

Tinian ferries back

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE TINIAN Shipping and Transportation Inc. yesterday announced that ferry services between Saipan and Tinian will resume today after the federal court issued an order for the release of the two vessels.

The Tinian Shipping and Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino in a public announcement said the first run departs Saipan at 5 p.m. The ferry schedule has not changed.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Judge Alex R. Munson in the order issued Saturday directed the U.S. Marshal and the substitute custodian to effect the immediate release of the ferries.

Munson said the substitute custodian, however, shall continue to monitor the operation of the vessels until further order of the

court.

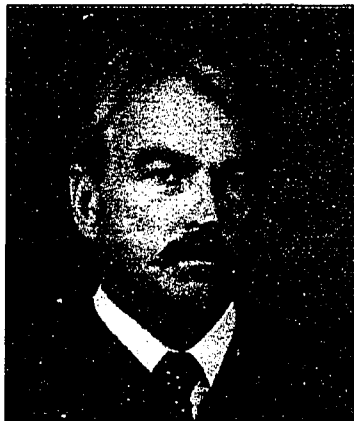
The Delaware-based Debis Financial Services, Inc. sued the Tinian Shipping and Hong Kong Entertainment for alleged non-payment of \$7.6 million loan.

The federal court issued an order last August authorizing the seizure of the M/V Tinian Express and M/V Saipan Express.

The defendants proposed that the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino be mortgaged just to obtain the release of the ferries.

Munson said the court acknowledged receipt by the Clerk of Court from defendants of \$800,000 in cash and a check made payable to the Clerk for the U.S. District Court in the amount of \$53,270.52.

Munson asked the Clerk of Court to deposit such money into the Registry of the Court.



Alex R. Munson

Thereafter, the judge said, the Clerk of Court is directed to cause a cashier's check in the amount of \$753,270.52 to be issued to Carlsmith law firm's trust account.

The cashier's check shall be made available for Debis' coun-

sel of record, David Ledger, in exchange for a receipt, Munson said.

Munson said the \$753,270.52 payment is for the benefit of Debis and shall be applied to reduce any loan obligations of defendants to plaintiff as may exist.

The judge explained that such payment is without prejudice to defendants' rights in the lawsuit and the court acknowledges that defendants contend that the payment represents the semi-annual payment due on Oct. 8 and that Debis reserves its rights to contend otherwise.

Munson said \$100,000 of the collective sum deposited is to be held in the Court's Registry to pay the custodial fees as may be found and approved by the court.

Munson directed the Marshal

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Teno not keen on piecemeal budget



Pedro P. Tenorio

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio is not keen on passing a piecemeal budget.

In an interview with reporters yesterday, the governor insisted the Legislature will "seriously," "see to it that a budget is passed" by the end of this year or early next year.

Asked whether he would prefer passing a piece-meal budget in light of persistent requests from various departments for a bigger share of the money pie, the governor said government has to be sure there are enough funds for everybody.

"You have to take into consideration that scholarship is important, public safety is important, everything is important. We have to make sure that when you increase department money, you will have to find where to reduce," said Tenorio.

He implied that passing a budget for a specific agency like the Public School System, is not exactly what's on his mind.

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Nakamura calls for 'real action' from Forum

By Malou L. Sayson
For the Variety

KOROR, (Palau Horizon) — President Kuniwo Nakamura wants some action to take place in the 30th South Pacific Forum (SPF) here.

Taking the cudgels as the incoming Forum chairman, Nakamura strongly challenged the SPF leaders to turn the forum into an action arena and stop making it appear more like a debating society.

Addressing the SPF leaders Sunday at the Senate chambers of the Olbiil Era Kelulau (OEK), the president called for a change in the SPF perspective from being treated as a dependent, fragmented, insufficient and unheard of entity into a region having its own strengths and independence to seek its own growth path.

"If we are to assert our strength vis-a-vis extra-regional entities, then we should start to consider this body as a truly regional organization," the president told the leaders.

Nakamura also urged the SPF to shift to higher gear, making the 30th Forum meeting identify and set timetables for concrete steps to strengthen linkages such as in the areas of transportation and communication.

"We should recognize the concern of those who have experi-

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Students from Oleai School flash the "V" sign after a fire drill on campus yesterday. The simulated exercise was conducted by the DPS Fire Division. Photo by Louie C. Alonso

Human smuggling, drugs are problems facing Pacific

By Haldee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

HUMAN smuggling, tax fraud, drug trafficking, and bribery cases involving men in uniform are but some of the most common Customs problems shared by countries and islands in Pacific region these days, and collective efforts to curb them are underway, according to CNMI Customs Services director Joe Mafnas.

Mafnas said most of the 33 territories comprising the Oceania Customs Organization,

including Australia, are also experiencing human smuggling cases just like the CNMI which has already accommodated some 700 illegal Chinese migrants, although most of them are bound for Guam.

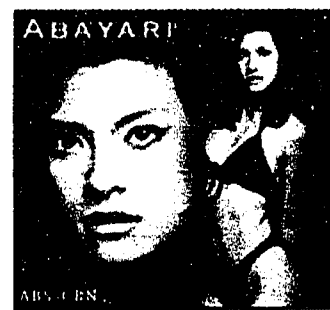
"We experience the same problems, from tax fraud to human smuggling. But we are all addressing it collectively and individually that's why we also have the K9 handlers' training in Australia," said Mafnas who attended the recent OCO meet-

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RP actress remains in jail

By Eric F. Say
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA - Philippine actress Anjanette P. Abayari remained behind bars yesterday after the court declined to accept the American Express card that was supposed to pay for the \$10,000 bail a third-party custodian has agreed to post on her behalf.



Abayari, 29, spent another night at the Women's Detention Facility of the Department of

Corrections and is scheduled to again appear before the court today.

Still, the court yesterday agreed to bring down her \$50,000 bail to \$10,000.

Michael Phillips,

Abayari's defense counsel, said

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US tests missile defense system

VANDENBERG AIR FORCE BASE, Calif. (AP) — U.S. military officials lauded a prototype national missile defense system after it intercepted and destroyed an unarmed missile Saturday on a 16,000-mph collision course over the Pacific.

It was the first test of the "kill vehicle" missile's ability to destroy a target by smashing into it. The system "did everything it was supposed to do, and it did it perfectly," said Sheryl Irwin, a spokeswoman for the Department of Defense.

In Manila, U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen said the test was "certainly a positive development for us" and demonstrated

"the kind of technology we are capable of developing."

An unarmed Minuteman missile carrying a dummy warhead and a decoy balloon was launched just after 7 p.m. from this coastal base on a flight over the Pacific.

About 20 minutes later, the kill vehicle missile was launched from the Marshall Islands. The two missiles hurtled toward each other at a combined speed of about 16,000 mph.

Ten minutes later, 3,000 miles from California and about 140 miles above the ocean, they met.

"It looks like a great, big old bright flash," said Irwin, who watched from a Pentagon room

crowded with anxious military observers.

"You saw it explode, and there was a loud roar - a very happy one that went up from the room. It proves that this technology is working and we can move forward with the program," she said.

The Minuteman's vapor cloud, lit in rainbow colors by the setting sun, could be seen for hundreds of miles.

The defender was the Raytheon-built Exoatmospheric Kill Vehicle, a 55-inch-long, 120-pound device carried aloft on a booster rocket.

The system is designed to destroy missiles launched by rogue states or terrorists, not a multimissile barrage from a major nuclear power.

Court to look at finance campaign

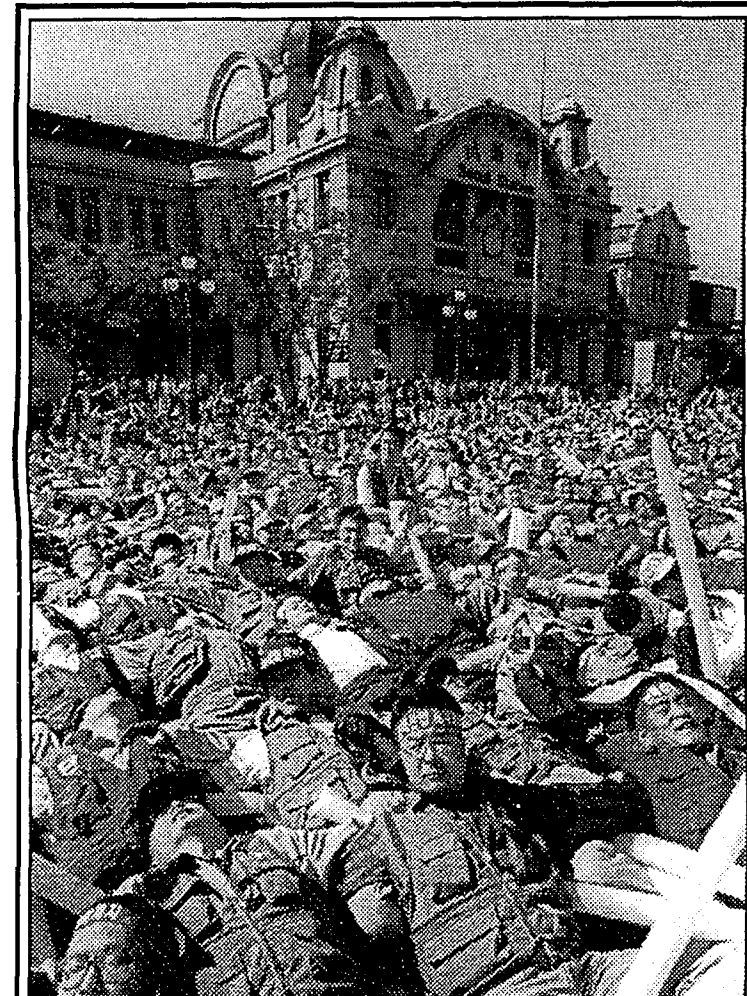
JEFFERSON CITY, Mo. (AP) — Zev David Fredman needed money to campaign for state auditor last summer - and fast.

A political newcomer with only \$200 in his treasury and just weeks before the Republican primary, Fredman went to court to challenge Missouri's campaign contribution limit of \$1,075 per donor.

He won a temporary injunction and quickly raised \$5,000, including one donation for \$2,325. Fredman still lost to a better-financed candidate.

His legal challenge, however, could affect one of the most-debated political issues of the decade: campaign finance. His case goes before the U.S. Supreme Court on Tuesday, and a decision could alter contribution limits in Missouri, 35 other states and in federal races.

Fredman, the chief executive of his family's St. Louis furniture company, said limits hurt small candidates.



They love their jobs. About 10,000 employees of the Korea Electric Power Corp. lay down in Seoul Railroad Station Square during an anti-government rally demanding job security. They opposed a possible sell-off of the nation's monopoly electricity to foreign investors.

Jesse tells Arnold: 'Don't run'

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Gov. Jesse Ventura has urged his friend, actor Arnold Schwarzenegger, not to run for governor of California.

"My advice to Arnold, as a friend, is 'Continue with your movie career, Arnold, don't get involved in it. It won't be worth it to you,'" Ventura said Sunday on "Meet the Press."

Ventura added that Schwarzenegger is a brilliant and self-made man "who could be good at anything he desires to do."

"But again, my personal advice to him as his friend, I would tell him not to do it," Ventura said.

Schwarzenegger said during



Gov. Jesse Ventura



Arnold Schwarzenegger

an interview in the November issue of Talk magazine that he had thought "many times" about running for office.

He said the California governorship, which is up for grabs in

three years, would be "the best thing because you can manage your state." Schwarzenegger's spokeswoman said last week that he wasn't thinking of running for office.

News Briefs

Clinton: Resist GOP 'siren songs'

LOS ANGELES (AP) — President Clinton closed out a West Coast fund-raising trip with an appeal to Americans to resist "the siren songs that the Republicans put out" and support Democratic candidates - including his wife.

After addressing a dinner late Sunday night that raised \$250,000 for the Democratic National Committee, Clinton excused himself, saying he was rushing back to Washington to see first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton before she left on a weeklong overseas trip.

He thanked the crowd for their support, and urged them to stick with the Democratic Party through next year's elections. "My wife may be part of those election activities," he said, referring to Mrs. Clinton's likely bid for a Senate seat from New York.

Plane hit by lightning

GAINESVILLE, Fla. (AP) — A US Airways Express plane carrying 25 people was struck by lightning and forced to make an emergency landing Sunday night.

The twin-turboprop plane, en route from Tampa to Pensacola, was hit by lightning shortly after takeoff.

Two generators were knocked out, forcing the plane to continue on battery power, said Gainesville Fire Rescue spokesman Stuart Schwartz.

"The plane didn't dive or anything, but it kind of seemed like anything could happen," said passenger Barbara Cox. "They just started telling us what we would have to do and to prepare for the worst."

Timor peacekeepers want disarmament

DILI, East Timor (AP) — Stung by criticism of alleged bias, the commander of the international peacekeeping force in East Timor demanded today that pro-independence rebels hand in their weapons.

"The policy is that we disarm any East Timorese who are not in TNI ... we disarm them all," Maj. Gen. Peter Cosgrove said. TNI is the acronym for the Indonesian army, which has retained two infantry battalions in East Timor after evacuating most of its forces from the territory.

Pro-Jakarta militias, along with Indonesian media and officials, have accused the peacekeepers of a bias toward independence supporters, including the Falintil rebel group, which has battled Indonesian rule since 1975.

The militias and their Indonesian army backers are widely blamed for unleashing an orgy of violence after East Timorese overwhelmingly endorsed independence in an Aug. 30 U.N.-sponsored referendum.

Thailand mulls new restrictions on anti-Myanmar dissidents

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Thailand is considering new restrictions on anti-Myanmar dissidents living here after armed rebels seized the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok in a dramatic 26-hour siege.

The embassy in the Thai capital was back open Monday under heavy security less than two days after the standoff ended.

Five ex-student rebels armed with AK-47s and grenades took over the embassy Friday before releasing all 38 hostages Saturday in return for safe passage by helicopter to the Thai-Myanmar border.

Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai called a meeting of an anti-terrorism committee for Wednesday to assess security and to examine what should be done with 3,000 Myanmar student exiles living in Thailand, the Bangkok Post said.

70 injured in clashes in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) — An anti-government strike in Bangladesh turned violent Sunday, with clashes between rival political groups leaving one person dead and at least 200 people injured, police said.

The strike halted traffic and closed businesses and schools in cities across the country.

It was the second such opposition protest called this month as part of a campaign to force Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's three-year-old government to resign and call early elections. The next balloting is due in 2001.

In Bangladesh, a general strike is the traditional opposition weapon to weaken a government. But the government says it will not relinquish power.

The four-party opposition alliance led by Khaleda Zia, Hasina's predecessor, accuses the government of corruption, incompetence and harassment of political opponents. The government denies the allegations.

JAL eyes more arrivals

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

TEN MORE charter flights from two major cities in Japan are scheduled to fly to Saipan before the end of the year, following Japan Airlines' announcement yesterday of greater promotion of the CNMI in order to entice more tourists.

This means JAL will make available some 1,562 additional seats for CNMI-bound Japanese tourists, on top of the regular direct flights.

From January to September, JAL's monthly arrival record ranged from 16,072 to 19,671, and has continued to get the lion share of the total monthly Japanese arrivals into the CNMI.

Kaishun Nishigaya, JAL-Saipan district sales manager, yesterday disclosed a total of 18,335 passengers brought in by JAL in September, a 15 percent increase versus the same month of last year.

"We will bring in more visitors here before 1999 ends . . . Our

share has been over 50 percent of total tourists from Japan since January 1999," Nishigaya said.

In April and May, JAL commanded over 59 percent of the market, and over 58 percent in July and August. Previous months' records show more than 51 percent market share.

Arrivals from Tokyo went up by seven percent to 12,071 last month, while arrivals from Osaka climbed up by 29 percent to 5,891 compared to the same periods last year.

There were also 373 additional passengers brought by charter flights last month.

Nishigaya said three Nagoya-Saipan flights are scheduled this month; one Osaka-Saipan and three Nagoya-Saipan flights in November; and three Nagoya-Saipan flights in December.

JAL has set a total of 25 chartered flights from October to end-March 2000.

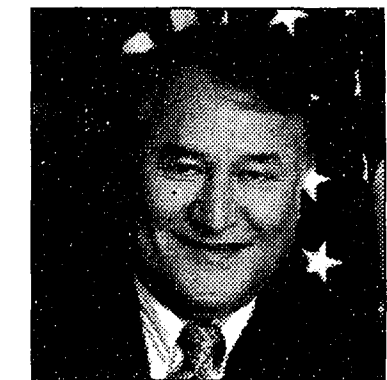
Stronger promotional efforts of the CNMI in Japan, additional

charter flights and usage of bigger aircraft for its daily flights have been the main reasons behind the steady increase in JAL's monthly passenger arrivals, added Nishigaya.

The airline has upgraded its 216-seater Boeing 767 planes to DC-10 which has a seating capacity of 260 passengers.

JAL also disclosed its highest CNMI arrival rate in 22 years registered in August 1999 with 19,671 passengers.

Reyes: Some legislators not keen on funding education



Karl T. Reyes

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

SOME members of the Legislature "are not keen on funding" the government's scholarship program, said the chair of the House Ways and Means Committee.

In an interview yesterday, Rep. Karl T. Reyes (R-Saipan) said that as a result, efforts are underway to instead "encourage" recipients of the program to return home upon graduation by cutting at least 20-percent of their loan schedule for every year's employment in the commonwealth.

This, to appease lawmakers opposed to giving better funding for the program. Money will have to be borrowed elsewhere to enable government to shoulder the 20-percent deductions.

"Unfortunately," said Reyes, "there are members of the Legislature who are not keen on funding education."

Reyes said money for the scholarship program under the proposed fiscal year 2000 budget will be at an "amount not noticeably far below existing levels."

Looking grim, Reyes lamented that due to inappropriate funding, CNMI students have become more attracted to joining the U.S. Army upon finishing high school than pursue higher education abroad, thus creating a situation where the commonwealth government "competes with Uncle Sam who takes them in as soldiers, then feed and clothe them."

"We have to bring them in," he said, explaining that the 20-percent yearly cut could do the job.

"That will make it more attractive to students."

Speaker raps Aranza over reimbursement deal

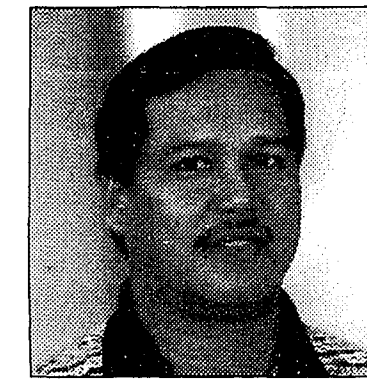
By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

A VISIBLY irked House Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) yesterday chided Insular Affairs Director Ferdinand Aranza for allowing a proposed reimbursement agreement that tells the local government how to spend the money to be released for accommodating the illegal Chinese migrants on Tinian.

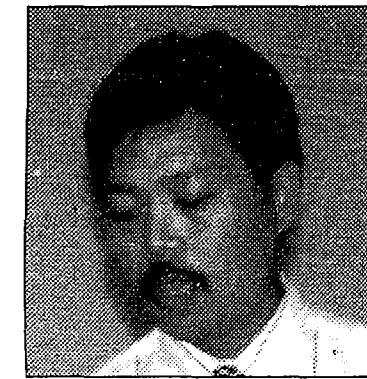
In an interview, Benavente said "our so-called friend," Aranza should not have agreed to issue the \$750,000 reimbursement money as a form of federal grant, which imposes the restrictions.

"It should not have been the case. We are talking about our locally-generated money that we spent. We were promised we would be reimbursed."

"We want to be able to use the



Diego T. Benavente



Ferdinand Aranza

reimbursement money the way we want it," said Benavente.

The Speaker explained that the local government had to juggle funds, pulling money from designated use, with the understanding that it will be returned once the \$750,000 has been released.

"The reimbursement will bring back the money from where it was taken," said Benavente.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has said

the Commonwealth government will submit concerns it has on the proposed agreement which has already been signed by the Office of Insular Affairs and the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

The governor will still have to sign the agreement before money can actually be released.

Tenorio, in an interview with reporters last week, said the

CNMI government is "a little concerned about the wording of the memorandum of agreement."

He said the CNMI was ready to submit proposed changes to the agreement.

Labor and Immigration Secretary Mark Zachares, in a written testimony sent to Sen. Frank H. Murkowski, said the Northern Marianas government "find it unacceptable" for the U.S. to impose restrictions on the reimbursement money.

"We find it unacceptable," said Zachares, "that the federal government is not acting in good faith on its prior commitment for 100-percent reimbursement by placing terms and conditions on how the CNMI can utilize the repayment of the funds it expended on the Tinian diversion operation."

Ex-staffer pleads guilty in Labor permit falsification

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

A FORMER Immigration staff has entered a guilty plea to an information filed in federal court charging her with production of false Department of Labor and Immigration entry permit.

Court records showed that Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) agents arrested Gloria Villagomez Castro last Sept. 16 at her residence in Garapan.

Castro was charged in a sealed information with production of false identification document

without lawful authority. The charge carry a maximum penalty of 15 years' imprisonment and a fine not to exceed \$250,000.

The defendant and her counsel entered a plea agreement with the U.S. Attorney's Office on Thursday. She agreed to cooperate fully

with the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's Office in the probe. The court then unsealed the case.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Judge Alex R. Munson agreed to release the defendant on \$25,000 unsecured bond and set the sen-

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DPS officers undergo the first-ever life saving skills training over the weekend at Killil Beach.

Photo by Marian A. Maraya

DPH eyes US funds for clinics

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

PUTTING up satellite clinics around the CNMI has been made easier for the government with the current assurances from the federal government of available funding of some \$300,000 for each new clinic to be built and expanded, it was learned.

As the Department of Public Health (DPH) eyes building two more health centers in the immediate future in the north and central parts of Saipan, there will be some \$600,000 federal funding that is expected to be tapped.

The San Antonio clinic, which

is currently undergoing expansion, is set to be completed by December this year.

Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez yesterday disclosed it has become the current trend in the U.S. mainland to put up community health centers in order to complement the services given by the main hospitals or big clinics usually situated in the cities.

"Community health centers are now very popular in the West... because they are more into preventive care in health centers. We are going after those to expand our community health center programs," said Villagomez.

Citing the need for more accessible health care needs, Villagomez said DPH is working on putting up at least two more satellite clinics, probably in the San Roque area, and either in San Jose or Susupe for the central area of Saipan. He added the existing clinic in San Roque needs to be expanded.

He said this will help decongest the Commonwealth Health Center (CHC) in Garapan which was built for a 300,000-population base. Now that the CNMI's population is already over 66,000, DPH said putting up various satellite clinics will help cope with the



Joseph Kevin Villagomez

growing number of patients, and to make health services more accessible to everybody.

"They (federal government) are

aware of our desire to move these centers out of the CHC and to the community. One, because of the clout. But more importantly, for accessibility," said Villagomez.

For the beginning of fiscal year 2000, DPH will operate under continuing resolution.

Villagomez said while the expansion of the San Antonio Clinic is funded by federal money, staffing needs will have to be addressed by local appropriations. Once completed, the San Antonio clinic is expected to have an in-house obstetrician/gynecologist, pediatrician and nurse practitioners.

Guam man charged in wife's murder

By Eric F. Say
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — On the same day that Domestic Family Violence Awareness month began, police entered a Santa Rita family home to find a woman dead from knife wounds.

Mamerto Gutierrez Mallo, the husband of the murdered victim, has been arrested and placed on \$1 million cash bail by Superior Court Presiding Judge Alberto Lamorena III.

According to court documents, it was mid-morning last Friday when the accused called his wife's business partner Rowena Conde and told her to

call 911 and send an ambulance to their home.

When police officers entered the home in Santa Rita they first found Mallo's son Joseph sleeping soundly in his room.

The documents state that he had slept through the night and did not hear anything unusual.

It was when they entered the master bedroom that they found a horrific scene. The bed and floor were covered in blood and two bodies lay next to one another.

Medics said the man, Mamerto Mallo, who was on the left side of the bed appeared to be breathing and had small cuts to his wrist.

His wife Lourdes C. Mallo how-

ever was not as fortunate. Medics said she was lifeless and had suffered two deep, long stab wounds to her face and neck from an eight-inch knife, which was found under her husband's leg.

It was then that police found a letter, which they said, was written by the husband on the dresser next to the bed.

The letter was titled, "Farewell" and was dated Oct. 1, 6:23 a.m. According to a declaration filed by Assistant Attorney General Lisa DiMaria, the letter addressed several people.

