



Marianas Variety News & Views

Micronesia's Leading Newspaper Since 1972

Vol. 25 No. 234
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Monday • February 10, 1997

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'Threat' on RP attache bared

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE PHILIPPINE Consulate has sought assistance from Manila following an alleged threat recently made by a CNMI employer who warned Labor Attache Jesus Varela will be "physically harmed."

It was not immediately ascertained what the employer is angry about or what motivated the "threat." Consulate officials refused to speculate on the matter.

Varela was in Manila at the time of the incident, working with other RP officials tackling the issue on the granting of free food allowance to non-resident work-



Jesus Varela

ers in the CMNI.

In an interview, Varela said he has sent a formal letter to RP's

Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE) "to act on the matter."

DOLE is expected to coordinate with the Philippine's Department of Foreign Affairs and discuss the matter with its Washington DC embassy which, in turn, will communicate with appropriate US officials on the matter.

Meantime, Varela has taken precautionary measures, including having himself insured "in case something happens to me."

No additional aides will however be sent to augment the Consulate's security.

"Life goes on here. We're just doing our sworn job," he said.

The employer, whom Varela said, has a pending labor case involving a Filipino worker,
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FOR LUCK. MTC External Affairs Manager Vic Borja gives the fiber optic cable a kiss as it is laid on Rota's Teteto Beach over the weekend. Installation work on the Tinian and Saipan portions of the project is set this week. The cable is expected to be operational by the end of February.

Cing urges Borja to support 'Teno'

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

SENATOR David M. Cing is urging party mate Lt. Gov. Jesus C. Borja and other Democrats to support the Republican Party's gubernatorial candidate Pedro P. Tenorio in this year's election.

"I'm still a Democrat, but at this point it is in the interest of the CNMI that we support (former governor Tenorio)," Cing said in an interview Thursday.

He added that the decision of the Democratic Party's leadership not to reconsider its earlier decision to forego a primary "is probably right."

A primary would likely worsen the split in the party, Cing said, and would only be a

"humiliating experience" for Democrats.

"A primary will reveal the lack of support for our candidates," he said. "Voters turnout would be very very low."

Cing and Borja's rival for the party's gubernatorial nomination, Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio, have repeatedly clashed over what the senator calls the administration's "insensitivity" to Tinian's needs.

The Democratic Party's central executive committee voted 13 to 4 Wednesday night to stand pat on its Jan. 22 decision not to hold a gubernatorial primary.

Prior to Wednesday's committee meeting, both Borja and his rival for the party's nomi-

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Initiative will guarantee PSS 30% of annual gov't revenues

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

RESPONDING to an education official's proposal, a House member has made a counterpart move calling for a raise in the annual guaranteed funding for the Public School System from 15 to 30 percent of Commonwealth revenues.

However, the House Legislative Initiative introduced by Rep. Malua Peter does not address Board of Education chairman Don Farrell's proposal to give PSS fiscal autonomy.

HLI 10-5 proposes to amend Article XV of the Constitution which provides the 15 percent annual guaranteed funding for PSS.



Malua T. Peter

The Constitution can be amended through either legislative or people's initiatives. Both systems of proposed amendments

will have to be ratified by voters in an election.

Farrell has launched a petition to amend the education provision of the Constitution.

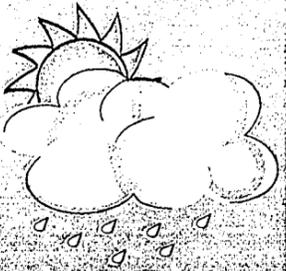
Aside from an increase in PSS annual funding, the petition also proposes to remove PSS budget from legislative process, and to transfer expending authority to the education board.

Peter's legislative initiative, meanwhile, notes that the current guaranteed budget for the agency "does not sufficiently meet the needs of the public elementary and secondary education system."

"Raising the current minimum to not less than 30 percent would

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WEATHER Outlook

Partly cloudy with
isolated showers

Right of way problems causing delay of road project

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE DELAY in the completion of a portion of Monsignor Guerrero Road is caused by right-of-way problems and the installation of upgraded waterlines, the Department of Public Works explained over the weekend.

In an interview, DPW Secretary Edward DL Guerrero assured though that the project will be completed by March as what remains to be done is the



Edward DL Guerrero

actual paving new four-lane road.

The two-kilometer road-widening project from the Oleai triangle up to the Northern Marianas College started Feb. 5 last year and was planned to be fully completed by Dec. 2, 1996.

Thus far, the project is only 48 per cent done, according to Rep. Stanley Torres, in a recent letter to Guerrero.

Torres said there doesn't seem to be a "maximum mobilization" on the project.

"We needed to do a lot of work.

We started with replacing old waterlines," said Guerrero.

The replacement was in line with the Office of the Governor's Emergency Task Force on water launched to ensure stable supply of this commodity on the island.

Guerrero said workmen had to wait until the waterline installation phase was over before they could move on.

What aggravated the situation, he said, were right-of-way

Continued on page 20

24 reported killed in Northern Uganda

KAMPALA, Uganda (AP) - Rebels killed 24 people in two separate attacks in northern Uganda, the independent Monitor newspaper reported Sunday.

The attacks occurred Wednesday, the newspaper said. The report could not be independently verified and government officials were unavailable for comment.

Eight people were battered to death in Palapek Gem and another 16 in Lugwa, two villages near Kitgum, about 450 kilometers (280 miles) north of Uganda's capital, Kampala.

Both attacks were blamed

on the Lord's Resistance Army, which has been fighting to overthrow President Yoweri Museveni's government for eight years.

Uganda and Sudan accuse each of helping the other's rebels, a charge both deny. Kitgum is 80 kilometers (50 miles) south of Sudan's border.

Another rebel group, the West Nile Bank Front, is also fighting in northwestern Uganda and officials say it, too, receives support from Sudan.

Uganda broke diplomatic relations with Sudan over the issue last year.



Burmese students Than Nyunt Do, left, and Thet Hmu speak to reporters at the jungle headquarters of the Karen National Union (KNU) in Teakaplaw, Burma. The two most wanted suspects by Burma's military regime for leading recent student unrest have slipped a massive dragnet and found refuge with the anti-government guerrillas. AP Photo

Iran: Gulf states will suffer if US attacks

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) - Iran's supreme leader warned pro-American Gulf states Sunday that they would have the most to lose from any U.S. military action in the region, Tehran radio reported.

Ayatollah Ali Khamenei's remarks were most likely directed at Saudi Arabia, which has allowed the United States to maintain bases on its land.

"If any of these foreigners in the Persian Gulf makes one miscalculated move that could lead to instability, the first country that will burn

will be the one that invited these foreigners here in the first place," Khamenei said.

He was speaking to 1 million worshippers gathered in Tehran for prayers marking the end of the holy month of Ramadan.

Tehran has been alarmed at recent reports that the United States is considering a military strike to punish Iran if it is determined that Tehran was behind the June 25 truck bombing in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia that left 19 U.S. servicemen dead.

Korean scandal probe turns to gov't officials

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - Prosecutors investigating a major bribes-for-loans scandal said Sunday they plan to start calling in politicians and government officials for questioning this week.

Two bank heads have been arrested on charges of taking bribes in return for issuing preferential loans to Hanbo Steel Industry Co.

Hanbo Steel, the nation's No. 2 steel

producer, collapsed Jan. 23 under \$ 6 billion in debts, mostly in bank loans.

Critics and news media say that Hanbo's creditor banks, all controlled by the government, would not have given such large loans without illegal influence-peddling by government officials and politicians. The steel plant had only \$ 105 million in its own capital.

"We will decide tonight on the final list of which (politicians and government officials) will be investigated," senior prosecutor Choi Byong-kook said Sunday.

News reports took Choi's remark as indicating that politicians would be summoned as early as Monday for questioning.

Although prosecutors were not commenting, local newspapers have reported that close confidants of President Kim Young-sam, as well as a former Cabinet minister, were involved in the bankruptcy scandal.

Opposition parties named those confidants as Choi Hyong-woo and Kim Duk-ryong, the president's lifelong aides now seeking the ruling New Korea Party's presidential nomination for an election in December. The two have denied any wrongdoing.

Hong In-kil, also a personal aide to the president for nearly 30 years, was alleged to have received \$ 820,000 from Hanbo. He has denied he took any money.

The bankruptcy scandal has dam-



Kim Young-sam

aged the credibility of the Kim government. Since taking office as the nation's first civilian leader in 32 years, Kim has made anti-corruption the centerpiece of his rule.

He had sent his two immediate predecessors - Roh Tae-woo and Chun Doo-hwan - to prison on corruption and other charges.

Opposition presidential hopeful Kim Dae-jung also suffered a blow last week when key aide Kwon Ro-gap admitted to accepting \$ 176,000 in cash from Hanbo. Kwon says it was a legitimate political contribution.

Hanbo Steel's bankruptcy caused three other key Hanbo subsidiaries to also go under. Hanbo is the nation's No. 14 conglomerate.

Report: US air force jet crashes in Yellow Sea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - A U.S. Air Force jet on a routine training mission crashed into the Yellow Sea between China and South Korea on Sunday, national news agency Yonhap said.

U.S. and South Korean helicopters, as well as 10 South Korean navy and maritime vessels, were searching the sea off Taean, 100 kilometers (62 miles) southwest of Seoul, where the Ameri-

can F-18 jet went down, Yonhap reported, quoting South Korean maritime police.

U.S. military officials were not immediately available for comment Sunday.

Yonhap said that two American pilots were on the jet but did not identify them.

Some 37,000 U.S. soldiers are stationed in South Korea under a defense treaty.

Case 'strong' vs Villanueva

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE SUPERIOR Court has found probable cause to charge Antonio P. Villanueva as the likely person who committed the Jan. 21 crimes that left a woman killed and three of her four children injured.

During Friday's preliminary hearing, Associate Judge Timothy Bellas said after taking the evidence into consideration, the court finds there is sufficient evidence to believe that the crimes charged have been committed.

Villanueva has been held for

Bellas says suspect may have committed the crime

murdering Bernadita B. Mendiola and injuring her three kids at a residence in Koblerville. He was charged with murder, robbery and sexual molestation.

Deputy Atty. Gen. Loren Sutton presented two witnesses—a police officer and the victim's 15-year-old daughter who was among those injured.

Antonio M. Atalig, counsel for the defendant, presented Villanueva's wife and son as defense witnesses.

The victim's 15-year-old daughter sobbed as she narrated how Villanueva stabbed her mother inside her room and assaulted them with a knife.

Bellas did not "bite" the defense's "alibi" that Villanueva could not be the killer considering that his ve-

hicle was at his house when the incident happened.

Bellas said the court finds probable cause to continue holding the defendant for trial.

Arraignment was set for Feb. 10. "This is just a preliminary hearing. It has nothing to do

with guilt or innocence. It's a matter of credibility," defense lawyer Atalig told reporters after the hearing.

Probers are looking into the possibility that the killing was "ice-related."

The killing had led to the formation of Crusade Against Drugs spearheaded by Frances Sablan-Bellas, wife of judge Bellas.

Borja says independent bid to largely depend on his finances

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

IN THE wake of the Democratic Party's rejection of his bid for gubernatorial nomination, Lt. Gov. Jesus Borja now considers running as an independent candidate. But only if his financial standing allows it.

"Financial (problem) is the greatest consideration for me right now," Borja said during a forum organized Friday by the Society of Professional Journalists at Jade Garden Restaurant.

"An institution like the party is usually in the better position to ask for funds than an individual," he said.

To court financial support from potential donors in the business sector would not be an easy task, he said.

Borja recalled that during the campaign in 1993 when he and then gubernatorial candidate Froilan C. Tenorio ran as a team, businessmen were "initially reluctant to help because they didn't know who's going to win."

Several business people eventually decided to extend financial support "when they found that the governor and I were going to win," Borja said.

The party had spent more than \$300,000 for the Tenorio-Borja ticket.

The lieutenant governor said the Board of Elections' proposal to impose a campaign spending cap may help mitigate his financial handicap.



Jesus Borja

Aside from financial problem, Borja said the prospect of splitting the votes is also keeping him from pushing through with the option to run.

"Finance is the primary (factor); the other factor involved would be the votes that you lose because the party is going to support somebody else... I still came to the conclusion that I can win, but the (financial requirement) is what I can't (afford)," Borja said.

During a meeting last Wednesday, the party's Central Executive Committee voted to affirm its earlier resolution to forego a primary, and endorse Tenorio.

The resolution was passed right after Borja named former party chairman Ben Sablan as running mate.

Borja said he was not surprised by the committee's decision.

"I would have been surprised if they reversed the resolution," he said.

The committee had met to discuss Tenorio's and Borja's request for a primary.

Borja did not discount suggestions that the meeting might be just a mock proceeding.

"A lot of things are going through my mind. I have to admit that that's one of the things that's going through my mind," Borja said.

He also suggested some committee members might have made biased votes given the fact that some of them are currently employed in the executive branch of the government.

Members of the committee are Dan Quitugua, Ed Palacios, Manny Borja, Herman R. Guerrero, Felicidad Ogomuro, Herman Apatang, Juanita Taisacan, James Cabrera, Jean Olepai, Fatima Cabrera, Joe San Nicolas, Joe Guerrero, Robert Guerrero, Pedro Guerrero and Eliceo Cabrera.

"It has come to my mind that there may be conflict (of interest) problems," he said.

Filing a lawsuit against the party, however, "will probably be out of the question," Borja told the forum.

"But of course, all of these things are being thrown out and will be decided upon between them and myself after the meeting next week," Borja said.

"We hope things will have cooled down (by then), and we will be able to talk without emotions involved," he added.

Man nabbed at airport for heroin possession

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

CUSTOMS authorities arrested a man who was allegedly found in possession of an estimated 12 grams of heroin last week at the Saipan International Airport.

Vaughn Lavere Bybee was charged with importation of a controlled substance and illegal possession of heroin before the Superior Court.

According to a complaint filed by Assistant Atty. Gen. James Norcross, last Feb. 5 Bybee "did knowingly enter the Commonwealth with the intent to import or conceal for the purpose of importation a controlled substance to wit: heroin."

No other details were given. The Variety gathered that Bybee, from Oregon, arrived at the airport from Guam when customs authorities intercepted the illegal drugs.

During Friday's bail hearing, Associate Judge Timothy Bellas agreed to release the defendant on \$5,000 cash bail to the latter's brother as third party custodian.

The prosecution believed that the drugs were probably for personal consumption only considering the small amount seized.

A study showed that there is disagreement among epidemiologists that heroin is the most under-reported drug in terms of usage and that any usage statistics are unreliable.

The estimated range from 428,000 past-year heroin users to 600,000 past-week heroin users.

Meanwhile, a man was arrested for illegal possession of an estimated greater than one ounce of marijuana at the airport Thursday.

Simeon Edgar was charged with importation of a controlled substance and illegal possession of marijuana.

DOLI deported 6 last week

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

AT LEAST six persons, including an overstaying Filipina worker, were deported by the Department of Labor and Immigration during the first week of the month.

DOLI Special Agent John Taitano identified the six as Gui Bin Han, Ming-he Jin, Yan-Tai Wang, all males and Chinese nationals.

The others were identified as Korean nationals Jong Hoan Cho and Xiang Guo Jin, both males.

The Filipina was identified as Joyce Potot who, Taitano said, said arrived as a tourist in Feb. 94.

