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Construction projects should not stop-- Teno

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

THE ADMINISTRATION remains firm on its goal of getting all construction plans roll down as soon as possible despite an earlier request of a legislator to suspend all construction activities in view of the current economic crisis.

A visibly bothered Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said putting a halt to his administration's infrastructure projects would result to a worse situation than what is currently being experienced by the CNMI.

"How can we suspend construction activities? We're not holding any infrastructure projects. We'd like to see them

Pedro P. Tenorio

in place as that will benefit everybody in the community," he said.

The governor also said that these construction activities do

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Gov't insurance rate sure to rise

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

THE EXISTING rates for government health insurance will definitely increase by next year, and indications are that the increase may be double the current rates for all types of enrollment, Retirement Fund Administrator Edward H. Manglona said upon his retirement last week.

The government's health insurance agency — the CNMI Group Health and Life Insurance Plans — is under the auspices of the NMI Retirement Fund.

Once the increase takes effect, however, the government health insurance premium will still be much lower than what private insurance companies are currently offering, said Manglona who retired last Dec. 24.

"Some plans charge about $400 a month while we only charge a little over $100 for certain types of enrollment," Manglona said, adding that the indications are "likely to double the existing rates."

A government employee's biweekly contribution to GHLIP for self and family high option is $57.25. Even if it is doubled, the monthly contribution would still be $229.

Manglona said this is still far lower than what other insurance firms charge.

Moreover, the biweekly premium rate for self only, high option type is $21.86. The rate for self only low option is $13.75, while the self and family low option is $8.40.

Manglona said the increase in rates will result to healthy returns in health insurance premium.

He added that for the past three years, the GHILP's premium collection is far lower than what it gives out as claims.

For the first six months of the

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Property leased to CPA being eyed by Manglona for public cemetery on Rota

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE ROTA local government is eyeing a portion of Commonwealth Ports Authority [CPA] property adjacent to the international airport as the future site of a public cemetery in the island, it was learned during the weekend.

Rota mayor Benjamin T. Manglona, in a letter to Ports Authority executive director Carlos H. Salas, was requesting the release of two hectares of CPA-leased property located at the northeasterly boundary of the airport.

The requested land, according to Manglona, would be used as a cemetery "for the people of Sinapalo I, II and III."

He added that displacement of the particular land can be compensated with an equal size of government land located at the West side boundary of the Rota International Airport.

"The public cemetery committee found this area to be the most appropriate and suitable location," the Rota local chief executive stressed.

In response, Salas said the Ports Authority management

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Election fraud trial set to start on Guam today

By Eric F. Say
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA- The Superior Court is expected to go over the second and updated list of "illegal voters" submitted last week by the counsel of former governor Joseph F. Ada as the court is set to start trial today to determine if massive fraud attended Guam's General Election on Nov. 3.

Ada's lawyer Curtis C. Van de veld released his second list as mandated by the court to attorneys Philip Carbullido and Randall Cunliffe who are representing incumbent Gov. Carl T. C. Gutierrez and Lt. Gov. Madeline Z. Bordallo.

The updated list appears to be longer, now containing 110 alleged deceased voters from 28 in the original list, and 2,337 alleged non-citizens from the

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Ordot landfill ablaze; Guam firefighters try to put out fire

By Jacob Leon Guerrero
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA- Ten families have been evacuated from the area surrounding the Ordot landfill which has been on fire since Christmas Day.

According to Capt. Andy Arceo, public information officer of the Guam Fire Department, firefighters are still trying to extinguish the blaze as of yesterday.

Arceo said they were really dealing with two fires at the landfill--one a tire fire and the other, a trash fire.

Iraq threatens to fire

By LEON BARKHO

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - In its latest challenge to the United States and Britain, Iraq declared that it will fire on warplanes patrolling the no-fly zones that Washington and its allies imposed after the Gulf War.

The United States and Britain said their aircraft would continue to enforce the no-fly zones and pilots would respond to any threats.

"Iraq knows that it should not interfere with those flights, and our pilots can act in self defense if they feel threatened at any time," National Security Council spokesman P. J. Crowley said in Washington.

A Ministry of Defense spokesman in London said all British and American aircraft "operate to a very strict set of rules of engagement. If aircraft are threatened those rules of engagement do allow the return of fire."

The United States, Britain and France set up the no-fly zones in 1991-92 to halt air attacks against Kurdish rebels in the north and Shiite Muslim rebels in the south. French aircraft no longer patrol the northern zone, but stil! help to maintain the southern zone.

A week after a U.S.-British bombing campaign against Iraq ended, Iraqi Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan said his government would not allow flights over northern and southern Iraq.

"We say frankly now that any violation of Iraqi airspace will be met by Iraqi fire," Ramadan told Qatar's Al-Jazeera television Saturday.

Iraq has never recognized the zones and has occasionally confronted aircraft flying in the area.

Asked why Iraq had not fired previously on planes enforcing the no-fly zones, Ramadan said, "When you want to restore your rights, you choose the suitable time and circumstances."

State-controlled Iraqi media have issued almost daily reports of violations of the country's airspace since the United States and Britain ended four days of airstrikes on Dec. 19.

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In this image taken off television, Iraqi Vice-President Taha Yassin Ramadan is seen during an interview with APTN television Sunday Dec. 27, 1998, in Baghdad. Iraq declared Sunday that it will fire on warplanes patrolling the no-fly zones imposed by Washington and it's allies after the Gulf War. AP

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Britain warns Iraq planes will hit back

LONDON (Reuters) - Britain has warned its aircraft will shoot back if they are attacked by Iraq, British television reports said on Sunday.

Iraqi Vice President Taha Yasin Ramadan said on Saturday Iraq would open fire at Western planes which patrol the no-fly zone imposed by the West in southern Iraq to prevent Baghdad from threatening the region's Shi'ite Moslem population.

"We say it clearly, any violations of our airspace cannot but be confronted by Iraqi fire," Ramadan told the Qatari al-Jazeera satellite television station.

BBC television on Sunday quoted Britain's Defence Ministry as saying its Tornado warplanes in the Gulf region would fire back if they were attacked by Iraq.

The ministry said a Tornado flying over southern Iraq had seen anti-aircraft fire some distance away, but the crew did not consider it close enough to amount to a threat.

Iraq said it had fired at Western aircraft attacking a post in the south of the country on Saturday, and warned it would shoot again at any warplane over its territory.

The United States and Britain flatly denied Baghdad's account of the first such reported clash since a four-day air blitz by U.S. and British forces ended a week ago.

An Iraqi military spokesman, quoted by the Iraqi News Agency (INA), said: "At 11:25 (0825 GMT) this morning formations of enemy planes...attacked one of our air defence positions which confronted them and forced them to drop their load indiscriminately."

The Iraqi armed forces usually use the term "confronted" to mean firing anti-aircraft weapons.

The spokesman said the planes flew in from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait. He said a first wave of what Baghdad derisively calls the "the crows" flew outside the range of anti-aircraft guns.

In Washington, a spokesman for the U.S. National Security Council said: "There was no attack. We had planes up enforcing the no-fly zone" over Iraq, as part of normal operations.

Ramadan said Baghdad had always rejected the Western imposed no-fly zones in its north and south because they were set up by a U.S. and British decision and not by the United Nations.

The Iraqi army said on Tuesday Western aircraft had fired two rockets near the southern city of Basra. The United States and Britain also denied that report.

The army said on Thursday Western planes violated Iraq's southern airspace for a third consecutive day but did not report any exchanges of fire.

The United States and Britain said they halted their four-day air blitz after they achieved their target of containing President Saddam Hussein. Iraq said it had emerged victorious.

The Western forces launched 70 hours of air attacks after inspectors of the U.N. Special Commission charged with eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction reported that Iraq was not cooperating fully with their work.

The Iraqi parliament issued a decree after a session on Saturday reiterating Baghdad's total refusal to allow U.N. weapons inspectors back into

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Senators to Maya Kara:

'Do not challenge us'

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

SENATE Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) has expressed disappointment over acting Attorney General Maya B. Kara's refusal to resign despite the Senate rejection of her appointment.

Another ranking member of the Senate leadership, who requested anonymity, said Kara's "stubbornness" is considered a direct challenge to the Legislature's upper house, and will be "appropriately dealt with."

"She should not try our patience," the senator said. "That's not a good idea. We don't want any controversies between us and the administration. Our sentiment should be clear by now. There is no way this Legislature could work with her. She should the right thing now before we force her removal."

Pete P. Reyes

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) and Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez (R-Saipan) declined to comment.

Reyes, in a separate interview, said Kara should realize that legal questions will be raised if she continue serving as acting attorney general.

He said the Attorney General's Office (AGO) has enough problems as it is, referring to "all those questionable pay hikes and personnel actions," some of which, he added, were not even signed by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

"It seems that the Senate is more concerned about the governor's image than AGO," he said. "I really hope Maya realizes that it is in the administration's best interest that she step down. She knows that the governor has a big heart and will not ask her to resign. But, still, the message is all there."

Maya B. Kara

Former congressman Stanley T. Torres, in an earlier interview, said if Kara remains as acting attorney general despite the Senate's rejection of her appointment, all her decisions and actions could be challenged in court.

By an 8 to 0 vote, the Senate adopted last week a special joint committee report that declared Kara "unfit" to hold the office of attorney general, and described her as a "usurper" whose nomination "is deemed rejected" and should be rejected again if resubmitted.

But in an interview shortly after the Senate action, Kara said she will not resign unless the governor asks her to.

At the same time, Kara said she considers the Senate's decision as "very painful and very personal."

Bruneman expected to testify today

By Eric F. Say
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA - Although considered unusual in legal circles, the young man accused of raping and murdering four-year-old D'Anna Olley may take the witness stand today.

Beau Bruneman has been on trial for over a month now stemming from an incident that took place at the Olleys' residence in February 1996.

Young Olley's body was found stuffed in a nearby trash can in the early morning of Feb.16.

Jurors have heard testimony from dozens of witnesses called by both the prosecution and the defense. They have heard conflicting statements regarding hair samples found at the scene and

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Nine couples were joined in Holy Matrimony Sunday morning at Mount Carmel Cathedral during the annual mass wedding ceremony. Sunday's ceremony was officiated by Father Isaac Ayuyu. Photo by Tony Celis

DPL director opposes plan to subject all public land deals to legislative OK

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

A LEGISLATIVE initiative that would require the Legislature's approval in all public land transactions could lead to a "very time consuming and complex process," in which "unnecessary obstacles" would "only lengthen an already lengthy process," the Division of Public Lands director said.

Bertha C. Leon Guerrero, who described DPL's position regarding Legislative Initiative 11-4 as "ambivalent," noted that it "appears to suggest some mistrust in how public lands is being managed by" DPL, which is under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR), and the autonomous Board of Public Lands (BPL).

But the Initiative, in turn, "would not necessarily save the people from the whims" of their elected representatives, Guerrero said in a letter to the House Committee on Natural Resources.

Putting in place added protections when the interest of locals is at stake is prudent, she said, but added that such protection should also allow the process to move forward as efficiently as possible.

In contrast, the Initiative would only place an additional burden on DPL, Guerrero said.

If the Initiative were to be ratified by voters, final nego-

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Bill to avoid repeat of Rota grant 'near fiasco'

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

TO AVOID a repeat of the near loss of $3 million in federal grants, Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) has introduced legislation that would allow federally funded projects to be exempted from CNMI procurement regulations, provided that they satisfy federal procurement standards.

Passed by the Senate's unanimous vote, S.B. 11-92 is now with the House of Representatives.

The bill proposes that CNMI procurement requirements would be considered satisfied whenever all funds for construction, architectural and engineering services are federal grants, and whenever federal law, rule, regulation or valid agency policy establishes minimum procurement standards.

But the bill states that nothing in it should be considered a re-

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CDA chairman orders review of pending but approved loans

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

STRESSING the high number of people applying for loans, Development Authority chairman Juan Tenorio during the weekend called for an immediate review of credits which remain unclosed despite approval.

Tenorio was inquiring about reports that a number of borrowers have failed to close their loans within the 90-day grace period. "There is a provision in our policy that loans must be closed 90 days after approval."

He said he would want to know if there really are loans that have been approved and remain unclosed which exceeded the 90-day period.

"I am asking my people to look whether there are loans that have been approved and not closed. We want to know why is it not being closed despite the approval," he said in an interview with the Variety.

For November alone, the Development Authority has approved some $2.5 million in total loans. None among the borrowers have closed the loan, so far. The CDA chief said he just wants to find out the reason behind the apparent delay in the closure of the credits.

CDA loan manager Joaquin Q. Dela Cruz, at the same time, said that there is around $6.9 million in total CDA guarantee loans that are not executed yet.

"We have more than $6 million in total loans that are still

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

JACK ANDERSON and JAN MOLLER
WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

How does America's largest bank grow?

FEW companies have navigated the prosperous Clinton years better than Charlotte, N.C.-based NationsBank. In a few short years, the company has gone from being a regional powerhouse to become America's largest bank.

Unfortunately, some of their growth came on the backs of people like Beatrice Smith.

An elderly, African-American homeowner in Georgia, Smith became a good and frequent customer of NationsCredit, a wholly owned subsidiary of NationsBank. The mortgage on her $34,000 property was refinanced a total of six times in six years. While refinancing is a good idea when interest rates are low, Smith's interest rate was actually increased on several occasions. Her rates fluctuated between 10 percent and 19 percent, and she paid several thousands of dollars in fees and closing costs each time she refinanced.

Eventually, the monthly payment became more than she could afford, and she defaulted on her loan. When NationsCredit then foreclosed and tried to take her home, she got an attorney and counter-sued for unconscionable lending.

Smith's case has become a cause-celebre among activists and lawyers who want to rein in the runaway sub-prime lending market. Once a haven for small, shady operators, this lucrative market has now attracted giant national firms like NationsBank.

But its critics say sub-prime lenders often take advantage of the poor and elderly by selling them on expensive loans at usurious rates that are virtually designed to produce foreclosure. They often come with heavy fees and contingencies attached, leaving fixed-income borrowers with notes they can't afford to pay back.

Pat Sisely, a spokesman for NationBank, told us the Smith case has now been settled. "We withdrew foreclosure, and we made an offer that was accepted," she said.

But Smith's lawyer, Howard Rothbloom, says that's not the case. He told our associate Kathryn Wallace that the case is still pending. "The big lenders say they don't make money on foreclosure," he said. "They make loans and refinance them repeatedly, charging fees in order to strip the equity out of the home.... We're not talking about mom-and-pop lending organizations here, but the nation's largest. We're talking about NationsBank."

THE NEXT WAR — Those who fear that the world as we know it will come to a crashing halt at the turn of the millennium may not have to wait that long.

Thousands of the world's most capable minds are working on ways of bringing the U.S. military — and economy — to a standstill. Cyberterrorism, much talked-about in this space, is emerging as the single biggest threat to our national security.

A Dec. 15 report from the Center for Strategic and International Studies should be required reading for anyone wondering what global threats remain now that Saddam Hussein has been bombed into submission. It outlines, in starkly graphic terms, the threats America's information economy faces from terrorist computer hackers.

"The ability to network has far outpaced the ability to protect networks," the report reads. "The economy is totally dependent on these systems. America's adversaries recognize this dependency and are developing weapons of mass disruption and destruction."

Indeed, the next terrorist attack on America is more likely to come from a gifted, 20-year-old computer whiz than a religious fanatic parking a truck bomb outside an embassy somewhere. With the stroke of a keyboard, a skilled hacker can penetrate and disrupt the Pentagon's most sensitive sites.

Terrorists aren't the only ones who've caught on to the destructive capacity of computers. Inside the super-secret National Security Agency, programmers are working on ways of waging offensive informational warfare. Our military has developed a complex array of cyberweapons designed to cripple everything from computer networks to phone lines and power grids.

CHRISTMAS IN WASHINGTON — We look at this holiday season with mixed emotions. Christmas is a time for children, and there's been a lot of talk about kids in the capital this year. People rightly wonder what kind of lesson children learn by seeing their president lie under oath about a tawdry affair.

But the president's behavior in the last year teaches other lessons as well, such as perseverance. After a full year of abject public humiliation, our president refuses to quit or even to hide. Two House speakers have resigned under far less pressure, yet Clinton still shows up for work each day under circumstances we wouldn't wish on our enemies. He has become the Cal Ripken of American politics.

Perhaps the greatest lesson of all, however, is this: A republic that can survive a president like this one, and a year like the one that's about to pass, can handle just about anything.

• Info-Tech Corner

By David T. Hughes
For the Variety

Listen to history in the making on Net

MY office is inside a concrete building down in the hollow of a hill justrn off Edsall Road in Springfield, VA. I donít have a television and picking up a radio signal off the air would be difficult.

But, thanks to Real Audio and *www.cspan.org* most of the day last Friday was spent working on budgets and listening to members of the U.S. House of Representatives mark a dark day in our nation's history.

Saturday, I read a story in one of the area's daily papers that lamented how viewers of the so-called "news" channels on television were pulled hither and yon. One minute they were listening and watching members of the House pontificate, next they heard pundits tell them what the solons just said.

Next, viewers were catapulted thousands of miles to Baghdad to see more U.S. cruise missiles incoming.

Back and forth. Forth and back - just like the U.S. Open in tennis. I was oblivious to this because I didn't HAVE or NEED a television picture to tell me what was happening. I was given a front-ear seat in the House as lawmaker after lawmaker made what may have been their most-remembered speech in history - thanks to the Internet.

My point is that the Internet brought the news - live to me - just like radio - and I was able to keep up with what was going on in Washington AND concentrate on my duties. I feel this service of CSPAN was wonderful - even more so because it was free. If I had wanted to, I could have seen a jerky video of CSPAN's video, but there was no need. I was listening to their words and didn't care what the members of Congress looked like.

How many more folks like me turned to the Internet to follow what was happening? Here in the Washington area we had lots of audio outlets, including PBS. But other parts of the nation and world were not so lucky and that's where the Internet is/was/could be a godsend.

Hour upon hour the vocal bell tolled for our president and as Walter Cronkite might say - "You are there" and, even more than the Starr Report, the Internet is the average American and world citizen's unfiltered, depunditicized avenue to find out what's happening and it's available in almost any corner of the earth.

The 'Net is also a broad avenue to let lawmakers know how you feel about their actions. I predict a new record for email to members of Congress - no matter how they voted. I know that I sent Rep. Tom Davis (my "representative" to Congress) an earful about how I felt about his vote (grin.)

Arenít sure who your member of Congress is or how to get in touch with them?

Just go to http:*//216.132.105.67/congressorg2/search.html* and put in your zip code. Bada-bing! Up comes all the info you would ever want to know, including all kinds of ways to get in touch with them.

The Internet can be the "great leveler." If it's used correctly, that is.

Many folks donít want to take the time to sit down and write a letter, find an envelope and stamp and then mail it. The anger or passion subsides. Email solves that problem and allows communications to be more "from the gut."

