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Bill to ban RP workers

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

A BILL that would ban Filipino contract workers from the CNMI was prefiled yesterday in the House of Representatives.

House Bill 10-323, however, would exempt from the ban Filipino workers who are already legally employed in the CNMI prior to the signing of the bill into law.

Rep. Stanley T. Torres (Ind.-Saipan) is the main sponsor of the bill which was co-signed by Vice Speaker Jesus T. Attao (R-Saipan), Rep. Ana S. Teregeyo (R-Saipan), Rep. Crispin I.D.L. Guerrero (R-Saipan), Rep. David M. Apatang (R-Saipan) and Rep. Melvin O. Faisao (R-Saipan).

Torres, in an interview, said yesterday that he filed the bill in reaction to the Philippine government's "insisting" that the



Stanley T. Torres

CNMI require employers to provide free food and lodging to Filipino workers.

In a press statement, Torres said that such a requirement is "too much," and would only "hurt" Filipino workers.

"No other country makes such

ridiculous demands," he said.

The Philippine government, according to Torres, cannot even provide enough jobs for its own people.

"Why do they want to make it more difficult for their own people?"

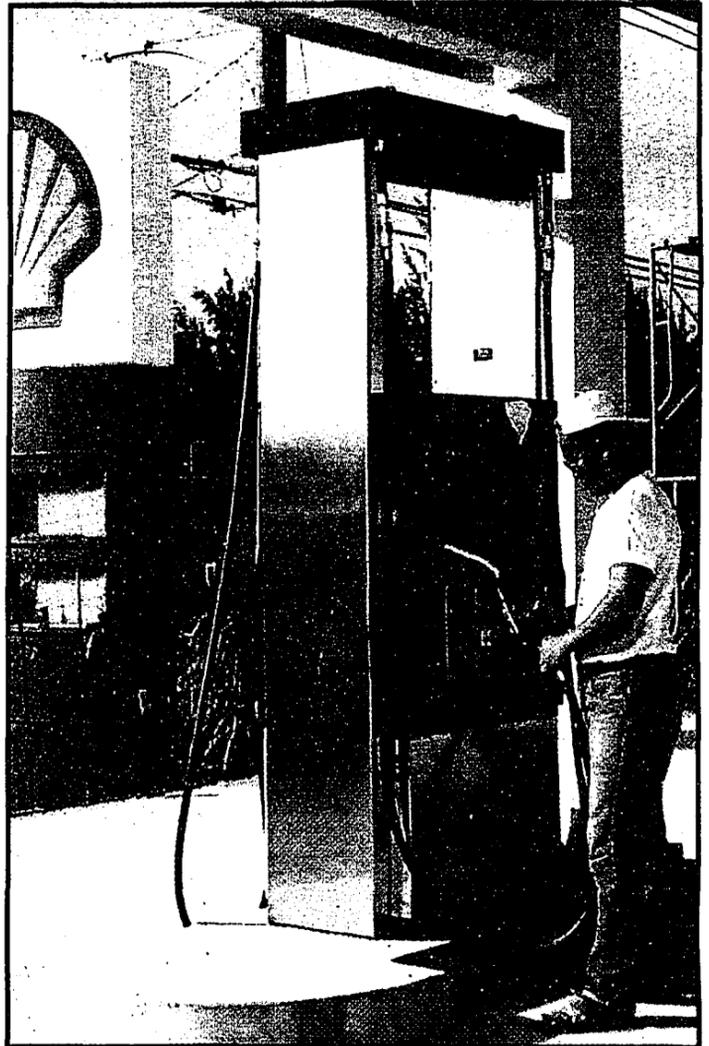
The CNMI, he said, is already offering Filipino workers "what they want."

Workers, Torres added, are readily available from other countries.

Meanwhile, House Minority Leader Dino M. Jones (D-Saipan) said that CNMI government officials should not meet with Filipino officials on the free food and lodging issue.

"If they want to ban workers coming to the CNMI so be it," Jones yesterday said in a letter to

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TRUST IN THE CNMI ECONOMY. Bernard Villanueva checks the brand new gasoline pumps at the soon-to-be opened Shell Station at Middle Road. New business establishments like this reflects confidence the economy is picking up. Photo by E. Cabalbat

Federal grand jury indicts woman, man for 'promoting prostitution'

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

A MAN and a woman, accused of maintaining a prostitution front, both pleaded not guilty yesterday at the federal district court to three charges related to the illegal business.

According to the indictment by a grand jury, Mr. Jin Feng Bai, 40, and Ms. Yin Long Shen, 36, conspired last Nov. 23 and Jan. 2 to use a facility (Bank of Guam and IT&E Overseas, Inc.) in interstate and foreign commerce" in "advancing and permitting

prostitution."

The indictment alleged that the two defendants "caused and aided" employees of the Big President Night Club in Garapan to engage in prostitution in violation of local and federal laws.

Bai, according to the indictment, maintained rooms within the club wherein employees allegedly engaged in "sexual conduct" for a fee.

It claimed the club kept records of payments received by the club and by the employees allegedly providing sex for a fee.

On Sept. 17 last year, Bai alleg-

edly faxed a message through the facilities of IT&E from Saipan to China to "promote and facilitate" the illegal business.

The club also allegedly availed of the services of Bank of Guam to "promote, manage, establish and carry on an unlawful activity."

Shen was indicted for conspiracy since it was she who allegedly provided a Labor investigator who had posed as a Japanese tourist, a "female who would engage in sexual

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Court sets hearing for 'abusive' baby-sitter

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

THE SUPERIOR Court is set to hear on Jan. 28 the complaint against a Filipina maid accused of maltreating her 16-month old ward.

Myrna C. Sacpa was arrested at the airport on Jan. 14 while on her way out of the island.

The child neglect and abuse complaint filed by the toddler's parents was based on a one-hour-45-minute video film which revealed Sacpa's maltreatment of the child.

The video camera was secretly set up by the child's parents on Dec. 30, 1996.

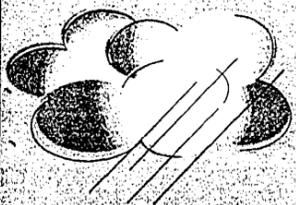
The video showed Sacpa leaving the baby in the crib "unattended."

The complaint said that "the only attention administered to the child consisted of acts of physical and mental abuse with the result that the child's physical and mental health has been harmed."

The film showed that on "nine occasions" Sacpa threw the child from a height of four feet into her

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Weather Outlook



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers

OPA: Pierce violated ethics, procurement laws

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

THE GOVERNOR'S special assistant for drug and substance abuse is being accused by the Office of the Public Auditor of having violated CNMI ethics and procurement regulations when he awarded a government contract to MBG Management Services, Inc. which hired his sister as a project subcontractor.

Richard Pierce, the Variety was told, is also "in trouble"

with the Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) for allegedly hiring his stepdaughter as an administrative assistant for his office.

The stepdaughter, however, is no longer working for Pierce.

Both Pierce and the governor's legal counsel Douglas Muir declined to make a comment.

For his part, the governor's Public Information Officer Mark Broadhurst yesterday admitted there were "questions about the way in which the contract was handled."

But, he added, the issue is "kind of moot."

Any "wrongdoing" has already been "addressed," Broadhurst said.

Pierce, he added, should even be praised for asking OPA if the hiring of his stepdaughter was permitted by law.

"His doubts were confirmed so she was terminated. (Hence) the problem was solved."

The investigation reports from OPA remain classified, but a

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Richard Pierce

Clinton to honor Dole with Medal of Freedom



Bill Clinton



Bob Dole

WASHINGTON (AP) - U.S. President Bill Clinton plans to award the Presidential Medal of Freedom to Bob Dole, his Republican opponent in last year's election. The medal is the United States' highest civilian award.

A White House official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Clinton plans to award the medal to Dole on Friday, during an event on World War II.

White House spokeswoman Mary Ellen Glynn declined to say whether Dole would be offered the medal, but added: "That sounds like an excellent way to pay trib-

ute to a person who has devoted a lifetime to public service."

Dole was not available for comment. A message left for his spokesman, Clarkson Hine, was not immediately returned Wednesday.

Clinton defeated Dole, 73, in November. He has spoken warmly of Dole's heroism during World War II and of his 30 years of service in the Senate.

Clinton awarded a Medal of Freedom to departing Defense Secretary William Perry on Tuesday and to Cardinal Joseph Bernardin shortly before Bernardin's death in the fall.

Pullout begins

By NASSER SHIYOUKHI
HEBRON, West Bank (AP) - Israeli soldiers Thursday lowered the Star of David flag and loaded dozens of trucks with boxes and equipment - the beginning of the end of their 30-year rule over this West Bank city.

In heavy rain and fog, army bulldozers dismantled cement barriers at the gate of Israel's main military headquarters on a hill above the city. Soldiers folded large olive drab tents and piled furniture, antennas and water tanks into the trucks.

The base will become headquarters of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's security forces. The handover of 80 percent of the city of 130,000 Palestinians and 500 Jews to Arafat's control is expected to proceed once Israel's parliament approves the pullout agreement.

The parliament debate was to begin at 11 a.m. (0900 GMT) Thursday and was expected to

last well into the night, with each of the 120 legislators given a chance to speak.

Approval is guaranteed because of the support of the dovish opposition parties for the peace agreements. As many as one-third of the legislators in Netanyahu's nationalist-religious coalition were expected to abstain or vote no.

The preparations for the Israeli redeployment began at dawn Thursday, just hours after Israel's Cabinet approved the agreement on Hebron and a three-stage pull-back from West Bank rural areas in a tumultuous 12-hour session. Netanyahu was relentlessly heckled by hardliners who accused him of giving away parts of the Jewish homeland.

Science Minister Benny Begin, son of the late Israeli Prime Minister Menachem Begin, resigned in protest after his colleagues voted 11-7 in favor of the agreement between Netanyahu and



Benjamin Netanyahu

Arafat.

"The prime minister committed himself to give away sections of the Jewish homeland. He gets zero from Arafat," said Begin.

In contrast to the Israeli government, the Palestinian Cabinet and the PLO Executive Committee authorized the agreement with a comfortable majority late Wednesday. The vote count was

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Israel minister quits over accord

JERUSALEM (AP) - Cabinet minister Benny Begin resigned Wednesday to protest the Israeli-Palestinian accord signed earlier in the day.

Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh, who announced the resignation, said Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu would try to dissuade his colleague early Thursday morning. The resignation would only go into effect in 48 hours.

Netanyahu's spokesman Shai Bazak said the prime minister spoke with Begin already following the meeting, but would discuss the issue with him again on Thursday.

"The Prime Minister said he was

sorry for the decision and that especially at this time the forces should be rallying to stand united before the big challenges facing the State of Israel," Bazak said. Begin, the son of the late Prime Minister Menachem Begin, is ardently opposed of the Israel-Palestinian autonomy accords which Netanyahu has now, in effect, embraced.

"The prime minister committed himself to give away sections of the Jewish homeland. He gets zero from Arafat," Begin said on Israel army radio before the 12-hour meeting that ended after midnight with an 11-7

vote in favor.

In hours of sharp exchanges with Netanyahu during the meeting, Begin accused the premier of misleading the government by selectively presenting the facts of the agreement. He lamented the accord as an abandonment of basic principles of the ruling Likud Party founded by his father.

Begin - an acid-tongued, spartan doctor of geology - thus cements his position as a leading spokesman for Likud's extreme right. But he also deepens an image as an inflexible ideologue which has kept him back politically.

Lujan also wants Atalig out



David Lujan

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

ATTORNEYS for Kaelani Kinney are seeking an overhaul of the Supreme Court panel that handles petitions and appeals related to the Hillblom estate.

Associate Justices Ramon G. Villagomez and Pedro M. Atalig have conflicts of interests, according to Kinney's lawyers.

Chief Justice Marty Taylor, they said, should also step out of the panel for allowing the two to continue participating in the case despite his "knowledge of the disabilities."

In the same motion filed in the Supreme Court Wednesday, lawyers David Lujan, Joe Hill and Barry Israel also called for the recall of all previous orders issued by the high court related to Hillblom case.

"(No) further orders be entered until a properly instituted panel is in place," they said.

"Petition Kinney's counsel filed this motion reluctantly but necessarily," the motion said.

Kinney team seeks new panel for appeals

Kinney is the mother of Junior Larry Hillbloom, an alleged heir of the late millionaire Larry Lee Hillbloom who died in a plane crash last year.

Kinney's lawyers sought Atalig's disqualification, citing a complaint filed Dec. 30 by the Attorney General's Office which charged him with "fraud, misrepresentation and conspiracy during a probate proceeding before Superior Court Associate Judge Alex Castro."

"His role in the conspiracy

included making material misrepresentations to the Court concerning the estate assets, preparing false inventories, and fraudulently taking property for his own use," the motion said.

The lawyers are worried that since Atalig would eventually be called upon to decide on probate proceedings, he "is in a position to influence decision in this case which could provide favorable precedent in the case against him."

Lujan, in a separate declara-

tion, further alleged that Atalig may have sentiments against illegitimate children.

Lujan cited an earlier decision written by Atalig which "completely ignores the rights given to pretermitted heirs in an estate..."

"It is possible that the justice has illegitimate children of his own," Lujan wrote.

As for Villagomez, the lawyers seek his disqualification because his brother, Jesus G. Villagomez serves as a director



Pedro M. Atalig

of the Bank of Saipan, which is defending the estate against the paternal suits.

"If Justice Atalig and the Chief Justice knew that Villagomez's brother is a director of the bank, yet participated in a decision which grants the bank powers at the expense of their claimants, any reasonable man is justified in believing that an impartial decision has not been made," Kinney's lawyers said.

The lawyers noted that the series of decisions earlier issued by the Supreme Court related to the Hillblom estate were all in favor of the bank. (See related story).

Atalig's legal problems and Villagomez's relationship to a party involved in the case have placed their impartiality at stake, the lawyers said.

"The court should appoint an independent judge to determine whether either of them, and/or the Chief Justice should also be disqualified because of prior knowledge of the disabilities."

Castro: Bank has not met conditions

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

THE SUPREME COURT earlier ordered the reinstatement of the Bank of Saipan as executor of the \$450-million estate of the late Larry Lee Hillblom.

But an order issued yesterday by the Superior Court ignores the high court's ruling.

Associate Judge Castro said the bank has failed to meet some of the conditions set by the Superior Court for its reinstatement.

Castro mentioned for example Joseph Waechter's continued presence in the bank's board of directors.

The Superior Court has prohibited Waechter "from using his position as a director of the bank to influence the decisions regarding administration



Judge Alex Castro

of the estate." It also ordered the bank to allow William I. Webster to continue serving his duty as administrator of the estate.

Another condition set by Castro was the retention of the law firm

White, Pierce, Mailman and Nutting as counsel to Webster.

Castro, in his Aug. 20 order, stated that the bank may only be fully reinstated to its position as soon as the five conditions are complied with.

Castro said the bank has complied only with two of the five conditions: One was the release of information concerning the bank's board of directors and ownership.

The other is the payment of \$127,995.62 to the estate as surcharges "representing the measurable loss to the estate resulting from the interest free loan to CHC and the unauthorized loan to UMDA."

Earlier, the Supreme Court, acting on the bank's petition, ordered that the bank be allowed to defend the estate in the heirship proceedings.

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RP singling out NMI on food policy—Governor



Froilan C. Tenorio

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio said Wednesday that the Philippine government, by insisting that the Commonwealth give Filipino workers food allowance, is "singling out" the CNMI.

He said no other country where there are Filipino workers has "that kind of statute."

"Nevermind that we're being singled out by the Philippine government," the governor in an interview on Tinian said.

"My point is that until we are required by our law to do it, I would not require employers to provide food allowance, although they're free to do so if they wish."

If the Philippine government would

require that employers should provide food allowance to Filipino workers, "then I'll respect that," Tenorio said.

He added that he would just tell CNMI employers to get workers from other countries.

"(But) I'm not going to tell the Philippine government not to (require) food allowance."

The Variety on Monday reported that the Philippine government may ban the deployment of Filipinos to the Commonwealth in light of the CNMI's "reluctance" to grant free board and lodging to Filipino contract workers.

The Philippine government is also considering the escrow bond system in which employers would be required to pay as much as \$20,000 for every worker recruited.

A team of CNMI delegates is set to negotiate with Philippine government officials on the free board and lodging issue in a week-long discussions slated to begin on Jan. 19, Variety sources said.

However, Tenorio said Wednesday that there is "nobody is going," to Manila before he has consulted with "appropriate" administration officials.

Granting free food and lodging allowances to Filipino overseas contract workers is mandated by the 1995 Philippine Migrant Workers' Act.

Man charged for 'extortion'

A MAN was indicted Wednesday by a grand jury for allegedly engaging in extortion against an employee of the Hollywood Night Spot on Saipan.

According to the indictment, Bo Du, on or between Sept. 12 and Nov. 20 last year, allegedly unlawfully obstructed and delayed commerce and the movement of articles and commodities in com-

merce by extortion. It said that by obtaining and trying to obtain the property of Zhaoqing Zhang and the Hollywood Night Spot through the use of force, violence and fear, Du violated title 18, section 1951, of the United States Code.

Specifically, the indictment said, Du violated the rights of Zhang to obtain a livelihood

through work at the night spot and the right of the Hollywood Night Spot to conduct its business without unlawful interference.

It was not known what kind of work Zhang engaged in at Hollywood Night Spot.

The charge sheet did not also give details on Du's alleged extortion act.—Rick Alberto



THE WAY TO DO IT—A Japanese tourist listens to her instructor regarding the correct way to maneuver the board before windsurfing on her own at Micro Beach yesterday. (Photo by Erel A. Cabatbat)

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

EDITORIAL

Public hearing won't hurt

THE LEADERSHIP of the Legislature may have done everybody a favor when it canceled a scheduled joint session yesterday to approve the application of Kan Pacific for a 15 year extension of its public land lease in Marpi.

Leaders of both the House and Senate will be making another good, sensible move if they decide to conduct "another" public hearing on the application, as avidly pushed by Rep. Stanley T. Torres.

The delay may prove to be worth it. The public should indeed be given another crack at how they feel about the lease, if only to make sure all "i"s are dotted and all "t"s are crossed in the new extended agreement.

Not that the Marpi hotel operator is not deserving of an extended term but because it is a responsible thing for the Legislature to go cautious every time a land lease is on the table to be dealt with.

Land increasingly becoming a scarce and precious commodity on Saipan, it is imaginable for lawmakers to rush decisions on any land matter. It is imperative that such decisions be weighed again and again to ensure the maximization of benefits for the collective owners of public land—the indigenous people of the Northern Marianas.

Kan Pacific has been a good corporate citizen of Saipan and has undoubtedly been a major player in the tourism industry. It has played an active role in developing that part of the island where its hotel and golf course is situated. Kan Pacific has to be commended for that.

But its current lease at Marpi is not without controversy. There have been grumblings from concerned citizens in the past about how the monetary returns from the public land lease has rather been on the low side, so much so that it has been dubbed as the "best deal" any developer could have gotten.

Of course, Kan Pacific is the Commonwealth's very first venture in the public land lease for development undertaking. At that time, when the original 25 year lease was negotiated in 1977, the prospect of a development boom unfolding on Saipan was never in anyone's mind nor was the notion that economics in the 1990s would render the original terms as financially modest.

Then there was also the allegation that some of the provisions in the original lease agreement have not been religiously complied with by the developer, what exactly, is yet to be ascertained.

With the lease on its 19th year and going on its last six years, it is but proper that the lease be given a lot of thought by CNMI lawmakers. This despite the fact that there has already been a public hearing on it conducted by a previous legislature. This despite the fact that legislative approval for the extension request is already long overdue. And yes, notwithstanding the fact that Kan Pacific has already upped its rental offer up to between \$240,000 to \$300,000 per year for the entire 100-plus hectares of public land or the usual three percent of business gross income, whichever is higher.

Since this project has had years and years of delay, maybe two weeks or even a month more would not hurt too much.

At least by calling a public hearing, the Legislature could give the people another crack at ensuring the best deal is arrived at, one that is economically viable with the passage of time.

It can provide the public the chance to know more fully what is being given out and what the community gets in return.



On territorial acquisition by the US

For the sake of discussion, Section Three (3) of Article IV of the US Constitution says that "...[T]he United States may acquire territory by conquest or by treaty, and may govern it through the exercise of the power of Congress conferred".

There are a number of issues that come into mind as we consider what this provision says in terms of our relationship with the federal government. First, what is the basis of our relationship as per this provision of the US Constitution? Definitely, we were never conquered, thus this specific mode of acquisition is moot.

The Covenant Agreement was a negotiated document setting forth the political relationship between the NMI and the US. We can argue that the Covenant is, therefore, a treaty given that it has all the trappings of a bilateral negotiations. Yes this argument is seemingly fluid in that treaties are approved only by the US Senate. The Covenant was approved by both chambers of the US Congress.

Although the US Congress can literally legislate anything it wishes and make it applicable to the NMI such action must always defer to the Covenant Agreement. I know that many alleged legal eagles wish to think otherwise or that the US Congress is at liberty to impose applicability of the territorial clause. No sir, it (US Congress) must honor the spirit and letter of the Covenant Agreement it approved in 1975 with respect to the transfer of its plenary powers under the basic document.

Therefore, we revisit the basic document (Covenant Agreement) to explore—for purposes of clarity—who are we answerable to under our established republican form of government. Nowhere is there a provision that hints nor mandates the NMI to answer to such federal excess as the Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs. To acquiesce, even by faint notion, that we must accede to the whim's of OIA is to deny ourselves the full rights in the exercise of self-government so guaranteed under the Covenant. To cave into the presumptuous authority of OIA is to permit that useless agency to force genocide in perpetuity so illegally assumed.

I'm equally confident that under the mandates of the Department of Interior, statutory provision is non-existent delegating OIA the responsibility to take on the role of a defacto government. It certainly boggles the mind that while insular areas have their popularly elected governments where American Democracy thrives, they are arbitrarily subjected to answer to OIA even on matters of local nature. Would justice be served by the perpetual violation of the letter and spirit of the Covenant Agreement by OIA? Isn't the perpetuation of neo-colonialism outdated as we approach the next millennium?

Interior's OIA must be abolished
The Office of Insular Affairs must be abolished for two

valid reasons: 1). It is an excess baggage and mainland taxpayers need not be required to advance the career of mediocre bureaucrats in the federal government. 2). Insular areas have instituted self-government rendering the role of this office completely useless. Some of these bureaucrats have developed tunnel visions about self-preservation and more often than not, it's their career that matters even if it means meddling in the local affairs of local governments. OIA should know by now that American Democracy thrives out here in the islands and it is a waste of mainland taxpayers money to fund a useless government entity.

Now, who do we answer to when government effectively demonstrates inefficiency, graft and corruption in governmental institutions? OIA or the local voters who elect our public officials? OIA's Allen Stayman has done nothing but browbeat the NMI in the interest of self-preservation rather than contributing to the refinement of our democratic institutions. Enough is enough and no one at Interior has any authority to pre-empt the basic tenets contained in the Covenant Agreement about our inalienable rights to self-government.

Induction of SCC Officers

It is good tidings that this weekend the Saipan Chamber of Commerce will induct its new set of officers. It is even more comforting to know that it will again be chaired by Mr. David M. Sablan, a natural in leadership with more than four decades of business experience under his belt. Sablan has been in government as head of the budget office. In short, he's fully rounded and his combined experience in both sectors should be a plus for the island's elite business organization.

Sablan's business acumen is stark contrast with outgoing helmsman Sam McPhetres whose career revolved around government and the TTG Archives. The latter was instrumental in the establishment of the NMI Archives at NMC. Archives deal with history so you can imagine the mind-set that comes with someone who's stuck with issues of the past. This is where the Chamber failed itself by electing someone who's seemingly stuck in the past with hardly any business experience. Essentially, it is rather bothersome that it elected a helmsman who's lost his edge like some drone government bureaucrat. Anyway, his stint is history and should be included in the archives for posterity.

The new SCC president was largely responsible for instituting definition in the role of the Chamber when he first took the reigns in 1967. He founded Atkins Kroll which evolved into one of the largest businesses, Micronesia-wide. In short, there's something about Sablan that sparks optimism and confidence in basically anything he undertakes. He's a rare quality in leadership and his return to the helm should be a plus for one and all. May I offer my congratulations to the new officers and board of directors.

