



This Carolinian group awes the crowd with a traditional canoe float during last Saturday's Festival of Cultures parade along Beach Road.
Photo by Louie C. Alonso

US Senate panel delays hearing

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE US Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources has rescheduled its hearing on "federal takeover" legislation from July 27 to August 3, the CNMI's representative to Washington, D.C. said.

Juan N. Babauta, in a July 16th letter to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, said the office of the committee chair, Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska), has informed him of the change in schedule.

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce, the Hotel Association of the Northern Mariana Islands and other local business organizations had earlier asked Murkowski for a postponement of the hearing.

In an interview Friday, Tenorio said he hasn't received a response from [Murkowski] on the request to postpone the hearing but that the CNMI should be prepared to



Frank Murkowski

face the Senate panel.

He said the CNMI government has "sharpened its pencils" and will be ready to face its critics in Washington, with or without changes in the Senate hearing's schedule.

The CNMI business sector had proposed that Murkowski's committee stay the July 27 hearing, or

at least move the date closer to a separate US House of Representatives hearing scheduled in September.

Moving the US Senate's hearing close to the date scheduled by the lower chamber for another federal takeover hearing would allow the CNMI government, as well as business groups in the islands, to spend less on travel.

Nevertheless, Tenorio said the local government and the business sector should not assume that the hearing it will be delayed further. "We should be prepared and ready to testify anytime."

Commonwealth officials have continued to face increasing pressure from Washington on the extension of federal immigration and minimum wage laws to the Northern Marianas even when it faces more than five takeover bills in the US Congress.

(With reports from Z. Dandan)

JFK Jr., wife feared dead in plane crash off Mass. waters

AQUINNAH, Mass. (AP) — An aerial search resumed Sunday after Coast Guard cutters combing the waters off Martha's Vineyard overnight found no signs of John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife and her sister.

Their plane was reported missing off the shores off the resort island early Saturday.

A Coast Guard Falcon jet took off about 6 a.m. to begin the daytime search and assess weather conditions, said Coast Guard Chief Petty Officer Dennis Hall.

An hour earlier, authorities began combing the beach on all-terrain vehicles looking for any signs of the plane or its passengers that may have washed ashore, said state police Lt. Richard Kelley.

A daylong search Saturday yielded plane fragments, a prescription bottle belonging to Kennedy's wife and a piece of baggage belonging to his sister-in-law, but no signs of life.

Coast Guard cutters using bright lights and a sonar-equipped submersible searched overnight, but three helicopters and an Air National Guard C-130 airplane were grounded early Sunday because of low

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John F. Kennedy Jr. and his wife, Carolyn, walk hand-in-hand in this Oct. 10, 1996 file photo. The couple is feared to have died in a plane crash off Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts late Friday. AP

DPS nabs 8 people in prostitution raid

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Safety's special operations team arrested early Friday morning eight persons who were allegedly involved in prostitution activities in Garapan.

The suspects—five men and three women—were taken to the Superior Court for a bail hearing Friday afternoon.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Marvin Williams said the suspects were charged with promoting prostitution and loitering for prostitution purposes.

Williams said the suspects, described as Chinese nationals, were

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Miller pushes \$4M cut in CNMI Covenant funding

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety Associate Editor

CONGRESSMAN George Miller (D-California) has offered an amendment in an appropriations bill that would take away \$4 million in federal funds earmarked for the CNMI, it was learned.

The amendment has already been accepted by the US House Interior Appropriations Sub-

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George Miller

World awaits word on fate of Kennedys

LONDON (AP)—British newspapers on Sunday featured stories on the search for the missing Kennedy plane, while broadcasters throughout Europe led newscasts with the disappearance of John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife and her sister.

Some British newspapers referred to the Kennedy family's history of tragedy, a theme echoed in news reports across the world.

"Inexplicable curse of the Kennedys," The Sunday Telegraph newspaper said in a headline for a story that ran over three pages.

Kennedy's disappearance topped French TV news Saturday with reports on the search, profiles of Kennedy's life and special reports devoted to the Kennedys, one about President Kennedy's death by Walter Cronkite.

John F. Kennedy Jr. was traveling with his wife, Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, and sister-in-law, Lauren Bessette, to a family wedding when their plane disappeared on its way to Martha's Vineyard, Massachusetts.

In Hong Kong on Sunday, newspapers devoted front-page coverage to the search.



John F. Kennedy Jr.

"The Kennedy family again meets the vicious curse," ran the headline of the Chinese-language daily Oriental Daily News.

In China, the state-run Liberation Daily newspaper of Shanghai said Kennedy's disappearance further covers the Kennedy family "with a mysterious shade of tragedy."

Australia's acting prime minister, Tim Fischer, sent a message of sympathy to the Kennedy family.

In London, the British Broadcasting Corp. led its TV afternoon news Saturday with a report of the plane's disappearance, while the BBC's Internet site said

the Kennedy family "could be facing another tragedy, the latest in a long history which has become known as the curse of the Kennedys."

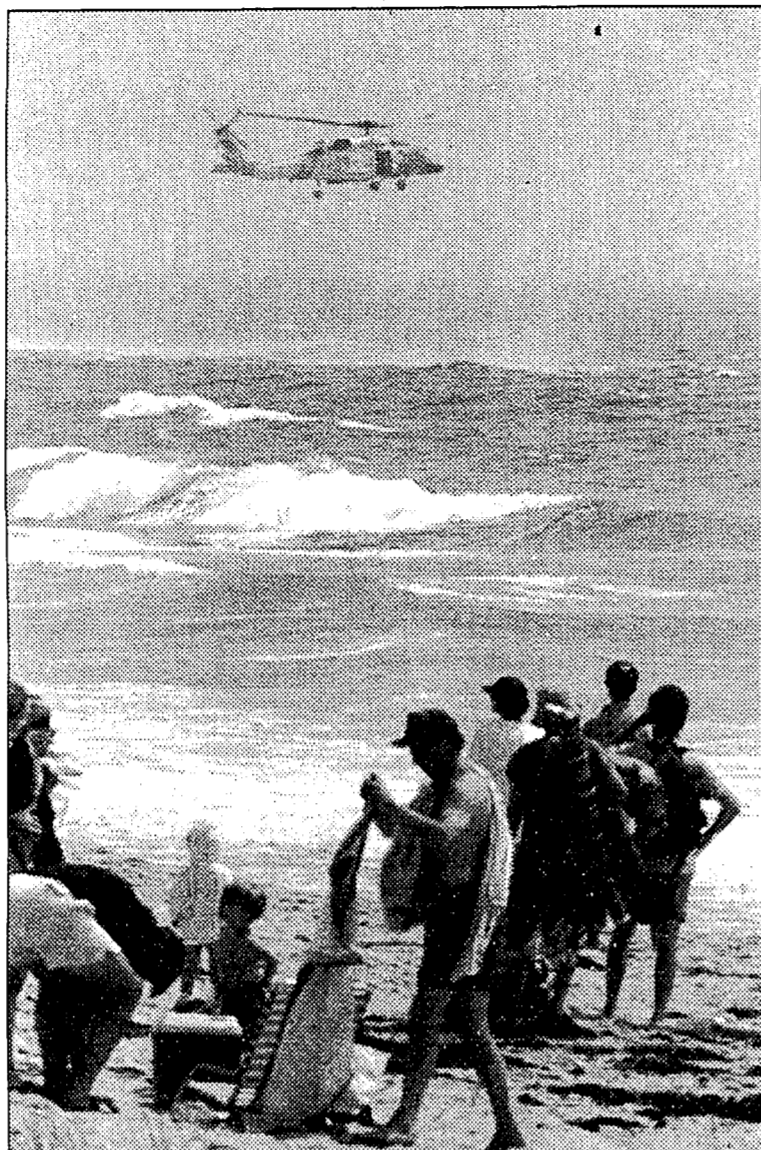
Italian state TV also led with the story, using the 1963 photo of "John-John," as Kennedy is known, saluting his father's coffin.

The Sunday edition of Frankfurter Allgemeine featured the same photo on its front page with a headline: "Tragedy without end: John F. Kennedy Jr. Crashes."

In Israel, correspondents traveling with Prime Minister Ehud Barak during his trip to the United States were asked by local stations about the fate of Kennedy and his wife.

In Russia, the independent NTV television carried news of the search, accompanied by footage of Kennedy meeting President Clinton.

Although Kennedy is a household name in the United States, JFK Jr. is not well known in European countries. But the Kennedy name is famous, and newspapers focused on his role as a leader of a new generation of Kennedys.



Beachgoers watch as a U.S. Coast Guard rescue helicopter searches along Philbin Beach near Gay Head, on the island of Martha's Vineyard, Mass. Saturday for the missing single-engine plane carrying John F. Kennedy, Jr. his wife, Carolyn, and her sister, Lauren Bessette Friday.



Rear Adm. Craig Quigley, Deputy Asst. Secretary of Defense for Public Affairs (right) and Cmdr. Mike Lapinski, Coast Guard spokesman brief reporters at a news conference on the search for the missing plane of John F. Kennedy Jr. Saturday.



People pause to watch a huge screen on a shopping mall showing the wedding of John F. Kennedy Jr. and Carolyn Bessette in Hong Kong's Times Square Sunday, as part of a broadcast on the disappearance of Kennedy and his wife.

Clinton reaches out to Kennedy family to express his concern

WASHINGTON (AP)—President Clinton reached out to members of the Kennedy family Saturday to express concern over the disappearance of a plane carrying John F. Kennedy Jr., son of the nation's 35th president.

"He wanted to let them know he was thinking about them, that we'll do everything we can and that our thoughts and prayers are with them," said White House press secretary Joe Lockhart.

Clinton, who is spending the weekend at Camp David in western Maryland, was informed of the plane's disappearance shortly after 7 a.m. by John Podesta, his chief of staff, Lockhart said. Also on board the aircraft was Kennedy's wife, Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, and her sister, Lauren Bessette.

Lockhart said that after being told of the plane's disappearance, Clinton spoke by telephone with Caroline Kennedy Schlossberg, John Kennedy's sister, with Sen.

Edward M. Kennedy, his uncle; and with Housing Secretary Andrew Cuomo, who is married to Kerry Kennedy, daughter of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, D-N.Y.

"He is being kept fully informed of the ongoing search efforts, which are being coordinated by the Department of Transportation, the Coast Guard, the Federal Aviation Administration and the Department of Defense," Lockhart said in a statement.

JFK watchers shaken

By Susan Parrott
DALLAS (AP)—At the downtown monument to President John F. Kennedy, visitors gathered around TV monitors to watch the search for the missing plane of the assassinated president's son.

"It's so ironic to be in the place where his father died," said Michele Chilingierian of Portland, Ore. "It's creepy."

Kevin McCarthy agreed the experience was surreal.

"It reminds me of what happened the day JFK died," said McCarthy, of St. Louis. "I couldn't believe it. I was in Catholic School and we started praying."

John F. Kennedy Jr., his wife, Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, and

her sister, Lauren, were missing aboard a plane that left New Jersey headed for a family wedding Saturday in Hyannis Port, Mass.

Several visitors said they did not know about the missing plane until they visited the downtown museum dedicated to President Kennedy's assassination.

"It's not registering," Georgette Sarkisian of Boston said with disbelief. "We know the area where they live."

Outside the museum, visitors placed wreaths near the grassy knoll and Paul Crute tied a black flag to the antenna of his 1961 convertible limousine. Crute gives tours along the route that President Kennedy traveled when he was killed 36 years ago.

Judiciary needs \$5.9M budget

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

IF ONLY the judiciary would have its way, it would want its fiscal year 2000 budget to be in the same level as it was originally appropriated for by Public Law 11-41 in order to better carry out its functions, given the increasing number of cases filed in CNMI courts.

This means having almost \$5.9 million budget for the next fiscal year, an amount which is lower by some \$936,659 from the current budget proposal by the administration.

In a budget hearing for the

judiciary held by the House Ways and Means Committee on Friday, the Superior Court and the Supreme Court aired that the \$4,954,441 worth of budget being proposed by the administration may not fully address the needs of these agencies.

However, Rep. Karl T. Reyes, committee chairman, said the judiciary may be allowed to have flexibility in reprogramming some of its funds among divisions.

"The committee recommendation is we will give (judiciary) a lump sum and use it as they go by, to give them reprogramming

authority within judicial system," said Reyes.

Under P.L. 11-41, the judiciary would receive \$5,891,100. But with the 13.4 percent across-the-board cut, the budget was reduced to \$5,101,235.

As projected revenues continue to decline, the administration is proposing a mere \$4,954,441 budget for the judiciary this next fiscal year.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan said his division would want a \$3,623,500 budget for the next fiscal year, the same amount originally budgeted for

FY 1999. "We didn't get the requested budget in FY 1999 so now we are moving our request for FY 2000 to supplement the current level..."

"The executive branch reduced us by almost half a million. We just want them to give us the same level we requested for (in FY 1999)," said Manibusan.

Among others, the Superior Court would be needing additional \$200,000 to \$300,000 for personnel costs and certain needed equipment in the library like machine for photocopying

and microfilm camera.

The Office of Management and Budget, according to Reyes, disclosed that the lapse funds for the Superior Court for FY 1999 amounts to about \$250,000 and this may be added to the FY 2000 appropriations.

"They will be more effective in carrying out their functions (with the FY 1999 budget level) but they are currently functioning well," said Reyes.

The Supreme Court was given a FY 2000 budget ceiling of \$1,588,742, down from \$1,889,100 appropriated under P.L. 11-41.

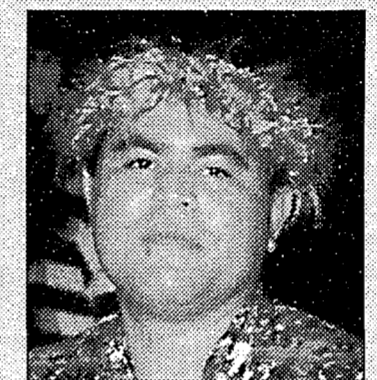
Gov't fast-tracks jail project



Pedro P. Tenorio

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE GOVERNMENT hopes to expedite the construction of a new prison facility in light of the fast-approaching compliance deadline under a deal reached between the CNMI and



Heinz Hofschneider

the United States Department of Justice, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said Friday.

Tenorio met with officials of the Prison Task Force led by Rep. Heinz Hofschneider where possibilities of fast-tracking the completion of the project has been

discussed.

"The committee met to discuss how we can possibly expedite the prison facility construction. I believe the contract has already been signed. Very soon it's going to be in progress," the governor told reporters.

The CNMI is left with barely about two months before the 180-day compliance deadline for the improvement of the CNMI corrections facility, and Tenorio said the government is close to meeting the deadline especially with the approval of a capital infrastructure project funding for the detention center.

The US Department of Justice in February reached an

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Nakamura: Constitution of Palau stays relevant

By Malou L. Sayson
For the Variety

KOROR (Palau Horizon)—Two decades after it was crafted by a young and dynamic breed of political thinkers, the Palau Constitution still remains relevant amidst changes and development the country is undergoing, the country's president said.

President Nakamura, however, has called for the need to reexamine, test and as appropriate and necessary, change the constitution and all other laws "to continue to reflect the principles, goals

and needs of the Palauan people in his remarks during the celebration of the 20th anniversary of the adoption of the Palau Constitution held at the Cultural Village here in Koror last Friday.

The Palau Constitution was built in such a way that it embodies the ways and means to respond to changes and growth as the Palauans mature as a people.

According to the president, the Palau Constitution has been instrumental in forming one of the most advanced and benevolent

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Isles to divide \$22M Y2K funding

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety Associate Editor

US INSULAR areas and the Freely Associated States will know within two weeks how much of the \$22.2 million in Y2K federal grants each of them will receive.

The US Interior Department's Office of Insular Affairs (OIA) announced Friday that the islands will receive the funds to help them deal with possible problems in computer systems once year 2000 arrives.

OIA acting Director Danny Aranza, in a media release, said

the federal funding for the so-called Y2K problem was made possible by the Clinton administration.

Aranza said it was the US Office of Management and Budget (OMB) that decided what systems should be funded for Y2K repairs.

There was no mention, however, the amount of federal funds each insular area and Freely Associated States—which is composed of the Federation of Micronesian States (Chuuk, Kosrae, Pohnpei and Yap), the

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Gov't expecting to spend \$2.4M in rentals for 2000

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

EXPENDITURES for government office rentals are expected to reach some \$2.4 million in fiscal year 2000, up by some \$295,036 from the figures of the previous fiscal year, it was learned.

Due to the expected increase, the administration is currently re-assessing the office space rentals of certain government agencies in light of the present economic uncertainties, particularly the continuous decline in projected revenues.

A report prepared by the House Ways and Means Committee, a copy of which was obtained by the Variety, indicated that from

only \$2,117,073 to be spent by the government in office rentals for the entire FY 1999, the figure will increase to \$2,412,109 in the next fiscal year.

Under the FY 2000 budget request for rentals, the Department of Labor and Immigration remains to be the one with the greatest yearly rental expenditure of \$516,200.

It is followed by the Department of Finance (DOF) with \$316,000; the Executive Department with \$247,212; Department of Public Works with \$227,057; and the Public School System with \$190,500.

While all other agencies will either have an increase or decrease

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Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio (left) administers the oath of office to new CNMI Supreme Court Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan Friday as Demapan's wife, Frances, holds the bible at right. Photo by Haidee V. Eugenio

Hopes high for new chief justice

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

"I WILL do my best to improve the CNMI judicial system."

Thus said newly-confirmed chief justice of the CNMI Supreme Court Miguel S. Demapan during a swearing in ceremony on Friday which coincided with his 47th birth-

day. In his speech, Demapan pointed out that continuously serving the needs of the people remains to be the best way of further improving the judiciary system in the CNMI.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and former chief justice Marty Taylor, in separate interviews, expressed confidence on

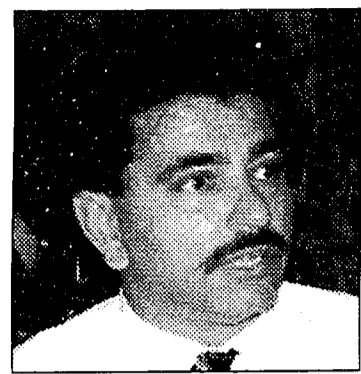
Demapan, citing his long-time experience and hard work with the CNMI judiciary.

"The chief justice is going to do just fine. He's knowledgeable about what the Supreme Court needs. With his background, he will be able to pretty much handle anything that comes his way."

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Court warns AGO, Goldberg

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff
LESS than a month after the CNMI Supreme Court warned Assistant Atty. Gen. Robert Goldberg from using offensive language, the government lawyer again received another warning—this time from the Superior Court.



Timothy H. Bellas

Nan Yin.

Superior Court Associate Judge Timothy H. Bellas imposed a nominal sanction to the Attorney General's Office and the Division of Immigration not as punishment but as a warning to Goldberg to abide by the Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure.

With such nominal sanction, Bellas ordered the petitioners AGO and Immigration to pay \$400 to the Clerk of the Commonwealth Superior Court within 10 days.

"In the future, if any party feels the need to be 'creative,' the matter should be brought before the court for its prior approval," said Bellas in the order on a motion involving deportation cases filed against Zhe-When Zhu and Yong-

order to obtain information as to the whereabouts of the two Chinese.

Goldberg also served Hill's legal assistant, Jenny Chen, with similar subpoenas as well as Hill's Law Office.

Hill, Chen and the Hill Law Office, through counsel Michael Dotts, jointly moved the court to quash all subpoenas.

The court then granted Dotts' motion to quash and sanctioned the AGO and the Immigration by ordering them to pay Hill the attorney's fees and costs incurred.

Goldberg moved the court to reconsider its order awarding sanctions.

Bellas in his decision issued Thursday pointed out that sanctions are appropriate under the Rules of Civil Procedure if the subpoenaing party fails to take reasonable steps to avoid imposing an undue burden on a third party.

Moreover, Bellas said, had petitioners AGO and Immigration addressed the merits of the motion to quash in its opposition instead of reserving its right to address the merits at a later time, the motion for reconsideration would have likely been unnecessary.



Robert Goldberg

that respondents Zhu and Yin be deported.

"Therefore, at a minimum, the government should have sought leave from the Court before subpoenaing Hill for deposition," said the judge in affirming its prior order for sanctions against AGO and Immigration.

Bellas affirmed its prior order awarding sanctions against AGO and Immigration, but refused to impose the amount of sanctions requested in the non-party movants' (Hill) memorandum of fees and costs.

