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DPL shops for counsel

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

DIVISION of Public Lands Director Bertha T. Camacho and administration/fiscal matters consultant Herman Q. Guerrero left the CNMI Saturday for a 9-day trip "to interview applicants" for the position of division legal counsel, documents obtained by the Variety showed.

Camacho and Guerrero will travel to San Diego, California; Lafayette, Louisiana; Alexandria, Virginia; and Honolulu, Hawaii and will return to Saipan on Dec. 2.

A Variety source who requested anonymity said the trip is yet another example of the administration's "fondness for junkets."

"Why send two people abroad when we have enough lawyers

Officials off to 4 US cities to interview lawyers



Bertha T. Camacho

here on Saipan?" the source said.

"It should be the job of the Attorney General's Office to hire government lawyers.

"Will Camacho and Guerrero

hire another 'Cadillac' lawyer," the source said, alluding to former acting attorney general turned legal consultant for the governor Sebastian Aloit.

Aloit, when asked to justify his \$180,000 annual contract, said "If you want to buy a Cadillac you have to pay for a Cadillac."

But according to Land and Natural Resources Secretary Benigno M. Sablan, the trip is not a mere "junket."

"How can that be a junket,"

he said in an interview yesterday. "This is the winter season."

Sablan, who, together with Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio, signed the travel authorization documents of Camacho and Guerrero, said DPL wanted to hire someone "who understands the culture of our people."

He said one need not be a lawyer to hire a lawyer.

The lawyers usually recommended by the Attorney General's Office, Sablan added,

are "useless."

He said Guerrero was included in the trip because the latter is DPL's administrator.

"He has to know (DPL's) lawyer," Sablan said.

He added that DPL is paying half of their legal counsel's fee, and therefore should have a say in the counsel's hiring.

Daniel L. Furrh, DPL's current legal counsel, is "very sick," according to Sablan.

"He might not be able to carry on as he is in intensive care unit of (the Commonwealth Health Center.)"



Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio and First Lady Grace Tenorio (right) presents Francisco Igsaiar with a plaque in recognition of his many years of service with the Aging Center. The First Couple treated the island's ManAmko to a Thanksgiving luncheon yesterday at the Multi-purpose Center in Susupe.

Hillblom estate has only \$450,000 left in coffers

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

LARRY Hillblom's \$450-million estate is reportedly facing financial problems with less than \$450,000 funds now only available for its day to day operations.

Richard W. Pierce, counsel for the estate's Special Administrator (SA) William I. Webster, told the Superior Court that the lawyers, accountants and experts for the estate have not been paid for months.

Pierce said in Webster's petition for instructions and activity report that unless money is obtained, there can be no professionals hired to assist the estate.

Webster's counsel requested the court to authorize the estate with its assets used for security to borrow \$6 million for its operations and investments in Vietnam.

Pierce said the United Micronesia Development Association Inc. (UMDA) withdrew its first loan offer when faced with the "immense hostility" from petitioners Kaelani Kinney, David Moncrieff and Josephine Nocasa.

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Customs improves collection by \$27M

By Rafael H. Arroyo
Variety News Staff

THE CUSTOMS Division of the Department of Finance has realized a \$27 million increase in collections for the fiscal year just past, compared to year-ago figures, Finance Sec. Antonio R. Cabrera said.

In an interview with the Variety yesterday, Cabrera said he estimates Customs revenues to have risen approximately 67.5 percent from roughly around \$40 million in fiscal year 1995 to \$67 million

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Antonio R. Cabrera



Anicia Q. Tomokane

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio yesterday said that he will give Anicia Q. Tomokane a "second chance" as managing director of the Marianas Visitors Bureau.

Tenorio said he met on Friday

with Tomokane who, he added, now "understands" his position.

"At any rate...if she doesn't care to cooperate again with me next time I'll insist she remove herself (from MVB).

However, the person that the governor wants Tomokane to hire as her deputy—Maggie Camacho—is no longer interested in the position.

Tenorio said he will now leave it up to Tomokane to name her deputy.

"It was never my intention that the position should be reinstated only to accommodate Maggie," he said. "I told Anicia I wanted her to have a deputy. Like now (that) she has gone to Russia, I don't remember who she appointed to take care of matters over here until she comes back.

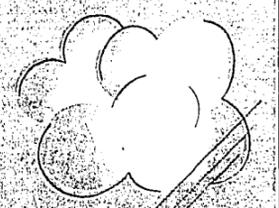
"This is exactly one of the reasons why I want MVB to have a

deputy."

He said it is Tomokane's responsibility, and not the MVB board of directors', to appoint a deputy managing director.

Continued on page 20

Weather Outlook



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers

Taliban jets pound enemy near Kabul

By ZAEHERUDDIN ABDULLAH
KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—Taliban jets pounded enemy positions north of Kabul on Monday.

At hospitals in the war-weary capital 10 civilians were admitted with shrapnel wounds they received during a blistering artillery duel between the Taliban and its enemies about 16 kilometers (10 miles) north of the city.

Another three people were killed, hospital officials said.

Fresh fighting broke out at dawn Sunday when Taliban soldiers launched a massive counterattack against the anti-Taliban alliance dug in north of the beleaguered capital.

On Sunday the Taliban drove its enemies out of Guldarah, a village smack in the middle of the frontline. This was the first major gain for the Taliban in weeks of fighting.

Since sweeping into Kabul in September the Taliban has been locked in a ferocious battle north of the city against a four-party alliance that

halted its advance northward.

The Taliban religious army of former Islamic seminarians control roughly two-thirds of Afghanistan. The mostly Pashtun group of extremist Sunni Muslims has imposed its harsh version of Islam on the country.

Their enemies belong to the country's minority ethnic groups of Uzbeks, Tajiks, Hazaras, Shiite Muslims and Turkmens. The anti-Taliban alliance is being led by northern warlord Rashid Dostum, an ethnic Uzbek and ousted military chief Ahmed Shah Massood, an ethnic Tajik.

Efforts by the United Nations to broker a cease fire has so far failed although there was one round of talks in the Pakistan capital last month, but no agreement was reached.

The anti-Taliban alliance want the Taliban to evacuate Kabul before agreeing to a cease fire, while the Taliban vow to fight to the death to keep control of the city.



Smoke from cooking fires by Rwandan refugees fills the air about 30 kilometers (20 miles) outside Gisenji last Tuesday, near Nkanira. Rwanda insisted that an international intervention force is no longer needed or wanted because hundreds of thousands of refugees had returned from their over-two-year exile in Zaire. In the past days, about 500,000 exhausted, hungry Rwandan Hutu refugees have streamed home across the border at Gisenji, in a massive column that choked roads on both sides of the Zaire-Rwanda border. AP Photo

Ethiopian airline tragedy Hijackers struggled with pilot as he tried to land jet safely

By TOM COHEN

MORONI, Comoros Islands (AP)—The hijackers pushed flight attendants aside and stormed the cockpit, beating the co-pilot and forcing him out. As passengers listened in terror, the air pirates, at least one of them apparently drunk, spewed threats over the jet's public address system.

"They said, 'We escaped from prison. We are against the government. We are hijacking the plane. We have an explosive. If anybody moves, we'll explode it,'" one passenger recalled.

As the hijackers battled the captain for the controls and the engines shut down for lack of fuel, the Ethiopian jetliner cartwheeled into the sea in a violent crash that managed to avoid an even bigger catastrophe.

Fifty-two people survived the crash of the Boeing 767, but boaters pulled corpse after corpse Sunday from the plane's shattered, submerged fuselage, which lay just off the palm-lined beach in the Indian Ocean, the tail still riding above the waves.

In what became one of the deadliest airplane hijackings ever, the death toll was 123. The survivors included the pilot and co-pilot, and two of the three hijackers, who were arrested.

Capt. Leul Abate had pleaded with the hijackers to let him land the jet safely at an airport in the Comoros Islands capital of Moroni.

"He wanted to go there, but they wouldn't let him," co-pilot Yonas Mekuria told The Associated Press from his hospital bed, where he was being treated for cuts and bruises.

"I guess they understood it," the co-pilot said of the fuel shortage. "But they didn't give a damn."

Tourists in bathing suits watched boat crews retrieve bodies Sunday from the broken jet rocking in the sapphire waves off the Comoros Is-

lands, a small island chain between east Africa and Madagascar. Search crews covered the corpses in white sheets and ferried them to the palm-lined shore.

The hijackers, believed to be Ethiopian, commandeered the flight shortly after it took off from the Ethiopian capital of Addis Ababa on a flight to the Ivory Coast city of Abidjan.

Armed with an ax, a fire extinguisher and a device they claimed they be flown to Australia - but wouldn't let the pilot stop to refuel.

The men stormed the cockpit, forcing out the co-pilot. As passengers listened in terror, they made threats over the jet's public address system. Ethiopian passenger Bisrat Alemu said.

One hijacker seemed drunk, and waved a bottle of whiskey that he apparently had taken from a cart of duty-free goods on the plane, the co-pilot said.

For three hours, Abate guided the jetliner on his own and tried to reason with the hijackers, asking that he be allowed to land in the Seychelles or the Comoros Islands to refuel.

Finally, the pilot went on the public address system himself to announce that the jet was running out of fuel.

One engine had stopped, and the other would shortly, the pilot told the passengers. He was going to try to ditch the plane in the sea.

The hijackers fought the pilot for control of the aircraft in the last minutes aloft, the co-pilot said. "They were interfering with procedures, grabbing at the instruments. They snatched the radio from the jack."

Back in the cabin, Bisrat said, "People were screaming. Some were praying."

"We knew we were going to land in the sea. We already knew that we were going to die," said N.B. Surti, a passenger from

Bombay, India.

Survivors said a wing clipped the water. Then the body of the plane slammed into the sea, bouncing and flipping at least once before it broke apart.

"The first bump was really gentle. Then the second one was really hard," said passenger Frank Huddle, the U.S. consul-general in Bombay, India.

"The third one was even harder, like a 70-mph (110 kph) auto accident," he said. "The last one was like an earthquake."

Since the pilot had managed to bring the airliner down so close to shore that tourists and island residents were able to reach the survivors quickly.

When Surti struggled out of the water filling the aircraft, rescuers had already surrounded the jet.

A group of people already were in the water diving among the scenic reefs when the crash occurred, and rushed to scene to help with rescue efforts.

The tail of the airliner still juddered above the waves Sunday, its bright Ethiopian Airlines emblem intact. Other parts of the plane sank beyond the reef a few hundred yards (meters) from shore.

Some bodies were thought to still be trapped in the sunken wreckage.

Foreign embassies and Ethiopian Airlines said the passenger list included people from United States, Europe, Asia and Africa. Antal Annus, the Hungarian ambassador to Kenya, was among those aboard. It was not clear whether he survived.

State-owned Ethiopian Airlines is one of Africa's oldest airlines. Boeing spokesman Brian Ames said the downed wide-body twin jet, a 767-200ER, was delivered to the airline around 1986.

In October 1990, 128 people died when a hijacked plane crashed at the airport in Guangzhou, China.

Probate law challenge dismissed

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THE federal district court has dismissed without prejudice a lawsuit filed by Kaelani Kinney, the mother of a son claiming to be a pretermitted (omitted) heir to the estate of Larry Lee Hillblom. Kinney had questioned the constitutionality of the amendments to the probate code.

The amendments, known as

Public Law 10-10, was signed by Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio last June 4.

The law barred illegitimate children from filing paternity claims unless they had been openly acknowledged by the deceased fathers as their own.

Tenorio and the CNMI government were named defendants by Kinney, acting as guardian for Junior Larry Hillblom, in a com-

plaint filed June 6.

In her complaint, Kinney said the amendments "are designed to affect and do impair vested property rights of a class of illegitimate children who seek to exercise their statutory rights."

On June 17, Kinney amended her complaint, claiming undetermined monetary awards for general, compensatory, special, and punitive damages. Kinney also asked an award for damages resulting from violations of the US constitution.

Kinney asked the court to declare the amended CNMI Probate Code as invalid.

Tenorio and the CNMI filed a

motion to dismiss the complaint, urging the district court to abstain from exercising jurisdiction over the complaint since there were heirship proceedings pending at the Superior Court.

Munson, in his Nov. 21 decision, said it was abstaining from exercising jurisdiction based on the Younger abstention doctrine which states that a district court may decline to exercise jurisdiction only when the following three are met:

- There must be ongoing state judicial proceedings;
- The state judicial proceedings must implicate important state interests; and

"The state judicial proceedings must afford the federal plaintiff an adequate opportunity to raise constitutional claims.

Munson said all the three elements were met.

"Because I have concluded that Younger abstention is proper, dismissal of plaintiff's claims for declaratory relief is mandatory," Munson said.

The court, however did not dismiss the claim for monetary damages based on abstention, pending the final disposition of the plaintiff's constitutional claims for declaratory relief in the superior court.

Agencies told to remit collections to Finance

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

SEVERAL government agencies and departments collect money but they don't remit them to the Department of Finance as the law provides, according to Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio.

"This practice must cease," Tenorio said in a directive issued Nov. 19.

He reminded all department and activity heads about the law which provides that all funds collected by any government agency "should be collected by and for the Department of Finance."

"Our laws are very clear on this point," Tenorio said, citing 1 CMC Section 2553 which states that the finance

department has "(t)he duties and responsibilities...to collect and deposit all locally raised revenues from any source, including taxes, custom duties, excise tax revenues, license fees, and payment for services."

The governor's directive came before the Attorney General's Office charged a cashier of the finance department with embezzlement of an estimated \$12,600 in government tax collections.

The AG's office on Friday sued Lee Roy Peter Limes for his alleged failure to deposit "portions of the collected revenue payments" by underreporting the amount of collections in daily cashiers' report.

CUC content with engine overhauls



Benjamin Sablan

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THE cash-strapped state utilities firm will in the short-term be content with preventive maintenance of aging engines rather than buying new ones.

In an interview Thursday, Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board chair Benjamin Sablan said that at this time the corporation can't afford to purchase brand-new engines.

"We don't have the flexibility right now to just say buy, buy, buy," he said.

Breakdowns of engines have been a recurring problem for the CUC, and these have resulted in outages.

Saipan is currently under a rotated outage schedule until Dec. 14.

Sablan said the power generators the CUC now has "are working machines."

"With due care and continued preventive maintenance and the availability of parts to keep these engines running, I think it's much cheaper for us to look at that direction right now because...we just don't have the luxury of just buying new machines any time we want to," he said.

"We are still addressing major financial problems within the corporation with the assistance of our legislature and the administration," he added.

The CUC is now in the process of converting into equity its defaulted \$74-million debt to CDA as well as its \$10-million Mitsubishi loan.

Sablan, meanwhile, said a study should be done on the proposal from Gov. Froilan Tenorio to separate from the CUC the sewer and water services.

Questions such as whether the community will get better water and sewerage services and whether it would benefit the corporation as a whole should be answered.

Sablan said they haven't received any formal notice in writing on the proposal.

"If and when we get an official communication from the administration that such a move is there, (we'll) look at it seriously," he said.



Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio and IT&E president John M. Borlas (back to the camera) unveil the marker for the new Tronkun Dauk playground in Susupe. The playground, donated by IT&E, was dedicated in ceremonies held Friday.

Defense experts say Marianas could be 'strategic' again

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

IN THE wake of China's increasing military strength, the Northern Marianas could again play a pivotal role as the "forward edge" of the United States' Asian Pacific Rim defenses, according to two defense experts.

"The potential for confrontation with Beijing in the next century is real. Sino-American relations are at their worst point in years, as China tests our political will and our economic capability within the Asian Pacific Rim."

