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DAILY Marianas Variety News & Views

Micronesia's Leading Newspaper Since 1972

Vol. 26 No. 70 | Friday • June 19, 1998 | Saipan, MP 96950 | Serving CNMI for 26 Years | 50¢

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'United front' for NMI, Guam eyed

By Jan Furukawa
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA—Lawmakers from Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are working to bring the islands closer together, with Guam Sen. Mark Charfauros leading the effort.

Charfauros is spearheading the formation of a non-profit organization that would "look at things like customs, law enforcement resources, increasing the amount of federal funds that the islands receive, and yes, reunification."

The Guam senator said yesterday he is working with Sens. Ben Pangelinan, Felix Camacho and Willy Flores in I Liheslaturan Guahan and CNMI Senate President Paul A. Manglona, Vice Pres. Thomas P. Villagomez, Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes and Sens.

Mark Charfauros

Edward U. Maratita, Juan P. Tenorio and House Speaker Diego T. Benavente in forming the association.

CNMI Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan disclosed to the Variety Wednesday that officials of both governments are exploring the possibility of reintegrating the two entities, but that it was premature to say whether a reunification would be feasible.

In a brief interview during yesterday's centennial conference at the Hilton, Sablan said, "We're a commonwealth, and Guam is looking at that. Well, we have that already. If the Guam Commonwealth Act is taking 12, 13 years already, perhaps it would be less painful if we start sponsoring joint resolutions."

Sablan said it would take "minor changes" in the CNMI's Covenant agreement with the United States to allow for reintegration.

"We brothers and sisters of Chamorro descent should be reunited," he said.

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Teno on reunification:

'It will all be up to the CNMI people'

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday said it will be the people of the Northern Marianas who will decide whether or not to reunify with Guam, which has a larger population of US citizens.

"I don't want to contradict (whatever Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan) has said about it, but this issue will be discussed further and it will be up to our people to (settle) it," Tenorio told reporters.

"Of course, the people of Guam will also have to make a decision about this," he added.

Sablan, in an interview with the Variety Monday, revealed that CNMI and Guam officials are discussing a possible reintegration of the Marianas.

He clarified, however, that it

Pedro P. Tenorio

is still premature to conclude that the unification of Guam and the CNMI will push through.

Sablan was on Guam yesterday to discuss the issue with unidentified Guam officials.

He was quoted on Monday as saying that the CNMI and Guam are already "close to being re-

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Japan recession brings gloomy outlook for NMI

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE NORTHERN Marianas business sector has joined world leaders in pressing the Japanese government to stabilize its economy, fearing a gloomier economic outlook for the Commonwealth as a result of the shrinking value of the yen.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Joe C. Ayuyu said the uncertainties in Japan is putting more pressure to the Asia-Pacific region, which, in turn, is adversely affecting Saipan's biggest revenue-generating industry.

"It [Japan recession] may mean an uncertain future for the Northern Mariana Islands," Ayuyu said, adding that the CNMI's tourism industry is largely dependent on Japanese travelers.

He also said the Japanese government seems to have been taking the recession idly, echoing Chinese legislator Li Peng's call for the setting up of effective measures to shore up the Japanese economy.

"It seems like there's very little action taken by the Japanese government to stimulate its economy," he told Variety.

Reports claimed that Japan, world's second largest economy, looks like more of a liability to its neighboring Asian countries than a potential savior.

Japan's Economic Planning

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Conductor Carles Coll, left and bass player James Testi, members of the Orchestra de Ampurdan from Spain, entertain the audience with witty comments about their musical selections. The orchestra is touring the world as part of the Centennial Celebration and played Wednesday night at the Hilton Hotel. Photo by C.J. Urquico

Sablan off to Nevada conference

PIO: Mayor to shop for equipment in Oregon

Jose C. Sablan

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

SAIPAN Mayor Jose C. Sablan has left for the U.S. mainland to attend a local chief executives' conference and shop for heavy equipment his office needs.

Sablan, who left Saturday will be staying in Nevada for a week-long conference, his PIO, Maryanne Calvo said.

Calvo failed to give an account of the conference saying only that it is "an annual thing."

Sablan, Calvo said, left with his comptroller to assist him in scouting for best-priced heavy equipment in Oregon following the conference.

Calvo said the mayor may buy some equipment "if the price is right."

The trip is reportedly on government expense.

It was the second time Sablan

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PSS starts enforcement of 'school zoning' policy

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

PUBLIC School System Commissioner Rita H. Inos yesterday said the enforcement of a strict zoning policy in all CNMI public schools has started, just in time for the August school opening.

"I'm asking all principals to allow me to see their list of out-of-zone registrants. They should forward it to us and it will be up to

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Rita H. Inos

PAC NEWSPAPER STACKS

US Senate kills tobacco bill

By Laurie Kellman

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate snuffed out Congress' first bill to curb teen smoking, but lawmakers insist they will reignite efforts to pass a tobacco bill this election year.

"We are going to continue this fight in whatever vehicle, whatever form, whatever opportunity we have," Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., told reporters after the vote Wednesday. "We will not let the issue die."

The death of Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain's bill instantly became a campaign issue.

Voters in November "won't like what they see," President Clinton predicted, after a round of calls to senators failed to save the legislation.

"Big tobacco owns the Republican party and they've just proven it again," said Sen. Tom Harkin, D-Iowa.

Republicans countered that the bill essentially killed itself after numerous amendments bloated it beyond its original focus — to curb teen smoking.

"We've lost sight of the original noble cause of just dealing with teen-age smoking and drug abuse," said Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss.

"It frankly wasn't fixable," said Assistant Majority Leader Don Nickles, R-Okla.

"This bill was a crummy effort at raising taxes."

McCain's bill would have raised at least $516 billion over 25 years, in part by raising the price of a pack of cigarettes by $1.10 over five years.

It also would have granted the Food and Drug Administration authority to regulate nicotine and severely limited the industry's ability to advertise.

The legislation would have settled three dozen state lawsuits against the industry in which local governments are trying to recoup the cost of treating sick smokers.

"Next week you're going to pick up the paper and hear about all of the attorneys general going to court," McCain said.

"I can guarantee that the attorneys general are going to keep this thing going, if we have to do it state by state," concurred Mississippi Attorney General Michael Moore, a lead negotiator in the deal struck nearly a year ago between the states and the tobacco companies.

Their $368 billion settlement of the state lawsuits was the model for McCain's bill.

But during some 80 hours of

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Gadhafi denies he was wounded

By Martin Benedyk

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP) — Libyan leader Col. Moammar Gadhafi appeared before Western journalists for the first time since a reported assassination attempt, denying that he had been wounded or that such an attack occurred.

"People say Gadhafi has been a target of numerous assassination attempts," he said in an interview Tuesday with Associated Press Television.

"I have never seen any assassination attempt directed at me."

A Libyan Islamic opposition group claimed it had killed four bodyguards and wounded Gadhafi in an attack June 1 as the party headed for Egypt on an official visit.

The Libyan government denied the claim, but Tuesday was the first time Gadhafi went before a Western journalist to rebut it.

"We hear of these things, such as was reported this week. But these are deliberate lies," Gadhafi said, speaking on camera at his quarters, a large, low-slung white and gray tent in the middle of a tightly guarded military barracks in Tripoli.

Gadhafi appeared relaxed and confident and wore light brown military fatigues and a large brown head scarf.

His short-sleeved cloak was bare to the elbow — the reported site of the wound — and there was no sign of injury when he frequently waved his arms to illustrate a point.

Caves in the mountainous region where the attack allegedly occurred offer hideouts to Islamic militants trying to depose Gadhafi.

In a wide-ranging interview, Gadhafi also denied anyinvolvement in the 1991

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Unemployment in Korea swells

PAULINE JELINEK

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) _ A Seoul civic group is looking for someone who lost his job, survived it and is willing to talk about it.

"It will inspire people ..." said Lim Jong-son, a social worker organizing a jobless seminar for the YMCA.

If ever South Korean workers needed inspiration, this is the moment.

In a nation accustomed to lifetime employment and years of rising incomes, many are finding themselves ill-prepared for the emotional and financial trauma of South Korea's spreading joblessness.

"They are really at a loss," Lim said of men he's counseled at a YMCA welfare center in Seoul.

The currency meltdown last fall — and resulting economic restructuring now underway — drove the jobless rate from 2.1 percent in October to 6.7 percent in April. About 100 companies go bankrupt and 7,000 people lose their jobs daily.

In a nation where the man is still the sole bread winner in the majority of households — and his failure a dishonor — the burden can be great.

Suicides have increased 36 percent over last year to 25 a day, largely because of the economy, the government believes.

Some laid-off men continue to dress in suits and ties and walk out the door every morning, pretending to go to work, rather than tell their families the truth.

The unemployed hike in nearby mountains, fill chairs in the Seoul train station waiting room, or visit jobless centers looking for positions that don't exist.

Working women, still a minority in South Korea, worry the eco-

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Teno rules out new taxes

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

WITH THE worsening local economy and ailing business sector, Northern Marianas business leaders yesterday emerged victorious from a meeting with Governor Pedro P. Tenorio, who ruled out the imposition of new taxes.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Joe C. Ayuyu said Tenorio assured members of the business community that his administration is not likely to increase taxes at this point.

"We were in some kind of agreement with the governor that this is not the proper time to increase taxes to refill public coffers," he told Variety.

Ayuyu said Tenorio reiterated that his administration has no intentions to impose new or increase taxes this time when the economy is down and the business sector is already hurting.

"We're kind of delighted to hear that from the governor. But that was the side of the Administration, we don't know what people in the Legislature are planning," he said.

Ayuyu said the Legislature's plan to increase fees collected from the private sector will eventually choke up Northern Marianas consumers since investors are likely to raise prices of commodities and services.

"The private sector can pay more but we will increase our prices which will affect the end-consumers, so the government is making the average consumer pay for it," he told Variety.

Pedro P. Tenorio

Ayuyu described the proposal as ridiculous and a bad idea, as he urged the CNMI Legislature to take a closer look at the plan.

A special House committee is proposing to increase the current 3.5 percent users fee by .02 percent.

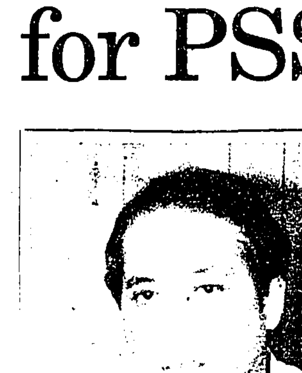
The users fee is imposed on locally-made products that are shipped out of the CNMI.

Policy makers are expecting to generate $3 million from the increase.

Rep. Melvin Faisao has commented that imposing higher fees only on the garment sector is not fair, adding that the government should also impose increases to other foremost income-generating sectors such as tourism, airline and banking industries.

Rep. Oscar M. Babauta, chairman of the Special House Committee tasked to oversee two bills on attrition in the garment sector, expressed concern that the three options might hurt the business sector.

CDA okays $16M for PSS projects



Juan S. Tenorio

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

THE COMMONWEALTH Development Authority yesterday approved the resolution which guarantees the $16 million loan for the Public School System's several projects.

Said resolution establishes a special account to pay obligations for certain PSS financing, to continually appropriate $2 million annually from liquid fuel taxes to the special account to pay such obligations.

"The Board is approving this $16 million loan that PSS will be borrowing from California Financial Services, guaranteed by our tax funds of $2 million a year. Everything is now in place," said CDA Chair Juan S. Tenorio during a Board meeting with PSS officials.

The CDA guarantees and endorses loans made by government agencies.

PSS Commissioner Dr. Rita H. Inos said that CDA's approval is a 'blessing' for the whole educational system.

"It's the final blessing that we really need to move on. We need a guarantee to where the money would come from and CDA has the role to offer an endorsement," Inos told the Variety.

Aside from the $16 million loan, the PSS will also receive another $16 million of federal fund, for a total of $32 million fund to undertake several PSS projects.

"We approved it because they need it now in time for the August opening of classes," said Tenorio.

Tenorio also added that the Cali-

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Tipster identifies boy's 'killer'

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

POLICE have a suspect in the killing of a teenaged boy who was found floating near a joggers' path bridge at the American Memorial Park Saturday morning, the Variety gathered yesterday.

Sources at the Department of Public Safety disclosed that investigators are looking into an information relayed by a caller who allegedly identified the suspect.

The caller provided the information yesterday morning to Crime Stoppers Hotline, sources said.

As of press time, nobody was taken in for questioning or arrested in connection with the murder of 14-year-old Drake Asachi Samachi, the Variety learned.

Samachi had bruises and contusions on his body consistent that he was beaten up. An autopsy showed that the victim died due to drowning.

Crime Stoppers admitted that a tip was received as to the alleged killer.

Acting Crime Stoppers Coordinator Sandy Hambros, however, explained they are still double checking the veracity of the information.

Crime Stoppers has offered a reward of up to $1,000 to anyone who has information leading to the arrest of Samachi's killer/s.

DPS officials refused to talk about the case, saying the matter is under investigation.

Investigators have expressed optimism that the case will soon be solved because they believe there are witnesses in the incident.

The boy was last seen alive Friday night at the Liberation celebration carnival.

GMH buys $400,000 medical scan camera

By Sara Grant
Variety News Staff

TAMUNING, Guam—Guam Memorial Hospital (GMH) has purchased new equipment which will enable physicians to better diagnose conditions that at present time, must be diagnosed off-island.

Sources at GMH say that a nuclear medicine camera worth $400,000 that can perform in-depth cardiology studies is now at Guam Memorial Hospital.

GMH Administrator, Tyrone Taitano said the purchase of the machine, along with other new equipment, and the addition of manpower was necessary in order to push the hospital forward.

Taitano said the state-of-the-art camera replaces a 20-year old outdated machine.

The new E. Cam System takes pictures of the insides of tissues and organs, unlike X-rays, which photograph the exterior of those parts of the body.

Certified Nuclear Medicine Technologist Saundra Crowell has been working with the new machine for a few months and says it will help members of the community who up until now have to go off-island for treatment.

Crowell recently attended a five day workshop to learn about the camera, which she says is top-of-the-line.

"It used to take us an hour to do a bone scan and now it only takes 20 minutes," she remarked.

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US panel marks up Interior spending bill

THE HOUSE Interior Appropriations Subcommittee was scheduled to mark up its fiscal year 1999 spending bill today which includes funding for the CNMI, Resident Representative Juan N. Babauta said.

This is the first step in the series of legislative actions eventually leading to approval of spending for Covenant funds, brown tree snake efforts, and other programs important to the CNMI, he said in a news release.

"US Public Law 104-134, enacted in 1996, requires an appropriation of $11 million for CNMI Covenant funding," reports Babauta.

"Congress has abided by that law for the last three years and should again this year."

The funding was negotiated in 902 by Lt. Governor Benjamin T. Manglona and his federal counterpart Stella Guerra. It remains a lasting testament to what can be accomplished through the 902 process, Babauta said.

According to Babauta, although there have been proposals from the Clinton Administration to earmark $5.5 million of the FY99 Covenant funds for a prison and a crime lab, there is hope that will not push through.

"If the Interior Appropriations Subcommittee sticks to the law and to the Manglona/Guerra agreement — as we have certainly been longing for them to do — then the Administration's earmarking proposal will not be followed," said the resident representative.

"Where we do support the President's budget is in his proposal to add another $1 million to the funds, available for fighting the brown tree snake.

"Last year with the support of OIA we requested that more money be put into this important effort and the President and Congress increased funding by $1 million. If this year's increase also goes through, there will be $2.6 million to spend on the anti-snake program in FY99.

Babauta notes the CNMI Representative's office has been particularly active on this issue.

Earlier this year, Babauta staffer, Frank Taitano participated in a planning session with federal agencies and the insular area government representatives at which the overall plan for

Continued on page 74

'Spain should compensate Chamorros'

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

HOUSE Minority Leader Dino M. Jones (D-Prec. 4, Saipan) wants Spain to compensate the Chamorro people in the Northern Marianas for the property damages and deaths inflicted by 300 years of Spanish colonial rule.

House Resolution 11-52, which Jones recently introduced, "strongly requests" Spain to give justice to the CNMI's Chamorro people by awarding them an unspecified amount of compensation.

According to the resolution, Spain's colonial rule imposed a "dictatorial form of government" that changed the Chamorro's way of life, culture, traditions and values.

The Chamorros, states the resolution, "had no choice but to work and live under the mercy of the Spanish regime."

Further, the regime inflicted property damages such as "the taking away of farm crops and domestic animals," and caused death among the local inhabitants.

It was Miguel Lopez de Legazpi who, in 1565, claimed the Marianas and the Philippines for the king of Spain.

Some 40,000 Chamorros lived in the islands at the start of Span-

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Purse snatching foiled

By Jacob Leon Guerrero
Variety News Staf

PITI, Guam—A woman fought off a would-be mugger last night at the Seaman's Center (old U.S.O.) across from the Piti Power Plant.

The 40-year-old Mongmong resident reported to police that while she and a male friend were at the club, two male individuals approached them from behind. One of the men grabbed the woman's purse.

A struggle ensued between the victim and one of the perpetrators.

The purse strap broke during the melee, at which point the man and his accomplice ran out of the club with the purse.

The woman's friend chased the pair who fled towards Marine

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

EDITORIAL

Japanese recession gives the CNMI more reason to diversify economy

WITH the Japanese economy deep into a recession, there are concerns that the global economy will take a devastating hit.

The world's markets reacted to Japan's weakening economy quite nervously this week, with stocks plummeting, and the value of the yen going on a free fall.

Luckily, the US Treasury moved Wednesday to support the yen and snap its decline.

Nevertheless, there is no way we can be sure about what will happen next. The U.S. decision to bolster the Japanese currency only brings temporary relief, experts say.

Notwithstanding the yen's rally yesterday, the scenario could remain fragile and speculation can continue to make matters worse.

With the uncertainty clouding Japan, the world's second most robust economy, indications are all economies of the world may experience a slump.

Expected to be hit hard by the Japanese recession is the CNMI's tourism industry, says business leader Joe Ayuyu, in light of its mainly Japanese-dominated market. With the Japanese economy in tatters and the Japanese currency continuously plunging against the dollar, it is almost certain that there will be less and less people from Japan travelling to the CNMI.

If they will travel here at all, we can almost be sure that they will spend less and less in as much as they would need more yen to buy in dollars the things that they used to purchase with less.

The CNMI, thus, can expect to see the figures drop—both in terms of arrivals and tourism-related revenues.

Even the garment industry can not be relied on in the long term, all things given.

The slump renders the CNMI's manufacturing sector most vulnerable to loss of export sales and competition from lower-priced Asian imports will surely undercut its viability.

Even if economic difficulties arising from the slump may not be immediate, it would help government to start early in preparing itself for more difficult times.

The situation has magnified the need for the CNMI to diversify its economy and not to put all its eggs in the tourism and garments basket.

Other industries should be explored—like agriculture and fisheries—which when developed could be counted on for subsistence, as well as for consumption of the domestic market.

While at present, the CNMI does not have the economies of scale to support a dependable agriculture and fisheries industry, the Commonwealth could start looking at the prospects of its growth.

The journey of ten thousand miles starts with the first step, so to speak, and the CNMI government might as well start with the groundwork now.

For instance, although arable land is not much of abundance in the islands to support grand-scale farming, programs like hydroponics and aquaculture, currently being undertaken at NMC, can be given more support.

After all, the CNMI has an abundance of backyard farmers who take on agriculture more as a tradition handed down to them by their parents and ancestors.

On the other hand, the CNMI can also take advantage of its regional affiliations like the APIL, the MCCE, the PBDC and other associations where technologies can be shared and common goals can be achieved, like that of the tuna cartel being pushed by APIL president, Guam Sen. Carlotta Leon Guerrero.

This is especially encouraging in as much as the CNMI and other nations in the region are blessed with the rich resources the vast Pacific Ocean can offer.

But recession or no recession, the important thing is for the CNMI to explore all its potentials and look for something to fall back on when times get tough and the global situation prevents reliance on the usual industries.

All that's needed is some ingenuity, foresight and focus, that is, for the CNMI to pull through the difficult years ahead.

Marianas Variety News & Views

Serving the Commonwealth for 26 years
Published Monday to Friday By Younis Art Studio, Inc.

Publishers:
Abed and Paz Younis

Rafael H. Arroyo.....Editor

P.O. Box 231, Saipan MP 96950-0231
Tel. (670) 234-6341/7578/9797/9272
Fax: (670) 234-9271
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The Associated Press (AP)
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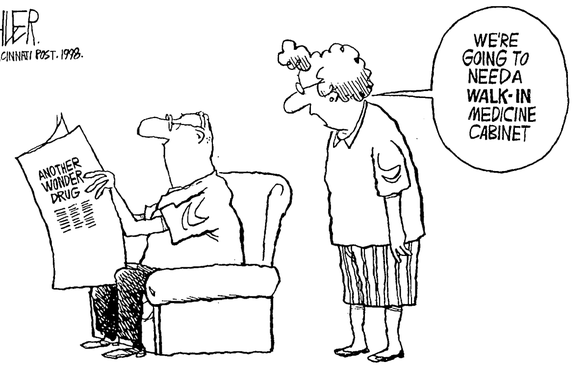

Variations

Zaldy Dandan

Emperors a dozen

GOOD LITERATURE is always about what Gore Vidal calls the "dangerous, always fatal, exploration of self and world," which in this age of TV, pulp and non-book "books" is no longer a valued artistic aim. In contrast to the past, says Vidal, when "with a bit of luck, a good writer eventually attracted voluntary readers and became popular, today's...'popular' means bad writing that is widely read while good writing is that which is taught to involuntary readers."

I suspect though that with the right kind of media hype and "hi-tech" promo efforts, Suetonius's "The Twelve Caesars" might still land on the current bestseller list, despite being a well-written work that was first published some 2,000 years ago. It is, after all, a tell-all book about often sordid things committed by unusually brilliant men who wielded absolute power in what was then the greatest empire the world has ever known. Though non-fiction, "The Twelve Caesars" can be read as a meditation on power, the selves that dipped into its sparkling yet treacherous waters, and the world that made all of it possible.

Born around AD 69, Gaius Suetonius Tranquillus was a lawyer and served as chief secretary to the Emperor Hadrian (AD 117-38). Not much is known about his life. He did serve briefly at the Roman bar, but he avoided political life, which in those days could lead to burying the hatchet with one's enemy, preferably in each other's back.

Seutonius, who died a content old man, was a prolific author. He wrote books with such titles as "Lives of Famous Whores"; "The Physical Defects of Mankind"; "Methods of Reckoning Time"; "Greek Objurgations." However, his only extant book is "The Twelve Caesars," which is described by the classicist poet and author Robert Graves as the most fascinating and richest of all Latin histories. It is Graves who, in 1957, published what is still considered the best English translation of "The Twelve Caesars." (Those who haven't read it may want to check <*www.amazon.com*>; while those who prefer their Classics classical-looking should write London's The Folio Society and ask for a catalogue.)

Based on Rome's imperial and senatorial archives, and on a great body of memoirs and public documents, including eyewitness accounts, "The Twelve Caesars" details a "range of vice [that] was considerably beyond the imagination of even the most depraved schoolboy," according to Vidal who, as a young student, tried to make sense of the book's sanitized and not-so-appealing-to-the-prurient version. Seutonius's narrative is no less compelling, and his language, as one 19th century Cambridge historian has noted, is very brief and precise, sometimes obscure but without any affectation or ornament.

Suetonius's book begins with the life of the first Caesar, the very famous Julius, and continues with his first 11 successors, who turned the name "Caesar" into the imperial title—Augustus, Tiberius, Caligula, Claudius, Nero, Galba, Otho, Vitellius, Vespasian, Titus and Domitian. The stories of their lives showcase "the naked will to power for its own sake." By holding up a mirror to the Caesars, this book takes a hard look at man's vulnerability to his dark nature. It also allows us to see, writes Vidal in 1959, that we, too, our images, are reflected. His book, Vidal adds, poses the following question: What will men so placed do? The answer: Anything and everything. Indeed, the 12 Caesar can't be dismissed as simply abnormal. They were a fairly representative lot, says Vidal; they were writers, and some were very good at it.

They had other things in common. A fear of assassination; eighth or nine of them were murdered. A need to outguess destiny; they studied omens, cast horoscopes and analyzed dreams. A fascination for Alexander the Great; they envied him, who was so young and so on top of the world of his time. For the Caesars, the Macedonian symbolized what Vidal calls power for the sake of power; conquest for the sake of conquest; earthly dominion as an end in itself—no Utopian vision, no dissembling, no hypocrisy.

But what did absolute power bring to these Caesars? Nothing but disaster. And insanity. Caligula's murderous madness. Nero's progressive irrationality. Tiberius's lurid depravity. And then there was Domitian, intelligent, of some charm, but who later took up summary execution as a hobby. Seutonius says that Domitian would even talk gently of mercy to the nervous would-be victims; once placated they were killed. The Caesar who seriously considered appointing his favorite horse to a consulship, Caligula, once revealed what it was all about when he told a critic, "Bear in mind that I can treat anyone exactly as a I pleased." He was likewise heard threatening a statue of one of the gods: "If you do not raise me up to heaven I

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'United. . .

Continued from page 1

Sablan said he attended yesterday's conference to learn what actually happened in 1898, and why the Marianas were separated.

"We would respectfully urge the U.S. Congress to see the light. With less strain and even debate, we will ask the U.S. Congress to correct the mistake they left behind. ...Can we try to make sense of this historical accident?"

He said the younger leaders of the Marianas are "more open to resolving our divided Marianas. Of course, that may be a star very, very far away. But if we're gonna start, let's start now."

Guam Del. Robert Underwood, who delivered yesterday's keynote address at the conference, said reunification would always be an issue for the Marianas. "It has to be mutually agreed upon," he said.

Guam Gov. Carl Gutierrez is unaware of any discussions regarding reunification, his spokeswoman Ginger Cruz said yesterday.

"The governor is always open to discussions regarding closer economic and political ties between all the Mariana Islands. Obviously, the issue of political reunification would involve not just the legislature or our office, but all the people of Guam," Cruz said.

"However," she added, "he is pleased with the optimism expressed by the lieutenant governor (Sablan)."

Charfauros and the other Guam lawmakers met yesterday with CNMI Sens. Reyes and Maratita to work on draft by-laws and a constitution for the CNMI-Guam Legislatures Association.

The group's first meeting is scheduled for next week in Saipan to approve the by-laws and constitution, which Charfauros compared to those of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

A resolution that would officially establish the organization will be presented to both Guam and CNMI lawmaking bodies "as soon as the CNMI and Guam agree on the final draft," Charfauros said, noting that this could be as soon as next month's session.

Reyes said yesterday that Charfauros "conceived the idea because we're all members of APIL and we were discussing the possibility of forming a way where we can concentrate on our own problems, because CNMI and Guam problems are very similar.

"We need to work together and address a lot of issues that are of mutual concern. To do this, we need to form a non-profit corporation.

"Guam would need to first address their quest for commonwealth. Once that is done, perhaps then the discussion on reintegration can be initiated. I support the concept of reunification, but we need to bring this back home, just like Sen. Charfauros."

Charfauros said he, too, supports reunification.

"However, Guam must first address Chamorro self-determination as mandated by the United Nations. The CNMI has already exercised their right, and that's why they're a commonwealth now," he said.

"It (reunification) will definitely be an issue," Charfauros said.

'It will. . .

Continued from page 1

unified."

He did not elaborate, but said that the CNMI and Guam officials could ask Congress to pass a "reintegration" bill.

Guam officials have been clamoring for a commonwealth status similar to what the CNMI now enjoys.

Some CNMI officials who refused to be identified said yesterday that Guam, which is a US territory, now appears to be "going through the backdoor" in order to become a commonwealth.

"Now they want to unify with us after seeing that what we have is better than what they have," the officials said.

In 1969 plebiscite, the Northern Marianas voted for reunification, which Guam voters rejected.

It was said that Guamanians felt that under a reintegrated Marianas, the island's resources would only be diverted to the then underdeveloped Northern Marianas.

Last year, then governor Froilan C. Tenorio said he would ask Guam to form with the CNMI an independent Republic of the Marianas if the federal government would continue urging for a "federal takeover" in the Northern Marianas.

His "proposal" was described as "outrageous" by the CNMI's other elected officials.

For more than 300 years of Spanish rule, Guam and the Northern Marianas were governed as the Mariana Islands.

In 1898, the United States declared war on Spain, which gave up the Philippines, Puerto Rico and Guam to the US for $20 million.

Northern Marianas, for their part, was sold by Spain to Germany.

With the outbreak of World War I in 1914, Japan, which was then an ally of England, grabbed the Northern Marianas from Germany.

The islands came under control of the US in 1944, following a bloody invasion.

In 1978, the Northern Marianas became a commonwealth in political union with the US.

Emperors. . .

Continued from page 4

will cast you down to hell." He was suspected of poisoning his own mother. He forced his father-in-law to cut his own throat with a razor. He regularly committed incest with each of his three sisters. He made advances to almost every well-known married woman in Rome. He was into homosexual relations. He delighted in trials by torture held in his presence as he ate dinner. At age 29, in the third year of his reign, Caligula was hacked to death by two of his army colonels.

Vidal says that modern society is not that different from the Roman, citing the equally sobering examples of Hitler and Stalin. But, he adds, we still have to acknowledge the existence of "certain dark constants of human behavior" that often serve as motivation for our own modern-day great men and women. We are still loath to admit that there are leaders who simply want to wield power, "to be famed and to be feared." The danger here, he says, is that this denial, if not naïveté, can make us vulnerable "to the first messiah who offers the young and bored some splendid prospect, some Caesarean certainty." That, says Vidal, is the political danger, and it is a real one. He wrote this, as mentioned earlier, in the 1950s. In the succeeding years, notice how easily Third World dictators sprouted like mushrooms after the rain. And how the far Right and the far Left continue to attract adherents who resemble, in this respect, the highly impressionable and intellectual manqué who, despite having left puberty behind, still can't help but be drawn to yet another badly-written Ayn Rand novel. Which is, of course, another story.

Letters to the Editor

Ambulance fleet needs upgrade

Dear Editor:

The Department of Public Safety's capacity to provide adequate ambulance servcice to the public is decreasing.

In 1994, DPS had four operating ambulances which were stationed in Koblerville, Susupe, Garapan and Capitol Hill.

As of June 1998, DPS has one ambulance which is chronically in the mechanic's shop and two ambulances which are regularly stationed in Koblerville and Garapan.

These three ambulances are more that five years old and need replacing.

All have been inspected by the Office of Special Programs by certified Department of Transportation inspectors and have been found to have operational deficiencies.

These ambulances are in need of ongoing maintenance and repair but it has not been forthcoming because of monetary limitations and a lack of initiative and urgency.

The time of urgency is upon us.

Reponse time has increased and it's not uncommon to have both ambulances responding at the same time with additional calls coming in simultaneously.

These remaining ambulances will not last forever and the situation can only get worse if nothing is done soon.

I can only hope that a concerned legislator will take this issue to heart because it's the public that stands to suffer, not DPS.

ALAN ELDER
Paramedic/FF

RP Consul sends her gratitude

Dear Editor:

On behalf of the Filipino Community in the CNMI and on my own, I would like to express profound gratitude to the Marianas Variety for its invaluable assistance, support and cooperation during the celebration of the Philippine Centennial.

The special Marianas Variety supplement issue of June 12, 1998 has been instrumental in reaching out to the Filipino in the Commonwealth as well as our Chamorro friends and benefactors.

Your newspaper truly captured and infused the very spirit we wanted to rekindle in the hears of all Filipinos.

You made us proud of our heritage.

Let me also express through this column, the Consulate's deep appreciation to the myriad of supporters and donors who donated time, effort and financial help that made the centennial celebrations a rousing success.

Again, with fervor in our hearts, thank you for your continuing support.

JULIA C. HEIDEMANN
Philippine Consul

Reunification is 'lousiest joke'

Dear Editor:

Your Thursday, June 18, 1998, front page, entitled "Reunification of NMI, Guam seen," is one of the lousiest joke in political history as a Commonwealth in the Northern Marianas Islands.

After reading the whole story, I have trouble catching my breath in disbelief of what I just read.

Five minutes later, I had to run to the bathroom to throw-up.

I cannot believe that the story had come from Lt. Gov. Jess Sablan.

Lt. Gov. Sablan has just committed political suicide.

Reunification of Guam and NMI is a very sensitive issue in the hearts and minds of the CNMI people.

Lt. Gov. Sablan should at least make a feeler from his people before he makes such statement.

I for one, will not and will do anything to prevent reunification, even if it needs an election re-call of a Lt. governor so be it.

Let the people decide such move before taking it to the 902 table.

Come to think of it, is the Lt. Gov. giving up his title, giving up the fight? Coping-out and taking the easy way out the heat? I hope not.

I am not bitter of the story. I am just sick even thinking about it.

STANLEY T. TORRES
Former Congressman, Pct-3

Fina Sisu needs better water

Dear Editor:

I would like to draw the attention of congressional members of Precinct I and the management of CUC on the dilemma of Fina Sisu residents regarding water problems.

It's been over six (6) years since the families of Fina Sisu had been on water rationing or at times no water at all for the whole day.

Water is the most essential human need for basic survival.

Please help us the Fina Sisu families.

It is a burden for us to get up every morning at 4:30 or 5:00 to open the water faucet to catch the water flow which come to our area for an hour or hour and half.

We need water to clean dishes, cook food, wash clothes and take showers.

At times if the CUC water watchman is late, we get no water at all for NMC will drain it before it trickles to our homes

Before endorsing the voucher program (so that your kids can attend Mt. Carmel School or other private school with our public money?) why don't you think of us constituents in Fina Sisu on our water plight.

Maybe with the money for the voucher program, you as our elected leaders from Precinct I could reprogram the money to buy bigger pipes and reconnect us to another main (separate Fina Sisu from NMC main pipe).

We in Fina Sisu should be getting regular water, water which we have been paying CUC for 24 hour service, but have not been served.

Think of us, Fina Sisu residents for one way or the other we voted for you.

PETE G. PANGELINAN

LETTERS to the editor must carry the full name of the writer and signature, with a telephone number (in case of faxed or mailed letters) for verification. Letters addressed to other publications or to third parties and those endorsing particular political candidates are discouraged. All letters are subject to editing. The Variety reserves the right to reject any letters. Name withheld and unsigned letters will not see print.

GPA under fire again

By Jacob Leon Guerrero
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA, Guam — Senator Mark C. Charfauros has written a letter to the Guam Power Authority Board of Directors, Chairman Frank Shimizu addressing bond issues.

The letter addressed the legality of GPA transferring $2 million from bond-related funds to the Governor's office.

"I am sure I need not remind you of the legal ramifications involved in violating the bond covenants.

"A violation will not only jeopardize our bond rating but will also hold all the GPA Board members, the Executive Director and all those involved in processing the illegal check, personally liable," Charfauros said in his letter.

The Senator alleged that the loan violates the bond covenant.

Charfauros's main concern is that in the event that the administration does not repay the $2 million, GPA will raise power rates, which he believes will have an adverse affect on GPA customers.

Legal Counsel for GPA, Frederick Horecky commented that GPA was not granting a loan to the Governor's office, just transferring funds.

Horecky says the transfer was legal under Public Law 24-117. He claims to have thoroughly researched the issue and to his knowledge, the transfer does not violate the bond covenant.

Frank Shimizu was off-island and unavailable for comment.

CPA's $2.15M request turned down

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

PORTS Authority comptroller David S. Demapan has rejected a CPA management request to release some $2.153 million in supplemental funds for two seaport projects, it was learned yesterday.

Demapan, in a letter to CPA board treasurer David Maratita, was citing the dwindling revenues generated by the ports agency, despite a 20 percent increase in cash receipts reported last month.

He recommended the temporary suspension of a project that would cost CPA some $1,650,000 for the paving of the container yard.

He also rejected a request that would allow the release of additional $503,956 for the construction of the Fire Hydrant Seawater Intake System, adding that the project can wait until next year.

"First, we need to ensure that under this tough times, the projection is in line with reality," Demapan said.

He also pointed out the potential liability with Samsung's change order [number 7], totaling $741,000 which the Ports Authority must consider as a cash outflow.

The Saipan Harbor Improvement Project underwent numerous change orders during the last three years. One of them involved an amount over $741,000 as additive to the existing contract for dredging work in Rota.

Requests for audit has been previously made to determine whether the change orders were justified and legal.

It has been said that change order number-7 with over $741,000 of supplemental cost is a result of work initially intended to be covered by liquidated damage of $1 million against the contractor by performing certain dredging work in Rota harbor.

The executive transition committee earlier said the $1 million work to be performed by Samsung resulted in $741,000 of work being billed to CPA, an amount exceeding the liquidated damage.

"It is prudent to have availability of funds for contingent liabilities. Although the financial projection tells us that CPA can accommodate additional CIP projects, I would strongly recommend to hold on some projects," Demapan said.

At the same time, the CPA comptroller certified $694,624 in supplemental budget for the capital improvement projects at the seaport.

"I have prepared two financial analysis scenarios, debt service payment and debt service payment with 100 percent CPA project," he said.

Demapan said these financial scenarios will not deplete the cash equivalents available for operation for the next five years.

Chamorro Land Trust leases signed

By Sara Grant
Variety News Staff

ADELUP, Guam—Eighty-three Chamorro Land Trust leases were signed on Tuesday at the Government House, officials at the Chamorro Land Trust said yesterday.

So far, the Trust has distributed 1,268 leases from March of 1997 to May of 1998 (250 agricultural, the remaining residential).

To this day, the Trust has received 9,500 leases.

According to the Chamorro Land Trust Office, the applications are processed in order of the exact time they were completed on the application date.

Public Information Officer for the Chamorro Land Trust, Coy Partido said that of the 83 leases that were signed on Tuesday, 38 were agricultural leases for land in Dededo, Yigo and Mangilao.

The other 45 were for residential lots in Dededo and Mangilao.

Partido says the process for distributing lease should be faster now because the Trust is giving leases out on a monthly basis as opposed to before when it was done less frequently.

Partido would not estimate how long it would take to finish processing the remaining leases, but agreed that it could possibly take several years.

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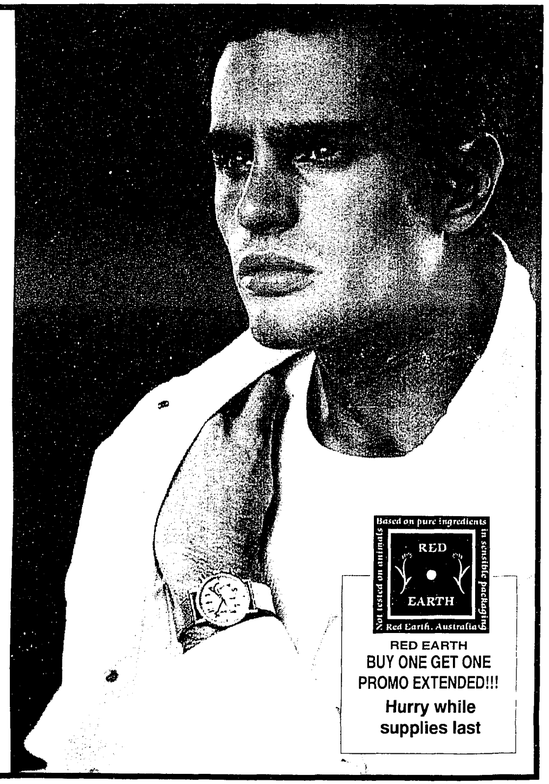

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Economic outlook

The yen and Pacific air fares

By William H. Stewart,
For the Variety

The June 2nd edition of the Japan Times carried a full page advertisement for a travel agency indicating round trip air fares from Japan to various destinations around the world.

While indicating that the prices vary depending upon departure and return dates, and using an exchange rate of 144.6 Yen to the dollar, these fares are indicative as to what is happening within some Asian air lines and the impact upon travel to the Marianas.

Several of these fares are as follows: from Tokyo round trip to Los Angeles 49,800 Yen ($344); Tokyo to Las Vegas round trip 68,000 Yen, ($470). Of course, there are some restrictions but still these fares are unbelievably low.

The regular fare from Saipan to Guam round trip is $229 according to a local airline agent.

A special fare with restrictions is $149.

The above newspaper ad indicated the fare from Japan to Saipan and return at 34,000 Yen, ($235).

The distance from Saipan to Guam is 120 miles, or 240 miles round trip.

From Tokyo to Saipan the distance is about 1,270 one way or 2,540 miles round trip.

Northwest Airlines flies direct from Tokyo to Las Vegas, a distance of approximately than 5,500 miles one way, (11,000 miles round trip), for 148,000 Yen or $1,023 round trip.

I'm not knowledgeable about airline economics, my view point is from that of a consumer.

I calculated the above distances as Great Circle Routes which are the shortest distance between two points on the earth's surface.

An examination of the cost to the consumer on a per mile basis reveals the following.

From Japan to Los Angeles and return the cost is 3 cents per mile; Japan to Las Vegas and return - 4 cents per mile; Japan - Saipan - Japan - 9 cents per mile; Northwest's fare from Tokyo to Las Vegas and return - 9 cents per mile.

Continental's regular fare from Saipan to Guam and back - 95 cents per mile.

For people who are concerned about the high cost of living in the islands the above may partially explain one of the reasons.

It points out the fierce competition facing the Commonwealth as a tourist destination.

Strangely, Guam doesn't seem to be experiencing the same degree of difficulties with tourist arrivals as the islands to the north.

While there has been some decline in arrivals to Guam, I was interested to learn that a feasibility analysis I prepared some months ago for a hotel on Guam now reports reservations for an average monthly occupancy of about 85 percent through August.

And this is for a hotel that only recently opened.

Our tourism economy reminds me a little of the legend about the Greek philosopher Thales who fell into a well while strolling along gazing at the stars.

It was his penchant for gazing at the heavens that made him great.