Parts of the "Farewell Letter" said, "Our chapter of our lives ends here.

Please remember us in your prayers, and Father oh so Merciful, it is time for us to go. Give us your kind blessings, Farewell."

The letter was signed by "Mert and Lou" and appeared to be written in the handwriting of the husband.

According to DiMaria, further investigation revealed the marriage was in trouble and that Lourdes was seeking a divorce.

The night before Lourdes' death she had gone to a relative's home. But her husband confronted her at the relative's home and persuaded her to go back to their Santa Rita residence.

New law to require sexual offenders to register

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio has enacted a law on mandatory registration of convicted sexual offenders which in turn would be used for "community notification flyers."

Public Law 11-104 requires a convicted sexual offender to register a current address for a 10-year minimum period measured from the date the person was released from prison or released on parole.

Initial registration would be 30 days before the time of release or placement and may be required as a condition for parole.

Information about the convicted sexual offender, which will in turn be released to the community, include name, actual living address, sex, date of birth, complete physical description including distinguishing features such as scars, birth marks, or any identifying physical characteristics and a current photograph.

The offender is also required to register new address within two days before moving in there.

The offender will likewise be fined \$1,000 or imprisoned by as long as 60 days, even both, upon failure to comply with the new law's requirements.

Introduced by Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider (R-Saipan), the new

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Gov't mulls emergency Y2K actions

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

THE ADMINISTRATION yesterday disclosed several "emergency responses" once the Year 2000 strikes, which includes requiring certain government officials to report to the Emergency Management Office (EMO) on 10 pm of Dec. 31, 1999 to assist on any Y2K problems or failures.

Bob Webb, the governor's special assistant for telecommunications and chairman of the CNMI Y2K Task Force, said there remains no guarantee that all government and private sector systems and operations will be immune from Y2K problems either caused by internal or external influences.

The government, however, generally maintains Y2K preparedness.

Webb said the Emergency Operations Center (EOC) at EMO

will be activated whenever it is needed to manage Y2K emergencies.

Representatives from every government department and agency identified as mission-critical are required to report to the EOC as emergency arises.

At the EOC, the Incident Command System (ICS) response structure will be utilized. The ICS is consists of the Y2K Task Force chairman, the governor's public information officer and the EMO chief, among others.

These government officials are required to report to the EOC at 10 pm on Dec. 31, 1999 and be prepared to assist on any Y2K problems or failures.

Under the government's "Y2K Emergency Response Plan" prepared by the task force, there are five assumptions in dealing with the Y2K planning.

Among other assumptions, the

plan said major public services including electric power, gas, water, sewage and telecommunications may be disrupted for three to four days during January 2000.

"As with any potential emergency, the public should be encouraged to take reasonable steps to prepare for possible Y2K problems.

"Individuals and families in the CNMI could prepare by ensuring they have at least three to four days' supply of food, drinking water, potable water, medication and other family necessities," said the plan.

The plan also said it is good to assume that throughout the impact period, adverse weather conditions including typhoons or earthquakes may be present.

It also said that assistance from other countries like Japan, Philippines, Guam and U.S. may be

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Jury verdict on alien smuggling up today

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

A FEDERAL jury may reach a verdict today in the ongoing trial against six persons charged in connection with the reported smuggling of 51 Chinese to Guam last May.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Greg Baka and six defense lawyers

started their closing arguments Friday and resumed yesterday morning.

The jurors then started deliberating the case until they stopped with no decision at 4:40 p.m. yesterday.

The jurors, who have been sitting in the case for more than three weeks already, will con-

tinue deliberating the matter today.

All six defendants were charged with conspiracy to commit an offense against the U.S.—alien smuggling for financial gain, attempted alien smuggling for financial gain, and attempted alien smuggling to a place other than at a designated port.

The defense lawyers led by Eric Smith argued that the U.S. government had presented no direct evidence whatsoever against their clients.

The lawyers said in fact the evidence showed that the defendants were also victims of the Snakehead Gang's smuggling activities back in China.

Distressed boat prompts DPS sea safety reminder

By Marian A. Maraya
Variety News Staff

A REPORTED case of a distressed sea vessel early Saturday morning has raised serious concerns, prompting the Department of Public Safety (DPS) to emphasize extreme cautions to the public on the dangers of going out to sea unequipped.

DPS spokesperson, Rose Ada yesterday said that, not as much as any law dictates it but as common courtesy, individuals going on a sea expedition, may it be fishing or scuba diving, need to inform the Emergency Management Office (EMO), DPS, and their respective families of their plans to ensure their safety.

Last October 2nd, around 8:37 a.m., a pair of fishing mates reportedly experienced engine trouble about a half mile north

west of the Managaha Island.

With a radio in handy, Ignacio De Leon Guerrero, the owner of the boat, sought help from EMO where EMO contacted the DPS to respond to the emergency.

"We sent out our Zodiac to assist. Fortunately, the occupants were in good condition and the vessel was brought over to the Sugar Dock in Susupe," said Ada. DPS conducted an inspection of the boat and later found out that the 16-footer vessel was well-equipped with safety devices.

DPS noted though that the boat's registration had already expired.

"We gave the owner of the boat a citation, giving them several days to come and update the registration," Ada said.

Meanwhile, the incident was another distress call to learn from,

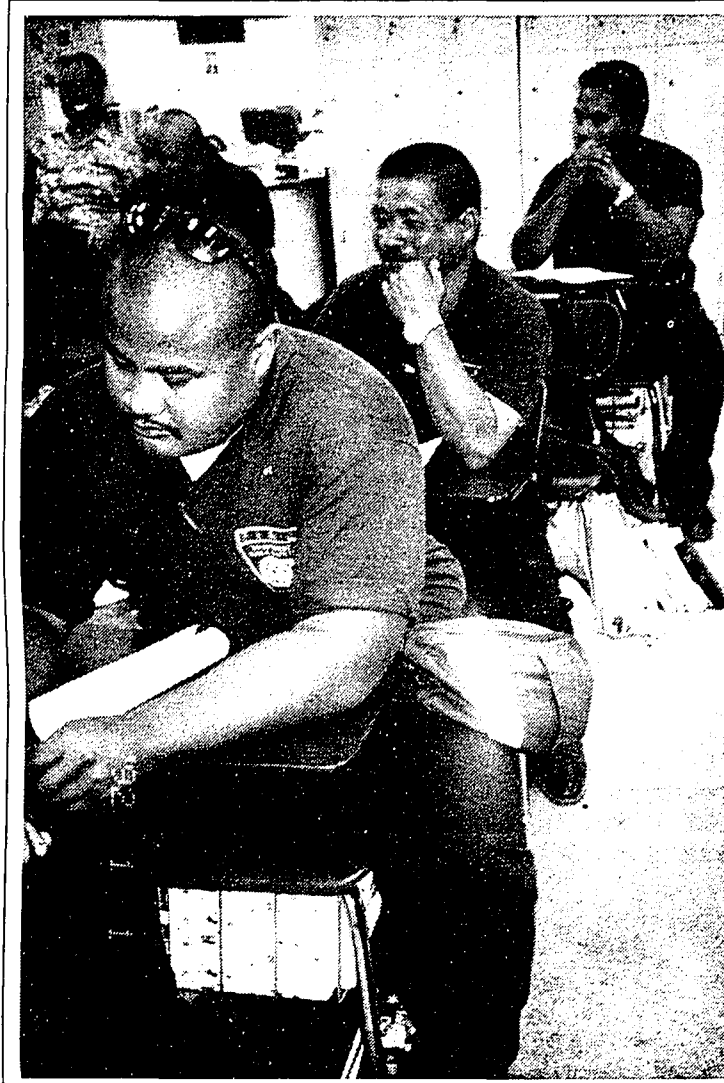
according to Ada.

"People tend to go fishing, and in the middle of the ocean, and then suddenly, they get stuck because they have engine problems. We like to emphasize that they should make sure that they've got all the safety equipment on board like radios, and other devices, in case something like this ever happens.

"If they have this on board, it's going to make them easier for them to contact us, so we can find them and bring them home and their families would stop worrying," Ada said.

Ada also warned that people with lapsed registrations should update their documents.

"The cost for the registration is not as much as what it would cost them if we were to give them a citation. And the only thing they need to bring are forms of identification like passport and their birth certificate. Those are the kind of documents we're going to need to see, especially as we're updating our records right now," she said.



Firefighters from DPS Fire Division meet to discuss procedures after holding a simulated fire drill at Calvary Christian Academy Friday afternoon. Photo by Louie C. Alonzo

Lizama drops rape victim's suit vs gov't, ex-DOLI officer

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE SUPERIOR Court has dropped the lawsuit against the CNMI government and an Immigration Officer filed by a Chinese woman who was raped at the Immigration Office.

Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama said the court finds that plaintiff's complaint is barred by the two-year statute of limitations period.

Lizama said defendants CNMI government and Tricia S. Agon therefore, have met their burden and have demonstrated that even after taking the well-pleaded facts as true, the victims still failed to state a claim for relief.

Court records showed that the victim who was allegedly raped by then Immigration Captain Isidro Cabrera in Nov. 1996, instituted a civil action in the federal court against the government and Agon on March 12, 1998 (a separate action was filed against Cabrera).

On Nov. 14, 1998, the federal court dismissed plaintiff's local claims, those alleging violation of Commonwealth law on the grounds that they contained "novel and complex" local issues best reserved for interpretation by Commonwealth courts.

Last March 16, the victim filed the lawsuit in the Superior Court alleging that the government acted in violation of the CNMI Constitution and that the Commonwealth and Agon acted in such a manner as to constitute the tort of "common law negligence."

Defendants filed a motion to dismiss the case pursuant to Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure.

Defendants argued that plaintiff's complaint must be

dismissed for the following reasons:

- The two-year statute of limitations period bars plaintiff's complaint.
- No cause of action exists.
- Neither the Commonwealth nor Agon may be held liable pursuant to the Government Liability Act and principles of "sovereign immunity."

Lizama in granting defendants' motion said the victim had two years in which to file a complaint from the date on which her cause of action "accrued."

The first issue in determining when a statute of limitations period begins and ends, Lizama said, is to calculate the date on which such cause of action "accrued."

The true test to determine when the action "accrues" is when the plaintiff could have first filed and prosecuted his or her action to successful conclusion, the judge pointed out.

The alleged rape occurred on Nov. 20, 1996, court records indicated.

Defendants argued that the cause of action "accrued" on that date as the rape was the act giving rise to the alleged injury or damage.

Defendants, therefore, contended that the two-year statute of limitations period expired on Nov. 20, 1998.

And as plaintiff did not file the present action in the Superior Court until last March 16, defendants argued that the complaint is barred by the statute of limitations.

Plaintiff, however, argued that the cause of action did not "accrue" until Jan. 23, 1997, due to the fact that the rape occurred while she was in the custody of

Continued on page 26



Hafa Adai Fellow Voter,

As you know, I am running as a candidate for the House of Representatives in election District I.

For the past 28 years, I have devoted myself to learning about government and public service.

As a retired school administrator, I am committed to actively propose and advance ideas so that the business of serving our island and its residents remains first and foremost.

I am asking for your vote of confidence this November general election to allow me to represent you in the Twelfth Legislature.

I humbly ask for your support.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase
Olomwaay
Maraming Salamat Po'
Thank you

Frank



Paid for by the Committee to elect Frank D. Demapan - M. Demapan, Treasurer

BIO-DATA

Francisco (Frank) Dg. Demapan (Mr. D)

FAMILY & PERSONAL BACKGROUND
• Wife - Manuela Aldan Demapan

• Children - Ana Elaine, Michelle, Frank, Jr., Joseph Frank, and John Paul
• Father - Francisco Borja Demapan (deceased)

• Mother - Ana Salas de Leon Guerrero (deceased)

• Father-in-law - Jose Blas Magofna
• Mother-in-law - Elena Aldan Diaz

EDUCATION
• Bachelors, Elementary Education, UOG

• Associate of Science, Elementary Education, CCM

• Mount Carmel High School

GOVERNMENT SERVICES
• Vice Principal, San Antonio Elementary

• Classroom Teacher - WSR, GES, SV, & MHS

• Assistant Executive Director - Senate, 4th Legislature

• Assistant Political Affairs Officer - Office of the Governor

• Assistant Teacher Training Coordinator - NMC

• Assistant Trainee and Employee Development Officer - Personnel Management Office

• Acting Principal & Vice Principal - Garapan Elementary

• District Commissioner - Susupe Village

Please remember me on November 6th. I am No. 6 on the ballot VOTE DEMOCRAT.



BREWED

By Jojo Dass

Sick

A NEW law enacted by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio will forever seal the life of a convicted sexual offender, like the last nail on the person's coffin. Public Law 11-104 requires the offender to release vital information — sex, date of birth, residence and distinguishing marks among others — to authorities at least 30 days prior to his release or parole. These will in turn be placed on "community notification flyers" for all to know.

The coin has two sides. Requiring the offender to do this may ensure that the person does not repeat past mistakes. This, in turn, may likewise ensure that the community and the kids are safe from "sexually-violent predators." Like a mom telling her kid to stay away from that fellow nor his place because he is baaaad. Which is good.

On the other hand, such attracts repeat-violators and actually deprives convicted sexual offenders a chance to turn in a new leaf on their life. Facing an ostracized — cursed? — life, the offender is reduced to a maniacal pervert that should not belong to the community; not be trusted for gainful employment; not be allowed to even attempt to get a haircut and get a real job, as they say; and not be allowed to go straight ever again.

Everything has a price tag on it. The consequences of our mistakes. But some people actually think this one is a bit too high, especially considering that it was passed so that we can avail ourselves of federal financial incentives for doing so.

Why not just throw the offender to the hangman, or, better yet, down the snake pit? We are sick.

The governor may be doing a very tough act. Unless he has mastered the art of walking on a tightrope with fire sticks on both hands high up in the air, he could be in for a squeeze: the budget.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday implied he may reject moves to have a piece-meal budget passed amid insistence from critical agencies to have a bigger share and have them freed from being locked-in under a debate about which department should get how much and from where would the money be cut.

Allowing a piece-meal budget could be unwise as it may pave the way for free-spending on the part of other departments, which have yet to be given FY 2000 budget, under a continuing resolution program. This, in turn could swell the deficit as they will be spending under a bigger FY 1999 appropriation.

Not allowing a piece-meal budget, on the other hand, could derail vital projects and programs of the critical departments.

Mauleg ha, governor?

Funny thing happened during Sen. Juan P. Tenorio's fund-raiser, Thursday night.

A man, about seven-feet tall, went to the governor's picnic table to request a favor.

He asked if it was alright for the governor to tell some of the people, through the public address system, to respect other's parking right-of-way. Apparently, his car was stuck and, he said, his wife wants him home immediately.

The governor, perhaps, did not want to create a commotion. He instead asked for a cellphone, got the man's resident phone number and tried to call the wife to tell her his husband is stuck at the parking lot!

While doing so, the man grinned at me, said, "The governor is calling my wife," and gave me a high-five.

His face dropped though when the governor said the number was busy. I did my part, the governor must have told himself.

DISCONTENTED TAXPAYERS OF AMERICA



JACK ANDERSON and JAN MOLLER
WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

The DEA's assault on birdseed

WASHINGTON — Zealotry is not an attribute Americans value in their government, whether it comes in the form of an overbearing policeman, an all-too-happy tax collector or an arbitrary drug enforcement agent. Zealotry is worse, still, when it infects not just the agent, but the agency — in this case, the Drug Enforcement Agency (DEA) — as occurred on August 9:

A tractor-trailer full of seed destined for a birdseed factory was stopped and seized in Detroit by U.S. Customs Service officials on orders from the DEA. The cargo was listed as sterilized hemp seed from Kenex, a farming company based in Ontario, Canada, where it is licensed to breed, grow, process and manufacture hemp and hemp products. You may wonder if this "dangerous" birdseed was laced with acid or camouflaging heroin. It was not.

The problem arose when the DEA literally chose to take the law into its own hands, by redefining the law as it relates to marijuana — despite the fact that Congress, when drafting the Controlled Substance Act of 1937, excluded from its definition of marijuana, "the sterilized seed of such plant which is incapable of germination."

Such seeds, it was acknowledged, may — like the oil and the nut — contain naturally occurring traces of tetrahydrocannabinol (THC), the active ingredient in marijuana. By Kenex's own paperwork, the hemp seed contained .00148 percent THC — the equivalent, according to Kenex President Jean Laprise, of an olive pit in a railroad car.

By comparison, a marijuana leaf contains 5 to 30 percent THC. The DEA interpretation of the law is that only completely sterilized cannabis seeds, incapable of germination, are exempted from the Controlled Substance Act. The DEA states it has recently become aware that some of these seeds are being imported for human consumption, and if the seeds are remotely contaminated by THC, it is illegal to eat them under federal law — this, though

they acknowledge that no one could get high off such trace amounts.

However, we have in our possession two affidavits from DEA employees from a 1991 lawsuit against a hemp manufacturer, that declare, "A 5 percent viability rate is considered necessary by the DEA to prove that the sample of seeds is indeed viable. Viability is the critical aspect of the analysis because the law specifically states that sterilized seeds incapable of germination are not included in the term 'marijuana' and are therefore not controlled."

A customs official tells us the Kenex load was registered as sterilized grain. The paperwork with the truck indicated the cargo was sterilized hemp seed. Even so, customs contacted DEA, and DEA instructed customs to seize the load. Customs complied, and 17 other hemp loads shipped from Kenex to the United States were recalled. Kenex had to contact all of the American companies that had received hemp shipments and request they track down the product and send it back to the border in 30 days or face a fine. "The fines are inevitable; the hemp we have shipped has been processed and sold," Laprise told us.

Unapologetically, Dean Boyd, spokesperson for customs told us, "The law is the law. We don't want to get in a political back and forth on the merits of hemp seed. We have to uphold the law." But he was quoting the law according to the DEA, not the act of Congress.

Kenex continues to insist that hemp is legal, and they have been shipping it across the border for over a year without incident. "Do you think if they were trying to smuggle a product, they would have admitted to having drugs in the load?" asks John Roulac, a California businessman who was to receive part of the hemp seed shipment for chewy granola bars that his company produces.

Interestingly, of the 32 countries that grow and import hemp, none of them are mentioned in the DEA's congressional report on drug-producing nations.

By Robert Kuttner

THIS PAST week, Congress moved closer to allowing patients to sue HMOs and the Supreme Court agreed to decide whether such lawsuits are possible under existing law. A California appeals court made it easier for shooting victims to sue gun makers. General Motors settled out of court, reportedly for \$50 million, in a case where a defective gas tank killed a motorist. And the US Department of Justice finally took the tobacco companies to court.

Depending on where you sit, these are either the latest noises in a litigation explosion stimulated by zealous lawyers or the entirely proper use of the courts to remedy power imbalances between arrogant industries and ordinary citizens.

The political right has invested hundreds of millions of dollars and decades of law-and-economics "scholarship" attacking the inefficiency of such litigation, which costs big business billions. In Republican campaign rhetoric, "trial lawyer" has become a term of scorn and "tort reform" a sacred crusade. By tort reform, the right means measures that make it harder for the little guy to have his day in court.

But all of this has backfired. The courts are not taking kindly to efforts to deny citizens their right to legal redress. Juries keep awarding large sums to consumers killed or maimed by corporate wrongs. And while lawyers often live up to the stereotype, corporations do so in spades.

In the popular culture, films like "A Civil Action" show lawyers with plenty of human blemishes, but the real villain of the piece is not the flawed lawyer but the evil corporation, which in this case knowingly dumped poisons into the local water supply, causing kids to contract leukemia. Faced with that reality, even the slickest public relations firm cannot convincingly demonize plaintiffs' trial lawyers.

Despite the right-wing propaganda, the litigation explosion does not result from ambulance-chasing lawyers but from corporate excess.

The citizen's jury is perhaps our most powerful instrument of direct democracy. In corporate boardrooms and Republican fund-raising dinners, the plaintiff's lawyer may seem like a stock villain, but in countless courtroom dramas he is the ordinary citizen's hero.

After all, if HMOs were not putting doctors under financial pressure to deny patients treatments, citizens would not be collecting damages. If the tobacco companies had not spent decades covering up scientific evidence that cigarettes caused cancer, there would be no tobacco litigation.

If General Motors had not suppressed an engineer's memo warning that a cheap gas tank could explode in a collision (and that a much safer one could be made for less than \$3 per car), there would be no costly settlements with the widows of victims. And if handgun makers did not produce cheap pistols knowing full well their likely end use, they would not now be legally vulnerable.

To say that this litigation is stimulated by lawyers insults the intelligence. And to condemn it as "economically inefficient," as right-wing legal scholars try to do, is to put corporate profits ahead of citizen rights and remedies. The backfiring of this campaign is richly deserved.

One final twist: If there is one thing the corporate elite likes less than plaintiffs' lawyers, it is government regulation. But often regulation is the best alternative to lawsuits.

Once HMOs are simply barred from denying treatments prescribed by doctors, they will be immune from charges of medical malpractice.

With tough public education campaigns and full disclosure measures intended to seriously discourage smoking, tobacco companies could hawk their carcinogenic wares free from lawsuits.

With handgun licensing and registration laws, gun makers could stop worrying about ambushes by litigators. And tough auto safety regulation, now on the books thanks to Detroit's nemesis Ralph Nader, has not only saved many thousands of lives but spared auto makers needless litigation. Detroit should give Nader a medal.

Consumer regulation is the proverbial ounce of prevention. When corporations put profits ahead of people, there are only two possible ways citizens can defend themselves. Either they can sue the corporation after the damage is done, or their elected representatives can pass consumer-protection laws that make the damage less likely.

The older doctrine of caveat emptor is no substitute. (How is the ordinary citizen to know that a gas tank will explode or that a health insurer maximizes profits by denying medical care?)

Of course, if the HMO, tobacco, auto, and gun industries were less arrogant in the first place, none of this would be necessary. Then again, as the proverb has it, if my grandmother had wheels, she would be a bicycle. (Boston Globe)

By Richard Waddington

LISBON (Reuters) — If Portuguese Prime Minister Antonio Guterres better his performance of four years ago, and wins an outright parliamentary majority in Sunday's election, he may have the long-suffering people of East Timor to thank.

Even amongst his political opponents, there are few who doubt that the wily, fast-talking prime minister's Socialist Party will be returned to power as the largest party in the October 10 ballot. But there have been doubts about whether — despite a booming economy — voters were ready to give Guterres full control of parliament, where he is currently four seats short of an absolute majority in the 230-seat chamber.

For months, opinion polls have put the Socialists well ahead of the conservative Social Democratic Party (PSD), their main rivals. But they offered no guarantee that Guterres' much-desired absolute majority will be attained, once votes for the Communists and the small, right-wing Popular Party were included.

The cautious Portuguese had apparently come to like a system of minority government where the party in power was forced to debate and negotiate with the other groups in parliament.

However, these political calculations were upset by the scenes early in September of mayhem in Portugal's former colony of East Timor, where the people had voted for independence from Indonesia after 23 years of often brutal rule. The violence of the pro-Jakarta militias, bent on reversing what had been an overwhelming vote for statehood, deeply shocked the Portuguese.

It triggered demonstrations of a size and emotional intensity not seen since the turbulent days of Portugal's 1974 revolution. People from all walks of life and political allegiance took to the streets, united in their support for the East

Timorese. Although Australian-led troops are slowly restoring order to the Pacific territory, the events in East Timor continue to dominate national attention, eclipsing the election campaign.

For two days late last week, the official hustings were effectively suspended as Portugal gave a hero's welcome to Xanana Gusmao, the former anti-Indonesia guerrilla fighter who heads the independence movement in East Timor.

"Timor ending up being a tremendously unifying force," said political analyst Vicente Jorge Silva, former editor of the Lisbon daily O Publico. "And it is obvious that it is the government that benefits most, politically," he added. Opposition campaign leaders complain that voters are now in little mood to hear criticism of the ruling party. Political jibes against Guterres and his government, part of the usual give-and-take of political campaigning, risk sounding anti-patriotic, such is the strength of feeling generated by the Timor issue, they say.

"The people are united behind a national cause and that is clearly benefiting the Socialists," one senior PSD campaign official told Reuters. Guterres has been hammering home his advantage, trying to get out the extra votes to ensure he reaches the magic 116-seat figure in parliament. But even so he has had to tread carefully, avoiding calling openly for an "absolute majority" because the phrase has turned into something of a political taboo, with echoes of authoritarianism and arrogance, analysts say.

