

Slay suspect falls

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

GUAM police arrested Monday night the fifth suspect in the slaying of a grocery owner during a robbery at the Chalan Market in San Antonio last Nov. 13.

Public Safety Information Officer Sgt. Franklin Babauta said 16-year-old Shawn Appleby has

Alleged '5th man' in grocer's murder nabbed in Guam

been under Guam Police's custody in connection with the murder of Byung Ok Suh.

Deputy Atty. Gen. Loren Sutton confirmed the report, saying Appleby was scheduled for a court hearing on Guam last night.

The police arrested last week

on Saipan four suspects identified as James Michael Sablan Ada, 20; Joseph Lizama, 18; Arthur Lizama, 17, and Bo Sung Kim, 16.

Court documents showed that it was Appleby who informed the group that they would conduct a robbery at Dong Yong Market in Susupe two days before they struck at Chalan Market.

In the new complaint filed by the Attorney General's Office, all five suspects were charged with murder in the first degree.

Superior Court Associate Judge Timothy Bellas on Monday granted AGO's motion to file superseding information and to dismiss a separate criminal case against Joseph Lizama as these charges have now been incorpo-

rated in the new complaint.

The new complaint adds nine counts—two counts of theft, two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, and five counts of accessory after the fact.

The other charges were conspiracy to commit burglary, burglary, conspiracy to commit robbery, two counts of robbery, two counts of theft, murder in the first degree.

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Sablan calls DOLI staff for 'pep talk'



Thomas O. Sablan

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

LABOR and Immigration Secretary Thomas O. Sablan, fearing demoralization has crept into the ranks of immigration operatives following a "rape case" that rocked the

Department called in all staff assigned to the unit for a pep talk at his office yesterday.

Called in employees assigned to the immigration division, especially those assigned to the airport and other

points of entry, Sablan said he assured them that reforms being worked out by his office would not be hampered by the incident.

"I needed to talk to them (staff) and assure them that what happened will not in any way affect the Department's efforts to effect reforms. The office will continue working for these reforms," he said.

Police arrested an immigra-

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Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio, Lt. Gov. Jesus C. Borja (left) and Retirement Fund Board of Trustees Chairman Vicente Camacho (right) shovel sand to signal the start of construction for the new Retirement Fund Building project right across the Administration Building in Capitol Hill.
Photo by Jojo Dass

Calonge replacement as RP consul known

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

A LADY diplomat is set to replace Philippine Consul Generoso Calonge when the latter's term on Saipan ends next month.

In an interview, Calonge said he is expecting his replacement, Julie Heidemann to arrive early January next year.

Heidemann, a Filipina married to a retired US airforce officer, according to Calonge, served as part of Philippine diplomatic missions to the Hague, the Netherlands; Seoul, South Korea; and Honolulu, Hawaii.

She is expected to pursue Philippine interests in the CNMI,



Generoso Calonge

which include ensuring that provisions of RP's 1995 Migrant Workers' Act, specifically that on the granting of free housing and food allowance, are

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Governor praises, then objects to Retirement Fund building project

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio yesterday broke off reading a speech praising the Retirement Fund's new building project, and said that he actually has "lots of reservations" about it.

"Honestly, I really don't like it," he said during yesterday's groundbreaking ceremony at the construction site, which is across the administration building on Capitol Hill.

The government, Tenorio added, should not be competing with the private sector.

Likewise, the government should not have used public land as collateral for a loan from the Retirement Fund, he said before an audience that included the agency's managers and board of

trustees.

"My administration would have borrowed money without going to Retirement Fund."

Tenorio said he favors constructing new classrooms or even a new building for the Legislature, but "a government agency competing with the private sector—I'm sorry but I don't like it."

Tenorio later told the media that the speech he read came "obviously" from Retirement Fund.

"I don't know who (wrote the speech), but I'm sure (the Retirement Fund people) did it," he said.

The speech mentioned that one of the three floors of the new building will be used by the Retirement Fund, while the two remaining floors will be leased "to generate income."

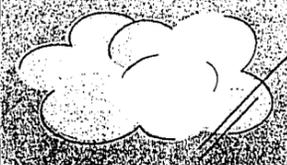
One of his consultants later told

Tenorio that what he said "was...crazy, but it has to be said."

The government, the consult-

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Weather Outlook



Partly cloudy with isolated moderate to light showers.

'There's ice on moon'

By LAURA MECKLER
WASHINGTON (AP) - The moon, long thought to be bone dry, has a pond of ice hidden deep inside a crater, scientists disclosed, increasing chances that humans may someday live on its surface.

The discovery came from the Clementine spacecraft, which used lasers to examine the depths of the moon's deep craters.

Officials at the Pentagon, who co-sponsored the project with NASA, planned an announcement of the find-

Find fortifies theory man may live there someday

ings at a news conference Tuesday.

"If you could wish for any one thing there to make it easier to explore with, it would be water," said Anthony Cook, astronomical observer at the Griffith Observatory in Los Angeles.

The ice was found in a huge crater deep in the south pole of the moon, said Rick Lehner, spokesman for the Pentagon's Ballistic Missile Defense Organization. He said that a panel of

scientists have concluded that the ice is frozen water.

Lehner said the crater is twice the size of Puerto Rico and 13 kilometers deep, or as high as Mount Everest, the tallest peak on earth. He said the ice formation is the size of a small lake and is between 10 and 100 feet (3 and

30 meters) deep.

"People have theorized that there may be water on the moon but the (six) Apollo missions didn't find any evidence," he said.

Scientists believe that about 3.6 billion years ago, a comet crashed into the moon, and water droplets on

its tail were left in the bottom of the crater, the deepest hole in the solar system, he said.

Because the southside of the moon is always dark, the temperatures in this crater are near minus 230 degrees Celsius, or nearly as cold as any environment can ever get. The water couldn't escape from the crater's "cold traps," he said.

PNG volcano erupts

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (AP) - Emergency services in Papua New Guinea are on standby to evacuate 7,000 villagers from Manam Island following a volcanic eruption there Tuesday, officials said.

National Disaster and Emergency Services director general Leith Ander-

son said the eruption spewed ash thousands of feet into the air.

"It erupted rather violently at 3pm blowing ash up to 20,000 feet," he said.

"The island's covered in a blanket of ash and there's lava flowing in three valleys."

Manam Island is situated off the

northeast coast of Papua New Guinea.

Anderson said there were unconfirmed reports that two people had died following the eruption.

He said hundreds of villagers have been moved from the north of the island to the southern side to avoid the lava flow.

Mubarak to meet with Gadhafi

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) - President Hosni Mubarak flew to the Egyptian-Libyan border Monday for a meeting with Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi on topics including terrorism and continued United Nations sanctions against Libya.

Mubarak flew to the military post of Sidi Barani on the Mediterranean sea, 70 kilometers (44 miles) east of the border. From there, he was to drive to the Libyan port of Tobruk, 130 kilometers (81 miles) west of the border.

Libya has been under U.N.-im-

posed bans on air travel and arms sales and limits on diplomatic relations since 1992, after Gadhafi refused to hand over two Libyans suspected in the 1988 bombing of an American airliner that killed 270 people over Lockerbie, Scotland.

Gadhafi says the two suspects cannot be guaranteed a fair trial in the United States or Britain.

Mubarak has been trying to work out an end to the sanctions. But Britain and the United States have rejected Arab proposals to try the two men in the World Court in the Hague,

in Scotland or in another neutral country.

Gadhafi was last in Egypt in June when he violated the air travel sanctions and flew to Cairo to attend an Arab summit. The United Nations said this violation was unacceptable and warned Gadhafi not to repeat it.

Gadhafi flew back home and was given a hero's welcome.

The Lockerbie issue, Middle Eastern affairs and bilateral relations are also expected to be discussed by the two leaders. Presidential aides said Mubarak was expected to spend the night in Tobruk and return Tuesday.

Tinianian school project stops

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff
THE CONTRACTOR Guerrero Brothers Inc. has suspended construction work at Tinian High School due to funding problems, it was learned yesterday.

Tinian High School is now operational, but Lyle Bicknel, facility specialist of the Public School System, said the Guerrero Brothers has at least 15 percent remaining work to finish.

"They stopped their activities since Nov. 18 because they feel that they need additional money to cover the construction costs which have gone up due to inflation," Bicknel said.

There have been delays in the arrival of construction materials due to lack of money, Bicknel added.

The Guerrero Brothers, Bicknel said, is asking for an additional \$800,000 to cover the costs of the remaining work.

"We're still reviewing the request.

We're still looking into the situation. It's just a matter of sitting down," Bicknel said.

When contacted by the Variety, Pedro R. Guerrero, president of the Guerrero Brothers Inc., said he would comment "as soon as the matter is resolved."

The Guerrero Brothers was contracted by the government to undertake phase I of the federally funded school project.

The first phase of the project costs \$4 million.

Bicknel said the contractor has so far completed about 85 percent of the job which constitutes the administration building and the cafeteria.

The contractor is still working on the parking lot, the vocational and agricultural buildings.

Aside from the unfinished portions of the school complex, Bicknel said PSS is also looking at proposed change orders that include water tank, addi-

tional drainage and some utility work.

Labor problem is also hounding the Guerrero Brothers.

Senior investigator Mike Bayer, of the US Labor Department's wage and hour division, said the company still owes its workers their salaries.

The workers have not been getting paid for several months.

The Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs has withheld

the release of some \$74,000 pending resolution of the labor problem.

Bayer proposes that the labor office be allowed to undertake payment of the workers using the contractor's 10 percent retention money in the PSS account.

"This exists as an option, but we cannot do that without the consent of the Guerrero Brothers," Bayer said. "That's their money."

In any government contract, the agency always keeps 10 percent of the total payment to the contractor to serve as security fund.

Bayer wants the PSS to channel the retention money directly to the labor office.

"That's the official way to work that out. The procedure has not occurred because the parties have not been officially contacted," Bayer said.

Hitchhiker robs driver at gunpoint

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff
A 42-year-old man was reportedly robbed at gunpoint by a male hitchhiker in Gualo Rai Monday before dawn.

Public Safety Information Officer Sgt. Franklin Babauta said the robber took the victim's \$1,800 cash.

Babauta said the suspect was described as 5'7" tall, dark complex-

ioned, and wearing a white T-shirt and blue jeans.

Initial investigation showed that the victim came from the cockpit in Gualo Rai when he saw the suspect signalling for a hitchhiker.

The suspect asked the victim to stop the vehicle near Century Store then pulled a handgun.

At gunpoint, the suspect demanded money. He warned the victim not to

report to the police.

The robber fled on board a vehicle which was parked near the area.

Meanwhile, a 17-year-old boy reportedly committed suicide by hanging himself from a tree in Capitol Hill Monday morning.

The victim was a friend of a 16-year-old boy of Capitol Hill who also hanged himself from a tree in Dandan last September.

Mine explosion kills 91

BEIJING (AP) - A gas explosion in a coal mine in Shanxi province has killed 91 miners, local officials said Tuesday.

The explosion occurred on Nov. 27, and 91 bodies have been recovered, provincial government spokesman Ni Yuan said in a telephone interview.

Local hospital officials said it was not known how many miners were in the mine, and a search for other victims was continuing.

China's state-run national news media did not report about the disaster. Shanxi's main newspaper reported it days after it occurred, a practice that is not unusual in China.

The explosion occurred at the Dongcun mine, a locally owned mine at Guojijayao town near Datong, one of China's main coal mining regions in the north-central part of the coun-

try.

Shanxi, China's top coal-producing province, has many state-owned, locally owned and illegal coal mines.

Fatal accidents in China's coal mines have been increasing, especially in township or privately run mines, the China Daily reported last month. The industry generally has poor labor safety conditions leading to gas explosions, fires, mudslides and shaft collapses, it said.

In a regulation that took effect on Oct. 30, the Ministry of Labor called for enforcement of the Mining Safety Law. Officials said the new regulation outlined safety equipment and training, and guidelines for handling accidents.

In May, a gas explosion at a coal mine in Henan province in central China killed 84 miners and injured 68.

Foreign currency deals in NMI register growth

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff
FOREIGN currency transactions in the CNMI continue to expand, Banking Director Oscar C. Carnacho has reported.

In 1995, Carnacho's report said, \$34.4 million worth of Japanese yen was purchased by foreign exchange companies.

This represents an 11.7 percent jump from the \$30.8 million worth of yen bought in 1994.

A total of 17 foreign currency exchange companies bought yens, including such hotels like the Aqua Resort, Diamond, Nikko, Pacific Islands Club, Saipan Grand, Dai-Ichi, Hafa Adai Beach, Hyatt Regency, and Coral Ocean Point Resort Club.

Other firms that exchanged dollars with yen and other currencies were the CNMI Currency Exchange, Duty Free Shoppers Saipan, Hakubotan Saipan, Saipan Connection, Laolao Golf Shop, Pacific Island Promotion, TBK Money Exchange, and Saipan Laulau Development, Inc.

Of the 17 companies, DFS Saipan led by purchasing \$14.5 million worth of yen, with Hotel Nikko coming in

second (\$4.1 million) and TBK Money Exchange third (\$2.58 million).

Dai-Ichi Hotel was fourth with \$2.1 million and Hakubotan fifth, \$1.9 million.

The sixth to tenth highest yen buyers are:

- Saipan Grand Hotel, \$1.5 million;
- Diamond Hotel, \$1.48 million;
- Hafa Adai Beach Hotel, \$1.43 million;
- Hyatt Regency, \$1.36 million; and
- CNMI Currency Exchange, \$1.34 million.

The figures for the rest of the companies are, in descending order:

- Aqua Resort Co., Ltd., \$1.08 million;
- Coral Ocean Point, \$377,177;
- PIC, \$302,946;
- Saipan Connection, \$65,566;
- Saipan Laulau Development, Inc., \$42,548;
- Laolao Golf Shop, \$38,957; and
- Pacific Island Promotion Ent. Inc., \$14,103.

Other currencies traded were Korean won, \$18,668; Hong Kong dollar, \$4,571; Australian dollar, \$3,496; and Taiwan dollar, \$1,504, for a total of \$28,238.



Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio enjoys a light moment with his uncle and potential 1997 opponent, former Gov. Pete P. Tenorio, during yesterday's groundbreaking ceremonies for the new Retirement Fund Building project in Capitol Hill. Photo courtesy of PIO

Fund says gov't credit union not in compliance with loan condition

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff
THE RETIREMENT Fund yesterday expressed concern over the Commonwealth Government Employees' Credit Union's alleged failure to comply with conditions on the payment of the \$1 million the former has released to the latter, a situation that has apparently been causing a delay in the release of the fund's second half.

"They [CGECU] have not began the repayment of the \$1 million which is one of the conditions set. And that's what we're concerned about," said Edward Manglona, RF Administrator.

The CGECU is mandated to have \$2 million in initial funds sourced from the RF. The first half was released last August. Manglona said there will be a delay in the release of the other half until after the CGECU has complied with the conditions on the payment of the first half.

"Not all the conditions have been complied with. And this is tantamount to a delay in the release of the

other \$1 million," he said.

"I understand they [CGECU] are still working on the conditions. And we're just waiting for them to fulfill it. That's just part of the bargain," he added.

The conditions, Manglona said, supposedly include "a string of monthly repayments."

"The conditions are time-bound. Its a string of repayments like they're supposed to pay this much for this month and again this much for the next month and so on," explained Manglona.

However, the CGECU has thus far paid back a mere \$7,338 in interest covering the first 90 days of the CGECU's receipt of the \$1 million.

"The money is in there. They'll get it when they have complied with the conditions," Manglona assured.

David Sablan CGECU General Manager, in a recent interview with the Variety, has said that the credit union is already running out of funds having loaned out the \$1 million to 114 members.

He said the CGECU already has a

pending loan petition of more than \$1 million filed by 1,165 members. Given the situation, he said, the credit union may not have the needed fund to accommodate the estimated 1,200 retirees now covered by the CGECU as recently mandated by Public Law 10-37.

Sablan has expressed hope the RF will release the other half by the end of last month.

"It is too early right now for them to request for the \$1 million because some of the conditions require more time to be accomplished," Manglona however said.

Pressed if there is anything the RF can do considering that the CGECU is now supposedly running out of cash, Manglona said: "I don't know. They agreed to those conditions. And we're just waiting for them to fulfill it."

The CGECU, seen as the rebirth of the Saipan Credit Union, was recently revived through Public Law 9-52 signed by Gov. Froilan Tenorio. The SCU folded up allegedly due to bankruptcy and mismanagement.

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The divisive nature of primaries

THE political process known as the "primary" is fertile ground to reopen old wounds or open new ones where friendship instantly melts into adversarial relationships. These political mangles turn into serious injuries resembling open wounds from a chronic diabetic whose injuries take a long time to heal, if at all.

Such is the nature of political primaries in an archipelago where the indigenous people are traditionally good natured giving deference to cooperation rather than confrontation. In a non-political season, filial unity and affinity are at their best. It's all forgive and forget. But when the political season sets in, healthy relations turn benign, if not, malignant. It's a complicated puzzle where unity crumbles with all its strange yo-yo strength and fragility. I suppose the love-hate relationship is even more pronounced in small island communities.

The GOP primary is done and I was rather saddened by the way we have turned friendship and respect into sacrificial lambs where we give credence to an arbitrary divide that turns us into complete warring factions or adversaries. Unfortunately, such is the nature of a democratic concept that is still relatively new in this part of the world. But it is the only most democratic vehicle to settling competing interests, no more, no less.

