

# CNMI joins NANP

By Mar-Vic C. Munar  
Variety News Staff

STARTING tomorrow, telecommunication traffic between the CNMI and the U.S. mainland will be considered domestic calls as the Commonwealth officially becomes a part of the Northern American Numbering Plan.

"This means that we are now part of the American family of

## *Ecet says calls to the U.S. to become more affordable*

telecommunications. In the past, we have been considered international destination; now we are a true stateside domestic telephone location," said Dave Ecet, the governor's special assistant for telecommunications and utilities.

The Federal Communications Commission has allowed the

CNMI to retain 670 as its area code.

By virtue of NANP, calls from the CNMI to Guam and mainland can be placed by dialing 001 plus area code, then the telephone number.

In the same manner, the CNMI can be reached by callers from

Guam and mainland by dialing 001 plus 670, plus telephone number.

Admission to NANP also provides the CNMI toll free access to 800 service, said Ecet.

The CNMI's entry into NANP will be followed by its inclusion in domestic rate integration on Aug. 1 which will redound to decrease in long distance rates between the CNMI and the mainland.

At midnight tonight (early Tues-

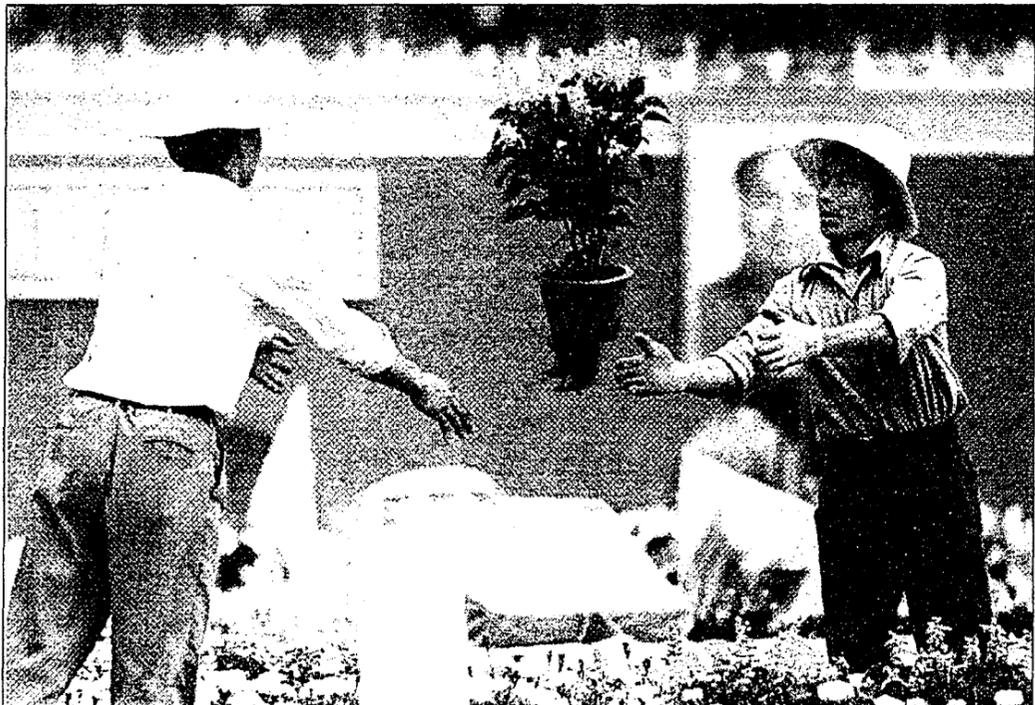
day), Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio along with FCC representatives will make a maiden call to FCC office in Washington to launch the CNMI's membership in NANP. A ceremony "to mark the day" will be held at the American Memorial Park at 12 noon tomorrow.

Tenorio has declared July 1 "administrative day" for all government employees.

The CNMI's becoming a component of the national telecommunications landscape, Ecet

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## Hong Kong returns to Chinese rule at midnight



A worker throws a potted plant to a colleague as they decorate a stage in Beijing's Tiananmen Square Sunday in preparation for official celebrations of the Hong Kong handover. The square will be the center for celebrations in Beijing Monday night, of Hong Kong's return to Chinese sovereignty at midnight. AP

## BOS: Estate lost over \$250M

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

LARRY Hillblom's estate has lost over \$250 million because of alleged misrepresentations by his former business associates involving DHL International, according to estate executor Bank of Saipan

(BOS).

BOS, through counsel Stephen V. Bomse, filed on Friday a cross-claim in Superior Court seeking to recover damages from claimants against the estate.

Bomse stated that on Sept. 5, 1995, DHLI, Chung Po Yang, Greenpark International Ltd., Japan Airlines Co. Ltd., Lufthansa Cargo Aktiengesellschaft, Nissho Iwai Corp., and William A. Robinson filed a claim against the estate in the lower court.

The claimants sought the court's order to acknowledge and enforce their rights under a so-called Shareholders' Agreement dated

Aug. 8, 1992.

Bomse said the agreement gives claimants certain rights to buy the shares of a deceased shareholder of DHLI, at the "fair market value."

The lawyer explained that DHLI, Chung and Greenpark have exercised their rights to purchase the 23,576 shares owned by Hillblom at the time of his death. Specifically, he said, DHLI, Greenpark and Chung have exercised a right to purchase 22,076 shares, 1,000 shares, and 500 shares, respectively.

Bomse said on information and

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## The Earhart Mystery: 60 years later

Exactly 60 years after the disappearance of woman pilot Amelia Earhart in July 1, 1937, the mystery about her fate remains unsolved. Did she spy for the Americans? Was Saipan really the spot where her Lockheed Electra crash-landed?

Historic Cartographer William Stewart revisits the Earhart saga in a two-part special report. See PAGE 13

## According to US 902 rep:

# 'CNMI side gave 902 low priority'

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

PRESIDENT Clinton's special representative admitted Thursday that the 902 discussions have been "ineffective," but only because the CNMI did not consider the talks important enough.

Edward B. Cohen, in a letter to the Variety, said the issues discussed by federal and CNMI representatives "require hard work, dedication and a willingness to consider alternatives."

"Unfortunately," he added, "the 902 process appears to have been a low priority for the CNMI. As a result, we have had few achievements."

Still, according to Cohen, the

federal government "remains ready to engage in meaningful bilateral discussions."

Section 902 of the Covenant provides that representatives of the Federal and Commonwealth governments are to meet regularly to discuss issues that affect their relationship.

The CNMI's basic political document, the Covenant established the CNMI in political union with the U.S.

Cohen's letter was the first official comment from the Clinton administration since Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio decided early this month to "scrap" the 902 discussions

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## GST proposes to lay 2nd fiber optic cable

By Mar-Vic C. Munar  
Variety News Staff

GST Telecommunications, Inc. is proposing to lay a second fiber optic cable that would establish a network for CNMI, Guam, Honolulu, California and Mexico, an administration official said Friday.

Dave Ecet, the governor's special assistant for telecommunications and utilities, said GST activated two weeks ago its new optic fiber network in Honolulu, and that it plans to link it to the CNMI through the Micronesian Telecommunication Corp.'s cable in Guam.



Dave Ecet

"GST already has an approval from the (Federal Communications Act) for their license," Ecet told the Variety.

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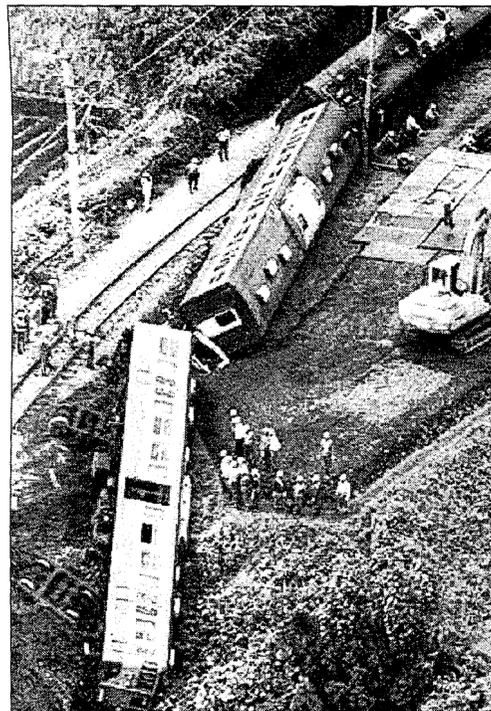
## WEATHER Outlook



Mostly cloudy with isolated showers

*Typhoon causes landslide, erosion*

# Train derails in Japan



An aerial view of derailment of four-passenger trains in Wachi Town in Kyoto prefecture Sunday after Typhoon Peter cut through western Japan. About 50 passengers were on board and 15 people have suffered injuries in the accident. AP

**TOKYO (AP)** - The body of one of two U.S. servicemen missing in a rain-swollen stream after Typhoon Peter slammed Japan was recovered Sunday, police said.

The typhoon, with winds of up to 108 kilometers (76 miles) per hour, blew across much of the nation Saturday and early Sunday, also leaving 28 people injured in two derailments caused by a landslide and erosion under the tracks.

Also Sunday, a Japanese navy helicopter rescued an American and a New Zealand man after their yacht broke up in rough seas off western Japan.

The body of Lance Cpl. John J.

Vogsonian, 22, of West Hempstead, New York, was recovered by a police diver about five kilometers (3 miles) from where he and a companion were reported to have jumped into a river from a bridge on Saturday, said Noriyuki Watanabe of Iwakuni city police.

He said 128 people, including 70 American servicemen, were searching for the other missing man, Lance Cpl. John A. Kramer, 20, of Kent, Ohio.

Both men were stationed at the U.S. Marine Corps Air Station in Iwakuni, 489 kilometers (289 miles) southwest of Tokyo.

The two yachtsmen, James Craig,

35, from Guam and Trevor Smith, 62, from Sido Whangarei, New Zealand, were picked up from a lifeboat off Cape Shiono in Wakayama prefecture (state), said Mamoru Watanabe of the Maritime Safety Agency, Japan's coast guard.

He said both were reported in good condition.

The yacht broke up Saturday and the yachtsmen had been calling for help by radio, he added.

Typhoon Peter came ashore near Nagasaki on Japan's southern main island of Kyushu Saturday and roared across much of Japan before blowing out into the Pacific Ocean Sunday.

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## Chinese President Jiang Zemin vows to safeguard Hong Kong's autonomy

**BEIJING (AP)** - Chinese President Jiang Zemin pledged Sunday to uphold Hong Kong's autonomy and its people's freedoms after China resumes control of the territory.

Jiang reaffirmed China's commitment not to interfere in Hong Kong's affairs in remarks to Communist Party leaders at Beijing's Great Hall of the People. The comments were intended to soothe concerns in Hong Kong, which Britain hands back to China Tuesday.

Jiang, who heads the party, promised to allow Hong Kong "a high degree of autonomy" and defend the constitution China wrote for the territory that enshrines its separate status, the official Xinhua News Agency reported.

"We will firmly ... safeguard the Hong Kong residents' rights and freedoms in accordance with the law," Xinhua quoted Jiang as saying.

After making the remarks,

Continued on page 4



Jiang Zemin

## Former chairman of scandal-ridden Japan bank kills self

**TOKYO (AP)** - A former chairman of Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank, reportedly facing further questioning about the bank's alleged payoffs to racketeers, hanged himself Sunday in his bedroom,

a bank spokesman said. Kuniji Miyazaki, 67, died at a hospital nine hours after family members found him unconscious, said spokesman Shinichi Aikawa.

Aikawa declined to comment on news reports that Miyazaki left suicide notes to his bank and family members.

Prosecutors questioned Miyazaki Friday and Saturday,

and had planned to question him further Sunday, Kyodo News reported. Prosecutors were not available for comment.

Dai-Ichi Kangyo Bank, one of Japan's largest banks, has

been embroiled in a scandal involving illegal loans to "sokaiya," racketeers who threaten to disrupt company shareholders meetings if they

Continued on page 4

# Legislature OKs BIDI lease

*'Money talks,' says former Gov. Carlos S. Camacho*

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

DESPITE allegations of bribery and conflict of interest, and concerns over the CNMI's diminishing public land for homesteads, legislators on Friday approved the 135-hectare Bird Island land lease proposal, citing the need for a "pro-development" attitude.

The land lease proposal, which would have expired yesterday, was approved by a vote of 24 to 2.

But unlike previous sessions held to decide on similar controversial proposals, there was no applause after the vote was announced, no beaming faces, no "thank you's" from the people in the gallery.

Fourteen of the 27-member Legislature have said they will oppose the land lease, but only two voted against it during Friday's joint session of the Legislature, which also saw the approval of Kan Pacific's 15-year land lease extension.

Public land leases involving more than 5 hectares need the approval of the Legislature voting in a joint session.

**'Finished'**

"Our land is finished," former governor Carlos S. Camacho told reporters shortly after House Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) declared that the Bird Island land lease proposal has been approved.

"Somebody is going to be pulling his leg 30 to 40 years from now (as there won't be land left)," the CNMI's first governor said.

Camacho, who has previously testified against the land lease, was among the people in the gallery during Friday's joint session.

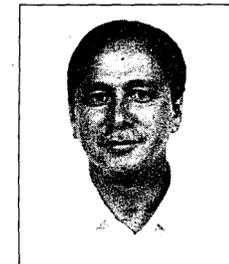
Asked to explain the overwhelming vote for the land lease proposal, Camacho said, "I guess money talks."

One of the 14 legislators who eventually voted for approval told the Variety that he will not comment on Camacho's statement, but added that his vote was a "hard decision to make."

Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider (Ind.-Saipan) said the lease will give up a



Heinz S. Hofschneider



Rosiky F. Camacho



Carlos S. Camacho

large tract of public land, but only "temporarily."

He said after the 25-year lease is up, the people can decide whether or not to take back the land.

But, meantime, Hofschneider said he has to consider other issues as well, particularly the additional government revenues that the \$150 million golf resort project will bring.

For his part, Sen. David M. Cing (D-Tinian) said "money may have had a talk with some," but added that he and the seven other Tinian and Rota legislators voted for the land lease only after being told that their Saipan colleagues are for the project.

"This is a project for Saipan, and we can't go against something our Saipan colleagues say is good for the island," Cing said.

He added that though Rep. Stanley T. Torres (Ind.-Saipan) has every right to oppose the project and should even be commended for "standing up for what he believed is right," almost all of the Saipan legislators were for the land lease.

**Conflicts, conflicts**

It was Torres who spearheaded the opposition against the land lease proposal, alleging that House Majority Leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), Reps. Manuel A. Tenorio (R-Saipan) and Ana S. Teregeyo have "conflict

of interest."

A day before the joint session, Torres told the Variety that Bird Island Development, Inc. (BIDI) president James Lin even tried to "influence" him into supporting the project.

Lin denied the allegation.

During Friday's session, Reyes, Tenorio and Teregeyo reiterated that they have no "conflict of interest."

Reyes said Lin, who owns garment factories on Saipan, was among his *comparsé*, when he introduced a legislation that would restrict the hiring of garment workers.

Tenorio, for his part, said his brother, former Lt. governor Pete A. Tenorio, has resigned from BIDI's board of directors and as project consultant.

"I do not have any conflict of interest," Rep. Tenorio said.

"I receive (nothing) from (this

project) and my responsibility is to my constituency."

Teregeyo's husband, Joaquin, was also a BIDI board director, but has resigned from it a few days before the joint session.

Teregeyo said whatever conflict there was has been resolved, "and I am now free to debate."

**'Next time'**

Legislators who voted for the land lease proposal said homestead applicants should be given priority over public lands, particularly those "more conveniently located."

Rep. David M. Apatang (R-Saipan) and House Minority Leader Dino M. Jones (D-Saipan) said the problem is not the lack of lands, but the lack of money for the infrastructure needed for homestead subdivision.

Jones said without revenues from

golf resort projects such as BIDI's, the government may have to impose higher taxes to pay for the infrastructure.

But Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho (D-Saipan), in an impassioned speech in Chamorro, said the Legislature will be "sacrificing the children's future" by approving the land lease.

He said the CNMI is running out of public lands for future homestead applicants.

Only Camacho and Torres voted against the BIDI land lease proposal, while Senate Majority Leader Thomas P. Villagomez was the only legislator absent.

The senator's father, businessman Manuel S. Villagomez, is claiming that the BIDI land lease includes 54 hectares of his own land.

Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio, however, said Villagomez has already agreed to accommodate BIDI, and that the Legislature should approve the land lease.

Aside from Torres and Camacho, the 12 other legislators who said they were opposed to the lease proposal are Senate Vice President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota), Sen. Henry DLG. San Nicolas (R-Tinian), Sen. Juan P. Tenorio (R-Saipan), Vice Speaker Jesus T. Attao (R-Saipan), Hofschneider, Rep. Melvin O. Fuisso (R-Saipan), Rep. Crispin I. DL Guenero (R-Saipan), Rep. Maria T. Peter (R-Saipan), Rep. Karl T. Reyes (R-Saipan), Apatang, Rep. Oscar M. Babauta (R-Saipan) and Rep. Joaquin G. Adriano (R-Tinian).



A group of CNMI students tour a suburb of Seoul, Korea during their tour of the South Korean capital last week. A total of 30 students were taken to Korea for a four-day visit under an annual Student Exchange Goodwill program sponsored by the Saipan Jaycees, Inc.

## Palau temporary bridge to be finished by next month

THE TEMPORARY bridge that will connect the Republic of Palau's capital city of Koror with its largest island Babeldaob will be finished by next month, according to one of President Kuniwo Nakamura's assistants.

The temporary bridge, which will replace the K-B Bridge that, until its collapse late last year, spanned the Tochel Mid (Renrak) Channel, will be installed July 10, said Elias Okamura, Special Assistant to the President for Transportation.

