

Tuna cartel mulled

By Marvic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

KOROR, Palau — Chief executives of Micronesia will meet here today to tackle plans to establish a tuna cartel in the region, and discuss other social issues affecting the region, according to Guam Gov. Carl Gutierrez, chairman of the Micronesian Chief Executive Council.

The council's agenda, Gutierrez said, will also focus on training of human resources throughout the region, as well as, the need to monitor drug trafficking within the region.

"We hope to pass resolutions at Monday's meeting, so that we can have a policy statement for us



Carl Gutierrez

to adopt," said Gutierrez in an interview Saturday.

Gutierrez, along with heads and official guests from various countries, participated in the inaugura-

tion ceremonies of Palau's Fifth Constitutional Government.

Also today, Gutierrez will turn over to Palau President Kuniwo Nakamura the leadership of the council which is composed of all island states and U.S. territories in the Micronesian region.

"Our camaraderie will be a big step toward understanding each other, our own needs and own

aspirations," Gutierrez said.

The major concern in the region which Gutierrez said needs to be addressed is the protection of fishing industry in the Pacific.

"We're talking about a tuna cooperative, sort of like a cartel that would allow us to control a major part of the Pacific ocean and protect tuna and other resources," the Guam governor said.

This issue, he added, has to be addressed as "a team."

"We don't want one player to act like a superstar. We don't want one government to license the company and invite that company to fish on our waters. If, for example, we would allow a company to offload in Guam, we should agree to have revenue shar-

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Borja on party decision against a primary:

'They are afraid of me'

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

LIEUTENANT Governor Jesus C. Borja said Friday that he believes he can beat both Gov.



Jesus C. Borja

Froilan C. Tenorio and former governor Pedro P. Tenorio in a three-way race.

Borja, in a media conference, said bowing out of the gubernatorial race in order to be Governor Tenorio's running mate is "definitely out of the question."

He added that the recent decision of the Democratic Party leadership not to hold a primary is a "vote of confidence" on his (Borja's) candidacy.

"I'm convinced that they're afraid of me," he said.

"They don't want me to oppose the governor in a primary because they are sure I'm going to win.

That makes me proud in a way."

He added, however, that the party's decision is "an insult to the people (who have been denied the opportunity) to make a choice."

Reconsider

Jack S. Muña, the chair of the Committee to Elect Borja-Sablan, said yesterday that their group decided Friday to first ask the party leadership to reconsider its decision.

He said they will also question the legality of the resolution adopted Wednesday by the party's central executive com-

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On its way to dump fire

DPW truck carrying 1,500 gallons of water overturns

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THREE persons were hurt when a Public Works truck carrying 1,500 gallons of water overturned along a winding portion of the Cross-island road in Capitol Hill while on its way to the burning Puerto Rico dump Saturday afternoon.

The accident snarled traffic flow as it took staffers of the Departments of Public Works and Public Safety hours to pull the truck back in place.

The incident set back DPW and DPS firefighters' efforts to put out the dump fire be-

lieved caused by a spontaneous combustion last Jan. 19.

Nevertheless, authorities appear to have contained the fire as bulldozers and a crane remain standing by to dig farther into the trash and pull up burning debris some 20 feet below the 30-foot garbage hill.

The dumpsite has remained closed to the public as government personnel continue taking turns dousing the embers with water in an apparent bid to ensure that the fire is finally out.

It took government a whole

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Consul decries 'harassment'

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE PHILIPPINE Consulate decried what it called as an act of harassment -- a letter coming from Rep. Dino Jones asking that the



Generoso Calonge

queried in his letter.

"From year to date, how much revenues [sic] have been collected from fees annually?" he went on.

Consul Generoso Calonge explained that his office may not be compelled to divulge such information by virtue of the provisions on the 1963 Vienna Conventions on Consular Relations.

"This is tantamount to harassment," said Calonge adding though that his office is taking it as lightly as possible "since there

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WEATHER
Outlook

former deliver documents, some of which may be considered confidential.

In his letter dated Jan. 23, Jones requested that copies of docu-

Peru rebels free hostage

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
LIMA, Peru (AP) - Leftist rebels freed a police general from among their dozens of hostages early Sunday for medical reasons.
Police Gen. Jose Rivas Rodriguez was wheeled out of the Japanese embassy residence on a stretcher shortly before 1 a.m. (0600

Negotiator says police are preparing for talks

(GMT) Rivas, a deputy chief of the police high command, was taken to the police hospital.
He was the first hostage freed in more than a week, and his release leaves 72 captives in the hands of

leftist rebels. The last hostage let go also was a police commander, released Jan. 17, also for medical reasons.
The latest release came after about three hours of speculation

that began when a Red Cross doctor entered the residence earlier in the evening, followed later by Red Cross representative Michel Minning and Archbishop Juan Luis Cipriani.

Minning, in a very brief statement, said the Tupac Amaru rebels freed Rivas for medical reasons at the request of Cipriani and the Red Cross.

The situation at the ambassador's residence has been tense in recent days following stepped-up police maneuvers around the mansion, which was seized by rebels nearly six weeks ago.

Peru's chief negotiator said Saturday that the police activity was designed to set the stage for talks to end the standoff. Police have been driving by the Japanese ambassador's home in troop carriers, flying overhead in a helicopter and even tossing stones onto the grounds. Late Friday, they staged what appeared to be a mock raid inside the walled compound.

Several gunshots were heard coming from inside the residence late Saturday afternoon. There was no immediate explanation but there have been similar bursts previously in response to what rebels say was police provocation. Red Cross representative Jean Pierre Schaefer, who visited the residence following the shooting, said no one was hurt by the gunfire. He did not explain the shooting.

Education Minister Domingo Palermo insisted authorities had peaceful motives in their maneuvers.
"The police forces are making a series of preparations for the eventual exit of the (rebels) to begin talks," he said at a news conference. "In no way does it mean

anything else."
The issue of holding talks has been stalled, with the rebels saying they will not negotiate unless the government is willing to discuss their key demand: freedom for hundreds of their jailed comrades.

President Alberto Fujimori has refused the demand, insisting it is not negotiable.

Palermo did not offer a date for the beginning of talks to end the crisis, which has dragged on since Tupac Amaru guerrillas raided the home during a gala party on Dec. 17.

But if talks are held, they likely would take place in a house across the street from the residence. Last week, Red Cross officials were seen inspecting nearby homes.

Palermo said discussions would not occur in the compound for the safety of the mediation panel, which includes Minning, Canadian Ambassador Anthony Vincent and Cipriani.

The Red Cross, trying to ensure that its workers are safe, has insisted that police stay away from the residence while aid workers are inside attending to the hostages.

Police agreed to respect a 10-yard (9 meter)-wide zone, marked with lines of white paint, while Red Cross workers are in the compound. But the Red Cross said police commands entered the zone, and on Friday, it protested the violation by delaying delivery of meals to hostages for four hours.

Fujimori said Saturday that police must patrol the area, but he did not criticize the Red Cross.

The leftist rebels, who seized more than 500 hostages when they stormed the compound, have released most of them. The remaining captives include Peruvian ministers, congressmen, police generals as well as a brother of Fujimori and Japanese diplomats and businessmen.

Clinton gov't prestige on the line in budget battle

By ROBERT H. REID
UNITED NATIONS (AP) - The ability of the Clinton Administration to settle U.S. debts to the United Nations will have a profound impact on the prestige of the United States and that of the new secretary of state, Madeleine Albright. Failure to deliver on promises to settle the U.N. arrears, which President Clinton made last week to Secretary-General Kofi Annan, would have a major impact not only in U.N. circles but on relations with Western Europe, China and Russia as well.

Albright has a special stake in the issue of the arrears, which the United Nations places at \$ 1.3 billion. Various U.S. estimates place the figure between \$ 825 million and \$ 900 million.

As U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, the sharp-spoken Albright played the major role in engineering the ouster of Annan's predecessor, Boutros Boutros-Ghali, by convincing Clinton to veto him for a second term over the objections of nearly all the other 184 U.N. members.

The stated purpose of opposing Boutros-Ghali was because he was sluggish in promoting U.N. reform. But the real reason was that the aloof and aristocratic Boutros-Ghali had become the lightning rod for right-wing American opposition to the United Nations and other multinational institutions.

As long as Boutros-Ghali was at the helm of the United Nations, it became clear that Congress would never approve payment of the U.S. arrears. During their campaign to oust Boutros-Ghali, U.S. diplomats at the United Nations implied that once he was gone, Washington would pay its debts.

Now, with Boutros-Ghali gone and the U.S.-favored Annan in his place, key allies such as France, Germany, Britain and Japan will be looking to Clinton and his secretary of state to make good on their end of the bargain.

But with the Republicans firmly in control of Congress, will the administration succeed?

Japan's Hashimoto, South Korea's Kim conclude informal summit



Ryutaro Hashimoto

By JAI-HYOUNG YUN
BEPPU, Japan (AP) - South Korean President Kim Young-sam and Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto concluded their summit Sunday by agreeing to continue their series of informal meetings.

"I hope we can continue to maintain the kind of relations that enable us to visit each other wearing everyday clothes," Japanese officials quoted Hashimoto as telling Kim.

For his part, Kim told Hashimoto that he was welcome in South Korea anytime, the officials said.

The summit was the second in a series of informal gatherings that the two leaders have begun to conduct. The first, on the South Korean island of Cheju last year, produced an agreement to co-host the 2002 soccer World Cup.

Kim departed this hot spring resort on the southern island of Kyushu for South Korea on Sunday afternoon.

Earlier, he enjoyed a morning jog in brisk temperatures with about 20 aides and a number of police security escorts.

After their breakfast, the two leaders were visited by Beppu Mayor Nobuyuki Inoue and Oita prefectural (provincial) Governor Morihiko Hiramatsu, who had them sign a soccer ball. Oita was selected as one of the Japanese venues for the World Cup matches.

Saturday's summit meeting included an agreement on the two countries' North Korean policy. But it also saw Hashimoto being forced to apologize for pre-summit remarks by his top aide which South Korea found insulting. The aide, Seiroku Kajiyama, suggested that the Japanese military's



Kim Young-sam

use of sex slaves during World War II was justified by the mores of the time.

Despite the furor that resulted in South Korea, Hashimoto and Kim agreed to cooperate in trying to persuade North Korea to join four-way talks on the future of the Korean peninsula. Such talks would include the two Koreas, the United States and China.

North Korea recently issued an apology for a September submarine infiltration into South Korea. Twenty-four North Koreans and 11 South Koreans died in the infiltration and the manhunt that followed.



MOM'S ROUND TWO Menu for the Week

Monday

Homemade Chili Con Carne w/Beans
Choice of Rice, Chips or Flour Tortilla
Served w/Green Salad
\$6.50 (Free Iced Tea)

Tuesday

Stir Fry Mix Sea Food
Yellow Fin, Shrimp and Mussel
Served w/Rice, Mix Vegetable and Roll
\$7.50 (Free Iced Tea)

Wednesday

Shrimp Curry
Served w/Rice, Mix Vegetable and Roll
\$7.50 (Free Iced Tea)

Thursday

Meat Loaf w/Gravy
Served w/Mashed Potato, Mix Vegetable and Roll
\$6.50 (Free Iced Tea)

Friday

Fish & Chips
Served w/Soup of the day
\$7.00 (Free Iced Tea)

Other Specials
2 Sticks w/Rice **\$3.50**
Chicken Pie w/
Mashed Potato **\$6.00**
Grilled Ham and Cheese
w/Fries **\$5.25**



Open 10:00 A.M. to 2:00 A.M.

Palau leadership sworn in



Kuniwo Nakamura

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

KOROR, Palau — Some 5,000 people including official guests and dignitaries from 14 states gathered amid drizzles to witness the inauguration of the nation's Fifth Constitutional Government held Saturday at the Asahi Ballfield.