This divider was never a part of our traditional filial unity since time immemorial. It used to be that a leader in island communities emerges by quiet acclamation. He's the wiseman of the village whose reputation is irrefragable, his words the law of the land. This practice has receded into history when participatory democracy sets in in the mid-fifties.

Local politics was racist at the embryonic stage. It was between Chamorros and Carolinians. It was about adultery and every conceivable big time mudslinging under the sun. It was never about issues. But through time we've pulled ourselves out of racial tendencies and negativism and have given greater prominence to social issues and policies. And we certainly have come a long way from the days of voting for anything for as long as it is labeled "Popular Party".

For now, the Philippine Seas is divided by the powers of politics right down the middle. Four political Moseses will be in our midst by the time 1997 rolls around. Their political commandments will be scribbled on Budweiser or Lite Beer boxes. From atop the highest peak on the island, we will hear their voices trumpeting why this set of laws is better than the other.

One would be banking on the strength of strong rapport with the grassroots level, nurtured and nursed over the last 24 years. Another would try to wear a different hat employing education as his agenda even against a previous record. Yet another would attempt to bridge his message to the same constituency however all uphill, exchanging a well rehearsed "why me over him" as the other issues retaliatory barbs parroting the same phrase.

If anything, the electorate isn't poised for sophisticated style politics. It's way beyond their heads and a bid too hard to chew, muckless, swallow. They prefer ice cream over a doctor-prescribed medicinal bitter pills. They care less about qualifications or specific positions on issues. It takes more than high road stance to grab their attention. As an issues-oriented person, even I get discouraged by such sentiment. But it is one of the fallacies of democracy which defies political principles, concepts and analysis. The onus then is on the candidate's ability to bridge his message, a monumental task unto itself.

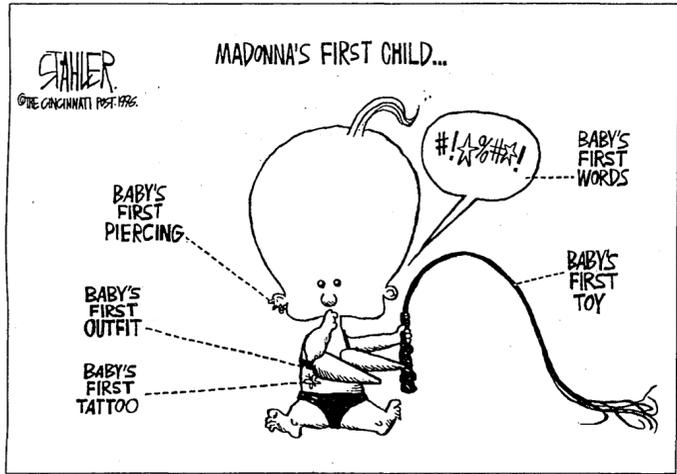
How unfortunate that the electorate wants to be pampered by political saviors. They'd drink your beer and gobble-up chasers, staggering as they try to weave their way through the crowd. Some may be out of their wits, but they know who they want and a quick visit to this or that camp is simply a day or night time picnic for them. It'll take its toll—not his lukewarm support—but your out of pocket expenses, including your career.

Elections are won by securing public sentiment. President Lincoln once said "Public sentiment is everything. With it nothing can fail, without it nothing can succeed." If you think you've done well, that bridge still needs some repair work and you must move in now to ensure its safety before your followers make the final crossing.

If you claim to have built a bridge, perhaps it's best that you check if it hasn't buckled under since the last time you saw it. If you're still dreaming of building one, you have a long bridge to build between now and November of 1997. Now, if you feel that you've built that bridge yet people are fearful of crossing it with you, I think you better assess whether you're the problem or the bridge or both.

In quiet moments, I'd dwell why "everybody wants to be governor". Is it the power trip and the glory or the definite notion that you're at liberty to institute changes in public policies? Or is it the privilege to ride the most powerful wave on this side of the Pacific? Whatever the reason(s), the most coveted seat has its moments of loneliness at the top. It's not all gravy and succulent steak. It includes a mix bag of bread crumbs from the public menu.

The race for the gubernatorial slot should be in full bloom beginning in January of 1997. It's all grassroots politics from A to Z. Those you've helped will remember you vividly for you have eased their pain when they least expected you to be by their side. Those you've hurt would forgive, but will never forget. Those you've rewarded will find disdain in the master-slave relationship and he/she would surrender to the other side. Human beings shy away from painful experiences while they gravitate and recreate joyful ones. Most prefer the latter experience. Grade yourself and if it isn't an "A", then you've failed! Slam the brakes or go ahead and play the merry "Santa Claus ain't coming to town".



JACK ANDERSON and JAN MOLLER
WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Drug abuse plagues America's seniors

WASHINGTON—Older Americans have a serious drug problem.

Election-year attention has focused on teen-age drug abuse, but "the other drug problem" in the United States, equally large and potentially just as fatal, is prescription drug abuse and misuse among the elderly.

One-third of all prescription drugs in this country are bought by people over 65 years old, even though they represent only 13 percent of the population. And senior citizens are particularly vulnerable to addiction and tragic side effects from misuse of those drugs.

The late Rep. Claude Pepper of Florida told us time and again how shocking it was when senior citizens would come to his health subcommittee hearings with large plastic bags filled with pills of every variety. "These were medications that had been prescribed for them, and which they were supposedly taking simultaneously," he recounted.

William Simonson, professor at Oregon State University's College of Pharmacy, recalled the case of one older woman admitted to a hospital for "drugged behavior." Indeed, she was taking 75 different prescription and nonprescription medications. Convinced that she needed all these pills to remain healthy, she was going to many different pharmacies—and lived in fear of having the drugs taken from her.

Our associate Dale Van Atta, who interviewed dozens of experts and reviewed trade literature on the subject of prescription drug abuse, learned the following about this crisis:

—As much as 10 percent of all hospital admissions in America can be attributed adverse drug reactions caused by medication. The greatest portion of that number are the elderly, who may experience additional medication problems from the hospital drug regimen.

—Twice as many people in America die from prescription drugs every year as from illegal narcotics like cocaine and heroin, of all drug related deaths, experts have found 70 percent involve prescription drugs. And of these prescription drug-related deaths, at least half were individuals over 60 years old.

—The chances that a doctor will prescribe a drug during an office visit is three in five. That's partly because of pressure from the patient. Older Americans in particular view drugs as panaceas, because they were condi-

tioned earlier in their lives to expect such miracles with the discovery of penicillin and the polio vaccine. If a doctor fails to prescribe a drug when they see an elderly patient, that patient may go to another doctor who will.

—Many seniors tend to take drugs prescribed by different doctors at different times, when those drugs shouldn't be mixed at all. Worse, one expert explained to us, "these children of the Depression hoard and loan." When a doctor takes them off a drug, they save them for use at a Tater date. And often the elderly swap drugs among family members and friends, without ever consulting a doctor.

—The elderly often mistakenly assume that if one pill is good for them, then two must be better—a dangerous misconception.

—Finally, they figure medicine that can be bought over the counter is harmless since it requires no prescription. Interestingly, this is not even true with vitamins. Studies have found that megadoses of vitamin C taken by the elderly can cause diarrhea, kidney stones and even senility. Excessive amounts of vitamin A can cause loss of appetite, dry skin, bone calcium loss and an increased pressure on the brain that feels like a tumor.

One of the two best methods to curtail these problems is a "brown bag" review. A conscientious doctor, before prescribing for an elderly patient on the first visit, should ask the patient to gather up every prescription and over-the-counter drug in their medicine cabinet or elsewhere and take it in a bag to the doctor's office. Only with such a complete picture can a doctor properly prescribe a new-drug regimen for an elderly patient.

The second-best controlling measure is the drug utilization review, which is kept by responsible doctors and pharmacies. The DUR is a computerized list that tracks all medication the patient has used or is currently using. Some computer programs automatically raise a red flag if drugs appear on the list that shouldn't be mixed.

Neither of these methods are fail-safe because they are both subject to the same human error: the patient who may haphazardly or deliberately provide an incomplete brown-bag selection or list.

But they're a start to slowing down the growing prescription drug abuse problem.

Tenorio resigned on Camacho

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff
GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio yesterday said he would not ask Labor Director Francisco M. Camacho to reconsider his decision to retire.



Froilan C. Tenorio

"I wish I can find somebody just as good or better (to appoint) in his place, but this is already the second time around (so) I won't ask him to reconsider."

Tenorio said Camacho has again cited health reasons for his decision to leave government service, "so I guess I have to believe him."

In an interview with the Variety Friday, Labor and Immigration Secretary Thomas O. Sablan said Camacho will retire effective Dec. 20. It was the

second time this year that Camacho said he was retiring. Camacho cited health considerations for his decision to leave, the same reasons he had when he first announced his retirement in

early August of this year. Camacho in late July said he was leaving by the end of last August, an announcement that took many people by surprise. Retiring government employees normally opt to leave at the end of the year to maximize pension benefits.

Camacho was eventually "prevailed upon" by Sablan and Tenorio to reconsider.

His latest announcement to retire contradicts his earlier "commitment" to remain at the division until the end of Tenorio's term as governor.

Sablan again expressed sadness over Camacho's decision to retire. But, he added, he is better prepared for it now than before.

"It is his privilege to retire.



Francisco M. Camacho

If I can't stop him, there's nothing I can do but we'll be ready to look for a replacement," said Sablan.

He said he would like to recommend someone, but if the

governor has someone in mind, "I defer to him."

Sablan said he would prefer someone in the Labor and Immigration Department to take Camacho's job.

"Maybe we should have somebody from in-house. I would prefer somebody who has an understanding of labor-related matters like the Labor and Immigration Identification System (LIIDS) and immigration," Sablan said.

That way, he added, transition will be a lot easier for the next director.

Camacho is retiring after over 16 years in government service. Prior to the Labor Division job, Camacho was deputy director for the Department of Public Safety under the then governor Lorenzo I.D.L. Guerrero's administration.

Firm cleared of liability over dead employee's medical bills

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff
THE SUPERIOR Court issued a decision yesterday clearing a private firm of liability for medical expenses incurred by a Filipino contract worker who died of illness in 1994.

the progress of Salgado's complaint with the Department of Labor and Immigration (DOLI).

The petitioners filed a motion requesting the lower court to review Labor's decision denying ACI's petition for declaratory ruling.

Named as respondents in the suit were Epifania Salgado, DOLI, Secretary Thomas O. Sablan, labor hearing officer Linn A. Asper, CHC, and the Attorney General's Office.

Salgado worked for ACI for approximately three years. On May 8, 1992, his employment contract expired. ACI elected not to renew his contract.

Prior to the expiration of his contract, Salgado filed a complaint before DOLI alleging various labor violations. On May 12, 1992, Salgado, through counsel, Joe Hill, filed a formal amended complaint alleging non-payment of wages.

DOLI failed to schedule a hearing. The record indicate that an informal "good faith" settlement conference was scheduled, but ACI failed to attend, read the lower court's order.

On Nov. 1, 1993, or 18 months following the expiration of Salgado's contract with the company, the worker suffered a heart attack and consequently confined at CHC.

Salgado was transferred to a hospital in Manila on Dec. 17, 1993. At CHC's request, ACI paid the repatriation costs. On Feb. 6, 1994, Salgado died.

On Oct. 16, 1995, Asper entered a written order denying ACI's petition for declaratory decision concluding that the firm was liable for Salgado's medical expenses.

In so ruling, Asper stated that ACI's "medical responsibility for Salgado did not end 30 days after termination because there was a

pending labor case and because complainant was allowed to remain in the Commonwealth."

Asper also ruled that "because ACI did little or nothing to advance this labor case" it is not reasonable to transfer ACI's responsibilities to Mr. Salgado or CHC.

In overturning Asper's ruling, Bellas said the court finds it was not necessary for Labor to conduct hearing to determine Salgado's employment contract status because his employment contract with ACI had expired.

Bellas said Salgado was therefore effectively terminated on May 8, 1992, the date his employment contract with ACI expired.

It is undisputed that petitioners, pursuant to the requirements of the Nonresident Worker's Act, assumed responsibility for Salgado's medical coverage while he was an employee, said the judge.

"The court finds that it was reasonably foreseeable for petitioners, and any employer entering into such an agreement, to expect to assume responsibility for a nonresident worker's medical coverage while that employee pursues a complaint with the Labor," Bellas said.

The judge ruled that an employer is responsible for a nonresident worker's medical expenses for up to 96 days after the date the employment contract has expired when, upon expiration of the employment contract, the employee files a complaint with the Labor Chief for alleged labor violations.

"Because Salgado's medical bills were incurred approximately 18 months after the expiration of his employment contract, unless petitioners have waived their contractual rights, petitioners have no obligation to pay these bills," Bellas concluded.

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No more money for teacher scholarship

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff
THE CNMI Scholarship Office says it cannot grant the Public School System's request for financial assistance to the teacher scholarship program because it is not included in the agency's current budget.

"(We) are in no position to release money until funds are provided for," Scholarship Administrator Maggie Camacho said.

She was responding to a Nov. 26 letter of Education Commissioner William Torres who was seeking "an extra \$7,000 above the basic CNMI scholarship that (the scholars) are receiving now."

Torres reminded Camacho that the release of additional money for the

education students was agreed upon by all concerned parties during a public hearing conducted two weeks ago by the Senate committee on health, education and welfare programs.

The public hearing tackled the bill that proposes the establishment of the Teacher Scholarship Program which will complement the existing Teacher Academy of the Marianas High School.

At the hearing, committee chair Sen. Paul Manglona urged the Scholarship Board to release the additional budget request of PSS.

"Please remember that the CNMI is in dire need of local teachers. These future teachers need the additional financial help

now," Torres wrote Camacho.

Camacho, for her part, said her office would grant the request "as soon as the funds are made available."

The present budget of the office, Camacho said, does not provide for the teacher scholarship program.

Camacho said she is banking on the legislators' assurance that "a supplemental funding would be appropriated to accommodate the needs of our future teachers."

"They even indicated that they would be liable if funds were not accorded," Camacho said.

She added: "We hope that they will incorporate our financial needs with the amendments being addressed while they work on the FY 1997 budget."

Salary for governor should be increased, says Tenorio

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff
THE BILL that would give government officials an increase in their salaries would not affect the pay he is currently getting, but Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio yesterday said he still believes that the CNMI's highest elected official should be "well compensated."

Tenorio said the CNMI governor receives less than what the Commonwealth judges get.

"I think the governor should be making as much as the judges or a little bit more," he said. "The governor...should be well compensated."

Tenorio added that he himself is

surprised why people want to be governor, when the opportunity to make money is in the private sector.

"I do hope that we don't get into a situation where you have to be wealthy to run for governor. I guess we have to increase the salary of the governor to make it competitive with the private sector."

WSU, NMC to pursue regional travel center

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff
THE Washington State University College of Business and Economics' Hotel and Restaurant Administration Program is collaborating with the Northern Marianas College to develop a regional Travel Learning Center, it was learned.

According to a recent issue of the *Hospitality & Tourism Educator*, the Program's publication, the regional center is meant to serve all of Micronesia.

The center will be placed under the NMC's Professional Programs, whose dean is Antonio DeLeon Guerrero.

It will offer courses leading to Associate and Bachelor's degrees, management development programs and entrepreneurial training, the publication said.

Accordingly, the Center will focus on low-impact and high-value tourism, since the tourism infrastructure in many of the Micronesian island states "is underdeveloped."

"In some areas," the publication

said, "both ecosystems and social systems are fragile."

The WSU hotel and restaurant administration (HRA) program was founded in 1932 and prides itself on its being an innovator in hospitality education.

For the past 12 years, the program "has been a leader in developing innovative international programs," the magazine said.

One of these international programs was the transfer program between a private Swiss hotel school and the WSU, which allowed students from Europe to earn a baccalaureate degree in the United States and US students to benefit from a semester abroad.

HRA also established a link with the International Institute of Tourism and Management in Krems, Austria, which permitted the Institute's graduates to complete a WSU baccalaureate degree in Europe.

The same agreement was recently inked for graduates of the International College of Hospitality Administration in Brig, Switzerland.

Interior officials coming to discuss technical aid

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff
TWO officials from the Department of Interior are scheduled to arrive on Saipan this weekend to discuss with local officials technical assistance requests from the federal government, according to the department's field representative to Saipan Jeff Schorr.

Schorr said Darian Knoblock, director of the Office of Insular Affairs' technical assistance branch, and technical assistant James Johnson will be on island for a three-day visit.

The two federal representatives, Schorr said, will meet with local officials "to sort out the local government's request for technical assistance."

Technical assistance constitutes a major part of the interior department's

efforts to measure and mitigate the impact of Compacts of Free Association.

In its Compact Impact report submitted to Congress last September, the department stated that from 1989 to 1996, the CNMI has received four technical assistance grants totalling \$1.2 million.

The department has recommended that the federal government increase its technical assistance to the CNMI.

Education Commissioner William Torres is among the local officials who will meet with Knoblock and Johnson.

Torres said he will present to the interior officials the Public School System's after-school and intermediary programs which are both funded through the technical assistance money.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Council for the Humanities

December 3, 1996

ANNOUNCEMENT

The CNMI Council for the Humanities invites the general public to attend a grant writing workshop. The workshop will focus on how to prepare a grant application for a humanities project. The public will also have the opportunity to review the Council's program and make comments and suggestions. The workshop is free and open to everyone. Place, date, and time as follows:

Tinian	December 11, 1996 - 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.	NMC Campus Room E
Rota	December 12, 1996 - 6:00 - 7:00 p.m.	Art Gallery Building
Saipan	December 17, 1996 - 6:30 - 7:30 p.m.	Joeten-Kiyu Public Library Conference Room

For more information, please call ron Barrineau at 235-4785.

