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Just to help fill empty gov't coffers:

'One-time tax' mulled

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

WITH THE CNMI's financial condition still unclear and even bleak in light of the Asian currency crisis, the Tenorio administration and the Legislature are considering the imposition of a "one-time" surcharge tax on "big businesses," it was learned.

Variety sources, requesting anonymity, said the transition team's yet to be released assessment report only confirmed that the government coffers are empty.

Sources said the administration's only options are either to layoff a considerable number of government employees or to propose a new tax.

Some "superfluous" offices, particularly those created by the previous administration, will likely be closed to save money, according to sources.

But the public sector is still the main employer of most CNMI residents, and any moves to cut the size of government would only lead to a higher unemployment rate among locals "who have nowhere to go," and "political suicide" for any administration, sources said.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's predecessor, Froilan C. Tenorio, was criticized for increasing the excise taxes and lowering the tax rebate rates in 1994 due to a similar predicament.

There were talks of the taxes having "sunset provisions," but during one of his last media conferences as chief executive, then governor Tenorio admitted he was not aware if the excise taxes had already been reduced.

Sources said the new governor, in contrast, will impose the new tax "one or even two times only, and that's it."

In his first week in office, Governor Tenorio has already issued a memorandum restricting government paid off-island travel and

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Reunion. *Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio (left) with two other former Senate presidents, Julian S.Calvo (center) and Benjamin T. Manglona. Manglona was sworn in Friday as new Rota mayor.* Photo by **Zaldy Dandan**

Chamber head seeks involvement in CNMI labor, immigration issues

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

NEWLY-INSTALLED Saipan Chamber of Commerce chairman Joe Ayuyu is seeking involvement in the development of "realistic and workable" solutions to the CNMI's labor and immigration problems.

In his speech during induction ceremonies Saturday for the new set of Chamber officers, Ayuyu also urged the CNMI government to tighten its "oversized belt," reduce the size of the payroll, cut car purchases, curtail off-island trips and allocate the funds to finance infrastructure projects.

"I understand that some $80 million is available and, as I anticipate a slowdown in our economy, these funds can be used to stimulate construction with the added benefit of the multiplier effect throughout all sectors," he explained.

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Economist predicts 'recession' in CNMI

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE LONG-TERM outlook for the Northern Mariana Islands is "quite alright" provided the CNMI business environment stays friendly, a local economist said yesterday.

This even as he warned that the Northern Marianas may experience an economic recession this year. Recession refers to a drop in or reduced economic activity.

Edward Stephens Jr., an economist of The Stephens Corp., has publicly warned of a recession, citing several factors that can trigger a reduction in CNMI economic output this year.

Stephens said there at least three negative factors that would stimulate a slowdown in the economy.

"Three main factors are negative now. First is the slowing economic growth in Japan and Korea. This will limit the demand for luxuries such as foreign travel...," he said.

He also mentioned the weakening value of the Japanese yen and the

Continued on page 24

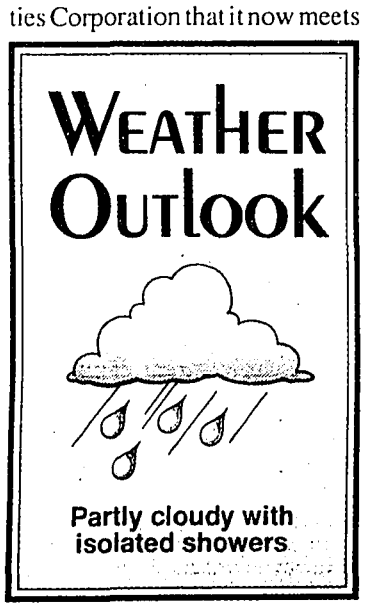
EPA: CUC meets standard in managing safe drinking water

THE U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) this week notified the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation that it now meets federal standards for providing safe drinking water, CUC said in a news release.

"We congratulate CUC for its successful efforts to provide the CNMI with safe drinking water and its ongoing activities to rehabilitate existing wells and develop new water sources," wrote EPA's Chief of Drinking Water Office William Thurston.

Based on periodic compliance reports, on-site inspection, and test results for the entire year of 1997, no violations, were found. The EPA lifted or closed its previous Administrative Order against the utility.

CUC operates water treatment stations on the islands of Saipan, Rota and Tinian. Up to 30 samples are taken each week and tested for compliance with federal regulations.



Ayuyu takes Chamber helm. *New Saipan Chamber of Commerce Chairman Jose C. Ayuyu (in white shirt) poses with the Chamber's new board of directors after their induction Saturday at the Saipan Diamond Hotel. From left are Tony Pellegrino, David Wiseman, Ayuyu, Mathias Chargualaf, Joe Chiles and Don Kresge.*

PAC MEMBERSHIP STATUS

Iraqi diplomat, wife slain

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - The Iraqi government announced Sunday that an Iraqi diplomat, his wife and several other Iraqis were slain in the Jordanian capital Amman.

The government said in a statement that the killing occurred Saturday night.

It identified the victim as Hikmet al-Hajou, who had the title "minister plenipotentiary." It did not say exactly what job he held at the Iraqi embassy in Jordan, nor did it give the name of his wife or the others reportedly killed.

The statement described the killings as "a heinous crime" and demanded an immediate investigation by Jordan.

"Iraq is deeply concerned about the repeated and unprecedented attacks on its diplomats in Jordan," the statement said.

It said that the undersecretary of Iraq's Foreign Ministry, Saad al-Faisal, and a senior Iraqi security official to Jordan to pursue the matter with Jordanian officials.

It was the second attack on an Iraqi diplomat in Jordan this month.

On Jan. 3, a gunman fired at Rahim Taher, a commercial adviser at the Iraqi Embassy, as he was leaving his Amman house for work. The bullets hit Taher's car. He was not hurt.

North criticizes Clinton

By HOLLY RAMER

MANCHESTER, New Hampshire (AP) — Saying the United States "desperately needs good people to run for office," Oliver North attacked President Bill Clinton Saturday night, but kept mum on his own political future.

The conservative gadfly criticized Clinton's domestic and foreign policies during his keynote address to the New Hampshire Christian Coalition.

The retired Marine Corps lieutenant colonel said U.S. troops should be pulled from the Balkans immediately.

"As one who cradled dying Marines in my arms ... Mr. Clinton, I implore you, pull our troops out of this quagmire now," North said.

North, a conservative talk radio host, was an aide to the National Security Council in the 1981-89 administration of Ronald Reagan.

He testified before a joint congressional committee in July 1987 that his superiors authorized all of his actions in the illegal bid to sell missiles to Iran in exchange for freeing U.S. hostages, using the proceeds to illegally fund right-wing Nicaraguan rebels.

A jury later found North guilty of three felonies, but an appeals court set aside the convictions and eventually the case was dismissed.

North, who unsuccessfully ran for Senate in 1994, and his supporters have done little to quell speculation that his visit to this politically important northeastern state may be politically motivated.

"A lot of people will interpret this a lot of different ways, and we welcome that," North spokesman Marc Short said last month.

"I don't think Ollie's made any decisions about 2000."

Philippine political alliance

Former movie actor and Vice President Joseph Estrada, 3rd left, and Senator Edgardo Angara, center, who will be running for President and Vice President respectively, raise their hands together with some of their senatorial candidates for the May 11 national election during their party's convention Sunday. From left: Sen. Blas Ople, former sen. Aquilino Pimentel, Rep. Tessie Aquino-Oreta, youngest sister of the late sen. Benigno Aquino, Rep. Edcel Lagman and Sen. Tito Sotto. AP

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Forest fires break out in Tasmania

By ROHAN SULLIVAN

HOBART, Australia (AP) — Wild fires flared again in Australia Sunday, destroying at least five homes and casting a pall of smoke over the island state of Tasmania.

The nation's usually hot and dry conditions during the southern hemisphere summer have been heightened this season by the El Nino weather pattern in the Pacific, turning thick forests in much of southern Australia into fire traps.

Six people have died, dozens of homes have been destroyed and hundreds of thousands of acres (hectares) have been scorched in New South Wales, Victoria and Western Australia states since summer began on Dec. 1.

Tasmania is the latest state to be hit. In the capital Hobart, emer-

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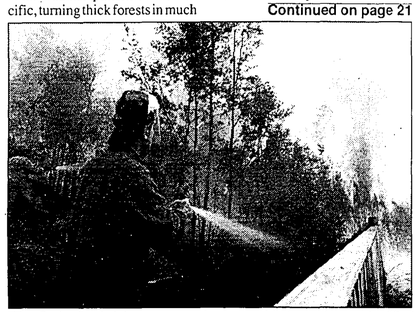


Alan Sutherland, right, uses a garden hose while he and an unidentified firefighter work to keep the flames from reaching Sutherland's home in Hobart's southern suburb of Waterworks Sunday. AP

Teno bares plan to address fed concerns:

'Immigration under AGO'

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

ROTA –Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio revealed Friday his plan to place the Division of Immigration under the Attorney General's Office for a better and strict enforcement of local immigration laws.

"What we need is more enforcement, and this administration will be very strict (in this regard)," Tenorio said, adding that he is "serious" in addressing most of the federal concerns over local labor and immigration policies.

Currently under the Department of Labor and Immigration (DOLI), the Division of Immigration (DOI) process entry permits for tourists, foreign businessmen and workers, and also oversees the CNMI's ports of entry and the deportations of illegal aliens.

The local immigration system was supposed to have been improved by the previous administration's reorganizing DOLI, but the recently released report of the U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform (CIR) said "local corruption" remains a concern in the department.

Further, DOLI "is not capable of carrying out all of its domestic responsibilities," according to the report.

At the same time, the governor said he will name his representatives this week to the resumption of the so-called Section 902 talks with the Clinton administration.

The talks are provided for by Section 902 of the Covenant, which establishes the CNMI in political union with the United States, and governs the Commonwealth's relationship with the federal government.

Among those being considered to the CNMI panel is Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan, it was learned.

With the exception of Froilan C. Tenorio, CNMI governors usually appoint their lieutenant governor as head of the Commonwealth panel, as was the case in the 1980s during Governor Tenorio's first two terms in office when the first 902 talks were held, and in the early 1990s during the administration of then governor Lorenzo I. DL Guerrero.

However, then governor Tenorio named his key aide Brenda Y.

Pedro P. Tenorio

Tenorio—who also served in the staff of the CNMI panel in the 1980s—and lawyer Vicente Salas to the discussions.

But after President Clinton recommended the extension of federal immigration and minimum wage laws to the islands, Tenorio suspended the talks last June.

Under discussion then were the possibility of denying U.S. citizenship to children born in the CNMI to alien parents, and the equally contentious issue of the CNMI's off-shore boundary.

With the resumption of the talks, however, the CNMI is expected to place on the table White House's concerns over the islands' allegedly abuse-prone labor and immigration practices.

Some of the CNMI's former 902 negotiators, speaking on condition of anonymity, have said that the talks would only lead to a deadlock if the Clinton administration's representative remains someone from the U.S. Interior Department.

"How could you expect to really negotiate with someone whose department has said that the issue is no longer negotiable?" a former negotiator said.

El Niño drought prompts water prosecution in M.I.

By Giff Johnson
For the Variety

MAJURO-A deepening drought in the Marshall Islands has pushed the government to begin ticketing individuals and companies illegally using the dwindling supply of fresh water.

In Majuro, the country's capital, government water is limited to every third day. But dozens of illegal hookups are threatening the water supply for the majority of users, said officials with Majuro Water and Sewer Company (MWSC).

Last Friday, the water company began using the police to force individuals with illegal water hookups directly to court by issuing tickets for abusing the public water system.

Last week, the government's Attorney General approved using police to enforce water laws, clearing the path for the first penalties ever imposed for illegal water use.

"Citations are not just for traffic violations," said MWSC acting manager Bill Roberts. "They can be given out for littering and water violations, too." The maximum penalty is a $500 fine.

"We hope that only a few citations will have to be issued to get the message across," Roberts said. "It's not so much the revenue that we're losing from the illegal hookups, it is that people with illegal hookups just leave their faucets open (wasting massive amounts of water). When people have to pay for water, they conserve it."

Late last month, public water was reduced from every other day to every third day.

Roberts said that the utility is considering further rationing to every fourth day as the main reservoir level continues to decline with only trace amounts of rain having fallen during the past month.

Majuro is 95 percent dependent on rain for fresh water. The reservoir was down to 12 million gallons this week, a 12 day supply at current usage.

Meteorologists are predicting that a drought caused by the weather phenomenon El Niño will affect the Marshalls through June. Normally dry from January to April, the Marshalls is expected to get 80 percent less than usual, or less than an inch of rain per month, U.S. weather officials report.

During 1997, MWSC identified more than 80 illegal connections sucking water from city water lines, even when water is turned off, but the lack of prosecution meant that these illegal water users realized that they could abuse the system without fear of penalty, Roberts said.

MWSC official Hackney Takju said they have photographs of the illegal hookups and know exactly where they are. "There are lots of them and we know where to look," he said as a warning to people who are illegally using city water.

Worker remittances expected to exceed $50M in year 1997

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE COMMERCE department is anticipating remittances made by non-resident workers in the Northern Marianas to exceed $50 million for 1997.

This, even as, one remittance company decided to close shop last year, according to the DOC's Banking Division.

Remittances during the third quarter of 1997 registered a 26 percent increase to $13,494,229, compared with the second quarter's $13,155,183.

The Banking Division said UBP-JCT Remittance Plus has closed shop last Dec. 31, 1997, though it has remained open until Jan. 15,1998 to assist clients with their inquiries.

UBP-JCT does not only serve individual workers remitting their money to the Philippines but also some of the remittance companies in the Northern Marianas.

As this developed, the DOC said that banks on the island have reported an aggregate $540 million in total assets for last year's third quarter.

The banking industry has consistently maintained the $500+ million figure since the third quarter of 1997, according to the commerce department.

It added that commercial loans experienced a three percent drop during the same period from $295 million in the second quarter to $285 million during the proceeding period.

The DOC said, however, that total deposits increased by three percent from $480 million during the second quarter of 1997 to $494 million during the third quarter.

The department's banking regulatory body has also approved Bank of Guam's application to relocate its branch in Tinian, the commerce department said.

Meanwhile, the DOC's Economic Development Division has joined the National Council for Urban Economic Development (CUED) November last year.

CUED is tha narion's premier economic development organization with more that 1,900 members, representing the diverse public and private interests in the sector.

The Council has 10 specialty committees which provide a unique opportunity for members to help develop policies, membership services and programs. It also has a Technical Advisory Service which provides technical assistance to communities with the expertise and experience of its members.

DPS vows more sobriety checkpoints

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Safety will conduct more sobriety checkpoints this year, according to Capt. Delbert Sablan of the DPS Traffic Section.

Sablan in an interview on Friday said the goal is to reduce driving under the influence of alcohol arrests and the number of DUI fatalities by year 2,000.

"Our target is to continue conduct more checkpoints. The less we catch DUI on the road, means the program is working and the better we are," Sablan said.

He said that in 1997, they did 21 sobriety checkpoints as compared to 1996 with 36.

"Maybe we do more 21 this year," he said.

In 1996, 360 DUI arrests were recorded while 365 in 1997, DPS record showed.

Sablan said one fatality involving alcohol occurred in 1997 while in 1996 eight persons were killed in crash incidents involving alochol.

Sablan said the figure fluctuates every other year.

The traffic chief commended the media for helping DPS in disseminating information about their programs, particularly the drunk and drugged driving prevention month.

"People are now being more responsible and conscious as to drinking and driving," he added.

After recent busts, Customs alerts personnel against 'ice'

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE CUSTOMS division has alerted its personnel at the Saipan International Airport after recent operations yielded a significant amount of crystal methampetamine from arriving visitors.

The Division of Customs on Friday reported that airport personnel have discovered some 60 grams of the substance, also known in the Northern Marianas as "ICE," from a terminating flight into the Commonwealth from Guam.

"Customs service officers, during an inspection of a terminating flight into the Northern Marianas from Guam, found on board a substance which tested positive to be ICE," a Customs press statement said.

The statement added that the "ICE" weighted 60 grams, with an estimated market value of between $30,000 and $40,000.

No other information was immediately available, the DoC only said no arrests have been made yet.

The customs division also said investigations have been underway.

The Jan. 10 incident was the second in two days following Customs' arrest of a Japanese tourist last Jan. 9, who allegedly tried to sneak in ice at the Saipan International Airport.

Shuntaro Furusa, who reportedly entered into the Northern Marianas as a tourist, was brought in for secondary inspection where customs inspectors found the substance concealed in his socks.

Last week, the Attorney General-s Office slapped Furusa with charges of importation of controlled substance and illegal possession of controlled substance before the Superior Court.

Customs agents has reportedly confiscated less than a gram of ice from Furusa.

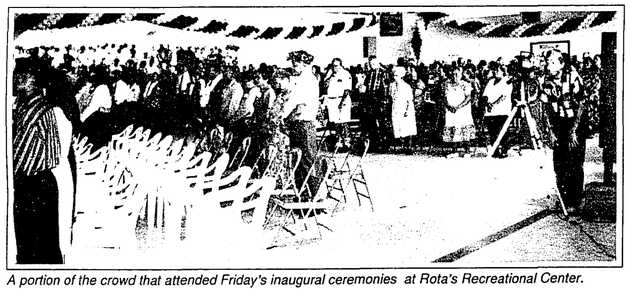
Associate Judge Miguel Demapan set a $5,000 cash bail Furusa's temporary release.

New Rota Mayor Manglona:

'Days of conflict over'

Rota Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona takes his oath of office before Supreme Court Chief Justice Marty W.K. Taylor as the mayor's daughter, Lillian M. Matsumoto, holds the family Bible.

The stage of the Rota Recreational Center, where Friday's inauguration ceremonies for the island's municipal leaders were held.



A portion of the crowd that attended Friday's inaugural ceremonies at Rota's Recreational Center.

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

ROTA—Benjamin T. Manglona was sworn in Friday as the island's third mayor, proclaiming that the "days of conflict" with the central government are over.

Manglona, whose political career now spans over three decades, vowed to achieve "real improvements" in the first 100 days of his administration.

But it will be his last public office, the former lieutenant governor said.

"Here I will make my mark. Here, (on) Rota, I will make my greatest contribution as a public servant."

Calling the office "dearest" to his heart, Manglona said all that has happened to him is preparation for the Rota's mayor office.

"This will be my last and best journey in politics," he said. "This will be my sacred trust."

He pledged to build an extension of the Rota Health Center, more paved roads, improved water, power and storm drainage, and an end to the flooding in downtown Songsong.

But Manglona added that the "New Beginning" for Rota also needs the assistance and support of the central government and the private sector, both of which he intends to solicit.

"You will see a true partnership formed on this island between government and the private sector...(and a) partnership...with the central government," he said.

"We cannot afford division."

Manglona said there will be "constant discussions, sharing of information and meetings."

Economic development remains a top priority, he added, but it will be one that will not lead to stagnation and continued reliance on government employment.

Manglona said his administration will "take the road...towards conservation and environmental protection...economic stimulation, responsible development, a strong private sector and good paying jobs."

Families, religious faith and mutual respect for one another will remain the building blocks of the community, he vowed.

Manglona said partnership will be his administration's "guiding principle, the method of governing."

The partnership, he said, will also include Guam, Micronesia and other Pacific island regions, and Rota's alien workers.

Manglona said his administration will see to it "that all labor, all workers...are treated fairly and with respect on this island."

"We have in mind a new, improved partnership," he said, adding that his administration "does not belong to just a few...It belongs to all the people of Rota."

First elected in 1962 to the Marianas District Legislature, Manglona also served in the Congress of Micronesia, was CNMI senator and Senate president before becoming lieutenant governor in 1990.

He was also a delegate to the 1976 and 1994 Constitutional Conventions.

He succeeded as mayor another former Senate president, Joseph S. Inos (1994-98) who, in turn, won in 1993 against the son of Rota's first chief executive and the new mayor's brother, Prudencio T. Manglona (1978-82, 1982-86, 1986-90).

Rota is a Republican bailiwick, and under the then mayoral candidate Manglona's leadership, the party delivered more than 60 percent of the votes to the GOP gubernatorial slate, and won every elective post in last November's elections.

