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Marianas Variety News & Views
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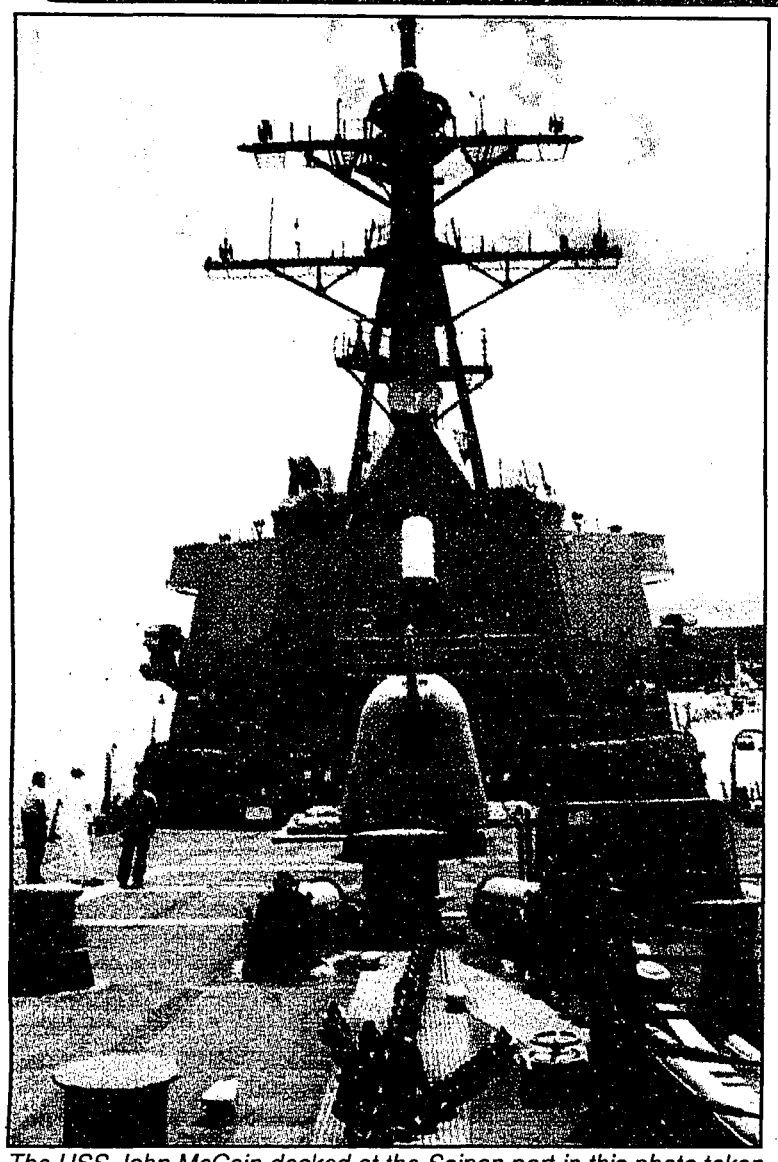

The USS John McCain docked at the Saipan port in this photo taken yesterday during an open house. The US Navy destroyer is set to leave today for Guam. Photo by **Maria C. Alonso**

Guerrero eyes run for Senate

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety Associate Editor

THE MAN who once threatened to cut the Legislature's power lines is now running for a seat in the lawmaking body.

Ramon S. Guerrero, the flamboyant former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director, is the Reform Party's candidate for the Saipan Senate seat currently held by Juan P. Tenorio (R), who is seeking a second term in the November midterm elections.

Guerrero said he supported Tenorio in the past, but added that the economy is "so bad" and incumbent elected officials are either "not doing anything, not doing it enough or not doing it right."

The office of Tenorio yesterday said it will issue an official comment later this week.

Ray S. Guerrero

"It's time for real change," Guerrero said. "It's time to have someone in the Legislature who will raise hell, dig into things that are being ignored and ask the difficult questions."

If elected, Guerrero said he would propose the following:

- The creation of a "very friendly" business climate;
- Homesteads in the Northern Islands;
- The reduction of the legislators' budget;
- A regular and thorough audit of the legislators' expenses;
- "Direct" election of the Senate president and the House speaker—Guerrero said voters have to have a say in the leadership of the Legislature;
- An increase in the salaries of government employees;
- The "protection" of the retirees' pensions;
- More funding for education, scholarships and medical referrals.

Asked where he would get the

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New landfill to be completed in 2001

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

CONSTRUCTION of the new sanitary landfill in Marpi is expected to be completed by middle of June 2001, with the Solid Waste Management Task Force expecting to secure necessary permits early next year.

According to Phil Crispeli, associate engineer of Harding Lawson Associates which will do the design for the new landfill, the process of securing all permits from both federal and commonwealth governments is already taking time.

"The permits are kind of complex because we have to go to the US Fish and Wildlife Division. The design is also complex because both federal and local regulations will have to be met," he told reporters yesterday.

According to Crispeli, technical information has to also be gathered before HLA can start with the design of the new sanitary landfill which was proposed to be constructed in Marpi. Securing all permits and doing the design will already take at least six months.

In addition, bidding for the construction project will eat up two months at the minimum. "It is the most we can do the bidding to comply with procure-

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CNMI receives $9.5M Hillblom tax payment

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE CNMI government yesterday received $9.5 million in checks from Larry Hillblom's estate executor Bank of Saipan to settle all Hillblom tax issues.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio received the checks from Ben Fitial, who represented executor BoS at a presentation ceremony at the administration building in Capitol Hill.

"The government is very pleased to receive this money especially during a financial crisis," said the governor, even as he explained that Finance Secretary Lucy Nielsen is only authorized to accept the checks.

Fitial said the $9.5 million represents the settlement amount that the Hillblom estate is now paying to the CNMI government pursuant to a court order.

Judge Pro Tem Alexandro C. Castro approved last week the closing agreement between the Hillblom estate and the CNMI, saying "it is in the best interest of the estate and all Hillblom distributees (Trust and four kids).

The executor has reached the

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Student sues garment firm for $1.1M over car accident

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

A STUDENT sued a garment factory and one of its employees demanding $1.1 million in damages after she was injured when she was struck by the company's vehicle at a school zone last March.

Margaret Tenorio and Jose R. Santos, filed the case in Superior Court on behalf of their 13-year-old daughter against United International Corporation (UIC) and Huei Yin Chang.

The plaintiffs, through counsel Jeanne H. Rayphand, said that as a result of the incident, the girl suffered multiple

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Hopwood Junior High School graduates sit together during the school's commencement exercises for SY 1998-1999 last Monday afternoon at the American Memorial Park. Photo by **Maria C. Alonso**

PAC NEWSPAPER STACKS

Warships battle at Yellow Sea

Koreas exchange fire

By REID G. MILLER

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — North Korea said one of its warships was sunk and three others badly damaged Tuesday in an exchange of gunfire with South Korean vessels in disputed waters in the Yellow Sea.

Each side blamed the other for the sharp escalation of their eight-day confrontation in a rich crab fishing ground that both Koreas claim as their territorial waters.

South Korea said it sank what was believed to be a northern torpedo boat and badly damaged a larger patrol boat, but insisted the North Koreans fired first and called its return fire an act of self defense.

"All responsibility lies on the North Korean side," said Brig. Gen. Cha Young-koo, a South Korean Defense Ministry spokesman.

Cha said a North Korean torpedo boat opened fire after a South Korean patrol boat tried to ram it in an effort to move it out of the contested area. South Korean vessels had bumped two other northern boats minutes before, Cha said.

"When our navy tried to block the North Korean ships from crossing our borderline, the North Koreans first fired at us," Cha said. "It was our inevitable decision to fire back in self defense."

The northern news agency called the shooting a "deliberate and planned" provocation "aimed at driving the situation on the Korean Peninsula to the brink of war."

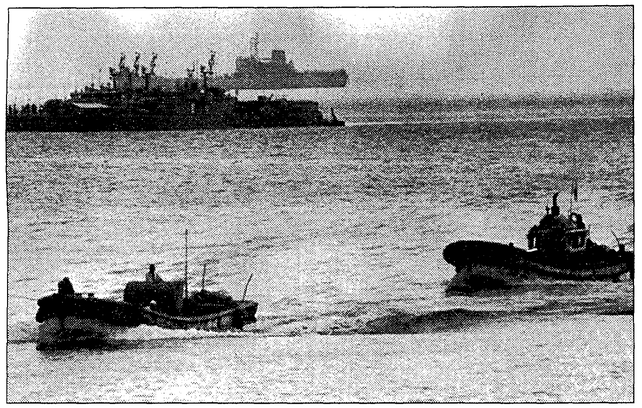
It demanded an immediate South Korean apology for what it said was "an unbearable insult and military challenge" to the North.

The shooting came only 40 minutes before generals from the U.S.-led U.N. Command and North Korea sat down in the border village of Panmunjom for talks aimed at ending the confrontation.

The North's news agency said a northern general "lodged a strong protest ... against military provocations being committed by South Korean naval vessels."

The U.N. Command said its generals urged both sides to withdraw their naval forces from the area, but the negotiators "were unable to reach agreement on the issue of reducing tensions ..."

The talks were recessed while the North Korean officers conferred with their leaders in Pyongyang, the northern capital, the U.N. Command said. It added that the talks were "conducted in a business-like manner."



Two South Korean fishing vessels, escorted by its warships seen in background, churn to evacuate from the Yellow Sea where South and North Korean gunboats exchanged gunfire on Tuesday. North Korea said one of its warships was sunk and three others badly damaged in in the confrontation. AP

US has taken interest in disputed Korea waters

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration says it is "very concerned" about reports of gunfire that followed a tense stand-off between North and South Korean warships.

South Korean warships sank one North Korean boat and damaged three others Tuesday in a 10-minute exchange of gunfire in disputed waters of the Yellow Sea. South Korean officials say the northern ships opened fire first.

The contested region, a rich crab fishing ground, is claimed by both Koreas as territorial waters.

North Korea has sent fishing boats and naval ships into the zone 20 to 30 times a year. However, they usually withdraw upon a challenge by South Korean patrol boats.

"From my understanding, this is an annual situation," said P.J. Crowley, a spokesman for the National Security Council. "North Korea has, in the past, attempted to bring vessels down to these waters. In the past, when they've been warned off by South Korean vessels, they've turned around and returned to North Korea. This year, for some reason, they have not."

Crowley said the Clinton administration is "very concerned" about Monday's action by North Korea and is closely monitoring developments.

"There are military-to-military talks going on today to discuss this situation and we are in close touch with the South Korean government regarding the steps they are taking in response," he said.

The Korean peninsula was divided into communist North Korea and capitalist South Korea in 1945. They are technically still at war as their 1950-53 Korean war ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. The armistice, signed by the U.N. Command and North Korea, never outlined the border in the Yellow Sea off the western coast.

Food & Nutrition Council

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the CNMI Food and Nutrition Council hereby gives notice that the regular meeting of the Food and Nutrition Council will be held on Wednesday, June 16, 1999, at 1:30 p.m. at the CE Room (next to the CHC Cafeteria).

The following items are on the agenda for the above referenced meeting:

Preliminary Matters
Call to order
Roll Call

Old Business
Subcommittee Progress Report

New Business
(None)

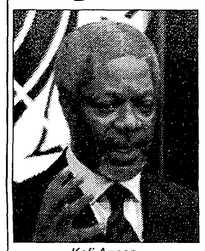
Next Meeting - Wednesday, July 14, 1999

Adjournment

All interested persons are welcome to attend.

/s/ Pamela Mathis, Chairwoman Date: June 16, 1999

Saudi urges Annan to help in Kashmir crisis



Kofi Annan

RIYADH (Reuters) — Saudi Arabia urged United Nations Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Monday to intervene to resolve the conflict between India and Pakistan.

"The ministerial council appealed to the United Nations secretary-general to intervene to resolve the Indian-Pakistani conflict peacefully to preserve international peace and security," the official Saudi Press Agency said, quoting a statement issued after the weekly cabinet meeting, chaired by Crown Prince Abdullah.

The neighbors are locked in their worst confrontation in 30 years after India began air strikes on May 26 against what it says are a mix of Pakistani army soldiers and foreign mercenaries on its side of Line of Control that divides the two-thirds of Kashmir ruled by India from the rest ruled by Pakistan.

Islamabad calls the resistance a local fight for freedom and says it only provides moral and political support for the cause.

On Monday a leading Kashmiri separatist leader in Srinagar said the decades-old conflict was more dangerous now because the two neighbours were capable of using nuclear weapons.

Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee said on Monday New Delhi was willing to hold talks with Pakistan only if Islamabad stopped violating a military Line of Control in Kashmir.

But Pakistan accused India of slamming all doors to dialogue to end the crisis over the disputed Himalayan region and said Islamabad would continue its peace efforts.

Nurse shortage foreseen

By Haldee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

IT MAY not take long before the CNMI will strongly feel a shortage in the number of registered local and non-resident nurses as they oftentimes tend to work in the U.S. mainland where wages are considerably higher.

This was according to a report presented at the 21st Annual Conference of the American Pacific Nursing Leaders' Council (APNLC).

Considering that there are only a little over 100 registered nurses working at CHC and some of them still need to take and pass the National Council Licensing Examination (NCLEX) examination, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio himself urged more local students to enter the nursing profession

The Northern Marianas College Nursing Program revealed that despite a guarantee of job at the Commonwealth Health Center, the number of enrollees remains low in the two-year Associate of Science Degree in Nursing (ASDN) program at the college.

Debbie Raumakita, NMC Nursing Program director, said many students at NMC want to pursue a four-year degree and they therefore shift to education which is the only four-year course that the college offers.

All ASDN graduates are also mandated to pass the National Council Licensing Examination (NCLEX) examination if they wish to work for the government.

"However, when graduates pass the exam, the nurse often leaves the islands for the U.S. mainland where the wages are considerably higher," said Raumakita in his jurisdiction report presented to the APNLC conference.

In 1989, Tenorio was also the governor when the APNLC's annual conference was last held in Saipan. At that time, he said it was clear that there would be a worldwide shortage of nurses before the year 2000.

He said since then, working conditions and salaries of nurses have improved, and many of CNMI's young generation have entered the profession.

Tenorio, however, said more nurses are needed as the health care needs of the CNMI continue to increase.

"There is no question that we must continue to attract more of our local people into the (nursing) profession," said Tenorio.

During the May graduation ceremonies of NMC, there were only 11 ASDN candidates and six nursing assistant (NA) candidates.

Towards the end of the spring semester, a NCLEX review session was offered with 10 students completing the course. Raumakita said these students are continuing to prepare for the NCLEX examination this summer with the use of a newly-acquired NCLEX review software at the NMC Nursing Computer Laboratory.

Currently, there are 12 ADN students taking classes who are preparing to go into their second year of nursing.

Since the inception of NMC Nursing Program, it has graduated 32 nurses and 64 nursing assistants, excluding those who recently graduated.

The five-day APNLC conference, which has some 50 participants-nurses, will last until June 18. Saipan last hosted the said event in 1989.

U.S. Navy destroyer calls port

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

THE USS John S. McCain DDG-56, a guided missile destroyer, docked on Saipan port last Saturday and conducted an open house yesterday.

According to Lt. Dino Pietrantoni of USS John McCain, the ship was named after the two admirals of the US Naval Forces.

The grandson of one of the admirals is now US Senator John McCain of Arizona.

"We are stationed in Japan and we came here on Saipan to visit the beautiful island. We just came from a training cycle and coming here on Saipan is our reward," Pietrantoni said in an interview.

The naval ship is 500 feet long and 67 feet wide with a total of 300 personnel, five of which are women.

"We don't have as many personnel as the USS Kitty Hawk does. But we are proud of our ship, it is now five years old," the official said.

USS John McCain was commissioned in Bath, Maine in July 2nd 1994.

The ship is designed to carry Toma Hawk missiles, Standard Missiles, and Asroc missiles, a submarine rocket.

The USS John McCain boasts of a high standard Combat Information Center, Bridge and Central Control Station built for war.

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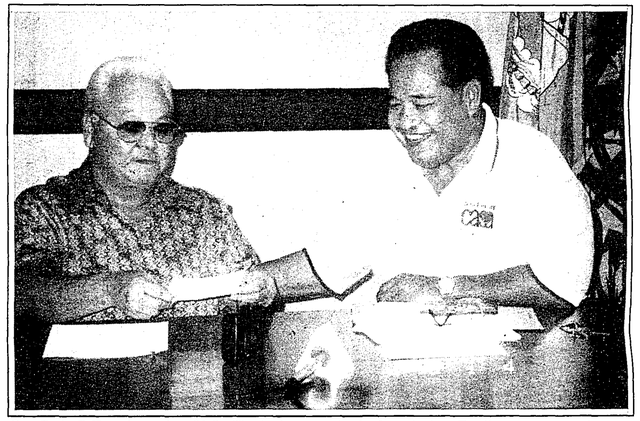

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio receives $9.5 million in checks yesterday from Benigno R. Fitial, who represents Larry Hillblom's estate executor Bank of Saipan. The Superior Court authorized such payment to settle all Hillblom tax issues. Photo by Ferdie de la Torre

Reyes slams Continental

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

SENATE Floor leader Pete P. Reyes yesterday slammed Continental Airline for allegedly trying to manipulate the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) and win back lost grounds now that tourism is starting to pick up and leaders are considering creating a regional airline.

In an interview, Reyes alleged Continental crafted an APIL resolution calling for a special body that will look into ways to address air transportation issues to push its agenda.

"A lot of the committee members did not want to entertain the resolution, which was a recommendation by Continental Airline. Most of us in the committee felt that the suggestion to create the advisory council is designed to distract our focus, our attention away from our objective to create a regional airline," said Reyes.

Reyes said the resolution, which was set for another discussion in the next APIL meeting due to an "emotional exchange" that ensued during its deliberation late last week, was supposedly meant to "bring back hope and faith" to Continental, which were "already lost" because of the airline's "really bad performance."

"Nobody can blame us for being suspicious about Continental Airline because they have a bad record. They have very poor record in this region.

When they first came out here, they told us we are partners in business and then they come

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Teno to hold off nomination of new judge

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday disclosed that he may also delay the appointment of a new judge as the administration's priority right now is to finally name a chief justice in the high tribunal.

"The first appointment is for the chief justice and the next judge will be later on," said Tenorio in an interview.

Although he has not decided yet as to who shall be appointed a new associate judge or justice, Tenorio hinted that one of the judges in Superior Court would probably be moving up to the CNMI Supreme Court.

The governor in an earlier interview shortly after the Memorial Day ceremony assured that "definitely by next week the appointment of chief justice will be forthcoming."

Tenorio refused to name his appointee to the highest judiciary post, but hinted that acting Chief Justices Miguel S. Demapan and Alexandro Castro plus a Superior Court judge are the top candidates.

Sources said when Demapan is finally named chief justice, Associate Judge John A. Manglona may likely move to the Supreme Court, leaving another position vacant in the trial court.

Tenorio stated that he may as well delay the appointment of a

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Fees mulled for garbage dumping

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE GOVERNMENT is exploring the possibility of charging garment factories and other commercial and industrial establishments for wastes they dump in Puerto Rico sanitary landfill and the site now being developed in Marpi.

Timothy Villagomez, chairman of the governor's Task Force on Solid Waste Management, yesterday disclosed the government has developed a draft regulation establishing tipping fees for the disposal of commercial and industrial wastes in the landfill.

Timothy Villagomez

According to Villagomez, the tipping mechanism would help ensure that the Commonwealth government has adequate fund-

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'Hike skilled worker wages'

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

SENATE Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez yesterday said he favors increasing wages of skilled guest workers, saying doing so will make the positions they occupy attractive to resident counterparts.

In an interview, Villagomez lamented that the Legislature has been "too protective" to investors, allowing them to pay guest workers way below standard industry levels.

"When investors come in here, the first thing they do is get an employee they can pay at the least possible amount despite the fact that the worker is qualified to be paid quite more.

"They (investors) say that they need skilled workers but they pay them a lot less. They want skilled workers but they want to pay low. You need a professional, pay a professional price. Why pay a

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

EDITORIALS

The way to do it

GUAM Sen. Carlotta Leon Guerrero has offered legislation to upgrade and improve the island's 911 system using funds from a tax that will be imposed on phone calls.

