

DAILY

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News  
& Views

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50¢

# Deficit down to \$15M



Antonio R. Cabrera

By Rafael H. Arroyo  
Variety News Staff

BOUYED by strong revenue collections and restrained government spending, the Tenorio Ad-

ministration said it has wiped out much of the reported \$44 million accumulated deficit down to \$14.9 million, as of fiscal year 1996's end.

Finance Sec. Antonio R. Cabrera, in an interview with the Variety yesterday, said surplus funds realized in the last couple of years have been applied to the deficit to bring it down to a more "manageable" level.

He added that current trends point to a possible zeroing out of the entire amount by Sept. 30 this year, the end of fiscal year 1997.

"We are definitely looking at zeroing out this deficit by September. We are very optimistic about that goal," said Cabrera.

The secretary in his latest financial status report to Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio, disclosed general fund revenues in FY 1996 has been pegged at \$216.8 million.

An accompanying unaudited revenues and expenditures table placed actual total collections for FY 1996 at \$256.9 million, overrunning the \$212.5 million revenue projection for that year by \$44 million.

Cabrera in June of last year reported the deficit to be down to approximately \$34 million after government dedicated much of a \$12 million FY 1995 surplus to deficit reduction efforts.

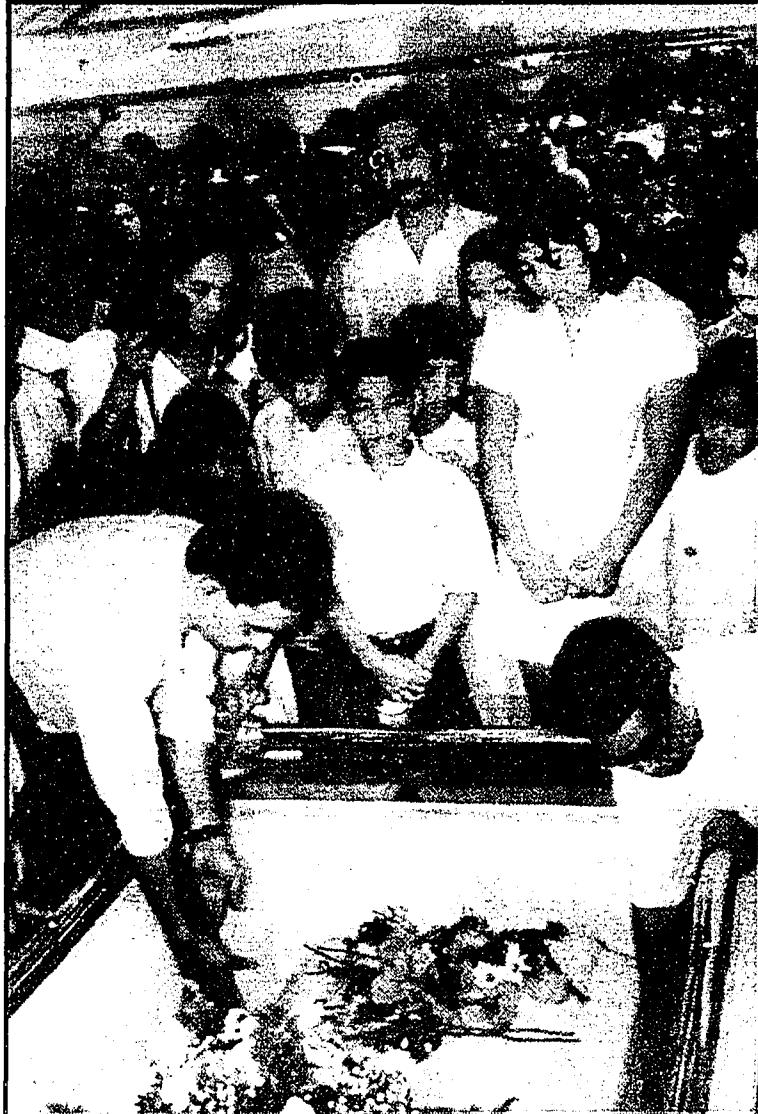
Since then, he said, close to \$20 million more in revenues have

been used to bring down the deficit further.

Cabrera attributed the deficit reduction feat to a more streamlined operation by Finance, a responsive taxpaying public and expenditure restraint, among other factors.

"What we have done different in FY 1996? We have trained our personnel well, we provided a new computer system for Revenue and Taxation, as well as Customs, and we're getting a new computer financial management system for

Continued on page 16



Family, relatives and friends stand in prayer as the casket bearing the remains of Treasury cashier Bennett Baza Mendiola is lowered to its final resting place at the Chalan Kanoa cemetery. Mendiola was slain when a family friend allegedly went on a stabbing spree at her Koberville home.



Froilan C. Tenorio

Tenorio won handily.

The former two-term governor is the Republican bet in the November election.

Democratic Party chair Daniel O. Quitugua has that the leadership's decision not to

Continued on page 16

## Tenorio insists on primary

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio, as titular head of the CNMI Democratic Party, will insist that the party hold a gubernatorial primary, Variety sources said yesterday.

Tenorio, the sources said, wants a primary and has already asked the party leadership to reconsider its earlier decision to endorse his candidacy.

"The governor recognizes the party as the supreme authority on these matters, but he also knows that holding a primary is in the best interest of the party and the people," an administration source, who requested anonymity, said yesterday.

Tenorio's rival for the party's gubernatorial nomination, his

1993 running mate Lt. Gov. Jesus C. Borja, demanded on Tuesday that the party leadership hold a primary (*see story in this issue*).

Hours after Borja named his running mate for the primary originally scheduled for April, the party's central executive committee voted not to hold any primary.

The committee, by a unanimous vote, adopted a resolution endorsing a Tenorio-Borja ticket.

The governor last week said he discouraged the committee members not to adopt the resolution.

"I did not like the idea. They hinted about it, but I told them not to do it. We have this experience before... (and we) always ended up with controversies," he said referring to the party split in the 1981 election which the Republican candidate Pedro P. "Teno"

## Palau to oppose any plans to restrict entry of Micronesians

By Mar-Vic C. Munar

Variety News Staff

KOROR, Palau—President Kuniwo Nakamura said Monday the issue regarding the impact of Compact of Free Associations should be addressed "on a regional basis" and that his government would oppose any proposal to restrict the entry of Palauans and other Micronesian citizens into United States territories.

"I will reemphasize our position here today—we will continue to strongly resist any and all efforts to limit our citi-



Kuniwo Nakamura

zens' ability to live and work in the United States, including Guam, the CNMI and Hawaii."

Nakamura said, keynoting the Council of Chief Executives in Micronesia meeting held at Palau Pacific Resort.

The CNMI, Guam, Hawaii have been complaining of the financial burden they carry as a result of the Compacts of the U.S. with Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands.

The island governments have sued the U.S., demanding reimbursements, but the Department of Interior maintains that the federal govern-

Continued on page 16

## WEATHER Outlook



Partly cloudy with widely scattered showers

Continued on page 16

Pacc. Newspaper Stacks

# Clinton raps China over rights progress

WASHINGTON (AP) - President Clinton expressed disappointment Tuesday in China's progress on human rights and said Hong Kong would be less useful to China if personal freedoms are suppressed.

"I'm not so sure that it can exist with all of its potential to help China modernize its own economy and open opportunities for its own people if the civil liberties of the people are crushed" in Hong Kong, Clinton said.

The president, at a news conference, insisted however that his policy of maintaining high-level contacts with China has not failed.

"It does not mean that if we had followed the policy of isolating ourselves from China, who no one else in the world was prepared to do that, that we would have gotten better results," Clinton said.

He said change in China will take time but change is inevitable.

In a related development, a top European Union official called on Tuesday for a "coordinated approach" with the United States in relation to China.



Bill Clinton

# Peru, Japan to coordinate decisions on hostage crisis

By LYNN F. MONAHAN  
LIMA, Peru (AP) - Japan is concerned about how Peru is handling a standoff with leftist rebels holding 72 hostages, and Peru may respond by giving Japan a bigger role in the efforts to end the crisis.

Japanese officials have been worried about daily maneuvers by heavily armed police commandos outside the Japanese ambassador's residence, where Tupac Amaru rebels are holding the hostages. On Tuesday, a day after rebels opened fire on the officers, Japan's prime minister urged Peru to be more careful.

President Alberto Fujimori and members of a commission formed to mediate talks with the rebels if such talks resume, met Tuesday night with Japan's representative to Peru, Terusuke Terada.

Peruvian government negotiator Domingo Palermosaid after the meeting that Fujimori was "studying the possibility of closer coordination" with Japan.

It was the second time this week

# Bomb destroys Air France office in Nice

NICE, France (AP) - A powerful bomb exploded outside an Air France office in this Mediterranean city, causing serious damage but no injuries, police said Wednesday. Investigators suspect the explosion to be the work of Corsican militants, radio reports said.

The bomb, which exploded at 10:45 p.m. (2145 GMT) Tuesday, started a fire that destroyed the airline's office, six neighboring businesses and eight vehicles that were parked outside, police said.

Some of the militant groups want to break away completely and form their own nation. Others seek financial privileges and greater independence from the mainland.

world arena, while at the same time tackling problems (such as) human rights," he said. "We agreed that human rights is something that cannot be ignored."

On Hong Kong, which reverted to China in July, Clinton said, "We don't know yet what's going to happen, but the Chinese have basically said that it would be part of China, but its system would be left intact. And I think there may be some ambivalence about what it means to leave their system intact."

Clinton noted that he had been to Hong Kong several times and said that anyone who has been there several times "leaves with the feeling I have, that you could go there 1,000 times, and you might not ever understand it all. It's a complicated society."

He said he hopes the Chinese will "look for ways to maximize the continuation not only of the (Hong Kong) economic system, but of the personal freedoms that the people of Hong Kong have enjoyed in making it such an economic engine."

# Report: Saddam wife under 'house arrest'

By SUSANNE M. SCHAFER

WASHINGTON (AP) - Saddam Hussein's wife is under house arrest in Iraq and his son may lose a leg to gangrene in the wake of an assassination attempt, a senior U.S. military officer said.

The rebels raided the house during a Dec. 17 cocktail party. They have since released most of the 500 odd guests they took captive, but continue to hold 72. Among them: Japanese Ambassador Morihisa Aoki, Japanese executives, Peru's foreign and agriculture ministers, police officials and Fujimori's younger brother, Pedro.

Although the police tactics are getting bolder, there is little sign that attacks may begin anytime soon.

Palermo says a location has been selected for talks and that Peru's Roman Catholic Church has agreed to monitor prison conditions for Tupac Amaru rebels.

The Iraqi leader's eldest son and heir apparent may be paralyzed and lose a leg to gangrene following a Dec. 12 grenade and machine-gun attack as he drove through Baghdad, the officer said. Iraqi television has shown him in a hospital bed with his legs and much of his torso covered, but the footage has never shown him moving his back or legs.