Potot, he said, managed to acquire an employment permit which expired on Feb. 21 last year.

She has since remained unemployed and under the care of her boyfriend whom Taitano refused to identify. She was arrested in Chalan Kanoa.

The other foreigners, it was gathered, have also been overstaying in the Commonwealth for an average of one year.

The DOLI, Taitano said, is still awaiting court decision on another overstaying Filipina, identified as Jovita Asilo.

A total of 31 overstaying foreigners have been deported by the DOLI last month.

DOLI Secretary Thomas O. Sablan said more overstaying and illegally

employed foreigners will be arrested and subsequently deported this month.

In a related development, the Philippine Consulate is now making arrangements for the immediate repatriation of 52-year-old Rosalinda Avegueterio who recently succumbed to a fatal bout with a cardiovascular disease.

Guam receives technical grant from DOI



Carl Gutierrez



Allen P. Stayman

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff
THE OFFICE of Insular Affairs has provided Guam a \$60,000 technical assistance

grant to be used for conducting a census of citizens of freely associated states who have migrated to the U.S. territory, according to official

documents.

OIA Director Allen P. Stayman, in a letter to Guam Gov. Carl Gutierrez, said the grant money will cover the cost of hiring enumerators and additional costs of Department of Labor in carrying out the census.

In a report on the impact of the Compacts of Free Associations submitted last month to Congress, the Department of Interior said, the census "will provide significant additional information regarding the number and characteristics of citizens of the freely associated state who have migrated to Guam since the implementation of the Compacts."

OIA has also agreed to provide Guam with another grant

"to measure the costs incurred by the government of Guam resulting from increased demands placed on educational and social services by migrants from FAS," the report said.

"This grant was made by virtue of Public Law 99-239, the report said.

"This grant will be used for the services of an independent contractor to assemble and evaluate cost data collected by the government of Guam for fiscal year 1996." The resulting report to be submitted by Guam, will be forwarded to Congress "as part of a future impact report and can be used by Guam to assemble additional cost data for past and future years," the report said.



MOM'S ROUND TWO

Menu for the Week

<p>MONDAY Baked Chicken with Cranberry Sauce Served with Coleslaw and Roll Choice of Rice, Fries or Mashed Potato \$7.00 (Free Iced Tea)</p> <p>TUESDAY Meat Loaf Served with Baked Potato Green Salad and Roll \$7.00 (Free Iced Tea)</p> <p>WEDNESDAY Garlic Shrimp Served with Rice Mix Vegetable and Roll \$7.50 (Free Iced Tea)</p> <p>THURSDAY Spaghetti with Meat Balls Served with Green Salad and Garlic Bread \$5.50 (Free Iced Tea)</p>	<p>FRIDAY Fish & Chips Served with Soup of the Day \$7.00 (Free Iced Tea)</p> <p>SATURDAY Pork Chop & Egg Served with Potato O'Brien, Jelly and Toast \$6.50 (Free Iced Tea)</p> <p>SUNDAY Chilli Dog in Sour Dough Bun goes with Fries \$5.50 (Free Iced Tea)</p>
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Tourism: Gradual Buy-out of Indigenous Partners

During the initial development of tourism in the islands, the indigenous people were beneficiaries of a foreign investment law that required local participation of 51/49 percent. We were allowed to invest though we were cash poor. Initially, our share in company stocks were covered by the parent company until we pay them off. It was a good start in economic partnership. However, we repealed this law in the late seventies to mitigate an impending loss in revenue (about \$9 million) as the Trust Territory Government started deployment plans for Pohnpei. With the inevitable loss of revenue, we were willing to try anything to spur economic growth and make-up for this loss. We had to repeal this law and open the floodgates of investment. These investments started trickling in from the Land of the Rising Sun. We were proud owners of stock in these companies. Nonetheless, over the years and with the repeal of the foreign investment law, we were bought-out by parent companies on a gradual basis. The once promising partnership dissolved.

These investments were concentrated on tourism development, i.e., hotels, restaurants, gift shops, taxi cabs, entertainment, transportation services, island tour, water sports, helicopter tour, trips to Mañagaha Island, resorts and golf links, etc. In recent years, locals in the taxi business registered a concern with the legislature about the invasion of foreign-owned taxi cabs in a business they feel should be reserved strictly for the indigenous people. This sentiment was buried alive by our lawmakers. Nothing concrete by way of policy, emerged. The problems persists even to this day. Was it a tale of being unjustifiably bumped-out by foreigners per-se or was it our inability to deal with the new kid in the block legally situated?

As recently as last year, Lt. Governor Jesse Borja appealed to the Saipan Japan Association to consider an inclusive policy in the expansion of the tourism industry so that the indigenous people may partake in the benefits of the growth and development of this industry as active participants. It is a legitimate appeal to which I fully subscribe. It seems, however, that even if these investors open the doors for local participation, only a handful would be able to invest and the reasons are obvious.

Down the stretch, we will see an increase in the number of visitors from Japan and neighboring East Asian countries. It means the islands need to build at least one-thousand more rooms to meet the demands of the market. As hotels expand and new ones are built, other collateral developments would spring-up in this industry. And for all the planned development in this sector, we will continue to ask ourselves: Development for who? About the only aspect that would be our savior in this major shuffle is our land upon which these developments stand.

Indeed, we're appreciative of these investments which came from the East and West. They have created and generated jobs and revenues in the islands. But we're equally wary of how big investors in this sector have eased-out our participation, subtle alienation and displacement. It seems we're now destined to be nothing more than utilitarians. Perhaps this sentiment is a bit too radical when viewed through the lenses of investors. But then investors who know the people of these islands understand only too well that for their investments to have any lasting meaning in paradise is to allow the indigenous people to figure prominently in this equation as true partners.

I admit that this scribe isn't endowed with the business acumen nor the benefits of the academic discipline in the imperfect science of economics to fully grasp the larger picture of investments here. But it doesn't take a genius either to discern that these investments have not trickled into the local community on an appreciable basis. It, therefore, presents a challenge to leadership in the consideration of policy matters. Do we allow this to perpetuate itself in hopes that it will someday accommodate our dreams and aspirations by stroke of luck? Or wouldn't we be better off if we begin deliberative discussions on this matter?

Even as I question these policy issues, it takes the proactive participation of the indigenous people to explore whether the problems we have raised are real or perceived. We must buckle down and define what we want in an industry often dubbed the "number one income earner". Is it really the number one income earner? Other than the millions of dollars we spend to promote this industry abroad, have we really gone past the glamour of this industry to determine, by nickels and dimes our expenditure versus profit margin repatriation to parent companies? I hope we've not been gulled by the effects of fine wine and red carpet treatment abroad.

Of course, this view doesn't pre-empt the fact that as time progresses, more of our young people have braved entrepreneurship. I am proud of their courage for venturing into a sector in the economy most prefer to avoid not that they fear self-employment, but perhaps strengthen indigenous forte—perpetuation of our knowledge on anything that is government! It is a dangerous attitude. For young local entrepreneurs, march on for I will pace right alongside your journey to secure real freedom in being your own boss. In fact, your contribution into the local coffers would spur appropriate review of all policies affecting entrepreneurship right here in the paradise. March on!



JACK ANDERSON and JAN MOLLER
WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Marshall was upset by national lampooning

WASHINGTON — The late Supreme Court Justice Thurgood Marshall — a champion of press freedoms and the First Amendment — could be less tolerant of such liberties when the joke was on him.

Marshall's FBI file, released late last year under the Freedom of Information Act, reveals the details of a 1982 incident in which the distinguished jurist apparently mistook the intent of an article in the humor magazine National Lampoon, which delighted in parodying the powerful and the rich.

Marshall contacted the FBI after receiving a copy of an article the magazine ran spoofing the Supreme Court's treatment of pornography. According to the court's standard, pornography can be declared obscene under the First Amendment if the work as a whole lacks serious artistic, literary, political or scientific value.

The article, entitled "How to Write Dirty," is typical of the humor in the magazine — risque, profane and, in Marshall's eyes, offensive.

One of the most time-consuming tasks a Supreme Court justice performs is reading through mounds of pornographic material to determine if it is protected by the First Amendment right to freedom of speech, the article begins.

The ensuing two pages which parody racial and gender stereotypes, are a crude fictional depiction of Marshall as a ravenous consumer of pornography, who spends his time in the court's chamber reviewing obscene works to see if they meet the court's test.

Marshall was not amused. According to the FBI file, reviewed by our associate George Clifford III, Marshall wrote a letter on Supreme Court stationery, marked "personal and confidential," to then-FBI Director William H. Webster. The letter suggests that Marshall may have only seen a copy of the article, unaware that it came from a nationally distributed magazine.

"Enclosed is some sort of leaflet which came to my attention this afternoon," Marshall wrote. "It is at least scandalous. I am sending it to you with the hope that you can give me some suggestion as to what can

be done about it." Webster quickly wrote back, telling Marshall, "I am having the enclosure studied," and "I certainly agree with your characterization of it."

According to the files FBI sleuths then set out in search of a company mentioned in a box at the end of the article, International Porno Inc. Soon thereafter, the agents reported their findings. "Results were negative, however, the New York Office advised that an office building at ... (the address) had about 40 tenants, including the publishers of two magazines: National Lampoon and Heavy Metal."

The FBI agent then dutifully recorded that he bought "the current copy" of National Lampoon from a nearby newsstand, where he found the offending article.

After a thorough review of the evidence, FBI lawyers finally determined there was nothing they could do. "No FBI jurisdiction is apparent," the memo reads. "In addition, it is unlikely that Justice Marshall could successfully sue the publication because (1) he is a 'public figure' and (2) despite the article's use of his name in the byline, the table of contents ... lists the real authors."

"My only suggestion," the memo concludes, "is that you provide the magazine to Justice Marshall so that he may be aware of the context in which the article was printed."

That task was handled gingerly in Webster's next letter to Marshall. "For your assistance, should you desire to pursue this matter privately, I will enclose a copy of the magazine," the letter said. An attached note explained: "Copy of the magazine was obtained as part of the effort to identify the material and to determine whether there was any basis for FBI investigation."

Ironically, Webster concludes his letter by dispensing some free legal advice to a Supreme Court justice.

"I have been advised by our legal counsel that, as it appears the intended purpose of the magazine is to produce humor for publication regardless of quality or decency of the material and on its face the particular article is patently absurd, the article probably enjoys constitutional protection from private legal means of redress."

Cing apologizes, Manglona argues

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff
WHILE Sen. David M. Cing apologized, Tinian Mayor Herman M. Manglona disagreed with Commerce Secretary Pedro Q. Dela Cruz.

In an interview Friday, the Tinian senator said that if it was true that the secretary included Tinian in the Overall Economic Development Plan (OEDP) submitted by the government to the United States Economic Development Administration (EDA), "I would like to apologize and extend the appreciation that the guy deserves."

Cing had earlier castigated the Tenorio administration for allegedly leaving out Tinian from the OEDP, but Dela Cruz blamed Tinian leaders for not meeting deadlines in their submission of requested project proposals.

Dela Cruz said Tinian's waterline project was included in the second OEDP draft.

Dela Cruz had also said Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio wrote Mayor Manglona on Dec. 16 and 30 and that "to date (Jan. 30), no direct reply has been received from the Mayor...with regard to Tinian's requested submissions."

Cing said the Tinian delegation will meet this week. "I will bring this (inclusion of Tinian) up to the attention of our mayor," he said.

Cing said the reason why he "jumped so quickly on the issue" was the past instances wherein Tinian was allegedly left out from project appropriations.

As former chairman of the committee on federal programs, he said he found out that Tinian in some instances received the least amount.

Even during the previous administration, he pointed out, Tinian "was never, never included in the EDA-(funded projects)."

Likewise, he cited a recent case wherein, he said, the governor had requested federal

On Commerce secretary's assertions on NMI plan



David M. Cing



Herman M. Manglona



Pedro Q. Dela Cruz

funding for roads, with Saipan alone getting \$26 million.

"The federal people came here and told us that it is supposed to include Tinian and Rota," he said.

Mayor Manglona, meanwhile, said, in reaction to Dela Cruz's statements, that he "strongly" disagreed with the secretary when he faulted

Tinian leaders for Tinian's being apparently ignored in the OEDP.

"The fact is that we initiated contact with the US Department of Commerce requesting the Economic Development Administration grant for our water project long before you developed the Overall Economic Development

Plan," Manglona said in his letter to Dela Cruz dated Feb. 6, the same day that the commerce secretary's comments were published in the Variety.

Manglona said Tinian's industrial/commercial waterline system proposal was received by the EDA on Sept. 30, 1995. Frank McChesney of the EDA, he said, even praised the ap-

plication as "one of the best preapplication proposals received from the Pacific area."

More recently, on Sept. 3 last year, however, Chesney informed Manglona that the EDA Seattle regional office had "temporarily tabled action on the project pending the gathering of appropriate data to support the conclusion that the high school graduates cannot find work on the island and that they and others have departed for better job opportunities elsewhere...."

Also, according to Manglona, Tinian consultant Adan Turner sent to Dela Cruz the "entire detailed plan" or information on the Tinian water line project last Dec. 18.

"It is typical of you people to look out and suggest projects for Saipan and Rota, and Tinian has to look after its own interests," Manglona closed his letter to Dela Cruz.

House passes 12 bills; to resume session tomorrow

THE HOUSE OF Representatives, meeting for the fourth straight day on Friday, passed 12 bills, and is expected to take up more pending legislation when it resumes session tomorrow.

Among those passed on first and final reading:

- House Bill 10-286 (House Draft 1), "The Commonwealth Fire Safety Code"—main sponsor, Rep. Stanley T. Torres.
- H.B. 10-82, "To Regu-

late Reconnection Fees of CUC and cable TV companies—main sponsor Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio.

- H.B. 10-305, "To Create a Statutory Rule of Evidence/OSHA standards"—main sponsor, Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho.
- H.B. 10-306, "The Parental Leave Act"—main sponsor, Majority Leader Pete P. Reyes.
- H.B. 10-11, "To Permanently Ban a Deported Alien From Reentering the CNMI"—main sponsor,

Reyes.

- H.B. 10-51, "The Product Information Act"—main sponsor, Rep. Crispin I. DL Guerrero.
- H.B. 10-8, "The Hazardous Differential Pay Authorization Act"—main sponsor, Reyes.
- H.B. 10-13, "The Criminal Impersonation Act"—main sponsor, Reyes.
- H.B. 10-164, "To Raise Requirement for Admission of Alien Immediate Relatives"—Minority Leader Dino M. Jones.

All these bills now go to the Senate.

- Senate Bill 10-11, "To Revoke the Driver's License of Anyone Violating the Controlled Substances Act"—main sponsor, Senate Vice President Paul A. Manglona.

The bill now goes to the Office of the Governor. (ZD)

• H.B. 10-60, "To Prohibit the Stopping of Vehicle Which Would Impede the Flow of Traffic"—main sponsor, DL Guerrero.