But failure to keep his eyes on the ground killed him.

That's the way it is with the tourism sector.

We have to look for the "holes" so that in turn we can avoid the pitfalls.

Granted many of the forces that affect the islands, and the tourism sector in particular, are external and beyond our ability to influence.

But if an opportunity presents itself to improve the sector by all means it should be embraced.

We read a great deal about various possible changes in current laws and regulations.

Comments about raising this or that fee, increasing taxes and so forth.

In my judgment the exact opposite should be done, namely reduce the cost of doing business in the islands.

Otherwise there may not be too many business left to tax.

I am reminded of a simple but true fact known to every businessman and woman.

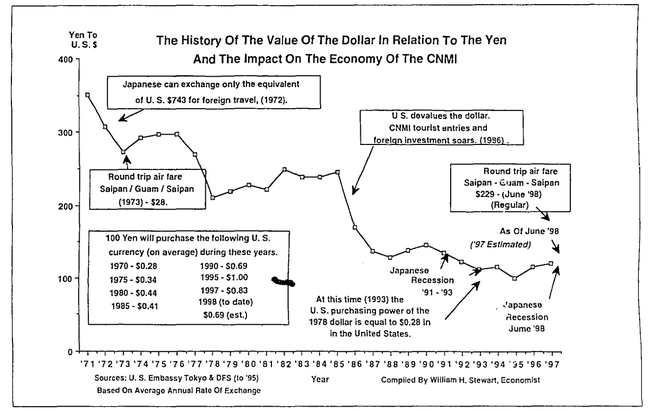
There are only two ways to make money. Increase your sales and hold your costs.

If it is not possible to increase sales, then attempt to hold them at a particular level and cut costs.

The government could well respect the latter.

One of the things we can not control is the fluctuating exchange rates of currencies, and in particular that of Japan.

As can be examined on the accompanying graph, 17 years ago years ago in 1980 one hundred Yen would purchase the equivalent of 44 cents so a person needed 226.7 Yen to buy a dollar to spend on Saipan.



Bill Stewart

Today one needs only 144.6 Yen to purchase the same, although deflated, dollar.

In this example the problem for today's tourist is that it takes more Yen to purchase the buying power of the 1980 dollar.

The reason is a result of inflation which has eroded the currency's value.

A person needs more dollars to pay for the same item he or she was able to purchase at less cost several years ago.

To cite an example, when I arrived on Saipan in 1970 I rented an automobile for $2.50 a day.

It costs twenty times that amount today.

Now the interesting contradiction is that as far as some air fares go, this does not currently hold true.

The reason being, I suspect, is that the countries owning these airlines, (of which many carriers are not private), must earn "hard currency", that is currency that is freely convertible such as U. S. Dollars, French francs, Deutsche marks, etc.

One way for "soft currency" areas to do this is to use their state owned air craft to fly tourists at "fire sale" fares.

While the Yen is not "soft", the

Continued on page 73

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AROUND the Islands

The Around the Islands section covers community stories, local events, and cultural activities. Should you have a story you would like to share, or an event that needs to be covered, contact Laila at 234-6341

Orchestra plays for Centennial

By Sara Grant
Variety News Staff

TUMON, Guam—People attending the opening of A Centennial Conference at the Hilton Wednesday night were treated to a moving, intimate performance by the Orchestra de Ampurdan from Spain.

The chamber orchestra, whois selections included music popular at the time of the Spanish American War, ended their concert with a beautiful peace offering called "The Song of the Birds."

Conductor of the orchestra, Carles Coll, speaking in Spanish, explained through interpreter and bass player James Testi, the song was offered "as homage to the people of Guam for all the wars fought here."

"Pablo Casals, the great cellist and fighter of wars, ended his concerts with this Catalan folk song and played it before the United Nations as a plea for world peace," he said.

Casal's arrangement of the anonymously composed folk song started with a mysterious, eerie, soft tremolo in the violins imitating birds singing, and featured cello soloist Francois Ragot playing a heart wrenching, slow melody from memory.

The concert opened with a piece called "Bullfighters Prayer," by Spanish composer Joaquim Turina which musically depicts a bullfighter praying for success and listening to the sound of the bull before entering the arena.

"Views of the Sea," by Edwardo Toldra, a composer from the Catalonia region was performed to depict scenes from the Mediterranean, the conductor explained.

"Since weire on an island, we wanted to play a piece which speaks of the sea," he added.

The first movement was introduced by the conductor as fresh, jovial and happy; this was followed by a second movement with full, rich harmonies growing in intensity and fading away like the changes in the tide.

The final movement, which started moderately fast in a major tonality, ended with loud, rapid, melodies tossed-around to different sections of the orchestra which sounded like waves crashing against rocks on the shore.

The orchestra, which has been selected by the Spanish government to tour as part of the Centennial Celebration, performed in Manila before they came to Guam and will play next week in Bulgaria.

The group comes from a small town in Northern Spain on the French boarder called Figueres, also known as the Catalonia region.

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Underwood on Centennial:

'Guam witnesses the changing of the guard'

Robert Underwood

By Maxine Hillary
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA, Guam—"Today we are finding a way to celebrate and otherwise commemorate what is clearly a changing of the guard in Guam's colonial history."

Congressman Robert Underwood told a packed ballroom yesterday during his keynote address to the Centennial Conference, "The Legacy of the Spanish American War in the Pacific," being held at the Guam Hilton this week.

In his address to the crowd of international scholars and observers, Underwood pointed out that the discussions of the changing of colonial rule from one power to another have omitted the point of view of the people whose lives were most affected by the political events shaping Guam's history.

Underwood said the perspective of the Chamorro has yet to be included in the body of work surrounding the colonization by Spain and later, the United States.

He pointed out that the Centennial still focused on the influence of the Spanish and Americans and

Continued on page 72

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Sugar Dock opening today

By Louie C. Alonso

THE STORE that specializes in Angus chilled beef will be having its grand opening today.

Sugar Dock Market is a full line grocery store that retails certified Angus Beef.

"The difference of Sugar Dock from other stores is that we are selling chilled Angus beef, not frozen. So the beef retains its freshness, taste and quality," says, Sugar Dock Manager Leo Gaudette.

The store boasts a complete line of dry goods, health and beauty, deli and dairy products. It is a complete supermarket in American standards.

Aside from great quality food products, Sugar Dock boasts of a neat store design.

All of the products are stocked up in a maximum of 54 inches high so that customers could have a good view of what's inside the store.

Its bright, clean and wide aisles make it accessible to everybody.

Food products usually come from the United States, Philippines, Taiwan, Hong Kong, Korea and China.

The main thrust of the store is their so-called 'Special Cuts.' Customers could ask the personnel of Sugar Dock to provide them their desired beef cuts.

And this is from 8 in the morning until 8 in the evening, 7 days a week.

Sugar Dock has opened its doors to the public late last year. This month, they are coming up with a grand opening that is set to attract many customers.

Starting today, Sugar Dock will be having a free tasting of certified Angus beef.

It is also introducing Tyson Chicken, for which they are the main distributor.

Other free tasting include various products, snacks, beer and wine, softdrinks, cookies and ice cream.

The free tasting will last for two weeks inside the Sugar Dock Market.

The store has 17 friendly employees that are consistently giving its customers a very good service.

As for their secret of having good customer-relations, Gaudette says, "The key is that we are making sure that our employees are happy with the company. That happiness will translate into good customer relations."

According to Stayman:

'Report confirms transshipments'

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

INSULAR Affairs Director Allen Stayman said that the second report prepared by his agency's consultants confirmed incidents of transshipments in CNMI.

The results of the study is still being kept confidential as the US Customs Service is still investigating allegations of transshipment, said Stayman.

In his letter to Gov. Pedro Tenorio, Stayman said that while the report does not document the full extent of transshipments through Saipan, "it does confirm that specific incidents of transshipments have occurred in the past."

In a press briefing, Stayman said the allegations of transshipment started when the Insular Affairs Office noted an increase in shipments in CNMI at the time when the number of workers allowed to enter the island was limited.

Allen Stayman

The report was compiled between Jan. 29,1998 and Feb. 14,1998.

"It's interesting to know why shipments went up when workers were not going up. One explanation was workers were working harder or there was transshipment. But that was enough for us to look into that and we were able to get people to say that they essentially witnessed transshipment.

"We don't know the extent of it or whether it is still going on but it would be the report which will answer these questions. It's still a big issue," said Stayman.

The report, according to Stayman, focuses primarily on the ownership of the garment companies in the CNMI and the possible transshipment of garments from Asia via Saipan to the United States.

Acting Customs Director Jerome Kintol, however, said that he has not seen a copy of the report.

"I cannot confirm whether there really are incidents of transshipments or not until I see the report. I don't even think the governor saw it already," Kintol told the Variety.

Stayman also said the report was compiled after the US Customs Service noted its inability to conduct surprise inspections of garment containers at the ports in Saipan.

"As you know, the CNMI is outside the US Customs Area and local law requires the presence and approval of the owner of the shipping container before customs inspections can occur," he said.

In an earlier interview, Kintol said that the Customs remains efficient in its daily operations so there is no need for a 100 percent inspection of all incoming cargoes and passengers.

The suggestion of doing a full inspection of all cargoes came after reports of transshipment of garments and even cigarettes from other countries are happening in Saipan.

Kintol added that since he became the acting Customs director in January, he has not come across any of these incidents. He, however, said that there have been at least 16 seizures of illegal drugs like 'ice' and marijuana from cargoes coming in since January this year.

OPA grants appeal of protesting bidder for power plant contract

Leo LaMotte

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE OFFICE of the the Public Auditor (OPA) yesterday granted "in part," an appeal made by a firm protesting its exclusion from government's selection process for the construction of an 80-megawatt power plant.

The move opens a new round of negotiations that may include all other bidders previously rejected.

In issuing its decision, Leo LaMotte, Public Auditor, ruled that the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. (CUC), counting out Pacific Marine and Industrial Corp. (PMIC), "merely narrowed the number of competitive range offerors" through a process that is "flawed as it was based on erroneous scores."

LaMotte argued that it would have been reasonable to reject PMIC's proposal if it was "unacceptable to such an extent that any revision in the negotiation stage would be equivalent to submitting a new proposal."

The proposal can also be rejected, he said, if, when compared with others, it has no chance of being selected for award.

"We believe," said LaMotte, "that CUC's methodology does not represent a rational approach to measuring whether a proposal is reasonably susceptible for award."

"Aside from this," he added, "we believe that there is a need for CUC to re-examine its formula for selecting top six proposers because its cut-off number... was based on erroneous computation."

LaMotte recommended that CUC make a redetermination of the competitive range bidders in compliance with the requirement of its procurement regulations.

"All proposals which are reasonably susceptible of award should be included in the range, and those which qualify under this standard but were originally excluded from the competitive range should be reinstated in the competition by asking the proposers to submit best and final offers," LaMotte ordered.

William Ohle, CUC legal counsel, said a motion for reconsideration of LaMotte's decision will be filed.

"We feel (that) the opinion (LaMotte's) contained both factual and legal inaccuracies," he said.

The matter stemmed from CUC's decision reached on Nov. 14 last year where it determined that six of the13 proposals, PMIC's not among them, were "within competitive range."

A four-member selection committee chosen by CUC Executive Director Timothy Villagomez evaluated the proposals which scored them using the criteria and the point scale published in the request for proposal.

LaMotte said CUC "merely narrowed the number of competitive range (bidders)... based on a cut-off number of 57 points, and concluded that the 6 bidders, (who scored above the cut-off number) were the only ones (deserving) of the award."

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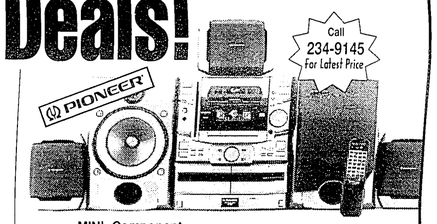

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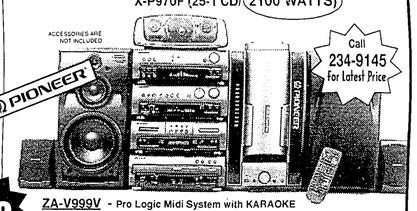

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Rota leaders promote 'eco-tourism'

ROTA leaders are throwing their support for legislation in the Senate that aims for protection of the island environment.

Senator Ricardo S. Atalig, Rota Mayor Benjamin Manglona and Natural Resources resident director Eusebio A. Hocog are behind the introduction of a Senate local bill that would establish a Marine Wildlife Reserve at Panatang Park on Rota.

Atalig said that the bill is just one of many steps theleaders of Rota intend to take to help promote Rota's "ecotourism" concept of sustainable tourism.

Ricardo S. Atalig

Benjamin Manglona

Eusebio A. Hocog

"I look at this bill as the heart and soul of our people taking the form of responsible public policy," said the Rota senator.

Atalig underscored the importance of aggressively promoting Rota's natural attributes during these "very lean times."

He said, "our island possesses a wealth of natural beauty and as the popularity of ecotourism continues to grow around the world, I believe we are poised to make a significant contribution to the commonwealth's overall tourism strategy."

"Times are tough right now, but this is the type of organization and planning we are going to need to get tourism up and running on Rota," he said.

House may move amnesty bill today

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

THE HOUSE of Representatives in its session today may pass legislation that would allow illegal aliens to seek amnesty and legal employment.

Introduced by Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio (R-Prec. 1, Saipan), the bill, H.B. 11-76, was passed recently by the Senate which introduced minor amendments to it.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has repeatedly expressed support for the bill, which is considered "timely" in light of the hiring moratorium currently in place.

Also to be taken up in today's House session is S.B. 11-62, which was introduced by Sen. Joaquin G. Adriano (R-Tinian).

The bill would allow Tinian to appropriate revenues from the island's casino industry.

Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Prec. 2, Saipan) yesterday described the legislation as a "priority."

The so-called amnesty bill, for its part, would allow illegal aliens who avail of the immunity period to be "forever immune" from all prosecution.

The illegal aliens could also be issued a temporary work permit, during which he could seek a permanent job.

The bill states that if the alien wishes to be repatriated, the Department of Labor and Immigration (DOLI) would assist him to obtain money for the air fare.

Under the bill, DOLI has to provide assistance to the alien or any of his family members who want to be repatriated.

Those who seek immunity would also be assisted by DOLI to seek sources of humanitarian relief.

Representative Tenorio has said that the proposed law would allow illegal aliens to "come out and be counted," seek legal employment and pay taxes.

Manuel A. Tenorio

He called his bill a "humanitarian gesture" and crucial to the administration's current efforts to reform the CNMI's labor and immigration bureaucracies.

Estimates on the number of illegal aliens range from 2,000 to 15,000.

The only way to get an accurate number is to allow the aliens to be counted, Tenorio said.

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Teen gangs may be behind break-ins

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

PROBERS are looking into the possibility that Monday night's break ins at two Capitol Hill government offices were instigated by a gang of teenagers following the discovery of spray-painted initials believed to stand for the group's name.

Marianne Concepcion, PIO for the Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR) who revealed this development, at the same time said no land records were tampered with nor stolen as had earlier been feared.

She however declined to divulge the initials saying such may jeopardize the ongoing investigation.

"There was a symbol, an abbreviation of a group's name," said Concepcion.

"We don't want to release that yet," she added.

Pressed if it is believed that a youth gang was behind the burglaries, Concepcion replied: "probably."

Unidentified persons broke into the buildings housing DLNR's Division of Land Registration and Survey (DLRS) office as well as that of the Department of Commerce (DOC), Monday night.

There was no immediately available account on the DOC break-in nevertheless DLNR Secretary Jack A. Tenorio, on Tuesday, said the damage at the DLRS office was "quite extensive."

It was at the DLRS office that the initials were found by a wall.

No estimates on the amount of properties missing and damaged was readily available as of presstime yesterday afternoon.

Concepcion said that government workers find more things missing as they clean the place up.

"The more they clean, the more the discover that something else is missing," she said.

She said the intruders sprayed fire extinguisher at the DLRS office, spilled acid by its microfilm section, and vandalized desks with "bad words."

Concepcion said no land records were missing.

"It's safely secured inside a vault," she said.

"Even if a fire breaks out those documents will still be there," she added.

Manamkos not entitled to retro wage benefits, says Prior Service

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

PRIOR Service Trust Fund Administrator Jerold F. Facey said CNMI's senior citizens are not entitled to some kind of retroactive wage benefits.

Facey said all eligible Micronesian employees who worked at least five years for the US Navy and or the Trust Territory Government between 1944 and 1968 have been identified and many are currently receiving benefits.

The Veterans Affairs Office earlier stated that the *Manamkos* (senior citizens) who had worked for the government during the US Navy and Trust Territory are eligible to avail of retroactive wage benefits.

Facey, however, denied it, saying there is no such thing as retroactive wages.

"Furthermore, there is nothing new about the availability of funds and $7 million to $15 million is not budgeted for the program. There were no old folks who worked for nothing in our program," Facey told the Variety.

The administrator said at the moment prior service as well as the Micronesian governments are lobbying the US Congress to have the remainder of the fund capitalized which is now estimated to be $20 million.

"Contact was made to Veterans' Affairs solely for the purpose of coordinating with living Marine Scouts to write directly to specific US Congressmen with the hope that a higher level of visibility and attention would be given to the appropriation request, particularly if the scouts talked about their sacrifice and service with the US military," Facey said.

Solution to financial woes of NMC found

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio's special adviser on finance and budget yesterday said the administration has identified funds for Northern Marianas College's payroll money.

Mike S. Sablan, however, noted that it is "unfortunate" that NMC tends to face similar problems every year.

"This last-minute crisis is really very difficult to address because the administration's budget proposal has already been submitted," Sablan said.

He added that the $78,000 that NMC needs will be reprogrammed from the college's existing budget allocations.

But this solution, he said, is a "short-term measure."

"It'll address only one pay period," Sablan said.

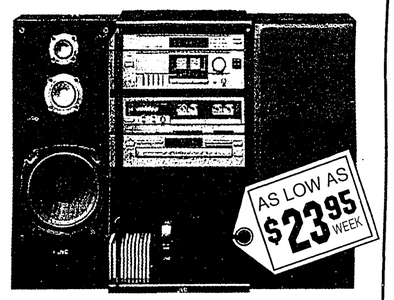
Meanwhile, he said, the administration will work with the Legislature to come up with a long-term solution.

He added that only the passage of the fiscal year 1999 budget bill could resolve most of the NMC's financial problems.

The administration has proposed a $7.9 million budget for NMC.

NMC officials yesterday met with the governor, administration officials and the Legislature's presiding officers to discuss the college's "payroll crisis" which affects over a hundred NMC faculty members.

STEREO SYSTEMS



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7. The corporation shall disclose all limitations and restrictions on sale of preferred stock, in writing, to all purchasers of preferred stock.

8. The preferred stock to be issued pursuant to this offer shall be entitled to participate in a non-cumulative fixed annual dividend of AN AGGREGATE OF TEN PER CENT (10%) of any surplus net profit of Bird Island Development, Inc., to be divided among holders of preferred stock pro rata according to the percentage held by each of the total preferred stock, and payable as may be authorized by directors of Bird Island Development, Inc., and shall have priority over any dividend set apart or paid on the common stock of the corporation. The holders of preferred stock shall not be entitled to any further dividend or share of the corporation's profits.

9. Other terms and conditions effecting the stock and rights of each preferred stockholder are stated in Bird Island Development, Inc.'s First Articles of Amendment, filed with CNMI Registrar of Corporations on November 28, 1997, a copy of which may be inspected at the office of the corporation's attorneys, White, Pierce, Mailman & Nutting, Second Floor Joeten Building I, Susupe, P.O. Box 5222 CHRB, Saipan, MP 96950, Attn: Bruce L. Mailman.

10. Bird Island Development, Inc. makes no warranty or guarantee, express or implied, of any profit or return on any investment represented by the shares of preferred stock now offered by the corporation, or that the shares of stock now offered will be marketable, now or in future. The corporation's golf course and resort project is in the development stage at present, and no commercial or revenue-producing operations have yet begun. Bird Island Development, Inc., recommends that potential subscribers seek the advice of a qualified investment adviser or stockbroker with regard to the potential risks of purchasing shares in the corporation.

Applications for stock subscription are available at the office of the corporation's attorneys. The application period will open on May 26, 1998, at 8:00 a.m., and will close on June 25, 1998 at 5:00 p.m.; applications will be available on weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excepting legal holidays, during the application period. The maximum number of available shares for each applicant will be determined by dividing the number of applicants into the authorized number of shares of preferred nonvoting stock. The number of subscribers, and the maximum stock subscription available to each, will be determined as of the day after the closing date of the subscription application period set forth above. Stock will be issued only after all qualified subscribers have been identified and have confirmed their subscriptions, and to each subscriber only upon payment in full of each such subscription. The corporation reserves the right to extend the subscription application period, or to hold an additional subscription period, if in the opinion of the corporation's directors it would be to the benefit of the corporation and the public to do so.

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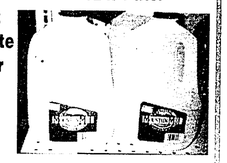

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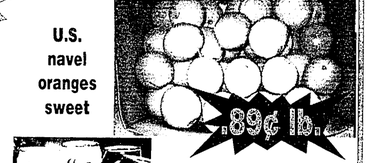

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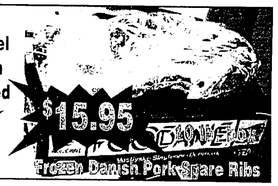

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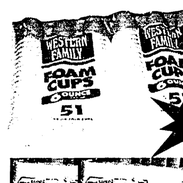

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CPA: Stricter rules on projects

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE COMMONWEALTH Ports Authority is instituting stricter rules in the certification of projects to ensure capital improvements are given priority, it was disclosed yesterday.

In a board meeting yesterday, Board member George Sablan introduced a resolution setting a seven-step procedure that will have to be followed before a ports project is certified.

Executive director Carlos H. Salas said tying both hands of the CPA management will cause more adversity than gain.

"When the board appointed me as executive director, I believe I also earned the trust of the CPA board with that appointment," he said, adding that the proposal may cause delay to the implementation of the projects.

Board member Fidel M. Manglona insisted that the CPA Board should be actively involved in certifying which projects go first and which projects should be temporarily put on hold.

While admitting that several projects and supplemental budget were approved and released during the past administration, Salas stressed that "tying" the management's hands will not address the problem.

An executive report has recommended that the US Department of Interior or the US Congress audit the Saipan Harbor Improvement Project [SHIP] because of the increase in scope and cost, as well as the delay in completion.

The project underwent numerous change orders during the last three years.

One of them involved over $741,000 as additive to the existing contract for dredging work in Rota. Requests for audit has been previously made to determine whether the change orders were justified and legal.

During the Fiscal Year 1995, none of the six supplemental budget requests, amounting to more than $6.5 million, were approved with the certification of the CPA comptroller.

In 1996, some $22.9 million in total supplemental budget were approved without the certification of the chief accountant, while close to $245,000 in total additional budget were okayed without the accountant's knowledge.

Manglona, who was apparently agitated by several change orders on airport and seaport projects, said the CPA board and management should jointly look after what is causing the changes.

"There's no CPA project without change order. Somebody has to explain that to me. I have been a member of this board for three months and I have already seen 20 change orders," he said.

He was asking the ports authority management to identify the source of the apparent mistakes which led to the "changed orders."

Pedro Nakatsukasa, another board member, echoed Manglona's sentiments, saying 20 change orders in three months is "too much."

Embattled board chair Antonio Camacho, in response, assured Manglona that there will be no more change orders "from now on" because the CPA comptroller has been regularly consulted.

"I don't want to point fingers but I admit that in the past, several projects were approved and additional finds were released without the comptroller's knowledge and signature," Camacho said.

Lib-Day vendors lament slow sales

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

WITH just two weeks to Liberation Day, several vendors occupying 60 booths at the American Memorial Park carnival are getting wary they may not have good investment returns, even as they blamed the festivities' organizing committee on the matter over its alleged failure to draw crowd onto the site.

The carnival's staff plays music starting 5:00 pm and cuts it at around 8:00 pm just as people are starting to arrive, according to Marianne Concepcion, who maintains three booths.

There is no musical group playing and only two of the carnival's five rides are working, one of

Continued on page 73

CPA seeks $2.5M FAA grant

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE COMMONWEALTH Ports Authority is seeking $2.57 million in financial grant from the Federal Aviation Administration for the improvement of the security access control system.

In a letter to the FAA, Ports Authority exectuive director Carlos Salas said this funding is required for improvements to the existing security system in order to comply with federal specifications.

Salas said recent repairs and renovations made at the Saipan International Airport necessitated the system modifications.

"It is acknowledged that the deadline for this application was May 1 but plans and specifications for the West Corridor Enclosure and Air Conditioning project were not finalized at that time and the scope of work for the security access system modifications could not be determined," he said.

The West Corridor Enclosure project, according to Salas, is modifying the existing holdrooms and passengers walkways.

He added that security emasures are directly dependent on final location of the access ppoints.

The two projects have recently been finalized and have been issued for construction bidding. The CPA applocation was completed and submitted as soon as practical after determination of the proper scope of work, according to Salas.

He said the Ports Authority is expecting to have the funding authorized promptly so that the work can be initiated next month.

Salas last week met with FAA officials to discuss the financing of several airport projects, including the West Tinian International Airport improvement plan.

He said the installation and enhancement of navigational aids to ensure air and landing safety were also discussed during his meeting with FAA representatives.

The negotiation, according to the Ports Authority chief, also included airport projects and navigational aids in the Northern Marianas and throughout the US Pacific.

Salas also said the CPA normally submits a list of its projects to the US aviation agency which will program the financing request to the national registry for Congressional appropriations.

CPA will host regional workshop on aviation disaster management

THE COMMONWEALTH Ports Authority (CPA) and the University of California Davis are co-sponsoring the Aviation Disaster Management Workshops in the CNMI starting on Monday, June 22 at the Pacific Gardenia Hotel Conference Room.

Top officials from Guam International Airport Authority, Guam Civil Defense, Pohnpei, FSM government, Palau and local officials from the Department of Public Safety, American Red Cross, the airlines, Emergency Management Office and CPA are scheduled to attend the workshop.

The workshop's primary focus is on understanding management's role in identifying hazardous material and incident command at aircraft accident sites.

Because of the islands' unique geographical location and the limited resources, the workshop will also address the emergency response system for the region and various aviation factors affecting concerted-response efforts in aviation crisis.

"The recent tragic of Korean Air 801 accident has proven outright to all of us the need for an advance and effective emergency response system in this part of the Pacific," CPA said in a news release.

Les Omans and Ms. Hansen, both from the University of California Davis, are the lead instructors who will effectively apply group problem solving techniques, networking and team building exercises.

Carlos H. Salas, Executive Director of CPA, pointed out that "these workshops help us form 'regional efforts' and establish camaraderie among the islands for effective responses in the event of any major aviation disaster.

"We continue to pray that nothing, even a smaller accident than the Korean Air 801, will ever occur again in the Pacific. But, as responsible officials, we must continue to prepare ourselves, whether on Guam, Saipan, Palau and the FSM, if it should happen," said salas.

The workshop will start Monday, June 22 to June 24 at the Pacific Gardenia Hotel, June 25 to June 26 on Tinian and June 29 to June 30 on Rota.

The cost of the workshop is being funded by a grant from the University of California Davis.

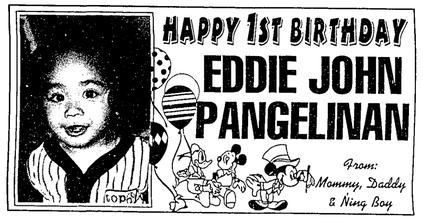
House JGO sets public hearing

THE CHAIRMAN of Judiciary and Governmental Operations will conduct a public hearing on Tuesday, June 23 at 9:30 a.m. in the House of Chambers (Jesus P. Mafnas Memorial Building).

The purpose of this hearing is to hear and receive testimonies on House Resolution No. 11-41.

The bill seeks "to create a new Executive Assistant for Chamorro Affairs under the Commonwealth Constitutio with the same powers and duties as the Executive Assistant fc Carolinian Affairs.

Please contact the office at 664-5377 to confirm participation.



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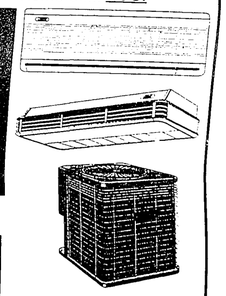

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Marshalls cuts gov't wages

By Giff Johnson
For the Variety

MAJURO — In response to its deteriorating financial situation, the Marshall Islands government announced Wednesday that all government salaries are to be cut 12.5 percent beginning July 1.

Reacting to the government wage cutback, the Bank of Marshall Islands has suspended all loans to government workers until after the newly announced pay cut goes into effect early next month, while other local banks say they foresee a higher rate of loan delinquency in the future as a result of the salary reduction.

The government is anticipating a minimum $2 million deficit in revenue this year, according to government officials.

Despite an increase in local taxes, revenue collection has been less than predicted, forcing the government to chop salaries and take other measures.

Last week, a cabinet memo instructed government offices that all foreign travel has been frozen for the rest of the fiscal year through September 30.

Since late 1997, the Marshall Islands government reform program, supported by the Asian Development Bank, has slowed.

More than 100 workers who were supposed to be laid off last October remain on the payroll while the government continues to hire new personnel, compounding the budget crisis.

The cabinet directive provides no exemption for workers earning near or at the $2 an hour minimum wage, and Ministry of Finance officials indicated that they have been instructed that the pay cut is across the board.

It is unclear if the cuts will result in minimum wage workers being paid below the legislated $2 per hour.

Only those workers whose salaries are funded directly from U.S. federal programs, primarily in health and education programs, are exempted from the cutbacks, the cabinet memo said.

The cabinet also decided that legislation will be introduced in August to legislate the same 12.5 percent reduction for higher paid public officials whose salaries are set by law, and who will not be immediately affected by the July 1 cuts.

"All loans to government employees are on hold until we see the July payroll," said Bank of Marshall Islands President Patrick Chen.

He said he realized this makes it tough for bank customers, especially teachers who are in Majuro from the remote outer islands for summer classes and usually need loan assistance.

But the bank had no choice but to proceed in a cautious manner and review the reduction once it takes effect on July 1, he indicated.

Bank of Guam manager Emory Mesubed said the pay cut announced this week was "unexpected."

He predicted that there will be a rise in loan delinquency because government workers with low salaries will not be able to meet their loan commitments once the cut goes into effect.

Many customers have multiple allotment payments to banks and local businesses each paycheck and may face problems meeting these commitments in the face of a salary reduction, Mesubed said.

Both Mesubed and Chen said that their staff would have to review individual loans to insure customers are able to meet their loan payments.

In the cases where the allotment payments will exceed the new payroll, the banks will need to look at revising or restructuring loan payments, they said.

Mesubed said the problem will likely be with customers who are on the outer islands and difficult to contact.

"It will be a lot of work," he said.

"We'll have to go out and contact customers (to revise loans)."

Gov't urged to move point of fisheries transshipment

HONIARA (Pacnews)—Chief Robert Satu of the fishing village in East Honiara, Solomon Islands urges the government to consider relocating the fisheries trans-shipment point from Honiara.

Chief Satu makes the call while claiming lack of monitoring by customs authorities of activities on foreign fishing boats anchored off Honiara Point, SIBC reports.

He claims that fishermen from the foreign fishing boats trade alcohol and other items for vegetables with locals in the village, and sometimes youths steal from the ships causing embarrassment to their elders.

The chief was referring to a recent incident, where an emergency positioning indicator radio beacon, normally used in ships, was plotted and retrieved from a home at fishing village.

More public holidays not economical, says Gov't

HONIARA (Pacnews)—The Solomon Islands government has been forced not to consider any additional public holiday in July during the inaugural Melanesian Arts and Cultural Festival, the National Trade Show and the 20th Independence Anniversary celebrations.

The government's cashflow problem has been given as the main reason for deciding against an additional public holiday.

Spokesman for the Special Duties Section in the Ministry of Home Affairs, Polycarp Kaelafa said it would be uneconomical to add another day to the two official holidays on July 6 and 7.

Kaelafa said the two days are sufficient.

He said public holidays often had adverse economic effects and those that had always been hard-hit by lengthy public holidays were people in the private sector.

Kaelafa said another factor for deciding against an additional holiday was that the government's payday would fall in that week and pay officers would be required to process salaries.

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2 DR AUTO MUSTANG	ABT-682	Blue	$11.975
2 DR AUTO MUSTANG	ABT-702	Red	$11.975
FORD 1995			
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2 DR AUTO THUNDERBIRD	ABT-652	Dark Blue	$8,950
2 DR AUTO THUNDERBIRD	ABT-712	Silver	$8,950
4 DR AUTO TAURUS	ABT-672	Dark Green	$8,975
4 DR AUTO TAURUS	ABT-722	Champagne	$8,975
4 DR AUTO TAURUS	ABT-732	Dark Blue	$8,975
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By Giff Johnson

For the Variety

MAJURO — A huge shipment of U.S. Department of Agriculture-provided food arrives in Majuro today, the second installment of U.S. food aid to islanders stricken by the El Niño-caused drought.

A contingent of locally-based U.S. Federal Emergency Management Agency, U.S. Forestry Service/Department of Agriculture, International Red Cross and Marshall Islands disaster officials were gearing for receiving the shipment and starting distribution to remote outer islands.

Forestry official Dennis Orbus said the food arriving Friday on a PM&O container ship represents a 30 day supply for the Marshall Islands.

More than $500,000 in food is included in this shipment, according to U.S. officials, who added that administrative, shipping and local distribution costs will increase the amount to close to $1 million.

The food is being provided to an estimated 22,756 Marshall Islanders, or more than a third of the population, mostly in the outer atolls, according to FEMA officials.

The U.S. is providing staple food items such as rice, flour, canned fruits and vegetables, fruit juice, and cooking oil to islanders whose agriculture resources have been severely damaged by the six month drought, which started in December and ended in mid-May.

Beginning Monday, the food will be divided up and loaded onto chartered vessels to get the food to the remote outer islands, according to Marshall Islands public assistance officer Andrew Bilimon.

The islands receiving food are scattered over a 500,000 square mile ocean area in the north Pacific.

The first shipment of food was purchased from local merchants by FEMA last month to get the emergency feeding program launched quickly.

From now on, all food is being shipped in from the U.S., according to U.S. officials.

Orbus said that U.S. and Marshall Islands officials will be making spot checks over the next few weeks to insure that the U.S.-provided food is getting to the intended recipients on the outer islands.

"We want to be sure we get the food to the (drought) affected Marshallese, not to people in the cash economies (in the two urban centers, Majuro and Ebeye)," Orbus said.

The food shipments will continue for a minimum of six months, until October, with an evaluation in August by FEMA of the need for continuing the program beyond the six months, according to FEMA coordinator in Majuro, Doug Quisenberry.

Bilimon said that all inhabited islands in the Marshalls are eligible for the U.S.-provided emergency food, with the exception of the four nuclear test-affected atolls that already receive a monthly supply of USDA food, and the urban residents of Ebeye and Majuro, who do not depend on the land for their food.

Philippine stocks rise sharply on stronger yen as peso gains

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine stocks soared Thursday, ending seven days of losses after joi nt U.S.-Japanese market intervention reversed the yen's prolonged slide.

The peso also rose in morning trading along with other regional currencies following the yen's rebo und.

Preliminary data showed the 30-share Philippine Stock Exchange Index rising a whepping 112.41 point s, or 6.6 percent, to 1.828.59, in its heftiest gain in four months.

On Wednesday, the index sank 10.37 points in its seventh straight session of weakness.

The string of losses, attributed by traders to the weakness in Asian currencies sparked by the yen's fall, shaved a total of 241.58 points, or 12 percent, off the main index.

Traders said the decision by the U.S. Federal Reserve, on behalf of the Bank of Japan and the U.S. Treasury, to address the yen's decline by selling U.S. dollars overnight renewed investor confidence in Asian stock markets.

Traders hailed the Fed's move as timely and a great strategy.

"It's not everyday that the Fed intervenes," said Ian Kane, trader for Anscor-Hagedorn Securities Inc.

Kane said he expects further upticks in the market during the next two to three trading days.

Beyond that, however, the market may resume its downturn as inherent problems in the region remain, traders said.

"Enjoy it (the rally) while it lasts," said Mitzi de Dios, trader for ABN-AMRO Hoare Govett Secur ities Philippines Inc.

"Asia is still viewed as one region by foreign investors, so we are still at the mercy of the yen and how the rest of the region performs," she said.

De Dios said the problem doesn't end with the Fed intervention. Japan still needs to do something a bout its economy, which is saddled with a debilitating recession, she said.

"The recession can't be reversed immediately. What Japan can do now is to start injecting reforms to prop up its economy," she said.

Fears of more bad loans as the peso weakens and the Philippine economy slows down are also weighing down on Manila shares, particularly bank stocks, Kane said. The latest to signify its plan to seek debt relie f is flag carrier Philippine Airlines, which is burdened with heavy losses and a $2 billion debt.

In currency trading, the dollar averaged 40.342 pesos at midday, down from 41.717 pesos on Wednesday.

Early transactions saw the dollar reach a low of 39.800 pesos, but the U.S. currency then moved hig her.

The cheaper yen was widely seen as threatening the recovery of still struggling Asian economies by undercutting their products in world markets.

Analysts feared that a continued decline in the yen might spark a new round of currency devaluation s in the rest of Asia, throwing the region back into financial turmoil.

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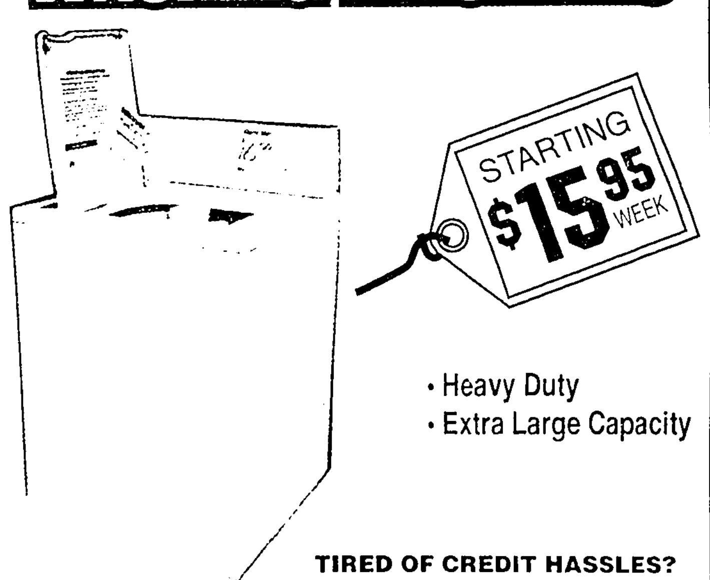

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RP posts current account surplus

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Declining imports helped the Philippines post a current account surplus in the first two months of this year, a turnaround from the sizable deficit registered a year earlier, the government said Thursday.

The surplus in the current account — a broad measure of financial flows from trade, tourism, and other services — totaled $131 million in the two months compared to a deficit of $437 million in the year earlier period, the central bank said.

The surplus represents far better performance than the government's $241 million deficit projection for the period under a two-year, $1.4 billion standby loan arrangement with the International Monetary Fund.

The country's trade deficit has been declining since October 1997 on a year-on-year basis mainly due to a slowdown in imports caused by the weak peso.

The peso has fallen 34 percent since last July, when the Asian currency crisis began.

While lower trade deficits are generally welcomed, analysts warn the lower imports are a sign of a slowing economy.

On this Father's Day, let us call special attention to the men among us who define the word father. We refer to the type of man who doesn't forget to make time for his children, the man who takes an active role in his children's care and upbringing, the man who supports his children's personal interests. These hardworking dads remind us that a father is unselfish with his time, and his attention, and his love. He does not let his children believe they must earn his love. A true father assures his children of his unconditional love, for they will always be his children, and he will always be their father.

As children, we must remember the sacrifices made by our hardworking fathers. Sometimes their love for us went unspoken, however, their deeds spoke volumes. Let us strive to take on the best of our fathers' traits, and rededicate ourselves to insuring that our own children grow up to be happy, productive and fulfilled adults.

Today, we thank the men who embody the best of family and fatherhood. Your constant guidance and support is the very foundation of our community. Our wish to you, on this Father's Day, is the continued respect, and admiration and love of your children. In our opinion, there truly is no greater gift.

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Fiji PM says declaration of disaster is necessary

SUVA (Pacnews)—Fiji prime minister Sitiveni Rabuka believes the state of natural disaster declaration was necessary to facilitate the distribution of food rations and help with the crop rehabilitation programme.

The decision for the declaration was issued by cabinet Wednesday and announced by Rabuka in the afternoon, Island Networks Corporation reports.

Rabuka says the declaration has been made by cabinet on the recommendation of the natural disaster management council under the disaster management act, which was only signed into law two days ago.

The geographical areas covered by the declaration are confined to Western Viti Levu and northern Vanua Levu.

Rabuka says everyone will need to work together to ensure that all those affected by the drought are assisted.

More than 30,000 rural households will receive food rations from the relief operations which will last three months.

Air New Zealand makes an emergency landing

SUVA (Pacnews)—An Air New Zealand Boeing 747 carrying over 300 passengers, including many Fiji nationals, had to make an emergency landing at New Zealand's Auckland airport Wednesday.

The aircraft, on its way to Nadi airport in Fiji from Auckland had to return to New Zealand after take-off when crew members noticed flames in one of its engines, Island Networks Corporation reports.

An Air New Zealand official says the plane had to dump most of its fuel in the Pacific Ocean before returning to Auckland an hour later.

The Air New Zealand flight, NZ50, was on its way to Los Angeles via Nadi and Honolulu.

309 passengers were to have embarked at Nadi.

The passengers are believed to have come on a special flight early yesterday morning.