The CNMI Supreme Court last month warned Goldberg from using offensive language again in any motion or other documents filed in court.

At oral argument, Bellas said Goldberg could not cite to any rule providing for such a self-providing reservation of rights.

The sanctions here, the judge said, are designed to enforce Rules of Civil Procedure to bring litigation to a speedy and inexpensive resolution instead of diverting the court's energies and attention away from more deserving cases.

With that in mind, Bellas noted that although the language of Rule 45 of the Civil Procedure is mandatory, the sanctions to be imposed are not limited to a reasonable attorney's fee.

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Teno to attend FSM president's inaugural

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff
GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio is leaving today for a three-day trip to the Pohnpei capital of Palikir as he joins other officials from Pacific island-nations for the inaugural of Federated States of Micronesia President Leo Falcam and other leaders.



Pedro P. Tenorio

The governor's trip to Pohnpei was supposed to be his second off-island function after the First Traditional Micronesian Leaders Conference in the Palauan capital of Koror last week which he had to skip.

Tenorio is scheduled to fly back to Guam Wednesday and from there, may go straight to

Washington DC to attend the US Senate's natural resources committee's hearing on federal takeover legislation.

But he indicated the possibility

of touching base after his Pohnpei trip whenever the need arises before proceeding to Washington.

A joint inaugural celebration for FSM's new leaders, scheduled for July 21, has been prepared by an organizing core group specifically established for the occasion.

The joint inaugural celebration for the new President, Vice President, Speaker and members of the 11th Congress will be held in front of the FSM Congress Chamber in Palikir, Pohnpei.

Invitations had been sent out to foreign governments with

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PSS bans soda sale in all public schools

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff
THE SALE of carbonated drinks in all CNMI public schools is prohibited, an official disclosed last Friday.

Food and Nutrition Services Administrator Jesus DLG Sanchez said the Public School System will closely watch and monitor all private vendors inside the public schools if they are following the rules of the education agency against the sale of such drinks to students.

Sanchez is also urging the CNMI legislators to draft a bill against unauthorized vendors selling carbonated drinks and other food at the fence of the schools.

The FNS has already spoken with Reps. Melvin Faisao (R-Saipan, Pct. 3) and Rosiky Camacho (D-Saipan, Pct. 1) about the problem.

According to Sanchez, carbonated drinks are not healthy for the health and development of the students.

FNS Nutritionist Tina Goodwin earlier said PSS will make sure that only healthy and nutritious foods will be served to the students.

With the issue of vending machines installed in school level, Sanchez said that he approved the vending machines selling carbonated drinks only if it is installed in teachers' office.

Ishibashi gets 40 mos. in jail for drug charges

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff
FEDERAL Court Judge Alex R. Munson has sentenced businessman Kojo Ishibashi to three years and four months in jail for drug charges.

Munson ordered Ishibashi to spend 40 months in jail for charges of possession with intent to distribute crystal methamphetamine and distribution of "ice."

Munson said after serving the

sentence, the defendant shall be delivered to US or CNMI Immigration officers for immediate deportation proceedings.

If such proceedings fail to occur, the judge said, Ishibashi shall be placed in four years' probation.

Ishibashi was charged with conspiracy to import "ice," conspiracy to distribute "ice," possession with intent to distribute "ice," and distribution of "ice."

The defendant signed a plea

agreement with the US government and pleaded guilty to possession with intent and distribution of "ice."

During Thursday's sentencing, Richard Pierce, counsel for Ishibashi, said they would not dispute that 270 grams of "ice" were intercepted from Ishibashi's co-defendant Michihide Izumi at the airport.

Pierce, however, stressed that when the Drug Enforcement Administration/CNMI Task Force

later arrested Ishibashi the latter was caught only in possession of a package containing 11.3 grams of "ice" including fake ones.

Pierce said the defendant has no intent to pick up the package containing 270 grams of "ice."

Assistant US Atty. David Wood maintained that the government held Ishibashi responsible for the 270 grams because it was his intention to get the

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DFW doing fish catch poll at port

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff
A NEW scheme to monitor fish landings by commercial fishermen is now being undertaken by the Division of Fish and Wildlife.

The creel survey which is more simple and accurate than the previously adopted "invoice" survey began last week.

Fishery Data Manager Floy Masga said the new scheme, will tap DFW personnel at Saipan's various ports where they will be monitoring the fish catch.

Through the new survey, the DFW will also be able to identify the total number of boats launched at sea for local fishing.

Unlike the invoice type whereby dealers of caught fish, like hotels, restaurants, and mobile vendors, are only monitored, the new project involves real interaction with fishermen.

Creel is already being implemented by the other members of the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council such as Guam, American Samoa, and Hawaii.

By implementing the project, the DFW believes it can practice the more accurate type of survey aside from personally dealing with the local fishermen and monitoring the actual number of their catch.

Right now, DFW is only collecting data based on the number of fish sold and not on the actual total number caught.

Masga said the survey will be conducted nine days in every month.

It will be randomly carried out at Laolao; Sugar Dock in Susupe; the fishing base in Garapan; and at the Outer and Smiling Coves.

NOTICE PRE-BID INVITATION

Matson Navigation Company, Inc. is announcing its
Saipan Chassis Repair, Maintenance & Refrigeration
Pre-Bid Invitation.

Requirements and Standards will be
disclosed on Thursday, July 22, 1999 during the
Pre-Bid meeting to be held at the
Saipan Shipping conference room at 10:00 a.m.

For more information, please contact Joann Wall at (670) 322-9709.

Matson Navigation Company, Inc 1026 Cabras Highway Ste. 115 Piti, Guam 96925

Bidding for Tinian water well on soon

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff
TINIAN — The formal bidding for the drilling of a new water well in Tinian will be out on August 9, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) disclosed last week.

Gregorio Castro, CUC deputy director for Tinian, said six companies have so far shown interest in undertaking the water well project which is only about 2,000 feet away from the existing Maui water well.

These companies, which attended the pre-bid conference held the other week, include the Telesource, Western Equipment, VH Corporation, CHECO and Sablan Construction.

"We hope all those firms which attended the pre-bid conference will submit their formal proposal," said Castro.


Aside from giving Tinian residents additional supply of water, the new water well will also give way to the rehabilitation of the more than 50-year old Maui water well which will have to be temporarily closed down.

While CUC is able to pump some 1.3 million gallons of water on a daily basis which are "more than enough" for the need of some 700 residential and commercial customers of the utilities agency, it is not dismissing the possibility of serious water shortage in few years' time if a new water well is not built within the year.

The new water well will take six to eight months before it will be fully operational.

Castro added that only Tinian has a 24-hour water supply on the whole of CNMI for at least the last five years.


Around 525 of the customers in Tinian are residential, while the rest are commercial establishments.




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MEMBER FDIC A SUBSIDIARY OF PACIFIC CENTURY FINANCIAL CORPORATION

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

EDITORIAL

Bravo, but...

SEVERAL weeks after the special report of ABC "20/20" and KMCV-7 on what everyone—with the apparent exception of Department of Public Safety (DPS) officials—knows exist, the police raided suspected prostitution dens in downtown Garapan. With the cable TV's cameraman behind them, police officers valiantly handcuffed suspected pimps and, with reckless disregard for their own safety, chased and, even better, caught up with suspected prostitutes wearing high-heel shoes and tight mini-skirts.

Finally, something was done about a situation that has been grist for the exposé mills of the national media, particularly "20/20." It would have been better, of course, if local police investigators had actually exposed these alleged prostitution activities, and not people from the mainland US who visited Saipan for a few days. As it is, the entire world has already been told that in a US commonwealth somewhere in the Pacific, nonresident "businesspersons" openly, well, hawk their wares on streets frequented by local government officials and where there is supposedly police presence.

Indeed, it is no surprise that critics of the CNMI's peculiar economic setup have repeatedly and gleefully pressed their thumbs on this sore point of prostitution in the Northern Marianas. They cite it as a prime example of how CNMI officials have failed to check, and may even be tolerating, "aboveground" illegal activities involving nonresidents who will not even qualify for a "strictly-for-Guam-airport-terminal-only" US visa, if such an entry permit exists. That this failure, they add, is yet another reason why the islands should observe strict federal immigration rules.

But no matter. The important thing now is that CNMI law enforcers are, at last, enforcing the islands' anti-prostitution law.

We are hoping, however, that this action is not merely a red-in-the-face response to pressure from media exposés, but is part of what ought to be a sustained effort to do what the law says the police should be doing.

And the police, incidentally, should also be going after criminals who have already turned Saipan into burglars' paradise. As some burglary victims have told our police reporters, there is nothing more frustrating than to have your home on an island 12 miles long burglarized annually by probably the same criminals. (Actually, we think that getting robbed in broad daylight on a weekday at an ATM machine yards away from DPS's headquarters is a bigger disappointment, but that's another story...and perhaps another unsolved crime.)

In any case, the recent raids in Garapan show that the CNMI police know how to perform their job, provided that DPS officials are shamed into action. Yet the community would rather have DPS officials who 1) have the initiative to prevent illegal activities and go after suspected criminals even without a TV camera prodding them; and, 2) are much better in law enforcement than drawing up public statements replete with excuses to explain away what could very well be plain incompetence.



JACK ANDERSON and JAN MOLLER
WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

'Grown in America' exposes 'blending'

WASHINGTON — That "grown in America" food you have been eating may have been "grown" somewhere else, thanks to a process called "blending"—the mixing of domestic and foreign products. After all, you may justifiably be concerned about mad cow disease in Britain, dioxin in beef and poultry from Belgium, or contaminated raspberries from Guatemala, but the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) does not provide you with a choice in the matter. Blending removes that choice.

A.H. "Chico" Denis, who runs a slaughter plant in San Angelo, Texas, admitted at a House subcommittee hearing that federal authorities must go on investigating imported meat for safety's sake. But just because it is blended with American meat, they should not stamp it with the USDA shield, he said, because that leads the public to believe those products are American when they are not.

Even so, there is resistance in Congress to legislation that would require the labeling of meat and produce according to country of origin. A measure sponsored by Helen Chenoweth, R-Idaho, and Earl Pomeroy, D-N.D., plus 58 others, would put an end to blending foreign hamburger with that from America and passing it off as home grown because the USDA inspection sticker implies as much. Another measure, carried by Rep. Mary Bono, R-Calif., would make similar rules for fruits and vegetables.

Chenoweth is passionate about her bill, which she claims is supported by 78 percent of Americans according to polling data. She points out that toys, clothes, television sets, even rawhide bones for dogs clearly tell the customer where they were made. So, she insists, should meat. Mr. Pomeroy is equally adamant: "We label our T-shirts," he says,

"why not our T-bones?" They, of course, are acting with strong support from the ranching industry whose members are smarting because consumption of imported beef had risen to 18 percent of the American market as of 1996 and foreign lamb to 20 percent in 1997, with imported pork taking 3.3 percent last year. People in the United States are buying canned hams from Denmark, leg of lamb from Australia and New Zealand, and meat pot pies from Canada. What really disturbs ranchers is this: They have to contribute to the operation of the USDA inspection service, which then approves competitive foreign products.

A critical question is, what would happen to our trade relationships if America mandated that the country of origin be slapped on every pork chop? The answer is that 32 nations, from Argentina, Brazil and Chile to Hungary, Israel and South Korea, already require such labeling.

Another potential difficulty is this: How could inspectors be sure that grapes in a bin labeled United States really were from California and not from Chile, a major exporter of this fruit to North America? They do it in Florida where produce must be labeled with the country of origin, and apparently it's working.

The federal effort must be aimed at keeping our food supply safe, no matter the origin. And while USDA inspectors need not grade foreign meat, certainly they have to indicate their approval of a product. But inspecting is one thing, labeling is another, and Rep. Larry Combest, R-Texas, says the home-grown label would help sell U.S. meat.

Safety is a factor, profit is an incentive, but choice is essential. So give us a choice, Congress; give us the "Grown in America" label.

ANALYSIS Diverse Asian tensions give U.S. headache

By Paul Taylor
LONDON (Reuters) — China's announcement that it has mastered neutron bomb technology fuels Asian tensions that will require deft troubleshooting by the United States, analysts say. The Chinese statement, intended to counter U.S. charges that Beijing stole American nuclear secrets, compounded strains with Taiwan, whose president this week abruptly repudiated its "one China" policy, angering the Communist mainland authorities.

Meanwhile, the United States has said secretive North Korea is planning another long-range missile test soon, a twist in the Asian arms race which has united China and Japan in alarm.

"These tensions have all arisen for different reasons...but they all pose challenges to the United States. U.S.-China relations are going to be much more difficult as a result," said Terence Taylor, assistant director of the International Institute for Strategic Studies.

China's carefully prepared neutron bomb announcement was not a technical surprise, since Beijing was known to have tested an enhanced radiation nuclear device as far back as 1988, he said.

Neutron weapons are low-yield bombs designed to kill large concentrations of people by radiation without inflicting massive material damage.

The United States developed the technology in the 1970s but renounced production partly due to big anti-nuclear protests at home and in Western Europe, but also because its nuclear doctrine was based on destroying enemy infrastructure or missile forces rather than killing masses of civilians.

"The neutron bomb has a place in Chinese doctrine because it is a weapon with which a second-rank power can threaten and terrify," Taylor said, noting that France too had developed the technology in the 1980s but later renounced the weapons.

Analysts said China may have timed its announcement as a reaction to Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui's statement that bilateral talks could continue only if they were considered "state-to-state" rather than between "political entities."

Taipei said the idea of one, indivisible China that included Taiwan - a mutually accepted formula that has prevented war between them - had to be scrapped because Beijing was using it to undermine the legitimacy of Taiwan.

"Issuing the statement at this point was obviously designed to have some impact on the Taiwan issue, but it is an accidental bonus. What it does is to signify that China is an all-round nuclear power, which the United States must take even more seriously," said Professor Michael Yahuda, an Asian expert at the London School of Economics.

Both analysts said Lee's repudiation of the "one China" principle was chiefly a domestic political gambit aimed at weakening opposition contenders when Taiwan elects his successor next March.

But statements made for internal reasons can trigger crises, or even wars, so the United States has been quick to try to defuse the issue.

Yahuda said it was significant that Washington had sent its envoy to Taiwan to seek an explanation, suggested Lee was backing away from abandoning the "one China" principle and urged the two sides to talk rather than provoke each other.

"By speaking to Taipei only, this was an implicit criticism of what the Taiwanese president did," he said. China has long threatened war if Taiwan declared independence.

Tensions seem likely to increase in the run-up to the 50th anniversary of the People's Republic of China and the Taiwanese elections next March.

But both Western experts said they did not expect a repeat of the 1996 Taiwan Strait crisis, in which the United States sent a naval task force to protect Taiwan and assert deterrence after China staged missile tests near the island.

The Chinese neutron bomb statement may be counter-productive for Beijing's effort to deter Japan and the United States from developing missile defence systems, some experts say.

Japan is the only country ever to have been hit by an atom bomb and is sensitive to any nuclear risk from its neighbours. Last August's shock North Korean launch of a three-stage rocket that crossed Japanese airspace prompted intensive discussion of missile defences between Washington and Tokyo, upsetting China which sees the idea as an attempt to contain it and neutralise its nuclear deterrent in Asia.

Another missile test by Pyongyang, which U.S. experts believe may occur on or around August 10, would add new urgency to attempts to agree on developing interceptors.

"That would have serious implications for relations between China and the United States, which are already difficult," Taylor said.

ANALYSIS Beijing and Taipei at crossroads

By Benjamin Kang Lim
BEIJING (Reuters) — China is beating the drum of invasion threats in a row over Taiwan's political status, boasting mastery of the neutron bomb and conducting war-time mobilisation drills in a province facing the estranged island. But will all the chest-thumping lead to China raining nuclear death on Taiwan, more military manoeuvres or an invasion that could lead to a showdown with the United States? Or is China merely bluffing?

Western analysts doubt China will do anything drastic but Chinese analysts warn the island not to underestimate Beijing's resolve to prevent Taipei from declaring independence.

"The two sides of the (Taiwan) strait are at a very important crossroad - to reunify or become independent, war or peace," said Zhou Zhihui, deputy director of the Institute of Taiwan Studies of the Chinese Academy of Social Sciences.

"China is not Iraq or Kosovo," Zhou said, referring to the U.S.-led assault on Iraq in 1990 for invading Kuwait and the NATO bombing against Yugoslavia this year for alleged "ethnic cleansing" of Albanians in its southern province of Kosovo.

"The Taiwan issue is the most probable cause for a clash breaking out between the United States and a major power after the end of the Cold War," Zhou told Reuters in an interview.

Taiwan, frustrated at its diplomatic isolation, touched off the spat by junking the longstanding "One China" policy - a mutually accepted formula that has prevented war between them and helped underpin East Asian security for decades. The policy offered comfort to Beijing that Taiwan was committed to reunion and not independence.

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Washington repeated its commitment to a "One China" policy. But it has issued a strong warning to Beijing that U.S. forces would not stand aside if an invasion were launched.

ANALYSIS Tough talk on N.Korea poses risky dilemma

By Linda Sieg
TOKYO (Reuters) — Japan, the United States and South Korea are warning North Korea it will pay a price if it fires a new long-range missile, but domestic politics could force them to match words with tougher actions than they really want to adopt.

And that risks pushing the mercurial Pyongyang regime to the brink and prompting a response that is as difficult to predict as it is undesirable.

"Already the 'sunshine' (engagement) policy of South Korea is being seriously criticised and they would have to review it (in the event of a launch)," said Satoshi Morimoto, a former defence official and now a chief researcher at Nomura Research Institute.

"The United States is scared that Republicans would push the administration toward a tougher position," Morimoto added.

Worries that Pyongyang will launch a more powerful version of its Taepodong missile launched over Japan last August have mounted in recent weeks. The new Taepodong-2 is believed capable of reaching parts of the United States.

Why the secretive state is contemplating such a move - which would scuttle an improvement of ties with the United States and anger Japan just when Pyongyang needs aid for its starving people - is tough to say. But its motives matter when trying to guess the impact of possible sanctions.

Taiwan insists talks with Beijing should now be conducted on a state-to-state basis.

Western analysts said China was caught between hardliners who want to bully Taiwan into ending its bid to break out of diplomat isolation and its craving for international respect as an emerging superpower.

"I don't think the Chinese know quite how to react. There must be a debate going on," one Western diplomat said.

An Asian diplomat said China wanted to send the Taiwan stock market into a tailspin and may stop at that if invasion threats achieved their desired results and reined in Taiwan.

But no one is ruling out a repeat of 1995-96 war games which followed Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui's private trip to the United States which Beijing saw as a move by Taipei to break out of its isolation.

Washington sent two aircraft carrier battle groups to the area.

"They managed to fire missiles off Taiwan's coast (in 1995 and 1996) and it didn't do their reputation that much good, but it didn't seem to harm them permanently either," the Asian envoy said of the Chinese military exercises.

Zhou said Taiwan miscalculated if it thought China's reaction to the about-face would be meek ahead of the festive atmosphere to mark the 50th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic.

He interpreted Taiwan's move as an attempt to take advantage of the low ebb in ties between China and the United States following the NATO bombing of Beijing's embassy in Belgrade in the hope the United States would back Taipei.

Washington repeated its commitment to a "One China" policy. But it has issued a strong warning to Beijing that U.S. forces would not stand aside if an invasion were launched.

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The cash-strapped North, said to export as much as \$1 billion worth of missiles and missile technology each year, could also be keen to show customers that its technology is up to date.

Pyongyang's top brass may also want to impress a famine-struck domestic population with their bold leadership.

If the first two reasons are key, threatening to withdraw offers of better ties and more economic aid could make a difference. But if the latter is the top priority, maybe not.

"If they're trying to show the world that a starving country is still a superpower, then it's hard to influence them," one analyst said.

Faced with signs North Korea could launch the missile at any time and its insistence that it has a sovereign right to do so, the United States, Japan and South Korea have issued a stream of warnings and stepped up efforts to coordinate their responses.

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NMI celebrates cultural diversity



Young local residents from the CNMI delegation hoist the US and CNMI flags during the parade last Saturday.



A member of the Yap community gamely poses for a photo beside a mock Yap's stone money after last Saturday's parade.



Filipinos from Rota joined also last Saturday wearing the Muslim Filipino costumes.



The Marshallese community displays woven costumes, arts and crafts during Saturday's parade. Photos by Louie C. Alonso

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Festival a 'success'

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

THE 1st CNMI International Festival of Cultures was a big success despite a "not-so-good" audience turnout during last Saturday's parade in Garapan.