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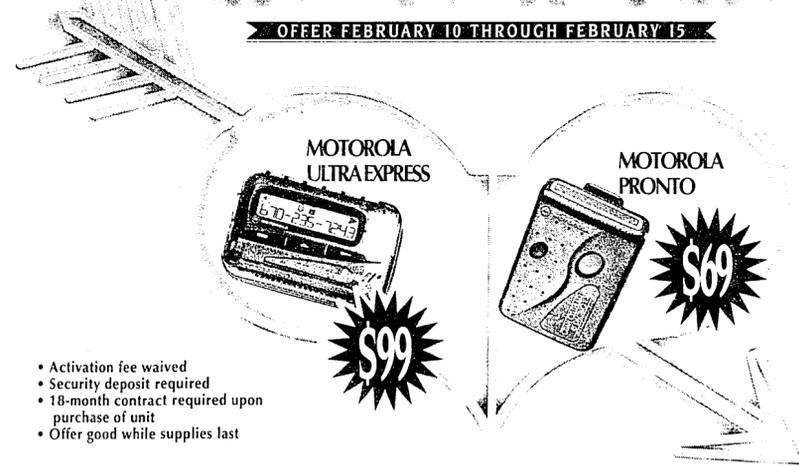
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All prospective jurors summoned to appear at the Superior Court on Feb. 10 at 8:30 a.m. are excused. The jury trial has been cancelled.

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CPA hosts regional conferences

THE Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) will be hosting two conferences beginning tomorrow Tuesday on Saipan, CPA said in a news release.

The events include a day-long State and Regional Disaster Airlift planning (SARDA) workshop and followed by the FAA Pacific Aviation Directors Workshop for two days at the Saipan Hyatt Regency Hotel.

More than 50 participants from the Pacific Region as well as Washington D.C. will be attending the workshops.

Carlos A. Shoda, CPA Executive Director, said the two workshops are sponsored jointly by the FAA and the Department of the Interior.

He said the SARDA workshop will involve those officials

from various government agencies who are responsible for major disaster-related activities.

These include policy makers from the Emergency Operations Center, Public Safety, Public Works, and the Commonwealth Health Center.

The main focus for the SARDA workshop is to define the role of every agency in case of an aircraft disaster off the airport premises. The SARDA workshop begins on Tuesday.

On Wednesday, the Aviation Directors' Subregional workshop gets underway which involves airport managers from the Pacific Region and FAA officials from Washington D.C., Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Honolulu.



Carlos A. Shoda

Participants from the three Freely Associated States, Guam, and Hawaii and representatives from several airlines will be discussing numerous aviation-related issues

and how they affect airports, projects, and passenger safety.

CPA Board Vice Chairman Tony S. Camacho will deliver the welcome remarks, to be followed by William Withycombe, Regional Administration of the Western Pacific Region of the FAA, who will give the opening remarks.

Participants will also hear presentations on "pavement maintenance management and planning" as well as "telecommunications on "pavement maintenance management and planning" as well as "telecommunications upgrade" in the Pacific.

Dr. Stephen Goodman, FAA Regional Flight Surgeon, will talk about "violence in the workplace" while Ed Moy, Deputy

Division Manager for the FAA, is scheduled to give an overview of "airport facilities."

Other topics to be discussed during the two-day airport directors workshop include the FAA technical assistance, flight standards, aviation security, and air traffic control.

At the conclusion of the conference, the participants will tour the Saipan International Airport which covers the fire station and air traffic control tower.

A welcoming reception for participants will be hosted on Wednesday by 11 companies who are CPA's tenants at the Saipan International Airport such as the airlines, duty-free shoppers, Lufthansa, and CTSI.

Business sector helps fund adult school's operations

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

SAIPAN'S business community is not wanting when it comes to helping Saipan's first adult high school stand on its two feet on its first year of operation.

The latest to contribute to the school's operation is the Bank of Hawaii, which turned over last Friday a \$2,500 check through Anthony Pellegrino, chair of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce's education committee.

Earlier, the chamber had given a \$5,000 seed money to make possible the opening of the high school at the

Northern Marianas College in As Terlaje last Jan. 20.

Pellegrino said the business sector had been "very responsive" to appeals for financial help.

Aside from the Bank of Hawaii, other companies which have given monetary contributions include the UMDA Corp., Tan Holdings, Bank of Guam, Duty Free Shoppers, and Bank of Saipan.

Pellegrino said Union Bank of California and Continental Micronesia have also pledged.

Bank of Hawaii branch manager Herb Flores said the bank "favors (giving) donations which will...help

educate the community's individuals; so we're always looking for opportunities where we can assist and participate in community activities and especially worthwhile causes such as this one which the Chamber of Commerce is sponsoring."

Pellegrino said he also met with some senators Friday morning and said they asked more information about the adult high school program. The legislature is expected to take over the main responsibility of funding the high school on its second year.

Pellegrino said the high school is a pilot project which should enable proponents to determine after a year if such a program is necessary in Saipan. He said they hope to raise \$22,500, which is the school's budget on its first year of operation.

"It's a very low budget, but it's



Anthony Pellegrino

adequate for what we want to do," he said.

The adult high school, which is housed in a one-classroom building right behind Building V, opened its door to 25 students last Jan. 20.

A total of 32 people had actually signed up, according to the adult high school program's coordinator, Dr. Jack Angello.

In an earlier interview, he said that as soon as the number of prospective students in the waiting list reaches 10, they would open another section.

People enrolled in the adult high school are aged 17 to 40. They had either dropped out from high school or stopped going to school after graduating from the elementary school.

The adult high school program takes a year or three semesters to complete.

The program, according to Pellegrino, has been successful in Honolulu and many states in the US including, Texas, Tennessee, and Ohio.

EPA certifies Rota water potable

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

WATER coming out of Rota's taps is now potable.

An announcement from the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. on Friday said the US Environmental Protection Agency, or EPA, declared on that same day that the public water supply on Rota "now complies with all US drinking water standards."

"That means that the community utility is not in violation of EPA regulations and that the Rota water is safe to drink," the CUC said.

For two years, the CUC said, the EPA and the CNMI Division of Environmental Quality monitored the treatment process in Rota.

On recommendation of the EPA, two chlorination stations had been installed on Rota.

Personnel had also been trained on the daily operation of water treatment.

The EPA clearance closed a previous administrative order, or citation, for the Rota water system.

The administrative order had been in place for years.

Three months ago, the EPA Pacific Islands Program chief, Norm Lovelace, and CNMI Program Manager James Branch came to monitor the progress of the work of water wells on Rota and Saipan.

At the time, Branch said they were ready to close the administrative order for Rota.

Lovelace was also quoted as saying there was not a single violation in the water system in the six months that he had been coming to monitor the progress in the Rota water system.

Last year the administrative order for Tinian was lifted.

The Governor's Water Emergency Task Force, which was created almost two years ago, aims to have all water coming out of Saipan's taps safe

to drink.

Some wells on Saipan have also been cited for not complying with the EPA drinking wa-

ter standards.

These wells, according to the CUC, are being remodeled to comply with the EPA standards.

Thirty-two new wells, in addition, are in the process of being brought into production according to EPA standards.

Castro allows two California lawyers to represent executor



Alejandro Castro

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE SUPERIOR Court has granted the application of two lawyers from San Francisco, California to represent the Bank of Saipan as executor for Larry Hillblom's estate.

Presiding Judge Alejandro Castro in his order issued Friday allowed Raoul D. Kennedy and Kathleen V. Fisher, partners in Morrison and Foerster law firm, to represent BOS in respect to all Hillblom proceedings relating to heirship claims.

Castro approved the two California lawyers' request pursuant to the CNMI Supreme Court's opinion dated Dec. 18, 1996.

The judge, however, stressed that all issues relating to the administration of the estate shall remain the responsibility of Special Administrator William Webster and his counsel.

Meanwhile, a lawyer for Hillblom Charitable Trust refused to accept a witness subpoena served by petitioner Kaelani Kinney after a hearing at the Superior Court on Friday.

Kinney, through lawyer Joe

Hill's legal staff, served the subpoena commanding W. Scott Thomas to give oral testimony at the Feb. 27 hearing before the Superior Court.

The hearing was in connection with Kinney's request for a full-blown investigation into serious accusations leveled by Scott that Kinney's lead counsel David Lujan had extrajudicial contacts with Presiding Judge Alejandro Castro.

Kinney, through counsel Barry Israel, asked the court to compel Thomas to testify in open court or before the CNMI Ethics Committee to justify in making the charges.

Bellas sanctioned Thomas to pay \$1,000 for also hurling unfounded serious ethical and character allegations against Michael Dotts, counsel for petitioner Josephine Nocasa.

Car-riding snatchers strike again in Garapan

FOUR car-riding snatchers struck in Garapan anew Thursday before midnight, taking away a purse from a woman.

Police said while a 28-year-old woman was walking near Arirang Market, a car stopped next to her.

Four unidentified men alighted from the car and pushed the woman down.

One suspect grabbed the victim's wrist pouch containing personal items, police said. The snatchers fled.

A snatcher also grabbed the purse of a woman who was standing behind Arirang Market Thursday midnight.

The purse contained \$200 cash, \$400 worth of cellular

phone, and an identification card.

No arrests have been made yet in two cases.

In other police report, an unidentified person/s broke into a house in Chalan Kanoa District 2 Friday before dawn and took a TV set belonging to a 29-year-old man.

In Chalan LauLau, an unidentified person/s forcibly opened the rear right passenger window of a car and took a waist pouch containing personal items from a 34-year-old man Friday midnight.

The DPS received eight burglary and theft cases and 16 vehicular accident reports Thursday and Friday. (FDT)

Heidemann eyeing RP umbrella organization

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

NEWLY-installed RP Consul Julie Heidemann said she is forming an "umbrella" organization of different Filipino groups in the Commonwealth "to have a force to integrate with into the CNMI community."

In an interview, Heidemann said there already are Filipino organizations formed here based on the region they came from in the Philippines.

"That's how Filipinos are... a bit regionalistic... and it reflects on the organizations they have here," said Heidemann.

The bulk of the estimated 20,000 Filipinos in the CNMI came from Northern and Central Luzon, one of three major Philippine islands.

"We're trying to see how members and leaders of the different existing groups can be

held together... maybe representatives from each group will be elected as members of the board," Heidemann explained.

"That way the Filipinos can be well-represented, not as a force to reckon with, but as a force to integrate with in the community," she further said.

These group, she said, can smoothen implementation of particular projects, "traffic decongestion for instance."

It can also "spearhead" intercultural activities to strengthen ties with the local Chamorro and Carlonian population.

She stressed though that the organization will try to sway away from politics explaining that "it is not the right venue for such."

"We will not discuss politics, it will plainly be a civic group," she said.

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On Saturday, February 15, join us at poolside for a special outdoor concert and barbecue "Luta style".

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Packages starting \$169.00 per person
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Space is limited for this special weekend. For information, please call the Rota Resort & Country Club at (670) 532-1155, Jfax 1156. For the "Rota Getaway Package", please contact Pacific Island Aviation (Guam-647-3600 / Saipan 234-3601)



MTC contractors prepare to reel in the fiber-optic cable as it reaches Rota's Teteto Beach shoreline.

Fiber optic cable to be operational soon

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In a news release, MTC said the long-awaited undersea fiber-optic cable was laid at Teteto Beach, Rota over the weekend and will be brought to Tinian and then to Saipan this week.

Stretching 63.3 miles from Guam, the cable was brought in to Rota on the 285-foot VS Kendrick, an offshore workboat specially outfitted with cable equipment for MTC's project.

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Anti-tobacco bill reintroduced in House of Reps

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

REPRESENTATIVE Ana S. Teregeyo has introduced an "improved" version of a bill that would provide further deterrence for the sale of tobacco to minors.

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In the veto message last Dec. 9, the governor commended the Legislature for addressing the growing health problems associated with our youth using tobacco products.

If properly amended, he said, the bill "could go a long way toward discouraging both adults and commercial businesses from giving and/or selling tobacco products to minors."

Pacific News Round-Up New Fiji party formed

SUVA (Pacnews) - A new political party has been formed in Fiji, as a result within the ruling Soqosoqo ni Vakavulewa ni Taukei's parliamentary caucus widens. The new party is expected to encompass the confederacy of Burebasaga (east and central Viti Levu), and the provinces of Lomaiviti, Serua, Namosi, Nadroga and Ba, the Daily Post reports.

The new party, which is yet to be

named, is the brainchild of some SVT backbenchers, in anticipation of political changes expected, with the adoption of a new constituency. And the backbenchers concerned are worried that moves to make the Great Council of Chiefs self-autonomous and independent, does not augur well for the political stability of the SVT.

According to sources within the SVT,

a constitution for the new Burebasaga party has been prepared. And party workers are already on the move seeking support from the people.

While details of how the new party would function was not quite clear Thursday, political sources say the party's stand is focused on "multiracialism" as the only way forward for Fiji and its constitution is styled towards that end.

Ex-official warns of demoralization among policemen in Solomon Isles

HONIARA (Pacnews) - Former chairman of the Solomon Islands Sub-ordinate police officers association, Martin Karani, has warned of a poor performance of duty by members of the police force.

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Kaiabe had requested authorities to investigate the matter and bring those responsible to justice. He feared that the issue could get out of hand if no immediate action was taken. Police sources confirmed that they were now investigating the incident.

DON'T DRIVE DRUNK!

PNG women urged to wage war against rape

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews) - A police commander in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea is calling on women in the country to join their voices in protest to the national government to get tougher laws against rapists. Western Highlands police commander, Titus Pamben, made the call Thursday after the daylight pack-rape of two women in separate attacks in the province, Post-Courier reports.

Last week, Chief Inspector

Pamben called for the hanging of rapists after the abduction and rape of two other women. He said again Thursday that women were not sexual objects for men to walk up to and demand sex or take it by force. He said the National Council of Women must take a leading role in this, which was now becoming a major concern throughout PNG.

Pamben said no one should take the matter lightly, because rape and especially pack-rape were becoming major problems.

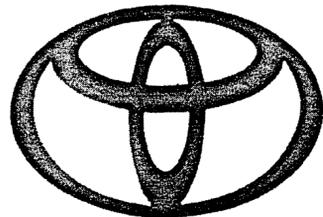
American eyes Suva hotel

SUVA (Pacnews) - The American Ambassador to Fiji, Don Gevitz, has disclosed that an American buyer is willing to purchase the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva. Gevitz says due to the political instability in Nauru, negotiations will take a while, Radio Fiji reports.

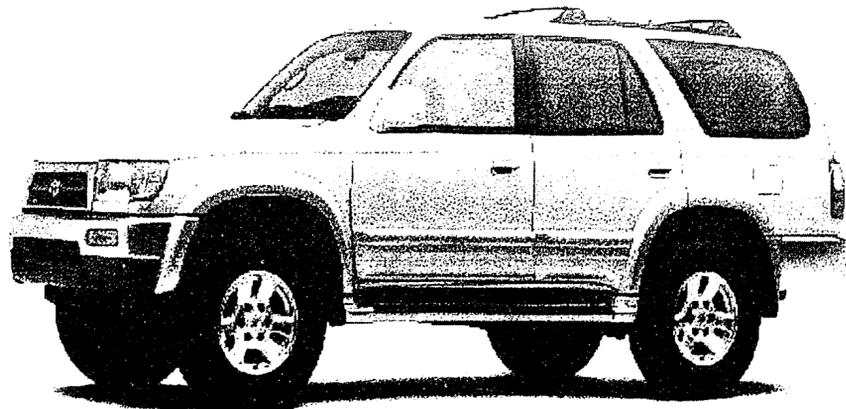
He says the Grand Pacific Hotel is owned by Nauru, and there is a very interested

American buyer who is willing to establish negotiations between the government of Fiji and he hopes that his office could cause all the parties to come to the table in the next 30 days. Gevitz says the name of the American company will be officially announced when the agreement is signed by the parties concerned.