A two-week contract extension granted to the project's contractor, Daiho Corp. of Japan to compensate for the painting of the bridge, could push the completion back to the end

of July 19, a news release from Palau said.

The different sections of the bridge were delivered earlier this week, and will be installed by Daiho as soon as the project's anchors are laid down by divers from local subcontractor Surangel Construction.

The bridge is comprised of two pontoon-like sections that are connected by a metal superstructure, which will have a clearance in the middle of the design of 9.8 ft. (3 meters), or an actual clearance of 15 ft. (4.5 meters), to accommodate boat traffic.

Presently, divers are relocating submarine cables and preparing to lay



Elias Okamura

108 concrete anchors that will stabilize the temporary bridge, said Okamura.

The anchors will be placed under the water 100 ft. away from the bridge on either side of the structure.

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\*Excluding Informal Checks

Hofschneider wants his school choice bill

# Tax credit proposal nixed

By Mar-Vic C. Munar  
Variety News Staff  
REPRESENTATIVE Heinz Hofschneider opposed Thursday House legal counsel's proposal to convert his School Choice Bill into a tax credit measure saying such setup would only work in favor high income families.

"Parental Choice Scholarship Act of 1997." House legal counsel Richard Counts said the Hofschneider bill may not stand constitutional challenges. The provision in HB 10-322 which establishes residency and U.S. citizenship requirements for eligibility, according to Counts, violate both the U.S. and the CNMI constitutions which mandate each state to provide free education to all students.

As an alternative to HB 10-322, Counts has proposed a bill giving \$2,000 tax credit for tuition of dependent minors. Hofschneider said the tax credit proposal would not benefit low income families. "You can't give a tax credit to the poor. They don't have enough income to begin with, so what tax credit are you going to give them. It's only for the rich. It doesn't make sense," Hofschneider said in an interview during a public hearing on voucher

program held Thursday night at Multipurpose Building in Susupe. The House members said he is more inclined to sponsor the governor's bill which "I admit is a lot better than my own bill." He said the governor's version "relieves as lot of constitutional questions." Thursday night's public hearing conducted by the House committee on health, education, and welfare, had a big turnout. Some parents expressed support

for the voucher program saying it would give them the opportunity to "get our children away" from the "poor quality of education in public schools." Others raised the same constitutional issues which legal experts are concerned about. One parent stood up and said she didn't care about the constitutional intricacies of the program. "All I want to see my kids getting good education which they may get in private schools," the parent said.

## Ishibashi retrial today

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff  
THE retrial for Kojo Y. Ishibashi in connection with illegal possession of firearms and ammunition charges will start today in the Superior Court. A bench trial was set at 9 a.m. after Ishibashi, through counsel Richard Pierce, waived the jury trial. Associate Judge Edward Manibusan will preside the trial which was originally handled by Presiding Judge Alejandro Castro. During Friday's hearing, Assistant Atty. Gen. James Norcross asked the court to file additional charges of illegal possession of "ice" and marijuana against the defendant. Manibusan denied Norcross' motion as he ques-

tioned the government why the request was filed only two days before the trial whereas it has one year to amend the information. The government first filed 12 counts of charges against Ishibashi, including drug possession. The Attorney General's Office, however, reduced the charges to seven then later to four counts. Another amended information was filed charging the defendant only with illegal possession of firearms and ammunition. The jury found Ishibashi guilty to the charges. Ishibashi, however, sought a retrial after discovering that one of the judges "talked about" the case with fellow jurors during the course of the trial.

## Train...

Continued from page 2  
In Kyoto, western Japan, 17 passengers were injured, one seriously, when a four-car train with 43 passengers aboard derailed Saturday after floods washed away road bed under

the track. In Miyagi prefecture, northern Japan, 11 passengers were injured, two seriously, when another four-car train derailed Saturday after a landslide buried part of the track. The typhoon forced cancellation of airplane flights, trains and ferries throughout the nation.

## Chinese...

Continued from page 2  
Jiang and Premier Li Peng left for Hong Kong along with others in the 72-member official delegation attending the change of sovereignty ceremonies. Xinhua did not say whether the leaders would fly directly to Hong Kong or stop over in southern China. Their first scheduled appearance at the changeover fes-

tivities is a banquet Monday night. Under its 1984 agreement with Britain, China vowed to let Hong Kong keep its capitalist economic and social system for 50 years. Jiang said he would be meeting with foreign dignitaries attending the ceremonies to underscore that China will protect their countries' investments and business activities in Hong Kong. "We will explain these principal policies to our people and the rest of the world," Jiang said.

## Ex-chairman...

Continued from page 2  
are not paid off. Prosecutors filed formal charges Thursday against four current and former officials of Dai-Ichi Kangyo - not including Miyazaki - accused of giving 11.8 billion yen (\$103,500) to "sokaiya" Ryuichi Koike. The Tokyo District Prosecutors office also charged Koike with taking the money, dis-

guised as loans backed with collateral, despite knowing that the payments were illegal. The scandal has highlighted the rampant racketeering against top Japanese companies, and their willingness to do illegal business with the extortionists rather than turn them in. Miyazaki became the bank's president in 1988 and chairman in 1992. He stepped down to become an adviser in April 1996 and left that post June 13 after the scandal broke.

## Dela Cruz seeks governor's action to ensure employers' financial capacity

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff  
CONCEDING that its recent agreement with the Department of Labor and Immigration on the screening of employers prior to the hiring of foreign workers is "legally questionable and under challenge," Commerce Secretary Pedro Q. dela Cruz has urged Gov. Froilan Tenorio to execute a directive enabling the new policy to "withstand legal challenge."



Pedro Q. dela Cruz

In his June 23 letter to Tenorio, dela Cruz also asked the governor to issue instructions to the Insurance Commissioner "to take immediate regulatory steps in the oversight of the labor bonding industry." "I respectfully encourage you to adopt a policy whereby the Department of Labor and Immigration is instructed not to issue any nonresident worker entry permits until an employer requesting a nonresident worker establishes with reasonable certainty that they are financially capable to provide for the worker," said de la Cruz in his four-page letter, a copy of which he gave to Variety. "Legally speaking, I understand the Memorandum of Understanding attempting to accomplish this goal (with DOLI) is questionable and under challenge. "However, specific instruction from the top government official in the form of an Executive Order,

Directive, or Memorandum to create some type of a certification process is another matter altogether and more likely to withstand legal challenge," he explained. De la Cruz said the Insurance Commissioner's "exceptionally weak" statutory authority to regulate bonding companies is "part of the problem" that has resulted to such fiascos as the illegal recruitment of the 191 Bangladeshi workers who were later on abandoned by the placement agency that arranged for their entry into the Commonwealth. "As a result, the risk or amount of exposure these bonding companies have today in relation to the amount of reserves in place to handle claims is dangerously disproportional," he said. Under previous arrangements, any

employer may hire a nonresident worker for a mere \$50 in bond. This may explain why DOLI had difficulties asking the Bangladeshi insurance firms to release \$1,500 for each of the displaced workers in surety bonds as ruled by the DOLI Administrative Hearing Office head, Lynn Asper. "The Insurance Commissioner could be instructed to issue regulations pertaining to a requirement that all bonding companies must maintain capital reserves in proportion to risk of exposure. "Had these steps been taken prior to the Philam Enterprises fiasco, then the insurance companies who had issued bonds on the dozens of unemployed Bangladeshi workers would have had money to return those workers to their place of origin," de la Cruz argued. The Attorney General's Office, through Assistant Attorney General Elliott A. Sattler has sought for Tenorio's revocation of the Memorandum of Understanding reached between DOC and DOLI on the screening of employers prior to their hiring of foreign workers saying the pact may only lead to a "regulatory nightmare and public relations disaster." De La Cruz has however countered that the MOU is mandated by law even as he stressed that its invalidation would be an "ill-advised mistake."

## Villagers gather against crime

By Laila C. Younis  
Variety News Staff  
THE DEPARTMENT of Public Safety is calling on people who can be the toughest and effective soldiers on the war against crime and violence: citizens. Through a series of meetings sponsored by the Department of Public Safety and the CNMI Crime Stoppers, villagers across the CNMI participated in sharing concerns and ideas about crime, violence and drugs. This week, Tanapag and San Roque villagers heard from different police officers, fire fighters, and experts on a range of serious issues that affect the CNMI communities. Topics include crime and violence, neighborhood watch, narcotics and firearms, juvenile delinquency, domestic violence, Crime Stoppers program, and fire prevention. "Our primary goal is to get the community and the police depart-

ment to get together hand in hand in solving crimes to make the CNMI a better and safer place to live in," said Director of the DPS Community Relations Committee Lino S. Tenorio. "We are coming up with a variety of programs under the umbrella of DPS, where we update them with information on how to combat crime," he added. The meeting at San Roque had a special guest speaker from Hawaii, Gary Shimabokuru, a drug specialist and investigator. He spoke to participants about the effects of crystal methamphetamine, also known as "ice". "Drugs is a big problem here. Families think that they can control the problem, so they hide it. But they cannot solve it, and it turns family members against each other," said Shimabokuru. "It is a cost to families and lives. And also it destroys the culture. For example, the traditional respect that

young people have for elders is lost if the elders get on ice," he added. "A lot of crimes are unsolved, most especially homicide cases. The information that the community can provide will definitely be helpful," said Tenorio. One of the main purposes of the village meetings is to form a Neighborhood Watch Program, where villagers start a team with an elected captain. Community volunteers help keep a watch on crime and inform the police on any criminal activity. "There is a need for more education and involvement in these areas. It is programs like these that can let the communities know that they have an important active role in fighting crime and that we need their help because we cannot do it alone," said Tenorio. Similar meetings are being planned for government and private sectors next week.

# Hourly wage up to \$3.05

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff  
EFFECTIVE tomorrow, all workers in the CNMI will be receiving a \$3.05 minimum wage while exempted categories like domestic helps, fishermen and farmers will be paid \$300 a month, the Department of Labor and Immigration announced. DOLI, which came out with a public notice on the matter, said it is not expecting an increase in the number of minimum wage viola-

tors as a consequence of the mandated increase. In an interview, acting DOLI Secretary William A. Jones said most workers in the Commonwealth are in fact, already receiving salaries way above the mandated amount. "A lot of employers are already paying their domestic helps \$350 or \$400 a month to begin with," he said. "We are ordering them (employers) to comply (with the law)



William A. Jones



Diego Benavente

notice on the matter. "Pursuant to 4 CMC Div 9 § 9221, the minimum wage for all employees in the Commonwealth is \$3.05 per hour effective July 1, 1997," the DOLI announcement read. "Persons employed in non-minimum wage categories such as houseworkers, fishermen and farmers should be receiving a minimum of \$300 a month (as per) 3 CMC Div. 9 § 9224 (b)," it added. "All contracts for nonresident workers, which do not reflect this increase, would be automatically amended by operation of law. Employers failing to compensate employees under the minimum wage may be subject to penalties under 4 CMC Div. 9 § 9242 (b)," it further stated.

## 149 illegal aliens were deported since January

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff  
A TOTAL of 149 overstaying and illegally employed foreigners have been deported by the Department of Labor and Immigration since last January, official records showed.

The figures, compiled by DOLI Immigration Enforcement Unit chief, Maj. Ralph Demapan, also showed that Chinese nationals comprised the bulk of those deported with 84 of them having been sent back home. Filipinos comprised the second largest number of foreigners deported at 44. Eight Korean nationals, five Thais, seven Bangladeshi and a Pakistani were also among those deported. A monthly breakdown of the deportations showed April as a "peak season" with 42 foreigners, 26 of them Chinese nationals, sent home. Thirty-one foreigners, 18 of them Chinese nationals, were deported in Jan; 17 in Feb.; three in March; 27 in May; and 29 as of last week this month. In a briefing with acting DOLI Secretary William A. Jones, Demapan explained that only three foreigners, all of them Filipinos, were deported in March because most DOLI operatives were then undergoing special trainings on inspection, investigation and arrests. Eleven Chinese nationals were deported in Feb., none in March, 12 in May and 17 this month thus far. Eleven Filipino were also deported in Jan., four in Feb., seven in April, nine in May and 10 this month. A Thai national was deported in Feb. while four others were sent home in May. A Korean national was also deported in February, while five others followed suit in April. Two other Koreans were deported in May and this month. Two Bangladeshis were deported in January; four in April; and one last month. The lone Pakistani deportee was sent home last month. The figure on this year's deportations thus far, Demapan said, is

and we expect them to do so," Jones stressed. The new wage hike, observers noted, could hurt the garment and construction sectors. But House Speaker Diego Benavente, in an earlier interview, said the House Republican

leadership "feels that the garment and construction industries have already been given a chance to lessen the impact" of the increase. Workers in these industries, estimated to number about 10,000, were being paid \$2.95 an hour prior to the issuance of a DOLI

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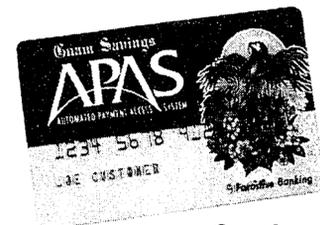


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# Lawyer sues for unpaid fees

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

A LAWYER filed on Friday a lawsuit against two Koreans and a private firm for allegedly failing to pay him for legal services.

Jay H. Sorensen sued Young Hee An, Young Hoon Kim and Access Silla Trading Corp. (ASTC) in the Superior Court. An is president and principal shareholder of ASTC.

Sorensen demanded \$3,438.40 payment plus interest from An and ASTC and \$7,900 plus interest against each of all defendants.

Sorensen stated in the complaint that last year he had rendered services and incurred expenses on behalf of defendants An and ASTC.

Sorensen said An and ASTC owe him \$3,438.40 for services given but not paid for.

The lawyer explained that pursuant to the terms of the agreement between him and defendants in the event legal

action was required, the prevailing party is entitled to costs, including attorney's fees.

He said An owes him \$1,400, \$3,000, \$3,500, plus interest for money he lent due on July 1, 1993, Oct. 24, 1994, and Jan. 13, 1995 respectively.

Sorensen said the terms of all the loans set forth were in writing, including a term allowing for the prevailing party to recover costs, including reasonable attorney's fees, in the event of an action to recover the amount due.

He said on Dec. 22, 1994 Kim guaranteed payment of all of the loans in writing.

Sorensen said on Oct. 7, 1994 An executed certain promissory note and security agreement.

Under the agreement, Sorensen said An pledged all of her stock in ASTC to him and gave him the right to hold and possess the stock certificates evidencing her ownership in that corporation.

Sorensen said it was agreed in the event of default he may proceed against said stock as allowed by law.

Defendant is in default in that no payments have been

made on the loans, he said.

The lawyer asked the court to issue an order that he has a lien upon the shares of the capital stocks, and that ownership of the stock is held in

pledge of the loans.

Sorensen requested the court to issue judgment that the shares be sold at public sale and the proceeds be paid to him.

## Stayman hails slight increase in federal gov't insular budget

THE OFFICE of Insular Affairs praised President Clinton and US Congress for agreeing to a slightly increased 1998 budget for the US territories and insular areas, the OIA Flash Fax reports.

"At a time of overwhelming fiscal restraint, it is reassuring to know that President Clinton and the Congress are not only not cutting the insular budget, but are actually increasing it slightly," Allen P. Stayman, OIA Director, said in an analysis of the FY 1998 budget as it moves through Congress.

Stayman made his remarks shortly after the release of the House Appropriations Committee's mark-up of the Interior and Related Agency's budgets.

"A stable flow of various kinds of funds from Washington to the islands is vital," Stayman said.

Among the continuing flows of funds at the anticipated levels were the following: advances to Guam (\$45 million) and to the Virgin Islands (\$40 million) against future tax revenues (to be collected for those jurisdictions by the U.S. Treasury); a \$23 million operations grant



Allen P. Stayman

to American Samoa; and nearly \$148 million to the three freely associated states of the Marshalls, Palau, and the Federated States of Micronesia.

Covenant grants will go to the CNMI for construction (\$11 million), and to the CNMI Initiative designed to enhance labor and immigration law enforcement (\$2 million).

In addition, the budget calls \$10.1 million for construction in Samoa and for \$4.58 million for the impact of Micronesians moving to Guam.

The slight increases in the budget, when compared to that of FY 1997,

came in the Territorial Assistance category, OIA said.

The President's budget had sought more funds to cope with the Brown Tree Snake (on Guam and in CNMI), going from \$6 million to \$1.6 million, and another extra million dollars to help maintain island hospitals.

The Committee accepted those requests and also approved another million dollars for OIA's Technical Assistance (TA) Programs; these include a variety of projects serving the seven jurisdictions.

The largest of these programs provides advanced training in management and fiscal administration to civil servants in the islands through the Department of Agriculture's Graduate School.

Also funded is a multi-island aquaculture program, which, among other things, encourages the commercial farming of giant clams in Palau and American Samoa.

There is also a scholarship program (Junior Statesmen) which will bring island high school students to Princeton, Yale and other universities this summer.

## Creating cyberclassrooms is a form of education malpractice, say critics

By Mar-Vic C. Munar  
Variety News Staff

TECHNOLOGY critics frown at the Clinton Administration's "computers in every classroom" goal, saying such technology program may be overrated and not worth spending billions of dollars.

Clinton's "bridge to the 21st century" campaign costs between \$40 billion and \$100 billion over the next five years. This should be stopped, according to the cover story of the Atlantic Monthly's July 1997 issue.

The article by Todd Oppenheimer said several states have cut financial assistance to district schools and spent over \$37 million on classroom computers.

Several schools in California are forced to kill their music, art and physical education programs, and replaced teachers for these subjects with technology coordinators.

The National Information Infrastructure Advisory Council Council, the Clinton administration's presidential task force, had suggested that programs such as shop classes and field trips be reduced in order to shift resources into computers.

Throughout the country, spending on technology increases while school book purchases are stagnant, the article said.

