1 percent economic growth had been officially predicted for 1995 but seemed unlikely to exceed 2.7 percent as the year drew to a close. The European Commission issued an official forecast of 2.6 percent growth in 1996 and 2.9 percent in 1997.

Inflation in most member nations remained under control, averaging around 2 percent.

In Japan, said the Conference Board, "recurring banking shocks and deepening deflation have lengthened the road to recovery."

The Japanese economy grew at a sluggish 0.6 percent annual rate in the third quarter of 1995, Japan's Economic Planning Agency said, and the economy should continue to improve slowly over the next year. Elsewhere, "the peso shock in early 1995 continues to dampen economic prospects in Mexico," the Conference Board said. But "robust expansions in other emerging industrial powers in Asia, Latin America and Europe have scarcely missed a beat. That is one reason why emerging markets are regaining favor with foreign investors."

"Economic performance among Latin American countries continues to vary considerably," said Union Bank of Switzerland, "and markets seem to reflect this. Mexico, Argentina and Venezuela are contracting, while Chile and Peru are still growing strongly at 6.5 and 8 percent respectively in 1995."

Meanwhile, notes the Swiss bank, "Asia continues to excel as the world's fastest growing region, with central eastern Europe (excluding Russia) and the Middle East consolidating their positive growth paths, showing the fruits of successful economic reform."

"In countries such as China, India, Pakistan and Israel the rapid pace of inflation is indicative of overheating economies," said Union Bank. In India, a political backlash against the opening of the country to foreign investors culminated in the cancellation of a $ 2.8 billion power plant by Enron Corp. of the United States. "The immediate fallout," said Union Bank, "is that foreign lenders will be more cautious."

Economic output continued to fall in Russia and other former Soviet republics but an overall decline of 6.5 percent in the first half of 1995 was a marked slowdown from the steeper declines of the previous four years.

A United Nations report said there are some signs of an upturn in Russia, and the former Soviet republics "can probably hope for a modest upturn in 1996."

The 12 OPEC nations, forced by a glutted market to sell their oil at about 5 dollars below their target price of $ 21 a barrel in 1995, faced the prospect of another tough year in 1996. The Organization of Petroleum Exporting Nations had to contend with rising competition from non-OPEC producers such as Russia, Norway and Britain.

At a November meeting in Vienna, the group discussed another problem: cheating by member nations that surreptitiously produce more than their allotted OPEC quotas. And over the OPEC oil scene there hung another dark cloud: the eventual return to the market of Iraq, banned from international exporting since its invasion of Kuwait in 1990.

China, rapidly growing into a trade colossus, sought to join the World Trade Organization while preserving privileges accorded to developing nations. The United States, facing a huge $33 billion trade deficit with China, led a campaign to keep Beijing out of the WTO until it made major efforts to open its own markets

In Taipei "financial scandals and a second round of Chinese missile tests rattled financial markets," in 1995, said Union Bank of Switzerland, but Taiwan should still achieve 6.5 percent economic growth in 1996, the bank predicted.

For South Korea it forecast 7.5 percent growth in 1996 following a sizzling 9.2 percent in 1995. Economic growth in 1996, Union Bank estimated, should hit 7.1 percent in Indonesia, 5.8 percent in Malaysia, 5 percent in Pakistan, 5.5 percent in the Philippines, 6.8 percent in Thailand, and 8.5 percent in Vietnam.

Deutsche Morgan Grenfell forecast 4 percent growth for Australia in 1996 and 3.5 percent for New Zealand. It predicted 4 percent for Hong Kong - a slowdown from 4.8 percent in 1995 as the British colony approaches takeover by China in 1997.

"The countries of sub-Saharan Africa," said Union Bank, "except South Africa, remain unstable economically and in some cases politically too." Nevertheless, the bank predicted a 1996 economic growth rate of 4.5 percent in Ivory Coast, 4.7 percent in Ghana, 3.6 percent in Kenya, 3.5 percent in Nigeria and 4 percent in Zimbabwe.

Patience, charity sought in British colony in Carribean

PLYMOUTH, Montserrat (AP) - It's been a trying year in this British colony in the Caribbean.

Two tropical storms, two hurricanes and a rumbling volcano have battered the island's 12,000 people. With a gloomy Christmas at hand, Gov. Frank Savage is appealing to them to help the needy.

"I'm asking Montserratians to rally around the ... spirit of Christmas," Savage said Tuesday.

Half the population was evacuated from the south when the Soufriere Hills volcano increased activity last month. About 1,000 people are staying in shelters, the rest with friends and relatives. There is no word when they can return.

The governor appealed for donations of money, food and help for shelter dwellers. Torrential rains this week have made life miserable for people in tents and even in more substantial shelters such as churches, he said. "Montserratians are a wonderful people. They have an indomitable spirit and they're hanging in there. But there is a limit to what you can ask people to accept," Savage said.

Organizers plan to go ahead with a traditional Christmas festival featuring calypso music.

And Savage sees some economic potential for the volcano - another eco-tourism attraction on the lush, tropical island.

"There is no doubt that as soon as the volcano drops down, stops being rowdy, we will turn it to our advantage," he said.

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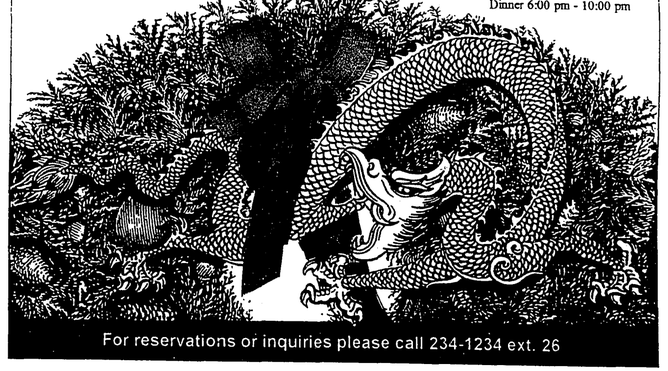

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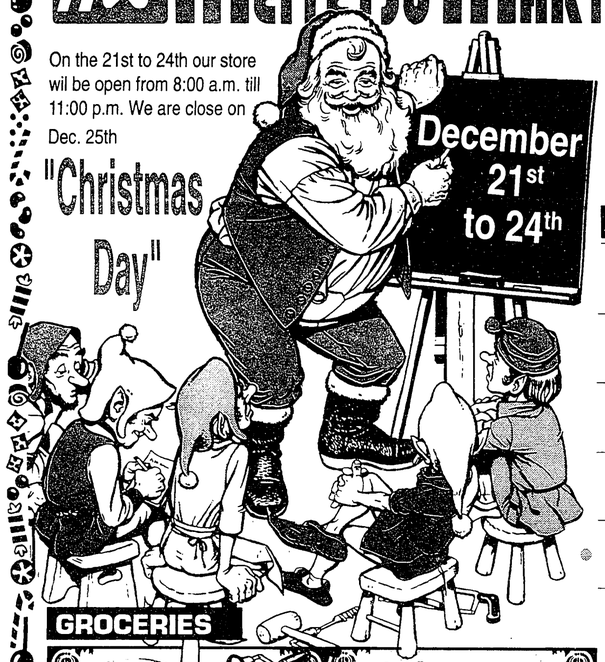

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Tree Sweet Orange Juice 6 oz.	$0.49/ea.

GROCERIES

- Bonnie Hubbard Orange Juice 46 oz. $1.98/ea.
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- Dole Sliced Pineapple 20 oz. $1.39/ea.
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Palmolive Gold 2/5 oz./pkg	$1.39/ea.

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Beef Shoulder Steak	$2.19/lb.
Chicken Drumstick (Family Pack)	$1.39/lb.
Chicken Thighs (Family Pack)	$1.39/lb.

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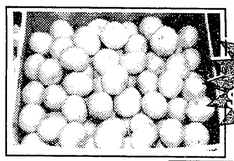
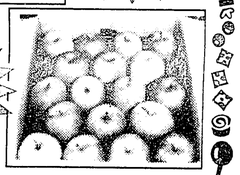
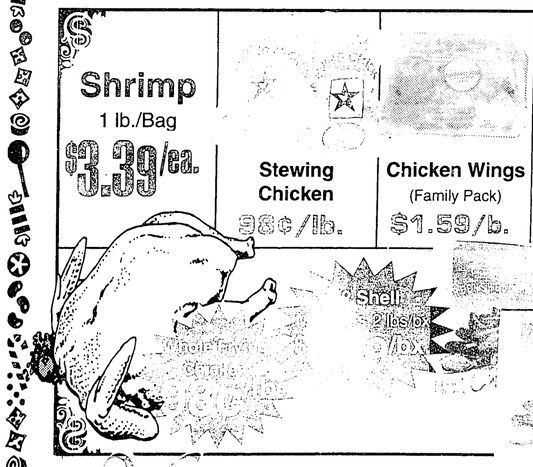


Japanese Tangerine $2.29/lb.



Japanese Fuji Apples $2.50/ea.



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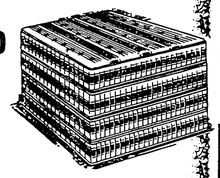

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Open on Christmas Eve

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Lee pledges to solve tensions with China

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) - President Lee Teng-hui took a conciliatory line toward China Wednesday, portraying the 21st century as a time when both sides will overcome prejudices and work for a reunited China. "Inevitably we will have closer ties with the mainland, including Hong Kong and Macao, on both the political and the economic fronts," he said.

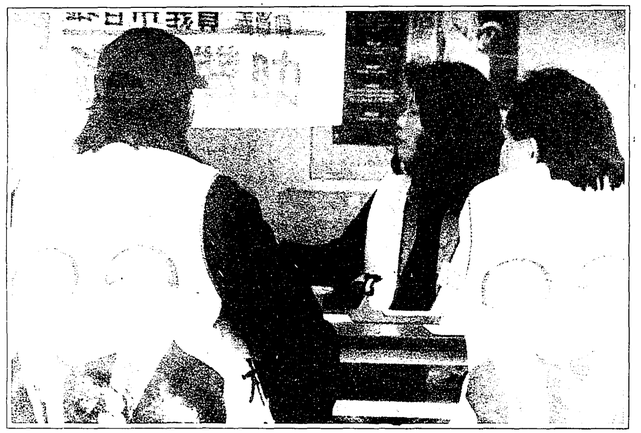
The 21st century "will be the time when confrontation is replaced by communication," he said. "Both sides have to adopt new perceptions and pragmatic moves to achieve real harmony, thus building a climate and situation conducive to Chinese reunification."

Lee's remarks to a business gathering were issued by his office. They come at a time when China is vilifying him for allegedly abandoning the goal of reunification and taking Taiwan down the road to independence.

The trigger for the latest tension was Lee's U.S. visit in June, which China saw as a separatist gesture by an island it claims as its own.

While insisting he still wants reunification, Lee vowed to go on promoting a higher international profile for Taiwan, which is shut out of most world organizations by a Chinese diplomatic blockade.

Taiwan will "actively participate in international activities and promote global economic cooperation ... and seek to exercise greater influence in the region and the international community," Lee said.



Aides to Nationalist Party veterans Lin Yang-kang and Hau Pei-tsun, ousted from the government party for launching their own presidential bid to oppose President Lee Teng-hui's re-election in March, wear vests showing Lin, left, and Hau, right, at a campaign booth in Taipei, Friday. Lin will be the president and Hau the vice presidential candidate on an independent ticket. (AP Photo)

8 killed in latest SA violence

DURBAN, South Africa (AP) - Armed attackers burned huts and shot residents of a rural village in southern KwaZulu-Natal province, killing eight women and children, police said Wednesday.

The overnight attack appeared to be in revenge for a similar slaughter last week that killed 10 people in a nearby region.

Police Superintendent Herman Fourie told the South African Press Association a group of about 10 men attacked a hut in the Southbroom area on the KwaZulu-Natal south coast before midnight, killing an elderly women.

The attackers then went to another hut and set it on fire, burning to death six of the seven occupants. One woman who ran from the burning hut was shot to death, Fourie said.

Among the victims were five women ranging in age from 17 to one in her 80s, and three children aged 11, 10 and 2.

Fourie said the attack appeared linked to ongoing conflict in the area between the Zulu nationalist Inkatha Freedom Party and the African National Congress.

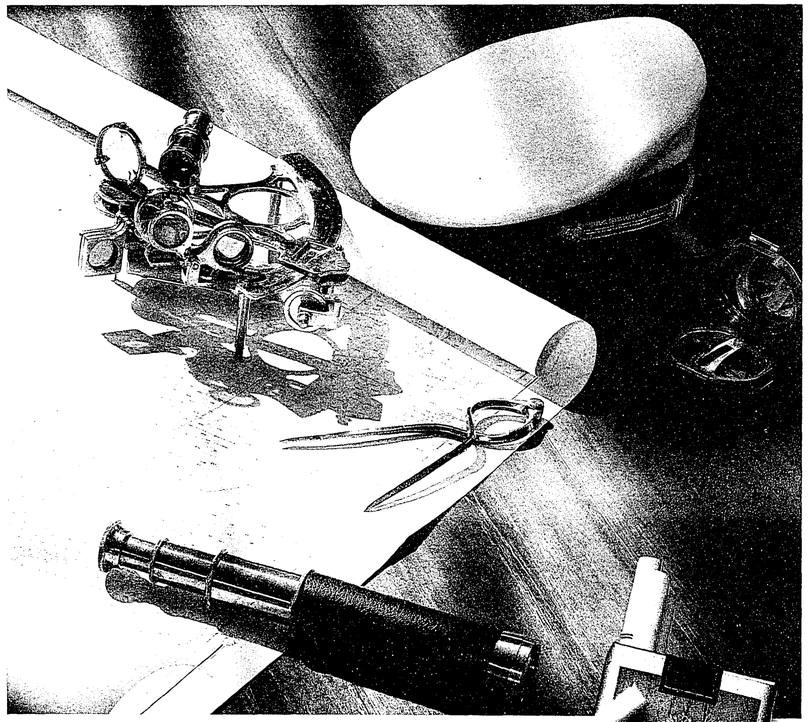
Ten people considered to be Inkatha supporters were killed last week in attacks on huts in the Port Shepstone area of southern KwaZulu-Natal. The victims of Tuesday night's attack were believed to be ANC supporters.

President Nelson Mandela, who heads the ANC, and Inkatha leader Mangosuthu Buthelezi last week made a joint call for an end to violence between their followers.

A low-level civil war in KwaZulu-Natal, which includes the traditional Zulu homeland, killed some 15,000 blacks in the decade prior to last year's all-race election that ended apartheid in South Africa.

After a lull in the violence following the election, attacks and clashes have increased in recent months, raising fears of new instability in the region.

Inkatha seeks autonomous powers in the Zulu homeland to avoid domination by the ANC, which heads the national government.



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Bosnians aching to go home

By BRYAN BRUMLEY

STARIC, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) -The road has been long and bloody for the Bosnian soldiers who battled through Serb lines to these wooded hills. They are ready to fight their way back home if they can't go back peacefully.

"Peace is something that we have been forced to accept. That is why we must remain warriors to the end," said Mehmedalisa Ahmic, an officer on the frontlines in this small village 50 kilometers (30 miles) west of his hometown in eastern Bosnia.

Nearly everyone in Ahmic's unit was forced to leave Bratunac when it fell to Bosnian Serb forces in April 1992, at the beginning of the war. Most took refuge in nearby Srebrenica, a U.N. protected area that fell last July to the rebel Serbs.

"We spent our childhoods in Bratunac. There we had fine houses, loving wives and families. And suddenly one day, we lost everything," said Ahmic, who before the war was a professor of Yugoslav literature.

He and five men in his unit, sipping sweet, strong coffee in a farmhouse, said they expect to return home under the protection of the 60,000 NATO troops headed to Bosnia to implement the Dayton peace agreement. The deal calls for the voluntary return of the 2.1 million people displaced in three and a half years of fighting.

"If Bosnians can't return to their homes, I think the war will continue," Ahmic said.

"I am for forgiving, but not forgetting," he said. "You can even forgive someone who killed a close relative, but you must prevent it from happening again."

These men, like other Bosnian government soldiers, would like the 20,000 American troops arriving in Bosnia to stay past the one-year deadline set by President Clinton.

"We will see what happens in the coming year," Ahmic said.

From a snow-covered bunker atop a hill, a young intelligence officer peers across a fog-filled ravine at Serb lines 400 meters (yards) away.

Does he worry that the country may be too rugged for the 55-ton Abrams M-1A tanks that form the backbone of the U.S. 1st Armored Division headed for northeastern Bosnia?

"We welcome them," he answered, smiling.

"It is quite a contrast to the arms that we had when the war started, hunting rifles and guns made out of lead pipes," said the officer, who declined to give his name.