Also sworn in today as members of Rota's Municipal Council were Alex A. Apatang (chair), Steve K. Mesngon (vice chair) and Jose M. Rosario.

The new mayor likewise announced the names of his resident directors: Former senator Eusebio A. Hocog (Lands and Natural Resources), former congressman Vicente M. Atalig (Commerce), Ricardo Taisacan (Public Safety), Frank Calvo (Community and Cultural Affairs), Terry Santos (Health), Efrain Atalig (Finance) and Thomas Atalig (Labor and Immigration).

The island's inauguration day was attended by CNMI and Guam dignitaries, among them Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota), House Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan), Resident Rep. Juan N. Babauta, Bishop Tomas Camacho of Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, Archbishop Anthony Apuron of Agana, Guam, Guam Sen. Mark C. Charfauros, Saipan Mayor Jose Sablan and wife, Tinian Mayor Frank Borja and wife, and members of Saipan's and Tinian's municipal councils.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Marty W. K. Taylor, who swore in Mayor Manglona, represented the CNMI judiciary, and was joined by Superior Court Presiding Judge Alex Castro, and associate judges Miguel Demapan, Edward Manibusan and Tim Bellas.

Superior Court Associate Judge Miguel Demapan pose with Rota's new mayor, Benjamin T. Manglona, and his brother, the island's first chief executive, Pridencio T. Manglona, outside the San Francisco de Borja Church where inaugural mass was held Friday.

All Photos by **Zaldy Dandan**

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Gov. Tenorio's promise:

'Full support for Rota'

Supreme Court Chief Justice Marty W.K. Taylor clinks glass with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and Rota Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona during Thursday's pre-inauguration ball for the island's new municipal leaders.

Photo by **Zaldy Dandan**

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

ROTA (Jan. 16)—Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio on Friday pledged the full support of the central government to the island's economic development, but added that there may be "tough times" ahead for the CNMI due to the ongoing Asian currency crisis.

In a speech during the inaugural ceremony for the island's municipal leaders, Tenorio said his administration "looks forward working" with Rota, and remains committed in improving the island's economy.

He added that he shares the goals of the island's new mayor, Benjamin T. Manglona, to uphold family values, improve education and the residents' standard of living.

Tenorio, at the same time, noted that there are challenges that will require "great sacrifice, dedication and hardwork" on the part of Rota and the rest of the CNMI.

Still, he added, "by working together and with the help of the Almighty" the CNMI's new leaders will have the strength and political will equal to their tasks.

Tenorio's address echoed his earlier speeches during the inaugural ceremonies for the municipal officials of Tinian and Saipan, in which he asked the people to "be patient" with the current uncertainty in the government's financial condition.

As in his speech here, the governor earlier said he remains optimistic that "with unity and harmony" the CNMI can cope with the government's current financial uncertainties.

However, he said, "things can't be done overnight."

Teno to consult with private sector on federal, Asia concerns

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

ROTA—With the twin threats of a federal takeover and the Asian currency crisis dangling over the CNMI, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio on Friday said he will soon meet with leaders of the private sector to discuss "pressing" economic issues.

Tenorio said the meeting will tackle the labor and immigration issues raised by the federal government, and the measures to be taken to "soften" the impact on the CNMI of the economic crisis in key Asian countries.

"I want them to be open with us to solve the problems we are facing now," he said.

Tenorio added that the private sector's input is needed to help the administration come up with a plan to minimize the "spill over" effects of the Asian currency crisis, which has been blamed for the reduced number of tourists visiting the islands.

At the same time, the governor said the CNMI will no longer issue new garment manufacturing licenses, adding that "what we have now is enough."

He reiterated that his administration will be strict in enforcing labor and immigration laws, and will close down any business "that continues to disregard the law." *(See related story in this issue).*

The Clinton administration and its allies in Congress have advocated to strip the CNMI of control over its immigration and minimum wage policies due to what they term as the CNMI's "abuse-prone" alien labor program.

Tenorio has vowed to look into the federal concerns.

In earlier interviews, the governor said his administration will resolve problems, but preferably within the framework of continued local control over immigration and the minimum wage.

He has recently announced the resumption of the so-called 902 talks with the White House *(See related story in this issue)*, adding that it should begin "as soon as possible."

The Clinton administration and the congressional Democrats, among them U.S. Rep. George Miller of California, remain convinced that there should be an extension of federal immigration and minimum wage laws to the islands.

CNMI government and business leaders believe that such a "federal takeover" would be disastrous to alien labor-dependent local economy.

3 charged in separate knife, machete attacks

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THREE persons, including a woman, were charged for allegedly assaulting four persons using a knife and a machete in separate incidents.

Charged were Norma Lozano, Alfred Towai, and Joe T. Nusun.

Lozano was charged with assault with a dangerous weapon, Towai with assault with a dangerous weapon, and Nusun with two counts of assault and battery.

According to Assistant Atty. Gen. Aaron Williams in a complaint last Dec. 14 Lozano "did unlawfully threaten to cause or offer to cause bodily injury to William Sarmiento by means of a knife."

On the other hand, Williams said last Dec. 12 Towai assaulted Esteven Duenas using a machete.

Williams said Nusun physically assaulted two women last Dec. 14.

The Superior Court sum-

Continued on page 23

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Manglona said there will be "constant discussions, sharing of information and meetings."

Economic development remains a top priority, he added, but it will be one that will not lead to stagnation and continued reliance on government employment.

Manglona said his administration will "take the road...towards conservation and environmental protection...economic stimulation, responsible development, a strong private sector and good paying jobs."

Families, religious faith and mutual respect for one another will remain the building blocks of the community, he vowed.

Manglona said partnership will be his administration's "guiding principle, the method of governing."

The partnership, he said, will also include Guam, Micronesia and other Pacific island regions, and Rota's alien workers.

Manglona said his administration will see to it "that all labor, all workers...are treated fairly and with respect on this island."

"We have in mind a new, improved partnership," he said, adding that his administration "does not belong to just a few...It belongs to all the people of Rota."

First elected in 1962 to the Marianas District Legislature, Manglona also served in the Congress of Micronesia, was CNMI senator and Senate president before becoming lieutenant governor in 1990.

He was also a delegate to the 1976 and 1994 Constitutional Conventions.

He succeeded as mayor another former Senate president, Joseph S. Inos (1994-98) who, in turn, won in 1993 against the son of Rota's first chief executive and the new mayor's brother, Prudencio T. Manglona (1978-82, 1982-86, 1986-90).

Rota is a Republican bailiwick, and under the then mayoral candidate Manglona's leadership, the party delivered more than 60 percent of the votes to the GOP gubernatorial slate, and won every elective post in last November's elections.

Also sworn in today as members of Rota's Municipal Council were Alex A. Apatang (chair), Steve K. Mesngon (vice chair) and Jose M. Rosario.

The new mayor likewise announced the names of his resident directors: Former senator Eusebio A. Hocog (Lands and Natural Resources), former congressman Vicente M. Atalig (Commerce), Ricardo Taisacan (Public Safety), Frank Calvo (Community and Cultural Affairs), Terry Santos (Health), Efrain Atalig (Finance) and Thomas Atalig (Labor and Immigration).

The island's inauguration day was attended by CNMI and Guam dignitaries, among them Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota), House Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan), Resident Rep. Juan N. Babauta, Bishop Tomas Camacho of Chalan Kanoa, Saipan, Archbishop Anthony Apuron of Agana, Guam, Guam Sen. Mark C. Charfauros, Saipan Mayor Jose Sablan and wife, Tinian Mayor Frank Borja and wife, and members of Saipan's and Tinian's municipal councils.

Supreme Court Chief Justice Marty W. K. Taylor, who swore in Mayor Manglona, represented the CNMI judiciary, and was joined by Superior Court Presiding Judge Alex Castro, and associate judges Miguel Demapan, Edward Manibusan and Tim Bellas.

Superior Court Associate Judge Miguel Demapan pose with Rota's new mayor, Benjamin T. Manglona, and his brother, the island's first chief executive, Pridencio T. Manglona, outside the San Francisco de Borja Church where inaugural mass was held Friday.

All Photos by Zaldy Dandan

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Gov. Tenorio's promise:

'Full support for Rota'

Supreme Court Chief Justice Marty W.K. Taylor clinks glass with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and Rota Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona during Thursday's pre-inauguration ball for the island's new municipal leaders.

Photo by Zaldy Dandan

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

ROTA (Jan. 16)—Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio on Friday pledged the full support of the central government to the island's economic development, but added that there may be "tough times" ahead for the CNMI due to the ongoing Asian currency crisis.

In a speech during the inaugural ceremony for the island's municipal leaders, Tenorio said his administration "looks forward working" with Rota, and remains committed in improving the island's economy.

He added that he shares the goals of the island's new mayor. Benjamin T. Manglona, to uphold family values, improve education and the residents' standard of living.

Tenorio, at the same time, noted that there are challenges that will require "great sacrifice, dedication and hardwork" on the part of Rota and the rest of the CNMI.

Still, he added, "by working together and with the help of the Almighty" the CNMI's new leaders will have the strength and political will equal to their tasks.

Tenorio's address echoed his earlier speeches during the inaugural ceremonies for the municipal officials of Tinian and Saipan, in which he asked the people to "be patient" with the current uncertainty in the government's financial condition.

As in his speech here, the governor earlier said he remains optimistic that "with unity and harmony" the CNMI can cope with the government's current financial uncertainties.

However, he said, "things can't be done overnight."

Teno to consult with private sector on federal, Asia concerns

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

ROTA—With the twin threats of a federal takeover and the Asian currency crisis dangling over the CNMI, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio on Friday said he will soon meet with leaders of the private sector to discuss "pressing" economic issues.

Tenorio said the meeting will tackle the labor and immigration issues raised by the federal government, and the measures to be taken to "soften" the impact on the CNMI of the economic crisis in key Asian countries.

"I want them to be open with us to solve the problems we are facing now," he said.

Tenorio added that the private sector's input is needed to help the administration come up with a plan to minimize the "spill over" effects of the Asian currency crisis, which has been blamed for the reduced number of tourists visiting the islands.

At the same time, the governor said the CNMI will no longer issue new garment manufacturing licenses, adding that "what we have now is enough."

He reiterated that his administration will be strict in enforcing labor and immigration laws, and will close down any business "that continues to disregard the law." *(See related story in this issue).*

The Clinton administration and its allies in Congress have advocated to strip the CNMI of control over its immigration and minimum wage policies due to what they term as the CNMI's "abuse-prone" alien labor program.

Tenorio has vowed to look into the federal concerns.

In earlier interviews, the governor said his administration will resolve problems, but preferably within the framework of continued local control over immigration and the minimum wage.

He has recently announced the resumption of the so-called 902 talks with the White House *(See related story in this issue)*, adding that it should begin "as soon as possible."

The Clinton administration and the congressional Democrats, among them U.S. Rep. George Miller of California, remain convinced that there should be an extension of federal immigration and minimum wage laws to the islands.

CNMI government and business leaders believe that such a "federal takeover" would be disastrous to alien labor-dependent local economy.

3 charged in separate knife, machete attacks

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THREE persons, including a woman, were charged for allegedly assaulting four persons using a knife and a machete in separate incidents.

Charged were Norma Lozano, Alfred Towai, and Joe T. Nusun.

Lozano was charged with assault with a dangerous weapon, Towai with assault with a dangerous weapon, and Nusun with two counts of assault and battery.

According to Assistant Atty. Gen. Aaron Williams in a complaint last Dec. 14 Lozano "did unlawfully threaten to cause or offer to cause bodily injury to William Sarmiento by means of a knife."

On the other hand, Williams said last Dec. 12 Towai assaulted Esteven Duenas using a machete.

Williams said Nusun physically assaulted two women last Dec. 14.

The Superior Court sum-

Continued on page 23

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CPI down slightly in 4Q

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE COMMERCE Department has registered a significant drop in the overall consumer price index during the fourth quarter of 1997, compared with the figure posted during the same period last year.

A fourth quarter consumer price survey released by the DOC's Central Statistics Division showed a 1.3 percent slump in the five commodity sectors to last year's 264.3 from 267.7 in 1996.

The average price for the fourth quarter in the food group dropped by 3.2 percent to 207.8 from the previous year's 214.7.

The figure posted during last year's third quarter for the food sector was also 209.1.

The housing sector registered a whooping 1.8 percent increase from 219.4 in 1996 to 223.5 in 1997. Second quarter figure was recorded to have reached 225.1, or a 1.0 percent increase.

The apparel and upkeep group, at the same time, hardly changed with a 0.5 percent increase from the figure in 1996, from 211.7 to 212.8 last year.

In the transportation sector, the CSD reported a 1.3 percent increase from the previous year's 316.4 to 320.4, while the health and recreation group registered a 1.8 percent drop from 532.1 in 1996 to 522.6 last year.

Statistics specialist Isidro R. Ogarto explained that the consumer price index goes up when commodity prices go up.

Ogarto said the CPI was constructed from the 1977 Consumer Expenditure Survey which enabled the construction of baskets of consumer items.

A DOC-CSD publication explained that the average prices for items in a category were simply summed to arrive at the group total, which was deflated by the appropriate September 1977 base figure to arrive at the group index value.

During the 1988-1996 period, the Overall Index moved upward from 177.8 to 267.7 index value between the second quarter of 1988 to the last quarter of 1996, which is over two and a half times in its 1977 base.

The Overall Index fluctuated from quarter to quarter with a definite upward trend. Between 1988 and 1996, the overall index increased the highest in 1992 by 23.9 index points and increased the lowest in 1994 by 3.7 points.

The CPI Overall Index drops in some quarters suggesting price level decline from quarter to quarter.

But economists said this may be due to short term fluctuation in retail prices and not necessarily an actual decline in the overall price level.

They said item prices are retail prices that are subjected to seasonal influences and other sales and marketing strategies.

Hongkong Bank group buys Mexico bank

HSBC GROUP recently completed the purchase of 19.9 percent of the equity of Grupo Financiero Sefin of Mexico in exchange for $174 million in face value Brady Bonds

Just recently, all necessary regulatory and board approvals have been obtained and documentation and capital requirements have been met.

An agreement in principle for HSBC's investment was announced in March of last year, Hongkong Bank said in a news release.

Banca Serfin is the principal subsidiary of Grupo Financiero Serfin. Headquartered in Mexico City, it is the country's third-largest bank, with over 500 branches and assets of approximately $17 billion.

The HSBC group is headquartered in London with over 5,500 offices in 79 countries and territories.

The Group's assets as of June 30, 1997 was $458 billion, making the HSBC Group among the world's largest banking and financial services organizations. Its flagship institution is the Hongkong Bank.

Hongkong Bank opened in Guam in 1975. It is currently the second largest lender on island with $305 million in loans to several island business, individuals and organizations. It is also largest government lender on the island.

Over its 22 years on Guam, Hongkong Bank has invested billions of dollars in the island in the form of financing. It has financed the construction of several of the island's major hotels and commercial centers, as well as the import of the goods that fill the island's stores.

In April of 1996, Hongkong Bank opened a branch in Saipan. Together, the Guam and Saipan branches employ some 65 island residents, many of whom have been with bank over 10 years.

For more information, please contact Catherine Denight, AVP Marketing, at 646-3672.

Tanapag PTA sets meeting

TANAPAG Elementary School announces it's next PTA meeting which is set for Tuesday, January 20 at 6:30 pm at the school cafeteria.

"We ask that you make a special effort to attend because there are several importams in our agenda that concern you, your children and the public community school," acting Principal Ignacia Demapan said in a news release.

Parents are also informed about the school, 2nd quarter report card day on January 22 from 1:00-4:00 pm. School will be dismissed at 12 noon.

PM Kindergarten students are also advised to attend the morning session from 7:40-10:30 am.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Labor and Immigration
Division of Labor

PUBLIC NOTICE

The following persons with pending Labor and/or Agency Case(s) are hereby notified to report to the Division of Labor, Compliance and Monitoring Section, located on the 2nd Floor of Afetna Building, San Antonio, Saipan, on or before the prescribed date and time indicated below.

AGENCY CASE NO.	DATE & TIME
CAC# 97-216-12	02/26/98 at 1:30 p.m.
LC# 97-490	02/26/98 at 1:30 p.m.

NAME

AN, FUNCHENG	FAN, JIE	LI, KE	LU, QIZENG	SUN, DALI	WEI, HUILAI
BAI, MINGLAI	FENG, HONGTAO	LI, QUIDE	MA, JIUCAI	SUN, PEIYUAN	WEI, SHICAI
CAI, GUOGING	HE, JIANHUA	LI, SHUYI	PIAO, CHENGKUAN	SUN, XIYU	XIAN, FUZHENG
CHEN, SHAOHUA	GAO, FUREN	LI, XIAOWEN	PIAO, JINGZHI	TAI, DONGXIN	ZANG, FUYUN
CHEN, YONGHUA	GAO, YUQIANG	LI, YANJIANG	QIAO, QINGLIN	TAO, YONGJUN	ZHANG, BAOQUAN
CHO, JIN KOO	GAO, ZHONGYAN	LI, YONGJUN	QIU, LIANCHENG	TIAN, XILAI	ZHANG, QIUSHENG
CHO, JUNG WOOK	GONG, QIN	LI, ZHONGFU	REDOR, NORMAN	TONG, GUANGTIAN	ZHANG, YONGGANG
CHOI, NAMHEE	JIANG, FUHAI	LI, ZHONGSAN	SHAO, ZHONGQUAN	WANG, BAOMING	ZHAO, DELONG
CHU, TINGFAN	JIH, DEHE	LIANG, DE QIANG	SHO, EUN SOOK	WANG, FUXIANG	ZHAO, LICAI
DAI, JIANHUA	JIN, TAIHAO	LIU, BAOHAN	SONG, BAOCUN	WANG, SHUANGFU	ZHAO, LONGGANG
DING, WEI	LI, CHUNSHENG	LIU, JIANHUA	SONG, BAORU	WANG, YANG	ZHAO, ZHONGLIN
E, CHENGWEI	LI, DONGSHENG	LIU, LIANHUA	SONG, BAOZHONG	WANG, ZHENHUA	ZHU, JINGAN
EOM, HO LIM	LI, FENGSHAN	LIU, PENGCHENG	SONG, HAITING	WANG, ZUOAN	ZHUANG, JI CHENG

Failure to appear at the Division on or before the date and time specified above shall be ground for dismissal of the above cases and appropriate action and/or sanction shall be taken against the above individuals, including the referrals of their matters to the Immigration Office for their actions.

DATED this 8th day of January, 1998.

/s/**Gil M. San Nicolas**
Acting Director of Labor

CNMI leaders to Miller, Stayman:

'Give the CNMI a chance'

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

Pedro P. Tenorio

Paul A. Manglona

Diego T. Benavente

ROTA—Despite the federal government's serious doubts over the CNMI's alien labor program, the Commonwealth's top officials reiterated Friday their willingness to implement most of the labor and immigration reforms considered urgent by the White House and its allies in Congress.

In separate interviews, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) and House Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) said Washington, D.C. should give the CNMI a chance to solve its own problems.

When told that U.S. Rep. George Miller's (D-California) ended his five-day visit of Saipan still convinced that local control over immigration and the minimum wage should now be ended, Tenorio said he "understands" Miller's position.

However, he added, his administration is also serious in addressing most of the concerns raised by Miller.

"We're looking forward meeting with (the Clinton administration) and Congress, and I sincerely hope they would help us in eliminating the problems here," Tenorio said.

The governor, at the same time, said he hasn't looked into the highly critical U.S. Commission on Immigration Reform (CIR) report, but added that he will soon meet with the leaders of the Legislature to come up with the Commonwealth's official response to the report.

Senate President Manglona also remains "upbeat" on the possibility of resolving federal concerns through negotiations.

"If we sincerely exert, in good faith, efforts to correct the situation and implement significant reforms I believe that even Congressman Miller would have a change of heart," Manglona said.

"We just have to make the hard decisions as soon as possible," he added. "And we have to translate this will into action."

But Speaker Benavente, for his part, admitted that Washington, D.C.'s concerns are now "more serious," and may lead to the "disempowerment" of the islands' indigenous people.

"There are actually two different areas of concerns here, one of which I believe the new administration could resolve, and this involves the full enforcement of local labor and immigration laws," Benavente said.