It officially marked the beginning of another four-year term for reelected President Kuniwo Nakamura, Vice-President Tommy Remengesau, the 16 House delegates, and 14 senators.

It was Palau's first inaugural exercise since the country graduated from its status as a United States' trust territory, and became an independent nation on Oct. 1, 1994.

Nakamura and Remengesau

called on the country's 15,000 people to take part in the achievement of the government's next goal: economic independence — hence the inauguration's theme "Partnership for Economic Reform and Prosperity." (See related story)

The government is fully optimistic, and Saturday's festivities, which highlighted the three-day celebration, showed the Palauans' recovery from the trauma caused by the collapse of the KB bridge late last year.

The celebration officially began with a boat race, beauty pageant on Friday, and was concluded yesterday with the official guests' tour of Rock Islands and lunch with the president.

Native food were served generously in 16 tents, each representing an island of Palau.

Countries and islands officially represented at the ceremonies were the United States, Japan, Australia, People's Republic of China, Korea, New Zealand, the Philippines, CNMI, Federated States of Micronesia, Marshall Islands, Guam, Kiribati, Nauru and Taiwan.

Capping the two-and-a-half-hour ceremony last Saturday was the reading of the congratulatory messages from heads of various states who promised their governments' commitment of support, and friendly relations with

Palau.
U.S. President Bill Clinton, in a brief note, expressed hopes "to continue working with your government."

Palau, upon termination of the Trust Territory Agreement in 1994, forged a Compact of Free Association with the U.S. which allows its citizens unrestricted entry into US states and territories.

Prior to U.S. occupation which began after World War II, Palau was under the Japanese rule from 1914 to 1944. Japan took over Palau from Germany which colonized the islands from 1899 to 1914. From 1885 to 1899, it was under Spain.

Since it finally got its independence, Palau has established dip-

lomatic relation with 17 different countries, and has entered the United Nations as the newest and youngest member.

Palau's presence was felt in the international community when Nakamura delivered an address at the 50th Anniversary Session of the UN.

The government banks in the expansion of economic opportunities since the signing of the treaty. Palau has a stable political situation that lures investors.

Remengesau noted that "returns on our investments under Compact have surpassed original expectations by earning more than double of what was projected."

The government also has reasons to be upbeat on its tourism industry. Immigration statistics



Tommy Remengesau

showed a leap in the number of visitors by 42 percent, from 48,285 in fiscal year 1995 to 68,671 in fiscal year 1996.

Taiwan is the biggest tourist market, followed by Japan.



Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio shakes hands with Rep. Ana S. Teregeyo (left), after the chief executive announced his appointment of Teregeyo's niece, lawyer Virginia Sablan (center), as Superior Court associate judge last week.

Tenorio said to be 'eyeing' Mayor Inos or Rita Inos as runningmate

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio's choice for a running mate has been narrowed down between Rota Mayor Joseph S. Inos and educator Rita Hocog-Inos, highly-reliable Variety sources said yesterday.

Tenorio, sources said, was on Rota recently and met with the mayor and Hocog-Inos.

The mayor is reportedly not interested to run with Tenorio.

However, Variety was earlier told that the mayor was "open to the idea." When interviewed last Jan. 10, Inos declined to make a comment.

Since 1994, the mayor has been one of the governor's most vocal critics.
Hocog-Inos, for her part, was the running mate of former governor Lorenzo I.D.L. Guerrero in the Republican Party's gubernatorial primary last November which another former governor, Pedro P. Tenorio, won.

The two other "probable" running mates for Tenorio, Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider and former Mariana Islands Housing Authority executive



Joseph S. Inos



Rita Hocog-Inos

director Larry Cabrera have reportedly both turned down the offer.

Hofschneider, a Republican turned Independent, is considered as one of the more popular members of the House of Representatives.

Cabrera, on the other hand, was former governor Carlos S. Camacho's running mate in the 1985 election won by the Republican candidate in this year's gubernatorial election, former governor Tenorio.

"Nobody wants to run with the incumbent governor," Variety

sources said.
"Not true," according to the governor's public information officer Mark Broadhurst.

"He has a list of possible running mates and, as he earlier told the media, the list contains at least seven names," Broadhurst said.

Tenorio last Jan. 7 confirmed that he has met last week with Mayor Inos, and that he is also currently "discussing" the 1997 elections with supporters of former governor Guerrero.

Tun Herman Pan, pioneer businessman, passes away



Herman R. Guerrero

HERMAN R. Guerrero, pioneering businessman and acknowledged as one of the pillars of Saipan's business community passed away last Friday due to a lingering liver ailment.

He was 80.
Guerrero is predeceased by his wife, Maria C. Tenorio and is survived by his sons and daughters.

The family has set funeral mass at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral 4 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 1st, and burial rites right after at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Last respects may be paid at the family residence in Airport Road Saturday from 8 a.m.

Guerrero, more affectionately known as Tun Herman Pan, has been acknowledged as the first islander to enter private enterprise, putting up Herman's Bakery, Saipan's first bakery, after the war.

Hired by the US Navy at \$20 a month to bake bread for everybody on Saipan, Guerrero rose to prominence as one of the

Commonwealth's most successful businessmen.

He expanded his bakery from a \$60,000 operation to a multi-million dollar venture, now known as Herman's Modern Bakery servicing Saipan, Guam and the rest of Micronesia.

He later on diversified into other endeavors, including Herman's Food Basket, a retail/wholesale operation and a cold storage facility.

With the success of his bakery and retail business already achieved, Guerrero also ventured into other areas of business, including the handling of mail between the airport and harbor to the Post Office in Chalan Kanoa and Capitol Hill.

Recognizing the potential of Saipan as a tourist destination, Tun Herman Pan early in his business career opened the Saipan Hotel Dining Room, the first hotel business on the island after World War II.

He subsequently formed Pacific Development Inc. (PDI), a partnership with Kinki Nippon Tourist Company of Tokyo. PDI a tour bus operation, holds the lion's share of the Hafa Adai Hotel, and became a model for successful joint ventures between local and foreign investors.

Tun Herman Pan, one of the founding members of Saipan Chamber of Commerce, was also honored with numerous civic awards including "Business Person of the Third Quarter in 1991 by the Chamber and as Saipan Rotary Club's "Man of the Year for 1992."

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



Drugs, Death and Destruction

Tomorrow, many of us would partake in the interment of a young mother who allegedly was murdered by a man reportedly high on drugs. There's a certain sadness in the recent incident that finally ruptured this community's self-denial about the existence and widespread use of drugs among our people: Both are locals!

One would be seen by her children for the last time and buried after mass. The other is in a jail cell trying to figure out what happened that morning and the motive that resulted in the violent bludgeoning of a young mother. Bennett would rest in peace while his alleged attacker will be without one for the rest of his life until he reconciles with Him.

The harder we dig into the fate of the four children, the more troubling it is for any of us to accept the absence of that one person they so direly need to instill stability and hope in their lives. Mom will no longer be around to lean on in times of difficulty or when one's spirit plunges into the pits of confusion and loneliness. Many Mother's Day will come and go without her around to add full measure to the significance of this day in the lives of her children. It will be Mother's Day without mom for the rest of their life!

On the flip-side to this incident is the fate of the alleged attacker, a person I have known most of my high school days. He was one year my junior, a quiet and amiable person with a great sense of humor. Why did he allegedly murder Bennett? He would sift through it all as he goes through legal proceedings. While we're all angry at what has happened to Ms. Mendiola, let's take the slow lane and equally extend our prayers to my troubled friend. He too needs help as much as we despise his alleged actions.

Shabu or ice is everywhere and many families are adversely affected by it. Quiet and obedient adolescence (freshmen through seniors) in our schools have seen fit to toy with marijuana, ice, cocaine and heroin to fill that void of emptiness in themselves. I am sure too that their parents have it given their damndest to keep them from harm's way. But the latest fad is well fed by drug king-pins who whip-up windfall profits (fast cash) as they destroy and kill our children's future one at a time.

Need a catastrophic incident occur for us to wake-up to the fact that this community has a serious drug problem? Need any of your family members be stabbed, gunned-down, raped and fatally mutilated, prostituting against her will and other negative activities before you roll-up your sleeves to do something about it? Whatever happened to cooperation, a forte we have had for generations among the indigenous people? Let's stop kidding ourselves through self-denials. It won't work and we need every institution here getting down to basics so we can jointly lead our children to brighter tomorrows. Remember, they're our children and I am sure you'll agree that they too would like to see mom and dad around as they too try to find their own place in life.

A majority of our children are good kids

It is truly comforting that a majority of our children are good kids despite the recent incident that sent ripples of fear and anger to the entire Northern Marianas Community. Most of them are in school because they believe in the value of education. It illustrates that there are adults who care for their future and would go the extra mile to prepare themselves with lifetime skills for real life after campus.

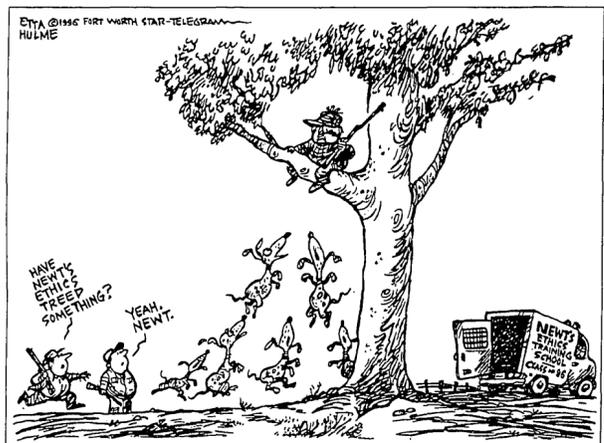
It further demonstrates that the family institution and other institutions each contribute into the over all development of these pupils. Their efforts will certainly never go in vain. They shall walk through calm and storm gradually building self-confidence in themselves to meet the challenges that lie ahead. They shall finally conquer their dreams of yester-years with reciprocity by way of being outstanding and productive citizens. They will have honored their parents. And they too will hold the hands of their children and guide them through the rough terrain of growing-up.

Indeed, a lot has changed in this community. But our excuses and finger pointing has run out. For once, we must bite the bullet and say we have failed in our responsibilities and the victim in this case are our children. For those at the brink of going into harm's way, friends give chance a chance so you can regroup for that wonderful kid who needs your companionship and wise counsel. Better yet, give yourself the chance to re-establish that trust he/she once had on people he looks up to as role models in their lives. You owe it to them and it is never too late to return filial unity to normalcy.

On the lighter side

I often question the equal applicability of laws such as seat belts. We even put up billboards trumpeting buckling up for "It's the law". If such is the law, isn't it true that the basic tenet in tort is the injury of a second party? Who's injured when we don't buckle up? Have we required all Toyota Pick-Up trucks (hauling tourists to hard to reach beaches) to install seat-belts? What about motorcycles and mopeds? Shouldn't the owners be equally required to buckle up because "It's the Law?"

Certainly, we've heard arguments about the safety aspect of it. But then we've also seen cases where seat-belts turn into the very instrument of "better known as..." Well, let's hear from patrol officers and experts from the highway safety program. Perhaps they have answers we don't know about transcending the safety aspect of buckling up. Be that as it may, if it's the law then I hope it is enforced equally without exception.



JACK ANDERSON and MICHAEL BINSTEIN WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

U.N. troops continue to behave badly

WASHINGTON—It's a dirty little secret that few people at the United Nations ever mention, yet it happens with regularity: U.N. peacekeeping soldiers using child prostitutes for their pleasure.

Perhaps no one is more aware of this problem than the newly selected secretary general of the United Nations, Kofi Annan.

For nearly four years, Annan served as the undersecretary general of peacekeeping operations. During that time, he saw more than a few confidential reports about peacekeeping soldiers getting out of hand.

