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Saipan, MP 96950
Serving CNMI for 25 Years **50¢**

Hocog insists CPA is not 'bankrupt'



Victor Hocog

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

CHAIRMAN Victor B. Hocog yesterday said the Commonwealth Ports Authority has enough money in its vault, even as he admitted there's a need to shelve some of its capital improvement projects.

"No, I don't agree that the CPA is bankrupt," Hocog said when asked of the financial condition of the ports agency.

He said he has already formed an ad hoc committee to look into the current financial situation of CPA, amidst reports that

it is unable to pay for debt service due to lack of funds.

"Until such time that we come up with the ad hoc committee report, then we can inform you whether or not we are in financial mess," he said during a CPA board meeting.

Hocog also said he is not disappointed that Executive Director Carlos Shoda is off-island to share the "grief" with the rest of the board members since he had been "unfortunately sick" before the financial mess was made public.

"(If Shoda is here), then we could have put him on the lime-light to explain that," he said.

At the same time, Comptroller David Demapan said CPA is, at present, in "limbo" because it failed to close the controversial \$140 million bond.

"Of course we are in a limbo right now because we did not close the long-term financing, which is the \$140 million bond. Other than that, we should be in a financially-sound position," Demapan said.

He explained that CPA is hav-

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Man in hotel brawl succumbs to injuries

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

A MAN who was in coma after he reportedly figured in a fight with a co-worker at the Saipan Grand Hotel last Dec. 18 died on Christmas Eve, police disclosed.

Department of Public Safety Information Officer Maj. J. J. Castro confirmed that Francisco Aquino Ykota indeed passed away at the Commonwealth Health Center last Dec. 24.

In light of Ykota's death, Castro said the charges against the suspect, Eduardo Rupinta, may likely

be amended.

Initial investigation showed that prior to the assault, the 21-year-old Ykota was observed to be rude and belligerent inside the hotel's Madonna Club.

Rupinta, 35, of Chalan Kanoa, tried to talk to the victim about his behavior, triggering an argument.

Rupinta punched Ykota several times on the face and kicked him, sending the victim to the floor, police said.

Police said the victim fell unconscious when his head landed

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U.S. takeover has no future-- DeLay

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

VISITING U.S. House Majority Whip Tom DeLay (R-Texas) yesterday said any federal takeover proposal has "no future" as long as the U.S. Republican Party controls Congress.

"That is not a future for (the CNMI)," the third highest ranking leader of the U.S. House of Representatives said, referring to the extension of federal immigration and minimum wage laws to the Northern Marianas as proposed by the Clinton administration and Democrats in Congress.

"That's just going back to policies we're trying to get away from," he said.

DeLay said there are legitimate concerns over "sweatshops" involving alien workers in the CNMI, but added that the "real sweatshops" are in China, Burma and other countries with an authoritarian government.

"That's the sweatshops we should be after," he said.

At the same time, DeLay said that describing the alien workers imported by the CNMI as "cheap labor" is "all a matter of perspective."

"Cheaper than what? China? I saw workers there making \$60 a month," he pointed out.

"There are people who don't believe in the free market, and (they are the ones urging) for higher wages, but (a wage hike usually only leads to a higher unemployment rate)," DeLay said.

Better life

In contrast, he added, the CNMI's alien workers may not



Rep. Tom DeLay: 'Reassuring' words against federal takeover.

be receiving the federal minimum wage rate, but "they're still building a life better than what they have in their countries."

Otherwise, alien workers wouldn't be in the CNMI, DeLay said.

"The standard is what the market can bear," he said, "and someday, these islands will have the same high standards that the mainland U.S. has, but that won't happen if the (CNMI embraces) protectionism."

DeLay said "some people who haven't been here led me to be-

lieve that it's backward, but I can feel the vibrancy and the progress being made."

Important

In an earlier interview, a member of DeLay's staff described the CNMI's immigration and wage issues as "important," and added that DeLay has taken "great interest" in the local economy.

John Feehesy said DeLay is a strong believer in the free market, and is "strongly opposed" to any proposal that

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Cing vows to go after Tenorio when latter's term ends

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

SENATOR David M. Cing (D-Tinian) yesterday vowed to go after outgoing Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio for approving an additional \$800,000 "loan" to the Tinian casino gaming commission, which already owes the Office of the Governor \$2.6 million.

Cing, last month, warned Tenorio and the Finance Department not to provide the commission with additional "illegal



David M. Cing



Froilan C. Tenorio

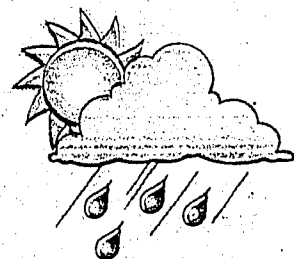
funds."

With the governor's recent action, however, Cing said he has "no choice" but to summon Tenorio after his term expires on Jan. 12.

"I thought this was an open and shut case, but now I feel that we're just beginning our investigation," Cing said, shortly after the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigation (EAGI) ended its last oversight

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WEATHER Outlook



Partly cloudy with isolated showers

Clash at Thai-Cambodia border

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Cambodian resistance troops loyal to ousted First Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh launched a fierce attack Sunday night against government troops near the Thai border, sending about 700 refugees fleeing to Thai-

land. The attack came in the O'Baigern district south of Poipet, opposite the Thai border town of Aranyaprathet, Thai army sources said Monday. The fighting represented an expansion of the conflict between Cambo-

dian government and resistance forces, which in recent months had been confined to an area 160 kilometers (99 miles) to the northeast of O'Baigern, near the town of O'Smach. The battle lasted for about nine hours and involved heavy weapons

such as rockets and mortars, the Thai army said. There were no reports on casualties or the number of troops involved in the fighting.

Resistance and government commanders in the O'Baigern region had forged a cease-fire that allowed both sides to continue an illegal cross-border logging trade with Thailand.

The fighting indicated the cease-fire had broken down, but Thai army officers did not know why hostilities had erupted.

The 700 refugees are mostly family members of government troops,

the Thai army officer said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

He said they would be sent back to Cambodia later Monday if there was no fighting in the area.

The Thai army said the attack was the heaviest in the area since July, when Ranariddh was deposed by Co-Prime Minister Hun Sen in a bloody coup.

Thai military sources said last night's attack was led by Gen. Ly Virak, who, with 300 of his men, had sided with Ranariddh.

His men also have joined in defending O'Smach.

India, Pakistan expel each other's diplomats

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — For the third time in recent months, India and Pakistan have expelled personnel from each other's embassy, an Indian newspaper reported Monday.

The Hindu newspaper said Pakistan ordered an Indian embassy staff member to leave in retaliation for the expulsion several days ago of a Pakistani from New Delhi.

Both officials held low-level positions, and no announcement was made by either government, the paper said.

Officials of the Indian Foreign Ministry and the Pakistani mission in the Indian capital had no immediate comment on the report.

It was the third round of expulsions since last August. India accused the Pakistani of engaging in "activities incompatible with his status," the daily reported.

India and Pakistan reopened a dialogue one year ago to try to ease tensions and resolve issues that led them into three wars since they simultaneously became independent from Britain in 1947.

Discussions have been put on hold due to political turmoil in both countries.

No high level meetings are planned until after India goes to a general election and assembles a new government by March 15.

3-year old killed in gang fight

CHICAGO (AP) — A 3-year-old boy riding a bicycle he got for Christmas was killed by a stray bullet from a gang fight.

German Morales was pronounced dead on arrival at a hospital with a gunshot wound in his back late Saturday afternoon.

"Initial indications suggest there was some kind of gang confrontation in the area," police spokesman Kevin Morison said.

"Shots were exchanged," Edwin Orta, 25, was charged Sun-

day with one count of first-degree murder and four counts of attempted murder in the case, Morison said.

Cmdr. Phil Cline said four witnesses saw Orta fire the weapon.

Cline said Orta had given a statement to the Cook County State's Attorney's Office admitting he was responsible for the boy's death.

Residents said the shooting involved two rival gangs that have been fighting over the neighborhood of apartment buildings and single-family homes.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Froilan C. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus C. Borja, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby serving notice that the regular meeting of the Board of Directors, will be held on Tuesday, December 30, 1997 at 9:00 a.m., at the NMHC Conference Room in Garapan, Saipan. The Agenda follows, and the public is welcomed to attend.