"A US Navy base on islands that were so vital in World War II could counter the threat of China's growing military," defense experts Milton Copulos and F. Andy Messing Jr. said in an article published in the Nov. 22 issue of the Los Angeles Times.

Copulos, who along with other policy analysts visited Saipan last September, is the president of the National Defense Council Foundation. Messing is the foundation's executive director.

China, according to Copulos and Messing, is America's "newest threat."

Aside from its advanced fighter aircraft and ballistic missile technology, the defense experts said China's

force is further strengthened by its "unholy geopolitical alliance" with such countries as Iran, Pakistan, and the neocommunist in Russia.

"The potential for confrontation with Beijing in the next century is real. Sino-American relations are at their worst point in years, as China tests our political will and our economic capability within the Asian Pacific Rim."

"This emerging problem requires a significant naval presence beyond our present worldwide fleet," the article said.

Copulos and Messing said the decreasing presence of US military bases in the Asian region, calls for an alternative bases site.

The US bases in the Philippines are gone. A recent plebiscite in Okinawa presages the eventual eviction of US naval forces, and likewise, there is mounting pressure to reduce the US presence in Korea.

The defense experts said the Marianas could offer an alternative site for the bases.

"Some of the most vicious fighting during World War II

was in the Marianas. Once liberated, they provided bases for the submarine warfare that interdicted 80 percent of Japanese merchant shipping, and for the air campaign against industrial targets on the Japanese mainland.

"They are America's westernmost possession, ideally placed to guard trade routes throughout the Asian Rim."

The defense experts said the recent deployment of US forces to Somalia and Rwanda offered a "painful lesson" which indicates that distant deployments to places like these could reduce the forces ability to operate because they are hampered by a lack of local infrastructure.

"This is not a problem in the Marianas where rapid economic growth had generated substantial investments in infrastructure," the experts said. "Basing a portion of our Navy in the Marianas could compensate for that and even provide an advantage by putting future foes in check."

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FORUM

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

TR's Marianas
by: John DelRosario

Prineponen fakteria magago gi fihon Koblerville ES
I ASUNTO, uma'atoñgtuñg dos direcho: 1.) Direchon i mangai tano' dumispone uson tano' niha. 2.) Direchon membron komunida u mataha otro siha estotbo kontra i famaguon niha guihe na eskuela. Amano gi dos para u tana' fona interesña? I interes 'nos kuantos dueñon tano pat i interes i famaguon eskuela?

Yangin in hasso hafa sustansiaña direchon kada sudadano, i direchomo petsonat siempre u matot ensegidas 'nai un'tutuhon u mestotba i direchon i otro. Huñgan hagas burukento i lugat sa gaige gi fihon plasan batkon aire. Yangin antao hao na hinasson taotao, i kuestion: Kao justisia i para un' u mentaye mas estotbo kontra i famaguon eskuela gi manera 'nai siempre mas megai kareta man huyoñg hahalom, kontodo karia, bus yan otro makenaria pot para u fan deskatga osino makatgaye tinalada na royun magago?

I propiadat gaige immediatmente gi katan eskuelan elementario giya Koblerville. Inipos hihot ke otro fakteria giya San Antonio yan Chalan Piao. Ti akomparayon i distansia gi tres lugat. Dispues, deste ñaigan na tiempo na madeklara Koblerville komo lugat industria? Kao intiñgo na ayo entero na lugat 'nai gaige lokue' i mauleg na matan hanom? Kao justisia na para ta chansa muna'daño i hanom ni ma'u'usa nu i taotaota deste Koblerville esta Susupe? Kao esta guaha sisteman sewer 'nai siña mabomba i aplacha ginen ennao na fakteria?

Komprendiyon i sentimenton i man dueño na yangin ti mamaterialisa i fakteria, siempre lokue' mañega hafa ha nanañga gi bandan atkilon. Ya maseha u fan dueño, ti siña na tasede na para ta sakrifisia sano na lugat umeyag para i famaguon eskuela siha. Man innosente i los prohimos ya pot este na rason na i man antao yan responsabilidadao na sudadano debi u fanacho pot interes este siha na famaguon. Piniteyo' sa sumasaonao familiaghog gi este na fina' estrakada. Lao dispensayon opineñon gi todo atmos banda sa' ti hu lañgag sumakrifisia interes mayoria pot 'nos kuantos.

Debi tana' ancho dididi' hafa ta petsisige sa' ti siña na pot 'nos kuantos, entero estudiante para ta sapet maske hafa pagu ha padedese. Seguroyo' lokue' na siempre mas ma'u menta i meronon estudiante 'nai debi i mismo tano' ni mapropopone pago siña dispues matulaika yan otro lugat pot para uson kuanton eskuela. Ta diseseha na yangin u fatto este na nesetidat, u mas guaguan yan gai bale i tulaikaña. Dinancheña yangin ma usa i lugat para apartament sa' ti u fan estotba lamayot patte gi haane sa' mangaige gi checho' i manman atkikila.

Pot uttimo, baiho faisen i Coastal Resources Management na u diroga ayo na proposito taimano i alacha na disision pot otro fakteria magago. Propio i rason siha ni ha usa pot 'nai ha disaprupeba un' semana malofan. I tafafana' ti chago na akomparasion ya debi u pareho disision. Si Yuus Maase!

Why CRM must disapprove Koblerville factory
The issue centers on our social responsibility to protect the innocent, i.e., young students at Koblerville Elementary school. It definitely must transcend the rights of landowners to dispose of the use of their land. It boils down to one's personal freedom coming to a screeching halt where others' freedom begins. In other words, though the land is privately owned, landowners have no right to infringe upon the rights of others.

Reasons for disapproving the proposed construction of the garment factory: 1.) The area isn't equipped with a sewer system. 2.) When sewer isn't in place, it means the use of septic tanks. 3.) We are chancing water aquifer contamination given that the area has one of the best lenses in the southern end of Saipan. 4.) The property in question is situated immediately north of the school ground unlike factories in San Antonio and Chalan Piao. 5.) Noise and human pollution: The greater question is: Why add salt to injury. 6.) Landowners do not have to live with this mess. We do, including the hundreds of young grammar school kids whose safety we will have endangered with the definite increase in regular vehicles and heavy equipment passing through the area.

Hope I've pounded some sense into the debate at hand. It's a matter of exercising our social responsibility to permanently defer the construction of the proposed garment factory. Si Yuus Maase!



JACK ANDERSON and JAN MOLLER
WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Congress seeks oversight of Fed's finances

WASHINGTON—Federal Reserve Board Chairman Alan Greenspan is fond of lecturing members of Congress on the evils of budget deficits and the need for fiscal restraint.

When the spotlight is turned on his own agency, however, Greenspan isn't so free with his criticism.

The Federal Reserve, according to two recent government reports, may be guilty of some of the spending habits that have turned the federal budget into a sea of red ink. But Greenspan has lately shown far more interest in ferreting out news leaks than in fixing some of the problems that investigators found at his agency.

Last month, Greenspan became irate after Reuters reported that eight of 12 regional bank presidents were in favor of raising interest rates at an upcoming meeting of the Federal Open Market Committee. The leak, by a "senior Fed official," was a rare breach of the secrecy that normally surrounds the Fed's monetary machinations. Some speculated that the leak was meant as a challenge to Greenspan, who did not believe a rate hike was needed to contain future inflation.

One week later, Fed officials publicly called for the FBI to come in to help investigate the source of the leaks. Greenspan eventually won his confrontation with the dissident Fed governors prevailing on them to leave interest rates unchanged.

While Greenspan took an aggressive stand against the leak, he's been less accommodating when lawmakers have tried to probe the agency's internal operations.

"This secret organization we call the Federal Reserve doesn't have an annual audit," complains Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev. "Greenspan totally rejected that. Then, when some information leaks, they want a major investigation."

Two reports issued by the General Accounting Office in recent months bolster Reid's charge that it's time for a housecleaning at the Fed. The first report, issued in June, found that the central bank's spendine climbed at twice the rate of inflation between 1988 and 1994 and that the agency has a \$3.7 billion fund of surplus cash that could be returned to the Treasury.

The second report, released last month, found several irregularities in the way cash reports were handled at the Los Angeles branch of the Federal Reserve Bank of San Francisco. Though no cash has been lost, the GAO documented \$121 million in bookkeeping errors in a single month.

Reid is among a small group of lawmakers

that has fought a lonely battle in recent years to reform the central bank, which is one of Washington's most sacred cows. In a city infamous for its partisanship, Greenspan's stewardship of the Fed has deservedly won praise from conservatives and liberals alike. Such is life when you preside over the central bank at a time of steady economic growth and low inflation.

But in Reid's eyes Greenspan is a "condescending" figure who "talks down" to members of Congress. And so far, Greenspan has managed to bottle up long overdue efforts by Reid and others to make the central bank more accountable to the taxpayers.

Reid argues that the Fed has long gotten a free ride on Capitol Hill because its most visible mission is so sensitive. Monetary policy set by the agency is what moves the markets and what has won Greenspan many friends in Washington.

But behind the headlines the Fed is a giant amalgam of unaccountable, unelected bureaucrats and bankers, who have little incentive to cut costs the way the rest of the federal government has been doing for years. Palatial new buildings are built and equipment is purchased without consulting Congress. Fed officials argue there's no need for Congress to meddle in their affairs. The agency is self-financing and earns money from interest on its vast holdings of government securities and other operations. From that revenue the agency deducts its operating expenses and returns the rest to the Treasury. Every dollar spent on operating expenses is thus a dollar lost to the taxpayers.

"It's not a sexy issue," Reid admits. "We (senators) want to talk about atrocities in Bosnia. We want to talk about environmental degradation in Yosemite. But when we talk about the Federal Reserve system, people's eyes glaze over."

Reid's idea is simple: Expose the Fed to the same type of oversight that other government agencies routinely endure and make them subject to annual appropriations from Congress.

His plan would exempt all monetary policy operations from scrutiny to keep them safe from political interference. But according to the GAO, less than 7 percent of the Fed's workload involves monetary policy. The rest—about 93 percent—concerns routine banking tasks like check clearing.

Due to bad weather conditions the Governor's first village meeting have been postponed until December 3, 1996



I Maneahante para hamyo Leadership for the People

Governor Froilan C. Tenorio listens to your concerns at the Governor's meeting in the villages

Join the Governor for "A conversation with the people" "E Kombetsasion yan I Taotao siha"

Kagman Basketball Courts - 7:00 p.m. Tuesday, December 3, 1996

After lengthy, heated debate

Budget compromise nears

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

AFTER a lengthy discussion and heated debate in yesterday's joint conference on the fiscal year 1997 budget bill, the House of Representatives and the Senate may today finalize a draft that is acceptable to members of both houses.

The joint conference, which started Friday, will resume today.

A Variety source said the legislators are now "very close to an agreement."

"They seemed to be in a deadlock yesterday, but the wind turned around and now it's better," the source said. "By Wednesday, both houses may already pass a budget bill."

The main areas of contention during yesterday's meeting involved the number of full-time employees (FTEs) Rota and Tinian senators were asking for.

The legislators from Tinian, which will soon have casinos, want additional FTEs for police, firefighters,

nurse, doctors and immigration workers.

There were also questions raised on the necessity of funding the 118 FTEs requested by the Office of the Governor.

Before the conference ended, however, the House and the Senate agreed to work on the 118 FTEs' funding needs.

Among the issues that may be taken up when the conference resumes today is Senate President Jesus R. Sablan's proposal to increase the salary/pension of government employees and retirees.

Supporters of the proposal are hoping that the House would agree to fund the pay hike using money from the \$10 million additional revenues identified by the Office of the Governor.

Another Variety source said Sablan's pay hike plan already has the support of most legislators.

Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio yesterday said that pay hike proposal is "a good idea (in an election year," but he added that Sablan should first identify the money for the pay hike.

He said if the Legislature would "cut deeply" into other programs' and agencies' budgets, "then I won't go along."

The House last week passed the \$204.981 million fiscal year 1997 budget bill, which included appropriations for 118 new government full-time employees (FTEs).

The bill did not include the Public School System's budget of close to \$42.5 million, which was appropriated out of a "piecemeal" budget passed last month.

Ways and Means Chair Ana S. Teregeyo said the \$2.9 million funding for the 118 FTEs were "borrowed" from the government's utility payment allotted to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. (CUC).

Teregeyo said the \$2.9 million was "borrowed" with the intention that once lapsed funds are available CUC will be the first to be paid back.

Most of the governor's proposed expenditures for a portion of the additional \$10 million in revenues were included in the bill, Teregeyo said.

However, funding for a Commonwealth Film Office and the new emergency medical technician division (EMT) were left out of the bill.

Teregeyo said the film office should be the responsibility of the Marianas Visitors Bureau, which would get an additional \$1.9 million.

The new EMT division, on the other hand, will raise a lot of organizational "concerns" that, Teregeyo said, should be discussed further by officials of the Departments of Public Safety, and Public Health Services and by the members of the Legislature.

The new projects added to the bill include funding for a multipurpose gym of the Northern Marianas College and for renal transplants at the Commonwealth Health Center.

The original budget bill, which the governor branded as "not balanced," was vetoed early last month.

Telecom prospects for CNMI 'remain bright'

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

ADMINISTRATION official Dave Ecret is upbeat on the present state of the telecommunications industry in the CNMI and predicts "tremendous changes" will further take place next year.

"Everything is moving as expected," Ecret said in an interview Saturday during the 10th anniversary celebration of IT&E Saipan.

Among the plans soon to materialize include rate integration which will be implemented in July next year, as well as and the installation of the MTC's fiber optic cable project that will link Saipan, Tinian, Rota and Guam.

"Satellite technology is great, but we need fiber-optic technology as well. With MTC's fiber optic cable, we would not lose our connection to the outside world in case there is a typhoon," said Ecret, the governor's special assistant for telecommunications.

Ecret said Guam is now besetting problems about the US military's lease of a property considered as the landing site for MTC's cable system.

"We expect to have some kind of announcement from Guam within the next week or so. Right now negotiations (between MTC and Guam) are continuing," Ecret said.

He also mentioned the residents' increasing access to such technology as the Internet, which is now available in some local schools and the public library, as well as the "telemedicine" in the hospital.

"All of these things were visions which the governor wanted to see when he took office," Ecret said. "In six months we're going to see tremendous changes out here," he added.

DPW rushes repair of rain-damaged roads



Edward DL Guerrero

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Works has temporarily stopped some of its operations to field more personnel tasked to assess and repair roads damaged by the continuous rains.

Edward DL Guerrero, DPW Secretary said his office has prioritized the repair of roads rendered inaccessible to motorists. He said there are "plenty" of roads damaged by the rains.

"We shut down on operations like road shoulder work just to take care of all the repairs," said Guerrero.

He said pulling people out from their specific assignments to do repair work when the rains pour down continuously has almost become a routine exercise in the DPW.

The Department, it was gathered, has only two crews specifically tasked to repair damaged roads.

"There are plenty of secondary roads damaged. But some of them needs a minor repair that can wait for a couple of weeks. Others are cut by floods and potholes, and we are taking care of those ones first," he added.

He said repairs on roads with

"minor" damage are being held until after the rains are gone.

"It is useless to do repair now with the rain pounding. We'd rather wait for the weather to be better," he said.

Saipan's secondary roads are in such a poor state that, Guerrero said, repairs are needed everytime the rain pours down for more than an hour.

"Everytime it rains for more than an hour, we have to go back to all the secondary roads again and fix them," he said.