JACK ANDERSON and MICHAEL BINSTEIN WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

A modest proposal for cinching our belts

WASHINGTON—President Clinton has promised to work hard for a balanced budget during his second term. But his efforts are doomed to fail unless the bureaucracy follows him by eliminating wasteful practices.

Bureaucrats love paper and there is no organization around that is more "in triplicate" than the armed services. Over the years, the branches of the U.S. military have helped pile up America's \$5 trillion national debt with costly requirements that bury common sense six feet under.

Sometimes, in fact, it's hard to tell whether what they're asking for is on the level or just someone's idea of a joke. Take the "refund questionnaire" that we received in the mail.

It was accompanied by an indignant note from a woman who tried to get a soft drink out of a vending machine on an Army base. The machine swallowed her change, she wrote, and gave forth no soda. So she followed the instructions on the machine and applied for a refund.

Instead of her change, she got a three-page questionnaire containing 20 questions that were to be answered before she could get her money back. There was an affidavit-like "statement" to sign at the end, attesting that "the answers given are true to the best of my knowledge."

After demanding the refund applicant's name and exact place of work, the questionnaire got to down to cases:

"Do you consider yourself (a) a regular vending machine patron, (b) an infrequent vending machine user or (c) a first time user?"

"How did you insert coins? (a) drop, (b) snap, (c) spin, or (d) other (please describe).

"Did the coin make a falling sound? (a) behind slot, (b) into mechanism, (c) into coin box, (d) into coin return, or (e) other (please describe).

"Following insertion of coins did you (a) tap on the coin slot, (b) tap the machine below the coin slot, (c) kick or shake the machine, (d) none of the above, or (e) other (please describe)."

Assuming total recall by the thirsty victim, the questionnaire asked if the machine was full, partially full or "other." Were there any signs of machine abuse? Did anyone else manage to use the machine successfully?

Surely the questionnaire was a joke, a parody of bureaucratic officiousness. Not so. Its dead-serious author, an Army lieutenant, told us it was designed to give maintenance people precise information.

Over four decades of reporting in Washington leads us to predict that further, well-intended cost-cutting measures by the Republican Congress and President Clinton may be gently doctored and bound up by the rope-knocking Lilliputians of the permanent bureaucracy. So gradually and imperceptibly will they tighten the bonds that reformers may never appreciate the extent to which they are in the bureaucratic behemoth's grip.

In private business, a standard of competence is imposed by the market. If a business branch is wasteful loses money or its profits decline, a bell goes off at headquarters and that branch is either pruned or cut off. Whether a branch manager is doing a good or a bad job will be proved definitively by the profit-and-loss figure.

But the government bureau, with no such automatic arbiter, can always claim that a poor result could be improved upon with a bigger staff and more money. The bureau chief has often been rewarded, not for efficiency which cannot be measured, but by the number of people he has under him. The more bodies, the higher his grade.

The bureaucrats, therefore, have developed cavalier attitude toward government appropriations. No amount is ever sufficient; they must always have more. With expansion and expenditure as their motive, they are constantly maneuvering for more money.

If we may be permitted a modest suggestion, a more powerful incentive is needed to save money. So why not reward the bureaucrats in the military and elsewhere for seeking out and eliminating unnecessary expenditures? Instead of the higher salaries they now get for padding the budget, why not give them bonuses for cutting the budget?

If the bureaucrats were offered, say, a flat 10 percent of all the money they save, the taxpayers would save 90 percent. Thus some clerk in his cubicle could become an overnight millionaire by saving taxpayers hundreds of millions of dollars. The fortunate clerk would merely need to locate the waste and convince a citizens' board that the nation could do without it.

The alternative? In 10th century Egypt, a slave caste called the Mamelukes was entrusted by the sultans with the public administration. The Mamelukes soon become the new line of sultans.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Dick Pierce responds to criticism

Dear Editor,
SUCH a nice letter from Mr. Mark Benton.

Anyway, as long as you're going to be personal about it, my personal opinion of you is that you are a pathetic pinhead with no courage. If you'd give us a call here at the office to discuss the issues. I'd drop the part about your lack of courage.

I'm assuming, Mr. Editor, with a little research, that Mark Benton is not a real name.

Your anger at me, the current Administration, the police officers, custom officials (?), a person with a drug record, addicts in rehabilitation, the AG and other attorneys kinda sums it up.

Now about my professional opinion about the pinhead part, Mark, you're more a part of the

problem than of the solution. Granted you have a right to your opinion, but you're dead wrong all over the place.

Drug testing is neither illegal or unconstitutional. Are you aware that private companies like Continental Airlines and Duty Free Shoppers and travel companies currently drug test both their potential and existing employees? Did you know that government agencies like the Ports Authority and CUC and the post offices test their people?

As far as my work being self-serving like all the other Froilan Tenorio employees and my cushy government job to line my pockets, do you really think that I enjoy implementing a policy that may be difficult for people to deal with? Mark, there are easier jobs

than this.

I do my work because I have a stake here. This is the home of my family and of my children. You better believe it's self-serving. I am tired of seeing people miserable with the powerlessness of drug and alcohol addiction. I am tired of the crime and of the families in crisis because of not knowing what to do. My job is to show the way, and believe me, I know that way.

You think that we can cut off the supply and we're "home free" with this drug thing? Don't be ridiculous.

This really is the pinhead part. I suppose that you think the answer to the illegal alien worker thing is to put them in jail and then deport them, right? The answer is to

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Angry witness to alleged worker abuse

Dear Editor,
THIS is an open letter to the president and owner of Philam Enterprises USA.

We are more likely than not strangers. Anyway, I am writing to you to express my disappointment and anger over your treatment of your security workers who reside in Kagman II overcrowded barracks. If you don't know, I am your neighbor directly west of you. Let me get to the point here.

One Saturday afternoon, I was out with my family cleaning around our yard. While we were at the bottom portion adjacent to your barracks, I was approached by five of your Bangladeshi workers.

They asked me if I can help them because you brought them here and they don't have a job to do nor do they have drinking water. That they don't have food because they don't have money because there's no work.

As a good citizen of our Commonwealth, I stopped what I was doing and had my wife prepared some drink for them. I took out some frozen stuff and my wife prepared some drink for them. I took out some frozen stuff and gave them to take back for their food.

They begged for justice because they were cheated. I called the Department of Labor and Immigration and told them about the matter. I commend the Compliance Section of the DOLI for their quick response and attention of the matter.

A couple of days later, your em-

ployees invited me to their living quarters in the evening. What I saw was beyond my imagination.

I couldn't believe that a human being can treat another human being with the amount of abuse, neglect and demotion that confronted my very eyes that evening. I saw about ten of the approximately (30) people, all Bangladeshis, sitting down on the floor of the kitchen, eating with their hands and fingers.

They told me that the rest were unable to eat because there are only 10 plates and had to take turns. There was no drinking water, no table for them to sit and eat nor was their any lighting device in the kitchen.

That they sometimes drink the salty tap water because there was no other choice. I was sick and angry with what I saw. The animals in there was no other choice. I was sick and angry with what I saw.

The animals in the zoo are being treated better than them. They took me around and showed me their sleeping area. They are eight rooms all together. Some of the rooms have a single homemade bed of 2x4 plywood.

I wonder if you've ever imagine how would you feel if you are treated like that in their homeland. Our people here are friendly and helpful. I hate for these things to be happening in our Commonwealth, more so behind my backyard! I am sure that the community of Kagman don't appreciate your insults to these people. I have a hunch

that you selected Kagman because you can hide your dirty and ill practices because it is still undeveloped.

Tough luck. We still have people who care for what's going on in their community and for their nation. I will not allow you to continue tarnishing our image as good citizens of our beautiful and friendly Commonwealth.

I don't need your contribution to our economy at the expense of slavery. If you refuse to compete cleanly in our free enterprises system, pack your bags and get the hell out of here!! I don't need you. If you or your them to sit and eat nor was their any doing it, then keep your trash there.

I was waiting for you to show up at your employee barracks because I wanted to confront you personally, but we don't seem to be at the right place at the right time (maybe the good lord is just doing this on purpose).

Lastly, I have all the confidence that the Department of Labor will do its part in enforcing laws and regulations applicable in your case nor any in other situation. I hope that by virtue of this letter, you explain to your cohorts, both on and off island, that this practice MUST and SHALL stop. As long as I am still your neighbor and as long as you are still in Kagman II, I will be keeping an eye on you.

Sincerely,

Joseph Hocog Aldan
Kagman II, Saipan

Heads of DCCA, Aging Office get Kudos

Dear Editor,
I'M happy to inform you that since the inception of the Administration of Thomas Tebuteb as Secretary of DCCA, and Jose C. Guerrero as Director of CNMI Aging Centers, Director of Aging and its senior citizens are now in tranquility enjoying the fruits of their effort.

Tebuteb and Guerrero truly understand the heart and the root of the senior citizens here on Tinian. They do not condone nor waste time worthlessly on any day without first thinking about the priority needs of the senior citizens. They work together to

get the missions done timely and in perfect execution. They both possess the same common grounds, principles, and philosophies in attaining their goals and objectives for our senior citizens here in the CNMI.

The island of Tinian in my own opinion is very fortunate to have these two intellectual individuals who "down to earth" care so much about the needs and welfare of our senior citizens. One should be thankful to them for being so protective and possessive of the interest and wealth of our senior citizens. The sensitivity of these two hard working gentlemen

deserve absolute respect and domination of recognition for a job well done. I have no doubt that Tebuteb and Guerrero are both in the right direction. And I have no doubt that both Tebuteb and Guerrero are paddling a smooth "galalide" to the finish line that will never capsize whatsoever.

Gentlemen, Tinian Aging Center and its senior citizens are behind you in support 100 percent.

Sincerely,

Ray M. Sakisat

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Schools get free Internet

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

ALL-PUBLIC and private schools in the Commonwealth will soon be hooked up to the Internet, courtesy of the Micronesian Telecommunication Corp.'s one-year free service offer.

Internet installation in public schools will start in March, according to Michael Murphy, computer coordinator of the Public School System. The system will be installed in the school libraries.

PSS has prepared a Comprehensive Technology Plan which envisions each classroom having at least five computer units, one of which hooked up to the Internet.

San Vicente Elementary and Hopwood Junior High were the first public schools to get access to the system.

Murphy, in a memorandum, told PSS Commissioner William Torres that accepting MTC's offer "would not impact" PSS' future plans to acquire Internet through federal grants.

Chuck Wells, MTC's Web administrator, said the free Internet access program is part of the company's efforts to raise students' awareness of the new technology.

"We try to help out these schools to have access to the Internet, and to get all the information in the system," Wells said.

The free service is only good for one year.

Wells said the MTC's project, which is offered to 27 public and private schools, costs a total of \$5,867 for free telephone lines and Internet installation.

At the duration of the program, each school will save \$86 for the telephone and Internet monthly charges.

For one whole year, MTC will incur a total \$31,509 for these services, representing the company's donation to the 27 schools, Wells said.

CUC warns of possible low water pressure

THE COMMONWEALTH Utilities Corporation made emergency repairs to a water valve in the Capitol Hill area last night resulting in a water outage or shortage for area residents.

"The watermain valve malfunctioned yesterday leaving residents with low water pressure," CUC said in a news advisory.

Crews hope to repair the system by early this morning; however, residents may experience low pressure throughout Friday.

NMC clarifies on student financial aid and billings

DUE to processing delays in the payment of financial aid, many students who attended Northern Marianas College this past fall semester were billed for tuition and fees which have now been paid by the CNMI Educational Assistance Program.

That means many students think they owe money to NMC when, in fact, they do not, the college said in a news release.

Director of Admissions and Records Florine Hofschneider wants all former students to stop by the As Terlaje campus to check on their financial aid status.

"Most students did receive their financial aid and their bills have been paid. There are a few who dropped from the CNMI aid program for various reasons but there are a variety of arrangements we can make to help them stay in school," Hofschneider said.

Students can still register for all classes all next week during late registration but, since classes begin Monday, January 20, they should not delay in doing so, NMC said.

Your Health

(A public service project by the staff of the Commonwealth Health Center)
By Dr. Stefan Samoyloff

The buzz words of Medicine

HOW often have you gone to see a doctor and left feeling like you never really understood each other. Believe me, this is common and is equally frustrating for both of us. Usually the problem is one of communication, be it due to language or culture differences, and it can easily be made better.

One common problem is the language we use. Even people who are the most comfortable with English are using medical words that can have more than one meaning, but the doctor may not be using the same meaning that you are. How do we avoid this?

The best thing is to avoid these words altogether, and just describe to the doctor how something feels. On the same note, if a doctor uses a word you don't understand, don't be shy, just ask what it means. In this article I would like to explain some of the more commonly misunderstood words.

PINK EYE: This disease recently swept across Saipan and other Pacific islands, causing much discomfort and lost time from work. The medical name is conjunctivitis and it means that a virus is irritating the whites of the eyes. This can be confused with bacterial infection, a small blood bruise or hemorrhage, a disease called iritis, or even eye allergies, all of which can make the eyes look red.

ASTHMA: Many people refer to any time they get short of breath as being asthma, but they may actually be suffering from hyperventilation, bronchitis, or anxiety instead. The word asthma should be saved only for those people who have repeating episodes of chest tightness, difficulty breathing and wheezing in the lungs when the doctor or nurse listens. If you are not sure if it is asthma that you have, remember to ask the next time you visit the hospital.

DIZZY: When you say dizzy, what do you mean? If you ask 5 people they can give you 5 different answers. Try to describe the feeling, such as light-headedness, blacking out of vision, feeling afraid, being unsteady on your feet like you are drunk, or feeling like spinning around in a circle. Each of these are different and tell the doctor something different about your problem.

FLU: If you want to say that your nose is running or that you have a fever or a cough, then describe it that way, but don't use the word "flu". "Flu" comes from the disease "influenza" which can be a serious viral epidemic that comes by once a year. You can prevent the "flu" with a flu shot, or a vaccine that is mixed up differently each year. A runny nose, however, is usually caused by a common cold virus or sometimes by allergy and not the flu.

ALLERGIC REACTION: There are many reactions people get to medicine, some are expected, some are side effects, and some are true allergies. Often a reaction you had was not an allergy at all, but by telling the nurse you are allergic you may not get the medicine you need most. If you aren't sure, remember the name of the medicine and then describe the symptoms it caused.

A SHOT: It is unfortunate that the act of using a needle has been called giving a shot, because that already makes it sound scary, especially for the children. It also means very little to the doctor when you say you "had a shot" for something, because that needle could have been used to give a medicine, an anesthetic, a test like in TB, to take blood, or to remove fluid from a joint or cyst. If you aren't sure, then ask and try to remember what it was.

HIGH BLOOD: This might refer to high blood sugar, or it might mean high blood pressure, two very different problems. Many people who have diabetes have both. So if you were told something was high, ask again to be sure you know what was high.

LOW BLOOD: This sometimes refers to a process called anemia, where the amount of red stuff in the blood, called hemoglobin, is low. For others, they say low blood when they have low blood pressure.

These are just a few examples of words with more than one meaning that I hear almost every day, and that can cause misunderstanding. I try to avoid using them myself, and I encourage my patients not to use them but to describe what they are feeling and to ask questions whenever they are not sure what they are experiencing.

If you have questions or there are topics you would like covered in this column please write to: CHC Medical Staff, Commonwealth Health Center, PO Box 409 CK, MP 96950.

DLNR secretary: 'Guam is aggravating NMI snake problem'



Benigno Sablan

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE GUAM government, by allegedly not attending to its worsening problem on the infestation of Brown Tree Snakes, is "aggravating" the Commonwealth's problem on the reptile's "invasion" of the islands, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources said.

"They [Guam authorities] are doing nothing about their Brown Tree Snake problem and that is aggravating our problem on the snakes," said Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Benigno Sablan.

Majority of the CNMI's imports are being shipped through Guam,

said Sablan. "And you can just imagine the high probability of snakes making their way through the cargoes and then on to the Commonwealth," he explained.

Estimates placed the number of Brown Tree Snakes on Guam at "more than 1,000."

It was first sighted there 10 years before it started wrecking havoc on Guam's economy through the almost weekly power outages it causes by crawling powerlines.

Specialists have warned that the CNMI could suffer the same consequence as now being experienced by Guam if it will not immediately try to address the problem.

Sightings of the Brown Tree Snakes, records showed, have been confined to areas in the immediate vicinity of the ports of entry.

Sablan said the DLNR is now in the process of purchasing canines trained to trace and find the snakes. The dogs, he said, will be posted at the Saipan International Airport and the dock area.

"But they [Guam authorities] better do something about their snake problem else they will only continue to pass it on to us," said Sablan.

Car stolen, burned

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

A CAR, earlier reported to have been stolen in Aslito, was found burnt yesterday morning in Koblerville by police.

The car, a four-door 1989 Hyundai Sonata, was parked by its owner, a 28-year old Korean national, in front of her apartment shortly after midnight.

The victim, whose identity is being withheld by police, discovered that the car was stolen at 3:00 am when she got up.

The car, said police PIO, PO2 Arnold Seman, was found an hour later in Koblerville.

Police, Seman said, are still combing the immediate vicinity in a bid to come up with witnesses who can shed light on the matter.

In a related development, a house in San Vicente was broken into by still unidentified men who carted away a TV set and a compact disc player yesterday morning.

The suspects utilized the same modus operandi established in past burglaries: gaining entry through the backdoor just as nobody was in the house.

The incident was the 10th reported incident of theft and burglary that has happened in Saipan in just three days.

Three tourists — two Japanese nationals and a Russian one — fell victims to thieves who took off with their wal-

Babauta asks Interior for more funds against snake

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

RESIDENT Rep. Juan N. Babauta is asking the Interior Department's Office of Insular Affairs to provide more funds to stop the spread of brown tree snakes in the Pacific insular areas.

The Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) is now preparing its fiscal year 1998 budget.

Babauta, in a Jan. 14 letter to OIA Director Allen Stayman, said snake sightings continue to increase not only on Saipan but on Rota, as well.

He said the shipment of construction materials to Tinian, "as the Voice of America and other large-scale developments begin there," will increase "the opportunities for the snake to migrate to that island."

The federal government, according to Babauta, should lead the effort against the snake, which he called a "regional problem."

"It is also widely understood that it was the action of the federal government that brought the snake to the region," he said.

OIA has already given the CNMI funds for the staff and equipment to use in the "fight against the snake," and for the research into biological methods of control.

Babauta said he commends OIA's support, but the brown tree snake continues to be a grave threat to the CNMI's environment.

The brown tree snake is a

native of Indonesia, New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Australia, and is believed to have reached the CNMI through cargoes dropped off from ports of entry.

There were at least four brown tree snakes captured in 1996, and at least 40 sightings since 1986.

These sightings were concentrated in Tanapag, Chalan Laulau, Chalan Kanoa, Susupe and the vicinities near the Saipan International Airport.

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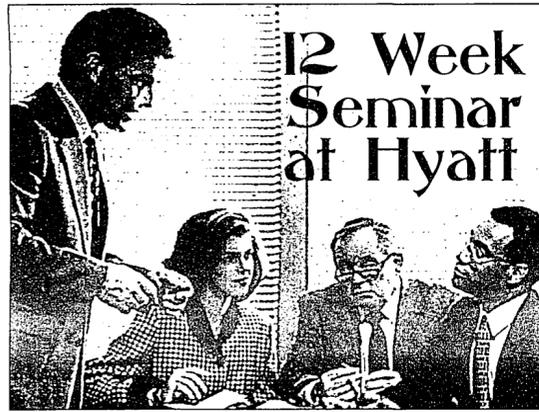
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Tan firms sued by workers

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

TWENTY garment factory workers from China sued their employers Wednesday for alleged nonpayment of their regular and overtime wages.

Named defendants in the first civil case filed this year were Global Manufacturing, Inc., and Concorde Garment Manufacturing Corp., which are part of the Tan Holdings group of companies.

According to the complaint filed by lawyer Joe Hill in behalf of the plaintiffs, the defendants required the plaintiffs to work extra hours for which the latter were not paid in full and were not given the correct or full statutory or contractual overtime rate.

Moreover, the plaintiffs were allegedly required to attend training sessions during work time but that they were not paid for the time spent in training according to their contract, statutory regular, or overtime rate.

The plaintiffs also claimed that some of them had been threatened with termination after complaining about the pay and the working conditions in the factories.

Other complaints included:

- Plaintiffs were required to pay certain fees in the processing of their employment contracts for which they sought reimbursement.
- Plaintiffs were made to pay for the repatriation costs to China;
- Plaintiffs were not provided copies of their contracts; and
- Defendants made unauthorized deductions for transportation from the plaintiffs' barracks to their workplace. The plaintiffs sought reimbursement and liquidated damages on the deductions.

In his memorandum sent to all government department heads, Tenorio, citing the Public Auditor's report, said a number of government vehicles have been found not complying with Public Law 9-37, the law requiring that these cars have

license plates, be marked on the two front doors, and not be tinted except law enforcement ones and those on a 60-day lease.

Tenorio directed the office of the Special Assistant to Administration to "ensure that there is full compliance of the law." He also ordered the Department of Public Safety to apprehend operators of these vehicles found not complying with the law.

"The Public Auditor has recently notified my office that there are a number of government vehicles that do not comply with the requirements of the law," Tenorio said in the

asked the court for an award of repatriation costs to be their points of hire in China; and award of special, compensatory and punitive damages, among others.

Tenorio warns gov't employees against misuse of gov't vehicles

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

GOV. FROILAN Tenorio yesterday warned government employees and officials who violate requirements on the use of public vehicles saying criminal and disciplinary measures await those found to have violated the law on the matter.

In his memorandum sent to all government department heads, Tenorio, citing the Public Auditor's report, said a number of government vehicles have been found not complying with Public Law 9-37, the law requiring that these cars have

memorandum dated Jan. 14.

"I remind you that the law provides both criminal and disciplinary penalties to elected officials, government employees and their supervisors for violations of the law," he added.

"I hereby direct the Special Assistant to Administration to ensure that there is full and immediate compliance of this law within the Executive Branch and that the Department of Public Safety continues to enforce the law as it applies to all government offices, officials and employees," Tenorio said.

Finding your way AROUND THE INTERNET

Search engines

By Chuck Wells
for the Marianas Variety

PEOPLE who log on to the Internet for the first time are often surprised by the brightly colored and attractive graphics they see on their home pages. But after the first few moments of awe wears off, they want to know how to find the nearly infinite amounts of information that they've heard is available on the Internet.

This is where a thing called a search engine comes in.

With the arrival of the World Wide Web - the now dominant system that allows individuals, organizations and businesses to set up their own web sites to let anyone know about their views of the world - there arose the need for people to sort out all this information and find exactly what they want. Fortunately several ingenious computer programmers worked hard on this problem and came up with idea of search engines.

There are now many search engines that people can use. The most common type allows users to type in the topic they're looking for, and then the engine produces a list of web sites that most closely matches the requested topic.

For example, if someone were to type in the phrase, "women's softball leagues," the search engine would look for web sites that had any of those three words in their title and produce a list that the user can review and select the one that most closely matches their interests. All search engines work this way. Some of the most popular search engines on the net are AltaVista, Excite, HotBot, InfoSeek, Lycos, Webcrawler and Yahoo!

The savvy Internet user will always be aware that none of these search engines completely covers every available web site. As a result it's generally a good idea to make a habit of using a few search engines that will provide overlapping services.

A search using Alta Vista earlier this month came up with 30,000 sites that might have information on women's softball leagues. The only problem though is that many of these sites may simply be about women or softball or any of league you can think of.

But the computer programmers that put InfoSeek together used a more sophisticated system that looks at the whole phrase, and not just the individual words that make it up. As a result the list of possible web sites it offers its user is usually smaller and more specific.

Almost all search engines also allow users to look for information another way as well. These search engines - Yahoo is one of the most prominent - simply provide ever more specific menus of possible topic choices. By using your mouse to click on the topic that most interests you, the user keeps refining his search until he comes to the web sites that most interest him.

Anyone looking for women's softball leagues and teams with web sites can easily find them using Yahoo. The only catch is that you have to be careful which menus you look at. Beginning at Yahoo's main page - which lists very broad topic categories - if you start looking under the sports heading, it would be difficult to find a long list of women's softball leagues.

But by going through the "Society and Culture" heading and then following the headings for "Gender" and "Women," the user will find a subheading for the "Women's Sports Page," a University of Texas-operated web site that lists a wide range of women's sports teams and organizations around the United States. Looking through this web site, one can easily find the subheading "Women around the bases" that lists 23 women's softball team and organizations in the U.S. and Canada.

