

DAILY

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News
& Views

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Saipan, MP 96950
Serving CNMI for 24 Years50th

Union loses at Dai-Ichi

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

MANAGERS of Dai-Ichi Hotel clapped and cheered their way out of the counting room after the National Labor Relations Board representative announced the result of yesterday's union elec-

tion: the workers said "No."

Of 264 workers who cast ballots, 157 voted against the union, while 91 voted in favor of it. Four ballots were voided, and 12 were challenged.

Ross Licare, the NLRB representative who administered the

election, said the poll result was final. The challenged votes would not be recounted as it would not change the final result of the election, Licare said.

Dai-Ichi's legal counsel Robert O'Connor, said the election result "showed that the employees are happy with the way they are being treated."

"If the Filipino workers are abused, they would have voted for the union," O'Connor said. "The (No) votes would not have been overwhelming if the major-

ity of Filipinos were abused."

Nonresident workers at Dai-Ichi, O'Connor said, were provided with the required benefits including subsidized food and housing, high pay and good living condition."

The workers' rejection of the union, O'Connor added, disproved claims by US Congress and Hawaii legislators that there were labor abuse problems in the CNMI.

"Those people who accuse Saipan of being an 'island of abus-

ers' should better think twice," O'Connor said.

Union organizers, he added, should "go some place where there are problems." Saipan isn't the place, he said.

Local 5 research coordinator Elwood Mott Jr. commented with a single line. "If you're willing to violate the law, you'll win."

Hotel managers and their supporters hugged one another after the poll result was read.

Disappointed union supporters

Continued on page 39



Dai-Ichi managers applaud the result of union election.

Continental hikes Saipan-Guam fare

MANY passengers from Saipan bound for Guam have been caught flatfooted by the unannounced increase in the round-trip fare by 30 percent.

The Continental Micronesia increased the Saipan-Guam-Saipan fare from \$73 to \$95 effective the other day.

"It was sneaky on the part of Continental," a certain Cathy told the Variety, referring to the sudden fare hike.

She said she bought a round-trip ticket for this weekend to Guam but that she was surprised about the extra \$22 she had to fork out.

"Continental made a rare increase and they did not announce that," she complained.

Continental personnel at Saipan would not say when the fare increase took effect and why it was made.

"It is our policy to refer all inquiries to our Guam headquarters," a staffer told the Variety.

The Variety tried to contact the corporate communication chief and the assistant, but both were out of the office. —Rick Alberto

By Rafael H. Arroyo
Variety News Staff

A BILL has been introduced before the House of Representatives to repeal in its entirety the current statute that established guidelines pertaining to Article 12 of the Constitution.

The one-page bill, House Bill 10-206 introduced by Rep. Oscar M. Babauta, offered no other language except saying "Public Law 8-32 is hereby repealed in its entirety."

Public Law 8-32, which was authored by Sen. Paul A. Manglona back in the Eighth Legislature, is the law enacted in 1993 designed to set guidelines on how Article 12 could be much more clearly and justly applied.

The effect of P.L. 8-32, propo-



Oscar M. Babauta

nents say, was to give more confidence, fairness and stability in the CNMI land title system so Article 12 would not discourage investors to the Commonwealth.

Before the law was signed into

law by then Gov. Larry I. Guerrero in Oct. 29, 1993, investors were wary that they could lose investments due to Article 12.

Article 12 prohibits persons not of Northern Marianas descent from owning land in the Commonwealth.

Such a restriction had foreigners trying ways to gain long term interest on land, including the use of local dummies who pose as land buyers for them. Problems however start when landowners claim their land back saying there were foreigners behind the dummies.

P.L. 8-32 provided restitution for those who lose their investments on properties reclaimed through Article 12.

Also, it placed a cap on contingency fees lawyers charge Article

Continued on page 39

Saudi prince files claim against Hillblom estate

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

ONE of the "sealed" claimants against Larry Lee Hillblom's es-

tate is a member of a royal family in Saudi Arabia, according to documents filed in the Superior court.

H.R.H. Prince Saud Bin Naif Bin Abdulaziz, through Eason and Halsell law firm, filed a claim seeking recognition of his contractual rights with respect to shares of stock in DHLI Ltd. and DHLC.

The shares, formerly owned by Hillblom, are now the estate's major assets.

Prior to his death, Hillblom reportedly owned 23,576 shares of DHLI, a Bermuda corporation, and 10,823 shares of DHLC, a California corporation.

Abdulaziz claimed he is entitled to certain contractual rights pur-

suant to a shareholders' agreement dated July 9, 1990 and a side-letter agreement on July 11, 1990. Hillblom executed both agreements, said the claim.

The law firm said "to the extent that the value of DHLI exceeds \$300 million (base evaluation) and the Hillblom shares are sold based upon that higher value, Abdulaziz is entitled to receive from those proceeds 4.2% of the amount by which the per share sale price exceeds the per share base evaluation."

When the value of DHLC exceeds \$125 million (base evaluation) and the Hillblom shares are sold based upon that higher value, the law firm said "the claimant is

Continued on page 38

Hofschneider return to GOP fold possible

By Rafael H. Arroyo
Variety News Staff

INDEPENDENT Congressman Heinz S. Hofschneider may likely return to the Republican Party fold.

In an interview, Hofschneider said he is thinking about such a possibility in line with his current plans to seek the office of the Washington Representative in 1997.

"If I'm acceptable to the Republicans, then maybe," said Hofschneider in the Wednesday interview. "There is that intent to submit a letter to the party for a possible run for Washington representative. But I am still undecided, weighing all the options right now,"

Hofschneider confirmed.

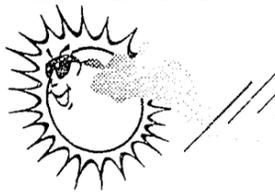
Hofschneider, a three-term representative, was the top

Continued on page 39



Heinz S. Hofschneider

Weather Outlook



Mostly sunny days and partly cloudy nights with isolated showers

Russians bomb Chechen rebels

GROZNY, Russia (AP) - Russian warplanes and helicopter gunships on Thursday bombed and rocketed Chechen rebels holed up in villages in the western part of the breakaway region.

The villages of Alkhazurovo and Komsomolskoye came under fierce attack as the Russians tried to force out rebels who have dug themselves in defensive positions.

At least one Russian soldier

was killed and two others were wounded in fighting throughout Chechnya since Wednesday. There was no immediate word on rebel casualties.

Meanwhile, a bomb exploded in a Russian city near Chechnya, gravely wounding Col. Andrei Yanenko, the deputy military commissioner of the Stavropol region.

Police suspect Chechen involvement and were investigating the incident in the city

of Stavropol, north of Chechnya.

Inside Chechnya, the situation remained tense as the Russians intensified their push to crush rebel resistance.

On Wednesday, Russian tanks and artillery pounded the village of Samashky for the sixth day in a row, but the siege showed no signs of breaking the small rebel force holed up in the Chechen town.

Thousands of civilians have

fled the Russian assault, but thousands more were said to be trapped.

The Russian military claims it has a no-fire zone, a "humanitarian corridor," so civilians can get out. Russian human rights groups, international aid workers and local officials, however, dispute that.

The war, now in its 16th month, has killed up to 30,000 people, most of them civilians. In the past few weeks alone, 18,000 people fled to neighboring Ingushetia. Officials there said they were swamped - and bracing for

more refugees. Ingush Vice President Boris Agapov told the Interfax news agency at least 50,000 people could be displaced by the spring offensive.

Some towns are signing pacts with Russian troops in a desperate bid to avert attacks.

The war began 16 months ago when President Boris Yeltsin sent thousands of troops into Chechnya to end its three years of self-declared independence. The war against a small, outgunned rebel force has become a quagmire that threatens to engulf Yeltsin's bid on June 16 for a second term.

China lashes out at US House resolution to defend Taiwan

By CHARLENE L. FU BEIJING (AP)-China accused U.S. lawmakers Thursday of a "detestable act" for backing American help in the defense of Taiwan, an island it described as China's "sacred territory."

Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang opened a twice-weekly briefing with a long tirade against a resolution overwhelmingly adopted by the U.S. House of Representatives on Tuesday. It said the United States was committed to helping defend Taiwan from Chinese attack.

Shen said the House resolution had "intensified tensions." He accused the United States of "attempting to obstruct through a show of force the Chinese nation from realizing the reunification of the motherland."

China's sacred territory and is not a U.S. protectorate," Shen declared.

He said both the government and people felt "strong indignation at this detestable act ... which constitutes a serious encroachment on China's sovereignty and a gross interference in China's internal affairs."

The United States has sent two naval battle groups to the region since China began military exercises earlier this month aimed at quashing pro-independence sentiment on the island.

"We demand the U.S. side ... immediately stop its erroneous activities," Shen said.

China also objects to U.S. arms sales. The Clinton administration this week approved the sale to Taiwan of Stinger surface-to-air missiles and an advanced targeting and navigation system for jet fighters. But it denied the Taipei government's request for new submarines.

Shen said the approval goes against the United States' repeated calls for a reduction in arms sales and violates a U.S. pledge in 1982 to reduce its arms sales to Taiwan.

"Now it is selling advanced weapons to a sensitive area at a sensitive time. This is very irresponsible," he said. "Foreign forces, the United States in particular, in the future must not provide large amounts of sophisticated weapons to Taiwan."

He declined to say whether the current tensions over Taiwan would adversely affect upcoming U.S.-China meetings. Chinese Foreign Minister Qian Qichen and U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher are to meet in The Hague on April 21, and Chinese Defense Minister Chi Haotian is expected to go to the United States in early April for talks with Defense Secretary William Perry.

Shen was asked whether China was prepared to cooperate with Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui if he wins Saturday's presidential election as expected.

"If the Taiwan authorities will give up their attempts to split the motherland, then I believe relations on the two sides of the Taiwan Strait will be eased," Shen said. "The Chinese people should not have any conflicts among themselves."

Bill to bar illegal alien kids in public schools

By CASSANDRA BURRELL WASHINGTON (AP) - Illegal alien children could be barred from attending public schools in some states under a Republican proposal in the House of Representatives that drew heated attacks from Democrats.

The House voted 257-163 on Wednesday to add the plan to a bill that would revamp the nation's legal and illegal immigration laws. A final vote on the entire bill was expected this week.

In another controversial move, the House voted 210-207 to require certain immigrants to pass standardized tests to prove they are proficient in English. The requirement would apply only to immigrants allowed in because of special jobs skills and foreigners admitted from countries with low rates of immigration here.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich said the amendment sends the message: "We're eager for you to come to America ... but learn English so you can get a job and you can function in American society, and you can truly be a part of the American way of life."

The measure requires some proficiency in English only from those foreigners who cite their job skills to win entry and 27,000 other immigrants from countries that rarely send people to the United States. It does not cover aliens who cite reuniting with their families as the reason for seeking legal immigration.

The schools vote came after Gingrich took the unusual step of going to the floor to argue in favor of an amendment that would give states the authority to decide whether to spend taxpayer dollars on public education for illegal aliens.

Gingrich said providing free public education to illegal aliens was costing California a minimum of \$1.7 billion a year, New York \$634 million, Florida \$424 million and Texas \$419 million. The only reason they faced these costs was because the federal government failed to keep illegal aliens out, he said.

"I think there's no question that offering free, tax-paid goods to illegals has increased the number of illegals," Gingrich said. "If they (states) want to spend it, that's fine."

US area code by July '97

By Rafael H. Arroyo Variety News Staff RESIDENTS may start using a US area code by July of next year when the CNMI gets to be included in the North American Numbering Plan.

According to Dave Ecret, the governor's special assistant for telecommunications, Canada has already agreed to withdraw its earlier opposition to the CNMI's NANP bid before the International Numbering Committee.

In return, the CNMI promised support for a Canadian firm's plan to provide telecommunications services for both CNMI and Guam

residents. The Canadian government's objection is the only opposition to CNMI's entry to the NANP so its withdrawal could mean there will be no more snags to the CNMI effort.

"I have been talking to them for the past several months and this conclusion to these discussions," said Ecret in an interview yesterday.

"Because it takes one year to implement, we are looking at an implementation date of July 1, 1997," said Ecret.

Industrie Canada and Teleglobe Canada opposed the CNMI's re-

quest owing to concerns about traffic going from Japan to the mainland bypassing Canada.

Since then, there has been ongoing discussions between the US State and Interior Departments and the Federal Communications Commission on the said issue.

According to Ecret, his team has been able to assure the Canadians that with the new Telecommunications Act, the CNMI will be included in the NANP and that it will get rate integration.

"So they agreed to withdraw their opposition and they asked us if we could send a letter of support to FCC for their request to have service in and out of the CNMI as a telecommunications carrier," said Ecret.

The CNMI and Guam's inclusion in the NANP has been supported by Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt and US Senator Daniel K. Inouye who both lobbied FCC for support so that residents in the two areas could get comparable



Dave Ecret

services and rates as those in the mainland.

The NANP already includes such insular areas as Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

Meanwhile, the INC during a recent meeting in New Orleans has approved 670 as the area code for Guam and the CNMI in anti-

ciation of their inclusion to the NANP.

This means the former country code 670 being used in the CNMI will become a US domestic area code. So instead of CNMI callers being charged international phone rates when calling the US mainland, they could enjoy domestic rates for the same calls.

According to Ecret, inclusion in the NANP would be an avenue towards the CNMI's request for cheaper phone rates under its bid for rate integration.

A provision in the new Telecommunications Act includes insular areas among those that could receive lower rates on calls to the US mainland.

"We just receive an order from FCC telling us to give them in writing what we feel would be our rates. We are working on that now," said Ecret.

"The governor is very optimistic that we will get a rate between 50 to 60 cents per minute for calls to and from the US," said Ecret.

Obyan wells to produce 700,000 gals of water a day

TEN wells at Obyan adjacent to the runway at the Saipan International Airport are ready to be tapped, it was learned.

"They (wells) are ready for production," Pamela Mathis, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. public information officer, said. Mathis said the wells are capable of producing about 700,000 gallons of fresh tap water every day.

The 10 wells were discovered by the Governor's Water Emergency Task Force in conjunction with the United States Geological Survey.

Mathis said Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio is trying to source a \$2-million funding for the needed power and water lines to make

the wells operational.

"We have to get that money shortly and connect those wells as soon as possible," Mathis said.

She said the power lines will be buried underground since they are in the vicinity of the airport, adding that Federal Aviation Administration regulations call for buried lines.

Mathis also disclosed that the CUC would be embarking on a water desalination project, which is recommended in the water masterplan that will be presented to Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio on March 27.

"We have to go out for bids and try to seek the best proposals for that (project)," Mathis said. —Rick Alberto

2 persons hurt in Garapan stabbing

TWO persons were reportedly injured during a stabbing incident in Garapan before dawn yesterday.

Public Safety Information Officer Cathy Sheu said the victims were taken to the Commonwealth Health Center.

Sheu said no arrests have been made yet.

The information officer explained that as of yesterday afternoon no other details available in the incident.

The Variety gathered that three people, all Chinese, were involved in the fight.

In other police reports, a 22-year-old

woman was arrested for allegedly shoplifting a nail polish worth \$5 at Payless Market in Chalan Kanoa Tuesday afternoon.

Arrested was Lu Zheng of Garapan. In Gualo Rai, a 22-year-old man was arrested for allegedly punching a security guard and threatening the latter with a knife Tuesday night.

The arrestee was identified as Chun Lin Zheng of Garapan.

Meanwhile, police also arrested 24-year-old woman Huai Ziang Wang as accessory.

Wang allegedly hid Zheng's knife from responding police officers. (FDT)

Outage tomorrow

DUE to the road expansion project in front of the Northern Marianas College (NMC), the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation has been asked to relocate power poles away from the new traffic lanes.

Utility crews will be moving the poles and high voltage wires this

Saturday resulting in a minor power outage at the following areas:

NMC, Joeten Housing, The Fina Sisu road to the Riviera and Airport Hotels.

The power is scheduled to be off from 9 am through 1 pm Saturday.

MHS reports distribution

MARIANAS High School Mid-Quarter Report Distribution will be on Thursday, March 28 by academic advisement teachers from 4 to 6 pm. Parents & Guard-

ians are urged to pick up their son/daughter's report.

The MHS PTA Meeting is scheduled for Wednesday March 27 at 6 pm at the MHS Cafeteria.

Audit prods gov't to run after defaulted developer

By Mar-Vic C. Munar Variety News Staff THE OFFICE of the Public Auditor has found that a corporation which was granted a lease to develop the Garapan Fishing Base has defaulted on its obligations to the Marianas Public Land Corp., costing the government \$840,062 in uncollected rental revenues.

OPA report said Apex International Corporation entered into a lease agreement with MPLC in 1987 but failed to accomplish any of its commitments, including the construction of a hotel/marina complex in the fishing base, the payment of rentals, and relocation of the Saipan Fishing Center.

OPA also reported that Apex subsequently, signed a lease agreement with MPLC. Apex, in a Feb 7, 1992 letter to MPLC, attributed the delay to "the lengthy process of securing the submerged land lease and amended CRM (Costal resources Management) permit required for the project."

Apex requested several times for deadline extension. Its requests were granted but Apex had since not commenced the project, OPA said.

The public auditor's investigation found that aside from its failure to construct the complex stipulated in the agreement, Apex had also failed to pay rentals to the public lands agency.

The fishing center which the Apex has committed to relocate "has remained in its old location and was subleased by an unauthorized individual (the former NMSCI president) to a private company," OPA said.

It was also found out that a piece of public land south-west of the fishing center is now occupied by Ship Ashore Restaurant for customer parking, docking and access to the restaurant "without authorization."

"This occurred because MPLC did not develop and implement administrative policies and procedures to determine in a timely manner

showed that the management and operation of the fishing center were granted in June 1983 by DNR to a local fisherman who later assigned the rights to the Northern Marianas Seafood Company, Inc. or NMSCI.

In 1987, the seafood company transferred its rights and interest in the Saipan Fishing Center to Apex.

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Leo LaMotte

any default on the lease agreement and initiate available remedies," said Public Auditor Leo LaMotte in a report he submitted yesterday to natural resources secretary Benigno Sablan.

OPA also blamed MPLC for its failure to ensure the legality of activities within the leased premises.

"As a result, MPLC has not collected rental revenue of \$840,062 from Apex as of Oct. 31, 1995," the report said. "In addition, an individual unlawfully gained at least \$44,000 as of Oct. 31, 1995 his unauthorized sublease of the Saipan Fishing Center and a floating restaurant did not pay for its use of public land."

LaMotte recommended that the Division of Public Lands initiate legal action to collect rental dues from Apex and Ship Ashore Restaurant, and to recover all rentals collected by the former NMSCI president in the unauthorized sublease of the Saipan Fishing Center.

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China's war games alarm Philippines

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - China's military exercise in the Taiwan Strait is a grave concern for the Philippines and has affected regional stability, President Fidel Ramos said Wednesday.

Ramos said the Philippines was particularly concerned because the exercises were near its territory, and because of the large number of Filipino workers in Taiwan.

Stepping up its intimidation efforts before weekend presidential elections in Taiwan, China launched new war games Tuesday with planes and ships just 18 kilometers (10 miles) from Taiwans outlying islets.

does not believe the exercise will escalate into a shooting war, but "it has nevertheless affected the maintenance of regional peace and stability."

It "continues to be a source of grave concern for the Philippines," he told a news conference.

More than 100,000 Filipinos are working in Taiwan, mostly as domestic helpers.

Ramos earlier called on Beijing and Taipei to "cool it," warning that a war would have disastrous consequences not only for both countries but also for the entire East Asian region.

Like many countries, the Philippines recognizes only the government of mainland China but maintains extensive trade and other economic relations with Taiwan.

Fishing boat sinks in Central RP, 11 missing

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - A fishing boat sank in high waves in central Philippine waters early Thursday and 11 of its crew members were missing, authorities said.

The Francis Mervin capsized and broke apart in Balayan Bay off Kalatagan town in Batangas, 96 kilometers (60 miles) southwest of Manila, said Coast Guard duty officer Rolando Ramos.

Ramos said five crewmen, clinging to floating wreckage of the boat, were rescued by villagers of Paluan on nearby Mindoro Island.

He said coast guard and navy boats were searching Balayan Bay for the missing men.

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

EDITORIAL

Why union must fail

YESTERDAY'S union elections at the Dai-Ichi Hotel seem to have already manifested a pattern that has become as clear as crystal.

Saipan is a tough place to unionize. Still reeling from an astounding defeat at the Hyatt Hotel, union organizers may have by now confirmed that they are faced with an uphill battle in terms of getting support from the working populace.

The prospect of having an organized group to protect them and advocate for their cause is no doubt a big come-on for the predominantly non-resident workforce.

With it, they could have someone strong to lean on and to fight for them when faced with any misunderstanding with their more politically well-off employers.

But sad to say, the current breed of workers would not fall for that. Union organizers should now reflect and realize that there is no way for them to flourish here as the Saipan situation is not really cut out for the movement.

First, they are targeting a class of people who have come here to work and earn a decent living. People who would care less for controversial issues and who value the law of economics more than the need to engage themselves in any form of ideological struggles.

Saipan is a place where the US flag flies and where respect for human rights is the norm although, as in any place in the world, there are isolated cases of abuse.

Relatively speaking, Saipan is still a very nice place to work in compared to such notorious places as Singapore, Saudi Arabia or even Japan where the US flag of democracy and human dignity doesn't fly.

So how could workers get lured to a relatively untested movement when in the first place, most of them are of the feeling that the situation here, aside from the pay, is better tenfold than in their own countries of origin.

Apparently, workers here have become more pragmatic and rational thinkers who would rather stick safely to just being gainfully employed and secure in their jobs rather than being vigilant advocates seeking higher but shaky grounds.

Another factor unionists should realize is that there has been a lot of negative publicity about the movement, the net effect of which is apprehension on the part of the worker to step forward and be counted.

With the untiring efforts of people like Congressman Stanley Torres and the countless others who have gone out of their way to expose how unions really operate, it is not surprising to see people being swayed into being anti-union themselves.

Workers have become wary of the possibility that unions could, after all, be bad for their pocketbooks.

Considering that the Saipan non-resident labor force is a pocketbook-driven sector, the publicity about high union dues and profit motives could effectively give the common worker more worry than a feeling of security.

Indeed, workers would stop and think, "Why should I pay \$26 a month or a year in union dues when I can live with the working situation here?"

Saipan is not as bad as, say, the sweatshops of California or the sleazy joints of Manila. So how could unionizing get justified when in fact workers are already enjoying the situation tilted more now in their favor.

It has to be noted that the awareness level for the rights of workers here has in fact become painstakingly high, thanks to the publicity the labor situation has generated over the last two to three years.

The people in the community, smarting from the bad publicity the island has been getting worldwide, are now more cautious and more guarded in the way they deal with their workers.

We have to acknowledge that such caution is reversing the trend. Some people may even say workers here have become the masters of a lenient and pro-labor system, enough for them to quickly turn from an abused lot to abusers themselves.

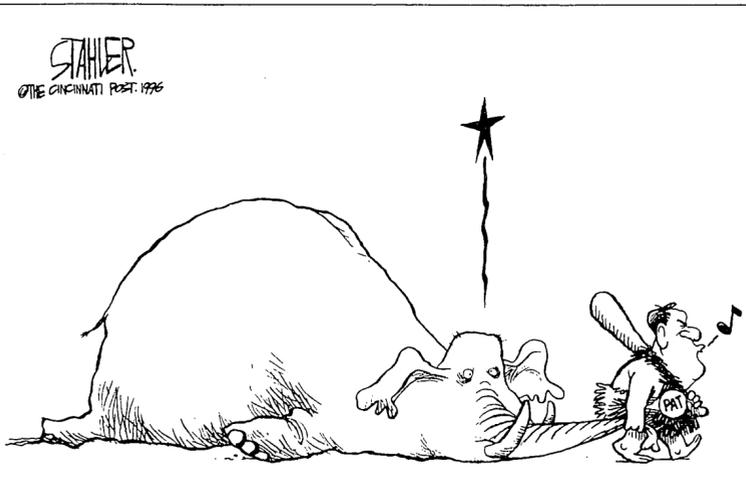
The only sad thing about it, is that no matter how much employers try to be good to their workers, the system still allows for such workers to go against their employers, even in bad faith, if their pocketbooks tell them to do so.

With the situation slowly and heavily tilting in favor of the workers now without the unions, imagine the chaos that could result if unions are allowed to flourish here.

It would be a nightmare to think about strikes, picketing workers, disrupted businesses and shut-down establishments.

By then, maybe the slogan "Welcome to the island of abusers" may have already become true.

Although it would be the other way around.



TR's Marianas

By: John DelRosario

The Need for Stable Policies

Since the inception of our constitutional government in 1978, we used the institutional stability provided by the Covenant Agreement to develop the local economy. Indeed, we were successful in attaining phenomenal economic growth, the envy of most Pacific Island nations throughout the region.

We espoused positive economic growth at a time when the cold war was at its peak. We took our strategic importance for granted and wielded it with arrogance even to the extent where we tried our hands on "flip-flopping" decision making as though we dictate global economic conditions.

The end of the cold war changes a once familiar playing field into something entirely different and foreign to us. The heavy reliance on our perceived strategic importance was stripped from our shirts only to realize that we no longer can afford the attitude of some royally spoiled kids.

While we had appreciable success attaining phenomenal economic growth, we were equally agile at chipping away at our successes. We've done this by approving policies that promote instability which ultimately project a very shaky investment climate for the NMI. We continue our dalliance with public policies oblivious of investment trends in the region and their implications to the fragile economy of the NMI.

Although we have used creative development of our aesthetic and large marine ecosystem, we've committed the mortal sin of putting our eggs in one basket. Most of our investors come from the beaming and powerful economic lights of the Land of the Rising Sun. Despite our phenomenal achievements, it seems quite apparent that policies recently approved or are on the drawing boards will force investors to re-evaluate investing their hard earned money in a place heavily strapped by unstable policies that makes doing business in the NMI cost prohibitive.

Although Japan has invested heavily in our tourism industry, we have seen substantial drop in her investment schemes here. In fact, she (Japan) has turned towards Southeast Asia for investment purposes. This trend could just as well be interpreted to mean the gradual dimming of the bright lights of investment from the Land of the Rising Sun. I hope it isn't the beginning of her sailing into the sunset.