Yet it was not a problem that Annan's boss—outgoing Secretary General Boutros Boutros-Ghali—ever wanted to deal with. That is, until early last month.

Boutros-Ghali finally decided to take action after reading a report on children in war written by Graca Machel, Mozambique's former education minister. Supported by Marian Wright Edelman, head of the U.S.-based Children's Defense Fund, she visited a half-dozen countries to systematically examine the effects of war on children.

One of the things Machel found was forced prostitution of children by soldiers of competing sides—and, according to one paragraph in the report, by U.N. peacekeepers.

"After the signing of the peace treaty in 1992, soldiers of the United Nations operation in Mozambique recruited girls aged 12 to 18 years into prostitution," the report said.

Boutros-Ghali knew the Mozambique operation was not the only peacekeeping operation where child prostitution was rampant. So he ordered an investigation into how many U.N. peacekeepers serving abroad have hired child prostitutes. Presumably, Annan will continue this belated probe when he takes over in January.

Our own informal investigation, conducted by our associate Dale Van Atta, has found that U.N. soldiers used child prostitutes in at least seven operations — in Lebanon, Rwanda, Bosnia, Croatia, Somalia, Haiti and Cambodia.

It was in Cambodia that the practice was most prevalent—and where it left the most lasting damage on a country's morality.

The United States, China and the Soviet Union brokered a peace treaty among three Cambodian guerrilla factions and the Vietnamese-installed government in October 1991—ending 21 years of civil war in that country which claimed more than a million

lives. To ensure the peace, the United Nations created the U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC), its most extensive and expensive peacekeeping operation ever. The goal was to complete a multi-fold mission in less than two years using more than 20,000 peacekeepers and personnel, at a cost of \$1.7 billion.

Among the troops dispatched was a battalion from Bulgaria whose behavior was so uniformly reprehensible and undisciplined that they were quickly dubbed the "Vulgarians." The Bulgarian government apparently saw a chance to make some money, since the U.N. pays generous grants to countries that supply peacekeeping troops. The soldiers are then paid at the discretion of their home country—leaving Bulgarian officials a chance to make a tidy profit from their peacekeeping forces.

Bulgarian salaries were stinky, which encouraged bad behavior in the ranks. The troops' drinking and womanizing often got out of hand, once sparking a gun battle with Cambodian soldiers at a brothel. In northwest Cambodia, three Bulgarian soldiers were shot to death for "meddling" with local girls. Another started a brawl when he urinated on an elderly beggar outside a public house. One Bulgarian was treated for 17 different cases of venereal disease.

Stories of the Bulgarians' excesses lend credence to one of the persistent criticisms of the \$1.7 billion Cambodian mission: that a U.N. presence brings with it Western decadence that corrupts the local population. Cambodia was a place where the most sumptuous meals and the best accommodations cost only a few dollars. That left plenty of money for drinking, drugs and prostitution.

Urgent requests from Phnom Penh included 6,500 flak jackets—and 300,000 condoms. Yasushi Akashi, the head of the U.N. mission waved off Cambodian complaints by remarking that "18-year-old hot-blooded soldiers" had the right to enjoy themselves, drink a few beers and chase "young beautiful beings of the opposite sex." But Akashi did make one request: "Please do not park your U.N. vans near the nightclubs."

Akashi has had good reason to regret his laissez-faire attitude since 150 peacekeepers and untold numbers of Cambodians are believed to have contracted AIDS. More U.N. peacekeepers will die of sexually transmitted diseases than the 21 soldiers who were killed in hostile action.

Sablan says he won't quit

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff
LANDS and Natural Resources Secretary Benigno Sablan said he will not relinquish his post and will run with Lt. Gov. Jesus Borja should the Democratic Party reconsiders its position on not holding a primary for this year's elections.

In an interview over the weekend, Sablan said he hopes Gov. Froilan Tenorio ask party's Central Executive Committee to allow a democratic primary in an effort to settle his and Borja's gubernatorial bids through an election.

He said the party, in the end, might eventually have no choice but to allow a primary or seek an official candidate if both Borja and Tenorio insist on running against each other.

Sablan said he will not resign during the primary campaign period if this pushed through.

"I don't think the primary will affect me nor will it mean that I'm not supporting him [Tenorio] per se," said Sablan.

He said he will only resign if the campaign could take much of his official time. "Perhaps, if I will have to cam-

paign hard and take days off doing so, then I may accept the fact that I need to step down," he explained.

"But right now, among the democrats, we are all known, I can go out at night, on weekends, on holidays and campaign. I don't intend to go out in the village and speak through a microphone, at least for the primary," he said.

Tenorio said he may have to ask Sablan to resign saying the latter can not anymore be "loyal" to him running as his opponent's mate in the elections.

"He [Sablan] is running



Benigno Sablan

against me because he has lost faith in me. How can I depend on him to do things for this administration as secretary of a major department if he is running against me?" Tenorio has raised.

Sablan however said there is no conflict of interest, his inten-

tion, he said, "is to campaign on issues and not on what the governor did or did not do."

He said he will only step down, and "honorably" at that too, if "I am not doing my job... if I am neglecting my duties."

"Definitely I am giving the people of the CNMI and additional person to make a choice," Sablan said.

Meanwhile, Sablan said he might not run with Borja as an independent because doing so would only mean a four-cornered fight wherein the emerging winner will definitely have to be a "minority leadership" having had gained a mere fourth of the voting populace's consent.

"This [winning team] will only be a weak government and such is not the best interest of the people," he explained.

Borja says he expected Tenorio to ask DLNR secretary to resign



Jesus C. Borja

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff
LIEUTENANT Governor Jesus C. Borja said his running mate Benigno M. Sablan should have been asked to resign as lands and natural resources secretary "from the very beginning."

Borja was reacting to Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio's statement that he (the governor) may have to ask Sablan to resign after all.

"I saw that coming," Borja said in a media conference.

"In fact I didn't believe the first statement of the governor. (Asking Sablan to step down) is an action the governor should have taken from the very beginning, and I know that (Sablan) knew the existence of that option and was prepared for it."

"I couldn't see any other way. As soon as (Sablan) said he will run with me against the governor, there

was only one option left for the governor."

He said Tenorio's initial statement that he will retain Sablan as long as the secretary does his job wasn't "well thought out."

Sablan said Friday that he will not resign if a gubernatorial primary pushes through. (See related stories in this issue.)

Variety sources said Sablan has been advised by his core supporters not to step down, but instead to "allow" Tenorio to fire him.

Tenorio on Thursday said that he has changed his mind and may have to ask Sablan to resign.

Tenorio, in an earlier interview with the Variety, said he would not tell Sablan to step down even if the secretary is running with Borja, and that he would expect Sablan to continue performing his duties as department secretary "to the best of his abilities."

However, Tenorio said he no longer thinks Sablan could be "dependable."

"Earlier I said (that Sablan is also a Democrat and) if he's loyal to me then he can keep his job. But then I'm thinking how can he do that if he's campaigning against me."

"He's running against me because he has lost faith in me. How can I depend on him to do things for this administration as secretary of a major department if he's running against me?"

The Democratic Party's decided on Wednesday not to hold a primary



Froilan C. Tenorio

(see related story in this issue.)

Sablan, a Tenorio appointee, served for six years as member and later as vice speaker of the House of Representatives.

Declaring that his campaign for the Democratic Party's gubernatorial nomination has started, Borja on Wednesday said he and Sablan will run on a platform that stresses economic development, clean and honest government, better relationship with the federal government and a drug-free society.

A Borja-Sablan administration, he said, would be a "kinder and gentler" one.

Sablan said he gave "serious thought" before deciding to run as lieutenant governor, but admitted that he decided to step down as the Democratic Party chair to make himself "available" as a running mate.

RP labor welfare official coming

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff
A RANKING Philippine Labor official is set to arrive in the Commonwealth this week to make an assessment on the conditions of Filipino non-resident workers in the Commonwealth.

Wilhelm Soriano, Philippine Overseas Workers' Welfare Administration head will also attend the inauguration of a welfare center for these guest workers. The center is housed at the Nauru building in Susupe.

Philippine Consul Generoso Calonge said the inauguration

is slated on Feb. 2. Soriano, according to the Philippine Department of Labor and Employment, will meet with Filipino workers here "to know more on their employment conditions."

His arrival will come at a time when both CNMI and Philippine governments appear locked on whether or not to grant Filipino workers free food and housing allowances.

Philippine labor officials, according to Calonge, were still waiting for a team of CNMI delegates supposed to be in Manila for a week-long discus-

sion on the matter. Meanwhile, Soriano's arrival, according to sources within the Filipino community, is "timely."

Consulate records showed that the bulk of complaints filed by Filipino non-resident workers is that on underpayment and the non-payment of overtime work.

The records also showed that there has been a marked increase in the deployment of what has been categorized as "high risk" job classification which includes domestic helps and farmers.

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Man found guilty of extortion

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

A MAN who pleaded guilty to extorting \$25,000 from a grocery store and karaoke bar owner three months ago was sentenced last Thursday to a 33-month prison term.

Yuan Ping Wu, of the People's Republic of China, will be under supervised release for three years after his prison term expires.

But District Judge Alex R. Munson ordered Wu's immediate deportation after his release from jail.

Should the deportation proceedings fail to occur, Munson said,

the defendant should then comply with the general conditions under supervision.

These conditions include not committing another federal or

US court orders deportation after he serves 33 months

local crimes, not possessing a firearm or other dangerous weapons, not using or possessing illegal drugs, and seeking and maintaining employment.

Wu will also be barred from coming within 100 yards of the victim, Li Wei, her business establishments and her residence.

Wei is the owner of Rose Store in Dandan and Beijing Karaoke Bar.

According to the complaint filed last Aug. 22, Wu threatened to kill Wei and her family if she did not give the money he had demanded.

Investigations conducted by the FBI stated that Wei received a call from a male person at about 10 p.m. of Aug. 20, telling her to check her

car.

When she did, Wei found a note attached to her car. The note instructed her to bring \$25,000 to her place of business the following day between 6:30 p.m. and 7 p.m.

She was further told that she would be contacted later for further instructions as to how and where to deliver the money.

She and members of her family would be killed if she did not follow the instructions, the note said.

On Aug. 21 the unidentified male instructed Wei to deliver the money to Box 588 at the CCC Mail Service.

An entrapment was laid by the FBI, which provided a

package where the money was supposed to inside. The package was placed inside the box which was verified to be

rented by Wu.

Two FBI agents observed Wu picking the package from the mail box and later placing it inside a white Subaru he was driving.

Coca-Cola company sues businessman

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE SOFTDRINK Coca-cola Beverage Co. has pursued a legal case against a Chuuk businessman who has issued at least four bank notes which turn out to have no sufficient funds.

Court records showed that a certain Joe Suka, who is doing

business as PJ's in Weno, Chuuk, FSM, first issued a check for the amount of \$1,000 on August 28, 1995.

Another was issued in July of the same year for the amount of \$2,375 while the third, supposedly containing \$1,000, was given out on September 3, 1995.

A fourth check was issued on the 25th of the same month for the amount of \$1,200.

All bank notes, the firm eventually established, have no sufficient funds.

Suka, according to the court records, has been asked, on Dec. 11, last year, to pay for his dues.

Suka however failed to pay back, a development which apparently prompted the softdrink firm to file a case and ask for a total of \$8,546 excluding legal fees.

In a related development, a Korean businessman has filed appropriate charges against management of the Angel's House for allegedly issuing unfunded checks amounting to \$35,000.

Jae Oh Yang, court records showed, received at least four bank notes in separate incidents supposedly as payments for good delivered to the said establishment.

All bank notes, it turned out later, did not have sufficient funds.

Three of the checks were issued in Feb, June and August last year for the amount of \$10,000.

All checks were supposed to be encashed through the Bank of Saipan.