Some members of Congress give less credence to email as opposed to snail mail because it's "more spontaneous." That is a big mistake.

How sad. I'm sure lots of members of Congress will lament the fact they didn't pay more attention to emailers when the next election rolls around.

If I were a member of Congress I'd send a piece of snail mail to every constituent and ask him or her IF they had an email address. If they did, I'd ask them to send me an electronic message telling me about themselves, their families or whatever they wanted.

When time came to make a decision about our nation's future I'd send out email to everyone asking his or her advice. The old saying of "two heads are better than one" really applies here. All too often members of Congress surround themselves with "yes" men/women and lose contact with the real world.

But who am I? Just a voter. One of the unwashed fools who don't know anythingÖ.

Remember Ö the Internet can be the great leveler.

Check out CSPAN's site and other "ORG" sites that deal with government to get their take on what's happening. We are a witness to history.

ONLINE SHOPPING REDUX

The elves over at Dulles' America Online are chuckling to themselves because their online shopping sites are ringing all kinds of bells. Lots of cyber dollars are jingling in their merchant partners' pockets. In fact, the latest figures from AOL said the amount of e-commerce was TRIPLE what they expected.

The news is pretty much the same all over the Internet. Online merchants who are well known are doing much better than they expected.

While I'm talking about online buying just a reminder that you may still be asked to pay sales tax, even if you buy in another state. One reader has sent me contrary information from what I originally

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Atalig named special master

Pedro M. Atalig

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

THE SUPERIOR Court has appointed retired Supreme Court associate justice Pedro M. Atalig as a special master in the Larry Hillblom's estate case to review the "reasonableness" of both past and future professional fees and expenses of the executor and the estate.

Judge Pro Tem Alexandro Castro named Atalig as special master after finding that " special and unusual circumstances exist" to warrant the review.

The appointment, however, was based on the court's request. Castro ordered Atalig to inform the court within ten days whether he accepts his assignment or not.

The executor, Bank of Saipan, has been against the detailing of a special master saying that the review by its representative is sufficient and that an additional review would constitute unnecessary expenses and additional costs due to delayed payments.

But according to Castro, the "volume and complexity of the billings being submitted by the executor for the court's approval, the concerns raised by the Qualified Heir Claimants and the Trust in respect thereto, and the court's overall concern with the cost for the past and future professional services to the Estate" calls for a special master.

During the past estate administration hearings, the estate distributees has been complaining about the high cost of legal services being provided to the Estate, which reportedly ranges from $500,000 up to $800,000 a month.

At a hearing last December 17, the estate distributees pressed their request for the hiring of a legal auditor, referred to the Special Master or both to conduct an immediate review of the invoices.

New Tinian ports police gather for a photo after their recent induction. From left, Michael Cabrera, Joseph H. Pangelinan, Ronwaldo S. Pascua, Estanislao M. Hocog, Jr., Trent R. Aldan and Fritz M. San Nicholas.

Cing files a bill to put in new requirements for contractors

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

A BILL introduced by Sen. David M. Cing (D-Tinian) would require all contractors to register and obtain a certificate from the Department of Public Works, as well as to secure a $100,000 bond and insurance, before engaging in business and performing any construction projects.

Entitled "The Contractors' Licensing and Bonding Act," Senate Bill 11-94 was recently passed by the Senate and is now before the House of Representatives.

The bill aims to ensure that home builders could be compensated for a contractor's negligence, improper work or breach of contract.

It would require contractors applying for a certificate of registration to maintain insurance or financial responsibility for injury, death or damages to property.

The bill proposes fines of $1,000 up to $10,000 for unregistered contractors who would advertise, offer to do work, submit a bid or perform any work.

David M. Cing

The bill would also prohibit the transfer of a registration to an unregistered contractor.

In addition, it would give DPW the authority to review all applications for registration, and deny registration to an applicant who has a pending lawsuit or administrative complaint.

The bill seeks to require each

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Fruit park lease terminated

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE BOARD of Public Lands (BPL) has terminated a lease government has signed with a firm proposing to construct a fruit park at the back of the La Fiesta Mall in Marpi.

At the same time, it has approved a request by the Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) to construct a nature trail around the Susupe Lake.

In an interview, Division of Public Lands (DPL) Director Bertha Leon Guerrero said BPL granted DPL's request to have the lease terminated on grounds of Haf Dei Tropical Fruit Park Corporation's failure to begin work on the project over the past 10 years.

"There is nothing there but tangan-tangan trees for the past 10 years," said Guerrero.

She added that government had actually terminated the lease twice in the past.

However, it was reinstated due to the company's appeals.

"This lease has been terminated a couple of other times in the past as there was no improvement on the leased lot.

"We've reconsidered because they (company officials) appealed to have it reconsidered sometime ago. Also, (former governor) Froilan reconsidered

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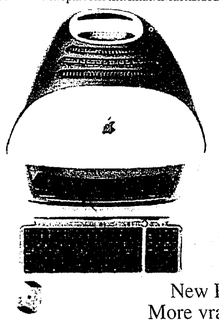
Check out some happy owners at:
http://www.mespn.com/me/imac/iMaclanded.html



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Internet Access Service: (Authorized GTE agent)
Businesses, let us show you how to set up a dedicated line for your office so that your entire office staff can be on the internet, email, webserving, and file sharing!!!!! (One phone line, one modem!!!)

From our Lighting Division:
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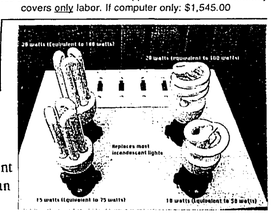

Espinola testifies in Alig slay

By Eric F. Say
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA- A severed right foot, three broken ribs and a gun shot to the head caused the death of Joseph Alig, according to the testimony of Guam's Chief Medical Examiner, Dr. Aurelio Espinola, at the trial last week of Frank Edward Pangelinan, accused of Alig's murder on Jan. 10 this year.

Alig's decomposed body was found dumped along the Agat-Umatac road in February.

In earlier testimony, Marlene Perkins, the live-in girl friend of Pangelinan, told the court that on the night of the murder of Alig, she saw Pangelinan get out of bed and got his "toy," which was described as a .45 cal.silver pistol.

Assistant Attorney David Rivera drew a statement from Perkins that Alig had been screaming obscenities outside their house in Agat that night.

Asked if she remembered more details, she told the court it was dark that night, and she could not recall what Pangelinan mumbled or did in reaction to Alig's behavior.

She said that Alig had been continuously bothering the family, telling them that they did not belong there because they were not from Agat.

Rivera produced a police report taken shortly after the murder, asking Perkins to read it in order to refresh her memory. Following that she revealed that she heard Pangelinan saying, "The zories aren't there and do you believe I cut off his leg."

Perkins also told the jury that she heard three shots fired during the night. She identified the gun shown to her at the trial as belonging to Pangelinan.

The victim's mother, May Alig, testified before the jury that on the night of Jan. 10, 1998, she last saw her son at around 10 p.m. wearing white pants and had borrowed her sandals. She said she recalled it clearly as they were having a birthday party for her husband. She said the next time she saw her son was when she was called to Guam Memorial Hospital to identify her son's body in February.

Defense attorney Phil Isaac will begin his case in court today before Judge Steven S. Unpingco.

Guam inmates donate their lunch to homeless, the needy

By Jacob Leon Guerrero
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA - More than two hundred inmates offered their lunch to people outside who are homeless, downtrodden, lonely, or just plain hungry.

According to Acting Director Angel Sablan, the Department of Corrections opened its facility to 233 people who have no place to eat or obtain a lunch meal on Christmas Day.

"In the spirit of Christmas, the inmates felt that in some small way they could do something good for someone," Sablan said.

In other DOC news, the former Rosario Detention Facility was completely renovated into a complete Women's Facility.

The new facility now has electronic locking/unlocking devices on all doors and cell blocks, surveillance cameras, law library, individual commodes, air conditioning, fire alarms, and sprinklers. In addition the new facility has separate areas for detainees and federal inmates.

The cost of renovation added up to over $250,000. Inmates contributed talent and labor for painting, masonry work, and fabrication of metal bunks.

Forty-one women will initially occupy the facility which can hold up to 54 inmates.

"This is a major step in complying with the Department of Justice requirement as it provides women with a decent, humanitarian and safe facility," Sablan said.

Sablan also mentioned, "While we take no pride in opening up an additional facility, we do take pride in the fact that we have a Governor and Legislature that saw the need to provide basic human services to even those that have wronged society. This allows us at Corrections to carry out our mission in a more effecient and effective manner."

Sanctuary land bid to be heard

By Tanya M.C. Mendiola
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA - A public hearing is scheduled for Jan. 19 to discuss the construction of permanent facilities for Sanctuary, Inc. "Home for Troubled Youth."

The non-profit organization started on Guam in 1971 when father Robert Phelps wanted to provide help in terms of emergency shelter for the island's troubled youth.

Since then, according to Sanctuary Acting Executive Director Lisa Natividad, the organization has expanded to meet the growing needs of the island youth.

"We have grown progressively especially over the past five years. The needs of the island's youth are so plentiful and we have to challenge ourselves constantly to meet them," said Natividad.

Sanctuary clientele are those with no criminal activity on their police records. Clients do, however, have "status offenses" because of age.

These are law violations such as truancy, runaways or beyond control.

According to Sanctuary's 1998 Annual Report, the bulk of their clients are 16-year-olds who come to the shelter from Child Protective Services.

Natividad said that it is found that clients with status offenses usually commit them as a result of a "bigger problem" at home.

The shelter is a place where kids can turn to sort out problems.

Natividad said the agency receives financial support in terms of contributions from the community and corporate sponsors.

The shelter was chosen as one of the non-profit organizations that received a donation last Thursday from IT&E.

Sanctuary programs are additionally supported by federal funding.

Sanctuary programs include Emergency Shelters. Clients remain in Sanctuary custody for 30 days and this is considered short-term housing.

A long-term program is the organization's Transitional Living Program (TLP) for clients ages 16-21 to teach them independent living skills.

TLP clients have been in the juvenile system for most their lives, according to the report, and most are unprepared to live independently.

Other programs that are indicative of the organization's expansion include the Community Development Block Grant Program (CDBG). This program is for at-risk youth living in low-income housing. CDBG funding is federally through Housing and Urban Development and administered locally through the Guam Housing and Urban Renewal Authority.

Lori Perez, CDBG outreach worker, said the program was implemented last year and she

Continued on page 22

Long distance telecommunications carrier IT&E last Thursday presented $1,000 check to representatives of Sanctuary, Aleen Shelter, the Salvation Army, Catholic Social Services, and Rainbows for all Children at the IT&E main office in Tamuning,
Photo by Jacob Leon Guerrero

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JAL stays committed to NMI

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

JAPAN Airlines remains committed to the tourism industry in the Northern Marianas as it stood firm on its original plan to increase seating capacities of all its flights to Saipan from the Kansai Airport.

JAL has upgraded the airline company's present Boeing 767 planes which service the Northern Mariana Islands to DC-10.

JAL officials said the airline company does not intend to downsize its Saipan operations, citing the increasing awareness of Japanese tourists about the CNMI.

The assurance was made amidst the virtually immobile Japanese economy which was severely impacted by the region-wide financial upheavals which sent the US dollar soaring against the yen.

Analysts said the present financial situation in the country may affect tourist arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands since majority of Saipan visitors are from Japan. A higher dollar would mean weaker buying value of the yen which is expected to discourage tourist movements since traveling requires spending in dollars.

But JAL executives remain optimistic about the future of tourism industry in the CNMI, stressing that there will be no changes in the airline company's flight schedule. "No changes...No problem," said JAL officials when asked if the company is planning to adjust its flight schedules with the current decline in the number of outbound Japanese tourists.

The airline has direct Japan-Saipan-Japan flights everyday, which have been very effective in encouraging more travels among Japanese tourists to the Northern Marianas.

Officials said the company is guided by the 3D principle "and our own experience tells us this principle is really working on our favor."

The 3Ds stand for Direct, Daily and Daytime operation.

JAL is now serving two key cities in Japan - Osaka and Tokyo - from where the big bulk of Japanese tourists to the NMI are coming.

Airline officials explained that Osaka, being the second largest city in Japan, is surrounded by several cities, making it one of the major points of tourist traffic in the country.

JAL started increasing the airline company's seating capacity last April 1, which means an additional 23 percent available seats in the company's Osaka flights.

The airlines' Saipan-Tokyo route remains unchanged, with JAL still using B747, which can seat at least 430 passengers.

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Teno keen on PSS's request for executive staff to teach in school

Rita H. Inos

Pedro P. Tenorio

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

SOME EXECUTIVE branch staff may soon find themselves teaching up to two courses a day in public schools.

This was known as Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio expressed optimism on the Public School System's request of creating a special program where executive branch staff with bachelor's degrees would teach one or two courses a day in their field of expertise.

For example, a staffer from Fish & Wildlife with a degree on marine science would be allowed to teach marine science at the Marianas High School or the Hopwood Junior High School.

Tenorio said he doesn't want to see the operations of PSS jeopardized just because of lack of funds to pay for teachers so he would want to make sure that the proposal will be reviewed thoroughly.

"I am sure that there is a possibility (of doing that). When time comes and we have to do it to make sure that children will continue (to receive) their formal education, I will do it," he said.

The chief executive, at the same time, lauded PSS Commissioner Rita H. Inos for her creativity and hard work in ensuring that the education of children is always a priority.

"The commissioner of education is trying to find innovative ways to make sure that our children (education) will not be jeopardized and continue to open the school.

"We are working closely with the commissioner on most of the

Continued on page 26

Public warned vs DUI during holidays

By Jacob Leon Guerrero
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA - Holiday merrymakers should celebrate responsibly, or face the consequences. The first two weeks of the holiday season yielded some 20 DUI arrests.

According to Highway Patrol investigator Allan Guzman, motorists who drink or use drugs before getting behind the wheel will eventually get caught.

Guzman said that the Guam Police Department and the Highway Patrol are out in force to ensure and deter people from killing themselves or others this holiday season.

Guzman said that he does not want to prevent people from enjoying themselves but stressed that people take proper precautions. Guzman mentioned that the soberiety checkpoints are deterrents against people drinking and

Continued on page 26

Members of the "Young Hearts" dance troupe pose for the camera on Christmas Day at Larry Tudela's residence in Dandan.
Photo by Tony Celis

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GVB eyes spring campaign funds

Variety News Staff

HAGATNA - The Guam Visitors Bureau (GVB) is eyeing several alternativesto fund the marketing of its upcoming spring campaign in lieu of the delay in the $1.5 million reimbursement the bureau was supposed to get for advancing money to the Two Lovers Park upgrade project.

By putting up the money to jump-start the Two Lovers upgrade project, GVB expected to be reimbursed once a $1.5 million appropriation bill is approved by the Guam Legislature. On Dec. 18, the Legislature passed Bill 739 shifting $1.5 million from the Tourist Attraction Fund to the GVB.

But during GVB's last board meeting, Acting GVB General Manager Theresa Cruz-Paulino said Gov. Carl Gutierrez has not yet signed the GVB reimbursement bill into law. "There is a holdup because the bill approved by the legislature contained provisions that were not in the original bill," Paulino explained.

"For one thing, the bill requires the maintenance to be done by Parks and Rec. But that agency has indicated that it does not have the resources to do that. Another issue is a land exchange that was not found in the original bill."

The delay in the reimbursement will further hurt GVB's promotion for its upcoming spring campaign, DFS Guam President Gerry Perez said. According to Perez, at

Continued on page 26

Kids in holiday gear wave from their float during a recent Christmas parade on Rota.

Bisita Guam funding OK'd

Variety News Staff

HAGATNA - The Guam Visitors Bureau (GVB) has approved a $5,000 appropriation for the maintenance of the Bisita Guam website in the Internet.

Bisita Guam offers additional information about Guam from the perspective of Chamorros who reflect on events and circumstances that have markedly affected the people culturally, linguistically, and religiously.

Bisita Guam, which means Visit Guam, takes the viewer through randomly selected episodes that project an entirely different dimension of the island and its people.

The first series of episodes is entitled, Nihi Ta Bisita, meaning Let Us Visit. It revolves primarily on the original native population, the Chamorros, their culture, their language, and their religious beliefs.

It spans a large segment of history, from the days of European contact with Ferdinand Magellan in 1521, through the days of Spanish ruler for over 350 years, the Spanish-American War, the Japanese occupation in World War II, up to the present time.

The web site's primary goal is to sharpen the focus on those things that are important to the Chamorro people with the hope that this would rekindle interest in the need to protect and preserve the island's precious natural and cultural resources.

Its secondary goal is to provide those interested in knowing more about Guam, including a glimpse of the beautiful and bountiful island through the eyes of one of her native sons.

Bisita Guam is written and produced by Ben Blaz, a native son of Guam, a retired general officer of the Marines, and a former Member of the U.S. Congress (1985-93).

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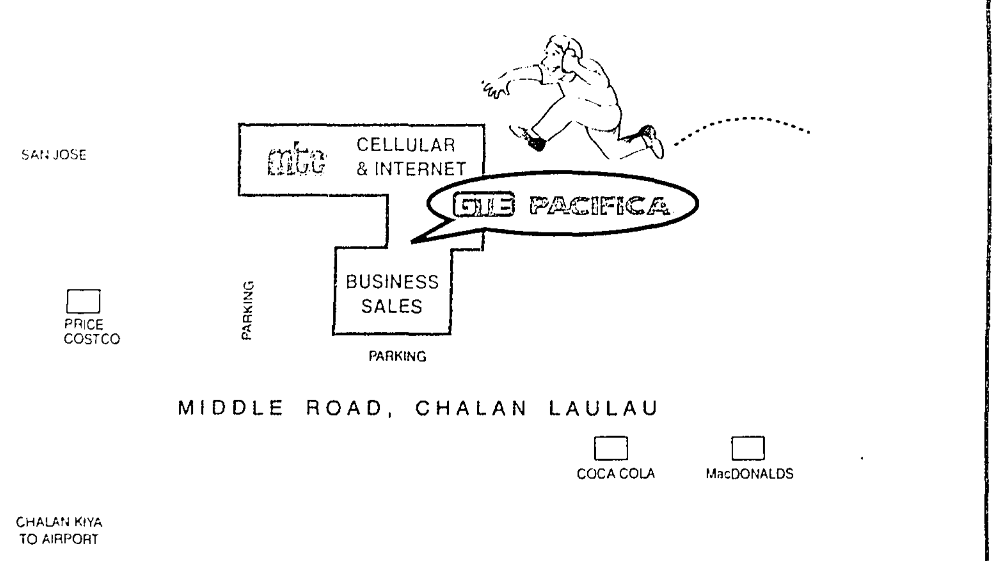

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Women's Affairs office lauds CNMI part in RP conference

THE Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands was well represented at the International Conference on Women's Role in History & Nation Building, Evolving Women-Centered Paradigms through Herstories for the 21st Century, held in Manila from December 8 to 12, 1998.