The last development of significance was the Hotel Nikko several years ago. An investor planning to build a 1,000 room hotel facility found the investment climate here rather unstable. So he skipped the NMI and decided to build his hotel on Guam. If this trend continues, we can kiss good-bye any further hope for sizable investment in the NMI. Though we may finally wake up to our misgivings in

policy making, by then it would have been too late trying to rebound after we've fall flat on our face.

It's so unfortunate that we have established self-coined instability which threatens not only the livelihood and survival of the various industries here, but the very industry that feeds our thriving economy, tourism. It is a very dismal scenario on the brink of collapsing if we continue approving unstable policies which could even play a role in forcing Japanese-owned hotels for sale. If this happens, we would instantly return once more to a subsistence economy.

A study prepared by the East West Center's Pacific Islands Development Program, University of Hawaii, says: "Surveys of investment decision making have consistently found that long-term profitability and a basic comparative advantage are far more important factors than the availability of tax holidays and other short term concessions". I hope this point is understood when measured against our ability to ruin what we've built since 1978.

This whole minimum wage debate focuses primarily on whether we can remain competitive in a market where there exist vicious competition be it in the garment or tourism industry. We need not go further than the State of Hawaii and the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico to learn from their experiences about the consequence of prohibitive high wages. Hawaii closed its tuna canning industry in 1985 followed by Puerto Rico in 1990. I'm not sure that this is the route we wish to follow. In either industry, the imposition of a graduated annual increase would result in our pricing ourselves out of both the garment and tourism industries.

What's the culprit in our indecisions, inactions or inability to formulate stable policies for investments? It's the high cost of politics associated with it. So many of us are victims of our own tunnel visions completely engulfed in our own world of "The NMI, according to lord Me, Myself and I". We have to work like visionaries capable of transcending provincial views or the penchant for quick fixes in favor of appropriate and lasting policy decisions. It's the only surest way to protecting and improving upon what we have today.

Pricing ourselves out of the global market may not happen in the near term, but the day it occurs we can be sure that our number industry will suffer tremendously returning the level of economic activity to the post-navy ear. This scenario, coupled with the eventual closure of the garment industry and other spin-off industries spell dooms day for an archipelago that has enjoyed phenomenal economic growth. By then, we would have turned paradise into the hell of our very own people. This about it in that the future looks a bit bleak and I'm not sure this is what we envision for our children and posterity. Thanks.

JACK ANDERSON and MICHAEL BINSTEIN WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

The environment has become an issue again

WASHINGTON—Maybe it's an epiphany—or maybe just expediency—but Republicans and Democrats have become born-again environmentalists.

President Clinton and House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., are the two biggest converts. They've read the polls showing that voters reject the "Contract With America"'s assault on clean air and water.

Clinton, who has had a love-hate relationship with the issue, depending on the political climate, has recently been ripping "regulatory relief" as a ruse for taking the environmental cops off the beat.

Gingrich has been infinitely more shameful. Only last year, he regaled Republican donors with tales of an Environmental Protection Agency run amok, but now he says that his party is "strategically out of position on the environment." He hasn't accused the EPA of being a "jobs killing agency" since GOP pollster Linda DiVall concluded that "attacking the EPA is a non-starter" with voters.

Although one of his top lieutenants calls the EPA the "Gestapo of government"—and Republicans seek to gut the agency's budget for enforcement and clean-up activities—Gingrich recently pleaded for EPA intervention to stop the pollution of Georgia's Chattahoochee River. EPA officials have found this endlessly amusing.

As the leading enviro-evangelist of the Clinton administration, EPA Administrator Carol Browner has had few moments of mirth. She has coped with Republican contempt as well as White House indifference.

Although Clinton made the environment a focal point of his State of the Union address this year, the issue drew a fleeting reference in last year's speech. That's because Clinton pollster Dick Morris, despite his Republican credentials, counseled the president that the GOP had overreached on the environment.

Senior White House adviser George Stephanopoulos was among many officials who were more yellow than green when it came to the environment. He clashed repeatedly with Browner over the extent to which the environment would figure in the 1995 State of the Union address, according to White House sources.

Nor was it their first run-in. Shortly before the 1994 elections, Stephanopoulos went ballistic when he learned that Browner intended to issue regulations for reformulated gasoline, which would cause less air pollution but raise prices a few cents at the pump. Chief of Staff Leon Panetta ultimately settled the dispute in Browner's favor.

Arguing that the environment was a political loser, Stephanopoulos wanted to soft-pedal the issue in the 1995 speech. Browner wanted to galvanize voters against the Republicans, who were then pandering to polluters with big pocketbooks. In the end, Browner got the "e-word" inserted into the speech, but not much more. However, her vindication came when the environment went from being a throw-away line in 1995 to a wedge issue this year.

The Republicans helped things considerably by giving corporate America carte blanche to rewrite two decades of carefully crafted laws. Still, some EPA sources point to another turning point. It came immediately following the 1994 election, when Browner assembled her top political staff and lamented how the EPA was becoming "nebulous with the public."

"(Browner) said to them 'Never again will we announce something we are doing, a standard we're setting, without explaining the public health ramifications,'" said a source who attended the meeting. "I want to know how many lung cancers just got avoided. I want to know how many asthma cases just got avoided. I want to read in everything we do what it does for public health in their neighborhood."

Unfortunately, Gingrich and Clinton first had to read about it in the polls.

WHITE HOUSE WATCH—It's the Clinton administration's version of the old television game show, "What's My Line," and it's often played mischievously during Cabinet meetings.

In addition to the nearly two dozen department and agency heads who regularly attend the meetings, a growing throng of deputies and staffers have begun showing up at the once-exclusive gatherings.

"I don't know who half the people in the room are," complains one senior administration official.

Commerce Secretary Ron Brown is one of several officials who has been spotted passing notes to his colleagues inquiring about the identities of certain Cabinet meeting attendees. Brown recently jotted a note to a colleague guessing that one new face at a meeting definitely looked like he belonged at the CIA.

It turned out, however, that this person toiled unglamorously as a mid-level official at the Department of Energy.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

No to GOP primary

Dear Editor: CAN THE GOP go wrong in 1997 when the party is blessed with two fine candidates whom we have absolute confidence in their abilities to run our government? Both men have admirable traits, sharp representation skills and are exceptionally popular for their dynamic diplomacy.

You would have easily guessed. They are former Governor Pete P. Tenorio and Honorable Juan N. Babauta. Our dilemma is both men want to run the 1997 gubernatorial post which means a painful process - the primary election. If you recall, this process led to the fall of GOP in the last election. The de-

structive blow of 1993 primary still lingers and any possibility of reoccurring should be avoided. While the GOP leaders are now busy searching for a solution to this complexity, we, as Republicans, find ourselves in a quagmire.

The passion to change leadership continues to spread throughout the CNMI just as the disarray of important issues often go unresolved. But we must not wait for the party to be divided again. Now is the time for GOP leaders to strengthen and quickly employ peaceful alternatives in selecting the right candidate. The "primary" is a pitfall and should not be considered an option. Because of our bad experience, we dread having the

same jittery and painful result from another primary election. We appeal to the GOP leaders, former Governor Tenorio and Honorable Babauta to act now and reach for every diplomacy available under their political hats for an amicable solution.

We, the constituents, are humbly asking Honorable Babauta to run for another term as the Washington Representative and work in concert with the former Governor Tenorio in his bid for the 1997 gubernatorial post. We believe that having Honorable Babauta's political acumen in DC and former Governor Tenorio's local temperament as Governor is pivotal to strengthening the party for the

Continued on page 12

Why return to get abused here

Dear Editor: I read that Mr. Vic Perez is back on island. He must really enjoyed the island style here to want to come back to such an abusive island. Maybe he is a masochist that he has come back to get used and abused again. Maybe he came to save the day for all the potential alien labor union personnel. I am sure the labor union activists from Hawaii brought him back to show that he can return and apply for work. The reason the union would like to do this is to entice the alien work force into union participation so that they may collect your hard earned money to support their jobs. I am sure Mr. Mott does not do all this work because he is a humanitarian and cares, he is just doing the job he is paid to do with workers union fees.

If a union decides to strike, he will be in the front line yelling through a megaphone, the only difference is he will still get his check while yelling for you and your paycheck with the union deductions. He is not here for free, he is trying to expand his business and believe me unions are a big business in the states.

What can really sell you: Job Security - You are on contract and local laws require local hire preference

More Money - You are on a contract signed before you accepted the job

Better Working Conditions - You can contact the Labor Department for free or DPPHSS.

The only thing he can guarantee you is that you will pay your union dues on time and that he will come

and visit once in a while and scream about the abusive behavior of your employer and then go back to Hawaii and live good on your money.

If you are a US citizen, then you have every right to join a union if you like. I don't know if Mr. Mott would be willing to put as much effort as he is if he could only muster 20 or 30 people. Mr. Mott should try and get the illegal Mexican aliens in Southern California to unionize as he could offer them about the same amount of job security as he can over here. I am not one who is against unions. I am only looking at a realistic picture as to what the union can really offer the alien workers here for the money they will be paying.

Also, those protesters complaining to the US Congressmen recently.

Continued on page 12

Consistency needed on rights issue

Dear Editor: AS A Cuban-American living, raising a family, contributing to our young democracy in the CNMI, in an area where, literally "east meets west", and accustomed to aggressive US "containment" foreign policy, I find it interesting in observing this policy in action here in this ideologically volatile cultural region.

Again, the world has witnessed another post-cold war confrontation between a metropolitan nation and its (whoops!) former "sovereign" state. To add some clarity to my political tete-a-tete, I am writing about the recent shooting down of two Cuban-American, civilian, unarmed, unarmed, small aircraft in international waters of the coast of Cuba. This political situation has tampered the wrath of the United State's Presi-

dent Clinton to choke the life out of Cuban Marxist-Leninist communism by tightening the trade embargo and implementing economic sanctions on this geo-politically influential island in the Caribbean Sea.

Of course, the United States will defend its policy under the flag of universal human rights. And, I support the US or anyone who champions a cause for the "Rights of Man". But, if an entity sounds the horns of Jericho and screams "Abusador!", then "let freedom ring" around the world that all violations of human rights by anyone or nation shall be dealt a heavy blow by the United States and a higher authority.

A true test of the "rightness" of a policy is if it can be applied to all people in all situations. If not, perhaps the policy is not so "correct".

Using cold war rhetoric, the CNMI is America's frontier democracy on the fringes of a despotic and totalitarian

Continued on page 12



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Marshalls get US Senate backing

For expanded medical program on radiation

By Giff Johnson
For the Variety

MAJURO - US Senate leaders are backing a Marshall Islands bid to expand a medical program for radiation-affected islanders, and to legislate other recommendations of President Clinton's Advisory Committee on Human Radiation Experiments, said Marshalls Foreign Minister Phillip Muller.

Although recently declassified US government documents have confirmed widespread fallout contamination from hydrogen bomb tests of the 1950s, US policy has been to provide medical monitoring for only two atoll populations, the first official US recognition that the nuclear test legacy is far worse than has ever been acknowledged by the American government.

"Of all the hearings we've attended in Washington over the years, this was the best," Muller said in Majuro Wednesday (March 20) after returning

from testifying before the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee in Washington.

"The senators did their homework and they were very sympathetic to our needs. Even if the process takes on Human Radiation Experiments, said Marshalls Foreign Minister Phillip Muller.

Although US Department of Energy officials testified that they had no problem with an expanded medical program, if Congress mandates and funds it, Muller said he expects the US administration to attempt to "block or water down" proposed legislation that is now under consideration by the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee.

"As of today," Muller said Wednesday, "we've submitted proposed legislation to Chairman Ted Stevens (R-Alaska) to include Ailuk, Likiep,

Wotho, Bikini and Enewetak in the medical program.

"We want to get people included in the medical program who should have been included much earlier."

The senators at the hearing - Democratic Senators John Glenn (D-Ohio) and Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii) joined Stevens at the hearing - said they want to implement the recommendations of the Advisory Committee, Muller said.

Another key proposal is to legislate an independent review of all DOE medical records and scientific reports on the Marshall Islands, and to have the US Congress exercise oversight control over the medical and scientific studies of nuclear test-affected islands and islanders. "We're not satisfied with the Department of Energy's medical and scientific monitoring program," Muller said.

Stevens commented that Marshall Islanders have been "abused" and it is

time to address the persistent radiation problems so the US can "close the book honorably" in the Marshall Islands, Muller said.

Muller said a major concern of the Marshall Islands is that the DOE continues to maintain that there were no human radiation studies on Marshall Islanders in the face of its own reports that document Marshall Islanders were used in experiments. It's "no longer a question of it (experiments) is true or not; we've got evidence. What we want is names," Muller said.

"The DOE representative at the Senate hearing said there were never any human radiation experiments in the past or going on now," Muller said. "Our response was to say that there's evidence. We've gone past the stage of asking, 'is it true?' Now we want to have the names of those Marshallese who were involved in the studies so that they and their

families will know." DOE documents themselves show that residents of Rongelap and Enewetak were used for radiation experiments, Muller said. People from these islands were injected with chromium-51 or given tritiated water to drink as part of experiments, he said.

Muller added that another area that they have asked the US Congress for assistance is to speed up the release of nuclear test documents from the DOE and the Defense Department. "The declassification process has practically come to a stop," Muller said. "we've asked the Congress to speed it up and to also get the Defense Department to open up."

While DOE has released thousands of documents, Defense has supplied almost nothing, he said, adding that many of those documents released still include large portions that are blacked out with magic markers making it impossible to read them.

Camacho should pay the price, says Sutton

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE SIX-man jury will resume today their deliberation as they failed to come up with a verdict yesterday at the trial for murder suspect Alvin A. Camacho.

After given lengthy final instructions from Superior Court Presiding Judge Alexandro Castro, the jurors "took" the case late afternoon when they started deliberating.

The discussion continued until 9 p.m. No verdict was reached.

Castro decided to give the jurors enough time to deliberate today.

At his closing arguments, Deputy Atty. Gen. Loren Sutton said based on evidence presented no doubt Camacho fired a gun that killed Jeffrey A. Omar and

wounded three other persons.

Camacho was "fed up" against the Tanapag group or from people throwing rocks at their house, said Sutton, chief of the Attorney General's Office Criminal Investigation Division.

The prosecutor said Camacho prepared himself to shoot the group as indicated when he borrowed a .22 semi-automatic rifle from Alvin Adriano in Navy Hill.

Sutton said the defendant waited for the group outside their house. And when the Tanapag boys arrived, he opened fire not even knowing who were in the truck.

The prosecutor pointed out that Camacho was positively identified by Raymond Salas and Greg Magofna as one who shot at the group.

Salas admitted he was with

Camacho at the time while Magofna was among the three victims wounded in the June 10 incident.

Sutton said if Salas was the one who fired the gun why it was Camacho who, along with Adriano, cleaned the rifle at Obyan Beach.

Sutton also questioned the credibility of a Wisconsin-based gun residue test expert who testified for the defense.

The government lawyer said in a civilized community, people are not allowed to take the law into their hands.

"Camacho killed Jeffrey Omar and wounded three others. He must pay the price," Sutton concluded.

Defense lawyer G. Anthony Long maintained that Camacho did not fire a gun citing the results of a gun residue (GSR) test conducted by the police.

Long said the test proved that Camacho, who was accused of firing 20-30 times, was negative of GSR.

On the other hand, Salas, who according to the prosecution simply picked up cartridges and held the gun, was positive of GSR.

Long said Salas gave testimonies to Detective Jack Salas who happened to be his cousin and Paul Ogomoro whose wife is Jack's relative.

The defense lawyer pointed out that Magofna's testimonies contained a lot of loopholes citing, among other things, the witnesses accounts that it was dark when the shooting happened.

Long unwrapped all the rocks recovered at the crime scene before the jury.

"The Tanapag boys just wanted to have fun. With all these rocks, they had fun," Long said. "If they did not come (to Camacho's house) nothing could have happened."

Sablan: Protest politically tainted

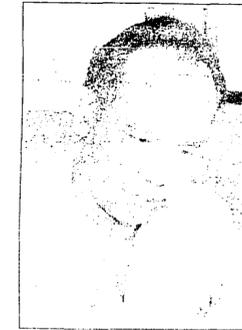
By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THE director of the Coastal Resources Management said yesterday the objection of Speaker Diego T. Benavente to the granting of a permit to a seaplane operation in Saipan's Lagoon was politically tainted.

Manuel C. Sablan, in a letter to the Speaker yesterday, also said Benavente was misinformed.

Earlier, last March 13, Benavente wrote Sablan that the site for the seaplane operation at a beach in Chalan Laulau posed safety hazards to the operator's tourist clientele and the motorists since it was close to Beach Road.

Benavente claimed the CRM changed the operation site from Tanapag to "proximate to Quartermaster Road."



Manuel C. Sablan

But according to Sablan, the public hearing notice which appeared in the Variety on Nov. 29 last year specified the site as "north of the Sugar Dock" area within the lagoon.

Sablan said those who attended the public hearing did not object to the seaplane operation provided it was sited away from the Sugar Dock area. "They did object to having the operation in the Sugar Dock area

because of the proximity of the Saipan Community School."

Sablan told Benavente that he was disappointed upon reading the Speaker's letter which "contain(ed) typical political innuendoes, misinformation, and inaccuracies tailored to stimulate emotional public reaction."

Sablan pointed out that the Speaker had not bothered to attend the hearing, adding that Benavente's protest was received 41 days after the permit had been approved.

Sablan also said Benavente's questioning the Chalan Laulau site "misses completely the issue in point, and is based on assumptions."

"If you had taken the time to read the Permit Condition B you would have noticed that it states 'the seaplane may not taxi to or make landings on the shoreline. All passengers must be ferried to the aircraft via boat or other approved watercraft.'"

This means, Sablan explained, that the boat ferrying



Diego T. Benavente

the passengers to the aircraft would start from the Fishing Base boat ramps and not from the beach in Chalan Laulau.

Sablan also told Benavente that he shared the latter's concern regarding the local fishermen.

"However," Sablan said, "the main areas in the lagoon that our fishermen concentrate their fishing activities in is within the sea grass area inside the 200-

yard mark from the shoreline."

He said the designated take-off and landing zones for the seaplane "is about 50-100 feet on the inward portion of the reef with an approximate bearing of N15°10'30" E145°42'32"."

The reasons for not allowing the seaplane operation at the Tanapag Harbor area were the anticipated doubling of shipping activities there; the operation of glass-bottom boats daily; and the presence of leisure and fishing boats plying the area, Sablan said.

Benavente had urged Sablan to amend the permit by reverting the location of the ramp back to Tanapag.

The House committee on natural resources, headed by Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio, had also said it would look into the circumstances behind the granting of the seaplane operation permit.

Sablan told Benavente that "our office does not have any closely guarded secrets; it is a public office open to scrutiny by the public."

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DPS to enforce law vs 'eyesores'

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff
DEPARTMENT of Public Safety
Commissioner Jose M. Castro announced yesterday that the DPS will

start the strict implementation of a Saipan law seeking the removal of scrap metals on the island. Castro noted that many vehicles and pieces of scrap metal have been seen

on the premises of businesses and residences. The commissioner underscored the need to eliminate the metals which have created an eyesore and danger along the roads and in the environment.

The law, which was signed by then Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio in 1989, seeks to eliminate from the public view the junk vehicles and other equipment.

Castro urged owner of any property to deliver the metals to the government scrap yard located in Lower Base.

He said the Saipan Mayor's Office will assist private firms or individuals

in removing the metals from their property.

Under the law, if any owner of scrap metal desire to retrieve parts from inoperable vehicles or equipment, he or she may store them behind visual screening and removed them from public view or inside a building or other structure.

Castro said DPS will notify anyone who fails to follow the law and be given 10 days to comply.

The commissioner added that penalties will be imprisonment in less than six months or a fine of not more than 1,000, or both for each violation.



Jose M. Castro



GRADUATES of Drug Abuse Resistance Education receive their certificates of program accomplishment at the William S. Reyes Elementary School gymnasium.

DARE program graduates 124

ABOUT 124 sixth-grade students of William S. Reyes Elementary School graduated yesterday from DARE program.

DARE— which stands for Drug Abuse Resistance Education—is a joint program of the Public School System, the Department of Public Safety, and the Governor's Assistant for Drug and Substance Abuse.

DPS Commissioner Jose M. Castro said the DARE program was part of the administration's declaration of "War Against Drugs."

The program, Castro said, was also part of the government's efforts to prepare the young citizens for their future roles as leaders of the Commonwealth.

DARE is offered to all public schools on Saipan.

Castro said the DPS wants to extend the program to Rota and Tinian, but the agency is constrained by lack

of manpower.

Only two police officers, PO2 Arnold Seman and PO2 Sandy Hambros, are available to conduct lectures.

"We want to extend this program as soon as we get additional resources," Castro said.

The program, which began last year, is conducted in each class twice a week, for two months.

The objective of DARE, according to Seman, is "to reach out to students to get involved in the government's drug abuse prevention efforts."

The program, Seman added, "teaches young people how to respond to peer pressures of using drugs."

Simply saying "No" is not enough, Seman said. "The young people have to learn the techniques of resisting the habit," he said. (MCM)

DEQ water quality report

THE DIVISION of Environmental Quality (DEQ) analyzed water samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm drainages this week. The sample collected from the following location contained excessive concentration of fecal coliform bacteria, which exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards.

* Drainage South of Dai-Ichi Hotel

High concentrations of fecal coliforms maybe the result of stormwater runoff due to rain storms. Fecal coliform bacteria are not usually disease causing. The bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Studies have shown

that storm water runoff in tropical environments may also contain fecal coliform bacteria from the natural environment. To adequately address public health concerns, DEQ maintains its policy of advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location within 48 hours of this notice.

The Division of Environmental Quality analyzed samples of marine recreational and storm drainages water from 18 locations on the west side of Saipan island this week.

DEQ welcomes all inquiries as to the quality of the beach water. The public is encouraged to contact DEQ at 234-6114 with any questions concerning this matter.

PSS schools undergo scrutiny

ABOUT 40 members of the Western Accreditation Commission are currently conducting accreditation proceedings in all public schools in the CNMI.

Education Commissioner William Torres said the commission members have been on the island for about three weeks, observing both the physical and teaching qualities of local public schools.

The commission is composed of academicians from Guam, Hawaii, US mainland and authorities from the Public School System, Torres said.

At least eight schools have been visited by commission members. They were the Gregorio T Camacho, Garapan, Rota, Tanapag and Oleia elementary schools and the Hopwood Junior High School and the Marianas High School.

"The accreditation process is like making an audit," Torres said.

Palacios honored



Velma Palacios

FOR THE first time, graduate students from Hawaii Pacific University received national recognition by Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges. Saipan's Velma Palacios was selected for her consistent demonstration of excellence in academic and personal endeavors.

Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges is a nationally recognized honor program in higher education with 58 years of service. More than 1,000 schools in all 50 states and the District of Columbia participate.

Velma will join her counterparts nationwide in having her biographies featured in the national volume of Who's Who Among Students in American Universities and Colleges.

In recognition of her achievement, Velma was also awarded a personalized commemorative certificate. She is the daughter of Mr. Francisco (Tik) B. and Veronica (Cheng) M. Palacios of Dandan, Saipan.

Say "NO" to Drugs

But unlike the auditing process which involves financial matters, Torres said, the accreditation proceedings aim at finding out whether a school possesses the education quality that meets the "standard of excellence."

"The commission's job is to validate the documents submitted by the schools," Torres explained.

The accreditation team will later submit its recommendations for each school to the Western Accreditation Commission in Burlington, California.

"The beauty of the accreditation process," Torres said, "is that it inspires schools to improve the quality of their facilities and teaching."

Both the students and the staff of an accredited school, Torres added, would benefit from the label of excellence.

An accredited school, Torres said, gets international recognition, and this would make it easier for its students to get admission to schools outside the CNMI.

At the same time, Torres added,



William Torres

teachers and personnel who worked for an accredited school would find it easy to find jobs in other countries.

"Even if the admission personnel of a foreign school does not know where Saipan is, he would not have second thoughts about admitting the student or the teacher applying for job, if sees the accreditation label on the school from where he came from," Torres said.

(MCM)

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MVB Osaka to promote recycling

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

FRUIT baskets made from old newspapers will be displayed at the Marianas Visitors Bureau Osaka office when it opens tomorrow.

The baskets were made by Margaret Macaranas and Henara Ada, extension agents of the Northern Marianas College Agriculture and Life Sciences extension program.

They were presented yesterday to MVB Managing Director Anicia Q. Tomokane, who later displayed one of them laden with various kinds of fruit during a press conference on the Osaka office opening at Hafa Adai Beach

Hotel.

Tomokane said the paper baskets on display at the opening of the Osaka office at the spanking Osaka City Air Terminal would jibe in with Japan Association of Travel Agents' campaign to promote environmental awareness, particularly the use of products made from nonbiodegradable materials like paper.

Margarita D. Tudela, associate director for extension services, Agriculture and Life Sciences, said the paper-basket project is part of the college's waste management program.

Tudela said they presented the baskets hoping the MVB would display

them because "this is an excellent example of recycling."

Tomokane said she encouraged the use of paper products because the Styrofoam disposable cups and plates, when burned, destroy the ozone layer resulting in the heating of the earth.

"The use of recycled products is one of the things that we have to practice here as much as possible, and I like this message to go out to everyone here in the Commonwealth," Tomokane said.

She said paper products are even better-looking than plastic products.

Tudela said the college's recycling program used to focus on aluminum.

"Now we're recycling paper by turning them into something that could be salable to be used as gifts."

Ada, program coordinator, said they would make more baskets for a Mother's Day sale on May 12.

She said the baskets were designed by Ada and Macaranas themselves.

Ada said she learned to weave the baskets from rolled newspapers two years ago from Macaranas.

Macaranas, in turn, had learned the

art and skill from a Filipino maid in Tinian.

She came to know of the maid's skill from the maid's employer who went to the college to learn how to sew.

Anybody who wants to learn how to make paper basket was asked to contact Ada or Macaranas at 234-9023, Ext. 1711.

Ada and Macaranas are also willing to teach a group of from 5 to 10 interested persons who may be employees in an office or housewives in a neighborhood.