The Socialist leader, the first of the new generation of center-left leaders in western Europe to come up for re-election, says he needs strong parliamentary backing to push through needed, but controversial reforms in areas such as the health and pension systems and tax policy. He has warned that another minority government could lead to a period of political instability, with

opposition parties poised to take the first opportunity to bring him down.

The Social Democrats abstained on the last three budgets presented by the government because the country was seeking to make the grade for the European single currency, a goal shared by the conservative opposition. But with Portugal safely inside monetary union from the beginning of 1999, this restraint no longer existed, Guterres has warned.

"It would be different this time," he told Reuters television recently. But analysts dismiss the political instability argument as electioneering, arguing that there is very little ideologically to separate the Socialists from the Social Democrats. "You need a microscope to find any differences," said Jorge Silva.

The Socialists have privatized more state sector companies than the Social Democrat government they replaced and have done little to upset the business community during their four years in power. Even without East Timor, this is an election that the Socialists had long looked certain to win, analysts say.

The economy is growing at one of the fastest rates in Europe, fueling the "feel-good" factor of Portugal's burgeoning middle class. With entry into the European single currency, interest rates have tumbled, helping to finance a consumer boom and triggering a surge in the housing market as mortgage costs drop.

As if that were not enough, the main opposition party is still in disarray after having been forced to change its leader in May in a row over an alliance with the Popular Party. Analysts say that new party leader Jose Manuel Durao Barroso, a former foreign minister, has proved no match so far for Guterres in political debate.

"Basically, people look around the political scene and see no reason to make any change. And they won't," Jorge Silva said.

ANALYSIS

Austrian government up in air after election

By Richard Murphy
VIENNA (Reuters) — Austria may face months of political uncertainty after a cliffhanger election that yielded strong gains for the far right Freedom Party but left the make-up of the next government entirely open. Chancellor Viktor Klima's Social Democrats suffered their worst result since World War Two.

They remained the largest party but looking unlikely to be able to re-establish their 13-year-old coalition with the conservative People's Party. The anti-foreigner Freedom Party, whose populist leader Joerg Haider had campaigned on pledges to end immigration and slash taxes and bureaucracy, was officially declared to have come second on Sunday, narrowly overtaking the conservatives.

But that could change when some 200,000 votes cast by people voting outside their usual electoral districts are counted. The final result may not be known until October 11 or 12.

"I think there is a 50/50 chance that there could be a change in second place," Interior Minister Karl Schloegl declared, several hours after announcing the provisional official result. The result left open a wide range of options, from a renewed Social Democrat-conservative grand coalition to an alliance of conservatives and the far right. Preliminary official returns gave the Social Democrats 33.4 percent of the vote, their lowest share since 1945 and down from 38 percent in 1995.

The Freedom Party surged into second place with 27.2 percent,

from 22 percent in 1995, while the People's Party was third with 26.9 percent against 28 percent last time. The conservatives were separated by a tantalizingly narrow margin of just 14,101 votes from the Freedom Party.

Translated into seats in Austria's 183-seat parliament, the results meant: Social Democrats 65, Freedom Party 53, People's Party 52. The Greens boosted their share of the vote to 7.1 percent from 4.8 percent, giving them 13 seats in parliament. People's Party leader Wolfgang Schuessel, who is also foreign minister, stood by his pre-election pledge to go into opposition if beaten into third place. But he refused to concede defeat and predicted that the conservatives would yet nudge into second.

Marianas Variety
Serving the Commonwealth for 26 years
Published Monday to Friday By Younis Art Studio, Inc.
Publishers:
Abed and Paz Younis
Rafael H. Arroyo Editor
Zaidy Dandan Associate Editor
Member of The Associated Press (AP)
P.O. Box 231, Saipan MP 96950-0231
Tel. (670) 234-6341/7578/9797/9272
Fax: (670) 234-9271
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NMC Student Council resolute:

'No new Youth Congress vote'

By Marian A. Maraya
Variety News Staff
THE NORTHERN Marianas College (NMC) Student Council has disclosed plans to challenge the Legislative Bureau's request that the College hold its Youth Congress elections again following reports that NMC did not perform proper election procedures by submitting photocopied ballots. The Student Council finds the re-election "unnecessary" citing

that the student body has conducted its elections in line with accepted electoral laws and statutes. NMC Student Council President Christi Omgengebar yesterday said that the Council administered elections in accordance with what is written in the Second CNMI Youth Congress Election Manual. In the Council's interpretation of the law, NMC has the responsibility to run its own elections.

"We were told that we can coordinate our own elections," said Omgengebar. The Bureau noted some discrepancies in NMC's tallied results. It was learned that the Council allowed some 75 unregistered voters to vote knowing there were only 32 legitimate ones. But Omgengebar stated that the 32 registered voters for NMC is the same figure the College had last year.

"They did not give us the updated list. And since we were left responsible in coordinating our own elections, we allowed bona fide students of the College to vote," she said. Omgengebar also said that the Council consulted with top school officials before allowing other students to vote. "They gave us a go signal," said Omgengebar. NMC Youth Congress Election

coordinators last week reportedly met with a Legal Counsel at the Legislature to discuss on the issue. The Legal Counsel assured the Council that it has employed perfectly acceptable election procedures, according to the Council President. The Council is also set to meet with House Floor Leader Ana S. Teregeyo (R-Saipan) to tackle on what's to be done under the circumstances.

Make-A-Wish Foundation to make kids' dream come true

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff
THE FIELD office of the Make-A-Wish Foundation in the commonwealth has identified six local children with life-threatening illnesses who could possibly be given chances to make their dreams come true. According to Director Linda Guerrero of Guam's Make-A-Wish-Foundation, her current visit to the CNMI is aimed at meeting the sick children and qualify their wishes. Guerrero said granting a child's wish entails a lot of coordination and the organization is trying to grant the wishes as soon as possible. Members of the foundation are all volunteers, according to board member David M. Sablan, who is also Saipan's main coordinator opposite First Lady Sophie P. Tenorio. Other Saipan volunteers for the foundation include Angie Mendiola, Marian Tudela, Sue Mafnas, Annie Sablan, Frances Demapan and Chailang Palacios. The foundation is a non-profit national organization which started in 1980 dedicated to bringing hope and laughter to children

between the ages of 2.5 to 18 with life-threatening illnesses. CNMI is part of the Guam chapter, so the foundation decided to put a field office on Saipan to make the dreams of the terminally-ill children come true. However, the first lady is hoping that CNMI can have a successful and full-pledged chapter like in Guam. The Guam Chapter, Guerrero said, started in 1987. The foundation's work is made possible entirely through donations of money, goods and services from generous corporate and individual contributors in the community. The foundation coordinators pointed out that only a child's physician can determine if a child is medically qualified for a wish. When a wish is granted, the immediate family is always included in the wish. Majority of the wishes which the foundation grants usually falls in four categories such as "I want to go...., I want to have...., I want to be...., and I want to meet." The field office of the Make-A-Wish Foundation on Saipan is located near the Marianas Visitors Authority Office with telephone number 234-9474 (WISH).

Firemen conduct fire drills at Oleai School

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff
TO PREPARE the commonwealth for any future fires, the Fire Division of the Department of Public Safety yesterday paid a surprise visit at Oleai Elementary School to test how teachers and students respond to emergency cases. The firefighters, in coordination with the school administration, used smoke machines to alert the classroom teachers. The teachers quickly responded, and brought the students in different safe school locations such as in the softball field, headstart and basketball court. According to acting Principal Jess I. Waboll, OES held a fire drill last week but what happened yesterday was entirely different because it was a surprise fire practice wherein teachers and students were not aware it was just simulated. OES experienced a real fire incident in 1990, Waboll added. Firefighter Ernie Dela Cruz, who coordinated the drill, said the simulated drills is set to prepare the school staff on how to get the students out in real fire cases. He added that the Fire Division has been doing the drills in

different schools for over three years now. Yesterday's simulated fire drill was headed by Dela Cruz, and firefighters Derek Hocog and Mobil Carney.

Aside from OES, the designated firefighters from the Fire Division will be going to different schools as part of the Fire Prevention Awareness Week campaign.



A teacher from OES quickly brings students out of the classroom during a simulated fire drill initiated by the DPS Fire Division yesterday. Photo by Louie C. Alonso

Oct. musical salon set

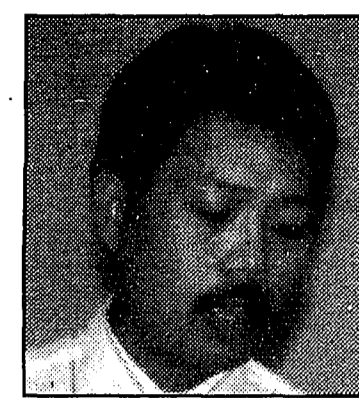
THE OCTOBER musical salon sponsored by the Friends of the Arts will feature Jeff Funk, with an afternoon performance of acoustic guitar and 1970's style American folk music. The music reminds the foot stomping sensation of the battle of the banjos in August, the Friends said in a press release. Held every second Sunday of each month at the Commonwealth Museum of History and Culture, the Friends of the Arts takes pride in sponsoring informal afternoons featuring professional and amateur musical talents from the resident pool on Saipan and the occasional visitor. The salons are open to the public and take place inside the mu-

Free plant vouchers

INCELEBRATION of Arbormonth, the Department of Lands and Natural Resources through the Division of Agriculture's Forestry Section and the Urban and Community Forestry Program announces the release of free plant vouchers to interested households in Saipan. Anyone may obtain the vouchers for free plants at selected local nurseries. Interested households are invited to pick up vouchers at the DLNR offices in Lower Base, Kagman and As Perdido during regular government working hours. There are a limited number of vouchers available for distribution, so don't miss your opportunity to help beautify the Islands.

Guam gets \$41M in Section 30 funds

FERDINAND "Danny" Aranza, Director of the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs, (OIA) announced that the Federal Government paid into the Guam treasury its "annual cover-over" of \$41 million dollars in accordance with section 30 of the Organic Act of Guam (Section 30 money). This substantial sum of money represents various federal revenues paid into the US Treasury rather than into Guam's Treasury by military personnel and federal workers on Guam.



Ferdinand "Danny" Aranza

Although not unexpected, this annual federal funding enhances the local government's ability to provide key services to the people. Over the past years, the leadership of Guam and career staff at Guam's Department of Revenue and Taxation have consistently worked to increase Guam's Section 30 money. Staff members and Revenue and Taxation have worked very closely with OIA and the Internal Revenue Service (IRS) in Washington, D.C. to increase the section 30 money. By finding off-island military members who report Guam as their home of record, the section 30 money has steadily increased to today's level. Once the IRS informs OIA that an adjustment is warranted, OIA works with the IRS to receive certification and a process unfolds resulting in the transfer of funds to the appropriate account on Guam. Normally, in a year with no special adjustment, OIA issued one payment to Guam at the end of September which represents an advance for the succeeding year and any necessary adjustments based on an analysis of actual data received for prior years. This year, as a result of local efforts by Guam's revenue and Taxation, two prior payments were made totaling approximately \$8 Million Dollars. Aranza added "I know that countless staff members at Rev and Tax worked tirelessly to raise Guam's Section 30 money over the years. I have personally observed the efforts of one such individual, Joe Bamba, who constantly pushes this issue. So often, the unselfish efforts of government workers go unnoticed. OIA is fully committed to working with the leadership and the people of Guam on the island's issue.

McPhetres appoints self-study committee

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff
NORTHERN Marianas College President Agnes McPhetres has appointed a self-study committee that would help the college in its application to start a four-year bachelor's degree program in Elementary Education.



Agnes McPhetres

The college has also started a process which leads towards the affirmation of its accreditation to the Western Association of Schools and Colleges. McPhetres said the major part of the college's application for a four-year bachelor's degree program involves the completion of the self-study report that thoroughly describes all elements of NMC; analyzes the elements to identify the college's strengths and weaknesses in terms of stan-

dards set by WASC; and outlines plans to address the identified weaknesses. "This self-study process is aimed at quality assurance and institutional improvement. Its effectiveness rests on the principle of self-regulation. The participation of

variety of committees and sub-committees from all constituent groups of NMC ensures that the study is "owned by everyone in the institution," the NMC president said in a memo to faculty. McPhetres has appointed Vince Riley and Chas Algaier as co-chairs for NMC's New Millennium Self Study. Within the next month, NMC will ask the students, faculty, Board of Regents, administrators and staff to participate in the self-study process as a subcommittee chair, co-chair, or member. McPhetres and the Board of Regents are urging the NMC community to participate in the self-study program "to ensure that the college takes a major step in providing quality public service to the local community."

No hype,
No frills,
No surprises...
Just the facts
on long distance.

FACT	
IT&E	Startec PCI
1. No contract required	You MUST sign a contract to enroll under the Global Connect Plan.
2. No term commitment	You MUST commit to a minimum 1 year subscription period under the Global Connect Plan.
3. No usage commitment	You WILL NOT earn discounts under the Global Connect Plan if your monthly call volume is below \$20.
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Palau state settles case with nat'l gov't

By Rene P. Acosta
For the Variety

KOROR (Palau Horizon) — The State of Ngatpang's constitutional case may soon be over.

Ngatpang has settled its case with the national government on a row involving its state constitution and has agreed to follow the conditions set by the republic.

As a result, the long standing dispute over the validity of Ngatpang's statutory law in relation to the republic's constitution may soon be put to rest.

The case, declaratory and other relief, was filed against Ngatpang on July 21, by the national government through the Office of the

Special Prosecutor (OSP), alleging that the state constitution does not comply with Article XI of the republic's fundamental law.

Also, Ngatpang's alleged structure and organization of its government does not follow the democratic principles and traditions of Palau, and it is not in conformity with the national constitution. The case was lodged before the Supreme Court-Trial Division.

In settling the case, the state has agreed to provide the drafting of amendments to its own constitution that include a revised structure of its government which shall be consistent with the national

constitution.

It is agreed upon that majority of Ngatpang residents should participate in the framing of the proposed revisions.

The revision should include a set of "suffrage criteria" that will comply "with national voter requirements for any election or referendum.

It should also provide the right to some key public officials to vote along with the amendment of the constitution by the people without the requirement of obtaining the approval of any elected or appointed public official.

The agreement also called for the holding of a referendum for November this year for the approval of the revised constitution which will only be adopted if favored by the majority of Ngatpang voters.

In order to make sure that the conditions would be followed, both parties have agreed before the high tribunal that the case should continue until the November referendum has been carried out.

In the event that Ngatpang reneged on following the conditions, both the state and the national governments agreed that the agreement should be voided out and the republic should be free to take any legal action.

In return to Ngatpang's acceptance of the settlement, the OSP has agreed not to seek for any monetary penalty, reimbursement, or fines as a result of its action in taking the case to court, while moving for the case dismissal.

It has also agreed "to assist, to the extent requested, and

deemed appropriate, the state of Ngatpang in its efforts to adopt a revised constitution."

The settlement agreement followed the national government's submission of a motion for summary judgment on the case which was replied and admitted upon by the state.

In its reply, the state said "it concurs with the OSP that the Ngatpang State Constitution does not fulfill the legal requirements under Article XI of the constitution of the Republic of Palau" and admitted all the allegations that were made as the basis in the filing of the relief.

As an offshoot of the agreement, the election which has been scheduled for the state's executive officer at the end of this year has been postponed and would only take place after the revision has been done.

FSM signs diplomatic relations with Ukraine

NEW YORK — The Governments of the Federated States of Micronesia and of Ukraine have signed an agreement establishing diplomatic relations.

Ukraine's Permanent Representative of Ukraine Volodymyr Yel'chenko and Charge d'Affaires of the Permanent Mission of the Federated States of Micronesia to the United Nations Tadao P. Sigrah signed the Joint Communique establishing relations at the Ambassadorial level between the two countries.

The joint communique seeks "to develop bilateral co-operation in the political, trade, economic and other fields of interest to both countries" in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

Ukraine is a founding member of the United Nations and remains active with General Assembly business.

Ukraine's population is about 50 million people and its territory is the second largest in Europe, with its capital city being Kyiv.

FSM President lashes at donors' one-size-fits-all treatment of isles

NEW YORK (FSM Permanent Mission to the UN) — Federated States of Micronesia President Leo A. Falcam has lashed at the "one-size-fits-all" treatment small island nations are being subjected to by donor states.

In his speech before the 22nd special session of the United Nations General Assembly recently, Falcam noted the slow implementation of the Programme of Action adopted at the Global Conference on the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States held in Barbados in 1994.

Falcam pointed out that the receipts of official development assistance (ODA) by

small island states over the past five years have declined significantly.

He lamented that many donors seemed content to lump small island states into one generic category when considering development assistance.

"Island states have varying characteristics and must be dealt with individually," he said.

"Development assistance," the President continued, "must not be based solely on the static figures of gross domestic product or population, but must be tailored with an eye on the various terrestrial and maritime characteristics that contribute to the uniqueness

of each island nation."

The islands, the President said, need help and will continue to need help.

He warned that small islands will only serve as disastrous examples of global complacency and inaction if positive and urgent actions by the international community on critical issues affecting small islands are not taken.

The President thus appealed to the donors who have generously supported the Barbados Programme of Action (BPoA) and pleaded that all nations proceed with the sense of urgency that our global reality demand today.

Pacific moves to deal with marine spills

FIVE PACIFIC island countries which have all recently suffered oil spills in their waters have decided they cannot wait for a final version of a model marine spill contingency plan.

Instead, they have taken draft planning guidelines prepared by the South Pacific Regional Environment Programme's Pacific Ocean Pollution Prevention Programme (PACPOL) and have drawn up their own national contingency plans.

PACPOL programme manager Steve Raaymakers said Pacific island countries received a draft template for national contingency plans for dealing with marine spills in December last year, and guidelines were finalised this week.

"However, some countries wanted to move faster," Mr Raaymakers said.

"Tuvalu have already taken the initiative to work out their national contingency plan; Fiji has just asked SPREP to review its guidelines; Vanuatu's national marine spill contingency plan is almost completed; Samoa is about to start on its national plan and the Cook Islands have asked SPREP staff to visit, to help develop a Cook Islands contingency plan."

Raaymakers said all these countries had been motivated by recent oil spills, which made them realize the value of contingency plans.

"If you've already planned what you need to do in the unfortunate event of a marine spill, you can

act much more rapidly and decisively, and have a better chance of limiting the damage."

He said it was impossible to overstate how important coastal and marine environments are to every aspect of the lives of Pacific island communities.

"The impacts of marine spills constitute a major concern for all Pacific island peoples. And because the ocean connects all countries, a spill in one area can affect others, as pollutants and contaminants from a marine spill are carried elsewhere by ocean currents.

"It is therefore essential for Pacific island countries to make regional arrangements to deal with marine pollution. No single country in the region can address this problem in isolation."

After 5 years of independence

Palau sees tangible progress

By Malou L. Sayson
For the Variety

KOROR (Palau Horizon) — Five years since it achieved independence, Palau has seen

Koror in clean-up frenzy

By Rene P. Acosta
For the Variety

KOROR (Palau Horizon) — The national government and the state government of Koror is in a cleaning frenzy after President Nakamura ordered a day of cleaning for Koror.

Sept. 30 was declared as "Clean Up Day" for Koror as ministry and state employees were asked to participate in preparations for the week-long South Pacific Forum conference which started over the weekend.

Areas being clean up include M-Dock; Waiting House; Ngetmedech; T-Dock; Ngetkedam; K-B Bridge; Meyuns Airport; Palau Community College grounds; Long Island; Fisheries Dock; Icebox; and all causeways.

The drive was led by the Ministry of Health and the state government of Koror. The project preceded a similar clean-up drive along the side streets from the international airport in Airai all the way down to the conference sites in Koror during the past few days.

Meanwhile, police officers, at least 30 of them, have been detailed as security to the delegates attending the conference.

Temmy Shmull, the chairman of the SPF organizing committee, said the police officers will be complimented by hotel security personnel and volunteers.

The volunteers, according to him, would also perform other tasks such as that of liaison officers.

The preparation, especially on the aspect of security for the attending leaders, was mapped out about eight months ago.

Aside from government-provided security, the leaders have with them their own personal security.

Legal experts focus on nuke waste shipments

For the Variety

LIABILITY and compensation issues relating to the shipments of nuclear materials by sea between Europe and Japan had recently been discussed with degree of seriousness by officials from the Forum Island Countries (FICs).

The nuclear waste shipments have been noted as a major concern to South Pacific Forum (SPF) member countries and such will be tackled in the 30th SPF in Koror.

Liability and compensation issues, safety of shipments, salvage arrangements and relevant treaties and other related legal issues have been further discussed recently by the legal experts in the region at the Forum Secretariat in Suva, Fiji.

"intangible progress," President Nakamura said, as he went back and noted the economic gains of the past year.

In an interview, Nakamura

said the gains are more of a legacy. Though intangible, they remain imbedded in the minds and hearts of the people.

The president was pointing to how Palauans have grown as "mature" people.

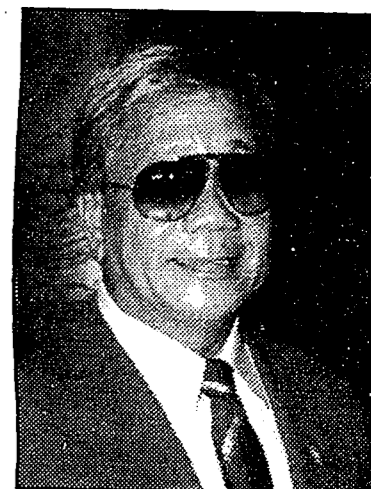
"We have now realized the fruits of being independent as a nation. And, with this confidence as a people, we can build a better Palau," he said.

With confidence, the president said Palauans now have a positive attitude and pride as

a nation. "That's a source of love for and loyalty to the country," he pointed out, although he said there are always uncertainties down the road.

On the overall, Nakamura said Palau is doing good in spite of the economic crisis and natural disasters in the (Asia-Pacific) region.

"Palau is blessed, not to have failed in advancing its economic gains. Our report card says we passed the tests," the president said.



Kuniwo Nakamura



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BOARD OF PROFESSIONAL LICENSING PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus Sablan through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, October 12, 1999 at 10:00 AM at the Board's Office located on the 2nd Floor of the Island Commercial Center Building in Guato Rai, Saipan. Agenda for the board meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order	6. Chairman's Report
2. Determination of Quorum	7. Board Administrator's Report
3. Review and Adoption of Agenda	8. Investigator's Report
4. Review and Adoption of Minutes - September 1999 Board Meeting Minutes	9. Committee Reports
5. Communications from Governor's Office & Legislature	10. Old Business
A. Governor's Office	A. Applications for Board's Review
B. Legislature	11. New Business
	12. Miscellaneous Business
	A. Election of Officers
	13. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ Francisco Q. Guerrero
Chairman

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS OFFICE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Civil Service Commission hereby gives notice that the Board will meet on Friday, October 8, 1999. The Board will convene at 9:00 a.m., at the Department of Commerce Conference Room in Teneto, Rota. Additional information concerning this meeting is available at the Commission Office, Building No. 1211, Capitol Hill, Saipan. The Commission may also be reached at phone numbers 322-4363 and 322-6954 or fax number 322-3327.

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES - Sept. 15, 1999
- IV. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS
- V. NEW BUSINESS
- VI. OLD BUSINESS
- X. ANNOUNCEMENT
- XI. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ VICENTE M. SABLAN
Chairman
Civil Service Commission

SPF officials meet on issues

KOROR (Pacnews)—Senior officials from the 16 South Pacific Forum member states have met in Koror, Palau over the weekend to prepare advice on key regional issues for Forum Leaders to consider at their annual meeting later this week.

The Forum Officials Committee forwarded the recommendations of Forum Ministerial meetings held over the past year,

including the recommendation by Forum Trade and Economic Ministers for Forum Leaders to endorse in principle a Free Trade Area in Forum Island Countries.

The outcome of other Ministerial meetings in the areas of aviation, communications, economic reform, trade, and the report on the Forum Ministerial Committee's visit to New Caledonia are also expected to

be conveyed to the Leaders for endorsement.

"The Forum Officials Committee will also consider and advise the Forum on other issues of common concern to the region," a statement from the Forum Secretariat said.

"These include climate change and sea-level rise; environmental vulnerability index; transshipment of nuclear materi-

als; regional security co-operation in law enforcement; fisheries related issues; the outcomes of the United Nations Special Session on Small Island Developing States; and issues to be raised with the Forum's development partners."

