

DAILY

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503

Sablan confirmed as first lady judge

THE SENATE yesterday confirmed the appointment of Virginia S. Sablan as Superior Court associate judge.

By a vote of nine in favor and none against, the 35-year old assistant attorney general became the CNMI's first female judge.

The confirmation came three days after a public hearing in which Sablan's appointment was supported and lauded by all those who testified.

Sablan, who was nominated by Gov. Froilan Tenorio last Jan. 23, will serve a six-term.

The first woman of North-



Virginia S. Sablan

ern Marianas descent to become an attorney, Sablan was a former staffer of the U.S.

Continued on page 61

US treaties brings \$2B to the islands

By Giff Johnson

For the Variety

MAJURO-The United States has spent more than \$2 billion since 1986 to underwrite government operations and development programs for the 200,000 people living in the north Pacific islands of Palau, Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia.

This coming fiscal year, the Clinton administration is planning to spend another \$147 million in these islands that were formerly a United Nations Trust Territory administered by the U.S., the U.S. Department of Interior said in a statement issued by the U.S. Embassy in Majuro Tuesday.

"The President's budget shows a continuing United States commitment to the Compacts, and helps to strengthen the United States relationship with the Marshalls, the FSM and Palau," said Allen Stayman, director of insular affairs at DOI.

Although the more than \$10,000

per capita investment by the American government is huge by foreign aid standards, U.S. aid to these dependent island governments is declining rapidly as the treaties with Washington guaranteeing these funds head into their final years.

The compacts of free association with the Marshall Islands and FSM are set to expire in 2001, and already the two governments are attempting to launch negotiations to discuss post-compact aid terms.

The Marshalls has embarked on an Asian Development Bank-supported austerity program that is focusing on heavy cuts in the government workforce.

The FSM is facing a budget crisis similar to the Marshalls. Despite the massive U.S. over the last 10 years, there is little to show for the investment of U.S. funds in the islands.

The compacts give the U.S. authority for defense of this vast

Continued on page 14

2-year limit for workers OK'd

By Zaldy Dandan

Variety News Staff

THE SENATE, in its first session for 1997, yesterday passed a bill that would limit the employment of non-resident workers in the CNMI to two consecutive years.

Exempted from the proposed restriction are non-resident workers in professional or executive positions with an annual salary of at least \$30,000.

House Bill 10-136 (House Draft 2, Senate Draft 1) now goes back to the House which could either accept or reject the Senate's minor amendments to the bill.

The Senate will resume its session Wednesday, Feb. 19.

Under the proposed law's provisions, a non-resident worker would be required to leave the

CNMI after two consecutive years of employment.

The worker would "remain outside the Commonwealth until such time the non-resident worker has secured employment within the Commonwealth."

The bill defines "professionals" as persons whose primary duty consists of the performance of:

- work requiring advanced training, or

- original or creative work, which is artistic in nature, as opposed to general intellectual ability, or

- teaching, medical, dental, nursing and other medical or paramedical positions, or

- whose work is predominantly intellectual.

An "executive" is an employee whose primary duty is management and directs work of two or more employees; who has authority to hire and fire or give substantial input into hiring and firing; and exercises discretionary powers.

The bill states that the number of non-resident workers in the CNMI has exceeded the number of indigenous and other local residents.

The non-resident workers, the bill added, have resided in the CNMI for more than two consecutive years, without the benefit and protection of legislative representation.

"(I)t is in the best interest of the CNMI government, the employ-

Continued on page 14



Acting Gov. Jesus C. Borja obliges for a photo with students from WSR Elementary School who paid him a visit Tuesday during the School's Career Day.

Photo courtesy of PIO

Jones wants aliens excluded from free services

By Zaldy Dandan

Variety News Staff

A PROPOSED constitutional amendment seeks to allow the CNMI to restrict free public services to U.S. citizens and long-time residents.

Introduced by Minority Leader Dino M. Jones (D-Saipan), House Legislative Initiative 10-6 would add the following new section to the Constitution: "The Commonwealth may place citizenship and residency restrictions on eligibility for government benefits such

as education, housing and welfare, to the maximum extent permitted by the U.S. Constitution."

Jones said the amendment would allow the Commonwealth to impose eligibility restrictions for public services based on citizenship and/or residency.

At present, he added, non-U.S. citizens can avail of free education, housing, medical referral, financial assistance and other social welfare services.

Jones's legislative initiative states that "it is a significant fiscal

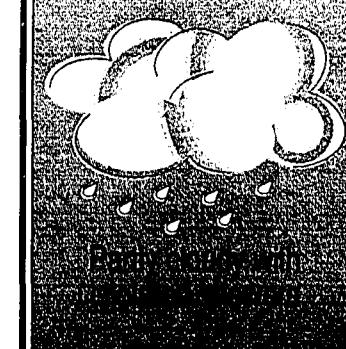
burden on the CNMI to provide these services to (those) who are neither citizens nor long-term residents of the Commonwealth."

"It is understood," the initiative further stated, "that the U.S. Constitution limits the extent to which any government can discriminate between citizens and aliens."

"However, the Legislature wishes to amend the Constitution to make it very clear that

Continued on page 16

WEATHER Outlook



2-MARIANAS VARIETY NEWS AND VIEWS-FRIDAY- FEBRUARY 14, 1997

Simpson nixes Goldman offer to give up millions for confession

By LINDA DEUTSCH

SANTA MONICA, California (AP) - O.J. Simpson rejected a challenge from Fred Goldman that would have allowed him to avoid millions in damages if he signed a confession admitting he is a killer.

"No matter how much money I am offered, I would never confess to a crime which I did not commit," Simpson said Wednesday through his attorney Philip Baker.

Goldman earlier told The Associated Press in a telephone interview: "I don't want to play games. But if he wanted to sign a confession with all the details of his crime and broadcast it all over the country and publish it all over the nation, I would drop the judgment."

The aggrieved father who never accepted Simpson's murder acquittal 16 months ago and doggedly pursued him to civil court added: "All I ever wanted is justice. It's never been an issue about money."

Goldman had acknowledged that the chance of Simpson taking him up on it is slim to none.

"Easy to say, easy to do, never going to happen," Goldman said when he first revealed the offer Tuesday on the Dallas-based Salem Radio Network. "This person hasn't owned responsibility for any of his actions through his lifetime."



O.J. Simpson

Rufo.

Ms. Simpson's estate, whose beneficiaries are the two children she had with Simpson, gets \$12.5 million in punitive damages.

Goldman's attorney, Daniel Petrocelli, backed his client on the offer, even if it meant he would have to give up his contingency fee if Simpson accepted.

"I think Fred is right on target," Petrocelli said. "We'd be more than happy to rip up the judgment if Mr. Simpson wants to sign a confession saying he committed these murders and giving details of how he did it."

"It would also do a great deal to heal the wounds in this country we could put this to rest."

Loyola University Law School Associate Dean Laurie Levenson said Goldman's offer was more symbolic than realistic.

"I think there is an ongoing frustration by Fred Goldman to get O.J. to care," Levenson said. "He is looking for satisfaction and the money would never be satisfaction. He is trying to go through the denial and her willing to pay millions of dollars for that."

If Simpson had accepted Goldman's offer, he could not have been tried again for the killings because of double jeopardy provisions.

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Cabinet minister, legislators arrested

By SANG-HUN CHOE

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - Two more close aides to President Kim Young-sam were arrested Thursday, along with an opposition legislator, in the bribery scandal surrounding the president.

Kim's attorney, Daniel Petrocelli, backed his client on the offer, even if it meant he would have to give up his contingency fee if Simpson accepted.

"I think Fred is right on target," Petrocelli said. "We'd be more than happy to rip up the judgment if Mr. Simpson wants to sign a confession saying he committed these murders and giving details of how he did it."

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an anti-graft campaign as the cornerstone of his administration.

Also Thursday, prosecutors arrested Kwon Ro-gap, a vice president of the largest opposition party, the National Congress for New Politics, who is close to opposition presidential hopeful Kim Dae-jung.

Kwon received \$176,000 in a hotel room and an opera house from Hanbo head Chung Tae-soo, who asked him to persuade opposition politicians not to question Hanbo's bank loans in Parliament, prosecutors said. Chung was arrested Jan. 31.

Kwon also received a \$116,000 bribe from Hanbo through a government legislator, who was arrested Tuesday on charges of taking cash bribes from the steel company, prosecutors said.

Kwon had claimed that it was a legitimate political contribution. He wrote to Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Timothy Villagomez, telling him to send utility bills to these agencies, and that the utilities fund will only cover agencies under the executive branch.

"It appears that Sec. Cabrera has taken it upon himself to construe the Legislature's intent in appropriating \$7,061,566 for government building utilities to exclude the Legislature, the Judiciary, the Public School System, and the Northern Marianas College, from the \$7 million budget for utilities."

But the administration is to blame, Benavente said.

He said the Legislature only acted on the budget proposal submitted by the administration.

The Governor's Office had requested for \$7 million for utilities.

"The Legislature not only complied with the administration's proposal, it even increased (the line item

appropriation) to \$7,061,566," Benavente said. "That was a mistake on the part of the administration to submit a request for \$7 million," he added.

If there is an anticipated shortfall, Benavente suggested that the administration address it either by reprogramming available resources, or identifying additional resources for appropriation," Benavente said.

If the administration failed to do so, Benavente said the Legislature will have to step in to "reconsider the appropriation or clarify" the law's provision.



Diego Benavente

the budget is supposed to be for the entire government and the CNMI government includes all branches of government and all autonomous agencies."

Had the Legislature intended to restrict the use of the line item appropriation, Benavente said, the lawmakers would have defined it in the legislation.

"It did not," Benavente said.

In issuing the new policy, Cabrera has explained that the administration could no longer afford to pay for increasing bills for power and water. The finance secretary said government's CUC bills reached \$9 million last year.

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Antonio Cabrera

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Only a primary can save party--Sablan



Benigno M. Sablan

ONLY a primary can put the Democratic party back together and this, depends heavily on whether Gov. Froilan Tenorio insists, upon his arrival from the US mainland today, to have one.

Sablan said the party's Central Executive Committee's recent decision to forego a primary appears to have polarized it from the political group's membership, and encouraged factionalist attitudes.

Worse, the decision has also drawn a line among supporters of the Borja-Sablan camp with one bloc proposing that the two run as independent candidates, and the other, composed of "more experienced ones" considering a withdrawal.

"I'm hoping that he (Tenorio) will insist (on having a primary). I hope he can influence the CEC as a governor... that will put the party back," Sablan told the Variety.

Tenorio is on a three-week official trip to the US mainland when the CEC announced decision. He is expected to be back today.

Sablan said he and his running mate "will gracefully support"

Atalig wants public lands saved for Rota homesteads

homestead parcels and that decisive action must be taken to ensure that they are afforded this fundamental right.

"Any concern about the homestead issue in the Commonwealth and especially on Rota," said Atalig.

He said he introduced the bill because he believes the people of Rota should be accommodated before any future development take place on the island.

"The bottom line is that we have enough land for our people. I just want to make sure that it's reserved for time," he said.

The bill finds that "there is ample land in the First Senatorial District capable of meeting the requirements of modern urban planning standards as set forth in the Rota Master Plan."

These standards include lot requirement, roadways, housing, utilities and water distribution.

The bill further notes that Public Law 10-2 does not specifically reserve areas that would be suitable for village homesteads and that a specific designation would protect these areas from future development and help expedite environmental assessments and the village homestead permitting process."

SGMA denies knowledge of 'underground' factory

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

A BIG organization of garment firm owners yesterday denied involvement in the "underground" factory discovered this week in As Lito even as it urged concern on the "unfair competition" the illegal activity has created in the industry.

"We have nothing to do with it. We're not happy about this... it jeopardizes the entire garment industry," James Lin, president of the Saipan Garment Manufacturers' Association, said.

"I discussed the matter with the [SGMA] directors and they don't know this was going on," he added.

A team of labor and immigration department agents stumbled upon the factory — a warehouse and a house — when, acting on an informant's call, they went to the

The premises, Sablan said, was leased to a male Chinese national now undergoing questioning at DOLL.

Sablan refused to identify him nor the six others pending the outcome of an ongoing investigation.

Their testimonies, he said, is vital in his office's efforts to crack down on other "underground" factories in the Commonwealth.

"We all must stop this... any information on the matter should be reported immediately to the proper authorities," he said.

Meanwhile, SGMA, Lin said, is set to meet on Tuesday next week "to discuss this scam" and to devise ways to stop such illegal activities.

"We must stop this... any information on the matter should be reported immediately to the proper authorities," he said.

Chuuk governor under fire

PALIKIR, Pohnpei — The Chuuk State Legislature has asked Governor Marcellino Umwech to resign as state chief executive.

The request came in the form of House Joint Resolution No. 3-96-HJR-22, adopted by both houses of the Third Chuuk Legislature in a session last week.

Umwech is also faulted for "unlawfully declaring a state of emergency;" usurping individual rights of individuals within the Tolaisom Municipality; for paying the sum of \$70,000 to an individual who "had illegal and not valid claims against Chuuk State Government," under a purported settlement agreement purportedly violative of the Chuuk Constitution; failing to appoint a State Public Auditor as mandated in the State Constitution; failing to initiate criminal charges against deposed Governor Sasao Goulard.

Copies of the resolution were forwarded to Governor Umwech, Chief Justice of Chuuk State Supreme Court and the President of the FSM Government.

Umwech is a candidate for the March 4, 1997 gubernatorial election.

Act and the State's Restriction Law.

Another reason for the Legislature's action against Governor Umwech was the allegedly unlawful payment in lump sum for accumulated annual leaves to selected government officials whose name or names were not identified in the resolution; failing to appoint a State Public Auditor as mandated in the State Constitution; failing to initiate criminal charges against deposed Governor Sasao Goulard.

Umwech is being accused of "flagrant and continued disregard for Chuuk State Constitution and statutory law, through omissions and course of knowing, deliberate, illegal conduct," a

copy of the resolution were forwarded to Governor Umwech, Chief Justice of Chuuk State Supreme Court and the President of the FSM Government.

Umwech is a candidate for the March 4, 1997 gubernatorial election.



Ricardo S. Atalig

SENATOR Ricardo S. Atalig yesterday introduced a bill that would reserve areas of public land on the island of Rota for village homesteads, specifically in the Dugi, Finafa, and Chudang areas.

The bill, dubbed as the "Rota Village Homestead Reservation Act of 1997," was presented on the floor during yesterday's Senate session.

Atalig pointed out that many people on Rota have waited too long for their

FORUM EDITORIAL

Fairness on wage issue

ALLEN Stayman's testimony before the US Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee about a week ago best describes how the Federal government feels about the CNMI reform effort—irritated!

For the last two or three years, the Clinton Administration has been hollering about the need for the CNMI, as a responsible member of the US political family, to adopt a more equitable minimum wage level.

This is apparently meant not only for the CNMI to shake off its "slave labor tag" so widely depicted by the national media years ago, but also to appease mainlanders who may have found a certain degree of unfairness with the way the CNMI has been getting all these economy-boosting perks, such as the local control over immigration, minimum wage and taxation.

The argument employed by Mr. Stayman is convincing. By enacting federal law calling for gradual annual increases in the minimum wage until it reaches the federal level, the US may be helping the CNMI "open up the better private sector jobs to local residents, curb abuses among the lower-paid alien workers and turn them into a positive influence on the economy."

If wages are higher, employers would be discouraged in bringing over guest workers here. No foreign workers means no labor abuse and by then much of the goals of the so-called reform initiative will have been fulfilled.

But perhaps the more compelling reason Stayman is pressing the issue is the fact that CNMI leaders have continued to vacillate on the wage issue.

Elected officials here have flip-flopped on this issue to the point of losing credibility in the eyes of the federal government.

If the political wrangling in the Legislature last year on whether to delay that year's 30-cent increase was not bad enough, the subsequent enactment of a new public law maintaining a \$2.75 hourly wage for the garment and construction sectors was sufficiently irritating. Much worse is the provision in the new statute that scrapped all future annual 30-cent increases.

But although Stayman may have good reasons to back up his campaign to federalize wages here, Congress should know better than to act hastily on the recommendation. Action should be goal oriented, not punitive.

After all, at stake with the wage issue is the economic future of the Commonwealth, that which the federal government has so painstakingly tried to assist and nurture for decades.

By enacting federal law setting minimum wage, Congress would be stripping the CNMI of the means and capability to adjust its wage policies according to local economic realities.

It would leave decision-making solely to the discretion of US Congress, whose members may not be that appreciative of existing local scenarios.

Prior to acting on the Stayman recommendation, it is extremely important that the Murkowski panel weigh its actions carefully so as not to unfairly wreck havoc on this youngest member of the American political family.

A report on the wage issue, currently being finalized by the Hay Group, is on its way. It is crucial that the study be taken into consideration by the Committee prior to any action.

Moreover, as Sen. Craig, the gentleman from Idaho, aptly puts it, although there may be concerns about the labor conditions, the CNMI must be given a chance to respond.

Indeed, that is called "fairness."

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



Pacific Mall Case: Story behind the Story

The history of the delay in the construction of the Pacific Mall is rather mind boggling. Though plaintiffs and their attorney have capitalized on the ignorance of the general public—self-serving publicity that they're representing the interest of the indigenous people in the protection of their land—the reason about the delay is far from our actual interest, but the pecuniary interest of plaintiffs' attorney.

In reviewing Civil Action No. 95-390, Memorandum of Decision Disqualifying Plaintiffs' Counsel, Associate Judge Edward Manibusan chronicled the negotiations that have occurred since September of 1995. The decision says that the following month, Attorney Ted Mitchell offered to settle in exchange for an agreement by L&T to pay a \$14,500,000 rental and Plaintiffs' attorney fees calculated on the lodestar method.

Attorneys for defendant L&T stipulated that they would not disclose this offer. "Mitchell amended this offer "...increased the rental amount to \$14,500,000 to accurately represent the mean of opposing sides' two appraisals. Moreover, it stated that under the lodestar method, Mitchell's fees amounted to \$2,253,128."

The Manibusan decision pointed out that Mitchell made his fees a non-negotiable point, stating:

"We have decided to require you to respond to this offer in categorical terms; it may be either accepted or rejected. We will not entertain any counter-offer". This warning followed Mitchell's offer: "If you attempt to disclose either the existence of this letter, or any of its contents, either directly or indirectly to the court, this offer is automatically revoked".

Associate Judge Manibusan further said that the first indication of Mitchell's conflict of interest is his "demand of \$2,253,128 in attorney's fees as a prerequisite to settlement." This establishes that Mitchell was putting his interest before those of the named plaintiff and the CNMI. "The definitive language of the letter speaks for itself, and is consistent with his subsequent refusal to settle," Manibusan said.

He further noted that Mitchell's contention that "his demand was in furtherance of the interests of the CNMI taxpayers as it would exact the burden of attorney fees..." but the court wasn't able to follow his "strained logic to conclude that erecting an obstacle to settlement designed for his own pecuniary benefit advances the public interest".

Said Manibusan: "If Mitchell's primary interest was to benefit the public, he would demand this figure (\$17 million) from L&T and left the assessment of attorney's fees to the court.... Instead, Mitchell has allowed his personal interest in compensation to stand in the way of his clients' settlement". He further noted "Mitchell's

admitted inability to consider settlement demonstrates that this conflict persists. An attorney who will not entertain reasonable settlement discussions is not promoting the best interests of his clients. This is especially true where his clients, the taxpayers, will ultimately pay for the increased attorney fees incurred by protracted or needless litigation".

Despite the NMI Supreme Court ruling reinstating Mitchell as attorney for plaintiffs, leaving attorney's fees in the hands of the Superior via separate petition, we have established rather painfully that the employment of the people's interest is but a paper tiger to shield exorbitant legal fees to the tune of \$2,253,128. It pains this scribe to have happened upon appropriate documents demonstrating Mitchell's motive. It is a tale of how clever and well-seasoned attorneys can loudly use the indigenous people to hide their greed and personal interest. And, believe or not, it's our land upon which these riches are made by legal eagles! While L&T wants to invest \$37 million in a world class shopping mall, plaintiffs' attorney wants to bleed both the defendant and NMI taxpayers some \$2,253,128. So much about such nice and soothing pronouncements that they are interested in protecting our interest. It is only too clear, isn't it?

I suppose we have gotten to the point where everybody is after his own interest a bit confident that the general public will never catch up with his or her antics. You can only do it so much after which all your credibility for all the great things that you have undertaken in years past slide into abyss of distrust.

If plaintiffs and their attorney are really committed to protecting the interest of the general public in the disposition of indigenous public land, may I humbly ask that you research all land leases granted to big and medium sized companies to determine: 1) Land Area, 2) Price per square meter, 3) Whether appraisals were conducted to determine land value, 4) Determination of highest and best use. The fourth aspect is the most important consideration and I'd be most interested to hearing your views.

Pacific mall is interested in the Lower Navy Hill property which is about 38,573 square meters and must pay close to \$300 per square meter for 25 years instead of comparable private land leases of 55 years. Please check this against United Micronesian Development Association granted 1.9 million square meters in Marpi; SC Corporation, 1.6 million square meters; Kan Pacific, 1.5 million square meters; Suwais Corporation, 73.5 million square meters, among others. Find out the annual base rent and compare it with the Pacific Mall land lease. I am sure you can loudly trumpet your findings in the "interest of the local people" as you often say. Mmmmm, "in the interest of the local people" when in fact it's "pecuniary interest" from the outset, right? How convenient a usage to deflect the real truth.

JACK ANDERSON and JAN MOLLER

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Clinton bows to Pentagon on mine ban plan

WASHINGTON--President Clinton chose to follow his commanders instead of his conscience last week when it was announced that the administration would not take part in a Canadian initiative that would have banned all production and use of land mines by the year 2000.

Instead, the administration will try to achieve a worldwide ban through the United Nations Conference on Disarmament, a much slower process that could take a decade or more.

Within the administration, Pentagon officials had joined with Vice President Al Gore in arguing for taking a slower track, according to sources. Humanitarian groups like the International Red Cross—and lawmakers led by Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt.—had urged the president to follow Canada's lead.

In the meantime, land mines will continue to claim more than 20,000 lives per year and many times that many injuries, with the vast majority of the casualties being civilians. Most of the estimated 100 million mines that litter the globe are the remnants of long-ago wars and conflicts that continue to claim innocent victims, mostly in impoverished nations.

Canada's initiative—also known as the Ottawa process—would have brought together about 100 countries to sign a ban. But it would have taken place without Russia and China, which together account for more than half the world's land mine production and use. Without America's participation, the Ottawa process is reduced to a symbolic gesture that will yield few, if any real results.

The day before the announcement, a top U.S. negotiator at the Arms Control and Disarmament Agency invited us into his State Department office. He wanted to respond to a column we wrote two weeks ago calling for the president to get behind the Ottawa process.

This official wouldn't divulge any details about the administration's announcement. But he made his case for why the Ottawa process would do little to achieve the ultimate goal of an effective—and enforceable—worldwide ban.

Think of the process as trying to drive a large tractor trailer through a giant swamp, the official said. The tractor will get stuck in the mud, bogged down and progress will be slow at best.

"Then someone gets the idea that if we just unhook the trailer, then we'll get there rather quickly. But the payload will still be back in the swamp."

In this case, the payload is China, noted for being intractably difficult in international negotiations. According to sources, Russian officials have shown some willingness to start discussing a ban. The problem is that there is no outcry among Russian citizens for a ban. In fact, most of the outrage comes from countries like Canada, whose peacekeeping soldiers face the perils of these cheap and deadly devices every day.

The hope, then, is that Russia can be persuaded to divorce itself from China and work with the United States and Canada to achieve a ban. Past experience suggests that the only chance of influencing the Chinese is to isolate them.

And that's exactly what the Ottawa process was meant to achieve. By bringing a hundred countries together to sign a ban, those who were left behind would presumably feel more pressure to join the pack.

Finally, backing the Canadian plan does not mean the United States would have to abandon the slower U.N. process. In fact, there is nothing that suggests the two tracks are incompatible or mutually exclusive.

Why, then, did Bill Clinton leave Canada to twist in the wind, thereby giving other fence-straddling countries like Great Britain and France the opportunity to opt out of the Ottawa process?

Because, sources say, the Pentagon doesn't want to unilaterally give up any weapons of war—even ones that kill far more civilians than soldiers. That's especially true in South Korea where thousands of mines provide a buffer in case of attack from the north.

At the very end of the gift shop,

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 1997-MARIANAS VARIETY NEWS AND VIEWS-5

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Feger answers back

Dear Editor:

Now you are aware of some of the obstacles that are confronting quality education in the CNMI. We have teachers who actually believe 156 days of educational services equals 190 days of educational services.

The only thing remaining now is if or when these individuals will step forward and declare, "My educational services are so good, I deserve four and a half months of paid vacation." These individuals owe the students, parents, and community an apology even for being here.

I challenge any individual from here or 43 countries and more with or

without 30 years of educational experience, Masters in Education, PhD or whatever to take the con side of this issue.

I'm pro 190 days of educational services. Let's do it openly and publicly, here and now; one at a time, by groups, it doesn't matter. I'm going to focus on education. That is prostudent and the basis of our profession.

JAMES W. FEGER
Acting Principal
Marianas High School

every month.

These people come here for the warm tropical climate, the beaches and the beauty. If the beach area is not kept clean & modern, convenient toilet facilities installed, I believe the tourists will find a better place and we will see a gradually downward trend in tourist dollars. I think this needs to be addressed immediately!

Legislators, let's work together and get money appropriated to clean up our beautiful Island before we lose it forever.

GEORGE (MIKE) DENMAN

allow them to suffer the consequences of their illness, missing work, broken families, and lack of financial resources. They have already lost dignity in the addictive behavior.

We must grit our teeth (make ourselves strong) and allow the pain of the consequences of the substance abuse become more unbearable than the pain of withdrawal, the pain and suffering of ordinary life, the pain of boredom, so that the addict will acknowledge the problem and seek help. So we must not let them continue in

Continued on page 61

Attorney on highway safety

Dear Editor:

THIS is an open letter to the people of the CNMI.

Frances Kilili was right in saying that it is time to admit we have a serious substance abuse problem in the CNMI. Until the problem is recognized nothing can be done to alleviate it. Letters, speeches and homilies have pointed out that the problem belongs to all of us; we are all responsible. But many of us feel helpless: what can I as an individual do about substance abuse in my family, my co-workers, my community?

However, to cure this disease we must do the exact opposite. We must

adults to ride in the back and preventing such passengers from standing up while the truck is moving.

As experts in the safety fields will no doubt confirm, the probability and seriousness of injury is less if an accident victim is wearing a seat belt than without. The Department of Public Safety appears to be doing a fine job of publicizing the law and enforcing it fairly.

I predict that the law will remain the same unless there is a grass roots

Continued on page 61

Against 'pornographic' displays

Dear Editor:

THIS is an open letter to Congresswoman Malua Peter.

Relevant portions of the CNMI's seat belt law are found in Chapter 9 section 4108 (d) and (f) of the Commonwealth Code. The law makes a clear distinction between passenger vehicles and heavy equipment. It only applies to those in the passenger compartments. It does, however, take into account the safety of those riding in pick-ups by (among other things) requiring a tailgate, allowing only

adults to ride in the back and prevent-

ing such passengers from standing up while the truck is moving.

As experts in the safety fields will

no doubt confirm, the probability and

seriousness of injury is less if an

accident victim is wearing a seat belt

than without. The Department of

Public Safety appears to be doing a

fine job of publicizing the law and

enforcing it fairly.

I predict that the law will remain

the same unless there is a grass roots

Continued on page 61

children have been exposed to

these evil materials!

Congresswoman Peter, this is the third gift shop that my wife and I witnessed, and we are soliciting your help and your colleagues to put a stop to these disgusting and disrespectful acts taken by business owners. As a parent and an active member of the PTA, this must stop! Should there be a pending bill in the House

Continued on page 61

NMI wins prize at L.A. film expo



Froilan C. Tenorio

THE Northern Marianas captured the attention and imagination of judges at the Location '97 film industry trade show held recently at the Los Angeles Convention Center, a news release from the Administration said.

Amid more than 300 presenters from every state in the Union and from Papua New Guinea, Great Britain, Brazil, the Czech Republic, and South Africa, the Northern Mariana Islands placed third "most creative booth design."

"We are very pleased," said Kurt Burkhardt, Governor Froilan

C. Tenorio's Film Advisor and Special Assistant for Tourism and Trade. "This is our first year. When you consider the competition—Warner Brothers won first prize for their huge display booth. Not only was this our first year at the show, but we are also the smallest display."

Paula Voss from the film office of Venezuela said the Marianas booth won because of its creative use of indigenous materials.

"You don't need to spend a lot of money if you have passion," she said. "You people have passion."

A four-minute video of the islands ran non-stop throughout the show.

A steady stream of film industry professionals visited the Marianas booth and took brochures and maps of the islands.

"The film industry is a very lucrative business," said Governor Tenorio, who headed the Marianas delegation. "It generated an estimated \$32 million in the United States in 1996. We want a share of that."

Burkhardt expressed his thanks to the Commonwealth Arts Council without whose help the display would not have been possible.

"The film industry is a very lucrative business," said Governor Tenorio, who headed the Marianas delegation. "It generated an estimated \$32 million in the United States in 1996. We want a share of that."

"The film industry is a very lucrative business," said Governor Tenorio, who headed the Marianas delegation. "It generated an estimated \$32 million in the United States in 1996. We want a share of that."

Momentum builds up for govt drug policy

THE OFFICE of the Governor's Drug and Alcohol Workplace Policy's supervisory training sessions concluded in late January with the completion of three daily Saipan sessions held Jan. 27, 28 and 29 at the Aqua Resort Hotel, the office said in a news release.

Special Assistant to the Governor for Drugs and Substance Abuse Richard Pierce and Ron Kuest from MBG Management Services, Inc. traveled to Rota on the 30th to train 62 Rota supervisors at the Rota Round House.

Another 48 Tinian supervisors were trained at the KBC Building on Tinian Friday, the 31st.

Nearly 185 Executive Branch, Public School System and Autonomous Agencies' Secretaries, Directors and supervisors have been trained, and close to another 1,500 employees have received their Employee Awareness sessions.

The Drug and Alcohol Workplace Policy is scheduled for printing in the February Commonwealth Register, under Proposed Amendments to the Personnel Service System Rules and Regulations.

Later, changes would be made to require other CNMI Government personnel to adhere to the same Policy, as excepted service contract employees, independent contractors and Board and Commission members.

Recently, both the CNMI

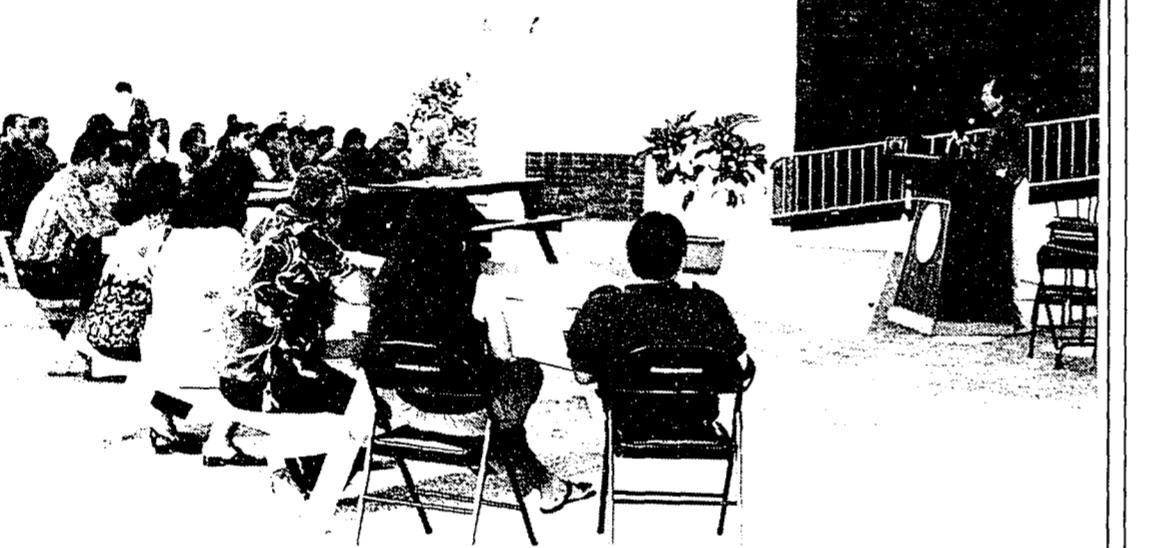
and supervisory staff received their training under the CNMI Fit for Work Policy during the week.

House of Representatives and the Senate adopted resolutions to model their own workplace policies after the Governor's Fit for Work Policy.

In light of that, Tenorio commended House Speaker Diego T.

Benavente and Senate President Jesus R. Sablan for their spirit and their work in responding to the dangers of drugs and substance abuse to the community, and for getting their "houses in order."

The Governor said he is also



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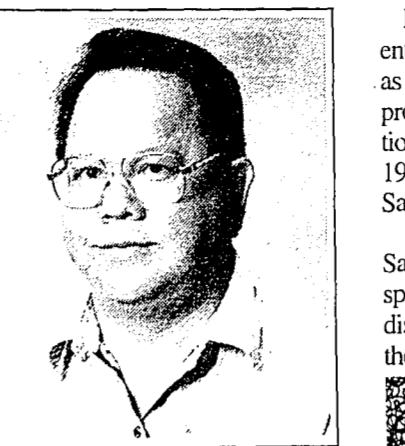
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House: 'Zero tolerance' on drugs



Diego T. Benavente



Manuel A. Tenorio

Discussion on the bill took up the entire session yesterday of the House, as members argued, deliberated and proposed amendments on the bill which was introduced last May 1996 by Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio (R-Saipan).

The bill states that the use of dangerous, highly-addictive narcotics substances "has become (an) epidemic in the Commonwealth."

The "leading facilitators of the drug trade," it stated further, "are couriers who smuggle the contraband into the bill."

"Life imprisonment is called for," he said, "considering the seriousness of the drug problem. (We should have) zero tolerance for those who bring in drugs to the (CNMI)."

The bill states that the use of dangerous, highly-addictive narcotics substances "has become (an) epidemic in the Commonwealth."

All of the 29,160 joints of seized marijuana came from Palau.

The bill states that the use of dangerous, highly-addictive narcotics substances "has become (an) epidemic in the Commonwealth."

All of the 29,160 joints of seized marijuana came from Palau.

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January arrivals slightly up

By Rick Alberto

Variety News Staff

IT'S a case of a slide, but it's an increase just the same.

Visitor arrivals to the CNMI last month jumped by a mere 2 percent over a year ago, true to a declining trend noted since October, the start of fiscal year 1997, statistics from the Marianas Visitors Bureau showed.

From the high 15 percent increase noted in October, the increase progressively slid down to 7 percent in November, 5 percent in December and now 2 percent.

Nevertheless, the 67,239 visitors registered in January is still a record, being the highest number attained so far.

The Japanese visitors last month numbered 40,188, or 60 percent of the total number. The increase in Japanese visitors was 4 percent.

Koreans came next (18,031, an increase of 2 percent), followed by visitors from the United States, including Guam (6,563, or 10 percent de-

crease).

Visitors from the Philippines totaled 344 (34 percent increase), while those from Taiwan numbered 319 (38 percent decrease) and Hong Kong 232 (31 percent decrease).

For the first time the MVB gave separate tabulations for visitors from Russia and China in its monthly visitor arrival statistics because of the increasingly significant number of visitors from those two countries.

According to the statistics, Russian visitors grew by 3,975 percent, from 4 registered in January last year to 163 last month.

Chinese visitors, however, decreased by 7 percent, from 210 to 196.

Visitors from "other areas" grew by 131 percent, from 520 a year ago to 1,203 last month.

The total number of visitors who came during the first four months of this fiscal year totaled 252,125, an increase of 7 percent over the same period last fiscal year.

Joyner spoke before a group of students of Oleai Elementary School yesterday during a classroom program for the celebration of the Black History Month.

"I'm trying to educate the kids about what the word means. The word 'nigger' originally was a bad word. It was a word that is demeaning and meant to put the black down," Joyner said.