Continued on page 38

The state of tourist industry in '96

By William H. Stewart
Economist

VISITOR arrival information for last year reveal that the Commonwealth's visitor industry in 1996 remained a vibrant sector. Air and sea entries were 736,508 for the calendar year representing an increase of nine percent over the previous year. It has been estimated that visitor expenditures were \$587.9 million as compared with \$539.4 million in 1995. The Commonwealth closed the year with 3,847 rooms in its inventory, an increase of

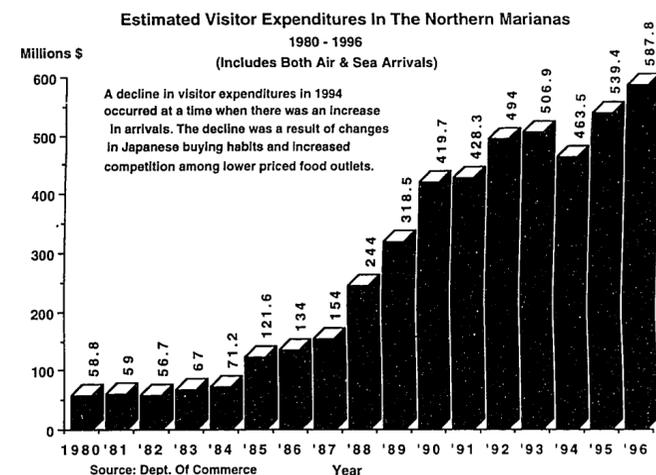
eight percent or 286 additional rooms over those available in 1995.

Since 1980 the increase in visitor arrivals has averaged 11.6 percent annually. Only one year (1982) in the past seventeen years witnessed a decline in arrivals and that was a minuscule three percent drop.

Air craft landings at Saipan International Airport increased twenty five percent over those of 1995 for a total of 36,852 in 1996.

Projections to the year 2001 indicate that from 1.1 million (low projection) to 1.4 million (high projection) visitors can be anticipated

by the year 2001 providing the hotel rooms are available at that time to accommodate them. A total of 7,500 (low proj.) to 9,300 rooms (high Proj.) will be necessary by 2001 at which time visitor expenditures for air arrivals alone have been estimated to be in the vicinity of \$1.4 billion (low) to \$2.7 billion (high). At that time the CNMI could expect to accommodate from 10,700 (low) to 13,400 (high) visitors on the islands on any given day.



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Hong Kong Bank donates to PSS program

PSS — A special PSS program that provides assistance to families with infant and toddlers with disabilities got a boost recently with a donation from Hongkong Bank's Saipan branch.

Joan Kosack, the bank's branch manager, presented the PSS with the \$1,000 donation on Christmas eve (Dec. 24, 1996). Commissioner of Education William S. Torres and PSS Treasurer Marcie Evangelista accepted the donation check from Kosack and Viola Sablan, another bank employee.

The donation will be used in the PSS early intervention program for infants and toddlers with disabilities, and their families. The PSS is the lead CNMI agency for this federal program.

Two employees from the program, care coordinator Joanne Camacho and Children's Development Assistance Center site manager Sue Macaranas, were also on hand for the check presentation.

Kosack said that this donation marked the bank's first charitable donation on Saipan and that the bank plans to make annual charitable donations in the future.

"This year, we wanted to make sure the money went to youth and children who could use it most," Kosack said.



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Construction firm's case dropped

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff
A CONSTRUCTION company had been sued for constructing a defective commercial and residential building in 1994. The company, TAC International Constructors Inc., in

what was supposed to be cunning move, turned the tables against the plaintiffs by filing a countersuit.

TAC tried to collect damages from plaintiffs, Andy J. Lee and Kwun Lee Co. Inc. because the latter continued to rent out spaces in the project despite its knowledge that the building is in danger of collapsing.

Lee Co., according to TAC violated the Consumer Protection Act.

Moreover, TAC claimed that by continuing to rent out spaces in the three-story project, the construction firm "is aggrieved because its reputation as a builder will be harmed."

But TAC failed to sway the Superior Court to its side.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Alex Castro, in a decision issued Tuesday, dismissed counterclaims sought by TAC against Lee Co.

Castro, in dismissing TAC's claim, said the construction company did not have the legal standing to file the case under the Act it had invoked. TAC claimed Lee Co. violated the Act when "it continued to rent out space in the project and allow members of the public to visit the premises knowing that the project is unsafe."

"Lee Co. is engaged in unfair competition and unfair and unlawful business practices," TAC said.

The Court said TAC's reliance on the Consumer Protection Act to assert claim in its contractual dispute "is misplaced."

"TAC does not allege, nor do the facts support a finding that it is a consumer under the terms of Consumer Protection Act," the court said.

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Saipan son in honor roll of Cheshire Academy

Cheshire, CT — Jung Min Kim, an eleventh grade student at Cheshire Academy in Cheshire, Connecticut, USA, was recently named to the school's honor roll for the second marking period. He earned First Honors, the highest level of recognition,

for achieving an A average. He is the son of Kang Hee Kim of Saipan. Founded in 1794, Cheshire Academy in a college preparatory, coeducational, day and boarding school enrolling students in grades K-2, 6-12 with an option for a post-graduate year.

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Guam to repopulate Rota with rare bird

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

GUAM authorities are now coordinating with the Department of Lands and Natural Resources in its bid to save a bird species endangered by the Brown Tree Snake.

In an interview, DLNR Secretary Benigno Sablan said he is scheduled to meet with counterpart Guam officials to iron out specifics of a plan meant to revitalize the Guam Rail bird's population.

"I am supposed to meet with Mike Kuhlmann, the agriculture secretary on this," said Sablan.

The extent to which the Brown Tree Snake has plagued Guam has apparently reached a magnitude where the island's bird species are slowly being eradicated by the reptile which feeds on its.

There were, according to official estimates, more than 5,000 Guam Rail birds before the snake's infestation set in a few years ago.

This figure, still according to the same estimates, has drastically dropped to a few hundreds as a consequence of what is described as the "explosion" of the Brown Tree Snake on Guam.

According to the plan, authorities are supposed to "repopulate" the Bird Rails

on Rota and then transfer them back to Guam when mature enough.

But Sablan doubted the plan's effectiveness saying Guam must first "annihilate" the snake's population before the birds can be transferred.

"They [Guam authorities] must first try to effectively decimate the snake's population," stressed Sablan.

"Otherwise, they would just be shipping in 'live feeds,'" he said.

Against the snake, the Guam Rail offers little resistance proving to be an easy prey for the reptile which has the ability to swiftly move between tree branches at night.

DLNR girds for 'Sariguan' feral cleansing

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT of Lands and Natural Resources are now set to move in to Sariguan where thousands of wild goat and pigs will be hauled away in an apparent bid to rid the island of these animals which supposedly threatens the place's ecological system.

DLNR Secretary Benigno Sablan said his office has begun nightly rounds in different communities in Saipan informing residents about the campaign and what necessitates it.

"We are now conducting an information campaign on the matter," said Sablan.

"We are set to move in. We're just completing final preparations and waiting for the perfect weather for it," he

added. Goats and pigs on Sariguan, Sablan said, is "killing" the island's vegetation while eroding top soil formation.

"They [animals] are destroying the vegetation at a rate so fast it may take not much time before we see Sariguan uninhabitable and unfit for any vegetation due to massive soil loss," he explained.

The plan to "cleanse" Sariguan dates back to as early as last year when the DLNR established the threat posed by these animals on the island's ecological system.

Sablan said the DLNR has made proper coordination with other concerned agencies, including the Saipan Mayor's Office, for the operation.

The herding will be done through

fencing where DLNR staffers erect enclosed fences on a designated area and haul away all animals caught in there before putting similar fences covering the next perimeter.

Sablan said, the DLNR may have to use guns against "mature and wilder boars and goats."

He explained that the hauled animals will be delegated to Mayor Jesus de Leon Guerrero.

"We will be bringing the animals over here in Saipan, and I think that being the case, it falls under the Saipan Mayor's jurisdiction," Sablan said.

He said the animals may be sold to interested parties "who might want to have them with in their backyard."

If all systems go, the operation may be over in two months, it was gathered.

Coral Reef Life form of week

Fire Corals

THIS week's life form is Millepora or fire corals. Fire corals are important reef builders, but they are not true corals. Millepora species are members of the Class Hydrozoa, while Scleractinians or hard corals are members of the Class Anthozoa.

Millepora means "thousands pores" after the multitudes of tiny pores seen all over their surfaces. The two most common fire corals in the CNMI are Millepora platyphylla and Millepora dichotoma.

Fire corals reproduce sexually through fertilization of sperm and eggs. Sexes are separate, that is each individual colony is either male or female.

Like hard corals, fire corals live as colonies and take on a wide variety of growth forms. These include branching colonies, encrusting growths, and vertical plates. Additionally, they have a calcareous skeleton, characteristic of being hermatypic (reef building). Because of this, millepora species may be mistaken for a Scleractinian coral or hard coral.

The most notable characteristic of fire corals is their ability to cause a painful sting and nasty rash. This is due to stinging cells called nematocysts or cnidae. They are used to capture food, protect against predators and to attach themselves to substrate.

Although, a close encounter with



a fire coral may cause a painful sting, they are important because they help by building the reef which protects our islands from erosion and natural destructions such as tsunamis or tidal waves.

Tips for treating a Fire Coral Sting

1) Never rub or scratch the affected area. It will only spread the irritation.

2) Rinse irritated area with fresh water as soon as possible they apply one of the following:

- vinegar
- 95% alcohol
- meat tenderizer
- if none of the above is available, use urine.

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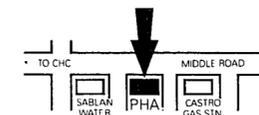
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Crime statistics show

Majuro one of safer places

By Giff Johnson
For the Variety

MAJURO—Although five Marshall Islands young men were charged Wednesday (January 15) with first-degree murder for a brutal new year's day killing in the downtown section of Majuro, the Marshall Islands remains a relatively safe place to live, according to High Court statistics.

Just 42 criminal cases were brought to trial in 1996, and the largest percentage were for assaults "almost all involving arguments started after the antagonists were drunk," and burglaries. The new year's murder is unusual in the normally peaceful pace of life in the Marshalls.

Last year, there was one second-degree murder case, but of the five killings prosecuted, three were for manslaughter, meaning unintentional killings.

Criminal cases filed during 1996 dropped 10 percent compared to the year before, and almost 50 percent when compared to 1993. Since a high

of 81 cases filed in Majuro High Court in 1993, the number has dropped each year to 59 in 1994, 46 in 1995 and 42 last year, according to High Court records.

The numbers show the Marshalls' capital to be a comparatively safe place to live, with just a few serious crimes.

Police Commissioner Paul Tonyokwe said that the High Court figures do not necessarily mean that crime is on decline.

He said that many more complaints are investigated but for one reason or another "depending on the strength of evidence and decisions of the prosecutors," may not go to trial.

Some crimes, committed in 1996, are still under investigation and may be prosecuted this year, he added.

The statistics show that the number of cases involving murder or killings rose from three to five between 1995 and 1996.

But rape prosecutions dropped from three to one, and assault cases declined from 29 in 1995 to just 19 last year.

Clean up exercises for volcano victims

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews)—A major clean up exercise and subsequent repatriation of the Manam volcano victims in Bogia in Papua New Guinea's Madang Province is expected to be carried out this weekend.

The clean-up is to allow the three Catholic agency schools to prepare for the 1997 school year, NBC reported.

Catholic Mission spokesperson in Madang, Bothe Theo, says the Munumbo and Bogia community schools and Holy Spirit high school are in urgent need for a major clean up.

He says the 2,500 people should have been sent home weeks ago and made comfortable in their homes rather than resettling them in a place where they are not totally accepted.

Brother Theo also says Manam people are willing to return to the island but because of some slackness in the administration, they are being held unnecessarily.

Assaults were the crime committed by the largest number of individuals, while burglaries were a close second.

Burglary prosecutions between 1995 and 1996 almost doubled, going from 10 to 17.

Also in 1996, there were four prosecutions for embezzlement and passing bad checks so-called "white-collar" crime compared to none in 1995.

Significantly, the number of cases with multiple defendants rose dramatically last year.

In 1995, just 17 out of the 46 cases involved more than one defendant.

High tides cause damage in Kiribati

TARAWA (Pacnews)—An increase of high tides experienced in Kiribati last weekend has caused destruction and erosions to dwelling houses, rooftops and roads on the island of Tarawa.

Tebunginako village was most affected among the villages, Radio Kiribati reported.

Its main road was divided by a 10 metre deep gap created by the waves.

Roads were also damaged on Koinawa, Borotiam and Tabontebike villages. On Bwabwai, pits and houses were flooded and on South Tarawa damages were experienced to seawalls, dwelling houses and causeways.

Meanwhile, the Kiribati meteorological office says an increase of two centimeters to last weekend's high tide record of 2-point-88 metres will occur in the next high tide to reach another record height of 2-point-90 metres on February 9.

Bullets found at Fiji airport

SUVA (Pacnews)—Fiji police are carrying out investigations to find the possible sources of a live round of point-22 ammunition which was found in a rubbish bin at the Nadi Airport's transit lounge on Tuesday night.

Sources say a cleaner who was cleaning the transit lounge area after the departure of two flights about 11 pm found the bullet and handed it over to police, the Daily Post reported.

More than 200 passengers passed through the transit lounge areas as there were two 747 jets on the ground at that time. An Air Pacific/Qantas flight left to the United States while Korean Airlines flight departed for Seoul within an hour of each other.

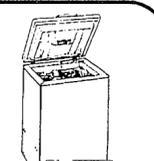
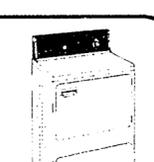
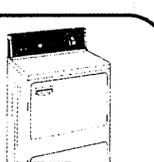
Sources say it is sinister for a live round of ammunition to be found at the airport's transit lounge as the person carrying it may have had an intention to use the bullet somewhere.

Police Commander Western Senior Superintendent Govind Raju says an investigation was being carried out to find the possible source of the bullet.

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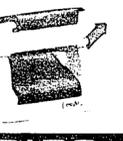
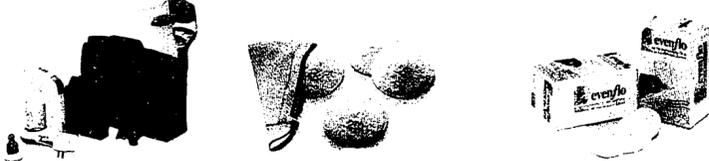
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17:00 - 22:00 FK9 Open for Rental	11:00 - 13:30 Final Heats of FK9, S-Stock, FP-Stock, YZ-Stock(A), YZ-Stock(B)
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Loan cushions possible Marshalls layoffs

By Giff Johnson
For the Variety

MAJURO-Relief for government workers in the Marshall Islands who have been lost their jobs in a massive government restructuring program is on the way with the anticipated approval by the Asian Development Bank of a major loan next week Friday.

Marshalls government and ADB officials negotiated an approximately \$10 million loan aimed at cushioning the blow of layoffs of hundreds of government workers. The layoffs are part of major reforms that the government is carrying out to cut costs, streamline services and promote private sector development.

The loan is now waiting to leap the last hurdle of approval by the ADB board at its meeting in Manila on January 24.

More than 300 government workers who have so far been laid

off in the government's reduction in force program will be beneficiaries of this loan, according to Secretary of Finance Michael Konelios.

The workers will receive an initial lump sum severance payment, and then monthly checks similar to what they would receive from Social Security had they retired voluntarily.

The payments, which are aimed at assisting these laid off workers in a transition to private employment, will last for up to a three year period, he said.

In addition, the ADB loan funds will be used for retraining programs to assist former government workers to launch private businesses in this mid-Pacific nation.

The ADB has been very supportive of the Marshalls' restructuring efforts "and supported this somewhat unusual loan package."

because the government has already taken action to implement the reduction in force as recommended by the ADB, he indicated.

At least another 100 workers are expected to be laid off this year, with layoffs continuing into 1998. In addition to the 300 layoffs, more than 200 vacancies

were eliminated and a virtual hiring freeze has been in place by the government to cut costs since late last year.

Another 300-400 are to be laid off over the next two years as part of the plan to reduce the government.

Once this loan is approved, it will increase ADB loans to the

Marshall Islands to more than \$50 million. An ADB-funded \$7 million fresh water and sewer project in the capital was started earlier this week. Since 1992, the ADB has become a key player in the economy, and has stationed a policy advisory team in Majuro to assist the government to draft and implement policy reforms.

Hundreds mourn Western Samoan multi-millionaire

APIA (Pacnews)—The capital of Western Samoa, Apia, is expected to come to a stand-still today as hundreds of mourners pay tribute to multi-millionaire businessman, Chan Yat Mow who died at his Apia home Wednesday at the age of 88.

Chan Yat Mow and his family own Samoa's richest retail department store on Apia's Beach

Road, a thriving wholesale business and a Cantonese restaurant. As a firm believer in the benefits of hard work, he was recognised by Pope John Paul II and the Western Samoan government for his contribution to the church and community.

Late Chan Yat Mow is survived by his wife Lote and 13 children.

PNG election workshops

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews)—The electoral commission of Papua New Guinea is organising a series of training workshops in main centres of the country as part of its preparation for the general elections.

The workshops theme "election 97" will be conducted in the National Capital District, Goroka, Mount Hagen, Madang

and Kimbe, NBC reported. The first of these workshops will be held in Port Moresby next Monday followed by Goroka and the other provinces.

Electoral Commissioner Rueben Kaiulo says provincial governors of the respective provinces have been invited to open the workshops.

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91 MAZDA MX6, 2-Sr. Coupe	1U012	Black	8,595.00
92 NISSAN MAXIMA SE 4-Dr Sedan	2U021	Black	8,595.00
93 HYUNDAI SONATA 4-Dr Sedan	3U004	Blue	8,995.00
93 NISSAN SENTRA 4-Dr Sedan	3R002	Red	8,195.00
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Police oust squatters from Manila district

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - Demolition crews burned down a high wooden barricade and anti-riot policemen fired tear gas Wednesday to oust hundreds of squatters armed with stones, slingshots and gasoline bombs from Manila's Chinatown.

Several policemen and squatters were injured in the two-hour demolition in Manila's Binondo district.

The overwhelmed squatters gave up after the crews managed to enter the half-hectare (one acre) colony.

Police were implementing a court order to remove approximately 200 squatter families from the privately owned land for construction of condominiums. About 400 other squatter families not covered by the court order continue to live in the colony.

On Tuesday, the demolition team was forced to retreat after at least 22 people were injured in

a clash that erupted after the team began removing shacks that were not listed in the demolition order.

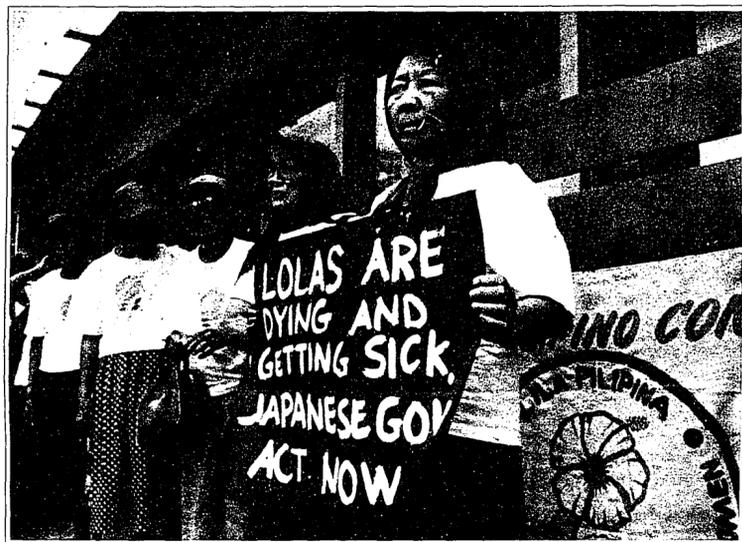
The squatters, some of whom have been living in the area for more than two decades, claim the property was abandoned by its Chinese-Filipino owners.

However, they learned recently that a Taiwanese conglomerate had bought it.

An estimated 3 million people - about one-third of the capital's population - are living illegally on public or private land in metropolitan Manila.

The government plans to remove more than 66,000 squatter families living in dangerous shantytowns in the capital region, officials say.

About 44,000 squatter families were evicted last year, many during preparations for the 18-nation Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit which the Philippines hosted in November.



Philippine comfort women picket the Japanese Embassy at the financial district of Makati to urge the Japanese Diet (Parliament) to pass a proposed law that would compensate them for being forced into sexual slavery by Japanese soldiers in World War II. AP Photo

Philippine activists picket prime minister of Canada

By JIM GOMEZ
MANILA, Philippines (AP) - About 40 left-wing activists opposed to free trade yelled "imperi-

alists" and staged a die-in Thursday in front of a hotel where Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien and his trade mission were staying.

The union and student activists also criticized a massive spill of mining waste last year at a Philippine copper mine owned by Placer Dome, a Canadian company.

"We are here not only to protest the Canadian capitalists' hunting expedition in the Philippines but also to join Canadian workers against Chretien's free trade and globalization policies," labor leader Crispin Beltran said during the 30-minute protest.

Chretien was in the Philippines on a three-day state visit with his country's biggest trade mission ever.

Canadian businessmen traveling with Chretien closed 52 business deals with Philippine companies worth more than 500 million Canadian dollars (U.S. dollars 370 million) on Wednesday.

All but one of Canada's 10 provincial premiers, a territorial leader and nearly 400 chief executives of Canadian companies accompanied Chretien on the visit, the second leg of an Asian tour that took him first to South Korea and next goes to Thailand.

The activists oppose the free-trade policies of the 18-nation Asia-

Pacific Economic Cooperation forum, which the Philippines led last year and Canada chairs this year. They marched near the hotel entrance with placards marked "People of Canada, Junk APEC," and staged a die-in when a police officer tried to stop them. Several policemen and a number of Canadian security officers stood by.

Manny Sarmiento of the militant May First Movement labor group said an influx of Canadian investment would displace thousands of small Philippine companies and their workers.

The protest caught the attention of several members of the Canadian trade mission being driven in and out of the hotel at the heart of the Makati financial district. Chretien was in a meeting in the hotel during the protest, a Canadian Embassy information officer said.

On Wednesday, Chretien stepped into a touchy constitutional issue when he commented before a business forum that he was disappointed that President Fidel Ramos is unable to seek re-election.

"I would like to tell you that the world community would be disappointed that you cannot run again because you have gained a lot of respect around the world and we all admire you for your good work," Chretien told Ramos.

6 die, 8 hurt in crash of bus and police truck

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - A police truck which had just taken a dead officer to his southern Luzon hometown rammed a passenger bus Thursday, killing five policemen and the bus conductor and injuring at least eight others, officials said.

Initial reports said the driver of the police truck lost control of his vehicle and hit the bus from behind, an investigator said.

Police investigator Cesar Camunas said four officers and the bus conductor died on the spot. A fifth officer died en route to a nearby hospital. Eight people, including another officer, were critically injured.

He said the accident took place on the outskirts of Gumaca town in Quezon province near the southern tip of Luzon Island.

Gumaca is about 150 kilometers (95 miles) south of Manila.



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Ruling party apologizes, but shuns disputed law's rewrite

By SANG-HUN CHOE
 SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - South Korea's ruling party apologized Thursday for railroading a disputed labor bill through Parliament, but stopped short of promising to rewrite it - a key demand of striking workers.

The apology marked a step back from President Kim Young-sam's hardline stand and followed violent clashes between police and some 40,000 workers and students in Seoul on Wednesday.

"It is very regrettable that the revision of the law was not smooth ... for which I am very sorry," Lee Hong-koo, chairman of the ruling New Korea Party, told a news conference.

But Lee ruled out the possibility of rewriting the law "for now." He said only that the law could be changed later if and when problems arise in the course of its implemen-

majority party from meeting for nearly a week, once barring the speaker in his office.

Within hours, workers were walking off their jobs in some of the nation's key export industries, and the strikes later snowballed into the largest labor protest in South Korea's history.

The government estimates the strikes, now in their 22nd day, have cost an already ailing economy about \$2.9 billion in lost production and export earnings.

But despite the losses and massive, almost daily demonstrations by workers in Seoul and other major cities, the strikes have not been as widespread and devastating as union leaders predicted.