Happy Father's Day

to

My Dad Joey,
Grandpa John "C."
Grandpa John "Q."
and to our

Great Grandfather Fong

Elsewhere in the Pacific

Reform is main thrust of Vanuatu's budget

PORT VILA (Pacnews)—The budget deficit for 1998 for Vanuatu represents a slight reduction on the actual deficit for 1997, if a government loan to rescue the country's provident fund is ignored.

The planned deficit for this year is just over 2 billion vatu, (approximately $US16m), but of this amount, 1.6 billion vatu (approximately $US12m) is the government's loan to the Vanuatu Provident Fund.

Molisa said in his budget speech in parliament Wednesday that with the introduction of a Value Added Tax, about to begin, and various other measures planned under the Comprehensive Reform Programme, government is looking to a small surplus in 1999 and a substantial surplus in 2000.

In commending the budget to members of parliament, Molisa highlighted areas in which financial support was expected to increase under the country's CRP intiative.

He said education will receive a 10% funding increase, Health has been increased by 3%, to ensure service levels keep pace with population growth.

The national tourism office receives an increase of 34m vatu ($US253,000) to help develop the tourism sector, and industry, commerce and youth will also see increases.

Molisa said the 1998 budget caters for the implementation of many CRP initiatives.

These include right-sizing of the public service, the budget allocations for redundancy pay and the transition service, the rehabilitation of the National Bank of Vanuatu, the introduction of VAT, and other tax measures. Molisa said the CRP implementation is the budget's "main thrust".

Solomons creditors angered

HONIARA (Pacnews)—Hundreds of creditors in Solomon Islands who expected payments from the government are being frustrated and angered by the government's financial crisis made worse by the tight control measures it has put in place.

The government treasury office was always packed with individuals and officers from organisations who have been owed by the government or calling to complain about bounced government cheques.

And if they are lucky to be issued a government cheque after calling at the treasury every working day for weeks and even months, they still have to face the problem of cashing the cheques.

A woman who's one of the victims said trying to cash a government cheque is a dreadful and very shameful experience.

The woman who did not want to be named said she has now given up trying to cash a cheque for $US40 she was given in March after calling at the bank almost every day.

And a similarly frustrated man said while the tenancy agreement signed with the government for rental of his house says the rental be paid three months in advance, he has yet to cash a government cheque for rental already due in March.

Tonga police to file charges as Speaker requested

NUKU'ALOFA (Pacnews)—Tongan police are yet to lay charges concerning a complaint by the speaker of the Legislative Assembly Hon Fusitu'a over a petition made against him.

The petition was organised by 'Isileli Pulu and signed by about 800 people, Radio Tonga reports.

It alleges Fusitu'a of attempting to cover-up corruption practices as well as misusing government funds.

The allegations were published in the Tonga Chronicle, Kele'a Publication, Times of Tonga and the petition which was presented to King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV.

Fusitu'a's complaint, lodged with the ministry of police in late-May, is directed to 'Akilisi Pohiva of the Kele'a, 'Eakalafi Moala of The Times of Tonga, as well as 'Isileli Pulu and the petitioners.

In a statement, Fusitu'a denied all allegations made against him.

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- **Spam Cooking Contest**

All Weekend

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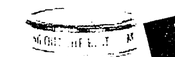

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US intervenes on yen

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States jumped into global currency markets to halt a slide in the Japanese yen that threatened to embroil America and the rest of the world in a far more dangerous phase of the Asian crisis.

The coordinated intervention by the United States and Japan gave an immediate lift to Japan's currency and the U.S. stock market.

Stocks, which had swooned 207 points on Monday on renewed fears about Asia, posted a 164.17 point gain on Wednesday.

President Clinton sought to assure the nation that the dollar sales — the first of his presidency — were the proper response to a serious drop in the Japanese currency and did not represent a deviation from his administration's belief in a strong U.S. currency.

"We're doing the right thing," Clinton told reporters during a Rose Garden ceremony. "We've got a chance to turn that situation in Asia around before it gets any worse."

Currency traders estimated that the United States sold around $2 billion to buy yen and that Japan sold a similar amount of dollars. The joint effort pushed the dollar down by 5 percent against the yen.

After hitting an eight-year high this week, the dollar was changing hands at 136.37 yen in late trading Wednesday, compared with 143.47 yen the previous day.

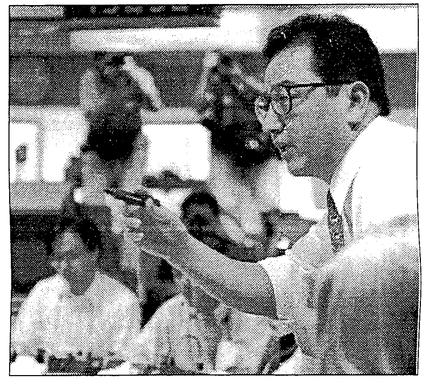
Clinton and Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin both stressed that the United States acted only after receiving assurances from the Japanese that they were prepared to intensify their efforts to attack a deepening Japanese recession.

The president dispatched a high-level delegation led by Deputy Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers for emergency consultations with the Japanese. A joint meeting of finance officials from the world's seven wealthiest countries on the Asian crisis was scheduled for Saturday in Tokyo.

For his part, Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, who spoke by phone with Clinton Tuesday night, said that his government realized that a revival of the Japanese economy was "urgently needed."

Hashimoto pledged Japan would make every effort to "restore its banking system to health, to achieve domestic demand-led growth and to open and deregulate its markets."

Those three goals have been central to the administration's growing pressure on Japan in recent weeks. The White House is concerned that unless Japan does more to jump-start its moribund economy, the Japanese yen will keep falling, triggering further devaluations of other Asian currencies and spread the Asian currency crisis beyond the region to developing nations around the globe.



A money dealer stands up and sends hand signals at the Tokyo Foreign Exchange Thursday morning as the U.S. dollar plunged against the Japanese yen, one day after U.S. and Japanese central banks conducted coordinated market intervention to stem the Japanese currency's freefall. AP

In recent weeks, Russia's currency has come under severe pressure as have various currencies in Latin America.

Rubin has repeatedly said that currency intervention would have little long-term impact unless it was accompanied by fundamental reforms of Japan's economy. But he refused to spell out what new assurances the administration had received.

"The absolute key is that the Japanese government take the necessary actions with respect to their economy," Rubin told reporters at the White House. "The key, in the final analysis, is what they do."

Still, some analysts took as a hopeful sign that the world's two largest economies were more actively coordinating policy. Japan had privately been seeking U.S. support for the yen for several months.

"This could be a turning point in the Asian crisis, but Japan has got to go beyond words to decisive action," said Robert Dederick, economic consultant at Northern Trust Co. in Chicago. "If this latest effort turns out to be a dud, the markets will come back with a vengeance."

But other economists remained skeptical, saying that a $117 billion stimulus package that Hashimoto's government put forward in April had failed to reassure markets and there was little new in Wednesday's statements.

Some analysts said the administration may have been forced into action by Chinese officials, who have spoken with increasing concern in recent days about the falling yen.

So far, China has held the line and refused to devalue its own currency even though weaker currencies of its Asian neighbors will make Chinese goods less competitive in foreign markets. A Chinese devaluation could seriously set back stabilization efforts of the three nations at the epicenter of last year's crisis — Thailand, South Korea and Indonesia.

It was the first time the United States has intervened in currency markets since August 1995 when it sold yen and bought dollars in a successful effort to boost the U.S. currency, which earlier that year had fallen to record low of 79.85 yen.

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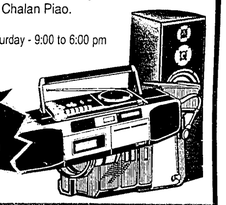

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Yen on a rebound

TOKYO (AP) — The U.S. dollar traded sharply lower against the yen early Thursday in Tokyo, one day after central banks intervened in currency markets to halt the Japanese currency's freefall. Tokyo stock prices soared.

The dollar bought 135.72 yen in early trading, down 6.28 yen from 142.00 yen late Wednesday in Tokyo and also below its late New York rate of 136.37 yen overnight.

On the Tokyo Stock Exchange, the 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average jumped 627.13 points, or 4.26 percent, to 15,342.51 in the first hour of trading.

On Wednesday, the Nikkei average lost 5.00 points, or 0.03 percent.

Currency traders estimated that the United States sold around $2 billion to buy yen and that Japan did about the same. The joint effort helped drive the dollar down more than 7 percent from eight-year highs earlier this week.

The United States and Japan agreed to intervene to prop up the yen amid concern a continued decline could spark a new round of currency devaluation in the rest of Asia, throwing the region back into financial chaos.

Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto said in Tokyo Wednesday that he welcomed the intervention and pledged new efforts to revive Japan's recession-bound economy.

Japan has been sharply criticized for not taking aggressive steps to prevent a recession. As the world's second-largest economy, Japan's fortunes dominate Asia and are a vital link in the global economy.

The cheaper yen was widely seen as threatening the recovery of still struggling Asian economies by undercutting their products in world markets.

The dollar had climbed 15 yen against the Japanese currency since the end of April, including 6 yen in the four trading days up to Monday, when it peaked above 146 yen.

Initial reaction elsewhere in Asia to the intervention was positive. Hong Kong leader Tung Chee Hwa said Thursday in Wellington, New Zealand, that he was glad to see the yen had rebounded.

He added the key issue for the world economy was for Japan "to move forward."

On Wall Street overnight, U.S. stocks soared as investors saw the intervention as a hopeful sign that authorities were acting to keep the Asian financial crisis from worsening.

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 162.67 points higher at 8,827.96, nearly wiping out the rest of Monday's 207-point slide. The famed barometer of 30 major companies rose 37 points on Tuesday.

Investors in Tokyo also welcomed the intervention as a signal Japan's economic woes may finally have hit bottom.

The broader Tokyo Stock Price Index of all issues listed on the first section surged 39.81, or 3.44 percent, to 1,196.65. The TOPIX closed up a marginal 0.37 points the day before.

Meanwhile, the yield on the benchmark No. 182 10-year Japanese government bond rose to 1.305 percent from Wednesday's finish of 1.240 percent, driving its price down to 111.21 yen from 111.70 yen.

Japanese trade surplus soars in month of May

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's trade surplus with the world soared 66.6 percent in May as demand for foreign products remained weak amid an economic slowdown, the Finance Ministry said Thursday.

The merchandise trade surplus — a tally of goods the country exports minus its imports — soared to 1.219 trillion yen ($9.03 billion) from 731.98 billion yen ($5.42 billion) during the same period last year, the ministry said.

Japan's politically sensitive trade surplus with the United States also jumped, rising 41 percent to 455.43 billion in May from the same year-earlier month.

Even though exports fell slightly in May, the overall surplus rose as imports fell faster. It was the 14th consecutive month of growth in the surplus, measured as goods clear customs and before adjustment for seasonal factors.

Exports fell for a second straight month due chiefly to slower sales of computer chips and auto parts. A Finance Ministry official said the economic slowdown in Asia also contributed to the decline in exports.

Overall, exports decreased 1.5 percent to 4.042 billion yen ($29.9 billion).

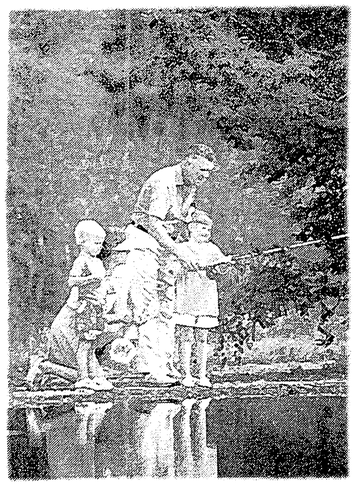
Imports dropped 16.3 percent to 2.823 trillion yen ($20.9 billion) as falling energy prices meant Japan paid less for imported oil. Japan also imported less wood as housing starts slumped.

Sales of foreign-made products have been steadily declining — May marked the fifth consecutive fall — as consumption in Japan weakened amid the country's worst economic slump in decades.

The finance ministry said it expects an economic recovery will begin later this summer, thus, boosting imports and slowing growth in Japan's trade surplus.

The government announced a 16.65 trillion yen ($123 billion) package of tax-cuts and spending increases in April designed to stimulate economic growth.

Happy Father's Day



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Reach Out T&E

Hong Kong welcomes yen boost by the U.S.

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — Hong Kong chief executive Tung Chee Hwa said Thursday he was glad to see the Japanese yen has rebounded overnight and that the key issue for the world economy is for Japan "to move forward."

Asked by reporters if he believed Asia's financial crisis had stabilized, Tung said the Asia had "gone through a lot" in the past 18 months, and he was glad to see the Japanese yen rebound.

Tung, the chief executive of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, was speaking to reporters in Wellington, New Zealand, where he is meeting Prime Minister Jenny Shipley.

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India defies US sanctions

WASHINGTON (AP) — India will find a way around U.S. economic sanctions to buy what it needs even though it may have to pay more, Ambassador Naresh Chandra said Wednesday.

He also said American companies would feel the first effects ofsanctions when India shifted some purchases from the United States to Europe or elsewhere.

"We can get what we want by other means but it might be more expensive," the ambassador said.

The Clinton administration is expected to announce within the next few days the economic sanctions it will impose on India and its neighbor Pakistan for carrying out nuclear tests last month.

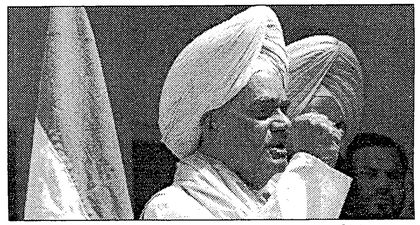
Chanda told the Cato Institute, a libertarian think tank, that if the U.S. sanctions include a ban on private bank loans, "this will hurt the development process, but it will hit the state governments harder than the federal government."

He said India might find borrowing money in capital markets more expensive but was prepared to pay the price.

The United States already has succeeded in getting the World Bank to postpone more than $1 billion in loans for electric power and other projects in India to protest the nuclear tests.

At a meeting on Friday in London, the world's leading industrial nations decided to deny nonhumanitarian loans to India and Pakistan.

Pakistan also has said it does not expect to suffer hardship from U.S. sanctions.



Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee addresses the Sikh community while wearing sikh traditional turban yellow scarf Nuclear rivals Pakistan and India are now dueling with words of peace: Pakistan has proposed they both sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and India has suggested a mutual pledge not to strike first. AP

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Indonesia's rupiah plunges

By Christopher Torchia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesia's currency plunged Wednesday, threatening efforts by the new government and the International Monetary Fund to revive the Southeast Asian nation's shattered economy.

The 9 percent drop came as a blow to President B.J. Habibie, who has pushed an agenda of democratic reform since he came to power last month with the ouster of Indonesia's 32-year ruler, Suharto.

Another drastic weakening of the currency could also worsen rising inflation and mass unemployment, problems that helped spark riots and protests leading to Suharto's departure.

Some shopkeepers in Jakarta, the Indonesian capital, shuttered their stores, fearing the rupiah's fall could spur more price increases and street violence.

Financial turmoil has undermined stability in Indonesia, where riots over price increases have occurred in Jakarta and other cities.

In the capital, as many as 1,190 people died last month during mob rampages, many of them killed in shopping mall fires set by looters.

Dragged down earlier this week by the weakening Japanese yen, the rupiah failed to strengthen even as the yen rose against the dollar in early trading Wednesday.

The Indonesian currency closed in Jakarta trading at 16,700 rupiah against the dollar, down from 15,150 rupiah the previous day.

Dealers said local banks were rushing to snap up dollars to pay off debt arrears.

hey predicted more demand for dollars to finance Indonesian imports of basic commodities, including medicine.

Indonesian officials and foreign bankers agreed earlier this month in Germany to ease some of the repayment burden on debt-ridden businesses and help creditors recover some assets.

With the rupiah weakening, however, debtors will be less willing to fulfill terms of the deal, even though they are designed to give Indonesian companies some breathing room.

IMF officials, meanwhile, are assessing how to revive a $43 billion bailout package that was suspended because of the recent political turmoil.

A man buys dollars from a black market currency dealer in Jakarta Wednesday. Indonesia's currency has plummeted in value in the worse financial crisis to hit Indonesia in decades. AP

A top IMF official visiting Jakarta, Hubert Neiss, said Monday he hoped the rupiah would eventually stabilize below the 10,000 level.

The rupiah fell to an all-time low of 17,000 in January after Habibie, then research and technology minister, emerged as a candidate for the presidency.

Habibie is viewed with suspicion by market traders because of his taste for costly, government-funded projects, but as president he has pledged to streamline the economy and battle corruption.

Ruling party convenes assembly

By ALVIN UNG

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysia's ruling party opened its annual convention Thursday by accusing foreign currency speculators of pushing the nation into a perilous slide toward recession.

"Our economy has been rattled because of attacks from outsiders. Our currency has slid because of attacks from foreign currency speculators," said Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim in an opening speech at the general assembly of the United Malays National Organization.

Nearly 2,000 delegates from around the country have gathered for the four-day meeting of the dominant party.

Anwar, who is vice president of the party and also the nation's finance minister, was in effect giving his support to Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's controversial stance that foreigners were to blame for Malaysia's economic woes.

Unlike Mahathir, Anwar has rarely criticized foreign speculators for the country's economic ails. He said Malaysia was facing its "most critical test" since independence from Britain in 1957.

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Yugoslavia fires into Albania

By Patrick Quinn

BAJRAM CURRI, Albania (AP) —A top ethnic Albanian negotiator turned down talks with Yugoslavia on the future of Kosovo province Wednesday, while the Yugoslav army fired across the border into Albania in an effort to stop arms smuggling to Kosovo rebels.

Fehmi Agani, head of the four-man Kosovo Albanian team named to negotiate with the Serbs, insisted that Slobodan Milosevic's forces must leave the province before any talks can start.

Agani spoke after Milosevic — under heavy international pressure — promised Russian President Boris Yeltsin to reopen negotiations with Kosovo's ethnic Albanian majority.

"What was announced in Moscow is no news, because the problem is not whether there will be any talks with the Albanians, but the conditions in which talks should be held," Agani told The Associated Press in Kosovo. Previous talks have produced no significant results.

Fierce fighting in the embattled province continued, with at least 12 new deaths reported on both sides by Serb and Albanian sources.

Albanian President Rexhep Meidani demanded that Yugoslavia to "stop the bloodshed" after what he described as a series of confrontational incidents of Yugoslav forces firing across the border from Kosovo.

One Albanian was reported killed by a Serb sniper across the border on Tuesday, and more Serb gunfire was heard at the same site on Wednesday.

"It is another provocation," said Meidani, who was touring the border to get a first-hand look at the refugee crisis. "I am not surprised, when you hear that more than 300 Albanians have been killed in Kosovo."

According to Western military observers, international monitors and local accounts, Serbs fired Tuesday on two Albanians riding pack mules just inside the Albanian border. One was killed and the other escaped.

Kosovo Liberation Army (KLA) fighters stand guard over the coffin of KLA fighter Imer Krasniqi, 41, Wednesday in the village of Crni Lug, Kosovo, Yugoslavia. Krasniqi was killed by a Serb police sniper Tuesday. Clashes between KLA fighters and Serb forces have caused thousands of ethnic Albanian civilians to flee across the border into Albania. AP

Serb forces later exchanged fire with four men, believed to be the dead Albanian's brothers, as they tried to recover the body from a rugged mountain ridge near the Padesh border point separating Albania from Kosovo.

Albanian border police who attempted to reach the site of the shooting were fired on Wednesday. No one was injured, but it was an indication that Serb forces show little if any regard for Albania's tiny military, which is estimated at 4,000 to 6,000 men.

A Yugoslav army helicopter was seen flying over the Albanian border on Tuesday. People who fled over the border that night reported the same helicopter allegedly opened fire on two makeshift refugees camps just across the frontier, killing two people.

The Serbs say they are battling the militant Albanian Kosovo Liberation Army, which wants Kosovo to secede from Serbia, the dominant republic in Yugoslavia.

The clashes have driven some 60,000 people from their homes, most within Kosovo. Others have fled to Albania or the neighboring Yugoslav republic of Montenegro.

Montenegro's Western-oriented parliament demanded Wednesday that Milosevic send home all Montenegro troops now in Kosovo and take immediate measures to stop the violence there.

The shootings this week have frightened more than 1,000 refugees hiding in the hills just across the frontier and effectively sealed the border trails used by gunrunners. None were seen Wednesday.

Meidani said that if Milosevic does not begin promised talks with Ibrahim Rugova, the moderate leader of Kosovo's Albanians, then NATO and the West should bomb Serb forces in the Albanian-dominated province without approval from the United Nations.

"It is the only language understood by Milosevic," Meidani said at a news conference, flanked by the U.S. ambassador to Albania, Marisa Lino.

Meidani pointed to the series of shootings following NATO's show of force on Monday when more than 80 jets flew over Albania and near the Kosovo border.

There were indications that Serb snipers killed the Albanian as he and the other man were returning from a smuggling trip across the border to supply weapons to the separatists.

Local people speculated it may have been a message from Serb forces that they will no longer tolerate smuggling from Tropoje, a dusty and impoverished border town just nine miles inside the border.

In a move which should further strengthen the KLA's growing clout with Kosovo's Albanians, the Kosovo government-in-exile declared Wednesday that it will start organizing resistance.

The self-proclaimed government, which is outlawed by Serb authorities and based abroad, made the statement after a seven-hour meeting in the Albanian capital, Tirana, with representatives of five Kosovo political parties.

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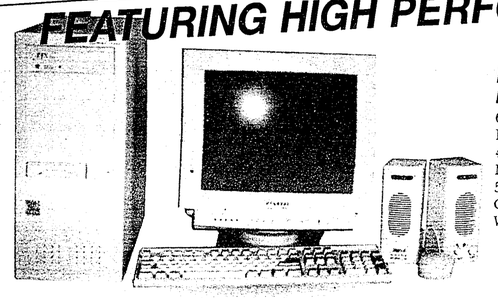

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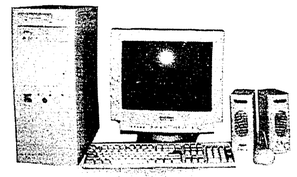

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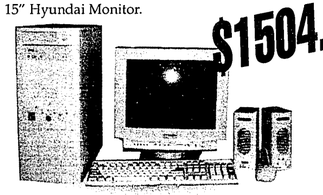

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US official cites turmoil in Iran

By Barry Schweid

WASHINGTON (AP) — Iran's Revolutionary Guard has taken to the streets of Tehran in a "strong backlash" to students demonstrating against the country's militant Islamic government, a senior State Department official said Wednesday.

Speaking at a media seminar, Martin Indyk said "there is a good deal of turmoil going on there at the moment," with the guard debating the students.

Indyk said Secretary of State Madeleine Albright would make "groundbreaking" remarks about Iran in a speech Wednesday night to The Asia Society in New York.

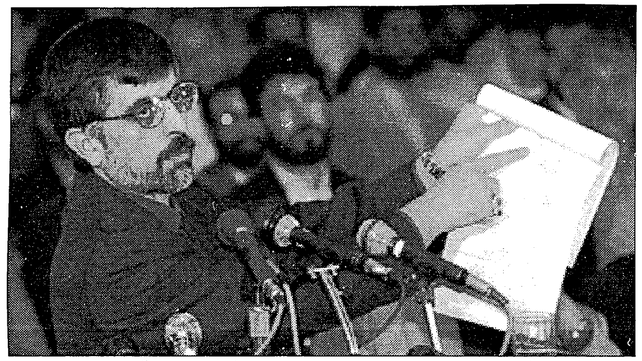
The Clinton administration has condemned Iran as a supporter of terrorism and tries to put economic pressure on Tehran. At the same time, some administration officials see a trend toward moderation in some statements by Mohammad Khatami, an obscure Muslim cleric elected president with 70 percent of the vote in May 1997.

Indyk, an assistant secretary of state, gave Iran mixed grades.

He said Iran was reaching out to its neighbors but also supporting terrorism and developing long-range missiles. Referring to Khatami statements offering to open contacts with the West, Indyk said "the rhetoric has got to match policies; we want to see nice words reflected in their policies."

On one front, at least, there will be more contact with Iran. Indyk said Iranian wrestlers would come to the United States next month. Iranian wrestlers were in Stillwater, Okla., for an international tournament.

The Clinton administration is trying to encourage a dialogue to end nearly two decades of hostility that followed the 1979 overthrow of the pro-Western Shah Reza Pahlavi and the takeover of the U.S. Embassy for 444 days.



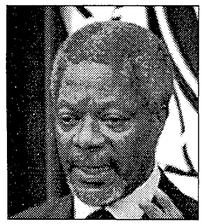
The Mayor of Tehran, Qolamhussain Karbaschi, points at a letter which he submitted to the court disputing the charges against him during his trial in Tehran, Iran Tuesday. Karbaschi sparred with a judge in court, accusing him of improper questioning and giving credence to confessions extracted under pressure. AP

UN: Cyprus talks get snagged

By ALEX EFTY

NICOSIA, Cyprus (AP) — Demands by the breakaway government in northern Cyprus have blocked a resumption of talks on the island's reunification, the U.N. secretary-general said Wednesday.

In a report to the Security Council, Secretary-General Kofi Annan said Rauf Denktash, the Turkish Cypriot leader, has called "for a new approach based on the 'acknowledgment of the existence of two fully functioning democratic states on the island."'



Kofi Annan

Annan said that President Glafcos Clerides, the Greek Cypriot leader, "reiterated his readiness to resume direct talks."

Cyprus has been divided into a Greek Cypriot controlled south and a Turkish-occupied north since 1974 when Turkey invaded and occupied the northern third of the island in the wake of an abortive coup by supporters of union with Greece.

The breakaway Turkish Cypriot state established in the north has been branded illegal by the Security Council and is only recognized by Turkey, which maintains 35,000 troops there.

The report, which was dated Tuesday and released Wednesday, coincided with mounting tension following a 24-hour visit by Greek warplanes to an airbase in the south and a visit by Turkish warships taking part in a naval exercise to ports in the north.

The United Nations has urged a settlement that will reunify the island in a two-zone federation.

But Denktash, backed by the Turkish government, has refused to return to the negotiating table unless his breakaway state is recognized and the European Union breaks off membership negotiations with the Clerides government.

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House panel OKs Defense bill

By Tom Raum

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Appropriations Committee approved a $250.7 billion Pentagon spending bill Wednesday that includes a 3.1 percent military pay raise and $20 million for damages from last winter's cable car tragedy in Italy.

But the measure, passed by voice vote, does not include any of President Clinton's request for $1.9 billion to keep U.S. forces in Bosnia as part of a peacekeeping operation.

Neither does Senate version of the legislation approved last month by the Senate Appropriations Committee.

That will send lawmakers scrambling to find other ways to pay for the Bosnia deployment.

The administration had requested that it be regarded as "emergency" spending and not subject to the Pentagon's spending ceilings set by last year's balanced budget agreement.

Pentagon officials said that if they have to absorb the Bosnia spending within their regular budget, it will mean deep cuts in other military programs.

Both bills are awaiting floor action in the respective chambers, with House action expected next week.

The House bill,

for the fiscal year that begins Oct. 1, would provide $3 billion more than is being spent this year, and nearly $300 million less than Clinton requested.

In a 30-25 vote that split both parties, the panel approved an amendment by Rep. David Skaggs, D-Colo., to require the president to get congressional approval for any "offensive military actions," a term that Skaggs himself said was open to interpretation but that could apply to operations in the Persian Gulf.

The House included a similar provision in a spending bill earlier this year, only to see it dropped during House-Senate bargaining.

The $20 million set aside for the cable car accident Feb. 3 near Cavalese, in the Italian Alps, which killed 20 people when a low-flying U.S. Marine Corps EA-6B Prowler jet sliced a gondola cable, would cover "emergency and extraordinary expenses."

These could include rebuilding or replacing the cable car system.

The money could also go toward any reparations that are later paid to individuals.

The president, however, would have to formally put in a request for the payment of the funds for them to be made available.

And the Senate would have to agree to the provision.

There is no such language now in the Senate bill.

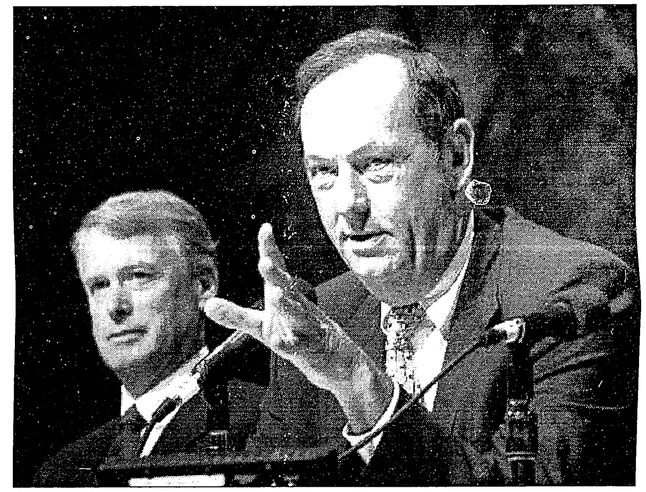
In Rome, a statement from Premier Romano Prodi's office said that he U.S. ambassador to Italy, Thomas M. Foglietta, called the premier to tell him about the $20 million appropriation.

"The president thanked the ambassador for giving him the news, which confirmed the ambassador's personal interest in the matter," the statement said.

The statement also said the ambassador told Prodi the fact that Congress took this step demonstrates that the United States is determined to help the area financially, in particular to help it regain its tourism business.

The committee also voted by voice to reject a Democratic effort to strip about $200 million in the measure for building C-130 transport planes in Marietta, Ga., home of House Speaker Newt Gingrich.

Instead, the money would have been used for new F-18 fighter jets — which, as Republicans pointed out, would be built near the St. Louis, Mo., district of House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt.



Former U.S. Senator Bill Bradley, D-N.J., right, addresses the American Association of Health Plans forum, Monday in Boston. Bradley was joined at the forum by former U.S. Vice President Dan Quayle, left. AP

China trade may help Asia crisis

By Tom Raum

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration cited the Asian financial crisis Wednesday as an argument for a year's extension of full-fledged trade relations with China, an annual battle that has been extra contentious this year because of the flap over satellite exports to Beijing.

"It's a very sensitive time," Susan Esserman, a White House trade official, told a House Ways and Means subcommittee considering President Clinton's plan for renewing China's most-favored-nation status.

In advance of Clinton's trip to China next week, administration officials and China-trade supporters seized on a new reason for the annual renewal —China's role in helping to stabilize the economically troubled region.

China, with the region's fastest-growing economy, so far has escaped currency devaluations that have swept the region.

"Revoking MFN would worsen the Asian financial crisis," said Esserman, general counsel for the U.S. Trade Representative.

She suggested it could drive prices up to 44 percent higher on Chinese-made goods bought in the United States.

Stanley Roth, assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific affairs, said revoking the trade status "would affect our relations with China across the board."

Furthermore, he suggested, "we would be eliminating the prospects for future progress."

Roth said that China has undertaken major economic reforms in the past few years.

All other major U.S. trading partners have permanent most-favored-nation status, which means normal trade relations at lowest-possible tariffs.

China's has to be renewed each year under a 1974 law aimed at communist regimes with poor emigration records.

China-trade supporters have suggested major blows to normal trade could bring pressure to bear on China to devalue its currency and further contribute to financial instability in the region.

It would be akin to "pouring gasoline on a four-alarm fire," suggested Rep. Bill Archer, R-Texas, the Ways and Means chairman. Rep. Jennifer Dunn, R-Wash., whose Seattle-area district has a big stake in trade with China, said, "China will play an even larger role in helping to stabilize the Asian economy."

But opponents of maintaining trade with China urged revocation.

"MFN has led directly to the bankruptcy of our proliferation policies," said Rep. Gerald Solomon, R-N.Y.

He referred to investigations into whether satellite technology exports to China jeopardize national security or were influenced by campaign contributions.

Rep. Fortney Pete Stark, D-Calif., asserted: "The Chinese government is barbaric. They have no desire or intention to change. They release a few dissidents and put 10 more in jail. They laugh at us and mock us. ... They want us to buy their cheap sneakers and T-shirts."

The United States has a $50 billion trade deficit with China. U.S. exports to China constitute mostly high-technology goods including aircraft. Imports from China include low-technology products such as toys and apparel.

China has contributed substantial amounts in an effort to try to stabilize Asian markets and has sought to coax Japan to overhaul its economy to boost the falling yen.

On Wednesday, the United States intervened in currency markets to try and stop the yen's slide.

At another hearing, a congressional researcher testified that China's record on rocket launches since receiving help from U.S. aerospace companies after a 1996 explosion had been accident-free.

"Working with American and European engineers, Chinese engineers may have learned important quality controls and other lessons," said Shirley Kan, a specialist on national defense issues at the nonpartisan Congressional Research Service.

Speaking before a joint meeting of the House International Relations and National Security committees, she presented no conclusions on whether China's improved record in missile launches stemmed from technology transfers from the United States.

The committees are examining whether national security was compromised when China received information from two U.S. aerospace companies — Loral Space and Communications and Hughes Electronics — after a 1996 explosion of a Chinese rocket carrying a Loral-made satellite.

Rep. Christopher Smith, R-N.J., right, testifies on Capitol Hill Wednesday before the House subcommittee on Trade hearing on U.S.-China trade relations and the renewal of China's Most-Favored-Nation status. Rep. Pete Stark, D-Calif. looks on at left. AP

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Chinese upbeat on visit

By Renee Schoof

BEIJING (AP) — In a city where American music fills the airwaves, McDonald's is in nearly every neighborhood and Michael Jordan and the Chicago Bulls are icons, the Chinese don't need a visit from President Clinton for a glimpse of America.

Instead, many hope Clinton and his entourage of more than 1,000 U.S. government officials and reporters will get an updated picture of life in China when they visit next week.

The mood is mostly upbeat.

Chinese are enthusiastic about things American and want to see the summit strengthen ties.

But many also are annoyed with what they see as excessive American criticismof China — particularly of China's human rights record.

"I hear there are American groups who are hostile to China and who don't understand China in the least," said Wei Song, a young man with longish hair and a slightly torn T-shirt browsing through history books in the Sanlian Bookstore, a three-story megastore with best sellers by the front door and a coffee shop upstairs.

"This country is changing so fast that it's different every year," Wei said.

"Compared with 20 years ago, you can't believe it's the same world."

Certainly, Chinese know much more about the United States than ever before.

Big, diverse bookstores like Sanlian sell translated American science and fashion magazines, as well as manuals for raising children the American way and surfing the Internet.

By the staid standards of the state-controlled media, the summit is getting a lot of attention.

Newspapers are running features on searches for downed World War II U.S. aircraft — to highlight previous cooperation with the United States — as well as reports on criticisms in Congress of Clinton's trip.

"Titanic" is all the rage in movie theaters.

Televisions, found in nearly every home and offering American fare, broadcast live coverage of the National Basketball Association's finals to cater to Chinese sports fanatics.

A recent survey by a company under the State Statistics Bureau named the Bulls' Jordan as the second-most widely known American in China after Thomas Edison, scoring a 69.3 percent recognition rate.

That's only slightly less than the 76 percent of the 1,000 people sampled in the same nationwide survey who said they knew of Clinton's upcoming visit. Of those, 85 percent thought the visit, the first by a U.S. president in nine years, would help improve relations.

No margin of error was available.

But while many Chinese feel at ease with the parts of American culture they have chosen to love, they don't feel cross-cultural understanding works both ways.

"A lot of Americans are prejudiced against China," said Xue Mouhong, a professor of international relations at prestigious Qinghua University, who grew up attending an American missionary school before the Communist victory in 1949 and recently was a researcher at Harvard University.

"But I'm optimistic," Xue said.

"As China becomes stronger and stronger, the United States will pay more and more attention to understanding China and accommodating China."

Others argue that U.S. condemnation of Beijing since the military's violent crackdown on

Bill Clinton

1989 pro-democracy protests has been counterproductive.

Meanwhile, a human rights group claimed Wednesday that Beijing police had been ordered to stop out-of-town dissidents from visiting the Chinese capital ahead of Clinton's visit.

Word of the ban came from Mou Chuanheng, a democracy activist from northeastern China, who traveled to Beijing to visit a friend only to be detained and sent home, the Information Center of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China said.

Yu Zhihong, a Ministry of Public Security spokeswoman, denied that police had issued such warnings.

China's state-run news media have been portraying the summit as a chance for two world leaders to sit down as equals and discuss such pressing problems as the Asian financial crisis and Pakistan and India's nuclear tests.

On Wednesday, China announced stricter regulations to control exports of nuclear technology, an action that appeared to be an attempt to blunt U.S. criticism of suspected Chinese technology transfers to such countries as Pakistan and Iran.

The summit particularly is being used to show President Jiang Zemin as statesman.

The official view is that Jiangdeserves credit for improving U.S. ties because he visited the United States.

China Central Television on Friday will broadcast a new documentary, "Crossing the Pacific," about the Chinese president and Communist Party leader's trip to the United States last fall.

Also timed to showcase the importance of the summit is the publication of a photo album about Jiang's trip, due in bookstores Saturday, less than a week before Clinton arrives.

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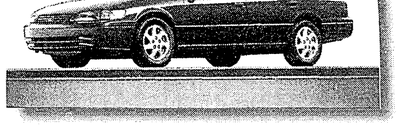

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House votes to scrap tax code

By Rob Wells

WASHINGTON(AP)—Inanelection-year attempt to jolt the tax reform debate, the House passed a bill that would eliminate much of the nation's income tax code by 2003.

The House voted 219-209 to approve the Republican-backed Tax Cod Termination Act.

It would eliminate the current tax code — except for Social Security payroll taxes — on Dec. 31, 2002, so long as Congress passed some kind of simplified replacement tax system by July 4, 2002.

The Clinton administration and Democrats denounced the measure as an irresponsible "gimmick" that taps into the public's anger with the IRS.

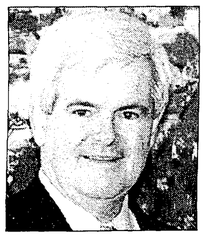
There was little

subtlety in the House floor debate.

"It is pandering, pandering in the worst conceivable way for a few votes in an election year," said Rep. Fomey "Pete" Stark, D-Calif.

Chimed in Rep. Ken Bentsen, D-Texas: "This is the most ridiculous thing I have ever seen."

"It indicates that this fight is no longer a one-man crusade against



Newt Gingrich

Dick Armey

high taxes and IRS corruption," Forbes said.

"It has become a national movement and it's gaining momentum."

President Clinton promised he was "going to do my best to beat it."

"Because if you voted to get rid of it without saying what the replacement was, you would put individual Americans and families in an uncertainposition about their investments and health insurance," Clinton said.

His advisers are strongly recommending a veto.

Referring to the economic crisis in Asia, Clinton said, "The last thing in the world we need to do right now is to send some signal of instability, that we decided to get rid of our whole tax code without knowing what the replacement would be."

The bill's defenders tapped into the public's antipathy against the tax code, now so large and complex that nearly 60 million taxpayers pay for professional tax preparation help each year.

"It forces Congress to quit talking about comprehensive tax reform and start doing something about it," said Rep. Steve Largent, R-Okla., the bill's main sponsor.

The bill's prospects in the Senate are uncertain.

On April 2, the Senate passed a similar scrap-the-tax measure, but it was only an advisory measure.

But after the House vote, Senate Finance Chairman William V. Roth Jr., R-Del., cited "serious concerns about sunsetting the tax code without an alternative in place."

"We need to reach a consensus on reforming the tax code, and unfortunately, we are not there yet—even within our own party," Roth said.

"Let's not put the cart before the horse."

The two leading GOP tax reform proposals are a 17 percent flat tax, sponsored by House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, and a 15 percent national sales tax, sponsored by Rep. Bill Tauzin, R-La.

Tauzin and Armey have crisscrossed the country since last fall debating their plans, hoping to build grass-roots momentum.

But Congress' tax writing committees aren't planning to work on tax reform this year.

"Why isn't the Republican leadership bringing up real reform?" asked Rep. Ben Cardin, D-Md.

House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., strongly defended the bill as a necessary first step toward fundamental tax reform.

He vividly described the political difficulty for opponents of the bill.

"Then you go back home to your small businessman and your small business woman and you tell them why you didn't want to help relieve them of the tax burden and ... all of the attorneys fees and all of the accounting fees," Gingrich said.

Fifteen Democrats and 204 Republicans voted for the measure.

Voting "no" were 188 Democrats, 20 Republicans and one independent.

Earlier, Gingrich spoke at a rally from the bed of a flatbed trailer in front of the Capitol, surrounded by boxes containing 750,000 signatures from small businesses to support repeal of the graduated income tax.

The petitions were gathered by the National Federation of Independent Business, an influential lobby group that began a national campaign to scrap the code last fall.

Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin predicted the bill, if it became law, would have drastic consequences for the economy.

Homebuyers wouldn't know how much to pay for a house because of questions about the future of the mortgage interest deduction.

Businesses wouldn't know if they could deduct depreciation for new capital investment.

Women may have violated trade ban

MIAMI (AP) — Two cousins were charged Wednesday with buying cement from Cuba and shipping it to Brazil in violation of the U.S. trade embargo against Cuba.

Diptsy Molina Tamayo and Maritza Villavicencio were charged after a customs agent found 9,000 documents in their household trash implicating them, including fictitious invoices, letters of credit and bills.

Ms. Molina, 39, of Parkland, and Ms. Villavicencio, 35, of Miami, were arrested Tuesday and charged with attempted trade with the enemy and conspiracy.

A total of 84,900 metric tons of cement was bought in Cuba and delivered to Brazil in 1995 and 1996, according to court documents.

Ms. Molina is a Venezuelan citizen. Ms. Villavicencio is a naturalized U.S. citizen.