But still, one has to be careful about saying it.

"We only use it to refer to best friends and long time buddies. In short, you only hear from one black person to another black person," Joyner said.

Joyner said although racial discrimination still prevails in

visitors last month, or 1 percent more than the 64,384 visitors registered in January 1996.

Arrivals to Rota (direct flight from Guam) totaled

1,968, or 53 percent more than the 1,289 visitors a year ago.

No visitors went to Tinian on a direct flight from Guam last month. The same case was true in January 1996.

Of brothers, rap music and Black History month

IN THE pre-Martin Luther King era, saying the word "nigger" would be enough to blow the top of a black man. But now that word, according to performing artist Sam Joyner, has evolved to become a term of endearment among "brothers."

"There's a big controversy about the word 'nigger' especially now that in almost all rap records, artists use the word niggaz," Joyner said in an interview with reporters.

Joyner spoke before a group of students of Oleai Elementary School yesterday during a classroom program for the celebration of the Black History Month.

"I'm trying to educate the kids about what the word means. The word 'nigger' originally was a bad word. It was a word that is demeaning and meant to put the black down," Joyner said.

But still, one has to be careful about saying it.

"We only use it to refer to best friends and long time buddies. In short, you only hear from one black person to another black person," Joyner said.

Joyner said although racial discrimination still prevails in

several part of the United States, "a lot of positive changes" have taken place since the "black power movement."

"In the earlier times we were not allowed to vote. We didn't get to sit in a bus. Now we can go anywhere, and we can eat in any restaurants," Joyner said.

Joyner said he and his group want to institutionalize in the CNMI the celebration of the Black History Month observed every February.

"We're trying to raise the level of awareness of the community. There is some parallelism between the African American struggle and that of the Chamorro and Carolinians," he said. (MCM)

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Joy Corpuz
Feb. 15, 1997
From the Variety News Staff

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Pacific news roundup

Nauru elects new leader

CANBERRA (Pacnews)—Nauru has a new president and the prospect of stable government following last Saturday's election.

The new president is Kinza Clodumar, who was first elected to parliament in 1971 and has held a variety of ministerial appointments.

President Clodumar was educated in Australia and is a graduate of the Australian National University.

Two months.

President Clodumar will also have the responsibility of finance, public service, and external trade. Other ministers are Vinson Detenamo - internal affairs, sport and assistant to the President; Bernard Dowiyogo - island development and industry, education and civil aviation; Vassal Gadoengin - justice; and Ludwig Scotty - health and youth affairs.

Stop interfering, Australia urged

ported the Fiji Parliament's efforts to bring about a successful conclusion to the review of the country's constitution.

The Australian embassy says the debate on the motion had been adjourned to a date to be fixed.

The motion was welcomed by the Fiji Constitution Review Commission and congratulated the Fiji parliament on the progress made in its consideration of the report and to assist Fiji in bringing this matter to a satisfactory conclusion.

The bipartisan motion moved by Labour's Bob Sercombe and seconded by Liberal's Andrew Thomson sup-

ported the Fiji Parliament's efforts to bring about a successful conclusion to the review of the country's constitution.

Whilst the document gave a clear record to Vanuatu on various Human Rights requirements, it pointed out that during 1996, because of the political crisis affecting the country, evidence was clear on interference with the independence of justice.

These incidents also greatly affected freedom of the press and expression in complete disregard to provisions under the Constitu-

Rights report taints Vanuatu image

SUVA (Pacnews)—The Fijian Association Party has called for the dissolution of parliament and the appointment of an interim government to finalise the Constitution and the Agricultural Landlord Tenants Act ALTA to allow for a general election under a revised constitution.

And the crisis has been further compounded by the recent decision of the Great Council of Chiefs to become more independent of the SVT.

The call follows an announcement by Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka early this week that a snap general election could be held this year because of internal bickering within the ruling Soqosoq ni Vakavulewa ni Taukei, the Daily Post reported.

Acting Minister for Information Ratu Inoke Kububola has rebuffed FAP spokesman Dr Fereti Dawa's call saying it is ridiculous.

Hesays parliament has another three years until 1999, and there is no reason why there should be an interim government put in place. Ratu Inoke says he hoped that Dawa's statement was his own and not the party's.

Dawa says the statement attributed to Rabuka confirmed what had been suspected all along that the prime minister intends to call a snap general election this year under the 1990 Constitution to avert a crisis in the government.

Hesays there is strong indication that

Water source being sought in Solomons

HONIARA (Pacnews)—People living at the Guadalcanal Plains in Solomon Islands have requested that the government provide an alternative water supply source because they say the safety of their water sources has not been guaranteed.

The request is contained in a submission of concerns relating to mining operations in Central Guadalcanal, SIBC reported.

Chairman of the newly formed Guadalcanal Plains Landowners Association David Thuguvoda says the concerns stemmed from the non-inclusion of any of his people in initial negotiations of the project and associated environmental impacts.

In a letter to the minister for energy, mines and minerals, the people said they feel they have a lot to contribute towards the mining operation, but the lack of consultation by the government and Ross Mining at the initial negotiation stages is an act of negligence.

The people are also demanding to have access to the power supply from the proposed Lunga hydro-power plant when completed.

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Castro affirms DOLI decision

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By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE SUPERIOR Court has affirmed the decision of Department of Labor and Immigration Secretary Thomas O. Sablan on a labor case filed by a garment company's dismissed employees.

In his ruling issued Wednesday, Presiding Judge Alejandro Castro said Sablan had substantial evidence to conclude that the appellants (dismissed employees of Saipan Manufacturers, Inc.) were "equally in the wrong concerning the matters which gave rise to the filing of the complaint."

Court documents showed that in May 1995, several of SMI's employees filed a labor case after they were terminated as the company decided to close its business.

The employees filed the case alleging wrongful termination, wage deductions and sought transfer relief.

On March 26, 1996 Labor hearing officer Linn H. Asper ruled that SMI did give notices to complainants pursuant to their em-

ployment contracts.

Upon their dismissal, the complainants received one month termination pay from the firm.

The complainants appealed Asper's decision.

At the hearing, a stipulated settlement agreement was executed between SMI and complainants through their respective counsels, David Wiseman and John Cool.

The employees, however, challenged the settlement agreement entered into by Cool on their behalf. SMI filed a motion to dismiss the appeal.

Sablan issued a ruling last Oct. 10 affirming Asper's decision.

The complainants were ordered to voluntarily depart CNMI within 30 days or face deportation.

Some 82 employees, through new counsel Reynaldo Yana, sought for judicial review in order to reverse Sablan's decision.

Yana contended that Sablan's decision is erroneous as the stipulated settlement agreement made by an attorney without the authority and consent of his clients is invalid.

Castro in his six-page order stated that the appellants committed a procedural error during the administrative appeal process "which was fatal to a portion of their appeal."

Specifically, Castro said, appellants failed to timely file their appeal from the stipulated settlement agreement which was approved by Asper.

The judge said the statute states that "if no appeal is made to the Secretary within 15 days of issuance of the original findings, orders or decisions shall be unreviewable administratively or judicially."

Castro said DOLI and the lower court therefore lost jurisdiction over the portion of the labor case resolved by the settlement agreement.

He added that Sablan's failure to rule on SMI's motion to dismiss the May 3rd appeal constitutes agency action unlawfully withheld.

Castro said Sablan shall grant SMI's motion to dismiss on jurisdictional grounds within 10 days of the filing of this judicial review.

THERE are so many aspects of this Name, the Name of Saint Valentine. The most touching, significant and impressive thing is that nothing great ever ceases to exist. You see what a price he paid in order that we may sit down now with the red lights, with the blazing hearts and with the traditional touches of St. Valentine.

The majority, the public, the masses can't, of course, concentrate continuously on something very great, very grand, very pathetic, as this name suggests. But still, the fact of that heroic heart, of the tender heart, of that patient heart, emanates its glory throughout the ages.

And so, in spite of the fact that it is difficult for the majority of the people to concentrate upon the grandeur of something, they have to dilute it, they have to make it comfortable, they have to make it suitable.

Above all, they have to make it festive. So, the tragic aspect, the poetic, the lyrical aspect, of course, was erased with time. But the sentimental aspect never will be erased because the public wants it, craves it. It is necessary to make life a little bit less grey colored.

(Guru speaks softly) St. Valentine... happy St. Valentine's day. Whether you were happy or not this morning or yesterday or the day before yesterday, it doesn't matter. "Happy now".

If all of us would learn to be happy this moment, or do things which the moment offers and not say, "Oh, I'm so poisoned because of yesterday," you would be having a different life altogether. Finally you would feel that there is something which makes your life within yourself, the force, the right force, the higher than you force, if you submit to it.

But if you go into yesterday or even into this morning, and brood upon it, what happens? You don't give a chance to this force to act. You miss the St. Valentine's night, if you think about this morning which was not quite filled with the feeling of joy.

So let's forget about what was this morning, what was an hour ago; it is always now, always now, carrying into now that which the moment offers you. I wouldn't have a single hang-up on my hands if you'd live in this now.

It is a great art to live in the now, not to think about what hurt you or who you hurt, or what you lost or what you could have gained, or for

Saint Valentine's Day

that matter, of what a wonderful experience you had. Okay you had it. So have another one.

Let's live in the now and this moment of Valentine is the beautiful now. Very, very beautiful. Na-

tation, through prayer, through silence, through very dedicated life about which nobody knows except God. Then one discovers within himself the sacred little spot where the Divine dwells and that you can offer to me and I will take it and I will offer it further up...

...And wherever his [Saint Valentine's] name is remembered, even if distorted, even if misconceived and misunderstood - there is a spark of love. I told you last night that love is unknown to an ordinary unregenerated human consciousness. But whatever the limited mind of ordinary man can perceive as love, it perceives

Continued on next page



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Fillet of Beef Tenderloin in Tarragon Cream Sauce

Pearl of Idaho and Buttered Vegetables

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Torres lauds initiative to raise funding mandated to PSS

EDUCATION Commissioner William Torres said he welcomes the legislative initiative that calls for an increase in the annual guaranteed funding for the Public School System from 15 to 30 percent of the Commonwealth revenue.

"I don't think we can deny that we need a stable financing system," Torres said. "Thirty percent is certainly more reasonable than 15 percent."

Raising the funding guarantee for PSS, Torres said, is a long overdue move.

"There was a similar bill introduced in the Senate years ago, but it never was never passed. This is something that we have been working on for a long time," Torres said.

The legislative initiative was introduced by Rep. Malua Peter last week.

It was filed following the people's initiative launched by the Board of Education chairman Don Farrell. The petition, aside from an increase in funding guarantee for PSS, also proposes to allow the education board to manage the PSS budget.

A petition to get the voters' opinion on the people's initiative will be circulated next month.

The education board will decide on next week's meeting if it will officially adopt the people's initiative, Torres said.

"That is a policy decision that will be decided upon by the Legislature and the Board of Education. I will announce my official position as soon as the board adopts it," Torres said. (MCM)

ive? Yes. Traditional? Yes. Garish? Yes. But there is something above all these things which I have described. In spite of it, the

Nevertheless, the fact remains that if we deeply search, but we have to deeply search, that is revealed only through medi-

VALENTINE'S Dinner Menu

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Saint . . .

Continued from page 13

through Saint Valentine and through other great lovers. Valentine is a great lover.

Personality is something which you can put on and take off. Today's bright personality is sick tomorrow and loses its brightness. Today's genius is paralyzed tomorrow (may God forbid, may all geniuses flourish!) and where is his genius? Thus, personality is conditioned. You understand?

But whatever the limited mind of ordinary man can perceive as love, it perceives through Saint Valentine and through other great lovers. Valentine is indeed a great lover!

Blessed Heart of Saint Valentine! May everybody who loves Love be blessed by His Love!

...Colours are much more than you think. And the fact that the Day of Valentine is celebrated with so many reds has a certain significance of

which, of course, few are aware. People are doing a lot of things unconsciously, yet at times the voice of the people is the Voice of the Lord - rather, the voice of the Nature!

The red is the symbol of the red human heart filled up with warm human blood which is, of course, animated with emotions and various impulses, - people call it love. We have to replace it with the golden heart of gods. The golden heart stands for the hearts of the gods! The gods - not God - the Divine entities, the sublimated human heart.

Who are the gods? They are regenerated humans, the totally divinized beings, the Angelic Hierarchy of Light. They have "golden hearts." And even humans, when they want to compliment

vibration It was a very strong vibration - and very lovely. Live in this spirit. If you want to intensify any kind of an experience, you have to prolong it. If you want to intensify it in the sense that it should become yours. Otherwise it is just a lip service, a surface, intellectual endeavor and entirely meaningless for your evolution.

So you celebrate it in your reds and I choose my golds and we will have harmony, unison! And sometime you will also choose golden combinations [Guru smiles] and then won't you abandon all these grotesque exaggerations - these huge red hearts with which you symbolize love in general, and

(Lifted from <http://www.lightsv.org/valday.html>)

2-year . . .
Continued from page 1

ers, and the non-resident workers to set a limit of two consecutive employment in the CNMI for non-resident workers...."

US . . .
Continued from page 1

cess to any other nations and giving it use of land in the Marshalls for missile testing and in Palau for jungle warfare training and port calls.

Since the implementation of the compacts of free association with the three island groups, beginning in 1986, over \$2.4 billion has been appropriated under its provisions, Stayman said.

Stayman said that it was too early to call the compacts failures, although he acknowledged in a recent interview that economic development progress had been slight.

The Clinton Administration budget for next year calls for the Marshall Islands to receive \$36.3 million for government operations and economic development.

Another \$3 million from the U.S. will go directly for health and education programs, bringing the total fiscal year 1998 figure for the Marshalls to \$39,342,000.

The \$39.3 million for the Marshalls includes land lease payments to Kwajalein landowners for the use of the Army's missile testing range at Kwajalein Atoll.

"By the end of FY 1998, the Marshall Islands will have received more than \$800 million in Compact funding since 1986," the DOI official said.

Clinton's budget calls for the FSM to receive \$115.2 million for government operations, development projects, health and education. At the end of FY 1998, more than \$1 billion will have gone to the FSM, DOI said.

Palau, whose Compact started in the mid-1990s, is scheduled to receive \$21.2 million for government operations, development projects, health and education, according to Interior.

By the end of next year, Palau will have received over \$400 million, according to DOI.

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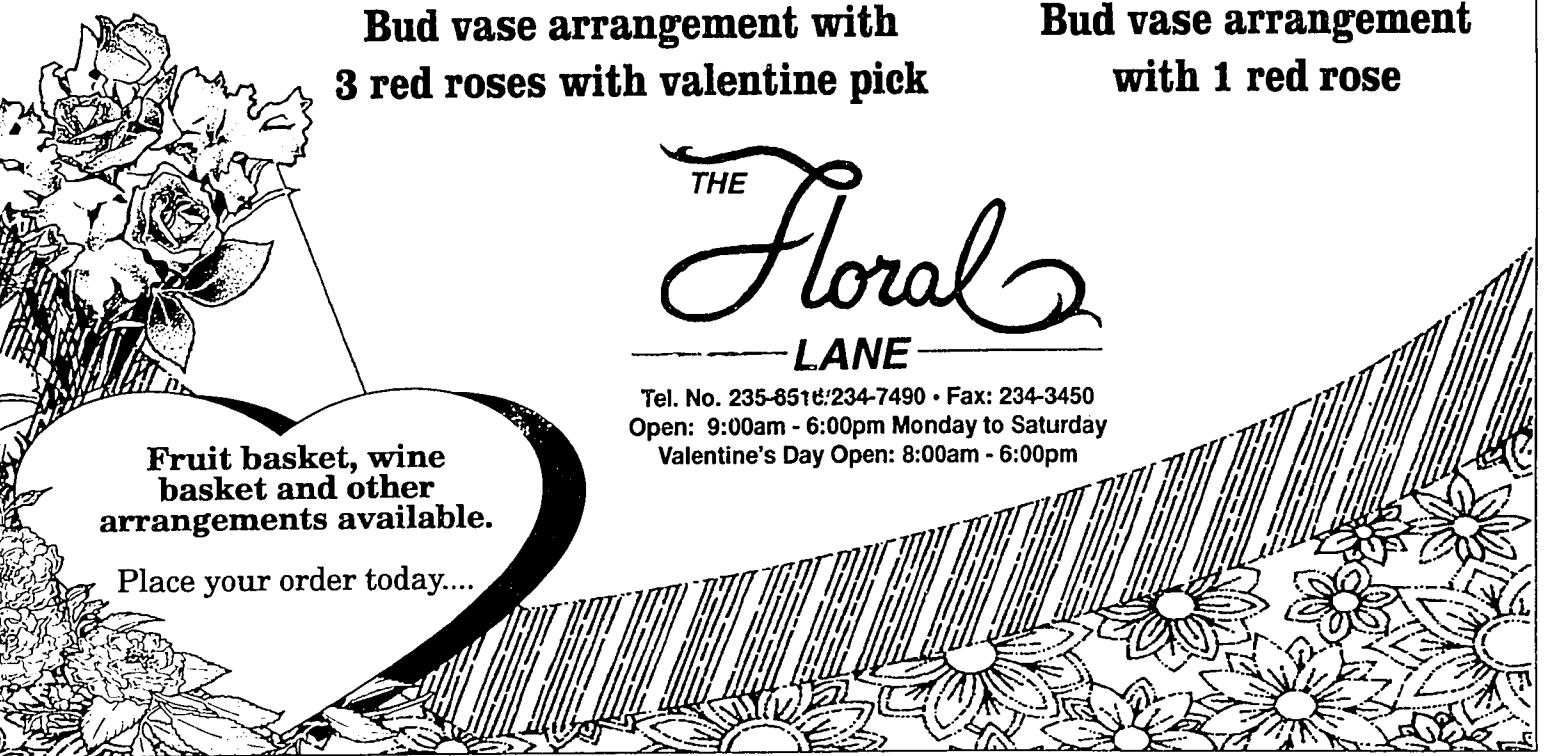
Bud vase arrangement with 1 red rose

**THE
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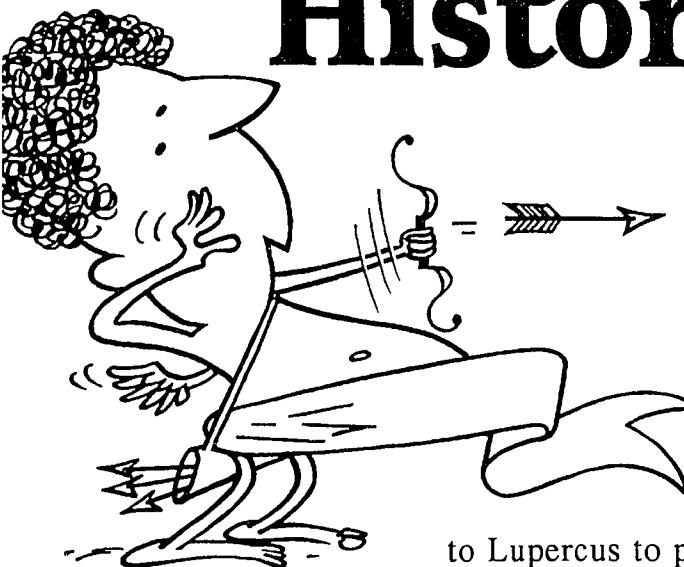
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History of Valentines



partners in the festivities and dances, oft times they would not need to participate in this particular event the next year.

It's true about ordinary life and extraordinary life. The depth is what is necessary in order to be rich, real rich, not money rich.

(Lifted from <http://www.lightsv.org/valday.html>)

Romans celebrated on February 15th the feast of Lupercalia. This spring holiday

singing and dancing.

On the eve of this festival, young women would put their names in a ceramic jar and every young man would pick a name. They would be

Massacre . . .

Continued from page 19

unload a supposed shipment of stolen booze, an optometrist (who enjoyed the excitement of hanging around hoods), had joined them to hear about their previous nights exploits, which made a total of seven men inside the building on that fatal day.

One man, a brother-in-law, was often mistaken for Moran, and when he entered, word went out from the lookouts in their room across the street, that Moran was in the building. A runner delivered the news to four waiting killers. Two of the killers dressed as police officers, and two plainclothesmen climbed into a simulated police car and sped off to the address.

The phony police entered the garage and gave the order "Up against the wall". Thinking this was merely a routine police check, the seven surprised men reluctantly lined up facing the wall. Immediately, the two plainclothesmen stepped into the picture, handed two Thompson sub-machine guns to the uniformed men, then whipped out two sawed off shotguns from under their full length coats. "Let 'em have it", said one of the killers; and with a cold blooded calm proceeded to empty a hundred rounds of .45 caliber bullets from the Thompson sub-machine guns, and then emptied the four barrels of the two sawed off shotguns.

At 10:20 on the cold brisk morning of February 14th, 1929, the most bizarre chapter in the history of American gangland crime was written; to be known forever as "THE ST. VALENTINES DAY MASSACRE".

and beheaded because he

Others believe that Valentine was later confused with the Norman French word 'galantin' meaning "lover of women". Through

the passage of time, the two have merged with the result of St. Valentine being remembered as the patron saint of lovers.

Believing that Valentine's Day exists to celebrate the memory of a saint who valued love and romance, many exchange love notes or Valentine cards.



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Confessions of a determined bachelor

(Author's note: Please read with caution—sense of humor required.)

LE T'S TALK about something as disgusting as a Barry Manilow song.

Let's talk about marriage, the discussion of which, like those ridiculous drawings of a heart and Cupid, and the gagging, sickly sweet smell of a bouquet of roses, will be everywhere today.

Now because marriage is something this writer has never been into, he should therefore be considered an expert on the subject.

But let's take it from someone who should know, Zsa Zsa Gabor who once said: "They say a man is incomplete until he is married. Then he is finished."

This writer's point exactly. Which is why—despite being subjected to the most insistent barrage of feminine charms and wiles allowed by

law—he will turn 30 this year fiercely determined to remain blissfully bachelor.

A quite recent episode in Bountiful, Utah merely hardened this determination.

Bruce Jensen, 39 years of age at that time, filed a missing-person report for his wife.

Not only did he manage to locate his wife, he even found out for the first time in the 3 1/2 years of their marriage, that the wifey is a man, Felix Urioste, then 34 years of age. "I feel pretty stupid," the stupid Jensen later told a newspaper reporter.

The wifey was already in jail for using 33 stolen credit cards and for scamming \$40,000 from Jensen.

Jensen had to be confused, embarrassed and broke all at the same time after police officers convinced that his wife is a man.

It turned out that Urioste had pulled off the scam because he looked like a woman

and Jensen never saw him naked. Of course, during their 3 1/2 years of marriage the two, as they say, tried to "make a combination to bring an accumulation to the population."

Still, it was always probably too dark when they did so.

The couple met at a Coke machine at the University of Utah Health Sciences Center while Urioste was posing as a female doctor.

Jensen, who should be really stupid, married Urioste after "she" told him that "she" was pregnant with twins. This was supposedly brought about by a single night of uh, passion.

A very kind lawyer with a flair for the understatement later told the Associated Press that Jensen was "just incredibly naive."

Jensen asked for an annulment, citing irreconcilable differences. It should be safely assumed that the court

granted his request.

As soon as the case was over, he told a newspaper that he'll "crawl in a hole for a few years and not let anyone within rifle range."

Moral of the story: Either remain a bachelor or—if you're really suicidal—get married, but for god's sake make sure it's to an anatomically-correct woman.

How to find out if your wife is a man? The Washington Post in 1995 came out with the following 10 tips:

1. The toilet seat is always up.

9. She tapes "Baywatch."

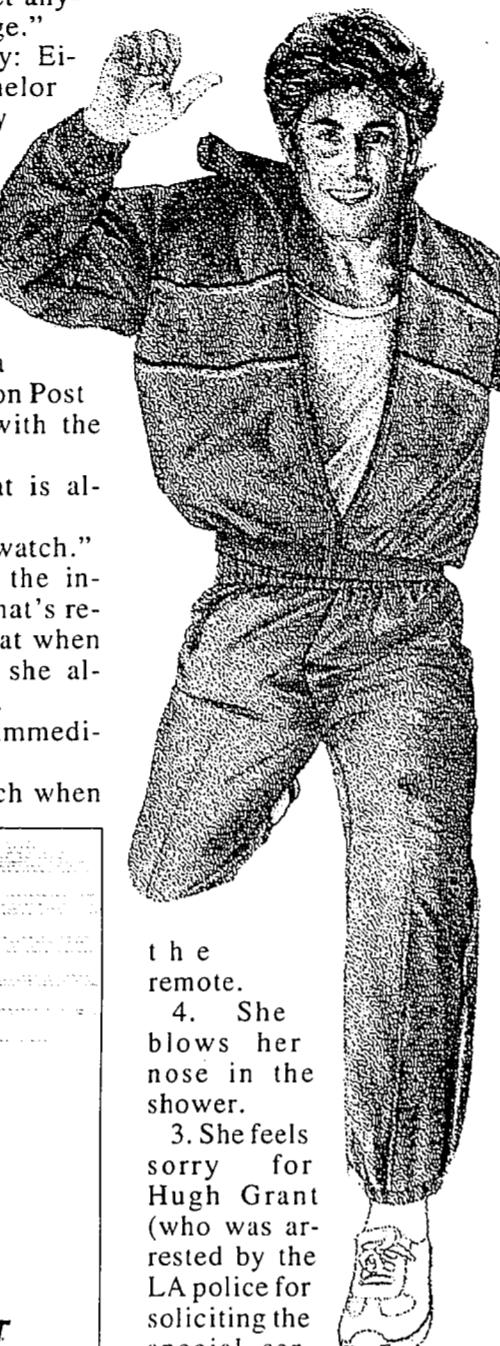
8. She can recite the infield fly rule. But what's really suspicious is that when she doubles to left she always adjust her cup.

7. After sex, she immediately falls asleep.

6. She doesn't bitch when

you give her a drill press for her birthday.

5. You suddenly realize you've never had control of



the remote.

4. She blows her nose in the shower.

3. She feels sorry for Hugh Grant (who was arrested by the LA police for soliciting the special services of a street businesswoman).

2. You can never open the ketchup bottle after she closes it.

1. When you say: "I just can't decide whether the valances should be the same shade as the curtains or a sort of teal—which would you choose?" she answers: "Sure honey." (RMD)



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the remote.

4. She blows her nose in the shower.

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Jones . . .
Continued from page 1

the CNMI can impose eligibility restrictions to the maximum extent permitted by U.S. Constitution."

The CNMI Constitution provides that the Legislature, by the affirmative vote of 3/4 of the members of both the House and the Senate, may propose constitutional amendments which are then presented to the people in a referendum.

Legislative initiatives do not require the approval of the governor.

LET US KEEP CNMI LITTER FREE.

So what if you don't have a date!

By Marimar M.

YOU have turned all the pages of this Valentine supplement. You've read overromanticized articles about love. You've seen all the ads in the department stores promoting lame heart-shaped boxes of candy, mushy cards, and fluffy stuff animals. You've passed by restaurants that offer dinner-for-two discounts.

Suddenly you feel upset because you're all alone.

You have no date on Valentine's Day? So what!

It's not time to commit suicide. You're not missing anything much. Valentine's Day is overrated, anyway. The idea that you have to have a date on V-day is something instilled into our system by cash-motivated persuaders. It's really just another ploy for Hallmark, candy companies, and flower shops to make a killing.

Try to stop by department stores. Canvass the prices of those goofy-looking chocolates and fancy flowers. If you're a man, you'd realize how lucky you are you don't have to shell out big bucks for those crap. If you're a woman, you'd be thankful you don't have to go on a diet, and worry about what

to wear.

And let me tell you, it's not such a bad idea to be just with yourself on V-day. There are countless things to do.

Consider these:

1. Do your laundry and redecorate your room.

2. Surf the net. Engage in a cyberconference with other dateless surfers, and launch an on-line anti-Valentine crusade.

3. Hang around in a gaso-line station and talk to the gasoline boy about the meaning of life.

4. Grab a copy of Dostoevski's Brothers Karamasov. By the time you finish reading it, you'd forget that you missed the so-called V-Day celebra-tion.

5. Take a walk in the woods behind the Buddhist prayer house in Garapan. Better yet, enter the prayer house and toll the bell of peace. I swear, it will give you a magical experience. But be sure not to tag along a friend who can read Japanese characters because he would tell you that the "scriptures" on the wall are not words of wisdom as you may think. They are actually names of business men who contributed \$2,000 each to put up the house. Don't even ask about the reading materials that you might mistake for Great Books of Knowledge. They are advertise-

ment brochures.

6. Play a trick on your ex-girlfriend. Call the police and tell them you're holding hostage a dog, and that you'd kill it unless they convince your ex-girlfriend to have dinner with you. If she agrees to go out with you, tell her you've changed your mind.

7. Bug all your friends., especially the ones with dates. Call and ask them if they agree with the Democratic Party's decision to forego a primary.

8. Watch the sunset in the afternoon and count the stars in the evening.

9. Rent the *Last Tango in Paris*. In this movie, the wife of the male protagonist

(played by Marlon Brando) dies, leaving him pro-

foundly grief-stricken in the arms of another woman who would later shoot him dead. If you'd seen the movie, watch it again.

10. Buy a copy of Playboy magazine. Read Cynthia Heimel's column and she will tell you that a person without a partner is like a fish without a bicycle.

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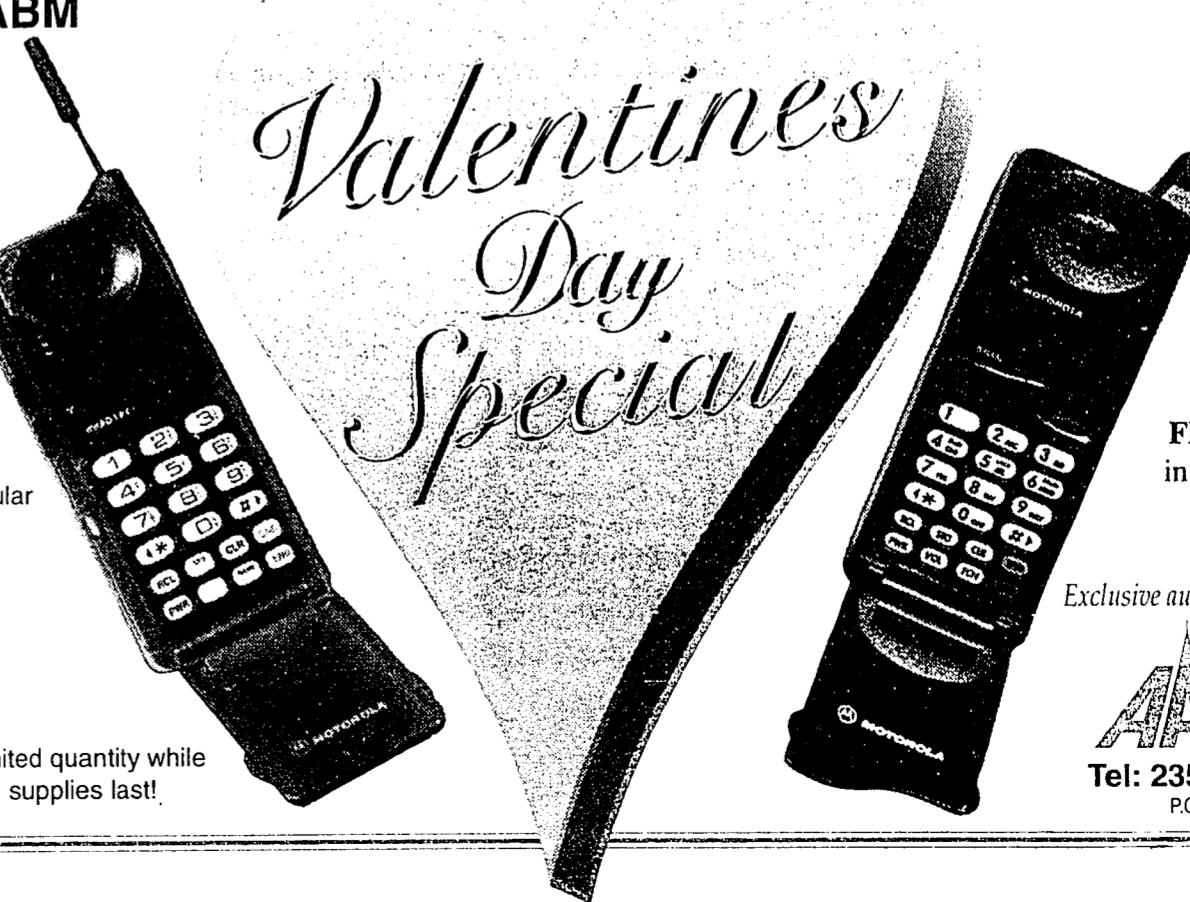
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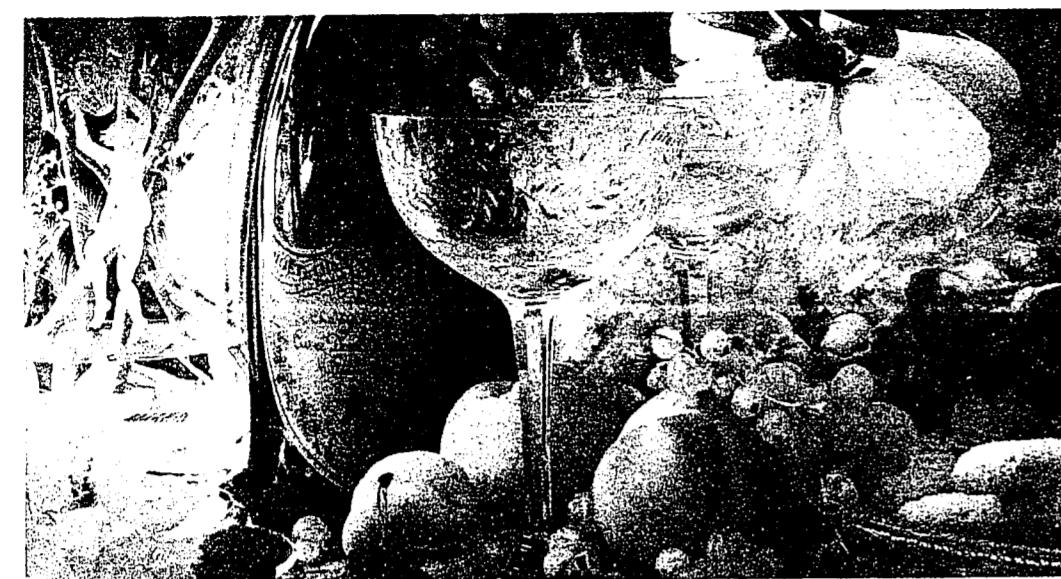
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The St. Valentine Day Massacre

THE St. Valentine's Day Massacre on February 14, 1929, in which seven members of the "Bugs" Moran mob were machine-gunned against a garage wall is probably the most notorious and bloody killing attributable to Al Capone's reign of terror in Chicago. The garage wall was purchased in 1927 and has been part of the largest private collection of 20's and 30's memorabilia. All 414 bricks of this famous wall will be auctioned off over the Internet. This is for the serious collector. A once in a lifetime chance to own a piece of the most famous day in gangster history.

The Roaring Twenties

It was during the 1920's that the 18th amendment put the Volstead Act for prohibition in place. The Entire United States became "DRY". In the same year, the 19th amendment allowed women to have their first vote. Oldsters were shocked by a sharp change in manners and morals. Skirt hemlines crept kneeward and women began to smoke in public. 4,000,000 men had shed their First World War uniforms to search for better times. Prior to the 18th amendment a woman seen in a saloon was branded a hussy. 15 cent highball drinks in 1919, shot up to 75 cents now that it was forbidden. If you went to a cabaret with your own pint of gin you paid \$1 for a pint of ginger ale and \$1 for ice.

Historically, the Volstead Act (prohibition) went into effect midnight January 16, 1920. 50 minutes later, approximately 1:00 a.m. on the morning of January 17th, 1920, six masked and armed men invaded a railroad switch yard, bound and gagged two trainmen and imprisoned six others in a shanty. The looted two freight cars and trucked away whiskey stamped "for medicinal purposes only". Originally valued at \$100,000, the haul, was diluted and rebottled to net about \$300,000 in subsequent days. This was the first in a 14 year run of hi-jacking through the "Roaring Twenties."