The article titled "The Computer Delusion," said that "cutting other social subject to make room for computers may be an educational malpractice."

The Atlantic Monthly said that "there was no good evidence" that replacing traditional classroom setup with cyberlandscape significantly improve teaching and learning.

Studies that say computers enhance student achievement are more anecdotal than conclusive," the article said.

"Some, including a giant oft-cited meta-analysis of 254 studies, lack the necessary scientific controls to make solid conclusions possible," the Atlantic Monthly article said.

"The circumstances are artificial and not easily repeated, results aren't statistically reliable, or, most frequently, the studies did not count for other influences such as difference between teaching methods."

Moreover, the article said, some studies were industry funded and thus tended to publicize positive findings.

What worries technology critics is that getting hooked on the "virtual world" might make students lose touch with the real physical world.

The industry, the article said, creates an environment that "mimicked what exists in the high-tech business world."

Critics also say that dependence on "canned images" on CD-ROM, for example, tends to curb the students' own creativity.

"The kids would have fun with them, but critics are worried that once they get hooked, reading books would seem tedious to them."

The school's real job, according to technology critic Neil Postman who

was quoted in the article, "is to focus on how to make a life, which is quite different from how to make a living."

Even computer moguls, according to the article, don't agree that technology can fix the flaws in education.

Steve Jobs, one of the founders of Apple Computer said "no amount of technology will make a dent."

Jane David, a consultant to Apple said putting a Website in every school becomes "bad if it lulls us into thinking we're doing something to solve the problem with education."

The solution, the article said, is not to ban computers from classrooms altogether, but "to ban federal spending on what is fast becoming an overheated campaign."

According to Atlantic Monthly, financing for such technology projects should be left to the private sector, particularly the computer industry, which considering its vigorous competition for new customers "seems well equipped to handle the situation."

Federal money, the article said, should instead be made available for "impoverished fundamentals" such as teaching solid skills in reading, thinking, listening and talking, organizing inventive trips and other rich hands-on experiences.

"We need to teach the whys and ways of the world," the article quoted a teacher as saying. "Tools come and tools go. Teaching our children tools limits their knowledge to these tools and hence limits their future."

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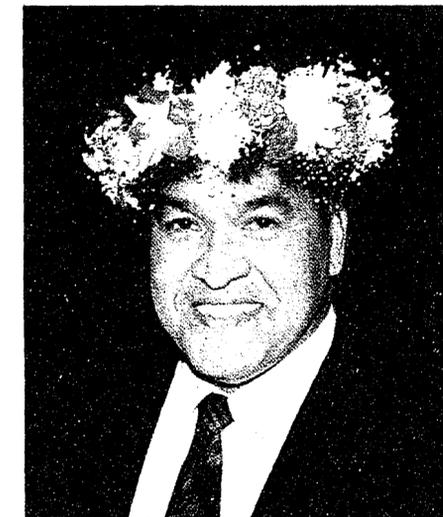
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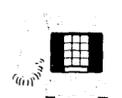
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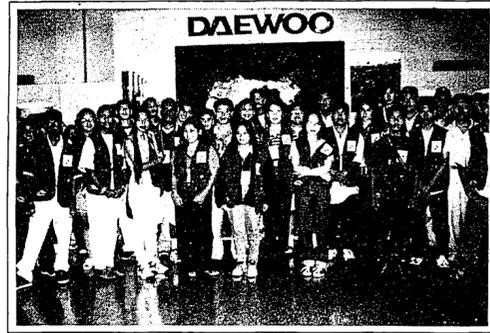


# CNMI students tour Korea



AT THE HYDRO-POWER PLANT. Students, with a Saipan Jaycee, get a briefing from a guide.

By Rick Alberto  
Variety News Staff  
**SEOUL, Korea**—The four-day visit here of 30 students from the CNMI was capped Friday with an express ride on the glass-encased ultra-speed elevator at Korea's tallest building, the 63-story Golden Tower.  
One felt like taking a carnival ride as one was transported for one minute and 30 seconds to the 60th-floor viewing deck. During the ride, one gets a view of the sprawling city below.  
The students arrived in Seoul Tuesday. They formed the sixth batch of students that the Saipan Jaycees—all Korean businessmen based on Saipan—have invited annually to familiarize them with Korea first hand.



AT THE DAEWOO. The students, together with their sponsors Saipan Jaycees led by President Kim, Jae Hong (middle, second row), pose at the lobby of the car-manufacturing giant's administration building.

The observation tower has high-power telescopes from which you can catch close-up views of Seoul's high-rise apartment buildings and traffic, among other things, can be seen.

The building has become a tourist and educational destination, as it also houses one of Asia's largest indoor aquaria.

The 63 Sea World features a harbor-seal show, a sea-otter show, and a woman diver show.

The students witnessed the harbor seals shoot the basketballs through the rings, slide, and swing; sea otters float on the water, break a seashell on its chest, and throw the shell into the trash can after they had finished eating; and a woman diver swimming along with fishes in a mass aquarium containing strong-current sea water.

Within the same building, too, is a so-called Imax theater which has the largest film frame in motion-picture history, or more than 10 times the size of a conventional 35 mm frame and three times larger than a normal 70 mm

movie frame. The screen is 18 meters high and 25 meters wide, or as high as a six-story building. Not only is the screen taller than any other movie screen but also wider than a cinerama.

The students had the once-in-a-lifetime experience of viewing a film in this theater.

The technology draws the viewer in with images that are so real that you want to touch them, so powerful that you feel like you're gliding over mountains with the co-pilot aboard the aircraft.

The images of unsurpassed size, clarity, and impact on the giant screen are enhanced by a six-track sound system with four screen channels and two surround channels.

Already, the theater has broken the 10-million attendance record.

Earlier in the day, the students were afforded the opportunity to shop in Itaewon, Korea's famous shopping district frequented by foreign tourists. In the shops, one has to haggle as the prices are usually not indicated and the

Continued on page 10



THREE'S A COMPANY. A student of Northern Marianas College manages to squeeze through the shoulders of two Filipino students who posed for the Variety after lunch Friday at a Korean restaurant in the Itaewon shopping district.

# Governor on green cards for alien workers: 'No way'

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff  
GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio dismissed rumors that alien workers in the CNMI will be given green cards in the next two months, saying "it's not going to happen."

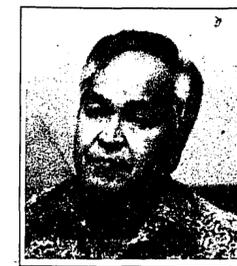
"We're a very long way from a federal takeover of immigration, and even if they take over, what happened in the Virgin Islands would not happen here," Tenorio said.

According to the latest rumor, Congress will do a "repeat" of a 1982 law involving the U.S. Virgin Islands, and grant permanent residency status to the CNMI's 30,000 alien workers.

But the CNMI "is a different situation," Tenorio said, from the Virgin Islands overn Guam.

He said aliens on Guam were given green cards when locals were given U.S. citizenship in 1954, but in the CNMI, the locals are already U.S. citizens.

Tenorio noted that federal offi-



Froilan C. Tenorio

cial like Office of Insular Affairs Director Allen Stayman have already announced what will happen once the federal immigration laws are imposed on the CNMI.

"They said all alien workers will be sent home," Tenorio said.

Rumors of alien workers getting green cards—or permanent residency status in the United States—have been circulating since President Clinton's intention to impose federal immigration and minimum wage laws on

the CNMI was made public early this month.

If given green cards, alien workers in the CNMI are expected to leave the Commonwealth for the mainland U.S.

Introduced in 1981 by the Virgin Island's non-voting delegate to Congress, Ron de Lugo, the Virgin Islands Nonimmigrant Alien Adjustment Act was signed into law in 1982 by President Ronald Reagan.

The law gave green cards to Virgin Islands' 2,000 or so alien workers and dependents who had resided for seven years on the islands.

However, Public Law 97-271 also banned the admission of alien workers in the Virgin Islands.

CNMI political and business leaders all agree that any federal takeover of the local immigration and minimum wage policies would be disastrous to the local economy, which is heavily dependent on the free flow of cheap alien labor.

# DPS investigates possible arson case

THE Department of Public Safety is suspecting arson in the fire that broke out at a house in Koblerville Thursday afternoon.

Police said some clothes were believed to have been intentionally set on fire inside the house.

Initial investigation showed that the fire hit the house when the family members went out to the beach.

No one was reported injured in the blaze.

Firefighters later extinguished the fire.

No arrest was made yet. The case was placed under further investigation.

Meanwhile, a 46-year-old man reported that unidentified person/s broke into their house in Capitol Hill and stole a watch, wallet and ring Thursday morning. (FDT)

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## DON'T DRINK & DRIVE

# 11 CNMI high school students get 1997 Robert C. Byrd Scholarship



William S. Torres

school graduates may receive about \$60,000 in additional financial assistance this next school year.

All of the 1997 scholarships who met the criteria were awarded a scholarship. This is the second year that PSS has secured the funds required to meet the needs of all students who applied for this scholarship.

The following is a list of the students who are receiving the

1997 Robert C. Byrd Honors Scholarships:

- Barbie Iglecias;
- Joan Taitano;
- Danielle Crawford;
- Lyzandra Barcinas;
- Leila Clark;
- Alejandro Buniag;
- Stephanie Santos;
- Jennifer San Nicolas;
- Tesa Lynn SN. Borja;
- Rosalyn Ajoste; and
- Terrance Thornburgh.

COMMISSIONER of Education William S. Torres announced that Robert C. Byrd Scholarships have been awarded to 11 CNMI high school graduates.

The Public School System was able to make more than the 10 new scholarships normally provided by the US available for the Class of 1997.

"Our PSS Federal Programs Officer had worked with the U.S. Department of Education to secure alternative funding for scholarships in excess of the 10 provided by the law," said Torres in a news release.

Resident Representative Juan Babauta, in 1993 had Congress include the CNMI as being eligible to receive these honors scholarships funded through the U.S. Department of Education, the release noted.

In addition to the 11 new scholarships, up to 43 previous scholarship recipients will continue to receive the Robert C. Byrd Scholarship for school year 1997-1998.

Although the scholarship award level was reduced by the US to \$1,110 from the \$1,121 for all 1997 awards in all states and Insular Areas, over 50 CNMI high

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, hereby serve notice to eligible veterans of the Existing U.S. Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) Native American Direct Loan Program (NADLP).

The loan limit for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) is \$120,000.00 with an interest rate of 8.14%, fixed for thirty (30) years. This program expires October, 1997.

For more information, contact the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) at telephone numbers 234-7689/7970/6866/9447, or the CNMI Veterans Affairs Office at 234-3476 on Saipan. On Tinian and Rota, contact NMHC's Field Office at 433-9213 and 532-9410, respectively.



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# Region talks environment

POHNPEI, FSM-150 participants from throughout the Pacific Islands (including the CNMI) and the U.S.A. gathered in Pohnpei last week to exchange information and renew their commitment to sustainable development.

The President's Council on Environmental Management and Sustainable Development, Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), and the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA), Region IX co-sponsored this 16th Pacific Island Annual Conference.

This is the time of year when island directors of environmental agencies meet to share ideas and discuss concern environmental issues.

Distinguished traditional

leaders attended along with officials and representatives of national and local government and legislative bodies, environmental agencies, research institutions, non-governmental organizations, and the private sector.

His Excellency, the Honorable Jacob Nena, President of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), attended the conference and stressed the urgency of its mission to ensure that all nations protect natural resources as they develop.

He is especially concerned that the outer islands of Pohnpei are already suffering from sea level rise as a result of global climate change, and he expects the problem will continue, potentially submerging islands throughout

the Pacific region.

President Nena traveled to New York on Wednesday, June 18, to participate in the United Nations Conference On Environmental and Development (UNCED) "Rio Plus Five" meeting to evaluate progress since the 1992 Earth Summit in Rio De Janeiro. He will lead off with a report from this conference.

"The concept of sustainable development will be proven in the Pacific Islands," said John Wise, Deputy Regional Administrator, USEPA Region IX.

"We have come to Pohnpei to join representatives from all the Islands to learn from each other and to plan for a sustainable future for our children."

A resolution was presented

by CNMI Representatives Manuel Tenorio and Karl Reyes to James Branch, USEPA CNMI Program Manager. Mr. Branch has worked closely with the CNMI in developing both the environmental regulatory programs and assisting in funding for the construction of the wastewater treatment plants on Saipan.

Mr. Branch will be retiring from federal service on September 30, 1997. When Mr. Branch received the resolution, he expressed his gratitude in working with the people of the CNMI.

Mr. Branch also mentioned that he was informed that legislation may be proposed to make the Division of Environmental Quality an independent agency within the CNMI and he supported that legislation.

Leo A. Falcam, Vice President of the FSM and Chairman of the President's Council on Sustainable Development, reminded the conference participants.

"[Sustainable development] involves different concerns for developing, resource-poor small island countries than for large,

richly-endowed industrialized countries...everyone, both North and South, has an interest in seeing that no major region of planetary resources is marginalized in this exercise."

Del Pangelinan, Governor of the State of Pohnpei, welcomed participants on Monday, June 16.

Representatives came from American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, all states of the FSM, Guam, Hawaii, Kingdom of Tonga, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, Solomon Islands, South Pacific Regional Environment Program, U.S. Mainland, and Western Samoa.

Conference participants discussed presentations on ecological, social, cultural, economic, planning, and waste management aspects of sustainable development.

They also visited field sites in Pohnpei that illustrated environmental problems and solutions such as sustainable agriculture and fishing, renewable energy use, and protection of mangrove forests, watersheds, and coral reefs.

latest car products, Lanos, which was launched in late November last year, and Nubira.

From Daewoo, the students next visited the Korea Electric Utility's 40,000-kilowatt-capacity hydro-power plant perched on top a mountain.

To get there, the students passed through 1,300-meter-long tunnel.

It took four years and six months to build the facility, which draws water from the Han River and funnel it up into a large man-made lake.

Thursday was capped by a 15-minute pleasure boat ride along the serene North Han River, courtesy of Kyung-Oh Kim, who later hosted a delicious hamburger steak dinner in his Bird Hill Restaurant at the countryside outskirts of Seoul.

After the dinner, Mr. Kim built a bonfire and put on a mini-fireworks display at the grounds beside the restaurant. For an hour, the students sang, danced and played games around the bonfire.

The students, on their last day, also were given the chance to try the subway train. So, from an early light dinner of Popeye fried chicken (the others opted for a McDonald's hamburger) in downtown Seoul, they took a 25-minute ride to the Kimpo International Airport.

One Saipan Jaycee, Kim Gan Woo, accompanied the group back to Saipan, while the rest of his colleagues led by Saipan Jaycee President Kim Jae Hong, as well as two Korean students opted to linger in their home country for several more days.

## CNMI...

Continued from page 8

prices quoted by the shopkeepers are not fixed.

The previous day, Thursday, the students toured Daewoo, which produces one million cars yearly in Korea alone, where it has four car plants. Daewoo has also manufacturing plants in 11 other countries.

By year 2,000, Daewoo projects to produce over two million cars a year, half of which are from its overseas plants.

Last year alone, Daewoo's exports totalled \$13.1 billion.

Daewoo started as a garments factory in 1967, and has grown into a diversified company involved in, among other things, trading, construction, light manufacturing, heavy industry, oil refining, securities and trading, and property development.

Daewoo, exporting over 3,000 kinds of products that range from televisions and cameras to fiber optic cables and office products, is now ranked number 34 by Fortune magazine among the world's top corporations.

The main car plant that the students visited produces one car per minute. The 10 factories in the main plant employ a total of 1,200 workers working in two shifts, with the day shift lasting for 11 hours and the night shift for 10 hours. And to think that the making of the cars is 95 percent automated.

At the lobby of the main building of the Daewoo plant site are exhibited Daewoo's

# Marshalls \$1B casino a scam?

By Giff Johnson  
for the Variety

**MAJURO**—A billion dollar casino resort proposal for the Marshall Islands has been clouded by reports that the principal Korean investor was charged with fraud.

A Marshalls government-initiated investigation of Korean Haeng Yong Mo also discovered that a corporation Mo claimed to own in Korea did not exist in Korea, reported the Marshall Islands Journal in a lead story titled, "A 'Big' scam?" on Thursday.

The Korean's plan to take over all of Mili Island in the southern Marshalls, move the approximately 500 islanders, and build a "Korea island" destination resort has also come under strong criticism from local leaders who say that agreements approved recently will not benefit islanders.

"A much-touted developer for the Marshall Islands may not be the knight in shining armor so often reported about in the Journal since 1996," the local paper reported.

According to a report on Mo prepared for the Marshall Islands Ministry of Foreign Affairs by the Republic's consular office in Seoul, Korea, Mo was booked for fraud in April 1996 at the KNP station in Kangwon Province.

The report states that neither the substance of the fraud charges nor the final outcome of the action could be determined beyond the fact that the charges were brought.

The consular report, prepared in August, 1996 and obtained by the Journal this week, indicated that the investigation into Mo and several other Koreans associated with a huge development project in Mili, was instigated by the appearance of a front page story in the Journal in mid-1996 that was headlined, "Koreans Want Mili."

The Journal's report said the

investigation was concentrated on the two apparent leaders of the investment group, Mo and Kuen Do Yu, another individual who also was booked for fraud charges filed by the Seoul Prosecutor's Office in 1996.

The Marshalls Seoul consulate reported that the Hanppuri Group in Korea, the corporation Mo claims to head, did not exist, the Journal said.

However, the consulate did report a small company, Hanppuri Foods Co. Ltd., did exist and was capitalized at \$60,000.

The legal register showed that the firm had been established in February, 1996 and was involved in processing pumpkin food, restaurant operations, and selling Korean beverages, a site inspection of the company's office uncovered.