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COMING SOON



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According to sources within the SVT,

a constitution for the new Burebasaga party has been prepared. And party workers are already on the move seeking support from the people.

While details of how the new party would function was not quite clear Thursday, political sources say the party's stand is focused on "multiracialism" as the only way forward for Fiji and its constitution is styled towards that end.

Tougher penalties vs drug crimes sought in A. Samoa

PAGOPAGO (Pacnews) - A bill that provides tougher penalties for drug crimes has been introduced in American Samoa's legislature. A first offender would be punishable by a 10,000 US dollar fine and a jail term of 5 to 10 years. A second offender would carry a 15,000 dollar fine and 10 to 20 years in jail.

Third time offenders are

liable to pay a 20,000 dollar fine and serve anywhere from 15 to 30 years in jail. In addition, drug crime offenders will not be eligible for parole during their entire jail term. Under the present law, possession of drugs carries a maximum sentence of five years imprisonment, a fine 5,000 dollars or both.

PNG women urged to wage war against rape

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews) - A police commander in the Highlands of Papua New Guinea is calling on women in the country to join their voices in protest to the national government to get tougher laws against rapists. Western Highlands police commander, Titus Pamben, made the call Thursday after the daylight pack-rape of two women in separate attacks in the province, Post-Courier reports.

Last week, Chief Inspector

Pamben called for the hanging of rapists after the abduction and rape of two other women. He said again Thursday that women were not sexual objects for men to walk up to and demand sex or take it by force. He said the National Council of Women must take a leading role in this, which was now becoming a major concern throughout PNG.

Pamben said no one should take the matter lightly, because rape and especially pack-rape were becoming major problems.

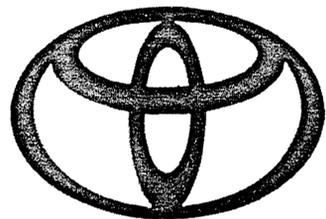
American eyes Suva hotel

SUVA (Pacnews) - The American Ambassador to Fiji, Don Gevitz, has disclosed that an American buyer is willing to purchase the Grand Pacific Hotel in Suva. Gevitz says due to the political instability in Nauru, negotiations will take a while, Radio Fiji reports.

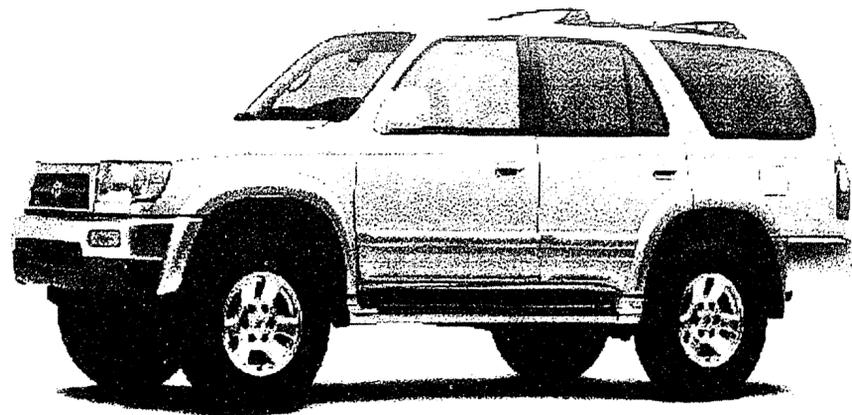
He says the Grand Pacific Hotel is owned by Nauru, and there is a very interested

American buyer who is willing to establish negotiations between the government of Fiji and he hopes that his office could cause all the parties to come to the table in the next 30 days. Gevitz says the name of the American company will be officially announced when the agreement is signed by the parties concerned.

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More Regional News

Yap places its emphasis on fisheries to boost economy

HONOLULU (Pacnews) - The government of the State of Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia, involved in increasingly aggressive efforts to build a self-sustaining economy, now is placing special emphasis on further development of its fisheries industry.

Among the goals of the Yap Fishing Authority are to expand existing commercial fishing ventures by attracting

foreign investment partners. Yap Fishing Authority Chairman Jesse Raglmar-Subolmar says what Yap's fishing industry needs most right now is a highly-qualified and motivated new General Manager.

The Chairman invites interested fishing experts - from Micronesia and any of the South Pacific Forum countries - to apply for the demanding

job. He's looking for someone with an outstanding record of experience in Pacific Islands fisheries work.

Yap's local fishing fleet includes several longline vessels and a number of handline fishing boats that engage in near-shore bottom fishing.

Processing facilities include a freezer and chill room used in preparing tuna for export, primarily to nearby Guam..

Workplaces to be checked for lead

SUVA (Pacnews) - Fiji's ministry of labour and industrial relations will make a study of all other work places in the country which use lead and other harmful products in its day to day operations. Acting minister Vilisoni Cagimaivei made the statement Thursday

after touring the Lautoka sugar mill where employees have been exposed to lead poisoning, the Daily Post reports.

Cagimaivei said what happened at the Lautoka and Rarawai mills had made the ministry more aware of its role where the health and safety of

workers were concerned. He said the ministry would not only be looking into machinery but also at the safety of workers.

Cagimaivei said extra precautionary measures were needed and workers educated on what to do and not to do..

Knife gang slashes at injured crash victims

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews) - A gang roadblock led to disaster on Papua New Guinea's Hiritano Highway leading from Port Moresby to Gulf Province, when a bus trying to avoid it overturned. Waiting gangsters fell on the wounded passengers with knives and slashed at them, the Post Courier reports.

A young woman, 17, died from

loss of blood and seven others were sent to Veila Catholic hospital with serious wounds both from the crash and the attack. Central Province police chief Emmanuel Hela has expressed concern about repeated attacks along the highway. He said he was fed up with the village leaders uncooperative attitudes in helping police prevent crime on the highway.

Talks to begin on forming new gov't

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews) - Papua New Guinea's first prime minister, Sir Michael Somare, is holding talks overseas with three senior politicians in his move to form the next government. A source within Pangu Pati ranks says that the Chief, who is heading a new group called the National Alliance, was in talks with Manus MP Stephen

Pokawin, Speaker Rabbie Namaliu and National Capital District Governor and People's National Congress Party leader Bill Skate, Post-Courier reports. The source says "They are talking overseas to form the next government".

Already in Somare's group are Bernard Narakobi (Wewak), Bart Philemon (Lae) and Michael Laimo (South Bougainville). Namaliu is still a member of Pangu while Sir Michael has severed his ties with the party he held found.

The source says Skate and Sir Rabbie have been overseas for two weeks and that Sir Rabbie would not be attending the Pangu meeting in Uritai, Gulf Province at the weekend. He says that Foreign Minister Kilroy Genia and Commerce and Industry Minister Nakikus Konga "and their group" were also unlikely to be there.

W. Samoan currency will be available in banks by next month

APIA (Pacnews) - Western Samoa's local currency, the tala, will be available for the first time in commercial banks around the region next month. Finance Minister Tuilaepa Sailele says the move comes as part of the Article 8 agreement with the International Monetary Fund and the government policy of financial deregulation.

Sailele says approval has been given to banks in New Zealand, Australia, American Samoa, Tonga and Fiji, who make up the island states main trading partners to offer the service on a limited scale initially. He says the amount of Samoan currency overseas travellers can take with them has also been increased.

Sailele says the central bank is also removing the current practice of releasing foreign exchange in installments for larger overseas remittances.

Majuro landowners want better deal

By Giff Johnson
For the Variety

MAJURO-Some owners of prime land at Majuro, international airport are upset because they don't agree with the government's lease offer of \$3,000 an acre, and believe that the government is avoiding resolving the dispute that is more than two years old.

A hearing last Wednesday on a Nitijela (parliament) resolution to rename the airport Amata Kabua International Airport, after the president who died December 20, was postponed a second time until next week when cabinet ministers requested to attend did not appear.

"The landowners don't have any objections to the new name," Sen. Tony deBrum said after the hearing. "But it, rather awkward to name the airport after the president because of the illegal situa-

tion that exists there.

There's no lease on the land. But Transportation Minister Kunio Lemari said there is a lease and that the majority of owners have signed it.

"The money is there but they don't want to take it," he said referring to the owners that deBrum represents.

"I have no power to increase the payment because the government pays \$3,000 an acre a year for land (it leases)," Lemari said.

DeBrum, a former health and foreign minister, said that landowners he represents are angry because they can't get any resolution of the lease problem and now the government wants to change the name of the airport. DeBrum said that the lease issue has been unresolved for about two years.

Although they control only two of the 16 land parcels that

comprise the Marshall Islands capital's international airport, the landowners deBrum represents own possibly the most important sections of the airport: the land on which the airport terminal sits, as well as the where Air Marshall Islands maintenance hangar and the Mobil Oil pump station are located.

Lemari indicated that of the 16 land parcels that make up the airport area, 14 have agreed to the government's lease which pays \$3,000 an acre per year.

The landowners that deBrum is speaking for are asking for a similar lease arrangement that exists with the government's new hotel that is managed by Outrigger, which provides landowners with a flat lease payment plus a percentage of the gross, deBrum said.

"If the land is not used for

commercial development, then (the flat rate of) \$3,000 an acre is fine," he said.

But if it's for commercial use, as he contends that the airport is, then a percentage of the gross should go to the landowners, like the hotel lease.

Lemari said that the airport is a very different situation from the Outrigger, which is a private business which can make any lease arrangements that it wants with landowners.

Unless the government changes its lease payment

structure it cannot increase payments for the airport, he said.

DeBrum said that they haven't been able to get any satisfaction from the government on this issue, despite President Amata Kabua's support of this arrangement for the airport lease payments.

"The resolution (for the name change) is fine," he said. "But straighten out the lease problem first."

DeBrum did not indicate what the landowners would do if they don't get their way for renegotiation of the lease.

Pangelinan outlines his goals in State of Pohnpei State address



Del Pangelinan

reduction of salaries and shorter working hours for government employees and the privatization of certain functions of government as some of the ways to deal with budgetary problem.

While Pangelinan submitted proposed legislation to implement his proposals for the Legislature's consideration, Pangelinan has implemented regulations that will eliminate standby differentials for medical and dental doctors who are on call after normal working hours.

Pangelinan called for the approval of a proposed amendment to the FSM Constitution, which will return to each state 80 percent of national taxes collected in each state, stating that the return of an additional 30 percent to the current 50 percent will help Pohnpei with its financial problems.

Pangelinan contends that the remaining 20 percent of national tax revenues and fees collected from fishing permits, plus other moneys and grants are adequate to meet the operational expenses of the FSM National Government.

Section 5 of Article 9 of the FSM Constitution states: "National taxes shall be imposed uniformly. Not less than 50 percent of the revenues shall be paid into the treasury of the state where collected."

Nauru goes to the polls

CANBERRA (Pacnews) - The people of Nauru will go to the polls Saturday in a general election aimed at ending the island's political instability. At the last general election in November 1995, Lagumot Harris was elected president replacing Bernard Dowiyogo.

Since then, Nauru has had three presidents. Dowiyogo was elected

president on November 11 last year following a no confidence motion. Little more than a fortnight later, Dowiyogo was replaced by Kennan Adeang, again on a no confidence motion.

And on December 19, Adeang was overthrown and Reuben Kun was elected caretaker president pending a general election..

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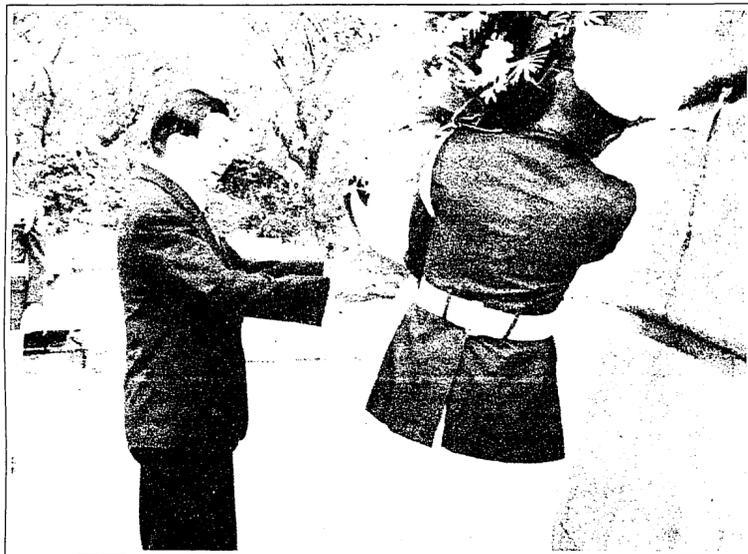
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Thai Prime Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh helps the Philippine Marines place a wreath at the foot of the Rizal Monument in Manila on the last day of his state visit. Chavalit was in Manila for trade and other talks with Philippine leaders. AP Photo

RP gov't, rebels eye ceasefire agreement

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - Government and Muslim rebel peace negotiators will meet later this month to discuss a possible general cease-fire agreement, a government spokesman said Thursday.

Press Undersecretary Honesto Isleta said members of the government's subcommittee on cessation of hostilities and the Moro Islamic Liberation Front are to "lay down the parameters and demands" that will lead to a broad cease-fire.

The two sides agreed to a local cease-fire late last month following two weeks of fighting in which about 40 people died in Buldon town in Maguindanao province, about 850 kilometers (530 miles) south of Manila.

The clashes, triggered by a rebel ambush of the town mayor on Jan. 16 in which two soldiers were killed, forced hundreds of families to flee Buldon to avoid the crossfire.

The fighting erupted despite an initial round of peace talks between the government and MILF in early January aimed at ending decades of Muslim secessionist fighting. Last September, the government reached a peace agreement with the main rebel group, the Moro National Liberation Front.

The MILF and the government later agreed to allow a third party to monitor the Buldon cease-fire after each side accused the other of violating the truce.

Isleta said the subcommittee talks were moved to Feb. 16 from Feb. 9 because Muslims will celebrate the end of the Muslim holy month of Ramadan on the 9th.

The MILF is a militant breakaway faction of the MNLF. The MILF and the smaller Abu Sayyaf are the two remaining Muslim rebel factions still fighting the government.

The military estimates the MILF has 7,000 armed guerrillas.

Ecuador has new president

By MONTE HAYES
QUITO, Ecuador (AP) - Congress named Vice President Rosalia Arteaga as Ecuador's president early Sunday, in a military-backed move that replaces deposed chief executive Abdala Bucaram.

The unanimous congressional vote came after Bucaram, who had been fighting to regain the office following his dismissal by Congress Thursday, conceded early Sunday that he had been left without power.

There were no more immediate details on the congressional move, but news reports said the military and Congress had agreed on a plan to temporarily put Arteaga in the presidency and that congressional leader Fabian Alarcon would assume the post in a few days, after she resigns.

The reports said the plan called for Alarcon to call new presidential elections in August. Bucaram was elected to the post six months ago.

Congress leaders discussed the plan with the military command, the reports said, and then the leaders convened a closed-door meeting of the

legislature in the early hours Sunday.

Arteaga was broadcast on national television on the floor of Congress accepting the new post.

Sunday's developments mark a likely end to a governing crisis that emerged when Bucaram was ousted. He had refused to accept the decision and Ecuadoreans have turned to the armed forces - Ecuador's final arbiter of power - to resolve the conflict.