The CNMI Delegation consist of Honorable Floor Leader Anna S. Teregeyo, the Special Assistant for Women's Affairs Office, Ms. Marian Dlg. Tudela, Ms. Chailang Palacios and Mrs. Mojdeh Bruss from the Department of Public Health.

The International Congress on the Role of Women in History and Nation Building was an excellent conference where the main focus was to recognize and document the Filipino women's role and contribution to nationhood in the last 100 years.

The role of women in the CNMI, like that of Filipino women have not been properly recognized for their contribution in the development and progress of our islands.

Women as wives and mothers devote themselves to teaching values, customs and traditions to our families, which provides stability and foundation for cultural identity and pride in the community, said Ms. Marian Dlg. Tudela.

The Congress was sponsored by the Philippine Centennial Commission - Women Sector welcomed the CNMI delegation with enthusiasm and great hospitality.

There were 1000 people who participated in the congress. Each day the conference focused on a different issue related to women: Women's Movement, Gender Issues in Sustainable Development and the Global Economy, Women, Health and Family Life Scenarios in the 21st Century, Human Rights and Violence against Women and Girls.

Topics were well covered by both the government and non-government sectors. Participation in the conference offered an opportunity for our delegation to share and learn each other's knowledge and experience toward building a healthier, stronger and safer community throughout the Pacific and Asian countries.

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World Corp may get back lease

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THERE is a possibility that management of the World Corp. may have their lease back, according to Division of Public Lands Director Bertha Leon Guerrero.

"They have already expended money on their propose projects and that is one of the reasons why they prefer to hold on to their lease and see," said Guerrero in an interview.

Management of the company has been asked to submit a formal request on their intent to keep the lease which will be reviewed by the Board of Public Lands (BPL) to determine whether or not the lease should be given back.

Bertha Leon Guerrero

Guerrero did not dismiss the possibility that BPL is actually inclined to reinstate the lease in view of the current economic situation.

"There is a possibility (that World Corp. can have its lease back). Those (proposals) are something we are looking at. We want to see what kind of conditions they want us to consider," said Guerrero.

She said government has yet to receive a formal petition on the matter by World Corporation.

Tomas B. Aldan, in an earlier interview, said government is being compelled by the current economic crisis to hold on to delinquent lease holders despite failure to being projects than let them go as long as the pay the rents on time.

"We'd rather have them (investors) here and not build than let them go, so long as they continue to pay the rent. We try as much as possible to keep them here," Aldan told Variety.

He said the economic crisis is "one of the major reasons" why BPL has opted to give erring investors the kid's glove treatment, adding that under the present situation it seems wiser to keep what CNMI already has than let them go with-

Tomas B. Aldan

Continued on page 26

Salary cuts should be last resort-- DOC chief

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio should implement an across-the-board public sector salary cut "only as a last resort," according to Commerce Secretary Frank B. Villanueva.

Villanueva, in an interview, instead proposed that the governor look into the possibility of imposing new income tax cuts in the hope that this could lead to increased revenue collections.

Villanueva's remarks came in light of recent announcements by the administration to have salaries of all government employees reviewed to see whether how much can be cut to save on expenses.

Villanueva reasoned that reducing government workers' salaries could cause people to cut on spending, which in turn could further dwindle existing money in circulation and hurt business establishments.

On the other hand, income tax cuts could cause people to spend more, thereby infusing fresh money into the economy, he said.

"I will be urging the governor to consider salary cuts as a last resort and to consider looking into income tax cuts to increase people's disposable income," said Villanueva.

Salary and income tax cuts, he conceded, "maybe difficult because the government needs personal income tax and business taxes for its operation."

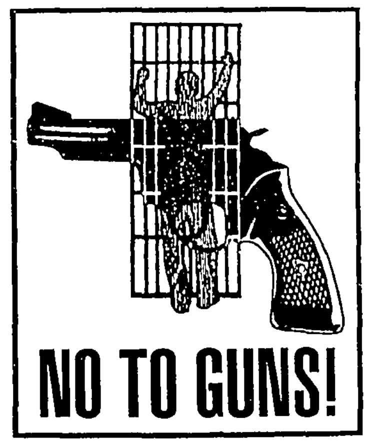
"I know that our government has been under criticism by the private sector for overspending. However, it must be understood that in small island economies... government spending on operations and salary is a major engine for economic growth," Villanueva further said.

Government is the Commonwealth's biggest employer with over 4,000 workers in its payroll.

Tenorio has said he "favors" a reduction on government salary, explaining that a wage review under the present economic situation will help determine whether or not there is a need to reduce existing salaries.

His remarks came at the heels of a proposed legislation seeking to trim down Tenorio's annual salary from $70,000 to $50,000.

Tenorio said he prefers an across-the-board salary cut.



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Sablan eyes Guam Shipyard internship program for NMI

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

THE apprenticeship program by the Guam Shipyard has caught the attention of Mayor Jose C. Sablan who wants to adopt the project for CNMI residents.

Sablan said he wants to go into a partnership if possible with officials of the ship facility to let residents of the islands benefit from the project.

Sablan made known his intentions last week, when he wrote Bruce Spencer, the general manager of the Guam Shipyard, and asked more details about the program.

The ship facility internship program by the has been helping some residents of Guam by providing technical training on repair and other ship works.

Jose C. Sablan

It has just tied up with a community school which is also based in Guam wherein it agreed to help train students on this aspect.

In his letter, Sablan said he ias ''enthusiasticaly curious to learn more about the program'' and asked Spencer wether CNMI residents can enroll in it.

If it fits the residents of the islands, Sablan said he wants to have a meeting with the general manager and discuss logistics for project implementation.

The mayor was greatly encouraged by the program which will not only train residents of Guam but also guarantees them a job right inside the shipyard.

Guam Shipyard has already put up a school, the Guam Technical Institute to train new workers and upgrade the skill of those who have already been employed.

According to Spencer, they are looking forward to a partnership with any training institutions or agencies in their internship program.

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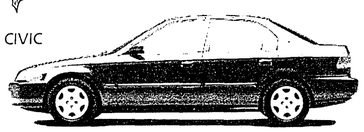
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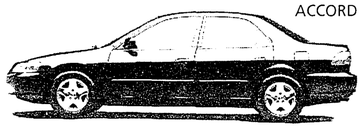

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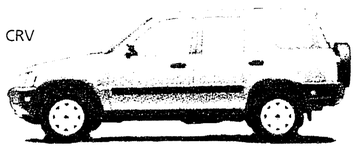
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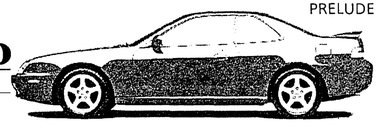

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CRM to give up broken vessel

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

COASTAL Resource Management (CRM) Director Felipe Q. Atalig is returning a broken sea vessel to the Office of Procurement and Supply (OPS) to cut on maintenance cost and use the savings for the CRM staff's salaries.

In an interview, Atalig said CRM is returning the 17-foot Boston Whaler because CRM does not have enough budget to maintain it. The vessel's engine is not operational.

CRM currently has one other boat aside from the broken one.

"We have to surrender that because given the present budget situation, we can not afford to have two boats," said Atalig.

"This one that we are surrendering has not be in operation for the past months. I really don't see the reason why we should be keeping two boats. It is very expensive to maintain," he added.

Atalig said he is trying to trim down CRM's $5,000 annual maintenance budget to ensure that funds are available for the CRM staff's salaries.

"Our main concern here is to make sure that workers get their payday. Because if we continue this (spending), we may end up with payless paydays," said Atalig.

In another development meanwhile, Atalig has given a company which owns a sea vessel that ran aground in Lower Base until today to remove the boat or face fines of up to $10,000 for failure to do so.

In a letter he sent to a Daniel F. Ladringan, authorized representative of Jin Young Enterprises, Atalig said the M/V Dolphin should be removed from the North Seaplane ramp in Lower Base as it poses an environmental hazard to the coastal water and the surrounding onshore facilities nearby.

Reyes not keen on Attao plan to fund PSS

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

THE CHAIR of the House Ways and Means Committee expressed opposition on Rep. Jesus Attao's proposed legislative initiative that would give Public School System 25 percent of the government's total revenue.

The PSS is currently receiving 15 percent of the total government's revenue as mandated by the CNMI Constitution.

Rep. Karl T. Reyes said that it is important to address the needs of the PSS and the Northern Marianas College based on the actual needs rather than a mandate on the Constitution.

"Since we are giving the PSS and the college more than what is requested in the Constitution, it is better to base the allocation on their specific needs," Reyes said.

According to Reyes, he would support any government agency based on its actual funds need than the Constitutional requirement.

"It is true that PSS is an agency that should always be there and so is the hospital and DPS. We don't need to revert the Constitution all the time when it comes to the need of funding," Reyes continued.

He said that the present budget shortfall of most government agencies poses a big challenge for politicians.

Reyes said that if government needs to elevate the standard of education or the health system, the government should allocate more money on priority agencies.

It can be recalled that Rep. Heinz Hofschneider earlier opposed Attao's proposed education budget legislative initiative.

Hofschneider said the government should not "constitutionally restrict" one recipient a set amount of money for each fiscal year.

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

SGMA donates to SAES

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

THE UNITED International Corporation (UIC) donated $1,640 to San Antonio Elementary School Friday to be used in upgrading the campus' Building D electrical installation.

UIC President James Lin and Saipan Garment Manufacturers' Association President Richard Pierce handed out the assistance money to SAES Computer teacher Tim Musgroue.

PSS Acting Associate Commissioner Rita Sablan was present in the donation-giving and thanked Lin and Pierce in their constant assistance to the cash-strapped education system.

Musgroue said the money donated by UIC is sufficient to finish the whole electrical upgrading project.

Aside from the financial assistance, Lin is also willing to lend some of his workers to SAES for the completion of the electrical ugrading project.

Musgroue said SAES has already been asking the Public School System for some funding for the electrical ugrading of their building since last October.

The building's installation did not pass national standards.

However, due to budget shortfall of the education system, the school's request for the necessary electrical upgrading was not approved by the PSS.

The electrical power and service on the school's Building D is too little to furnish all necessary power for air-conditioning. The classrooms are currently on a load-shedding schedule throughout the day to allow partial air-conditioning.

Last October, PSS Project Architect Kathryn Ladoulis told Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos that SAES Building D needs electrical service requirement to meet the National Electrical Code.

Ladoulis requested Inos to provide the school for the necessary funding for electrical ugrade and not as a deduction from the school's yearly maintenance budget.

But the due to the limited resources of PSS, the funding was not allocated for SAES.

Lin, it will be recalled, also donated some airconditioning units to SAES at the start of this school year.

PAG: Insurance needed to ship Guam fireworks

Variety News Staff

HAGATNA - The Port Authority of Guam (PAG) is asking the Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association (GHRA) for a more detailed insurance contract prior to PAG's lending of a barge that will carry fireworks for the island's traditional New Year fireworks show.

Earlier, GHRA requested the use of a PAG barge for the fireworks display in Agana bay. This is the first time that the Agana Bay fireworks will not be fired off from Paseo Park.

According to GHRA, the use of a PAG barge will not only make the fireworks show safer, it will also provide a better view and a wider coverage since the fireworks can be fired from the center of Agana bay.

GHRA has already sent PAG a lease agreement basically indemnifying the authority of any problems that may arise from the fireworks display.

But PAG Legal Counsel Phil Carbullido said the indemnification document will not do. "Indemnification is not enough. We need a specific liability insurance policy for the port authority."

PAG officials are expected to meet with GHRA this week to resolve the issue.

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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

WSU will help train PSS staff

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

A WAYNE State University staff is arriving on Saipan next month to train education personnel regarding the Governor's Disabilities Council's Inclusive Education project, according to Council Executive Director Thomas Camacho.

The WSU staff from Michigan is expected to arrive mid-January.

The Inclusive Education, Camacho said, is a project of the DD Council funded by the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act administered by the Administration on Developmental Disabilities, Administration for Children and Families, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Camacho told PSS that the DD Council has already allocated $21,000 to fund the project.

The project is designed to assist the islands' educators in meeting the goals of students with disabilities through policy and procedure development, training, program evaluation and materials development.

The DD Council is currently working with PSS to come up with teams consisting of seven to eight members each from school board members, administrators, educators, families and advocates.

Public school principals told Camacho to train teams of trainors which will eventually teach other PSS personnel especially those assigned on Rota and Tinian.

The WSU staff will provide training and technical assistance to local school boards, administrators, teachers and parents on federal laws related to special education, rehabilitation and disability rights, inclusive education philosophy, practice, outcomes and due process procedures.

According to Camacho, one of the goals of the project is to evaluate the effectiveness of special education services in the CNMI public schools and the satisfaction of parents from those services.

"We want to check and look at the policies of the PSS if all those policies are inclusive policies. We basically want to promote the children with disabilities equally and we will not only stop to school, we will reach out to PSS Central Office and the Parents and Teachers Association," Camacho said.

HongkongBank Saipan branch manager (6th left) donates $500 to Health Sec. Joseph Kevin Villagomez for the Children Development Assistance Center Friday. Contributed photo

Philippine Consul Julia Heidemann (middle) and Vice Consul Ronnel Santos (5th left-sitting) gather with the winners of the Philippine Christmas Village contest at the Mount Carmel ballfield Thursday night. Photo by Louie C. Alonso

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PSS's Distance Education program to air on Channel 98 by Jan. 25th

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

THE PUBLIC School System's Distance Education program will be aired on Channel 98 starting January 25 next year.

According to PSS Technology Representative and program coordinator Phebe McGinnes, the Northern Marianas College is very instrumental in the implementation of this project.

McGinnes said the project is a joint effort of PSS and NMC.

Channel 98 is also being used by NMC for their Distance Education classes.

The program will run from 7:45 to 8:30 in the morning and will be aired every Tuesday and Thursday.

As a pilot episode, the distance education program will first tackle music arts.

Oleai, Garapan and San Antonio Elementary Schools will be participating in the debut telecast.

McGinnes added the PSS distance education project will run for eight weeks.

"This is a fourth grade music program which aligns to the curriculum. The kids will have a chance to learn basic music skills. Anybody that has a cable television can view the program," McGinnes said.

The program, according to McGinnes, is a PSS pilot-experimental project.

"After this, we can do an evaluation and discussion if we can do the program or start another project," McGinnes added.

The PSS did not spent funds for the said project. McGinnes said the training, services and hardware are all free with the help of NMC, Marianas Cable Vision and GTE Pacifica.

The PSS Distance Education program is part of the education system's push for the implementation of instructional technology plan which will provide "standardized information and technology growth" among teachers and students.

The technology plan will provide opportunities for students and teachers to develop the attitude and belief that technology is a substitute tool that will assist them in attaining their goals in all aspects of human life.

Pacific fishing islands send message to fishing nations

By Giff Johnson
For the Variety

MAJURO - Pacific island nations are flexing their muscles tő control - and increase their benefits from - tuna fishing in the region, Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority director Danny Wase said in an interview Thursday.

The eight nations that control the ocean area where the bulk of all tuna is caught, agree on two key points that will be put before Asian and American fishing representatives at a meeting next February aimed at developing a comprehensive management and conservation system before tuna is fished out of the region, Wase said.

A vessel monitoring system (VMS) that will allow island countries to know where fishing boats are and, most importantly, where they are catching tuna, is soon to become a requirement before foreign fishing boats can get licensed to fish in the Pacific, he said.

Island countries currently earn five percent of the landed catch value for fish caught in their 200 mile exclusive economic zones, and with the onboard VMS operating it will be possible to pinpoint where the fish were caught.

The eight island countries meeting last week in Majuro — all parties to the Nauru Agreement — agreed that the VMS requirement should be implemented in the very near future.

"We're sending a message to the distant water fishing nations," Wase said.

"The VMS will become a condition of licenses." Wase added that most fishing countries already have similar equipment on board, but the effort is to get VMS equipment that is compatible with the computers and monitoring equipment used by the Solomon Islands-based Forum Fisheries Agency and its 16 member countries in the region.

The other major issue involves management and control of fishing within areas known as "enclaves" — high seas areas that are surrounded on all sides by exclusive economic zones (EEZs) of Pacific islands.

While acknowledging that everyone has "equal rights" on the high seas, Wase said island countries are in agreement that islands bordering these high seas "enclaves" will monitor fishing actions there and use their licensing procedures to prevent illegal activities in these high seas areas.

The eight countries — Nauru, Federated States of Micronesia, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Kiribati, Tuvalu, Palau and the Marshall Islands — that are the primary fish resource holders in the region now have common positions for the talks in February with all of the distant water fishing nations, Wase said.

The Majuro talks "were a good reflection of the sub-region's aim to establish a proper management system in the central and western Pacific," Wase said.

The meeting in Honolulu in February will be the third multi-lateral high level conference that is working to develop a fisheries management and conservation agreement for the Pacific with the cooperation of both fishing nations and island countries.

The process was launched in Majuro when the first meeting was held in 1997.

Wase does not expect a final agreement to be reached at the meeting in Honolulu, though most countries are keen to have a management pact in place as soon as possible.

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Fiji women's rights group wants action from gov't

SUVA (Pacnews) — Fiji and Tonga are scheduled to play the first ever Pacific Conference gridiron match at Suva's national stadium on Tuesday.

The Fiji versus Tonga game is the first of a five-match gridiron exhibition that will also involve the Cooks, Samoa, Wellington and Auckland.

The games are being organised by the American-based National Professional Minor League Football Conference.

Conference officials have met Prime Minister Sitiveni Ranuka and Sports Minister, Jonetani Kaukimoce, about setting up the regional headquarters in Fiji.

Kaukimoce says his ministry welcomes the game in Fiji. He says it's another door of opportunity for young men in Fiji.

The conference has spent 70,000 US dollars to equip the Fiji side.

It also plans to set up a 14-match competition from August to May between Fiji, Tonga, Cook Islands, Wellington, Auckland, Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea and Nauru.

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Elsewhere in the Pacific

Samoa flights disrupted

PAGOPAGOA (Pacnews) — It has been a blue and moody Christmas for hundreds of travelers booked to travel between American and Western Samoa.

While stormy weather conditions have blown away, flight schedules between the two Samoa during this traditionally busy travel period have not returned to any kind of normalcy.

Since last week, when all inter Samoa flights were cancelled because of the turbulent weather, Pago Pago International Airport has been filled daily with passengers trying to get on flights.

One passenger who had spent the whole day sitting around the airport said it was better for her to wait there rather than to go home and be notified by the airline. She said she would rather wait at the airport than have the airline give her seat to someone else because seats were on a first come, first serve basis.