"And the work is tremendous," he lamented.

The repairs, Guerrero said are "costly." He however failed to give an estimate on the cost of repairs saying that depends on the extent to which the road is damaged.

The damaged secondary roads, he said, are mostly those that lead to farms and isolated villages.

Meanwhile, he said floodings have, "as usual," been monitored in Garapan, Susupe and Chalan Kanoa.

"These places are prone to flooding. There's water in these areas now but not to the point where it's flooding houses," Guerrero said.

Tenorio says his runningmate should come from 'large family'

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

THERE are five of them. At least one is a legislator. All are male persons from Saipan who have "big families." Not all of them are Democrats.

They are all in Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio's list of possible runningmates.

"I want (a running mate) who can help me win reelection," Tenorio said yesterday. "Isn't that the whole idea?"

He said he still could not disclose the names of the persons in his list, but, he added, his runningmate "does not have to have money, just the votes."

"Maybe a Sablan or a Cabrera," Tenorio said. "Somebody who has a big family."

He said that if the Democratic Party bylaws would allow it, he might even consider a Republican or an Independent.

"Anybody who will help us win reelection."



Froilan C. Tenorio

Asked if Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider (Ind.-Saipan) is in his list, Tenorio said, "I didn't say he was."

(Hofschneider, in an interview yesterday, said he "cannot possibly run" with the governor. He said his wife is a relative of the Republican party gubernatorial candidate Pedro P. "Teno" Tenorio—who is the governor's uncle.)

The governor said he will announce the name of his running mate in the next 25 days.

He said he still believes he could win against Teno, but if he loses to the former governor, and if the latter is eventually disqualified, Tenorio said he will not accept the governorship "by default."

Teno is the only two-term CNMI governor. A 1985 amendment to the CNMI Constitution states that no one could be governor for more than two-terms.

His supporters, however, are saying that Teno, who was governor when the amendment was ratified, is not "covered" by the provision.

Tenorio's 1993 running mate, Lt. Gov. Jesus C. Borja, has declared himself a candidate in the still to be scheduled Democratic Party gubernatorial primary.



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Soup: Shrimps Bisque

Salad: Fresh Garden Salad with House Dressing

Entree: Oven Roast Stuffed Turkey w/ Cranberry Sauce
Glazed Ham
Sweet Yams

Side Dish: Mashed Potato
Dinner Roll or Rice

Dessert: Pumpkins Pie "Ala Mode"
Coffee or Ice Tea

Complimentary: 1 glass of white or red wine per order

Setting Time:
Lunch: 11:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Soup: Shrimps Bisque

Salad: Fresh Garden Salad with House Dressing

Entree: Oven Roast Stuffed Turkey w/ Cranberry Sauce
6 oz. Prime Ribs (Cut to Taste) w/Au (Jus)
Sweet Yams

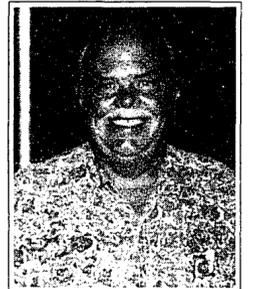
Side Dish: Mashed Potato
Dinner Roll or Rice

Dessert: Pumpkins Pie "Ala Mode"
Coffee or Ice Tea

Complimentary: 1 glass of white or red wine per order

Setting Time:
Dinner: 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m.

For reservation, please call 234-7385/7070 (Ding, Leo, Dennis or Tony)



Dave Ecret

dous changes" will further take place next year.

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"All of these things were visions which the governor wanted to see when he took office," Ecret said. "In six months we're going to see tremendous changes out here," he added.

He said repairs on roads with

Tanapag fire

A FIRE of still unknown cause reportedly gutted a house in Tanapag before dawn yesterday.

Public Safety Information Officer Sgt. Franklin Babauta said no one was injured in the blaze which was reported to the Department of Public Safety at 12:26 a.m.

Babauta said totally destroyed was a barracks connected to a house.

It was not clear yet where the fire had started.

In other police report, a six-year-old boy was injured after he was sideswiped by a car along Beach Road in San Jose Friday night.

The boy suffered minor bruises to the different parts of the body, police said.

Police classified the case as hit and run.

No other details were given.

Meanwhile, a 28-year-old woman complained that one of two men pointed a handgun at her before dawn Saturday.

The woman said while she was driving a vehicle in San Vicente, the two men followed her.

When she stopped in Papago, the two approached and one of them pointed a gun at her asking on the whereabouts of a certain man. (FDT)



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Thanksgiving Day Special

November 28, 1996 11:00 A.M. to 2:00 P.M.
Roast Turkey or Prime Rib with Mashed Potato and Soup or Salad for only \$10.00, including drinks and desserts

Thanksgiving Day Dinner Special

November 28, 1996 5:00 P.M. to 10:00 P.M.
Roast Turkey Topped with Cranberry Sauce and your choice or Prime Rib or Baked Ham with your soup, Open Salad Bar, and Desserts only for \$15.00

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CNMI Bar Association to Torres:

'Substantiate allegations'

THE Northern Marianas Bar Association challenged Congressman Stanley T. Torres to substantiate his allegations of misconduct on the part of some private attorneys in matters involving "non-resident workers who are victims of non-payment of salaries and other abuses."

Torres' allegations were made in a letter he sent Superior Court Presiding Judge Alex Castro dated last Nov.

In that letter, Congressman Torres said, "I am aware of several instances where attorneys are taking advance payments for work that becomes pending into the Labor Division, meaning that no work is being done, yet the payment has been made. Also, I am aware of instances where attorneys receive monies from the employer and then either delay or withhold payment to the deserving employee."

The Bar Association Congressman Torres to back up these allega-



Michael A. White



Stanley T. Torres

tions with factual details. In a letter to Congressman Torres last Tuesday, Bar Association President Michael A. White noted that the conduct which Torres alleges to have occurred constitutes a violation of the Rules of Professional Conduct, which CNMI attorneys to take payment for work not done, to fail to act with reasonable dili-

gence and promptness in presenting a client, and to delay or withhold unreasonably any payment due to a client," said White.

The Bar Association president promised that, if the Congressman would provide him with details regarding his allegations, the matter would be referred to the Bar Association's Disciplinary Commit-

tee, for investigation.

However, White said, in the absence of any specific facts, the Bar Association would not take action.

White assured Torres that the Bar Association considers accusations to be of a very serious nature, and that "appropriate action will be taken against any attorneys who are found to have violated the ethical rules of our profession."

In a separate statement, White said that it is now time for Torres to back up his allegations.

"If there are actual cases of abuse, the Bar Association and the Courts will deal with them promptly. If not, then let's stop making accusations that have no basis in fact," White said.

White also reminded the public at large the existence of a procedure in dealing with allegations of ethical violations on the part of CNMI attorneys.

He said any member of the public who has a complaint about an

attorney's conduct, that person should feel free to conduct him or any other officer of the Association.

While formal complaints must be made in writing, White said that he would be happy to discuss, privately and informally, any matter of concern to a client about the conduct of an attorney.

Korean Navy ships to visit the Marianas

THE NAVY midshipmen training unit of the Republic of Korea is scheduled to pay a port call to Saipan on December 6 through 8, 1996, a news release from the Korean Consulate in Guam disclosed.

The Cruise Training Unit, composed of two frigates and one logistic support ship, is on a cruise around the Asia and Oceania area under the command of Rear Admiral Seung-Yull Oh for friendly visits to the major ports of the region.

The total number of the members engaged in the cruise on board three naval vessels amounts to 652 personnel including the 165 midshipmen of the Naval Academy of the Republic of Korea, the release said.

Midshipmen cruise training has been annually conducted for 3 to 5 months since it was performed for 1954 graduates of the Academy.

The main purpose of the training is to provide the midshipmen with opportunities to apply what they have been lectured in the classroom to the real situations. These navy men are also trained to expand their perspectives and to strengthen friendship between them and the navies of the countries they visit.

The 1996 Cruise Training Unit has departed from Port Chinhae, located in the southern tip of Korea, and is on its way to pay port calls to twelve countries.

The Chung Nam and the Chon Nam, two frigates the training unit navigates, have been built in Korea with indigenous technology in 1985 and 1988 respectively. The frigates dimensions are as follows, tonnage: 1,900 ton (full load), Length: 102m, Officers and Crew to be on board: 130

According to the release, a public information room will be set up on board the Cheon Ji, a logistic support ship built in Korea in 1988, to introduce Korea's rich and beautiful cultural assets of Korea as folk music, Tal (Traditional mask) and traditional musical instruments will be introduced to visitors through film shows.

Photos showing beautiful Korean landscape and its clear-out four seasons will be also on display. Samulnori (Korean folk music and dance), brass band show and demonstration of Taekwondo by the members of the unit scheduled to be on the Cheon Ji will be great events for the visitors to appreciate the rich Korean culture.

The Navy brass band will play local songs for the audience at the multipurpose center in Saipan at 4:00 p.m. on December 7, 1996.

Beach hazard warning remains at two areas

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THE beach hazard warning has remained in effect for Smiling Cove Marina and the drainage south of the Dai-Ichi Hotel, the Division of Environmental Quality said yesterday.

The warning was posted after hundreds of dead fishes were seen floating in those two areas almost two weeks ago.

The DEQ also put up the warning in the nearby Micro Beach and the beaches fronting the Hyatt

Regency, Dai-Ichi, and Hafa Adai hotels, but the warning has been withdrawn, DEQ laboratory supervisor Kathy L. Yuknavage said.

The warning advised people to refrain from bathing and fishing in the posted areas.

Yuknavage said the Smiling Cove and the drainage "continue to have chemistry parameters below the accepted CNMI water quality standards" while the waters in the other beaches "have returned to CNMI water quality standards."

The fish kills at the Smiling

Cove and the drainage south of Dai-Ichi were reported to the DEQ last Nov. 13 and 18.

Up to now government scientists have not been able to pinpoint the source of the pollution that caused the fish kills.

The dead fishes included eel, water snake, surgeon fish, parrot fish, goat fish, and mullet.

Speculations as to the cause of the fish kills have ranged from boat dumps to lack of oxygen because of poor water circulation.

FY '97 starts brightly for tourism

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

TOURISM in the CNMI was off to a good start as the October visitor arrivals increased 15 percent over the same month last fiscal year.

October is the first month of fiscal year 1996-97.

A total of 59,564 visited the CNMI in October as against the 51,691 a year ago.

The visitor increase last month broke a three-month sliding trend.

But the number of Japanese visitors continued to post a negative growth for the fourth consecutive month.

Last month they numbered 33,329, or 5 percent less than the 35,060 who came in October last year.

Japan is the CNMI's biggest source of tourists. Of the 721,935 total number of visitors who came in FY 1995-96, 437,880, or 61 percent, were Japanese.

Arrivals from Korea made up for the decreases in the number of Japanese visitors. Koreans posted a 142 percent increase from 7,052 a year ago to 17,038 last month.

Book collection drive starts

ONE THOUSAND children in the CNMI will benefit from 1,000 books which the Joe-Ten Kiyu Public Library hopes to collect for this year's annual book collection project.

Denise Rosenblatt, project coordinator for Joe-Ten Kiyu, said the library has so far collected 160 books from in-house donations.

Boxes for book donations were placed yesterday in participating establishments, Rosenblatt said.

The book drive began as a holiday project last year.

Rosenblatt said she hopes the project will continue in the succeeding years.

This project, she added, is a way to place books within the reach of the community.

Joe-Ten Kiyu prefers picture books and easy readers for grade school levels.

Last year, she said 975 books were collected and given to students of public schools and residents of the Division of Youth Services.

The library also received a cash donation of \$6,000 which was placed in the "Friends of the Library Trust."

This year's book drive started last Nov. 18 and will run until Dec. 20.

Rosenblatt said at least 60 of the books that will be collected will go to the Hopwood Junior High library.

"At Hopwood, they have a home reading program but they are short of books," she said. (MCM)

Flag protocol violated?

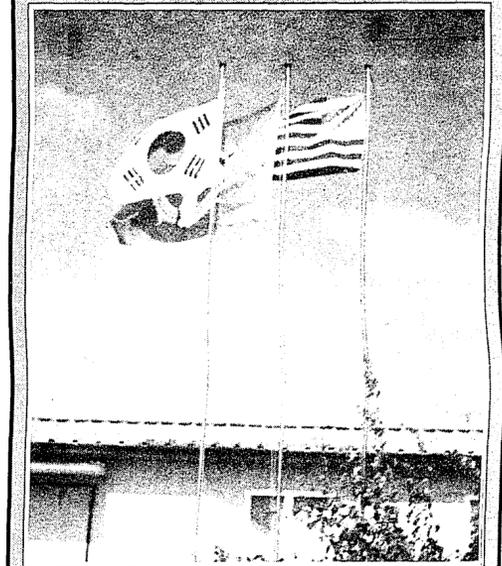


Photo shows the flags displayed at the Samsung's office. Rep. Stanley T. Torres wants to know whether Samsung's management knows that the U.S. flag should always be at the left side. Paging the Department of Public Safety.

Car Seat Clearance Sale

November 26 to 30th

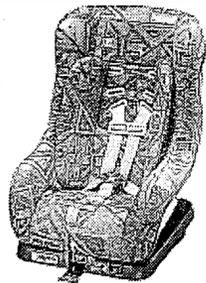
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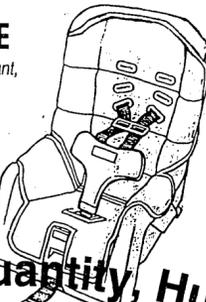


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2 Setting position, recline for infant, upright for toddler (40#)

Price \$115.00
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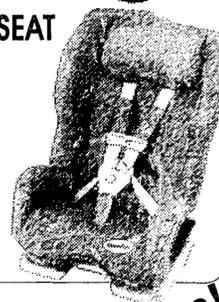


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Elsewhere in the region Fiji airport workers strike

SUVA (PNS)—Fiji's Nadi Airport air traffic controllers refused to turn up for work early Thursday leaving the control tower in the hands of trainees for ten hours.

A Civil Aviation Authority of Fiji (CAAF) source says four controllers rostered to work at 1 am and 6 am shifts reported sick in protest against a reduction in overtime by the authority, the Fiji Times reports.

The Daily Post quotes a source as saying the lightning strike by the air traffic controllers could have caused a disaster, but it didn't, thanks to the professionalism of the a skeleton group of staff that manned the tower.

The Aircraft Movement Controller at Nadi says there were no disruptions when 21 international flights either landed or took off.

CAAF chief executive Jone

Koroitama says services at the control tower returned to normal at 12.47pm. The CAAF source says the Civil Aviation of Fiji had imposed a limit on overtime because traffic controllers were overworked.

But the Fiji Air Traffic Association says it is also unhappy with moves by CAAF to employ expatriate controllers at Nadi Airport.

Western Samoa's speaker of the house, Toleafoa Faafisi,

PNG gov't puts yearly budget on hold as PM Chan attends Manila meet

PORT MORESBY (PNS)—The Papua New Guinea government used its parliamentary strength Thursday to put the budget on hold for more than two weeks while prime minister, Sir Julius Chan, attends an Asia-Pacific summit in Manila.

The adjournment of the current session until December 10 drew protests from the opposition, the National reported.

Opposition leader Roy Yaki condemned the adjournment which will delay the opposition's reply to the budget scheduled for next Tuesday.

He said Chan's absence from the country did not warrant an adjournment because the rest of the cabinet members, government MPs together with the opposition were in Port Moresby for parliament to continue.

Yaki said the action proved once again that Sir Julius does not have confidence in his deputy and ministers.