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES: November 12, 1997
- IV. SUGAR KING II HOUSING SUBDIVISION
- V. PUBLIC HOUSING
 - A. Garapan Annex Subdivision
 - B. Section 214 Litigation
 - C. Family Self-Sufficiency Program/Executive Order
- VI. COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT BLOCK GRANT PROJECTS
- VII. MPLT/NMHC \$10 MILLION LOAN
- VIII. DIVISION REPORTS
- IX. OTHER MATTERS
- X. ADJOURNMENT

Note: PL 8-41 allows Executive Sessions which may be called to discuss item(s) noted above.

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

EAGI cites Palmer in 'contempt'

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

A SENATE standing committee has cited Tinian casino gaming commission's executive director for contempt for his non-appearance during yesterday's oversight hearing. (See related story in this issue)

Calling Paul Palmer's absence an "abuse of privilege" and a "show of disrespect," members of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigation (EAGI) took turns in lashing out at Palmer who flew to Manila prior to yesterday's hearing.

Palmer yesterday faxed a letter to EAGI Chair David M. Cing (D-Tinian), requesting that the hearing be rescheduled, but his request was turned down by EAGI members.

In his letter, which was faxed from Manila, Palmer apologized for his absence, claiming that it is "due to circumstances beyond" his immediate control.

He said he is "sincerely" willing to fully cooperate with the ongoing Senate probe of the Tinian casino gaming

commission (TCGCC).

EAGI members, however, said they are no longer "buying" Palmer's excuses.

Abuse

Senate Majority Leader Thomas P. Villagomez (R-Saipan) said Palmer's off-island trip shows an unwillingness to appear before the committee.

"He has abused the privilege accorded him," Villagomez said.

Outgoing Sen. Esteven M. King (R-Tinian), for his part, called Palmer's absence "bothersome," and urged the Senate to pursue and complete its investigation of TCGCC.

Senate Vice President Paul A. Mangiona (R-Rota), the EAGI vice chair, said Palmer's "no-show" reflects the attitude of TCGCC towards the Senate probe.

He then proposed that the Senate invite the House of Representatives to form a joint investigating committee that will further probe into the alleged "misconduct" of public funds in TCGCC.

"Both houses of the Legislature

Seman pleads innocent to 'theft, misconduct'



Arnold K. Seman

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

POLICE Officer 3 Arnold K. Seman yesterday pleaded innocent to the charges that he stole government funds and misused a public vehicle.

Seman, through counsel Darrin Class, waived reading of the information and advisement of his constitutional rights during an arraignment in the Superior Court.

Seman pleaded not guilty to charges of theft and two counts of misconduct in public office.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Robert Steinborn in the complaint said on or about Oct. 12 through Nov.

13, 1997 Seman stole from the government money more than \$250 but less than \$20,000.

Last Nov. 13, Steinborn said, the police officer "did unlawfully operate and drive a public vehicle for a purpose other than official government business."

On or about Oct. 12 through Nov. 13, 1997, the prosecutor added, Seman committed a misconduct in public office when he did the crimes of theft and misuse of government vehicles.

Seman, assigned with the Department of Public Safety's Juvenile Section, was the former DPS information officer and coordinator of Crime Stoppers.

Associate Judge Edward Manibusan set a status conference on Jan. 19, 1998.

Seman's fellow police officer, Lourdes C. Tomei and assistant chief of the DPS Bureau of Motor Vehicles, Anthony C. Tenorio, last week pleaded innocent to separate criminal complaints charging them with theft and misconduct in public office.

RP 'more discriminate' in overseas worker deployment

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE Philippines is starting to implement stricter and "protective" rules in the deployment of overseas Filipino workers in countries with abuses history to prevent "misfortunes."

"The Philippine government is slowing down (on OFWs deployment) to control and protect overseas workers who are in objectionable category," said Vice Consul Ronell Santos.

The Philippine labor department, last month, has anticipated a slow down in its overseas employment office's transaction of workers bound for the Marianas Island.

An advisory sent to the Philippine Consulate by the Overseas Employ-

ment Administration in Manila said the slow down was a result of the CNMI's move scrapping the contract verification process by the Consulate.

Overseas Employment Acting Administrator Tito Genilo warned that because of the recent move by the CNMI's Department of Labor and Immigration, more tourist-workers may go to the island.

The POEA, according to the advisory, has alerted the immigration staff at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport for the possible proliferation of Filipino tourists going to the CNMI.

Genilo said prospective workers may be lured by the "easy-go" scheme which may be considered a form of direct hiring prohibited under labor



Paul Palmer

should unite to show that we mean business," said Mangiona, who is the incoming Senate president.

Palmer, he added, "has no reason not to be present" during yesterday's hearing.

Palmer's counsels withdraw

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

TWO lawyers withdrew yesterday as legal counsels for Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission Director Paul Palmer after he had allegedly failed to pay them their overdue retainer's fee.

Bruce L. Jorgensen and Bruce Berline filed a motion to withdraw in connection with a grand jury proceeding.

Jorgensen said that Palmer, who is also being investigated in connection with an alleged casino fund mess, promised to pay a legal retainer fee last Dec. 22 but that he failed to do so.

Palmer again promised to pay via wire transfer by Dec. 23 or at the latest Dec. 24.

"Based on Mr. Palmer's further assurances, Mr. Berline and I continued, on December 22, 1997, and allegedly failed to pay them their overdue retainer's fee."

On Christmas Day, Berline said he learned that Palmer was in Manila.

Berline said he notified Palmer, who was staying at the Hyatt Regency Manila, about this and Berline's intention of withdrawing as his counsels last Dec. 27 and yesterday.

counsel (See related story in this issue.)

He was nonetheless served a subpoena for yesterday's hearing. If found guilty of contempt, Palmer would be fined not more than \$1,000 and/or sentenced to a one year jail term.

The ongoing Senate probe has so far revealed numerous improper and excessive expenditures made by the commission with the apparent consent of the Tinian's mayor office and the Office of the Governor.

It was the Office of the Governor which "loaned" \$2.6 million to the commission last year.

By April of this year, however, the \$2.6 million was almost entirely spent.

Jorgensen said he received a faxed communication from Palmer yesterday at 2:20 p.m.

"The communication... convinced Mr. Berline and me, even further, that withdrawal from Mr. Palmer is appropriate and necessary under the present circumstances," Jorgensen said.

Palmer last week reportedly relayed to Jorgensen's secretary by telephone that the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission had agreed to pay the retainer fees.

But Jorgensen and Berline wrote Palmer that they would not agree to receive such payment from the counsels last Dec. 27 and yesterday.

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Chamber leaders meet with visiting Rep. DeLay

US HOUSE Majority Whip Tom DeLay sees the CNMI as a model of economic progress and believes the interaction of market forces should be allowed with minimal government involvement.

The visiting House leader shared his views with CNMI businessmen during a meeting with executive officers of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce yesterday at the Hyatt Regency Saipan.

In a news release yesterday, the Chambers said DeLay (R-Texas) holds the impression that increasing government intervention has been an

unpleasant "cost of doing business."

Both outgoing Chamber President, David M. Sablan and incoming Chamber President, Joe Ayuyu, pointed out that the CNMI is indeed a unique economy maintaining a fragile balance.

It was also proposed that the CNMI stand as America's showcase of democracy to its Asian and global neighbors.

DeLay agreed and further urged the Chamber and the business sector, not to give up vigilance in guarding against protectionist and otherwise economically limiting policies (both

Federally and locally) that may impede the market forces that support this economy.

Consistent with the Chamber's goal of continuing a positive relationship with government for the betterment of the economy, yesterday's discussion afforded the business sector an opportunity to air concerns and share information with the federal guest.

Meanwhile, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce announced it will hold its 1998 installation of officers and directors dinner at 6:00 pm on Saturday, January 17 at the Saipan Diamond Hotel ballroom.

laws of the Philippine government.

Santos said the country is allowing market forces to determine the movement of the Filipino workers who wish to travel and work abroad.

"But if we knew at once that they will not be in any better condition in their country of destination, there is no reason enough to allow them to leave. I think it's just basic," he said.

The DLI, in October, issued a memorandum scrapping the contract verification process by the Philippine Consulate, contending duplication of fees exacted from the employees for the verification and authentication of documents.

The DLI considers going to the Philippine Consulate for verification

and authentication is a waste of time for both the employers and the Division of Labor, the advisory said.