Both Pago Pago and Apia bound flights are reported fully booked. Samoa Air says it has caught up with the flight backlog created by Sunday's cancellation but Polynesian Airlines is still a day behind schedule.

Polynesian is using only one of its two Twin Otters to ferry passengers and cargo back and forth. The other aircraft was badly damaged in a ground accident at Faleolo Airport in Apia Sunday.

Eye witnesses say the aircraft lost a propeller blade when it hit the side of a building as it was being driven to the Polynesian hangar for shelter. The aircraft is expected to be out of commission for some time.

This leaves only one 18 passenger Twin Otter to carry more than 1000 passengers and an untold quantity of cargo bound for Apia.

The local Polynesian Office has put in a request for a jet flight but it's unlikely that this will happen because the jet is also trying to catch up with a backlog on the New Zealand and Australia sectors.

French Polynesia recovers from flood

SUVA (Pacnews) — A state of natural disaster has been declared in French Polynesia where floods have left more than 1300 people homeless and claimed two lives.

The main island of Tahiti has been mainly affected, in the worst rains to hit the French territory since 1991. The island recorded 320 millimetres of rain in 24 hours at the height of the storm.

Floodwaters have damaged the main bridge on the island's west coast, putting it off-limits for all vehicles. Almost eight kilometres of Tahiti's only road which circles the island for 120 kilometres, has been destroyed.

Its two main water systems have also been destroyed. The two alternative systems which have been activated don't have sufficient capacity, so water rationing is being carried out.

The two people who were killed during the weekend flooding include a 10-year old girl who was sucked into a culvert, and an 18-year old boy caught in raging river waters.

Two people are still missing.

The French army has moved in to begin rehabilitation work, with people in isolated areas being moved out by trucks and helicopters.

Reports from Tahiti say the damage is nowhere near that done by last year's cyclone.

Initial, unofficial estimates put the damage at 10 million US dollars.

Fiji on alert for fake US dollars

SUVA (Pacnews) — Police in Fiji are on the alert for fake foreign currency.

The alert follows the discovery of more counterfeit foreign notes.

A counterfeit US 100 dollar bill was presented in a bank yesterday.

Police have warned the public to be vigilant, especially when receiving US100 dollar bills.

Earlier this year, police mounted a large scale investigation after the widespread discovery of counterfeit foreign money.

Tongan resort managers win international honors

NUKU'ALOFA (Pacnews) — Managers of the dateline Hotel and Kahana Lagoon Resort in Tonga are among tourism executives from more than 52 countries to receive an international staff quality award.

Dateline Hotel manager, Simote Po'uliva'ati, and Kahana Lagoon Resort manager, Joe Tu'ilatai, traveled to Madrid, Spain to receive the award.

Executives from more than 52 countries received the 1998 International Platinum Staff for Quality Award.

Most recipients were from Europe, the Middle East and Asia.

Simote says the Tongan managers received the awards for the achievements of their tourist operations in the past two to four years.

PM Skate: Bougainville gov't must be within constitution

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews) — Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister, Bill Skate, has instructed the government's Chief Secretary, Robert Igara, and Attorney General, Michael Gene, to ensure that any reconciliation government set up on Bougainville is within the framework of the Constitution.

Bill Skate

There has been some concern following a report quoting Bougainville Transitional Government Premier Gerard Sinato that Skate and his government would recognise the proposed Bougainville People's Congress (BPC).

The BPC was set up following a meeting of Bougainville leaders after the PNG parliament failed to pass a constitutional amendment bill to establish a Bougainville Reconciliation Government on Jan 1.

Bougainville leaders are currently meeting to decide the framework of the government and endorse a constitution to be ratified later by a congress.

Some lawyers have questioned how the government can recognise the BPC, which has been set up outside the framework of the constitution.

Skate told reporters yesterday, he did not want to interfere but was concerned that some form of

Continued on page 22

Fiji eyes private hospital

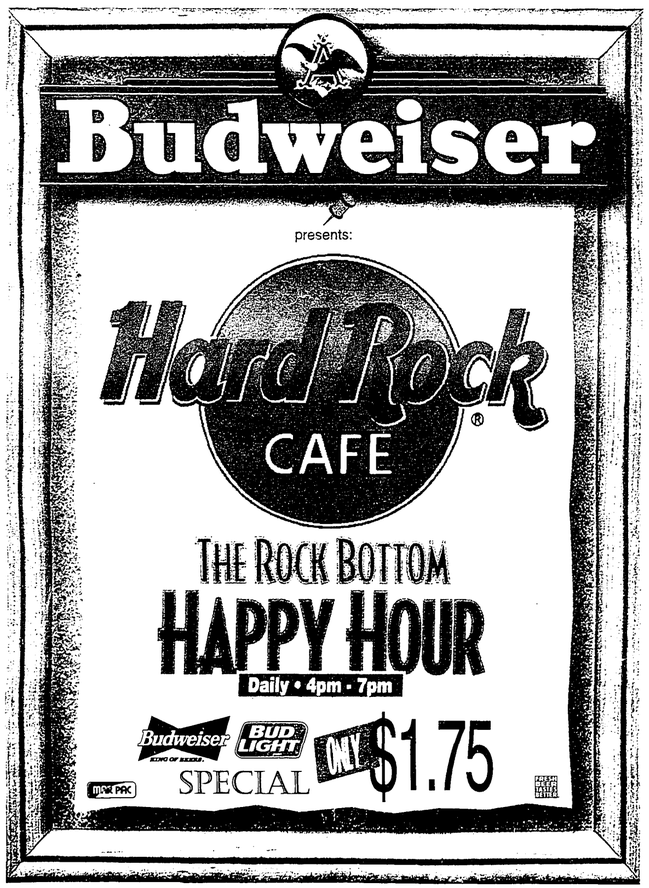
SUVA (Pacnews) — After two unsuccessful efforts in as many years, Fiji again has hopes of a new private hospital.

Insurance giant, Colonial Fiji has teamed up with an international health care operator, which manages more than 40 hospitals in the Southern Hemisphere, to build a private hospital in Suva.

Two other local partners will eventually be involved in the seven million dollar (3.5 million US dollar) project.

Colonial's chief operating officer, Simon Swanson, says among the many spin-offs from the project, it will increase the capability of Fiji's private health care industry and increase the standard of health care in the public sector by reducing demand.

Construction is expected to begin in the second quarter of 1999, with completion scheduled towards the middle of 2000.



HK tycoon draws controversy

HONG KONG (Reuters) - A debate over remarks by tycoon Li Ka-shing that Hong Kong politicians were damaging business provoked strong comments in newspapers on Saturday, with sharply divided views.

"Li Ka-shing does not realise that by saying this he himself is worsening the conflict between industrialists and the political process," Long Choi-tin, a reader of the independent Chinese-language daily Ming Pao, said in a letter to the editor.

"The key question is not that there is too much democracy, it's that there is too little."

Li, Hong Kong's richest man, stirred up a hornet's nest earlier in the week by saying the territory's political climate was becoming too difficult for major new investments.

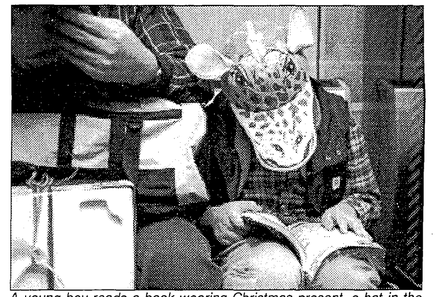
He was backed by a chorus of voices from the powerful industrial sector. Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa moved quickly to reassure business circles.

The pro-China Ta Kung Pao said in its editorial that capitalists had a right to speak their mind.

"In a capitalist system, capitalists have a part to play in economics and politics," the paper said.

"They have a right to voice their opinion, a right to participate. The democrats, by calling themselves the representatives of the people are lying."

The English-language South China Morning Post said there was a danger of Hong Kong society becoming polarised.



A young boy reads a book wearing Christmas present, a hat in the shape of a giraffe's head, as he takes a ride on the Hong Kong subway on Saturday. AP

"The community is seriously in danger of being divided between the haves and the have-nots; between those watching with trepidation as democratic institutions are curtailed, and those who fear the spread of socialism and political support for labour rights in the strongly capitalist society," it said in an editorial.

Hong Kong, a former British colony, returned to Chinese rule last year. Beijing immediately abolished the territory's elected Legislative Council and replaced it with a temporary appointed body.

But in May elections the popular Democratic Party, which Beijing had excluded from bodies preparing for the handover, swept most of the 20 seats which were directly elected. Another 40 seats were not directly elected.

Li, who has extensive property interests, has been criticised by some elected legislators and other politicians for suing would-be buyers who defaulted on flat purchases from his Cheung Kong group. Some other developers have opted not to chase defaulters, in the face of plummeting property prices.

Writing in Ming Pao, former Liberal Party chairman Allen Lee said that the tycoon's comment was a warning.

"It's not that he doesn't like democracy. Of the more than 20 countries where he has invested most are democracies, except for China," Lee said.

"What he said was a kind of warning. If you agree, that's fine, if you don't agree, that's fine too."

Cambodia yet undecided on trial for Khmer Rouge defectors

PHNOM PENH (Reuters) - A top member of Cambodia's ruling party said on Sunday the government has not yet decided whether to put Khmer Rouge defectors Khieu Samphan and Nuon Chea on trial or to propose an amnesty for them.

"So far, the government had not made any agreement whether to put them on trial or propose an amnesty for them," said Heng Samrin, the vice-president of the National Assembly and a leading figure in the ruling Cambodian People's Party.

"If they want to rejoin society, it's OK, the government doesn't forbid that," he told Reuters.

"But it's up to the courts to decide about their activities."

Heng Samrin, a former national president and Khmer Rouge commander, said he personally favoured allowing a Cambodian court to make the decision whether to try the two for crimes committed during the group's 1975-1979 rule.

He said he did not know whether the two might face trial in an international court for crimes against humanity.

"To me it should be a national court. I don't know yet about an international court. It's up to the law and whether their activities related to international humanity."

He said that if a court were to sentence the two, the government could propose an amnesty, but only constitutional monarch King Norodom Sihanouk had the right to grant such a pardon.

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China frets over problem kids

By Elaine Kurtenbach

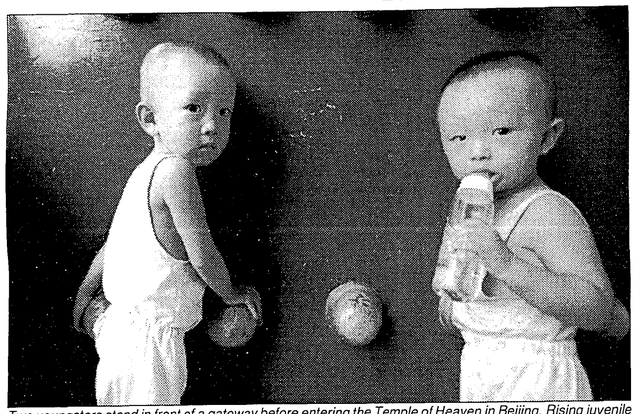
BEIJING (AP) — The writer called himself the "rotten kid." His appeals to the Beijing Evening News struck a nerve among Chinese disturbed by the rise in problem juveniles, prompting letters from worried parents and anguished children.

"I'm one of those so-called good kids, because my schoolwork is pretty good," one youngster wrote. "After school, I smoke, drink and get into fights, but nobody punishes me because I'm a good student. I know I'm a bad kid, but my parents are blinded by my good grades. I hope someone will come save us."

Rising juvenile crime, suicides and other behavioral problems have many Chinese questioning the wisdom of the government's policy of controlling population growth by limiting most urban families to one child.

In just a single generation, five-child extended families have shrunk to single-child nuclear families in the cities.

Some "little emperors" end up smothered by the attention of their well-meaning parents.



Two youngsters stand in front of a gateway before entering the Temple of Heaven in Beijing. Rising juvenile crime and suicides among the very young have many Chinese questioning the wisdom of limiting urban families to only one child. AP

Others are left with little supervision or emotional support.

"The one-child policy is a method, but it is a hopeless method. The cost is very high," said Chen Yiyun, an expert on families at the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences. "But we are also having the same problems as in the West, so we can't blame everything on the one-child policy."

The rising juvenile crime rate — minors account for at least two-thirds of all those arrested — and the gravity of crimes committed by children barely into their teens has shocked many Chinese.

The tendency of parents and grandparents to pamper and over-protect their single offspring long has prompted jokes about teenagers who don't know how to wash their own backs, let alone do laundry.

Reports in the official media reflect more alarming trends.

A gang of more than 30 teenagers in the central city of Xi'an committed dozens of armed robberies and rapes over the past few years. The youngest, an 11-year-old, participated in four gang rapes, police said.

The boy was "cute and lovable, with a very sweet smile," according to a report in the official newspaper Legal Daily. He also belonged to the gang's core, partly because he had access to a car.

Another gang member was the son of a government official and a student with excellent grades who extorted money from his classmates.

The gang members' status as only children was just one factor behind their behavior, Gao Chengge, a psychologist at the Yifu Hospital in Xi'an, said in a telephone interview.

Rising divorce rates and intensifying economic pressures that keep many parents too busy with work to spend time with their children are also to blame, she said.

China's ban on private gun ownership has helped prevent widespread firearms use like that which has plagued American cities, but state media report many killings by children.

In one case, a 14-year-old was charged with strangling his 10-year-old cousin after kidnapping the boy to demand ransom from his uncle in order to pay a debt of about $1,500.

In another, a 15-year-old slammed a brick on the head of an 11-year-old, dragged her into his house and beat her before dumping her in a manure pile, where she suffocated.

A 16-year-old was beaten to death by five boys after an argument over 10 cents worth of soda and gum. The chief suspect is a 13-year-old elementary school dropout.

The "rotten kid" letters drew hundreds of responses from alienated youths as well as from parents and educators during the two months the Evening News ran the weekly series earlier this year.

Parents expressed their frustrations at not knowing how to communicate with their children, or how to get them to study.

Children poured out their troubles with parents who have no time to talk or who are overly preoccupied with school performance.

"I never go home a minute earlier than I have to, because I feel I have nothing to say to my family. Our views and thoughts are totally different," wrote a 16-year-old named Lingling. "I may seem well behaved, but I'm not."

Schools are trying to counter the problem with ethics and morality classes for children and by promoting awareness of mental health issues among parents and teachers.

"People need to pay attention not only to intelligence but to other qualities, such as a sense of responsibility, confidence and independence," said Fang Ge, an education psychologist. "Children need social skills as well as education."

In many cases, problems arise not because of a lack of attention, but because parents tend to be over-protective, said Fang Liluo, a psychiatrist who often counsels families.

"The children are too cherished. Each parent believes, 'My child must be the best,' and loads too many expectations on the child," Fang said.

Such children are perpetually immature, she said. "They can't endure mistakes, are easily frustrated and unable to deal with problems."

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Hours of bus operation will be from 6:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m., subject to the hours of operation of the golf course. Proposal specifications may be obtained at the Law Offices of Vicente T. Salas in San Jose, Saipan.

Proposals should be in duplicate and in a sealed envelope marked "Bus Transportation Service", addressed to Mr. Vicente T. Salas, P.O. Box 1309, Saipan, MP 96950. Proposals must be received on or before 12:00 p.m., Thursday, December 31, 1998. SLDI reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason, and to waive or amend any defect in said proposals, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Next around the world balloon attempt will fly close to space

By ROHAN SULLIVAN

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) - An Australian-U.S. team is readying for its shot at the first nonstop around-the-world balloon flight, with liftoff planned for just days after Chicago millionaire Steve Fossett's team splashed down in the Pacific Ocean.

Denver real estate magnate Dave Liniger's team is making final preparations in the Australian Outback town of Alice Springs. The team expects to succeed where others failed by taking the high road, flying on the outer edge of the atmosphere where weather shouldn't be an issue.

Weather conditions, however, can affect takeoff and landing, and dictate a launch between late December and mid-January. Tuesday morning local time, Monday in the United States, is the first scheduled launch.

The team is making its first attempt at what balloon enthusiasts describe as the last great adventure in aviation. Fossett, British millionaire Richard Branson and Per Lindstrand of Sweden abandoned their more conventional balloon flight Friday about 10 miles (15 kilometers) off Kahuku Point at the northeast tip of Oahu, Hawaii.

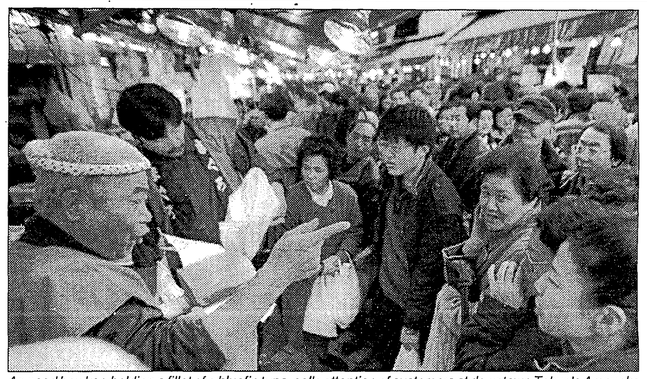
They have tried a total of 11 times.

Fossett's team ditched about midway through its journey after losing the high-altitude 200 mph (320 kph) winds needed to carry the combination helium and hot-air balloon across the Pacific to North America. They got caught in a low-pressure system and feared they would be stuck for a week.

"In the stratosphere, there is no significant weather features, so once we get up there we don't get the storms that have brought down previous attempts," said Dan Pedersen, a former U.S. Navy test pilot and the Liniger team's mission control director.

"At this time of year, the winds are exactly east to west and at 130,000 feet (40,000 meters) they can go clear around the globe," he said Thursday by telephone from control headquarters in Alice Springs.

Though spared the weather concerns, flying in subspace poses its own dangers. The biggest threat is a sudden leak in the gondola _ a 7-foot (2-meter) by 8-foot (2.5 meter) pressurized, temperature-controlled capsule.



An aged hawker, holding a fillet of a bluefin tuna, calls attention of customers at downtown Tokyo's Ameyoko shopping district Saturday. With the new year just around the corner, retailers expect thousands will flock to this famed district seeking bargains. AP

Japan alerted on cult

By Jon Herskovitz

TOKYO (Reuters) - Japan must be on guard for a revived doomsday Aum Shinri Kyo cult and possible extremist Moslem attacks on U.S. military sites in Japan, according to a government security report obtained on Sunday.

The Public Security Investigation Agency said in its annual security review that Aum Shinri Kyo, the cult behind the 1995 Tokyo subway nerve gas attack that killed 12 people and made 6,000 ill, was working to boost its membership and coffers.

"Aum is attempting to re-enlist former members and step up recruiting of new members nationwide. It is also initiating advertising campaigns and acquiring necessary capital," the report said.

The cult also has Internet pages that get as many as 1,000 hits a day, security officials said earlier this year.

They said the most pressing concern about Aum was the group's acquisition of real estate.