Two signs announced "Hanppuri Foods" and "Marshall Islands Development Company", but the latter name, according to the consular report, had not been legally established as of August, 1996.

The consulate also determined that Mo was not legally linked to the food business, but advised he could be a stock investor.

The consulate report indicated that Mo is not an international financier as depicted, and advised the Foreign Ministry to exercise caution in dealing with him.

Former Mili Senator Keijo Bien, a business partner of Mo's, said he was not aware of any fraud allegations relative to Mo, who is known as "Mr. Big."

"I'm concerned that this kind of talk (about alleged fraud

charges) might cause Mr. Big to pull out of the Marshalls," said Bien.

Meanwhile, current Mili Senator Tadashi Lometo strongly criticized the terms of a lease signed by certain Mili leaders with Mo for the proposed resort development on Mili.

"This is the first time in the Marshall Islands for a lease to pay so little," he said. Most leases in this island nation pay \$3,000 a year, but a number involving businesses pay even more, he said. But the Mili lease pays just \$300 per acre.

"It's a big loss for the people," he said. The promoters of this project say they are going to spend billions of dollars developing Mili, then "why can't they pay more for the lease?" he asked.

Lometo believes that Mili Is-

landers will lose out because the lease allows the company to renew the lease for a second 50 years by simply continuing to pay the same annual rental fees.

"At the end of the first 50 years, we should sit down and discuss rental payments," Lometo said. "We need to consider the value of land, cost of living increase and adjust the rates."

He questioned relocation plans for the islanders. "Nothing in the agreement requires them to build replacement schools, dispensary and other facilities on the island that people are moved to," he said.

Hospital and other facilities will be built on Mili Island, but these are "only for visitors, not for the people of Mili." The lease benefits the Korean company, not the people of Mili. "It's a one-sided deal," he said.



TOURING IN THE RAIN. On the second day of the students' visit, the expected first rain in summer came, as this photo shows during a tour of the Kyongbokkung Palace, the primary palace of the Choson period, in the late 14th to the 15th century. Photo by Rick Albert



## MOM'S ROUND TWO

# Menu for the Week

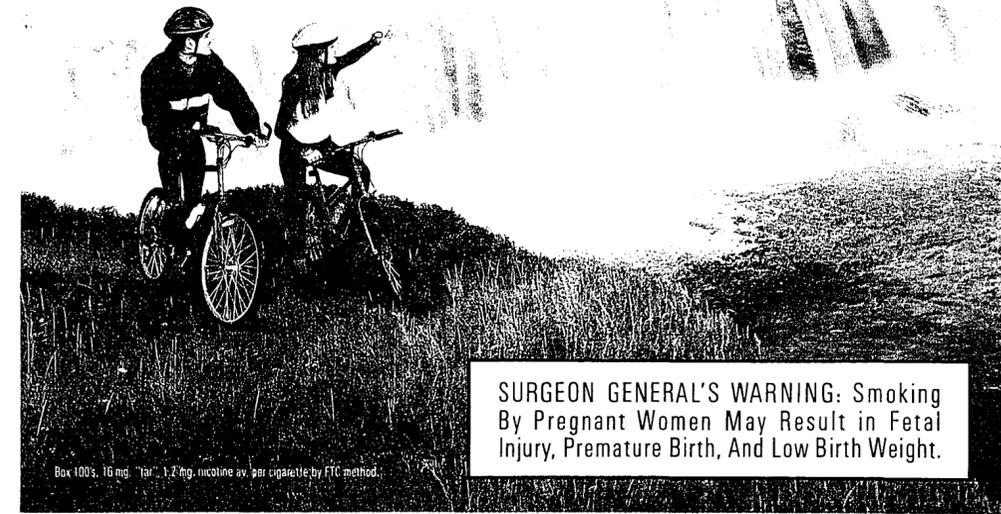
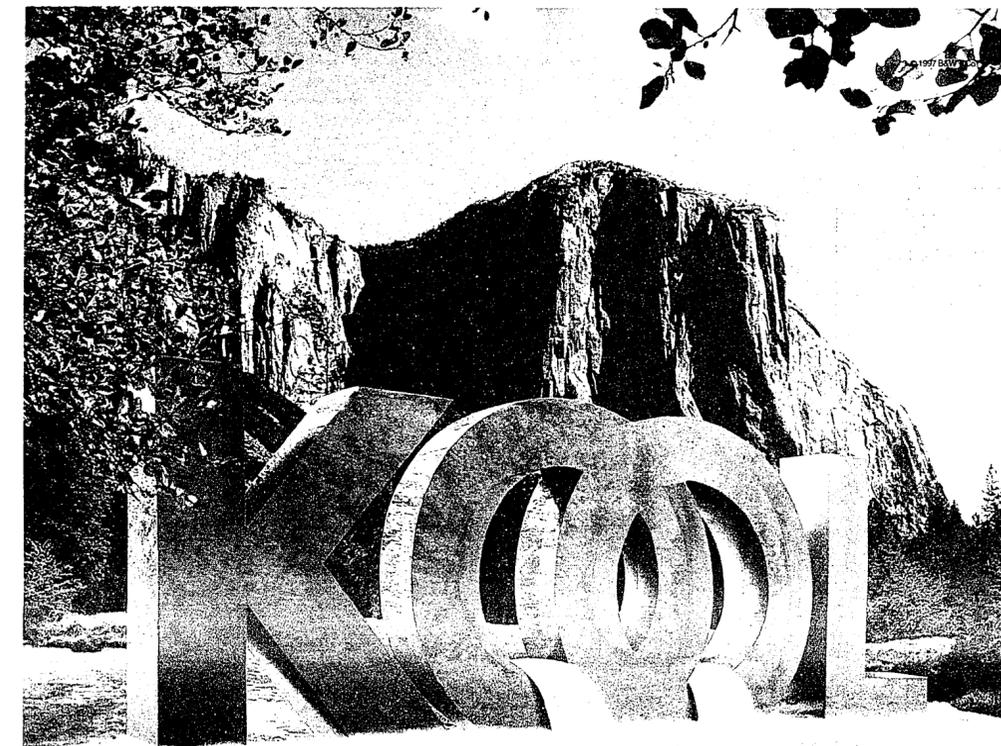
MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Roast Porkloin with Cranberry Sauce served with macaroni salad, roll and vegetable of the day. <b>\$7.00</b>	Home made meat loaf with gravy served mashed potato, mix vegetables and roll <b>\$7.00</b>	Roast Beef with brown gravy, choice of rice, mashed potato and home made fries, goes with roll and mix veg. <b>\$7.00</b>	Chicken Fried Steak, served with rice, green salad & roll <b>\$7.00</b>	<b>TWIN SPECIAL</b> 1) Garlic Shrimp served with rice, mix vegetables and roll 2) Bake pork chop in Hawaiian style serve rice and vegetables of the day <b>\$7.00</b>

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## Tourism in Fiji may be losing millions of dollars

SUVA (Paenews)—Damage done to Fiji's tourism industry as a result of action by thugs who disrupted services at the Plantation Island Resort early this week will cost millions of dollars.

Tourism minister, David Pickering told a news conference Thursday that he would not tolerate any behaviour that would have an adverse impact on the industry, the Fiji Times reported.

Pickering said the action of the thugs at Plantation has done a lot of damage to Fiji's reputation overseas. He said as a result of the Plantation dispute, the country will see a few hundred less perhaps even a few thousand less visitors this year.

Pickering said this would cost Fiji at least \$F2 million (\$US1.4m) in lost revenue.

**SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Smoking By Pregnant Women May Result in Fetal Injury, Premature Birth, And Low Birth Weight.**

## ELSEWHERE IN THE PACIFIC

# Fiji prime minister changes his mind on amendment bill

SUVA (Pacnews)—Fiji prime minister Sitiveni Rabuka has made a sudden change of mind in relation to open seats.

He's now urging his caucus members not to vote for open seats to be contested along provincial lines, the Daily Post reported.

The caucus wants the 25 open seats

boundaries under a new constitution to be allocated along provincial lines.

And it was agreed that this would be the amendment the party would be pursuing during the committee stage of the Constitution Amendment Bill currently being debated.

Rabuka also warned that if the Constitution Amendment Bill is not

passed, he will call for a general election under the 1990 constitution.

The warning was issued Thursday following a government caucus meeting. The sudden change of mind has baffled caucus members.

## Police ban protest by losers in elections at PNG

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews)—Papua New Guinea's National Capital District (NCD) and Central police commander Sam Inguba has banned a proposed protest march by unsuccessful candidates in the NCD next week.

Inguba said he had received a letter from union leader Lawrence Titimur on behalf of a number of unsuccessful candidates requesting approval to stage a protest march next week, the National reported.

Inguba said he had discussed the matter with Titimur and informed him that he would not approve the march.

He said such matters could easily be handled in the courts.

# Marshalls elder to keep canoe-building skills alive

By Giff Johnson  
for the Variety

MAJURO—A new outrigger canoe was launched in Majuro this week, confirming that the thousand year old art of canoe building continues in modern day Majuro.

The 15-foot, two-man sailing canoe bears the stamp of its designer, Robert Reimers, who designed the canoe and supervised the construction, which was done by son Vincent, grandson Norbert, and two other Marshallese.

At the launching, Reimers said that while outrigger canoe building skills are still strong on isolated southern islands like Namdrik and Ebon, the traditional skills are being lost in other parts of the Marshall Islands, especially in urban Majuro which now has close to 50 percent of the country's 60,000 people.

He said he was especially proud that the younger men in his family built this new canoe using plywood and other modern materials but following a traditional design. "Now they know how to build a fast Marshallese canoe," he said.

Because it was built using quarter inch plywood, the canoe is light and easy for two men to carry in and out of the water. The canoe was launched just in time to be raced this weekend in an annual canoe race sponsored by Robert Reimers Enterprises to celebrate its 47th year of doing business in the islands.

Reimers is the 87 year old patriarch of the largest locally-owned business in the Marshall Islands, a multi-million dollar empire which includes wholesale and retail stores, a hotel, rental and car sales, water purification, hardware store and office rentals, sportsfishing and scuba diving tours. He first started building and sailing canoes in the 1920s, during the Japanese administration of the islands, and has built more than a dozen canoes in his life.

While Reimers is typically modest when talking about his business accomplishments, when it comes to canoe building, he doesn't hold back.

Recalling his days as a businessman on Wotje Atoll before World War II, Reimers said that he built a canoe there that got many others on the remote atoll started building their own some 60 years ago. His was undisputedly the fastest on the atoll, thanks to a number of canoe building secrets related to the design of the hull, Reimers noted.

Reimers learned boat building skills while growing up on Jaluit and living on Likiep; but over the years, he said that he made his own refinements to the standard designs that have given him a reputation for building fast sailing canoes.

Those building tips were shared with the construction team that built the latest canoe. And grandson Norbert said that even with almost no wind when the canoe was launched, they took the canoe out and it moved well on the water.

## Polls close in PNG election

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (AP)—One former prime minister lost his bid for a parliamentary seat and another one jockeyed to form a government as Papua New Guinea's two-week voting period ended Saturday.

Sir Michael Somare, a former prime minister, reportedly was meeting with political heavyweights to try to prepare a governing coalition even though less than one-fifth of the 109 parliamentary seats had been declared. Vote-counting is expected to continue for at least another week.

Many of the 20 seats declared so far went to Somare's National Alliance party. Known as "The Chief," Somare was the country's first prime minister when it was granted indepen-

dence by Australia in 1975. Former Prime Minister Paias Wingti lost in his highlands district.

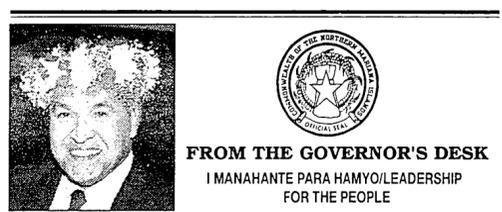
In Papua New Guinea politics, the larger parties generally must form loose alliances and then court the support of independents to gain the 55 seats needed to form a governing majority.

A record 2.6 million people registered to vote — out of an estimated 3.4 million eligible — in this South Pacific country of 4.3 million just north of Australia.

Voters were asked to judge a government nearly ousted recently in a uproar over a failed multimillion-dollar plan to hire mercenaries to put down a nine-year secessionist rebellion on the island of Bougainville.

# From the Liberation Struggle of 1946 to the Liberation Preservation Struggle of 1997

Our Liberation Day and the simultaneous U.S. 4th of July observance are a time meant to make us think about the past and to think about what it means to have liberty and alternatively, what it means to do without it. I think almost uniquely in the United States of America, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and many of its citizens alive today have known both conditions.



Liberation Day 1946 indeed. We were released from what amounted to protective custody in the middle of a very hot war not of our making into our own lands with a future utterly uncertain and the certainties of the past destroyed by violent conflict. No, we weren't prisoners of war or being punished for getting in the way. But what were we?

If, as the American soldiers told us, we were now liberated, what were we liberated from and how would we know how to handle freedom, if that was really what was ahead? The Japanese and before them the Germans and before them the Spanish had told us what was right by their lights and best for their interests. What to do and think were not questions that we were encouraged to pursue by these past colonial rulers and none of our leaders in those days had experience of anything different.

But in Camp Susupe, some new concepts were introduced. The notion of democracy as practiced in the United States. The founding documents of America, the Constitution, the Declaration of Independence, became part of the understanding of our leaders. And over years of military government and the Trust Territory, they became part of us, even though we soon realized that was in the books and the idealistic statements of our new teachers wasn't always how things turned out.

It would be another 30 years after that first Liberation Day before we achieved our own founding document, the Commonwealth Covenant, and still more years until we had our local government in place and received certain of the benefits promised in the Covenant, such as U.S. citizenship for our people.

On occasions such as Liberation Day and the 4th of July, we are told that war and suffering are often the hard

price of freedom. We experienced all of those things, and on our own soil, before becoming Americans. My message is that vigilance is part of the picture too and we couldn't have a better example than the events that have been playing out in Washington, D.C. in recent weeks and months. Not a single one of us can afford to forget that the economic success of the Commonwealth and our insistence on maintaining the provisions of the Covenant won in hard-fought negotiations have made us important enemies in the nation's capital and elsewhere.

Influential advisors to President Clinton have even persuaded him to sign a letter proposing to remove our local control of immigration and labor policy, though those most knowledgeable about the Covenant and its history agree that its interpretation of our founding document is simply wrong. Please excuse me, Mr. President, but the Commonwealth of

the Northern Mariana Islands won its place in the American firmament in both war and through the negotiation of our Covenant. We deserve more of your consideration than third hand advice offered by parties with agendas you may not be aware of.

As you probably know, we have won important support for the cause of protecting our Covenant and local government from the present majority leadership of the U.S. Congress, which would have to approve the administration proposal. Had we not been vigilant and developed the relationships now in place, our prospects would be very poor, since most members of Congress once knew so little about the CNMI. No longer can a few figures in offices at the U.S. Interior Department lobby against us, without dealing with lawmakers and staffers who are now much better informed about us and the role that we play in the United States.

In the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, we have truly adopted American democracy and that means the right to disagree with each other publicly, as we often do. What I am asking during this patriotic time of the year is that we let Washington know that we all agree on one thing and that is that we are dedicated to continuing the continued struggle for Liberation that began so long ago for most of the United States and such a short time ago for

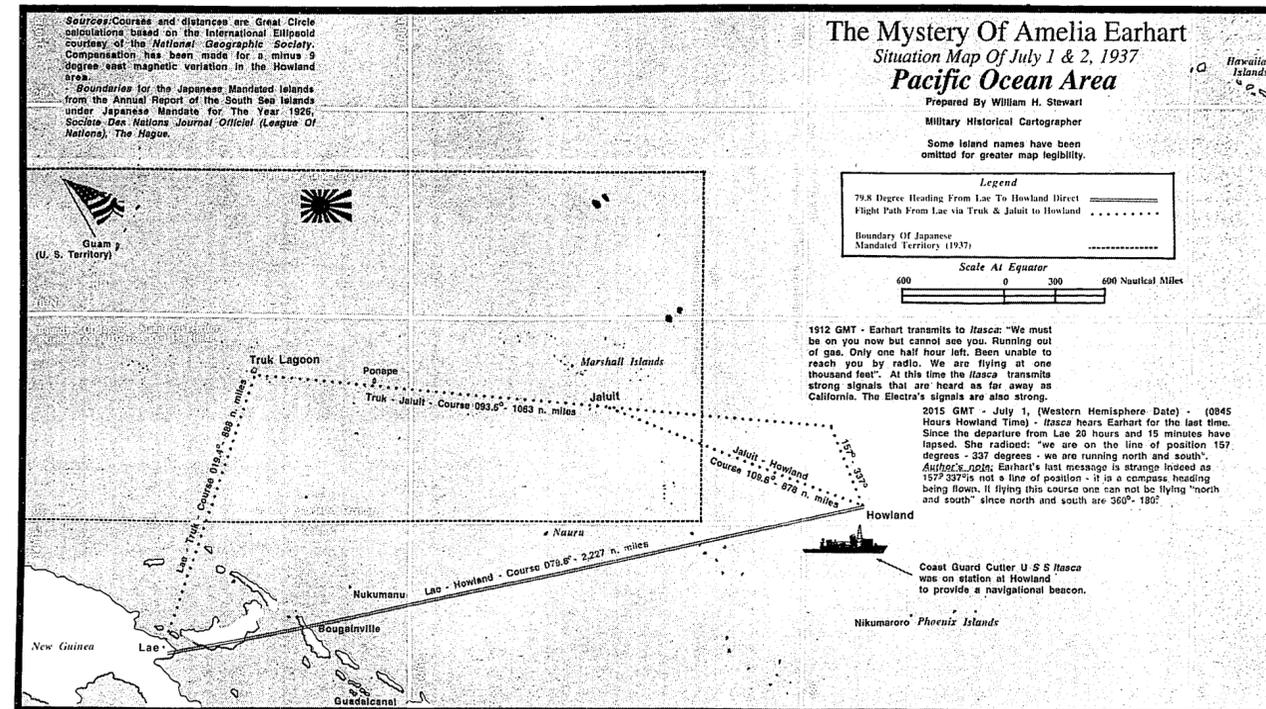
us.