The Congress charged Bucaram with "mental incapacity," and his foes accused him of worsening the country's economic ills with his erratic behavior and political showboating.

But Bucaram vowed to remain in office until his term officially ends in 2000. Alarcon was named interim president and Arteaga also laid claim to the post.

In a comments earlier Sunday, Bucaram conceded that he had been left without a mandate after broadcast stations quoted an important general as saying the military had withdrawn its support from the

fiery leader.

"The armed forces decided not to support lawyer Abdala Bucaram," said Gen. Jose Grijalva, commander for the southern province of Loja.

Reacting to Grijalva's comment, Bucaram said: "If true, it would mean a civilian dictatorship in the country."

"I am the president of Ecuador and the armed forces have echoed a decision of some conspirators," he said at an impromptu news conference in coastal Guayaquil.

Grijalva revealed the military decision in an interview with Radio Centinela, a radio station in the city of Loja. The interview was replayed by Quito radio and television stations.

In his statement, the commander said the military will not accept a state of emergency declared by Bucaram. "He has been dismissed by Congress and no longer exercises his functions," he said.

The resignation of Defense Minister Gen. Victor Bayas earlier Saturday and his temporary replacement by armed forces chief Gen. Paco Moncayo was a result of Bayas' decision to accept the state of emergency requested by Bucaram, Grijalva said.

Moncayo, who gained widespread popularity when his troops successfully resisted Peru during a brief conflict two years ago, said Friday that Ecuador's military would remain neutral in the conflict, but stressed that "the country cannot have a power



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Report: Federal court papers outline drug payoffs in Mexico

WASHINGTON (AP) - The kingpins of a major Mexican drug cartel pay off hundreds of Mexican law enforcement officials for protection, information and help moving overland and into the United States almost at will, The Washington Post reported in an account based on federal documents.

In its Sunday editions, the newspaper said the documents, filed in U.S. District Court in San Diego and unsealed last week, contain testimony from men identified as key operatives of the Tijuana cartel detailing operations of a smuggling cartel run by brothers in the Arellano Felix family.

Corruption and violence in the region has been widely known, but the Post said the papers filed by the Mexican government to buttress an extradition request provide previously unknown details of the cartel's operations. Disclosure of the court papers comes barely a month before the Clinton administration is required to decide whether to certify that Mexico is doing enough to combat drug trafficking, a finding that will have a major impact on general U.S.-Mexican relations.

The Post said the hundreds of pages of documents, in both English and Spanish, describe a criminal empire that pays off Mexican law enforcement officers to help assassinate fellow officers, guard drug shipments, tip off the drug family about investigations and provide it with the names of witnesses prepared to testify against the criminal family.

In one instance, the papers describe how the cartel co-opted an army captain serving in President Ernesto Zedillo's security detail. The guard told Mexican prosecutors how he had recruited young soldiers to help the Tijuana cartel unload planes stuffed with cocaine from Colombia and assisted the cartel in the murder of a senior Tijuana counter-narcotics chief.

The documents were filed by Mexican authorities seeking extradition of two men accused of being hit men for the Arellano Felix family. It includes four brothers identified by the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration as being responsible for most of the cocaine, marijuana and methamphetamines shipped into the United States along the California-Mexico border.

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Church to stop masses, classes to mourn bishop

COTABATO, Philippines (AP) - Church officials said Thursday they will stop holding Mass and suspend classes at church-run schools in a southern region to mourn the death of a Roman Catholic bishop killed by suspected Muslim rebels.

Bishop Benjamin de Jesus, 56, was shot to death Tuesday outside Mount Carmel Cathedral in Jolo by two attackers, including a boy.

He was the highest-ranking church official to be killed in the Philippines in recent years. Local officials fear the murder in the Muslim-dominated town in Sulu province will worsen tensions between Christians and Muslims.

Fred Ipiz, chancellor of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, the order to which de Jesus belonged, said it would suspend classes at a university it runs in Jolo and at

smaller schools in Sulu province starting Thursday until de Jesus' murder is solved.

Priests also will stop celebrating Mass at churches across the southern provinces of Sulu and Tawi Tawi, Ipiz told a church-operated radio station.

A priest in the order said it would not pull out the 10 priests still working in Jolo.

Police said de Jesus was walking outside the cathedral when the two attackers approached and opened fire, killing the bishop and a woman bystander. Five others were injured by stray bullets.

The bishop is to be buried Feb. 14 at the Jolo cathedral.

Police investigators say they suspect Muslim Abu Sayyaf rebels seeking retaliation for a rebel's arrest.

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Polls open in Tula, Russia

TULA, Russia (AP) - Polls opened Sunday in Tula's colorful, high-profile election race that features candidates ranging from President Boris Yeltsin's former top bodyguard to a chess champion and a suspected extortionist.

Ten candidates are running in a special election to fill the legislative

seat vacated last year by Alexander Lebed, the charismatic former general and Yeltsin's main political rival.

Some 234 polling stations opened at 8 a.m. (0500 gm) in this industrial town 170 kilometers (105 miles) south of Moscow and will stay open until the evening for Tula's 452,000 registered voters.

The prize in the election is relatively small - one of 450 seats in the lower house of parliament, the State Duma. But the celebrity candidates and their unorthodox methods have put the race in the national limelight.

The daily newspaper Kommersant condemned the race this week as "one of the most scandalous among

the regional elections."

Leading the field is Alexander Korzhakov, the former head of Yeltsin's presidential guard and once the president's confidant, who was ousted in a Kremlin power struggle last June. Early in the race, the popular

Lebed has endorsed Korzhakov, a longtime Kremlin insider with an unsavory reputation and close links to the defense plants that are Tula's bread and butter.

Korzhakov could not possibly find a better ground.

"I hope the new Duma deputy will help Tula weapon-makers to revive the idle plants," one of the first voters, former defense factory worker Sergei Medvedev, told the ITAR-Tass news agency.

Other candidates include former world chess champion Anatoly Karpov and a popular Tula economist, Eduard Pashchenko.

On Saturday, virtually at the last moment, a Tula court tossed out one of the most controversial candidates, a former fashion model whom it found guilty of "crude" violations of campaign finance laws.

Yelena Mavrodi, 27, attracted attention and the close scrutiny of election authorities by plying voters with cash to sign on as campaign workers. She is the wife of Sergei Mavrodi, who ran one of Russia's first and most notorious investment funds that stripped thousands of their life savings.

Election officials labored all night to cross out Mavrodi's name by hand, as it was too late to reprint the ballots,

ITAR-Tass said.

Korzhakov, in turn, reportedly gave Tula residents presents of vodka, tea and chocolate through veteran groups working on his behalf.

"I survived the whole war and now they want to buy me with a bottle of vodka," complained World War II veteran Konstantin Dubrovin, who Friday told the Moskovsky Komsomlets newspaper that he received vodka, chocolate and a Korzhakov calendar from a young woman who knocked on his door.

Korzhakov, well ahead of the others in polls this week, denied the charges at a news conference.

He accused his political enemy, presidential chief of staff Anatoly Chubais, of a smear campaign.

Only five of the candidates, including Karpov, are actually from Tula and Karpov rarely visited his hometown until the campaign.

In a recent newspaper interview, Karpov said he wants a brilliant career in politics to follow his brilliant career in chess. He has sought votes by promising to pay the elderly overdue pensions and is supported by Communists and other hard-liners.

One of the more colorful local candidates is Nikolai Novikov, a sports club president who is campaigning from jail, where he faces extortion charges.

Among the perks of office enjoyed by members of the Russian parliament is immunity from prosecution.

Early results are expected on Monday and election officials expect to formally announce the winner in a week.

Rebels, troops trade mortar fire

By OSHAN FERNANDO COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) - Government soldiers and rebel separatists traded mortar fire in northern Sri Lanka over the weekend, forcing thousands of Tamil

civilians to flee to refugee camps, military officials said Sunday.

Government troops in the frontier town of Vavuniya fired shells into rebel-held areas early Sunday morning, a military official

said on condition of anonymity. There were no reports of guerrilla casualties.

On Saturday, the rebels fired at least 30 shells into the government-held Thandikulam town, a few miles north of Vavuniya. Two policemen were killed in the area 210 kilometers (130 miles) north of Colombo.

About 7,000 people have moved into refugee camps in nearby Madhu town, said Peter Meijer of

the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

"With the new arrivals, the numbers (in the camps) have doubled, but we don't have any problems with food and shelter," said Meijer in a telephone interview.

In a statement from its London office, the rebels on Sunday accused the military of shelling in different directions to drive the people away. The military denied

Mahathir says Malaysians to be investing less in the Philippines

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) - Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said Sunday Malaysian investors will cut their investments in the Philippines.

Mahathir made his remarks when questioned by reporters about the recent decision by the Philippine Supreme Court to stop the sales of the Manila Hotel to Malaysia's Renong Ltd.

Although the Malaysian company had won a bid to buy the hotel, the court ordered it to be sold to the Manila-based Prince Hotel Corporation in line with the "Filipinos-come-

first policy."

"I feel Malaysian investors will be more careful and will not invest too much in the Philippines," Mahathir said.

The Philippines had invited Malaysian investment to help revitalize its economy, he said.

"We are not investing merely to reap profits," Mahathir said. Mahathir advised Malaysians to be careful when investing in other nations.

"We do not want others to say we are very greedy to the extent of wanting to grab all the investment for ourselves," he said.

The Philippines Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon has said



Mahathir Mohamad the decision on the hotel is embarrassing to the Philippines government.

Angry Muslims burn down church

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) Muslims angered at rumors a copy of the Koran had been desecrated burned down a church in southern Punjab, police said Thursday.

Police in Shanti Nagar, 240 kilometers (150 miles) south

of the Punjab provincial capital of Lahore, said they feared further violence, and warned Christians not to leave their homes after the overnight attack.

Thousands of armed Muslims in this largely Christian area took to the streets Wednesday as the unconfirmed rumor spread. They shouted for a jihad, or "holy war" against Christians.

The leader of Pakistan's Christian Party in Shanti Nagar said the mob had burned down a Salvation Army church.

"All the priests and workers living at the church have fled," Younis Rahi said by telephone.

Desecration of the Koran carries a death sentence in Islamic Pakistan.

Religious clashes are common in Pakistan and have become increasing violent in recent years.



Prime Minister-elect Nawaz Sharif addresses supporters outside his home. Defeating former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Sharif pledged Tuesday to move ahead with economic reforms. Election officials Tuesday estimated turnout at nearly 30 percent, a record low that suggested a lack of support among voters for any of the candidates and a disgust over the state of Pakistani democracy. AP Photo

Barred South Korean lawmaker demanding apology from Burma

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - A South Korean lawmaker who was denied entry to Burma demanded an apology Sunday, accusing the Rangoon government of slighting his country.

Kim Sang-woo, a member of the National Congress for New Politics, the nation's largest opposition party, called on the South Korean government to file an official complaint to Burma.

The legislator was thrown out of Burma on Thursday after being temporarily detained at the airport in Rangoon. He said he was bruised when Burmese officials "grabbed, pushed and shoved" him onto the last flight of the day to Bangkok, Thailand.

"I take the treatment as a serious slight on South Korea," Kim, 42, said in a statement Sunday.

Foreign Ministry officials were not available for comment. But national news agency Yonhap, quoting unnamed ministry officials, reported that

South Korea has started an investigation through its diplomatic mission.

Without specifically saying why Kim was refused entry, Burma's military government said Friday that Kim "blatantly interfered in the internal affairs" of the country during his last visit to Rangoon in June 1996.

Kim said he made Thursday's trip to find out firsthand about Burma's political situation. He planned to meet with Aung San Suu Kyi, the leader of the country's embattled democratic opposition.

Kim also was carrying a letter from Kim Dae-jung, South Korea's top opposition leader, to Suu Kyi.

Burma is ruled by a military regime which seized power in 1988 after violently suppressing pro-democracy street demonstrations. It held a general election in 1990, but refused to turn over power to the winners, Mrs. Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy.

The military government has been criticized by the U.S. State Department as one of the world's worst human rights violators.

Kim said that upon his Thursday arrival in Rangoon he was taken to an airport office, where immigration officials threatened him with arrest unless he left.

He said he held proper travel documents and was given no reason for being barred entry. His request to contact his ambassador also was ignored, Kim said. The last flight to Bangkok was held past departure time for Kim.

When Kim refused to leave, Burmese officials grabbed him and took him to the plane by force, the legislator said.

Burma has refused entry occasionally to other foreigners seen as sympathetic to the democratic opposition. It applies arbitrary restrictions to Suu Kyi, and has sometimes even denied diplomats accredited to Burma access to her.



The sunken warship Zhongshan that China plans to display as a symbol of national pride is raised from the muddy Yangtze River, where it lay for nearly 59 years in Jinkou, central China. The cruiser named after modern China's founder, Sun Yat-sen, also known as Sun Zhongshan, was sunk by Japanese forces Oct. 24, 1938, after shooting down three Japanese fighters. AP Photo

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Polls open in Tula, Russia

TULA, Russia (AP) - Polls opened Sunday in Tula's colorful, high-profile election race that features candidates ranging from President Boris Yeltsin's former top bodyguard to a chess champion and a suspected extortionist.

Ten candidates are running in a special election to fill the legislative

seat vacated last year by Alexander Lebed, the charismatic former general and Yeltsin's main political rival.

Some 234 polling stations opened at 8 a.m. (0500 gm) in this industrial town 170 kilometers (105 miles) south of Moscow and will stay open until the evening for Tula's 452,000 registered voters.

The prize in the election is relatively small - one of 450 seats in the lower house of parliament, the State Duma. But the celebrity candidates and their unorthodox methods have put the race in the national limelight.

The daily newspaper Kommersant condemned the race this week as "one of the most scandalous among

the regional elections."

Leading the field is Alexander Korzhakov, the former head of Yeltsin's presidential guard and once the president's confidant, who was ousted in a Kremlin power struggle last June. Early in the race, the popular

Lebed has endorsed Korzhakov, a longtime Kremlin insider with an unsavory reputation and close links to the defense plants that are Tula's bread and butter.

Korzhakov could not possibly find a better ground.

"I hope the new Duma deputy will help Tula weapon-makers to revive the idle plants," one of the first voters, former defense factory worker Sergei Medvedev, told the ITAR-Tass news agency.

Other candidates include former world chess champion Anatoly Karpov and a popular Tula economist, Eduard Paschenko.

On Saturday, virtually at the last moment, a Tula court tossed out one of the most controversial candidates, a former fashion model whom it found guilty of "crude" violations of campaign finance laws.

Yelena Mavrodi, 27, attracted attention and the close scrutiny of election authorities by plying voters with cash to sign on as campaign workers. She is the wife of Sergei Mavrodi, who ran one of Russia's first and most notorious investment funds that stripped thousands of their life savings.

Election officials labored all night to cross out Mavrodi's name by hand, as it was too late to reprint the ballots,

ITAR-Tass said.

Korzhakov, in turn, reportedly gave Tula residents presents of vodka, tea and chocolate through veteran groups working on his behalf.

"I survived the whole war and now they want to buy me with a bottle of vodka," complained World War II veteran Konstantin Dubrovin, who Friday told the Moskovsky Komsomolets newspaper that he received vodka, chocolate and a Korzhakov calendar from a young woman who knocked on his door.