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AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

Korean national files suit vs fellow Korean

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

HE TOOK his chances with his compatriot. It turned out, the one he trusted would only allegedly stab him in the back.

A Korean national has filed an \$84,000 suit against his fellow national after the latter put up a corporation, naming himself as president out of funds the latter has issued.

Ku Ja Hyong is now seeking court intervention on the dissolution of the Baula International Corporation which runs the "Arirang" mart along Beach Road in Garapan; the reimbursement of his \$40,000 used as initial funds in the establishment of the wholesale and retail store, as well as the \$24,000 for his services and another \$20,000 which he had used in buying stocks for the shop.

He is also asking for the agreed-upon 50 per cent of profits allegedly raked in by his partner including interest.

Court records docketed as civil case number 97-89 showed that Ku and his supposed partner, Lee Soon Hyung met on Saipan in March 1995 during the former's visit to the island.

The two talked about putting up a business on Saipan and decided to chip-in their resources and establish a store.

On March 21 of that year, Ku and Lee signed a contract stipulating that the former pay \$40,000 in initial funds while the former put up some \$15,000 to be used for purchasing the needed machinery.

The contract also stipulated that an accounting be made every three months where 50 per cent of the profits goes back to the store, the remaining half of which will be distributed equally.

The two also agreed to equally managed the store.

Ku made an additional payment amounting to \$7,500.

The store opened also in March of that year and Ku, upon Lee's request, manned it working 14 hours a day from the 25th of that month to Oct. 11, 1995 supposedly at \$3,000 a month.

Ku also purchased foodstocks and other merchandise for the store amounting to \$20,000 on condition that it will be repaid.

Things began to look bad in June of that year when Ku asked that Lee make an accounting of the store's sales as agreed upon.

Lee allegedly failed to show financial records.

In September of that year, the second third month, Ku

again requested for the store's financial records. Lee again refused to divulge anything.

In October, Ku discovered that the store was owned and operated by a Baula International Corporation where he was listed in the Articles of Incorporation as Board Director and Vice President having 50,000 of the firm's 250,000 shares of stock. Ku, the court records showed, did not purchase any share; did not consented the inclusion of his name in the mentioned document; and, worse, was not informed of the firm's establishment.

Through lawyer John A. Mangiona, Ku has now filed charges of breach of partnership, of contract, fraud misrepresentation and quantum meruit for his services.

Cing says Tenorio has 'left out' Tinian again

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

SENATOR David M. Cing is accusing Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio of, "once again forgetting" the development needs of Rota and Tinian.

Cing, in a letter Friday to the governor, said the CNMI economic development plan prepared by the administration did not mention Tinian's economic needs.

The draft for the plan was made possible through a grant from the Economic Development Agency (EDA) of the U.S. Department of Commerce.

Cing said EDA itself commented on the "omission" of Tinian in the draft plan.

"This situation," he said, "highlights the tendency of the Commonwealth government in general—and your administration in



David M. Cing

particular—to focus exclusively on the needs of Saipan.

"The people of Tinian and Rota are relegated to the status of Cinderella's—cinder children shooed away into the back room out of sight, cut off from the bounty

lavished on the rest of the family." Cing said the preparation of an economic development plan is a "critically important activity."

Such a plan, he added, guides future executive actions, and may have significant impact on the availability of federal grants for particular projects.

"(The) omission of the economic needs of Tinian is a serious oversight, particularly at a time when Tinian is attempting to cross the threshold of economic growth," Cing said. The administration, he said, should involve Rota and Tinian in all federal grant applications.

Cing has earlier clashed with the governor, a fellow Democrat, on the "exclusion" of Tinian and Rota from federal highway grants.

Tenorio has denied that he is neglecting the needs of the two islands.

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Times Three: A treat for a cause

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THEY are accomplished soloists in their own right, having appeared in leading roles in various operas.

The bond of friendship brought Nan Hughes, Amy Anderson, both mezzo-sopranos, and Kathy McMillan (who is currently appearing as the First Lady in Mozart's The Magic Flute with Berkeley Opera) together to form over a year ago Times Three.

The musical trio is now here in the CNMI for the first time and was first heard by Tinian folk when they performed at the island's high school last Saturday.

Yesterday, 9 a.m. Sunday Mass goes heard them sing at the Mount Carmel cathedral.

Anderson, McMillan and Hughes met in 1989 at the Aspen Music Festival in Aspen, Colorado.

"We were all there singing opera, and we met and became very, very good friends," McMillan recounted. "About a year and a half ago, we started singing trio stuff, just really for fun."

Impressed people who heard their sophisticated singing style started inviting them to sing for private parties, corporate events, pops orchestras, and clubs.

Last summer, the trio performed in the Canadian Rockies in Alberta.

"We did a cabaret for a month," Hughes said.

Next month, Hughes added, "we'll have our first appearance with a symphony orchestra."



CATCH THEM LIVE. Times Three members Kathy McMillan (middle), Amy Anderson (left) and Nan Hughes, all opera singers, are giving free concerts in various schools and at the Joeten-Kiyu Library during their 10-day stay here, which will be capped by a benefit gala concert at the Pacific Castle on Saturday.

The versatile Times Three are at their best while rendering jazz, Broadway songs, and big band tunes from Irving Berlin, Stephen Sondheim and the Andrews Sisters.

Tomorrow catch them at the Joeten-Kiyu Library where they will perform for free at 8 p.m. They will also perform in selected schools on Saipan as well as on Rota.

Their 10-day stay will be capped by a gala dinner-concert which will be a fundraiser for the Northern Marianas Academy on Feb. 1 at the Pacific Castle.

NMA Director Elizabeth Drumwright, who brought Times Three here with a grant assistance from the CNMI Humanities and Arts Councils, said the singing trio will also try to fill a musical void in the public school classrooms where she noted a shortage of music programs.

"We wanted to make sure that the children got exposure to the arts," Drumwright told the Variety.

Drumwright also said the NMA will be presenting Times Three as the first of a series of fund-raising events in its effort to raise \$25,000. The NMA is set to transfer from the Northern Marianas College campus to a new site of its own in May or earlier.

As opera singers, Anderson says, "We want to inspire some young people to be interested in music."

Anderson says she will go to Vienna, Austria in June to sing with that city's

symphony orchestra. Anderson is a former violinist. Her love of drama and vocal music led her to concentrate on a singing career.

She has performed the title roles in Bizet's Carmen, Britten's The Rape of Lucretia, both with Aspen Opera Theater, and Massenet's Werther with Chamber Opera Chicago.

Hughes will be singing at Carnegie Hall this Spring, while McMillan will sing with the Berkeley Symphony for the US premiere of a new opera.

Hughes has toured Europe, the United States, and Brazil as soloist with New York's Continuum ensemble.

Hughes won the Artists International Competition in New York in 1994.

McMillan, also a violinist, played Blonde in Die Entführung aus dem Serail (Brandenburg Opera, New York City), Adele in Die Fledermaus (Group Opera, NYC), and Gretel in Hansel and Gretel (NYC), among others.

Accompanying the three singers in their CNMI trip is pianist Craig Bohmler, who is also a composer and conductor. He has three musicals and two operas to his credit.

Hughes, McMillan and Anderson are enjoying the sights in the CNMI. Of Saipan Hughes said, "We've only been here for 24 hours, and we can't believe how beautiful it is."

The have gone snorkeling on their first day here last Friday, and already they have got a tan, they said.

Task Force completes work on 17 of 25 water wells

IN CONJUNCTION with the Water State of Emergency in Saipan, 17 new water wells have already been drilled and tested in the Obyan area, the Water Emergency Task Force disclosed.

The Task Force and the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) are completing the construction of a new well nearly every week, a news release said.

According to USGS Hydrologist Robert Carruth, a total of 25 new wells will be developed by the end of March adjacent to the Saipan International Airport.

"We want the people to realize just how fast we are working because we realize that they need the water," Carruth said Friday.

The goal of Governor Tenorio's Task Force is to replace 50-year old leaking pipelines with new, larger, non-corrosive pipes and to develop new water resources that meet all standards set by the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

EPA regulations stipulate that water may not contain over 250 milligrams per liter of Chloride (salt).

Said Carruth, "All 17 of our new wells have tested well below the 250 milligrams per liter

of salt content, so the quality of this water is very good."

While the Task Force and USGS are drilling wells, a contractor is laying the new pipelines from the well field to the island's existing distribution system. Both the drilling project and the pipeline system will be completed by the end of March.

According to Task Force Chairman Timothy P. Villagomez, the logistics of trenching through Saipan's limestone and laying pipeline is difficult and time consuming. In order to draw the water out of the new wells, pumps will need to be installed and a new electrical system is required.

"It seems that some of Saipan's best water is at the airport. Due to the Federal Aviation Administration's regulations, no power poles are allowed in the area. So, we've already designed an underground electrical system and ordered the materials," Villagomez explained.

He noted that the Task Force is demanding that the electrical system be installed as soon as possible because the wells will be ready by the end of March.

"We know the water is there, and it's good water. We really want to get it flowing to the people," Villagomez insisted.

SWC Division sets election

THE Department of Lands & Natural Resources' Soil and Water Conservation Division, wishes to inform Saipan and Northern Islands farmers and ranchers of a meeting to elect Saipan and North-

ern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District Administrators.

This meeting will be conducted on February 11, 1997 at 6:00 pm at the Carolinian Ut across from Bank of Guam in Garapan.

RP orders monkeys killed for ebola

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - Philippine officials have put under 24-hour watch a monkey breeding farm that was ordered closed after it failed to control the spread of the Ebola virus.

Earlier this month, the Environment Department ordered the more than 600 monkeys at the Ferlite Scientific Research farm killed with a lethal injection and destroyed in incinerators.

Farm owner Alex Lina objected to destroying the uninfected monkeys.

"I made a last appeal to officials to just kill those monkeys they find to be infected," he said. "Why do they have to kill uninfected monkeys?"

A department official said they have padlocked monkey cages at the four-hectare (10-acre) farm in Laguna province, 60 kilometers (35 miles) south of Manila, and

posted inspectors starting Friday to ensure the monkeys are not moved from the facility.

Ferlite exported two monkeys last year to a breeding facility in Texas that were later found to be infected with the Reston strain of the Ebola virus.

U.S. health officials said the virus apparently posed no danger to human beings but might mutate into a deadly type.

The strain was named after a Virginia city hit by an outbreak of the virus in 1989. Other strains of Ebola in Africa have been deadly, killing 235 people in Zaire in 1995 and 13 in Gabon last year.

Ferlite used to export about 400 monkeys yearly, about 16 percent of the Philippines' total of 2,500, for medical research in the United States, Europe and other countries.



Protesters bang an empty oil barrel during a rally against the oil price hike that took effect recently. The protest was held at Mendiolola bridge near the Malacanang palace. It was the sixth oil price increase since September when the government allowed the deregulation of the oil industry. AP Photo

Thai premier to visit Manila this week



Chavalit Yongchaiyudh

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - Thai Prime Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh will visit the Philippines this week to boost trade, the government said Sunday.

Thailand is a major trading partner of the Philippines in the seven-nation Association of Southeast Asian Nations, a regional trading bloc.

Trade between the two countries reached \$1.13 billion from January to October last year. Manila exported electrical products, semiconductors and machine parts while Thailand exported rice and cane sugar.

But Thai investments in the Philippines dropped by 98 percent from 9.71 billion pesos (\$373.46 million) in 1995 to 167 million pesos (\$6.4 million) last year, a statement issued by the presidential office said.

It did not give the reasons for the decline.

The newly-elected Thai leader's two-day state visit begins Wednesday and he is to meet President Fidel Ramos, congressional leaders, Philippine and Thai businessmen based in Manila.

Yongchaiyudh is the fourth Thai leader to visit the Philippines since Ramos visited Bangkok in 1992.