Prohibition and its related crimes was on its way. The resentments of the Volstead Act, turned many otherwise honest citizens into criminals, as home-brew processors of "Bathtub Gin", and customers of the many Blind Pig and Speakeasy establishments that mushroomed around the country. Speak-easy means "one speaks soft when ordering illicit liquor."

The US Congress appropriated \$2,000,000 and 1,520 agents to enforce prohibition. By 1931 a two year study reported that the nation was paying \$10,000,000 per day to bootleggers. During the 14 dry years of Prohibition, it was estimated the national government spent \$363,000,000 and state and local communities nearly \$3 billion in vain efforts to enforce the laws prohibition. It took until December 1933 to have the 21st amendment wipe out Prohibition's 18th amendment.

The dry and lawless years of the Prohibition 20's developed an era of crime never to be forgotten. More than ten individual gangs controlled most of Chicago. The two top leaders in the underworld of vice and crime, at the time, were Alphonse "Scarface" Capone with his notorious Southside gang, and George C. "Bugs" Moran

who controlled the Northside mob.

Al sent the order out to "Get Moran."

Greed and mistrust started a chain of vengeance killings between members of the Capone and Moran gangs. After an attempt on Capone's life from a cavalcade of machine-gun fire from a parade of hoodlum-filled cars, Big

to be on hand personally to receive a shipment of hijacked booze; to be delivered at 10:30 on the morning of February 14th, 1929. Five of Moran's top henchmen, and a mechanic who occasionally drove getaway cars, had gathered to

Continued on page 15

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1997 NMI Yellow Pages out

THE 1997 Northern Marianas Yellow Pages has finally arrived and it comes in three flavors: IT&E Fiesta, Hotel Sushi, and Copra Casino Sunset. All editions feature a special side dish - Postbox Delight!

Yellow Pages publisher Pacific Information Bank's limited-supply first shipment is already meeting a wide-eyed response from island advertisers, the company said in a news release.

"We started distributing to our Saipan clients the first Tuesday of the month and were relieved when we heard comments like, 'Wow, this is such

an improvement...Did you guys really do this?'" says PIB Marketing Manager Jireena Blas.

Essentially all three versions of the new publication are the same. Two editions have different front covers — one featuring a serene Tinian seascape with a coconut palm in the foreground and sponsored by the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission.

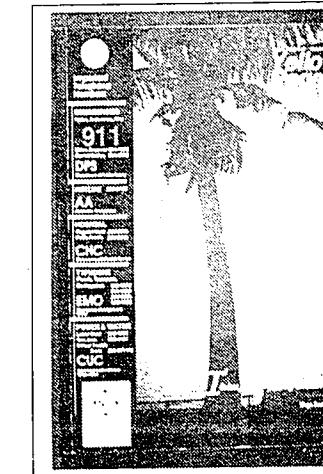
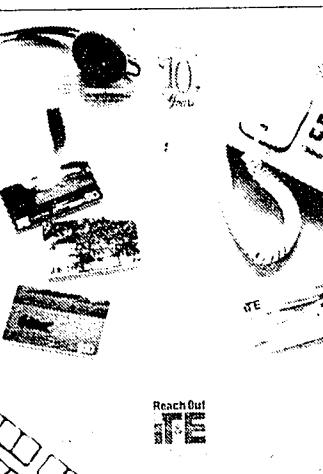
The other celebrates ten years of long distance telephone service by Guam-based carrier IT&E.

A special third edition features Japanese characters on the front and back covers and

contains a Japanese shopping guide for use in local hotels.

The government sections of all three versions are preceded by a special pro-business message from CNMI Governor Froilan C. Tenorio and a full-color calendar planner sponsored by the Office of the Governor. All directories also feature full-color gloss Marketplace sections as well as nine postcard inserts.

"This edition represents a lot of firsts for us," says PIB President and Owner Felicidad "Daling" Ogunomo. "Only in 1995 did we come close to that date with the late February arrival of the directory.



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Atoll wants US compensation

By Giff Johnson
For the Variety

MAJURO-Marshall Islanders from an isolated northern atoll that received a high dose of radioactive fallout from a hydrogen bomb test in the 1950s are asking why they are not included in medical and compensation programs provided by the United States government.

As the 43rd anniversary of the "Bravo" hydrogen bomb test at Bikini Atoll on March 1, 1954 nears, the elected leader from Ailuk Atoll has made a strong plea to the U.S. to have this north-

ern atoll included in the U.S. government's definition of radiation "exposed" populations.

Ailuk Senator Hemos Jack in an interview said that that U.S. government documents confirm that Ailuk received a larger dose of radioactive fallout from the 1954 Bravo test than nearby Utrik Atoll.

But while the Utrik people were evacuated after Bravo and are recipients of both special U.S.-provided medical attention and millions of dollars in compensation, the 401 Ailuk people were not included in compensation or medical treatment programs.

The Ailuk people are "experiencing unexplained medical problems" which Jack attributed to radiation exposure.

In the United States, the U.S. government provides compensation to individuals living as far away from the Nevada Test Site as 443 miles, Jack said. Why is it, he asked, that Ailuk which is only about 300 miles from Bikini isn't eligible for compensation?

out exposure.

Jack said that the 1954 Bravo test was about 13 times larger than all of the U.S. nuclear tests in Nevada put together.

He asked how is it that the U.S. can provide compensation for Americans living up to 443 miles distant from the Nevada Test Site, but Marshall Islanders living within 443 miles of Bikini are not eligible for compensation.

"The answers are obvious: Marshallese are guinea pigs, why worry about them?" he said.

Marshalls future up at symposium

By Giff Johnson
For the Variety

MAJURO- A one-day symposium at a major U.S. university later this year will focus attention on the Marshall Islands and its future. Hofstra University in New York is hosting the forum, called: "From Dependency to Freedom: A Symposium Charting the Future of the Marshall Islands."

Representatives from the governments of the Marshall Islands and the United States of America have stated their interest in participating in the symposium, said symposium director Patrick Mahoney, adding that the honorary committee for the symposium includes Marshalls Foreign Minister Phillip Muller, Pohnpei-based scholar and Jesuit priest Fr. Francis X. Hezel, Dr. Akira Iriye, a Historian at Harvard and Cherrie Corey of the Museum of Social and Natural History at Harvard.

The seminar is attempting to enhance the academic tradition in the Marshall Islands, create a forum to allow representatives of the two governments to present views on critical issues, and create the opportunity for international scholars in the natural and social sciences to present the results of their research, according to Mahoney.

The symposium directors are calling for academics, government officials and individuals with interests in the Marshall Islands to present papers at the symposium, which is scheduled to be held on October 3 at the Hofstra University campus in Long Island, New York.

"Papers will be presented by scholars, government personnel, and individuals with notable experience in the Marshall Islands," Mahoney said.

"We welcome participation by individual Marshallese citizens. We would ask that they submit a letter of intent describing their personal experience.

I will provide assistance, if needed, to prepare presentations."

U.S. Ambassador to the Marshall Islands, Joan Plaisted, said recently that the compensation provided in the compact of free association with the Marshalls represents "full and final" compensation, releasing the U.S. from any further obligations.

At 15 megatons, the Bravo test was the biggest hydrogen bomb ever tested by the U.S., 1,000 times the strength of the Hiroshima bomb.

Fallout from the explosion exposed Japanese fishing aboard the Lucky Dragon near Bikini, 28 American weathermen stationed on a tiny atoll 100 miles from Bikini, and hundreds of Marshall Islanders on islands downwind of Bikini. It remains unclear to this day why U.S. officials chose to evacuate the 157 islanders on Utrik, but ignored the Ailuk residents who were just 60 miles away.

Recently declassified U.S. documents confirmed that Ailuk received a higher dose of fallout, 20 rads compared to Utrik's 14-fueling demands from Ailuk islanders to gain compensation and medical treatment from the U.S.



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Future HK leader feels heat

By MARCUS ELIASON

HONG KONG (AP) - When a float sponsored by a pro-China organization ran out of control during a Chinese New Year parade and killed a British spectator, some saw more in it than just an accident.

A citizen of the departing colonial power run down by a symbol of the incoming regime on the most auspicious day in the calendar - the tragedy sent a tremor through superstitious Hong Kong, and a Chinese official was quick to deny it was a bad omen for the British colony's return to China on July 1.

With so many uncertainties looming over the momentous change of sovereignty, it's not surprising to find Hong Kong people reading hidden meanings into anything.

The big uncertainty remains, however, whether Communist China will live up to its promise to keep Hong Kong capitalist and free.

Another is whether Tung Chee-hwa, leader-in-waiting of semi-autonomous, post-colonial Hong Kong, will stand up to China in defense of the promised freedoms.

Although he is still more than four months away from taking office, the 59-year-old shipping tycoon already

is feeling the heat.

Hong Kong's pro-democracy camp, deeply skeptical that the future chief could be anything but Beijing's yes man, has leaped on Tung for endorsing China's moves to disband the elected legislature and roll back some of Hong Kong's civil liberties.

Tung has argued strenuously that these are largely technical changes whose overall effect will be negligible. He says the proposed controls on the right to demonstrate and to establish links between Hong Kong and foreign organizations are little different from those imposed in many Western societies.

But Michael DeGolyer, an American analyst who is tracking the public mood through the change of sovereignty, says his surveys find many people believing that Tung "has bent over far too much in favor of Beijing's views."

Tung seems to think the curbs are a small price to pay for winning Beijing's trust and dissuading it from imposing its own restrictions, which would probably be much harsher.

But Professor Joseph Cheng of City University of Hong Kong asks whether freedoms can ever be negotiable.

"We believe that they are part and



Hong Kong's future leader Tung Chee-hwa tries to follow along as elderly residents teach him a dance at the Hong Kong Chinese Women's Club, a home for the elderly. Tung spent the first day of the Chinese New Year viewing a parade, visiting the elderly and attending a soccer match. Today begins the celebrations marking the Year of the Ox.

AP Photo

parcel of the Hong Kong way of life," he says. But China sees them as practicalities to be preserved as long as they are useful, and "sacrificed when more important considerations come into the foreground."

Nihal Jaywickrama, a law professor, notes that many of the freedoms now under threat were legislated when Tung was a member of Gov. Chris Patten's cabinet. Therefore, he must have supported them.

"Mr. Tung is now marching to the beat of a different drummer when he should be beating his own drum," Jaywickrama wrote in the Hong Kong Standard.

Tung's advocacy of "Chinese values," and his exhortations to Hong Kong to focus on its economy rather than on politics, strike some critics as coded support for China's view that politics cause instability and that economic prosperity outweighs individual rights.

Tung's problems don't end with the democrats. Anson Chan, Patten's popular deputy, has given Tung a valuable credibility boost by agreeing to stay on in his government. But her continuing criticism of the moves against civil liberties put any long-term partnership with Tung in question.

Even some members of the pro-Beijing camp, taken aback by the outcry, say they are having second thoughts about changing the laws.

Tung has also risked alienating powerful rural conservatives by refusing to back the abolition of a law granting women equal inheritance rights.

Tung doesn't shy away from controversy. He faces the media almost every day. When a dozen chanting, banner-waving democracy campaigners occupied the lobby of his office building, he did what no Chinese official has done in recent memory: he came down and talked to them.

Tung, who lived in the United States for 10 years, also seems to enjoy quiet American bucking.

U.S. officials speak warmly of him, and although they publicly criticize the rollback of the legislature and civil liberties, they acknowledge that he's partially right in arguing that the issues are much more complicated than they may appear to the West.

In southern Egypt:

8 dead in Church attack

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) - Suspected Muslim extremists attacked a Coptic Christian church in southern Egypt on Wednesday, killing eight people and wounding six, the Interior Ministry said.

The dead included two women, and three women were among the wounded, the ministry said. It was not immediately known if any of the victims were clergymen, police said.

The attack occurred about 8 p.m. (1800GMT) at the Mar Girgis Church in the town of El-Fiqriya, which is in Minya province some 240 kilometers (145 miles) south of Cairo.

Muslim extremists have from time to time targeted Coptic Christians on grounds they are heretics.

Copts, who are descendants of some

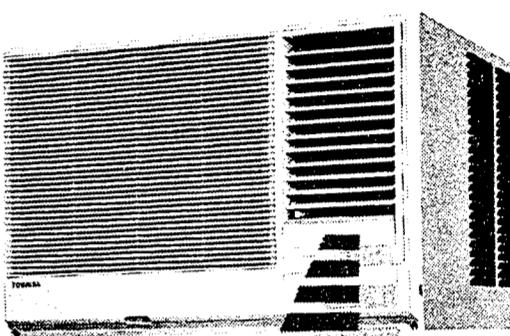
of the first converts to Christianity, make up about 10 percent of Egypt's 60 million people. Most of the rest are Sunni Muslims.

Muslim extremists have hit Coptic-owned stores, especially pharmacies and jewelry shops, to get money to finance their activities. They also have killed Copts on grounds they collaborate with government authorities.

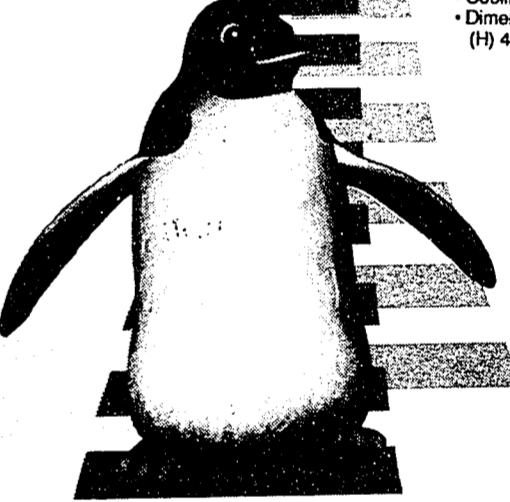
The attackers fled.

"Security forces have imposed a cordon around the area and roads believed used by the criminals," the ministry statement said.

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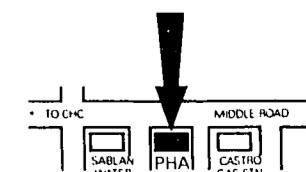
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US news bureaus in Cuba OK'd

By GEORGE GEDDA
WASHINGTON (AP) - In a move it said would focus more attention on the shortcomings of Communist Cuba, the Clinton administration gave the go-ahead for 10 U.S. news organizations to open bureaus in Cuba. Of the 10, only CNN has permission from the Cuban government.

The Cuban Foreign Ministry said Wednesday that the other media applications, including one from The Associated Press, would be reviewed.

The administration acted after influential conservatives, including Senate Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jesse Helms, said they would have no objection to the presence of U.S. news bureaus in Havana.

No U.S. news outlet has had a permanent bureau in Cuba since the AP was expelled from the island in 1969.

He said the administration believes reporting by U.S. news organizations "will keep international attention focused on the situation in Cuba and on the realities of economic and political conditions there."

porting an increased flow of accurate information to and from within Cuba itself."

"It also will bring greater public exposure to those who are advocating a democratic change in Cuba," he said.

A Cuban Foreign Ministry official in Havana, contacted by telephone, said that CNN was the only U.S. news organization authorized by the Cubans.

"We will continue analyzing the rest of the applications" and will make decisions "when the Cuban government considers it opportune," said the official.

Cuba approved CNN's application last August.

Several foreign news outlets, including British and French news agencies, have been allowed by the Cuban government to set up permanent bureaus.

But Cuba frequently has granted American reporters visas - usually lasting about a week - for travel to the Caribbean island.

Cuban officials have said that 90 percent of visa applications from American reporters have been approved over the years.

Besides CNN and the AP, U.S. government permission to open bureaus was extended to ABC, CBS, Univision, The Miami Herald, Dow Jones News Services, the Chicago Tribune, the Sun-Sentinel of Fort Lauderdale, Florida and the School for Advanced International Studies at Johns Hopkins University, which publishes a Cuba news letter.

CNN News Group President Tom Johnson said that he was pleased by the administration decision, and that the network's Havana bureau would open in March.

"Our year-round Havana bureau reporting will enable CNN viewers to be more informed about developments in Cuba," Johnson said. Veteran CNN Latin America correspondent Lucia Newman was named Havana bureau chief.

Louis D. Boccardi, AP president and chief executive officer, said: "We welcome the American action and continue, as we have been doing for several years, to press the Cubans for their approval."

CNN asked for U.S. permission to open a bureau in November, but the administration held back out of concern over a potential negative reaction from conservatives.

Last week, Helms said allowing CNN to open a bureau in Havana could hasten the demise of Fidel Castro's government. Earlier, the Cuban-American National Foundation, an anti-Castro group based in Miami, said it had no objections to a permanent CNN presence in Cuba.

As for the possibility of Cuban news outlets being permitted to operate in the United States, McCurry said that would be conditioned on a representative sampling of U.S. news organizations being allowed to operate freely in Cuba.

Castro said in October 1995 that Cuba had no interest in opening news bureaus in the United States because of the high cost of such operations.

Woman sues for defamation

KANSAS CITY, Missouri (AP)

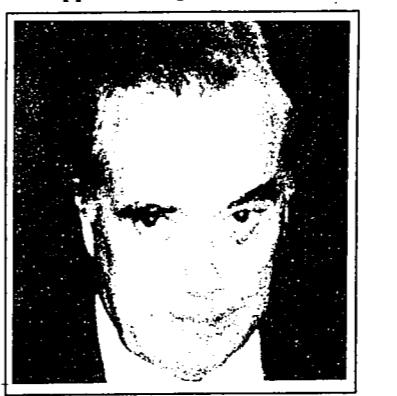
- A woman has filed a lawsuit claiming she was defamed by a radio talk show host's comment that she had an abortion after an affair with former presidential candidate Bob Dole in the early 1970s.

Phyllis Wells Smith of Overland Park, Kansas, sued Bonneville International Corp., owner of KMBZ radio. Her lawsuit alleges that in a Sept. 26 broadcast of the "Friendly Fire" talk show, host Steve Glorioso said Dole had an affair with a woman named Phyllis Wells in the early 1970s.

Dole lost to President Clinton in elections last November.

The lawsuit, filed Jan. 30 in Jackson County Circuit Court, said the remark came as Glorioso, a liberal commentator and publisher of a local alternative weekly, The New Times, was discussing Dole, the 1996 Republican presidential nominee and former Kansas senator.

The suit quoted him as saying,



Bob Dole

Over alleged abortion after 'affair' with Dole

She got pregnant ... Had an abortion."

A lawyer for Wells, James Frickleton, said Wednesday his client and Dole "did have a public relationship in the early 1970s when they were both single. So there's no secret about that. They dated several times and appeared at political rallies together."

The broadcast exposed Wells to "public contempt and ridicule."

Wells is seeking damages in excess of \$15,000, punitive damages, costs and expenses.

Frickleton said his client, now married to a businessman, did not

want to comment on the lawsuit.

Glorioso told a reporter Wednesday that he would not comment.

Calls to Ron Carter, general manager of Bonneville, were not answered Wednesday afternoon.

Dole's spokesman, Clarkson Hine, said the former senator had no comment.

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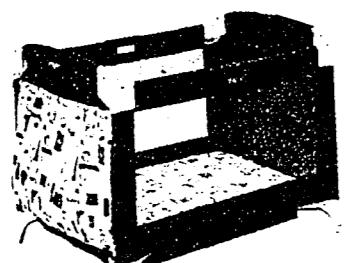
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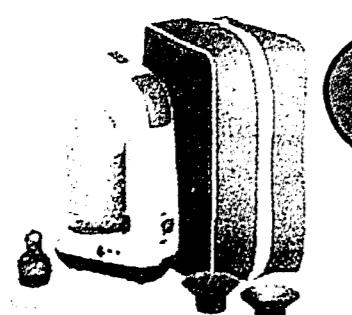
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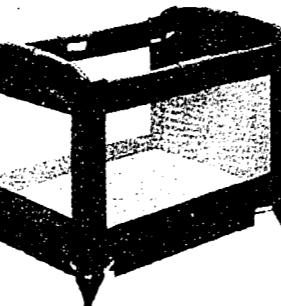
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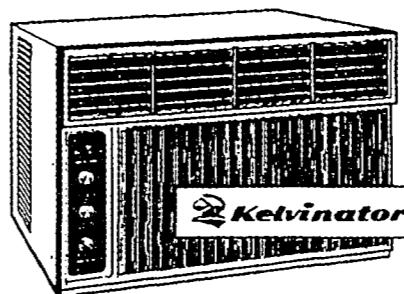
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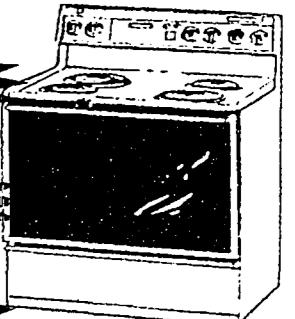
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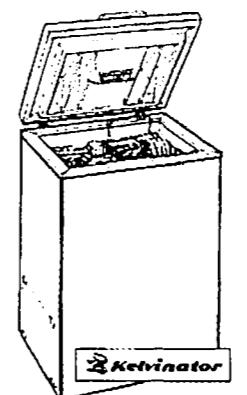
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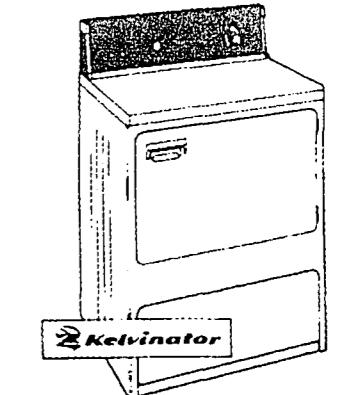
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Bucaram eyes return to power

By MONTE HAYES
QUITO, Ecuador (AP) - Ecuador's

deposed president says he will campaign at home and abroad to regain

office, asking leaders across Latin America to support him against what

he insists was a coup.

Abdala Bucaram said he would tour Argentina, Colombia, Peru and Haiti to gain backing for his cause, returning Feb. 26 to lead a demonstration in Ecuador.

Speaking in Panama, where he arrived the day before, Bucaram Wednesday called Ecuador's new interim president, Fabian Alarcon, "a traitor."

"I am going to travel through Latin America to ask that the constitution and democracy be defended," he said.

In Buenos Aires, President Carlos Menem said he had ordered the Argentine ambassador to Ecuador to boycott the inauguration of the interim president.

"As far as we are concerned ...

Bucaram continues to be the president," Menem said.

Congress removed Bucaram last week on grounds of "mental incapacity."

Foes of Bucaram - who called himself "El Loco" ("The Crazy One") - also accused him of permitting widespread government corruption, nepotism and embarrassing conduct that demeaned the presidential office.

Alarcon, a skilled negotiator, will need all his persuasive powers to keep down social unrest as he confronts the Andean country's economic problems.

Alarcon was the leader of Ecuador's Congress until he was elected interim president by his fellow lawmakers on Tuesday night, filling a power vacuum that had threatened Ecuador's stability.

Bucaram refused to step down, and for three days he, Vice President Rosalia Arteaga, and Alarcon all laid claim to the job. Alarcon is to govern until August 1998 and to call new elections within 12 months. He could run for election at that time.

But he faces some daunting problems in the meantime.

Ecuador has a 5 percent budget deficit, soaring inflation that could double to 50 percent by year's end, and public unrest over recent economic austerity measures that sent utility rates soaring 300 percent. Alarcon said he would revert to state-subsidized prices for gas, electricity and water.

Public displeasure with Bucaram's policies was so great that more than 2 million people participated in a nationwide 48-hour strike last week that paralyzed this country of 11 million people.

"We are all going to have to make sacrifices. The Ecuadorian people do not reject sacrifices. What they reject are arrogance, coarseness and imposition," Alarcon said in his inaugural address.

The 49-year-old Alarcon, a lawyer by training, is short and somber, and rarely smiles. But he handles himself well in news conferences and is a skilled public orator.

Evidence of Alarcon's negotiating skill is his rise to the Congressional presidency last year, even though his small centrist party holds only three of the legislature's 82 seats. It was the third time he held the post.

By DAVID BRISCOE
WASHINGTON (AP) - American aid to Haiti is increasing hunger, interfering with national food production and creating "an unsustainable dependence on U.S. food imports," according to a group supplying private aid to the country.

U.S. officials deny the conclusion, saying \$28 million in U.S. food assistance and other U.S. programs are helping to make more food available to Haitians at lower prices.

Releasing a report titled "Feeding Dependency, Starving Democracy: USAID Policies in Haiti," Wise said U.S. policies could once again lead

thousands of Haitian to abandon the land and flee the country. It said Haitian markets are being flooded with cheap foreign food, undercutting locally grown products.

"International aid should support, not undermine, Haiti's people, most of whom live in the countryside and depend on the land for survival," said Timothy Wise, Grassroots executive director.

"We strongly disagree," said Len Rogers, acting assistant administrator for humanitarian response in the Agency for International Development, or AID.

"Food aid programs have made

more food available in Haiti at a lower price than otherwise would be the case and, as a result, have led to significant improvements in food security."

Rogers said free-market economic policies promoted by the agency also are helping Haitians.

"The best way for Haiti to lift itself out of poverty is to produce from its comparative advantage and start to participate in broader economies that include the United States and the rest of the world," he said.

Report: US aid hurts Haiti

and democracy, says U.S. programs

are trying to shift Haiti's agrarian economy to one built upon export-based assembly work and agricultural exports.

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not undermine, Haiti's people, most of whom live in the countryside and depend on the land for survival," said Timothy Wise, Grassroots executive director.

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"Food aid programs have made

Warlord vows to free journalists in Tajikistan

By UMED BAKHANOV
DUSHANBE, Tajikistan (AP) - A rebel warlord promised Thursday to release four Russian journalists but said he wouldn't free his United Nations hostages until 40 of his guerrilla fighters are returned from Afghanistan.

stalemate, the warlord had threatened to start shooting hostages.

A hostage exchange that had been set for Wednesday was postponed for what officials called "technical reasons."

The Tajik government sent helicopters to Afghanistan to bring home about 40 followers of the guerrilla chieftain whose brother is holding the hostages. But the helicopters did not return the same day as planned.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the Tuesday blast in historic Harar, about 525 kilometers (325 miles) east of Addis Ababa, and the motive was unclear. Security has deteriorated in eastern Ethiopia over the past two years.

The government wants to exchange the rebels for the hostages held by Sadirov at his base in Kalainav, some 80 kilometers (50 miles) east of the capital Dushanbe.

spokesman at the British Embassy in Addis Ababa said Wednesday that three Britons were injured.

Ethiopian television said two other Britons - a woman and a man, a German man and a French woman also were wounded. Two Dutchmen who were in the hotel when the explosion occurred escaped injuries.

All the foreign nationals were flown to Addis Ababa on Tuesday, the broadcast said. An English woman was in an intensive care unit at a hospital in the capital. The region of the attack is in-

2 persons killed, 5 others hurt as grenade explodes in Ethiopia

habited by ethnic Somalis, some of whom sympathize with Al-Itihad Al-Islam, or Islamic Unity, which is fighting for unification of the region, known as Ogaden, with Somalia in an Islamic state.

Al-Itihad operates from Somalia, but occasionally makes forays inside Ogaden.

Three state-owned hotels, two in Addis Ababa and one in Diredawa, another eastern city about 500 kilometers (310 miles) from Addis Ababa, were attacked with grenades last year.

Al-Itihad claimed responsibility for those attacks.

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PACIFIC
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Thousands hit Belgrade streets

By JULIJANA MOJSILOVIC

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) - President Slobodan Milosevic has gone along with the installation of opposition candidates in town halls across Serbia, but that has failed to stem a wave of protests against his rule.

Thousands hit the streets again Wednesday to press for more change, part of a grass-roots revolt that has combined with international pressure to create the biggest challenge to Milosevic's decade in power.

More than 20,000 students staged a noisy march through Belgrade and unpaid teachers ringed the parliament building.

In the evening, opposition supporters walked to the banks of Danube to launch a red-painted boat, symbolizing the departure of Milosevic's former Communists, now called Socialists.

"We dumped communism into the Danube so that it can never return," opposition leader Zoran Djindjic told more than 5,000 people who watched the boat float and chanted "Go, Slobob, go."

The demonstrations went on despite the passage by Serbia's parliament Tuesday of a law that finally conceded local election victories won by the opposition in the capital and 13

other major cities last November.

In an interview with state-run Belgrade radio, Serbian parliament speaker Dragan Tomic said the opposition protests were "horrible." Calling the peaceful actions "tyranny of a special kind," he said they were a "threat to citizens who don't think like them."

Tomic said that the authorities were not obliged to give in, but "Milosevic thought, and we all agreed, that the importance of our relations with the international community exceeds the importance of local elections."

Serbia's economy is in dire straits and Milosevic is desperate for foreign investments.

Pensioners haven't been paid since December, and salaries for many others are behind.

The three-party opposition alliance Zajedno, or Together, say their demands have outgrown the original one for the recognition of their victories.

"Expect protests to continue in all of Serbia until bigger changes than the return of stolen votes happen," said Djindjic, who should become mayor of Belgrade next week. "Serbia will not calm down until the government is changed."

Conference works toward setting ban on land mines

By SUSAN LADIKO

VIENNA, Austria (AP) - Attempting to put a worldwide ban on land mines on a fast track, representatives from more than 100 countries gathered Wednesday to discuss a treaty they hope to negotiate by year's end.

Representatives of 50 of those nations had agreed to work toward the ban at an October meeting in Ottawa, Canada, but Russia and China have flatly rejected the total ban envisioned by organizers of the negotiations.

While the United States agreed to the concept at the Ottawa conference, it later said it would instead work toward a ban through separate negotiations within the U.N.-affiliated Conference on Disarmament.

Some U.S. and European diplomats believe a step-by-step approach by the Conference on Disarmament would be more likely to win the backing of Russia and China.

But supporters of the Ottawa initiative say the Conference on Disarmament would take too long, perhaps several years.

"We cannot afford to lose time, because time means human lives," Thomas Hajnoczi, head of the department for disarmament in Austria's Ministry for Foreign Affairs, said Tuesday at a news conference.

An estimated 110 million anti-personnel mines are buried in 64 countries. Each year, about 25,000 people are killed or maimed by mines, and many of the victims are civilians.

Jill Sinclair, director of disarmament in Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs, said, "this is a humanitarian issue. Let's not try to treat it like a traditional

arms control issue."

Conference organizers say it would be difficult to get some of the major nations to sign onto a ban by December, but that they are not discouraged.

"You don't need the entire world community to establish a new norm," said Bob Lawson, a land mine expert with the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs.

The three-day conference here will focus on a proposal drafted by the Austrian Foreign Ministry to ban anti-personnel mines. It is seen as the starting point in efforts to have an agreement ready for signing by December.

The treaty would likely include a total ban on the production, use, stockpiling and export of anti-personnel mines, and establish steps to ensure that governments comply, Hajnoczi said.

Sinclair said she believed about 50 countries now are ready to sign such a treaty.

Stephen Goose, director of the arms control project of Human Rights Watch in Washington, D.C., said countries such as Russia, Cuba and China "are openly hostile to negotiating a ban."

Others, such as the United States, France and Britain, "have paid lip service to the notion of a ban on land mines, but have taken no serious steps," Goose said.

Working through the Conference on Disarmament, as the United States has proposed, has limitations because only 61 countries are members. Lawson said land mines are rife in Cambodia, Afghanistan, Angola and Mozambique, but that those countries aren't part of the Conference on Disarmament.

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NATO tries to calm tense town

By AIDA CERKEZ

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) - NATO soldiers are on patrol in and around the divided city of Mostar, dismantling illegal checkpoints and seizing weapons in an effort to block a new outbreak of Croat-Muslim violence.

Meeting late into the night in the Bosnian capital Sarajevo, international mediators and senior Bosnian Croat and Muslim leaders agreed that international bodies would be given more powers to control Mostar and punish those responsible when Croats opened fire on Muslims Monday, killing one and wounding about 20.

The measures were the most direct ever adopted to try to control Mostar, the city most battered in Bosnia's 3 1/2 year war, and its most bitterly divided.

The action reflected what was at stake: the success or failure of the Dayton peace accord.

If Muslims and Croats cannot co-exist in Mostar, their federation, which controls 51 percent of Bosnia, is doomed, and the joint Bosnia-wide institutions they are supposed to build with their common former foes, the Serbs, are unlikely to succeed.

"If it continues as in the past in Mostar, there will be no winners," said Michael Steiner, the senior foreign mediator who agreed on the new measures with Bosnian President Alija Izetbegovic; the senior Croat in Bosnia, Kresimir Zubak; the prime minister of the Muslim-Croat federation, Haris Silajdzic; and U.N. police.

Bosnian leaders and many international officials accuse Croat warlords in Mostar of trying to keep the city divided in order to hold on to power.

Monday's violence triggered a new wave of expulsions of some 100 Muslims from the western, Croat-controlled half of Mostar.

On Wednesday, a handful of Mus-

lims were escorted back by U.N. police. International officials agreed that all would return within a week.

A nightly curfew and the tougher NATO and U.N. police patrols will remain in place until the city is deemed calm to do without them, Steiner indicated.

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Bosnian leaders and many international officials accuse Croat warlords in Mostar of trying to keep the city divided in order to hold on to power.

Participants at Wednesday's closed-door meeting, speaking on condition of anonymity, said two Democratic Party legislators demanded the resignation of Premier Aleksander Meksi. But Deputy Prime Minister Tritan Shehu said the proposal was withdrawn while

of eastern Mostar, who was among those hurt in Monday's shooting.

"We must not allow emotions to overwhelm us, reason should rule," Tinjak said.

Police block officials in offices to prevent rally

By MERITA DHIMGJOKA

TIRANA, Albania (AP) - The governing Democratic Party heard demands for a change in leadership in hopes of appealing a populace angered by the loss of personal savings in pyramid schemes, but a raucous session yielded no results.

Participants at Wednesday's closed-door meeting, speaking on condition of anonymity, said two Democratic Party legislators demanded the resignation of Premier Aleksander Meksi. But Deputy Prime Minister Tritan Shehu said the proposal was withdrawn while

the rank-and-file are consulted for their ideas.

Shehu said the party leadership would meet again within a few days to review the proposals.

One of the legislators who demanded Meksi's resignation, Dashamir Shehi, left angrily at the end of the eight-hour meeting, and refused to comment on the outcome. The other left while the meeting was still under way.

Authorities meanwhile decided against imposing a partial state of emergency in the southern city of Vlora, where two people were killed Monday, apparently fearing it would cause more violence.

But popular, widespread anger at the loss of family savings to the pyramid schemes remained close to the surface. About 2,000 people gathered in Vlora on Wednesday, but they were not confronted by police, and the protests didn't escalate into violence.

In a concession, the government replaced the unpopular police chief in Vlora, a native of northern Albania like President Sali Berisha, and appointed a respected Vlora native, Ethem Kurti in his place.

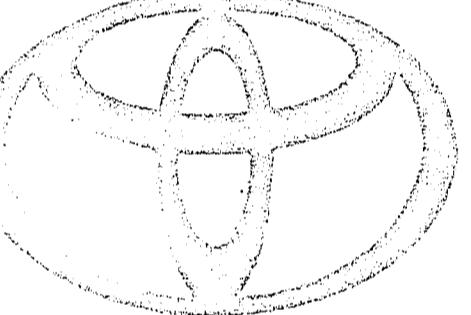
The violence has intensified international pressure on the government to establish talks with the opposition. The Democrats also have been critical of Meksi's handling of the pyramid schemes, which ballooned during his first term.

International monetary officials said that Albanians invested about drs 1 billion in the funds, many of which paid high returns to early investors from deposits of those who got in later. They collapsed when no new depositors could be found - and in Albania nearly every family lost some money.