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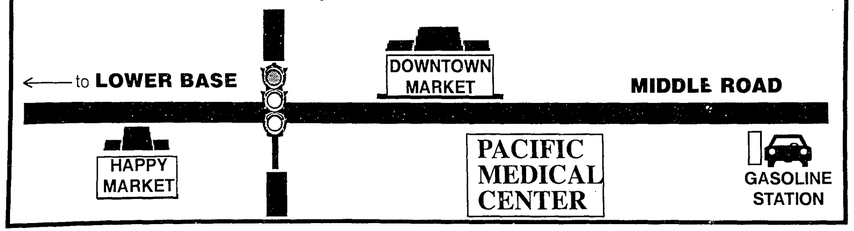

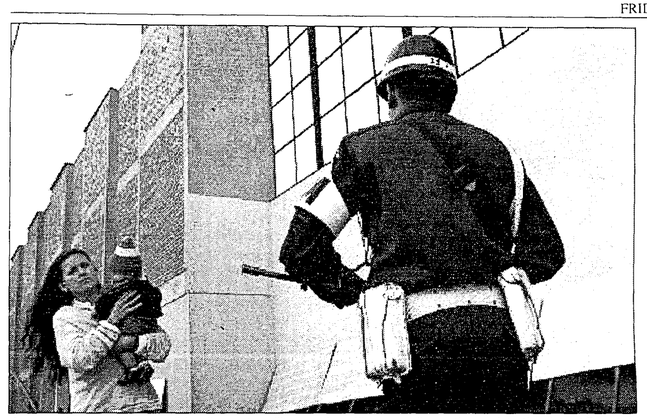

A pedestrian carrying her child walks past a military police officer guarding voting registration lists at Bogota's main voting station in Bogota, Colombia on Wednesday. Colombians will elect a new president Sunday when Liberal Party candidate Horacio Serpa faces Conservative Party candidate Andres Pastrana in a two-man runoff for Colombia's presidency. AP

Colombia picks new president Sunday

By Vivian Sequera

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — He comes from a respected family, he's not afraid to show his emotions and he is widely considered to be honest.

But what would seem like virtues could prove the undoing of Andres Pastrana, the 44-year-old Conservative Party challenger in Sunday's two-man runoff for Colombia's presidency.

Colombians still recall June 19, 1994, when Pastrana, former mayor of Bogota, wept on television while admitting defeat in his first run at the country's highest office.

Three days later, Pastrana called a news conference and dropped a political bombshell that would badly wound the government of the man who won, Ernesto Samper.

That disclosure, in the eyes of many Colombians, only painted Pastrana a sore loser.

Pastrana played a taped phone conversation in which a leading Cali cartel drug trafficker discussed what turned out to be a $6 million donation to Samper's campaign, unleashing a political furor and an investigation that lasted years.

After that, Pastrana largely disappeared from public life until launching his campaign this year.

Congress cleared Samper of wrongdoing in 1996, but the "narco-cassettes" scandal consumed his administration and strained ties with the United States, which revoked Samper's visa.

More than a dozen Congress members, a defense minister and an attorney general were convicted.

Pastrana's opponent in Sunday's election, Liberal Party candidate Horacio Serpa, was interior minister under Samper, whom he has refused to criticize despite broad popular disenchantment with the outgoing president.

Pastrana harps on the connection, calling Serpa the candidate of "business as usual."

In Colombia's hierarchy of morals, however, loyalty may have the edge over honesty.

"What for Serpa scores as a great virtue is the same primitive morality that makes someone rub people the wrong way for being a tattletale," said political analyst Hernando Gomez Buendia.

Pastrana hopes a longing for change will outweigh any reservations about his character.

"We'll end up voting for the lesser of two evils," said another analyst, Juan Manuel Charry, predicting Pastrana will win.

Pastrana must overcome a ruling party political machine that is getting out the votes despite the baggage of incumbency.

Trailing in pre-election polls, Serpa came back to win more votes than Pastrana in the May 31 first round of voting.

Both candidates are courting the 2.8 million Colombians, nearly a third of the voters, who chose an independent candidate in round one.

The well-mannered son of the late former President Misael Pastrana and scion of a well-to-do family, Pastrana has battled charges that he is the candidate of privilege and out of touch with poor Colombians.

"Pretty boy, from a gold cradle, that's his image ... and his disadvantage," Gomez said of the photogenic, blue-eyed Pastrana, who as a long-haired teen-ager walked the streets of Bogota collecting money for the poor.

Serpa, a 55-year-old career public official, stresses his working-class roots and questions Pastrana's credentials to lead a country beset by entrenched drug traffickers, a 34-year civil war with leftist guerrillas, growing paramilitary violence and spiraling unemployment.

Pastrana is backed by business leaders and many prominent Colombians, including Nobel Prize-winning author Gabriel Garcia Marquez.

But many analysts agree that Pastrana, despite his good intentions and honest profile, is not up to the job.

"He's a light person, in all that implies, for a country that doesn't necessarily have light problems," Gomez said.

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Dominican leader visiting Haiti

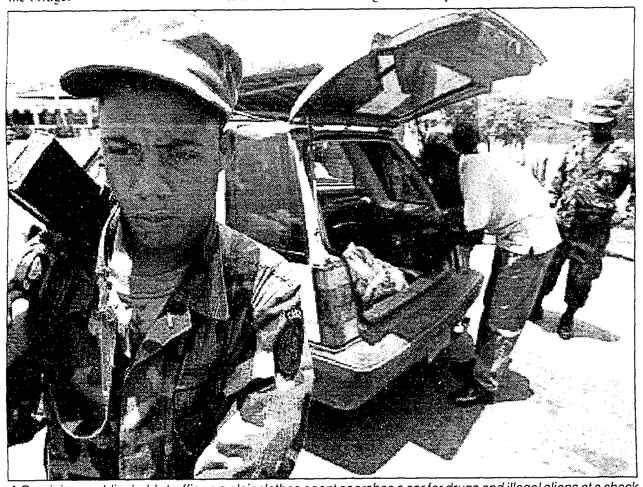
By John Riley

DAJABON, Dominican Republic (AP) — At the river that once ran red with the blood of slaughtered Haitians, vendors, peasants, mule drivers and porters wait at the bridge.

Impatient ones wade into the knee-deep water and cross illegally into the Dominican Republic.

Dominican fears of being overrun by Haitians — the same fears that led to the 1937 slaughter of some 20,000 people, turning the Massacre River red — still are very much alive today.

But the two countries that share the Caribbean island of Hispaniola finally are trying to overcome 200 years of bad blood.



A Dominican soldier holds traffic as a plainclothes agent searches a car for drugs and illegal aliens at a check point on the Dominican-Haitian border near Dajabon, Dominican Republic Sunday. Daily about 300 Haitians are returned to their country. AP

On Thursday, Dominican President Leonel Fernandez starts a three-day visit to Haiti — the first time a Dominican leader will have spent the night in Haiti since a 1936 trip by dictator Rafael Trujillo, underscoring the bitter political and racial animosities.

Fernandez and Haitian President Rene Preval, who visited Santo Domingo in April, will discuss the lax border policing that allows illegal immigrants and drugs to cross almost completely unimpeded from Haiti.

Washington is fostering the relationship in hopes of a joint crackdown on cocaine trafficking — and is offering boats and planes to help.

Colombian traffickers send cocaine by speedboat on the 10-hour trip to Haiti.

The drugs, which are trucked across the border for shipping to Florida, account for up to 15 percent of the cocaine that reaches the United States.

Fernandez and Preval are expected to agree to a joint fight on drug trafficking.

But they likely will stumble over the issue of greatest discord: illegal immigration from Haiti, the poorest country in the Western hemisphere, to its only slightly less poor, but lush, neighbor.

Both countries have about 8 million people, but Haiti has half as much land.

Creole-speaking Haitians are blacks descended from African slaves and have lived under French colonialism.

Dominicans speak Spanish, and most are of mixed European and African descent.

"They treat us like dogs," said Wilfredo Pierre, a Haitian money changer who does business at Dajabon, a Dominican bordertown.

The hostilities go way back.

The Haitians fought the world's only successful slave rebellion and became the first black republic in 1804 — then tried to take over the eastern part of the island.

In 1822, Haiti occupied the Spanish colony and stayed until the Dominicans rebelled in 1844 and became independent.

Haitian rule abolished slavery in what is now the Dominican Republic — but it was also harsh: farmers were not allowed to leave their plots without military authorization and plantation workers could not leave without risk of forced labor or jail.

Now, the tables are turned.

Haitians leave their barren farms for the Dominican Republic, where they can find jobs cutting sugar cane.

They are confined to plantations and deported if they flee and are caught.

Still, a cane cutter makes in three months what a Haitian farmer makes in a year.

Col. Rondon Hernandez, whose 500 troops police the border around Dajabon, said as many as a million Haitians live illegally in the Dominican Republic.

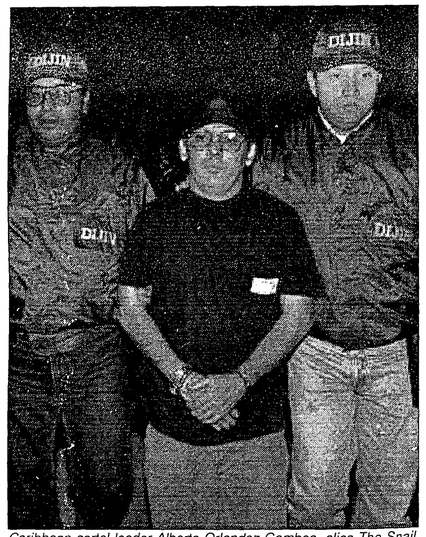
He said 600 to 1,000 Haitians cross at Dajabon each day, and his men return about 300.

"We will have a Haitian presence that will overtake our side if we do not check this intrusion," Hernandez said.

Still, on market days — Mondays and Fridays — controls are relaxed and Dajabon's population of 15,000 swells by about 7,000 Haitians. They sell secondhand shoes and clothes, sent by charitable groups in the United States.

"Dajabon without the Haitians would be broke," said merchant Luis Garcia. Twice a week, Haitians buy more than 80 truckloads of live chickens and eggs, he said. They are carried to Haiti by mules, porters and on women's heads.

"Dominicans don't have a problem with Haitians (visiting) here. But we cannot have them live here," he said.



Caribbean cartel leader Alberto Orlandez Gamboa, alias The Snail, one of Colombia's last remaining drug lords, is captured by police in Barranquilla, 435 miles north of Bogota, Colombia. Gamboa has been smuggling cocaine to Europe and the United States since 1991. AP

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Dems hit GOP on farm prices

By Curt Anderson

WASHINGTON (AP) — Farm-state Democrats are blaming the Republican "Freedom to Farm" overhaul for removing a government safety net that once protected farmers and ranchers from low market prices.

"There is a silent crisis happening in our country," House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt of Missouri said Wednesday.

"Family farms are going down."

Gephardt, Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle, D-S.D., and others offered as evidence the wheat and corn prices that have been cut in half since the 1996 farm law was passed and reductions in farm income that have reached 98 percent in some states.

"This is a direct result of the implementation of Freedom to Farm," Daschle said.

Republicans, however, rejected any notion that farm law should be reopened, arguing that Congress and President Clinton must increase foreign trade and remove sanctions that cut into agricultural exports.

They said revisiting agriculture policy could backfire if competing interests try to siphon off money already earmarked for farm programs.

"If you open up the farm bill, you may lose more than you gain," said Sen. Pat Roberts, R-Kan.

"I don't know where the money's coming from."

The 1996 law severed the link between crop prices and government assistance and substituted a gradually declining direct payment to farmers.

Restrictions on what and how much to plant were ended and certain loan programs were capped.

Since then, a combination of factors, including the Asian economic downturn, bad weather in the Upper Midwest and huge worldwide farm production, have triggered a sharp drop in prices paid to farmers for wheat, corn, beef, pork and other products.

The Democrats contend the GOP-led 1996 law is to blame, but their legislative package does not include a repeal of that law.

Instead, they want to give farmers a marketing loan that makes up the difference between the price of grain and a target price and set up an indemnity fund for farmers suffering steep income losses.

"Family farms don't have the capability to get over the price valleys," said Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D.

"We want to help them get over these price valleys."

Although they had no estimates of the cost of such programs, a measure Democrats sought to attach to the Senate tobacco bill would pay $250 million over five years for farmers who suffered certain income losses.

Roberts, Sen. Conrad Burns, R-Mont., and other Republicans plan to meet Thursday with several major farm organizations to discuss the Republican approach to easing the farm economic difficulties.

Roberts said the GOP would prefer to focus on removing sanctions, pushing legislation allowing the president "fast-track" authority to negotiate open trade deals and creation of farmer savings accounts to protect against downturns.

"We are going to try to coalesce around two or three things that can actually get done," Roberts said.

Retired Lt. Cmdr. Ralph W. Price, 99, third from left, is assisted in cutting a 100th anniversay cake with a sword during a ceremony marking the centennial of the Navy's Hospital Corps Wednesday in Pensacola, Fla. Price, a former corpsman, was born in 1898, the same year the Hospital Corps was formed. AP

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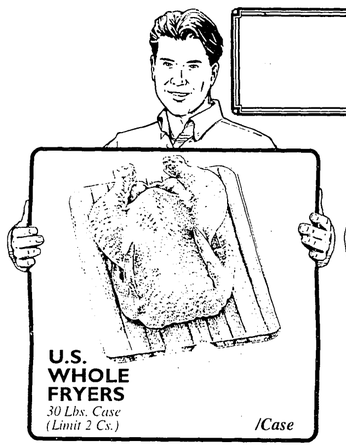

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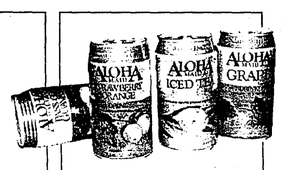

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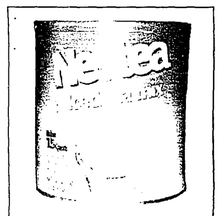

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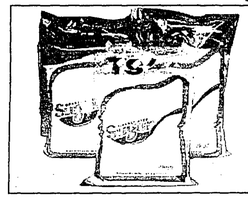

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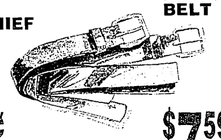

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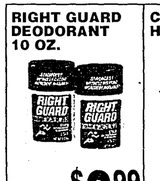

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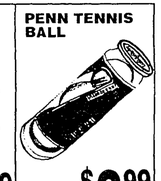

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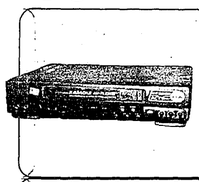

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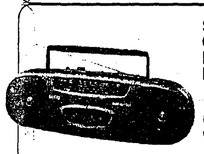

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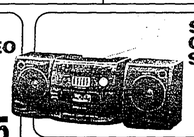

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CREDIT CARDS ACCEPTED — AMERICAN EXPRESS

Fed: Economy still strong

By Dave Skidmore

WASHINGTON (AP) — With unaccustomed enthusiasm, the Federal Reserve praised the economy's "excellent performance" combining high employment and low inflation.

Despite scattered spillover from turmoil in Asia, "the economy continues to grow in all Federal Reserve districts and across most sectors," the central bank said in its "beige book," compiled anecdotal reports on regional conditions from its 12 district banks.

"Overall, the U.S. economy continues its excellent performance. Output and employment are high while inflation is low," it said Wednesday.

Economists said the report, based on information collected before June 8, virtually ensures Fed policy-makers will do nothing to upset the fine balance when they meet June 30 and July 1 to decide whether to raise interest rates.

"The Fed is on hold until something happens," said economist David Wyss of DRI-McGraw Hill in Lexington, Mass.

"I certainly think they're on hold at minimum until August and possibly for the rest of the year."

"There's no question the Fed is in love with this economy," he said.

The Fed hasn't touched interest rates since March 1997, when it raised the benchmark rate on overnight loans between banks to 5.5 percent.

Wyss said the Fed isn't likely to raise rates as long as Asia remains economically fragile and is doubly unlikely to raise them after Wednesday's intervention in currency markets to strengthen the sagging Japanese yen.

An increase in U.S. interest rates would work at cross purposes by attracting investors to dollar-denominated securities, thereby strengthening the dollar and weakening the yen.

The beige book, named for the color of its cover, said U.S. economic growth was "quite strong" in the Northeast, much of the Midwest and on the West Coast.

However, the Southeast and Southwest were experiencing "somewhat more modest growth."

It said seven of its 12 districts noted spillover from Asia, including a drop in export sales of computer components and lumber from firms in the San Francisco district, reduced Asian demand for goods made in the Boston district and increased competition from Asia for apparel and textile makers in the Richmond district.

Nevertheless, the Fed said, the economy generally has managed to sustain high employment levels.

At the same time, none of its districts reported "widespread increases in general wage levels."

That, in turn, has left goods prices "largely stable."

Even manufacturing, the sector most vulnerable to loss of export sales and competition from low-priced Asian imports, was "robust in several districts, notably Chicago, St. Louis and Kansas City," the Fed said.

However, manufacturing was "somewhat weaker in an arc from Dallas through Atlanta and Richmond," it said.

The economy's growth has been fueled "by liberal consumer spending and by business investment in plants and equipment," it said.

Also, "the construction sector is very strong."

Agriculture, however, suffered from low crop and livestock prices, and oil and gas drilling is slack.

Shoppers look at packaged meats and fish at the Yaohan Japanese supermarket in Edgewater, N.J., Wednesday. In an effort to stabilize the Japanese economy, the U.S. jumped into global currency markets Wednesday to halt a slide in the Japanese yen that threatened to embroil America and the rest of the world in a far more dangerous phase of the Asian crisis. AP

AMA elects president for 1999

By Brenda C. Coleman

CHICAGO (AP) — The American Medical Association on Wednesday elected as their next president the man who chaired the AMA board during a widely criticized deal to endorse a company's home health products.

Dr. Thomas R. Reardon, 64, a family practitioner from Portland, Ore., will take over in June 1999 as head of the nation's largest professional organization of physicians.

Reardon weathered a challenge by an AMA member who said that Reardon and other board members should share the blame for a controversial contract signed last year with the Sunbeam Corp.

The board said it didn't know about the deal, which was signed by top staffers.

Five of them were fired or resigned after the contract became an embarrassment to the nonprofit AMA.

The five-year agreement would have had the AMA endorsing Sunbeam products it did not plan to test.

The association backed out of the deal a week after it was announced, provoking a $20 million breach-of-contract lawsuit.

"We still have the litigation to deal with, but I think emotionally, we need to kind of move on past Sunbeam," Reardon said after election results were announced.

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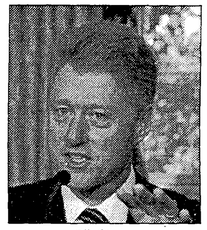
Clinton nominates eight ambassadors

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton on Wednesday nominated David Michael Satterfield, a State Department aide who has worked on Middle East peace negotiations, as ambassador to Lebanon.

Satterfield, of Fairfax, Va., is director of the State Department's office of Israel and Arab-Israeli Affairs.



Bill Clinton

A foreign service officer since 1980, he has served assignments in Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Lebanon and Syria and was a member of Clinton's national security staff from 1993 to 1996.

Also nominated by Clinton to ambassadorships Wednesday were:

- Kent M. Wiedemann, of San Mateo, Calif., as ambassador to Cambodia.
- Elizabeth McKune, of McLean, Va., as ambassador to Qatar.
- George Mu, of San Francisco, as ambassador to the Ivory Coast.
- James Vela Ledesma, of Monterey, Calif., as ambassador to Gabon, Sao Tome and Principe.
- Joseph Gerard Sullivan, of Vienna, Va., as ambassador to Angola.
- Robert C. Perry, of Arlington, Va., as ambassador to the Central African Republic.
- Diane E. Watson, of Los Angeles, as ambassador to Micronesia.

Democratic Farm Labor Party gubernatorial candidate John Marty holds a news conference to kick off his primary campaign Wednesday. State Senator Marty is challenging his opponents to reject special interest money. Placing a Not for Sale placard over a Goverment For Sale sign on the capitol mall in St. Paul, Minn. AP

Calif. bet for governor praise Clinton

By Sandra Sobieraj

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Democrat who wants to be California's governor, Gray Davis, said Wednesday that he considers President Clinton an asset and declared, "I am proud to campaign with him."

Clinton pledged to campaign aggressively and raise money for Davis' campaign against the state's Republican attorney general, Dan Lungren.

Beginning in August, both Clinton and Vice President Al Gore will help Davis blanket the state with campaign appearances and fund-raising events, said White House political adviser Karen Skelton.

"It'll be a comprehensive package from here," she said.

Talking with reporters outside the White House, where Davis met separately with Clinton and Gore, the candidate stressed that Clinton is an asset to California campaigning thanks to the state's economic prosperity and his 70-plus percent approval rating there — some 10 points higher than elsewhere in the nation.

"In California, just four years ago, people were complaining that the equity was declining in their homes, children were moving back in with them after they graduated from college because no jobs were available," said Davis, currently the state's lieutenant governor.

"All of that has changed and a good share of the credit belongs to this administration, so I am proud to campaign with him."

But Davis emphasized that he's no fair-weather friend.

"I was proud to be one of the few people who would meet him in airports in 1995 when Speaker Gingrich was riding high, and I'm proud to campaign with him when he's riding high," Davis said.

He said he had asked Clinton and Gore for "a substantial amount of time helping us raise money" and they agreed.

With his wife, Sharon, at his side in the steamy heat, Davis was wrapping up what he cast as a victorious three-day mission to Washington to rally support from the White House, Capitol Hill, labor leaders and his former Democratic opponents.

"I cannot tell you how pumped Washington is over my primary election," he enthused.

Rep. Jane Harman, who mustered just 12 percent to Davis' 35 percent of the vote in the June 2 primary, agreed to hold a campaign event for Davis at her home on July 21, Davis told reporters.

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All 75 contestants receive a FREE SPAM T-shirt the day of the event.

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3rd Prize
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-Must be 18 years or older.
-Amateurs only. Professionals not eligible to enter. (For purpose of this event, professionals are defined as anyone who makes money through professional cooking, i.e. chefs.)
-Contestants must provide typed written recipes of their dish with entry form.
-Contestants are limited to one entry form. Contest is limited to first 75 entries.
-Entry forms and recipes must be turned in by 9pm Wednesday, June 17, 1998.
-Contestants must bring prepared dish for judging on Saturday, June 20 from 11am to 11:30 am. Any dishes brought in after this time will be disqualified. Judging will begin promptly at noon.
-Employees and families of Price Costco and Dickerson & Quinn, Ltd. do not qualify for this promotion.
-Recipes will become the property of Hormel Foods-Dickerson & Quinn, Ltd.
-Interpretation of contest rules shall be at the sole discretion of Price Costco and Dickerson & Quinn, Ltd. and any decisions made shall be binding on all contestants. Judges decisions are final.

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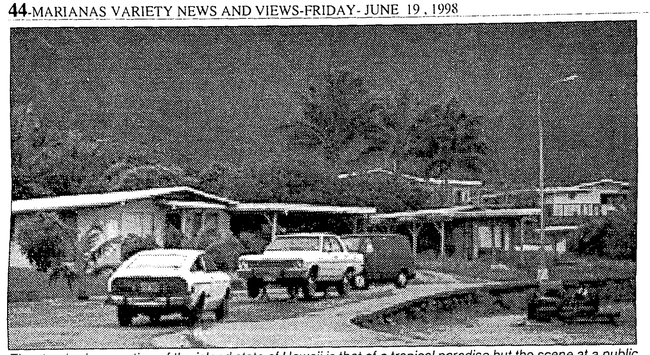

The standard perception of the island state of Hawaii is that of a tropical paradise but the scene at a public housing development in Waimanalo, Hawaii, seen last March 26 resembles that of others across the nation. Although most of the U.S. is basking in the best economy in a generation, Hawaii is suffering from a seven-year-long economic slump. AP

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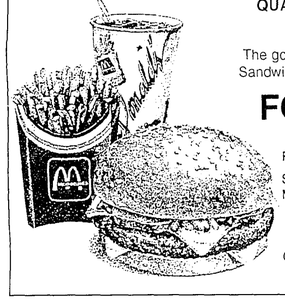

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Freemen end hunger strike

SPRINGFIELD, Mo. (AP) — Six anti-government Freemen ended their second hunger strike Wednesday with breakfast in federal prison while their trial continued in Montana.

The six were ordered to the U.S. Medical Center for Federal Prisoners after they stopped eating at a county jail in Montana on Sunday, prison spokesman Rick Veach said.

The judge in Montana ordered that the trial continue, but said the men could return when they ended their hunger strike.

"Not everybody ate everything on the morning meal, but they did all eat," Veach said.

The men are among 12 members of the anti-government group accused in a 40-count federal indictment on charges ranging from fraud to threatening the life of a federal judge.

The men, including Freemen leader LeRoy Schweitzer, didn't explain why they stopped eating Sunday, authorities said.

During an earlier hunger strike, the men protested being taken to a holding cell each day to watch the trial on television.

Some two dozen Freemen engaged in an 81-day standoff with the FBI before surrendering in 1996.

The standoff began after the FBI lured Schweitzer and Petersen to a trap on the edge of the group's compound in eastern Montana and arrested them.

President Clinton and South Korean President Kim Dae-jung shake hands during a state arrival ceremony for the South Korean president at the White House. President Clinton voiced confidence that the South Korean president, with increased U.S. trade and investment, would lead a recovery of his nation's economy. AP

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Girl killed, baby-sitter is missing

KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP) — A couple returned home from their newspaper delivery jobs early Wednesday to find their 11-year-old daughter slain and her baby sitter, a 22-year-old man, missing.

"We are trying to track him down," police Sgt. Floyd Mitchell said.

"We don't know right now what his involvement may have been."

Police did not say how the girl was killed.

Her 5-year-old brother and 1 1/2-year-old sister were asleep when the parents arrived home.

The parents told police that the baby sitter, a family friend, was asleep on the couch when they left on their paper routes about 2 a.m.

A computer and some other items were missing from the home, Mitchell said.

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Gina Mango Juice (2 cans for) 99¢

Fiesta Court Specials:
Regular Hot Dog and Jumbo Fountain Soda $1.99
Coffee (12 Oz.) 75¢

(while supplies last)

Top CNN military analyst quits

By David Bauder

NEW YORK (AP) — CNN's top military analyst has quit in protest over the network's report that United States forces used nerve gas in a mission to hunt down American defectors in Laos during the Vietnam War.

"It's sleazy journalism," retired Maj. Gen. Perry Smith said Wednesday.

Smith, a former Air Force officer who flew missions over Laos during the war, said he believed no nerve gas was used.

Smith, an on-air military expert for then network since the Persian Gulf War, "leaves with our great respect," CNN spokesman Steve Haworth said.

"I think it's an honest difference of opinion."

The "CNN NewsStand-Time" report accused the military of using sarin gas during Operation Tailwind in Laos in which two U.S. defectors were supposedly killed, and in other missions.

The joint report by CNN and Time magazine quoted several SpecialForces soldiers who said they were involved in the operation.

According to the report, the mission was approved by the Nixon White House and the CIA.

Smith, a 30-year military officer who teaches ethics and management, said he believed CNN rushed the story on the air because it wanted to make a big splash with the premiere of its "NewsStand" newsmagazines.

Smith said hefound out about the story only when seeing on-air promotions for it, and was disappointed he wasn't consulted.

He quit after failing to convince CNN executives the story should be retracted.

"It reflects on me because I'm the military analyst," he said.

"You've taken away my credibility as a military analyst because people will assume that if it went on the air, Perry Smith must have approved."

Another Vietnam-era officer, retired Adm. Thomas Moorer, was quoted in the CNN report as confirming the use of sarin gas.

But he said last week he had simply heard of unconfirmed stories about it and had no independent knowledge.

CNN employees working on the story chose not to believe sources that gave information conflicting with the nerve gas report, Smith said.

The report is damaging to the country because it gives Saddam Hussein an opening to call Americans hypocrites for criticizing him for using nerve gases, he said.

The military considered CNN one of the most trustworthy media outlets, and now that reputation is seriously ruptured, he said.

CNN followed up its story on Sunday, reporting on the controversy it had sparked and saying that some military officials told CNN the gas was tear gas, not sarin.

But the network stands by the story.

"CNN's story is extremely well-sourced, with some 200 people interviewed over eight months up and down the chain of command," Haworth said.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW98-IFB-014
June 12, 1998

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Paving of Various School Parking Lots/Drop Zones on the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Magnitude of this project is between $50,000.00 and $100.000.00.

Sealed bids, in duplicate, must be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan no later than 2:00 p.m. local time, Tuesday, July 7, 1998, at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened.

A bid bond of fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 4466"

The Scope of Work, drawings, and bidding documents are available on or after June 15, 1998 at the Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, Lower Base, Saipan.

A Pre-bid Conference for this project will be held at 10:00 a.m. local time, Thursday, June 25, 1998 at the DPW Conference Room, Office of the Secretary, Gualo Rai, Saipan. All questions/concerns must be submitted in writing at the Pre-Bid Conference.

The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds equal to 100% of the price specified in the contract. Performance time for completion of the project is sixty (60) calendar days. Liquidated damages to be assessed at two hundred fifty dollars ($250.00) per calendar day.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs (DOI/OIA), at 60% of the cost, with 40% matching funds provided by the CNMI Government. Award of a contract is contingent upon funding approval from DOI/OIA.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal in the interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/JUAN B. CEPEDA
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that the NMHC is soliciting proposals from licensed companies in the Commonwealth engaged in providing building maintenance services to provide, on an "As-Needed Basis", maintenance of its Central Office and Section 8 Housing Units in Saipan.

Sealed proposals will be received until 10:00 a.m., Monday, July 13, 1998 at NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan, at which time and place and proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. The proposal documents, which are available at NMHC's Office, shall be signed by the owner or authorized agent of the firm, and shall be enclosed in an envelope which shall be sealed and clearly labeled, "BUILDING MAINTENANCE PROPOSAL". Companies shall be responsible for the placement of its firm's name and address on the outside proposal envelope.

A Pre-Proposal C ference will be held on Friday, June 26th, 1998 at 10:00 a.m.

NMHC hereby notifies all proposers that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contracts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, handicapped/disabling conditions, or national origin.

Proposal Specifications may be obtained at the NMHC Office in Garapan, anytime between the hours of 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Questions or additional information may be directed to Edith Fejeran, Office Manager, at 234-6866/9447.

NMHC reserves the right to waive any information and to reject any and all proposals in the best interest of NMHC.

/s/MARYLOU S. ADA
Corporate Director

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Guinea-Bissau rebels said losing ground

By Ian Stewart

TANAF, Senegal (AP) — Rebels in the West African nation of Guinea-Bissau have lost ground in their 11-day-old battle with soldiers loyal to the government, the foreign minister said Wednesday

The minister, Fernando Delfim da Silva, said renegade troops had pulled back to the airport just outside Bissau, the nearly deserted capital.

"The rebel forces are in retreat," Da Silva told The Associated Press in Lisbon, Portugal, the former colonial ruler of Guinea-Bissau.

The airport is two miles from the site where the fighting began, an army garrison where rebels holed up after attempting to overthrow the government on June 7.

The military in neighboring Senegal issued a statement saying its troops had helped their comrades in Guinea-Bissau capture the garrison on Saturday.

roops from a third country, the Republic of Guinea, also are involved in the fight against the rebels.

Senegalese troops sealed the border Wednesday to contain the conflict to Guinea-Bissau, where they said fighting had spread to rural areas along the border.

Earlier Wednesday, Gambia's foreign minister, Mohamed Lamin Sedat Jobe, met with government officials in Bissau to try to mediate an end to the conflict, the Portuguese news agency Lusa reported.

He reportedly had been scheduled to meet later Wednesday with rebel leader Brig. Ansumane Mane.

It was not immediately clear whether the meeting would take place.

More than three-quarters of Bissau's population of 300,000 people have fled the city, witnesses and several aid groups said.

Most left with little more than the clothes on their back.

The U.N. food agency, the World Food Program, reported about 100,000 refugees near the town of Mansoa, 40 miles from the capital.

A Catholic mission put the number at 150,000.

"The situation in Bissau is growing progressively more desparate," WFP representative Sanda Maina said in a statement issued from Rome.

Mane, the former head of Guinea-Bissau's armed forces, has accused the elected president, Joao Bernardo Vieira, of corruption and demanded he step down.

Vieira came to power in a 1980 coup after winning renown as a guerilla fighter in the 1961-74 war against Portuguese colonial rule.

He was elected in the country's first democratic ballot in 1994.

The conflict escalated Tuesday when Senegal launched an artillery barrage across the frontier into rebel territory.

The cross-border attack was aimed at dislodging Senegal's own separatist rebels with suspected links to the mutineers in Guinea-Bissau.

Thousands of refugees who fled Bissau hoping to seek refuge in Senega, were cut off from one of their main escape routes.

US, allies split on global court

By CandiceHughes

ROME (AP) — A world criminal court might lose sight of its mission to try only the most horrendous crimes, like genocide, and become an overwhelmed forum for "every imaginable complaint," the United States said Wednesday.

In a stance at odds with key allies and human rights groups, U.N. Ambassador Bill Richardson said giving the court an independent prosecutor could muddy the tribunal's mandate.

"We must not turn an international criminal court — or its prosecutor — into a human rights ombudsman open to, and responsible for, responding to any and all complaints from any source," Richardson said at treaty talks on the court.

A large coalition of other nations, including Britain, Canada and other key allies, do not share the American doubts. They point to the extremely short list of crimes the court would handle and say it needs a prosecutor who can initiate cases independently.

France, which shared many U.S. positions on the court, broke ranks Wednesday on an independent prosecutor.

Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine announced France now favors the idea as long as a judicial panel reviews and approves cases.

Staking out increasingly lonely ground, the United States wants cases referred to the court from two sources: the U.N. Security Council, where it has a veto, and individual states.

As now envisioned, the court would step in only when national courts fail to act. It would try individuals for three offenses: war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

Some want aggression added to the list; the United States opposes such a step.

Envoys from 157 countries are spending five weeks in Rome trying to hammer out a treaty to create the world's first permanent criminal tribunal.

Allies have said they'll go ahead without the United States if need be, as they did on a recent treaty banning land mines.

Richardson pointed to the U.S. record of backing war crimes tribunals from Nuremberg to Rwanda and suggested the court needs U.S. backing to succeed.

"The court cannot be the creation of a single group of nations," he insisted.

President Clinton endorsed the idea of an international court in 1995, breaking an impasse that existed since the tribunal was first proposed after war crimes trials in the wake of World War II.

But the Defense Department and congressional conservatives oppose any arrangement under which U.S. soldiers could face trial for military operations abroad.

Richardson said Wednesday the treaty must protect "soldiers deployed far from home" from "exposure to politicized proceedings."

The chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, Sen. Jesse Helms, has threatened to kill any treaty unless prosecution decisions rest with the Security Council.

Proponents of an independent prosecutor say it will keep the court from becoming a feeble pawn subject to the veto of the Security Council's five permanent members.

One of the few undisputed proposals on the table at Rome is the location of the court — if the conference manages to produce a treaty.

Delegates have given their informal approval to The Hague, site of the World Court, which handles disputes between nations.

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SEND APPLICATION, RESUME AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO:

Mr. Juan S. Tenorio
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors
Commonwealth Development Authority
P.O. Box 2149
Saipan, MP 96950

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/s/Juan S. Tenorio
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

WWII war crimes suspect extradited

By Kevin Gray

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina (AP) — The former commander of Croatia's largest concentration camp was extradited Wednesday, bound for his homeland to face accusations of World War II atrocities.

Flanked by Croatian police, Dinko Sakic smiled as he boarded a commerical flight, Lufthansa 517, for Frankfurt, Germany.

Authorities said he would later change planes for Zagreb, Croatia.

In Croatia, Sakic faces investigation for crimes allegedly committed while he commanded the Jasenovac concentration camp in the early 1940s, when the country was under the pro-Nazi Ustasha regime.

"Sakic has always wanted to go to Croatia to explain the facts," Miguel Angel Rossi, Sakic's public defender, told reporters at Buenos Aires' international airport.

The public defender's office said Sakic faces prosecution in Zagreb courts on suspicion that "he committed crimes against humanity and international law."

In a two-page statement, it said extradition was carried out in "record time" after Sakic consented to being extradited to Croatia, where critics charge he would get a lenient trial.

Croatia's foreign minister, Mate Granic, has promised that Sakic's case would be handled "impartially and highly professionally."

Thousands of Serbians, Jews and Gypsies died at Jasenovac, the concentration camp known as the "Auschwitz of the Balkans," but exact numbers remain in dispute.

Croatian president Franjo Tudjman has put the death toll at 35,000, the U.S. Justice Department at 125,000; and camp survivors, at up to 500,000.

Sakic, 76, had kept a relatively low profile since arriving in Argentina in 1947, but caused an uproar with a nationally televised interview on April 6.

He had lived quietly in the Atlantic coastal town of Santa Teresita, 165 miles south of Buenos Aires, until the interview.

Speaking with Argentina's Canal 13, Sakic denied any wrongdoing and said no one was exterminated at Jasenovac while the camp was under his control.

"It was a work camp where the Jews managed themselves," Sakic said in the broadcast.

"We never put a hand on any of the prisoners in the camp," he added.

"The people died of natural death. There was a typhus epidemic, for example, but there were no cremation ovens that killed anybody."

In an unusual move, President Carlos Menem called for Sakic's arrest a day after the broadcast, even though no formal extradition request had been filed. Croatia made the request soon afterward.

Since Menem took office in 1989, his government has worked assiduously to dismantle the country's image as a Nazi hideaway.

Richardson to head US Energy

By TERENCE HUNT

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton will name Bill Richardson, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, as energy secretary and replace him in New York with diplomatic troubleshooter Richard Holbrooke, administration officials said Wednesday.

The twin nominations are to be announced by Clinton on Thursday.

Richardson has been rumored as Clinton's nominee for the energy post for weeks, after Federico Pena announced he was stepping down in July to spend more time with his family.

Richardson, a former Democratic congressman from New Mexico, had been considering whether the energy job would help him if he runs someday for governor of New Mexico or is considered a vice presidential candidate in 2000.

Holbrooke, 57, one-time assistant secretary of state for European affairs, was architect of the Bosnia peace accords, which got

Bill Richardson

him nominated for — but not awarded — the Nobel Peace Prize.

Richardson was said to be feeling restricted at the United Nations, given little leeway by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. Holbrooke comes to the job with more experience in diplomacy and is strong-willed and aggressive.

Richardson, 50, resigned his House seat in February 1997 and, well liked in the Congress, won unanimous Senate confirmation to the ambassadorship.

As a congressman, Richardson negotiated with hostile governments in Cuba, Iraq, North Korea and Sudan to help secure the release of 11 hostages.

Holbrooke has served as Clinton's envoy on many hot-button foreign policy issues, from the Middle East to Bosnia and Cyprus.

A source close to Richardson confirmed that his nomination to the energy post was imminent and that Holbrooke would be named his successor at the United Nations. Administration officials also confirmed the appointments.

Richardson was returning late Wednesday night from a 24-hour trip to a drug conference in Rome. Stu Nagurka, the ambassador's spokesman in New York, refused comment on any appointments, but noted that Richardson, for the first time in 18 months, had no further UN-related travel plans.

Hundreds deported from Ethiopia

By KARIN DAVIES

ASMARA, Eritrea (AP) — Eritrea's government strongly condemned the deportation of hundreds of Eritreans from Ethiopia, the latest salvo fired in the Horn of Africa countries' nearly 6-week-old border conflict.

Hundreds of Eritreans have been deported from Ethiopia, arriving in their homeland on Wednesday after an arduous three-day trip aboard packed buses.

"The Ethiopian government continues to pursue its witch-hunt of Eritreans with greater intensity," Eritrea said Wednesday.

No new fighting was reported.

A delegation of African leaders was scheduled to meet Thursday with Ethiopian Prime Minister Meles Zenawi and with Eritrean President Isaias Afwerki in a bid to prevent the clashes that broke out May 6 from escalating into full-scale war.

Thirsty and hungry, the deported Eritreans arrived in the border town of Om Hajer, 190 miles (310 kilometers) southwest of Asmara and near the Sudanese border, said presidential adviser Yemane Gebremeskel.

Eritreans said 800 were expelled, while Ethiopians put the figure at 500. About 550,000 Eritreans live in Ethiopia, mostly in the capital and the northern provinces.

The Ethiopian government said the deportees posed security risks because they had military training or were raising funds for the Eritrean war effort.

Ethiopia has accused Eritrea of expelling thousands of its citizens, a charged denied by Eritrea.

Eritrean rebels were instrumental in helping the Ethiopian rebels overthrow a 17-year military regime in July 1991. Eritrea gained independence from Etniopia in 1993.

Slain Kosovo fighter buried

By Paul Geitner

CRNI LUG, Yugoslavia (AP) — In a show of their growing support and confidence, the separatist Kosovo Liberation Army buried a fallen comrade with military honors Wednesday after a funeral attended by thousands of villagers.

Imer Krasniqi, 41, was shot Tuesday by a Serb sniper not far from his home village of Crni Lug, about 20 miles southwest of the provincial capital of Pristina.

About 200 armed ethnic Albanian militants, including a handful of women, stood at attention as the wooden coffin, draped with a red-and-black Albanian flag, was carried to the grave on a hill overlooking Crni Lug (pronounced T'SERNee-LOOG).

