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DeRienzo under fire?

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

PUBLIC Defender Dan DeRienzo may get fired if he "won't come on board" drug czar Richard Pierce's proposed "Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace Program."

Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio, in an interview yesterday, said Pierce is complaining that at least one person in the administration "is...blocking his efforts."

"I made it very clear...that if this guy won't come on board I'm going to fire him."

Tenorio did not mention who the "guy" is, but highly-reliable sources said it is DeRienzo.



Dan DeRienzo

Pierce and the governor's special legal counsel Sebastian Aloit want DeRienzo's "head," sources said.

When asked for a comment last night, Pierce said he has "nothing to say."

DeRienzo is among those invited to today's meeting between Pierce, the Attorney General's Office (AGO), the Office of Personnel Management and the De-

partment of Public Safety's (DPS) legal counsel.

The meeting will discuss the "Drug and Alcohol Free Workplace Program" and the constitutional and procedural issues involved before the program's publication in the Commonwealth Register.

As of presstime last night, Aloit has yet to return Variety's call.

For his part, DeRienzo yesterday said he "cannot possibly legally sit" on the drug program.

"By law I can't do that. My duty is to give legal advice to (those who can't afford to hire a lawyer)."

"So how can I possibly hold (the program)?"

He said the governor has never discussed the issue with him.

"I even got a commendation

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'One dollar per tourist to help clean beaches'

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

PLANS are afoot to solicit at least a dollar from every tourist coming into the CNMI to finance efforts to clean Saipan's beaches.

At the same time, Lands and Natural Resources Sec. Benigno M. Sablan said a newly-formed tie-up between CNMI government and the environmental group, Green Cross International, is now finding other ways to source out funds for the same goal.

This, he said, includes the possibility of asking hotels to chip in a dollar each for every room.

"There are an estimated 3,000 hotel rooms, if we are able to collect a dollar each for every room then that will be \$3,000," said Sablan.

"And the money will be used to finance environmental projects," he added.

The secretary said a proposal on the matter is now being drafted by the group for the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands (HANMI) to consider.

"We will be talking with Ron Sablan, the HANMI chairperson regarding the matter," Sablan said.

He said hotels are seen to con-

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CNMI Food and Nutrition Advisory Council chair Samuel F. McPhetres hands to Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio a copy of the Council's "CNMI National and Food and Nutrition Policy and 10 Year Plan of Action" in yesterday's ceremony at the administration building. Photo courtesy of the Governor's PIPO.

CRM board rejects Koblerville site for a new garment factory

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THE Coastal Resources Management board has given its thumbs down to the application of Top

Fashion Corp. for its planned garment factory in Koblerville.

The proposed garment factory drew much objection from residents and personnel of Koblerville Elementary School from which the factory site is just across.

In their rejection notice to Top Fashion's representative Elizabeth Salas-Balajadia, the seven members of the board headed by CRM Director Manuel C. Sablan said the proposed project was "incompatible with adjacent land uses in the area."

The board also cited the "overwhelming" opposition the garment factory got from the community during the public hearing last Dec. 10.

About 100 oppositors reportedly went in full force to that hearing.

Among those who actively op-



Manuel C. Sablan

posed the factory were the Board of Education led by its chair Don A. Farrell and the Parents, Teachers and Students Association of Koblerville whose president is Joe Limes.

The oppositors claimed the fac-
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Castro orders all DPS officers tested for drugs

Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

DEPARTMENT of Public Safety Commissioner Jose M. Castro has ordered all law enforcement officers, corrections and fire personnel to undergo drug and alcohol testing beginning in January 1997.

In line with DPS' new drug policy that came into effect last month, Castro said employees who test positive for drugs or alcohol will be immediately removed from "safety-sensitive" positions.

Those found positive, Castro said, will also be required to undergo drug and alcohol counseling and treatment with the Division of Mental Health and Substance Abuse.

The commissioner disclosed



Jose M. Castro

that supervisors will start the first round of drug and alcohol testing.

Each person holding "safety-sensitive" positions will be subject to a random

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Weather Outlook



Partly cloudy with a slight chance of showers

Rebel standoff in Peru

By TEOFILO CASO
LIMA, Peru (AP) - Dressed as waiters bearing champagne and hors d'oeuvres, about 30 leftist guerrillas slipped into a party at the Japanese ambassador's house, then set off explosions and took hostage hundreds of diplomats and government officials who were there. The rebels demanded the release of imprisoned colleagues.

Police with assault rifles surrounded the residential compound in the upscale San Isidro district of Lima, and crouched behind their cars as gunfire was heard coming from inside. Witnesses saw smoke and tracer bullets.

From inside the compound, Japanese Ambassador Morihisa Aoki called local radio. "There are no injured, nothing, and we are safe," he said. But he added: "For the moment I cannot speak freely."

The Japanese Foreign Ministry in Tokyo estimated that at least 600 people were attending the party, in honor of the Japanese Emperor Akihito's birthday on Monday. A local television station, citing the Japanese ambassador, reported there were 800 people inside the compound.

Leftist guerrillas take Japanese envoy, others hostage

The attackers drove into the compound dressed as waiters and unloaded food and champagne, police said. They then apparently set off at least one large explosion and two minor ones as they took control of the embassy compound just after 8 p.m. (0100 GMT Wednesday).

The rebels, who according to police numbered about 30, identified themselves as members of the Tupac Amaru guerrilla movement and demanded the release of imprisoned comrades.

"What we are asking is the liberation of all of our comrades, who are being mistreated and tortured in the dungeons of the various prisons," said a guerrilla who identified himself as Comandante Mejia Huerta.

Many leaders of the Tupac Amaru are in jail. Its chief, Victor Polay, was captured in June 1992 and is serving a life sentence in prison, as is his lieutenant, Peter Cardenas. Other top commanders conceded defeat and surrendered in July 1993.

Government officials and members of the Red Cross reportedly

were negotiating with the rebels. President Alberto Fujimori, who is of Japanese ancestry, convened an emergency meeting of his Cabinet.

In a telephone call to Japanese broadcaster NHK, the ambassador said the rebels were "completely armed" and wanted to talk with President Fujimori.

"It seems that after releasing the women and elderly, they are going to negotiate with President Fujimori about the conditions to release us," Aoki said. He was allowed to speak only in Spanish, and said he was not allowed to say how many rebels were in the compound.

In the hours after the attack, the rebels released more than 50 women, including Fujimori's sister Juana. Radio station Radioprogramas reported that Fujimori's mother also was among those released, but the report could not be confirmed. Some of those released appeared to be crying.

A witness who could see into the residence through binoculars told from a taller building nearby told

Radioprogramas that he could see armed men crouched behind bushes inside the compound. He also saw guests apparently lying face down. Among the guests were Peruvian Foreign Minister Francisco Tudela and the ambassadors from Brazil, Bolivia and Cuba, according to congressman Henry Pease, who left the party shortly before the attack. Jose Munoz, a security guard with the Venezuelan Embassy, said that country's ambassador was also inside. In Seoul, the foreign ministry said South Korean ambassador Lee Won-young was among the hostages.

In Tokyo, the Japanese foreign ministry, quoting staff inside the embassy, said most of the hostages were being held on the first floor of the residence. About 20 people, including the Japanese ambassador and the Peruvian foreign minister, were under guard on the second floor.

Pease said he heard a loud explosion as he left the party. He said a number of people were at the party and others were arriving.

Sporadic gunshots from inside the residence pinned down police for a couple of

blocks around the building. There were unconfirmed reports of several police officers being wounded.

Hirokyu Kimoto, a minister at the embassy, called Tokyo from a mobile telephone around 10:15 p.m. (0215 GMT Wednesday) from a security police booth by the residence gates.

"About an hour ago, I heard the sound of several explosions followed by gunfire," Kimoto said. "The gunfire is continuing and I am not able to raise my head. I am pinned down..."

The Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement, which draws its ideology from Fidel Castro's Cuban revolutionaries, took up arms in 1984. It always has been second in importance to the Maoist Shining Path, and even at its height had fewer than 1,000 fighters. According to some estimates, only a couple of hundred armed followers remain.

Just over a year ago, police raided a Lima safe house and arrested more than a dozen members of the Tupac group. Police at the time said the rebels had been planning to seize hostages and demand the release of imprisoned rebel leaders.

Israeli planes raid Southern Lebanon

NABATIYEH, Lebanon (AP) - Israeli warplanes raided hideouts of pro-Iranian Hezbollah guerrillas in south Lebanon Wednesday, Lebanese security sources said.

The sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the Israeli planes struck at 6:30 a.m. (0430 GMT), attacking hills northeast of the self-styled Israeli "security zone" in south Lebanon.

According to sources inside the zone, three Israeli fighters fired three air-to-surface rockets and strafed suspected guerrilla hideouts in Mlita, a Shiite Muslim stronghold in Iqlim el-Tuffah province.

There were no immediate reports of casualties.

The raid came a day after a five-nation monitoring group completed its investigation of a rocket attack on Israel on Friday.

The monitoring group said it considered the rocket attack on Israel a violation of last April's U.S.-brokered cease-fire in south Lebanon. But the monitors did not pin the blame for the attack specifically on the Lebanese government or any guerrilla faction operating in the country.

Representatives from the United States, France, Syria, Israel and Lebanon met for 12 hours Monday at a U.N. peace-keeping force headquarters in the Lebanese border town of Naqoura to discuss Israel's complaint about the attack.

In a statement released in Beirut Tuesday, the group said it ac-

cepted that at least one Katyusha rocket was fired into Israel.

"This act ran counter to the April 26 understanding... The government of Lebanon will do its utmost to ensure compliance with the understanding," the statement said.

The group also called "on all those responsible to take appropriate measures to ensure that such acts do not recur."

The April understanding halted a 16-day Israeli bombing blitz against Lebanese Hezbollah guerrillas in southern Lebanon. At least 175 people, most of them Lebanese civilians, were killed in the bombardment.

The agreement prohibits attacks against civilians but does not preclude attacks on military targets, provided they are not launched from civilian areas.

The truce monitors had previously blamed Israel for causing injury to civilians, but did not accuse it of violating the agreement.

Israel's announcement Friday that Katyusha rockets were fired across the border from south Lebanon had been denied by the Lebanese government, the Iranian-backed Lebanese Hezbollah and radical Palestinian guerrilla factions.

Although Lebanon has supported Hezbollah attacks against the Israelis occupying a border zone in south Lebanon, the government has pressured the militant group not to fire rockets into northern Israel.

Consul on workers' free food benefits:

'We're not obligating anyone'

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff
THE PHILIPPINE Consulate yesterday clarified that the RP government is not mandating Commonwealth employers to provide free food and housing to Filipino workers.

It said it may, however, not allow the workers to be employed in the CNMI if their employment contracts do not guarantee such benefits.

"There's nothing being violated... nothing being imposed," said Philippine Labor Attache Jesus Varela.

Varela's reactions stemmed from remarks made on the matter by Gov. Froilan Tenorio who, in an interview with the Variety, said employers renewing their respective Filipino workers' contract may bypass the Consulate, just bring your applications to our labor office and we'll process them...we'll approve



Generoso Calonge

be "approved."

"I will not require our employers to provide food. If the Philippine Consulate does not want to process the permits for renewal, then I'll just tell the employers 'forget about the Philippine Consulate, just bring your applications to our labor office and we'll process them...we'll approve

Torres claims Interior officials 'stood him up'



William Torres

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff
EDUCATION Commissioner William Torres had prepared to meet with two visiting officials from the Department of Interior to discuss with them the Public School System's request for technical assistance.

On Monday last week, Torres waited—in vain. "They just flew in and flew out," Torres complained.

The commissioner said PSS extended assistance to the department when interior officials earlier came to the island to seek the necessary information they needed

for a report.

But when PSS needed help, Torres lamented, the officials he was supposed to meet didn't show up.

Torres said he wanted to request grants for the PSS's after school and intermediary programs which are both funded through the technical assistance money.

Darlan Knoblock, director of the Office of Insular Affairs and technical assistant James Johnson arrived on Dec 7.

Another official who also alleged he was stood up by Knoblock and Johnson described the visit as "mysterious trip."

"I don't know what they have accomplished," the official said. Keith Augenbaugh said the DOI's field representative office on Saipan has "no comment."

The DOI representative office on Saipan earlier said Knoblock and Johnson would 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.

them'...without the food," the governor said.

Tenorio said this may be done in view of a memorandum of understanding between the CNMI and Philippine governments still being worked out.

Tenorio said the CNMI government "is not pushing employers here to do that [provide free food allowance] because that's not in our law."

Granting free food and housing to Filipino workers is required from employers in host countries by virtue of the 1995 Philippine Migrant Workers' Act.

Its implementation in the CNMI however, has been on a mere optional basis following an agreement reached with the lifting of the ban on the deployment of service workers to the Commonwealth last May.

The ban was imposed during the term of Philippine Labor Secretary Nieves Confesor after a five-man fact finding mission led by Philippine Labor Attache to Washington DC, Manuel Imzon found out that there were pending cases of abuse involving Filipino workers in the CNMI.

"We have not been imposing. The RP only regulates [deploy-



Jesus Varela

ment of workers]. We can only tell a worker 'yes you may go' or 'no you may not,'" Varela said.

The Philippine Overseas Employment Administration oversees the deployment based on employment contracts sent by host country employers through Philippine embassies or consulates.

"We are enforcing Philippine law on Philippine soil," Varela stressed.

Tenorio said that if any, only employers hiring new workers from the Philippines will be affected by this requirement.

He said the "alternative" left for these employers is to "start looking elsewhere."

He said though that he doesn't

think there are many skilled workers "elsewhere."

"The employers here will just have to decide. It will cost them another \$2 a day maybe...to provide the food and its better than going to other countries and looking for the same workers with no guarantee that they could find it," he said.

The CNMI economy, according to visiting US Congressman Ralph M. Hall (D-Texas), "has been performing well" with a "real boom" expected to be experienced "in the next 10 years."

Filipino workers, official estimates show, comprise a third of the CNMI's 60,000 population.

Varela said the Filipino community, with about 20,000 tax-paying members, has contributed to this growth.

"We believe we are helping the CNMI in its economic miracle. We like this miracle to be sustained," said Varela.

"It is only appropriate that recognition of the efforts that contributed to this success be made through ensuring that protection and welfare of the Filipino workers are upheld," he added.

"We are not asking for anything more than that," he stressed.



With the Capitol in the background, Al Hill carries a board as work continued on the Inaugural stand. President Clinton will take the Presidential oath on the stand on Jan. 20, 1997. (AP Photo)

HongKong leader-in-waiting awaits Beijing seal of approval

By JOHN LEICESTER
BEIJING (AP) - Hong Kong's leader-in-waiting began a series of meetings Wednesday with China's top leaders to receive their seal of approval before taking up his post when the colony reverts to China next July.

Tung Chee-hwa's meetings in Beijing, his first since his selection last week as Hong Kong's future chief executive, were being closely watched in the British colony for indications of how independent China will allow the burlly shipping magnate to be.

Tung, who arrived in the Chinese capital on Tuesday, said he wanted to increase communication with Beijing and planned to discuss China's promise that Hong Kong people will govern the colony after it returns to Chinese sovereignty next July 1.

Tung met Vice Premier and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen Wednesday morning and was to meet President Jiang Zemin and Premier Li Peng later in the day before returning to Hong Kong on Thursday.

Going into their meeting at the

Diaoyutai State Guest House in western Beijing, Tung and Qian would not tell reporters what they planned to discuss.

They shook hands warmly and Qian good-humoredly chided the Hong Kong media for dogging Tung during his flight up to Beijing. Lu Ping, China's top official for Hong Kong affairs, also was present.

Tung will be able to suggest candidates for top government posts during his meetings, Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Shen Guofang said Tuesday.



Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio with visiting U.S. Congressman Ralph M. Hall (extreme right) and wife (third from left), and Hall's chief of staff E.K. Slaughter and wife (second from left) during Tuesday's dinner reception at the governor's residence. Hall ends his four-day visit today. Photo courtesy of the Governor's PIPCO

High court orders reinstatement of Bank of Saipan as executor

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff
ACTING quickly on the petition filed by the Bank of Saipan Tuesday, the Supreme Court ordered yesterday the reinstatement of the bank as executor of the \$450-million estate of the late Larry Lee Hillblom.

In a two-page order, the high court said the reinstatement of BOS will be "limited" to the "purpose of representing the estate in any and all heirship proceedings."

The high tribunal also stopped the Superior Court from enforcing its Dec 13 verbal order "disqualifying BOS

and its qualified attorneys from participating in the heirship proceedings."

Rodney J. Jacob, attorney for the bank, on Tuesday asked the Supreme Court to stay enforcement of the lower court's "oral order" before it could be put in a written form.

Jacob said the court's order contradicted the high court's Oct. 28 decision wherein it stated that the bank, being the executor, may defend the estate.

Taking a cue from the high court's order, the bank hired the Morrison & Foerster law firm to replace another firm earlier disqualified by the Superior Court from defending the estate.

The case stemmed from paternity suits separately filed by Kaelani Kinney on behalf of her son Junior Larry Hillbloom; and David Moncrief, guardian of Jellian Cuartero. Hillbloom and Cuartero are alleged children of the late Larry Lee Hillblom who died in a plane crash early last year.

The alleged heirs are seeking claims against Hillblom's estate.