"I feel confident (Tenorio) would remove corruption and mismanagement in those areas that led to the problems we now have with the Bangladeshi and Chinese workers," he added.

However, according to the speaker, the other federal concern strikes at the very foundation of the local economy—the free flow of alien labor.

"We're still far off in reaching an agreement over this," he said.

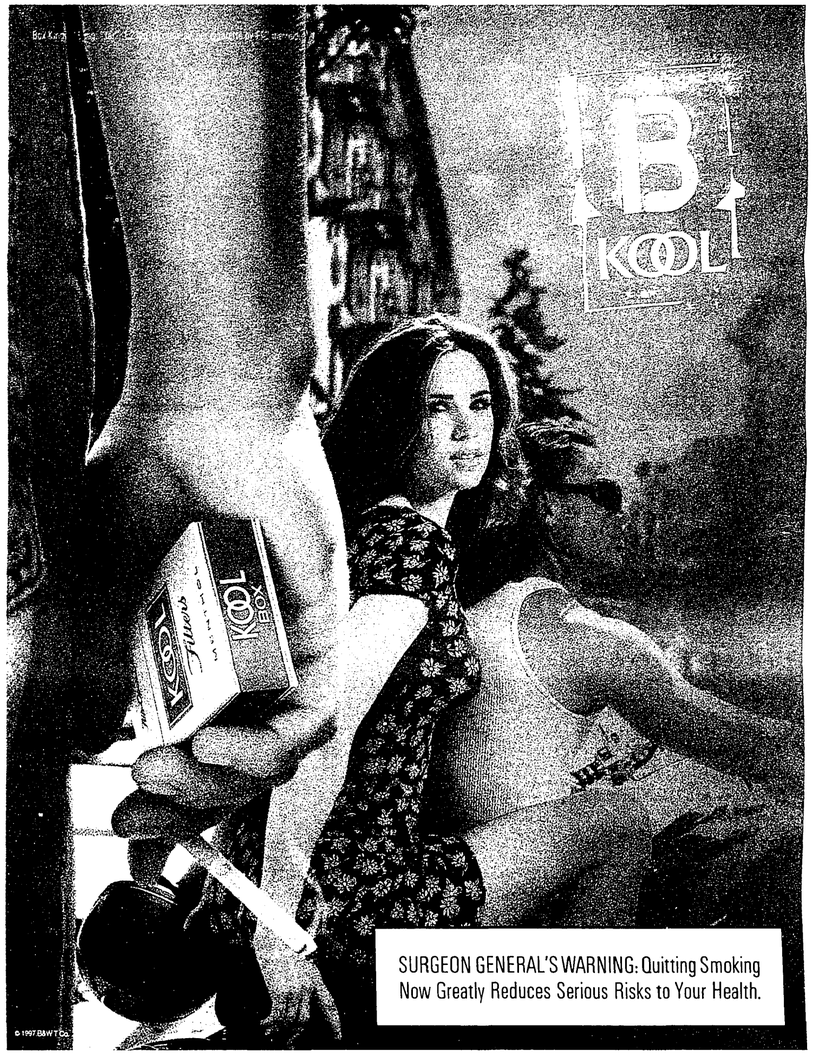
"Congressman Miller wants to eliminate the difference between alien and local labor, and that would be very difficult to accept, because it might lead to the disempowerment of the local people," Benavente said.

[The CNMI's 30,000 alien workers constitute more than half of the islands' population.]

"We don't want to deny anyone their human rights, but where should we draw the line between the needs of the local economy and the federal concerns over the presence of alien workers?" Benavente said.

"This is going to be very difficult to resolve. As long as we welcome new investments we would still have a need for alien labor" he said.

But Benavente added that CNMI should continue to pursue negotiations with Washington, D.C., while at the same time strengthening the enforcement of current labor and immigration laws.



CRM requests for a 'NOAA Fellow'

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THE Coastal Resources Management is requesting the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration for a NOAA Fellow who will help in the implementation of the updated Saipan Lagoon Use Management Plan, among other things.

CRM acting Director Peter J. Barlas asked the NOAA to consider the late submission of the fellowship project proposal, as "our islands are at a bit of disadvantage...due to our remoteness."

The CRM said it needed a master's degree student to help guide the coastal management zone-required implementation of its recently prepared coastal resource management plans.

"Particularly desired is a person with proven Geographic Information Systems skills and Western Pacific Islands work experience, hopefully one who is familiar with our programs to aid in current plan implementation elements," the proposal stated.

It said the Fellow will help in the better integration of the coastal zone management efforts by integrating the GIS [geographic information system] into the resource decision-making.

It has been noted that the CRM has made "significant progress" in the development of its GIS, whose two main projects are the Saipan Watershed Atlas and the Rota Habitat Conservation Plan, now known as the Rota Natural Resource Conservation Plan.

The NOAA Fellow will spend four semesters in the CNMI. During the third and fourth semester his activities will include teaching in a college class.

The Fellow will also work closely with the CRM's geographic information section manager, John Jordan, and be under the supervision of John Furey, CRM's coastal coordinator/projects manager.

Microl Insurance opens new facility

From left, Regional Director Garry Curran, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, Gen. Manager (AON Saipan) Andrew Howlett and Microl Corp. President John Schwartz during ribbon-cutting ceremonies for Microl Insurance-AON's new office.

Escrow firm gets 2nd TRO

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

A SECOND temporary restraining order has been issued to an escrow firm by the federal district court to stop it from filing a case against a former employee turned competitor until after an order on the competitor's motion to compel arbitration is entered.

The second TRO was issued Jan. 13 as the first one, dated Jan. 5, could not be served because the escrow firm owner, Manu Melwani, was believed to be outside of the US territory.

It was learned that Melwani was on Guam as of Jan. 13 to make the serving of the TRO possible.

The hearing for the motion and for the application for a preliminary injunction was reset from Jan. 13 to 21.

Kim Fell Anderson had asked the court to issue a TRO, after Pacific Title Guaranty & Escrow Co., Inc., had threatened to file a lawsuit against him for allegedly breaking an employment agreement that Anderson, as agent for Pacific Title, had signed on Jan. 11, 1991.

The agreement restricted Anderson's "ability to compete" with the company once he was no longer employed by the company.

Anderson ceased being an employee on June 3 last year. He later organized his own company, named Security Title.

In seeking a TRO, Anderson cited a provision in the employment agreement that provides for an amicable resolution of all disputes arising under the agreement.

If an amicable resolution fails, the agreement accordingly provides for the dispute to be referred to arbitration.

At the superior court, however, Pacific Title was reported to have filed a lawsuit against Anderson last week.

Anderson had been accused of duplicating and using Pacific Title's "secret database" without its the company's permission.

Businessman sues to recover piece of land

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

A BUSINESSMAN has sued two persons to eject one for alleged trespassing and also recover possession of a piece of land and for damages.

Yung Che Park, through counsel Ted Mitchell, named as defendants in the suit John T. Flores and John Doe Ling.

According to the complaint filed on Thursday before the Superior Court, Park is lessee and entitled to possession of 1,050 sq. meters of real property.

Mitchell in the complaint said Park's leasehold interest was obtained by virtue of the assignments and amendment of the ground lease, between Flores as lessor, and Paul A. Manglona as lessee.

Under the lease, Flores impliedly warranted that the original lease and his successors would enjoy quiet possession and use of the premises.

Mitchell said Flores, without any right to do so, did lease the land to defendant trespasser John Doe Ling for a five-year period.

"Flores has collected rent from John Doe Ling for the latter's use of the property which belongs to the plaintiff, thereby unjustly enriching himself at the plaintiff's expense," said Mitchell.

The lawyer said last Aug. 1 John Doe Ling unlawfully entered the property and has ever since unlawfully withheld possession from plaintiff.

As a result, Mitchell said Flores has breached the terms of the lease and is liable to the plaintiff for all possession suffered as a result of the breach.

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'Paradise in Flames'

A fictional scenario within the 'realm of possibility'

By William H. Stewart
For the Variety

THE ISLAND'S evening began much like any other with a cool tropical breeze blowing toward the northeast across the tranquil rippling lagoon. It was that time of the month when a full moon lit the eastern sky as it slowly climbed over Mount Tapotchau.

The traffic had thinned on Beach Road as people completed their shopping and headed for their homes. Children were preparing for bed while the parents of many sat in their pala pala talking softly with neighbors. For the police and fire personnel working the night shift it was just another normal evening.

A few DUI's with which to contend and a couple of family disturbances all duly recorded on the night's record sheet. Shops started closing in Garapan as tired and sunburned Japanese tourists walked back to their hotels.

At the Puerto Rico dump, a location selected by the military following the end of hostilities which had devastated the island a half century before, a small fire smoldered among the northern section.

Here was the depository of rags and discarded automobile tires mixed with 50 years of accumulated combustible material and the discarded wrappings of a tourist oriented consumer economy. Over the years the "cast off" deposits had created an artificial mountain of debris of all sort.

Only a short distance slightly northeast, two major oil firms had positioned their fuel storage tanks adjacent to the port where ocean going tankers could gain ready access to cavernous reservoirs to discharge the volatile life blood necessary to fuel a beautiful island's economic engine.

Tank number nine, a receptacle with a volume capable of accommodating 29,000 gallons of jet fuel, was slightly less than half full. The void inside was filled with highly explosive vapors.

A flaw in a metal weld outside the tank had finally opened and a minute drop of the noxious liquid seeped through, followed by another, then another until a small stream, barely visible to the eye began its journey down the side aided by both gravity and pressure from inside the tank.

This meandering stream continued to the base of the huge receptacle to form a small puddle on the ground increasing in size, hour after hour, until it had grown to the size of a tea cup's saucer.

Part of its mass evaporated into the atmosphere of the warm evening only to be replaced by the abundance of the stored liquid. The loss was so small that the gauges monitoring the contents of the huge steel container did not measure the infinitesimal leak.

Within the flaming landscape of the man made mountain of refuse of the nearby dump an ember ignited a piece of cloth about the size of a handkerchief.

It lay on the ground fanned to a red glow by the slight breeze coming off the lagoon. The wind tossed the waste of clothing in a fitful pattern that would be the envy of an innocent and graceful butterfly.

The flaming morsel tumbled across the road pausing as nature's breath relaxed its force only to be picked up and tossed again and again, over and over toward the fence surrounding the fuel tank farm.

Blocked by the fence, the ragged ember remained too large to pass through and remained impaled and confined by its wire prison, ever gently being reduced in size by the force of combustion aided by oxygen.

Oxygen, heat and combustible material - the food of fire. Soon the wind increased and as the smoldering morsel was reduced in size it broke through its net of confinement and skipped across the clean, well manicured confines of the sliver temples of energy. It had been blown only a distance of 500 feet and now lay only 3 feet from its, and the island's unfortunate destiny - all that was needed was a final toss to oblivion.

And it happened.

A sudden gust placed the rag within the liquid pool and nature's genie was free. The atoms of the universe awakened and the magic locked in the chemistry of molecules sprang to life. The hot embers ignited the pool of fuel which instantly flashed up the side of the tank.

Inside the tank the ravenous thirst for the sustenance provided by fire was satisfied.

The chemical reaction was instantaneous. As the vapors ignited the pressure for oxygen was unsatiable and the top of the tank blew to greet the rays of the full moon followed by flaming trails of an intensity equal to those of a noon day sun.

In an instant fire and fuel breached the safety apron designed to retain leaking liquid. . The blast forced a sudden and violent stream of intense shock waves with a jarring concussion. There was a brilliant and blinding flash as heat and light burst in a blazing cauldron.

An inverse rain of flame blew upward to greet the Heavens then fell back to Earth only to land on top of adjacent tanks igniting each in a candle of destructiveness only the Devil's celebration could host.

Each reservoir was provided the freedom born in the interior of stars. Windows blew inward on the northern side of Garapan hotels, automobiles careened off Middle Road and were blown over. Hell itself was visiting Saipan's western shoreline.

The entire area from American Memorial Park to Lower base was swept away, electric generators were engulfed in flames and the blood of an economy was dissipated. Erupting tanks spilled their burning torrent of flames in an cascading fountain of blazing destruction sweeping throughout the port area destroying containers of food, supplies of medicine and commodities of all type.

Explosions spewed devastation in a flood of flame and heat. From 30,000 feet an inbound 747 pilot saw the island's glow from a distance of 100 miles and wondered "did Hiroshima look like this?"

Flaming rivers of fire devoured everything in it's path as the hellish flood of flame crept toward Lower Base and the island's generators.

The measurement on the Richter Scale at the Office of Emergency Management read five point two. A newspaper could be read on Mt. Tapotchau from the brilliance.

The stupendous and awesome event was tantamount to a man made volcano as it broke forth in an eruption of belching, billowing clouds of flame and smoke. The blazing cauldron of heat was felt throughout Garapan.

William H. Stewart

The dump was further fueled as the suffocating air swept noxious fumes and choking smoke over the island. The entire tank farm had been incinerated, transmission pipelines melted, pumps and valves destroyed. Buildings at the port were destroyed in an instant.

It would take many months of reconstruction. The island fell into complete darkness. Without power the pumps in the water transmission system shut down. Gasoline service station pumps no longer operated and after a few hours the temperature in food store freezers began to rise spoiling meat, dairy products and perishables of all type. Air conditioners no longer provided the means for a refreshing sleep and the heat and humidity in homes increased rapidly.

Little known, or appreciated at the time, no new fuel deliveries could be made by sea until the area was again made operational. The full impact of this situation would not be felt for about two weeks. Fuel stored in underground service station tanks was entirely consumed even after emergency rationing of the precious liquid had been imposed. Those that had hoarded gasoline and the 360,000 gallons that remained in the tanks of automobiles was soon exhausted. This was evident by the abandon vehicles left at roadside.

Since there were no lights the price of candles jumped to 4 dollars apiece, schools closed. Bottled water was flown in and sold for 3 dollars a quart. Ice was but a memory. People cut trees for firewood to prepare meals.

Toilets could not be flushed for lack of water. CUC's reservoirs went dry and people had to rely on rainwater as their sole source

Continued on page 23

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P.A.W.S schedules series of pet clinics

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

DOGS ARE man's bestfriends but the best friend can also turn out to be the worst enemy.

This is especially true to rabies-infested dogs who can give out that fatal bite, though rabies does not come from dogs alone since it is primarily a disease of animals.

This is the primary concern of a non-governmental organization on Saipan which will be sponsoring a low-cost immunization clinic series for house pets like dogs and cats.

The Pet Assistance and Welfare Services (PAWS) is undertaking a series of pet vaccination on Saipan in four occasions from January to March this year.

Bobbi Grizzard, of PAWS, said Dr. Kevin Malakooti, a pet specialist from the Animal Medical Clinic on Guam will administer the vaccination of dogs and cats.

Grizzard said all charges have been subsidized and were placed below the cost of the vaccine.

The first clinic, she said, will be held on Sunday from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m. at the 4-H Club House across the Marianas High School.

She added that puppies and kittens up to six months old need a series of four and three shots of the anti-rabies vaccine respectively.

"These shots will help house pets like dogs and cats healthy and free from diseases. The shot doesn't hurt the animals and they need to be immunized in order to stay healthy," Grizzard explained.

According to her, a yearly booster is needed in order to keep the pets immunized, citing a threatening animal disease on Saipan, called Parvo, which may endanger the lives of the animals.

She said a booster shot every six months has been recommended to be administered.

The World Health Organization (WHO) has estimated that the global incidence of dog bites ranges between 200 and 800 per 100,000 population every year.

In the Philippines, which has been considered as among the Top Five countries in the world with the highest rabies incidence, the rate was pegged at 400 dog bites per every 10,000 people per year.

Health experts said human are exposed to rabies when they come into contact with rabies virus through the inoculation of virus-laden saliva from the bite of a rabid animal.

They said other modes of transmission include contact of saliva with a pre-existing wound or scratch.

A person infected with rabies manifests hydrophobia or fear of water, and acrophobia or fear of air. Death is almost inevitable.

The WHO said rabies is better prevented than cured though a post exposure injection is important to prevent death.

Dogs which are allowed to look food in the waste basket are twice at risk of exposure to the rabies virus.

Health officials are stressing the need for basic animal hygienes and vaccination against diseases, including rabies to prevent animal and human infections.

When bitten by a rabies-infected animal, people are advised to observe the animal in 14 days, while people must immediately seek medical intervention especially when the animal starts drooling, bites any object, and when it becomes wild.

Joeten awards top employee

J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc. President Clarence T. Tenorio presents Umang Kesolei the 1997 Employee of the Year award. In addition to the award, Mr. Kesolei received a $500.00 gift certificate and $500.00 cash and a luncheon was held on his behalf. Kesolei is a Supervisor at the Joeten Wholesale and has been with the company for 9 years. Also in photo are Pepe Liwanag (left), David S. Palacios (right).

FEMA introduces hazard mitigation program here

By Gerr R. Cayabyab, Jr.
Variety News Staff

THE FEDERAL Emergency Management Agency is coming up with a program that may help lower the vulnerability of both public and private properties in the Commonwealth whenever there is a natural disaster.

FEMA Hazard Mitigation Officer Michael Hornick said Friday that a hazard mitigation grant program aims to brief the public with the better steps to take whenever calamity strikes.

"One of the major objectives of HMGP is to reduce the vulnerability of both public and private properties to natural hazards such as typhoons, droughts, floods and earthquakes," Hornick said.

He noted that under HMGP, FEMA could provide relief not only to homeowners but also to local applicants or subgranties.

"We also help in the damaged infrastructures."

FEMA Public Information Officer Alex A. Newton said that FEMA Director James Lee Witt is considering mitigation program as one of the most important aspects of long recovery from any presidentially-declared disaster areas.

"Mr. Witt stated that he wants to avoid the cycle of damage repair, and then another damage from any of the various natural disasters throughout our jurisdictions," Newton said.

Newton noted that "mitigation program is one way of addressing long term recovery efforts where repair, reconstruction and restoration of facilities are done in special ways under special codes that can either avoid or minimize the effects of future damages."

According to Newton, examples of types of eligible mitigation measures under HMGP are the following:

* Acquisition of real property in high hazard areas, demolition or relocation of structures, and conversion of land to open space use;

* Elevation of floodprone structures;

* Dry floodproofing of non-residential structures;

* Other floodproofing activities that bring a structure into compliance with minimum National Flood Insurance Program (NFIP) requirements and state or local code;

* Strengthening of existing structures against high winds;

* Seismic rehabilitation of existing structures;

* External strengthening of existing structures against wildfire hazard; and

* Initial implementation of vegetation management programs to reduce the wildfire hazard to high-risk structures.

He said the amount of funding available for the HMGP under a disaster declaration is finite.

"Funds are dispersed according to a legislated formula based upon the magnitude of total FEMA disaster assistance require-

Continued on page 23

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Marshalls takes grassroots approach to economic crisis

By Giff Johnson
For the Variety

MAJURO-Eliminating political interference in off-island medical referrals and cutting back elected leaders' sitting and housing allowances to fund more needed government services were among proposals aired by community leaders during the Marshall Islands first national economic and social summit which wrapped up last Saturday.

The four day government-sponsored gathering brought 150 people from virtually all walks of life and many of the most remote islands in the Marshalls to Majuro.

The country's looming economic crisis and government reform program supervised by the Asian Development Bank motivated holding of the summit, the first time that such a broad-based gathering with sessions broadcast on national radio has tackled the economic woes of the nation.

Numerous recommendations for improving the investment

The United Nations Development Program heavily supported the summit, providing both funding for delegates to attend and consultants to assist with its organization.

Government policies were vocally criticized by many attendees, another first in the 20 year history of constitutional government in the Marshalls, where a dominant paramount chiefly system has, until the summit, squelched most open criticism.

Earlier in the week, President Imata Kabua called for people to work together during the summit to come up with solutions to the nation1s severe economic problems.

Based on the dozens of recommendations pouring in from the summit, the government got what it asked for and more.

Kabua, who has been president for one year, made it plain to the summit that the Marshall Islands is in dire economic straights.

He described the government's reform program, which has cut hundreds from the public service payroll, as "painful and difficult" but necessary to deal with the serious economic problems in the Marshalls, and added that the country has face up to this challenge sooner rather than later.