Several senators, the Guam Variety reported, praised Ms Leon Guerrero for drafting such a bill. What they didn't say was that despite the economic slump, Senator Leon Guerrero has the *cojones* to ask the public to pay more if they want better public services.

To be sure, the proposed surcharge is quite minimal—a dollar a month—in exchange for added protection and security of Guam residents. Still, the idea behind the legislation speaks of a candidness that is often missing from the vocabulary of most politicians, particularly those who consider pandering to the public's sentiment of the moment as their primary duty.

In the case of Senator Leon Guerrero, she spotted a problem (an antiquated 911 system), drew up a solution (improve it), which will cost money that the Guam government does not have. But instead of introducing an appropriation bill to be funded by "future revenues"—thereby *appearing* to solve the problem while avoiding the wrath of taxpayers—the senator proposed an up and front $1 surcharge. Simple.

Indeed, in these days of dwindling revenue resources and increasing need for public services, elected officials are only doing us a disservice if they don't remind us that, although they do feel our pain, it will cost money to relieve us of it.

Which brings us to the CNMI where the government has been providing an extensive and costly package of public services while at the same time eschewing a commensurate level of taxation. The result, of course, is a massive deficit and the entrenchment of the notion that it is okay to be dependent on government handouts.

Now something has to give. The CNMI government should either reduce the number of its employees or the services it provides. It can no longer have both—without raising taxes. The commonwealth's elected officials know this.

But it's also an election year.

Well, perhaps we can ask Senator Leon Guerrero to seek a seat in the CNMI Legislature.

Not the way to do it

THE VOTERS of Rota have not even decided on the proposal to establish a casino there, but the island may already be facing some of the attendant "negative consequences."

Tinian's senators, for one, are no longer expected to form a block with their Rota counterparts when the FY 2000 budget bill arrives in the Senate. In other words, in the upcoming deliberations on the budget, Rota's legislators may find it extremely difficult to include projects they consider crucial for their island.

And all because Rota's municipal government is currently collecting signatures for a local initiative that would allow the island to share with Tinian the dubious distinction of legalizing casino gambling.

Tinian's senators, indeed, recently left their Rota colleagues twisting in the wind during the debate on the CIP bill, which Rota wanted to amend just to make sure that their CIPs are constructed as soon as possible. Instead of backing up the amendment, which would thus ensure its passage, Tinian Senators Cing and Adriano spoke against it. Rota's senators, of course, knew what was coming, and the amendment was withdrawn. The last time a Senate vote signaled a similar seismic shift happened in the spring of 1994, shortly before the minority block took over the leadership.

However, since January 1997, a minority block has ceased to exist in the Senate. There will no major changes in the composition of the current leadership at least until after the November elections.

What will happen now, meanwhile, is that both Rota and Tinian will no longer benefit from a setup that was created to address the concerns of the two islands that otherwise could be easily ignored by Saipan.

Is this what the Rota and Tinian legislators want?

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Letter to the Editor

'Support the College you created'

THIS IS an open letter to the members of the Legislature.

In past years, the revenue received by the CNMI Treasury from Alien Worker Registration Fees has been used for a wide variety of purposes not originally envisioned when Public Law 5-32 was enacted and signed into law.

Public Law 10-66 modified certain provisions of P.L. 5-32, specifically regarding how certain of the collected revenues were to be used. Despite the intent of these laws, which is to ensure adequate funding for the education and training of CNMI residents to replace alien workers where insufficient qualified CNMI residents are available in the job market, Northern Marianas College has consistently not been allocated sufficient funds to adequately operate the programs that have been established to accomplish this objective.

In general, the Legislature has been willing to fund the salaries of the instructors and staff who operate these programs, but nothing else! Year after year, the funds under the "all others" category are zeroed out. Worse yet, P.L. 10-66 requires NMC to set aside $450,000.00 for the Business Development Center and $500,000.00 for the Work Experience Training Program. This totals $950,000.00.

At the same time, the Legislature has expected NMC to continue to offer programs in the areas of accounting, business management, computer applications, hospitality management, elementary education, nursing, and so forth, with funding for salaries and operations to be provided from what is left over after the $950,000.00 is subtracted from what the Legislature has provided.

Since the Legislature has, in recent past been consistent in providing only $1,300,000.00, only $350,000.00 is left over to fund all these other programs. We have survived only by bending the law, begging, borrowing, and stealing.

The salaries of the existing faculty and staff in programs falling under the purview of P.L. 5-32 and P.L. 10-66 currently run around $1,700,000.00. If one rounds the $950,000.00 set-aside up to 1 million, the $1,700,000.00 salaries down to 1 million, (it should be rounded up to 2 million!) one can then add 1 and 1 and get 2, (and it should be 3!)

Yet, the Legislature only been allocating $1,300,000.00. For the sake of argument, let us round that down to 1 million. We need 1 million for the BDC and WETP, and we need 1 (2) million for salaries. When I went to school back in the dark ages, I was taught that 1 plus 1 adds up to 2. Knowing this, and believing it to be true, I constantly have to ask myself why the Legislature adds 1 and 1 and comes up with 1? Were Hopwood and Mt. Carmel really that bad? I don't remember that.

Something is wrong here. Something is seriously wrong here. If the Legislature does not want NMC to offer programs in accounting, business management, computer applications, hospitality management, elementary education, nursing, and so forth, then the Legislature should pass resolutions or enact laws stating so specifically, not just kill the programs by default by not funding them!

I am requesting that each member of the Legislature examine in his or her own heart just what education means to the future of the CNMI and keep this in the forefront when voting on the P.L. 10-66 allocations to NMC for FY2000.

I tell you truthfully, I can collect my salary and sit in the snack bar reading newspapers for a year, or I can teach. But I can't teach if there is no money to buy chalk, no money to buy white board markers, no money to buy Xerox paper to make notes, handouts, and quizzes, no money to buy software for the computer course I teach.

If all the Legislature is willing to do is pay my salary, then the Legislature is telling me very directly they want me to spend the next year reading newspapers in the snack bar!

I am told the CNMI Government realizes about $6 million annually in revenue from the Alien Worker Registration Fees. NMC gets 1 of the 6 million. where are the other 5 going to? For sure, wherever that is, it isn't doing a whole lot to place CNMI residents in jobs being filled by aliens!

Support the College you created! We don't need all $6 million, but we need more than the $1.3 million we've been given the last few years and more than the $1.1 million the grapevine says is all we're going to get in FY2000!

Meet us halfway, and we'll be more than happy, and all the residents of the CNMI will reap the benefits!

DR. FREDERICK R. HILL

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

A 'Flood' of medical info

By William L. Flood, MD
Pediatrics, Saipan Health Center

Timely, efficient care

"TIMELY" means getting medical care when you need it. "Efficient" means getting it in the best way possible - the best care at the best price.

Getting care that is both timely and efficient is a real problem. I have patients come with horror stories. Three-hour waits even with a scheduled appointment. They go to the emergency room and are greeted with a sign on the window, "The wait to see a doctor is 4 hours." They call to make an appointment for a well child exam and are told that it will be 8 weeks before they can be seen. Perhaps they cannot be seen at all because the doctors are not seeing anyone for "check-ups" because they are too busy.

There has to be a better way.

Even in my small office, where I am the only pediatrician, patients may still wait an hour before they are seen. An hour is a long time with a sick child. Four hours is unreasonable.

There are some things we all can do to make this better.

One is to call for appointments and not just walk in. This is a new idea to many who are used to coming without an appointment and waiting until they are seen. Even waiting all day.

In a good appointment system, those with scheduled appointments are seen on time, even if others, without appointments, need to wait. Of course really sick patients are seen at once, with or without an appointment. Having an appointment should mean less waiting and allow you to get back to work, and your child back to school, without having to take the whole day off.

Another way to make our system more efficient is better use of the telephone. Many parents make office visits for simple problems that could have been easily handled over the phone. Prescription refills, doses of medicines, and questions about shots or feeding are examples. Many parents just want to know if their child sounds sick enough to need a visit. Phoning to talk to the doctor isn't going to help. If your doctor is constantly interrupted to answer telephone calls, they will have a hard time staying "on schedule."

To make this work the clinics and hospital need to have nurses or medical assistants trained to handle these common telephone concerns. Families must understand that more serious concerns, or refills of some medications such as antibiotics, still requires a visit. In addition, some insurance companies will not pay for medications without an office visit.

Still another possible solution is to find a better way to deliver care after regular office hours. Right now everyone comes to the emergency room. Perhaps clinic hours could be expanded over the lunch hour and later in the day instead of closing at 3 or 4 pm as is now the case.

Perhaps evening and weekend urgent care clinics could be established for "not so sick" patients to allow the emergency room to deal with "real" emergencies.

We pay a lot for our medical care, and we deserve the best we can get for that investment.

Inos sees no problem in staffing Kagman school

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

EDUCATION Commissioner Rita H. Inos yesterday disclosed that the Public School System sees no problem in the staffing pattern of Kagman Elementary School after its completion before the year ends.

According to Inos, teachers from San Vicente Elementary School and some other public schools will be moving in to Kagman Elementary School to maximize resources.

"We are runing a parallel school. We already have staff for Kagman Elementary School," Inos said.

However, the education commissioner said PSS cannot afford to fill all the required vacancies in Kagman Elementary School due to limited funding.

PSS is looking forward to get more support staff and fill-in the adminstration of the new school once it finally opens approximately in October this year.

The PSS plan, according to Inos, is to enroll the students in SVES in the first semester of the next school year and entertain them in Kagman Elementary School in the following semester.

According to some PSS officials, the education agency is eyeing potential staff to be assigned in the new school.

PSS could also hire some staff for Kagman Elementary School in the upcoming local job fair for teachers later this month.

Inos is hoping that the local legislature could approve the proposed PSS budget so the education agency could identify some resources for the staffing pattern of the new school.

In the proposed $38.7 million budget of PSS, the board excluded in the proposal the allocation for Kagman, Dandan and Sinapalu schools.

Vendors assure DPH on Japanese encephalitis

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

AT LEAST 46 vendors in the CNMI have assured the Department of Public Health they are not importing meat products from countries reportedly having widespread incidents of animals infected with the deadly Japanese encephalitis virus.

Joseph Kevin Villagomez

DPH disclosed this yesterday in line with the current concerns on the possible outbreak of Japanese encephalitis in Saipan as two cases are being investigated by local and federal health officials.

DPH and the U.S. Centers for Communicable Diseases are yet to finalize their findings on the two cases, where one died late last month of the suspected killer virus.

Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez yesterday said following the vendors' statements, consumers need not be too wary on the meat products that flood the local supermarkets and grocery stores.

"The 46 vendors assured us none of them are importing meat from Malaysia or any other country with a lot of Japanese encephalitis cases, but we should also take precautionary measures," said the health secretary.

Majority of meat products in the CNMI are imported, but DPH said most of these imported items come from the U.S. mainland.

He, however, said DPH is working closely with Customs Services to step up inspections of incoming cargoes and passengers as contaminated meat products may still be brought in for personal consumption.

Experts have emphasized that no medical findings can prove that the virus can be transmitted through ingestion of the meat of infected animals. The virus can only be transmitted from pigs to humans through the bits of Culex mosquitoes, the prime carrier of the virus.

Japanese encephalitis can affect the central nervous system and cause severe complications that may result in death. Its symptoms usually appear six to eight days after the bite of an infected mosquito. Most infected persons develop mild symptoms or no symptoms at all.

In people who develop a more sever disease, the illness usually stars as a fever or flu, malaise, vomiting, drowsiness, convulsion, coma, headache, confusion, tiredness, chills and paralysis.

Blood samples from pigs, chickens and other animals in the CNMI have been tested for possible Japanese encephalitis virus.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, in a separate interview, called for vigilance on the possible entry of contaminated meats or animals infected with the virus now plaguing Malaysia where more than 50 people already died, prompting authorities to kill hundreds of pigs.

DPH also called on medical practitioners and private clinics operating in Saipan to report any possible case of the dreaded Japanese encephalitis or any mosquito-borne illness to ensure no outbreak will again happen in the island.

Saipan recorded an outbreak of Japanese encephalitis with one male death and 14 cases.

DPH also warned the current weather condition has increased the breeding of adult mosquitoes which are carriers for life-threatening viral diseases and urged the community to always ensure the cleanliness of their environment.

Health not seen as high priority among employers, employees

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

MOST EMPLOYERS and employees in the CNMI have failed to put prime importance on health and wellness in their list of priorities, and this has adversely affected businesses' work force and their productivity.

David Tuohey-Mote, Department of Public Health's chronic disease control program manager, said employers and employees in the CNMI still need to do a lot of things to be able to ensure a healthy work force.

"Wellness or health is not high on the priority list and usually when they do something about it when something is already painful, it is usually too late . . .

"We need to invest in our health and this will have a lasting positive effect on the business and the work place," said Tuohey-Mote, who was the guest speaker during last week's monthly membership meeting of the CNMI Chapter of the Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM), the island's professional personnel organization.

He added that health insurance coverage is but another aspect of health investment.

Tuohey-Mote raised a number of concerns that both employers and employees tend to overlook.

He said most employers don't seem to promote regular activities among their employees that will enhance physical activities like a weekly exercise or aerobics and good diet, especially when the office has its own

Continued on page 22

Merits of open market policy noted

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

CITING the merits of maintaining an open market policy, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday said establishing a government agency that would control and regulate prices is not likely to benefit Northern Marianas consumers.

The governor said he is yet to see the proposal being put forward by Rep. Melvin Faisao but added the existing free market in the CNMI is already a regulatory body in itself because investors are competing to corner at least a portion of the local market.

Tenorio explained that a significant number of businessmen who are in retail sales are competing for their share of the slightly limited local market. The process, he said, has been dragging consumer prices down.

Under the principles of the open market policy, a large number of sellers supply a homogenous product to a common buying market.

In this situation, no individual seller can perceptibly influence the market price at which he sells but must accept a market price determined by the total supply of the product by all sellers and the total demand for the product of all buyers.

An open market policy also provides consumers with good standards, as well as numerous sellers. In the end, sellers with the lower mark-up price levels get a bigger slice of the market.

Tenorio said other retail outlets will have to either bring their prices down to the predominant level in the market or even lower in order to corner a larger portion of the buying marker, thereby, increasing their profitability.

"The business community has to compete in order for their merchandise to be sold. It is up to the company to bring in goods and come up with price levels that will help increase the saleability of the items they sell," he added.

Continued on page 22

Benavente keen on reducing House size

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

Diego T. Benavente

HOUSE Speaker Diego T. Benavente said he favors reducing the number of Saipan's delegation to the House of Representative, but not to eight.

"I think eight is too small. But I also believe that we do not need 18 members of the House for Saipan," said Benavente, in an interview.

Benavente said he had earlier proposed that the House reduce the Saipan delegation to 13.

"I would support a reduction in the members of the House," said Benavente.

Benavente's remarks came at the heels of a House Legislative Initiative being pushed by House Minority Leader Dino M. Jones who, saying the move will save government some $1.2 million, Saipan's delegates to the House of Representatives should be reduced from 16 to eight.

In his HLI 11-10, Jones noted that the number of elected representatives allocated to a particular precinct or district should not be based on the area's total population, including non-voting guest workers, as a series of federal court decisions supposedly require.

Jones explained "different circumstances" in the CNMI have made it inappropriate for the local government to follow "legal doctrines developed for the US mainland."

Jones said Saipan should only be entitled to two members in the House of Representatives for each precinct.

Continued on page 22

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RECYCLE

Saipan used as drug transshipment point

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE GOVERNMENT received reports international drug traffickers have been using Saipan as transshipment point for controlled substance, particularly crystal metamphetamine or Ice, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio disclosed yesterday.

The governor pointed out that the $2.5 million worth of Ice confiscated by the Division of Customs Services last year could very well validate the claims that Saipan has slowly turned to be transshipment point for illegal drugs.

"There were some information that we receive alleging that some people are using Saipan as transshipment point for ice trafficking," Tenorio said, adding that the Customs Division and concerned federal agencies have already began taking aggressive monitoring efforts to curb the problem.

He added the government is monitoring the activities of highly-suspicious individuals, especially those coming from high-drug risk countries. He did not say what countries.

"The Customs and the federal government are working closely to observe the activities of those people. Customs is very strict in monitoring those people who are known as drug users, as well as the pattern of people who are coming in," he said.

The CNMI chief executive said there is no way his Administration will allow unscrupulous individuals to use Saipan or any of the islands in the Northern Marianas as site for their illegal activities, more particularly drug trafficking.

The Division of Customs Services has successfully established procedures to inspect passengers and airplanes on all flights transiting through international and domestic airports in the CNMI for drugs or other prohibited substances.

Tenorio said the joint task force on drug enforcement in the Commonwealth has been instructed to look at the problem very closely and that all indications are leading toward the resolution of the problem.

"We don't like to see Saipan as a transshipment point for the trafficking of illegal drugs to other places. Our customs policies are not necessarily lenient, we are doing everything to address this

Continued on page 22

Traffic offender ordered released

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

A 21-YEAR old man facing charges of hit and run and four other traffic related cases has been ordered released by the Superior Court upon posting a $10,000 bail.

Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama allowed Ramsey Rideb to be temporarily freed from detention if he can come up with the amount which was increased from the original $3,750 due to the gravity of the complaints.

Apart from the hit and run case, the suspect was also charged with reckless driving, failure to file a police report, refusal to take alcohol test, and drunk driving.

Lizama set the Ramsey's arraignment on July 8 this year.

According to Assistant Attorney General Elaine Paplos, who is handling the case, Ramsey was arrested last Saturday at 2:00 am.

She said Ramsey, who was apparently drunk, ran into an auto pedestrian accident and also struck a vehicle two hours later.

Ramsey, according to his mother, Mary Rose Philips, was been employed at their family owned-business Corner Pocket nightclub, and was working from 9 p.m. up to 2 a.m. daily.

Continued on page 22

Sablan to run with Anicia

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety Associate Editor

THE SON of a former Saipan mayor will run with the former head of the Marianas Visitors Bureau as the Reform Party's Precinct 2 House candidates.

Ben "Kilili" Sablan, a police officer, said he is seeking a seat in the House of Representatives "to see improvements" in Saipan's Precinct 2.

Sablan, who is running with Anicia Q. Tomokane, said he wants to "help out in revitalizing the community," specifically by improving the infrastructure, power and water distribution, and sewer lines.

Sablan said Precinct 2 residents are still getting two-hours of water a day while paying for a 24-hour supply.

"If I'm elected, I would do what has to be done," he said.

Reform Party Chair and former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio yesterday said voters should "wake up and take a chance with new candidates."

He added, "Voters know already that the incumbents haven't done anything. A lot of people don't have jobs, and they don't need more promises from incumbents. What they need are new legislators with new ideas."

Sablan and Tomokane are running against Speaker Diego T. Benavente and House Commerce and Tourism Committee Chair Oscar M. Babauta, who are both Republicans.

The speaker, in a separate interview yesterday, noted that like Tomokane, Sablan may no longer be residing in Precinct 2, which covers Susupe and Chalan Kanoa.

"Of course, maybe he has

Continued on page 22

APIL moves to cut red tape

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

Dino M. Jones

THE ASSOCIATION of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) has approved a resolution allowing for increased trade activities among its members through a reduction in red tape.

Resolution 18-GA-02, filed by CNMI House Minority Leader Dino M. Jones, sought to grant citizens of APIL members "liberal privileges and opportunities to engage in business... and other economic endeavors."

Jones said he filed the resolution following request from CNMI residents who claimed they have been having problems doing business with other APIL members.

"I received a request from a number of our CNMI residents doing business in the Micronesian island importing fish to the commonwealth. They encountered problems on immigration and on doing business there," said Jones.

"This is the resolution that would remove obstacles and enhance trade," said Jones.

Jones, in his resolution noted that there is a need to streamline the bureaucratic requirements of doing business within Micronesian islands.

He said there are certain government entities within the APIL

Continued on page 22

Saipan set to host education conference

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

APPROXIMATELY 500 off-island educators are set to participate in the 16th Annual Pacific Educational Conference (PEC) which will be held at the Marianas High School from July 27 to 29.

According to Rep. Malua Peter, chairperson of the PEC committee, the organizers are looking at more than 1,000 participants during next month's event.