MTC upgrades fiber optic capabilities

THROUGH the use of new high technology fiber optic testing equipment, employees of the Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation (MTC) can now shorten service turnaround times when making any necessary repairs to the company's underground fiber optic cable.

According to a news release from MTC, employees of its Earth Station and Outside Plant departments recently graduated from a special training program conducted by GTE, called "Fiber Optic Splicing and Testing."

GTE Outside Plant Instructor Mike Pettis of Wayne, Indiana was on Saipan recently to instruct

MTC employees through video and hands-on training in the use of the new equipment, called an "Optical Time Domain Reflectometer."

During the training, MTC ran an actual test of a fiber installation from Gualo Rai to Capital Hill and then back to the Susupe MTC central switching office.

MTC's technicians can now test fiber splices, the quality of the circuit, and fiber distance more easily — a service that is virtually invisible to the average telephone user, according to MTC Outside Plant Supervisor Joe Dela Rosa who completed the course.



MTC employees complete a GTE course in the use of new fiber optic splicing and testing equipment. (ID left to right) Simsack Jack, Roy Ortizo, GTE instructor Mike Pettis, Inos Yamada, Newly Agulto, Dominic Pangelinan, Joe Dela Rosa and Juan Manibusan.

Nakamura starts re-election campaign

ON THE EVENING of March 19th, at the rising of the new moon, President Nakamura got together with his campaign committee to celebrate the opening of his National Campaign Headquarters in downtown Koror and the beginning of his re-election bid for the Presidency for the second and final term. The Palau Constitution limits the term of the Presidency

for two four-year terms. The timing of the first meeting of the President's National Campaign Committee underscores a campaign strategy designed to gain momentum and strength leading towards the November general elections.

In addressing his re-election committee, President Nakamura began by setting the tone for the

campaign by cautioning against the use of negative campaigning in favor of a more positive and constructive campaign approach. He reminded the committee of the predictable raising of controversies and sensationalizing of minor issues on the part of political opponents and encouraged his supporters to focus more on the merit and strength of his

administration's performance and achievements over the last several years, and the goals and commitments that need to be met in the coming years.

In response to a question, the President said that he does not see a national need to turn his national committee into another political party to further divide, factionalize, polarize and confuse the people of Palau at this crucial stage in Palau's development.

He instead used the occasion to call for a national unity and cooperation, to resolve or overcome minor differences, and to welcome every Palauan to join and work together for a better Palau. Accompanied by his wife and First Lady Elong Nakamura, the President also used the occasion to touch base with his supporters and critics, alike as the evening progressed with dinner in a friendly and cordial atmosphere.

FSM representative to WMO meet designated

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE)-FSM President Bailey Olter informed Professor G.O.P. Obasi, Secretary-General of World Meteorological Organization (WMO), has designated Akira Suzuki to be the FSM's representative to the convention on WMO.

Suzuki is the Officer-in-Charge of the Pohnpei Weather Station.

The FSM became a permanent member following accession to the WMO Convention by ratifying the instrument of ratification during its May 1995 First Regular Session of the Ninth Congress.

WMO came into force on March 23, 1950 as an intergovernmental authoritative voice on atmospheric environment and climate change issues.

In 1951, the UN General Assembly approved an agreement between the UN and WMO which conferred on WMO the status of specialized agency responsible for all matters falling under its Convention.

There are six Regional Associations: Africa, Asia, South America, North America and Central America, Europe and South-West Pacific. They seek to promote execution of resolutions of the Congress and the Executive Council.

WMO Congress is the General Assembly of delegates representing members which meets every

four years to determine policies of WMO. The Executive Council, composed of 36 directors of National Meteorological and Hydrological Services serving in individual capacities, meets at least once a year to supervise the implementation of decisions and programs approved by the Congress.

It has technical commissions on Aeronautical Meteorology; Agricultural Meteorology; Atmospheric Sciences; Basic Systems; Climatology; Hydrology; Instruments and Methods of Observation; and Marine Meteorology composed of WMO designated experts who study various branches of meteorology and operational hydrology as well as their application.

Robbery an inside job

SOLOMON Islands police say what could have been the country's biggest ever armed robbery has turned out to be a theft involving insiders. The apparent robbery took place at one of the casinos in the capital, Honiara, RNZI reports.

Deputy police commissioner, Morton Siriheti says while a security guard was allegedly held at gunpoint by masked men, a heavy security safe was removed from the

Super Club Casino. The robbers made off with about US\$300,000 worth of casino chips and cheques, and \$60,000 in cash.

Siriheti says the whole robbery had been a set-up which was confirmed during interrogation of the security guard. The guard is now being held in custody with two others.

Acting on information, the police expect all stolen goods will be recovered.....Pacnews

Candidate caught with ballots

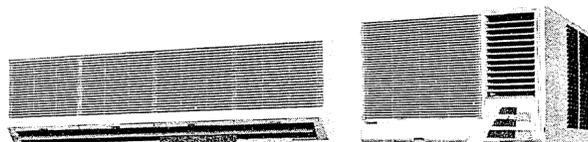
PAPUA New Guinea police say they have caught a Komo/Magarima by-election candidate with 300 ballot papers in his possession, all of them marked in his own favour, the Post Courier reports. Paul Pale, a former fraud squad policeman, is now in cus-

tody. Highlands police commander, Samson Mapi says police have not yet laid any charges in connection with the ballot papers, but they have charged Pale with illegal possession of a factory made shotgun and five cartridges.

Mapi says ballot papers are not supposed to be lying around freely in the hands of candidates or supporters. He says Pale was stopped by police in the Komo area and a search of his vehicle turned up the ballot papers, the shotgun and the ammunition....Pacnews

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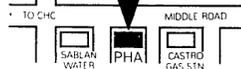
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 RAV-806CE2BD • Cooling Capacity: 20,000 (BTU/h) • Dimensions (mm): (H) 250 x (W) 1,270 x (D) 200	 RAV-806KE2BD • Cooling Capacity: 20,000 (BTU/h) • Dimensions (mm): (H) 370 x (W) 1,350 x (D) 200	 RAC-07JSL • Cooling Capacity: 7,000 (BTU/h) • Dimensions (mm): (H) 340 x (W) 520 x (D) 525	 RAC-09JSL • Cooling Capacity: 8,500 (BTU/h) • Dimensions (mm): (H) 340 x (W) 520 x (D) 525
 RAC-18JSL • Cooling Capacity: 12,100 (BTU/h) • Dimensions (mm): (H) 420 x (W) 520 x (D) 630	 RAC-18L2B • Cooling Capacity: 18,000 (BTU/h) • Dimensions (mm): (H) 435 x (W) 660 x (D) 630		

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Marshalls economic woes spotlighted

By Giff Johnson
For the Variety
MAJURO - The board of directors of the Asian Development Bank visited Majuro this week, a visit that put the economic woes of the Marshall Islands in the spotlight and generated concern that ADB promoted reforms are hurting the private sector at a time when local business needs support to pick up the slack in the economy caused by large scale government cut-backs.

The group of nine ADB board members met with President Amata Kabua, Cabinet officials and business leaders during their six-day visit. Prior to arriving here, they toured Tonga and Tuvalu, and headed to the Federated States of Micronesia Thursday.

The ADB has become a major player in the Marshall Islands economy, with loans and technical assistance through last year totaling more than \$40 million. In 1996 and 1997, ADB is planning an additional \$30 million in loans and technical assistance for transportation improvements a private sector development line of credit, public sector reform and other projects.

ADB team leader Daniel Besson, who is based in Manila, said in Majuro just before departing that the economic situation here "is very serious" because of the massive dependence of the Marshall Islands on aid from America that may be cut off in five years.

A reform package must be implemented now so that it can be done gradually to lessen the negative impact on the Marshallese people, he said. Large reductions in government workers, raised taxes and privatizing services currently provided free or nearly free by government are among the reforms that must take place in the Marshalls, and the sooner the better, he said. "The gradual approach is better," he said. "It takes more time but is less detrimental (to the population)."

Congress special session adjourns

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE)-The FSM Congress last week held its sine die session ending the Third Special Session of the Ninth Congress after a one-day extension to the 10-day called Special Session. The Special Session was called to act on, among other things, the pending nominations of Resio Moses as FSM Ambassador to the United Nations, Epel Ilon as Deputy Secretary of the Department of External Affairs, Patrick Mackenzie as the Director of Budget, Hohn Ehsa as Secretary of the Department of Finance and Rensley Sigrah as FSM Public Auditor.

Congress confirmed by secret ballot the nominations of Mackenzie and Ilon as Director of Budget and Deputy Secretary of the Department of External Affairs, respectively.

It rejected the nominations of Resio Moses, Rensley Sigrah and John Ehsa in separate secret ballot votes.

However, Congress later changed its mind and adopted motions for reconsideration of each nomination and subsequently deferred confirmation until the May 1996 Regular Session.

Congress passed on final reading, before adjourning, 22 bills and adopted 9 resolutions including the resolutions confirming nominations of Mackenzie and Ilon. Congress also overrode Presidential item veto on Congressional Act No. 9-44.

This is one reason that ADB is concentrating training and assistance programs with the Ministry of Finance to emphasize sound economic management.

He cited US aid as an example. "The US supports private sector development, but its funding doesn't go to the private sector," he said. "It goes to the government."

The ADB wants greater private sector involvement in economic development in the Marshalls and can give money directly to private businesses. He described the government as "not really private sector minded," and said the ADB is encouraging the government to "be more friendly to the private sector."

Local business leaders told the ADB group at a Wednesday luncheon of the Chamber of Commerce that the private sector doesn't have adequate access into policy decisions pushed by the ADB that affect private businesses.

The ADB directors were asked what oversight they have of the ADB consultants now based in Majuro who are advising the government because if private businesses and government officials reach agreement on a plan of action for the economy, but the ADB consultants disagree, whose decision will take precedence?

The issue related to recent tax legislation passed by the government, which included marked differences from a package agreed to at the conclusion of numerous government-Chamber of Commerce working discussions.

Vicente Jayme, who oversees the Marshall Islands program from Manila, said taxes are a difficult issue, but the Marshalls must face the situation. "It is clear that the level of government expenditures is way beyond a sustainable level," he said. The Marshalls need to find new sources of money, lower expenses by cutting salaries five percent and laying off 800 workers - which he described as a "first cut" - must be acted up to, Jayme said.

Local commercial leaders said that the ADB policy advisory team's role is a generally welcomed effort, but one businessman commented that problems are developing because the business community is left of major decisions that affect the private sector.

continue the complaints, just GO AWAY, show us you really don't like it here, we will try and survive without you. I am sure these people are just a very small token of the alien sentiment here in the CNMI.

PATRICK LEON GUERRERO

Leprosy program

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSM INFORMATION SERVICE)-President Bailey Olter has invited Congress Speaker Jack Fritz and his colleagues to the ceremony officially launching the Leprosy Elimination Project for FSM at Mwalok Community Church in Sokehs Municipality.

The ceremony was attended by Dr. S.T. Han, WHO Regional Director and other members of the Western Pacific Region and Yohie Sasakawa, Jr., the owner of the Sasakawa Foundation which is providing funding for the program.

FSM Health officials and State Directors of Health Services were among those officials invited to the ceremony.

At the ceremony a new Tripartite Agreement was signed by representatives of the parties: the Government of the FSM, the WHO, and the Sasakawa Foundation which identifies responsibilities of each party toward the control of leprosy in the FSM.

The general public was also invited to attend the Leprosy Elimination Project official launching ceremony.

No...
 Continued from page 5

future. We will support Honorable Babauta for another term as representative and them as governor in the following gubernatorial election.

We are fortunate to have both fine candidates but it is obvious that we do not want to be subjected to another primary election. We beg all of you to put things in perspective for the benefit of the party. Immediate actions obviously include finding and amicable solution for a successful outcome in the upcoming election.

We wish all of you success in reaching a "win-win situation."

SI YUUS MAASE
 An Employed Republican

Why...
 Continued from page 5

if they don't like working here, why do they stay? No one has them handcuffed to a tree, they should just leave this island and go home. Why

PATRICK LEON GUERRERO

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Everybody knows our team: Kurt, Kaleo, Miki and me. Hey! How come I don't have a name?

Well it's been 25 years and I feel I should have a name. So I'm asking the children of Saipan to help give me a name.

All these years they've never bothered to give me a name.

If you're 12 years or younger color in this cartoon, put a name on my name tag and drop it off at any Moylan's location.

They just expect me to work like a dog promoting the good guys and gals.

You could win \$500.00! Oh yes, please be sure your entry includes these details.

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Open to any child 12 years old or younger. All entries submitted by April 22nd. Color in the cartoon and place your suggestion for dog's name on his name tag. Drop entry off to our office in Chalan Lau Lau. Cartoons for entering also available at any Moylan's office. Judging by Glimpses-McCann-Erickson Art Director Masahide Muramatsu.

Consistency...
 Continued from page 5

ian political wilderness in the Pacific, Pacific Rim and Asia. The CNMI should develop "containment" policies towards these types of governments to advance the cause of democracy it has chosen in political union with the United States.

For example, I have long admired the Chinese for being able to absorb foreign influence and still remain fundamentally Chinese by their ability to endure radical political changes. For thousands of years because of a deep ideological foundation based on a river the ebbs and flows with the four seasons. To make my point, why is the CNMI contracting workers from a communist country-The Republic of China? One may argue that the government is communist but the people aren't. Using that analogy, one can also say that the Cuban government is communist but the people aren't. So, why does the US impose trade sanctions on a small island in contrast to one of the largest (population, land area, economy) countries in the world who broke away from Soviet-style communism to form their own brand of communism because they felt that the Soviets are not aggressive enough in spreading communism around the world.

Currently, the CNMI is an ideological dilemma with the United States government. The result maybe the intervention of the US Department of Immigration and Naturalization and Department of Labor to ensure controlled immigration and a rise in the minimum wage to Federal standards. The CNMI is on the cutting edge of promoting human rights and democracy for the "Rights of Man" in this socially stratified region. This gives the CNMI the impetus to insist that the US government be consistent in its containment policy in advancing, enforcing and protecting our human rights given to us by God, not man, and to pursue them with the same faith, courage and justice as exhibited in Grenada, Vietnam, Panama, Persian Gulf, Somalia, Cuba and Bosnia, Herzegovina in the Pacific and Asia.

IVAN P. PLANAS

Affordable homes offered

OVER A dozen more families have moved, are about to move, or will soon be moving into their newly constructed homes on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

According to a news release yesterday, these families obtained residential mortgage financing from one of the several programs available through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) for one of the most important investments people make during the course of their lives.

NMHC continues to assist interested applicants in realizing their home ownership dreams here in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The two most active housing loan programs lately are the Loan Purchase with Guam Savings & Loan Association and the Veterans Affairs Native American Direct Loan. These programs have definitely enhanced CNMI's housing stock this decade, the NMHC said.

These programs have greatly assisted low income homesteaders, who would have otherwise done without these mini projects, which complete houses.

HOME was implemented in the CNMI in 1993. To date, a total of \$787,000 has been provided for 45 very low income families which have been assisted or are currently participating in the program.

Twenty projects have been completed thus far, fourteen are ongoing and eleven are pending. Dandan, Kagman, Koblerville, Sinapalo I (Rota) and San Jose (Tinian) homestead subdivisions are the top five areas where assistance was extended to qualified residents. Projects ranged from bath-

room facility with sewage disposal system, replacement and or repair of roof, additional bedroom(s), repair of plumbing, repair of electrical system to construction of sanitary kitchen facility.

HPG is very similar to HOME and was implemented about the same time, but funded separately. Unlike HOME, funding was interrupted. Over half a dozen very low income families were assisted under the program's funding of \$100,000.

Dandan Homestead Subdivision again had the highest number of program projects among other areas, including Kagman, Koblerville, Chalan Kanoa and Gualo Rai on Saipan, and San Jose on Tinian.

Projects included sewage disposal system, installation of water storage tanks, repair of plumbing or electrical system and interior repair.



Guam Savings & Loan Assn. project completed.

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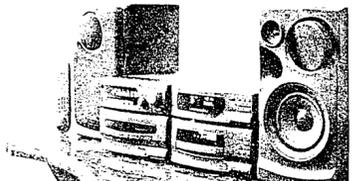
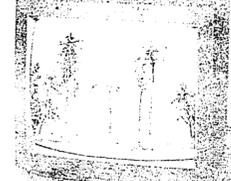
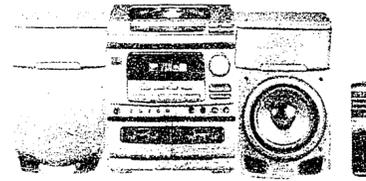
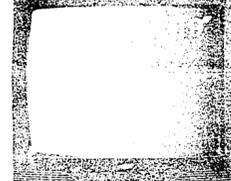
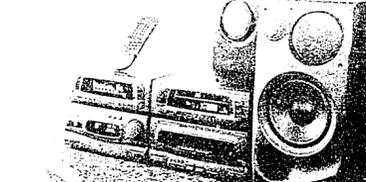
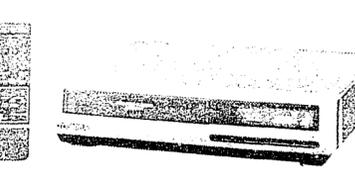
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Last month for Flame Tree Fest registration

THE COMMONWEALTH Council for Arts and Culture would like to notify all interested artists, craftspeople, food vendors, community organizations and information groups that registration for the 15th Annual Flame Tree Arts is open until March 29, 1996. All participants requiring booths and all performers who wish to be noted in the printed program must register with the Arts Council by this deadline.

Registration Forms are available at the Office of Carolinian Affairs in Garapan, the Indigenous Affairs office at the Executive Branch office on Capitol Hill and at the Arts Council office by the Capitol Hill post office. All registration forms must be turned in to the Arts Council office. A site map with all booth locations is

posted at the office and all participants requiring booth space must mark their selected space on the map.

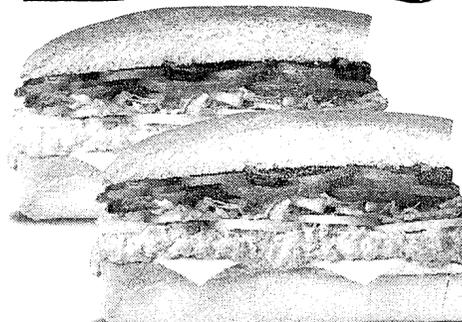
The 15th Annual Flame Tree Festival is scheduled for Saturday, April 27 and Sunday, April 28 1996 at the American Memorial Park, west of the belltower along the beachside pathway. The Festival is sponsored by the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, major corporate sponsors Mobil Oil Marianas Inc., DFS Saipan, MT, many private and corporate donors and the American Memorial Park administered by the National Park Service.

For further information about registration for the Flame Tree Arts Festival, you may contact the Arts Council office at telephone 322-9982/83.



Artist Noel Quitugua uses a traditional adze to curve wood during last year's festival. Right photo shows another artist Manny Bermudes demonstrating his own skill in carving.

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Gun-wielding woman charged

THE ATTORNEY General's Office filed criminal charge yesterday against a woman accused of illegally possessing a gun.

Veronica Massey was charged with illegal possession of a handgun before the Superior Court.

According to Assistant Atty. Gen. Christine Zachares from Nov. 5, 1995 through last March

10, Massey had in possession one 9mm. Glock handgun and 9 mm. ammunition.

The court summoned Massey to appear for a court hearing on April 8.

Meanwhile, Zachares also charged Wayne Massey for assaulting Veronica Massey last March 10.

As of press time, no other information was available to the Variety.

The hearing was set for April 1. In other court story, a man originally charged with three counts of sexual abuse of a child was given a suspended sentence.

The lower court sentenced Jesus R. Manibusan to one year impris-

onment, all suspended.

Manibusan was required to pay \$200 fine and seek counselling sessions related to parenting skills.

Manibusan entered a plea agreement with the government. He pleaded no contest to two counts of amended charges of assault and battery.

As recommended by the government, the court granted the dismissal of the original charges.

Court information showed that on two separate occasions between Dec. 26, 1993 and Jan. 1, 1995, on Tinian, Manibusan "offensively touched a girl without her permission." (FDT)

Man in trouble for failing to do 'CWS'

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

EMBARRASSMENT to perform community work service would likely put a government employee convicted of gun possession in more trouble.

The Attorney General's Office filed a motion asking the Superior Court to revoke the suspended sentence against Vicente V. Arizapa citing, among other things, failure to perform community work service.

Arizapa, an employee at Tinian Municipal Council, was sentenced last year to five years' imprisonment, all suspended, for illegal possession of a firearm.

If the court grants the AG's motion, Arizapa would serve five years in jail.

The employee was required as part of the conditions of his suspended sentence, to perform 480 hours of com-

munity work service and pay \$1,000 fine by giving monthly payments of \$50 to the Probation Office.

The Tinian Probation Office said Arizapa had not done CWS at the Public School System for the reason that he was embarrassed to perform work at the school.

The Probation Office tried to help him by transferring his CWS to the Department of Public Safety.

On fine payment, Arizapa allegedly made only two monthly payments—on May 23 and Sept. 8.

He also did not report to Probation Office last Dec. 14.

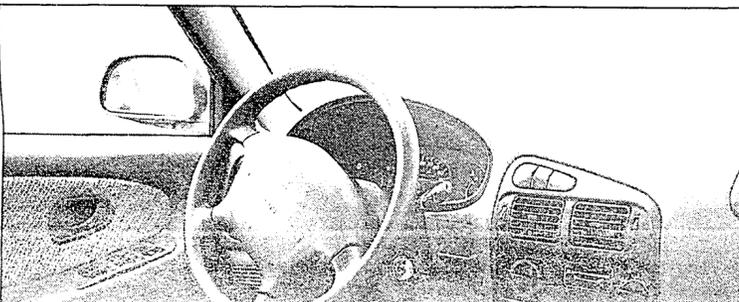
Court information showed that on May 23, 1994, Arizapa was arrested for DUI on Tinian.

A police officer seized one '38 special snubnose under the driver's seat of Arizapa's car.

IT&E donates to MHS

IN A ceremony held at the IT&E Offices in San Jose, Lupe A. Flores presented a \$1,500 check to Marianas High School representatives. The money will provide scholarships for MHS graduates. On hand to receive the donation were

MHS Counselor Lydia Igitol and PTA Representative John O. Delos Reyes Gonzales. It is the hope of the scholarship promoters that a generous IT&E donation will encourage other local business people to donate to the scholarship fund.



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Lay-Away Plan

Cayetano extends deadline for Makua homeless people

By MEKI COX
HONOLULU (AP) - Gov. Ben Cayetano extended the April 15 eviction for the people living at Makua Beach to June 15, out of concern for the families with school children, he said Wednesday.

Numerous teachers have called Cayetano concerned about disrupting the education of the 50 to 60 students living at the beach. So Cayetano said he will allow the children time to complete the school year.

The last day of school for most public schools is June seventh.

"I have placed the highest priority on education," he said. "I agree (the April 15 eviction) would create more hardship on the children who have no control over the situation at Makua."

The extension is going to be a "big relief" for the estimated 200 people living at Makua Beach, said Paul Kaukani, who works with the Honolulu Community Action Program.

The Honolulu Community Action Program, which has been try-

ing to find housing for the Makua homeless, is also relieved that it'll have more time to help, Kaukani said.

As of now, the program has only found homes for about 10 families, he said.

Over the next three months, state agencies, such as the Hawaii Housing Authority, will continue looking for alternatives for the people that need help, Cayetano said.

They will also try to provide sanitary facilities, such as portable bathrooms and temporary shelter, for the families until June 15, he added.

But the state will continue preparing for the eviction.

Mike Wilson, chairman of the state Department of Land and Natural Resources, said his department will continue cleaning up the public beach area and start clearing out a parking area for the general public.

"Makua has become a virtual garbage dump - unfit for use by the general public," Cayetano said. "That's not a beach anymore."

On Tuesday, Sen. Robert Bunda,



Ben Cayetano

chairman of the Housing Committee, had asked for a meeting with the governor to discuss extending the eviction. "We need to find out what his plan is," Bunda said. "What he put out (Wednesday) is not a plan."

He said his committee, the governor and the different agencies still need to sit down and work out a specific transitional plan for the beach dwellers.

Cayetano said he would meet with Bunda to discuss the situation further, but Bunda says neither Cayetano nor Wilson had returned his calls Wednesday to schedule a meeting.

The eviction was prompted after people living in the area complained about the uncleanness of the beach, Wilson said.

About 70 holes in the sand are used for toilets, trash has been buried in the sand and more than 70 cars have been abandoned on the beach, he said.

Large-scale transplant of coral done in Hawaii

KAWAIIHAE, Hawaii (AP) - The National Marine Fisheries Service is hailing the first-ever, large-scale transplant of live coral as a success.

The service said nearly 14 tons of live corals were moved from one location to another in Kawaihae Bay on the Big Island, with more than 99 percent of the coral surviving the relocation. The coral was detached by divers and transported under water to protect it from harbor construction scheduled to begin next week, as well as to restore nearby reefs. "This study proves that large quantities of these living animals can survive the trauma of transplant," said Hilda Diaz Soltero, southwest regional director of the fisheries service.

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers funded the project, and staff and students from the Hawaii Division of Aquatic Resources, the University of Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology and Hawaii Preparatory Academy participated.

The university will monitor the transplant sites for three years to obtain data on the growth rates and mortality of the coral.

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Thousands homeless in China

By CHARLENE L. FU
BEIJING (AP) - Women, children and the sick squeezed into tents to escape the cold, but many of the thousands of homeless from an earthquake that killed 28 in the forbidding deserts of far north-western China remained without shelter Thursday.

About 170 people were injured and 10,000 were homeless. The magnitude 6.9 earthquake late Tuesday and dozens of aftershocks of up to magnitude 5.1 caused 15,000 buildings to collapse, government spokesmen said Thursday.

The earthquake struck in a remote desert region of far western China in Xinjiang Province, which was crossed by the trading route known as the Silk Road that linked China to the Mediterranean some 2,000 years ago.

Most of the damage was in Jiashi County, about 70 kilometers (43 miles) east of Kashgar, Xinjiang's largest city and an ancient bazaar town. Most homes are one-story, made of baked mud bricks and topped by heavy wood

beams and mud.

The area struck by the quake is about 3,240 kilometers (2,000 miles) west of Beijing, near China's border with Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan. Most of its inhabitants are Muslim ethnic minorities, including Uygurs, Kyrgyz and Tajiks.