Many unions and individual union members have ignored the strike calls, while others have limited their protests to work slowdowns or only partial walkouts.

Lee's concession failed to placate union leaders.

"It is not even worth considering at all. We are prepared for a prolonged struggle and we are confident that public opinion is on our side," said Kwon Young-gil, head of an illegal labor confederation spearheading the strikes.

"As the head of state, President Kim must think about saving the economy, not his face."

The new law makes it easier for employers to lay off workers, adjust work hours and hire substitutes for strikers, while delaying for up to five years key labor benefits, including the right to form trade unions.

It was rammed through Parliament on Dec. 26 in a seven-minute, secret, pre-dawn session attended only by ruling party members. They took the action after opposition lawmakers had physically restrained the



A female protester chains herself to a gate (partially shown at right) as she staged a protest along with other workers in downtown Seoul, demanding the withdrawal of a new labor law, Thursday. The worker chained her body not to be arrested by police. Her placard and headband read: "The ouster of President Kim Young-sam". AP Photo

US soldier found guilty of murder

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - A U.S. soldier was found guilty of murder and sentenced to 15 years in jail Thursday for the September killing of a South Korean prostitute.

"The accused deserves to be harshly punished for his crime, but the court has taken into consideration that he acted out of momentary anger while emotionally unstable from being in a new environment," Judge Chun Bong-jin said in handing down the sentence against Pvt. Eric Munnich of Chicago.

Prosecutors had demanded that Munnich be sentenced to life imprisonment for the murder of Lee

Ki-sun, 44, in her boarding room near a U.S. military base north of Seoul.

Munnich, 22, admitted killing Lee, U.S. authorities and South Korean police have said. Police said Munnich got angry after Lee refused to have sex with him because he had no money to pay for it. The soldier then strangled Lee with his hands and stabbed her in the neck several times with a knife, they said.

Munnich is currently in U.S. custody under a 1966 agreement that allows American soldiers accused of crimes to remain in U.S. custody until all appeals in Korean courts have been exhausted.

It was not immediately known

whether Munnich will appeal. Under South Korean law, prosecutors are also allowed to appeal the decision.

Some 37,000 U.S. soldiers are stationed here under a mutual defense treaty.

Although violent crimes involving U.S. soldiers are rare, they often trigger anti-American sentiments, with activists charging that the agreement gives unfair advantage to Americans.

Washington and Seoul are currently negotiating a proposed revision of the Status of Forces Agreement to give South Korea greater custody in cases involving violent crimes.

Int'l labor leaders ask Seoul to repeal law

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - South Korea risks worldwide censure unless it withdraws a new law that has sparked widespread strikes, an international labor group said Wednesday.

The law's aim "is to weaken and destroy the ability of free trade union organizations to exist and function," the group said in a press statement.

The statement was issued by four representatives of the International Confederation of Free Trade Unions, a Brussels-based organization representing 195 national trade groups.

The four made their assessment at the close of a four-day visit to South Korea, during which they met government officials, scholars and workers.

The group charged that the disputed law raised "deep concerns for the democratic process and (is) a disturbing throwback to the era of military rule" in South Korea.

The law, passed on Dec. 26 in a secret, pre-dawn parliamentary session attended only by ruling party legislators, gives employers a freer hand to lay off workers

and regulate working hours while delaying labor benefits for up to five years.

To defuse the rising labor unrest, the ICFTU urged the government to abrogate the law and not arrest 19 strike leaders taking refuge at a church and their work sites. One was arrested overnight.

"The group warned that if South Korea implements the disputed law, it would be alienated from international society, including the Organization of Economic Cooperation and Development, a Paris-based club of rich nations which it joined in December.

"Attempts to improve economic efficiency through repression of core workers' rights is not only unacceptable from a human rights point of view, it will not succeed in the long term," it said.

Angered by what it called the international mission's illegal political activity, the South Korean government warned its members Tuesday that they could be expelled.

Mission members confirmed that they were given verbal warnings but said they were scheduled to leave Seoul on Thursday anyway.

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HK immigration boss 'ousted'

By MARCUS ELIASON
HONG KONG (AP) - Casting new light on an affair that has been shaking up Hong Kong for six months, the government said Wednesday it ousted its immigration boss because of his private business dealings in China and elsewhere.

The disclosure came in legislative committee hearings set up following claims that the government was stonewalling over the abrupt and mysterious resignation July 5 of Immigration Director Laurence Leung.

After insisting throughout that

Leung took early retirement for undisclosed personal reasons, the government was finally forced to reverse itself last week and confirm that Leung was told to step down or face disciplinary action.

The prolonged official silence had led to a welter of rumors, some of which were published here and in Britain, suggesting, among other things, that Leung passed sensitive data on British passport holders to China.

In testimony to the panel, Civil Service Secretary Lam Woon-kwong said there was "no evidence to suggest that the security and integrity of any systems for which the Immigration Department is responsible has been compromised."

Asked outright whether Leung spied for China, Lam said he "did not come into contact with" any such evidence. He added that he couldn't say whether Gov. Chris Patten or his deputy, Anson Chan, had other information he was not privy to.

Hong Kong radio quoted Leung as saying he was glad the proceedings cleared him of the spying rumor. He said he would make a more detailed statement later.

The alleged personal improprieties uncovered by Hong Kong's Independent Commission Against Corruption were contained in a letter read out by Lam, which he said would have been sent to Leung had he refused to step down.

The powerful graft-busters' investigation did not yield evidence to warrant a prosecution, the letter said, but its findings "cast grave doubts on your personality, integrity and judgment as a senior government officer."

The letter outlined Leung's business partnership with a legislator who serves on China-appointed organizations managing Hong Kong's July 1 change of sovereignty, and his 100,000 Hong Kong dollar (U.S. \$12,820) investment in an abortive advertising venture in China.

The letter said both should have been reported to Hong Kong security authorities, who might have frowned on such dealings. Furthermore, the letter said, Leung borrowed 1.76 million Hong Kong dollars (U.S. \$225,640) from the government to buy a house in Canada in 1989, sold it two years

later and didn't report the sale to the Hong Kong government, nor did he repay the loan until 1996 despite monthly reminders.

Leung has denied passing information to China and says he was never told why he was being forced out. Initially he also said he retired for personal reasons, citing the murder of his daughter in 1993. But in testimony to the committee last week, he revealed that he had in fact been ordered to quit.

Coming against the backdrop of China's imminent takeover, the affair highlights the democratic standards that have taken root in a society long ruled by British colonial decree.

China has promised to preserve these freedoms, and the right to go on holding hearings such as the one Wednesday, independent and open to the public, will be a major test of that guarantee.

It also shows the high degree of personal probity Hong Kong demands of its civil service, and the fear that corruption in China's bureaucracy will infect Hong Kong after the July 1 handover.



Villagers in Mikuni relay buckets filled with collected crude oil spilled from a sunken Russian tanker in the Sea of Japan, in their cleanup effort after parts of the slick landed on a mile-long stretch of the coast near Mikuni, a quiet town of 24,000 on Japan's western shoreline, 200 miles west of Tokyo. Maritime authorities warned that strong winds could widen the area affected by the slick which threatens wildlife and fisheries in the area. AP Photo

Russian envoy: Sorry for Japanese oil spill

By KOZO MIZOGUCHI
TOKYO (AP) - The Russian ambassador apologized Wednesday for the massive oil spill spoiling beaches on Japan's western coast, as high waves and wind snarled the cleanup.

In his first visit to areas hit by oil spilled from a Russian tanker Jan. 2, Alexander Panov told local officials that his country is responsible for the accident, said Naoki Kitabayashi, spokesman for Fukui Prefecture.

An estimated 3,700 kilometers (962,000 gallons) of oil have already spilled off the 13,157-ton Nakhodka, which sank about 150 kilometers (90 miles) off the western coast.

Slicks have now affected the coasts of six prefectures, threatening a 800-kilometer (500-mile) stretch of the western coastline and damaging the local fishing and tourism industries.

In a meeting with Fukui Gov. Yukio Kurita, Panov said he was sorry for the "economic and psychological damage" caused by the spill, local officials said.

Cleanup operations at shores by fishermen and volunteers were cancelled Wednesday because of stormy weather, said coast guard spokesman Shinji Sato. Waves up to four meters (13 feet) high were whipping at the coast, he said.

Housewives cleaned oil-stained buckets and skimmers used to scoop sludge while they waited for the weather to clear.

Sato said rough seas also forced cleanup crews to delay the pumping of the oil trapped in the bow section of the tanker, which split off from the sunken main section and drifted aground last week.

The operation was originally scheduled for Wednesday, lasting for three to four days.

Kitabayashi quoted Panov as saying that the Russian government is earmarking \$300,000 for the cleanup effort, in addition to \$500 million in tanker insurance.

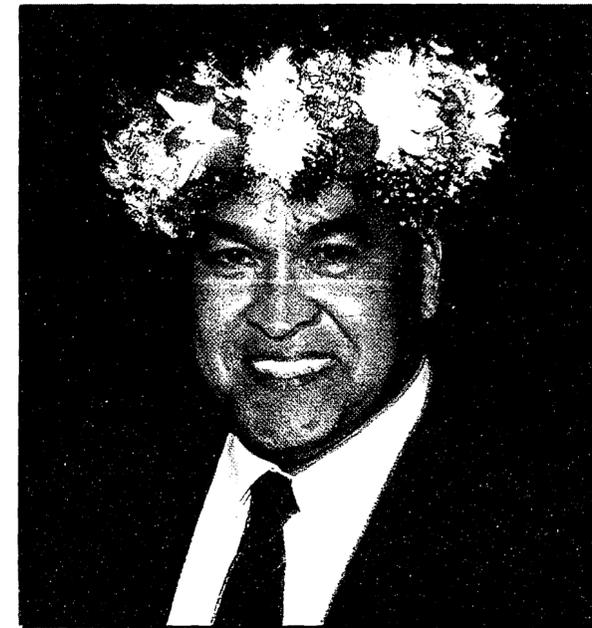
The floating oil continued to spread Wednesday, with slicks discovered along a 60-kilometer (37 mile) coastline near Wajima, a city near the tip of the Noto Peninsula, the Japan Broadcasting Corp. said.

The spill is Japan's worst since 7,900 kiloliters (2 million gallons) poured from a storage tank in southwestern Mizushima in 1972.

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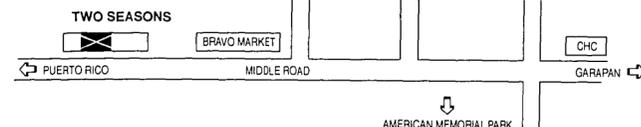
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Suit claims children were sexually abused at camp

By BETH J. HARPAZ
NEW YORK (AP) - The parents of four boys are suing the Boy Scouts for \$ 72 million, claiming older campers sodomized their sons with a broomstick at summer camp.

The boy, ages 6 through 10, were assaulted Aug. 9 after being lured, one at a time, into a cabin at Camp Keowa in upstate Narrowsburg, according to the lawsuit filed Monday.

"I'm totally outraged that the Boy Scout camp did not watch my 6-year-old," Denise Palmer told a news conference Tuesday. "He cannot sleep. He screams a lot for me. He doesn't want to stay without me."

Plaintiffs' lawyer Michael Feldman said 20 other boys watched while two 13-year-old campers attacked the boys. Adults only intervened when one boy was seen "running crying from the cabin with blood streaming down his legs," he said.

Thomasine McCauley, whose 8- and 10-year-old sons allegedly were assaulted, and Ms. Palmer said they didn't learn of the attack until their children told them after returning home as scheduled. Mary Riley said she was told her son was injured during "horseplay" with a broom. Only after she arrived at a hospital did she learn he'd been sodomized, she said.

The Times Herald Record of Middletown reported in September that two 13-year-olds were arrested in the case. The boys were not identified because of their age and the disposition of their cases was not clear.

The Boy Scouts' New York spokesman, Gary Laermer, declined to comment.

He said 6,000 children attend programs at Camp Keowa each summer, 800 to 1,000 at a time, for activities including arts and crafts, sports, swimming, boating, and environmental sciences, all led by screened counselors.

Locke inaugurated as first Chinese-American governor

By DAVID AMMONS
OLYMPIA, Washington (AP) - Gary Locke was inaugurated as the United States' first Chinese-American governor, taking power just a few blocks from where his grandfather worked as an immigrant houseboy at the turn of the century.

Although I may be standing less than a mile from where our family started its life in America, we've certainly come a long, long way," Locke said Wednesday.

The event was a sentimental homecoming for the 46-year-old Yale-educated lawyer and about 100 relatives. He told of his ancestors facing down an angry anti-Chinese mob with the help of some white settlers in Olympia in 1886 and his paternal grandfather, Suey Gim Locke, working for a pioneer family in exchange for English lessons.

The moderate-to-liberal

Democrat was warmly welcomed by the Republican-controlled Legislature. His wife, Mona, and their parents were at his side as he took the oath of office.

Locke is the first Asian-American to win the top office in any state outside of Hawaii. Washington has a small, but growing Asian population, about 4 percent of the approximately 5 million residents.

He broke little new ground in his inaugural address, and Republicans promised to work closely with him. They even presented him with a surprise gift, a large baby cradle. The Lockes expect their first child in late March.

"In very rapid succession, I will be blessed with two titles that carry immense responsibility and immense honor: governor and dad. That (parenthood) is the thing my folks really want. Forget this governor business!"



Gary Locke

Governor leaves wallet, resorts to panhandling

By CARL HILLIARD
DENVER (AP) - You're flying to Los Angeles. You accidentally leave your wallet behind. What do you do?

If you're Gov. Roy Romer, you shake hands - and smile.

Penniless and on his way to discuss the Democratic National Committee chairmanship with President Clinton last weekend, Romer did what any resourceful politician would do: mingle with his constituents and hit them up for money.

"I said to one, 'Hello, how you doin', scoot over, let's visit.'"

Romer identified the passenger as a "really nice young man," Bruce Brannon of Thornton, and asked for a \$ 50 loan. Brannon gave him \$ 45.

The Democratic governor said he needed more money and decided to try it again. This time, he "got a fellow, second from the rear seat, a really great guy, William Agster from Littleton."

Romer told him the hard-luck story of leaving his wallet in his executive car and Agster said, "Man, I got \$ 60 for you."

He arrived in Los Angeles, where he had to make a speech before heading on to Washington. Problem: He had no identification to claim the ticket he reserved.

So he pulled a copy of The Denver Post from his briefcase, which had front-page pictures showing him addressing the Legislature.

"See that? That's me. There, and there, there. My name's Romer."

They looked him over carefully and gave him the ticket.

Romer depended on the kindness of strangers once more: He needed to make some calls on the flight, and had a "really good seatmate" from North Carolina who loaned him a phone credit card.

He's making arrangements to pay back the benefactors.

Say "NO" To Drugs

Peru rebels agree to talks

By LYNN F. MONAHAN
LIMA, Peru (AP) - Leftist rebels say they have no intention of killing the 74 hostages they are holding in the Japanese ambassador's house - but they warned the government to be ready for a long standoff.

"We have all the time in the world," a man who identified himself as guerrilla commander Nestor Cerpa said in a radio transmission.

Cerpa spoke via two-way radio from the diplomatic residence in a transmission Wednesday recorded by Associated Press Television.

In the transmission, the rebels agreed to a government offer for a commission to negotiate an end to the crisis, with one condition - that everything be on the table.

"Everything" includes the rebels' key demand: that about 300 of their Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement comrades be released from Peruvian prisons. President Alberto Fujimori has flatly rejected that demand.

The government's initial response to Wednesday's rebel announcement didn't waver from that position. Defense Minister Gen. Tomas Castillo said he welcomed a solution - but only within the bounds established earlier by Fujimori. The government did not immediately say whether it would accept the rebels' condition for the talks.

Fujimori met Wednesday night in the government palace with Terosuke Terada, Japan's ambassador to Mexico, to decide how to proceed, his press office said.

Russian jet crashes, two crewmembers feared dead

MOSCOW (AP) - A MiG-31 fighter jet belonging to Russian Air Defense Troops has crashed in northern Russia and its crew of two was believed dead, officials said Thursday.

The two-seat aircraft belonging to the 458th regiment of the Air Defense Troops slammed into a forest near the village of Oktyabrsky, some 300 kilometers (185 miles) south of Arkhangelsk, said a Russian Defense Ministry spokesman.

The spokesman, who refused to be identified, said it was unclear whether the crew had managed to bail out. Rescue teams spotted the plane and continued to search the swampy area for the missing pilots, he said.

But the Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations said both crewmen had died in the crash.

Defense Ministry refused to comment on the possible causes of the crash. MiG-31 is a large all-weather plane that carries long-range weapons and is capable of flying more than two times the speed of sound at high altitudes. It has been in service with the Soviet and Russian air forces since the early 1980s.

Hostage-takers say they're ready for long standoff

Terada is temporarily in charge of Japan's diplomatic mission in Peru, since the Japanese ambassador to Peru is among the hostages.

Japan's prime minister, Ryutaro Hashimoto, welcomed the news that the rebels had agreed to formal talks.

"It's definitely a step forward," he said, according to the Kyodo News agency. "But we can't make any snap judgments about what's ahead."

About 20 heavily armed rebels seized the ambassador's residence Dec. 17, taking hostage more than 500 people attending a gala party. They have released most of the hostages, but still hold 74 - including Peruvian officials, Japanese executives and Fujimori's younger brother.

In the radio transmission, the rebels said they would no longer release

small groups of hostages, saying the captives they still hold are the men they believe responsible for Peru's political and economic problems.

They also said they had no intention of killing hostages.

"We have not talked at any time about executions," the man identified as Cerpa said. He denied early reports that the rebels threatened to kill Foreign Minister Francisco Tudela, one of the hostages.

The rebels also said that unless the government is willing to leave the release of their comrades open for discussion, "no way out is possible."

Talks between the government and the rebels collapsed when the rebels demanded that the government negotiator, Education Minister

Domingo Palermo, bring a proposal to free the jailed rebels.

On Sunday, Palermo proposed the commission, and the radio transmission Wednesday was the rebels' response.

Palermo had said the commission's agenda should include "all themes identified in previous contacts." It wasn't clear whether that extended to possible freedom for jailed guerrillas.

The government suggested that the commission include representatives of both sides, as well as the Red Cross and the Roman Catholic Church. The rebels said they also wanted representatives from Guatemala and an unspecified European country to join.

The guerrillas did not say why they



Alberto Fujimori

wanted Guatemala to join the talks, but former hostage Alejandro Toledo has said the rebels want a Guatemala-style amnesty to allow them to participate in public life.

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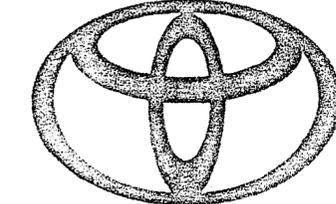
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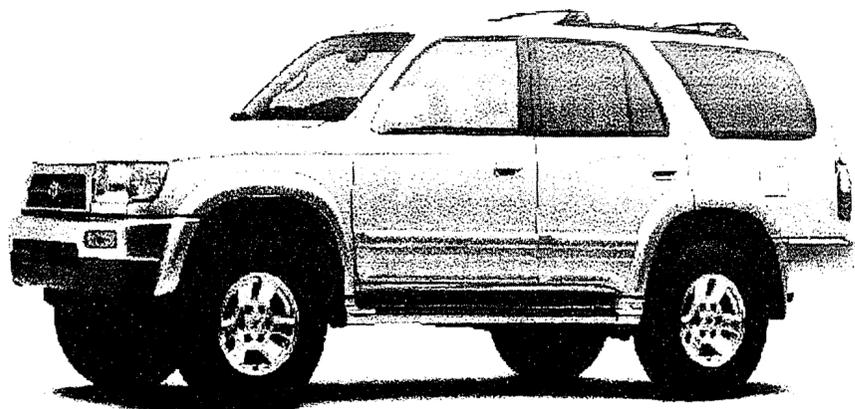
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With Hebron accord as a 'road map'

Clinton eyes more peacemaking

By BARRY SCHWEID
WASHINGTON (AP) - The Hebron agreement gives President Clinton a foreign policy triumph to take into his second term and a road map for further land-for-peace deals between Israel and the Arabs.



Bill Clinton

Exulting over the accord reached by Israel and Yasser Arafat's Palestinian negotiators with the help of American mediator Dennis B. Ross, Clinton is preparing for a series of White House invitations to Mideast leaders in February to plot the next steps.

He is keeping Ross and the U.S. "peace team" on the job and offering their help after a breather to unknot such touchy issues as Palestinian demands for a safe road linking Gaza and the West Bank and for an airport.

"This is not a time to relax," Clinton said after Israel and the Palestinians struck a deal Tuesday following four months of ne-

gotiations. It assures the Palestinians control of Hebron promised by dovish Labor governments as well as a three-stage Israeli troop withdrawal on the West Bank by mid-1998.

However, it was not immediately clear how much territory Israel will surrender while retaining the right until then, at least, to protect the 140,000 Jews who live in 120 settlements on the West Bank.

Israel's ambassador here, Eliahu ben-Elissar, said the United States recognized with the Hebron agreement "that Israel has a prerogative and the privilege to determine its security needs in all terms, including territorial terms."

That is, ben-Elissar told The Associated Press, "Israel will actually define or delineate the territorial limitations of its redeployment."

And he said, "Arafat knows exactly what our interpretation is."

U.S. Ambassador Martin Indyk said in Israel that "the amount of territory that is handed over is Israel's decision." And former Israeli negotiator Joel Singer said at a news conference here that Israel had gained the right to decide unilaterally where to pull back and that the first stage could be merely symbolic.

Palestinian officials disputed this interpretation. They said Israel was required to pull back in a

way that restricts Israeli troops to the Jewish settlements.

In Jerusalem Wednesday, Israel's Cabinet voted 11-7 to approve the agreement. The decision came after a tumultuous 12-hour session in which Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu was relentlessly attacked by hard-liners.

Science Minister Benny Begin, son of Israel's late prime minister Menachem Begin, resigned in protest.

Earlier, Cabinet temporarily suspended consideration of the agreement after an Israel TV report that the United States did not intend to let Israel decide the extent of its troop withdrawal from the West Bank.

The report cited an unidentified top U.S. official in Washington. The meeting resumed only after Ross called the Cabinet members to assure them the report did not reflect U.S. policy.

Clinton said further peacemak-

ing "will demand every effort to stop those who would choose confrontation over cooperation."

He intends to invite Arafat and Netanyahu to Washington, as well as King Hussein of Jordan and President Hosni Mubarak of Egypt. The aim, White House officials said, is take stock of Mideast peacemaking and get together with Clinton's new security team, which will be headed by Madeleine Albright as secretary of state.

Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who is stepping down on Friday, called the agreement "a road map for the future" and one that could "help create a greater degree of trust and confidence between the parties."

He expressed confidence the United States would continue to make peace between Israel and the Arabs "a top priority."

For Clinton the agreement is a sweet triumph.

Four months ago, he summoned Netanyahu and Arafat to Washington. The two leaders did not settle their differences. Critics faulted Clinton for not applying pressure on Netanyahu, who they described as an intransigent hard-liner.

The president appealed for patience, and it evidently has paid off.

Saudi Arabia awards King Faisal prizes

RIYADH, Saudi Arabia (AP) - Saudi Arabia has awarded King Faisal International Prizes to Malaysia's prime minister, an Iraqi professor and five Western scientists.

The 750,000 riyal (\$200,000) prizes are awarded annually in five categories: service to Islam, medicine, science, Islamic studies and Arabic literature.

The service to Islam prize was awarded to Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamed for his support of the rights of Muslim minorities in southeast Asia.

The science prize went to two American scientists at the University of Colorado, Carl E. Wieman and Eric A. Cornell, for their work in physics. The prize for medicine was shared by three doctors. Australian Colin Louis Masters of the University of Melbourne, German Konrad Beyreuther of the University of Heidelberg and Canadian James Francis Gusella of Harvard University Medical school, for their work on degenerative diseases of the nervous system.

The prize for Islamic studies went to San'a university professor Abdul-Kareem Zaidan Baheej Alani, an Iraqi, for his studies on women in Islam.

No award was given for Arabic literature because the entries received lacked sufficient merit, an official statement said. The awards, announced Tuesday, were established in 1979 by the King Faisal foundation, founded in memory of Saudi Arabia's third king by his sons.

Mexico pays \$13.5-B US loan

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER
WASHINGTON (AP) - President Clinton, announcing the final repayment of a \$13.5 billion loan to Mexico, said the repayment proved the success of the controversial rescue effort his administration undertook in 1995.