"Reports will also be tabled by a number of regional organisations such as the Forum Secretariat; Forum Fisher-

ies Agency (FFA); South Pacific Applied Geo-science Commission (SOPAC); South Pacific Regional Environment Programme (SPREP) and the Tourism Council of the South Pacific (TCSP)."

The two-day meeting was officially opened by Reverend Billy Kuartei, Minister of Education of Palau. The meeting was chaired by Jean Sese from Vanuatu.



Fijians display produce for sale outside the municipal market building in Suva, Fiji. The market is the largest in the South Pacific. AP

Australia, Fiji leaders noticeably absent from South Pacific Forum

KOROR (Pacnews) — There will be two notable absentees from this year's 30th South Pacific Forum summit, which gets underway in the Palau capital, Koror tomorrow.

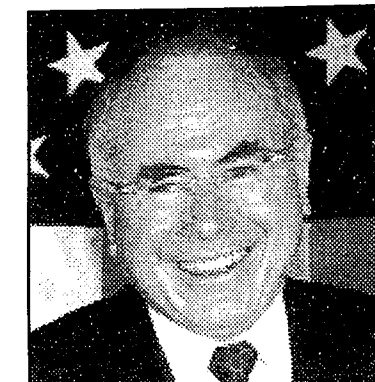
Australian Prime Minister, John Howard and his Fijian counterpart, Mahendra Chaudhry will not attend the annual leaders gathering but are sending their deputies.

Australian Deputy Prime Minister, National Party leader John Anderson is representing his country while Fiji's co-Deputy Prime Minister, Doctor Tupeni Baba will lead the Fiji delegation.

There has been no official explanation from the Australians about Howard's absence, but Forum officials said he is preoccupied with Australia's involvement in the East Timor crisis.

Fiji officials said Prime Minister Chaudhry is busy preparing for his new Government's first national budget that will be unveiled next month. Some observers at the Forum meeting raised concern that Chaudhry had not attended any Forum related meetings this year.

Chaudhry did not attend the Forum Economic Ministers meeting in Samoa and the



John Howard



Mahendra Chaudhry

Melanesian Spearhead Group leaders meeting in Vanuatu earlier this year.

New Zealand officials confirmed at the weekend their Prime Minister, Jenny Shipley will attend the Forum leaders summit. She had said earlier she would not attend.

The new New Caledonian President, Jean Leques and leader of the pro-independence movement, FLNKS, Roc Wamytan will also attend the meeting for the first time as New Caledonian observers.

New Caledonia was recently accorded observer status at the Forum because of the successful implementation of the Noumea Accord, which over 10-15 years would allow the territory to attain

full autonomy from France.

This year's Forum will see a number of new leaders attending.

They include Papua New Guinea's Prime Minister, Sir Mekere Morauta, Prime Minister of Cook Islands Doctor Joe Williams, Nauru's President Rene Harris, Premier Sani Lakatani from Niue and Tuvalu's Prime Minister Ionatana Ionatana.

Member countries of the Forum are Australia, Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Marshall Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Ex-PNG gov't advisor cleared of criminal charges

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews)—Chief economic advisor to the former Papua New Guinea (PNG) Government, Dr Pirouz Hamidian-Rad, has been cleared of criminal charges due to insufficient evidence.

The Waigani committal court yesterday discharged Dr Hamidian-Rad after finding that he did not commit any of the offences with which he had been charged.

Dr Hamidian-Rad was charged by police on counts of misappropriation and false pretences, allegedly committed between July 28, 1998 and March 31, 1999.

"There is no prima-facie evidence that there was dishonesty or that the defendant had the intention to defraud the Independent State of Papua New Guinea.

Accordingly, both charges

are dismissed and the defendant is discharged forthwith.

His bail must be reimbursed," ruled Chief Magistrate George Manuhu.

It was submitted earlier in court by police prosecution that the defendant had dishonestly applied to his own use by false pretence the sum of K32,000 (US\$10,736) from the Department of Treasury and Corporate Affairs.

The charge arose from the payment by the department of a sum of K84,000 (US\$28,184) as a fee for consultant Cletus Ngaffkin, an employee of Dr Hamidian-Rad's company, Iklub Consultancy Pty Ltd.

Relying on a statement by Ngaffkin, the prosecution claimed that the consultant received only K60,000 (US\$20,131), a shortfall of

K24,000 (US\$8,053).

The court was further told that the defendant only paid Ngaffkin K52,000 (US\$17,447), withholding K8,000 (US\$2,684) for utilities, resulting in the claim of misappropriation of K32,000.

It was also alleged that when executing Ngaffkin's employment contract, the defendant tried to offer inducements to the then Secretary for the Department of Treasury and Corporate Affairs, Morea Vele.

But Chief Magistrate Manuhu further ruled that there was no evidence that the defendant had sought to compromise the interests of the State, nor that he had asked anyone to breach any law.

"Consequently, any injury caused to the State was clearly self-inflicted. There is prima-facie evidence that everyone

succumbed to the political will regardless," said Magistrate Manuhu in his decision.

The court noted that both Secretary Vele and then Treasury and Finance Minister Iairo Lasaro had failed to make themselves available to assist the Court by giving evidence.

Lasaro and Vele are the two persons who actually executed the original agreement and were in a perfect position to raise the issue of the likelihood of a breach of law.

The court also ruled that in the letter of proposals for the engagement of Ngaffkin, there was potential for non-compliance with financial management rules.

But because Vele and Lasaro failed to terminate the proposed agreement there and then, the court ruled that the defendant could not be held criminally responsible for

those acts and omissions.

"Likewise, the defendant cannot be criminally liable for the subsequent questionable deliberation by the Tenders Board on Nov 24, 1998 resulting in the issuing of a Certificate of Inexpediency for the engagement of Mr Ngaffkin, amongst others," said the Magistrate.

Following the decision, Dr Hamidian-Rad, while expressing his belief that justice had finally been done, told reporters that charges would be laid against Ngaffkin for perjury.

Dr Hamidian-Rad added that all his contracts were legally executed and went through the proper authorities.

Police prosecutor Thomas Eluh said that this was not the end of the case adding that they would revive the case once police made additional evidence available.

Unrest over RP fuel price hikes

MANILA, (Reuters) - The Philippines is set to raise workers' wages and is studying proposals to sell state rice at cheaper prices to try to defuse social unrest caused by rising fuel costs.

Leftist groups have threatened to launch transport strikes after the country's three major oil refiners last week increased for the sixth time in seven months the prices of domestic fuel, including diesel used for mass transport.

President Joseph Estrada, appealing for restraint, said on Saturday he was studying a proposal to lower the price of rice sold by government warehouses to 16 pesos (\$0.04) per kilo from 18 pesos.

He also ordered wage boards composed of labour arbiters, unionists and private employers to speed up action on workers' demands for an increase in their daily wage.

The minimum daily wage is currently pegged at 198 pesos (\$4.86) for workers in the Manila area, with workers in rural areas receiving lower rates.

To cushion the impact on the public transport industry of the new fuel rates announced by Pilipinas Shell,

Caltex and Petron Corp, the government has authorised a 20 percent increase in transportation fares effective on Monday - a move expected to inflate the prices of basic commodities.

Pilipinas Shell is a unit of the Royal Dutch/Shell Group while Caltex is joint venture between Chevron Corp and Texaco Inc.

"Let's hang on for a little longer," Estrada told the nation in his weekly television talk show on Saturday.

"I myself am losing sleep because they are blaming me for this increase in the prices of fuel," he said.

Public discontent over fuel price increases and the imminent rise of public transport fares could not have come at a worse time for Estrada.

In recent weeks, he has come under attack from the church, the political opposition and leftist groups over his proposal to amend the nation's constitution to allow foreign investors ownership of land and 100 percent stakes in utilities.

Estrada has said the constitutional reforms are needed to attract investors which would otherwise go to neighbouring countries like Thailand and Vietnam.

"There is a large tinderbox waiting for the sparks the militant protest groups are trying to create," political analyst Alex Magno wrote in his column in the Manila Standard newspaper.

"The prospect of higher fuel

and transport prices - and consequently, higher food prices - has created profound social distress."

Magno added: "There is patent danger in this situation that the administration will begin waffling in the face of

building social stress and fall into erratic populist responses."

The Philippine Post newspaper said in an editorial: "The difficulties that will beset this country are not pleasant to contemplate."



A demonstrator wears a crocodile mask to symbolize their protest against the oil deregulation law that allows oil companies to set their own prices during a picket in the financial district of Makati Monday. AP

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Indonesia elects speaker

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesia's highest legislative body elected a powerful political figure as its speaker Sunday, a position that could gain real power for the first time under the country's democratic reforms.



B.J. Habibie

Voting by secret ballot, the People's Consultative Assembly elected Amien Rais of the National Mandate Party. Rais is a leader of a bloc of small parties called the Axis Front that could determine the outcome of the presidential race to be held in less than three weeks.

The choice of a first-rank politician like Rais indicated that the assembly speaker is likely to gain power under constitutional reforms the legislature will consider during this session. The reforms are expected to dilute the powers of the presidency.

In previous years, the head of the assembly was a figurehead. Under the authoritarian regimes of President Suharto and his predecessor Sukarno, the assembly rubber-stamped the president's policies and most decisions were unanimous.

Rais was elected by 305 votes to 279 for his closest rival. Six other candidates ran, but won only 63 votes total.

three-week session. President B.J. Habibie will give his state-of-the-nation speech Oct. 14. He is likely to address the issue of whether Suharto, who was ousted last year, will be prosecuted on charges of corruption.

The accelerated schedule

comes amid growing impatience with Habibie over his handling of East Timor and a major banking scandal that has implicated high government officials.

Habibie, who was Suharto's protege, was elevated to the presidency when Suharto was

forced to step down. He is seeking his first elected term in office.

His main challenger is Megawati Sukarnoputri, daughter of Sukarno, the country's founding father. Her party won the largest share of the vote in the June 7 election.



Indonesian presidential race frontrunner and the leader of Indonesian Democratic Party for Struggle (PDI-P) Megawati Sukarnoputri (left) speaks to the chairmen of PDI-P Kwik Kian Gie (middle) and Laksamana Sukardi (right) during People's Consultative Assembly meeting to elect the new Indonesian House Speaker in Jakarta on Sunday.

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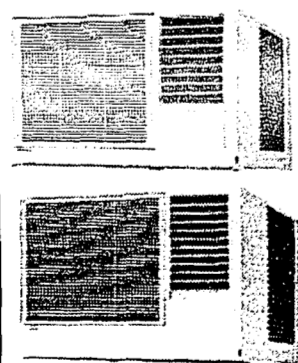
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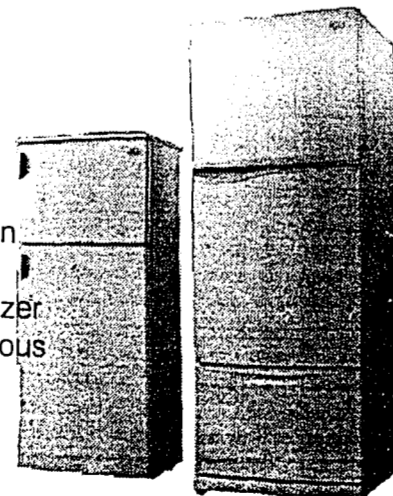
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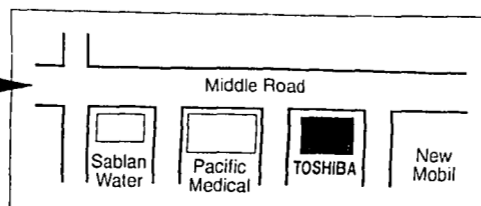
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Japan probes nuke disaster

TOKAIMURA, Japan (AP) — The government launched a full-scale investigation Sunday into the cause of Japan's worst nuclear disaster, while more questions arose about safety measures used at the site.

Workers at the uranium-processing plant in Tokaimura, a town of 33,000 people about 70 miles northeast of Tokyo, had been ignoring legally binding procedures for four years, local news media reported, quoting company officials.

To determine if this was true, the Science and Technology Agency, which oversees the country's nuclear program, began questioning officials of the plant's operator, JCO Co., agency spokesman Ken Maruoka said.

The accident occurred Thursday after workers mistakenly put too much uranium into a bucket-like container, setting off an uncontrolled atomic reaction that continued for hours, spurring radioactive particles into the air.

Instead of relying on the high-tech equipment expected at a nuclear facility, the workers had been manually pouring the potentially deadly material, company officials said. Japanese media reports also said the workers had never received proper training.

One of the employees, Hisashi Ouchi, was found to have been exposed to about 17,000 times the normal annual exposure to radiation.

"It is a lethal dose," said Dr. Kazuhiko Maekawa, one of the physicians treating Ouchi at Tokyo University Hospital.

Maekawa said the next few days will be critical. He said doctors have decided that Ouchi will receive a transplant of blood stem cells to help restore his white blood cell count and prevent him from losing the function of his bone marrow, which is keenly sensitive to radiation exposure.

The government says 49 people were exposed to the radiation, although Ouchi and two other plant workers were the only ones hospitalized.

Doctors are considering a transplant of blood stem cells for another of the workers as well, said Saburo Tojo, a spokesman for the National Institute of Radiological Sciences spokesman.

Officials reiterated their promise to get to the bottom of what happened, amid public anger over how such a potentially devastating accident could have occurred.

Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi said Sunday that he had instructed Science Agency officials to conduct a strict investigation.

"I heard the accident was caused by the way the company ran their operations with

little regard for safety. I think that's unforgivable," Obuchi was quoted as saying by Kyodo News agency.

Police also have begun investigating whether JCO was negligent. Officials said they will seek criminal charges against JCO, a wholly owned subsidiary of Sumitomo Metal Mining Co.

The government has said that despite the accident, Japan's overall nuclear power policies stand unchanged. Japan has few natural resources, and relies on atomic energy for about a third of its electricity.

Still, the accident has shattered the myth of Japan's supersafe nuclear technology, and opposition is likely to grow, even in a harmony-oriented nation where loud, aggressive protests tend to be rare.



Residents of Tokaimura receive blood check Sunday three days after the nuclear accident that workers of JCO uranium-processing plant mistakenly put too much uranium into a bucket-like container, setting off an uncontrolled atomic reaction that spurted radioactivity into the air Thursday.

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Radical students carry their groups' flags while gathering at Seoul Railroad Station Square Sunday. Students staged an anti-U.S. rally, denouncing a large-scale killing of civilian refugees by American soldiers in No Gun Ri in 1950 during the early days of the Korean War. AP

Korea students protest vs. alleged US killings

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Waving signs and chanting, a South Korean student group rallied in downtown Seoul on Sunday, demanding that the United States punish those responsible for the alleged mass killings of civilians by U.S. forces at the start of the Korean War.

It was the first public reaction from South Korea's largest student group, called Hanchongryon and known for its anti-U.S. views, regarding last week's news report on the alleged killings in July 1950. "The U.S. government must punish people responsible for the massacre!" a group of 40 students chanted, pumping their clenched fists into the air.

Last week, The Associated Press reported accounts by American veterans, corroborating those of South Korean villagers, that their unit killed a large number of civilians at No Gun Ri, South Korea, during the early days of the Korean War. The villagers say 400

died.

The AP also found once-classified documents showing that U.S. commanders ordered their troops to shoot civilians as a defense against disguised enemy soldiers.

At the rally in Seoul's main railroad plaza, the students demanded that the United States apologize to South Korea and the victims' families.

Riot police stood around the protesters but did not intervene. No clashes were reported.

"Americans are beasts wearing masks of human beings!" the group said in a statement.

Hanchongryon has led violent street protests in the past, but its influence has decreased sharply in recent years.

The government outlawed the group because it supported the withdrawal of 37,000 U.S. troops based in South Korea as well as other key demands made by communist North Korea. The group says the U.S. military presence

increases tension on the divided Korean peninsula.

Aging South Koreans who said they survived the killings said Friday that they would not allow anti-American sentiment to affect their search for the truth behind No Gun Ri.

They said they recognized the importance of friendly relations between Washington and Seoul and understood the valuable security role the United States plays in deterring threats from the communist North.

The two Koreas are still technically at war because no peace treaty was signed at the end of the 1950-53 Korean War. Their border is the world's most heavily militarized.

After the AP report, the U.S. and South Korean governments promised thorough investigations into the No Gun Ri killings. Both governments had previously dismissed the survivors' claims.

Taiwan hits China over quake relief

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Taiwan lashed out at China on Sunday for interfering in the delivery of international relief to the earthquake-ravaged island, saying such tactics illustrate the need for Taiwan to be included in the United Nations.

China's demand that countries first ask its permission before delivering earthquake aid to Taiwan was in "complete defiance of the principle of humanitarian international relief," a Foreign Ministry statement said.

"This sort of behavior even more displays the absurd and illogical situation of Taiwan's exclusion from the United Nations that awaits rectification," it said.

Following the killer quake on Sept. 21, Chinese officials demanded that countries and international organizations wishing to aid Taiwan first seek its permission.

China views Taiwan as a renegade province that must eventually be reunited with the mainland, even though the two have been governed separately since a 1949 civil war.

Beijing-imposed diplomatic isolation ensures that Taiwan is not represented in the United Nations, and that only a handful of poor nations mostly in Africa, Central America and the Caribbean have diplomatic ties with Taiwan.

The earthquake, Taiwan's worst natural disaster in decades, killed over 2,100 and left thousands homeless in the mountainous central part of the island.

China's Foreign Ministry also offered thanks to the various nations that have sent rescue crews and other aid to Taiwan, behavior

Taiwanese government officials said was highly insulting.

Such actions are part of China's strategy of "spreading its propaganda internationally that it represents Taiwan and manufacturing the fallacy of communist China as the central government and of us as the locality," the ministry's statement said.

Newspapers here accused China of turning its back on an opportunity to win the goodwill of the Taiwanese. Instead, the nation alienated people by appearing to use the island's misery to push its own political goals, newspapers said.

Separately, China is pressuring Germany to block the delivery of a telecommunications satellite ordered by Taipei because China fears the satellite will be used for spying, the Taiwan's official Central News Agency said Sunday.

The German government has three times postponed issuing an export permit to Dornier Satellite System GmbH, maker of key components for the ROCSAT-2 scheduled for launch in 2002, CNA said, quoting the government's National Science Council.

Council officials were unavailable to comment on the report Sunday.

The Taiwanese government council signed a contract with Dornier in February for the satellite's sensing equipment, including cameras that can identify objects on the ground as small as six feet in size, CNA said.

According to the contract, Dornier was required to return Taiwan's \$600,000 deposit on the project if it failed to obtain an export permit by August, the agency said.

Ex-admiral longs for unification

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — In the winter of 1949, defeated by the communists in a war for the Chinese mainland, Capt. Ni Yue-si took an important passenger aboard his ship and set sail for Taiwan.

"Chiang Kai-shek was on my ship," the 85-year-old retired admiral said, sitting ramrod straight in his living room while reminiscing about that voyage with the leader of the Nationalist Chinese forces.

It was supposed to be only a brief retreat, but it turned into decades of exile.

Ni eventually rose to command Taiwan's navy, but lost touch with all his relatives who stayed on the mainland, including his brother, a Nationalist general who was allowed by the communists to teach at military colleges.

In exile, Chiang made Taiwan an anti-communist fortress, with U.S. warships helping guard against a Chinese invasion. His successors have turned that fortress into an economic powerhouse and a thriving democracy. Taiwanese are richer and freer than ever.

Now frail, Ni has spent his retirement years with his wife and son, trying to make up for the long absences demanded by his military career.

His wife, Ha Yi-wen, recalled how much she worried about

his missions. "So I didn't let my only son become another soldier," she said, and sent him to business school at Stanford University.

An easing of hostilities between China and Taiwan has become a time of healing for Ni. He was reunited with his brother, former Maj. Gen. Li Yuxu, and other family members in 1990.

Li had stayed behind and built a life as a military instructor under communist rule.

Still, nothing has eased the wound Ni felt from the death of his mother. She endured months of torment by the communists over her son's flight to Taiwan, then killed herself in despair.

But with China sealed off to the outside world, news of her death took nearly 30 years to trickle out. Ni nearly broke down when he learned about it from a cousin in New York who had visited the family's mainland tomb, said his son, Johnny.

From Taiwan, Ni clashed with Chinese forces as he tried to rescue his family by dedicating himself to Chiang's quixotic goal of recapturing the mainland.

In a 1955 battle depicted by an oil painting in his living room, Ni fought the communists for control of the Taishan islet group. He won, but the Nationalists soon gave up the islets to focus their defense on Taiwan itself. "We sank the (communist) gunboats -



Admiral Ni Yue-si (center) stands with his wife Ha Yi-wen and son Johnny Ni before an old picture of the admiral and his wife at their home in Taipei. The Ni's fled to Taiwan in 1949 after the nationalists were defeated by Mao Tse-tung's communist forces in the civil war. AP

12 of them," Ni said, pointing to the painting.

As deputy commander of the navy in 1958, Ni oversaw the movement of troops to Kinmen island in a key battle. After 89

days of Chinese artillery bombardment, China gave up trying to seize the little island within sight of the mainland.

Chiang saw a chance to recapture the mainland after China

tumbled into political upheaval with the beginning of the Cultural Revolution in 1966. But because of U.S. opposition, Taiwan's invasion plan was called off just 47 days before the planned attack, Johnny Ni said.

After serving as navy commander and chief of the general staff, Ni retired in 1967 to serve as Chiang's military adviser.

He is unwavering in his conviction that Taiwan will one day reunify with the mainland. "Of course, we will," he said in a firm voice.

The government of President Lee Teng-hui, Taiwan's first native-born leader, officially favors reunification but is building a separate Taiwanese identity.

Lee's attempt to win more international recognition for the island has led to frequent rows with China, which considers Taiwan a renegade province. The communist regime has threatened to attack if Taiwan ever declares formal independence.

Johnny Ni, who heads Taiwan's Small Business Administration, noted the island already has reunited with the mainland in some ways. Taiwanese have built more than 40,000 mainland factories and trade and travel to the mainland is booming.

"The Chinese employed by the Taiwanese and their dependents will oppose to the use of force against us," he said.

China general remains adapted to the ways of communism

WUHAN, China (AP) — Li Yuxu could have escaped.

It was 1949, and Li was a major general in the Nationalist Chinese army that had just lost a civil war to the communists. His sailor brother and other Nationalist troops were fleeing to Taiwan.

Li had time to join them. But while Taiwan is a thriving democracy now and one of Asia's most robust economies, then the island was an impoverished outpost with little to appeal to mainlanders.

"He didn't want to go. I didn't want to go," said Gao Sujun, Li's wife of 65 years. "We weren't (Nationalist) party members. He was just a soldier."

So Li stayed at his post in the western city of Chengdu to face the communists' wrath.

That blow never came. Instead of punishment, Li was sent back to school and in 1952 to teach at a war college. He spent three decades as an instructor in communist-run schools, trusted to cultivate the young minds of China's military elite.

Li, 88, is a survivor of an era that tore apart Chinese families as soldiers and civilians chose sides, with consequences that are still felt.

His brother, Ni Yue-si, fled with Nationalist leader Chiang Kai-shek and rose to command Taiwan's navy. At one point in the 1960s Ni was days away from

taking part in an attempt to recapture the mainland - a plan that was dropped.

Four decades passed before relations thawed between China and Taiwan enough for the two brothers to see each other again, in 1990.

Li didn't leave teaching until 1997, but his health has failed since then. His mind is sharp, his eyes bright and his handshake firm, but illness has robbed him

of speech. His wife and children speak for him.

He was part of China's military elite when he graduated in 1937 from the Whampoa Military Academy founded by Sun Yat-sen, leader of the republican revolution that ousted the last Chinese emperor in 1911.

In the late '30s, the Nationalists and communists forged an uneasy truce so they could fight a Japanese invasion. But after the

end of World War II in 1945, they turned on each other again.

Li spent much of his career training officers. Lack of combat action in a civil war with huge death tolls might have helped him when the communists weighed his postwar fate.

Other Nationalist soldiers spent years in captivity and their children were stigmatized. But Li appears to have benefited from communist attempts to appeal to

Nationalist supporters by showing mercy in high-profile cases.

It also probably didn't hurt that Li's brother-in-law - Gao's older brother - had been a communist operative in the 1930s. He died during World War II, giving her family the hallowed status of having sacrificed a son for the nation.

Gao's brothers tried in the 1930s to recruit Li into the party.

"He said, 'Don't recruit me; I trust you, and I'm non-partisan,'" she recalled at the retirement home where the couple is living while Li recovers from his latest illness.