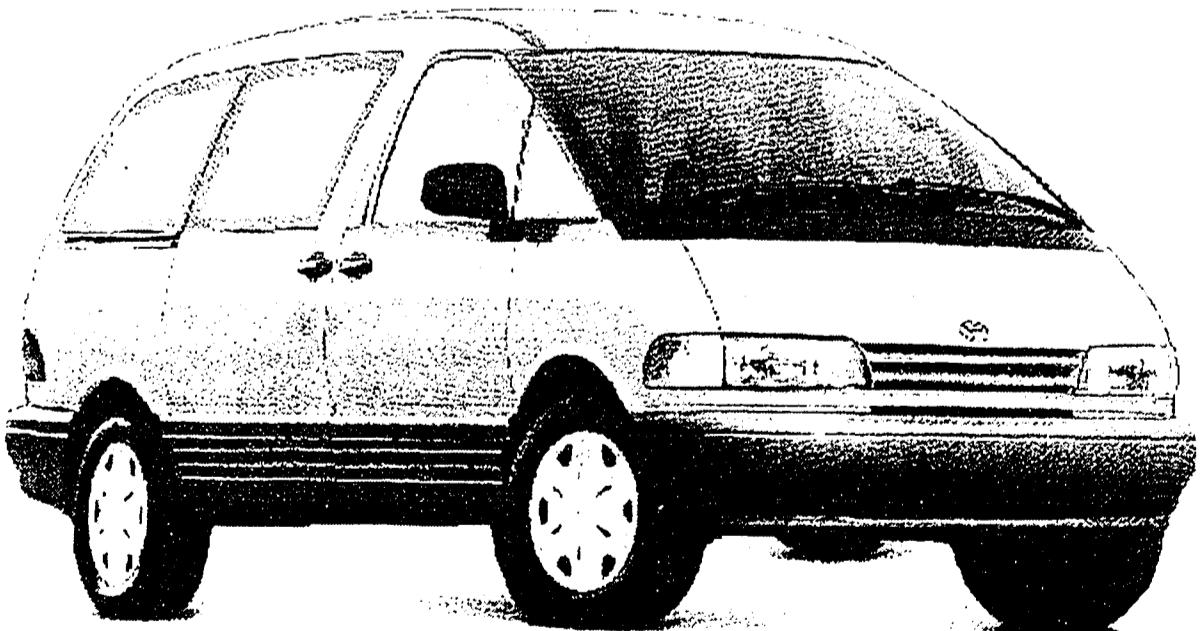
Angered investors have been protesting for over a month, many alleging that the Democratic Party directly benefited from the funds, or at least were negligent by not warning them about it.

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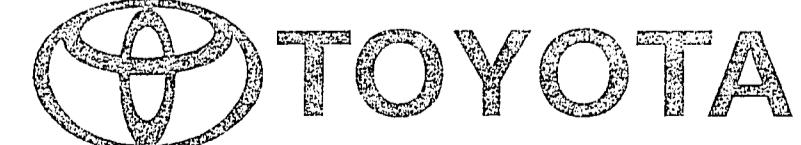
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New Chechen president sworn in

By ANATOLY MALTSEV

GROZNY, Russia (AP) - Chechnya's new president Aslan Maskhadov took the oath of office amid heavy security Wednesday, pledging to strengthen the self-proclaimed independence of his breakaway Muslim republic.

Russian officials hope the pragmatic Maskhadov, who has refrained from making inflammatory statements since his election, will maintain a dialogue with Moscow.

Russia has said it will send financial assistance and has suggested that Chechnya will have extensive autonomy - as long as it formally remains part of Russia.

"There are no insurmountable obstacles hampering the implementation of the idea of Chechnya's independence, on which its leaders insist," Russian Justice Minister Valentin Kovalyov said Tuesday.

But his definition of independence differs from the Chechen one.

He appeared to be suggesting

that the republic could emulate the Russian region of Tatarstan, which has a constitution saying it is a republic is "a sovereign state within Russia."

"Chechnya has become politi-

cally independent," Kovalyov said in remarks carried by the ITAR-Tass news agency.

However, Maskhadov has made clear that he favors full independence for the southern republic,

as do all leading Chechen political and military figures.

The peace agreement negotiated in August postponed any decision on the political status of Chechnya for five years.

France bans genetic corn cultivation

PARIS (AP) - France on Wednesday banned the cultivation of genetically modified corn despite European Union approval of its sale, saying its long-term effects hadn't been determined yet.

Prime Minister Alain Juppe announced the ban during a weekly Cabinet meeting, saying research on the U.S.-grown corn was continuing "in a confined situation" so there is no risk to the environment.

Agriculture Minister Philippe Vasseur welcomed the decision, which it called "a great victory for all corn producers but also for fowl and pork producers."

"A crisis on the level of the mad cow was to be feared," the organization said in a statement, referring to the disease that has shaken the beef industry.

The group called on the government "to go further, banning the importation of American corn

and corn gluten feed that are polluted by genetic grain."

France is permitting the imports but is requiring special labeling to inform consumers about the corn, developed by the Swiss group Ciba-Geigy, now part of the Swiss company Novartis, and grown in the United States.

French farmers, environmentalists and consumer groups have protested the imports, contending the corn hasn't been adequately tested for safety.

Austria has decided to ban genetic corn imports, saying the antibiotic-resistant ampicillin, used in production of the corn, has not been sufficiently tested.



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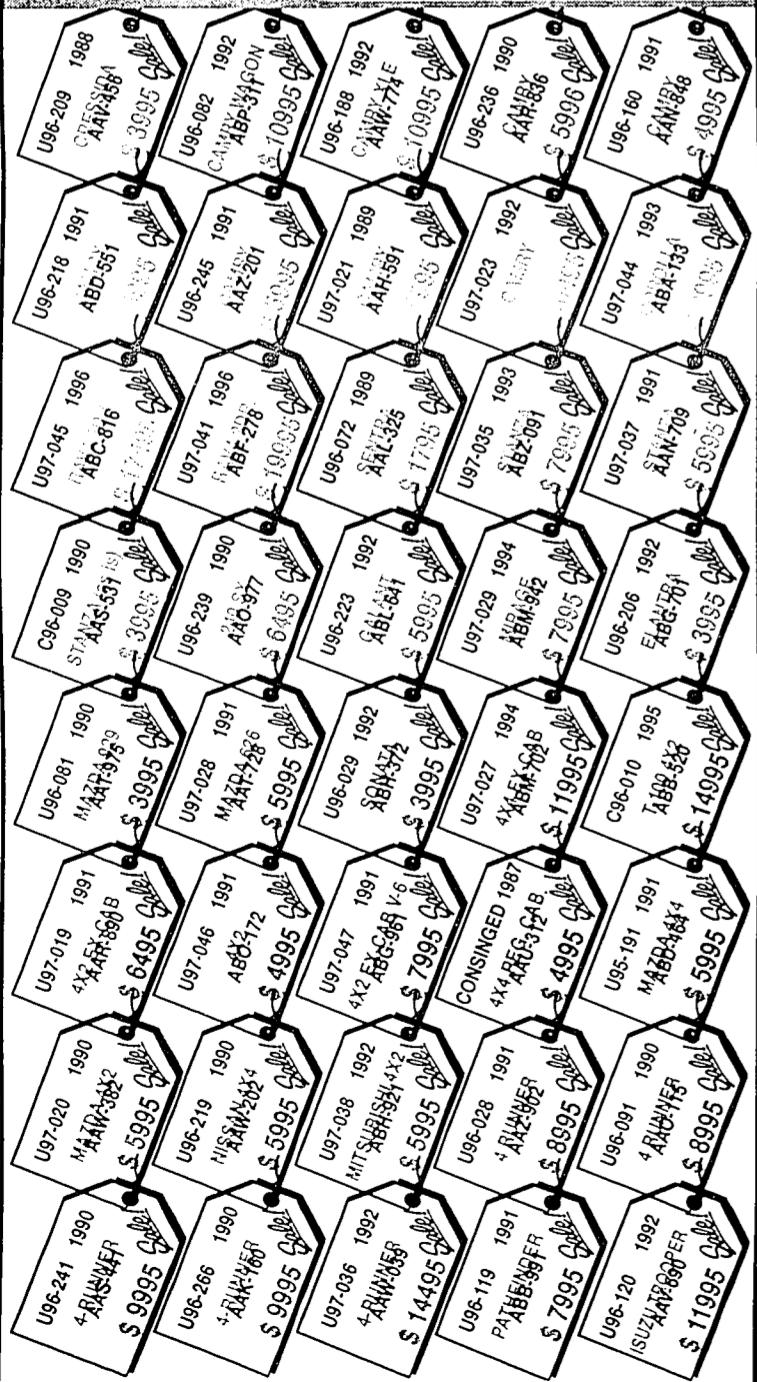
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Russians given 2 weeks to provide space funds

By PAUL RECER

WASHINGTON (AP)-Russia, eight months behind schedule in building a key element of the International Space Station, has until Feb. 28 to provide money for the project or the United States will make other plans, space agency officials said Wednesday.

NASA administrator Daniel S. Goldin told a congressional committee that Russia has repeatedly failed to keep its promises of financing and building a space station service module and that the U.S. agency now is making tentative plans to use surplus U.S. military hardware instead.

Goldin, testifying at a House Science Committee hearing, said Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin promised in a meeting with Vice President Al Gore that the Russian government by the end of February would provide money needed to complete the service module.

Now, he said, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration "will take action based only on observed performance, not mere statements of intent. It is the only prudent course."

Under the International Space Station agreement, Russia was to build and finance a module that would provide guidance, navigation, crew quarters and orbital control for the station. The ser-

vices module is the third element of the station and is to be launched in April 1998.

Rockets on the service module will boost the station into a higher orbit. Without the module, the station would fall to Earth in about a year.

Work on the service module has stopped because the Russian government has failed to pay contractors who are building the hardware instead.

The funds were approved by the Russian legislature, but have not been released by the finance ministry.

Goldin, testifying at a House Science Committee hearing, said Russian Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin promised in a meeting with Vice President Al Gore that the Russian government by the end of February would provide money needed to complete the service module.

Rep. James Sensenbrenner Jr., chairman of the committee, said the Russian government has twice broken promises to allocate money for the service module and that he and others on the committee have run out of patience.

If the Russians fail to fund the service module, NASA will

choose one of two options, Goldin said:

- Send to the station a refurbished rocket module to launch secret payloads.

The rockets would be used to keep the assembled elements of the space station in orbit until the service module is available.

- Contract directly with the Khrunichev Design Bureau in Russia to build a control module using equipment already in development by the Russians. This would bypass the Russian government and deal directly with Khrunichev.

Both options have drawbacks, said Goldin. Neither, for instance, would have the crew compartment that is part of the service module.

The space station is a joint project of the United States, Japan, Russia and the 10 countries in the European Space Agency. The first element is to be launched next November and orbital assembly is to be completed in June 2002.

The United States has already spent about \$18 billion on the space station and it is expected to cost another \$10 billion by its completion.

'Surrender mob,' riot victim's kin demands

NEW YORK (AP) - The family of a Jewish scholar from Australia slain during 1991 riots Wednesday challenged the black community to hand over the rest of "the mob" that attacked him.

"We are pleased and gratified that a multi-racial jury has seen fit to accept the overwhelming evidence against Lemrick Nelson Jr. and Charles Price," said a statement from Isaac Abraham, a spokesman for the slain scholar's family.

However, Abraham said, the family "will continue to pursue investigations leading to the apprehension of the other members of the mob."

But after Monday's verdict, U.S. Attorney Zachary Carter made it clear the case was closed.

"This is it. Period. End," he said. "We believe that all those who can be brought to justice have been brought to justice."

In addition, Carter said, the statute of limitations in Rosenbaum's killing had expired and "there are no more prosecutable cases."

Both Price and Nelson face prison terms of up to life, but under federal sentencing guidelines are likely to draw lesser penalties.

In 1992, Nelson was acquitted in the case by a mostly black New York state jury.

ing" to follow the example of the 1987 Howard Beach case.

In that Queens community, three white men were convicted of beating one black man and chasing a second onto a highway where he was struck by a car and killed. A key witness in the case was a friend of the three youths, a man who supplied the bat used in the beating.

"We challenge the African-American community of Crown Heights to do the same," Abraham said, naming the neighborhood where the rioting took place.

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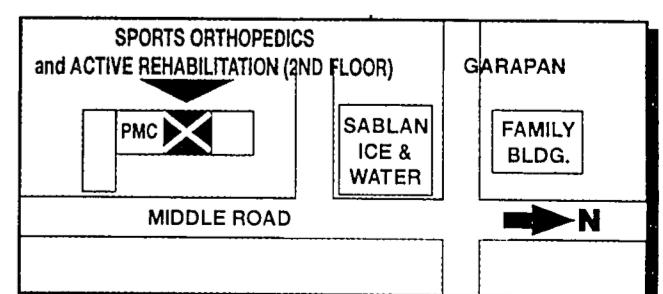
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Sgt. Danyell Elaine Wilson stands guard at the Tomb of the Unknowns at Arlington National Cemetery in Arlington, Va. Wednesday. Wilson, 21, of Montgomery, Ala., became the first African American woman in history to earn the prestigious job of guarding the tomb.

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Spy defends 'betrayal' of US

WASHINGTON (AP) - Aldrich Ames contended that he caused "no significant damage" to the national security of the United States when he revealed to the Soviet Union the identities of dozens of Soviets spying for America.

Nonetheless, the one-time CIA counterintelligence officer said in an interview on ABC-TV's

"Nightline" news program, he will always feel a personal remorse about betraying his country.

"I do maintain that ... no significant damage to our national security interest occurred," he said in the televised interview from the U.S.

Penitentiary at Allenwood, Pennsylvania.

But he acknowledged that "tremendous damage was done to the agency's institutional framework, the institution's operations and most importantly to a lot of people."

The FBI arrested Ames in 1994 for feeding the Soviets dozens of names of Soviets spying for the United States, ten of whom were later executed, in exchange for more than \$1 million in cash.

Ames eventually pleaded guilty and is now serving a life sentence without the chance for parole.

The Ames interview coin-

cides with the limited release Tuesday of "Confessions of a Spy," a book former Washington Post writer Pete Earley wrote after 17 private interviews with Ames in an Alexandria, Virginia, jail before he was sent to Allenwood.

Ames defended double-crossing a Soviet agent he had befriended, saying he "believed at the time I gave him up...that there was no serious risk to him." The spy managed to elude execution.

Equally defiant Tuesday night was Ames' wife, Rosario, also interviewed during the show from the prison where she is serving a five-year sentence for conspiracy.

Rosario Ames said she feels "shock and outrage" that her husband "betrayed his country."

"You don't betray your mother, you don't betray your country, you don't betray your wife, you don't betray people," Rosario Ames said.

But she said she is indignant that the FBI bugged her family's home and car in its 18 months of investigation.

"To know that your privacy, your most intimate life has been, you know, like, spied upon so long. That's the thing I haven't gotten over yet," she said.

The one show of emotion came when Ames was asked

how he will explain everything to his 8-year-old son, Paul, now living with his mother's family.

"That kind of explanation, that kind of understanding, that kind of communication is going to have to wait for a while ... until Rosario gets home," said a moist-eyed Ames. "And it's at that point that she and Paul move on with life."

Panel recommends passenger profiling to prevent terrorism

By SONYA ROSS

WASHINGTON (AP) - Despite complaints from civil libertarians, a White House commission is recommending that automated passenger profiles be used to help keep would-be terrorists off commercial airliners.

The idea is among 53 measures offered to President Clinton Wednesday by the White House Commission on Aviation Safety and Security. Many of the proposals already are being implemented by U.S. airlines and airports.

A draft obtained Tuesday by The Associated Press concludes that modernization of air traffic control systems should be sped up, with the goal of completing it by 2005. It also calls for reducing the rate of airplane accidents by "a factor of five" in the next 10 years, through a major upgrade of Federal Aviation Administration safety and security measures.

Commissioners noted, for example, that because Customs officials use automated profiling, "many legitimate travelers never see a Customs agent anymore...and drug busts are way up."

But the proposal drew a chorus of objections. In a letter to Gore, a coalition of 17 groups, including the American Civil Liberties Union and the American-Arab

Anti-Discrimination Committee, urged the panel to drop automatic profiling altogether.

They said profiling would lead to discrimination against certain sets of travelers, mainly those of Middle Eastern

origin. Also, they said, it creates an opportunity for federal officials to warehouse information that, if proven erroneous, would be difficult for an innocent person to erase.

"The risks to privacy are enormous," the coalition wrote. "This proposal is a quick fix that won't fix anything."

The commission worked Tuesday to allay those concerns, incorporating provisions that passenger profiles be random and not unduly based on race, ethnicity or gender.

Automated profiling involves using computers to, among other things, scan the travel history and possible criminal pasts of passengers to identify potential terrorists.

An official close to the commission said Tuesday that the panel would do all it could to ensure that profiling does not infringe on anyone's civil rights, saying aviation officials were not interested in creating "some huge database of suspect characters that is kept for years and years and then can have a life of its own."

The commissioners also suggested that a federal task force develop a plan for protecting civilian flights from surface-to-air missile attacks and finding ways to keep missiles out of the hands of terrorists.

The commission, chaired by Vice

President Al Gore, was appointed by Clinton after TWA Flight 800 crashed off New York's Long Island last July, killing all 230 people aboard. Investigators have not yet determined what caused the Paris-bound Boeing 747 to explode shortly after takeoff.

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China made the proposals in meetings with a U.S. negotiating team led by Assistant U.S. Trade Representative Lee Sands, who was in Beijing last week to discuss China's bid to join the World Trade Organization.

The United States has been blocking China's entry into the WTO, insisting the country had to go much further to open a huge economy to foreign companies as a way of dealing with a growing U.S.-China trade imbalance.

China indicated in last week's sessions and in separate meetings with Japanese and European trade officials that it was prepared to change certain laws that foreign businesses have long complained severely restrict their ability to operate in China.

The Chinese gave assurances they wanted to eliminate requirements that limit U.S. and other foreign companies to trading with certain licensed Chinese corporations and that require foreign manufacturing companies to export the bulk of what they manufacture in China.

The administration has singled out these barriers as a primary reason America's trade deficit with China jumped 16 percent last year to an annual rate of \$42 billion, second only to the trade gap with Japan.

The administration wants to add Chile next and create a hemispheric-wide free trade zone by 2005. However, Republicans have refused to agree to an administration demand that the negotiating authority cover labor and environmental issues as well as traditional trade barriers.

On another matter, Daley told reporters that extensive consultations were underway with Congress to try to overcome objections to legislation that would let the administration expand the North American Free Trade Agreement to beyond Canada and Mexico.

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U.S. Commerce Secretary William Daley told reporters Wednesday that the new Chinese negotiating position was an encouraging sign. But he stressed that American negotiators will wait to see the specific details of the Chinese offer in a written pro-

posal to be presented when negotiators meet again on the issue next month in Geneva.

"What is written is more important than what is said, so we will wait to see the written words. But I don't think there is any question that it is extremely encouraging," Daley said.

Sen. John McCain, chairman of the Senate Commerce Committee, said the latest Chinese offer should be viewed as a good sign, but that "we ought to examine exactly what they are willing to do."

McCain said his committee would also be watching carefully how China handles the transition of Hong Kong from British to Chinese rule later this year.

Greg Mastel, a trade expert at the Economic Strategy Institute in Washington, said U.S. officials were right to be cautious about China's new trade offers.

"These efforts would be major steps in the right direction but until these offers get written down and we can examine them in detail, I wouldn't put too much stock in them," he said.

Talks between China and the United States over China's WTO membership application have been underway for more than a year. In November 1995, then-Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky presented the Chinese with a detailed road map of the barriers it would have to ease to satisfy the U.S. side.

Both countries have expressed an eagerness to make progress on the issue given a series of high-level visits scheduled to occur in coming months. Secretary of State Madeline Albright will visit China later this month and President Clinton and Chinese President Jiang Zemin have agreed to exchange presidential visits in the next two years.

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Canon nixes 1st woman priest

LONDON (AP) - A senior clergyman at St. Paul's Cathedral said Wednesday he would not accept the priesthood of the first woman appointed to the cathedral staff.

A majority of the cathedral chapter on Tuesday approved the selection of the Rev. Lucy Winkett, 28, as one of three minor canons, effective in September.

Dr. John Moses, dean of the famous cathedral, said she was the best candidate for the job. It involves much organization of daily worship and responsibility for the choirs.

"We are not in the business of gender politics at St. Paul's," he said. "We will always seek the best candidate for any position."

But Canon John Halliburton, cathedral chancellor, opposes ordination of women and says he will not attend Communion when Rev. Winkett celebrates it.

"I don't believe her to be a priest," he said.

He stressed it was not a personal vendetta and he would not leave either the cathedral or the church.

"This issue does divide the church at the very center but I shall try to cooperate as well as my beliefs allow me to," he said.

"This is not a major row," Dean Moses said. "It is a difference of opinion that we will live with, just as the Church of England is living with it."

The Church of England is committed to two integrities - those who believe in the ordination of women and those who don't," he said. "John Halliburton is a senior and greatly respected member of chapter in whom I have complete confidence."

Despite opposition from traditionalist sectors of the Anglican clergy, the Church of England approved ordination of women in 1992 and made clear it accepted the legitimacy of the differing views.

Winkett, who has been ordained a priest for six months, is curate in the poor east London borough of Little Ilford.

"We are very sad to lose her but our loss is St. Paul's Cathedral's gain," said Canon John Whitwell, rector of St. Michael's and St. Mary's Church there.

DRAFT NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Announcement of Public Hearing and Notice of Availability of the Draft Environmental Impact Statement (DEIS) for Military Training in the Marianas, Territory of Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

SUMMARY: The U.S. Pacific Command (USCINCPAC) is announcing the public hearing and availability of the above-referenced DEIS.

The DEIS has been distributed to various federal, territorial, and commonwealth agencies, elected officials, individuals and organizations in the community, public libraries, and the media. A limited number of single copies is available at the address listed at the end of this notice.

The DEIS evaluates alternatives for training by Navy, Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, National Guard, and Army Reserve forces on Guam, Rota, Tinian, and Farallon de Medinilla (FDM). The DEIS describes a large number of training activities already occurring on these islands and a small number of newly proposed activities or newly proposed locations for training. The three alternatives are: (1) No Action, consisting of all ongoing training activities and all locations in which such training has occurred; (2) Augmented Set of Training Activities, consisting of all requested new training activities and locations, in addition to ongoing activities; and (3) Mitigated Set of Training Activities (the preferred alternative), which consists of ongoing and new training activities modified to avoid significant impacts on the environment. Therefore, no significant impacts are expected to result from the preferred alternative.

Introduction of forces existing and proposed training include: aircraft landing at airfields, paratroops of personnel and cargo, helicopter insertion/extraction, and amphibious assaults. Combat training includes: field maneuvers (tactical operations), command post exercises, road and cross-country movement, seizing an airfield, military working dogs, aviation support to ground troops (close air support, field carrier landing practice, confined area landings, cargo delivery, heliborne water buckets for fire-fighting, medical evacuations, search and rescue, night vision goggle training, and various types of parachute operation), and ordnance training at specific locations (air-to-surface gunnery, naval gunnery, live fire at firing ranges and shooting houses, demolition training at established demolition pits and underwater, and pyrotechnics used during field maneuvers). Combat service support training includes: bivouacs and associated support functions, construction battalion exercises, and logistics support (forward area refueling and shipping, staging, inspecting, and maintaining equipment and cargo). The proposed action includes: construction of several facilities (a sniper range and breaching house in the NAVACTS ordnance Annex; extension of an existing firing range at NAVACTS Waterfront annex; a small base support camp, firing range, mortar range, and breaching house on Tinian; and installation of various targets on FDM).

The training areas on Guam are military sites (Andersen Air Force Base, NAVACTS Guam Waterfront Annex and Ordnance Annex, Naval Computer and Telecommunications Area Master Station Finegayan and Barrigada), the Yigo and Talofou Rivers, and a non-military paratropo zone in Dandan. Training areas on Rota consist of the airport, a small area within West Harbor, and a land area at the high school. Training on Tinian occurs within the Military lease Area, with limited activities in San Jose Harbor. The entire island of FDM is used as a live fire range.

The public hearings will be conducted by the Navy on behalf of the USCINCPAC. Government agencies and interested parties are invited and urged to be present or represented at the hearings. Oral statements will be heard and transcribed by a stenographer. To assure accuracy of the record, statements may also be submitted in writing. Both oral and written statements will become part of the public record on this study, with equal weight given to each.

In the interest of available time, speakers will be asked to limit their comments to five minutes. If longer statements are to be presented, they should be summarized at the public hearing and submitted in writing either at the hearing or mailed to the address listed at the end of this announcement. All written statements must be postmarked by April 1, 1997 to be incorporated in the official record.

DATES: Public hearings to inform the public of the DEIS findings and to solicit comments will be held at the following times and locations in the CNMI and on Guam:

- Monday, March 3, 1997, 2:00 P.M. at Community Roundhouse, Rota
- Tuesday, March 4, 1997, 2:00 P.M. at KBC Building, 2nd Floor, Conference Room, Tinian
- Wednesday, March 5, 1997, 2:00 P.M. & 7:00 P.M. at Garapan Central Park Roundhouse, Saipan
- Thursday, March 6, 1997 3:00 & 7:00 P.M. at 155 Hesler Street, Public Hearing Room, Agana, Guam

ADDRESSES: Requests for single copies of the DEIS and submittal of written comments for inclusion into the official record should be forwarded to Mr. Fred Minato (Code 231FM), Pacific Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 96860-7300.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT: Mr. Fred Minato (code 231FM), by voice telephone (808) 471-9338 or facsimile transmission (808) 474-5909.

SUPPLEMENTARY INFORMATION: Pursuant to Section 102(2)(c) of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969, as implemented by the Council on Environmental Quality regulations (40 CFR Parts 1500-1508), the USCINCPAC has prepared and filed with the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency the above-referenced DEIS.

\$1.7-B for New Zealand quake fund 'not enough'

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) - The US \$ 1.72 billion (2.54 billion NZ dollar) in the earthquake fund would cover only a fraction of the damages if a big quake hit a city, the Earthquake Commission's annual report says.

Commission chairman Bruce Christmas said that even with the reinsurance that had been arranged with overseas insurers, a big earthquake would require the government to honor its pledge to help pay for damage to private homes.

Christmas says a government decision to review the commission's investment strategies was timely. He suggests premium income be set aside in a dedicated natural disaster fund.

The study said 150,000 homes would be affected by such a quake, which has an 8 percent to 11 percent chance of occurring within the next 50 years.

Experts: Salvi lacked psychiatric attention

By GLEN JOHNSON

BOSTON (AP) - John C. Salvi III, the abortion clinic gunman who committed suicide in prison, suffered a psychotic disorder and was seen by a psychiatrist only once while behind bars, experts said in a report.

Salvi also spoke several times about committing suicide, but state prison officials were never told, the report said Wednesday.

"There were a few times when he appeared to accept the opportunity to interact with mental health professionals," the report said. "Had such an interaction been provided to a greater extent, this could have affected his mental status in a positive way."

However, the report by two psychiatrists and two psychologists from the University of Massachusetts pointed out that Salvi elaborately planned his suicide and may not have been talked out of it even with appropriate care.

Salvi was convicted of killing two receptionists and wounding several others at two women's health clinics on Dec. 30, 1994 in neighboring Brookline.

Last month, a judge expunged the two murder convictions from his record because his appeal had not been completed when he died.

The study focused on the cost of damage to houses, and its estimate did not include damage to roads, bridges and services or costs arising from lost business profits, economic damage or welfare support.

Commission general manager David Middleton says in the report that the commission would receive US \$ 1 billion (1.52 billion NZ) from reinsurance policies. But that extra money was unlikely to be enough for the government to avoid having to top up payments.

Christmas says a government decision to review the commission's investment strategies was timely. He suggests premium income be set aside in a dedicated natural disaster fund.

"On the balance of probabilities the New Zealand economy will be affected by a major disaster - it makes sense to save now to meet the costs of disaster rather than to borrow after the event."

viction, were not told, the report said.

In prison, he was seen by a psychiatrist only once, and that was primarily because the psychiatrist "was curious" about this famous new inmate," the report said.

The panel recommended hiring more psychiatrists and providing better mental care to inmates.

Public Safety Secretary Kathleen O'Toole, who accepted the recommendations, commissioned the report after Salvi's death in November.

Salvi asphyxiated himself by placing a bag over his head and a gag in his mouth as his hands were constricted by shoelaces.

Papers diagramming his suicide were found in his cell, the panel said.

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N. Korean official says he is fed up with dictatorship

By PAUL SHIN

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) -

The highest ranking official ever to defect from North Korea is seeking asylum in Seoul because he's fed up with his country's leadership, a newspaper reported Thursday.

Hwang Jang Yop, 72, a member of the Central Committee of North Korea's ruling Workers' Party, and an aide fled to the South Korean Embassy in Beijing on Wednesday.

North Korea dismissed the Seoul government's account of Hwang's defection as a fabrication and said that if he was indeed in South Korean hands he must have been kidnapped.

Pyongyang promised unspecified retaliation if that proves to be the case, prompting South Korea to put its entire 650,000-member military on higher alert. The 37,000-strong American force in South Korea was not affected.

The Chosun Ilbo, a major national daily, said it received a handwritten statement from Hwang in which he complained about a growing dictatorship in North Korea under de facto leader Kim Jong Il.

"Today's North Korea has nothing to do with socialism," the newspaper quoted Hwang as saying. "How can a society in which people, workers, farmers and intellectuals are starving to death be a socialist society?"

The paper said it obtained the statement in January from a South Korean businessman in Beijing. The businessman had been in secret contact for months with Hwang's aide, who also was based in Beijing as a trader, it said.

South Korea was sending a high-level government delegation to Beijing Thursday to discuss Hwang's asylum plea with the Chinese government.

Because of its once strong ties to North Korea, China may be reluctant to allow Hwang to leave. South Korean officials have acknowledged that the matter is extremely sensitive.

China is one of North Korea's few remaining allies but it has developed strong economic ties with South Korea since the two established formal diplomatic relations in 1992.

The defection by Hwang came as North Korea was preparing to celebrate its biggest holiday, the 55th birthday Kim Jong Il, who rose to power upon the death of his father almost three years ago.

In the statement published by Chosun Ilbo, Hwang accused the younger Kim of arrogance and said he had turned

North Korea into a feudal society.

"After being engrossed in extolling himself as great and a genius, the great leader has come to believe that he is really great and a genius," Hwang's statement said.

He said that political suppression is so severe in North Korea that a popular uprising against Kim Jong Il is impossible.

"Even in a feudal society, farmers could rise up in such a situation but it is almost impossible to expect the people to get out of the misery, because suppression is so severe and ruthless," he said.

Hwang also said that North Korea has a food shortage this year of about 2 million metric tons of grain, a problem previously acknowledged by the regime in Pyongyang.

North Korea's chronic food shortage was worsened by devastating floods the past two years. U.N. officials warn that the country could face famine this spring unless it gets massive outside aid.

With the collapse of the Soviet Union and the emergence of capitalism in China and Eastern Europe, North Korea has been left with few ideological allies to turn to for aid, trade or diplomatic support.

Hwang stopped in Beijing en route home after attending a North

Korean-sponsored international seminar in Japan. He defected with Kim Duk Hong, 59, identified by the Seoul government as the president of a North Korean trading firm in Beijing.

South Korean officials expect to obtain valuable information from Hwang about the inner workings of North Korea's secretive government, which rules one of the world's most closed societies.

Hwang graduated from North Korea's elite Kim Il Sung University and Moscow University in the 1950s.

According to South Korean officials, he is ranked 24th in the North's power hierarchy.

He served as chairman of the Foreign Relations Committee of the North's parliament, the Supreme People's Assembly. He had headed the Assembly for 10 years in the late 1970s and most of the 1980s.

Hwang is known to be a key theoretician behind juche, the North's ideology of self-reliance, which was first proposed by the late leader Kim Il Sung.

He leaves a wife, two sons and a daughter behind in North Korea, officials in Seoul said.

About 180 North Koreans have defected to South Korea in the past three years, including 30 so far this year.



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American Airlines girds for strike

By KATIE FAIRBANK
WASHINGTON (AP) - American Airlines, bracing for a pilots' strike, is canceling Friday overseas flights, a spokesman said. Negotiations continued, a mediator said, but "slowly and with

increasing difficulty."

The White House said Wednesday that a strike would have major economic consequences for America but stopped short of saying President Clinton would try to step in. The federal mediator said

even the suggestion of presidential intervention was hurting the talks.

The airline pilots' union has set a Friday midnight strike deadline, and American was preparing by making sure its planes weren't

overseas if the pilots walked out. "We don't want our airplanes sitting in other countries," said spokesman Al Comeaux. "It is for insurance purposes."

All Friday flights to Europe, Japan, the Caribbean, Central and

Strike likely to leave Caribbean stranded

By JAMES ANDERSON

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) - An American Airlines pilots strike would have a powerful ripple effect throughout the Caribbean, where thousands of jobs and millions of tourist dollars depend on the region's biggest air carrier.

Hoteliers, tour operators and even heads of state are bracing for a strike, which if called at midnight Friday, will gut what has been a promising winter season for the Caribbean's \$ 14 billion tourism industry.

Suddenly, Caribbean nations find themselves all too dependent on American and its Ameri-

can Eagle subsidiary, which together dominate 70 percent of the region's air market.

"There is really no replacement for American Airlines in the Caribbean," said Peter Laurie, permanent secretary at Barbados' foreign ministry.

"There was a time a few years ago when you had three regional carriers - Pan Am, Eastern and American. Now we're down to one carrier. It's a critical situation," Laurie said.

American carried 5.3 million passengers through its San Juan hub last year. American Eagle carried 1.4 million, most of them connecting American flights to

other Caribbean islands. Delta was a distant third.

Caribbean leaders, including Barbadian Prime Minister Owen Arthur and U.S. Virgin Islands Gov. Roy Schneider, have asked President Clinton to intervene in the labor dispute.

It estimates a strike will cost the region at least dls 15 million a day.

Hoteliers had been banking on a strong Valentine's Day-to-President's Day holiday weekend.

"Things were just starting to pick up for the tourism industry," and a strike would "mess it up," said Judy Watson, acting U.S. Virgin Islands tourism commissioner.

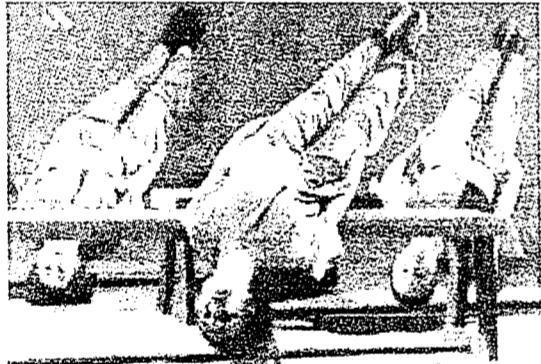
Region-wide, more than half a million people hold jobs in tourism, which accounts for 70 percent of the area's gross national product, said Jean Holder, secretary-general of the Caribbean Tourism Organization.

A 1989 strike helped lead to bankruptcy for Eastern Airlines and Caribbean travelers were left scrambling for alternatives.

A strike couldn't come at a worse time for Caribbean tourism, which is recovering from billions of dollars in hurricane-related losses and competition last year from the Olympic Games in Atlanta.

CELEBRATION OF STORY AND DANCE

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Friday, February 14, Valentine's Day, 7:00 PM

Zenon Dance Company
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Diamond Hotel Ballroom

admission charge: \$1.00 students/ \$5.00 adults

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ITT rejects \$6.5-B Hilton offer

By FARRELL KRAMER
NEW YORK (AP) - ITT Corp. has rejected rival Hilton Hotel Corp.'s \$6.5 billion hostile takeover bid in a widely expected move that could kick off a protracted battle for the hotel and casino owner.

American's reservation employees were calling passengers to help rebook them on other airlines. Hotard said he did not have any details on how that operation was progressing Wednesday night.

Flights to London would actually be in the air and would continue to their destination if the pilots go on strike over pay and job security issues.

The U.S. Postal Service also quit planes flying out of American's Dallas hub for mail delivery, shifting it to other carriers.

Postal Service spokesman Roy Betts said that involves about 1 million pounds of mail a day. American is the third largest mail carrier - behind Delta and United - among 74 airlines that the Postal Service has contracts with.

"The situation remains hostile but fluid," said Harold Vogel, an entertainment and gaming analyst at Cowen and Co., a brokerage firm. "We think that the next step is ITT moves to pare its assets down to the core and raise cash and maybe buy back shares."