Philippine labor laws require verification and authentication of Philippine mission or an Overseas Labor Officer, as part of the documentary processing.

Warnings have been raised in Manila against unscrupulous individuals like fixers and illegal recruiters who may take advantage of the situation of direct hiring by employers in the CNMI.

The Immigration Bureau in Manila has also been alerted against possible circumvention of rules on overseas employment and a stricter screening at the departure point has been effected.



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12/31

The party starts at 9:00pm and will
ring you well into the new year!

\$19.98 Adults
\$ 9.98 for Children over 5

Includes an appetizer buffet, beer, wine and softdrinks.

Live Music!
Raffles!
Games...
& Fireworks!

See you there!



Joint FEMA-CNMI typhoon assessment:

Rota damage placed at \$4M

By Gerr R. Cayabyab, Jr.
Variety News Staff

PRELIMINARY Paka damage assessment on Rota's infrastructures reached \$4 million and an estimated 500 individuals are expected to avail of assistance. Public Information Officer for the Federal Emergency Management Agency Alex A. Newton yesterday said.

Newton said the figures on the preliminary damage assessment are the result of joint efforts by the disaster representatives of the Rota Mayor's office and FEMA.

He said that based on their discussions yesterday with the Rota public officials, a Disaster Recovery Center will be designated for use of FEMA and Small Business Administration representatives.

"On the first two days of operations, both FEMA and SBA representatives will set appointments to residents affected by Paka, and are in need of federal assistance," Newton said.

In aiding the disaster victims, Newton said, FEMA can provide federal assistance and these are the following:

*Rental payments for temporary housing for those whose homes are unlivable. Initial assistance is provided for up to three months for homeowners and at least one month for renters. Assistance may be extended if requested after the initial period based on review of individual applicant's requirements;

*Grants for home repairs not covered by insurance to make damaged homes livable;

*Grants to repair or replace personal property and to meet medical, transportation and other serious disaster-related needs not covered by insurance or other federal, state and charitable aid programs. Typical grants average about \$2,500;

*Low-interest loans to cover residential losses not fully compensated by insurance. Loans available up to \$200,000 for primary residence, and \$40,000 for personal property, including renter losses. Loans available up to \$1.5 million for business property losses not fully compensated by insurance; and

*Loans up to \$1.5 million for small business that have suffered disaster-related cash flow problems and need funds for working capital to recover

from the disaster's adverse economic impact.

On the other hand, assistance for the State or affected local government can include the following:

*Payment of 75 percent of the eligible costs for repairing or replacing damaged public facilities, such as roads, bridges, utilities, buildings, schools, recreational areas and similar publicly owned property, as well as certain private non-profit organizations engaged in public service activities;

*Payment of 75 percent of the eligible costs for removing debris from public area and for emergency measures taken to save lives and protect property and public health; and

*Funding to restore damaged highways on the Federal Aid Systems.

In another development, Newton said FEMA yesterday received a total of 656 Keith applications on Saipan and 84 Keith applications on Tinian.

Meanwhile, Parson's Brinkerhoff Field Manager Gerald Barber yesterday said 12 individuals had registered to be trained as FEMA inspectors.

Barber said the Parson's Brinkerhoff yesterday sent two inspectors to Tinian to assess damages wrought by super typhoon Keith.

American Red Cross-NMI Chapter Emergency Services Director Cherry Schadeck said there are 31 Red Cross volunteers on Rota.

"On Rota, there are 25 on-island volunteers and six from mainland," Schadeck said.

CPA defers action on lease

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors yesterday unanimously deferred action on the proposed 25-year lease contract with Island Fresh Company.

During a board meeting, Vice Chairman Antonio S. Camacho said the CPA board needs more time to review the

proposal for a 25-year lease agreement.

All board members agreed to suspend the discussion on the lease contract, though Board member Pedro Nakatsukasa expressed intentions to put everything that was agreed upon in black and white.

Nakatsukasa aired concerns that a voice vote may not be

sufficient to sustain the board decision but the CPA legal counsel promptly said it is enough unless there is an objection.

"There are things that have been overlooked during the previous meeting and I feel more secured if we will vote by having a rollcall and answering yes or no," he said. CPA Chairman Victor Hocog sat in and presided over yesterday's board meeting. He was reportedly "unfortunately sick" to attend the meeting Monday last week.

A lawyer from the Transition Committee last week blocked the approval of the lease contract since it was not among the items listed in the published agenda.

In a board meeting Monday last week, lawyer David A. Wiseman stood up and questioned why the Island Fresh Co.'s lease agreement was in the board's agenda when it was



Lorenzo I. DL. Guerrero

not among the items published in the newspapers.

Wiseman reminded the CPA board that amendments to the agenda must be published first before it is included in the discussion. The CPA legal counsel agreed that any addition must be printed in dailies first.

Earlier former Gov. Lorenzo I. DL. Guerrero has threatened to file charges against the Teno-Pepero Transition Com-

mittee if he fails to get the lease contract with the CPA.

Guerrero's application for a lease on the property dates back to March 23, 1994 when he wrote former Marianas Public Land Corp. executive director William Concepcion.

The former governor, in 1995, again sent two letters to Division of Public Lands Director Bertha A. Camacho, expressing his interest to lease the property, which Camacho answered on February 9, 1996.

Guerrero negotiated with the CPA when the property was transferred under the agency, where the lease application had been granted.

Its present 10-year contract with the CPA on the 60,235-square foot property, signed on March 1, 1997, will last until February 2007.

The draft contract guarantees Island Fresh a 25-year lease extension and an option to renew for another 15 years.

Korean hotels feeling effects of Korean economic turmoil

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

KOREAN-OWNED hotels on Saipan are having low occupancy rates as a result of the economic crisis in Korea and the stoppage of Korean Airlines flights since August.

Interviews with staffs of hotels which used to cater to Korean tourists were one in saying that the KAL crash in Guam last Aug. 2 and the subsequent devaluation of the won currency have adversely affected their businesses.

Just take a look at the figures for the 70-room Saipan Koresco Resort Hotel in As Lito, provided by its administrative general manager Son, Dae Il.

For September, the hotel's room occupancy rate was 31 percent. It inched up to 38.6 percent in October and then to 39.4 percent in November. This month, occupancy plummeted down to a low 25 percent.

A year ago, the occupancy in October was 80 percent, a high 93 percent in November and 66.8 percent in December.

Son projects a recovery at the soonest time from three to six months and at the maximum from one year to one and one-half years.

"Now, we're banking on walk-ins from Rota and Tinian as well as from businessmen and family travelers," said Son who said their room rate is only \$50 including tax.

The 36-room Oriental Hotel in Garapan is also suffering from the lack of Korean tour groups.

Evelyn Lapuz, the hotel's front desk supervisor, told the Variety that the hotel at present has zero occupancy insofar as Korean tourists are concerned.

"There have been no Korean tour groups checking in since April," Lapuz said.

What they're getting now mostly are businessmen from Guam and Hawaii and local walk-ins from Tinian and Rota, she added.

Last month, the hotel had 97 percent occupancy rate because of businessmen from Hawaii and the Red Cross relief workers from the mainland who checked in.

The 35-room Saipan Koreana Hotel, which used to

enjoy a 100 percent occupancy rate, had only 30 percent rate this month, with guests consisting of mostly walk-ins, according to Accountant Madoline Centena.

Koreans, as a result of the economic crisis necessitating a \$57-billion bailout by the International Monetary Fund, have been discouraged from traveling overseas to conserve dollars.

US Labor sues Saipan garment firm for alleged FLSA violations

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THE United States Department of Labor filed yesterday a lawsuit at the federal district court in behalf of 11 non-resident contract employees who haven't been getting their due overtime compensation since Aug. 1, 1995.

US Labor Secretary Alexis M. Herman accused Marianas Star Corp. and its owner, Byung Soo Jun, of violating certain provisions of the Fair Labor Standards Act.

The complaint said the construction firm, with offices at Fina Sisu, did not compensate the 11 employees for the work they had rendered in excess of 40 hours during the workweeks since August 1995 at rates not less than one and one-half times their regular rates.

The 11 employees were identified as Benefredo B. Barraquias, Manuel U. Carreon, Domingo A. Guanzon, Ricardo S. Lanson, Romeo S. Lanson, Rudy S. Lanson, David M. Maculto, Demetrio M. Navarro, David P. Palo, Romeo M. Saplad, and Felizardo G. Torzar.