The committee has already sent invitations to Pacific island countries.

Peter said a senator from Indiana is also interested to participate in the event and has been now asking the committee about the conference.

The committee which consists of Maria Pangelinan Frica, Jean Olopai, Margaret Dela Cruz, Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos, Thomas Pangelinan and Roy Pua earlier asked Dr. Chiaki Mukai to be the keynote speaker for the event but due to the astronaut's hectic schedule, she could not make it to the event.

The committee also tapped the US Secretary of Education to be the keynote speaker but that also failed to materialize.

This year, PEC's keynote speaker is Fr. Gary Bradley.

"We have invited the leaders of the Pacific including the governors, legislators, and senators and they confirmed that they are coming in the conference," Peter said.

The committee also disclosed yesterday that Continental Airlines will be the official carrier of the participants for this year's event.

The year's theme is Pacific Communities: Leaders of the new millennium.

PEC which started in a Pacific school library in Guam has grown to become one of the largest educational conferences in the Pacific region, with attendance exceeding 1,000 participants each year.

The majority of the workshops at PEC '99 will be led by Pacific educators, sharing their successes with colleagues from throughout the region.

Saipan will also hold a pre-conference on July 26 and post-conference on July 30.

The opening of the conference will be held on the night of July 26 at Diamond Hotel.

Registration fee for the conference costs $80 before June 25th, and $100 after the set date.

Diabetics, to prevent foot amputation, join the foot clinic.

RP Senator Loren Legarda (3rd from left) poses with Consul General Antonio Villamor, Rose Villamor, FCG Overall Chairman Emelio Uy, Loren's husband Tony Leviste, FCG Adviser Mark Pangilinan, and FCG President Bert Jurinario.

Legarda: Support RP programs

Variety News Staff

PHILIPPINE Senator Loren Legarda, chair of the Senate committee on environment and natural resources, has urged Filipinos on Guam to support and promote Philippine-based programs geared towards the replenishment and preservation of the ecosystem.

Speaking before the members of the Filipino Community of Guam (FCG) after the RP Independence celebration, Legarda said environmental protection and preservation is one area where U.S.-based Filipinos can manifest their unfailing concern to their motherland and concretely help the country.

"Ours is one of the most valuable ecosystems in the world but the government cannot cope with the demands of safeguarding them. It is this area where our kababayans can be of great assistance," Legarda said.

At the same time, Legarda commended the pioneering spirit of the FCG for proving itself to be a vital and integral cog in the history of the territory's development.

Among those the senator cited for their exemplary contributions are Mark Pangilinan of Pampanga who was one of the founding fathers of the FCG, former Guam senator Dr. Ernesto Espaldon from Sulu who provided medical relief to indigents in the Philippines and Micronesia, FCG's well-loved past president Emelio Uy for his charitable works, and restaurateur Nita Baldovino for aiding the victims of the Mt. Pinatubo eruption.

Legarda also enjoined the FCG members to tap potential avenues of cooperation where their assistance can be relayed to government or through linkages with non-governmental organizations fired with the same zeal of preserving the local ecosystem.

The senator likewise lauded the FCG for its efforts to entice oldtimers to revisit their native land and encourage the youth to increase their knowledge of their roots under the Balik-Pilipinas program which offers a diverse selection of places that returning Filipinos can visit.

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				$ 50,000	X	90 days	=	$ 909.86	$ 50,909.86
			→	$ 25,000	X	90 days	=	$ 454.93	$ 25,454.93
				$ 10,000	X	90 days	=	$ 181.97	$ 10,181.97
7.88%	6 MOS	$ 1000	@ 7.88%	$ 100,000	X	180 days	=	$ 3,886.02	$ 103,886.02
				$ 50,000	X	180 days	=	$ 1,943.01	$ 51,943.01
			→	$ 25,000	X	180 days	=	$ 971.51	$ 25,971.51
				$ 10,000	X	180 days	=	$ 388.60	$ 10,388.60
8.25%	12 MOS	$ 500	@ 8.25%	$ 100,000	X	12 mos	=	$ 8,250.00	$ 108,250.00
				$ 50,000	X	12 mos	=	$ 4,125.00	$ 54,125.00
			→	$ 25,000	X	12 mos	=	$ 2,062.50	$ 27,062.50
				$ 10,000	X	12 mos	=	$ 825.00	$ 10,825.00
8.75%	18 MOS	$ 100	@ 8.75%	$ 100,000	X	18 mos	=	$ 13,113.01	$ 113,113.01
				$ 50,000	X	18 mos	=	$ 6,556.51	$ 56,556.51
			→	$ 25,000	X	18 mos	=	$ 3,278.25	$ 28,278.25
				$ 10,000	X	18 mos	=	$ 1,311.30	$ 11,311.30
9.00%	30 MOS	$ 100	@ 9.00%	$ 100,000	X	30 mos	=	$ 22,487.64	$ 122,487.64
				$ 50,000	X	30 mos	=	$ 11,243.82	$ 61,243.82
			→	$ 25,000	X	30 mos	=	$ 5,621.91	$ 30,621.91
				$ 10,000	X	30 mos	=	$ 2,248.76	$ 12,248.76

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In Focus

Mukai relives STS 95 mission

By Marian A. Maraya
For the Variety

TO BE the first Japanese woman astronaut in the history of mankind was not included in her list of plans.

Chiaki Mukai's first love has always been medicine — to become a doctor and be instrumental in saving people's lives.

In many ways, flying to space has also been like healing people to Mukai.

Conducting scientific experiments outer space and uncovering many mysteries have proven to be very useful for man's ongoing search for the meaning of life.

Her nine-day voyage in space last year was one of the best moments in her life, according to Mukai.

"It was a fantastic mission with good science, and wonderful people to work with. I truly enjoyed living and working in space and I learned quite a lot of things from that mission," Mukai said.

October 28,1998 was when Mukai last boarded the space shuttle which took her and a team of astronauts to outer space.

Their mission was focused on investigating the similarities or differences between the natural aging process as a result of space flight.

It was the 25th flight of Discovery and the 92nd flight of the Space Shuttle Program.

Having been a part of another space mission once before, Mukai was not afraid to be out there again.

"People asked that of me, if I was afraid. Not at all. I was excited and ready to go. As the count down proceeded and the solid-fueled rocket boosters had ignited, I was so glad and relieved because there was no doubt at that point that I was actually going into space!" Mukai narrated.

"Eight minutes and thirty seconds into flight, our main engine cut off. My arms lost their weight; fuel shifted from my lower to upper body which made me feel hot and flushed," she added.

It was only when someone shouted "We are astronauts!" that Mukai realized that they were already in space and there was no turning back.

Theirs was a very vital mission. It involved astronomy, solar observation, many experiments in Spacehab, a pressurized, on orbit laboratory carried in the cargo bay and connected to the mid-deck of the space shuttle.

Dr. Mukai: *Space experience 'indescribable'.*

"My primary responsibility on this mission was to conduct many experiments using the weightlessness condition in space. We had experiments on material science, fluid physics, life science, gravitational biology, and biotechnology and technical assessment, all conducted in our laboratory," Mukai stated.

In so many words, this was the objective of the STS 95 mission — to understand the role of gravity in shaping life; to monitor how living organisms such us ourselves react and adapt to such an alien environment.

It was the unusual things Mukai experienced that make last year's mission very memorable for her.

Just like life on earth, the crew had a daily routine to follow up there.

The astronauts spent 12 hours at work and 12 hours on rest.

And just like any normal job, they worked in shifts.

Sleeping in space was sometimes uncomfortable, according to Mukai.

But despite this, "Living and working in space was wonderful, almost indescribable.

Even the experience of motion sickness or spatial disorientation was fascinating," Mukai admitted.

"I felt dizziness and a strange sensation when I first entered the Spacehab through a narrow transfer tunnel. This sensation was that, in seeing the interior of the Spacehab, I recognized its ceiling and its floor, however, I did not feel that visual ceiling was the actual ceiling to me.

"I believe I was experiencing a miss-match between what I saw and what I felt," Mukai revealed.

Besides work, the astronauts had ample time for other activities while under a mission.

Every day, they performed body exercises to keep themselves in shape. They cycled once a day for 20 to 30 minutes.

Among them cleanliness and personal hygiene was observed.

Minus the shower, the astronauts made do with sponge baths to keep them refreshed.

They used non-rinse soap and shampoo.

Furthermore, meals were always something they looked forward to.

"We had a variety of foods and most of them were dehydrated. My favorite ones were spaghetti with meat sauce, shrimp cocktail, and assorted vegetables. There were also fruits," Mukai enumerated.

When they space crew weren't working nor sleeping, they had fun!

Mukai claimed that there was time to play a bit.

"Anything can be a toy in space since there is no gravity. We played with water drops with bubbles inside. It's so much fun to play with them because they're shaped in perfect spheres," she said.

Above all, what Mukai considers most unforgettable about the space adventure was working with a brilliant and great team.

"We had a very diverse crew in terms of nationality, age, gender, and culture. I truly enjoyed working with these superduper guys!

"I believe that no matter what language we speak, no matter what out ethnic or cultural backgrounds, and no matter what age we are, we can come together and work and share ourselves and our knowledge for the advancement of science in space," Mukai stressed.

In a nutshell, this is Mukai's message to the people of the world: Not everyone can fly to space or be a part of the Space Program but surely, any team can achieve this much with each others' support and cooperation.

NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY

Announcement of Notice of Availability of the Final Environmental Impact Statement (FEIS) for Military Training in the Marianas, Guam and Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

SUMMARY: The U.S. Pacific Command (USCINCPAC) is announcing the availability of the above-referenced FEIS, which incorporates revisions based on comments received on the revised Draft EIS published in June 1998.

The FEIS has been distributed to various federal, territorial, and commonwealth agencies, elected officials, individuals and organizations in the community, public libraries, and the media, including all parties who commented on the Draft EIS publications in February 1997 and June 1998. Limited numbers of single copies are available at the address listed at the end of this notice. The FEIS is also available for public review at the following libraries:

Nieves M. Flores Memorial Public Library, Hagatna, Guam
University of Guam, R.F.K. Memorial Library, Mangilao, Guam
Joeten-Kiyu Public Library, Saipan, MP
Northern Marianas College, Library, San Jose, Tinian, MP
Rota Public Library, Rota, MP

The FEIS evaluates alternative uses of DoD-controlled lands on Guam, Tinian, Rota, and Farallon de Medinilla (FDM) for training by Navy, Army, Air Force, Marine Corps, National Guard, and Army Reserve forces stationed on Guam or transiting the region. Most of the training land uses described in the FEIS are continuing activities. A few new proposals to maximize training land value are also described. The alternatives that were evaluated include (1) No Training Land Use, which is stopping use of one or more areas for training which has previously occurred; (2) Reduced Training Land Use, which is reducing but not eliminating ongoing training, ongoing training frequency; (3) No New Action, which consists of all ongoing land use for military training continuing without change; (4) Maximum Land Use, which consists of all training activities that are required by the military organizations that train in the Mariana Islands; and (5) Preferred Training Land Use, which consists of a mix of reduced, ongoing and proposed training activities that would meet training mission requirements while incorporating all necessary environmental mitigation and training constraints. A few but not all of the new training initiatives are included in the preferred alternative along with necessary mitigation measures. No Training and Reduced Training alternatives have been selected for specified parcels to protect sensitive biological and cultural resources.

The training areas on Guam proposed for continuing and new military training activities are Navy and Air Force sites managed by the Commander, U.S. Naval Forces Marianas and Commander, 36th Air Base Wing. These sites include the Navy's Waterfront Annex, Ordnance Annex, and the communications annexes at Finegayan and Barrigada. Air Force sites include Andersen Air Force Base, Northwest Field and Andersen South. A few small parcels of private lands along the Ylig and Talofofo Rivers, and in Dandan were also evaluated. Areas on Rota evaluated for new and continuing training include the airport and a small area within West Harbor. Areas currently used for training on Tinian include the Military Lease Area, with limited activities at the airport and Tinian Harbor. The entire island of FDM is a Navy-managed aerial bombardment and naval gunfire range used by all military services.

The ongoing and new activities evaluated include field maneuvers and logistics support, aviation support, amphibious landings, live-fire range training, underwater demolitions, naval gunfire, and aerial bombardment. The preferred alternative includes construction of an austere logistics support camp on Tinian and weapons range improvements at Waterfront Annex and Ordnance Annex. Proposals to construct permanent roadway barriers, to construct permanent indoor range training facilities and to develop live-fire weapons ranges on Tinian are not preferred. A proposal to expand FDM range use to ground weapons (artillery, mortars, wire-guided anti-tank missiles) is not preferred.

Written comments on the FEIS should be submitted in writing to the address listed at the end of this announcement. All written statements must be postmarked by July 13, 1999 to be incorporated in the official record

ADDRESSES: Requests for single copies of the FEIS and submittal of written comments for inclusion into the official record should be forwarded to Mr. Fred Minato (PLN231FM), Pacific Division, Naval Facilities Engineering Command, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 96860-7300.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION contact Mr. Fred Minato (PLN231FM), by voice telephone (808) 471-9338, facsimile transmission (808)474-5909, or email: MinatoFJ@efdpac.navfac.navy.mil

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

Keep Saipan Litter Free!

Two senators named to State Workforce Board

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

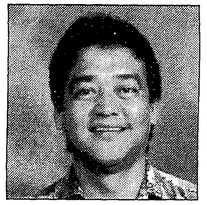
SENATE President Paul A. Manglona yesterday recommended Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez and Sen. Ricardo S. Atalig as the Senate's representatives to the Single State Workforce Investment Board.

In a letter sent to Felix Nogis, executive director of the Office of the Job Training and Partnership Act, Manglona said the two senators are well-versed on many aspects of the Job Training Partnership Act.

The recommendation was made following a request from Nogis on the matter.

In an earlier letter, Nogis explained that the newly-enacted Work Force Investment Act mandates that a Single State Work Force Investment Board be created.

The Board will assist in the initial planning and implementation of the system.



Thomas P. Villagomez

Ricardo S. Atalig

Specifically, the Board is required to coordinate efforts in the development of the so-called state plan; oversee commonwealth-wide activities; develop CNMI-wide performance measures; and develop a CNMI-wide employment statistics.

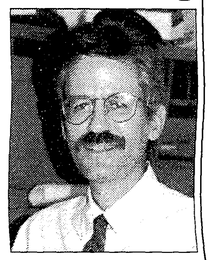
"Specifically," Nogis, in his letter, said, "the law intends to establish a coordinated effort on all government and private entities to accord an effective work force delivery system to our citizens."

The statute requires two representatives each from both the House and Senate.

Manglona, in his letter to Nogis, said he is "confident that the experience and knowledge of (the two) fine senators will be of great assistance" to OJTPA's efforts to develop a system for the commonwealth.

Manglona's nominees will still have to be officially appointed by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

Public Defender appeals immigration fraud ruling



Harvey M. Palefsky

THE PUBLIC Defender's Office has appealed to the high tribunal the conviction and sentencing of a woman in connection with an immigration fraud.

Chief Public Defender Harvey M. Palefsky, counsel for Heidi Caja, filed a notice to appeal to the CNMI Supreme Court from the judgment of conviction and commitment order entered by Superior Court Associate Judge John A. Manglona.

At a May 7 bench trial, Manglona found and adjudged Caja guilty beyond a reasonable doubt of two counts of immigration fraud.

The judge subsequently sentenced the defendant to one year imprisonment, all suspended except 15 days.

Manglona gave Caja credit for time served in jail after her arrest. He also placed the defendant under one year probation and required her to pay $200 fine. **(FDT)**

CUC: No power rate cut for Dynasty

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

THE COMMONWEALTH Utilities Corporation is not yielding to Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino's request of waiving fees and lowering power rate before hooking up to the new 10-megawatt power plant in Tinian, it was learned.

Timothy Villagomez, CUC executive director, yesterday disclosed every business in the CNMI will be treated equal by the utilities agency and therefore granting Dynasty's request will be unfair for any other firms asking for waiver or rate cuts due to the current economic crunch.

"The answer is no. We cannot accommodate their (Dynasty) request . . . We have to treat every business the same," Villagomez said shortly after the presentation of the Solid Waste Task Force on the progress of the Puerto Rico dumpsite closure and opening up of the Marpi landfill at the Governor's Office.

The financially troubled Dynasty is reportedly asking CUC to adjust its power rate from 16 cents to 11 cents per kilowatt hour, and a grace period of up to two years once it is hooked up to CUC's power plant in Tinian.

Villagomez said CUC is set to send a letter to Dynasty this week, reflecting the agency's official response.

He, however, said that long before Dynasty sent the letter to CUC office in Rota, officials of the utilities agency and the hotel already met to discuss the matter.

"We met with them few weeks before the letter came out. We told them any change in policy, any change in rate is out of the question; we have to treat everybody equal. How we can accommodate it to assist us in the financial situation is something that is open . . .," said the CUC executive director but did not elaborate.

CUC Board chairman Juan Dela Cruz, in a separate interview, said the Board is not open to changes in policies, specifically to lower down current power rates as CUC is also hurting from the crisis.

Continued on page 22

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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

National Juneteenth Celebration Saturday

THE AFRICAN American Association presents the National Juneteenth Celebration on Saturday, June 19 at Susupe Regional Beach Park, from 11 am - 6 pm.

The Schedule of events:

• 11 am - 12:30 pm - setting up of grills, food preparations, volleyball tournament, dodge ball dodge ball competition sign up team formation and start of play, swimming, chess, checkers, monopoly, backgammon and maybe bid whiz.

• 12:30 - 3:00 Bar-B-Q Feast

Each family to bring their own food and beverages, Bar-B-Q pits are reserved for this event.

• 3:00 pm - 4:00 pm Speeches to commemorate Juneteenth Day

Recognition of Games winners and Outstanding Community Acts

This year's celebration will be marked with local and popular entertainment with Music provided by Sam Joyner

For more information contact, John Joyner at 235-8061, Chazz Grayer at 234-0543 or Khalid A. Islam at 256-1005.

From left, Captain James Wise and Lt. Dino Pieprantoni welcome the local visitors during the USS John McCain open house yesterday at the Saipan seaport. Photo by Maria C. Alonso

UOG honors Nakamura

For the Variety

KOROR (Palau Horizon) — The University of Guam (UOG) recently conferred Honorary Doctorate of Laws to President Nakamura.

In an interview, the president told Palau Horizon that he was given such honor because the Palauan people gave him the opportunity to serve. "Whatever it is, it is still a recognition basically for the people of Palau. I got the degree because my people gave me trust, and with that trust, I've gained a lot of experience," he said.

According to Nakamura, the

Continued on page 22

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105 avail of adult education

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

THE NORTHERN Marianas College has 105 new students attending adult classes at three designated schools, which began last June 7.

According to Fe Calixterio, director for the federally-funded program, a growing number of islanders are beginning to realize the importance of the adult program as more students are being enticed to enroll .

She said from the institution of the program in 1975 wherein it has only about 40 up to 50 initial students, the adult education is now accomodating more than 400 students yearly.

She said last year alone, there were about 406 people who have enrolled for the program. For this summer classes, beginning from June 7 and up to August, it has 105.

According to Calixterio, a lot of students who have gone through the ABE have been successful in their chosen fields.

ABE is being offered to students with ages 16 and up who have been unable to finish or gone though high school education.

It is a preparation towards the taking or passing of the General Equivalency Degree test which

Continued on page 22

IT&E's WorldPerks program launched

Variety News Staff

THE IT&E has launched a new rewards program allowing customers who make long distance calls to have WorldPerks, the frequent flyer program of Northwest Airlines and KLM Royal Dutch Airlines.

Customers can sign up for IT&E WorldPerks by registering both their IT&E-issued accounts or telephone numbers (where IT&E is the Primary Interexchange Carrier) and their WorldPerks mileage program account number at any IT&E or Northwest Airlines office in Guam and the CNMI.

Interested parties can apply at any IT&E office or Northwest Airlines office where enrollment forms are available.

Residents can earn five WorldPerks miles for every $1.00 of long distance usage. The WorldPerks miles can be redeemed for free travel on Northwest Airlines, KLM Royal Dutch Airlines, Continental Airlines, and other WorldPerks partner airline flights.