"Either we bite the bullet now, or face a downward spiral in our living standards soon," he said. "I wish I could put it to you in softer or more indirect language.

Unfortunately, I cannot. We must therefore continue to remain firm on our course in order to reap the benefits later."

He said that it was essential for the summit to establish firm priorities for the future. "Our immediate and future conditions demand that even important goals must give away to the most important ones," Kabua said.

The summit is giving leaders a wake up call that islanders are unhappy with the status quo, but the meetings are also showing that the participants took seriously President Kabua's direction to develop recommendations for the government.

The Marshall Islands Journal in an editorial last Friday observed that some 150 Marshall Islanders are "having a go at the issues of the day at the National Economic and Social Summit."

The independent newspaper asked a question more than a few are voicing: "A key concern among many of the business and community groups devoting time and effort to the summit is simple: will government leaders pay attention to and use ideas generated at the summit that aren't in the current government 'agency'.

Ward on Yap dental mission

DR. WAYNE Ward, Director of Dental Missions of Guam SDA Clinic will be going to Fais in Yap State, FSM from January 18 to January 25 to continue his volunteer work through the AYUDA Foundation.

This will be his 4th trip to Yap's outer island.

Ward will be conducting a follow-up on the sealant program he began during his first three trips. He will provide follow up care for patients previously diagnosed yet still untreated as well as to see new patients and provide education on oral hygiene for all the school age children.

He will also bring dental supplies (to be donated to Yap State) and a compressor.

Continental Micronesia will provide a round trip ticket for Dr. Ward to Yap State.

The AYUDA Foundation has expressed thanks to Ward and Guam SDA Clinic as well as Continental Micronesia for their continuous support and assistance to us and the people of Yap State.

For medical donations, volunteers and/or missions with AYUDA Foundation please contact the office of Sen. Carlotta Leon Guerrero at (671) 472-3416, fax (671) 477-1323.

Former movie actor and Vice President Joseph Estrada, left, together with Senator Edgardo Angara, right, have their hands raise by Filipino actor Fernando Poe Jr. as they are proclaimed as president and vice president respectively in the coming national election during their party's convention Sunday. AP

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Elsewhere in the Pacific

Churches must get permit to hold service in Vanuatu

PORT VILA (Pacnews)—Churches in the Vanuatu capital Port Vila will need to get a permit from the Minister of Home Affairs if they are to hold church services.

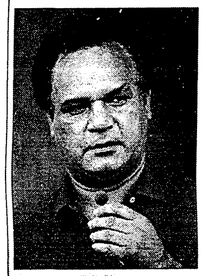
This is one of the requirements under the state of emergency imposed by the government following Monday's riot by members of the Vanuatu National Provident Fund.

The state of emergency which will last for two weeks, is aimed to restoring law and order in Port Vila. Among other things, it prevents the assemblying of people.

The minister of home affairs, Robert Karie, has issued a statement warning that churches and other groups needing to hold a gathering of their members must apply for and get a permit from himself.

Meanwhile, the Presbyterian Church, the largest denomination in the country, has adviced its members there will be no church services in the capital for the duration of the state of emergency. It has asked them to instead stay home and pray for the country.

Skate warns school heads



Bill Skate

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews)—Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Bill Skate has warned that teachers who failed to enrol students at the start of the school year will be sacked.

His warning comes as the national government's promised K19 million (US $11m) subsidy was delivered to the provinces, The National reported.

Skate beat his own timing by a day when the education subsidy cheques for the first term of the new school year were delivered Thursday night.

The Prime Minister said he was totally disappointed with headmasters who have expressed doubts in the media about the government's subsidy scheme.

Some headmasters and school boards have called on children and their parents to disregard the government directive and pay fees upfront at the start of the school year.

A visibly angry Skate said those headmasters and board members who defied his government's directions would face the sack in the first instance.

AIDS worry

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews)—Health authorities in Papua New Guinea say the AIDS disease is reaching a fightening level as attempts continue to slow down the momentum of confirmed HIV cases.

Health Secretary Doctor Puka Temu says the number of AIDS cases reported in the country has reached an alarming 862 as of the end of last year, NBC reported.

Doctor Temu has appealed to all people in the government and private sectors including non-governmental organisations and the churches to support the National AIDS Council stop the spread of the disease.

PNG currently has the highest number of AIDS cases among the Pacific rim countries.

PNG-Solomons border pact comes into force

HONIARA (Pacnews)—The Basic Border Agreement between Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea has come into force with the Exchange of Instruments of Ratification by the Foreign Ministers of the two countries in Honiara Thursday.

Solomon Islands foreign minister, Patteson Oti, and his PNG counterpart, Roy Yaki, exchanged the instruments of ratification follwing a day of bilateral talks.

The Basic Border Agreement governs the management of the common maritime border between the two countries.

It includes, among other things, provision for the establishment of a Joint Border Committee which will coordinate implementation of the agreement.

A statement from the director of information in the Office of the Prime Minister of Solomon Islands, Johnson Honimae, says the committee will meet for the first time in February at a venue yet to be decided.

The Maritime Delimitation Treaty between the two countries will also come into force soon after the Solomon Islands cabinet ratified it last week.

Bougainville independence is no longer the 'key issue'

CANBERRA (Pacnews)—New Zealand's foreign minister, Don McKinnon, says independence for Bougainville is NO longer the key issue in talks between the Papua New Guina government and the island's secessionist leaders.

McKinnon, who is hosting the latest round of Bougainville peace talks in the New Zealand city of Christchurch, said today there is massive scope within the PNG Constitution for varying levels of provincial autonomy.

He said independence was a key issue some time ago and acknowledged there are people who still believe that there should be nothing but independence for Bougainville.

However, in an interview on the Australian Broadcasting Corporation, McKinnon said others had really come to the conclusion that independence was NOT all it was cracked up to be.

"In this day and age of economic inter-dependence there's NO reason why you can't have, like in Australia, states within a commonwealth or a provincial system," he said.

McKinnon said the nine-year Bougainville conflict had taken a very heavy toll on the PNG government.

He said he believed the government now recognised the need to go into discussions on the political status of Bougainville.

Economists question Fiji growth stats

SUVA (Pacnews)—Several economists in Fiji have questioned the 2.7% economic growth projection of the 1998 national budget, saying it's too high.

Opposition Finance spokesman Wadan Narsey says government's forecast revenue and growth will be dramatically affected by the economic turmoil in Asia, Radio Fiji reported.

Narsey says the economic events over the last few months have cast doubts about the government's forecast.

He says one of the major industries, the sugar industry, has dropped dramatically.

Another observer that has cast doubts on the projected economic growth is the head of the ANZ Bank's treasury division, Neil Rodriguez.

Tonga gets set for 80th b-day of King

NUKU'ALOFA (Pacnews)—A committee has been formed in Tonga to spearhead preperations for the national festival in July to celebrate King Tafau'ahau Tupou IV's 80th birthday.

The committee is chaired by Chief Secretary and Secretary to Cabinet Dan Tufui, and it will coordinate activities and direct responsibilities for the sub-committees, Radio Tonga reported.

The sub-committees have been given tasks including responsibility for the feast, traditional entertainment, beautification, transport and accommodation, security and the media, religious and musical programmes and outer-island participation.

Final plans for the duration of the festival are yet to be confirmed by cabinet.

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THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE RECEIVED APPLICATION	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. BIRD ISLAND DEV.	11/28/97 SMS-97-X-348	GOLF COURSE & RESORT	BIRD ISLAND	MAJOR SITING	APPROVED(01/07/98)
2. MR. YOUNG SOO HA	08/01/97 SMS-97-X-225	61 ROOM HOTEL	CHALAN KANOA	MAJOR SITING	APPROVED(01/07/98)
3. CALVARY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY SCHOOL	11/06/97 SMS-97-X-317	SCHOOL	CHALAN KIYA	MAJOR SITING	APPROVED(12/29/97)
4. PACIFIC MARINE SPORTS	12/03/97 SLRm-97-X-351	BANANA BOAT	SAIPAN LAGOON	LAGOON & REEF APC	APPROVED(12/29/97)
5. LA MODE INC.	10/20/97 SMS-97-X-305	GARMENT MANUFACTURING AND STAFF HOUSING	AS LITO	MAJOR SITING	APPROVED(11/27/97)
6. SAMSUNG CORPORATION	12/30/97 SPlm-97-X-372	DRYDOCK	ABLE DOCK	PORT & INDUSTRIAL APC	APPROVED(01/06/98)*
7. SAIPAN CELLULAR AND PAGING	10/08/97 SPlm-97-X-373	ANTENNA	LOWER BASE	PORT & INDUSTRIAL APC	APPROVED(01/07/98)*
8. AMERICAN LAGENTE CORPORATION	01/05/98 SMS-98-X-01	STAFF HOUSING	GUALO RAI	MAJOR SITING	UNDER REVIEW*
9. MABU CORPORATION	01/05/98 SSm-98-X-02	FILMING	ALL SHORELINE APC'S	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(01/07/98)*
10. PACIFIC INSURANCE UNDERWRITERS, INC.	01/13/98 SMS-97-X-03	COMMERCIAL BUILDING	CHALAN LAULAU	MAJOR SITING	UNDER REVIEW*
11. LIGHTS SAIPAN	01/13/98 SSm-98-X-04	FILMING	ALL SHORELINE APC'S	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(01/14/98)*

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspapers within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) calendar days of publication of this notice. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinators. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in CRM Regulations, Section 8 (G).

Cohen visits China

Trip aimed at forging closer military ties

By ROBERT BURNS

BEIJING (AP)— U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen arrived in China to try to smooth the way for closer relations with a rising military power which harbors deep suspicions about American motives in Asia and the Pacific.

Cohen, the first U.S. defense chief to visit China since William Perry came in October 1994, told reporters flying with him from Bangkok, Thailand, on Saturday that his mission is to promote trust and argue for openness.

He said he would raise a number of sensitive subjects, including Chinese arms sales to Iran, but also would try to persuade China's leaders that the United States is not aiming to stifle their nation's military and economic development.

"We're not engaged in trying to contain them" in the way U.S. policy during the Cold War was designed to contain the former Soviet Union and the spread of communism, Cohen said. "But we are determined to remain a Pacific power."

During his three days in China, Cohen was scheduled to meet with government officials, including President Jiang Zemin; sign a naval agreement designed to avoid confrontations at sea; address Chinese military academy students and get an apparently unprecedented look inside an air defense command headquarters.

The New York Times reported Sunday that, just before heading for Asia, Cohen attempted to get the administration to make an exception to a U.S. ban on sale of military equipment and let Sikorsky Aircraft sell spare Black Hawk helicopter engines to China.

The paper quoted anonymous officials as saying that the administration rejected the idea as premature and Cohen agreed to support the decision.

He declined through a spokesman to discuss the matter with the paper.

U.S. Secretary of Defense William Cohen is welcomed by Xiong Guangkai, Deputy Chief of the general staff of the People's Liberation Army at the Beijing International Airport Saturday. Cohen is in Beijing for a three-day official visit. AP

IMF head meets with Chinese banking sector

BEIJING (AP)— The head of the International Monetary Fund and China's top central banker discussed the Asian economic crisis Saturday but touched very little on China's financial reform efforts, an official said.

IMF chief Michel Camdessus, wrapping up a brief Asia tour, stopped in Beijing for a meeting with People's Bank of China leader Dai Xianglong, according to an official at the talks.

The official, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the meeting focused on the countries that have received IMF aid and the efforts their governments have made to rejuvenate battered economies.

South Korea, Indonesia and Thailand must adhere to tough austerity programs as a condition for receiving $100 billion in bailout support from the IMF and other sources.

China has extended $1 billion to Thailand and made $1.5 billion available to the IMF for emergency disbursement, a central bank spokesman said.

The official said the IMF is not worried about China's short-term economic health.

Dai has played down the impact on China of Asia's widening financial crisis. He has said growth will slow, but not significantly, and that the government will not need to devalue the yuan to lift sagging exports.

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Klan rally turns violent

By Woody Baird

MEMPHIS, Tenn. (AP) — A Ku Klux Klan rally Saturday set off a scuffle between rock-throwing anti-Klan protesters and police, who fired tear gas into the crowd and arrested about 20 people.

No serious injuries were reported but ambulances picked up several people overcome by gas. Police hustled away the 50 Klansmen, who were unharmed.

Witnesses said the trouble began when a young white man wearing a Confederate-flag T-shirt walked into a mostly black crowd of 500 to 600 protesters packed behind police lines.

Pushing and shoving ensued and police moved in to break it up. The tear gas soon followed.

"There was this big fight in the middle of the crowd (that police) were trying to stop," said witness Chris Hadley.

He said many in the crowd were unaware of the fight and thought the police action was unprovoked.

A man kicks a pepper gas can back at state police in Memphis, Tenn., Saturday after police used tear gas to break up an angry crowd of anti-Klan protestors at a Ku Klux Klan rally. AP

An unidentified Memphis Police sergeant rushes two children to safety after police resorted to tear gas to break up an angry crowd of protestors at a Ku Klux Klan rally in Memphis, Tenn., on Saturday. About 20 people were arrested. No serious injuries were reported but ambulances picked up several people overcome by gas. AP

Police fired numerous volleys of tear gas over a 45-minute span and used a large spray gun spewing pepper gas.

Hadley said the crowd turned and ran en masse once tear gas started popping.

"There was just this wall of people running at me. I could either turn and run or get trampled," he said.

The protesters broke up and reformed several times into smaller groups, occasionally throwing tear gas canisters back at police and hurling rocks and bottles.

Police said those arrested would be charged with disorderly conduct and related offenses.

Windows were broken out in several downtown buildings and the windows of several police cars were smashed.

The Klan rally, organized by a KKK group from Indiana, was confined to the front steps at one end of the Shelby County Courthouse.

The anti-Klan protesters were kept at the opposite end of the courthouse, separated from the robed and hooded Klansmen by police and sheriff's deputies.

US abortion rate down

NEW YORK (AP) — The number of unplanned pregnancies among American women of reproductive age dropped 16 percent between 1987-94, leading to an 11 percent decline in abortions among that age group, a study released Saturday indicated.

According to the study by The Alan Guttmacher Institute, unintended pregnancy among U.S. women of childbearing age — defined as age 15 to 44 — went down from 54 per 1,000 pregnancies to 45. The abortion rate dropped from 27 per 1,000 women to 24, the study found.

Stanley K. Henshaw, the institute's deputy director of research, concluded that the increased prevalence of contraception — particularly increased condom use — combined with more effective methods led to the decrease.

The survey found that unplanned pregnancies were highest among women aged 18 to 24, and among women who are unmarried, low-income, Hispanic or black. While those groups had higher numbers, the problem cut across all lines: 48 percent of U.S. women age 15 to 44 reported at least one unplanned pregnancy in their lives.

The study will be published in the January/February issue of Family Planning Perspectives magazine.

The Alan Guttmacher Institute is a non-profit organization for reproductive health research based in New York City and Washington.

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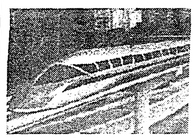

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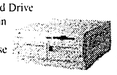

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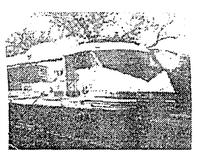

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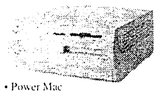

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GOP makes case for marriage tax changes

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Republican Party renewed its effort on Saturday to throw out the so-called marriage tax penalty and asked President Clinton to endorse the proposal in his upcoming State of the Union address.

Rep. Jerry Weller of Illinois said in the GOP weekly radio address Saturday that working couples pay $1,400 more a year on average than they would if they were allowed to file as single people.

For example, combining the salaries of a husband and wife who make $30,500 a year each pushes that couple's combined income of $61,000 into a higher tax bracket — 28 percent. Single people making $30,500 a year are in the 15 percent bracket.

"Since 1969, our tax laws have punished married couples when both spouses work," Weller said, who is cosponsoring a bill with Rep. David McIntosh, R-Ind., to eliminate the provision.

"For no other reason than the decision to be joined in holy matrimony, more than 21 million couples a year are penalized. They pay more in taxes than they would if they were single," Weller added.

Under the GOP proposal, a married couple would have the choice of filing their income tax returns either jointly or as single individuals, depending on which status would result in a smaller tax bite.

Weller said legislation to change the tax system involving married couples has the support of 232 members in the House, while a version before the Senate also enjoys strong backing.

"Of all the challenges married couples face in providing home and hearth to America's children, the U.S. tax code should not be one of them," Weller said.

Abortion issue still looms within GOP

By David Espo

INDIAN WELLS, Calif. (AP) — After an all-out lobbying campaign by chairman Jim Nicholson, there was no doubt the Republican National Committee would reject a "partial-birth" abortion litmus test for GOP candidates.

Friday night's decision was a grudging one, however, and the subject seems certain to cause continued friction inside an anti-abortion party trying to protect still-young majorities in both houses of Congress as well as impressive gains elsewhere.

"We are a pro-life party, and we shouldn't be ashamed of it," Betsy DeVos of Michigan told fellow RNC members. The assurance was in remarks designed to help head off the drive to deny campaign funds to candidates who won't support a ban on certain late-term abortions.

She then addressed Republicans who support Brooks Firestone, a GOP moderate outpolled last week by conservative Tom Bordonaro in a California congressional primary in which "partial-birth" abortion was an issue.

"Put your money where your mouth is and write checks to Mr. Bordonaro to win this election," she said, referring to a runoff scheduled for March.

Next, she turned her attention to New Jersey's GOP Gov. Christine Todd Whitman, who vetoed her state legislature's ban on "partial-birth" abortions.

"I challenge her and suggest that she consider changing her position on partial-birth abortion practices and support the ban," DeVos said. Her listeners applauded.

The driving force behind the funds-cutoff effort, Tim Lambert of Texas, suggested the tension could eventually produce a revolt by the rank and file against members of the RNC itself.

"I think there will be consequences," he said. Members of the RNC have "been elected to their positions for years by telling their folks they are pro-life."

Abortion foes have long felt short-changed within the GOP, which relies heavily on donors who espouse more moderate views on social issues than the rank and file. Ironically, as former Rep. Vin Weber of Minnesota said as the debate unfolded, "Most of those pro-choice dollars are used to elect pro-lifers."

Rep. Henry Hyde of Illinois, an ardent abortion foe whom Nicholson enlisted to help dissuade RNC members from imposing a litmus test, sought to validate the misgivings of those who feel the issue isn't given enough prominence.

"We were inept, we were timid in our last two presidential campaigns" and merely gave lip service to the issue, he said.

But on purely practical grounds, he argued, those who favor imposing conditions on financial help for Republican candidates are making the wrong fight.

Without its majority in Congress, Hyde said, "we won't have power to bring pro-life legislation" to the floor of either House. "The worst thing you can do for the pro-life cause is lose our majority," he said.

Ironically, the latest flare-up in a long-running internal struggle arose at a time when the GOP had succeeded on placing Democrats on the defensive over abortion after having been depicted as extremists for a long time.

Since taking power three years ago, Republicans have brought legislation to the floor of Congress to curtail abortion rights incrementally — restrictions embedded within the new program of children's health care; a prohibition on overseas abortion lobbying by recipients of federal funds; the ban on "partial-birth" abortions.

Broader assaults, including proposed constitutional amendments to ban abortions outright, have largely been left in committee.

Republicans have used "partial-birth" abortions, in particular, to drive a wedge between some Democrats and their traditional supporters among abortion-rights groups. Increasingly, these Democrats have been unwilling to vote against a partial ban on late-term abortions, a measure that enjoys overwhelming support in public polling. Last year alone, three Senate Democrats abandoned their opposition and swung behind the latest version of the bill, including the party's Senate leader, Tom Daschle of South Dakota.

GOP congressional leaders have been holding in reserve an override attempt of President Clinton's most recent veto, to be brought out to achieve maximum political gain in the 1998 elections.