The prime minister leaves today for the Philippines to attend the summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation Forum.

Western Samoa gets assistance from China

WELLINGTON (PNS)—Western Samoa's Legislative Assembly has updated its office equipment through aid from China. China's ambassador to Western Samoa, Madame Wang Nong Sheng, presented the department with three computers, three printers, a photocopier, a fax machine and two typewriters, RNZI reported.

Western Samoa's parliament meets next on November 29.

says the equipment will alleviate the chronic shortage of equipment and improve work efficiency.

The legislative department also received a new audio system earlier this year from Australia, enabling those in the gallery of parliament including heads of departments and other visitors to hear what MPs are saying.

Western Samoa's parliament meets next on November 29.

School computers stolen

HONIARA (PNS)—Solomon Islands' King George the Sixth national secondary school has again fell prey to thieves after some break-ins in recent months.

Thieves had again broken into the school's general office Wednesday night and made off with a computer, a printer and two computer monitors worth about 13,000 Solomon dollars (US \$3,600), SIBC reported.

The computer equipment was a gift from Dorset county in England. Police have been called in to inspect the break-ins and are continuing in their investigations.

Rabuka raps NLTB report

SUVA (PNS)—Fiji's prime minister, Sitiveni Rabuka, told parliament Thursday that media reports of allegations of mismanagement of finance of around 220 million Fijian dollars (US \$159.5 million) in the Native Land Trust Board, is "unfounded and mischievous".

Answering questions by opposition MP Saiyed Khaium, Rabuka said police carried out an investigation because a former employee had lodged a complaint alleging possible mismanagement of funds, the Daily Post reported.

Rabuka said over the past 10 years the total income accruing to the NLTB, including that for distribution to the landowners, has never reached 159.5 million US dollars.

However, he said the police are awaiting the audited annual accounts of the NLTB for the period 1990 to 1995 before taking any further action.

Solomons forest industry needs focus--SOLTRUST

HONIARA (PNS)—One of Solomon Islands biggest non-government organisations, SOLTRUST, says there is a need to re-direct the attention of sustainable forest harvesting in the country.

Executive Director of SOLTRUST Anthony Carmel says the focus now should be directed at resource owners, Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation reported.

Carmel was speaking at the opening of a three-day workshop in Honiara. He says the logging industry in Solomon Islands is well organized and is very influential on the socio-economic-political structure.

He says it is becoming increasingly dominant because sustainable timber producers who own the resources are not well organized.

Meanwhile, SIBC reports says plans are underway to form an association of sawmill owners and timber producers after the three-day workshop.

Carmel says the association is aimed at encouraging free and active participation by forest resource owners in sustainable timber harvesting projects.

RP turns to private sector

For help in staging APEC summit

BY OLIVER TEVES
SUBIC BAY, Philippines (AP) - For a few moments before joining other Asian Rim leaders Monday, President Clinton stopped off at a specially constructed villa to change into a barong tagalog, the Philippine national costume.

The 17 other government leaders at Monday's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit also spent a few minutes getting refreshed at similar villas built for them.

The cost of each villa: about \$ 2 million.

For a developing country like the Philippines, staging a major international event like the 18-nation APEC summit posed enormous economic challenges.

For last year's APEC summit and ministerial meetings in Osaka, economic superpower Japan spent \$ 2 billion - about one-eighth of the entire Philippine national budget, according to Philippine officials.

This year, the Philippine government spent just 387 million pesos (\$ 15 million).

Most of that was used to beautify Manila ahead of several days of ministerial meetings there that preceded Monday's summit in Subic Bay, west of the capital.

Summit events were pleasantly unpretentious instead of opulent. Gone, for example, was the lavish free food served to journalists in Osaka.

Except for security and the salaries of government officials, not a single centavo of public money was used to stage the Subic meetings, Philippine APEC officials say.

Instead, the government turned to private companies to foot the bill for preparations in Subic, a former U.S. naval base.

At least 30 Filipino companies contributed or pledged about 152 million pesos (\$ 5.9 million) in services, food and other equipment for the APEC effort.

Aging buildings at Subic were refurbished by private developers in exchange for the right to use the facilities after the summit.

The Mediterranean-style villas, with a panoramic view of Subic Bay and the rain forests beyond, were newly built

Summit OKs new wording on info-tech tariff accord

SUBIC BAY, Philippines (AP) - Pressed by President Clinton, Pacific Rim leaders on Monday accepted the year 2000 as a deadline for cutting tariffs on information technology.

The summit communiqué read out by host Fidel Ramos, the Philippine president, contained wording that was closer to the U.S. demand for a strong statement on freeing up the lucrative global trade in computers, semiconductors, software and telecommunications gear.

But it also spoke of "flexibility," to reassure poorer nations anxious to protect their high-tech industries from cheaper imports.

The summit called for "the conclusion of an information technology agreement" by the World Trade Organization that would "substantially eliminate tariffs by the year 2000," but recognized "the need for flexibility" in the WTO negotiations.

U.S. officials said Clinton warned Ramos that the summit of the 18 Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation governments would be judged a failure unless the statement on tariffs was stronger.

for \$50 million by a Filipino construction company, Financial Building Corp.

After the summit, each will be sold. Already 75 people have expressed interest, including the governments of Indonesia and Brunei, says Edwin Rococeles, a partner in the company.

"Being able to build villas for 18 leaders is something that maybe no other developer would have a chance to do," Rococeles says.

The 11-hectare (27-acre) villa compound once contained nine ammunition bunkers protected by 1-meter (3-foot) -thick concrete walls that could withstand 1,000-pound (450-kilogram) bombs.

It sits above a rocky beach, with the sea below and thick forest behind it.

Each two-story house features a floor-to-ceiling window that provides a view of Subic Bay from the living room. A small study on the ground floor opens to a veranda, which leads to the beach below.

The floors are made of Italian tile and the doors, banisters and wood panels are imported from Australia.

Under the law creating the free port, the buyers of buildings in Subic may keep them for 50 years. They revert to the government after that.



The Philippine National Police squad march through the yard in the compound of the Philippine International Conference Center in Manila Tuesday, during their morning drill. Leaders of 18-members Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation held meetings at the center later in the week.

Hail storm destroys homes

PORT MORESBY (PNS)—Villages along the Anga River in the Lower Mendi area of Papua New Guinea's Southern Highlands are the latest victims of hail storm, another natural disaster in the same area in less than six days.

Reports revealed that the hail storm pelted the Anga villages leaving

several families without homes and food gardens destroyed, NBC reported.

A village leader, Nathan

Wembi, brought samples of ice-stones in a plastic bag to be displayed to the authorities in Mendi. Wembi says some of them as big as marbles fell from the sky like gravel dumped by trucks piled up ankle high. He says they haven't seen anything like it before.

Last week, another village in the Lower Mendi area was also struck by a strong whirl-wind that felled trees on houses and scaring people.

BRA commander boasts rebel group well-equipped

HONIARA (PNS)—The Bougainville Revolutionary Army (BRA) says it is now well equipped with modern arms captured from the Papua New Guinea Defence Force and no longer has any need for home-made guns.

The BRA's South Bougainville operations commander, Paul Bobby, says every member of the BRA is now armed with modern weapons such as M-16 assault rifles, M-60 submachine guns and other types of machine guns.

Bobby who's now in the Solomon Islands capital, Honiara says each

military operation mounted by the PNG defence force had resulted in more and better weapons captured by the secessionist fighters.

He says with better weapons in the hands of the BRA and mass defection of pro-PNG resistance fighters, the PNG defence force has been deploying fewer patrols into the jungle.

The BRA commander says the situation now is such that Port Moresby should have conceded defeat but it continued to defer any decision for fear that the international reputation of the PNG defence force would lose face.

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Former VP Mondale retires

By PETER LANDERS

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - He was a U.S. senator for 11 years, vice president for four and a candidate for president. Walter Mondale's next mission: to shop for a Christmas tree with his grandchildren.

After 3 1/2 years as U.S. ambassador to Japan, Mondale, 68, is retiring for good. There'll be a rush to get bags packed, settle a few lingering trade issues, then Mondale heads home to Minnesota on Dec. 15.

"The next big thing is to go with my grandchildren to buy a Christmas tree," he says. "Then I'm going to put up the decorations."

It's one of life's ironies that Mondale's long career on the public stage is coming to a close so far from the hurly-burly of American politics that he loves.

Tokyo is a long way from Markato, Minnesota, where the Methodist minister's son got his start in politics as local manager for Harry Truman's 1948 presidential campaign.

"I had to go out and raise my own money to get paid," Mondale recalled recently.

He rose to senator in 1965, and was elected vice president on Jimmy Carter's ticket in 1976.

Then in 1984 came the ill-fated run for president against Ronald Reagan, who was riding a strong economy and a conservative trend in America that left Mondale, a proud old-fashioned liberal, out in the cold.

"Looking back at it, I don't think



Walter Mondale

there was a meaningful chance I was going to win," Mondale reflected in an interview with The Associated Press in Manila, where he was attending an Asia-Pacific trade summit.

He could empathize with Bob Dole, who ran against President Clinton "without a serious prospect of winning and he had to sustain a campaign nevertheless. Very difficult to do."

But Mondale said he doesn't regret his campaign.

"Many of the points I made were later acted upon. The yawning size of the (budget) deficit was there for all to see, threatening the future of our country. We couldn't go on that way," he said.

"History has vindicated me that we would have to raise taxes. It was very unpopular, but it was undeniably cor-

rect."

After his defeat, Mondale vanished from politics for nearly a decade, quietly practicing law in Minneapolis.

But when Bill Clinton finally brought the presidency back to the Democratic Party in 1992, Mondale was ready for action.

To move to a strange city at age 65 is no small challenge. But he accepted the position of ambassador to Tokyo and he was no figurehead.

While redecorating the ambassador's residence in central Tokyo with Joan, his wife, he jumped into the trenches, fighting for more U.S. access to markets ranging from

cars to cellular phones.

He helped avert a trade war in June 1995 over autos and auto parts, convincing Tokyo to give American automakers more access to Japanese dealers and pushing Japanese carmakers to buy U.S. parts.

"There are parts of the Japanese economy that are very, very difficult for the rest of the world to penetrate," he said. "The Ministry of Construction, the Transport Ministry, in effect decide whether they want foreign competition, and the answer basically is no."

He offered a persuasive case that Japan itself, which has suffered from

slow economic growth since 1991, is the "big loser" when it allows collusion between companies to shut out newcomers.

"Where Japan competes with the rest of the world, like autos and consumer electronics, it's quite impressive. But where she protects herself, the costs are very high," he said.

But diplomacy will soon be behind him. Mondale now looks forward to watching his grandson play hockey, and maybe to a bit of politicking - not for himself, but for his son, Ted, who may run for governor of Minnesota.

If he runs, Mondale said, deadpan, "I think I'm going to support him."

Report: China to try dissidents for distributing anti-gov't pamphlets

BEIJING (AP) - Chinese authorities plan to put three democracy activists on trial for distributing pamphlets inspired by the collapse of the Soviet Union, a human rights group has reported.

The trial of the three indicates that China's crackdown on dissidents "growing more and more intense," the New York-based group, Human Rights in China, said in a statement late Sunday.

Shen Liangqing, Ma Lianggang and Huang Xiuning have been told they will be tried Tuesday in east China's Anhui province on charges of counter-revolutionary, or anti-government, propaganda and incitement, Human Rights

in China said. Officials at the Intermediate People's Court in Hefei, capital of Anhui and the trial site reported by the rights group, said they had not heard of the case.

In an indictment obtained by the group, prosecutors said the three wrote, printed and distributed pamphlets aimed at overthrowing China's authoritarian regime and socialist system.

The charges relate to pamphlets the three wrote after a failed coup in 1991 that precipitated the Soviet Union's collapse, the indictment said.

Human Rights in China said that by putting the three on trial five years later, authorities were "settling old scores." Over the past year, Chinese leaders have silenced nearly all the country's known dissidents with prison sentences or exile overseas.

Last month, Wang Dan, a top leader of massive pro-democracy demonstrations in 1989, was given an 11-year

prison sentence for subversion, with prosecutors citing Wang's writings and meetings with other dissidents.

Human Rights in China said Shen, Ma and Huang participated in the 1989 protests, which the government crushed.

Shen, 33, used to work for the Anhui public prosecutor's office and was detained in 1992 for 17 months for his pro-democracy activities, the group said.

Huang, also 33, used to work for the Communist Party's Youth League and for traffic authorities in Anhui, and also spent 17 months in detention, the group said.

Ma, 35, was sentenced in 1990 to two years imprisonment for disrupting traffic - a charge widely used to punish participants in the 1989 protests.

Prosecutors said Ma should be severely punished as a repeat offender because he helped distribute the pamphlets within three years of his release from prison.

44-vehicle smashup: 9 dead

BEIJING (AP) - Nine people were killed and 12 others injured when 44 vehicles crashed into each other on a foggy stretch of highway outside the eastern city of Wuxi, an official report said Monday.

It took highway crews and rescuers almost six hours to

clear the expressway of wrecked vehicles and debris after the crash early Sunday, said the newspaper Liberation Daily.

It said the drivers were traveling too fast in poor visibility and did not allow enough space between cars.

At the fourth Pacific Summit

Clinton finds 'comfort level'

By NANCY BENAC

SUBIC BAY, Philippines (AP) - After lifting an Asian-Pacific economic forum from bureaucratic obscurity, President Clinton has transformed its annual summit into a major force on trade issues and an intriguing sideshow of diplomacy.

He did it by strongly pushing for an agenda of expanded free trade, by holding forward-looking talks with Asian leaders, and just by being there for the fourth annual gathering of leaders from 18 Pacific Rim countries.

Although progress has been slow, the APEC countries are following Clinton's agenda in working toward a goal of dropping all tariffs in developed countries by 2010 and poor countries by 2020.

In 1993, Clinton elevated the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting from the ministerial level to a full-blown summit.

At the first leaders' session outside Seattle that year, he was the eager host, anxious to see that his guests were properly cared for and his diplomacy just right.



Bill Clinton

When the group gathered a year later in Indonesia, Clinton was the wounded warrior, reeling from the Democratic defeats of the 1994 elections.

Last year, he stayed home altogether, hobbled by the government shutdown.

As APEC leaders met Monday, it was a different Clinton on display, buoyed by re-election and comfortable with his APEC counterparts.

US First Lady meets prostitution AIDS victim during Thailand visit

By GRANT PECK

CHIANG MAI, Thailand (AP) - U.S. First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton gave comfort Monday to an 18-year-old girl dying of AIDS caught after being forced into prostitution, a tragedy facing thousands of Thai girls.

On the second day of her two-day tour of northern Thailand, an area ravaged by AIDS and the sale of girls into sexual slavery, Mrs. Clinton shared a poignant moment with Mi Cha Ach Mae, confined to a wheelchair by AIDS with an estimated two weeks to live.

Mrs. Clinton met the girl as she left the New Life Center, a shelter founded by two American missionaries that houses 151 girls from the ethnic hilltribes scattered across rugged northern Thailand.

The girls are at risk of being sold into Thailand's huge sex industry by their parents, seeking income for either survival or status, or have been rescued from brothels or quasi-prostitution as restaurant hostesses.

The center tries to educate and give them vocational training.

Mi Cha Ach Mae, who belongs to the Akha hilltribe, has been at the center's hospice for about a year, after police raided a brothel where she was living and tests revealed she was HIV-positive.

She had been sold by her parents as a house maid when she was 10 and was eventually forced into prostitution.