Saddam and his wife, Sajida, have five children - three daughters and two sons. His wife has kept an extremely low profile, seldom appearing at public events or on television.

The officer offered no further explanation of the wife's situation, nor any detail. The information came from a recent visitor to Baghdad, said the officer, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Last week, a leading Iraqi opposition figure said Saddam's security forces had arrested about 600 people since the assassination attempt on his son, and the group included more than 20 senior military officers and officials.

The U.S. officer said the Iraqi leader "is moving around more," while in Baghdad or his family stronghold of Takrit, and said that could be evidence that Saddam probably does not feel very secure.

The Iraqi leader's son and heir apparent may be paralyzed and lose a leg to gangrene following a Dec. 12 grenade and machine-gun attack as he drove through Baghdad,

the officer said. Iraqi television has shown him in a hospital bed with his legs and much of his torso covered, but the footage has never shown him moving his back or legs.

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## *Idat 'nai mauleg makreansa i patgon*

Megai man famoso siha na professot, mediko yan otro man'estudioyan menhalom mannañge' pot taimano 'nai siña ta kreansa un' patgon para u mauleg na sudadano.

Guaha oppan yan akseptao na fino' un' professot ni sumangan na i patgon gigon umeskuela elementario ha tutuhon humusgan masague' pot prinsipion morat. Lokue', gai interes kumetuñgo hafa dicholinala', haf' taimano yan sa' hafa na taiguine i manmangchogue. Gi mismo tiempo haf' taimano yan pot sa' hafa na debi u guaha inadahe gi mañaña. Estague' ayo i mafanana "Idat Konsensia".

Ginun un'tat Anna Freud: "Estague' na idat 'nai i konsensian un'patgon ha tutuhon malulog, osino ahe"; estague' na tiempo 'nai i sensian i patgon ha tutuhon fumotmagine' ya masimientu, osino ahe'. Este na tiempo gi linala' un' patgon 'nai i nueblo na ineyag, tiniñgo' yan todo klasen posibilidat u fatto ginen maestraña yan maestroña. Este na tiempo siha 'nai todo felis, ansia, imbelikeru yan brabo umaligao pot guuya mismo; 'nai i maestrona yan mañainaña mandinidiñgo pasi mientras ha chachage (patgon) kume komprende todos i masusegedi gi oriyana. Estague' na tiempo 'nai trahiba gada' i prohimo, pot eso na debi i saina u sattion gi todo kinalamenña ennao na patgon.

Pot este na rason na obligao na kada saina u saonao gi todo kinalamen 'nai umeskuelu patgonña. Yangin ma'agañ hundan PTA, soyu' maisa hao umatende ennao na inasoda' kosake un'tuñgo nu i saina hafa kinalametenna i eskuela espesiamente gi plano siha pot aktividat estudiante. Yangin guaha ti konfotmemo gi bandan kualidat maestro osino maestra, libre hao mamaisen propio kuestion siha 'nai siña u guaha inatuñgo hafa mas presiso u fan machogue pot para una'adelanta kualidat maestro yan maestra.

I eskuela un' lugat 'nai i patgonmo ha gagasta tiempoa yan maestrañña yan mangachofñga. Pot este na motibo na debi unna' guaha ancho tiempomo umatende aktividat patgonmo. Ti siña na para un' sotta ya i maestro, maestra yan administradot edukasion u fan responsable enteramente gi aktividat patgonmo. Rikonose maestran patgonmo hafa sesso na patte gi estudiuna yan konkductaña i patgon ha nesesita adelant. Yangin kuentas osino siensi 'nai fufatso, pue sanguagao ayudo pot para uma' assiste patgon gumacha' hulo' i pumalo. Pot fabot, muñga mamahlao pot este na chinatsagan sa' ni figura 'nai siña u fatto ayudo yangin ti mamaisen hao.

Baiho besita pago i bandan lutrina gi un' killisyano na patgon. Este na patte gi finanaguuen un' patgon sumen presiso piot sa' ginen este na pisu 'nai ha tutuhon umadelanta konsiensiaña. Dumaña este yan pattispasismo gi finanaguuen mauleg na sensia, respeto, yine'ase' yan konsiderasian gi otro taotaos osino prohimuma. Para un' kusecha inaguaiya, respeto, fitme na dinña gi halom familiar, debi hago niñismo nu i saina un' tutuhon ginen halom mismo gima'mo. Yangin masge' hao ginen este na patte gi quadrante familia, pue siempre u guaha siha linetong yan sinetsot gi ultimo besis.

I modelon i famaguonta, hita mismo nu i mañainan niha ni gumachuchuge lamayot dese finagpo' eskuela. Taya' otro 'nai para u espehosgue' i patgon solu finenina i dos sainaña. Yangin sesso un' esalague famaguonmo, umeyag lokue' ennao na patgon taimano mañamo ya ha impatta mismo kustumbe gi otro taotaos. Lao yangin un' eksisia fitme yan antao na fino' saina gi famaguon, siempre u fan respeto yan u mauleg konkductaña ennao na finañago. Gi todo birada, hamyo nu i dos saina 'nai ha espehosgue' ennao na patgon. Ayo mina' presiso na todo aksion yan disposision miyo u opan manmauleg siha na ihemlo.

Yangin desti pinatgonña lokue' ennac na patgon seso ma'aminasa maseha mauleg bidaña, siempre inkabakao hinassona ya ti siña ha detetmina hafa mauleg yan baba. Kumeke ilegno na sumasaonao hao man abusa ginien palabramo yan i manera 'nai un' lagnos ekspresiacionmo. Obligacionmo na u guaha ineskoho gi fino'mo diaramente gi famaguonmo. Usa fino konkarino yangin para un' adingan yan patgonmo. Na' komprende hafa i asunto sa' guuya kokue' ennao na patgon malago' mañgomprende. Si Yuus Maase!



## JACK ANDERSON AND JAN MOLLER WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

### Questions erupt over 1954 bomb data

WASHINGTON—Internal government documents discovered recently by the Department of Energy's Office of Declassification raise the specter on why the affected American sailors and soldiers were not pulled out after BRAVO when they had already reached or surpassed allowable thresholds of radiation.

As many as hundreds of U.S. military personnel may have been exposed to potentially dangerous levels of radiation during nuclear tests conducted in the Pacific region. Moreover, the required medical waivers were apparently granted only after the blasts had occurred, according to a preliminary governmental analysis we've obtained.

A high-level DOE official told us that outgoing Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary, who was scheduled to receive another briefing last Thursday, may hold a press conference soon to publicize the unearthed information surrounding "Operation CASTLE." The Department of Veterans Affairs, which was first notified of the new information by DOE officials on Dec. 13, plans to pursue its own investigation of the incident.

According to government sources, the VA has begun the tedious process of tracking down vets who could be at risk to offer free services ranging from medical monitoring to possible monetary benefits. For those no longer living, VA officials will obtain death certificates to glean clues about whether radiation may have contributed to their demise. In some cases widows may also be eligible for lifetime benefits, and the VA is currently calculating its theoretical financial exposure.

One VA source told us that Veterans Secretary Jesse Brown has shown an intense interest in this case, and wants to personally debrief survivors. Brown may be expanding the job description of a Cabinet member by playing gumshoe: He's been using his office computer to search nationwide phone directories on the Internet. This source said Brown even followed up on possible leads by phoning families with matching surnames—identifying himself simply as "Jesse Brown with the VA."

So far, he's had no luck. Operation CASTLE consisted of six separate blasts approximately two weeks apart in the spring of 1954. The first blast, dubbed "BRAVO," had a yield of 15 megatons and was the largest device ever detonated by the United States during the atmospheric nuclear testing program. Large quantities of radioactive debris were released, spreading much farther than forecast and contaminating Marshall Islanders, Japanese fishermen and American personnel on distant atolls and aboard various vessels.

The Democrats may have brought it up to a new art form in terms of selling the White House," Shays continued. "But frankly, it's nothing new. This sort of stuff has been going on for years."

## 'Bomb threat' at MHS turns out to be a hoax

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff

CLASSES were momentarily disrupted yesterday after a crank caller told police a bomb is set to explode at the Marianas High School.

Jim Feger, MHS principal said the call was "probably made by someone not happy with the school or with someone in the school."

A brief and thorough search of the premises, done shortly after the call was accepted at around 10:30 am, however revealed nothing as police immediately cordoned off the area as a precautionary measure.

"Police came here informing me of the call. They made a search and found everything to be fine," Feger said.

Classes resumed shortly after the search.

In a related development, a 24-year-old male was "roughed-up" by

a man who asked for a cigarette but ended up running away with the victim's \$10.

The incident, said police PIO, PO3 Cathy S. Sheu, happened at the McDonald's parking lot along Middle Road.

"The suspect asked the guy for a cigarette. The guy didn't have any, so the suspect instead asked for money. The guy said he doesn't have money so the suspect grabbed him, took his \$10 and ran away," Sheu said.

The incident was part of about eight recorded theft and burglary cases logged yesterday among which also include the stealing of a sewing machine from a 42-year-old female who happened to left her garage residence only to return later and discover that the machine was missing.

## Leslie M. Turner leaves Clinton Administration



desire to return to the private sector.

"I came to make a difference," said Ms. Turner. "I think together we have done that, and the climate is right for me to move on to the next challenge."

Effective January 21, 1997, Turner will rejoin the Washington, D.C. law office of Akin, Gump, Strauss, Hauer & Field, LLP, where she worked before joining the Clinton Adminstration.

At Akin, Gump, Turner will focus on international trade and environmental issues.

"The Pacific Rim and insular areas will be of particular interest to me. That part of the world is now recognized more and more by American and international companies for its growing trade and investment opportunities. This year, when China assumes control of Hong Kong, China's interest in international business will significantly increase. So, it's a very exciting time to look at investment opportunities in that entire region," Turner said.

Turner is a member of the American Bar Association, Section of Individual Rights and Responsibilities, and Vice-Chair of that Section's Environmental Justice Committee.

## OPA puts up new hotline for Tinian

THE Office of the Public Auditor announced it has established a 24-hour-a-day, seven-day-a-week toll-free telephone hotline for residents of Tinian to report possible cases of fraud, theft, waste and abuse of Government funds and property.

The new Tinian number is 433-EYES (433-3937), the OPA said in a news release.

The new number means that nearly all residents of the CNMI now have access to an OPA toll-free Hotline.

The Hotlines are designed to allow concerned citizens to report this type of activity anonymously if they so wish.

## Atalig pushes bill to ban poker on Rota

SENATOR Ricardo S. Atalig of Rota is calling for action on House Bill 10-310, which would prohibit poker machines on Rota.

"I think it's time that we confront this problem once and for all.

I mean, how many families must be destroyed before we take action?" Atalig said in a news release.