Customers enrolled in IT&E WorldPerks will be billed at their current long distance calling plan rate. Only direct dial calls, originating in Guam and in the CNMI during all rate periods and to all destinations charged to an IT&E issued account or to an originating telephone number where IT&E is the PIC, are eligible for the rewards program.

Rates and WorldPerks miles shall apply effective on the month of enrollment. In order to qualify, the IT&E-issued account and/or telephone number must be under the same name

Continued on page 22

Saipan tops in Avon sales

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

FOR FOUR consecutive years, Saipan Avon has again bested the other Micronesian islands in terms of sales volume.

According to Fe Calixterio, Avon's official sales representative in the CNMI, the islands' total sales volume reached $189,000 this year as compared to last year's $179,000 and 1997's $150,000.

Since 1995, Saipan Avon dominates the sales volume in the whole Micronesian region.

"The secret behind our success is hardwork and staying power," Calixterio said.

Saipan Avon is being distributed in three parts of the Commonwealth through Pacific Engineering and Construction, Inc. (PECI) or dba Tessie's Corner.

"We don't treat our customers as just customers. We treat them as friends," said Malou Quiatchon, the general manager of PECI.

Saipan has outperformed Guam, Palau, Marshall Islands, Federated States of the Micronesia and American Samoa in sales.

With only 20 individual representatives around the islands and four staff of PECI, CNMI managed to maintain the lead despite Guam's 420 sales representatives.

On June 21st to 25th, Avon will bring together a number of sales reprentatives who have sold $200,000 or up (President's Inner Circle), and those people who have sold between $100,000 and $200,000 (President's Council) and treat them to a Hawaii trip.

"They bring these sales representatives as a gesture of gratitude for the volume of sales. They figure out that we are the backbone of the business. Once you reach the certain level of sales, it is something that you look forward to," Calixterio said.

According to Calixterio, the group's marketing strategy is building up linkages, or otherwise known as networking.

And the group, Calixterio added, is banking on the product's asset.

Saipan's official Avon Representative Fe Y. Calixterio (middle) holds the 1999 best in sales volume trophy. Also shown in photo are Calixterio's staff (from left) Malou Quiatchon, Amy Obispo, Mila Tuazon and Jenny C. Mostales. Contributed Photo

Small business expo, training

THE NORTHERN Marianas College Small Business Development Center (SBDC) and CNMI Department of Commerce are gearing up for the 2nd Annual Small Business Expo.

The Expo is a major component of Small Business Development Month. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio signed the proclamation on June 1st. The CNMI entrepreneurial and small business community is encouraged to participate and attend all of these free to the public events.

The intent of the Expo is to make this a "One Stop Shop" for local small businesspersons where questions regarding the start-up, maintenance and growth of private ventures can be answered by experts.

Representatives from the many participating agencies and firms will have booths where they will answer questions, provide one-on-one assistance, distribute informational literature, application forms, and as needed, will make firm appointments to provide more extensive services.

Moreover, individuals from the private sector that provide goods or services to small businesses, including legal, banking, and communications, will participate.

Finally, four free concurrent training sessions will be conducted.

Tuesday, June 22 - 2nd Annual Business Expo - Rota, CNMI; Registration: 8:00 am. Expo: 9:00 - 4:00 pm, Training: 9:00 - 4:30 pm at Rota High School, contact Felix Mendiola, NMC Rota Campus Admin., 532-9477.

Thursday, June 24 - 2nd Annual Business Expo - Tinian, CNMI; Registration: 8:00 am, Expo: 9:00 - 4:00 pm, Training: 9:00 - 4:30 pm at Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino (Dynasty Club and Emperor Rooms), contact

Continued on page 22

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PNG inflation rate continues to drop

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews) — Papua New Guinea's inflation rate has fallen significantly in the first quarter of this year.

The rate stands at 14.2 per cent down from 21.8 in the December quarter last year.

Treasurer, Iaro Lasaro says the high December figure was driven by fluctuating prices of consumer goods.

But the PNG currency, the Kina, continues to fall.

It's now worth about 43 Australian cents or 29 cents US.

The Government launched a package last week designed to restore investor confidence and shore up the Kina, which has been in decline for several months.

Tongan businessman faces charge in Fiji

SUVA (Pacnews) — A Tongan businessman has appeared in the Suva Magistrates court charged with unlawful use of a motor vehicle.

Laute'au Fuea was alleged to have been given the car by a friend. Fuea, an import and export businessman, who was

Continued on page 16

La Fiesta San Roque

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Elsewhere in the Pacific

Ethnic violence flares in Solomon Islands

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AP) — Ethnic violence has flared in the Pacific nation of the Solomon Islands, with recent clashes leaving two people dead and forcing more than 1,000 others to flee their homes, authorities said Tuesday.

Militants from the self-styled Guadalcanal Liberation Army set up roadblocks outside the capital Honiara at the weekend and were forcing out ethnic rivals from the neighboring island of Malaita living in villages around the city, police said.

One person died from wounds inflicted during a clash at an illegal roadblock, Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio reported Monday. Details of the other death were not immediately known.

Solomons Islands Police Commissioner Frank Short said that in the village of Kakibona, west of Honiara, up to 1,000 people had been forced out, the ABC reported.

Other villages were also being cleared and up to 10,000 refugees were expected to arrive in Honiara in the next few days, New Zealand Press Association reported.

A placid backwater since American and Japanese troops battled in the archipelago in World War II, the Solomons are being wracked by increasingly bitter feuds.

The tensions mainly involve Guadalcanal natives and people from Malaita, an island 60 miles (96 kilometers) across Iron Bottom Sound, the underwater graveyard of more than 40 U.S. and Japanese warships.

To the resentment of Guadalcanal natives, Malaitan people who have migrated to Guadalcanal now dominate government jobs and business in Honiara.

Foreign businesses including plantations said they were moving workers based outside Honiara back to the capital.

The governments of New Zealand and Australia warned people to avoid traveling to the Solomons.

Nick Hurley, New Zealand's High Commissioner in the Solomons, said foreigners were not being specifically targeted but that some people were making plans to leave Honiara for "peace of mind."

He said representatives of diplomatic missions in Honiara had been assured by police that all roadblocks would be removed.

"That in itself will help ease some of the heightened tension that there was over the last 24 hours," Hurley said.

Pacific island countries 'most vulnerable' to climate change

SUVA (Pacnews) — A Pacific environment expert says recent analysis has confirmed that Pacific island countries are among the most vulnerable to climate change and sea level rise.

And the science of climate change suggests the Pacific can expect on-going changes in temperature and in the pattern and intensity of rainfall over the next 30 to 50 years, says South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) Director, Tamari'I Tutangata.

Opening a post-graduate certificate in climate and adaptation assessment training course at the University of the South Pacific yesterday, he said the changes in weather patterns and sea level rise pose particular threats to people and their way of life.

"For centuries, we have known how to grow food despite poor soils, how to collect water despite, in many cases a complete absence of rivers and streams," Tutangata told participants.

"Now all that knowledge is under threat.

"It is up to you, the trainers and the trainees in this innovative and ground breaking course to gather information that will let our Pacific people further develop their knowledge of their environment, even as it changes, so they continue to survive well and happily in the next millennium".

During the four-month course, trainees will learn how to scientifically assess how climate change will affect water supply, health, coastal erosion, agriculture, forestry, marine and land ecosystems, national cultures, tourism and other related issues.

Fiji parliament session opens despite threat of court action

SUVA (Pacnews) — The first joint sitting of Fiji's parliament yesterday has been described as unconstitutional by the Opposition.

The Opposition has sought legal advice and plans to file papers in court to declare the sitting null and void.

The Opposition is made up of the former ruling Soqosoqo Ni Vakavulewa Party who argues the sitting should not have gone ahead without eight members of the Upper House.

The Opposition leader, Ratu Inoke Kubuabola had submitted his nominees for Senate but the list was reportedly rejected by the President, Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara.

Government defended the rejection of his list saying the eight nominees should have been shared amongst the SVT and other political parties represented in the Lower House.

The other parties are the ruling coalition partners, Labour Party, the Fijian Association, Party of National Unit and the Fijian Nationalists Vanua Tako Lavo party.

A legal adviser to the Opposition said Parliament consisted of the President, and the Upper and Lower Houses.

He said yesterday's meeting was unconstitutional because not all 32 members of the Upper House were present.

Only 24 attended the swearing-in ceremony.

The Attorney General, Anand Singh said despite the fact that not all members of the Upper House were present, standing orders allowed the sitting once a quorum was achieved.

"I will need more than just a claim to respond. At this stage, it is too vague for me," Singh said.

Leader of Government business, Joeli Kalou echoed the same sentiments saying the constitution requires Parliament to sit 30 days after the general election.

The official opening of Fiji's Parliament went ahead this morning despite a court action threat by the Opposition.

Philippines, Thailand agree to forge extradition treaty

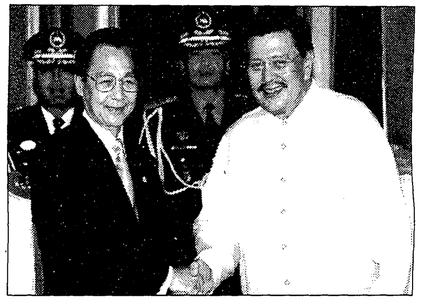
MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine and Thai leaders marked their 50th anniversary of diplomatic relations Monday by agreeing to forge an extradition treaty and trade pacts and by renaming a metropolitan Manila street "Thailand."

President Joseph Estrada welcomed Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai in Manila's Malacanang presidential palace with full military honors, exactly 50 years to the day when the two nations began diplomatic ties after World War II.

Leekpai, accompanied by Cabinet members and a trade delegation, arrived Sunday and is to return home Tuesday.

Estrada's spokesman, Jerry Barican, said that during a 35-minute meeting, the two leaders briefed each other on their respective countries' efforts to recover from Asia's financial crisis.

They also agreed to forge an extradition treaty and another accord that would allow each country to exchange convicted nationals so they can serve their prison terms in their own country, Barican said.



Philippine President Joseph Estrada (right) welcomes Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai during Chuan's courtesy call at the Malacanang palace in Manila Monday. AP

On trade, the two leaders discussed ways of boosting bilateral investment, including the possibility of a countertrade arrangement in which the Philippines could import Thai rice and other products in exchange for Philippine products to be identified later, he said.

Estrada also mentioned a request by flag-carrier Philippine Airlines to have more flights to Thailand, Barican said.

Addressing Philippine and Thai businessmen later, both leaders expressed optimism the two countries will recover soon from the regional financial turmoil, citing economic reforms their countries have set in place.

Chuan praised the Philippines for being more prepared to deal with the crisis than most Asian countries, including Thailand, and said regional financial upheavals which struck in July 1997 were "a blessing in disguise" that forced nations to pursue long-needed reforms.

In Thailand, "the worst now appears to be over," Chuan said, citing export growth in April and May after contractions in the previous 14 months.

Although two-way trade increased by 10 percent to $1.4 billion last year, Chuan said that trade volume is still far away from a mutually agreed target of $2.4 billion by next year.

The two leaders also launched Philippines-Thailand Week, which features events such as the issuance of commemorative stamps and cellular phone cards.

Estrada to undergo eye operations

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — President Joseph Estrada said Sunday he will have an operation on his eyelid next month in the Philippines and another operation later in the United States to cure a cataract.

Both will be conducted by the same Filipino doctor, he said.

Estrada did not explain what would be done in the first operation, but his left eyelid has been noticeably sagging in recent months. He began wearing glasses during a recent trip to Japan and South Korea.

The president has cataracts in both eyes. He will have an operation on one eye initially in Boston in either September or October, he said. The trip will be private and will be paid for personally, he said.

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RP's 5-month budget deficit exceeds target

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The Philippines posted a budget deficit of 45.31 billion pesos ($1.19 billion) in the first five months of the year, higher than the target of 40.24 billion pesos ($1.06 billion) set in an agreement with the International Monetary Fund, according to government data released Monday.

The government is planning a 1999 budget deficit of 68.40 billion pesos ($1.8 billion), a sharp rise from 1998, as it increases spending in an attempt to spur an economic recovery.

For May alone, the budget deficit totaled 23.29 billion pesos ($613 million), broadly in line with the targeted 24.40 billion pesos ($642 million).

Revenues in the five months to May totaled 201.01 billion pesos ($5.29 billion), below the targeted 212.98 billion pesos ($5.60 billion), while expenditures of 246.32 billion pesos ($6.48 billion) were less than the targeted 253.22 billion pesos ($6.66 million).

Despite a wider-than-expected budget gap in the first five months, the government believes it will meet its deficit target.

"We are confident that we can attain a 1999 budget deficit of 68.4 billion pesos ($1.8 billion)," Finance Undersecretary Solomon Cua said.

PAL advisers seek assurance

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Executives from Hong Kong-based airline consulting company Regent Star Services said Monday they will only join a group overseeing the implementation of Philippine Airlines' rehabilitation plan if they are assured their contract with the carrier is secure.

Regent Star was set up by five former Cathay Pacific Airways executives last year to help draw up a rehabilitation plan to return the carrier to profitability.

In a letter to Manila's Securities and Exchange Commission, Regent Star executives sought assurances on the status of their five-year contract with the ailing flag carrier after Asiaweek reported last week that PAL majority owner and chief executive Lucio Tan plans to fire the consulting group.

"They have committed many violations," Tan was quoted as saying by Asiaweek, which added: "Media reports say Tan suspects the consultants of leaking sensitive information to Cathay, but Regent denies allegations of disloyalty."

The plan was approved by the SEC last month and also has the backing of creditors, owed a total of $2.2 billion.

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RP appeals for release of kidnapped Belgians

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine officials appealed Monday to the abductors of a Belgian land reform consultant and a journalist to release their captives immediately.

The two men were seized Sunday as they were traveling by boat with relatives and Filipino friends to Sta. Cruz island, a popular southern Philippine beach resort, for a picnic, police said.

The three heavily armed kidnappers apparently had prior knowledge of which boat the Belgians were using, armed forces Chief of Staff Joselin Nazareno said.

Agrarian Reform Secretary Horacio Morales identified the victims as Lieven de la Marche, 37, of Heusden, chief technical adviser of the Belgian Integrated Agrarian Reform Support Program, and his friend, Eric Bracke, a 39-year-old journalist of the Belgian newspaper De Morgen from Wetteren near Gent City.

After blocking their boat, the armed men took the two Belgian men, but left behind the others, including de la Marche's wife, Maureen, his two children, and five Filipinos.

De la Marche's wife said the three men, who appeared to be bandits, trained their guns on her husband and asked him to transfer to their boat. Bracke then followed his friend onto the other boat.

"I asked them not to use their guns on my husband and they answered, 'no,' 'no,'" she said in a telephone interview from Zamboanga City.

De la Marche has lived with his family for about a year in Zamboanga aiding Philippine land reform efforts. Bracke was in the area visiting de la Marche.

Former Spice Girl Geri Halliwell, popularly known as "Ginger Spice", arrives at the Marie Stopes reproductive health and family planning clinic in suburban Kalookan City, north of Manila Monday. AP

Former Spice Girl starts UN work promoting contraceptives in RP

By JIM GOMEZ

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Former Spice Girl Geri Halliwell began her first tour Monday as a U.N. Population Fund goodwill ambassador, promoting contraceptives in a country where the dominant Catholic church considers artificial birth control a taboo.

The first stop for Halliwell — better known as Ginger Spice — was a clinic run by Marie Stopes International, a worldwide private charity group promoting contraceptive use and reproductive health.

"I believe that everybody deserves to have control of their lives and that means having control over your fertility, that means being able to have protection against disease and unwanted pregnancies," Halliwell told a crowd in front of the clinic in a crowded public market.

"It's everybody's fundamental right," she said.

Asked if everyone should practice safe sex by using condoms, she replied, "Absolutely."

Since leaving the Spice Girls last year, Halliwell has done charity work and made a debut solo album, "Schizophrenia."

She was chosen the U.N. Population Fund's goodwill ambassador last October — in a year in which two other former Spice Girls — Scary Spice Melanie Brown and Posh Spice Victoria Adams — became pregnant by their boyfriends.

Halliwell said there is no overnight solution to problems like unwanted pregnancies, a growing problem in the Philippines, but hopes her visit can help by boosting the work of Marie Stopes. The group has seven clinics in the country.

Philippine Catholic church leaders vigorously oppose the government's current population-control program because it promotes artificial birth control techniques such as condoms.

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Raisinets	1 entry form

For diplomatic flap with China

RP blames Taiwan navy

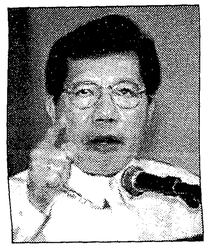
MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine officials blamed Taiwan Monday for setting off a diplomatic row with China, saying three Taiwanese naval ships apparently violated the terms of a goodwill visit to Manila by flying their flags.

The visit revealed considerable confusion within the Philippine government over its "one-China" policy, under which it officially considers Taiwan a renegade Chinese province and has no diplomatic ties with Taipei.

Three top officials — President Joseph Estrada, Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon and Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado — indicated they had not been informed of the ships' visit in advance.

Mercado said Monday, however, that the Philippine and Taiwanese militaries were able to establish relations despite the official lack of ties between their governments.

Joseph Estrada



Orlando Mercado

"What is important is that we're having military relations," he said in an interview with DZMM radio.

"This is an exchange between the two navies ... we held conferences, exchanges of experiences of our navy and discussions about mutually important matters."

During visits to the Philippines, Taiwanese naval ships are supposed to observe certain conditions because of the "one-China" policy, Presidential Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora said Monday.

The conditions include no hoisting of the Taiwanese flag, no uniforms for crew members while on port call, and no publicity, he said.

"If Taiwan indeed violated these three, this is clearly a major violation," Zamora said.

The ships, which arrived Friday, flew flags, crew members wore uniforms, and journalists were allowed to take photographs.

Chinese Ambassador Fu Ying criticized the violations in a telephone call to the Department of Foreign Affairs.

Estrada, however, expressed displeasure Sunday over the criticisms.

"Don't worry about China's anger, be more concerned about my anger," Estrada told reporters. "They should not tell us what to do here in our country. We are not telling them what to do in their country."

Presidential spokesman Jerry Barican said China should view the ships' visit "in a reasonable and responsible manner," stressing the Philippines would not do anything to harm its relations with China.

He said Taiwanese navy ships also made a friendly visit at Subic Bay freeport, north of Manila, in 1994 but no flags were hoisted.

On Friday, officials at the Department of Foreign Affairs said it would be "unfriendly and inhospitable" to tell the Taiwanese not to fly their flags.

But Zamora said China had a right to be unhappy over the violations.

Ties between China and the Philippines had already been strained by territorial disputes over the Spratly islands and Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea.

The two Taiwanese missile frigates and one 17,000-ton command and supply ship, which also houses a museum on Chinese culture and Taiwanese progress, belong to Taiwan's Midshipman Cruising Training Squadron.

Taiwanese naval officers said Manila was the last stop on a four-nation tour of the Pacific and the South China Sea that also took them to Papua New Guinea, the Solomon Islands and Singapore.

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

"Dinner Show"

This is to inform the general public and especially to those individuals that have purchased tickets, for ***M.C. Barrio***

Dinner show on June 19, 1999, is scheduled for this coming FRIDAY June 18th Garapan Central Park, at 6:00 p.m. in the evening.

The fundraising committee and families would like to apologize for the miscommunication, which occurred between the office of ***Parks & Recreation*** *and the* ***fundraisers.***

Your understanding is greatly appreciated.

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JOB ANNOUNCEMENT

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REPORTS TO: PAIMI/PAIR/AT Coordinator

REQUIRED KNOWLEDGE SKILLS AND ABILITIES:

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Sound professional judgment.

Sound reasoning skills which will allow the employee to effectively analyze complex cases, make decisions about the proper course of action to take in cases and to advocate effectively and persuasely on a client behalf.

Oral and written communication skills which allow the employee to effectively and professionally communicate with clients and other individuals over the telephone, in writing and in persons.

Organizational skills which will allow the employee to manage multiple priorities and tasks and allow the employee to meet self imposed and externally set deadlines.

Ability to take supervision and comply with the office policies and procedures of the agency.