Gao, herself a retired college instructor, is briskly matter-of-fact about what must have been an extraordinary transformation for Li from leading Nationalist general to communist servant.

"At the Communist Party school, he received education, changed his thinking and resolved those issues," she said.

Li spent nine years at a military college in the far northeastern city of Harbin, but transferred to Wuhan in central China after the bitter winters of the north aggravated health problems.

Li was regarded highly enough by the government that from 1961 to 1997, he was appointed to Hubei province's Chinese People's Political Consultative Committee, a powerless but prominent advisory body.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT



Thomas Reyes Dela Cruz

D.O.B.: December 31, 1971
DIED: September 29, 1999
was called to his eternal rest at the age of 27

PREDECEASED BY:
 Son/Daughter: Joshua Jay A. Dela Cruz
 Dianna A. Dela Cruz
 Grandparents: Ignacio C. Dela Cruz
 Remedio R. Dela Cruz
 Brother/Sister-in-law: Lorenzo C. Ayuyu
 Soledad C. Ayuyu

SURVIVED BY:
 Wife: Baubina Ayuyu Dela Cruz
 Children: Thamar, Mohanna, Dimesha, Thomas Dela Cruz
 Reared Daughter: Marian A. Mendiola
 Mother: Angelina Reyes Dela Cruz/Zaroso
 Father/Mother-in-law: Ambrocio M./Dolores C. Ayuyu
 Brothers/Sisters: Alicia Dela Cruz/Francisco Pangelinan (Sylvester, Diane, Francine), William R. Joann A. Dela Cruz (Angie, Jovita, Amanda, Betty-Jo), Antonio Dela Cruz/Doris Taisipic (Ray, Joshua, Justin, Jeren), Patricia/Rama Dela Cruz (Nicole Mae), Dimas/Pinky Dela Cruz (Piercha, Derek), Zerah/Albert Santos (Aldebert, Zelmia, Albert Jr.), Sophia Dela Cruz/Fermin Flores (Eric), Pedro/Mercy Ayuyu (Paul, Joy, Cheryl, Reggy, Merrill, Princess, P.J., Nikky), Ambrocio/Rosa Ayuyu (Olema, Joseph, Antonetta, Brian, Ambrose, Michael), Simion/Evelyn Ayuyu (Wayne, Wendy), Angel Ayuyu/Bernadita Napuli (Jason), Antonio/Cosette Ayuyu (Nicky, Holly), Ramon Ayuyu/Lovelyn Saralu (Sylvester), Carmen/Francisco San Nicolas (Gilbert, Marylou, MaryLeen, Judy, Jennifer, Frankie, Calvin, Bonnie), Jacobal/Jerry Gatch (Sally, Harriet, James, Rino, Zeladalin, Adrian, Dianora, Vincent), Lucy/Rodante Javier (Jose, Perry, Maniueluz, Silvester, Lorenzo, Meloygin, Ariel), Maria C. Ayuyu (Dustin), Vicenta/John Harmons (Debie, Harriet, John) Darling

Rosary is being said at 12:00 p.m. and 8:00 p.m. at Tinian Health Center. Last respects will be on Thursday, October 7, 1999 from 8:00 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. at the residence of Ambrosio & Dolores Ayuyu in Marpo, Tinian. Funeral Mass will be at 3:00 p.m. at San Jose Church, Tinian followed by the interment.

FROM THE FAMILY



Chun Wen-bian, 89 years old, left homeless from the earthquake, wipes his brow as he walks through the emergency supply depot in Tungshih, central Taiwan. Victims are starting to put their lives back together after the quake. AP

Embassy attack condemned

BANGKOK, (Reuters) - Nobel peace laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy condemned the seizure of the Myanmar embassy in Bangkok while dissident exiles and non-government groups hailed Thailand for ending the siege without bloodshed.

In a statement seen on Sunday the Myanmar opposition party said the attack by armed dissidents styling themselves the "Vigorous Burmese Student Warriors" was contrary

to its non-violent principles.

"While we understand the aspirations and frustrations of students and other democracy activists who have been forced to leave Burma by the repressive measures of the military regime, we categorically condemn the seizure of the embassy and the taking of hostages," the statement said.

But the NLD, which won Myanmar's last election in 1990 by a landslide only for the ruling military to ignore the result, blamed the inci-

dent on repression in Myanmar.

"We would like to draw the attention of the world to the fact that this act of violence at the Burmese embassy in Bangkok is an effect of the many acts of injustice and cruelty repeatedly perpetrated by the military regime in Myanmar," it said.

"Violence breeds violence," the statement added.

Five dissidents toting assault rifles and grenades stormed Myanmar's embassy

on Friday and took 89 people hostage. They demanded the release of all Myanmar political prisoners, dialogue between the military government and the opposition, and convening of a democratic parliament.

The siege ended after 25 hours of negotiations after which Thailand provided a helicopter to take the attackers to a safe area on the Thai-Myanmar border.

The 89 hostages freed included 38 held in the main embassy building and 51 who could not leave the compound because of the siege. Thai media reports said the 38 comprised 19 Myanmar nationals, five Thais, two French, two Canadians, and one each from Australia, Algeria, China, Taiwan, India, Singapore, Japan, Germany, America and Malaysia.

Thai Interior Minister Sanan Kachornprasart said Thailand gave the attackers safe passage as it did not consider them "terrorists" but people seeking democracy in their own country.

This statement from a fellow member of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is bound to incense Myanmar's generals who called the attackers terrorists.

The All Burma Students' Democratic Front, the main group of dissident students who fled to Thailand from military oppression, praised the Thais for the peaceful resolution of the siege and for not cracking down on exiled

Myanmar pro-democracy groups.

"The ABSDF hopes that punitive measures will not be taken against the peaceful democratic and ethnic groups as a consequence of this recent crisis," it added.

The group expressed "sincere regrets and genuine apology" to Thailand and reaffirmed that it had not been and would never be involved in such violence.

Nine Thai-based non-government organisations said the incident showed the need for the world to make a genuine commitment to a peaceful solution to Myanmar's problems.

In a statement they praised Thailand, and especially Deputy Foreign Minister Sukhumbhand Paribatra for temporarily exchanging himself for the freed hostages.

However, they urged Thailand as chair of ASEAN to initiate a diplomatic offensive by the regional group and its dialogue partners to push for political reform in Myanmar. Sukhumbhand has previously rebuffed such demands from the Myanmar opposition.

"We are concerned that unless the root causes of the problems in Burma are resolved peacefully and politically, the danger of similar hostage crises will still exist," the statement said.

In praising the central government, the statement urged Thai local authorities not to embark on a security backlash against exile groups that advocated non-violent pursuit of democracy.



Individuals taken hostage at the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok, Thailand, form a shield around their captors as they board a Royal Thai Army helicopter Saturday at a military field. The rebels, who seized the Myanmar Embassy the day before, were to be flown to the Thai-Myanmar border for release. AP

Indonesia OKs Timor refugees return

KUPANG, Indonesia (AP) - Indonesia will let the United Nations fly refugees home to East Timor from their squalid camps, U.N. officials said Sunday, offering hope to more than 100,000 people evicted from their homeland.

Craig Sanders, who is leading a U.N. assessment mission in West Timor, told The Associated Press that some refugees could be taken back on U.N.-chartered flights as early as Wednesday.

In Geneva, U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees Sadako Ogata welcomed the news, which she said was the first tangible result of her meeting last month with Indonesia's president.

"If the return actually happens, it will bring an end to the ordeal of thousands of miserable people," she said.

Aid agencies say the majority of the 230,000 refugees taken to West Timor - many of them against their will - would return if given a chance.

Pro-Indonesian militias went on a bloody rampage in East Timor after the province voted overwhelmingly to break away from Indonesia, which ruled the former

Portuguese colony since 1975.

During a UNHCR visit to the Gor refugee camp on Saturday, West Timor's governor, Piet Alexander Tallo, announced to 10,000 refugees that they would be able to leave.

"There was instant and spontaneous applause," Sanders said. Many of the refugees are in camps controlled by the same militias who wreaked havoc on East Timor, and concerns remain about their safety.

Human rights groups also are concerned about the Indonesian demand for an advance list of all the refugees wanting to return to East Timor, fearing that those who register may face retribution.

In East Timor, international peacekeepers sweeping the area near the West Timor border say they have found an empty wasteland.

About 800 soldiers were deployed late last week in the western districts, in the largest and most dangerous mission of the 2-week-old peacekeeping operation.

Lt. Col. Mark Kelly said the troops have seen no one since encountering 40 refugees in the

early stages of the operation and an armed militia group that scattered at the sight of the soldiers.

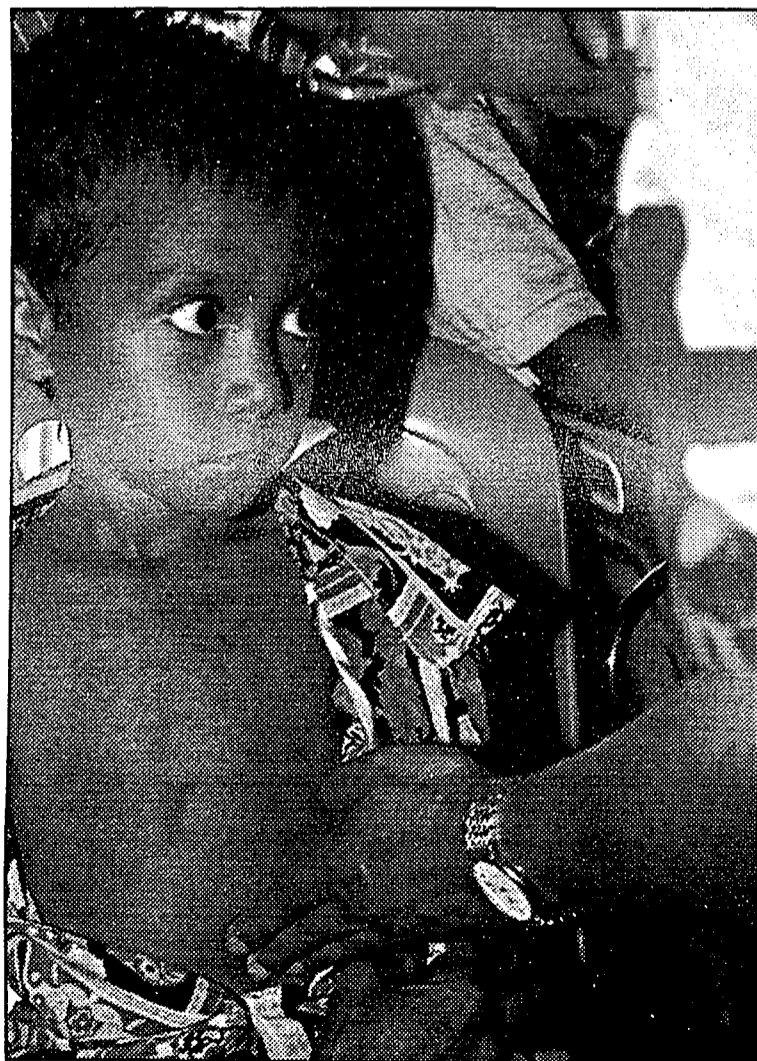
Commanders of the largest pro-Indonesia militia met in West Timor Sunday and encouraged their men to keep fighting to block East Timor's independence, the Antara news agency reported.

"We remain committed to holding the red and white flag in East Timor," said Joao da Silva Tavares, head of the Pro-Integration Warriors, referring to the Indonesian flag. "We are ready to die for integration."

U.S. and Australian intelligence reports say up to 4,000 militia had gathered near the border by last week, possibly to stage guerrilla strikes across the border.

David Wilmhurst, chief of the U.N. mission in Dili, told Australia's Channel Nine that Indonesian help was essential in delivering supplies in East Timor, and in reaching refugees in West Timor.

Preparations were under way for a major food distribution Tuesday in which families would receive enough rice to last a month, Wilmhurst said. AP



A British Gurkha army doctor treats an East Timorese child during a day-long free consultation for the people of the Manatuto regency town of Cariu, Sunday. International forces led by the British Gurkhas ensured security for a convoy of U.N. food and medicine. AP

Clinton faces test ban fight

WASHINGTON (AP) - As it presses for Senate ratification of a nuclear test ban treaty, the Clinton administration must overcome Republican anxiety over the CIA's inability to verify low-level underground nuclear explosions in other countries.

The administration contends the shortcomings in the CIA's monitoring capabilities give reason to ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty.

Republicans, who control the Senate, disagree. They also contend the treaty, signed by 154 countries, is flawed in other ways and would amount to unilateral disarmament by the United States.

Twice last month, U.S. intelligence saw signs of activity in Russia that could have indicated secret testing. The CIA was unable to say with certainty exactly what was happening.

"We don't know that there was any testing going on," White House Chief of Staff John Podesta said Sunday on CNN's "Late Edition." He added: "This is really an argument for the treaty."

After the fall of the Soviet Union, President Bush signed a limited testing moratorium to take effect Oct. 1, 1992, for nine months. President Clinton continued the moratorium - the country's last test was in September 1992 - then signed the comprehensive global treaty in 1996.

The treaty, a plank in the 1992 Democratic Party platform, went to the Senate for ratification in 1997. It languished in the Senate until last week, when Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., unexpectedly scheduled a full Senate vote for Oct. 12.

Struggling for the 67 votes necessary for ratification, the

White House began a campaign this weekend to boost the treaty, complaining of a sneak attack by Lott in giving only 10 days to make a case.

Lott's spokesman, John Czwartacki, said Sunday that Lott opposes the treaty for several reasons. The "verifiability issue" is one, he said, "but that's not the primary one."

Testing is vital to maintenance of nuclear stockpiles, Czwartacki said. It is not wise "to unilaterally disarm at a time when North Korea is making strides in its nuclear

program, and China, through ill-gotten means, also is making progress in its program," he said.

"If this administration chooses not to test, that is a decision they will make. But why would we want to handcuff future administrations?"

CIA Director George Tenet is scheduled to give secret briefings in Congress and testify in private hearings this week. He is likely to be grilled on the low-level testing question.

A U.S. intelligence official

said Sunday the CIA repeatedly has discussed with lawmakers the difficulty in monitoring such tests.

David Leavy, spokesman for the National Security Council, said ratifying the treaty would "give us more tools to verify, and it will constrain others from testing," partly because of the political pressure that 150 signatories bring.

"The United States does not test and has no plans to, Leavy said. "This treaty bans other countries. It is about preventing nuclear war."

White House tired of 'Clinton fatigue' talk

ANGELES, (Reuters) - As U.S. President Bill Clinton wrapped up a three-day, \$2.5 million Democratic fund-raising tour, the White House on Sunday dismissed the idea that the country suffers from "Clinton fatigue."

Clinton fatigue and its potential drag on the presidential campaign of Vice President Al Gore has been the talk of Washington for months. Polls show Americans are weary of scandals like the Monica Lewinsky affair, which led to the president's impeachment by the House of Representatives last December.

A survey released last April by the Pew Centre for People & the Press reported that 74 percent of respondents agree with the statement: "I'm tired of all the problems associated with the Clinton administration."

But White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said he has seen no sign of Clinton fatigue among Clinton supporters who want to help Democrats raise money for the 2000 elections, including among those who attended this weekend's seven events.

He said Clinton fatigue was being nurtured by the pundits inside the Washington Beltway, the highway that rings the capital.

"In the salons of Georgetown, I think Clinton fatigue is all the rage at the dinner parties," said Lockhart. "Outside the Beltway they just don't know what we're talking about in Washington."

At a barbecue that raised \$350,000 for the re-election campaign of Representative Brad Sherman, a California Democrat, Clinton said since he cannot run again, "What I do most of the time is just try to give you every day I've got left to be the best president I can."

He stepped up attacks on Republicans blocking his budget proposals and noted the U.S. economic boom during his tenure had been indiscriminate. "We've let the Republicans make money too," he said.

Among those benefiting from the robust economy, Clinton said, is Texas Gov. George W. Bush, whose presidential campaign has brought in the staggering sum of \$56 million.

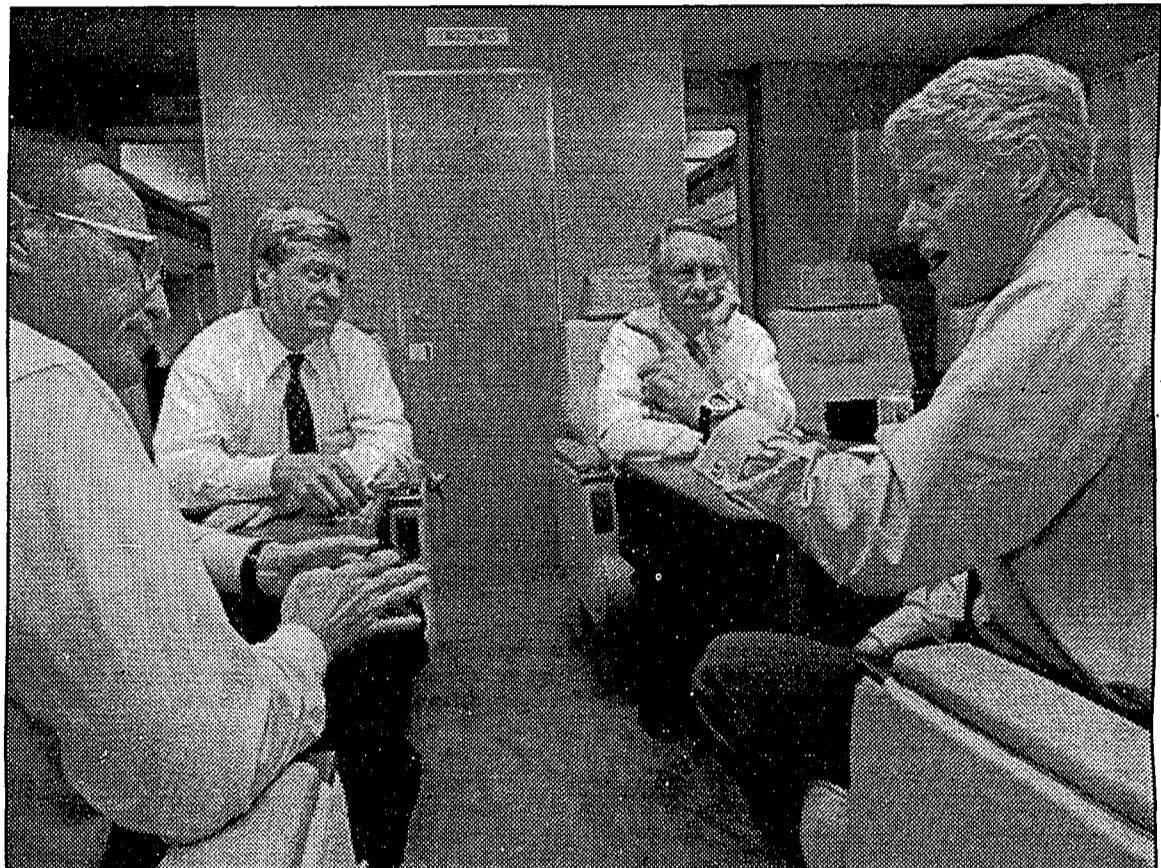
"Why do you think Gov. Bush has so much money in his campaign treasury?" Clinton said. "I've been thinking about listing that as one of the seminal accomplishments of my economic policy, the George Bush campaign treasury."

Complaining about budget negotiations with the Republican-led Congress, Clinton told his audience that "you have no idea" how bad it has been. "However bad you think it is, multiply it by three or four," he said.

Clinton has largely shrugged off questions about the fatigue factor. In speeches on this fund-raising trip, he emphasized that he had presided over the longest peacetime expansion in U.S. history, with more than 19 million new jobs, the lowest unemployment in 29 years and the first back-to-back budget surpluses in 42 years.

Lockhart said he interpreted the polls to mean Americans are tired of partisan politics in Washington. He pointed out that Clinton's public approval rating remains high, at about 60 percent, higher than Republican Ronald Reagan's rating at a similar point in Reagan's two-term presidency.

"It's just not something that he (Clinton) takes very seriously," Lockhart said of Clinton fatigue.



President Clinton discusses nuclear waste management with Senators Richard Bryan, D-Nev. (left), Max Baucus, D-Mont. (center left), and Harry Reid, D-Nev. Friday aboard Air Force One. AP



We, the family of the late

+ Vicente Dlg. Babauta

would like to inform our relatives and friends that the 10th Death Anniversary Rosary of our beloved will be said nightly at 8:00 p.m. beginning Sunday, October 3rd, 1999 to Sunday, October 10th, 1999 at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Max & Luisa Arriola in Chalan Kanoa Dist.#2.

On Monday, October 11th, Rosary will be said at 12 noon and the Anniversary Mass will be offered at 5:00 p.m., Mt. Carmel Cathedral, Chalan Kanoa.



Please join us in Prayers.
Si Yu'us Ma'ase.
The Family



Report: Gore aide abused funds

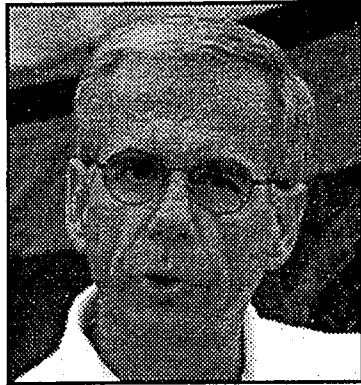
WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Al Gore said Sunday his "close friend" Tony Coelho will stay on as his campaign chairman despite a government report finding questionable financial management while Coelho directed the U.S. pavilion at the

1998 world's fair in Portugal. "Tony Coelho is doing a terrific job. He's my close friend, and he's going to continue doing a great job," Gore said on CBS's "Face the Nation." "He is staying, and I haven't seen this report, but I know him," the vice president

added. Gore said he did not think Americans would see the report on Coelho as relevant to the campaign for the 2000 Democratic presidential nomination. "People that I talk to are not interested in inside baseball,"



Al Gore



Tony Coelho

he said. The State Department's inspector general found potential improprieties in Coelho's work as U.S. commissioner general for the world's fair in Lisbon, a post to which he was appointed in June 1996. The job, with the United States Information Agency, included fund-raising for, as well as the design, fabrication and operation of the U.S. pavilion at the fair.

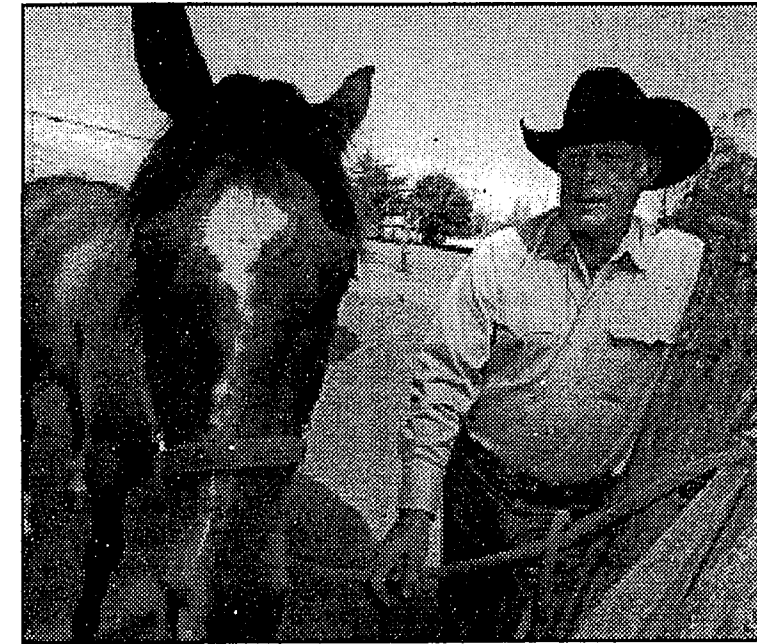
A report by investigators found Coelho improperly used \$210,000 in donated airline tickets, unnecessarily kept an expensive chauffeur-driven Mercedes and hired his niece for a \$2,500-a-month job. The report said Coelho also

obtained a personal loan of \$300,000 from a Portuguese bank for a private foundation to use for a memorial sculpture, listing it as a liability on the USIA's records. The U.S. government could be responsible if the loan is not paid, the inspector general said.

Coelho's personal lawyer, Stanley Brand, has said his client did not violate any laws in a job that did not pay him a salary.

Brand acknowledged "there may have been management lapses" as in many government contract programs, but contended most of the negative conclusions were aimed at USIA officials rather than Coelho personally.