"I would like to go back to Bratunac," said Meho Osmanovic, one of the refugees who battled through Serb positions last July to reach Bosnian front lines.

"And I can live with Serbs as neighbors," he said. "But I will never sleep there without a rifle under my bed."

Tens of thousands of Muslims fled Srebrenica and another nearby U.N. "safe area," Zepa, when they fell to Serbs last summer. U.

N. officials say 5,500 men of military age are missing from Srebrenica, apparent victims of a Serb massacre.

Mustafa Sacirovic left Srebrenica last July 6 - five days before it was overrun - marching with men, women and children toward Zepa, 20 kilometers (12 miles) south.

"We were ambushed. There was firing on the column of civilians, with all kinds of weapons, including mortars," Sacirovic said.

"After three or four minutes, many dead bodies were piled on top of me. When I stood up, I saw that others were still alive. We picked up the wounded and carried them. Many women and children were among the victims," he said.

The survivors hid until dawn in the valley of a creek. Then, they continued toward Zepa. Sacirovic said he saw many dead men, apparently all killed with a knife slash on the left side of their throats. Young girls found bruised, some naked, had been raped, he claimed.

Finding Zepa also under Serb siege, his column straggled west. "After 30 days marching through the forest, we made our way to Kladanj," he said. "Thirty of us made it, men, women and chilren."

With little to do, and with no more U.S. troops arriving due to bad weather, the international media has to take what they can get, even when it means interviewing U.S. Soldiers as they eat lunch at Tuzla airbase Friday, The first large group of U.S. troops were expected in Tuzla Saturday to enforce the Bosnian peace deal signed Thursday in Paris. **(AP Photo)**

KEEP SAIPAN CLEAN AND BEAUTIFUL

4 Russians fighter jet pilots die in crash

MOSCOW (AP) - Rescue crews who hacked through Vietnamese jungle for a week to reach the site where three Russian Su-27 fighter jets crashed have found all four pilots dead, a news agency said Wednesday.

Russia's Air Force Supreme Command said three search teams that made it to the site found the pilots' remains and debris from the planes, Interfax said.

The planes disappeared off radar on Dec. 12 before a planned stopover at Cam Ranh airfield in Vietnam, on their way home to Russia from an air show in Malaysia. Two other Russian warplanes and a cargo plane that were part of their formation landed successfully.

Bad weather slowed rescuers' efforts to get to the crash site.

Teacher in jail for molestation

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) - A Muslim religious teacher was sentenced to 10 months jail for sexually molesting an eight-year-old girl, news reports said Wednesday.

Abdul Munek Yeop Lan, 53, was found guilty on Tuesday of touching the private parts of his student between December 1994 and July this year, the Star newspaper said.

Abdul Munek denied the charges, saying he pinched her in the waist and thigh to discipline her or to keep her from dozing off during lessons.

He has appealed against the sentence in the high court.

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NATO forces, equipment arrive

By SUSAN LINNEE

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) - New lights came on in Sarajevo and NATO forces poured into Bosnia - new signs of comfort and security in a land that has known little of either.

Powered by a new electric line, the glow of street lights cut through the fog on the deadly stretch of roadway known as "Sniper Alley." After months of patchy electricity, lights and television screens in the city grew brighter.

"This is great. Look at those lights - white, yellow, white, yellow," said Jasna Miletovic, 41, as she drove her car past Bosnian Serb positions 100 yards away. "This now looks like real peace."

Fifty miles to the north, seven U.S. C-130 cargo planes and one C-17 cargo craft brought troops and food to Tuzla, where 20,000 U.S. troops will be based.

Another aircraft brought an advance party of the 1,500 Russian peacekeepers who will be based in the American sector.

NATO formally takes over peacekeeping duties from the United Nations at a Sarajevo ceremony Wednesday.

Unlike the lightly armed U.N. peacekeeping force, the 60,000-member NATO force has a clear mandate, heavy weapons and a peace plan signed by all warring sides behind it.

In Sarajevo, citizens rejoiced after the German ambassador, Johannes Presinger, threw the switch on a new power line mostly financed by Germany.

German Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel was himself supposed to inaugurate the new source of electricity - scarce throughout the war - but could not land at Sarajevo airport because of fog and snow. Sarajevan wags dubbed the electrical line "Kinkelpower."

The power line was part of international efforts to move swiftly on civilian reconstruction even as NATO soldiers arrive to separate the warring sides and enforce a peace Balkan leaders signed last week in Paris.

Maj. Gen. Sir Michael Walker, the commander of the NATO corps that is helping to coordinate NATO's arrival and the transfer of command, landed in Sarajevo on Tuesday.

"We've come to help them to implement their agreement," Walker said. "We offer the chance of something that everybody wants - peace."

U.N. forces in Bosnia, numbering 24,000 at their peak, were at best able to help deliver humanitarian aid to the besieged and needy. At worst, they were harassed, shot at, taken hostage and accused of failing to protect Bosnian civilians from nearly four years of war that left 200,000 dead or missing and more than 2 million homeless.

Walker said NATO will be working "with Bosnian people evenhandedly to help create the environment in which the reconstruction of this country can take place."

Adm. Leighton Smith, the American commander of the NATO mission, will join Walker at Wednesday's handover ceremony. Most of the U.N troops from NATO countries will remain in Bosnia under alliance command.

More U.S. army engineers arrived in Croatia on Tuesday to prepare construction of a pontoon bridge across the Sava River to Bosnia.

Once that bridgehead is established, troops and equipment can move overland to Tuzla.

Despite heavy snow, a train with 67 engineers arrived in Zupanja on the Croatian-Bosnian border. It also carried 40 vehicles and equipment. Construction of the bridge will likely start early next week.

Trying to make up for weather-related delays, a U.S. Air Force advance team landed at Ferihegy Airport in Budapest, Hungary, on Tuesday to establish landing facilities in the Hungarian capital.

President Clinton, speaks after the signing of the Balkan treaty to forge an end to the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, at the Elysee Palace in Paris, Thursday. Seated listening from left are the Balkan President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia, Franjo Tudjman of Croatia and Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia. (AP Photo)

Serbs blame Muslims for Srebrenica deaths

By ROBERT H. REID

UNITED NATIONS (AP) - Yugoslavia has asked the Security Council to delay any vote on a resolution blaming Bosnian Serbs for massacring Muslims, suggesting many of the deaths were caused by fighting among Muslim forces.

The letter drew a sharp rebuke Tuesday from U.S. Ambassador Madeleine Albright, who accused the Yugoslav envoy of insulting the council's intelligence, spreading "Orwellian propaganda" and "propagating the big lie."

Security Council President Sergey Lavrov, the ambassador from Russia, said "many" council members considered the letter "unacceptable" and violated the spirit of the Bosnian peace agreement signed last week in Paris.

Yugoslavia's request came Monday in a letter from Belgrade's U.N. representative Vladislav Jovanovic to Lavrov as council president.

In the letter, the Yugoslav envoy noted that the Security Council is considering a U.N. report claiming that as many as 5,500 Muslim civilians remain unaccounted for after Bosnian Serbs overran the U.N.-protected towns of Srebrenica and Zepa last July.

Survivors reaching Bosnian government territory accused Bosnian Serbs of wholesale slaughter and said the Bosnian Serb military commander Gen. Ratko Mladic may have been personally involved.

Jovanovic cited reports by Bosnian Serb authorities that Muslim civilians and soldiers who laid down their arms were granted safe passage under the protection of Bosnian Serb forces and U.N. peacekeepers. "Immediately before the takeover of Srebrenica by the (Bosnian Serb) army, disorders and conflicts within the Bosnian Muslim army in that enclave erupted," Jovanovic said. "In the clashes that ensued, those units which wanted to continue fighting were mercilessly killing those who wanted to surrender and were in favor of a cease-fire."

Jovanovic said the bodies were not discovered until Bosnian Serb troops entered the enclave. "This situation was abused by the Bosnian Muslim government to further its propaganda campaign on the alleged mass killings and disappearances of the Muslims from the area."

Jovanovic urged the Security Council to investigate the claims before voting on any resolution blaming the Serbs. Lavrov said the council would table a resolution on human rights violations in eastern Bosnia on Thursday.

"Only then will the Security Council be in a position to objectively consider the question of violations of humanitarian law and human rights in the former Yugoslavia," he said.

After a closed-door council meeting Tuesday, Albright expressed surprise that Jovanovic would make such a claim at a time when Yugoslavia is lobbying for an end to U.N. sanctions and to retake its General Assembly seat.

She said the events at Srebrenica were "qualitatively so different" from other incidents in the "spectacle of horrors" which have taken place during the Bosnian conflict.

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Yeltsin: Cabinet posts for communists

Boris Yeltsin

By DAVE CARPENTER

MOSCOW (AP) - After a miserable showing by his party in parliamentary elections, Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin left Moscow on Wednesday for a four-day trip to his home region.

Chernomyrdin had said Tuesday that "no radical changes" in the government would be forthcoming, although he acknowledged there could be a Cabinet reshuffle as a matter of course.

It appeared there was some confusion in the Kremlin, however, over political strategy after the Communist victory in Sunday's parliamentary elections.

Faced by a new Communist challenge, Boris Yeltsin may offer some lesser Cabinet positions to the Communists, an aide to the president said Tuesday night.

Yeltsin aide Georgy Satarov told Russian Television the president, while disappointed by the Communists' showing, also believes it "possible and necessary" to work with the new parliament.

The Communists, intent on capturing Yeltsin's job at the polls next June, are all but certain to reject such an olive branch in the dying months of his term.

But the offer shows that Yeltsin, an outspoken Communist-basher, is willing to try to pacify voters and hold off a rising opposition. A likely re-election bid hangs in the balance.

Before the election, Yeltsin had said he would keep Chernomyrdin, and there was no indication he had changed his mind after a meeting between the two Tuesday.

Following Russian tradition, Chernomyrdin planned to visit the grave of his brother Alexander on the first anniversary of his death this week in his home village of Cherny Otrög in the Ural Mountains, and hold meetings with regional officials.

Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov admitted he already had his eyes on the Kremlin as the continuing vote count from Sunday's elections showed the Communists maintaining their wide lead. He predicted an immediate Cabinet shakeup.

"They will have to revise their course, despite all their statements to the contrary," he told a news conference. "Why keep this whole team that has made the country feel nausea and heartburn?"

The makeup of the next State Duma, or lower house of parliament, remained in limbo Wednesday as the ponderous vote count lumbered into a third full day. The Duma has limited clout compared to Russia's powerful presidency.

With reports estimating that about 65 percent of the vote had been counted, the Communists were ahead with 21.03 percent of the vote in the party-list race for 225 Duma seats. They also dominated other parties in the single-district races that determine the other 225 seats, although they will wind up well short of a majority in parliament.

Vladimir Zhirinovsky's Liberal Democratic Party was second with 11.02 percent. Next was Chernomyrdin's centrist pro-government party, Our Home is Russia, with 10.07 percent, followed by Yavlinsky's reformist Yabloko bloc with 7.2 percent.

Six other parties, including the centrist Women of Russia and Yegor Gaidar's reformist bloc, had more than 4 percent and clung to dwindling hopes of reaching the 5-percent minimum required to capture seats. Although Zhirinovsky's extreme nationalists received less than half the support they got in 1993 elections, they will still be a leading opposition force in the next parliament.

In an angry performance at a news conference Tuesday, Zhirinovsky promised he will be Russia's next president and do away with Western-style economic and democratic reforms.

"The people want a new political force and the Liberal Democratic Party is such a force," he declared.

Demonstrators fill the street near the hotel where ASEAN heads of state met for their 5th summit in Bangkok Friday. Students and farmers demonstrated to protest the admission of Burma's military government as observers in the ASEAN, and other issues. (AP Photo)

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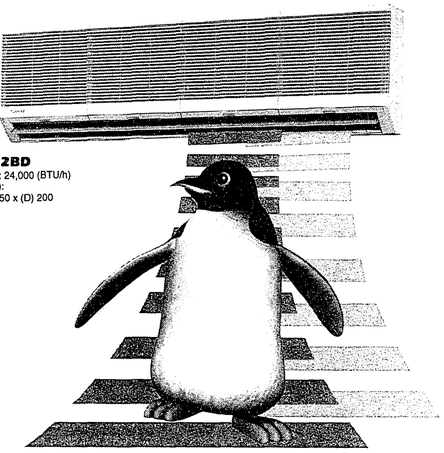

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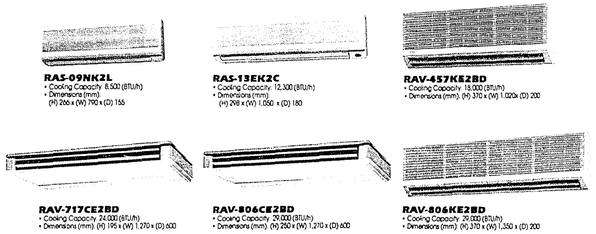

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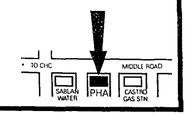

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Heavy snow threatens as US braces for storm

NEW YORK (AP) - Schools shut down in the United States on Tuesday from Missouri to Connecticut as a storm stretched across half the continent, with more than a foot (30 centimeters) of snow possible in the Northeast.

Up to 6 inches (15 centimeters) of snow had fallen Tuesday morning from central Oklahoma northeastward into Kansas, Missouri and Illinois. Far to the northeast, 4 to 5 inches (10 to 12 centimeters) were reported by early afternoon in central New Jersey.

Shoppers who otherwise might be buying Christmas gifts dashed to department and hardware stores to stock up on shovels and rock salt.

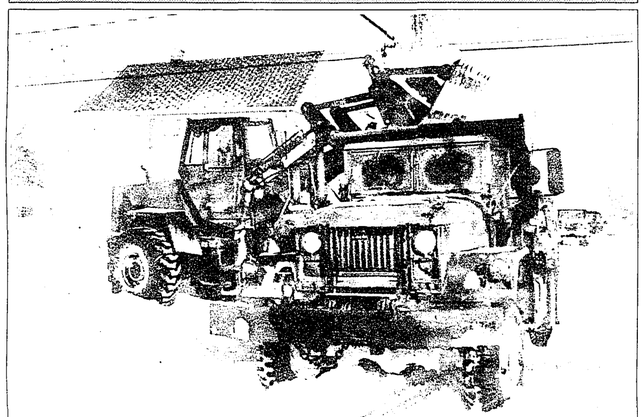
"It's been nonstop," said Steve Valeski, manager of Aubuchon Hardware in Turners Falls, Massachusetts.

"It's unbelievable."

People planning airline flights were warned to check for delays before the storm. Hotels were swamped with reservations as commuters planned ahead and some Boston hotels were already filled Monday.

Lambert Airport at St. Louis opened an hour late, then shut down about 10 a.m. (1600 GMT) because of poor visibility and snow drifting across runways. Trans World Airlines canceled 129 flights out of Lambert before giving up an hour before the airport shut down.

At Pittsburgh, airlines reported departing flights delayed 15 to 20 minutes because of the need to de-ice wings, and at Newark, New Jersey



National Guardsmen in Buffalo, N.Y., help remove snow Monday, Dec. 11, from South Buffalo after a lake effect storm buried Buffalo under 38 inches of snow Sunday. (AP Photo)

Clinton, GOP move to restart budget talks

By DAVE SKIDMORE

WASHINGTON (AP) - Faced with a quarter-million federal workers on furlough and a jittery stock market, President Bill Clinton and Republican leaders in Congress were cautiously moving to restart stalled budget talks Tuesday.

The impasse between the Democratic president and the Republican-controlled Congress has led to the second partial shutdown of the federal government in the past several weeks.

After a day of vetoes and tough talk Monday, Clinton placed separate telephone calls to House Speaker Newt Gingrich, a Georgia Republican, and Senate Majority Leader Bob Dole, a Kansas Republican.

The president's offer: Pass a temporary spending bill to keep the government functioning through the holidays. And, if Republicans would move to his proposed spending levels for federal health insurance programs, he would send them a seven-year balanced budget using economic assumptions they have demanded but which he regards as too pessimistic.

Or, the president told them, resume talks, suspended since Friday, with no preconditions and he would personally participate.

Dole reacted positively. "It is time the principals become involved," he said. "It's time for adult leadership."

After conferring, Dole and Gingrich accepted Clinton's offer, sort of, saying they viewed the meeting not as a negotiating session but as a chance for them to discuss "the importance of getting a balanced budget agreement this year, and how we might achieve that goal."

At the White House, aides said the meeting probably would be scheduled Tuesday but they first wanted to make sure Republicans truly were going in without preconditions.

Meanwhile, a task force of House and Senate Democrats and White House Chief of Staff Leon Panetta planned to meet for a fourth consecutive day Tuesday in hopes of developing a balanced budget with unified Democratic support.