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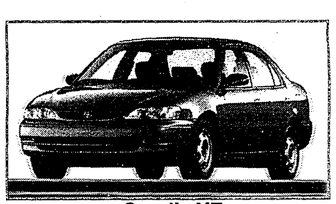

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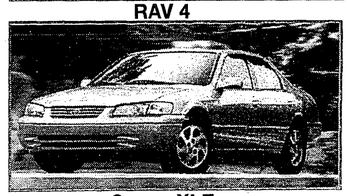

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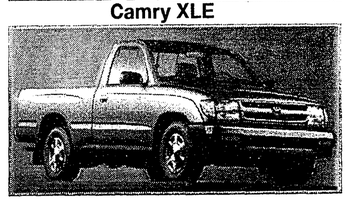

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Clinton deposed in Jones case

By Sandra Sobieraj

WASHINGTON (AP) — Closeted in an 11th-floor conference room for nearly six hours, President Clinton faced Paula Jones Saturday and swore, a source said, that he did not recall meeting the woman with sensational sexual harassment charges against him.

The president did not rule out ever being introduced to Mrs. Jones, but said under oath that he did not recall ever meeting her and, according to one source familiar with Clinton's secret deposition, he denied claims that he exposed himself to her in 1991 and asked for oral sex.

Clinton's limousine emerged from an underground parking garage at his attorney's offices at 4:20 p.m. EST, six hours after he arrived and claimed the inglorious distinction of first American president to testify as a defendant in any criminal or civil suit.

At the White House, he waved and, ignoring reporters' questions, ducked inside to pick up a draft of his State of the Union address. He nixed plans for a dinner out and shared a private dinner in the residence with Hillary Rodham Clinton. "It's been a long day," one aide said.

Mrs. Jones, who was earlier besieged by news cameras, also left through the garage without comment. At her hotel, she ignored swarming reporters and was only heard murmuring to her husband Stephen: "Great. There's the elevator."

She was deposed for 13 hours over two days last fall.

There was no official word on the substance of Clinton's testimony and attorneys on both sides insisted they would abide by U.S. District Judge Susan Webber Wright's gag order. Sources spoke to The Associated Press on condition of anonymity.

A source familiar with Clinton's preparation for the session said in advance that the president did not recall "anything about her" and "barely remembered anything about the (May 1991) conference" at which the incident allegedly occurred. Such accounts of his testimony were consistent with earlier public assertions that Clinton had no recollection of Mrs. Jones or any alleged encounter.

In a dark business suit and accompanied by attorney Robert Bennett, Clinton was whisked by motorcade the 1 1/2 blocks between the White House and Bennett's law offices.

Mrs. Jones and her husband arrived via Highland Cab, car No. 50.

Havoc reigned as camera crews jumped atop cars and roughly butted the Jones party. Susan Carpenter McMillan, Mrs. Jones' spokeswoman, called them "real jerks" and aborted plans to have Mrs. Jones make a brief statement.

"I feel so proud ... to know this judicial system works, to know that a little girl from Arkansas is equal under the law to the president of the United States," Carpenter McMillan quoted Mrs. Jones as saying that morning before the crush of cameras rendered her speechless.

"Go get him! We're with you kid!" shouted a bystander perched on a parking meter.

Underscoring the extraordinary nature of Clinton's deposition, Judge Wright traveled from Little Rock to personally referee disputes over allowable questions. Mrs. Jones' attorneys were expected to ask Clinton about other women he may have subjected to unwanted advances — either as Arkansas governor or as president.

At least one woman, former White House employee Kathleen Willey, alleged to have had an encounter with Clinton similar to the one Mrs. Jones accused him of, already has been deposed in the case along with Gennifer Flowers and other women claiming extramarital affairs with Clinton.

"It sure would have been nice to see him go out shining instead of tarnished," said Clinton supporter Lance Ekas, who stood on a ledge Saturday to glimpse Mrs. Jones.

At the White House, top aides proceeded nonchalantly with meetings on Clinton's Jan. 27 State of the Union address.

While he cannot be compelled to testify at trial, either side can enter his videotaped deposition into the court record. Until then, his testimony was to remain under seal.

President Clinton departs the White House Saturday morning for a short limousine ride to his lawyer's office to be questioned under oath in the sexual harassment case brought by Paula Jones. It is the first time a sitting American president has been compelled to testify as a defendant in a criminal or civil suit. AP

Since filing her lawsuit in 1994 — in which she first sought $700,000 damages, but last year dropped to $525,000 — Mrs. Jones has weathered intense scrutiny of her credibility and image. She has said subsquently she is not interested in money for herself and would settle for enough to pay her lawyers — and for an apology. She traveled to Washington with a Hollywood hairstylist, and Carpenter McMillan conspired with photographers to have Mrs. Jones — outfitted in a new butter-colored pantsuit — pictured with her husband.

A CBS/New York Times poll released this weekend showed half of Americans say they can't tell whether Clinton is guilty, but 55 percent want the case to settle before its May 27 trial date. The phone survey was conducted Jan. 10-12 among 1,101 adults and had a 3 percent margin of error.

"Something happened. I don't think we'll ever really know (what)," Charmane Wong, of New York, said as she waited with the crowd on 15th Street. "But I'm here for a conference to help the homeless — the stuff the president should be working on."

Remarked cab driver Abdul R. Kamara, who ferried Mrs. Jones downtown: "She popped into my cab, and I thought, 'Wow! This is history.'"

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Saddam threatens to end cooperation

By Leon Barkho

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Adding a threat to the standoff in Iraq, President Saddam Hussein vowed Saturday to suspend cooperation with U.N. weapons inspectors if the United Nations doesn't lift tough economic sanctions within the next four months.

The chief U.N. inspector, en route to Baghdad to persuade Iraq to grant inspectors entry to all sites, responded with a warning of his own.

"We must have the access we require. Otherwise, there is going to be nothing but further sanctions," Richard Butler said during a stop in the Persian Gulf nation of Bahrain.

The U.N. Security Council ordered Iraq to dismantle its nuclear, chemical and biological weapons programs as a condition for ending the 1991 Persian Gulf War. U.N. officials have reported progress in the nuclear and chemical areas, but suspect Iraq is holding back significant information on biological weapons. The inspectors' job is to find out the truth.

In November, Iraq's National Assembly, which takes its cue from the leadership, recommended suspending ties if the inspectors don't finish their disarmament activities before May 20.

In a televised speech marking the seventh anniversary of the Gulf War, Saddam said that if the inspections are not over by that time, he will follow the lawmakers' recommendation.

Iraq is ready to "bear the responsibilities for such a position," he said.

Saddam Hussein

"There is no way and no alternative to that course," said the Iraqi president, dressed in a green military uniform.

The United Nations pulled all its inspectors out of the country in November after Iraq expelled all American members of the monitoring teams. The three-week crisis was resolved in a Russian-brokered deal.

Butler said Saddam's latest threat was nothing new.

"I noticed that he repeated what was said last November when that crisis occurred," Butler said, "but we are in a very serious moment now."

Relations between Iraq and the United Nations have been particularly tense in recent days, following Iraq's decision to bar an American-led U.N. team from inspecting sites. Iraq maintained the group included too many Americans and Britons. Other U.N. weapons inspection teams have continued their work in Iraq.

The team led by American Scott Ritter left Friday, in what U.N. officials characterized as a scheduled departure not a surrender to Iraqi pressure.

In his 55-minute speech Saturday, Saddam criticized the United States for its "aggressive policies toward Iraq" and described Washington as "an arrogant, blind power which sees nothing but its narrow interests."

He urged the Clinton administration to reconsider its policies toward Iraq and bring about an end to the sanctions.

"They should not be disillusioned again that they can achieve now what they have failed to achieve by means of deception and intimidation through military means because they have already tested that on more than one occasion," he said.

There was no official response from Washington.

Iraq has long been concerned by what it believes is Washington's determination to keep sanctions in place even after Iraq has complied with the U.N. resolutions on disarmament.

Saddam said Iraq did not fear military threats and that Baghdad was "impregnable." He also appealed to other Arab countries to support Iraq in its efforts to lift the U.N. sanctions.

Butler, meanwhile, was expected to travel Monday to Baghdad to seek full U.N. access to all sites and missing information on weapons programs, and to press for a long-term monitoring system, said Gustavo Zlauvinen, Butler's political adviser.

Butler said: "I earnestly hope that on Monday and Tuesday in Baghdad we find solutions to these problems."

US: Iraq must comply with UN

Airman Edgar Moya, of El Paso, Texas, standing, displays a weight board to Aviation Boatswains Mate 3rd Class Cary Strome, of Riverside, Calif., on the flight deck of the USS Nimitz on Friday in the Persian Gulf. AP

WASHINGTON (AP) — Responding to new threats by President Saddam Hussein, the Clinton administration pledged Saturday that sanctions will remain in place against Iraq until Baghdad fully complies with U.N. resolutions.

"The only way that sanctions can be lifted is if Saddam Hussein ensures that his government cooperates with the U.N. under the terms the U.N. has set out and with the people the U.N. thinks are necessary," State Department spokesman James P. Rubin said.

"It's not up to Iraq to dictate those terms," Rubin told The Associated Press. "If (Saddam) doesn't comply, he only has himself to blame for the continuation of the sanctions."

Earlier Saturday, Saddam threatened to suspend cooperation with U.N. weapons inspectors if the United Nations doesn't lift economic sanctions within four months.

In a televised speech marking the seventh anniversary of the Persian Gulf War, Saddam said "there is no way and no alternative to that course" and his country is ready to "bear the responsibilities for such a position."

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Turkish Muslims to regroup

By Yalman Onaran

SINCAN, Turkey (AP)—Conservative Muslims, a growing segment of the traditionally secular Turkish society, looked ahead Saturday to the next incarnation of the country's Islamic political movement.

A day after a court outlawed the Islamic-led Welfare Party as unconstitutional, its members and supporters were ready to regroup under a new organization.

''Our name and emblem may be changed but we will continue on our road," said Lutfi Esengun, a leading official in Welfare, which received the most votes —6 million — in 1995 elections.

Welfare supporters already have already established a new party, called Virtue.

But leaders are refusing to discuss their strategy, fearing a pre-emptive move by the chief prosecutor, who has vowed to prevent a rebirth of the party. He can demand the closure of new parties that can be proven to be successarsof Welfare.

The closure verdict doesn't take effect for about a month, and experts say the party leadership will decide on its next step methodically.

The Constitutional Court outlawed Welfare under a provision that prohibits parties based on ethnicity, religion or communist ideology. It also slapped political bans on its leaders, including Necmettin Erbakan, the former prime minister who has led the Islamic movement since its inception 28 years ago.

On Saturday, another prosecutor said he would seek a trial against Erbalcan and the other leaders on charges of causing national hatred based on religious differences.

Despite its overwhelmingly Islamic population, Turkey's constitution bans parties ba~sed on ethnicity, religion or communist ideology — and the armed fo~ces consider themselves the Fote~tor of that secular status.

The Constitutional Court has shut down many Kurdish and communist parties in the past, as well as a predecessor of Welfare in 1971. Its successor, the National Salvation Party, was closed along with other parties in a 1980 military coup. Welfare was founded in July 1983.

Many Turks interviewed Saturday said- they had never voted for Welfare but would vote for a new Islamic party, at least partially out of anger at the closure.

''I wouldn't think twice before voting for a more moderate Islamic party under the leadership of Tayyip Erdogan," said Ayse Yilmaz, a woman working at a coffee shop in Ankara's Western-oriented downtown.

Tayyip Erdogan, Istanbul's mayor, has been cited as the most likely successor to Erbakan as leader of the country's Islamic movement.

''This is part of the attack on our religion," said Mahmut Gokce, an employee at a butcher shop in Sincan, a conservative Muslim town 25 miles west of the capital.

Turkey's Islamic Welfare Party leader Necmettin Erbakan, left, and center-right True Path Party Chairwoman Tansu Ciller smile together to journalists at the begining of their meeting in Parliament in Ankara on Friday. AP

Sincan's residents witnessed the earliest signs of a campaign by Turkey's powerful military against political Islam. Tanks rolled through this town last February after calls for~an Islamic regime were made during a rally: organized by Sincan's Welfare mayor.

The tanks were a harbinger of a larger military-led campaign that brought about the Erbakan government's resignation and was capped by Friday's court decision.

''They don't want our religion to spread," said Hatice Akgumus, a mother of four. ''But there'll be a new party and well vote for that."

2 Saudi septuplets critical

By Faiza Saleh Ambah

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Two of seven babies born to a Saudi couple were placed on ventilators to help them breathe and were in critical condition, doctors said Saturday.

The four boys and three girls — the second set of septuplets delivered in Saudi Arabia in six months — were born Wednesday to Hasna Mohammed Humair, a 40-year-old mother of six.

The other babies were reported in good condition in the Abha obstetric hospital in the southern province of Aseer, 750 miles south of the capital, Riyadh.

Mrs. Humair had been taking the fertility drug Clomid, said hospital officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity. The babies are only the third set of septuplets in the world known to have been born alive.

In November, a Carlisle, Iowa, woman attracted worldwide attention after successfully giving birth to seven babies.

Four of the children born to Bobbi McCaughey — three boys and a girl — have since returned home, while the other two girls and a boy were still hospitalized in fair condition.

Another set of septuplets was born in Saudi Arabia in September, but only one of the children has survived.

Mrs. Humair's septuplets weighed between 1 pound, 15 1/2 ounces and 2 pounds, 10 ounces at birth, said hospital officials. They were delivered by Caesarean section eight weeks prematurely and all are in incubators.

The mother remained in intensive care Saturday, one hospital official said.

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Arafat nixes West Bank plan

Yasser Arafat

By Ibrahim Barzak

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Just days before key talks with President Clinton, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat on Saturday denounced Israel's claim that it must retain most of the West Bank for its own security.

"How can we accept it?" Arafat asked reporters, referring to proposals under consideration by the Israeli Cabinet that would leave at least 50 percent of the West Bank in Israeli hands.

Palestinians now control about 27 percent of the West Bank, including most of its Arab population centers.

The Palestinians insist Israel carry out three troop pullbacks Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised a year ago in a U.S.-brokered accord, and say Israel can keep no more than 9 percent of the territory.

Netanyahu wants to combine the three pullouts into one, holding out the possibility of a smaller withdrawal and ultimately influencing the final borders agreed to.

He also has said he is no longer bound by the withdrawal timetable because the Palestinians have not fulfilled their promise to crack down on Islamic militants.

Clinton is to meet with Netanyahu on Tuesday and Arafat on Thursday, but the two sides remained far apart heading into the talks.

Last week, Netanyahu's Cabinet laid down 12 pages of demands, most dealing with security, that Palestinians would have to meet before an Israeli pullback.

The Palestinians have brushed off the demands as a ploy to deflect pressure from Israel and freeze the peace process.

The United States has said Israeli plans for ceding land to the Palestinians should be "credible," but did not specify an amount.

Palestinian officials speaking on condition of anonymity have said U.S. officials were pressing Israel to agree to a 12 to 15 percent withdrawal.

Arafat said the success of the talks hinge on "how Netanyahu is willing to deal with President Clinton, and how President Clinton will react to this new Israeli plan."

The Palestinian leader repeated that he hoped Clinton would press Netanyahu to fulfill provisions already agreed to by Israel "in a precise and honest way."

Meanwhile, tensions were evident in the West Bank town of Hebron on Saturday when a round of stone throwing broke out between Jewish settlers and Palestinians after a Palestinian threw a firecracker towards one of the Jewish compounds, the army said.

A border policeman was lightly injured from a stone the army said was thrown by a Jewish settler.

Palestinian police officers, left, aim their AK-47 assault rifles at Israeli soldiers during a confrontation which occured in the Gaza Strip town of Khan Yunis Thursday. Israeli-Palestinian tension has been rising in recent days ahead of separate meetings President Clinton has scheduled with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. AP

Qatar fires more than 150 Egyptians

DOHA, Qatar (AP) — The Interior Ministry in this tiny Gulf kingdom has fired more than 150 Egyptian workers in the wake of new tensions between the two countries, an Egyptian diplomat said Saturday.

The firings are part of a trend to ease Egyptian workers from Qatar's public sector, said the diplomat, who spoke on condition of anonymity. About 5,000 more Egyptians might be fired by summer, he said.

The diplomat did not specify what kind of work the dismissed employees were doing, but most Egyptians in the Gulf region are manual laborers.

A spokesman for Qatar's Interior Ministry refused to comment on the dismissals.

An estimated 600,000 people live in Qatar, which is rich in gas and oil, but just 180,000 are citizens. The majority of residents are foreign workers, including some 25,000 Egyptians.

In Cairo, Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said Egypt is considering the dismissals, the official Middle East News Agency reported.

"Egyptians working in Qatar should be respected, and their rights should be respected, too," the news agency quoted Moussa as saying.

Egyptian-Qatari ties soured in November after Egypt joined several Arab countries in boycotting the Middle East and North Africa economic conference that was held in Doha.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak was reported to have reconciled with the Qatari emir, Sheik Hamad bin Khalifa Al Thani, when King Fahd of Saudi Arabia brought them together in Riyadh last month.

But tensions quickly returned, with Egypt imposing visas on Qatari visitors and a Qatari newspaper publishing a cartoon that mocked Egypt's Grand Sheik of Al-Azhar, one of the Muslim world's most prominent scholars, for meeting Israel's chief rabbi.

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For upcoming Pope visit

Castro urges big turnout

By John Rice

HAVANA (AP) — Putting his prestige on the line, President Fidel Castro admitted Saturday that socialists made errors in Pope John Paul II's native Poland but insisted the papal visit this week poses no threat to Cuba's revolution.

In a live television appearance broadcast nationwide, Castro urged his followers, long trained in atheism, to attend Mass with the pope and warned them not to protest papal statements.

"We should all participate in the Masses," Castro said, calling for "a great reception" throughout Cuba from the moment the pope lands at Havana airport on Jan. 21.

"We will show that a socialist, communist revolution is capable of respecting all believers and all non-believers," Castro said during his nearly six-hour appearance, which ended shortly before 3 a.m. Saturday. Almost all of his comments about the pope came after midnight.

"I myself will be at that Mass," Castro said.

Castro conceded that it would be difficult for some communists to understand the welcome for a pontiff often seen as a fierce foe of communism. Cuba itself was officially atheist from 1962 to 1992.

But Castro's face grew stern as he warned: "Nobody should raise a single political slogan. Nobody should raise a single placard. ... Nobody should shout "Vivas!" for any leader of the revolution.

"Nobody should express any sign of protest at any word pronounced on an altar."

Castro admitted that the pope had opposed communism in Poland. He suggested that may have been due to "historic errors" by socialists, who imposed a dogmatic Marxist regime under Soviet guidance in an overwhelmingly Roman Catholic country that fiercely resented Soviet influence.

The papal visit, Castro said, had created widespread expectation among Cuba's foes that "the pope is coming to Cuba to meet with that demon Castro in the last bastion of communism, and the hope is that this will be the end of the Cuban revolution."

Young Cubans ride bicycles Saturday in the Marianao neighborhood of Havana, Cuba in front of a billboard welcoming Pope John Paul II. The Pontiff will visit the island nation Jan. 21-25. CP photo

Fidel Castro

But he said the Jan. 11 parliamentary election here, for which officials claim a 98 percent turnout, shows the strength of Cuba's socialist system.

"Should we perhaps be worried that something we disagree with is said? That a word or phrase expresses an idea different from ours? No."

Castro insisted that with the end of the Cold War, the pope's concerns often mirror those of socialists and he cited extensively from papal condemnations of nuclear proliferation, poverty and inequality.

"This pope is possibly one of the greatest headaches that imperialism has now," Castro said.

The Cuban leader also granted the Roman Catholic church many of the conditions it had been seeking for the visit.

Castro said the final Mass would be televised live throughout the country. He said officials would give workers time off to attend the weekday Masses and would help transport people from distant sites to the Masses.

Castro lavished praise on the

Cuba denies some journalists visas

By Frank Bajak

MEXICO CITY (AP) — Four days before the pope's arrival in Cuba, the communist island nation had not issued visas for at least 20 foreign journalists as of Saturday.

Pope John Paul II's visit to the Caribbean island begins Wednesday. Cuban officials said Saturday that more than 3,000 foreign journalists had received visas, including three from the U.S. government's Voice of America.

"I am not going to tell you how many visas we did not approve but look around, everyone is here. All the networks are here," Cuba's international press director, Frank Gonzalez, told The Associated Press in Havana.

Among those who had not received visas as of Saturday were 16 journalists at the Miami Herald, and its sister Spanish-language publication, El Nuevo Herald. At least one Mexican and three Argentine journalists also had not received visas.