During the court proceeding on Dec. 13, Superior Court Presiding Judge Alex Castro said that since the reinstatement of the Bank of Saipan is still "under advisement," it cannot defend

the estate and its lawyers cannot represent the case.

Transcript of the proceeding quoted Castro as saying: "(T)his court orders that unless the law firms presently representing the interest of the estate are replaced by the approval and order of this court, no other law firm on this earth...is to render any legal services in connection with the administration or defending the estate."

Castro added that the estate's special administrator, William Webster "is the only person authorized in this earth" to assist in any matters related to the estate.



Judge Alex Castro

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



Tinilaika siha giya Marianas

Gi mapos na biahe in taitai lamayot patte gi fino' ginen Lt. Governor as Señor Francisco C. Ada 'nai ha kuentese i delegadon primet na konbension i konstitusion iya Marianas ni tumuge' ennao na dokumento bente años tatte. I sigiente i teteñnan na patte gi fino' Señor Ada. Taimano ilegho gi mapos, it asunto tineteka tinilaika ya gi mismo tiempo guaha inaminasa gi hagas man apurbeao na finanaguen guelo yan guela. Hahasso este siha na punto gi hiniyoñg este yan hinalom otro sakan.

Checho' kriminat gi halom manhoben: Triste na sentimiento 'nai ha ekspresia si Señor Ada i manmasusede pago na tiempo gi halom yan entalo' manhoben. 'Nai un'baba i gaseta ya un'taitai chatfinatinas 'nai guaha mapuno osino dinestrosian propiadat nu i manhobenta, guaha dañgkulo na finatso gi halom komunidatta. 'Nai guaha lokue' manhoben pumuno maisa siha, otro asunto na debi umarikonose sa' serioso. Yangin i manhoben mandinistrorsa nu i amot bineno tat komo shabu osino manma' u'usa gi mabenden ennao na amot bineno pot ambeteria, pues debi ta chogue mas pot para ta ataha este na problemaman sosiat.

Inasustenen Natibo: Pues deste pago na haane, maila ta komite, estudiaye satton yan ta aregla hafa i dicho problema pot para ta satba yan ta ataha i dumentrosa i linala' taotaota. Yangin i presente siha na atte ti nahoñg gi satbasion problemata siha, pues muñga hit man ma'ñaao chumage otro atte. Maila tafan daña ya ta atetuye denubo manera siha 'nai siña ta satba problemata. Ginen i fehman na kinemite 'nai siña tafa' tolaiye i karerata kosake siña ta krusa ya ha kone' esta i nuebo na siglo.

Estao sudadanon Marianas: Ha sañgan lokue' si Señor Ada na i estao taotao Marianas ti komplido 'nai manmatatpañge sudadanon Estados Unidos de Amerika. Ilegña lokue' si Señor Ada na estake siña kada Amerikano guine mamokat halom gi sagan botasion ya ha matka papa' haye para u rinipresenta gi kuetpon Congresson Amerika yan Presidenten Estados Unidos 'nai siña tasañgan na komplido i hinalomta komo petmanente na patte gi familian Estados Unidos de Amerika.

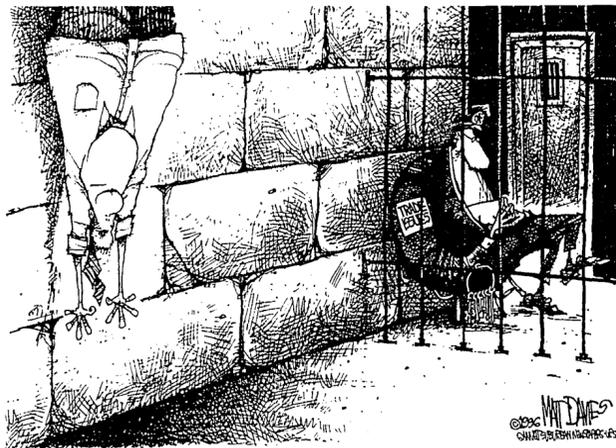
Estake u fatto ayo na haane 'nai ti man e'esalao hit ginen hioyong kuetpon Congresson Amerika ya gi hilo mismo pisu 'nai man e'esalao hit ya todo humuñgog hafa dinesehata 'nai komplido na man familia hit gi papa' Estados Unidos de Amerika. Olara mohan na i telai ni ta hahatsa pago u dirihe hit guato gi ta tataña na diniseha 'nai prefekto man membro hit gi familian Estados Unidos.

I sentimiento ni ha ekspresia si Señor Ada tineteka hafa didog problemata yan manhobenta ni man e'esalao silensio na mensahe ginen i korason niha sa' ha nesesia ayudata pago. Guiya este siha na famaguon i tanae' nu i tatalo'ta sa' guaha lokue' siha dibusionta na tana' mas presiso ke haanen niha.

Gi todo biradaho, un'chalan ha' este na finatso ha apupunta—i gima' 'nai makreansa este siha na famaguon. Chatmiyo nina' fan chachatsaga ni dos saina sa' i intensionho 'nos pot para baiho na' fanmamahlao hamyo, lao pot para bai' chage kumepañgon tatte i sentsian responsabilidadat giya hamyo kosake siña na renueba, gi hilo' masfitme na kinimite, na para un'atetuye obligasionmo komo tatan yan nanan guma'.

Huñgan, un'manada na estotbo pago na tiempo gi linala'ta. Lao chamo ini'iñgag nu ennao siha na tane'. Na fitme hao gi primera obligasionmo pot krineansan patgonmo sa' yangin enfin ennao na patgon fitme gi dos adeñña deste ke mafañago, ti un' mapoñnga kumomple satton hafa responsabilidadat un' saina. Baba korasonmo ya unna' halom i futuron ennao na patgon gi konsiensiammo. Guiya ennao na patgon i espehosmo dispues de ha diñgo i pettan san mena. Nae' i prohimo propio atension saina kosake siña ta talon pumañgon tatte i dinaña familia taimano finanaguen mañainata deste antigo na komunidat natibo.

Dipotsihe sasalaguan este i tano' sa' taiminagos todo klases problema gi haanita. Lao fan usune sa' mamamaila' un' premio para hago yangin satton atension un'nae' famaguon estake todo felis karanen niha mona ya siha lokue' ha establesse mismo familian niha. Sen mas Si Yuus Maase!



JACK ANDERSON and MICHAEL BINSTEIN
WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Mexican border is site of drug 'cancer'

WASHINGTON — Retired Gen. Barry McCaffrey is proud of the way his agency, the Office of National Drug Control Policy, is waging the war on drugs. But there's one caveat: McCaffrey, who spent his entire career in the military, won't refer to his current calling as a war.

The new metaphor is "cancer." As in, drugs are a cancer eating away at America's families. "Don't use those macho words like 'war,'" a McCaffrey aide tells us as we leave an interview with the recently appointed drug czar.

No matter what words one uses, the battle against illegal drugs continues to rage, not just in Washington but on the streets of Southern California and along America's border with Mexico.

Just a few years ago, most of the illicit drugs that entered this country came through south Florida, where Colombian drug lords imported tons of cocaine for the American market. These days, the front lines have moved rapidly westward. McCaffrey told us he believes that as much as 70 percent of all illegal drugs comes in over the Mexican border.

Most of those drugs come across the Texas/Mexico border in part because stepped-up enforcement efforts in Southern California have made the border crossings there less attractive to drug dealers. McCaffrey estimates that 45 percent of all drugs that come from Mexico now arrive through the border crossing at El Paso, Texas.

"For the first time in the country's history, there actually is a U.S.-Mexican border in California," McCaffrey told our associates Aaron Karp and Sammy Linebaugh. "Not a great one, but there is a border.... There's a fence there. There are guards, and human rights are protected."

But all the high-tech surveillance equipment in the world can't protect against human greed, as shown by the story of a recent \$3.7 million drug bust.

The stories of operations Motorcross and Broken Border were detailed in the pages of a Justice Department report, yet they read more like Hollywood thrillers. That's not surprising, since these real-life clandestine operations took place not far from the soundstages of Hollywood.

It began when Justice Department officials learned that a major drug trafficking organization in Southern California was plan-

ning to offer bribes to U.S. immigration officers in exchange for their cooperation.

Bribes are nothing new when it comes to drug enforcement. The Colombian cocaine kings who once flew their illicit loads into Florida have learned that lesson well—and many have applied that knowledge in Mexico. It's now estimated that government officials and law enforcement personnel in Mexico take in as much as \$500 million per year in bribes from various drug dealers.

In exchange for money, the drug gangs wanted immigration documents and assistance in smuggling 100kilo loads of cocaine into the United States. Justice officials shared the information with the Drug Enforcement Administration, and the two agencies planned a joint sting operation.

According to the Justice report, Operations Motorcross and Broken Border were soon initiated. It began with a Justice agent posing as a crooked immigration inspector. Soon he was given a \$32,400 bribe to hand over immigration documents and look the other way as cocaine was smuggled across the border. The DEA allowed the "controlled" deliveries of cocaine to the drug traffickers.

The four dealers who slipped the undercover agent the cash were arrested on charges of bribery of a public official. The DEA then seized the cocaine, \$3.7 million in dirty money, and arrested six more drug dealers.

SINKING SHIPS—If the U.S. Navy were a private enterprise—and not supported by taxpayers—it surely would have been sunk long ago.

For the third time in the last 15 years, the Navy tried to revamp its clumsy accounting practices. Previously, the Navy had been operating under a hodgepodge of 25 different accounting systems—all fraught with problems.

Determined to streamline its numbers—crunching, the Navy settled on one system—the Standard Accounting and Reporting System, or STARS. The Navy brass boldly predicted that this system would prove to be the "least deficient" of the 25 systems.

But a recent audit by congressional investigators found that the new system has "serious shortcomings." According to the report, STARS "did not comply with Department of Defense basic financial requirements." The Pentagon has promised to fix the system. But if history is any indicator, these efforts are likely to be too little, too late.

Invited US reps 'conservatives'

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff
THE FIVE U.S. congressmen invited to visit the CNMI have already confirmed their arrival, the governor's Public Information Officer Mark Broadhurst said yesterday.

According to the tentative schedule drawn up, the five will arrive in the CNMI on Dec. 29 and will leave on Jan. 2.

Broadhurst said the five are Rep. Brian P. Billbray (R-California), Rep. John J. Duncan Jr. (R-Tennessee), Rep. Richard W. Pombo (R-California), Rep. Dana Rohrabacher (R-California) and Rep. Clifford B. Stearns (R-Florida).

All have a consistently conservative voting record in Congress. Billbray, 45, is from California's 49th district.

First elected in 1994 when the Republican Party seized control of Congress for the first time since 1952, Billbray is a member of the Subcommittees on Commerce, Trade and Hazardous Materials; and Environment.

Duncan, 49, is the highest ranking member in the group. He represents Tennessee's 2nd district since 1988 and is the chair of the Subcommittee of Transportation and Infrastructure Resources.

Duncan is also a member of the Subcommittees on Energy and Mineral Resources; and National



Rep. Brian P. Billbray Rep. John J. Duncan Jr. Rep. Richard W. Pombo Rep. Dana Rohrabacher Rep. Clifford B. Stearns

Parks, Forests and Lands. Pombo, 35, represents California's 11th district and was first elected in 1992.

He is a member of the House Subcommittees on Livestock, Dairy and Poultry; Resource Conservation, Research and Forestry; Risk Management and Specialty Crops; National Parks, Forests and Lands; and Water and Power Resources.

Rohrabacher, 49, is from California's 45th district and was first elected in 1988.

He is a member of the House Subcommittees on Asia and the Pacific; International Economic Policy and Trade; Energy and Environment; and Space and Aeronautics.

Stearns, 55, is from Florida's 6th district, and was first elected in 1988. He sits on the Subcommittees on Energy and Power; Health and Environment; Telecommunications and Finance; Hospitals and Health Care.

Last Monday, U.S. Congressman Ralph M. Hall (D-Texas) arrived for a four-day visit in which he said he will try to see how Congress can help the Commonwealth take care of itself.

Hall is the first member of Congress to visit the CNMI since February when U.S. Senators Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska) and Daniel Akaka (D-Hawaii) arrived for a "fact-finding" mission.

Congressional staffers and think-tank policy analysts have also visited the CNMI and were, in general, impressed with the Commonwealth's economy. Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio, in an interview Tuesday, said the congressional visits, which are paid for by the CNMI government, is "definitely worth" the costs.

Tenorio said that the money spent for the visits is "a lot less than what it would cost us if Congress takes away immigration control or apply the federal minimum wage rate, which would just kill our tourist industry."

missioner Jose M. Castro, Health Secretary Isamu J. Abraham, Public Works Secretary Edward DL. Guerrero, Labor and Immigration Secretary Thomas O. Sablan, Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Benigno M. Sablan, Finance Secretary Antonio R. Cabrera, Cultural Affairs Secretary Thomas A. Tebuteb, Special Assistant for Administration Vicente T. Attao, Special Assistant for Management and Budget Eliceo D. Cabrera and Commonwealth Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos A. Shoda.

The governor's Public Information Officer Mark Broadhurst said the governor's next village meeting will be held early January in the San Vicente/Dandan area.

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Micronesian council mulls Pacific trade bloc



Sam McPhetres

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

BUSINESS leaders in Micronesia envision the establishment of an economic bloc that would enhance "freer" trade and greater business opportunities in the region, Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Sam McPhetres said yesterday.

McPhetres attended the Micronesian Business Council's conference held in Koror, Palau Saturday.

Regional trade, McPhetres said, could be enhanced if each island would slacken some of its policies that tend to curtail the free flow of goods and services within the region.

Guam, for example, does not accept fresh meat from Saipan, and fresh fruits from Palau.

"We hope to make it easier to

increase trade among Micronesians," McPhetres said.

This, he added, can be realized through the assistance of the chambers' respective policy-making bodies.

"We can lobby our legislators, show them the benefits of greater trade and ask them to revise or lift any kind of regulations and rules that don't serve practical purposes," McPhetres said, citing for example the imposition of quotas and other impractical restrictions.

Free trade is being enjoyed by members of regional economic blocs such as the Asian Free Trade Association, North American Free Trade Association, and European Union.

The Micronesian Business Council, organized in December 1995, is composed of Guam, Saipan and Palau Chambers of Commerce.

According to the Saipan Chamber's press release, the council also discussed issues about ocean freight, financial services, and building codes, communications, tourism and integrating conservation with development.

At Saturday's meeting, McPhetres said, the delegates agreed on the need to build up a data base to identify the goods and services which council members want to import and export.

Next year's council meeting will be held on Saipan, tentatively in October.

Girls nabbed for 'stealing' car

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff
TWO minor girls were arrested for allegedly stealing a car in Garapan Tuesday night.

Public Safety Information Officer Sgt. Franklin Babauta said police officers pulled over the two girls in front of Joeten Dandan. Babauta said initial investigation showed that prior to the incident, a woman went inside a business establishment in western Garapan to use a telephone. When the woman left her car's key on the counter, two female juveniles came in and one of them picked it up.

The girls ran to the parking lot and drove the vehicle, prompting the woman to call police assistance.

Police officers chased the car which was spotted along 16th Highway in As Terlaje.

The girls were nabbed for theft of vehicle and curfew violation, police said.

In other police report, three persons were injured during a collision between two vehicles along Middle Road in Chalan Lau Lau Tuesday night.

Initial investigation showed that a Toyota Camry with license plate AAS-388 was travelling northward on the inner lane when it collided with a south-bound Mazda pick up truck (AAA-484) in front of Volvo Penta.

Police said the collision happened when the truck, driven by 18-year-old Florencio Q.

Richards, occupied the inner northbound lane and struck the car.

Richards was arrested for reckless driving and driving under the influence of alcohol.

The car's driver, a 17-year-old girl and her passenger, a 15-year-old girl, were also hurt. All victims were taken to the Commonwealth Health Center.

Both vehicles were extensively damaged.

In Capitol Hill, an unidentified person/s stole a TV set, a VCR, 10 cases of beer, a bottle of liquor, and one carton of cigarettes, at the Department of Finance office.

An employee discovered the items missing Tuesday morning, police said.

No signs of break in were noted, police said.

Last Nov. 25, an air conditioner at Finance was also stolen.



The wrecked pick up truck after Tuesday night's collision with a car along Middle Road in Chalan Lau Lau. Photo by Ferdie de la Torre

Suspects in guard's slay plead innocent



Sidney Tenorio Camacho



Alex Agulto Camacho

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE two teenagers accused in the fatal mauling of a Filipino security guard at Nikko Hotel have denied committing the offense.

During an arraignment, Alex Agulto Camacho and his cousin Sidney Tenorio Camacho, through their respective counsel Brien Nicholas and Ted Mitchell, waived reading of the information and advisement of their personal and constitutional rights.

Both defendants entered pleas of not guilty.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Alexandro Castro set a status conference on Jan. 6, 1997.

The court released Alex and Sidney on \$100,000 bail each in property bond.

Alex and Sidney, both 19 years old, were charged with murder in the second degree and aggravated assault and battery.

Court information showed that the two defendants mauled Bernardo M. Tique who was on duty at Nikko Hotel last Dec. 1 at 8:15 p.m.

The suspects were allegedly irked when Tique asked them to leave the poolside where they and two other companions were swimming.

Motorists asked to turn headlights on Friday

MOTORISTS are encouraged to drive their vehicles on Friday with headlights on to support the National Lights on For Life Day.