The halting steps toward restarting negotiations came as the government went into a fourth day of a partial shutdown that idled a quarter-million workers.

That's far less than November's, which furloughed 800,000, but enough to close federal parks and museums and suspend routine passport applications. However, the Post Office will deliver mail as usual.

Bill Clinton

The stock market, which had shrugged off the November shutdown, suffered its biggest one-day loss in four years. The Dow Jones industrial average lost 101.52 points Monday to close at 5,075.21. Nervous investors worried the budget stalemate would forestall an interest-rate cut from the Federal Reserve.

It was the worst decline since Nov. 15, 1991, and Republicans, who polls show bear the brunt of public anger over the shutdown, were quick to blame the president.

"I call this the Clinton crash," said House Majority Whip Tom DeLay, a Texas Republican.

For his part, Clinton vetoed two Republican spending bills and planned to veto a third Tuesday. On Monday, he rejected legislation financing the Interior Department, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Environmental Protection Agency and the nation's space agency.

Meantime, Republicans sought to embarrass Clinton with a nonbinding resolution affirming House lawmakers' adherence to balancing the budget in seven years using Congressional Budget Office estimates. It passed, 351-40, with 133 Democratic supporters.

And Gingrich suggested that, unlike in all previous government shutdowns, furloughed employees might not be reimbursed for lost pay.

"An awful lot of Americans...don't particularly understand why people would be paid if they don't work," he said.

The employees, and tourists too, took a dim view of the maneuvering. "Government workers are used as pawns," said Bob Water, a State Department employee.

"We're frustrated."

"If you visit a Third World country, you expect this, but never here," said Frederick Moreau, a French tourist who stood outside a closed visitor center at Great Smoky Mountains National Park.

Call 911 for emergency. Don't wait!

Bomb found outside IRS building in Reno

By SANDRA CHEREB

RENO, Nevada (AP) - A powerful bomb was found in a parking lot outside a U.S. Internal Revenue Service office but it fizzled before its lit fuse could do much damage.

The bomb may have been a mixture of ammonium nitrate and fuel oil, the same combination used in the truck bomb that destroyed the Oklahoma City federal building in April. That bomb, weighing 4,800 pounds (2,160-kilogram), killed 169 people.

Laboratory tests were being conducted Monday on the white powder substance that made up the bomb outside the IRS building, said Bob Stewart, agent in charge of the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms office here.

The drum was wired to a dolly and left behind a blue Oldsmobile with federal license plates. It was not immediately known who drives the car or if that person was a target.

There were no injuries or damage. No arrests were made.

About 60 people were evacuated in the fourth such incident aimed at federal targets in northern Nevada in two years. They were to be back at work Tuesday.

The fuse had been lit but burned out before most of the drum's contents could explode, police Lt. Ken Bunker said.

Officials said it appeared one of two caps on the top of the drum had been blown off, indicating at least some of the material inside had ignited.

Graham recuperates

NEW YORK (AP) - Evangelist Billy Graham is recovering from broken ribs he suffered in a fall and should be released from a New York City hospital on Tuesday, a spokesman said.

Doctors said Graham, 77, has shown no complications from the four ribs he broke when he fell Tuesday in his New York hotel room, Graham's spokesman Larry Ross said early Monday.

"He was in good spirits, resting and breathing comfortably," Ross said. If Graham continues to improve, doctors anticipate a Tuesday release, he said.

Graham, who lives in Montreat, North Carolina, was in New York to receive the American Bible Society Award, but had to cancel that appearance. Doctors also ordered him to cancel his other public events for the rest of the month, but said they expect him to fully recover.

High blood pressure causes memory loss

By BRENDA C. COLEMAN

CHICAGO (AP) - Men with high blood pressure in mid-life are much more likely to have trouble thinking and remembering things when they are old, a study found.

The finding adds yet another reason to control high blood pressure, already known to be a risk factor for stroke and heart disease.

The study involved 3,735 Japanese-American men who were enrolled in a heart study in the 1960s and tracked through the early 1990s. Their cognitive function - which includes remembering, thinking abstractly, making judgments and concentrating - was measured when the men were 78 on average.

Men with high systolic blood pressure - the higher of the two numbers in a blood-pressure reading - during mid-life were almost 2 1/2 times more likely to have poor cognitive function in old age than men with low systolic blood pressure.

In fact, the higher the blood pressure in mid-life, the greater the likelihood of trouble thinking and remembering in old age. For every 10-point increase in systolic blood pressure, there was a 9 percent increase in the risk of poor cognitive function later.

The study's lead author was Lenore J. Launer, a neuro-epidemiologist and senior researcher with the National Institute for Public Health and the Environment in the Netherlands. It was co-written by researchers at the University of Hawaii and the U.S. National Institute on Aging, and was published in Wednesday's Journal of the American Medical Association.

Dr. Kamal Masaki, a co-author, said brain scans performed on the patients since the study was written indicate many of them suffered tiny "silent" strokes that cause no symptoms but can permanently impair thinking.

High blood pressure may also damage the brain in some ways that aren't clear to doctors, she said.

The study did not explore whether high blood pressure has any role in dementia-causing diseases such as Alzheimer's, she said. Dementia is a decline in all areas of mental ability.

A neuropsychologist who was not involved in the work, Sandra Weintraub, an associate professor at Northwestern University Medical School in Chicagom, said the study confirms what clinicians have suspected. Cognitive function was measured on a 100-point scale using a standardized test that gauges abilities to perform tasks that require thinking.

High systolic blood pressure was defined as 160 or more. Low was defined as less than 110. A normal systolic reading is typically 120.

Though the study involved only men, the findings are likely to apply to women, Launer said.

But it's not clear whether the findings apply to other races, she said. Genetic differences play an important role in whether people become demented and might alter the way high blood pressure affects the brain, she said

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Aides: 'Chun ready to die in prison'

Protesters raises fists at a rally in Seoul to demand punishment for former presidents Doo-hwan and Roh Tae-woo for masterminding a military crackdown on protesters 16 years ago. Banner reads "President Kim Youn-sam must punish for all officers in connection with the Kwangju military massacre." (AP Photo)

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - Former President Chun Doo-hwan, on an indefinite hunger strike against what he calls political retaliation, would die in prison rather than seeking leniency, aides and relatives said Wednesday.

The 64-year-old former general was jailed Dec. 3 on charges of masterminding a 1979 coup that brought him to power. Soon afterwards, he began a hunger strike, taking only water.

Chun was so weakened that he could not sit up for more than two or three minutes at a time, his lawyer-spokesman Lee Yang-woo told reporters after visiting him at the Anyang Detention House outside Seoul.

But Lee said the ex-president defiantly rejected suggestions that he apply for bail. Chun's son, Jae-kook, quoted his father as saying that he was ready to die in prison defending his cause.

Chun was protesting President Kim Young-sam's sudden reversal of his earlier promise not to punish him for the coup 16 years ago. Kim once urged the nation to let history be the judge, but has said he changed his mind because of massive corruption involving his military predecessors.

Local newspapers said an ambulance was ready to forcibly take Chun to a hospital Thursday or Friday for treatment.

Prison doctors check twice a day the health of Chun who reportedly has lost about 10 kilograms (22 pounds).

Chun faces charges of military rebellion in connection with the coup, which carries the mandatory death penalty, although it is unlikely to be imposed.

Prosecutors said they planned to indict Chun Thursday, a day ahead of the legal deadline.

Chun's successor, Roh Tae-woo, who is in prison on corruption charges, is also implicated in the coup, which was followed several months later by a bloody crackdown on a pro-democracy uprising that left at least 240 people dead.

Police officers pull down a protester from the wall of the former President Choi Kyu-hah's home in Seoul Thursday, as he tries to get in the house during a demonstration demanding Choi's investigation by prosecutors on wether he was forced to step down in 1980 by military generals. (AP Photo)

President Kim revamps his cabinet

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - President Kim Young-sam on Wednesday carried out a major Cabinet shuffle that affected the nation's top economic minister and 10 other posts.

In the shakeup that had been expected for weeks, Kim retained the defense minister, the foreign minister and other key security-related members, including the government's main intelligence chief.

After namng a new prime minister last friday, The President disclosed his intention to stage a large-scale reorganization of his Cabinet and presidential staff

Hongkong Democrats call for laws over subversion

By JOHN LEICESTER

HONG KONG (AP) - Hong Kong's Democrats demanded assurances Wednesday that anti-subversion laws will not "be left to the whims of the leaders in Beijing" after the British colony returns to China in 1997.

Martin Lee, chairman of the Democrats, Hong Kong's largest party, gave the colonial government two months to submit draft anti-subversion laws to legislators. Otherwise, Lee said, his party would consider introducing its own.

Under the constitution China has prepared for post-1997 Hong Kong, the territory must enact laws to prohibit treason, secession, sedition and subversion against the Chinese government.

Britain has already passed proposals to China on how to enact such laws, but has not made them public.

China's sentencing of dissident Wei Jingsheng to 14 years in jail last week sharpened Hong Kong's fears that anti-subversion laws may be used to silence China's critics in the colony after 1997.

Speaking on Hong Kong radio, Lee said: "There have been so many events happening in the last six months or so that really it makes it difficult for people to believe that human rights will be fine in 1997."

Hong Kong anti-subversion laws should only target acts which are "clearly criminal," said Lee. "There has to be clear provisions and it cannot be left to the whims of the leaders in Beijing."

Lee said his party also may reintroduce proposals to set up a human rights commission - something Gov. Chris Patten has so far rejected.

"Does he want the world to see how the last British governor rejected legislators' efforts to set up the Human Rights Commission when he had the chance?" Lee asked.

Patten, who met the Democrats on Tuesday, said Britain is still waiting for China's answer to its anti-subversion proposals. But he implied, without mentioning the jailing of Wei, that China was to blame for Hong Kong's misgivings.

"Perhaps Chinese officials and Chinese advisers should ask themselves why there is so much concern in Hong Kong about these civil liberties matters," he said.

Meanwhile, a British official has rejected Chinese suggestions that Patten be excluded from ceremonies to mark the colony's change of sovereignty at midnight, June 30, 1997.

"The governor of Hong Kong is a major participant," said British negotiator Hugh Davies.

"The two sides agree that this is a ceremony between Britain and China, but if there is any difference between us it is in the role that the governor of Hong Kong plays," he told the radio.

President and Mrs. Clinton are met by a group children dressed as elves as they arrive at a television taping of a Christmas show in Washington Sunday, The show "Christmas in Washington" will be broadcast on NBC. (AP Photo)

'Naughty' kids assault 'Santa'

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) - A bruised and battered Santa Claus has declared the Outback town of Bourke naughty, not nice, after more than 30 children attacked him during a carols by candlelight night.

Local businessman John Holmes said Tuesday Santa was forced to flee in a four-wheel drive truck when the mob, aged between eight and 13, surrounded him.

They kicked the red suited old man in the groin, punched his kidneys and pinched him all over.

Others tried yank off his beard and steal bags of candy. One attacker got away with his red cap.

Holmes said Santa sped to the town's police station and demanded protection.

Officers drove him back to the crowd after a small group of well-behaved kids cried: "Don't let them hurt Santa."

Santa was then restricted to handing out candy through a partially opened window of a paddy wagon, Holmes said.

It's not the first time Santa has had trouble in Bourke, 600 kilometers (375 miles northwest), of Sydney.

Last year he was pelted with bottles. In 1993 a gang dragged him off a boat on the town's river and tried to disrobe him during a Christmas time celebration.

FDA okays faster test for illness

WASHINGTON (AP) - A new test promises to tell Americans within hours, instead of days, if they have tuberculosis.

The U.S. Food and Drug Administration approved Gen-Probe Inc.'s new spit test for tuberculosis, called the Mycobacterium Tuberculosis Direct Test.

About 10 million Americans are infected with TB and about 10 percent will develop an active case of the disease, where they become ill and spread the germ by coughing or sneezing. Antibiotics can cure TB if they are taken daily for months, but an incomplete course of treatment can produce drug-resistant bacteria.

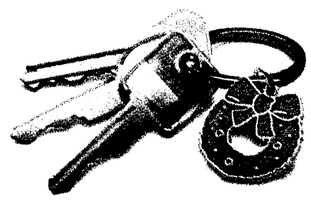
Now, doctors diagnose TB through an intensive laboratory test that takes about a week, and sometimes more, to get results. Typically, doctors don't prescribe antibiotics until they see those test results.

The Gen-Probe test, however, is 95.5 percent accurate and gives results in four to five hours, the FDA said. That means doctors could begin drug treatment almost immediately.

However, because the Gen-Probe test missed TB 5 percent of the time, the FDA is requiring that all patients take standard TB tests too, to guard against inaccurate diagnoses.

The new test, approved last Friday, works by amplifying genetic material in sputum and then uses a radioactive tracer to detect the presence and activity of TB bacteria.

A reminder that the holidays are a time of giving.



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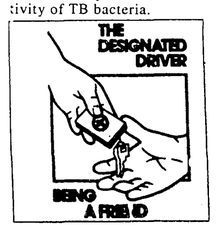

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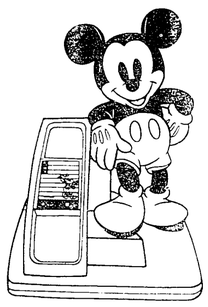
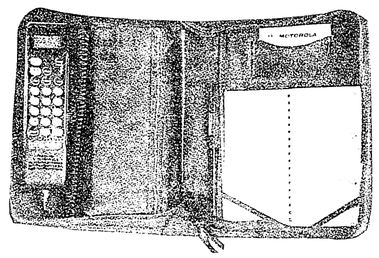

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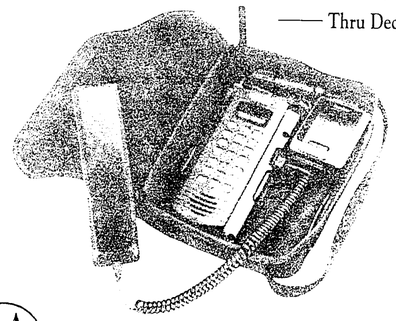

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Mexican gangs eye US drug market

By MICHAEL J. SNIFFEN

WASHINGTON (AP) - Newly powerful Mexican drug lords may be ready to seize control of the U.S. cocaine market by shouldering aside the Colombian Cali cartel now that many of its leaders are in custody, U.S. officials say.

That's one possible outcome of last summer's major successes against the Cali cartel, which Drug Enforcement Administrator Thomas Constantine calls "the most sophisticated organized crime syndicate that ever existed in the world."

Four Mexican drug gangs that ship cocaine into the United States for the Colombians "have become very, very sophisticated and learned from the Colombians," Constantine told reporters Tuesday. "Do they need to be middlemen anymore? Or can they just run their own operation?"

The Mexicans already have taken payment from the Colombians in cocaine rather than cash, which means they must sell the drugs in the United States to realize their profit, said one Drug Enforcement Administration official who declined to be identified by name.

On their own, the Mexican gangs also have supplied the methamphetamine that has become the fastest growing drug problem in the western United States, DEA officials said. One gang war over methamphetamine business produced 20 homicides in San Diego in 1993, the officials said.

Last summer, three major Cali kingpins - Gilberto Rodriguez-Orejuela, Miguel Rodriguez-Orejuela and Jose Santacruz-Londono - were arrested in Colombia with help from DEA, which provided intelligence from informants and coordination for Colombian police raids. A handful of other Cali figures surrendered.

Constantine said law enforcement operated against enormous odds in fighting the Cali cartel, which supplies 80 percent of the cocaine in this country and has annual profits of between dlrs 4 billion and dlrs 8 billion.

"This group controlled the telephone system" in Colombia, Constantine said. "They knew when raiding teams were leaving. They had purchased all the property around their barracks" and sounded alarms when trucks of soldiers left.

Mainframe computers seized in Cali raids showed that the gang had targeted U.S. Embassy and Colombian ministry of defense telephones to identify informants and had intercepted and stored radio, mobile telephone, pager and facsimile transmissions.

Constantine said the cartel has abandoned at least three Boeing 727 jet aircraft to avoid capture and regularly throws away cellular telephones every other day to avoid being monitored. "If there is anything on the market, they can afford to buy it. And more than we can at DEA," he said.

The successes have not dismantled the cartel, DEA officials said.

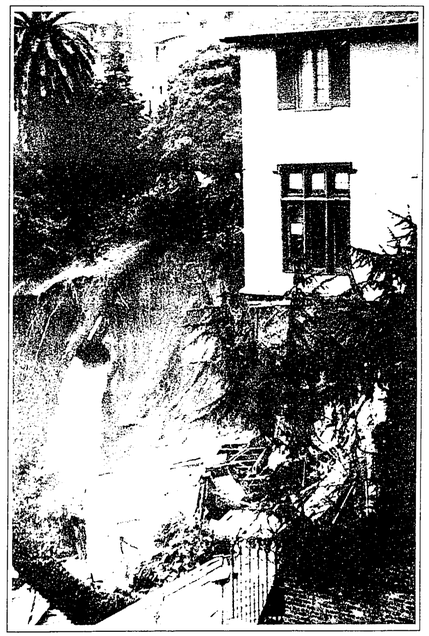
"We have disrupted some operations," said one official. "But the availability of cocaine here has not diminished."