"This is a commune-based cult, and once they're in their own space they aren't ruled by Japanese laws, but (cult leader Shoko) Asahara's laws. And they see no reason to obey Japanese laws," one official said.

Asahara is on trial for multiple murders linked to activities of the cult which believed there would be a doomsday end to the world at the end of the century which only sect members would survive.

Since February, Aum has acquired at least five substantial properties, most of them either in or within reach of Tokyo.

Public Security Agency officials said they believed the cult had 33 facilities and as many as 100 dormitories throughout the country, with active membership somewhere around 2,000.

At the height of its popularity before the subway attack, the cult had a hard core membership of about 10,000.

In another security warning, the report said attacks on U.S.-facilities in the non-Islamic world could make U.S. military bases in Japan possible targets of a terrorist attack.

"Japan, which is host to many U.S. military installations and businesses, needs to be on guard for radical Islamic extremists," the report said.

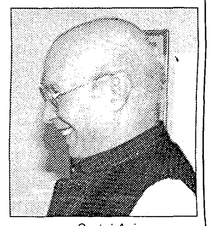
There are about 47,000 U.S. military personnel stationed in Japan.

The report was called the "Review and Prognosis of the Domestic and International Situation." It was an assessment of radical and terrorist groups in Japan and abroad and their possible impact on domestic security.

Pakistan rejects nuke moratorium

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Pakistan will not sign a pact to end production of material used to make nuclear bombs as long as other nations have not, Pakistan's foreign minister said Saturday.

"Given our genuine security concerns, we cannot agree to any demand for a moratorium on the production of fissile materials unilaterally or multilaterally," Foreign Minister Sartaj Aziz told the National Assembly, Pakistan's powerful lower house of parliament.



Sartaj Aziz

Aziz said the United States and other western countries have asked Pakistan to declare an early moratorium on the production of fissile material. But he said Pakistan has concerns about India's stockpile of fissile material, as well as stockpiles worldwide.

Pakistan and India conducted underground nuclear tests last May, declared themselves nuclear powers and generated global fears of a nuclear arms race on the volatile Asian subcontinent.

Both nations are under fierce pressure from the international community to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty, something Pakistan already has expressed a willingness to do.

International sanctions imposed following the underground tests were relaxed after Pakistan indicated it would sign the test ban treaty.

Boy with machete kills ex-convict in Malaysia

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) - A 15-year old armed with a machete stabbed to death an ex-convict who barged into the boy's house on Christmas Day, a news report said Sunday.

Police found the body of Aripin Salat slumped on the stairway of the boy's house, clutching the machete in his hands, The Star daily reported.

According to police, the boy and his two-year-old sister were at home in the rural town of Sandakan on northern Borneo island when the man, in his 30s, came by their house on Dec. 25 asking for a cup of water, which the teenager provided.

The man then asked for a cigarette but the boy said his father, who was working at a farm some distance away, wasn't able to give him one.

Police said the ex-convict then barged into the house and threatened to shoot the boy and his sister. The boy grabbed a machete lying in the hallway, struggled with the intruder and stabbed him at the waist.

The boy grabbed his sister and fled. When he returned with his father, they found the intruder slumped in the house, the machete still embedded in his body.

Police said the ex-convict was released from prison in July.

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UN plane crashes in Angola

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — A U.N. aircraft with 14 people on board reportedly crashed Saturday in Angola in an area where the government's army has been fighting UNITA rebels, a U.N. spokesman said.

There was no word on whether any of the four crew members and 10 passengers had survived.

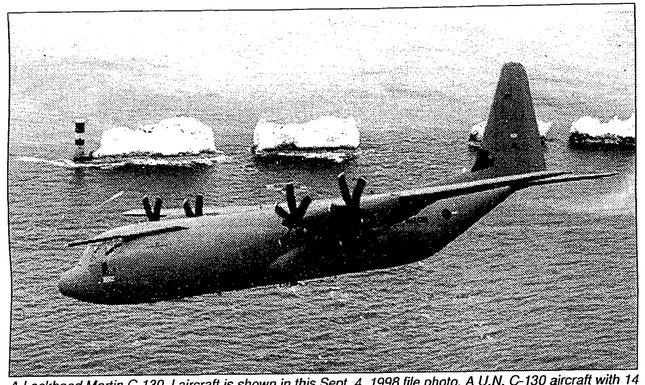
There also was no immediate information on the cause of the crash.

Most of the passengers were members of the U.N. Observer Mission, said deputy U.N. spokesman Manoel de Almeida E Silva.

The military observers are charged with monitoring a 1994 peace accord that is severely threatened by the current fighting.

The Portuguese news agency Lusa said the aircraft burst into flames shortly after take-off from Huambo, 310 miles southeast of the capital Luanda, and crashed 25 miles away in Vila Nova.

Secretary-General Kofi Annan appealed to the Angolan government and UNITA to enable members of the U.N. Observer Mission in Angola to go to the crash site and assist in search and rescue operations.



A Lockheed Martin C-130 J aircraft is shown in this Sept. 4, 1998 file photo. A U.N. C-130 aircraft with 14 people on board reportedly crashed shortly after take-off from Huambo, Angola and crashed 25 miles away in Vila Nova, Angola Saturday. There was no word on whether any of the four crew members and 10 passengers had survived. AP

According to preliminary information from government sources in Huambo, the C-130 probably went down in an area east of Vila Nova, the U.N. spokesman said in a statement.

The plane, owned by TransAfric and chartered by the United Nations, was headed for Saurimo, in the province of Lunda Sul, about 390 miles east of Huambo, according to the news agency.

The four-engine C-130, one of the most widely used military transport planes, can carry up to 92 people.

Annan also called on the two parties to cooperate in a full investigation of the crash, the spokesman said.

The U.N. Security Council has expressed dismay that Angola appears headed back to civil war, which has ravaged the southern African nation for most of its nearly quarter-century of independence.

The fighting has sent more than 50,000 people fleeing from their homes in the central highlands.

Diplomats have been unable to get both sides to adhere to a 1994 peace accord. It called for UNITA, a Portuguese acronym for the National Union for the Total Independence for Angola, to hand areas under its control to the government. However, lingering hostility between the two sides has hindered implementation of the deal.

The council on Wednesday again accused Angolan rebel leaders of undermining the peace process and demanded an immediate end to the fighting.

Some of the world's only octuplets come off respirators

Nkem Chukwu (left) mother of the octuplets, and her husband Ikye Loius Udobi, pause for a picture in her hospital room in Houston, Texas Friday. Chukwu gave birth to the world's only surviving octuplets the past week. AP

By Mark Babineck

HOUSTON (AP) — The youngest of the world's only octuplets underwent abdominal surgery Saturday, hours after one of her brothers experienced breathing problems.

All six girls and two boys remained in critical condition at Texas Children's Hospital's neonatal intensive care unit. All weighed less than 2 pounds at birth and are expected to remain in the hospital through February.

Four of the week-old babies were breathing on their own Saturday. The other four required ventilators.

Gorom, a girl, had surgery to repair an intestinal perforation.

She was the last of seven babies delivered to Nkem Chukwu on Dec. 20. Ebuka, a girl, was born Dec. 8.

Ikem, the first boy born, experienced what pediatrician Dr. Patti Savrick called a "serious respiratory setback" and was put back on a ventilator. Ebuka also returned to a ventilator, though doctors didn't explain why.

Odera, a girl who was the smallest at birth weighing 10.3 ounces, remained on a ventilator and required 100 percent oxygen.

Based on her low birth weight, some experts have estimated her chance of survival at as low as 20 percent, compared to more than 80 percent for her siblings.

Odera also was on medication to fight infection and to control blood pressure. Dr. Patti Savrick, the octuplets' pediatrician, earlier had described doctors as "guardedly optimistic" about Odera.

"We're quite worried. She's literally on minute-to-minute care," Savrick said.

The other octuplets — girls Chidi, Echerem and Chima and boy Jioke — were breathing on their own Saturday night and had suffered no complications so far.

Their mother, Nkem Chukwu, 27, is expected to leave St. Luke's Episcopal Hospital early next week, said Dr. Brian Kirshon, her obstetrician.

Doctors said she was eating well and gaining strength, and walked from her room, down the hall and back again Saturday morning, her first walk since giving birth.

Because of the media attention, she wasn't looking forward to being discharged, said Chido Nwangwu, a member of the parents' tribe in Nigeria and publisher of the Houston-based newspaper USAfrica and Web site USAfricaonline.com.

"What it will do is it will turn the place into a circus," said Nwangwu.

Brazil hunger strikers' health worsens

SAO PAULO (Reuters) - The health of eight prisoners in Brazil who have been on hunger strike for 40 days to demand their release worsened sharply on Saturday, a spokeswoman for the group said.

The eight - convicted of kidnapping a businessman in 1989 to raise money for communist rebels in El Salvador - stepped up their protest Thursday by refusing to drink water.

Doctors, acting on a court order, were forcefully sedating them and administering saline solution via drips, the spokeswoman said.

"Their health condition has worsened sharply," she added.

The five Chileans, two Argentines and a Brazilian were sentenced to up to 28 years each for kidnapping supermarket millionaire Abilio Diniz and demanding a $30 million ransom.

The hunger strike is now the longest in Brazilian history and the prisoners have vowed to continue until they receive a presidential pardon and are deported.

"They always knew their life was at risk and they remain firm in their intention to continue the hunger strike," the spokeswoman said.

President Fernando Henrique Cardoso urged them on Thursday to end their protest but added it would be difficult for him to grant clemency due to the political nature of the crime.

Two Canadians who were convicted of the kidnapping were transferred to a Canadian prison last month under the terms of a bilateral prisoner exchange treaty.

Cardoso suggested Congress should vote on similar exchange agreements with Chile and Argentina during an extraordinary session in January.

The prisoners, in an open letter to the president, said they were encouraged by his comments but continued to insist on deportation.

Even if Brazilian lawmakers approved the treaties, they would have to be ratified in Chile and Argentina in what could be a drawn-out process, they said.

Chilean senators close to Augusto Pinochet would oppose any treaty facilitating the release of former left-wing activists until the former dictator returned home from London, where he is currently under police guard, the prisoners said.

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Clinton hopes Senate 'wiser'

By Mike Feinsilber

WASHINGTON (AP) — Thirty years before the Civil War, Alexis de Tocqueville, that observant Frenchman who wrote a book explaining what makes America work, poked around the Senate and the House and concluded that the former was superior.

He was "struck by the vulgar demeanor" of the House, he wrote in "Democracy in America," but thought the Senate was "composed of eloquent advocates, distinguished generals, wise magistrates and statesmen of note."

At any given time, there are probably at least 100 people — all members of the U.S. Senate — who agree.

Bill Clinton, having been impeached by narrow and partisan votes in the House, is surely among those who hope the Senate marches to a different drummer.

He'd like the Senate, in its wisdom, to spare him a trial or, if it can't work that out, to acquit him and keep him from becoming the nation's first fired president.

Senators like to see themselves as above the fray, as reasoned and deliberate. They call themselves members of the "upper body."

It is considered bad form for a House member to refer to the Senate in debate as "the Senate" or for a senator to speak of "the House." Instead, each refers to the other body as "the other body."

That attitude came through in the House debate on impeaching Clinton. Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill., argued that the House constitutionally could not censure the president, even if senators thought they could.

"Censuring the president is not a function permitted in this chamber," said Hyde with a touch of sarcasm.

"Maybe across the rotunda ... That's another situation. I daresay they are innovative and creative over there on Mount Olympus, but here we're confined by the strictures of the Constitution."

With 435 members, the House is necessarily a more disciplined body, a more partisan one, but, with its leaders running the show, a more manageable one. Members tend to become experts in one narrow area and speak up only when it is before the House.

The Senate, by contrast, comprises 100 individuals, asserting themselves whenever they want to, each able to stop the proceedings at will by simply standing up and speechifying.

As a result, the House operates by majority rule pure and simple, but the Senate must operate by accommodation and compromise or not at all.

There are no backbenchers there.

Republican Mike DeWine of Ohio spent eight years in the House before he moved over to the Senate four years ago.

He had barely arrived when he tuned in to C-Span and listened to the Senate debating repeal of the national speed limit.

He had no expertise on that subject — except for the most deeply personal kind: a daughter, 22, had been killed in crash on a rain-slick highway. He opposed lifting the speed limit.

"So I walked on the floor," he recalled in an interview. "Five minutes later I was in the debate. That's more difficult in the House."

He didn't prevail, but he got his two cents' worth in.

DeWine says the very act of running statewide — and, in his case, representing 11 million people — tends to give a senator a broader outlook, to make him aware of the diversity of his state.

Except for about 30 or so swing districts, House districts are more homogeneous, usually safely Republican or safely Democratic, notes political scientist James Thurber.

So representatives need pay scant heed to views other than those that prevail in their districts.

"I see the Senate as an institution that moderates the House," says Thurber. "I see senators as the adults, inasmuch as they are more insulated, more mature."

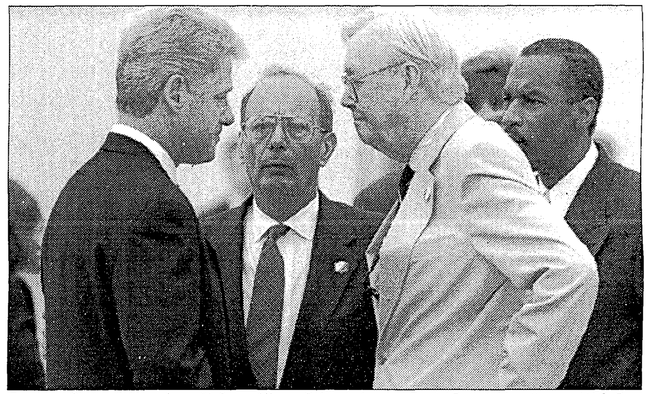
The founding fathers intended for the Senate to be more deliberative. At any time, two-thirds of its members are four or six years away from having to face the voters, long enough for passions to cool.

George Washington is said to have compared the Senate to a saucer into which issues, hot from the House, are poured and get a chance to cool.

Even though senators since 1913 have been elected directly by the voters — in Tocqueville's day they were elected by state legislatures — they can take a more distant view than House members, who are never more than two years from having to face the voters.

The difference was deliberate, says Senate historian Donald Ritchie: "The House was designed to reflect public opinion and the Senate, with six-year terms, was supposed to be removed from prevailing winds."

"The Senate is a club," he says, "and the House a fraternity."



President Clinton (left) confers with Sens. Alfonse D'Amato (center) Daniel Patrick Moynihan and U.S. Rep. Floyd Flake (right) in this July 25, 1996 file photo. After weeks of avoiding questions on where he stood on moves to oust President Clinton, Moynihan said he favors censure but not removal from office. AP

GOP Gov's look beyond impeachment

WASHINGTON (AP) — Republican governors in their year-end message say the impeachment fight isn't the only thing worth talking about.

Utah Gov. Mike Leavitt today gave the GOP's weekly radio address and said Americans must not forget how much the country still needs to do, even at a time when Washington is absorbed by impeachment.

"The events in Washington do not define us," Leavitt said.

He argued that the recent elections showed Republican governors are popular because they have cut taxes, reformed welfare and bolstered their economies.

He also credits Republicans in Congress for balancing the federal budget and providing tax relief.

Leavitt says the country will come through the impeachment drama, and keep working toward the promise of a new century.

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1994 Mazda Protege (164A)	$8,800	$850
1997 Mazda Protege (290A)	$12,000	$1,200
~~1994 Mitsubishi LRV (247A)~~	~~$8,800~~	SOLD!
1996 Nissan Kingcab (P324)	$15,800	$1,500
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1991 Toyota Landcruiser (200A)	$14,900	$1,400
1994 Toyota Tercel (140A)	$8,700	$850
1991 BMW 735i (R306)	$17,700	$1,700
1991 Toyota Landcruiser (R296)	$15,000	$1,500
1996 Mitsubishi Montero (R314)	$22,600	$2,200

After Russia tax breakthrough

Yeltsin lauds Primakov

By Andrei Khalip

MOSCOW (Reuters) - President Boris Yeltsin voiced full support for his Prime Minister on Saturday, saying Yevgeny Primakov was the right man to haul Russia out of its economic abyss.

Yeltsin paid particular tribute to Primakov's pragmatic streak.

Primakov said earlier he had reached a compromise with influential regional chiefs in a row over taxes, which nearly stalled passage of the 1999 budget, seen as key to securing much-needed foreign aid.

"He is the strongest premier, the most reliable one, supported by the president, government, the State Duma (lower parliament house) and regional authorities," Yeltsin said in an interview with the main state television channel ORT.

"He has this special sense from his previous diplomatic job. He uses it a lot to find compromise in all kinds of situations. I cannot but help admire this ability of his," he said.

Yeltsin said the main result of a turbulent year was that Russia managed to remain politically stable. The former foreign minister's confirmation as premier by the conservative Duma in September was the best example of this stability, he said.

Yeltsin appointed Primakov - a former intelligence chief and Middle East specialist during the Soviet era - as a compromise premier to appease Communist opposition in the Duma after the chamber twice rejected more reform-minded veteran premier Viktor Chernomyrdin.

Primakov indeed managed to demonstrate his "special sense" this week. The draft budget, despite being relatively monetarist and tough, met little resistance in the Duma which used to brush off similar attempts by previous and more openly reformist cabinets.

"There is no collision of interests here (between cabinet and parliament)," Primakov said before a government meeting on Saturday.

"The budget is the victory of common sense, of compromise, of the line guided by the government, the Duma and the Federation Council (upper house) to drive the country out of the difficult situation."

Russia is pinning its hopes on the budget as means to persuade the International Monetary Fund, which insists on a continuation of market reforms and a better tax collection, to unfreeze new tranches of an agreed multi-billion dollar loan.

The IMF's approval of the budget would also help Russia's case in talks with foreign commercial and official creditors on restructuring of its huge debt.

At the first budget reading on Thursday, Primakov had to threaten his resignation to force the Duma to pass the austerity draft and persuade the leaders of Russia's 89 regions from the upper house of parliament not to drag their feet.

Senators disagreed with the way tax revenues would be shared between them and the federal government next year. On Saturday Primakov said the government and parliament had managed to find " possible balance of interest in sharing tax revenues."

Yeltsin, whose grip on power has become firmer recently after a period of health problems, on Saturday again ruled out early presidential election before his term expires in 2000 and said he remained the guarantor of the constitution.

Referring to recent anti-Semitic and xenophobic statements by a number of politicians, Yeltsin said: " am readying a mighty offensive on the extremism front." He said a proper anti-extremism law was urgently needed.

In an apparent riposte to Communist demands for a reintroduction of media censorhsip, Yeltsin vowed to defend media freedoms and lashed out at unnamed "certain people" who he said should "behave themselves" in dealing with the press.