The airline has been asking for the administration to become involved in the dispute, while the union wants the president to stay out of the disagreement.

Clinton, asked about the situation, said, "This issue has huge implications for our country and in particular for specific parts of our country."

And aides said he had ordered staff members to study the potential economic impact of a strike, a possible step toward intervention.

But Clinton also said the negotiators should "make maximum use of the mediation board process" rather than waiting for any outside effort. "That is what ought to be done today and that's all I have to say about it today."

Airline and union negotiators met through the day. But Ken Hipp, chairman of the National Mediation Board, said, "It is going slowly and with increasing difficulty."

As for the sudden discussion of possible White House intervention, he said, "It makes it much more difficult to get an agreement at the table."

Grounding America's largest domestic airline could result in layoffs of as many as 90,000 workers and disrupt travel plans of many more Americans.

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS INVITATION FOR BID IFB 97-004

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting for competitive sealed bidding from interested firms for the Construction of Campus Fencing at both Kagman and Pau Pau Headstart Center, bids in duplicate will be accepted in the PSS Procurement and Supply Office at the Nauro Building, Third floor, Susupe, Saipan no later than 2:00 p.m., March 14, 1997 at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bids received after the above date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

A bond of 15% of the total bid price must accompany the bid. This security maybe a certified check, cashier's check, bid bond or other forms acceptable to the government made payable to the PSS treasurer, CNMI Public School System, Third floor, Nauro Building. The bidder is requested to submit with his bid a copy of his/her business license as a compliance with the contractor's registration and licensing law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Bid documents will be available on or after January 24, 1997 at the PSS Procurement and Supply Office at the Nauro Building, Third Floor, Susupe, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of \$0.00 is required for each set. A pre-bid conference for the aforementioned project will be held at 2:00 p.m., local time, February 28, 1997 at the Procurement and Supply Office at the Nauro Building, Third Floor, Susupe, Saipan. All prospective bidders are requested to submit all questions pertaining to the construction plans and specifications two days prior to the pre-bid conference in which time was specified above. All questions must be submitted directly to PSS, CIP Coordinator, Mr. Clemente Sablan at the Department of Public Works, Technical Service Division at Lower Base, Saipan and maybe contacted at telephone number 322-9476 ext. 21.

The fact that ITT is contemplating such asset sales suggests that its rumored consideration of a plan to buy another company to increase debt and make itself a less appealing takeover target will not materialize.

ITT seems to be trying to beat Hilton at its own game: focusing ITT on its

main businesses in an effort to increase its value. Hilton, meanwhile, responded to ITT's rejection of its offer by saying it was disappointed but still committed to the deal.

Hilton wants to buy ITT to combine its Hilton hotels with ITT's Sheraton chain and create an even larger casino operator.

ITT, meanwhile, says the Hilton bid is too low and argues that combining Sheraton and Hilton would pose various operating problems.

A combination of ITT, which also owns Caesars World, and Hilton would assemble the world's largest big hotel and casino operator.

Cablevision has the right of first refusal should ITT move to sell its stake.

Speculation prompted Cablevision to issue a statement reiterating those properties "are important assets for Cablevision and that we will maintain our own-

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1992 Toyota 4-Runner 4x4 \$15,495
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The Saipan based law firm of O'Connor Dotts & Banes and the Guam based law firm of Berman & Berman, hereby announce a merger of their two law firms. The new law firm will be composed of ten attorneys and will maintain a general practice of law, with special emphasis in commercial litigation and commercial transactions. The new law firm will maintain law offices in the Territory of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, the Republic of Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia, at the addresses set forth below:

GUAM OFFICE

Suite 602, Bank of Guam Bldg.
111 Chalan Santo Papa
Agana, Guam 96910
Telephone: (671) 477-2778
Facsimile: (671) 477-4366
E-mail: bermlaw@kuentos.guam.net

POHNPEI OFFICE

2nd Floor, Leo's Store
P.O. Box 1491
Kolonia, Pohnpei 96941
Telephone: (691) 320-2868
Facsimile: (691) 320-5450

SAIPAN OFFICE

2nd Floor, Nauru Bldg.
P.O. Box 1969
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 234-5684/5
Facsimile: (670) 234-5683
E-mail: odb.law@saipan.com

PALAU OFFICE

Becheserrak Bldg., Lebuu St.
P.O. Box 1484
Koror, Palau 96940
Telephone: (680) 488-3153

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the provisions of 2 CMC 4141 et seq., the PUBLIC PURPOSE LAND EXCHANGE AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1987, Governor Froilan C. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus C. Borja, through the Division of Public Lands (Division), under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, hereby gives notice that the Division intends to enter into an exchange agreement involving the parcels of land described below. Concerned persons may request a hearing on any proposed exchange by contacting the Division of Public Lands on or before February 26, 1997, at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Division of Public Lands Conference Room.

Public Purpose	-	SHORT EXCHANGE
Public Land	-	Saipan Tract/Lot No. 019 L 01, located in Obyan, containing an area of 28,896 square meters.
	-	Saipan Tract/Lot No. 019 L 02, located in Obyan, containing an area of 3,811 square meters.

NUTISIAN PUPBLIKO

Sigon gi probension siha gi 2 CMC 4141 et sec i PUBLIC PURPOSE LAND EXCHANGE AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1987, (sino i tulaihan tano para propositon publiko na aktion 1987) si magalaha as Froilan C. Tenorio yan i segundo magalaha as Jesus C. Borja, ginen i Division of Public Lands (Division), gi pa'pa' i Department of Lands and Natural Resources, na intencionna humaloh gi kontranatal atulaikan tano ni ha alefaka i pedason tano siha ni manmadeskribi gi sampaga. Man interesante siha na petsona sina manmamaisen enekungok put maseha manu/hala na priniponi tulaihan tano. Atagang i Division of Public Lands antes pat osino gi Februari 26, 1997. Yanggen guaha inekungok marikuesta, i inekungok siempre para i sigeinte siha na transaksion u fan makondukta gi Februari 28, 1997, gi oran alas 9:00 gi eggan gi halom i Kuatton i Konfrensiyan i Division of Public Lands.

PROPOSITON PUPBLIKO	-	Short Exchange
TANO PUBLIKO	-	Sition Namiru 019 L 01, giya Obyan, ya ha konsiste 28, 896 metro kuadrao na area.
	-	Sition Numiru 019 L 02, giya Obyan, ya ha konsiste 3,811 metro kuadrao na area.

ARONGORONGOL TOWLAP

Reelyleewal me bwangil 2 CMC 4141 et sec. PUBLIC PURPOSE LAND EXCHANGE AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1987, nge Division of Public Lands e aronggaar towlap, igha e mangiy ebwe ililiwatu faluw iye e toolong faluw kka faa. Aramasye e lipali nge emmwel ebwe tingoebwe your hearing reil inamwo ililiwatu faluw fa. Aramas ye e lipali nge emmwel ye re lipali reil kkapsal faluw, nge rebwe aghuley ngali Division of Public lands, under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources woot me ngare mmwal February 26, 1997. Ngare eyoor tingoebwe ebwe your hearing, nge rebwe ayoora reil tali faluw kka faq, nge rebwe tooto woot February 28, 1997, otol ye 9:00 a.m. mellot Division of Public Lands Conference Room.

AMMWELEER TOWLAP	-	SHORT EXCHANGE
FALAWEEER TOWLAP	-	Saipan Tract/Lot Numiru 019 L 01, Obyan, Ilapal bweley yeel nge 28,896 square meters.
	-	Saipan Tract/Lot Numiru 019 L 02, Obyan, Ilapal bweley yeel nge 3,811, square meters.

Tonya Harding says she escaped abductor

By AMY CORNELIUSSEN

PORTLAND, Ore. (AP) - Tonya Harding says she foiled an abduction attempt early Wednesday by ramming her truck into a tree and running away from a bushy-haired man who tried to commandeer her vehicle.

The figure skater told police the man abducted her outside her home and forced her to drive to a rural area. She said she dodged him in a chase through the woods, then jumped back in her truck and took off.

Aside from a slap mark on her face, Harding was unharmed.

Clackamas County sheriff's deputies, who have responded to Harding's calls for help before, said they were taking the matter seriously.

"We'll treat it at face value and investigate it just as we would investigate anybody, but at the same time, this type of report is unusual," said sheriff's spokesman Damon Coates. "I have no reason to think it's false at this point, but it would be a poor investigation not to look at that."

The abduction report came the same day the U.S. Figure Skating Championships began in Nashville, Tenn., and 10 days before Harding's skating comeback - a three-minute exhibition program in Reno, Nev.

Harding has been banned for life from amateur competition for her role in the 1994 attack on her Olympic rival, Nancy Kerrigan, at the U.S. Championships.

Harding pleaded guilty to conspiring to cover up the attack, in which Kerrigan was whacked on the knee. A judge placed Harding on three years' probation, fined her \$110,000 and ordered her to serve 500 hours of community service.

Harding could not comment on Wednesday's incident because of exclusive media contracts related to her Feb. 22 performance at Reno's Flamingo Hilton, said her agent, David Hans Schmidt.

"There's no abduction preclusion in the contracts. I might have to put that in front of God only knows," Schmidt said.

Harding provided this account to police:

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM INVITATION TO BID

IFB 97-005

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the procurement of air conditioners for Marianas High School and Rota Schools and a procurement of a riding mower for the Rota Schools. Specifications package may be picked up at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office located on the third floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan, during regular working hours except Holidays.

A non refundable fee of twenty five U.S. Dollars (\$25.00) must accompany the bid. The twenty five dollars maybe a certified check, a cashier's check, or other forms acceptable by the Public School System and made payable to the Public School System Treasurer. The bidder is required to submit with his bid a copy of his business permit.

All bids must be sealed and marked IFB97-005 and submitted in duplicate to the PSS Procurement and Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan, no later than 2:00 p.m. March 4, 1997 at which time and place all bids will be opened and read aloud. Any bid received after the aforementioned date and time will not be considered under any circumstances. The Public School System reserves the right to award on a single or multiple awards and to award or reject any or all bids in the best interest of the Public School System.

/s/William S. Torres
Commissioner Of Education

/s/Louise Concepcion
Procurement & Supply Officer

Zedillo denies approving reward

By MARK STEVENSON

MEXICO CITY (AP) - The office of President Ernesto Zedillo tried Wednesday to downplay his role in the payment of \$450,000 to the eight people who led authorities to buried human bones on the ranch of a former president's brother.

The presidential spokesman said the president was told only in general terms that rewards would be paid to informants in the case of a high-profile political assassination. No other details were given, or needed, the spokesman said Wednesday, because the president did not have to authorize the payments.

The payments turned into a political embarrassment when it was discovered that the bones dug up at the ranch of Raul Salinas de

Gortari did not belong to a missing witness in the case, but were instead those of a dead relative of most of the informants. The eight people, including a psychic, now stand accused of planting the bones.

President spokesman Carlos Almada, in a television interview

Wednesday, vehemently denied a former attorney general's version of what the president was told and especially denied that the rewards were given in Zedillo's name.

"The president of the republic never authorized any payment to said persons," Almada said.

At a news conference late Tuesday, Former Attorney General Antonio Lozano Garcia said the president knew who would be receiving the payments.

But Lozano said he - and not Zedillo - approved the payments.

Lozano, a member of the opposition National Action Party, had served as attorney general since Zedillo took office Dec. 1, 1994.

He was ousted amid rising complaints of failure to solve the killing of Jose Francisco Ruiz Massieu, the ruling party's No. 2 man, and the early March 1994 slaying of Luis Donald Colosio, a presidential candidate.

Chapa, who worked under Lozano, said at the time that he was tipped by a psychic named Francisca Zetina about their whereabouts, and that a witness existed to testify that Raul Salinas buried Munoz Rocha to death with a base-



Ernesto Zedillo

ball bat and buried his remains there.

The bones, tests showed, did not belong to Munoz Rocha.

Authorities said they belonged to Zetina's brother-in-law, killed three years before in a brawl. Investigators last month arrested Zetina and six other relatives.

The eighth informant, a former girlfriend of Raul Salinas, also was

arrested.

The eight were accused of digging up the brother-in-law's body from a Mexico City cemetery and planting them in Raul Salinas' home.

Lozano said the eight were paid a total of \$450,000 from funds the attorney general's office had from seized assets in criminal cases. But he

claimed he did not know they had been planted.

"That was how payments were made to informants, covert operations were funded and surveillance equipment was purchased."

Lozano said he also suggested the mounting scandal over the mystery bones case may be "politically motivated."

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Saipan Health Clinic, P.O. Box 2878, As Lito, Saipan, MP 96950.

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Business & Trade

Dollar, stocks rise in Tokyo

TOKYO (AP) - Undeterred by warnings by finance officials, the U.S. dollar continued its rise against the Japanese yen Wednesday. Tokyo share prices advanced for the second consecutive trading day.

In late afternoon, the dollar was trading at 124.16 yen, up 0.92 yen from late Monday in Tokyo and also above its late New York level of 123.15 yen overnight. It ranged between 123.30 yen and 124.48 yen in Wednesday's trading.

Financial markets in Japan were closed Tuesday for a national holiday.

Traders said the dollar's strength against the German mark pushed up the American currency's value against the yen.

Many traders attributed the mark's weakness to pessimism about Germany's fragile economy.

The dollar also was helped by dollar-buying interest by interbank players to cover their short positions and

by Japanese securities companies, traders said.

Masahiro Yamaguchi, manager of the treasury department Tokai Bank, said bullish sentiment toward the dollar has remained basically unchanged even after a weekend meeting of finance officials from the Group of Seven major industrialized nations.

"Trust banks, life insurance companies and other domestic importers are all on the buyers' side today," Yamaguchi said. Finance ministers and central bankers from the G-7 nations - Germany, France, Italy, Britain, Canada, the United States and Japan - warned against "excessive volatility" in exchange rates.

Although they declined to be more specific, their statement was seen as representing a consensus that the dollar has grown strong enough.

Traders said the market believed the statement was not strong enough to halt the dollar's rise.

In New York Tuesday, the dollar

hit a 33-month high against the mark in a broad rally.

On the Tokyo Stock Exchange, prices were buoyed by the stronger dollar and another indication that the government will support financially troubled banks.

Analysts say the planned reform of the nation's financial system won't be possible unless Japanese banks first solve their bad debt problems.

Major Japanese financial institutions alone had a total of 29.2 trillion yen (\$235.5 billion) in non-performing loans, according to Finance Ministry figures released at the end of last September.

The Nikkei Stock Average of 225 selected issues gained 228.79 points, or 1.26 percent, closing at 18,409.96. On Monday, the index had gained 314.13 points, or 1.76 percent.

The Tokyo Stock Price Index of all issues listed on the first section was up 13.54 points, or 1.00 percent, to 1,368.43. It had closed up 13.39 points, or 1.00 percent, on Monday.

Gainers included blue chips, among them high-technology and auto shares such as Sony and Honda Motor, that will benefit from the dollar's rise. Losers included construction issues and some banks.



Thousands of Jakartans at Senen Railway Station struggle to get limited seats in a train to their homes in East and Central Java to celebrate Idul Fitri, or Muslim holiday festivities, Sunday. AP photo

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REQUEST FOR QUALIFICATIONS AND PROPOSAL FOR FINANCIAL AUDIT

This is to Request for Qualifications and Proposal (RFQ & RFP) to perform a financial audit of NMPASI for fiscal years ending September 30, 1995 and 1996 in compliance with local and federal audit requirements pursuant to OMB A-133. The request for qualifications and proposals must be submitted no later than February 28, 1997.

- I. Contents of Proposal: The following information must be included in the audit proposal:
Title page containing RFP subject, Name of your firm, Local address, Telephone number, Number of contact person, Submission date.
 - II. Transmittal letter:
A brief statement of your understanding of the work to be performed and an affirmative statement of performance within the time period stipulated.
B. State all-inclusive fee for which the audit will be performed.
 - III. Firm Profile: Provide a brief description of your firm's personnel educational background and experience, number of staff, staff level (partner, manager, supervisor, etc.) and client listings. The firm must make an affirmative statement that a majority of the persons involved in the project are Certified Public Accountants (CPA).
 - IV. Proposal Evaluation Criteria: The proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the following criteria:
A. Responsiveness of the proposal in clearly stating an understanding of the work to be performed;
1. Audit coverage
2. Overall estimates as well as the time estimates for each major section of the work to be performed.
B. Qualifications and experience of firm:
1. Size and structure of the firm.
2. Stability to maintain continuity of project.
3. Experience of the firm in auditing Federal Financial Assistance Programs and Non-Profit Organizations.
 - V. Audit Administration Matters:
A. NMPASI staff will prepare schedule as required by the Auditors
B. Audit Planning Meetings, Interim Conferences may be attended by following officials:
Executive Directors and Board Members of NMPASI
C. Date of contract award will be March 15, 1997. Audit field work shall commence thereafter and a final audit report shall be completed by May 15, 1997 for FY 1995 and July 15, 1997 for FY 1996.
D. All inquiries must be in writing and submitted prior to the deadline.
 - VI. Confidentiality of Audit Proposals: All audit proposals will be reviewed in a confidential manner. Proposal must be labeled confidential and transmitted to the Executive Director NMPASI P.O. Box 3529, Saipan, MP 96950. It may also be hand delivered to the Executive Director at the NMPASI Office in Garapan.
- /S/ LYDIA BARCINAS
Executive Director

Business & Trade

AT&T streamlines operations

NEW YORK (AP) - AT-and-T Corp.'s new president has moved closer to overhauling the work force of the largest U.S. long-distance phone company, a shakeup that could include staff cuts and management shifts.

The streamlining will be based on a top-to-bottom organizational review that John Walter began shortly after he was hired in October to replace chairman Robert Allen when he retires next year, AT-and-T officials said Wednesday.

"Where we see duplication and where we see inefficiency, we want to streamline that. In some places we may make adjustments, in other parts of the business we

may add to the work force," said AT-and-T spokesman Mark Siegel.

While no date has been set for revamping AT-and-T, some observers expect an announcement by March, before the company meets with industry analysts for a two-day meeting early that month.

"It appears as though John Walter is looking dispassionately at the old AT-and-T structure and deciding what it needs to look like to succeed tomorrow," said Jeffrey Kagan of Kagan Telecom

ing as de-facto CEO.

Two top managers, chief financial officer Richard Miller and top consumer chief Joseph Nacchio, have quit since Walter was hired from R.R. Donnelley, a Chicago publishing company.

While organizational changes are expected under Walter, pressure from the Wall Street investment community recently has increased after AT-and-T reported weaker-than-expected earnings last quarter amid sagging results in its long-distance business.



Behind a display of five-starred Chinese national flags, a vendor at a market displays a button with a representation of the five-petaled bauhinia flower, the symbol for Hong Kong after it returns to Chinese rule on July 1. AP photo

TWA names Gitner as permanent CEO

By CONNIE FARROW

ST. LOUIS (AP) - Gerald L. Gitner was officially named chairman and chief executive of Trans World Airlines Inc.

Gitner has been serving as acting CEO since December after Jeffrey Erickson announced in October he would leave the St. Louis-based airline 2 1/2 years after taking over and orchestrating its turnaround.

Gitner, 51, is chairman of Avalon Group Ltd., a New York-based investment bank, and has held senior management positions at several airlines, including the vice chairman's post at Pan American World Airways.

"Frankly, we could have saved a lot of time and effort if Gerry had said yes the first time we asked him to become CEO, which was very early in the search process," Thomas Meagher, chairman of the TWA board's executive committee said Wednesday.

TWA interviewed numerous candidates, thus strengthening their belief that Gitner was the best person for the job, Meagher said.

Gitner said: "With proper management, TWA can again be a successful airline."

His appointment was not sitting well with the airline's Machinists union, said one employee who asked not to be identified. A call to the union's office in Kansas City was not immediately returned Wednesday night.

"Mr. Gitner appears not to be a friend of the Machinists union," the employee said.

Earlier this month, the International Association of Machinists issued a no confidence vote against Gitner. It also threatened to sue TWA's board of directors because of recent layoffs and other cuts.

The IAM represents about 15,000 of TWA's 25,000 employees. All of the St. Louis-based airline's workers own shares in the company.

The news got a warmer reception at the flight attendants' union.

"I think it was the proper thing to do," said Barry Schirmel, secretary-treasurer of the Independent Federation of Flight Attendants, which represents TWA's nearly 5,300 flight attendants. "We had a void, and the void needed to be filled."

TWA was recovering from heavy losses and bankruptcy reorganizations when one of its 747s crashed off the coast of Long Island in July, killing all 230 people on board.

The airline lost \$14.3 million in the third quarter and announced in December it would shrink its money-losing trans-Atlantic hub in New York, leaving St. Louis as its sole domestic hub.

Canadian Press to restructure

TORONTO (AP) - The directors of Canada's national news agency, The Canadian Press, endorsed a restructuring plan

Wednesday recommending that CP's 88 member newspapers supply more of the service's news coverage.

The plan, approved in principle at a board meeting in Toronto, is a "blueprint" for action, said John Honderich, publisher of the Toronto Star and chairman of a task force

on CP's future.

Using more stories and pictures from member newspapers would help keep CP's costs down.

Newspapers that don't supply coverage in time for late afternoon or early evening deadlines could be fined.

The details will be worked out over the next few months before a final version is presented to member newspapers for a vote at CP's annual meeting in April.

Faces Karaoke Club is inviting you to join singing and dance contest every Sunday 1:00 p.m.-7:00 p.m.

Beer only \$1.50 & lots of give away prizes

We are open Monday to Saturday 8:00 p.m. to 2:00 a.m.

Beers only \$3.00

Sunday 1:00 p.m. to 7:00 p.m.

Happy Hour Beer \$1.50

7:00 p.m. - 2:00 a.m.

Beer \$3.00 with Karaoke and Disco

February 14, 1997

Valentine Special

Beer Only \$2.50

Bank seals China lease

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) - Australia's Macquarie Bank has sealed a property coup in China by signing a major leasing deal with a French retailer in the northern city of Tianjin, a bank official said.

Macquarie Property China acted as agent for the leasing of a Chinese-owned site of more than 97,000 square feet (9,000 sq. meters) to the Carrefour group, the

bank's general manager of property services (China) Peter Gibbons said in Beijing.

The retail complex was worth more than US \$760,000 in rent per year, Gibbons said.

"We believe it's one of the largest, if not the largest, foreign leasing deals in Tianjin," Gibbons said.

The deal reflected a rush on retail space in China owing to predictions

Asian Business Briefs

Mitsubishi eyes India plant

TOKYO (AP) - Mitsubishi Materials Corp. said Wednesday it has begun building an auto-parts plant in India in a joint venture with an Indian company.

The plant, to be built at a cost of 1.2 billion yen (\$97 million) in Gurgaon just outside New Delhi, will produce precision forged auto parts such as gears, the Japanese company said in a press release.

Sona Steering Systems Ltd. of India holds 45 percent of the joint venture company, while Mitsubishi Materials and another Mitsubishi group company, Mitsubishi Corp., will hold 30 percent.

Takashi Katano, a Mitsubishi Materials spokesman, said the venture intends to sell all of its production to Indian automakers.

The new company hopes to achieve sales of 1.4 billion yen (\$113 million) after five years. It will employ 160 people.

Mitsubishi Materials is a leading maker of metals and ceramics with annual sales of around 740 billion yen (\$6 billion).

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION PUBLIC NOTICE

Governor Froilan C. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus C. Borja, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation Board of Directors, hereby notifies the general public effective Monday, February 17, 1997, NMHC will be temporarily suspending the Waiting List for both Section 8 Housing Rentals and Vouchers/Certificates Program Assistance. The Agency must take into consideration the ability to house an applicant in an appropriate unit within a reasonable period of time to ensure that a pool of eligible applicants exist for each unit size and the decision determines the need to close the waiting list. NMHC will accept applications from families that meet any of the following four (4) preferences; and can submit approved certification:

1. An applicant who has been involuntarily displaced by fire or natural disaster that results in the uninhabitability of an applicant's unit provided that certification is submitted to NMHC within (6) months of occurrence of the disaster.
2. An eligible family experiencing displacement by domestic violence to avoid reprisals or by hate crimes as described in 960.213 occurring recently and based on information provided by various law enforcement agencies.
3. An applicants who has been involuntarily displaced by an activity carried on by a federal, state or local governmental body or agency in connection with code enforcement or a public improvement or development program.
4. An eligible "Homeless Family" as defined in 24CFR:960.214, Subsection (2)-Public Housing and 880.616 Subsection (2)-Section 8.

Applicants who wish to apply during this suspension time are asked to visit our Garapan Office and sign in their NAME, MAILING ADDRESS, and TELEPHONE NUMBER, for contact when the list reopens.

NMHC will make necessary arrangements for persons with disabilities or person requiring interpreters upon prior notification. Please contact NMHC if such arrangement are needed.

For more information regarding the above, contact Mr. Norman K. Pangelinan, Manager, Program and Housing Division at 234-6866 or 234-9447.

Is/MARYLOU ADA SIROK
Corporate Director

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT



The community members of Santa Lourdes in AsTeo cordially invite the general public for the end of Novena Celebration in honor of Our Lady of Lourdes, on Saturday, February 15, 1997. The rosary and novena will start at 8:00 a.m. and will be followed by a procession. After the procession, all are invited for lunch at the residences of: Mr. & Mrs. Eugenio T. Borja, the late Daniel T. Borja, and Mr. & Mrs. Eugenio A. Borja. Si Yuus Ma'ase

I taotao AsTeo ma kombibida todos hamyo para i Gipot Santa Lourdes, gi Sabalo, Febrero dia 15, 1997. I lisayo yan nobena para u matucha gi oran alas 8:00 gi ega'ari despues para u tinatiye nui likao. An makpo'i likao, man ma kombibida todos hamyo para i amotsan taluane gi gima Mr. & Mrs. Eugenio T. Borja, gi gima i defunto as Daniel T. Borja, yan gi gima Mr. & Mrs. Eugenio A. Borja. Si Yuus Ma'ase.

Sega in joint software effort

TOKYO (AP) - Comprehensive machinery maker Mitsubishi Heavy Industries Ltd. and video game maker Sega Enterprises Ltd. of Japan are discussing jointly developing simulation machinery and software.

These are used in amusement park rides in Asia's growing number of theme parks, a spokesman from Mitsubishi Heavy said Wednesday.

Mitsubishi Heavy has agreed to ask Sega what improvements it would make to rides the company has designed for a Taiwan-based amusement park called the "Magical Carnival," the spokesman said.

Based on what Sega comes up with, the two companies will then decide whether it is worthwhile to work together, he added.

"We've decided to get engaged, but we haven't decided to get married yet," the Mitsubishi Heavy spokesman said. To that end, Mitsubishi has started a study session with Sega to see how the two companies can work together in theme-park ride development.

Mitsubishi has received orders to provide machinery for four floors in one 11-story building located in the theme park, which is scheduled to open some time next year.

Toshiba ups capital in RP

MANILA (AP) - Japan's Toshiba Corp. will double its investment in Toshiba Information Equipment (Philippines) Inc. to 2 billion pesos (\$76.9 million) in anticipation of improved global computer sales in 1998.

This was announced Wednesday by Takeo Nagatomo, president of Toshiba Philippines, a wholly owned unit of Toshiba Corp. which has just started commercial operations.

Toshiba Corp. is one of the world's largest computer makers.

Nagatomo said the fresh investment will be poured into Toshiba Philippines between now and 2000, and will finance the installation of additional capacity and new product lines, including DVD-ROM drives, which are the next generation of personal computers.

Toshiba Philippines' initial operation will focus on the production of CD-ROM drives and optical disk drives, which are vital computer components.

The company expects the global market for personal computers to increase by 23.7 percent or to 78 million units in 1998 from 59.5 million units sold last year.

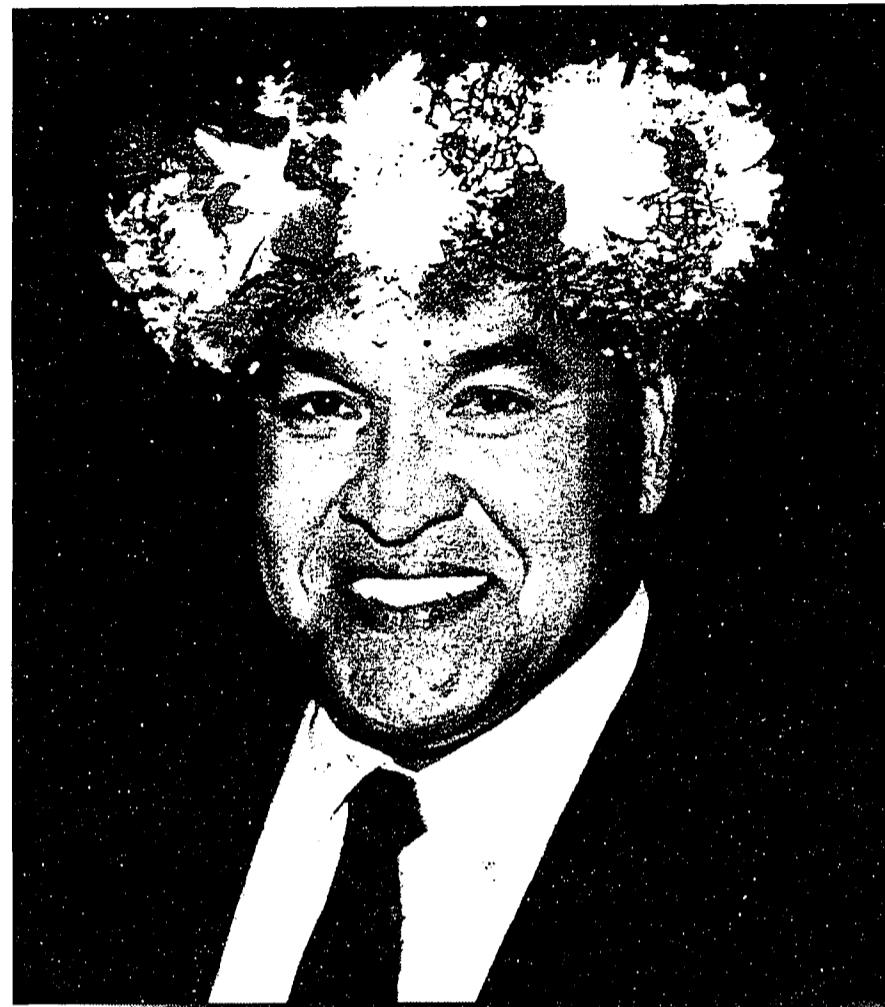
ASEAN, EU foreign ministers meet

SINGAPORE (AP) - Eager to sidestep differences over human rights, foreign ministers from the European Union and Southeast Asia begin two days of talks Thursday aimed at bringing their regions closer economically.

Ahead of the meeting, officials from the European Union and the seven Association of Southeast Asian Nations said the rights issue won't keep them from launching more intense economic and political cooperation. Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van Mierlo, heading the 15-nation EU, said Wednesday he was eager not to let the session being taken hostage by a dispute over Indonesia's rule in the former Portuguese colony of East Timor.

(ASEAN-EUROPE)

**KEEP SAIPAN
CLEAN
& BEAUTIFUL**



I Maneahante para hamyo Leadership for the People

**Governor Froilan C. Tenorio
listens to your concerns
at the Governor's meeting in the villages**

**Join the Governor for
"A conversation with the people"
"E Kombetsasion yan I Taotao siha"**

**Chalan Kanoa Village
(District #1 and District #2)**

**Chalan Kanoa Basketball Court
7:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 18, 1997**

American Comedy Awardees

LOS ANGELES (AP) - For the second consecutive year, David Hyde Pierce was honored with an American Comedy Award for his role as the pompous psychiatrist brother of the title character on TV's "Frasier."

Pierce, who plays Niles, was named funniest supporting male performer in a television series on Sunday. He received the same award last year.

Rosie O'Donnell was named funniest leading female performer in a television

series, while John Lithgow from "3rd Rock from the Sun," was named funniest leading male.

The 11th Annual American Comedy Awards were presented at the Shrine Auditorium in Los Angeles.



Jackson wife to give birth soon

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Michael Jackson's wife has been admitted to Cedars-Sinai Medical Center and could give birth any time now, a source said Wednesday.

Debbie Rowe Jackson's due date is Valentine's Day, Feb. 14, but delivery could come earlier, a source close to the hospital, who requested anonymity, told The Associated Press.

Medical center officials and representatives of the pop star said they could not confirm the account.

Early last November, Jackson announced that Rowe, a nurse at his plastic surgeon's office, was six months pregnant with his child. The couple wed Nov. 15, 1996, in Sydney, Australia.

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

INVITATION FOR BIDS

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation CUC-IFB-97-0013

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting sealed bids for the construction of SINAPALUTO GAMPAPA/DUGI WATERLINE PROJECT, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sealed bids shall be identified on the outside of the envelope by the invitation for bids number CUC-IFB-97-0013. Bids in duplicate will be accepted at the Office of the Special Advisor, Procurement & Supply, CUC, at Lower Base, Saipan until 2:00 p.m., local time on February 21, 1997 at which time and place will be publicly opened and read aloud.

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

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

This project is funded by a grant from the Department of Interior (DOI), Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) at 73.3% of the cost and 26.7% matching fund from the CNMI Government. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval by OIA, DOI.

The project consists in general, of the installation of approximately 3.5 miles of underground 6-inch diameter PVC water distribution lines including appurtenant valves, fittings, hydrants, air relief valves, service laterals, meters and testing.

A non-refundable payment of \$200.00 is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after January 31, 1997 at Water Division Office, CUC, Saipan. A pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at 9:30 a.m., local time, February 7, 1997, at the CUC Conference Room, Rota. A project site visit is scheduled following the pre-bid meeting.

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

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government.

All inquiries should be directed to Ernesto L. Villarin at telephone number (670) 322-9383

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Executive Director, CUC

Do You Have \$200 To Throw Away?

Whether you are walking, driving,
flying or sailing...
**LITTERING IS PROHIBITED
IN CNMI!**

Nobel nominee facing arrest for insulting king

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) - Thai police are preparing to arrest a former Nobel Peace Prize nominee for allegedly insulting the country's king, local papers reported Wednesday.

A police spokesman would not confirm or deny reports that an arrest warrant was being prepared for Sulak Sivaraksa, a leading social critic who has already been tried and acquitted on lese majeste charges twice.

"I am waiting for an internal police report analyzing what he said," Pol. Col. Manoch Kraiwong told The Associated Press.

Local papers quoted police sources as saying that Sulak had insulted constitutional monarch King Bhumibol Adulyadej during a recent speech in Los Angeles.

King Bhumibol, who is the world's longest-reigning monarch having held the throne for 50 years, is considered semi-divine by many of his subjects. Criticism of the royal family is nearly non-existent in part because of strict lese majeste laws.

Lese majeste laws have been used, however, by various political and military factions against their opponents and other reformers in

the past.

Sulak, who was nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize in 1994, told The Associated Press Wednesday that he hadn't been to Los Angeles in nearly six months, and hadn't given a speech there in over two years.

The 63-year-old academic said he hadn't criticized the king, but had said recently during visits to Japan and Canada that the Crown Property Bureau, which manages the royal family's real estate holdings, was not acting in the best interests of the Thai people.

Sulak said that the Crown Property Bureau owns nearly 30 percent of all the land in Thailand.

In the past, he said, the bureau allowed poor and common people to live on the land, but is now evicting them in several locations so the land can be leased to rich developers for profit.

"This is wrong," Sulak said. He added that if he was arrested and brought to court, he was confident he would win the case because he is innocent.

Lese majeste laws protect the king and his family, but not the Crown Property Bureau, Sulak said.

Europe's view of Hong Kong said based on 'misperception'

HONG KONG (AP) - The European public's gloomy view of Hong Kong is based on a misunderstanding of the British colony's future under Chinese rule, a European Union official said Wednesday.

Moved to curb some civil liberties, and the angry reactions in Hong Kong, "led the majority of Europeans, who don't know the situation very well, to believe that human rights and political freedoms would be abolished here," said Etienne Reuter, head of the European Union's Hong Kong office.