Long-term success depends on those in custody receiving lengthy prison terms that prevent them from running the cartel, Constantine said. "I can't say how this is going to break."

"I don't know whether the people in Colombia are going to get very light sentences and go back out," the DEA chief said, "or whether they're going to be able to run their system from prison," as a previous Colombian drug lord, Pablo Escobar, did.

Alternatively, the kingpins might relinquish control to lieutenants or be supplanted by young turks. Finally, the Mexican gangs might take over.

DEA officials said the four Mexican gangs are run by: the Arellano-Felix brothers in Tijuana; the Caro-Quintero brothers in Sonora; Amado Carrillo-Fuentes in Juarez; and Juan Garcia-Abrego along the Gulf of Mexico coast. Carrillo-Fuentes, indicted in Texas and Florida, has emerged as the dominant player.



A home sits precipitously over a 60-foot-deep sinkhole that swallowed one home and part of another in San Francisco's Sea Cliff district. The hole, which measured 200 feet by 150 feet according to the fire department, was caused by the broken sewer pipe at left. **(AP Photo)**

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Dissident's backers arrested

BEIJING (AP) - Police have detained three dissidents who signed a letter to the legislature appealing for the release of democracy advocate Wei Jingsheng, a human rights group said Wednesday.

Wang Donghai, Chen Longde and Fu Guoyong were taken into custody on Friday while visiting a friend's house in Linhai, a city in eastern Zhejiang province, New York-based Human Rights in China said in a press release. The three had collected signatures from dissidents in four provinces on a letter dated Nov. 27 that called on the standing committee of the National People's Conference to investigate Wei's case, obtain his unconditional release and promote the rule of law in China.

The letter argued Wei's detention without charge for nearly 20 months and his formal arrest in November were illegal. A court in Beijing convicted Wei of sedition on Dec. 13 and sentenced him to 14 years in prison.

Wei, China's boldest advocate of democracy in China, served 14 1-2 years in prison after writing essays appealing for democracy during the late 1970s. He was released in 1993, and during the half year of freedom that followed he renewed his calls for democracy. Wei was taken into detention in 1994, charged in November and convicted after a half-day trial of attempting to overthrow the government.

The three dissidents in Zhejiang all served two- to three-year sentences after participating in the 1989 democracy demonstrations that ended with violent suppression by the military. They recently had signed other open letters to the government calling for reform, Huan Rights in China said. The rights group condemned the police action and said it showed the government does not allow Chinese people to exercise any of their legal rights to express political criticism.

Police detained two others along with Wang, Chen and Fu, but released those two the same day. They also searched Wang's and Fu's houses and confiscated photographs and articles written by other dissidents, the rights group said.

A portrait of China's most prominent dissident, Wei Jingshen, is held by slogan-shouting demonstrators protesting Wei's sentencing by a Chinese court to 14 years in prison on charges of sedition during a demonstration outside Chinese Xinhua news agency, China's de facto embassy in Hong Kong. **(AP Photo)**

Worshippers gunned down

By ZAHID HUSSAIN

KARACHI, Pakistan (AP) - Gunmen stormed a tiny mosque in a quiet middle-class neighborhood in eastern Karachi Wednesday killing two worshippers and wounding six others, police said.

Two of the gunmen were later killed in a gunfight with police, who arrived on the scene as the assailants tried to flee, said police Const. Yusuf Baluch.

It's not clear who was behind the shooting, but police suspect it was religiously motivated.

The worshippers belonged to Pakistan's minority Shiite Muslim community. The gunmen were believed to have been members of the radical Sunni Muslim group known as the Soldiers of the Friends of the Prophet.

This group has been blamed for dozens of assaults against Shiite Muslims, they revile as nonbelievers.

Last month a superior court sentenced 13 members of this group to death for several similar attacks on Shiite Muslim mosques in the southern port city of Karachi.

The sectarian violence that had wracked Karachi earlier this year had subsided after March when Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto pushed the warring factions into an agreement.

It's not clear whether that agreement has crumbled or whether the killings were in response to last month's death sentences.

Following the sentencing police had stepped up security at the larger mosques in Karachi, but Wednesday's attack was on a small rooftop mosque.

Ms. Bhutto also this month started to crack down on Pakistan's openly militant religious groups, like the Friends of the Prophet organization. Earlier this month she ordered dozens of offices of both Sunni and Shiite groups in Karachi closed. Police have arrested about 160 members of the Friends of the Prophet group and about 60 of a rival Shiite Muslim group called the Organization for the Implementation of Shiite Law.

They have been arrested on a variety of charges ranging from inciting violence to murder.

Most of Pakistan's 120 million people are Sunni Muslims, who generally get along with their Shiite brethren. But in recent years militant groups representing both sects have sprung up in Pakistan and they regularly clash.

SYFL erratum

THE Variety apologizes for the typographical error in Richard Pierce's *Letter to the Editor* published Dec. 13. Pierce stated in his letter that "Saipan Youth Football League would *not* allow alcohol consumption at their 2nd Guam Saipan Goodwill Games." The word ***not*** was inadvertently typed *now*. We regret the concern it has stirred in the SYFL.—Ed

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12/18/95

THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION DIVISION (DCD) OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY WILL RESCHEDULE ITS MEETING OF WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 20, 1995 TO FRIDAY, DECEMBER 22, 1995 AT 10:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE CDA SAIPAN CONFERENCE ROOM.

DCD MATTERS WILL BE DISCUSSED.

/s/JESUS D. SABLAN
CHAIRMAN

Billionaire freed after police hunt

By GABRIELLA BROGGI

LUGANO, Switzerland (AP) - A billionaire businessman was freed late Tuesday, just over 24 hours after he was kidnapped from his office in southern Switzerland.

Geo Mantegazza, 67, was in satisfactory condition, police said.

Officials refused to say whether the kidnappers had been captured or whether any ransom had been paid.

In a brief statement, police said details would be released Wednesday.

Mantegazza, an engineer who made his fortune in real estate and the travel business, was overpowered and abducted on Monday by unknown assailants in southern Switzerland, police said.

Press reports said the businessman had been taken across the border into Italy. The international police agency, Interpol, was involved in the huge investigation mounted after Mantegazza was seized Monday.

At an earlier press conference, Ticino police chief Franco Ballabio had warned the businessman's life was in danger.

Mantegazza is well-known in Switzerland as the former president of the successful HC Lugano ice hockey club. Mantegazza also is co-owner of the Swiss travel group Globus-Gateway Tours with his brother Sergio.

The magazine Bilanz estimated the brothers' fortune at 2 billion to 3 billion Swiss francs ($ 1.7-2.5 billion).

Mantegazza, one of Switzerland's richest men, lives with his second wife and a four-year-old son in the southern lakeside city of Lugano.

Although bank managers have occasionally been held hostage for the contents of their safes, kidnappings of prominent industrialists are rare in Switzerland. Many rich and famous people choose to live in this tranquil Alpine nation because they feel safe.

Wells, women teachers to get more girls in school

By PIERRE-YVES GLASS

PARIS (AP) - Digging more wells and hiring more women teachers could help reduce female illiteracy in Third World regions - particularly Africa - that tend to educate boys and relegate girls to domestic chores, UNESCO says.

The study it released Monday says that in developing countries, girls who actually enroll in school stay almost as long as boys, evidence that the classroom can be a sanctuary from discrimination outside.

"The education system, it seems, is far less 'unfair' to girls than the economic, social and cultural conditions which limit their access to school in the first place," the report says.

To help get girls into the classroom, UNESCO recommends two things: Hire more women teachers as role models who could ease community prejudices against educating females; and build wells, so girls who spend hours fetching water would have more time for learning.

UNESCO's biennial "World Education Report" on 180 countries contrasted the formal education - first grade through college -of boys and girls. For developing nations, it found that boys can expect 9.1 years of schooling, compared with 8.5 years for girls. The figures are averages, so they include children of both sexes who don't go to school.

But the number of years children stay in school is almost equal: 10.6 years for boys, 10.2 years for girls.

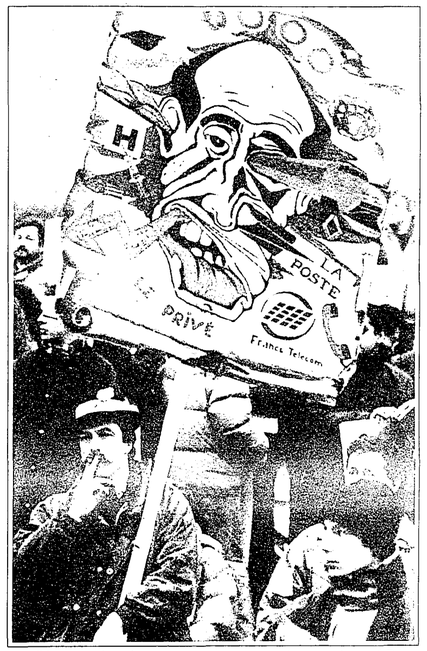
The disparities are less severe in Latin America, relatively better-off than other developing regions, and most drastic in Africa.

In Niger, for example, nearly twice as many boys as girls go to school. But the number of years boys and girls stay in school is almost equal, even though Niger is a poor, male-dominated nation.

The most flagrant gender discrepancies are in higher education. Men far outnumber women in universities throughout nearly all the developing world, while the ratio is about equal in developed countries.

For example, women represent 7.2 percent of university students in Guinea, 13.4 percent in Togo and 16 percent in Bangladesh. Women account for 50 percent of such students in Greece, 53 percent in Australia and 40 percent in Japan.

Women, in fact, stay slightly longer in school than men do in Australia, Canada, New Zealand, the United States and many European countries. The report says women in the developed world, discriminated against in the work place, need more education to compete professionally.



A striking postal worker waves a placard showing a cartoon of Prime Minister Alain Juppe attacked by various public services, during a demonstration in Caen, Normandy, France. Striking public workers took to the streets en masse on the 19th day of a crippling strike, but they fell far short of the 2 million people they hoped would force the government to withdraw austerity measures. **(AP Photo)**

Passengers hurt as plane encounters turbulence

LAS PALMAS, Canary Islands (AP) - Some 30 airplane passengers were treated in a hospital here Tuesday after suffering injuries when a Venezuelan plane hit a turbulent patch over the Atlantic, forcing it to make an unscheduled landing in this Spanish Canary Island.

The Viasa DC-10 plane was carrying 154 passengers from Caracas to Rome when the incident occurred shortly after 2 a.m. (0100 GMT), said Julio Bernadez, a spokesman for Gran Canary island airport.

Some 30 people were treated for light injuries on landing in Gran Canaria island. Most of those injured are believed to be Italian.

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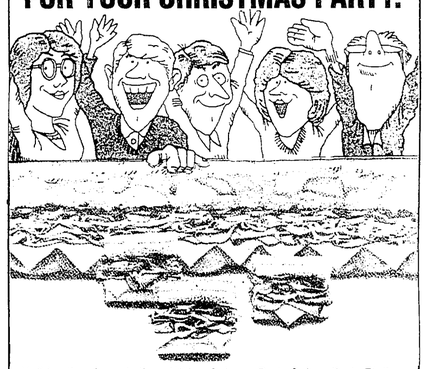

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Belfast killing attributed to IRA

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) - Assassins struck for the second straight night in Belfast on Tuesday, killing a Roman Catholic man as he walked from his car to his front door.

No group claimed responsibility for slaying Chris Johnston, 38. But it adds pressure to a Northern Ireland peace process already weighed down with suspicions.

The organized behavior of the killers - showing local knowledge of the Catholic turf, killing point-blank and making easy escapes - and the fact that both victims were accused of dealing drugs pointed to Irish Republican Army involvement.

In the first killing Monday night, Francis "Fra'' Collins was shot several times in his fast-food shop beside his wife, Ann, who was not injured.

A phone caller calling himself spokesman for "Direct Action Against Drugs'' claimed responsibility for that killing. Police said this was a likely cover name to mask the IRA's violation of its 15-month-old cease-fire, which supposedly includes a ban on using firearms.

Local witnesses said Collins' killers shouted "Up the IRA!" as they fled into the Catholic New Lodge Road neighborhood of north Belfast.

Collins, 40, had been imprisoned for IRA offenses in the early 1980s but police said he ran criminal rackets after being paroled. Some locals connected him to drug dealing, though his wife denied this.

Tuesday night's victim, Johnston, was out on bail after being charged with selling drugs. He had just stepped from his car in front of his house when gunmen, who had held his family hostage inside while waiting for him to arrive, shot him several times.

His isolated Catholic neighborhood in south-central Belfast is sandwiched between two predominantly Protestant districts. Until last year it was victimized by "loyalist'' gunmen from the Protestant areas, who called their own truce in mid-October 1994, six weeks after the IRA's cease-fire.

Stunned locals discounted the possibility that loyalists killed Johnston.

"The `provies' done this. He must've done something to displease them,'' said a Lower Ormeau neighbor, too frightened to let her name be used. "Provies'' is street slang for the IRA, taken from its full name, the "Provisional'' Irish Republican Army.

"It's very distressing. I thought we'd left all this behind us," said an ashen-faced Alasdair McDonnell, Belfast's first Catholic deputy lord mayor and a local doctor.

McDonnell arrived at the scene of Tuesday's shooting, which is nearby his medical practice, to find the man already dead in the street.

Before this week, three Catholic drug dealers had already been shot dead in Belfast this year. The last two were named on an alleged IRA "hit list'' of the city's top dozen dealers.

The latest killings followed four days of fact-finding by an American-led commission tasked with recommending an acceptable way to disarm Northern Ireland's rival paramilitary groups.

Britain says disarmament must begin as a trust-building measure before the extremists' political representatives can join negotiations.

The demand has stalled peace-making efforts because neither side's paramilitaries are willing to give up guns as the price for talks.

The IRA stopped its 24-year campaign against British rule on Sept. 1, 1994. It called its cease-fire "a complete cessation of military operations.''

In practice, this carefully crafted phrase has meant stopping bomb attacks and assassination bids on British soldiers, police or pro-British Protestant figures, but does not prevent attacks on its opponents within its own Catholic power bases. Those involved in drug dealing have been popular targets.

Tom Valent, second from left, inspects a line-up of British Santas as his wife Holly, left, looks on in central London Wednesday Dec. 13, 1995. The couple, who run their own Santa school at home, were invited to Britain by High Street catalogue chain Index, which felt children were being short-changed by shoddy Santa, wearing trainers and forgetting reindeers' names. **(AP Photo)**

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO. 0018

The Department of Public Health is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from licensed and qualified proposers for the provision of providing comprehensive pharmaceutical services at the Commonwealth Health Center. Services are to include, but not limited to, prescription medications, over-the-counter drugs, medical supplies, as well as diatetic supplies.

Interested proposers may obtain copies of the RFP specifications and other necessary details at the office of the Director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan MP 96950.

A pre-proposers conference and site visit will be held at 9:00 A.M. on December 19, 1995 in the Continuing Education (CE) conference room at the Commonwealth Health Center. All interested businesses or individuals are encouraged to attend this meeting. Each interested party, however, is requested to send no more than two representatives to the conference.

Proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelop marked with the appropriate RFP number to the director, Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than January 15, 1996 at 1:00 PM. To facilitate the evaluation process proposers are requested to submit at least seven (7) copies of the proposal.

The CNMI Government reserve the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason, and waive any defect in said proposals, to negotiate with all qualified proposers, or to cancel in whole or in part of the RFP, if determined by the CNMI Government to be in its best interest.

/s/Dr. Isamu J. Abraham
Secretary of Health

/s/ Edward B. Palacios
Director, Procurement & Supply

US study reports findings:

Caffeine hampers conception

By TODD SPANGLER

BALTIMORE (AP) - Nonsmoking women trying to get pregnant may be able to improve their chances by cutting back on the coffee, a study suggests.

The Johns Hopkins University study found that women who consume more than 300 milligrams of caffeine a day - roughly three cups of coffee or eight sodas - reduce their monthly chance of conception by 26 percent.

No effect was seen in women consuming less than 300 milligrams.

"On average, a couple has a 20 percent chance of getting a viable pregnancy each month,'' said Dr. Ronald Gray, one of the researchers at the Johns Hopkins School of Public Health. "The high caffeine drinkers would reduce that by a quarter. It would be around 15 percent.''

The study was published in the latest issue of the American Journal of Epidemiology.