Line-veto of budget looms

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff
GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio yesterday said he may have to line-item veto portions of the fiscal year

1997 budget bill.

He said his staff is not yet through reviewing the bill passed by the Legislature Friday, but he was already told that the budget for the

Attorney General's Office (AGO) has been reduced by half a million dollars.

The budget bill would give AGO almost \$3 million for fiscal year 1997.

"I don't know how we can fight crime over here if we have this mentality that (AGO) should not have competent and sufficient staff," Tenorio said.

"Unless we have good attorneys it'll be costing us money because then we'll lose cases in court. (For) me, nothing is more important than (having) a competent (AGO)."

The governor said if he can not restore the cuts made on the AGO's funding level, he will include additional money in a revised budget he will be submitting.

Tenorio, in an interview Monday, said he will "most likely" sign the budget bill.

"I hope they didn't mess it up,"

he said, referring to the Senate amendments to the bill.

When told that most of the amendments concerned Tinian's funding allotments, the governor said he has an "understanding" with Tinian's legislative delegation "so if that's the only problem I'll sign it."

The Senate and the House of Representatives in back-to-back sessions Friday passed unanimously the new budget bill that would allot \$204,981,600 for the government's operations and programs, and would provide for the hiring of 118 new government full-time employees (FTEs).

The bill does 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.

But the bill, which normally would now go to the governor for

his approval, has to be reviewed after House Majority Leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) pointed out "discrepancies" in the worksheets for the second senatorial district.

The bill would allow the governor to identify or reprogram the \$2.9 million funding for the 118 FTEs.

However, the bill "exempts" the funds for medical referral, public health and the Department of Public Safety from any reprogramming.

The bill also provides for an increase in the salary of government employees, to be paid out of a "special account" taken from quarterly unexpended ("lapsed") funds.

Rota and Tinian would get \$15.2 million each, some three million dollars more than their budgets for fiscal year 1996.

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

US court to adopt new rules

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff
THE rules of the federal district court for the Northern Mariana Islands have been revised and will take effect Jan. 1 next year.

The revised local rules cover civil, criminal, habeas corpus, bankruptcy, admiralty, tax, and disciplinary procedures.

According to Randy K.R. Schmidt of the office of District Judge Alex R. Munson, certain rules were changed significantly.

Munson, in his memorandum to all members of the district court bar, said the revised rules include several changes mandated by federal law and that rules duplicating federal rules had been either eliminated or revised.

"Numerous small changes have been made in the rules and practitioners are requested to familiarize themselves with all the new rules," Munson said in his memo.

Practicing lawyers, under the new rules, are not allowed to file their clients' complaints and other documents through the facsimile machine if they are on Saipan. Only attorneys whose main office is not on Saipan, who have no local office, or who are temporarily off island can do facsimile filings.

Munson said there were no major changes in the criminal, habeas corpus, bankruptcy, admiralty, tax, and disciplinary rules, but that a "re-reading of all these rules is requested."

Munson thanked those who "took the time and effort to review the draft rules and make suggestions."

"The new rules should assist both the court and practitioners by eliminating unnecessary rules and clarifying the responsibilities of all parties," he said.

Hard copies of the new rules (130 pages) are available to the public from Faye Crozat at Munson's office. One may also bring a blank diskette if he or she wants a diskette copy in WordPerfect 5.1.



Alex R. Munson

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PLAY BREAK. Two schoolchildren from the Northern Marianas College's laboratory school are momentarily distracted from their play when the Variety focused its lens on them during a visit. Photo by Rick Alberto.

Marshalls fund reaps earnings

By Giff Johnson
For the Variety
MAJURO- After a mid-year lull, the American stock market's rise in the past two months has pushed Marshall Island's nuclear compensation investment fund back to the \$100 million mark. The fund had dipped below \$100 million recently because of quarter payments to nuclear test affected is-

landers. In the 10 years that these U.S. provided funds have been invested, the funds has paid out \$180,985,000 to people from the nuclear-affected atolls, a special compensation organization known as the Nuclear Claims Tribunal, and for other activities such as a nationwide radiological survey. A total of \$89 million more must be paid out over the next five years to

meet the compensation goals of Compact of Free Association between the U.S. and the Marshall Islands, said Smith Barney vice president Daniel Roland who was in Majuro this week, giving a quarterly report on progress with the fund. Although the earnings on the investments did not hit the astronomical high of 1995, the Smith Barney investments earned at a very respectable rate of 17.3 percent for 1996 fiscal year (through September 30), according to Roland. In 1986, the U.S. provided a \$150 million investment fund to pay compensation claims in the Marshalls Islands. The treaty between the two countries requires that a total of \$270 million be paid out over the 15 year life of the Compact, which ends in 2001, to satisfy claims of islanders who were affected by the 66 American nuclear weapons tests at Bikini and Enewetak atolls.

Smith Barney now manages only 25 percent of the total fund with the balance supervised by Paine Webber. "Our equity managers are doing a great job," Roland said. "They're blowing away the market." Roland said that the stock market managers used by Smith Barney have consistently performed better than the stock market averages. "Any fears that people have that the fund won't be able to make (the required) payments are groundless," he said. Earlier this year, Roland estimated that the fund could have approximately \$50 million when the Compact ends in 2001. Based on the continuing strong performance of the stock market, this is still a very reasonable assumption, he said. The Nuclear Claims Tribunal's portion of the fund is limited to \$45 million, and already the Tribunal has made almost \$50 million in compensation awards because of a continu-

ing flow of cancers and other radiation-caused illnesses among Marshall Islanders. Since the mid-1990s, Tribunal officials have warned that the \$45 million it is receiving is grossly inadequate to meet both personal injury and land damage claims pending. In a population of under 60,000, the Tribunal has provided compensation to about 1,400 individuals. Roland's prediction that there will be a sizeable fund left in 2001 is good news for Marshall Islanders who have received only partial percentage of their total compensation awards from Tribunal. It means that for people who have claims with the Nuclear Claims Tribunal there is hope of continuing payment of compensation on the post-Compact period because the Compact provides that a percentage of the investment interest is to be used to continue paying claims.

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Air New Zealand and United join forces in South Pacific

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) - Air New Zealand and United Airlines have signed a partnership agreement to strengthen their services in the South Pacific, the two airlines said in a statement Tuesday. The agreement allows for an increase in the number of city-to-city connections between the two airlines and for code sharing arrangements between the United States, New Zealand and Australia. Air New Zealand and United will also offer mutual frequent flier privileges and shared lounges to customers, plus a one-stop check-in, seat assignment and baggage service. United Airlines is one of the world's largest airlines and is majority-owned

by its employees. Air New Zealand managing director Jim McCrea said in a statement the new alliance marked a breakthrough for the airline into the North American market and extends the services that can be offered to its New Zealand and Australian customers. "Both airlines will offer a wider range of services as they compete to win customers for their code-shared flights. At the same time, they will achieve more efficient use of aircraft capacity," McCrea said. The alliance arrangements between the two airlines will be introduced progressively from next March and will be subject to some government approvals, the statement said. "Air New Zealand is a particularly attractive South Pacific partner for us, with its strong regional structure and significant stake in the airline and travel industries of both New Zealand and Australia," United's president and chief operating officer John Edwardson said in the statement. Air New Zealand recently purchased a 50 percent stake in Australia's Ansett Australia, which has some sharing arrangements with United. Tuesday's deal was widely expected by the airline industry. There has also been speculation that Air New Zealand will strike a similar deal with Singapore Airlines.

Northern Marianas Housing Corporation
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Saipan, MP 96950

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 proposals from licensed companies in the Commonwealth engaged in providing building maintenance services to provide, on an "As-Needed Basis", maintenance of its Central Office and Section 8 Housing Units in Saipan.

Sealed proposals will be received until 10:00 A.M., Wednesday, December 4, 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, which are available at NMHC's Office, shall be signed by the owner or authorized agent of the firm, and shall be enclosed in an envelope which shall be sealed and clearly labeled, "BUILDING MAINTENANCE PROPOSAL". 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.

Proposal Specifications may be obtained at the NMHC 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 information may be directed to Shirino Ngrasmau, Technical Maintenance Division at 234-7689/6866.

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

MARYLOU ADA SIROK
Corporate Director

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing agency"

Nakamura seeks funds for temporary bridge

PALAU President Kuniwo Nakamura submitted to the Olbiil Era Kelulau a bill to provide immediate funding for the construction of a temporary bridge to replace the collapsed K-B Bridge. The proposed budget amendment act would appropriate \$3.8 million from available Compact capital account funds to construct the bridge and for widening the road on both sides of the channel, a news release from the president's office said. In his transmittal letter to the OEK presiding officers, Nakamura requested both houses of the Congress to immediately convene a special session to consider the legislation.



Kuniwo Nakamura

The funding amount of \$3.8 million is to be broken down as follows: \$3,222,000 in contract costs; \$235,000 to reimburse the contractor for ROP taxes; and \$343,000 to widen access roads to the bridge on both sides. The contractor for the project is Daiho Corporation, a reputable engineering firm in Japan said to be one with a track record for high quality work and services. Daiho was selected for offering the best proposal out of nine others. The deal with Daiho becomes official only after the OEK enacts the appropriation bill, the news release said. The President's transmittal letter spells out in full detail the social and economic impact of not having a temporary bridge. It also reported on the steps that have been taken to facilitate transportation between Koror and Babeldaob. "I know that each member of the Olbiil Era Kelulau is keenly aware of the inconvenience associated with the temporary transportation system between Koror and Airai which has been established. We expect that improvements will be made in increments," said Nakamura. The president said two ferries will soon be in operation, which will provide greater capability to carry goods, vehicles and people. The first ferry is expected to begin operations during the first week of December and the secondary ferry should be able to begin its operations shortly thereafter. The ferries are expected to dramatically improve transportation between Koror and Babeldaob until a temporary bridge is constructed and becomes operational. Meanwhile, the temporary bridge

Taiwan eyes diplomatic relationship with Palau

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) - Taiwan is expected to establish diplomatic ties with the Pacific island of Palau following its recent diplomatic setback when South Africa decided to switch relations to Beijing, the official news agency reported Monday. Reporting from Palau, the Central News Agency said President Kuniwo Nakamura told Taiwanese National Assembly Vice Speaker Hsieh Lung-sheng he would visit Taiwan this month to discuss the issue. Foreign Ministry spokesman Peter Cheng confirmed the visit, but refused to comment further on the report. Palau does not have diplomatic ties with rival China, which regards Taiwan as a renegade province.

South Africa, by far the largest and most influential among Taiwan's 30 diplomatic allies, announced last week that it plans to set up diplomatic ties with China by the end of next year. Taiwanese Foreign Minister John Chang was to leave for South Africa Monday for talks on Pretoria's decision.

Military rejects judge's finding that troops were involved in Miriung slay

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (AP) - Papua New Guinea's military Monday rejected a judge's finding that implicated soldiers in the assassination of a senior politician on the strife-torn island of Bougainville. Lt. Col. Tokam Kanene, who commands government troops there, said an inquiry by a Sri Lankan judge, recruited especially for the inquest, lacked integrity. Bougainville's Premier Theodore Miriung was shot dead on Oct. 12 on the island, which has been wracked by a rebel guerrilla war since 1988. Miriung had been regarded as a peacemaker with both friends and enemies in the government and the military as well as among the secessionist Bougainville Revolutionary Army. Announcing his initial findings on the weekend, Judge Thiravanukkarasu Suntheralingham said there was enough circumstantial evidence to show that as many as seven soldiers and one military-aligned civilian were involved in the assassination. He also said that some witnesses had been too intimidated to give evidence. In a telephone interview with Australian Associated Press,

Kanene said the inquest had been one-sided. "I'm questioning the whole integrity of the inquiry. They've just interviewed people from one side," he said. "They haven't done justice to the security force. They haven't bothered to ask us any questions even though we were accused of being implicated early on." The government has yet to respond to the judge's finding. In the past both sides of the conflict have accused the other of committing atrocities. Bougainville is about 1,200 kilometers (750 miles) northeast of the capital, Port Moresby.

being proposed will take approximately six months to complete and could be in service for about four years. Moreover, a permanent replacement bridge will be constructed, a project that could take up to two and half to three years or more to complete. "We have tried to ensure that each of these incremental steps is cost-effective. At the end of the use of the ferries, these boats will have a residual value to allow the Republic to recoup some of its costs, or, to utilize one or both ferries for transportation to outer islands," said Nakamura. Similarly, when the temporary bridge is no longer needed, various parts of the bridge (i.e. the barges on which it is proposed to be based) will have a substantial resale value or could be used elsewhere in Palau," he added. Finally, the President called on the Olbiil Era Kelulau to expedite its approval process saying "I believe that we can all easily agree that there is an urgent need for an appropriation for the construction of a temporary bridge. Accordingly, it is my sincere hope that the Olbiil Era Kelulau will enact this legislation as quickly as possible," he said. He added, "If we delay the temporary bridge, or forego this approach altogether, the long-term costs, both directly and indirectly in economic and in social harm, will in all likelihood increase dramatically, and in the very near future will far exceed the requested appropriation of \$3.8 million," said Nakamura. "It is the best interest of all Palauans, in terms of continuing our economic development and reducing the strain on our social obligations, to move from the current barge and boat system to a ferry boat system to a temporary bridge and finally to permanent bridge as quickly as possible," said Nakamura.

Heavy weapons haul in PNG

PORT MORESBY (PNS)—A 50-millimetre cannon was among an arsenal of weapons and ammunition police in the Western Highlands Province of Papua New Guinea confiscated during an early morning raid on an expatriate's residence Friday. Provincial police commander John Wakon says it was the single largest haul of weapons and ammunition made by any police unit in the country to date, Post-Courier reports. Apart from the cannon - of a type which Wakon says was normally mounted aboard ship or used as an anti-aircraft gun - the haul included an air rifle, a .22 rifle, a .38 pistol and a .45 pistol, two pump action shotguns, two sawn-off shotguns, an air pistol and five flare guns. There were also 22 sticks of dynamite, 42 shotgun cartridges, eight pistol bullets, 307 rifle bullets, one 50 millimetre shell for the cannon, 3400 shotgun pellets, a hand grenade, and many other accessories including dynamite lines, detonators, gun holsters and gun cleaning equipment. Police have charged an Australian - Jeffery Charles Gardener, 45 and his son William Gardener - with a range of firearms possession charges.

HYATT REGENCY SAIPAN

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Philippine President Fidel Ramos, right, and his Chinese counterpart Jiang Zemin belt out an Elvis Presley original "Love Me Tender" during last night's state dinner for the visiting Chinese leader at the Malacañang presidential palace in Manila. Jiang was on a three-day state visit to the Philippines after attending last week's APEC summit. AP Photo

RP, China exchange military attaches

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - The Philippines and China have exchanged military attaches in a sign of improving ties after a strain over a territorial dispute, officials said Monday.

The Philippines' military attaché, navy Capt. Rafael Vilches, has been accepted by China in Beijing and his Chinese counterpart, army Col. Liu Changpao, arrived last month in Manila, Philippine and Chinese Embassy officials said.

The exchange was one of several agreements forged by Defense Secretary Renato de Villa and his Chinese counterpart during de Villa's visit to China in July, the first by a top Philippine defense official.

A Philippine official said the presence of the military attaches would help the countries reduce discord over their conflicting claims to the Spratly Islands in the South China Sea.

Last year, the Philippines protested China's building of concrete platforms on Mischief Reef, one of several areas in the Spratly Islands claimed by both Manila and Beijing.

China said the platforms were shelters for fishermen but the Philippine government said they could be used militarily.

The Spratlys are claimed in whole or in part by China, the Philippines, Taiwan, Vietnam, Malaysia and Brunei.

Chinese President Jiang Zemin was in Manila last week for a three-day state visit during which he and President Fidel Ramos witnessed the signing of four agreements to boost trade and agreed to set aside their conflicting territorial claims to concentrate on improving trade relations.

It was the first visit by a Chinese president to Manila since diplomatic relations were established in 1975.

Report says RP trade gap to rise to \$25-B by 2001

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - The Philippine trade deficit is likely to balloon to \$ 25 billion in five years as the country increases imports of capital equipment and raw materials, a consulting group says.

AYC Consultants Inc. said in a report that the trade gap will be aggravated by an expected slowdown in exports of electronic goods next year, part of an Asia-wide trend.

The report, prepared for the APEC Business Advisory Council, a business group convened by the 18-nation Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, said the trade deficit will widen sharply until 1998, AYC officials said Monday.

After that, exports will begin growing faster than imports, but the trade gap will continue to

widen because of the sheer size of imports, they said.

The Philippine trade deficit was \$ 9.09 billion in 1995 and is expected to hit \$ 12 billion this year.

However, the report shared the view of many economists that the trade imbalance does not reflect a fundamental weakness in the Philippine economy.

Instead, it said, imports of capital equipment such as factory machines will result in greater production and higher exports in the future.

The study said large amounts of money sent home by overseas Filipino workers will cushion the impact of the large trade deficit.

But critics say the large remittances mask the failure of the government to develop the domestic economy and create jobs locally.