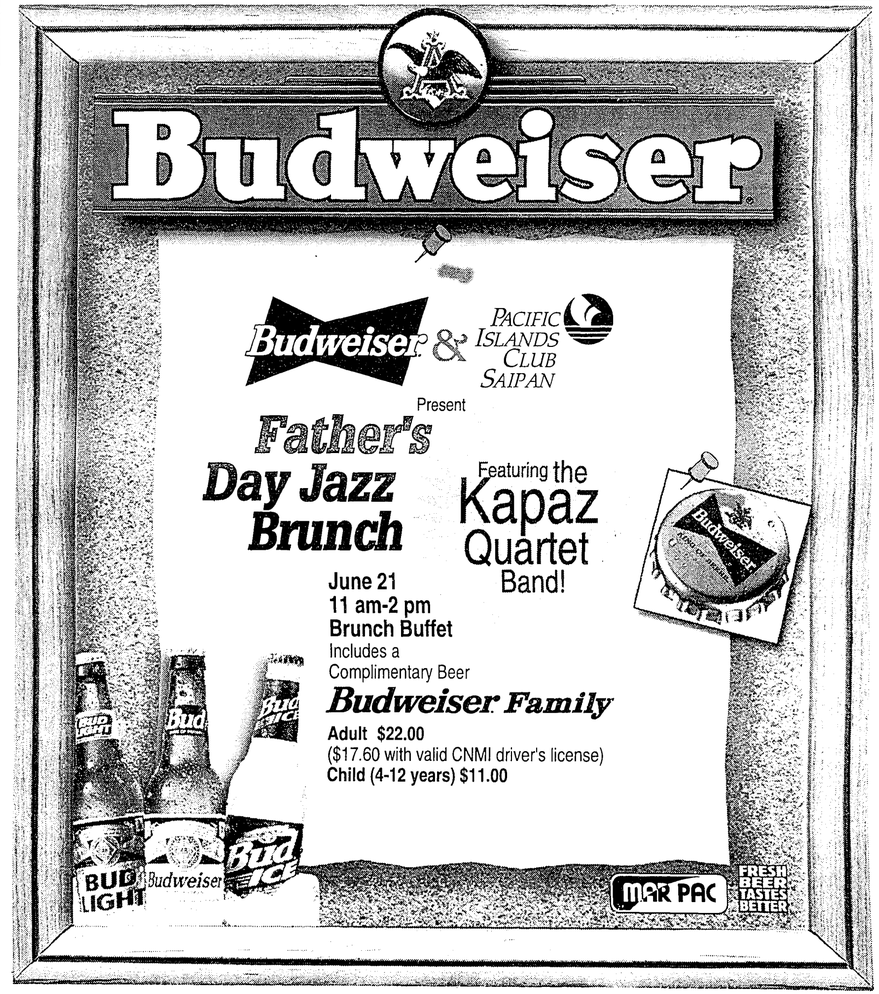
A six-man honor guard fired three times into the air as Krasniqi's grieving family looked on, surrounded by about 5,000 people from neighboring villages.

"We came because he is our fighter," said one, a 35-year-old former truck driver who gave only his first name, Behram. "We are all with them," he said, referring to the Kosovo Liberation Army.

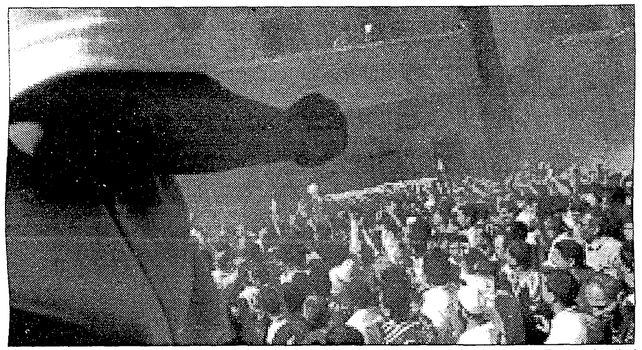
Serb police, stationed at checkpoints just a few miles from Crni Lug, did not interfere with the funeral. The village is within the 40 percent or so of Kosovo that the ethnic Albanian militants say they control in their war for independence from Serbia.

Foreign journalists were allowed to witness the burial, but not to interview any KLA members, who were dressed in a hodgepodge of camouflage uniforms with mismatched caps and carried a variety of guns.

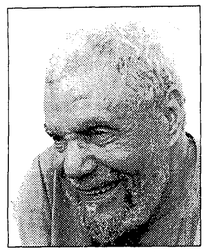
Little is known about the group's size or structure, but the militants have recently started to emerge from the shadows as they gain more and more popular support — apparently at the expense of the ethnic Albanians' pacifist political leader, Ibrahim Rugova.



Thousands mourn Egypt cleric



The coffin of one of the world's leading Muslim clerics Sheik Mohammed Mutwali Sharawi of Egypt, who died in Cairo Wednesday, June 17, 1998, at the age of 87, is carried through the streets of his home village of Daqadous, Egypt in the Daqahlliya province, some 120 kilometers (75 miles) north of Cairo, towards the village mosque, Wednesday before sundown. Sharawi's teachings and rulings won him wide acclaim in the Muslim world, but they were also controversial. AP



Mutwali Sharawi

By Salah Nasrawi

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Thousands of Egyptians, many of them weeping and chanting religious slogans, mourned the death today of Sheik Mohammed Mutwali Sharawi, a leading cleric in the Muslim world.

Sharawi, minister of religious endowments under former President Anwar Sadat, died Wednesday at 87 at his home near the pyramids of Giza. The cause of his death was not announced. Last week, he was hospitalized for severe asthma.

President Hosni Mubarak praised the popular cleric, saying he had "greatly contributed to Islam and enriched Muslims with his wide knowledge of the correct teachings of Islam."

Egypt's leading Islamic authority, the Grand Sheik of Al-Azhar, Mohammed Sayed Tantawi, described Sharawi's death as a great loss, saying: "Time rarely gives birth to such a glorious imam who devoted his life to making the word of God esteemed."

In his home village of Daqadous in the Nile Delta, thousands poured into narrow, dirt streets in a procession that carried Sharawi's body to the cemetery. Black-uniformed police pushed back crowds that surged toward the green coffin.

Many mourners chanted, "There is no god but God." Women dressed in black cried, and clouds of dirt drifted through the hot afternoon air.

Sharawi gave a religious lecture on Egyptian television on Fridays that was widely watched because of the simple way in which he conveyed Islamic principles and because he spoke in a colloquial dialect of Arabic. His books, videotapes and cassettes were available at bookstores and sidewalk stalls across Cairo.

His teachings and rulings won him wide acclaim in the Muslim world, but they were also controversial.

Moderate Muslims considered them outdated.

He angered feminists and human rights activists by supporting female circumcision and by ruling that women should not be appointed to top government positions or become judges.

He also condemned organ transplants and the paying of interest on bank deposits.

Sharawi was born in Daqadous, 75 miles north of Cairo. During his lifetime, he built a religious school, a mosque and a hospital in the village.

He trained at Al-Azhar in Cairo, the leading religious institute in the Sunni Muslim world. He became a theological lecturer in Saudi Arabia and then rejoined Al-Azhar as a director of teaching. But he had to leave after falling out with then-President Gamal Abdel Nasser over Egypt's increasingly close ties with the Soviet Union.

In what was possibly his most controversial move, he gave thanks to God after Egypt suffered a calamitous defeat in the 1967 Arab-Israeli War. Asked why, he said that if Nasser had won the war, Egypt would have become a communist country.

Sharawi is survived by three sons and two daughters.

Israel-Egypt peace monument soon

JERUSALEM (AP) — Jimmy Carter was born too late to be immortalized on Mount Rushmore, but the former American president's image will soon be chiseled into a cliff in Israel's Negev Desert.

The Nakash brothers, owners of the Jordache jeans company, plan to erect a monument to the signers of the 1979 peace agreement between Israel and Egypt — Carter, Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat.

The sculptures will be on a somewhat smaller scale than the giant busts carved into the Black Hills of South Dakota, said Avda Lloyd, spokeswoman of the Ramat Hanegev regional council.

Lloyd said the actual dimensions have not yet been determined.

Avi Nakash said a $10 million park will be built around the monument near the grave of former Israeli Prime Minister David Ben Gurion in the Sde Boker kibbutz.

Carter and the families of Begin and Sadat will attend the cornerstone-laying ceremony in October, Nakash said.

Belarus relents in sewer war

By Marina Babkina

MINSK, Belarus (AP) — Belarus' president backed down Wednesday in a bizarre international imbroglio over water and sewer repairs, agreeing to let Americans and other diplomats remain in their homes while the system is being fixed.

The diplomatic dispute has raged since April, when the government of this former Soviet republic tried to evict about two dozen ambassadors from their homes in the pleasant wooded compound in Drozdy, saying the water and sewage system needed urgent renovations.

The conflict took an odd turn Wednesday morning, when diplomats saw a new sign hanging at the compound entrance: "The residence of the President of the Republic of Belarus."

But late Wednesday, the British Embassy announced that President Alexander Lukashenko had agreed to let the ambassadors stay during the repair period.

Lukashenko has a home adjacent to the diplomatic compound on the outskirts of Minsk, and has said previously that he's not keen on having diplomats as neighbors.

Moreover, in a news conference last week he suggested that the compound by rights should be his home.

"The Drozdy compound is the head of state's residence, you should know," Lukashenko said.

"But today, across the fence at the distance of 50 meters, we have foreign representatives — the U.S., Germany, Italy, India and others."

Ambassadors from Bulgaria and some former Soviet republics have left the compound, but the U.S. ambassador and others want to stay during the repairs.

They argue that under the Vienna Convention, ambassadors' residences are sovereign territory and the host country has no right to force them out.

Ann Speckhard, the wife of U.S. Ambassador Daniel Speckhard, spoke to reporters while walking her dog and pledged to stay in her home.

All sewage and plumbing systems and telephone lines were working fine, and her family was feeling "OK," she said.

The compromise between Lukashenko and the diplomats apparently was reached at a briefing for the ambassadors at the Foreign Ministry.

"Nobody is evicting anyone, not today or tomorrow," said Col. Mikhail Tesovets, the head of Lukashenko's personal guard service.

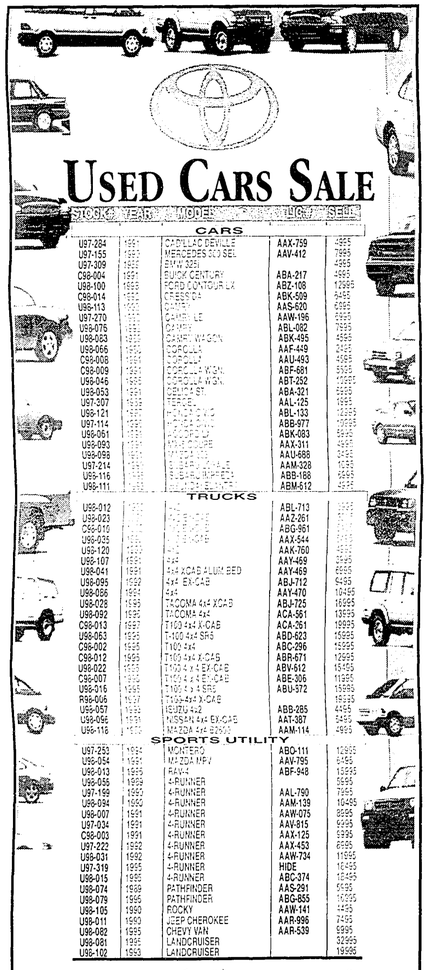
The British Embassy released a short statement saying the compromise will permit the ambassadors to remain in their homes.

"The solution takes account of the repair and technical work required to (the) premises and of the requirements of ambassadors consistent with their status and rights under the Vienna Convention," the statement said, without providing details.

Officials at the British and U.S. embassies contacted by The Associated Press refused to provide further information.

Belarusian authorities say that the sewage and plumbing system in the 1940s-era compound is badly antiquated and in danger of collapse.

However, the embassies point out that they hold valid leases, some of which were signed the same month they were ordered to leave.



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Social Security options mulled

By Alice Ann Love

WASHINGTON (AP) — Leading proposals to partially privatize Social Security would result in smaller guaranteed benefits than the retirement program now promises, a congressional report says.

One plan, devised by a privately convened study group of Republican and Democratic lawmakers, would slash by a third the benefits due to a worker with average income retiring at age 65 in 2025, the Congressional Research Service study said.

Another, introduced by Sens. Bob Kerrey, D-Neb., and Daniel Moynihan, D-N.Y., would reduce the same worker's benefits by 11 percent.

Supporters of the plans noted, however, that without any change a cash shortfall is expected to leave Social Security unable to pay at least 20 percent to 30 percent of benefits owed starting in 2032.

"Anyone who compares all these new options with the current system are misreading the fact that the current system cannot continue to exist," said Sen. John Breaux, D-La., a leader of the National Commission on Retirement Policy, which came up with the bipartisan plan.

The report, being released at a House hearing Thursday, evaluated only basic retirement checks the government would continue to guarantee if workers were able to shift some Social Security taxes they now pay into private accounts to invest for themselves.

Proponents of partial privatization say that for most people, individual accounts invested on booming Wall Street would more than make up for any loss of government-guaranteed benefits.

Kerrey and Moynihan's plan, for example, would make it an option for workers to take some taxes they pay on their wages out of the Social Security system and try to increase their value by investing them in stocks and bonds.

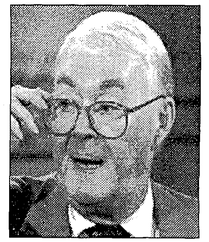
The two senators introduced related legislation Wednesday that would start retirement accounts for every American child at birth with a $1,000 government contribution.

"Early accounts can accumulate ... over the course of working lives," said Kerrey.

It was an opponent of replacing guaranteed Social Security benefits with personal investment accounts who requested the CRS report evaluating the partial privatization plans.

Rep. Charlie Rangel, D-N.Y., said the finding that 33 percent of guaranteed Social Security benefits would be lost under the National Commission on Retirement Policy's plan does not compare favorably with a previous Congressional Research Service analysis showing that a mandatory private account of the type the commission has proposed — earning a 6.3 percent return on Wall Street — would replace only 12.4 percent.

Bob Kerrey



Daniel Moynihan

"Vast cuts in benefits are inescapable under any Social Security privatization plan," Rangel said.

Jury selected in Ennis Cosby trial

By LINDA DEUTSCH

SANTA MONICA, California (AP) — A jury was chosen Wednesday for the trial of a 19-year-old Ukrainian immigrant charged with killing Ennis Cosby, son of entertainer Bill Cosby.

The jury of six men and six women will hear opening statements Monday.

Ennis Cosby, 27, was shot in January 1997 near a Los Angeles freeway after pulling his father's Mercedes-Benz off the road to repair a flat tire.

Prosecutors charge that Mikail Markhasev killed Cosby in an attempt to rob him. He was arrested two months later after tipsters seeking a reward from a tabloid newspaper named him as the alleged killer. Prospective jurors were quizzed about whether they would discount the testimony of witnesses who sold their stories to the media. Some said they would be skeptical, but all promised to listen and evaluate what they had to say.

Bill Cosby's name was not mentioned during the questioning although jury prospects were asked on their questionnaires if they watch his TV shows. Most said they did not watch him at all or rarely.

Bill Cosby, who does not plan to attend the trial, said in a brief television interview Tuesday that all his family wanted was dignity in the proceedings.

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Secret Service testimony fought

By Larry Margasak

WASHINGTON (AP) — Repeating a "life or death" warning on the consequences of forcing testimony from Secret Service officers, the Clinton administration told an appeals court that a mistrusting president could be assassinated if he kept bodyguards at bay to preserve his privacy.

"The result of compelling Secret Service testimony may not be a president who consciously chooses to risk his safety but a president who denies his protectors the last few feet of proximity that may be the difference between life and death," the administration said.

It is seeking to overturn a judge's ruling that Secret Service employees should not be prohibited from testifying because of their duties.

U.S. history "makes only too clear that tragic results may be expected when presidents distance themselves from their protectors," the Justice Department said in a brief made public Wednesday by the U.S. Court of Appeals.

Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr wants three Secret Service employees to testify in the Monica Lewinsky investigation. The brief, filed under seal last Friday, starkly reminded the court that since President John

Kenneth Starr

Monica Lewinsky

F. Kennedy's assassination, attempts have been made on the lives of Presidents Ford, Reagan and Clinton.

Clinton was endangered twice — when a gunman raked the White House with more than two dozen bullets on Oct. 29, 1994, and a small plane crashed into the White House lawn a month earlier while the Clintons were not at home, the brief stated.

The ruling under appeal was handed down by chief U.S. District Judge Norma Holloway Johnson on May 22. Refusing to create a precedent-setting legal shield to keep Secret Service employees from testifying, she rejected impassioned arguments from Secret Service officials that a president who couldn't trust his bodyguards would keep them at a distance.

To bolster the Secret Service arguments, the brief quoted from a letter that former President Bush wrote Secret Service Director Lewis Merletti. Bush said that if his bodyguards had been compelled to testify about what they saw or heard, "I would not have felt comfortable having them close in."

Starr is seeking grand jury testimony from uniformed officers Gary Byrne and Brian Henderson and Secret Service legal counsel John Kelleher.

The prosecutor wants the officers to testify about what they saw and heard in connection with Clinton's relationship with Ms. Lewinsky.

Starr will reply to the appeal in writing Friday, with oral arguments scheduled June 26.

Trying to cast their arguments in the most dramatic way, the Justice Department submission said that Merletti made clear that "even small efforts by a president to gain an extra measure of privacy may be fatal."

The administration also attempted to counter Johnson's assertion that she didn't think a breach of confidentiality would cause a president to risk his life and compromise the ability of the Secret Service to protect him.

While no so-called protective function privilege has been established for the Secret Service, the need for one is "compelling" to protect national security, the brief said.

It added that the privilege is especially necessary now because of "the unprecedented nature of the independent counsel's efforts to breach the relationship of trust and confidence that has long been critical to the work of the Secret Service."

In addition to the Secret Service case, the administration has appealed a Johnson ruling that presidential confidant Bruce Lindsey be shielded from testimony in the Lewinsky investigation. In Lindsey's case, the president has invoked the long-established attorney-client privilege, since the aide is a deputy White House counsel.

Trial for juror who had affair with defendant

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — Closing arguments ended Wednesday in one of Canada's most bizarre trials, featuring a woman who had a love affair with an accused killer while serving on the jury that acquitted him.

Gillian Guess, a 43-year-old single mother who created an Internet site to give her side of the story, is charged with obstruction of justice and faces a maximum 10-year jail term if convicted.

Prosecutors allege she fell in love with defendant Peter Gill during his 1995 murder trial for two drug-gang killings, then influenced jury deliberations that resulted in an unexpected acquittal.

Guess admits having an affair with Gill while he was free on bail during his six-month trial, but she denies exerting any improper influence on her co-jurors.

"My client loves somebody and is biased towards him," Guess's lawyer, Peter Ritchie, said in his final arguments. "There is no law saying it's a crime for a juror to be biased."

However, prosecutor Joe Bellows argued Wednesday that Guess obtained information never revealed in court, then swayed her fellow jurors during deliberations.

"Because of her personal relationship with Mr. Gill, her intimate sexual relationship, she had information no other juror had," Bellows said, referring to Gill's private assertions to Guess that he was innocent.

Guess's five-week trial has attracted nationwide media attention and drawn daily full houses to the Vancouver courtroom. It also resulted in a legal rarity—one of the few times ever in North America where jurors were asked to testify about normally secret jury-room deliberations. Prosecutors solicited testimony from other jurors in the murder trial that Guess consistently argued in support of Gill. Several jurors depicted her as self-centered and opinionated.

Court officers testified they observed Guess and Gill smiling and flirting during the trial.

Police investigators started following Guess soon after Gill's acquittal, bugging her home and telephone.

In one bugged conversation, played in court, Guess said she was "completely intoxicated" by Gill. A Royal Canadian Mounted Police officer testified about watching as Gill kissed and fondled Guess at a bar two weeks after his acquittal.

Gill and five co-defendants were acquitted of first-degree murder in the killings of two members of a rival drug gang. If Guess is convicted of obstruction of justice, prosecutors say they may seek a new trial of Gill on the ground that his acquittal was tainted.

Guess spoke freely with the media during her trial, although on occasion she let her 13-year-old son, Adam, act as her spokesman.

She also provided running commentary about her legal troubles on an Internet site. Judge Raymond Paris twice instructed jurors in her trial not to access the site.

When the trial opened May 11, some legal experts expressed concern that it was a potentially dangerous intrusion into the confidentiality of jury deliberations. But William Geimer, a visiting law professor at the University of Victoria, said he no longer sees it as a threat.

"The facts of this case appear to be so bizarre... I can't imagine that something like this is going to come up very often," he said.

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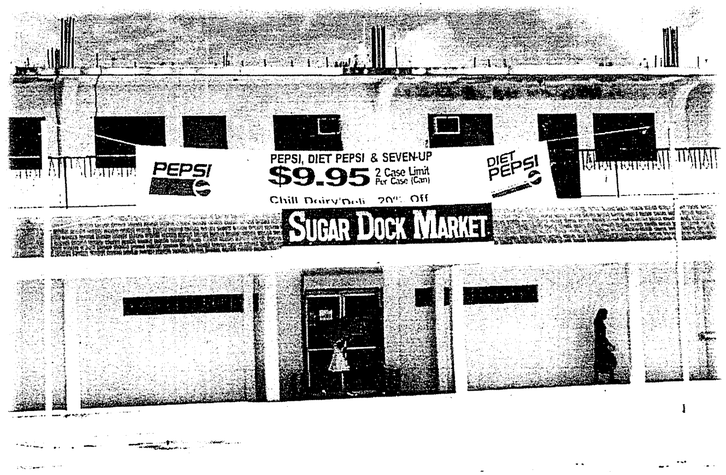

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CERTIFIED ANGUS BEEF

US offers new deal to Iran

By TIMOTHY WILLIAMS

NEW YORK (AP) — In a major overture after nearly two decades of distrust, the Clinton administration offered to start a new relationship with Iran — even including a role in Persian Gulf security — if it abides by international standards of conduct.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright held out the olive branch, responding to openings from Iranian President Mohammad Khatami, in a speech delivered Wednesday to The Asia Society in New York.

"As the wall of mistrust comes down, we can develop with the Islamic republic, when it is ready, a road map leading to normal relations," said Albright.

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Madeleine Albright

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Perhaps the most intriguing aspect of Albright's offer was the suggestion Iran could be included in "multilateral efforts to protect international security."

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"This global network has grown largely without Iranian participation," Albright said. "But Iran would be welcome if it is willing to make a constructive contribution."

In her remarks, Albright also credited Iran with already participating in efforts to bring peace to Afghanistan and with trying to improve relations with Saudi Arabia.

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But the recommendation has been held up for weeks because the United States wanted to attach conditions. Washington first wanted to attach the spare parts deal to changes in the oil-for-food program to make it last automatically as long as economic sanctions remain against Iraq.

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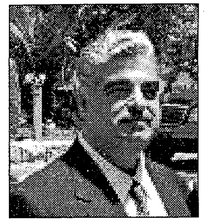
ME peace progress seen

A Jewish settler, with his head covered with a Jewish prayer shawl, is escorted by an Israeli police officer into Jerusalem's magistrates court after being arrested in the beating death of a Palestinian farmer Wednesday. AP



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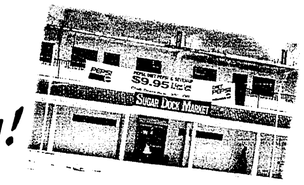

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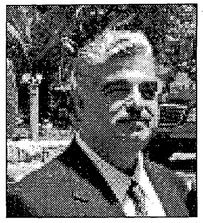

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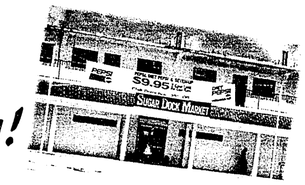

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West Bank killing shows hatred

By Laura King

HEBRON, West Bank (AP) — A makeshift memorial already marks the spot where Palestinian farmer Abdel Majid Abu Turki fell, struck by a teen-age Jewish settler swinging a piece of wood from a passing van.

But the plaintive roadside monument — a clump of olive branches protruding from a pile of dusty rocks — conceals the fury many Palestinians feel toward the Jewish settlers among them.

"To them, we are targets — they can maim and kill us at will," Mohammed Abu Turki, 63, a cousin of the slain man, raged as he and other relatives waited outside the morgue at a Hebron hospital on Wednesday, a day after the killing.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu called the attack "horrible and unacceptable."

But the Palestinian police commander in Hebron, Tarek Zeid, blamed a climate of hatred — and said acts like this could doom the tenuous effort to restart Israeli-Palestinian peace talks.

"It's a terrible crime, and the Israelis bear responsibility," he said.

"This is the way to bury the peace process."

It wasn't the first time that tensions between Jewish settlers and Palestinians in and around Hebron — one of the angriest spots in all the West Bank — has broken out in bloodshed.

The city is divided between Israeli and Palestinian control, with an enclave of 500 settlers in the midst of 120,000 Palestinians.

On its rocky outskirts, Jewish settlements bump up against Palestinian villages.

In the single worst attack here, a Jewish settler shot and killed 29 Muslim worshippers at a Hebron mosque in 1994.

More often, though, deaths come singly and sporadically, as in April, when a Jewish settler was killed in a dispute with Palestinian shepherds near a settlement outside Hebron.

Or as happened late Tuesday afternoon, when Abu Turki, a 45-year-old father of six, was walking home from the fields.

He was within sight of home when a van carrying a group of teen-agers — all from a halfway house for troubled youths at the nearby Jewish settlement of Beit Hagai — approached from behind.

One of the teens, by his own admission, reached out the window and struck Abu Turki with a length of wood as the van passed.

On Wednesday, the family home was a house of mourning.

The dead man's 11-year-old daughter, Noor, wept uncontrollably in the center of a knot of women, red-faced and flailing her arms.

"My destiny is to get revenge for my father," she shouted, while relatives tried to comfort her.

Muslim tradition calls for swift burial, but the family agreed to adelay so that Palestinian officials could turn the body over to Israel for an autopsy.

They said they hoped doing so would help bring about justice.

At the Hebron hospital, doctors beckoned journalists into a narrow room where Abu Turki's body was laid out on a table, wrapped in a bloody shroud.

His feet, still in their worn brown shoes, were bound together with gauze; the back of his head was nearly obliterated.

"See what they did to him?" one murmured.

In Jerusalem, two of the teens who were riding in the van appeared before a magistrate Wednesday, covering their heads with prayer shawls as they walked into court.

Their names were not released because of their age.

Their lawyer, Naftali Werzberger, acknowledged that one of them had struck the deadly blow, but said the boy hadn't realized it could be fatal to strike someone from a moving van.

Werzberger also said Turki was not targeted simply because he was a Palestinian, but could not explain the motive for the attack.

The van's driver, an adult, was released by the Israeli magistrate even though he drove on after the attack, leaving Abu Turki lying on the side of the road.

Settlers turned the boys in after learning the victim had died.

At Beit Hagai, home to about 350 people, the mood was uneasy, with some settlers fearing Palestinian retribution.

"We haven't gone to the bunkers, but we're certainly alert," said the settlement's security chief, Zvi Katz. He said the army had made some suggestions for improving security, which he refused to detail but said the settlers were following.

He and others expressed regret over Abu Turki's death, but said it should not be seen in political terms.

"We don't know why this happened," Katz said.

"It's true, though, that here you always have the sense of these things, of Jews and Arabs, peace or not peace. ... It's hard to escape."

The halfway house program was established six years ago, and settler familie serve as foster parents to the troubled teens, Katz said.

Asked whether violent, volatile Hebron was the best place for problem juveniles, Katz sighed.

"It's one incident in all these years," he said.

Palestinian women comfort an unidentified weeping girl at the home of Abdel Majid Turki, in the West Bank city of Hebron Wednesday. A makeshift memorial already marks the spot where Turki fell, fatally hit by a teenage Jewish settler holding a plank of wood in a passing van.
AP

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works

INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW98-IFB-016
June 12, 1998

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed bids for the Paving of Kanat Tabla Road on the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Magnitude of this project is between $25,000.00 and $50,000.00.

Sealed bids, in duplicate, must be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan no later than 10:00 a.m. local time, Tuesday, July 7, 1998, at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened.

A bid bond of fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check, or Bid Bond made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 4466".

The Scope of Work and bid documents are available on or after Tuesday, June 16, 1998 at the Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, Lower Base, Saipan.

A Pre-Bid Conference for this project will be held at 2:00 p.m. local time, Monday, June 12, 1998 at the Highway Branch Office, Technical Services Division, Lower Base, Saipan. All questions/concerns regarding this project shall be submitted in writing at the Pre-bid Conference.

The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds equal to 100% of the price specified in the contract. Performance time for completion of the project is thirty (30) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred twenty five dollars (US$125.00) per calendar day.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal in the interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/JUAN B. CEPEDA
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply

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Judge apologizes for sentence

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By Lisi De Bourbon

NEW YORK (AP) — A Bronx judge apologized Wednesday for ordering a prospective juror to spend 15 days in jail for contempt after the man told the judge he didn't like his attitude.

John Wichmann was handcuffed and placed in a holding cell Tuesday.

A higher-ranking judge set him free within an hour, calling the sentence excessive.

"I wish to acknowledge that I may have overreacted," state Supreme Court Judge Alexander Hunter said at a news conference.

"I would like to publicly apologize to him for any hardship I may have caused."

"In all these years, I have never had anyone address me that way in my official capacity as a judge. It was a jolt," said Hunter, who works at the trial court level and has been on the bench for 13 years.

Wichmann, a teacher being considered as a juror in a drug case, told the New York Post he met with Hunter in his chambers to ask if he could be excused because of a possible conflict

Hunter greeted him by snapping, "What's your story?" the newspaper reported.

Wichmann was ordered to jail after he told Hunter his attitude was "condescending."

Wichmann did not return calls seeking comment.

The state judiciary in recent years has tried to make jury duty more equitable and less of an inconvenience, said David Bookstaver, a spokesman for the Office of Court Administration.

The campaign includes a push to show more respect for the public.

"But it's a two-way street," said Bookstaver.

"There also needs to be respect for the bench."

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1. DIVISION OF FISH AND WILDLIFE	02/09/98 SMS-98-X-33	BOAT LAUNCHING RAMP	LOWER BASE AND TANAPAG	MAJOR SITING	CERTIFIED COMPLETE(06/10/98)
2. SILVER TRADING CO.	03/16/98 SMS-98-X-70	SILVER RESORT HOTEL	CHALAN KANOA	MAJOR SITING	CERTIFIED COMPLETE(06/16/98)
3. H.S. LEE	02/05/98 SMS-97-X-264	LAKE SIDE APARTMENT	SUSUPE	MAJOR SITING	CERTIFIED COMPLETE(05/28/98)
4. GRACE INTERNATIONAL	03/15/98 SMS-98-X-235	WAREHOUSE	SUSUPE	MAJOR SITTING	CERTIFIED COMPLETE(05/26/98)
5. U.S. CNMI DEVELOPMENT	05/07/98 SMS-98-X-107	STAFF HOUSING	GUALO RAI	MAJOR SITTING	CERTIFIED COMPLETE(06/16/98)
6. PELLEY ENT.	06/08/98 SPIm-98-X-108	DRYDOCK	SOUTH SEAPLANE RAMP	PORT & INDUSTRIAL APC	APPROVED(06/11/98)*
7. TRANS ASIA GARMENT FORTE	05/20/98 SWm-98-X-143	DRAINAGE MAINTENANCE	LOWER BASE	WETLAND APC	UNDER REVIEW*
8. S2 CLUB	06/11/98 SSm-98-X-144	FILMING	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED (06/12/98)*
9. CMLC	06/12/98 SPIm-98-X-145	DRYDOCK	SEA PLANE RAMP	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(06/15/98)*
10. RAILINGS PACIFIC INC	06/09/98 SPIm-98-X-146	GATE	LOWER BASE	PORT & INDUSTRIAL APC	APPROVED(06/16/98)*
11. TREND FARM	06/12/98 SSm-98-X-147	FILMING	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(06/15/98)*
12. TAKE SHOBO	06/16/98 SSm-98-X-148	FILMING	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(06/17/98)*
13. J.C. TENORIO ENT.	06/16/98 SSm-98-X-149	SIGNBOARD	GUALO RAI & SUSUPE	MAJOR SITING AMENDMENT	APPROVED(06/17/98)*
14. BURY LIVING	06/17/98 SSm-98-X-150	FILMING	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(06/18/98)*

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).

Male model loses sex bias suit

LONDON (AP) — A British court rejected a sexual-discrimination lawsuit Wednesday by a male model who sued a college for giving women preference as nude models for its art classes.

George Bond, 54, cited as evidence the 68 hours — out of a possible 1,260 — that he had been employed by Northampton College, northwest of London.

The college denied all claims of sexism and said Bond was difficult to work with and unreliable.

According to one instructor, Bond was "always moaning, complaining about the cold and going to the toilet."

College officials also said they were not comfortable employing Bond because he had appeared in a pornographic film and in a documentary about the making of a sex film.

Bond said he is deciding where to go from here.

He said he may "just get a normal job to pay the bills."

Jospin starts US visit

By HARRY DUNPHY

WASHINGTON (AP) — Calling France and the United States "serious partners" in good times and bad, French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin began a three-day visit to the United States during which he will have talks with President Clinton and meet other officials.

He arrives at a time when U.S. officials describe the sometimes fractious relations between the two old allies as reasonably positive with few areas of disagreement.

White House Spokesman Mike McCurry said Wednesday that Clinton and Jospin "will have a chance to get to know each other better but also to review the breadth of issues that are covered in the U.S.-French dialogue" when they meet Thursday.

He said these issues included Kosovo and trans-Atlantic cooperation in political, security, economic and trade areas.

McCurry said U.S. sanctions "against Iraq and other sanctions regimes that France and the European Union clearly disagree with when it comes to U.S. policy" also would be covered. France eventually would like to lift sanctions against the Baghdad government, with which it was once a major trading partner.

Jospin and Clinton also will witness the signing an U.S-French aviation agreement that McCurry said "is a major step in facilitating air traffic between France and the U.S and eliminating all restrictions over five years."

Jospin also will attend the first meeting of the French-American Business Council, which will bring together chief executives of major French and U.S. companies on Friday.

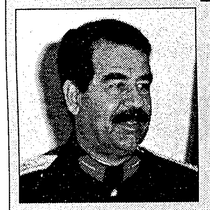
Jospin was accompanied by his wife Sylviane, a writer of books on philosophy, and three ministers from his Socialist government that took power a year ago — Foreign Minister Hubert Vedrine, Finance Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn and Education, Research and Technology Minister Claude Allegre.

At a meeting with the French community in the Washington area Wednesday night, Jospin said French-American relations "rested on a tradition of shared democatic values which have never been questioned even in the most difficult times."

He said the two countries were "serious partners" who can develop "mutually beneficial exchanges."

Britain's Prime Minister Tony Blair, left background, and his French counterpart Lionel Jospin talk away from the table before the start of the European Summit in the Cardiff City Hall Monday. Waiting at right is Britain's Foreign Secretary Robin Cook. AP

US to help Saddam opponents



Saddam Hussein

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration plans to help political opponents of Iraqi President Saddam Hussein to organize and coordinate their case against him, a senior State Department official said Wednesday.

The campaign will emphasize Saddam's "brutality and war crimes," and the administration "will be going forward in a visibie and effective way," Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk told a media seminar.

Describing the Iraqi opposition as democratic, Indyk said, "We think it is important they establish themselves."

"I don't place a high probability in their ability to overthrow Saddam," he said, but "it's important they demonstrate there is a different way of life for the Iraqi people."

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Russian reformer is back

By Maura Reynolds

MOSCOW (AP) — Three months after firing him, President Boris Yeltsin brought Russia's most disliked reformer back into the government Wednesday in an effort to save the country's economy.

Anatoly Chubais, who has now been fired and rehired by Yeltsin twice, was named deputy prime minister and placed in charge of relations with international lending organizations.

The appointment coincided with an announcement confirming what the markets have suspected for weeks — that Russia is seeking a new bailout loan from the International Monetary Fund.

Chubais' new job will make him Russia's point man with the IMF and other Western aid agencies, who laud his efforts to privatize state companies and reform the still shaky economy.

But the same actions have made him one of the country's most reviled politicians.

Russians accuse him of squandering valuable state assets and deepening their poverty.

Yeltsin emphasized that Chubais will not be a "standing member" of the Cabinet — an apparent effort to appease critics by suggesting that Chubais will not control overall economic policy.

Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko said new IMF money is needed to replenish currency reserves in case there is a serious run on the ruble.

He refused to say how large a loan Russia is seeking.

The stock market rose Wednesday on the news, closing 7.7 percent higher.

Russia's stock and financial markets plunged late last month, triggered by a drop in world oil prices, miners' strikes and lingering nervousness over the Asian financial crisis.

The stock market has lost half its value since the beginning of the year.

The skid slowed when rumors of an IMF bailout began to circulate.

However, the government insisted in public that new lending was unnecessary and it could resolve the crisis on its own.

All the same, the government acknowledged that it is desperate to prevent a devaluation of the ruble, fearing that a new round of inflation, combined with a chronic inability to pay wages, could lead to social unrest and political instability.

Sergei Dubinin, the head of the Central Bank, reiterated Wednesday that the ruble would not be devalued and said the bank still has $15 billion in reserves. Those reserves could be depleted rapidly, however, if the bank is forced to prevent a run on the currency.

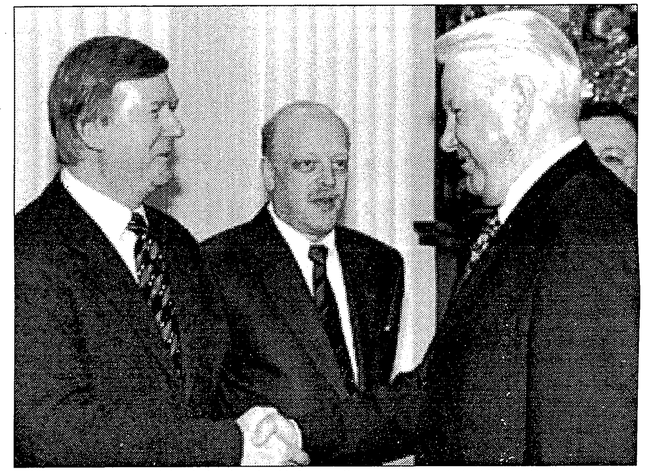
Negotiating the terms of the IMF loan will be one of Chubais' first tasks. He had a head start, since he traveled to the United States last month as Yeltsin's envoy to ask the IMF and other lenders for help.

Yeltsin has twice fired Chubais from his Cabinet. In January 1996 he was ousted as deputy prime minister, only to be brought back into government a few months later to run Yeltsin's re-election campaign.

He was fired again in early March, and has since been serving as head of Russia's huge state-owned electricity monopoly, Unified Energy Systems.

Along with pressing the IMF for new credits, the government is preparing an emergency program involving deep spending cuts and aggressive tax collection.

The IMF has insisted on precisely such measures, even delaying installments of a current $10 billion loan in an effort to force Russian compliance.



President Boris Yeltsin, right, shakes hands with Anatoly Chubais, head of Unified Energy Systems of Russia electric utility, as Alexander Smolensky, head of SBS-Agro bank, looks on during a recent meeting with Russia's most powerful businessmen in the Kremlin in Moscow. AP

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Arabs push PLO's UN status

By ROBERT H. REID

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Frustrated over the U.S. failure to revive the Middle East peace process, Arab states are asking the General Assembly to reconsider a resolution upgrading the status of the PLO observer mission.

Nasser al-Kidwa, the PLO observer at the United Nations, said Arab ambassadors asked the General Assembly to schedule a debate on the proposal next week, possibly Wednesday.

Other diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, confirmed that the request had been forwarded to the president of the General Assembly, Hennady Udovenko, and a decision was expected soon.

The Palestine Liberation Organization was granted observer status in the General Assembly in 1974, enabling it to maintain an office in New York but without the same privileges as missions of U.N. member states.

The PLO's status was upgraded in 1988 when the General Assembly decided to designate the PLO as "Palestine."

In December, the Arab states submitted a resolution that would confer "upon Palestine the same rights and privileges of participation as those conferred upon member states, with the exception of voting and candidature" for office on U.N. committees, such as the Security Council.

Israel and the United States strongly opposed the move.

During a debate in December, members of the European Union used a parliamentary maneuver to derail a vote. They proposed that Secretary-General Kofi Annan study the idea, a move that would have shelved it indefinitely.

Faced with that prospect, the sponsors, led by Egypt, withdrew the resolution. But with no sign of progress on Middle East peace, the Arabs decided to bring the measure back before the 185-member General Assembly, where no state has veto power.

The proposed new designation would make little difference in the daily work of the Palestinian mission. But it would affirm international support for the Palestinians in the protracted peace process.

Resolutions favoring the Palestinians are routinely approved with huge margins in the General Assembly.

Last December, for example, the General Assembly voted 160-2 to reaffirm the right of the Palestinians to self-determination, with only Israel and the United States casting negative votes.

Russia: 6 misplaced satellites are usable

By Anna Dolgov

MOSCOW (AP) — Six "spy mailbox" satellites launched by Russia have strayed into the wrong orbit, but authorities said Wednesday they can still be used to transmit secret messages to and from intelligence agents.

The six satellites — reportedly designed for the intelligence branch of the Russian Defense Ministry — were launched simultaneously early Tuesday from the Plesetsk cosmodrome in northwestern Russia.

By Tuesday night, some were reported to be having trouble finding their proper orbits and on Wednesday, officials said all six had gone astray.

The error was caused by an incorrect command, the Interfax news agency quoted an unidentified military official as saying.

The satellites, which the military earlier described generically as the Kosmos variety, were actually Strela-3s — also known as "space mailboxes for Russian spies," the Russky Telegraf newspaper said.

Strela-3 satellites are used to record radio messages transmitted by Russian intelligence agents throughout the world, and relay those messages to intelligence headquarters in Moscow. They can also transmit messages sent by Moscow to spies abroad.