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NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) hereby provides notice that a public hearing shall be held on Thursday, January 30, 1997 at 7:00 p.m. at the CPA Seaport Office Conference Room, located at Charlie Dock on Saipan. All taxicab operators and other interested persons are invited to attend and to provide comments on the proposed amendment to the CPA Airport Rules and Regulations Governing Taxicab Operators to be published in the January 15, 1997 Commonwealth Register. Any questions or comments regarding the proposed amendment governing taxicab operators at the airport should be submitted in writing to the Executive Director of the CPA no later than February 18, 1997.

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

Pacific News Round-Up

Solomons seeks census fund

HONIARA (Pacnews)—The Solomon Islands government is looking at other possible alternative donors to fund the country's now overdue national population census.

The 10-yearly population census which was to have been funded by the European Union for an initial estimate of 1.5-million US dollars, was due last November.

But the census had not eventuated

because of a one-year long strain in relations between the government and the EU which ended in June 1996.

The break in relations resulted in a halt to a number of EU-funded projects in Solomon Islands.

Development and Planning Minister Francis Saemala says the European Union was still willing to fund the census project - but that it would have to be revised for a new funding programme.

Saemala says this could take up to six months before funding is available, but he wanted the population census carried within the first part of this year.

He says the government is therefore considering other funding sources including the United Nations Development Programme.

Double tragedy for Niue village

ALOFI (Pacnews)—One of the smallest villages on Niue, the village of Namukulu, is trying to come to terms with a double tragedy. First, a 50-year old bus driver was reported missing.

A search was mounted along the narrow fringing reef, but in the process, one member of the search party from the same village drowned, BCN reports.

Now after several days of searching both at sea and along the coastline, the police have called off the search.

The bus driver is now presumed drowned. Namukulu, the village that once had 25 inhabitants is reduced to just 23.

Peace initiatives for Bougainville backed

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews)—The Speaker of the Papua New Guinea parliament says he will neutrally support both the national government and any parliamentarians initiatives to restore peace, minimise human suffering and resolve the dispute on the island of Bougainville.

Namaliu made the statement Thursday following clashes in parliament over the trip to South Bougainville led by Sir Michael Somare and Bougainville MP John Momis, Post-Courier reports.

The delegation entered into negotiations for the release of five

security forces members captured by BRA rebels at Kangu Beach last September.

Prime Minister Sir Julius Chan told parliament the team was not a parliamentary delegation because it did not have the approval of parliament to make the trip.

This promoted a response from Somare in which he highlighted the different roles of parliament, government and the judiciary.

He said it was "the duty of the legislature to participate in national interest and the Bougainville crisis, if anything, is the single most important national issue in any government".

Japanese to improve tuna fishing facilities

NUKU'ALOFA (Pacnews)—A Japanese fact finding team is exploring the prospect of improving facilities for tuna fishing in Tonga.

This is a follow up to talks held in Tokyo, Japan last December between the secretary of the ministry of fisheries, 'Akau'ola, and a number of consulting agencies, Radio Tonga reports.

A ministry spokesman says the

3-member team is looking at the possibility of building a wharf specifically for the fishermen, especially those involved in the fishing of tuna.

He says Queen Salote Wharf as the main port of call in Tonga is too congested. The Vuna Wharf, also in Nuku'alofa, on the other hand, he says, is not safe and in no condition for use by the fishermen.

Solomons Chamber: Economy doing good

HONIARA (Pacnews)—The newly-formed Solomon Islands Chamber of Commerce and Employers says the country's private sector is generally doing well in business despite the financial crisis in government.

And the chamber's chairman, Adrian Wickham, is optimistic about the future of the Solomon Islands economy saying it has the potential to blossom.

Wickham says, however, that in order for the economy to become strong, the government needs to address elements of its monetary and fiscal policies.

He says the government must reduce and contain its costs, and provide the necessary infrastructure and policies needed to stimulate growth in the private sector.

Fiji gov't is not aware of strike threat by doctors

SUVA (Pacnews)—The Fiji government says it was not aware of any strike action by doctors nor the registration of their grievances.

The comment comes in reply to threats by members of the Fiji Medical Association to go on strike, due to an allegation, that an expatriate doctor was not registered with the Fiji Medical Council, the Daily Post reports.

A statement issued Thursday by the Ministry of Health revealed that the doctor's contract had been terminated.

The ministry also revealed that the doctor's registration was a subject of appeal and civil action between the Council and the doctor.

The ministry's statement said that the doctor's status on

operating a private hospital was contingent upon his getting a work permit and visa from the Director of Immigration.

It says the ministry was not aware of any strike action by the doctors.

Hot springs found in PNG

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews)—Australian scientists hope their discovery of two underwater active hot springs off the coast of Papua New Guinea will shed new light on ore deposits.

CSIRO scientist Dr Ray Binns says it's hoped the hot springs, which had deposited a range of metals on the sea floor, would provide information on the formation of ore deposits and how they could be found in similar geological environments on land, Post-

Courier reports.

The scientists used CSIRO's research vessel RV Franklin to search the Bismarck Sea off PNG's north coast and found a surreal landscape of geological formations 1,650 metres below the surface, where the two hot springs were active.

Dr Binns says the seismic activity of the region had created strange chimney-like structures belching mineral-laden smoke into the water and depositing gold, silver and other metals on the sea floor.

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New Defense secretary gives his assurance:

Troops in Bosnia home in 18 mos.

By JOHN DIAMOND
WASHINGTON (AP) - After a year of uncertainty about when U.S. troops will come home from Bosnia, the Clinton administration is now laying down a firm date: mid-1998. After that, the peacekeeping job will be up to Europe.

Former Sen. William Cohen delivered the message unequivocally during his confirmation hearing Wednesday, a few hours before the Senate voted 99-0 to approve him as secretary of defense.

In his former role as a member of the Senate Armed Services Committee, Cohen had sharply criticized the Clinton administration for promising to bring the troops home at the end of 1996, then announcing a new plan to deploy 8,500 soldiers in Bosnia for the next 18 months.

Now, facing that same committee, Cohen said the 18-month commitment is firm.

"This is going to end," Cohen said flatly. "It's a very strong message that the American people are not going to have their forces deployed in that region. It was principally a European problem to be solved."

Cohen said one of the first trips he will make will take him to Europe where he will inform NATO allies in person of the U.S. intention to end its troop commitment to Bosnia after 18 months.

"The definition of an exit strategy is elusive," Cohen conceded. But he said, "Here setting a timeline is important because it's telling our European friends that we are not going to make an unlimited commitment to that region. We are not there on a permanent or semipermanent basis."

Neither Cohen nor any of his longtime colleagues on the armed services panel voiced any optimism that the Bosnia mission will be complete by mid-1998.

After the NATO "Stabilization Force" withdraws next year, said Michigan Sen. Carl Levin, the senior committee Democrat, "there still will remain a need for an outside armed force to assure stability in Bosnia."

Clinton administration officials previously have said they did not know what would happen after the 18-month deployment. Indeed, outgoing Defense Secretary William Perry told NBC in an interview Wednesday - just as the

Cohen hearing was getting started - that he would make no "categorical prediction" about what the United States would do in Bosnia after 18 months.

"I made a categorical prediction before and it turned out to be wrong," Perry said. The comment was a rueful reference to Perry's statements to lawmakers last year that the one-year deployment just

ending would be enough.

Cohen said he would review the troop deployment every six months and expected the 8,500-member force to "come down significantly" in the next six months to a year.

Sen. John McCain, said the current U.S. commitment stems from the refusal of European allies to keep their troops in Bosnia

without a U.S. presence.

"The rationale used for the additional 18 months is that our European allies would not under any circumstances remain," McCain said. "They made it very clear if the United States pulled out." He said he had no indication that the European allies, particularly Britain and France, had changed that view.

Community bicycle program in several US cities offer free rides

By SARAH HORNADAY
AUSTIN, Texas (AP) - A non-profit group put 24 yellow bicycles on the streets of Austin, as the city joined a handful of U.S. cities that offer free transportation for those willing to pedal.

In a city where single-occupant cars outnumber yellow cabs, the bikes can be used by anyone to ride anywhere with one caveat - they must be left in the open, unlocked, so someone else can use them. The program began Saturday.

"It's free public transportation in the true sense of the word," said John Thoms, a volunteer for the Yellow Bike Project. "They're free to ride, but not to hide."

Community bike programs are popular in European cities, and are now found across the United States, including Portland, Oregon; Madison, Wisconsin and Boulder, Colorado.

In Boulder, the city spent \$20,000 to make 120 donated, green bikes available to the public. A few months later, only about 40 were still on the streets but organizers still considered the program a success.

Thoms and Dave Barker, of the Bikes not Bombs organi-

zation, spent six months acquiring the bicycles. At a grocery store a few blocks from the University of Texas, Randy Ramirez and friend Colleen Morton picked up the first bikes.

"I heard about it on the radio earlier in the week and I thought it would be a fun thing to do," Ramirez said. "I figured the bikes were there and they're for the general public to ride them, so why not me?"

Like a cab, the bicycle might not be around for its last rider.

"There's always that risk," Thoms said. "But if people continue giving support, then you'll only have to walk a block or so and there will be another one."

Astrologer Jeane Dixon dies at 79

WASHINGTON (AP) - Astrologer Jeane L. Dixon, who gained national prominence as a psychic when her prediction that U.S. President John F. Kennedy would die in office came true, died Saturday. She was 79.

Sibley Hospital spokeswoman Jean Vincent said Mrs. Dixon from cardiopulmonary arrest. He said the hospital was asked not to comment further.

Parade magazine in 1956 quoted Mrs. Dixon as predicting that a Democratic president elected in 1960 - a tall young man with blue eyes and brown hair, would die in office. According to Mrs. Dixon,

she told interviewers that the president would be assassinated, but they refused to publish that.

After Kennedy's death in 1963, the national notice that Mrs. Dixon received led political columnist Ruth Montgomery to write a book, "A Gift of Prophecy: the Phenomenal Jeane Dixon," that recounted hundreds of accurate predictions made over the years.

The book, published in 1965, sold more than 3 million copies and brought Mrs. Dixon even more demand on the lecture circuit and a syndicated horoscope column.

Cosby slay probe continues

LOS ANGELES (AP) - A week has passed since the body of Ennis Cosby was found along a dark, secluded road, and yet his killer remains free and details of the slaying unclear.

The investigation has generated thousands of dollars in reward money and hundreds of leads - including a sketch of a potential witness who later proved disappointing. Beyond that, police have

said little about what, if anything, they've uncovered.

Police admit that crimes tend to be more difficult to solve the longer investigations drag on, but insist they have several strong leads into the death of entertainer Bill Cosby's only son.

Cosby, 27, was shot to death early Jan. 16 at the side of a freeway access road as he was changing a tire on a Mercedes-Benz.

Tense celebrations, as usual

India marks 47th Republic Day

By RAMOLA TALWAR
NEW DELHI, India (AP) - India marked the 47th anniversary of the day it became a republic Sunday with its customary combination of pageantry and heightened security.



H.D. Deve Gowda

Some 7,000 police officers kept the peace in the capital, where Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda opened celebrations in the morning by placing a wreath at India Gate, a stone arch at the heart of New Delhi that is a symbol of nationhood. Gowda later presided over a parade of soldiers, tanks, fighter planes and colorful floats.

New Delhi's Republic Day parade is a show of the country's military force, as if in answer to the challenge separatist guerrillas traditionally make on the holiday. No violence was reported early Sunday.

Militants including Muslims in the northern state of Kashmir and tribespeople in several northeastern states want out of the 47-year-old republic, and often launch an attack on Republic Day.

Police over the last few days conducted sweeps in New Delhi, searching for bombs and militants. In Srinagar, state capital of Kashmir, the army has been conducting searches for the past week and a half.