Oil prices in RP rise today

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - Petroleum prices in the Philippines are to rise 50 centavos (2 cents) per liter effective Wednesday, with another round of adjustments scheduled for Dec. 15, the Energy Regulatory Board said Tuesday.

The latest adjustments to petroleum prices have been bunched into the same month because the November price adjustment was postponed

due to the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, which the Philippines hosted last month. Oil price rises are often accompanied by protests, which the government hoped to avoid during the APEC meetings.

The price adjustments, which have been made monthly since September, are to prepare the oil industry for full deregulation in March 1997.

From Wednesday, the price of premium gasoline in the Philippines will rise 50 centavos (2 cents) to 10.76 pesos (41 cents) per liter, while diesel, the most widely used fuel for public transport will rise 50 centavos to 8.07 pesos (31 cents) per liter.

Any adjustment in gasoline prices above 50 centavos is shouldered by a government buffer fund to minimize the impact on consumers.

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PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

PSS RFP97-004

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting proposals from interested firms in providing to the Public School System with a proposal to procure copier machines for G.T. Camacho Elementary, Garapan Elementary, Tanapag Elementary, San Antonio Elementary, Koblerville Elementary, Hopwood Junior High School, Marianas High School, Rota Elementary School and Trinitan High School. The proposal requirement is available and may be picked at the PSS Procurement and Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan during regular working hours from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday except Holidays.

All proposals to be submitted must be marked "RFP97-004" and submitted to the Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan, no later than December 13, 1996 at 2:00 p.m. Any proposals received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

A nonrefundable fee of twenty five dollars (\$25.00) must accompany the proposal. The twenty five dollars may be a certified check, a cashier's check, or other forms acceptable by the Public School System, and made payable to the Public School System Treasurer. The proposer is requested to submit with his proposal a copy of his business permit. The Public School System reserves the right to award or reject any and all proposals to the best interest of the Public School System.

Should the Public School System foresee a need for a discussion with prospective proposers, please be informed that discussion may be conducted with responsible offeror for the purpose of clarification and to ensure a full understanding of, and responsiveness to the solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revision may be permitted after obtaining submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offer.

Inquiries to this RFP announcement may be directed to the Procurement & Supply Office at telephone number 664-3701.

William S. Torres
Commissioner Of Education

Louise Concepcion
Procurement & Supply Officer

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B.Ghali's African backing weakens

By ROBERT H. REID
UNITED NATIONS (AP) - The president of Africa's regional association says the time has come for African countries to submit other candidates for the top U.N. job because of U.S. opposition to Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali.



Ambassadors Alfredo Lopes Cabral, of Guinea-Bissau, left, Egypt's Nabil El Araby, center, watch as Botswana's Ambassador Legwaila Joseph Legwaila, gestures while talking to reporters at the United Nations Friday. The United States ruled out any compromise extending the tenure of U.N. chief Boutros Boutros-Ghali, as pressure mounted on African leaders to submit new candidates or risk having the post go to a non-African. The council met behind close doors to discuss the election of a new secretary-general. AP Photo

hopes for remaining in office after his term expires Dec. 31. Western diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said they expect the Africans to begin suggesting alternative candidates to the Security Council, possibly by the end of this week or next week.

The issue of the secretary-general has been deadlocked since the United States vetoed Boutros-Ghali's candidacy in the Security Council on Nov. 19. But Boutros-Ghali remains in the race, and the Africans had declared they were united behind him.

The OAU endorsed Boutros-Ghali for a second, five-year term at its July summit in Cameroon. African envoys repeatedly have told the Security Council that because of that endorsement they could not nominate other candidates.

China, Russia and France have also supported Boutros-Ghali, citing the OAU endorsement. As permanent council members, those three countries could veto any candidate opposed by the Africans.

The other permanent council member, Britain, voted for Boutros-Ghali but says the U.S. veto means "alternative solutions" must be found. That has been interpreted to mean Britain would no longer support Boutros-Ghali in future voting.

In a letter sent to fellow African heads of state, a copy of which was obtained by The Associated Press on Monday, Biya noted that the OAU endorsement had failed to convince the United States to drop its opposition to Boutros-Ghali.

Biya said council members "appear favorable to the principle of a second mandate for Africa" in the post. In order

keep an African in the top job, Biya said in the letter, which was sent Friday, that it was time for African states to submit "other candidates" along with Boutros-Ghali.

He urged African governments to move quickly since a new secretary-general must be chosen by the end of Boutros-Ghali's term on Dec. 31.

The United States, which has accused Boutros-Ghali of not being aggressive enough in pursuing reform, cast the lone negative vote against him in the 15-member council.

It was unclear when the council would meet again on the secretary-general issue. Council President Francesco Paolo Fulci of Italy conferred Monday with fellow council ambassadors on the issue.

British Ambassador John Weston said that once the Africans submit alternative candidates, he expects council members to take unofficial "straw votes" to winnow out the weaker nominees.

Some Africans mentioned unofficially as potential candidates are Undersecretary-General Kofi Annan of Ghana, head of the U.N. peacekeeping operation; former Nigerian Prime Minister Hamid Algbid, secretary-general of the Organization of the Islamic Conference; the Ivory Coast's Foreign Minister Amara Essy; Olara Otunnu, a former Ugandan ambassador and head of the International Peace Academy in New York; OAU Secretary-General Salim Salim of Tanzania; and Senegal's Foreign Minister Moustapha Niasse.

Once the council has selected a nominee, the name goes to the full 185-member General Assembly for ratification. Assembly President Razali Ismail of Malaysia wants to complete the ratification by Dec. 17.

Asia's 'miracle' boom over

HONG KONG (AP) - Asia's economies have settled down from boom to steady purr, an American economist says. *But growth prospects still looking good*

The slowdowns of 1996 are "really a consequence of well-managed soft landings from overheated levels in 1995," Stephen Parker of the Asia Foundation told a Hong Kong audience Monday.

The reasons were fiscal policies, cyclical trends and weakened demand from major Western economies, he said.

Parker said he expected

future Asian growth rates to be moderate, solid and sustainable. "East Asian economies are maturing," he said.

He said the fact that governments had the political will to apply the brakes when their economies started to overheat demonstrated "a very good sign of stability in the region," especially since many of these governments owe their power to economic stability.

He said the two countries that may still have the vigor to rebound fast are Vietnam, whose growth rates average 9 to 10 percent a year, and the Philippines, which grew more than 6 percent in 1996.

The Asia Foundation describes

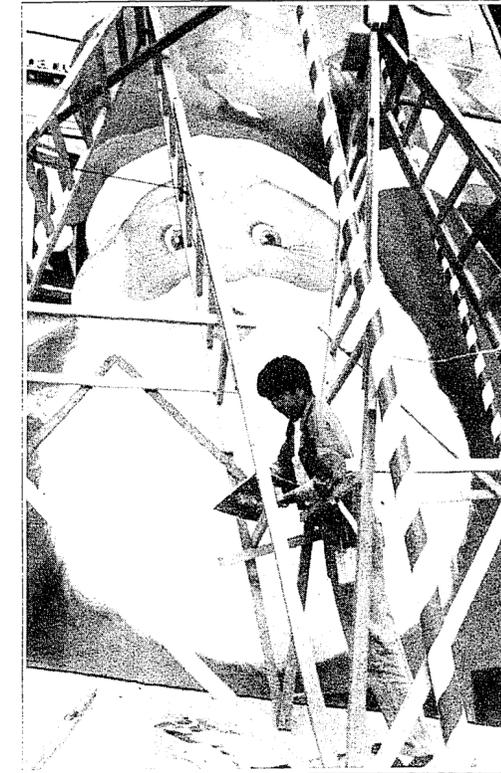
itself as a private group, partly supported by U.S. congressional funds.

Turning to U.S.-China relations, Parker said one-quarter of U.S. Congress members are "absolutely gunning for a fight."

There is a considerable amount of power that still looks at China very suspiciously.

These critics are well-informed but their attitudes stem from the Cold War era, he said.

Another one-quarter regard good relations with China as paramount, mostly for business reasons, Parker said.



A painter works on a large picture of Santa Claus Friday, in Hong Kong's business district. The territory has started its Christmas preparations for the last Christmas under British colonial rule. AP Photo

Man walks to hospital with penis after wife cuts it off

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) - A policeman whose wife cut off his penis as he slept following an argument over a love affair walked bleeding to a hospital, where the severed organ was re-attached.

Police Sgt. Maj. Sompong Kejkowit, 38, said Monday that he had been drinking heavily before returning home Saturday night and fighting with his wife, Vachirakorn, about his mistress.

"I was so drunk that I did not feel much pain when I woke up in the middle of the night and found my wife had cut my penis off," Sompong said.

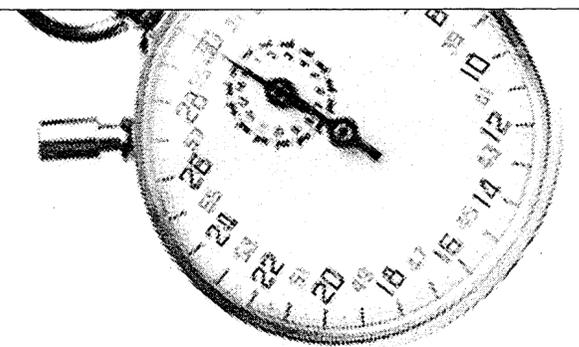
"I was afraid that I would probably faint before reaching the hospital, as I lost a lot of blood."

The penis was surgically re-

attached and Sompong's doctor said it would function normally after two weeks. Since the assault, the policeman's wife has cared for him at the hospital and the couple are working out their differences, Sompong said.

"It is a good lesson for all men who have done something wrong to be aware while they are sleeping," Sompong said.

Such mutilations, known as "feeding the ducks," are not uncommon in Thailand. Local hospitals have developed some of the world's most advanced re-attachment techniques. Specialists on Thai culture, which places great value on self-control and avoidance of conflict, attribute such attacks to explosions of long-repressed anger and jealousy.



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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.

"NMHC is an equal opportunity and fair housing public corporation."

CPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS

NOTICE OF MEETING

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Froilan C. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus C. Borja, through the Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors, hereby give notice, that the regular meeting of the CPA Board of Directors will be held on Monday, December 16, 1996 at 10:00 a.m. at the CPA Seaport Office Conference room, Charlie Dock, Puerto Rico, Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda for the above-referenced meeting:

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes (November 8, 1996)
- II. CORRESPONDENCE
- III. COMMITTEES REPORT
 1. Finance Committee
 - a. Adoption of Financial Statements
 2. Seaport Facilities Committee
 3. Airport Facilities Committee
 4. Other Committee (if any)
- IV. EXECUTIVE REPORT
- V. OLD BUSINESS
 1. Jack Atalig's Relocation
 2. Taxi Operator Dress Code
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
 1. Bid Award - Parallel Taxiway A
- VII. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)
- VIII. (Executive Session) LEGAL COUNSEL'S REPORT
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ Victor S. Hocog
 Chairman, Board of Directors

November 27, 1996

Yeltsin suspends top general

MOSCOW (AP) - The general in charge of Russia's ground forces has been suspended by President Boris Yeltsin for actions "incompatible with his duty."

Yeltsin's order did not elaborate on the charges against Gen. Vladimir Semyonov, the Interfax news agency said Monday.

Semyonov, who commanded ground troops in the war in breakaway Chechnya, told the news agency Monday that the reasons for his suspension "remain unclear to me." He said Defense Minister Igor Rodionov had informed him of the move.

Yeltsin's decree relieved Semyonov of his post "for actions discrediting the honor and dignity of a serviceman and incompatible with his duty," the Interfax report said.

Yeltsin's press office would not immediately comment on the president's decree.

It was not clear whether Semyonov was being permanently dismissed. A spokesman at Ground Forces headquarters maintained the action was only temporary.

Semyonov "is an honest general. He has never built any dachas or been involved in any corrup-



Boris Yeltsin

tion. He has never said anything against the president or the defense minister," said the spokesman, Alexander Stepanov.

Semyonov, 56, was named head of ground troops and deputy defense minister after the failed Soviet coup in August 1991. Seen as a protégé of then-Defense Minister Pavel Grachev, he remained in his post after Grachev was fired in June.

The last Russian troops began pulling out of Chechnya over the weekend, under terms of a peace agreement reached in August. The withdrawal is expected to be completed in late January.

US says renewed sanctions vs Serbia a 'live possibility'

By SLOBODAN LEKIC
WASHINGTON (AP) - Urging Serbian authorities not to crush an unprecedented wave of public protests, the United States warned on Monday that the reimposition of economic sanctions remains "a live possibility."

The warning is the clearest signal so far to Serbia's autocratic president, Slobodan Milosevic, that the Clinton administration would retaliate if he decides to stifle demonstration against his refusal to accept the results of last month's municipal elections.

"The Serbian government stole the elections, and the Serbian government has to be accountable to the people for that action," said State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns.

Responding to a reporter's query on the reimposition of sanctions, State Burns said "that question is a live possibility for us."

"We will reserve the right to take any action necessary to express our displeasure at this fundamental refutation of the democratic rights of Serbian people," he said.

"I know of no indication that it will be exercised this week or next," Burns said. "But it's certainly an option that the Serbian government has to be aware of."

Tens of thousands of people have demonstrated daily since the government last week annulled election victories by an opposition coalition in 15 of Serbia's 18 largest cities, including the capital Belgrade.

"Our government has made it perfectly clear ... to the Serbian authorities, at every level and

with a variety of different individuals who are responsible for public order and for security, that the United States would be outraged if any attempt was made to use force against the demonstrators," Burns said.

Although the protests have been mostly peaceful, the police threatened on Sunday to use force to disperse the demonstrators.

The international community originally imposed economic sanctions on Serbia in 1992, to punish Milosevic for his role in fomenting the war in Bosnia. The embargo - which devastated Serbia's economy - was lifted last December, after Milosevic recast himself as a peacemaker and played a crucial role in securing a peace accord for Bosnia.

In a related development, Burns denounced the Bosnian Serbs for pulling out of an arbitration panel set up to rule on conflicting claims regarding the future of Brcko, a town in northern Bosnia straddling a strategic land corridor.

Both the Serbs, who hold it, and the Muslim-Croat federation seek control over the area, which is patrolled by U.S. troops belonging to the international peace implementation force. The question was left unresolved in the peace agreement.

"With or without their direct participation in the arbitration proceedings, the arbitration tribunal for Brcko will reach a decision," Burns said. "The Bosnian Serbs are obligated under the (peace) agreement to accept and implement the independent decision that the arbitration panel will make."

Riot police disperse rally

RANGOON, Burma (AP) - Riot police dispersed hundreds of demonstrating students outside Rangoon's holiest shrine at dawn Tuesday following a night-long protest critical of the military regime.

About 150 heavily armed police pushed and pulled the students onto trucks at the southern gate of the Shwedagon Pagoda, where they had been blocked from going any further after a night of sit-ins and marching around the Burmese capital.

It did not immediately appear that the students offered resistance or were beaten. No police mounted the trucks that carried them away, presumably back to their campuses. Reporters that had followed the protest through the night parked by the police beating of several students following a dispute with a food stall owner. It was targeted at police brutality and was largely apolitical.

The latest demonstration, however, showed clear political overtones critical of the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council, or SLORC. Some students carried banners saying, "We Want Freedom" and "Give Us Human Rights."

There was no immediately apparent link between the protest and Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, leader of the South-east Asian country's embattled pro-democracy movement.

The demonstration began early Monday afternoon when about 1,000 students from the Rangoon Institute of Technology marched to Rangoon University and staged a sit-in that severely disrupted traf-

fic on University Avenue, the street where Suu Kyi lives.

They presented a list to officials demanding a complete accounting into the October police beating, an independent student council to represent their interests, release of students arrested after the October protests, and an investigation into an apparently government-organized propaganda campaign against them.

Student leaders vowed to continue the vigil through the night until their demands were met. However, several students heeded the pleas of university officials to not provoke a police response and left the protest at nightfall.

Their erstwhile comrades jeered, "Traitors! Traitors!" Meanwhile, onlookers brought food and water to the protesters.

Yet no police were deployed on the scene to observe or disperse the crowd, a possible sign that the regime fears igniting a potentially explosive clash that could lead to wider unrest.

Shortly after midnight, the remaining 800 students marched to downtown Rangoon, stopping frequently to rest on a 15-kilometer (10-mile) trek that took them to the U.S. Embassy. They chanted slogans related mainly to their demands and left.

Their numbers dwindled to about 300, they retraced their steps and headed back toward University Avenue. About 150 riot police blocked them from taking any turn that would have brought them to Suu Kyi's home.

They eventually reached the southern gate of the Shwedagon Pagoda, the gold-plated monu-

ment that dominates the Rangoon skyline.

Police sealed off routes to stop them going any further and officials from the education ministry and university urged them to disperse by mounting university-provided trucks to go home.

The students refused and jeered officials who warned them against being used by a political party, a clear reference to Suu Kyi and her National League for Democracy. Police eventually intervened and forced them onto trucks.