The first lady walked to the girl as she was leaving the center, touched her on the wrist and offered words of encouragement. The girl pressed her hands together in a prayer position and nodded, the tradition Thai gesture of respect.

Earlier, Mrs. Clinton was welcomed by 30 girls. Some wore traditional black garb and were

coiffed by elaborate silver-spangled hats.

Mrs. Clinton joked that she couldn't perform their complicated dances of greeting, then joined a panel discussion with the directors and some of the girls.

"When you sell a young girl, that brings a very limited benefit for a few years," Mrs. Clinton said. "When you educate a girl, that brings a lifetime of benefit to a family."

President Clinton joins her Monday night, after the the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in the Philippines ends, for the first state visit to Thailand by a U.S. president since 1969.

Mrs. Clinton toured a school which extends the girls' education after mandatory schooling stops at 12 - an age when many are bought by middlemen for delivery into the garish brothels of Bangkok and elsewhere. Many die of AIDS.

The program tries to persuade parents, for whom selling daughters has become a lucrative way of life in recent years, to let their girls learn skills that will earn about 5,000 baht (\$ 200) a month, a tenth of what some prostitutes make.

Girls can be sold for 25,000 baht (\$ 1,000) and send remittances home to their parents afterward.

Having a daughter as a prostitute can mean the difference between poverty and a new home, motorcycle and status.

The girls sold into the ranks of Thailand's estimated 500,000 to 700,000 prostitutes are often chained, beaten, drugged, denied food and raped by pimps.

Boys are also sold, but the vast majority of victims are girls serving Thai men or foreigners on "sex tours."



PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

FY 96 HOME Program

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), on behalf of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), is pleased to inform the general public that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) has approved \$322,000 for the CNMI's FY 96 HOME Program. The HOME funds will be used for eligible rehabilitation and repair activities on residential dwelling units owned and occupied by very low-income families.

Eligible rehabilitation and repair activities include, but not limited to, the following: Construction or repair of sanitary water tanks and sewage disposal systems (septic), together with related plumbing and fixtures; altering of interior and/or exterior of unit to provide greater accessibility for disabled and/or handicapped household members; replacement or repair of deteriorating plumbing and hazardous electrical systems; construction of additional bedroom(s) where overcrowding; and other rehabilitator, and repair activities necessary to preserve the dwelling unit in a safe, decent, and sanitary condition.

Financial assistance will be made available to eligible homeowners primarily through low-interest (3% fixed rate) direct rehabilitation loans of up to \$15,000, with a maximum repayment term of fifteen (15) years. Deferred rehabilitation loans will be available, but only in situations where the applicant(s) demonstrates a critical need for financial assistance and proven lack of financial resources for repayment of amount requested.

The following requirements must be met, as a minimum, to be eligible for HOME Program financial assistance:

1. Combined gross annual income of all persons 18 years old or older, must be less than or equal to, the "very low-income limits" according to size of household, as prescribed by HUD;
2. Applicant(s) must own or have at least a 40-year leasehold interest on the property; and
3. The dwelling unit must be the principal residence of the applicant(s); and
4. The "after-rehabilitation" value of the property must be less than or equal to, 95% of the median purchase price for the type of housing (single-family unit) being assisted, as determined by HUD.

The time period for acceptance of HOME rehabilitation loans will begin on January 01, 1997 and run for period of time until NMHC determines that at least \$273,700 of the \$322,000 are exhausted and/or committed. Applications will be accepted on a "first-come, first-served" basis, provided they qualify.

Homeowners interested in obtaining a Rehabilitation Loan Application or more information about the FY 96 HOME Program are urged to visit our Central Office on Saipan or our Field Offices on Rota and Tinian. You may also contact us at telephone numbers 234-6866/9447/7670/7689 for Saipan residents; 433-9213 for Tinian residents; and 532-9410 for Rota residents.

It is NMHC's policy and commitment that interested "Minority and Women-Owned Businesses" (MBE/WBE) be given equal opportunity to compete for contracts for rehabilitation and repair work on properties to be assisted with HOME Program funds. Therefore, those MBE/WBE interested in bidding for rehabilitation and repair work are also urged to contact NMHC for more information.

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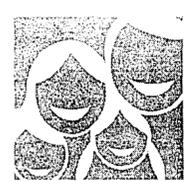


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S. Korea eases apology demand

By JU-YEON KIM
MANILA, Philippines (AP) - South Korea has softened its demand that rival North Korea apologize for its recent actions before peace efforts can resume.

In an apparent reversal of South Korean President Kim Young-sam's previous tough stance, a South Korean official said Monday the apology was not a precondition. A North Korean submarine infiltration into South Korea in September goaded Kim into demanding an apology, or else he would stall work on a pair of nuclear reactors promised to North Korea, and boycott proposed peace talks under U.S. and Chinese mediation.

Speaking on condition of anonymity, the official spoke of North Korea having to "clarify its actions and take acceptable steps," but would not say what that meant. North Korea had threatened to resume development of its own reactors, which are believed to be feeding a nuclear weapons program, if Seoul and Washington

dragged their feet on the new reactors.

Initial indications of change emerged from Kim's talks Sunday with U.S. President Bill Clinton and Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto on the sidelines of the Pacific Rim summit.

A Japanese official said Kim told Hashimoto he still demanded an apology. But the official didn't describe it as a precondition.

Later, a joint Clinton-Kim statement also avoided mention of an apology, but demanded that North Korea "take acceptable steps to resolve the submarine incident, reduce tension and avoid such provocation in the future."

The South Korean official, who accompanied Kim to the summit, said the peace talks can happen without an apology first being made. "But we expect to discuss the incident when we get together."

Under a U.S.-brokered deal in 1994, North Korea shut a reactor suspected of being part of a nuclear weapons program. In exchange, the

United States is shipping fuel oil to North Korea while the new reactors are built.

But things went awry when a sub-

marine infiltrated 26 North Koreans into South Korea on Sept. 18, triggering clashes that killed 13 South Koreans and 24 North Koreans.

With only an armistice keeping the peace between the two Koreas since their 1950-53 war, their ties are still volatile.

Nicholson case brings to light a little-known tool of spycraft

By ROBERT BURNS
WASHINGTON (AP) - Among the secrets CIA officer Harold J. Nicholson is accused of conspiring to sell to Russia are the identities of "access agents," a rarely noted tool of the spy trade that some call the intelligence agency's "talent spotters."

They are people, usually residents of foreign countries in which the CIA operates clandestinely, who point the agency toward government officials or others who they know or suspect would be good sources of hard-to-get secrets.

The term "access" refers to their role in giving the CIA a route to approach the potential inside sources, with the aim of recruiting them as agents. The potential recruits might not be approachable in a more straightforward way.

The talent spotters provide their services voluntarily, but they play a different role than another of the CIA's quiet volunteer corps: American businessmen, academicians and other citizens who travel abroad and pass along information or observations gathered in their travels.

An FBI affidavit outlining the government's espionage case against Nicholson makes no mention of the second category of CIA helper, the U.S. traveler. There is no allegation that he compromised or attempted to compromise them.

The government does contend, however, that Nicholson had collected for the Russians seven summary reports that included the code names and positions of "access agents" and that also identified them by their access to particular information.

The access agents' real names are classified because they could be targets of reprisals "if foreign countries were aware of their intelligence-gathering activities," the FBI affidavit said.

It did not claim, however, that Nicholson actually provided the names to the Russian intelligence agency with whom he allegedly was working.

The FBI said a search of Nicholson's minivan on Aug. 11, 1996, turned up a computer diskette that contained an electronic document titled "Subject Reporting From Access Agents To Russian Sources and Developmentals."

The seven summary reports contained on the diskette were extracts from three CIA documents, each dated July 18, 1996, and classified "secret," the affidavit said.

Nicholson's last alleged contact with his Russian handlers was in June.

Other computer files containing classified documents and allegedly found on Nicholson's notebook computer during the minivan search had

been deleted from the computer's directories, the FBI said.

This indicated that they already had been copied onto a diskette and transmitted to Russian intelligence, the bureau said.

The access agents mentioned in the computer file apparently were links to Russian sources on such topics as the Russian banking system, efforts by another unidentified country to acquire Russian cruise missile technology and other Russian defense information.

Robert Gates, who was CIA director during the Bush administration, said in an interview, "This is not one of those areas you commonly read about being compromised, but it can be a very important aspect of CIA operations."

AUS intelligence official, speaking on condition he not be further identified, said the access agents could include some Americans.

Typically, however, they would in this case be Russians or third-country nationals.

These agents are not CIA staff or contract employees, but they usually would be paid for their help, said Vincent Cannistraro, a retired CIA operations officer.

An example might be a Pole who is a tennis partner of a Russian military officer and who by the nature of his occupation would not be suspected as a CIA link.

NASA mulls early satellite return

By MARCIA DUNN
CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) - Concerned about a possible collision, NASA warned Columbia's astronauts Sunday that they may have to retrieve a semiconductor-growing satellite one day early.

"We may have to call on you guys to roll with it a bit today," Mission Control told the shuttle crew.

As of Sunday afternoon, the

two-ton satellite trailed Columbia and its five astronauts by 45 kilometers (28 miles). And 45 kilometers (28 miles) farther back was the ultraviolet telescope. Both were released by the crew last week.

But the telescope was traveling faster than expected as it sped through the thin upper atmosphere, slightly lower than expected.

Flight controllers fretted over

how close the 3.5-ton telescope might be to Columbia if the astronauts wait until early Tuesday to retrieve the semiconductor saucer as planned.

NASA safety rules stipulate that a shuttle be at least (20 to 30 kilometers) 12 to 20 miles from another orbiting object. A collision between two spacecraft could be disastrous.

The telescope has no propulsion system and therefore cannot be commanded to slow down.

The semiconductor satellite, called the Wake Shield, has only a tiny thruster that's useless for major maneuvers.

Flight directors planned to wait until as late as possible before deciding whether to retrieve the Wake Shield early

Monday. University of Houston researchers growing the thin, pure semiconductor film on the Wake Shield stoically accepted news of a possibly premature end to their mission.

They're "not one bit" upset, team spokesman Paul Guse said. "If anything, they're glowing over the performance so far."

Unlike previous missions in which it malfunctioned and even flipped, the Wake Shield was working well this time and allowing scientists to accomplish their primary goals.

Four wafers of semiconductor film had been produced in the super-clean wake created behind the Wake Shield, and scientists were working on a fifth.

While they had hoped for seven wafers, researchers said they needed only three - the first as a warm-up, the second for testing in a transistor and the third for testing in an electronic junction.

Scientists expect the material produced in the vacuum of space to be purer than semiconductors produced on Earth.

Such superior material could lead to faster and more efficient computers and other electronics.

The telescope was released last Tuesday and has since made more than 100 observations of stars and galaxies.

It is supposed to be picked up Dec. 3, two days before the shuttle is due back home. The Wake Shield was released Friday night.

Heiress leaves museums \$150M worth of artwork

NEW YORK (AP) - A department store heiress has left 32 works of art worth \$150 million to the Metropolitan Museum of Art and the Museum of Modern Art, The New York Times reported Monday.

Florence May Schoenborn, who died in August 1995 at the age of 92, was a trustee of the Museum of Modern Art and a longtime friend of William S. Lieberman, chairman of the Metropolitan's 20th Century art department, the Times reported.

Born in Denver, Schoenborn was the daughter of David May Sr., founder of the May Department Stores.

Philippe de Montebello, director of the Metropolitan, called the collection "a tre-

mendous gift to the city of New York."

"It is yet another step up in the level, quality and distinction in the collection of modern art in the city," he said. "In one fell swoop, these works cover a major chapter in the history of art."

The works include paintings and sculptures by masters like Picasso, Brancusi, Bonnard and Braque, the newspaper said.

The Metropolitan will receive 18 paintings and sculptures and the Museum of Modern Art will receive 14.

The museums were notified by Schoenborn's estate last week. An official announcement was expected to be made Monday.

American jazz musician drowns

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) - Art Porter, a Chicago-based jazz saxophonist whose underage performances caught the attention of Bill Clinton, drowned Saturday in western Thailand, Thai newspapers reported. He was 35.

Porter's boat capsized during an outing in the Kratha Taek Reservoir, killing him and at least two other passengers, the newspapers said.

Porter was to perform at the Thailand International Jazz Festival '96, an event

commemorating the 50th anniversary of King Bhumibol Adulyadej's reign. The king is a jazz musician and composer.

Porter started playing the alto saxophone at age 15, performing with his father's band in nightclubs in Little Rock, Arkansas, Clinton's home town.

He studied at the Berklee College of Music and Northwestern Illinois University, and released his first album in 1992.

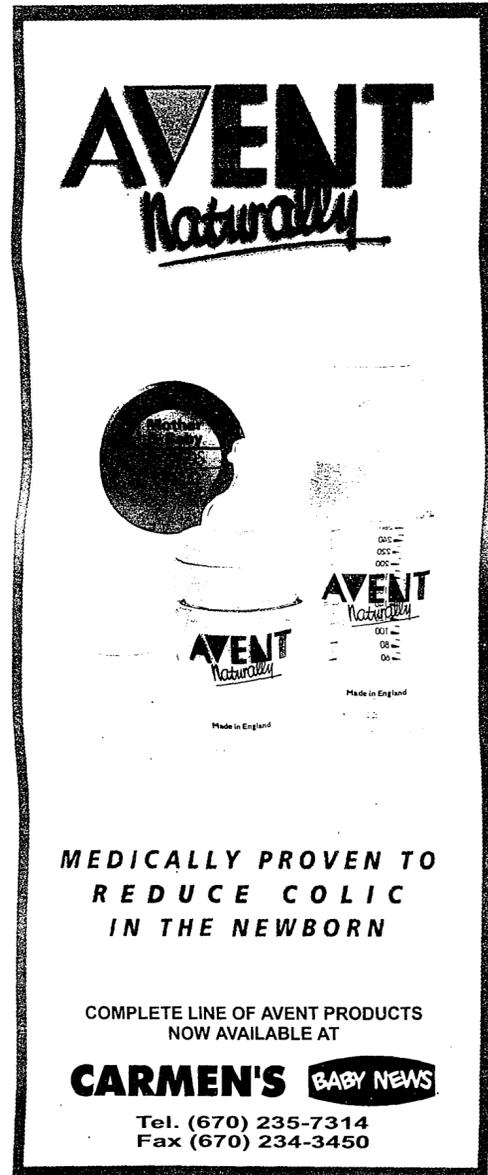
As a teen-ager, Porter was

arrested for being too young to play at nightclubs, and the case caught the attention of Clinton, a young attorney.

As state attorney general, Clinton pushed a law through the state legislature allowing underage artists to perform in bars and clubs as long as a legal guardian was present.

The act is known as the "Art Porter Bill."

Porter's death comes just before Clinton was to make the first state visit to Thailand by a U.S. president since 1969.



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NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
INVITATION TO BID

Governor Froilan C. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus C. Borja, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are soliciting competitive sealed bids from licensed firms in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas for the procurement of used vehicles.

Specifications for the above may be picked up at the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan, during the hours of 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Vehicles must be CIF, Saipan, and it must have a manufacturer's extended warranty agreement which includes parts and labor, which shall be no less than two (2) years. A comparable replacement/courtesy vehicle must be provided while the vehicle(s) is/are under repair or service during the warranty period. The vehicle must have rustproofing/undercoating, immediate delivery, with a safety inspection and vehicle registration naming NMHC as new owner, completed prior to delivery to NMHC.