"I think it is sad and outrageous that the Cubans feel they have to restrict coverage of an event as historic as this," said Juan O. Tamayo, a senior reporter and former foreign editor at the Herald.

The Herald reported Saturday that more than 60 reporters, more than half from the Cuban exile stronghold of Miami, had not been granted Cuban visas.

The Cuban government has regularly complained that coverage of the communist state by The Miami Herald has been too negative.

The last time a Miami Herald reporter was granted a journalist's visa was April 1996, Tamayo said.

Many foreign media organizations complain that Castro retaliates against those who file what his government considers negative reports from the island, frequently expelling reporters who do not obtain journalist visas and denying future access.

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Indonesia revising budget

To keep in line with IMF reform package, says report

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — In line with demands for sweeping economic reform by the International Monetary Fund, Indonesia's government plans to revise a controversial budget and present it to parliament as soon as possible, the official news agency reported Sunday.

"The revised draft state budget must be immediately submitted to the House of Representatives," Antara quoted National Development Planning Minister Ginandjar Kartasasmita as saying Saturday.

President Suharto presented an original state budget on Jan. 6, but optimistic estimates of an inflation rate of 9 percent and a economic growth rate of 4 percent in 1998 sent the value of the rupiah plunging to an all time low.

Nervous traders had regarded the budget as a sign that the government was backsliding on reform commitments made to the IMF in exchange for a $ 40 billion rescue package put together in October.

The IMF intervened after the currency's latest crash and Suharto agreed to deepen and accelerate reforms in a deal struck on Thursday.

Under the terms of the new IMF package, inflation has been estimated to soar to a rate of 20 percent and zero growth is expected.

A wide range of subsidies, tariffs and monopolies have also been abolished.

"Zero growth does not mean that there is no growth, but it means that the government does not set a target of growth," Ginandjar said.

He said he hoped the budget revision process could be completed before a 1,000-member assembly holds a presidential election in early March.

Suharto, 76, has been nominated by the ruling Golkar party and is expected to be elected to a seventh consecutive five-year term. But he has not named a vice-presidential candidate.

Analysts are keenly waiting to see who will be elected vice-president as this might indicate who will succeed Suharto — Asia's longest serving leader who has governed Indonesia uninterrupted for 32 years.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, right, speaks at a news conference while Indonesian President Suharto, left, looks on in Jakarta Saturday. Mahathir is meeting with Suharto to discuss the regional economic crisis. AP

Dengue fever cases rise in East Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — The Malaysian government started a campaign in the state of Borneo Sunday to curtail the spread of dengue fever that has killed one person, the national news agency Bernama reported.

This year, 64 cases of the mosquito-born infection — characterized by joint aches, rash and fever — have already been reported in Sibu, 1030 kilometers (640 miles) southeast of here in Sarawak state, Bernama said.

In contrast, 138 cases were recorded in Sibu for the entire 12 months of last year, it said.

An 18-year-old girl died Saturday at Sibu Hospital of dengue fever. Another 18-year-old also believed to have caught the disease is in a coma.

Sibu's Assistant Minister of Environment and Public Health Soon Choon Teck urged the local state council to take action.

But he said the spread of the sickness was not yet out of control.

Last year, the state of Sarawak had 591 cases of dengue that resulted in eight deaths.

Man survives parachute fall

HASTINGS, New Zealand (AP) — A man narrowly escaped death when his parachute failed at New Zealand's National Paragliding Championship on Saturday.

Lyn Watkins plunged 30 meters (yards) after freak winds deflated his parachute during a jump.

He was airlifted to hospital with pelvic and shoulder injuries.

Paragliding competitors wearing parachutes leap off steep hills into wind gusts and see how far they can fly.

Watkins said he was in the air for just ten seconds before he struck turbulence and his parachute collapsed.

Asked if he was ready to go paragliding again, Watkins said: " No, I'm not. I'll probably sit it out for a year or two.

It's a sport that requires a keen judgement and obviously I don't have that at the moment and I have a wife and child to take care of.

Forest . . .

Continued from page 2

gency services on Sunday sealed off some hillside suburbs to prevent residents people from straying into the region of two large fires burning on the city's fringes.

At least five homes were razed at the height of the blaze late Saturday, and the city remained shrouded in thick grey smoke.

Tasmania Fire Services spokesman John Roberts said the fires had burnt more than 2,700 hectares. Some of the more than 300 firefighters battling the blazes described a "sheets of flame" during Saturday night.

Two firefighters were treated for smoke inhalation. No other injuries were reported, fire officers said.

Wind were lessening and the temperature dropping late Sunday, prompting authorities to say the worst of the danger passed.

However, two fires close to the city's southern suburbs were being watched closely.

The smoke cloud dampened tourist activity in the city, which is still recovering after the April, 1996, massacre of 35 people at the nearby Port Arthur tourist site by lone gunman Martin Bryant.

Across the country, firefighters have been battling dozens of blazes, mostly in unpopulated areas, since the start of summer.

Small fires, often started by lightening strikes and camp fires, erupt suddenly in huge forest tracts when strong wind bursts accompany typically hot and dry weather.

In December, three men died and 12 houses on Sydney's fringe were destroyed when fires broke out in New South Wales. A fourth died in separate fires in January. Two others died in fires in Western Australia, also in December.

Meanwhile in the north of the nation, towns in north Queensland state have on Sunday continued mopping up after a flooding and heavy rains caused by a cyclone hovering off the coast.

Weather forecasters downgraded Cyclone Katrina and said Sunday it was unlikely to cross the coast.

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

This is to inform the public that the State Independent Living Council will hold its meeting on Wednesday, January 21, 1998 at 10:30 am at the PREL Office located in the 2nd floor at Bank of Hawaii in Puerto Rico. Interested persons are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

I. CALL TO ORDER
II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
III. ADOPTION OF LAST MINUTES (11/26/97)
IV. DRAFT BY-LAWS
V. STATUS OF POSITION DESCRIPTION
VI. INDEPENDENT LIVING CENTER GRANT
VII. GRANT WRITING ASSISTANCE
VIII. OTHER ITEMS FROM SILC MEMBERS
IX. MISCELLANEOUS
X. ADJOURNMENT

In compliance with the American with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but requires accessibility such as large print or sign language interpreters, must call 664-6538 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY). Advance notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

(s) BRIAN FARLEY
Chair

Geomancy a challenge in Japan

By Joseph Coleman

TOKYO (AP) — The apartment was dangerous. The toilet was smack in the path of the "Devil's Gate." A bedroom protruded unnaturally beside the front door. In a lucky spot for a room, there was a wide balcony instead.

Risky, but not beyond repair, geomancer Mari Minamoto decided. She advised shutting off the offending room, ringing the balcony with plants and using it like another room. And keep the toilet sparkling clean.

Such is the imperfect practice of geomancy — the ancient Chinese art of positioning buildings and furniture to harmonize man with nature — in the crowded, chockablock apartments of Tokyo.

"You can't make it perfect, but you can make it better," Minamoto says.

Geomancy, known in Japanese as "kaso" and derived from the Chinese "feng shui," has been practiced here for centuries, and was used in the building of two early Japanese capitals in the 7th and 8th centuries.

But its ancient inventors apparently didn't have a sprawling, cramped metropolis like Tokyo in mind when they crafted their art from the stars, the calendar and the compass.

Take the ideal piece of land for a geomantically friendly house: almost 3,600 square feet. That's a princely plot in a city where land is often more expensive than the building that sits on it.

"You just need a lot of land — that's a luxury in Japan," says Minamoto, who also practices numerology and works at a company founded by her father, a well-known diviner.

Add to that the lack of space inside and between houses and apartments and construction companies more concerned with costs than cosmology, and you have the perfect recipe for geomantic frustration.

"We do only the minimum about it, such as avoiding the Devil's Gate for certain things," says Asako Ohara, a spokeswoman for Misawa Homes construction company. "We don't change plans drastically because of kaso."

The "Devil's Gate" is the most inauspicious of directions to face, usually the northeast.

Typically, Minamoto receives a floor plan from a customer, determines the center of the home and uses a transparent disk that charts the lucky and unlucky areas of the house.

Of prime importance are the entrance, places for fire, like the kitchen, and places of water, like the toilet and bath. Customers' birth dates are also factored into the equation. A string of consultations can run to around 100,000 yen ($800).

Railway workers and police officers investigate at the collision site of a six-car commuter train and a trailer loaded with heavy concrete blocks in Yamakita Town in Kanagawa Prefecture, south of Tokyo, Friday morning. The trailer slipped in snow at the railway crossing and collided with the train, injuring six passengers. AP

Tokyo practices 'art of small places'

By Joseph Coleman

TOKYO (AP) — Stacks of books and magazines blanket one wall. Across the apartment — about three feet away — a mountain of clothes lies on the bed. A TV, two turntables and a computer cover the desk.

Beside the sink, Taiyo Akagi crouches in his tub, which is an oversized bucket he found in the street, and lathers his dyed-blond hair.

"I used to be an office worker, but I quit two years ago," Akagi says while demonstrating his bath for a visitor. "I couldn't take wearing a suit and taking the same train to work every day."

Despite the cramped surroundings, Akagi, 28, and the dozens of twentysomethings living in his run-down apartment building in western Tokyo are not down on their luck.

Instead, they consider themselves the chic practitioners of an ancient Japanese art — the art of living in small places.

The clutter of tiny apartments like Akagi's better represents Japanese living than the temple-like homes and rock gardens of architectural magazines, says Kyoichi Tsuzuki, a photographer and writer.

"Large houses in most cases are boring, because they don't show any character," he argues. "But small houses don't hide anything because you can see, 'Oh, this guy is wearing these shoes.' You walk in and see his personality."

In Tsuzuki's "Tokyo Style," a compilation of photographs of homes and rooms around the city, walls are piled high with stereos and stacks of CDs. A pole suspended from the ceiling above a bed functions as a closet. Every space is taken up with knick-knacks, plants, telephones, books.

For centuries, urban Japanese have lived in tight quarters out of lack of money and space. What sets Akagi and his peers apart is that they choose smaller places — and smaller rents — and spend their money elsewhere.

"We are outlaws," says Akagi, a freelance writer for about 15 entertainment magazines. His 108-square-foot room — about the size of a large walk-in closet — costs 32,000 yen ($300) a month.

One look around the room tells the visitor what his generation's priorities are: TV, a Sony electric keyboard, a laptop computer and hundreds of magazines and comics.

"I don't want to work just for my rent," says Akagi, who moved into his room two years ago. He spends much of his time — and money — at music clubs, comic shows and movies gathering material for his articles.

But living in a such small quarters can wear on some, particularly if they have the means to expand. Akagi, who can make as much as $10,000 in a good month, says he'll probably move to a bigger place in a few years.

For now, though, he's comfortable having everything he owns at arm's reach.

Japanese prospective customers surround a corner with pop singer Samantha Cole CDs at a Tower Records shop in Tokyo Monday. While the suddenly mighty U.S. dollar has turned some Asian products into bargains for Americans, its effect on shoppers on this side of the Pacific is barely beginning to be felt. One exception in Tokyo was at Tower Records, where an apologestic sign was posted to raise across-the-board prices on imported items 100 yen starting Jan. 6. AP

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'Paradise. . .

Continued from page 9

for life's precious liquid. During the dry season of January and February the average rainfall is only about 3.3 and 2.8 inches but this precipitation is not equally distributed over the island and the water supply of many people dropped to dangerously low levels. Some tanks remained dry.

The hospital was inundated with people suffering from heat prostration and dysentery. Fights broke out as tempers flared as a result of extreme discomfort.

As the Department of Public Safety's fuel reserves fell dangerously low, their emergency vehicles remained for only the most extreme crimes.

Government offices ceased to function, tax collections went unrecorded, criminal records could not be retrieved from the memory banks of dead computers. Legislative offices closed down. No power, no laws passed. Everything collapsed, it was June 1944 all over again.

Tourist arrivals fell to zero as hotels received thousands of cancellations.

Marginal businesses went bankrupt over night. Video stores, restaurants, auto repair shops, taxies and many others went out of business. Banks closed as a result of computer failure. A financial typhoon swept over the island. One month after the tragedy government revenue collections from the private sector fell 72 percent.

Golf course greens were burnt brown. Tour buses ceased to operate. Unemployment levels rose to unprecedented levels as businesses closed for lack of customers. Without a paycheck, their employees had to rely on soup kitchens for food. It was an economic multiplier effect in reverse, a "shrinkage effect" brought on by an "economic meltdown."

While a few individual generators were flown in for small users the difficulty in obtaining fuel remained. The only source was Guam by way of barge shipments in relatively small quantities.

Many people discovered it was illegal to ship gasoline by air. Gasoline prices jumped to seven dollars a gallon - when it could be found.

Unemployment percentages increased to the highest levels since the devastation of World War Two. Those that ventured out were like sleep walkers, stumbling along the road in dazed silence walking toward the lagoon for the comforting wet sacrament it offered as relief from the day's heat.

The Red Cross and the U. S. military provided a measure of emergency assistance to the stricken island.

The President declared Saipan a disaster area thereby making federal funds available to meet a portion of the island's immediate needs. But the losses to the economy could never be made up.

It hasn't happened yet - but it could.

3 charged. . .

Continued from page 5

moned the three defendants to appear in court on Feb. 2 and answer the charges.

A 53-year-old Chinese man was injured after he was stabbed by one of two suspects with a machete in Garapan on Thursday.

Acting Department of Public Safety Information Officer Sgt. Franklin Babauta said the victim was stabbed once in the back and was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center.

Babauta said prior to the attack, the victim was seen talking with a woman at Ha-la Karaoke.

When the victim left, two men who were sitting on the stairs at the establishment followed. One of the men then stabbed the victim with a machete.

The suspects fled.

In San Antonio, unidentified person/s broke into a barracks near Afetnas Square and stole money and assorted jewelries belonging to three workers on Thursday.

FEMA. . .

Continued from page 10

ments. The formula limits funding to 15 percent of FEMA's estimated total disaster costs for all other categories of assistance," Newton stressed.

He said that communities can apply through the state for the program following a Presidential disaster declaration.

As grantee, Newton said, the state is responsible for notifying potential applicants of the availability of funding, defining a project identification and selection process, ranking and prioritizing projects for funding and forwarding projects to FEMA for approval.

"Approved projects are carried out by the applicant, or subgrantee. The state or grantee must provide a 25 percent match, which can be fashioned from a combination of cash and in-kind sources," he said. The state or grantee must provide

MOM'S ROUND TWO

Menu for the Week

MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
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THURSDAY	FRIDAY
(Twin Special) 1) Cheddar Chicken Breast Roll w/Gravy Served w/ Mashed Potato, Mix Vegetable & Roll $7.00 2) Pancheta Wraped Fried Yellow Fin Served w/Rice, Vegetable of the day & Roll $7.00	(Twin Special) 1) Tuna Caserole Served w/Garlic Bread & Salad $7.00 2) Beef Brocolli Served w/Rice and Garlic Bread $7.00

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Death and Funeral Announcement

Francisco Arriola Manahane

Born: November 2, 1922
Died: January 15,1998

Was called to his eternal rest on
Thursday, January 15, 1998 at the age of 75.

In his death, he now joins his wife, Mrs. Magdalena S. Manahane.

His parents:
Leon Guerrero Manahane
Rosa Cabrera Arriola Manahane

Brothers and Sisters:
Emilio Arriola Manahane (deceased)
Rita Arriola Manahane (deceased)
Ana Manahane Deleon Guerrero (deceased)
Manuel Arriola Manahane (deceased)
Josepha Arriola Manahane (deceased)

He is survived by his brother:
Luis Arriola Manahane

He is also survived by the following sons, daughters, and spouses:

John S. Del Rosario and Julie: (Elaine, Erlyn, John, Maybelleine, Roland, Maria, and Neva)
Frank S. Rosario: (Lawrence, Lucinda, Loretta, Rodney, Randy, and Ramsey)
Ronald S. Del Rosario and Connie: (John)
Herbert S. Del Rosario and Rosa: (John Peter, Tricia, Tracy, and Herbert Jr.)
Manuel S. Manahane and Flora (Marvin, Melvin, Florina, and Delvin)
David S. Manahane and Shirley (David Jr., Derek and Bernard)
Emilio S. Manahane and Kumiko (Emilio, Jennifer, Kenneth, Kimberly, and Kirk)
Luis S. Manahane (Luis, Juan, Matthew, Michelle, Jose, Marlena, Maybelleine, Marcos, Madeleine and Leslie))
Maria M. Mickelson and John (Justin, Austin, and Zoe)
Francisca M. Colvin and Russell: (Raynard, Christopher, Donnell and Bryan)
Ramon S. Manahane and Joyce (Christian, Charlene, Chansay, and Kelsey)
Jose S. Manahane and Bertha: (Jennifer, Charnelsa, Patricia, Colton, Bianca, Jose Jr., Trent, and Tremaine)
Rita M. Taitano and Canice: (Sylvia and Marlena)
Anthony S. Manahane and Frances (Zsa Zsa and Troy)

He is additionally survived by numerous uncles, cousins, grandchildren, nieces, nephews, and relatives.

Rosary is being said nightly at 8:00 p.m. at St. Jude Church at As Perdido. Last respects will be held on Friday, January 23,1998 at 8:00 a.m. Mass of Christian Burial will be conducted at 3:00 p.m. at St. Jude Church. Burial will follow at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

The Family

One . . .

Continued from page 1

contracts or personnel actions over $5,000.

The restrictions will be enforced during the next 60-days.

In signing the memo, Tenorio said once government's financial status is better known, the restrictions may be lifted.

Meanwhile, urgent items covered by the restrictions can still be submitted for approval to the governor's office of the special assistant for administration.

Then governor Tenorio has denied that the government has cash flow problems, adding that revenues are still going up and the government will continue to run a small surplus.

Asked for a comment, a key aide of the new governor said Tenorio's "rosy" statements may be "delusional."

Economist . . .

Continued from page 1

Korean won against the US dollar, and the currency turmoil in the Asian region.

He explained that since the CNMI uses the US dollar as its currency, a visit to the Northern Marianas becomes more expensive, while the currency devaluation in Thailand, Indonesia and the Philippines have made these countries a cheaper destination for travellers.

Stephens also cited the "labor costs factor" as among the negative elements in the CNMI economy for the new year, stressing that garments are becoming a lot cheaper to be done in the Philippines because of the peso plunge.

"There will be an eventual impact on the local economy (because of this)," he added.

He is also predicting a slump in stores and restaurants' revenues this year, adding that the retail sector will be in for some "real changes."

"There's nothing the CNMI could have done to avoid this situation. If a recession hits, it's nobody's fault. It is a consequence of being a part of the global economy," he said.

However, Stephens said he is expecting a drop in prices of consumer goods, as well as in prices of new cars and office space rentals, though he is not very optimistic about the NMI's real estate sector.

"The real estate market sector here is so thin it's always difficult to know what will happen," he explained.

Stephens said some business sectors, especially those in the lending industry, will do relatively well during the recession.

"Pawnshops and neighborhood lenders can do well. Automobile repair shops, as well as parts stores, can do well if people start keeping their cars longer instead of buying new ones," he said.

Chamber . . .

Continued from page 1

The new Chamber head stressed the need for cooperation among business and government people to be able to address the CNMI's alleged serious problems with its labor and immigration policies.

"Our problems are not beyond solution if everyone works together," Ayuyu said in his speech.

The Department of Insular Affairs last week released a report of the Commission on Immigration Reforms, a congressionally-made, bi-partisan fact-finding body, which branded CNMI's immigration policy as marred with "serious problems."

But Ayuyu believes the Northern Marianas is still an "ideal" location to do business, while stressing that employers who continue to abuse non-resident workers are non-Chamber members.

Ayuyu, who was Chamber president in the early 1990s, is currently a franchise holder for the local Saipan McDonald's Restaurant. He recently served with the Tax Tax Force formed by then Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio as its chairman.

"There are only a few fringe businesses, all of which are non-members of the Chamber, that continue to treat their workers in a manner in which they they are permitted to abuse them in their home country," the new Chamber head said.

He has called on his fellow businessmen "to strike the clock for solution before someone else rings the bell for us," referring to the increased involvement of the Federal Government in the CNMI's internal affairs.