High court to decide Hawaii rights



Harold "Freddie" Rice poses next to one of his horses at his Waimea, Hawaii, home in this Aug. 11, 1999 photo. Rice filed suit against the state in 1996 after he was denied a ballot to vote in the Office of Hawaiian Affairs election because he is Caucasian. The U.S. Supreme Court is now considering his appeal in the case.

HONOLULU (AP) — Harold "Freddie" Rice sees his family as a microcosm of the islands' racially mixed population: Diverse, but not always equal.

Born and raised on the islands, Rice is a white rancher whose great-grandfather was governor of Kauai under the last island queen, Lili'uokalani. In Hawaii's melting pot, two of his grandchildren are considered Hawaiian - and therefore eligible for special state and federal benefits. Three are not.

"What do I tell my grandchildren, that some of them are different? Some are privileged, some need assistance, some can't go to (Hawaiians-only) Kamehameha Schools?" Rice said. "When you see it in your own family it becomes real obvious."

For the last three years, Rice has been challenging a state law giving Hawaiians special race-based voting privileges.

On Wednesday, the 62-year-old rancher will break from tending cattle on his Big Island spread to listen to arguments before the U.S. Supreme Court.

Across the country, the arguments have drawn the attention of those on either side of the debate involving minority groups and affirmative action.

"The potential implications could be great for all native peoples in the United States," said Jon Van Dyke, a University of Hawaii constitutional law professor. "There's not much logic in differentiating Native Americans from native Hawaiians. So if Hawaiians can't be given special rights, it would be hard to justify them for other Native Americans."

Briefs in support of the state have been filed by the National Congress of American Indians, the Alaska Native Federation, the Justice Department, and Alabama, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Oklahoma and Oregon. Supporting Rice were Rob-

ert Bork, the conservative commentator and former Supreme Court nominee, and The Campaign for a Color-Blind America, a Texas-based organization that has backed legal challenges of voting districts drawn on racial lines.

At issue are elections held by the quasi-state Office of Hawaiian Affairs, established in 1978 to run a \$300 million trust that benefits the islands' estimated 200,000 residents of Hawaiian blood. The office oversees a wide variety of economic, social, health and education programs.

State law says only residents who descend from those islanders living here prior to 1778, when British Capt. James Cook made the first Western contact, can serve on the office's board of nine trustees, or vote in OHA elections.

About 20 percent of the state's population have some Hawaiian blood, according to the OHA.

After being denied a ballot to vote for the board, Rice sued Gov. Ben Cayetano, claiming the elections violate the 14th Amendment's guarantees of equal protection and the 15th Amendment's guarantees against racial discrimination.

U.S. District Judge David Ezra disagreed, saying Hawaiians enjoy a special trust relationship with the federal government that justifies the voting requirements. The 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals concurred, saying the restriction "is not primarily racial, but legal and political."

Unlike American Indians, native Hawaiians are not a recognized tribe.

"The Supreme Court has provided Hawaiians with an opportunity to stand tall before this nation and demand our rights as the indigenous people of these islands," said OHA trustee chairwoman Rowena Akana.

To The Campaign for a Color-Blind America, an affirmation of the lower courts' rulings could lead to race-based elections in many other states.

"This case could lead to a deprivation of voting rights of large populations in a number of states if the declaration of a special relationship with a minority population is enough to justify racial discrimination in voting," said the group's Shannen Coffey.

The Clinton administration, which apologized to Hawaiians in 1993 for U.S. involvement in the illegal 1893 overthrow of Queen Lili'uokalani, is backing the state.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

ROSA CONCEPCION AGUON better known as "Rosan Pedron Tanduk" of Papago (formerly from Chalan Kanoa Dist. 2), was called to her eternal rest at 08:45 p.m. on October 01, 1999 at the age of 78.



She is Pre-deceased by her:

Husband: Pedro Mafnas Aguon
Sons/Daughter: Francisco C. Aguon, Gregorio C. Aguon, Juan C. Aguon and Maria C. Aguon
Parents: Francisco Gumataotao Concepcion & Maria Sablan Concepcion
Santiago Estrada Aguon & Maria Perez Mafnas
Brother: Thomas Sablan Concepcion
Brothers/Sisters-In-Law: Antonio M. Aguon, Ramon M. Aguon, Jose M. Aguon, Dorotheo M. Aguon, Ana M. Aguon, Regina B. Concepcion, Enrique Santos, Francisco Borja, Jose Reyes and Juan Pangelinan

Her spirit and memories will live in the hearts of her:

Children & Spouses:

*Elphidia A. & Jesus A. Manalo
Ricardo A. Manalo (Raquel), Jose A. Manalo (Donna), Ivan A. Manalo (Maryann Celis) & Geraldine Manalo

*Margarita A. & Ignacio C. Aldan

Alex A. Aldan (Shawn), Peter A. Aldan (Frances Guerrero), Agnes A. Aldan (James Wallace), Raymond A. Aldan, Manuella A. Aldan, Maria A. Tuuth (Al), Rosaline A. Mantanona (John), Francisco Dlg. Aldan (dec), Joaquin Aldan (Elisa), Rita A. Sablan (Frank), Bernie A. Sablan (George), Juan Aldan (Patricia), Elizabeth A. Edward Manalili, & Ignacio "Cutz" Aldan (Jacqueline)

*Isabel A. & Jacinto C. Cruz

Eric A. Cruz (Bernice), Jean A. Cruz, Mary Jane A. Cruz (Rodrick), Raymond A. Cruz (Laura), Evelyn A. Cruz (Frank Castro), Michael A. Cruz & Nancy A. Cruz (Glenn Villagomez)

*Soledad A. & James David Castro

Joanne T. Delcon Guerrero (Frank), Frankie A. Torres (Jennifer Sablan), Elson A. Torres (Virginia Cruz), Sheila A. Castro & Savannah A. Castro

*Carmen A. & Felipe Ty. Fejeran

Phillip A. Fejeran (Wilma Atalig) & MardyAnn A. Fejeran

*Rainaldo C. & Connie C. Aguon

Ray Anthony C. Aguon (Marlene Sablan), Nadine C. Aguon (Everett Indalecio), Joey C. Aguon (Sandra Aldan), Rodney C. Aguon (Elizabeth Benavente), Elton C. Aguon, Kenneth C. Aguon & Allan C. Aguon

*Thomas C. & Donna U. Leong-Aguon

Eleanor A. Alvarado (James), Thomas "Jr." (Marie Matagolai), Peter John, Joseph, Rose & Margaret

*Rudolfo C. & Josephine P. Aguon

John P. Aguon (Alice Kintoki), Christine A. Achas (Marvin), Elaine A. Taisipic (Greg), Heinz P. Aguon (Janice Nabong) & Michael P. Aguon

*Augustin C. & Annie Aguon

Don August, RoseAnn A. Smith (Jeffrey), Sophia D. Aguon (Alfred Haro), Ron Derek, Marlena D. Aguon (Clarence Tupas), Bernice, Jessie John, Flora, Christian, Antonio, Margaret Fely, Akio & Augustin Jr.

*Jose C. Aguon & Vivian Kapileo

Deric Joseph

*Francisco C. & Tina Marie M. Aguon

Carla RaeAnn, Tania Marie & Frankie Anthony

*Francisco A. & Josefa Torres

Sister:

Consolacion Concepcion Pangelinan

Brothers/Sisters-In-Law & Spouses:

Ignacia A. Santos, Rosa A. Reyes, Engracia A. Borja, Juan M. & Merced Aguon and Joaquin M. & Antonia Aguon

He is additionally survived by 83 Great-Grandchildren, 4 Great-Great-Grandchildren, numerous Uncles, Aunties, Nephews, Neices and Cousins.

Nightly rosary is being said @ 8:00p.m. @ the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Felipe Ty. Fejeran (Carmen) in Dan Dan Village. Last respect will be paid on Saturday, October 09, 1999 beginning @ 8:00 a.m. @ the Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Mass will be @ 11:00 a.m. and interment will follow at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery. Lunch will be served right after the burial at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral Compound.

White House invites GOP to discuss budget

WASHINGTON, (Reuters)

White House Chief of Staff John Podesta said on Sunday President Bill Clinton was willing to meet with Republican congressional leaders to try to come to terms on a budget for fiscal year 2000.

"They've said that they don't want to sit down with us," Podesta said on CNN's "Late Edition" programme.

"But if they're looking for a formal invitation, consider it done," he said. "This is a formal invitation. We're prepared to sit down with them any time they're ready to sit down and try to work these matters out."

In struggling to meet spending targets without tapping Social Security surpluses and while sticking to their spending goals, House Republicans came up with a controversial plan to save \$9 billion by spreading out payments of a government tax credit for low-income workers on a monthly basis rather than paying it all at once.

The plan drew criticism not only from Clinton and Democrats, but also from Republican presidential candidate George W. Bush and Senate Appropriations Committee

Chairman Ted Stevens, an Alaska Republican.

The Clinton administration has proposed solving the problem with "offsets," such as higher taxes or other forms of increased revenues that Republicans have opposed. The "offsets" would be used to fund additional spending the administration supports.

"We have put up offsets for additional spending that we have sought," he said.

"We have not used the kinds of gimmicks that the Republicans have done, creating the 13th month, making the census, which has been in the Constitution and (has been) done every 10 years for the last 210 years, an unanticipated emergency."

Despite the criticism from within their own party, House Republican leaders told their caucus they would stick with their plan unless someone had a better idea of how to save nearly \$9 billion for the budget.

The 2000 fiscal year started Oct. 1. Although there is still no budget deal, the White House and Congress have agreed on a temporary measure to keep the government running while they try to reach a final agreement.

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DRIVE SAFELY

Allied jets bomb north Iraq

BAGHDAD, (Reuters) - An Iraqi military spokesman said U.S. and British aircraft bombed civilian targets in northern Iraq on Sunday before being driven off by Iraqi defences.

The spokesman, quoted by the official Iraqi News Agency, said the planes flew 12 sorties over northern Iraq at 12:45 p.m. (0945

GMT), and had bombed a civilian target. He did not mention any casualties.

"Hostile crowds...flew over regions in the provinces of Duhok, Arbil, Nineveh and attacked a number of service and civilian installations," the spokesman said.

Ground forces intercepted the planes "and forced them to leave

our airspace, retreating disappointingly into the bases of evil from where they came in Turkish territories."

U.S. and British planes patrol no-fly zones over Iraq's north and south. The exclusion zones were imposed by the West after the 1991 Gulf War over Kuwait to protect opponents of President

Saddam Hussein.

In Germany, the United States European Command said on Sunday that aircraft monitoring the northern no-fly zone in Iraq bombed air defence systems after being shot at twice by anti-aircraft guns.

Stuttgart-based Eucom said in a statement the exchange hap-

pened near the Saddam Dam, northwest of the city of Mosul. It said all planes left the area safely.

In London, a British defence ministry spokesman said: "We do not bomb Iraqi civilians." He said British aircraft provided reconnaissance in the no-fly zone operation and would respond in self-defence.

Israel, Palestinians fail to clinch passage deal

JERUSALEM, (Reuters) - Israeli and Palestinian negotiators have failed in another round of talks to end a security dispute delaying the opening of the first Palestinian "safe passage" across Israel.

After four hours of negotiations late on Sunday, spokesmen for both sides said the teams would meet again on Monday.

"There were some suggestions made during the meeting and I think we will finish in tomorrow's session," Jamil Tarifi, a Palestinian cabinet minister on the negotiating team, told Reuters.

The route, which was to have been inaugurated on Sunday, is meant to answer years of complaints that Israeli measures prevent Palestinians in the separate self-rule areas of Gaza and the West Bank from seeing friends and family.

Tarifi said two security issues still had to be resolved: who will issue magnetic passage cards that will allow Israel to monitor the identity of Palestinians using the passage, and Israeli powers of arrest along the route.

Once opened, the safe passage will run between Gaza and the southern West Bank near Hebron.

A second route between Gaza and the northern West Bank is due to be determined next week.

An interim peace deal signed in Egypt last month by Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat paved the way for the negotiations on finalising transit procedures for routes that were supposed to open in 1995.

"We took the Israeli concerns and they took our concerns and what we did tonight was try to marry the concern and we hope we will succeed," chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat told reporters after Sunday's session.

In public comments earlier, Erekat spoke of the possibility of a "joint mechanism" for issuing the safe passage identity cards.

A spokeswoman for Public Security Minister Shlomo Ben-Ami, who led the Israeli delegation at the talks near Jerusalem, said: "A few suggestions were put forward to solve the problems...the climate during the talks was good."

Earlier on Sunday, hundreds of Israelis protested against plans to open the route, along which Palestinians will travel in Israeli-guarded bus convoys.



A right-wing Israeli wearing a mask depicting Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat pretends to fire on passing cars during a demonstration against the opening of a "safe passage" route for Palestinians Sunday near Kiryat Gat, Israel.

29 Chechens said killed by Russians

GROZNY, Russia (AP) - A nighttime Russian bombing raid on a Chechen town killed 28 civilians, many of them children, and destroyed more than 50 homes, anguished residents and Chechen officials said Sunday.

"Why are the Russians bombing us? We are not terrorists," said a tearful Lechi Tovbulatov, 58, who described losing his wife and two children in the Saturday night airstrikes on the town of Urus-Martan.

Residents cleared away the debris from the damaged homes on Sunday, and as they sifted through the wreckage, they occasionally found body parts of those killed in the raid.

Fourteen of the 28 killed were

children, and more than 100 people were injured, many of them seriously, according to residents and Chechen officials. Urus-Martan, 15 miles southwest of the Chechen capital Grozny, is one of the biggest towns in the breakaway southern republic.

Russian military officials in the neighboring territory of Dagestan refused to comment on the air raid.

Russia has been bombing Chechnya for the past two weeks and has been moving troops several miles inside Chechnya's border in an attempt to create a security zone around the rebellious territory.

Russia began the raids after Muslim militants from Chechnya

invaded neighboring Dagestan in August and September, seeking to create an Islamic state in southern Russia. The militants have also been blamed for a series of bombings in Russia last month that killed about 300 people.

The Russian military insists it is targeting only suspected guerrilla bases and support facilities.

"Bomb strikes are made only after the double checking of coordinates, in fact they are checked several times before making a strike," said Sergei Pryganov, a spokesman for the Russian military press center in neighboring Dagestan.

Milosevic said plotting crackdown

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) - Allies of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic plan to provoke violence at street protests to create a pretext for a crackdown on opponents, an opposition leader warned Sunday.

The warning came as more than 15,000 demonstrators turned out in Belgrade on Sunday for the 13th consecutive day of protest rallies. Several thousand more gathered in the northern town of Novi Sad, Serbia's second largest city, also demanding Milosevic's resignation.

"There are secret plans...to stage an incident in which a num-

ber of policemen would be hurt, to put the blame on opposition, reshape public opinion and then move to arrest protest leaders, ban the rallies and introduce a form of emergency situation," Zoran Djindjic, head of the Democratic Party and a central figure in the anti-Milosevic rallies, said at a press conference.

On Wednesday and Thursday, riot police beat protesters when they tried to hold a larger protest march. Dozens, including five policemen, were injured then and several opposition activists were detained.

Djindjic, who has always advocated peaceful protests, claimed

he knew of the plan from insiders close to Milosevic.

"I hope that people in the police and the army are alert to this... Milosevic applied such tactics in (the wars) in Croatia, Bosnia in Kosovo ... to provoke violence, push people into bloodshed and then play the peacemaker."

The Democratic Party, part of the umbrella group Alliance For Change, has been in the forefront of organizing the daily rallies in major Serbian towns designed to force the president to resign after he led the country into the disastrous war in Kosovo against NATO and ethnic Albania.



German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder (left) walks in Wiesbaden, Germany, during the celebrations for the ninth anniversary of the German reunification Sunday, accompanied by former Chancellor Helmut Kohl (right).

Paris fashion shows kick off

PARIS (AP) - Ready-to-wear clothes for spring 2000 flew down the runway in dashes of hot or pastel colors at Balmain's show Sunday at the beginning of a hectic fashion week.

Designed by Gilles Dufour, lately of Chanel as Karl Lagerfeld's assistant, the clothes were light and bright.

Casual, sometimes sexy looks came out with airy little skirts, uneven hemlines and splatter prints. They were topped by pretty, small sweaters in pastel stripes, sometimes with scattered sequins.

Sweaters could be worn by the small gaggle of aristocratic Balmain clients who attended the show. But they looked bemused rather than thrilled, and would probably prefer Balmain couture - still by Oscar de la Renta.

Other brief dresses had a cast-away look with their torn-edged hems. Pinks, blues and lavenders came out with corals in tailored little jackets with unfinished edges and silk skirts.

And there was Claudia Schiffer, former Chanel top model. She looked great in her

two-piece light beige chiffon with a touch of flounces, plus a sprinkling of rhinestone spangles. Schiffer did not parade in any of the hot-pants-style bikinis or monokinis, sporting various jackets.

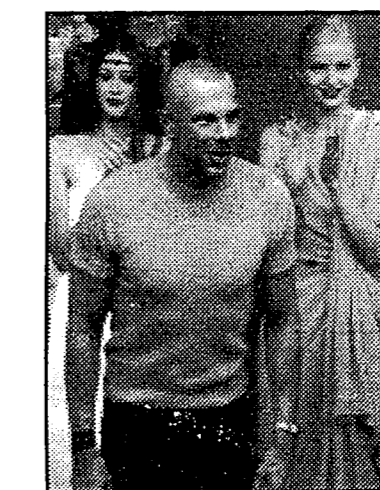
Long and shorter or uneven-hem chiffons in all pastel colors of the rainbow, but especially strong shades like emerald, grass green and salmon, ended the young and colorful show on a high note.

The mood was also upbeat at Ines de la Fressange's show. But it was all an act: the former Chanel model was fired a few months ago by the majority shareholders of her company and was not around for her last show.

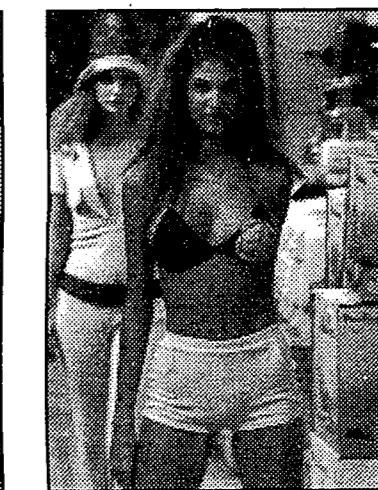
Nonetheless, crowds turned out to see the collection she had planned.

For daytime, her sleek pinstriped suits with sequined leaf motifs were peppy and distinctive, yet classical enough for fairly conservative dressers.

Adding Latin spice to the show were hot-colored silk and mixed-fabric knotted blouses, bras and short skirts, plus some titillating bikinis with little beaded fringes.



Thierry Mugler acknowledges applause at the end of his Spring-Summer 2000 ready-to-wear collection presented in Paris Sunday.



A model sports a knitting wool bra over a blue short by Jean-Charles de Castelbajac for the Spring-Summer 2000 in Paris Sunday.

and young and fresh." The little skirt suits in crisp white and yellow linen with paneled skirts like maypole ribbons looked good enough to buy for a spring gala lunch.

It was all flowing, mainly in whites and pastel colors, though not everybody with money might like to show off the navel like an exotic belly-dancer, as some of the bright chiffon evening wear and taffeta ballgowns did.

Plenty of flesh was revealed in younger designer Stella Cadente's collection, looking a bit sticky rather than chic on the short, undistinguished models.

A lot of topless views were available in the shiny and lurex looks, such as a fringed capelet over silvery hip pants. And of course the bare midriff was de rigueur here, as in other spring collections.

The oddest idea was the body wig, like something out of Dick Tracy in the 1950s, such as Gravel Gerie would have worn. Cadente showed wig-like white hair as a bosom fringe or as a skirt, with ostrich feathers thrown in for the festive evening notes. Tracy would have loved it.

Oktoberfest beer consumption up

MUNICH, Germany (AP) - Revelers rang out the last Oktoberfest of the millennium with a splash - consuming 12.3 million pints of beer during the 16-day festival that ended Sunday.

About 6.5 million people visited the world-famous

beer festival, about the same as last year - but they pushed consumption up 6 percent from 1998, said Munich tourist office chief Gabi Weishaeupl.

A warm spell helped raise attendance to new highs during the first week, but the num-

ber leveled off.

Visitors stole about 168,000 glass beer steins, compared with 140,000 a year before. The increase prompted a beer hall association spokesman to threaten to replace the traditional glasses with plastic mugs.

Landmark gay rights law gets signed in California

SACRAMENTO, Calif., (Reuters) - California Gov. Gray Davis has signed a landmark package of new laws extending protections for gays and lesbians in schools, the workplace and their own homes in what gay rights groups said Sunday was a major step forward.

"These three bills will send a message across this country and around the world that we are determined to unleash the full potential of the human spirit here in California," Davis said in a news release after signing the bills late Saturday.

"They will help us to beat back the forces of hatred and discrimination that strike at the very heart of what it means to be Californian."

The three measures include one establishing a statewide registry for domestic partnerships among elderly people - both gay and straight - and providing hospital visitation rights and health benefits to for the domestic partners of state employees.

Another bill makes it unlawful to discriminate against people in employment or housing based upon their sexual orientation, and a third bans discrimination against gay students and teachers in California public schools.

The schools bill drew the most heated debate, with opponents saying that enough laws were al-

ready on the books to prevent discrimination.

But Davis sided with gay rights advocates, saying that California should join Wisconsin, Massachusetts and Connecticut in explicitly forbidding anti-gay prejudice and harassment in the school system.

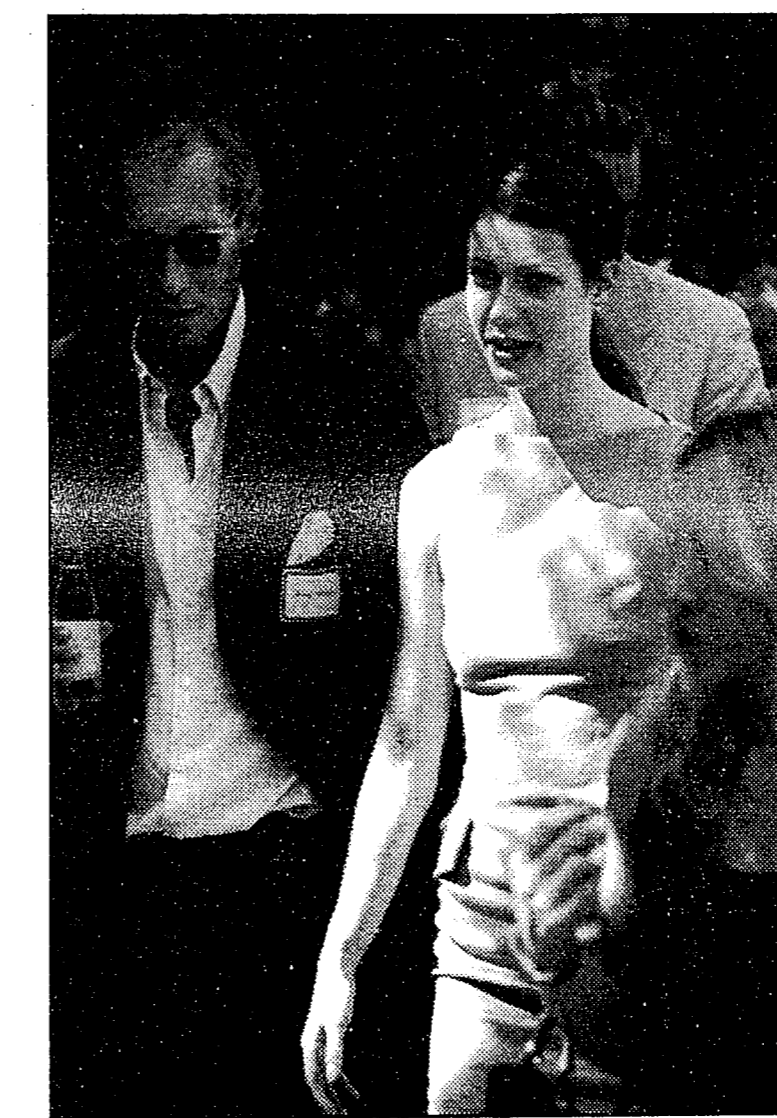
"I refuse to allow hatred and ignorance to taint our schools, our classrooms and our children," Davis said in remarks prepared for delivery Saturday at a gay rights dinner in Los Angeles.

Gay rights groups hailed Davis' move as setting an important new national precedent for gay rights protections.