But they don't fully grasp the one-country, two-systems concept whereby China has promised Hong Kong "a high degree of autonomy" and the preservation of its capitalist system, laws and freedoms, he said.

He was explaining on Hong Kong radio the reasons for a motion now before the European Parliament asking the 15 European Union governments to accept some 3.5 million Hong Kong people as citizens.

These people have British

passports which do not entitle them to live in Britain. They will carry Chinese-approved Hong Kong passports after China takes on July 1.

The resolution, if passed by the multinational parliament later this month, would be non-binding, but would be "a signal" that Europeans are starting to get interested in the change of sovereignty, Reuter said.

But they don't fully grasp the one-country, two-systems concept whereby China has promised Hong Kong "a high degree of autonomy" and the preservation of its capitalist system, laws and freedoms, he said.

Instead, "a certain misperception of the reality of what is in store" has led them to believe "that there will be drastic changes to society here," he said.

Coca Cola importing drinks as factory strikes continue

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) - Coca Cola has asked the Sri Lankan government for permission to import soft drinks into the country, as a nine-week-old strike continued at its two local bottling plants, an official said Wednesday.

The finance ministry is considering the request by Pure Beverages Co. Ltd., the local bottlers, who are owned by F&N Coca Cola (Pvt) Ltd. of Singapore, to import Coca Cola, Fanta and Sprite, said Pure Beverages spokesman S. V. Pathirawithana.

A widespread shortage has been reported across Sri Lanka since the strike began after the management tried to shut down a loss-making factory at Kaduwela and transfer the workers to another factory.

The transfer was to be a temporary measure, until the Labor Department approved the company's retrenchment package for the workers at Kaduwela, a suburb of Colombo.

Negotiations between the company and 900 striking workers are being carried out through the Department of Labor, but have so far produced no results.

The strike started when 350 workers at the Kaduwela plant rejected the company's offer of jobs at another plant in Biyagama, six kilometers (four miles) away.

The workers demanded that management reopen the Kaduwela plant.

Workers at Biyagama struck in support of their colleagues.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC RFP97-0018

February 07, 1997

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting proposals from qualified A/E engineering firms to provide CONSTRUCTION MANAGEMENT SERVICES for the construction of the BEACH ROAD SEWER SYSTEM, from San Jose to Garapan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

A pre-proposal meeting for this project will be held at the Wastewater Division Conference Room in Sadog Tasi, Saipan, CNMI at exactly 9:00 a.m. local time, on Thursday, February 20, 1997.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). Additionally, partial funding may become available from the Office of Insular Affairs. All work performed on this project must comply with Federal and EPA regulations.

The project consists of about 21,200 linear feet of gravity sewer, two pump stations, 3,700 linear feet of force mains and sewer appurtenances. An additive bid consists of about 1,400 linear feet of gravity sewer with appurtenances. The estimated construction period is 500 days from the date of the Notice to Proceed which is expected to be issued in April 1997.

The scope of the Construction Management Services will include, but not limited to:

1. Critical Review of the plans and specifications for errors, lack of clarification and potential conflicts having impact on the construction activity and schedules.
2. Review contractor's submissions of work schedules, shop drawings, etc. and make appropriate recommendations to CUC.
3. Conduct regular inspections to assure that the construction is in compliance with the approved drawings, specifications and the applicable codes.
4. Initiation of any change orders, if needed.
5. Review the progress Payment Requests from the contractor and forward them with appropriate recommendations to CUC.
6. Assist CUC in closing out the contract including obtaining "As Built" drawings.

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

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

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

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

One (1) original and five (5) copies of proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked CUC RFP97-0018, to Mr. Frank T. Flores, Special Advisor for Material Management Division, P.O. Box 1220, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 3:00 p.m., local time, March 07, 1997.

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

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

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

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC RFP97-0007

February 10, 1997

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is requesting proposals from experienced human resources management consulting firms to conduct an independent review and analysis of all positions (136 existing) within the corporation and its structures and functions.

The project tasks will include developing classification specifications which include a description of work, distinguishing position characteristics, examples of work, knowledge, skills, abilities and other pertinent job requirements and minimum qualifications and an allocation of positions to classifications. The classification system developed should be one that maintains appropriate internal relationships, is responsive to organizational changes and is easy to appropriate internal relationships, is responsive to organizational changes and is easy to administer and maintain. The project will also require the development of an overall staffing plan stating minimum and optimum staffing levels and includes planning options for downsizing the Corporation (397) employees. The project tasks will also include an internal and external salary analysis and recommendations for pay ranges for each classifications.

Interested parties may request a statement of work from the CUC Procurement & Supply Office in Lower Base, Saipan, CNMI; fax number 322-4323

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

Proposals will be evaluated and selections made based on qualifications of the principal and proposed staff (30%), experience (30%) cost (25%), approach to project (10%), and completeness of proposal (5%).

One (1) original and five (5) copies of proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked CUC RFP97-0007, to Mr. Frank T. Flores, Special Advisor for Material Management Division, P.O. Box 1220, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 3:00 p.m., local time, March 14, 1997.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

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

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

All inquiries shall be directed to Kay Delafield, Acting Personnel Officer at telephone number (670) 322-4033 extension 20 or fax (670) 322-4323

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Executive Director

Group nixes pedophiles' expulsion

By NIRESH ELIATAMBY
COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)

- Children's rights activists criticized the government Wednesday for deporting a Swiss national accused of molesting boys, saying Western countries are too lenient on child abusers.

"Western prisons are luxurious compared to Sri Lanka's. They would get a much tougher punishment here," said Kalyananda Tiranagama, director of Lawyers for Human Rights and Development.

Victor Baumann was taken into custody upon his return to Switzerland. Zurich's district attorney's office said. Exact charges against him are still to be decided.

Last week, another Swiss man became the first foreigner jailed in Sri Lanka for sexually abusing children in the island nation, which is a popular destination for tourists seeking sex with children.

Armin Heinrich Pfaffhauser, a 58-year-old native of Zurich who has lived in Sri Lanka for 25 years, was convicted last week of having sex with two boys aged 11 and 12 in 1995, and sentenced to two years in prison.

Baumann, 53, was arrested on Oct. 16 after police raided his home in Negombo, a town on Sri Lanka's west coast, and found three boys aged 11 to 16 in his company.

A local magistrate asked police to prepare formal charges, but Baumann was deported before the case could proceed.

Baumann, who had lived in Sri Lanka since 1985, owns an electronics factory employing about 2,000 people. He also

has invested in other Sri Lankan factories and shrimp farms.

Sri Lankan President Chandrika Kumaratunga announced Monday she is establishing a Child Protection Au-

thority and drawing up a plan to curb child labor and sexual abuse of children.

Last year, Sri Lanka toughened its laws to discourage foreign pedophiles, raising prison terms to a maximum 20 years for pimps and their clients.

But critics have accused law enforcement agencies of being lax.

Estimates of boy prostitutes in Sri Lanka range from 5,000 to 30,000.



Helped by Hindu priests smeared with vermillion paste, Tushar Gandhi, center, immerses the ashes of his great grandfather Mahatma Gandhi, in the holy Ganges river at Allahabad. A Hindu militant killed Gandhi in 1948, because he opposed Gandhi's support for the partition of India and the creation of Pakistan. Gandhi's ashes were divided and sent to all the states of India to be scattered in rivers, according to Hindu ritual. For reasons no one knows, a portion of the ashes was placed in a safe deposit box at a bank in Cuttack, 1,100 miles southeast of New Delhi. Tushar Gandhi went to court to gain custody of the ashes after newspapers reported in 1995 that they were at the bank. AP Photo

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC RFP 97-0015

February 12, 1997

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive proposals from responsible Architectural/Engineering firms capable of designing the upgrade of electrical overhead 7.97/13.8 kV distribution lines and secondary services in the Villages of Chalan Kanoa, Garapan, Gualo Rai, San Antonio, San Jose, San Roque, San Vicente, Susupe and Tanapag to correct problems caused by low voltages, excessive outages and property encroachments of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's electrical system. The work included in the statement of work will be on the Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), approximately 150 miles north of Guam.

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

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

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

Six (6) sets of the proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked CUC RFP 97-0015, to Mr. Frank T. Flores, Special Advisor, at CUC, Material Management Division, P.O. Box 1220, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 3:00 p.m., local time, Friday, March 14, 1997.

Proposals will be evaluated and selections made based on cost (50 maximum points), experience (45 maximum points), and design schedule (5 maximum points).

Selection shall be made in accordance with CUC's Procurement Regulations Selection 4-102. Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose or obtaining the best and final offers. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

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

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

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC RFP97-0019

February 07, 1997

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting proposals from qualified A/E engineering firms for the design of INSTALLATION OF LOWER NAVY HILL SEWER LINES AND UPGRADE OF VARIOUS PUMP STATIONS on the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

A pre-proposal meeting for this project will be held at the CUC Wastewater Division Conference Room in Sadog Tasi, Saipan, CNMI at exactly 9:30 a.m., local time, on Tuesday, February 18, 1997.

This project is funded by a grant from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA). All work performed on this project must comply with Federal and EPA regulations.

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

The proposed design Scope of Work will include the following:

1. Design of collector lines in Lower Navy Hill Subdivision
2. Upgrading of lift stations including pumps, piping, and valve replacement and installation of flow meters.

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

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

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

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

One (1) original and five (5) copies of proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked CUC RFP97-0019, to Mr. Frank T. Flores, Special Advisor to the Material Management Division, P.O. Box 1220, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 3:00 p.m., local time, March 07, 1997.

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

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

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

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Executive Director

Gov't workers join strike in Colombia

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)-Tens of thousands of striking state workers marched in Colombian cities, defying a president they backed in the worst days of his government's drug corruption scandal.

Business leaders say the crisis contributed to sluggish 3 percent growth in 1996, compared to 5.4 percent the previous year.

"We're paying - and they (the unions) are largely suffering the consequences - for the defense of the president they supported," wrote a columnist for *El Tiempo*, Colombia's most respected newspaper.

Millions of students did not go to class because state and private schools were closed. About 240,000 state teachers, as well as oil, health and telephone workers, joined the strike.

Some protesters threw stones at police as banner-waving marchers poured into Bogota's main plaza. There were several arrests.

The strike was a blow to President Ernesto Samper, who relied heavily on labor support when business leaders backed efforts to topple him last year over evidence he won election with Cali drug cartel cash.

A loyalist Congress absolved Samper, but the crisis hurt his ability to implement promised social reforms and was blamed in part for a faltering economy.

"Many union leaders have realized the deal with the government is a waste," said Evaristo Baron, head of a teacher's union.

Many businesses closed in Bogota and people not linked to the strike stayed home, fearing unrest. Police helicopters clattered across the skies over unusually quiet streets in the city of 7 million.

The armed forces were on alert to guard against attacks by leftist guerrillas, who say they represent the poor. Rebel threats kept most buses off the roads in Barrancabermeja, a major oil center in northeastern Colombia.

Public transport was down to 30 percent in Colombia's three largest cities, Bogota, Cali and Medellin, the government said. In the capital, some people got around on bicycles.

Dozens of domestic flights were canceled or suspended because of work stoppages at airports. American Airlines, Continental Airlines and the Panamanian carrier Copa canceled their Colombia flights.

At least 5,000 oil workers were on strike, but the state-owned oil company, Ecopetrol, said contingency plans were in place. Oil is Colombia's chief export.

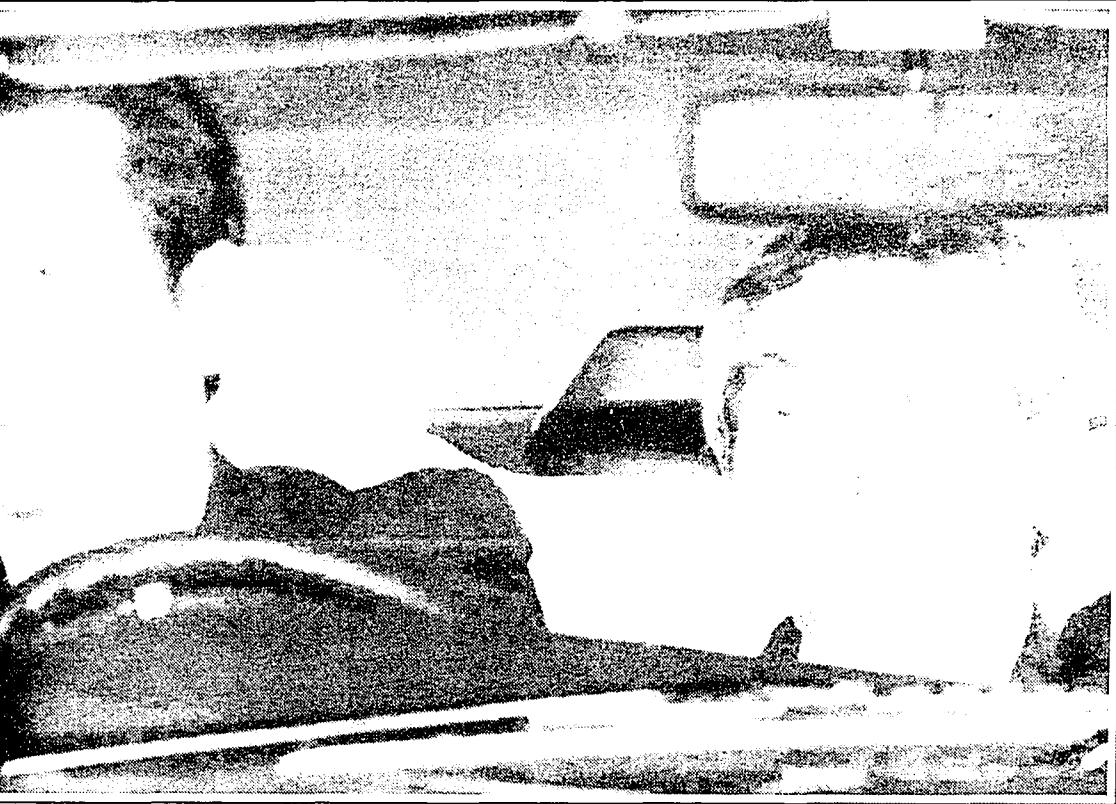
Telecom, the state telephone company, said long-distance service was operating at almost 100 percent. Many operations are automated.

The government rejected worker demands for a 21.6 percent wage hike in line with 1996 inflation, originally offering 13.5 percent.

Labor was once a big ally of Samper, a lawyer and economist from an elite background who won union sympathy by campaigning as a hero of the working classes.

During the political crisis last year, labor leaders visited the presidential palace to support Samper amid widespread calls for his resignation.

He named a former union leader,



Tsuneharu Hattori, in back seat, leaves in a police car for the Kosuge detention house in Tokyo following his arrest. Hattori, former president of Japan's newest and most expensive international airport at Osaka, was charged with taking 1.7 million yen (nearly 15,000 dollars) from an oil wholesaler to rig lucrative cleaning contracts at the Kansai International Airport. Man at left is unidentified. AP Photo

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CUC RFP 97-0016

February 14, 1997

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive proposals from responsible Architectural/Engineering firms capable of assisting CUC in the procurement of an additional 80 MW of generation for the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

Offerors must:

- have experience in assisting an electrical utility in determining the size and type of generators to be used in an environment like Saipan in order to provide the most reliable power;
- be able to assist CUC with the environmental and licensing concerns; and
- be able to assist CUC in preparing bid documents and contracts for the purchase of a generation plant for a build, operate and transfer generation plant agreement; or a build, operate and own generation plant agreement.

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

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

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

Six (6) sets of the proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked CUC RFP 97-0016, to Mr. Frank T. Flores, Special Advisor, at CUC, Material Management Division, P.O. Box 1220, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 3:00 p.m., local time, Tuesday, March 18, 1997.

Proposals will be evaluated and selections made based on cost (50 minimum points), qualifications of principal and staff (25 maximum points), qualifications of personnel assigned to the project (25 maximum points), and project completion time (10 maximum points).

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose or obtaining the best and final offers. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

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 services, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of CUC.

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

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Executive Director

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CUC RFP97-0006

February 12, 1997

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive proposals from Collection Agencies for processing of delinquent accounts.

Interested parties may pick up the scope of work at the CUC Procurement & Supply Office in Lower Base, Saipan, CNMI, during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.).

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

Offerors who are also attorneys must submit conflict analysis detailing all past and present representation for and against CUC or the Commonwealth Government, including any instrumentalities thereof.

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

One (1) original and five (5) copies of proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked CUC RFP 97-0006, to the Special Advisor, Material Management Division, CUC, at P.O. Box 1220, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 3:00 p.m., local time, Friday, March 14, 1997.

Proposals will be evaluated and selections made based on cost (50%), approach to project (20%), qualifications of the principal and proposed staff (15%), and experience (15%).

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose or obtaining the best and final offers. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

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 services, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of CUC.

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

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Executive Director

Plug pulled on 1st Maori TV

By RAY LILLEY

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) - In a plot twist that seems lifted from "The Emperor's New Clothes," the plug has been pulled on New Zealand's only Maori TV station after its directors went on a spending spree for expensive underwear.

Instead of getting a taxpayer cash

injection, the government suddenly cut off financially troubled Aotearoa Television Network (ATN) this week after reports said it lacked financial management controls.

Disclosures that station directors skimmed US \$680,000 (1 million NZ dollars) on production facilities and even took a trip to the Cannes film

festival, where no Maori-language movies were screened, fuelled the decision.

But the underwear spending spree captured the imagination of New Zealanders, most of whom are practical and economical.

Boxer shorts at US \$61 (89 NZ) a pair appalled people in a nation strug-

ging with an income gap between rich and poor, and a growing impoverished underclass — many of them Maori.

The buyer of the boxer shorts, former ATN director and now Maori legislator Tuki Morgan, claimed the clothes were for his on-air appearances. He bought them from his "presentation budget" as director of Sports.

Other items in the US \$13,600 (20,000 NZ) designer clothing spend-up: neckties at US \$96 each (140 NZ) and suits at US \$1,380 (2,000 NZ).

Members of Parliament and other critics howled, saying nobody had seen any Maori TV show in which sports broadcasters stripped to their designer boxer shorts.

Opposition legislators competed to find the cheapest boxer shorts, the winner claiming a set of three for US \$5 (7.25 NZ) bought in America.

To show their anger and disapproval, Maori protesters hoisted a pair of underpants on a ceremonial flagpole on Waitangi Day, Feb. 6, the country's national day.

They accused Morgan of shaming Maori and creating a new climate of "Maori-bashing" among critics.

It was on the Waitangi meeting ground that the Treaty of Waitangi was signed in 1840 between England and the Maori, part of which binds the government to protect and support Maori culture and language.

But in 1994 New Zealand's highest court ruled that the government was failing miserably in that task and ordered it to meet its legal obligations. The court said nurturing the culture of the Maori included providing them with radio and television to support their language.

ATN won the resulting bid to provide "pilot" Maori TV program-

ming of three hours a day in the Auckland market.

While its signal reached only a small audience, research showed a growing interest from viewers for Maori language programming in the world's biggest Polynesian center.

But now the scandals over "financial accountability within the company" have ended the project prematurely, according to Communications Minister Maurice Williamson.

Damaging allegations flew about secret profiteering after it was reported directors bought production facilities for the station, then used inter-company asset transfers to skim US \$680,000 (1 million NZ dollars) from the fledgling ATN.

Station workers said this week they will hold a fund-raising telethon and seek sponsorship to extend the station's life. Many of the staff continue to work voluntarily.

It has been costing US \$138,000 (20,000 NZ) a week to run ATN, but director and executive producer Tawini Rangihau said no one was talking liquidation.

The government says it will pursue its plan for a Maori language TV network. It is a project spurred on by coalition partner New Zealand First, which has seven Maori legislators in its ranks and three in Cabinet, including treasurer and deputy prime minister Winston Peters.

Latest figures show just 10,000 fluent Maori speakers remain among the 500,000 Maori population among New Zealand's 3.6 million people. That is below the level of survival for a language, according to the United Nations benchmark.

Maori language is seen by leaders and elders alike as the key to the survival of Maori culture, traditions and society.

Dublin's Wall Street takes shape

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) - Mention Dublin and a foreigner is apt to think of James Joyce and pints of Guinness, stuffy pubs and slow rains, a city still raking over the embers of yesteryear's romance and rebellion.

The boom capitalizes on Ireland's chronic ability to produce more well-educated, English-speaking people than the domestic economy can absorb.

The Irish government has given companies incentives to locate in Dublin. Those that do so under the auspices of the IFSC will enjoy a 10 percent corporate tax rate until 2006 at least.

Businesses also pay no tax on dividend and interest income, or on capital gains from investments in Dublin.

Sweetening the deal is the Industrial Development Authority of Ireland's willingness to reward companies with a grant of up to \$16,000 per job.

Bob Kelly, a Londoner overseeing Citibank's expansion in Dublin, said the bank had housed its back office operation for Europe since the mid-1970s in increasingly cramped quarters in south London.

"We were always looking outside England to expand and shift some of the workload, and Dublin scored quite highly," said Kelly.

"The grants available here are no better than other countries. The key thing I need is a balance of people with the ability to speak different languages and we've got that in abundance here," he said.

The biggest problem Citibank may face, Kelly said, is finding enough space for its work force. Dublin's real estate market is

booming - residential property values were up 15 percent in the past year, and large-scale office space is not far behind.

"Dublin is a very popular place all of a sudden," Kelly said.

Logue says the Irish efforts

have been paid the ultimate compliment in recent months.

When joint government-business delegations go overseas pitching for fresh business, they find the locals picking their brains about how to set up a financial center like Dublin's.

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION
from the family of the late
HERMAN PELES REYES
Detecil Cuartero

We wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to everyone for your genuine show of love and support during our time of sorrow. You helped to ease our pain and sadness. Dangkulu Na Si Yu's Ma'ase to Bishop Tomas A. Camacho, Fr. Roger Tenorio and Fr. Isaac Ayuyu, Alicia G. Guerrero (Techa) and the Shalom Choir and a special thanks to Nan Meggi Tenorio and CHC staff who took good care of dad during his illness.

Also, our deepest thanks to our many, many family, relatives and friends who attended the daily noon and evening rosaries, daily masses, and to the many people who contributed and gave so generously. Your kindness and thoughtfulness will forever remain in our hearts. May the Lord bless and keep you all in his loving care.

TUN HERMAN PAN FAMILY

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

VICENTA CEPEDA TUDELA

There are no words adequate enough to describe the pain and sense of loss that is felt upon the death of one's mother. Yet, in this time of loss, the prayers, kind words, and gracious support of friends and relatives have been a balm to our sorrow and source of strength.

The family would like to extend our sincere gratitude and appreciation to our many relatives and friends and especially to CHC Doctors and the D-side Nurses and supervisors. His excellency, Bishop Thomas A. Camacho, Father Roger, Isaac, Vic and all the clergies, the tenores and the shalom choirs during the Christian Burial Mass.

Your kindness, prayers and thoughts given to us in our time of sorrow, will always be remembered.

Si Yu's Ma'ase
Ginen I Familia

Once again, we would also like to inform our family and friends that the mass for last day of Rosary will be on Wednesday, February 19, 1997 at 6:00 p.m. at San Vicente Church. Dinner will be served immediately after mass at Mr. & Mrs. Carlos Takai residence.

Thank you for your unending prayers and support.

The Family

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

JOSE S.M. ICHIHARA
BORN: FEBRUARY 28, 1912
DIED: FEBRUARY 11, 1997

Now joins his beloved
WIFE: Teresa Rosario Aldan Ichihara
PARENTS: Jose Kameki Ichihara
Dolores S.M. Ichihara
PARENTS-IN-LAW: Ignacio DLG. Aldan
Maria B. Aldan

BROTHERS/SISTERS-IN-LAW:
Joaquin S.M. Ichihara (dec.) & Rosa F. Ichihara; Colasa R. Aldan; Juan Castro & Carmen Aldan Castro (both dec.) Harry Cruz (dec.) & Adela A. Cruz (dec.) Jesus & Remedio Leon Guerrero (both dec.) Balenir & Adela A. Cabreiro (both dec.) Joaquin D. Cepeda, (Tona, Dec.) Ninan Cepeda Francisco S.M. Ichihara (dec.) & Vicenta M. Ichihara (dec.) Rita S.M. Ichihara (dec.) Maria S.M. Ichihara (dec.) James A. & Ana Ichihara ARI; Juan S.M. Ichihara; Jesus S.M. Ichihara & Carmen B. Ichihara (dec.)

CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN:
Ricardo R. Marciano (dec.) & Dolores I. Marciano (David (dec.), Gordon, Leilani, Luella, Reghisham (Kiki) & Righaliman)
Jose A. Ichihara & Rosa I. Ichihara (Thelma, Jojo, Albert & Lydia)
Rosa Ichihara (Joseph, Julie, Ari, Therese & John)
Ignacio & Jeanne Ichihara (Teresa, Jesus, Florentina & Natasha)
Juan & Brigida Ichihara (Belinda, Rochelle, Keoni, Ken Joe, Brigid & Ricky)
Vicente & Diane C. Ichihara (Tenku & Aaron)
Maria Ichihara (Augustin M. Rioz)
Paul & Vicki Ichihara (Paul Jr., P.J. & Pauline Jessica)

Also, leaving behind numerous grandchildren (30) and 14 great grand children, numerous nieces and nephews.

Rosary is being said daily at 12:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. at his residence in Chalan Kanao Dist. #3. His body will be placed at the same place on Wednesday, February 19, 1997. Viewing is from 8:00 a.m. to 3:30 p.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 4:00 p.m. at the Mount Carmel Cathedral followed by interment at the Chalan Kanao Cemetery. Your prayers and presence is greatly appreciated.

Dangkulu na si Yu's Ma'ase Ginen I Familia.

FIRST ANNIVERSARY

In loving memory of
Nicolas M. De Leon Guerrero

BERNADITA BASA MENDIOLA "Bennett"

We, the family, invite all relatives and friends to join us in commemorating the First Anniversary of his passing unto eternal life by attending the nine day Eucharistic celebration at 6:00 p.m. at San Vicente Church, beginning on February 9, 1997 and ending with a Memorial Mass on February 17, 1997. Dinner will be served following the Memorial Mass at the San Vicente Church patio.

Your attendance is gratefully appreciated.

Helen S. Leon Guerrero
Anna Leon Guerrero-Sullivan & Brian Sullivan

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

We the family of the late
PETRA IGLESIAS MACARANAS

invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayer for our beloved mother, grandmother and great grandmother in commemorating her first year in the eternal life.

Rosary will be said nightly at 7:00 p.m. at Andy Macaranas' residence in China Town starting from Thursday, February 13 through February 20th.

On the final day, Friday, February 21st, Rosary will be said at 12:00 noon. The Mass of the Re-pose of her soul will be offered at 6:00 P.M. at Kristo Rai Church in Garapan. Dinner will follow at her residence in China Town.

Please join us in prayers
Dangkulu na si Yu's Ma'ase
Ginen I Familia

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

The family of the late
BERNADITA BASA MENDIOLA "Bennett"

Wish to express our heartfelt gratitude and sincerest appreciation to everyone for your genuine show of love and support during our time of sorrow. You helped to ease our pain and sadness. Dangkulu Na Si Yu's Ma'ase to Bishop Tomas A. Camacho, Fr. Roger Tenorio and Fr. Isaac Ayuyu, Nan Meggi Esang (Techa), Tona and Jerome, the St. Jude Choir, DPS staff and special thanks to CHC staff.

Also, our deepest thanks to our family, relatives and friends who attended the daily and evening rosaries, daily masses, and to the many people who contributed and gave so generously. Your kindness and thoughtfulness will forever remain in our hearts.

May the Lord bless and keep you all in his loving care

Si Yu's Ma'ase
DONALD M. MENDIOLA, CHILDREN & FAMILY

Millionaire tackles reform at UN

First Anniversary

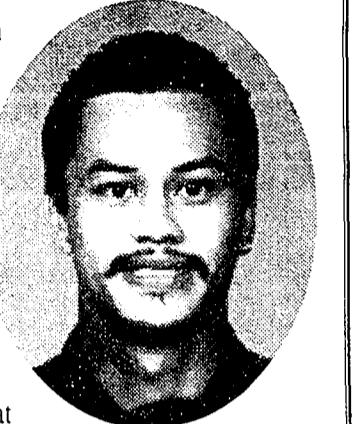
We, the family of the late

ANTONIO C. TOMOKANE, JR.
(BLANCO) "TONY"

Invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayer for our beloved one. Daily Mass will be offered at 6:00 A.M. at Kristo Rai Church beginning February 09, 1997 to February 16, 1997.

Rosary will be said nightly at 8:00 P.M., at the family residence in Middle Road, Garapan beginning February 09, 1997 through February 16, 1997. On the final day February 17, 1997 Rosary will be said at 12:00 Noon and the Mass of Intention will be offered at 5:00 P.M. at Kristo Rai Church. Dinner will follow at the family residence.

Thank You
The Family



By ROBERT H. REID
UNITED NATIONS (AP)

Maurice Strong ran away from home at 14, trapped furs with the Eskimos, built a fortune in business, helped save starving Africans and made the environment a front-burner issue.

He has the self-confidence to tackle a daunting job: reforming the United Nations.

"Iran an organization that was even larger than the U.N."

Strong said in an interview in his small, spartan office overlooking midtown Manhattan, recalling his stint as president of Petro-Canada, one of Canada's biggest energy companies.

"And frankly, it was in trouble. It was losing \$ 3.5 billion when I came in. Three years later, it was making the largest profit in its history; the staff had moved from 36,000 to just over 20,000."

After the United States vetoed a second term for Secretary-General Boutros Boutros-Ghali, accusing him of resisting reform, his successor, Kofi

Annan, made restructuring and downsizing the United Nations a priority.

To coordinate the effort, Annan turned to Strong, an unpretentious Canadian with a salt-and-pepper moustache and a boyish optimism despite his 67 years.

His mission, for which he is paid dls 1 a year, is to help Annan produce a package of reform proposals for submission to the 185-member General Assembly next fall.

"I've been quite disappointed

over the years that while discussing reform and studying reform has become almost an industry, the actual undertaking of reform has been a very, very slow process," Strong said.

Some U.S. officials reacted with suspicion to Strong because he has been closely associated with an organization Washington wants drastically revamped.

Like many American politicians, however, Strong believes the United Nations should "prune its agenda" of programs

"for which the U.N. isn't really necessarily the best forum."

He also wants the United Nations to look beyond its ranks and use the talent found in universities, non-governmental organizations and think-tanks around the world. Those who have worked with Strong say his skill is not in producing new ideas, but in recruiting and organizing talented people to come up with them and then convincing reluctant leaders to do what he thinks is right.

"I'm basically a people person," Strong said. "I look for the best expertise wherever it is, and I've never been turned down."

He is credited with leading a U.N. campaign in the mid-1980s that raised dls 4.5 billion to combat famine in Ethiopia. The United Nations claims the effort saved 35 million lives.

When the Ethiopian army confiscated all the country's trucks to fight guerrillas, Strong personally persuaded Ethiopia's dictator Mengistu Haile Mariam to release vehicles to deliver food to refugee camps.

Strong has been associated with the United Nations since he lied about his age as a teenager and got a job issuing security passes.

He also brings experience from the private sector and a proven track record of succeeding where others would not even try.

Strong grew up in Canada's Manitoba province, the eldest of four children of an often unemployed telegraph operator.

At age 14, he ran away from home and made his way to British Columbia, where he worked as a sailor on coastal cargo ships.

Later, he became an apprentice fur trader in the Northwest Territory, where he lived with the Eskimos.

"I learned a lot from them about survival, and about what man was doing to his environment," Strong said.

After taking courses at night school, Strong worked as a securities analyst in Calgary, starting a business career that included the presidencies of the Power Corp. of Canada, and the government-affiliated Petro-Canada.

Strong's wealth enabled him to indulge his passion for international development and the environment.

In 1966, he reorganized Canada's foreign aid programs.

That attracted the attention of U.N. Secretary-General U Thant, who asked him to organize the 1972 environment conference in Stockholm, Sweden, which helped launch the international ecology movement.

The image of a big businessman-turned-environmentalist sometimes has generated skepticism, but that doesn't seem to bother Strong.

"The private sector thinks you're an oddball or a socialist," he told Canada's MacLean's magazine in 1986. "And in the rest of the community, you are suspect because you are a businessman."

Study: No pain, not much gain

BERKELEY, California (AP) - The findings from America's largest study of long-distance runners found that men who ran more than 40 miles (64 kilometers) a week had a smaller risk of coronary heart disease than those who ran less than 10 miles (16 kilometers) a week.

"We don't disagree that doing something is better than doing nothing," said Williams, who squeezes in about 20 miles (32 kilometers) a week.

"But moderate exercise is not where you see your greatest benefit."

The Berkeley study, which recruited volunteers from subscribers to the magazine Runner's World, compared men who run at least 40 miles a week with those who run fewer than 10 miles (16 kilometers) a week.

It found a significant reduction in "bad" cholesterol levels and an increase in "good" chole-

sterol levels for the more intense runners.

The study also found a 50 percent

reduction in hypertension and a 30 percent drop in overall risk of heart disease over the next decade.

FIRST DEATH ANNIVERSARY

We the Family of the Late

**DIANE
MASGA
INOS**



Invite all our friends and relatives to join us in the nightly rosary and daily mass commemorating the first death anniversary of our beloved one.

Rosary is said at 8:00 P.M. at the residence of Mayor Joseph S. Inos, Liyo, Rota, beginning on Tuesday, February 11, 1997. Daily mass is offered at San Francisco de Borja Church at 6:00 A.M.

On the 9th day, Wednesday, February 19, 1997, an appreciation dinner will be served at 6:30 P.M. at the same residence.

Thank you and Si Yu'us Ma'ase
From the Family

Astronauts capture space telescope

By MARCIA DUNN
SPACE CENTER, Houston (AP)

-After a two-day pursuit, Discovery and its crew pulled up alongside the Hubble Space Telescope early Thursday and captured the huge, gleaming observatory.

Astronaut Steven Hawley reached out with the shuttle crane and latched onto the four-story-tall telescope as the two spacecraft sped in tandem 17,500 mph (28,200 kph), 370 miles (595 kilometers) above the Pacific.

It was NASA's first look at Hubble since December 1993, when astronauts last visited the telescope. Discovery's com-

mander, Kenneth Bowersox, who was on that repair mission, assured Mission Control that Hubble looked the same.

"It's a beautiful sight," Bowersox said.

Lee helped develop the tools that he and spacewalk partner Steven Smith will use Thursday night and again Saturday night to install new science instruments and other updated equipment on Hubble. Two other astronauts will perform spacewalks on Friday night and Sunday night.

Lee is a 44-year-old Air Force colonel, four-time space flier and former fighter pilot who has specialized in spacewalks since becoming an astronaut in 1984.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

DARROW JOHN PANGELINAN SABLON, JR.

In his death, Dé now joins his:

Grandparents: Estephania Blas Reyes Sablon, Pedro Lizama Pangelinan

His peaceful spirit and memories will live in the hearts of his:

Parents: Juan Reyes Sablon and Maria Pangelinan Sablon

Sister: Leslie P. Sablon

Brother: Johanzem P. Sablon

Son: Keoni Joseph Borja

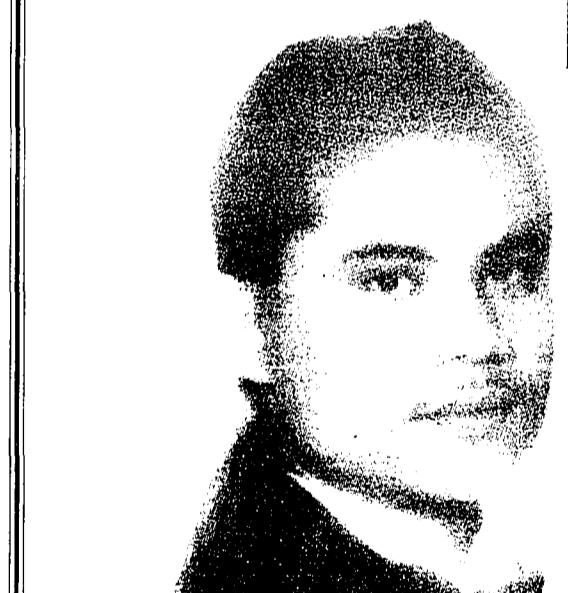
Grandparents: Jesus Aguon Sablon and Modesta Cruz Pangelinan

He is additionally survived by numerous uncles, aunts, nephews and nieces.