Korzhakov, well ahead of the others in polls this week, denied the charges at a news conference.

He accused his political enemy, presidential chief of staff Anatoly Chubais, of a smear campaign.

Only five of the candidates, including Karpov, are actually from Tula and Karpov rarely visited his hometown until the campaign.

In a recent newspaper interview, Karpov said he wants a brilliant career in politics to follow his brilliant career in chess. He has sought votes by promising to pay the elderly overdue pensions and is supported by Communists and other hard-liners.

One of the more colorful local candidates is Nikolai Novikov, a sports club president who is campaigning from jail, where he faces extortion charges.

Among the perks of office enjoyed by members of the Russian parliament is immunity from prosecution.

Early results are expected on Monday and election officials expect to formally announce the winner in a week.

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Rebels, troops trade mortar fire

By **OSHAN FERNANDO COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)** - Government soldiers and rebel separatists traded mortar fire in northern Sri Lanka over the weekend, forcing thousands of Tamil

civilians to flee to refugee camps, military officials said Sunday.

Government troops in the frontier town of Vavuniya fired shells into rebel-held areas early Sunday morning, a military official

said on condition of anonymity. There were no reports of guerrilla casualties.

On Saturday, the rebels fired at least 30 shells into the government-held Thandikulam town, a few miles north of Vavuniya. Two policemen were killed in the area 210 kilometers (130 miles) north of Colombo.

About 7,000 people have moved into refugee camps in nearby Madhu town, said Peter Meijer of

the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

"With the new arrivals, the numbers (in the camps) have doubled, but we don't have any problems with food and shelter," said Meijer in a telephone interview.

In a statement from its London office, the rebels on Sunday accused the military of shelling in different directions to drive the people away. The military denied

the allegation.

There are no independent reports because journalists are barred from the battle zones.

The rebels are fighting for a Tamil homeland in the north and east of the island nation since 1983. They allege widespread discrimination by the majority Sinhalese, who control the government and the military.

More than 47,000 people have been killed in the fighting.

Mahathir says Malaysians to be investing less in the Philippines

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) - Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said Sunday Malaysians investors will cut their investments in the Philippines.

Mahathir made his remarks when questioned by reporters about the recent decision by the Philippine Supreme Court to stop the sales of the Manila Hotel to Malaysia's Renong Ltd.

Although the Malaysian company had won a bid to buy the hotel, the court ordered it to be sold to the Manila-based Prince Hotel Corporation in line with the "Filipinos-come-

first policy."

"I feel Malaysian investors will be more careful and will not invest too much in the Philippines," Mahathir said.

The Philippines had invited Malaysian investment to help revitalize its economy, he said.

"We are not investing merely to reap profits," Mahathir said. Mahathir advised Malaysians to be careful when investing in other nations.

"We do not want others to say we are very greedy to the extent of wanting to grab all the investment for ourselves," he said.

The Philippines Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon has said



Mahathir Mohamad

the decision on the hotel is embarrassing to the Philippines government.

Angry Muslims burn down church

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) Muslims angered by rumors a copy of the Koran had been desecrated burned down a church in southern Punjab, police said Thursday.

Police in Shanti Nagar, 240 kilometers (150 miles) south

of the Punjab provincial capital of Lahore, said they feared further violence, and warned Christians not to leave their homes after the overnight attack.

Thousands of armed Muslims in this largely Christian area took to the streets Wednesday as the unconfirmed rumor spread. They shouted for a jihad, or "holy war" against Christians.

The leader of Pakistan's

Christian Party in Shanti Nagar said the mob had burned down a Salvation Army church.

"All the priests and workers living at the church have fled," Younis Rahi said by telephone.

Desecration of the Koran carries a death sentence in Islamic Pakistan.

Religious clashes are common in Pakistan and have become increasing violent in recent years.



Prime Minister-elect Nawaz Sharif addresses supporters outside his home. Defeating former Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto, Sharif pledged Tuesday to move ahead with economic reforms. Election officials Tuesday estimated turnout at nearly 30 percent, a record low that suggested a lack of support among voters for any of the candidates and a disgust over the state of Pakistani democracy. AP Photo

Barred South Korean lawmaker demanding apology from Burma

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - A South Korean lawmaker who was denied entry to Burma demanded an apology Sunday, accusing the Rangoon government of slighting his country.

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The legislator was thrown out of Burma on Thursday after being temporarily detained at the airport in Rangoon. He said he was bruised when Burmese officials "grabbed, pushed and shoved" him onto the last flight of the day to Bangkok, Thailand.

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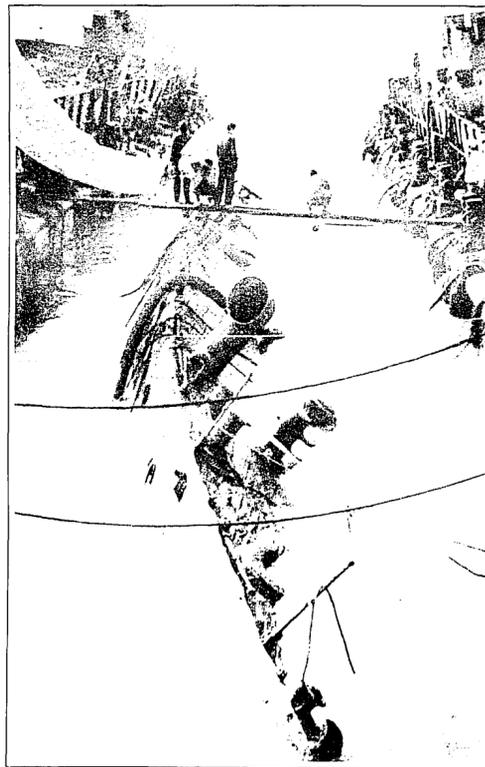
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Without specifically saying why Kim was refused entry, Burma's military government said Friday that Kim "blatantly interfered in the internal affairs" of the country during his last visit to Rangoon in June 1996.

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Widow wins legal battle to have dead husband's child

LONDON (AP) - A widow won court permission Thursday to conceive a child with her husband's sperm, following a protracted legal battle that exposed an unforeseen difficulty in British law.

Three justices of the Court of Appeal ruled that Diane Blood, 30, could take the frozen sperm to Belgium, although the law would not permit her to be inseminated in Britain.

The Human Fertilization and Embryology Authority said it would study the ruling before deciding whether to seek an appeal to the House of Lords.

"I'm just really pleased and I hope that it won't go on much longer," Mrs. Blood told reporters.

"I really hope that on Feb. 27 I'll have the bit of paper that says I can export the sperm."

Mrs. Blood, who had mortgaged her home in Workson in central England in order to pursue the court case, tear-

fully hugged and kissed her legal team after the three justices announced their decision.

The justices also ordered that exposed an unforeseen difficulty in British law.

Thursdays would have been the 32nd birthday of her husband, Stephen Blood, who died in March 1995. Blood, who contracted bacterial meningitis, had fallen into a coma and the sperm was taken while he was unconscious.

Mrs. Blood, 30, had been frustrated by British law, which requires that a sperm donor give written consent. In October, a lower court had ruled that the same law prevented her from taking the sperm out of the country.

Baroness Warnock, head of the team of medical and ethical experts who drafted the law on fertility treatment, had called the lower court decision "a miscarriage of natural justice, if not a miscarriage of the law."



A dozen members of Hong Kong's Democratic Party demonstrate in the lobby of the office of shipping magnate Tung Chee-hwa, Hong Kong's leader after the Chinese takeover in July, to protest Tung's support for a plan to roll back civil liberties in the territory. The banner reads: Protect human rights and protest the restoration of harsh laws. AP Photo

More Vietnamese releases seen after court ruling in Hong Kong

By DIDI KIRSTEN TATLOW HONG KONG (AP) - A judge's ruling that Hong Kong has been "slapdash" about sending home Vietnamese asylum-seekers could lead to the release of up to 1,500 from detention centers, one of their lawyers said Thursday.

Eleven failed asylum-seekers were freed Wednesday after the Hong Kong High Court ruled that immigration bungalows had kept them in the British colony's detention camps for too long.

They were among some 4,000 Vietnamese in 1,376 households represented in the biggest habeas corpus action in a Commonwealth jurisdiction since World War II, said lawyer Rob Brook of Refugee Concern, an advocacy group for the Vietnamese.

There are 6,300 Vietnamese asylum-

seekers in Hong Kong, left over from waves of Vietnamese who fled their homeland after the Communist victory there and numbered 60,000 at their 1991 peak.

The court ruling is an embarrassment to the Hong Kong government as it seeks to clear the camps before China takes over the colony on July 1.

The 11 freed Vietnamese are entitled to get jobs and settle anywhere in Hong Kong. It isn't clear what will happen to them after China regains sovereignty.

As an example of the bungling referred to by the judge, Brook said authorities misspelled the addresses of asylum-seekers in information supplied to Vietnamese authorities.

Vietnam uses the information to match people with its own registration docu-

ments. If it doesn't tally, the Hong Kong government's application for repatriation is rejected.

In an interview, Brook cited Immigration Department papers which gave an address as "Haiphong Province," which doesn't exist and should have read "Hai Duong Province."

He said lawyers were preparing to sift through 900 government files for other rejections resulting from similar mistakes.

The 11 freed Wednesday were from four habeas corpus actions. The court rejected four others and adjourned one.

The four successful actions involved cases chosen at random, and by that yardstick, up to 1,500 more people could be released, Brook estimated.

Bosnia gets \$32M WB credits

By SRECKO LATAL SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) - The World Bank sent \$ 32 million in reconstruction credits Thursday after a two-month delay caused by lawmakers that couldn't agree on who should sign for the money. The credits - part of a \$ 5.2 billion program to rebuild Bosnia - were the first signed by representatives of the newly elected Bosnian institutions, covering the country's three ethnic divisions.

After two months of disagreements between Muslim,

Bosnian Croat and Bosnian Serb representatives, Alija Izetbegovic, the Muslim president of the joint Bosnian presidency, signed the aid contracts.

"I hope that this delay will not affect our further relations with the World Bank," Izetbegovic said.

Hospitals are to receive \$15 million. Another \$ 10 million is aimed at helping industries restart production, and \$ 7 million will be invested in small companies.

Some officials had worried the delay might discourage the

World Bank from helping Bosnia. The bank has given the country \$ 355 million in loans and credits since April 1996.

"While some African countries are starving, we are sitting on these credits and doing nothing," said Kasim Omicevic, the Muslim representative of Bosnia's Central Bank.

Rory O'Sullivan, director of the World Bank mission in Bosnia-Herzegovina, downplayed the delay. "It took time to get used to the way procedures work," he said.

Tajikistan government prepares for the release of UN hostages

DUSHANBE, Tajikistan (AP) - Tajikistan's government has apparently reached a tentative agreement for the release of U.N. peacekeepers and Russian journalists taken hostage by rebel fighters, a news agency reported Thursday.

However, the United Nations mission in Tajikistan cautioned that such optimism could be premature, saying it was not clear when the hostages might be released, the Interfax news agency reported.

The Tajik rebels seized five members of a U.N. peacekeeping mission, four Russian journalists and two Red Cross workers Tuesday and Wednesday. They have demanded that their fellow guerrilla fighters be allowed back into Tajikistan from neighboring Afghanistan.

The chief of Tajikistan's presidential guard, Gen. Gafur Mirzoyev, has been negotiating with warlord Bakhrum Sadirov, whose armed group took the hostages, the Interfax news agency said. The talks started late Wednesday,

continued through the night, and there appeared to be a tentative agreement as of Thursday morning, Interfax reported.

"The sides are discussing terms on which hostages will be released," said Shamil Nugayev, a spokesman for the Russian Embassy in Tajikistan.

He said the prisoners might be released as soon as Thursday evening.

The rebels abducted the U.N. workers - an Austrian, two Swiss, a Briton and a Tajik interpreter - as they drove

Tuesday from the central town of Garm to Dushanbe, the Tajik capital in the west.

When two Red Cross staffers, a Briton and a Tajik, arrived to provide medical care for the ailing Austrian on Wednesday, they were also seized.

After that, the rebels abducted four Russian journalists and a Tajik driver who went to the area to report on the kidnappings.

Bakhrum Sadirov, the leader of the hostage-takers, is a brother of Rizvon Sadirov, a former rebel military leader who switched his loyalty to the govern-

ment last year. But he was recently blocked from returning to Afghanistan along with his gunmen, according to Russian news reports.

Bakhrum Sadirov is demanding his brother be given safe passage back to Tajikistan.

He made the same demands in December, when his group kidnapped 23 people, including seven U.N. military observers.

The hostages were released unharmed, but Sadirov's brother remained in Afghanistan. The government of Tajikistan, a poverty-stricken former Soviet republic in Central Asia, has been battling a broad coalition of Islamic and nationalist forces for the past four years.

Russia then sent some 25,000 troops to help the government of Tajik President Emomali Rakhmonov fend off frequent raids of the rebels.

Clashes have subsided since the government and opposition signed a peace agreement on Dec. 23.

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NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II, Governor Froilan C. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus C. Borja, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission, are hereby giving notice that the regular meeting for the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees will be held on Thursday, February 13, 1997, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fund Conference Room, Saipan.

AGENDA

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- B. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- C. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES
 1. December 17, 1996
 2. December 20, 1996
 3. January 21, 1997
- D. REPORT OF THE HEARING OFFICER
- E. REPORT OF THE LEGAL COUNSEL
- F. REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
- G. REPORT OF THE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE
 1. Locomotive Project
- H. CORRESPONDENCE
- I. OLD BUSINESS
 1. CGE Credit Union - Update
 2. Appeal of Blue Horizon Ent. (WCC)
 3. Selection of Auditor - NMIRF
 4. GHLI Plan Document - 3rd Draft
- J. NEW BUSINESS
 1. Personnel Committee
 2. Desk Audit
- K. MISCELLANEOUS
 1. Report of the Fund Custodian
 2. Provident Investment Counsel - Investment Summary
 3. Renaissance Investment Management - Proxy Voting Report
 4. George D. Bjurman & Associates - Appraisal Summary
 5. Atalanta/Sosnoff Capital Corp. - Quarterly Report
 6. BEA Associates - Performance Attribution Report
 7. News Article - Stock Index Funds
- L. NEXT MEETING
- M. ADJOURNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID

CUC IFB 97-0014
February 05, 1997

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive bids from responsible firms capable of supplying electrical transmission and distribution materials for the upgrade of Feeder 4 Transmission Lines on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), approximately 150 miles north of Guam.

Interested Parties may pick up a bid package at CUC's Procurement & Supply Office in Lower Base, Saipan, CNMI, during work hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.) or have the statement of work faxed or mailed upon request.

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

Bidders shall take into account any and all taxes that will be charged to the successful bidder in fulfilling the contract, including excise taxes.

Bids in duplicate must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked CUC IFB 97-0014, to Mr. Frank T. Flores, Special Advisor, at CUC, Material Management Division, P.O. Box 1220, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 3:00 p.m., local time, Thursday, February 20, 1997. The bids will be opened and read aloud at the CUC conference room after bid closing.

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

CUC may award a contract to more than one firm for the materials, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of CUC.

This IFB does not commit the CUC to award a contract, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of a bid under this request, or to procure or contract for materials.