Let it not ever be misunderstood—we are proud Americans in the Northern Marianas. I am American, a proud and patriotic citizen of the United States. By virtue of our own choosing, we became citizens of the greatest nation on earth. And to truly join the ranks of our fellow citizens "from sea to shining sea," it is only natural that we find ourselves in the spotlight of our supporters or the crosshairs of our critics—this is as we are learning, the American way. We fight for what we believe in, we compromise when it is prudent, and we always keep our eyes set on a horizon where when the dust settles, we know there is a brighter day and a better future. It is that hope, a nation's great faith in the future and opportunity, which inspires us all and something we find in common with our fellow Americans whether they hail from the great Commonwealth of Massachusetts or our beloved Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. But as we move ever closer to the hope on the horizon, we know that our journey will be sometimes easy and many times arduous and long. We keep moving forward.

Liberation Day and Independence Day, both have special meaning to the good people of the Northern Marianas. Happy July 4th!  
Si Yuus Maase.

# 60-year-old mystery

## Amelia Earhart's disappearance on July 1, 1937 still astounds many



Part I  
By William H. Stewart  
Historical Cartographer

A FEW weeks ago, Linda Finch, an American aviator flew over a Pacific island 2,350 miles southwest of Saipan to commemorate the flight of one of America's most adventurous flyers, Amelia Earhart and her legendary 1937 attempt to complete a 29,000 mile journey around the world in a small, two engine aircraft.

The mystery which has surrounded Earhart's failed attempt and disappearance has intrigued many people for more than one half century.

As a result of a bizarre incident, everyone living in a government house or working in a government office on Capitol Hill, at least until around the mid '70's owe the venue in part to a strange event surrounding Amelia Earhart. More on this subject later.

On July 1, 1937 the famous American aviatrix Amelia Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, disappeared somewhere in the vicinity of the Phoenix Islands southwest of the Hawaiian Islands.

Many theories abound and those familiar with Saipan are aware that some people believe that she was eventually found by the Japanese and brought to the island. The Japanese have consistently denied having any knowledge of the fate of Amelia Earhart.

Others theorize that she may have been engaged in espionage for the United States in an attempt to learn more about military activities in the Japanese Mandated Islands of Micronesia, particularly in the vicinity of Truk which was the site of a Japanese naval base.

Although it has been repeatedly denied by the United States Government, there must have been several high ranking officers within the



Amelia Earhart

American military establishment who saw in Earhart's plan for a flight around the world a golden opportunity to reconnoiter the clandestine developments being carried out within the Truk Lagoon by the Imperial Japanese Navy.

For sixty years the mysterious disappearance of Amelia Earhart and her navigator, Fred Noonan, previously a Pan American Airways navigator, along with their Lockheed Electra after the aircraft left Lae, the capital of the Australian Mandated Territory of New Guinea, has been a puzzle that still remains fascinating to many.

It is not known if American intelligence officers ever bothered to read the annual reports the Japanese were required to submit to the League of Nations in the late thirties on their activities in the islands.

If the United States authorities analyzed such reports they must have become curious as to the purpose of the imports of certain commodities listed in the statistical tables of the Annual Reports for 1936 which included 3.8 million tons of rice, (enough to feed a huge naval establishment). Did knowledge of these increasing imports prompt General

Henry "Hap" Arnold, Army Air Corps Chief, to attempt to find out what had been taking place within the Japanese Mandated Islands beyond their wall of secrecy by ordering the flight of two Army aircraft to reconnoiter the area barely two weeks before the outbreak of war in the Pacific and attempt to learn what Earhart failed to do 4 years and 5 months earlier? If so, Earhart would never complete the mission.

Almost two years before the Electra's departure from Lae on May 11, 1935, Fred Noonan replied to a letter from U. S. Navy Lt. Commander, P. V. H. Weems, an authority on aerial navigation, in which Noonan wrote about certain equipment for the planned flight.

He stated, "For reasons which I am certain you can understand, we are not permitted to discuss the particulars of the flight for dissemination among the general public."

While the buildup of Truk as a great *Gunko*, (naval base) had been kept a closely guarded secret, U. S. naval vessels were prohibited by the Japanese from entering the harbors of the Mandated Islands of which the Northern Marianas was a part.

By 1937 American naval authorities were becoming increasingly apprehensive of Japan's rearmament and the growing belligerency of its military. So much so that on Thanksgiving Day in 1941, (two weeks before the attack on Pearl Harbor) General Arnold ordered two B-24 aircraft stationed in San Francisco to fly to Manila.

While enroute they were ordered to fly over Jaluit in the Marshall Islands and Truk in the Eastern Caroline Islands to photograph the naval installations there and attempt to find out what had been taking place at these locations within the Japanese Mandated Islands since the Japanese

took control in 1914.

Did the American military's curiosity about these islands prompt an earlier (1937) request of Amelia Earhart to also attempt to fly over the same islands for the same purpose but from a different direction? Did she do so?

The only serious problem with such a supposition is that a position report received from Earhart while in flight occurred at 5:20 p. m. (Lae time) and indicated her position at 04 degrees - 33' south latitude by 159 degrees - 06' east longitude, a fix which would place the aircraft in the vicinity of Nukunano Island, northeast of Bougainville and in the area where it should have been assuming the original flight plan was being followed.

This fix would place the aircraft on a track from Lae to Howland Island some 742 nautical miles or about one third the distance between the two points which are separated by 2,227 nautical miles.



Amelia Earhart and technical advisor Paul Mantz by the Lockheed Electra in an Albert Bresnik photograph provided through the courtesy of Bill Prymak.

Continued on page 24

# HK legislators say 'goodbye'

By Kathy Wilhelm  
HONG KONG (AP) — The last colonial British legislature always had more to say than its predecessors. True to form, its members took all night to say goodbye to Britain and each other.

They reminisced, pondered the British legacy, and confessed their fears about Chinese rule.

They quoted Mao Tse-tung ("Serve the people") and Martin Luther King ("I have a dream").

They even read poetry and sang.

By the time they adjourned Saturday morning, the final legislative session of the British era had lasted 23 hours and most of the 60 members had given valedictory speeches.

"May God bless the queen and her people at this time of fond farewell," said Eric Li.

"May we always live together and work together in peace."

"I've decided to embrace the future," said Christine Loh. "I must get used to thinking of myself as a citizen of the People's Republic of China."

Halfway through its four-year term, Hong Kong's only wholly elected legislature is being dissolved when the territory returns to China at midnight Monday.

China objected to the terms under which it was elected, and is replacing it with an largely self-selected body that includes just 33 of the current legislators. The new legislature is much more in line with China's views and less aggressive in fighting for democratic reform.

Many of the 27 outgoing legislators who are not on the new body said they will run in elections promised for 1998. Until then, Fred Li told members moving on to the new legislature, "we will be watching you during meetings from the public gallery."

All sides said political disagreements had never stood in the way of friendships.

"Whenever we voted together, we always won, didn't we, Allen?" Martin Lee of the Democratic Party said to Allen Lee of the rival Liberal Party.

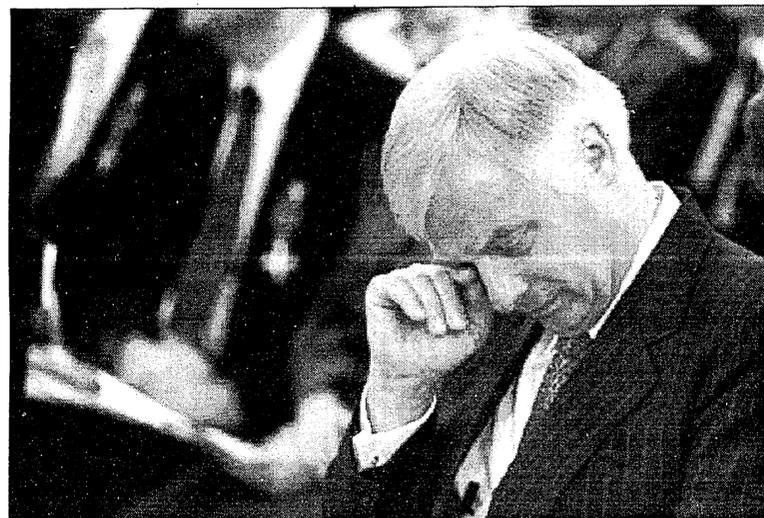
"Sure," Allen Lee replied with a big smile. After the session, the two men met in the aisle for a bear hug.

Pale with exhaustion, unwashed and unshaven, the legislators were candid, introspective and sometimes funny.

The farewells represented a cross section of the thoughts of Hong Kong people as they face an uncertain future with mixed feelings about their past.

"For a long time our ancestors and ourselves have been stared down at by the queen's portrait," said David Chu. "Her picture and other symbols of our subjugation bred in us both an alien feeling and self-contempt."

But Chu said the British passed on "many valued institutions," including an independent judiciary and civil service. Indeed, he hap-



Gov. Chris Patten wipes his eye during an investiture ceremony at the Government House in Hong Kong Sunday. The governor's last days in Hong Kong prior to the colony's handover to China have been full with many events leading up to the departure of the British government and military forces from Hong Kong. AP

pened to be one of several Chinese members of the bilingual chamber who gave their speeches in English.

Some lawmakers chastised Britain for having introduced too little democracy, too late. Others, including Allen Lee, said political reforms over the past decade have made government much more responsive and transparent, and expressed confidence the trend would continue.

Many speeches pointed out why

Hong Kong people find it hard to wholeheartedly embrace their new sovereign.

"After leaving colonial rule we are going to enjoy even less democracy and freedom," said Huang Chen-ya, a Democrat.

"I'm not worried that our democracy and human rights will be destroyed by an external force," said Zachary Wong, another Democrat. "I'm worried they will be destroyed from within, because there are people

with vested interests in Hong Kong." When will Hong Kong's problems be solved? "The answer, my friend, is blowing in the wind," warbled Law Chi-kuang.

But Lee Kai-ming beat him in the most artistic category, reading a poem he'd composed for the occasion:

"The rising sun shines into the chamber as we speak up for what is right.

"Drink a toast before we part. Why sigh over the past?"

# Hong Kong pays final tribute to Queen Elizabeth II

By Edith M. Lederer  
HONG KONG (AP) — It was a consummate British evening of stiff upper lips, lumps in the throat and a tear in the eye of departing

Hong Kong governor, Chris Patten.

At a bittersweet party Saturday to mark Queen Elizabeth II's official birthday, this British colony

paid its final tribute to its last monarch after 156 years of British rule.

As the British flag was slowly lowered from the roof of the governor's mansion at sunset, the queen's son and heir Prince Charles stood solemnly in the garden, not looking up.

At midnight Monday, the prince and the governor will watch the Union Jack being lowered for the last time as Britain relinquishes sovereignty of Hong Kong to China. Then, they will sail off on the royal yacht Britannia.

It was the last chance for a Saturday garden party at Government House, the governor's official hilltop residence. By coincidence, it also was the queen's official 71st birthday — which is actually in April but marked in June when the weather is better.

Members of the old colonial order came to say goodbye to Patten and to meet the prince and a host of British politicians, including former Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher.

Martin Lee, leader of the Democrats, Hong Kong's largest party, said many of the Chinese forefathers of Hong Kong people "chose to come to a British colony and leave our motherland to be free."

"It is the fear that we may lose some of our freedoms that makes people so nervous," said Lee, whose party has been excluded

from the Beijing-approved provisional legislature.

Guests sipped champagne and feasted on Chinese and Western food on long tables, under chandeliers. Then, they gathered on the lawn, which once had a spectacular harbor view but now overlooks the headquarters of Hong Kong's biggest banks.

Conversation stopped when the kilt- and tartan-clad members of the Royal Hong Kong Auxiliary Police Band started playing "Land of Hope and Glory." But it was the haunting strains of "Amazing Grace," played by a lone bagpiper, that proved too much for Patten, who wiped a tear from his eye.

The band later played "God Save The Queen." Patten offered

a last "loyal toast" to her majesty, and the guests clinked glasses to the future of Hong Kong.

"It is sad," said Patten's wife, Lavender. "It's all becoming very emotional in a way.... It's so sad to keep saying goodbye."

Former British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd admitted having a lump in his throat. But Britain's new foreign secretary, Robin Cook, said it wasn't a time for emotion, and that is to make sure its freedoms are maintained" during the 50 years that the treaty returning Hong Kong to China are in effect.

"Those 50 years are more important than the 50 hours the international celebrities are on the ground."



Britain's Prince Charles invests the knighthood to Donald Tsang Yam-kuen, first Chinese financial secretary in Hong Kong, during a ceremony at Government House Sunday morning. The Prince of Wales presented insignia and commendations to 115 people two days before the British colony reverts to the Chinese rule. AP



Chinese crowd together to take photographs of their friends and relatives in front of the clock which counts down the days remaining until the Hong Kong handover in Beijing's Tiananmen Square Sunday. AP

# 34 arrested in East Timor

DILI, Indonesia (AP) — Police detained 34 people for questioning in a series of attacks by separatist rebels in East Timor, a security official said Saturday.

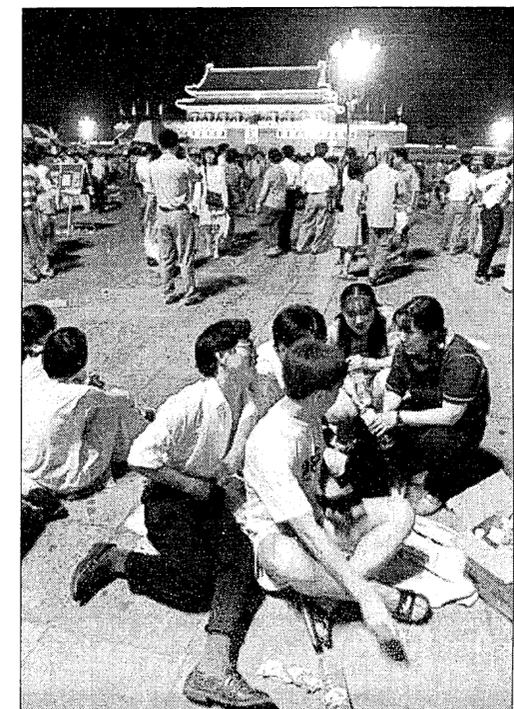
The latest arrests followed a Saturday attack in which six rebels fired on an Indonesian military convoy east of Dili and killed a driver, said Col. Atok Rismanto, the police chief in Dili.

Rebel activity in East Timor, invaded by Indonesia in 1975 and annexed the following year, has flared since Indonesian national elections last month. An estimated 42 soldiers, police, civilians and rebels have been killed in

June. Other security officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said most of the 34 had been questioned and released.

Earlier this week, Indonesian troops said they killed a senior rebel leader in East Timor during a firefight Wednesday, but the rebels claimed he was tortured during interrogation.

David Alex, second-in-command of the rebel movement in the former Portuguese colony, was shot in the right thigh and hand, said military commander Col. Slamet Sidabutar.



Chinese relax in Beijing's Tiananmen Square late in the evening Saturday. Tens of thousands flocked to the square to see decorations which mark the upcoming Hong Kong handover, prompting a large turnout of police to guard against trouble. The square and many other parts of the city have been decorated in the buildup to Hong Kong's return to Chinese sovereignty July 1. AP

# Two US servicemen are reported missing in Japan

TOKYO (AP) — Typhoon Peter whipped up seas and caused landslides as it gained speed on its way across western Japan on Saturday. Two U.S. servicemen were missing in the storm.

The typhoon, which came ashore near Nagasaki on Saturday morning, paralyzed much of the island of Kyushu. Flights and ferries connecting it with other parts of Japan were canceled.

A 44-year-old woman, Kayo Adachi, drowned after falling into a river in Oita Prefecture, southwestern Japan, but police

said her death was not directly related to the typhoon.

Two U.S. servicemen were missing in Iwakuni, Yamaguchi Prefecture, 290 miles southwest of Tokyo, police said. The two were identified as John Vosganian and John Kramer.

Winds with gusts up to 67 mph were kicked up by the medium-sized typhoon, the Meteorological Agency said.

Police in Oita and Nagasaki prefectures reported landslides resulting from the heavy rain, though damage was light.

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# Residents flee volcano



Rescue workers with one of four of the first bodies recovered from the village of Trants, Montserrat last week. Pyroclastic flows moved through the village, destroying everything in its path and claiming at least 7 lives. AP

By James Anderson  
**OLD TOWNE, Montserrat (AP)**—With a dramatic eruption that billowed ash miles into the air, Montserrat's volcano prompted residents still lingering in an expanding danger zone to flee for their lives Saturday.

More than 420 people had heeded the call Friday night, moving into school classrooms in the northern "safe zone." New avalanches of scalding rock and ash, called pyroclastic flows, induced dozens more residents to leave the vulnerable Cork Hill neighborhood in the west-center of the island Saturday.

The 3,000-foot Soufriere Hills volcano, in the south of this British Caribbean colony, began erupting on Wednesday, when a pyroclastic flow engulfed a half dozen villages and killed at least nine people.

Nineteen people remained missing Saturday, although three people were spotted alive by helicopter on Friday and had yet to be rescued, the government said.

More than 50 people have been pulled to safety in helicopters, who lower a harness because the earth, at hundreds of degrees Fahrenheit, is too hot for a landing.

The destroyed villages, on the volcano's eastern flanks, had been declared off-limits weeks ago, but many residents ignored warnings to tend to goats, sheep and farm plots.

