

Speaker vows to block 2-year limit for workers

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Benavente (R-Saipan), at the same time, admitted the bill may have a good chance of getting House's approval, judging from feedback from other members.

"But if (the House does pass it)," he said, "I'll ask (Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio) to veto it."

House Bill 10-136, which was passed with amendments by the Senate Friday, will be taken up by the House of Representatives in a session Wednesday, Feb. 19.

Benavente voted against the bill when it came to the floor



Diego T. Benavente

during a May 1996 House session.

In a telephone interview with the Variety yesterday, the speaker said he will lobby hard for the bill's rejection. He said he will tell the leadership during a leadership meeting scheduled for today that "at the very least," action on the

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Hillblom Trust lawyer alleges 'bias'

Castro's removal from case sought

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

LARRY Hillblom's Charitable Trust has sought the removal of Superior Court Judge Alexandro Castro from presiding over Hillblom's probate proceedings for allegedly being "biased" against the Trust.

In a petition seeking Castro's replacement, Charitable Trust Board Chairman Peter J. Donnici cited Castro's recent order revoking Trust counsel W. Scott Thomas' admission to court as evidence suggesting the existence of bias.

The Trust, through counsel Paul Lawlor, said Castro revoked Thomas' admission without giving the latter an opportunity to re-



Alexandro Castro

spond to the misleading charges made against him.

The presiding judge issued an order last Feb. 11 revoking the Trust counsel for "flagrant disregard" of lower court Associate Judge Timothy Bellas' order.

Bellas sanctioned Thomas in

the amount of \$1,000 or in an alternative, required him to issue a written apology by Feb. 6 to lawyer Michael Dotts pertaining to his accusation that the latter "might submit an altered order to the court."

Thomas, however, filed his letter before the court extending his apologies to Dotts only after Castro had already issued the order of revocation.

In the petition filed Friday before the Supreme Court, Lawlor explained Thomas sent the letter to Dotts by facsimile and mail on Feb. 3.

Seven days later, Lawlor said Thomas, upon his return to his office in San Francisco and reviewing Bellas' order for the first time, requested (Lawlor) to file the letter of apology.

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CHC hires new hospital administrator from US

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Health Services has hired a new hospital administrator for the Commonwealth Health Center.

DPHS Secretary Dr. Isamu J. Abraham told the Variety that George E. Gleason has joined the administration of CHC, a sensitive post left open following the termination of former administrator Angela Wardlaw's contract last year.

Abraham said Gleason will be working with Greg Calvo, the Deputy Secretary for Hospital Administration who had served as acting CHC administrator.

Gleason and Calvo, Abraham said, will be improving operations of the hospital and address the health care needs of the CNMI residents.

Gleason obtained a Bachelors Degree in Economics and a Masters in Public Health from the University of Pittsburgh with a concentration in hospital administration.

The new administrator has extensive experience in strategic planning, capital budgeting and hospital operations. He has over 20 years of experience in the hospital operations, Abraham said.

The secretary pointed out that

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LIFE IN PARADISE. Cookbook author Bob Adams and Marianas Visitors Bureau Managing Director Anicia Q. Tomokane, joined by Tomokane's 4-year-old son, Aaron, show how life is on a tropical island that is Saipan. (See story on page 6.)

Photo by Rick Alberto

WEATHER Outlook



Partly cloudy with isolated showers

Sablan on worker limit: 'We'll do everything to stop it'

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

THE SAIPAN Chamber of Commerce will lobby against the passage of legislation that proposes to limit the stay of nonresident workers in the Commonwealth, the organization's president David M. Sablan said yesterday.

"We are against any kind of restriction on the stay of nonresident workers," Sablan said, describing the bill as "economically nonfeasible."

Sablan said the Chamber "will do everything to keep the bill from becoming a law."

A two-year limit on the stay of alien workers is contained in the amended version of House Bill 10-136 which the Senate approved last week.

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

The bill, now back in the House, will be taken up in tomorrow's

House session.

"Unless there's a compelling reason for the Legislature to impose such restriction, I would not support (the bill). I don't know the lawmakers' reasons for coming up with this piece of legislation," Sablan said in an interview with the Variety.

He complained that the Legislature did not consult the business sector before acting on the proposal.

"We just learned about this from

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David M. Sablan

Peru rebels: Rescue try will kill hostages

By PAUL HAVEN
LIMA, Peru (AP) - Leftist rebels holding 72 hostages denounced a reported government plan to free them, saying all could die if authorities carried it out. A major newspaper gave details Sunday of the supposed military plan to use Peruvian and U.S. troops to liberate the hostages at the Japanese ambassador's residence if the standoff cannot be resolved peacefully. The crisis hit the two-month old milestone on Monday. "An assault on the residence could bring with it the deaths of everyone who is in there," a Tupac Amaru rebel spokesman, Isaac Velazco, told The Associated Press on Sunday. Under the plan, the troops would plunge into the compound from helicopters, plant explosives at six points around the diplomatic mansion and storm the building, Diario La Republica said. In a nighttime operation that would take only seven minutes, soldiers would seize the Tupac Amaru rebels and try to rescue the hostages. But Diario La Republica reported that the army, fearing high casualties,

wants to leave the raid as a last resort. The newspaper quoted a Feb. 5 "Intervention Plan" by the Army Intelligence Agency as saying "it cannot be assured that a military action will be clean; there could be numerous ... losses." The rebels accused President Alberto Fujimori's government of pursuing a military end to the hostage standoff. "The government wants to change the situation and prepare conditions for a violent end to the crisis," they said in a faxed statement from the rebel group's office in Hamburg, Germany. The military contingency plan noted that the political atmosphere, both in Peru and internationally, "favors a peaceful solution to the crisis," La Republica said. Fujimori has received the proposal, the newspaper said. No one was available for comment at his office Sunday. A spokesman for the U.S. Southern Command, reached by telephone in Panama, denied any U.S. military planning to free the hostages. "We are not involved in the situation down there," said the spokesman, who would not give his name. "There are no



Peruvian police run for cover as an explosion is heard from the Tupac Amaru-held Japanese ambassador's residence in Lima last week. There was no immediate explanation for the blast. There were no casualties. The explosion came as the government is preparing for possible talks Tuesday with the Tupac Amaru rebels who are holding 72 hostages. AP Photo

Pakistan lawmakers give Sharif vote of confidence

By KATHY GANNON
ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) - Pakistan's lawmakers gave Nawaz Sharif's Pakistan Muslim League an overwhelming vote of confidence in a secret ballot Monday. As leader of the centrist Pakistan Muslim League, Sharif automatically becomes Pakistan's 13th prime minister. In the final vote tally Sharif's party garnered 177 votes and his archrival Benazir Bhutto's party just 16 votes. In his inaugural speech, Sharif took a conciliatory tone. He vowed to root out corruption and try to move Pakistan beyond the political bickering that has marked previous governments. Sharif's centrist party swept the polls in the Feb. 3 general elections capturing 137 seats in the 207-seat National Assembly or lawmaking Lower House of Parliament. Ms. Bhutto and her left-leaning Pakistan People's Party won only 18 seats in the National Assembly. In the last decade Pakistan has seen three elected governments dismissed and weathered three interim governments. Ms. Bhutto's first government was sacked in 1990 after only 20 months in power on charges of corruption. Sharif followed Ms. Bhutto, but after three years the president dismissed his government also on charges of corruption. Ms. Bhutto was returned to power in 1993 with a slim victory and with like-minded parties formed a coalition government that lasted three years until Nov. 5, 1996 when President Farooq Leghari dismissed Parliament again on charges of corruption. Despite a litany of accusations against Ms. Bhutto and her former Cabinet, only a handful of people have been charged, including Ms. Bhutto's husband Asif Ali Zardari,

Copper trader pleads guilty in \$2.6-B Sumitomo scandal

By PETER LANDERS
TOKYO (AP) - Former Sumitomo Corp. copper trader Yasuo Hamanaka pleaded guilty Monday to covering up massive trading losses that depressed world copper prices and battered the image of his 300-year-old company. The former star trader, who was arrested Oct. 22 and charged with forging signatures and swindling a Sumitomo subsidiary out of \$770 million, entered the plea at the first day of his trial at Tokyo District Court. Prosecutors allege Hamanaka made the fraudulent transactions to cover up his massive losses in copper trading, estimated by Sumitomo at \$2.6 billion. Prosecutors on Monday read out a summary of the two charges of forgery and fraud, alleging that Hamanaka faked his superiors' signatures. When asked if he was guilty of each charge, Hamanaka calmly said, "That is correct." The scandal, which broke last June, raised questions about the accountability of Japanese firms, disrupted

world copper prices and called into doubt the management practices at one of the country's most powerful companies. Sumitomo has strenuously denied that any of Hamanaka's superiors knew what he was doing, but outside observers question whether so much money could have been at stake with top executives in the dark. That question is unlikely to be answered in the trial. Since 99 percent of criminal defendants in Japan are convicted, Hamanaka's best strategy is probably to show contrition and plead for a lenient sentence, rather than to raise the company's role in the scandal. "The Japanese system just punishes the individuals directly involved" without probing corporate responsibility, said Hideto Iida, a lawyer who is moving to file a separate shareholders' lawsuit against Sumitomo in civil court. Hamanaka is the only person to be charged in the scandal. Even if prosecutors wanted to pursue charges against Sumitomo, they would have

Van smashes into Japan governor's home

TOKYO (AP) - A rightist slammed a van into the residence of a provincial governor in southwestern Japan early Monday, apparently angry over the governor's recent remarks about Japan's national anthem. Police quickly arrested the man, identified as Yuji Morimoto, 27, a member of the Taikosha, a local rightist organization in Kochi, 625 kilometers (391 miles), southwest of Tokyo. Hisao Ishimoto, a local police spokesman, said no one was injured in the attack at the residence of Gov. Daijiro Hashimoto, the younger half-brother of Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto. Police speculate that the attack might be connected with remarks made by Gov. Hashimoto in Kochi on Feb. 1, in which he reportedly cast doubt on the appropriateness of the anthem. Hashimoto said there was "something strange" about the song, Kimigayo, or His Majesty's Reign, as the national anthem, Kyodo News said Monday. In the speech, Hashimoto also proposed that Japan come up with a new national anthem, Kyodo reported. In Japan, few to date have publicly raised changing the current anthem, whose author is unknown. The words to the song call for a

long life for Japan's emperor, the ceremonial head of state whom many rightists strongly revere. Several rightist groups in vans with loud speakers have continued protest rallies near the provincial offices and the governor's residence since Hashimoto made the remarks, Ishimoto said. The Taikosha, based in Kochi, has about a dozen members, he said. Police are investigating whether Morimoto acted independently or on orders from the group in the attack, in which a portion of the gate's shutter and part of the garden were destroyed, Ishimoto said.

Victims rights bill with governor

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff
THE HOUSE of Representatives passed on Friday a bill that would establish an Office of Victims' Rights within the Criminal Justice Planning Agency. Senate Bill 10-39 goes now to Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio who had earlier vetoed a version of the same legislation, but made recommendations for a new draft.



Paul A. Manglona

Introduced by Senate Vice President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota), the bill would also require informing victims of crime of their rights, and the incorporation of the victim's "impact statements" in every felony pre-sentence report. The bill further proposes that a crime victim is to be granted the right not to testify on any personal information at any court proceeding unless the court finds it necessary. A victims' rights officer would head the Office of Victim Rights (OVR), and he or she should have the "necessary education, training and

experience in criminal procedure, victims' rights and compensation and counseling to be an advocate for the victim." The rights of crime victims, according to the bill, are:
 • The right to be treated with fairness and with respect for the victim's dignity and privacy.
 • The right to be reasonably protected from the accused offender.
 • The right to be notified of court proceedings.
 • The right to be present at all public court proceedings related to the offense, unless the court determines that testimony by the victim would be materially affected if the victim heard other testimony at trial.
 • The right to confer with the attorney for the government in the case.
 • The right to restitution.
 • The right to information about the conviction, sentencing, imprisonment and release of the offender.
 The bill, similar versions of which had been filed by Manglona in the past, states that an effective criminal justice system requires the protection and assistance of innocent victims of criminal acts "in order to preserve their individual dignity." It further stated that "the financial, emotional and physical effects of a criminal act on the victim and the victim's family are among the essential factors to be considered in the sentencing of the person responsible for the crime."