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

/s/TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

- Two (2) Ground Maintenance I
- Two (2) Custodian I
- One (1) AOA Controller

The Ground Maintenance I is responsible for maintaining areas adjacent to restricted and sensitive navigational aids and devices at the airport. Performs mowing and other procedures, including operating the incinerator. Applicants must be a high school graduate (or GED) with 2 yrs. of airport experience. Salary ranges from \$471.73 to \$640.44 bi-weekly.

The AOA Controller is responsible for the functioning and safety of aircraft operations area (AOA). Work is reviewed by supervisor(s), on-site inspections and submission of reports. Must be a high school graduate (or 9GED) with 4 years of progressive experience at a US international airport of which 1 year pertains to supervisory experience. Salary ranges from \$527.06 to \$900.51 bi-weekly.

Applicants must be CNMI residents or US Citizens, and shall have no record of felony or criminal conviction

Application forms are available at the Security Office, First Floor of the Arrival Building or at the Administration Office, Second Floor of the Arrival Building at the Saipan International Airport. Applications must be accompanied by a current police clearance. Deadline no later than 4:30 p.m., February 17, 1997. For more information, please call CPA at 664-3500 or 664-3501.

/s/REGINO M. CELIS
Airport Manager

On the OJ Simpson civil case:

'Double jeopardy doesn't apply'

By RICHARD CARELLI WASHINGTON (AP) - A criminal trial jury decided not to find O.J. Simpson guilty of committing two murders, but a civil trial panel later decided he was responsible. Some may consider that unfair, but legal experts say it's perfectly constitu-

tional. "The whole concept of any modern-day criminal case leaves out the victims, who are on the sidelines," said George Washington University law professor Mary Cheh. "But they still get their day in private causes of action.

"The Fifth Amendment's protection against double jeopardy applies only to criminal sanctions and only against the government, not private lawsuits," she said. Should that be?

"If we step outside this case and into an everyday setting, it's easier to see the fairness," Cheh said. "A drunk driver hits and injures someone. Whether or not the government decides to prosecute, no one would argue that the victim's family shouldn't be entitled to sue and recover damages." Still, it's an odd sequence of events.

That's so, American University law professor Ira Robbins said, "because the typical criminal defendant doesn't have any money worth going after."

"How many criminal defendants can afford 11 lawyers?" he asked.

Don Keenan, an Atlanta lawyer and past president of the American Board of Trial Advocates, acknowledged that some may think it's piling on to have held a second trial in which the burden of proving Simpson's wrongdoing was far less demanding.

"That's the way the Constitution's framers wanted it back over 200 years ago," Keenan said. "The burdens are different when, on the one hand, you could lose your life or liberty and, on the other hand, you could lose only your pocketbook.

"The second trial had nothing to do with O.J. losing his liberty. He won't have to spend another millisecond in jail. Only his pocketbook was at stake," Keenan said.

Rutgers University law professor Frank Askin sees Simpson's plight as "totally fair."

"Criminal guilt has nothing to do with civil liability. Criminal defendants can't have it both ways - get the



O.J. Simpson

city law professor, noted that some defendants are even forced to face a second criminal trial after being acquitted in the first.

That's what happened to two former Los Angeles police officers accused in the videotaped beating of motorist Rodney King. Both were acquitted in state court in a verdict that sparked riots in Los Angeles, but were convicted in a subsequent criminal trial in federal court of violating King's civil rights.

"What happened to O.J. is a step removed from the dual-sovereigns scenario, and probably not as troubling," Bennett said.

Robbins added: "It's obvious that paying \$8.5 million or more in damages is punitive, but it's not as serious as being subjected to the death penalty or being put in prison. O.J. is, after all, a free man."

extra protection of requiring the government to prove guilt beyond a reasonable doubt, and then use that as a sword in a civil case, where a preponderance of proof is all that's needed," he said.

Fred Bennett, a Catholic Univer-



Mice, bugs at Buckingham Palace

LONDON (AP) - Queen Elizabeth II is trying to kick a few unruly subjects out of Buckingham Palace.

"Buckingham Palace is an old and very large building and from time to time there is a problem with pests like mice. We take the necessary steps to keep it under control," the statement read.

The London tabloid The Sun, which broke the story Wednesday, said the mice and beetles spread from one of the palace kitchens.

According to The Sun, senior palace aides insist that only staff kitchens were affected, but servants say otherwise.

"There is a big flap on about the mice. Everyone is trying to hush it up. Several have been spotted in the kitchens in the residential area" where the royals live, the newspaper quoted an unidentified servant as saying.

King of Pop hires prince as manager

LOS ANGELES (AP) - The King of Pop reportedly wants a prince to be his right-hand man. Michael Jackson has fired his longtime personal managers and put his career in the hands of Saudi Arabian Prince Alwaleed Bin Talal, Daily Variety reported Tuesday.

Sandy Gallin-Jim Morey Associates, which has managed all phases of Jackson's business since 1991, was notified that it will be replaced by Alwaleed, who met Jackson in 1994 at Euro Disney, the trade paper said.

Jackson and the prince formed Kingdom Entertainment last year to develop films, TV shows, concerts, theme parks, hotels and restaurants.

Gallin and Morey and Jackson's publicist did not immediately return telephone calls for comment.

Slain reggae star's views on new album

KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) - Peter Tosh wasn't exactly known for keeping his views to himself. Now fans will hear more of the slain reggae star's opinions in an album on his life and work, for release in May.

"When Peter went on stage, you knew he was going to speak out," said Ibo Cooper of the reggae band Third World. Tosh put to the beat his convictions on issues such as the legalization of marijuana, regarded as sacred by his Rastafarian religion.

Honorary Citizen, produced by Columbia-Legacy on three CDs, will follow the singer's career from the '60s, when he was one of the original Wailers along with Bob Marley and Bunny Wailer, to his solo work in the '70s and '80s.

Tosh was slain by gunmen at his Kingston home in 1987 in what police suspect was a drug-related crime. He was 43.

Police chase fugitive—a cow

COLUMBUS, Nebraska (AP) - Authorities tracked down a fugitive after a chase through town, shot the offender twice, then lassoed and tied her to a tree. The outlaw - a cow - was being loaded into a trailer Tuesday at an auction house after being sold for slaughter when she broke free.

The animal rumbled and roamed through the town. She was spotted near a hospital, a middle school and in several yards.

Three police officers, a sheriff's deputy, a state trooper, a veterinarian and several sales barn employees blocked traffic and helped catch the animal.

The veterinarian shot the cow with two tranquilizer darts, striking her in the shoulder and the rear end. She finally ran out of steam in the driveway of a home, was lassoed and tied to a tree.

Bob Loshbaugh, a part owner of the pavilion, said cows have escaped before. "They're like people. They go nuts once in a while," he said.

UN: US debt plan 'acceptable'

By ROBERT H. REID UNITED NATIONS (AP) - Secretary-General Kofi Annan can live with a White House plan to pay off the U.S. debt to the United Nations even though the formula violates U.N. rules, a U.N. spokesman said Thursday.



Kofi Annan

Though U.N. rules require the 185 member states to pay their annual dues on time and in full, Annan "can live with this compromise which ... represents ... a good faith effort by the United States to come to terms with the arrears situation, which is crippling the organization," U.N. spokesman Fred Eckhard said.

In Washington, President Bill Clinton submitted to Congress a \$1.69 trillion budget that includes payment of all the money Washington says it owes the world organization.

The Clinton administration says it owes nearly \$1 billion. The United Nations puts the figure at just below \$1.6 billion.

In the budget proposal, the White House asked Congress to authorize full payment of next year's U.S. dues to the United Nations and \$100 million toward the arrears.

The administration also asked Congress to approve an advance appropriation this year of \$921 million, most of which would be transferred to the United Nations in 1999.

Russia and some other countries have run up large debts but avoided

criticism because unlike the United States, they have submitted repayment plans and stuck to them.

When Annan visited Washington this month, several key legislators, including senators Ted Stevens and Jesse Helms, said they were reluctant to approve any advance payment.

But Helms' spokesman, Mark Thiessen, indicated that the North Carolina conservative might agree if the United Nations accepts "benchmarks" for reforms. As those targets are met, money would be provided.

"I don't think there's anyone under the impression that our money is not coming without some benchmarks," Thiessen said. He said payment of the arrears would come "provided they are tied to concrete reforms."

Administration officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, acknowledged that the White House faced a long process of compromise with Congress on the U.N. debt issue.

But they said they believed the Republican leadership was anxious to settle the arrears because it threatens U.S. leadership in the world organization.

The United States is also seeking to reduce the percentage of the U.N. budget which it must pay. Under current rules, the United States pays 25 percent of the annual operating budget, now about \$1.3 billion.

According to the United Nations, Washington must also pay about 31 percent of the separate budget for international peacekeeping. But Congress has placed a 25 percent cap on such payments, a move which the United Nations has not accepted.

That accounts for much of the difference between U.S. and U.N. estimates of the arrears. U.S. officials say they will ask the United Nations to consider the difference "an issue in dispute" and no longer consider it in the peacekeeping budget.

But the officials said Washington stands no chance of convincing other U.N. members to approve a change in the scale of assessments until the arrears is paid.

They also said the Clinton administration hopes that once the question of

arrears is settled, the United Nations will agree to changes in the assessment rate to stabilize annual U.S. payments

at around \$900 million, a figure which the White House believes Congress will accept.

Russia may yet participate in summit with NATO members

MOSCOW (AP) - Russia could take part in a summit with four NATO countries this spring to discuss the alliance's eastward expansion, presidential spokesman Sergei Yastrzhembsky said Thursday.

Some NATO members have proposed a meeting between the United States, Great Britain, France, Germany and Russia as a way to address Moscow's concerns over the alliance's plans to offer membership to several of countries in Eastern Europe.

Russian participation will depend on "how well prepared it will be ... for reaching concrete results," Yastrzhembsky said, according to Russian news agencies.

The summit could be held in April, the Interfax news agency reported. Yastrzhembsky said President Boris Yeltsin, recovering from pneumonia in his country residence near Moscow, had discussed the so-called "G5" summit during recent meetings with French President Jacques Chirac and German Chancellor Helmut Kohl.

In discussions last weekend with Chirac, Yeltsin reiterated Russia's strong opposition to admitting former Warsaw Pact nations into the alliance.

NATO has been trying to negotiate a special charter with Russia that could include membership in NATO's top political body, the North Atlantic Council. But that hasn't satisfied the Russians, who insist on concrete security guarantees from an expanded NATO.

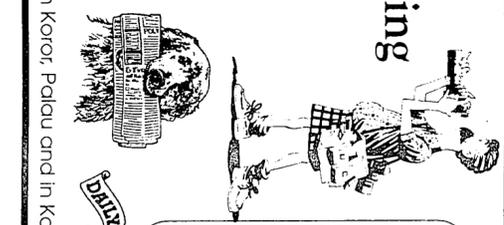


President Boris Yeltsin shakes hands with his Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin Tuesday, Feb. 4, 1997 in his Kremlin office. Yeltsin and Chernomyrdin talked about the Prime Minister's upcoming trip to Washington to meet with Vice President Al Gore. AP Photo



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No agreement yet on plan to bring beleaguered ship to Japan

LONG BEACH, California (AP)—A controversial plan to raise money for the beleaguered Queen Mary by taking it to Japan apparently doesn't have the support of authorities there, who deny the ship operator's claims of a signed agreement.

Additionally, the Japanese say their law would prohibit casino-style gambling aboard the ship, contrary to ship operator Joseph Prevratil's proposal to offer such gambling there.

The conflicting accounts of the ship-moving proposal come as the Long Beach City Council prepares to vote on Prevratil's proposal Tuesday.

Prevratil has said he wants to take the 60-year-old, city-owned attraction to Tokyo Bay for three to five years for use as a floating hotel-casino.

A poll of seven of the nine voting council members Friday found four undecided, two leaning in favor of keeping the ship in Long Beach, and one leaning in favor of letting it go.

Prevratil says the city of Tokyo is a

partner in the venture and has agreed to spend \$30 million to build a wharf and other structures the ship would require.

Koji Suzuki, a spokesman for the Tokyo harbor department, said nothing has been agreed to.

He said the manager of the harbor department had met twice with Prevratil, in January 1996 and again last month, and they discussed a Queen Mary tour of Asian ports, not an extended stay in Tokyo Bay.

"First we learned that the city of Long Beach has not approved to move the Queen Mary to Japan," said Suzuki. "So nothing has really been discussed on the Japanese side yet."

Prevratil, whose group leases the ship from the city of Long Beach, wants to tow the Queen Mary to Tokyo Bay and operate it there for three to five years as a hotel-casino. He said he expects Japanese crowds to gamble at slot machines on the ship.

Prevratil said the plan would reap more than enough to pay for a \$40

million restoration of the ship and to pay the city of Long Beach \$15 million a year while the ship is over-seas.

But while horse racing is allowed in Japan, authorities there say slot machines for money are not.

Prevratil contends he had met with the executive director of the port and has an agreement signed by him. Prevratil says he can't sign it until he gets City Council approval, but maintains he has a signed agreement.

Prevratil also insists that gambling is allowed in Japan.

"They have slot machines just like you see in Las Vegas, but they use their own sets of coins."

I've been there. Gambling is permitted. I'm really mystified by what he's saying."

Japanese officials said there are slot and pinball machines in Japan where players can win prizes such as chocolates and other products. But they said gambling for money is not permitted.

Howe his can only be done after just compensation is given to the affected owner.

Bad weather, he said, also contributed in setting back the scheduled completion.

"But all the major works have been done. It should just be a matter of about two months from now before the project is completed," Guerrero said.

"Right now the contractor is working on the paving," he added.

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.

Borja, in a recent interview, said that running with Tenorio is now "definitely out of the question."

forcing the free food requirement from CNMI official as stipulated in the NRW's employment contract.

"The exact word said was 'he,' meaning me, 'better be careful, he will be bodily harmed,'" Varela narrated.

"The matter is being taken care of. RP is taking it up," he assured.

Initiative... Right...

Continued from page 1
provide funds to better enhance the classroom instruction of children of the CNMI, HLI 10-5 states.

Virtually ignoring the fiscal autonomy proposal, however, HLI 10-5 provides that 70 percent of the appropriation "would be allocated to classroom instruction and shall not be reprogrammed for any administrative purposes."

Cing...

Continued from page 1
nation, Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio, have asked the party leadership for a reconsideration.

Borja, in an earlier interview, said that aside from suing the party for its decision not to hold a pri-

'Threat'...

Continued from page 1
barged into the Consulate looking for Varela last Jan. 23.

The employer, whom Varela refused to identify, managed to instead talk to Lawyer Frederico Biolena, a Consulate counsel. Biolena, in turn, reported the matter to Varela.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
BANK OF GUAM, a Guam Banking Corporation, Plaintiff,
vs.
JESUS D. MUNA, Defendants
CIVIL ACTION NO. 94-1244
NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY ON FORECLOSURE OF MORTGAGE
Under and by virtue of a Decree of Foreclosure and Order of Sale entered on October 1, 1996, I am commanded and empowered to sell at public auction, for cash, the following described real property:

Land situated in San Vicente, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands with Tract No. 20472-17; Beginning at a corner which is designated as Corner No. 1 having plane rectangular coordinates of 48,412.12 meters North and 52,753.96 meters East of the Mariana Islands coordinate system of 1966; Thence N 24° 06' 03" W, 31.77 meters to corner 2; Thence N 56° 47' 32" E, 30.48 meters to corner 3; Thence S 33° 18' 18" E, 31.31 meters to corner 4; Thence S 56° 41' 42" W, 36.56 meters to corner 1;

The above described property contains an area of 1,035 square meters more or less, and as shown on Drawing No. 2010/83.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Wednesday, the 19th day of February, 1997, at 10:30 A.M., at the Police Station, in Susupe, Saipan, CNMI, I will, pursuant to said Order, sell the above-described real property to satisfy said Decree, costs and expenses of sale, to the highest bidder, for cash, in lawful money of the United States. The undersigned reserves the right to withdraw this Notice, to reject any bid, and to postpone the sale from time to time.