Herman asked the court to permanently enjoin and restrain the defendants and their agents from violating the Act.

He also asked for awards in money damages equivalent to the amount of unpaid overtime compensations as determined by the court and equal amounts in liquidated damages.

Palmer's. . .
Continued from page 3

mission.

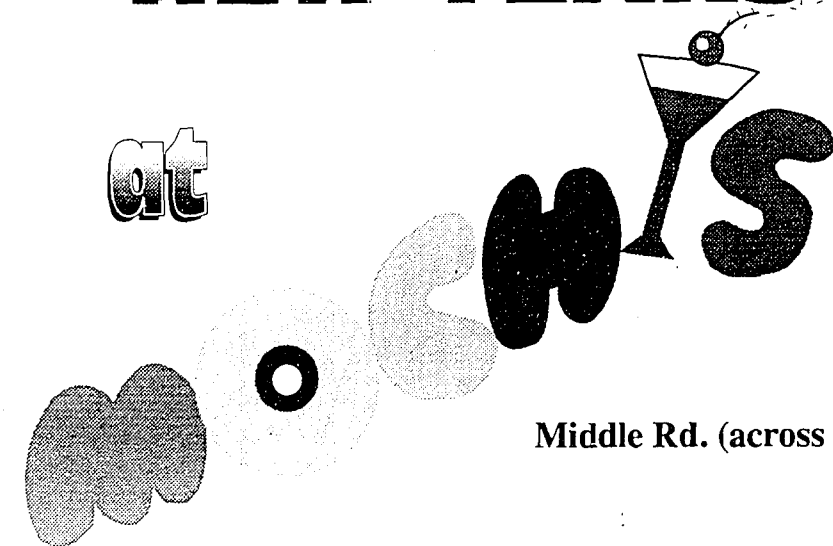
Palmer was supposed to testify before the CNMI Senate committee on executive appointments and governmental investigations which is probing the alleged casino fund mess yesterday morning, but failed to appear.

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Cancer Natural Healing Seminar -	1992
Fitness & Nutrition Graduate -	1993

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DPW official airs concern: 'New PSS leadership means new priorities'

By Laila C. Younis
 Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Works is concerned about the recent change of leadership at the Public School System in regards to PSS projects, according to DPW Technical Services Director Andrew Smith.

"We are the contracting officer for most of the on-going PSS projects, and we are willing to work with the next person in charge," said Smith in an interview yesterday.

"But we are also concerned with the other planned projects because the new leadership may re-evaluate its priorities," he said.

"PSS is one of our main clients. We have a total of 40 projects to work on from PSS," he added.

Smith also said that a "status report" of all the projects is being prepared for submission, "as requested by PSS".



William S. Torres

"We are finalizing the contract with Demapan Engineering and Construction for the PSS 60 emergency classrooms," said Smith.

"We basically got to the point of having the contract in written form and it is off for the DPW Secretary's signature," he said.

"We will be also sending it to the Department of Interior for review and to give feedback," he added.



Margaret Dela Cruz

Smith also noted that Demapan is working "providing the necessary requirements" to get the contract going.

The Board of Education voted 3 to 1 to terminate Commissioner of Education William S. Torres last Monday.

Deputy Commissioner of Administration Margaret Dela Cruz was named as Acting Commissioner.

Man nabbed for beating woman

A MAN was arrested for allegedly beating his common-law wife at a residence in Chalan Piao Saturday morning.

Quirino G. Adlaon was arrested for assault and battery, according to Department of Public Safety information officer Maj. J. J. Castro.

Castro said the victim, described as a 28-year-old Filipina, suffered multiple

injuries to the different parts of the body and was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center.

Police said prior to the incident, Adlaon and the victim engaged in a verbal tussle.

The suspect then punched and pushed the victim several times, police said.

Meanwhile, a woman identified as Claudia Maria Gomez was arrested for allegedly shoplifting at Duty Free Shoppers in Garapan

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Teno urged: Prioritize education



Don A. Farrell

BOARD OF Education Chairman, Don A. Farrell urged Governor-Elect Pedro P. Tenorio to make the construction of new schools and additional classrooms a priority for his incoming administration.



Pedro P. Tenorio

Farrell, also gave the governor-elect a copy of the PSS 1997 Facility Funding Program which features a low interest (4.6%) long term (10 year) loan to finance the construction of a new high school for Saipan and other school construction projects for all three islands, a news release from the Board said.

Farrell, in a letter to Tenorio stated that the \$16 million dollar loan can be used to leverage an equal amount of federal funds.

He added that the annual repayments of \$2 million leverages an immediate \$32 million to fully finance and fast-track the construction on these much needed

teachers and school administrators have sought.

He added that construction of a second high school and junior high school on Saipan is the first step toward re-establishing single track education, which so many parents have requested.

Farrell congratulated the governor-elect on the positions he took during the campaign for the governorship, including the need to build new schools.

The chairman noted that both the Senate and the House unanimously passed House Joint Resolution No. 10-36 pledging the full faith and credit of the CNMI to finance the new schools and additional classrooms needed to accommodate the rapidly increasing student population and to end the multi-track year-round education (MTYRE) school schedule.

Farrell stated that an appropriations bill, HB 10-421, is the last step needed to secure the funds to build these new schools and additional classrooms.

He noted that this appropriation bill is awaiting action by the Senate.

Farrell lastly asked governor-elect Tenorio to support the construction of new schools and to make education a priority in his incoming administration.

Court finds probable cause vs Sablan in Obak murder

By Ferdie de la Torre
 Variety News Staff

THE SUPERIOR Court yesterday found probable cause to warrant the filing of charges against Gerald C. Sablan in connection with the murder of a Palauan man.

During a preliminary hearing, Associate Judge Miguel Demapan said after listening to the testimony of witnesses and the arguments of counsel, the court finds reasonable and probable cause to believe that Sablan may have committed the crimes.

Demapan ordered Sablan to answer the charges of first degree murder and aggravated assault and battery for the killing of Alan M. Obak.

The judge also asked the defendant to answer assault and battery charge for allegedly beating a woman shortly before the slaying of the 36-year-old Obak.

Police investigation showed that Obak was found dead near Domar's Store in New Dandan Homestead last Nov. 29. His body was naked and in the early stage of decomposition when he was



Gerald C. Sablan

wife's relative in Chalan Kanoa in the evening of Nov. 27.

The police officer testified that witnesses told him how Sablan and co-defendant Peter D. Cabrera mauled Obak until the victim became weak near Domar's Store.

Sablan allegedly confessed to a witness that he and Cabrera indeed killed Obak, who acted tough while asking for a hitch ride.

The witness, according to Aldan, told him that Sablan showed drawings of tombs depicting three crosses with names and dates on it.

Sablan allegedly said that the crosses or tombs represent the people that he had killed and one of the crosses doesn't have a name because he does not know the name of the Palauan.

Aldan said the drawings were confiscated during a search at the residence of Cabrera's aunt Maggie Cabrera in Dandan.

Aldan also mentioned that witnesses stated that shortly before Obak was killed, Sablan and Cabrera physically assaulted a 37-year-old woman in Dandan.