Chamber to police own ranks vs labor abuses



David Sablan

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff
SAIPAN Chamber of Commerce president David Sablan urges all business groups in the Commonwealth to establish "self-policing program" that will guard against workers' abuses and violations of labor laws. He said he will meet heads of all associations to discuss the formulation of the program. "There have been lot of allegations lodged against the business community. I hope to get all association heads to meet periodically, so we can discuss how we can improve our reputation and credibility," Sablan said. Aside from the Chamber of the

Commerce, other big business associations in the Commonwealth are the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association, Contractors Association, and Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands. The CNMI, despite the government's insistence that labor reforms have taken place, continues to suffer bad press in the mainland. Government officials, including Lt. Gov. Jesus Borja, admits that Washington officials who have sought the federalization of minimum wage in the Commonwealth based their recommendation on reports about labor abuses. Sablan, meanwhile, said his organization observes "very strict ethical standards" that require each member to comply with labor laws. "Our rule of ethics says everybody must comply with the law, and a member who violates this rule can be ousted," Sablan said. He said the Chamber ousted last year a member found engaged in unfair labor practices. He refused to identify the member company. "We will continue to police our own rank, and I'm urging other business owners to join the Chamber and be part of this organization," he added.

Babauta: NAI A panel's abolition may benefit bid for delegate seat

By Rafael H. Arroyo
Variety News Staff
THE RECENT decision by the US House Natural Resources Committee to abolish its Subcommittee on Native American and Insular Affairs could prove to be an advantage as far as the CNMI's quest for congressional representation is concerned.



Juan Babauta



Don Young

According to Babauta, he is optimistic that the change in setup could be an advantage for the delegate bill in as much as the CNMI would have an advocate chairing the committee that will deliberate on the issue. Young, along with then NAI A Subcommittee Chairman Elton Gallegly, sponsored the latest bill that calls for the establishment of a CNMI non-voting delegate. "In the case of the delegate issue, because Mr. Young was the prime sponsor of the delegate bill in the 104th Congress, it will be an advantage for us if it will be taken up by the full committee," said Babauta. Under the recent reorganization of the Committee chaired by Rep. Don Young (R-Alaska), the NAI A subcommittee was abolished and jurisdiction over US Territories and Insular areas was transferred to the full committee. Five subcommittees under the Natural Resources panel remained—the Subcommittees on Forest and Forest Health.

Bill to prohibit sale of expired goods in stores

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff
THE HOUSE of Representatives on Friday passed a bill that would prohibit the commingling of expired merchandise with fresh ones, and would require that expired merchandise be sold at half of its original retail price. In addition, the bill proposes that stores should display notices for expired merchandises. Sponsored by Senate Majority Leader Thomas P. Villagomez (R-Saipan) and Senate Minority Leader Eusebio A. Hocog (D-Rota), Senate Bill 10-66 now goes to Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio for his approval. The bill states that many retail establishments in the CNMI are not removing expired products from the

shelves and are selling the expired products at the same price as the newer products. "The commingling of fresh (and expired products) is a trap for the unwary shoppers and deprives them of the full value and benefit of their purchase." The bill defines "expiration date" as the date indicated on a product as a "use before," "best before," or "sell before" date, which should be indicated on the product, its packaging, case or lot by date or code. An "expired merchandise" means any merchandise for which the expiration date has passed. The bill was introduced in the Senate last Nov. 14, 1996, and was unanimously passed on the same day.



THIRD PRIZE WINNER. This Valentine Snowman created by Tinian's Grace Christian Academy got the judges' nod for its relevancy and pathos during the 4th Snow Festival in La Fiesta Mall Saturday. Photo by Rick Alberto

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



Kaosan Pacific Mall: I Estoria gi taten Estoria

I estorian maditenen mahatsan i Pacific Mall mampos namanman sa pinilogh na magahet na pot interes proteksion i taotao tano' na gumuaha kinentra, lao anog klaro, segun i disision Associate Judge (Jues) Edward Manibusan na pot interes i abugao na maplaiteteha i tano' sanpapa i giya Navy Hill.

I disision Judge Manibusan ilegña na i abugao as Ted Mitchell man offrese para umanegosio i presion atkilon tano' 'nai i L&T u fan apase \$14,500,000. Lao dispues ha tulaika i offresimeto ya hana' halom apasña tuta: \$2,253,128 mit pesos komo abugao. Mamaisen na este na offresimeto ti siña na umadisfruta publikamente ya i magagagao solu i uttimo na presio. Ha inkluso gi este na tinilaika i yangin madisfruta huyong i ginagagaña \$2,253,128 mit pesos para apasña, magpo todo negosio pot tano' sanpapa' giya Navy Hill ni mapropopone para i Pacific Mall.

Si Judge Manibusan ha apunta huyong hafa na guaha chinatsaga gi ginagao Señor Mitchell—era 'nai hana' ya hululo' i apasña \$2,253,128 mit pesos komo 'nai siña makonsige negosio. Klaro gi kattan Señor Mitchell na ha pega interesña finonina ke interes i ha representasña yan i taotao Marianas. I lünguhen kattaña klaro hasañgan hafa intensioña gi este na kaosa.

Ilegña lokue' si Judge Manibusan na yangin pot benefision publiko i ha plaiteteha si Señor Mitchell, siempre ha demanda na i L&T u apase i \$17 Miyon tutat ya u polu i apasña ya i kotte u dinespone. Umanog na anai esta ti malago' si Señor Mitchell numegosio i para masatban atkilon tano' sanpapa' giya Navy Hill na pot interesña tumimomon i asunto. Lao gi todo palabrasña, pot interes i publiko ha u'usa komo tampen sinetnan. Yangin para umasede ni ginagagaña \$2,253,128 mit pesos, pues i publiko para u kinatga dispues i apasña komo abugao guine na kaosa sa' sige ha' ha batsala i asunto gi ti mankombene na keha siha, segun as Judge Manibusan.

Maseha i Supremo na Kotte ha sede na u halom tatte si Mitchell gi kaosa gi dos petsonas ni ha representasña, estableas, maseha ti hoñgiyon i uson fagas pachot niha na pot i publiko na ha mumumuye i tano' Lower Navy Hill, i motibo pot apasña komo abugao 'nai ha gagagao \$2,253,128 mit pesos. Afañielos, klaro hafa i motibo gi este na kaosa. Nos pot interes i publiko lao pot \$2,253,128 mit pesos na apas abugao. Ya repara sa' i tano'ta nu i publiko magulususune (aprubecha) pot para u fan miyinario.

Hana' lastimayo' si Señor Mitchell yan i ha representasña sa' pinilogh na dibeas metgot kinimiten niha pot i maplaiteteha gi menan i kotte. Esta disiganayo' 'nai hu soda' i disision Judge Manibusan 'nai ha apunta dibuenamente hafa dipotsihe intensionña si Señor Mitchell. Todo i hagas ha fachuchue' ensegidas maliño konfiansiagho gi un' abugao ni hagas hu polu komo uno na achon gi dinirihen proteksion publiko. Lastima sa' klaro hafa i hueguña guine na bieha ya hu gagagao na u sotta i asunto sa' taigue esta i konfiansa gi lagse' na uson "interes publiko".

Dipotsihe ha' buente i linala' kada taotao. Siempre un' dia u anog hafa dipotsihe kabales kulotña. Gi este na asunto, pot petsonat na interes ya guagan na interes sa' \$2.3 Miyon pesos ginagagaña. Haye mohon para u fan benefisia yangin masede nu i apas ni hagagagao ginen i tano' publiko? Para tafan adage: Si Señor Mitchell komo abugao. Yangin mohon ha choneg gi un' banda i apasña ya ha kontinua plumaiteteha i asunto, siempre ha konfima ensegidas na sinsero i ha petisigse pot hita. Lao pot \$2.3 Miyon pesos ni ha usa gi hilo' konbiñiente pot para u fa' tampen sinetnan interes publiko. Buente ha supone i amiguho Señor Mitchell na ti u paguan i malumot ni ha dagao ñaihon gi papa' guafag. Esta na' pinitse sa' ni guaha tampoko ti hu supone na pot apasña na ha petsigse plumaiteteha i asunto. Sumen namase' i mafa' tampen sinetnan i interes publiko 'nai dicho asuntun pos apas abugao ni rumepresesenta i kumokontra i mahatsan fasilidat Pacific Mall. Sañgan ha' mohon deste tutuhon ya interamente i publiko u tuñofo format hafa na inkekentra i asunto.

Lao kulan bisio i para tafa' fagas pachotta i "interes publiko" osino "proteksion i manattate. Kao guaha 'nai in hisga kabales otro siha tano' publiko ni manma' atkikila pago pot para inakompara i minedong tano', akuanto 'nai ma' atkikila yan kao i uson tano' propio usuña? Yaho kumetuño hafa hinason miyo nu i sigiente siha na tano' publiko dispues de inseda' akuanto 'nai ma' atkikila: UMDA, 1.9 hektarias; SC Corporation, 1.6 hektarias; Kan Pacific, 1.5 hektarias yan otro siha na tano' publiko. Ketuño akuanto i atkilon gi sakan ya hamyo mismo inhisga yan inakompara kao propio i maplaiteteha pago. Sen mas, na' para mafa' tampen sinetnan i publiko sa' klaro pago na pot botsa yan pottamonedat interes miyo. Si Yuus Maase!



JACK ANDERSON and JAN MOLLER
WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Oil company deals are called into question

WASHINGTON—An unreleased letter sent to Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt last week charges that the government had no legal authority to strike a series of deals with major oil producers.

The controversy stems from a series of "global settlements" entered into by the Interior Department's Minerals Management Service. The settlements were designed to collect a portion of the unpaid royalties for oil that was pumped on federal and state lands.

Last week's letter—sent by Rep. Carolyn Maloney, D-N.Y.—is merely the latest salvo in a battle that stretches back more than two decades, and in which critics say the federal treasury has been robbed to the tune of nearly \$2 billion.

Briefly, here's the background, as told to us by congressional Democratic sources familiar with the case:

In the mid-1970s, officials in California began complaining that oil companies had underpaid royalties that they owed for crude oil pumped from federal and state-owned land. The state claimed that the oil companies were paying royalties based on the "posted" price, rather than on the real market value, which was usually higher. The city of Long Beach successfully sued seven oil companies to recover missing royalties, yet the practice persisted for years.

The Reagan and Bush administrations never paid much heed to California's complaints, preferring instead to side with the oil industry, which didn't think it owed any money. California's claims were consistently denied by officials at the MMS.

But all that changed in 1994, when an inter-agency task force made up of investigators from Interior, Energy and Commerce began reviewing the old California claims. The turnaround started after pressure was applied by Maloney and the Project on Government Oversight, a non-partisan watchdog group. Last May the Interior Department released a report alleging that 10 different oil companies owe the federal government and the California state government \$856 million in unpaid royalties dating back to 1978.

Officials in Maloney's office have calculated that royalty underpayments may total more than \$2 billion if one includes the entire country.

In recent months, the MMS has begun sending bills totaling nearly \$400 million to the companies for the unpaid royalties. But two of the biggest companies—Exxon and Chevron—

can't be touched. The bills that were sent out will almost certainly be appealed by the companies. And it seems inevitable that the issue will be settled by the courts.

And that's where Maloney's letter comes in.

"As the inter-agency task force began auditing the claims in 1994, MMS officials were quietly negotiating a series of global settlements, which netted the government just pennies on the dollar. Under terms of the agreements, neither the government nor the oil companies can reopen the case once the settlement is signed.

In the letter sent to Babbitt last week, Maloney claims the MMS never had the authority to negotiate settlements with the oil companies. She cites the Federal Claims Collection Act, which holds that the head of a federal agency "may compromise a claim of the government of not more than \$100,000 (excluding interest)..."

Maloney adds that the settlements were invalid because some of them involved claims on Indian tribal land though no Indian leaders were involved in the negotiations.

UNDER THE DOME—It's been a popular pastime among pundits to pooh-pooh last November's disastrously low election turnout. After all, Bill Clinton was re-elected even though just 23.8 percent of all eligible voters cast their ballots for him.