The Cultural Heritage Executive Committee (CHEC) proved that it can handle a better float parade for Saipan.

The festival was participated by 17 ethnic groups residing in the CNMI which include Chinese Association of Saipan, Chuukese Community, Thailand Community, Indian Community, Hawaiian Holomua Incorporated, Bangladesh Community, Kosrae Community, Marshallese Community, Palau Community Association, Philippine Community, Pohnpeian Community, Korean Community, Japanese Society, Yapese Community, Fiji Community, CNMI Association and Tahitian Community.

The floats were elaborately designed as well as the costumes of the participants.

The Carolinian community in the CNMI displayed their traditional costumes complete with mwaar and canoe.

Kosrae community and the Palauan community also showcased their cultures with their au-



The Carolinian Canoe docked at the entrance of ethnic village after the float parade last Saturday.

thentic get-ups.

The festival is a combination of the Liberation Day's float parade and the Flame Tree Arts Festival where participating groups also sold native food and other arts and crafts at the American Memorial Park after the parade.

The festival was held in collaboration with the Marianas Visitors Authority for the agency's Visit the Marianas '99 campaign.

Last weekend's event is a display of cultural expression where each group will have its own cultural village at the American Memorial Park.

Family mediation program soon



Carol Herrera

By Marian A. Maraya
Variety News Staff

THE FAMILY Court Division under the CNMI Superior Court is set to implement the Family Mediation Program, recognizing CNMI's need for more family court mediators on island, a Family Court Division official revealed over the weekend.

Mediators are tasked to intercede with family dispute cases before they are brought to the courts.

At the Family Court Mediation Training last week, professionals from various fields volunteered their services for the program; trained and learned from visiting expert mediator, Carol Herrera of the Santa Fe, New Mexico Family Court Mediation Program.

Family Court Division Manager Mary A. Gutierrez said many family dispute cases at the CNMI courts are better off settled within the family.

According to Gutierrez, the family as the most vital and basic unit in society should be prioritized.

Mediation is employed among conflicting parties, to give them

the opportunity to resolve their disputes before it escalates, according to Gutierrez.

"The main objective of mediation is keeping decision-making activities within the family," said Carol Herrera, mediation trainer from New Mexico.

"In child custody cases for example, mediators help parents come up with a plan for their children and to keep that decision in the family," she added.

Mediation is one way for family members here in the CNMI to resolve their own disputes,

Gutierrez also noted.

"With mediation, it is possible for people to negotiate an agreement which balances the interest of its family members and benefits everyone in the long run," stated Gutierrez.

The decision making authority and the agreement lie on the parties.

Further, it allows parties to work out their own agreement and present it to the court rather than waiting for the judge to decide on such issues.

"Parents will be made to under-

stand the needs of their children based on agreements on the best interest of the kids. It's a process that provides an opportunity to resolve the problem before the situation gets out of hand," Gutierrez added.

In a round table discussion five years ago, community leaders came upon the subject of mediation while deliberating on family issues in the CNMI.

"Shortly after this, the family court division applied for grant. And we received grant from the CNMI Criminal Justice Planning

Agency," said Gutierrez.

The mediation program is a relatively new program in the CNMI.

"We hope that it will be used in a lot of different areas, like maybe in land disputes, when they're fighting over some property. Mediators will help them decide. Also in adoption cases, when someone is contesting or fighting over a child," Herrera cited.

One of the program's goals is to conduct trainings; to train interested individuals to be mediators.

"We don't have that many
Continued on page 22



Participants to the first CNMI Family Court Mediation Training at Pacific Gardenia.

Photo by Marian A. Maraya

Match funds search continues

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE COMMONWEALTH government disclosed over the weekend plans to aggressively explore areas where it can find local funds to match federal money allocated to the CNMI under the Section 702 of the Covenant.

The move was an apparent result of the debate in the US Congress on whether capital infrastructure funds allocated for the Northern Marianas during the next fiscal year should be diverted to Guam, the island territory being able to spend the federal money more hastily.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said the CNMI should complement the efforts of US House resources committee chair Rep. Don Young in blocking proposals to redirect almost half of the Commonwealth's federal grants to Guam.

Young has objected on a provision contained in the appropriations bill for the US Department of the Interior which proposes to reduce CNMI's CIP funds from \$11 million to \$6 million.

The same legislation, however, guarantees that the \$5 million CIP money that would have been diverted to Guam.

Continued on page 22

Camacho appeals conviction

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

JESSE James Camacho, a teenager who was sentenced to 45 years' imprisonment for the murder of a boy in Dandan Homestead, has brought the case to the CNMI Supreme Court.

Camacho, through counsel G. Anthony Long, filed Friday a notice informing the Superior Court that he is going to appeal to the high tribunal his conviction and sentence.

After Judge Timothy H. Bellas sentenced the 17-year-old

Camacho to 45 years' imprisonment last month, Long protested the incarceration of his client at the Department of Public Safety's Division of Corrections (DOC).

Long stated that the conditions of jail facilities in Susupe violate the rights of Camacho as the jail poses a risk of death or serious bodily injury to its prisoners.

Camacho was among three teenagers charged for the killing of 13-year-old Anthony S. Sablan Jr. in April 1998. The jury found Camacho guilty of first degree murder.

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DPW ready to undertake \$4.1M worth of projects

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Works is finalizing plans for the construction of two government projects worth more than \$4.1 million under the current fiscal year.

The project involves the development of the \$110,000 Dandan Youth Center and phase II of the Tinian High School on Tinian. The latter is partly funded by the Office of Insular Affairs.

DPW is now in the process of soliciting bids for the two projects and is expected to name the awarded contractor soon.

Phase II of the Tinian High School is the government's second biggest project for 1999, next only to the \$5.8 Kagman

Elementary School.

The government has lined up various projects worth more than \$25 million under the current year which it had hoped to develop or finish by the end of the fiscal year.

Some of these projects are the design of the Marpi Landfill; Marianas High School gymnasium; Rota Health Center expansion; Sinapalo Road pavement; the developments of the Police and Fire substations in Kagman and San Roque; and the Veterans Cemetery Chapel in Marpi.

Meanwhile, the department reported that three projects which it recently launched are already nearing completion. These are the repair of the

PSS eyes library at Rota High School

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

THE CAPITAL Improvements Program of the Public School System last Friday adopted a motion seeking to establish a public library inside the premises of Rota High School.

Members of the CIP committee headed by Board of Education member Tony Pellegrino changed the earlier plan of PSS and the Rota Mayor's Office to erect the public library outside the school vicinity.

The funding for the new public library in Rota is under the general obligation bond worth \$500,000. PSS will still look for a matching fund either from the



Tony Pellegrino

CNMI's CIP Covenant funding or from another agency. Before the decision, Christopher Fryling, the PSS CIP Coordinator

suggested to put the public library in the center of student population to serve the students better, as the main objective of the plan.

Another BOE member Marja Lee Taitano proposed an off-school in and partnership with Northern Marianas College.

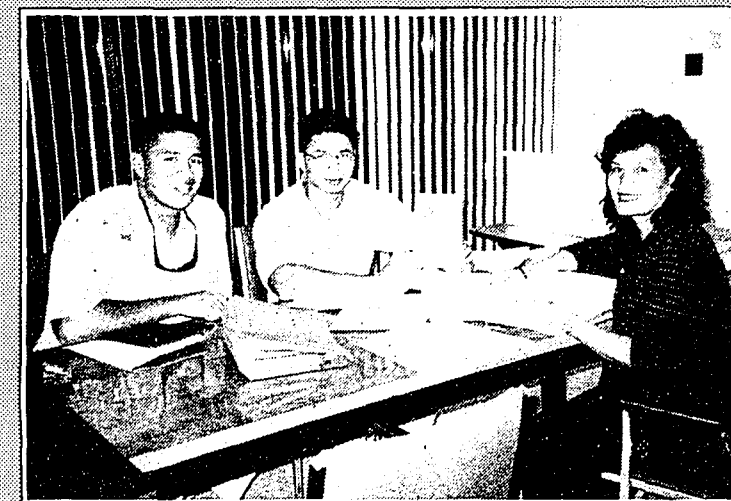
But chairperson Esther Fleming strongly suggested to expand the high school library.

Pangelinan also brought up the issue of maintenance of the public library if it will be off-school as some other members suggested. "First, we must improve whatever we have. Rota High School has no books, no references. We must provide those kids with facilities," Pangelinan said.

American Cancer Society to launch 'Relay for Life' this coming August

STEPPING UP its campaign to fight cancer, the American Cancer Society NMI Presence Unit is urging the people of CNMI to join in the battling one of the most life-threatening diseases known in a special event dubbed as Relay for Life.

This August 27, the American Cancer Society is inviting everyone to make a difference in the lives of cancer victims in the CNMI and all over the world by taking part in the struggle against cancer.



(From left) Dino Maning, American Cancer Society Chair Robert Torres, and Carmen Gaskins of the American Cancer Society NMI Presence Unit during a 'Relay for Life' project meeting.

Photo by Marian A. Maraya

Relay for Life is a nationwide signature event aimed at getting people together in one venue, driving them to stand up for a noble cause.

More than just a fundraising event, Relay for Life is an opportunity for everyone to get educated about the dreaded disease and be one with the American Cancer Society in keeping people away from its devastating effects.

"This event is about a community that puts a fight," said one Cancer society member.

This special event is about teams of friends and relatives gathering in one place for 14 straight hours.

Each of them will take turns on the track: running, jogging, walk-

ing, or strolling in a fun and fitness event with a common goal — to fight cancer.

"It is not a race, and there is no finish line. Speed, distance, or stamina — they don't count. Only one thing counts, and that's team work."

The idea is to bring one person to another. For them to reach out to each other. To bridge the gap. Coordinating the event is the newly established American Cancer Society NMI Presence Unit.

Atty. Robert T. Torres heads the organization with the first Lady Sophie Tenorio as honorary chair.

The American Cancer Society is calling on everyone to build a team and volunteer for a worthwhile cause.

On August 27, starting 5 p.m., be a part of history in the making, the Cancer Society urges.

Register now. Contact Atty. Bob Torres at 234-6215 or Bobbie Grizzard at 322-9496 for more details. (MRAM)

Recruitment agency fined by Labor

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

A RECRUITMENT agency has been fined with \$10,000 for allegedly making unnecessary deductions from its employees.

The Division of Labor also ordered R.S.M. Corporation to pay a total of more than \$18,000 to 19 workers.

Labor issued its decision following complaints of illegal deductions taken for permit renewals, medical fees, and others expenses, from the affected workers.

These were identified as Ma. Teresa Tibayan; Viviene Supsupin;

Evelyn Nunez; Analiza Polic-ew, Rhita Lea Rivera; Rene Maligsa; Michael Apresto; Arcely Sison; Susan Manas; Rizally Joson; Roderick Tibayan; Arlen Musngi; Jerry Antonio; Rubyrose Morado; Albin Vargas; Jocelyn Urbano; Aurora Salac; Miriam Buatis; and Md. Abul Hannan Khan

The case was heard by Labor Hearing Officer Linn Asper against Andrew Alagon and Sophia Malou Santos.

Susupin, Nunez, and the two Tibayans separately brought their case against the corporation after its reneged on its promise to settle

the amount it owed them.

During the hearing, Asper noted that "there was a surprising level of agreement between the two parties."

He learned that there was an agreement stating that the non-resident workers were routinely paid for their own processing fees, medical fees, and other expenses.

Asper said a company may only charge or deduct fees if these are stated in the worker's contract which is approved by the Director of Labor.

He barred the corporation from further hiring non resident workers.

Marshalls forum concludes

Action urged vs sea level rise



Samoa's Ambassador to the U.N. and AOSIS chairman Tuiloma Neroni Slade (left) talks with an island delegate at the AOSIS workshop.

Photo by Giff Johnson

By Giff Johnson
For the Variety

MAJURO — Action to mitigate the impact of sea level rise is the "highest priority" for small island countries around the world.

Twenty small island countries, together with the United States and other industrialized nations, concluded the first Al-

liance for Small Islands States (AOSIS) workshop on clean development in Majuro Friday, saying that "vulnerability assessment and adaptation are of the highest priority to members of AOSIS," and called on industrialized nations to support capacity building and transfer of technology to the smaller nations.

AOSIS has been in the fore-

front of pressing industrialized nations to reduce greenhouse gas emissions that are causing global climate change.

The three day workshop in Majuro — which focused on how the "clean development mechanism" agreed to as part of the climate change convention in Kyoto, Japan two years ago could be effectively implemented — included observers from the U.S., Australia, New Zealand, England and other European nations who joined in the final statement.

The statement from the three day workshop is an excellent outcome considering the workshop included industrialized nations, and will advance the process for getting action on clean development, South Pacific Regional Environmental Program climate change project manager Wayne King said after the meeting concluded late Friday.

"This meeting was very important for setting direction (for implementing the clean development plan agreed to at

Kyoto)," said Phillip Weech, chairman of the Bahamas national climate change committee.

The hosting the climate change meeting in the low-lying coral atoll nation of the Marshall Islands brought home the "special vulnerability" of small islands to climate change and "underlined the urgency and seriousness of the concerns of AOSIS countries," the statement said.

While emphasizing the importance of domestic actions by industrialized nations to meet pollution reductions guidelines agreed to in the climate change convention, the statement said that the clean development mechanism "can be an important tool for complying with part of these commitment through projects in (developing) countries" which can assist these nations to "achieve sustainable development."

Under the Kyoto agreement, industrialized nations can get "credits" toward their agreed-to emission reductions by funding clean development projects in developing nations. But the Majuro meeting made it clear that such off-shore efforts by industrialized nations must have tangible benefits.

"Certified emission reductions generated by the clean development mechanism must be additional to that which would have otherwise occurred and should have real, measurable and long-term benefits related to the mitigation of climate change," the final statement said.

The AOSIS meeting called for further work to be done on the issue of adaptation technology, especially for coastal zone management and protection.

Rastafari gets Guam dope case dismissed

By Eric F. Say
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — "Rasta" Ben T. Guerrero believes that the drug case against him was dismissed because it could result in changes in federal anti-drug laws.

Guerrero said he was about to move his case to the federal level to address US constitutional questions regarding freedom of religion.

Had he been given the opportunity to present his case, it would have led to changes in anti-drug laws involving marijuana.

"It's interesting to actually see the decision because of the very minimal amount of information that was presented," he said.

"Absolutely no information on Rastafari was presented besides the fact that my lawyer stated on the record that I am a Rastafarian," Guerrero said.

Guerrero, who goes by the

name of Ras Iyah Ben Makahna, is a member of the religion that uses marijuana during religious ceremonies.

Rastafarians originated from Africa, and their beliefs have been embraced by Jamaicans.

Guerrero said the Rastafari question will arise again soon. He did not elaborate.

His case, which was filed in early 1991, was recently dismissed by Judge Michael Boddallo.

Guerrero was charged with the importation of a controlled substance, marijuana.

He had claimed, however, that the marijuana was to be used for religious purposes and that, therefore, his right to practice his religion, was being violated.

Over the course of nearly a decade, Guerrero had had nearly a dozen different lawyers, and his case was handled by several different judges.

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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

Sunday Salon at Museum

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff
LOCAL performers from two different groups came together at the CNMI Museum of Arts and Culture in Garapan to do alternate roles of entertainer and audience at the second Sunday Salon sponsored by the Commonwealth Friends of the Arts.

Performers include young students of the Marianas Academy of Music and Arts in a series of vocal and instrumental pieces. MAMA performers opened the program with choral renditions of "Greatest Love of All" followed by "Hagu I Flores" accompanied by a student keyboardist Edwin Diaz.

Dr. Nancy Bo Flood told stories about the Micronesian myths and legends, which are all included in her new book Pacific

Islands Legends. Flood told the stories with the help of "ghostly" voices from the audience, including the student musicians.

There were other storytellers in the program which include Latik John from Kapingamarangi, Cinta Kaipat, Lino Olopai, and Mr. and Mrs. Felipe Ruak who all entertained the audience with their style of narrations.

John delighted the children present in the program by telling how and why the ghosts on Kapingamarangi make those islands bigger and bigger.

Kaipat talked about the importance of selecting fragrant flowers to make a healing "Mwar," while Olopai kept the children laughing at the edge of their seats by telling the story of a naughty boy who disobeyed his mother and who was captured by night

ghosts.

The Ruaks urged the audience to learn carefully the traditional ways of taking care of each other.

According to Friends of the Arts member Sam McPhetres, the Sunday Salons are monthly activity of the Friends of the Arts and the future Friends of the Museum that takes place every second Sunday of the month.

It is open to the public at no charge for members and for the regular museum admission fees for non-members.

McPhetres said it is an excellent opportunity for all members of the community to both have a pleasant Sunday afternoon with the family and enjoy and support the efforts of the Commonwealth Museum to preserve the history and culture of the Northern Marianas.

BDC to hold business seminar on Tinian

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff
A BUSINESS seminar which is offered free to the public is scheduled to be conducted by the Business Development Center of the Northern Marianas College in Tinian tomorrow.

Themed "Cut the Fat & Boost Profits: Business Survival in a Weak Economy!" is scheduled at the Learning Room of the NMC-Tinian campus from 9 a.m. up to 11:30 a.m.

BDC Staff Consultant Dirk Sharer said the registration is set at 8:30 a.m. Seats can be reserved by calling Herman Sablan at 4330658.

Sharer said the same seminar is also scheduled on Saipan this coming Thursday, and it will be

held at the Commonwealth Development Authority's First Floor Conference Room from 9 a.m. up to 12:00 noon. Registration time is the same as the schedule on Tinian.

Sharer said those who want to reserve a seat can call him at telephone number 2351551 or the CDA office 2346245.

According to Sharer, BDC "is not resting on its laurel" despite the success of the 2nd Annual Business Expo and Management Training Seminars which drew over 150 participants.

He said the purpose of tomorrow's seminar is to acquaint business entrepreneurs with the challenges and opportunities of managerial pricing and marketing.



The Garapan Elementary School faculty and staff pose for a photo. GES received a six-year term of accreditation with a midterm review from the Western Accreditation for Schools and Colleges. Contributed Photo

Whipps withdraws son's governorship

By Malou L. Sayson
For the Variety
KOROR (Palau Horizon) — Ngatpang's Chief Rekesesik has withdrawn the appointment of his son as Ngatpang's acting governor and ordered the state executive officer to perform all functions and duties of the Office of the Governor pending the resolution of issue brought up by the Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP) on possible violation of the Ngatpang Constitution.

In the July 14, 1999 letter to Ngatpang State Executive Officer Gilbert U. Demei, Rekesesik Surangel Whipps, who also serves as Ngatpang delegate, informed the latter of his move to withdraw his decision to offer his son, Mason Whipps, the authority as Ngatpang governor until further notice effective May 14, 1999.

In the absence of an acting governor, Demei was directed to perform the functions and responsibilities of the Governor's Office while the younger Whipps will continue to act as the "morolel a Rekesesik."

Whipps explained in his letter to Demei that the Ngaimis have expressed reservations

that no consensus was made on the appointment of the younger Whipps until last Feb. 20. As a result, Mason Whipps' status as a governor was resolved as of the same date.

The special prosecutor (SP), in reaction to Whipps' move, pointed out that his office has the power, function and duty to "receive complaints of, investigate and prosecute on behalf of the people, the national and state governments, or some combination thereof, any and all allegations of violations of the constitution, the laws of the republic, the laws of the Trust Territory, district code laws by elected or appointed officials and employees of the national and state governments."

Del. Whipps' move came at the heels of a controversial issue, which was put up front as an offshoot of the civil raps filed under Civil Case No. 99-137 by the SP against seven members of the 5th Oilbil Era Kelulau (OEK).

Originally, there were eight OEK members in question to include Del. Whipps for alleged "double dipping and conflict of interest."

But in the case filed by SP Michael Rosenthal last May 3 only seven OEK members; namely, Senate President

Isidoro Rudimch, Senate Floor Leader Seit Andres, Senators Santos Olikong and Lucius Malsol; Delegates Antonio Bells, Elia Tulop and Allan Seid were cited as defendants.

When Palau Horizon asked why he dropped Whipps from the roster, the SP cited various reasons to include reclusion on the part of Whipps from participating in any discussions or meetings of the traditional chiefs in Ngatpang and the delegation of his authority as "elected" governor to his son, Mason Whipps.

The SP further said the Whipps issue would be dealt with separately from the case filed last May 3.