"Holding a public hearing will be a perfect opportunity for us to access the depth of this problem. Let's get the facts out in the open and let our people decide what is good for our community," said Atalig.

House Bill 10-310 was introduced by Rep. Vicente M. Atalig and is still pending in the House.

## DEQ water report

THE Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) analyzed samples collected from Saipan's recreational beaches and storm water drainages this week as part of the regularly scheduled sampling.

In order to adequately address public health concerns, DEQ maintains its policy of advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of these locations within 48 hours of this notice.

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# First adult high school opens

By Rick Alberto  
Variety News Staff

SAIPAN'S first adult high school opened its door last Jan. 20 to 32 students who were welcomed by an ensemble of College personnel that included President Agnes McPhetres' staff.

"We targeted 25 to begin the program, but 32 people signed up," said Dr. Jack Angello, NMC Technical/Trades director, who coordinates the adult high school program.

He added that more people are in the waiting list. "As

soon we reach 10, we'll start another section."

Angello expressed satisfaction about the interest shown by local Islanders to get a high school diploma, which can assure them of an upward mobility career-wise.

A high school diploma also gives people access to post-secondary scholastic "enrichment," Angello said.

Angello said people signing up for the program are aged 17 to 40 who, for some reasons like early marriage and the necessity to work, either dropped out from high school

or stopped going to school after finishing their elementary health.

The adult high school is a one-year (three-semester) program that, if a student successfully hurdles, earns them a diploma.

This first batch of students, therefore, is expected to graduate by the end of the Fall term next school year, 1997-98.

Students take up life skills subjects on occupational knowledge, community resources, consumer economics, government and law, and for being "energetic."

The realization of the adult high school was made possible by a \$5,000 seed money from the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and contributions from other kind-hearted people.

Angello hopes that the legislature will provide the funding after the first year of a successful operation of the high school.

"With the program's success, I have no doubt that the legislature will see in their kind and generous hearts that this program is helping so

many local residents achieve the life-long dream of getting their degree to help them with their jobs in the future," Angello said.

Housed in a small building which is a classroom in itself (Building Z), the high school stands behind Building V at the Northern Marianas College. It is air conditioned and plastered with colorful posters of Northern Mariana Islands sceneries, courtesy of the Marianas Visitors Bureau.

The building used to be a run-down electrical lab that was until recently unused. "We rebuilt parts of it and gave it a fresh coat of paint."

Angello said that classroom has an "adult atmosphere" that gives students a feeling that "they're in the real world where on the job site you should have some fun doing what you do, enjoy the islands."

Angello thanked the college staff for "donating their time to help make the building presentable."



BUMPER-TO-BUMPER. Authorities have put up a new sign allowing motorists headed east along American Memorial Road to make a left turn to Middle Road from both lanes of this intersection-bound street in Garapan. Photo by Jojo Dass

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## Obyan well field nears completion

By Rick Alberto  
Variety News Staff

THE well field being developed in Obyan is nearing completion and will soon feed good-quality water to 32 new wells, the Saipan field office of the United States Geological Survey Water Resources Division has said.

In a memorandum sent to Governor's Water Emergency Task Force chair Timothy P. Villagomez and its members, USGS Hydrologist Robert L. Carruth also said that the reconstruction of the Isley well field is nearing completion. No dates were given.

Carruth said Isley well field will feed water to eight existing wells, so that a total of 40 wells would be "producing good-quality water."

The 40 wells are planned to produce 2.2 million to 2.5 million gallons of water per day, about double the present production of the old Isley

Carruth said residents in those areas "will be the first to notice the increased water supply."

### Exhibit of student artwork

THE Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture will be holding the "Junior High School & High School Invitational Art Exhibit," from February 14-March 14, 1997.

The exhibit will be held at the Arts and Culture Gallery, located by the Capitol Hill Post Office.

The exhibit was included in the Arts Council's schedule of activities, in order to ensure that all schools continue to have a means of publicly displaying stu-

dent work and participating in school-wide arts activities.

The exhibit is open to all students grades 7 through 12. Individual teachers and students may submit up to two pieces of work per student. All work must be delivered to the Arts Council Office on Capitol Hill from February 3 through 7, 1997, between the hours of 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m.

For further information, you may contact Arts Council staff at telephone 322-9982 or 322-9983.

# More US Congressmen arrive



James E. Clyburn



Bennie G. Thompson

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

UNITED STATES Congressmen James E. Clyburn and Bennie G. Thompson arrived last night for a two-day fact-finding visit, upon invitation of Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio.

Both the 56-year old Clyburn (D-South Carolina, 6th District) and the 48-year old Thompson (D-Mississippi, 2nd District) are on their third-term as congressman, and both have a "solidly liberal voting record," according to "The Almanac of Ameri-

can Politics 1996."

The four U.S. congressmen who visited the CNMI last December are conservatives who were generally impressed by the CNMI's labor, im-

migration and taxation policies.

A former teacher and state human affairs commissioner, Clyburn is the first African-American to represent South Carolina in Congress since 1897.

Clyburn, according to the "Almanac," has been active in the civil rights movement since his youth, and also

has a good working relationship with leading businessmen and Republicans.

He supported the balance-budget and term-limits amendments, and has a successful record of lobbying for civil rights laws.

Clyburn is considered by House Democrats as a potential party leader, states the "Almanac."

the civil rights struggle."

He was elected to the U.S. House of Representatives in a 1993 special election, and currently serves on the Budget and Agriculture Committees.

Among his "personal accomplishments," is that of "taking the position of frontline supporter of worker's rights, on the picket lines and in the court."

## Palau wary of foreigner 'influx'

By Mar-Vic C. Munar  
Variety News Staff

KOROR, Palau—

The local com-

munity is begin-

ning to worry this

nation might be-

come another Guam

or CNMI, as far as the composition

of the population is concerned.

Due to the scarcity of local labor

and the influx of foreign

investments, Palau

may have no other

choice but to con-

clude accommo-

dating alien workers,

according to Father Felix K.

Yaoch, head of the

local parish.

"We don't want to be like Guam

and Saipan," he said.

Majority of Guam and CNMI popula-

tion are Filipinos.

Right now, Yaoch, said the com-

munity is experiencing cul-

ture disorienta-

tion because "new values are

coming in."

"What used to be an

homogenous society with integrated

families is breaking down," Yaoch said.

Along with cultural disorienta-

tion comes various social prob-

lems particularly those caused by drug

and alcohol abuse," Yaoch said.

"Illegal drugs are coming in, and marijuana is being planted. The family is getting different functions. Cases of juvenile delinquency is increasing," Yaoch said.

The Church is helping neutralize social problems by "doing aware-

ness building—a process to pre-

pare people in dealing with changes," he said.

# DOLLAR DAYS

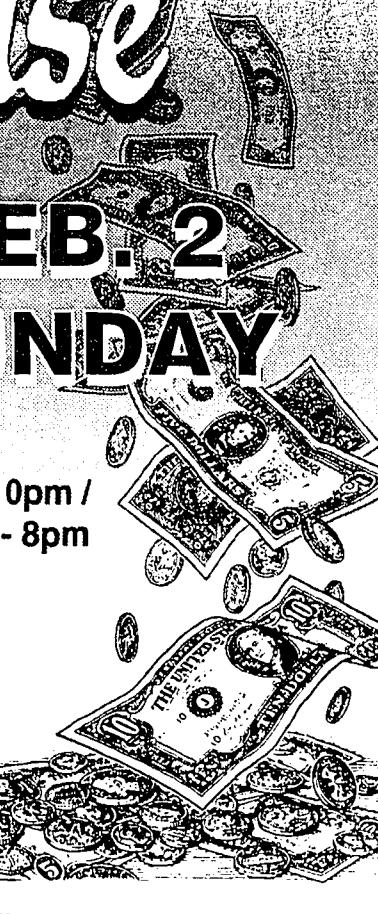
## AT Town House

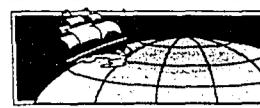
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## Pacific News Round-Up

# Fiji chiefs assert autonomy

SUVA (Pacnews)—Chief in Fiji scored a major coup Thursday. They have now reasserted the independence of the Great Council of Chiefs (GCC), the Daily Post reported.

A motion approved Tuesday will ensure the independence of the GCC and sever links with the chiefly sponsored political party—the Soqosoqo ni Vakavulewa ni Taukei. It will also enhance the formulation of policies on be-

half of Fijians.

The motion follows concerns that the GCC was being politicized and was no longer independent. A GCC source says in the past there was a clear line of authority between the GCC as an advisory body and the Ministry of Fijian Affairs as the administrative arm.

But, the source says, when the SVT came into being, this clear line became unclear and the GCC became merely a

rubber stamp where it relied heavily on decisions made by the political party.

The Great Council of Chiefs meeting for the first time appointed a woman Adi Kuini Speed as a member of the Native Land Trust Board (NLTB). She replaces her late father as a board member. The others were reappointed.

According to a release from FSMIS, Obasi talked with the South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) about the possibility of setting up a WMO Sub-regional Office for Asia and the South West Pacific (ASWP) within or to co-exist with SPREP.

He was also said to have met with Western Samoa Government officials, including the Prime Minister, the Honorable Tofilau Eti Alesana, and members of the Diplomatic Corps including United Nations Development Program Resident Representative, Anthony Patten.

Traditional landowners have threatened to close two educational institutions, teachers of some high schools are not sure who will head their schools and about 100 teachers have registered their disappointment with the appointment of teachers by the Provincial Education Board, Post-Courier reported.

The PNG Teachers Association is reported to have raised concern that the Governor's office directed the appointment of certain teachers to certain schools.

The relocation of the Sub-regional Office for ASWP (currently in Geneva) to SPREP will allow WMO to monitor its programs and respond quickly to the needs of its Member countries in the Pacific region.

According to the release, the objectives of WMO for its Sub-regional office will be enhanced by the close working relationship between the two organizations.

Headmaster Roger Wimbra and Kopil say the situation is back to normal.

## World body seeking sub-office in SPREP

PALIKIR, Pohnpei—Professor G.O.P. Obasi the Secretary-General of the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), was in Apia, Western Samoa recently on a three-day visit.

According to a release from FSMIS,

Obasi talked with the South Pacific Regional Environment Program (SPREP) about the possibility of setting up a WMO Sub-regional Office for Asia and the South West Pacific (ASWP) within or to co-exist with SPREP.

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## Shipyard launches boat

SUVA (Pacnews)—The former government shipyard, Shipbuilding Fiji Limited yard has released its latest creation, a 2.1 million Fiji dollar (US \$1.4 million) fishing boat.

The 25-metre long Makaia Anui sailed from the capital Suva, Friday morning on its maiden voyage to its owner in Tahiti, the Sunday Post reported.