Analysts have blamed voter apathy for the low turnout. But not so fast. A new study suggests the problem may have been the candidates themselves.

Figures compiled by the Committee for the Study of the American Electorate found that voters in eight states—Delaware, Idaho, Massachusetts, Minnesota, North Carolina, South Carolina, South Dakota and Utah—cast more ballots for senatorial and gubernatorial candidates than they did for president. When it came time to vote for president many of them simply left that space blank.

So maybe—just maybe—the voters are smarter than the pundits give them credit for. Perhaps more of them would have gone to the polls had they found a candidate they could support. That's something for the pollsters to think about before the next round of presidential politics gets underway, which will be all too soon.

Camp leans toward independent bid

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff
FORMER Democratic party chair Benigno Sablan yesterday said his and Lt. Gov. Jesus Borja's core groups are reviewing the possibility of the two officials running as independent bets in the November polls.

In an interview, Sablan said there were originally three options raised by their supporters during recent meetings: pursuing a legal battle, withdrawal and the independent bid.

"A legal battle was deleted among the options for we certainly wouldn't want the boat, which is already sinking, to capsize. So, that option was thrown out," said the Lands and Natural Resources Secretary.



Benigno Sablan

Establishment of fund help program sought



Malua Peter

ership of land in the CNMI "may be restricted to persons of NMI descent, then it follows....that public lands belong only to (them.)"

"With such public lands being so owned income that is derived from such lands may likewise be restricted to be used only for the benefit of its collective owners," the bill says.

The bill proposes to create a seven-member Financial Assistance Board that would be authorized issue rules and regulations, and charged with the administration of the program.

"Withdrawal was not among the options before the CEC announcement was made... but it was raised following that move... however it is not being considered right now," Sablan added.

Rumors had it that Sablan will withdraw from the race following the CEC's recent decision officially endorsing Gov. Froilan Tenorio and ousting Borja for allegedly causing party disintegration in his insistence to run for the gubernatorial post.

Sablan said the only thing left, "at this point in time," is to look closely into the possibility of filing an independent candidacy.

"I have a feeling it (running as an independent tandem) is the decision (of the core groups)," he said.

He has however earlier voiced opposition to this third option saying an independent bid "would only split the votes further, thereby boosting chances of a minority leadership winning in the race."

"And it [minority leadership] is the last thing the CNMI needs," he has said.

Sablan said no major decision has been arrived at thus far as both core groups agreed to have him and Borja thoroughly discuss the matter.

He and Borja are set to meet tomorrow evening. Their decision will be reported before the

Jesus Borja

core groups in another meeting—the third thus far since the CEC announcement came out—scheduled this Friday.

Sablan has earlier expressed hope Tenorio, upon his return from an official function in the US mainland last Friday, will "try to contact the CEC and convince it to reconsider and instead have a primary."

He said only a primary can "bring the party back together" explaining that the CEC's move appeared to have caused factional cracks within the party.

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

REPRESENTATIVE Malua Peter has filed a bill that would establish a "comprehensive" financial assistance program for post secondary education, and would limit the awarding of scholarship grants to people of Northern Marianas descent.

The bill, if enacted into law, would repeal the existing regulations governing the awarding, administration and disbursement of post secondary financial assistance to scholarships, grants, and loans.

The bill says, the establishment of a "comprehensive" fund assistance program is aimed at increasing "the building of local capacity by restructuring the distribution of available financial resources which will result in greater reduction of reliance on off-island hiring."

The program, according to the bill, would be funded through incomes derived from public lands "so that such income is utilized only for the benefit of the people of the Commonwealth who are of Northern Marianas descent."

Those who are currently receiving financial assistance would continue to get it as long as such persons are receiving assistance "under the law that existed at the time the assistance was granted."

The bill, however, did not cite the amount of fund to be generated for the program.

HB 10-341 says that since the Covenant recognizes that the own-

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BUCKLE-UP SAIPAN!

Author here to write NMI cookbook

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

IN a year's time, Chamorro food recipes from the Northern Mariana Islands will be found in the shelves of bookstores in New York and cities all over the United States.

Bob Adams, a self-discovered food writer from Rochester, New York, has been exploring the "unbeaten paths" in the culinary world. First, he wrote a Fisherman's Cookbook containing recipes using the different varieties of fish found in the US northeast coast.

For a first-time author, the book "did well," he said.

And then he did a Firehouse Cookbook, a collection of dishes concocted by firefighters all over the US and Canada. It proved to be a bestseller, catching the attention of the TV program "Good Morning, America" and the New York Times, among others.

A portion of the book sale proceeds goes to the different National Disaster Relief Organizations through the American Red Cross.

Adam's third book, which will be off the press (Ten Speed Press) next autumn, features ostrich-meat recipes. Ostrich meat, he says, "is quite popular meat now in the United States" since the meat is reputedly healthful (with lower fat, cholesterol and caloric contents than beef, chicken or turkey). Ostrich meat tastes like beef tenderloin, he says.

Now, Adams' latest and fourth cookbook project will feature reci-



AT HOME. Bob Adams (third from left) with new-found friends who include MVB Managing Director Anicia Q. Tomokane (to Adam's right) and hubby, Frank (left), and Marianas Variety Publisher Paz Younis (fifth from left).

pes from "paradise islands" in Micronesia, specifically Saipan, Guam, Palau, Majuro, and Pohnpei.

The book, he says, will be out in the market in 12 months.

Published by Ten Speed Press, the cookbook will be marketed in the US, to "promote Micronesia in the United States. A lot of people in the United States consider Saipan to be quite an exotic destination."

"I know a lot of friends in New York, they're looking forward to learning a lot about Chamorro food," he says.

Adams, 31, is a first-time visitor to the Micronesian region.

"This is the first opportunity I've had to really taste Chamorro

individuals and as prepared by the larger hotels.

"I'll be showing the contrasts between how the foods are prepared for the tourist market as opposed to how the residents of Saipan actually prepare them," he said.

David Jones, Hyatt Regency Saipan's chief chef who specializes in Chamorro foods, provided Adams with some local recipes which he will include in the Paradise Cookbook.

He said he enjoyed the Chamorro foods David Jones had prepared for him at the Hyatt. "He's quite a spectacular chef, and I'm proud to be associated with him and everybody at the Hyatt Regency."

Adams said he's looking forward to including Jones' recipes in the Micronesian cookbook.

Before deciding to be a food writer, Adams trained and worked as a chef. He was also once a butler. He managed several exclusive bed and breakfasts in Jamaica, as well as several restaurants throughout New York state.

"But cookbook writing is really my joy and my love," he says. Adams is also honing his marketing skills.

Adams would like to branch out to travel writing to "broaden my horizons a little bit."

"I don't want to concentrate

specifically on food," he says. Adams, thus, wants to be known as a food writer/travel writer.

Adams went to Cornell University and is a graduate of hotel and restaurant management.

His present occupation now combines his top three loves: cooking, writing, and marketing.

"I'm fortunate that I always knew how to put words together and form sentences," he says of his new-found profession.

Although he enjoys cooking and eating French and northern Italian cuisines, he says he doesn't have any specific dish that he prefers over another. "I like all kinds of food except pickles."

He says he would like to learn more about Asian cuisines, including learning how to cook them.

From Saipan, Adams leaves today for Guam. His other destinations in search of "recipes from paradise" are Palau, Pohnpei and the Marshalls.

Adams enjoyed his one-week stay in Saipan.

He mentions with fondness Tomokane and MVB Marketing Director Norman Berg, who, without them, "the CNMI could be much worse."

"I'm a world-class traveler...I've been to many places and I've never felt more comfortable and more at home as I have been here on Saipan," he said with clear emphasis.

Anti-tobacco bill passes House

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

THE "IMPROVED" version of a bill that would provide further deterrent for the sale of tobacco to minors edged closer towards becoming law after the House of Representatives on Friday voted unanimously for approval.

House Bill 10-324 now goes to the Senate which will hold a session on Wednesday, Feb. 19.

A similar legislation was vetoed by Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio

last Dec. 9, saying that he fully supports the bill's intent, but its penalty provisions "are so seriously flawed that I am compelled to veto" it.

He said he hopes that the Legislature pass an amended bill which he will then sign into law.

H.B. 10-324, which was introduced by Rep. Ana S. Teregeyo (R-Saipan), would impose a fine of not more than \$100 and up to 30-day imprisonment to those found to have sold tobacco prod-

ucts or cigarette papers to persons under 18 years old.

The bill would also give authorized law enforcement and health agencies to secure the voluntary assistance of minors to conduct undercover investigations against persons or business establishments selling tobacco to minors.

However, no minors may assist in such operations as condition of probation or in connection with a minor's sentencing in juvenile delinquency proceedings.

Business establishments selling tobacco products would be required to post conspicuous signs reading "Tobacco Sales Prohibited to Minors."

Likewise, the bill would ban vending machine containing tobacco products from any location in which the minimum legal age for admission is not at least 18 years of age.

The bill's earlier version had "stiffer" penalties: a fine of up to \$1,000 per day and the seizure of a business establishment's tobacco assets.

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



Ana S. Teregeyo

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

Sablan admits difficulties in going after pimps, prostitutes



Thomas O. Sablan

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

LABOR and Immigration Secretary Thomas O. Sablan admitted authorities are virtually helpless in getting suspected pimps and prostitutes who operate clandestinely, using civil rights as a cloak.

This even as reliable DOLI insiders said operatives have put on close monitoring at least five suspected brothels in Garapan and Susupe where the prostitutes supposedly take their "clients."

"It's a tough job for us," conceded Sablan.

"A woman may stand in one corner all day and she'd still be violating no rules, not even obstructing traffic," he explained. "We see people going into motels or

these brothels... we even see Japanese tourists paying fees... but what is really there to arrest the woman? They are two adult persons consenting to go in there, how, then, can it be proven that she engaged in prostitution?" he further raised.

Sablan assured though that his office is now working to address the "menace." Scores of suspected prostitutes, all Chinese nationals, have been arrested by combined operatives of the DOLI and the Department of Public Safety in recent months.

These foreigners were however merely detained on grounds of allegedly having overstayed in the Commonwealth.

CHC Volunteers purchase equipment

THE Commonwealth Health Center Volunteers Association announced that a critically needed hospital equipment has just arrived.

The Physical Therapy Department needed new and specialized equipment to meet the increasing needs of its patients which average five to ten wound patients per month. The hospital staff came to the Volunteers for help and they were not disappointed.

The CHC Volunteers purchased the Dynatron 950 at the discounted cost of \$3,600. This machine is a Combination Therapy Ultrasound and Electrical Stimulator, the state of the art treatment for wound heal-

ing and is excellent for pain control. The Dynatron 950 is a Four-Channel Combination Therapy featuring patented, multi-frequency ultrasound, interferential, premodulated, microcurrent, biphasic stimulation, among others.

The CHC Volunteers Association would like to thank those generous companies and individuals who helped make this donation possible. Through cooperative efforts, excellent team work, and generous community spirits, the Volunteers Association has been able to give our people valuable medical equipment that will serve the needs of everyone.

The Volunteers Association would

like to inform the general public that another fundraising event will be launched in order to continue to collect the needed funds for the Stenoscopy Surgical C-arm System, the state of the art radiology equipment specifically designed for the surgical environment. The cost of this valuable equipment is high and although the Volunteers began efforts to raise the needed money during their 10th Anniversary, they fell short of the required amount. So please give in the spirit of charity and goodwill. Look for and participate in the next fundraising event.



Left to right: Mary Toran-Sandin-Physical Therapist, Patricia McPhee-Physical Therapist, Teresa Olesch-Physical Therapist Supervisor, Susan P. Schwarz-President CHC Volunteers Association.

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DYS to be taking care of Chinese deportee's baby

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Immigration has handed over to the Division of Youth Services, a two-month old girl after her Chinese mother was found to have overstayed in the CNMI and subsequently ordered deported.

DOLI Secretary Thomas O. Sablan refused to identify the child nor the mother. He admitted though that the court ruling on the separation of the two is tragic.

"It's the court's decision. We just have to abide by it no matter what," he explained.