The OSP responded to the issue in a letter dated May 14, 1999 addressed to the Ngaimis of Ngatpang by posing questions related to possible violation of the Ngatpang Constitution arising from Whipps' appointment of his son as the acting governor while he assumed title of Chief Rekesesik.

According to Whipps, the special prosecutor's letter has created "some discord among some members of the Ngaimis."

Landowner challenges US missile testing lease

By Giff Johnson
For the Variety
MAJURO — A landowner in the Marshall Islands says a lease allowing the U.S. Army to use a tiny island for missile test launches is invalid because the wrong person is named as the paramount chief and is illegally collecting rental payments from the U.S.

Hemon Jorimle has taken his claim to the Marshall Islands High Court, asking it to declare him — and not Hourichi Benjamin, who is currently receiving the rental payments — the iroijlaplap (paramount chief) for Bikien Island in Aur Atoll, and issue an order banning Benjamin from receiving future rental payments.

Since the mid-1990s, the U.S. has used Bikien Island as a launch site for short-range missiles aimed at Kwajalein Atoll, about 125 miles to the west. The Kwajalein missile range is at center stage in the U.S. research push to develop a deployable theater missile defense system.

Kwajalein technicians use missiles launched from Bikien as targets to develop an integrated defense system involving ground and airborne sensors, radars, infrared cameras, high speed computers and interceptor missiles fired from Kwajalein at the incoming rockets.

Jorimle claims that Benjamin illegally joined other landowners to conclude a lease with the U.S., allowing use of Bikien by the Army for its missile testing program. The suit, however, doesn't object to the use of Bikien by the U.S. but merely complains that Jorimle should be receiving rental payments from the lease.

Jorimle described Bikien as land that was taken at war generations ago by an ancestor named Lailik. Jorimle said that he is the grandson of Lailik, and as such the proper person to hold the chiefly title for the island. Benjamin, he said, has no traditional rights for Bikien but refuses to acknowledge Jorimle.

Guam to get Y2K grant

HAGATNA — Bob Kelly, Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez's special assistant and co-chairman of the Y2K Council, said the Federal Emergency Management Agency will provide Guam with \$50,000 for public information and contingency planning on the so-called Y2K bug.

The money will not be used for remediation, but to deal with "what might possibly go

wrong" and how to inform the general public regarding Y2K, Kelly said.

The Y2K Council has been meeting weekly in preparation for any emergencies in the computer systems that might arise when year 2000 arrives.

The Council will again meet 10 a.m. this Friday, July 23, at the Gov. Ricardo Bordallo Adelphe Complex.

(Eric F. Say)

Palau HOD honors Tmetuchl

For the Variety
KOROR (Palau Horizon) — The House of Delegates (HOD) passed a joint resolution expressing deepest sympathies and condolences to the family and friends of Ngiraked Roman Tmetuchl, who passed away last July 1, and memorializing his valuable services to and aspirations for the Republic of Palau.

Of all his contributions, the house acknowledged with outstanding recognition his legacy of political independence as Tmetuchl, for them, will always be remembered as the "father" of Palau's independence movement.

"While many men have bold dreams, few of them ever realize those dreams; the late Ngiraked Roman Tmetuchl's boldest dream came true and as a result, he left all of us

with one of the greatest legacies of any Palau's prominent statesmen: political independence."

The house joint resolution further stated that without Tmetuchl's tireless dedication to the cause of independence, Palau today might well be one of the Federated States Micronesia.

As Tmetuchl lay in his death bed, he invited the chiefs of Palau to a luncheon with him and High Chief Ibedul and High Chief Reklai who gifted Ngiraked with a Palauan flag with the chiefs' signatures subscribed on it. The chiefs told Tmetuchl: "You're the reason why Palau flies this flag over this sovereign nation."

Tmetuchl was a strong proponent of conservation measures and an outspoken opponent of waste that he observed

during many Palauan customs. A meticulous planner, he even planned his own funeral. Food was divided among the guests in a way that left the least waste possible.

Tmetuchl will not only be missed by his family members and friends, but by all Palauans who value dedication, frankness and hard work.

Tmetuchl is survived by his wife, Dirrengerkiu Perpetua Polloi Tmetuchl, his children, Clara T. Ueki, Remeriang T. Tell, Melwert Tmetuchl, Tlau T. Ridpath, Kekerad Tmetuchl, Mlib Tmetuchl, Joshua Oswei Tmetuchl, Uchel Tmetuchl, Ngrabelas Tmetuchl, Glib Tmetuchl and Omsngel Tmetuchl; his sister Ngeribongel Gibbons Tewid; his 20 grandchildren, and one great-grandchild.

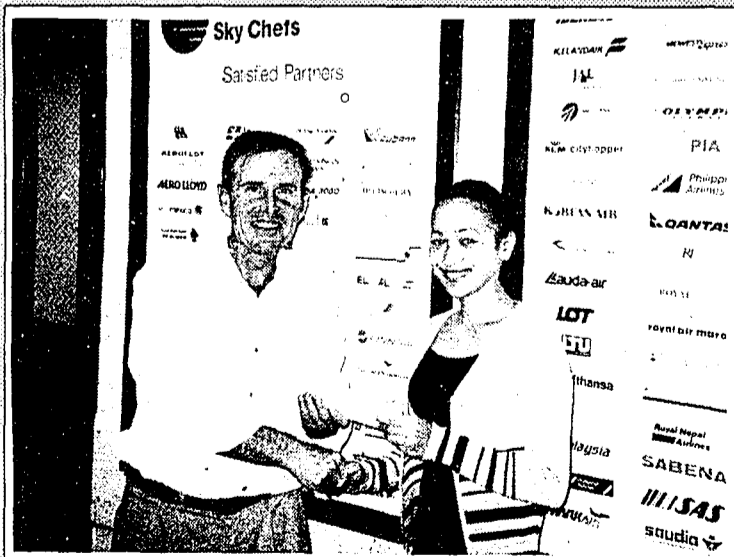
(Malou Sayson)

LSG Sky Chefs contributes to Junior Statesman's travel

LSG SKY Chefs awarded the academic efforts of a talented local student, Rosmic Calvo. Rosmic was accepted for the Junior Statesman of America Summer School at Stanford University in Palo Alto, California.

Rosmic, a fourteen year old student of Marianas Baptist Academy, is currently a freshman and on the honor roll.

Recognizing her dedication to both her academic pursuits and her involvement in extra curricular school activities, LSG Sky Chefs contributed towards her travel expenses to California in order that she can participate in the prestigious program.



Student Rosmic D. Calvo (right) receives a check from Rene Wilton of LSG Sky Chefs at a special presentation at the company's flight catering facility on Saipan.

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Elsewhere in the Pacific

Samoan minister shot dead at political event

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (AP) — A member of the government of Western Samoa was shot dead Saturday outside a political function, New Zealand's National Radio reported.

Luagalau Levaula Kamu, the Pacific Island nation's minister for public works, was killed outside an event marking the 20th anniversary of the founding of

Samoa's ruling Human Rights Protection Party, the report said. The death was the first political killing in Samoa since the country gained independence from New Zealand in 1962.

The New Zealand radio report said police in Samoa had confirmed the minister's death. Levaula was shot after he left the function, being held at a school, and went to a private

area to talk on a mobile telephone, the report said.

The report said members of a Samoan rugby team which were holding an end-of-season function nearby said they saw a man with a rifle on his shoulder run past them.

The report said Levaula was a popular figure and that there was no obvious reason for his killing.

Clinton names envoy to 4 Pacific countries



Bill Clinton

SUVA (Pacnews) — The United States Senate is expected to confirm the appointment of the new American Ambassador to Fiji, Nauru, Tonga and Tuvalu next week.

US President, Bill Clinton, announced the nomination of Osman Siddique as the new Fiji-based US Ambassador to the four Pacific Island countries on May 28, a week after the general election in Fiji.

It is understood the Governments of the four countries have agreed on the appointment and await next week's confirmation hearing in the US Senate.

The US Government did not announce an immediate successor to the former Ambassador, Don Gevirtz, who left prematurely in July 1997, citing personal reasons for his early departure. Charge d'Affaires Larry Dinger has been Acting

US Ambassador since then. Siddique, of McLean, Virginia, is currently the President and Chief Executive Officer of ITI/Travelogue, Inc., a corporate travel management company he founded in 1976. Today, ITI/Travelogue, Inc. is one of the top minority owned businesses in the metropolitan Washington, D.C., area and one of the largest travel management companies in the US.

In 1994, ITI/Travelogue, Inc. was honoured with the Arthur Anderson and Washington Business Journal's FasTrack Award as one of the fastest growing companies in Washington.

Siddique has also been named twice as a finalist for Inc. Magazine's Entrepreneur of the Year Award sponsored by Ernst & Young.

In addition to his work with ITI/Travelogue, Inc., Siddique has also been very active in his community.

He has served on several Presidential delegations, including the White House Conference on Travel and Tourism and the First Hemispheric Trade and Commerce Forum.

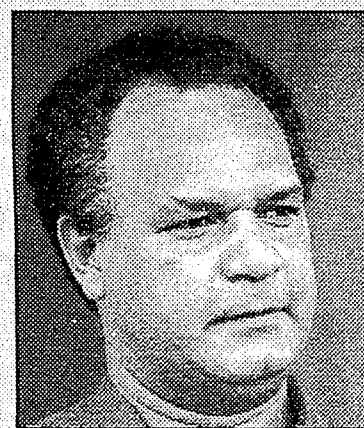
He also served as a member of the National Democratic Institute's International Observer Delegation to the Bangladesh Parliamentary Elections in 1996.

Siddique was born in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

He received his MBA from Indiana University in 1974. He is married with four children.

Solomons hails new prime minister of Papua New Guinea, honors Skate

HONIAR A (Pacnews) — Prime Minister Bartholomew Ulufa'alu has congratulated his newly elected counter-part of Papua New Guinea, Sir Mekere Morauta.



Bill Skate

In a letter to Sir Mekere, Ulufa'alu sent his sincere and heartfelt congratulations on behalf of the government and people of Solomon Islands.

Ulufa'alu said he is confident the traditional friendship and co-operation between Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands and their peoples will continue to grow and prosper.

In another letter, Ulufa'alu also expressed sympathy to Bill Skate stepping down as Prime Minister.

He said Skate contributed immensely to the development of his country, the region and Solomon Islands.

Ulufa'alu said the former PNG Prime Minister had

greatly assisted the Solomon Islands in its move towards economic recovery.

Last year, the PNG Government under Skate committed an annual \$AUD10 million dollars (\$US6.75 million) grant to Solomon Islands.

Yesterday, PNG's High Commissioner to Solomon Islands, Ponabe Yuwa assured the an-

nual grant would not be affected by the change in government.

Yuwa said the grant is an important commitment in the bilateral relations between the two Melanesian countries and nothing will change it.

The PNG Government is in the process of remitting the second payment.

Meanwhile, the Solomon Islands Prime Minister is surprised with Taiwan's financial assistance to his country.

In just two weeks, Taiwan has given nearly \$AUD16 million dollars (\$US10 million) to Solomon Islands.

Out of this \$AUD12 million dollars (\$US8.1 million) is for the Rehabilitation and Development project, Taiwan's response to the unrest on Guadalcanal.

The rest covers new equipment for the Solomon Islands Broadcasting Corporation.

Fiji PM blames Rabuka on lands mess

SUVA (Pacnews) — Fiji Cabinet ministers have been told of the magnitude of economic and social problems that could arise if the Agricultural Landlord and Tenants Act (ALTA) is not resolved quickly in an amicable way.

Speaking at a one-day workshop for Ministers on the issue of ALTA, Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry blamed the previous Government of Sitiveni Rabuka for its inability to develop a na-

tional solution to resolve the expiring land leases.

He said this was despite the fact that it had five years to resolve ALTA before the first leases started expiring in 1997.

The Prime Minister said the new Government is now faced with a serious situation but it would not shirk its responsibility to the nation and would develop mutually acceptable solutions.

Chaudhry said since 1997, ALTA leases had begun to expire

and the biggest numbers to expire would occur in 1999 and in the year 2000.

He said the immediate concern now is to put in place contingency plans for farmers whose leases have expired or which are about to expire.

Even though the resolution of ALTA needs to be approached with prudence and patience, the Prime Minister said he was confident all relevant issues would be dealt with amicably.

Taiwan keeps close watch on PNG developments

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews) — Taiwan is closely watching developments in Papua New Guinea (PNG) where new Prime Minister Mekere Morauta has criticised his predecessor for switching diplomatic ties from Beijing to Taipei.

Mekere, who was sworn into office on Wednesday after a week of political uncertainty in the country, said he will review the agreement with Taiwan reached earlier this month by former Prime Minister Bill Skate.

Radio Australia reports the Chief Economic Advisor to the former Skate Government, Dr

Pirouz Hamidian-Rad, who was involved in the financial side of the deal, will have his contract terminated.

Dr Hamidian-Rad has been a controversial figure in PNG. As the World Bank PNG team leader, he regularly crossed swords with Sir Julius Chan's Government.

He left the Bank and was hired by Bill Skate.

He was heavily involved in the financial deal with Taiwan on diplomatic recognition.

Prime Minister Sir Mekere could not confirm reports the new Government had confiscated Dr Hamidian-Rad's passport, so he

could be questioned on the Taiwan deal.

"I'm not aware of it, but obviously I'll be talking to him," he said.

Asked whether he would keep Dr. Hamidian-Rad as the new Government's economic advisor, he said: "I don't think so."



Chane, a 14-year-old female dog suffering from senile, sits on an examination table being supported by Akiko Yoshii, subhead of Ina Animal Clinic in Tokyo. Likewise Japan's aging population, dogs are also living longer and clinics around the country are overflowing with aged and often senile pets.

Japanese worry about growing old

TOKYO (AP) — Amid a stubborn recession and a graying population, Japanese are more worried than ever about being able to pay bills and afford nursing care when they grow old, according to a newspaper survey published today.

Eighty-five percent of people who responded to the survey conducted by the Asahi newspaper said they felt anxiety about their lives in old age, up from 66 percent in a similar 1994 poll.

The majority of respondents

said they were concerned about living expenses and burdening relatives with the cost of nursing care. In the previous Asahi survey, the most common source of anxiety was failing health.

Japan is struggling to recover from its worst recession since World War II. Workers on once-secure career tracks are being forced out of jobs, and consumers are tightening their purses.

The highest level of anxiety about aging was recorded in metropolitan areas and among male white-collar workers. In Tokyo,

94 percent of respondents said they were worried about growing old.

Japan's population is aging so quickly it will soon be the oldest in the world. The country's birth rate is falling, and concerns are mounting about the financial costs for younger generations of caring for the elderly.

Sixteen percent of Japanese are now older than 65, a higher percentage than the under-15 population. The government estimates that by 2015, one in four Japanese will be older than 65.

Senile dogs becoming a problem for the Japanese

By Chisaki Watanabe TOKYO (AP) — Sanami Oku knew something wasn't right with her lifelong friend, Yu. He couldn't sleep at night. He would walk around in circles, bump into things, wail constantly.

Still, the diagnosis caught her by surprise, Yu, her 17-year-old dog, was senile.

"I must admit that there were times I thought I was going crazy," said Oku, who quit her job at a law office and switched to part-time work to care for Yu before he died. "I never imagined the dog I had been with from his birth could go senile."

For years, one of the biggest issues facing Japanese policymakers has been the rapid aging of the country's population, which already has one of the world's highest percentages of people 65 and older.

Now, veterinarians are giving the graying of society issue a new twist. Dogs, they warn, are also living longer than ever before. And clinics around the country are overflowing with aged and often senile pets.

"I am sure the number of senile dogs is going to increase," said Tomiya Uchino, a veterinarian in Tokyo.

Nearly 10 million Japanese households — or about one of

every five — keep dogs, according to the Japan Pet Food Manufacturers Association. That's 1 million more dogs than just five years ago.

Pets are also living longer. The average lifespan for dogs in 1990 was 8.6 years, according to a study led by Hideki Hayashidani, a researcher at Tokyo University of Agriculture and Technology. In 1994, the latest figure available, it was 10.1 years.

Researchers say longer lives aren't necessarily better.

Diabetes is on the rise among pets. So is late-onset cancer. Obesity is increasingly a problem. And for dogs so sick or

weak that they need constant attention, costs are prohibitive and caregivers scarce.

"The longer dogs live, the more chances of becoming bedridden they have. It's just like with humans," Hayashidani said.

There are no definitive statistics on the problem, but Uchino found in a study of 34 clinics around the nation that about one of every 200 dogs brought in during 1997 was senile.

Uchino said symptoms of canine senility include howling, sleepwalking, staying awake

more at night and sleeping more in corners. Senile dogs also fail

to recognize their owners and lose weight despite an increased appetite.

The symptoms are usually seen in dogs 13 years old or older, he said.

Uchino believes a major factor behind the increase is better medical care and better living conditions that keep dogs alive longer.

The postwar trend in Japan has been for couples to have fewer babies, and with less children to take care of, adults are more likely to spend time and money on their pets.

"Dogs are being pampered more than people these days," Hayashidani said.

Jet aborts takeoff in Tokyo

TOKYO (AP) — A Delta Airlines jet was forced to abort takeoff Saturday after two tires suddenly ruptured, shutting down traffic at Tokyo's international airport for an hour. No one was injured.

The MD-11 had begun to roll down the runway to depart on a flight to Atlanta, Ga., when the tires burst, bringing the jet to a halt in the middle of the only runway at Japan's busiest airport, an airport spokesman said.

The 238 passengers and crew of Flight 56 later disembarked as ground crews replaced the two tires, the spokesman said, speaking anonymously.

They were to reboard the plane for the flight to Atlanta, he said.

Airport officials closed the New Tokyo International Airport's runway for an hour, first to remove the jet and then to inspect the runway for damage and clues as to what caused the ruptures.

The shutdown delayed thousands of Japanese tourists about to leave for overseas vacations as the nation enters one of its busiest travel seasons.



Guard Yoshizo Muto watches passengers on a platform of Tokyo railway station. Muto is one of 52 security guards hired by JR East Japan to prevent commuters from throwing themselves onto trains. Figures show the Japanese are killing themselves in record numbers, reporting an unprecedented 35 percent surge in suicides in 1998.

Nearly 6 weeks after Indonesia polls

Vote results ratified

By Slobodan Lekic
JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Political parties ratified the opposition's solid victory in Indonesia's national election Saturday, nearly six weeks the country's first free balloting in 44 years.

With the parties accepting the results of the June 7 election, the stage is set for the formation of parliament and the electoral college, which will select the country's next president.

"This is one of the final stages of the very complicated and difficult process," said Jacob Tobing, chairman of the Indonesian election commission.

The ballot gave a convincing victory to opposition leader Megawati Sukarnoputri's Indonesian Democratic Party for Struggle which won 33.7 percent of the popular vote. Megawati is the daughter of Indonesia's founding president, as the front-runner in November's presidential election.

The ruling Golkar party got just



Chairman of the Indonesian Election Commission (PPI) Jakob Tobing (right) signs a final tabulation of results collated by his organization, as General Election Commission (KPU) chairman Fudin (left) looks on in Jakarta Saturday. Although results officially verified by the KPU will not be announced until July 21, vote counting has essentially been completed.

tions in the past.

Of the 48 parties participating in the ballot, only the leftist People's Democratic Party refused to accept the results Saturday. It charged that Golkar had tampered with the vote count, causing the long delay in the release of the final results.

"We have seen the process of deceit perpetrated by Golkar in many different ways, such as vote counting, false ballot papers and vote buying," said Aan Rusdianto, the party's representative in the electoral commission.

According to unofficial tallies, Megawati's party will have 154 seats in the new, 500-seat parliament. Golkar will get 120 deputies due to a complicated system that allocates more seats to outlying islands where the ruling party still enjoys strong support.

Both Megawati and Golkar's candidate, incumbent President B.J. Habibie, will need coalition partners to secure a majority in the electoral college that will select the new head of state.

The 700-member body convenes in November. It will consist of the newly elected members of parliament and 200 representatives of regional assemblies and special interest groups.

over one-fifth of the vote. Golkar served as a pillar for the regime of ex-President Suharto, the country's longtime autocratic ruler, and used to win huge majorities in strictly regimented elec-

Huge crowd jams funeral of slain Cambodian star

By KER MUNTHT
PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — More than 10,000 grieving fans, some spending their life savings to travel from the countryside, packed the funeral Sunday of a Cambodian film star who was gunned down in broad daylight two weeks ago.