He stressed that the lack of English proficiency among some investors in the CNMI is the "deficiency that is responsible for many of the problems with the US government."

"Let's set the record straight. We in the business community are the only ones that can solve the problem. The government will never be able to find a solution to our satisfaction for the simple reason that the government is not entirely responsible for creating it," Ayuyu said.

He added that he has already talked with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, Insular Affairs director Allen Stayman and other Interior officials to address the labor problems and issues.

While stressing that the Chamber, or anyone from the business group, is not liable to any reported abuses against non-resident workers, Ayuyu admitted that "some within the private sector created the problem."

"...the federal government is giving the rest of us one last chance to solve the matter and get our economic house in order. If we don't do it, then they will step in and do it for us," he said.

FOR SALE

SAN JOSE BEACH ROAD
3 STORIES BUILDING

1st Floor - 3,100 sqf.
COMMERCIAL SPACE

2nd Floor - 3,100 sqf.
Complete Rest.(Full/Furnished)

3rd Floor - 1,240 sqf.
2 Bedroom (Big House)

GOOD CONDITION

PLEASE CALL: 483-8008 (CELLULAR PHONE)
233-0390 (HOME)

Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION: Manager, Accounting Br. LOCATION: NMI Retirement Fund, Saipan

Nature of Work:
The employee is responsible for maintaining the accounting records and accounts for the NMI Retirement Fund including the Workers' Compensation Commission, and Group Health and Life Insurance program

Duties and Responsibilities;
Prepare all financial reports required by the Administrator. Ensure that all transactions are properly classified by accounts and accurately documented and entered into the computer; prepares all journal vouchers and entries for all transactions including journal entries for all investment transactions and activities. Certify the availability of funds, and ensure all disbursements are proper and accurate. Maintain and update subsidiary ledgers for Accounts Receivables and Accounts Payables, and review reconciliation of bank accounts.

Qualification Requirements:
The incumbent must possess a bachelor's degree in accounting or related field plus at least 4 years of progressively responsible experience in the field of accounting. Computer knowledge is essential particularly in software programs such as Peach Tree, Dbase, Lotus, or Quattro Pro.

Salary: The salary range is between Pay Level 33/1 to PL 33/12, depending on qualification and experience.

Application forms and a copy of the position description may be obtained at the NMI Retirement Fund office in Saipan. Completed applications should be submitted to the attention of the Administrator, Edward H. Manglona, NMI Retirement Fund, P.O. Box 1247, Nauru Building, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 4:00 p.m. on Friday, February 13, 1998.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Jose Palacios Babauta

"Josen Ing"

DOB: March 02, 1934
DIED: January 14, 1998
AGE: 64

Survived by Wife:	Maria F. Babauta (Deceased)
Brother:	Sabino P. Babauta
Father & Mother:	Jose P. & Nieves Babauta
Children:	Maria B. Taga (Henry), Anna B. Lizama (Albert) Vicente F. Babauta, Francisco F. Babauta (Tina) Edward F. Babauta (Bobbie), Carmen B. Atalig (Anthony) Nieves F. Babauta (Jose), Alejo F. Babauta (Frances) Ramon F. Babauta (Deceased), Margarita F. Babauta (Deceased) & Lorenza F. Babauta (Deceased)
Step Children:	Emeteria F. Baladad (Arthuro-Deceased), Maria F. Hocog (Jesus), Angel A. Fujihira (Maria), Jose A. Fujihira-Deceased (Marina)

Grand children:61
Great grandchildren: 23

Last Respect:
The decease will come out from CHC on Thursday (January 22, 1998) at 8:00 am and wil be put at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Albert P. Lizama in Koblerville. Responso will be at 12:00 p.m. (January 22, 1998) and the mass will be held at the same day at San Antonio Church at 4:00 p.m. and will be followed by burial at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery. After the burial, every one is invited for dinner at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Albert P. Lizama in Koblerville.

Thank You & Si Yu'us Ma'ase
for your presence & prayer.

The Family

ALCOHOLIC ANONYMOUS MEETS

Alcoholic Anonymous, a support group for those with drinking (or drugging) problems meets every Monday, Wednesday, and Saturday at 7:00 p.m., and Fridays at 7:30 p.m. at the Kristo Rai Church in Garapan.
For more information, call the HOTLINE at 234-5100 or Wolf M. at 234-6615 (and leave message).

Marianas Variety News & Views
Classified Ads Section

DEADLINE: 12:00 noon the day prior to publication

NOTE: If some reason your advertisement is incorrect, call us immediately to make the necessary corrections. The Marianas Variety News and Views is responsible only for one incorrect insertion. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time.

Employment Wanted

Job Vacancy Announcement

05 WAITRESS-RESTAURANT-Salary:$3.05-3.55 per hour
01 WAITER (RESTAURANT)-Salary:$3/05-3.55 per hour
01 MANAGER, SALES RESERVATION (FRONT OFFICE)-Salary:$2,800.00-4,500.00 per month
05 HELPER, KITCHEN-Salary:$3.05-3.55 per hour
01 GARDENER-Salary:$3.05-3.59 per hour
01 MANAGER, FOOD & BEVERAGE-Salary:$3,800.00-5,500.00 per month
01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary:$3.23-3.55 per hour
01 COOK-Salary:$3.05-3.96 per hour
3 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:$3.05-3.55 per hour
01 ASSISTANT GENERAL MANAGER-Salary:$4,500.00-6,000.00 per month
01 CASHIER-Salary:$3.05-3.55 per hour
Contact: HOTEL NIKKO SAIPAN Tel. 322-3311(1/19)M25137

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:$3.05 per hour
Contact: CLIPPER AIRFREIGHT INC. Tel. 234-7892(1/19)M25138

01 MATERIAL HANDLING SUPERVISOR-Salary:$4.10 per hour
Contact: BASIC CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY CORP. Tel. 234-8779(1/26)M70212

01 TOUR COUNSELOR-Salary:$248.77 bi-weekly
Plus $200.00 housing allowance added onto salary beginning to pay period.
Contact: NIPPON TRAVEL AGENCY MICRONESIA, INC. dba Mach Tour (1/26)M251844

01 BEAUTICIAN-Salary:$3.15 per hour
Contact: NORMA A. CLAROS dba Claros Barber Shop/Claro's Ent. Tel. 234-5074 (1/26)M25185

02 AUDITOR-Salary:$1,300.00-1,800.00 per month
Contact: ERNST & YOUNG (CNMI), INC. dba Ernst & Young Tel. 234-8300 (1/26)M70218

02 X-RAY TECHNICIAN-Salary:$4.00-8.00 per hour
02 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:$3.05-7.00 per hour
03 MEDICAL TECHNOLOGIST-Salary:$4.00-10.00 per hour
03 PHARMACY TECHNICIAN-Salary:$4.00-10.00 per hour
06 REGISTERED NURSE-Salary:$4.00-10.00 per hour
Contact: MICRONESIA HEALTH SYSTEM, LTD. dba Pacific Medical Center Tel. 233-8100 (1/26)M25188

01 STEELMAN-Salary:$3.05 per hour
01 CARPENTER-Salary:$3.30 per hour
Contact: ROLAND G. JASTILLANA dba Arjay Construction (1/26)M70213

01 RESTAURANT WAITRESS-Salary:$3.05 per hour
Contact: ROLAND G. JASTILLANA dba Golden Lobster Rest. Tel. 234-7658 (1/26)M70211

01 INSTRUCTOR (SCUBA DIVING) SPORT-Salary:$1,100.00 per month
Contact: COMMONWEALTH MARINE LEISURE CORP. dba Marine Sport & Leisure (1/26)M25178

01 AUTO BODY REPAIRER-Salary:$3.05 per hour
Contact: ALLAN E. AND CYNTHIA S. RODEO dba Tanapag Auto Repair Shop Tel. 322-5572 (1/26)M25181

01 TECHNICAL OPERATOR-Salary:$4.75 to 5.75 per hour
Plus housing allowance: $225.00 per month
Contact: FAR EAST BROADCASTING COMPANY Tel. 322-9088(1/26)M25182

01 WELDER-Salary:$3.05 per hour
Contact: ZION CORPORATION dba Sign Arts Tel. 235-3366(1/26)M25175

01 WAITER, REST.-Salary:$3.05-3.35 per hour
01 COOK-Salary:$3.05-3.90 per hour
Contact: MICRO PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT, INC. dba Saipan Grand Hotel Tel. 234-6601(1/26)M70205

01 WELDER-Salary:$3.65-4.00 per hour
01 WAREHOUSEMAN-Salary:$3.05-3.65 per hour
01 CUSTOMER SERVICE MANAGER-Salary:$1,200.00-1,500.00 per month
Contact: SAIPAN SHIPPING COMPANY, INC. Tel. 322-9706 (1/26)M25180

01 WAITRESS (REST.)-Salary:$3.05 per hour
Contact: THE SAMURAI CORPORATION dba Hyaku-Ban Rest., Southern Cross Trop. Rest. Tel. 234-3374(1/23)F25173

82 OVERLOCK SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary:$3.05 per hour
01 PATTERN GRADER CUTTER-Salary:$3.05 per hour
01 CARPENTER-Salary:$3.05 per hour
01 MASON-Salary:$3.05 per hour
118 SINGLE NEEDLE MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary:$3.05 per hour
01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary:$3.30-4.00 per hour
13 IRONING WORKER (MACHINE PRESSER)-Salary:$3.05 per hour
Contact: UNITED INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION Tel. 235-6888(2/2)M25232

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:$6.15 per hour
04 TOURIST INFO. ASST. CLERK-Salary:$5.50-6.50 per hour
02 TRAVEL COUNSELOR-Salary:$1,200.00-1,465.00 per month
01 MARINE SPORTS INSTRUCTOR-Salary:$1,260.00 per month
01 TICKET AGENT-Salary:$1,750.00 per month
Contact: PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT, INC. Tel. 322-8876(2/2)M25231

01 SUPERVISOR-Salary:$3.05 per hour
Contact: IMPULSE CORPORATION dba Gift Shop Tel. 235-1899(2/2)M25230

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:$800.00 per month
Contact: PETER MICHAEL P. TENORIO dba Equitable Consulting Services Tel. 234-3218(2/2)M70298

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:$1,100.00 per month
Contact: MOYLAN'S INSURANCE UND. INT'L. Tel. 234-6129(1/22)Th70165

01 CLUB SUPERVISOR-Salary:$634.40 per month
01 CUSTOM TAILOR-Salary:$3.50 per hour
Contact: PHILIPPINE GOODS, INC. dba Tailoring Shop Tel. 234-6485(2/2)M70304

01 PLUMBER-Salary:$950.00 per month
01 GARDENER-Salary:$3.20 per hour
02 ELECTRICIAN-Salary:$3.10-3.25 per hour
03 WELDER-Salary:$3.05 per hour
03 MASON-Salary:$3.05 per hour
Contact: PHILIPPINE GOODS CONSTRUCTION, INC. dba Gen. Construction Contractor Tel. 234-6485(2/2)M70303

07 MAINTENANCE BUILDING REPAIR -Salary3.05-3.15 per hour
05 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:$3.05 per hour
01 CABLE SPLICER-Salary:$4.00-5.00 per hour
Contact: FAMILY ALLIANCE CORPORATION dba Famacor Tel. 233-9219(2/2)M25236

01 TOUR COUNSELOR-Salary:$923.20 per month
Plus $400 housing allowance
Contact: NIPPON TRAVEL AGENCY MICRONESIA, INC. dba Mach Tour (2/2)M25238

01 WELDER-Salary:$3.05 per hour
01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary:$3.05 per hour
Contact: TARO SUE CORPORATION dba Taro Sue Store Tel. 234-5416(2/2)M25234

05 COOK-Salary:$3.05-4.50 per hour
05 RESTAURANT (WAITRESS)-Salary:$3.05-3.50 per hour
05 NIGHTCLUB (WAITRESS)-Salary:$550.00-1,000.00 per month
Contact: STRINGSTONE ENTERPRISES INC. dba Bistro Tel. 233-0640(2/2)M25233

NEEDED
INSURANCE UNDERWRITER
PLEASE CALL JO AT 233-3855

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Commonwealth Development Authority,
Plaintiff,
vs.
Herman C. Santos, Maria C. Castro, Ricardo C. Castro and U.S. Small Business Administration,
Defendants.
Civil Action No. 97-0004

NOTICE OF FIRST SALE

The United States, Marshal Service, hereinafter referred to as auctioneer, and the Development Corporation Division of the Commonwealth Development Authority, hereinafter referred to as CDA, hereby give notice that all of the right, title, and interest of the defendants - Herman C. Santos, Maria C. Castro, and Ricardo C. Castro - in the following described, improved, real property situated in San Roque, Saipan, will be sold at an auction sale:

Lot No. 007 B 31, containing an area of 879 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 118/77.

The auction sale will be open to the general public and will be held at the United States Marshall Service Office, Garapan, Saipan, at **10:00 a.m., on Wednesday, January 28, 1998**, subject to the following announced terms and conditions:

1. Reserve. The auction sale shall be held with reserve.
2. Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, auctioneer shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
   a.) To withdraw the property listed for sale in this announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
   b.) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
   c.) To reject, on behalf of the seller, any and all bids.
3. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in this notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Joaquin D. Dela Cruz, Loan Manager, Commonwealth Development Authority, P.O. Box 2149, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7145, Fax: 234-7144; or to F. Matthew Smith, Law Offices of Vicente T. Salas, P.O. Box 1309, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 234-7455, Fax: 234-7256.
4. Minimum Bid. The minimum bid for any property listed in this notice shall be total amount of principal, interest, attorney's fees and costs of sale due and owing CDA by the defendants or the appraised value of the property-whichever is greater.
5. Deposit; Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten (10) days of the auction sale. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten (10) days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the ten percent (10%) deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the aforementioned property will revert to CDA.
6. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and CDA reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct and enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

Dated this 22nd day of December, 1997.

/s/REX FULLMER, Deputy United States Marshal

BE A LIFELONG LEARNER-READ.

APARTMENT FOR RENT
Quiet Two (2) Bedrooms • Swimming Pool
Tennis Court
KANNAT GARDENS
(Near Northern Marianas College)
235-5686 (8:30 AM to 5:30 PM, Weekdays)
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INSURANCE UNDERWRITER
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LOCAL HIRE ONLY
- able to drive synchronized transmission
- clean driving record
- must have police clearance
- good benefits package
- salary depends upon experience

PLEASE APPLY IN PERSON AT OUR OFFICE IN PUERTO RICO

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1987 PORSCHE CARRERA
33,000 MILES • EXCELLENT SHAPE
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Fast, Amazing Answers. Send $25,
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1992 ISUZU VAN
(15 PASSENGER) $7,000.00
CALL: 234-6789/322-5004

Golden Lobster Restaurant
WANTED
ACCOUNTANT
- Must be College Graduate or equivalent, with 2 years experience.
- Must be able to work 5 days a week, 8 hours a day, including weekends & holidays as scheduled.
- With computer background preferred.
- Salary commensurate with qualifications.

Apply in person at the 2nd Floor
BASIC CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY
Building, Beach Road, Chalan Laulau, Saipan.

APARTMENT FOR RENT
2 Bedroom (Fully Furnished)
24 hours water
Back-Up Generator
EVERGREEN APARTMENT
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APARTMENT FOR RENT
STUDIO TYPE
$370/month, utility excluded
Furnished, in Koblerville
Quiet, single or couple only
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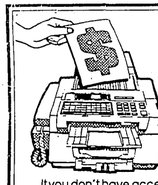
FOR SALE
Five Draw Poker Machines
$7,500.00/OBO (Rota)
Tel. 532-3532



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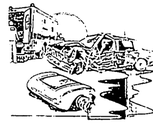
Busy schedule? You still have plenty of time to place a classified ad. Just fax your ad copy to 234-9271. It's a quick and easy way to sell your unwanted items for quick cash.

If you don't have access to a FAX machine. Call 234-9797/6341/7578 and a representative will help you place your ad over the phone.

Marianas Variety News & Views
FAX your ad to
234-9271



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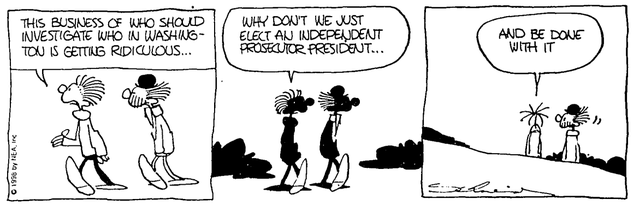
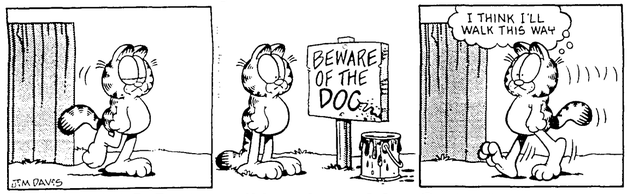


Garfield® by Jim Davis



PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz

STELLA WILDER

YOUR BIRTHDAY

By Stella Wilder

Born today, you are one of the most patient and faithful individuals born under your sign. You are never one to sacrifice what you want for what you need because you are confident that, given the right amount of time and effort, you can have both! You are not spoiled, though; you're perfectly willing to go without — for the time being. Ultimately, however, you want to have everything you've set your heart on — and you can have it. You are talented, able to get along with all manner of individuals, and quite adept at remaining true to yourself while also being flexible and amenable to change.

You are likely to be remembered by many. The tricky thing is that you want to be remembered for doing the right things, saying the right things and behaving in the right ways. You certainly don't want to be remembered for being a scoundrel, do you?

Also born on this date are: Michael Crawford, actor and singer; Phil Everly, Robert Palmer, Dolly Parton, singers.

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.

TUESDAY, JAN. 20

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — You may be in a position to promise something to a close friend, but the fact is that he or she may not want you to go so far just yet.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — You are going to want to get down to the basics today without doing anything that could rub anyone the wrong way. Balance is the key, once again.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You want to be on top of things at this time, but there are two or three things you must learn before someone gives you carte blanche.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Someone close to you may tempt you to do something that you've sworn you would never do. A member of the opposite sex has a message.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You may discover that it is dangerous to gratify nothing but your creative urges today. You must be willing to do things by the book as well.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — You can indulge in a little more fantasy than usual today, but you must take care that you don't neglect a very practical concern in the process.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Accidents do happen, but today you should be able to steer clear of anything that poses a risk. Taking chances may not work out well.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You are likely to receive a signal today from someone who has been trying to get in touch with you for some time. Pay attention to unspoken signs.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Too much preparation is likely to slow you down today — and there are certain things you have to get done before the day is out. Be efficient!

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — You are going to have to do one particular thing the hard way today, even though you have a valid shortcut in mind. Play by the rules.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Anything you do that is outside of the realm of routine is likely to introduce you to unforeseen dangers today. Take precautions at every turn.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — You may find yourself waiting once again for something that should have come your way some time ago. Still, you can use the time well.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 Kennel cry
4 Elegant
8 Pay through the —
12 "Scooby —"
13 Fancy car, for short
14 Mr. Lugosi
15 Continued story
17 Genetic material
19 Chaldean city
20 Sob
21 Card game
22 Seabird
23 Club dues
25 Mao — -tung
26 TV's Gomer Pyle (inits.)
27 Beast of burden
28 Jamie — Curtis
29 Watchman
32 Armstrong ID
33 Reconciling
35 Estrada ID
36 Praise for an achievement
38 The sixth sense (abbr.)
39 Orthodontics' org.
40 Guido's low note
41 Young womens' org.
42 Press
43 Musical instrument, for short
45 Hillary, to Bill Clinton
46 Alphabet trio
47 Odin's brother
48 — out (become extinct)
49 "— Home"
52 Mild oath
54 Seed coat
56 — Paulo
57 1975 Wimbledon champion
58 Implement
59 Explosive inits.