"They (DYS) are taking care of the child now complete with milk and diapers and everything... the child will be alright," he said.

The mother can still be reunited with her child should she decide to re-

enter the CNMI legally and seek employment here.

She, according to Sablan, was unemployed at the time of her recent arrest.

"She has no valid status to be in the CNMI," he said.

The mother is now under custody at the DOLI detention center where she awaits completion of her travel papers prior to deportation this week.

Sablan said they still can't determine who the child's father is.

"These are tragic cases but we really cannot do anything about it... the mother in this particular case can still see her child if she returns on a legal status," said Sablan. Four years ago, a Filipina was deported after having had overstayed in the CNMI. The Filipina, whom authorities also refused to identify, left behind a son to a local church office.

TAGA honors Ichiara

TAGA, a local cause-oriented group is paying tribute to Jose San Miguel Ichiara who passed away last week. Ichiara, assisted the native police operations from February 1945 to February 1948.

He spoke the English language and became a tutor and was assigned as a translator and interpreter with the native police.

In those trying years, he assisted the military, the government, local leaders, and the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"Ichiara was a special man. He was a survivor, and a person of civic virtue and integrity. He was a source of inspiration for his children and not just a reflection of it," TAGA



Jose San Miguel Ichiara said in a statement.

"His service and participation in making the CNMI of today will be remembered.

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Pacific News Round-Up

Fiji fishers rap gov't order to sell catch at lower price

SUVA, Fiji (AP) - Domestic tuna fishing companies complained Thursday that Fiji's government has ordered them to sell their catch to a financially ailing government-owned cannery for prices 20 percent below the market rate.

Meanwhile, the Taiwanese company Fong Chen Formosa said it plans to move its 16-boat long-line fishing fleet out of Fiji because the cannery, Pacific Fishing Co. Ltd., has failed to pay it 1.4 million (2 million Fiji dollars) for tuna delivered since February 1996.

Last December, Fiji's government agreed to give the cannery a \$3.5 million (5 million Fiji dollar) grant to overcome financial problems the company said were caused by its inability to obtain enough tuna to process.

Local businessman Graham Southwick, managing director of Fiji Fish Co. Ltd., which last year exported over \$25 million in sashimi grade tuna to Japan, said his company and others have been ordered to supply the cannery with fish as a condition for renewal of their fishing licenses.

The opening ceremony for the three-day conference will feature the rituals, songs, and dance of Polynesia's indigenous peoples.

The founders of the Union, Kara Puketapu of Aotearoa (New Zealand) and Kenneth Brown of Hawaii, say a primary purpose of the organization is to share ideas which will enhance and enrich the quality of life of every Polynesian. This week's first meeting of the Union will focus on health care.

The keynote address will be given by Nainoa Thompson of the Hawaiian Voyaging Society.

He will speak on Voyaging and Health and its role in generating pride among indigenous peoples.

Thompson has sailed the Pacific aboard the voyaging canoe Hokulea on many occasions.

Australia blamed for the demise of Indian settlers

SUVA (Pacnews) - Two Fijian partisan politicians stated Thursday that Australia through its old Colonial Sugar Refinery company should be blamed for the demise of Indian settlers in Fiji. Taukei Movement stalwart Josefa Diani and Vanua Independent Party president Iliesa Duvuloco, in different interviews, blamed the CSR for exploiting the vulnerable Indian labourer - displaced, homeless and forced into slavery and indentured labour, the Daily Post reports.

They were reacting to a motion in the Australian Parliament regarding the Fiji Constitutional Review. Duvuloco says Fiji should now forget about Australia and its political aid and should be looking forward to Asia. He says Australians and British must solve their own problems, make their parliaments truly multi-racial before they point a finger Fiji's way.

Duvuloco and Diani both agreed that Australia's treatment of its indigenous people was testimony of its slant towards indigenous rights, worldwide. Diani says CSR was a white racist business house of the worst kind from its policies. The two politicians concluded that Indians, all over the world were victims of white supremacy except in India and lately South Africa.

PNG telecom workers cast secret ballots

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews) - Communication workers in Papua New Guinea casted their votes at a lunch hour secret ballot Thursday to determine industrial action against the Post and Telecommunication (PTC) management.

Communication Workers Union general secretary Emmanuel Kairu told the workers the PTC management had failed them, the Post-Courier reports.

The union said late Thursday that response from voting in the main centres of Lae, Mount Hagen, Rabaul, Wewak, Alotau and Madang has been very good and results were expected to be announced soon. The union's main claims are for a 20 percent wage increase, compulsory settlement to workers in home ownership schemes and outstanding damage claims by the former Properties Division workers.

New Polynesian union

HONOLULU (Pacnews) - The first formal meeting of the new Polynesian Union, organized by Maoris and Native Hawaiians, will get under way tonight at Honolulu's East-West Center.

The opening ceremony for the three-day conference will feature the rituals, songs, and dance of Polynesia's indigenous peoples.

The founders of the Union, Kara Puketapu of Aotearoa (New Zealand) and Kenneth Brown of Hawaii, say a primary purpose of the organization is to share ideas which will enhance and enrich the quality of life of every Polynesian. This week's first meeting of the Union will focus on health care.

The keynote address will be given by Nainoa Thompson of the Hawaiian Voyaging Society.

He will speak on Voyaging and Health and its role in generating pride among indigenous peoples.

Thompson has sailed the Pacific aboard the voyaging canoe Hokulea on many occasions.

Tonga prepares for millenium activities

NUKU'ALOFA (Pacnews) - Tonga's director of tourism, Semisi Taumoepeau, says the kingdom stands to benefit economically from the new millenium host of activities being lined up to welcome the year 2000. He says Tonga's millenium activities are geared to be competitive with the rest of the Pacific islands' programmes, Radio Tonga reports.

Taumoepeau says it's anticipated that the activities will attract more tourists to come to Nuku'alofa. Meanwhile, the South Pacific's New Millenium activities will be launched in Germany next month during the International Tourism Fair. The Tourism Council of the South Pacific is leading the regional booth at the fair to be held on the first week of March. All 12 member countries of the council will take part.

Solomons PM assures support for mine firm

HONIARA (Pacnews) - Solomon Islands prime minister, Solomon Mamaloni, has assured Ross Mining Company and its international shareholders that his government will ensure that Gold Ridge mining project on Guadalcanal goes ahead. In a statement mid this week, he said the government was determined to ensure the project is realised, SIBC reports.

Gold Ridge mining project is the biggest investment in Solomon Islands since independence in 1978.

Mamaloni said certain individuals in the country and overseas, had over the past several months, tried to derail the progress of the project by clouding it with other government projects. He said two of these - improvements to power supply in Honiara and Lunga hydro-power project were also priority projects which should not affect the gold mining project.

The prime minister said the government had allowed the Gold Ridge mining to generate its own power to enable the project to open on time.

Vanuatu bank GM sacked

PORT VILA (Pacnews) - The general manager of the National Bank of Vanuatu, Anatole Hymak, has been sacked by the bank's board of directors. He was suspended by the NBV board on January 20 for breaching the bank's secrecy policy, Radio Vanuatu reports.

Hymak was appointed in 1993 without any banking experience. The National Bank of Vanuatu will advertise for his replacement soon.

Northern Isle project hits snag

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT of Lands and Natural Resources' plan to "cleanse" Sariguan island of wild goats and boars met a snag following government's issuance of the vessel, which was supposedly to be used for the project, to the Emergency Management Office.

DLNR Secretary Benigno Sablan, in an interview, said his office is now trying to source funds for a boat that can be chartered and used to ship the animals from the island to Saipan.

"We're thrown back into limbo," he said.

The vessel, Challenger, he said was recently handed over to the EMO following last month's sea tragedy involving four persons, which included Tinian Mayor Herman Manglona's 22-year old son, Clifford.

It will be recalled that the Chal-

lenger was among four sea vessels used to track down and trace the four persons who were later declared missing at sea.

The four failed to reach Tinian after leaving Saipan at dusk.

Sablan said his office has nil chances of being allowed to borrow the seacraft.

He explained the Sariguan operation is expected to take 12 weeks.

"Its very likely they (EMO) won't release the Challenger for projects of this kind," Sablan said.

"They (EMO) are tasked to be on alert for any emergencies... immediate threats to life... these are unforeseen events... and they can't afford to hand over the Challenger for that much time," he further explained.

which destroy vegetation and consequently cause rapid erosion of the area's top soil formation.

The project was hatched to avoid this impending ecological degradation.



Man injured in vehicle collision seeks damages

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

A MAN who was severely injured during a vehicular collision in 1995 has filed a lawsuit against the driver and an insurance firm demanding for damages.

Michael Diaz sued Herman Vincent Cepeda, driver; Vicente I. Cepeda, vehicle's owner; and National Union Fire Insurance Co. of Pittsburgh PA. before the Superior Court.

Diaz, through counsel John Manglona, sued the defendants for breach of duty of reasonable care, negligence, and for adjudication of duty to defend and liability on claims.

The complaint stated that on Feb. 18, 1995, Diaz was driving east along 16 Highway in Dandan in a vehicle bearing license plate AAD-198 at 5 p.m.

Cepeda was traveling in another vehicle in a westerly direction along 16 Highway.

Diaz stopped at the intersection of 16 Highway Dandan and As Lito Road and proceeded slowly.

As plaintiff proceeded through the intersection, Cepeda "with complete disregard to the safety of other vehicles in the vicinity" sped off his left turn through the lane of traffic coming from the opposite direction.

Defendant failed to see Diaz while he attempted to make the turn and stop his vehicle to avoid collision.

The collision between the vehicles of the defendant and plaintiff caused plaintiff severe bodily injury.

Defendant breached his duty of reasonable care in failing to maintain a proper lookout and yield the right of way to the plaintiff, the complaint said.

As a direct and proximate result of the defendant's failure to exercise reasonable care, the complaint said plaintiff suffered severe bodily injury, specifically a fractured patella.

Plaintiff has incurred hospital and medical expenses amounting to \$3,896.90 and lost his earnings.

Diaz will also undergo future medical operations including a magnesium fusion of his patella which requires future medical expenses.

Diaz asked the Superior Court to declare that National insurance firm is liable for the full amount of the policy issued to the defendant.

The plaintiff asked the court to declare that the insurance firm bound to defend all claims.

NORTHERN MARIANAS PROTECTION & ADVOCACY SYSTEMS, INC.

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.

- 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.
- Transmittal letter:
 - A. Brief statement of your understanding of the work to be performed and an affirmative statement of perform work within the time period stipulated.
 - B. State all-inclusive fee for which the audit will be performed.
- 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 to be involved in the project are Certified Public Accountants (CPA).
- 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;
 - Audit coverage
 - Overall estimates as well as the time estimates for each major section of the work to be performed.
 - B. Qualifications and experience of firm.
 - Size and structure of the firm
 - Stability to maintain continuity of project
 - Experience of the firm in auditing Federal Financial Assistance Programs and Non-Profit Organizations.
 - C. Qualification and experience of staff to be assigned. Education, position in the firm, and years and types of experience will be considered.
 - Qualifications of audit team.
 - Supervision to be exercised over the audit team firms
 - D. Audit Fee
- 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.
- Confidentiality of Audit Proposals: All audit proposals will be reviewed in a confidential number. 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

KEEP SAIPAN CLEAN & BEAUTIFUL

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

ROTA HARBOR MAINTENANCE AND ADDITIONAL DREDGING PROJECT

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) is soliciting sealed Proposals from qualified contractors to perform earthwork in conjunction with the ROTA HARBOR MAINTENANCE AND ADDITIONAL DREDGING PROJECT, CPA Project No. CPA-RS-001-96 located at the Rota West Harbor, Rota, CNMI

This Project, in general consists of marina expansion dredging (by others) south of the commercial dock to the revetted mole causeway between Anjoia Island and the existing boat slips. The volume of dredged material is estimated at 25,000 Cubic Yards. The Contractor awarded this Project will assist the dredging effort through the removal and disposal of all material dredged. Two disposal sites have been permitted. The primary disposal site consists of spreading and compacting dredged material at Anjoia Island. An alternate disposal site exists behind the Rota High School gymnasium and shall be used in the event the primary disposal site reaches capacity. Spreading and disposal of material shall be in accordance with the locations and details provided in the construction drawings and specifications.