Normally light Sunday morning traffic snarled as mourners poured into the courtyard of Phnom Penh University's School of Fine Arts, where murdered actress Piseth Peaklica taught traditional ballet.

The anguished crowd pushed and shoved each other, climbing fences and trees to glimpse the elaborate funeral and the dozens of Cambodian movie stars who attended the cremation ceremony.

Srei Chea, 29, said she abandoned her farm during planting season and spent most of her savings and to travel the 115 kilometers (70 miles) from the southeastern province of Svay Rieng.

"I had transplanted only half of our rice field, but I had to come," she said. "The death shocked me. I used to watch her movies and karaoke videos. She was so lovely and kind."

Piseth Peaklica — best known for her performance in movie-loving King Norodom Sihanouk's film "Shadow of

Darkness," about life under the Khmer Rouge — was shopping at a market July 6 when two gunmen shot her three times. She died a week later.

Her death touched off widespread grief. The public outpouring of emotion was a contrast to the indifference that greeted the death last year of Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot, who led a brutal regime in the late 1970s that caused 1.7 million deaths.

Media coverage outstripped any event since last year's election.

The funeral throngs shocked Chheng Phon, election commission president and a former culture minister, who said he had never seen such a large spontaneous crowd.

Culture Minister Princess Norodom Buppha Devi, one of a handful of government officials and lawmakers attending, described the death as "a great loss for Cambodian culture and arts" and called for the killers to be arrested.

"I hope the government will find the truth behind the killing and justice for Piseth Peaklica," she said.

The coffin was carried by family and friends in a brief procession to the school courtyard, where a crematorium was hastily erected for the funeral.

China awaits Taiwan response

By Annie Huang
TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Taiwan said Saturday it was crafting an explanation to the Chinese mainland's leadership that many here hope will be a face-saving way out of a standoff over the Taiwanese president's bold declaration on statehood.

China has said it will stop its top Taiwan negotiator, Wang Daohan, from coming to the island this fall if Taipei does not come up with a satisfactory answer about why Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui now believes China must deal with Taiwan on a "state-to-state" basis.

Beijing has also reiterated its threat to launch a military attack if Taiwan formally declares independence. The Taipei stock market has seen blue chips fall

13 percent over the past five days amid reports that China is stepping up military activity.

China has increased military exercises along its southern coast, local newspapers reported Saturday.

In the coastal city of Quanzhou, 150 miles west of Taiwan, officials mobilized armed forces for 12 hours of drills Thursday, the pro-Beijing Chinese-language daily Wen Wei Po reported.

Officials from the military command in the southeastern city of Nanjing and Fujian province also jointly ordered province-wide exercises to meet the needs for combat in the area, the newspaper reported.

Civilians watching the fleet practice formation sang "We must liberate Taiwan," the re-



Taiwanese navy crew enjoy a quiet day while keeping guard on the ATF-554 navy ship in Keelung harbor, 30 kilometers from Taipei Saturday. Taiwan has yet to go into an alert status after China reiterated that it would take Taiwan by force if Taiwan were to claim independence.

Crew of North Korean ship arrested in India

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Authorities have arrested the senior officers of a North Korean ship that was detained last month for allegedly carrying equipment to manufacture missiles, a newspaper reported Saturday.

India suspects the shipment was headed for Pakistan. The countries have been on the brink of war after Pakistan-backed militants captured strategic peaks in the disputed Kashmir territory.

The Indian Express newspaper reported that a customs agency arrested captain Taemin Hun and chief officer Kim-sol Ik for violating the Customs Act and Arms Act.

The ship docked at Kandla on India's west coast late last month, declaring it was carrying water treatment equipment. But a check revealed it was loaded with equipment for manufacturing surface-to-surface missiles with a range of 180 miles, the newspaper said.



Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui pauses for a moment as he leaves the ruling Nationalist Party headquarters after presiding over the weekly meeting of the party's central standing committee Wednesday in Taipei.

ported said.

The Straits Exchange Foundation, the semi-official Taiwanese group that handles dealings with China, said Saturday its chairman, Koo Chen-fu, was preparing a response to Beijing's demand Friday for an explanation of where Taiwan now sees the delicate relations between the two sides that split in a 1949 civil war.

The foundation's secretary-general, Chou Chi-hiang, didn't say what Koo would tell Beijing. But he said China should not have had such a fierce reaction before hearing from Koo.

If any Taiwanese can pacify the mainland leadership over Lee's new stand that Taiwan and China are two states in one country, it would be Koo, a tempered and well-respected politician who met Wang in Singapore in 1993 in a watershed formal negotiation between the sides.

Lee set off the uproar on July 9, commenting to a German radio interviewer that Beijing should deal with Taiwan on a "state-to-state basis." Lee and other officials quickly clarified that Taiwan's new stance is not a step toward formal indepen-

dence and still adheres to the goal of reunification.

But Beijing was not appeased, accusing Taiwan of departing from the "one-China" policy that had long underpinned the tense dealings between Taiwan and mainland China and is credited with maintaining stability in the region.

In 1995-96, the last time relations between China and Taiwan broke down, Beijing test fired missiles off its coast in a show of force to intimidate Taiwan into dropping a campaign to win international recognition.

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

P.O. Box 514, Saipan, MP 96950

REQUEST FOR STATEMENT OF QUALIFICATIONS

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lieutenant Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are requesting Statement of Qualifications (RFQ) from Architectural/Engineering consulting firms for the construction management services for various NMHC projects in Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested firms are asked to submit detailed statement of their qualifications which should, at a minimum contain the following:

- List of projects completed. Consulting firms need to identify the extent of involvement with each project listed.
- Number of qualified personnel and their respective position titles and key staff within their organization. Also include their current license/registration of principal and key staff members.
- Short history of the firm demonstrating competencies in the overall performance. NMHC considers it critical that firms established in the Commonwealth take full advantage to fully participate in all aspect of its project.

While Standard 254 and 255 forms may be used to document and illustrate the firm's Statement of Qualifications, NMHC expects a more in-depth narration of the firm's background and qualifications.

The RFQ is to be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP, no later than 2:00 p.m., Monday, August 16, 1999, at which time NMHC will form a committee to evaluate each firm's submission of its qualifications. Firms are advised that they may be called for interview as part of the evaluation process at the direction of the NMHC's Executive Director. Firms are also advised that the NMHC may select only one firm or several firms to participate in various projects which are expected to be accomplished over several years.

The evaluation of proposals will be based on the following factors:

- The firm's capability to perform the work within the time limitations (30 maximum points);
- Qualification of Principal and proposed staff (20 maximum points);
- Recent experience with projects of similar size and scope (20 maximum points);
- The firm's methodology of project approach (30 maximum points);

The following list requiring construction management services, while not all exclusive, presents the extent of projects the RFQ must address:

- Koblerville Expansion Project
- Community-Based Residential Treatment Facility

This Request for Statement of Qualifications constitute the scope of service. Thus, RFQ must be general, but at the same time, be specific enough to include projects relating to the construction management of projects in the Commonwealth. All RFQ's shall become the sole property of the NMHC.

/s/ **MaryLou S. Ada**
Executive Director

/s/ **Herman S. Sablan**
Director, Procurement & Supply

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT

PDi

PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT INC.

is announcing Public Transportation to the public effective **July 15, 1999**.
 Anyone who is interested will have to be at any bus stop or major shopping area for pick up.

Transportation fee is **\$1.00/one way** any destination.

If you have any questions, please call
 PDI Bus Operation at Tel: 322-2725 • 322-4840

India says fighting ends

By Neelesh Misra
KARGIL, India (AP) — India's defense minister declared the end of fighting in Kashmir Saturday following the withdrawal of Muslim guerrillas from Himalayan battle zones under an agreement with Pakistan.

Indian troops reclaimed key mountains and advanced to the 1972 cease-fire line with Pakistan in all but one of four battle zones Saturday. The soldiers planned to recapture the fourth zone soon. Army planes flew overhead to verify the withdrawal of the last of the guerrillas.

India had given Pakistan a Friday deadline — later extended to early Saturday — for the insurgents to retreat from key peaks they captured in May on India's side of the cease-fire line. Both sides agreed to stop fighting during the withdrawal.

Defense Minister George Fernandes said late Saturday that Indian troops had "successfully evicted all of the intruders."

"It has been a costly victory. Victory at the expense of the blood of our brave jawans (soldiers)," Fernandes said in New Delhi.

The two months of fighting in Kashmir left as many as 1,250 people dead in a conflict that sparked worries of an all-out war between the two South Asian neighbors who tested nuclear weapons last year.

India accused Pakistan of orchestrating the incursion, saying Islamabad sent hundreds of



Foreign affairs minister Sartaj Aziz (2nd right) and Majeed Malik (third from right) Minister for Kashmir Affairs sit at the meeting table with leaders of Kashmiri militant groups Saturday at Foreign Office in Islamabad to describe government's point of view regarding pulling back of militants from Kargil, India. AP

Pakistani soldiers and Afghan mercenaries across the cease-fire line dividing the disputed territory between India and Pakistan.

Pakistan long denied its soldiers crossed the line and said it had no control over the guerrillas, whom it described as indigenous fighters for Kashmir's independence.

However, during the past

week Islamabad negotiated a cease-fire and withdrawal from Indian parts of Kashmir.

And on Friday, Pakistan's army chief, Gen. Pervez Musharraf was quoted by British Broadcast Corp. as admitting that his troops had crossed the cease-fire line. Musharraf said in the BBC interview that Pakistani soldiers crossed the line during "aggressive patrolling" aimed at preventing an Indian attack on Pakistan.

The Pakistani Foreign Office in Islamabad denied that report Saturday, saying Musharraf had been misquoted and that soldiers had patrolled at the Line of Control, not across it.

An army spokesman in New Delhi, Col. Bikram Singh, said 410 Indian soldiers, 698 Pakistani soldiers and 150 Muslim guerrillas have been killed in the fighting. The tallies could not immediately be independently verified.

The fighting was the worst between India and Pakistan since their 1971 war. Two of the three wars India and Pakistan have fought since 1947 have been over Kashmir.

Thai PM urges newspaper to complain

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai has urged the Thai Post to file a criminal complaint with the police over claims that an aide to a deputy premier led men armed with guns to the newspaper's offices to intimidate the staff.

The case is the third scandal

in recent months that Chuan has urged be sorted out by police or other authorities rather than through forcing the resignation or other discipline on implicated officials who hold key roles in his party or government.

The Nation newspaper reported Sunday that Chuan said an investigation still needed to be carried out into the allegations by the Thai Post that the personal secretary to Deputy Prime Minister Trairong Suwankhri had intimidated the newspaper's staff.

"They could be charged with attempted murder and unlawful detention if they used guns to intimidate editorial staff," Chuan was quoted as saying, urging the Thai Post "to file criminal complaints with police so that police could launch criminal investigations."

The path outlined by the prime minister could theoretically result in criminal charges but is more likely to lead to a dead end.

In previous, similar cases, police have been reluctant to pursue powerful politicians or their proteges, or the charges never make it to court because of various technicalities.

Trairong is a high-ranking member of Chuan's Democrat Party. His aide, Chalie Nopawong Na Ayuthaya, has said he was incensed by a Thai Post article that portrayed Trairong as too cowardly to meet with protesting fishermen.



Chuan Leekpai

The newspaper has alleged that Chalie led seven men, some of them carrying guns, to the paper's editorial offices Tuesday. They demanded the name of the reporter who filed the story and that future coverage of Trairong be more fair.

Otherwise, the newspaper staff said, Chalie implied he would come back in a more violent manner.

Chalie has denied his men carried guns or that he meant to threaten the newspaper staff. Trairong has not asked him to leave his post, but told him to be more careful in dealing with the media.

The case has drawn protests from the Thai media, among the most independent in Asia, and demands from press freedom groups in the U.S. and South-east Asia for Chuan to take action against Chalie and, if necessary, Trairong.

Gore woos Hispanic vote



Vice President Al Gore (center) gets a kiss from NAACP's Ophelia Averitt before he delivers his keynote address at the organization's 90th Annual Convention in New York, Thursday. Hazel Dukas (left) NAACP member, waves a flag. AP

By Cadonna M. Peyton
LONG BEACH, Calif. (AP) — Vice President Al Gore courted the Hispanic vote on Saturday, saying the increasingly influential ethnic group deserves a fair share of the American pie, and many politicians ignore the power of Hispanic voters.

Gore began his talk by calling for a moment of prayer for the safety of John F. Kennedy Jr.,

his wife and her sister, who were aboard a plane that vanished Friday night en route to a Kennedy clan wedding.

Kennedy, the only surviving son of assassinated President John F. Kennedy, "has carried his legend with enormous grace and a commitment to live up to his father's legacy and his mother's love," Gore said. "Our country could use his grace and endurance right now."

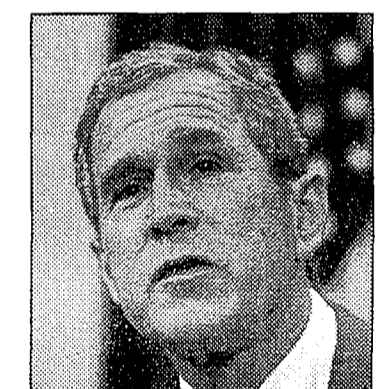
Gore canceled campaign appearances scheduled for Saturday evening and Sunday morning in Los Angeles because of the Kennedy situation.

Speaking to about 800 members of the Southwest Voter Registration Education, the Democratic presidential front-runner said there are 7 million Hispanic voters in the United States and their voice is making "a historic difference."

Bauer raps Bush, Clinton



Gary Bauer



George W. Bush



Bill Clinton

By Robert Jablon
EL SEGUNDO, Calif. (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Gary Bauer on Saturday accused the Clinton administration and GOP front-runner George W. Bush of being soft on China and putting trade above national security.

Bauer, operating a debt-ridden campaign on a shoestring budget amid a packed field of wealthy candidates, has been trying to portray himself as a conservative faithful to the Ronald Reagan mold.

Bush, he contended, has backpedaled so far on conservative views that he sounds like Gore, the Democratic front-runner.

"I think they're so close that you could get away with calling them one candidate, Bush-Gore," Bauer said. "On major

issues, they're identical."

On China, Bush and the Clinton administration agree that Congress should extend normal trade relations in an upcoming vote, and they both favor the communist nation's entry into the World Trade Organization, Bauer said.

Bush has gone even further and supports the further easing of export restrictions, Bauer said.

"I'm a janitor's son and I believe in free enterprise, but I don't believe in putting your country second and putting your profits first," he said.

Bush campaign spokeswoman Karen Hughes said the Texas governor has actually called for stricter controls on military-related exports to China.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY REQUESTS FOR PROPOSALS June 21, 1999

The Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) and Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) are soliciting a financial and compliance audit of the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) for the fiscal year ending September 30, 1999. CPA's bond covenants require its auditors to be a U.S. nationally recognized public accounting firm. Only proposals from U.S. nationally recognized firms will be accepted. The Proposers are required to submit four copies of their proposals to the Office of the Public Auditor, P.O. Box 1359, Saipan, MP 96950, not later than 4:30 p.m., July 19, 1999. The audit shall be performed in compliance with the following guidelines:

- OMB Circular A-133
- Standards for Audits of Government Organizations, Activities and Functions Revised
- Other applicable Generally Accepted Auditing Standards

Proposals must at least have the following information:

- Request for Proposal
- Name of your company
- Local address and telephone number
- Name of contact person and submission date

Transmittal Letter:

- Briefly state your understanding of the audit work to be performed. Include an affirmative statement to perform to work within the time specified.
- State a comprehensive fee for which the audit will be performed.
- Date of which the audit report package will be delivered to the CPA.

Your Company Profile:

- Provide a brief description of your company which includes your personnel, education, background and experience, number of staff, quarters, manager, supervisor, etc. and a listing of clients.
- The description must also include an affirmative statement that at least the partners are certified public accountants.
- Name and profile of staff members to be assigned to the audit, should your firm be awarded.

Award will be based on four evaluation criteria: price for a single year, technical competence, prior experience, and ability to meet the deadline.

Alternative Multi-Year Proposal and Special Condition:
 Proposers will be given the option to submit an audit proposal covering one year (only fiscal year 1999) to a maximum of three years (fiscal years 1999, 2000, and 2001). Depending on the cost benefit that may be derived by the CPA within the three year period, CPA also reserves the right to make its selection on a single year or multi-year basis. If a multi-year contract is awarded, the engagement contract will still be covered by the provisions of the CNMI Planning and Budgeting Act which restricts spending of unappropriated funds. Therefore, should a multi-year contract be awarded, it will include a special provision that "The commencement of audit service and payment of audit fees for the second year (2000) and third year (2001) sections of the audit engagement contract will be contingent to availability of budgeted appropriated funds. The Contract for this audit will be awarded no later than July 23, 1999. The audit work shall commence thereafter and the final audit shall be completed and submitted to the Commonwealth Ports Authority by December 31, 1999.

Audit reports from previous years are available at CPA's main office at the Saipan International Airport for review by interested proposers.
 Contact Person:
 Carlos H. Salas
 Executive Director
 Commonwealth Ports Authority
 P.O. Box 1055, Saipan, MP 96950
 Phone: (1-670)-664-3700/1 Fax: (1-670)-314-9062 Email Address: cpasadmin@saipan.com

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 hpc 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, Dededo.

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 HOUSING CORPORATION

AMENDED PUBLIC NOTICE

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairman, Mr. Juan S. Tenorio, is pleased to inform the public that it will **EXTEND the DEADLINE** for accepting applications for the single-family residential houses at the Sugar King Estate Part II Subdivision to **10:00 a.m. on FRIDAY, JULY 30, 1999**. Applications are available at NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan between regular business hours.

Priority will be given to couples or heads of household with dependent(s) who are in dire need of a residential housing unit and who are first-time homeowners.

The house range is size between two-, three-, and four-bedrooms. A family composing of a minimum of one (1) member may purchase a 2-bedroom house; a family composing a minimum of two (2) members may purchase a 3-bedroom house; and a family composing a minimum of three (3) members may purchase a 4-bedroom house. Conveniently located at the central part of Saipan, the Sugar King II Subdivision is only a short drive from many major facilities on the island.

There are immediately 40 units available for sale, as follows:

Unit Size	Number Available
2-bedrooms	5
3-bedrooms	31
4-bedrooms	4

Potential homeowners may use personal funds to purchase the houses or obtain financing from lenders.

Interested individuals are urged to contact the NMHC Office at 234-7689/7670/6866/9447, for more information.

MARYLOU S. ADA
Executive Director

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

NO ONE DESERVES CANCER, SO BE SCREENED FOR IT.

Judges to get back wages

By William C. Mann
WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge has ordered the government to pay back wages and future cost-of-living increases to him and his colleagues under a law ignored for three of the last four years.

U.S. District Judge John Garrett Penn also said the failure to pay the cost-of-living increases violated the Constitution, which says federal judges' compensation "shall not be diminished during their continuance in office." The restriction was made part of the country's basic law to protect the independence of the judiciary.

Twenty U.S. District Court judges had filed the suit, and the lead plaintiff in the case was Spencer Williams, a senior judge from San Francisco.

Penn's ruling gave no monetary figures on how much was due the judges. He ordered the government to calculate raises based on allowances given most government employees.

In reporting the ruling Saturday, The Washington Post said that would amount to roughly 10 percent per judge for the years in which the

The newspaper said Chief Justice William Rehnquist's annual salary would rise to \$192,500 from \$175,400 and the salaries of the other eight justices to \$184,100 from \$167,900. Federal appellate judges' salaries would go to \$159,100 a year from \$145,000, and district judges would increase to \$150,000 from \$136,700 a year.

At issue was the government's interpretation of the 1989 Ethics

Reform Act which revised the pay system for around 1,000 federal judges and other high-ranking government officials.

"This court concludes that history, precedent and the law can lead to only one result," Penn wrote in the opinion released Thursday. "The Ethics Reform Act granted federal judges a COLA ... effective at the time of the enactment of the act."

The law established a new review system for judges' salaries. But their outside income was severely limited, they were forbidden to accept honorariums, and they would receive cost-of-living increases when most other federal employees do.