A rescue worker in Jiashi told The Associated Press by telephone: "There are no buildings left standing."

"Nobody can stay in their own homes because some have completely collapsed and others are damaged too seriously to be safe," a local reporter said in a telephone interview broadcast on national television.

Simple tents were put up in Jiashi to house women, children and the sick and elderly, but there would be no shelter for others, the reporter said. Temperatures overnight dropped to around 3 degrees Celsius (37 degrees Fahrenheit).

Soldiers worked on Thursday to put up more tents, and officials said all homeless families would have tents by nightfall.

Seventeen of those killed were children under 8, said Bake Aji, director of the Kashgar Seismology Bureau.

United Nations Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali sent a message of sympathy to the Chinese government on Wednesday.

Preliminary losses in the county have been put at 150 million yuan (\$18 million).

School buildings were heavily damaged and classes have been canceled for a week, according to the television report. Local officials said 28 schools collapsed.

In Kashgar, local officials said at least several hundred homes were damaged by the tremor.

But local residents said Wednesday that there was little visible damage. Robert Kerr, an American student, said he saw "a few minor cracks" in buildings in the city center.



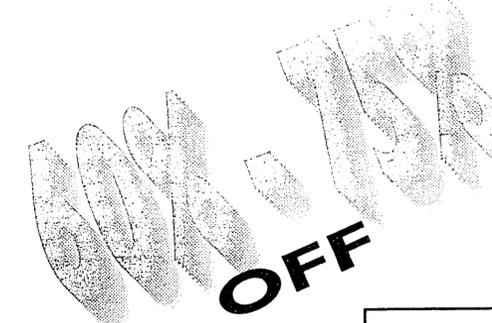
Some of the older members of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference chat at the closing ceremony of the conference in Beijing. The conference is an advisory body which meets concurrently with the annual meeting of the legislature, which closed Sunday. (AP Photo)

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Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk waves his hand at the Pochentong Airport in Phnom Penh after returning from Beijing. The King said he feared his health problems would incapacitate him. Government officials said they feared for Cambodia's stability if King Norodom Sihanouk's worsening health forces him to abdicate. AP photo

Rebels say military used napalm bombs

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) - Tamil rebels Thursday accused government forces of air dropping napalm bombs on a refugee camp in northern Sri Lanka, killing 16 civilians. The military denied the guerrilla claim.

The military said two Ukrainian-built MI-24 helicopter gun ships had fired rockets at a guerrilla base at Nachchikuda over the weekend.

"The helicopters don't use napalm bombs, only rockets," said Major Tilak Dunuwille, a military spokesman. Dunuwille said 30 rebels were killed in the attack.

No independent confirmation of the rebel claim was possible because the government doesn't allow journalists to visit the war-torn northern region.

Veerakesari, a Tamil language newspaper, quoted travellers from north as saying that eight people

were killed and 55 wounded. The rebels, in a statement issued by their London office, said: "An area of one and a half square kilometers (miles) was devastated by the brutal inhuman attack using two MI-24 helicopter gun ships Obviously, napalm bombs have been used to burn down such a vast area."

The rebels gave the names of 16 civilian victims, including seven children, one of them six-month-old. Another 60 people were injured in the attack, nearly 260 kilometers (160 miles) north of Colombo, the guerrilla statement said.

The military first denied that the helicopter gun ship attack had taken place, but later in a statement said the pilots confirmed at least 30 rebels were killed and many others were injured.

The military said the attack took place on Sunday. But the rebels claimed that it was carried out on Saturday.

The guerrillas have been fighting for a homeland in northern and eastern Sri Lanka for minority Tamils since 1983. They accuse the Sinhalese majority of widespread discrimination in education and jobs. More than 40,000 people have been killed in the war.

Goodwill truce eyed for holding peace talks

MEXICO CITY (AP) - Guatemalan rebel leaders called a temporary truce in the country's 30-year civil war on Wednesday, and the country's president responded by ordering the army to observe the cease-fire.

A communique from the National Revolutionary Unity rebels said the guerrillas have "suspended all offensive actions ... and will open fire only if attacked." The move is a goodwill gesture pending next week's round of peace talks with government representatives, the statement said.

A few hours later, Guatemalan President Alvaro Arzu said he welcomed the gesture and had ordered government troops to hold their fire.

The two sides are scheduled to meet in Mexico City on March 27, with a United Nations official acting as mediator. Negotiators made significant progress in the last round of talks, Feb. 22-24, during which Arzu himself met with rebel leaders - the first time a Guatemalan president has done so since the war began.

For more than three decades, the rebels have been fighting a series of rightist, mostly military governments, seeking greater representation and economic and social reforms to improve living standards for Guatemala's poor, which are a majority.

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Car bomb rips office in France

BAYONNE, France (AP) - A car bomb exploded outside a tax office building before dawn Wednesday, injuring the caretaker's daughter in an attack claimed by Basque separatists, French media reported.

Police said a gas canister weighing about 13 kilos (26 pounds) and filled with explosives blew up inside the Renault 5 at about 1:30 a.m.

The blast destroyed the building's entrance, wrecked several cars and shattered windows in the neighborhood.

The 9-year-old girl who was injured suffered wounds to the face and arms but was treated and released, France Info radio reported.

A telephone caller claiming to represent Iparretarrak, the French-based Basque separatist group, contacted a fire station 15 minutes before the bomb went off, warning of the blast, the radio said.

Police searched the area but found nothing, and the bomb went off shortly thereafter, the radio reported.

The attack was similar to one in 1993 that damaged the city courthouse, claimed by Iparretarrak, police said on customary anonymity.

ity. Since the 1970s the group has claimed bombings of government offices, electrical stations and other infrastructure, avoiding casualties but seeking attention for the movement.

Iparretarrak has been blamed for the deaths of five policemen, but contrasts with the more violent Basque group ETA in Spain.

Mt. Carmel's Class of '84 Twelfth Year Reunion

Fr. Left (Standing): Ginny, Jack, Jo Anne
Fr. Left (Bottom): Judy, (Kendra), Daisy, Porsh

Low in polls, French premier defies political laws of gravity

By CHRISTOPHER BURNS
PARIS (AP) - During a winter of strikes and discontent, Alain Juppe repeatedly had to reassure nervous financial markets that he would not end up becoming France's shortest-serving premier.

His poll ratings are still in the basement and unemployment has broken through the 11 percent barrier, with more than 3 million people out of work. But Juppe still clings to power after 10 months in office.

Talk of Juppe's days being numbered has waned after union threats of a new round of strikes in February failed to materialize. He has also benefited from President Jacques Chirac's improved ratings after nuclear tests in the South Pacific ended and terrorist bombings subsided.

Now Juppe is playing up some improving economic figures while trying to warm his image as a coolly efficient technocrat. And for the moment, no obvious suc-

cessor is in sight.

So far, Juppe has not been enough of a political liability for Chirac. While the president's poll ratings have improved this year, Juppe's rose and fell again, hovering around 30 percent while the average premier has an approval rating of about 40 percent, pollsters say.

What's critical in the relationship is that the trust factor between the two conservatives - built up after Juppe backed Chirac in the dark days of last year's presidential campaign when Chirac was an also-ran - is extremely high.

By slashing spending and facing down striking public service workers by sticking with most of his reforms, Juppe did the political dirty work for Chirac and served as his lightning rod.

"The links between the two are very deep. At the lowest moment, Chirac always had Juppe at his side," said Pascal Perrineau, head of the Institute of Political Studies.

But two other factors are equally important, observers say. Changing prime ministers too soon after the May election "would have been a confirmation that Chirac made the wrong choice," which would hurt Chirac himself, said Philippe Mechet of the Sofres polling agency.

Chirac also would have a hard time finding a replacement he could live with. The most talked about is Philippe Seguin, the National Assembly president who chummed around with strikers on the picket lines.

Seguin also remains ambivalent about European unification and the drive toward a single currency, which Chirac has come around to support despite painful requirements to cut spending and deregulate.

"On the international level, choosing Se M. Lederer.



New York Mayor Rudy Giuliani writes a traditional note to God before placing it in a crack at the Western Wall in Jerusalem's old city during a midnight visit early Monday March 11, 1996. Giuliani was in Jerusalem on a two-day official visit. AP photo

Israel to deport Islamic militants as a deterrent

JERUSALEM (AP) - Israel intends to deport several Islamic militants to deter potential suicide bombers, Prime Minister Shimon Peres said Wednesday.

"This is not a wholesale deportation. We are not talking about the deportation of women, children, families or just anyone, but there are instances where deportations can be carried out under the law," Peres said.

"We are deporting now for the sake of deterrence," he added.

Peres did not say how many people would be expelled, or when the deportations would take place.

Israeli radio reported Tuesday that dozens of members of the Muslim militant groups Hamas and Islamic Jihad were candidates for deportation.

Among those likely to be expelled are male relatives of suicide bombers and senior activists who have been jailed by Israel, the report said. Hamas has claimed responsibility for three of four recent suicide bombings that claimed 58 victims between Feb. 25 and March 4.

The smaller group Islamic Jihad carried out the fourth bombing. Deportations were standard punishment during the 1987-1993 Palestinian uprising against the Israeli occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

Israel stopped the practices after the first peace agreement with the Palestinians in September 1993.

Human rights groups have complained that deportations violate international law.

ing it goes against the spirit of Christianity, which does not recognize the caste system.

Indian president holds plan for job quotas for Christians

NEW DELHI, India (AP) - India's president has refused to sign a law on job quotas for poor Christians because it could benefit the ruling party in next month's elections, news reports said Wednesday.

The law would have given 16 million converts to Christianity preference in government jobs and educational institutions like millions of lower caste Hindus, Muslims and Sikhs.

Although most political parties have favored reservation for the converted Christians, called Dalits, or Oppressed People, they asked Shankar Dayal Sharma, the ceremonial president, not to sign the law.

Sharma returned the law to the government Tuesday, but gave no reasons. Newspapers, however, said Sharma was displeased with the timing of the government ordinance which was sent to him less than a week before the announcement of the election schedule.

Indian general elections begin in late April and such reservations could help the ruling Congress Party, which is not expected to do well in the elections.

The main opposition group, the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party, has opposed the law, saying it goes against the spirit of Christianity, which does not recognize the caste system.



The late Israel Prime Minister's widow Leah Rabin and US President Bill Clinton, right pay their respects at his gravesite at the Mount Harzi cemetery in Jerusalem last week. In the background left, Israeli Prime Minister Shimon Peres looks on. President Clinton is in Israel on a one-day visit. AP photo

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U96-029	1992	SONATA	ABH-372	6995
U95-219	1990	4X2 X-CAB	AAL-420	4995
U95-246	1990	4X4 X-CAB SR5	AAZ-159	6995
U95-143	1990	4X4 X-CAB	AAW-494	7495
U95-208	1991	4X4 X-CAB	ABD-182	7495
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BETTER DRIVERS BUCKLE UP

Homely role for US astronaut

By MARCIA DUNN
CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) - American astronaut Shannon Lucid faces more than science duties in her historic visit to the Mir space station: The Russians expect she'll help keep the place nice and clean because she's a woman.

Gen. Yuri Glazkov, deputy commander of the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center, said Lucid will brighten Mir during her five-month stay and that her male crew mates will be on their best behavior.

"The side effect we anticipate is that the fans will be taken care of in a more timely manner, be-

cause we know that women love to clean," Glazkov said Tuesday at a news conference held by NASA, the U.S. space agency. He did acknowledge that women can be better workers than men and that gender doesn't matter in space.

"We don't have to expect that there are going to be curtains on the windows due to the fact that there is a woman on board," he said.

Lucid, due to leave for Mir on Thursday aboard shuttle Atlantis, is set to become only the third woman - and first American woman - to live on the 10-year-old space station.

She said she never felt any discrimination during the past year at the cosmonaut training center and doesn't expect any chauvinism on Mir, either.

"Maybe I'm just not perceiving things," she said, "but I don't have anything to complain about."

Her crew mates for most of her stay will be Yuri Onufrienko and Yuri Usachev, who arrived there late last month.

NASA astronaut Norman Thagard lived on Mir for nearly four months last year, the only American to spend time on the space station.

"The simple presence of a lady

on board the Mir station helps ... our crew members because they simply pay more attention to the way they behave, they act, they speak and so on," Glazkov said.

The last time a woman - cosmonaut Yelena Kondakova - lived on Mir, her male crew mates returned to Earth "even more cultured than they used to be," Glazkov said. Her nearly six months in space, in 1994 and 1995, is an endurance record for women.

Despite claims by Glazkov and other Russian officials that women get a fair shake in the Russian space program, Kondakova is the only woman in the cosmonaut office, and she's not awaiting another flight.

Another woman was just accepted, "which means women will fly," Glazkov insisted.

Lucid, 53, a biochemist who has flown four times on space shuttles and is one of NASA's original female astronauts, will be given a few station chores in addition to her U.S. science duties. She'll take care of the life-support and thermal-control systems and fulfill the duties of "engineer No. 2." That's third-in-command of a crew of three.

In the 35 years since Yuri

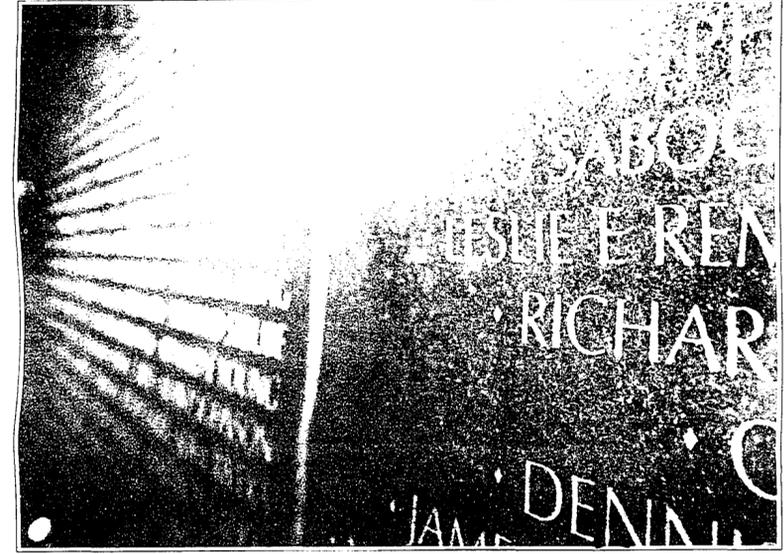
Gagarin became the first human in space, the Russians have sent only four women into orbit, including the first woman in space, Valentina Tereshkova, in 1963. Sally Ride, the first American woman in space, did not fly until 20 years later.

Glazkov said more women haven't been in space in the Russian program because missions are now much longer and seating on capsules to get to the space station is limited.

The women's stays were hardly stress-free: Svetlana Savitskaya got an apron from her male colleagues when she arrived in 1982 at the Salyut space station, and British chemist Helen Sharman had to listen to her Mir commander complain publicly in 1991 that space flight is "hard work, not a woman's work."

NASA, by contrast, has flown 26 women in space, all on relatively short shuttle trips. One was even a shuttle pilot.

As for Mir, the dusty, cluttered station ought to be really clean come July, when a French woman arrives for a short visit with two Russian cosmonauts, both male. It will be the first time two women live on Mir at the same time.



Master Sgt. Mateo Sabog's name, shown Thursday night, March 7, 1996, is engraved on the Vietnam Veteran's Memorial in Washington. Twenty-six years after he disappeared without a trace in Vietnam and 17 years after the Army declared him dead, Sabog has turned up alive in Georgia. AP photo.

NASA learns from mistakes

By MARCIA DUNN
CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) - NASA has learned from its mistakes: Astronaut Shannon Lucid can expect more appealing food, more U.S. news and more calls home when she arrives at the Russian space station Mir this week for a stay of nearly five months.

Dr. Norm Thagard, the first and only American ever to live aboard Mir, lost an alarming 17 1/2 pounds (7.9 kilograms) during his nearly four months on the space station last year, primarily because of the limited selection of Russian food.

He also had sporadic contact with his family, got little world news and complained of "cultural isolation" as the lone American on a foreign spacecraft.

While training at cosmonaut headquarters near Moscow over the past year, Lucid got to pick her favorite Russian space foods, which should be awaiting her aboard Mir. She said she liked everything but the dairy products, but she doesn't like those anywhere, anyhow.

What's more, NASA promises regular world news updates and two-way conversations with her husband and three children, all grown, once she settles in.

"In the case of Norm, what happened, there were a lot of things that we didn't do right," said NASA's Dr. Arnauld Nicogossian, a deputy science chief.

Lucid is supposed to take off for Mir aboard space shuttle Atlantis early Friday. Launch had been scheduled for Thursday, but NASA delayed the flight because of high wind.

Nicogossian and other NASA officials said they've done their

best to make Lucid's stay is as enjoyable and stress-free as possible. There's one thing, though, neither Lucid nor anyone else can do anything about: She's a woman.

On Tuesday, Gen. Yuri Glazkov, deputy commander of the Gagarin Cosmonaut Training Center, said Lucid's presence on Mir will be a bonus "because we know that women love to clean."

He added: "The simple presence of a lady on board the Mir station helps ... our crew members because they simply pay more attention to the way they behave, they act, they speak and so on."

Lucid will spend most of her mission with two male cosmonauts, who arrived at Mir last month.

Nicogossian said it's impossible to know, until Lucid returns to Earth in August, whether women fare better than men during long spaceflights, especially when those women are dealing mostly with men.

No American woman has spent more than 16 1/2 days in orbit at a time. The female endurance record is held by Russia's Yelena Kondakova, who lived for nearly six months on Mir in 1994 and 1995, less than half the time of one of her male crewmates.

Only one other woman has lived on the 10-year-old Mir, a Briton in 1991.

"Shannon has flown before in space. She's very emotionally and psychologically stable. She's trained for the job. She has enough to do there," Nicogossian said.

Doctors at Russian Mission Control will monitor Lucid's voice and appearance while she's on Mir, looking for any signs of depression or anxiety.

Menendez brothers guilty

By LINDA DEUTSCH
LOS ANGELES (AP) - Erik and Lyle Menendez could be sentenced to death after being convicted of killing their parents in a widely watched case involving wealth, power and incest in Beverly Hills.

Lyle, 28, and Erik, 25, appeared extremely pale but showed no emotion Wednesday upon hearing the jury's verdict, reached after four days of deliberations in the brothers' retrial. Two years ago, their first trial ended in a mistrial.

The brothers were convicted of premeditated first-degree murder in the ambush slayings, which took place in 1989 as their parents watched television.

The Menendez murder case struck a chord that resonated throughout America. It placed two young scions to an entertainment industry fortune on trial for the murder of their parents and raised a troubling question as old as time: Could the murder of parents ever be justified?

Their first trial two years ago concluded with a mistrial when jurors could not decide whether the slayings of Jose Menendez and his wife, Kitty, at their Beverly Hills mansion were premeditated murder or self-defense.

This time, the jury rejected the defense claim that the brothers murdered their parents after years of sexual abuse. Instead, it em-

braced the prosecution theory that the killings were planned and that the brothers were greedy, spoiled brats who murdered to get their parents' \$14 million fortune.

The verdict was a badly needed victory for District Attorney Gil Garcetti, who is running for reelection and who has gotten a reputation for an inability to win the big cases, including the Menendez brothers at their first trial, O.J. Simpson and rap star Snoopy Doggy Dogg. Garcetti had insisted on retrying the Menendez brothers, refusing to plea bargain. The jury further decided that the brothers had lain in wait and committed multiple murders - circumstances that can bring the death penalty. The penalty phase begins Monday. The jury will decide whether the brothers should receive lethal injection or life without parole.

The defense suffered a serious setback in the final days of testimony when Judge Stanley Weisberg announced he was ruling out use of the "imperfect self-defense" theory. That theory holds that a killing by someone who believes he is in imminent danger can be justifiable even if that belief was unreasonable.

Weisberg also barred the defense from calling nearly 40 witnesses who would have testified about the purported abuse the

brothers suffered as children.

The jury could have found the brothers guilty of lesser counts - manslaughter in the slaying of their father and second-degree murder in the killing of their mother. They also had the option of acquittal.

Instead, the brothers were found guilty of premeditated first-degree murder.

Weisberg, who had permitted television cameras in the first trial but barred them from the second, imposed a gag order on the jurors and all other participants out of

Death penalty possible for killing their parents

troubled woman who abused alcohol and drugs and once locked her baby in the closet so she could go shopping.

But the prosecution rejected the abuse defense as a lie concocted in prison and pointed to what they said was evidence of premeditation.

Prosecutor David Conn noted they bought two shotguns the day before the killings, claimed they were at the movies when the slayings occurred, did not admit their role until months after their parents were buried, and in the interim went on a spending spree with their inheritance.

Prosecutor David Conn noted they bought two shotguns the day before the killings, claimed they were at the movies when the slayings occurred, did not admit their role until months after their parents were buried, and in the interim went on a spending spree with their inheritance.

The defense portrayed Menendez, a Cuban immigrant and self-made millionaire, as a demonic pervert who tormented his sons. Their mother was depicted as an erratic, deeply

NY Times' Walter Sullivan dies

NEW YORK (AP) - Walter Sullivan, a New York Times science writer whose grasp of exotic topics impressed even the scientists whose work he chronicled, died at his home in Riverside, Connecticut.

He was 78, and died Tuesday from pancreatic cancer, his family said.

A native of New York City, Sullivan graduated from Yale University and joined the Navy at the start of World War II, interrupting his stint as a copyboy at the Times.

Before turning to science writing, Sullivan was a foreign correspondent for the Times in China,

that described the search for extraterrestrial intelligence.

Sullivan was named science news editor of the Times in 1962 and science editor in 1964. He retired from the paper in 1987, but continued to contribute, dropping by his office up until two months ago.

He earned dozens of awards, including the George Polk Award, the Daly Medal of the American Geographical Society and writing prizes from the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

Sullivan is survived by his wife, Mary; three children; two sisters and three grandchildren.

More than once, physicists said they did not appreciate the depth of their work until they read Sullivan's work in the Times.

Sullivan also wrote several books including "Quest for a Continent," about Antarctic exploration, and "We Are Not Alone," a best seller

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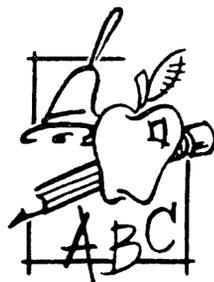
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Kid meets the President



President Clinton speaks with Jaclyn Rubio while her mother Yvonne and sister Marisa took on her arrival in Los Angeles. Jaclyn Rubio was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer and was there to greet the President to fulfill her wish. AP

Scientists discover new function for hemoglobin

NEW YORK (AP) - Scientists have discovered that the blood molecule hemoglobin, which delivers oxygen to body tissues and removes carbon dioxide, may get major help from carrying another gas that lowers blood pressure.

The finding may help scientists design blood substitutes.

The gas, called nitric oxide or NO, relaxes blood vessels. Scientists had known that hemoglobin destroys the NO created by the cells lining the inside of blood vessels.

Now they have found that hemoglobin carries a different form

of NO, and may use it to help carry out its tasks.

"Hemoglobin uses a spritz of the NO it carries to help get oxygen into tissues. And NO helps hemoglobin carry away the trash of carbon dioxide," Dr. Jonathan Stamler of the Duke University Medical Center in Durham, North Carolina, said in a statement.

Stamler and colleagues report their work in Thursday's issue of the journal Nature.

The work suggests that as hemoglobin carries oxygen through the blood, it releases its own NO to replace the NO that it destroys.

That keeps blood pressure constant and blood vessels wide open.

As hemoglobin releases its oxygen load in tissue, researchers believe, it also releases more of its NO, probably to help tissues use the oxygen more efficiently. The NO might also regulate blood flow in the body's tiny blood vessels, called capillaries.

The researchers noted that current blood substitutes based on hemoglobin cause a rise in blood pressure. The new work suggests that the kind of NO used by hemoglobin could avoid that problem, they said.

Study: PC sales for home use expected to be slowing down

By EVAN RAMSTAD

NEW YORK (AP) -The personal computer industry's heady sales growth among American consumers has ended, a leading research group said in a study released Monday.

The study by Dataquest, which tracks trends in computer hardware and software, also startlingly suggested that

PCs won't be used in most U.S. homes by the end of this decade and raised questions about whether such a goal may ever be reached.

Though PC industry executives have said it would be impossible to sustain sales growth that's been as high as 40 percent in the past few years, some were surprised that Dataquest's study and forecast was so dramatically lower.

"We frankly don't see that," said Sean Burke, director of consumer marketing at Compaq Computer Corp., the largest maker of PCs.

Hewlett-Packard Co., which rocketed into the PC consumer market last year, also believes the study does not align with its research, spokesman Larry Sennett said. But he added that HP does expect a consolidation among major manufacturers, which would be a sign of slower industry growth overall.

Executives from Acer America Corp. and IBM Corp. said their research had found consumer sales were slowing but not at the rate Dataquest suggested. They raised questions about some of Dataquest's assumptions, such as the five-year frequency at which families buy new PCs. The makers believe families update every three or four years.

Dataquest said growth of PC sales in the U.S. consumer market, which reached 42 percent in 1994 and 22 percent last year, will ease to 7.6 percent this year and less than 1 percent in 1997. In 1998, the group forecast a sales decline of 2.3 percent among U.S. consumers.

The overall PC industry will grow more strongly because of expanding markets overseas. But sales growth to U.S. businesses, educational institutions and government agen-

cies has already slowed. That market is now shaped by broader economic conditions instead of the prospect that PCs can offer some new value to a work process.

Dataquest's survey, of 10,000 U.S. households, found 29 percent had at least one PC at the end of 1995. It projected that number will jump to 32.6 percent by the end of this year but reach just 38 percent by the end of the decade.

That is far short of the expectations many executives in the industry have repeatedly expressed for market penetration in U.S. households.

"We are running out of households that can afford to buy new PCs," said Scott Miller, analyst at Dataquest, which is based in San Jose, California. A key reason is the industry's inability to reach lower-income households with less pricey machines, he said.

But another research firm, Computer Intelligence InfoCorp., reported last week that sales growth of PCs had been consistent at all income levels for the last two years. It said PCs were now in 35 percent of U.S. households.