The event was intended in memory of those who have been killed or injured by drunk or drugged drivers as a reminder of the dangers of impaired driving.

Lights on For Life Day was part of the Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention Month events in the CNMI.

ment of Public Safety, in 1995, 43,825 Americans were killed in motor vehicle crashes. Of these deaths, almost 17,274 or less than 39% of these fatalities involved alcohol.

DPS said studies have shown that young drivers aged 21 to 34 are the most at risk group for driving impaired.

The CNMI 3Ds kicked off last Nov. 29 with a candle light vigil procession in Garapan.

The month-long event will be concluded with an island-wide motorcade on Dec. 31. (FDT)

Guam judge orders AGO:

'Amend complaint vs Atalig'

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

GUAM Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III has found that the government's complaint against Associate Justice Pedro M. Atalig and six other persons contains some sensational languages.

In a three-page decision issued yesterday, Lamorena ordered the Attorney General's Office to amend its complaint by deleting some languages that "amount to editorializing."

Lamorena asked the AGO to file an amended complaint within 10 days and requested the defendants to submit their answers within 20 days after being served with the new complaint.

During a hearing last Oct. 21, the judge reserved his decision upon motions to dismiss for improper

venue, to strike, and dismiss for failure to plead fraud with particularity filed by Pedro Atalig. Pedro's co-defendant Augusto B. Atalig, former Rota Land Registration Team chairman, joined in the venue and to strike motions.

Pedro, through counsel Juan T. Lizama and Bruce Berline, asked the court to strike portions of the complaint which were allegedly scandalous, implicating his participation in fraud or conspiracy to commit fraud.

"These scandalous and unfounded allegations encumber his (Pedro) ability to function effectively at the Supreme Court by casting a baseless cloud over his integrity," said Lizama in the motion to strike.

The chief justice also sought the dismissal of the case, citing that the

venue (Saipan) claimed is improper.

Pedro said the proper venue for the suit is Rota where the subject land is located.

In his order, Lamorena denied the motion to dismiss for improper venue, but ruled that the trial will be held on Rota.

"There does not appear to be any legal justification for dismissing the complaint. Dismissal would only result in delaying the case," Lamorena said.

For the sake of judicial economy and convenience of the parties, the judges said, all motions will be heard on Saipan.

On the motion to dismiss for failure to plead fraud with particularity, Pedro contended that the plaintiff has not met the standards of Commonwealth civil rules and



Justice Pedro M. Atalig

procedures with respect to the fraud allegations against him.

Lamorena said the details in the complaint along with those in plaintiff's opposition to defendant's

motion to dismiss for failure to plead fraud, are probably sufficient to comply with the rule.

However, the judge stated he is aware of the defendants' need to make a responsive pleading.

Lamorena asked the government to amend its complaint to make a more definite statement as to the fraud allegations against Pedro.

"Specifically, the time, place, manner and any other relevant circumstances of the alleged fraud should be stated clearly in the complaint," Lamorena said.

The CNMI Supreme Court appointed Lamorena to handle the case after Superior Court judges recused themselves.

The government filed last June a \$4-million civil suit against Pedro and six other persons over an alleged land grab on Rota.

MVB Tourism roundtable discussions set for today

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THE Marianas Visitors Bureau will hold its second Roundtable Discussion on Tourism tomorrow preparatory to formulating a tourism policy for the CNMI.

The discussion, according to MVB's public relations and community programs manager, Perry John P. Tenorio, will come up with a "plan of action leading towards the creation of a National Tourism Policy tailored to the specific needs of the CNMI."

Tomorrow's discussion will tackle education and training, environment, and infrastructure.

The first roundtable discussion last Sept. 23 focused on traveler safety and security, product development, and also environmental concerns.

Discussion on the environment was suspended for lack of time.

Participating in the discussion are representatives from concerned government agencies and tourism industry leaders.

What are tackled in the roundtable discussion are recommendations submitted by different committees to the White House Conference on Travel and Tourism on Oct. 30-31 last year.

During the discussion, more recommendations are usually added.

According to MVB Managing Director Anicia Q. Tomokane, the aim of the discussion is to formulate a tourism policy which right now the CNMI has none.

This tourism policy will define the direction of the CNMI tourism path and give the Commonwealth an identity by which it will be known.

Tomokane has said different government agencies and private tourism-related establishments have to promote the CNMI with one single identity since at present these entities promote the CNMI in whatever way they want to project the islands.

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I took your advice and after only 5 treatments, I felt changes throughout my body. For two months my menstrual period were delayed and you confirmed that I was already two months pregnant! I couldn't believe that at the age of 44 years old, I was going to have a baby!

On April 09, 1995, I gave birth to a baby girl. Of course, you Minda D. Cullen was one of my baby's godmothers.

My sincere thanks to GOD and especially to you Ate Minda, for you have made me happy throughout my life.

I am very proud to make a recommendation to those couples who can't have a baby and I encourage them to see you. You are always willing to help to try your best and heal everybody.

I thank GOD for you Minda! You truly are an "instrument of my life!"

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Pacific News Round-Up

Greenpeace: New plutonium shipment to pass thru Pacific

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP)—The environment group Greenpeace claimed Wednesday a ship carrying radioactive plutonium from France to Japan plans to sail through the Tasman Sea between Australia and New Zealand in January.

Quoting from what it claimed was a leaked French diplomatic document, the group said 40 canisters of plutonium encased in glass blocks would be carried around Africa's Cape of Good Hope, across the Indian Ocean, through the Tasman Sea and north past several small Pacific island states.

Greenpeace said the British-registered ship Pacific Teal is scheduled to leave France on Jan. 16.

Japan sends its spent nuclear fuel to France, where it is reprocessed into plutonium to be used again in reactors.

Plutonium is a substance so toxic it can cause cancer if inhaled even in small amounts.

Auckland-based Greenpeace campaign director Stephanie Mills said the

New Zealand and other Pacific states should urgently ban the ship from their exclusive economic zones, which extends 200 nautical miles from shore.

"Unless the nuclear states involved get a strong message from this region now it is likely that it could become a nuclear highway," said Mills.

"The region's governments have to put a marker down, say this is too dangerous and we're not prepared to have these ships in our region."

In the past, many countries have denounced Japan for failing to disclose the routes taken by plutonium-carrying ships coming from France.

NZ embassy warning teachers seeking work

SUVA (PNS)—The New Zealand Embassy has warned teachers against applying for vacancies in New Zealand through agencies.

The warning came in response to questions raised about an advertisement in the Fiji Times last month. The advertisement sought 50 Fijian dollars (US \$36) from teachers who wanted to be included in an agency's database, the Fiji Times reported.

An embassy spokeswoman says teachers wanting to apply for positions in New Zealand should seek application forms from the New Zealand Ministry of Education.

The spokeswoman says there is no other way of getting applications forms.

American Samoa cabinet known after Christmas

PAGO PAGO (PNS)—American Samoa's governor-elect, Tauese Sunia, is not announcing his new cabinet or staff appointments until after Christmas.

Sunia said in an interview with the Samoa News newspaper, that the longer he waits, the better the selection process gets.

Sunia emphasized that his lieutenant-governor, Togiola Tulafono, will have just as much a say in the decision-making as he. The main characteristics cabinet selection will be based on general level of academic training, specialised training in the appropriate field and experience.

Sunia said some existing cabinet members will be retained but he has not yet made any final decisions about which ones. He said they will have a strong but smaller corps of advisers in the governors office.

Australia bans Solomons plane

HONIARA (PNS)—The newly-introduced 727 jet aircraft, operated by Pacific Air Express of Solomon Islands as a freighter service, has been banned from Australia.

The action was taken after authorities in Australia found that the aircraft was registered in Solomon Islands without technical support on air worthiness, SIBC reports.

Director of Civil Aviation Michael Anita says air worthiness surveillance is normally done by experts from the United Kingdom on behalf of Solomon Islands, because of lack of qualified people in the country. Anita says an investigation is continuing into how the aircraft was registered in Solomon Islands.

SIBC understands the aircraft is only serving the Honiara-Noumea route for connection flights to Japan. Permanent secretary in the ministry of culture, tourism and aviation says the government is working to resolve the matter.

Meanwhile, the Solomon Islands Public Employees Union has blamed the situation on the Civil Aviation Division saying the disruption to Pacific Air Express' specialised freighter service is seriously affecting local businesses.

13th volcano victim dies

PORT MORESBY (PNS)—A 13th victim of Papua New Guinea's Manam volcano explosion a fortnight ago died at Madang hospital Tuesday morning.

According to National Disaster and Emergency Services (NDES) Director Leith Anderson the victim, a woman died from shock and third degree burns to her body, the Post-Courier reported.

Anderson says the NDES Tuesday decided to hold the Manam alert at Stage 2 level for a couple more days to allow his staff to complete investigations on the ground on the extent of the damage caused by the eruption of the volcano on December 6.

He also reported that a storm which hit Madang and surrounding areas Sunday dumped about 175mm of rain on the ground complicating things for Manam islanders with mud floods.

Anderson says several houses were damaged by the storm and food gardens washed away by mud floods. A full report of the eruption damage is to go before cabinet today.

French minister visits PNG

PORT MORESBY (PNS)—The French development co-operation minister, Jacques Godfrain, has paid a brief visit to Papua New Guinea. PNG's foreign affairs and trade minister, Kilroy Genia, says during the visit Godfrain (Mr) signed a framework agreement on friendship and co-operation between France and PNG, Post-Courier reported.

He says the agreement would mark a new era in guiding and setting the pace for more meaningful and constructive relations between the two countries.

These relations had been strained in the past by French nuclear testing and the New Caledonia question. Genia says "France is an influential member of the world community, especially in the South Pacific through regional arrangements, including the South Pacific Commission, which is headquartered in the French territory of New Caledonia."

He says it was important to build stronger ties with France because through that PNG could explore new opportunities for partnership and co-operation, especially in the areas of trade, investment, development assistance and exchange of visits.

News of Solomons MPs' salary increase denied

HONIARA (PNS)—The Solomon Islands Clerk of Parliament and the Leader of the Opposition have dismissed reports that members of parliament have been awarded a salary increase of 14.5 percent.

Clerk of Parliament James Saliga and Opposition Leader Ezekiel Alebu say the reports were misleading. Both men say only the Parliamentary Entitlement Commission can consider, approve or amend the conditions of service of MPs, including their salaries and conditions.

The Office of the Prime Minister last week issued a circular stating that cabinet had agreed on a 14.5 salary increase for both public officers and parliamentarians. The circular says 12 percent

of the award would back-dated to January 1996 and the additional 2.5 percent to be paid in 1997.

Alebu says it would appear the media had misquoted out of context the public service circular. But the general secretary of SIPEU, Clement Waiwori, says the circular does include salary increases for MPs.

Meanwhile, Waiwori has written to the Prime Minister's Office expressing concern that the government was breaking the agreement with SIPEU that public servants be paid the full 12 percent arrears in the second payday of this month. The public service circular says that one half of the arrears would be paid in the second December payday and the other half next year.

CNMI adopts its new food and nutrition policy, 10-year plan

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

STARTING next year, awareness campaigns and other activities to attain the goal of a "healthier, more physically fit CNMI community" will start rolling.

This goal has been adopted under the CNMI National Food and Nutrition Policy which was formally presented to Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio yesterday.

The Policy, together with a 10-Year Plan of Action, was developed by the CNMI National Food and Advisory Council after a three-day conference specially participated in by World Health Organization consultant, Jenny L. Reid.

The Action Plan aims to develop six strategies in pursuance of the goal.

These strategies are:

- Sustaining the CNMI National Food and Nutrition Advisory Council;
- Developing a media strategy;
- Developing a community nutrition and physical activity promotion strategy;
- Developing a food and nutrition monitoring strategy;
- Developing a national and household food security strategy; and
- Developing a food safety strategy.

The Council, which Tenorio formed last Sept. 25, is composed of representatives from different government and private entities. It recognizes that members are politically appointed.

"A structure needs to be established that is sustainable and financially viable," the Plan of Action states.

The Action Plan also recognizes the importance of the media in helping raise community awareness of food and nutrition-related diseases and inducing changes in personal and community lifestyles.

The priority target audiences under the community nutrition and physical activity promotion strategy are children and their families.

These audiences will be the focus for the first three years.

The PTAs, the schools and health care providers will be asked to promote food, nutrition and physical activity messages in the homes and schools.

These messages will cover aspects of healthy eating including breast feeding, snack foods, dental hygiene, and healthy drinks including safe drinking water.

The objectives are to reduce childhood obesity from 30 percent last year to less than 20 percent by the year 2007, among others.

Obesity also afflicts 60-70 percent of the indigenous adults, and it is the objective to reduce the percentage to 50 by 2007.

A food and nutrition monitoring system is targeted to be established by 1999.

This system, according to the Action Plan, is essential for the establishment of a baseline data on

the current food and nutrition situation as well as trends in food availability and consumption.

The Action Plan points out under the food security strategy that people must have access at all times to the food needed for a healthy life.

"Existence of adequate quantities of food does not guarantee food security," it says.

It says that national food security "ensures a safe and nutritionally adequate food supply system at the national level" while household food security "ensures that each household has the knowledge and ability to produce, procure or prepare the food it needs on a sustainable basis."

"It is recognized that an increased consumption of healthy local foods, particularly fruits and vegetables, is desirable from the nutrition and household and national food security perspectives," the Action Plan states.

The Action Plan finally sees the need to develop a national food safety strategy to address the concerns about "access to potable drinking water, existing food safety standards, enforcement of these standards, adequate testing and monitoring facilities, and basic food safety knowledge and skills."

Specific actions under this strategy include establishing a public health laboratory and including food safety and sanitation in the school curricula.

Speaker says Tenorio's item-veto 'incomplete'

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

HOUSE Speaker Diego T. Benavente yesterday said that almost all of Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio's line-item vetoes are "ineffective."

Benavente said that with the exception of the vetoes of the Pacific Islands Development and the Youth Congress funding, "all the other line item vetoes are ineffective because appropriations affected by the vetoed provisions were approved."

Benavente, in his letter to the governor, cited the vetoes on Section 506(b) and 530(d) which he said were "incomplete."

The speaker on Monday said he agrees with the Senate legal counsel's opinion that the legality of the line-item vetoes must be challenged in court.

However, he added that he will try to ask the governor and the Attorney General's Office to "clarify" the line-item veto.

"Hopefully we can try to resolve this through this communication if the administration can clarify it."

The governor has said that he will welcome any legal challenges to his line-item vetoes.

He said he will even help the Legislature fund their court challenge.

Senate legal counsel Stephen Woodruff has said that the governor crossed out administrative provisions without vetoing the funding governed by such provisions.

"What he did was keep the money and do away with the restrictions," Senate Vice President Paul A. Manglona said in an earlier interview.

He cited, as an example, the crossing out of the last sentence of item (6),



Diego T. Benavente

subsection (a) of the budget bill's section 501, under Chapter V, "Administration of Appropriated Funds."

Woodruff said section 501 contains the administrative guidelines for the entire budget.

Tenorio disagrees.

"As far as I'm concerned, the most important thing is the amount. Once we veto the amount we have to veto the administrative provisions," he said yesterday.

"But what if the provisions apply to nine items and I veto only three of those items?"

"The way I look at it is that we have to veto the administrative provisions because I vetoed the three items, but I still think that the provisions are still good for the other six."

The Legislature, he said, is to be blamed for the "mess."

"(They still) don't know how to draft a budget bill. They have to be careful with administrative provisions."

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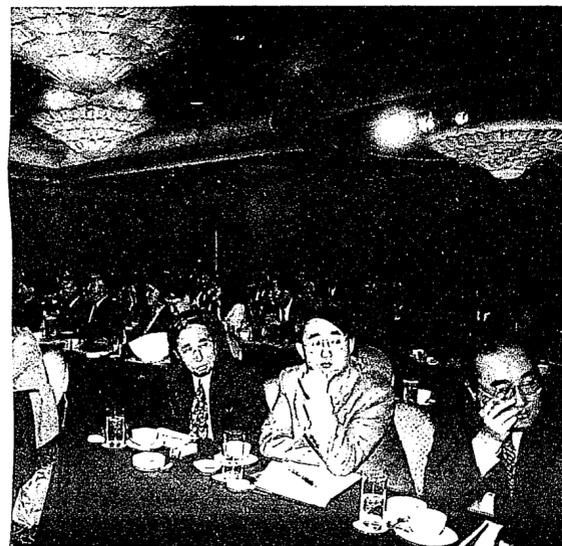
The Marianas Visitors Bureau promotes at a Tokyo news conference and tourism trade show

In the tourism industry as in any other business, you can't afford to take established customers for granted. For the CNMI, that is particularly true of the Japanese, who have been coming to these shores for more than 20 years in ever-growing numbers.

That's why the Marianas Visitors Bureau was a very strong presence at the recent World Travel Fair '96 in Tokyo and also why Japanese TV viewers in the cold winter months to come will be hearing a lot about the warm blue waters of the CNMI through an MVB advertising blitz.



The waters of Tokyo Bay were cold and gray in the background as MVB and CNMI tourism personnel convened a news conference to tell Japanese reporters about the new Visitors Bureau media campaign. (Left to right) MVB Board Member Elizabeth Rechebei; Managing Director Anicia Q. Tomokane; MVB Board Chairman Antonio S. Guerrero; MVB Marketing Assistant Motoyo Castro; Saipan Sunset Cruise President Mike Stiefel.