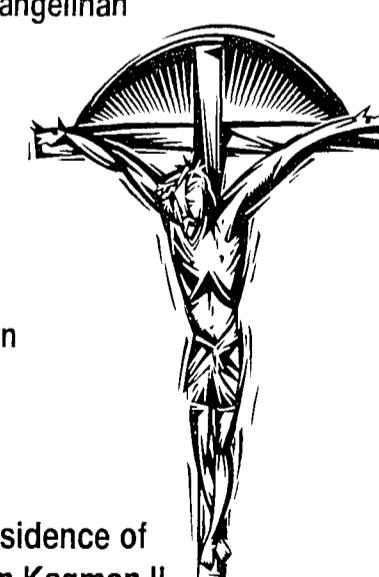
Rosary is being said nightly at 8:00 p.m. at the residence of Juan Reyes Sablon and Maria Pangelinan Sablon in Kagman II.

Last respects may be paid on Saturday, February 15, 1997, from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at San Vicente Church. Mass of Christian Burial will be offered at 4:30 p.m. on the same day. Burial will follow at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

PACIFICA FUNERAL SERVICES
235-6516



Darrow John Pangelinan Sablon Jr., lovingly known to his families and friends as "Dé" was called to his eternal rest on Saturday, February 8, 1997 at the age of 19 years.



DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

OLYMPIA REYES SABLON

lovingly known to her families and friends as "Olym" was called to her eternal rest on Feb. 11, 1997 at the age of 61 years.

In her death Olym now joins:

DAUGHTER: Lydia **SON:** Frankie
PARENTS: Juan Reyes (Stein) & Maria Borja Camacho (Stein) **PARENTS-IN-LAW:** Jose P. Sablon & Dolores T. Sablon
 Her peaceful spirit and memories will live with her.

HUSBAND: Ricardo (Ruth) Tenorio Sablon

CHILDREN/SPOUSES & GRANDCHILDREN:
 Barbara P. & Francisco Q. Guerrero (John, Doris, Francis & Dorsha); Richard R. & Marilou Sablon (Richard Jr.); Bernadita S. & Edward Pangelinan (Dean, Iva, Kelly, Amanda & Amaida); David R. & Barbara Q. Sablon (Naomi & Daviann); Edward R. & Margaret M. Sablon (Justin & Edward Jr.); Vivian S. & Ignacio DL Guerrero (Ike Jr., Keith & Paige); and Charlie R & Charlene T. Sablon (Tiffany, Vanity & Nikki)

GREAT GRAND CHILDREN: Devon Jordan, Jezza Monet & Eddie Joe

BROTHERS & SISTERS: Jesus B. & Esther Stein (Ca), Francisco B. Stein (Guam), Elena DLG. Stein Richard B & Martina Stein (CA) Antonia R. & Jose A. Tenorio, Teresita R. & Ricardo C. Rasa, David Reyes Stein (Deceased), Magdalena B. & Frank Pangelinan (Guam), Dionicio B. & Pat Camacho (GA), Angelina C. & Gregorio Muna (WA) Martin B. Camacho

BROTHERS & SISTERS IN-LAW:
 Manuel T. & Dolores R. Sablon, Jesus T. & Maria T. Sablon, Jose T. & Maria D. Sablon, Celina P. Stein
 She is additionally survived by numerous uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces and godchildren.

Rosary is being said nightly at 8:00 p.m. at the family's residence in San Antonio (Afetna)
 Last respects may be paid on Thursday, February 20, 1997 from 8:00 a.m. until 3:00 p.m. at the family's residence.
 Funeral mass will be offered at 4:00 p.m. at Mt. Carmel Cathedral on the same day. Burial will follow at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Island Florist & Funeral Services
 Beach Road, Chalan Kanoa • Tel. 235-1001

Peru talks spur optimism



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By PAUL HAVEN

LIMA, Peru (AP) - Diplomats were upbeat on prospects for a peaceful end to Peru's hostage crisis after contact resumed between the government and Tupac Amaru rebels.

In Tokyo, Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said Wednesday he was relieved that contact has resumed. Many of the captives are Japanese.

Seiroku Kajiyama, Chief Cabinet Secretary, called the talks "extremely meaningful."

"We strongly expect that the talks between the Peruvian government and the rebels will develop and that will lead to a peaceful resolution and the release of all the hostages," Kajiyama said.

The Tuesday meeting was seen as a significant step toward the release of the 72 men still held in the Japanese ambassador's mansion since Tupac Amaru rebels raided a cocktail party there on Dec. 17, seizing more than 500 hostages.

They are demanding the release of hundreds of jailed comrades. Negotiations had been stalled since Dec. 28, when the rebels last met with government negotiator Domingo Palermo inside the compound. No date has been set yet for further talks.

Future discussions are expected to focus on improving prison conditions for jailed guerrillas and perhaps finding asylum in another country for the rebels in the ambassador's residence.

Rebels say they won't abandon their main demand - the release of hundreds of their jailed comrades. Fujimori has rejected that.

President Alberto Fujimori returned from an economic conference in London on Wednesday, one day after Palermo and Tupac Amaru rebel leader Roli Rojas Fernandez met in a house across the street from the Japanese ambassador's residence to iron out the framework for future talks to try to end the two-month crisis.

No date has been set yet for further talks.

In Lima, U.S. Ambassador Dennis Jett was optimistic.

"This is not an easy task, but I am hopeful that it will lead to a happy ending," Jett said in comments published Wednesday in the Expreso daily.

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In Ghana

Dungeon restoration spurs debate

BY BETH DUFF-BROWN
ELMINA, Ghana (AP) - Tip-toeing down the narrow slope from the dungeons to the dreaded Door of No Return, you are hit by a salty sting that speaks of centuries of tears and sweat and sea.

The black man's waste that for three centuries filled the cracks between the white man's bricks has not been fully removed.

Visitors can still sense what it must have been like for hun-

dreds of thousands of Africans forced to stoop through the Door of No Return and into slave ships waiting below.

"The female dungeon still has about it an odor- the dirt,

the centuries of filth, the fear," said Constance Garcia-Barrio, a black American who recently visited the Elmina castle, built by Portuguese traders in 1482 and still standing on a cliff above the Atlantic Ocean.

"To me, the castles are a tie that binds us to Africa."

Garcia-Barrio and many other American blacks who visit Ghana feel a fierce propriety over the castle at Elmina and another one in nearby Cape Coast. They don't want slavery to be forgotten, its roots buried in a country where the hushed-up practice of virgin slavery still exists in some religious communities.

"I do feel a sense of ownership," said Garcia-Barrio, an associate professor of Spanish at West Chester University in Philadelphia.

But the restoration, financed in part by \$10 million from the U.S. government's Agency for International Development, is under debate. Some black Americans say the forts and their horrors are being sanitized by well-meaning conservationists who are turning the castles into tourist attractions that diminish the evils of bondage.

They complain about the removal of shackles and branding irons from dungeon walls and about the gift shops selling postcards and tacky trinkets alongside traditional African cloth and art.

"I am offended by the 'touristy' of the castles," said Dr. Nelson Keith, a Jamaican-born sociology professor at West Chester and founder of its Institute for International Development, which is organizing a student and faculty exchange program with the University of Ghana.

Garcia-Barrio accepts there is a need for restoration work.

"But it should be done in a way that respects the history and doesn't mask the horror of what happened," she said.

"For instance, they're putting a gift shop in what was once a dungeon."

Some 10 million Africans were sold into slavery between the 1500 and 1800s, bartered by their own tribal kings and chiefs to European traders for such novelties as gunpowder, alcohol and mirrors. Many were held in castle dungeons along the West African coast before being marched out to slave ships that sailed for the Americas and Europe.

The castles were built by the Portuguese and Swedes as seaside trading forts and later also were used by Dutch and British colonialists.

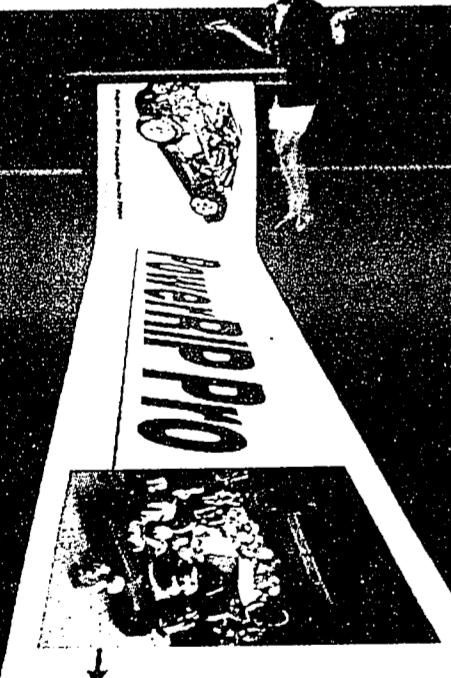
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Appointment of General Guardian for BARBARA CECILIA LISUA OLAITIMAN, a minor child.

CIVIL ACTION NO. 97-128

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL GUARDIAN

Please take notice, that Delia Warakai Olaiteman has filed a Petition requesting that she be appointed the general guardian of Barbara Cecilia Lisua Olaiteman, a minor child, and that the said Petition will be heard by the Court on Thursday, March 13, 1997 at the hour of 1:30 p.m. of the said day at the Commonwealth Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan.

Dated this 06 day of February 1997.
/s/ Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In Re the Matter of TIANNA LYNN HOFSCHEIDER Minor Child, By: HENRY V. HOFSCHEIDER, SR. MAGDALENA M. HOFSCHEIDER Petitioners.

ADOPTION CASE NO. 97-02

NOTICE OF HEARING

You are hereby notified that the above-entitled matter has been set for a hearing on the 28th day of February, 1997, at the hour of 9:00 a.m., at the Superior Court in Tinian.

If you have any interest in the above-entitled case, you are advised to appear on the date and time mentioned above.

Dated this 8th day of January, 1997.
Clerk of Court
by: /s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

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Leave Message

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB97-0070
FOR: LEASE OF VEHICLES
OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 21, 1997 TIME: 3:30 P.M.

GOVERNOR FROLAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR THE LEASE OF VEHICLES. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.)

/s/ EDWARD B. PALACIOS
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

ITB NO.: RFP97-0054
FOR: PROCUREMENT OF COMPUTERS

OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 21, 1997 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

GOVERNOR FROLAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, IS SOLICITING COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR PROCUREMENT OF COMPUTERS. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP PROPOSAL FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.).

/s/ EDWARD B. PALACIOS
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB97-0052
FOR: PROCUREMENT OF A VEHICLE

OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 21, 1997 TIME: 3:00 P.M.

GOVERNOR FROLAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF A VEHICLE. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.).

/s/ EDWARD B. PALACIOS
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO BID

ITB NO.: ITB97-0056
FOR: PROCUREMENT OF A USED VEHICLE

OPENING DATE: FEBRUARY 21, 1997 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

GOVERNOR FROLAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR THE PROCUREMENT OF A USED VEHICLE. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.).

/s/ EDWARD B. PALACIOS
DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO BID

ITB No.: ITB97-0073

FOR: LEASE OF VEHICLES

OPENING DATE: March 14, 1997

TIME: 2:30 P.M.

GOVERNOR FROLAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR LEASE OF VEHICLES. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.).

/s/ EDWARD B. PALACIOS

Director, Division of Procurement and Supply

LOST PASSPORT

Lee Sung Hang lost her passport in Navy Hill Area. Any information regarding this matter, please contact Ms. Lee Sung Lang at telephone no. 322-1357

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT INVITATION TO BID

ITB No.: ITB97-0072

FOR: LEASE OF VEHICLES

OPENING DATE: March 14, 1997

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

GOVERNOR FROLAN C. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS C. BORJA, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR LEASE OF VEHICLES. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP BID FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.).

/s/ EDWARD B. PALACIOS
Director, Division of Procurement and Supply

SEAFIX INCORPORATED

As a result of continued expansion, we are in need of an experienced accounts person to handle day to day processing of company finances and administration.

If you have the drive and ambition to further your career, are willing to learn and have the ability to think literally, SEAFIX would like to meet you. The successful candidates will receive a competitive starting salary, company health insurance and job satisfaction.

Resumes should be submitted to:

NENETTE PRATHER
SEAFIX INCORPORATED
Westpac Building, Puerto Rico
Tel. 322-0997

PUBLIC NOTICE



This is to inform the general public that JOICHI ARIZONO who's picture appears hereon is no longer connected with NITTO SAIPAN, CORPORATION, located at Garapan, effective January 17, 1997.

Any transaction entered into by and between any individual or firms and JOICHI ARIZONO shall not be honored by Nitto Saipan, Corporation.

The Management
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322-9551/322-9529 Ask for Rene or Emmie

Studio Type - \$350-\$400/month
1 Bedroom - \$450/month
Utility excluded, never renovated
Concrete bldg. on 2nd flr; Good ocean view,
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Marianas Variety News

Classified Ads Section

Employment Wanted



Job Vacancy Announcement

01 SUPERVISOR-Salary:\$3.50 per hour
Contact: KEICHI UCHIDA/TRAP PLANNING INC., dba Use Us Rental Tel. 235-2060(2/14)F227681

02 DRESSMAKER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: ALMABELLA P. WEATHERSBEE dba Debreri Enterprises Tel. 233-2643(2/14)F227682

01 CARPENTER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: ABA CORPORATION Tel. 322-3149(2/14)F227684

01 CASHIER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 H.E. OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: AA ENTERPRISES, INC. dba Tanapag Services Station Tel. 322-3149(2/14)F227683

01 GENERAL MANAGER-Salary:\$1,000.00-5,800.00 per month
Contact: SUWASO CORPORATION dba Coral Ocean Point Resort Club Tel. 234-7000(2/14)F64154

01 AC/REF. MECHANIC-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: DAR CORPORATION, INC. Tel. 234-1944(2/14)F64151

01 OFFICE MANAGER-Salary:\$1,200.00 per month
01 CARPENTER-Salary:\$500.00 per month
Contact: KWEK'S ENTERPRISES Tel. 234-7343(2/14)F227670

02 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
02 KITCHEN HELPER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: JNM KINTOL, INC. dba Auntie Mag's Diner (2/14)F227671

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour
02 SALES CLERK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: VICENTE N. & LYSIDA METTAO dba Jansen Enterprises Tel. 322-1057(2/14)F227672

01 CARPET INSTALLER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: MARIE JOCELYN SINGH dba Joshua Enterprises (2/14)F227673

02 COMMERCIAL CLEANERS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: JUAN T. HOCOG dba J&R Hocog Ent. Tel. 256-7673(2/14)F227675

01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: MANUEL R. & GLORIA L. MESA dba M & G Ent. Tel. 233-6910(2/14)F227674

01 DRAFTS WORKER-Salary:\$350.00 bi-weekly
Contact: RUFO T. MAFNAS dba B & R Construction Tel. 234-2697(2/14)F227677

02 MACHINIST-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
02 WELDER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: MATIAS L. BITANCOR dba MLB Machine Shop Tel. 235-5737(2/14)F227676

01 ASST. MANAGER-Salary:\$800.00 per month
Contact: MIRAGE CORPORATION Tel. 233-4137(2/14)F227678

02 CIVIL ENGINEER-Salary:\$3.50-10.00 per hour
04 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR-Salary:\$2.90-3.50 per hour
02 PAINTER-Salary:\$2.90-3.50 per hour
01 KITCHEN HELPER-Salary:\$2.90-3.05 per hour
Contact: WESTERN EQUIPMENT, INC. Tel. 322-9561(2/6)Th64018

01 FARM WORKER-Salary: \$3.05-5.00 per hour
01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.05-5.00 per hour
college graduate required, 2 years experience

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.05-5.00 per hour
college graduate required, 2 years experience
Contact: YOUNIS ART STUDIO, INC. Tel. 234-6341(2/28)F64393

01 A/C REFRIGERATION TECHNICIAN/MECHANIC-Salary: \$5.00 per hour
To inspect and ascertain the aircrafts being worthy to JAL's regulations from all technical points of view. In liaison with Continental Micronesia's maintenance section and to manage their ground handling duties. Communicates in Japanese and other related works. Must be holder of Aircraft Main/Eng. Certificate and Radio Operator License.

Contact: JAPAN AIRLINES Tel. 234-6553(2/21)F64280

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$5.00-18.00 per hour
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01 KITCHEN HELPER-Salary:\$2.90-3.05 per hour
Contact: WESTERN EQUIPMENT, INC. Tel. 322-9561(2/6)Th64018

DEADLINE: 12:00 noon the day prior to publication

NOTE: If some reason your advertisement is incorrect, call us immediately to make the necessary corrections. The Marianas Variety News and Views is responsible only for one correct insertion. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time.

FOR RENT

Two-Bedroom Apartment at Dandan, San Vicente Fully furnished, wall to wall carpet, split-type A/C all rooms, breezy atmosphere, with ocean view, spacious parking Two units available

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EATING RIGHT CAN HELP REDUCE THE RISK OF CANCER.

It can also help you reduce your weight...

And since a 12-year study shows that being 40% or more overweight puts you at high risk, it makes sense to follow these guidelines for healthy living! Eat plenty of fruits and vegetables rich in vitamins A and C—oranges, cantaloupe, strawberries, peaches, apricots, broccoli, cauliflower, brussels sprouts, cabbage. Eat a high-fiber, low-fat diet that includes whole-grain breads and cereals such as oatmeal, bran and wheat. Eat lean meats, fish, skinned poultry and low-fat dairy products. Drink alcoholic beverages only in moderation.

WANTED

House worker with experience
Please call 233-4462
after 4:00 p.m.

AMERICAN CANCER SOCIETY

EEK & MEEK®

IT SAYS HERE THAT A LOT OF OUR WILDLIFE IS DISAPPEARING AT AN ALARMING RATE



Garfield®

I'M NOT SURPRISED...

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National Basketball Association

Lakers rout T-Wolves, 100-84

LOS ANGELES never trailed after Robert Horry hit O'Neal for the alley-oop dunk in the opening seconds.

Eden Campbell scored 21 points and Eddie Jones 19 for the Lakers, and Horry had 11 points and 10 rebounds. Los Angeles won for the eighth time in nine games.

Stephon Marbury returned to the Timberwolves' starting lineup after missing eight games because of a thigh bruise. He had 13 points and eight assists.

Hawks 106, Raptors 84

Toronto, which lost its fifth in a row on the road, led 64-63 with 2:45 left in the third period. Atlanta responded with a 33-4 burst, including the 25-0 run led by Mookie Blaylock's seven points.

Blaylock had 19 points, 11 assists and eight rebounds. The Hawks improved to 7-0 overall against Toronto, 3-0 this season.

Suns 131, Celtics 100

Kevin Johnson had a triple-double by halftime and Phoenix

rounded short-handed Boston in a meeting of last-place teams.

Johnson finished with 22 points, 17 assists and 11 rebounds in only 34 minutes. Wesley Person hit 13 of 14 shots and scored a career-high 33 points for the host Suns.

The Celtics, with just 10 healthy players, lost their fourth in a row. They trailed 106-66 with 1:30 left in the third quarter and were in danger of surpassing their most-

lopsided loss ever - by 44 points at Portland in 1977 - until the Suns cleared the bench.

Grizzlies 106, Spurs 101

Vancouver won a season series for the first time in its two-year history, led by Bryant Reeves' 31 points.

The Grizzlies have the worst record in the league at 10-43, but have won three of four against San Antonio this season. Earlier

in the day, the injury-depleted Spurs found out that two-time All-Star Sean Elliott might miss the rest of the season because of chronic tendinitis in his right knee.

Vernon Maxwell made all five of his 3-point shots for the host Spurs and became the fifth player in NBA history to hit 1,000 career 3-pointers.

Pistons 96, Magic 87

Grant Hill posted his fifth triple-

double of the season, including four in the last month, and helped Detroit down visiting Orlando.

Hill had 31 points, 10 rebounds and 10 assists. He had consecutive three-point plays, highlighting a 13-2 run in the third quarter as the Pistons overcame a 54-50 deficit.

Penny Hardaway scored 16 points for the Magic, but shot just 3-for-15 and fouled out.

Pua...

Continued from page 68

event as New Heights bet them for the title. Despite the loss, Pua's efforts went unnoticed.

Pangelinan, the 1996 Female Athlete of the Year, continued her fine form by setting a new Guam

record in the 100 M backstroke during the recently concluded ABC Invitational Swim Meet in Agana, Guam. Pangelinan also established two NMU age group records in the same event.

In the student athletes' category, Boyer was the choice for the male award as he made personal bests in several events in the ABC Invita-

tional Swim Event. What made Boyer's effort more exceptional was the fact that he was competing in his first-ever off island tournament.

Santos took the female student honors after leading her team, the Mt. Carmel Knights, win the crown in the CNMI Interscholastic High School Volleyball Tournament. Santos was very instrumental in MCS' three set

victory over Rota High School, 15-13; 12-15; and 15-13 in the championship game.

Santos, who is the co-captain of the team, is also a key player of the MCS team that is currently leading the Girls' Division of the 1997 Youth Volleyball League with an unblemished 8-0 win loss slate.

Annual...

Continued from page 68

Course.

The remaining 18 holes will be played in the Orchard Golf & Country Club.

Organizers of the annual event initially offered invitations to Guam-based golfers to play in the tournament but due to Larry Cabrera, one of the primary movers behind the participation of Saipan-based golfers in the golf event.

Tournament entry fee is \$300 inclusive of one round of golf (in both courses), green/caddie fees, non-alcoholic refreshments and breakfasts.

The yearly Proudbird Golf event has earned praises from previous participants. The tournament was well-run and offered prizes to practically

all the participants.

To make it more convenient for interested golfers to participate, Continental Airlines is offering special packages in the tournament that is expected to lure the participation of the leading golfers in the region.

The package includes round-trip economy class airfare, round trip airport/hotel transfers, round trip hotel/golf course transfer, four night stay at Hyatt Regency Manila, cocktail reception at Hyatt Regency, and luncheon awards banquet to be held at the Orchard Golf and Country Club.

A golfer can still participate even without availing of the package as long as he can submit his application on or

before the deadline," Cabrera added. He also mentioned that "a good number of Club 500 members have expressed their interests in participating in the annual tournament."

The tournament is a part of Continental Airlines' promotion of its travel destinations throughout the region.

Last year, the airline company hosted the tournament in Australia. Saipan was the venue in two similar editions in the previous years.

Application forms are available at the local office of Continental Airlines. The deadline of submission of application will be on Feb. 21 at 5 p.m.

For more inquiries, contact the local Continental Micronesia Office.

64...

Continued from page 68

and White will get an enormous lead in development.

11...PxB12, P-KR4 Q-N3 13, P-R5 Q-N4 14, Q-B3 N-N1

This makes matters worse. It was essential for Black to try to break the enemy attack by the counter-sacrifice 14...NxDP.

15...BxP Q-B3 16, N-B3 B-B4 17, N-Q5

Long live combination! Long live beauty in chess! White has an extraordinarily brilliant finish in view, and has no use for the simple, safe, winning move 17...P-Q4.

17...QxP 18, B-Q6 QR+ 19, K-K2 BxR

Black rises to the bait and is disposed of in immortal style. If 19...QxR then 20, NxP+ K-Q1 21, B-B7#. Or if 19...BxP, 20, NxP+ K-Q1 21, NxP+ K-K1 22, N-Q6+ K-Q1 23, Q-B8#

But there was 19...Q-N7! after which the issue would still have been uncertain.

20, P-K5!!

A problem move to crown the opus. With the black queen away on QR8 shut off from the defence of KN2 there is a main threat of 21, NxP+ K-Q1 22, B-B7 mate, and to this there is no satisfactory defence.

Answers should be sent to "64" c/o The Marianas Variety, P.O. Box 231, Saipan MP 96950, or faxed through 234-9271.

You can also send your solution via e-mail; our address is <younis@mitccmni.com>

MGD halts Sunrisers

Islanders stop GSC, 75-50

Team Standings

	W	L
UMDA Aces	8	1
Toyota Wheels	7	1
MGD Brothers	6	2
GCS	5	3
Life Ol'Aces	4	2
Islanders	4	4
SB Sunrisers	3	3
Rising Stars	3	6
RCA	2	7
Fakpi	2	7
Sixers	0	8

Mariana Islands' Islandwide Men's Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym.

In the night cap, MGD Brothers leaned on Tony and Ed Diaz in posting a 130-98 rout of the Solid Builders Sunrisers.

The Islanders made up with their poor field goal percentage with several offensive rebounds to nip Get Covered Surf in the low scoring first game. With former league MVP Ray Lizama asserting his might beneath the boards, the Islanders cruised to their fourth win in eight outings.

Lizama scored a game high 34 points in leading the Is-

landers while Daryl Voss poured in 13. Yosh Gabaldon pumped in 10.

Gus Palacios led GCS with 20 markers with Edsel Mendoza chipping in 12.

In the second game, Tony Diaz racked 29 points in the final half while Ed Diaz rattled 24 of his 34 total in the same period as MGD dealt the Solid Builders Sunrisers' third straight loss after opening the season with three straight wins.

Tony Diaz led all scorers with 40 points while Jess Dela Cruz added 25.

Oscar Masga paced the Sunrisers with 24 while Clark Ngiraidong wound up with 21.

sportsbits**JHS Cage Loop**

Five teams are set to compete Commonwealth's Junior High School Basketball Tournament this coming Saturday and Sunday, Feb. 15-16, at Oleai Elementary School.

Competing in the double elimination event are Hopwood Junior High School, Tinian Junior High, Rota Junior High, Grace Christian Academy and Saipan Community school.

Each game will be played with two 15-minute halves, with the clock stopping only for time-outs or for free throws.

RGA Feb. Ace

The Refalawasch Golf Association will hold its February Ace Tournament on Sunday, Feb. 16 at the Marianas Country Club.

The tournament is limited to the first 24 golfers on a first come first served basis.

Tee time is set at 12:14 but golfers are advised to be at the greens not later than 11:30 a.m.

For more information, call Tony Rogolifo or Joe Lizama at 234-1001 or 234-1002.

tant re-organizational meet-

ing for both weightlifting and bodybuilding federations on Tuesday, February 18, 1997, 5:00 p.m. at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium Conference Room.

The tournament is limited to the first 24 golfers on a first come first served basis.

For further information contact Bill Sakovich or Ray Kapileo at 234-1001 or 234-1002.

League Deadline

The deadline for submission of team lineups in the forthcoming Saipan Softball Association's 3rd Annual Men's Fastpitch and Women's Slowpitch Leagues will be of Feb. 19.

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

NMC RFP 97-141

PROCUREMENT OF VEHICLES

Governor Froilan C. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus C. Borja through the Northern Marianas College (NMC) is soliciting proposals from qualified automotive dealers for the procurement of 2 (two) Utility Vehicles for the Land Grant - Extension/Research Program. This purchase involves a trade-in of a (used) 1992 Subaru Legacy Station Wagon license plate no. NMI-31, and a 1990 Toyota Corolla Station Wagon license plate no. NMC-16. The specifications are as follows:

2 Units Four wheel drive Utility Vehicle

Closing Date: February 14, 1997

Body type: 5 Door Utility Vehicle
Engine size: 6 Cylinder
Displacement: 3.0 Liter or greater
Transmission: Automatic
Steering type: Power Assist
Brake System: Power Front and Rear Disc
Other Features: Air-con, AM/FM radio, Spare tire, Jack and lock wrench, shall be equipped with "all terrain" tires.

1 (one) unit shall be CIF Tinian Campus, and the other 1 (one) unit shall be delivered to the As Terlaje Campus, Saipan.

The 2 (two) Vehicles must have a one year maintenance and warranty agreement, must be rust proof/undercoated and safety inspection be done prior to delivery.

All interested parties shall submit their proposals in a sealed envelope marked NMC RFP no. 97-141, to Mr. John T. Flores, building "N", Business Office, Procurement division, no later than 12:00 noon, Friday, February 14, 1997.

The Northern Marianas College reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in the proposals if determined by the College to be in its best interest. All proposals shall become the property of the NMC.

/s/Harris Lawrence
NMC Comptroller

/s/John T. Flores
Procurement & Property Manager

Saipan International Airport
Sewer System to Agajan WWTP
CPA project No. CPA-SA-002-95

NOTICE TO BIDDERS

SEALED PROPOSALS for CONSTRUCTION of THE SEWERLINE FROM SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT TO AGJAN WWTP, NO. CPA-SA-002-95, will be received at the Office of the Commonwealth Ports Authority at Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Mariana Islands 96950, until 2:00 PM, March 21, 1997, at which time and place the sealed proposals will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general consists of installing a complete sewer system from the Saipan International Airport Terminal Building down Tun Herman Pan Road to Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, west on Chalan Monsignor Guerrero to As Lito Road, south on As Lito Road through Koberville to the Agajan Wastewater Treatment Plant. The project includes installation of all pipes, valves, fittings, manholes, bar screens, valve boxes, lit stations and emergency back up generators as shown in the plans and specifications.

The project is a joint undertaking by the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) and the Department of Public Works (DPW). The project is being financed by funds from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within one hundred twenty (120) days from the date of bid opening. Depending on the availability of funds, the Commonwealth Government reserves the right to hold such bid in effect for one hundred fifty (150) days from the date of bid opening.

This contract is undertaken in accordance with Executive Order 11246, as amended, on September 24, 1965, the Federal Labor provisions and the Equal Employment Opportunity (EEO) provisions as contained in the contract, specifications and bid documents.

All mechanics and laborers on the project shall be paid no less than the established CNMI minimum wage rate.

Each bidder must complete, sign and furnish, prior to award of the contract, a "Bidder's Statement on Previous Contracts Subject to EEO Clause", a "

SPORTS

16th Micronesian Open

Taguchi stays in contention

By Erel A. Cabatbat

Variety News Staff

SAIPAN'S best bet, Bob Taguchi turned in second and third place efforts yesterday to remain in contention for the title in the Men's Division of the 16th Micronesian Open Windsurfing Regatta after the opening day at the Micro Beach.

Taguchi, the island's top windsurfer and former winner of the annual and the world's longest running international windsurfing event, finished third in the event's opening race then came up second in the other to end the day at second behind defending champion Noriyuki Shirowa.

The 1996 winner and Japan's number one, Shirowa showed the fine

form that gave him the title last year by coming in at first in both races.

Guam's Keiichi Kobayashi is third overall after coming in second and third respectively.

In the Women's Division, Yosie Isinoda is currently on top, followed by Yuri Shirowa and Sachiko Shibasaki.

Japanese windsurfers occupy the next two slots in the men's competitions. Yuji Wakimoto and Kazuo Okada are tied for the fourth and fifth spots while Olympian Jan Iriarte is solo sixth.

Atsushi Shimoyama is at seventh followed by Graham Boltz, Lee Sang Hyun in ninth with Makoto Ogawa rounding up the top 10 finishers in the

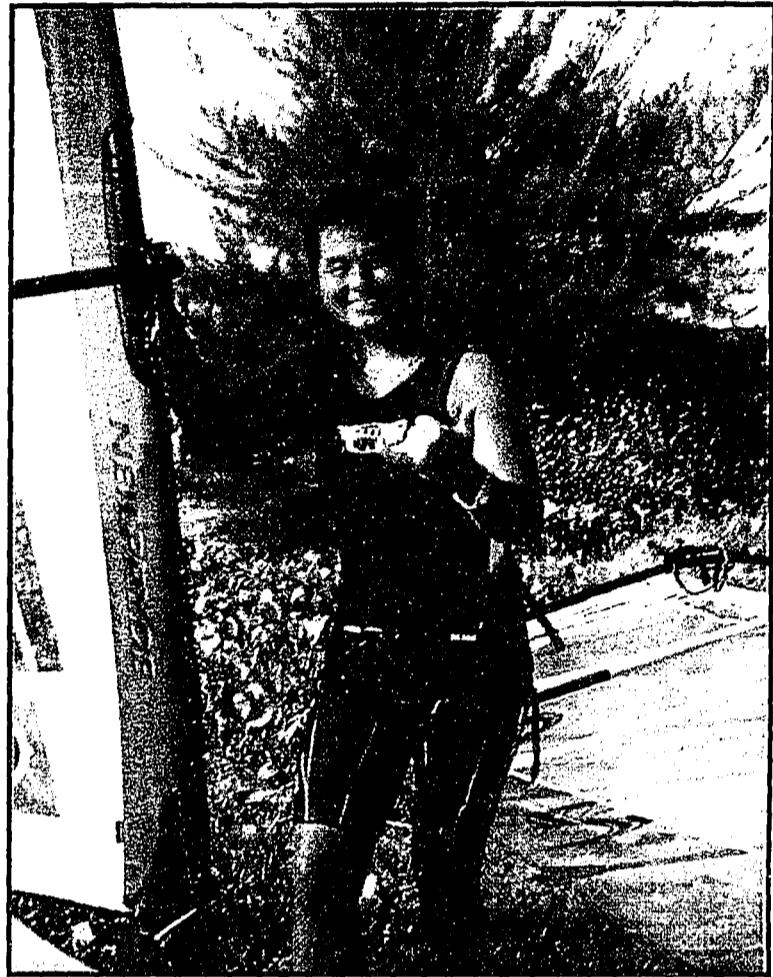
men's derby.

Yasuko Uchida is in fourth, followed by Hisako Hagiwara, Mie Tajima, Megumi Sano, Sonja Evensen, Aya Kuki and Hiromi Irie occupy the rest of the top 10 slots in the distaff side.

Saipan's other bets in the men's side remain within the top 30 slots. Jeffro Elliott is currently in 16th position while Hidetoshi Nitta is in 24th. Two others, Daniel Lamar and Norimitsu Ono are in 26th and 29th slots respectively.

A total of 41 windsurfers are competing in the men's side while 13 are seeing action in the women's division.

The five day windsurfing event resumes at the Micro Beach today.



Saipan's no.1—Bob Taguchi shows the "hang loose" sign after completing his second race yesterday in the ongoing 16th Micronesian Open at the Micro Beach. Taguchi, the CNMI's leading windsurfer, is currently running second in the Men's Division of the Windsurfing Regatta.

Photo by Erel A. Cabatbat

In Manila, Philippines

Annual Proudbird golf tilt set

By Erel A. Cabatbat

Variety News Staff

SAIPAN golfers now have the chance to play in two of the best golf courses in South East Asia as Continental Airlines hosts the 1997 Annual Manila Proudbird Golf Tournament & Tour at Santa Elena Golf & Country Club and Orchard Golf & Country Club on March 16-20.



Larry Cabrera

Named after Continental's airliners, "The Proud Birds of the Skies", the tournament features competitions in the Championship, A, B, C, Ladies and Seniors.

Golfers will figure in a 36-hole tournament with the first 18 holes being played in Santa Elena Golf & Country Club

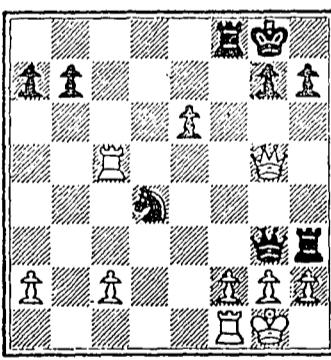
Continued on page 66

The immortal game

CHESS, to paraphrase the German virtuoso Dr. Siegbert Tarrasch (1862-1934), is like love—it gives you a headache while going through it, and intense pleasure as you relive its highlights.

For this day of hearts, we're featuring the great Adolf Anderssen's (1818-1879) "Immortal Game," which saw the most enthusiastic and ingenious combinative player in history going for it like a lover mad with desire, and coming out, in turn, with a work of art and the eternal affection of Caissa, the muse of chess.