The demonstration preceded a scheduled monthly news conference

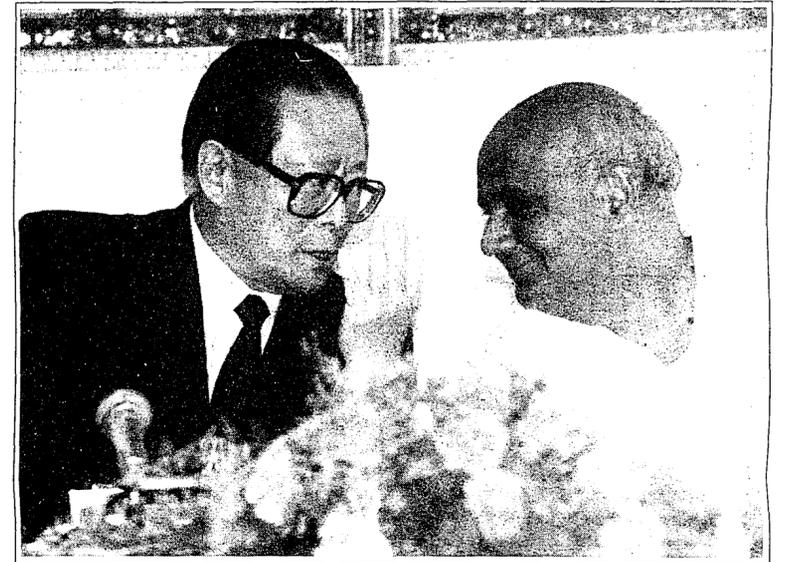
Tuesday by SLORC officials, normally a time the opposition steps up activities to benefit from the presence of foreign media.

Following the October protest, authorities detained Kyi Maung, a top deputy to Suu Kyi, for a week and accused the pro-democracy movement of colluding with the students.

The two protests have been the first sign in years that Burma's normally volatile students are stirring from dormancy following the anti-government protests of 1988, started by Rangoon Institute of Technology students clashing with some villagers.

The military, which has ruled Burma since 1962, sent troops to crush the uprising, killing thousands. Suu Kyi, daughter of Burma's independence hero, Aung San, rose to the leadership of the democracy movement and has become a defiant symbol of her country worldwide.

The SLORC freed Suu Kyi from six years of house arrest in 1995 but has rejected her calls for a dialogue. Stepped-up repression of her group culminated with an attack on her car Nov. 9 by a mob allegedly organized by the government. She was unhurt.



Chinese President Jiang Zemin, left, talks with Indian Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda during a ceremony in New Delhi Friday. Zemin's visit is the first by a Chinese head of state to India. AP Photo

Prosecutor's request to arrest reporter denied

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - A weekly magazine reporter, under detention for alleged libel against President Kim Young-sam's office, has been freed after a court turned down a prosecutor's request for his arrest, court officials said Tuesday.

Lee Kyo-kwan, an economic reporter from Sisa Journal, a major weekly magazine, faced a libel suit filed by Kim's office in connection with an article he wrote about South Korean economic aid to North Korea.

Lee was detained for questioning Sunday upon arrival at Seoul's Gimpo Airport from China. He was set free late Monday night.

"He (the reporter) returned from abroad on his own and there is no danger that he would destroy evidence or hide," judge Hong Ki-jong said.

The rare legal case involving the presidential office has drawn keen public attention.

The domestic media accused the presidential office of using the case to suppress press freedom.

In a report published in No-

vember, the journal said that the presidential office provided North Korea with 5,000 tons of free flour in April to strengthen South Korea's position in a bidding war with Japan for the 2002 soccer World Cup.

South Korea, widely considered an underdog in the bidding, had publicly said that it would co-host the Cup with North Korea if it was given the right to stage it.

The flour, the report said, was a gift to get North Korean support for the South Korean bidding plan. North Korea had never stated its official position on the 2002 World Cup. South Korea and Japan were later allowed to co-host the Cup, without any North Korean participation.

The report said presidential chief of staff Kim Kwang-il was personally involved in the flour assistance.

The report touched off criticism from the opposition, because it said the flour was given when the Seoul government publicly announced a freeze on all inter-Korea contact in protest of Pyongyang's hard-line policy.

Death and Funeral Announcement

Fredrick Mangarero Sablan

August 04, 1968 - November 30, 1996

Was called to his eternal rest on Saturday, November 30, 1996, at the tender age of 28 years.

Predeceased by his Mother: Maria Mangarero Sablan

His spirit and memories will live within the hearts of his family who include his:

Father:
Ignacio M. Sablan

Brothers and Sisters:

- OSCAR M. & MARCIA E. SABLAN (Emerj/Becky-Daniel/Emerj Jr., Antonio, Mariano, Nicholas, Maria Carmela)
- ERNEST M. & ELIZABETH C. SABLAN (Sonny, Eric, John Peter, Ernest Jr.)
- ELEANOR S. & HERMAN S. CRUZ (Rodney/Yvonne, Gordon, Jeffrey, Yulin, Yvette, Gary, Yolanda)
- JEANNETTE S. & ELI MESA (Irene-Braydayn Elijah, Alma, Nalene, Katherine)
- ESTHER S. & MICHAEL A. FLEMING (Chancie, Colleen, Mikey, Thomas)
- FELIX M. & CATHERINE I. SABLAN (Jared, Sean, Justin, Seth)
- LOUISE SABLAN CONCEPCION & WILLIAM ADA (Shannette, Naomi, Keith-Sean Cody, Joanne-Richard, Aileen)
- HERBERT M. SABLAN (Samantha)
- VICTORIA S. & BRIEN S. NICHOLAS (Brien Jr., Brandon, Cameron, Efron)
- LILLIAN S. & JAMES A. ADA (April, Jamilyn, Alexia Martina)
- AGNES M. SABLAN (SAM)
- CARLOS M. SABLAN

He will also be missed by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, nieces, nephews and friends.

Daily mass is being said at 6:00 a.m. at the Kristo Rai Church in Garapan.
Rosary is being said at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Herman S. & Eleanor S. Cruz, at 12:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. daily.

Funeral arrangements will be announced at a later time.

THIRD ANNIVERSARY MASS

We, the family of the late

FRANCISCO BORJA TUDELA
(ANAN KIKU)



Invite all our family, relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the Third Anniversary Mass of passage unto eternal life of our beloved husband and father.

Daily mass will be offered every 6:00 a.m. at the Kristo Rai Church in Garapan beginning November 29, to December 7, 1996.

Breakfast will be served right after mass on final day, Saturday, December 7, 1996.

Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Ginen I Familia

- Rna DLG. Tudela; Jesus DLG. Tudela
- Marian DLG. Tudela; Lillian DLG. Tudela
- Jack & Annie Tudela; Lucy & Nick Sablan
- Julie & Bill Lieto

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Indians ask peace in Guatemala

By BILL CORMIER
SANTIAGO ATITLAN, Guatemala (AP) - Hundreds of Mayan Indians wept, sang and carried wild orchids Monday to a massacre site nestled beneath three volcanoes, transforming their annual pilgrimage into a call for lasting peace in Guatemala.

The killings, blamed on army soldiers camping near the jagged shores of Lake Atitlan, have come to symbolize human rights abuses blamed on the military during a 36-year-long war that claimed 140,000 lives.

Twenty-four other people were also wounded in the shooting when troops opened fire on a crowd of thousands that had gathered at an army encampment Dec. 1, 1990, to protest the disappearance of two villagers.

The Indians prayed for peace even as leftist guerrilla and government leaders prepared to sign a cease-fire this week ending Latin America's longest civil war.

While leaders negotiated, the scent of the flowers wafted above this coffee grove in Santiago Atitlan, where 13 villagers were slain in 1990.

Elena Sisay, an elderly Mayan Indian woman in a shawl of brilliant blue and red, trudged on sandals with her family to the spot where villagers had been mowed down, including her daughter-in-law.

"A signed peace accord will be beautiful. We must put the violence behind," said Sisay, speaking in a Mayan dialect through an interpreter before she knelt to pray.

While hopeful that a permanent cease-fire would be signed as planned on Wednesday in Oslo, Norway, she said she could never forget the deaths of family and friends.

"The sadness will never go

away," she said.

Villagers hung pine boughs with oranges, bananas and bright balloons and also heaped carnations around the stone crosses, each marking the spot where someone fell during the 1990 shootings.

Smoke from wood fires wafted among the coffee plants and pines as Father Thomas McSherry, an American heading the local parish, spoke of putting away hatreds, his words rising toward three misty volcanoes around the lake.

"When once there was fear and violence, let their be love and peace," he said as he spread holy water.

Mayan Indian women hoisted

babies on their backs and men in white linen, knee-length trousers removed sombreros as they sang hymns in the local Indian dialect.

Villagers said they were glad the army has left Santiago Atitlan, an Indian community of narrow streets and cinder block homes. Many times, they said, they would stumble upon bodies hung from trees while collecting firewood on the verdant volcanic slopes.

Whether or not a blanket amnesty will be issued to cover atrocities such as the 1990 massacre are among the final issues being discussed by guerrilla and government negotiators ahead of plans to sign the final pact Dec. 29.

Mexico's Attorney General replaced

By ANITA SNOW
MEXICO CITY (AP) - Mexico's president fired his embattled attorney general, an opposition party member who has been harshly criticized for failing to resolve two high-profile assassinations.

Antonio Lozano Garcia will be replaced by Jorge Madrazo Cuellar, the head of the National Human Rights Commission, President Ernesto Zedillo said in a statement.

"President Zedillo offers his thanks to Mr. Lozano Garcia for the effort he employed in his job," the statement said. It did not elaborate on the reason for the firing.

But a high government official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that Zedillo had grown fed up with the lack of progress in many of the cases.

The official said that Zedillo had also grown concerned about confusion caused by press leaks and public announcements made before investigations had been completed.

Lozano, a member of the center-right National Action Party, was Mexico's first Cabinet member from an opposition party.

With questions remaining in the death of presidential candidate Luis Donaldo Colosio, Lozano had come under stiff criticism by members of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party. Colosio, the ruling party's presidential candidate, was gunned down at a Tijuana campaign rally in March 1994.

The September 1994 slaying of the ruling party's secretary-general, Jose Francisco Ruiz Massieu, is also unsolved.

The Mexico City daily Excelsior reported Monday that contrary to recent predictions by Lozano, forensic tests had shown that human remains found in October on a ranch owned by the jailed brother of former President Carlos Salinas de Gortari did not belong to a missing federal lawmaker implicated in the Ruiz Massieu slaying.

Lozano initially said his investigators believed the remains, including a skull, were those of Manuel Munoz Rocha, who disappeared the day after Ruiz Massieu's death.

The article quoted forensic specialist Eduardo Gonzalez Mata as saying that Lozano had known for two weeks that the remains did not belong to the missing lawmaker, but never told the president.

Raul Salinas was jailed in February 1995 on charges of masterminding Ruiz Massieu's death. Ruiz Massieu was divorced from the sister of the Salinas brothers.

Lozano had served as Mexico's top law enforcement officer since Zedillo took office two years ago. Zedillo last year repeatedly denied rumors that Lozano would resign.

Madrazo, who is not a member of a political party, must still be confirmed by the Senate. Pending that confirmation, he was sworn in Monday afternoon as a deputy attorney general in charge of the agency.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) is soliciting proposals for financial audit of the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund (NMIRF), Workers' Compensation Commission, and the Group Health and Life Insurance Programs (as of the date of transfer to the Fund) for fiscal year ending September 30, 1996. The audit shall be performed in accordance with the Government Auditing Standards and Generally Accepted Auditing Standards.

The audit includes examination of the following:

For the Retirement Fund:

1. Net assets available for benefits
2. Changes in net assets available for benefits
3. Statement of accumulated plan benefits
4. Changes in accumulated plan benefits
5. All other financial statements relating to the operation of the Fund

For the Workers' Compensation Program:

1. Statement of Revenues and Expenditures
2. Statement of cash flows
3. Balance sheet
4. Internal operations

For the Group Health Insurance Programs:

1. Statement of Revenues and Expenses
2. Statement of cash flows
3. Balance Sheet
4. All other financial statements relating to the operation of the GHI

Proposals must at least have the following information:

Title Page:

1. Request for Proposal subject
2. Name of CPA or CPA firm
3. Local address and telephone number
4. Name of contact person and submission date

Transmittal letter:

1. Briefly state your understanding of the work to be performed. Include affirmative statement to perform the work within the time period specified.
2. State a comprehensive fee for which the audit will be performed.
3. State the scheduled dates for the entrance and exit conferences, and the submission of the draft and final audit reports.

Your Company's Profile:

1. Provide a brief description of your company which includes your personnel's educational background and experience, number of staff, level of staff (partners, managers, supervisors, etc.), and a list of clients.
2. The description must also include an affirmative statement that at least the partners are certified public accountants.
3. Name and profile of staff members to be assigned to the audit, should you or your firm be selected.

Award will be based on four evaluation factors: price, technical competence, prior experience, and ability to meet the deadline.

The contact for this engagement will be awarded on or before December 30, 1996. Audit work shall commence immediately thereafter and the final audit report shall be delivered no later than February 28, 1997.

All inquiries regarding this audit may be directed to Mr. Edward H. Mangiona, Administrator, at telephone number 234-7228. Audit reports from previous years are available at the NMIRF's main office at the Nauru Building.

Please label all proposals "NMIRF FY96 Audit - Confidential" and submit four (4) copies to:

The Public Auditor
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
J.E. Tenorio Building-Gualo Rai
P.O. Box 1399
Saipan, MP 96950

All proposals must be received by the OPA not later than 4:30 P.M., DECEMBER 10, 1996.

OPA and the NMIRF reserve the right to reject any proposal in the interest of the Fund and the CNMI government.

/s/Edward H. Mangiona
Administrator

Archbishop of Canterbury in Vatican to meet Pontiff

By DANIEL J. WAKIN
VATICAN CITY (AP) - When the spiritual leader of the Church of England prays at St. Peter's tomb this Wednesday, he will bow his head before a reminder of ancient divisions between Catholics and Protestants.

One of the main obstacles between them is primacy - the supreme authority of the Roman Catholic pontiff as embodied in church dogma by the figure of St. Peter.

Under the principle, the pope has complete power over the church and its members regarding faith, morals and church governance. He derives his authority as the successor to St. Peter.

The archbishop of Canterbury, George Carey, arrives for a three-day visit Tuesday, and the topic is likely to arise in meetings with Pope John Paul II.

The two Christian leaders greet each other Tuesday before a more formal meeting Thursday. In between, Carey will pray at the tomb

in St. Peter's Basilica, lunch with prelates, meet seminary students and hold prayer services.

In a message released Monday, John Paul said the principle of primacy "constitutes a difficulty for the majority of other Christians, whose memory is marked by certain painful recollections."

The reference apparently was to papal-sanctioned oppression of non-Catholics in past centuries and church excesses that led to the Protestant Reformation.

The message was delivered to a symposium by the Vatican's doctrinal office to define what John Paul called the "essential elements" of his authority. The three-day symposium, apparently coincidental, runs at the same time as Carey's visit.

It will be second time Carey has met with John Paul in the Vatican. On the first occasion, the two took up another point of division - the ordination of women.

The Church of England allows

it. John Paul has definitively closed the door on the question, and called it a "grave obstacle" to Anglican-Catholic reconciliation when he first received Carey, in May 1992.

Roughly 2,000 women have been ordained by the Church of England since early 1994, when they began qualifying. For his part, Carey has criticized the Catholic Church's ban on artificial contraception, which the Anglicans allow.

Friction over such issues are part of the back-and-forth in 30 years of efforts to bring the two churches closer together. John Paul has long expressed Christian unity as one of the major goals of his papacy.

The primacy issue has a long history - back to the 16th century, when Anglicans broke with Rome over papal refusal to grant King Henry VIII an annulment.

Protestants have some form central leadership in their denominations. But many view the papacy as an overly intrusive intermediary between believers and God.

And in a unified church, a pope with primacy would have an "unfair advantage" in deciding theological disputes, said the Rev. Eileen W. Lindner, who handles issues of Christian unity for the National Council of Churches, a U.S. ecumenical organization.

"If primacy is accorded to one of us ... in the end if we don't agree, we go the way of the one accorded primacy," she said.

In his 1995 encyclical on Christian unity, John Paul held out an olive leaf on primacy, saying the church would become "open to a new situation." But at the same time, he said, the principle would never be abolished.

HIV cases across globe hit 22.6M

By SUE LEEMAN
LONDON (AP) - Taxi drivers, Roman Catholic priests and activists across the globe commemorated World AIDS Day by urging preventative measures to halt the spread of the HIV virus that has infected 3.1 million people in 1996 alone.

In New York's Times Square, an electronic billboard flashed the message Sunday: "Every second another person is infected with HIV."

With this year's new HIV reports, the number of people infected with the virus that causes AIDS is up to 22.6 million. The death toll from AIDS is accelerating, according to the U.N. AIDS agency, with nearly a quarter of the 6.4 million AIDS deaths occurring in the past year.

In South Africa, retired Archbishop Desmond Tutu, who won the Nobel Peace Prize in 1984 for his fight against apartheid, appeared in a TV advertisement to warn: "Our wonderful country faces a major crisis with HIV and AIDS spreading so fast. Please use a condom!"

In San Francisco, about 300 people gathered at a new National AIDS Memorial Grove in Golden Gate Park. The six-hectare (15-acre) grove of redwoods, oak trees, ferns and mossy rocks was designated a national landmark in a bill signed by President Clinton on Nov. 12.

Clinton, in a statement, said the serene sanctuary "will serve as a constant reminder of the vital work that lies before us in the battle to stop

the spread of the HIV virus."

A candlelight procession through the streets of Lincoln Heights in Los Angeles County was organized by Our Lady Help of Christians Church, which also held a ceremony at the site of a proposed AIDS memorial in Lincoln Park.

At the Hollywood Church of Religious Science, celebrities read poems and notes in honor of AIDS victims. The non-profit Tuesday's Child awarded those who help children with AIDS at a gospel brunch at the House of Blues in Los Angeles.