Two weeks ago, a study by Odyssey, a San Francisco-based technology research firm, also said PCs were in 35 percent of America's homes. But it reported a similar gap to PC usage between high-income and lower-income households that Dataquest did.

The surge in popularity of PCs over the past few years has been driven by multimedia applications, largely CD-ROM programs with strong audio and video capabilities.

The key to sustain high sales growth is to reach households with lower incomes, Miller said. PCs are found about 65 percent of homes with more than \$60,000 in annual income, probably a saturation point.

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Easter is always a cause for celebration at Whimsy. This year, we have in store a basketful of surprises in our Easter Egg Hunt - from March 25 to April 7, 1996!

For every \$10 worth of tokens you buy, you are entitled to draw a Gift Egg from the Whimsy Surprise Box at the Whimsy Center. Inside the egg is a winning coupon for you to claim any of the numerous on-the-spot prizes from Whimsy and Mar Pac.

And you can have a chance to join the grand raffle draw on Easter Sunday, April 7, at 4:00 o'clock p.m. Our grand prize:

A 24K gold egg worth more than \$1,000!

Easter will not be complete without the traditional egg hunting. This time, you can hunt for \$100 worth of tokens and other surprise gifts in our Playport.

Whimsy Club members who are not more than 4 feet tall may join. Participants will be registered on a first come first serve basis.

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BUCKLE - UP SAIPAN

Suspense gone in GOP race

By DAVID BRISCOE
WASHINGTON (AP) - Now that a Clinton-Dole showdown seems inevitable, state-by-state primary elections are losing their luster, but not their importance to a Republican party seeking unity in the November election.

Picking up convention delegates in primaries and by other means could still be vital for both the presumptive Republican nominee, Bob Dole, and fiery commentator Pat Buchanan, his lone major challenger.

Dole needs to draw the party together. Buchanan, who has left the door open for a third-party run if Republicans reject his views, needs support to push his anti-trade, anti-foreign aid, anti-abortion agenda and other issues on the Republican convention.

Dole's home state of Kansas has canceled its April 1 primary to save \$1.4 million on balloting that Dole and Clinton were sure to win.

But several other states have yet to vote, including four on Tuesday - Illinois, Michigan, Ohio and Wisconsin - and the biggest of all, California, a week later.

Dole still needs 255 more delegates to seal the nomination, while Buchanan is trying to gather delegates to strengthen his support at the party's August convention in San Diego.

Now that publisher Steve Forbes has stopped the spending of his family fortune at \$30 mil-

lion and endorsed Dole, all suspense is gone from the Republican race - but not the uncertainty over how much trouble Dole will face at the convention.

On the Democratic side, President Clinton is already assured of the nomination, having gone over the top with his 2,146th delegate pledged last week, in one of the least politically significant primary states, Hawaii.

The battle for delegates in both parties is at the center of a system in which every vote doesn't necessarily count for nomination once a majority is reached, and even a loss can add delegates, at least in states that do not have winner-take-all rules.

Candidate selection in the major U.S. political parties is a complex, erratic, myth-filled and sometimes mysterious process.

When Dole lost the nation's first primary in New Hampshire, his third loss there in three tries

for the presidency, he went on to shatter the myth that as New Hampshire goes, so goes the nation. He has won 17 straight primaries since.

The actual nomination of candidates does not take place in New Hampshire or any other state, but at the conventions - Aug. 12-15 for the Republicans and Aug. 26-29 in Chicago for the Democrats.

Candidates, however, usually have the nomination locked up even before the convention starts. Dole is on his way to doing that with 741 of the 996 delegates he needs.

The Democratic convention has more voting delegates, so Clinton needed more to win.

Each state and party has its own rules for picking delegates. Some hold primaries where the voters either pick presidential candidates directly or vote for delegates pledged to them. Others hold party caucuses, or meetings, where delegates pledged to various candidates are selected. Some delegates are picked by party leaders or in state party conventions.

Each delegate could be important to Buchanan if he intends to stay in the party and sway the convention - and the nominee - to adopt his ultra-conservative views. Forbes, who will be a delegate, might use his newly-gained influence and his handful of delegates to push his flat income tax proposal.

Under Republican convention rules, the platform committee, with two members chosen by each state delegation, makes its decisions with a simple majority vote.

To force an issue to a convention vote, a dissenter would need majorities in the delegations of six states, one to propose the change and five more to second it.

So far, Buchanan has only Louisiana and New Hampshire delegations. Forbes holds the Arizona and Delaware delegations. Dole has 24 states so far.

Buchanan has said he is entitled to a convention role. He gave a major address at the Republican convention four years ago in which he described a cultural and religious battle for the soul of America. He had unsuccessfully challenge President Bush and negotiated his convention role in exchange for endorsing Bush.

Another alternative for Buchanan would be to have his name placed in nomination at the convention, but that would require a majority of five state delegations.

The big consolation prize at the convention is the vice presidential nomination. Technically, it will be decided by convention delegates but in fact, the nominee will be hand-picked by the official presidential candidate.

Being second in the delegate count is no gateway to a vice presidential nomination, and none of the speculation on who Dole will pick has settled on Buchanan.

Gory climax to a hit-and-run chase

By STEVEN K. PAULSON
DENVER (AP) - Police hunting for the driver in the 100 mph (160 kph) hit-and-run death of a newspaper columnist tracked down the suspect through a piece of the car - a "cosmos black" \$56,000 BMW so rare there are only three in all of Colorado.

But when police went to his home to arrest him, the suspect - a fast-driving scion of one of the West's richest families - was found dead of a single gunshot to the head, an apparent suicide.

"We know who the man is - Spicer Breeden," Detective John Wyckoff said Wednesday. "We're not saying if he is the driver of the car yet."

Breeden, 36, owned a BMW matching the description of the one that ran Rocky Mountain News columnist Greg Lopez off the road Sunday night. Police found it in Breeden's garage with damage consistent with the accident.

Police closed in on Breeden after taking the kidney-shaped grille from the accident scene to a BMW dealership, where they learned it came from a 1995 BMW 540i Sport. The limited-edition model was painted "cosmos black," a sparkly shade of black that appears charcoal gray in the light.

The German automaker made only 100 in that model, year and color, and only three were registered in Colorado.

Two of them were accounted for and could not have been involved in the accident, police said.

"It was pretty darn nice of the evidence to tell us this," police Capt. Miriam Reed said.

"It was quite a lucky break," said Michael Hunt, BMW sales manager for the Ralph Schomp BMW dealership in suburban Littleton.

"If it had been regular black, it could have been from hundreds and hundreds of cars. This color cut it down to a handful."

Police found Breeden's body Tuesday in the basement of his home in a well-to-do Denver neighborhood.

A suicide note was found, but police said only that it shed no light on the hit-and-run.

A friend, Ken McSpadden, said Breeden "always loved fast cars" and when he heard of the accident Sunday, he had thought of Breeden's car.

"I think he felt he took another man's life, he was the cause of it and this was the only thing he could give back and say he was sorry," McSpadden said.

Police were still looking for a friend of Breeden's who they believe was in the BMW when it crashed into Lopez's car.

Lopez's Toyota 4Runner flipped and rolled off Interstate 25 after being hit by a car traveling at over 100 mph (160 kph). Witnesses said the driver of the sports car stopped briefly after the accident, then drove off.

Lopez, 35, a columnist for the News since 1990, was a highly regarded writer.

His wife, Kathleen Bohland, said she was sorry to hear of Breeden's death.

"It's even more senseless that another life would be lost in this tragedy," she said in a statement. "Greg would not want us to dwell on feelings of anger or resentment. He would want us to live our lives like his - with love and tolerance for the frailties of others."

Breeden belonged to one of Colorado's wealthiest and most prominent families.

His great-grandfather, Charles Boettcher, made a fortune in mining and later invested in sugar and water interests.

The Boettcher family founded the Boettcher Foundation, a leading philanthropic organization in the West. Boettcher Concert Hall at the Denver Performing Arts Complex is named after the family.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Chairwoman of the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Government Employee's Credit Union will call the first Annual General Membership Meeting on Saturday, March 30, 1996, at 06:00 P.M. at the American Memorial Park Amphitheater in Garapan. The following agenda will be discussed:

- Facilitator
Mr. David C. Sablan
- I. CREDIT UNION ADDRESS
 - A. President of the Senate, Jesus R. Sablan
 - II. CREDIT UNION MOVEMENT
 - A. Chairwoman, Ms. Rita U. Bailas
 - III. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Certification of a Quorum
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Minute(s) - NONE
 - IV. REPORTS
 - A. General Manager's Report
 - V. NEW BUSINESS(E'S)
 - A. Regulations, By laws and Resolutions
 - B. Saipan Credit Union Matters
 - C. Open for other Member's Concerns
 - VI. ANNOUNCEMENT
 - A. Dinner
 - VII. ADJOURNMENT

INVITATION TO BID

DPW96-ITB-009

The Department of Public Works is soliciting sealed bids for the Puerto Rico Dump Fencing and Slope Stabilization, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Bids, in duplicate, will be accepted in the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply at Lower Base, Saipan until 2:00 pm local time, April 12, 1996 at which time and place the bids will publicly opened and read aloud. Any bids received after the above time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

A bond of fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid price must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check, Bid or other form acceptable to the Government made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with a notation of the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 1471".

The bidder is required to submit with his proposal, a copy of his business permits in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Plans and specifications of the project are available on or after March 12, 1996 at the Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of \$250.00 is required for each set. Pre-bid Conference for this project will be held at 2:00 pm local time, March 28, 1996 at the Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, Saipan.

Attention is called to the Labor Standard Provisions for Wage Rate Determination of the CNMI Classification and Salary Structure Plans, and payment of not less than the minimum salaries and wages as set forth in the Specifications must be paid on this project.

All bid documents received shall be the sole property of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands with the exception of bid bonds, certified checks or cashier's checks which will be returned to the bidders in accordance with the specifications section, "Instructions to Bidders" page B-4, section 5 Bid Guarantee.

"The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands".

/s/ STEPHEN P. LEMIEUX, P.E. Acting Secretary of Public Works
/s/ EDWARD B. PALACIOS director, Procurement & supply

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15th ANNUAL
FLAME TREE ARTS FESTIVAL
American Memorial Park (West of the Belltower, along walkpath), April 27 & 28, 1996

CALL FOR REGISTRATION

Registration is open for the 15th Annual Flame Tree Arts Festival, to be held at American Memorial Park, west of the Belltower along the beach side walking path on Saturday, April 27 and Sunday, April 28, 1996.

Artists, Crafts people, Performers, Food Vendors and Informational/Community organizations must submit the registration form and fees to the Arts Council Office by the Capitol Hill Post Office no later than 4:30pm on March 29, 1996. (There is no fee for performers)

Registration forms are available at the Arts Council Office, Carolinian Affairs Office and the Indigenous Affairs Office. All registration forms must be submitted only to the Arts Council Office. For further information, you may contact the Arts Council at telephone: 322-9982 or 9983.



sponsored by: The Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, Mobil Oil Marianas Inc., MTC, DFS, American Memorial Park administered by the National Park Service, Many private and public donors.

TAOTAO | REDONDO ★ ARAMAS' AL FAW' ULUL ★ PEOPLE OF THE CIRCLE

PRESENTS

Teaching Values through Dance, Drama & Legends - Part 1

Primary school teachers, parents and educators, please join us for a workshop on how to use various forms of creative expression to teach children about respect, generosity and other virtues. This workshop will be presented twice.

- Monday, March 25, 1996
9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- Wednesday, March 27, 1996
9:00 a.m. to 12:30 p.m.
- FREE admission, but enrollment is limited and advance registration required

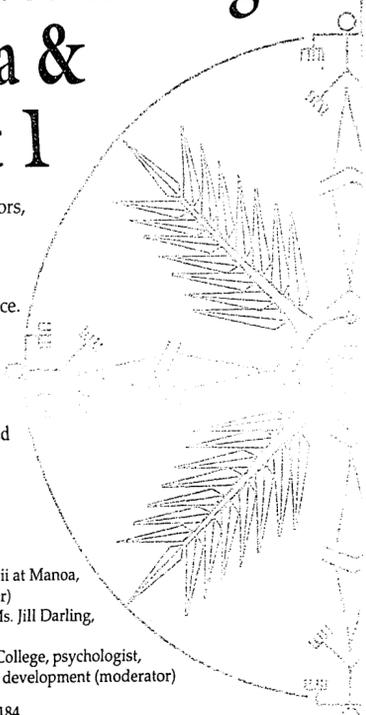
Location:
Northern Marianas College, Room TBA

- Presenters:
1. Dr. Peggy A. Hunt, E.D., University of Hawaii at Manoa, Dept. of Theatre and Dance (feature presenter)
 2. Ms. Jennifer Coughlin, Mr. Manuel F. Borja, Ms. Jill Darling, local educators (contributing presenters)
 3. Dr. Nancy Flood, Ph.D., Northern Marianas College, psychologist, author and educator who specializes in child development (moderator)

Further Information: Jennifer Coughlin, 234-6184

Registration: Melody or Charlene, Northern Marianas College, 234-5498 ext. 1813

Presented by
TAOTAO | REDONDO/ARAMAS' AL FAW' ULUL/PEOPLE OF THE CIRCLE
Funded in part by a grant from the Commonwealth Council for the Humanities.



Displaced workers seek jobs

POSITION OPENINGS CHRISTIAN DIOR SAIPAN, LTD.

BOUTIQUE MANAGER

Christian Dior Saipan, Ltd. seeks an experience Boutique Manager to supervise operations at their new boutique to be opened in Garapan, Saipan in May 1996. The boutique will retail luxury fashion garments and accessories.

Duties will include the supervision of all retail operations, management of retail sales clerks, coordination of displays and show windows, control of inventory, maintenance of detailed transaction records, assisting in the purchasing of stocks, liaison with the regional head office with regard to retail and advertising activities and handling general matters associated with the day to day management of the boutique.

Salary range is \$1,600.00-3,000/per month and will be commensurate with related experience and the applicant's capabilities of the English and Japanese languages.

SALES ASSISTANTS

Christian Dior Saipan, Ltd. seeks sales assistants for their new boutique to be opened in Garapan, Saipan in May 1996. The boutique will be retailing luxury garments and accessories.

Reporting to the Boutique Manager, their duties will include providing sales assistance to customers, processing invoices and customers payments, arranging merchandise within the boutique, assisting with displays and promotional activities, assisting with the receipt of stock and storage arrangements, ensuring the boutique is well presented and other duties as may be requested by the Boutique Manager to assist with the day to day operation of the boutique.

Salary range is \$1,000-2,400/per month and will commensurate with previous experience in retailing luxury products and the applicant's capabilities of the English and Japanese languages.

The positions are based in Saipan and interested applicants should forward their resume with a photograph, details of their current and expected salary and any other relevant details to Ernst & Young, Suite 209, Oleai Business Center, P.O. Box 3198, Saipan, MP 96950, marked for the attention of Mr. Michael Pai.

HONOLULU (AP) - Some displaced Gray Line Hawaii workers already have found new jobs with other tour bus companies, and the state announced a "rapid response" plan to help those still looking for work.

Gray Line's 250 workers statewide learned Monday that the company was ceasing operations immediately. Only a handful of workers remained on the job Tuesday, and signs posted on locked doors notified potential customers of the shutdown.

Officials at Roberts Hawaii said they were swamped with job applicants Tuesday, and already have added some Gray Line people to their staff.

"We have already hired some Gray Line employees," Roberts Hawaii spokeswoman Jennifer Cross said. "We have offered some positions and our HR (human resources) office was very busy."

Along with taking one some of the displaced workers, Gray Line and other tour companies also were picking up customers left in the lurch by Gray Line's sudden closure after 64 years in business.

"We have accommodated agents who have needed to fill

our buses with their customers, who were previously scheduled to be on Gray Line's buses," Cross said. "We booked people for today, later on in the week and (into) next month."

The state Department of Labor and Industrial Relations announced plans to help Gray Line workers file for unemployment and job search assistance.

Nonunion employees should to their local unemployment claims office for help, while union workers should come Thursday to a special office at 830 Punchbowl St. on Thursday, department director Lorraine Akiba said.

"Because of the suddenness of the layoff only unionized workers could be reached effectively with rapid response notice," Akiba said.

Also Tuesday, Former Gray Line Hawaii president Robert Moore - now in prison for the attempted murder of his wife in 1991 - said from prison that workers were unfairly blamed for the company's demise.

"They had really been treated poorly in my judgement," Moore told KHON-TV. "I think they had been blamed for a lot, when the problem previously had been with management."

CALL 911 FOR EMERGENCY

EMPLOYMENT IN THE TEACHING CAREER CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

SAIPAN - TINIAN - ROTA

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Public School System is seeking for qualified Primary, Secondary, Special Education Teachers, and Related Services Providers for immediate employment and School Year 1996-97.

We are looking for teachers who are enthusiastic, professionally dedicated with a sense of perspective (and humor) who are flexible, and receptive to innovative educational ideas.

Applicants should have a minimum of a B.A. Degree, preferably with a valid teaching credential with at least two years teaching experience, willing to make a two-year commitment and a US citizen.

Beginning Salaries range from \$19,500 to \$38,600 with the following benefits:

- Opportunity for a yearly increment
- Medical and Health Benefits
- Two (2) year Employment Contract

Please come prepared with the necessary employment documents (if possible):

- a. Resume
- b. Proof of Certification (Teaching Certificate)

- c. Copy of Diploma of Highest Degree attained
- d. Official transcripts
- e. Police clearance from place of Residence for the past 6 months
- f. Medical Certificate (Health Clearance)
- g. Previous Employment Verification
- h. Proof of US Citizenship
- i. Completed Application, if available beforehand.

Employment application can be obtained at:

Place: Personnel Management Office, JTV Bldg., As Lito

Time: 9:30 A.M. - 4:30 P.M.

Date: DAILY (MONDAY thru FRIDAY)

or write to:

Mrs. Margaret C. Dela Cruz
Administration Division - Overall
Public School System, P.O. Box 1370 CK,
Saipan MP 96950
Tel.: (670) 288-0707/0696/0755
Fax: (670) 288-0754

CNMI Public School System is an Equal Opportunity Employer

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) is pleased to announce the availability of funds from the Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement assistance program, the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention program, the STOP Violence Against Women program, the Victims of Crime Act program, and the Title Five Prevention program from the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The amount available under the Edward Byrne Memorial program is \$415,470, from the JJDP program is \$225,917, through the STOP program is \$140,700, and the VOCA program is \$219,000. These programs are administered at the federal level by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Office of Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), the Violence Against Women Office (VAWO), and the Office of Victims of Crime (OVC), respectively. The CJPA is the CNMI's administering agency for these and four other federal programs from the Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice.

The Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program is the formula program included in the Anti-Drug Abuse Act of 1988 to provide critical drug law enforcement and prosecution resources to state and local government. The program is funded and administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), U.S. Department of Justice. The funds must be completely obligated by September 30, 1997. The FY1995 strategy proposed to use 10% of the grant for administration and 90% for the implementation of three action programs which include the following:

1. **Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) — \$20,773.** This program is designed to automate the CNMI criminal records, provide computer linkages among the criminal justice organizations, and to develop a criminal history record. The requirements for this program include identifying, tracking and reporting convicted felons with accuracy, completeness and timely manner.

2. **Interagency Financial Crimes and Drug Enforcement Task Force — \$295,150.** This program is designed to provide integrated interdiction, investigation, and prosecution activities to focus on drug offenses, drug-related violent crimes, organized crime, government corruption, and related offenses. The Drug Task Force is composed of the Department of Public Safety (Criminal Investigation Section), Department of Finance (Customs Enforcement Branch), and the Office of the Attorney General (Criminal Division).

3. **Domestic Abuse Task Force — \$58,000.** This program was created by Governor Tenorio to provide a centralized, coordinated, multi-disciplinary response to domestic violence with emphasis on victim safety and prevention of further and more serious violence or injury to women and/or juvenile family members. The Task Force members include a Prosecutor from the Criminal Division of the Office of the Attorney General, a Victim Advocate, Social Workers from the Medical Social Services Unit of the Commonwealth Health Center, Karidat and other VOCA funded projects, and a Police Officer from the Department of Public Safety.

The Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention Program. The JJDP program is a federal program created by the JJDP Act of 1974, as amended. The purpose of the program is to prevent juvenile delinquency and requires participating states and territories to comply with the requirements of (1) Deinstitutionalization of status offenders, (2) Sight and Sound Separation between juveniles and adult inmates, (3) Complete Jail Removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups, and (4) the Minority Over Representation issue. The program intends to meet these requirements by providing seed money to states and territories for services targeted at juvenile delinquency prevention through education, training, recreation and other rehabilitative services. Such services may be provided by local educational agencies, law enforcement agencies, community-based organizations, community-based action agencies, state recreation agencies, and private non-profit organizations. The following represents the CNMI's FY1995 Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) program plan and the amount allocated for each program category:

1. **Family Services — \$28,326.** This category is aimed at families identified as having problems (by a referring agency or self-referral) and will provide counseling assistance for the families in dealing with resource agencies, teaching basic home management skills (budgeting, effective shopping, etc.), teaching parenting skills, and encouraging service agencies to consider the family rather than its individual members as the recipient of services. The program will also support activities targeted at status offenders where helping to improve the family situation is a significant aspect of the service provided to the status offender.

2. **Youth Development — \$37,703.** This category is about providing pre-delinquent or "at-risk" youth (those who show signs of troubles at home, school, or in the community but are not yet adjudicated as delinquents) and status offenders with activities which will help to develop in them a sense of participation in and responsibility to the community as well as develop a sense of self-respect and self-worth. Such programs should include community service, anti-drug abuse projects & activities, outward bound type projects, teen centers (in areas of special need), outreach, survival education, counseling, and other activities which foster the above characteristics. Included in this category are programs and projects that promote participation in organized activities, better self image and self-esteem, and programs that instill community involvement and a sense of belonging which recreational activities may be a significant part of the overall program.

3. **Juvenile Rehabilitative Services — \$47,325.** The category is designed to provide activities to allow access to family services (see program of same title), community service, probation supervision, restitution, counseling, and other rehabilitative programs and services. The services to be delivered vary from project to project but it is expected that counseling will be a common element of every project. Community service and related projects will need staff time for supervision of clients and coordination, scheduling, and arranging of program activities. It is desirable for the service provider to provide educational activities that will promote and instill community involvement and a sense of responsibility. It is also hoped that the rehabilitative services to be provided will include structured activities dealing with agricultural projects, handicraft and other cultural projects, fishing, trade, and any other rehabilitative services that will promote and enhance the participants' self image and self esteem. Most projects will require equipment and supplies in support of the project activities. Funds from this program category will also be made available to other programs or service providers for the purpose of providing counseling and social case work, and other rehabilitative services to juveniles who have been remanded to secure residential care. The funds may not be used to provide for the security and/or maintenance of juveniles in detention.

4. **Technical Assistance/Juvenile Justice — \$20,000.** The purpose of this category is to provide technical assistance from three directions. The first approach is through the provision of technical assistance to CNMI line agencies through the CJPA staff and associates. The second approach is through requesting and coordinating assistance from local and national technical assistance providers. The third approach is through the sharing of vital criminal justice and juvenile justice data with other justice agencies in the CNMI. The CNMI Juvenile Justice system is continuing in its developmental stages and makes frequent use of technical support and assistance for addressing specific operational problems, staff training, and agency planning and development. This continuing support is a needed resource to the line agencies and its lack would inhibit CJPA's ability to comply with JJDP mandates and achieve program objectives.

5. **Police Juvenile Unit — \$24,000.** This category is to assist juveniles coming in contact with the justice system through the continued provision of a specialized Juvenile Unit within the police department to make the initial response and screening of juvenile offenders. It is expected that projects funded under this program will serve as a resource to the CJPA, Courts, Department of Public Safety (DPS), Office of the Attorney General, and DYS. Funding available under this program can be used to pay for training and partial operating costs of the unit.

6. **Youth Worker Training — \$13,324.** This category provides support for training activities for youth workers currently employed within the Commonwealth by either a public or private agency which is involved in the delivery of social services to juveniles. Funds from this category can be used to provide tuition, instructor fees, travel for students or instructors and related per diem, registration fees, educational supplies and materials for agency staff, and room rental for presenting training activities. A critical factor in self-sufficiency is the skill level of the staff. This program provides the resources necessary to raise the skill level of both line and management personnel. The result should be an increased ability to effectively deliver quality services by both public and private agencies. This program will provide a resource for needed training in job skills where the pool of trained youth workers is minimal and does not meet the demand for skilled employees. A skilled labor pool is vital to the ability of youth service agencies to effectively operate. With staff knowing what to do and having the confidence to do what must be done as a result of learning how to apply relevant skills, the quality of service will increase, along with the long term capability and effectiveness of the CNMI to serve its troubled youth.

The Victims of Crime Act Assistance Program. The primary purpose of the VOCA victim assistance program is to assist states in providing high quality services that directly improve the health and well-being of victims of crime and to provide funding for sexual assault (rape crisis programs), spousal abuse (domestic violence shelters), child abuse (treatment programs), and previously underserved victim populations. A wide range of services for victims of crime are supported by this Act. These include, but are not limited to, ensuring that victims receive timely notification about the various proceedings involved in prosecuting the person accused of the crime and counseling to help the victim overcome the emotional trauma of victimization. The FY1996 application proposes to fund 5% for administration and 95% for the implementation of direct services to victims of crime.

1. **Victim Services — \$208,050.** Victim services must include the VOCA priority areas in that program proposals must clearly outline direct services to be provided to Victims of Child Abuse, Victims of Domestic Violence, and Victims of Sexual Assaults. The CNMI will provide a minimum of 10% of its total grant to these categories of victims. Furthermore, the Victim Assistance funds will be used to finance direct services to previously underserved victims of crime such as Survivors of Homicide, Survivors of DUI accidents, Survivors of Suicide cases, Survivors of Violent Crime and related underserved victims. The VOCA funds must be awarded and obligated before September 30, 1997 and are restricted for direct victim services, with no administrative costs permitted.

The Violence Against Women Program. The VAW program is a new federal program created by the 1994 Crime Bill. This program provides financial assistance to states and territories to develop and strengthen law enforcement, prosecution, and victim services in cases involving violent crimes against women. Funds under this program can be used to hire personnel, training, data collection and equipment for apprehension, prosecution, and adjudication of persons committing violent crimes against women. The FY1995 strategy proposes to use 5% for administration and 95% to fund prosecution, social services, police and training components of the Governor's Violence Against Women Task Force.