"Two years ago, helping our friend and neighbor in a time of need was quite controversial. Some said we should not get involved, that the money would never be repaid. They were wrong," Clinton said Wednesday at a White House ceremony where the debt was officially erased.

However, critics were unswayed by Clinton's comments. They argued that Mexico earned the money to make the repayment by running huge trade surpluses with the United States that were costing American jobs.

"This is money we are paying back to ourselves from workers

who have lost their jobs all over the country when their plants closed and moved to Mexico," said Rep. Marcy Kaptur, a Democrat from Ohio.

Kaptur led the House opposition in 1994 to the North American Free Trade Agreement that created a free trade area including Canada, the United States and Mexico.

While the administration claimed at the time that the agreement would result in new jobs in the United States by increasing exports to Mexico, the United States has actually seen its trade with Mexico go from a \$1.7 billion surplus in 1993 to a record deficit of \$16 billion in 1996.

The administration has blamed the deficits on Mexico's economic crisis and not NAFTA, which they said helped cushion the blow to the Mexican economy and kept Mexican authorities on



Ernesto Zedillo

the path of economic reform. Mexican authorities said the success of its economic reform program had allowed it to make the final repayment of \$3.5 billion three years ahead of schedule. In Mexico City, Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo said, "Now our challenge is to consolidate the recuperation."

The total U.S. support was part of a \$50 billion international rescue package that the administration assembled in early 1995 after a bungled devaluation of the peso threatened to send Mexico into default.

While Mexico was able to meet its obligations to international investors, the Mexican economy was plunged into the worst recession since the 1930s, with total economic output falling by 6.9 percent.

Clinton said that by acting quickly, the United States had made sure that Mexico's problems did not spread to other countries in Latin America.

He termed the Mexican efforts a "remarkable turnaround," noting that output resumed growing in 1996, inflation has been cut in half and the country has regained the confidence of international investors.

But critics said even with the

improvements, Mexico still faced widespread poverty that was triggering growing social unrest.

"The Mexican economic crisis continues to deepen. The level of despair and growing political violence has reached previously unexperienced proportions," said Lori Wallach, head of the Citizens Trade Campaign and another foe of NAFTA.

She said the administration was trying to put the best face on the Mexican situation to gain support for the upcoming battle in Congress to win approval for negotiating authority to add Chile to NAFTA.

In addition to repaying the United States, Mexican authorities also made the final \$1.5 billion repayment on a \$17.8 billion loan that had been extended by the International Monetary Fund.

Professors, doctors in Venezuela strike

By BART JONES
CARACAS, Venezuela (AP) - University professors joined striking doctors on Wednesday in demanding higher wages, creating perhaps the worst labor and social conflict of President Rafael Caldera's three-year presidency.

The work stoppage by 35,000 professors at 17 universities left 315,000 students without classes. The strike by 22,000 doctors has virtually shut down 300 public hospitals and 6,000 clinics.

Doctors abandoned hospitals Dec. 27. But after public revulsion and charges that at least a dozen patients had died, they called a truce a week ago and agreed to treat emergency cases.

They were to vote Thursday on whether to abandon emergency rooms again.

Government officials acknowledge the salary demands are legitimate, but claim they can't possibly meet them. Attempting to do so would stoke inflation that last year was the highest in Latin America at 103 percent.

"What they're demanding is justified and deserved, but not even the budget of the United States would be enough to meet them," said Teodoro Petkoff, the planning minister.

Besides the doctors, he noted, the government has 775,000 other public sector employees clamoring for more money.

Officials view the doctors' salary

dispute as a test case to hold the line on pay hikes in their efforts to tame inflation through International Monetary Fund-backed, free-market reforms imposed in April.

They say the reforms so far have been a success. Inflation is dropping, the bolivar has regained stability, foreign investors are flocking back.

"To keep the reforms on track, they say, they must hold wage increases to 25 percent. Doctors want hikes of nearly 400 percent.

"Nobody will gain anything if we pay salaries like everyone would like and then four or five months later, we've got inflation of the devil," said Petkoff.

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/s/ CARLOS S. SHODA
Executive Director
January 7, 1997
Date

Safety problems at US uranium storage site

By H. JOSEF HEBERT
WASHINGTON (AP) - Significant environmental or safety problems plague many of the sites where the United States stores highly enriched uranium, the Energy Department said Wednesday.

The department said a review of the facilities shows 155 conditions or weaknesses "that could result in the exposure of workers or the public to radiation" from the government's uranium stockpile.

In most cases the health or safety threats are confined to workers on site, but in a few cases the shortcomings also "could adversely affect the public," said the report made public Wednesday.

Among the shortcomings were uranium kept in decaying containers not suitable for long-term storage, combustible materials in buildings where uranium is kept, deteriorating storage buildings, backlogs in needed maintenance, and inadequate ventilation systems as well as management prob-

lems.

The Energy Department has 250 metric tons of highly enriched uranium, which has been used in nuclear weapons production, at 22 sites around the country, about three-fourths of it at the Oak Ridge complex in Tennessee.

It found conditions and weaknesses that caused concern at 13 of the sites in nine states, including problems with packaging, the condition of storage facilities and "institutional" problems such as management shortcomings that fail to protect workers.

Tara O'Toole, assistant secretary for environment, safety and health, said that in many cases corrective actions are underway, but that in some cases these improvements would be long term and challenge the department for years.

At the news conference, the department also announced:

It was declassifying for public release more than 6,500 films showing sometimes dramatic footage of early above-ground

nuclear weapons tests. Some of the footage shows failed tests, including one in the early 1960s in the Pacific where a rocket and its nuclear warhead exploded on the launch pad.

So far, only a small number of the films have been reviewed. The declassification and transfer of films to digital tape is expected to take seven years and cost \$ 1.4 million.

That 13 underground nuclear weapons tests in Nevada resulted in radiation releases into the atmosphere that had not been reported previously. The releases from tests conducted between 1975 and 1988 were confined to the test site and "had no measurable health or safety impact on the public," the department said.

The report on health, environment and safety risks in the storage of highly enriched uranium represented the first summary of problems facing the Energy Department as it works to dispose of its uranium stockpile after decades of nuclear weapons production.

Weapons-grade plutonium left in Vietnam, US finds

By H. JOSEF HEBERT
WASHINGTON (AP) - The United States inadvertently left behind a small quantity of weapons-grade plutonium in the final days of the Vietnam War and didn't discover the mistake for years.

Close to two more decades went by before the Energy Department, which is supposed to be in charge of all such materiel, learned about the missing plutonium. Documents detailing its disappearance were secret.

Now that the department knows about it, however, it's negotiating with the Vietnamese to get the plutonium back.

Details of the plutonium adventure that unfolded in Vietnam more than 20 years ago were revealed for the first time Wednesday by Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary at a news conference.

O'Leary emphasized that the plutonium left in Vietnam totaled only about 3 ounces (90 grams) and in itself posed no significant nuclear proliferation threat. But as related in newly declassified documents, the United States exerted extraordinary efforts to retrieve it as the war neared its end in 1975.

In late March 1975, two nuclear technicians from a federal weapons laboratory in Idaho were sent to Dalat, 180 miles north of Saigon, a city facing enemy forces on three sides. The technicians' mission: dismantle the research reactor and retrieve 26 pounds (11.5 kilograms) of uranium and the small amount of plutonium.

They worked for several days, packing the uranium fuel and what they thought was a small steel canister of plutonium. Occasionally sniper fire hit the reactor, which had been used for research as part of the Atoms for Peace program.

Finally, the two technicians and the nuclear material were airlifted out, hours before Viet Cong and

North Vietnamese forces overran Dalat in a final nighttime assault. The uranium and package marked "plutonium" were sent to the Hanford weapons facility near Richland, Washington, were recorded and stored away, but not tested.

It was not until almost four years later that the material inside the package was tested and found to be not plutonium, but another radioactive material, decayed polonium.

"Our conclusion is that the (plutonium) was never shipped from Vietnam," Thomas Blankenship, director of safeguards and security at the Department of Energy office in Las Vegas, Nevada, wrote in July 1979.

The issue died there, with no attempt to learn what happened to the real plutonium.

Not until recently, with the declassification of hundreds of documents, including Blankenship's memo, did senior Energy Department officials learn that the plutonium never left Vietnam.

O'Leary said discussions have been under way with Vietnam's government and the International Atomic Energy Agency to have the plutonium returned. A U.S. group is to travel to Vietnam next month to discuss the matter further.

The reactor in Dalat resumed operation with the help of the Russians, who supplied the uranium. And why did it take so long to learn of the still missing plutonium?

"The documents were classified," the Energy Department said, "to protect the fact that the plutonium was unaccounted for."

Burma got \$2.4B in investment in 1996

RANGOON, Burma (AP) - Foreign companies invested \$ 2.35 billion in Burma during 1996, the largest amount for any single year in the country's history, the military government said Thursday.

The flood of foreign money is a blow Burma's democratic opposition, led by 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner Aung San Suu Kyi, which has called on foreign businesses to not invest in the country until the army relinquishes power.

Total foreign investment in Burma has reached \$ 5.35 billion since 1988, when the current military regime seized power.

World Bank reports, however, have shown that much of it has not actually reached Burma. Some investors have signed memoranda of understanding, but are reluctant to commit funds until political tensions have been solved.

Several Japanese firms are waiting for their government to resume matching grants and assistance programs to Burma before actually investing. The Japanese government has been reluctant to reinstate the programs because of political repression in the country.

Since 1988, oil and gas, manufacturing, real estate, hotels and tourism have attracted a huge chunk of the investment - \$ 4.2 billion.

Singapore was the largest foreign investor with \$ 1.2 billion committed, followed by the United Kingdom with \$ 1 billion and Thailand with \$ 995 million.

The United States ranked sixth with \$ 244 million, most of which comes from the Unocal oil company which is building a controversial gas pipeline project.

Burma has been ruled by military regimes since 1962. Suu Kyi's party won a 1990 election that the military refused to honor.

INVITATION FOR BIDS

CUC IFB 97-0010

January 17, 1997

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting bids from electrical construction contractors for the construction of the electrical part of the Obyan Water Transmission Line Project. The project is expected to start March 1, 1997 and has a 120 day completion time frame.

This project consists of the installation of all underground 13.8 kV primary and 480 volts secondary electrical conductors in 12,300 feet of trench, of padmount transformers, of padmount sectionalizing equipment, and of 480 volts three phase meters, panelboards and miscellaneous material to provide a complete electrical system from the last overhead 13.8kV utility pole to the water well control panels.

The high voltage termination personnel shall be certified to terminate the type of high voltage cable installed. Certification shall be provided with the bid documents.

All major equipment is owner furnished. The contractor will be responsible for all trenching, providing sand backfill for trenches, concrete and reinforcing steel for equipment foundations and miscellaneous materials required to provide a complete operations system.

The proposal documents, contract documents and specifications will be available at the Procurement & Supply Office between the hours of 0730 and 1630, Monday through Friday. A non-refundable payment of \$250.00 is required for each bid package and includes a half size (11" x 17") set of drawings. A non-refundable payment of \$150.00 is required for a full size set of drawings.

Sealed bids shall be identified on the outside of the envelope by the invitation for bid number CUC-IFB-97-0010. Bids in duplicate will be accepted at the Office of the Special Advisor, Procurement & Supply, CUC at Lower Base, Saipan until 2:00 p.m., local time on February 21, 1997 at which time the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud at the CUC conference room.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or other form acceptable to the CNMI Government made payable to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation.

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

This project is funded by a grant from the Department of Interior (DOI) Office of Insular Affairs at 73.3% of the cost and 26.7% matching fund from the CNMI Government. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the necessary funding and/or required approval to enter into legally binding arrangements to complete the entire project.

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

Offerors shall provide a principle of the company stating that the company has in the past, and is currently, in compliance with all applicable CNMI and federal labor laws. Should the company be unable to provide such certification, the company must provide a written explanation as to why, including a description of any violations of such labor laws and any remedial action taken. Failure of the company to provide the certification or explanation is grounds to reject the entire proposal.

All responses to this bid should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the successful bidder in fulfilling the contract, including excise taxes.

CUC reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defect in said proposals, or any of them, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall be the property of CUC.

For further information, contact Technical Service Manager, Mr. Michael W. Randall, P.E., at 322-4033, Ext. 30.

/s/TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Executive Director

KEEP SAIPAN CLEAN & GREEN

Indonesia welcomes ME accord

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) - Indonesia Wednesday welcomed a peace agreement between Israel and the Palestinians, hoping it will pave the way for setting up of an independent Palestinian state. The pact, signed on Wednesday at a closed door meeting of negotiators on the Israel-Gaza border, allows for Israel's pullout from Hebron and parts of the West Bank.

"We welcome the agreement... and we hope this would pave the way for the resumption of talks on the final stage of the establishment of an independent Palestinian state," said Ghaffar Fadyl, the Indonesian foreign office spokesman.

Indonesia is the world's largest Muslim nation with more than 90 percent of its 190 million people following Islam.

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SECTION SUPERVISOR - MTC BUSINESS SERVICE

Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation (MTC) is seeking a position responsible and accountable for the installation, maintenance, and repair of all business telecommunications products sold by Hawaiian Tel/MTC in the Central Pacific Region. This position supervises the activities of the Equipment Technicians and contracted labor resources to ensure that profitability, quality, and customer satisfaction objects are met.

AA degree in electronics. 5 years work experience in PBX and key system installation and repair. Detailed technical knowledge of GTE's PBX, key voice mail, Centranet, and all accounting product lines. Oral and written communications, and supervisory/leadership skills.

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Micronesian Telecommunications Corp.
P.O. Box 306
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone (670) 234-6600
Fax: (670) 235-9559

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Application or resume must be received by the MTC Human Resource office not later than January 27, 1997.



SENIOR ENGINEER - OUTSIDE PLANT

This position is responsible for the timely MTC/REA engineering design and accurate construction drawings of outside plant work orders in accordance with MTC Rural Electrification Administration (REA) objectives, policies and procedures providing the highest quality OSP Network and service at the lowest possible cost on the islands of Tinian, Rota, Saipan and Guam.

Prepare outside plant work orders which include GTE/REA engineering design, layouts, detailed construction drawings, pricing data sheets, material and labor specifications, cable acceptance testing requirements, permits, cutover sequences, transmission design and facility exhaust information.

Through knowledge of OSP engineering, minimum 3 years experience in engineering and/or construction related field. 3 years experience with REA specs and construction practices required. Working knowledge of state-of-the-art computer programs such as CPMS, interactive computer graphics systems (ICGS), MARK and SORCES is desired. Leadership, decision making, motivation, and innovation are required. A.S./B.S. in engineering or equivalent is desired.

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EQUIPMENT TECHNICIAN

This position installs, repairs and maintains Telex, data, and special service circuits, installs or removes, repairs and maintains PBAX and associated equipment; includes station programming and basic customer orientation as required, installs or removes, rearranges, reconnects, and repairs electronic key systems and associated equipment; includes survey and planning of installation and station programming and basic customer orientation as required.

Applicant must be a High school graduate or equivalent. Technical school graduate desirable. FCC general license or 7 years installation or maintenance experience in one or more of the following: PABX, transmission or related technical jobs. Four years of experience installing and maintaining Northern Telecom Key and EPABX systems. Five years experience with inside wiring layout and installation. Must have knowledge of electrical theory and application, electronics technology, computer technology, and good verbal communication.

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Criminalist recants Simpson testimony

ANTAMONICA, California (AP) - A criminalist recanted bloody glove testimony Wednesday that had bolstered O.J. Simpson's defense claims of police evidence tampering.

"I didn't lie, but I was mistaken," Dennis Fung insisted during a combative face-off with defense lawyer Robert Baker.

As a witness for the defense on Jan. 8, Fung looked at a picture of the bloody glove found near the bodies of Nicole Brown Simpson and Ronald Goldman after they were killed on June 12, 1994. It appeared to show a hole on the ring finger and Fung said he remembered a cut in that area of the glove. He also held the glove that had been tagged and entered into evidence in his hands. It had no flaw.

He told jurors he did not believe they were the same gloves.

The defense seized the testimony and suggested it was proof of evidence tampering.

Baker conducted his cross-examination of Fung in a loud accusatory voice Wednesday, suggesting that his superiors forced Fung to withdraw testimony helpful to Simpson.

The defense took another blow Wednesday when the 2nd District Court of Appeal rejected an emergency writ and refused to bar two plaintiff rebuttal witnesses in Simpson's wrongful death trial.

Simpson, 49, an American football star turned actor, was acquitted in 1995 of murdering his ex-wife and her friend. He is being sued for damages by the victims' relatives, who believe he is the killer.

Baker's questions Wednesday were ruled argumentative, but Fung insisted he knew he was wrong shortly after he testified.

"Have you had an opportunity to look at other pictures of those gloves?" asked plaintiff's attorney Tom Lambert, who brought Fung back to the stand.

"Yes," Fung said. "Do you now believe those pictures show a tear in the



O.J. Simpson

glove?" the attorney asked. "No," Fung said. "The white area appears to be some kind of debris," he added hesitantly.

Lambert continued: "Do you now have any doubt this is the glove you booked in evidence."

"It is the same glove," Fung said.

Fung said he realized what he'd said as he left the courtroom.

"While I was out in the hall, it dawned on me that this defect is white and a piece of debris is white and the lining of the glove is brown," he said.

"I looked at both the glove and the picture and confirmed I had been in error," he told jurors. Baker arose and said sarcastically, "Mr. Fung, you find yourself in a bad spot here."

"Yes," Fung agreed. But he denied that he was under pressure to change his story.

"On Jan. 8, you didn't lie to this jury, did you?" Baker asked.

"I didn't lie, but I was mistaken," Fung said.

He acknowledged his testimony suggested there was both a piece of debris and an area of damage on the glove, but he said he didn't believe that now.

"I wasn't attempting to misrepresent myself, but I was mistaken," Fung said when confronted with earlier testimony that he saw a cut on the glove when he first examined it.

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II, Governor Froilan C. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus C. Borja, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission, are hereby giving notice that the regular meeting for the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees will be held on Tuesday, January 21, 1997, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fund Conference Room, Saipan.

AGENDA

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- B. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- C. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES
- D. REPORT OF THE HEARING OFFICER
- E. REPORT OF THE LEGAL COUNSEL
- F. REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
- G. REPORT OF THE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE
 - 1. Locomotive Project
- H. CORRESPONDENCE
- I. OLD BUSINESS
 - 1. Retirement Fund Building - Update
 - 2. Judicial Courts Complex - Update
 - 3. CGE Credit Union - Second Disbursement
 - 4. Board By-Laws
- J. NEW BUSINESS
 - 1. Rota and Tinian Offices
 - 2. Actuarial Review of Plan Document
- K. MISCELLANEOUS
 - 1. Financial Markets Update - January 13, 1997
- L. NEXT MEETING
- M. ADJOURNMENT

To please Asian-American contributors Clinton changed immigration policy

BOSTON (AP) - President Bill Clinton reversed his immigration policy at the last minute to please Asian-Americans who paid \$12,500 each to attend a fund-raising dinner that generated \$1.1 million, a newspaper reported Thursday.

Jailed cleric skeptical about militant's role in letter bomb

By LISA M. HAMM
NEW YORK (AP) - A Muslim cleric jailed for plotting to blow up New York landmarks says it's unlikely that Islamic extremists sent a string of letter bombs to the Saudi-owned newspaper Al-Hayat, an aide said Wednesday. "We would never benefit from sending letter bombs like this," said Ahmed Abdel-Sattar, who said he spoke to Sheik Omar Abdel-Rahman by telephone Tuesday.

"Al-Hayat newspaper is a very fair newspaper to the Islamists. It does not only get one point of view - it gets everybody's point of view," Abdel-Sattar said.

He said the blind Egyptian cleric suggested that Egypt might be behind the bombing campaign. "He accused the Egyptian government," Abdel-Sattar said. "It's the only one who is going to benefit from this."

Egypt's Islamic militants, including the sheik, want to turn the country into an Islamic state.

El Sayed Ibrahim, press officer for the Egyptian mission to the United Nations, was unavailable for comment Wednesday.

In Wednesday's edition of the London-based newspaper, Abdel-Sattar said, "There is no Islamic party that would benefit from hitting Al-Hayat."

Nearly a dozen letter bombs were sent this month to Al-Hayat's offices in Washington, London, Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, and the United Nations. One blew up Monday, wounding two people in the London office.

U.S. officials are investigating the possibility that the bombs are linked to Abdel-Rahman because some of the letters were sent to the federal prison at Leavenworth, Kansas, where three of the cleric's supporters are held.

Abdel-Rahman was convicted in 1995 of conspiring to blow up New York landmarks, including the World Trade Center and the United Nations. He is serving a life sentence at prison in Springfield, Missouri.

Clinton changed his position after the Washington dinner, the most successful Asian-American political fund raiser in U.S. history. White House special counsel Larry Davis denied that Clinton switched course because of opposition from Asian-Americans. He changed his mind because of "opposition across the spectrum," ranging from Democrats and Republicans to the Roman Catholic Church ... to the Microsoft Corp. as well as most of the high-tech industry," Davis told the Globe.

Davis could not say whether Clinton saw the memo. At issue is a provision in an immigration bill that would have allowed foreign-born siblings of naturalized American citizens to immigrate to the United States. Clinton had opposed this "sibling preference" based on the recommendation of a presidential commission.



Bill Clinton

Subsequently, the congressional effort to eliminate the "sibling preference" fell apart, and a House bill was passed that retained it. Clinton signed the final version into law on Sept. 30. "It was at the last minute... (that the White House) did a complete turnaround and decided not to back the bills that cut immigration," said Jessica Vaughan, assistant director of the nonpartisan Center for Immigration Studies. "Whether it was because of Asian-American constituents is hard to track down."

Huang, who was the host of the dinner, is now at the center of allegations that Democrats raised money illegally from foreign sources.

The immigration bill's two GOP sponsors said they believe Clinton's fund raising prompted the policy reversal.

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One million of them in Malaysia Illegals given 2 weeks to give up

By HARI S. MANIAM
KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) - Malaysia on Thursday made a final offer to 1 million illegal migrants and their employers to surrender within two weeks before the enforcement of harsh new penalties - including caning. Deputy Home Affairs Minister Megat Junid Megat Ayob said immigrants who surrender would still be hit with a 1,000 ringgit (\$400) fine and will have to pay their way back home. The two-week deadline comes after a five-month amnesty period ended Dec. 31 when about 350,000 immigrants offered themselves for deportation without having to pay fines. Megat Junid told reporters that the two-week deadline is "the final offer."

"From then there will be no more chance and the law will be enforced," he said. Immigration officials said they expect about 300,000 people to surrender. The growing influx of illegal immigrants, mostly from Indonesia and Bangladesh, has been blamed for a variety of social problems. Some complain the foreigners fight with youths, marry Malaysians in a bid to stay permanently, molest local women and commit other crimes. New laws will take effect on Feb. 1 allowing for illegal workers and their employers to be caned, fined a maximum of 50,000 ringgit (\$20,000) and jailed for up to 10 years. Current laws do not prescribe flogging and the maximum punishment for illegally entering Malaysia or employing illegal immigrants is two years and a

fine of 10,000 ringgit (\$4,000). Megat Junid said 50,000 immigration, police, army and other security personnel would be mobilized after Feb. 1 in an effort to catch migrant workers. The security forces will be provided new four-wheel vehicles, wireless equipment and other equipment worth 10 million ringgit (\$4 million), he said. An estimated 2 million foreign workers in Malaysia account for 10 percent of the country's population of 20 million. Of those, about half are illegals who sneaked into the country by sea or through the porous mountainous border with Thailand. Half of the illegal immigrants are Indonesians, 200,000 are Bangladeshis, and the rest are Filipinos, Indians, Burmese, Nepalese, Sri Lankans and natives of 21 other countries. Foreign-

ers fill a longstanding demand for low-end jobs in plantations, construction sites and factories brought by an economic boom of more than 8 percent growth over the past eight years. Employers prefer illegal workers because they work for less and can be fired at will. In addition, employers evade a government levy for foreign workers amounting to about \$150 a year.