Officials scrambled to find such basics as pillows and sheets for the evacuees, who joined a shelter population of nearly 800 residents forced to abandon homes more than a year ago.

Helicopters swept over the one square mile area scraped clean by Wednesday's eruption, searching for survivors. One body had been spotted from the air, government spokesman Herman Sergeant said.

Muffled explosions sounded from the cloud-shrouded volcano's summit, followed by towering plumes of ash and jet-gray tentacles of pyroclastic flows racing down its north-eastern slopes. Residents pulled off the road to stare skyward at the spectacle.

As the one-hour eruption continued, scientists urged residents to leave nearby areas. Chief sci-

entist Willy Aspinall warned that an explosive eruption was possible.

Complicating the search was that rescue helicopters were "picking up the same people repeatedly. People initially rescued are going back in again. ... They believe in destiny, in fate, in God, that whatever happens, will happen," said Phil Ellis, a spokesman for the governor.

One unlikely evacuee was Cecilia Duberry, 26, a nurse from the Bronx, New York, who was visiting family. She spent Friday night on a cot at the school in the hamlet of Brades and was waiting, bags packed, for a private ferry Saturday afternoon.

"I wanted to leave yesterday," Duberry said.

With its airport and main port of Plymouth cut off, the government said that a 100-passenger ferry would start runs Sunday between Montserrat and Antigua.

Margaret Smith said she was glad she had left her home for the Brades shelter. "The ash made you sneeze a lot, and my children got infections," she said. "We'll probably be here sons and nothing will happen."

She and others received a box of provisions including canned corn beef, rice, beans, macaroni and sugar. It has to last a week for her family of six. Inside, a radio blared soca music; outside, evacuees fanned themselves in the sweltering sun.

Downhill, evacuees from Long Ground village have lived with cots, blankets strung up for walls and government rations for more than a year.

"I would really love to leave," said Carmelita Kirwan, 24, a mother of six. "Here we can't do nothing. ... We want to know we'll be taken care of."

Authorities have struggled to do so. Many residents of Montserrat's 40-odd shelters were farmers who lived off the land.

Several multiple-family housing units have been erected and more are planned. But finding suitable land in Montserrat's rocky, hilly north, purchasing it and ensuring utilities are obstacles.

Britain said Saturday it will provide \$11.3 million for Montserrat.



A gathering of campers relax in front of their Airstream while awaiting the Wally Byam Caravan Club International Convention at John Hunt Park in Huntsville, Ala., Sunday. Some 1,500 Airstreams are expected to be driven to the convention, which begins June 28th. AP

# 25 civilians killed in S. Leone

By Clarence Roy-Macaulay  
**FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP)**—Soldiers killed at least 25 villagers in southern Sierra Leone, according to witnesses who reached the capital Saturday after fleeing a region that has been a center of opposition to the country's new military junta.

Violence has continued since last month's coup, despite military leader Maj. Johnny Paul Koroma's pledges he will restore order in the country, which is just emerging from six years of civil war.

The witnesses, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the dead included the father of Vice President Joseph Demby, who was ousted by low-ranking soldiers last month along with President Ahmed Tejan Kabbah. The attacks occurred Thursday night in villages near Bo, a military headquarters town near the Liberian border, 150 miles southwest of Freetown.

Both Kabbah and Demby are in exile in neighboring Guinea.

Thousands of Sierra Leonean refugees have streamed into Liberia in recent days, bringing with them reports of fighting along the Liberian border between the Sierra Leonean army and the Kamajor, a militia backing the ousted government.

Koroma's junta has refused to comment on the fighting.

Refugees from the Bo area told reporters in Freetown that soldiers were apparently searching for Kamajor fighters when they surrounded the home of Albert Sani Demby, a traditional chief. The soldiers took the chief from his compound and shot him in the stomach, killing him.

The soldiers then attacked two other villages, killing another chief and at least 25 other civilians, witnesses said.

In addition to those reports Saturday, the independent newspaper Voice of di People said unidentified attackers firing automatic rifles, grenade launchers and mortars forced all the residents of Moyamba to flee the town last week. Moyamba, 120 miles south of Freetown, was a stronghold of Kabbah's Sierra Leone People's Party.

Koroma has portrayed himself as committed to peace, and accused Kabbah of retreating from a truce agreement with the Revolutionary United Front. The RUF, which fought a series of Sierra Leonean governments beginning in 1991, has thrown its support to Koroma.

In a statement Saturday, Koroma's Armed Forces Revolutionary Council, or AFRC, asked neighboring countries to reconsider efforts to isolate the military regime.

After meeting in Guinea last week, 14 African foreign secretaries recommended negotiations, economic sanctions and even force as possible ways to restore Kabbah to power.

"The AFRC regards such measures as counter-productive, in the sense that it will not only hurt the people of Sierra Leone but will further lead to the economic sinking of the country," the military junta said.



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## UN: 1,000 kids contracting the AIDS virus everyday

By Stephanie Griffith  
**BRUSSELS, Belgium (AP)**—At least a thousand children are contracting the AIDS virus each day, according to a U.N. report that warns of sharp increases in deaths among children unless immediate steps are taken.

There were some 400,000 new HIV cases involving children under 18 last year, and some 350,000 children died of AIDS, the disease caused by HIV, the Geneva-based group UNAIDS said in its report released Friday.

The report did not supply comparable statistics for previous years, but said people under 18 are one of the fastest-growing groups of AIDS victims.

It warned of big increases in infant mortality due to the disease — or rates of death for children less than 5 years old — especially in developing countries where there is a lack of medicine and health care.

In some regions of the world, those rates would increase by as much as 75 percent by the year 2000 unless there is immediate medical intervention,

UNAIDS executive director Peter Piot said.

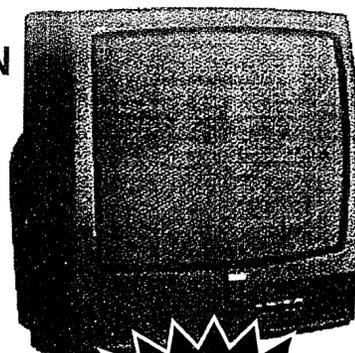
AIDS is spread most often by sexual contact, by contaminated syringes or exposure to infected blood. But children often contract the disease from their mothers — either in the womb or through breastfeeding, the report said.

"Anything that affects children affects half of society," said Elizabeth Mataka, director of the Zambia-based non-profit group Family Health Trust.

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# Gays worldwide march

PARIS (AP) — Homosexuals and their supporters in several world capitals participated in marches Saturday to commemorate riots in New York nearly 30 years ago that galvanized the gay rights movement.

Around 200,000 people from across Europe danced and chanted their way through the streets of Paris in the country's biggest gay rally ever.

"Equal rights without sexual discrimination in France and in Europe," chanted one group of participants at the head of the march, accompanied by the heavy beat of techno music.

Colorful floats, representing gay and lesbian groups from Spain to Denmark, were involved in the march.

At one point the rally stretched for more than five miles from Place de la Republique on Paris's Right Bank to the Vincennes forest in the city's east, where the march finished.

The June celebrations commemorate the 1969 Stonewall Riots in New York, which led to the modern gay rights movement.

Several cities, including New York, San Francisco and Toronto, had parades scheduled for Sunday.

This year, for the first time, dozens of European organizations joined Paris' annual march supporting homosexuality. Many were calling for greater rights for the gay communities in their country.

"We come from Italy and do not have the same rights as Denmark or other countries," said Maximilliano Rosselli from Milan, Italy.

In Mexico City, a transvestite headed the march down the city's main street, Pasco de la Reforma.

Chants of "No political freedom without sexual freedom!" rose from the marchers, most of whom were in everyday dress.



Costumed homosexuals parade during the Europride rally in Paris Saturday in Paris. Tens of thousands of people from across Europe marched in the streets in the country's biggest ever homosexual rally. AP

Marchers parading through the heart of Berlin passed a stage with actors dressed as historical figures, including a concentration camp prisoner branded with the pink triangle the Nazis forced homosexual inmates to wear.

In Halifax, Nova Scotia, a carnival-like parade drew 500 people. Small groups of locals and tourists watched along the route.

A parade by lesbians in Toronto included a brigade of leather-clad women on motorcycles and some

women who marched topless as thousands of onlookers lined both sides of the street.

"Doing what we're doing today helps other people understand we're normal people like everybody else," said Mary Brown, 28.

## Russian train blast kills 5

By Steve Gutterman  
MOSCOW (AP) — The death toll from an explosion on a Russian train rose to five Saturday, while investigators struggled to determine the cause of the blast.

The Friday explosion does not appear to have been an act of terrorism, Federal Security Service spokesman Alexander Zdanovich told the ITAR-Tass news agency.

Officials said Friday that the explosion may have been a suicide, but Russian television reports said those reports appeared unlikely.

An explosive device went off in a bathroom on the train traveling from Moscow to St. Petersburg, destroying part of the railway car. Officials suspected that an unidentified victim who was in the bathroom at the

time may have set off the blast. The explosion killed five people and injured 13, Emergency Situations Ministry spokesman Valeriy Ikityan said. On Friday, officials said there had been three deaths.

Ikityan did not say when the additional two victims had died, but a railroad police officer told the Interfax news agency that three people were killed immediately and two died later of injuries.

Eleven people were hospitalized

in St. Petersburg and towns near the blast site, 280 miles northwest of Moscow. Two were reported in serious condition.

One of the dead was from the southern Russian republic of Dagestan, adjacent to the separatist Chechnya region.

A renegade Chechen warlord, Salman Raduyev, has claimed responsibility in some of a handful of bomb attacks on Russian trains and railway stations since last summer.



A man looks into a window of a car that was next to the damaged car as he tries to find his grandson Alexander Kovalev in St. Petersburg, Friday evening after an explosion went off, killing five people. The explosion occurred in the lavatory of train No 24 travelling from Moscow to St. Petersburg. AP

# Serbs protest UN arrest

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — Serbs condemned the United Nations on Saturday for arresting a Serb war crimes suspect and warned of unspecified consequences to the peace process if the detention was not "fully explained."

Also on Saturday, Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic tried to fire her minister of police, only to be defied by members of her own government.

Residents of a Serb-controlled region of eastern Croatia insisted that the arrested man, Slavko Dokmanovic, was innocent of the accusations.

Dokmanovic is suspected of involvement in the 1991 killing of at least 200 people, who were allegedly taken from a hospital in Vukovar when Serbs seized the town and shot by Serb paramilitary forces.

Dokmanovic was arrested Friday by U.N. authorities who are administering the region until its scheduled takeover by the Croatian government this summer.

U.N. officials said Saturday the arrest was made at the direction of the U.N. War Crimes Tribunal. Dokmanovic was transferred immediately to The Hague, the tribunal's headquarters, they said.

According to the statement by local Serb officials, Dokmanovic was

removed by Croats as Vukovar mayor in May 1991 as the six-month war began and spent most of the war in nearby town as a minor official for agriculture with no connection to military operations.

At least 10,000 people died in the war that broke out after Croatia declared independence from the old Yugoslav federation.

In the firing issue, Plavsic said in a letter obtained by The Associated Press that she was firing police minister Dragan Kijac for disobedience.

Plavsic, who serves as president of the 49 percent of Bosnia in Serb hands, accused Kijac of ordering

redeployment of a police brigade from Banja Luka against her stated wishes.

Plavsic, based in the northwest town of Banja Luka, is at odds with former Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic, who is based in Pale, near Sarajevo.

The Bosnian Serb government, based in Pale and thought to still be loyal to Karadzic, defied her. It said Plavsic's orders were unconstitutional.

In its statement issued in Pale, the government said Plavsic had no authority to interfere in police work and that only the government could replace ministers.



Bosnian Croat General Tihomir Blaskic, 36, right, arrives at the UN war crimes tribunal. Blaskic is charged with crimes against humanity during the Bosnia civil war. AP

## 2 cops hurt in Chechnya

MOSCOW (AP) — Chechen guerrillas clashed with Russian police Saturday, wounding two officers and taking three others hostage, a news agency said.

Interfax quoted the Russian military commander in the southern Stavropol area, Partagen Andrievsky, as saying a police unit came under automatic rifle and grenade launcher fire near Yuzhanin close to the Chechen border.

The two wounded police officers were in serious condition, he said. There was no word on the hostages.

The ITAR-Tass news agency said a car in which the officers were riding suffered a grenade hit. But contrary to Andrievsky's statement, it quoted regional police as saying they had no immediate proof that Chechen radicals were behind the attack.

Russia and Chechnya signed a peace deal this year, formally ending nearly two years of war. But numerous guerrilla groups remain active in Chechnya in spite of the government's efforts to disarm them.

Moscow says Chechnya shall remain part of Russia, but the republic considers itself independent.

A handful of field commanders are known to oppose peace with Russia, and others might seek to avenge those killed in the war.

Chechen President Aslan Maskhadov reiterated Saturday that he was determined to establish the rule of law.

"Anyone who engages in crime must be called to account, even if he has defeated 10 Russian armies during the war," Maskhadov told a congress of war veterans in the Chechen capital Grozny.

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# Egypt hangs 3 militants

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Egypt on Saturday hanged three members of a radical Muslim group convicted of killing three policemen in 1993, police said.

Mohammed Abdel-Raouf Mahmoud, 23, Aymen Kamal Mohammed, 22 and Nasser Mohammed Abdel-Karim, 25, were

executed in a Cairo prison, sources in the police department said on condition of anonymity.

The three were among 28 members of the al-Gamaa al-Islamiya, or Islamic Group, who were tried before the High Security court in May last year in connection with eight separate attacks in the southern town

Aswan. The 25 others were sentenced to hard labor.

Two of the slain policemen were killed while guarding a church. A third was killed in the street. Four security men were injured in the attacks.

The Islamic Group has been blamed for much of the violence in a

nearly five-year campaign aimed at overthrowing Egypt's secular government and replacing it with strict Islamic rule.

Besides security forces, the mili-

tantants have also targeted the minority Coptic Christian community. More than 1,070 people have been killed, many of them police and militants.



A Palestinian youth carrying a burning Israeli flag races across a street in the line of fire of Israeli troops in the West Bank city of Hebron Friday. Seven Palestinians were injured by rubber bullets. AP

## Israelis protest Netanyahu

By Dafna Linzer  
TEL AVIV, Israel (AP) — Some 50,000 Israelis rallied Saturday in Tel Aviv to demand that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu leave office and make way for new elections.

The evening protest capped a week during which Netanyahu barely survived a no-confidence motion in parliament, with 11 lawmakers in his 66-member coalition abstaining to show their anger over what they say is Netanyahu's abrasive style and broken promises.

Demonstrators underscored their

pique with Netanyahu by congregating in Rabin Square, named after Netanyahu's predecessor, Yitzhak Rabin, who was gunned down there in November 1995 by an ultranationalist Jew.

One of the protesters' main grievances is the stalled Israeli-Palestinian peace talks, which were initiated by Rabin.

Politicians and commentators have speculated that the Netanyahu's government might not survive its remaining three years in office because of its declining political fortunes.

The next elections are scheduled

for November 2000.

Several thousand people attended another rally in a nearby square to protest what they said was religious coercion by ultra-Orthodox Jews.

The battle between secular and ultra-orthodox Jews over the role of religion in daily life has become increasingly bitter.

Three ultra-Orthodox parties in Netanyahu's coalition have been pressing legislation, for example, that would give recognition only to conversions performed by Orthodox rabbis.



An opposition rally by tens of thousands of mainly Labour Party supporters call for Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu to leave office in Tel Aviv Saturday. Netanyahu has survived several crises in just over a year in office. AP

## Report: Officials hid trip

LONDON (AP) — Two officials in Tony Blair's Labor government have admitted failing to declare an all-expenses-paid trip to Switzerland to meet Bosnian Serb leader Radovan Karadzic in 1993, a newspaper reported Sunday.

The Sunday Times said it had confronted lawmakers David Clark, the minister responsible for open government, and John Reid, the armed forces minister, with

details of their \$320-a-night, three-day stay in the Richemond Hotel in Geneva in August 1993.

They replied that they had made a mistake in not declaring it in a Parliamentary register kept for the purpose.

The newspaper said the bill, estimated at around \$3,200, was settled by "a Yugoslav-born political lobbyist with close ties to Karadzic."

In a joint statement Saturday night, Clark and Reid said any suggestion that the visit was secret "is nonsense."

Since sweeping into power in national elections May 1, the party already has suspended one lawmaker for allegedly failing to disclose links with a Serbian businessman and another over allegations he tried to bribe an opponent in the elections. It is investigating a third accused of bribing a rival to run a low-key election campaign.

In its bid to avoid any taint of sleaze, Labor has drawn up a bill which will provide jail terms of up to seven years for corrupt lawmakers, closing a 17th century loophole which gave members of Parliament immunity from public prosecution.

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## Mexicans stone, burn rape suspect

By Janet Schwartz Parnes  
SAN CRISTOBAL DE LAS CASAS, Mexico (AP) — A man suspected of involvement in the rapes of five women, including a Japanese tourist, has been stoned and burned to death by enraged residents of an nearby slum.

The dead man was the leader of a group that had gangraped five women, including a Japanese tourist found slain last year, according to a man who escaped the vigilantes.

A woman who alleged she had been raped Juan Gomez Diaz recog-

nized him in a city park and alerted residents of La Hormiga, a hillside slum, police said.

A group of the residents seized Gomez Diaz, 35, and his 19-year-old friend Gilberto Gomez Diaz, and took them to La Hormiga. Chiapas police said about 200 people gathered as Juan Gomez Diaz was beaten until he confessed to rape, then was tied to a stake, stoned and burned to death.

Gilberto Gomez Diaz was freed and taken to the police station, where he admitted to reporters and police that he had participated in rapes and murders.