Soldiers occupied houses and two hospitals near the Srinagar stadium where the main Kashmir parade was held. The parade was peaceful, but attended by only about 400 military and political leaders.

Sale of Jackson memorabilia raises \$18,000 for charity



Michael Jackson

BOMBAY, India (AP) - Michael Jackson slept here - and left behind memorabilia that raised 645,000 rupees (about \$18,000) in a charity auction, Press Trust of India reported.

The proceeds from Saturday's auction at the Oberoi Towers hotel were donated to the

Akanksha Foundation, which runs schools for street children.

Sold off were a mirror, pillowcase and towel on which Jackson reportedly scrawled love notes to India.

Jackson stayed at the Oberoi Towers last November while in Bombay for a concert. It was not possible to authenticate whether it was Jackson who wrote the messages in black felt tip found in his room after he checked out.

The full-length mirror, displayed for a few days in the hotel's lobby, included a misspelling:

"India, I love you. In your children I have seen the face of God. You are my special love. I truly adore you with all my heart."

The other two messages were similar, a hotel spokeswoman said.

Town leaders sacked for misuse of education funds

BEIJING (AP) - Leaders of a town in eastern China have been punished for misusing more than 990,000 yuan (\$119,000) in government funds for education, the China Education Daily reported Wednesday.

Teachers in Panlou, Anhui province, complained to central education authorities that they were not paid their salaries on time. Low and delayed pay to teachers has long been a problem in many parts of the country.

An investigation showed lead-

ers of the town siphoned off most of the money appropriated for teachers salaries and school rents, the report said. They used it to repay bank loans and buy bulldozers and insurance, it said.

Yuan Ziping, the town's Communist Party secretary, was dismissed from his post, expelled from the party and demoted two grades in salary rank. Dai Chao, the town's government leader, was put on probation, and his salary also was reduced by two grades in rank.

"Militancy has come to us as a curse" Kashmir Chief Minister Farooq Abdullah said in a statement. "Although the security forces and the police are doing a commendable job in combating the militancy ... a greater cooperation of the people would bring its early end to the relief of every-

one." Guerrillas in the northeastern state of Manipur called for a boycott of celebrations, saying in a statement they were protesting the "forcible merger of Manipur with India."

In New Delhi, thousands of people lined the parade route

winding through the center of the city. Seated with Gowda on the reviewing stand was his chief guest, Trinidad and Tobago Prime Minister Basdeo Panday, whose great grandfather emigrated from India to the Caribbean during British rule. Panday was to visit his ancestral village later this week.

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NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

January 8, 1997

The Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands has been allocated \$911,000 in Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), \$30,000 in Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) and \$322,000 in Home Investment Partnership (HOME) Program, for Program Year 1997 by the United States Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD).

The grant funds, authorized under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974, may be used for a wide range of Community Development activities principally benefiting low and moderate income persons. Information concerning eligible uses of the grant funds may be obtained upon requests at the offices of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation located on Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

The CDBG Program requires a grant recipient to certify the minimal displacement of persons as a result of activities assisted with CDBG funds. The CNMI Government does not plan on undertaking any activities which will cause displacement of persons.

In the event of any unforeseen displacement resulting from any CDBG Funded Activity, the CNMI Government Acquisition Act of 1970 will be applicable.

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, which administers the CDBG and HOME Program and the Division of Youth Affairs, which administers the Emergency Shelter Grant Program, will be jointly conducting public hearing to obtain the views of citizens on community development and housing needs, as identified on the five year (1995-1999) Consolidated Plan, and to provide information on the status of approved and ongoing projects for these programs. The Public Hearings are scheduled as follows:

1. On Tinian, February 5, 1997, at 7:00 p.m. at the Tinian Multi Purpose Gym.
2. On Rota, February 6, 1997, at 7:00 p.m. at the Rota Public Library.
3. On Saipan, February 7, 1997, at 7:00 p.m. at the NMHC Central Garapan Office.

Additional inquiries concerning the CDBG and Home Program may be directed in writing to the Corporate Director, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation, P.O. Box 514, Saipan, MP 96950, or by calling telephone numbers 234-6866/9447. Inquiries with respect to the ESG Program may be directed in writing to the Administrator, Division of Youth Services, P.O. Box 1000 CK, Saipan, MP 96950, or by calling telephone number 664-2250

/s/ Mary Lou Ada Sirok
Corporate Director

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Death and Funeral Announcement

HERMAN DELOS REYES DELEON GUERRERO "Tun Herman Pan"



Herman Delos Reyes Deleon Guerrero, lovingly known to his families and friends as "Tun Herman Pan", was called to his eternal rest on Friday, January 24, 1997 at the age of 80 years.

In his death, Tun Herman now joins

His wife, Maria Camacho Tenorio Guerrero;
Daughters, Francisca, Francisca Antonia and Bernadita B. Mendiola;
Parents, Gregorio Chabraham Deleon Guerrero and Josepha Cruz Delos Reyes;
Parents-in-law, Juan Pangelinan Tenorio and Francisca Taimanao Camacho;
Brothers and Sisters, Maria Deleon Guerrero and Pedro Pangelinan Tenorio, Elena Deleon Guerrero Tudela, Juan Delos Reyes and Nicolasa Quitugua Deleon Guerrero, Pedro Delos Reyes Deleon Guerrero, Jose Delos Reyes Deleon Guerrero, Antonio Delos Reyes Deleon Guerrero, Jesus Delos Reyes Deleon Guerrero and Juan Aguon and Concepcion Deleon Guerrero Sanchez;
In-Laws, Ana Camacho Tenorio, Luis Camacho and Rita Sablan Tenorio, Albert Camacho Tenorio, Jose Camacho Tenorio (Joeten), Santiago Camacho Tenorio and Froilan Camacho Tenorio.

His Peaceful Spirit and Memories Will Live In The Hearts of His:

Children/Spouses and Grandchildren: Jesus T. and Rosalia S. Guerrero (Carol and Jesus), Agnes G. and Wayne Archibald (Marie, Suzanne and Jennifer - grandson John Wayne); Herman T. Guerrero; Juan T. and Roberta J. Guerrero (Vincent, Tracy, Jolene, John and Michael); Florencio T. and Luise S. Guerrero (Robert, Caryn, Florence, Noel, Lani, Rodney, Sheena, Derek and Daryl); Margarita G. and Manuel C. Sablan (Philip Herman III, Claudia - grandson Xavier, Jennifer, Monique, Frances Marie and Manuel Lee); Ana G. and Rick Hayes (Amanda Christel and Kristina Melissa); Rudolfo T. Guerrero (Pia - granddaughter Rebecca, Manuela, Rudy, Sergio and Herman); Joseph T. Guerrero (Christina, Ana Marie and Amanda); Leonora G. Villagomez (Megan, Derek, Niki and Herman Joseph) and Children of Bernadita B. Mendiola (Martha Luise, Elena Marie, Donald Jr., and Esteven).
In-Laws: Augustin Sablan Tudela, Maria Villagomez Deleon Guerrero, Cecilia Tenorio Sablan, Antonio Camacho and Janet Sakihara Tenorio, Rita Cruz Tenorio, Soledad Takai Tenorio, and Maria Sablan Tenorio.

He is additionally survived by numerous Uncles, Aunts, Nephews, Nieces and Godchildren.

Rosaries are being said at 12:00 Noon and nightly at the family's residence Tun Herman Pan (Airport) Road, at 7:00 P.M. On Tuesday, January 28, rosary will be set at 10:30 A.M. and at 7:00 P.M.

Last respects may be paid on Saturday, February 1, 1997 from 8:00 A.M. until 3:00 P.M. at the family's residence. Funeral mass will be offered at 4:00 P.M. at Mount Carmel Cathedral same day. Burial will follow at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

N. Koreans describe defection

By JU-YEON KIM
SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - Just a river away from freedom, 14-year-old Kim Hae Gwang was torn between love for his father and worship of his country's absolute leader.

"When father said we had to go to South Korea, leaving the warmth of our dear leader, I thought that even though he is my father, he is a bad person," Kim wrote in his diary.

The diary was published by newspapers in Seoul on Thursday, a day after Kim, his father and mother and an older brother, along with another family of four, arrived in South Korea.

South Korean patrol boats found the eight drifting in a small boat in the Yellow Sea, about 100 kilometers (62 miles) south of the border, Wednesday and towed them to port.

Their arrival ended a 10-month odyssey that began on March 18, when Kim's family left its home to visit his grandmother in a town near the Tumen River that separates North Korea from China.

Six days later, Kim's father took his wife and two sons for a walk along the river and disclosed his desire to flee.

"I thought my father a traitor. I told him I could never leave the bosom of our dear leader and teacher," Kim wrote of his initial reaction to his father's plan.

"I did not want to be separated from my father, but I also did not want to leave my dear teacher and leader ... but my older brother said father is father, whether good or bad, and that we had to obey," Kim wrote.

Finally convinced to leave by his brother, Kim joined his family in swimming across the frigid river to China later that day under cover of darkness.

Kim's diary was made public by Munhwa Broadcasting Corp. MBC said it received the six-page journal in October from a Korean Christian missionary in China who had befriended the family.

The diary entries cover a month, from March 18, when Kim's family left its home by train for his grandmother's house, until April 17, as the family was wandering through China.

North Koreans refer to their leader, Kim Jong Il, as the "dear leader" and are taught to worship him as their absolute ruler. The country is isolated from the outside world and its people receive little news from abroad.

The latest defections follow the Dec. 9 arrival of a family of 17 North Koreans, the largest single flight from the North since the 1950-53 Korean War.

About 150 North Koreans have defected to South Korea in the past three years. According to Seoul officials, hundreds of North

Koreans are staying illegally in China and Russia.

North Korea is suffering from a widespread food shortage bordering on famine. With its economy in shambles, it has appealed for outside help to feed its people.

In his diary, Kim described his first days in China as filled with

wonder at the smiling people and market stalls filled with fresh fruits and vegetables.

Unable to find their way to South Korea, Kim's parents worked as farmhands and at restaurants in China, keeping the children hidden to avoid detection.

Defectors uncovered by North Korean agents in China are re-

ported to be dragged back in chains and shot.

It is unclear how the Kims were finally able to find their way to South Korea. They were reported to have met with the second family, Yoo Song Il and his three children, at an undisclosed Chinese port before getting on a boat headed to South Korea.

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

It is the policy of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation that the CUC Human Resources System shall be applied and administered according to the principle of equal opportunity for all citizens and nationals as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Constitution regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, handicap or place of origin. The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) Lower Base, Saipan is looking for applicants for the following position:

8 Linemen

The employee performs installation and services on overhead lines (high voltage) and secondary distribution drop lines throughout the island. Must be able to operate augers and bucket trucks. Must have own climbing gear (belt & hooks). The minimum pay for this position is \$527.06 bi-weekly. The minimum qualifications are graduation from high school and six (6) years experience. (This position is for a limited term appointment not to exceed one (1) year).

This announcement closes on January 30, 1997. Applications are available at the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Lower Base, Saipan, the CUC Rota or Tinian office. Applications must be accompanied by an updated police clearance and a copy of the high school diploma.

/s/Timothy P. Villagomez
Executive Director
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

Japanese ex-airport official arrested in bribery scandal

By MARI YAMAGUCHI
TOKYO (AP) - Investigators arrested the former president of Japan's newest and most expensive international airport Thursday, accusing him of accepting bribes of gold bars, a painting and pricey meals.

Tsuneharu Hattori was charged with taking 1.7 million yen (nearly \$ 15,000) from an oil wholesaler to rig lucrative cleaning contracts at the airport Kansai International Airport near Osaka.

Hattori, who faces up to five years in prison, received 300 grams (10.5 ounces) of gold worth 423,330 yen (\$3,588), a 1 million yen (\$ 8,500) painting and restaurant meals in 1994, the Tokyo Public Prosecutors Office said.