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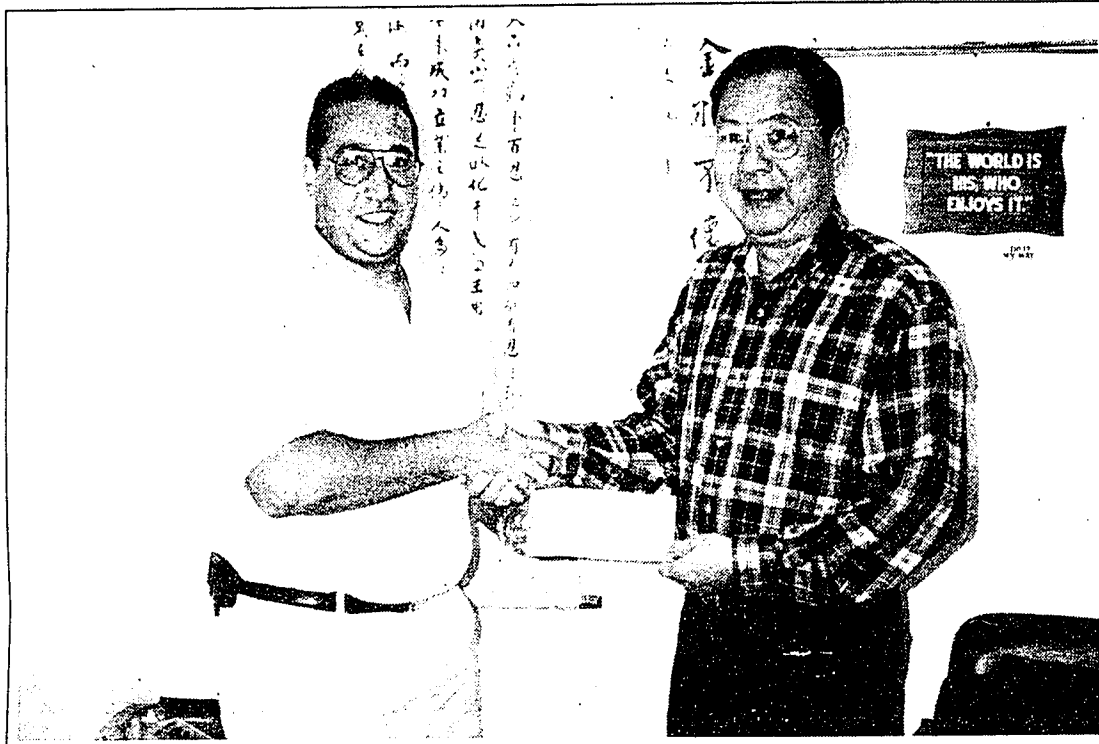
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3 Rings for the Season

CNMI MATHCOUNTS gets support



Paul Baron of CNMI MATHCOUNTS receives a \$1,000 donation from TransAmerica Corp. President Tony Lim, for this year's MATHCOUNTS program. The program is entering its fourth year of competing in the nationwide junior high school MATHCOUNTS program.

Tenorio 'reluctantly' signs gov't pay raise

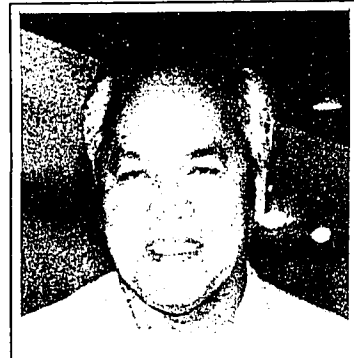
By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

OUTGOING Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio has "reluctantly" signed into law a bill giving a 5 percent wage hike to hundreds of government employees, which he said will cost the CNMI more than \$1 million in the next two fiscal years.

Tenorio, in his letter to the Legislature, said he signed House Bill 10-407 with "serious misgivings," adding that the lawmakers should "show as much determination in dealing with the long-term financial consequences" of the new law.

The measure, moreover, will "effectively destroy" the step-and-grade system of the Civil Service, Tenorio said.

Introduced by House Vice Speaker Jesus T. Attao (R-Saipan), the legislation requires mandatory pay increases for "de-



Froilan C. Tenorio

serving" employees "frozen" at Step 12 of their particular pay grade.

However, Tenorio said, now that all Civil Service employees will automatically get pay increases as long as they have "satisfactory" job performances, the current Civil Service system may become "meaningless."

But where's the money?

And then there's the bill's "serious fiscal consequences."

Tenorio said the bill, like a similar 1993 law on the 30 percent retirement bonus, wants to give government employees "cash reward," but without providing a clear source of funding.

"The Legislature has not once, since the passage of the (bill that became P.L. 8-30 in 1993), appropriated adequate funds to pay for it," Tenorio said.

"Finding money to pay for the retirement bonuses has been a continuing financial and administrative headache, (and) I suspect that (this new law) is going to be just as bad, or worse," he said. Tenorio further noted that the bill was sent to him at the same time a tax cut has been signed into law (P.L. 10-74, which will increase the rebates of individual taxpayers).

"I have no problem with cutting taxes, but (doing so) while...increasing spending does not seem responsible to me," he said.

2 new laws; 1 vetoed bill

Meanwhile, the governor has also signed into law H.B. 10-342 which will grant public school administrators a salary increase.

In his transmittal letter to the Legislature, Tenorio said the bill is "one plausible way" to attract more and better school administrators.

The governor likewise signed into law H.B. 10-326, which will allow the Northern Marianas College (NMC) board of regents to set the salaries of NMC employees, including the NMC president, without reference to the current law on government salaries.

However, Tenorio said he has vetoed the companion bill, H.B. 10-327, which would allow NMC to freely give raises and salary adjustments without having to first check the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) if there is available money.

Tenorio said NMC's regents "may give raises to whomever they like, but only after the Legislature has appropriated the money and OMB has certified its availability."

Treaty divides US, Marshalls

By Giff Johnson
For the Variety

MAJURO-The signing of a treaty to ban land mines by this north Pacific nation has caused a rift with the United States, which provides for military security of the Marshall Islands.

Although U.S. officials downplayed the significance of the dispute, it comes as the Marshalls is seeking U.S. support for increased nuclear test compensation and renegotiation of economic provisions of a long-term treaty that is set to expire in 2001.

"Following its conscience" led the Marshall Islands to join 125 other countries in signing a treaty to ban the use of land mines, despite a request from the U.S. government to consult with it before signing the convention.

"We don't want to make the U.S. mad, but we had to vote our conscience," said Foreign Minister Phillip Muller this week in explaining the decision of the Marshalls to ignore the U.S. request.

"Usually, our side votes with the U.S. But we're not just a rubber stamp for the U.S. We felt the Marshall Islands should stand

up as a sovereign nation in this humanitarian effort."

"We wanted to associate the Marshall Islands with the rest of the world in an effort to rid the world of weapons that don't distinguish between civilians or military personnel," he added.

The U.S. underwrites the economies of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia and Palau "all formerly part of a United Nations Trust Territory, and, according to the terms of a treaty known as the Compact of Free Association, has complete responsibility for all defense and security matters in this region that covers an area larger than the continental United States.

The Compact requires that the three island governments, which are members of the U.N. and issue their own pass

Prior to the signing in early December, the State Department had requested that the Marshalls, Palau and Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) consult with the U.S. before signing the land mines treaty in Ottawa, Canada. Palau and the FSM have not signed the treaty.

"We didn't ask them not to sign the treaty, but we requested they

consult with us as is appropriate under the Compact of Free Association in light of our security responsibilities," said U.S. Ambassador to the Marshalls Joan Plaisted last Tuesday.

She added that the FSM government had actually requested a meeting with the State Department to discuss the matter last month.

The meeting that followed in Washington, D.C. between representatives of the three Freely Associated States gave

Muller said the U.S. position

was that it wanted to review the terms of the treaty to see how they would affect U.S. defense rights under the Compact.

"I gave the instruction to sign the treaty," he said. "I don't know what land mines have to do with defense under the Compact."

We didn't buy the U.S. argument about it reviewing (the matter first)."

A State Department briefing paper on the land mines treaty said that the decision to sign was up to each of three

island countries, but noted that the land mines treaty would remain open for signature after the December 2-4 conference in Canada.

"We suggest that these three states postpone making a final decision until we can hold bilateral consultations on the issue of your defense, to ensure there is no conflict with public law 99-239, the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985," the State Department's briefing paper said.

275 gov't employees avail of early retirement perks in FSM

KOLONIA, Pohnpei (Pacnews)—275 government workers so far have opted for the early retirement program implemented by the five governments of the Federated States of Micronesia, last October.

The ERP is part of an \$18 million public sector reform program financed by the Asian Development Bank for

the FSM, including \$800,000 in technical assistance grants to support its implementation.

Kevin O'Keefe, resident advisor of the Economic Management Policy Advisory Team at the National Government, said that each of the five governments passed its own law implementing the ERP.

The amount of "compensation incentive" to ERP par-

ticipants is equivalent to about two years' salary.

Those who opt for a lump sum payment will receive an amount equivalent to their pay for 48 pay periods.

Those who choose gradual payments will receive their pay for the next 52 pay periods.

All payments under the ERP are tax-exempt.

Marshall Islands celebrate Christmas the 'island way'

By Giff Johnson
For the Variety

MAJURO-After months of preparation, Marshall Islanders sang and danced their way through Christmas Day, a celebration like no other in this north Pacific nation.

A staunchly Christian nation, the Marshall Islands celebrates the birth of Christ with dozens of groups, known as "jepta," performing special Christmas songs and island dances choreographed for the occasion.