The ship is part of an 8 million Fiji

dollar (US \$6 million) contract for four crafts funded by the European Union and a Tahiti fishing cooperative.

The Makaia Anui, which has a room for 12 crew members, has refrigerated cargo facilities and sophisticated electronic navigation equipment.

The steel hulled boat can travel at top speed of 12 knots and it is powered by a 450-horsepower Wartsila engine.

## West Highlands schools in chaos

POR MORESBY (Pacnews)—The start of the school year is in chaos in parts of Papua New Guinea's Western Highlands Province.

Traditional landowners have threatened to close two educational institutions, teachers of some high schools are not sure who will head their schools and about 100 teachers have registered their disappointment with the appointment of teachers by the Provincial Education Board, Post-Courier reported.

The PNG Teachers Association is reported to have raised concern that the Governor's office directed the appointment of certain teachers to certain schools.

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## Tonga starts to formulate fish export hazard plans

NUKU'ALOFA (Pacnews)—The New Zealand High Commissioner in Nuku'alofa, Ian Hill, has told participants of a workshop on fisheries quality control in Tonga that it is very important for the country's fishermen to work together in a coordinated fashion to pursue the opportunities in fresh fish exports.

Hill was officially closing the week-long workshop on formulating hazard plans to produce good quality fresh fish for exports, Radio Tonga reported.

He says Tonga has made the start twelve months ahead of the deadline.

Walsh says they looked at ways of preparing hazard plans, hazard analysis, critical control points plan for product safety and quality. He says they also looked at ways of handling quality seafood and evaluated the week's activities.

Walsh says in December restrictions will be made on all fish products going to United States and export companies will be denied the opportunity unless they have hazard plans in place.

He says Tonga has made the start twelve months ahead of the deadline.

He says the eight provinces involved include North Solomons, East and West New Britain, New Ireland, Madang and East Sepik.

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Good Thru February 28, 1997

## Palau legislators' top priority:

# 'Better government services'

By Mar-Vic C. Munar

Variety News Staff

KOROR, Palau—The improvement of government service tops the House of Delegates' agenda for the next four years.

"Our civil service system is broken. It does not just need a tune-up, it needs a complete overhaul," Speaker Ignacio Anastacio said in a speech he read before the members of the Fifth Olbil Era Kelulau (local name for the legislature) last Jan. 20. The Fifth Constitutional Government of Palau was inaugurated Saturday.

The House would address such issues as conflicts of interest, bloated bureaucracy, red tape and accountability of public officials and civil servants.

Anastacio filed a bill that would prohibit public officials from participating in decision-making on matters where they have financial interests.

"Public officials must always make decisions based on what is best for the public," Anastacio said.

Anastacio's proposed "Palau Political Reform Act" also seeks to require public officials to disclose the source of money they used in their election campaigns.

"Disclosure is necessary to prevent politicians from being influenced by their donors," Anastacio said. "All of the people of the Republic of Palau, not just the wealthy ones, deserve unbiased decision-making by their public officials."

Anastacio urged House members to act "quickly" on the bill, saying it would "address the (conflict of interest) issue, and prevent potential for abuse by public officials."

Anastacio wants all government officials and workers to be held accountable for their performance.

"The recent bridge collapse is still fresh in each of our memories. Whenever we learn who is responsible for this tragedy, those persons must be held accountable," Anastacio said.

"At the same time, if we learn that government employees are responsible or partly responsible, then those employees must accept the blame and step down from public service," Anastacio said.

Anastacio also sees the need to streamline government operations by consolidating some agencies with related functions, and eliminating those that are "not necessary."

"As a nation, we must start to reduce our appetite for spending money," Anastacio said.

The speaker also wants to reduce government cars and vehicles, eliminate government junkets, reduce ribbon cuttings and other costly ceremonies.

### BPL meeting

PURSUANT to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Froilan C. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus C. Borja, through the Board of Professional Licensing, hereby gives notice that the regular meeting for the board will be held on Tuesday, February 4, 1997 at 9:00 a.m. at the office of the Board of Professional Licensing, 2nd floor of the Island Commercial Center Building, Gualo Rai.



Palau Vice President Tommy Remengesau (left) and wife Debi Remengesau greet guests during the inauguration ceremony for Palau's Fifth Constitutional Government held Saturday at Koror's Asahi Ballfield.

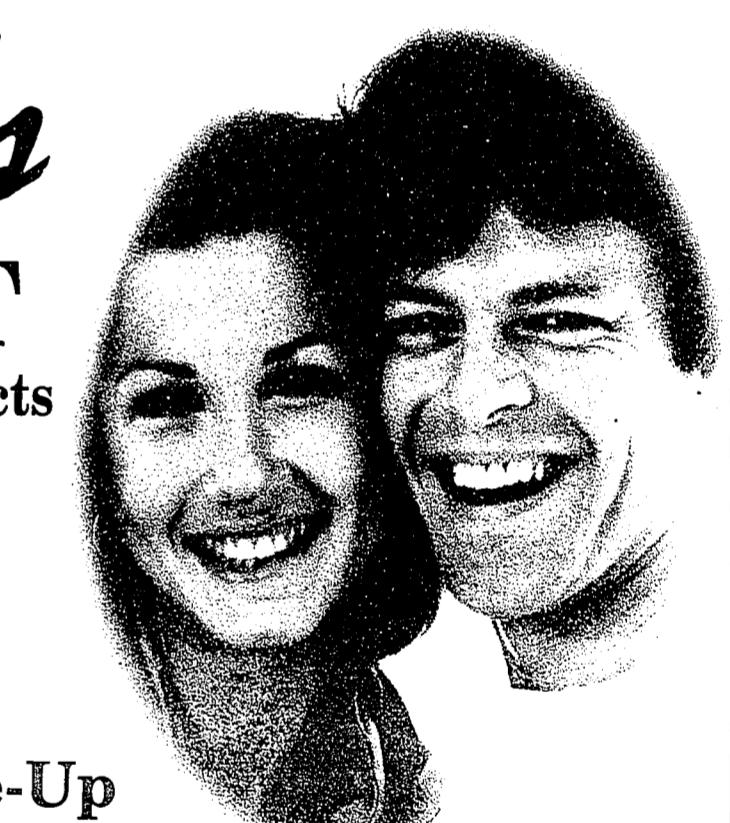
Photo by Mar-Vic C. Munar

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Good Thru February 28, 1997

# RP kills over 600 monkeys

## As concerns mount over Ebola virus spread

CALAMBA, Philippines (AP) - Authorities began killing more than 600 monkeys Wednesday at a breeding farm shut by the government for failing to control an outbreak of an Ebola virus.

Government veterinarians struggled to catch the monkeys with nets, pulling the tails of some and

pinning others with their shoes or with plywood boards as they administered the lethal injections.

"This is horrible," said one of the farm's 18 workers, most of whom turned away as the veterinarians, wear-

ing white gloves and protective masks, began their task.

The Ferlite Scientific Research farm was the source of two monkeys infected with the Reston strain of the Ebola virus that were exported to a breeding facility in Texas last year.

U.S. health officials say the Reston strain apparently poses no danger to humans but might mutate into a deadly type. The strain was named after a Virginia city where an outbreak of the strain occurred in 1989.

Different strains of Ebola found in Africa have been deadly, with outbreaks killing 235 people in Zaire in 1995 and 13 in Gabon last year.

After the discovery of the infected

monkeys in Texas, the Philippine environment department destroyed about 300 infected monkeys at Ferlite last year and ordered the facility to

take steps to control the infection.

But an inspection this month found that the virus still existed at the four-hectare (10-acre) breeding farm and had spread beyond the cages in which it was originally detected, department officials said.

There also were insufficient supplies of disinfectants, masks and gloves, exposing farm workers and other animals to possible infection, they said.

"There is no such thing as Ebola here. It's only a harmless strain and the government has not even shown proof of its existence," he said.

A department official, however, said specimens taken from monkeys at Ferlite showed the animals were infected with the Ebola strain.

Ferlite used to export the monkeys, costing about \$115 each, to medical research centers in the United States and Europe.

## Gov't preparing rules to lure Islamic banks

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - The central bank says it is planning to amend the country's banking regulations to help foreign Islamic banks operate in the Philippines.

A central bank spokesman said the move was prompted by the growing interest of Islamic banks in setting up operations in the southern region of Mindanao.

Parts of Mindanao are among the country's worst economic backwaters following a 27-year civil conflict with Muslim separatists. A fragile peace was recently restored to the area, which has been targeted by the government for special economic development.

According to a Mindanao business group, Islamic banks interested

in setting up in the region include the Pan Malayan Bank, Bank Islam, Tabung Haji of Malaysia and the Islamic Development Bank of Brunei.

The central bank spokesman said Tuesday that the absence of specific regulations tailored to the needs of the Islamic banking community had so far thwarted such investments.

Islamic banks do not charge or pay interest. Instead, borrowers and depositors are treated as joint-venture partners who share the bank's profits and risks.

At present, only one Islamic bank - Al-Amanah Bank - operates in the Philippines, under regulations governed by its own charter.

## Police: Crime dropped 2% in 1996

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

- The number of crimes reported to authorities last year fell 2 percent to 77,657 cases, police said in an annual report Tuesday.

Arrests totaled 51,330,

about 28 percent more than a year earlier, they said. Police carried out an intensified anti-crime campaign last year.

Nearly 90 percent of the 77,657 crimes reported to police resulted in arrests, higher than the 87 percent the previous year, police said.

An anti-crime citizen's group said earlier this month that kidnappings rose last year because many kidnap gangs are protected by police and military officials.

In 1996, criminal groups kidnapped 241 people and collected about 99 million pesos (\$3.8 million) in ransom, said Teresita Baltazar, spokeswoman for the group, Citizens Action Against Crime.

Analysts agree that the overall crime rate appears to be declining but they also say police figures are inaccurate because many crimes are never reported.

A polling group, Social Weather Stations, says it found in a seven-year study that crime victims report less than one in every 100 crimes because of a lack of faith in police and the legal system.

The group said it found a monthly average of 411 thefts per 100,000 people in 1995, while police had records of only one theft per 100,000.



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## Clinton Administration report:

# Cuba to get post-Castro US aid

WASHINGTON (AP) - Cuba can expect considerable financial assistance from the United States and other members of the international community after President Fidel Castro is no longer in power, according to a Clinton administration report due out Tuesday.

The administration was re-

titled "Support for a Democratic Transition in Cuba," by last year's Helms-Burton Act, which imposes U.S. sanctions on foreign companies operating in Cuba with assets of U.S. citizens seized by the communist

government.

The Washington Post and The Miami Herald reported in Tuesday's editions that the report estimates the first six years of post-Castro transition would cost between \$4 billion and \$8 billion, with the "predominant" share coming from the United States.

The report was drafted by the Agency for International Development, with assistance from other agencies.