President Boris Yeltsin (left) gestures as he speaks to the media after his meeting with Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov in the Kremlin, in Moscow Thursday. Yeltsin, who bristles at the notion of being a lame duck, scolded his potential successors for "acting as if they were already president." AP

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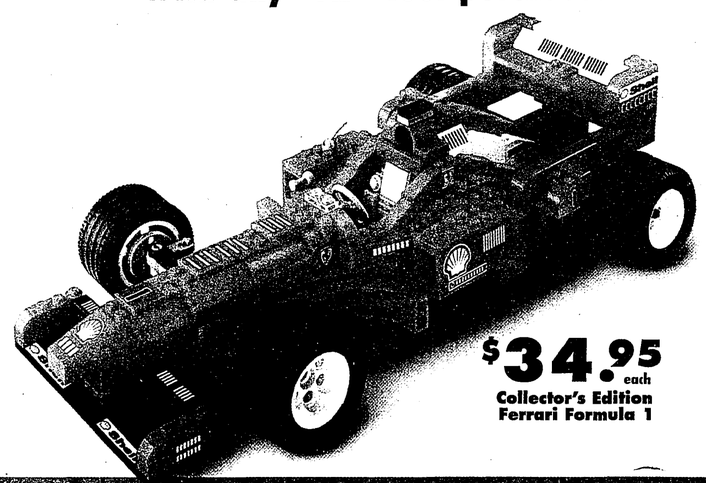

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Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat (left) meets with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak (right) in Cairo, Egypt Saturday. The two leaders are expected to discuss Israel's early elections and its freezing of the two-month old U.S.-brokered Wye River peace accord. AP

'Israeli poll excuse to suspend Wye accord'

CAIRO (Reuters) - Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa said on Saturday Israeli elections provided Benjamin Netanyahu's government with an excuse to suspend implementation of the Wye River peace deal with the Palestinians.

"There have clearly been developments and plans to suspend the Wye River agreement," Moussa told reporters following talks between Palestinian President Yasser Arafat and Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

"The Israeli elections and competition among leaders and parties there will add a new hurdle," Moussa said.

The Israeli parliament voted on Monday to move elections scheduled for 2000 to early 1999, after Netanyahu lost the support of rightwingers who felt the prime minister betrayed them by agreeing to give up West Bank land.

Israel said last Tuesday the election would not stop the implementation of the U.S.-brokered deal if the Palestinians complied with Israeli conditions.

The Israeli government suspended the Wye deal last Sunday, formalising a freeze Netanyahu imposed earlier this month.

Netanyahu alleges Palestinian non-compliance and insists the Palestinians must meet five conditions for Israel to resume the transfer of West Bank land.

Commenting on Netanyahu's decision, Moussa said: "It is clearly a bad message for all concerned parties... It's a message of pessimism."

Moussa said the United States, sponsor of the Middle East peace process, needed to pressure Israel towards fulfilling its commitments in the accord.

"Silence and tolerance about this (suspension), in our opinion, will harm the Middle East and the peace process," he said.

"The U.S. side has to save the situation by insisting Israel implement its commitments."

The United States has urged Israel to proceed with the deal, which provides for the handover of 13 percent more land in the West Bank to Palestinian self-rule in return for Palestinian security steps.

Arafat holds consultations frequently with Mubarak, whose country was the first Arab state to sign a peace treaty with Israel in 1979.

Yeltsin vows to protect free press

By Judith Ingram

MOSCOW (AP) — In a rare television interview, President Boris Yeltsin vowed Saturday to fight extremism and protect the press against attempts to restore censorship and other restrictions.

In an interview with ORT public television, Yeltsin said Russia had suffered through tough times because of the world financial crisis, but "the fact that we preserved political stability, that's the main thing."

Recently, Yeltsin's television appearances to formal appearances and clips of his meetings with Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov and other officials. On occasion, he has looked fatigued and disoriented.

This time, viewers had a chance to see him handle questions, and he was in good form.

Yeltsin sat in a straight chair, his black loafers planted firmly on the floor. He alternately scowled and smiled playfully at his interviewer, as if to signal that he would not let any question catch him up, and he spoke in a strong, steady voice.

He said the 2000 presidential campaign had begun "a little early," and said candidates would regret that because voters would start scrutinizing them carefully for shortcomings.

Yeltsin also said he saw no reason for early presidential elections — making no mention of his poor health, which his opponents say has prevented him from carrying out his presidential duties — and refused to reveal when he would endorse a successor.

He also said he would not allow attacks against the media.

"We will use all our strength to defend freedom of the press, freedom of speech and freedom of the mass media," Yeltsin said.

"I promise you this as president and as guarantor of the constitution."

Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov and his allies have accused Russian television of "manipulating public opinion against the interests of the state" and becoming "the main destabilizing force in society."

Earlier this month, the Communists called for pulling the parliamentary credentials from Russia's three biggest television stations after their cameras recorded a Communist deputy's anti-Semitic remarks during a committee meeting.

The deputy's defenders accused the television stations of reporting on the comments out of context — although they had recorded the deputy, Viktor Ilyukhin, reading a prepared text.

Yemen eyes Arab summit on Iraq

SANAA (Reuters) - The Yemeni president on Saturday discussed the possibility of convening an Arab summit on Iraq in a telephone conversation with the Kuwaiti emir, the first contact between the two since the 1991 Gulf War.

The Yemeni news agency SABA said President Ali Abdullah Saleh telephoned Sheikh Jaber al-Ahmad al-Sabah for "consultations on the preparations needed to convene an Arab summit which Yemen has called for."

SABA did not give any details on the outcome of the conversation.

Saleh last week called for an extraordinary summit following last week's 70 hours of U.S and British air strikes against Iraq. Yemen condemned the military strikes.

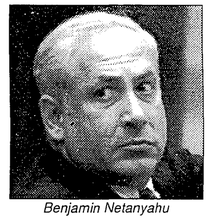
Morocco said earlier this week it supported the idea of convening an emergency summit.

Arab leaders held their last summit in Cairo in June 1996.

Saleh's telephone call to Sheikh Jaber was the first between them since a U.S.-led alliance forced Iraqi troops out of Kuwait in the 1991 Gulf War

Yemen was seen as siding with Iraq in the crisis, a charge denied by Sanaa.

Israel denies election stalling ME agreement



Benjamin Netanyahu

By Sari Bashi

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu Saturday denied Palestinian charges that he had suspended the Wye River peace accord because of upcoming elections, saying the Palestinians were responsible for the freeze.

Netanyahu told Israel Radio he would implement the 2-month-old, U.S.-brokered accord once the Palestinians did their part, including collecting illegal weapons held by Palestinian police and civilians.

Netanyahu criticized the Palestinian Authority for releasing Hamas spiritual leader Sheik Ahmed Yassin from house arrest Wednesday and for the escape from a Nablus jail earlier this week of Jamil Jidala, a Palestinian jailed for killing two Israelis.

On Dec. 2, Israel announced it was freezing the accord because of what it alleged were Palestinian violations.

It also refused to go ahead with promised troop pullbacks from the West Bank unless the Palestinians met a series of conditions, including renouncing plans to declare statehood in May 1999.

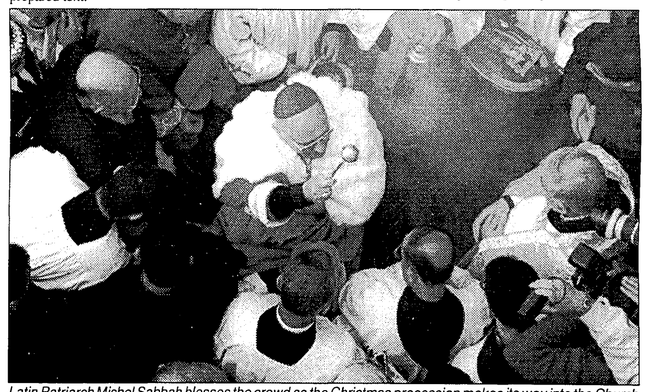
The Palestinians have suggested that early elections for prime minister, triggered by lawmakers' rejection of Netanyahu's peace policies, were responsible for the freeze.

How the peace pact should be implemented — or whether it should be implemented at all — is already a major campaign issue in the elections, expected by late April.

Speaking after Friday night's meeting of the Palestinian Cabinet in the West Bank town of Hebron, chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said the Israeli government was still responsible for carrying out its commitments under the accord.

The Palestinian Cabinet said in a statement following the meeting that it would continue making preparations for a statehood declaration in May.

The Palestinians also said they would seek help from the Arab world and the rest of the international community over the freezing of the peace process.



Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah blesses the crowd as the Christmas procession makes its way into the Church of The Nativity for a mass Thursday in Bethlehem. According to Christian belief, Jesus was born on the spot where the church is built. AP

PM Skate . . .

Continued from page 14

reconciliation government is set up within the Constitution.

Skate has deferred his visit to Bougainville because his presence there now when the leaders are meeting to decide on the reconciliation government would send out a "wrong signal" that his government supports what the leaders are doing.

Bruneman ...

Continued from page 3

DNA and testimony over lack of quality DNA testing to prove Bruneman was in fact the murderer.

Testimony given at the trial has shown that the elder Olley had never met the accused until the evening of Feb.15, when Bruneman approached Olley at his residence asking for a cigarette and the two began drinking together.

Olley's daughter was later raped and killed while he was asleep on a couch.

If Bruneman is called to the stand by defense attorneys, he can then be cross-examined by the prosecution. Legal observers said this is rarely made in a murder trial. Closing arguments by prosecution and defense lawyers before the jury will begin after the last witness is called.

The jury should get the case for deliberation possibly after the New Year's break. The trial resumes at 8:30 a.m. today at the court of Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III.

Iraq . . .

Continued from page 2

State-run television has been showing footage in recent days of pro-Iraq demonstrations in several Arab capitals. A commentator on Saturday night warned Arab rulers who do not support Baghdad that their citizens will have the final say.

Babil, published by Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein's son Odai, echoed the warning in a front-page editorial Sunday.

"Arab masses have denounced and rejected the stand ... of some Arab governments who endorsed strikes on Iraq," the paper said.

The paper published by Saddam's ruling Baath Party criticized Saudi Arabia, charging it showed "flagrant hostility" against Iraq by "putting its airports and territorial waters in the service of the forces of aggression."

Ramadan's interview was conducted in Baghdad hours after Iraq said its anti-aircraft gunners had driven off an attack by "enemy" warplanes trying to hit an air defense site.

The official Iraqi News Agency said the planes flew in from Saudi Arabia and Kuwait but it did not identify their nationality.

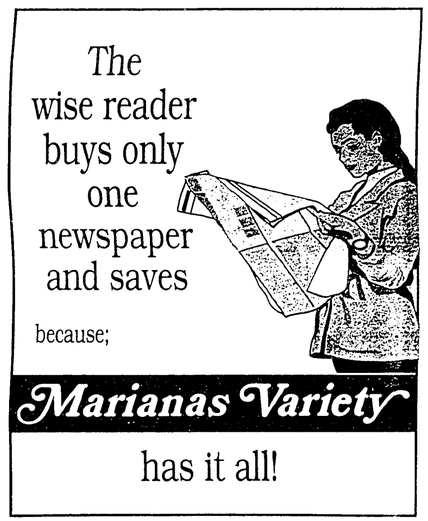
Iraq usually uses the word "enemy" to describe warplanes from the United States and Britain. The United States and Britain base aircraft in Kuwait and the United States also has aircraft in Saudi Arabia.

Washington and London denied any attacks on Iraq.

In London, a Defense Ministry spokesman speaking with customary anonymity said a British pilot Saturday "did sight anti-aircraft fire but he did not consider it hostile."

The United States and Britain launched the attacks after U.N. weapons inspectors released a report saying Baghdad had not fully cooperated as it promised in November when airstrikes were called off.

Iraq has said the inspectors will not be allowed to return.



NO ONE DESERVES CANCER, SO BE SCREENED FOR IT.

DPL . . .

Continued from page 3

tiation in public land deals would rest with the Legislature, which would be the third government party involved in such negotiations.

Noting the Initiative's use of ambiguous language, Guerrero said the leasing of even one square meter of public land would require the "rigorous routing" for an approval.

"Just so we have a better view of this difficult process, an advertisement signage on public land that promotes a commercial enterprise would no less require a legislative joint session approval," she said.

"What appears to be a simple task for (DPL) will be made difficult to a great extent."

Under the current set-up, DPL negotiates with a prospective lessee and BPL reviews and either approves or rejects the land lease. Before BPL takes final action, however, the public will be asked to submit oral or written comments, arguments and alternative proposals.

If the lease involves more than five hectares of public land, both houses of the Legislature will have to approve it in a joint session. Often, the public is again consulted through public hearings before legislators decide on approving the lease.

Guerrero said the Initiative would not streamline the current process, but would pose "so many anticipated obstacles...that we may become inefficient in our daily business of managing public lands."

Introduced by Vice Speaker Jesus T. Attao (R-Prec. 3, Saipan), the Initiative is being reviewed by the House Natural Resources Committee, which is chaired by Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio (R-Prec. 1, Saipan).

In order to pass, a legislative initiative, which is a proposed constitutional amendment, needs the 3/4 affirmative vote of all the members of each house of the Legislature. It will then be placed in the ballot during the next general elections for ratification.

Bill to . . .

Continued from page 3

quirement to waive any local procurement rule.

Rota "almost" lost $3 million in federal grants for road improvement projects due to local procurement regulations, which did not allow for combined design and construction bids, according to the Department of Public Works' legal counsel William C. Bush.

A visiting Federal Highway Authority (FHwA) official told legislators that the agency has no objection to such bids, which were submitted to DPW last Nov. 2.

At the same time, the official said the deadline to obligate the $3 million was last Sept. 30, adding that if the CNMI fails to proceed with the bidding process by the end of the year, the money will no longer be available.

But Bush, who was criticized by senators for not informing FHwA and the administration regarding his concerns on the bids, has assured legislators that the Attorney General's Office will work on emergency regulations to expedite the awarding of the project to the lowest bidder.

The $3 million are for typhoon relief and emergency assistance, and will be used for the repair of Rota's roads that were damages by last year's supertyphoon Paka.

CDA . . .

Continued from page 3

pending. We need to write to them to inquire about the status. If they fail to close the loans within the grace period, we may have to cancel," Dela Cruz said.

He said that the total amount has already been approved by commercial banks which are helping the Development Authority carry out its tasks in helping CNMI residents acquire credits.

He added that CDA has also approved the guarantee statement requested by the commercial banks for the $6 million loan.

But Dela Cruz explained that the Development Authority normally grant borrowers extra time to meet all the terms and conditions both by CDA and the banks before loans are executed.

"In the event that they need extra time, they usually come in and request because they are yet to fulfill the things that they have to work on before the loans are released," he stressed.

Sanctuary ...

Continued from page 6

has already seen a positive change in the clientele. Perez said the program is a positive alternative for the youth in the housing program and provides recreational activity, tutoring, team leaders at each GHURA site.

Another Sanctuary program is the Ayuda Para I Manaina (APIM). This program is for clients' parents and also for parents in general to help them deal with daily stress of raising a family .

Two umbrella programs have grown out of APIM. Home Instructional Program for Pre-School Youngsters (HIPPY) to provide school readiness skills and Fundamentals of Understanding and Nurturing (FUN) for parents newborns to two-year-old toddlers to help parents learn skills about their new babies Natividad said the organization is currently revising its mission statement to reflect its progression over the years since its humble beginning.

Cing files . . .

Continued from page 5

applicant to file with DPW a $100,000 surety bond, with the added condition that the contractor will pay all its workers and subcontractors, including their benefits, and all taxes due to the CNMI.

The bill states that a change in the name of a business or in the type of business entity would not impair a bond as long as one of the original applicants maintains partial ownership in the business covered by the bond.

The bill, moreover, would allow legal action to be brought against a contractor's bond.

The Senate has also passed another bill introduced by Cing, S. B. 11-95, which would allow the registration of any right hand drive vehicle prior to the effective date of Public Law 11-12, which has prohibited it.

The bill is now with the House of Representatives.

Fruit . . .

Continued from page 5

the termination. So now, this final request to the Board was the third and final termination," explained Guerrero.

Guerrero said BPL approved her request to terminate the lease.

In other developments, Guerrero said BPL has approved DEQ's petition that it be allowed to build a nature trail at the Susupe Lake.

The boardwalk trail is part of DEQ's efforts to instill environmental awareness among the islands residents.

Guerrero said BPL has likewise approved a request by the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to use some 2,000 square meter of public land in Koblerville as a fire and police outpost.

Guerrero said the request approvals will now be forwarded to the Public Lands Advisory Board for comments.

Iraq . . .

Continued from page 2

the country.

"Now, and after the aggression...the issue of the Special Commission and its inspections is finished and that is final," Ramadan said.

Parliament Speaker Saadoun Hammadi travelled to Amman to attend a Sunday meeting of Arab parliamentarians to discuss the U.S. and British air raids. He said he would ask the meeting to agree to breaking U.N. sanctions and making the United States and Britain accountable for the attacks.

An Iraqi television station owned by Saddam's eldest son Uday resumed broadcasting on Saturday night, nine days after it was hit on the first day of the air strikes.

Construction . . .

Continued from page 1

not only mean more jobs for the people, but will also improve the standards of living of the community by having the needed physical infrastructure like schools, health centers and prison facilities.

"The administration is trying to put out all the capital improvements projects (CIPs) and other projects not only to provide employment but most importantly, to make sure that the infrastructure is in place," he said.

The CNMI's $154 million list of CIPs has a total of 38 infrastructure projects for Saipan, Rota and Tinian. Although some of them have already been started, the actual construction of most of these projects are yet to be seen by next year.

Among the 38 projects listed, 18 are for Saipan, 11 for Rota, and nine for Tinian.

The priority projects include the construction of a new prison facility that can accommodate 200 inmates, closing down of Puerto Rico dump site and opening up of the Marpi landfill, expansion of the public health facilities, and construction of a new high school and a junior high school.

House Minority Leader Dino M. Jones earlier urged the governor to suspend any ongoing construction projects, and instead give the funding for these projects to cash-strapped agencies like the Public School System, Department of Public Health and the Department of Public Safety.

Gov't . . .

Continued from page 1

year, for instance, it only collected $2.1 million in health insurance premiums, but paid $3.2 million in claims during the same period.

"It (rate increase) will help us make both ends meet. We're not here to make profit just like private businesses. We're here to make sure that claims are paid because right now it is very difficult.

"From the past two years' data, we're finding that the rates we are charging are insufficient," he said.

Manglona also disclosed that the actuary-determined increases is likely to take effect next year as soon as the Board of Trustees amend the agency's existing rules and regulations to incorporate the rate changes.

George Berish of Buck Consultants is currently doing the actuary to determine the exact rate of increases in health insurance premium for government employees.

"There's definitely going to be rate increases. It will be proposed by the actuary. The Board would probably review that early next year, maybe first week of January when we receive the proposed rate increases," Manglona said.