He said in an interview that Juan Gomez Diaz had admitted raping and killing Furuya Miho, a 24-year-old Japanese tourist whose body was found here in October.

A state prosecutor, said he hoped to arrest those responsible for the lynching.



Martina Meza and Paula Mendoza cry at the foot of the monument for the victims of a massacre near the town of Aguas Blancas in the Pacific state of Guerrero, Mexico on Saturday. Hundreds of people came to the monument to commemorate the two year anniversary of the killing of 17 peasants who were killed by state police forces. The incident caused the resignation of the Governor. AP

## Bolivia in search of 'Che' Guevarra

LA PAZ, Bolivia (AP) — Investigators will try to determine if the remains of guerrilla leader Ernesto "Che" Guevara are among six skeletons discovered Saturday under a Bolivian airstrip.

Cuban and Argentine forensics experts located the skeletal fragments in a common grave near the town of Vallegrande, said Dr. Jorge Gonzalez of the Cuban Institute of Legal Medicine.

Tests are to be conducted to determine whether the remains are those of Guevara and his rebel forces, Gonzalez said.

Bolivian forces seized Guevara and other rebels on October 8, 1967, near Vado del Yeso, in a remote area 250 miles southeast of the capital.

The captured men were flown were flown 300 miles away to Vallegrande, where Guevara and some of his forces were executed.

Guevara was a charismatic Argentine doctor who fought with Fidel Castro in Cuba and was Cuba's second most influential leader until he returned to South America to foment revolution.

He remains a figure of almost mythic proportions, his bearded image appearing across Latin America on everything from T-shirts to mudguards on trucks.

Differences persist over the fate of Guevara's remains.

Retired Gen. Gary Prado, who headed a U.S.-trained military unit that hunted down Guevara, said last year that Guevara's body was incinerated and the ashes spread over a rain forest shortly after he was killed.

Retired Bolivian military officers claimed two years ago, however, that his remains were buried in a mass grave under the airstrip at Vallegrande, 550 miles east of the capital.

A four-month search by the experts in Vallegrande last year unearthed the remains of four slain rebels four miles from the airstrip.

They renewed their hunt in May.



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*On the final day Saturday, July 05, 1997, the rosary will be said at 12:00 noon at the residence of Mr. & Mrs. Fitzgerald in Marpo Heights, Tinian. The final mass will be offered at St. Joseph Church, Tinian at 5:00 p.m. followed by dinner.*

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*Dangkulo Na Si Yui'us Ma'ase  
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NMHC reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any and all proposals in its best interest.

/s/ MARYLOU S. ADA  
Corporate Director

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/s/ REGINO M. CELIS  
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**PUBLIC NOTICE**

In accordance to the "Open Government Act", this hereby serve as a notice to the public that the CNMI State Rehabilitation Advisory Council (SRAC) will hold its General Membership Meeting on Wednesday, July 2, 1997, 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon, at the Joeten/Kiyu Public Library Conference Room. Meeting is open to the public.

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order
- II. Adoption of July 2, 1997 Agenda and March 27, 1997 SRAC Minutes
- III. Old Business
  1. Status of OVR Policies and Procedures Manual
  2. OVR Staff Development Training
  3. Review of Case Management Manual
  4. Financial Status Report
  5. Consumer Survey
  6. Member Compensation
- IV. New Business
  1. Job Training Partnership Act (JTPA)
  2. Region IX - San Francisco
  3. Access Mid-West Conference
  4. Changes in OVR's Organization
  5. New Members
- IV. Adjournment

In compliance with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but requires accessibility such as large print or sign language interpreters, must call 664-6537/6538 (Voice) or 322-6449 (TDD). Several days advance notice is necessary to allow organizers ample time to make necessary arrangements.

/s/ ANNA YAMADA  
Vice-Chair

**Protesters march at Indonesian embassy**

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Protesters marched on the Indonesian embassy Sunday, burning an Indonesian flag and accusing the country's government of criminal action in the death of East Timor guerrilla leader David Alex. Chanting, banging drums and singing, the 80 protesters shouted "Indonesia are criminals," and "Indonesia out of East Timor" during the rally.

Alex's capture and death was reported by Indonesian authorities last week. He was vice-chief of staff of Falantil, the armed wing of the East Timor independence movement.

East Timor Relief Association executive director Agio Pereira said Alex died after hours of intensive interrogation and torture.

The Indonesian military said Alex died in hospital on Wednesday after being captured following a gun battle in which he was wounded.

"The Australia government must demand that the Indonesian government allows the International Red Cross . . . to freely investigate the circumstances leading to his death," Pereira said.

"The body of Commander Alex must be handed over to his family

without delay."

Pereira said East Timor was in mourning over Alex's death.

"It is no coincidence that his name is also David because he fights a difficult struggle, which actually has biblical proportions. He is like David versus Goliath.

"He has been fighting for the very fundamental rights of his people, and gave his life for it."

Pereira called on the Australian government to increase pressure for a parliamentary delegation to be allowed to visit East Timor.



Syrian Prime Minister, Mahmoud Al-Zoubi, left, confers with Indonesian President Suharto, right, on his arrival Thursday at the Merdeka (freedom) Palace in Jakarta. Al-Zoubi arrived for a five-day visit. Man at center is an interpreter. AP

**Opposition leaders say terrorist allegations against US baseless**

RANGOON, Burma (AP) - The Burmese government's charges that Washington is sponsoring terrorist attacks against it are groundless, a senior opposition leader said Sunday.

Burma's powerful intelligence chief accused the United States Friday of financing democracy activists - including members of opposition leader Aung San Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy - who allegedly were plotting to blow up foreign embassies and government leaders in Rangoon.

"It is the principle of the National League for Democracy not to accept financial assistance from foreign organizations," the party's vice chairman, Kyi Maung, said. "Did the authorities provide evidence, like a receipt that Suu Kyi had accepted cash from foreign organizations?"

Gen. Khin Nyunt, leader of Burma's military intelligence, said Suu Kyi accepted more than \$ 80,000 from U.S. citizens and labor organizations.

"It is ridiculous," Kyi Maung

told journalists in Rangoon. "Eighty-thousand dollars is quite a considerable amount of money. Our party is not an extravagant one and we don't need that amount of cash."

On Friday, Khin Nyunt presided at a two-hour news conference to announce the arrests of 10 democracy activists and level allegations of a "vile and vicious drama of terrorism staged in the name of democracy and human rights."

Those arrested included two members of Suu Kyi's political party and two members of the National Coalition Government of the Union of Burma, a pro-democracy exile group based in the United States.

The democracy activists were accused of plotting bombings or passing money and documents to Suu Kyi.

Khin Nyunt's accusations underscore worsening relations between Washington and Rangoon over the repression of Suu Kyi's movement. The United States imposed economic sanctions

against Burma in April.

Khin Nyunt accused Washington of cutting aid programs to the Burmese government and redirecting the money to "underground armed groups and terrorist groups."

In Washington, the State Department rejected the charges, saying they were an attempt at turning attention away from the military regime's human rights record.

Khin Nyunt accused the Washington-based National Coalition Government of sending a letter bomb to the home of military government leader Gen. Tin Oo in March. The bomb killed Tin Oo's adult daughter.

Attacks were also planned against the Chinese and Indonesian embassies, he said.

The coalition rejected the allegations as "totally false."

Khin Nyunt is one of four top leaders of the ruling State Law and Order Restoration Council, which has held power since gunning down thousands of pro-democracy protesters in 1988.

**BOS. . .**

Continued from page 1

belief that the fair market value of the Hillblom shares which is due and payable under the agreement is at least \$18,450.97 per share or \$435 million.

**'CNMI side. . .**

Continued from page 1

with the federal government.

Tenorio's spokesperson, Mark Broadhurst, said the CNMI "tried its best (with the 902 talks), but look at the results," referring to Clinton's announcement to impose federal immigration and minimum wage laws on the Commonwealth.

Broadhurst said the President did not even go through the 902 process, which was created by the Covenant, before proposing a federal takeover.

Cohen said he agrees with Broadhurst's conclusion that the talks were "ineffective," but "not for the reasons he states."

For 902 to fulfill its important purpose, he said, "there must be a full and responsive exploration of options and the results of the discussions must be given credence." "Unfortunately, neither has occurred."

Cohen, who is deputy solicitor of the U.S. Interior Department,

Exercise of purchase rights having been made by DHLI, Greenpark and Chung, Bomse said the executor requests that the court fix the fair market value of the Hillblom shares at \$18,450.97 per share.

The BOS counsel also asked the court to direct payment of

such amount by the exercising claimants together with interest.

Hillblom was a shareholder of DHLI at the time of his death while the claimants, with the exception of DHLI, were also shareholders.

"Those claimants, and each

ing that at least one parent of a child born in the CNMI must be a U.S. citizen before that child is granted U.S. citizenship.

The concern was that children of alien workers would soon outnumber children of natives, but Cohen said the U.S. Justice Department has concluded that the proposal is unconstitutional.

But "instead of discussing other alternatives to address the governor's concerns, (the CNMI) simply walked away from the table," Cohen said.

Since Tenorio announced his decision to scrap the 902 talks, local legislators, among them Senate President Jesus R. Sablan (R-Saipan), have urged for its resumption.

One of the governor's 902 representatives, lawyer Vicente Salas, has described Tenorio's decision as "not wise."

But Tenorio, in an earlier interview, said the 902 talks were "going nowhere," and that he was sorry he appointed Salas.

of them, owed Hillblom and therefore owed to his estate as his legal successor, fiduciary duties including a duty of loyalty and fair dealing and a duty of providing it with full and complete information concerning matters material to DHLI and the interests of the respective shareholders therein," he pointed out.

Bomse said the claimants other than DHLI have breached such fiduciary duties by failing to provide the estate with material information concerning DHLI and the value of its shares.

The claimants, except DHLI, fix or are causing persons under their direction to fix a value of the Hillblom shares which is vastly below their true fair market value, he said.

As a result of these breaches of fiduciary duty, Bomse said "the estate has been damaged in an amount presently unknown but estimated to be in excess of \$250 million."

Bomse said the estate claims such amount as damages from claimants other than DHLI."

Continued on page 27

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# 60-year...

Continued from page 13

assignment of aerial espionage before turning east to fly toward Jaluit and beyond the International Date Line thence southeast to Howland on a heading of 157-337 degrees.

To intentionally radio a false position with the objective of disguising one's true position is a classic technique of deception. Had a Japanese been monitoring the radio at Truk he could have plotted her position as a result of those coordinates and assumed she was outside the boundary of the Mandated Islands when in reality she could have been only an hour or so flying time south of Truk bearing down on the Japanese anchorage.

Then zoom over the lagoon with enough light to observe the base before turning to fly east into the cover of the advancing evening darkness.

Earhart departed Lae, New Guinea with Howland Island, as her publi-

cized destination 2,227 n. miles distant on a heading of 79.8 degrees - almost due east.

Logically, she would approach the island from the southwest, (as we shall learn she radioed an entirely different heading, one implying an approach from the northwest (157 degrees - 337 degrees), but more on this below.

The aircraft was to rendezvous with the U. S. Coast Guard Cutter *Itasca* which had been assigned by the U. S. Government to provide weather information and a directional beacon signal.

Howland is a low, uninhabited island with the highest point not ten feet above sea level. It is located at 0 degrees - 48' north latitude - 176 degrees - 38' west longitude, a mere dot on a Pacific chart and the third from the last stop on a world flight that had been planned to start and end in Oakland, California. From Lae, the air route from Howland would take her to Honolulu and then Oakland to

complete the flight.

For some time the aircraft identified as King - How - Able - Queen - Queen (KHAQQ) had been trying to communicate by radio with the American vessel.

Some of the signals received by the *Itasca*, and there were several, were at times either inaudible or incomprehensible. As the ship waited at Howland its radio crackled shortly after 8 A. M. July 1, (Western Hemisphere Time) with a woman's voice.

"We are on the line of position 157 degrees - 337 degrees - we will repeat this message on 6210 kilocycles wait listening on 6210 kilocycles we are running north and south."

This was the last message received by the *Itasca* from Earhart and the one which has accounted for so much speculation. More about this below.

For sixteen days thereafter eight United States Navy ships and sixty four aircraft scanned 138,000 square miles of the Pacific for some evidence of the aircraft with the registry number 16020 and its crew of two. Nothing was found.

Flying a heading of 79.8 degrees in a northeasterly direction would result in approaching Howland from the southwest. Flying a heading of 157 degrees if this was in fact a compass heading rather than a sun line would result in approaching the island from a northwestern direction. If 157-337 was not a sun line, the question to be posed is - what would one have to do to approach Howland on a heading of 157 from the northwest?

Could it be possible that Earhart, on a secret mission for the U. S. military, flew north from Lae over the Truk Lagoon to observe the installations and then anticipate a change in heading over Eien Island in the lagoon which would take her east over Jaluit in the Marshall Islands and then continue to fly east and cross the International Date Line to approach Howland from the northwest on a compass course of 157 degrees?

If she did - then she was engaged in espionage - about that there can be no doubt. The distance in nautical miles from Lae to Truk is 888; from Truk to Jaluit -1,063; and from Jaluit to Howland (via Great Circle) - 878 n.

mi.

The total distance is 2,829 n. mi. as compared with 2,227 n. mi. when flying direct from Lae. The most direct route (Great Circle) from Jaluit to Howland is on a heading of 109.8 degrees for 878 n. miles.

However, this route, while shorter, would require her to be in Japanese airspace and over several populated islands in the Marshall Islands for a longer period of time which would afford the Japanese more time for interception should the flight be discovered.

Even so the cover of darkness would provide added safety. Did she maintain an easterly heading of 090 degrees after passing over Jaluit to reach a (critical) point for a turn on the "western" side of the Dateline then turn south on 157 degrees to reach Howland?

The precise turning point on the U. S. side of the Dateline would be critical. If flying short - or flying beyond this critical point - a heading of 157 could still be flown - but the island would be missed in the empty expanse of the Pacific.

One could indeed depart Lae for Howland on a heading of 79.8 degrees (the direct route), and without a functioning auto-pilot, drift off course either to the north or south of the intended tract and fly to a point south-east or northwest of Howland then turn the aircraft to 157 degrees or its reciprocal of 337 degrees either before or beyond the critical point in this area and miss the island.

It is also quite possible that the islands were not accurately plotted on the charts of the period which could account for a navigational error at the desired destination of the flight.

She departed Lae at a time selected to result in arrival at Howland after sunrise for the obvious reason of being able to see the island and the crude, unlighted airstrip during daylight.

The United States Government certainly will never admit she was engaged in espionage if in fact that was the case since the country was not at war at the time and the Japanese have nothing to gain by admitting any knowledge of the fate of the two aviators. The mystery is left to the interested reader to ponder.

In the interest of objectivity it should be mentioned that professional navigators do not believe Earhart was involved in a reconnaissance flight over the Japanese Mandated Islands. They believe she missed locating the island, ran out of fuel and went into the water.

However, one thing can be acknowledged, Amelia Earhart and Fred Noonan were two courageous pioneers in the true American spirit about that, there can be no doubt.

One might ask the reason for the continued interest in the Earhart saga. She was married to George P. Putman a public relations specialist who saw in the flight an opportunity to capitalize on the adventure which was widely followed throughout the world. He actively promoted the attempt of an around the world flight in the news media.

Amelia Earhart might be also recognized as being in the vanguard of what would later become known as the women's liberation movement. These factors have kept the mystery before us through the years.

### Issues, Suppositions & Questions

Radio Nauru, Wake, Midway and Makapu Point, Hawaii all heard signals believed to have originated from the Electra for a period of time after she radioed to *Itasca*. "We must be on you now but cannot see you. Running out of gas. Only one half hour left. Been unable to reach you by radio. We are flying at one thousand feet". At that time the *Itasca* transmitted strong signals that were heard as far away as California. The Electra's signals were also strong, thus it could be assumed that Earhart did not crash in the sea but on an island since sea water would have rendered the Electra's radio inoperable.

Being on land and having been heard by Radio Nauru it may be surmised that she survived a crash landing and was alive and with the aircraft until 0948 (GMT) July 5, 1937, the date and time the last signal was received.

Some speculate that Earhart flew off course, strayed into air space over the Japanese Mandated Islands, ran out of fuel and was picked up by the Japanese and taken to Saipan. (To be continued)

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01 GENERAL MANAGER-Salary: \$2,500.00-4,390.00 per month  
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01 FRONT DESK CLERK-Salary: \$3.05-3.30 per hour  
02 CASHIER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: KAN PACIFIC SAIPAN, LTD. Tel. 322-4692 (7/14)M66607

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: AVELINA M. BENAVENTE dba D & M Enterprises Tel. 256-1033 (7/14)M66608

01 ASSISTANT COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: EXCEL CORPORATION dba Chemek Cafeteria Tel. 322-1601 (7/14)M230029

01 SALES REPRESENTATIVE-Salary: \$650.00 per month  
Contact: GENPRO INTERNATIONAL, INC. Tel. 235-1781 (7/14)M230030

01 OPERATION MANAGER-Salary: \$1,200.00 per month  
02 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: JADE GARDEN INC. dba Jade Garden Restaurant Tel. 234-6573 (7/14)M230031

01 RESERVATION CLERK-Salary: \$3.50 per hour  
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01 MECHANICAL ENGINEER-Salary: \$800.00 per month  
Contact: JUAN TORRES HOCOG dba J & R Hcog Ent. Tel. 322-7187 (7/14)M230035

20 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: CRISPINA A. BORJA dba King's Castle Tel. 234-2225 (7/14)M230037

01 PACKER-Salary: \$2.90 per hour  
02 COOK-Salary: \$2.90 per hour  
Contact: WINNERS CORPORATION Tel. 235-1805 (7/14)M230038

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour  
02 GENERAL MAINTENANCE-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour  
Contact: RELLANITA A. VILLAGOMEZ dba Rell's Enterprises Tel. 235-6942 (7/14)M230039

02 PRINTING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
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01 ASSISTANT COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: EXCEL CORPORATION dba Chemek Cafeteria Tel. 322-1601 (7/14)M230029

01 SALES REPRESENTATIVE-Salary: \$650.00 per month  
Contact: GENPRO INTERNATIONAL, INC. Tel. 235-1781 (7/14)M230030

01 OPERATION MANAGER-Salary: \$1,200.00 per month  
02 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
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01 RESERVATION CLERK-Salary: \$3.50 per hour  
Contact: SAIPAN KORESCO CORP. dba Saipan Koreesco Resort Club Tel. 288-6011 (7/14)M230032

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS

In the Matter of the Guardianship of the Estate of MARTHA LUISE BASA MENDIOLA, ELENA MARIA BASA MENDIOLA, DONALD BASA MENDIOLA, JR. and STEVEN BASA MENDIOLA, Minor Children. CIVIL ACTION NO. 97-695E

NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Antonia Villagomez-Ierome has filed with the Clerk of this Court a Petition for Appointment of Guardian of the Estate of the minor children above. The hearing on the Petition is set for 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, the 24th day of July, 1997, at the Commonwealth Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 27th day of June, 1997.