Until recently, the satellite system was highly classified. Russia's former military intelligence chief, Gen. Col. Fyodor Ladygin, confirmed its existence when Russia decided to start producing a commercial version to earn cash for the underfunded space and military programs, Russky Telegraf said.

While the six satellites launched Tuesday were to have gone into a round orbit 868 miles above the Earth, they instead settled into an elliptical one, passing 812 miles above the Earth at the lowest point and 1,171 miles at the highest point, said Mission Control spokesman Anatoly Kiryushkin.

The military still intends to use the satellites, but will have to adjust some settings, Kiryushkin said.

The Plesetsk cosmodrome, about 315 miles below the Arctic Circle in northwestern Russia, is used mostly for military satellite launches. Russia also uses the Baikonur cosmodrome, leased from Kazakstan, for international satellite launches and manned space flights.

Baikonur is closer to the equator, allowing launches of satellites to higher orbits using less powerful boosters.

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ASEAN discusses haze, fires

SINGAPORE (AP) — Southeast Asian environment ministers will plan ways to prevent a recurrence of regional fire-caused haze when they meet in Singapore Friday.

Heavy rains have subdued, for the most part, the raging forest fires in Indonesian Borneo. But in the last few days, new hot spots and haze have been seen in satellite pictures from central Sumatra.

The haze has drifted over Singapore and more is expected.

The center of Sumatra island has been getting below normal levels of rainfall, Woon Shih Lai, director of the Singapore Meteorological Service, was quoted as saying in Thursday's issue of The Straits Times.

He said the hot spot pattern was similar to last year, but without the extra drying effect of the El Nino weather pattern, there was hope that the fires would go out more quickly.

The ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations are expected to focus their discussions on implementing a regional action plan to prevent a recurrence of the widespread fires and thick haze that spread throughout the region last year.

ASEAN includes Brunei, Burma, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam, Philippines, Indonesia and Thailand.

Book on Malaysian deputy PM banned on eve of party meet

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysia's deputy prime minister obtained a court order against a book he alleges was filled with lies about him.

The court injunction against the book, entitled, "50 Reasons Why Anwar Cannot Be Prime Minister," came on the eve of the annual general assembly of the ruling United Malays National Organization.

Deputy Prime Minister Anwar Ibrahim, also the nation's finance minister, opened the general assembly Thursday with a speech firmly backing Prime Minister Mahathir.

Copies of the book are believed to have been widely circulated among UMNO delegates, said the national news agency Bernama. The contents were not immediately known.

Anwar "will not hesitate to take whatsoever legal action as may be necessary to protect the dignity of his office and his own self esteem," said a statement by his legal firm.

Anwar is Mahathir's anointed successor and the most powerful man in the ruling party after the prime minister.

"Anwar categorically states that the said book contains gross libel against himself," said the statement by the legal firm of Messrs Faiz and Co.

The book is authored by Khalid Jafri, a former editor of a defunct tabloid newspaper and published by a little-known company, the Media Pulau Lagenda.

Anwar has often been a victim of privately-circulated "poison pen" letters alleging abuse of power and even sexual misconduct.

Neither the author nor the publisher could be immediately reached for comment.

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Bangkok sites said unsafe

By DON PATHAN

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — The risk of being crushed by a mammoth falling object — ranging from steel beams to building cranes — from construction projects on Bangkok's streets has become so high that even the city governor is warning how dangerous it is.

A furious Gov. Bhichit Rattakul and one of his advisers are blaming lax bureaucracy and indifferent contractors after the latest in a series of accidents — some fatal — that have made driving in Thailand's capital a deadly gamble.

"This accident has proved once again that Bangkok is not a safe place to live," the Bangkok Post newspaper quoted Bhichit as saying after a mobile crane at a road construction site collapsed during rush hour Tuesday, injuring two passing drivers.

Just last week, Bhichit ordered construction halted on the city's first commuter rail line after a five-ton concrete block fell from a crane during rush hour.

The governor filed a criminal negligence suit against the construction consortium on behalf of an injured worker who suffered broken teeth and cuts when a chip of concrete from the block hit him in the face.

In March, a 105-ton steel beam from a crane used in another elevated rail project fell on a main street, killing a taxi driver and injuring three other people.

The wife of the dead driver sued the project's construction company, Ital-Thai, for 32 million baht ($744,000) and the city banned Ital-Thai for one year from bidding on any new public projects.

Bhichit, who has made improving the city's environment his major goal, has long been at loggerheads with Ital-Thai, one of Thailand's biggest construction companies, which is involved with several major infrastructure projects.

He had earlier issued a temporary ban on it bidding on any new projects, saying the company had ignored several complaints from city officials about safety problems and noise and dust pollution.

This week he also lashed out at central government agencies for failing to enforce safety practices.

"Government agencies, including the Highway Department and Telephone Organization of Thailand, must cooperate with the city and control their contractors," said Bhichit.

Bhichit's attitude contrasts with the approach taken a couple of years ago after a driver was killed by falling material from an elevated expressway. Police advised worried motorists traveling on the lower road to stick to outside lanes rather than the roadway directly underneath the upper tier.

Supong Limtanakool, an academic who serves as an adviser to the governor's office, said Wednesday a comprehensive safety plan is needed to deal with the problem.

Supong also attacked the attitude of big construction companies.

Most major construction projects depend on expertise from major foreign companies acting as partners or subcontractors.

The situation "is very insulting to Thailand because these international construction companies would never be as careless in other countries," said Supong, chairman of the Urban Economic and Foreign Relations committee of the Bangkok Metropolitan Administration.

"If something like this happened in Western countries or Japan, these executives would go to jail," Supong said.

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3.	Vessels 42.1 ft. - 52.0 ft.	$10.00/lf
4.	Vessels 52.1 ft. - 65.0 ft.	$15.00/lf
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We are now accepting applications if you wish to berth or dock your boat at the said marina. Commercial boats are priority, but on a first-come-first-serve basis. By June 15 some boats can start using some of the docks. But by July 12, 1998, all the docks will be completed.

If you have any questions or need more information or you want an application, please call Louie or Joe at Tel. No. 322-1202, or Tony at 233-3973.

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INVITATION TO BID

SEALED BIDS FOR **PROCUREMENT, DELIVERY AND INSTALLATION** OF OFFICE **FURNITURE AND EQUIPMENT** FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND OFFICE PRESENTLY UNDER CONSTRUCTION TO BE COMPLETED ON OR BEFORE OCTOBER 1998, will be received at the office of the **ADMINISTRATOR,** Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund, 1st Floor, Nauru Building, P.O. Box 1247, Saipan, M ariana Islands 96950, until **2:00 P.M., July 8, 1998** at which time and place the sealed bids will be publicly opened and read.

The project, in general, consists of the procurement, delivery and installation of manufactured furniture including all labor, handling, materials, supplies, equipment, and items necessary and incidental to complete the installation of manufactured furniture all in accordance with the plans and specifications. Substitution of items specifically cited in the plans and specifications is allowed only when such item or items are no longer manufactured. A certification from the manufacturer of the item(s) unavailability is required. Any substitution must be of equal or better quality than that required by the specifications and approved by the NMI Retirement Fund.

The project is being financed by funds from the NMI Retirement Fund. The contract award, if it is to be made, will be made within two (2) months from the receipt of bids. The NMI Retirement Fund reserves the right to hold such bid in effect for three months from the date of bid opening.

The bidders must supply all the information required by the bid forms and specifications. In addition, bidder must submit its **Qualification** Statement to include at a minimum, an independently prepared financial statement reflecting the last 2 years of operations; experience in similar type project; CNMI Business License; reference from past client(s) attesting to the firm's abilities and quality of service.

The Qualification Statement is to be submitted to the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund Office, 1st Floor at the Nauru Building, no later than 5 calendar days from the pre-bid conference date.

Contract documents, including plans and specifications, may be obtained at the Office of the Administrator, NMI Retirement Fund, upon the payment of Two Hundred Fifty Dollars ($250.00) for each set of documents. This amount is non-refundable. Payment shall be made by check payable to the NMI Retirement Fund.

A pre-bid conference will be held at the office of the NMI Retirement Fund, at **10:00 A.M. on Wednesday, July 1, 1998** to explain and clarify any questions regarding this project. Questions should be submitted to the NMI Retirement Fund, in writing, at least five (5) days in advance of the pre-bid conference, with a copy of same mailed simultaneously to the Administrator.

Each bid shall be on a form furnished by the Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund.

The NMI Retirement Fund reserves the right to reject any or all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in said bids, or any of them, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its interest.

Edward H. Manglona **June 8, 1998**

Town becoming haven for Asia's stolen cars

MAE SAI, Thailand (AP) — Hundreds of automobiles stolen in Thailand, Malaysia and Singapore are being smuggled through this Golden Triangle frontier area into Myanmar for use by drug lords, army officers and others, Thai police say.

The trade enables the rich and powerful living in the remote, mountainous area — one of the world's top production zones of opium and heroin — to buy a Mercedes-Benz or comfortable four-wheel-drive vehicles relatively cheaply.

Such vehicles would be far more expensive to obtain legitimately in the main legal port of entry, the Myanmar capital of Yangon, and would take a beating on the country's cratered roads to reach the Triangle area hundreds of kilometers (miles) away.

A senior Thai officer monitoring the crossing between the towns of Mae Sai and Tachilek in Myanmar, also known as Burma, told The Associated Press this week that more than 800 stolen cars have been registered by Myanmar authorities this year.

The officer, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that most of the cars have been bought by high-ranking Myanmar army officers, along with ethnic minority warlords and drug traffickers.

He said the vast majority are four-wheel drive pickups, while a handful are luxury European cars. Most roads outside Tachilek itself are extremely rough and virtually impassable in the rainy season.

The officer said there are 20 locations in Mae Sai district where cars can be surreptitiously driven across the usually shallow Sai river to Myanmar, one of Asia's poorest countries.

Another police spokesman said more than 20 stolen automobiles have been confiscated in the past year by officers in Mae Sai, some 680 kilometers (422 miles) north of Bangkok.

It is virtually impossible to get stolen cars back from Myanmar, the spokesman said.

Myanmar is not the only destination for stolen autos coming from Thailand. Laos and Cambodia, especially, are also markets for hot cars.

Thai police say that gangs in Cambodia often buy cars stolen to order in Bangkok, favoring Honda Civics and Accords.

Although much legal commerce also take place, the area has been a major smuggling route for decades. The Golden Triangle, where the borders of Myanmar, Thailand and Laos converge, produces 60 percent of the heroin found on the streets of the United States.

Latest Au pair's saga draws anger

By ALEXIS CHIU

BOSTON (AP) — A "Free Louise" movement quickly formed after a jury convicted Louise Woodward of second-degree murder in the death of an 8-month-old boy in her care.

When a judge reduced the verdict to manslaughter and reduced the British au pair's sentence to time already served, honking car horns, tears and fireworks signaled the jubilation in her home country.

But the latest chapter in Ms. Woodward's legal saga has evoked some vicious sentiments from a segment of the world's Woodward-watchers.

Cloaked in the anonymity of Internet chat rooms, some sounding off on Ms. Woodward's return today to England used racial epithets.

Others compared the 20-year-old to O.J. Simpson, acquitted of murdering his ex-wife and her friend but found responsible for their deaths in a civil case.

"She's a convicted baby killer ... Go back to the land of Jack the Ripper!" read one message posted in a chat room.

Some notes were so severe, other people posted messages advising the notes' authors to get counseling. Many were filled with profanity, and topics ranged from Ms. Woodward's appearance and weight to her sexuality.

Joe Tecce, a neuropsychologist at Boston College who followed the Woodward case, said the responses are disturbing — but not particularly surprising.

"She's the lightning rod of the week for all of our frustrated feelings," he said. "The anonymity of the Net really lets people get their negative feelings out."

In England, the news in November of Judge Hiller B. Zobel's decision to reduce Ms. Woodward's verdict and let her out of jail met with an emotional outpouring. But recently, sentiment appeared to be shifting there as well.

Tuesday's decision by the state's highest court to uphold Zobel's decision was greeted by a markedly more muted reaction, in which some of the most colorful responses were "welcome home" cakes decorated with photos of the au pair.

The Sun, Britain's biggest-selling tabloid, ran a front-page story Wednesday under the headline "Don't Let Louise Near a Baby Again!"

The British Consulate in Boston was swamped with calls of support at each major turn in the case _ until now, said spokeswoman Terri Evans.

"It's been dramatically fewer this time around," she said.

Japanese company fights to use Kewpie

By Chester Dawson

TOKYO (AP) — The battle has begun.

The gloves are off and the cute little wings are all aflutter.

Kewpie, that iconic cherub with the wide-eyed stare, is at the center of a lawsuit pitting a major Japanese food maker against a local Kewpie fanclub leader, who claims to have exclusive rights to the doll.

Kazuo Kitagawa, who acquired the Kewpie doll's Japanese copyright in May from the Missouri-based Rose O'Neill Foundation, is demanding $7 million in damages from — who else? — the Q.P. Corp.

Q.P., by the way, is no babe in the woods.

It's Japan's biggest producer of mayonnaise and salad dressings, and has used the doll as its mascot and namesake since well before Kitagawa was born.

Even so, Kitagawa, who runs a doll museum and toy shop in Japan, says he is only trying to do right by Kewpie.

"Our aim is to promote the true Kewpie," Takashi Yamamoto, Kitagawa's lawyer, told The Associated Press on Wednesday.

Yamamoto said the suit was filed with the Tokyo District Court on Tuesday and seeks damages equivalent to $698,000 per year in royalties over the past decade.

That is the maximum allowed under the statute of limitations in Japan, he said.

Rose O'Neill, who died in 1944, created the original Kewpie doll, which debuted in the December 1909 edition of the Woman's Home Companion magazine before becoming an international hit.

Winged versions of the Kewpies are particularly prized by collectors, although the earth-bound models are perhaps better-known.

Q.P. is standing by its chubby mascot.

Company spokesman Masafumi Taga said Q.P. has the legal right to the Kewpie figure that adorns bottles of its best-selling mayonnaise, and cites a 73-year old trademark granted in Japan.

"All Kewpies are not the same. There are many Kewpies," said Taga.

"Kewpies are in the public domain."

That remains a matter for the courts to decide.

Japan has long been a haven for outlaw T-shirts, lunch boxes and coffee cups featuring copyright-protected characters.

Lawsuits are rare, but not unknown.

Bandai Co., the Japanese company that makes the "Tamagotchi" electronic pet has recentl filed suit against firms selling cheap imitations.

In another case, Japan's Supreme Court ruled last year against a company that improperly used "Popeye" on its neckties in a complicated case filed more than a decade earlier by King Features Syndicate Inc.

The O'Neill Foundation filed a lawsuit against the Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd., which also uses a Kewpie doll symbol, in February, and a ruling is pending.

And that is not the end of the Kewpie quarrel: Kitagawa's lawyers have threatened legal actions against four manufacturers of the plastic dolls in Japan unless royalties are paid.

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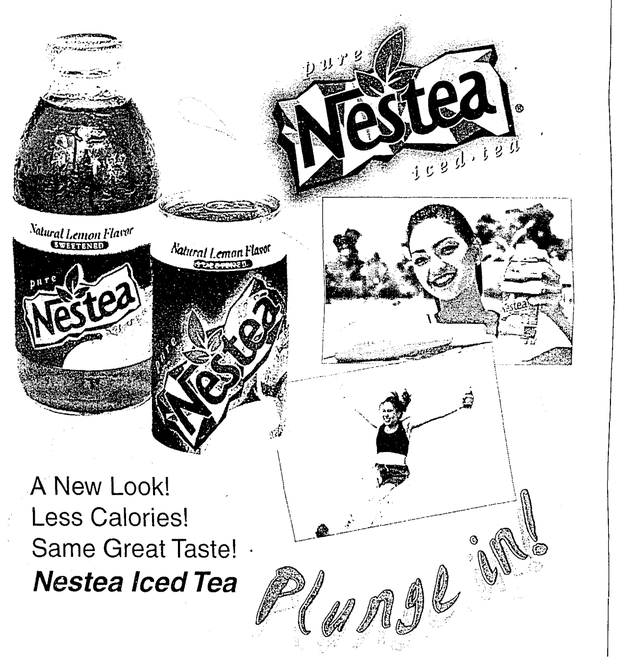

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NATO braces for Kosovo fight

By Barry Schweid

WASHINGTON (AP) — NATO forces are stepping up military exercises as the conflict in Kosovo spreads beyond the borders of Serbia, the Clinton administration's top Balkans negotiator said Wednesday.

Contingency planning for a military strike against the Serbs to shield civilians in the Kosovo province largely populated by ethnic Albanians is proceeding "quite rapidly, given the gravity of the situation," said the American diplomat, Robert Gelbard.

At a State Department media seminar, Gelbard said a Serb helicopter had flown into Albania and that Iranian and Chechen fighters had joined forces in Kosovo with ethnic Albanians in their struggle against Yugoslav troops and special forces.

It was not clear whether the Serbian helicopter opened fire, and Gelbard said, "We would regard it as extremely grave if there are cross-border operations" involving such military action.

NATO will conduct more exercises and the six nations that oversee the Balkans — the United States, Russia, Britain, France, Germany and Italy — would hold another "urgent meeting" soon to assess the situation, he said

On Capitol Hill, meanwhile, Rep. Eliot Engel, D-N.Y., called for U.S. military intervention in Kosovo "to prevent another slaughter, another genocide."

"Unless the United States and the international community destroy with air strikes Serb weapons and establish 'no-fly' zones, there will be a repeat in Kosovo of the horrific campaign of genocide that occurred in Bosnia," Engel said.

He and five other House members wrote President Clinton to urge him to reimpose a ban on investments in Yugoslavia, "to begin military planning for more effective measures to halt Belgrade's escalation and to prevent the conflict from spreading throughout the region."

The five other signers were Reps. Peter T. King, R-N.Y.; Sue W. Kelly, R-N.Y.; John Edward Porter, R-Ill.; James P. Moran, D-Va., and Tom Lantos, D-Calif.

The six-nation "contact group," at a London meeting last Friday, insisted that Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic halt military operations against civilians, order a cease-fire and resume negotiations with ethnic Albanian leaders.

"He has not complied," Gelbard said, citing Milosevic's failure to withdraw security forces or to permit outsiders to participate in talks between Serbs and Albanians.

Defense Secretary William Cohen said Tuesday the United States would keep warships and jets at the ready should NATO decide additional military action near Kosovo was needed.

Kosovar legislator Rifat Blaku, meanwhile, said Milosevic "will not keep his word, he will always do something different."

Calling Serbia a "cancer in the region," Blaku, vice president of the Parliamentary Party, said negotiations were not in Serbia's interest because the Albanians in Kosovo all want independence from Belgrade.

"Would you expect the Albanian nation, which has been divided on its own land, to live under Serbia?"

Blaku told a news conference at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace.

In a separate appearance, Bosnian Prime Minister Edhem Bicakcic urged the international community to find a political solution in Kosovo "before the whole region is engulfed by war."

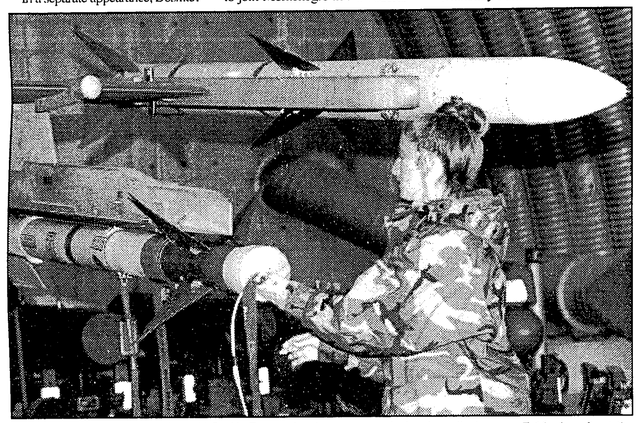
Villages were being destroyed, refugees were fleeing and there were attempts at ethnic cleansing, he said.

One resolution, he suggested, would be for an autonomous Kosovo to join Montenegro in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia.

"We in Bosia-Herzegovina have gone through the horrors of war and know how to recognize the signs," Bicakcic said.

"The events in Kosovo are the beginning of a war."

Bicakcic and his deputy, Finance Minister Drago Bilandzlia, spoke with State Department officials and representatives of the International Monetary Fund and World Bank.



An unidentified member of the U.S. Air Force checks weapons being installed on an F-16 aircraft, at the Aviano, Italy air base Monday. NATO fighters and reconnaissance aircraft were sent over Albania and Macedonia for the exercise "Determined Falcon" to demonstrate to Yugoslavian president Slobodan Milosevic the alliance's commitment to peace and stability in the region. AP

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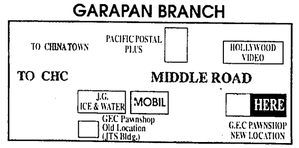

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Russia: Pomp for Czar's funeral

By Maura Reynolds

MOSCOW (AP) — The government insisted Wednesday that the remains of the country's last czar will be buried with pomp and circumstance despite funding woes and a refusal by the hierarchy of the Russian Orthodox church to attend.

"The funeral of the murdered czar — Nicholas II — and his family is in every aspect a grand act," said Viktor Aksyuchits, an aide to Deputy Prime Minister Boris Nemtsov, who is in charge of the July 17 funeral.

Nicholas II, his family and four servants were executed by a Bolshevik firing squad in the Ural Mountains city of Yekaterinburg on July 17, 1918.

In 1991, nine skeletons were recovered and batteries of forensic tests in Russia and abroad have identified the remains as belonging to the royal entourage.

But plans for the state funeral in St. Petersburg have drawn criticism in recent weeks.

The Russian Orthodox Church hierarchy has decided not to attend the event, citing doubts over the identities of the remains. However, the church has said it will permit local priests to conduct the funeral services.

Because the patriarch will not attend, President Boris Yeltsin has also said he won't go to the funeral. The highest-ranking government representative is expected to be Nemtsov.

Three days of burial services will begin July 15 with a ceremony in Yekaterinburg. The following day, the remains will be sent to St. Petersburg, where a funeral procession will proceed to the Romanov family crypt.

An official state funeral will be held the next morning at the St. Peter and Paul Cathedral.

Aksyuchits said the government is still working out how to pay for the ceremony and restoration work on the St. Peter and Paul Cathedral.

He denied Russian media reports the government is so short of cash that it can't afford a marble memorial plaque and planned to install a wooden one instead.

Hundreds of relatives of the deposed czar have been invited to the funeral, including many representatives of Europe's current monarchs.

US satellite employee's links to China probed

By JOHN DIAMOND

WASHINGTON (AP) — U.S. law enforcement officials investigating China's efforts to develop military satellites are inquiring about a U.S. company's computer scientist whose father is a Chinese general in charge of developing defense technology, a government official said.

Investigators are examining whether Shen Jun, a satellite project manager and computer scientist with Hughes Space and Communications, provided information in 1995 and 1996 that may have been helpful to China's military satellite program, the official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

The investigation, which includes U.S. Customs, is trying to determine if China received information about commercial satellite capability that could be used for military communications, according to the official and documents examined by The Associated Press.

National security and law enforcement officials made no specific allegation that Shen violated any law.

Don O'Neal, communications director for Hughes Space and Communications, said he was unaware of any federal law enforcement interest in Shen Jun.

O'Neal said the computer scientist would probably not have access to any information that China's military would even be interested in.

"This is a commercial satellite program. There is no security risk," O'Neal said. As to whether China is using commercial communications satellites for military purposes, he said, "Once we sell a satellite to a customer we don't have control."

O'Neal said the scientist had no comment.

Shen Jun is a project manager in California who trains companies that buy Hughes satellites on the use of satellite software, O'Neal said. In that job, he has access to Hughes proprietary codes.

He is the son of Gen. Shen Rongjun, the vice chairman of China's Commission on Science, Technology and Industry for National Defense (COSTIND), the government body that oversees several aspects of China's military operations.

The younger Shen, now 30, was a Chinese citizen until 1994 when he became a Canadian citizen, O'Neal said. Hughes was aware of his father's position when they hired him later that year, he said. Shen is in the United States on a work visa, but is in the process of applying for a permanent green card, he said.

Of interest to federal law enforcement investigators is whether China may try to use a $750 million telecom-munications project with Hughes to advance its military capabilities.

The Clinton administration gave Hughes one waiver for the project in 1996 but the company still needs additional permission before the deal is complete, O'Neal said.

COSTIND, where the elder Shen is a primary deputy, is one of the principal Chinese agencies responsible for secure military communications and the development of technology and ground-based infrastructure for the military use of commercial satellites.

The organization, headed by China's most prominent military families and defense companies, is well known to U.S. Intelligence for past efforts to steal U.S. military secrets.

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Downer: Hanson win a 'backlash'

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — The rise of Pauline Hanson's anti-immigration, protectionist One Nation party was part of a worldwide backlash against the effects of globalization, Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer said Thursday.

"The Hanson phenomenon in Australia is part of a fairly global phenomenon where at least a percentage of the population in most societies feel uncomfortable with the process of globalization," Downer said in an interview with CNN.

Alexander Downer

Pauline Hanson

In its first electoral test, One Nation attracted around 23 percent of the vote in a June 13 election in Queensland state, after campaigning on policies to halt immigration, limit foreign investment, raise industry protection and drastically cut welfare spending.

Business leaders in Australia and some parts of Asia have expressed concern that Hanson's isolationist and anti-Asian immigration views will harm foreign investment.

Recent opinion polls have put Hanson's support nationally in double figures, and Prime Minister John Howard's conservative coalition government has included direct appeals to One Nation supporters in its campaign for an upcoming federal election.

"We have to be part of the globalized economy, continue the process of economic reform in Australia, make sure that we have competitive markets and that we repudiate protectionism and that we encourage free flows of foreign investment," Downer told CNN's International Business Asia report.

One Nation's success showed governments had to do more to explain the benefits of foreign investment and trade liberalization, Downer said.

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-98-0025
June 17, 1998

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive bids from responsible firms capable of supplying and delivering power distribution electrical line materials for the Chalan Kanoa and Susupe Villages Electrical Distribution Upgrade Project on the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), approximately 150 miles north of Guam.

Interested Parties may pick up a bid package at CUC's Procurement & Supply Office in Lower Base, Saipan, CNMI, during normal work hours (7:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 4:30 p.m.) or have the bid package faxed upon request.

Bidders shall provide a certification signed by a principle of the company stating that the company has in the past, and is currently, in compliance with all applicable CNMI and federal labor laws. Should the company be unable to provide such certification, the company must provide a written explanation as to why, including a description of any violations of such labor laws and any remedial action taken. FAILURE OF THE COMPANY TO PROVIDE THE CERTIFICATION OR EXPLANATION IS GROUNDS TO REJECT THE ENTIRE BID.

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

Bids in duplicate must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked CUC IFB 98-0025, to CUC, Procurement & Supply Section, P.O. Box 1220, Lower base, Saipan no later than 2:00 p.m., local time, Friday, July 17, 1998. Bids received late will not be considered. The bids will be opened and read aloud at the CUC conference room after bid closing.

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

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

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

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

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6TH PRIZE	SUNSET DINNER CRUISE FOR 2 (SAIPAN SEA VENTURES — 35848 KEESHA SELBAR
7TH PRIZE	DIRT DEVIL VACUMM CLEANER (PRICE COSTCO — 19574 JUAN KANIKI
8TH PRIZE	SUNSET DINNER CRUISE FOR 2 (PDI — 36322 MABEL NGIRNGEMELAS
9TH PRIZE	4 R/T TICKETS TO TINIAN (TINIAN DYNASTY) — 7927 RANEE J LIZAMA
10TH PRIZE	NIGHT BOTTOM FISHING FOR 2 (PELLEY BOAT CHARTERS — 2935 LIA P. RANGAMAR
11TH PRIZE	2-DAY CAR RENTAL GIFT CERT. (BUDGET RENT A CAR — 18012 (NO NAME)
12TH PRIZE	ONE WOMAN'S WRIST WATCH (CRYSTAL PALACE) — 3709 DAVELYN STURGES
13TH PRIZE	ONE WOMAN'S WRIST WATCH (CRYSTAL PALACE — 38932 NICOLE DLG. SABLAN
14TH PRISE	2 $50 GIFT CERT-JOETEN (SAIPAN SHIPPING CO.) — 39084 SHANNIN NESTOR
15TH PRIZE	$100 GIFT CERT (JIHAN'S BEAUTY SHOP) — 35215 ABE O. LIZAMA
16TH PRIZE	$100 LONG DISTANCE FONE CARDS (MTC) — 36339 DOROTHY A. AOAD
17TH PRIZE	ONE 1-MO. FREE MEMBERSHIP (SAIPAN FITNESS CTR) — 68 LAURA MARTIN
18TH PRIZE	ONE 1-MO. FREE MEMBERSHIP (SAIPAN FITNESS CTR) — 16128 RUFINA DUENAS
19TH PRIZE	ONE 1-MO. FREE MEMBERSHIP (SAIPAN FITNESS CTR) — 37691 A.J. SALAVARIA
20TH PRIZE	ONE MONTH FREE MEMBERSHIP (GOLD'S GYM) — 28203 GENE BORJA
21ST PRIZE	ONE MONTH FREE MEMBERSHIP (GOLD'S GYM) — 34145 VIC DLG
22ND PRIZE	ONE R/T TICKET TO TINIA (PIA) — 21077 PAMELA JETNIL
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27TH PRIZE	$50 GIFT CERTIFICATE (NATIONAL OFFICE SUPPLY) — 10268 (NO NAME)
28TH PRIZE	$50 GIFT CERTIFICATE (SHOE GALLERY) — 9784 ROMOLOR KANI
29TH PRIZE	$50 GIFT CERTIFICATE (MODERN STATIONERY) — 25393 M. S. ESPENO
30TH PRIZE	2 DINNER FOR 2 GIFT CERTIFICATE (ST. ELEGANCE) — 15240 ROMERO SUMIKANG
31ST PRIZE	DINNER FOR 2 (PACIFIC GARDENIA) — 33630 JUANITA FEJERAN
32ND PRIZE	2 $25 GIFT CERT. (BLOSSOM'S) — 8101 MIA NATASHA KAIPAT
33RD PRIZE	DINNER FOR 2 (CORAL OCEAN PT/SANGO) — 30436 MELIANI CEPEDA
34TH PRIZE	$50 GIFT CERT (KWEK'S WHOLESALE — 38779 SHAWANA SABLAN
35TH PRIZE	[illegible]ERPARK PASS FOR 2 (PIC) — 35474 TROY
36TH PRIZE	[illegible]ER FOR 2 (TAGA BEACH BAR/GRILL) — 31589 VICENTE LITULUMAR
37TH PRIZE	LUNCH/DINNER FOR 2 (KEERAKU/RAKUEN) — 12711 CARLA KAIPAT
38TH PRIZE	RICE COOKER (PRICE COSTCO) — 33795 JONATHAN ALAN
39TH PRIZE	RICE COOKER (PRICE COSTCO) — 34520 JUANITA FEJERAN
40TH PRIZE	GIFT CERT/10 DELUXE SAND (BIG DIPPER) — 16999 CASSANDRA DLG
41ST PRIZE	DINNER FOR 2 (CHINA HOUSE REST.) — 4107 MARINO NESTOR
42ND PRIZE	TABLETOP PLASTIC WATER DISP (JG SABLAN ICE & WATER) — 38353 DRIN
43RD PRIZE	1 ROUND OF GOLF (CORAL OCEAN POINT) — 12805 DUSTIN KAIPAT
44TH PRIZE	ONE 12X16 CAKE (HERMAN'S BAKERY — 32033 A.J. SALAVARIA
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50TH PRIZE	ONE CASE RAMEN (CHERYLE ROSE) — 27933 A. PATAPAT
51ST PRIZE	R/T TICKET FOR 2 (MARIANAS AIR) — 40389 (NO NAME)
52ND PRIZE	R/T TICKET FOR 2 (MARIANAS AIR) — 14036 PAM BORJA
53RD PRIZE	DINNER/2-GOLDEN LOBSTER (BASIC CONSTRUCTION) — 20875 TYRONE TEREGEYO

OUR HEARTFELT 'THANKS" TO ALL THOSE WHO IN ONE WAY OR ANOTHER MADE THIS RAFFLE A SUCCESS.

MIA issue to be raised in US-Chinese summit

WASHINGTON (AP) — The issue of U.S. servicemen who were declared missing in the Korean War will be raised during President Bill Clinton's upcoming visit to China, a senior official said.

Deputy Assistant Secretary of State Charles Kartman said State Department officials are talking to the Chinese "with great regularity," seeking their cooperation in obtaining access to sites, archives, museums and whatever information they have from the 1950-53 Korean War.

"At this point I can't say we're satisfied with Chinese cooperation in this area," Kartman told a hearing before the Committee on International Relations. "We'll continue to raise it during the course of the president's summit meetings in China."

"If we can get the cooperation started ... there's probably a gold mine of information to be had," he added.

About 8,100 U.S. servicemen are unaccounted for from the Korean War. It has been well documented that China, with Russian help, ran most of the POW camps in North Korea. Less well understood has been the extent of POW camps in China and what became of American and other prisoners held there.

On a visit to Beijing in January, Defense Secretary William Cohen asked top Chinese officials to open People's Liberation Army record archives and other files that might help account for missing U.S. servicemen. Cohen got no explicit assurances from President Jiang Zemin.

China has consistently maintained that all POW questions were settled at the end of the war.

Teen stabs sister, mom

PIKEVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Just hours after taking a nightly walk with his twin sister to a neighborhood store, a 15-year-old boy allegedly stabbed her and their mother to death at home, then called police.

The body of Darlena Hanners, 43, was found in her car outside their home late Tuesday night and her daughter, Olivia Justice, 15, was found inside their trailer, Kentucky State Police said Wednesday.

The boy, whose name was not released because of his age, was charged Wednesday with two counts of murder.

Neighbors said the boy was quiet, clean-cut and enjoyed inline skating.

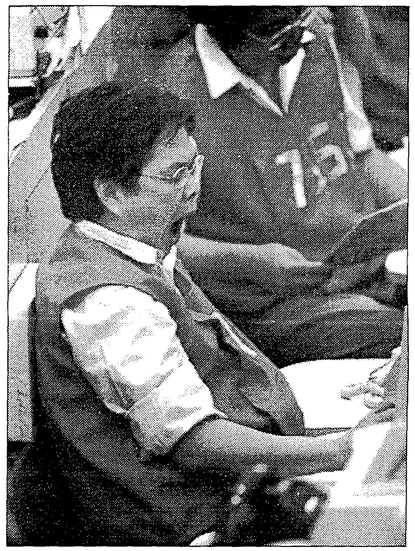
He and his sister would often take walks together, stopping at a nearby store to buy candy.

"She always stayed behind him and he bought it," said Virginia May, who works at May's Grocery a few houses from the home.

"They stood real close together like a brother and sister should I guess."

Larry Webster, a Pikeville attorney who is representing the boy, declined to discuss how he would plead.

"If someone did in fact kill their twin sister and mother then it would be the most severe sort of mental disability and nothing less. There's no other way to explain it," Webster said.



A trader yawns at the Hong Kong Stock Exchange Monday as the Hang Seng index closed the morning session. Share prices continued their weak run Monday, with Hong Kong's benchmark index tumbling 4.7 percent by midday on sharply higher local interbank rates. AP

Italian ski village nixes $2M offer from US firms

By RICHARD PYLE

NEW YORK (AP) — Leaders of the Italian village where 20 people died in a cable car accident involving a low-flying Marine Corps jet have spurned $2 million in compensation from U.S. businesses, viewing the offer as a bribe.

The offer was made May 17 as a goodwill gesture by a delegation of visitors that included George B. Griffin, the U.S. consul in Milan, said Werner Pichler, a hotel operator in the village of Cavalese and head of a committee representing victims.

But Pichler, speaking at a news conference Wednesday, said town leaders felt they were being pressured to keep silent, and both the victims' committee and the mayor turned the offer down.

"We were offended. They showed up in our valley, full of dollars and made a mess," said Pichler. "It is not a question of dollars, it is a question of justice."

A State Department official in Washington said Griffin rejects allegations that businesses were seeking anything in return for the money.

Griffin also denied Pichler's allegation that town leaders were pressured to stay away from legal proceedings this month in the United States against four Marine fliers, said the State Department official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Pichler said the compensation offer carried the implicit message that "it is best not to come to America, and if you do, don't speak about the case."

"There was no quid pro quo so openly expressed, but it was clear that they meant that," he said. He said the businesses stressed that good U.S.-Italian relations shouldn't be threatened.

Meanwhile on Wednesday, a U.S. House panel approved $20 million for damages from the tragedy. The money could go to rebuild or replace the cable car system and toward any reparations that are later paid to individuals.

Pichler spoke at a news conference arranged by Citizen Soldier, a private advocacy group concerned with military human rights issues.

The group handed out documents purporting to show that Italian officials and legislators have complained since 1990 about reckless low-altitude flying by military aircraft around the NATO base at Aviano, Italy, where the jet was based.

The Marine EA-6B Prowler was on a training mission Feb. 3 when it cut the 370-foot-high (110-meter-high) cable, sending a gondola carrying three residents and 17 tourists plummeting to their deaths.

A military judge will rule next month on whether the aviators will face court-martial for involuntary manslaughter, negligent homicide and other charges. The most serious charges carry a possible life sentence.

Pichler, speaking through an interpreter, said the business delegation included Griffin and representatives of several companies with interests in northern Italy.

China central bank hails support of yen

BEIJING (AP) — China welcomes the move taken by the Japanese and U.S. governments to intervene in currency markets to sell dollars for yen, the head of the central bank said Thursday.

"We are glad to see that the exchange rate of the Japanese yen is picking up," Dai Xianglong, governor of the People's Bank of China, said according to the state-run Xinhua News Agency.

Speaking at an Asian bankers meeting, Dai reaffirmed that China won't devalue its currency, the yuan.

"It's unnecessary to do that," Xinhua quoted him as saying.

World currency markets feared a sliding yen would place further pressure on regional currencies to depreciate and force China to adjust its own exchange rate to maintain export competitiveness.

In recent days, Chinese state-run media lambasted the rising yen and the Japanese government's inability to strengthen its currency.

Some mainland Chinese economists also blamed the United States and Europe for not doing more to support Japan's currency, saying Asia was on the verge of entering a new phase of financial crisis.

"The Asian financial situation is very grim," the Communist Party newspaper, the People's Daily, said in a commentary Thursday.

The newspaper, which has its published opinions approved by the Chinese leadership, warned that the sliding yen has become the "root of instability in the current international economy, which may lead to a new financial crisis."

It said joint action to support the yen was necessary to prevent pressure on the Hong Kong and mainland Chinese economies.

"The Japanese government should shoulder international responsibility, and Western industrialized countries and other international organizations should coordinate to prevent the global economy from falling into a new crisis," the People's Daily said.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT I

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION (CUC) THAT THE CUC MERIT HIRING SYSTEM SHALL BE APPLIED AND ADMINISTERED ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL CITIZENS AND NATIONALS DEFINED BY THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH CONSTITUTION AND STATUTES REGARDLESS OF AGE, RACE, SEX, RELIGION, POLITICAL AFFILIATION OR BELIEF, MARITAL STATUS, HANDICAP OR PLACE OF ORIGIN.

POSITION TITLE: ***Administrative Officer II***

DUTIES: **Under the general supervision of the CUC Rota Deputy Director, the incumbent will be responsible for planning and directing the administrative functions relating to administration, personnel, fiscal management, procurement, contract negotiations, and public relations.**

LOCATION: ***Administration, CUC ROTA***

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: **Bachelor's degree from accredited college or university plus work experience in highly responsible management position. Data base and word processing knowledge. Excellent writing skills. Applicants will be tested on computer applications and writing proficiency.**

STARTING SALARY: **Pay Level 28/01-05**
$20,484.60 - $24,889.35 per annum depending on qualifications

This announcement closes on July 02, 1998. Applications are available at the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Lower Base, Saipan, the CUC Rota or Tinian office. Copy of diploma and/or official transcript and recent police clearance must be attached.

INVITATION FOR BIDS
CUC-IFB-98-0029
June 17, 1998

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, is soliciting sealed bids for the construction of NEW MARPO WELL PROJECT, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI). The sealed bids shall be identified on the outside of the envelope by the Invitation for Bid No. CUC-IFB-98-0029. Bids in duplicate will be accepted at the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Lower Base, Saipan, until 3:00 p.m., on July 10, 1998 at which time and place will be publicly opened and read aloud.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or other form acceptable to the CNMI government made payable to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation.

The bidder is required to submit with his proposal a copy of his CNMI Business permit in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the CNMI.

The project consists, in general, of constructing a Maui type well, including 300 feet skimming trench with two 20-inch well screens, four 350 gmp booster pumps, manifold system, electrical control panel, standby generator system, building, and 900 feet of 10-inch PVC waterline.

A non-refundable payment of $250.00 is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after June 17, 1998 at the Water Division Office, CUC, Saipan. A pre-bid conference for this project is schedule at 10:00 a.m., on June 22, 1998, at the CUC Conference Room, Tinian. A project site visit is scheduled following the pre-bid meeting.

Attention is called to the Labor Standard Provision for Wage Rate Determination of the CNMI Classification and Salary Structure Plans and that payment of not less than the minimum salaries and wages as set forth in the specifications must be paid on this project.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government.

All inquiries should be directed to Ernesto L. Villarin at telephone number (670) 322-9383.

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Executive Director

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 98-006

FOOD SERVICE VEHICLE

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bidding for the procurement of one unit cargo van for the Food Services Program on Tinian. Specification requirements are available at the Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan. The vehicle must have a one year maintenance warranty, must be rust proof/under coated and safety inspected prior to delivery CIF Public School System Tinian Administrative Services Office, Tinian, MP with registration fee payable to the CNMI Treasurer. The cargo van must be delivered within 30 days from date of contract award.