All Bids must be submitted, in duplicate, and sealed in an enveloped marked "ITB-Vehicles" to MaryLou Ada Sirok, Corporate Director, P.O. Box 514, Saipan, MP 96950 at the Garapan NMHC Central Office before Monday, December 9, 1996, at which time and place, all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bids received late will not be accepted.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any or all bids in the best interest of the Housing Corporation.

MARYLOU ADA SIROK
Corporate Director

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing agency"

GIGANTIC BLOWOUT

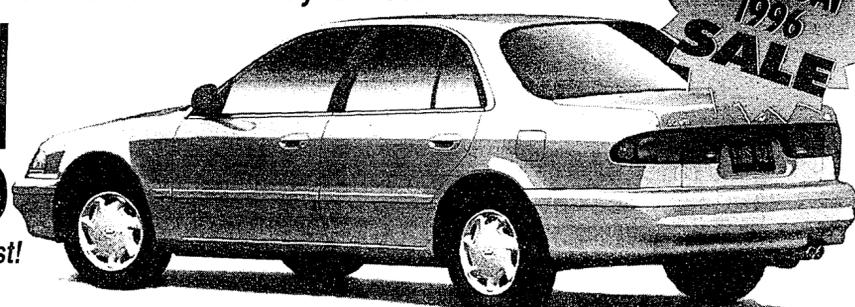
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Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin and Chinese Finance Minister Liu Zhongli walk last Tuesday, on their way to their joint news conference. That same day, The Export-Import Bank announced long-term loans for two electric power projects in China. AP Photo

Lawmaker off to seek release of alleged spy

WASHINGTON (AP) - Rep. Bill Richardson left the United States for North Korea on Sunday to seek the release of an American detained on spy charges.

A spokesman for the New Mexico Democrat said he would arrive in North Korea Monday night, but had no other details of the congressman's itinerary while in the communist country.

Richardson has been on diplomatic missions in recent years to such countries as Syria and Burma. Two

years ago, he secured the release of an American soldier whose helicopter had strayed into North Korea.

State Department spokesman Glyn Davies said last Thursday that the administration views his latest effort as "an important humanitarian mission."

Another official, who asked not to be identified, said the administration has reason to believe Richardson's mission will be successful. He gave no details.

The detained American is Evan C.

Hunziker, 26, of Tacoma, Washington, who entered North Korea from China last August and was taken into custody. He has been charged with espionage and illegal entry. The U.S. government denies that he is or has been a spy, and Hunziker's relatives say he probably crossed the border to convert North Koreans to Christianity.

A Swedish diplomat visited Hunziker this month and reported he was in good health but was disconsolate.

Report says John Gotti will give up his role as Gambino big boss

NEW YORK (AP) - John Gotti, who has reportedly continued to rule the Gambino crime family from prison, has agreed to give up his powerful post, the Daily News reported Sunday.

Gotti will give up control of the 200-member family to Nicholas "Little Nick" Corozzo, a low-key Brooklyn capo, the newspaper reported, citing unidentified law-enforcement and underworld sources.

The move was ordered by the

leaders of New York's four other crime clans - the Genovese, Lucchese, Colombo and Bonanno families - to avert a bloody battle over leadership fueled by their dislike of acting Gambino boss John Gotti Jr.

The bosses of the five families believe the younger Gotti is too hotheaded and lacking in street smarts, the sources told the newspaper, and the elder Gotti's brother, Peter Gotti, 58, has neither the ambition nor the ability to

lead the family.

Gotti, 56, was convicted in the 1985 execution of rival boss Paul Castellano.

He began serving a life sentence without the chance of parole in a federal prison in Illinois in 1992.

Gotti's appeals for a new trial have been denied, although another motion is pending.

The News said Gotti will continue to run the family until the latest motion is decided.

Immigration debate is costing New Zealand millions of dollars

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) - Tighter immigration controls and statements by politicians against Asian immigrants have cost New Zealand tens of millions of dollars in the past year from Taiwan, a Taipei immigration consultant has claimed.

Jimmy Hong, of Southern Skies Consultants, said the figure covered a drop in immigrant numbers, a 33 percent decline in Taiwanese students taking New Zealand-based courses, and a 21 percent reduction in tourist numbers.

There had also been a 50 percent decline in business investment from Taiwan, Hong was quoted as saying by The Dominion newspaper on Monday.

"A lot of people are angry,"

said Hong. "They say: 'I put my money into New Zealand and you treat me like this.'"

He said New Zealand's tighter immigration controls had led to a 97 percent drop in immigration from Taiwan in the past year.

Resident applications from Taiwan fell from 5,220 in 1995 to 162 in the current year, according to New Zealand statistics.

Hong said the tourism decline had cost at least \$ U.S. 27 million (\$ New Zealand 38 million).

Asian immigration was a major issue during a campaign for an election in October. Some politicians, particularly from the New Zealand First Party, called for greater restrictions on newcomers and tighter controls on foreign investment.

Japanese partnership to buy Australian copper smelter

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) - Japan's Nissho Iwai Corp. and Furukawa Co. Ltd. have agreed to buy and reopen a closed copper refinery and smelter from global minerals group RTZ-CRA at Port Kembla, south of Sydney.

The New South Wales state government announced the deal on Monday.

It said the Japanese companies planned to install pollution controls at the plant, which should be operational by late 1998.

The previous capacity of the

plant was 80,000 tons. This is to be raised to 120,000 tons and eventually to 150,000 tons, the companies said.

In February the state government confirmed negotiations were underway between the government and Japanese investors in a bid to help bring the defunct plant back into operation.

The smelter closed early in 1995 because of poor financial performance.

Nearby residents had also complained about pollution from the plant.

Just say "NO" to Drugs!

Talks resume on insurance dispute

TOKYO (AP) - U.S. and Japanese negotiators on Monday resumed talks aimed at settling a prolonged dispute over foreign access to Japan's lucrative insurance market before a self-imposed deadline of Dec. 15.

The outlook for progress at the talks, which were scheduled to last two days, was not good following a similar set of meetings earlier this month in San Francisco that produced no progress.

The U.S. negotiating team

Two Colombians arrested for trying to bring cocaine to Japan

TOKYO (AP) - A Colombian husband and wife were arrested for allegedly attempting to smuggle 7.1 kilograms (15.6 pounds) of cocaine in false-bottomed suitcases, customs officials said Monday.

The cocaine had a street value of about 500 million yen (\$ 4.5 million), the official said.

Both the husband, identified as Arcadio Puentes Morina, 36, and his wife, Blanca Dinory Torres Forero de Puentes, 23, were from Bogota, the official said.

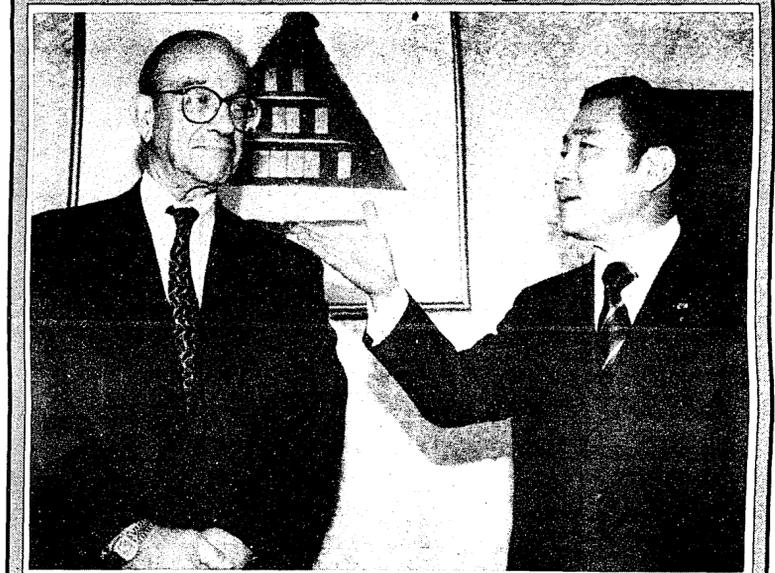
The couple first took the double-bottomed suitcases to Seoul from Sao Paulo, Brazil, late last month. They then flew to Japan without their luggage, and had the bags shipped separately.

Customs officials found the drugs when the suitcases arrived from Seoul on Friday.

The pair were arrested when they showed up to claim the bags, the official said on the condition of anonymity, per Japanese custom.

The maximum penalty for smuggling cocaine into Japan is 15 years in prison.

Greenspan meets Japanese PM



Alan Greenspan, chairman of the U.S. Federal Reserve Board, listens to Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto during their meeting at Hashimoto's official residence in Tokyo last week. Greenspan was in Japan to meet Japanese political and business leaders. AP Photo

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Outreach & Training

WORKSHOP FOR DECEMBER

30-Hour General Industry Standards

The Northern Marianas College Instructors conducting this workshop are authorized by the OSHA Institute as Construction Outreach Program Trainers and participants who attend all sessions will receive wallet size cards from the OSHA Institute.

TOPICS INCLUDE, BUT ARE NOT LIMITED TO:

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- Hazard Communication/Welding
- Walking/Working Surfaces/Electrical
- Means of Egress and Fire Protection
- Hazardous Materials/Recordkeeping
- Hearing Conservation/Bloodborne Pathogens
- Voluntary Protection Programs
- Safety and Health Programs

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This Outreach & Training Program is a cooperative program between the U.S. Department of Labor, Occupational Safety & Health Administration, U.S. Department of Interior, and the Northern Marianas College.

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DURANO

From your friends
at Variety Staff

Bishop says magazine made up remarks criticizing Indonesia

DILI, Indonesia (AP) - Nobel peace laureate Bishop Carlos Belo publicly accused a German magazine Monday of making up and attributing to him negative comments about Indonesian rule in East Timor. The reported remarks had provoked street protests in Jakarta.

Belo repeated his insistence that conditions have improved in the troubled territory.

But he denied telling Der Spiegel that East Timorese have been treated like "scabby dogs" since Indonesian troops invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1975.

"I hereby state my interview was heavily manipulated and seriously distorted," the bishop told reporters at his office, reading in English from a prepared statement.

"The expression 'scabby dogs' is totally unknown to me. Der Spiegel must assume full responsibility for using it," said Belo, who was accompanied by senior military officials and East Timor's Indonesian-appointed governor.

The phrase also has been translated as "mangy dogs."

Belo, the top church official in the predominantly Roman Catholic territory, shared a Nobel Peace Prize last month for his efforts to reach a peace settlement in Indonesia's bloody, 21-year-old fight to crush East Timor's independence movement.

The award embarrassed Indonesia's government, but officials have avoided criticizing Belo publicly.

However, thousands of ruling party supporters protested in the streets of Jakarta, the national capital, after the Der Spiegel comments were published following the announcement of Belo's award.

That sparked three days of counterdemonstrations by Belo supporters in Dili, the East Timorese capital.

Spiegel has said it stands by its report, which Belo said is based on an interview conducted seven months ago.

He made a similar disavowal of his remarks last week during a private meeting with Indonesian officials.

About 500 East Timorese held a rally outside Belo's office during the news confer-

ence, waving banners and shouting "Free East Timor!" There were no signs of police, and the demonstrators dispersed after one hour.

"The soldiers treat us badly. Everything Der Spiegel said is true," said one protester who didn't want to be identified further.

Belo said he wanted to start a "new period of peaceful relationship" with the Indonesian people, government and military.

But responding to Indonesian accusations that he was improperly involved in politics, the bishop said, "I have a moral duty to speak for the voice of the poor and the simple people who, when intimidated or terrorized, cannot defend themselves or make their suffering voiced."

Belo officiated Sunday at a ceremony to bless the world's second-tallest statue of Jesus Christ, donated by the government and the state airline of predominantly Muslim Indonesia.

About 25,000 Catholics attended the ceremony on a hill about seven kilometers (4 1/2 miles) east of Dili.

Castro meets Pope John Paul II



Cuban leader Fidel Castro, left, and Pope John Paul II pose during their historic meeting at the Vatican last Tuesday. The pontiff accepted Castro's invitation to visit Cuba, the only Latin American country that the 76-year-old pope has yet to visit. AP Photo

Voters keep ban on beggars

By ROBERT MAGNALDO
NICE, France (AP) - In a victory for Nice's conservative mayor, year-round residents of this Riviera resort town on Sunday voted to keep a controversial begging ban.

Asked if they wanted to retain a prohibition on "certain kinds of requests for money or alcoholic drinks of a nature disturbing to the public order, security and public health," 66.3 percent of those who voted said "Yes."

But with only 22 percent of citizens going to the polls — the

lowest turn-out in the city's history — most of the Nicois seemed indifferent to the issue.

Mayor Jacques Peyrat, a former member of the far-right National Front, had asked Nice's 230,000 citizens to endorse his prohibition, arguing the ban is needed to stop beggars from hassling French and foreign summer tourists.

But the ban — originally instituted from last May 15 to Sept. 30 — had drawn fierce opposition from leftist politicians and social activist groups.

The Socialist Party had called it

a mean-spirited measure targeting those hit hardest by France's soaring unemployment rate, now at a postwar record 12.6 percent.

Peyrat, who left the National Front and now belongs to President Jacques Chirac's conservative Rally for the Republic party, said he would respect the wish of

the voters. Nice is one of more than a dozen towns on the posh Cote d'Azur that enacted such a ban last summer. The referendum's approval allows Peyrat to impose the ban again next year during the same May 15-Sept. 30 period.

Under the Nice statute used

this past summer, panhandlers were not arrested, though police initially picked some up and brought them outside the city limits.

Later they were offered food, bathroom facilities and medical attention at a special shelter about 12 kilometers (7 miles) away.



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS AMENDED REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Froilan C. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus C. Borja, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that, the NMHC is soliciting sealed proposals from financially sound and responsible insurance companies, which are licensed to do business in the Commonwealth, for individual borrower's homeowners hazard insurance, for twelve (12) months, with options to pay premiums on a annual or quarterly basis.

Sealed proposals will be received until 3:00 P.M. on Friday, December 13, 1996 at NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan, at which time and place all proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. The proposal documents shall be signed by the owner or authorized agent of the firm, and shall be enclosed in envelopes which shall be sealed and clearly labeled, "HAZARD INSURANCE PROPOSAL". Insurance companies shall be responsible for the placement of its firm's name and address on the outside proposal envelope.

NMHC hereby notifies all proposers that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contracts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, handicapped/disabling conditions, or national origin.

A Schedule of Properties may be obtained from NMHC's Office in Garapan anytime between the hours of 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Questions or additional may be directed to Diana Crisostimo, Manager, Mortgage Credit Division, at 234-6866/7689.

NMHC reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any and all proposals in the best interest of NMHC.

MARILOU ADA SIROK
Corporate Director

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Britain urged to be more vigilant on arms exports

LONDON (AP) - A human rights group has urged the British government to draft clearer laws to find and prosecute firms that break international embargoes after claims that a British company defied the United Nations to supply arms to Rwandan killers.

London-based Human Rights Watch said Britain needs to keep a closer watch on companies that defy embargoes, sometimes by routing the weapons through other countries.

"Too often individuals circumvent U.N. arms embargoes by organizing the supply of weapons through third countries," said Joost R. Hiltemann, director of Human Rights Watch's arms project.

"Governments must incorporate these international embargoes into their domestic laws and enforce them through all means possible," he said. "They cannot simply cast off their obligations by saying that no weapons were exported directly from their countries."

The British government is investigating allegations that Mil-Tec Corp., an arms company registered on the Isle of Man, a tax haven off the northwest coast of England, illegally supplied arms to Rwanda. The government says it has seen no evidence of violations so far.