158 travel industry reporters on hand for the MVB news conference. Golf, diving and tourism magazines were among the publications represented.



A key to the new campaign, prepared by Japan's I S S Corporation, will be a short TV spot which will pound on its "Blue...blue...blue" theme for winter weary Japanese. Reporters also got a preview of a new documentary about the CNMI which will help Japanese travel agents sell visits to their clients.

While the journalists were being filled in on the details of the MVB media campaign, preparations for World Travel Fair '96 were underway at a nearby high rise exhibition hall. (Right) Shiho Inoue of the MVB's Tokyo office and Jack Diaz of MVB worked to set up the CNMI booth.



The MVB takes our story to World Travel Fair '96 in Tokyo

Putting on a show

By all accounts, the MVB booth was a hot ticket at the tourism fair, but you didn't need a ticket to get in. By the end of the event, more than 80,000 travel industry professionals and would-be travelers passed by.



Alphonso Saures of the CM Serenaders was among those who performed in the booth.



On the big stage (Right) the CM Serenaders and the Tipi Yeew Dancers entertained the international crowd.



How about a Christmas trip to the CNMI? Hiromi Hara of the MVB's Tokyo office.



In the Philippines

PAL, union reach agreement

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - The management of Philippine Airlines and the pilots' union have reached a new collective bargaining agreement, the airline said Wednesday.

A statement from the airline said the agreement between the company and the 600-strong Airline Pilots Association of the Philippines covered compensation, work rules, and manning of long-haul flights.

A PAL spokesman said no other details were available. Union officials were unavailable for comments.

The agreement came a week after PAL Chairman Lucio Tan said the airline might cancel its orders for seven 747-400s

from Boeing and four A340-300 planes from Airbus of France because of the pilots' demands.

The pilots have threatened to go on strike to press for pay increases, saying that their salaries are among the lowest in the world.

Last month, the Department of Labor and Employment decided to back a 1.3 billion peso (\$ 50 million) compensation package for the union over six years, but the airline appealed the decision, saying it could not afford it.

Airline records show that PAL is saddled with \$ 1.15 billion in debts and obligations under aircraft leases. Losses reached \$ 83.8 million in the fiscal year

that ended in April, 27 percent more than the year before.

The union also accused the airline of disregarding passenger

safety by manning long-haul flights with just a captain, a first officer and two second officers or junior pilots lacking experi-

ence. The union says such long flights require a full double crew with two captains and two first officers.

Former communist rebel army commander joins Ramos party

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - The former Communist rebel commander who was the reputed architect of the 1989 killing of U.S. Army Col. James "Nick" Rowe joined the party of President Fidel Ramos on Tuesday.

Romulo "Rolly" Kintanar, former chief of the general command of the New People's Army, took the oath as a member of People Power-National Union of Christian Democrats party.

Kintanar, now a businessman in recycling plastic wastes in the southern Philippines, said he was impressed by the government's efforts to modernize agriculture, and described the Communist movement "confused."

Kintanar became chief of

the NPA general command in 1986. A year later, the government estimated that the rebel army had reached its peak strength of about 25,000 operating in a majority of the country's 76 provinces.

Military intelligence officials said Kintanar was responsible for organizing urban assassination squads to target police, soldiers and other officials and bring the war to the cities.

Among the victims was U.S. Army Col. Rowe, who was killed in April 1989 on his way to his office at the Joint U.S. Military Assistance Group in suburban Quezon City.

A rebel statement in the name of Kintanar took responsibility for the attack and said it was in retaliation for the

"arrogant trampling" of Philippine independence by the United States.

Two men were convicted and sentenced to life in prison for the Rowe killing, but Kintanar was never charged.

Kintanar was arrested in March 1988 but escaped the following November. He was recaptured in August 1991 at a suburban Manila hospital where he was undergoing plastic surgery. He was later charged with rebellion and falsification of documents.

Kintanar was released on bail in September 1992 as part of the Ramos' government's peace overtures to the rebels. He said at the time he was through with the guerrillas.

2 Taiwanese sentenced to death for drug trafficking

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - Two Taiwanese businessmen were sentenced to death for drug trafficking Tuesday, two years after they were arrested in buy-bust operation.

The Regional Trial Court of suburban Kalookan City also slapped a 10 million peso (\$384,600) fine on Zheng Bai Hung, 38, and Nelson Hong Ty, 24.

The court records did not specify the hometowns in Taiwan of the two men.

Hung and Ty were nabbed outside a drug store on Oct. 24, 1994 after Hung handed over one kilogram (2.2 pounds) of methamphetamine hydrochloride to a police officer who posed as a buyer.

The methamphetamine crystals, known locally as "shabu", is considered the poor man's cocaine.

The judge was not convinced by the two men's alibi that they were falsely charged with selling drugs despite paying 200,000 (\$7,700) for their release to a group of plainclothes officers who abducted and held them blindfolded inside a motel.

Under Philippine law, death sentences are subject to automatic review by the Supreme Court.

The death penalty, abolished by the constitution in 1987, was restored in 1994 for "heinous crimes," including murder, rape and drug trafficking.

Girl alleges Congressman raped her for two times

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - State prosecutors charged a Filipino congressman Tuesday with rape of an 11-year-old girl in a celebrated case highlighting a growing awareness against child abuse in the Philippines.

Congressman Romeo Jalosjos was charged for allegedly raping twice and sexually abusing on 12 occasions Rosilyn Delantar at a condominium room in the financial district of Makati this year, State Prosecutor Leonardo Guiyab Jr. said.

Under a Philippine law that took effect in 1994, statutory rape or rape of a child below 12 years old is considered a "heinous" crime and is punishable by death.

Jalosjos asked the criminal court handling the case to delay the issuance of an arrest warrant until it has reinvestigated the case.

Jalosjos, who belongs to a political coalition headed by President Fidel Ramos, is the first lawmaker of the Philippine Congress' 200-member lower house to be implicated in a rape case.

For years, child sexual abuse has been a dark secret rarely mentioned in public in the Philippines. But a government crackdown and wide newspaper coverages of the cases have encouraged victims to come out in the open and complain to authorities.

A growing number of poli-

ticians, policemen and parents has been implicated in child sexual abuse cases in the Philippines.

Guiyab said Jalosjos allegedly raped Delantar twice last June and July in a room in the swank Ritz Tower in Makati, where the girl was brought by her adoptive father.

The father has been separately charged of child exploitation for pimping his daughter to Jalosjos and a foreigner. He is out on bail.

On twelve occasions, the girl was also sexually abused by Jalosjos in the condominium.

After each occasion, the lawmaker gave money to the girl, who in turn handed the money to her father, Guiyab said.

The girl narrated her ordeal to a friend who helped her escape from her father and report the abuses to police.

Justice Secretary Teofisto Guingona said Jalosjos faces a total of 204 years imprisonment for the 12 counts of sexual abuse of the girl but Philippine laws allows only a maximum imprisonment of 40 years for each prisoner.

Jalosjos has denied the charges, saying it was a brother, who looks like him, who had been meeting the girl.

In 1991, there were about 500 reported cases of child abuse. Last year, the Department of Social Welfare and Development received 3,039 reports, of which 2,272, or nearly 75 percent, involved sexual exploitation.

US, France fail to resolve row

By JEFFREY ULBRICH
BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) - The United States and France failed Tuesday to resolve a dispute over whether a European should command NATO's southern forces.

The French, who are in the process of rejoining NATO's defense structure, insist the alliance's internal reorganization must put more Europeans in top jobs, particularly the southern command in Naples, Italy.

The Americans remained steadfast in their refusal to give up the command in Naples - headquarters of the U.S. 6th Fleet - and said the issue could not be resolved at the two-day meeting of NATO defense ministers that ended here Tuesday.

"The principle of sharing of posts between Europeans and Americans ... is a clear political logic," French Defense Minister Charles Millon told his 15 counterparts. "There is no insurmountable military obstacle, even though at the same time we recognize the weight of the American interest in the region."

On Tuesday, defense ministers

focused their discussions on negotiating a new relationship between the alliance and Russia, and approved plans for a new NATO-led force in Bosnia.

The disagreement between the United States and France stems from the alliance's plan to streamline its command structure and prepare for expansion into central and eastern Europe. That plan includes reducing the number of headquarters from 65 to 20 and giving the Europeans a more visible role.

Americans now hold the top two strategic posts and one of three regional commands, Allied Forces South. The French say if the United States keeps the top two jobs, all regional posts should be European.

The Americans refuse.

"I do not expect to resolve the

issue at this meeting," said U.S. Defense Secretary William Perry. "But I expect it will be resolved."

German Defense Minister Volker Ruehe backed the French.

"The new NATO has a new balance and the European weight should become stronger," Ruehe told reporters. "I see possibilities for compromise, but not at the moment."

Following up on a decision last week by foreign ministers, defense ministers will send NATO Secretary-General Javier Solana to Moscow the third week in January to open negotiations on a NATO-Russia charter.

The ministers chided the Russians for reducing their nuclear arsenal too slowly.

"At a time when NATO has vastly reduced its nuclear forces, Russia still retains a



William Perry

large number of tactical nuclear weapons of all types," the ministers said in a statement.

NATO ambassadors on Monday approved the operations plan for the new NATO-led peace force in Bosnia. On Tuesday, the ministers ap-

proved the "activation order" for the force - three days ahead of the Dec. 20 deadline. The new force has a mandate of 18 months.

Gen. George Joulwan, the supreme allied commander in Europe, said the new force is half the size of the one sent to Bosnia a year ago, based on a new assessment of the threat.

"Does this mean Bosnia-Herzegovina is no longer a dangerous place?" he asked. "No. It is. If the situation changes, I will not hesitate to come for more troops."

He said the new force will have exactly the same guidelines as the old one regarding suspected war criminals: Soldiers of the stabilization force will not chase suspects, but will detain any they encounter in the course of their duties.

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Bishop boycotts cathedral over clergy dispute

LINCOLN, England (AP) - The bishop of Lincoln won't be going to his own church this Christmas, because of a continuing feud among cathedral clergy.

The Right Rev. Robert Hardy says he will stay away because the cathedral dean and sub-dean have refused to resign as the archbishop of Canterbury has asked them to do.

"The bishop feels it would be inappropriate for him to be seen with these people while they were disobeying the archbishop," Hardy's assistant, Canon Raymond Rodger, said Monday.

Dean Brandon Jackson, and the sub-dean, Canon Rex Davies, have both refused to step down and end what archbishop George Carey described in July as "a scandal dishonoring the name of our Lord."

The bishop and archbishop have no legal authority to dismiss either man.

The feud stems from Davis' inspiration of sending the cathedral's copy of Magna Carta to Australia in 1988. The fund-raising venture lost more than 50,000 pounds (\$75,000).

Jackson was appointed dean in 1989 and became responsible for sorting out the problem. His relations with the archbishop deteriorated to the point where they called in the bishop, who chastised both sides in 1990.

Jackson also was accused of sexual impropriety with a former cathedral verger, Verity Freestone, but was acquitted by a church court last year.

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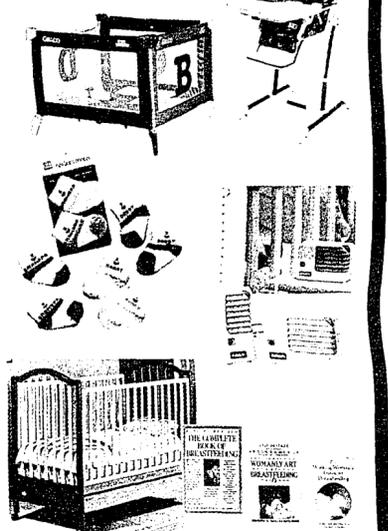
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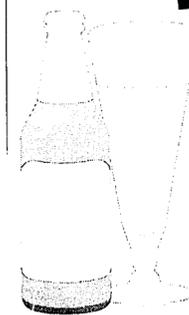


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Fed to leave interest rate alone

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER
WASHINGTON (AP) - Federal Reserve policy-makers have left interest rates unchanged for almost a year, and despite Chairman Alan Greenspan's worries about "irrational exuberance," they may not change for months to come.

In advance of Tuesday's final meeting of the year, there was widespread belief among private economists that the central bank will leave interest rates unchanged.

"We still have very moderate growth and low inflation," said Sung Won Sohn, chief economist at Norwest Bank in Minneapolis. "The Fed has time to wait and see how things develop."

Indeed, while most economists believe the U.S. central bank's next move will be to increase rates slightly to make sure faster growth doesn't trigger higher inflation, some economists believe the economy at present is weakening so much, that the Fed's next move will be a rate cut.

"Things are getting weaker than we thought they would," said David Wyss, chief financial economist at DRI-McGraw Hill Inc. "It is quite possible if this slowness continues, you will see the Fed ease next year."

The Fed's policy-setting Federal Open Market Committee, composed of Fed board members

in Washington and regional bank presidents, meets eight times a year to review the course of the economy and determine whether to change interest rates. An announcement of their decision is made once the meeting ends.

The central bank last changed interest rates on Jan. 31, when it reduced its target for the federal funds rate, the interest that banks charge each other, by a quarter-point down to 5.25 percent.

It was the third in a series of rate cuts aimed at spurring an economy that looked as though it could topple into a recession.

When economic growth surged in the spring, the Fed switched from worrying about recession and started watching for signs that inflation was getting out of hand.

While some economists have been looking for the central bank to begin tightening credit for six months, the central bank so far has passed up every opportunity to do so, preferring to watch and see if the economy would slow enough on its own.

With mounting evidence that slowdown is occurring, investors since early November have staged big rallies in both the bond market and stock market, believing the Fed has decided to put off indefinitely a move to higher rates.

That euphoria, however, was called into question 12 days ago when Greenspan expressed concerns about "irrational exuberance" in financial markets, raising concerns that the central bank was preparing to prick a speculative bubble by starting to raise rates.

Private economists said they believed Greenspan's remarks, which sent stock markets tumbling from Tokyo to New York, were an effort to talk stock prices down from excessive levels without resorting to actual rate increases.

They said Greenspan and the Fed may have become worried that if stocks contin-

ued their record surge, it could make any correction more severe in 1997 if the central bank does begin tightening in the late spring or summer, as many analysts predict.

They believe by that time the economy will probably be growing fast enough that the central bank will engineer one or two small, quarter-point increases in the federal funds rate, sending interest rates higher for millions of consumer and business borrowers.

"They might have to tighten a notch or two by late spring or early summer, but it will be no more than a mid-course cor-

rection," said David Jones, economist at Aubrey G. Lanston and Co. in New York.

Jones said that in the sixth year of an economic recovery that is already the third longest on record, any sustained pickup in economic activity raises concerns about inflation because labor markets are already tight and factories are operating at a high level of capacity.

The government reported Monday that the factory operating rate edged up to 83.3 percent in November, reflecting a rebound in the auto sector following strike-related shutdowns.

2 large chunks of space shuttle Challenger found

By MARCIA DUNN
CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) - Two large chunks of space shuttle Challenger's left wing that washed ashore are apparently the biggest pieces discovered since NASA closed the investigation into the accident in 1986.

NASA officials were surprised,

especially at the size and fairly good condition of the barnacle-encrusted metal: one piece was 6 to 8 1/2 feet (1.8 to 2.5 meters) wide, 13 1/2 feet (4 meters) long and 2 to 2 1/2 feet (60 cm to 75 cm) thick; the other was about 6 inches (15 cm) wide and 5 feet (1.5 meters) long. Some thermal tiles and shriveled wires still were attached.

"This is really out of the clear blue," said Elliott Kicklighter, NASA's former caretaker of Challenger remains.

Both pieces were found Tuesday morning in the surf in Cocoa Beach, some 20 miles (30 kms) south of Kennedy Space Center. They were discovered 10 blocks apart.

Challenger exploded 73 seconds after liftoff on Jan. 28, 1986, killing school-teacher Christa McAuliffe and six crewmates. A leak in a joint on the right solid-fuel rocket booster was blamed.

Officials do not expect the discovery to shed any new light on the accident.

"We understand what happened with Challenger," said National Aeronautics and Space Administration spokesman Bruce Buckingham. "There's nothing more we can learn."

It's been several years since anything from Challenger has been found. Fishermen usually discover the scraps; in 1991, for example, they found a small tank and a metal fragment a few feet (more than a meter) long in the Atlantic off Cape Canaveral.

"It brings things back," said Bruce Jarvis, father of Gregory Jarvis, who died in the accident. "It's like having a bad wound and you've got a scab. It's like somebody picking at the scab."

The discovery also brought back painful memories for Marvin Resnik, father of Challenger astronaut Judith Resnik. But he said: "It doesn't cause me heartache as much as it did. You never for-

get it, but you don't let it rule your whole life."

Police said they were tipped off by a motel as well as a radio station that got a call from a listener reporting the debris.

Within hours, NASA had verified the fragments were, indeed, from Challenger, and the parts were back at the Kennedy Space Center.

Parts of black and white thermal tiles and bits of shriveled wires were visible. White thermal blankets were peeled upward and some of the aluminum was crumpled slightly, but overall the fragment was not bent. It was a dirty beige, primarily because of all the barnacles and caked-on sand.