The scores of Protestant churches around the Marshalls will come alive Thursday morning with the sounds of Christmas that islanders have been practicing since October.

This year's Christmas celebration was muted in comparison to years past because of deteriorating economic circumstances in the Marshalls, which is seeing major government cutbacks in social services, large numbers of government workers laid off, and a consequent decline in the private sector which survives by the government payroll.

But hard economic times can't completely dampen the Christmas spirit in the Marshall Islands.

Since Congregational missionaries first landed in these islands 140 years ago, Marshallese have taken to the scripture with a passion.

At one time, the United Church of Christ (Congregational) accounted for about 90 percent of all church goers, with Catholics making up the balance.

But increasingly, new denominations, from the Mormons and

Seventh Day Adventists to the Independent Baptists and Bah.

Since October, many jepta have been practicing songs and dances for the Christmas celebration.

The jepta present uniquely choreographed dances involving the movements of more than 75 arm-waving, foot-stamping dancers who weave and criss-cross their way around the church to fast paced island songs, the louder the better.

The jepta tradition dates back 100 years, when church pastors would award pigs to the jepta with the most original songs. Early in the 20th century, it was considered bad form and un-Christian to dance inside the churches, so the jeptas presented choir music.

But times have changed from the conservative days of 100 years ago. Today not only is dancing considered the thing to do, it is done to the amplified sounds of keyboards and electric guitars and basses. Although the dance groups no longer.

And one after another for a solid 15 hours, the dancing groups just keep coming. Some years, there are so many jepta that the program is continued the following day.

The more affluent jepta "like the ones from the Bikini community, which receive U.S. compensation payments for nuclear test damage" will donate thousands of dollars in cash and bags of rice, sugar and flour to the church during their program.

In the Marshall Islands, the Christmas spirit radiates, and not only on Christmas Day. Often, island jepta will continue performing their dances and songs well into the New Year at different churches.

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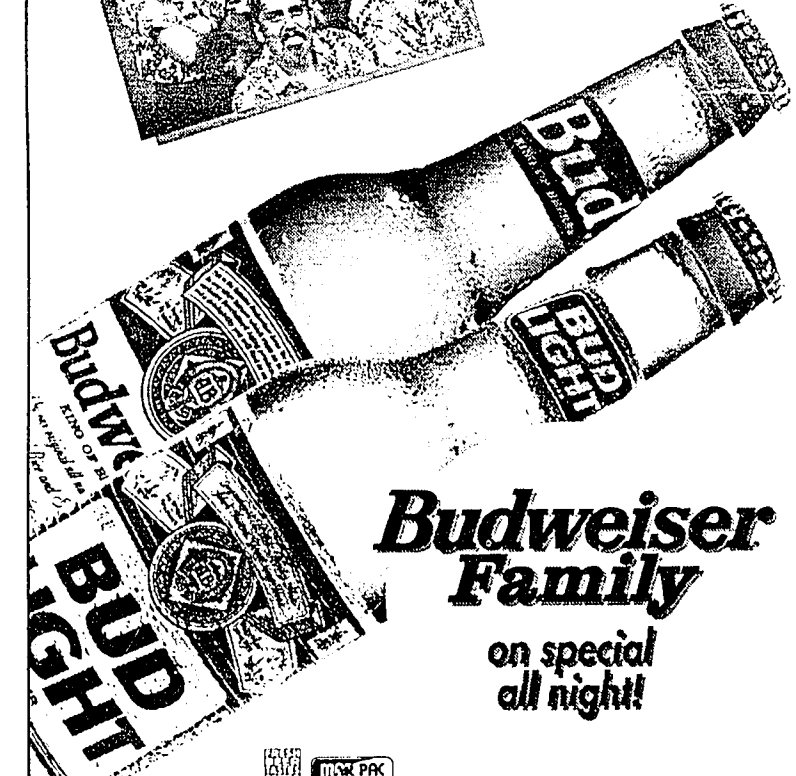


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Matson's Hawaii-Guam cargo route to soon end

HONOLULU (Pacnews)—Pacific shipping giant Matson Navigation Company has announced plans to cancel direct weekly cargo service between Hawaii and Guam effective as early as February.

The change must be approved by the U.S. government as well as Matson's parent company, Honolulu-Based Alexander and Baldwin, Incorporated.

It results from too little

freight on the route, an average of about ten containers a week.

The Hawaii-Guam sailing is planned to be replaced by a weekly California to Guam route, meaning Guam-bound Matson cargo will have to be shipped first to the U.S. mainland.

A weekly direct sailing between Hawaii and Guam also is provided by Sea-Land Service, Incorporated.



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Elsewhere in the Pacific Small islands to turn up heat after Kyoto

By Giff Johnson
For the Variety

MAJURO—The Marshall Islands was very disappointed with the outcome of the climate change talks in Japan earlier this month, said Foreign Minister Phillip Muller in Majuro.

The demands of the small islands, which will suffer the brunt of sea level rise, were not heard, Muller said in an interview Friday.

Muller said that the Associated of Small Islands States "which is calling for strict reductions in current 'greenhouse gas' emissions by 2010" needs to meet in the new year to discuss new strategies to continue lobbying for international agreement limiting the production of greenhouse gasses which are expected to cause the

sea levels to rise in the 21st century.

"We will continue to push for controls," the Foreign Minister said.

Islands such as the Marshalls, which rise barely two meters above sea level, will be inundated by even a relatively small sea level rise.

The concerns of small island states "were not heard in Kyoto," Muller said.

"There were speeches by all the countries but the meeting was really among the U.S., Japan and European countries, not the smaller islands."

The major industrial nations are against strict controls on pollution emissions because they are worried about losing jobs, Muller said. "But we're talking about

losing our islands," he observed.

Muller's view is that the climate change process is back to square one, with little positive result from the Kyoto talks.

The Association of Small Island States (AOSIS), of which the Marshalls is a member, is pushing for a 20 percent reduction in pollution emissions.

The European Union has called for 15 percent, Japan five percent and Australia, at the other end of the spectrum, wants limits to be left to individual countries to decide.

"The small island states didn't get what they wanted," he said. "It's very disappointing."

But despite the disappointment, the Marshalls Islands will continue to lobby internationally to get stricter controls on greenhouse gas emissions, he said.

Remarks of Solomons PM irk Bougainville's secessionists

CANBERRA (Pacnews)—The Bougainville Freedom Movement (BFM) in Australia has described as "outrageous" remarks made by Solomon Islands Prime Minister Bartholomew Ulufa'alu during his Christmas visit to Bougainville.

During the three-day visit, Ulufa'alu said he did NOT favour independence for Bougainville adding that unity in the Melanesian region would

be more productive than the creation of more small nations.

The Solomon Islands Prime Minister and his Papua New Guinea counterpart Bill Skate led a delegation of ministers and officials who celebrated Christmas on Bougainville, visiting villages in the north and south of the island.

In Sydney a spokesman for the BFM Vikki John said today that Ulufa'alu's statement appeared to

be a political stunt to entrap or deny the people of Bougainville their rights for self-determination.

John said the people of Bougainville were still demanding their unilateral right to self-determination which had been continually denied them from colonial times to the present.

She said reports that PNG's prime minister would be pro-

Continued on page 12

Some residents are receiving dirty water, Fiji officials admit

SUVA (Pacnews)—Authorities in Fiji have confirmed that the government is supplying dirty water to some parts of Sigatoka and putting lives at risk.

A Sigatoka Hospital spokesman said they recently received a large number of diarrhea cases which tests revealed were caused by the consumption of contaminated water containing the shigella bacteria, The Fiji Times reports.

At the end of last week irate residents of Korotogo were still facing difficulties trying to get fresh water despite repeated complaints lodged with the Water

Engineer Western.

They said the consuming of dirty water was becoming unbearable and if the government failed to address the problem it would pose a major threat to the lives of thousands of people living along the Korotogo coast.

The problem is also becoming a nuisance to most hotel proprietors who have been relying on their private water tanks to accommodate for tourists.

Residents said even water supply distributed by the Public Works Department was stinking and filthy and not healthy for consumption.

41 Vanuatu students on NZ study

PORT VILA (Pacnews)—Forty-one Vanuatu students will commence study in New Zealand next year under the Aotearoa Scholarships scheme.

The scheme funded by the New Zealand government is additional to the fully funded scholarships under New Zealand's bilateral aid program with Vanuatu.