DOWN

1 Commercials
2 Caviar
3 Armed —
4 Frolic
5 Castor or olive —
6 Martin ID
7 Singer Lena —
8 Cagers' leag.
9 Digraph
10 Harmful remark
11 Merit
16 Federal agcy.
18 Negative
21 Futile
22 Spanish queen
23 "Columbo" star
24 Brother of Jacob
25 Word with party or rose
26 Bottle of whiskey (slang)
28 A Brown
29 Econ. indicator
30 Fulfill again
31 College official
33 Torrid
34 "Rose — — rose"
37 Payable
39 Painter
41 "— Expectations"
42 Doctrine
43 Layer of eye
44 Small barrels
45 Roman 1,001
46 Cylinder
48 Ike
49 AFL- —
50 Woman's name
51 Obtained
53 Exclamation
55 Artificial language

Answer to Previous Puzzle

I	A	N		I	S		C	R	A	G	S	
G	R	U	D	G	E		O	N	H	O	L	D
G	L		W	A	V	E	R		E	M	Y	D
Y	O	M		V	E	R	O		M	E		
		O	P	E	N	A	N	D		Z	A	P
T	E	R	I		S	A	D	A		U	A	
M	E	T	E	O	R		S	E	C	O	N	D
A	R		S	P	O	T		H	U	T	S	
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KidSpot™

by Dick Rogers

THE MOVIE HOUSE
THE SCREAMING STARTS WEDNESDAY!
A FILM BY WES CRAVEN
SCREAM
WED/THU 4:45-7:30 FRI 4:45-7:30-10:15 SAT 2:00-4:45-7:30-10:15 SUN 2:00-4:45-7:30

Knicks tame Raptors

TORONTO (AP) — Charlie Ward had the best game of his career, scoring 18 points with six assists, five rebounds, four steals and four 3-pointers as the New York Knicks defeated the Toronto Raptors 93-82 Saturday.

Larry Johnson scored 24 points and pulled down 10 rebounds for the Knicks, who used a 12-0 fourth-quarter run to pull away.

Allan Houston scored 23 points and John Starks scored 12 points off the bench for the Knicks, who shot 9-of-20 from 3-point range. Chris Mills added nine points and 10 rebounds.

Marcus Camby led the Raptors with 22 points, while Doug Christie had 18 points, six rebounds and five assists.

Washington Wizards 108, Los Angeles Clippers 99

At Washington, Chris Webber had 31 points and Tracy Murray came off the bench to score 20 as Washington beat Los Angeles. The Wizards improved to 12-2 against teams from the West. They are 9-18 against Eastern Conference teams.

Los Angeles rallied to cut a 16-point deficit to six with 1:28 left, but the Wizards sealed the win by scoring the final three points.

Philadelphia 76ers, Golden State Warriors 84

At Philadelphia, Allen Iverson scored 15 of his 28 points in the first quarter as Philadelphia dealt Golden State its 10th straight loss.

Iverson was 6-for-8 from the floor in the quarter as the 76ers opened a 35-15 lead. Philadelphia extended its lead to 25 in the third quarter and 28 in the fourth. The 28-point margin of victory was Philadelphia's largest of the season.

Derrick Coleman added 18 points and nine rebounds, Tim Thomas had 15 points and a career-high six assists and Jim Jackson added 13 points for the 76ers, who have won three straight for the first time this season.

New Jersey Nets 97, Atlanta Hawks 81

At Easy Rutherford, New Jersey, Keith Van Horn scored 23 points and New Jersey held Atlanta to a season-low 10 points in the third quarter in ending the Hawks' six-game winning streak. Kerry Kittles added 19 points, Sherman Douglas had 18 points and 10 assists and Jayson Williams had 15 points and 23 rebounds as the Nets bounced back from a disappointing loss at home to the Los Angeles Clippers.

Steve Smith led the Hawks with 17 points, but his streak of scoring at least 20 points was stopped at eight games.

Erick Dampier led the Warriors with 19 points and 10 rebounds.

Musashimaru . . .

Continued from page 28

off No. 5 maegashira Oginishiki's aggressive thrusts at the ring's edge and threw him down to notch his fifth victory against three defeats. Oginishiki is 4-4.

Wakanojo sidestepped Kotoryu's initial charge and sent him out, handing the No. 11 maegashira his fourth defeat against four victories.

No. 4 maegashira Kyokushuzan, or Batbayar Davaa from Mongolia, held off No. 4 maegashira Aogiyama's pushes, grabbed his opponent's leg and toppled him for his fourth victory against four defeats.

Aogiyama is 2-6.

No. 14 maegashira Yamato, or American George Kalima, suffered his fourth defeat against four victories as he was pushed down by No. 8 maegashira Higonourni (5-3).

Newly promoted No. 15 maegashira Kyokutenho, or Mongolian Tsevegnyam Nyamjav, was forced out by No. 10 maegashira Mitoizumi (4-4) for his third defeat against five victories.

In the top junior division of makuuchi, No. 22-ranked Hoshitango, or Argentine Imach Marcelo Salomon, thrust out No. 20-ranked Kasuganishiki for his third victory against one defeat.

Wrestlers in the junior divisions have only seven bouts during the tournament.

Broken . . .

Continued from page 28

Gatti, who has often rallied to win such fights, knew early that the cut might cost him in his first fight at 135 pounds, the lightweight class limit.

"At the end of the first round, I felt the blood drip and I knew I was in trouble," Gatti said afterward. "This is the only way he could have won. I would have knocked him out in the later rounds."

In the third, he missed with a lunging left and Manfredy delivered a crisp left to his head that put Gatti's face on the canvas. He took a six count.

Gatti, 25, of Jersey City, dropped to 30-2.

Manfredy, 23, of East Chicago, Ind., boosted his record to 23-2-1 with a smart, tough performance. He kept the aggressive Gatti at bay with a stinging left jab and never appeared to get hurt even when Gatti broke through on two- and three-punch combinations.

Manfredy said he thought he broke the hand in the fifth round.

"I knew it was a bad cut but I knew they wouldn't stop it because this is his hometown," Manfredy said.

"I can't be stopped. He hit with me a couple of body shots but he didn't hurt me. I knew when I hit him in the first round he was in trouble," Manfredy said.

Judge Alan Rubenstein had Manfredy leading 68-65 and Judge Joseph Pasquale had it 67-65. Judge Eugene Grant had the fight tied at 66. Manfredy led on The AP's card, 68-64.

Gatti made $1 million, Manfredy $200,000.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), a public corporation under the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, is requesting Statement of Qualifications (RFQ) from Architectural/Engineering consulting firms for the planning, design and construction management of its various projects through the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota.

Interested firms are asked to submit detailed statements of their qualifications which should, at a minimum contain the following:

1. List of projects completed. Consulting firm needs to identify extent of involvement with the project listed.
2. Number of personnel and their respective position titles or capacity within the organization. Also include current license/registration of staff members.
3. Short history of the firm indicating overall performance. The NMHC considers it critical that firms be firmly established in the Commonwealth to take full advantage of its desire to fully participate in all aspects of its projects.

While 254 and 255 forms may be used to document the firm's Statement of Qualifications, NMHC expects a more in-depth narration of the firm's background and qualifications.

The RFQ is to be submitted to the NMHC Office no later than 2:30 p.m., Friday, February 20, 1998 at which time NMHC will meet to evaluate each firm's submission of its qualifications. Firms are advised that they may be called for interview as part of the evaluation process at the discretion of the Corporate Director. Firms are also advised that NMHC may select only firm or several firms to participate in various projects which are expected to be accomplished over several years.

The following list while not all exclusive, presents the extent of projects the RFQ must address:

- Multipurpose Recreational Facility at the Northern Marianas College - to perform construction management;
- Low-Cost House Plans - to develop several complete A/E plans for a 2-, 3-, 4- and 5-bedroom houses; and,
- Kagman Community Center - to develop planning, complete A/E and construction management for a community center in Kagman, Saipan.

This request for Statement of Qualifications constitutes the scope of work. Thus, the Statement of Qualifications must be general, but at the same time, be specific enough to include projects relating to the planning, design and construction management of projects in the Commonwealth. All RFQ's shall become the sole property of the NMHC.

/s/MARYLOU S. ADA
Corporate Director

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

Taro Sue Corporation, dba KING'S ENTERPRISES,
Plaintiff,
-v-
JAMES A. FLEMING, dba ISLAND TRANSIT SYSTEMS,
Defendant,
CIVIL ACTION NO. 95-909

FIRST AMENDED NOTICE FOR SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on July 26, 1996, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth herein below, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Lot No. 006 T 15, situated in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 901 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 006 T 01 dated April 29, 1983, the description therein being incorporated herein by this reference; and

Lot 032 T 13, situated in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands, and containing an area of 4,999 square meters, more or less; and

Lot 006 t 196, situated in Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 1,011 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Surveys Official Cadastral Plat No. 006 T 06 dated September 28, 1993, the description therein being incorporated herein by this reference.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, February 13, 1998, at the hour of 1:00 p.m., at the law offices of White, Pierce, Mailman & Nutting, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. The property described above is presented located at Tinian, Northern Mariana Islands. It is the responsibility of the buyer to inspect the property Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at this current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever; all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

a. Reserve. The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned.

b. Rights and duties of auctioneer. Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.

c. Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bid will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advance may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law offices of White, Pierce, Mailman & Nutting, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

d. Disputes. The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

Enforcement of Auction Sale.

a. Deposit. Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the Plaintiff, in case of White, Pierce, Mailman & Nutting, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.

b. Memorandum of Sale. If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.

c. Court Approval Required. Every sale is subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted.

d. Removal or Storage of Personal Property. The successful bidder shall have one (1) working day after court approval of the sale to remove any personal property purchased from the place of sale. After the expiration of this 24-hour period, the successful bidder shall bear the entire risk of loss of or damage to such property, and shall be liable for all expenses of caring for and/or storing such property.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATE, this 26th day of December, 1997.

/s/JOHN B. JOYNER, AUCTIONEER

SPORTS

Diaz is January Ace

By Priscilla T. Castro
Variety News Staff

RAY DIAZ captured the January Ace Tournament last Saturday, at the Marianas Country Club. This is the first tournament that the Saipan Golfers Association held.

Diaz shot an incredible 35 front and 39 back to come up with a total gross score of 74. With a handicap of 11, he came in with a low net score of 63 which he tied with second place winner Ed Manglona.

In the front nine and 40 in the back with a total gross score of 79. With a handicap of 16, he came in with a low net score of 63 which he tied with Diaz.

Diaz however won the tie breaker on hole #5 when he had a par and Manglona score a bogey. Third place winner on the low net category was awarded to SGA treasurer Norbert Sablan. Sablan shot a low gross score of 80 with a handicap of 16 to come in third place with a net score of 64.

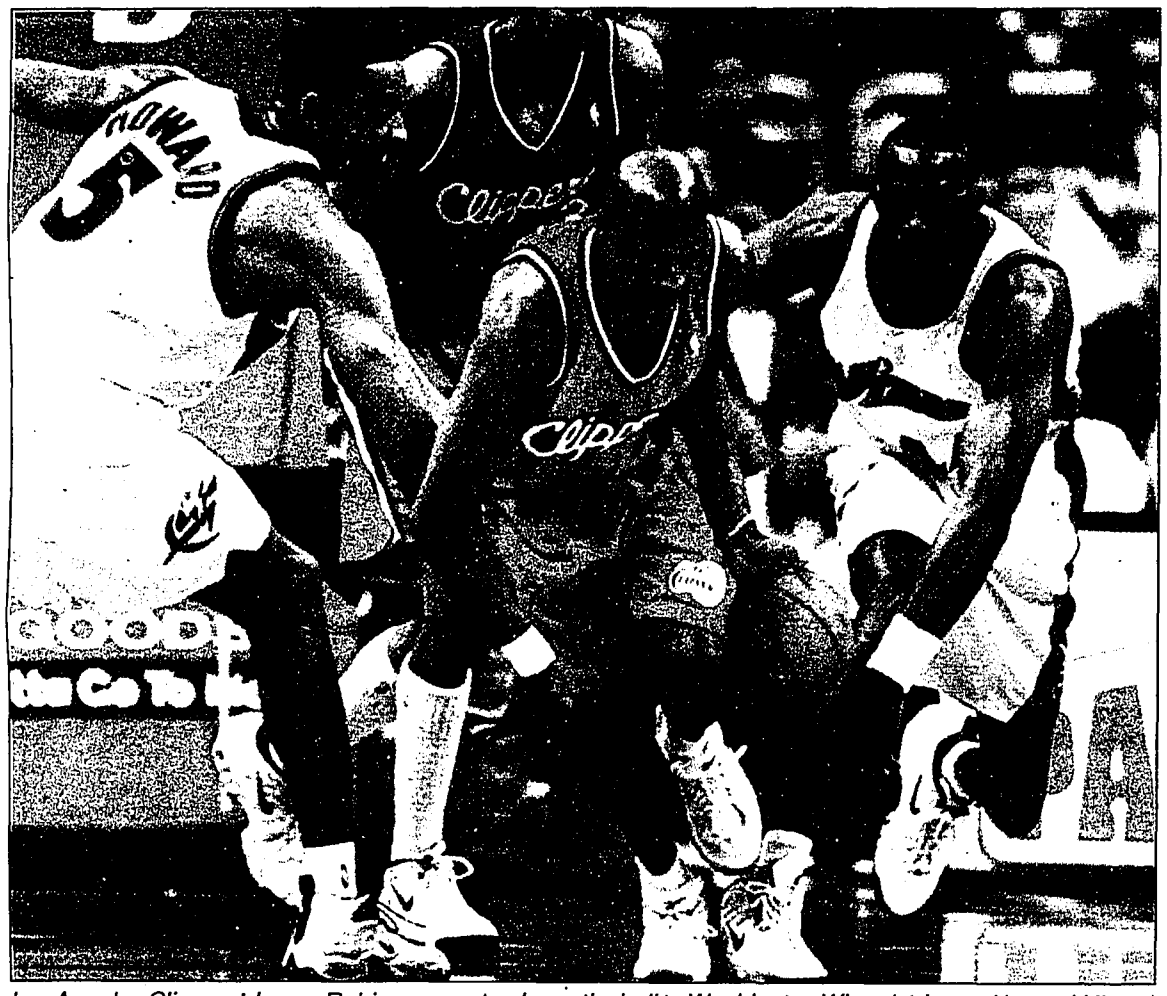
In the low gross category, Judge Edward Manibusan tied Ray Diaz score in the front nine with a none under par 35 and 39 in the back with a total score of 74.

Judge Manibusan handicap score of 5 and a net score of 69. Joe "Kamikaze" Camacho came in second place with a score of 76 followed by Frank Castro came in second with a low gross of 77.

In the closest to the pin competition, Brian Reyes won the closest to the pin on hole no. 3, followed by Ike Villanueva hole no. 7. Louie Kapileo, hole no. 15, and finally Mel Sablan hole no. 17. Mel Sablan's closest to the pin was the best when his ball was only 6 inches from the pin.

All the above winners were awarded cash prizes. The next SGA February Club Championship Tournament is being tentatively scheduled for the 21st. of February at the Rota Resort & Country Club.

According to the SGA Club, they would like to welcome all of their new members and also returning members. They will continue to do their best to make this year more exciting.



Los Angeles Clippers' James Robinson, center, loses the ball to Washington Wizards' Juwan Howard (5) and Harvey Grant, right, in the second quarter Saturday in Washington. The Wizards won, 108-99. AP

O'Neill wins in 200m butterfly

PERTH, Australia (AP) — Olympic champion Susie O'Neill of Australia won the women's 200-meter butterfly event at the world championships Sunday in a meet record time.

O'Neill, 24, caught early leader Misty Hyman about 60 meters from the finish and clocked 2 minutes 7.93 seconds. She went under the championships record of 2:08.41 set by American

Mary T. Meagher in 1986.

Hyman faded to third in 2:09.98 and was passed in the stretch by Petria Thomas who took the silver in 2:09.08.

Hyman started the race with a 25-meter submarine start, a move which will be outlawed in March.

Musashimaru shares lead with Takanohana

TOKYO (AP) — Hawaiian-born ozeki (champion) Musashimaru scored his seventh victory against one defeat Sunday and shared the lead with yokozuna (grand champion) Takanohana in the 15-day New Year Grand Sumo Tournament.

One victory behind the leaders at 6-2 were ozeki Takanonami, sekiwake (junior champion) Tochiazuma and No. 13 maegashira (senior wrestler) Wakanojo.

Wrestling before more than 11,000 spectators, including Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko, Musashimaru, or Fiamalu Penitani, grabbed Tochiazuma's belt and drove him out.

Takanohana threw down Kotonowaka, leaving the No. 3 maegashira at 4-4.

Yokozuna Akebono, or Chad Rowan from Hawaii, bulldozed sekiwake Musoyama out of the ring, leaving the both wrestlers at 5-3.

Ozeki Takanonami, who won the last tournament and could gain promotion to sumo's highest rank by winning this one, lifted out No. 4 maegashira Asahiyutaka (2-6).

Ozeki Wakanohana, elder brother of yokozuna Takanohana, held

Continued on page 27

Broken hand doesn't stop boxer Manfredy

By John Curran

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. (AP) — This time, Arturo Gatti's giant heart and powerful fists couldn't save him.

Despite fighting with a broken right hand, Angel Manfredy beat the IBF junior lightweight champion to a bloody pulp before referee Wayne Hedgepeth called a halt to it at after eight rounds in the scheduled 12-round non-title fight Saturday night.

Manfredy opened a huge cut over Gatti's left eye with a hard right to the head in the first round, then knocked Gatti down in the third.

But the plucky Gatti, who has made a career out of winning fights he looked like he was losing, fought back gamely and won the next two rounds on all three judges' cards. He was ahead on two cards at fight's end and tied on the third.

The cut was about 3 centimeters wide for the first six rounds but opened up to about 5 centimeters in the later rounds, according to the ringside fight physician, Dr. Dominic Coletta.

"It was bleeding into the socket of his eye," said Hedgepeth, who concurred with Coletta's opinion in stopping the fight.

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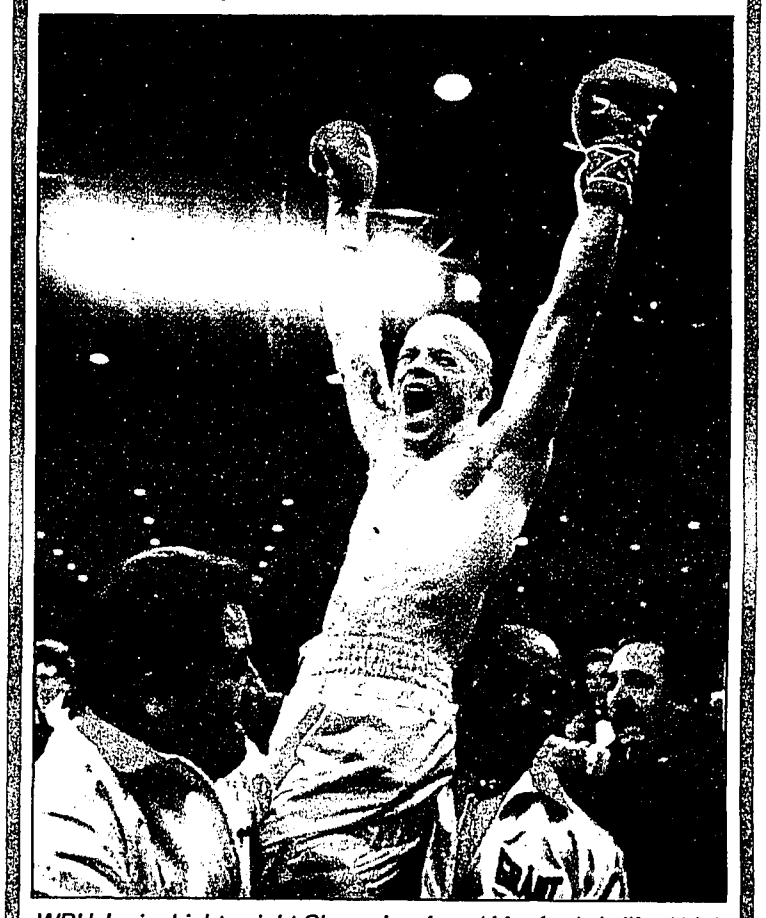

WBU Junior Lightweight Champion Angel Manfredy is lifted high into the air after his eight round technical knockout of IBF Junior Lightweight Champion Arturo Gatti after their non-title lightweight bout at the Atlantic City Convention Hall Saturday. AP

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