1. **Domestic Abuse Task Force — \$116,949.** Created by Governor Froilan C. Tenorio, the Task Force is intended to provide a centralized, coordinated, and multi-disciplinary response to domestic violence, with an emphasis on victim safety and on the prevention of further and more serious violence or injury to women and/or juvenile family members. The Task Force members include a Prosecutor from the Criminal Division of the Office of the Attorney General, a Victim Advocate, Social Workers from the Medical Social Services Unit of the Commonwealth Health Center, Karidat and other VOCA funded projects, and a Police Officer from the Department of Public Safety.

The Title Five-Prevention program. The Title Five program is a new program of the OJJDP which provides an additional funding source to supplement our efforts to preventing juvenile delinquency in our Commonwealth. The program is based on the premise that in order to prevent a problem from occurring, the factors that contribute to the development of that problem must be identified and addressed. Thus, the program calls for the identification of the risk factors which are known to be associated with juvenile delinquency behaviors and to implement specific programs to counter these risk factors. To this end, the program requires active community participation and coordination of resources in addressing the needs of our at-risk and delinquent populations.

1. **Prevention Programs — \$58,000.** Research on delinquency and crime has identified a number of factors which are linked with development of delinquency behavior. These factors can be grouped in the following broad categories: the family, the community, the school, the individual and the peer group. Within each of these categories, specific risk factors can be identified, such as child abuse and family disintegration, economic and social deprivation, low neighborhood attachment, parental attitudes condoning law violating behavior, academic failures, truancy, school drop-out, lack of bonding with society, fighting with peers, early initiation of problem behaviors. The more of these risk factors that a child is exposed to, the more likely it is for that delinquent and violent behavior may develop and flourish. Thus, prevention programs must be designed to reduce identified risk factors while strengthening protective factors. These include healthy beliefs and clear standards for productive, law-abiding behavior, and bonding with adult who adhere to these beliefs and standards.

The funds will be awarded by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System (CJPA Supervisory Council) and CNMI Youth Advisory Council (YAC) through a sub-grant process consistent with the project description outlined in the CNMI's FY1995 and FY1996 applications and accompanying strategies for these programs and will be administered by the Criminal Justice Planning Agency. The YAC and the Council are expected to meet in April 18 and 19, respectively, and will review all applications and proposals submitted to the CJPA on or before April 8, 1996.

Interested applicants must contact the CJPA at 664-4550 or stop by the CJPA Office on Capitol Hill (House #1314) to obtain a Sub-Grant Application Form. For more information, please contact Mr. Joaquin T. Ogumoro, CJPA Executive Director, at the above telephone numbers.

Business/Finance

Dollar, stocks edge higher



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Early registration for school year 1996-1997, is being accepted now. The fee is again \$40. **However, if you apply by March 31, 1996 the fee is only \$20.** Please note that enrollment is limited, so register now. For further information, call the Business Office at 235-1251.

TOKYO (AP) - The U.S. dollar edged higher against the Japanese yen at midafternoon in Tokyo Thursday, while prices on the Tokyo Stock Exchange finished higher in moderate trading.

The dollar's strength followed its overnight advance against most major currencies in New York on a government report showing improvement in last month's U.S. retail sector, traders said.

Consumer spending represents about two-thirds of U.S. economic activity, and a strong economy generally helps a country's currency.

Trading in Tokyo, however, remained in a narrow range in the absence of major market-moving news, traders said.

At midafternoon, the dollar was changing hands at 106.44 yen, up 0.35 yen from late Tuesday in Tokyo and also above its late New York level overnight of 106.35 yen.

Japanese foreign exchange, stock and other financial markets were closed Wednesday for a national holiday.

Meanwhile, the yen's retreat against the dollar continued to help many investors, who have been worried about the Japanese currency's rise, dealers said.

A higher yen makes Japanese exports more expensive abroad and thus less competitive, cutting into earnings of export-oriented Japanese companies.

Traders said foreign investors, including hedge funds, covered their short positions aggressively, leading futures prices sharply higher and so triggering arbitrage buying.

A dealer from Okasan Securities said many domestic investors rather retreated to the sidelines prior to the end of Japan's current fiscal year, which ends March 31.

The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average

gained 284.93 points, or 1.39 percent, closing at 20,727.53 points. On Tuesday, the average had gained 157.47 points, or 0.78 percent.

The Tokyo Stock Price Index of all issues listed on the first section was up 18.28 points, or 1.16 percent, to 1,588.01. The TOPIX had risen 10.94 points, or 0.70 percent, on Tuesday.

An estimated 410 million shares changed hands on the exchange's first section, down slightly from Tuesday's 416 million shares. Advancing issues outnumbered decliners 825 to 273, with 122 unchanged.

The benchmark No. 182 10-year Japanese government bonds were sold at 98.54 yen, down from Tuesday's 98.58-yen close. Their yield rose to 3.200 percent from 3.195 percent.

Philip Morris reassures all its workers

RICHMOND, Virginia (AP) - The head of Philip Morris Cos. Inc. sought to reassure employees of the tobacco giant with a memo Wednesday rebutting charges that the company manipulated nicotine levels in its cigarettes, a newspaper reported.

In the two-page memo to 151,000 employees, Philip Morris chairman and chief executive officer Geoffrey C. Bible echoed other top company officials who have said the allegations made this week are nothing new.

"We've been through this before and we'll go through this again," Bible said in the memo that was obtained by the Richmond Times-Dispatch for a story in Thursday's editions.

Bible was responding to affidavits released Monday by the Food and Drug Administration in which three former Philip Morris research and production employees alleged the company systematically adjusts and tests nicotine levels to keep smokers "hooked."

The new disclosures prompted the FDA to reopen a public comment period for 30 days on its proposal to regulate nicotine as a drug.

"We do not 'manipulate' nicotine levels in our cigarettes," Bible wrote in the memo.

Of the affidavits, Bible wrote, "Much of what is contained in them is not new and, in fact, a great deal of it has been in the public literature for years."

As the allegations sent shock waves from Wall Street to the White House, Bible sought to reassure employees that the world's largest tobacco company would survive its latest challenge.

"I am proud to be a part of this great company and I promise you we will continue to fight for Philip Morris," Bible said.

Mass grave found in Bosnia

By SANDY MACINTYRE LUSCI PALANKA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) - The bodies of up to 120 people imprisoned in the notorious Serb death camp of Omarska could have been dumped into a mass grave inside a cave in northern Bosnia, investigators said.

"The cave has been ruined by a big detonation... by whoever tried to cover the traces of this crime," Refik Hodzic, a Bosnian war crimes investigator, told Associated Press Television.

"And on top of it they have thrown bodies of animals and rubbish, so it would be very hard to find the remains of the bodies under all that stuff," said Hodzic, who estimates that the cave near the village of Lusci Palanka holds up to 120 bodies.

One of the investigators is shown in APTV footage holding a bone he says is from a human spine. Piles of bones are visible nearby, but it was not immediately known if they were human or animal.

The Bosnians hope that excavation of the grave site and others in the area can start next month, when the ground thaws.

The Bosnian government's war crimes committee gained access to the site last week. Authorities heard of a suspected mass grave near Lusci Palanka from a man who claimed to have survived a shooting at the cave some time ago, but the site was only recently discovered.

Excavation of suspected mass

graves is considered crucial to determining what happened to thousands missing in Bosnia's war.

There are believed to be up to 300 mass graves in Bosnia and Croatia. At least 27,000 people are reported missing.

The head of the Bosnian war crimes committee, Bekir Gavrankapetanovic, said in Sarajevo that specialized teams, including pathologists, have to be pulled together and excavations must be coordinated with the international war crimes tribunal in The Hague, Netherlands.

The tribunal is interested in participating in exhumations "if graves are related to ongoing investigations or indictments," spokesman Christian Chartier said.

Experts say 11,500 people are missing from Omarska, one of the most notorious Serb camps. It was closed in late 1992 following international outrage over photographs of emaciated inmates. Survivors claim prisoners were brutally killed on a daily basis.

Bosnian authorities believe that two busloads of men who disappeared from the Omarska camp on the eve of its closure could be buried in Lusci Palanka.

Jadranka Cigelj is a Bosnian Croat lawyer who survived Omarska and now lives in Zagreb, Croatia. She is gathering evidence to help war crimes investigators bring the guilty to justice.

Recalling her detention, she told APTV that large trucks carried bodies off daily "in a direction unknown to us at the time... those

who died during the day of their injuries, and at night those who were killed."

"On average there were 20 to 30 bodies every day," she said.

Cigelj accused Mirko Babic, in

charge of the Omarska mines where inmates were reportedly slain and buried, and Zeljko Mejakic, commander of security at the camp, of being "directly responsible."

They are among the 53 people

indicted by the international war crimes tribunal.

"They often sent us to clean... the blood. The walls, the furniture, the floors - everything was sprayed with blood," Cigelj recalled.

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6 teens sentenced for beating ex-altar boy

By AMY WESTFELDT PHILADELPHIA (AP) - A judge sentenced six youths convicted in the beating death of a former altar boy to lengthy prison terms. The boy's father vowed to seek vengeance in the afterlife.

"When I die, I want to be the first spirit you meet in the next world," said John Polec, father of 16-year-old Eddie Polec, who died on the steps of his church after a mob chased him down and beat him with baseball bats.

On Tuesday, Judge Jane Cutler Greenspan sentenced Anthony Rienzi and Nick Pinero, both 18, to the maximum 15- to 30-year terms for third-degree murder and conspiracy. Thomas Crook, 19, sobbed and apologized to the family, and then got 14 1/2 to 30 years on the same charges.

The three youths were convicted of beating Polec to death after a fight between two rival groups in Northeast Philadelphia on Nov. 12, 1994.

Dawan Alexander, 18, who was convicted of manslaughter for kicking Polec, received an eight- to 20-year term, two years less than the maximum, after the judge said he was intelligent and showed "some promise."

Carlo Johnson, 20 and Bou Khathavong, 18, convicted of conspiracy in Polec's death, received the maximum five- to 10-year sentences. Prosecutors say Khathavong orga-

nized the rumble and that Johnson provided the bats, although neither beat Polec.

A seventh defendant, 19-year-old Kevin Convey, pleaded guilty to third-degree murder in exchange for his testimony against the others. He was sentenced to 5 to 20 years in February.

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PM accuses foes of racial bias

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) - Determined to curb bigotry against Asian immigrants, Prime Minister Jim Bolger has angrily accused a fast-rising opposition party of whipping up racial hatred in the same way as the Nazis did in Germany before World War II.

The New Zealand First Party, led by Maori legislator Winston Peters, has more than doubled its opinion poll

rating from 8 to 17 percent in three months by criticizing newcomers who won't make a "total commitment to New Zealand society."

In a rowdy debate in Parliament on Thursday, Bolger accused Peters of orchestrating "a racist campaign" to grab votes at elections due in November.

He said Peters has sparked the worst period of racial intolerance in

New Zealand for 50 years, a situation he likened to "that most awful period of the world, which was the 30s and 40s in Germany."

"Racism has always been a successful tool," Bolger said.

"I'm saying he borrowed the same tactics. Blaming the perceived problems of society on an identifiable, distinctive group, preferably migrants," Bolger, who wants to

forge strong ties with booming Asian economies, defended his government immigration policy.

Until recently most immigrants were from Britain, Ireland or neighboring Pacific islands.

But about half of the 55,000 immigrants granted permission to settle in New Zealand in 1995 were from Asia, many of them entrepreneurs far more affluent than most New Zealanders.

Many are from Hong Kong which will revert to Chinese rule in 1997 after a century as a British colony. Others are from Singapore and Malaysia.

Peters, a former member of Bolger's National Party, deplored the prime minister's attack as "appalling and inexplicable."

He denies he is a racist. However, in recent weeks he has repeatedly accused immigrants of buying up big in real estate while pursuing business interests in their old home countries.

Peters' outbursts have attracted support from both ultraconservative white New Zealanders and radical Maori groups, who have come together after being bitter opponents for generations.

A recent opinion survey found 51 percent of voters believe too many Asians live in New Zealand, up dramatically from similar surveys in the past.

Radio talk shows often resound with anti-Asian calls. Letter to newspapers also chastise Asian newcomers for the flamboyant displays of wealth and even their poor driving habits.

Maori groups have also complained of "high-rolling Asians."

Hone Harawira, who leads the Te Kawariki protest group, said the government appears more interested in attracting Asian immigrants and investment than settling unresolved land claims with Maori tribes.

Some Maori people fear "moneyed immigrants" will buy up land and resources before the claims can be settled, he said.

Immigrant community leaders have attacked New Zealand First's "Asian bashing."

The reality of your most imaginative fantasies are here in the island. They are the wildest and the hottest of all sensualities.

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PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

There will be a meeting for all **CAROLINIANS** to discuss the Administration for Native American **(ANA) Grant** on March 27, 1996, at 5:30 p.m. in the Carolinian Affairs Office conference room, Garapan. Any Carolinian who is interested to join this board is welcome to attend.

/s/ JESUS M. ELAMETO

Saudi . . . Continued from page 1

entitled to receive those proceeds 9.9% of the amount by which the per share sale price exceeds the per share base evaluation."

Superior Court Presiding Judge Alexandro Castro issued an order Wednesday unsealing all documents in the six claims filed through the law firm of Eason and Halsell against the estate.

The other claimant, M. Bassam Jabr, has sought for recognition of his contractual rights with respect to 472 shares of stock in DHLI.

By the same July 9, 1990 agreement, Jabr claimed to have contractually entitled to the DHLI shares.

Jabr, of Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, is said to be a close business associate of Abdulaziz.

The third claimant is DHLI and its shareholders Japan Airlines Co., Lufthansa Cargo AG, Nissho Iwai Corp., William A. Robinson, Greenpark International Ltd., and Chung Po Yang.

The group filed claim for acknowledgement and enforcement of their contractual rights and obligations which exist under various agreements relating to the acquisition of shares of stock in DHLI.

As a result of Hillblom's death, an "involuntary transfer" of the DHLI shares held by Hillblom occurred.

To summarize the rights and obligations now associated with the shares, the law firm said, certain long-time shareholders of DHLI have the first right to buy

any or all of the shares now in the estate.

If these long-time shareholders fail to exercise their rights, more recent shareholders of DHLI have the right to buy the shares, said the law firm.

The other set of claimants is Cheiro's Consulting Co., a Hong Kong corp., William A. Robinson and Chung Po Yang.

They filed claim for recognition of their contractual rights with respect to 1,118 class "A" shares of stock and 388,160 class "B" shares of stock in DHLI.

Hillblom's owned 10,823 shares of "Class A" shares and 800,000 class "B" shares of DHLI.

On the other hand, claimants—L. Patrick Lupo, Peter J. Donnici and Stephen J. Schwartz—sought for recognition of the contractual rights in 746 DHLI shares.

Hillblom used to own 23,576 shares of DHLI stock. Chung also owned shares.

Chung later transferred these and other shares to Hillblom.

The agreement provides that 746 of the shares of DHLI stock that Chung transferred to Hillblom are subject to the rights of claimants, according to court documents.

The fifth claimant is DHLI which asked notice of claim relating to DHLI shares of stock formerly owned by Hillblom.

DHLC sought an order recognizing and enforcing contractual rights and obligations concerning these shares.



Mae-an

Bon Voyage

Please take care of yourself love much from your family

Union . . . Continued from page 1

left the counting room quietly.

Observers speculated that the vigorous anti-union campaign launched by Rep. Stanley Torres might have been one of the factors that spelled the elec-

Hofschneider . . . Continued from page 1

vote-getter during the last two House elections for Precinct 3.

He is currently one of only two congressmen not affiliated with any political party, the other being Rep. Stanley T. Torres, although both say they are still Republicans at heart.

Hofschneider first got elected to office as a Republican in 1991, but was unceremoniously removed from the party roster when he ran for his first reelection in 1993.

Both Torres and Hofschneider were voted out of the GOP during the 1993 campaign for refusing to support then party candidate and reelectionist governor, Larry I. Guerrero.

With current Washington Representative Juan N. Babauta setting his sights for a gubernatorial bid in 1997, political observers are saying the position is up for

form unions.

Local 5 lost at Hyatt Regency Hotel last December.

The union's defeat at Dai-Ichi, however, would not discourage Mott.

He said he still intends to unionize other hotels on Saipan. "We'll never give up," he said.

grabs and Hofschneider may be a good replacement.

There is talk circulating that former Mariana Islands Housing Authority Juan M. Sablan is also eyeing a possible bid for the office. Over at the Democratic camp, a bid from Herman T. Guerrero, who ran against Babauta in the 1993 elections, could not be discounted.

Although running as an independent remains an option for him, there are those who say Hofschneider would be better off running as a Republican, as he could take advantage of a more elaborate and well-oiled political machinery.

But for Hofschneider, much of the thinking is focused on the change in environment, that is from a Saipan-based lawmaker to a Washington-based political lobbyist.

"A lot of people say I will be more useful here on the island than if I were in Washington. So I

am considering all the possibilities," said the Saipan lawmaker.

As to what he can offer if elected resident representative, Hofschneider said he wants to try some ideas he has with the office.

"I want to try a little bit of refreshing philosophies in the office, hoping they would be effective in approaching issues for the benefit of the people of the CNMI," said Hofschneider.

Bill . . . Continued from page 1

12 litigants aside from putting a statute of limitation shortening the period within which Article 12 claims may be brought up by the original landowners.

An interesting provision in P.L. 8-32 was the retroactivity clause, which provides that the law will apply to all existing Article 12 cases at the time it was enacted.

When asked to explain the reasons behind his repeal measure,

Babauta said it has something to do with the bill the House passed last week seeking to amend CNMI probate laws.

House Bill 10-147, which Babauta also authored, also contained a retroactivity provision that would make the act applicable to current probate cases, including that pertaining to the estate of the late millionaire, Larry L. Hillblom.

H.B. 10-147 has been termed by legal experts as unconstitutional particularly due to the retroactive application of its provisions to pre-existing property rights which some say raises questions about due process and equal protection.

Manglona, who authored P.L. 8-32, was one of those who questioned the probate bill, taking issue with the retroactivity provision.

Babauta questioned why the retroactivity provision in the probate law was being attacked when it is basically the same as the retroactivity provision in P.L. 8-32.

"That bothers me because the question of retroactivity was made applicable to P.L. 8-32. As a policy maker, I see no reason why a retroactivity provision could not be applied on House Bill 10-147 when it was applied on the Article 12 statute."

According to the House Judicial and Governmental Operations chairman, he does not intend to repeal the entire Article 12 statute but rather only certain provisions of it.

"It's just a matter of revisiting the issue because I happen to come across that law in my research on the retroactivity provision of the probate bill," Babauta said.

Asked if Manglona's criticism of his bill prompted him to seek the repeal of P.L. 8-32, Babauta said no.

"I still stand firm that my bill could stand in any court. But if the retroactivity provision in my bill is unconstitutional, then that same clause in P.L. 8-32 should also be unconstitutional. There has to be some consistency and that is why I want the law revisited," said Babauta.

When contacted yesterday from Rota, Manglona reserved comment.

But a previous statement he issued read, "The difference here is that the Legislature has the duty under the CNMI Constitution to provide the Courts with guidance on the interpretation of Article 12, and the Article 12 legislation did not affect the vested rights of anyone to bring a lawsuit. The House probate bill, however, would extinguish the existing vested rights of children to prove their right to inheritance from their father."



Northern Marianas College
Office of Occupational Safety & Health
Outreach & Training

OSHA for the Garment Industry Seminar/Workshop

who needs to attend?	EMPLOYERS, EMPLOYERS, EMPLOYERS & THEIR EMPLOYEES
Why do you need to attend	Important Items will be discussed including: Sanitation, Living Quarters, Ladders, Material Handling, Guards, and Safety & Health Programs

AGENDA

Day 1	Day 2
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> General Environmental Controls Walking/ Working Surfaces Machine Guarding Material Handling and Storage Power Tools and Cords Hazard Search Questions & Answers 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Intro to Safety and Health Programs Four Point Workplace Program Management Commitment Employee Inv. Worksite Analysis Hazard Prevention and Control Training Written Plan - Workgroups and Discussion

LOCATION, DATES & TIMES: HYATT REGENCY, GILLIGANS, March 27 (Wed) & 28 (Thu) 7:30 a.m. - 4:00 p.m.
REGISTRATION AT THE DOOR 7:30 a.m. First Day, RESERVE SEATING begins March 13th, call 234-5498

This Outreach and Training Program is a cooperative program between the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety & Health Administration (OSHA), U.S. Department of Interior, and the Northern Marianas College.



American Red Cross

Northern Mariana Islands Chapter
presents the

9th Annual Kick-off Dinner

When: Saturday, March 30, 1996
6:00-10:00pm

Where: Pacific Islands Club

Why: Fun evening with friends, family, volunteers and donors.

Price: \$40.00 single
\$75.00 couple

How: Purchase tickets at the NMI Chapter office on Airport Road or call Cathy at 234-3459 to have a ticket delivered to you.

Tickets include buffet dinner, drinks, live band, and dancing. All proceeds go to your local chapter of the American Red Cross to provide programs and services to the people of the Commonwealth.

In need of image polishing

Hillary Clinton heads overseas

WASHINGTON (AP) - The stated purpose of Hillary Rodham Clinton's 10-day journey to Germany, Bosnia, Italy, Turkey and Greece - is to boost troop morale and spread her message of concern for women and children.

The underlying design: Polish her election-season image battered by the Whitewater affair. "We often refer to presidents seeming more presidential. I guess she wants to ... for the lack of a better word, seem more first lady-like," said Carl Anthony, a histo-

rian who specializes in first ladies. The trip, her fourth major overseas journey without President Clinton, will be a typical mixture of policy, politics, diplomacy and sightseeing. The highlight may be her visit

Monday with U.S. troops stationed in Tuzla, Bosnia-Herzegovina. Mrs. Clinton was planning small, informal meetings and at least one address to a large gathering of soldiers.

The troops will not parade in front of her; she doesn't want to look like a stand-in for the commander in chief.

"Mrs. Clinton doesn't review

Suleyman Demirel three days before his trip to Washington to visit Clinton. And the president is not scheduled to meet with Greek Prime Minister Constantine Simitis until early April, well after Mrs. Clinton's meeting.

Her second major address, focusing on democracy, is scheduled in Athens, Greece, the birthplace of democracy. And she will



Hillary Rodham Clinton

troops," spokesman Neel Lattimore said.

But Sheila Tate, who was Nancy Reagan's spokeswoman, said the agenda "sounds awfully close to a presidential visit."

"With someone with her image problem - the co-presidency thing - it certainly runs the risk of reinforcing that," Tate said.

Mrs. Clinton would become the first president's wife since Eleanor Roosevelt to address a large gathering of troops in a hostile area, Anthony said. Pat Nixon flew by helicopter over a Vietnam hot spot to visit hospitalized troops.

Mrs. Clinton, who will not leave the safety of a U.S. base in Tuzla, also plans three days in Turkey. The highlight will be a Wednesday speech at the majestic Topaki Palace to promote the coexistence of secular governments and strong religious societies.

The address comes less than a month after the parliament approved a center-right coalition to govern Turkey, ending a struggle to keep an Islamic party from taking control. The Islamic Welfare party advocates moving the policies of the overwhelmingly Muslim nation away from the West and closer to the Islamic world.

But aides said the address was not designed to weigh in on domestic politics. And they were just as coy about her private meetings with political leaders of Turkey and Greece, calling them "courtesy calls."

"She's not going to be delivering a message from the president," Lattimore said, but acknowledging: "That could change."

Greece and Turkey nearly went to war in January over a tiny island in the Aegean Sea. U.S. intervention helped defuse the crisis.

Mrs. Clinton is scheduled to meet Turkey's President

promote Atlanta's summer Olympic Games in a speech at Olympus, the birthplace of the sporting competition.

Sprinkled among the formal events are large blocks of time for sightseeing - from the Blue Mosque in Turkey to the Acropolis in Greece. Her daughter, Chelsea, 16, will be on spring break and may accompany the first lady.

The rehabilitation of Mrs. Clinton couldn't come at a more opportune time: On Jan. 26, she became the first wife of a president to testify before a grand jury - on her Whitewater billing records.

Her role in the tangled affair over the failed Whitewater real estate deal, documented in a new book called "Blood Sport," landed her an unflattering Time magazine cover shot March 18.

Following the grand jury appearance, half of those responding to an Associated Press poll said Mrs. Clinton was hiding something.

Aides hope the trip puts her in a better light: a patriotic first lady bolstering the spirits of U.S. troops, a light-hearted mother soaking up the sites of Europe, a determined advocate speaking out for women and children.

As she shrugged off the failure of health care reform and the growing Whitewater affair, Mrs. Clinton's 1995 trips to Latin America and Asia provided cozy, low-pressure forums to explain herself. She mused about her role in government, reinforced her commitment to women and children's issues, and expressed bewilderment with her critics.

"There are people who still don't think the Earth is round, but you can't worry about that," she said during her China trip, as she and her husband struggled to recover from the Republican election landslide.

Motions blur trial of Carlos' deputy

BERLIN (AP) - The trial of Johannes Weinrich, the alleged deputy of international terrorist Carlos the Jackal, got mired down in defense motions Wednesday, demanding a proceedings delay until more witnesses and evidence are available.

Weinrich is charged with the 1993 bombing of the French culture center in Berlin that killed one man and injured 23 others.

Prosecutors say Weinrich first deposited the explosives with the Syrian embassy in then-communist East Berlin in 1992, and later smuggled it into West Berlin for the bombing.

Weinrich's defense attorney, Stefan Koenig, convinced the court Wednesday to re-study some-87 pages of material on his motions, charging

the three-judge panel they were taking his request that the defense needed to call more witnesses and introduce more defense evidence "too lightly."

The court gave no indication of when a decision might be made on the motion to delay the trial.

Also charged in the case is a former East German secret police member, Wilhelm Borostowski, who allegedly allowed the explosives to be returned to Weinrich after the Stasi had confiscated them from him when he arrived in East Berlin in 1992.

Borostowski's testimony Wednesday consisted of telling the court he was a low-ranking member of the Stasi, and had no special powers or privileges.