QUALIFICATIONS FOR POSITION:

1. Two years college degree in rehabilitation, social work, mental health, or a related social service or education degree; or
2. Four years experience in related field.

Deadline for submission of application is Friday, June 18, 1999.

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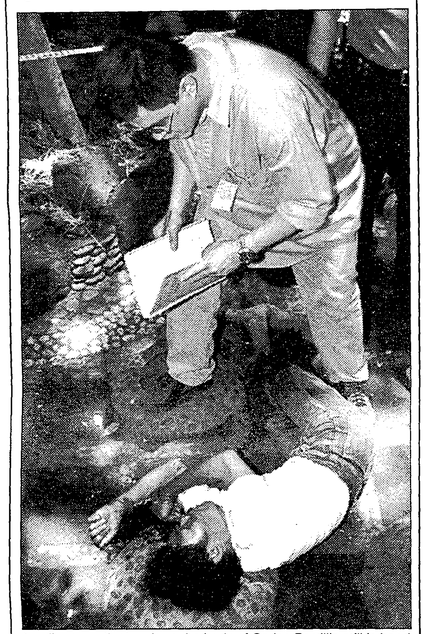

A police investigator views the body of Carlos Pardilla still in handcuffed as it lies on the ground after jumping from the fifth floor window of a detention cell last Wednesday at the Manila City Hall. Pardilla, accused of raping his 13-year old daughter twice, jumped shortly after being sentenced to death. AP

Tongan . . .

Continued from page 12

found driving the car on June 6, said he did not know the vehicle was stolen.

He was also charged with driving without a licence.

His lawyer, Nepote Vere asked that he be released on bail because he was trying to start a business in Fiji on export and import to the United States.

Fuea has been granted bail and will appear in court again on June 29.

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Japan politics heat up

Keizo Obuchi

By Linda Sieg

TOKYO (Reuters) — The Japanese government decided on Monday to extend parliament in order to enact an extra budget for boosting jobs and competitiveness, but the longer-term political calendar, including a general election, is still in flux.

With politicians already jockeying for position ahead of a general election that could come this year or could be more than 12 months away, analysts said only one thing was sure: Political manoeuvring is sure to heat up along with summer temperatures.

"Objectively speaking, there is a possibility of general elections being called by the end of this year," Chikara Sakaguchi, policy chief of the friendly opposition New Komeito party told Reuters Television in an interview.

Sakaguchi added, though, that his Buddhist-backed party - now pondering whether to join the Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) and its junior partner the Liberals in a ruling coalition - would prefer to wait.

"It is desirable to have general elections at a time when the economy stabilises," Sakaguchi said.

No poll for parliament's powerful Lower House need be held until October 2000 but terms have rarely lasted the full four years.

Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi's popularity has risen to respectable levels and the economy looks better than it has in ages after data last week showed a startling 7.9 percent annualised jump in the gross domestic product in the January-March quarter.

But both Obuchi's support ratings and the economic data could prove to be volatile.

Top government spokesman Hiromu Nonaka told a news conference that he wants to pass the jobs-related budget in the extended parliament session, which could well drag on into September.

Left unclear, however, was the timing and size of a bigger budget with the fresh public works spending that private economists think will be needed to ensure growth stays on track.

Analysts say the LDP would like to unveil, if not enact, that stimulus package shortly before a general election to reap maximum advantage with voters.

Possible scenarios for the timing of a general election and related events along the way include:

* October - after a lengthy extension of parliament to enact the supplementary jobs budget and the announcement of second quarter gross domestic product data around September 10. A bad showing on the GDP front, however, could snarl that scenario.

* December - after ceremonies marking the 10th anniversary of the emperor's accession to the throne on November 12th and after an extra session of parliament which might enact a hefty second supplementary budget for the fiscal year to next March in order to boost public works spending;

* Early next year - but before the start of the new fiscal year on April 1, when a controversial insurance scheme for elderly nursing care kicks off. Some politicians have suggested that a "15-month" budget be adopted in the new year that would combine spending for the January-March period with the 2000/01 budget.

* After the Group of Eight leaders summit to be held in July 2000 on Okinawa - well after economic stimulus measures had been passed and when Obuchi is basking in the afterglow of a successful summit. That scenario would also please his coalition partners, who would have more time to brace for the poll.

Obuchi is keen to persuade the New Komeito, which has already helped him pass key legislation with its swing vote in the Upper House, to join hands formally with the LDP's coalition. Many think the opposition party will take the plunge at a party gathering on July 24.

The New Komeito's Sakaguchi said he couldn't rule out joining the ruling bloc, but added the LDP and Liberals would have to accept his party's basic policy stance first.

Liberal chief Ichiro Ozawa is less than thrilled at the prospect, but he and Obuchi look unlikely to part paths for now.

"The Liberals have been fairly successful in pushing their agenda on the LDP until now, but with another party in the coalition it would be far more complicated," one political source said. "But Obuchi went to bat for the coalition and his boat is tied to it by more than just numbers."

Job seekers wait their turn to use personal computers for their job search at the Shinjuku Hello Work, a municipal placement center, in Tokyo. Japan has now sunk into a deep recession. AP

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PUBLIC NOTICE
CLASSROOM TEACHER RECRUITMENT JOB FAIR

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2. **Classroom Teacher II**
3. **Classroom Teacher III**
4. **Classroom Teacher IV**
5. **SPED Teacher (all areas)**

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If you want to join the PSS Teaching Professionals and your credentials meet our professional teacher profile, we cordially invite you to come to our Job Fair. Mark your calendar and schedule to attend. We will be holding this Job Fair at the following place and time:

Location: **Multi-purpose convention Center in Susupe next to the Judicial Building.**
Date: **June 24-25, 1999; Thursday and Friday**
Time: **8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.**

If you need assistance, please contact the Human Resources Office at telephone number 664-3761.

/s/ Rita Hocog Inos
Commissioner of Education

NMI Council for the Humanities

Request for Proposals on Diabetes and Culture

The NMI Council for the Humanities seeks proposals for projects to increase public awareness and understanding of diabetes and its relationship to the indigenous cultures of the CNMI. Priority is given to projects that are designed to engage the general public in discussion and dialogue with humanities scholars, health care providers, cultural experts and community leaders. Projects should consider the history of diabetes in the CNMI, its specific relationship to both past and present cultural practices, and the social and economic impact of diabetes on the family and the community. Formats might include:

- symposiums, conferences, public forums, panel discussions
- spot radio and television presentations
- dramatic performances
- oral history collection and publication
- exhibits
- demonstration projects
- reading and discussion groups
- publications for mass consumption
- video documentaries

Eligible applicants include non profit organizations; civic, church and community groups; public and private schools and colleges; government agencies; and hoc groups and individuals. Applicants should submit draft proposal by March 31, 1999 for projects that begin in May 1999; by June 30, 1999 for projects that begin August 1999; by September 30, 1999 for projects that begin in November 1999.

Grants may range from $2,000 to $10,000 for regular grant applications. Planning grants (up to $1,500) are available for preparation of a regular grant application. Mini grants (under $2,000) are also available. Mini grants and planning grants may be submitted at any time but at least 30 days prior to the project start date.

For applications and inquiries call 235-4785 or write to: NMI Council for the Humanities, AAA 3394, Box 10001, Saipan MP 96950 or visit our office in King's Plaza, Dandan.

The NMI Council for the Humanities is a non profit, private organization funded in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities.
Web page: <http://cnmi.humanities.org.mp

Northern Mariana Islands Museum
OF HISTORY & CULTURE

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Board of Governors of the Commonwealth Museum of History and Culture, are hereby giving notice of a Board Meeting to be held on Tuesday, June 22, 1999 at 9:00 A.M. at the CNMI Museum of History and Culture in Garapan. Interested persons are welcome to attend. For more information, please contact the Museum at tel. No. 664-2160 or Fax No. 664-2170.

AGENDA

I. Call to Order
II. Ascertain Quorum
III. Approval of Previous Minutes: Meeting of March 23, 1999
IV. Report
  A. Committee Reports
    1. Executive Committee - 12 May 1999 Meeting
    2. Collections Committee
  B. Chair's Report
    1. New Members
    2. AAG Legal Opinion re Members Term of Office
    3. Letter to Superior Court Probation Officer re Community Services Program
    4. Letter to BPL re Land Needs of Museum
    5. Letter to Executive Director re Contract Renewal
  C. Executive Director's Report
    1. Friends of Museum
    2. Museum Physical Plant
  D. Curator's Report
V. Old Business
VI. New Business
  A. Final Rules and Regulations re Group Fees
    1. Comments from Frankie B. Villanueva
  B. NMI Humanities Council's Millennium Arts Project
  C. Chamorro Yap Migration Exhibit
  D. Draft Bill of Sale for Concepcion Collection
  E. E-mail from Javier Galvan
  F. Insurance Coverage for Museum
VII. Administrative Matters
  A. Personnel Matters (Executive Session)
  B. Financial Status Report
  C. Others
VIII. Miscellaneous Items for Discussion
IX. Announcements
X. Adjournment

/s/ HERMAN T. GUERRERO, Chair
Board of Governors
June 01, 1999

Gore: Raise age for guns

By Jua Nyla Hutcheson

NEW ORLEANS (Reuters) — Vice President Al Gore Monday urged Congress to raise the legal age for handgun possession saying Americans between the ages of 18 and 20 make up only 4 percent of the population but commit 24 percent of gun murders in the country.

"Incredibly, while these 18 to 20 years olds cannot legally buy a beer, cannot purchase a bottle of wine, cannot order a drink in a bar, they can walk into any gun shop, pawn shop or gun show in America and buy a handgun," Gore told the nation's mayors.

Addressing the U.S. Conference of Mayors, Gore called on Congress to raise the legal age for handgun possession from 18 to 21 and require child-safety locks on guns and background checks on those who buy guns at gun shows.

Al Gore

"I saw a billboard in one of your cities the other day that said it's easier to child-proof a gun than to bullet-proof a child, and that's so true," he said.

He said those who oppose closing the loophole that does not require background checks on gun buyers at gun shows are "going against common sense. They're going against our children and our families."

"Will we let the NRA call the shots in Washington or will we cross party lines to make our children safer?" Gore asked.

"Now is the time for every parent, every citizen, every elected official, every national leader, to take a stand and to stand up and be counted."

"No more delays, no more fuzziness, and no more excuses - we need strong action, and strong leadership today."

At the conference Gore released a new study by the departments of Justice and Treasury which showed that people between 18 and 20 years old commit 24 percent of the murders involving guns, with 18-year-old youths committing 35 percent more gun murders than 21-year-olds.

Crime guns recovered from 18 to 20-year-olds are mostly handguns, particularly semi-automatic pistols. That age group also leads all others in using guns in non-lethal crimes, including assault, rape and robbery, the report said.

A cover letter to the report, signed by Department of the Treasury Under Secretary for Enforcement James E. Johnson and Department of Justice Deputy Attorney General Eric H. Holder Jr. said deaths from armed crime should be reduced if access to guns in that age group is reduced.

Youths are obtaining firearms legally and through illegal transfers, both of which must be curtailed to reduce gun violence, Holder and Johnson wrote.

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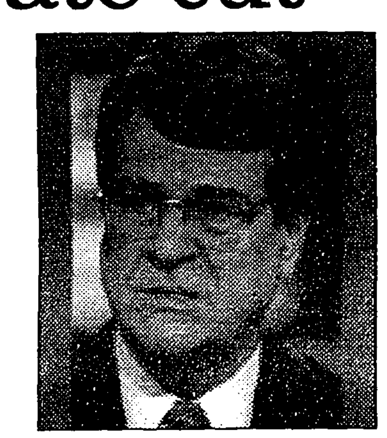
Lott casts doubt on tax rate cut

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — U.S. Senate Republican Leader Trent Lott said on Monday an across-the-board cut in tax rates may have to wait, putting pressure on the majority party to find less costly alternatives popular with voters.



Trent Lott

Lott said his top priority was a reduction in the capital gains tax on investment profits, as well as providing permanent tax credits for businesses and other groups.

Republican leaders in Congress had made tax breaks the centrepiece of their post-impeachment agenda, hoping to galvanise voters for election year 2000.

Many top Republicans backed a 10 percent income tax cut, proposed by Ohio congressman and presidential hopeful John Kasich, which would cost at least $743 billion over the next decade.

But Kasich's proposal has drawn heavy fire from the White House, congressional Democrats and some moderate Republicans.

Democrats said it would make rich Americans even richer, and give little money back to the poor and middle class. Many moderate Republicans complained about its price tag, and said they supported less-costly, targeted tax breaks.

"Overall I think the best way to deal with taxes is to cut rates across-the-board," Lott of Mississippi told a meeting of the National Association of Manufacturers in Washington. But he added: "Can we do it in this package with the money we have? Maybe not...We'll take a look at doing everything we can."

Lott said he supported a wide-range of targeted tax breaks, chief among them a cut in the capital gains.

Republicans say a cut in capital gains rates would help finance other tax breaks in fiscal year 2000. That's because it would give taxpayers an incentive to take profits on their investments, which would in turn be taxed, generating additional revenue for the federal government.

Lott said he wanted to make a tax break for research and development permanent to help high-tech businesses. He also wants Congress to ease the so-called "marriage penalty," which results in some married couples paying more in taxes than when they were single.

Clinton bats for worker rights

By Donna Smith

WASHINGTON Reuters) — U.S. President Bill Clinton wants to put a "human face" on the global economy and address concerns about workers' rights, child labor and the poor during his G8 summit trip to Europe this week, White House officials said on Monday.

Clinton will condemn abusive child labor practices and discuss workers' rights in a speech to the International Labor Organization in Geneva on Wednesday ahead of a meeting of leaders of the seven richest industrialized nations plus Russia in Germany, officials said.

Clinton's economic adviser Gene Sperling said the president would not only focus on the need for growth and economic stability in the world in his ILO speech and meetings with G8 leaders, but also on the impact the global economy has on the poor and on the need for core labor and environmental standards.

"The president particularly over the last two years ... has focused on international economic agenda, focused on promoting open markets, promoting global growth and stability, while at the same time putting a human face on the global economy," said Clinton economic adviser Gene Sperling.

President Clinton is applauded as he arrives on stage for "An American Celebration at Ford's Theater" Sunday. AP

In his speech on Wednesday, Clinton will endorse a convention under consideration at the ILO that would ban the worst forms of child labor practices and abuse - slavery, prostitution, pornography and work that exposes children to dangerous conditions.

The ILO has been drafting a document to prohibit such practices and is expected to vote on it soon. An estimated 250 million children under 14 are used as cheap labor in developing countries, the ILO says.

Clinton will be the first U.S. president to address the ILO in Geneva since its creation in 1919, Sperling said. He is expected also to talk about the need to address labor issues and about his proposal to create an arm of the organization that would focus on core labor standards, he said. Sperling said the president included $25 million in his budget proposal to help finance the proposal.

Clinton has seen his trade agenda blocked by labor unions, a key Democratic support group, and hopes to ease some of their concerns about more open trade by raising workers' rights issues at international meetings. Labor unions have successfully fought Clinton's efforts to enhance trade negotiation authority from Congress.

After meeting with French President Jacques Chirac on Thursday, Clinton heads to Cologne, Germany, for a weekend meeting with the leaders of the Group of Seven rich industrial nations plus Russia.

The meeting is expected to be dominated by Yugoslavia and Kosovo and the peacekeeping role of NATO and Russia. But also high on the group's agenda will be proposals to expand debt relief for the world's poorest nations.

"Our proposal would more than triple the degree of both debt reduction and annual cash flow savings from debt reduction going to the poorest countries," Sperling said.

"And there is a special targeting in our proposal now to ensure that the benefits from debt relief would be targeted to alleviating poverty, ensuring more children are surviving, and education in the poorest countries."

Congratulations!

HIGH SCHOOL CLASSES OF 1999

• Marianas High School • Mount Carmel School

From

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE

The staff, faculty, and management of Northern Marianas College would like to congratulate the High School Classes of 1999 from Marianas High School, Mount Carmel School, Grace Christian Academy, Marianas Baptist Academy, and all General Educational Development (GED) candidates who received their diplomas this year. As the only accredited postsecondary (higher education) institution in the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, Northern Marianas College is prepared to provide you with excellent courses and training to hone your skills and to enable you to successfully obtain your college degree here and abroad. Northern Marianas College has been accredited by the Western Association of Schools and College since 1985. The accrediting commission based in the State of California reaffirmed Northern Marianas College's accreditation in 1990 and again in 1996.

The courses you take at Northern Marianas College are transferable to other accredited colleges and universities nationwide. Northern Marianas College enjoys special working relationships with several universities and colleges such as University of San Diego, University of Guam, University of Hawaii, San Diego State University, Kapiolani Community, and many others. Many of the courses needed to satisfy general education requirements in universities and colleges can be taken at Northern Marianas College. These courses can then be transferred to two or four-year institutions and receive full credit. This is also true with courses taken to fulfill major requirements. Courses taken at Northern Marianas College also satisfy many elective requirements in other colleges and universities.

Statistics show that students who started at Northern Marianas College and earned their two-year degrees before transferring or going directly to four-year institutions have a very high success rate. Many returned to the CNMI speaking highly of Northern Marianas College's role in preparing them to successfully meet the challenges and rigors of higher education with flying colors.

We, therefore, invite you to come and visit our main campus on Saipan, or our extension branches on the islands of Rota and Tinian, and to review the many programs we have to assist you in your pursuit of higher education.

Please call us at:

Counselling Office:
234-3690 or 234-5498, ask for
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Susan Satur, Extension 1345

Admissions and Records:
234-3690 or 234-5498, ask for
Cyndi DeLeon Guerrero, Extension 1404
Rose Maratita, Extension 1403

NATO sees proof of atrocities

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP) — Ducking at the sound of gunfire, patrolling cautiously to avoid the ire of Serbs, thousands of NATO peacekeepers spread out Monday across Kosovo. Some uncovered grim evidence of atrocities as they tightened their control of the province.

Serb forces complying with the pullout ordered by NATO to end the 78-day air war mixed in with civilians fleeing in columns up to 500 vehicles long. Some ethnic Albanian homes were set ablaze by Serb troops leaving Kosovo.

Aiming to bring a measure of stability to the province shattered by war and a long history of ethnic hatred, NATO and U.S. forces sought to downplay the impasse over about 200 Russian soldiers occupying the Pristina airfield where the allies planned to establish headquarters.

NATO lead commander Lt. Gen. Mike Jackson insisted the airfield wasn't crucial to occupying forces though the White House said Defense Secretary William Cohen and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright will meet their Russian counterparts in Helsinki, Finland, within days.

Kosovo's Serbs fear that the majority ethnic Albanians will take bloody revenge on them for years of oppression and for reported atrocities. The West, meanwhile, fears that a Russian zone will lead to the partition of Kosovo.

Withdrawing Serb soldiers stand atop their vehicle as they leave a Pristina barracks Monday Several hundred soldiers left Kosovo, many fearing reprisals for the repression of their ethnic Albanian neighbors. AP

Latest developments in Kosovo

Latest developments in the Kosovo crisis and its aftermath:

• About 15,000 NATO peacekeepers spread out across Kosovo Monday, including a convoy of about 1,200 U.S. Marines who began crossing just south of Kacanik.

• Some peacekeepers uncovered grim evidence of atrocities. In Kacanik, British troops found 81 apparently newly dug graves. British Capt. Andy Reeds said war crimes investigators would be called in to examine the site, 30 miles (50 kms) south of Pristina.

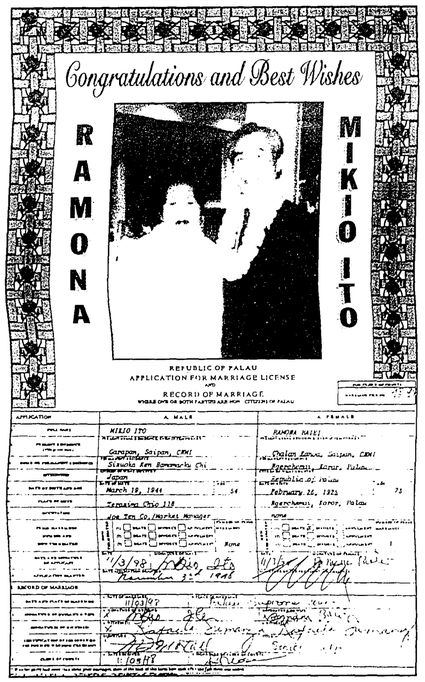
• NATO and U.S. forces downplayed the impasse over about 200 Russian soldiers occupying the airfield in Pristina. NATO lead commander Lt. Gen. Michael Jackson insisted the airfield wasn't crucial to the occupying forces.