China claims success vs pirates

BEIJING (AP) - Chinese authorities have shut down 25 illegal laser disc production lines in a campaign against pornography and pirated products, state-run media reported Thursday. In the past month, authorities renewed their crusade against piracy and porn as part of a Communist Party-ordered campaign to raise public morality. People's Daily said 17 of the underground production lines were found in southeastern Guangdong province, the heart of China's pirated goods industry. The discoveries came after authorities offered rewards for information on illegal goods, the newspaper said. In Beijing, investigators seized 20,000 books and 56,000 audio and video prod-

ucts, about a tenth of which were pornographic, the China Daily said. Police arrested 250 suspects. After years of being prodded by the United States to stamp out widespread piracy of movies, music and computer software, China has increased its efforts in recent months, in part because piracy has harmed the growth of a domestic computer industry.

Serbians waiting to see whether Milosevic will concede Belgrade

By JULIJANA MOJSILOVIC
BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) - A day after the opposition appeared to win control of the government of Serbia's biggest cities, President Slobodan Milosevic's ruling Socialists took back a Belgrade suburb and a small town Wednesday. At a rally in Belgrade, about 20,000 protesters cheered visiting U.S. senators who expressed support for efforts to have the Socialists recognize opposition electoral victories in 14 towns and cities.

Hopes had been generated Tuesday when Belgrade's election commission confirmed that the opposition won the capital Nov. 17. But those hopes were cooling Wednesday. Milosevic has showed no sign of accepting that ruling, and appeared willing to push the confrontation with the opposition even further. Socialists defied a ruling by an international fact-finding commission that the suburb of New Belgrade was won by the opposition. They convened a city council meeting, ignoring protests outside the council offices by about 300 people.

Adding to the gloom, a court determining who should run the central Serbian town of Smederevska Palanka ruled in favor of Milosevic's Socialists. The court recognized a runoff vote won by Milosevic's Socialists. The opposition boycotted the runoff, insisting that original results giving it victory be respected. Student demonstrators, who have been holding rallies separate to those organized by the political opposition, also suffered a setback. Belgrade University's board of governors refused to fire Dragutin Veljkovic, the institution's pro-government dean. State TV claimed Education Minister Dragoslav Mladenovic, who was at a meeting of the university board of governors, was attacked by irate students after the ruling. On Tuesday, local election commissions had declared the opposition the winners of Serbia's two biggest cities, Belgrade and Nis.

Milosevic seemed ready to accept election defeat in Nis, and to make some other minor concessions. However, giving up the capital would be very difficult for the man who has ruled Serbia with a tight grip since 1987. Upping the pressure on Milosevic, the small New Democracy party, part of the Serbian government coalition led by the Socialists, warned him to play by democratic rules or risk a split. "If they use the situation to intensify - I mean to introduce - dictatorship, we will see no point ... in continuing in the government," said New Democracy leader Dusan Mihajlovic, whose party controls eight seats in parliament. Without those seats, the government coalition would be in the minority and could fall. In his bid to maintain party unity, Milosevic on Tuesday purged several key Socialist officials, including Branislav Ivkovic, the head of the powerful Belgrade chapter of the party. But in an inter-

view given before his firing, Ivkovic told the independent daily Blic that the party would "use all legal means" to keep power in the capital.

Ivkovic was replaced by Dragan Tomcic, the hard-line speaker of Serbia's parliament, who has called the demonstrators fascists.

Milosevic also has purged Nebojsa Covic, who had been mayor of Belgrade. In an interview with independent Radio Index on Wednesday, Covic said he was expelled from the party because he wanted a democratic solution to the dispute. "I firmly believe that pro-democratic members of the Socialist Party and others will help establish a rule that election results are sacred," he said. "The situation can only be resolved by democratic means."

Belgraders, who began near daily protests 57 days ago, gathered again in an anti-Milosevic rally. But as in most past days, their numbers were no more than 20,000, noticeably less than in earlier weeks. Again restricted in their movements by riot police, protesters booed and whistled at the officers confining them to a central square. Referring to Milosevic, some people shouted at the police, "You are protecting the thief!"

Chants of "USA, USA" greeted brief comments to the crowd by U.S. Senators Carl Levin, a Michigan Democrat, and Jack Reed, a Democrat from Rhode Island, who earlier met with Yugoslav Foreign Minister Milan Milutinovic. Serbia dominates what remains of Yugoslavia and Milutinovic, like other Yugoslav politicians, is controlled by Milosevic.

Ex-Swiss president apologizes to Jews

By BALZ BRUPPACHER
BERN, Switzerland (AP) - Switzerland's former president apologized Wednesday for calling Jewish demands for a Holocaust compensation fund "blackmail," prompting the head of the World Jewish Congress to resume cooperating with the Swiss government. But even as the government made its peace with Jewish groups, Switzerland's biggest bank sank deeper into a scandal over the Jewish investments. Union Bank of Switzerland admitted Tuesday that it tried to destroy documents relating to transactions during the Nazi era. A security guard saved some of the documents and publicized the incident. Jewish groups have called for a \$250 million compensation fund for former Nazi victims as an appropriate response to allegations that Switzerland colluded with Hitler's Germany, siphoned off Jewish as-

sets and laundered Nazi gold. "I am very sorry that I offended your feelings as well as those of many other people concerned, particularly those of the Jewish community at large," Jean-Pascal Delamuraz, whose one-year term as president ended Jan. 1, wrote in a letter to WJC President Edgar Bronfman. In a newspaper interview on his last day as president Dec. 31, Delamuraz referred to the proposed fund as blackmail and extortion. "The information on which I had based my statement regarding the fund was inaccurate," said Delamuraz, who remains economics minister. He did not elaborate. Bronfman, in a response, wrote that he would return to working closely with Swiss authorities and banks "to resolve outstanding questions which will further our goals of truth and justice."

JOB VACANCIES ANNOUNCEMENT

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) at the Saipan International Airport is looking for applicants for the following positions:

(5) FIVE SECURITY OFFICERS ONE

The employee is responsible for performing specific functions of the airport security including compliance with FAR 107 (federal regulation) which governs the airport security program at CPA. This class is an entry level and responsible for developing skills to effectively perform airport security procedures.

The minimum pay for these positions is \$610 bi-weekly (Pay Level 22/1). The minimum qualifications is any combination equivalent to graduation from high school or GED and AA degree in police science, law enforcement or related field from an accredited U.S. college or University with strong desire to establish a career at CPA.

Application forms are available at the Security Office located on the first floor of the Arrival Building and at the Administration Office of the second floor of the same building at the Saipan International Airport. Applications must be accompanied by an updated credit clearance. For more information, please contact Acting Security Chief Plus M. Helgen at Tel: 664-3535/36.

The deadline for submission of application is January 31, 1996 at 4:30 p.m.

/s/REGINO M. CELIS
Airport Manager
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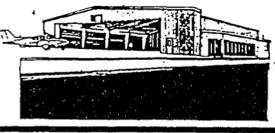
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EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Froilan C. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus C. Borja, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that, the NMHC is soliciting proposals from licensed companies in the Commonwealth engaged in providing building maintenance services to provide, on an "As-Needed Basis", maintenance of its Section 8 Housing Units in Rota.

Sealed proposals will be received until 10:00 A.M., Monday, February 17, 1997 at NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan, at which time and place all proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. The proposal documents, which are available at NMHC's Office, shall be signed by the owner or authorized agent of the firm, and shall be enclosed in an envelope which shall be sealed and clearly labeled, "ROTA-BUILDING MAINTENANCE PROPOSAL." Companies shall be responsible for the placement of its firm's name and address on the outside proposal envelope.

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

Proposal Specifications may be obtained at the NMHC Office in Garapan, anytime between the hours of 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Questions or additional information may be directed to Shirino Ngrasmau, Manager, Technical Maintenance Division at 234-7689/6866, and in Rota, Charles Manglona, Field Office Representative may be contacted at 532-9410.

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

/s/MARYLOU ADA SIROK
Corporate Director

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Yeltsin trip a key health test

By SERGEI SHARGORODSKY MOSCOW (AP) - President Boris Yeltsin's planned meeting next month with European leaders is shaping up as a key test of claims that his health is improv-

ing and he can stay in office, Russian newspapers said Thursday. Presidential aides say Yeltsin will do his best to attend the meeting, but the press was speculating it might be called off, weakening

government claims that the president is recovering from health problems.

"This time, canceling the visit might turn the sympathetic international opinion regarding the Russian president's capabilities into something really ominous," the daily Segodnya wrote Thursday.

Yeltsin has been sidelined since last summer with heart trouble and now pneumonia, raising growing doubts about his ability to govern the country. Some opposition lawmakers have called for Yeltsin's removal, but the administration has insisted the president will stay in office.

Doctors said Wednesday that Yeltsin will stay in the hospital at least until next week to avoid possible heart problems and other pneumonia complications.

A senior Kremlin official said that Yeltsin wants to keep his planned meeting with European Union leaders in The Hague, Netherlands on Feb. 4, and that it will be a sign of how well his recovery is going.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, also said Yeltsin will not return to work in the Kremlin until Jan. 28 at the earliest.

The 65-year-old president is expected to stay at his country home near Moscow after being released from the hospital.

Rumors that his health is worse than what the doctors are willing to admit continue to circulate in Moscow, but Segodnya noted that the nature of the rumors has changed.

"Yeltsin... is causing almost no feelings and thoughts among the voters who chose him, beside



Boris Yeltsin

compassion and concerns about the fragile political stability," it wrote.

Yeltsin has been largely sidelined since winning re-election in July - first with heart problems and now with pneumonia - raising doubts about his ability to govern.

His hard-line foes in parliament have moved to oust the president on grounds of poor health, but were told by their own legal adviser Wednesday that they had no constitutional right to do so.

Viktor Ilyukhin, a senior Communist deputy who drafted the resolution to impeach Yeltsin, said he would press ahead with the attempt, arguing that the legal ruling was merely advisory.

Presidential aides say the talk of impeaching the ailing Russian leader is a groundless attempt to stir up controversy. Yeltsin's chief of staff Anatoly Chubais on Wednesday called it a "political farce."

The chief Kremlin doctor, Sergei Mironov, dismissed suggestions that the president would not be able to perform

his full duties.

According to Mironov, Yeltsin is presently working with documents for 40 minutes to two hours a day. "We are trying to limit his load because the illness is quite deceitful, and alongside good intervals there might be certain problems," Mironov said.

The president's condition has stabilized after a week in the Central Clinical Hospital, Mironov said.

"We must say it's quite a serious disease... which might entail a whole series of complications in the course of the illness and during the later rehabilitation stage," the doctor said.

Mironov cited emphysema, which the medical team managed to prevent by hospitalizing Yeltsin, and "the worsening of the heart's functioning, the development of cardiac insufficiency."

"Luckily, we also are keeping this situation under control and have not found notable developments to the worse," he said at the news conference.

American heart surgeon Michael DeBakey, who advised his Russian colleagues on Yeltsin's operation, said information he received early in the week indicates that "the pneumonia is resolving itself quite satisfactorily, and it will be completely resolved."

Yeltsin's "heart is virtually normal, and is much better able to tolerate developments of the flu," DeBakey said in a telephone interview Wednesday.

Study indicates:

Genes dictate athletic potential

By IRA DREYFUSS WASHINGTON (AP) - Training can go only so far. Much, if not most, of children's differences in athletic abilities may be inherited, a study says.

The study was an attempt to say which is more important in determining a child's skill level - nature, in the form of genes, or nurture, in the form of opportunities to develop skills.

"The majority of the evidence comes down to the nature side of the equation," said researcher Michael C. Neale, an associate professor at the Virginia Institute for Psychiatric and Behavioral Genetics

in Richmond. But the findings can only predict trends, not individual cases, so parents can't tell for sure whether their children will be like them, he said.

The scientists looked at athletic test scores by 105 10-year-old twin pairs and their parents who participated in a long-term study in Belgium. About half the twins were identical, so their genes were the same. The rest were fraternal, so their genetic similarity was no more than would be expected of non-twin brothers and sisters.

The team, led by researcher Hermine H.M. Maes, then looked at how likely the children and parents were to have similar scores. The findings were reported in the American College of Sports Medicine's journal, Medicine and Science in Sports and Exercise.

In several activities, parent and child scores were remarkably in line. Heredity was associated with about three-quarters of the abilities to pull weights with the arms and to do bent-arm hangs. Heredity was associated

with about two-thirds of vertical jump ability.

In aerobic fitness tests, heredity was associated with about two-thirds of ability in male children and almost 90 percent in females.

However, the associations can only indicate a likely relationship. They are not proof genes are the cause.

"It's not like we can turn the genes on and off," Neale said. "We are only estimating through the correlation."

But the research may lead to tests that could help target the heredity factor, much as intelligence tests work today, Maes said. And other scientists are doing DNA research that may locate genes that influence strength and fitness, she said.

The fact that it's hard to put precise numbers on unknown genes means environmental factors should not be downplayed, said researcher Larry A. Tucker of Brigham Young University.

"For example, with obesity, genes are shared - and the kitchen is shared," he said.



British solo sailor Tony Bullimore, center, is comforted by Chief Petty Officer Bosun Peter Wicker, top, and Leading Seaman Clearance Diver, Alan Rub, bottom left, moments after Bullimore was rescued from his capsized boat in the Southern Ocean 2,050 miles (3,300 kms) southwest of Australia. (AP Photo)

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

CUC RFP 97-0011
(January 17, 1997)

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting proposals from qualified A/E engineering firms for the design of CHALAN PALE ARNOLD ROAD SEWER TRANSMISSION LINES on the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

A pre-proposal meeting will be held at the CUC Wastewater Office in Sadog Tasi, Saipan, CNMI at exactly 10:00 a.m. on Thursday, February 06, 1997.

The proposed design scope of work will include the following:

1. Installation of gravity transmission/collector lines and force main lines,
2. Installation of lift stations, including pumps, flow meters and related equipment,
3. Installation of standby generators and generator houses,
4. Installation of service laterals, and
5. Upgrade of existing lift stations affected by connection of new lines.

The selected firm is expected to prepare construction documents consisting of plans and specifications, and project cost estimates. Future population growth and development in the area should be considered in the system design.

Offerors shall provide a certification signed by a principle of the company stating that the company has in the past, and is currently, in compliance with all applicable CNMI and federal labor laws. Should the company be unable to provide such certification, the company must provide a written explanation as to why, including a description of any violations of such labor laws and any remedial action taken. Failure of the company to provide the certification or explanation is grounds to reject the entire proposal.

All responses to the RFP should take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the successful offeror in fulfilling the contract, including excise taxes.

Proposals will be evaluated and preliminary selection made based on Qualification of the principal and proposed staff (25%), Experience in similar projects (25%), Proposed project approach (20%), Time frame of the work (15%), and Completeness of the proposal (15%).

The three design firms which receive the highest ratings will be invited to submit price proposals. CUC will then enter into negotiations with the one submitting the lowest price.

One (1) original and five (5) copies of proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked CUC RFP 97-0011, to Mr. Frank T. Flores, Special Advisor for Material Management Division, P.O. Box 1220, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 4:00 p.m., local time, on February 21, 1997.

The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the necessary funding and/or required approval to enter into legally binding arrangements to complete the entire project.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in its opinion to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of the CUC.

All inquiries shall be directed to Mr. Edward Babauta, Wastewater Division Project Engineer at telephone number (670) 322-6706/7179.

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Executive Director

Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Froilan C. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus C. Borja, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that, the NMHC is soliciting proposals from licensed companies in the Commonwealth engaged in providing building maintenance services, on an "As-Needed Basis", maintenance of its Central Office and Section 8 Housing Units in Saipan.

Sealed proposals will be received until 10:00 A.M., Monday, January 27, 1996 at NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan, at which time and place all proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. The proposal documents, which are available at NMHC's office, shall be signed by the owner or authorized agent of the firm, and shall be enclosed in an envelope which shall be sealed and clearly labeled, "BUILDING MAINTENANCE PROPOSAL". Companies shall be responsible for the placement of its firm's name and address on the outside proposal envelope.

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

Proposal Specifications may be obtained at the NMHC Office in Garapan, anytime between the hours of 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Questions or additional information may be directed to Shirino Ngirasmau, Manager, Technical Maintenance Division at 234-7689/6866.

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

/s/MARYLOU ADA SIROK
Corporate Director

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- Full Time Warehouse Persons
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Experience (1-2 years) preferred, but not necessary. Salary will be commensurate with experience. We offer an excellent benefits program. Anyone interested can apply in person or see Sherry Tenorio at the J.C. Tenorio Ent., Inc. Human Resources Office located in Susupe. No phone calls please.

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- 1994 Mitsubishi Gallant L.S. \$15,995
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- 1996 Ford Taurus G.L. \$18,995
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Search . . .

Continued from page 9

If your not interested in finding out about women's softball leagues, Hungarian military history or any other arcane subject, and you just want to find your old friend from high school, you can do that on the Internet as well. A few savvy computer programers have designed search engines specifically to find people's electronic mail addresses. One of the most popular of these people-finding search engines is Fourll.

Unfortunately not everyone's e-mail address can be found with these search engines. I used Fourll to search for my own name, Charles Wells, and came up with 130 choices. Too bad none of them were me! But that probably won't happen again as Fourll allows you to input your own e-mail address into their system for future reference.

So finding the information you want on the Internet isn't that hard, if you know how to do it.

SIDEBAR

Find your favorite search engine

Below is a list of the addresses of some of the most popular search engines on the World Wide Web.

AltaVista	http://www.altavista.com
Excite	http://www.excite.com
HotBot	http://www.hotbot.com
InfoSeek	http://www.infoseek.com
Lycos	http://www.lycos.com
Weberawler	http://www.weberawler.com
Yahoo! Fourll	http://www.yahoo.com
Fourll	http://www.fourll.com

IN LOVING M.E.M.O.R.Y
of our son, brother, and uncle

PAUL CAMACHO VILLAGOMEZ



We, the family of Paul wish to extend an invitation to all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the Second Anniversary of his passing. DAILY MASS will be offered at Kristo Rai Church beginning on Friday, January 17, 1997 at 6:00 a.m. and will end on Saturday January 25, 1997. On the last day, breakfast will be served following the mass at Kristo Rai Social Hall.

Your presence is greatly appreciated. Si Yuus Maase from the family of Paul

"Have faith that I am nearer than your dreams and fondest longings, for the God of love shall keep all kindred spirits close together, though the misty vale between this world and that to come keep us from each other's sight for a few precious moments. Whisper softly that you love me and shall linger on with my soul until you come. Say good-bye, for on some bright tomorrow we shall meet again."

First Death Anniversary

CONCEPCION Dlg. SANCHEZ



"Chang Juan" or "Chang Apa"

Invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayer for our beloved mother, grandmother, great-grandmother and sister. Daily masses will be offered every 6:00 a.m. at Mt. Carmel Cathedral beginning January 12, 1997 to January 20, 1997.

Rosary will be said nightly at 8:00 p.m., at the family's residence in Tuturam, San Vicente starting January 12 through January 19, 1997.

On the final day, Monday, January 20, 1997, the rosary will be said at 12:00 noon. The Mass for the repose of her soul will be offered at 5:00 p.m. at San Vicente Church. Dinner will follow at the family's residence.

Please join us in prayers
Dangkulo Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase
From The Family

OPA: . . .

Continued from page 1

Variety source confirmed yesterday the reports' existence.

MBG, the Variety was told, has since been awarded a new government contract, but only

Court. . .

Continued from page 1

crib "using extreme force."

The latter part of the video, according to the complaint, showed Sacpa roughly lifting the baby out of her crib. She then placed the baby on the floor in front of the couch "in full view of the video camera."

When the baby cried, the maid covered her mouth for 10 seconds "to muffle the sound." When she resumed crying, Sacpa pushed her, the parents alleged.

Pullout. . .

Continued from page 2

not released.

Under the accord, Israeli troops were to redeploy in Hebron within 10 days of the signing of the agreement.

However, the handover was expected to be completed as early as Friday, with both sides saying speed was important to give extremists from both sides less of a chance to carry out an attack in hopes of scuttling the agreement.

Ibrahim Ghosheh, spokesman for the Islamic Resistance Movement, or Hamas, noted that 20,000 Palestinians would remain in the Israeli-controlled center of the city "at the mercy of settlers and the Israeli army."

Ghosheh pledged "continued resistance and Jihad (holy war) against the Zionist occupation."

Israeli army officers have said they were ready to rede-

ploy in a few hours in the downtown Hebron area to protect the Jewish settlers who live in five compounds fortified with sandbags and bullet-proof watch towers.

A 1.5-meter (5-foot-high) wall will keep apart Arabs and Jews on Martyrs Street, the thoroughfare that links several settler enclaves.

Israeli citizens are already barred from entering most of Arab neighborhoods of the city.

On Thursday, Israeli and Palestinian security officials worked together to prepare the handover. At the Hebron military headquarters, agents of the Palestinians' Preventive Security met with Israeli army commanders.

"We've been asked to come here to keep the situation calm," said one Palestinian security officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Palestinians living near the military headquarters were euphoric as they watched the Is-

raelis prepare to leave. "It is one of the happiest days of my life," said Maher Dandi, a 25-year-old baker.

"I never dreamt the army would leave here."

An Israeli army base in southern Hebron was empty by Thursday morning, and the Israeli flag that had flown over the building late Wednesday was gone. Two soldiers stood guard on the roof. Dozens of Palestinians watched, waiting for the Israelis' departure.

At the Glass Junction in northern Hebron, Israeli soldiers dismantled a checkpoint and a nearby rooftop observation post. Three soldiers in thick winter coveralls silently removed a flag pole. The banner was later seen dangling from the edge of the roof.

The agreement signed Wednesday was a political watershed for Netanyahu, who has made a career out of eloquently arguing against the land-for-peace formula he has now embraced.

and offers the opportunity of help to those that want it and need it.

You're going to have a hard time convincing some fatherless son or husbandless wife that we decided to keep an addict at work so that they could plow through some intersection killing people.

The liability that the Commonwealth incurs with this same scenario is just as bad as what you want to make people think is going to happen to someone that loses their job. Don't worry, Mark, you'll be OK. This experience generally begins a process where addicts get in touch with themselves and have a better chance of regaining their life and their families around them.

Pinhead, our house needs to be in order. And, we need to lead by example.

This policy creates some law and order in itself, but it also provides for education, it is preventive and it intervenes on an existing situation that is out of hand

As far as me being a liability to the community and having made no progress or contributions to the drug problem. I measure my-

Public Auditor Leo LaMotte yesterday said that the CNMI Ethics Code does not allow him to make any statements on an ethical violation case.

MBG, according to an earlier Variety report, "has been involved in formulating anti-drug and alcohol program design and policies for the past 16 years, catering to company-clients in the United States mainland."

Citing the growing number of drug-related crimes in the CNMI, Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio has made the anti-drug campaign one of his administration's "centerpiece programs."

Bill. . .

Continued from page 1

Lt. Gov. Jesus C. Borja.

There are some 23,000 Filipinos working in the CNMI, making them the single largest ethnic group in the Commonwealth.

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PUBLIC NOTICE



This is to inform the Public that Suzanne Salazar who's picture appear hereon is no longer affiliated with the horseriding facilities located on the premises of Mariana Resort. Now under new ownership SILVER SPURR STABLES

ATTENTION ALL FILIPINO ACCOUNTANTS

ALL MEMBERS OF THE MARIANAS INSTITUTE OF FILIPINO CPAs (MIFICPA) WHO WISH TO RENEW THEIR CPA LICENSE ARE REQUESTED TO SECURE RENEWAL APPLICATION.

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Procurement and Supply CNMI Government:

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB97-0048
FOR: LEASE OF VEHICLES
OPENING DATE: Jan. 31, 1997
TIME: 3:00 P.M.

GOVERNOR FROILAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR THE LEASE OF VEHICLES. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.).

/s/ EDWARD B. PALACIOS
Director, Division of Procurement & Supply

Procurement and Supply CNMI Government:

INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB97-0045
FOR: PROCUREMENT OF A VEHICLE
OPENING DATE: Jan. 31, 1997
TIME: 2:00 P.M.

GOVERNOR FROILAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF A VEHICLE. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.).

/s/ EDWARD B. PALACIOS
Director, Division of Procurement & Supply

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of HERMAN O. SOMORANG, Deceased.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 96-876

AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO: ALL PERSONS AND CREDITORS having any interest or claims against the Estate of HERMAN O. SOMORANG

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED the Teresita S. Kaipat, of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, has filed a petition in the Superior Court seeking to be appointed the administratrix of the estate of Herman O. Somorang, deceased. Petitioner's attorney of record is Antonio M. Atalig, Attorney at Law, AAA 122, Caller Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950. The hearing on said petition for letters of administration has been set for February 18, 1997, at 1:30 p.m.