Several previous studies also have indicated a link between caffeine and lower fertility.

Pregnant women already are warned to avoid or cut back on caffeine because there is some biological evidence that caffeine disrupts the menstrual cycle and may lead to early pregnancy loss.

A cup of coffee contains about 100 milligrams of caffeine, a cup of tea 50 milligrams, and a can of some kinds of soda 40 milligrams.

The study used data from interviews with 1,430 women conducted in 1989 and 1990, involving more than 2,000 pregnancies that occurred between 1980 and 1990.

About 8 percent of the women who neither smoked nor consumed large amounts of caffeine took a year or more to conceive, compared with 19 percent of women who consumed more than 300 milligrams of caffeine a day, the study found.

Regardless of the amount of caffeine they took in each day, smokers were found to be 15 percent to 20 percent less likely to become pregnant in a given month than nonsmokers.

"Women who smoked did experience delayed conception, but the delay was not increased by caffeine consumption,'' said Cynthia Stanton, a doctoral candidate and lead author of the study.

It is believed that smoking increases how quickly caffeine is metabolized, which may decrease its effects.

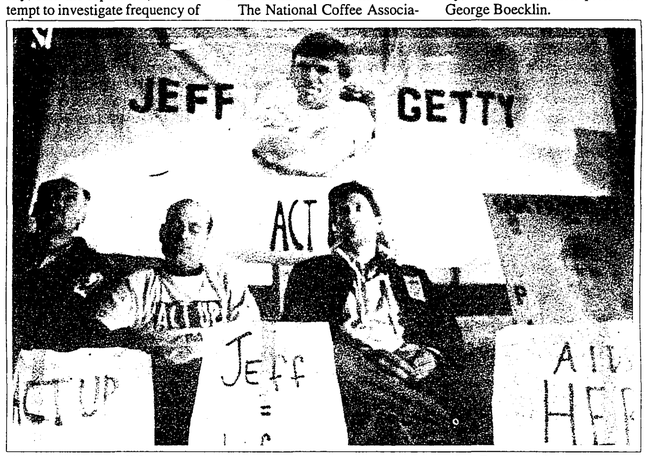
Some fertility specialists said they did not think women trying to get pregnant should change their caffeine habits based on the study's findings.

Dr. Mona Shangold, professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the Medical College of Pennsylvania and Hahnemann University, said the report made no attempt to investigate frequency of intercourse nor the health and habits of the men involved in the pregnancy attempts.

"I don't think women who are trying to get pregnant should be advised to avoid caffeine on the basis of this article," she said.

The National Coffee Association also said the study should not cause concern.

"Previous studies have shown that women who consume up to 700 milligrams of caffeine a day do not experience delayed fertility,'' said association president George Boecklin.



While their friend Jeff Getty undergoes a baboon bone marrow transplant at San Francisco General Hospital, members of Act Up Golden Gate Dave Mahon, left, Dean Knutson, center, and Michael Lauro hold a quiet candlelight vigil for him outside the hospital Thursday. After fighting regulatory obstacles for nearly two years, Getty, who is HIV positive, is getting the first across-species bone marrow transplant in history. For reasons still unclear, baboons do not become sick when infected with HIV. (AP Photo)

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Division of Public Lands requests all homestead applicants of 1990 whose names are shown below to report to the Homestead Office by December 27, 1995. The purpose of this request is to update your application for the lottery for Kagman III (Phase IV) homestead subdivision.

Adolfo, Doris Fitipol
Agulto, Jesus Reyes
Aldan, Vicente Matagolai
Aquino, Daniel Iwashita
Arriola, Ana Cruz
Benavente, Vicente Attao/
Benavente, Sophia Lizama
Bermudes, Carmen Mendiola
Cabrera, Joseph R. Dela Cruz
Cabrera, Maryann Camacho
Cabrera, Richard B./
DLGuerrero, Lucia A.
Camacho, Cathryn Babauta
Camacho, Dwayne Mendiola
Carbullido, Arlene Deleon Guerrero
Celis, Juan D. Taimanao/
Rita Sablan
Cepeda, Dolores G.
Cepeda, Teresa Sablan
Cepeda, Vicente Leon Guerrero
Chargualaf, Daniel N.
Cruz, Henry Sablan/
Camacho, Lucy Ann Marie
Demapan, Luis Peter Rdiall
Ermitanio, Jolanda Cabrera
Hernandez, Francisca Oronigo
Hocog, Donald Ayuyu
Hocog, Juan Torres
Hocog, Nina Ogo
Igisaiar, Alex U./
Kapileo, Rosalia
Igisaiar, Vincent Angui
Iguel, Ermias M./
Iguel, Dionicia Ogarto
Iguel, Lydia Mettao
Ilo, Roseline Gioda
Johnson, Dorsha Renay Blanco
Kani, Celina Pua
Kapileo, Carmen Omar
Kapileo, Erna Marina Ilo
Kapileo, Immaculada I.
Kapileo, Oscar Antonio
Keene, Rose Leon Guerrero
Kileleman, MaryAnn Peter
King John C./
Agulto, Gloria A.
Navaro, Vivian Taitano
Ogo, Rosa Lizama
Ogumoro, Theresa Taman
Pangelinan, James Rangamar
Pangelinan, Maria Luisa M.
Phillip, Thelma Kani
Quitugua, Joe Ilisari
Ramirez, Daisy Guzman
Roligat, Daniel Itibus
Romolor, Pedro Litulumar
Sablan, Ana Camacho
Sablan, Herbert Tudela
Sablan, Joseph John Santos
Sablan, Viola Reyes
Salas, Jerry Sablan
Sanchez, Juan Sablan
Santos, Pedro Esteves
Saures, Gabriel Matagolai
Sizemore, Ann Margaret Sonoda
Taitano, Carmen Chargualaf
Tenorio, Frankie Reyes

Business/Finance

Businesses reel from shutdown

By KEVIN GALVIN

WASHINGTON (AP) - The partial U.S. government shutdown is squeezing businesses large and small, irking shop owners and thinning the usual crowds at lunch counters near federal offices.

Some of the nation's largest corporations took out a two-page newspaper advertisement Tuesday urging an end to "political gridlock." Business owners near federal buildings lamented the loss of workers' patronage before the holidays.

"It's not good for business," said Ed Lyons, manager of My Brother's Place, a bar and restaurant near the Labor Department. Lyons closed the upstairs dining room and estimated receipts were off by a third.

Government contractors felt the pinch, too.

"Treated like a dog. Literally. Just treated like a dog," was how Garner Hanson said he felt when his company was ordered to close the hotels, restaurants and concessions it runs at Mammoth Cave National Park in Kentucky and Big Bend National Park in Texas. "It's just not right for our company, and it's just not right for the public. They are using us as pawns."

The week before Christmas is traditionally slow for Washington's hotel and travel industry, but the shutdown made things worse, said Marie Tibor, vice president of the Washington Convention and Visitors Association. Layoffs were reported at several hotels.

"When visitors are unable to see major attractions, whether it's the Air and Space Museum or it's the Statue of Liberty, they're not going to be dropping dollars into the hotels and restaurants and souvenir shops that eventually wind their way into the local economy," Tibor said.

In an advertisement published the day after the budget impasse spurred a 101-point drop in the stock market, business leaders urged President Clinton and Congress to balance the federal budget.

"Without a balanced budget, the party's over. No matter which party you're in," said the ad, which was labeled a bipartisan appeal.

The message was signed by the heads of 91 companies, including IBM Corp., Xerox Corp., Exxon Corp., and Johnson and Johnson.

"We believe that the recent decline in long-term interest rates and much of the boom in the stock market is directly predicated on the financial markets' expectation that a successful bipartisan budget-balancing compromise will be reached quickly," the business leaders wrote.

The market on Tuesday regained one-third of the previous day's losses after the Federal Reserve cut interest rates and President Clinton sought to calm financiers, saying the budget debate is over how to balance the budget _ not whether to eliminate the red ink.

"If the markets are worried about whether the deficit is going to keep coming down, they should forget about that," Clinton said. "The deficit's going to keep coming down regardless."

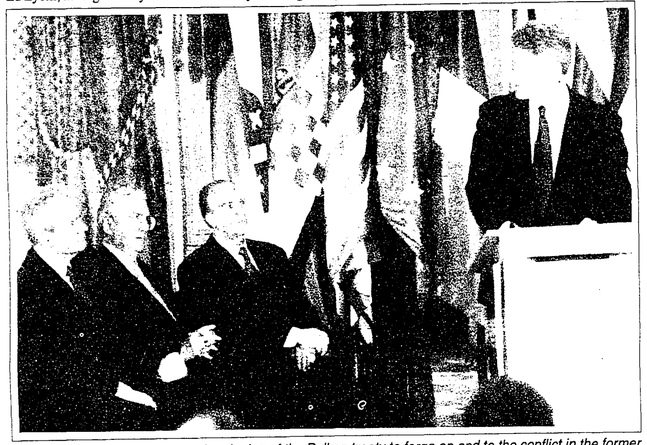
Meanwhile, small businesses could only wait and hope for the 260,000 furloughed federal workers to return.

What rankled most was that federal workers probably will receive back pay for the days they are furloughed while these private entrepreneurs have lost the business forever.

"I'll never be compensated for it," said Joe Burke, who shines shoes at the Old Post Office. "This is stupid."

Lyons over at My Brother's Place agreed.

"A government that's deeply in debt is furloughing its workers, paying them anyway, and then probably paying them overtime to get back up to speed," he said. "It doesn't make any sense. It doesn't seem to be helping anybody."



President Clinton, speaks after the signing of the Balkan treaty to forge an end to the conflict in the former Yugoslavia, at the Elysee Palace in Paris, Thursday. Seated listening from left are the Balkan President Slobodan Milosevic of Serbia, Franjo Tudjman of Croatia and Alija Izetbegovic of Bosnia. (AP Photo)

Internet MBA degree mulled by university

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) - Thai business students will soon become the first in Asia to study for a master's degree via the Internet, a news report said Wednesday.

Bangkok's Assumption University has joined up with several American colleges to use the Internet, a global network linking computers and data bases, to teach courses for a master's degree in business administration (MBA).

The university plans to launch the program in March, reaching hundreds of students who would otherwise miss out on an MBA due to Assumption's shortage of classrooms, the Bangkok Post daily reported. KSC Commercial Internet, a company affiliated with the school, will manage the computerized courses.

Srisakdi Charmonman, the firm's chairman, was quoted as estimating that the university's MBA enrollment could expand 10-fold as a result. Assumption now has about 60 MBA students.

Srisakdi and his colleagues could not be reached for immediate comment. The paper did not say which U.S. universities were involved. Thailand, which has one of Asia's fastest growing economies, faces a shortage of qualified business managers, and increasing numbers of Thai university students are pursuing MBA degrees.

Marianas Variety Marianas Variety Marianas Variety

IMPORTANT NOTICE

The Marianas Variety News & Views

will not be published on December 25 and 26, 1995 and also on January 1 and 2, 1996 to allow the YAS Staff to take their holiday breaks.

Happy Holidays to all

from the YAS Staff & Management

Marianas Variety Marianas Variety Marianas Variety

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Business briefs from Asia-Pacific

MANILA

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - The Asian Development Bank approved on Tuesday a $18.5 million loan for a cement company in Bangladesh. The bank also will invest $4 million in the Islam Cement Ltd. to build a new cement plant with an annual production capacity of 600,000 tons of portland cement.

The plant, which would be the largest and most modern in the country, will be located in Chhatak in the district of Sylhet. It would utilize modern, energy-efficient dry process.

It will reduce Bangladesh's dependence on imported cement, which accounts for about 80 percent of its requirements. The new plant will produce 400 regular jobs and 1,000 indirect jobs.

The loan is payable in 10 years, including a three-year grace period.

BEIJING

BEIJING (AP) - The Jingtang port office of Tangshan city in north China's Hebei province and a group from the United Arab Emirates have entered into a $22.4-million joint venture in China, the Xinhua News Agency reported Tuesday.

The company formed through the agreement, Tangshan International Petroleum Gas Co. Ltd., will build a 10,000-ton berth for petroleum gas transportation at Jingtang port as well as a 20,000-ton gas tank and supplementary storage facilities, it said.

The unidentified UAE trade group contributed $18 million to the joint venture, while Jingtang supplied the remaining $4.4 million, said Xinhua.

BANGKOK

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) - The publisher of the Bangkok Post, Thailand's oldest English-language daily, said Tuesday it plans to sell it's majority share in its sister Thai language daily, the Siam Post.

Post Publishing PCL, listed on the Stock Exchange of Thailand, will sell its holding in Siam Post Co. to unlisted Tridhos Three-Generation Co. for 95,000 baht ($ 3,800), according to a filing submitted to the exchange by the publisher.

Tridhos Three-Generation Co. is owned by Tridhosyuth Devakul, who is also a director of Post Publishing.

Post Publishing wants to sell out its holding in Siam Post to reduce debt burden, the filing said.

Under the transaction, Post Publishing is required to continue providing printing and distribution services including promotion and classified advertisement services for the Siam Post if the new owner requires it. In return, Post Publishing will have the option to buy back up to 45 percent of Siam Post shares within five years.

SHANGHAI

SHANGHAI (AP) _ Germany's Barmag AG signed a joint venture agreement, valued at $6.5 million, with textile machinery producer Shanghai Erfangji Co. Tuesday to manufacture fiber spinning machines, company officials said at a signing ceremony in Shanghai.

Erfangji will take a 49 percent stake in the venture by providing facilities and equipment, while Barmag will hold 51 percent of the new company through a capital investment, said Erfangji board chairman Zhang Keqing.

The new venture, Shanghai Barmag Machinery Co. Ltd. is expected to achieve sales of 250 million yuan ($30 million) on production of 10 fiber spinning lines in 1996, Zhang said.

Production and sales revenue figures for the venture are then expected to double each year to yield sales of 1 billion yuan ($120 million) on production of 40 lines in 1998, Zhang said. The fiber spinning lines are expected to yield a return of 5 percent to 6 percent, he said.

Total investment in the project is low because Erfangji has obtained advanced technology and equipment through its ongoing partnership with Barmag dating back to 1984, Zhang said.

MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) - BHP Co. Ltd.'s steel expansion continued Tuesday as it announced plans to set up three new rollforming plants in India at a cost of some U.S. $17.25 million (23 million Australian dollars).

The 5,000-ton-a-year plants, which are planned for Delhi, Madras and Bombay, will manufacture a variety of products for local construction markets.

BHP Steel chief executive Ron McNeilly said the investment brought a new dimension to the group's multi-domestic growth strategy.

"It is a tremendous opportunity to participate in India, by combining BHP's experience in coated flat products manufacture and marketing with the rapidly growing construction and infrastructure markets in India," he said.

BHP said it was the first foreign steel company to be granted a licence to operate a wholly subsidiary in India.

MELBOURNE

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) - Japan's Kobe Steel and Aluminum Co. of America have won the race to buy Comalco Ltd.'s rolled products business in a U.S. $67.5 million (90 million Australian dollars) deal that all but completes the aluminium group's exit from the downstream sector.

Comalco announced Tuesday it had struck agreement to sell the business to KSL Alcoa Aluminum Co., an equal joint venture set up by Kobe Steel and Alcoa four years ago to pursue international opportunities in aluminium.

Terms were not disclosed, but the sale is expected to realize $ 67.5 million (90 million Australian dollars).

Dollar, stocks both see rise

TOKYO (AP) - Tokyo stock prices surged Wednesday, boosted by a rebound in U.S. equities and a Japanese rescue plan for debt-ridden housing loan firms. The dollar was higher against the yen.

The U.S. Federal Reserve Bank's decision Tuesday to cut its short-term interest rates by 0.25 percentage points to 5.50 percent also encouraged buying, traders said.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average shot up 308.10 points, or 1.61 percent, ending the day at 19,448.59.

On Tuesday, the average shed 170.59 points, or 0.88 percent.

The Tokyo Stock Price Index of all issues listed on the exchange's first section was up 24.86 points, or 1.63 percent, to 1,544.98. The TOPIX slipped 11.54 points, or 0.75 percent, the day before.

Under the plan announced Tuesday, the Japanese government decided to spend 680 billion yen ($6.8 billion) in public money to bail out seven bankrupt housing loan firms.

The bad debt problem at the mortgage companies, along with the larger problem of bad debts held by banks, has been one of the major negative factors discouraging investors in Japan.

Prices were higher across the board, from high technology issues to steelmakers to bank shares. Foreign investors were the major buying force Wednesday morning, said Tomoatsu Yamamuro, a Yamaichi Securities trader.