• U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen and Secretary of State Madeleine Albright planned to meet their Russian counterparts in Helsinki, Finland, to discuss continuing differences over Kosovo.

• Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic officially inaugurated the country's reconstruction effort in his first public appearance in weeks.

• Pentagon spokesman Kenneth Bacon said about 15,000 Yugoslav troops had left Kosovo by Monday — of a total of about 40,000 that must depart by June 20.

• About 300 refugees tried to return Monday, crossing the Yugoslav border from Albania before being turned back by German peacekeepers and ethnic Albanian rebels. About 40 refugees broke away and scampered off over the hills into Kosovo.



Refugees who began streaming out of Kosovo after the NATO bombing campaign began March 24 told of Serb slaughter and the massacre of innocent victims.

The accounts could not be independently confirmed at the time and one of the peacekeepers' grueling tasks will be to investigate what happened.

On Monday, they gingerly probed the town cemetery in Kacanik, where the stench of decayed flesh hung heavy over 81 apparently newly dug graves. British Capt. Andy Reeds said war crimes investigators would be called in to examine the site, 30 miles south of Pristina.

Peacekeepers continued to pour into the battered Serbian province from neighboring Macedonia and Albania, and officials said about 15,000 allied troops had entered Kosovo by Monday.

"The deployment of KFOR is on schedule," said NATO Secretary General Javier Solana. "The withdrawal of the Serbian forces is also on time."

A convoy of 1,200 U.S. Marines began crossing just south of Kacanik at first light, and U.S. forces took over the area, including the site of the graves, from the British troops.

"We were all a little edgy going in," said Cpl. Will Rapier, 20, of Paintsville, Kentuchy, with the 3rd Battalion, 8th Marines. "We just hope to get this thing over so we can all go home."

Despite the tensions, Monday's troop movements went off without a repeat of Sunday's pair of fatal confrontations, when soldiers shot a Serb in Pristina and German forces killed one man and wounded another after the men fired at them from a car in the city of Prizren.

On Monday, Serb citizens poured out of Prizren, Kosovo's second-largest city, taunted by ethnic Albanians who erupted into a wild victory celebration.

German soldiers disarmed several members of the Kosovo Liberation Army, the ethnic Albanian guerrilla group, as they tried to seize wounded Serb soldiers at the main Prizren hospital.

The KLA is supposed to demilitarize under the Kosovo peace agreement, but the group boldly set up an office in Pristina on Monday.

The private news agency Beta reported Monday that three Serbs were killed by men wearing KLA armbands in a suburb of Pristina. The Serb-run Media Center said it had a report of five people killed in the same suburb but did not have details.

The center blamed the KLA for killing a Serb employee of Pristina's television station in front of his home Monday night in the Taslidze section of the city. The Serb report gave no other details of the attack.

Italian troops entered the city of Pec, the seat of the Serbian Orthodox Church in Kosovo and the scene of some of the grimmest accounts of slaughter in recent months.

Yugoslav troops withdrew from the city on Monday after a spree of home-burnings and alleged rapes, whooping on the way out.

Two German journalists were shot dead by unidentified gunman Sunday 15 miles south of Pristina. The German newsweekly Stern identified them as photographer Volker Kraemer, 56, and reporter Gabriel Gruener, 35. The magazine said the team's interpreter was missing.

In Pristina, an impasse over its strategic airport continued.

Russia's role in the envisaged 50,000-member peacekeeping force, which includes 7,000 Americans, was not clearly defined in the peace plan. A contingent of 200 Russian troops arrived unexpectedly from Bosnia on Saturday, ahead of NATO troops, and took control of the airport.

Jackson said Monday that he did not regard the presence of the Russians as important from a military standpoint.

"I'm not in a tussle with them," he said. "They are on the airfield. ... It is not important to me at this stage. What is important to me is getting this job done on the ground."

U.S. President Bill Clinton and Russian President Boris Yeltsin spoke for a second straight day about continuing differences over Kosovo.

U.S. officials and those from allied countries have largely sought to play down indications of a rivalry with the Russians, who demand to control their own sector in northern Kosovo where ethnic Serbs — their longtime allies — are concentrated.

The deployment of peacekeepers did not stop Serb forces from shelling an Albanian village early Monday at the village of Dobrun, an area where the KLA maintains sanctuaries, according to Andrea Angeli, spokesman of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe. There were no reports of casualties.

Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic toured the ruins of a destroyed bridge across the Danube River in Beska, 30 miles northwest of the Yugoslav capital, Belgrade, and officially inaugurated the country's reconstruction effort.

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SANTOS
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More NATO troops deploy in Kosovo

By MELISSA EDDY

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP) — Thousands of troops in NATO's peacekeeping mission spread out through Kosovo amid a warm welcome by ethnic Albanians and scattered violence that left at least five people dead and four missing. Angry Serb soldiers and civilians withdrew from the province, and the alliance's impasse with Russian peacekeepers entered its third day.

Italian troops on Monday morning reached the northwestern Kosovo town of Pec, scene of some of the most horrendous reports of ethnic purges in the Kosovo conflict.

Earlier Monday, at first light, a convoy of about 1,200 Marines began entering Kosovo from Macedonia, moving into what will become the U.S. zone in southeastern Kosovo.

About 100 to 150 U.S. Army soldiers in armored vehicles crossed into Kosovo at Blace, Macedonia, late Sunday, the first significant U.S. force to join 5,000 NATO peacekeepers led by a British contingent and joined by Germans, Dutch and Italians.

In the first reported fatality of the mission, British paratroopers fatally shot a Yugoslav police reservist Sunday after the man fired a pistol at a NATO patrol, the alliance said. Yugoslav media said the man was not hostile and that he was shot while he tried to enter his car.

Fees . . .

Continued from page 3

ing to properly operate its solid waste facility, as well as effectively promote recycling.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said a delegation of foreign businessmen last year expressed intentions to collect scrap cloths from the garment manufacturing companies on Saipan but chickened out after learning of the expenses they will incur shipping the scrap cloths to the mainland US and other Asian countries.

"Unfortunately, after reviewing the costs they are to incur in shipping the scrap out, they said it just won't work," Tenorio said, adding that the Saipan garment manufacturing industry was even willing to transport the scrap cloths from the factory to the port.

The governor said the visiting businessmen had asked the government to subsidize a portion of the shipment costs. "But I don't think the government has the financial capability to engage in such undertaking."

At the same time, George How, project manager for the Solid Waste Management Program, said the absence of tipping fees to cover the cost of waste disposal in the CNMI discourages recycling.

"If it costs the garment industry money to throw their material in the dump, they will work more favorably about paying a few dollars to ship it off island. But right now, since it is free to throw it into the dump, they think it is too expensive to ship it off island," How pointed out.

He added this is one of the reasons why the Commonwealth government have to set up equitable fees charged to those dumping their wastes to the landfill, explaining that this way, they are actually directly paying the cost of operating the waste disposal facility.

"Not only does this provide a stable funding source for the government but also economic incentives for businesses to recycle. It is more cost-effective to recycle if it is not very easy to throw wastes away," he said.

But How emphasized that the government should start looking at how it can equitably assess the cost of disposal, in order to come up with a definite amount of tipping fee that will be charged those dumping wastes in the landfill.

He said a review of the types of waste generated by both residents and commercial or industrial establishments is already underway.

He added determining the CNMI's waste composition is necessary for the Solid Waste Management Task Force to come up with a plan.

"It will also give us an idea whether it is feasible to recycle in the CNMI, as well as determine how we can reduce the volume of wastes being disposed. We should start looking at these wastes not as trash but as resource because when you recycle things, you can sell it," he added.

Hike . . .

Continued from page 3

skilled worker a salary fit for an unskilled one ?" Villagomez raised.

Villagomez said the low salary levels of guest workers is among reasons why skilled resident workers opt to work in Guam, where the salary is pegged at federal rates.

"A skilled local won't go for them (scrooge investors) because they cannot live with that salary," said Villagomez.

He said he is "willing to start looking at" increasing skilled guest workers' wages "if investors continue their practice of bringing in skilled workers paid in unskilled amount."

Villagomez said some quarters may frown on his proposal as it may hurt investors.

"Some may be saying the Legislature is not supportive of investors. I think the Legislature has been too protective to investors. We should start thinking about putting up the minimum wage," said Villagomez.

Villagomez also dismissed argument being raised by some investors who bring in their workers reasoning that the commonwealth does not have enough skilled ones.

He said this may just be mere excuse to allow them to continuously operate with cheap labor.

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Small . . .

Continued from page 11

Herman Sablan, NMC Tinian Campus Admin., 433-0658.

Monday, June 28 - 2nd Annual Business Expo - Saipan, CNMI: Registration: 8:00 am, Expo: 9:00 - 4:00 pm, Training: 9:00 - 4:30 pm at Saipan Multi-Purpose Center, contact Arlene Cabrera, Saipan Mayor's Office, 235-7340/7341.

UOG . . .

Continued from page 10

UOG has taken the lead in post secondary education. The university has educated several Palauans who have attained considerable success in the government and the private sectors.

It would be noted that the president finished his secondary on Guam in late 1960s.

For the recognition, Nakamura thanks the UOG and its Board of Regents. (MLS)

105 . . .

Continued from page 10

could result to the issuance of a diploma.

Calixterio said the GED certificate which is equivalent to a high school diploma is being accepted in any schools in the United States, Canada, and in all of the insular countries.

ABE classes which requires about 10 months or 30 hours to complete flexes in subjects such as science, social studies, math, and also reading and writing. An introduction to computer classes are also included.

Calixterio said the classes which are offered free with only the books tha are being shouldered by the students are being conducted at the Northern Marianas College, Karidat, and at the Island Beauty Saloon in San Antonio. The two designated school has an outstanding memorandum agreement with the ABE.

IT&E's . . .

Continued from page 10

as the WorldPerks account number.

Businesses are also qualified for this program, granted that the business strictly ensures that the IT&E issued account and/or telephone number and the WorldPerks mileage program account number are under the same subscriber name.

CUC . . .

Continued from page 9

He said if CUC will give leeway to one company, then it might as well give the same to other firms to be fair, but doing so will surely wipe out CUC's resources.

"It's not fair for only one company to be given that privilege because everyone needs help. A lot of people are also sacrificing because of the economic crisis. Maybe it will help to give them discounts in rates. but they are not the only one who is asking that," Dela Cruz said.

Dela Cruz added CUC may be the target of lawsuits once it selectively grant rate cuts to one company.

"We hope the Dynasty management will understand that . . . Opening up a business is a gamble. Sometimes you lose, sometimes you make money. But it doesn't mean that the government is responsible to help you when you are losing money," he said.

CUC was expecting Dynasty to start hooking up to its power plant last April but as of last week, the said hotel is yet to install a transformer.

CUC had planned the establishment of the new Tinian power plant to address the needs of Dynasty and the Voice of America relay station.

Benavente...

Continued from page 6

"The number of House seats allocated to a precinct... should be related only to the number of citizens in that precinct, and not to the total number of persons there," read Jones' proposed initiative.

Benavente however, disagrees.

"Representation in the Legislature is based on population and not citizenship. I believe that is proper. Whether these individuals are US citizens, voting or non-voting, if they are in the community legally, then those individuals need to be represented," said Benavente.

"I will be concerned for these individuals in my precincts whether they are US citizen or not, voting or non-voting," he added.

Saipan . . .

Continued from page 6

concern," he said.

The government received information that Saipan has been used as entry point for illegal drugs that are smuggled to Hawaii, Guam, Federated States of Micronesia and other areas in the Pacific and the mainland US.

In 1998, alert officers of the customs division confiscated over six pounds of Ice at the Saipan International Airport, according to a report from the Department of Finance.

At an average street value of $800 per gram, the confiscated illegal drugs amount to a whooping $2.54 million. The agency also reported an unusually high number of drug-related arrests at the Saipan International Airport last year.

Health . . .

Continued from page 5

cafeteria or canteen.

Tuohey-Mote also pointed out that something as simple as strict designation of 'smoking areas' is a big step towards achivig a healthy work force. He also raised the lack of employee assistance program which will enable employees to consult problems related to their job or that may have a bearing on how they perform in the office.

The public health official also discussed how a variety of chronic diseases such as diabetes, cancer and depression can adversely affect business and productivity, not to mention the cost of medical treatment.

He also said that prevention is the best protection against any chronic disease like diabetes which, along with its complications, remains to be the leading cause of death in the CNMI.

As an example, instead of drinking soda or soft drink, it is better to drink fruit juice or water, he said.

Moreover, while the number of Americans in the U.S. mainland aged 60 and above has been increasing, the number of old-aged people in the CNMI are decreasing.

Since 1900, the number of Americans 65 years of age or older has increased 11 times, or from 3.1 million to 34.1 million in 1997.

DPH hoped to increase community awareness on proper nutrition so that people above 40 years old will still have healthy bodies and will live longer.

Merits . . .

Continued from page 5

Faisao last week tossed the idea of establishing a price control regulatory body that will monitor pricing trend of basic commodities in the Northern Marianas, a move which, he said, would help keep prices at reasonable levels.

He has said the Northern Marianas is one of the places where commodities are most expensive.

The commerce department has been asked to conduct a price study of the commodities and what factors determine price ranges.

The AGO earlier said the cost of shipping may be one of the factors why consumer products are more expensive in the Commonwealth.

U.S. Navy ...

Continued from page 3

Pietrantoni explained that the ship as naval destroyer was not only built for submarine warfare.

"We are always on call. We cannot go to Kosovo because it is far for us. We are only deployed in this side of the Pacific," he said.

USS John McCain is equipped with the world's most sophisticated weapons system and designed to operate in a high-density, multi-threat environment as an integral member of a carrier battle group.

The ship is scheduled to leave this morning for Guam seaport.

Reyes . . .

Continued from page 3

out and tell us they are cutting down the service whether we like it or not," a visibly irked Reyes said, referring to the airline's flight reductions in the region, which started last year.

Reyes claimed Continental is trying to win back the region's leaders because the airline is "seeing a resurrection of the tourism industry."

"There have been marginal increases in visitor arrivals here and they are trying to get back in good graces of the governments," said Reyes.

In a phone interview from Guam, Continental Staff Vice President Walter Dias denied the airline has something up its sleeves.

He stressed Continental went to the APIL meeting in Guam upon invitation.

"They invited us... we certainly took the opportunity to meet with them and explain what is going on. We are the regional airline. Most of the islands that are part of APIL recognize that, so they requested for our appearance. "Continental has no agenda. We are in the business of flying people... we intend to be here for 30 more years as we've been here almost 31 years now," said Dias.

He said plans by Micronesian leaders to establish their own regional airline do not pose a threat to the airline's operations.

"We don't care. We compete everyday with airlines all over the world. That is a normal state of affairs for us," said Dias.

"We don't even look at it (APIL regional airline) as a threat," he added.

Dias noted though that Continental "does see that the market recently from Japan have been stabilizing."

He said Continental is "cautiously optimistic the worst is (finally) behind."

The APIL moved to form the advisory body to be composed of various government leaders from APIL members, and the Continental Airlines.

In the same meeting, APIL also agreed to conduct a feasibility study on a regional airline it sees as a potential solution to Continental's reduced flight schedules.

Teno . . .

Continued from page 3

judge to enable the government save some money because of current financial crisis.

"I tried to talk and met with members of the Bar Association. I have not decided what to do at this time," said the chief executive referring to the judge's position.

APIL . . .

Continued from page 6

region that require individuals venturing into business to appear before a foreign investment board for approval to operate an establishment.

Jones said the current financial crisis of "our Asian neighbors" made its full impact on the APIL region thereby necessitating the need to implement measures enhancing inter-island trade.

Jones, in filing his resolution, stressed that all venues must be explored to energize the economy of APIL members including opening markets of the Micronesia to island neighbors which will potentially boost trade to the benefit of the region.

Sablan . . .

Continued from page 6

moved back—anyone can run as long as they meet the residency requirement 45 days before the election," Benavente said.

Still, he added, "I think the Reform Party is desperate to put up a challenge for our seats that it has to go outside and bring in candidates.

"I think they're overdoing it," the speaker said.

At the same time, Benavente defended his and Babauta's record, citing the new multi-million dollar power distribution in Precinct 2, improvements in the water distribution system and roads, as well as a significant amount of funding for the precinct's elementary school.

"The people see all these things in our precinct," the speaker said. "We can back our intention with real accomplishments."

Traffic . . .

Continued from page 6

In agreeing to free Ramsey, Lizama set out several conditions that included his non employment from hours between 6 p.m. up to 6 a.m., and his prohibition to drive any of their family's car.

He was also restrained from consuming any alcohol in public and was stopped from working at their club.

The multipe charges that were filed against Ramsey were the worst complaints that have been filed so far for this year involving a single traffic case.

To prevent HIV/AIDS, Think of the ABC's - Abstain, Be Faithful and use Condom.

Bush's GOP rivals quick to attack

By Alan Elsner

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — George W. Bush's Republican presidential rivals lost no time on Monday in attacking him, before the Texas governor even had time to complete his first foray on the campaign trail.

Bush, the overwhelming Republican presidential front-runner, was in the middle of his first campaign swing to New Hampshire. In Iowa on Saturday, he confirmed he was a candidate for the presidency, saying the time for hesitation was over and there was no going back.

A Gallup poll Monday showed Bush was the overwhelming choice of Republican voters at this early stage of the campaign, leading his nearest rival by 40 percentage points. In the poll, Bush scored 54 percent, followed by former Cabinet secretary Elizabeth Dole on 14 points and the rest of the field in single digits.

Candidates on the right of the party tried to rally sentiment among conservatives against Bush, after he declined to commit himself to appoint only anti-abortion justices to the Supreme Court if elected president.

"The governor has signalled he is going to be AWOL when it comes to the battle of ensuring that all our children are welcomed into the world," said conservative activist Gary Bauer, one of nine Republicans hoping to challenge Bush for the party's presidential nomination.

"Gov. Bush's campaign may have peaked in the past 24 hours," he told a news conference.

Bush has repeatedly said his main criterion in choosing Supreme Court nominees would be to find candidates who were committed to a narrow interpretation of the Constitution.

In New Hampshire Monday, he said: "There will be no litmus test, except for whether or not the judges will strictly interpret the Constitution. I am not a lawyer. My job is to pick judges who are qualified to serve on the bench and that will be my criteria."

Student. . .

Continued from page 1

trauma, fracture of left subcapital humerus, fracture of left ankle, and multiple abrasions, bruises, and lacerations.

Rayphand in the complaint said UIC was the registered owner of the automobile, a 1994 Mazda Protege, while Chang was the driver when the accident happened.

The complaint said that on March 9 at about 4 p.m. the girl was crossing Beach Road within a marked crosswalk in front of Hopwood Junior High School when the vehicle driven by Chang struck her.

Rayphand said Chang, a Taiwanese national, was driving the vehicle in a northward direction in front of Hopwood "at a high rate of speed, in excess of that which is careful and prudent and in excess of the maximum speed indicated by signs."

"As a direct and proximate result of the defendant's negligent and reckless violation of the statutes, Chang drove and operated the automobile so as to strike and run into the victim, with great force and violence, thereby greatly injuring her," the complaint said.

Rayphand said Chang failed to keep a lookout to avoid colliding with plaintiff who was crossing the street in a school zone and did not pay attention to driving and to give heed to surroundings.

The lawyer said the driver was travelling at a reckless rate of speed, which prevented defendant from bringing her vehicle to a safe stop within the assured clear distance ahead.

Rayphand also cited, among other things, that Chang failed to use the care and caution that a reasonably prudent person would have used under the same or similar circumstances.

"As a direct and proximate result of the negligence of defendants, plaintiff sustained painful and disabling injuries to her person," the complaint added.

CNMI. . .

Continued from page 1

agreement regarding all taxes to be paid to the CNMI by the estate.

Russell K. Snow, trust officer to the executor BoS, signed the agreement after it was reviewed and approved by the estate oversight committee of the Bank's board of directors.