All interested parties should appear at the hearing. Persons having any claims against the estate of said decedent are hereby notified that any and all claims against the estate must be filed with the clerk of court within sixty (60) days of this publication, or the claim will be barred.

Dated: January 6, 1996
/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Estate of VICENTE G. CASTRO, Deceased.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 97-40

NOTICE OF HEARING AND NOTICE TO CREDITORS

TO: ALL PERSONS AND CREDITORS having any interest or claims against the Estate of VICENTE G. CASTRO.

YOU ARE HEREBY NOTIFIED the Teresita S. Kaipat, of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, has filed a petition in the Superior Court seeking to be appointed the administratrix of the estate of Vicente G. Castro, deceased. Petitioner's attorney of record is Antonio M. Atalig, Attorney at Law, AAA 122, Caller Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950. The hearing on said petition for letters of administration has been set for February 18, 1997, at 1:30 p.m.

All interested parties should appear at the hearing. Persons having any claims against the estate of said decedent are hereby notified that any and all claims against the estate must be filed with the clerk of court within sixty (60) days of this publication, or the claim will be barred.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

BELATED Happy Birthday

"IVAN GROOM"

From: Pam, Josie, Ricky, Cathy

HAPPY B-DAY

LOLONG

RM PRINTING Jeanette

Marianas Variety Classified Ads Section

DEADLINE: 12:00 noon the day prior to publication

NOTE: If some reason your advertisement is incorrect, call us immediately to make the necessary corrections. The Marianas Variety News and Views is responsible only for one incorrect insertion. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time.

Employment Wanted



Job Vacancy Announcement

02 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: THE SAMURAI CORPORATION dba Hyaku-Ban Rest./Southern Cross Trop. Rest. Tel. 234-3374(1/17)F227371

01 ASSISTANT MANAGER-Salary:\$1,300.00-1,600.00 per month
01 STORE MANAGER-Salary:\$900.00-1,200.00 per month
05 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05-4.25 per hour
05 COOK-Salary:\$3.05-4.25 per hour
Contact: YANO ENTERPRISES, INC. dba Kinpachi Restaurant/Convenience Kinpachi & Dollar-Shop Tel. 234-6900(1/24)F227372

01 CARPENTER-Salary:\$2.90 per hour
Contact: TRIPLE L CORPORATION Tel. 322-6183(1/24)F227366

01 WAREHOUSE WORKER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: DINO M. JONES dba D/L Recruiting Agency Tel. 322-8151(1/24)F227368

10 CUTTER-Salary:\$2.90-3.20 per hour
50 SEWING MACHINE OPERATORS-Salary:\$2.90-3.20 per hour
01 MACHINE PRESSER (PRESS OPERATOR)-Salary:\$2.90-3.20 per hour
01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary:\$9.39 per hour
Contact: SAM MARIANAS, INC. Tel. 322-3444(1/24)F227370

01 KITCHEN HELPER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: ESCOLASTICA T. CABRERA dba Escolastica's Enterprises Tel. 322-9993(1/24)F227375

01 SALES REPRESENTATIVE-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: RTS TRADING CO., LTD. dba Papa Audio Vision Tel. 322-3012(1/24)F227374

01 ABLE BODIED (SEMAN)-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 CHIEF ENGINEER-Salary:\$1,050.00 per month
Contact: TUGS AND PILOTS, INC. Tel. 322-7788(1/24)F63827

05 MASON-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
05 CHARCOAL (BURNER, BEEHIVE KILN)-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
03 CARPENTER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
05 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
05 DOMESTIC WORKER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 BOILER OPERATOR/MAINTENANCE-Salary:\$600.00 per month
01 MECHANIC (AUTOMOTIVE)-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: KWON ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. 235-2811(1/24)F227379

01 ASSISTANT MANAGER-Salary:\$4.50 per hour
01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:\$3.50 per hour
01 BLDG. MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary:\$3.50 per hour
Contact: NORTHERN MARIANAS INVESTMENT GROUP LTD. Tel. 234-6979(1/17)F227270

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$900.00 per month
Contact: PREMIER INSURANCE COMPANY, INC. Tel. 235-4808(1/17)F227277

01 ELECTRICAL DRAFTER-Salary:\$1,200-\$1,300.00 per month
Contact: EMC2 ELECTRICAL INC. dba EMC2 Tel. 322-1364(1/17)F227292

01 WAITER-Salary:\$3.05-3.39 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN HOTEL CORP. dba Hafadai Beach Hotel Tel. 234-6495 Ext. 806/888(1/17)F63725

01 PAINTER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
02 FINISHER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: B & P INC. dba Smart Furniture Tel. 234-7129(1/17)F227278

02 SURVEYOR-Salary:\$5.00-7.30 per hour
Contact: VICENTE A. SONGSONG dba Ben Songsong & Sons Land Surveying Tel. 322-5132(1/17)F227281

02 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: DUK-SOO DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION Tel. 234-7129(1/17)F227279

01 MACHINE MECHANIC/SEWING MACHINE REPAIRER-Salary:\$3.20 per hour
02 QUALITY CONTROLLER-Salary:\$3.20 per hour
Contact: MICRONESIAN GARMENT MFG. INC. Tel. 235-7121(1/17)F227280

02 (SCUBA DIVING) INSTRUCTOR, SPORTS-Salary:\$1,200.00 per month
Contact: SAIPAN CORAL REEF, INC. Tel. 234-6640(1/17)F227275

03 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: UNIVERSAL (U.S.) DEVELOPMENT INC. dba Holiday Club Tel. 235-4492(1/17)F227282

01 SALES REPRESENTATIVE-Salary:\$950.00 per month
Contact: MECILLE CORPORATION dba Tong Yang Carpet, BIF Furniture Tel. 234-1361(1/17)F227287

01 CHIEF COOK-Salary:\$2,000.00 per month
Contact: SAIPAN KOREANA HOTEL Tel. 235-7161(1/17)F227286

01 PARTS SALESPERSON-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: KANG CORPORATION dba Comm'l. Bldg. Rental, Auto Repair Shop, Generator Repair & Rental, Retail Gen. Mdse. Tel. 288-9368(1/17)F227283

02 AUTO MECHANIC-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
03 AUTO BODY REPAIRER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: FORTUNATO R. MENDEZ dba Mendez Auto Repair Shop Tel. 288-3687(1/17)F227276

05 PACKER (HAND PACKAGER)-Salary:\$2.90-3.05 per hour
10 CUTTER (MACHINE)-Salary:\$2.90-3.05 per hour
10 PRESSER (MACHINE)-Salary:\$2.90-3.05 per hour
25 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary:\$2.90-3.05 per hour
10 QUALITY CONTROL CHECKER-Salary:\$2.90-3.05 per hour
Contact: JIN APPAREL, INC. Tel. 234-3252(1/17)F227284

04 SCUBA DIVING INSTRUCTION-Salary:\$1,000.00 per month
Contact: BIG DOG CORPORATION dba Big Dog Dive Station Saipan Tel. 322-2363(1/17)F227274

01 SALES REPRESENTATIVE-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: MYUNG SUNG CORPORATION dba International Insurance Agency Tel. 234-1141(1/17)F227272

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
Contact: 3K CORPORATION Tel. 235-2222(1/17)F227271

01 TRAVEL AGENT-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: INTERKAM CORPORATION dba Interkam Travel Agency (1/17)F227273

01 MAINTENANCE (BUILDING REPAIR)-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: JESSIE A & MARIA C. ARIZALA dba Systems Services Company Tel. 234-5334(1/13)F227474

01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: SATIGGARIUS CORP. dba World Traders Micronesia Tel. 235-1607(1/13)F227486

01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: ONWEL MANUFACTURING (SAIPAN) LTD. Tel. 234-9522(1/31)F227466



01 ASSISTANT MANAGER, RESERVATIONS-Salary: \$1,800.00 per month
01 INVENTORY CONTROL MANAGER-Salary: \$1,700.00 per month
Contact: SAIPAN LAULAU DEVELOPMENT, INC. dba LaoLao Bay Golf Resort Tel. 256-8888(1/31)F63935

02 SEWING MACHINE REPAIRER (MECHANIC)-Salary: \$2.90-8.00 per hour
Contact: PANG JIN SANG SA CORPORATION Tel. 234-7951(1/31)F63936

01 REFRIGERATION TECHNICIAN-Salary: \$3.95-4.25 per hour
01 AUTO BODY REPAIRER-Salary: \$6.45-6.80 per hour
01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$5.95-6.30 per hour
04 STEVEDORE 2-Salary: \$3.05-3.25 per hour
01 FORKLIFT OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05-3.25 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN STEVEDORE COMPANY, INC. (1/31)F63939

06 HOUSEKEEPING CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05-4.17 per hour
Contact: PACIFIC MICRONESIA CORPORATION dba Dai-Ichi Hotel Tel. 234-6412(1/31)F63946

01 BATCHING PLANT SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$900.00 per month
01 DIESEL EQUIPMENT MECHANIC-Salary: \$750.00 per month
01 QUARRY MANAGER-Salary: \$1,200.00 per month
01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$975.00 per month
05 H.E. MECHANIC-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
10 H.E. OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: JG SABLAN ROCK QUARRY, INC. Tel. 234-3221(1/31)F63951

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: JG SABLAN ICE AND WATER CO., INC. Tel. 234-3221(1/31)F63952

01 MASON-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
05 CONSTRUCTION HELPER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: JG SABLAN REALTY & CONSTRUCTION CO. INC. Tel. 234-3221(1/31)F63953

02 NIGHT CLUB-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
02 WAITER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
02 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: CHANPAC, INC. dba Club Jama Tel. 235-9182(1/31)F227460

02 SECURITY GUARD-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: DANTE R. FLOJO/UNIVERSAL SECURITY AGENCY Tel. 288-3741(1/31)F227461

01 TOUR GUIDE-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: SHARP TRAVEL & TOURS, INC. dba Saipan Sharp Travel & Tour Tel. 235-0405(1/31)F227462

01 MAINTENANCE BUILDING REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
02 SINGER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
05 WAITRESS (Night Club)-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: WESTERN PACIFIC ENTERPRISES, INC. dba Kimchi Cabana Night Club & Rest. Tel. 234-6622(1/31)F227464

01 FINISHING SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$4.25 per hour
01 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.15-5.00 per hour
07 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$2.90-3.05 per hour
Contact: MICHIGAN, INC. Tel. 234-9555(1/31)F227465

50 GARMENT WORKER-Salary: \$2.90 per hour
Contact: ONWEL MANUFACTURING (SAIPAN) LTD. Tel. 234-9522(1/31)F227466

30 CARPENTER SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$3.50 per hour
20 PAINTER-Salary: \$2.90 per hour
01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
03 PLUMBER-Salary: \$2.90 per hour
10 STEELMAN-Salary: \$2.90 per hour
05 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR-Salary: \$2.90 per hour
20 MASON, CEMENT-Salary: \$2.90 per hour
30 CARPENTERS-Salary: \$2.90 per hour
01 OPERATION MANAGER-Salary: \$800.00 per month
04 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: GEM DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION Tel. 256-0750(1/31)F227471

FOR LOCAL HIRE ONLY
We are looking for
11 SECURITY GUARDS
Please Call Renaissance International for more information
Tel.: 234-1314

MESSENGER / CLERK NEEDED
Must be a hard worker and detail oriented
Any typing or computer experience is a plus
Salary negotiable based on experience
Hours are flexible
Must have own car for use in running errands, etc.
Interested party may call tel. no. 233-2089 to provide bio-data/ resume and to set up interview.

ALL 1994 MODEL CARS FOR SALE
OPEN JEEP SAFARI KAR \$3,999
2DR/AUTO HYUNDAI EXCEL \$5,400
2DR/STND MITS. MIRAGE \$8,199
2 DR/AUTO MITS. MIRAGE \$8,999
FOR MORE INFO - Call 288-0042

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS
Pacific Financial Corporation, Plaintiff,
vs
Juan Sablan Cepeda Defendant.
Civil Action No. 96-654
FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on December 4, 1996, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, for current lawful money of the United States, all of the right, title and interest of Defendants in and to the following property: land situated in Koblerville, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, designated as Lot 005 I 088, containing an area of 925 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing of Cadastral Plat No. 005 I 01 the original of which was recorded on March 11, 1993, as document No. 16706 at the Land Registry, Saipan.
The sale will be held on Friday, February 14, 1997, at the hour of 1:00 p.m., at the law offices of White, Pierce, Mailman & Nutting, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands.
The sale will be held without any warranties whatsoever, whether express or implied, all of which are hereby expressly disclaimed. The sale is subject to approval by the Court. The right is reserved to reject any and all bids, for any reason.
DATED, this 26th day of December, 1996.
/s/ JOHN B. JOYNER

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
In the Matter of Petition for adoption of:
KATHERINE CABRERA UBONGEN, minor,
by: JOANN MENO UBONGEN, Petitioner.
ADOPTION CASE NO. 97-04
NOTICE OF HEARING
Notice is hereby given that on February 13, 1997 at 1:30 P.M. in the courthouse of the Superior Court in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the petitioner will petition the Court to adopt the above-named minor.
Dated this 14th day of January, 1997
/s/ REYNALDO O. YANA
Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
In the Matter of Petition for adoption of:
BETHANY DALIVA GARFIL, minor,
by: FLORIDA AGDA GRIZZARD, Petitioner.
ADOPTION CASE NO. 97-06
NOTICE OF HEARING
Notice is hereby given that on February 13, 1997 at 1:30 P.M. in the courthouse of the Superior Court in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the petitioner will petition the Court to adopt the above-named minor.
Dated this 15th day of January, 1997
REYNALDO O. YANA
Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT FOR THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN RE ESTATE OF, JESUS PANGELINAN MAFNAS, Deceased
CIVIL ACTION NO. 95-781
AMENDED NOTICE OF HEARING PETITION FOR COURT CONFIRMATION AND APPROVAL OF SETTLEMENT AND ATTORNEY FEES
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Rulo T. Mafnas, Administrator of the above Estate, has submitted a petition for an order approving settlement and attorneys' fees and that the hearing currently scheduled for January 14, 1997 is now rescheduled for February 18, 1997 at 1:30 p.m., at the Superior Court for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, at the courthouse on Saipan, has been set for the hearing of said petition, and all persons interested are hereby notified to appear at the time and place set for said hearing and show cause, if any they have, why the order should not be made. Reference is hereby made to said petition for further particulars.
DATED: January 14, 1997
/s/ DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT
Commonwealth Superior Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
In the Matter of Petition for adoption of:
KATHERINE CABRERA UBONGEN, minor,
by: JOANN MENO UBONGEN, Petitioner.
ADOPTION CASE NO. 97-04
NOTICE OF HEARING
Notice is hereby given that on February 13, 1997 at 1:30 P.M. in the courthouse of the Superior Court in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the petitioner will petition the Court to adopt the above-named minor.
Dated this 14th day of January, 1997
/s/ REYNALDO O. YANA
Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
In the Matter of Petition for adoption of:
BETHANY DALIVA GARFIL, minor,
by: FLORIDA AGDA GRIZZARD, Petitioner.
ADOPTION CASE NO. 97-06
NOTICE OF HEARING
Notice is hereby given that on February 13, 1997 at 1:30 P.M. in the courthouse of the Superior Court in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the petitioner will petition the Court to adopt the above-named minor.
Dated this 15th day of January, 1997
REYNALDO O. YANA
Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
In the Matter of Petition for adoption of:
BETHANY DALIVA GARFIL, minor,
by: FLORIDA AGDA GRIZZARD, Petitioner.
ADOPTION CASE NO. 97-06
NOTICE OF HEARING
Notice is hereby given that on February 13, 1997 at 1:30 P.M. in the courthouse of the Superior Court in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the petitioner will petition the Court to adopt the above-named minor.
Dated this 15th day of January, 1997
REYNALDO O. YANA
Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
In the Matter of Petition for adoption of:
BETHANY DALIVA GARFIL, minor,
by: FLORIDA AGDA GRIZZARD, Petitioner.
ADOPTION CASE NO. 97-06
NOTICE OF HEARING
Notice is hereby given that on February 13, 1997 at 1:30 P.M. in the courthouse of the Superior Court in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the petitioner will petition the Court to adopt the above-named minor.
Dated this 15th day of January, 1997
REYNALDO O. YANA
Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
In the Matter of Petition for adoption of:
BETHANY DALIVA GARFIL, minor,
by: FLORIDA AGDA GRIZZARD, Petitioner.
ADOPTION CASE NO. 97-06
NOTICE OF HEARING
Notice is hereby given that on February 13, 1997 at 1:30 P.M. in the courthouse of the Superior Court in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the petitioner will petition the Court to adopt the above-named minor.
Dated this 15th day of January, 1997
REYNALDO O. YANA
Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
In the Matter of Petition for adoption of:
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Dated this 15th day of January, 1997
REYNALDO O. YANA
Attorney for Petitioner

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REYNALDO O. YANA
Attorney for Petitioner

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REYNALDO O. YANA
Attorney for Petitioner

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REYNALDO O. YANA
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
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REYNALDO O. YANA
Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
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REYNALDO O. YANA
Attorney for Petitioner

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REYNALDO O. YANA
Attorney for Petitioner

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BETHANY DALIVA GARFIL, minor,
by: FLORIDA AGDA GRIZZARD, Petitioner.
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Dated this 15th day of January, 1997
REYNALDO O. YANA
Attorney for Petitioner

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In the Matter of Petition for adoption of:
BETHANY DALIVA GARFIL, minor,
by: FLORIDA AGDA GRIZZARD, Petitioner.
ADOPTION CASE NO. 97-06
NOTICE OF HEARING
Notice is hereby given that on February 13, 1997 at 1:30 P.M. in the courthouse of the Superior Court in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the petitioner will petition the Court to adopt the above-named minor.
Dated this 15th day of January, 1997
REYNALDO O. YANA
Attorney for Petitioner

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
In the Matter of Petition for adoption of:
BETHANY DALIVA GARFIL, minor,
by: FLORIDA AGDA GRIZZARD, Petitioner.
ADOPTION CASE NO. 97-06
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EK & MEEK®

by Howie Schneider



Garfield®

by Jim Davis



PEANUTS®

by Charles M. Schulz



YOUR BIRTHDAY

By Stella Wilder

Born today, you are destined to be remembered because you have something special in your character which will secure your place in history. Whether you are remembered for good or ill, however, will be entirely up to you. You will have to make a few pivotal decisions during your life that will determine whether you will be virtuous or villainous. However, you must not think that if you are a certain way now, you cannot change into something else later. When you fulfill your destiny, you must work to maintain the status you have attained.

There are times when you can be selfish and egocentric, but you are also capable of great generosity and warmth. Someone who is very special to you will help you to develop your social skills. She will not tolerate you when you are in one of your dark moods.

Also born on this date are: James Earl Jones, actor; Vidal Sassoon, hair stylist; Don Zimmer, baseball player and manager.

To see what is in store for you tomorrow, find your birthday and read the corresponding paragraph.

CLOSERS

COLUMN CLOSERS BY KEN KURSON

The book "The Beardstun Ladies Common Sense Investment Guide" has been on best-seller lists for months, and it's easy to see why. A tale of elderly ladies amassing double-digit returns from a stock club that's as likely to discuss recipes and sewing as short-selling and earnings has proven irresistible to readers — and to financial writers and talk show talent bookers. A California newsletter called "Kevin Pilot's Vulture Letter" begs to differ, however. His analysis of their performance since the beginning of last year leads him to the conclusion that these ladies from Illinois "probably fared better from book royalties than investing."

The world's most comfortable — and expensive — bed is one made for burn victims. The mattress is a 12-inch layer of small ceramic beads

Superbowl Preview

Packers bring balanced attack

By ARNIE STAPLETON
GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP) - The Green Bay Packers reached the Super Bowl by adding a deadly running attack to their offensive arsenal.

They did it out of necessity, with five of their last six games, including playoffs, at frigid Lambeau Field. Over that span, they averaged 151 rushing yards, an almost unheard-of total for a team that lives by the pass. But will the running game be a luxury at New Orleans when the Packers take on the New England Patriots in the Super Bowl on Jan. 26?

Split end Antonio Freeman said Wednesday that he anticipates playing a bigger role in Green Bay's offense in the climate-controlled Superdome. "Hopefully, now that we're back indoors, on a sure-footed surface, we can get back to really playing Packer offense," he said. Which means two-time MVP Brett Favre ailing it out. He hasn't had to do too much of that over the last month and a half.

The Packers played at Lambeau three times in December and in the playoffs faced San Francisco in a driving rainstorm that reduced the field to a mud pit. Last Sunday, Green Bay beat Carolina in minus-17 wind chill on Sunday.

Mike Holmgren said he's not sure if he'll use Edgar Bennett, Dorsey Levens and William Henderson less in Louisiana. "That's a good question," the Packers coach said Wednesday. "I think in both the 49ers game and the Carolina game, the conditions for throwing the ball were poor. And so, yes, you had to run the ball more. And I'm not sure that we're going to run the ball as much, because we don't have to worry about that stuff."

General manager Ron Wolf said last week that "our team is structured for the weather" and that he seeks "players that can run around and play in mud and slop."

Bennett is his prime catch. The fifth-year running back from Florida State is one of the best cold-weather backs in football, a designation of which Bennett isn't exactly fond. "I'm not a cold-weather back," he insisted. "I'm good in cold weather because they give it to me a lot in cold weather. If they give me the ball to run in warm weather, I'm still a good running back."

"I think that statement's a little overated, the fact we built our team for the elements," Holmgren said. "The area where it shows the most is with Edgar Bennett, in my opinion, because he's such a good runner in bad conditions. But he's a good player on turf as well; he's just really good in that other stuff." The fact is few Packers can stand the cold. "I don't think our receivers like sloppy track. I know that Brett doesn't like the elements," Holmgren said. "Our defense, since our team speed is good on defense, I don't think the elements help us there." Favre, for one, is looking forward to playing inside.

Brandon Concepcion, Jesse Tenorio and Dela Cruz conspired for a 9-2 blast to end the quarter with MHS on top by three, 33-30.

In the third quarter, Dela Cruz got strong support from Raymond Guerrero, Peter Tomokane and Joey Duenas as the Knights went on with a 10-2 blast to grab the lead for good, 44-39.

With their offense at full throttle and their defense at its best, MCS limited the Dolphins to mere two points while racking seven more to end the third with a 10 point lead, 51-41.

In the final period, the two teams battled to even terms. With Christian Atalig scoring of several coast to coast drives and left handed lay-ups, MHS came within six, 53-59 with 4:00 left in the playoff period. A three point play by Guerrero, however, doused cold water to the Dolphins searing rally.

The Dolphins never came nearer than five points the rest of the way. The Knights clinched the win after 4-4 slate after a winless start last week. The losses dropped Team #4 and JTG Enterprises with similar 1-7 slates.

Shirley's Coffee Shop followed its 4-0 start with a 3-1 win versus CMPG while Martha's Poker had the same winning margin after nosing V&I in lanes five and six.

Paras Enterprises bounced back into contention after a 0-4 opening day loss with a 3-1 triumph over Marianas Star. The setbacks dropped Marianas Star to 10th overall with 1-7 record.

In the team's all events, Martha's Poker won the series categories while EPC and Jokers split the remaining two categories.

Martha's rolled 2,066 and 2,381 pins to win the high scratch and high handicaps series while EPC cracked 749 for the best high scratch game score. Joker's rolled 861 pins for the best mark in the high handicap game.

Following is the partial list of entries in the Kart Championships:
S Stock-Akari Iwai, Mitsuru Suda, Gouta Nagashima, Takamitsu

Alvarez comprised the participants in Open Division.
The fast YZ Stock category have at least 14 competitors with Team Willy having the most number of entries with six.

Aside from Team Willy, OKC and Saipan Kart Club, the field include La Maree RT, PRKC Team Paddock, Noba Kart Racing, Kart Shop Hama, Kart G Crash Mate, Marmade Racing, KBF, Skuderia TKM, Dinky, Kart Club Nagaoaka, Rum Racing, Express, Brute and KC Nagahara.

Except for the Guam based racing clubs and Saipan Kart Club, all the remaining teams are from Japan.

Following is the partial list of entries in the Kart Championships:
S Stock-Akari Iwai, Mitsuru Suda, Gouta Nagashima, Takamitsu

White to play and mate in three. Answers should be sent to "64" c/o The Marianas Variety, P.O. Box 231, Saipan MP 96950, or faxed through 234-9271.