"The United States doesn't want to punish the Cuban people," Menendez told the Post. "On the contrary, it's in solidarity with them. It wants to help them."

He told the Herald, "This is the first time we proactively lay out a blueprint of how we would assist (Cuba) in a transition to democracy."



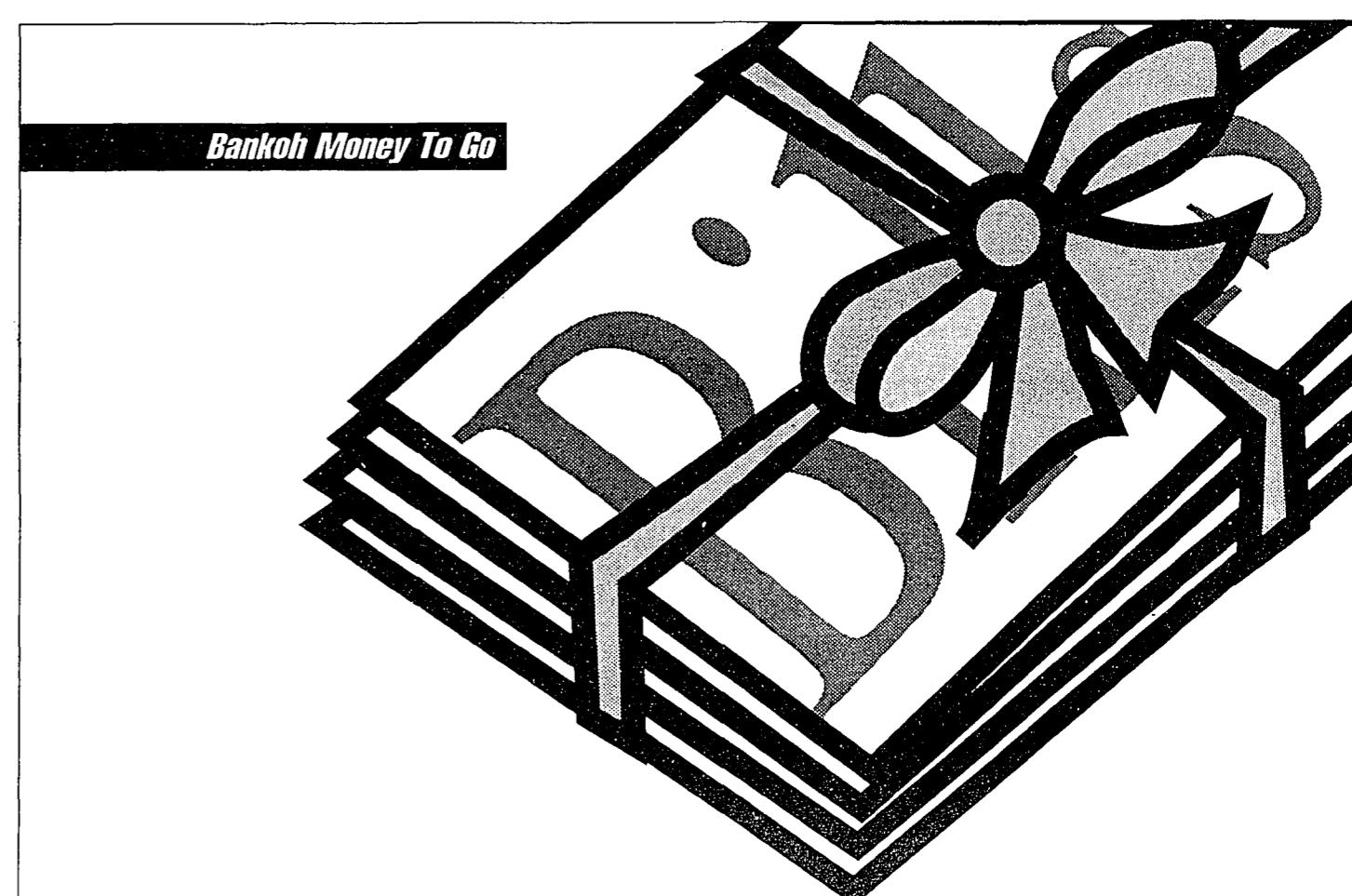
Fidel Castro

The first accounts of the report appeared in Tuesday's editions of the Washington Post and the Miami Herald.

The report was drafted by the Agency for International Development, with assistance from other agencies.

"The sweep of history teaches us a profound lesson - that the totalitarian, Marxist ... economies fail. And this one is destined for failure because they cannot sustain themselves," White House press secretary Mike McCurry said Tuesday. "Sooner or later, Cuba will be on the right side of history. And sooner or later, Fidel Castro will understand that he won't."

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# Bomb near Algiers kills 15

By RACHID KHIARI

**ALGIERS, Algeria (AP)** - A bomb exploded near Algiers Tuesday, killing 15 people, an official said, hours after a lone gunman shot and killed an influential union leader and political ally of President Liamine Zeroual.

The explosion in Blida, 50kms (31 miles) south of the capital, injured at least 30 others, the official said on condition of anonymity.

But by early Wednesday morning, the government had not officially confirmed the explosion.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the bomb, which exploded in a crowded marketplace just after the end of the daily fast honoring the Muslim holy month of Ramadan.

Since Ramadan began Jan. 10, bombings and massacres blamed on Islamic insurgents have killed at least 250 people.

Witnesses to the explosion said later in Algiers that the bomb caused serious material damage.

Blida is the most tightly guarded city in Algeria, and houses a prison that is said to hold Abassi Madani, president of the outlawed Islamic

Salvation Front political party.

Hours before the bombing, an unidentified attacker in Algiers shot Abdelhak Benhamouda, 55, with an automatic pistol, and then emptied the weapon's ammunition into his body, union officials said on condition of anonymity.

The man then killed one of Benhamouda's bodyguards and another union official who came running after hearing the shots, possibly with a second weapon, the officials said.

There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the shootings, but Benhamouda was an outspoken critic of Islamic militants, whose five-year insurgency against the military-backed government has left more than 60,000 dead. Benhamouda had applauded the army for stepping in to cancel 1992 legislative elections that Muslim fundamentalist parties were poised to win, a move that triggered the insurgency.

The Islamic militants seek to establish a government based on a strict interpretation of Koranic law, which would require women to cover their heads, ban alcohol and institute com-

pulsory Koranic education.

Such a system is anathema to many secular Algerians who subscribe to Western ways, learned during the French colonial period that lasted more than 130 years and ended in 1962.

Benhamouda had led a committee that opposed Islamic fundamentalism as a political force, and had been shot and injured twice since the insurgency began. His brother was killed two years ago.

Secretary general of the country's largest labor organization, the General Union of Algerian workers, Benhamouda had backed Zeroual in last fall's presidential elections.

## 200 die in Bangladesh cold wave

**DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)**

- At least 200 people have died of cold weather sweeping northern Bangladesh for the last five weeks, news reports said Tuesday.

Most of the deaths occurred in Dinajpur, Rajshahi, Rangpur and Kurigram districts, Inqulab and Independent newspapers said.

The meteorological office in Dhaka said the lowest temperature in the region - five degrees Celsius (41 Fahrenheit) - was recorded last Tuesday. Eight

degree Celsius (46 Fahrenheit) is the normal temperature for this part of the year.

Bangladesh is a tropical nation of 120 million and nearly half of them can't afford enough food.

The cold weather is expected to last another week, officials said.

## Police officer charged with the murder of Irish priest in Kenya

**NAIROBI, Kenya (AP)** - A police officer has been charged with the murder of an Irish priest in a slaying local Roman Catholic church officials say was politically inspired.

The priest, Larry Timmons, died of gunshot wounds he received after confronting two administrative police officers at his mission in Nakuru, 150 kilometers (93 miles) northwest of Nairobi. The police claimed they were pursuing robbers.

More than half of eligible voters have either not applied or not received the new cards.

Two local opposition members of parliament joined the clergy in blaming Timmons' murder on the alleged bribery scandal connected to the identification cards.

Nairobi newspapers said Tuesday Constable Francis Kimanzi Mbaya, 35, appeared before a Nakuru judge on Monday. He is not yet required to enter a plea. It was not immediately clear whether the second policemen reportedly involved in the shooting would also be charged.

Priests, nuns and monks from Nakuru parishes in the central Rift Valley province staged a sit-in on Monday in the office of Provincial Commissioner Yusuf Haji to protest what they called a "senseless killing."

Administrative police are holdovers from the tribal police established by the British colonial administration.

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# Yeltsin is back at Kremlin

By BARRY RENFREW

**MOSCOW (AP)** - President Boris Yeltsin went to work Tuesday at the Kremlin for the first time in a week as he continues to make a steady recovery from pneumonia, aides said.

The Russian leader was expected to have a meeting with Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and review government documents, presidential spokesman Natalia Konstantinova said.

In another sign that Yeltsin is recovering, the Kremlin said plans were going ahead for a meeting this week-

end with French President Jacques Chirac in Moscow.

It was the first time Yeltsin had been to the Kremlin since he paid a brief visit Jan. 18 after being released from hospital. He has since been resting at his country home.

There is widespread confusion about the state of Yeltsin's health after six months of illness that have sidelined the president. Presidential aides insist that Yeltsin is making a good recovery, while critics charge he is more ill than the government will admit.

Doctors contend that Yeltsin, who turns 66 on Saturday, is making a gradual, steady recovery and the pneumonia had nothing to do with his history of heart problems.

He fell ill with flu and pneumonia earlier this month, just two weeks after returning to work following heart bypass surgery that had sidelined him for six months.

Opposition lawmakers and some mainstream Russian media long have suggested that Yeltsin's health con-

## Likely Chechen president directed war against his Russian colleagues

By GREG MYRE

**GROZNY, Russia (AP)** - Aslan Maskhadov, the likely winner of Chechnya's presidential election, is a career military man who guided the rebels' successful campaign against his former comrades in the Russian army.

Maskhadov, 45, had a solid majority as preliminary results came in Tuesday following the presidential election a day earlier.

Considered a pragmatist among the Chechen separatist leaders, he nonetheless insists in a final Russian troop withdrawal in December and paved the way for Monday's elections.

"We don't want independence in five or 10 years," Maskhadov told a news conference Sunday. "We think that after democratic elections ... we need to sit down to talk with Russia" about independence.

Maskhadov was considered highly competent as the chief of staff of the rebels, who regularly embarrassed the much larger Russian army during the 1994-96 war.

Perhaps his most important deci-

sion came last August, when the Russians were in control of the Chechen capital Grozny and combed the countryside in a drive to suppress rebel forces.

With the rebels seemingly facing defeat, Maskhadov launched a major offensive to retake Grozny, which caught the Russians napping and returned control of the capital to the separatists.

"He is more practical than other Chechen leaders," he added.