Property . . .

Continued from page 1

and board of directors are now in the process of evaluating the Rota local government's request for the release of the CPA-leased property.

"We are currently evaluating the proposal and as soon as we complete our analysis, we will immediately inform the Rota municipal government," Salas said.

The CPA is hoping to get a financial reprieve from companies proposing to lease a portion of the agency's air and sea ports land. CPA has been receiving proposals from airline companies and related businesses for a lease of its property where additional revenues may be generated and eventually enable the Ports Authority to pay off its debt service.

As this developed, Skydive Inc., a Saipan-based airline company, has proposed to lease approximately 2,000 square meters of land at the Saipan International Airport for the construction of a hanger and office.

The Ports Authority stands to generate at least $1,166.10 a month from the proposed lease agreement, although the property can be leased for only five years with an option of another five years to renew.

At the same time, Guam YTK Corporation, with which CPA inked a memorandum of understanding for the establishment of a fishing facility on Tinian, is requesting that it start business right away, while they do the study and the construction of the two-finger pier.

The MOU lays out the things that CPA and YTK need to do. It also aims to study the feasibility of leasing the two-finger pier on Tinian.

Election . . .

Continued from page 1

first list's 2,162. The list now includes 151 minors.

It also includes addresses and Social Security numbers.

Van de veld's first list, which was supposed to contain fraudulent names, stirred a controversy as it included names of prominent Guam residents and known U.S. citizens.

That the trial may not push through today is possible, however, because there remains before the court a motion filed by the plaintiffs that Judge Joaquin Manibusan should be recused from the case. Van de veld has claimed Manibusan is related to known Gutierrez supporters.

The Superior Court had yet to make a decision on the motion as of last Friday, and attorneys for both sides were unavailable for comment due to the Christmas holiday.

Listen . . .

Continued from page 4

understood. However, I have never paid sales tax when I ordered from an Internet merchant.

Still haven't bought all your holiday gifts and you think time has run out? Nah! Just tell your online merchant to ship it overnight. Some will even make sure it's delivered on Christmas day (for a few more pieces of gold, of course) Ó but you'll still look good. AND, you won't get stuck behind that person in Costco with 3 shopping sleds.

Thanks to one of my readers for the following: "Scanning photos is an excellent way to share & save old pictures. I Recently was able to send my mother's university a picture of her taken The day she graduated in 1915! It came out beautifully! I'm now Starting to scan all her old photos & will try to do my old pictures & I'm putting them on Zip disks. Even 'yellowed' photos look nice. And This is especially good to preserve photos that were pasted into old Albums. You can't remove the picture without damaging it but you can Scan the whole page & remove the 'backing' from the file.

"I didn't understand that part of your article about using the scanner as a fax modem on the Internet. Please explain it further in a later Article."

Well, the way that works is that you just open your fax program that came with your modem and then use the import or scan function of that software.

It's just like putting a piece of paper in a regular fax machine."

One final tip about buying a scanner. You can also use it as a copy machine.

Just scan what you want and then print it from the software. Voila! clear copies of whatever you want!

WEB CRAWLER CORNER

Not much room for sites this week, sorry. But, check out this site on Infoseek for a powerful search engine: http://express.infoseek.com/download_express.phtml?dve_id=317

Just a reminder to go to your favorite search engine and look for "operation desert fox" sites.

Want your web site publicized for free? http://www.associate-it.com/cgi-bin/webannouncer.pl will send it to 24 search engines

Here's Five Holiday Sites from the Scout Report Christmas Recipe.com http://www.christmasrecipe.com/

NORAD Tracks Santa Web Site [Quicktime] http://www.noradsanta.org/

Jewish Communication Network Hanukkah Page http://www.jcn18.com/default.asp?content=article703

Online Kwanzaa Resource Guide [RealPlayer] http://www.itskwanzaatime.com/

Guide to a Hassle-Free Holiday —_Consumer Reports_ http:www.consumerreports.org/news/holiday/

David T. Hughes is an Internet professional and computer consultant. He is available any time for no-charge questions on the Internet, computers or software through e-mail at dhughes@wizard.net or snail mail at the newspaper or at 521 Florida Ave #102, Herndon, VA 20170.

He may also be reached any evening at his home (don't be shy) at 703-904-9699. His web page is *www.ncc1701.net.*

Ordot . . .

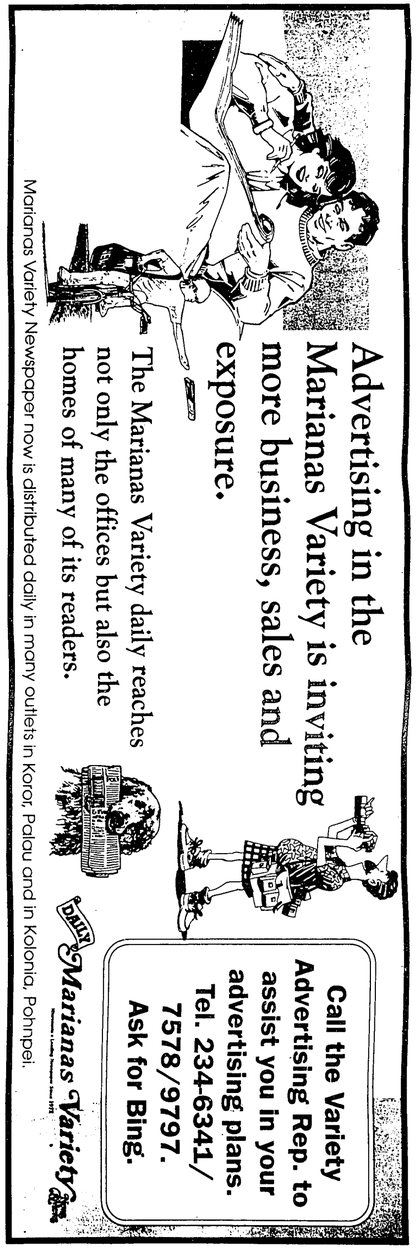
Continued from page 1

Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez declared a state of emergency last Saturday in response to the spreading fire.

Although the fire is currently at a controlled state, Gutierrez cautions all residents against visiting the area.

The police have limited access to the landfill and are only admitting Government of Guam response teams and essential personnel to the area.

Officials from the Guam Environmental Protection Agency are at the same time monitoring air quality for toxicity levels.



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.

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All interested resident workers are urged to register at the Dept. of Labor & Immigration, Division of Employment Services for the job/s being advertised in which you are qualified and available. For further assistance, please call Alfred A. Pangelinan at Tel. 664-2078.

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01 WAITER (RESTAURANT)-Salary:$3.05-3.75 per hour
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01 SALES REPRESENTATIVE-Salary:$3.05 per hour
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$50.00 gas allowance
01 AUTOMOBILE MECHANIC-Salary:$3.05-6.00 per hour
01 TRAVEL COUNSELOR-Salary:$1,200.00 per month
$50.00 gas allowance
02 TOURIST INFO. ASST. (CLERK)-Salary:$3.05-5.50 per hour
$50.00 gas allowance
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the Matter of the
Adoption of
Lakisha Carisse Taisacan
Tagabuel
A Minor Child
Adoption Case No. 98-554

Notice of Hearing: Petition For Adoption

To Whom It May Concern;
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE that the Petition of Mona Marie Taisacan for the adoption of the minor child Lakisha Carisse Taisacan Tagabuel and requesting the termination of the parental rights of the minor child's biological parents will be heard by the Court on the 14th day of Jan., 1999 at 9:00 a.m. at Courtroom B, Superior Court, Susupe Saipan.
Date this 11th day of December, 1998.

/s/Clerk of the Superior Court
By:/s/Deputy Clerk of Court

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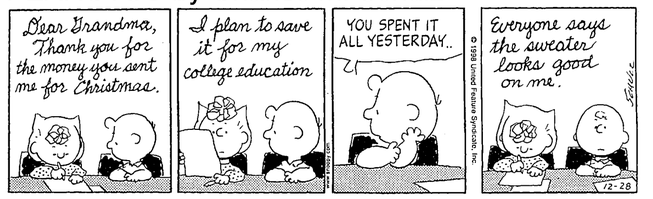


STELLA WILDER

YOUR BIRTHDAY

MONDAY, DEC. 28, 1998
Born today, you are a positive and highly distinctive individual with a number of traits that are unique to you, You are one of those rare and "unusual" individuals considered to be odd at a young age, then quirky or original reaching maturity. Thanks to one or two dominant characteristics that are not to be found in anyone else, regardless of sign or birth date, you enjoy doing things in your own way. You are also known for setting trends of all kinds. You are respected for your ability to see even the most difficult things through to the end.

There are times when you tend to feel somewhat isolated from those around you, simply based on the virtue of being original. You are something of a loner. However, you are more than able or willing to mix with others when it is socially or professionally appropriate to do so.

To see what is in store for you tomorrow, find your birthday and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

TUESDAY, DECEMBER 28

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You're feeling confident and energetic at this time, but you'll have at least one formidable obstacle to overcome today.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — There's no reason to settle for anything less than what your heart desires. Put your skills and determination to the test today, and be satisfied.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — A moral dilemma is likely to arise before the day is out. In some respects, there's no reason to think that anything you do is less than proper.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Someone you know may beguile you from your intended purpose today — at least for awhile. The results? A much needed interlude, for one!

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You may be trying to tell secrets today, when only open and honest communication can really get you anywhere. Try to be more direct.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Your ability to organize yourself and others will serve you and those around you quite well today. See to issues that have been overlooked at home.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You can lead the way for others today, or you can go it alone. Each approach brings its own rewards, but it's a matter of personal choice.

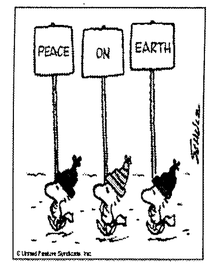
CANCER (June 21-July 22) — You may be visited by a premonition of sorts which gives you pause, but it'll also afford you a greater understanding of a personal issue.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — There's no need for you to be the center of attention today. In fact, there may be some who will try to keep you from the spotlight at this time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Your reasons for doing one thing over another are very much your own today, but you'll have reason to share them with someone before the day is out.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Soon it'll be your turn, and you won't have to watch others having all the fun. But take care that you're not swept away by your own eagerness.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — You'll have a chance to demonstrate your willingness to do what is necessary today, but you'll want to temper that with wisdom.



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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS
1 Can. prov.
4 12 ins.
6 Arctic abode
11 Esprit de corps
13 Confiscates
15 Battery type
16 Deciding match
18 Refuse from grapes
19 Greek letter
21 Singer McEntire
22 Letter of the alphabet
23 Wagering
26 "Vertigo" star
29 Nullify
31 Paradise
33 Calcium symbol
34 Beaver State
37 Heavily built
39 Tellurium symbol
40 Throw off
42 Clark and Rogers
43 Compass pt.
45 Alloy
48 Article
50 Cordon —
51 However
54 Excessively fond of
56 Jumps
58 San Juan's locale (abbr.)
59 Brie or edam
61 Athens' rival
63 Command
64 Baseballer Cobb
65 Young male

DOWN
1 Star of "Dr. Zhivago"
2 Wyle of "ER"
3 26th pres.
4 Trifle
5 Doctrine
6 Cayman —
7 Earth
8 Kind of bean
9 Oklahoma mountains
10 Above (poet.)
12 Mil. branch
14 Carlton ID
17 Irish — Rose
20 Acting award
24 Brim
25 Obtain
27 Unpleasantly gluey
28 "The Say Hey Kid"
29 Ballot
30 Mine finds
32 Ms. Dunn
35 Medical suffix
36 More lithe
38 — and brush
41 Story
44 Diner
46 Smallest number
47 Rainbow fish
49 Requirement
52 Capable of (2 wds.)
53 Server
54 Washington, —
55 Exclamation
57 Anton ID
60 Selenium symbol
62 Burton ID

Answer to Previous Puzzle

M	I	G	S		L	I	M	E		F	D	R
M	I	E	N		G	R	I	N		A	A	H
C	I	L	I	A		O	N	E	L	I	F	E
		A	P	P	E	N	D		A	L	T	A
R	A	T	E		X	E		E	D	S		
I	C	I		N	U	D	I	T	Y		T	S
S	E	N		E	L		L	O		F	R	I
K	S		N	O	T	I	O	N		I	E	R
		B	I	N		M	V		A	S	K	S
V	I	E	S		S	P	E	C	K	S		
O	B	L	I	Q	U	E		E	R	U	P	T
I	A	L		U	N	D	O		O	R	A	N
D	R	S		O	G	E	E		N	E	S	T

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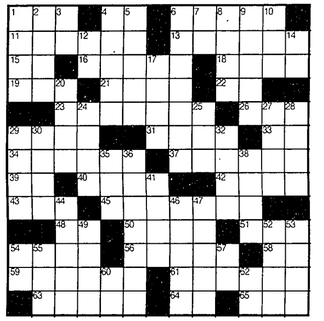
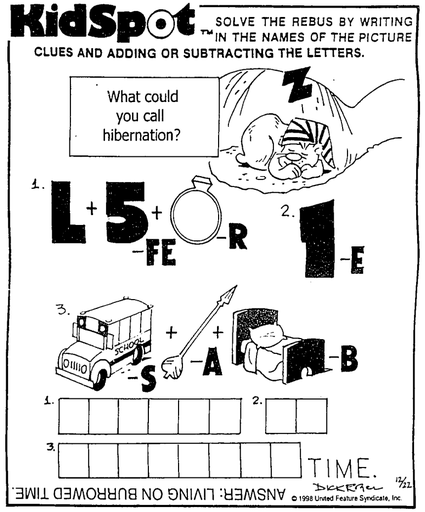
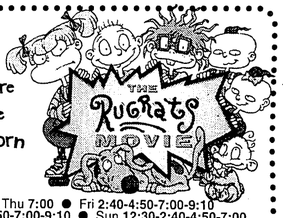


KidSpot™ SOLVE THE REBUS BY WRITING IN THE NAMES OF THE PICTURE CLUES AND ADDING OR SUBTRACTING THE LETTERS.



An adventure for anyone who's ever worn diapers.


Wed 7:00 ● Thu 7:00 ● Fri 2:40-4:50-7:00-9:10
Sat 12:30-2:40-4:50-7:00-9:10 ● Sun 12:30-2:40-4:50-7:00
THE MOVIE HOUSE SHOWTIMES 234-FILM
Starts Wednesday, January 6 | Disney • Pixar a bug's life | Advance Tickets on Sale Now!

Tanapag elementary school calls urgent meeting

THIS is to inform all parents and guardians of students attending the Tanapag Elementary School, that there would be an urgent meeting tonight at 6 pm at the school cafeteria. Please show our children that you care for them by making a special effort to attend and participate in the very important discsussion surrounding their education. Your understanding and cooperation is greatly appreciated.

Teno . . .

Continued from page 7

issues that are confronting them," said Tenorio.

In her letter to the governor, Inos is proposing a special program that will be created by Tenorio that would allow executive branch staff to teach for one to two hours a day at the public school of their choice.

The PSS commissioner said that this would not only benefit the whole educational system in the Commonwealth, but will also provide the governor's staff with a chance to showcase their expertise at a time when it is short of teaching staff.

Tenorio also recently approved a $1.7 million financial assistance requested by PSS on Dec. 7.

Public . . .

Continued from page 7

driving.

Guzman explained that drivers are tested randomly at the checkpoints.

He said just because you make it through once without getting caught does not mean you get away next time.

GPD has arrested people at the checkpoint for DUI even though their blood alcohol content was within the allowed tolerance, because they failed the field test, Guzman said.

The field test is a pretty accurate determinant of a motorist's capability to safely drive a vehicle, Guzman added.

Guzman said he is not against going out and having a good time but cautioned that if a motorist is going to be drinking, he or she should get a designated driver, or arrange other means of transportation on the way home.

There have been no DUI-related fatalities to date, Guzman said.

Guam . . .

Continued from page 28

league three years ago. Pangelinan said she likes the bowling lanes on Guam and she gets to meet a lot of people.

She would like to participate in the tournament every year and this year's tournament was bigger than the previous one.

Pangelinan said she hopes to retain her title and it means everything for her to win.

When asked if she would like to turn professional in the future, she said, I want to finish school and if I have time I'll bowl.

Guam's Ken Cunanan currently holds first place in the Juniors Division.

The 13-year-old has been bowling for eight years and said he is sort of nervous about winning. Cunanan likes to bowl because he said it is another indoor sport he can play.

An awards banquet was held Sunday night at Century Plaza Bowling Lanes.

Winners were presented with medals in their divisions for Singles and Doubles.

Official results were not available at press time.

About . . .

Continued from page 28

school jeans.

But did that stop any of us from giving it a try, no.

Everyone daring enough was put to the task of bending over backwards in an attempt to cross under a wooden stick that was lowered with each successful pass.

I gave up after the fourth pass.

Surprisingly our boss, Abed Younis continued on until about the sixth pass.

And when everything was done I sat back in my chair and wondered to myself what did any of those events have to do with sports and I came up with three simple answers.

First is concentration, passing a Life-Saver candy from straw-to-straw isn't as easy as it may look.

Second is timing. The timing needed to follow through with a prearranged dance routine is delicate and next year the editorial department will be challanging administration for first place.

Third is agility. The limbo is a very simple and fun game. I think I'll keep on practicing for next year's Christmas party. Of course I'll have to loose weight, but losing weight isn't in my New-Year's Resolution list.

After all the scheduled events were completed, including the exchange-of-gifts, it was time to test our endurance.

The Hyatt graciously gave all Younis Art Studio and their guests free passes to Gilligans.

But that's another story and by tomorrow I should have some real sports to report.

World . . .

Continued from page 9

out the assurance that fresh investors will be coming in and risk doing business in the Commonwealth.

Government recently terminated World Corporation's lease for failure to build the high-rise tourist facility it has been planning to construct in Marpi.

GVB . . .

Continued from page 8

least $1.1 million is needed immediately to fund the marketing of the spring campaign which ideally should have started way back in November.

In a worst case scenario wherein Bill 739 is not passed into law, Paulino said one alternative would be to ask for a direct appropriation of the reimbursement as a supplement to the GVB budget in January.

Another option is to let GVB's advertising agency in Japan, Asatsu Inc., shoulder the advertising costs first with GVB reimbursing Asatsu as soon as its reimbursement money is released.

"We already have a 7-year relationship with Asatsu, so maybe they could give us consideration," GVB Board Member David Sablan said.

For his part, Guam Hotel and Restaurant Association President David Tydingco stressed that GVB should meet with the governor as soon as possible to discuss the issue.

"We should emphasize the urgency of the matter. If there are any objections to the bill that should be amended, the changes should be acted on immediately. We have a critical situation here on which the success of our spring campaign depends."