You can also send your solution via e-mail; our address is <younis@mtcncmi.com>

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Superbowl Champions

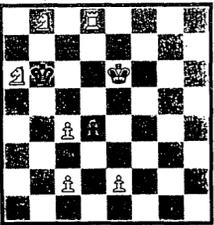
By The Associated Press

Year	Team	Year	Team
1957	Green Bay (NFL) 35, Kansas City (AFL) 10	1967	Bart Starr, QB, Green Bay
1958	Green Bay (NFL) 33, Oakland (AFL) 14	1968	Bart Starr, QB, Green Bay
1959	N.Y. Jets (AFL) 16, Baltimore (NFL) 7	1970	Len Dawson, QB, Kansas City
1970	Kansas City (AFL) 23, Minnesota (NFL) 7	1971	Chuck Howley, LB, Dallas
1971	Baltimore (AFC) 16, Dallas (NFC) 13	1972	Roger Staubach, QB, Dallas
1972	Dallas (NFC) 24, Miami (AFC) 3	1973	Jake Scott, S, Miami
1973	Miami (AFC) 14, Washington (NFC) 7	1974	Larry Csonka, RB, Miami
1974	Miami (AFC) 24, Minnesota (NFC) 6	1975	Francisco Harris, RB, Pittsburgh
1975	Pittsburgh (AFC) 21, Dallas (NFC) 17	1976	Lynn Swann, WR, Pittsburgh
1976	Oakland (AFC) 32, Minnesota (NFC) 14	1977	Fred Biletnikoff, WR, Oakland
1977	Dallas (NFC) 27, Denver (AFC) 10	1978	Randy White, DT and Harvey Martin, DE, Dallas
1978	Pittsburgh (AFC) 35, Dallas (NFC) 31	1979	Terry Bradshaw, QB, Pittsburgh
1980	Pittsburgh (AFC) 31, Los Angeles (NFC) 19	1980	Terry Bradshaw, QB, Pittsburgh
1981	Oakland (AFC) 27, Philadelphia (NFC) 10	1981	Jim Plunkett, QB, Oakland
1982	San Francisco (NFC) 26, Cincinnati (AFC) 21	1982	Joe Montana, QB, San Francisco
1983	Washington (NFC) 27, Miami (AFC) 17	1983	John Riggins, RB, Washington
1984	L.A. Raiders (AFC) 38, Washington (NFC) 9	1984	Marcus Allen, RB, L.A. Raiders
1985	San Francisco (NFC) 38, Miami (AFC) 16	1985	Joe Montana, QB, San Francisco
1986	Chicago (AFC) 46, New England (AFC) 10	1986	Richard Dent, DE, Chicago
1987	N.Y. Giants (NFC) 39, Denver (AFC) 20	1987	Phil Simms, QB, N.Y. Giants
1988	Washington (NFC) 42, Denver (AFC) 10	1988	Doug Williams, QB, Washington
1989	San Francisco (NFC) 42, Denver (AFC) 10	1989	Jerry Rice, WR, San Francisco
1990	San Francisco (NFC) 20, Cincinnati (AFC) 16	1990	Joe Montana, QB, San Francisco
1991	N.Y. Giants (NFC) 20, Buffalo (AFC) 19	1991	Ottis Anderson, RB, N.Y. Giants
1992	Washington (NFC) 37, Buffalo (AFC) 24	1992	Mark Rypien, QB, Washington
1993	Dallas (NFC) 52, Buffalo (AFC) 17	1993	Troy Aikman, QB, Dallas
1994	Dallas (NFC) 30, Buffalo (AFC) 13	1994	Emmitt Smith, RB, Dallas
1995	San Francisco (NFC) 49, 26	1995	Steve Young, QB, San Francisco
1996	Dallas (NFC) 27, Pittsburgh (AFC) 17	1996	Larry Brown, CB, Dallas

64...

Continued from page 44

1. e4 c5 2. Nf3 Nc6 3. d4 cxd4 4. Nxd4 g6
Widely considered to saddle Black with a space disadvantage since White can now set up the so-called Maroczy Bind based on the move c4.
However, in recent games Anand has made something of a living with this variation as Black, thwarting all White's attempts to gain the initiative and landing the occasional devastating counterpunch when White has overreached.
5. c4 Nf6 6. Nc3 d6 7. Be2 Nxd4 8. Qxd4 Bg7 9. Be3 0-0 10. Qd2 Be6 11. 0-0 Qa5 12. Rab1!
A subtle improvement on Ivanchuk-Anand, played in Moscow earlier in 1994 where 12. Racl Rfc8 13. b3 a6 14. f4 b5 led to a possible with fighting chances for both sides.
12... Rfc8 13. b3 Nd7 14. Rfe1 Qd8
Black's strategy has essentially been refuted. The defense runs more easily when Black can exchange queens. Having avoided this, White now enjoys a more or less free hand on the kingside, where he plans to advance.
15. Nd5 Nc5 16. Bf3 a5 17. h4 Bxd5
Annoying though White's knight is in its central post, Black should have just blocked White's advance with 17... h5.
18. exd5 Qd7 19. Qe2 Re8 20. h5 Qf5 21. Rd1 Be5
The final error in a strategic sense, which allows White's attack to develop with irresistible impetus.
22. g4 Qc8 23. Kg2 Bg7 24. Rh1 Nd7 25. hxb6 hxb6 26. Rh4 a4 27.



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Dolphins...

Continued from page 44

before Joey dela Cruz led the Knights to a late quarter comeback. With the Dolphins up by eight, 12-4, Dela Cruz and company exchanged baskets with the Dolphins to come within six, 16-10.
A three pointer by Knights' Geoffrey George with 24 seconds left in the first quarter ended the scoring for both teams with the Dolphins up by five, 18-13.
In the second quarter, the Knights continued to claw back in the ball game cutting the Dolphin's lead to two, 23-21 with 4:45 left.
In the next two possessions, MHS rattled two baskets while the Knights flubbed four consecutive trips to the free throw lane to pad their lead back to six points, 27-21. Daryl Babauta and Jessie Taliano added one basket apiece as the Dolphins threatened to pull away. With 1:51 left in the second canto,

Rebusada...

Continued from page 44

handicap series with 634 and 667 pins.
His efforts, except in the high handicap series, are the current year to date standards in the two week old tournament.
Boosted by Rebusada's impressive show, EPC vaulted to second place in the overall standings after beating Kan Pacific, 832-728; 761-746; and 703-729. EPC made it a 3-1 victory after prevailing in the total pins scored with 2,296 as against Kan's 2,203.
The victories gave EPC a 7-1 win loss slate, along with IT&E and Shirley's Coffee Shop but IT&E's superior pin total gave the team the top spot. EPC is behind by 101 pins for second while Shirley's is third.
IT&E and Joker's shared the limelight with Rebusada by blanking separate rivals. IT&E humbled Team #4 while the Joker's proved too much against JTG Enterprises.
The shutout wins by Joker's enabled the team to climb to sixth with an even

National Basketball Association

Bulls gore T-wolves, 112-102

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) - Dennis Rodman kicked a courtside cameraman in the groin during the third quarter Wednesday night in the Chicago Bulls' 112-102 victory over the Minnesota Timberwolves.
The game was tied 71-71 when Rodman stumbled out of bounds along the baseline. While on the floor, Rodman kicked out with the bottom of his foot and hit the cameraman in the groin. The cameraman slumped over for about seven minutes before he was carried off on a board.

Rodman remained in the game, which Scottie Pippen soon took over by scoring nine points in an 11-0 run. Pippen finished with 29 points, Michael Jordan had 25 and Jason Caffey 20. It was Chicago's eighth straight win. SuperSonics 122, Raptors 78
In Seattle, Sam Perkins tied an NBA record by going 8-for-8 from 3-point range and Seattle set a league record with 27 steals. Perkins, who had 26 points,

the record for most 3-pointers without a miss set by Jeff Hornacek of Utah on Nov. 23, 1994, against Seattle.
The Sonics' 27 steals broke the mark of 25 set by Golden State twice - in 1975 and 1989. Seattle also set a club record with 15 3-pointers.
Shawn Kemp had 25 points and 12 rebounds, Hersey Hawkins added 21 points and four 3-pointers, and Gary Payton contributed 15 points, 10 assists and three steals as the Sonics won their sixth straight game in January.

Warriors 128, 76ers 111
In Philadelphia, Latrell Sprewell scored 38 points and Golden State held off a late rally to defeat Philadelphia.
It was Philadelphia's 10th straight loss and the Sixers' 20th in 21 games. Clarence Weatherspoon had a season-high 34 points for the Sixers, who came back from a 24-point, third-quarter deficit to pull within six with 2:54 left.
Sprewell, who played all 48 minutes, answered with a jump shot and

Chris Mullin made two free throws to stave off the rally.
Hornets 116, Nets 104
In Charlotte, North Carolina, Glen Rice scored 13 of his 35 points in the final 10 minutes to rally Charlotte over New Jersey.
Vlade Divac added 25 points and 12 rebounds and Anthony Mason had 20 points and 17 rebounds for the Hornets, who used a 14-0 run in the third to snap a three-game losing skid against the Nets.
Ex-Hornet Kendall Gill had 30 points to lead the Nets, who lost their fourth in a row.

Magic 78, Mavericks 66
In Dallas, Penny Hardaway scored 26 points and Orlando held Dallas to the lowest point total in franchise history.
Horace Grant had 14 points and nine rebounds for the Magic, who won for the fourth time in five games.
Jim Jackson and Derek Harper had 12 points apiece and Chris Gatling added 11 for the Mavericks, whose previous franchise-low was 68 points on Feb. 4, 1981, against the Houston

Rockets.
Knicks 94, Spurs 77
In San Antonio, Allan Houston scored 20 points, including 13 in the third quarter, and New York pulled away in the final period for a victory over San Antonio.
New York, which bounced back from a 20-point loss a night earlier at Houston and won for the fifth time in six games, had five players score in double figures.
Patrick Ewing had 18 points and 11 rebounds, John Starks added 13 points and Charles Oakley had 11 rebounds.
San Antonio, which lost its sixth straight game, was led by Vernon Maxwell's 22 points.

Pistons 103, Grizzlies 79
In Vancouver, British Columbia, Grant Hill fell one assist short of a triple-double for the second straight night as he led Detroit over Vancouver.
Hill finished with a game-high 31 points, 11 rebounds and nine assists before going to the bench for good with 5:23 left.
After leading the NBA with 10

triple-doubles last season, Hill has only one this year, recorded last month against the New York Knicks. He had 20 points, 10 rebounds and nine assists Tuesday night.
The Grizzlies, who lost their fifth straight at home and ninth in their last 10 games overall, were led by rookie Shaiqee Abdur-Rahim's 15 points.
Pacers 108, Clippers 93
In Los Angeles, Reggie Miller scored 25 points as Indiana beat Los Angeles for the eighth straight time. Darrick Martin had 15 points and Loy Vaught contributed 13 points and 12 rebounds for the Clippers, who have lost three straight following a four-game winning streak.
The Pacers opened the second half with a 15-5 spurt to extend their five-point halftime margin to 75-60.
The Clippers got as close as nine points on Vaughn's dunk, but the Pacers responded with a pair of 3-pointers 47 seconds apart by Miller and Travis Best, triggering a 14-5 spurt in the final 4:06 of the third that gave Indiana an 89-71 cushion. Los Angeles got no closer than the final margin.

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Padres still uncertain over Japanese star pitcher

By BERNIE WILSON
SAN DIEGO (AP) - When the San Diego Padres announced a working agreement with the Chiba Lotte Marines of the Japanese Pacific League last weekend, the National League team said they had obtained exclusive negotiating rights with star right-hander Hideki Irabu. However, the Padres might not have a lock on Irabu's exclusive negotiating rights. It remains to be seen if other clubs object, and could depend on how much noise Irabu and his agent make. Baseball's ruling executive council didn't make a decision when it met Tuesday night, instead appointing a four-man committee to make a recommendation.
Irabu's agent, Don Nomura, made it clear to the Padres that his preference was that his client become a free agent, Padres president Larry

Lucchino said Wednesday during a news conference at the U.S. major league baseball owners' meetings in Scottsdale, Arizona. Nomura, who also is the agent for the Los Angeles Dodgers' Japanese pitcher Hideo Nomo, didn't immediately return a call placed to his Los Angeles office. "There needs to be a little acceptance time," said Lucchino, who met with Nomura and Irabu in Tokyo on Saturday. Lucchino said the Japanese commissioner's office sent a letter to the major league commissioner's office "stating that they did not feel it was appropriate that any others be negotiating with Irabu except for the Padres," Lucchino said. "We've capitalized on an opportunity that was available to all clubs."
Lucchino also said the major league commissioner's office told the Pa-

adres it had no objection to the arrangement. However, the owners' Player Relations Committee has not yet been asked to decide the matter, a management source said speaking on the condition he not be identified.
Some lawyers in baseball fear that if the Padres are given exclusive rights, it would open the possibility of Irabu filing an antitrust lawsuit against baseball. The committee established Tuesday will recommend how relations with Japanese players should be handled. Its members are NL president Len Coleman, AL president Gene Budig, PR Chief Randy Levine and Bill Murray, the executive director of baseball operations for the commissioner's office.
Irabu apparently is signed by Chiba Lotte for 1997-98 and could not be a free agent under Japanese rules. Irabu's rights are assignable, ac-

ording to Lucchino, meaning the Padres could trade him if they don't sign him. His salary last year was 160 million yen (approximately \$1.7 million). About a year ago, Irabu said he would play in the U.S. major leagues "for a penny," according to Lucchino. "We took that more as metaphorical," Lucchino said Wednesday.
Lucchino also said the Padres are considering moving a two-game series against the Houston Astros from San Diego to Honolulu's 50,000-seat Aloha Stadium on April 22-23. Last year, the Padres moved a three-game series to Mexico.
If finalized, they would be the first regular-season major league games in Hawaii, where the Padres once had a minor league Class AAA affiliate.

Avery to relieve Clemens

By JIMMY GOLEN
BOSTON (AP) - Steve Avery isn't sure yet that he will replace Roger Clemens as the ace of the Boston Red Sox pitching staff. That move has to be made by manager Jimmy Williams. "I don't know that I'll be expected to fill those shoes," Avery said Wednesday after meeting the Boston media for the first time. "If Jimmy decides that he wants to put me in that spot, I'm comfortable with it."
In Atlanta, we were expected to win every day. And that's what I think a No. 1 starter is." Clemens left the Red Sox after 13 years for a four-year, \$31 million deal with the Toronto Blue Jays. When the Red Sox realized someone would have to pitch all those innings and make the big starts, they turned to Avery.
Avery's contract will pay him \$4.85 million this year plus incentives. If he pitches regularly, it will also activate an option for him to renew a second year and give the club an option on a third.
He said his preference for only one guaranteed year was more out of fear that he wouldn't like it in Boston than a desire to drive up his salary as a free agent again. "I've been in a real good situation in Atlanta," he said. "I wanted to make sure that I made the right choice. You never really know until you play there for a year. ... If I didn't like it, I would try again."
But another reason that he chose Boston was because of Williams, who was a coach with the Braves. Avery spent his entire career with the Atlanta organization, from the time the Braves made him the third overall pick in the 1988 draft. "When you're coming up in one organization, you just think you'll be there forever," he said. "It is going to be an adjustment for me to come to a new city and a new league. But I look at it as a spark to get you going again."



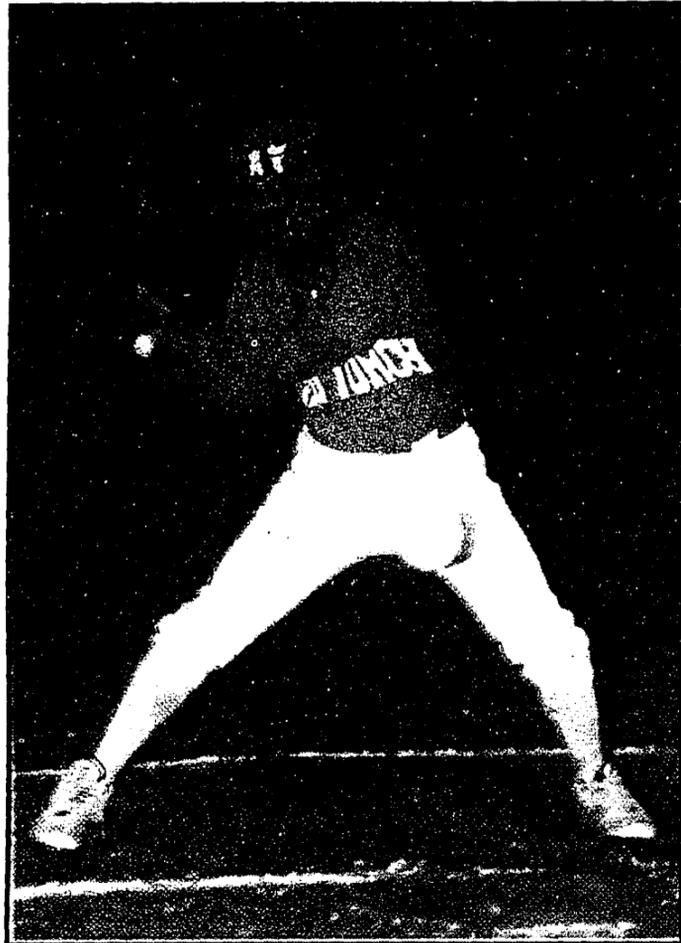
Captive audience—Ray Lizama (from left), Mary Anne Borja, Lt. Governor Jesus Borja and Steve Lizama were among the audience who watched the game between MHS Dolphins and MCS Knights during the opening of the CIFHS Basketball League last Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym. (Photo by Erel A. Cabatbat)

SPORTS



Saipan Men's Slowpitch Playoffs

Favorites march to semis



For a homer—Leeman of Red Torch team is set to hit the ball during the second game between MTC and Athlete's Foot-Sedi Kau last Wednesday night at the Susupe Sports Complex. (Photo by Erel A. Cabatbat)

By Ray Palacios and
Erel A. Cabatbat

Variety News Staff

THE TOP four teams justified their lofty billings after knocking their respective rivals to arrange a semifinal matchup in the Saipan Men's Slowpitch League at the Susupe Sports Complex.

Division A pennant winners arrange a 1-2 clash with Pepsi Spec after knocking upset conscious Yco Servistar in the final game of their best of three series, 21-17.

Spec, on the other hand, needed a final game 3 after MGD came back in the second game 18-4. Pepsi ended MGD's upset bid by routing the team in five innings, 17-3.

In the last pairing, Athlete's Foot-Sedi Kau made a miraculous comeback from a seven run deficit in the third game to nip MTC Red Torch, 14-13.

Earlier Lite Hit&Run Beermen ousted Happy Market II Enforcers, 2-0 in their own best of three series.

In the semifinals, which is being played as of presstime last night, the JET Turtles will face Pepsi Spec while Hit&Run will go up against Sedi Kau.

Turtles 21, Servistar 17

Joe Guerrero led the "A" Division Pennant champs in game 2 by blasting four homeruns, including a grand slam in the top of the seventh that gave the Turtles a 22-16 lead to force a deciding game 3.

Gloyd Martin took over in game 3 ripping out two homeruns as the Turtles ended Servistar's upset run, 21-17.

Trailing 16-10 after 5 1/2 in game two, Servistar came back with Paul Camacho's three-run shot and Elmer Sablan's two-run blast to forge a 16-all tie with six runs in their half of the sixth.

In the changeover, Guerrero ended Servistar's run by scoring his ninth rbi of the game to extend the lead back to six, 22-16. The Turtles never relinquished the lead and eventually hang on to win the game and tie the series with one win apiece.

They went on to secure the first "A" Division semifinal slot with a 21-17 marathon in the third and final game of the best of three series powered by Martin's two homeruns.

The Turtles jumped on top 11-16 after two innings and never trailed the rest of the way.

Sedi Kau 13,
Red Torch 6

The Athletes Foot Sedi Kau were three outs away from elimination but rallied to win their palyoff clash against MTC Red Torch, 14-13 in the final game.

Behind by seven, 6-13, Sedi Kau put up a strong finishing kick an a costly miscue by MTC to gain the second semis berth in the B Division.

The Red Torch forced game 3 by winning game 2, 17-12 behind Clark Ngiraidong's 4 for 4 with a triple and two homeruns and Joe Johanes 3 for 3 with a two-run shot.

Red Torch appeared to have game 3 at hand but a costly error opened the door for Sedi Kau to tie it and force the eighth inning.

Pepsi Spec 17, MGD 3

MGD out-hit Pepsi Spec 18-5 in game two enroute to a 13-3 sixth inning shutout for a rubber match. Spec, however, returned the favor in the third and final game by stopping MGD in five innings, 17-3.

Sherman Ngiraidong and Payton Sakuma each homered and Nick Koshiro hit a two-run triple as Spec jumped on top 7-0 after one inning of play. They extended the lead to 17-3 by out-scoring MGD 10-3 in the next 2 1/2 innings for the win.

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• Zaldy Dandan

The bind that ties

THE OUTSTANDING characteristic of the Sicilian Defence (I. e4 c5), says the late American chess great Reuben Fine, is that it is a fighting game.

Both players must seek their objectives on different sides, which can lead to "deliciously complicated and exciting variations." (For more info, see Fine's classic "The Ideas Behind the Chess Openings.")

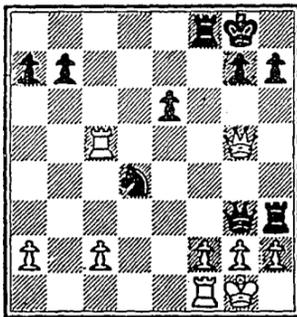
While White usually comes out of the opening with more space, he must not be passive and must attack because time is on Black's side, which is always the case, says Fine, in cramped positions. Moreover, Black's pawn structure is almost always sounder and hence advantageous in the endgame.

However, there is a weapon in White's arsenal that could decisively cripple Black's game—the Maroczy Bind (named after the Hungarian chess great Geza Maroczy [1870-1951]) which will result if Black allows White a chance to push his pawn to c4.

Two of the world's best players—and possible future world champs—provide us an example of how effective the bind is in the following game annotated by British GM Raymond Keene.

Game of the week.

Sicilian Defense
V. Ivanchuk-A. Anand
Buenos Aires, 1994



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CIF High School Basketball League

Dolphins score twinkill

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

MT. CARMEL School trounced Marianas High School in the featured Seniors' match 71-59 in the opening day of the Commonwealth Interscholastic Federation's (CIF) High School Basketball League last Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym but nevertheless lost the

game due to a rule violation.

The victory was declared void after Sr. Kathleen Samiento, MCS principal, told organizers immediately after the game that two Knights failed to meet the grade requirement imposed on all players in the league.

The honesty and conduct of the MCS principal and the rest of the MCS team and coaching staff drew praises from league organizers.

"The act reaffirms one of the goals of the league, that is: education first, then fun. It definitely boosted the tone and the direction the league is heading," Steve Lizama from the Governor's Office on Youth Affairs said.

The Dolphins jumped to an early 8-2 lead with Eric Palacios hitting three consecutive jumpers

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Rebusada shines

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

WHEN HE'S hot, he is really hot.

Jess Rebusada once again reaffirmed his status as one of the island's best pinbusters as he swept the individual all events in the Adam and Eve Mixed Bowling Tournament at the Saipan Bowling Center.

The EPC International stalwart rolled 237 and 248 pins in bagging the weekly honors in the high scratch and high handicap games.

Rebusada likewise had the best scores in the high scratch and high

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1997 Marlboro Kart Championships

Japanese drivers lead entries

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

JAPANESE drivers dominate the number of entries in the 1997 Marlboro Kart Championships set this coming weekend at the Marianas Resort Seaside Circuit.

At least 35 Japanese racers distributed in 18 racing teams have confirmed their participation with several more Guam based clubs expected to arrive to compete in the island's biggest karting event.

Twenty two drivers are set to

answer the gun in the S Stock Division. The hopefuls include thirteen year-old Akari Iwai, who is racing for OKC, is the youngest driver in the pack.

Charles Heddrick of Saipan Kart Club, on the other hand, is the oldest at 48. Seven entries from Guam are also in the 22-man draw.

Team Willy has the most number of entries in the FP Stock Division with six. A total of 15 drivers that include Mike Chavaria and Boss

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