Proposals submitted must be available for acceptance for a period up to 60 days after the designated date for opening of proposals. CPA may award a contract on the basis of the initial offer received without negotiations. Therefore, the initial offer should contain the offeror's best terms.

The contract award, if it is to be made, will be based on the pay items as listed in the proposal form. The proposal shall show each construction cost item separately in accordance with the plans and specifications. Proposers are required to submit qualification statements with their proposals. The CPA will evaluate the proposals on factors that include pricing, responsiveness, the contractor's level of experience and reliability of equipment to perform this operation without delay.

Proposals shall be received no later than 2:00 p.m. March 07, 1997 (local time) at the office of:

The Executive Director
The Commonwealth Ports Authority
Saipan International Airport
P.O. Box 1055
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel: (670) 664-3500
Fax: (670) 234-5962

A pre-proposal meeting will be held at the Rota Harbor at 11:00 a.m. on February 21, 1997. All questions must be submitted in writing or by fax to reach the above address no later than March 3, 1997.

Proposal documents are available from the CPA with payment of a non-refundable amount of \$35 per set. Cashier's and certified checks or money orders shall be made payable to:

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
P.O. Box 1055
Saipan, MP 96950

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject proposals in accordance with Section 3.2(7) of its Procurement Rules and Regulations.

Signed: CARLOS A. SHODA
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
Saipan, CNMI

February 7, 1997

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

This is to inform the public that Four (4) company blank checks (Bank of Hawaii) were stolen due to a friday night burglary.

The Check Numbers are 10144, 10175, 10176, 10177.

The above checks are void and invalid. The company will not be held liable on them.

Thank you.

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Police nab Singaporean in Manila

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - Police have arrested a Singaporean for possession of \$26,900 worth of fake dollar bills during a raid of a lodging house in Manila's tourist district of Ermita, police said Monday.

Choo Teck Bor, 52, was arrested Feb. 9 on suspicion of being a member of an international fake dollar ring which uses the Philippines as a pick-up point, said Chief

Superintendent Efrén Fernandez, director Criminal Investigation Group.

The arrest was not made public immediately, apparently because of follow-up operations to catch remaining members of Bor's syndicate.

Fernandez said Bor, who is married to a Filipino woman, has been frequently visiting the Philippines to sell garments from Singapore, Malaysia and Thailand.

Fernandez said police seized 269 fake \$100 bills with the 1996 series from Bor. He said the fake dollars were high-quality imitations which even bear fiber security marks.

Bor allegedly admitted buying the fake dollars from local contact at 100 pesos (\$3.8) a piece and selling them at 350 pesos (\$13.46).

Bor was charged in court for illegal possession and use of fake bank notes.

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, helicopter 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 Ylig and Talofoto Rivers, and a non-military paratroop 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.

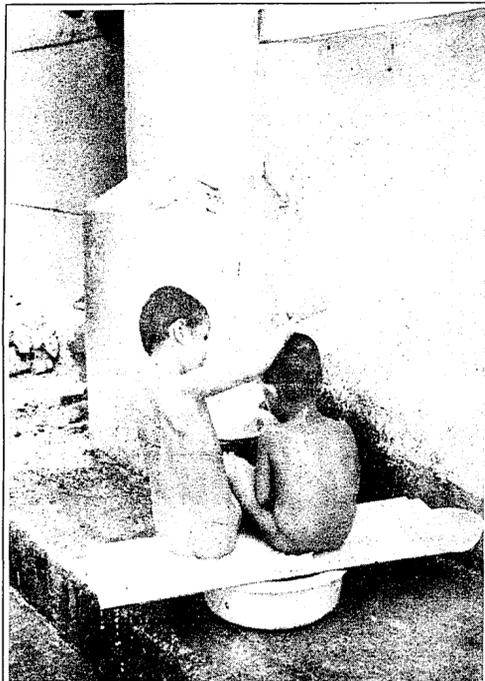
DATES: Public hearings to inform the public of the DEIS findings and to solicit comments will be held at the following times and locations in the CNMI and on Guam:

- 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, Agaña, 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.



Two boys take a bath using a leaking pipe along a backstreet sidewalk in Manila, Tuesday. The high cost of living in the city brought about by the slight uptrend in the economy has pushed rent and real estate prices beyond the reach of ordinary wage earners. Thus, people from the provinces who come here to work for better pay end up living in squatter colonies or on the streets. AP Photo

MANILA NEWS BRIEFS (as culled by Philippine Consulate)

Ramos signs P493-B budget

PRESIDENT Ramos last week signed the P493.1 billion national budget for 1997 into law but vetoed nine items, including a provision which sought to restrict the use of funds to underwrite any election or plebiscite.

According to the President, the budget represented the administration's Social Reform Agenda since the bulk will go to social services and poverty alleviations.

The approved General Appropriations Act or Republic Act 8250 was P16.5 billion higher than the P476.2 billion originally proposed by Malacanang.

"The passage of the budget law ensures the continuity of the strong fiscal foundation we have carefully laid out since I took office in 1992, and which began to pay off when we attained, in 1994, the first-ever budget surplus in the fiscal history of the Philippine government," the President said after the signing. Phil. Journal

Asian investments top capital flow

FRESH capital from Asian countries accounted almost half (P11.97 billion out of P25.381 billion) of total foreign equity investments generated by the country in 1996.

Hong Kong investments topped the list dislodging American businessmen, which for year remain as the country's number one source of foreign capital.

BOI statistics showed Hong Kong investors pouring in with equity contribution reaching P7.328 billion in 1996 reflecting a substantial 645.4 percent increase from the 1995 level of only P983.160 million.

Great Britain, another major source of foreign capital, is the country's second biggest equity investor last year with investments reaching P3.719 billion or 15.74 percent increase from P3.213 billion in 1995.

Japan landed as the third largest investor with P1.515 billion equity contribution. Fellow-Asean Indonesia became the fourth largest foreign investor with P1.469 billion or a whopping 3891.889 percent mark up from a measly P375,000 equity last year. Manila Bulletin Source: (Board of Investments)

Gov't, NDF to hasten peace efforts

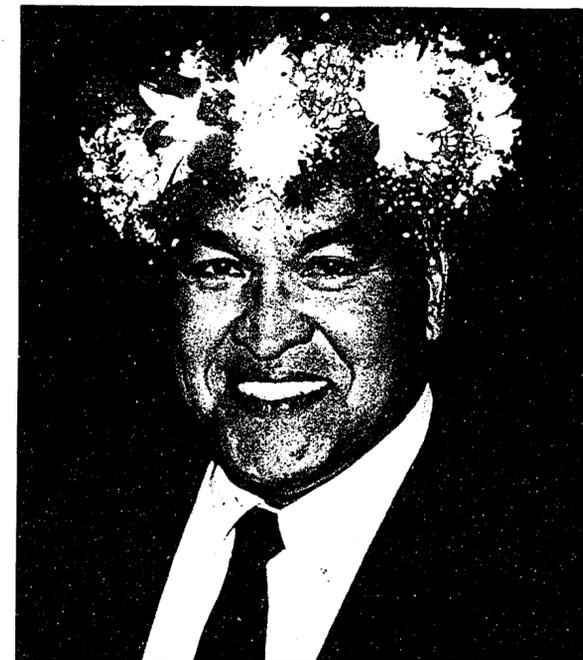
THE government and the communist National Democratic Front have agreed to hasten negotiations in the next four months in order to reach a final peace settlement by June.

Ambassador Howard Dee, chairman of the government panel talking peace with the NDF, reported this yesterday to President Ramos.

According to Dee, the two sides reached the agreement during their in Utrecht, the Netherlands, last Feb. 1 to 8.

In his report, Dee said the panels will discuss the human rights agreement in March; economic and social reforms and perhaps in April; and the "end of hostilities and disposition of forces" in June.

He added the two panels agreed on the mode of release for NDF consultant Danilo Borja on or before Feb. 18, addressing their respective positions regarding the issue of the applicability of the Joint Agreement on Safety and Immunity Guaranteed to him. Phil. Journal



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.
Tonight, February 18, 1997**

KEEP SAIPAN CLEAN & BEAUTIFUL

Zaire rebels heed UN plea

By KARIN DAVIES

KALEMIE, Zaire (AP) - Rebel leader Laurent Kabila, responding to a plea from the United Nations, has agreed to delay a threatened attack on Zaire's largest refugee camp.

Leader agrees to delay threatened attack on refugee camp

Kabila had threatened to attack the Tingi-Tingi camp, which is on the rebels' northern front, this week unless the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees drove out

Rwandans he says are armed by the Zairian government.

The rebel leader said Sunday he granted the reprieve to give the agency time to figure out how to separate the armed men from bona fide refugees in the camp of 150,000 people.

"As we are Christians, we shall give more time to UNHCR," Kabila told The Associated Press in the southeastern town of Kalemie.

"We shall see what we come up with."

Kabila didn't set a new deadline, but said he would stay in touch with U.N. officials.

Twice in the past week, Kabila has vowed to attack Tingi-Tingi within days to clear out former Rwandan soldiers and Hutu militiamen, who have received plane loads of arms in recent days.

The United Nations sent representatives to Kalemie, a port on Lake Tanganyika, to plead for a reprieve. Kabila granted it, but insisted it would be temporary.

"We talked a little bit of my ultimatum there, which is very serious. I hope they understood my position," he said.

The U.N. representatives quickly flew back to Nairobi, Kenya, without speaking to reporters. In the past, the refugee agency has said it does not have the power to disarm refugees.

In the Zairian capital, Kinshasa, Defense Ministry spokesman Leon Kalima denied that the government is arming the refugees. He said Zaire has only enough weapons and ammunition to provide for its own soldiers.

"It's well known that we have a problem with materials," he said. "How could we possibly be giving things to outside forces?"

We're trying to outfit our own men."

On Friday, U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan also charged that arms were being sent into Tingi-Tingi, though he did not directly accuse Zaire.

The United Nations' special envoy, Mohamed Sahnoun, visited Zairian President Mobutu Sese Seko at his palace in Gbadolite in northern Zaire on Saturday, and had been expected to demand an end to the arming of the refugees. Sahnoun made no statement after the meeting.

Zaire's defense minister, Likulia Bolongo Lingbanga, said in a statement Sunday that Kabila's threat to attack Hutus in the camp was proof he was being directed by the Tutsi-led governments of Rwanda, Burundi and Uganda. They have denied the allegations.

Hundreds of thousands of Rwandan Hutus fled into Zaire after Rwanda's 1994 massacre of a half-million Tutsis, fearing reprisals from the Tutsi-led government that now controls Rwanda. Many of the fighters taking shelter in the camps took part in the genocide.

Kabila pledged to provide a safe corridor, as he has done in the past, for any refugees who want to leave Tingi-Tingi.

Kabila's Alliance of Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Congo-Zaire has captured a 900-mile (1,500-kilometer) strip of

eastern Zaire in its campaign to oust Mobutu, whose 31 years in power have left mineral-rich Zaire among the world's poorest countries.

Kabila said his toughest opposition was coming from the Rwandans, not Zairians, "because the Zairians are not motivated."

The government reported heavy fighting Sunday between rebels and Zairian forces around Amisi, 50 miles (80 kilometers) southeast of Tingi-Tingi. But the rebels took the town a week ago, and it was unclear how government troops could have reached the area.

Kabila said a Soviet-designed Mi-24 assault helicopter bombed rebel positions near Tingi-Tingi on Saturday, but caused no casualties. It had to have been piloted by a mercenary, he said, because the Zairian air force has no one trained to fly an Mi-24.

Kabila said his troops were advancing toward all their targets in the north, south and west - but slowly, so as to give the government time to decide to negotiate.

He has set a Friday deadline for the government to start talking with the rebels. Opposition leader Etienne Tshisekedi has called for the government to negotiate with Kabila, but Mobutu has refused.

"The 21st will be the last day for the Alliance officially to talk about political settlement of this," Kabila said.

"The other side has no solution, no power to recapture the lost territory ... and what is left for them is negotiating with us, otherwise we shall start our second offensive. It is already prepared."