Both pieces will be buried after the holidays with the other shuttle remains - about 5,000 pieces weighing a quarter-million pounds (113,000 kilos) - in two abandoned missile silos nearby.

NASA believes the two pieces originally were connected and came from the flaps of Challenger's left wing. The larger piece still had thermal tiles attached.

Hundreds of pounds (kilos) of metal from Challenger were salvaged within a day of the accident. The remains of the astronauts were found in March 1986 in the debris of the crew cabin.

Most of the space shuttle, however, remains in the Atlantic Ocean: half the orbiter and boosters, two-thirds of the external fuel tank and one-fourth of the satellite payload. Only the critical pieces were retrieved.

Although NASA regularly receives reports of Challenger debris being found, it usually turns out to be chunks of unmanned rockets or other junk.

NASA theorized the fragments may have washed ashore because of rough seas from the past hurricane season, or a fishing boat may have snagged them and brought them close to shore.

Annan formally named UN chief

By ROBERT H. REID
UNITED NATIONS (AP) - Kofi Annan of Ghana pledged to be a U.N. chief who will work for a leaner United Nations, while urging members not to allow it to perish from "indifference, inattention or financial starvation."

The 185-member General Assembly on Monday formally approved the 58-year-old U.N. veteran to succeed Boutros Boutros-Ghali, who was vetoed for a second term by the United States. Washington claimed the Egyptian diplomat was sluggish in pressing for U.N. reform.

Annan, who was chosen Friday by the 15-member Security Council, took his oath of office Tuesday, although his five-year term does not begin until Jan. 1.

During a 90-minute ceremony, the General Assembly also thanked Boutros-Ghali, who received a standing ovation after a farewell speech in which he blamed member states, including Washington, for creating a financial crisis that has slowed reform.

He said the financial crisis "is not the result of mismanagement" but of "the refusal to fulfill a treaty obligation" and called on member states to pay their arrears "as has been promised so often in the past."

Mindful of Washington's demand for reform, Annan urged the United Nations to "make change our ally, not our enemy ... to recognize it as a necessity not

an imposition."

"If all of us in this hall together ... can make this organization leaner, more efficient and more effective, more responsive to the wishes and needs of its members and more realistic in its goals and commitments, then and only then will we serve both this organization's high purpose and the planet's best interests," Annan said.

"But above all, do not let this indispensable, irreplaceable institution wither, languish or perish as a result of member state indifference, inattention or financial starvation."

Annan, head of U.N. peace-keeping and a veteran U.N. insider, was chosen after France had dropped its opposition. France had strongly supported Boutros-Ghali for a second term, then endorsed Foreign Minister Amara Essy of the Ivory Coast in hopes of appointing a secretary-general from French-speaking Africa.

During his speech, Annan, a descendant of African tribal chiefs, also pledged to heal the friction caused by the United States' unilateral campaign against Boutros-Ghali, which began in July.

The Clinton Administration said the Republican-controlled Congress was unlikely to pay the \$ 1.4 billion the United States owes in back dues without a change in U.N. leadership.

The United States' failure to

pay its dues has thrown the organization into a financial crisis that threatens its existence.

In Washington, Princeton Lyman, acting assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs, told reporters the Clinton administration is preparing a plan to pay its back dues.

Lyman called Annan's appointment "a success for the United Nations and, of course, it is a success for the United States."

But the initial reaction from Capitol Hill suggested there may be some resistance.

Republican Representative Christopher Smith of New Jersey, chairman of a panel that deals with the United Nations, said he would oppose any payback plan until the world body recognizes that the United States makes many contributions for which it receives no credit.

In addition, Smith said he and other conservative lawmakers resent the United Nations' population control agenda that "tries to tell countries in Africa and Central and South America that they have too many people."

During his farewell address

Tuesday, Boutros-Ghali said the financial crisis itself was blocking meaningful change and added that "extensive reform of the United Nations can only emerge from a consensus among member states." Boutros-Ghali also offered the following advice to Annan and future secretaries-general: protect your independence.

"The holder of this office must never be seen as acting out of fear of, or in an attempt to curry favor with, one state or group of states," he said. "Should that happen, all prospects for the United Nations would be lost."

Runaway train plows across sans lights, whistle, engineer

By ROBYNN TYSVER
OMAHA, Nebraska (AP) - A runaway train without lights, whistle or an engineer barreled across about 50 miles (80 kilometers) of western Nebraska on a moonless night, coming within seconds of hitting a farmer and his pregnant wife.

Operated only by a remote-controlled locomotive, the 55 train cars plowed through dozens of crossings, three railroad stop signs and passed several other trains before a train engineer stopped them.

The Union Pacific Railroad train apparently had been sabotaged - the runaway cars in the rear had been uncoupled from the train's front section, possibly by a motorist upset because the train had blocked traffic, said railroad spokesman John Bromley.

When locomotives at each end of the train began moving, the engineer in front rolled on ahead through more than 50 crossings without realizing the back section of the train was trailing behind by as much as 12 miles (19 kilometers).

Another train's engineer spotted the problem and notified a dispatcher, who told the engineer aboard front section of the runaway train. Since the front and rear locomotives were programmed to work in tandem, both sections came to a halt when he made an emergency stop.

Allen Jensen of rural Gothenburg said he and his wife, then nine months pregnant, were riding in their pickup truck when the runaway train came within seconds of hitting it.

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Businessman in 'questionable donation' talks with Clinton Trie was in White House Friday

By PETE YOST
WASHINGTON (AP) - A businessman who delivered \$460,000 in questionable donations to the Clintons' legal defense fund attended a White House dinner last week and spoke briefly to the president, a spokesman has acknowledged. Mike McCurry on Tuesday noted the White House visit of Democratic Party fund-raiser Charles Yah Lin Trie, one day after the disclosure that over the past nine months the defense fund had returned \$600,000 in donations generated by Trie.

Some of the signatures on the donation checks had identical handwriting, the fund's attorney has said, and some of the donations were in sequentially numbered money orders from people in different cities. Some of the donations appeared to be linked to a Buddhist religious organization, Ching Hai, the attorney said. Clinton said Tuesday he was unaware until after the questionable donations were delivered last March 21 that his "old friend"

Trie from Little Rock, Arkansas, Clinton's home state, had been raising money for the legal defense of the president and first lady.

The president and Mrs. Clinton are being investigated for possible illegal dealings in a land investment called Whitewater in Arkansas.

Once the owner of a restaurant where Clinton used to eat when he was governor of the state, Trie now is an international business consultant with an apartment in Washington.

Last April, Trie was appointed to a presidential trade commission and he contributed \$10,000 to the Democratic National Committee in May.

"I knew him when he and his family started a little restaurant about a mile (1.5 km) from my home 20 years ago," Clinton said. "I saw them start with nothing and build up their family enterprise. They've worked very hard in this coun-

try and they've done well." Democratic Party donor Trie had a brief personal conversation with Clinton in a receiving line last Friday, said McCurry. The Democratic National Committee made up the dinner guest list for 250 people.

Trie has "done a lot of work, based on his friendship, in support of the president's political activities," said McCurry. "He's raised contributions for the Democratic National Committee, which, in only one case that I am aware of, have been judged to be unacceptable contributions."

McCurry said Trie's fund raising appears to be a case of a longtime Clinton friend try-

ing to lend assistance.

"The appearance is someone else's judgment to make," said McCurry.

It was unclear how many times Trie has been to the White House.

"That's a complicated question with a complicated answer," said McCurry, who added that White House special counsel Lanny Davis is "working on getting that answer."

Fund trustee and lawyer Michael Cardozo said that after Trie delivered \$460,000 in checks and money orders last March, Cardozo immediately rejected \$70,000 because of lack of addresses or some of the contributions be-

ing corporate donations.

In June, the fund returned the balance of the money to the donors after a private agency, The Investigative Group, conducted an inquiry. Accompanying the returned donations was a list of requirements for making proper donations to the fund. The same donors sent in more than \$100,000 in donations over the past six months, and after further inquiry, those too were returned.

Cardozo said the fund disclosed the matter out of concern that inaccurate stories might appear. He defended the decision not to disclose the questionable donations until now.

Fifth juror dismissed in O.J. Simpson civil trial

By LINDA DEUTSCH
SANTA MONICA, California (AP) - An alternate juror was booted from the O.J. Simpson wrongful death trial after bragging in a Christmas card to a childhood pal that he was serving on the panel.

The friend, who happened to be a sheriff's deputy, reported it to court officials, said a source who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Jurors were not told why the Hispanic man in his 40s was dismissed. But Superior Court Judge Hiroshi Fujisaki sternly reminded them Tuesday of the rules against talking about the case.

The dismissed alternate told attorneys during jury selection that he was unbiased. He was one of two jurors and three alternates to be dismissed; only four alternates remain.

Earlier Tuesday, plaintiff attorney Edward Medvene sputtered with indignation as he accused defense pathologist Dr. Michael Baden of shading his testimony to favor Simpson, the former American football star.

Medvene even pulled out a television talk show tape to undermine Baden's testimony that two attackers may have killed Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman on June 12, 1994, and that it took a relatively long time for them to die.

Baden testified earlier in the wrongful death trial that a long struggle and the lack of screams during the slayings supported his theory that two attackers restrained the victims.

Medvene focused on Baden's testimony that Goldman could have been on his feet struggling with a killer for two to three minutes after he was stabbed in the jugular vein.

The attorney asked Baden if he told a national TV audience that Goldman was standing for five or 10 minutes. "I don't think I said it that way," Baden said.

Medvene then played part of a Nov. 11 "Rivera Live" show in which Baden said: "It would have taken five or 10 minutes for the blood to go down to the left shoe. He was standing for that period."

"Does that refresh you, sir? Yes or no?" Medvene bellowed.

"Yes," Baden said. The pathologist later said the difference between two, three and five minutes didn't matter significantly because the gap between the first stab wound and death was still five to 10 minutes. He said Goldman continued to bleed after he collapsed.

His time line differs drastically from that of the plaintiff pathologist who said both victims could



O.J. Simpson

have expired in about a minute.

A shorter time line favors the plaintiffs because it would give Simpson time to kill the victims, ditch bloody clothing and a weapon and return home in time to catch a limousine ride to the airport.

Medvene's shrill verbal attack left Baden wiping his forehead with a handkerchief and struggling to get a word of explanation in as the attorney repeatedly shouted, "Answer yes or no!"

Baden testified that Simpson said he cut his hand at his home shortly before leaving for Chicago the night his ex-wife and her friend were killed.

"He said he cut himself a lot, and he does have a lot of scars," Baden noted. He remembered Simpson saying "he was rummaging around in his car and somehow noticed blood on his hand."

The testimony conflicted with Simpson's testimony about how he cut his hand on a glass in his Chicago hotel room. Simpson told jurors he cut his hand again after he got back, perhaps while wrestling with his young son.

Simpson watched impassively as jurors listened to the conflicting accounts. He was acquitted of murder in a criminal trial last year; now the families of the victims to hold him responsible and get a cash award as compensation.

US warns of possible bombings in Nigeria

WASHINGTON (AP) - Bomb attacks may take place at Nigerian airports during the last two weeks of December, the U.S. State Department said Tuesday.

The danger of violence in Nigeria was highlighted Monday when a car bomb exploded as a convoy carrying the Lagos military administrator passed by, wounding three people and de-

stroying four vehicles in the procession.

There have been a number of explosions in Lagos in recent months, but no group has claimed responsibility. A car bomb exploded on Nov. 15 on the road leading to Murtala Muhammed Airport, killing three people, including a top aviation security official.

The Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association would like to extend special recognition to the following organizations and private businesses for their tremendous effort in contributions and support toward the Fundraising Bowling Tournament held last November 9-10 and 16-17. The purpose of the event was to raise fund to support all CNMI sports associations chartered under NMASA.

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EPA claims success vs pollution

By CASSANDRA BURRELL
WASHINGTON (AP) - Major air pollutants have decreased by nearly 30 percent over the last 25 years despite an almost doubling in the size of the U.S. economy, the Environmental Protection

Agency said. For example, concentrations of lead have dropped 78 percent from 1986 to 1995, the agency said in a report. Concentrations of sulfur dioxide, which contributes to acid rain, and carbon monoxide both

have dropped 37 percent. "Much remains to be done if we are to ensure safe, healthy air for all the people of this country, especially our children," EPA Administrator Carol M. Browner said Tuesday. The agency said federal air pollution standards also have led to decreases over the past decade in three other pollutants: nitrogen dioxide, down 14 percent; smog, down 6 percent, and particulate matter - dust, soot and dirt - down 22 percent. Data show that toxic air pol-

lutants dropped significantly in 1994 and 1995, particularly concentrations of benzene. The use of reformulated gasoline in vehicles may have contributed to the drop, the report said. Browner also said America's efforts to reduce acid rain were succeeding beyond expectations. Because of the hot summer of 1995, levels of ground-level ozone - or smog - were higher than the previous three summers, but "peak concentrations were lower than those in

1988, another very hot summer," the agency said. Preliminary data indicate that ambient ozone levels for the past summer likely will be low. The EPA last month proposed stringent new air quality standards that would cost more than \$ 6.5 billion a year to meet. The new rules would tighten pollution limits that many cities already fail to meet and regulate more of the tiny particles from smokestacks.



John F. Kennedy Jr. looks on as President Clinton speaks in the Oval Office of the White House where Kennedy presented the president with an annual report on mental retardation, Kennedy is one of 21 presidential appointees to the President's Committee on Mental Retardation, which marked its 30th anniversary during the ceremony. (AP Photo)

Guatemalan Congress ready to okay war crimes amnesty law

By ALFONSO ANZUETO
GUATEMALA CITY (AP) - Guatemala's Legislature is well on the way to approving a wide-ranging amnesty law for war crimes by both government forces and leftist rebels as part of an overall peace process. President Alvaro Arzu's party backed by two opposition groups had by Tuesday managed to rally 54 votes - a solid majority - in the 80-seat single house congress to approve the National Reconciliation Law. The law is crucial to implementing a peace accord signed by the two sides in Madrid, Spain, on Dec. 12, one of several protocols signed on various dates that will become part of an overall peace agreement to be signed here Dec. 29. In the first of three readings required by law, the bill was approved by a show of hands after the opposition Guatemalan Republican National Front and the Christian Democrats announced they were backing Arzu's

National Advance Party. It was again approved by 54 votes in a second reading Tuesday, and is virtually certain to be ratified in the third reading Wednesday by the same number. Only small groups and a few human rights organizations outside the legislature oppose the measure which will safeguard both government soldiers and the Guatemalan National Revolutionary Unity rebels from prosecution for crimes committed during the 36-year war. At least 140,000 people were killed in the fighting or disappeared during the conflict, a great many of them suspected leftist sympathizers arrested by security forces.

Human rights groups have also reported many cases of torture, summary executions and other atrocities. Other accords reached as part of the peace package include a permanent ceasefire, safeguards for Indian rights and Indian culture, the integration of rebels into civilian society and reconstruction. A large majority of Guatemalans are of Maya extraction or Indian descent, and many joined the rebels over the years to protest social injustice, poverty and repression. Arzu's government has said it plans to invite presidents and other high officials from the rest of Latin America, Spain and a number of other countries to the Dec. 29 signing ceremony.

Man nabbed with can of explosives near Ecuador president's meeting

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) - Police arrested a man trying to bring a tuna can filled with a small amount of explosives into a meeting Tuesday between Ecuadorean President Abdala Bucaram and Bogota's mayor, authorities said. Guards arrested Javier Lopez Alvarez outside Bogota's city hall after finding about 300 grams (two-thirds of a pound) of C-4 plastic explosives in a tuna can hidden in a suitcase, police said. At the time, Bucaram was meeting with Bogota Mayor Antanas Mockus during a ceremony in which Mockus symbolically presented the Ecuadorean president with the keys to the city. The motive for the attack was unclear. Neither Bucaram nor Mockus were in danger, police said. The two men are among

South America's most unusual leaders. Bucaram, known as "El Loco" or "the crazy one" by friends and opponents, has recorded his own compact disc. He recently invited Lorena Bobbitt, the Ecuadorean famous for slashing off her American husband's penis, to lunch at the national palace. Mockus, a former philosophy professor and rector of Colombia's National University, is known for quirky programs to teach Bogota residents to be nicer to each other. He gained recognition for dropping his pants during a university speech. As mayor he hired hundreds of teenage mimes to enforce civility on Bogota's streets. Bucaram is on his first presidential visit to Colombia.

Virginia executes 8th inmate

By BILL BASKERVILL
JARRATT, Virginia (AP) - A man who raped, robbed, gagged and stabbed a woman hours after he was released from a mental hospital in 1985 was executed by lethal injection Monday night. Ronald Lee Hoke Sr., 39, was put to death for the murder of Virginia Stell, a Petersburg woman he met at a bar. "I know I have caused a lot of pain to the victim's family. I hope one day

they can forgive me," were his final words, a prison spokesman said. Ms. Stell, 56, had been stabbed in the back and stomach, gagged with her underwear and bound at the wrists and ankles with an electrical cord. Prosecutors argued that Hoke abducted, raped and robbed Ms. Stell before killing her with a kitchen knife on Oct. 4, 1985. Hoke claimed the sex was consensual and the thefts were an afterthought.