New Zealand has also offered

Vanuatu up to 32 new fully-funded awards in 1998.

Twenty-two of the new awardees will be finishing their high school, the remainder studying at polytechnics and universities.

Some of the new tertiary awards have been granted to students who were previously studying at New Zealand high schools under the Aotearoa scheme.

Drastic move to stop bird flu spread

HK to kill all chickens

HONG KONG (AP)—The Hong Kong government will begin slaughtering all chickens in the territory Monday in a drastic move to prevent the spread of a mysterious bird flu that has killed four people.

The estimated 1.2 million chickens will be buried in three massive landfills, Stephen Ip, secretary for economic services, told a news conference Sunday.

Geese and other birds will also be killed if they are being kept with chickens at wholesale markets and shops selling live poultry, because cross-infection cannot be ruled out, Ip said.

The birds will be gassed with carbon dioxide, which gradually suffocates them.

Farmers at Hong Kong's 199 chicken and mixed poultry farms will be compensated for their losses, officials at the Agriculture and Fisheries Department said.

Dr. Margaret Chan, director of health, said Sunday there was no indication of an epidemic of the virus in Hong Kong, and echoed doctors' assurances that it is safe to eat cooked poultry.

The government also confirmed a 60-year-old woman who died last Tuesday was discovered to have the flu. That brought the number of confirmed cases to 12, including four deaths. The number of suspected cases was lowered to eight.

The decision to kill all chickens came after health authorities declared a chicken farm and part of Hong Kong's largest poultry market as infected areas.

A government statement said blood samples taken from chickens from the Yuen Long farm near the border with China tested positive for the H5N1 virus.

It also said a section of the Cheung Sha Wan wholesale poultry market, the target of a massive cleanup operation earlier this month, was closed because veterinary officers found a large number of dead chickens there.

The market used to sell more than a third of the 75,000 chickens imported into Hong Kong daily from China. Hong Kong halted the chicken shipments from China last week, pending further investigation and establishment of better testing.

Some vendors were already killing their chickens Sunday and putting them in plastic bags for collection by government workers, local television reported.

On Saturday, health officials said blood tests have shown that some humans apparently can develop immunity to the virus. Doctors have discovered antibodies to the virus in the blood of nine people tested who never became severely sick. The presence of antibodies means a person has been exposed to the virus and has developed resistance.

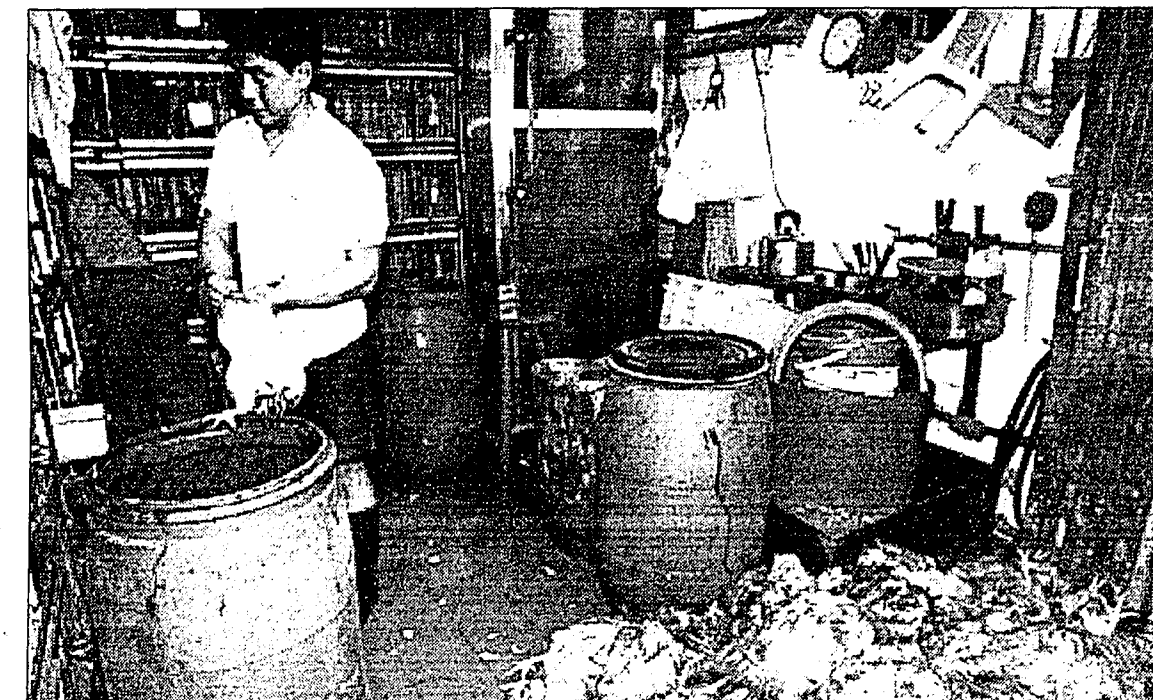
Investigators tested blood from 473 people who may have been in contact with the first known victim, a 3-year-old boy who died in May, or who may have been exposed to the virus in a laboratory or hospital.

The tests also indicate that the virus can be transmitted from human to human, instead of just through birds, said Dr. Keiji Fukuda, an American medical expert from the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta, which analyzed the blood samples.

Victims stricken with the bird flu show the same symptoms as those suffering from other kinds of flu, including fever. The virus attacks the respiratory system as well as other organs, and several of those who died had developed pneumonia.

In Manila, Philippine President Fidel Ramos directed his country's health and foreign affairs departments Sunday to closely monitor bird flu cases to prevent the disease from spreading to the Philippines.

Two Filipino workers living in Hong Kong have been confirmed to have contracted the flu and have been hospitalized, a statement issued by Ramos' office said.



A poultry vendor begins to kill his chicken at Sunday after the Hong Kong government announced it will slaughter all chickens in the territory in a drastic move to prevent the spread of a mysterious bird flu that has killed four people. AP

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The interest rate for the program also dropped to 7 1/4%. Eligible veterans may obtain a loan to construct, purchase or improve a primary residential dwelling up to a maximum of \$120,000.00 for a term of 30 years.

This is the only veteran residential loan program available in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Several CNMI-descent veterans on Saipan and Rota have constructed their family residences with proceeds from this loan program. CNMI-descent veterans, who have yet to take advantage of this program, are encouraged to apply. **CNMI-descent veteran who wish to apply are required to provide copies of their DD-214 and certificates of eligibility. Applicants must be honorably discharged from military duty.**

Interested individuals are urged to contact the NMHC offices on Saipan at 234-7689/7670/6866/9447, or Tinian at 433-9213 or on Rota at 532-9410 for more information.

NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing agency"

Study: Abortions among Taiwanese teeners high

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Ignorance about birth control has pushed abortions among Taiwanese school girls aged under 18 to an alarming level, authors of a medical study said Sunday.

More than 90 percent of obstetricians responding to the survey said they had been approached by girls under 18 seeking to have abortions, the National Federation of Doctors said.

Out of 238 obstetricians responding, 103 said they had performed abortions on such girls in the last year, totaling 1,775 cases.

But other respondents refused to answer, possibly because it is illegal to perform abortions on girls under 18 without parental consent, the federation said.

Another 1,938 obstetricians did not respond to the survey.

Taiwanese teen-agers receive little or no sex education in school and the topic is generally considered taboo at home. Though most forms of birth control are available in Taiwan, traditional society has

long viewed sex only as a vice or for procreation.

Very few sexually active teen-agers use any form of protection against pregnancy, and widely consider abortion a standard birth control method, the study said.

"Even after having an abortion, 34 percent of girls don't use birth control," said Lee Ching-hua, a Taipei city council deputy and co-sponsor of the study.

Most girls seeking abortions were high school students between ages 14 and 17, and abortions peaked at the tail end of the school holidays in September, the study said. Among all girls, 35 percent had had more than one abortion, it added.

It said the reported number of abortions on under-age girls was likely just a tiny fraction of total cases.

Under-age girls also turn to traditional Chinese medicines that can induce miscarriages, or the so-called "abortion pill," RU486, even though they have not been approved by health authorities, it said.

China isolates Taiwan with South African ties

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — China's foreign minister began a visit to South Africa on Sunday to establish diplomatic relations—and score a major victory in his country's efforts to isolate Taiwan.