Capture of five killer whales triggers protest

TOKYO (AP) - The capture of five killer whales in southwestern Japan and their subsequent sale to aquariums is triggering protests from animal rights activists at home and abroad.

Ten whales were captured in local waters Feb. 7 off the traditional whaling town of Taichi, an official with the local fishermen's cooperative said Monday. Five were later released.

The official, who would only identify himself by his surname of Sugimoto, said the remaining five whales were sold to three aquariums in Japan for "research purposes."

A representative of Izumito Sea Paradise, one of the aquariums that ordered the whales, acknowledged that in addition to being the subjects of research the whales would also be on public display in a special outdoor pool.

Animal rights activists object to the commercial exploitation of killer whales, which are an endangered spe-

cies. Their capture is prohibited by Japanese law except in special cases for research.

The fishermen received permission from Japan's Fisheries Agency to capture the five whales for aquarium use.

The Dolphin-Whale Action Network, a Japan-based animal protection group, said Monday it has sent letters of protest to the Fisheries Agency and to the three aquariums which purchased the whales.

"The aquariums say they're for research, but in fact they will be purely for commercial purposes," said Kazunori Akasaka of the group.

Former French screen star Brigitte Bardot, now an outspoken animal rights activist, sent a protest letter to Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto promising to come to Japan to cause "a real uproar" unless the whales are released.

US House panel issues subpoenas

By JIM ABRAMS

WASHINGTON (AP) - The chairman of the House of Representatives committee investigating campaign fund raising said he has issued nearly two dozen new subpoenas and is looking into reports that the Chinese government wanted to contribute to the Democratic Party.

"The bottom line is, it's going to be a much more broad investigation than we thought it would be," Rep. Dan Burton of Indiana, chairman of the Government Reform and Oversight Committee, said Sunday on NBC television's "Meet the Press."

Burton said he had previously issued five subpoenas and Saturday night sent out 20 more for documents his committee wants to see. He declined to provide details of the new subpoenas, saying he had yet to inform committee Democrats.

Democrats on both the House panel and the Senate Governmental Affairs Committee, which has launched a parallel probe, have complained that the Republicans are out to attack the Democratic Party rather than expose the fund-raising excesses of both parties.

A report released Monday showed that the Democratic and Republican parties raised an unprecedented \$263.5 million in largely unregulated "soft money" campaign donations during the two-year period leading to the 1996 election - almost three times the amount in the 1991-92 campaign.

There are no limits to so-called "soft money" contributions which cannot legally be spent directly on a candidate's behalf.

The money may be used for generic advertising, get-out-the-vote efforts and other party-building activities.

The Center for Responsive Politics said Republicans got \$141.2 million and Democrats \$122.3 million in such contributions during the 24-month period prior to last year's election.

The Republican-led Congress is unwilling to initiate campaign finance legislation when Republican fund raisers are bringing in twice as much as Democrats, complained Sen. Bob Torricelli, a New Jersey Democrat, on ABC television's "This Week" program.

Burton said the first priority must be investigating past wrongdoing, including a Washington Post report last week that the Chinese embassy in Washington had considered making campaign contributions to the Democrats.

One key Democratic figure involved in raising money from the Asian community, John Huang, "may very well have given information that he shouldn't have to the Chi-

nese and others" as part of the fund-raising efforts, said Burton.

"If the White House, or anybody connected with the White House was selling or giving information to the Chinese in exchange for political contributions then we have to look into it because that's a felony and you're selling this country's security, economic security - whatever - to a communist power," Burton said on Cable News Network's "Late Edition."

White House counsel Lanny Davis, also appearing on NBC, said President Clinton was "very seriously monitoring" the China issue, but stressed that "there's no policy affected by contributions to this president."

He said Clinton sought support from the people attending 103 informal coffees he had at the White House, some of whom were or became major contributors to the party,

but that there was nothing new or wrong with that.

Davis recalled former Commerce Secretary Robert Mosbacher's "Team 100" - a group of top Republican contributors who had given more than \$100,000 each to the Bush campaign in 1988.

"Did Mosbacher, under the Bush administration, in his \$100,000 club not invite people to the White House for the same purpose? What is so shocking?"

Davis asked on "Fox News Sunday."

Burton said his committee now had 500 people it wanted to talk to, including Huang, the former Democratic National Committee fund-raiser and Commerce official. He said his hearings would begin in April or May and there was "no way to know how long it's going to go."

"I don't think anybody wants to see a president maimed by this kind of an in-

vestigation," said Burton. "However, we're a nation of laws and not of men, and whoever breaks the law should be held accountable."

On the Senate side, Sen. John McCain, an Arizona Republican, repeated on ABC's "This Week" his demand that Attorney General Janet Reno appoint an independent counsel to investigate possible Democratic fund raising improprieties.

With the new report on pos-

sible Chinese activities, he said, "the implication is that at least there was an attempt to subvert the foreign policy of the United States."

But Torricelli warned that congressional hearings would be disrupted by the appointment of an independent counsel, further delaying legislative action on campaign finance reform.

"You would be moving any possibility of legislation to clean up this system way, way back."

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

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 Kamekichi 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;
Francisco S.M. Ichihara & Vicenta M. Ichihara (both dec.);
Rita S.M. Ichihara (dec.); Maria S.M. Ichihara (dec.);
James Ari & Ana. Ari; Jesus S.M. Ichihara & Carmen B.
Ichihara (dec.); Juan S.M. Ichihara (dec.)

Colasa R. Aldan; Juan Castro & Carmen Aldan Castro
(both dec.); Harry Cruz (dec.) & Adela a. Cruz (dec.)
Jesus & Remedio Leon Guerrero (both dec) Ballerio &
Mariana A. Cabrera (both dec.) Joaquin D. Cepeda,
(Tona, Dec.) Ninan Cepeda;

CHILDREN & GRANDCHILDREN:

Ricardo R. Marchiano(dec) & Dolores I. Marchiano (David (dec),
Gordon & Bina, Letiani, Luella, Reghischam (Kiki) & Righialman)
Jose A. Ichihara & Rosa I. Ichihara (Raymond & Melonie,
Thelma, Jojo, Albert & Midoi, & Lyda) 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 (Teruko & Aaron) Maria Ichihara; Paul & Vicky Ichihara
(Paul Jr., P.J. & Pauline Jessica)

Also, leaving behind numerous grandchildren (30) and 15
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 Kanoa Dist. #3. His body will be
placed at the same place on Wednesday, February 19,
1997. Viewing is from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. Burial will
take place after mass on the same day. Your prayers and
presence is greatly appreciated.

Dangkulo na si Yu'us Ma'ase Ginen I Familia.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT



OLYMPIA REYES SABLAN

lovingly known to her families and
friends as "Olym" was called to her eternal
rest on February 11, 1997 at the age of 61 years.
Born: September 2, 1935

In her death Olym now joins:

DAUGHTER: Lydia **SON:** Frankie

PARENTS: Juan Reyes (Stein) & Maria Borja Camacho (Stein) **PARENTS-IN-LAW:** Jose P. Sablan & Dolores T. Sablan
Her peaceful spirit and memories will live with her:

HUSBAND: Ricardo (Ruth) Tenorio Sablan

CHILDREN/SPOUSES & GRANDCHILDREN:

Barbara P. & Francisco Q. Guerrero (John, Doris, Francis & Dorsha); Richard R. & Marilou Sablan (Richard Jr.); Bernadita S. & Edward Pangelinan (Dean, Iva, Kelly, Amanda & Amaida); David R. & Barbara Q. Sablan (Naomi & Daviann); Edward R. & Margaret M. Sablan (Justin & Edward Jr.); Vivian S. & Ignacio DL Guerrero (Ike Jr., Keith & Paige); and Charlie R & Charlene T. Sablan (Tiffany, Vanity & Nikki)

GREAT GRAND CHILDREN: Devon Jordan, Jezza Monet & Eddie Joe

BROTHERS & SISTERS: Jesus B. & Esther Stein (Guam), 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. Sablan, Jesus T. & Maria T. Sablan, Jose T. & Maria D. Sablan, 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

Circumcision still rite of manhood in Africa

By ANDREW SELSKY QWEQWE, South Africa (AP) - The youth prepares to enter a mud hut for a ceremony his tribe says will bring him to adulthood.

A dozen men inside, white clay smeared on their faces and chests, sing ominous lyrics.

"This place is bad. This is the hut of pain," they sing. "A killer's knife is here."

Minutes later, with the slice of a razor-sharp blade, the youth's foreskin is gone, and so - according to Xhosa tribal tradition - is his boyhood.

There is no anesthetic, but the youth doesn't utter a sound as he sits on a blanket, his head averted while the "initiation doctor" makes the cut. To cry out would bring enduring shame.

Female circumcision in Africa has come under fire because it mutilates women, depriving them of sexual pleasure and making them vulnerable to disease. Male circumcision, commonly done around the world at infancy for hygienic reasons, has no lasting effects when properly done.

But in many parts of Africa, male circumcisions are being performed in the most primitive conditions as a rite of manhood.

In South Africa alone, dozens of boys die annually from complications of botched circumcisions. Hundreds more have been maimed or infected. The practice transmitted through

blood and now uses a different knife on each boy.

Such precautions may soon be required by the government of Eastern Cape province, which includes the traditional Xhosa homeland.

"We are looking at registering practitioners and giving them basic courses in hygiene, and this may well happen this year," says Dr. Trudy Thomas, the Eastern Cape health minister. "We need to regulate the initiation tradition, without undermining it."

Partly because governments are reluctant to intervene in tribal customs, ritual male circumcisions are rarely regulated in Africa.

Guntsu's use of safe procedures, meanwhile, may be bringing him more customers.

Shadrack Jamangile, a truck driver, brought his three sons to Guntsu after hearing he uses sterilized knives. Jamangile's local practitioner does not.

When Jamangile arrives to take his three sons home, he's proud at their entrance to manhood but, even more, relieved that they appear fine.

"When you bring your child in here, you're worried, because you don't know what the end result will be," Jamangile says. "Today I feel happy because my sons are healthy."

Suharto arrives for Cambodia state visit

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) - President Suharto of Indonesia received a royal welcome at Phnom Penh's airport Monday as he arrived for a three-day visit to bolster economic and political ties.

The two countries are expected to sign agreements on oil exploration and economic and technical cooperation during the visit, according to the Foreign Affairs Ministry.

The Indonesian president, who last visited Cambodia in 1968, was met at Pochentong airport by Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk and a large host of government leaders.

First Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh and Second Prime Minister Hun Sen also greeted Suharto in their first public appearance together since tension between partners in the coalition government last week led to fighting between factions of the military.

A contingent of Cambodia's Muslim, or Cham, community also welcomed the president of Indonesia, which with a population of over 180 mil-

lion is the world's largest Muslim country.

Suharto is scheduled to hold extended talks with Cambodia's co-premiers on bilateral, regional and international issues of common concern to both countries, the Foreign Affairs Ministry said.

A memorandum of understanding on oil and gas exploration, development and protection is also expected to be

signed, paving the way for research in the Gulf of Thailand, officials said.

Indonesian Foreign Affairs Minister Ali Alatas and Cambodian Commerce Minister Cham Prasidh will sign an agreement on trade to further promote the existing agreement on Economic and Technical Cooperation between the two countries signed June 21, 1994.



Chinese walk below a sea of red umbrellas at Beijing's Temple of the Earth. A fair opened at the temple two days before Spring Festival, China's most important annual holiday. AP Photo

Bomb levels house behind Turkey consulate in Sydney

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) - Two men were charged Monday with blowing up a luxury home next door to the Turkish Consulate.

Max William Gibson, 25, and Thomas Anthony Vincent, 29, appeared before Magistrate Terry Forbes charged with malicious damage by explosion after they allegedly destroyed a vacant two-storey brick home on Sunday.

Gibson hobbled into court on crutches with both hands bandaged, his face badly cut and a broken ankle from the blast.

They were denied bail and ordered to appear for another hearing April 16.

Prosecuting sergeant Lisa Sykes told the court the men drove to the home in a stolen car and doused the inside with gasoline, which they then lit.

The explosion completely flattened the house and caused extensive damage to surrounding properties. Their clothing smelled of gasoline, she said.