US plans UN payback

By JOHN DIAMOND
WASHINGTON (AP) - The U.S. government is preparing a plan to pay off \$1.4 billion it owes the United Nations in dues, a senior State Department official said Tuesday. The initial reaction from Capitol Hill, however, was negative. Options include a five-year payback, or a shorter term combined with U.N. agreement to reduce Washington's share of the international peacekeeping burden. In addition, the United States will continue to press for reforms that would streamline the U.N. bureaucracy, Princeton Lyman, acting assistant secretary of state for international organization affairs, told reporters. "This is a very serious problem," Lyman said. "There is a great deal of resentment and anger" among other U.N. members who say, "You have an obligation to pay your share. We recognize that." If the United States fails to resolve the problem in the next two or three years, Lyman said, "we're

going to find it very difficult to mobilize the votes and support in the U.N." on a range of issues, including vital security matters. The Republican-controlled Congress has been especially critical of the United Nations, complaining that the bureaucracy of the international organization is bloated and inefficient. Congress last year unilaterally reduced from 31 percent to 25 percent the U.S. share of the cost of peacekeeping operations. The United Nations continues to insist on 31 percent. Two-thirds of the arrears to the United Nations stem from money owed to cover peacekeeping costs. Rep. Christopher Smith, chairman of the House International Relations subcommittee that deals with the United Nations, said he would oppose any payback plan until the world body recognizes that the United States makes many contributions for which it receives no credit. For example, the Pentagon has spent tens of millions on airlift in support of peacekeeping opera-

tions without receiving credit against its obligation to pay a share of peacekeeping costs. In addition, Smith said he and other conservative lawmakers represent the U.N.'s population control agenda that "tries to tell countries in Africa and Central and South America that they have too

many people." Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen also a member of the international relations panel, said she would oppose a payback plan until the United Nations makes more progress cutting costs. Lyman said planners working on the options are seeking "a way to

regularize our financial obligation to the U.N. in a way that recognizes the need for reform but also the U.S. financial obligation." Negotiating to win U.N. acceptance of the 25 percent peacekeeping burden approved by Congress "will be one of the primary objectives for us this year."

Chretien hails new UN chief

UNITED NATIONS (AP) - Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien welcomed Kofi Annan's appointment as U.N. secretary-general. "We worked with Mr. Annan in his previous post ... and we look forward to working with him again on the full range of issues facing the organization, foremost among them UN renewal," a news release from

Chretien's office said. Chretien also commended outgoing Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali for his leadership over the past five years. Canada is a leading contributor of troops to U.N. missions and the organization is much more popular than in its neighbor to the south, the United States.

WWII report documents Nazi-Swiss connections

By RONALD POWERS
WASHINGTON (AP) - A U.S. State Department report written at the end of World War II found evidence of extensive business connections between Nazi Germany and Swiss banks during the war, according to U.S. Sen. Alfonse D'Amato who released the study on Tuesday. The 50-page report by the Roberts Commission looked at various insurance, banking and other business connections between the Nazis and Swiss banks. According to the commission, the transactions aided the German war economy while the Swiss banks "served as a safe-haven for all kinds of deposits belonging to German firms and individuals." The study also said it was "obvious that the tremendous amount of gold transferred by banks, firms and individuals to Switzerland, could only result from looting." "Extensive looting was carried on in the early periods of the Nazi regime, by confiscation of property of Jews and other politically persecuted individuals and firms within Germany," the report said. Banks in Basle, Berne, Winterthur and Zurich alleg-

edly accepted German deposits, the commission said. "This is additional proof of cooperation between the Swiss government and the Nazi forces during World War II," said D'Amato, who chairs the Senate Banking Committee. The committee is investigating allegations of Swiss-Nazi collusion during the war and whether Swiss banks are still holding gold and other valuables looted from Jews by Nazis during the Holocaust. The Roberts Commission was chaired U.S. Supreme Court Justice Owen J. Roberts. The panel was established in 1943 by President Franklin D. Roosevelt to help protect and salvage art and historic monuments in war areas. The commission went out of existence in 1946. D'Amato's staff obtained the report last week from the National Archives. It was declassified more than 20 years ago, but had apparently gone largely unnoticed. D'Amato said the report showed Switzerland was not the neutral country it purported to be during World War II. There was no immediate comment from the Swiss government on the report or D'Amato's comments.

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Rodionov comes to NATO

By JEFFREY ULBRICH
BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP) - Russian Defense Minister Igor Rodionov is armed with Moscow's usual arguments against expanding the North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

NATO's 16 defense ministers meeting him Wednesday still want to convince him that enlarging NATO is no threat to Russian security.

A Russian Defense Ministry official, quoted by the Interfax news agency, said Rodionov would reiterate Moscow's opposition to expansion of the alliance into central and eastern Europe, including some of Russia's former allies from the now-defunct Warsaw Pact.

He will also say, however, that

Russian defense chief to argue against expansion

Russia is ready to consider NATO proposals for the exchange of liaison officers, according to the official, who was not named.

Such an exchange has been under discussion since early this year, and NATO is anxious to pursue it. A Russian three-star general already works at NATO's supreme allied headquarters south of Brussels, directing the Russian force in Bosnia.

NATO also is in a hurry to start talks on a "charter" to define a new Russia-NATO relationship in the post-Cold War world.

Defense ministers decided Tuesday to send Secretary General Javier Solana to Moscow

during the third week in January to get the ball rolling.

German Defense Minister Volker Ruehe said NATO chiefs don't want to wait until the NATO summit scheduled for next July in Madrid, Spain to complete talks with the Russians.

"We want concrete steps as quickly as possible," he said.

The Russians also are expected to repeat their pitch for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, now a largely economic and political grouping, which Moscow feels should take the leading role in European security matters over NATO.

Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov told the Itar-

Tass news agency earlier this week that though Moscow opposes expansion, "We favor a dialogue with NATO because we realize this organization is an existing entity and we must do business with it."

The Russians contributed a 1,500-man brigade to the 60,000-man peace implementation force sent to Bosnia a year ago. It is expected to furnish about 1,000-1,200 troops to the follow-on force that NATO defense ministers gave final approval to Tuesday.

Chinese importers win new credit for Australian wool

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) - Chinese wool importers are to get a \$ Australian 315 million (\$ U.S. 250 million) revolving credit facility to help buy Australian wool.

The facility, arranged jointly by Australia's Commonwealth Bank and Hongkong Bank of Australia, a fully owned subsidiary of the Hongkong Bank, was announced Wednesday.

The head of international business development for the Commonwealth Bank, Eric Howie, said the facility would support a key Australian industry.

Fischer also urged the Chinese government to lower its tariffs on Australian wool that is imported for China's domestic market. These tariffs, at present, range from 5 to 15 percent.

China imposes no tariff at all on Australian wool that is imported into the country for processing and re-export.

"We would like to see further progress as we move towards fairer and freer trade," Fischer said.

Zhu Zhenyuan, economic counsellor at the Chinese embassy, suggested that similar credit arrangements could be considered for wheat, iron ore and sugar imported from Australia.

"Wool is Australia's major export commodity and China is Australia's largest wool market," Howie said.

China took 26 percent of Australia's total wool clip last financial year, with purchases worth a total of \$ Australian 809 million (\$ U.S. 642 million).

The Australian government welcomed the deal.

Trade Minister Tim Fischer said it should help to promote investment in wool processing facilities in China.

Howie said credit arrangements for trade between Australia and China in other commodities are already being discussed, and he expected further announcements in the New Year.

Australia's exports to China last year were worth \$ Australian 3.1 billion (\$ U.S. 2.6 billion). It imported \$ Australian 3.9 billion (\$ U.S. 3.1 billion) from China.

European space agency: French rocket to be launched by July

PARIS (AP) - France's Ariane 5 Rocket, which exploded on its maiden voyage last summer, is to undergo the first of two more test launches in July, the European Space Agency said Tuesday.

The 13-nation consortium said technical preparations are to begin in April for the test launch in early July, to be followed by a third launch in November. Exact dates have not been set.

In September, the agency laid out procedures to prevent the software problems that caused the earlier explosion, which set back European efforts to increase its share of the \$1.6 billion satellite-launch market.

The agency concluded that despite rigorous testing of virtually every component of the rocket beforehand, including more than 1,000 simulated launches, the agency did not scrutinize the software designed to keep the rocket on an even trajectory.

During the test launches, the satellite will carry an amateur radio satellite and two dummy payloads to make sure the rocket can later place expensive commercial satellites into orbit.

If those launches are successful, Ariane 5 launches will then become commercial under the auspices of Arianespace in France.

The Ariane 5 had been carry-

ing \$500 million of equipment for a solar energy project when it exploded June 4, showering debris over the launch site in French Guiana in South America.

The Ariane 5, with unusual twin boosters strapped to its sides, took the place of throw-away rockets, and was developed at a cost of \$7 billion. Since the explosion, the agency has launched several satellites with its more conventional single-stage Ariane 4 rockets, most recently on Sept. 11.

Overall, the agency has been successful on 95 percent of its satellite launches.

Milosevic foes vow protests

By DUSAN STOJANOVIC
BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) - Their feet blistered and bloodied from a cross-country march, 17 students who walked for 48 hours in a symbolic protest arrived in Belgrade early Tuesday in hopes of presenting their demands for democracy to Serbian President Slobodan Milosevic.

The students marched 240 kilometers (150 miles) from Nis, the second-largest Serbian city. They are protesting the annulment of municipal election victories that were earned by a coalition of opposition forces on Nov. 17.

The Nis students were greeted overnight by about 1,000 Belgrade students on the highway between the two cities. The Nis students said they hoped Milosevic will meet them Tuesday so they can show him documents proving the opposition was robbed of its victory. There was no indication Milosevic, who has not met with any of the protesters or opposition leaders in four weeks of protests, would make an exception.

"We marched for 48 hours, and I hope he can spare 15 minutes of his precious time to talk to us," said one of the marchers, Predrag Cvetcinan.

A month after beginning their daily protests, opposition activists are starting to get what they asked for - one town at a time. Milosevic returned their victory in Nis on Sunday and in the town of Smederevska Palanka on Monday.

But Milosevic's foes are demanding more, and the Nis marchers said their protest was intended to help other Serb cities get their

election results back.

The opposition boycotted a session of Serbia's parliament on Tuesday. The parliament, elected on Nov. 3, is dominated by the Socialists who have so far opted to ignore the protests.

Pressured by Western countries and swayed by the biggest demonstrations since he rose to power in 1987, Milosevic seemed to focus on keeping Belgrade, opting to hand over control of some other cities.

But the opposition was in no mood to concede anything.

On Monday, in separate demonstrations, a total of about 130,000 opposition supporters and students flooded Belgrade streets, chanting "Victory!" and "Resignation!" More protests were expected Tuesday.

"There will be no dialogue with Milosevic until he recognizes all our election victories," opposition leader Vuk Draskovic said Monday. Another opposition leader, Zoran Djindjic, demanded that those who engineered the overturning of the election victories be punished.

"The protests will continue till the thieves are punished," he said. "The protests are growing and our demands are getting more radical."

Draskovic, who met Sunday with U.S. envoy John Kornblum, said the Americans were "very supportive of our peaceful and democratic way of fighting for the recognition of the election will of the Serbian people."

Apparently angered by tough U.S. criticism of Milosevic, Russian Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov on Monday warned against foreign interference. Russia is a traditional Serb ally.

Primakov said that concern about human rights and democracy "should not grow into interference into the internal affairs of another state."

In Washington, former U.S. negotiator Richard Holbrooke said Milosevic had failed to promote democracy and may not deserve further U.S. support.

Holbrooke credited the Serbian leader with playing a critical role in the Dayton peace accords a year ago that ended the 3 1/2-year-long war in Bosnia-Herzegovina. But now, he said, the United States "does not, and should not, have a special reason to support him."

International officials have warned that the standoff between Milosevic and protesters could lead to a major crisis in the region. The United States has said new economic sanctions are possible.

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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 NMHC is soliciting sealed bids for the construction of the "REHABILITATION OF PINATANG PARK AND SWIMMING POOL" at Songsong Village, Rota, MP, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Bids in duplicate must be marked "CDBG-Construction, Pinatang Project", and must be submitted to Marylou Ada Sirok, Corporate Director, at the NMHC Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, until 2:00 P.M., local time, Friday, January 17, 1997 at which time and place, the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bids received after the above time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

A bond of 15% of the total bid price must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond made payable to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 514 Saipan, MP 96950.

The bidder is required to submit with his/her proposal, 1) a copy of CNMI issued, current Business Licensed; 2) updated Financial Statement; 3) listing of existing and past projects including completion dates; 4) listing of manpower with copies of CNMI-issued Work Permits; 5) listing of equipments(s).

Specifications and Plans of the project are available on or after November 22, 1996 at the NMHC Office in Saipan. A non-refundable payment of \$250.00 is required for each set. A Pre-Bid Conference for this project will be held at the NMHC Conference Room on November 27, 1996 at 10:30 A.M.

Attention is called to Section 3 of the Housing and Development Act of 1968 which requires the provision of training and employment, and the awarding of contract for work on the project, to low income project area residents and business concerns. NMHC also notifies bidders that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority and women's business enterprises will be accorded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation.

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

All bids documents received shall be the sole property of the NMHC with the exception of bid bonds, certified check or cashier's check which will be returned to bidders in accordance with section "Instruction to Bidders" page 1-2, paragraph No. 05, Bid Guarantee.

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Corsican police barracks sprayed with bullets

BASTIA, Corsica (AP) - A Corsican police barracks was hit by machine-gun fire and another by a rocket-propelled grenade Tuesday in the latest of a wave of suspected separatist attacks.

There were no claims of responsibility and no injuries in the attacks on the buildings at Vescovato and Calvi.

Policemen's families live at both barracks, but the grenade, at Calvi, was aimed at offices rather than living quarters. The grenade was supposedly not detonated when it was fired and was sent as a warning signal.

The Front for the National Liberation of Corsica's so-called "historic wing," the most violent of the island's separatist groups, took responsibility for an earlier grenade attack on a police barracks on Oct. 27.

The group, fighting a 21-year-old battle for independence from the mainland, has claimed responsibility for most of the recent bombings on the French Mediterranean island. They usually take place around midnight and cause few or no injuries.

The group's presumed leader turned himself in to French police Monday, hours after his girlfriend, also a suspected militant, was arrested.

Francois Santoni, who heads the Cuncolta Naziunalista, the group's political wing, had a warrant out for his arrest since October, when he was convicted in absentia for illegal weapons possession.

Ex-Bulgarian PM dies

SOFIA, Bulgaria (AP) - Stanko Todorov, a former Communist premier who later joined with other reformers to topple Bulgaria's long-time dictator in 1989, has died at age 76.

Todorov served as premier under Bulgaria's Communist strongman, Todor Zhivkov, from 1971 to 1981 when he was made chairman of parliament.

He held that post until the first post-Communist multi-party elections in 1990. Though winning a parliament seat, Todorov resigned later that year, citing health reasons, and completely withdrew from politics.

Born Dec. 10, 1920, in the industrial town of Pernik, 30 kilometers (20 miles) southwest of Sofia, Todorov joined the communist movement as a youth.

ATTENTION

CNMI GROUP HEALTH INSURANCE SUBSCRIBERS

The CNMI Group Health Insurance is requiring all health providers to collect 20% co-pay for CNMI Hi plan and 25% co-pay for the CNMI Lo plan effective immediately. This decision is retroactive.

The CNMI Group Health insurance administration will be distributing a letter concerning this to all affected clients.

This decision is based on the present policy of the CNMI group Health Insurance Program and will remain in affect until a new policy is established.

Please contact the CNMI Group Health Insurance office at 234-7228 for any questions or concerns.

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Poverty not cause of child labor, say NGOs

By ASHOK SHARMA
NEW DELHI, India (AP) - He is just seven but Ashraf's hand was forcibly held over the gas flame and branded with a red hot iron rod by his employer.

His fault was that he drank a little milk from his master's house without his permission.

Ashraf, who uses one name, recounted the torture he suffered nearly four months ago in a speech Tuesday before 1,000 people attending the first convention of the South Asian Coalition On Child Servitude (SACCS).

He had to stand on a table to reach the microphone, but he spoke without faltering. While adults called for policy reform, Ashraf had a simpler solution.

He demanded that his former employer should be hanged. Ashraf is one of 30,000 children who over the last five years have found shelter at schools and homes set up by SACCS as an alternative to jobs cleaning homes, making bricks, breaking stones or manufacturing carpets and bangles.

At their convention Tuesday, delegates from India, Nepal and Pakistan said that pov-

erty was not the root cause of child labor. It's the other way round - children working at low-paying jobs miss out on the education that could secure them a better future, while adults who could demand more pay can't get work.

The solution lay in the government providing free and compulsory education to children up to 14, the delegates said.

Kailash Satyarthi, chairperson of SACCS, said an estimated 60 million children are in the work force in India and 250 million all over the world.

The three-day convention began Tuesday a week after India's Supreme Court ordered the government to crack down on child labor.

But activists say legal pronouncements aren't enough.

The court called for a fund to be set up to help children forced to work because of poverty.

The government, which has signed several international agreements aimed at stamping out child labor, has not said how it plans to implement the judicial order.

India's prime minister visits Mother Teresa

By CHANDRA BANERJEE
CALCUTTA, India (AP) - Spunky as ever, Mother Teresa didn't miss the chance to use a hospital call from India's prime minister Tuesday to appeal for help in setting up a new shelter for AIDS victims.