Former Syrian diplomat,

Nabil Shritah, is also being tried as an accomplice. Shritah testified at the trial of another Stasi agent that Weinrich had bragged that he was responsible for the culture center bombing.

The defense continues to argue that Shritah is an unreliable witness, whose previous testimony at an earlier trial is inadmissible.

Prosecutors say that

Weinrich brought the explosives from Rumania into East Germany, where they were seized by the secret police. Stasi agents, as the secret police were known, allegedly later gave them back to Weinrich, and he was allowed to store the explosives at the Syrian embassy until the attack was carried out.

Weinrich, 48, was Germany's longest sought fu-

gitive until his arrest in Yemen last June when he was quickly extradited to Berlin.

The notorious Carlos the Jackal, whose real name is Ilich Ramirez Sanchez of Venezuela, is jailed in Paris where he faces charges of a 1974 grenade attack at a Paris cafe that killed two people and wounded 34 others. He had previously been convicted in absentia on other charges but must now be tried again.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC-RFP96-0022
MARCH 8, 1996

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting proposals from qualified engineering firms for the complete design of Oleai (San Jose) Village Waterline Replacement project in the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

- The proposal shall address the A/E firm's ability to perform the following essential elements.
1. Complete design of the project in 90 days from the receipt of Notice to Proceed. The design shall include study of the existing water systems, hydraulic analysis and calculation.
 2. Prepare construction documents consisting of plans, specifications, and project cost estimates.
 3. Perform topographic and horizontal surveys for the pipeline route.
 4. Perform limited soils analysis at intervals along the pipeline route.
 5. Prepare O&M Impact Statement.

- The key elements of the design are the following:
1. Design of approximately 2 miles of underground water line within Oleai Village. Water line shall be laid within the road shoulder and outside the existing asphalt pavement.
 2. The water line shall include appurtenant valves, fittings, fire hydrants, service laterals and meters.
 3. The submittals shall be made at 50%, 90%, and 100%. All submittals shall be in two sets of plans and specifications, except for final submittal. Five sets will be required for final submittals.

- Proposals will be evaluated and selection made based on the following criteria:
1. Qualification of the principal and proposed staff (25%)
 2. Experience in similar projects (25%)
 3. Proposed project approach (20%)
 4. Time frame of the work (15%)
 5. Completeness of the proposal (15%)

Proposals shall be marked CUC-RFP96-0022 and submitted as an original and five copies to Mr. Frank T. Flores, Special Advisor - Procurement and Supply, CUC, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 4:00 pm local time, April 8, 1996. CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest. All proposal will become the property of the CUC.

All inquiries shall be directed to Mr. Ernesto L. Villarín, Water Division Engineer, at telephone number (670) 322-9383.

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Executive Director, CUC

INVITATION TO BID

DPW96-ITB-010

The Department of Public Works is soliciting sealed bids for the Construction of Energy Conservation Measures at Rota High School, Rota, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands. Bids in Duplicate will be accepted in the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply at Lower Base, Saipan until 2:00 pm. local time on Friday March 29, 1996 at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bids received after the above time will not be accepted under any circumstances. A bond of 15% of the total bid price must accompany the bid. This security may be certified Check, Cashier's Check, Bid Bond or other form acceptable to the Government made payable to the Treasurer, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands with a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 1471". Bid security is not required if bid amount is less than \$25,000.00. The bidder is required to submit with his proposal, a copy of his business permit as a compliance with the contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Specifications and plans of the project are available on or after March 17, 1996 at the Technical Services Division Department of Public Works. A non-refundable payment of \$100.00 is required for each set. Pre-bid conference for this project will be held at 2:00 pm. local time, on Friday March 22 1996 at the Department of Public Works Conference Room.

Attention is called to the Labor Standards Provisions for Wage Ate Determination of the CNMI Classification and Salary Structure Plans, and payment of not less than minimum salaries and wages as set forth in the Specification must be paid in this project.

All bid documents received shall be the sole property of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands with the exception of bids bonds, certified check or cashier's check which will be returned to the bidders in accordance with the specification section, "Instruction to the Bidders", Page ITB-2, Paragraph No. 05, Bid Guarantee.

"The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands."

/s/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Secretary of Public Works

/S/EDWARD B. PALACIOS
Director Division of Procurement & Supply

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting proposals for the procurement of one (1) new tractor (models built from 1995 and up) for agricultural use with 2300/2500 RPM, 70-80 Gross HP, 6070 HP on PTO, two-wheel drive with the tire size 16.9 x 24 x 8 reply rear, 7.50 x 16 x 6 front, power steering, dual stage clutch, hydraulic system, diesel fuel, 12 volt system with all additional standard equipment and transmission of eight forward and four speed reserve with sliding collars and helical gears industrial yellow color, four cylinders, 450 RPM PTO. Please include in your proposal the cost, insurance, and freight (CIF) to West Tinian Airport.

Proposals must be submitted to the Commonwealth Ports Authority, Office of the Executive Director, P.O. Box 1055, Saipan International Airport, on or before March 29, at 10 AM at which time the proposal(s) will be publicly opened and read. The CPA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals pursuant to Section 3.2 (7) of CPA's Procurement Rules and Regulations.

NOTICE TO CNMI GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES

This is to notify all Commonwealth public employees who received additional compensation in calendar year 1995 either for professional services rendered to, or as an independent contractor for, the Commonwealth government that you are required under the Government Ethics Code Act of 1992 (1 CMC §8501, et seq.) to file a verified written statement of financial interests with the Public Auditor. Also, each elected and appointed Commonwealth official and judicial officer is required by the Act to file a verified statement of financial interests.

The deadline for filing a verified statement of financial interests is **May 1, 1996**. Failure to comply with the financial disclosure requirements is subject to penalties as set forth in 1 CMC §8517 through §8522 and 1 CMC §8571 through §8576.

Forms are now available at the Office of the Public Auditor (OPA), 2nd Floor J.E. Tenorio Building along Middle Road in Gualo Rai, Saipan. Also, notary services needed in verifying the form are available at OPA free of charge. For more information, please contact the Office of the Public Auditor at telephone nos. 2346481/2 or fax no. 234-7812.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

CUC RFP 96-0025

March 15, 1996

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting proposals for Janitorial Services for its buildings. Specifications may be picked-up at the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Procurement and Supply Office, Lower Base, between 0730 to 1630 hours (7:30 am to 4:30 pm.).

- Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
1. Cost - 40 points
 2. Experience - 30 points
 3. Approach to Project - 30 points

One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelop marked CUC RFP 96-0025 to the CUC Procurement & Supply Manager, Lower Base, P.O. Box 1220, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than Monday, April 15, 1996 at 1600 hours (4:00 pm) local time.

Discussions may be concluded with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose or obtaining the best and final offers. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposals, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquiries shall be directed to Mr. Frank T. Flores, Special Advisor to CUC Procurement & Supply at Telephone number (670) 322-4033, ext. 16, or Fax number (670) 322-6582.

Timothy P. Villagomez
Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

CUC-RFP 96-0024

March 15, 1996

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting proposals from certified and experienced companies for Security Guard Services for Power Plant I, Power Plant II, Power Plant IV and its Main Compound.

Contractors must possess a business license and adhere to the Labor Standards Provisions for Wage Rate Determination of the CNMI Classification and Salary Structure and adhere to all CNMI Labor Laws.

Specifications may be picked-up at the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Procurement and Supply Office, Lower Base, between 0730 to 1630 hours (7:30 am to 4:30 pm).

- Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:
1. Cost - 40 pts.
 2. Experience - 30 pts.
 3. Approach to Project - 30 pts.

Contractors must provide proof of "Indemnity Liability Insurance," specifically covering security workers assigned to CUC's compound. Coverage must be a minimum of \$200,000.00. One (1) original and five (5) copies must be submitted in a sealed envelop marked CUC RFP 96-0024 to the CUC Procurement & Supply Manager, Lower Base, P.O. Box 1220, Saipan MP 96950 no later than Monday, April 15, 1996 at 1600 hours (4:00 pm), local time.

Discussions may be concluded with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose or obtaining the best and final offers. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposals, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

All inquiries shall be directed to Mr. Frank T. Flores, Special Advisor to CUC Procurement & Supply at Telephone number (670) 322-4033, ext. 16 or Fax number (670) 322-6582.

Timothy Villagomez
Executive Director

Probe on body piercing sought

By MEKI COX
HONOLULU (AP) - The Senate Health Committee on Wednesday asked the state Department of Health to investigate whether unregulated body piercing poses a threat to people's health.

Although no serious body piercing problems have been reported in Hawaii, some local body piercers say it's bound to happen.

Since more people are finding out that piercing isn't regulated, more untrained people are prob-

ably going to start buying home piercing kits and getting into the business, said Gus Diamond, a body piercer at Paragon Piercing.

"I have a feeling that's when the problem is going to get bigger," Diamond said.

It's when more problems with infections or the transmission of HIV or hepatitis will arise, he said.

Some states, such as Michigan and Kansas, are trying to regulate body piercing and require paren-

tal consent for minors to undergo body piercing. They cite potential problems caused by unclean needles.

Although department doctors say the risk of infection is minimal, they agreed to look into regulation, said Jeanette Takamura, deputy director of the state Department of Health.

She added that "infection is more likely to result from inadequate personal hygiene and from failure to disinfect studs or rings."

And since no other state has set any regulations, it may take awhile to figure out how to go about regulating it, said James Ikeda, chief of the environmental health services division, which also oversees tattoo regulation.

But even without formal regulations, some conscientious body piercers have joined the San Francisco-based Association of Professional Piercers, which provides piercing guidelines for its members to follow.

One of the most common body piercing problems on the main-

land occurs when people use piercing guns to pierce belly buttons and nostrils, said Lani Teshima-Miller, who has published information on the Internet about tattoos and body piercing.

Piercing guns are meant to be only used to pierce the earlobes. "Even the piercing gun manufacturers admit that these machines are inappropriate for other parts of the body," Teshima-Miller said.

The DOH is supposed to report back to the committee with their findings before next year's session.

INVITATION FOR BID

CUC IFB 96-0020
MARCH 08, 1996

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting competitive sealed bids from qualified individuals or firms for approximately eight thousand (8,000) feet of 556.6 aluminum conductor scraps.

Bid Forms for the above may be picked up at the CUC Procurement & Supply Office in Lower Base, Saipan between hours of 7:30 am and 4:00 pm Monday through Friday. The scraps may also be inspected during the aforementioned dates and times at the CUC compound.

All inquiries may be directed to Mr. Frank T. Flores, Special Advisor for Procurement & Supply at phone number 322-4033 extension 16 or fax number 322-6583.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope marked CUC-IFB 96-0020 and submitted to the Special Advisor for Procurement & Supply at CUC in Lower Base, Saipan, before 3:00 pm local time, on April 08, 1996. Bids will be opened and read aloud immediately after closing in the CUC conference room.

CUC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defect in said bids, or any of them if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

/s/ Timothy P. Villagomez
Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BID

CUC IFB 96-0023

MARCH 15, 1996

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting bids from interested firms for the supply of nine (9) 34.5/13.8 kV power transformers, or four (4) 34.5/13.8 kV, 30/40/50 MVA power transformers.

Bids forms and specifications may be picked up the CUC Procurement & Supply, Office in Lower Base, between the hours of 7:30 a.m., and 4:30 p.m., local time during normal working days.

Bids shall be enclosed in a sealed envelope addressed to the Manager Procurement & Supply, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Saipan, MP 96950 and endorsed with the name of the bidder and the title: 34.5/13.8kV Power Transformers and ITB No. 96-0023. Sealed bids shall be submitted no later than 2:00 p.m., local time, April 30, 1996.

This IFB does not commit the CUC to award a contract, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a bid under this request, or to procure or contract for materials.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation reserves the right to reject any and all bids in accordance with Section 3.2(7) of its Procurement Rules and Regulations.

All inquires shall be directed to Mr. Michael W. Randall at telephone number (670) 322-4033, Ext. 30, or Fax Number (670) 322-6582.

Timothy P. Villagomez
Executive Director



Renada Daniel-Patterson shows a picture of her pet dog to her father David Patterson shortly before he donated a kidney to his daughter at UC Medical Center in San Francisco. AP photo

JOB VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting applicants for the following positions at the Saipan International Airport:

Two (2) General Terminal Maintenance

The salary for General Terminal Maintenance is a minimum of \$502.04 bi-weekly to a maximum of \$610 bi-weekly.

The employee is responsible for performing repair and maintenance procedures and carrying out terminal repair and maintenance activities. Applicants must have good plumbing skills and ability to repair complicated plumbing fixtures.

The minimum qualification is any combination equivalent to graduation from high school or GED or trade school with at least one year experience in construction firms or maintenance operations at airports, major hotels or resorts, or commercial building.

Application forms are available at the Security Office, First Floor, Arrival Building of the Saipan International Airport, or at the Administration Office on the Second Floor of the Arrival Building. Applications must be accompanied by an updated police record dating back five years. The deadline for submission of application is 4:30 p.m. April 5, 1996. For more information, please call the Commonwealth Ports Authority at Tel: 664-3500.

Israel museum gets Einstein manuscript

By ALLYN FISHER
NEW YORK (AP) - The manuscript in which Albert Einstein laid out his theory of relativity, paving the way for the development of the nuclear bomb, will be donated to an Israeli museum, Sotheby's said Wednesday.

The Jacob E. Safra Philanthropic Foundation secretly purchased the 72 yellowing pages - composed in 1912 - and will donate them to the Israel Museum in Jerusalem, the auction house said.

The price was not disclosed because it was a private sale, said Josh Pekarsky, a spokesman for Kekst and Company, which represents Safra.

An attempt was made to sell the manuscript at a March 16 auction but the item went unsold, apparently because a minimum \$4 million bid wasn't met.

Einstein originally prepared the autographed manuscript to explain his revolutionary theory for a scientific journal. World War I interrupted its publication, and the would-be publisher held onto the papers for years.

In the theory of relativity, explained by the equation, E=mc² (energy equals mass times the speed of light squared), Einstein discovered that time was not absolute and that mass and energy were equivalent.

"We could not be more thrilled or more grateful for this truly outstanding gift," Martin Weyl, director of the Israel Museum, said.

Teddy Kollek, a former mayor of Jerusalem and founder of the Israel Museum, said he "cannot find the words to express my gratitude to the Safra family."

Einstein, who was Jewish, was born in Germany. The Nazi regime revoked his German citizenship in 1934. At the time he was living in the United States and teaching at Princeton University.

Einstein himself shunned religion, although through letters he exchanged with Israel's founding leaders it is evident he was a committed Zionist, strongly sympathetic towards the Jewish state. He bequeathed these letters along with a stack of other personal papers to the Hebrew University in Jerusalem.

The philanthropy's head, Jacob E. Safra, is the nephew of noted investment banker Edmond J. Safra who is the founder of Republic National Bank of New York and the Safra Republic bank in Geneva.

Last December, Safra also purchased the financially troubled Encyclopaedia Britannica, the world's oldest continually published English-language encyclopedia.



Stephen Herrick, representing Holland Longfellow Elementary School in Grand Rapids Spelling Bee Finals, loses his composure after judges questioned his spelling of a word on Thursday. The judges ruled that Herrick has spelled the word correctly. AP photo



PIC-Saipan has openings for the following positions: Payroll Clerk, Store Room Clerk, Bellhops, Security Guards, Bartenders. Must be dependable and trustworthy. If qualified apply in person to Pacific Islands Club, P.O. Box 2370, Saipan MP 96950.

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4 BEDROOM, 2 full bathroom, large living room, dining room and patio. Semi-Furnished asking price \$1,400.00 per month. House located at Asteo, Ocean and Mountain view. Serious caller please leave message at Telephone No. 256-3655.

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234-5100 - 24 HOURS

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

TASI TOURS & TRANSPORTATION INC.,
has an opening for a
DISPATCHER

Full Time Employment
Salary Negotiable

Interested person(s) are asked to apply at Tasi Tours & Transportation Inc., office located at Oieal Center Bldg. 2nd Floor, Chalan Lulau. Please ask for David Igitol or Lucy Hurst. Applicants are asked to bring Police and Health Clearance.

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1990 KIA FLATBED
Asking Price \$4,500 OBO
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PRIVATE LAND FOR LONG TERM (55 YEARS)
APPROXIMATE SIZE: 120 HECTARES
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REQUIREMENT: TOTAL LAND AREA MUST BE ONE CONTINUOUS PARCEL OR RELATIVELY ADJACENT IF MORE THAN ONE PARCEL
WHEN NEEDED: AS SOON AS POSSIBLE
CONTACT PERSON:
MS. LORRAINE PANGELINAH - 235-6888

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PROFESSIONAL NEW 5500 WATT GENERATION. U.S. MADE, BRUSHLESS, GOOD FOR HOME/SMALL OFFICE/ CONSTRUCTION. COMPUTER COMPATIBLE \$ 950. CALL 288-1234

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04 EMBROIDERY MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary:\$2.75 per hour

01 CARPENTER-Salary:\$2.75 per hour

01 ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER-Salary:\$1,050-1,200 per month

03 TOUR COUNSELORS-Salary:\$600 per month

01 SALES CLERK-Salary:\$2.75 per hour

01 MAINTENANCE MECHANIC-Salary:\$3.50 per hour

02 AIRCRAFT MECHANIC-Salary:\$800 per month

05 DANCERS-Salary:\$2.75 per hour

03 COOK-Salary:\$2.75 per hour

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$900 per month

01 STORE SUPERVISOR-Salary:\$2.75 per hour

03 SEWING MAINTENANCE MECHANIC-Salary:\$2.75-\$4.00 per hour

01 KITCHEN HELPER-Salary:\$2.75-\$3.20 per hour

01 ASST. FRONT OFFICE MANAGER-Salary:\$500-\$1,700 per month

01 PURCHASING MANAGER-Salary:\$1,700 per month

01 JANITOR-Salary:\$3.05-\$4.17 per hour

01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05-\$4.17 per hour

01 MASON-Salary \$2.75 per hour

10 PACKER (HAND PACKAGER) -Salary:\$2.75 per hour

10 QUALITY CONTROL CHECKER-Salary:\$2.75 per hour

10 PRESSER (MACHINE)-Salary:\$2.75 per hour

10 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary:\$2.75 per hour

01 PRODUCTION CONTROLLER-Salary:\$2.75-\$3.00 per hour

01 SUPERINTENDENT, CONSTRUCTION-Salary:\$3.00-\$6.25 per hour

01 TRAVEL COUNSELOR-Salary:\$800 per month

01 STEELMAN-Salary:\$2.75 per hour

02 CARPENTER-Salary:\$2.75 per hour

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:\$800 per month

02 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR-Salary:\$2.75-\$3.50 per hour

01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary:\$2.75-\$3.50 per hour

01 CIVIL ENGINEER-Salary:\$1,000-\$1,500 per month

01 SUPERVISOR (CONSTRUCTION)-Salary:\$1,000-\$1,700 per month

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$3.50 per hour

01 MASON-Salary:\$2.75 per hour

03 CARPENTER-Salary:\$2.75 per hour

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$975 per month

03 WAITER-Salary:\$2.75 per hour

03 STEVEDORE-Salary:\$2.75-\$3.00 per hour

01 AIRLINE TICKET AGENT-Salary:\$3.25-\$5.00 per hour

01 EXECUTIVE ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$1,700 per month

06 COMMERCIAL CLEANERS-Salary:\$2.75 per hour

05 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$3.00 per hour

20 SEWER (MACHINE OPERATOR)-Salary:\$2.75 per hour

05 MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR-Salary:\$2.75 per hour

01 SALES REPRESENTATIVE-Salary:\$2.75 per hour

02 GARBAGE COLLECTOR-Salary:\$2.75-\$3.00 per hour

01 HOUSEWORKER-Salary:\$200 per month

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$5.20 per hour

01 A/C & REF TECHNICIAN-Salary:\$3.05 per hour

02 COOK (RESTAURANT)-Salary:\$2.95 per hour

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$800 per month

04 COOK-Salary:\$2.75-\$4.25 per hour

01 MAINTENANCE-Salary:\$500 per month

05 WAITRESS-Salary:\$2.75 per hour

02 MASON-Salary:\$2.75-\$3.00 per hour

01 REFRIGERATION TECHNICIAN-Salary:\$2.75-\$6.00 per hour

02 RIGGER (ANTENNA TOWER MAINTENANCE)-Salary:\$4.00 per hour

01 BEAUTICIAN -Salary:\$2.75 per hour

01 SUPERVISOR-Salary:\$500 per month

02 CONTAINER COORDINATOR-\$850-\$950 per month

06 WAITRESS-Salary:\$2.75 per hour

01 ASSISTANT PERSONNEL MANAGER-Salary:\$1,000 per month

02 COOK-Salary:\$2.75 per hour

02 WELDING (COMBINATION)-Salary:\$2.75-\$3.00 per hour

01 GENERAL MANAGER-Salary:\$1,800 per month

06 COOK-Salary:\$3.05-\$8.50 per hour

01 AIRCONDITION/REFRIGERATION MECHANIC-Salary:\$3.05-\$6.00 per hour

01 WAITRESS SUPERVISOR (RESTAURANT) -Salary:\$3.05-\$8.50 per hour

01 AUTOMOTIVE MECHANIC-Salary:\$3.05-\$4.75 per hour

02 HOUSEKEEPING, CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05-\$6.00 per hour

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$800 per month

04 RESTAURANT WAITRESS-Salary:\$2.75-\$4.25 per hour

01 MAINTENANCE-Salary:\$500 per month

02 MASON-Salary:\$2.75-\$3.00 per hour

01 REFRIGERATION TECHNICIAN-Salary:\$2.75-\$6.00 per hour

02 RIGGER (ANTENNA TOWER MAINTENANCE)-Salary:\$4.00 per hour

01 BEAUTICIAN -Salary:\$2.75 per hour

01 SUPERVISOR-Salary:\$500 per month

02 CONTAINER COORDINATOR-\$850-\$950 per month

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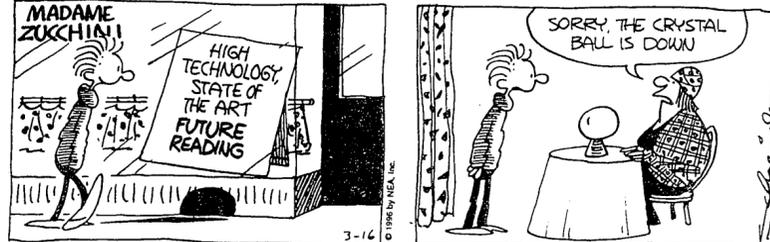
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2 BEDROOM UNITS, RARELY AVAILABLE. NOW READY FOR IMMEDIATE OCCUPANCY! LARGE ROOMS, FULLY FURNISHED, FULL CARPET, TYPHOON SHUTTERS AND TRASH SERVICE. 24 HOUR WATER AND GAS STOVE, EAST FACING OCEAN VIEW, VERY QUIET AND SAFE AREA ON BACK SIDE OF CAPITAL HILL. CALL 234-7193 OR FAX 234-6093 TO SCHEDULE AN APPOINTMENT TO VIEW THESE RARE VACANCIES.!!!!!! ONLY \$700.00 PER MONTH!!!!!!

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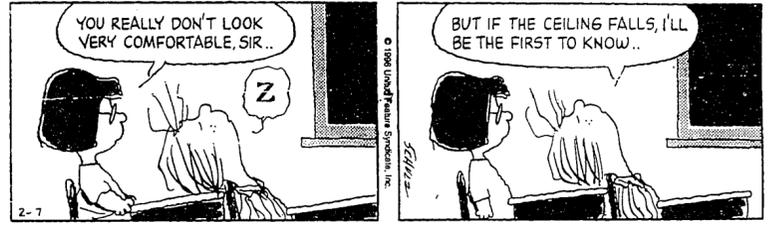
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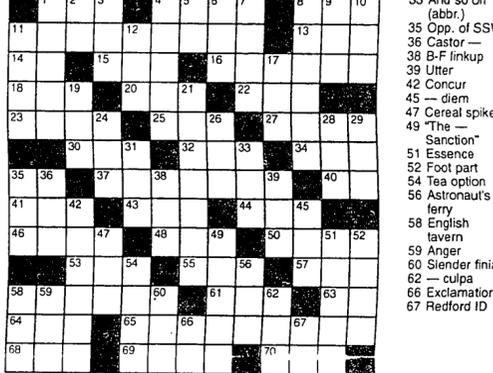
By Stella Wilder Born today, you are highly talented, but you do not always follow an established route to your chosen goals. On the contrary, while others do things in a conventional fashion, you can be found charting your own course and forming your own opinions.

DATE BOOK March 22, 1996

Today is the 82nd day of 1996 and the third day of spring. TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1963, the Beatles' first album, "Please, Please Me," was released in England.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS 1 - trip 4 Speed along 8 - Network 11 Of determinable origin 13 - King Cole 14 - Joe 15 Lid 16 Fish trap 18 Here (Fr.) 20 Secret agent 22 Leoni of "The Naked Truth" 23 Max Smart's dog 25 Swiss river 27 Get a wide view 30 Obtain 32 Born (Fr.) 34 - time pie 35 Negative 37 Houston - 40 Eggar ID 41 Ms. Peeples 43 Lyric poem 44 Headgear 45 Otherwise 48 Wide shoe size 50 Slangy



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Starks helps Nicks win over Indiana

NEW YORK (AP) — John Starks made two clutch plays in the final 3 1/2 minutes to help lift the New York Knicks over the Indiana Pacers 102-99 Wednesday night.

Starks finished with 19 points on 6-of-8 shooting, including 4-of-6 from 3-point range, and had a key assist in the final two minutes.

Reggie Miller led Indiana with 25 points, but missed wide open 3-pointers with 1:04 and 50 seconds left when the Pacers had a chance to get within two points. Miller finished 8-of-22 from the field.

Patrick Ewing scored 31 points for New York, which won its fourth in a row. The victory moved the Knicks within a game of the Pacers for the third seed in the Eastern Conference playoffs.

Jazz 107, 76ers 84
In Salt Lake City, Karl Malone scored 24 points and grabbed 10 rebounds as Utah handed Philadelphia its fifth straight loss.

The Sixers' starting backcourt — Jerry Stackhouse and Vernon Maxwell — were ejected, as was Utah's Jeff Hamrick.