Turkish Consul-General Serit Urgan said his offices next door were slightly damaged by the explosion,

and a car belonging to one of the consular staff was badly damaged by debris.

While reluctant to elaborate, Police Sgt. Greg Summers said "At this stage, police have no reason to believe the explosion was in any way politically motivated."

"But there is a possibility that there may be inquiries on that at some time in the future."

Urgan said he and his staff had been meticulous about security at the consulate since the assassination of then Consul-General Sarik Ariak in 1980.

The shooting death of Ariak and his bodyguard, as they were leaving his residence in Sydney's seastern suburbs, was never solved.

In other similar terrorist attacks on diplomatic officials, one man was killed attempting to blow up Melbourne's Turkish Consulate in 1986, three people were injured in an explosion at the Israeli Consulate in Sydney in 1982, and two fire bombs were thrown at the Mexican Consulate in Sydney in January 1994.

Speaker...

Continued from page 1

proposed law should be delayed until further deliberation on it is conducted.

The original House version of the bill would limit the employment of alien workers to four years. To be exempted are alien workers who hold professional or executive positions.

The Senate amended the bill to now limit the alien workers' employment to two years and exempt only those professionals and executives earning at least \$30,000 a year.

Benavente said the bill would burden employers and adversely affect the local economy.

"(The bill's) idea is to generate jobs for local people, but that's not going to happen," he said.

"Can you just imagine a major construction company having to send back home 100 workers two years from now and having to rehire? I don't think they would continue with the business."

He said the bill would mean greater expenses for employers who would then pass on the additional costs to consumers.

Asked if he thinks that the bill would create a "picture of instability" for the CNMI business climate, the speaker said "Certainly."

He said the Eighth Legislature (1992-94) had repealed a similar law when it was found out that there was no need for such restrictions.

"Our existing laws are already sufficient to protect local workers," Benavente said.

One of the bill's flaws, he added, is that it exempts non-resident professionals while arguing that it is trying to create jobs for locals. "It just doesn't make sense."

"We should be aware of the bill's impact to our economy. We should consider the entire CNMI and its businesses," he said.

On businessman Joseph T. Torres' letter urging for the rejection of the bill, Benavente said he used the same arguments Torres mentioned in his letter.

"I hope more people would write to their legislators on this issue."

Torres, in a letter Saturday to Benavente, said the bill is "ill-conceived," "flawed" and a proposal for a "bad law."

The president and general manager of Torres Refrigeration, Inc. said that if the Legislature would insist that the bill is a "good one," then public hearings on the legislation should be held, and "input from local businesses is necessary."

The bill, he added, is a "paternalistic and patronizing attempt...to tell CNMI businesses that (the bill's) sponsors know what is best for the CNMI economy and for non-resident workers."

Torres said H.B. 10-136 would harm the consumers, the economy and the CNMI government.

If the bill becomes law, he said, "businesses cannot retain loyal, hardworking and trained employees," and good workers would be "penalized."

Without quality workers, the quality of services for CNMI con-

sumers would also decrease, Torres said.

"It also increases the cost of goods and services because of the continuing need to recruit, hire, train and house a new worker every two years."

"The CNMI government would not benefit because of the increased processing of new non-resident worker contracts."

Likewise, the bill is "mean-spirited and discriminatory" towards non-resident workers and local employers, Torres said.

Under the proposed law's pro-

visions, 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 was introduced almost a year ago by Rep. Ana S. Teregeyo (R-Saipan), and is co-sponsored by Reps. David M. Apatang (R-Saipan), Karl T. Reyes (R-Saipan), Michael P. Tenorio (R-Saipan) and Rosiky F. Camacho (D-Saipan).

Castro's...

Continued from page 1

Thomas asked that the letter be served along with a brief explanation that Lawlor's absence had prevented earlier compliance of court order.

Lawlor pointed out that because of the time difference between Saipan and San Francisco, the filing was made on Feb. 11, the day when Castro issued the order.

Capitalizing on Thomas' alleged failure to comply with Bellas' order, Lawlor stated that petitioner Kaelani Kinney, through counsel David Lujan,

filed a motion to show cause why the Trust counsel should not be held in contempt.

Lujan advocated for revocation of Thomas' admission and imposition of \$1,000 fine.

Less than a day after Kinney's contempt motion was filed, Lawlor said Castro usurped jurisdiction of the pending matter from Bellas and acted on his own.

"The fact that Castro took the extraordinary step of wresting the motion itself from another judge's docket and ruling against the party charged without any opportunity to respond, strongly invites the conclusion that he is biased in the

Continued on page 16

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MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

JOSE BOKI BABAUTA



There are no words adequate enough to describe the pain and sense of loss that is left upon the sudden death of our loved one; Yet, in this time of loss, the prayers, kind words and genuine show of love and gracious support of our many dear friends and relatives have touched our hearts and will always be remembered. You have helped eased our pain and sadness.

My children and I would like to extend "Un Dangulu na si Yu'us Ma'ase" to his excellency Bishop Thomas A. Camacho, Father Vic, Father Nancy, Father Michael, to all the clergies, the tanores, the San Roque and Kristo Rai choirs during the Christian Burial mass. Our sincerest gratitude and appreciation to many of our relatives, friends and especially to the Class of 1972 of MHS for all the help and the generous contributions. And special thanks to our Tcha, Mrs. Lillian T. Camacho and to Nan Beck Tenorio.

Your kindness and thoughtfulness given to us in our time of sorrow will forever remain in our hearts.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Grace R. Babauta & Children

Once again, we would also like to inform our relatives and friends that the mass for the last day of Rosary will be on Tuesday, February 18, 1997 at 6:00 p.m. at San Vicente Church. Dinner will be served immediately after the mass at the family's residence in Dandan. (Airport-Road behind Auntie Mag's Diner).

Thank you for your unending prayers and support.
The Family

EEK & MEEK®

by Howie Schneider



Garfield®

by Jim Davis



PEANUTS®

by Charles M. Schulz



YOUR BIRTHDAY

By Stella Wilder

Born today, you give the impression that you know what you are doing at all times, even when you are completely in the dark. What makes you so successful in situations that would completely crush others? You have keen instincts and a remarkable ability to improvise under pressure. You never let others know that you are anything but calm, cool and collected, and you make it up as you go along so successfully that people usually think you are well-versed in whatever skill you are displaying at the time. Only you and your closest friends know the truth: Beneath the surface, you may be on the verge of panic!

It is not likely that you will remain in a single line of work throughout your lifetime. You find other aspects of life too interesting, and you refuse to forsake exploration and discovery in the name of career stability. Your choice of work will always be varied and diverse.

Also born on this date are: Helen Gurley Brown, author and editor; Matt Dillon, George Kennedy and John Travolta, actors; Cybill Shepherd, model and actress; Vanna White, TV personality.

To see what is in store for you

tomorrow, find your birthday and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

WEDNESDAY, FEB. 19
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — You may need special permission to do what you have planned today. Take care not to jump the gun, and don't risk alienating authorities.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — While routine will give you the security you require, today certain events will demand that you explore unusual options. Go ahead, spice it up!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You will not be in the mood to have things go wrong today, but if you have failed to prepare, you should get ready to make a quick change.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — If you follow instructions to the letter today, you will get where you're going and do what you've planned as if it were meant to be.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — This is no time to be wasting time; once you get started today, you must be efficient. Try to be economical and consolidate your efforts.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — The same old thing will be your best friend throughout the day. You can rely on routine to see you through a situation that may not be pleasant.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Give yourself and others the benefit of the doubt today. Nothing is likely to be perfect, and there will be many appropriate ways to be have.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — The moment you give someone else special permission to do something others are not allowed to do, the floodgates of trouble will open wide.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — It may seem to others as though you are getting very little done, but they don't understand how you work. The fact is, you are making real progress.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Go for broke today. Nothing will hold you back, so you'll enjoy a good deal of freedom to spread your wings and explore freely.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — You may want to give someone a second chance today. He may be different from what you thought, and it will be up to him to prove it.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Prospects are brightening today, and you can look forward to a good deal of progress and personal reward. Take care not to get lazy, however.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS
 1 Tree of birch family
 6 Edgar — Poe
 11 Most ancient
 13 Kind of beard
 14 Artificial language
 15 "— Shade"
 17 Concerning
 18 Nautical rope
 20 Very modest person
 21 Highway through
 22 Egyptian lizard
 24 Mother of Mlle.
 25 Start
 26 Caroled
 28 Northern
 30 Kathy Bates "Misery" co-star
 32 Robert Stack

TV role
 33 Restaurant worker
 35 Grant's — pieces
 37 — and pieces
 38 Bird
 40 Oscar winner
 42 Opp. of WSW
 43 Attempted
 45 Army bed
 46 Silver symbol
 47 Lee of "The Crow"
 49 Lavin ID
 50 Scanned a manuscript again
 52 Nova —
 54 "I Have a —"

55 Gray and Moran

DOWN
 1 Chief artery
 2 — of London

3 Former N.Y. mayor (ints.)
 4 Wide shoe size
 5 Request for reply (abbr.)
 6 First-rate

(2 wds.)
 7 Fall behind
 8 Army off.
 9 Antenna
 10 Wants
 12 Semester
 13 Biblical hero
 16 Deprived of feeling
 19 Impart knowledge to
 21 Noxious
 23 Author — Nin
 25 Bloom
 27 Ship channel
 29 Prepare flax
 31 Came closer
 33 Debra of "An Officer and a Gentleman"
 34 Devastate
 36 "Marcus Welby, M.D." actor
 37 Whiskers
 39 Sneaker brand name
 41 World —
 43 Trolley
 44 Fish
 47 TV's Maude
 48 And not
 51 Concerning
 53 Agave plant

Answer to Previous Puzzle



2-18 © 1997 United Feature Syndicate

National Basketball Association

Knicks, Sonics win

By CHRIS SHERIDAN
NEW YORK (AP) — With two more victories, the New York Knicks can match their longest winning streak of the season.

They're just hoping the next two games won't be as much of a struggle as the last one.

The Knicks, after playing miserably for three quarters, had one of their best fourth quarters of the season as they beat the Indiana Pacers 89-80 Sunday to run their victory streak to five games.

New York, which trailed by 19 in the first half and by 12 entering the fourth quarter, held Indiana without a field goal over the final 10:12 and outscored the Pacers 35-14 in the final period.

Patrick Ewing had 23 points, Larry Johnson added 16, Allan Houston had 15 and Charles Oakley 12 for New York, which shot 32-for-35 from the free-throw line and outrebounded Indiana 15-6 over the final 12 minutes.

New York finishes a three-game homestand on Tuesday against the Phoenix Suns before heading West for a six-game, nine-day road trip.

The Pacers, who lost their third in a row, missed their final 12 shots from the field and didn't have a 2-point basket in the fourth quarter. Travis Best's 3-pointer with 10:13 left turned out to be their final bucket.

"It's a great comeback. A great, great comeback," coach Jeff Van Gundy said. "But that was an aberration. You're not going to come back like that against a good team very often. We played a championship-caliber fourth quarter, but we need to do that for four quarters."

John Starks scored all 11 of his points in the fourth quarter and the

Knicks guards, held to 8 points on 3-for-23 shooting through the first three periods, combined for 27 points in the final quarter.

Starks made two free throws and Houston scored on a drive, putting New York ahead by four. Neither team scored from the field again until Houston made a 3-pointer with 2:19 left for a 79-73 lead.

Miller, a 90-second free throw shooter, missed two of four attempts on Indiana's next two possessions and the Knicks went ahead 83-76 on a tip-in by Houston with 47 seconds left.

It turned into a free throw contest from that point on, and the Knicks' lead never got below five.

"It's my fault," Indiana coach Larry Brown said. "It's my job to keep our intensity level up for the whole game — not just three quarters."

New York point guard Chris Childs sprained his left wrist midway through the fourth quarter while trying to break his fall. He went to the locker room in obvious pain, then watched the final few minutes from the bench.

The Knicks listed his status as day-to-day.

"I can almost make a fist, so that's a good sign. I'll have the doctors check it out and see what they say," Childs said.

SuperSonics 102, Lakers 91
INGLEWOOD, Calif. (AP) — Suddenly, the Los Angeles Lakers find themselves in a serious bind, with two starters sustaining injured left knees in less than a week.