"Mother Teresa is doing better. I gave her a bouquet of roses and she gave me her love and affection," Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda said after a brief chat with the ailing Roman Catholic nun.

His visit was another indication that Mother Teresa is gaining strength, recuperating from a mild heart attack and pneumonia. But doctors have given no date for her release.

Mother Teresa asked the prime minister for land for a new home for AIDS patients, said a nun of her Missionaries of Charity order who was present during their meeting.

Promising Mother Teresa property in Bangalore, the capital of his home state of Karnataka, Gowda said: "You have got home in everybody's heart." Doctors said the 86-year-old missionary was given oxygen during the night to alleviate discomfort breathing.



Mother Teresa



H.D. Deve Gowda

But by morning she was cheerful and able to sit in a chair for Mass. The governor of the state of Jammu-Kashmir stopped by for a visit before the prime minister's arrival.

Armed guards swarmed over the hospital grounds in advance of the visit.

A hospital statement said she was recovering from a mild electric shock administered Monday to stabilize her heartbeat. It was the second time she was given the treatment, called an electrical cardioversion, since she was hospitalized Nov. 22.

Her pneumonia seemed to be clearing although some infection remained, the statement said. She was receiving respiratory therapy, or chest massages. Her overall condition was unchanged, it said.

The 1979 Nobel Peace Prize laureate heads the Catholic order, Missionaries of Charity, which operates 517 orphanages, homes for the poor, AIDS hospices and other charity centers worldwide.

Disappearances haunt Tamils

By DEXTER CRUEZ
JAFFNA, Sri Lanka (AP) - When Sri Lankan troops recaptured Jaffna City from Tamil rebels, the battle began to reclaim the loyalty of the Tamil people.

A year later, the disappearance of hundreds of civilians believed being held by military authorities is undermining that effort, reinforcing the fears that led Sri Lanka's Tamil minority to revolt 13 years ago.

The military says it is holding 415 of the people who have been reported missing by locals, but denies holding more than 300 others. Officials acknowledge that many more missing people probably have not been reported.

Tears stained the cheeks of Poothamby Rajeswathy as she waited at the Red Cross office in Jaffna to hear if there was any word of her 23-year-old son, who has been missing since he was arrested at a military checkpoint in August.

The son, a salesman at the state-run marketing department, has not been seen since he left home for work and was stopped by soldiers at the town of Arialia.

Since then, his 45-year-old mother has visited several military camps in the region, but the army has denied holding her son.

"Only wish someone will tell me what has happened to him," lamented Mrs. Rajeswathy, her frail hands gesturing in a plea for help.

On Monday, dozens of people were seeking help from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to trace missing relatives and friends.

"We get as many as 600 people visiting our office every week seeking information," said Lise S. Boudreaux, head of the Red

Cross office in Jaffna "Missing people and the conditions of detention is a biggest concern for the ICRC."

Tamil Tiger rebels held the northern Jaffna peninsula for five years, running a quasi-government from this tropical port city on the Indian Ocean.

The Tigers have been fighting for a separate Tamil homeland since 1983, in a war that has killed nearly 50,000 people.

Army troops captured the city last December, and promised to establish a fair regime and normal life - mindful of the suspicions that many Tamils have of the Sinhalese majority that dominate the government and the military.

The government was confident enough that improvements had been made to relax its strict rules barring foreign journalists from the area and escort reporters, including one from The Associated Press, on a tour of Jaffna this week.

But Jaffna looks far from normal. Barbed wire checkpoints block most intersections. Soldiers are constantly on alert against attacks by Tamil rebels.

Still, goods and services that were forgotten during the years of rebel rule are becoming available again.

The government last week appointed a military committee to investigate the alleged disappearances. But human rights advocates complained that the army should not be allowed to investigate itself, and sought an independent commission.

A senior military official in Jaffna, who cannot be identified under briefing rules, denied the army is trying to hide anything. He said many complaints cannot be followed up for lack of information about the time, place and date of arrest.

Workers torch Japanese buildings

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) - Police were Wednesday searching for ringleaders of angry workers who torched the headquarters and factory of a Japanese company in a dispute over year-end bonuses, newspapers said.

At least 2,000 workers, many appearing drunk, set fire to a compound of the Sanyo Universal Electric company late Tuesday night after bonus negotiations broke down.

According to the Bangkok Post, the fire destroyed the company's eight-story headquarters and a four-story warehouse and plant where refrigerators, televisions and air compressors were manufactured.

Although no estimates were immediately available, it was believed to be the worst damage to a major firm in Thailand resulting from a labor dispute.

Prime Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh rushed to the scene late Tuesday and government officials expressed concern that the incident could damage Thailand's image as a safe haven for foreign investors.

The Bangkok Post said the company's management had offered a bonus equivalent to three months of wages to its workers, rather than the 5.75-month one which it provided last year. Year-end bonuses are customary in Thailand but are rarely as high as that given by Sanyo.

The Nation newspaper said the workers were also opposed to management ordering the work force to relocate to a plant in the eastern province of Prachinburi or face dismissal.

Sanyo has two plants in Bangkok and two in provincial areas.

According to the press accounts, the company increased its initial bonus offer by another quarter of a month during negotiations with labor and government mediators.

This angered workers who gathered in the fenced company compound. They began throwing rocks, whiskey and beer bottles at the buildings and then started setting wooden debris, electrical appliances and refrigerators alight.

The fires, fanned by a brisk wind, spread to the buildings. More than 400 police were sent to the scene but were unable to stop the workers.

Police were quoted as saying that they believed about 10 ringleaders were responsible for orchestrating the protest.

Future HK leader to meet central officials on top posts

BEIJING (AP) - Hong Kong's future leader will have the authority to suggest candidates for high-ranking positions in the region when he meets with central government officials Wednesday, a Foreign Ministry spokesman said Tuesday.

Tung Chee-hwa was expected to arrive in Beijing on Tuesday for his first visit since he was elected last week by a 400-member Selection Committee set up by China.

Tung will be received by government officials in charge of Hong Kong affairs, said spokesman Shen Guofang. He said he did not have details of the itinerary.

Tung will be Hong Kong's first chief executive after the British colony returns to Chinese rule on July 1.

Under the Basic Law, the constitution China has drawn up for Hong Kong, the chief executive will nominate Hong Kong's commissioner of police, director of immigration and other top officials, and Beijing must approve them.

Shen said the central government hopes many senior civil servants will continue at their posts in Hong Kong.

Report: Gov't to act vs money launderers

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) - Indonesia's central bank will issue regulations to try to stop money laundering, it was reported Wednesday.

"Money laundering has been haunting our banking system," Heru Suprptomono, a director of Bank Indonesia, was quoted as saying by The Jakarta Post. He said there was no clear-cut rule to stop it.

Meanwhile, Sutan Remy Sjaheini, a director of the state-owned PT Bank Negara Indonesia, said the country had become a haven for money launderers.

Sjaheini said the absence of rules against money laundering and rigid regulations on banking secrecy created a situation in which individuals or companies could deposit or transfer funds that were earned illegally.

The local banking system lets Indonesians and foreign residents deposit large sums at banks without reporting the origin of the funds. Tax officials are not authorized to investigate sources of bank deposits.

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Japan to set penalties for sexual discrimination

By PETER LANDERS
TOKYO (AP) - Ten years after Japan passed an equal-opportunity law for women, the government plans to add some teeth to it by publicizing the names of violators and specifically naming sexual harassment.

Until now, companies have been asked only to make "efforts" toward equal opportunity under the 1986 law, which puts no penalties on companies that discriminate. The law also makes no mention of sexual harassment.

While women have made modest advances in the workplace over the last decade, discrimination remains rampant. Most major companies divide their workforces into two classes: career-track employees, who are almost entirely men, and non-career-track employees, who are all women.

Newspapers carry advertisements for "female-only" positions - usually low-paid jobs with little possibility of advancement.

On Tuesday, a Labor Ministry panel recommended strengthening the protections against discrimination, although the steps still fall far short of American or European standards.

The panel said the revised law should expressly "forbid" discrimination instead of simply requiring a "duty to make efforts" against it. The revisions, it said, should make clear that dividing jobs by sex in advertising or hiring is a violation of the law.

The government would punish violators by making their names public. The proposal doesn't offer any steps to make it easier for women to sue employers over discrimination - a process that now takes many years with little hope of success - but it does enable them to seek mediation by a government panel.

The Labor Ministry said it plans to submit a bill based on the panel's recommendations to Japan's parliament in January, with passage expected by 1998.

"For the first time a foundation has been established for equality between men and women in Japan," said Masako Wakana, a lawyer on the panel. While making the names of violators public might not seem like such a severe punishment, Wakana said it would have force in face-conscious Japan.

"From a Japanese perspective, companies are going to be very resistant to have their name made public as discriminators. This will be more effective" than a fine, she said.

The revised law also will make clear that corporations have an obligation to prevent sexual harassment, the panel said.

A separate government survey last week showed that fewer than one in 10 Japanese companies is taking measures to prevent sexual harassment, and most see no need to try.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Governor Froilan C. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus C. Borja, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are soliciting competitive proposals from licensed firms in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas for the procurement of a new vehicle with the following specifications:

Class "E", four (4) Door Sedan, four (4) Cylinder, 12-16 valves with 90 or greater Horsepower, automatic transmission, power front disc, rear drums, electronic fuel injection. Other features include air conditioning, AM/FM radio cassette.

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

All proposals must be submitted, in duplicate, and sealed in an enveloped marked "RFP-Vehicle" to MaryLou Ada Sirok, Corporate Director, P.O. Box 514, Saipan, MP 96950 at the Garapan NMHC Central Office before 10:00 A.M., Friday, December 20, 1996, at which time and place, all proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any proposal received late will not be accepted.

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

MARYLOU ADA SORIK
Corporate Director

MEMORIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

JOSEPHA CASTRO ALDAN FIELDS

better known as JOSEPAN POP ALDAN,
passed away in LAS VEGAS, NEVADA on December 12, 1996
after a long illness.

Josepha is predeceased by her parents:
Manuel F. Aldan and Cecilia Castro Aldan

Spouse: Cecil Fields
Son: Mark Fields

Survived by her sons and spouses:
Manuel (Mike), Chester (Thomas), David & Phillip,
and several grandchildren

Sisters: Chong Aldan Reyes (Widow of Roman M. Reyes) &
Maria Aldan Cabrera

Brother: Antonio (Las Vegas)
Brother-in-Law: Jose T. Cabrera

Rosary is being said nightly at 8:00 P.M. at her sister's residence (Mrs. Chong Roman M. Reyes) at Airport Road and will end on Saturday, December 21, 1996. Mass will be offered in San Vicente Church on the same day at 5:30 p.m. Interment was held in Las Vegas Veteran's Cemetery on December 16.

Please join us and always
Remember her in your prayers

Theme parks a hit in Japan

By ERIC TALMADGE
KASHIWAZAKI, Japan (AP) - Chiyoshi Ito sat in amazement, his mouth agape, his eyes wide.

He had already whiffed the exotic smell of kabobs and chai. He had strolled the bazaar with its stalls overflowing with fezzes, hookahs and ornate silver goblets.

Now, as the belly dancer shimmed before him, he was beside himself with joy. "I'm 75 and I've never seen anything like this before," he said. "So this is Turkey!"

Not quite. The idea may go back to the world fairs of old, but theme parks with a travel motif are the hottest new trend in Japan - pulling in millions of busy, frugal or just plain timid Japanese tourists each year.

There, without ever venturing beyond their island nation's borders, Japanese can marvel at the American Wild West, the Mongolian plains, even the Germany of the Brothers Grimm.

And these are not quaint corners in parks where something else is the

main attraction. They are incredibly elaborate - and expensive - mock-ups designed to make the visitor feel decidedly not at home.

"The whole idea is to breathe the soul of Turkey into our park," said Osamu Suzuki, spokesman for the Turkish Culture Village on a remote stretch of Japan's northern coast. "Reality is everything."

It worked for Jiro Okabe, a middle-age man who visited the park while in town on other business. "I don't know if I'd ever want to go to Turkey, but I like the park," he said. "I've never been outside Japan, but it made me feel a little like I was."

Behind the popularity of the parks is the Japanese obsession with foreign travel.

A record 16.5 million Japanese - more than one of every 10 people in the country - will travel abroad this year, according to forecasts by the Japan Travel Bureau. They are also expected to spend more than ever, an average of 319,000 yen

each, or about \$193,000. For hundreds of years, Japan's borders were closed to the world and citizens caught returning from trips abroad were killed. But at the turn of the century, Japan embarked on a successful policy of modernization and Westernization that has deeply changed the nation.

"We Japanese are fascinated with foreign countries and things," said Akira Tanaka, a spokesman for Niigata Russian Village, which is nestled among the rice paddies of northern Japan. "It's part of our national character."

Statistics bear that out. Following closely behind Tokyo Disneyland in popularity, two of Japan's five most successful theme parks are country-specific. One, in southern Japan, is patterned after a Dutch town, replete with windmills and tulips. The other, in central Japan, models the architecture of Spain.

Together, the two draw 8 million visitors a year, even though they are found in relatively out-of-the-way places. Overall, attendance at "travel parks" is probably 10 million to 11 million a year.

The parks bank, in part, on the hassles of real travel and the lingering fear many Japanese have of venturing out beyond their shores. Visiting the parks, for example, involves no paperwork, no jet lag, no crowded flights, no incomprehensible languages. And, most of all, no crime.

"As a woman, safety is definitely something you take into account when deciding whether to go overseas. That isn't a concern here," said Yoko Karita, another executive at Russian Village.

But for those who do want to get the thrill of danger - vicariously, of course - there is no need look any further than Tobu World Square, a world-in-miniature park just north of Tokyo. There, among all the tiny plastic New Yorkers in a replica of Manhattan, a bank robbery is in progress.

Karita said the simulated enclaves of ethnicity also provide Japanese with a non-threatening break from their country's largely homogeneous social landscape.

"You would think there would be more opportunities for us to see foreigners, but there really aren't," Karita said. "People like to interact with our foreign em-

ployees - that is one of the attractions of coming."

That certainly was the case at Turkish Culture Village, at least in the belly dancing room. Visitors - who, like Japanese tourists abroad, can often be seen moving in packs led by flag-bearing tour guides - pay a 900 yen (\$9) entrance fee to shop in a mock-up of Istanbul's bazaar, join in folk and belly dances done by dancers direct from Turkey and dine on Turkish delicacies.

The prices vary widely. A fez goes for 1,000 yen (\$10), and one top-grade carpet on display in the bazaar was selling for 4.9 million yen (\$49,000).

"It was a bit on the expensive side," said Okabe, the visitor who otherwise enjoyed his stop at the park.

Turkish Culture Village is the latest in the genre. Some 40,000 people have come since its opening in July, and more than 120,000 guests are expected in the first 12 months.

"We are off to a good start," said Suzuki, the park's spokesman. "We are even going to build a big Trojan horse for the kids next year."

Police burn marijuana plantation

BEIJING (AP) - Criminals will no longer be able to perform in public for money, following an official crackdown on prison and labor camp artistic troupes, an official newspaper said.

Criminals mainly put on shows in jail to enliven prison life, but paying shows starring prisoners have also been organized, despite a ban on the practice, by firms and individuals

motivated by profit, the Liaoshen Evening Post said in its Dec. 10 edition.

The newspaper, based in northeastern Liaoning province, did not say what sort of artistic shows prisoners perform.

But, in a sign that the shows may not always be what they claim to be, one city in northeast China set up a "criminals performance troupe" which did not con-

tain any criminals, the newspaper said.

The group, which went under the name of the Prison New Life Art Troupe, "put on business-type performances inside and outside the province, creating a very bad impression," the newspaper said.

The official crackdown apparently covered performances by genuine criminals for money.

Doctors hope to repair child's deformed face for Christmas

PITTSBURGH (AP) - Surgeons undertook a rare 14-hour operation to repair a Vietnamese boy's deformed face at Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh.

The doctors worked on the 4-year-old child for free, Dean Walters, a hospital spokesman, said Tuesday.

Minh Thien Do suffered from hypertelorism, a condition in which his eyes were spaced too far apart on his face. He had an elongated left nostril.

Vietnamese doctors operated seven times on the boy already, but his deformities were too severe for them to repair, Walters said.

An international group of plastic surgeons learned about Minh's plight, and Dr. J. William Futrell of Pittsburgh volunteered to help. The boy's father raised enough money to fly with Minh from Ho Chi

Minh City to Pittsburgh for the operation.

Futrell and Dr. H. Wolfgang Losken, the head of plastic surgery at Children's Hospital, began the operation at 6 a.m. and finished around 8 p.m.

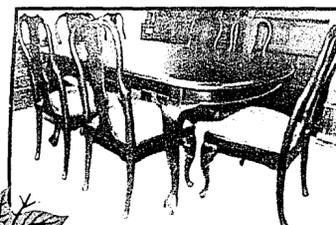
Tuesday night, Minh was in critical condition but stable, which is normal after such a procedure, said spokesman Mike Laffin. He is expected to remain critical for two days and go home in about a month, Laffin said.

Surgeons removed a piece of bone from Minh's forehead, pushed his brain back further into his skull, moved his eyes closer together and clamped his skull to narrow it to a normal shape.

Futrell expected to fly to Vietnam to see Minh in January. The hospital performs just "a handful" of similar operations for hypertelorism each year, Walters said.