Documents discovered in Zaire indicated the Rwandan government bought more than \$ 5.5 million worth of machine guns, mor-

tars, grenades, ammunition and other military hardware from Mil-Tec between April and July 1994.

Some shipments appeared to contravene a U.N. embargo on exporting arms to Rwanda, imposed in May 1994 following acts of genocide by the former Hutu-led government against minority Tutsis and moderate Hutus. Some 500,000 people died.

Human Rights Watch said Britain incorporated the U.N. arms embargo into its laws on June 24, 1994, but the Isle of Man, a British possession, "did not follow the usual practice of copying Britain in such matters."

"Officials have told Human Rights Watch that the Home Office's failure to request the Isle of Man to incorporate the British order into its domestic law in this instance was 'just an oversight' and that the matter would be rectified," the organization said in a statement.

Human Rights Watch urged Britain and the Isle of Man to fully investigate Mil-Tec's alleged role.

In addition, they must insist that individuals and companies who supply, deliver or arrange supplies of weapons via third countries register with the government, Human Rights Watch said.

"Such individuals and companies should be required to report their involvement in the supply of such goods to any destinations," it said.

Italian gov't lauds lira's return to rate mechanism

By DANIEL J. WAKIN
ROME (AP) - The Italian government exulted in the news Sunday night that the lira had returned to Europe's monetary system.

"It's a very important step," Premier Romano Prodi said. "It is extremely positive news for the Italian economy," he told reporters in Bologna.

"We have taken back our place in Europe," added Industry Minister Pierluigi Bersani.

Re-entry into the monetary system was a major issue of prestige for the government, which announced a harsh package of tax increases and spending cuts to decrease Italy's large deficit and create the conditions to return the

lira to the fold after four years.

Italy now is in line to become one of the founding members of plans for a single European currency in 1999.

Failure of the lira to re-enter the system would have been a serious blow for Prodi's center-left government.

The two days of talks in Brussels had been minutely followed by Italian television, and was front-page news in the nation's dailies.

"We have acquired a credibility which will benefit our businesses beyond the judgment on the level of parity, which anyway I consider acceptable," Bersani told the ANSA news agency in Rome.

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Death and Funeral Announcement

**ENRICO
MAGLANQUE**



born on November 14, 1967,
was called to eternal rest
with his Creator at the
age of 29 on Friday,
November 22, 1996.



He is survived by the following:

- | | | | | | |
|---------|---|---------------------------------------|------------------|---|--|
| Wife | - | Marinela Aure Maglanque | Daughter | - | Maico Erika Aure Maglanque |
| Parents | - | Narciso Maglanque and Anita Maglanque | Brothers/Sisters | - | Arly, Sally, Arwin, Felicidad, Melinda, Alex |

Rosary is held nightly at 8:00 p.m. at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Jojo Nuique, Chalan Kanoa, District 2.
Public viewing of the remains will be held on Friday, November 29, 1996 from 7:00 p.m.-12 midnight at the CHC Chapel.

On Saturday, November 30, 1996, the remains will be flown to Manila. Interment services in Mandasig, Candaba Pampanga, Philippines will be arranged later.

Pious readers are requested to offer prayers for the deceased and the bereaved family.

For inquiries and donations, please contact Jojo Nuique or Romeo Barcelon at Dai-Ichi Hotel, Tel. 234-6413.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

NMC RFP 97-140

ARCHITECTURAL and ENGINEERING SPECIFICATIONS FOR A BUSINESS and TOURISM LEARNING CENTER

Northern Marianas College (NMC) is soliciting proposals from qualified Architectural and Engineering firms to develop construction documents and specifications for a Business and Tourism Learning Center to be located on the As Terlaje Campus, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas. Conceptual drawings and space programming plans for the project are available for review. Copies of these documents (cost \$5.00) and RFP guidelines may be obtained from the Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Grants, P.O. Box 1250, Northern Marianas College, Saipan, MP 96950, telephone number (670) 234-5498 ext. 1524 or fax number (670) 235-0915.

Interested parties must submit two (2) copies of their proposals in sealed envelopes marked NMC RFP No. 97-140 to the Procurement and Property Management Office, P.O. Box 1250, Building N, Northern Marianas College, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 4:00 p.m., November 27, 1996. Respondent will be notified of the selection decision no later than two (2) weeks after the above closing date.

Northern Marianas College reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in proposals if determined by the College to be in its best interest. All proposals shall become the property of the NMC.

/s/Felicita P. Abraham
Administrative Vice President

/s/John T. Flores
Procurement & Property Manager

Hillblom . . . Continued from page 1

Whether UMDA or another lender will now provide money is questionable, but SA knows of no further avenue to obtain funds, he said.

"No loan will be granted the estate if the potential lender knows that it will be subject to subpoenas for internal documents and depositions of its personnel," Pierce said.

Webster's counsel said Kinney has stated her vigorous opposition to the sale of the estate's interest in UMDA.

"The loan proposal with UMDA was reasonable. The use of the Deloitte and Touche valuation represented reasonable due diligence to the immediate issue at hand, when coupled with the plan to sell the UMDA shares," he said.

Pierce claimed that Jim Dennis, president and chief financial

officer of Hillblom's Danao International Holding Ltd. in Vietnam, reported that the contractor at Dalat project has walked off the job for lack of funding.

He said David Lujan's (Kinney's lawyer) co-counsel, Barry Israel wants Danao saved at all costs and not sold.

Pierce added that Moncrieff's desire for DNA testing will have to be delayed because there is no funding to hire DNA experts or lawyers to assist those individuals.

"The court asked whether pro bono lawyers worked the case. The court heard no volunteers from any lawyers," he said.

Pierce said no bank has been willing to lend the estate funds citing the security available and the litigious nature of the probate.

"Private lending is the available recourse and that is scarce. Heller Ehrman (law firm) even contacted sources in Turkey and Malaysia," he added.

Customs . . . Continued from page 1

in FY 1996.

"This means the economy is growing and that people are spending more of their disposable income. When you see this kind of increase in revenues, it tells you that there's basically trust in the economy," said Cabrera.

Finance's Customs Division collects duties assessed on goods and commodities being brought in commercial quantities into the CNMI.

Importers of such commodities are allowed to pay either upon assessment at the ports of entry or later, within a 30-day period.

Overall Customs collections were expected to have started climbing in fiscal year 1995 owing to the higher excise tax rates implemented starting in January of last year, or three months into FY 1995 pursuant to Public Law 9-22.

Despite the enactment of a succeeding law reducing excise tax on most goods, collections remained high and Cabrera attributes that to two factors.

Tomokane . . . Continued from page 1

"I told (the board members) many times that the staff under Anicia is the responsibility of Anicia only. The board should not be involved.

"At least that's what (Tomokane) said is one of the reasons for the delay (in Camacho's appointment.)"

Tomokane, he said, should probably hire a legal counsel of her own.

MVB's counsel, David Wiseman, also gives legal advice to Tomokane.

"I think there's a conflict here (with) Anicia and the board having the same counsel. They should have different counsels."

Tenorio said that during his meeting with Tomokane, he reminded her that he, as governor, is the one accountable to the people.

"When I hired her it was with the idea of her implementing my ideas and policies. I am the one accountable to the people, not her."

"I'm answerable to the people. It's me who's going to pay for the consequences."

The Variety, on Nov. 15, broke the news on Tenorio's asking the MVB board to terminate Tomokane's appointment within 30 days.

Tomokane, according to Tenorio, "won't listen" to him.

Tenorio said it was up to the MVB board of directors to decide whether or not Tomokane stays as managing director, but he admitted that he has told the board that Tomokane is not listening to his ideas and not conforming to his policies.

Asked whether his pushing for Maggie Camacho's appointment as MVB deputy managing director and Tomokane's apparent refusal to hire Camacho was one of the main reasons behind his displeasure, the governor said yes.

But Tomokane, when asked for a comment, denied opposing Camacho's appointment.

Tomokane's two-year contract was renewed by the board last Oct. 16.

Although the board expressed some concerns on how the MVB was being run, particularly on the administrative aspect, it recognized Tomokane's "flair for promoting the CNMI."

Chechen leader lauds agreement with Moscow

MOSCOW (AP) - The leader of Chechnya's coalition government said on Sunday that a new agreement with Moscow has proved that the Chechen problem could be solved peacefully without military means.

Aslan Maskhadov, Chechnya's prime minister and commander in chief, praised President Boris Yeltsin for ordering the removal of the two remaining Russian brigades out of Chechnya that paved the way for the agreement.

The agreement was signed Saturday by Maskhadov and Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin.

"These documents that have been signed are steps confirming the peace process, steps that in the past were decided with military moves and with military aggression," Maskhadov said at a news conference in Moscow.

Yeltsin on Saturday ordered the removal of two remaining Russian brigades from Chechnya, clearing the way for the agreement.

Under a peace accord reached in August, all Russian troops were to be pulled out of Chechnya by the end of the year.

But until now, Russian officials have insisted that the two brigades had been permanently assigned to the separatist republic and would remain there.

Separatist leaders demanded that the brigades be withdrawn, saying their presence would obstruct plans to hold parliamentary and presidential elections in Chechnya on Jan. 27.

Maskhadov said he believed Saturday's agreement, spelling out basic principles of relations between Moscow and the separatist republic until the elections, will be developed even further afterward.

He said Chechnya's goal of peace without Russian troops on Chechen soil had been realized.

"It was not our goal to defeat the Russian army, that was not what we were looking to do," he

said. "We fought with all the strength we had so that on our territory, there would not be even one Russian soldier."

The August cease-fire, which halted 20 months of fighting, has largely held and the sides have made progress on a series of agreements to implement the peace treaty.

The accord, however, left open the thorny question of Chechnya's final political status.

The separatists want independence, while the Russians insist the republic must remain part of Russia.

The agreement signed in August postponed any decision on that issue for five years.

The war in Chechnya began in December 1994 when Yeltsin sent in troops to put down the mostly Muslim region's self-declared independence.

Estimates of those killed in the war range from 18,000 to as high as 100,000 - most of them civilians.

UN inspector says Iraq could be hiding advanced missile engines

By ADNAN MALIK RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) - Iraq may have removed advanced rocket engines from banned missiles and replaced them with useless, locally-produced motors before destroying the missiles, the chief U.N. weapons inspector said Sunday.

Rolf Ekeus said his teams want to test debris from 130 missile engines destroyed in 1991 and 1992, but have been blocked by Iraq from removing the material from the country.

Ekeus has repeatedly accused Iraq of hiding banned materials and attempting to deceive or block U.N. inspectors.

"Iraq had the capability to produce some home-made Scud-type engines that were useless," Ekeus told.

The Associated Press after arriving in Riyadh from Kuwait. "We are afraid that they might have been mixed into their claimed destructions."

"We want to take the remnants of these destroyed Scud missiles out of Iraq and test them in laboratories for a thorough analysis of all components to see if any were hidden," Ekeus said.

"We would like to see that the number of Scud missiles declared by Iraq which were destroyed during 1991 and 1992 corresponds with reality," Ekeus said.

Iraq insists it has laboratories where the tests could be carried out.

In Baghdad, Ekeus' deputy Charles Duelfer rejected that claim.

"Labs in Iraq are not advanced enough to tell us the

origin and when the missiles have been destroyed and we have explained this to Iraqi officials," Duelfer said.

Earlier this month, Iraqis blocked inspectors as they were trying to transport the destroyed engines to a Baghdad center after digging them out of the ground, Ekeus said.

Ekeus said the inspectors left Iraq after the incident.

Earlier Sunday, Ekeus said he would brief the U.N. Security Council on the Nov. 15 inci-

dent.

Ekeus said he expects the world body to take a firm stand against Iraq for blocking the inspectors.

Security Council resolutions adopted after Iraq's defeat in the 1991 Gulf War require Iraq to destroy its long-range missiles, biological and chemical weapons and nuclear facilities.

Ekeus is visiting Arab Gulf states to ask for support for the commission, which spends about \$ 30 million a year.

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO BID. ITB NO.: ITB97-0018 FOR: PRINTING OF THE 1996 TAX RETURN FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS. OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 3, 1996 TIME: 2:00 P.M. GOVERNOR FROILAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, IS SOLICITING COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR THE PRINTING OF THE 1996 TAX RETURN FORMS AND INSTRUCTIONS. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.). /S/EDWARD S. PALACIOS DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

LOST PASSPORT HYUN JIN LEE CHOI LOST HIS PASSPORT WHEN HIS HOUSE WAS ENTERED BY BURGLARS LAST NOVEMBER 15, 1996. THE OWNER DECLARE IT NULL AND VOID.

BUCKLE-UP SAIPAN

Marianas Variety Classified Ads Section

Employment Wanted

Job Vacancy Announcement

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01 MAINTENANCE SUPERVISOR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour Contact: HONG KONG ENTERTAINMENT (OVERSEAS) INVESTMENTS LIMITED Tel. 233-1133(11/26)T226622

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$900.00-1,500.00 per month Contact: ISLANDS CRUISE LINE (SAIPAN), INC. Tel. 233-2556(11/26)T226625

01 OPERATIONS MANAGER-Salary:\$950.00 per month 01 PERSONNEL MANAGER-Salary:\$900.00 per month 02 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANTS-Salary:\$3.50 per hour 05 SALES REPRESENTATIVES-Salary:\$3.05 per hour 03 HOUSEKEEPER (COMMERCIAL CLEANER)-Salary:\$3.05 per hour 02 BUILDING PAINTERS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour 03 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRERS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour 05 A/C & REFRIGERATION TECHNICIAN-Salary:\$3.05 per hour 20 CARPENTERS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour 03 ELECTRICIANS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour 10 MASONS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour 03 PLUMBERS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour Contact: MS. MARGIE B. TUDELA dba The Pyramid Enterprises (12/3)T63278

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$4,30-4.75 per hour Contact: CHONG'S PROPERTY MANAGEMENT CORP. dba Chong's Property Management Corp. Tel. 234-6560(12/3)T226754

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05 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour 05 WAITERS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour 05 SINGER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour Contact: AMERIANA CORPORATION dba Happiness Club (12/3)T226740

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10 NURSE-Salary:\$6,923 per hour Contact: PARAS ENTERPRISES SAIPAN, INC. Tel. 234-8804(12/3)T226743

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01 WAITRESS (NIGHT CLUB)-Salary:\$3.05 per hour 01 GENERAL MAINTENANCE-Salary:\$3.05 per hour Contact: MARGARITA A. CASTRO dba Club Scorpio/Danna's Poker Tel. 234-2176(12/3)T226734

03 MAINTENANCE MECHANIC-Salary:\$3.90 per hour 01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$900.00-1,000.00 per month Contact: FABRICLEAN OF CNMI, INC. dba Marianas Cleaners Tel. 234-6239(12/3)T63303

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01 A/C SUPERVISOR-Salary:\$4.05 per hour plus COLA-\$150.00 per month Contact: CARRIER GUAM, INC. SAIPAN BRANCH Tel. 233-2665(12/3)T63295

01 CASHIER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour Contact: JOAQUINA DLG. CHONG dba Rayna's Snack Bar Tel. 234-3485(12/3)T226731

01 MECHANIC, AUTOMOBILE-Salary:\$5.00-8.00 per hour Allowance: Housing allowance \$100.00 plus gasoline allowance \$50.00/month. 01 AUTO ELECTRICIAN-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour Allowance: Housing allowance \$100.00 plus gasoline allowance \$50.00/month. Contact: STS ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. 235-3760 226421