"This is definitely the most important piece of legislation affecting gay and lesbian students to have passed in this century," said David Smith, communications director for the Human Rights Campaign, the nation's largest gay and lesbian political group, said Sunday.

"California is very significant because it has tremendous influence over other states," Smith said. "It tends to be a bellwether in establishing precedent that quite often domino effects across the country. It's a tremendous step forward."

Conservative groups have opposed the gay rights legislation, calling it "anti-family" and opposed to religion.



Actress Gwyneth Paltrow (middle), and her brother Bruce Paltrow (left) walk through the garden of Greenacres, in Beverly Hills, Calif., during an annual brunch Sunday to benefit the Rape Treatment Center of Santa Monica-UCLA Medical Center.

NYC art exhibit draws thousands

NEW YORK (AP) - The curious gathered in long lines for a second day to see the art exhibit Mayor Rudolph Giuliani found so offensive he cut the museum's funding, a decision he defended again on Sunday.

The art critics, meanwhile, had mixed reviews.

The New Yorker magazine said the controversial exhibit at the Brooklyn Museum of Art "offers plenty of targets for indignation" - such as a rotting cow's head covered with flies and mannequins of little girls with genitals on their faces.

But the reviewer called the piece of art at the heart of the firestorm - a painting of a black madonna with a clump of elephant dung and cut-outs from pornographic magazines - "gorgeous, sweet and respectful of its subject."

Time magazine's critic called the exhibit "a sheep in wolf's clothing" that has "generated more noise than it deserves." The critic dismissed the Madonna portrait as having "no real depth."

The museum - which usually gets little notice from either tourists or the media - is basking in the attention. More than 9,200 people viewed "Sensation" Saturday, its first day. It was the largest opening in the museum's 175-year history.

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02 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: ROLAND G. JASTILLANA dba Golden Lobster Restaurant Tel. 234-8779(10/5)T80720

01 MAINTENANCE MECHANIC-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: BASIC CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY CORP. Tel. 234-8779(10/5)T80721

01 (PASSENGER/TRAFFIC) SUPERVISOR GATE (TRAINER/INSTRUCTOR)-Salary: \$1,500.00-3,000.00 per month
Duties: Supervises Passenger/Traffic and cargo activities. Handling of flights, manifests, reservation and airport passenger check-in system. Conducts regular training and instructions for passenger handling. JALPAS and other passenger service related duties. Preferred ability in Japanese language (reading/writing/speaking).
Contact: JAPAN AIRLINES CO., LTD. Tel. 234-6553(10/5)T80734

01 FIBERGLASS LAMINATOR-Salary: \$3.50 per hour
Contact: MARCELO T. ADUCA dba MTA Auto & Boat Shop Repair Tel. 323-2880(10/5)T32764

50 SEWING MACHINE OPERATORS-Salary: \$3.05-3.60 per hour
10 CUTTER-Salary: \$3.05-3.15 per hour
02 SEWING SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$3.05-7.49 per hour
10 MACHINE PRESSER (PRESS OPERATOR)-Salary: \$3.05-3.15 per hour
Contact: SAM MARIANAS, INC. Tel. 322-3444(10/5)T32765

01 HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC-Salary: \$3.50 per hour
Contact: KANG CORPORATION dba Kang Auto Supply Tel. 288-9366(10/5)T32766

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour
Contact: KANG CORPORATION dba Kang's Market & Laundry Tel. 288-9366(10/5)T32766

01 PAINTER-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour
Contact: NORTH PACIFIC ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. 233-3990(10/5)T32767

01 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIR-Salary: \$3.05-4.00 per hour
Contact: MARIANAS PARAMOUNT CORP. Tel. 233-4030(10/5)T32768

02 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 SUPERVISOR/HOUSEKEEPER-Salary: \$1,500.00 per month
Contact: SUMIKI MITA dba Environmental Protection and Cleaning Services Tel. 234-9171(10/5)T32769

01 BLDG. MAINT. REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: DABU'S CORPORATION dba Import & Export/Gen. Const. Co. Tel. 235-2780(10/5)T32771

02 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: JOAQUIN LG. TUDELA dba Ann's Creation Tel. 233-7357(10/5)T32778

04 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: TM CORPORATION Tel. 234-2700(10/12)T32854

01 GROUND KEEPER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: CHERYL BAKA dba Capitol Hill Lawn Care Tel. 322-6510(10/5)T32776

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.50 per hour
Knowledge of MS Word, Excel, Database & JDE System & Lotus Notes.
Contact: FLETCHER PACIFIC SALES, CO., LTD. (CNMI) Tel. 234-5506(10/5)T3301

01 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05-4.05 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN HOTEL CORP. dba Hatadai Beach Hotel Tel. 234-6495(10/5)T80742

02 AIRCON TECH-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: ROLAND G. JASTILLANA dba JP Mechanical, Sales & Service Tel. 234-8779(10/12)T80832

01 STEELWORKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$3.30 per hour
Contact: ROLAND G. JASTILLANA dba Arjay Construction Tel. 234-8779(10/12)T80833

01 TRAVEL AGENT-Salary: \$4.75 per hour
Contact: PACIFIC SKY TRAVEL SERVICES CORP. dba Pacific Sky Travel Services Tel. 235-0942(10/12)T80853

01 SUPERVISOR, AUDIT CLERK-Salary: \$5.00-7.05 per hour
Contact: AQUA RESORT CLUB SAIPAN, CO., LTD. dba Aqua Resort Club Tel. 322-1234(10/12)T80861

01 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MR. & MRS. FELIPE SN. CAMACHO dba Camacho Enterprises Tel. 322-1417(10/12)T32861

01 BAKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: WINCHELL'S INC. dba Winchell's Donut House Tel. 235-0247(10/19)T80964

01 WAREHOUSE(MAN) WORKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: UNCLE'S FOOD CORPORATION dba Uncle John Dandan Supermarket Tel. 288-0204(10/19)T32942

03 WELDER-Salary: \$3.20-4.00 per hour
01 MECHANIC (GAS & DIESEL)-Salary: \$3.50 per hour
Contact: Unity Trade Services, Inc. dba GAUDENCIO C. MACALINAO Tel. 322-7461(10/19)T80952

01 CLASSROOM TEACHER-Salary: \$3.05-10.21 per hour
Contact: SISTER REMEDIOS EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTER Tel. 234-6247(10/19)T32935

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.50-4.25 per hour
Contact: DINGSON CORPORATION dba Dingson Beauty Parlor Tel. 234-1588(10/19)T32936

01 DRILLING SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$1,000.00 per month
Contact: ALEXANDER INCORPORATED dba Alexander Drilling Co. Tel. 234-5117(10/19)T32937

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.05-3.75 per hour
01 ARCHITECTURAL DRAFTER-Salary: \$3.05-6.75 per hour
Contact: HERMAN B. CABRERA dba Herman B. Cabrera & Associates Tel. 234-1778(10/19)T32939

01 BEAUTICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Plus \$100.00 housing allowance.
Contact: ADORA R. REYES dba Dories Beauty Parlor Tel. 235-5095(10/19)T32940

02 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: D.S. CORPORATION dba XO Market & Greenpa Market Tel. 235-4458(10/19)T32941

01 CONCRETE PLANT LABORER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: UNITED CONSTRUCTION CORP. Tel. 234-9011(10/19)T32943

01 MECHANIC, GAS/DIESEL-Salary: \$3.05-4.50 per hour
Repairs and maintains diesel/gas engines used to power machines, such as buses, ships, trucks, electric generators, and construction machinery. Diagnosis trouble, disassembles engines, and examines parts for defects and excessive wear. Reconditions and replaces parts. May weld and cut parts. And may perform other related duties.
Work days and hours is flexible.
01 SUPERVISOR, RESERVATIONS-Salary: \$3.05-5.71 per hour
Plus \$300.00 housing allowance.
Supervises and coordinates activities of workers obtaining travel, hotel accommodations and optional tours for guests, issues tickets, types itineraries, and compiling of reports of transactions; Obtains confirmation of travel and lodging space and rate information. Keeps current of hotels, motels, Tour Agents and timetables, and answers inquiries concerning routes, fares and accommodations.
Japanese speaking preferred.
Work days and hours are flexible.
01 MANAGER, CORPORATE PLANNING DEPT.-Salary: \$1,000.00-4,100.00 per month
Directs and coordinates, through subordinates supervisors, department activities in commercial, industrial, or service establishment: Reviews and analyses reports, records, and directives, and confers with supervisors to obtain data required for planning department activities, such as new commitments, status of work in progress & problems encountered. Assigns and delegates activities and disseminates policy to supervisors. Gives work directions, resolves problems, prepares schedules and sets deadlines to ensure timely completion of work.
Japanese speaking, reading and writing preferred.
Work days and hours is flexible.
01 MANAGER, TOUR OPERATION-Salary: \$1,000.00-2,100.00 per month
Plus \$300.00 per month.
Directs and coordinates activities of operations department: Confers and cooperates with management personnel in formulating administrative and operational policies and procedures. Directs and coordinates, through subordinate managerial personnel activities of operations department to obtain optimum use of equipment & facilities.
Japanese speaking, reading and writing preferred.
Two years experience required.
Work days and hours are flexible.
01 PUBLIC RELATIONS OFFICER/REPRESENTATIVE-Salary: \$1,000.00-2,100.00 per month
Plans and conducts public relations program designed to create and maintain favorable public image for employer or client: Plans and directs development and communication of information designed to keep public informed of employer's programs, accomplishments, or point of view. Arranges for public relations efforts in order to meet needs. Promotes good-will through such publicity efforts.
College graduates.
Japanese speaking preferred.
Two years experience.
Work days and hours is flexible.
Contact: PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT, INC. Tel. 322-8876(10/19)T80959

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MIDWEST TRADING CORPORATION dba Kareena's Retail Tel. 235-8752(10/19)T32949

02 DENTAL ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.50-10.00 per month
Contact: SAIPAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CLINIC dba Family Dentistry/Optical Tel. 234-6008(10/19)T32950

01 MANAGER, SALES (HARDWARE STORE)-Salary: \$4.00-5.00 per hour
01 (SUPERVISOR) SALES (HARDWARE STORE)-Salary: \$3.30-4.00 per hour
Contact: YCO CORPORATION dba YCO Servistar Hardware/Liberty Plaza/YCO Construction Tel. 233-3112(10/19)T80956

02 MAINTENANCE BUILDING REPAIR-Salary: \$3.35-4.00 per hour
01 MAINTENANCE ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$3.35 per hour
Contact: PACIFIC DAIKEN CO., LTD. Tel. 234-7453(10/19)T32953

01 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: NORTH PACIFIC ENT., INC. Tel. 233-3990(10/19)T32959

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.05-4.00 per hour
01 PACKAGER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 CUTTING SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
04 HAND SEWER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
02 PRESSER MACHINE-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: TOP FASHION CORPORATION Tel. 322-1611(10/19)T32957

03 WAREHOUSE WORKER (GARMENTS)-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 SHIPPING CLERK-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour
05 HAND SEWER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
05 HAND SEWER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
02 CUTTER, MACHINE-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
02 INSPECTOR (QC) QUALITY CONTROL-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 MARKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 (IRONER) PRESSER MACHINE-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
05 (IRON WORKER) MACHINE PRESSER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 PRODUCTION MANAGER-Salary: \$3.05-9.50 per hour
Contact: HANDSOME TEXTILE (SPN) CORP. Tel. 322-1504(10/19)T32956

01 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.35 per hour
01 MASON-Salary: \$3.35 per hour
Contact: YANG HUN LEE/TRANSPACIFIC CORP. dba Transpacific Construction/Transpacific Corp. Bldg. Maint. Tel. 234-3181(10/19)T32944

01 PERSONNEL MANAGER-Salary: \$3.25-4.00 per hour
Contact: KAIZOKU CORPORATION dba Kaizoku Restaurant Tel. 233-5304(10/19)T32945

01 CASHIER, RESTAURANT-Salary: \$3.05-3.15 per hour
Contact: MICRO PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT, INC. dba Saipan Grand Hotel Tel. 234-6601(10/19)T80957

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: T&B INTL. INC. dba Union Auto Repair Shop Tel. 235-0329(10/19)T32947

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.05-3.75 per hour
01 ARCHITECTURAL DRAFTER-Salary: \$3.05-6.75 per hour
Contact: HERMAN B. CABRERA dba Herman B. Cabrera & Associates Tel. 234-1778(10/19)T32939

01 BEAUTICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Plus \$100.00 housing allowance.
Contact: ADORA R. REYES dba Dories Beauty Parlor Tel. 235-5095(10/19)T32940

02 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
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01 MECHANIC, GAS/DIESEL-Salary: \$3.05-4.50 per hour
Repairs and maintains diesel/gas engines used to power machines, such as buses, ships, trucks, electric generators, and construction machinery. Diagnosis trouble, disassembles engines, and examines parts for defects and excessive wear. Reconditions and replaces parts. May weld and cut parts. And may perform other related duties.
Work days and hours is flexible.
01 SUPERVISOR, RESERVATIONS-Salary: \$3.05-5.71 per hour
Plus \$300.00 housing allowance.
Supervises and coordinates activities of workers obtaining travel, hotel accommodations and optional tours for guests, issues tickets, types itineraries, and compiling of reports of transactions; Obtains confirmation of travel and lodging space and rate information. Keeps current of hotels, motels, Tour Agents and timetables, and answers inquiries concerning routes, fares and accommodations.
Japanese speaking preferred.
Work days and hours are flexible.
01 MANAGER, CORPORATE PLANNING DEPT.-Salary: \$1,000.00-4,100.00 per month
Directs and coordinates, through subordinates supervisors, department activities in commercial, industrial, or service establishment: Reviews and analyses reports, records, and directives, and confers with supervisors to obtain data required for planning department activities, such as new commitments, status of work in progress & problems encountered. Assigns and delegates activities and disseminates policy to supervisors. Gives work directions, resolves problems, prepares schedules and sets deadlines to ensure timely completion of work.
Japanese speaking, reading and writing preferred.
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01 MANAGER, TOUR OPERATION-Salary: \$1,000.00-2,100.00 per month
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Japanese speaking, reading and writing preferred.
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Contact: PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT, INC. Tel. 322-8876(10/19)T80959

APARTMENT FOR RENT
• 2-Bdrm near Coral Ocean Point and Kobierville Elementary School
• Fenced location, aircon in each bdrm, refrigerator, stove, water heater
• Water, trash collection and sewer paid
• Electricity not included.
235-4341 after 5:30 p.m.

FOR RENT
must see to appreciate
One-Bedroom Apt. - \$350.00/mo.
• Fully furnished including bed, table, chair, sofa, TV, VCR, stereo, and more.
• Single or double bedrooms. Air Conditioning. In Unit Wash & Dryer.
Studio Type Apt. - \$250.00/mo.
• Includes power, air conditioner, has own bathroom & kitchen. 24 hr. water & trash incl.
Location: Daguena
For inquiries call: 235-3864 • 288-7525

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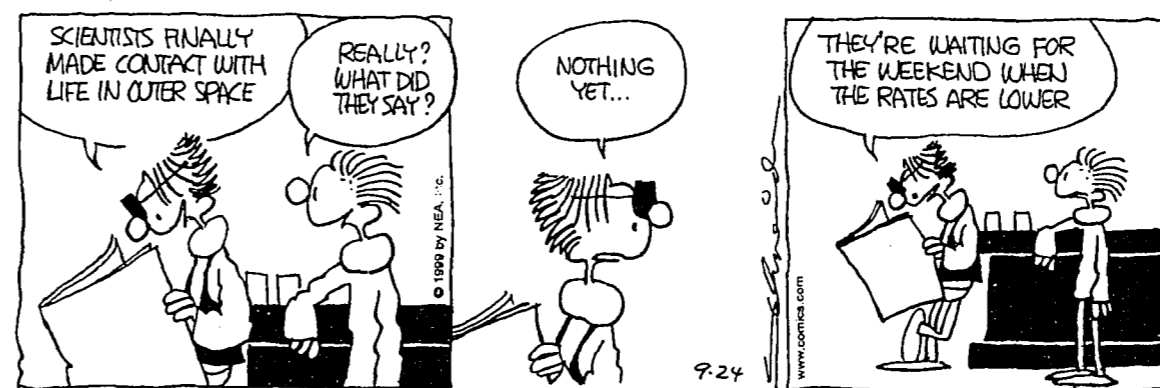
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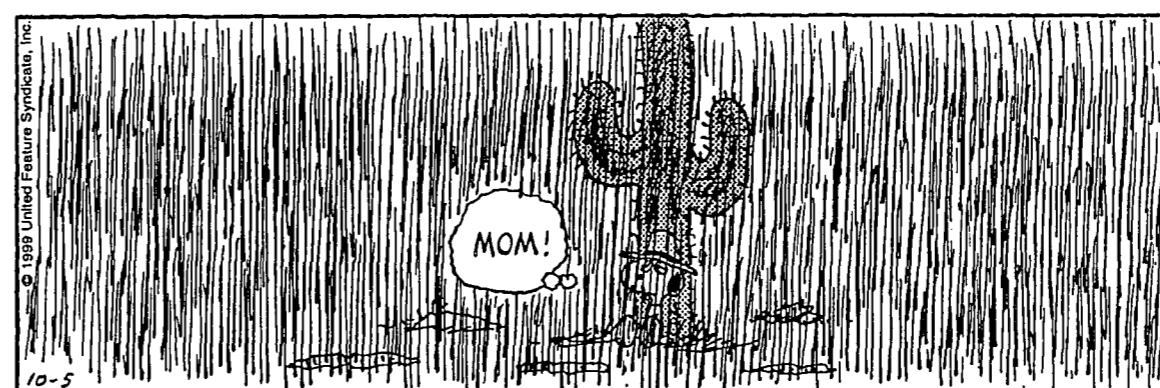
APARTMENT FOR RENT
• 2-Bdrm near Coral Ocean Point and Kobierville Elementary School
• Fenced location, aircon in each bdrm, refrigerator, stove, water heater
• Water, trash collection and sewer paid
• Electricity not included.
235-4341 after 5:30 p.m.

FOR RENT
must see to appreciate
One-Bedroom Apt. - \$350.00/mo.
• Fully furnished including bed, table, chair, sofa, TV, VCR, stereo, and more.
• Single or double bedrooms. Air Conditioning. In Unit Wash & Dryer.
Studio Type Apt. - \$250.00/mo.
• Includes power, air conditioner, has own bathroom & kitchen. 24 hr. water & trash incl.
Location: Daguena
For inquiries call: 235-3864 • 288-7525

Eek & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz



STELLA WILDER YOUR BIRTHDAY

TUE., October 5, 1999

Born today, you are serious and fun-loving, hard-working and playful — as are so many Libra natives who try to balance two strong personality forces in their natures. This healthy combination is sure to put you at the head of your class, and later at the top of your chosen profession. You are never one to think that you know it all, or that you are able to perform perfectly at all times. You know that to be the best you must continually work on your skills, develop them, expand them, and hone them in order to assure that they will be useful to you whenever and wherever you may call upon them.

You are likely to have one overriding interest that drives you, even when you are knee-deep in other projects. This may be something which you feel compelled to keep to yourself. On the whole, however, you will learn that it is important to share the important things with those who are important to you.

Also born on this date are: Karen Allen, actress; Elke Summer, actress; Steve Miller, singer and musician; Jeff Conaway, actor; Ray Kroc, fast food mogul and founder of "McDonald's".

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.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 6 LIB

Nakamura ...
Continued from page 1

enced frustration with what they see as an apparent inability of the Forum to move beyond discussion and actually implement initiatives in some areas, even when a consensus has been reached," he noted in his speech.

The president, however, did not discount the fact that the Forum has indeed achieved a lot in advancing its interest as a region, like acting as a "broker" to the Noumea Accords, and in making its presence more felt globally.

"The growing desire of non-members to have some connection with the Forum speaks volumes about the continuing usefulness of this body in the broader scope of global relations," the president stressed as he noted of

the growing interest of actors outside the Forum in Oceania.

Nakamura, for instance, mentioned New Caledonia and the United Nations as "observers" for the first time in the SPF while the Philippines has applied for a dialogue partner status with the Forum.

The president's call for a change in the SPF perspective emanates from the history of colonization and dependency of the SPF member countries, saying that each of the nations continues to struggle against the legacy of dependency.

Such dependency has resulted to fragmentation, lack of regional cohesion to foster self-sufficiency and difficulty to "speak with one voice."

"The failure to fully exploit our commonalities, the difficulties in moving beyond historical dependencies, our remoteness, our re-

spective sizes and our respective stages of development all conspire to allow those outside Oceania to neglect the countries, the commonwealths, the territories, and, indeed, the region itself," he said.

According to the president, the Forum is faced with even greater "challenges of the future" which, he said, will require more responses of a multilateral nature as problems will increasingly span across national borders and that compromise and cooperation will be the universal mode of future international relations.

Thus he called on the leaders to improve the Forum, to revitalize it and make it work for its members.

There is also the challenge for the new millennium - to "focus more fully on the shared strengths of the Pacific Island nations."

Human ...
Continued from page 1

ing at Niue.

The conduct of various skills training and seminars among Customs personnel in order to improve operations and to maintain the integrity of the agencies they represent had been the main consensus among participants.

The CNMI, for its part, sent two Customs men in Australia to undergo a three-month training on handling drug-detector dogs

or K9 in order to improve local operations. The training will be administered by the Australian Customs Services.

During the five-day conference, each member presented their gravest concerns and solutions done or being done for other members to learn from.

While the CNMI is currently in control of human smuggling cases, Mafnas said the problem on tax fraud — stemming from undeclared cargoes and excise taxes — remains to be common here.

"Aside from the problem with tax fraud, we also presented our experiences with bribery cases involving Customs men," said Mafnas.

The OCO, which annually holds seminar to address current Customs concerns, comprises of Customs officials of territories in the Pacific, including the CNMI, Nauru, Kiribati, Australia, Tonga, Solomon.

The next OCO conference will be held in Western Samoa. The CNMI hosted the same event in 1997.

RP ...
Continued from page 1

she will be released after the terms and conditions of her temporary freedom are ironed out.

These, Philipps said, include a court order requiring Abayari to turn over her U.S. passport while out on bail and as litigation continues.

Abayari sat at the sala of Superior Court Presiding Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III, wearing a Guam DOC orange jumpsuit and green shower shoes with her head resting nervously on her hands.

Once her case was called, Abayari approached the bench with Philipps, who asked that the bail be reduced from to \$10,000.

Government prosecutor Bonnie Brady objected, saying that Abayari's alleged crime, which includes first degree felony charges, is "substantial."

The \$50,000 bail, Brady said,

should not be reduced.

But Philipps was able to convince the judge to reduce the bail.

Philipps also assured Lamorena that Abayari will not get anywhere near the Guam International Airport while the disposition of the case remained with the court.

Philipps also requested that Abayari, in the meantime, should be released.

Lamorena agreed on condition that a third party custodian be liable for Abayari's return to court for further proceedings.

The Ilaos, an Filipino-American family that owns a big grocery chain—John Del Markets—agreed to put up the bail and be Abayari's custodian.

However, Abayari could not be allowed to stay over at the Ilaos family residence as a preliminary court reports indicated that the family owns a firearm.

The court would still have released Abayari, but another "development" stood in her way of

walking out of prison.

Philipps asked if it would be possible for Jenny Ilaos to post the cash bail requirement by credit card.

Lamorena thought about the request for a moment then agreed.

But Lamorena said the transaction would have to be cleared first before he can set the conditions of Abayari's temporary release.

Ilaos hurriedly went to the court cashier to make the transaction but was informed that her American Express card is not accepted.

Abayari's arrest at GIA Saturday has sparked headlines in the Philippine media.

Reports from the Philippines indicated that her boyfriend, David Bunevacz and talent agent Boy Abunda were coming to Guam to help her post the original \$50,000 bail.

As of news-time yesterday neither were present in the courtroom for the hearings.

Northern ...
Continued from page 28

Glazers and one from the Yankees Pat Camacho.

Casci ...
Continued from page 28

lead, playing to eleven points. "Unrucky," Casci commented as he and Mister scored 11 unanswered points to get their first point in the win column.

In the second match, Casci and Quinn took a commanding lead 8-4 with 6:00 minutes to go

Trailing 8-6 after four innings of play, the Yankees then rallied, scoring eleven of the next twelve runs in the next two innings to lead 17-9.

The Glazers rallied in their last

in the match. Mister and Steele gave Quinn a second scare by posing a comeback to an 8-8 side switch. Casci and Quinn held on to win the second match, so Mister had to win the third to become King.