PUBLIC NOTICE

(12/12/95)

SUMMER JOB

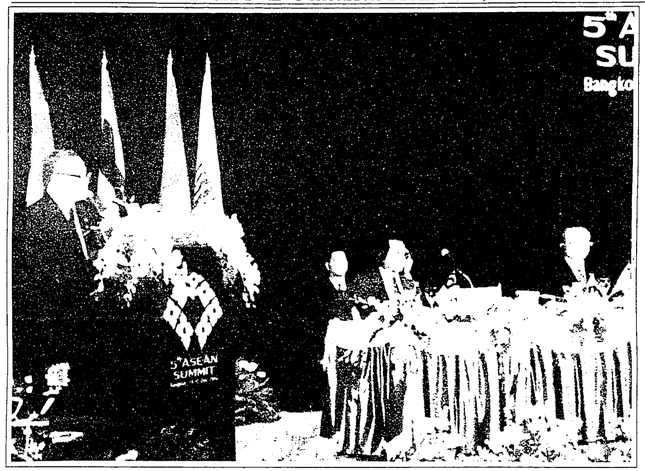
This is to inform all High School students that the **CNMI JTPA OFFICE** is soliciting one hundred (100) applicants for the youth vacation employment training program. Specifically, priority consideration will be accorded to those students below the poverty income guideline (economically disadvantaged). However, depending on the availability of local funding, the program may accommodate those students who are considered not economically disadvantaged.

Deadline for submission is **Friday, December 22, 1995.** No application will be accepted after the established date.

All students on **BLUE TRACK** are encouraged to visit the JTPA Office located directly across CUC, or contact Mrs. Laurent Chong or Mr. Martin Pangelinan at 664-1700/1701 For more information.

Respectfully,

/s/ Felix Nogis
JTPA Executive Director



The Prime Minister of Thailand Banharn Silp-Archa addresses the heads of state of open the 5th ASEAN Summit Thursday, in Bangkok. Also shown are Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, center, and Philippines President Fidel Ramos, right. (AP Photo)

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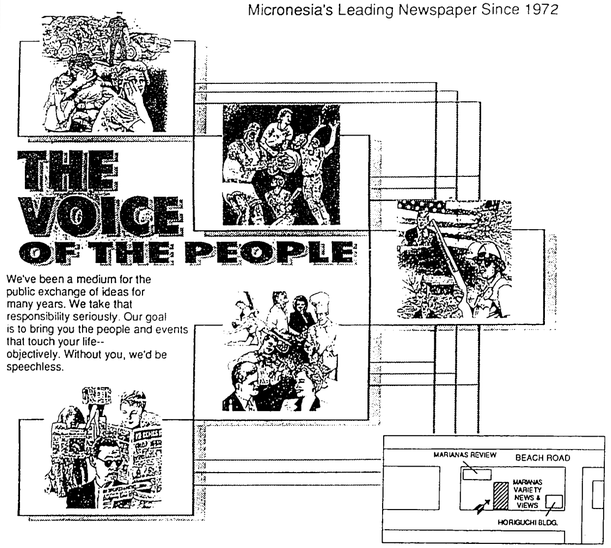

Women tired of war, come out behind men

By BETH DUFF-BROWN

KENEMA, Sierra Leone (AP) - The young woman who already looks middle-aged bends at the waist, hacking at potato leaves with a machete, two babies strapped to her, one at each breast.

Over in the shade, under a tree at the refugee camp, men sit drinking corn whiskey, playing cards and gossiping.

The scene is typical for rural Africa: While the women do the back-breaking work in the fields, the men argue village politics over a game of cards and a calabash of palm wine.

And in this West African nation, while the men kill one another, the women watch their babies die.

"In our culture, the women are always behind the men, everything the men say is fact," said Mary Swara, a public health nurse at a squatter camp outside this southern city that houses 22,000 refugees from the civil war.

A colleague, Mary Musa, added, "Well, we want to be out there in front now because we know our right from our left."

The two women are members of the Women's Movement for Peace, one of several Leonian women's groups gaining recognition in West Africa for demanding a voice in how society is run.

The 5-year-old war between the military government and rebels who claim the regime is corrupt has hit women hard. Most of the 10,000 people killed have been women and their children. As are most of the 1.5 million people who have fled their homes to escape the fighting.

The war compounds an already dismal life for women in a nation the United Nations ranks as the world's second poorest: 90 percent are illiterate; 90 percent of Muslim girls undergo female circumcision; female life expectancy is 45 years; the maternal mortality rate is 640 per 100,000 live births, one of the highest in the world.

While Leonian men mostly work in trades, such as tailors and blacksmiths, Leonian women make up 80 percent of the agricultural work force and 83 percent of the small retail trade - yet they cannot buy land or take out loans unless a husband cosigns.

"The entire continent has always believed that women are second place and up until now the women in Africa have accepted this role," said Miatta Koroma, director of culture for the military government. "We are many years behind other cultures."

Women's groups are campaigning for stiffer laws and punishments for domestic violence and rape. They want property and inheritance rights for women. They seek better education opportunities for girls.

But most of all they want the men to end the war.

"When women saw that their children were being killed, their daughters being raped, they saw they were being cornered and this seems to have gathered all their energy to stand up and say, "Enough is enough," said Hadjia Alari Cole, a school principal and head of the Federation of Muslim Women's Associations.

Grass-roots women's groups are sprouting up nationwide, and women are mobilizing at refugee camps to form farming and health cooperatives.

Groups are distributing pamphlets encouraging girls not to marry young, and a group of college women is trying to put together a network to offer family planning advice.

"This country will never be the same again for women," said Zainab Hawa Bangura, an insurance executive and president of the Women's Organization for a Morally Enlightened Nation. "People have lost confidence in the political class, so it's the time for women to step in."

Her group puts on workshops to promote the role of women in business, encourages women to enter politics and stages peace marches.

Most people in Sierra Leone are Muslim, as is Alari Cole. She created a television and radio program broadcast every Friday night to discuss the tenets of the Koran, Islam's holy book - through a woman's eyes. "The men handed out what they wanted the women to know and usually it was not in their best interest," said Cole, who attended the U.N. women's conference in Beijing this year. "What we are trying to do is let people know the truth so they can make their own choices. The men don't like it one bit."

The women are quick to add, however, that they like the men.

"In the West, when all of these women's movements started, they thought there would be a global sisterhood," said Nana Pratt, a chemistry professor and president of the National Organization for Women. "That was just a myth. We are all oppressed by men; but in the south, we still want our men. We just want to be side by side -not in front."

Western women could learn much from Africans about keeping their families together, the Leonian activists say.

"Babies sleeping alone in a room, that is unthinkable here," exclaimed Koroma, shaking her head. "And your old-folks homes, all those old people alone, waiting to die."

Down the street at Vine Memorial public high school, the girls know they are lucky to have made it this far, as most girls drop out after primary school.

"Some say school is not the place for girls," said 12-year-old Umu Comber. "They think if we girls learn things we will go into the street and get into trouble."

When the class of 25 sophomore girls is asked how many want to be nurses or teachers, all their hands shoot up.

One girl timidly says she wants to be a lawyer, like her father. Her classmates roll their eyes and many of them murmur, "Good luck."

Study: Drug prevents strokes

By BRENDA C. COLEMAN

CHICAGO (AP) -The blood thinner warfarin is more cost-effective and works better than aspirin in preventing strokes for most patients, researchers say.

Warfarin costs 80 times more than aspirin, but the study found the drug, also marketed as Coumadin, saves money because it prevents more strokes and averts the associated costs of hospitalization and rehabilitation. The drug is prescribed for about half of the 2 million Americans with atrial fibrillation, a disturbance in the heart rhythm that increases the risk of a blood clot breaking free. Warfarin reduces the blood's ability to clot, and therefore the risk of a stroke.

The study, published in Wednesday's issue of The Journal of the American Medical Association, bolsters earlier research this year that suggested warfarin is a safe drug that could prevent thousands of strokes.

The U.S. government says 40,000 strokes a year could be prevented if treatment were universal.

Warfarin costs about $800 a year, including lab tests to monitor patients who take it, compared with $10 a year for aspirin, said the lead researcher, Dr. Brian Gage, assistant professor of medicine at Washington University School of Medicine in St. Louis. The cost of the first year of treatment after a stroke is about $25,000.

Many physicians have been hesitant to prescribe warfarin because the drug can cause bleeding, from simple nosebleeds to massive internal hemorrhaging, and patients must be closely monitored. But recent research indicates the drug is safer than previously believed.

The study found that over 10 years, warfarin saved an average of $ 6,200 for each high-risk patient in costs from stroke.

High-risk patients were defined as those with atrial fibrillation plus two or more risk factors for stroke, including high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease and previous strokes.

For medium-risk patients - those with atrial fibrillation plus one other risk factor - warfarin still is cost-effective.

But in patients with atrial fibrillation and no risk factors for stroke, the cost of warfarin therapy is unacceptably high. Such patients number only about 100,000, Gage estimated.

For them, "it's a complete waste of money" up to about age 75, he said. After that, the risk of stroke increases, and so the drug should be used.

Dr. Philip A. Wolf, a neurology professor at Boston University School of Medicine and principal investigator in the Framingham Heart Study, said he did not doubt the study's cost estimates. But he said he favors using warfarin in low-risk patients over 65.

Smokeless tobacco brands said highest in nicotine, carcinogens

By PAUL RECER

WASHINGTON (AP) -Of the five best-selling brands of smokeless tobacco, the most popular have the highest content of nicotine and cancer-causing chemicals, researchers say.

A study to be published on Wednesday in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute said that Copenhagen, Skoal fine cut and Kodiak had "statistically significant higher levels of nicotine" than did Hawken and Skoal Bandits, the fourth and fifth most popular brands. Copenhagen, Skoal fine cut and Kodiak account for 92 percent of the U.S. snuff market. Hawken and Skoal Bandits account for 3 percent.

"These data and the sales figures support the concept that the product design may be aimed at creating and maintaining nicotine dependence," the study said. The researchers said other studies suggest that "snuff dippers initially use brands with low nicotine dosage and then switch to brands with high nicotine dosage."

Brands with high nicotine, the researchers report, also have the highest levels of tobacco-specific N-nitrosamines (TSNAs), which have been shown in a number of laboratory studies to be powerful cancer-causing chemicals.

The industry disagreed.

Alan Hilburg of the Smokeless Tobacco Council said the methods of the study "were suspect" and that the results consisted of "nothing new" and "a lot of data that they've repackaged."

Hilburg also said of snuff: "It has not been scientifically established to cause any adverse health effect."

TSNAs, he said, "have not been found to cause disease in humans."

The study, led by researchers at the American Health Foundation in Valhalla, New York found that Copenhagen, Skoal fine cut and Kodiak had 10,9 to 12 milligrams of nicotine per gram of snuff. The products also had an acidity reading of 7.46 to 8.19. Higher pH readings are thought to enhance the absorption of nicotine, the study said.

Hawken had 3.2 milligrams of nicotine and Skoal Bandits had 10.1 milligrams of nicotine. But both of these snuffs had pH readings of 5.37 to 5.71.

The researchers said snuff dippers may be exposed to more carcinogenic nitrosamines than a one-pack-a-day cigarette smoker.

In TSNAs, Copenhagen was found to have a mean of 17.24 micrograms per gram. The same readings were 14.90 for Skoal, fine cut, and 10.96 for Kodiak. The TSNAs mean for Skoal Bandits was 8.19 and for Hawken it was 4.08.

In an editorial in the journal, Dr. Scott L. Tomar of the Centers for Disease Control and Dr. Jack E. Henningfield of the National Institutes of Health said that there is a strong association between smokeless tobacco and cancers of the mouth and throat. The authors said that the U.S. Surgeon General and the International Agency for Research on Cancer concluded more than a decade ago that smokeless tobacco products "are a cause of cancer in humans."

FIRST ANNIVERSARY ROSARY

We the family of the late
ROMANA VILLAGOMEZ TUDELA
would like to invite all of our relatives and friends to join us for the first anniversary rosary of our beloved one.
Nightly rosary will be held at the residence of Mr. Alejandro C. Tudela in Papago beginning on December 25, 1995.
On the final day, Tuesday January 2, 1996, the mass will be offered at 4:00 p.m. at Garapan Church.
Dinner will follow immediately at the residence of Mr. Alejandro C. Tudela.
Your presence and your prayers is greatly appreciated.

Kindly join us.
The Family

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

CHRISTINA TERRY TAITANO

also known as **"Chris Ton Agaga"** Born: June 26, 1958

was called to her eternal rest on Thursday, December 14, 1995 at the age of 37.

Her peaceful spirit and memories will live in the hearts of her:

HUSBAND : Antonio T. Taitano **CHILDREN** : Christopher Anthony, Antonette Christine, John Alan Lee, Antonio Jr, Lincoln Abraham

BROTHER / SISTERS / SPOUSES / NEPHEWS & NIECES

Kutelia / Apunto Terry	(Kanta, Alpina, Anthony, Alipio, Alpino, Aleper, Alpet, Alper, Achina)
Kasian / Deborah Terry	(Terence, Glavera, Terek, Damian, Gideon, Terian, Dickson)
Kosime / Keret Terry	(Kayleen, Kereta, Kaslo, Presenta)
Atoliph / Julie Terry	(Justin, Aterina, Tonorio, AJ)
Bermanis / Terry Terry	(Lyn, Auli)
Evilina / Hilario Saladier	(Alimita, Iowan, Joshua, Alinta, Isao, Alimpa, Alvina)
Kasio / Ursula Terry	(Kurtis, Isabela)

BROTHERS / SISTERS-IN LAW / NEPHEWS / NIECES

Leon (deceased) Ogarto & Hannah	(Noah, Primo, Magin, Lensie, Felicida, Juan)
Trinle Berdon & Nick	(Gale Marie)
Lovin T. Ogarto	(Elaine, Erica. Kito)
Dorothy T. Tulop	(Joey, Gilbert, Daria)
Pat Rabauliman & Bill	(Patrick Wayne, Billie Jean)
John Taitano & Blbang	(Noel, Geovani, Perdita, Juan Jr, Jonathan)
Pete Taitano & Bing	(Ofero, Anthony Jessie)
Trish Hickson & Rey	

AUNTIES/UNCLES/SPOUSES:

Lucio / Anita Terry, Nasaria / Sidro Mwarike, Kalista / Luciano Terry, Ioko / Dimas Umwech, Tatasy / Eliena Terry, Aliwis / Richew Kiaol, Tiberio / Sinako Kiaol, Mike / Lucia Kiaol, Damian / Teresa Kiaol.

Rosary is being said nightly at the residence of Mrs. Carmen Teregeyo in China Town from 7:00 p m. in Chuukese and at 8:OO pm in local vernacular. Last respect will be paid on Dec. 21, 1995 from 3:00 p.m. at Teregeyo's residence. Mass of a Christian burial will be offered at 4:00 p.m., December 22, at Kristo Rai Church. Interment will follow at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

PACIFICA FUNERAL SERVICE
235-6516

WHO: Ebola scare is now over

GENEVA (AP) - The Ebola scare in West Africa is over, with all tests on suspected cases proving negative, the World Health Organization said Tuesday.

All those in contact with a Liberian refugee confirmed as having the virus earlier this month have been given the all-clear, said U.N. health agency spokesman Philippe Stroot.

WHO ordered tests on two people who shared a house with the man on the border between Liberia and Ivory Coast on a woman who was hospitalized with an unknown infection and on three others who had contact with the man.

"There is nothing to suggest that there was secondary transmission to anyone else," said Stroot. There were no infections in the Ivory Coast hospital to which the man was taken.

Two reported cases in Angola, in southwestern Africa, had also proved to be false alarms, he said.

News that the Liberian man had Ebola had prompted fears of a possible new outbreak of the hemorrhagic fever.

Ebola killed 245 people in Kikwit, Zaire, earlier this year.

The virus is one of the deadliest known to scientists. It leads to high fever and internal and external bleeding. The most virulent strain, like the one in Kikwit, causes an excruciatingly painful death in around 80 percent of its victims.

However, the Liberia-Ivory Coast strain is less virulent. Neither the man infected earlier this month, nor a Swiss research scientist who caught the virus last year, died.