Throughout the world on Sunday, people remembered those who have died.

More than 400 people gathered in Tokyo for the lighting of a six-meter (20-foot) tree bearing 12,000 red ribbons, the symbol of the fight against AIDS.

In India, which volunteer organizations say has Asia's worst AIDS epidemic with 1 million or more HIV cases, marches were held in Bombay, the financial capital.

In Uganda, which has one of the world's highest AIDS mortality rates, the official newspaper called for intensified condom promotion campaigns. It said more men were using condoms after a nationwide anti-AIDS campaign began several years ago.

Candles were lit at Madrid's Puerta de Alcalá monument in memory of the estimated 5,000 AIDS victims who have died in the Spanish capital.

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Lucid gets medal of honor



Shannon Lucid

WASHINGTON (AP)- U.S. Astronaut Shannon Lucid, who befriended Russians during a record 188 days in space, described her career to President Clinton as a miraculous journey from mortal fear to understanding.

Praising her as a pioneer and inspiration to young Americans, Clinton on Monday conferred on the 53-year-old biochemist the first Congressional Space Medal of Honor awarded to a woman.

At a White House ceremony attended by Russian Ambassador Yuri Vorontsov, Lucid said her history-making flight aboard the Russian space

station Mir was a story of "two great space-faring nations" cooperating on a landmark mission and setting the stage for more joint exploration.

"Most pioneers set their sights on just one frontier," Clinton said. "Shannon Lucid has pushed to the furthest reaches of two - the frontiers of both space and science. She has done so with brain power, will power, courage, skill and good humor."

Lucid was the 10th astronaut to be awarded the Congressional Space Medal of Honor, which was created in 1969.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR P.O. Box 537, Rota, MP 96951

NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID From the Office of the Mayor

COCKFIGHTING FRANCHISE LICENSE To Be Issued as Per Rota Local Law No. 7-2

The Rota Mayor's Office is soliciting competitive sealed bids for a 15 year cockfighting franchise license on Rota. Rota Local Law requires a minimum bid of \$3,000 for the franchise license. The highest, responsible, successful bidder must possess a minimum of two fighting cocks. In addition, upon being awarded the franchise by the Rota Cockfighting Board, the successful bidder must construct, at its own cost, a building for cockfighting purposes on public lands. The land and the building shall become the property of the Commonwealth under the jurisdiction of the Mayor, but shall be leased to the franchise licensee during the term of the franchise. By law, a preference is provided to United States citizens or lawfully admitted permanent residents.

Beginning on December 6, 1996, interested individuals, partners or firms may pick up Bid Forms at the Resident Department of Finance, Rota, Telephone No. 532-9488. Bids will be accepted, at the Rota Department of Finance, Songsong Village, Rota, up to, but not later than, January 30, 1997, at 3:00 PM. Bid will be opened by the Rota Cockfighting Board, publicly, on January 31, 1997, at 3:00 PM, in the Mayor's Conference Room, Mayor's Office, Rota, CNMI.

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR P.O. Box 537, Rota, MP 96951

NOTICE OF INVITATION TO BID From the Office of the Mayor

BINGO FRANCHISE LICENSE

To Be Issued as Per Rota Municipal Ordinance No. 10-69 and Section 6.11.04

The Rota Mayor's Office is soliciting competitive sealed bids for a one (1) year bingo franchise license on Rota. Rota municipal law requires a minimum bid of \$80 for the one year (1 year) bingo franchise license. The award goes to the highest, responsible, bidder.

Beginning on December 6, 1996, interested individuals, partners or firms may pick up Bid Forms at the Resident Department of Finance, Rota, Telephone No. 532-9488. Bids will be accepted, at the Rota Department of Finance, Songsong Village, Rota, up to, but not later than, January 6, 1997, at 3:00 PM. Bid will be opened by the Rota Mayor's Office, publicly, on January 8, 1997, at 3:00 PM, in the Mayor's Conference Room, Mayor's Office, Rota, CNMI.

Studies: Early breast screening 'valuable'

By SARAH NORDGREN

CHICAGO (AP)- Women should be screened regularly for breast cancer starting at age 40, doctors suggested in three studies presented at the annual meeting of a national radiologists' association.

Their recommendations Monday marked the latest salvo in the continuing debate over at what age and how often women should get mammograms.

Some groups argue that women 40 to 49 should receive mammograms each year or every other year, while others maintain the jury is still out, and recommend that breast cancer screenings begin at age 50.

In a cost-effectiveness analysis, Dr. Stephen Feig said that annual screenings for women under 50 cost less for the lives they save than do automobile seat belts and air bags.

"When you compare the cost with the benefit, for women in their 40s, the cost would be \$ 8,899 for every year of life gained," said Feig. "For air bags and seat belts, the cost... is \$32,000 for every year of life gained."

Feig, director of breast imaging at Thomas Jefferson University Hospital in Philadelphia, said breast cancer deaths could be cut 35 percent to 40 percent among women ages 40 to 49 by annual screening, compared to only a 25 to 30 percent drop in deaths if women are screened every two years.

"All women ages 40 and over should get screening mammography once a year because it could save their lives," said Feig.

But Dr. Barnett Kramer, deputy director of the Division of Cancer Prevention and Control at the National Cancer Institute, said Feig's research - and two other studies presented at the Radiological Society of North America meetings - are not enough to recommend regular screenings beginning at age 40.

In addition to the costs of mammograms, the tests can produce falsely positive results, which can mean stressful and unnecessary needle biopsies for some women.

"There is insufficient evidence to recommend for or against rou-

time mammography... for women ages 40 to 49 or 70 or older," Kramer said.

Two other studies released at the meetings indicate routine screening are beneficial for the younger age group.

Dr. Erik Thurfjell, of Uppsala University in Uppsala, Sweden, found that women under and over 50 have similar breast cancer survival rates, and that there was no significant difference in the stage at which the cancers were diagnosed in the two age groups.

"It has been argued that breast cancers in younger women are more aggressive and difficult to detect and therefore, regular screening is not beneficial," Thurfjell said. "Our study challenges that assumption."

Thurfjell's findings were based on a study of 57,000 Swedish women screened from one to four times between 1988 and 1995.

A third study, by doctors at Baylor University in Dallas, found a high

incidence of early stage breast cancer - in which the disease is confined to the milk ducts themselves - in women younger than 50 than in women older than 50.

The study of 3,700 women found that 47 percent of the cancers detected among women under 50 were of the earliest, most curable type, compared to 37 percent of the cancers among women over 50.

"Our study lends support to the findings that women age 40 and up should be screened," said Dr. W. Phil Evans, medical director of Baylor's breast cancer center.

"It doesn't indicate whether they should be screened every year or every other year, but I believe it should be every year."

While the American Cancer Society and the American Medical Association recommend that women get mammograms every year or two starting at age 40, the National Cancer Institute says research is unclear for that age group.

They have scheduled a meeting for January to again examine the research on the effectiveness of mammography for the 40-49 age group.

Red Cross appealing for more aid to Central Asia

ALMATY, Kazakstan (AP)- In its first big initiative in ex-Soviet Central Asia, the Red Cross said Monday it has appealed for more than \$ 21 million to fight rising poverty next year.

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies will focus on battling malnutrition in drought-stricken western Kazakstan and in Turkmenistan, and on the effects of civil war in Tajikistan, said Robert McKerrow, head of the agency's regional delegation.

"We are preparing for the worst," McKerrow told reporters about Tajikistan, where the hard-line government is battling mainly Islamic rebels.

The Red Cross hopes to provide emergency relief and development assistance to the five Red Cross societies in Central Asia.

Among its concerns are helping 25,000 ethnic Kazaks returning to Kazakstan, 30,000 Tajik and Afghan refugees in Kyrgyzstan, and 5,000 displaced people in Tajikistan. Aid workers also say there could be a growing number of refugees entering Turkmenistan from war-torn Afghanistan next door.

The five Central Asian republics of Kazakstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan were among the poorest areas of the Soviet Union. They won independence in 1991.

Christmas shopping starts strong

By RACHEL BECK

NEW YORK (AP) - Retailers were hopeful after early figures showed plenty of buying over the Thanksgiving weekend, the official kickoff of the U.S. holiday shopping season.

After a dismal season a year ago, consumers crowded the nation's stores and malls with their wallets open. Several retailers said they had their best Thanksgiving weekend ever.

"Last year was the weakest Christmas in 11 years," said Clark Johnson, chairman of Pier One Imports Inc., which sells home furnishings. But "this weekend was beyond our level of expectations."

"This is going to be a strong Christmas," he predicted.

Last year, a shaky economy and low consumer confidence left retailers with depressed holiday sales, which generally account for about half of stores' annual sales and profits.

A rebounding economy has

retailers more upbeat about consumer spending, and the strong sales over the holiday gave merchants more confidence that shoppers would spend enthusiastically until Christmas.

Revenues at malls rose by 11 percent from a year ago on the day after Thanksgiving, according to the International Council of Shopping Centers.

TeleCheck Services Inc., a check approval service, said the amount of sales paid for by check that day rose 3.6 percent.

Topping many gift lists was clothing, a big boon to apparel retailers who have struggled over the last few years. Sales at J.C. Penney Co. Inc. stores were boosted over the weekend, thanks to buying in its all its apparel departments, spokesman Duncan Muir said.

Toys and jewelry also sold well, as did perfume and cos-

metics. Consumers also showed interest in home products, including electronics, furnishings and tools.

That was good news for Sears, Roebuck and Co., which reported strong sales in tools, as well as computers, men's and children's apparel, shoes and jewelry.

"We had our best Thanksgiving weekend ever," said John Costello, the department store's senior executive vice president.

Other stores didn't fare as well. Business at Dayton Hudson's department stores, which include Dayton's, Hudson's and Marshall Field's, was a little slower than last year, said spokeswoman Susan Eich, who attributed the decline to a reduction in sales promotions from a year ago.

Retailers used sales and early store openings to lure shoppers. Some stores opened as early as 5 a.m., while oth-

ers, including 40 percent of all Wal-Mart stores, stayed open 24 hours a day.

Merchants also said the early start of the Jewish holiday of Hanukkah, which begins at sundown Thursday, got shoppers into stores over the weekend to pick up last-minute gifts.

But the first weekend of the holiday season isn't necessarily a gauge of how the remaining weeks until Christmas will

go, and some economists worried that high credit card debt levels may restrain some shoppers.

"What we've seen indicates this has been an extremely good weekend," said Tracy Mullin, president of the National Retail Federation, a Washington-based trade group.

But she cautioned, "You never know how the season is going to pan out until it is over."

Video games hot pick this Christmas; Barbie, action figures also popular

By RACHEL BECK

NEW YORK (AP) - He flies, flounders and flips, and this fancy footwork is turning Super Mario 64 into a big hit of the holiday season.

Running on Nintendo's new home video game player, Super Mario is one of the most sought-after toys this Christmas, along with Pilot Wings and Mortal Combat Trilogy, two other games for the just-released Nintendo 64 system.

"Video games are coming on strong this year," said Gary Jacobson, an analyst at Jefferies and Co. in New York. "That's generating a lot of excitement for toys in general because it's bringing more people into the stores."

That may mean strong sales for other toys on kids' wish lists, including Barbie, Star Wars action figures, Goosebumps and anything tied to the new movies "101 Dalmatians" and "Space Jam." A barrage of classics from Monopoly to Mr. Potato Head are also expected to be big sellers.

After several years of soft sales, video games are coming back, led by the launch of Nintendo 64, which uses advances in computer chip and software design to create three-dimensional game play. The system costs about \$ 200 in stores, with each game tacking on an additional \$ 70 on average.

Sony's PlayStation and Sega's Saturn, while on the market for a year, are also quite popular and are helping to revive interest in video games.

Both game players retail for about \$ 200, with games costing an average of about \$ 50 each.

While these high-tech systems are expensive, parents

are already scrambling to find them in time for the holidays and retailers are struggling to meet customer demand.

That's a good sign for the toy industry, which depends on the fourth quarter for about 65 percent of all its sales. Sales hit \$ 20 billion last year and analysts predict that amount will grow by 4 percent to 6 percent in 1996.

"Unlike last year, the economy is pretty good right now and people are willing to spend," said Frank Reysen, editor of Playthings magazine, a New York-based trade publication.

"That should make it a good Christmas season after a few lackluster years."

Mattel Inc.'s Barbie still reigns as the top-selling doll, with a few new looks this year, including pet doctor and scuba diver outfits.

Holiday Barbie is having another big year, with inventories already low in some part of the country.

Kenner's Juice'n Cookies Baby Alive, which sips, chews and dirties her diaper, is a strong contender in the doll segment, as are Mattel's Cabbage Patch Kids, especially its new SnackTime Kid that looks like it's really eating.

Demand for action figures is strong again this year, with Batman, Star Wars and GI Joe among the hot picks.

which are featured in the film. Kids also want anything that's tied to Goosebumps, the children's books written by R.L. Stine.

Glow-in-the-dark flashlights, scary-faced figures and board games are a few of the Goosebumps-themed toys.

Parents also are turning to creative and educational toys, especially with children becoming more computer savvy and more families owning PCs.

"Toys are entertainment, and entertainment is about building on your intelligence," said Judy Ellis, chairwoman for the New York's Fashion Institute of Technology's toy department.

"This year, we're seeing a lot of toys and interactive software that bring children into creative play."

Tiger Electronics' My First Laptop teaches pre-schoolers counting and matching on a battery run system, which also can be hooked into a home computer for more advanced applications.

V-Tech's Smart Start Speak and Listen Computer is geared for elementary school students learning spelling and math.

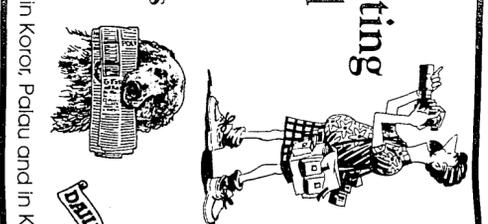
Tyco's \$ 100 VideoCam, which connects to a VCR to allow kids to shoot their own black-and-white videos, also is a popular pick, as are the computer drawing system kidDraw, made by kidBoard, and Tiger Electronics' Brain Warp, a fast-paced hand-held game.

Also going high-tech are classic board games, with titles like Monopoly, Clue and Battleship available on CD-ROM.



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 /S/EDWARD B. PALACIOS
 DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

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 /S/EDWARD B. PALACIOS
 DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

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 /S/EDWARD B. PALACIOS
 DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
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 FOR: CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES
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 TIME: 3:00 P.M.
 GOVERNOR FROILAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, IS SOLICITING COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR THE CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP PROPOSAL 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 B. PALACIOS
 DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
 RFP NO.: RFP97-0025
 FOR: CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES
 OPENING DATE: DECEMBER 18, 1996
 TIME: 3:00 P.M.
 GOVERNOR FROILAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, IS SOLICITING COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR THE CLEANING AND MAINTENANCE SERVICES. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP PROPOSAL 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 B. PALACIOS
 DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

LET US KEEP CNMI LITTER FREE.

PUBLIC NOTICE
 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
 In the Matter of the Adoption of JULES CHESTER QUINN, A minor child.
ADOPTION CASE NO. 96-115
 Date: December 19, 1996
 Time: 1:30 P.M.
 Judge: Hon. Edward Manibusan

NOTICE OF HEARING: PETITION FOR ADOPTION
 To: THE OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND ALL OTHERS WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:
 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the petition of John T. Quinn and Julieta J. Quinn, for the adoption of the minor child identified in the petition and requesting termination of the parental rights of the minor child's biological father, will come before the Court for hearing on December 19, 1996 at 1:30 p.m. at Courtroom B, Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan.

DATED this 19th day of November, 1996.
 Clerk of the Superior Court
 By: /s/Deputy Clerk of Court

PUBLIC NOTICE
 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
 In re the estate of: Enrico Pangliinan Maglanque, Deceased.
Civil Action No. 96-1292

Notice is hereby given that on February 18, 1997 at 1:30 p.m. in the courthouse of the Superior Court in Susupe, Saipan, the petitioner, Ma. Marinela Maglanque, will petition the court to be appointed administratrix of the estate of Enrico Pangliinan Maglanque.

Any person, who has objection to said petition, may appear in said court on said date and time to make such objection.
 Dated this 27th day of November, 1996.
 /s/REYNALDO O. YANA

PUBLIC NOTICE
 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
 In the matter of Petition for Adoption of Jackylof Matias Guinto, minor,
 By: Edward A. Baysa, and Alfonsa Cruel Baysa, Petitioners.
Adoption Case No. 96-119

NOTICE OF HEARING
 Notice is hereby given that on January 16, 1997 at 1:30 p.m. in the courthouse of the Superior Court in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the petitioners will petition the Court to adopt the above-named minor.
 Dated this 2nd day of December, 1996.
 /s/REYNALDO O. YANA
 Attorney for Petitioners

PUBLIC NOTICE
 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
 In the matter of the correction of birth record of: Maria Mercado QWO Pulido, a minor,
 By: Charito Quioic Mercado, and Virgilio Dalit Pulido, Petitioners.
Civil Action No. 96-1290

Amended NOTICE OF HEARING
 Notice is hereby given that on December 19, 1996 at 1:30 p.m. in the courthouse of the Superior Court in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, the petitioners Charito Quioic Mercado and Virgilio Dalit Pulido will petition the court that the birth record of their above minor child be corrected.
 Dated this 2nd day of December, 1996.
 /s/REYNALDO O. YANA
 Attorney for Petitioners

PUBLIC NOTICE
 IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
 In the matter of the petition for correction of birth record of: Maria Mercado QWO Pulido, a minor,
 By: Charito Quioic Mercado, and Virgilio Dalit Pulido, Petitioners.
Civil Action No. 96-1290

Amended NOTICE OF HEARING
 Notice is hereby given that on December 19, 1996 at 1:30 p.m. in the courthouse of the Superior Court in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, the petitioners Charito Quioic Mercado and Virgilio Dalit Pulido will petition the court that the birth record of their above minor child be corrected.
 Dated this 2nd day of December, 1996.
 /s/REYNALDO O. YANA
 Attorney for Petitioners

Slay . . .
 Continued from page 1
 The complaint stated that on Nov. 13, Ada and Lizama and four juveniles struck Suh in the head with a glass bottle. They pointed a long gun at him and demanded money. The group managed to get \$1,500 cash. The identity of the sixth suspect—a juvenile was withheld. Court documents, however, mentioned that among the group was Andrew Joseph Camacho.