/s/ DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

01 MECHANICAL ENGINEER-Salary: \$800.00 per month  
Contact: JUAN TORRES HOCOG dba J & R Hcog Ent. Tel. 322-7187 (7/14)M230035

20 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: CRISPINA A. BORJA dba King's Castle Tel. 234-2225 (7/14)M230037

01 PACKER-Salary: \$2.90 per hour  
02 COOK-Salary: \$2.90 per hour  
Contact: WINNERS CORPORATION Tel. 235-1805 (7/14)M230038

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour  
02 GENERAL MAINTENANCE-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour  
Contact: RELLANITA A. VILLAGOMEZ dba Rell's Enterprises Tel. 235-6942 (7/14)M230039

02 PRINTING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
01 COMPUTER OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: WIN FONG ENT. INC. Tel. 234-3238 (7/14)M230040

01 PHOTOTYPESETTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: DANTE R. FLOJO dba Saipan Manpower Tel. 288-9172 (7/14)M230041

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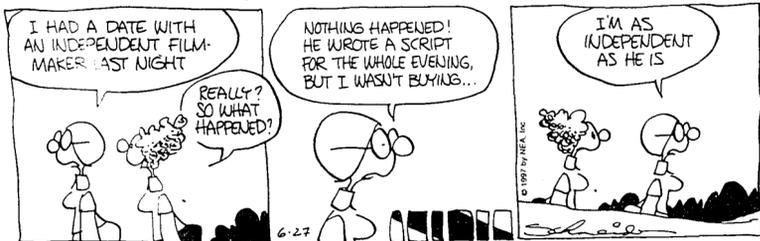
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STELLA WILDER

# YOUR BIRTHDAY

By Stella Wilder

Born today, you are a strong-willed and tenacious individual, and like so many other Cancer natives you harbor deep beneath the surface a tender and vulnerable soul that you must be careful to protect throughout your lifetime.

Take care that you don't become obsessed with a private issue that doesn't directly concern you. Steer clear of a conflict with a Virgo native.

good deal more attention than you've been getting lately. It is time for a heart-to-heart talk with a loved one.

# CLOSERS

The basic monetary unit of Haiti is the gourde, and its chief fractional unit is the centime.

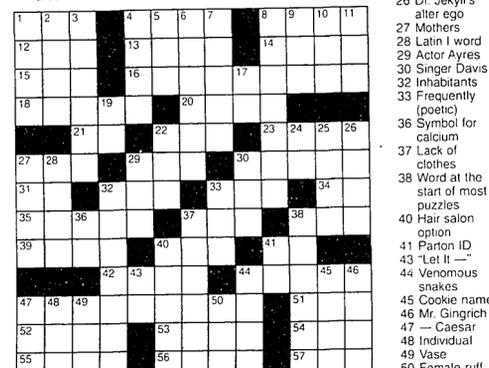
The first airplane flight across the United States took 49 days to complete.

In the 1470s Christopher Columbus was a mercenary sailor.

# CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS 1 Stadium roar 4 Go -- young man 8 "Gilligan's Island" props 12 Ms. Peron 13 Coin of India 14 Iowa city 15 Actress Woods 16 Give new life to 18 Murphy Brown's painter friend 20 The same (Latin, 2 wds.) 21 NBC series 22 Take a plane 23 Sacred vow 27 Gibson of "Ransom" 29 -- Angeles 30 The real -- 31 Alternative word 32 Born (Fr.) 33 Tree to tie a yellow ribbon around 34 Dawson ID 35 Large parrot 37 Griddle org. 38 Summer cooler 39 Word heard on 21 Across 40 Wheel track 41 Washington. 42 In the same place (Latin abbr.) 44 Covering 47 Vacation mementos 51 Mine find 52 Concerning 53 Stair 54 Sitch 55 Lays 56 Sight organs 57 Drunkard

DOWN 1 Co-star of 27 2 Relating to grandparents 3 "Messiah" composer 4 Alert 5 Opp. of WSW 6 Slow animals 7 "Driving Miss Daisy" star 8 Swinging resting place 9 Ms. Thurman 10 Southeast Asian holiday 11 Opp. of NNW 17 That is (Latin abbr.) 19 Negative prefix 22 Enemy 24 Carney ID 25 "The Greatest Story Ever" 26 Dr. Jekyll's alter ego 27 Mothers 28 Latin I word 29 Actor Ayres 30 Singer Davis 32 Inhabitants 33 Frequently (poetic) 36 Symbol for calcium 37 Lack of clothes 38 Word at the start of most puzzles 40 Hair salon option 41 Parton ID 43 "Let It --" 44 Venomous snakes 45 Cookie name 46 Mr. Gingrich 47 -- Caesar 48 Individual 49 Vase 50 Female ruff



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# 2 women seeds lose



Mary Joe Fernandez, of the U.S., plays a forehand return to Noelle Van Lottum, from France, during their Women's Singles match at Wimbledon Saturday. Fernandez won the match 6-2, 6-2. AP

By STEPHEN WILSON WIMBLEDON, England (AP) Lindsay Davenport and Amanda Coetzer were victims of the first major women's upsets Sunday as Wimbledon opened its gates on the traditional rest day for only the second time in history.

action in early matches were third-seeded Jana Novotna and No. 9 Mary Pierce. Top-seeded Martina Hingis was scheduled for the second match on Court 1 against Nicole Arendt.

Watts... Continued from page 28 "For the second shot on the 16th, I didn't have the right club. I felt like a 3-wood would go over the green and then it would be a very tough chip coming down the hill," he said.

Tampa... Continued from page 28 In San Jose, California, the Clash won its first game under new head coach Brian Quinn, beating the Dallas Burn 3-1.

Shots... Continued from page 28 the fight in the MGM Grand Garden then began exiting the hotel and into the parking lot, mingling with thousands of others who were

Bite... Continued from page 28 "No one took points from him (for butting). What else could I do?" Referee Mills Lane said he told Tyson that if he bit Holyfield a second time, he would be disqualified. But he had to wait until the end of the third round to determine whether Tyson had bitten Holyfield's left ear.

BOS... Continued from page 23 B.V., which also owed fiduciary duties to the estate. "To fix a purported fair market value of the Hillblom shares which was far below their actual fair market value as known and understood by claimants.

of seats. While waiting for play to begin, they did the wave and sang "Swing Low, Sweet Chariot." "I heard about this on BBC late yesterday afternoon," said 26-year-old Stuart Ward, who lives in Wimbledon. "I always love to come out here, and I enjoy the atmosphere."

His second shot with a 4-iron on the 511-yard (465-meter) 16th landed far in front of the green. He then hit a sand wedge short, needed another approach shot to the green and two-putted for a bogey.

Shawn Medved brought the Clash back from a 1-0 deficit three minutes into the second half. Jeff Baicher took a shot blocked by a Dallas defender, got his own rebound and flicked the ball to Medved, who put the ball into the far side of the net.

Grand. After the Tyson-Seldon match Shakur went to the home of Death Row Records chairman Marion "Suge" Knight before returning to the Strip, where he was shot. Shakur dined at a hospital a few days later.

It was during this delay that Lane warned Tyson he would be disqualified if he bit Holyfield again. "The first time, my corner told me to just keep cool," Holyfield said. "Then he spit his mouthpiece out and bit me again."

The two men, both furious, threw several haymakers, making it look like they were back in the mean streets of the big city, but neither connected before the bell rang.

Happy 6th Wedding Anniversary Mae From your Dad

# SPORTS



# Bite stops fight

**By ED SCHUYLER JR**  
**LAS VEGAS (AP)** - Mike Tyson retaliated like a street fighter, and it cost him a chance to beat Evander Holyfield and regain the WBA heavyweight championship Saturday night.

Tyson, complaining of head butts, bit Holyfield on both ears in the third round and was disqualified after the round by referee Mills Lane.

"I thought my ear had fallen off," said Holyfield, referring to the first bite that ripped a hunk out of his right ear and sent him to

## Shots fired after fight

**By ROBERT MACY**  
**LAS VEGAS (AP)** - Thousands of people panicked late Saturday night when shots were fired at the MGM Grand Hotel following a heavyweight fight between Evander Holyfield and Mike Tyson.

Nevada Highway Patrol spokesman Steve Harney said no one was wounded during the shooting. Metro Police sealed off a two-block-long strip of Tropicana Avenue to try and disperse the crowd.

More than 200 police officers and hotel security guards worked to clear the jammed hotel lobby as people ran through hallways. Restaurants in the 5,000-room hotel shut their doors to keep unwanted people out.

The hotel's theme park was closed about 30 minutes after the shooting. Panic ensued as restless fight fans began flooding through the hotel when the fight was stopped after the third round when Tyson twice bit Holyfield on his ears.

The 16,000 fans who witnessed  
**Continued on page 27**

## Holyfield loses part of ear but keeps WBA championship

Valley Hospital for repair work.

Tyson's \$30 million purse was withheld pending a hearing Tuesday before the Nevada Athletic Commission, according Marc

Ratner, executive director of the commission.

Bedlam reigned after the disqualification as Tyson tried to storm across the ring and reach

Holyfield. But he succeeded only in hitting a police officer.

Then, as Tyson was heading to his dressing room, someone threw a full water bottle out of the stands

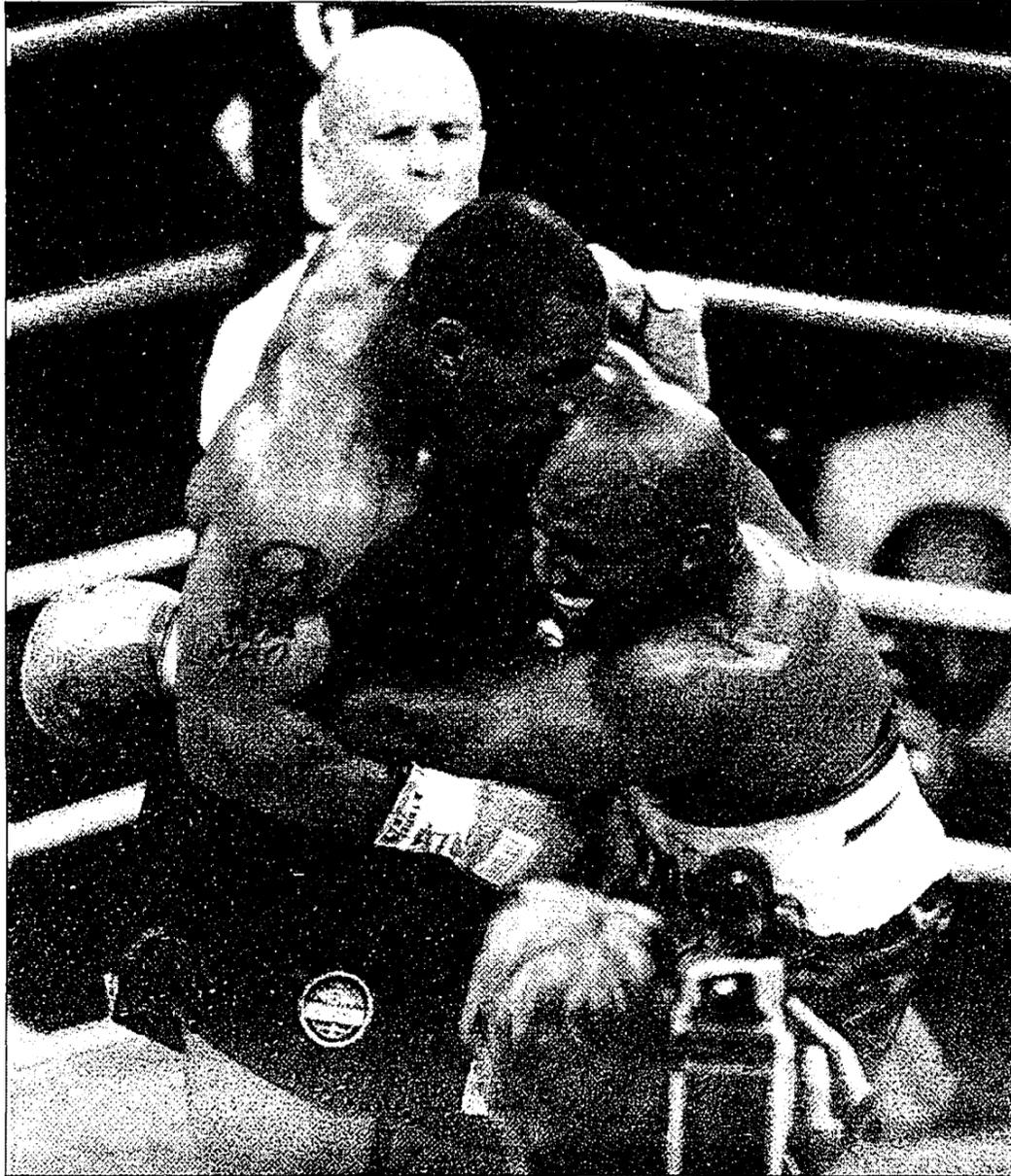
and hit a fan who was taking pictures. This caused Tyson and some people with him to try to get into the stands. They were not successful.

When it was over, both fighters accused each other of being scared.

"I truly believe fear itself causes people to do the easy thing," Holyfield said. "The quickest thing was to get out. If you think you can whup me, do it with the gloves on. You had a chance to fight. Why did you bite?"

"He has a cut on his ear and he didn't want to fight," Tyson said. "Regardless of what I did, he had been butting for two fights. I addressed it in the ring."

**Continued on page 27**



Mike Tyson (left) bites the ear of Evander Holyfield in the third round of their WBA Heavyweight match Saturday at the MGM Grand in Las Vegas. After a chunk of Holyfield's ear was bitten off and Tyson was warned by referee Mills Lane (back), the challenger bit the champ again causing his disqualification. AP

## Worker finds Holyfield's ear, gives to champ

**LAS VEGAS (AP)** - A hotel worker gave Evander Holyfield a present after his fight with Mike Tyson - the piece of his ear that Tyson bit off in the third round.

Mitchell Libonati went into the ring after the fight ended in chaos after the third round and found the piece of ear on the canvas.

He wrapped it in latex gloves and took it to Holyfield's dressing room, where he told his camp:

"I have something he probably wants."

Libonati described the ear as "not bloody, like a piece of sausage."

Holyfield was taken to Valley Hospital after the fight, where surgeons were expected to try and fix his ear. It was not known if they would use the part Libonati found.

"All I wanted out of it was to meet Evander," said Libonati, who worked the fight as a glove cutter and ring cleaner.

## Tampa Bay rips L.A. in MLS

**TAMPA, Florida (AP)** - Gilmar scored two goals - including the game-winner in the 75th minute - as the Tampa Bay Mutiny beat the Los Angeles Galaxy 3-2 on Saturday night in Major League Soccer.

Carlos Valderrama had three assists and Cle Kooiman also scored for Tampa Bay, who are 7-1 at home. Welton and Harut Karapetyan scored for Los Angeles.

**Wizards 4, Rapids 3, (shootout)**

In Denver, Uche Okafor scored in the seventh round of a shootout to give the Kansas City Wizards a 4-3 victory over the Colorado Rapids on Saturday night.

Kansas City's Digital Takawira scored in the 25th and 47th minutes to tie it 2-2, and Mo Johnston gave the Wizards the lead in the 49th minute.

Colorado's Paul Brovas scored his second goal of the game in the 87th minute to tie it 3-3.

**Continued on page 27**

## Watts wins his 3rd Mizuno Open

**HAKUI, Japan (AP)** - American Brian Watts finished with a birdie Sunday as he shot a 3-under-par 69 and won his third Mizuno Open championship by two strokes.

It was the 1987 U.S. collegiate champion's first victory this season and ninth overall in Japan, including the 1994 and 1995 Mizuno Open titles.

The victory, with a four-round total of 10-under 278, was worth 18 million yen (\$158,000) from

a purse of 100 million yen (\$877,000).

That put him in third place on this season's money earnings list, behind Masashi "Jumbo" Ozaki and Shigeki Maruyama, and gave him a spot in the British Open next month.

"I'm as excited as I can be. Tokinodai is the best course in Japan," Watts said of the 6,822-yard (6,208-meter), par-72 Tokinodai Country Club course where he has triumphed three

times.

"I feel very fortunate," said Watts, the Asian Tour's 1993 Order of Merit winner. "After I made a big mistake on the 16th hole, I could hit the 4-iron as close as I needed on the 18th."

On the 443-yard (394-meter), par-4 final hole, the 31-year-old Watts drove to the fairway, hit the green with his 4-iron and sank a 5-foot (1.5-meter) birdie putt.

**Continued on page 27**

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