Maskhadov spent his career as an artillery officer in the Soviet military, reaching the rank of colonel. But when the Soviet Union disintegrated in 1991, he resigned and moved to Chechnya the following year. He was named head of the rebel's artillery forces, before rising higher during the war.

"People are very tired of war," Maskhadov said as he voted Monday. "If people place their trust in me, we will have a chance of a better future."

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Civil Service Commission hereby gives notice that the Board will meet on Tuesday, February 4, 1997, Wednesday, February 5, 1997, and continue, if necessary, on Thursday, February 6, 1997. The Board will convene at 9:00 a.m. on all days at the Commission's Office, Capitol Hills, Saipan. Additional information concerning this meeting is available at the Commission's Office Building No. 1211, Capitol Hill, Saipan. The Commission may also be reached at phone numbers 322-4363 and 322-6954 or fax number 322-3327.

### AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. HEARING ON APPEAL OF VICENTE C. SEMAN
- IV. DELIBERATION ON APPEAL OF TOMAS M. CALVO
- V. ADJOURNMENT

/s/EUGENE A. SANTOS  
Chairman  
Civil Service Commission

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED UPDATE TO THE COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT DIVISION SECTION 309 PROGRAM

The CNMI Coastal Resources Management Program hereby notifies the general public that it will be updating and revising its section 309 program assessment and strategy and submitting it to the Office of Ocean and Coastal Resource Management (OCRM) National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA).

Anyone interested in reviewing or commenting on the proposed Section 309 update may do so by obtaining a copy of the proposed update from the CRM Office, 2nd floor Morgen's Building in San Jose and submit comments in writing to the Director of CRMD within thirty (30) days from the date this notice.

Comments should be sent to:

**Director**  
Coastal Resources Management Office  
Department of Lands & Natural Resources  
AAA 2852 Box 10001  
Saipan, MP 96950

**MANUEL C. SABLAM**  
Director

## PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

### Special Education State Advisory Panel (SESAP)

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Public School System Special Education Program would like to announce a meeting of the Special Education State Advisory Panel (SESAP).

Meeting Date: February 13, 1997  
Meeting Time: 8:00 A.M. thru Noon  
Location: Pacific Regional Educational Laboratory Conference Room (Bank of Hawaii Bldg. in Puerto Rico)

The meeting is open to the public and the public is invited to attend.  
The agenda for this General Meeting is as follows:

- A. Welcome and Introduction of New Members
- B. Review of Minutes from Sept. 19, 1996 Meeting
- C. Review of Advisory Panel
1. Purpose
2. Roles
3. Responsibilities
- D. Guidelines for Conducting
1. Needs Assessment
2. Review of State Plan; Policies; Procedures and; Monitoring Reports
3. Public Reports
4. Program Review
5. Annual Report
- E. Development of Plan for Implementing Panel Functions
- F. Assessment of Roles and Responsibilities
- G. Next meeting and Adjournment

Any person wishing additional information regarding SESAP and this meeting, please call Margarita Olopai-Taitano, Chairperson, at 234-6004 or fax to PSS at 664-3798. Any person desiring to attend the meeting who requires special accommodations, please contact Barbara Rudy at 664-3730 (phone or TDD) or fax 664-3798 by February 7th.

# Indonesia seeking \$16B aid

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) - Indonesia will ask a foreign donor group for a \$15.7 billion aid to finance 640 government-sponsored projects this year, a newspaper reported Wednesday.

The projects, valued at \$19.91 billion, will be proposed to the World Bank-chaired Consultative Group for Indonesia meeting in Tokyo later this year, the Indonesian Observer said.

The CGI, comprising countries

and financial institutions, was formed in 1990, replacing the Dutch-chaired Inter-Governmental Group on Indonesia. It was disbanded by Jakarta, which accused it of becoming a tool of the Netherlands government to put pressure on Indonesia.

The Observer quoted Rahadi Ramlan, the deputy chairman of the National Development Planning Agency, as saying that the new projects are in fields of transportation,

education, mines, energy and social development.

The CGI groups all former members of the IGGI except the Netherlands plus five new creditors - South Korea, the Kuwait Fund for Arab Economic Development, the Saudi Fund for Development, the Nordic Investment Bank and the Islamic De-

velopment Bank.

The other members are Australia, Austria, Belgium, Britain, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United States.

The CGI pledged \$5.26 billion in aid to Indonesia in 1996, compared to

\$5.35 billion in 1995. Indonesia had proposed 689 projects worth \$21.24 billion in 1996.

Meanwhile, Finance Minister Mar'e Muhammad told a parliamentary hearing on Monday that the government's foreign debt had reached \$54.6 billion by November 1996.

## Robbers raid, loot train; 4 killed

By DILIP GANGULY

NEW DELHI, India (AP) - Robbers in India's most lawless state raided an express train, killed four passengers, abducted women and looted gold and silver ornaments from others, a state official said Tuesday.

The train robbery took place early Tuesday in Munger area of eastern Bihar state when the Badarpur-Bhagalpur Express train reached the Kail railroad station.

"We are at a loss of words to describe the tragedy," said Mahesh Pathak, a railroad official reached in Patna, the

capital of Bihar state. "They (robbers) stormed one of the compartments (cars) and did what they wanted."

Press Trust of India news agency said that the robbers killed four passengers who resisted. Three of the victims were relatives.

The state's chief bureaucrat D.P. Maheshwari called the police to control the mob.

"The situation became alarming and our police had to open fire," Maheshwari said when reached by the telephone. Two of the demonstrators were injured by police bullets.

## China salvages sunken warship

BEIJING (AP) - A sunken warship that China plans to display as a symbol of national pride was raised Tuesday from the muddy depths of the Yangtze River, where it lay for nearly 59 years.

The cruiser Zhongshan, named after modern China's founder, Sun Yat-sen, was sunk by Japanese forces on Oct. 24, 1938, after it shot down three Japanese fighters.

Salvage work began on Nov. 12 last year, the 130th anniversary of Sun's birthday. The ship was inched up on cables from the river bed at Jinkou, near Wuhan city in central China.

Although parts of the ship were visible Monday, a ceremony was held Tuesday as the top of the vessel was raised about two meters (6.6 feet) above the surface of the river, the official Xinhua News Agency said.

The ship will then be displayed, in part to help teach Chinese children about patriotism, according to earlier media reports. The total salvage, restoration and display costs are expected to reach 13.4 million yuan (\$1.6 million), Xinhua said.

The vessel looked in good condition, with some railings and ventilation shafts still intact. Another five meters (16.5 feet) of the hull

remain under water, Xinhua said.

The 62.1-meter-(204-foot-) long cruiser, built in Japan in 1913, will be stripped of bombs and sanded before being moved to a shipyard for restoration, Xinhua said.

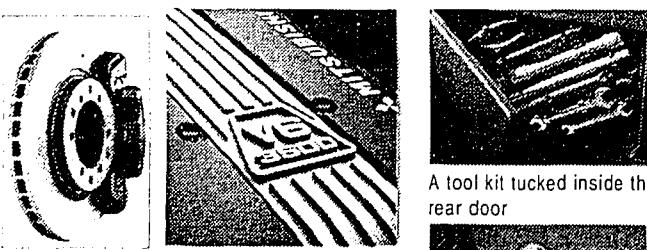
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# Drug industry profits rising fast

By STEVE SAKSON

NEW YORK (AP) - Speedy government approval of new drugs and stable or increasing prices are all helping the pharmaceutical industry to strong double-digit profit increases.

"One reason is certainly the blessings of the Food and Drug Administration," said James Keeney, analyst with the securities firm Rodman and Renshaw in Boston. The FDA has approved 81 unique new medicines in the past two years, compared with 47 in the previous two-year period.

Merck boosted net earnings 22 percent to \$1.04 billion, or 87 cents per share, compared with 1995. For the full year, Merck earnings rose 16 percent to \$3.9 billion, or \$3.20 per share.

American Home earned \$511.6 million, or 80 cents per share, an increase of 29 percent, not including one-time charges and gains. Annual net earnings rose 12 percent to \$1.88 billion, or \$2.96 per share.

Warner-Lambert Co. said its quarterly net rose 39 percent to \$171 million, or 63 cents per share. Annual earnings rose 6 percent to

\$786 million, or \$2.90 per share.

Analysts say heavy sales volume gains and innovative new drugs, which cost more, continue to be the major drivers of profits.

"So what you've had is a lack

of pricing pressure and increasing utilization, which means these companies are doing very well," said Jack Lambert of NatWest Securities in New York.

Merck said quarterly sales rose 19 percent to \$5.4 billion, including cholesterol drugs Zocor and Mevacor, Cozaar and Hyzaar for high blood pressure, and Crixivan, one of a family of drugs called protease inhibitors that have helped cut levels of the AIDS virus drastically. Annual sales rose 19 percent to \$19.8 billion.

American Home said quarterly sales rose 5 percent, to \$3.48 billion. The company's fastest growing drugs include Redux, for obesity, and new versions of its Premarin hormones for postmenopause symptoms. Quarterly sales of over-the-counter drugs, including Advil and Anacin, fell 6 percent. Annual sales rose 5 percent to \$14 billion.

Warner-Lambert quarterly sales fell 1 percent to \$1.84 billion following divestiture of its low-

profit generic drug business. However, the company reported strong sales increases of its drugs Acupril for high blood pressure, Neurontin for epilepsy and the birth control pill Loestrin.

Quarterly sales of Hall's cough drops, Listerine mouthwash and Sudafed cold tablets rose. Warner's annual sales rose 3 percent to \$7.23 billion.

Merck shares rose \$2.50 to \$50 cents to \$60.25.

the introduction of a powerful new anti-cholesterol drug Lipitor and Rezulin for diabetes.

However, its shares fell \$1.375 to close at \$72.25 Tuesday on the New York Stock Exchange after the company told analysts that first-half 1997 profits would be hurt by the costs of introducing the drugs.

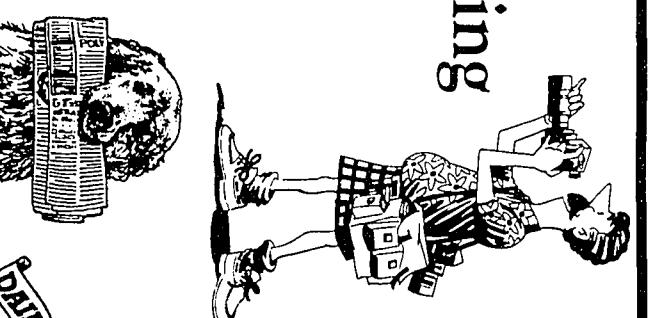
Merck shares rose \$2.50 to \$50 cents to \$60.25.