Sean Higgins led Philadelphia with

18 points, 16 in the first half. Clarence Weatherspoon added 14.

Kings 122, Bucks 97
In Milwaukee, Brian Grant scored a career-high 30 points and Olden Polynice added 20 to power Sacramento over Milwaukee. It was the Bucks' ninth straight defeat and ended the Kings' three-game losing streak.

The Bucks, who have lost 16 of their last 19, are two defeats from tying the longest losing streak in team history.

The Bucks were led by Johnny Newman with 19 points.

Hawks 98, Grizzlies 93
In Atlanta, Steve Smith scored 19 points — including five 3-pointers — in the final 4:51 as Atlanta handed Vancouver its 16th straight defeat.

Smith, who finished with 26 points, made four of his 3-pointers in a 1:50 span.

Atlanta, which had lost its previous two games, won its fifth straight at home.

Bryant Reeves scored 20 points and had 11 rebounds for Vancouver.

Heat 102, Pistons 93
In Miami, Reserve forward Chris Gatling scored 24 points to lead surging Miami past Detroit. The Heat have

and eight hits in five innings. He struck out six.

Rockies 5, Padres 4
TUCSON, Ariz. (AP) — Andres Galarraga, who hit six homers against San Diego in 1995, got another one Wednesday when a split squad of Colorado Rockies beat the Padres 5-4.

After losing a 4-1 lead, the Rockies pushed across the go-ahead run in the sixth inning on a hit

batman, two singles and a grounder. Lance Painter and Mike Munoz then held the Padres to two hits over the final three innings as the Rockies won for the seventh time in eight games.

Galarraga's two-run homer, his fourth of the spring, gave the Rockies a three-run lead after three innings, but the Padres scored once in the fifth and twice more in the sixth thanks to wildness by Colorado reliever John Burke.

Burke, who walked all five batters he faced Sunday, walked Chris Gwynn to open the sixth and later gave up an RBI single to Scott Livingstone and a bases-loaded walk to Rico Rossy.

San Diego starter Fernando Valenzuela gave up four runs in 4 1-3 innings and has allowed 10 earned runs in 8 2-3. He gave up back-to-back RBI doubles to Larry Walker and Vinny Castilla in the second and Galarraga's homer in the third.

Andujar Cedenoad added an RBI triple in the fifth for San Diego, and Marc Newfield had two more hits to raise his spring average to .525 (21-for-40).

Colorado starter Armando Reynoso continued his stellar spring. The right-hander allowed two runs on five hits over five innings. He struck out one and walked none. Reynoso has given up just three earned runs in 14 innings, and hasn't walked a batter.

Major league quality, the locker rooms are small and the wind makes Cashman Field a pitcher's nightmare.

"We'll just have to do the best we can over there," said A's manager Art Howe. "It's frustrating that even when you pitch well, one swing can hurt you."

Representatives of the A's, the American League and the Major League Baseball Players Association were scheduled to visit Cashman Field for a site survey Thursday.

Las Vegas was chosen in large part because of its location and the fact that it's in the same time zone as Oakland. The Blue Jays close spring training with a game against Milwaukee at Las Vegas on March 31.

The Superdome offered the possi-

California coach retires after seventeen seasons

BERKELEY, Calif. (AP) — A nationwide search will begin immediately to replace Gooch Foster, the dean of Pac 10 basketball coaches, who retired after 17 seasons at California.

Foster was 279-222 with Cal and 363-262 in 23 seasons overall, including stops at Illinois State and San Francisco State. This year's Cal team was 7-20 overall and finished in last place in the conference, the team's third straight losing season.

Foster, who ranks 16th on the NCAA career list with 625 games coached, was at Cal longer than any other current men's or women's Pac 10 coach. She guided the Bears to two conference championships and led them to NCAA tournaments in 1990, 1992 and 1993.

"The last 17 years have been very enjoyable, but I feel it's time to move on," Foster said Wednesday. "I'm looking forward to moving in a new direction and accepting some new challenges."

Foster will stay with Cal's athletic department and coordinate its NCAA certification program.

Athletic director John Kasser said a replacement will be named within a month.

above .500 on the road with an 18-17 record.

The Celtics, who had won five of their previous seven games, were led by David Wesley with 22 points and Rick Fox and Dee Brown with 12 each.

Raptors 107, Hornets 89
In Toronto, Damon Stoudamire had 24 points and 10 assists and

Carlos Rogers added a career-high 24 points as Toronto ended a four-game losing streak.

The victory by the Raptors also snapped Charlotte's four-game winning streak.

Zan Tabak scored 18 points and grabbed 11 rebounds for Toronto, while Larry Johnson led the Hornets with 19 points.

Oakland . . .

Continued from page 47

all business.

"I'm still working with a few things, but today was a day to get guys out," he said. "I told myself in the last couple of starts I'd put it together, and I did."

Cubs starter Steve Trachsel allowed four runs — one earned —

Int'l bodybuilders' prexy: Poison, not cancer, killed Napoleon

BEN Weider, the president of the International Federation of Body Builders who is a Napoleonic scholar, says the Federal Bureau of Investigation expert who analyzed O.J. Simpson's blood has checked Napoleon Bonaparte's hair and discovered "ineffutable" proof that the emperor was poisoned 174 years ago.

Weider, 71, a Montreal businessman, told The Gazette the chemist's findings should finally clear up nagging controversy surrounding Napoleon's death.

A spokesman for the French consulate in Montreal said the news probably will trigger heated debates back home.

"French historians

will tear their hair out arguing for and against these results," the official said.

Weider said the FBI report arrived in the mail in early September last year. He officially unveiled its content at a lecture he delivered Sept. 18 at Florida State University in Tallahassee. The university's history department houses one of the largest Napoleonic collections in the world.

Weider, a manufacturer of bodybuilding equipment and part-time Napoleon scholar, had asked the FBI's Roger Martz to analyze hair shaved from Napoleon's head after his death in 1821.

The hair had been stored in a glass in Weider's Montreal home for 30 years.

The results contradicted earlier FBI tests conducted for Dr. Jean Fichou of Rennes, France who consigned a lock of Napoleon's hair to a Leslie Hindman Auctioneers sale in Chicago in September 1994. At the time, the FBI found no poisonous levels of arsenic.

Weider, who participated in a debate on Napoleon's demise at the National League Club of Chicago before the auction, had warned that no arsenic would be found by the FBI, "because the hair submitted by Fichou was bo-

FBI report validates proof

He recalled that his comments scuttled Fichou's plans to sell the lock of 220 strands of hair.

Marian Hindman, director of marketing for the auction house, said that after Weider's remarks, Fichou cut his original \$100,000 U.S. reserve by half. The reserve is the lowest price acceptable for an item.

"The bids didn't come close to the \$50,000 reserve," Hindman said in a telephone interview.

Weider said the Fichou hair sample bolstered arguments of French historians who vehemently rejected Weider's claims that a fellow Frenchman had poisoned Napoleon. Weider first advanced his theory in a book called *The Murder of Napoleon*, which he wrote with Sten Forshufvud in 1982.

"Now that the FBI's top toxicologist has spoken, this confusing situation is being unconfused," Weider said.

He added that he settled on Martz to handle the latest test after watching the chemist testify in the Simpson murder case on television on July 25 and 26: "I found him to be a very strong witness, so I decided to submit my samples to him."

Martz, who is unit chief of the FBI's chemistry and toxicology unit in Washington, D.C., told The Gazette he isn't at liberty to discuss his findings — or to compare the assignment with work he did in the Simpson case.

He added with a chuckle that while the Napoleon file is "probably closed by now, I'd still need clearance from our public-affairs people."

Paul Brasson, an FBI official, said the agency is not eager to publicize its role in solving Napoleon's murder. "We don't want to make it sound like we're open to all kinds of these requests from the public."

Brasson said the FBI agreed to study Napoleon's hair "because it was a test for us to see if we could analyze something more than

170 years old."

Martz's findings — contained in an Aug. 28 report — showed that two hairs submitted by Weider contained 16.8 and 33.3 parts per million (ppm) of arsenic, respectively. The samples were analyzed by graphite furnace atomic absorption spectroscopy.

The findings are consistent with test results obtained 30 years ago on a strand of Napoleon's hair submitted to the Harwell Nuclear Research Laboratory of London by Forshufvud, a Swedish dentist who dabbled in toxicology and who collaborated with Weider.

The normal arsenic level in a mid-19th century adult would have been about 0.08 ppm, said Weider who is president of the International Napoleonic Society and the author of four books on Napoleon.

"The amount of arsenic present in the submitted hairs is consistent with arsenic poisoning," the FBI's Martz concluded.

Weider heralded the findings as "conclusive evidence" that Napoleon was not a victim of cancer of the pylorus, an area at the base of the stomach, as historians generally believed. Napoleon died on the island of St. Helena, where he'd been exiled by the British after his defeat in the battle of Waterloo in 1815. He was 51.

"Once and for all, this report will put all the controversy to rest," Weider said.

Weider said the FBI test was conducted free. "They did it for the sake of historical accuracy."

Weider said the two hairs — measuring 1.75 and 1.40 centimeters — were part of a lock of a dozen strands he acquired in the early 1960s from the estate of George Sand, the French novelist who died in 1876.

"The hair's provenance is impeccable," Weider said. It was brought from St. Helena by Grand Marshal Henri-Gratien Bertrand, who spent 15 years at Napoleon's side, accompanying him in exile both at Elba and later at St. Helena.

Weider said the hair sample that was tested in London in the early 1960s was from a batch

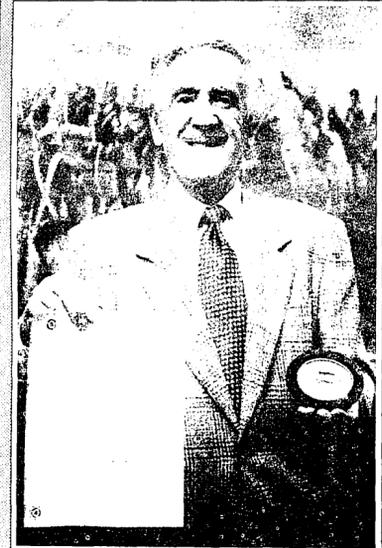
collected by Abram Noverraz, Napoleon's second valet. Noverraz had been given the task of shaving Napoleon's hair at the scalp to make a death mask and to distribute locks of hair to Napoleon's family.

In their 1982 book, *Weider and Forshufvud* fingered Napoleon's wine steward as the murderer.

They charged that Count Charles-Tristan de Monthon had been spiking Napoleon's South African wine for months. The wine was imported from Cape Town expressly for Napoleon and no one else was allowed to drink it.

—From the Montreal Gazette

Murder, he wrote



International Federation of Bodybuilders president and Napoleonic historian Ben Weider of Montreal, Canada holds the FBI letter confirming that Napoleon was poisoned with high levels of arsenic during his exile in St. Helena. Weider has in the other hand a lock of Napoleon's hair.

Samurai-wielding ex-Dodger star released from jail

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Prosecutors decided Tuesday not to file charges against former Dodgers baseball star Willie Davis, who was arrested for allegedly threatening his mother with a samurai sword and ninja-style throwing stars.

Davis was released from jail, where he had been held on \$150,000 bail. He said that "I wasn't guilty of anything" and described the matter as a family argument.

"Me and my mother have a special relationship," he told reporters as he walked out of Men's Central Jail. "And sometimes I kind of get a little rough with her mouth-wise, you know. But she understands that I would never hurt my mother because I owe my life to her."

Prosecutors, however, left open the possibility of reconsidering filing charges pending further investigation.

Davis, 55, was arrested Friday and booked for investigation of assault with a deadly weapon, attempted extortion and exhibiting a deadly weapon.

He allegedly went to the suburban Gardena house where he rented a room and demanded \$15,000 from his 76-year-old mother.

Davis was clutching the sword and throwing stars when deputies arrived at the home, authorities said. Stars are

a martial arts weapon. Davis became a Buddhist more than 30 years ago, and in the last six months began carrying around a sword and a dagger in a holster, his mother said.

Davis was a member of the National League All-Star team in 1971 and 1973 and won three Gold Gloves

from 1971-73. In 1969, he had a 31-game hitting streak, tying the longest in franchise history.

He set a World Series record on Oct. 6, 1966, when he committed three errors in one inning during a 6-0 Dodgers loss to the Baltimore Orioles, who swept the Series in four games.

Mauleg . . .

Continued from page 48

started polishing a shutout win with three more runs at the top of the fourth for an 11-1 lead on three consecutive Wheels errors.

Mauleg scored four more runs at the top of the fifth on Mel Sakisat's park homer and Greg F. Camacho's two-run homer and one Wheels error.

The Wheelers tried to avoid a shutout defeat in their half of the fifth but the most they could muster were three runs on Martin Gloyd's and Wally Chong's RBI double and Kirk Vergith's RBI single in a losing effort.

Seabees vs Islanders
In the second game, Seabees Four

sustained its second setback in round two. Seabees Four lost to Islanders by one run, 3-2, in a game marked with good defense play by both teams.

Seabees opened the game with two runs at the top of the first inning on Nick Saimon's RBI single and Ed Kapileo's RBI double.

The Islanders quickly retaliated with two runs in their half of the inning on Renu Celis' sacrifice RBI and a wild pitch.

The Islanders scored the leading run in the bottom of the second when Poland Yamada singled and scored on Speaker Diego Benavente's double.

Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho was unstoppable on the mound for the Islanders the rest of the game as great defense took over the game. —By Ray D. Palacios

1996 CNMI Little League Schedule

Participating Teams		
1. St. Jude Hustlers	6. Kagman's Lion	
2. San Roque D'Yers	7. Dan Dan Jets	
3. San Jose O'aces	8. Garapan	
4. Capital Hill Angels	9. San Antonio Cardinals	
5. Tanapag Falcons	10. Ayuda Team	

March 23, Saturday	April 20, Saturday	May 11, Saturday
1 vs 10 10:00 am	4 vs 6 10:00 am	8 vs 9 10:00 am
5 vs 9 12:00 pm	2 vs 9 12:00 pm	2 vs 6 12:00 pm
March 24, Sunday	April 21, Sunday	May 12, Sunday
3 vs 4 10:30 am	7 vs 10 10:30 am	5 vs 10 10:30 am
6 vs 7 12:30 pm	8 vs 5 12:30 pm	3 vs 1 12:30 pm
March 30, Saturday	April 27, Saturday	May 18, Saturday
2 vs 4 10:00 am	4 vs 1 10:00 am	3 vs 4 10:00 am
5 vs 7 12:00 pm	6 vs 9 12:00 pm	9 vs 4 12:00 pm
March 31, Sunday	April 28, Sunday	May 19, Sunday
8 vs 10 10:30 am	2 vs 5 10:30 am	2 vs 10 10:30 am
6 vs 3 12:30 pm	10 vs 3 12:30 pm	1 vs 6 12:30 pm
April 13, Saturday	May 4, Saturday	May 25, Saturday
4 vs 8 10:00 am	4 vs 7 10:00 am	1 vs 8 10:00 am
9 vs 1 12:00 pm	9 vs 3 12:00 pm	7 vs 9 12:00 pm
April 14, Sunday	May 5, Sunday	May 26, Sunday
3 vs 5 10:30 am	8 vs 2 10:30 am	10 vs 6 10:30 am
7 vs 2 12:30 pm	1 vs 5 12:30 pm	

runs were unearned because second baseman Todd Haney dropped a foul pop.

Young, competing with Allen Battle for the A's starting job in center field, added a run-scoring groundout in the sixth. Young went 0-for-2 as the A's left fielder, dropping his spring average to .371.

Battle, who had missed the previous 10 days with a strained left hamstring, went 2-for-3 as the center fielder

and raised his average from .188 to .263.

Van Poppel had allowed just one earned run in three of his previous four starts this spring, but gave up seven runs in one-third of an inning on March 10 against the California Angels in Las Vegas.

Van Poppel said his earlier starts involved a lot of experimentation, while Wednesday's performance was

Continued on page 46

Oakland . . .

Continued from page 48

A's players said the field is not of major league quality, the locker rooms are small and the wind makes Cashman Field a pitcher's nightmare.

"We played in Oakland last year with less than 10,000 in the stands," he said.

The Coliseum renovation has been hampered by rain. The A's announcement that the stadium would not be ready for opening day came four days after a tour of the construction site by three AL officials.

Coliseum officials reacted angrily to the decision, saying construction is on schedule and that the decision not to open there was based on A's marketing and administrative considerations.

If the games had been played at the Coliseum the first week of April, stadium officials said, temporary ramps and portable restrooms would

for international competitions. In working toward that goal, the Sunday Masters Dart Tournament was organized with the competition starting at 7 p.m. at the Dart Haus.

Palau Sports Commission and various sports associations to test their organizational skills before undertaking the task of hosting a Pacific-wide event.

Palau athletes have increased regional exposure lately.

Recently, the Belau Amateur Wrestling Association sent a team to Australia and won one bronze and two silver medals in the Oceania Wrestling Championship Games.

In the near future, Palau will be sending basketball players to Saipan and Kosrae for competitions.

Palau Major League will again participate in the Mobil Games in Guam. The Palau Amateur Volleyball Association is expected to host a regional tournament soon.

This summer, champion weightlifter Motare Ngratrab will conduct Palau's first physical training program, which will include fitness, dietary conditioning and positive behavioral development. The program is open to all athletes.

Palau's vice president urged the OEK to appropriate sufficient support

to upgrade all sports facilities which provide the youth everyday activity, divert them from drugs and other criminal elements, and serve as venue for public functions.

"In promoting Palau as a tourist destination, we should also upgrade our facilities so we will become the choice site for regional tournaments and other sporting events. Not only is it good for our economy, it will also provide athletes with opportunities to develop their skills," the Vice President said.

according to gym coordinator Jovie Omar, were Zena Sablan in the junior girls division, Freddie Pelisamen in the junior boys' division, Lani Buekins in the senior girls and John Rubuenog in the senior boys' division.

Named the Most Valuable Players in an awards ceremony that followed after the games,

several players were named Most Valuable Players in an awards ceremony that followed after the games,

hinder style, beating Grace Christian Academy in another full-length championship match of the day.

Grace Christian Academy had a modest start, taking the first set by a five-point difference, 15-10. GCA took the second set with a

narrow one-point lead, 18-17.

Having sized up the strength of GCA in the first two sets, No Fear came back strongest and won the game in the last three sets, 15-10, 15-11 and 15-11.

No Fear junior boys' team also won the pennant in the regular

Old English . . .

Continued from page 48

create a pool of darters that would eventually develop masters level and be good players

Palau . . .

Continued from page 48

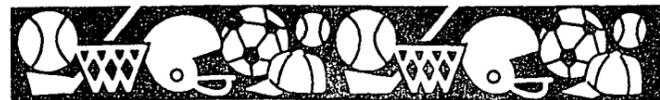
Associations involved in organizing the Palau Olympics include the Palau Major League, Belau Amateur Basketball Association, Belau Amateur Wrestling Association, Belau Track and Field, Belau Weightlifting Association, Belau Sports Fishing Association, and Palau Tennis Association.

Athletes in table tennis, softball, swimming and other unorganized

the Angels bagged the pennant title.

The sweetest victory was won by the No Fear team in the junior boys' division. No Fear won the title in a savvy come-from-be-

SPORTS



Athletes Foot youth volley championships

Oleai No Fear, Angels bag titles

OLEAINO FEAR hurdled the tough challenge of pennant winner Marianas High School (MHS) and successfully defended its title during the battle for the Athletes Foot Youth Volleyball boys division crown Wednesday at the Ada gym basketball court in

Susupe. No Fear showed it was in top shape at the start of the game, taking the first two sets, 15-12, 15-5. Oleai spikers needed just one set to win the title but the contest went full length when MHS placed No Fear

back to square one in succeeding sets. MHS took the third and fourth set, 15-6, 15-3, and tied the game at 2-set all in the best-of-five-set matchup. MHS nearly stole the title but Oleai No Fear took the last and decisive set, 15-9.

In the senior girls championship, Team Angels smoothly sailed away with the title. Angels took the first three sets from Grace Christian Acad-

emy—A, 15-7, 15-13 and 15-5. The title was the second honor won by the Angels in the league. Earlier, **Continued on page 47**

Palau Olympics is set this summer

PALAU Vice President Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., chairman of the Palau Sports Commission, has announced that Palau will hold its first Intra-Olympic Games in August. The Palau National Congress has allocated \$50,000 for the sports commission to coordinate the Palau Olympics. The commission is tasked to make sure all planned events in the 1998 Micro Games will be included in the Palau Olympics.

The 1998 Micro Games will include men's and women's basketball, men's and women's volleyball, fast and slowpitch softball, baseball, men's weightlifting, wrestling, fishing, men's and women's lawn tennis, table tennis, track and field and canoe racing. There will also be a Micronesian all-around competition. Recently, meetings were held with the governors and leaders of all 16 states. They agreed that athletes in the Palau Olympics will compete on a

state-by-state basis. Interested athletes can call for more information the office of the state they wish to represent, how they will be included in the state roster and prepare for the summer games. Commission members and various sports associations agreed that each association will be responsible for planning, scheduling and officiating their respective sports events. **Continued on page 47**

Seabees remain winless in round 2

Mauleg takes center stage anew

STEVEDORE Mauleg regained solo possession of the top spot, while former co-leader Seabees Four dropped to second place this week. Seabees remained winless after two games since the start of the second round of the Saipan Softball Association Men's Fastpitch League. Mauleg started in the second round with a shutout win over Toyota Wheels in the fifth inning, 15-4.

The defeat was the first for the Wheelers in the second round and the fifth in the season. The Stevedores jumped ahead of the Wheelers with a six to nothing lead at the top half of the opening inning when Nick Guerrero, James Diaz, Manny Camacho and Greg Camacho knocked in one RBI each, aided with two Wheels errors. After preventing the Wheelers from

scoring a run in the bottom of the first, Manny Camacho and Greg Camacho scored RBIs, increasing their lead to 8-1. The Wheelers scored their first run in the game in the bottom of the second on catcher James Diaz's interference, 8-1. After a standoff in the third inning, Mauleg—with two batters out— **Continued on page 47**

Oakland Athletics homeless no more

PHOENIX (AP) — The homeless Oakland Athletics finally found a place to hold opening day — in a 9,334-seat minor-league park in Las Vegas. Two days after announcing that the Oakland Coliseum would not be ready to host them on April 1, the Athletics on Wednesday chose windy Cashman Field over the Louisiana Superdome in New Orleans as their home away from home.

Oakland is scheduled to open the season in Las Vegas against Toronto on April 1 and also play the Blue Jays there on April 3. The Detroit Tigers will visit Cashman Field for four games against the A's on April 4-7. "It's frustrating as a player. I envisioned opening up every year at the Coliseum," said A's catcher Terry Steinbach. "The whole situation in Oakland, it's disappointing." It will be the first time major league

games have been played at a minor league park since Sept. 3, 1957, when the Philadelphia Phillies beat the Brooklyn Dodgers 3-2 in 12 innings at Roosevelt Stadium in Jersey City, N.J. Brooklyn played seven games — one against each NL opponent — at Roosevelt Stadium during the 1956 and 1957 seasons in an effort to boost attendance. The Athletics, who now start the



Windsurfers' haven. The area off Micro Beach remains the main haven of windsurfers on Saipan. Japanese tourists prefer Saipan to enjoy the sport here than in other areas in the Pacific due to lower travel cost. Photo by Sony Daleno

Chess group to hold warmup series

THE CNMI Chess Association (CCA) will hold a series of "warm-up" blitz chess matches starting this Saturday in preparation for the Second Annual Chess Championship. The association has yet to finalize the chess championship schedule.

CCA said games will be held every Saturday, 6:30 p.m., at Rambie's Restaurant. The warmup series is open to beginners and veteran players. Those interested to join may call Rambie's Restaurant for inquiries.

Teams	Date	Score
1. San Vicente Aces	March 19	1 vs 2
2. Stevedore Rookies	March 26	3 vs 4
3. Koblerville Hustlers	April 9	2 vs 5
4. San Antonio Amantes	April 16	1 vs 4
5. San Roque D'9ers	April 23	5 vs 3
	April 30	2 vs 4
Team codes on the left side are the designated home teams.	May 7	3 vs 1
	May 14	4 vs 5
	May 21	2 vs 3
	May 28	1 vs 5

All play dates are on Tuesdays at 6 p.m. unless otherwise delayed by officials for reasonable cause. Teams that can not meet the required players in the line-up submitted to the scorekeeper or designated chief umpire by 6:15 p.m. will lose the game by forfeiture. Teams slated to play must be at the ball park before 6 p.m., ready to play. Each team plays four games. The teams to finish in the top four after the regular season will play in the playoff. In case of tie in the team standing, the affected teams shall play a tie-breaker match. In the playoff, the pennant winner will play with the fourth placer, while the second placer will play against the team in third to determine the pairings for the championship and consolation games. Makeup games will be played after completion of the regular season.

Old English indoor sport gains popularity in Saipan

ABOUT four years ago, darts started gaining acceptance as a competitive indoor sport locally. Now, the game is becoming the fastest growing indoor sport in Saipan. The growth in number of men and women of all ages and ethnic background showing interest in the game is on the rise. Darts, however, is not a new sport. Darts is one of the oldest sports ever invented. It originated in old England where the game was played

mostly in bars and beer pubs, according to John Castro, who manages Dart Haus and Beer Pub on Beach Road in Garapan. "When I first played the game I was in Guam. I started in 1973 in a joint called Jim's Island House, a bar and restaurant that caters mostly to locals. I became so interestingly competitive and got hooked immediately," said Castro. In Guam, the game had taken off so well that most bars would have a bristle board hanging on some under-lighted corners with

people playing all night long, he said. "To be competitive, you have to play the game at an average of two to five hours continuously," Castro suggested. The number of people playing the game has grown dramatically to the point where it became necessary to form an association so the game can be played in a more organized fashion and consistent with international rules and standards. In 1974 the Guam Dart Association was formed with about

200 members, according to Castro, who subsequently became president and board member. Castro would like to see more local people take serious interest in the sport. Dart is an international game with big money involved. Big tournament competitions are held regularly in the United States and elsewhere with prize money ranging from \$5,000 to \$100,000. Castro opened Dart Haus to **Continued on page 47**