Court records indicated that last March 17, Finance issued a tax assessment in the amount of $30,099,131 for income tax claimed against the estate for the tax years ending April 30, 1996 through April 30, 1998.

The executor filed a protest to the CNMI's tax assessment and provided Finance with a legal analysis of the constitutional arguments against the enforceability of the retroactive estate tax provisions of P.L. 11-52 which was signed into law last January.

Following negotiations, CNMI officials offered to enter into a closing agreement settling all tax claims for income and earning tax for years ending April 30, 1999, and for estate or other transfer taxes on distributions from the estate.

Under such agreement, the estate shall pay $6 million in respect of CNMI tax estate, $3,240,000 of CNMI income tax, plus the tax deficiency interest.

Nielsen said the moneywill go a long way as the government is in dire need of funds.

"I am sure that everybody knows here that based on our cash funds, we really need the money. And probably some of the agencies out there are hoping that they would get some of these money. We're working out to see where exactly the need is most urgent and we will transfer some of the money due them," the secretary said.

Fitial explained that there was an estate income tax before Hillblom passed away in 1995 and that when the legislature was trying to enact the so-called Hillblom law, P.L. 10-10, there was an objection in that law that repealed the tax.

Early this year, Fitial said, there was a new law that brought back the estate tax—PL. 11-52.

"So when Hillblom died, the estate paid income tax for half of 1995 and was not required to pay anymore after that until P.L. 11-52 came into. That's the government's claim arose," said Fitial, adding that last year the estate also paid $8.5 million in taxes to the government.

New. . .

Continued from page 1

ment regulations," he said.

Physical construction will take at least nine to ten months.

"So what we have is either September or October of next year to be able to start opening portions of the new sanitary landfill and begin shutting down the old site in Puerto Rico," Crispeli said.

Task Force chairman Timothy Villagomez said the project does not only include the construction of the new landfill as it also encompasses an analysis of the waste currently being dumped in Puerto Rico.

Villagomez said the project is also focused at the development of an island-wide solid waste management plan, a year-long public education, a conceptual design for waste to energy incineration, and the design for transfer station from Puerto Rico to the new dump site.

The Task Force has recently completed the installation of ground water monitoring wells at the new site in Marpi, as it anticipates to begin assessment of various plans for its ultimate use.

Villagomez also said the Task Force is exploring the possibility of developing a landscape park out in replacement of the Puerto Rico landfill to complement the adjacent American Memorial Park.

The federal government and the CNMI Legislature had allocated $16 million for the total project which include the design and construction aspects, as well as for the procurement of equipment.

The government is looking at gradual closure of the Puerto Rico dump, during which some improvements will be undertaken to stabilize the slopes as well as reduce the landfill's environmental impacts.

At the same time, HLA solid waste and recycling manager Delyn Kies said the program will also focus at reducing the amount of waste generated by both residents and commercial and industrial establishments in the Northern Marianas by advancing the merits of recycling.

Under the solid waste management program, Kies said, public education will be initiated to encourage the public to recycle metal, plastic and paper wastes, while promoting the value of composting biodegradable wastes.

She said works are already underway to identify off-island markets which may be interested to buy recyclable wastes which may be used in the manufacturing of new products. "We may also be able to sell some of them in the local market."

Kies added that composting green wastes is feasible in the Northern Marianas, stressing that construction of recycling processing stations in the islands are also being considered to address solid waste woes.

Guerrero. . .

Continued from page 1

funding, Guerrero said, "That will be my job—and will find it because I will make the business community feel better by removing all those regulations and requirements that make it difficult for businesses to grow."

Guerrero described himself and the Reform Party as "totally pro-business, pro-garment industry, pro-hotels and pro-local contractors."

Further, Guerrero said the reduction of the legislators' budget would also help fund public services.

"I don't think a legislator should get $200,000 a year when our scholars and our school children are suffering," he said.

"And our legislators must understand that they should stop driving brand new sedans and Pathfinders during times like this."

Guerrero said voters should hand out annual "report cards" to legislators.

"If I get elected I want to see that," he said.

Asked to rate his chances against Sen. Tenorio in what could be a repeat of the 1995 three-way race, Guerrero said, "I go to sleep without thinking about the Republicans and Democrats. And when I wake up I only think of the Reform Party and how to improve the lives of our people.

"The Republicans and the Democrats have been in power for too long. I hope the people will wake up."

As the Republican candidate, Tenorio in 1995 easily beat Democrat Mametto U. Maratita and then Senate President Juan S. Demapan, who ran as an Independent backed by the then Democratic administration.

Demapan recently came out with a media statement endorsing Tenorio's reelection.

The senator's nephew, former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio, yesterday described Guerrero as "most qualified" for the Senate.

"I don't think there is anyone more qualified than him to serve as senator," the Reform Party chair said.

Guerrero, he added, was "instrumental" in the successful campaigns that saw the election of Carlos S. Camacho (1978-82), Pedro P. Tenorio (1982-1986, 1986-90)—Senator Tenorio's brother—and Lorenzo I. DL Guerrero (1990-94) as governor.

The Reform Party's senatorial candidate briefly served in the Camacho administration, was Pedro P. Tenorio's special assistant for administration in the 1980s, and was then-governor Guerrero's chief adviser and CUC executive director.

During the Guerrero administration, Ramon S. Guerrero openly quarreled with key legislators, at one point threatening to cut the Legislature's power lines over pay hike legislation for government employees.

During then-Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio's last year in office, Ramon S. Guerrero served as consultant in CUC issues.

He also helped in the unsuccessful 1997 reelection campaign of the then governor, who lost to his uncle, Pedro P. Tenorio.

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01 ELECTRICAL ENGINEER-Salary: $4.00 per hour
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03 MASSEUR-Salary:$3.05 per hour
Contact: AMERICAN FUCHENG CORP. dba Goog Massage Parlor Tel. 233-2320(6/16)W31336

01 (SUPERVISOR) SALES-Salary:$3.30-4.50 per hour
01 MANAGER, (OPERATION)-Salary:$3.50-5.15 per hour
02 MASON-Salary:$3.05-4.00 per hour
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Contact: AMERICAN XIONG'S CORPORATION dba Fast Factory Tel. 235-8802(6/23)W31431

03 WAITRESS-Salary: $3.05 per hour
Contact: PACIFIC FANG HUI CORP., INC. dba Mickey Bar Tel. 235-8228(6/23)W31433

01 BEAUTICIAN-Salary: $3.05 per hour
Contact: HUGO W. MICHLING dba Familia Enterprises Tel. 233-3694(6/23)W79031

01 COOK-Salary: $3.05 per hour
Contact: ANGEL P. CRUZ, JR. dba La Filipiniana Restaurant Tel. 234-3569

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01 (ASST. SUPVR.) ACCOUNTANT-Salary: $4.50-6.45 per hour
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01 PLUMBER-Salary: $3.05-4.00 per hour
Contact: MASTER PLUMBERS CO. INC. Tel. 322-2755(6/30)W31520

01 (BRANCH) MANAGER, OFFICE-Salary: $4.25 per hour
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02 CARPENTER-Salary: $3.05 per hour
Contact: SU CORPORATION Tel. 288-9430(6/30)W31525

02 COOK HELPER-Salary: $3.05 per hour
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In the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

PARK, BOK SUN,
Plaintiff,
v.
JO, SUK KON KOREA TOWN, INC.
KIM, BI SOOK LEE and KO, HAN-YOON
Defendants.
Civil Action No. 98-847B

FIRST AMENDED
NOTICE OF FORECLOSURE SALE

By virtue of a foreclosure judgment entered on December 9, 1999, Plaintiff, Park, Bok Sun, obtained a judgment against Defendants, Jo, Suk Kon, Korea Town, Inc., and Ko, Han-Yoon, in the amount of Two Hundred Forty Three Thousand Three Hundred Fifty Five Dollars and Seven cents (243,355.07), plus interest thereon, at the rate of nine percent (9%) per annum, from the date of the judgment. Kim, Bi Sook Lee subsequently was considered to be a Defendant of interest.

In said judgment, the Court directed and authorized the public sale of a 55-year leasehold in a parcel of Middle Road real estate, Lot No. 2003-2-1, in Chalan LauLau Village, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that at a public auction to be held at the hour of 1:00 p.m., on Thursday, July 1, 1999, at the office of the Pacific Mediation Center, located on the 2nd Floor of the Union Bank building, Oleai Center, Oleai Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the 55-year leasehold in the aforementioned property will be sold by me pursuant to 2 CMC Section 4537(e) of the highest bidder for cash.

The sale will be open to the general public.

DATED this 7th day of June, 1999.

/s/JOHN B. JOYNER, Auctioneer
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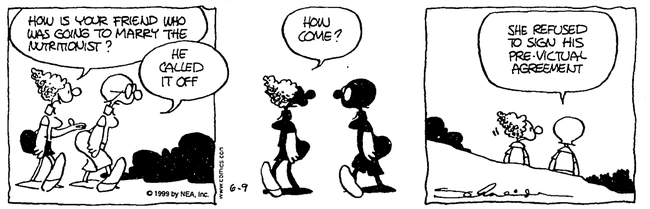

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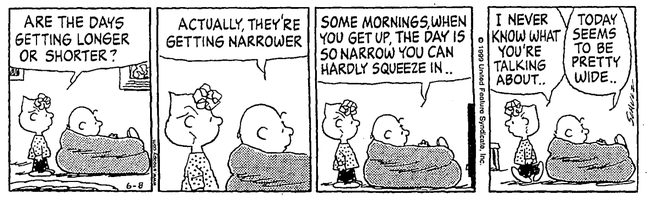

STELLA WILDER

YOUR BIRTHDAY

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16, 1999
Born today, you maintain priorities that are very much in order, but you tend to concentrate too much on what others think of you and what others want for you. Along this road failure looms, whereas success can be found if you follow a path of self-satisfaction and the pursuit of your own private desires. Don't be concerned with what others are expecting of you. You often do your best work entirely on your own and in the privacy of some secluded safe-haven. Because of this tendency, it may appear to others that you are doing very little. The truth, of course, is that you are never just sitting around. You are always working out some great plan, perfecting it, and waiting until the time is right to put it into motion!

Despite your inevitable ups and downs, you're sure to maintain your determination and your eagerness to learn. Like most Gemini natives, you are idealistic and principled, but you also know how to combine idealism and pragmatism to get results. This depends on keeping your eyes and ears open.

Also born on this date are: Joyce Carol Oates and Erich Segal, authors; Stan Laurel, actor and comic.

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.

THURSDAY, JUNE 17

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Someone you work with is likely to present a difficult and complex puzzle for you to solve today. An intimate companion can help you in the end.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — You could figure prominently in the affairs of one who doesn't expect your involvement. Be forewarned, however, you may encounter an objection.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — You may have little time to get down to business today, but once you do, it is likely that you'll get your desired results in no time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Your surroundings may change quite suddenly today, and, as a result, you're going to have to get used to a new way of doing things.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Focus on your own long-term plans today. Seek out the answers to some difficult questions and focus on cooperative efforts at home.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — It's a good day for you to try something you've planned to do in the past, but which you've never gotten around to starting.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Social situations provide more in the way of career opportunities today than you could possibly anticipate. It's a good day to look your best!

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — What you do and what you say must be in sync today, or you're not likely to gain the confidence of others. You must be credible at all times.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — You may want to lie low during the first part of the day. Later on, however, and surely after dark, you're going to want to "come out".

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — You'll be tempted to play "matchmaker" with a friend today. Make sure that you know just what, or whom, he or she needs.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Since you'll want things to be simple today, You'll be in no mood for a lot of fuss. He who tries to clutter things has no place in your life at this time.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Consider the odds, weigh pros and cons, and examine all obstacles before setting out today. You're not the kind to leave things to chance.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS
1 Alphabet trio
4 Former TV detective
8 Sulk
12 Word of discovery
13 Scent
14 "Dies —"
15 Craggy hill
16 Quote by Poe's raven
18 Put into operation
20 Small case
21 Ekberg ID
22 Three (Italian)
23 Name associated with mysteries
27 Cable news network
29 — deferens
30 Musician Xavier —
31 Entertainer Don —
32 Russian space station
33 Roman 509
34 Behold!
35 Novelist — Jong
37 Insane
38 Winter mo.
39 Story
40 — Cruces
41 Negative
42 Broadway light
44 Data
47 Complex
51 Barbie's pal
52 Fred and Wilma's pet
53 Malaria
54 Baseball stat
55 Pay the kitty
56 Make a loan
57 Canine cry

DOWN
1 — - -tat
2 "Little — of Horrors"
3 Wild horse
4 Danza or Bennett
5 Lyric poem
6 — and shakers
7 Sharp
mountain ridge
8 Yvette — of "The Time Tunnel"
9 Gold (Sp.)
10 Golf term
11 Wide shoe size
17 Urich ID
19 French article
22 Sailor
24 "Red Corner" actor (inits.)
25 Tra —
26 Short jacket
27 Huntley or Atkins
28 Ms. Dunn
29 By way of
30 "Et —"
32 Former tennis player
33 "— Boot"
36 Negative prefix
37 Operate
38 Willie Shoemaker was one
40 Regional
41 Sodium symbol
43 Vowel sequence
44 Nourish
45 Ms. Hatcher
46 Break suddenly
47 Mountain on Crete
48 Author Anais —
49 Explosive abbr.
50 Large cask

Answer to Previous Puzzle

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

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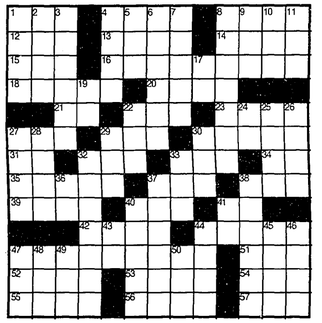

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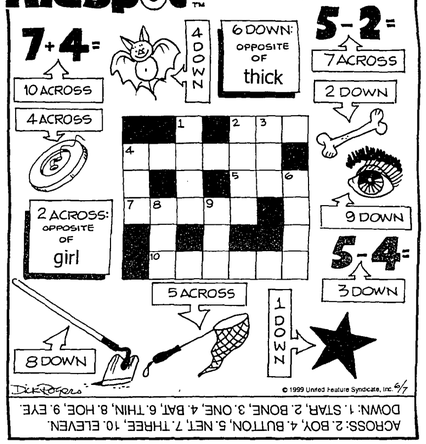
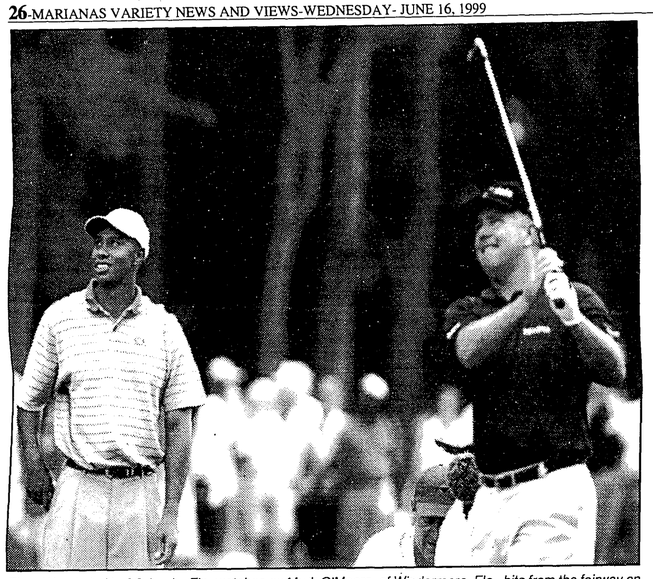




Tiger Woods (left) of Orlando, Fla. watches as Mark O'Meara, of Windermere, Fla., hits from the fairway on the first hole during the practice round at the U.S. Open in Pinehurst, N.C., Monday. AP

Duval gears up for the US Open

By DOUG FERGUSON

PINEHURST, North Carolina (AP) — For his first tour of Pinehurst No. 2 on Monday, David Duval relied primarily on two pieces of equipment — a putter and a knife.

Duval decided to wait an extra day to play a full practice round for the U.S. Open because of the blisters on his right thumb and forefinger, courtesy of second-degree burns from a teapot handle.

As for the knife?

After five holes, he decided it was time to slice open the blisters.

"It went everywhere," Duval said with a grin.

Duval, the No. 1 player in the world ranking and already a four-time winner this year, believes he'll still be smiling Thursday when he tees off in the first round.

"I'm not worried about this," he said.

Duval burned his fingers Friday morning when he tried to pick up a tea pot off the gas stove in his new house in Ponte Vedra Beach, Florida. He didn't practice over the weekend, arrived at Pinehurst on Monday morning and walked the course with a 9-iron, two wedges and his putter.

He walked off the yardage with caddie Mitch Knox and planned to chip and putt around the signature humpback greens of Donald Ross.

But he skipped the chipping after one hole because he could only grip the club with three fingers.

Tom Loss, a Seattle doctor and U.S. Golf Association rules official, persuaded Duval to slice open the blisters to accelerate the healing.

"I may as well get used to it now," Duval said. He plans to play a practice round Tuesday with all 14 clubs in the bag — and plenty of tape on his fingers.

Duval did try one full swing on the 11th hole, walking back to 9-iron range. But he caught it fat and came out of the swing, the ball stopped 55 meters (60 yards) short of the green. Duval stared at his fingers, shrugged and walked on.

American League roundup

Orioles stop Royals

BALTIMORE (AP) — Cal Ripken, coming off the best offensive day of his career, had two hits and drove in two runs Monday night as the Baltimore Orioles beat the Kansas City Royals 7-1 for their fifth straight win.

Ripken went 6-for-6 with two homers and six RBIs Sunday in the Orioles' 22-1 rout of Atlanta.

Against the Royals, Baltimore took a 6-0 lead after four innings en route to another lopsided victory. The Orioles have outscored the opposition 44-6 during their winning streak.

Scott Erickson (3-8) continued Baltimore's run of effective pitching performances and Mike Bordick hit a three-run homer. Over the last nine games, Baltimore starters are 5-0 with a 1.83 ERA.

Kevin Appier (6-5) lost his third straight start.

Red Sox 4, Twins 3

At Boston, Darren Lewis and Jeff Frye hit consecutive home runs with one out in the ninth inning, rallying the Boston Red Sox over the Minnesota Twins 4-3.

Lewis and Frye had combined for only one homer in 273 at-bats this season before connecting off Mike Trombley (1-3).

Frye had four hits as the Red Sox won for just the second time in nine games. John Wasdin (6-0) pitched a scoreless ninth for the victory.

Twins starter Brad Radke left after five innings because of a bruised left knee when he was hit by John Valentin's line drive.

Radke managed to throw out Valentin on the play, and left with a 2-1 lead.

White Sox 9, Devil Rays 7

At Chicago, Frank Thomas homered to extend his hitting streak to a career-high 20 games and the Chicago White Sox overcame two homers by Jose Canseco to beat the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

Canseco went 4-for-4 with four RBIs and increased his major league-leading homer total to 25. He hit a solo shot in the fifth and added a three-run homer in a five-run ninth off Bill Simas.

Bob Howry got the final two outs for his 11th save. The White Sox, coming off a three-game sweep of the crosstown Cubs, extended their winning streak to four. The Devil Rays have lost 11 of their last 13 games.

John Snyder (7-5) snapped his four-game losing streak. Wilson Alvarez (2-5) is 0-3 in his last five starts.

Tigers 8, Mariners 7

At Detroit, Tony Clark doubled home the winning run in the bottom of the ninth inning and Gabe Kapler homered twice as the Detroit Tigers defeated the Seattle Mariners 8-7.

Dean Palmer also homered for the Tigers, who once trailed 6-1.

Mariners manager Lou Piniella filed a protest after umpire Al Clark reversed his own safe call and ruled Ken Griffey Jr. out on a steal try in the ninth.

Brad Ausmus drew a lead-off walk in the ninth from Ken Cloude (3-3). One out later, Palmer walked before Clark doubled just out of Griffey's reach in right-center field.

Masao Kida (1-0) pitched the ninth for his first major league victory. Seattle has lost three straight.

Brian Hunter, playing at Tiger Stadium for the first time since Detroit traded him to Seattle in April, led off the game with a home run. He had three hits, scored twice and drove in two runs for Seattle.