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Anong, 52, a Buddhist nun floats in a pond during her daily ritual at Wat Tham Mangkon Thong Temple in western Thailand. During her devotions she adopts postures in imitation of Buddhist and Hindu gods, as well as local deities, it's private worship that has become a public spectacle when up to ten times a day the curious gather at this isolated temple. AP Photo

# Protest awaits 2000 Olympics

By ALAN THORNHILL

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) - Aborigines will protest in the streets during the Sydney 2000 Olympic Games if the government tries to restrict their land rights, a moderate Aboriginal leader said Wednesday.

"It will break down completely any trust that indigenous people have in this government."

"To legislate away our rights to native title is something that we cannot tolerate. It really is a non-negotiable position," said Lois O'Donoghue, the former chairwoman of Australia's Aboriginal parliament, the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission.

"We will be back in the streets, there will be just no ways about that."

"And we will be back to marching, demonstrating and...certainly the Games will be a platform," said O'Donoghue, long regarded as a moderate among Aboriginal leaders.

Her comments came as farming groups met to consider their

## Aborigines warn of plan to take to the streets of Sydney

response to the recent High Court decision that Aborigines can retain some land rights on the 42 percent of Australia leased by the government to farmers, ranchers and miners.

The court said Aboriginal land rights could co-exist with the lease rights of ranchers, miners and farmers.

O'Donoghue said Aborigines and farmers could accommodate differing interests on land and any attempt to impose a legislative solution would have a drastic effect.

She said Australia's prosperity is built on "theft and murder" of the Aborigines, many of whom still see themselves as "survivors" of the wars of dispossession that followed European settlement in Australia in 1788.

O'Donoghue vowed that Australia's 303,000 blacks — a tiny minority in the nation's present population of more than 18 million — would never forget their history or

abandon their politics.

"Asking us to give up our history and our politics is asking us to accept a form of assimilation," O'Donoghue said.

Howard's conservative government is mistaken in urging Australia's aborigines to simply concentrate on their health and social problems, and place less

disadvantaged group, to become more self-reliant in tackling their health, social and other problems.

O'Donoghue said this approach would not work while the government is making heavy cuts in the budget of aboriginal self-help programs and planning to restrict aboriginal land rights.

She was chairwoman of the Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Commission for seven years, until her retirement last December.

## Palau . . .

*Continued from page 1*

ment has no legal obligation to shoulder the costs of the Comacts.

The CNMI is planning to either impose limitations on the entry of Micronesians citizens, or charge them for the health and educational services made available to them by the Commonwealth government.

Nakamura said he is aware of the adverse economic impact of the Comacts. But limiting the entry of Micronesians "is not the solution," he said.

The solution is to ensure that the United States adequately compensates Guam, the CNMI and Hawaii for any adverse economic impact they encounter," said Nakamura who just succeeded Guam Gov. Carl Gutierrez as chairman of the council.

"Thus we continue to stand ready to assist these areas of the

United States in their efforts to obtain assistance and compensation from the U.S. as set forth in the Comacts of Free Association," Nakamura said.

He urged the council to adopt a resolution "that would require us to reach a regional agreement before taking any action in response to Compact impacts."

"In this way," Nakamura added, "we will help ensure that the feelings of trust and goodwill which predominate during our first meeting and this meeting will endure for the years to come."

After all, Nakamura added, "the Compact impacts which are not present now may not always be present in the future."

reports drug abuse cases filed last year went up by as much as 25 per cent as compared to 1995 indicating a gradual increase in the number of people using the illegal substance.

In a related development, Cabrera said authorities are still conducting a probe on the \$100,000 worth of dried marijuana leaves recently found in 25 packets stashed in a package supposedly containing bananas.

"One was carrying 200 grams, the other had 80 grams, and the third was found in the possession of 150 grams," Cabrera said.

The cargo came on board a Continental Micronesia flight from Palau and, Cabrera said, was for local distribution.

He said the illegal cargo, which is now under DOF safekeeping, will have to be incinerated soon as the investigation is over.

The three are now under government custody awaiting judicial procedures prior to their sentencing.

The arrests came at the heels of

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

"We will have to get rid of it. We will use the incinerator the burning of which will be done in front of about five witnesses," Cabrera said.

He said the illegal cargo, which

is now under DOF safekeeping, will have to be incinerated soon as the investigation is over.

The three are now under government custody awaiting judicial procedures prior to their sentencing.

The arrests came at the heels of

much as possible," said the Finance secretary.

"It's hard to curtail spending, really, because for every program, there is a necessity. But we tried to compromise with agencies. If somebody needs a dollar, we ask them if they can make do with 80 cents."

According to the Finance secretary, he and the OMB chief have also made it a point to remind agencies that unspent budgets "don't allow them to go on a shopping spree to prevent a reduced budget the next fiscal year."

"It's better if they don't need it, don't purchase it, so we can have more in the general fund," he said.

DOF figures indicate tax collections rose 12 percent overall with only import taxes showing a small decline from FY 1995.

Cabrera said the drop was a result of the excise tax rollback under P.L. 9-57 which lowered excise taxes by \$3.5 million last fiscal year.

Overall, Cabrera said 1996 was a strong year in terms of revenue collections and that forebodes well for the CNMI economy.

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### DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

## NOTICE OF MEETING

The Department of Lands and Natural Resources' Soil and Water Conservation Division, wishes to inform Saipan and Northern Islands farmers and ranchers of a meeting to elect Saipan and Northern Islands Soil and Water Conservation District Administrators.

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

CONTACT:  
Mr. Mark I. Palacios  
Department of Lands & Natural Resources  
Tel. 322-9830

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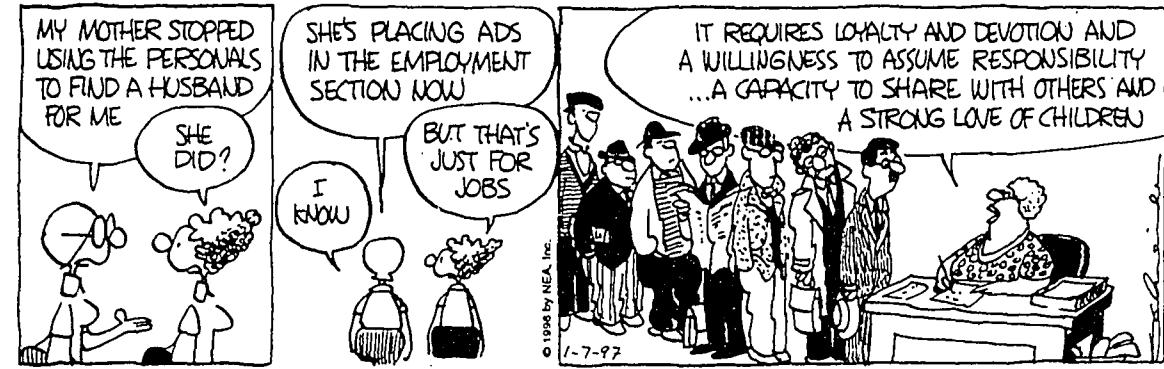
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## YOUR BIRTHDAY

By Stella Wilder

Born today, you are a workhorse and you will get an early start at a long and lucrative career. You will persevere through thick and thin. You are easily frustrated and bored when you don't have enough work to do, and the only work that is enough is an amount that would be too much for others. You thrive on juggling your attention and efforts among many projects. The busier you are, the more dedicated and organized you will be; the more you have on your plate, the more likely you are to succeed at everything you're doing.

You are creative, and your approach to your work is unique. Your ability to pay attention to details makes your work exceptional. The little things will separate you from the crowd.

Also born on this date are: Dick Cheney, U.S. secretary of defense; Gene Hackman, actor; Dick Martin, comic; Vanessa Redgrave, actress; Boris Spassky, chess player.

To see what is in store for you tomorrow, find your birthday and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be

your daily guide.

FRIDAY, JAN. 31

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

— You are the only one who can put your finger on the source of a current problem. Subsequently, it may be your responsibility to come up with a solution.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Someone has his or her eyes on you, but what is expected of you may exceed your abilities. Make sure to talk about an upcoming project.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You must react quickly today if you expect to parlay chance meetings and developments into something permanent and profitable.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You will need more physical, domestic or financial security today. Do not put all your eggs in one basket, however.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Take care not to become too critical too soon. Let someone impress you with his or her ingenuity and creativity first.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — If you get together with someone who shares your ideals, you can work to come up with a very realistic plan that can pay off handsomely.

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## BARBS

BARBS BY PHIL PASTORET

In Washington, one of the security-conscious agencies is so hush-hush its own employees don't know its purpose.

Remember when a well-balanced meal was one carried gracefully by a waiter?

Our minister says to think of his parishioners as a flock is soothed — unless you have a gaggle of crazy birds in mind.

Some people take an inch and before you know it, they want to be the ruler.

Only in TV-land does "back in a moment" mean 10 minutes of commercial breaks and station IDs.

Our neighbor says his wife boasts that her family can trace its history to France — and he wishes they'd stay there.

If there's a coffee that's good to the last drop, how does the last drop taste?

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

## ACROSS

1 San — Obipo	37 Mixture
5 — ta	38 Pad's digit
9 Yes (Sp.)	40 Actor's original
12 — Romantic?"	41 Wife's cut
14 "Mr. —"	43 Duncan ID
15 "Rush" star	45 Honorable
17 Capable of cultivation	47 Brown shade
19 Metal	50 Weary
21 Synthetic fabric	51 Worshipped
22 Took possession of	53 A Williams
26 Selenium symbol	57 Ventilate
27 Martin or Charlie	58 Diana —
28 Three-toed sloths	60 One (Ger.)
30 Pigeon pea	61 Mesh
33 Yes (Sp.)	62 Corrida cries Cain (Lois & Clark...")
34 — duck	63 Cain (Lois & Clark...")

## DOWN

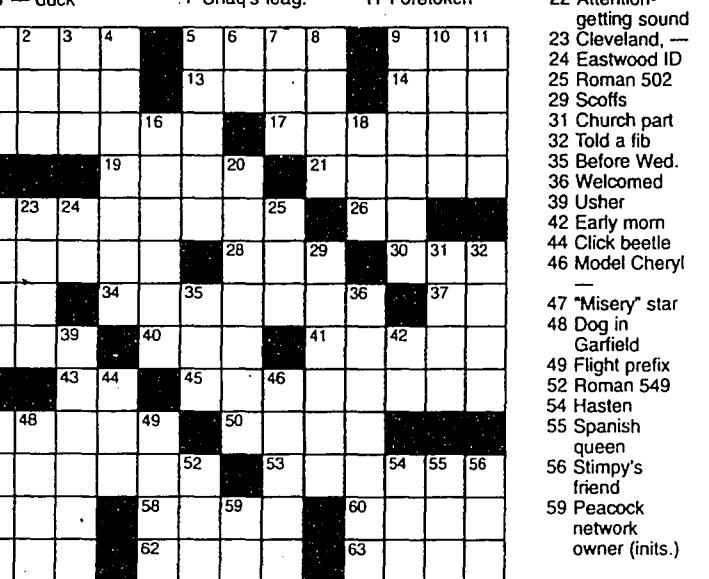
1 Brim	8 — Saarinen
2 Network	9 Strolled
3 Front on bank acct.	10 — contendere
4 Unpaid calls	11 Foretoken
5 Loop on face	16 Paschal,
6 Tag player	18 Letters of alphabet
7 Shad's leag.	20 Tidest
12 —	22 Attention-
15 —	getting sound
22 —	23 Cleveland, —
25 —	24 Eastwood ID
29 —	25 Roman 502
31 —	29 Scoffs
32 —	31 Church part
35 —	32 Told a fib
36 —	35 Before Wed.
39 —	39 Welcomed
42 —	42 Early morn
44 —	44 Click beetle
46 —	46 Model Cheryl —
47 —	47 "Misery" star
48 —	48 Dog in cold
49 —	49 Flight prefix
52 —	52 Florian 549
54 —	54 Haste
55 —	55 Spanish queen
56 —	56 Stumpy's friend
59 —	59 Peacock network owner (initls.)