The construction of the \$ 15 billion Kansai airport, on a man-made island 410 kilometers (255 miles) southwest of Tokyo, was plagued by cost overruns and delays. U.S. officials and companies complained at the time that Japanese companies were favored in construction bids.

This was not the first bribery scandal linked to the air-

port. An airport official was arrested in May 1995 for allegedly taking bribes involving the construction of an airport shopping center.

Prosecutors said they were searching sites connected with Thursday's arrest, and news reports said investigators were looking through airport officials and Hattori's residence for evidence.

Hattori has already confessed to accepting bribes in exchange for giving janitorial contracts to companies recommended by oil wholesaler Junichi Izui in September 1994, when the airport opened, news reports say.

Izui was arrested on tax evasion charges in November and was charged Thursday with bribing Hattori. The case has focused attention on Izui's allegedly extensive entertaining of influential politicians and bureaucrats.

Japanese construction companies have been accused of widespread bid-rigging and other exclusionary practices, including large donations to politicians and bureaucrats who control public works funds.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Bernadita Baza MENDIOLA "Bennett"



BORN: MAY 5, 1961
DIED ON JANUARY 20, 1997 AT THE AGE OF 35

SHE IS SURVIVED BY:

Spouse: DONALD MUNA MENDIOLA
Children: MARTHA, ELENA, DONALD & STEVEN
Father: HERMAN R. GUERRERO
Mother & Step Father: MARIA BAZA SABLAN & MANUEL S. SABLAN
Parents-in-Law: ESTEBAN S. & MARTHA M. MENDIOLA
Reared Parents: MANUEL S. & LUISE P. VILLAGOMEZ

BROTHERS & SISTERS & IN LAW:

BAZA FAMILY Francisco Baza (Diane) Dorothy B. Read (Larry) (†)Consolacion B. Krupp (Jim) Frances Baza Gregorio Baza Juan Baza (Annie) Patricia Baza Nora B. Bornilla (Antonio Jr.) Joseph Baza Michael Baza (†)Julia Baza	MENDIOLA FAMILY Nicolas Muna (Dolly) Eddie Mendiola (Annie) Arnold Mendiola Joseph Mendiola (Lou)	GUERRERO FAMILY (†)Francisca T. Guerrero Jesus T. Guerrero (Chiang) Agnes G. Archibald (Wayne) Herman T. Guerrero, Jr. Florencio T. Guerrero (Lucy) Juan T. Guerrero (Roberta) Margarita G. Sablan (Manuel) Anna G. Hayes (Rick) Rudy T. Guerrero Joseph T. Guerrero Leonora G. Villagomez	VILLAGOMEZ FAMILY Linda V. Cepeda (Felix) Patricia V. Cepeda (Johnny) Sen. Thomas P. Villagomez (Vicky) Barbara V. Wesley (Joseph) Manuel P. Villagomez Joseph P. Villagomez Edward P. Villagomez (Jutta) David Jesus P. Villagomez (Miyuki) Nora V. Borja (Raymond) John P. Villagomez (Jeannette) Ramona V. Manglona (John) Antonia V. Jerome (Jerome)
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She is also survived by numerous Uncles, Aunts, Cousins, Nieces and Nephews.

Daily masses are offered at 6:00 a.m. and nightly rosary at 8:00 p.m. at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral, Chalan Kanoa, Saipan. Last respects may be paid on Tuesday, January 28, 1997 from 8:00 a.m. until 3:45 p.m. Mass of the Christian Burial will be at 4:00 p.m. on the same day followed by her interment at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Thank you.
THE FAMILY

DO YOU HAVE \$200 TO THROW AWAY?
Whether you are walking,
driving, sailing, or flying...
LITTERING IS ILLEGAL IN THE CNMI.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

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 18, 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 Ngirasmau, 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

"NMHC IS AN EQUAL EMPLOYMENT AND FAIR HOUSING AGENCY"

Tuna...

Continued from page 1

ing," he said. Gutierrez cautioned other islands

against the experience of the Federated States of Micronesia with a fishing company from Taiwan.

"We have to be careful about people who come in, fish in our waters, make

money right away and then leave," Gutierrez warned.

"Even the fish band together to keep the sharks away. Like the fish, we need to band together to keep the economic sharks away," he added.

Gutierrez said the region also considers the establishment of a cooperative for meat products, fruits and vegetables.

"We're planning to put up a com-

mon market (among the islands) to make sure that no island is taken advantage of," Gutierrez said.

On the interisland movement of illegal drugs, the Guam governor stressed the urgency to formulate a regional plan "to make sure this problem is mitigated."

"We want to be able to give the impetus from the top to make sure that the chief executives are the ones

giving policies within and for the region," Gutierrez said.

The council is an organization composed of the governors of Guam, the CNMI and the states of FSM, Palau, the Marshall Islands and other entities in the Micronesian region espousing regional economic and socio-political cooperation.

They...

Continued from page 1

mittee.

The resolution suspended the provisions of the party bylaws on the holding of a primary.

Borja, a former Supreme Court associate justice, said Friday that he cannot see how the party leadership "could get around" the bylaws.

Muña said running as an independent ticket would be the Borja-Sablán team's "last resort."

"We're still Democrats, and all we are asking is for the party to hold a primary," he said.

However, if the party leadership would deny Borja and Sablan their right, as party members, to run in a primary, Muña said they may have to consider running as independent candidates in November.

He said the Borja-Sablán core group will meet again next week "to iron out a lot of things."

Betrayed

Borja said Friday that he couldn't believe that the party's central executive committee "could stoop so low."

"Who wouldn't feel betrayed?" he

said.

Most of the committee members, according to Borja, have given him "full support" prior to the committee's Wednesday meeting.

He said he is sure that the committee's decision to endorse Tenorio's candidacy was "influenced" by non-committee members.

He did not elaborate.

Asked to comment on the role of the governor's special legal counsel Sebastian Aloat in the drafting of the committee resolution, Borja said he has "no problems with it," as long as Aloat was hired as a private counsel and not in his capacity as the governor's lawyer.

On party chair Daniel O. Quitugua's statement that not holding a primary would help prevent a party split, Borja said the committee's decision is an "odd way" of trying to unify the party.

Just a few hours after Borja named his running mate for the Democratic Party's gubernatorial primary scheduled for April, the party's central executive committee voted Wednesday night not to hold any primary.

The committee, by a unanimous vote, adopted a resolution endorsing the candidacy of Governor Tenorio.

Borja was endorsed as Tenorio's

running mate.

But Tenorio, in an interview Thursday, said he will ask the party's leadership to reconsider its decision.

Quitugua said Thursday that the leadership's decision not to hold a primary is in the party's best interest, and that there was no "conspiracy" involved.

Quitugua, announced last Jan. 9 that the party will hold a gubernatorial primary in April, after last-ditch efforts to convince Borja to run with Tenorio failed.

The governor, in December 1995, said he would not seek a second term, and that he would instead support Borja's candidacy.

By August of last year, however, Tenorio said he had changed his mind and that he would ask Borja to be his running mate.

DPW...

Continued from page 1

week to combat the blaze. The thick rubbish smoke had blanketed Garapan, putting people with respiratory problems at risk, and closing down the Garapan Elementary school at least twice.

In an earlier interview, DPW Secretary Edward M. DL Guerrero, has admitted the blaze was the "worst" in recent years. Their efforts to out it out, he said, was "not working effectively."

Three eight-man teams of DPW and DPS personnel were dispatched to work on a 24-hour shift using two firetrucks and at least four water tanks having a total capacity of 10,500 gallons.

Guerrero said waste material thrown away by garments firms have aggravated the situation.

He has also expressed hope the fire will have been put out over the weekend.

Consul...

Continued from page 1

is a law protecting us from all these."

Article 32 of the Convention exempts the Consulate from taxation by the host country while Article 43 immunizes it from jurisdiction of the judicial and administrative authorities of the receiving country.

Calonge said such documents and fees required from employers is a matter that can be acquired "on a personal basis and not in a manner which seem to be demanding."

Manila-based Philippine government officials, in an interview with the Variety, said Jones "may be violating" Article 40 of the Convention through that letter alone.

Article 40 states that the receiving government "shall treat consular officers with due respect and shall take all appropriate steps to prevent any attack on their person, freedom, or dignity."

Other documents Jones was asking for is that on the agreement between the United States and Philippine governments "establishing the latter's Consulate Office [sic] on Saipan."

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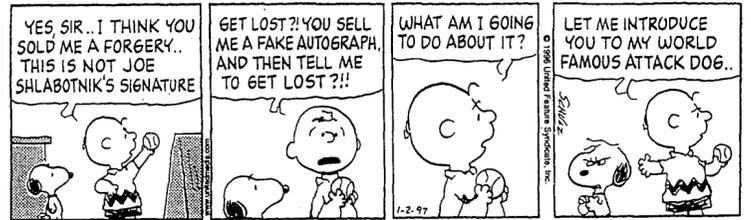
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TUESDAY, JAN. 28

Born today, you are a highly creative individual...

— You may think that you are making a big mistake today...

was nothing more than a combination of bad taste and bad timing...

CLOSERS

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that the pesticides in these collars are dangerous — many contain DDPV and Piperonylbutoxide...

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down. Includes 'Answer to Previous Puzzle' and '1-18 © 1997 United Feature Syndicate'.

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Sampras wins Australian Open

By STEVE WILSTEIN MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Of all nine of Pete Sampras' Grand Slam titles, the Australian Open he won Sunday punished his body the most.

tough to put the ball away with these balls."

Suffocating heat, soft, heavy balls, a slower than usual hard court, and long, draining matches all conspired to wear him down.

The oven-like heat — more than 100 degrees on court Sunday and up to 140 degrees other days — made this tournament tougher for Sampras even than the U.S. Open he won last year after vomiting and nearly collapsing on court in the quarters against Alex Corretja.

Not that anyone could tell by the way Sampras dispatched young Spaniard Carlos Moya 6-2, 6-3, 6-3 in 87 minutes in the final.

But in winning his second Australian title, Sampras was threatened only by strings popping on five of his rackets. The victory, in the most one-sided Australian final in eight years, separated the No. 1 American from all but one of the greats of the open era.

Only Bjorn Borg, with 11 Grand Slam titles, has more majors than Sampras since the start of open tennis in 1968. Sampras had been tied at eight with Jimmy Connors and Ivan Lendl. Roy Emerson leads the all-time men's list with 12 majors, Rod

Laver won 11 — only five in open play — and Bill Tilden captured 10 in the 1920s and '30s.

hugging Moya managed only 13 winners and no volleys.

"Pete, we want a fourth set!" a spectator yelled after Sampras took a 3-1 lead on his serve in the third set.

Sampras responded with a forehand drop shot winner on the next point. Sampras had no desire to let this match go longer than necessary, and only a shortage of string or rackets could have stopped him on this day.

Sampras served 12 aces to Moya's two, but it wasn't sheer power that earned him this title. With the temperature 90 degrees in the shade and a bright sun burning through a partly cloudy sky, Sampras sacrificed speed for placement as he kept the unseeded Moya guessing where the ball was going next.

Unlike earlier matches this tournament and in the U.S. Open last year, Sampras coped easily with the heat this time. He seemed to be playing so effortlessly that the crowd and Moya were lulled into watching him as if expecting winner after winner. Sampras obliged with 38 winners —

his Grand Slam winning streak to 14 matches.

Sampras said that when he awoke Sunday he thought about his late coach, Tim Gullikson, who was diagnosed with brain cancer here two years ago.

Sampras said Gullikson would always be on his mind when he plays.

"This is where it all happened," Sampras said. "I'm sure he's looking down and is very happy that I fought through some tough matches."

Sampras, who fell in the third round at the Australian last year, spoke to the crowd about how difficult 1996 had been as he struggled with Gullikson's death.