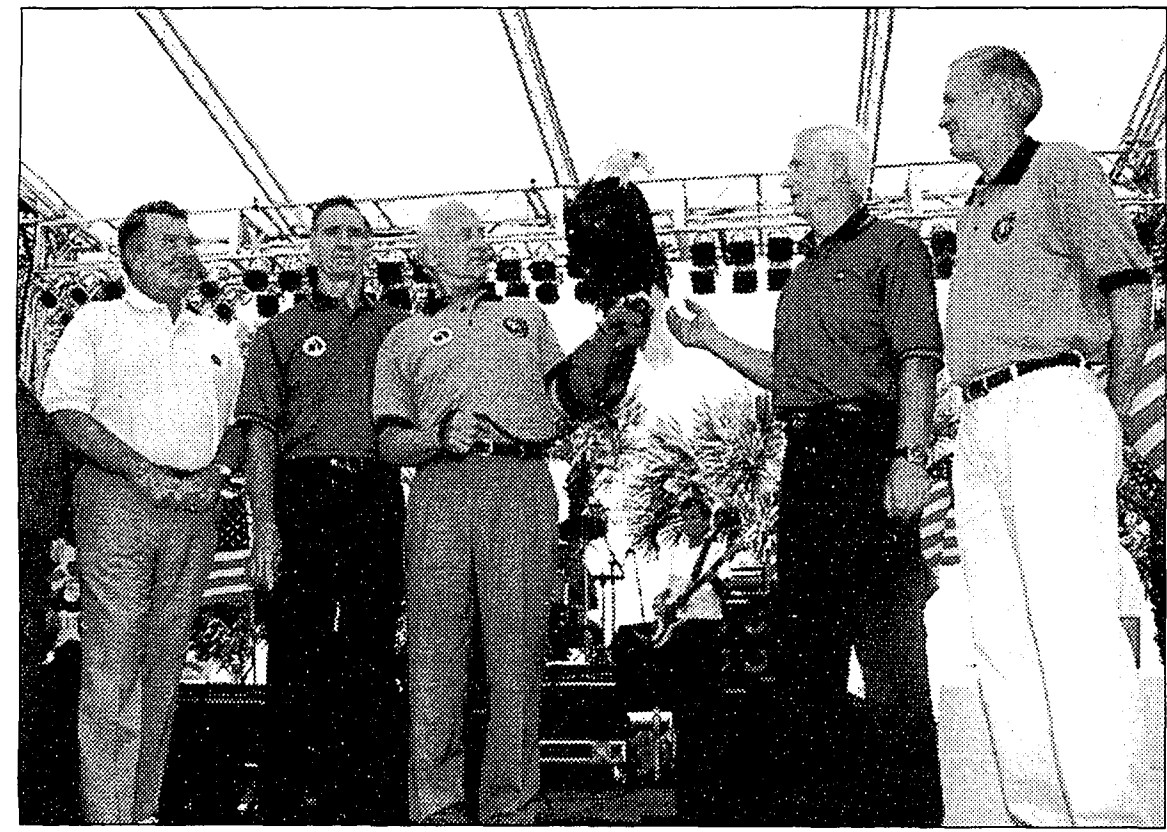
Under the act, which took effect Jan. 1, 1991, judges received increases in 1991-1993 and should have received increases in 1995, 1996 and 1997. They did not.

The government relied on a series of consistent opinions by the comptroller general that an amendment former Sen. Bob

Dole, R-Kan., attached to an earlier law continued in effect and would not allow increases without specific congressional authorization.

Penn disagreed.

He said the amendment long had since died. Even if it had not, he ruled, the 1989 law specifically overrode it. And, he said, even if that were not the case, the amendment was an unconstitutional denial of judges' compensation, which the allowances amounted to.



Apollo 11 astronaut Edwin "Buzz" Aldrin holds an eagle as fellow Apollo astronauts (from left) Wally Schirra, Walt Cunningham, Gene Cernan, and Charlie Duke look on during ceremonies marking the 30th anniversary of the launch of Apollo 11 at Kennedy Space Center, Fla. visitors center Saturday.

Saddam warns Arabs of Barak

Says Iraq will not give up its fight vs. Israel

By Leon Barkho
BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — President Saddam Hussein warned Arab leaders Saturday not to be taken in by new Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak's seemingly conciliatory words.

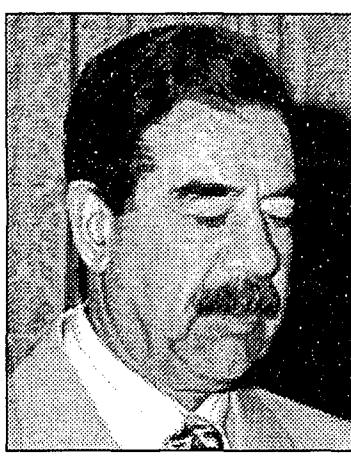
Barak is "just a new face and nomenclature that Zionism is using to win more time," Saddam said in a speech marking the 31st anniversary of the coup that brought his Baath Party to power.

Since taking office July 6, Barak has pledged to not only accelerate the peace process with the Palestinians but also to make peace with Syria after withdrawing troops from southern Lebanon.

Despite these statements, Saddam said Iraq would not give up its fight against Israel until the Jews leave the region or live as citizens under a Palestinian Arab state.

Saddam said other Arab leaders felt the same way but were reluctant to tell the Israelis.

It was the first time Saddam has used such tough language against Israel since the 1991 Per-



Saddam Hussein

However, if Israel makes peace with Lebanon and Syria, that could leave Iraq even more isolated than it has been since the Gulf War. Egypt and Jordan already have peace treaties with the Jewish state.

In his speech, Saddam said extending a hand of friendship toward Israel while it occupies Jerusalem — a city holy to Muslims, Jews and Christians — would be unrealistic.

"Is it possible for anyone who acquiesces and concedes occupation by the Zionists and al-Quds (Jerusalem) being under the Zionist occupation or captivity to be called a faithful believer and to believe his prayers would be received by God?" he asked.

Saddam said some Arabs would consider his comments about making Israelis leave or forcing them to live under Palestinian rule unrealistic. But he said his views "represent the historical fact, the truth of what the sons of Arab and Islamic nation believe in."

sian Gulf War, when his forces bombed Tel Aviv with Scud missiles.

"Palestine is Arab. The Zionists must depart from it," Saddam said in a 90-minute speech on state television.

"Jews who want to live with its (Palestine's) people have a right as citizens of one country. ... If they do not, every emigrant should go back to where he has come from," Saddam said.

Saddam's motivation for using the Palestinian issue is unclear.

Palestinians protest water shortage

By Nasser Shiyokhi
BETHLEHEM, West Bank (AP) — Several hundred Palestinians burned tires and chanted "We need water" during a protest Saturday over a water shortage in the West Bank.

The protesters who blocked the road leading to the Deheishe refugee camp with flaming tires said

they blamed Israel, and not the Palestinian Authority that controls their area, for the acute water shortage.

Mohammed Jamal, 29, said he has not had running water in his home for two months and has been forced to buy water on the black market.

"There is no peace without water. This will be the next war for us," Jamal said, adding that he hoped the protest would put pressure on Israel to increase water allocation to Palestinians in the West Bank.

Israel controls 80 percent of the aquifers in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip. The Palestinians control the rest.

Palestinian officials say Israel provides each Palestinian with 2.6 gallons of water a day, one-fifth the established international minimum.

Palestinian police watched during the demonstration but did not intervene.

Kamal Jabal, a Palestinian Authority official at the demonstration, said the Israelis have not increased the water supply despite repeated promises to do so.

No Israeli comment was immediately available. But in the past, Israeli officials have acknowledged the problem and said there were joint Palestinian-Israeli efforts to reach a solution.

Israel, Lebanon exchange fire

RASHAYA, Lebanon (AP) — Israeli forces and Lebanese guerrillas traded artillery and mortar fire in southern Lebanon today, breaking a lull that has prevailed since Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak took office earlier this month.

Lebanese security officials said there was no immediate word on casualties from the firing along the eastern sector of the front line.

The midmorning duels began when guerrillas fired mortars at an Israeli patrol near the Ahmadiyah outpost, about three miles north of the town of Hasbaya in the Israeli-occupied zone of southern Lebanon.

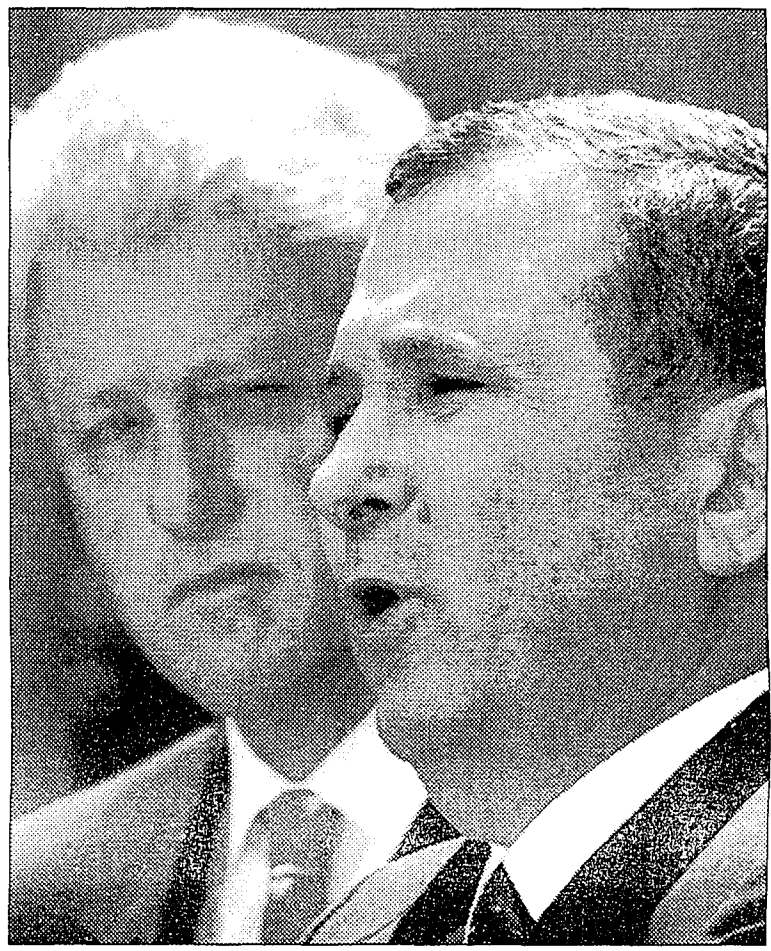
Hezbollah sources, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the guerrillas fired on an Israeli infantry patrol that was spotted in government-controlled territory. Israeli artillery gunners then

pounded several areas across from Ahmadiyah, which is about 10 miles southwest of the town of Rashaya in the southern Bekaa Valley.

The Israelis fired more than three dozen 155 mm howitzer and mortar shells on government-controlled territory in the one-hour exchange, said Lebanese officials, who also spoke on condition of anonymity.

The front lines in the south have been calmer than usual since Israeli airstrikes killed 10 Lebanese and wounded 55 on June 24-25. Two Israelis were killed and 13 injured in guerrilla rocket attacks across the border.

Since Barak took office July 6 and pledged to move the Middle East peace process forward, there has been speculation that combatants were urged to keep the front line calm.



President Clinton looks on as Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak speaks in the Rose Garden of the White House. The prime minister presented himself Thursday to President Clinton as "a messenger of change" and promised to carry out accords with the Palestinians giving them control over another chunk of West Bank territory.

Kuwait PM: Cabinet to cooperate with Parliament

KUWAIT (AP) — Kuwait's prime minister said Saturday his new Cabinet will cooperate with parliament to end political and economic "stagnation."

Jassem al-Kharafi, elected as the new parliament speaker Saturday, made similar promises.

Kuwaitis elected the 50-member house July 3, two months after the country's leader dissolved the legisla-

ture, saying lawmakers were abusing their right to question government ministers. The Cabinet was formed Tuesday.

"The Cabinet today turns a new page in dealing with your esteemed assembly," Prime Minister Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah told parliament in an inaugural speech.

He said the two sides needed to work together on a program for "comprehensive reform that would end the state of stagna-

tion and create an atmosphere of hope and optimism."

Kuwait, which has enjoyed oil wealth for decades, has had to cope with falling revenues due to lower oil prices.

Plans to introduce taxes and fees for public services were opposed by the former house. There are no guarantees, however, that this legislature, which is dominated by fundamentalist Muslims and liberal opposition, would sanction those measures.

After the parliament was dissolved, the government decreed a number of laws that would open the economy to foreign investors.

The bills were presented to the house Saturday, but it was not expected to vote on them before they were studied by its panels. The bills also include one that grants women the right to vote and run for parliament.

PUBLIC NOTICE
 7/19/99

PURSUANT TO CMIC § 9911, GOVERNOR PEDRO P. TENORIO, LT. GOVERNOR JESUS R. SABLAN, AND THE BOARD OF PUBLIC LANDS, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC LANDS, DEPT. OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, ARE HEREBY GIVING NOTICE THAT A SPECIAL MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC LANDS WILL BE CONDUCTED ON TUESDAY, JULY 20, 1999 AT 3:00 P.M.

THE MEETING IS SCHEDULED TO CONTINUE FROM DAY TO DAY UNTIL COMPLETED AND AS SUCH THE MEETING WILL BE RECONVENED THE FOLLOWING DAY, AT A TIME TO BE DETERMINED, AT THE SAME PLACE, SHOULD THE BOARD CALL A RECESS OF THIS MEETING.

AGENDA:

- Roll Call
- Electron of Officers
- Adoption of Minutes - May 4, 1999
- Unfinished Business
 - LCT - Request for sublease
 - LCT Transamerica Corporation
 - Transamerica Corp. Jose P. Malinas
 - Antonio Adriano - Fitness Center
 - NMI Retirement Fund - Deed of Exchange
- New Business
 - SNM Corporation - Request for 15 year extension
 - Pacific Islands Club - Request to mortgage
 - Saipan Beach Pathway - Exercise equipment
 - DPW - Pathway Lighting Project
 - Tinian West Field - Airport Expansion
- Land Exchange Matter
 - Augustin T. Camacho
 - Juan M. Concepcion
 - Joseph S. Inos
 - Jovita K. Masewmai
 - Pedro P. Reyes
 - Delgadina P. Zebataki
 - Heirs of Jose S. Deleón Guerrero
 - Jose T. Seman
 - Lucey T. Sablan (Nicolas)
- Miscellaneous
- Public Comments
- Adjournment

MANUEL P. VILLAGOMEZ
 BPL Member

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Division of Environmental Quality (DEQ) receives funding each year from the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) under Section 319 of the Federal Clean Water Act. These funds are used for conducting special projects to improve water quality and for public education. In order to continue receiving this money from the USEPA, the CNMI is required to upgrade its Nonpoint Source Pollution Program (NPS). Part of the process for upgrading this program is to allow members of the general public the opportunity to review and comment on the proposed changes to the program. The public review and comment period will be from July 19 to August 19, 1999. Therefore, we encourage you to visit our office at the 3rd Floor, Morgen Building in San Jose, Saipan or visit our website at www.deq.gov.mp, in order to review or comment. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact DEQ at 664-8500/1.

Please mail your comments to Ignacio V. Cabrera, Director, DEQ, P.O. Box 1304, Saipan, MP 96950 or fax them to the DEQ Office at 664-8540.

Dole calls for farm relief

By Mike Glover
DES MOINES, Iowa (AP) — Former Cabinet secretary Elizabeth Dole called Saturday for a farm disaster relief package larger than the \$6 billion approved by Congress last year.

"We need to get this cash to them now, there are real problems in agriculture today," Mrs. Dole said.

Opening her latest campaign swing, Mrs. Dole became the latest candidate to focus on a struggling farm economy that's important in Iowa, where precinct caucuses launch the presidential nominating season.

While most sectors of the economy have been humming along well and the stock market has soared, farmers have been struggling with historically low commodity prices.

Many farmers are worried that a bumper crop is maturing in the fields, but the price farmers will likely get is less than the cost of producing the commodity.

"We're going to need another supplemental to assist our farmers and this is going



Elizabeth Dole

seeking to pry open foreign markets.

"We also should make the whole western hemisphere a free trade zone," Mrs. Dole said.

There's a big debate in the Republican Party over China policy. Social conservatives take a hostile stance toward China, arguing its a rising threat. Others argue it's a giant market to be exploited.

Mrs. Dole suggested a middle ground, pushing China on human rights and other issues while seeking to expand trade.

"China has 20 percent of the world's population," Mrs. Dole said. "On a separate track we can negotiate with them to expand our trade."

In focusing on farming, Mrs. Dole argued she's been the most specific and has the longest track record, including a husband who spent more than three decades in Congress dealing with farm issues.

"I think he'd be a good adviser on agriculture," Mrs. Dole said. "We were out there early with our farm program."

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Russia launches satellite

MOSCOW (AP) — A Russian booster rocket carrying a scientific satellite blasted off Saturday from the Baikonur cosmodrome in Kazakhstan, the second liftoff since a dispute over use of the launch site was resolved.

The Zenit-2 rocket was carrying an Okean-0 satellite, part of a joint Russian-Ukrainian space research program, the ITAR-Tass news agency said.

The launch followed the liftoff Friday of a cargo ship bound for the Mir space station. The Progress supply ship carried food, fuel and equipment needed to prepare the orbiter for when the three-man crew returns to Earth in August.

The Progress launch had originally been scheduled for Wednesday, but was delayed because Kazakhstan had banned all use of the cosmodrome after

a Proton booster rocket carrying a Russian military satellite exploded shortly after takeoff on July 5.

Russia on Wednesday received permission to use Baikonur for the latest rocket launches only after it promised to pay off \$115 million it owes in back rent.

The Okean-0 satellite launched Saturday is designed for long-distance probing of

Earth's atmosphere, the study of oceans, ice monitoring and mapping of shipping routes, the Interfax news agency said.

Russia and Ukraine jointly funded the project and will share the information gathered by the satellite.

The Baikonur launching site was built when Kazakstan was still part of the Soviet Union. Now Russia has to rent the cosmodrome, and relies heavily on it for launches to the Mir and for sending commercial and military satellites into space.

Gov't . . .

Continued from page 3

agreement with the CNMI government to improve correctional and detention facilities, a deal that will require local officials to develop long and short-term plans to comply with its provisions.

The consent decree under the CNMI-USDOJ agreement requires the local government to

rehabilitate and improve the corrections center in 180 days.

"We are going to expedite the construction. But this meeting was not called because of Tuesday's incident. It has been scheduled before the riot," the CNMI chief executive told reporters.

Tenorio stressed that it is now a matter of bringing up the correctional center on minimum expectation as enumerated in the agreement reached between the CNMI

and the US-DOJ.

A standoff inside the Susupe correctional facilities in March had caused severe damages to the already deteriorating detention center.

Hofschneider earlier said the Task Force had been faced with so much difficulty prior to the tension with regards to sourcing out money for the rehabilitation and repair of the existing detention center.

Gov't expecting...

Continued from page 3

in rental expenditures, only the Department of Lands and Natural Resources will maintain the same level of needed resources.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, in an earlier interview, has asked his staff to re-assess the office space rentals of certain agencies in view

of the economic crisis' impact on CNMI's resources.

The governor would want to see all government offices housed at government buildings, but admitted that it would still take some time to realize this due to limited government facilities.

Tenorio, however, shared that renting spaces at privately-owned properties also bring additional income to the government through

the taxes they pay.

The FY 2000 budget request for office rental includes new expenditures for certain government agencies or divisions.

These include the Procurement and Supply under DOF, the Free Trade Zone task force office, the Office of the Public Auditor, the Commonwealth Development Authority and the NMI Retirement Office.

Nakamura...

Continued from page 3

systems of government worldwide, one which provides for the future of Palauan without neglecting their past and one which emphasizes continuing relevance of Palauan customs.

"Our constitution is a magnifi-

cent achievement. It expressly recognizes that political freedom is only the beginning of what is required in order for a people to be truly free," stressed the president.

Nakamura recalled that the delegates to the 1979 Palau Constitutional Convention investigated hundreds of governments and societies, their histories, cultures, traditions and systems examined

while looking at their own heritage, principles and values before buckling down to draft their own constitution.

"As a result, we guarantee every citizen the right to see what his government is doing and we affirmatively protect the press in its efforts to ensure that our people are informed of the government's actions," said the president.

to the islands.

The White House proposal to cut the CNMI's federal grants for capital infrastructure projects (CIPs) was not mentioned in the media release.

But OIA claimed credit for "taking the initiative" to convince the federal government that the Y2K bug "poses a serious threat to the ability of these islands to function effectively."

Arranza said this effort "was made...difficult since it was clear that the federal government was not funding Y2K work in the 50

Isles to . . .