The final match had Casci and Steele battling Quinn and Mister. Casci needed 9 points to become the heir to the throne.

at-bat, but came up four short scoring five runs for the ballgame.

The Yankees took advantage of eleven base-on-balls given up by the Glazers, scoring six, which proved to be costly.

Steele and Casci took an early lead going up 4-1. Steele "looked like the Energizer Bunny" said fellow competitor, Jesse Palacios. Although Quinn and Mister tied up the score 8-8, time expired and the rally scoring format had Casci celebrating his victory.

Final score for the 1999 King, 11-9.

Ex-staffer ...
Continued from page 3

tencing on Jan. 4, 2000.

According to the information, or about July 27, 1998 the defendant did "knowingly and intentionally without lawful authority produce a false identification document, to wit: a CNMI DOLI entry permit for Ying Yi Huang, the production of which affects foreign commerce."

Castro at the time worked at the DOLI Identification Division Services (LIIDS).

Court documents said FBI agents and members of the FBI-CNMI Task Force, through cooperating individuals, conducted a recorded controlled transaction of the production of a CNMI entry permit from Castro at LIIDS Office. The permit was in the name of Huang.

On separate occasions on the same day which were controlled and observed by both physical, surveillance and recorded electronic surveillance, Castro accepted \$100 and \$300 cash from a cooperating witness for producing such permit.

Special Federal Officer Edward Cabrera stated that a check of DOLI records determined that Huang was a minor with previous immediate relative status in the CNMI.

Cabrera said there was no legal basis for renewal and there was no lawful way for Huang to receive a student permit.

CNMI entry permits affect foreign commerce in that they are issued to aliens and cause among other economic effects, travel in foreign commerce to the CNMI, court papers said.

It was not unclear yet whether other persons had been charged in connection with such transactions.

Gov't ...
Continued from page 4

unavailable due to their own recent demand for assistance.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture earlier urged the CNMI to develop contingency plans in addressing Y2K concerns.

Aside from possible public services disruption, the CNMI is also asked to prepare for delays in receiving critical supplies like

repair parts, pharmaceuticals and check stock at the turn of the century.

Y2K, or the Millennium bug, threatens systems run by old computer programs which will interpret the Year 2000 as 1900, which has the same last two digits.

As a result, any program with a date such as billing, payroll, inventory, and bank accounts, among others, could crash or give misleading answers starting January 1, 2000.

New ...
Continued from page 4

measure will allow the commonwealth to receive financial incentives under the Jacob Wetterling Crimes Against Children and Sexually Violent Offender Reg-

istration Act.

The law is a key element of the 1994 Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act, which provides financial incentives for states and territories to establish effective registration systems for child molesters and other sexually-violent offenders.

Lizama ...
Continued from page 5

the Division of Immigration.

Lizama ruled that the statute states in pertinent part: "If the person entitled to a cause of action...is imprisoned when the cause of action first accrues, the action may be commenced within the time limits in this chapter after the disability is removed."

"Plaintiff therefore, had two years within which to file a com-

plaint from the date on which she was released," said the judge.

Lizama said the victim was released from incarceration on Jan. 23, 1997 so had until Jan. 23, 1999 to file her complaint in the Superior Court.

"Plaintiff, however, did not file the present action in the Superior Court until March 16. Thus, plaintiff's cause of action is still time barred, regardless of the application of the tolling provisions of the statute," the judge said.

Teno ...
Continued from page 1

A piece-meal budget would release critical agencies — PSS and the Department of Public Safety among them — from being "held hostage" by a debate locked on how much will be given to what

sector.

Government operations under continuing appropriations appears likely as action on an omnibus budget bill remains uncertain.

Rejecting a piece-meal budget, on the other hand, would ensure that the deficit is kept at levels that can be contained based on current measures.

Tinian ...
Continued from page 1

and the substitute custodian to submit to the court an accounting summary of the expenses they

have incurred in keeping the vessels.

The court will then determine the amounts which are custodial expenses that will be paid from the \$100,000 deposited in the Court's Registry.

Reds force wild card playoff

MILWAUKEE (AP)—The Cincinnati Reds forced a playoff for the NL wild-card spot, beating the Milwaukee Brewers 7-1 Sunday night on a County Stadium field soaked by about 10 hours of continuous rain.

After a rain delay lasting nearly six hours, Cincinnati kept its postseason hopes alive and set up a one-game showdown Monday night against the New York Mets at Cinergy Field. The Mets beat Pittsburgh 2-1 Sunday afternoon.

Greg Vaughn hit a three-run homer, and Pete Harnisch and Ron Villone combined on a six-hitter. The Reds nearly blew their postseason chances by losing twice to Milwaukee during the weekend, but Cincinnati convincingly won the majors' last scheduled game of the 1999 regular season.

The sixth one-game playoff for a postseason berth in baseball history will begin at 7:05 p.m. EDT (2300GMT). The likely starters are the Mets' Al Leiter against the Reds' Steve Parris.

This is the second straight year that a one-game playoff will decide the NL wild card. Last season, Chicago beat San Francisco 5-3.

Astros 9, Dodgers 4

In Houston, the Astros won their third straight NL Central title, beating the Los Angeles Dodgers as Mike Hampton became the NL's only 22-game winner.

In the Astrodome's final regular-season game, Ken Caminiti put

Houston ahead with a bases-loaded walk in the first inning. Daryle Ward followed with a three-run double and the Astros coasted, finally shaking off the late-season challenge of the Cincinnati Reds.

Hampton (22-4) allowed three hits in seven innings and struck out eight, winning for the ninth time in 10 decisions. He also set a team record for wins in a season, topping Joe Niekro's 21-11 record in 1979.

Houston will open the playoffs at Atlanta or Arizona on Tuesday and will return to the Astrodome for Game 3 Friday.

Mets 2, Pirates 1

In New York, the Mets got the crucial win when Melvin Mora scored on Brad Clontz's wild pitch to Mike Piazza in the ninth inning.

Mora, 4-for-30 in his career, hit a one-out single off Greg Hansell (1-3) and went to third on a single by Edgardo Alfonzo.

After Hansell intentionally walked John Olerud to load the bases, Clontz came in to face Piazza.

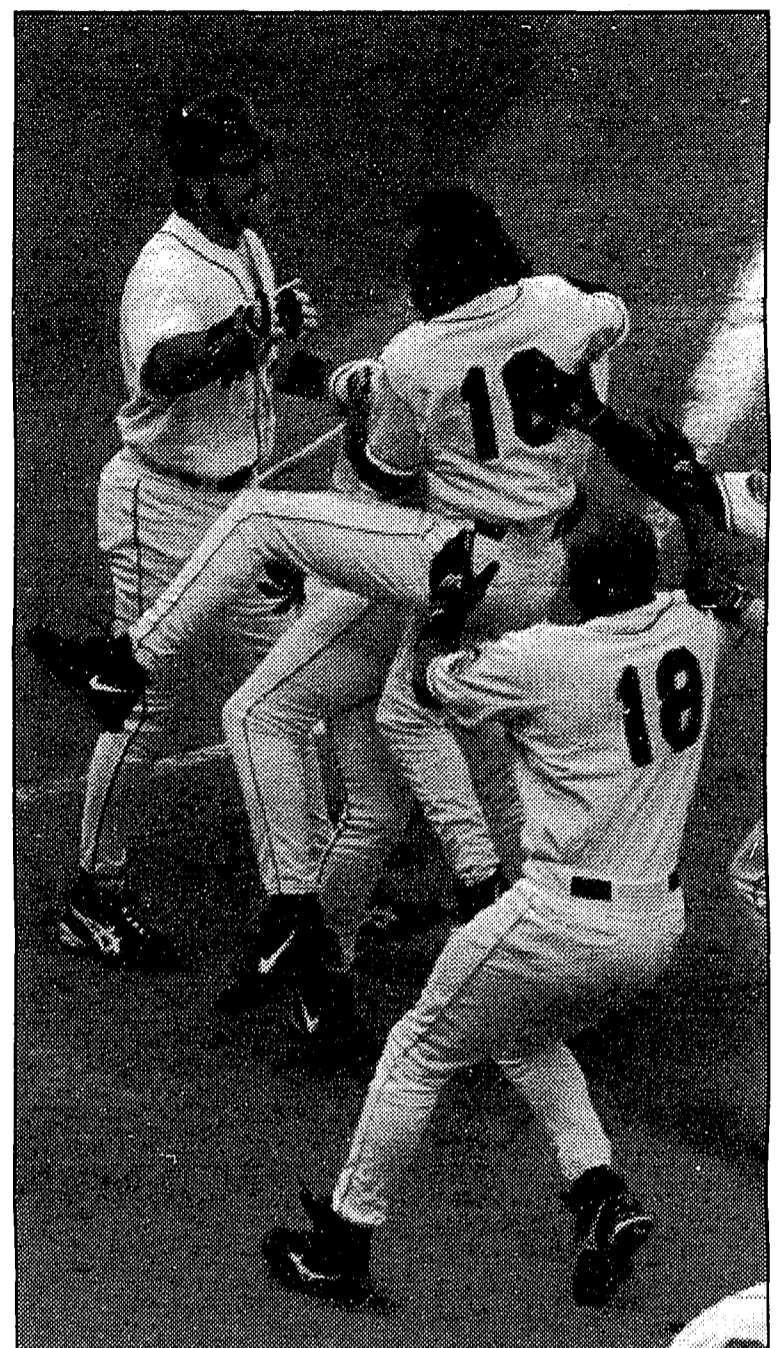
Clontz's first pitch was low-and-outside, and got by catcher Joe Oliver, allowing Mora to score from third.

Braves 18, Marlins 0

In Atlanta, Tom Glavine threw five scoreless innings and the Braves pounded out 21 hits in their largest shutout win in 114 years.

Atlanta, which won 11 of its last 13 games en route to a record eighth consecutive playoff berth, finished the regular season with the best record in the majors (103-59). The Marlins wound up with the worst mark in the NL at 64-98.

Glavine (14-11), scheduled to pitch Game 3 of the best-of-5 playoff opener against Cincinnati or



New York Mets players mob teammate Melvin Mora after he scored on a wild pitch in the bottom of the ninth inning to give the Mets a 2-1 victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates and stay alive in the National League wild card race. AP

O'Neill fills in as manager; Yankees lose to Devil Rays

ST. PETERSBURG, Florida (AP)—With the Yankees already assured home-field advantage throughout the AL playoffs, manager Joe Torre turned over the World Series champions to outfielder Paul O'Neill in Sunday's 6-2 loss to Tampa Bay that ended the regular season.

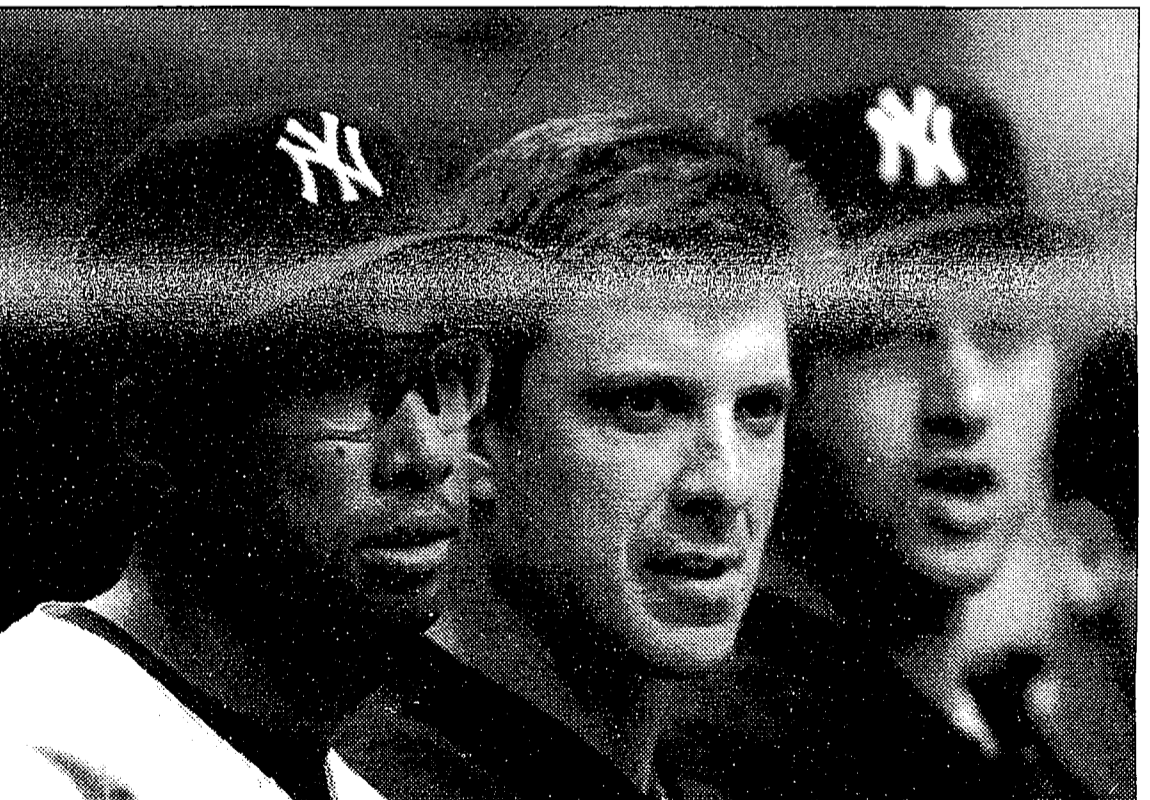
O'Neill, who bruised his right side and lower back when he crashed into a fence Saturday night, filled Torre's role as manager and Joe Girardi stood in for bench coach Don Zimmer as the Yankees used a lineup featuring one regular — catcher Jorge Posada.

Randy Winn's inside-the-park grand slam for Tampa Bay, however, left O'Neill with few decisions to ponder. The homer off Jeff Juden (0-1) capped a six-run fourth inning that wiped out a 2-0 Yankees lead.

New York will open the playoffs at home Tuesday night against the Texas Rangers, who lost eight of 12 games to the Yankees during the regular season.

Blue Jays 9, Indians 2

In Cleveland, David Wells



New York Yankees (from left) Bernie Williams, Tino Martinez, and Derek Jeter watch their game with the Tampa Bay Devil Rays Sunday at Tropicana Field in St. Petersburg, Fla. AP

pitched his AL-leading seventh complete game as the Toronto Blue Jays defeated the Cleveland Indians.

The Indians treated the game as a tuneup for their divisional series with the Boston Red Sox starting Wednesday night at Jacobs Field.

Cleveland finished with 1,009 runs, the most in the major leagues since the Red Sox scored 1,027 in 1950.

Houston, allowed five hits, didn't walk a batter and struck out six in winning his third straight decision. He also went 2-for-2 at the plate and drove in two runs.

The 18-0 win matched the franchise record, set by the Boston Braves against Buffalo on Oct. 3, 1885.

Cardinals 9, Cubs 5, 4 1/2 innings

In St. Louis, Mark McGwire hit his 65th homer and Sammy Sosa hit his 63rd as St. Louis closed out an otherwise dismal year with a victory in a game called after 4 1/2 innings because of rain.

McGwire finished with six homers in the final seven games, and moved past Ted Williams and Willie McCovey into 10th place on the career list with 522. Last year, he homered five times in the final three games to pull away from Sosa, 70-66.

McGwire became the first NL player since Dale Murphy in 1984-85 to win consecutive home-run titles. This was his fourth crown overall, having won two AL titles with Oakland.

Diamondbacks 10, Padres 3

In Phoenix, Brian Anderson pitched five shutout innings as the Arizona Diamondbacks won their 100th game, completing the biggest one-year turnaround in baseball history.

The NL West-champion Diamondbacks, the first team to reach the playoffs in just its second year, went from 65-97 in 1998 to 100-62 this year. The 35-game turnaround beats the previous best of 34 1/2 games, set by the 1903 New York Giants, who went from 48-88 in 1902 to 84-55 the following year.

SPORTS



Fred Gibson smiles as he holds the trophy after winning the PGA Seniors Vantage Championship Sunday at Tangelwood Park in Clemmons, N.C. Gibson finished at 15-under-par 195. AP

Casci crowned as King of the Beach

By Doug Mauro
For the Variety

ANDREW Casci, one of the well-known indoor volleyball players that represented the CNMI in the South Pacific Games was crowned King of the Beach Sunday, in the 2nd Annual King of the Beach Tournament held at the Hyatt Hotel.

Though the torrential rains were not the ideal conditions for a volleyball tournament, 16 of the best players on island fought the elements in the hope of being crowned King.

The first round of qualifiers had a chance to play in the round robin format in order to advance to the main event.

A noted upset occurred when CRM's Peter Barlas was stuck in a three-way tie to advance, but PIC's Jon Cramer outperformed Barlas and Tony Ganir in a old school serving shootout to guarantee Cramer a spot in the main draw. Barlas and Ganir went home.

The other players to advance to the main draw were Mike Walsh, Nan Intharaluk, and Chris Nelson.

The main event consisted of two pools of five players. The top two players of each pool advance to the championship round.

Canceling the BBQ and ordering food off the menu did not stop the fans from attending.

"These players are here for the show and the best competition available," explained Tournament Director Christopher Nelson.

The main draw had some unbelievable upsets due to the strategic play of Randall Steele and Andrew Casci in pool II.

"I just felt I had a command of this weather, and Randy played superlatively," Casci said when asked how he dominated his pool.

The Championship round robin was played under darkening conditions as well as downpours with Casci, Steele, Russ Quinn and Tyce Mister tormenting each other in the hopes of a tournament win.

In the first match, Steele and Quinn went up an impressive 8-0

Continued on page 26

Summer Youth Baseball

Northern Yankees defeat Kautz Glass Glazers, 17-14

Team Standing as of 10/2/99

Team	Win	Loss	Pct.	GB
Saipan Stevedore Pirates	8	2	.800	
Northern Yankees	8	3	.729	1/2
MGD Pepsi	6	4	.600	2
Kautz Glass Glazers	3	7	.300	5
Max Falcons	0	9	.000	9 1/2

THEY NEEDED a victory over the Kautz Glass Glazers to get a possible shot at the Youth Summer baseball League regular season pennant title.

Last Saturday, the Northern Yankees got what just what they wanted: a win over the Glazers, 17-14.

With the win, the Yankees stay in contention, for a shot at tying the Stevedore Pirates with the best record in the league.

Should the Pirates lose or defeat the team Max Falcons, they will have another chance at the pennant against the Yankees.

The Yankees need to defeat the Pirates to tie them for the League's best mark but that is, should the Pirates win their game against the Falcons,

The Pirates will clinch the pennant if they defeat the Yankees.

In the game Saturday, Chris Camacho and Len Maratita each

1999 Summer Youth Baseball League

Batting Leaders: (Based on 25 or more time at bat)

Player	Team	AB	HIT	BATTING
Ken Kalen	Glazers	32	16	.500
John Reyes	Pirates	30	15	.500
Dean Camacho	Glazers	25	12	.480
Garcia Jester	Yankees	26	12	.462
Peter Sablan	Pirates	27	12	.448
Chris Palacios		35	14	.444
Bruce Norita	Glazers	30	12	.400
Peter Tomokane	Pepsi	30	12	.400

Runs: (16) Gus Pangellinan (14) J. Reyes, P. Sablan (13) K. Kalen, B. Norita (12) M. Aguon, Pat Camacho

Doubles: (5) P. Tomokane, K. Kalen (3) John Acosta, Gus Pangellinan, Pat Camacho

Triples: (3) Pat Guerrero, Ken Kalen (2) Mario Sablan, Gus Pangellinan, Mario Aguon

Homeruns: (2) Bruce Norita (1) N. Norita, Jesse Taitano, Pat Camacho, Jess Saralu

RBI: (13) Bruce Norita, Peter Sablan (11) Pat Camacho, Ned Norita (10) Len Maratita

Pitching Leaders: (based on 10 or more Innings)

Player	Team	G	INN	ER	HIT	W/L	ERA
Tito Santos	Yankees	5	26	1	16	3-0	0.27
Kevin Kapileo	Pirates	3	11.1	3	11	1-1	1.85
Pat Guerrero	Pepsi	5	29.1	10	22	3-0	2.39
Audie Maratita	Pepsi	3	11	5	13	2-0	3.18
Joe Guerrero	Pepsi	3	17	8	15	1-1	3.43
Eric Kanj	Glazer	4	16.1	6	20	1-1	3.43
Chris Camacho	Yankees	4	14	7	13	2-1	3.50
Joshua Muna	Yankees	4	22	12	25	2-2	3.82

Strike-outs: (39) Tito Santos (31) Pat Guerrero (20) Joe Guerrero

had two hits with a double, triple and three RBI's and Hector Efrain was perfect at the plate going 2 for 2 with a triple and two RBI's to lead the Yankees attack.

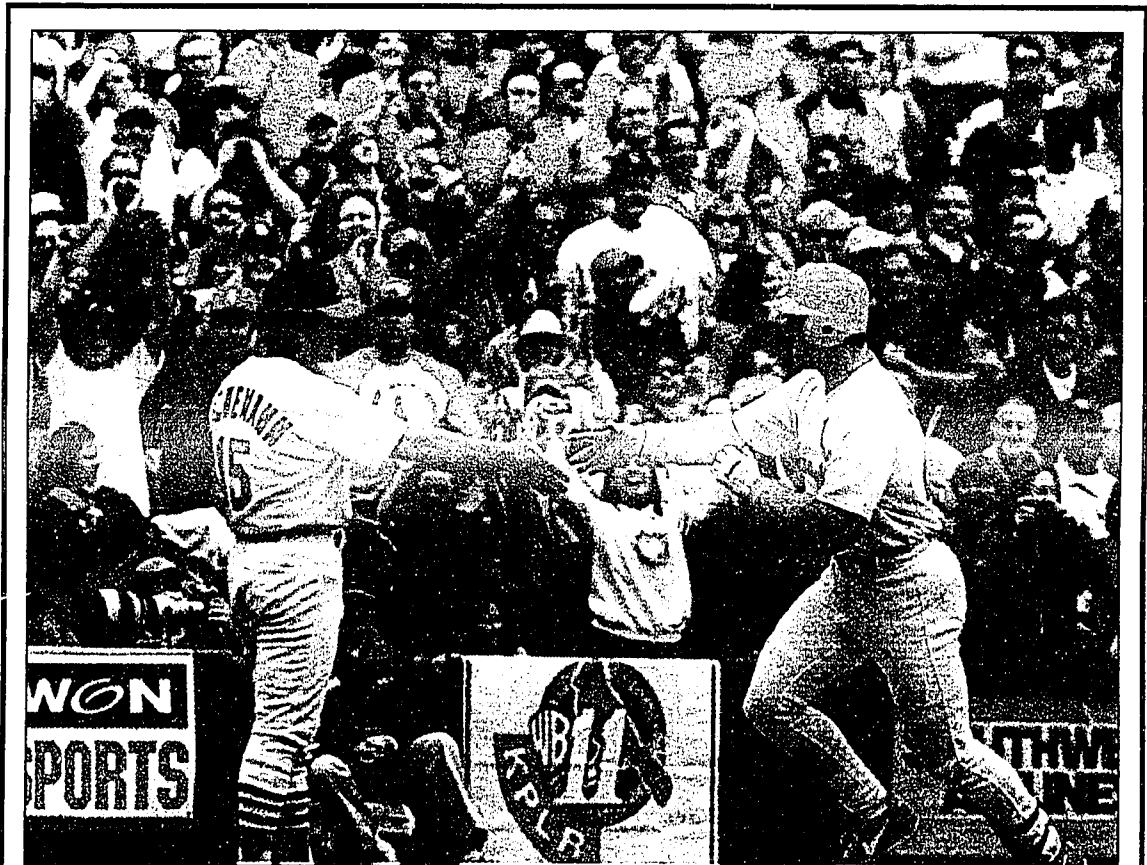
For the Glazers, Ken Kalen went 3 for 4 with two doubles and a triple and J.J. Saralu went perfect with 2 for 2 with a double and a homerun to lead the Glazers in their losing effort ties him for the

Batting League with John Reyes at .500.

His two doubles tie Pete Tomokane with five and his triple shares the lead with Pat Guerrero at three.

Saralu on the other hand became the fifth player to hit a homerun.

Of five, four are from the
Continued on page 26



St. Louis Cardinals' Mark McGwire shakes hands with third base coach Rene Lachemann as he rounds the bases for home run number 65 in the first inning against the Chicago Cubs Sunday. AP

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