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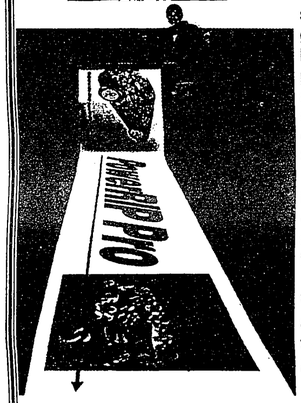

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DON'T GAMBLE WITH DEATH...DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

Pedro Ortega retains WBA super welterweight title

LAS VEGAS (AP) — Pedro Ortega retained his World Boxing Association-North American super welterweight championship Saturday, with a unanimous decision over Larry Dixon in a 12-round bout.

Ortega, of Mexico, ranked No. 10 by the WBA, won by five points on two judges' scorecards and by three points on the other judge's card, despite losing three points from his total because of low blows.

Dixon, of San Diego, was in danger of going down from body shots in the 12th until a low blow by Ortega halted the action and gave the challenger an opportunity to catch his breath and continue.

A point was deducted Dixon's score for the third time in the match.

Ortega improved to 22-7-1 with 16 knockouts. Dixon fell to 20-3 with 10 knockouts.

In a lightweight bout scheduled for 10 rounds, Edson Nascimento of Brazil knocked out Hiram Bueno of Mexico at 1:30 of the first round in a lightweight bout. Nascimento, ranked No. 5 by the WBA among super featherweights, improved to 31-0 with 26 knockouts, while Bueno is 10-3-1.

Hunter wants to resume NBA talks

By Chris Sheridan

NEW YORK (AP) — Union director Billy Hunter, anxious to close a deal but fearful of getting burned, said Saturday that negotiations to end the NBA lockout should resume later this week.

Hunter, speaking by telephone from Oakland, Calif., said he plans to return Sunday to New York.

"Once I get back, I'll reach out to David (Stern)," Hunter said, adding that the next negotiation session probably will include only one or two representatives from each side.

No talks have been held since Wednesday night, when Stern and Hunter met for several hours in Los Angeles at the office of agent Leonard Armato.

There was an expectation that talks might resume this weekend, but nothing ever came to fruition.

"There's nothing new," deputy commissioner Russ Granik said Saturday.

Stern hasn't commented publicly in more than a week, but Granik used a familiar line after the Los Angeles meeting in saying the discussions "went nowhere."

"Nowhere Man was right," Hunter said.

"We basically spent a lot of time covering old ground and restating what our concerns were.

"I'm not sure when David will be back from Aspen, but I'll speak by phone with him or Russ."

The opposing sides, fighting over how to distribute some $2 billion in annual revenue, must make a deal by mid-January to save a 45- to 50-game season.

The league has scheduled a Board of Governors meeting for Jan. 7, and Granik said he will recommend canceling the season if a deal isn't reached by then.

Although many complicated issues remain in dispute, it has become apparent that the one critical area that is the key to a settlement is the league's insistence on setting an absolute maximum salary for players with more than six years of experience.

The owners want the maximum salary tied to a percentage of the salary cap, while the players have proposed a luxury tax on any owner who signs a player to a multiyear contract starting at more than $15 million.

The union has already offered a $10 million limit on the starting salary for any player with less than seven years of experience.

Hunter has said he will not accept a maximum salary on veteran players unless the league reciprocates with an equally concessionary gesture that brings the sides to closure.

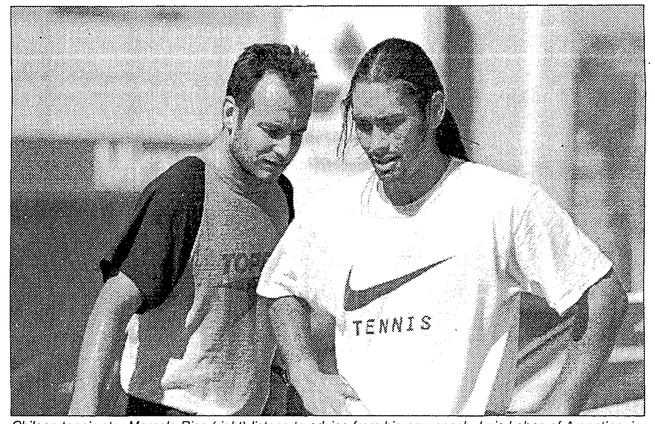
Presumably, that would include the union's proposed minimum salaries and an additional salary cap exception tied to the median salary.

The union also would want the league to withdraw several proposed changes to salary cap rules, including the elimination of opt-out clauses, the toughening of trade rules, the reduction of performance bonuses and the elimination of signing bonuses and trade kickers.

NFL LEAGUE STANDINGS

AFC	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
y-N.Y. Jets	11	4	0	.733	385	256
x-Miami	10	5	0	.667	305	227
x-New England	9	6	0	.600	327	298
x-Buffalo	9	6	0	.600	355	300
Indianapolis	3	12	0	.200	291	417
y-Jacksonville	10	5	0	.667	371	335
Tennessee	8	8	0	.500	330	320
Pittsburgh	7	8	0	.467	260	282
Baltimore	5	10	0	.333	250	325
Cincinnati	3	12	0	.200	268	417
y-Denver	13	2	0	.867	473	288
Seattle	8	7	0	.533	351	282
Oakland	8	8	0	.500	288	356
Kansas City	7	9	0	.438	327	363
San Diego	5	10	0	.333	228	326
	W	L	T	Pct.	PF	PA
y-Dallas	9	6	0	.600	358	268
Arizona	8	7	0	.533	309	365
N.Y. Giants	7	8	0	.467	267	299
Washington	6	9	0	.400	312	398
Philadelphia	3	12	0	.200	151	324
y-Minnesota	15	1	0	.938	556	296
x-Green Bay	10	5	0	.667	392	306
Tampa Bay	7	8	0	.467	279	295
Detroit	5	10	0	.333	296	359
Chicago	4	11	0	.267	263	352
y-Atlanta	13	2	0	.867	404	273
x-San Francisco	11	4	0	.733	441	309
New Orleans	6	9	0	.400	272	314
St. Louis	4	11	0	.267	266	340
Carolina	3	12	0	.200	309	394

x-clinched playoff berth
y-clinched division title



Chilean tennis star Marcelo Rios (right) listens to advice from his new coach, Luis Lobos of Argentina, in Santiago, Chile, Wednesday. The world's no. 2 ranked player resumed his training Wednesday for the 1999 season. AP

Orioles try to prevent sale of Cal Riplin Jr's baseball card

BALTIMORE (AP) — The Baltimore Orioles have gone to court again over a $35,000 lineup card from the game in which Cal Ripken Jr. broke Lou Gehrig's consecutive streak record.

When Ripken played in his 2,131st game on Sept. 6, 1995, there was an original and four or five carbons, American League officials have said.

Former Orioles manager Phil Regan, who left the team after that season, gave one of the carbons to his daughter, and later he or his daughter decided to auction off the card through North Shore Sports, a telephone auction service, The (Baltimore) Sun reported Saturday.

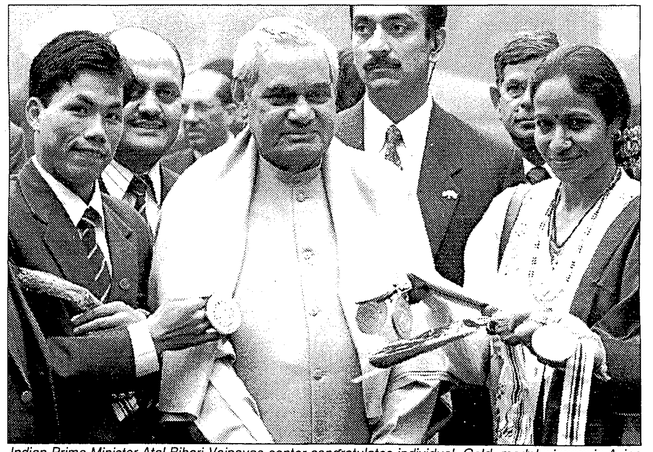
On Dec. 1, a New York collector named Mark Lewis struck a deal to buy the card from Regan or his daughter for $15,000, the paper said. North Shore Sports never disclosed the change in ownership, the paper said.

When Jim Ancell, a Baltimore collector, offered $36,650 for the card, Lewis decided to sell and reap the profits, the paper said.

The Orioles, who say the card belongs to them, went to court on Tuesday seeking to block the sale.

The team returned to court Friday after the ownership of the card became unclear. During a hearing, the Orioles asked a Cook County (Ill.) Circuit judge to take possession of the card and related items being sold by Regan.

Judge Albert Green ruled that an attorney for North Shore Sports may hold on the items until a Dec. 21 hearing to determine the ownership issue.



Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee center congratulates individual Gold medal winners in Asian Games Boxer Dingko Singh (left) and Sprinter Jyotirmoyee Sikdar (right) in New Delhi Thursday. AP

SPORTS

•*The Sporting Life*

About concentration, timing and agility

By Tony Celis
Variety News Staff

CHRISTMAS was celebrated on Friday. Parties abound throughout the island. While I don't have an exact count of the number of parties that went on during the weekend we can be sure there were plenty.

But this is a sports column and what do the number of Christmas parties have to do with sports, you may ask. Well, nothing. Except maybe that if my team were scheduled for any sports activities during this past weekend it would be safe to say, not many of my teammates would show up.

So unless we consider lifting 12oz. beer cans a form of weight training, I'm afraid there isn't much sporting activities that happened over the weekend to report.

The closes thing to sports that I recall— and my brain is still a little fussy from the drinks— was the live performances by co-workers during Saturday's company party held at the Hyatt Beach-Side Lounge.

Or maybe that Ruth DL Guerrero was the most well dressed lady at the party, which accounted for the exercise my eyes got from looking at her all night.

The company had four events during the party that required some form of physical exertion.

First was the life-saver contest. Perhaps many of you are familiar with that event. If not, then a brief description may help you get the picture.

The contest began with ten couples paired off. Each contestant is given a skinny drinking straw which he or she places in his mouth and clamps down with his lips. His partner also gets a straw and places it in similar fashion in his mouth. Then a Life-Saver candy is hung from one of the straw and when the start signal is given the action begins. The object of course is for one team member—with the candy— to pass the candy to his partner and the first team to do so is the winner. Enough said about the candy passing game.

Next came the department performance. Each department came up with a routine to perform.

Our accounting department did an island beach party routine. Led by Nestor Allegre they did fair. With their "grass" skirts made of gold colored material, it didn't resemble any coconut leaves I've ever seen. But they did ok.

The hooting and hollering was most loud (really, no kidding) when the editorial department's turn came up.

Led my our editor Rafael Arroyo and four male reporters, Zaldy Dandan, Jojo Dass, Aldwin Farjardo, and Rene Acosta, who did a most impressive interpretation of the Men at Work musical group.

They were joined by our very own "Spice Girls" featuring; Louie Alonso, Haidee Eugenio, Mar-Vic C. Munar, and June Padua.

Except for the few miscued steps, they did very good. I also gave them credit for getting tattoos on their arms. They got them just for the show, dedicated they are.

Rene Acosta survived the experience— of dancing in front of an audience—dispite his fears. Everyone now thinks he is a better person for it. We'll wait until New Year's bash to settle the question.

The first place winner in the dance routine came from the administration department. I must admit their customs were by far the most eye catching.

Led by Laila Younis, dressed as a reindeer, whose branched antlers reached more then six feet high. And with every movement she made, her antlers snagged on something.

Luckily for her, it didn't get hooked up with the electrical lines that ran overhead with which the light bulbs were connected.

Ella Villazon was dressed—or more correctly boxed—as a Christmas present of gold and green wrapping paper.

Mildred Acosta was the biggest candy-cane look-a-like I'd ever seen.

Although their dance-steps changed with every other beat, it was difficult to tell whether it was choreographed or not. Judging from the few collisions I observed, I'll have to report they miscued alot of their dance steps. But they were colorful and their smiles were worth a million judge's points.

The next event was the limbo. Some years and many pounds (less) ago I could do some serious limbo. But today that sort of back bending activity is best left to those who can still fit into their high

Continued on page 27

Guam-Saipan bowling tournament a success

By Tanya M.C. Mendiola
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA - More than 100 youth bowlers from Guam and Saipan participated in a friendship tournament hin Guam over the weekend. The tournament was held at the Century Plaza Bowling Lanes in Tamuning.

Chilang Manibusan, Guam coordinator for the tournament said the two-day event was the Second Annual Guam-Saipan Youth Bowling Tournament.

Bowlers between the ages of 8 and 18 vied for gold, silver and bronze medals, from December 26 thru 27.

Tournament venues alternate between Guam and Saipan. The first tournament—two years ago— was held on Saipan. In 1999 the tournament will again return to Saipan.

According to Manibusan, she is surprised with the turnout because this year's participation is more than last year's. A total of 30 bowlers flew in from Saipan to play in the Bantam, Junior and Senior division of the tournament.

Saipan's coach, Don Hensley said the friendship tournament began because the adults wanted to do something for the kids.

Guam and Saipan are part of the International Bowling Congress. In order to qualify for the year-round tournaments, participants must be above the age of 14.

"We formed the friendship tournament for the little ones. It is something for them to do and to look forward to because they are too young to qualify for the international tournaments," said Hensley.

"Some of Saipan's bowlers arrived on Guam Christmas Day. They are sechuduled to stay for three days," said Hensley.

The majority of players, however arrived the following day.

Unofficial results of the girls' and boys' singles division are as follows;

Bantam Division (ages 8-11);

Gold Medal winners are; Mary Gima, (Saipan) 358.

Richard Cabigao- 435.

Silver Medals went to Kristine Gima—349, and Leonard Pangelinan—422.

Bronze Medals went to Dona Hensley—303, and Raymond Zapanta—400.

Junior Division;(ages 12-14)

Gold Medals winners were; Naomi Pangelina (Guam)—530 and Ken Cunanan—554.

Silver Medals went to Nina Villanueva—466 and Jon Hensley—532.

Bronze Medals were won by Naomi Pocaigu—449, and Brian Perez—486.

Seniors Division (ages15-18)

Gold Medal winners were Risa Cabigao—567 and Nap Carino Jr.—626.

Silver Medals went to Kathy Pangelinan—512 and John John Tenorio—532

Bronze Medal winners went to Samantha Stern—506 and Ben Velaria—519.

The Girls' Seniors Division defending champion, 16-year-old Kathy Pangelinan of Saipan, said she plays for fun.

Pangelinan has been bowling since she was nine and joined a

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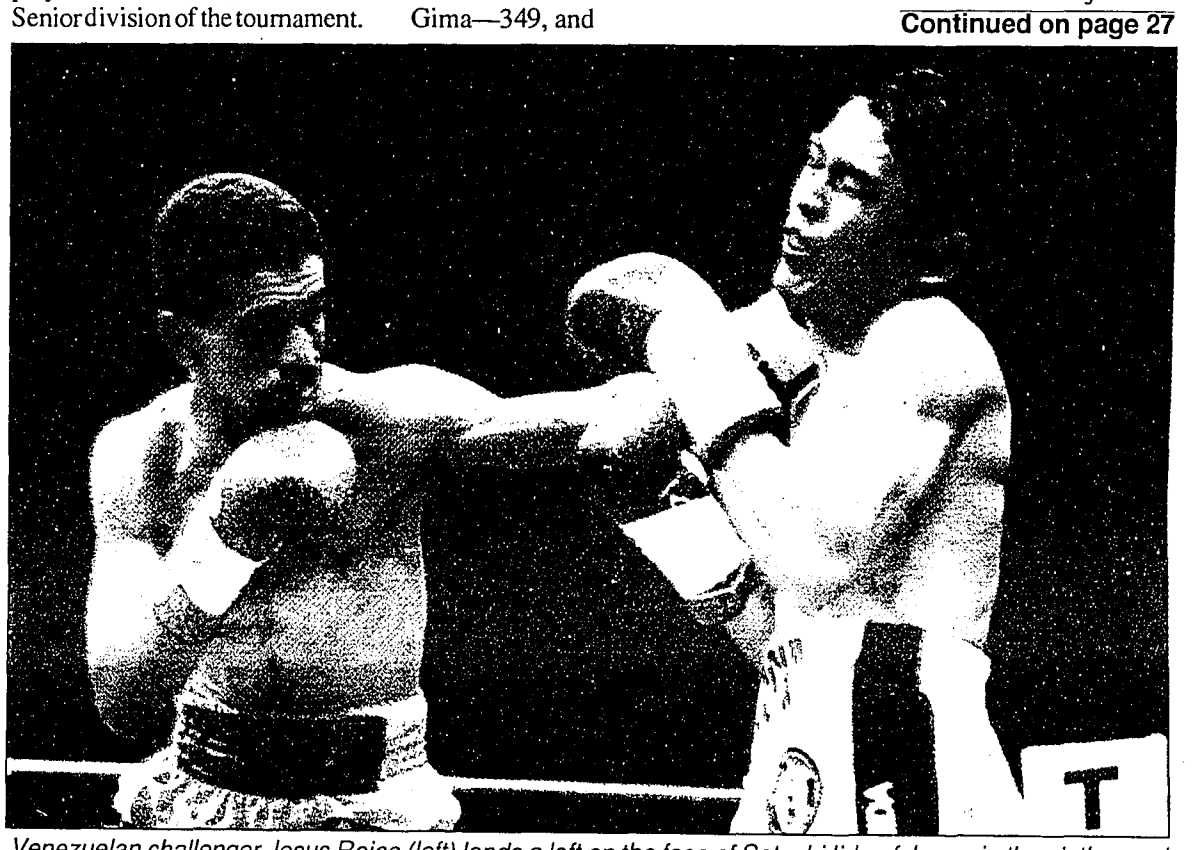

Venezuelan challenger Jesus Rojas (left) lands a left on the face of Satoshi Iida of Japan in the ninth round of the 12-round World Boxing Association super flyweight title bout in Nagoya, Japan on Wednesday. Rojas beat Iida in a unanimous decision. AP

Fiji to host Pacific gridiron games

SUVA (Pacnews) — Fiji and Tonga are scheduled to play the first ever Pacific Conference gridiron match at Suva's national stadium on Tuesday.

The Fiji versus Tonga game is the first of a five-match gridiron exhibition that will also involve the Cooks, Samoa, Wellington and Auckland.

The games are being organised by the American-based National Professional Minor League Football Conference.

Conference officials have met Prime Minister Sitiveni Ranuka and Sports Minister, Jonetani Kaukimoce, about setting up the regional headquarters in Fiji.

Kaukimoce says his ministry welcomes the game in Fiji. He says it's another door of opportunity for young men in Fiji.

The conference has spent 70,000 US dollars to equip the Fiji side.

It also plans to set up a 14-match competition from August to May between Fiji, Tonga, Cook Islands, Wellington, Auckland, Sydney, Brisbane, Melbourne, New Caledonia, Papua New Guinea and Nauru.

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