Continued from page 3

Marshalls and Palau—will receive.

His media release said OIA will notify each island's leaders about the specific of the grants in about two weeks, or once Congress has approved OMB's request to reprogram the funds.

Aranza was quoted as "hailing" the grants as a "significant victory" in the Clinton administration's effort to provide additional assistance

governor, was confirmed by the Senate on Thursday afternoon at the Tinian Courthouse, only one-and-a-half hour after the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations (EAGI) conducted a public hearing on the appointees.

It took the governor at least five months to finally announce the next Supreme Court chief justice after Demapan and Associate Justice Alex C. Castro entered

into a memorandum of understanding on December to jointly carry out the functions of the said post.

Demapan took the place of former chief Taylor.

Tenorio administered the oath for Demapan's swearing in held at the Hyatt Regency, while Senate Pres. Paul Manglona and House Speaker Diego T. Benavente shared brief remarks on Demapan's leadership and contribution to the CNMI judicial system.

Ishibashi . . .

Continued from page 4

package from Izumi at a hotel.

Munson stated that the burden is on the government to show that the total weight of the substance was that the defendant picked up at the hotel.

Wood then recommended 40 months' imprisonment while Pierce asked the government to impose a lesser sentence.

Before the sentence was announced, Ishibashi, through an interpreter, apologized to the court for committing the charges.

Munson said the sentence is appropriate to deter other indi-

viduals who might otherwise be inclined to use Saipan for drug distribution.

Court records showed that Izumi arrived at the Saipan Airport on Northwest Airlines from Japan in Aug. 1998. A Customs officer found the drugs contained in a clear plastic bag and taped to Izumi's lower back.

DEA-CNMI Task Force conducted a follow-up operation resulting with the arrest of Ishibashi who picked up the package which was replaced by undercover agents with some "tawass."

Izumi also pleaded guilty to drug charges and was sentenced last March to five years and 10 months in jail.

Teno . . .

Continued from page 5

which FSM has diplomatic relations, and international organizations of which FSM is a member, as well as to the states

in the federation.

FSM's close Micronesian neighbors such as Guam and Palau, including organizations and individuals who are friends of the FSM had also been invited to attend the inaugural celebration.

Family . . .

Continued from page 9

people here that have already been trained. The participants here today, after his training will be able to assist the court if there is a need to mediate cases on family disputes," noted Gutierrez.

Presently, there are only three to four certified mediators on island.

"These are lawyers who took mediation trainings during their years in law school. Although it was brought to my attention that

there is one private mediation center here in the CNMI.

"Retired Justice Pete Atalig was a mediator. In fact, he is currently helping us with this program," Gutierrez mentioned.

Participants of the first Family Court Mediation Program completed twenty hours of mediation training last week at Pacific Gardens.

Twenty more hours of training are required of them before they are recognized as certified mediators.

The intermediate training will be conducted sometime in October.

Match . . .

Continued from page 9

verted to Guam will reflect in the CNMI's federal grants for the fiscal year 2003.

"I think the congressman has a good point. That money had been committed by the federal government to the CNMI. That money should be intact," Tenorio said shortly after Supreme Court Chief Justice Miguel S. Demapan was sworn into office Friday.

The governor explained that the CNMI government has made concrete plans for the disbursement of the federal grants through a seven-year master plan for capital infrastructure projects.

He said the Commonwealth continues to make outstanding federal grants part of the government's major infrastructure projects, adding that his Administration intends to utilize as much CIP money as it can locally match.

"We are trying to find matching funds for all the federal grants that we have now so we can expedite the needed infrastructure projects," the CNMI chief executive said.

He pointed out that this is the same reason why the Legislature fast-tracked the approval of a bill that would authorize the flotation of \$60 million bond which will be used to match federal money for CIPs.

Under the current set-up, the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) will spearhead the flotation of \$60 million in total securities although it needs the endorsement of the Legislature.

The CNMI gets \$11 million annually for CIPs. A backlog of approximately \$44 million in CIP funds has been accumulated by the CNMI. The full amount of \$11 million would be diverted back into the CNMI, but in the form of smaller increments over a longer period of time.

Special Hollywood feature:

A look at Kubrick's last film

NEW YORK (AP) — The script was done, the deal with Warner Bros. was sealed, and Tom Cruise and Nicole Kidman had signed on to star. Stanley Kubrick was ready to start shooting "Eyes Wide Shut."

At the meeting with him, Cruise and Kidman held hands, Kubrick told his screenwriter: "It was sweet. They're a truly married couple. It was kinda touching. She's agreed to give me a couple of days when she takes off her clothes. I guess we'll close the set. Might be a good day to happen to drop by the studio, if you wanted to."

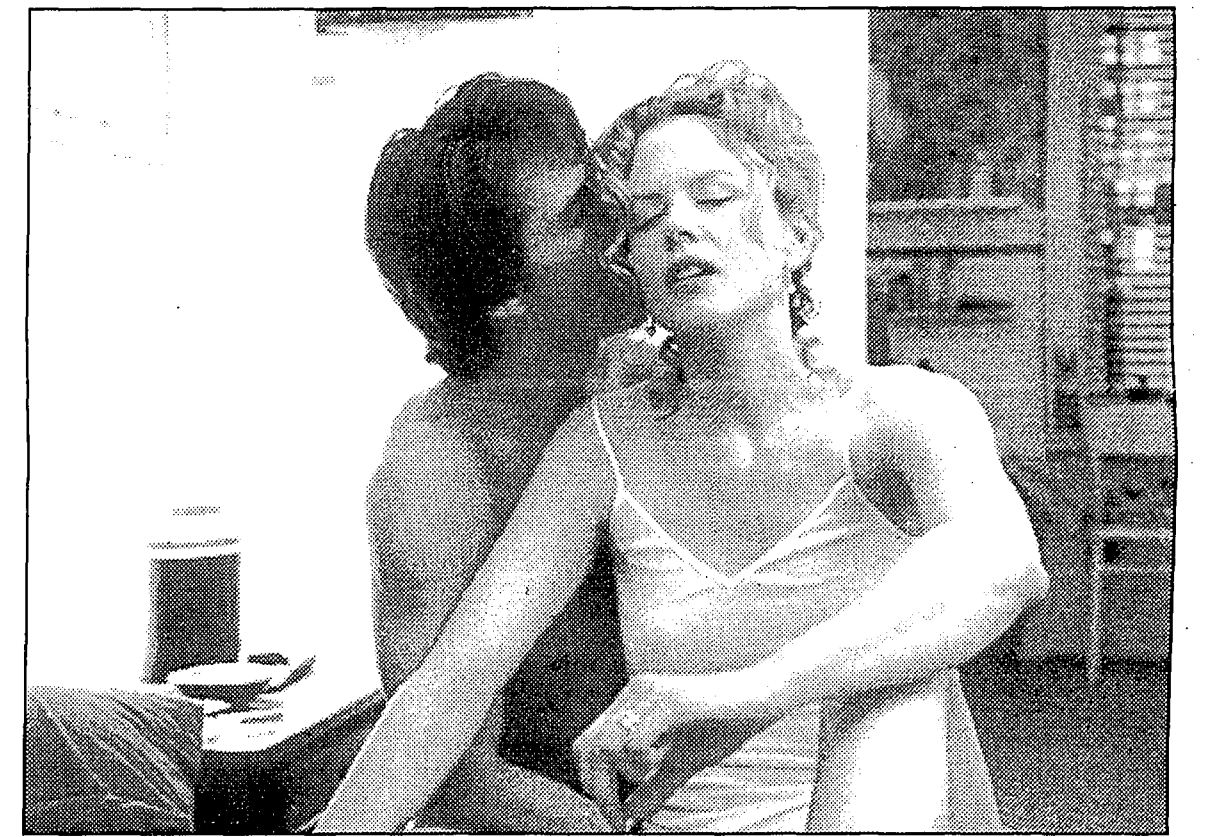
Well, well. Peek through the veil at the world's most reclusive movie director, and there's not telling what you might see. "Eyes Wide Open," screenwriter Frederic Raphael's memoir of his collaboration with Kubrick, is revealing, funny, moving and startling. Some will call it a massive invasion of the privacy of an intensely private man. But for anyone interested in the mechanics of writing a Kubrick movie, this is the tour of the engine room.

From a director famous for giv-

ing new meaning to old genres — "2001, a Space Odyssey" (sci-fi), "The Shining" (horror), "Paths of Glory" (antiwar) — comes a film about the oldest genre of all: love and sex. So as high-concept movies go, "Eyes Wide Shut," which opens July 16, is one of the big events of 1999.

Kubrick's famous secretiveness outlived even his death last March. Right up to last week's critics' previews, not much was reliably known about the film, his first in 12 years. Misinformation abounded. The measured tidbits and interviews doled out by the publicity machine were of little help. And a nasty sideshow sputtered over Raphael's speculations about the part Kubrick's Jewishness played in his eccentric lifestyle.

In fact, although the book dwells at length on Kubrick's Jewishness (Raphael himself is Jewish), there doesn't seem to be much to set off alarm bells. There are other things, however, to make readers keep their eyes wide open.



Tom Cruise (left) stars as Dr. William Harford, and Nicole Kidman, as Alice Harford, in Stanley Kubrick's "Eyes Wide Shut," which opened in theaters nationwide last Friday. AP

JFK. . .

Continued from page 1

haze.

Kelley said Sunday that searchers still hope to find the plane's passengers alive.

"I still consider this a search and rescue effort," he said.

Kelley said a dive team had been assembled from state police divers around the state in case searchers find something.

"We're going to exhaust all possibilities," Kelley said.

The 38-year-old Kennedy, his wife, Carolyn Bessette Kennedy, 33, and his sister-in-law, Lauren Bessette, departed Friday night from Fairfield, N.J., to Cape Cod for the wedding of his cousin Rory, daughter of the late Sen. Robert F. Kennedy, at Hyannis Port. The wedding was postponed — replaced with prayers for the missing.

A family friend said Lauren Bessette was to be dropped off at the Vineyard before Kennedy and his wife continued on to Hyannis Port. Another friend reported the plane missing to the Coast Guard about 2:15 a.m. Saturday.

At Philbin Beach in Aquinnah — the portion of the Vineyard popularly known as Gay Head — a wheel, a headrest and part of a plane support known as a strut had washed up, said Coast Guard Lt. Craig Jaramillo. A black bag with Lauren Bessette's name on it also was found.

The FAA reported the last contact with the plane was at 9:39 p.m. Friday during its final approach to the airport on the island off Cape Cod. Radar records showed the plane's last known location was about 17 miles southwest of the Vineyard.

John Fish, a sonar expert with Cape Cod-based American Underwater Search and Survey, said water depths range from 84 to 120 feet in the area.

"The seabed is flat, sugar sand, fine sand. There are no canyons that would hide wreckage," Fish said. However, he said shadows from boulders and debris from about 20 shipwrecks in the area could hinder the search.

Kennedy recently acquired the single-engine, six-seat Piper Saratoga II HP — a plane known in the aviation industry as a high-performance airplane with a good safety record.

Nonetheless, flying it at night, in a hazy sky and under visual flight rules — the reported conditions Friday night — is challenging. Kennedy had obtained his pilot's license last year, but he was not licensed to fly on instruments.

The plane's disappearance came one day before the 30th anniversary of the Chappaquiddick incident, in which Sen. Edward Kennedy's car went off a bridge, killing passenger Mary Jo Kopechne on a

tiny island adjacent to Martha's Vineyard.

Universally known as "John John," Kennedy has lived entirely in the public eye, from his birth shortly after his father's election as the nation's 35th president, to his poignant salute on the day of his namesake's funeral, to his romances with Daryl Hannah and Madonna.

A former assistant district attorney in Manhattan, he launched his own political magazine, George, in 1995.

He was wed Sept. 21, 1996, to Bessette Kennedy, a former publicist for fashion designer Calvin Klein.

Lauren Bessette, who is 18 months older than Carolyn, worked as an investment banker in New York City.

Caroline Kennedy, the only other survivor of the young family that transfixed the world four decades ago, was on a rafting trip out West, CNN reported.

Meanwhile, Miller has lashed at House Resources Committee Chair Don Young (R-Alaska) for serving subpoenas on Interior Secretary Bruce Babbitt, Office of Insular Affairs public affairs officer David North and the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee (DCCC).

Miller was quoted by the Washington Post as saying that the subpoenas were issued without a formal vote and are part of the GOP's "larger pattern of intimidating federal bureaucrats."

Miller added, "It's a way to run roughshod over individuals...that these people disagree with. Even if there's some wrongdoing here, they go about ferreting [it out] in a capricious and arbitrary way."

Last year, during an oversight hearing, a Republican senator clashed with Interior officials over issues that involved the CNMI.

This time, the Resources Com-

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This is to inform the public and mostly corporations in the CNMI that Mr. Roque P. Manalo is no longer connected and employed by JRS Enterprises Corporation effective June 16, 1999.
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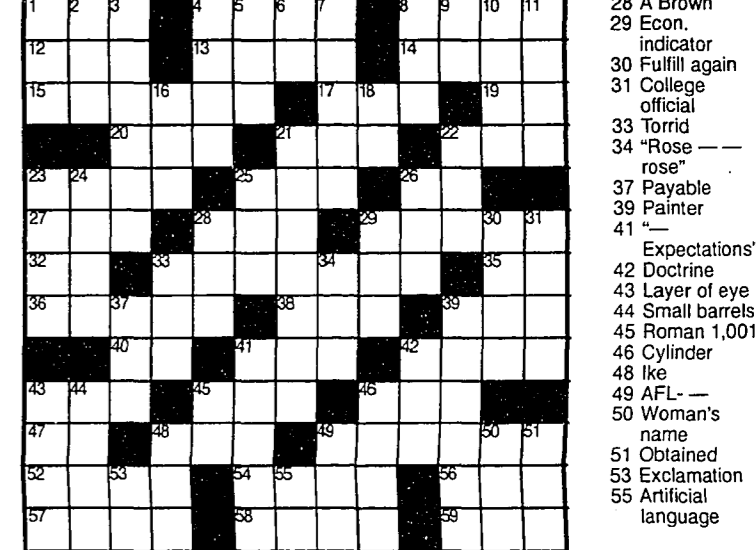
STELLA WILDER YOUR BIRTHDAY

MONDAY, JULY 19, 1999
Born today, you expect a great deal of yourself and of others. You never shy away from something that is too difficult, and rarely take the easy way out. Indeed, there are times in which you actually look forward to rolling up your sleeves and getting to work on a project which others may think is impossible. You don't go around blowing your own horn, despite your considerable self-confidence. On the contrary, you usually come off as being quite modest and down-to-earth. You know what you can and cannot do, but you choose to focus on your strengths rather than your weaknesses.
Despite the fact that you can be quite critical of others, those who know you best realize that you are always most critical of yourself. You truly understand that if you cannot live up to your own expectations, how can you demand it of others? You rely on close relationships to provide harmony.
Also born on this date are: Ilie Nastase, tennis player; George McGovern, U.S. senator; Richard Jordan, actor; Edgar Degas, artist.
To see what is in store for you tomorrow, find your birthday and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.
TUESDAY, JULY 20
CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Details are the most important aspect of any project begun or finished today, and you mustn't neglect even those things which seem obvious.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Do you know what you really want today? It's a good day to examine the issues and come up with a definite answer to this lasting question.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — It's important for you to acknowledge both sides of a complicated issue today. You may not yet believe that both are valid, but the time will come.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Someone may be trying to thwart your efforts, but you can maneuver with subtle cleverness and avoid any attempts at a real takeover.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — There is no need for you to give each routine endeavor more than its due today; save some time and energy for your own special project.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You have every right to be enthusiastic, but you must stop short of insisting that others share your zeal and fervor. You may be on your own.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — You may be disappointed that what you get today isn't what you really wanted. After a while, you'll be completely satisfied.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — You'll get the sense that something is just around the corner today which can prove quite beneficial to you in the long run. Be

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

THERE IS MINOR PROBLEM TO OUR SYSTEM, ANSWER TO OUR FRIDAY PUZZLE HAS BEEN DELETED. OUR APOLOGIES

ACROSS
1 Kennel cry
4 Elegant
8 Pay through the —
12 "Scooby —"
13 Fancy car, for short
14 Mr. Lugosi
15 Continued story
17 Genetic material
19 Chaldean city
20 Sob
21 Card game
22 Seabird
23 Club dues
25 Mao — tungs
26 TV's Gomer Pyle (init.)
27 Beast of burden
28 Jamie —
29 Curtis
30 Watchman
32 Armstrong ID
33 Reconciling
35 Estrada ID
36 Praise for an achievement
38 The sixth
sense (abbr.)
Orthodontics' org.
Guido's low note
41 Young women's org.
42 Press
43 Musical instrument, for short
45 Hillary, to Bill Clinton
46 Alphabet trio
47 Odin's brother
48 — out (become extinct)
49 — Home*
52 Mild gale
54 Seed coat
56 — Paulo
57 1975 Wimbledon champion
58 Implement
59 Explosive initials.
4 Frolic
5 Castor or indicator
6 Martin ID
7 Singer Lena star
8 Cagers' league
9 Digraph
10 Harmful remark
11 Merit
16 Federal agency.
21 Futile
22 Spanish queen
23 "Columbo" star
24 Brother of Jacob
25 Word with party or rose
26 Bottle of whiskey (slang)
28 A Brown
29 Indicator
30 Fulfill again
31 College official
33 Torrid
34 "Rose — rose"
37 Playable
39 Painter
41 —
42 Doctrine
43 Layer of eye
44 Small barrels
45 Roman 1,000
46 Cylinder
48 Ike
49 AFL —
50 Woman's name
51 Obtained
53 Exclamation
55 Artificial language



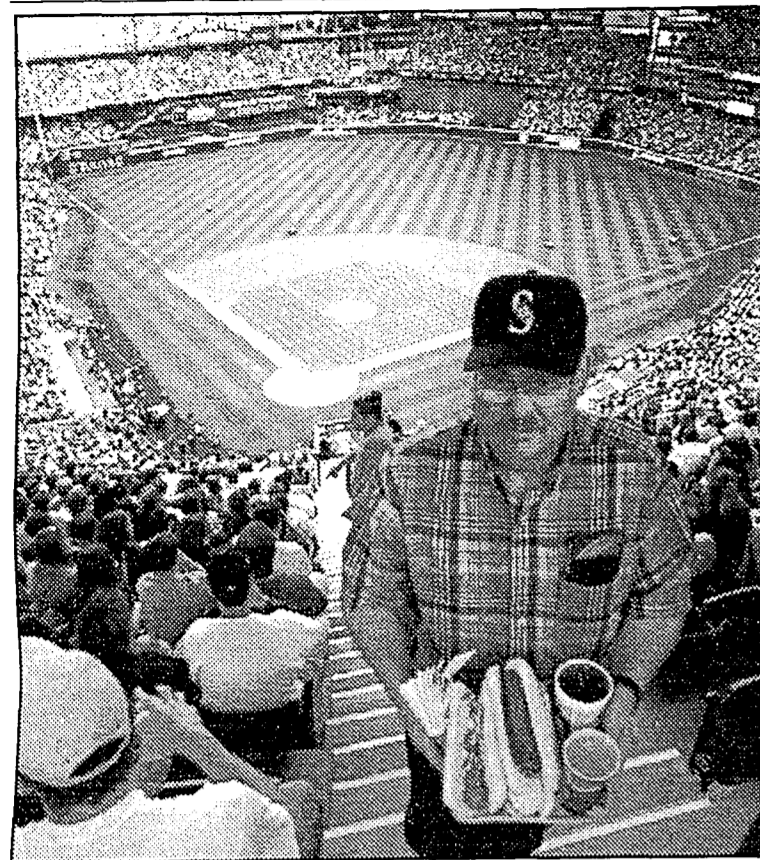
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6-5=8 DOWN
7-4=10 ACROSS
9 ACROSS
5 DOWN
4 ACROSS: Opposite of NONE
6 ACROSS
1 ACROSS
ACROSS: 1 WITCH, 4 ALL, 6 APRON, 7 DOG, 9 EYE, 10 THREE
DOWN: 1 WHALE, 2 TARGET, 3 HAND, 5 LOG, 8 ONE

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THE MOVIE HOUSE





Jim Fountain races to his seat with a couple of the Seattle Mariners famous hotdogs a few minutes before the opening game against the San Diego Padres at the new Safeco Field in Seattle, Thursday. Safeco Field, at \$517 million, is the most expensive baseball stadium ever built. AP

Nolan Ryan speeds into Hall of Fame

ALVIN, Texas (AP)—A larger-than-life-sized poster of Nolan Ryan greets visitors at the museum entrance. A few feet away, he describes himself in large red type on the wall.