Yankees 8, Rangers 2

At New York, Chili Davis made the most of his return from an interleague vacation, homering and driving in four runs in the New York Yankees' win over the Texas Rangers.

Hideki Irabu (3-3) allowed two runs and five hits in seven innings, allowing only a two-run homer to Juan Gonzalez.

The Yankees have won 16 of the last 20 games against the Rangers, including a three-game sweep in last year's playoffs.

Davis was mostly a spectator last week with the Yankees playing without the designated hitter in National League parks. His only opportunities came as a pinch-hitter and he went 1-for-4.

Davis hit a three-run homer off Mark Clark (3-6) in the third inning. Davis added an RBI single in the fifth, scoring Derek Jeter, who had his seventh consecutive multihit game.

SML's best-of-five championship series

THE SAIPAN Major League best-of-five championship series between defending champions UMDA Aces and the Miller Lite Brewers is slated to start tonight, Wednesday, at 7 pm at the Francisco M. Palacios baseball field in Susupe.

Game 2 will be on Friday also at 7 pm while Game 3 will be played Monday.

Games 4 and 5, if necessary, will be played Wednesday and Friday next week.

Not much. . .

Continued from page 28

"They were real small then, real small, and they had a real tough time handling our inside guys," Robinson recalled. "We got pretty much anything we wanted, I remember."

This time the Knicks find themselves in similar straits because of the season-ending injury Ewing sustained in the conference finals and the uncertain status of whether Larry Johnson will be able to play with a sprained knee. Johnson and the team's doctors will make a game-time decision Wednesday as to whether he'll play, the Knicks said.

Containing Robinson and Tim Duncan, an already difficult task, would be even more burdensome without Johnson.

"The thing Duncan and Robinson can do is cause so much foul trouble. The depth factor inside is critical for us," Knicks coach Jeff Van Gundy said after the team practiced in New York before flying to San Antonio.

The coach and the Knicks players again refused to say if they'll depart from the common NBA strategy and use single-coverage rather than double-teams against Duncan and Robinson in the low post.

Clearly, though, they'll have to find some way to limit the damage the two big men can inflict.

"You can't take everything away from a great team or great players. It's not quite that black and white," Van Gundy said.

"You have to figure out what you're capable of taking away."

Spurs coach Gregg Popovich said he expects to see a mix of single- and double-coverage. In the past, a few teams have actually had success using single coverage, although Popovich was giving no clues as to the secrets of stopping his Twin Towers.

"No way I'll tell you that," he said. "I can't remember. Bad memory."

Sterling. . .

Continued from page 28

faces light up when they do their best."

This week we have a whole new batch of swimmers — just starting their careers with lessons at Kan Pacific pool from the older swimmers.

"Four or eight years from now, some of these beginners will be getting on an airplane, waiving to mom and dad, proud to show the medals around their neck. These CNMI kids have talent; you just got to show them how to use it."

At Wimbledon

Sampras, Hingis top seeds

LONDON (Reuters) — Defending champion Pete Sampras, bidding to win a record sixth singles title, was on Monday named top men's seed for Wimbledon.

Martina Hingis, also world number one, headed the women's seedings.

Defending women's champion Jana Novotna, still injured after spraining her ankle at the French Open, was seeded according to her ranking - fifth.

Steffi Graf, who beat Switzerland's Hingis in the French Open final, was seeded second, one better than her ranking, as she bids for her eighth singles title at the world's most prestigious tournament.

Australia's Pat Rafter was seeded second in the men's singles behind Sampras, who regained the world number one spot from Yevgeny Kafelnikov of Russia after winning the Queen's grass court title on Sunday.

The American has won five of the last six Wimbledon titles and needs one more to become the most successful men's singles player at the championships this century.

Compatriot Andre Agassi, who won the French Open title in stunning style earlier this month, was seeded fourth, his current ranking, behind Kafelnikov for the two-week championships starting next Monday.

But Wimbledon did not faithfully follow the rankings when they named the 32 seeds for the singles.

They downgraded clay court specialists such as Carlos Moya and Gustavo Kuerten and pushed Goran Ivanisevic, three times a Wimbledon finalist, up the seedings ladder.

Brazil's Kuerten, ranked seventh in the world, was made 11th seed while Spaniard Moya, another French Open champion, dropped two places below his ranking to 12th.

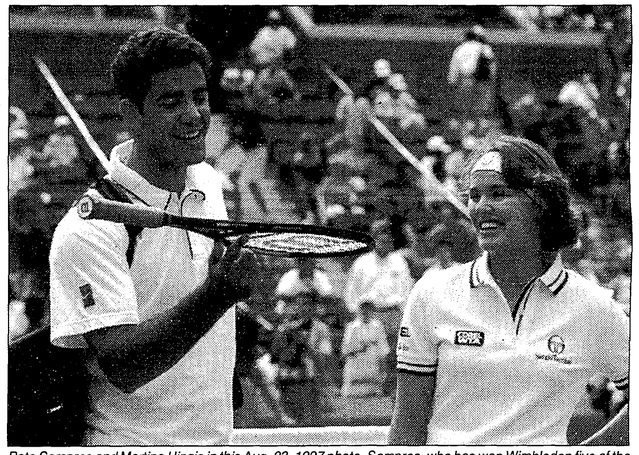
There was no place for eighth-ranked Alex Corretja. It was unclear whether the Spaniard had pulled out of the championships like world number nine Marcelo Rios of Chile, said to be suffering from a leg injury.

Croatian Ivanisevic was seeded five places above his world ranking at 10th - he lost last year's final in five sets to Sampras. Another big server, Mark Philippoussis of Australia, was seeded seventh compared with his ranking of 11.

Graf's grass pedigree and heroics in Paris where she beat Hingis in a controversial French Open final saw the German promoted above third-seeded American Lindsay Davenport.

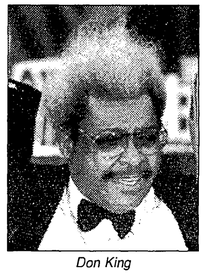
The women's seedings followed the rankings more closely, except that Nathalie Tauziat, who last year became the first French woman to reach a Wimbledon final since 1925, swapped places with compatriot Mary Pierce to become eighth seed.

Frenchwoman Amelie Mauresmo has withdrawn, organisers said, allowing Natasha Zvereva of Belarus, a semifinalist last year, to be named 16th and last seed.



Pete Sampras and Martina Hingis in this Aug. 23, 1997 photo. Sampras, who has won Wimbledon five of the last six years, was made the top-seeded player Monday, with 1997 champion Martina Hingis gaining the top spot on the women's side. AP

Indictment won't cause Don King to step aside



Don King

NEW YORK (AP) — Don King says if the Evander Holyfield-Lennox Lewis rematch happens, he will be the promoter.

Seth Abraham, head of Time Warner Sports, has said the pay-per-view fight, which is set for Nov. 13, is in jeopardy if King does not give Time Warner the right to order the promoter to step aside if he is indicted in connection with the first Holyfield-Lewis fight. That bout ended in a controversial draw.

"I'm not giving up my rights, I'm not giving up the presumption of innocence," King said Monday during a news conference for the Oscar De La Hoya-Felix Trinidad welterweight tile bout Sept. 18 in Las Vegas. That fight will be co-promoted by King and Bob Arum and carried on pay-per-view by TVKO.

Time Warner Sports operates HBO and its pay-per-view arm, TVKO.

"An indictment is only an allegation," King said. "If they have trouble being associated with me, then they can buy me out or I will buy them out," King said.

A buyout, either way, won't happen.

Abraham said that if King should grant Time Warner the right it seeks, it does not necessarily mean it would be exercised.

Most observers thought Lewis clearly won the March 13 fight in Madison Square Garden.

"When an unpopular decision came, not a corrupt decision but an unpopular decision, I was abandoned like the bubonic plague," King said.

There is a chance that King could be indicted in connection with an investigation that the IBF fixed rankings for a payoff. Abraham said Time Warner would not be concerned about such an indictment in connection with an Holyfield-Lewis rematch.

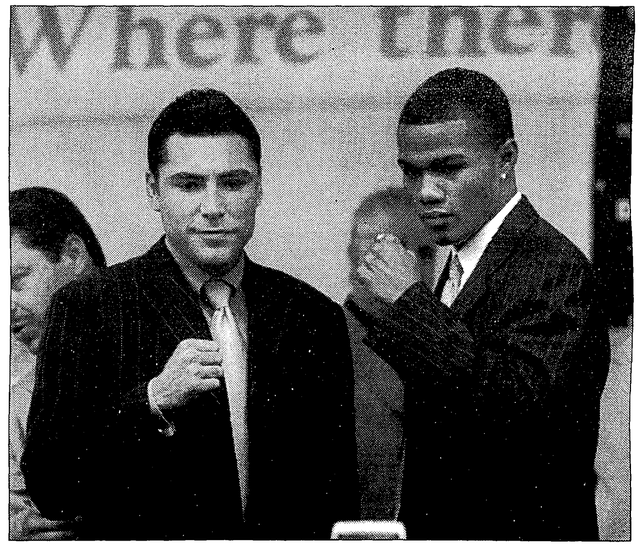
Last week, FBI agents raided King's offices in Deerfield Beach, Florida, reportedly seeking records involving the IBF. The FBI would not confirm that was the reason.

King was not present.

"I was in Seth Abraham's office (in New York)," King said, laughing. "My office was under siege. No woman could go to the bathroom without an agent. No man could go to the bathroom without an agent."

Abraham said that should the Holyfield-Lewis rematch not take place, Lewis, promoted by Panos Eliades of Britain and Main Events, could fight the winner of the Michael Grant-Lou Savarese fight, possible in Madison Square Garden on Nov. 13. Lewis is scheduled to fly to New York on Thursday and attend a match Saturday night in The Theater at the Garden.

"The fight is made," King, Holyfield's promoter, said of the rematch. "I got a dlrs 10 million site fee (for the match at Mandalay Bay in Las Vegas). Both fighters have signed. Holyfield wants the fight. I want the fight. The only one holding it up is HBO. If it falls through, we'll go on about our business."



Boxers Oscar De La Hoya (left) and Felix Trinidad pose for a photo following the announcement of their September 18, 1999 boxing match at a news conference Monday in New York. AP

SPORTS

NMI swim team breaks records at SPG

Sterling performance!

WHAT A team! Though small in numbers, the CNMI's swim team for the 1999 South Pacific Games competition showed once again the combination for success against the bigger. Hard work, discipline, a winning tradition and a good coach.

Led by 16-year-old Xenavee Pangelinan, the CNMI swimmers came home from Guam with one gold, two individual silvers, one team silver, five individual bronzes, and two team bronzes.

Pangelinan, under the watchful eyes of coach Jean Sakovich and her proud parents, Victor and Ricia Pangelinan, took the gold and a new record in the grueling 400 meter individual medley.

At the start, Pangelinan had clawed her way to the front. She held on against New Caledonia and Papua New Guinea stars to set a new SPG and CNMI record of 5 min., 15 seconds.

Pangelinan was not through breaking records. In the women's 200 fly, she and Bui-Duyet of New Caledonia both broke the SPG record of 2:28, with Pangelinan taking silver at 2:26.

In the 100 fly, Pangelinan took bronze, and true to her distances, swam for another silver in the 200 back. She teamed up with Davina Palacios, Audra Winkfield, and Tracy Feger for a silver in the women's 4 x 100 free relay.

Pangelinan was not the only women's medalist on the team. The team went to Guam with depth. The CNMI women swimmers took three medals in all — a silver in the 4 x 100 free with Pangelinan, Davina Palacios, Audra Winkfield, and Tracy Feger, a bronze in the 4 x 200 free, where sisters Tamiko and Audra Winkfield paired with Pangelinan and Feger, and another bronze in the 4 x 100 medley relay, with Pangelinan, Davina Palacios, Jennifer Pierce and Feger.

Feger did not limit herself to three team medals, and she could swim on her back as well as her front.

In the 200 back, Feger swam fourth, and in the 100 back, she edged out teammate Pangelinan to take the bronze, while parents Jim and Bobby Feger cheered her on.

"Pierce" is not an SPG swimming team, but like the Winkfield sisters, the Pierce sisters — Jill and Jennifer, and their brother, Justin, came home with medals.

In addition to Jennifer's team bronze, she took an individual bronze in the hard fought 100 breast.

Her sister Jill set a new CNMI record and earned a bronze medal in the women's 200 breast. Jill Pierce, at 14, might have been the youngest, individual medalist in the SPG games. Justin Pierce, fourth place in the tough 400 men's individual medley, also swam his best time ever in the 100 men's breast, and he carried the bronze medal in the 200 breast.

While they did not wear medals around their necks, young swimmers Sho Sao and Seung Jin Lee proved that hard work and training paid off. Both lowered their best times in every race they swam.

Coach Sakovich would not let them rest, putting them in event after event, including the 2.3 mile ocean swim from Cocos Island to the mainland. Coach Sakovich, looking ahead to the 2003 South Pacific Games in Fiji, wants Saso and Lee prepared, along with female backup Dolores Pangelinan.

Asked for comment about her team's success, Jean Sakovich attributed it to the team's eight practice sessions per week, a tight regimen of PT training for strength and endurance led by MHS teacher Bobby Winkfield, and of course but not the least, her crafty coaching.

"We are developing a reputation for winning, with good swimmers. It excites me to see the young swimmers come along, learn from the older swimmers, and then see the

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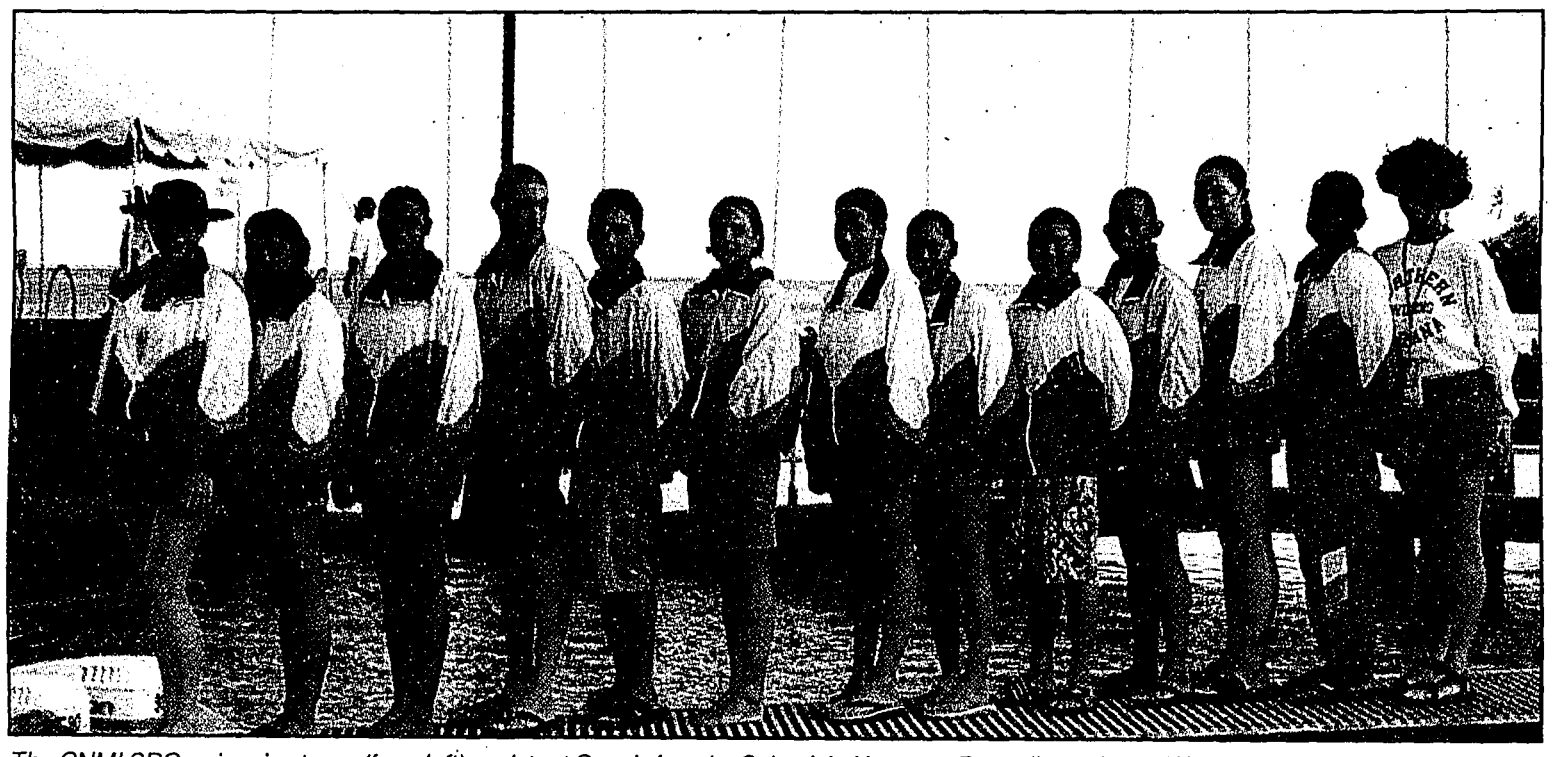


The CNMI SPG swimming team (from left) assistant Coach Anneka Sakovich, Xenavee Pangelinan, Audra Winkfield, Justin Pierce, Seung Jin Lee, Tracy Feger, Jill Pierce, Dolores Pangelinan, Sho Saso, Davina Palacios, Jennifer Pierce, Tamiko Winkfield and Coach Jean Sakovich.

Contributed photo

Not much bad blood flows between the Knicks and the Spurs

By CHRIS SHERIDAN

SAN ANTONIO (AP) — Not a single heckler awaited the New York Knicks as they arrived in town for the NBA Finals. Not a single harsh word was spoken by the San Antonio Spurs.

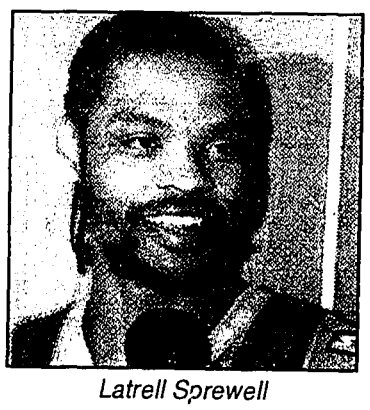
Rivalry? Not even close. Enemies? Not at all.

This NBA Finals, at least for now, is a meeting of cordial strangers.

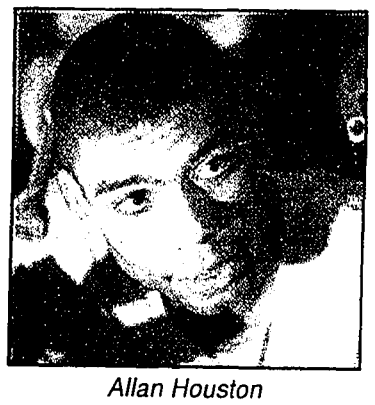
"We don't bash anybody. That's not the Spurs. We're nice guys," San Antonio's Steve Kerr said. "We love New York. Good guys vs. good guys, I think."

The atmosphere of mutual praise and respect lingered for another day as both teams continued to prepare for the start of the series Wednesday night.

Jeff Van Gundy



Latrell Sprewell



Allan Houston

The Knicks arrived Monday in a city smattered with black-and-pink "Go Spurs Go" signs, and if they looked out the windows of their bus from the airport, they would have seen a good percentage of the cars with some kind of supportive message to the Spurs hand-painted on their windows.

Spurs fever is a feel-good type of thing, with no discernible Knick-bashing souring the mood.

One of the New York tabloids couldn't help itself from taking a few shots at the Spurs, their city and their cheerleaders — calling them 16 big-haired ladies in silver-and-pink Jetsons costumes — but the animosity was far from genuine.

It's just a fact of these finals: There isn't really that much history or bad blood between the two teams.

"Nothing I can think of," San Antonio center David Robinson said. "I can't remember any fights, no real bad attitudes. But they always played us real tough."

San Antonio and New York did not play each other during this lockout-shortened season, so this will be the first meeting between the teams since March 31, 1998 — a game the Spurs won by 17 points at Madison Square Garden in large part because of injuries to Patrick Ewing and Chris Dudley.

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