All bids must be sealed and facemarked **"IFB98-006, Cargo Van For Tinian Food Services Program"** and submitted in duplicate to the Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan no later than 2:00 p.m., July 07, 1998, at which time and date, and place all bid will be opened and read aloud. Any bid received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances. The Public School System reserves the right to award on a single or multiple award or reject any or all bids if its in the best interest of the Public School System.

All inquiries to this announcement may contact the Procurement & Supply Office at telephone number 664-3762/63.

/s Rita Hocog Inos, Ed. D.
Commissioner Of Education

/s/Louise Concepcion
Procurement & Supply Officer

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB98-005

Collateral Equipments For Oleai Elementary School

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bidding for the procurement of collateral equipments for the new classrooms at Oleai Elementary School. Specifications are available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan during regular working hours except Holidays. All collateral equipments must be delivered within 90 days from date of contract award and delivered CIF PSS Procurement & Supply Warehouse, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950.

All bids submitted must be facemarked **"IFB98-005: Collateral Equipments For Oleai Elementary School"** and submitted to the Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 2:00 p.m., June 30, 1998 at which time and place all bids will be read aloud. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

All bidders are required to submit with their bid a copy of their business permit. The Public School System reserves the right to award on a single or a multiple award or to reject any or all bids if to do so is in the best interest of the Pacific School System.

Inquiries to this bid maybe directed to the Procurement & Supply Office at telephone number 664-3762/63.

/s/Margaret C. Dela Cruz
Acting Commissioner of Education

/s/Louise Concepcion
Procurement & Supply Officer

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

Attorney Brian W. McMahon, Receiver
J.T.S. Insurance Company, Inc.
P.O. Box 1267, Saipan, MP 96950

Date: June 15, 1998

To: All Bondholders, Policyholders, Claimants and Creditors of J.T.S. Insurance Company, Inc.

From: Attorney Brian W. McMahon
Receiver for J.T.S. Insurance Company, Inc.

Subject: Cancellation of All Existing Bonds and Policies of JTS and Claim Filing Deadline

On June 3, 1998, an Order of Liquidation was issued by the Superior Court. This order terminates all existing bonds and insurance polices issued by JTS as of July 10, 1998. Further, all Claimants and Creditors of JTS are hereby notified that any and all claims you may have against JTS must be file with the Receiver's office on or before August 31, 1998. Claims not submitted by that date will not be honored. Claims must be submitted to the above address.

ATTENTION EMPLOYERS: JTS's assets are severely impaired and it is unlikely the company will be able to pay more than a very small percentage on any submitted claim. Employers who obtained labor bonds or workers' compensation insurance from JTS in order to maintain compliance with CNMI labor and immigration laws should REPLACE those JTS BONDS AND POLICIES IMMEDIATELY. Please obtain alternative coverage from approved carriers. Contact the Department of Labor and Immigration or the Workers' Compensation Commission for further details.

If you have any questions, please contact our office at telephone number 234-9315.

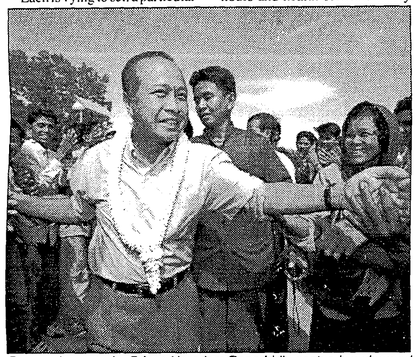
Bars risk spreading AIDS in Cambodia

By ANYA SCHIFFRIN

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — Walk into a Cambodian restaurant or bar, and here they come — attractive "beer girls" wearing gowns in colors of some of the biggest brands in brew.

Each is vying to sell a particular label — Foster's, Stella Artois, Heineken, Carlsberg, San Miguel, Tiger or Singha — and hopes the customer will pick her to pour his beer all night.

The problem is, the relationship often extends past closing hours and health officials worry that foreign beer companies may be inadvertently encouraging the spread of AIDS in Cambodia.



Deposed co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh, center, is welcomed by supporters while visiting the royalist FUNCINPEC party headquarters in Phnom Penh. After delivering a speech to about 1,000 supporters, Ranariddh told his resistance commanders to put aside their demand for amnesty and move forward to integration into the Royal Cambodian Armed Forces. AP

There are an estimated 4,000 to 5,000 beer girls, and an estimated 80 percent have sex with clients, Ministry of Health officials told Dow Jones Newswires recently.

"We worry so much because the clients always consider the beer girl is safer than other direct sex workers.," said Dr. Tia Phalla, director of the ministry's AIDS program. "But it's not true."

Some companies have strict rules against fraternization with customers and send inspectors to enforce them. But many beer girls sleep with clients, sometimes in exchange for money or gifts, or to encourage sales.

The women, who say they are chosen for their good looks, typically come from rural areas and get caught up in the capital's night life.

At one Phnom Penh restaurant, beer workers said sex with customers is common. They also said they felt obliged to flirt and drink with their customers.

Some, such as those employed by Australia's Foster's Brewing Group Ltd., are paid commissions for extra sales. Foster's told Dow Jones it has no rules on after-hours fraternization.

"We take no responsibility for what the girls may do outside working hours," said Malcolm Paul, the company's Hong Kong-based regional director.

Paul noted that condoms to help prevent the spread of sexually transmitted diseases are widely available in Cambodia and that his employees are adults.

"I don't think there is a pressure on the girls to get that extra bonus, but it's a part of the job to make sure the guys and the girls have a good time," Paul said.

Beer company officials say the women are essential to their marketing efforts and are far more effective than billboards or print and television advertising.

"If the girls are not present at the point of consumption, all the money spent on advertising goes down the drain," said Peter Ong, managing director of Cambodia Brewery Ltd..

The company, a joint venture of Singapore-based Fraser and Neave Ltd. and Dutch giant Heineken, has 600 women to market its Tiger, ABC Stout and Anchor brands, but prohibits fraternizing with customers.

Two years ago, the company, which has a 60 percent market share, sent its workers to a ministry education course on AIDS and the spread of the HIV virus that causes it.

Other prominent brewers either did not respond to written requests for information or said they were unaware of how their product in Cambodia is distributed.

Cambodia has one of the highest AIDS rates in Asia. According to the U.S. aid agency Family Health International, there is a 3 percent infection rate among pregnant woman in Cambodia, compared to 2 percent in Thailand, and less than 1 percent in China and India.

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1993 Nissan K-Cab Pickup

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The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers.

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VEHICLE FOR SALE

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1997 HONDA CIVIC DX 2Dr Coupe

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Bid(s) will be closed on June 18, 1998 at 11:00am
The Bank reserves the right to reject any or all offers.

UNION BANK OF CALIFORNIA, N.A.

Unemployment . . .

Continued from page 2

nomic crisis is undermining their struggle to be considered equals in the workplace.

Only about 40 percent of working-age women have jobs. And women's organizations report discrimination against those who do, with some companies cutting women staffers first.

Homelessness and child abandonment, previously rare, also are reported rising as families lose their homes and workers leave their families to look for work.

"My family does not know I am staying in the park," 47-year-old Kim Chin-pal said from a tent in a central Seoul park.

"I miss them very much but I cannot return home until I get a job to support them," said the laid-off construction worker who two months ago came to Seoul from the southeastern city of Taeju.

If people are in an unfamiliar territory, so is their government.

In its scramble to push the country's economy from poverty to developed status in a mere three decades, the government gave little thought to creating a social safety net.

So when the crisis hit last year, "economists were at a loss to make policy recommendations for dealing with the sheer size of mass unemployment," according to a report by the government-funded think tank Korea Institute for Industrial Economics and Trade.

As the number of unemployed swelled from about 400,000 to 1.4 million in six months, civic and religious groups rushed to help, setting up homeless shelters, soup kitchens and counseling centers.

The government in March announced a plan that included unemployment payments and loans, vocational training and job creation programs such as public works projects.

"A biscuit in the mouth of an elephant" is what Koreans are calling the stipends, which allow, for instance, a one-time payment of about $160 to jobless below the poverty line.

Procedures for getting the money are too complicated for a populace unfamiliar with such a system, and the money comes with too many conditions, critics say.

Only one in seven jobless have received some kind of government benefit so far this year, according to government statistics.

Analysts say that as the number of unemployed swells toward a projected 2 million of South Korea's 21 million-person work force by the end of this year, the government will be forced by social pressure to do more.

And even if the economy can be restructured in a couple of years to be a more efficient global competitor, workers will be forced to face the probability that job security will never be what it once was.

"Korean people tend to consider only lifetime employment (as) jobs," said the YMCA's Lim. "People need to change their attitudes."

One who already has is Min Ye-dong, a pear farmer in a city south of Seoul since leaving a failing printing company in the capital last fall.

"When you lose a job it's not the end of the world,' said Min, 36. "The most important thing is to have courage and have a will to make a new beginning."

US . . .

Continued from page 2

debate over nearly four weeks, senators added provisions to cut taxes for some married couples and self-employed workers, limit the fees of attorneys filing lawsuits against the industry and devote some of the money raised to drug-fighting efforts.

Though many of those amendments are pet Republican proposals, the GOP turned against the bill in a climax in which supporters twice failed to gain the 60 votes that would have kept it alive.

"If more members of the Senate would vote like parents rather than politicians, we could solve this problem and go on to other business of the country," Clinton said.

By the time the Senate killed the measure, almost no one liked it, for one reason or another, but members hoped its faults would be worked out in a conference between the House and the Senate.

It was a dramatic end for a bill once considered sure to pass if it came to a final vote.

Its death was a victory for tobacco companies, wildly unpopular with the public after recently released documents indicated they lied for years about their efforts to hook kids on smoking.

But their multimillion-dollar advertising campaign to kill McCain's bill succeeded, he and Clinton agreed.

Across the Capitol, House Republicans are expected to unveil a narrower anti-smoking bill this week, aimed at curbing teen smoking and drug abuse without raising hundreds of billions of dollars in revenue.

"Our goal is to reduce teen smoking, not increase taxes," House Speaker Newt Gingrich, R-Ga., said in a statement.

Senate Republicans vowed to pursue similar legislation.

Democrats, meanwhile, promised to try to attach sweeping legislation like McCain's to virtually every bill that comes up in the Senate — starting with the defense department authorization bill.

"You can win this kind of victory temporarily," said Sen. John Kerry, D-Mass., the Democrats' bill manager.

"But this war to protect our kids is going to go on, and we're going to continue time after time to find a way to put together a piece of legislation that solves the problem."

On the first vote, 43 Democrats and 14 Republicans voted to limit debate, while 40 Republicans and two Democrats were opposed.

On the second, the tally showed 42 Democrats and 11 Republicans in favor, with 43 Republicans and three Democrats opposed.

Supporters needed 60 votes in both cases to keep the legislation alive.

Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., recovering from heart surgery, was the only senator not voting.

Gadhafi . . .

Continued from page 2

bombing of a Pan Am jetliner over Lockerbie, Scotland, in which 270 people were killed.

He maintained sanctions imposed by the United States and other Western nations a year later, after Gadhafi refused to hand over suspects, were damaging other countries as much as Libya.

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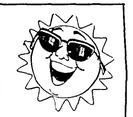

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Rota Island Hospitality Right on the Beach

Death and Funeral Announcement

† Corbiniano Songao Ayuyu

"Tun Bano"

Born: September 2, 1915
of Songsong, Rota was called by our Dear Lord to his eternal rest on Sunday, Commonwealth Health Center, Saipan, on June 14, 1998 at the age of 82.

In his eternal rest he now joins:
PARENTS: †Juan Matantaotao Ayuyu & †Isabel Songao
PARENTS-IN-LAW: †Joaquin Dim Masga & †Rita Masga Mendiola
BROTHERS & SISTERS AND SPOUSES:
†Grabella Ayuyu Cruz, (†Jose Cruz) †Jesus Songao Ayuyu, (†Amparo Ogo) †Pepetua Ayuyu Arriola, (†Jose Arriola) †Calistro Songao Ayuyu, (Hitda Ogo) †Antonio Songao Ayuyu, (Magdalena Deleon Guerrero) Abelina Songao Ayuyu, Jose Songao Ayuyu (†Ida Hocog Ayuyu) (Luise Concepcion Ayuyu)
BROTHERS & SISTERS IN-LAW:
†Maria Mendiola Masga, †Ignacio Mendiola Masga, †Remedio Mendiola Masga, †Bornabe Mendiola Masga, †Maria Mendiola Masga II, Bernardo Mendiola Masga
SON: †Isaac Masga Ayuyu

HE IS SURVIVED BY
WIFE: Francisca Mendiola Masga Ayuyu
CHILDREN & SPOUSES:
Guadalupe Ayuyu Atalig (Joaquin Quitugua Atalig)
Ken Ayuyu Atalig (Genevieve Bustos Atalig) Timmy, Estaphanie, Jazmine, Eunice
Joyce Ayuyu Atalig (Michael Calvo), Isaac, Zachary, Kaileen, Christina Marie
Carl Ayuyu Atalig
Crispin Masga Ayuyu (Nacrina A. Barcinas) Floyd, Alfonso, Shelane, Shevon, Nathan, Norma Mae
Lorenza Ayuyu Lidia-Lori (David Lidia) Michael & Eric
Lorenzo Masga Ayuyu (Anabele Fuentos Ayuyu) Larry Jr., Anthony
Tomas Masga Ayuyu (Frances Sanchez Ayuyu)
†Vanessa S. Ayuyu-Deceased, Tommy Howard, Tamora (Isaiah Thomas) Brian, Frances
Rita Ayuyu Ramos (Andres Manglona Ramos) Jason (David Dre), Joleen, Andres Jr.
Bobbie Ayuyu Mendiola (†Juan Atalig Mendiola-Deceased)
Renee, (Scott Jr., Laurina) Charles (John Anthony), Darren, Gavin, Mary Anna, Denise
Rev. Fr. (Pale) Isaac Masga Ayuyu
Juanita Ayuyu Cruz (Ramon Mantanoña Cruz) Shawn, Nathan, Romy, Jamie
Juan Masga Ayuyu (Marian Mendiola Ayuyu) Queenie, John II, Jonathan
Joseph Masga Ayuyu
Bertha Ayuyu Gundlach (Stanley J. Gundlach) Christina Marie A. Keiderling
(Chong Q. Atalig, Rita T. Atalig, Carmen San Nicolas, Corana Calvo, Ana M. McKinnon)

Brothers & Sisters-In-Law:
Ana Mendiola Masga Crisostomo (†Mariano Flores Crisostomo)
Pedro Mendiola Masga (†Maria Quichocho Masga)
Matthew Mendiola Masga (Ana Atalig Masga)

Godchildren: Jose M. Atalig
Nick A. Songsong
Chong T. Calvo, Fermina M. Atalig
Fermina S. Mendiola, Leon Taisacan, Chong Masga

Nightly Rosary and Mass are celebrated at San Francisco de Borja Church, Rota at 7:00 p.m.
Last respects may be paid at San Francisco de Borja Church on Monday, June 22 from 7:00 am to 10:30 am
Funeral Eucharistic Celebration will be offered by his Son, Rev. Fr. Isaac Masga Ayuyu, our Bishop, His Excellency the Most. Rev. Tomas A. Camacho, Clergy of the Diocese and Seminarians at 11:30 am at San Francisco de Borja Church. Burial will follow at San Jose Cemetery, Rota.

Even as one Japan airline refuses

2 airline unions call off strike

By MARTIN FACKLER

TOKYO (AP) — Unions at two Japanese airlines called off planned strikes Thursday, while the pilots union at a third airline pledged to walk off June 23 if its demands are not met.

The flight crew union at Japan Airlines Co., the country's largest airline, decided not to strike while it continues talks with management about wage and safety disputes, a union spokesman said.

The union is protesting a new salary system introduced in April that cuts supplemental wages paid to attendants for long international flights by as much as 80 percent, spokesman Akira Noguchi said.

Flight attendants at No. 3 carrier Japan Air System Co. canceled their strike after union representatives reached an agreement with the airline over wage cuts, said union spokesman Yoshihiro Harima.

The union was planning to begin a strike Thursday that could have canceled more than half of Japan Air System's domestic flights and grounded 22,000 passengers, the union said.

The strike was averted after the two sides agreed to bonus cuts that weren't as sharp as the airline had originally sought, Harima said.

Meanwhile, the pilots union at All Nippon Airways, Japan's second-largest airline, said it will go ahead as planned with a strike slated to begin Monday at midnight, a union official said.

The strike would force flight cancellations on some of All Nippon's international routes if it goes forward, said the official, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The pilots' union is demanding that All Nippon abandon a new salary restructuring system introduced on April 1 that the pilots say cuts their pay.

ANA pilots went on strike in early April, but suspended their walkout before Japan's "Golden Week" holiday period between April 29 and May 5, a popular time for both international and domestic travel. The walkout was limited to international routes.

During the two weeks prior to the holiday period, a total of 27,000 passengers were grounded or forced to find alternative flights, and the airline suffered 4.2 billion yen ($31.8 million) in losses.

Labor disputes have flared up as Japanese airlines are forced by deregulation to cut costs to compete with leaner U.S.-based carriers.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Josefina Pereda Duenas Sablan

(Gabit/Ila)
June 14, 1924 - June 14, 1998
Formerly of Agana, Guam
Passed away in Saipan at the age of 74

PREDECEASED BY:
Husband: Segundo Tudela Sablan
Son: James Duenas Sablan
Parents: Juan De Leon Duenas (Ila)
Isabel Cruz Pereda Duenas (Gabit)
Parents-in-Law: Antonio delos Reyes & Rita Ramirez Tudela Sablan

Brothers & Sisters-in-Law:
Apolonia LG. Sablan & Juan Charfauros, Ana LG. Sablan & Vicente Cabrera, Maria LG. Sablan & Francisco Dela Concepcion, Floral LG. Sablan & Vidal Santos, Natividad (Daidai) LG. Sablan & Jose Concepcion, Enrique LG. Sablan & Martha Barcinas, Francisco LG. Sablan & Antonia Camacho

Juan T. & Emiliana Aguon Sablan, Consolacion Sablan & Antonio Reyes, Jose Santos, Dolores Sablan & Joaquin Mendiola, Estafania Sablan & Antonio Reyes, Vicente T. & Isabel Artero Sablan, Hildegarda Sablan & Juan Cepeda, Maria Sablan & Felix Roberto, Remedios Sablan & Jose Cabrera, Isidro T. & Rosa Pangelinan Sablan, Bonifacio T. & Magdalena Rosario Sablan

SURVIVED BY HER: Children
(they may be reached at (670) 234-1500)
William Duenas Sablan & Daughter Jessica Marie (Elizabeth San Nicolas)• Jean Duenas Sablan & Daughter Angela Felice Sablan Yamashita (Bill Santos); Alexa Jeanette & Miandrae Joy • Ronald Duenas & Marian Tomokane Sablan; Lorna Lynn, Cherisse Joy, James Michael, Audrey Jo & Sean Pierre • Judith Antoinette Duenas Sablan & Son Lance Brandon Abasta

Brothers & Spouses:
Joaquin P. Duenas/Maria San Nicolas (Camudu), Dec. - Alameda, CA
Segundo P. & Isabel Pangelinan Duenas - San Diego, CA.
Juan P. Duenas - Guam
Francisco P. Duenas - Oceanside, CA
Gabriel P. Duenas - Colorado
Antonio P. Duenas - SF, CA
Edward P. & Beatrice Duenas-Las Vegas, NV
Thomas P. & Barbara Duenas-San Diego, A

Sisters & Spouses:
Ana Duenas/Pete Guerrero, Dec.- San Diego, CA
llydia P. Duenas/Joseph Toves-Agat, Guam
Isabel (Belang) P. Duenas/Jose (Boy) Cepeda, Dec.-San Diego, CA
Costantina & Vicente Ibanez-Toto, Guam
Josefina Gumabon-Barrigada, Guam

Rosary is being said nightly at the Cathedral of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, Saipan at 8:00 p.m.

Viewing and Last Respects will be on June 22, 1998 beginning at 8:30 a.m. Mass of Christian burial will be offered on the same day at 10:30a.m. and burial will follow at Mount Carmel Cemetery.

**It is the request of the family that in lieu of flowers or wreaths, a donation to the church of your choice be made*

'Guam . . .

Continued from page 8

alluded to the idea that the use of the term "legacy" was not entirely correct in light of the facts.

"Legacy refers to a gift. The term is used to indicate that a bequest, an inheritance, an offering has been given to us. Its use tears it apart from the historical context in which it occurred," he commented. "What is the difference between a heritage and a legacy, history and memory, an imposition and a tradition, a suggestion and an order. These are important matters because we have so easily referred to imposed traditions as legacies, as if force, colonialism, arrogance and power were not part of the equation."

Underwood used the word "legacy" to describe the differing viewpoints of both of Guam's colonial powers.

While the Spanish point out the many ways Spanish culture has infused itself into Chamorro culture, discussions of the economic and political ramifications of that infusion are often omitted.

Americans refer to the Spanish occupation of Guam as corrupt and backwards. Underwood pointed out that American military leaders saw their role on Guam as a rescue mission to help Chamorros rehabilitate themselves from the Spanish.

"We are dealing with the interpretation of those legacies by others who provided legacies of their own."

Underwood talked about the propensity for Spaniards and Americans to view Guam and Chamorros from a personal perspective as they try to find parts of themselves in reference to Guam.

"It is quite common for people to look into the mirror of someone else is experience and see themselves. But imagine the impact on those who are holding the mirror," he commented.

Underwood offered insight to the Chamorro perspective on the dual occupations of Guam, pointing out that the indigenous Chamorro was seen, even by his own descendents as primitive and uncivilized and Spanish lineage was seen as somehow superior.

"To this day," he commented, "some Chamorros celebrate their lone, frequently apocryphal, Spanish ancestor to the exclusion of their native born progenitors. This actually accelerated with early American rule as Chamorros sought to distinguish themselves from other Pacific Islanders."

He added that the term "Guamanian" replaced the word "Chamorro," and expressed his approval that there had been a revival of the term "Chamorro" in recent years.

Underwood spoke of a breaking away from the past as an opening for Chamorros to be seen as a distinct people, despite their relationships with others.

He cited his experiences as a Chamorro in various global locations and how these venues affected his perception of himself.

"I am more Chamorro than ever as a result of this experience, not because I do not recognize the connections, but because I understand the nature and origin of the connection and because I understand that identity is both a political as well as cultural question. The courage to be implies finding your own course and no matter who helped you along the way, you know that ultimately only you can find that course."

In closing, Underwood spoke of the contemporary Chamorro's responsibility to define the history of Guam with less reference to the Spanish or American military and more reverence to the people of Guam who were affected first hand by the political events that took place.

He cautioned against misinterpretations and excesses while expressing the importance of de-colonizing the attitude.

"Liberation of the mind is a habit that we must become accustomed to and we haven't had much practice.

Japan. . .

Continued from page 1

Agency has said that the country's gross domestic product shrank for two consecutive quarters and that if suffered the first full year of decline in 20 years.

The yen which fell in recent days was given a boost Wednesday when the U.S. intervened and snapped its continued fall. Experts, however, said the move to bolster the currency is only "temporary relief."

"Whatever Japan does will impact global economy, moreso the Commonwealth whose tourism industry is largely dependent on the yen," Ayuyu said. "We are in big trouble. I think our economy is into a long period of hardship."

Japan is the major market of Saipan's tourism sector. The weaker the yen is making, the higher Saipan's tourism industry becomes to Japanese travelers.

While resigned to the fact that the Commonwealth's economy may slump as hard as other Asian nations', Ayuyu is raising hopes that the revitalization task force created by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio will "somehow make a difference."

He also refused to comment on fears that the Northern Mariana Islands may return to subsistence economy such as farming and fisheries, but said the CNMI will continue to have slower growth in a longer period.

"It's going to be difficult but we are trying our best to revitalize the local economy," he added.

Ayuyu said the worst scenario that may happen to the local economy is lesser government revenues, resulting from the cutdown in business activities that will eventually lead to higher unemployment rate and lower standard of living.

"It will put at risk government programs from becoming a reality. It will have a multiple ripple effect in the local economy, as well as the political and social aspects of the CNMI," he stressed.

Asian and Micronesian countries have been heavily reliant on Japanese investments and tourists respectively, but with its own economy in tatters and consumer confidence at all-time lows will be more tempted than ever to embark on a path of export-led growth.

Economists said if Japan resorted to this, the government will be very reluctant to stem the yen's slide against the dollar.

A continued plunge in the yen could spark another round of regional currency devaluations as Asian countries fight to keep their products competitive in key foreign markets.

Sablan. . .

Continued from page 1

left for the mainland on an official trip.

In Jan. 27 this year, Sablan left for Washington D.C. for a four-day conference of U.S. mayors.

He brought with him his wife whose travel expense, he stressed, was made on their own.

That trip was frowned upon by some sectors who believed the mayor should have skipped the trip instead, in light of the government's current financial problems.

But Sablan at that time explained Saipan is a member of the mayors' association and thus, he said, his presence was therefore necessary.

He also explained that only the Saipan Mayor's Office was allowed a representative to the conference because the rest of the islands do not have a 60,000 population as required by the association.

He said the January conference was "productive" and "educational."

Sablan, in interviews prior to his departure for his latest trip, has repeatedly stressed the need for his office to upgrade its heavy equipment.

He cited an ongoing municipal project to rid the island of junk cars as something that could have been done in a more efficient manner if his office had the necessary trucks.

Death & Funeral Announcement

Regina Manahane Muna-Untalan

of San Antonio, Saipan was called to her eternal rest on Tuesday, June 16, 1998 at the age of 91 years. Nightly rosary is being said at 8:00 P.M. at her daughter's residence (Maria Muna Sablan) in San Antonio, Saipan.

In Her Passing, She Now Joins Her:
Spouses: Francisco Palacios Muna & Vicente Adriano Untalan
Children: Juan & Donicio Manahane Muna
Parents: Lorenzo Torres Manahane & Maria San Nicolas Manahane
Parents-in-law: Nicholas Palomo Muna & Maria Palacios Muna
Jesus Guzman & Mecaila Adriano Untalan
Brothers/Sisters & Sisters-in-law/Brothers-in-law:
Rosa M./Antonio Reyes; Vicente SN./Paz B. Manahane; Consolacion M./Jose Blas; Sebino SN. Manahane; Antonio SN. Manahane; Jose P. & Elena D. Muna; Ana M. & Antonio Guerrero; Maria M. & Joaquin S Tudela; Sebastian P. & Rosa T. Muna; Consolacion M. & Lucas Manglona; Joaquin P. Muna; Nieves P. Muna; Rufina P. Muna; Jesus P. Muna; Luisa C. & Guisseppe D' Angelo; Maria U. & Jose Villagomez; Felicidad U. & Antonio D. Diaz; Juan A. & Elena Untalan; Felomena U. & Agapito Hondonero; Manuel A. & Maria R. Untalan; Marcus A. & Matilde Untalan; Vicente D. Diaz; & Rosa A. Untalan.
Daughter-in-Law/Son-in-law: Ines Santos Muna & Vicente Santos Sablan

Her Loving Memories Will Live On In The Hearts of Her:
Children: Maria Muna Sablan & Tito Manahane Muna
Daughter-in-law: Erlinda Ellaga Muna
Grandchildren/Grandchildren-in-law (GreatGrandchildren):
Alice M. & Edgar Oliva of Tinian (Jesse, Tito Vincent);
Francisco S. & Lisa Muna of San Diego, Ca (Dorothy Mae, Mark, Melissa, Franklin);
Antonio S. & Marie T. Muna of Saipan (Regina Marie, Antonio Jr.);
Rita S. & David S.N. Del Rosario of Saipan (David Lionel, Zenas David, Odin David);
Patricia M. & Juan DLG. Aldan of Saipan (Christine Merced, Juan Francisco, Ignacio Tito);
Raymond S. & Cecilia B. Muna of Saipan (Renae Ines);
Tito M. & Elphidia C. Sablan of Saipan (Pamela & John, Mary Katherine & Jude, Gina Marie, Nicole Lynette);
Conrad M. & Ma. Virnalisa B. Sablan of Saipan (Conrad, Caisha, Cayla, Clarence);
Vicente M. & Ma. Zita F. Sablan of Saipan (Vanessa).
GreatGreatGrandChildren: Tito Jonathan, Kiana Maria, Jude Julian, & Vincent Jesse.
Sisters-in-law/Brothers-in-law: Teresa U. Diaz, Tomasa U. & Jose Diaz, Joaquina U. & Angel Chargualaf, and Jose A. Untalan

She will also be missed by numerous relatives and friends. Last respects may be paid on Wednesday, June 24, 1998 at Mount Carmel Cathedral in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan beginning at 8:00 A.M. Funeral Mass will be offered on the same day at 4:00 P.M. Burial will follow at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

People and Places

Spielberg stalker sentenced

SANTA MONICA, California (AP) — A man convicted of stalking Steven Spielberg was sentenced to 25 years to life in prison Wednesday after the director told the judge he feared for his life.

"If he's out on the street, I will live in fear," Spielberg said of 31-year-old Jonathan Norman, convicted in March of plotting to invade Spielberg's mansion, hold him and his family hostage and rape the director.

"Had Jonathan Norman actually confronted me, I genuinely in my heart of hearts believe that I would have been raped or maimed or killed," Spielberg said.

Superior Court Judge Steven Suzukawa agreed that Norman is "obsessive and frightening, and I think he does present a danger to society."

Randall a father again at 78

NEW YORK (AP) — A little more than a year after becoming a daddy for the first time, 78-year-old Tony Randall is a father again.

Randall and his 28-year-old wife, Heather, welcomed 7-pound, 2-ounce (3.2-kilo) Jefferson Salvini Randall into the world on Monday.

The boy was named after two performers of the late 1800s — comic actor Joseph Jefferson and Italian tragic actor Tommasso Salvini. Randall, finicky Felix Unger from TV's "The Odd Couple," married in 1995. The couple also have a 14-month-old daughter, Julia Laurette.

Baldwin to fill in Ringo's shoes

LONDON (AP) — Alec Baldwin is being called on to fill the shoes of former Beatle Ringo Starr, but not as a drummer.

The "Hunt for Red October" star will narrate and provide the voice of a friendly train engine in the children's TV series "Thomas the Tank and Friends."

The series is returning to British airwaves after a four-year absence. Starr previously narrated and provided the voice of Thomas.

Carter image to grace Israel desert

JERUSALEM (AP) — Jimmy Carter was born too late to be immortalized on Mount Rushmore, but the former American president's image will soon be chiseled into a cliff in Israel's Negev Desert.

The Nakash brothers, owners of the Jordache jeans company, plan to erect a monument to the signers of the 1979 peace agreement between Israel and Egypt — Carter, Menachem Begin and Anwar Sadat.

The sculptures will be on a somewhat smaller scale than the giant busts carved into the Black Hills of South Dakota, said Avda Lloyd, spokeswoman of the Ramat Hanegev regional council. Lloyd said the actual dimensions have not yet been determined.

Avi Nakash said a dlrs 10 million park will be built around the monument near the grave of former Israeli Prime Minister David Ben Gurion in the Sde Boker kibbutz. Carter and the families of Begin and Sadat — both men were slain by opponents of the peace process — will attend the cornerstone-laying ceremony in October, Nakash said.

The yen . . .

Continued from page 7

same can't be said of the currency of many nations such as Indonesia and Malaysia which offer reduced fares.

Their currency is not freely convertible.

Their policy is fly the tourist into the county at a loss and then sell them hotel rooms, food, souvenirs, etc., and earn even more hard currency for the nation.

That's what the Commonwealth is up against.

And if the vacationer can't be convinced to visit the flag carrier's country, then fly them anywhere they want to go where their money will go further and buy more.

That's the competition facing the CNMI's tourist sector.

Lib-Day . . .

Continued from page 15

which was made available only days ago.

Further, the vendors claimed there was not enough advertising work done to inform people that the July 4 Liberation Day festivities has began at the park as early as last May 22.

In a meeting between the vendors' representatives and officials from the committee, the former also spewed out a litany of concerns ranging from a $100 clean-up fee to additional charges imposed on the installation of powerlines and booth extensions.

These, they claimed, were all supposedly part of a package that a vendor would have once renting a booth as had been the practice in past July 4 celebrations.

In an interview however, Maryanne Calvo, Mayor's Office PIO and a committee official explained they "had to start from nothing," a situation that necessitated more fees.

She explained the committee was "anticipating" to shoulder entertainment costs from proceeds of the rides.

"Unfortunately," she said, " the rides are not working."

Calvo said the committee's fund, estimated to be about $75.000, has already been depleted.

The fund, derived from rental fees, according to Calvo, has been spent for the construction of the booths, which totalled $50,000, and equipment rentals, pegged at about $25,000.

"It is very difficult this year," explained Calvo, "because there is no funding from government."

Last year's organizing committee received $75.000 from then governor Froilan C. Tenorio.

The present administration, citing belt-tightening measures being implemented in the face of an economic crisis, did not release a fund for the festivities, Calvo said.

Calvo denied claims the committee still has about $27,000 carried over from last year's festivities.

Responding to criticisms by some sectors who claimed this year's Liberation Day festivities is the "worst organized," Calvo said this year's committee actually "did very well" considering "there were no funding."

"We worked with what we had," she said.

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OPERATION DUI

The Guam Police Department would like to inform the public that OPERATION DUI will take place this weekend.
The operation will start on Friday, June 19, at 7:00 p.m. and end on Sunday, June 21, at 4:00 a.m. in the following locations.

ROUTE 1 HAGATNA/UPPER TUMON/ANIGUA
ROUTE 8 MAITE/BARRIGADA
ROUTE 10 BARRIGADA/MANGILAO
ROUTE 14 TAMUNING/TUMON

GVB Public Service Announcement

THE Guam Visitors Bureau board of Directors will hold a regular board meeting for Thursday, June 25,1998 at 4:00 p.m. The meeting will be held at the GVB main conference room.
Any individuals in need of special accommodations to please contact our office at 646-5278/9, for assistance.

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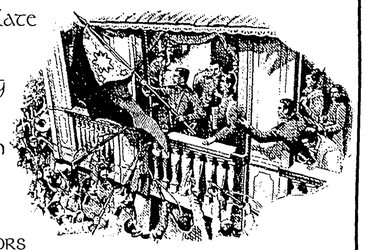
Thank You
PHILIPPINE CENTENNIAL 1898 - 1998 100 KALAYAAN
The Philippine Consulate and the Philippine Centennial Organizing Committee extend their deep appreciation and gratitude to numerous donors, sponsors and benefactors who made the Philippine Centennial celebrations in CNMI truly successful, meaningful and memorable.
Maraming Salamat at Mabuhay ang Pilipino!



CDA okays ...

Continued from page 3

fornia Finance Services will help get a good rating for the bond.

"I think it (bond) will get a triple A rate," he said.

Tenorio assured that the CNMI has the capability of paying back the said loan.

"We're capable of making payment of $2 million a year in 10 years time," he said.

Meanwhile, Education Board Chair Marja Lee Taitano said that the approval will bring 'significant' improvement on the public school system.

"For the first time, PSS will have a large amount of money to be able to build more buildings and rooms at once," she said.

The PSS projects include the erection of four new schools and additional classrooms in Saipan, Tinian and Rota. In addition to these, the PSS will also be renovating some critically deteriorated classrooms and buildings, including the Marianas High School Gym.

Currently 40 classrooms are under construction and will be completed by the end of July in time for the new school year starting in August. The schools which will be receiving these new classrooms are the Hopwood Junior High School, Koblerville Elementary School, Marianas High School, William S. Reyes Elementary School and San Vicente Elementary School.

The construction of the new Dandan Elementary School will be completed before Christmas. The PSS also expects the erection of the Kagman Elementary School, New Koblerville High School, New Junior High School and a school in Anatahan to be completed next year.

Spain . . .

Continued from page 3

ish rule. By 1710, only 3,539 Chamorros remained. The survivors were predominantly women.

Hundreds were killed fighting the Spaniards, while the rest died due to diseases that the colonizers "introduced."

For years, Rota and Saipan were uninhabited as the remaining Chamorros were forced to live on Guam.

By 1786, the Chamorros's population had shrunk to a mere 1,318.

Spanish colonial rule in the Marianas ended in 1898 when the islands were ceded to the United States, which crushed Spain in a briefly fought war.

US panel . . .

Continued from page 3

regional efforts against the snake were mapped out.

"That plan will be much assisted by the funding we are working for in the FY99 Interior Appropriation bill," said Babauta.

The bill also includes funds for the Office of Insular Affairs technical assistance program. OIA provides grants to the insular areas for special projects using the technical assistance funds.

OIA has offered a technical assistance grant to the CNMI to assist in planning capital improvements.

This would allow approximately $73 million in Covenant funds already appropriated by the US and CNMI governments, but currently sitting unused, to be put to use building classrooms, water lines and the other infrastructure needed by the people of the Northern Marianas.

Purse . . .

Continued from page 3

Drive.

During the chase the suspect dropped the purse.

According to PIO for GPD, Larry Flores, nothing was taken. The first suspect is described to be 5'6" tall, 130 lbs., with short black hair and a dark complexion. He was wearing a white T-shirt, dark pants; and dark sneakers. The second suspect is described as 5'5" tall, 130 lbs., with short black hair and a dark complexion. He was wearing a dark T-shirt, dark pants, and dark sneakers.

GMH . . .

Continued from page 3

"The new camera allows nuclear medicine technologists to study the different functions of the human body...This is very important as heart disease and hypertension numbers continue to climb on Guam..."

The machine works by injecting blood cells with small doses of active gammaradiation which is then picked-up by the machine.

Other recent GMH purchases include a Spiral CT Scanner, which Taitano describes as a CAT Scan with a higher level of technology.

GMH has also acquired a new mammogram machine and a C-Arm as part of a plan to expand the hospital's services.

"Since we've been able to resolve some of the hospital's financial problems, it's been possible to make investments in new equipment and clinical manpower," Taitano commented.

GMH nurses meeting this week at the American Pacific Nursing Leaders Council (APNCC) at the Hotel Nikko said that the hospital continually faces a nursing shortage.

Taitano says it's difficult for GMH to competitively recruit and retain nurses for the hospital when the pay is the same at other government medical facilities for work which might not be as stressful.

However, Taitano reports that at the beginning of the year the hospital needed 35 nurses and now that number is down to 20.

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and to our
Great Grandpa Tang
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN RE THE ESTATE OF ENCARNACION MANGLONA SONGAO
Deceased.
Civil Action No. 98-0637B

NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: Creditors and Interested Claimants

Notice is hereby given that Cristobal S. Inos, of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, has filed a petition in the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to be appointed as Administrator of the Estate of Encarnacion M. Songao, deceased, and to determine the heirs of the decedent. The attorney of record is Perry B. Inos, Esq., P.O. Box 2017, C, Saipan, MP 96950. The hearing on the petition is set for the 17th day of July, 1998, at the Superior Court, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, at 10:00 a.m. All interested persons should appear at this hearing.

All persons having claim against the estate, or against the decedent, should file their claims with the clerk of court of the Superior Court within sixty (60) days after the first publication of this notice.

Dated this 17th day of June, 1998.

JOVITA C. FLORES
Clerk of Court

by /s/ DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF: INOCENCIO MANGLONA TOVES,
Deceased.
CIVIL ACTION NO. 98-396B

NOTICE TO FILE CLAIMS

To: Creditors of the estate of Inocencio Manglona Toves, deceased.

You are hereby notified that Marian Tudela Sablan, of Guam has been appointed and qualified as executrix of the estate of Inocencio Manglona Toves. Executrix's attorney of record is Reynaldo O. Yana of P.O. Box 52, Susupe Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. All persons having claims against the deceased are hereby required to serve them duly certified on the said executrix or her attorney of record at the addresses specified above, and to file them with the clerk of the superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, together with proof of such service, within 60 days of the date of the first publication of this notice, or the claims will be barred.

Dated this 12th day of June, 1998.

/s/ REYNALDO O. YANA
Attorney for Executrix

LOST PASSPORT
Passport of Yoon Soong Joon was lost in Finasisu area. If found, please call Tel. 288-2728 or 288-4315.

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ROOM FOR RENT
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D' Sebastian Building
(2) two bedroom apartment for rent.
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PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO.: RFP98-0057
FOR: PROCUREMENT OF OFFICE FURNITURE
OPENING DATE: JULY 10, 1998 TIME: 4:30 P.M.

GOVERNOR PEDRO P. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JEJUS R. SABLAN, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING COMPETITIVE PROPOSALS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR PROCUREMENT OF OFFICE FURNITURE FOR THE NEW JUDICIAL COMPLEX (GUMA HUSTISIA/IMWAL AWEEWE/ HOUSE OF JUSTICE) IN SUSUPE, SAIPAN, COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP PROPOSAL FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE ACTING DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.).