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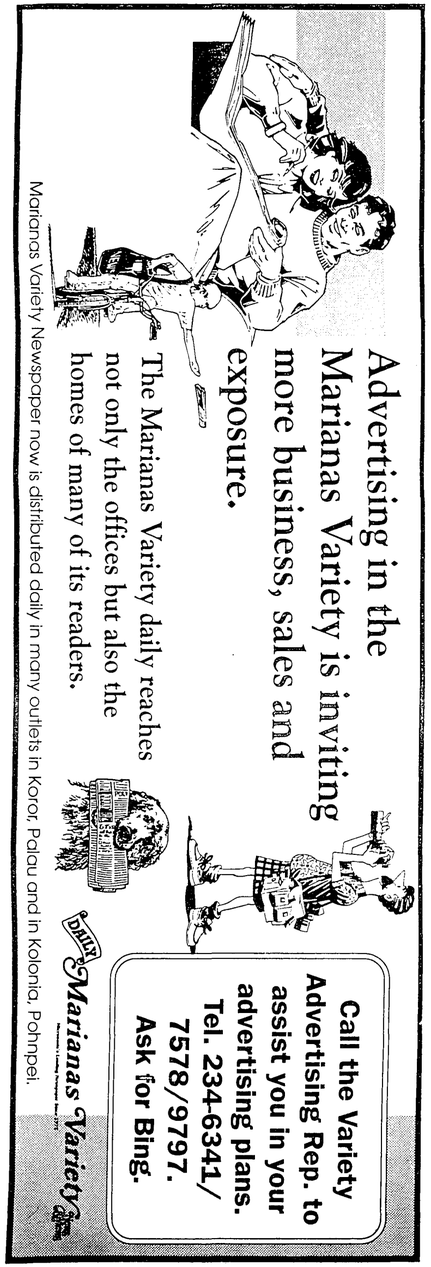

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Tel. 234-6341/ 7578/9797.
Ask for Bing.

Daily Marianas Variety

US state sues tobacco firms for health costs

BOSTON (AP) - Massachusetts became the fifth state to sue the tobacco industry Tuesday in an effort to get reimbursement for the cost of treating smokers' health problems.

The lawsuit charges that the tobacco industry conspired to mislead the public by denying that cigarettes cause cancer and are addictive, and by manipulating the nicotine levels in cigarettes. It seeks more than dlrs 1 billion and demands that the companies release their research on tobacco. Florida, Mississippi, West Virginia and Minnesota are also suing major cigarette makers in similar suits.

Attorney General Scott Harshbarger said the state pays at least $200 million per year to treat Medicaid patients for illnesses attributed to tobacco use.

Philip Morris issued a statement stating that, using the same reasoning, other industries such as "alcoholic beverages, meat (and) automobiles, to name a few ... can be sued for the claimed cost to society from the use of their products."

The lawsuit names the six largest tobacco companies, two tobacco distributors and two trade associations.

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

CIVIL ACTION NO. 95-810

RUFINA REGALADO-VILLAFLOR,
Petitioner
versus
JUANITO VILLAFLOR,
Respondent

SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED RESPONDENT:
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Petition for Divorce of which is given you herewith, within thirty (30) days after service of this Summons upon you.

YOUR ANSWER SHOULD BE IN WRITING and filed with the Clerk of Court, at Saipan, MP 96950 and served upon petitioner's counsel, V.K. Sawhney, Sawhney Law Offices, P.O. Box 7250 SVRB, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, judgement by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court
Superior Court
Commonwealth of the
Northern Mariana Island

Dated this 6th day of September, 1995

British fear of pill led to pregnancies

LONDON (AP) - Concern about newer birth control pills led some women to stop using them and has resulted in at nearly 30 requested abortions in the past week, a clinic said Tuesday.

Government scientists alerted doctors and pharmacists two months ago to findings that seven brands of pills carried twice the usual risk of causing blood clots in leg veins.

The government's Committee on Medicines said three new, unpublished studies show an increased risk of blood clots from the latest pills, which combine estrogen with one of two types of the hormone progesten, desogestrel or gestodene.

The warning, given wide publicity in October, recommended that women should finish their monthly course before switching brands.

Some doctors immediately expressed concern that many unwanted pregnancies would result from women dropping their regular pill before arranging to start a replacement.

British Pregnancy Advisory Service, the country's biggest abortion charity, said Tuesday that nearly 30 women have requested abortions in the past week in connection with the "pill scare."

It was a "small but significant" start to a period in which growing numbers of women are expected to report unplanned pregnancy, the clinic said. The service usually performs about 700 abortions per week nationwide.

Christopher Reeve reads a book with his son, Will, and his wife, Dana, at his home in upstate New York. Reeve left the Kessler Institute in West Orange, N.J., Wednesday after nearly seven months and returned home in time for Christmas. Reeve, 42, was paralyzed from the neck down in a May 27 fall from a horse. (AP Photo)

Daily Marianas Variety News & Views

Classified Ads Section

DEADLINE: 12:00 noon the day prior to publication

NOTE: If some reason your advertisement is incorrect, call us immediately to make the necessary corrections. The Marianas Variety News and Views is responsible only for one incorrect insertion. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time.

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CUC RFP 95-0040
AMENDMENT NO. 2
Privatization Study of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC)
November 17, 1995

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's request for proposals number CUC RFP 95-0040 should be amended as follows:
The deadline for submission of proposals shall be changed to 4:00 p.m., December 22, 1995.
All other information listed the prior notice shall remain in effect.

/s/Timothy P. Villagomez
Executive Director

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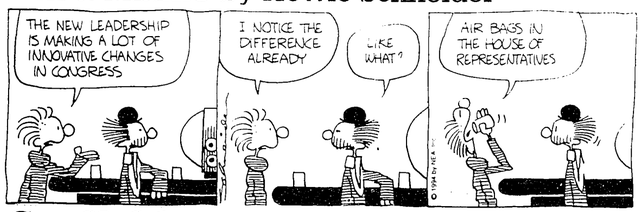

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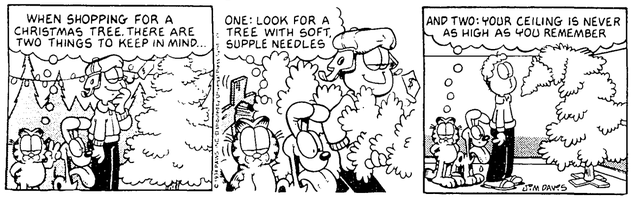

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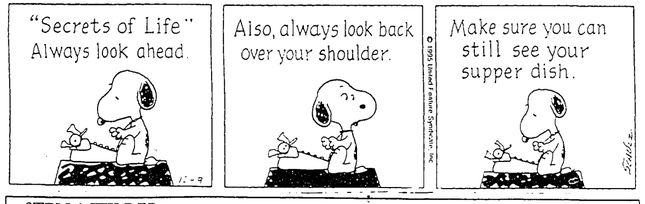

STELLA WILDER

YOUR BIRTHDAY

By Stella Wilder

Born today, you are one of the more thoughtful and generous individuals born under your sign. Your life and work will be dedicated to the betterment of others. You enjoy being in the spotlight, and you have enough personality and charm to capture attention and inspire loyalty among your colleagues. People will feel the need to be near you, and they will benefit from contact with you.

Thoughtful, intelligent and eager to learn, you will make a great teacher even though you can be quite impatient with those who can't live up to your high standards. When it comes to love, you sometimes have very unusual tastes and preferences.

Also born on this date are: Benjamin Disraeli, former British prime minister; James Parkinson, physician; Joseph Stalin, Soviet dictator; Phil Donahue, talk show host; Chris Evert, tennis player; Florence Griffith Joyner, athlete; Andy Van Slyke, baseball player; Paul Winchell, ventriloquist; Frank Zappa, singer-songwriter.

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.

FRIDAY, DEC. 22

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Although you may not realize it right away, the cure for what ails you is within reach at this time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — You may find yourself in close quarters with someone who challenges you to be your best. He or she will be a good match for you.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Today, if your task is complex and demands close attention to detail, hurry up and wait will be your motto.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Something in which you've never indulged yourself will become available to you before this day is out. This may be a life-altering moment.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Things may be changing slightly today, but you will not be left in the dark. By the end of the day, your normal routine should be restored.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Now is the time for you to lend your energy to a cause that has been lacking support for some time. With you on board, things will improve.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Do not let time slip by today without taking the opportunity to touch base with the people you depend on for support. Communication is essential.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Your attention to detail will be especially useful today. This ability to see things that others don't may help to defuse a crisis today.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You can share your thoughts and feelings openly with a close friend. Today, that bond will grow even stronger.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — You may feel like you're going nowhere today, but even though you might retrace your steps, you will learn something new each time.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — What you have to offer may fit perfectly with someone else's needs. A perfect working relationship may be formed as a result. Do not use trickery.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — A policy matter may cause a major upset at work today. You have the ability to make sure this crisis is temporary and painless for all involved.

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CLOSERS

Between 1970-91, the number of U.S. people living alone rose from 10.85 million to 23.59 million.

The winners of the most Gold Gloves for fielding excellence since the baseball award was instituted in 1957 are third baseman Brooks Robinson and pitcher Jim Kaat, who each collected 16.

In the past 15 seasons, Brigham Young University has been the Western Athletic Conference football champion or co-champion every year but three.

Massachusetts Democrat John McCormack had the longest continuous tenure of any speaker of the House of Representatives, serving in that capacity from 1962-71. (Henry Clay and Sam Rayburn spent more years as speaker than McCormack, but not continuously.) The distinction of the briefest term as speaker goes to New York Republican Theodore M. Pomeroy, who served just one day in 1869.

According to Nielsen Media Research, the average American watches 9 hours, 23 minutes of prime-time television per week.

Twenty-six states derive their names from American Indian words.

The most efficient way to burn off calories is that good old staple, running. An eight-minute mile uses up an average 14.1 calories per minute in a 150-pound person. The next-best exercises are cross-country skiing (10.8 calories per minute), squash (10.2 calories per minute) and mountain climbing (10 calories per minute).

The U.S. record for the heaviest rainfall in a 24-hour period is held by Alvin, Texas, which, on July 25-26, 1979, was drenched with an estimated 43 inches.

The highest dam in the U.S. is California's Oroville Dam, which on its completion in 1968 stood 754 feet.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 — Rand
4 One (comb. form)
8 Foray
12 Cow sound
13 Remnants
14 Thompson of "Junior"
15 Reptile
17 Mimic
19 Newman ID
20 Existed
21 Golfers' org.
22 Youth org.
23 Spoken
25 Follows cee
26 Compass pt.
27 — of Pigs
28 — -a-tat-tat
29 Frolicsome
32 — Corral
33 Chemistry of brewing
35 Therefore
36 Weird
38 New (pref.)
39 Small amount
40 Lisa Marie's mom (inits.)
41 Prefix with day or night
42 Gaelic
43 Vagrant
45 Chinese pagoda
46 "— to the World"
47 Carney ID
48 Proposition
49 — Canal
52 Hebrew month
54 Actor Busey
56 Lump
57 Transported with delight
58 Biblical name
59 Mao — -tung

DOWN

1 Quantity (abbr.)
2 "— Are There"
3 Oslo, —
4 Gibson and Torme
5 Individual
6 Sometimes used after the number 2
7 Kind of orange
8 Female ruff
9 Early morn
10 Demons
11 Actor Carvey
16 India cymbals
18 Ma's partner
21 Garden flower
22 Wager
23 Woodwind
24 Garden tool
25 Hoover —
26 Vessel's curved planking
28 Deli bread
29 In the past
30 Wife of Osiris
31 Pigeon shed
33 — code
34 Blushing
37 LP speed
39 TV's Gumbel
41 Actress Sinclair
42 Vast age
43 Boxer Max —
44 W. Coast coll.
45 Agave plant
46 Leno and Thomas
48 Sandwich type (abbr.)
49 In favor of
50 Greek letters
51 Lincoln's nickname
53 Above
55 Article

Answer to Previous Puzzle

L	O	S		O	B	O	E	S		A	L	S
E	O	N		T	A	N	D	Y		N	O	S
E	P	O	C	H		S	E	R	I	O	U	S
		W	O	E	S		N	U	M			
I	D	Y	L	L	I	C		P	A	I	N	E
R	E		O	L	E	O	S		S	N	A	G
O	N	A		O	V	O	I	D		E	V	A
N	I	L	E		E	N	T	I	T	L	E	D
S	M	E	L	T		S	E	E	R	E	S	S
			B	A	A		S	T	A	G		
I	D	E	A	L	L	Y		A	P	A	C	E
A	R	K		O	F	O	U	R		N	I	P
N	Y	E		N	A	N	N	Y		T	O	A

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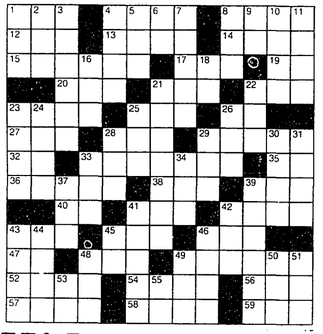

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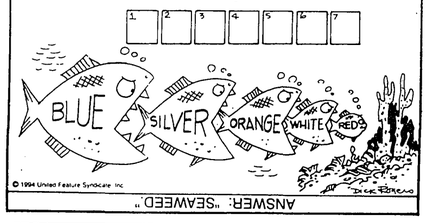
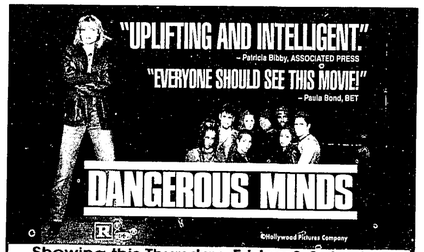
THE SILVER FISH EATS THE ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ FISH.
3
THE ORANGE FISH EATS THE ___ ___ ___ ___ ___ FISH.
4 5
THE WHITE FISH EATS THE ___ ___ FISH.
6 7
WHAT DOES THE RED FISH EAT?



ANSWER: "SEAWEED."



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Tarango says mea culpa for Wibledon outburst

LONDON (AP) — Grand Slam tennis officials finally heard the words they'd been waiting to hear from Jeff Tarango — "I'm sorry."

Nearly six months after storming off court at Wimbledon and calling the umpire "corrupt," Tarango gave up his defiant stand and apologized.

Tuesday's mea culpa — in which Tarango went from tennis rebel to repentant sinner — was enough to warrant a reduction in the penalties against him by the Grand Slam Committee.

The committee lowered Tarango's fines by $ 15,500 and relaxed his two-tournament Grand Slam suspension. While upholding his ban from Wimbledon in 1996, the committee dropped the other suspension on condition he behaves over the next three years.

The decision means Tarango is now eligible to compete in next month's Australian Open, the opening Grand Slam event of 1996.

Tarango, who previously defended his Wimbledon actions as "civil disobedience," apparently felt the loss of earnings caused by the sanctions necessitated an apology.

In what amounted to a plea-bargain agreement, he pleaded guilty in exchange for a lighter penalty.

"We told him: 'If you would unequivocally apologize, then we will give you a break in the fines and suspension,'" said Bill Babcock, the Grand Slam Committee administrator.

"This should close the books," he said. "It's been a tough process. I think we have what is proper: an apology to an official and the game, and no financial hardship for the player. I think it's the right result, and hopefully the final result."

Tarango shocked the tennis world when he stomped out of his third-round match against Alexander Mronz after a dispute with French chair umpire Bruno Rebeuh.

Tarango called Rebeuh "the most corrupt official in the game" and accused him of showing favoritism to certain players in exchange for their friendship.

On top of that, Tarango's French wife, Benedicte, slapped Rebeuh twice in the face.

"I made some public remarks about a tennis official which I sincerely regret," Tarango said in the statement released Tuesday.

"I unequivocally apologize to Mr. Bruno Rebeuh for any embarrassment or harm that this incident may have caused him and his family. I do not intend to make such a mistake ever again.

"I would also like to apologize to the sport itself. My overall conduct in disseminating to the public statements about a professional official and officiating in general, as well as walking off in the middle of a Grand Slam match watched by thousands of spectators, has been damaging to the reputation of the game.

"I now recognize that the entire incident at Wimbledon has discredited the sport which I love and it remains my hope that the matter may be put to rest without further comment."

Knicks. . .

Continued from page 40

and Derek Harper added 11.

Miami, which shot 30 percent, was led by rookie Kurt Thomas with 20 points.

Cavaliers 100, Timberwolves 95

In Cleveland, Terrell Brandon scored a career-high 32 points, and Cleveland rallied in the fourth quarter to beat Minnesota, spoiling Flip Saunders' debut as coach.

Saunders, a two-time CBA coach of the year who grew up near Cleveland, was coaching his first NBA game since replacing the fired Bill Blair. Minnesota was 6-14 under Blair.

Cleveland, which benefited when Minnesota's Doug West inadvertently tipped in one of Brandon's missed shots with 27 seconds left, won its fourth straight game and improved to 12-11, moving above .500 for the first time this season.

The Cavs have gone 12-4 since losing their first seven games of the season.

Pistons 94, Raptors 82

At Toronto, Grant Hill scored 26 points and collected 11 rebounds to lead Detroit over Toronto.

After the Raptors pulled even at 72-72 on Damon Stoudamire's field goal with 9:04 remaining, the Pistons took control.

Hill followed with two free throws and Otis Thorpe, who scored 21 points before fouling out with just under two minutes to play, tipped in Hill's miss for a 76-72 Detroit lead with 7:35 remaining.