01 PLUMBER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour 02 CARPENTERS-Salary:\$3.05-3.20 per hour Contact: LUIS TAIMANAO CAMACHO FEED STORE CORP. dba L.T. Camacho Feed Store Corp. Tel. 234-7497(12/10)T226852

01 MASON, CEMENT-Salary:\$2.90 per hour Contact: D & S CONSTRUCTION, INC. Tel. 234-6397(12/10)T226850

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01 GENERAL MANAGER-Salary:\$800.00-800.00 per month 01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary:\$528.67-600.00 per month Contact: RTS TRADING COMPANY, LTD. dba Papa Audio Vision Center Tel. 322-3012(11/26)T63204

01 FRONT DESK CLERK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour 02 COOK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour 01 MANAGER (HOTEL MANAGER)-Salary:\$3.05 per hour 01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour 05 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour 03 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour Contact: TWO JUNE CO. dba Seoul Hotel Tel. 234-7129(11/26)T226624

14 WAITRESS/WAITER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour 03 BARTENDERS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour Contact: SAIPAN HOTEL CORP. dba Hafadai Beach Hotel Tel. 234-6495(12/10)T63437

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$800.00 per month Contact: PACIFIC MARINE & INDUSTRIAL CORP. Tel. 322-6181(12/10)T226859

01 GARDENER-Salary:\$3.50 per hour. Plus \$140.00/month food allowance Contact: TROPICAL PLAZA, LTD. dba La Fiesta San Roque Tel. 322-0998(12/10)T63412

01 MANAGER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour Contact: FU HUA CORPORATION dba Sakura Night Club Tel. 235-1118(12/10)T226858

10 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour 10 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour Contact: GRL INVESTMENTS, LTD. dba AMC Manpower Service Tel. 235-4861(12/10)T226853

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01 MASON, CEMENT-Salary:\$2.90 per hour Contact: DANIEL DELOS SANTOS dba D & M Ent. (12/10)T226844

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01 BAKER-Salary:\$4.00 per hour Contact: YONG SANG PACIFIC CORPORATION Tel. 235-2304(12/10)T226846

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01 FRONT DESK CLERK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour 02 COOK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour 01 MANAGER (HOTEL MANAGER)-Salary:\$3.05 per hour 01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour 05 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour 03 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour Contact: TWO JUNE CO. dba Seoul Hotel Tel. 234-7129(11/26)T226624

14 WAITRESS/WAITER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour 03 BARTENDERS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour Contact: SAIPAN HOTEL CORP. dba Hafadai Beach Hotel Tel. 234-6495(12/10)T63437

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EKK & MEEK®

by Howie Schneider



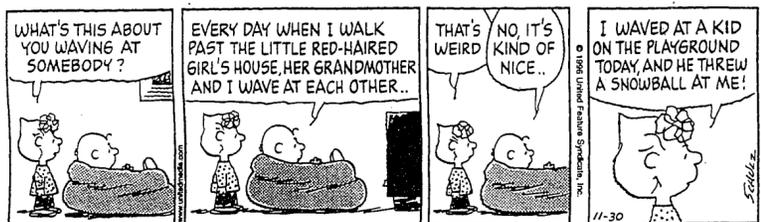
Garfield®

by Jim Davis



PEANUTS®

by Charles M. Schulz



STELLA WILDER YOUR BIRTHDAY

By Stella Wilder

Born today, you know what it means to carry on a tradition, and your interest in and knowledge of your personal heritage is the one thing that will serve you well throughout your life.

read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide. WEDNESDAY, NOV. 27 SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Your innate originality will serve you well today.

remember that you will have to get involved sooner or later. GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You must follow instructions to the letter today.

You are respectful of others at all times, provided you receive the same consideration in return. When you are faced with someone who treats you badly, you can be quite unpleasant in return.

—The possibilities will be endless, but today you may feel restricted by a hidden fear you haven't learned to dispel yet. Trust a friend to assist you. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — If you share your strengths with others, you can be both a guide and an inspiration.

—The information you receive electronically today will not be as effective as what you glean from other sources. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — You may receive a warning today, but you might not know how to follow it.

CLOSERS

Weather folklore dictates that "where lightning strikes, one can dig a well." There's a fair amount of truth to that: Lightning will often strike where there is an underground spring.

teries and recycle alkaline batteries whenever possible. Graves are their current depth because the British reasoned that six feet would provide sufficient room to allow a husband and wife to be buried atop one another — two feet per casket — while still allowing for two feet of soil covering.

The president of the United States is rendered a 21-gun salute upon arrival and departure, while the vice president, speaker of the House, foreign ambassadors and chairman of the Joint Chiefs all receive a 19-gun salute.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes 'Answer to Previous Puzzle' and copyright information.

Large crossword puzzle grid with numbered squares.

KidSpot™ SOLVE THE REBUS BY WRITING IN THE NAMES OF THE PICTURE CLUES AND ADDING OR SUBTRACTING THE LETTERS.

KidSpot rebus puzzle featuring a car and a bus. Includes the question 'WHAT'S WORSE THAN RAINING CATS AND DOGS?' and letter combinations like H+P+O-R.

Advertisement for 'THE BEST FAMILY FILM OF THE YEAR!' featuring 'FLY AWAY HOME' with showtimes and a 'MOVIE HOUSE' logo.

National Basketball Association

Sonics soar to 11th straight win

NEW YORK (AP) - The Seattle SuperSonics encountered little resistance from the New York Knicks and won their 11th straight game Sunday night 102-92 behind double-figure scoring by five players.

The Cavaliers lead the league in fewest points allowed and are holding opponents to .398 field goal shooting for the season. They held the Kings to 35 percent (24-of-68) shooting.

just enough free throws down the stretch to ice it. Rockets 90, Lakers 85 Charles Barkley's 3-point shot with 55.6 seconds remaining gave Houston its first lead of the second half, and the Rockets avenged their only loss of the season.

Houston was aided by Shaquille O'Neal's poor free-throw shooting. O'Neal had 23 points and 11 rebounds, but was just 3-of-11 from the foul line and missed all four of his attempts in the final 1:13.

Rookie Shareef Abdur-Rahim came off the bench to score 18 points and grab nine rebounds as Vancouver got its second win this season.

Shawn Kemp scored 22 points, Detlef Schrempf had 17, Gary Payton had 16 points and 11 assists, Sam Perkins made five 3-pointers and scored 15 points and Hersey Hawkins also had 15 for Seattle, which won its eighth straight road game.

It came on the fourth stop of a 10-day, six-game road trip, but the Sonics didn't show even a hint of fatigue.

John Starks, Allan Houston and Chris Childs led New York with 13 points each. Patrick Ewing shot just 2-for-15 and scored eight points, only the 32nd time in his career that he has failed to score in double digits.

Anthony Peeler added 17 points and Bryant Reeves contributed 15 points and eight rebounds for Vancouver.

San Antonio, still without injured center David Robinson, lost its fifth straight game. Dominique Wilkins led the Spurs with 26 points and 10 rebounds. Sean Elliott added 17 points, seven rebounds and eight assists.

John Starks, Allan Houston and Chris Childs led New York with 13 points each. Patrick Ewing shot just 2-for-15 and scored eight points, only the 32nd time in his career that he has failed to score in double digits.

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Lizama ... Continued from page 24

with a 68 and a 66. As if it wasn't enough Lizama also took the closest to the pin award in the seventh hole. Joe Wabol bagged the other award for a similar feat in the tournament's 17th hole.

Island ... Continued from page 24

In the scoring statistics, Island Girls outaced Mwera, 11-4; had more xunks, 4-1; scored a goal against Mwera's nil. Both teams had three kees apiece.

Graf ... Continued from page 24

the wrong side of the court, watching a Hingis winner go zipping past. As the match progressed, the Garden crowd knew it was seeing two champions on the court - today's and tomorrow's - and the fans showed their appreciation.

Every ... Continued from page 24

Coffee Shop from the third running Martha's Poker. Fourth running Paras Enterprises is just behind by one and one half wins, while both V&J and Kan Pacific are just three victories adrift.

Team Standings

Table with columns for Men's Division, Women's Division, and Team names (Nails, Macaroni, Brotherhood, Spankers, Bazooka, Doar Doulu*, Island Girls, Snappers, Mwera) with W and L records.

Call 911 for emergency

*The Doar Doulu team is off track and will be back in school January next year.

SPORTS



2nd Annual PIC Slowpitch Softball tilt

4 teams hoist unbeaten slates

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

FOUR TEAMS remain unbeaten in the Men's Division while Oreos face Miller Lite Sakau for the title in the Women's side in the rain delayed 2nd Annual Pacific Islands Club's Thanksgiving Day Slowpitch Softball Tournament at the Susupe and Koblerville Ball Fields.

Hit-N-Run, YCO Servistar, I Luv U Man, and Team Palau won their two assignments last Friday and Saturday to compose the teams coming from the winner's bracket. Tournament organizers, however,

were forced to postpone the remainder of the tournament after heavy rains made the ballfields' conditions unplayable and dangerous. The tournament resumes this coming Saturday, Nov. 30. Hit-N-Run won its opening game by routing A's, 17-6 then defeated Sedi Kau, 6-2, in its second assignment to post a perfect 2-0 win loss slate.

YCO Servistar matched Hit-N-Run's record by posting lopsided victories over Ohn Sakau, 26-2 and a 22-8 thrashing of Berma.

I Luv U Man kept pace by whipping Gonnadot, 15-9 in

their opening assignment and kept the win streak by outlasting Diamond Hotel, 10-6.

Team Palau scored the last perfect slate by edging heavily favored Big Daddy, 16-15 and trouncing PIC, 18-8 on the following day.

In the women's side, the Oreos and Miller Lite Sakau will face each other in a best of three affair this coming Saturday, Nov. 30. The first match will be played at 10 a.m. on Saturday at the Koblerville Ball Field while the next two games will be played at the Susupe Ball be-

tween 5:00 to 7:00 later in the evening. The Runnin Rebels won third place.

Four more teams remain in contention in the men's division. A's, Ohn Sakau, Gonnadot and Guam's Big Daddy make up the teams coming from the loser's bracket.

A's defeated Halina's Kitchen, 18-9 and ousted Sedi Kau, 9-5 for a 2-1 slate. Ohn Sakau, on the other hand, racked two wins against Kepelol, 12-6 and Berma, 14-7.

Gonnadot kept its championship bid alive by outlasting

La Familia, 16-13 and Diamond Hotel, 14-4.

Big Daddy justified its tag as one of the tournament's heavy favorites by routing the Tribes, 24-4 and PIC, 16-6.

In the resumption of the tournament, Hit-N-Run will go up against YCO Servistar while I Luv U Man takes on Team Palau in the battle of undefeated teams.

In the loser's bracket, A's will face Ohn Sakau while the other pairing pits Gonnadot against Big Daddy. A loss by any team in the loser's bracket will mean elimination from the tournament.

for RGA's season-ending event

Lizama wins; bags last ticket

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

AFTER two close shaves, Joe Lizama finally did it.

Lizama earned the last ticket to the Refalawasch Golf Association's (RGA) season ending Ace of Ace Tournament when he edged Jess Castro through a tie-breaker to win the RGA's December Ace Tournament last Saturday, Nov. 23 at the Kingfisher Golf Links.

Both players shot a net 71 but Lizama earned a slot in one of RGA's major tournaments when he was declared the winner through a countback. Lizama parred the 18th hole while Castro bogeyed.

Jess Wabol's net 74 gave him third place.

Lizama toured the greens with a gross 76 but his five handicap gave him a net 71 score. Castro, on the other hand, finished the fairways with a gross 87 but his -16 handicap enabled him to tie

Lizama.

Lizama's feat finally gave him a slot in the season ending tournament after two close calls. Lizama was the top qualifier in the April and in the November Ace Tournaments but failed to win both

when two other players shot better than him. Lizama shot a 68 for April and a 69 for November but Joe Camacho and Ed Flores beat him for the monthly honors by finishing

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Joe Lizama

Rocball

Island Girls beat Mwera in O-Kan

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

THE ISLAND Girls needed two days and an extra period in beating stubborn Mwera in the women's division of the 14th Annual World Organized Rocball Tournament at the Pugua Court of the Marianas High School.

In a see saw game characterized by shutout set wins, the Island Girls won the first set by blanking their opponents, 11-0.

Mwera, however, came back in the second set by posting a 10-0 score. The Island Girls took the third with a similar 10-0 blitz but another Mwera comeback in the pivotal fourth extended the game. Mwera took the set via a 10-0 shut-out. With Mwera's fourth set win, the score was pegged at 21-20, or a one-point lead by the Island Girls.

Rocball rules state that a team can only win in four sets if its total

points are three more than its opponent and the a team wins the fourth set.

With both teams failing to accomplish the two rules, the match went on in an o-kan (overtime).

In overtime, a team can win the match in two ways—either by scoring the first eight points, whether on an offensive or defensive play, or by scoring a goal in the extra period.

Island Girls finally notched their third win in four starts by racking eight points.

There were a total of 15 aces, five xunks, six kees, and one goal scored throughout the match.

Donella Somol served nine aces or one ace short of the tournament's record of ten in a game.

Somol likewise added one kee and one goal for a total of 23 points in bagging the game's heavy hitter honors.

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Graf wins Chase Championship

By BOB GREENE

NEW YORK (AP) - Icing her left knee on every changeover during the final hour, Steffi Graf outlasted a limping Martina Hingis in five sets Sunday to win the \$2 million Chase Championships.

Graf beat the 16-year-old Swiss star 6-3, 4-6, 6-0, 4-6, 6-0 in 2 hours, 49 minutes to capture this season-ending tournament. It was the second straight year and fifth time in her career she has won this event.

The victory was worth \$500,000 for Graf. Hingis, the youngest player, male or female, to earn \$1 million in a year, earned \$250,000.

On the final point of the seventh game of the fourth set, Graf

twisted her knee. At the end of the next game, Hingis began limping and rubbing her left thigh.

Two points later, she lay on the floor, trying to stretch her thigh. When the umpire gave Hingis a code violation for delay of game, the Madison Square Garden crowd vented its displeasure.

Following that game, in which she lost her serve, Hingis left the court with the trainer and returned five minutes later. She then broke Graf in one of the longest games of the match, 18 points, to close the set and send the match to the fifth set for the second straight year.

Graf immediately broke Hingis at love to begin the decisive set. Then came another long game, with Hingis yielding no ground.

The German held, but not before fighting through five deuces and staving off two break points. And when Graf broke to lead 3-0, the outcome began to become apparent.

"Wherever she goes, she wins," Hingis said. "She's so unbelievable."

Graf closed the match by holding at 15, serving the final two of her 13 aces.

Time and again Hingis showed the future of women's tennis is already here. Her deep groundstrokes kept Graf pinned behind the baseline or chasing from one corner to the other. But it was the way she changed the ball's direction and her shot selection that left Graf standing on

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Adam and Eve Mixed bowlfest

Every win counts

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

WITH ONLY two teams assured of at least a second place finish, the rest of the 12 team field in the Adam and Eve Mixed Bowling Tournament scramble for better positions tonight as the league enters the crucial 22nd week at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Country House and ITC Enterprises, with 56-28 and 53-31 win loss slates, are considered beyond the reach of third running Martha's Poker with just 12 games remaining in the 24 week tournament.

Martha's Poker, however, is not assured of having the third slot once the tournament enters the position round because even cellar dwelling Shirley's Coffee Shop has an outside of unseating Martha's and even the rest of the teams in the current team standings.

Despite being at the bottom of the team standings with a 37-47 slate, only six wins separate 12th running Shirley's

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