/S/HERMAN S. SABLAN
ACTING DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

LOST PASSPORT
Bangladeshi Passport
Owner: Sukesh Chandra Barman Passport No. K279807
Lost in the vicinity of
Kan Pacific Saipan, Ltd., in Marpi.
If found, please contact 322-4692

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The Pre-Test Study Booklet "470 Battery Test" for the upcoming U.S. Postal Exam is for sale.
For details call: 234-9333 or 256-0259

FOR SALE
55 KVA GENERATOR
EXCELLENT CONDITION
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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.
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Marianas Variety News & Views
FAX your ad to 234-9271

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

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Contact: TAJ MAJAL CORPORATION dba Emmalin's Store Tel. 234-3760(6/19)F26827

02 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIR-Salary:$4.00 per hour
Contact: MISAMIS CONSTRUCTION (SAIPAN), LTD. Tel. 235-2364(6/19)F26829

02 SALESPERSON-Salary:$3.05 per hour
Contact: SUNLEADER CO. LTD. dba Supermarket Tel. 233-3222(6/19)F26826

01 HELPER, COOK-Salary:$3.05 per hour
Contact: MICRO PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT, INC. dba Saipan Grand Hotel Tel. 234-6601(6/19)F72686

01 SALES SUPERVISOR-Salary:$3.40 per hour
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Contact: TAC INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTORS, INC. Tel. 234-1629(6/19)F72680

01 ENGINEERING TECHNICIAN-Salary:$2,000.00 per month
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Contact: EFRAIN F. CAMACHO dba EFC Engineers & Architects Tel. 322-7814(6/26)F72965

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01 LEGAL ASSISTANT-Salary:$12.00-18.00 per hour
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Contact: DAVID A. WISEMAN dba Service Unlimited Tel. 234-7520(6/26)F72968

03 F&B SUPERVISOR-Salary:$4.35-5.50 per hour
03 F&B SUPERVISOR-Salary:$4.35-55.0 per hour
02 F&B SUPERVISOR-Salary:$3.50-3.70 per hour
02 F&B SUPERVISOR-Salary:$3.50-3.70 per hour
03 CHEF-Salary:$5.00-6.50 per hour
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Classified Ads First

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01 RIGGER-Salary: $4.16 per hour
Contact: HERALD BROADCASTING SYNDICATE, INC. dba KHBI Radio Station Tel. 234-6516(6/26)F26852

01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary: $3.05 per hour
Contact: LUZVIMINDA F. ARRIOLA dba PKCL Enterprises Tel. 288-2354(6/26)F26907

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01 SPORTS, INSTRUCTOR-Salary:$1,200.00 per month
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01 (JEWELRY) ENGRAVER-Salary:$3.05 per hour
Contact: WAN YUAN JEWELRY(SAIPAN) INC. Tel. 235-7464(6/26)F26910

01 ASSISTANT MANAGER-Salary:$3.05 per hour
Contact: GLOBAL CORP. LTD. Tel. 235-6998(6/26)F26912

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:$3.05 per hour
Contact: KIM HO CORPORATION dba Dong Yang Laundromat Tel. 235-9388(6/26)F26913

02 WAREHOUSE WORKER-Salary:$3.05-4.40 per hour
01 ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK-Salary:$3.05-5.14 per hour
Contact: MICRONESIAN BROKERS (CNMI), INC. Tel. 322-0318(6/26)F26914

01 SEXTON-Salary:$4.81 per hour
Contact: REV. FR. ROGER P.T. TENORIO dba San Vicente Church Tel. 235-8208(6/26)F26915

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:$3.05-5.50 per hour
01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:$3.05-5.00 per hour
Contact: EIGHT CORPORATION Tel. 235-8373(6/26)F26916

01 COOK-Salary:$3.05-4.25 per hour
01 WAITRESS-Salary:$3.05-3.25 per hour
01 COOK HELPER-Salary:$3.05-3.50 per hour
Contact: NIPPON GENERAL TRADING CORPORATION dba Country House Restaurant Tel. 233-8223(6/26)F26917

01 FRONT DESK CLERK-Salary:$3.05 per hour
Contact: S.Y. KIM'S DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION dba Motel Garden Tel. 234-0320(6/26)F26918

03 CASHIER, GAMBLING-Salary:$3.05 per hour
01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:$700.00 per month
01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:$3.05 per hour
Contact: K & LEE CORPORATION dba MGM Gameroom Tel. 233-3513(6/26)F26919

01 BAKER-Salary:$3.25 per hour
Contact: WINCHELL'S DONUT, INC. dba Winchell's Donut House Tel. 234-5566(6/26)F26921

01 GAME ATTENDANT-Salary:$3.05 per hour
Contact: HARTLEY KROUL dba Bang Bang Corporation Tel. 234-1614(6/26)F26924

04 CUSTOMER SERVICE CLERK-Salary:$3.50-10.00 per hour
Assists customers to select and purchase specified merchandise. Answers any questions pertaining to merchandise by customers.
Makes refund on returned merchandise
Contact: DFS SAIPAN LTD. Tel. 234-6615(6/26)F72955

01 CEMENT MASON-Salary:$3.05 per hour
03 CARPENTER-Salary:$3.05 per hour
02 STEELWORKER-Salary:$3.05-3.20 per hour
Contact: NORTH PACIFIC BUILDERS, INC. Tel. 235-7171(6/26)F72967

02 ASSISTANT OFFICE MANAGER-Salary:$1,200.00 per month
Contact: HANSAE (SPN). INC. Tel. 234-5296(6/26)F72957

10 SINGLE NEEDLE MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: $3.05 per hour
10 PATTERN GRADER CUTTER-Salary: $3.05 per hour
30 PRESSER, MACHINE-Salary: $3.05 per hour
10 OVERLOCK SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: $3.05 per hour
10 HAND PACKAGER-Salary: $3.05 per hour
Contact: UNITED INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION Tel. 235-6888(7/2)Th26988

01 FRONT DESK CLERK-Salary:$3.05-3.21 per hour
01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:$1,600.001,800.00 per month
Contact: KAN PACIFIC SAIPAN, LTD. Tel. 322-4692(7/03)F72874

01 ELECTRICIAN CONSTRUCTION-Salary:$3.05 per hour
02 MASON-Salary:$3.05 per hour
01 CARPENTER-Salary:$3.05 per hour
Contact: EMILIO P. QUIATCHON SR. dba EQ Construction Tel. 234-8827(7/03)F27018

02 HAIRDRESSER-Salary:$3.05 per hour
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01 MAINTENANCE BUILDING REPAIRER-Salary:$4.10 per hour
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01 SUPERVISOR DEPARTMENT-Salary:$3.50 per hour
Contact: BJC CORPORATION dba BJC Discount Store Tel. 235-0388(7/03)F27021

01 SUPERVISOR, FOOD SERVICE-Salary:$1,000.00-1,800.00 per month
01 PUBLIC RELATIONS REPRESENTATIVE-Salary:$4.50-7.00 per hour
01 MANAGER, NURSERY-Salary:$1,500.00-4,750.00 per month
Contact: HOTEL NIKKO SAIPAN, INC. dba Hotel Nikko Saipan Tel. 322-3311(7/03)F27023

02 VIDEO CAMERA OPERATOR-Salary:$550.00-675.00 per month
Contact: SAIPAN TV PRODUCTION INC. Tel. 234-0386(7/03)F27024

01 GENERAL MANAGER-Salary:$3.05 per hour
01 GENERAL MANAGER-Salary:$4.00 per hour
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01 TOUR GUIDE-Salary:$600.00 per month
01 VIDEO OPERATOR-Salary:$600.00 per month
Contact: SUNFLOWER INT'L. ENT. INC. dba Sunflower Tour Agency Tel. 288-1300(7/03)F27028

01 A/C & REF. TECHNICIAN-Salary:$3.25 per hour
Contact: IL HAE CORPORATION Tel. 234-5412(7/03)F27029

01 STOCKCLERK-Salary:$3.05 per hour
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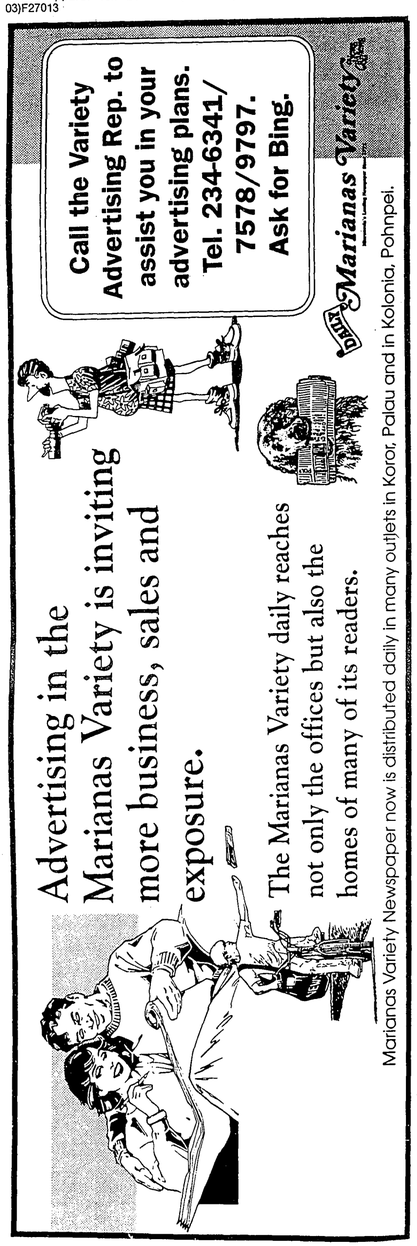
01 COMPUTER OPERATOR-Salary:$3.05-4.50 per hour
01 WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR-Salary:$3.05-4.50 per hour
01 SALES ASSOCIATE-Salary:$600.00-800.00 per month
01 SILK SCREEN PRINTER-Salary:$3.05-4.50 per hour
Contact: ISLAND APPAREL, INC. dba Island Apparel Tel. 288-3442(7/03)F27013

01 TRAVEL AGENT-Salary:$3.05-6.00 per hour
Contact: INTER-KAM TRAVEL CORPORATION dba Inter-Kam Travel Agency Tel. 235-5555(7/03)F27035

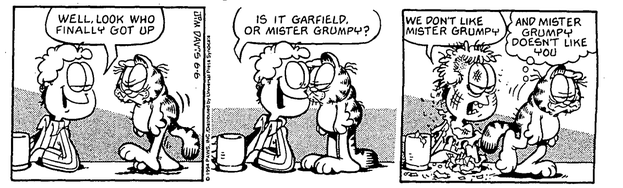
01 SALES REPRESENTATIVE-Salary:$3.05 per hour
Contact: MACRO ENERGY, INC. Tel. 234-6670(7/03)F26997

01 MANAGER-Salary:$1,000.00 per month
Contact: JORGE M. MANALILI dba Geonel Enterprises Tel. 235-2383(7/03)F27012



EEK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider

Garfield® by Jim Davis



PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz

STELLA WILDER

YOUR BIRTHDAY

Born today, you have a way about you which endears you to most individuals, regardless of sex, sign or personality. You are destined to be one of everybody's favorite people, the kind all can look up to and yet feel as though they have much in common with you as well. Like most Capricorns, you are consumed by the idea of doing a good job and upholding your reputation while fulfilling others' expectations of you. Unlike so many others, however, you find it easy to do this without suffering undue pressures either at home or at the workplace. You always seem to be having a good time.

There are times when you may be chameleon-like in character, able to be one thing at one time and a different thing only moments later. You are flexible and adaptable, never so set in your ways that you are unable to behave suitably in any given situation.

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.

SATURDAY, JUNE 20

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Take care that you are not asking too much from someone who is trying to keep his or her distance from you at this time.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Objectivity cannot be overrated today; there is nothing as essential to success right now as the ability to see things as they really are.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Though others may be caught in traps of their own making today, you should be able to steer clear of any such obstacles by taking it slow.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Pay attention to the signals your body and mind are sending you today. Perhaps you haven't been doing all you can for your health.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Do not let the idea of a routine get you down; today you're likely to discover that there is a valuable comfort in knowing what comes next.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You will want to spend more time with family members before the day is out. You may hear something that prompts a serious, frank discussion.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — You may have more to do today than you had planned, and yet you should be able to accomplish all that and more if you get an early start.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — There is little value in doing what others tell you to do if you are unwilling to learn from such activities. Eventually, you'll be on your own again.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — A personal sacrifice may be required of you before the day is out, but if you are clever you can find a way to minimize your losses.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — You may be trying to cover up part of the truth at this time, while someone you know well is working hard to reveal it. Re-evaluate your position.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — A connection with the past is highlighted today. Focus on doing something right for someone who doesn't expect any help from you.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You may have to work harder than expected today to overcome a setback that resulted from a minor error made over the past few days.

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Vermont is also known as the Green Mountain State.

The giant squid is the world's largest invertebrate animal.

The smallest frog in the world, Sminthillus limbatus, measures less than half an inch long.

Twenty-five million of the 162,000,000 telephones in the United States have unlisted numbers.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 Deity
5 Neighbor of Fr.
8 Give birth to a horse
12 Subtle emanation
13 Female ruff
14 Cartoonist Peter —
15 Bill of fare
16 Opp. of WSW
17 Sleeping quarters
18 Light-colored
20 TV frog
22 Temporary bed
23 Slender finial
24 Stores in a hiding place
27 Modern fabric
31 Circle part
32 Anger
33 William Inge play
37 Unlocked
40 Hockey great
41 Olympic org.
42 Ms. Shields
45 Flowers
49 Cuts off
50 Kimono sash
52 Folksinger Guthrie
53 Nichols' hero
54 Confederate general
55 Moslem holy man
56 Pay attention to
57 Spike of corn
58 Death rattle

DOWN

1 Poetic foot
2 Combat
3 Yes — —
4 Set atloat
5 Welcomes
6 Poetic contraction
7 Smelled strongly
8 Knitted material
9 Utah city
10 "The King — —"
11 Not to be found
19 Female deer
21 Federal agcy.
24 — -a-pie
25 Mr. Onassis
26 Roman 300
28 — Tin Tin
29 Unrefined metal
30 A Beatty
34 Lassoed
35 Annoy
36 Louisiana French
37 More unctuous
38 Edible rootstock
39 Oblong cream puff
42 Word of distaste
43 Loose, outer garment
44 Mayberry youngster
46 "— La Douce"
47 Israeli airline (2 wds.)
48 Indefinite amount
51 Actress — Arthur

Answer to Previous Puzzle

	J	A	N	E	S		J	U	L	E	S	
N	E	G	A	T	E		U	R	A	N	U	S
Y	R		P	A	V	E	S		W	I	L	T
L	E	A		L	E	N	T	O		D	L	O
O	M	N	I		R	A	I	S	A		E	N
N	Y	A	L	A		S	C	A	L	E	N	E
		M	I	C	A		E	G	I	S		
T	H	E	A	T	E	R		E	A	T	E	R
W	E		D	E	R	E	K		S	O	D	A
I	N	T		D	A	L	A	I		P	I	T
L	S	A	T		T	Y	S	O	N		S	O
L	O	C	A	L	E		H	U	T	T	O	N
	N	O	M	A	D		A	S	H	E	N	

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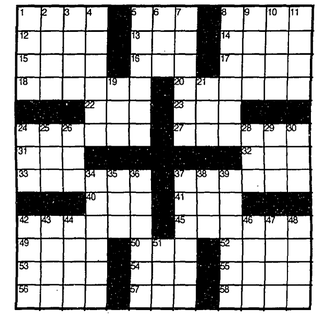
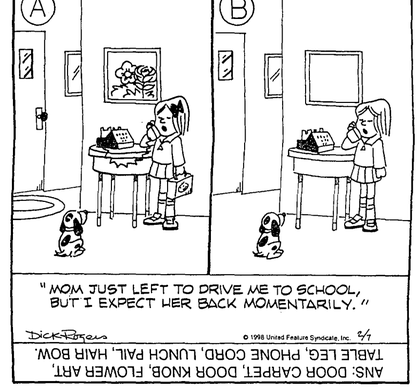


KidSpot™

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



ANS: DOOR CARPET, DOOR KNOB, FLOWER ART, TABLE LEG, PHONE CORD, LUNCH PAIL, HAIR BOW.

At track meet in Athens

Boldon sweeps short sprints

ATHENS, Greece (AP) — Trinidad and Tobago sprinter Ato Boldon fell short of a world record in the 100-meter race, but posted the best time of the year in the 200-meter race Wednesday at the Tsiklitira International Track Meet in Athens.

In the 100 meters, Boldon raced through a headwind and crossed the line in 9.86 seconds, ahead of Namibia's Frank Fredericks.

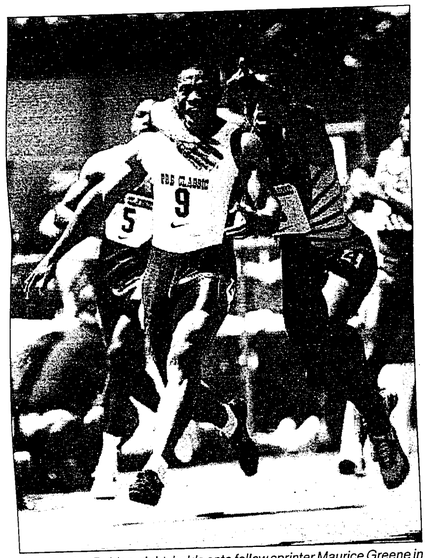
The winner matched the year's best time, which he posted in April. In the 1996 Olympics Fredericks won the silver medal and Boldon the bronze.

But Boldon fell short of Canadian Donovan Bailey's world record of 9.84 seconds.

"I came here to get the world record," Boldon said after the race. "I ran faster than Ben Johnson did on steroids. This wasn't a great race ... the wind just didn't cooperate."

Boldon's 19.88-second finish in the 200 meters was the best of the year.

Fiona May of Italy won the women's long jump with a leap of 7.03 meters, beating Germany's Heike Dreschler, who finished second with 6.95 meters.



Sprinter Ato Boldon, right, holds onto fellow sprinter Maurice Greene in this May 31, 1998 file photo. AP

In other events, 1500-meter world record holder Noureddine Morceli of Algeria finished first in 3:34.44, well behind his world-record time of 3:27.37.

Jean Galfione of France won the pole vault with a 5.97-meter leap, setting a French record. Ukrainian pole vaulter and world-record holder Sergey Bubka disappointed the more than 40,000 spectators with his flat fourth-place finish of 5.72 meters.

Britain's Colin Jackson won the 110-meter hurdles in 13.15 seconds.

Stieb to return to Toronto Blue Jays

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP) — Dave Stieb's comeback is complete.

Stieb, the winningest pitcher in Toronto history, had his contract purchased by the Blue Jays on Wednesday from their Syracuse minor league affiliate.

The 40-year-old Stieb, who last pitched in the majors for the Chicago White Sox in 1993, is expected to join the Blue Jays on Thursday in Baltimore.

"It's good for him — a former teammate and good friend," Toronto manager Tim Johnson said. "I'll feel a lot of emotion when I see him."

Toronto made room for Stieb by placing catcher Kevin Brown, who has been slowed by lower back spasms, on the disabled list retroactive to June 13.

Stieb went 5-4 with a 2.73 ERA in nine starts at Syracuse. He started his comeback this season with Class A Dunedin (Fla.), going 2-0 in three starts there.

Stieb is one of only two Blue Jays players honored with outfield plaques at Toronto's SkyDome. He made 405 starts for Toronto and had a 174-132 record. Shoulder problems ended his stint with the White Sox in 1993.

Sampras gets tough Wimbledon draw

By Stephen Wade

WIMBLEDON (AP) — Defending champion Pete Sampras will play Dominic Hrbaty in the first round of what shapes up as a difficult path to a fifth Wimbledon title in six years.

Today's draw placed the top-seeded Sampras in the top half, with dangerous players such as Yevegeny Kafelnikov, Petr Korda, Patrick Rafter and Andre Agassi.

Sampras has had a disappointing year and is coming off a second-round loss to Mark Woodforde at last week's tournament at Queen's Club.

He opens against Hrbaty, a Slovakian ranked No. 47 in the world.

Hrbaty is no pushover, having led Sampras 4-2 in the fifth set before losing at the 1997 Australian Open.

Sampras could meet MaliVai Washington, the Wimbledon runner-up in 1996, in the second round. Talented Swede Thomas Enqvist could loom in the third round and Australia's Scott Draper, winner at Queen's, in the fourth.

If the seedings hold, Sampras would meet No. 7 Kafelnikov, winner at Halle, Germany, last week and considered among the title favorites, in the quarterfinals.

Korda, the Australian Open champion and No. 3 seed, or Rafter, the 1997 U.S. Open champion and No. 4 seed, could face Sampras in the semis.

The top half also includes Agassi, the 1992 champion who is in the midst of a comeback and is seeded No. 13. Agassi opens against 77th-ranked Spaniard Alex Calatrava, but could meet rising German star Tommy Haas next and Korda in the fourth round.

The bottom half of the draw is much weaker, with No. 2 Marcelo Rios of Chile and No. 4 Greg Rusedski of Britain the highest seeds.

PSS. . .

Continued from page 1

the Central Office to determine where the kids come from and where they should study," Inos told the Variety.

Under the school zoning scheme, students will be placed at schools near their area. The policy, said Board of Education officials, will help determine new school projects.

"We're in dire need of schools that can accommodate all the kids. But it's hard to pinpoint where these would be unless we have the data," she said.

Inos said that she had given school principals until Monday or June 25th to give the needed information about their students' areas of residence. She will then be meeting with them on Tuesday, her first ever since she assumed the post on June 1, to discuss the school zoning policy, as well as other education-related issues.

The Education Commissioner pointed out, however, that she already had data from the previous school year.

"What we want to do is to get some data from the new registration period, and see if it coincides with the old data that we gathered. That will give us a better idea," said Inos.

She was asking the principals and even parents to cooperate with the policy, saying that it is "for their children's benefit."

"Just a little bit of (uncomfortness) on the early stage, but after this, everything will be alright," she said.

NBA. . .

Continued from page 80

said league officials have received the letter but declined to comment further.

The GOP effort is part of the "Drug-Free Athletes, Celebrities and Role Models Week" being publicized by lawmakers in Congress.

According to current NBA rules, only rookies are subject to random drug testing three times a year.

A player who comes forward voluntarily with a drug problem receives treatment and is suspended with pay for the first offense.

The second time he is suspended without pay, and the third time he is subject to a lifetime ban. A guilty plea for heroin or cocaine is ground for expulsion.

US Open. . .

Continued from page 80

Woods, Els and Leonard won the first three majors last year, Mark O'Meara won his first major at Augusta National in April.

And a month later, 48-year-old Tom Watson showed he still has plenty of game to contend by winning at Colonial. Watson finished a stroke behind Scott Simpson the last time the U.S. Open came to Olympic, and knows as well as anyone what it will take this week.

"Keep it in play," he said.

Olympic is straightforward, even though nearly every fairway bends around the cypresses and Monterrey pines, dips into valleys or climbs toward sloped greens that are guarded by fluffy sand bunkers.

"You cannot go out there and not perform at a reasonably high level and expect good results," O'Meara said.

And it doesn't take long for Olympic to take its toll.

The first hole looks simple enough, a 533-yard par 5 that played as the easiest hole the last time the U.S. Open came to Olympic. And No. 7 measures only 288 yards, leaving players only a sand wedge unless they want to risk going for the green off the tee.

The five holes in between comprise one of the toughest stretches in championship golf. The Open won't be won on those holes, but it certainly can be lost there.

"You start out and you play the first hole well," said Duval. "Say you make 4. Well, you make any mistakes in the next five holes, you're standing on the seventh tee at 2- or 3-over par.

"And there is not a whole lot of places to make those shots up."

That's the nature of a U.S. Open course. The USGA has long said its goal is not to embarrass the world's greatest players, only identify them.

But they don't identify with this kind of rough any other time through the course of the year.

Miss the fairway and the only option is usually slamming a wedge through the rough to get the ball back into the fairway.

"I can't hit more than a sand wedge," said Tom Lehman, who has played in the final pairing the last three U.S. Opens. "I don't think it's possible unless you get lucky — I mean really, really, really lucky — to get the ball to the green from the rough."

Miss the green and it gets even worse.

During a practice round earlier this week, Woods dropped his ball in the rough no more than 2 feet off the green, aiming for a mark on the green about 15 feet away.

He whiffed the first shot. His second attempt moved the ball about 18 inches. Woods kept trying, letting out a grunt on his fifth try.

Olympic figures to produce that kind of emotion.

France convicts soccer fans

PARIS (AP) — In a clear message that hooliganism will not be tolerated at the World Cup, French courts convicted four German and three English soccer fans for violence that marred the first week of competition.

Judges on Wednesday ordered two- and four-month jail terms for the three English fans, after three others were convicted Monday. Two Germans received three-month sentences.

Two other German fans were convicted for attacking a German television crew before their country's match against the United States. They were to be deported and banned from returning to France for three months.

More than 100 people remained jailed in Marseille after three nights of violence involving English fans, and officials said about 30 would be kept behind bars until the World Cup ends July 12.

The crackdown followed violence around Monday's match in Marseille between England and Tunisia. More than 50 people were injured and 80 arrested in clashes that damaged the Old Port district.

Interior Minister Jean-Pierre Chevenement signed an order Tuesday to expel five English fans and a Tunisian. He threatened more expulsions if soccer violence recurs.

The six to be expelled were to first serve jail terms of two to three months.

Authorities took other measures to prevent hooliganism at other matches in the 10 French cities holding Cup games, especially those staging England matches.

On Wednesday, the Marseille area police prefect, Jean-Paul Proust, announced that retail alcohol sales would be banned from Friday afternoon until midnight Sunday ahead of the Netherlands-South Korea game in town Saturday night. Bars must also close at 11 p.m.

Although many bar owners welcomed the move, Paul Schianchi, president of Marseille's union of hotel, cafe and restaurant owners, called it "dictatorial" and said many bars would stay open until usual hours.

The southwestern city of Toulouse was bracing for England's next match, with Romania on Monday. About 1,000 English fans were already reported in France's fourth-largest city, prompting officials to postpone a music festival until July 11.

Officials also considered closing bars early and forgoing large TV screens like the one on a Marseille beach where ticketless English fans and local youths fought Monday afternoon.

In the northern city of Lens, where England is to play Colombia on June 26, officials were boosting police presence and canceled city events, including a music festival.

The new head of FIFA said Wednesday he was "saddened" by the violence. But Sepp Blatter added he was satisfied French authorities took appropriate measures to ensure security.

"I'm convinced that from today, we won't have that hooligan problem anymore," he said.

England Prime Minister Tony Blair urged British employers to fire or discipline hooligans involved in the violence.

"We condemn without any reservation or qualification that mindless minority who do nothing but bring disgrace on themselves and on the name of our country abroad," Blair said during a debate in the House of Commons.

Blair called on businesses to "take strong action against those people that are convicted of football offenses abroad" in the aftermath of the running battles between English hooligans, rival fans and police in Marseille.

Blair agreed to look at proposals to toughen existing powers to restrict known troublemakers from traveling abroad.

"We will consider whatever measures we can take so that this small minority is eliminated," he said.

But he said the government could only act against known troublemakers.

"I have to say the vast majority of those picked up by the French police do not either have a record of football hooliganism that appears on the criminal records or even on our database, which is the most extensive anywhere in the world," Blair said.

He also sought to pin the responsibility on the hooligans themselves.

"We can take all the measures we like as a government, and we should take whatever measures are necessary," he said. "But in the end let's be quite clear where responsibility for this violence lies. It lies with those individuals themselves who do not represent the best of Britain, England or English soccer."

England soccer fan James Shayler is arrested following riots in Marseille Sunday as trouble flared prior to England's World Cup match against Tunisia. Shayler was jailed Monday for two months by a court in Marseilles, southern France. AP

1998 Little League

BATTING LEADER: (Based on 24 or more times at bat)

PLAYER	TEAM	AB	HIT	BATTING
Sam Babauta	S/R D-9ers	38	28	.737
Juan Wabol	Ol'Aces	24	15	.625
Jesse Taisaca	S/V Aces	37	23	.621
Jesse Wabol	Ol' Aces'	34	21	.618
Rick Manahane	S/V Aces	35	21	.600
Ian Babauta	Blue Jays	34	19	.565
Joel Crisostomo	Tigers	43	24	.559
Jack Lizama	Ol' Aces	29	16	.558
Jason Lizama	S/V Aces	41	22	.552
Daryl Ada	Ol' Aces	30	16	.537
Mypon San Nicholas	Falcons	32	17	.533
Ricky Jones	S/R D-9ers	35	18	.531
Chris Salas	Little Padres	7	19	.514
Lawrence DL Guerrero	Little Padres	41	21	.512
Bobby Coldeen	Tigers	34	17	.500

Runs: (27) Alfred Taitano (25) A. J. Guerrero (24) Sam Babauta, Juan Dikito (23) Bobby Coldeen, Jesse Taisacan, Derrick Omengar
Doubles: (9) Sam Babauta, Alfred Taitano (8) Joel Crisostomo (7) Jack Cabrera, Lawrence DL Guerrero, Mypon San Nicholas
Triples: (4) Joel Crisostomo, Ian Babauta (3) S. Babauta, Jason Lizama, A. Falig, A.J. Guerrero
Homeruns: (5) Jesse Taisacan (4) Rick Manahane, Chris Salas, Jesse Wabol (3) Sam Babauta
RBIs: (25) Jesse Taisacan (20) Joel Crisostomo (19) Lawrence DL Guerrero (18) Sam Babauta, Chris Salas (17) Ian Babauta

PITCHING LEADERS:

PLAYER	TEAM	G	INN	ER	H	BB	SO	W/L	ERA
Jack Lizama	Ol' Aces	4	10.2	1	5	17	14	2-0	0.56
Jesse Wabol	Ol' Aces	6	10.1	2	2	16	30	1-1	1.16
Rick Manahane	S/V A's	8	20.2	5	21	2	29	2-1	1.45
Jesse Taisaca	S/V A's	6	25.2	9	24	23	44	5-0	2.10
A. J. Taitano	S/V A's	4	11	4	12	10	17	1-0	2.18
Bobby Coldeen	Tigers	11	38	15	16	39	73	7-3	2.37
William Kaipat	Ol' Aces	8	23.1	11	19	28	44	2-0	2.38
Gary Cruz	Rockies	11	35.2	17	41	18	43	2-3	2.86
Frank Villazon	Blue Jays	5	12	6	20	6	10	2-0	3.00
James Kintol	Blue Jays	6	13.1	7	15	12	18	2-2	3.15
Ian Babauta	Blue Jays	5	10.2	6	16	10	14	0-1	3.38

Strike-Outs: (73) Bobby Coldeen (72) Tyron Fitial (54) Chris Salas (44) Jesse Taisacan, William Kaipat (43) Gary Cruz 942) Darson Camacho

1998 Seniors League

BATTING LEADERS: (Based on 9 or more times at bat)

PLAYER	TEAM	AB	HIT	BATTING
Jonathan Deleon Guerrero	DanDan Jets	9	7	.778
Crispin Pangelinan	Tanapag Braves	16	9	.563
Jonatha Delo Santos	Dandan Jets	15	8	.533
Jeremiah Suel	Tanapag Braves	15	7	.469
Dexter Palacios	Dandan Jets	13	6	.462
Mad William	Ol' Aces	9	4	.444
Mike Betry	Ol' Aces	9	4	.444
J. B. Borja	Dandan Jets	9	4	.444
Jesse Agoun	Kagman A's	16	7	.438
Ray Anthony Dela Cruz	Kagman A's	14	6	.429
Billy Camacho	Kagman A's	12	5	.417
Dave Lizama	Dandan Jets	10	4	.400
Daniel Sablan	Tanapag Braves	16	6	.375
Bradley Aliksa	Tanapag Braves	16	6	.375
Jimmy Aliksa	Tanapag Braves	14	5	.359

Runs: (12) John Reyes (8) Bill Quitano, Jeremiah Suel, Jonathan Delo Santos
Doubles: (2) J. Suel, A. Benavente, R. Dela Cruz, X. Omar, J. DL Guerrero
Triples: (1) B. Quitano, D, Concepcion, J. Tenorio, R. Dela Cruz, B.Camacho, E. Manahane, J. Reyes, J. Delo Santos, B.J. Seman, J. Flores, J.J. Taitano
Homerun: (1) Daniel Sablan, Emilio Manahane
RBI's: (10) Jonathan Delos Santos (8) Chris Pangelinan (6) Jimmy Aliksa (5) Joseph Borja, Dexter Palacios

PITCHING LEADERS:

PLAYER	TEAM	G	INN	ER	H	BB	SO	W/L	ERA
Anthony Benavente	D-9ers	5	24	6	22	19	33	3-1	1.75
Emilio Manahane	Braves	4	7.1	3	10	10	6	0-1	2.86
Daniel Sablan	Braves	5	25.2	14	33	11	20	3-1	3.82
Darren Concepcion	D-9ers	3	6.2	4	3	10	3	0-1	4.20
Ray Dela Cruz	Kag. A's	3	9	9	10	7	4	0-1	7.00
Franklin Muna	Kag. A's	3	12.2	13	16	18	11	0-2	7.19
Bradly Rabauliman	Ol' Aces	4	9	10	15	12	5	0-2	7.77

Strik-Outs: (54) Jonathan Delo Santos (33) Anthony Benavente (20) Daniel Sablan

SPORTS

Saipan Major League games are postponed

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

THE MAJOR League events this Sunday is postponed to a later date.

What is supposed to be a heart-stomping event between the Miller Lite Brewers and San Vicente Young Guns on the first game and Kautz Glass Glazers against Palau's Budweiser Chiefs on the second match will give way to the League's selection process for the Senior and Big League divisions.

"The reason for this postponement of the games this weekend is to allow the Big League and the Senior League Divisions under the CNMI Little League umbrella to complete its remaining games."

"In that order, the process of selecting the All-Star team for both divisions that will be competing for the Far East Baseball Tournament in Guam next month will push through ," says Toni Rogolifoi.

The Miller Lite Brewers are currently leading on the Major League team standings as of June 14, Sunday, posting an 8 win and 1 loss.

It's supposed opponent, the San Vicente Young Guns is on fifth position with a 1 win and 8 loss card.

Kautz Glass Glazers is on the second spot with 5 wins and 4 losses.

1998 Men's Major Baseball League

(Team Standing as of Sunday, June 14)

As Compiled By Frank M. Palacios
For the Variety

TEAM	WIN	LOSS	PCT	GB
Miller Lite Brewers	8	1	.889	—
UMDA Aces	7	5	.583	2 1/2
Kautz Glass Glazers	5	4	.556	3
The Chiefs	3	6	.333	5
SV Young Guns	1	8	.111	7

Batting Leaders: (Based on 30 or more times at bat)

PLAYER	TEAM	AB	HIT	BATTING
Cowley Ngiraidong	The Chiefs	42	21	.500
James Soback	Aces	34	17	.500
Frank Pangelinan	Brewers	39	19	.487
Wilber Ada	Glazers	32	14	.439
Tony Camacho	Brewers	30	13	.433
Nick C. Guerrero	Brewers	38	16	.421
Derron Flores	Y. Guns	38	16	.421
Mike Guerrero	Glazers	34	14	.412
Clark Ngiraidong	The Chiefs	37	15	.405
Glen Palacios	Aces	48	19	.396

Runs: (16) M. Guerrero (15) G. Palacios (13) Cowley, S. Coleman, B. Hocog (12) C. Sanchez, N. Guerrero, F. Pangelinan, T. Camacho, G.C. Camacho
Doubles: (7) S. Coleman (6) B. Hocog, W.Ada (5) M. Guerrero, F. Pangelinan
Triples: (5) Frank Torres (3) G. Palacios (2) Six players
Homeruns: (2) Mike Guerrero, Ben Hocog (1) G. Palacios, S. Coleman, J. Soback, J. Ayuyu, Gus Pangelinan
RBIs: (15) Ben Hocog, W. Ada (13) C. Sanchez (11) J. Soback (10) B.Mesa, J. Ayuyu, D. Flores

Pitching Leaders:

PLAYER	TEAM	G	INN	ER	HIT	W/L	ERA
Larry Guerrero	Glazers	3	16.2	2	10	2-0	1.08
Elmer Sablan	Brewers	7	42.2	11	50	5-1	2.32
Bill Camacho	Aces	6	27.1	8	33	3-2	2.63
Norman Tenorio	Aces	8	40.2	15	47	2-1	3.32
Chris Nelson	Aces	4	25	10	30	2-1	3.60
Dominic Chong	Brewer	4	14.1	6	17	2-0	3.76
Ryan Kenen	Chiefs	8	56.2	35	96	2-5	5.56
Melvin Ada	Y. Guns	7	24.1	16	37	0-2	5.92
Dave Kapileo	Glazers	7	33.1	23	47	1-2	6.21
Joe Terlaje	Y. Guns	9	45.1	32	82	1-3	6.35

Strike-Outs: (55) Ryan Kenen (44) Elmer Sablan (29) Joe Terlaje (25) Chris Nelson, David Kapileo

Amigos tourney June 21

THE AMIGOS Golf Club will be holding its Fathers' Day Tournament Sunday June 21, at the Mariana Country Club.

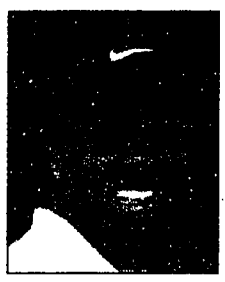
Tee time starts at 7:15 in the morning but show time is at 6:45 in the morning.

Reservation is open for 16 players.

For particulars, interested parties could reach Ben Lizama at 234-5397 or PJ Igitol at 234-6495.

US Open champs facing challenge

By Doug Ferguson


Tiger Woods

Ernie Els

Justin Leonard

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — On the eve of the 98th U.S. Open, Justin Leonard wondered if the USGA's answer to equipment concerns would be to make players carry only nine clubs and walk barefoot.

That won't be the case today at The Olympic Club, but Leonard and the rest of the field would do well to concentrate on just a couple of clubs that could decide this championship.

A 3-wood or low iron will come in handy off the tee, anything to keep the ball out of the 5-inch rough that frames the tight fairways.

The wedge is a must, if only to get the ball back into play if it does roll through the slanted fairways into the thick stuff.

"You just stick the long wedge behind it and hit it as hard as you can," said England's Lee Westwood.

Keep the wedge handy. It'll be needed again to get it close enough to the hole to save par. And as is the case in any tournament, a trusty putter is always key.

"There's not a lot of places to make birdies out there," said David Duval. "You're going to stick one close every now and then, but I would say you're going to have to make at least one 25-footer for birdie every day."

That's the challenge facing defending champion Ernie Els, Tiger Woods and Leonard, along with Generation Next players trying to win their first major — Duval, Jim Furyk and Phil Mickelson.

But perhaps youth will take a back seat this year. After

Continued on page 78

RGA June Ace tourney tomorrow

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

THE RAFALUWASCH Golf Association will be holding the June Ace of the Month tournament tomorrow at 6:48 in the morning.

The tournament will be held at the east course of the Laolao Bay Golf Resort.

The players must show up at 6 in the morning to secure playing spots which is open up to the first 16 players.

The score to beat for the June Ace is Tony Taitano's 69.

It would be remembered that Jess Wabol captured the crown for the RGA Ace of May award.

In the past games, Sonny Flores got an impressive 64 at the narrow fairways of Rota's Golf Resort to clinch the April Ace of the Month.

The winner for the June Ace of the Month will compete for the RGA Cup in December against other aces each month.

NBA urged to toughen drug policy

WASHINGTON (AP) — A group of Republican congressmen wants to make sure that baskets are the only things NBA players are shooting these days.

In a letter to NBA commissioner David Stern, more than two dozen lawmakers urged the league Wednesday to adopt a zero-tolerance drug policy for its athletes.

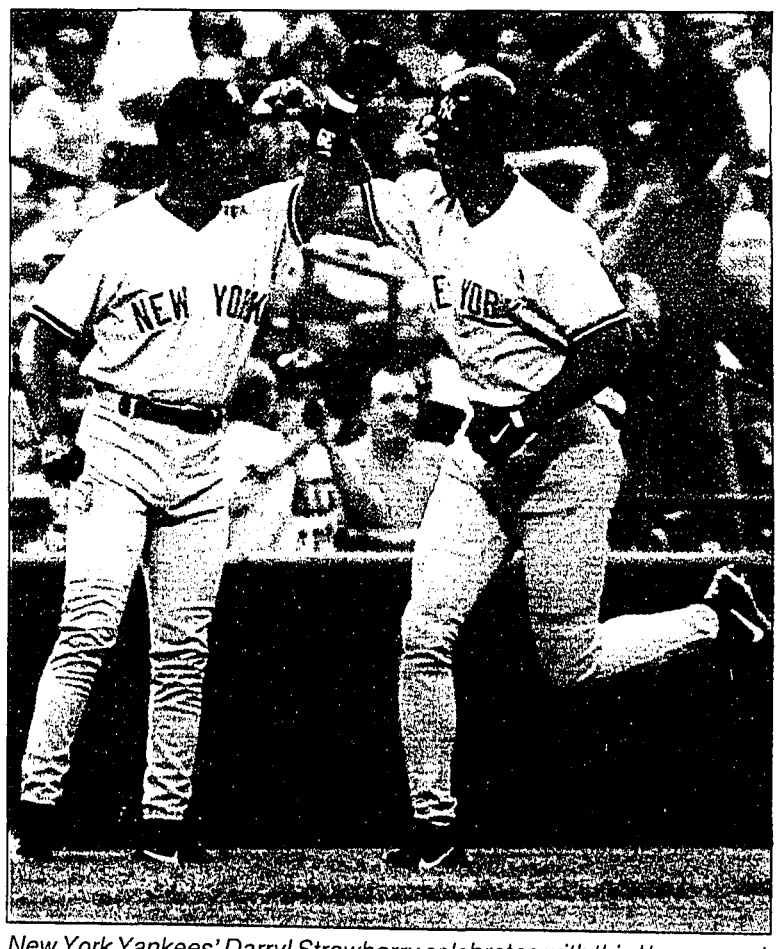
"Specifically, we urge you to adopt a consistent, random drug testing policy for marijuana and all other illegal drugs for all players as well as tough penalties for violators," Rep. J. Dennis Hastert, R-Ill., wrote.

"A drug-free team will be experienced by everyone in your organization, including your fans."

A copy of the letter also was sent to Billy Hunter, executive director of the players' union.

NBA spokesman Chris Brienza

Continued on page 78


New York Yankees' Darryl Strawberry celebrates with third base coach Willie Randolph as he rounds third after hitting a three-run first-inning home run against the Baltimore Orioles at Camden Yards Wednesday in Baltimore. The Yankees won 5-3. AP

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