It was all Detroit down the stretch, thanks in part to Terry Mills, who came off the bench to score 18 points, including 10 in the final quarter.

Detroit shot only 41.2 percent from the floor, but the foul line was kind to the Pistons and Hill in particular, who nailed 14 of 15 attempts from the line. As a team, the Pistons were good on 34 of 39 free throws.

Bulls 114, Mavericks 101

In Chicago, Michael Jordan scored 32 points, and the Chicago Bulls extended their winning streak to 11 games.

Chicago's streak is its longest since it won 13 straight during the 1991-92 championship season. The Bulls are 21-2 overall and 11-0 at home.

Tony Dumas scored 24 points for the Mavericks, who have lost 14 of 16 since a 5-1 start.

Trying to challenge the NBA's best team without top players Jamal Mashburn and Jason Kidd, the frustration set in for Dallas coach Dick Motta, who was ejected for arguing with referee Dan Crawford with 6:32 to play. Motta had just returned after missing two games because of his father's death.

The teams met Nov. 21 in Dallas, with the Mavericks taking the Bulls into overtime before losing. Back then, however, Dallas was at full strength. Mashburn will miss up to two more weeks with a knee injury sustained Dec. 9. Kidd hurt his hip Saturday and is expected back for the team's next game.

Rockets 103, Suns 96

At Houston, Hakeem Olajuwon had 31 points and 17 rebounds as Houston shook off an injury to guard Clyde Drexler and beat injury-plagued Phoenix.

Drexler was carried off the court on a stretcher early in the second period after colliding with Phoenix forward Charles Barkley. Drexler's injury, which required a trip to a hospital, was diagnosed as a deep bruise and his playing status was listed as day-to-day.

Mario Elie, subbing for Drexler, scored seven of his 16 points in the final period.

Houston outscored the Suns 9-3 in the final 11.8 seconds to ice the victory, their fifth straight over Phoenix, including three in last year's Western Conference semifinals.

For the Suns, the loss was the fourth in five games and sixth in their last seven road contests.

Barkley, who had 22 points, missed two shots in the final seconds, a jumper with 22 seconds left and a 3-point attempt with 8.5 seconds to go. Elliott Perry, playing in place of injured Kevin Johnson, also had 22 for Phoenix.

NFL. . .

Continued from page 40

which four franchises have either moved or announced plans to move — the Raiders and Rams from Los Angeles to Oakland and St. Louis plus the proposed move of the Browns from Cleveland to Baltimore and the Oilers from Houston to Nashville.

Seattle, Phoenix and Tampa Bay are also thought to be considering moves.

That movement had stalled talks for a while, largely because owners hadn't anticipated the effects of free agency and the salary cap. The cap has led to large signing bonuses, which are prorated to get around the ceiling, and has led owners like Cleveland's Art Modell to claim they had to go into debt to come up with ready cash.

Among the agreements was the addition of a cap for 1999, an uncapped year in the original agreement.

In return, the players get the years required for free agency reduced for that year from six to four, which is the free agency period in use in capped seasons.

US figure. . .

Continued from page 40

program.

The two-night event is part of an International Skating Union-sanctioned series that allows Olympic-eligible and -ineligible athletes to compete against each other without affecting their status.

"It used to be, you'd turn pro and say, 'Good. Now I don't have to do those hard jumps anymore,'" said Browning, who estimated his triple axel success rate at 50 percent.

"But we want to be one of the most technical shows on the planet. It enables us to step back on the ice with the amateurs and have a chance to compete with them."

All five judges rated Browning best among the men after he nailed a triple axel-double toe loop combination while skating to a "Led Zeppelin" drum solo. Wylie lost points for a turn during his combo and Hamilton came to a stop between jumps on his routine.

That allowed Candeloro, the only Olympic-eligible among the men, to advance despite a tepid performance. The Frenchman, typically a top showman, gave a mistake-free performance but uncharacteristically received lower marks for his presentation.

In the pairs, Isabelle Brassuer and Lloyd Eisler of Canada will skate in the second round against Germany's Mandy Wotzel and Ingo Steuer. Czechs Radka Kovarikova and Rene Novotny were third and Americans Jenni Meno and Todd Sand were fourth going into the second night.

The dance portion saw Russians Anjelika Krylova and Oleg Ovsiannikov take first from four of five judges, with fellow Russians Oksana Grishuk and Evgeny Platov earning the second-best marks. Susanna Rahkamo and Petri Kokko of Finland were third and Americans Renee Roca and Gorsha Sur — the only couple not to fall — were fourth.

Yuka Sato of Japan was ill and was a late scratch from the women's competition.

Cone. . .

Continued from page 40

Grace, also facing the midnight deadline, agreed to a $ 9.05 million, two-year contract with the Cubs. Chicago has an option for 1998 that could make the deal worth $ 14 million over three years. But Grace, who had a $ 4.05 million base salary this year, has the right to terminate the contract after the 1996 season.

Cone's agent, Steve Fehr, talked with both Orioles general manager Pat Gillick and Yankees general manager Bob Watson on Tuesday, but didn't make a decision.

"At this point, I think David is really just pondering which way he wants to go," Gillick said.

Reed will get $ 750,000 next season and $ 600,000 in 1997. The option is at $ 600,000 with a $ 50,000 buyout. He committed only four errors in 1995 and finished with a .994 fielding percentage, tied for best among NL second basemen with Cincinnati's Bret Boone.

Beck, who set a major league record by converting 41 consecutive save chances, gets $ 3 million in each of the next two seasons, up from a $ 2,242,500 salary in 1995.

Following the deal, the Giants said they wouldn't try to re-sign left-handers Terry Mulholland and Trevor Wilson.

"There was certainly some competition from other teams for all of these players' services and it's tremendously gratifying that we could reach new agreements and provide some important continuity for our fans," Giants general manager Bob Quinn said.

WAWE. . .

Continued from page 40

System took advantage of the pitcherless Why Not and got away with a win. Why Not tried hard to cope in a losing battle against the Sluggers' batters who proved too much for the defeated team despite Rose Omar's inside-the-park homer and three RBIs.

Review 8, Loonies 7

It was a close win for the Review and Challenge team in the last game of the day. Looney Toonies suffered its third loss in the hands of Review and Challenge. Review, which lost to the Capitalists last week, came back hungry for a win. The Looney players, who were suffering from flu, were too exhausted to keep up with Review and Challenge. The power hitter for the Loonies was Polly Omechelang with two RBIs.

GIAWSS Team Standings
(as of Oct. 30)

Team	W	L
Wawe	3	0
Looney Toonies 3	3	0
Sluggers II	2	1
Review & Challenge	2	1
Amigas	2	1
Emergency Crew	1	1
Money Makers	1	2
Li'l Darlings	1	2
Why Not	1	2
Capitalists	1	2
DCCA	0	2
Just For Fun 3	0	3

Everyone is invited to watch the games at the Susupe ballfield and cheer for their favorite team. Games start at 9 a.m. every Saturday.

Mauleg. . .

Continued from page 40

two-run in-the-park homer in the second inning.

The Piaos brought back the game to square one when they scored four runs on three hits and four costly Mauleg errors.

The Piaos reversed the lead by one run, 5-4, at the bottom of the fourth inning unaware of the storm coming their way at the top of the sixth inning when Mauleg exploded 14 runs.

Richard Atalig scored a two-run double. Mel Sakisat had two trips to the plate with RBI double both times as Mauleg took advantage of six Piao errors.

The Paios tried to make a comeback in their half of the inning but the most they could muster were three runs with Ray P. Cabrera's RBI single and Bill Camacho's sacrifice RBI for the final margin.

After two games of play, Mauleg had 47 runs and 18 doubles—29 runs and 7 doubles in the first game, and 18 runs and 11 doubles in the latest game.

SPORTS

Mauleg surges past Piaos in last inning

Islanders edge rival in down-the-wire match

THE ISLANDERS edged Bud Ice in a down-the-wire opener game, while Mauleg defeated the Piaos in a last-inning scoring run surge in the second game during the continuation of the Saipan Softball Association Men's Fastpitch Softball League last Monday.

In the first game, the Islanders won over Bud Ice by a close one-run margin, 15-14, in five innings.

Bud Ice scored four runs at the top of the first inning with Ron Benavente and Ben Camacho's RBI single and Paul Tenorio's RBI double. The Islanders countered in the half of their inning with three runs on two Bud Ice errors, 5-4.

After scoring one run each in the second inning, 5-4, the Islanders tied the score at seven- all with Tony Benavente's three-run on-the-park homer in retaliation to a two-run in-the -park homer of Bud Ice's Ed Santos.

After trailing in the first two innings and tying the score in the third, the Islanders reversed the lead, 9-7, on Reno Celis' RBI single on two Bud Ice errors in the bottom of the fourth.

Bud Ice was on its way to winning the game when it exploded seven runs at the top of the fifth inning led by Ron Benavente's two-run single, 14-9.

But the Islanders stood their ground and scored six runs in the bottom of the sixth. The Islanders scored three runs on Ben Duena's in-the-park homerun. Angel Falig posted a two-run triple and later stole home for the winning run.

The game lasted only five innings because of time limitation.

In the nightcap, Mauleg defeated Joeten Piaos by eight runs, 18-8, in six innings.

Mauleg jumped to a 4-0 lead after two innings behind Mel Sakisat's RBI double, aided by five Piao errors in the first inning and Frankie Torres'

Continued on page 39

Sports Trivia:

Thirteen great players who never played in a world series

Player (main team, league, position)	Yrs.	BA (hitters)	HR	W-L ERA (pitchers)	Pct.
Nap Lajoie* (Cleveland, AL, 2B)	21	.339	81		
Ted Lyons* (Chicago, AL, P)	21			3.67	.531
Luke Appling' (Chicago, AL, SS)	20	.310	45		
Mel Harder (Cleveland, AL, P)	20			3.80	.545
Gaylord Perry (San Francisco, NL, P)	20			2.99	.554
Ernie Banks* (Chicago, NL SS & 1B)	19	.274	512		
Billy Williams (Chicago, NL, OF)	18	.290	426		
Jim Bunning (Det., AL, & Phil.,NL, P)	17			3.27	.549
Harry Heilmann- (Detroit, AL, OF)	17	.342	183		
Ferguson Jenkins (Chicago, NL, P)	17			3.31	.567
George Sisler* (St. Louis, AL, IB)	15	.340	99		
.Rod Carew (Minnesota, AL, 2B)	15	.332	82		
Ralph Kiner~ (Pittsburgh, NL, OF)	10	.279	369		

* Baseball Hall of Fame member.

WAWE keeps record clean at 6-0

THE COMMONWEALTH Utilities Corporation's WAWE ladies held on to their solo lead in the Government Inter-Agency Women's Slowpitch Softball when they defeated winless but tireless Legislature Just For Fun 3 team.

WAWE started slowly but surely when Liz Lebria hit another grandslam in the sixth inning. But Just For Fun did not easily give up the game to WAWE. Just For Fun kept coming back and took the game all the way to the seventh inning.

Power hitter for WAWE was third basewoman Liz Lebria with two grandslams, bringing in a total of eight RBIs. Eileen Babauta of Just For Fun brought in two RBIs of her own.

Amigos 14, Emergency Crew 13

The Stevedore Amigas suffered their third loss of the season in the hands of IT & E Emergency Crew when it was unable to hold at bay Rose Taman who went 4-for-4. The powerhitters of the game were Taman with one homerun, one triple and six RBIs, and Amigas' Mary Benjamin with three RBIs.

Money Makers 21, Capitalists 5

Money Makers stole a win from the Capitalists scoring 10 runs in the first two innings. The Capitalists, known for sneaking a bite from behind, failed to do so against the Money Makers. Gina Sablan was the power hitter for the Money Makers with one homerun, one triple and six RBIs. The Capitalists, top scorer was Lilian Mendiola with an inside-the-park homer and two RBIs.

Sluggers 14, Why Not 9

The ladies from the Public School

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With Riley on the other side

Knicks beat Miami, 89-70

NEW YORK (AP) — The New York Knicks showed their old coach they haven't forgotten how to play defense.

Patrick Ewing had 18 points and 16 rebounds as New York defeated the Miami Heat 89-70 Tuesday night in Pat Riley's first game at Madison Square Garden since quitting the Knicks in June.

It was an unpleasant return for Riley in more ways than one. Besides being deluged by boos and catcalls by the Madison Square Garden crowd, Miami posted its second season low in as many games.

With the Knicks up by six points at halftime, John Starks helped put the Heat away by hitting two early 3-pointers, the second pushing the lead to 51-36.

Through three quarters, injury-ravaged Miami managed just 52 points against the bigger, stronger Knicks as the Heat lost its fourth straight and seventh in the last eight games. Midway through the final period, Miami scored just two more points and trailed by 21.

As the final seconds ticked away, Riley shook hands with Knicks guard Hubert Davis and was halfway off the court by the time the buzzer sounded.

Starks finished with 15 points,

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BANMI games to resume Jan. 4

THE DOUBLEHEADER tonight in the Miller Lite Men's Basketball League will be the last for 1995 to make way for the observance of the Christmas holidays, Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands president Tony Rogolifoi announced yesterday.

Regular games will resume on Thursday, Jan. 4.

Games last Monday were likewise cancelled because of the unavailability of the gym.

Rogolifoi, in behalf of BANMI officials and administrators, wished the families of all BANMI players and team coaches, a pleasant Yuletide season and a prosperous new year.

Beck, Giants agree on new contract

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Rod Beck, who set a U.S. Major League Baseball record by converting 41 consecutive save chances for the Giants, agreed Tuesday to a dlrs 6 million, two-year contract with San Francisco.

Beck, 27, who has 127 career saves over his five-year career with the Giants, had 33 saves in 43 opportunities last season, going 5-6 with a 4.45 ERA in 60 appearances.

Following the deal, the Giants said they wouldn't try to re-sign left-handers Terry Mulholland and Trevor Wilson.

The Giants already have re-signed pitcher Mark Leiter, first baseman Mark Carreon and outfielder Glenallen Hill.

During his major league career, which started with the Giants in 1991, Beck is 14-15 with a 2.80 ERA in 280 games. He has 127 saves in 145 chances.

Cone stays in limbo, Grace stays in Chicago

NEW YORK (AP) _ Mark Grace finally decided Tuesday to return to the Chicago Cubs, but David Cone still didn't chose between the Baltimore Orioles and New York Yankees.

Rod Beck, who was eligible for salary arbitration, agreed to a $ 6 million, two-year contract with the San Francisco Giants. And Jody Reed returned to San Diego for a $ 1.4 million, two-year deal.

All 11 free agents who could have accepted salary arbitration from their old teams on Tuesday rejected the offers: Erik Hanson of Boston; Jim Abbott, Chuck Finley and Dave Gallagher of California; Don Mattingly of the New York Yankees; Kenny Rogers of Texas; Roberto Alomar of Toronto; Dwight Smith of Atlanta; Ron Gant of Cincinnati; Andre Dawson of Florida; and Tom Henke of St. Louis.

The players may continue to negotiate with their old clubs through Jan. 8.

Rick Honeycutt accepted the Yankees' arbitration offer on Monday, but he's expected to be traded to the St. Louis Cardinals.

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US figure skater frozen out

BOSTON (AP) — Four-time world champion Kurt Browning — the first skater ever to complete a quadruple jump in world competition — is happy just to hit his triples now.

"I never expected it to be so clean," the Canadian said after nailing a triple axel Tuesday in the first night of figure skating in the Ultimate Four competition.

"I said, 'I guess I should do a double toe loop now. But I just want to stand here a little bit longer.'"

No Americans advanced to the finals, which will pit the top two finishers from Tuesday's short program against each other for a $ 75,000 first prize in each of four categories — men, women, pair and dance. The other two in each group will compete for third place.

France's Phillipe Candeloro was the other male to advance to Wednesday's finals, leaving Paul Wylie and Scott Hamilton of the United States to skate in the consolations.

Surya Bonaly of France and Chen Lu of China advanced on the women's side after Kristi Yamaguchi of the United States fell twice in her short

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NFL, Union agree on contract extension

THE NATIONAL Football League, beset by franchise turmoil this season, got some good news Tuesday when its players' union agreed to a contract extension that could ensure labor peace through the 2002 season.

The agreement was announced jointly by the league and its players on Tuesday. It adds one year to the current contract, which ends after the 1999 season, with the option for two more.

"We have a window of labor-management peace and a (collective bargaining agreement) that works well for both sides," said Gene Upshaw, executive director of the NFL Players Union.

The agreement must be ratified by three-quarters (23) of the owners, who are to vote on the matter Jan. 17 in a meeting in which they will also decide on the Cleveland Browns' relocation. A majority of voting union members must approve the contract.

The agreement comes in a year in

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