Sablan . . .
 Continued from page 1
 tion official last Friday following complaint filed by a Chinese woman deportee who alleged she was raped. The alleged rape incident happened at the Department of Labor and Immigration's airport office last Nov. 20. Capt. Isidro Cabrera was slapped with five counts of assault and battery, two counts of criminal oral copulation, two counts of rape and misconduct in public office.

Calonge . . .
 Continued from page 1
 complied with. "I'm just standing by for her [Heidemann's] arrival. We don't want to have an overlapping of functions here," Calonge said. Calonge, who has been assigned to different posts abroad for the past seven years, said his stay in the CNMI has been "fruitful." For one, he explained, there now exists "goodwill" between the two governments. Another is that structural changes and a system of procedures have been laid down. "And it is working," he said adding that such has resulted to an improvement in the situation of Filipino migrant workers in the CNMI. Calonge said he still doesn't know what Heidemann's priorities will be. "But she will be expectedly be conferring with the Consulate's Labor Section," he said. Calonge was supposed to be recalled to the home office in Manila from the Washington DC post when he was instead deployed to the CNMI on Sept. 13, 1995, a time when a ban on the employment of Filipino farmers and women in the service and entertainment sector was in effect. The ban was imposed by then Philippine Labor Secretary Nieves Confesor upon recommendation of Labor Attache Manuel Inson who led a fact-finding mission which saw close to 400 cases of abuse involving Filipino workers unattended by CNMI authorities. Calonge said the new system has addressed this problem. His term saw the CNMI repeatedly sending batches of representatives to Manila in an effort to convince the Philippine government into lifting the ban. Efforts paid off eventually with the signing of an agreement between the POEA led by Administrator Felicissimo Joson and the CNMI officials several months back. The CNMI, according to Mark Broadhurst, Public Information Officer, in one of his visits to Manila, has gone very dependent on skilled Filipino workers. The ban, he has said, was felt in the CNMI economy as several establishments, including hotels, consequently suffered shortages in manpower. Calonge, who said he "will welcome at the CNMI in the future." "I am at the disposal of the Philippine government office. I like the island very much. I would welcome working here in the future," he said.

LAND FOR SALE
 55 years, 400 sq. m. near highway, \$300.00/mo. plus 2 years security deposit in As Perdido.
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Marianas Variety
Classified Ads Section

Employment Wanted



Job Vacancy Announcement

01 A/C SUPERVISOR-Salary:\$4.05 per hour. Plus Cola \$150.00
 Contact: CARRIER GUAM, INC. SAIPAN BRANCH TEL. 233-2666 W63295

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
 Contact: APEX DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION TEL. 235-2200(12/4)W226780

02 GOLF COURSE STARTER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
 01 HOUSEKEEPING SUPERVISOR-Salary:\$3.05-4.10 per hour
 02 CLEANER HOUSEKEEPING-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
 03 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
 01 COMPUTER PROGRAMMER-Salary:\$3.05-3.30 per hour
 03 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
 Contact: KAN PACIFIC SAIPAN, LTD TEL. 322-4692(12/4)W63355

02 COSMETICIAN-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
 Contact: AMERICAN HUILING CORP. dba Yellow House Tel. 235-9188(12/4)W226775

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:\$3.05-4.50 per hour
 03 WAITRESS, RESTAURANT-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
 Contact: JUAN T. GUERRERO & ASSOCIATES, INC. TEL. 234-8804(12/4)W226779

05 CARPENTER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
 02 ELECTRICIAN-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
 08 MASON-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
 Contact: EMILIO P. QUIATCHON SR. dba EQ Construction Tel. 234-8827(12/4)W226778

02 TOUR COORDINATOR-Salary:\$3.50 per hour
 Contact: HANLYNN CORPORATION dba Hanlynn Tour Tel. 288-6233(12/4)W226777

01 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR-Salary:\$4.00 per hour
 Contact: BRIGHT MORNING STAR CORP. TEL. 234-7700(12/4)W226766

02 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
 01 AUTO BODY PAINTER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
 01 AUTOMOTIVE ELECTRICIAN-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
 01 MECHANIC-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
 Contact: TM CORPORATION TEL. 234-2700(12/4)W226764

04 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05-4.50 per hour
 03 COOK HELPER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
 Contact: KOSA RESORT CLUB CO., LTD. TEL. 235-0405(12/4)W226763

02 COOK-Salary:\$3.05-5.00 per hour
 01 CHIEF COOK-Salary:\$3.05-6.00 per hour
 01 SUPERVISOR (Restaurant)-Salary:\$3.05-5.00 per hour
 Contact: CN LEE INTERNATIONAL TEL. 235-0405(12/4)W226762

01 COOK HELPER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
 01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
 Contact: YOUNG KWANG CORPORATION TEL. 235-0405(12/4)W226761

06 STORE ATTENDANT-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
 04 SALESPERSON-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
 Contact: PACIFIC TRADING CORP. TEL. 233-1266(12/4)W226773

01 DRESSMAKER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
 01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$3.50-5.20 per hour
 Contact: SERVILLANA B. MENDOZA dba Celebrity Enterprises Tel. 234-2056(12/11)W226868

01 SALESPERSON-Salary:\$600.00-1,600.00 per month
 Contact: TASI TOURS & TRANSPORTATION INC. TEL. 234-7141(12/11)W63458

01 OFFSET PRESS OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
 Contact: R&M ENTERPRISES, INC. dba Printers Tel. 322-3043(12/11)W226867

01 BOAT CARPENTER (BULKHEAD CARPENTER)-Salary:\$900.00 per month
 Contact: COMMONWEALTH MARITIME GROUP CORP. dba Commonwealth Maritime Agency Tel. 233-0508(12/4)W226787

03 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour
 01 HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC-Salary:\$3.85-4.00 per hour
 Contact: COMMONWEALTH MARITIME GROUP CORP. dba Commonwealth Maritime Co. Tel. 233-0508(12/4)W226776

01 CARPENTER-Salary:\$3.50-4.00 per hour
 02 MASON, CEMENT-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour
 Contact: COMMONWEALTH MARITIME GROUP CORP. dba MGM Company Tel. 233-0508(12/4)W226786

10 HOUSE CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
 02 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
 02 BARTENDER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
 05 WAITRESS RESTAURANT-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
 02 AUTO RENTAL CLERK-Salary:\$3.05-3.25 per hour
 05 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$4.00 per hour
 05 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:\$3.25 per hour
 02 COMPUTER OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.50 per hour
 Contact: DANTE R. FLOJO/SAIPAN MANPOWER SERVICES TEL. 288-4172(12/4)W226767

04 EMBROIDERY MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary:\$2.90-3.05 per hour
 Contact: SE JIN CORPORATION TEL. 235-0505(12/4)W226756

03 COOK-Salary:\$3.05-5.00 per hour
 Contact: UNICONS CORPORATION (12/4)W226755

01 INSTRUCTOR, SCUBA DIVING-Salary:\$1,950.00 per month
 Contact: MARINE TECH SAIPAN, INC. dba S2 Club Tel. 322-5069(12/4)W226774

03 ELECTRICIAN-Salary:\$2.90-4.00 per hour
 02 HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC-Salary:\$3.00-4.00 per hour
 05 MASON, CEMENT-Salary:\$2.90-3.05 per hour
 01 INDUSTRIAL ELECTRICIAN-Salary:\$3.00-4.00 per hour
 01 WELDER-Salary:\$2.90-3.50 per hour
 01 AUTO BODY REPAIRER-Salary:\$2.90-3.50 per hour
 02 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.00-4.00 per hour
 05 CARPENTER-Salary:\$2.90-3.05 per hour
 01 TIRE REPAIRER-Salary:\$2.90-3.50 per hour
 Contact: CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIAL SUPPLY, INC. dba CMS TEL. 234-6136(12/4)W63319

02 BARBER-Salary:\$950.00 per month
 Contact: HATAMATA INTERNATIONAL, INC. dba Dolce Hair Mode Salon Tel. 233-2338(12/4)W226772

01 WELDER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
 01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
 Contact: TARO SUE CORPORATION dba Taro Sue Store Tel. 234-5416(12/4)W226771

01 SPORT INSTRUCTOR-Salary:\$1,250.00 per month
 Contact: SEASHORE INC. TEL. 234-5549(12/4)W226769

03 WAITRESSES-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
 Contact: NEW SEOUL CORPORATION dba Help Supply Service (12/4)W226757

01 MANAGER-Salary:\$2,500.00 per month
 01 HOUSEKEEPING MANAGER-Salary:\$2,000.00 per month
 01 ACCOUNTING MANAGER-Salary:\$4,000.00 per month
 01 TOUR GUIDE-Salary:\$1,000.00 per month
 Contact: SAIPAN KOREANA HOTEL, INC. (12/11)W226861

01 AIRCON & REF. TECHNICIAN-Salary:\$3.35 per hour
 02 BEAUTICIAN-Salary:\$249.00 Bi-Weekly
 Contact: CHARLOTTE P. REYES dba Char's Beauty Salon Tel. 235-7093(12/18)W226951

01 GLAZIER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
 Contact: RICHARD P. KAUTZ, JR. dba Kautz Glass Company Tel. 322-9262(12/18)W226954

06 GARMENT, INSPECTOR-Salary:\$2.90-3.25 per hour
 45 SEWING MACHINE (OPERATOR)-Salary:\$2.90-3.05 per hour
 01 SUPERVISOR SHIPPING-Salary:\$9.40 per hour
 01 STOCK CONTROL CLERK-Salary:\$4.50 per hour
 09 ASSISTANT SUPERVISOR SEWING DEPT.-Salary:\$2.90-4.70 per hour
 05 CUTTER, MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary:\$2.90-3.05 per hour
 08 PRESSER, MACHINE-Salary:\$2.90-3.05 per hour
 01 MARKER-Salary:\$2.90-3.20 per hour
 Contact: UNO MODA CORP. TEL. 234-1861(12/18)W62646

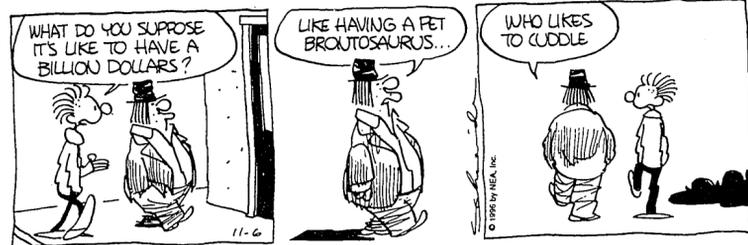
03 CASHIER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
 01 FRONT OFFICE MANAGER-Salary:\$1,800.00 per month
 02 AIR CONDITIONING MECHANIC-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
 Contact: KAN PACIFIC SAIPAN, LTD. TEL. 322-4692(12/18)W62650

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$8.93-9.50 per hour
 Contact: SAIPAN STEVEDORE COMPANY, INC. TEL. 322-6469(12/18)W62663

01 AUTOMOTIVE MECHANIC-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
 01 GUEST RELATION OFFICER-Salary:\$1,200.00 per month
 04 WAITER/WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
 Contact: AQUA RESORT CLUB SAIPAN CO. LTD. dba Aqua Resort Club Tel. 322-1234(12/18)W62661

EK & MEEK®

by Howie Schneider



Garfield®

by Jim Davis



PEANUTS®

by Charles M. Schulz



STELLA WILDER

YOUR BIRTHDAY

By Stella Wilder

Born today, you are always in touch with that part of your history which affects you each and every day. You know how to dispense with excess baggage while hanging on to the developments and influences which are useful on a daily basis, and you can tap into those things with great success, whenever you choose, to maximize your rewards in almost any pursuit.

Also born on this date are: Samuel Butler, English author; Thomas Carlyle, essayist and historian; Jeff Bridges, actor; Deanna Durbin, actress.

BARBS

BARBS BY PHIL PASTORET

Get on it: Those who say "It's only money" have more of it than they know what to do with.

If you can recall when ice was delivered to your home, you're an old-timer, indeed.

Having to refer to one's physician as a "primary health provider" instead of a "doctor" is enough to make one sick.

Want to terrify your congressman? Be kind.

graph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

THURSDAY, DEC. 5 SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You can have a great deal more fun today than you counted on, but first you must be willing to get the hard work out of the way.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Your passions will be near the surface today, and you may find that it is easy to hurt someone else's feelings.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — You will be more likely to go along with someone else's plans today than you have been in the past. You must be cooperative, but speak your mind when necessary.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Your ego may get in your way today, whether you know it or not. You must make sure that your motivation is pure.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — An emotional tug-of-war may develop today between you and a highly charged Scorpio native. Watch for other warning signs.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Take care not to overpower anyone completely at this time. You should try to put an end to any conflicts you start. Do this quickly.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — There will be too much work for one person to do on his own, so you must be willing to share some secrets if you want to get the help

You can tell spring is almost upon us. The highway is packed with blooming idiots.

Is it true that one accident-prone airline is recruiting flight attendants?

Translation: "I'll get back to you on that" means "Get lost, baby."

How things change. Once upon a time, "I'll get the modem" meant you'd fetch the lady of the house.

Life seems to be one long walk up the down elevator.

you require.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — A project you begin today will most likely prove to be a longstanding, profitable arrangement for everyone concerned.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — You may be a little too old-fashioned for some, but those who appreciate your outlook at this time will reward you.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Take care not to let petty jealousy grow into something you cannot control easily. You can't afford to take things personally.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You will be quite inventive at this time, but it may be up to a friend to get you to do the right things with all those ideas. You can increase your profits.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — An emotional tug-of-war may develop today between you and a highly charged Scorpio native. Watch for other warning signs.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Take care not to overpower anyone completely at this time. You should try to put an end to any conflicts you start. Do this quickly.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

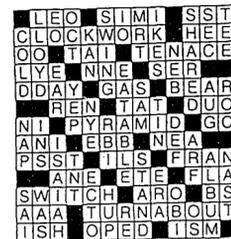
- 1 Fathers
4 Author
8 Quickly
12 One (German)
13 Pierre's dad
14 Engrave
15 Investigates
17 — about town
19 Faeroe Islands whirlwind
20 — bran
21 The sun
22 Beard of grain
23 Catch sight of
25 — cushion
26 Tin symbol
27 — apple (woodland plant)
28 Decimal point
29 Turner and Louise
32 Cyprinoid fish
33 Headline
35 Concerning

- 36 Lukewarm
38 Same (comb. torn)
39 — scan
40 Des Moines st.
41 Actress Claire
42 Have — in the belly (be insane)
43 — constrictor
45 Food additive (abbr.)
46 — Mahal
47 King of Bashan
48 — Aviv
49 Continent
52 Dorsal bones
54 Merit
56 A Brown
57 Singer Horne
58 Beau and Jeff, to Lloyd Bridges
59 Dine

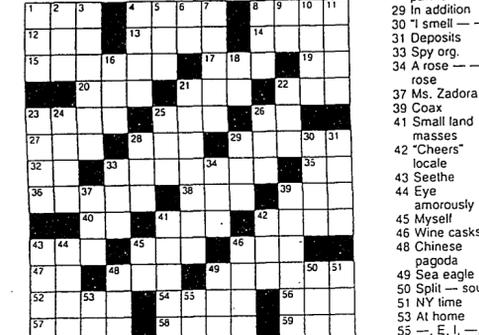
DOWN

- 1 — talk
2 Ventilate
3 "Peanuts" dog
4 Barracuda
5 DDE opponent
6 Chaldean city
7 — drop (candy)
8 Swamp
9 Asatine symbol
10 Flat-bottomed boat
11 At that time
16 — of Pigs
17 TV's Jessica Fletcher (init.)
21 — Bull
22 Yearly (abbr.)
23 Send forth
24 Marquis de
25 Iggy —
26 Offense
28 Mom's partner
29 In addition
30 "I smell"
31 Deposits
33 Spy org.
34 A rose — rose
37 Ms. Zadora
39 Coax
41 Small land masses
42 "Chers" locale
43 See the
44 Eye amorously
45 Myself
46 Wine casks
48 Chinese pagoda
49 Sea eagle
50 Split — soup
51 NY time
53 At home
55 —, E, I, —, U

Answer to Previous Puzzle



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KidSpot FIND THE WORDS. THE NAMES OF THE PICTURE CLUES ARE

HIDDEN IN THE SQUARE. CIRCLE EACH WORD, GOING ACROSS, DOWN OR DIAGONALLY.