Then Sampras drew a big laugh from fans when he responded to a shriek from a female fan: "I love you, too, babe."

National Basketball Association Hawks win 19th at home

ATLANTA (AP) — Mookie Blaylock made three free throws and Eldridge Recasner two in the final 15 seconds as the Atlanta Hawks held off Boston 95-90 for their 19th consecutive home victory, the NBA's longest streak this season.

Dikembe Mutombo's jam gave Atlanta an 83-82 lead with 3:46 left, and the Hawks did not trail again on the way to their 12th win in 13 games.

David Wesley's jumper cut it to 90-88 with 16 seconds left before Blaylock made three of four free throws over the next four seconds. Recasner made his pair with 1.3 seconds left.

Blaylock led the Hawks with 24 points, and Mutombo had 16 points and 15 rebounds. The Hawks are three wins from tying the franchise record for consecutive home victories.

with at least 30 points, and Corliss Williamson scored 20.

Cavaliers 106, Hornets 73 CLEVELAND (AP) — Tyrone Hill had 20 points and 11 rebounds and Cleveland snapped out of a slump with its biggest victory margin this season.

Hill maneuvered around burly forward Anthony Mason for 9-of-12 shooting, opening things up for a second-half shooting barrage that secured Cleveland's second victory in 10 games.

Bobby Phillips had 15 points and limited Glen Rice to 18, ending the Charlotte sharpshooter's streak of five straight 30-point games.

Terrell Brandon had 21 points and 13 assists, and Bob Surra added 19 points for the Cavs.

Knights...

Continued from page 20 in the first game to remain undefeated in the Junior Varsity Division. With 56 seconds left in the ball game and the Knights barely on top 56-54, MCS went to the line to exact revenge on the Dolphins. Borja, who scored all his points from the stripes, sank two free throws in the dying seconds while Dela Cruz scored a split as the Knights escape with a 59-54 win. MCS took the first half by

five, 28-23 and the third 42-37.

In their first, MCS won but eventually lost the game against the Dolphins due to a rule violation.

The win gave MCS an overall 2-1 win loss slate and a tie for first place with their victims. The MCS' triumph snapped the Dolphins' two game winning streak.

Dela Cruz scored a game high 25 points while Roy Guerrero added eight. Geoffrey George and Brandon Concepcion chipped in six points apiece.

In the first game, the MHS Junior Dolphins leaned on a 24-12 first half lead en route to their third win in as many games. Jerome Sablan scored a game high 12 points to led eight MCS scorers.

Mark Villagomez sank three triples but his efforts went to naught as MCS absorbed their second loss from the same team. Villegas eventually finished the game with 11 points while Noah Uchiyama contributed eight markers.

Jaridon...

Continued from page 20 In consolation, J's Restaurant won the remaining team all events—the high scratch and high handicap games—by rolling 1,035 and 1,139 pins. With the losses, Chong's Corporation eventually fell to third overall with 61-35 mark. Century Travel, on the other hand placed fifth with 52-44 tally. WST Enterprises (53-43) bagged fourth overall by scoring a 3-1 victory versus FT Construction. FT Construction finished the tournament in sixth slot with 47.5-48.5.

UIC improved to seventh after almost sweeping Kautz Glass Company, 3.5-5 for a final 43.5-52.5 slate. Kautz Glass fell to eighth overall with 41.5-54.5.

In the final pairings, Holiday Shop (35.5-60.5) pounded LVS Car Paints (38-58), 3-1 and Trash King (37-59) drew with Mean Machine, 2-2 (35.5-60.5).

LVS, Trash King, Holiday Shop and Mean Machine wound up in ninth, 10th, 11th, and 12th slot respectively.

Dave O'Brien, Larry Wells, Mark Halstead and Jun Lim won one category each in the individual all events. O'Brien rolled the best mark in the

high scratch game with 279 pins while Wells bagged the high handicap game with 297.

Halstead racked 698 and Lim knocked 731 pins to win the high scratch and high handicap series.

In the individual high average, Jaridon completed its dominance of the league when Halstead's 192.77 pins per outing gave him the title.

Mike Macam actually had the best average of 199.33 pins but he wasn't able to bowl enough games to give Halstead the crown.

Robert Talavera and Jess Rebusada copped second and third places with 189.36 and 188.52 averages respectively.

Team Standings

National Basketball Association By the Associated Press

Table with columns for Eastern Conference Atlantic Division, Eastern Conference Central Division, Eastern Conference Midwest Division, Eastern Conference Pacific Division, and Friday's Games. Includes team names, wins, losses, and percentages.

Elmoutwakel...

Continued from page 20 distance in 39 minutes and 39 seconds for the title. Balcita finished second with 50 minutes and 20 seconds while Carlson arrived in 50 minutes and 42 seconds for third.

Other winners in the Half Marathon run include Kaseida Yuya in the 19 and under category; Eric Gilman (1:29:38) and Hironaka Buchie (1:44:24) in the Male and Female 20 and 29 age bracket; Bill Early (1:37:51) and Mamiko Seino (1:43:05) in the 30-39 division; Steve Pixley (1:33:18) and Sakurazawa Kimiko (1:52:10) in the 40-49 category; and Shunichi Akahoshi (1:35:16)

O'Doul's...

Continued from page 20 half lead then went to the charity lane to score a convincing 75-66 win over Michelob Light-Fas Moving. E. Villanueva led CMS with 18 markers while D. Liwanag and Boy Cabildo added 10 and 11 respectively. Acosta scored a game 26 while Alonzo and J. Acosta. Alonzo pumped in 12 of his 19 points while Acosta

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SPORTS



Buffaloes Half Marathon Fun Run

Elmoutwakel, Sayuri bag crowns



Winners' Circle—Saad Elmoutwakel (1st from left) leads the winners in the just concluded Buffaloes Fun Runs organized by Marianas Visitors Bureau during the Awards' Banquet held last Saturday at Hyatt Regency Saipan. With him are (from left) Takahiro Ishdo, Hashimoto Kazuhito, Women's Division winner Yuyama Sayuri, Susan Burr and Tarika Maki.

Photo by Erel A. Cabatbat

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff
SAAD ELMOUTWAKEL reaffirmed his status as one of the leading long distance runners of Guam by crossing the finish ahead of the pack while Yuyama Sayuri arrived first last Saturday to win the Men's and Women's overall

titles of the Half Marathon of the Annual Buffaloes Fun Run at the American Memorial Park.

Noriaki Nara and Aya Yaguchi won the 10 kilometer run to share the limelight with Elmoutwakel and Sayuri.

Elmoutwakel breasted the tape in one hour, 17 minutes and four

seconds to finished ahead of Takahiro Ishdo and Hashimoto Kazuhito. Ishdo clocked one hour, 20 minutes and 19 seconds to arrive at second while Kazuhito covered the distance in one hour, 28 minutes and 52 seconds.

Sayuri, on the other hand, ran the 13.1 mile distance in one hour,

36 minutes and 29 seconds to beat Saipan's Susan Burr and Tarika Maki of Japan. Burr came in at second, two minutes and 40 seconds behind Sayuri while Maki bagged third place after coming in 1:43:12.

Nara clocked 36 minutes and 22 seconds to win the Men's 10 K

run. Tadashi Muira arrived one minute and 12 seconds behind for second place while Sato Sakae clocked 38 minutes flat for third.

In the Women's side, Yaguchi arrived ahead of Amalia Balcita and Rena Carlson to win the overall title. Yaguchi covered the

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ICBL's 1997 Budweiser Cup O'Doul's, Bud Light prevail

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff
O' Doul's scored a 76-73 squeaker win against Bud Ice while Bud Light went to the stripes to cushion a late surge by Michelob Light as the two teams won their elimination matches last Saturday in the Inter Commercial Basketball League's 1997 Budweiser Cup at the CMS Gym.
O' Doul's, sponsored by Golden Lobster, leaned on the triumvirate of Ray Lizama, Jay Morisheta and Gus Palacios to turn back Bud Ice-FT/SNE

in the main game. The trio combined for 28 points in the final 20 minutes of the ballgame. O' Doul's took the first half by one, 40-39.
Lizama scored a game high 23 points while Morisheta chipped 16. Palacios rattled 10 in the final half to finish the game with 15.
Ric Alegre led FT/SNE's losing cause with 18 points. Ed Cosino contributed 16 while Edsel Mendoza added 10.
In the first game, Bud Light-CMS leaned on a 13 point first

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1997 CIFHS Basketball League Knights, Dolphins split matches

Team Standings		
	W	L
Senior Varsity		
MHS Dolphins 2	1	
MCS Knights	2	1
GCA Eagles	0	2
Junior Varsity		
MHS Dolphins 3	0	
MCS Knights	1	2
GCA Eagles	0	2

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff
THIS TIME, the Knights won fair and square.

The Mount Carmel School (MCS) Varsity Five leaned on Joey Dela Cruz and Richard Borja's grace under pressure to outlast the Marianas High School (MHS) Dolphins, 59-54 last Saturday in the Commonwealth Interscholastic Federation's 1997 High School Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym.
In the first game, the Junior Varsity Dolphins repeated over their MCS counterparts, 42-21

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Caps amazing title run with a 4-0 win Jaridon wins Pinbusters League

Final Team Standings Wednesday Pinbusters League - Saipan Bowling Center

Pos	Tm#	Team	Won	Lost	Pct	-----Handicap-----			
						TotPins	Ave	Gm	Ser
1	5	Jaridon	65.0	31.0	67.71	70815	983	1135	3228
2	2	J's Restaurant	63.5	32.5	66.15	70895	984	1139	3144
3	4	Chong's Corporation	61.0	35.0	63.54	69967	971	1113	3090
4	1	WST Enterprises	53.0	43.0	55.21	69323	962	1083	3115
5	7	Century Travel	52.0	44.0	54.17	70237	975	1092	3097
6	12	F.T.Construction Co.	47.5	48.5	49.48	68257	948	1082	3056
7	10	U.I.C.	43.5	52.5	45.31	67533	951	1070	3032
8	3	Kautz Glass Company	41.5	54.5	43.23	68013	957	1082	3063
9	9	LVS Car Paints	38.0	58.0	39.58	67600	938	1079	3053
10	6	Trash King	37.0	59.0	38.54	67814	941	1093	3084
11	11	Holiday Shop	35.5	60.5	36.98	68770	955	1116	3166
12	8	Mean Machine	35.5	60.5	36.98	56564	958	1103	3018

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff
JARIDON completed its campaign with an amazing 16-0 rampage to win the overall title in the Wednesday Pinbusters League at the Saipan Bowling Center.
Needing to win three of its final four games to win the title outright, the Jaridon juggernaut went to full throttle by sweeping Chong's Corporation, 1,109-967; 1,075-993; and 1,027-969 for a 3-0 win.
A 282 total pin advantage gave Jaridon a perfect 4-0 tally against their totally outclassed

opponents.
The shutout wins gave Jaridon an overall 65-31 win loss slate to finish two wins ahead of its closest pursuer.
The team, composed of Wally Guerrero, Mark Halstead, Don Hensley, Shawn Middleton, Dave O' Brien, Joe Sablan, Manny Tenorio and Diego Villagomez, rolled 1,109; 2,941 and 3, 211 pins to win the final week's high handicap game, high scratch series and high handicap games.
A J's Restaurant triumph in the high scratch game averted a Jaridon sweep in the team's all events.

Jaridon's output in the high scratch series was the league's best to give the team a double kill in the year to date high scores. Jaridon also won the high handicap series by rolling 3,228 pins.
J's Restaurant blanked Century Travel, 1,101-1,000; 1,056-959; 981-945 and a three game pin total of 3,138 against Century Travel's 2,904 for a 4-0 sweep.
J's efforts, however, fell short as they finished the tournament with a 63.5-32.5 record or two wins shy of Jaridon.

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