The Lakers already know that Shaquille O'Neal, who was injured Wednesday night at Minnesota, probably will be sidelined until mid-April at the earliest, although he hopes to be back sooner.

They awaited word today on the status of Robert Horry, who was hurt with 9:54 remaining in Sunday's 102-91 loss to the Seattle SuperSonics.

Horry's injury was a medial sprained knee, but it appeared more serious. Obtained in a trade from Phoenix last month, Horry was in obvious pain as he was taken from the floor and unable to put any weight on his left leg.

Horry, who was to be re-examined today, left the Forum on crutches with his leg in a large brace.

"Hurting. It's on fire," he said with a weak smile when asked to describe the pain. "You can't tell (the extent of the injury) because I've never had anything like this before. I just have to wait until tomorrow to see."

mainly to the efforts of Detlef Schrempf and Gary Payton.

Schrempf, who had more shooting opportunities because Shawn Kemp was suspended for the game, scored 10 of his season-high 34 points in the final period, and Payton scored 19 of his 21 points in the second half.

Payton's layin with 2:12 remaining snapped an 89-all tie and triggered a 13-2 game-closing run by the Sonics, who won for the first time in three games against the Lakers this season and just the fifth time in the last 16 meetings, counting the playoffs.

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Nails...

Continued from page 20
 came back to win the second, 12-2.

The two teams split the next two periods with the Nails enjoying a two point edge, 44-42 after four sets of play.

The Nails' two point margin wasn't enough to give the team a juice win sending the game into an overtime.

In the extension, Ronics immediately jumped into an early lead but Suda was there for his game winning heroics to bail the Nails out of trouble.

With the outcome of the game on the line and his team trailing by four,

PJ's...

Continued from page 20
 record.

The Masters continue to hug the cellar in the four team premier division with a woeful 10-34 mark.

Johnson's Pugua Power continued to stamp its dominance over the rest of the eight team field of the A Division.

Pugua Power went eight of 11 for an overall 41-25 mark. Idle Team Red Dog remained at second with a 26-18 slate (59.09 win percentage) while the Dart Busters improved to third with a 35-31 (53.03%) effort.

In the B Division race, the Angus Beef Eaters set the pace with a slim one game edge against Pacific Isle and Oleai Beach.

The Pacific World team accumulated 43 wins against 23 losses compared to the identical 42-24 slates of the Shockers and the White Trash.

The Blind Navigators saw their seven advantage cut to five after just winning three out of 11 games to lead the competitions in the C Division with a 44-22 record.

The Little Monsters are next with 39-27 while two team are bunched for the third and fourth slots with similar records.

Bad Company and Dominant Mikes tote identical 35-31 or one win ahead of slumping Dart Tarts.

Magofna...

Continued from page 20
 92. Iginiof, on the other hand, submitted a net 102.

A total of 29 golfers competed for the second berth in the association's season-ending tournament of the year.

Turtles...

Continued from page 20
 homer and Sumang Reungtel tripled for Cool Running.

Game III
 Johns singled, doubled, homered and drove in 5 runs and Emery S. went perfect 4 for 4 and scored four times to lead Thai House Stingrays to a 5-inning 17 to 3 victory over Aschooschoo.

Game IV
 Koror Tigers scored 10 runs in the first inning enroute to a 5-inning 19 to 3 victory over OK & A's. Tigers was led by Clark Ngraidong's 3-run homer, Gloyd Martin's 3-run triple and Duran Ngraidong 2-run single.

Advance...

Continued from page 20
 40 win after its opponent, Joeten Enterprises lost by default.

The team stayed behind Advance Marketing with a 37-15 mark.

Panthers Security jumped to third after routing slumping Wushin Corporation, 912-911; 955-921; and 1,038-921 for an unassailable 3-0 lead.

Panthers completed the shutout win after compiling a total of 2,905 pins versus Wushin's 2,753.

The victory gave Panthers a 30.5-21.5 slate while Wushin fell to fourth with a 28-24 mark.

In other results, L&W beat Kang's Corporation, 3-1; Duty Free

Bud Light Dart League

Standings As of February 17, 1997

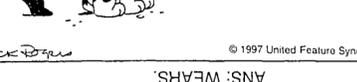
Masters Division	W	L
Team Name		
Pacific Trading "Lite Beer BFI"	47	19
EPSI "This Is It"	28	27
Mom's Round Two "Bad Boy"	25	30
Pacific Amusement "Masters"	10	34
A-Division		
Johnson's "Pugua Power"	41	25
Team Red Dog	26	18
Dart Busters	35	31
Manny's Flyboyz II	29	26
Oleai Beach Restaurant	34	32
Lo Cash	31	35
Tom's Golf Club Repair "Tommy's Monsters"	23	32
Ritzzy's Cafe	23	43
B-Division		
Pacific World "Angus Beef Eaters"	43	23
Pacific Isle "Shockers"	42	24
Oleai Beach "White Trash"	42	24
Johnson's "Pescadot 2%"	31	24
Calvo's "Cut Throats"	37	29
Patrick's Hatricks	26	29
Dart Vaders	30	36
Dart Busters	30	36
Tom's Golf Club Repair "The B Team"	28	38
Saipan Computer Services "Team SCS"	26	40
Victoria's Secrets	25	41
STS "Snipers"	25	41
C-Division		
Johnson's "Blind Navigators"	44	22
Tom's Golf Club Repair "Little Monsters"	39	27
Bad Company	35	31
Rudy's "Dominant Mikes"	35	31
Mom's Round Two "Dart Tarts"	34	32
Pacific World "Angus Beef Eaters"	27	39
Pat's Hat's	26	40
Oleai "Angles"	24	42
Mixed Doubles Division		
PJ's	46	20
Mii & Suzi	35	20
Bobby & Dina	39	27
Larry & Jean	15	18
Mashon & Rosemarie	23	32
Mike & Sheila	21	34
Rudy & Miles	21	34
Pat & Tel	20	35

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- EARTH
- WHEAT
- WHERE
- THERE
- WEARS
- THREE



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1996 NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASSN

SPORTS



Refalawasch Golf Association's monthly tilt

Magofna wins Feb. Ace

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

HENRY MAGOFNA shot a net 69 then beat top qualifier Joe Demapan in tie-break last Sunday to win the Refalawasch Golf Association's February Ace Tournament at the Marianas Country Club.

Magofna shot a gross 85 but his -16 handicap gave him the net score to tie Demapan's score he set during the qualifying tourna-

ment held in Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

To decide the winner, tournament organizers used the two golfers' net score in the front and back nines then subtracted it with half of their handicaps. Magofna had net score of 31 to beat Demapan who could only come out with a 33.5.

Jess Castro actually shot the day's best score, a 67, but Castro already clinched a slot in the year-

ending Ace of Aces Tournament after winning the January Ace tilt.

His ineligibility to win further monthly Ace tournaments due to club rules paved the way for Magofna's tie breaking win against Demapan.

Tino Olopai placed third overall with his net 69 followed by three golfers, that includes RGA president Tony Rogolifoi, in the next three slots.

Rogolifoi, Demapan and Tony Taitano were tied for the fourth, fifth and sixth slots after touring the greens with identical 73s.

Ben Duenas and comebacking Pete Iginos submitted similar 74s to finish in seventh and eighth.

Four golfers shot identical net 75s for the next four slots. Ed Flores, Joe Mafnas, Jess Stoll and Sid Taisacan arrived in ninth, 10th, 11th and 12th slot respectively.

Cong. Oscar Babauta toured the

fairways with 76 to place in tie for 13th and 14th place with Joseph Jones.

Tars Olopai completed the top 15 finishers with his net 77.

The Feb. Ace tournament also drew the participations of Dolores Rangamar, the lone female participant and guest golfer Greg Iginof.

Rangamar shot a gross 122 but her -30 handicap gave her a net

Continued on page 19

Nails bag finals slot

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

THE SPANKERS and the Nails needed extra periods to beat separate opponents in the ongoing 14th World Organized Rockball Tournament at the Marianas High School's Pugua Court.

The Spankers rattled eight straight points to score a scintillating comeback from an 0-7 deficit to beat Dour Doulu in O-kan.

The match between the two close was pretty close throughout the game with Dour Doulu enjoying a one-point lead after four sets.

The slim margin, however, was not enough to give the team an outright win because of the game's unique rules.

Dour Doulu won the first and second sets 12-0 and 16-10 but the Spankers came back in the second and fourth sets, 13-1 and 16-11 to force the O-kan.

In the extra period, Dour Doulu started like a house on fire and appeared headed towards an easy victory after a posting a commanding 7-0 lead.

The Spankers, however, have other things in mind frustrating Dour Doulu with the heart stopping victory.

Charlie Saiman of Dour Doulu was the game's heavy hitter after racking one xunk and five kees for 12 points.

In the other game, the Nails leaned on Asty Suda goal winning play in O-kan, 8-5 to nip the Ronics and clinch a playoff appearance with their fifth win in six games.

The Ronics won the first game, 18-7 before the Nails

Continued on page 19



SCRUM—Several members of the Saipan Rugby Club (SRC) mass together around the ball in a formation called "scrum" during the Club's practice session at the Susupe Sports Complex yesterday. The SRC is busy preparing for a very important Rugby tournament in Guam slated this coming weekend.

Photo by Erel A. Cabatbat

1997 Palau Men's Slowpitch League Turtles, Senyavins set pace

Division "A"	W	L	Division "B"	W	L
Turtles	4	1	Senyavins	4	0
Tarzans	3	1	Pepsi SPEC	3	0
Red Torch	3	1	Tres Rai	4	1
Koror Tigers	3	1	I Luv You M	3	1
Warriors	3	2	YCO Serv	3	2
OK & A's	3	2	Bombers	3	2
Angaur	2	2	Thai H. Sting	2	2
Ambassadors	2	2	Odesangel	2	3
UMDA G. F.	1	3	Kepelol	1	3
Cool Running	1	3	Sedi Kau	1	3
MGD Kabekel	1	4	Aschooschoo	1	4
Hustlers	0	4	COP 47 Tam	0	5

By Patrick Tellel for Variety
Game I

POLAND Yamada hit a 3-run homer homer and drove in 4 rbis and Kuich Damian hit a 3-run inside the park homer as Pepsi SPEC handed I Luv You Man its first loss of the season with a score of 16 to 9. Jo Jo Attao (Palau League Homerun

Leader) hit 3-run homers and drove in 6 runs in the losing effort.

Game II

Fred Kaipat hit a 3-run homer and Tony Camacho added a 2-run homer to lead Tarzans to an 8 to 5 victory over Cool Running. Sid Sablan hit a 3-run

Continued on page 19

PJ's on top

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

PJ'S went for a 9-5 stretch to grab the lead from the idle Mii and Suzi duo in the Mixed Doubles of the 1997 Bud Light Dart League.

The wins gave the new leaders an overall 46-20 win loss slate or a winning percentage of 69.70. PJ's now hold an 11 win advantage against erstwhile leaders Mii and Suzi combination which totes a 35-20 slate.

No significant changes occurred in the other divisions.

Masters Division leaders Lite Beer FBI increased its lead to 19 wins against the nearest team with a league's 47-19 record.

Mom's Round Two Bad Boyz absorbed nine losses in 11 outings to yield the second spot to EPSI's This Is It.

The Bad Boyz fell to 25-30 while idle This Is It team sports a 28-27

Continued on page 19

Advance Marketing retains leadership

By Erel A. Cabatbat
Variety News Staff

ADVANCE Marketing continues to remain on top the overall team standings after scoring a 4-0 win against Toshiba in the Friday Intercommercial League at the Saipan Bowling Center.

The team rattled games of 1,018; 1,019 and 992 for a three game series of 3,029 pins to completely wipe out the Toshiba team off the bowling alley. Toshiba could only counter with 970, 932 and 820 for a 2,722 pin aggregate.

The wins propped Advance Marketing's record to a 38-14 win loss slate to enable the team to keep its one win advantage against second-running Saipan Stevedore.

The losses kept Toshiba at sixth overall with a 25-27 record.

Saipan Stevedore scored a clean

Continued on page 19

STREET CLASS MAIL