WORD LIST: EAGLE, FROG, BEE, GOAT, ANT, ELF, RAT, BAT

Advertisement for the movie 'The Ghost and the Darkness' featuring Michael Douglas and Val Kilmer. Includes showtimes: Thu: 7:00, Fri: 7:00, 9:30; Sat: 3:00, 7:00, 9:30.

National Football League

49ers too much for Falcons

ATLANTA (AP) — San Francisco quarterback Steve Young ran for two touchdowns, threw for another and piled up 254 yards passing in less than three quarters as the 49ers rolled over the Atlanta Falcons 34-10 Monday night.

Monday's only NFL contest. After Young connected on five straight passes for 62 yards on the 49ers' first possession of the second half, capped off by a 10-yard touchdown throw to Terry Kirby that made it 32-3, Elvis Grbac took over at quarterback.

Young completed 23 of 30 passes, including eight to Jerry Rice in the first half. Kirby had the first 100-yard rushing game for the 49ers in nearly two years, carrying 12 times for 105 yards.

Packers have the tie-breaker advantage by virtue of an early-season victory. The 49ers scored on all six of their first-half possessions, running up and down the field to loud boos from the Georgia Dome crowd.

touchdown on Nagle's 7-yard pass to Terance Mathis with 2:23 left after Devin Bush blocked a punt. Mathis unleashed a night's worth of frustration by throwing the ball into the second deck.

Packers expect Broncos' best shot

GREEN BAY, Wisconsin (AP) — The Green Bay Packers are expecting to see the Denver Broncos at their best, even though the AFC leaders are playing for pride and not for prize.

though quarterback John Elway (hamstring), tight end Shannon Sharp (ankle) and running back Terrell Davis (ankle) are nagged by injuries, Holmgren said.

"They want to keep going up, they don't want to plateau." Brett Favre, whom many believe is locked in a race with Elway for league MVP honors, said he really wants to see Elway play on Sunday.

The Broncos (12-1) have already wrapped up home-field advantage throughout the AFC playoffs, something the Packers (10-3) are still striving for in the NFC heading into Sunday's possible Super Bowl preview at Lambeau Field.

Denver coach Mike Shanahan said Monday the only question mark is Elway but that he expects him to play, too. And he said his starters won't play part-time or half-heartedly, either.

"John's one of my favorite players to watch," Favre said. "I just hope he doesn't go crazy on us."

"I think there's a danger from our standpoint to think that Denver would do anything less than come in here just loaded for bear," Green Bay coach Mike Holmgren said Monday.

"If a person's healthy, we want to play with the same intensity that we've played with all season. If you don't play that way, I think you really are susceptible to more injuries," Shanahan said.

Broncos left offensive tackle Gary Zimmerman is definitely out. He had arthroscopic surgery on his left shoulder Monday so that he could be back in time for the playoffs.

The Packers wouldn't expect anything less than to see all Denver has to offer, said Pro Bowl tight end Mark Chmura, who returns from a heel injury Sunday.

"So, I'm not going to allow that. We haven't clinched anything yet." The Packers are preparing to face the Broncos at full strength, even

Shanahan, like Holmgren, a former San Francisco assistant, said he's already received phone calls from the 49ers organization imploring him not to let up against Green Bay, which has won 24 of 25 at Lambeau and 14 straight.

NBA Raptors stop Rockets

TORONTO (AP) — The Houston Rockets, playing without Hakeem Olajuwon, had their nine-game winning streak stopped by the Toronto Raptors 100-89 Monday night.

The backup center, who spurned an offer to sign with the Magic during the preseason, made all three of his shots in overtime and finished 6-for-6 with 13 points. Chris Gatling, coming off a career-high 35-point performance in a loss to Chicago, led Dallas with 25 points and 14 rebounds.

Damon Stoudamire had 27 points and 11 assists for the Raptors. Earlier in the day, Olajuwon left a Houston hospital after being treated for the second time in less than two weeks for an irregular heartbeat. The problem is not considered career-threatening, but his return to the Rockets has not been set.

Rony Seikaly paced Orlando with 26 points and 14 rebounds. Gerald Wilkins scored 25 for the Magic, who lost starter Nick Anderson with a sprained right wrist in the first quarter.

Charles Barkley had 30 points and 12 rebounds for the Rockets, who are now 15-2. Walt Williams scored 23 points for the Raptors, who won for just the second time in their last nine games.

In Salt Lake City, John Stockton had 22 points and 16 assists as Utah won its 11th straight game. Karl Malone added 20 points and 11 rebounds for the Jazz, who held the Hornets to one basket over the final 6:35 of the game.

In Orlando, the Dallas Mavericks rallied from a nine-point deficit in the last 2:23 of regulation, then got seven points in overtime from Oliver Miller to beat the Orlando Magic.

Dell Curry led the Hornets with 25 points, while Glen Rice added 19.

Utah's Bryon Russell made two 3-pointers down the stretch, including one that gave the Jazz a five-point lead with 3:05 remaining.

Tyson tops athletes' money list

NEW YORK (AP) — Forget those big-money contracts in baseball, basketball, football and hockey. Boxer Mike Tyson fought just three times in 1996 and, according to Forbes Magazine, earned \$ 75 million, more money in one year than any athlete ever.

Tyson knocked NBA star Michael Jordan out of the top spot in the Forbes Super 40 list of highest paid athletes, announced Sunday.

Ric Alegre scored 25 points for the Aces while Junior Rengull added 10 markers. John Acosta led GCS's losing cause with 13 points.

However, Jordan, No. 1 for four straight years, could be poised for a comeback in 1997. His \$ 30 million contract — the largest one-year salary in sports history — will factor in more next year.

THE OREOS Team firmed further its hold for the top spot by routing the hapless Strikers, 13-2 for its sixth straight triumph last Sunday in the 1996-1997 Palau Women's Slow-Pitch Softball League at the Koblerville Ball Field.

Then there is box office, merchandise and video income from his movie "Space Jam," that could push his earnings past \$ 100 million for next year. Forbes computes Jordan's 1996 income at \$ 52.6 million, \$ 12.6 in salary and \$ 40 million from other sources such as endorsements.

German auto racer Michael Schumacher, who was paid \$ 25 million to drive for Ferrari's Formula One team and made another \$ 8 million in other income, is No. 3, up from ninth a year ago.

Shaquille O'Neal, who signed a \$ 120 million free agent contract with the Los Angeles Lakers last summer, moved up from No. 5 to No. 4 with his total income computed at \$ 24.4 million. Emmitt Smith is the highest paid football player at No. 5 with \$ 16.5 million, \$ 13 million of it from the Dallas Cowboys.

The Forbes list includes nine basketball players, seven boxers, six football players, five baseball play-

ers, four auto racers, four golfers, three tennis players and two hockey players. There are no women on the list.

Smith is one of a dozen athletes new to the list for 1996. The others are basketball's Dennis Rodman (No. 9, \$ 12.9 million) and Clyde Drexler (No. 23, \$ 8.3 million); boxing's Roy Jones, Jr. (No. 12, \$ 8.2 million); Oscar De La Hoya (No. 17, \$ 11.3 million) and Julio Cesar Chavez (No. 25, \$ 9 million); football's John Elway (No. 27, \$ 8.8 million); Neil O'Donnell (No. 28, \$ 8.8 million); and Troy Aikman (No. 35, \$ 8.1 million); golf's Tiger Woods (No. 26, \$ 8.8 million); hockey's Mario Lemieux (No. 31, \$ 8.3 million); and auto racing's Damon Hill (No. 34, \$ 8.2 million).

Total income for the Forbes Super 40 went up 13 percent this year, from \$ 490 million to \$ 556 million. Since the magazine began tracking athletes income in 1990, Tyson, Jordan and Evander Holyfield have each earned more than \$ 100 million. Holyfield, who knocked out Tyson for the WBA heavyweight title last month, is No. 6 on this year's list at \$ 15.5 million, up from No. 14 a year ago.

Endorsement income played a key role for many of the athletes on the list, especially in golf. Arnold Palmer is No. 8 with \$ 15.1 million, just \$ 100,000 of it in winnings and \$ 15 million from other sources. Woods, a pro for just four months, earned \$ 800,000 playing golf and \$ 8 million in other income. No. 33 Jack Nicklaus earned \$ 8.2 million, only \$ 400,000 of it in winnings.

No. 38 Greg Norman won \$ 900,000 playing golf and earned \$ 7 million from other sources.

Talalemotu . . . Continued from page 24

10.67 and 21.55 seconds. Nabors, on the other hand, heaved the discuss to a distance of 29.38 meters and the shot put to 10.37 meters to come in seventh and eighth out of eight entries.

Despite the teams failure to win any medals, coach Elias Rangamar said that the team did pretty well. "The boys did their best but the competition was very

Sportsbits . . .

successful, we are planning to invite more teams from Guam and Rota next year," Rogolifoi added.

The two-day tournament will also serve as tune-up tournament for the 5th Annual Jam Attack which will be conducted by the Saipan Amateur Volleyball Association next year.

Willing trophy sponsors are being requested to call Jovie Omar at 234-1001 or 234-1002 for more information.

DSR . . . Continued from page 24

young volleyball players more exposure. "We want the players, especially from Tinian, to see how volleyball is being played here. We want them to see how our teams play and hopefully, they will learn more about the game.

He added that the program will be the start of a yearly activity for DSR. "If the tournament becomes

the awards banquet that will be held on Dec. 8 at Plumaria Hotel. "Te-off time on the first day will be at 7 a.m. and golfers are requested to be at the greens not later than 6:30 a.m. All participants will begin their rounds on a shotgun start.

For the second day, tee-off time will be at 10:30 a.m., showtime is 10 a.m. Deadline for submission of entries will be at 5 p.m. Thursday, Dec. 5. Tournament organizers are still accepting cash donations for the fundraising tournament.

For more information, contact Tony Rogolifoi at 234-1001/12 or Jess Wabul at 234-6167.

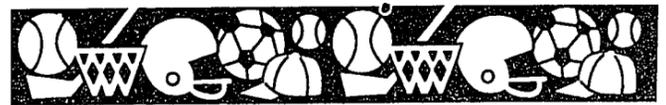
Valuable . . . Continued from page 24

Cash prizes will also be given by Mr. and Mrs. Francisco Hofschneider, Chong Corp., Saipan Shipping Co., Pacific House Appliances, Yano Ent. Iba Kimpachi, 123 Store, Tadotsu Saipan Co., and Philippine Eagle.

1995 champion Joe Lizama is expected to encounter stiff opposition in this year's edition.

Entry fee will be \$150 per golfer inclusive of green fees and payment to

SPORTS



1996 Oceania Area Championships

Talalemotu breaks Micro Games record

By Erel A. Cabatbat
VarietyNewsStaff
FAAEA Talalemotu heaved the shot put to a distance of 14.47 meters to break the CNMI and Micronesian Games' record in the event during the 1996 Oceania Area Track and Field Championship held recently in Townsville, Australia.
Talalemotu's effort broke the old record of 13.67 meters set by Renee Delemar of Guam.
His best throw, however, failed

to win him any medal as Talalemotu's effort was only good for fourth place out of seven participants. An entry from Australia won the event by throwing the ball to a distance of 15.92 meters.
Except for Tony Ichiou, the rest of the team composed of Tony Ichiou, Stanley Iakopo, Sidro Tebuteb, Christopher Cruz and Keith Nabors failed to enter the medal round.
Ichiou, a veteran of four off-island competitions, competed in

the 200M and 400M sprints wherein he is the current CNMI record holder. Ichiou's personal best in the 200M is 22.7 while he covered the 400M in 53 seconds flat.
Ichiou clocked 23.65 seconds to place 12th out of 16 in the 200M in the Open Category. A Fijian runner won the event in 22.10 seconds.
He fared better in the 400M when he placed fourth in the preliminary rounds to enter the fi-

nals. He submitted a clocking of 53.93 seconds which was way off the winning time of 48.09 seconds.
The team's other entry in the sprints, Iakopo submitted 11.41 seconds in the 100M and 23.64 seconds in the 200M dash. He placed 11 and 10th out of 16 runners in the two events.
Tebuteb, Nabors and Cruz were CNMI's entries in the 20 and Under category in the Oceania games.

Tebuteb competed in the 20 and under men's javelin throw. His best throw was 46.21 meters to finish last among seven competitors. New Zealand won the event when its entry threw the spear in a distance of 65.26 meters.
Cruz was the team's bet in the 100 and 200M sprints wherein he placed 15th and 16th out of 20 entries. Cruz timed in 12.09 and 25.55 in the two events. Australia won both events when its entries

Continued on page 23

DSR to hold 4-team youth volley event

By Erel A. Cabatbat
VarietyNewsStaff
THE DIVISION of Sports and Recreation (DSR) of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs is set to hold a four team Invitational Youth Volleyball Tournament on Dec. 14 and 15 at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym.
Teams from Mt. Carmel School, Grace Christian Academy, the Angels and one from Tinian High School are set to compete in the girls 15-18 years old double elimination tournament.
The tournament will mark the first time that a team from Tinian High School is being invited to join. Aside from participating in the four team volley tilt, the Tinian team will also play exhibition soccer games against the Angels and Naomi Oney's teams.
A trophy or trophies, depending on the number of willing sponsors, will be given to the champion team and if possible, to the runner-up.
Tony Rogolifoi of the DSR said that the tournament aims to give

Continued on page 23

RGA's 4th Sid K. Peter Golf Tournament

Valuable prizes at stake

By Erel A. Cabatbat
VarietyNewsStaff
CASH AND valuable prizes await winners in the 4th Sid K. Peter Memorial Golf Tournament this coming weekend, Dec. 7 and 8, at Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort West Course and Kingfisher Golf Links.
Considered as one of Saipan's major golfing events, the tournament is giving trophies and a total of \$6,000 to winners in the six flights.
According to Tony Rogolifoi of the RGA, the top three gross winners in the six flights will get \$500, \$400 and \$300 and a

trophy.
The two-day golf event aims to raise money to benefit the 5th Fire Cycle, Airport Rescue and Firefighters and 14th Police and Customs Cycle.
The tournament format calls for medal play and is open to all golf enthusiasts. Golfers will be welcomed in six brackets—the Championship, A, B, C, the Seniors and the Ladies' flights. Trophies will also be given to golfers who will make the longest drive and the closet to the pin for each day of the 36 hole event.
Valuable prizes and golf items will also be given to golfers that

will have the lowest net scores. These include four Big Bertha drivers from Okadaya; one driver from Shopping Plaza; two round trip tickets to Guam from HITA Travel; one round trip to Guam from CNMI Travel; one round trip ticket to Rota from PIA; gift certificates from Princess House Production, Saipan E Tours, National Office Supply, Bali Fashions, Diego Mart, and Payless Supermarket; and other incentives from Microl Corporation, IT&E, PIC, Diamond Hotel, Pacific Sub Sea, Gardenia Hotel, Seabridge, Inc.,

Continued on page 23



PREPARING FOR A BAT—Nine-year-old Tonia Flores is set to swing the bat while other participants look on during one of the sessions of the ongoing baseball camp for little leaguers at the Susupe Sports Complex.
(Photo by A. Cabatbat)

Sportsbits

Luzama, Sablan named Athletes of the Month

THE NORTHERN Mariana Amateur Sports Association (NMASA) named Tony Luzama and Bertha Sablan as the top male and female Athletes of the Month for October.
Luzama was cited for hitting three consecutive home runs and a triple while playing for YCO Surf Star in the Saipan Slowpitch Softball League.
Sablan, on the other hand, was honored for her important role in Sakai's campaign in the 1996 Palau Women's Slowpitch League. Sablan hit two homeruns, scored seven runs and seven runs batted in (RBIs).
Simon Manacop, a 17 year old student at the Marianas High School was selected as the student awardee for being the CBA Bowler of the Month by topping a Japanese tournament.

Continued on page 23

1996 Youth Volleyball League

Flyers beat Angels in 2 sets

By Erel A. Cabatbat
VarietyNewsStaff

Team Standings	W	L
Flyers	2	0
Lady Dreamers	2	0
MCS Knights	2	0
Aschoscho	0	1
GCA Eagles	0	2
Angels	0	3

THE FLYERS registered their second consecutive win as they defeated hard-fighting Angels team in straight sets 15-10, 17-15 in the Girls' Senior Division of the 1996 Youth Volleyball League last Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym.
The Flyers drew first blood in the opening when Syreta Atalig and Abby Romolor served for the first two points of the match. An exchange of sideouts followed before the Angels scored with Pauline Tudela and Lizama countering for three points.
In the next exchange, the Flyers rattled four successive points to grab the lead, 6-3. Both teams failed to score in their successive serves before Julie Tokyo racked

two point for the Angels. The first set finally turned to the Flyers' favor when Celina Somol served for six consecutive points to win the match for her team. Aside from Somol, Naomi Tagabuel and Hope Kinsella also fared well in the opening set.
In the second set, both teams have several rallies, with the Flyers and the Angels stringing four points or more before sideouts. Neither team gave an inch to each other by making the most out of their serves. The Angels four straight points while the Flyers countered with five of their own to keep the game close. With the game on the line, the Flyers leaned on Heather Strickhart and Atalig for the win. Syreta scored for five straight points before Strickhart ended the game by preserving the win for her team by scoring the last three points of the match.
In today's matchup, undefeated Mt. Carmel Knights face its first acid test by going up against equally streaking Lady Dreamers in an early battle of unbeaten teams. The game starts at 5 p.m. at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym.

1996-12-04 10:00 AM