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01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:\$634.40-750.00 per month
Contact: PACIFIC PRIME, INC. Tel. 322-4190(1/3)Th227174

01 STOCK SUPERVISOR-Salary:\$3.25 per hour
01 ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN-Salary:\$3.75 per hour
Contact: SAM CORPORATION dba Sam Electronic & Watch Repair Shop Tel. 234-5419(1/3)Th227172

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: RAMBIE'S RESTAURANT Tel. 235-0379(1/3)Th227171

01 COMPUTER OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.15 per hour
01 ELECTRICAL TOOL REPAIRER-Salary:\$3.90 per hour
Contact: BASIC CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY CORP. Tel. 234-8779(1/3)Th63575

01 BARTENDER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: MYLENE F. MATTHEWS dba MFM Enterprises Tel. 233-4880(1/3)Th63566

02 SALES MANAGER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: YU'S ENTERPRISES (U.S.A.) INC., LTD. Tel. 233-1390(1/3)Th227168

01 OPERATION MANAGER-Salary:\$3.50 per hour
Contact: SEASIDE MART INC. dba JCW Wholesale Tel. 234-1188(1/3)Th227165

01 KITCHEN HELPER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
02 FAST FOOD WORKER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: D'ELEGANCE ENT. INC. dba Coffee Shop Tel. 234-9227(1/3)Th227166

03 WAITRESS NIGHT CLUB-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 SINGER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: G.I.S. ENTERPRISES, INC. dba Maharaja Tel. 234-5333(1/3)Th227167

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PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
Carmen Waboi Nekaifes and Felomenia Waboi Muna, Plaintiffs, -v-
Conception W. Moteisou, Heui Sang Lee, and Hyun Soo Lee, Defendants.
Civil Action No. 96-1043

SUMMONS
To: Defendant Heui Sang Lee and Hyun Soo Lee
YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and required to serve upon the Law Offices of O'Connor, Dotts & Banes, whose address is Post Office Box 1969, 2nd Floor, Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950, an answer to the Complaint which is herewith served upon you, exclusive of the day of service. If you fail to do so, judgment by default will be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.
Dated this 13th day of September, 1996.
/s/JOVITA C. FLORES
Clerk of Court
Note: Any answer that you wish to file must be filed and served with the Court and then on Plaintiff's counseled by no later than January 16, 1997 (21 days after the final publication date of this notice)

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND
PUBLIC NOTICE
Pursuant to public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Froilan C. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus C. Borja, through NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission, are hereby giving notice, that the Special Meeting for the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees will be on Friday, December 20, 1996, at 9:00 a.m. in the Fund's Conference Room, Saipan.
AGENDA
A. CALL TO ORDER
B. OLD BUSINESS
1. Commonwealth Government Employees Credit Union re: Disbursement of loan proceeds; Operating Budget and Other Credit Union matters.
C. ADJOURNMENT

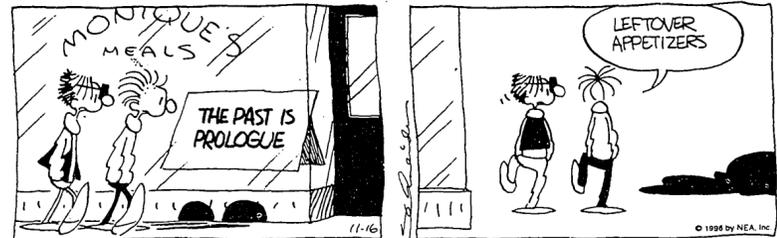
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Garfield®

by Jim Davis



PEANUTS®

by Charles M. Schulz



STELLA WILDER YOUR BIRTHDAY

Born today, you seem to be one kind of person to some people, and a different kind of person to others. The layers of your complex personality are almost endless, and it is virtually impossible for anyone to get to the bottom of your mysterious nature. Self-image will not be very important to you, even though it is inevitable that you will have a great deal of confidence. You may find that those around you are eager to assign a personality to you almost randomly, whether you like it or not.

FRIDAY, DEC. 20 SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — If you take a retrospective look at things today, you'll see how far you've come. Now, leave the past behind and work on a current challenge. CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — You will have something important to do today, but it must be kept under wraps for the sake of the game. You will enjoy being clever, mysterious and sneaky. AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Your experience on the job will seem to have more meaning to you today. However, take care not to neglect certain issues at home. PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — You can only give so much ad- vantage to advertise your skills to the world at large in order to enjoy most professional opportunities. You will do this in a creative and humorous fashion. ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Do not express your political views when conducting your personal or professional affairs today, unless, of course, the political arena is your workplace. TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — If you put your pride behind you today, you'll learn one or two more things that can put the finishing touches on a current phase of de-

velopment. GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — If you do what is asked of you on time and without complaining today, you'll enjoy greater opportunities in the future. Think ahead! CANCER (June 21-July 22) — What you do will be judged today, whether you like it or not, and you must prepare to face criticism, especially if you act impulsively. LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — If you take charge of your affairs in a more aggressive manner today, you can come very close to achieving one of your primary objectives. VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You may have to assemble your allies today in order to distract someone from what you are really doing. Surprise will be the key. LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — If you strive to be flexible, amenable and easygoing today, you'll enjoy more rewards than if you were coldhearted, aggressive and insistent. SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — You may have trouble compartmentalizing your feelings today, but you should try to remain as objective as possible.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS and DOWN crossword puzzle clues and grid. Includes 'Answer to Previous Puzzle' and 'difference!' clues.

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THE PUZZLER. A word puzzle with a cartoon character and a decoder key for the alphabet.

FROM THE MAKERS OF THE NAKED GUN MOVIES. Advertisement for the movie 'High School High' featuring a character with a 'HELP' sign.

Yankees sign Wells to a 3 year pact

NEW YORK (AP) - The New York Yankees finally filled the hole left by Jimmy Key's departure, agreeing Tuesday to a three-year contract with David Wells.

The Boston Red Sox, hunting for pitchers following the departure of Roger Clemens, agreed to a one-year deal with Chris Hammond.

A baseball lawyer, speaking on the condition he not be identified, said the Red Sox also were in discussions with the agent for Steve Avery, in a three-year slump since going 18-6 for Atlanta in 1993.

Baltimore, looking to add a bat, was said to be in talks with the agent for Greg Vaughn. Another free agent hitter, Mike Greenwell, said he planned to spend next season with the Hanshin Tigers, who are coming off a last-

place finish in Japan's Central League. Leo Gomez was placed on unconditional release waivers by the Chicago Cubs, who said the infielder is arranging a contract with the Chunichi Dragons of Japan's Central League.

On the trade front, Detroit dealt left-hander Joey Eischen and right-hander Cam Smith to San Diego for catcher Brian Johnson and right-hander Willie Blair.

Boston sent left-hander Brian Looney to the Minnesota Twins to complete the Aug. 26 trade for right-hander Pat Mahomes.

In another move, the Royals agreed to a minor-league contract with 38-year-old left-hander Juan Agosto, who hasn't pitched in the major leagues since 1993.

Wells, a 33-year-old left-hander, became the Yankees' primary pitching target last Friday after Clemens spurned New York and agreed to a three-year contract with the Toronto Blue Jays.

Wells was 11-14 with a 5.14 ERA for the Orioles last season. His career high for victories came in 1991, when he was 15-10 for the Toronto Blue Jays.

Palacios...

Continued from page 32. adrift off DFS Saipan. The top two teams had miserable stints with Oriental Hotel vaulting to solo lead despite losing three games when erstwhile co-leader DFS Saipan faded even worse.

Sedi...

Continued from page 32. G-Force jumped on top 23-7 after three innings on account of Jeff Pua's six rbis and Stanley Laniyo's five before the Enforcers rallied for the big comeback.

Fernandez...

Continued from page 32. In the opening game of the round robin finals, Fernandez outwitted Eamilao while Ramos trounced Perez.

In the second round, Fernandez continued his winning run by scalping Perez while Eamilao bounced back into contention by outplaying Ramos.

Eamilao took second place after dealing Perez's third successive setback for a 2-1 win loss slate. Ramos finished the tournament in third spot while Perez, who failed to sustain his fiery streak in the eliminations, came in fourth.

Sunset Villia Resort continued its hot streak by drubbing Oriental, 3-1 while JTG Enterprises thrashed DFS, 4-0.

With the losses, Oriental is now with 22-10. DFS is just one win behind with 21-11.

MGD 14, Sedi Kau 8. Mike Remsen knocked in three runs and Mike Walsh scored three times as the M.G.D. held on to the third slot with a 14-8 victory over the Athletes Foot Sedi Kau.

Trailing 4-2 after three innings, M.G.D. exploded for nine big runs in the top of the fourth highlighted by Remsen's bases loaded triple to take the lead for good.

Castro...

Continued from page 1. monthly urine analysis, he said. Castro stated that the policy is designed to protect the public and provide an opportunity and incentive to those individuals who may have a problem with alcohol or drugs.

"Our officers and firefighters are often called upon to intervene in situations that threaten the lives and safety of individuals and their property," the commissioner said. "Our powers of perception, ability to quickly analyze facts and our decisive reaction in emergencies are essential tools of our profession."

Budweiser...

Continued from page 32. games will be played every Saturday. All teams are requested to come on the opening day for the drawing of lots that will determine the four teams that will play.

DeRienzo...

Continued from page 1. letter recently from the administration. I don't think it's me the governor was referring to."

'One...

Continued from page 1. tribute to the contamination of fecal chloroform, an organism seen in human and animal waste, in beach areas fronting these establishments.

Sablans said Japanese tour agencies will also be asked to contribute funds "since most of the tourists are Japanese nationals."

He said the environmental group is discussing the possibilities of asking a dollar each from the tourists for the purpose.

There are, Sablan said, an estimated 670,000 tourist arrivals each year. "This would mean \$670,000 to be used in, maybe, buying tractors that will clean the beaches and so forth," he said.

CRM...

Continued from page 1. tory would create an atmosphere not conducive to learning since it would bring increased vehicular traffic, congestion, and air and noise pollution.

The board also said there was a potential for the project to "deprive adjacent landowners the right to a clean and healthful environment."

It said there existed "reasonable alternative sites" for the project. Last month the board also rejected the application for a permit of a similarly situated proposed garment factory in Dandan, the Joo Ang Apparel.

DATE BOOK

Dec. 19, 1996. Today is the 354th day of 1996 and the 89th day of fall. TODAY'S HISTORY: On this day in 1686, Scottish sailor Alexander Selkirk was rescued from the island where he had been stranded for 52 months.

of apprehending Panamanian general Manuel Noriega. TODAY'S BIRTHDAYS: Ralph Richardson (1902-1983), actor; Leonid Brezhnev (1906-1982), Soviet leader; Jean Genet (1910-1986), writer; Edith Piaf (1915-1963), singer; Cicely Tyson (1933-), actress; Phil Ochs (1940-1976), singer; Richard E. Leakey (1944-), anthropologist; is 52; Kevin McHale (1957-), basketball player, is 39.

Montreal in the Canadiens' first NHL game. TODAY'S QUOTE: "I call saintliness not a state but the moral procedure leading to it." — Jean Genet. TODAY'S WEATHER: On this day in 1957, two people were killed by a tornado near Buena Vista, Ark. SOURCE: 1996 Weather Guide Calendar, Accord Publishing, Ltd. TODAY'S MOON: Between first quarter (Dec. 17) and full moon (Dec. 24).

NBA Standings

NBA Standings table with columns for Eastern Conference, Western Conference, and Monday's Game. Includes teams like Miami, New York, Washington, etc.

NFL Standings

NFL Standings table with columns for National Football League and American Conference East. Includes teams like New England, Buffalo, Indianapolis, etc.

SPORTS



Fourth win in a row

Knights keep unbeaten streak

1996 Youth Volleyball League Team Standings

Girls' Division	W	L
MC Knights	4	0
Flyers	3	0
Lady Dreamers	2	1
Aschoscho	2	1
Angels	1	3
SCS	0	1
GCA Eagles	0	4

Boys' Division	W	L
Dreamers	2	0
MHS I	1	0
MHS 2	0	1
No Fear	0	2

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

THE MOUNT Carmel Knights roared to their fourth straight win by overwhelming Aschoscho in straight sets last night in the Girls' Division of the 1996 Youth Volleyball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym.

The Knights encountered a stiff challenge from their rivals in the opening set 15-13 before breezing into the next one with a 15-2 rout to grab the solo lead in the seven team field tournament.

The Knights and Aschoscho battled to a close match in the opening set with neither team enjoying more than a four point lead in the first minutes of the game.

With the score pegged at 8-6 and Aschoscho leading, both teams traded short rallies. The Knights scored seven straight with Jacoba Castro serving while Aschoscho countered with four, courtesy of Malia, to make it a 12-12 match. The teams fought for four three sideouts before Francella Olupai rattled

three straight points to give her team the opening set victory, 15-12.

In the next set there was no stopping the Knights' momentum as Olupai, Jackie Chong, Melisa Mendez and Castro joined hands in giving MCS an eight point spread, 9-1. The Knights continued to play well as they added three more points. With the Knights up by 11, 12-1, Dakiko aced to put up Aschoscho's last stand. In the next play, Aschoscho's serve

was broken giving the ball to the Knights.

Mendez gave her team the 13th point. In the next serve Aschoscho was called for a net violation giving the Knights the match point. Mendez scored the last point needed as the Knights took their fourth win of the season.

In the Boys' Division, the Dreamers needed three sets before subduing stubborn No Fear 15-11, 9-15, 15-13 for their second consecutive victory.

Women's Thursday Night League

Palacios in near sweep

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

RITA PALACIOS nearly recorded a sweep in the individual all events in the eighth week of the Women's Thursday Night League at the Saipan Bowling Center.

The Budweiser team mainstay knocked 238 and 261 pins in topping the high scratch and high handicap games. Palacios, likewise bested all other bowlers in the high scratch series by rolling 562 pins.

Becky Reyes averted a Palacios sweep by bagging the weekly honors in the high handicap series category by tallying 670 pins.

Palacios' score in the high scratch game broke the year to date high mark set by Carol

Moody. Aside from the record, Palacios is currently the hottest bowler of the tournament, averaging 174.53 pins per game. Tina Camacho is second with a 172 pin average while Diana Camacho is running third with a 169 average per outing.

The Budweiser capped a very successful win, boosted no doubt by Palacios' hot hands, by posting a 4-0 rout of the Jets. The team racked games of 960, 974 and 1,017 to finish the week with 2,951 pins. The Jets, on the other hand, had 913, 923 and 912

for a 2,748 total or a 203 pin difference. With the wins, Budweiser is just half a win and a half behind solo leader Oriental Hotel and just half a win

Continued on page 31

Fernandez triumphs

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

JUNN FERNANDEZ defeated Jun Ramos in the final round to win the title in the Novice Division of the CNMI Chess Association's 1996 Budweiser Cup Individual Chess Championships held recently at Rambie's Restaurant.

With the win, his third straight, Fernandez swept the division's single round robin finals.

Fernandez entered the final round by topping Group A. He scored six out of possible seven points. George Eamilao matched Fernandez's output to booked the other semis slot in Group A.

In group B, Robert Perez posted the highest score among the four qualifiers by notching 6.5 points in seven rounds. Jun Ramos completed the pairings by bagging the remaining slot with 5.5 points.

Continued on page 31

Saipan Men's Slowpitch League

Sedi Kau's loss gives Hit & Run pennant title

By Ray Palacios
for the Variety

DEFENDING champions, the Lite Hit & Run moved towards a shot of retaining its title as it clinches the pennant in the B Division of the Saipan Softball Men's Slowpitch as Athletes Foot Sedi Kau suffered a 14-8 loss from MGD in the third game of last Tuesday night's action at the Susupe Sports Complex.

Hit & Run 16, COP Hustlers 5

Tony Camacho finally got his power swing back as ripped his fourth homerun in two games while Joe Torres is just a game away from bagging the E.R.A. crown as the Lite Hit & Run

stopped the C.O.P. Hustlers in six innings, 16-5.

With the win, their 20th in 24 outings, Hit & Run won the pennant outright as Sedi Kau lost to MGD later in the evening.

Mel Sakisat, Greg F. Camacho, and Mike 'Rock' Guerrero each homered in leading Hit & Run's march to a title retention drive.

G-Force 24, Enforcers 22

The Happy Market II Enforcers outscored the Bud-Light G-Force 15-1 in the last two and a half innings but were three runs shy of a possible come-from-behind losing 24-22 in the sixth due to time limita-

Continued on page 31



WINNERS ALL-Ace winners and participants to the Amigo Golf Club's year-ending 1996 Amigo of the Year smile after a very successful season.

(Photo by Erel A. Cabatbat)

Budweiser Cage Cup kicks off Dec. 23

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

THE 1996 BUDWEISER Cup Intercommercial Basketball League kicks off with a double header on Dec. 23 at the Construction & Material Supply Basketball Court.

League president Abner Venus said that seven teams have confirmed their participation and tournament organizers are giving all interested team until Friday, Dec. 20 to submit their lineups.

The president of the island's newest cage league also added that the different teams respective uniforms will be given today or tomorrow.

After the opening ceremonies, the league will have its regular games on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday at the CMS Basketball Court.

One game will be played on Tuesday and Thursday while two

Continued on page 31

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