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## Answer to Previous Puzzle

KOCH	CENT	EIN
INRI	ADOG	BTU
TAYLOR	BIGBEN	
LYON	FEARS	
YUGOSLAV	MN	
EFFECT	TEL	DRU
LS	KERATIN	OS
LAM	RAT	TEASE
OW	FOOTGEAR	
ONTOP	RILL	
BEBHOLD	NEEDLE	
IIRE	ERIK	COAT
TOR	AYES	TIDE

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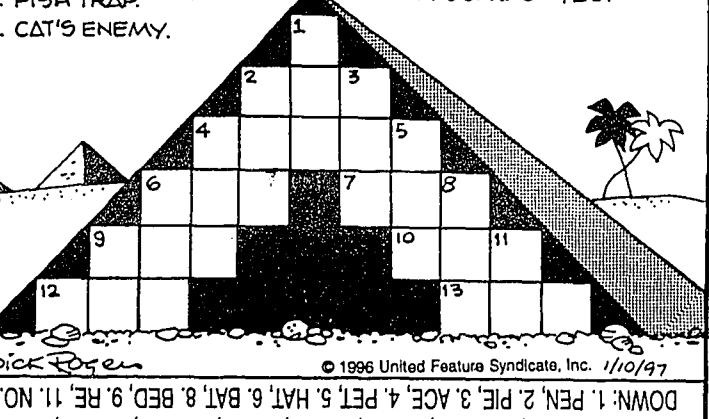


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## PYRAMID CROSS

## ACROSS:

1. A pig's home.
2. A green vegetable.
4. A painful squeeze.
6. A buzzing insect.
7. You hear with this.
9. Rodent pest.
10. 5+5=
12. Fish trap.
13. Cat's enemy.
14. —, white, and blue.
15. Do, —, me.
16. Opposite of yes.



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## DOWN:

1. A crusty dessert.
3. Top playing card.
4. A dog or cat is one.
5. Head cover.
6. Flying mammal.
8. —, white, and blue.
9. Do, —, me.
11. Opposite of yes.

DICK Rogen

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Barbs

Barbs by Phil Pastoret

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# SPORTS



## *1997 Palau Boat Race*

# Masami rules 200-300 Hp race

### 1997 Boat Race

Up to 30 Hp	Sponsor
1st-Leeman Singeo	Diversified Marine
2nd-Edward Tadao	25 Hp/Mercury
3rd-Calvin Emesiochel	PMCI
4th-Patric/Fraz Ngiltii	30 Hp/Yamaha
35 Hp to 55 Hp	Johnson Emesiochel
1st-Brien Simer	25 Hp/Evinrude
2nd-Fran Ngiltii	Bela Pro
3rd-Dave Tesseli	25 Hp/Mariner
85 Hp to 90 Hp	Brien Simer
1st-George Kebekol	50 Hp/Evinrude
2nd-Arkajus Ngiratrang	Bela Pro
3rd-Ricky Mechol	40 Hp/Mariner
Twin Engine	Dave Tesseli
1st-Ngirakesol/Patric	Causeway Gas Station
2nd-Cleophas Rober	90 Hp/Evinrude
3rd-Frankie Borja	Diversified Marine
100 Hp to 140 Hp	90 Hp/Mercury
1st-Sabo Esebei	Evens Boat Repair Shop
2nd-Surangel Whipps	90 Hp/Evinrude
3rd-Browny Simer	90 Hp/Mercury
150 Hp to 175 Hp	Neko Yamaha
1st-Surangel Whipps Jr.	2x200 Hp/Yamaha
2nd-Jenkins Mariur	Cleophas
3rd-Melphy Blesam	2x225 Hp/Evinrude
200 Hp to 300 Hp	Surangel & Sons
1st-Dwight Masami	Surangel & Sons
2nd-Mason Whipps	Browny Simer
3rd-Surangel Whipps Jr.	175 Hp/Evinrude

By Erel A. Cabatbat

Variety News Staff

DWIGHT Masami edged Mason Whipps and Surangel Whipps, Jr. to rule the 200-300 horse power division of the 1997 Palau Boat Race held in Koror, Palau recently.

Masami, sponsored by BM and Sons, drove a 200 horse power (Hp) Evinrude boat for the victory. Mason came in second on 225 Hp Evinrude while Surangel bagged third place. Cordinez Ngilti of Diversified Marine team, Frankie Borja of Aichi Kumangai and Ngirakesol/Milan in Neco Yamaha came in fourth, fifth and sixth slots.

Surangel Whipps, Jr., however made up for his third place finish in the higher Hp category by ruling the 150-175 Hp race. Whipps nipped Jenkins Mariur and Melphy Blesam for the title.

In the twin engine category, the tandem of Ngirakesol and Patric crossed the finish line ahead of Cleophas team and Frankie Borja. Ngirakesol and Patric won the race in Neco Yamaha with a 2x200 Hp. Mikeas Isidro, racing

for Bay View Co., placed fourth.

Sabo Esebei ruled the 100-140 Hp bracket by driving in a 150 Hp. He beat Surangel Whipps, Browny Simer and Wilhelm Remoket.

In the other categories, George Kebekol won the 85-90 Hp bracket while Brien Simer annexed the 35-55 Hp division. Kebekol defeated Arkajus Ngiratrang, Ricky Mechol, Thomas Taro, Franz Ngiltii and Pascual Imetengel.

In the 35-55 Hp derby, Simer finished the race ahead of Ngiltii, Dave Tesseli, Gene Beyer and Moon.

In the first race, Leeman Singeo won the beginner's 30 Hp and below bracket. Singeo aboard a 25 Hp Mercury beat Edward Tadao, Calvin Emesiochel and Patric/Franz Ngiltii.

Ray Alvarez scored a twinkill by winning the two Jet Ski races of the day. Alvarez defeated Shaude and James Gibbons in the first race then came back to beat Shaude and Brik in the second run.



Rarin' to go—A participant prepares his craft before the start of a race in the 1997 Palau Boat Race held in Koror, Palau recently.

Photo by Abed Younis

## Demapan bags SGA Jan. Ace tilt



Ace winner-Joe Demapan (middle) is all smiles after winning the SGA January Ace Tournament. With him are Ray Diaz (left) and SGA president Judge Ed Manibusan.

Photo courtesy of SGA

By Erel A. Cabatbat  
Variety News Staff

JOE DEMAPAN shot a net 69 then beat Ray Diaz via a countback to win the Saipan Golf's Association's January Ace Tournament held recently at the Marianas Country Club.

Demapan shot a gross 82 but his -13 handicap gave him the net score. Diaz, on the other hand, shot a gross 81. His -12 handicap enabled him to tie Demapan for the day's best score.

In the tie-breaker, Demapan clinched the first Ace of Aces Tournament slot when he parred the 18th hole while Diaz double bogeyed.

Frank Castro shot the tournament low gross score to share the limelight with Demapan. Castro toured the greens with a 78 to beat Judge and SGA president Ed Manibusan by two strokes. Mel Sablan placed third by shooting an 85.

SGA rookie Luis Pelisiman debuted in his first SGA tour-

nament with a gross 94. His -22 handicap gave him a net 72 to place fourth overall.

A total of 14 members, including three of the clubs newest members Jeff Camacho, Pelisiman and John Lizama, competed in the tournament.

Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort's West Course will be the venue of the association's next tournament, the February Ace tentatively set on the third Saturday of the month.

## Martha's Poker sweeps all events Three teams score shutout wins

Pos	Trn	Team	Won	Lost	Pct	Total Pins	Ave	Gm	Ser
1	5	IT&E	15.0	1.0	.93.75	9489	90	921	2508
2	3	Martha's Poker	14.0	2.0	.87.50	9860	821	919	2527
3	9	Baskin Robbins	10.0	6.0	.62.50	9198	768	802	2354
4	7	EPC Int'l	9.0	7.0	.56.25	9317	776	871	2518
5	12	V&J	7.0	9.0	.43.75	9141	761	871	2518
6	6	JTG Ent.	7.0	9.0	.43.75	8823	735	815	2284
7	4	O'Doul's	6.0	10.0	.37.50	9369	780	881	2493
8	11	CMPG	6.0	10.0	.37.50	9290	774	899	2570
9	10	Paras Ent.	6.0	10.0	.37.50	8847	737	849	2313
10	8	Marianas Star	5.0	11.0	.31.25	8978	748	816	2371
11	2	Jokers	5.0	11.0	.31.25	8835	738	861	2376
12	1	Kan Pacific	2.0	12.0	.12.50	6538	726	788	2205

By Erel A. Cabatbat

Variety News Staff

IT&E rattled Marianas Star, 824-780; 696-665; and 770-727 while Kan Pacific failed to surpass Martha's Poker's three game series of 811, 919 and 797 pins. Kan Pacific could only come up with rounds of 751, 788 and 666. With the wins, IT&E kept the overall

Continued on page 19

IT&E

IT&E, O'Doul's and Martha's Poker blanked separate rivals while three more teams scored near shutout wins as routs punctuated the fourth week of the Adam and Eve Mixed Bowling Tournament at the Saipan Bowling Center.

## 14th Annual World Organized Rocball Tournament

# Brotherhood snaps Macaroni's win streak

Team Standings	W	L
Macaroni	4	1
Brotherhood	4	1
Nails	3	1
Spankers	1	3
Bazooka	1	3
Ronics	0	2
Dour Doulul	0	2

By Erel A. Cabatbat

Variety News Staff

BROTHERHOOD ended Macaroni's four game winning

streak by blanking the erstwhile unbeaten team in the last three sets to rack out a 44-15 "juice" victory in the 14th Annual World Organized Rocball Tournament at the Pugua Court of Marianas High School.

With the triumph, Brotherhood tied its victim on top of the overall team standings with identical 4-1 win loss slates.

Continued on page 19