"I know who I am. I'm a country kid from Texas with the ability to throw a ball and the dedication to keep myself in shape. I'm just a man."

It's easily the most understated comment about the soon-to-be Hall of Fame pitcher at the Nolan Ryan Museum.

No one else would dare call him "just a man."

Ryan will be inducted into the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, N.Y., next Sunday. He was elected on his first try, making it with the second-high-

est percentage ever.

Throughout Texas, Ryan already has been enshrined.

A section of highway leading into his hometown of Alvin—about 35 miles south of Houston—is called the Nolan Ryan Expressway. The Texas House of Representatives made him an official Texas hero in April 1989.

The Nolan Ryan Historical Foundation built the 12,000-square-foot Nolan Ryan Center for Continuing Education at Alvin Junior College. About one-third of the building, which opened in April, is dedicated to the city's most famous resident.

One of Ryan's prized possessions, his first glove, is among the displayed memorabilia.

"I remember going to Alvin

Hardware with my dad and being the last of six kids, to pick out, for the first time, anything new for myself and it not being a hand-me-down," Ryan said. "I go by that display and see that glove and that's one of the things I think about. That was a real high spot in my life."

Many of Ryan's favorite memories are from his childhood, including when he earned a spot on his first team.

"To make that team, go out and try out, that was a big event in your life," Ryan said. "I look back at that point, and those days were some of my fondest memories in baseball, being on Little League teams and just playing the game for the enjoyment of playing and feeling no pressure whatsoever."

Steinhauer takes lead in JAL

NEW ROCHELLE, N.Y. (AP)

—Sherril Steinhauer tied a course record with a 30 on the front nine, then scrambled in for a five-under-par 66-and a two-shot lead after three rounds of the Japan Airlines Big Apple Classic.

Steinhauer's 11-under total of 202 led Lorie Kane by two strokes and Juli Inkster by four. Tina Barrett and Karrie Webb were a stroke further back at 6-under 207.

Most of the players spent the round beneath sun umbrellas when they were not playing. Temperatures were in the mid-90s Saturday and the heat index was over 100.

But no players gave up due to the

heat, however, unlike Friday when both Mi Hyun Kim and Caroline Gowan quit their rounds because of heat exhaustion.

Steinhauer's 30 matched the record for the best nine at the Wykagyl Country Club. It is shared by Colleen Walker (1991), Inkster (1992) and Annika Sorenstam (1997).

She birdied the first, fifth, seventh eighth and ninth with putts of 12 feet or shorter. She also made a 25-footer for birdie on the 12th hole.

"I was really comfortable. My swing felt really good," Steinhauer said. "I was really focused in on the target."

Inkster was nearly as good on the back nine as Steinhauer was on the front.

Standing at only 2-under for the tournament through nine holes, and trailing Steinhauer by nine shots at that point, Inkster birdied the 10th and 11th holes, then jumped into contention at 6-under with an eagle on the 432-yard par 5 15th hole by chipping in from about 13 yards past the pin.

She followed with birdies at 16 and 17. Needing a par for a 30 on the par 5 18th hole, however, Inkster flubbed her third shot from a bunker just in front of the green and could not save par.

Octogenarian...

Continued from page 28

55. "On the senior tour, we all try to prove that tennis is a lifetime sport," Cheney, dressed in her lace and pearls, said after demolishing Irma Krizack 6-0, 6-1 in the quarterfinals of the USTA Women's 80s National Invitational tournament.

She defeated Marion Read 6-1, 6-1 in the semifinals Thursday night. The finals are Sunday afternoon.

"One of my biggest lessons in life is never compare yourself to Dodo at any time, in any situation... she's just unbelievable," said May Cheney, her daughter, who recently turned 50.

"I'm thinking 50 is nothing, I've got another 30 years," she said. "I've never thought of myself at any age as being over the hill because my mom is past 80 and still going strong."

Tennis been a lifetime love for Dodo Cheney, whose father, Thomas Bundy, won three national doubles championships from 1912-1914, and was on the Davis Cup team twice. May Bundy won Wimbledon for the first time in 1905 and again in 1907, and was inducted into the International Tennis Hall of Fame.

Two of Cheney's aunts ranked among the top four U.S. players before 1915, and her three brothers also played competitively.

Cheney was ranked as high as No. 3 in her prime in the late 1930s. She reached the semifinals of the United States championships, a forerunner of the U.S. Open, and winning the Australian Championship, a precursor to the Australian Open.

But tennis was never her sole priority. She had too many other joys in her life, like her three children.

Even now, Cheney has no regrets about the records she might have accumulated.

She has become more competitive over time, dominating her age group, moving up to play in the 75s and younger if she feels she's not getting the competition she wants.

"I think she really enjoys winning right now," said May Cheney. "Before she enjoyed playing, the travel, the people. She still does but I do think she has that will to win."

During her match against Krizack, Cheney showed why she's No. 1.

She didn't move around a lot; she didn't need to. She made her opponent move after shots that would drop just over the net and then take odd bounces.

Cheney only lost 11 points and needed just 28 minutes to finish her match.

She lost two games against Read, but still had no problem winning. The last shot had so much spin that it bounced back toward the net once it dropped over.

"I knew where it was going but I couldn't do anything," Read said. "She has very superb anticipation, wonderful mastery of her shots, and she can cut the ball either way."

She also puts attention on the sport.

"We're so proud of her... It's just wonderful. She does senior tennis a lot of good, we really have a spokesperson," Read said.

Cheney, who lives in La Jolla, Calif., said she's amazed at the caliber of play among the young women on the tour.

She knows first hand about one young player. She faced a 9-year-old Venus Williams at a tournament in Los Angeles about 10 years ago.

"She wiped me off the court," Cheney said. "Even at that age she was very powerful."

Cheney plays about two tournaments a month, and has no intention of stopping any time soon.

"As long as I keep healthy and well, I'll play," she said. "You'd think I'd be sick and tired of it by now, but I still enjoy it."

Sampras, O'Brien stop sweep

BROOKLINE, Mass. (AP)—Pete Sampras and Alex O'Brien rescued their despondent Davis Cup teammates Saturday, stopping an Australian sweep and giving the United States a trace of hope going into the final singles matches.

On another brutally hot day when the court burned at 131 degrees, Sampras and O'Brien persevered through nearly 3 1/2 hours to stave off elimination in the quarterfinals with a 6-4, 6-3, 3-6, 4-6, 6-3 victory.

Now it's up to Todd Martin in the first match Sunday against Patrick Rafter, and Jim Courier in the second match against Lleyton Hewitt, to see if they can pull off a comeback from 0-2 in the best-of-5 duel.

U.S. captain Tom Gullikson hinted at the possibility that Martin might be injured and be replaced by Sampras, a suggestion that raised the eyebrows of the Australians—and Martin.

"No, I'm not injured, I'm fine," Martin said as he went out to practice about an hour after the doubles match.

Told about Gullikson's comments, Martin said, "I haven't spoken to Gully," then rushed off to the court.

Gullikson was coy about Martin's condition and possible withdrawal.

"It's a possibility," Gullikson said, "because some of the players aren't 100 percent fit."

In the practice session, Martin showed no sign of injury.

Australian captain John Newcombe said he'd be surprised if Martin withdrew, saying he also hadn't heard of any injury.

Asked if he would lodge a protest if Martin sat out the singles, Newcombe said he wasn't sure.

"I have never been in the position where someone has pulled out where they shouldn't," he said.

Only an injury, substantiated by a tournament doctor and accepted by the neutral referee, would allow a player to withdraw from a match and be replaced by another player.

Sampras indicated he'd be willing to play for Martin, if asked.

"We're all sitting up here pretty happy that we are still in this thing," Sampras said. "Our back is against the wall at this point. We're going to talk about it tonight, and go from there."

"But it is a very sensitive subject. Tom has been getting killed in the press about me not playing singles, and it is not fair. It was my choice."

Only once before, in 1934, has a U.S. Davis Cup team rallied back from 0-2. Sidney Wood, one of the members of that U.S. team, was on hand to watch this year's squad at the Longwood Cricket Club.

The 87-year-old's advice:

"Win the doubles, first of all." Sampras and O'Brien had no choice but to do exactly that if they were to prevent a sweeper Rafter beat Courier and Hewitt beat Martin in Friday's singles matches. And they had to do it against tough competition: The Australians had not lost a Davis Cup doubles match in five years.

Rodman accused of pinching woman

LAS VEGAS (AP)—A Las Vegas Hilton cocktail waitress has filed a federal lawsuit against her employer and basketball star Dennis Rodman.

Glora Chapa accuses the former Chicago Bulls star of pinching and grabbing her breasts while he was seated at a gambling table in June 1998. She filed the suit Thursday.

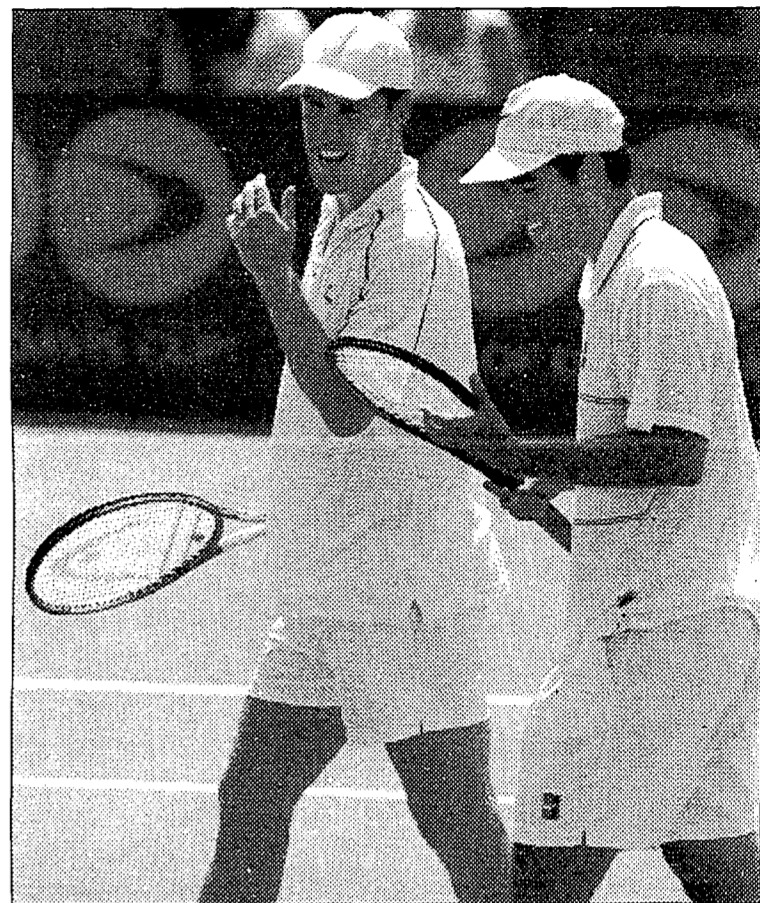
Chapa is the fourth woman to accuse Rodman, 37, of such behavior at the resort last year.

Chapa, 59, also named Hilton in the lawsuit.

"Hilton tolerates Rodman's behavior because Hilton desires Rodman's business," her lawsuit claims.

Hilton spokesman Alan Hopper declined to comment on the allegations.

Rodman's publicist, Matt Lebov, did not return a phone call seeking comment.



The US doubles team Pete Sampras (right) and Alex O'Brien smile after winning a game during the first set of their 6-4, 6-3, 3-6, 4-6, 6-3 win over Australia's Mark Woodford and Sandon Stolle in the Davis Cup quarterfinals at the Longwood Cricket Club in Brookline, Mass., Saturday. AP

US 94, Canada 60

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP)

—A half-hour after the game, the blood was still flowing from Peter Guarasci's forehead after he was elbowed by Tom Gugliotta.

"I'm still (upset)," the Canadian forward said, although his anger was tempered by Gugliotta's apology and his team's relatively acceptable performance in a 94-60 loss to the United States on Friday night.

Gary Payton scored 20 points, Tim Duncan 18 and Kevin Garnett had several crowd-pleasing plays while adding 15. Jason Kidd handed out 11 assists for the Americans, who jumped to an early 20-point lead and coasted.

It was one of the closest games the United States has played with a roster of NBA players, although close is a relative term when the Americans are using professionals.

"Nothing to be ashamed of," Canada's Steve Nash said. "Teams can get beat by 50 very easily. We played hard and kept them under 100 points, which was kind of a nice goal for us. It was somewhat productive."

The Americans had their first international incident of this tournament late in the first half when Gugliotta and Guarasci engaged in some pushing and shoving after Gugliotta's elbow opened a cut on Guarasci's forehead.

"I tried to swipe the ball from behind," Gugliotta said. "I got a lot of ball, but my elbow got his forehead."

The cut bled heavily, and the visibly angered Guarasci had to immediately leave the game. He returned in the second half with six stitches in his forehead, later blowing an uncontested dunk.

Last month, he had signed a one-year, \$3.5 million contract, which counted against the team's salary cap.

"I thought it was a bit of a cheap shot because I had him beat," said Guarasci, who plays professionally in Italy. "He tried to make a play on the ball, and then I tried to get to the bench and he was in my way and we bumped."

Gugliotta, sporting two black eyes and a nasty cut on his broken nose, apologized after the game.

"I'm sure it hurt, but it wasn't anything I did on purpose," Gugliotta said.

"I don't hold grudges. He's a great player. I have nothing but good things to say about all of those guys," Guarasci said, unaware that drops of fresh blood were dripping down the side of his face.

The outcome of this game was never in doubt, but Canada, after falling behind 24-4 in the first 6 1/2 minutes, nearly got its deficit back to single digits before watching the United States pull away early in the second half.

The Americans were held under 100 points for only the sixth time in 32 games with NBA players, and the final total of 94 was the Americans' second-lowest in that span.

It took just three seconds for the United States to record its first dunk, a jam by Duncan off a quick pass from Allan Houston an eyeblink after Garnett won the opening tap.

A 3-pointer, a three-point play and a fast-break layup—all by Payton—made it 12-3, and a pretty alley-oop pass from Payton to Garnett completed a 12-0 run that made it 24-4.

Canada's next four baskets were 3-pointers, and the deficit was down to 36-23 with 6:07 left in the first half.

Sports Notes...

Continued from page 28

Men's basketball players are reminded about the meeting tonight at Ada Gym beginning at 6 p.m.

Bring team roster to the meeting.

The league is open to men over 35-years old.

For more information call Tony Rogolofoi at Ada Gym, 234-1001/2.

Umpires clinic

Those wishing to be umpires for the SML Summer League should attend the meeting called for Tuesday, July 20, at Ada Gym, starting at 5:30 p.m.

The Summer League is slated to begin August 4.

Call Bill Primley or Tony Rogolofoi at 234-1001/2.

Kim... Continued from page 28

Golf tournament in San Diego in his sights, and all the implied prestige that comes along with winning a grand tournament.

His first outing in the prestigious golfing tournament was in 1998. "Last year I was very nervous," said Kim in an earlier interview.

Twelve months later the youngest member of the NMI South Pacific Games Golf team, has grown more confident of his game. "I'm confident about this year's tournament," added Kim.

At the Hapuna, Hawaii tournament Kim lowered his daily scoring (79, 77, 76) each day.

Second place winner G. Akay was one-stroke behind at 82.75.76. B. Matsuda shot a three-day (83.75.76) for a 234 total.

BOG...

Continued from page 28

seventh after Jeff Diaz connected on a solid single. On the next play, an otherwise routine one-base play, had Diaz burning a trail as he crossed second base and headed for third. He didn't slow down, eyeing homeplate, and looking to at least tie the ballgame.

Diaz turned up the speed and blazed home, tying the ballgame at 2-2.

With two outs on his next at bat BOG's JJ Cabrera delivered a single to right field scoring John Sablan for the go ahead run, before Randall Aguon was caught for the final out ended the inning.

For Bank of Hawaii it was a heart felt loss Game one, as their three-up batters were put out in order in the bottom of seventh, as BOG went on the win, 3-2.

In Game Two the tide changed. As BOH's Greg Camacho smacked back-to-back homers over the right field wall, as BOH beat BOG, 9-8 forcing the series

into game three.

Prior to the showdown between BOG and BOH, a tie-breaker, to challenge BOG, between Hong Kong Shangai Banking Corp against BOH resulted in the latter coming out on top.

Game three however proved Bank of Guam is the team to beat. The score was, 6-0 going into the fifth inning, with BOG leading.

Bank of Guam extended their lead in the fifth when Jeff Diaz, Brady Ubedai and Bea Pereda crossed homeplate for a, 9-0 lead. Russ Saimon plated another BOG run in the sixth making it, 10-0.

John Fujihara broke the dry spell and scored BOH's first run in the bottom of fifth.

In their last at bat BOG's Nizer Misayor and Randall Aguon added two more runs for BOG.

Going into the seventh inning in their fourth ballgame of the day, although the mind was willing the body was tired, as BOH managed just one run in the bottom of seventh for a final score, 12-2, and Bank of Guam winning their fourth title.

SPORTS



BOG wins fourth title

By Tony Celis
Variety News Staff

FOUR-TIME champs! In a very hot and dry Saturday afternoon the Saipan Bankers Softball Association League's top three teams: Bank of Guam, Bank of Hawaii and Hong Kong Shangai Banking Corp met at Koblerville softball field to determine who the king of diamond was.

After three back-to-back—15 minutes rest between games—ballgames Bank of Guam walked away with yet another championship title adding to their three, making them the first team in the league to win a four-peat.

In 1996 a group of softball players from many of Saipan's banking institutions formally formed the Saipan Bankers Softball Association League, BOG has won every title since then.

Saturday's Best-of Three series pitted Bank of Guam against Bank of Hawaii. The contest went down to the wire.

In game one, trailing, 2-1 Bank of Guam came alive in the top of

Continued on page 26



Team BOG poses after winning its fourth consecutive Saipan Bankers Association Co-ed Softball League against BOH, 12-2, in Koblerville Saturday. Photo by Tony Celis



Hong Kong Shangai Banking Corp.'s Lillian Mendiola watches from beneath a tree the game between BOG vs. BOH. Photo by Tony Celis

Kim captures Hawaii Jr golf tourney

By Tony Celis
Variety News Staff

AFTER trailing on two consecutive days at Hapuna golf course, Saipan's Michael Kim shot a 76 on the third and final day of the PGA Junior Series and won with a 232 three-day total, last Friday, in Hawaii.

With the "warm-up" tournament now history, Kim gets his second opportunity to show the US Junior Golf world what he is made of. The 16-year-old Saipan resident is looking forward to the challenge awaiting him in San Diego, California. The world's "best" junior golfers will be there.

The winds, at Hapuna golf course finally died down following two days of gust reported in

the 40 MHP range. On Friday the winds reportedly was in the 15 MPH.

"The wind played to everyone's advantage on Friday," said Kim.

"Overall the course was great but, also very tough," he admits.

Thankful to his supporters, Kim no doubt has the Junior World

Continued on page 26



Michael Kim takes practice in this file photo. Kim won the Hapuna PGA Junior golf "warm up" tournament in Hawaii.

Octogenarian tops tennis world

By Deepti Hajela

MAHWAH, N.J. (AP) — Dorothy "Dodo" Bundy Cheney would never dream of stepping on a tennis court without a string of pearls around her neck, her tennis whites gleaming.

No primary colors and cut-out dresses; no shorts. Cheney, a petite woman crowned with short reddish-blond hair, likes lace — on her skirts, blouses, wristbands, even her knee brace.

"My mother always played in pearls," she said.

The gentility disappears once Cheney, 82, starts playing. The daughter of May Sutton Bundy, the first American to win at Wimbledon, is now the top player in the USTA league for players between 80 and 85. After playing for more than 70 years, she is the biggest winner in USTA history with 301 national titles.

Her first came when she was 24, but most came after she turned

Continued on page 26

Sports Notes

Youth Football

WESTERN (team) youth football players will hold their first practice on Wednesday, July 21, at Hopwood Jr. High School athletic field, starting at 5 p.m.

If you are between 9 and 17-years-old and want to sign up for the team(s) bring a copy of Birth Certificate on Wednesday.

There is a \$35. registration fee. For information call Joe Reyes or Tony Sonoda at, 234-7239, 483-6999.

Masters League

Continued on page 26

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