Annotations are by another former world champ, Dr. Max Euwe:
 King's Gambit
 A. Anderssen-L. Kieseritzky
 London, 1851 (not from the tournament)
 1. P-K4 P-K4 2. P-KB4 PxP 3. B-B4 Q-R5+ 4. K-B1 P-QN4
This is good in principle—Black offers a pawn to expedite his development—but 4...P-Q4 was preferable.
 5. BxNP N-KB3 6. N-KB3 Q-R3
The queen would have been much better off at R4.
 7. P-Q3 N-R4 8. N-R4 Q-N4 9. N-B5 P-QB3 10. P-KN4 N-B3
 11. R-N1!
The point. The black queen will now be driven into a tight corner



Continued on page 66

1997 CIFHS Basketball League

Dolphins post 'historic' double

By Erel A. Cabatbat

Variety News Staff

THE MARIANAS High School completed a historic "double" when the Dolphins beat Grace Academy Eagles, 77-57, last night to win the Senior Varsity title in the Commonwealth Interscholastic Federation's 1997 High School Basketball League at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym.

The Dolphins leaned on

CNMI Youth Team stalwarts Wayne Pua, Francis Mendiola and Christian Atalig in dealing the Eagles their sixth consecutive loss in the tournament. Pua scored a team high 22 points, Mendiola pumped in 18 while Atalig chipped in 11.

The Dolphins secured the historic feat as early as the first half as Pua and Atalig proved unstoppable. MHS took the first half by

13, 37-24.

In the next two quarters, Mendiola joined the scoring fray with Sidro Tebuteb as the Dolphins posted their third consecutive win against the Eagles.

Lawrence Buniag and Min Koo scored identical 16 points to pace the Eagles.

In the first game, the Junior Dolphins romped to their sixth

Continued on page 66

January's Athletes of the Month

Pua, Pangalinan cited

By Erel A. Cabatbat

Variety News Staff

THE NORTHERN Marianas Olympic Committee and Northern Marianas Amateur Sports Association named Patrick Pua and Xenavee Pangalinan as the island's top Male and Female Athletes for January.

NMOC and NMASA also cited Gerald Boyer and Dionne Santos as the top male and female stu-

dent Athletes for the same period.

Pua earned the nod after leading his team in making a strong comeback in the 5th Annual Jam Attack held at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym. Pua's team lost its first game but played inspired plays to bag a finals berth coming from the losers' bracket. His team, however, failed to end Guam based teams domination of the

Continued on page 66



Xenavee Pangalinan



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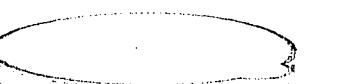
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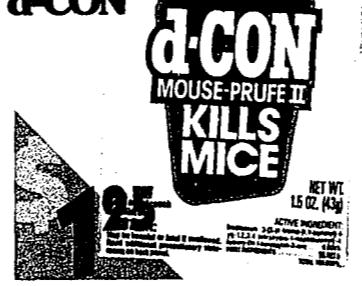
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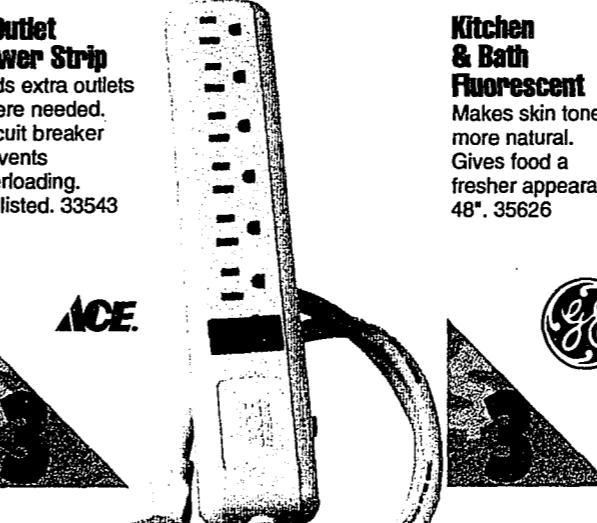
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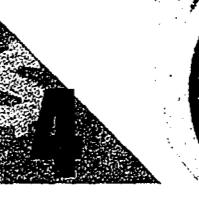


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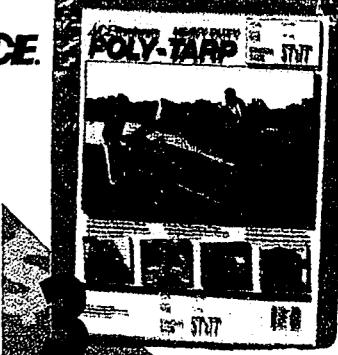


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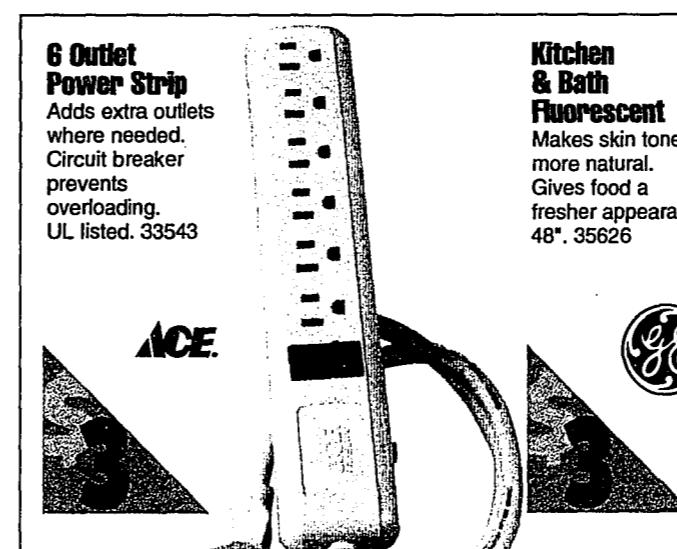
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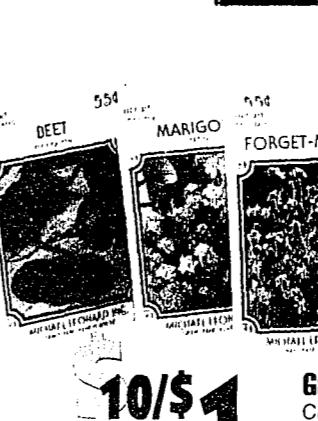
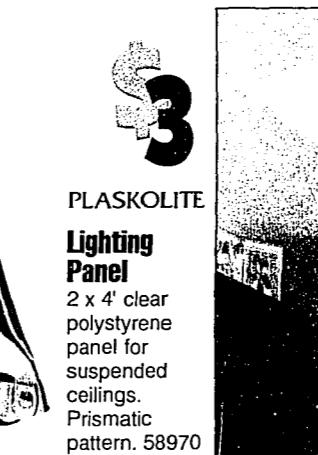
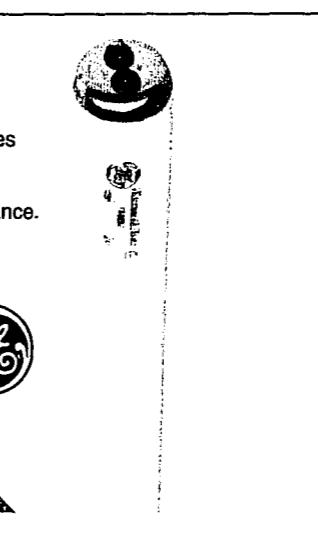
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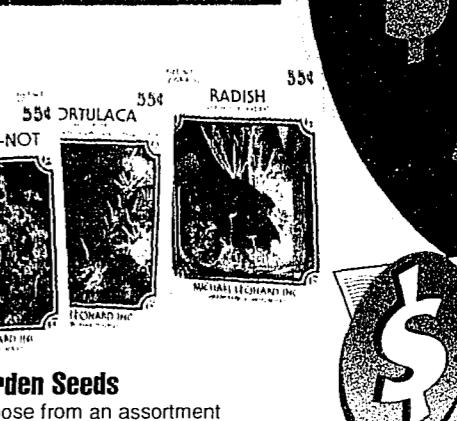
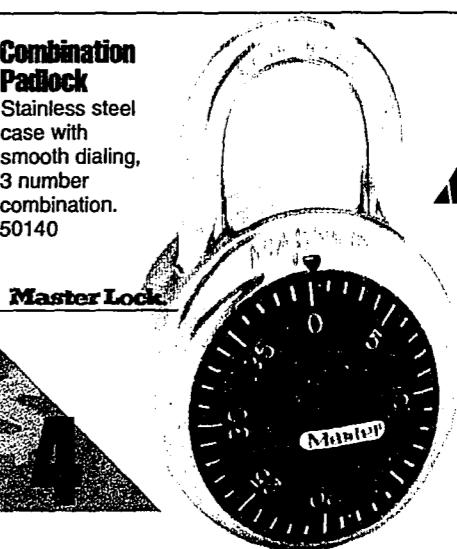
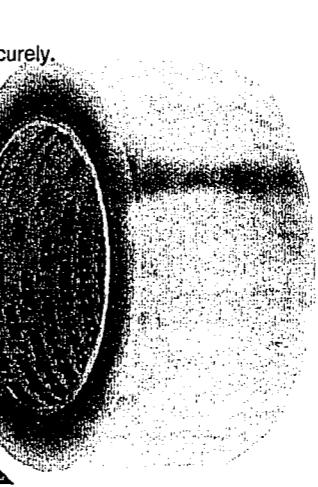
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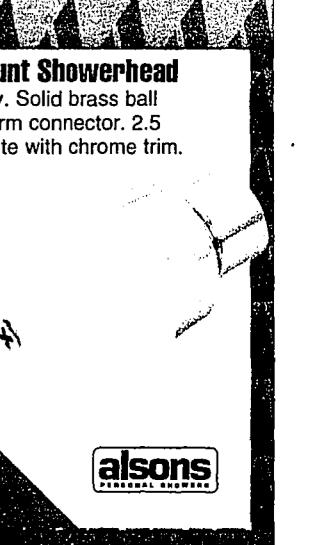
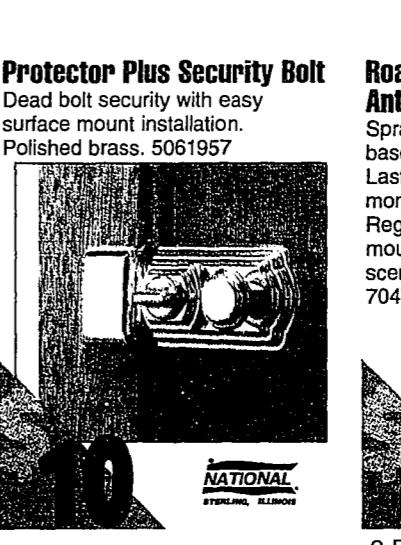
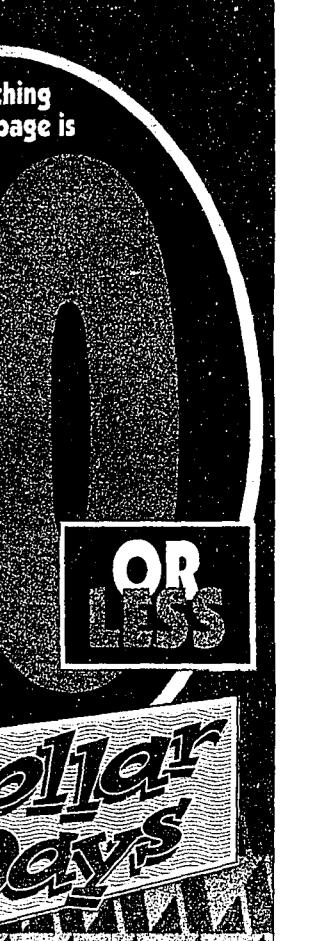
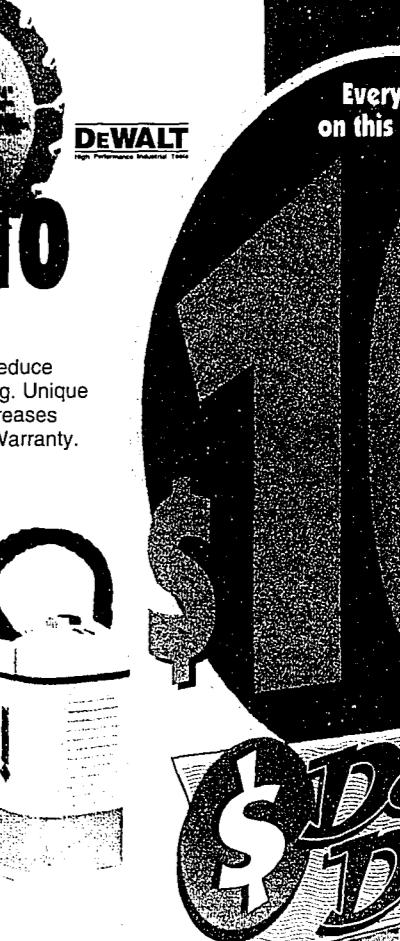
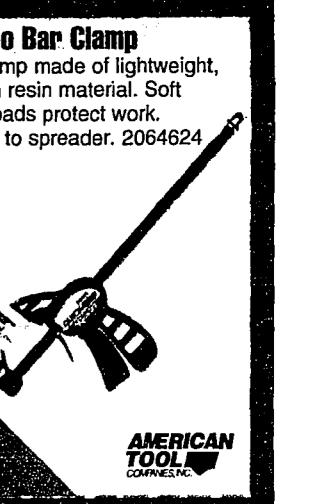
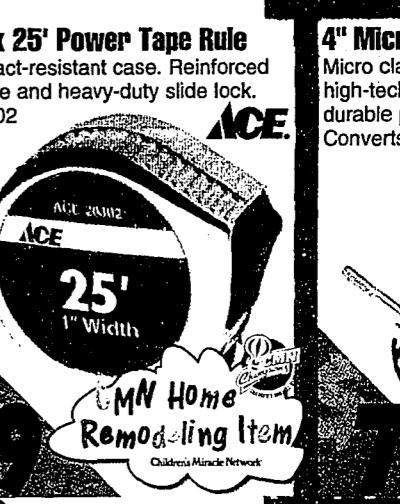
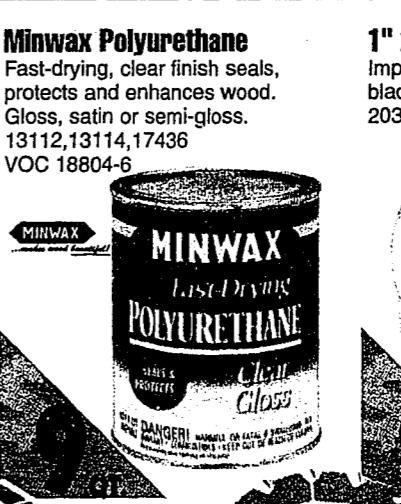
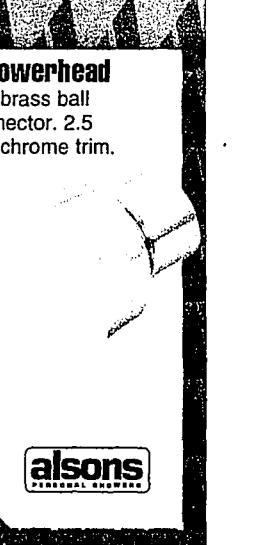
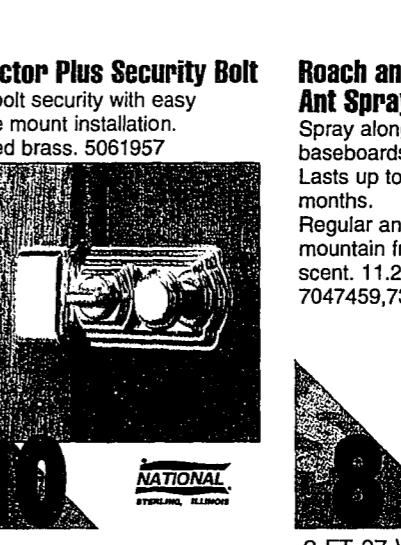
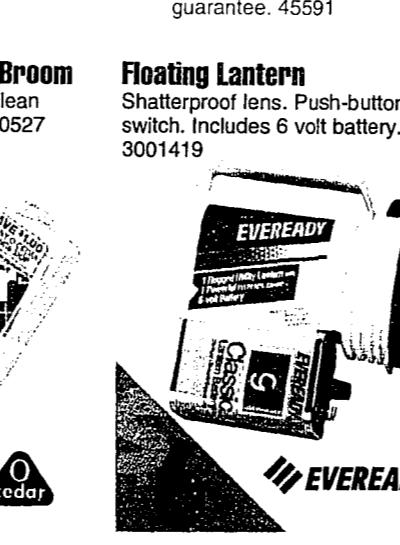
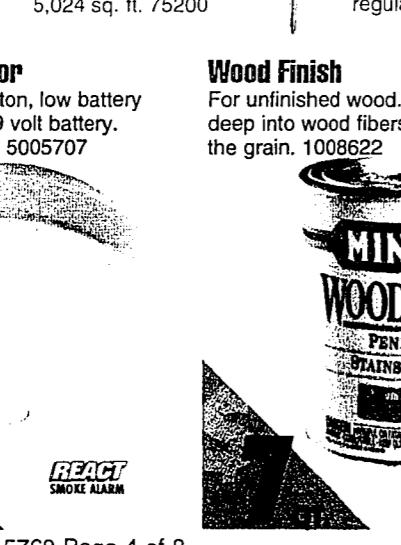
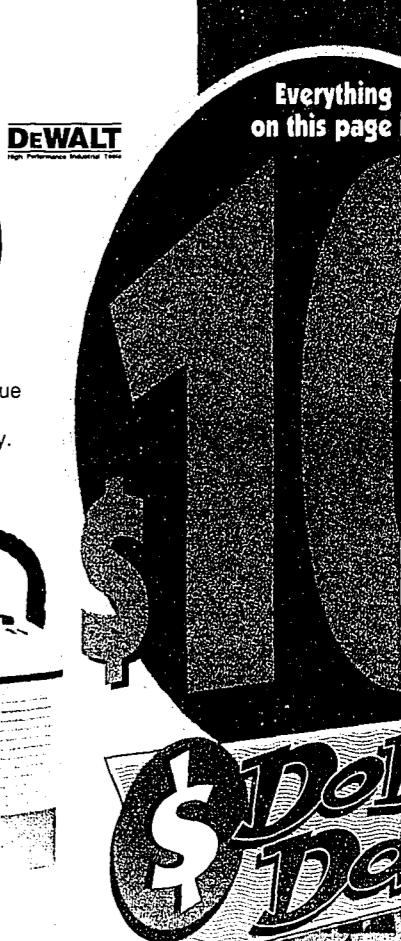
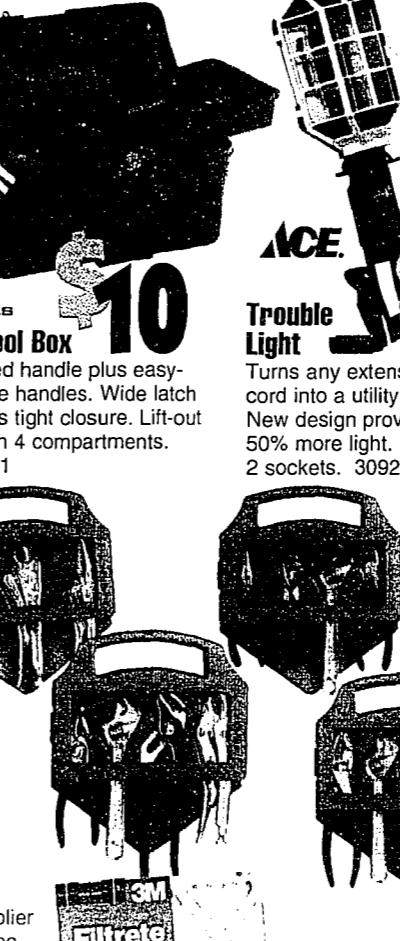
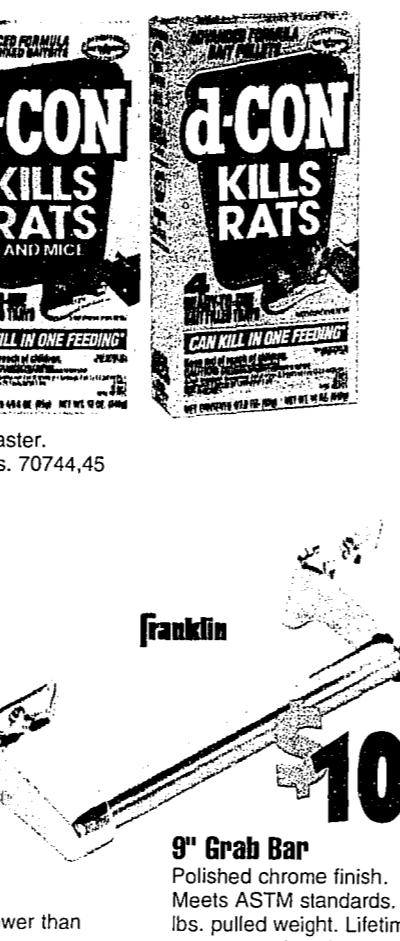
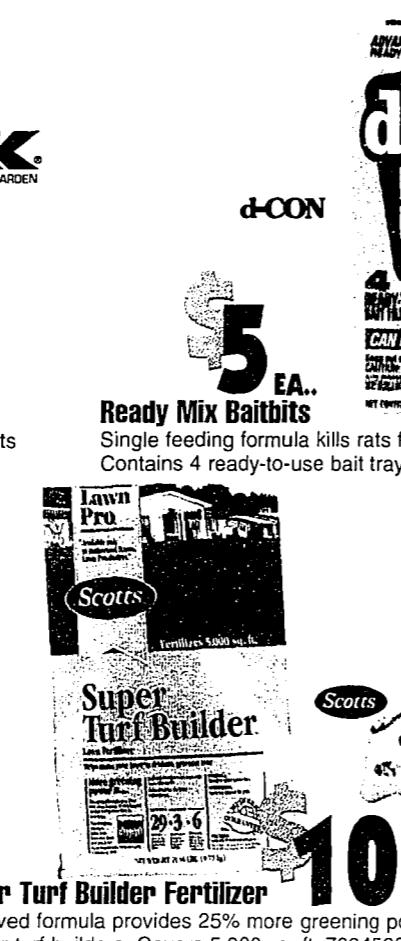
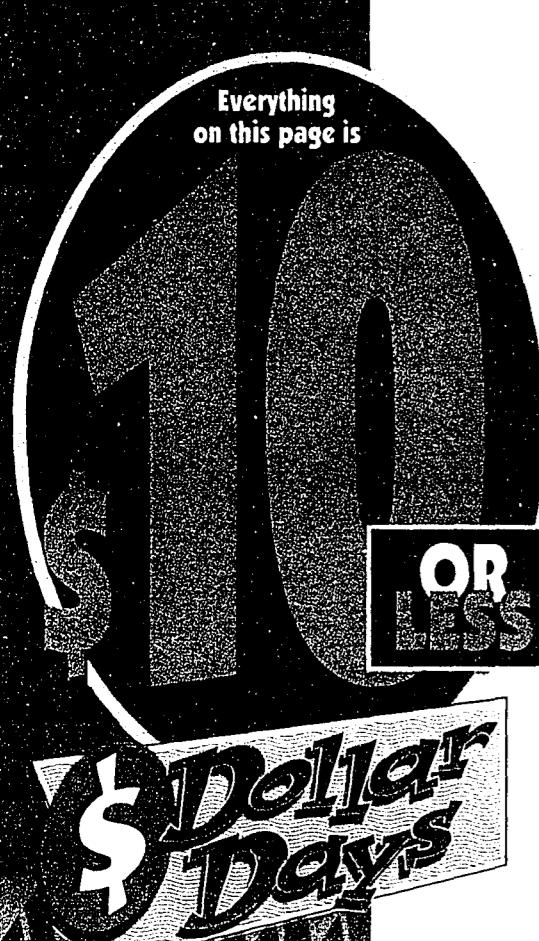
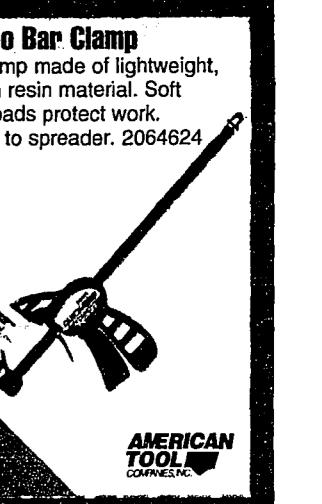
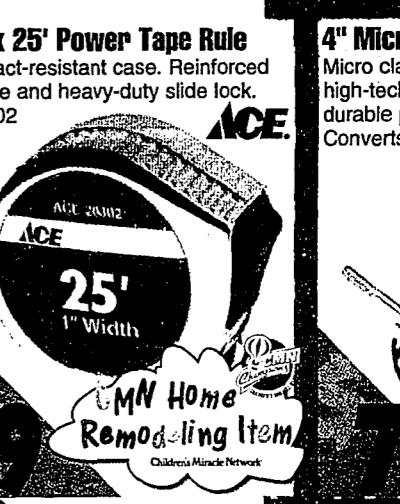
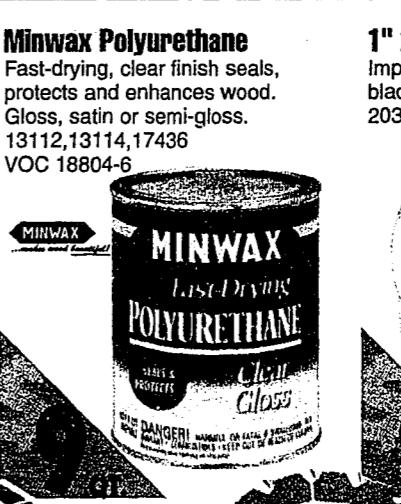
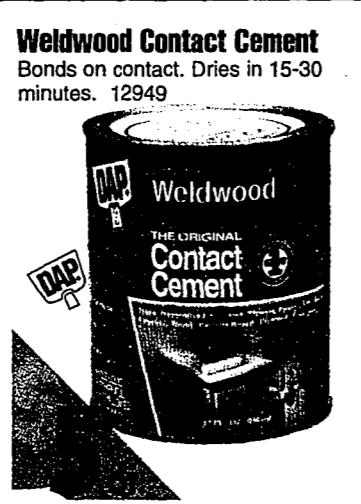
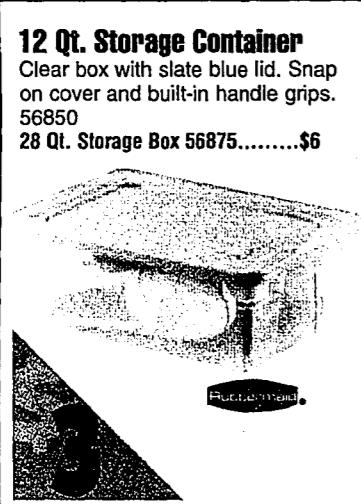
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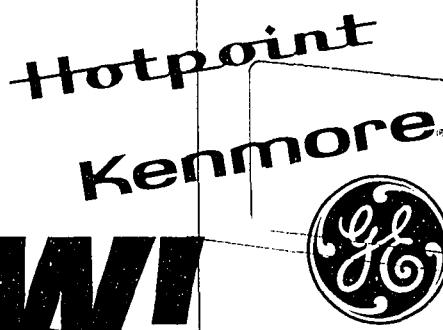
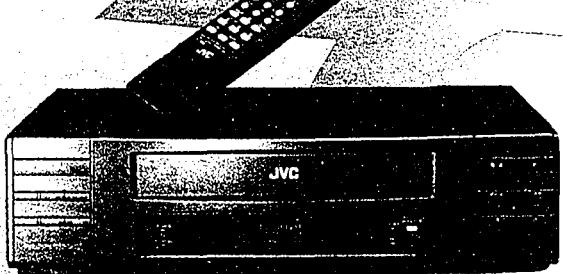
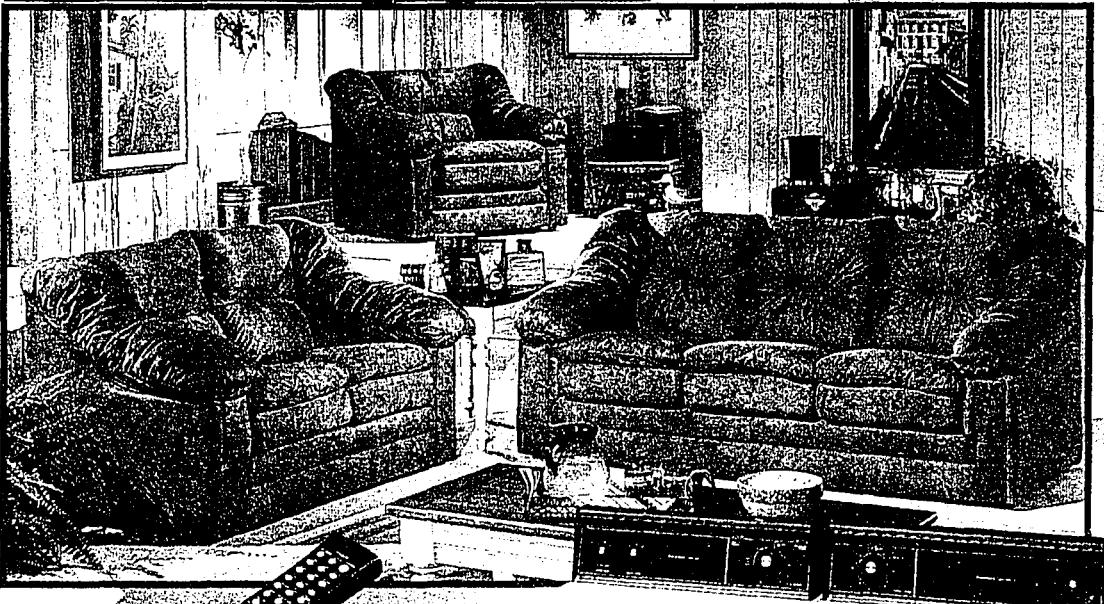
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- Remote Control • Cable Ready

As Low As \$9.95

A Week



Shelf Stereo \$18.00

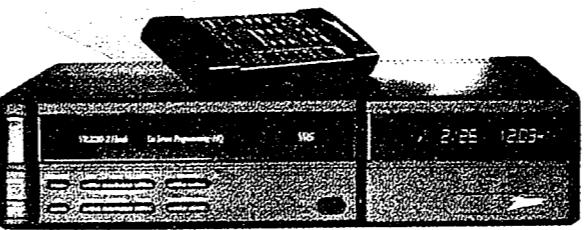
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25-40 Watt Shelf System

CD Changer

Dual Cassette



VCR \$9.95

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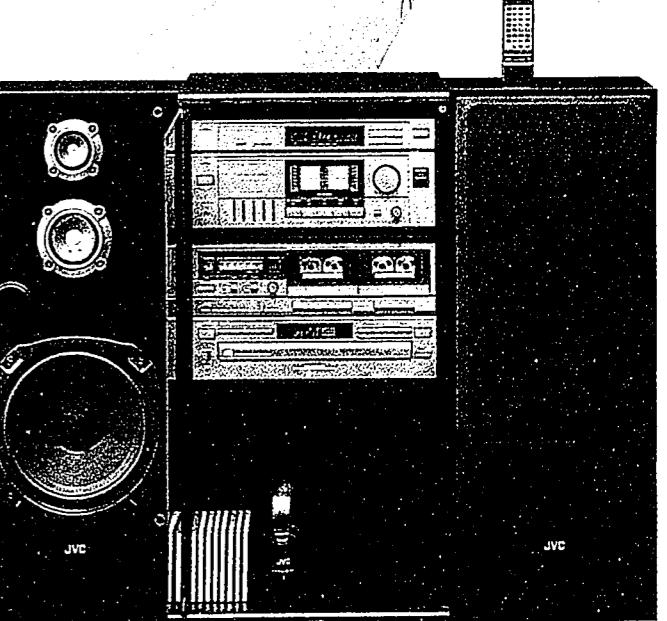
Cable Ready

★ 4-Head & HI-FI Stereo VCR's Also Available



Home Theater System

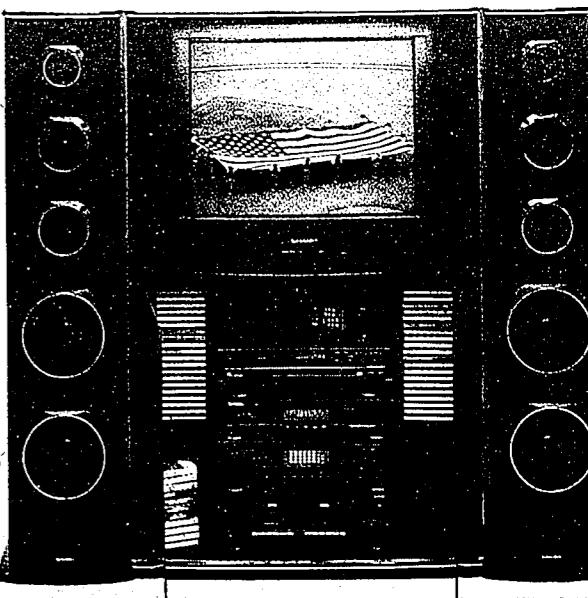
JVC RCA
TOSHIBA SONY
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Stereo System

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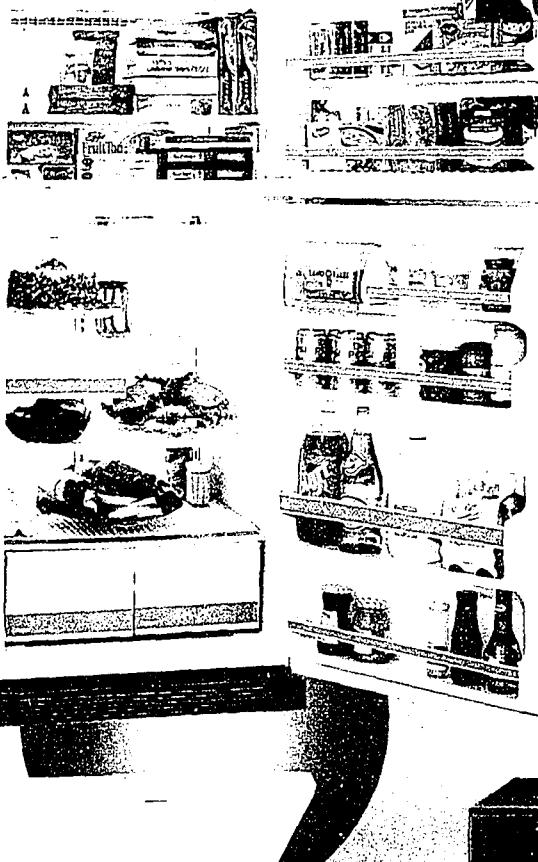
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- Family size
- Frost Free

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A Week

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- Large Capacity
- Multi-Cycle Timer

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A Week Each

**Kenmore
Hotpoint**



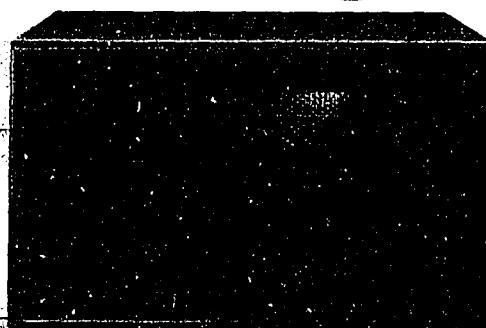
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Freezer

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- Family size
- Upright or Chest

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A Week



Microwave

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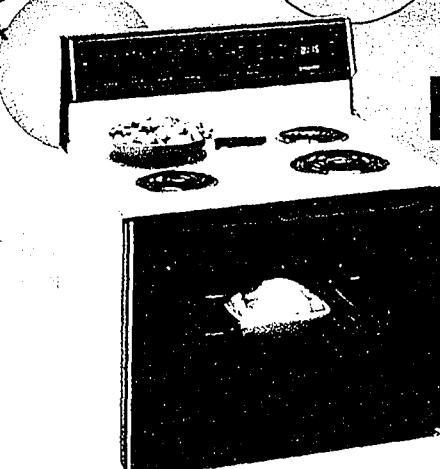
\$9.95
A Week

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- Black Glass Door

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A Week



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