Dated this 14th day of January, 1997.
/s/Jose M. Castro, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
BANK OF GUAM, a Guam Banking Corporation, Plaintiff,
vs.
LUIS C. BENAVENTE and KATHERINE S. BENAVENTE, Defendants
CIVIL ACTION NO. 95-394
NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY ON FORECLOSURE OF MORTGAGE
Under and by virtue of a Decree of Foreclosure and Order of Sale entered on October 1, 1996, I am commanded and empowered to sell at public auction, for cash, the following described real property:

Real Estate Mortgage on Lot Number 411-5-1 containing an area of 717 square meters, more or less, and as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat Number 2089/82, the original of which was registered with the Land Registry

Number 14264, on the 19th day of May 1982.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Wednesday, the 19th day of February 1997, at 9:30 a.m., at the police station, in Susupe, Saipan, CNMI, I will, pursuant to said Order, sell the above-described real property to satisfy said Decree, costs and expenses of sale, to the highest bidder, for cash, in lawful money of the United States. The undersigned reserves the right to withdraw this Notice, to reject any bid, and to postpone the sale from time to time.

EEK & MEEK®

by Howie Schneider



Garfield®

by Jim Davis



PEANUTS®

by Charles M. Schulz



YOUR BIRTHDAY

By Stella Wilder

Born today, you seem to have a great deal going for you...

TUESDAY, FEB. 11 AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) Take time out from your busy schedule...

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) You can give and receive today, but maintaining a healthy balance...

You are patient and tolerant of everyone except for those who stand in your way...

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) You can take the first step toward a new and exciting goal today...

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) Talk is cheap, and it will be a good investment at this time...

CLOSERS

The basic monetary unit of Bangladesh is the taka, and its chief fractional unit is the paisa.

The Chinese army numbers nearly 3 million troops.

Benjamin Franklin, John Adams and Thomas Jefferson tried to design the Great Seal of the United States...

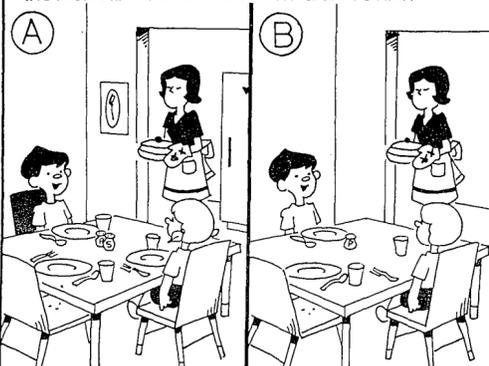
CROSSWORD PUZZLER

Crossword puzzle grid with clues for Across and Down words.

Answers to the crossword puzzle, including words like 'Fido', 'Dors ID', and 'Metric measure'.

KidSpot™

THERE ARE EIGHT THINGS IN DRAWING "A" THAT ARE MISSING FROM DRAWING "B." HOW MANY CAN YOU FIND?



ANS: WALL PICTURE, BOY'S CHAIR, PLATE, GLASS, FORK, SALT SHAKER, REFRIGERATOR, DISH, GLASS.

Advertisement for the movie 'Michael' featuring John Travolta, with showtimes and a website link.

Honda Asian Classic

Woods wins Thai Tournament



Golf sensation Tiger Woods during his arrival at the Bangkok International airport.

By ROBERT HORN BANGNA, Thailand (AP)—American golfer Tiger Woods triumphed at his first tournament in Thailand...

Kultida Woods, the golfer's Thai-born mother, embraced her son after he parred the last hole as a crowd of about 3,000 chanted, "Ti-GUH, Ti-GUH."

7,016 yard- (6,417-meter)-course at the Thai Country Club just outside of Bangkok at nine-under-par 279.

Division III player sets NCAA 3-point record

DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Grinnell guard Jeff Clement says if you shoot often enough, the ball will go in.

It went in often enough Saturday for Clement to break the NCAA's all-division record with 16 3-pointers in just 19 minutes.

The 5-foot-10 sophomore finished with 50 points in Grinnell's 151-112 victory over Monmouth of Illinois.

"Our system allows the 3-pointer to be thrown up. I was feeling good today—I just got open and cashed in," Clement said in a telephone interview from his dorm room.

"It hasn't really sunk in yet, but tomorrow I think it will. I'm sort of at the euphoria stage right now."

The previous Division III record of 14 was shared by two former Grinnell players. Steve Diekmann set it February 11, 1994, against Coe and matched it November 19, 1994, against Simpson.

Keith Venev of Marshall holds the Division I record of 15, set December 14, 1996, against Morehead State.

Grinnell coach David Arseneault

said Clement's point total wasn't even the most impressive part of his game.

"He did it in 19 minutes and didn't get fouled with people hanging all over him," Arseneault said.

Clement went 9-of-13 from 3-point range in the first half. But he said it was later in the game when he realized he was headed for a record.

"I don't think it really hit me until midway through second half. Coach pulled me aside and said, 'You have a chance to break the record—go after it,'" Clement said.

Clement's previous best was a 35-point performance, including seven 3-pointers, January 25 against St. Norbert.

Clement said Grinnell's system calls for a shot every 10 seconds. He said another player could score 50 points, but he didn't think anyone expected the big game to come from him.

"We keep throwing it up. If they go in, someone's going to have a big game," Clement said.

Bryant...

Continued from page 24

"The judges gave him 49 out of a possible 50 points, and Chris Carr and Michael Finley could come up with nothing to match."

assists and three steals as the East beat the West 96-91.

The crowd boomed when Iverson was announced as the winner, and he vowed to get back at them when his Philadelphia 76ers play the Cleveland Cavaliers when the season resumes.

"Maybe people felt that Kobe should have won it. He played a great ball game and they probably felt he was supposed to have won it because he had 31 points."

"It's not something I'm going to let bother me," Iverson said. "We have a

Wheels...

Continued from page 24

Bubostopscored for the Wheels with 32 points while Chesley had 21. Cepeda wound up with 17 while Sablan chipped in 14.

For the Ol' Aces, Peter racked a game high 37 markers but it wasn't enough to prevent his team from absorbing its second setback in six

starts. Mike d' Andrea contributed 18 while Peter Camacho was limited to nine points.

Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort Fakpi and Rep. David Apatang Sixers face each other in the battle of the league's two winless teams in the first game of tonight's action at 7.

Fakpi is currently winless in six games while the Sixers team is even

Jaridon...

Continued from page 24

rolling 256 pins. Cabigao's night long brilliance boosted his team to a 4-0 rout of Saipan Custom Photo.

Century Travel had three game series of 945; 1,015 and 1,041 en route to a 3,001 pin aggregate compared to Saipan Custom

Photo's rounds of 938; 1,005 and 870 for a 2,813 pin total.

Holiday Shop became the third team to go undefeated in the opening night by trouncing UIC, 936-912; 979-962 and 969-920 pins.

The team completed the rout with a 2,884 pin total versus UIC's 2,794.

J's Restaurant also had a 4-0 start to share the early lead with

more pathetic with a league's worst 0-7 slate.

In the second game, RCA battles the CNMI Youth Team, the Rising Stars in a crucial encounter.

RCA totes a 1-5 win loss slate while the Rising Stars are a win better in the overall standings.

A loss by RCA or Rising Stars will dampen the team's chances to enter the next round.

Budweiser...

Continued from page 24

ishing kick to win the final game. Jaridon forged the draw after racking a total of 2,880 pins versus the Jets' 2,858.

The Jets hold a half win lead over Oriental Hotel with a 29.5-26.5 slate.

Members of the team picked trash from the Convention Center in Capitol Hill all the way down to the San Vicente Back Road.

The team's participation to Guam was made possible through the support of Microl Corporation and Stay Well Insurance.

Joeten to the bottom of the ladder. In the team all events, JTG Enterprises won three while Sunset Villia Resort bagged the remaining category.

In the individual derby, Yolly Breo, Dolores Camacho and Julie Camacho shared the weekly honors.

Saipan...

Continued from page 24

the Anderson teams especially in the 7's. I think we are pretty strong team and I believe that we have a good chance of winning the overall championship," Banes

added. All participating teams will be playing a round robin format.

In related event, the team did a community service by launching a clean-up drive last Saturday.

chance to play them here Tuesday night, so for them boogie me I can't wait to come back in and play the Cavaliers.

The night's other highlight was Steve Kerr, the self-proclaimed "Susan Lucci of the 3-point contest," finally winning the event in his fourth try.

Kerr beat out defending champion Tim Legler, who hasn't yet played a game for the Washington Bullets this season because he has been recovering from reconstructive knee surgery.

row at one point and sunk all five of the multicolored balls that were worth two points.

"Susan, it's your turn now. The pressure is on you," Kerr said with a laugh.

Lucci is a soap opera star who has been nominated for 16 Emmy Awards but has never won.

SPORTS



Kerr, Iverson lead winners in All-Star Saturday

Bryant wins 1997 Annual Jam

CLEVELAND, Ohio (AP) - Kobe Bryant, the kid, is now The Man.

In a performance that undoubtedly left high school seniors all over the country thinking they, too, are ready for the NBA, Bryant was the show Saturday night.

The 18-year-old, who jumped directly from the preps to the pros, joined the ranks of slam dunk champions by winning the final event of All-Star Saturday. He also scored 31

points in the evening's first attraction, the rookie game.

"Winning the dunk contest is something I dreamed about since I was a little kid," Bryant said.

Little kid?

Hey, he still is a little kid.

It was just four years ago that Bryant, then 14, dunked for the first time in his life. Less than a year ago, he was going to his senior prom with pop star Brandy, who was at the competition.

In June, he joined the Los Angeles Lakers. And in November he became the youngest player ever to appear in an NBA game.

Age, however, wasn't the determining factor in the dunk contest. It had more to do with style.

And Bryant added a dominant dose of stylin' following his best dunk of the night.

On Bryant's winning jam, he ran toward the basket, jumped

I into the air, passed the ball between his legs and finished it off with a right-handed windmill.

But that wasn't the end.

Bryant strutted over to the bench where all the regular All-Stars sat, assumed a bodybuilder flex pose and pursed his lips into a pucker.

The All-Stars, some of them nearly twice as old as this precocious youngster, absolutely loved it. "Man, that part was sweet," Alonzo Mourning

said.

It was a pose Bryant first assumed in his last dunk contest — a high school dunk-off held in Myrtle Beach, South Carolina.

"The crowd got me real pumped up after the dunk, and I just felt like flexing. I don't have much, but I flexed what I have.

"I don't do that kind of stuff in a game, only in a dunking competi-

Continued on page 23

Saipan Rugby Club to compete in Guam



SRC—The Saipan Rugby Club during a lull in their weekend practice session at the Airport Field.

Photo by Erel A. Cabatbat

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

THE SAIPAN Rugby Club is set to participate in a Rugby Tournament before the South Pacific Games Commission on Feb. 23 in Guam.

Saipan Rugby Club (SRC) will compete against two teams, Guam

and the Anderson Air Force Base squads. Another team has yet to confirm its attendance.

David Banes of SRC said that the SRC-Guam rugby series is considered very significant because the games will be played before the South Pacific Games Commission.

"The South Pacific Games Commission will observe and consider whether to put Rugby as a regular sport in the South Pacific Games Calendar of Events in 1999," Banes said.

SRC will be sending two different teams of seven's (7's) in the Guam event.

When asked about the chances of the SRC teams, Banes is optimistic that the team will fare very well in the tournament despite the absence of several key players due to injuries.

"Traditionally, Saipan has done very well against both Guam and

Continued on page 23

Budweiser back on top

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

BUDWEISER blanked Oriental Hotel then watched Sunset Villia Resort upset erstwhile leader DFS Saipan, 3-1, to reclaim the lead in the overall team standings of the Women's Thursday Night League at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Behind by a half a win prior to the 14th round, Budweiser pounded Oriental Hotel, 893-847; 895-824; and 983-880 pins.

Budweiser completed the shutout win with a 2,771 pin total compared to Oriental Hotel's 2,551.

The victories gave Budweiser a 35.5-20.5 win loss slate or a commanding two and half win advantage against previous round leader DFS Saipan.

Sunset Villia Resort produced a big score in the third game to break from a 1-1 tie against DFS Saipan for the night's biggest win.

Sunset Villia won the opener, 940-884 but lost the second game, 977-995 before completing the upset win with a 119 pin advantage in the third frame for the victory. Sunset Villia brings its record to 6-2 in the last two weeks to improve to 27-29 overall.

JTG Enterprises remained at third after defeating the Clippers, 3-1.

JTG leaned on its big lead in the first two frames 1,015-956 and 979-878 to offset a big run by the Clippers in the final game, 958-1,014 pins.

JTG totes a 32-24 tally while the Clippers fell to 27-29 mark good for ninth overall.

The Jets improved from sixth to fourth in the leaderboard despite being held to a 2-2 draw by Jaridon. The team won the first two games before Jaridon came back with a strong fin-

Continued on page 23

Jaridon, Cabigao in hot start

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

TWO WEEKS after winning the title, Jaridon continued its month-long unbeaten run with a 1,069-984; 1,051-1,036; and 940-840 romp against Chong's Corporation in the opening night of another season of the Wednesday Pinbusters League at the Saipan Bowling Center.

Jaridon who sweep Chong's in the final round of the previous tournament continued its dominance against the same opponents by racking a whopping 200 total pin advantage, 3,060 against 2,860, for the 4-0 start.

The Jaridon sweep also gave the team the opening all events honors by racking 980; 1,069; 2,793 and 3,060 pins for the high scratch, high scratch games and series.

Century Travel's Rene Cabigao shared the limelight with Jaridon by winning three individual all events.

Cabigao topped the high handicap game, high scratch and high handicap series by rattling 269, 679 and 751 pins.

Jaridon's Dave O'Brien averted a Cabigao sweep by bagging the high scratch game by

Continued on page 23

Wheels survive Ol'Aces, 122-95

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

THE TOYOTA Wheels survived Winsor Peter's hot hands last Friday night to post a 122-95 victory against Lite Ol'Aces in the second game of the Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Island's Islandwide Men's Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym.

Peter scored 23 points in the first half alone as the Ol'Aces gave the Wheels some excruciating moments.

Playing with only seven men, the Wheels leaned on Edwin Bubos, David Chesley, Felix

Palacios and playing coach Tony Sablan to take the first half by nine, 65-56.

Peter sustained his hot streak in the final half by cashing in several clutch hits. The Wheels, however, managed to keep their heads above water with the arrival of Dado Vistal and clutch three points shots by rookie Luis Cepeda.

Vistal, who missed the entire first half buried two triples while Cepeda had three as the Wheels broke away from a close game to win their seventh game in eight outings.

Continued on page 23

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