South Africa has substantially downgraded its ties with Taiwan in order to formalize relations with China, a major trading partner.

China refuses to recognize those nations maintaining ties with what it regards as a breakaway province—so Taiwan loses the largest and most influential country of the 30 that maintained relations.

"The Chinese people rejoice at the birth of the new South Africa and stand ready to continue to support the South African people in their effort to build up the nation and develop the economy," Qian Qichen said at Capetown airport.

Qian, who is also China's vice premier, was met at Cape Town airport by South Africa's foreign minister, Alfred Nzo. He is to meet President Nelson Mandela on Monday and visit Robben Island, where Mandela spent many of his 27 years imprisoned by the former apartheid regime.

Taiwan and the apartheid-era government maintained close ties as they both became increasingly isolated, and China supported Mandela's African National Con-



Chinese Vice President and Foreign Minister Qian Qichen is greeted with Chinese flags upon his arrival at the Cape Town airport Sunday. The Chinese Vice President is scheduled to meet South African President Nelson Mandela Monday. AP

gress during the struggle. The ANC has governed the country since 1994's first all-race elections.

"The Chinese people forged a profound friendship of comrades in arms with the South African people during their protracted and arduous struggle for racial equality," Qian said.

Qian and Foreign Minister Alfred Nzo are to sign an agreement establishing diplomatic relations on Tuesday in Pretoria, followed by the opening of China's embassy on Jan. 1.

The formal diplomacy follows a top level Chinese trade delegation visit last month. Qian was accompanied by a trade delegation of 30 Chinese businessmen.

China is South Africa's sixth largest trading partner, with trade expected to reach \$1.6 billion in 1997

—an 18 percent increase over 1996. Economic ties to Taiwan are also strong, and Taiwan's embassy will continue its present operations after Jan. 1 under the name Taipei Liaison Office, with offices in Pretoria, Johannesburg, Cape Town and Durban.

Taiwan considered the new arrangement far short of Mandela's original promise of ties that were just short of official, said Director of African Affairs Timothy Yang.

"We are not satisfied. The best that can be said is that we were compelled to accept," Yang said.

South Africa's rejection of Taiwan was its worst diplomatic setback since 1992, when South Korea spurned it in favor of China.

Turbulence gets fatal

United Airlines says woman died, dozens hurt as Tokyo-Honolulu flight gets rough

TOKYO (AP) — A United Airlines 747 jumbo jet hit heavy turbulence over the Pacific Ocean on Sunday, killing one woman and injuring dozens of people, the airline said.

Japanese news reports said the turbulence was so heavy that the plane suddenly dropped, sending passengers and flight attendants without seatbelts crashing into the overhead luggage compartments and the ceiling.

The plane departed Narita, Japan, at 9:05 p.m. Sunday and was about two hours into its flight to Honolulu when it began to experience light turbulence, Japanese news agencies said.

Flight 826 returned to New Tokyo International Airport at Narita, where 54 passengers and nine flight attendants were hospitalized, airline spokesman Joe Hopkins said in Chicago. Fourteen had been released as of early Monday.

The dead woman was identified as Konomi Kataura, 32, of Tokyo, the news agencies said.

Cyclone Sid no longer a threat

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — A cyclone that at one stage threatened severe flooding and property damage has weakened and is no longer a threat to islands and coastal towns in northern Australia, the Bureau of Meteorology said Monday.

Tropical Cyclone Sid, now just a low depression capable of causing strong winds, is moving slowly southwest through the lower part of the Gulf of Carpentaria at Australia's Top End, a bureau spokesman said.

A strong wind warning was in place for the area between Groote Eylandt, just off the Northern Territory coast, and the Queensland border, the spokesman said.

Former UN envoy Nabrit dies at 97

WASHINGTON (AP) — James Nabrit Jr., a former ambassador to the United Nations and president of historically black Howard University for a decade, died Saturday at Walter Reed Army Medical Center in Washington.

He was 97. Nabrit had been under treatment for an undisclosed infection at his Washington home when he became seriously ill and was taken to Walter Reed, according to his son, James Nabrit III, a former associate director-counsel of the NAACP Legal Defense and Education Fund.

The elder Nabrit served as the U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations from 1965 to 1967.



An injured man and a woman exchange words in an ambulance as a group of passengers aboard a United Airlines Boeing 747 returned to the New Tokyo International Airport early Monday after the Honolulu-bound jetliner hit heavy turbulence. AP

Remarks...

Continued from page 10

viding \$456 million (\$US3.9 million) to Ulufa'alu.

Secessionist leaders including BRA commander Sam Kauona and Bougainville Interim Gov-

ernment chairman Joseph Kabui refused to meet Skate and Ulufa'alu last week.

They told the Truce Monitoring Group they were unhappy Skate had come to Bougainville for Christmas. Meanwhile, Skate has extended his visit saying he will remain on Bougainville until January 2.

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The path cut by a tornado which struck the Lake Region Village can be seen from the air Saturday in Haines City, Fla. AP

US report: No need to import farm workers

NEW YORK (AP) - A legislative effort to allow more foreign farm workers into the country is unnecessary because the country has plenty of agricultural workers, according to a U.S. government study.

The report by the General Accounting Office, requested by Congress, undercuts a push to issue more visas to foreign farm workers. The New York Times reported Sunday, citing a draft of the study obtained by the newspaper.

Several farm industry associations have been pushing to expand the number of temporary

guest-worker visas, arguing that shortages will increase in some areas of the country as the Immigration and Naturalization Service cracks down on illegal aliens. About 40 percent of the country's estimated 2 million farm workers are in the United States illegally, the Times said.

But there is "no national agricultural labor shortage at this time," the GAO said in its report, expected to be released Wednesday.

However, the federal agency acknowledged that localized shortages might exist for specific crops or geographical areas.

US gov't will restrict Pacific Coast fishing

LOS ANGELES (AP) - Fearing a sharp decline in Pacific fish, the U.S. government will tighten restrictions on the commercial catch for 83 species, including popular black cod, ling cod, dover sole and rock fish, the Los Angeles Times reported Sunday.

Commercial fishermen will be required to reduce ground fish hauls by up to 65 percent under Commerce Department regulations expected to be released in time to be effective when the new year begins Thursday, the Times said.

Ground fish, which are found near the ocean bottom, represent 50 percent to 60 percent of the total value of California's annual commercial fish harvest.

"We are seeing fish populations that are 20 percent of what they

would be if there was no fishing going on," said Richard Methot, director of the Seattle-based fish-monitoring division of the National Marine Fisheries Service. "We don't think ground fish can maintain sustainable populations under current fishing pressures."

The new limits "may be a case of erring on the side of safety, but they are being put in place to assure that we have fish for the future," Methot said.

West Coast fishing industry representatives disputed the government's dire assessment of fish stocks and said the new limits will put many people out of business.

"It's going to be a rough year," said Rod Moore, the executive director of the Portland-based West

Coast Seafood Processors Association. Fishing and processing of ground fish in Oregon is a \$100 million-a-year business.

"We're looking at an overall harvest reduction of about one-third. Not everyone's going to survive that," Moore said.

Moore also contended that the new limits are based on flawed computer models and on ocean surveys that are too infrequent to be reliable.

Ground fish are especially vulnerable to overfishing because they are slow to mature and many are caught before they have a chance to reproduce, marine scientists said.

Declining fish populations are also being blamed on El Nino's warming of the Pacific, which has meant less plankton for fish to eat.



Arden Ewin, center, confers with two of her sixth grade math students at Booker T. Washington Middle School in Baltimore. Ewin is a participant in the Teaching for America program. AP

Kemp plans to make global warming an issue in 2000

WASHINGTON (AP) — Should Jack Kemp be the Republican presidential nominee against Vice President Al Gore in 2000, he has one issue, "I frankly am going to take him head on on this issue and tell the American people the truth that they are not the cause of the warming of the Earth," Kemp said on the Fox television network.

"If it was so important to Al Gore, why did he suggest that we're not going to meet any standards until after he is even projected in his wildest dreams to leave office in 2008?"

The delay is a part of the recent international agreement reached in Kyoto, Ja-

pan, to reduce greenhouse gases blamed for global warming. Gore, noted for his environmental work, headed the U.S. delegation. Kemp, the unsuccessful Republican vice-presidential nominee in 1996, questioned Sunday whether the agreement was even needed. Specifically, he criticized Gore's "almost neo-Malthusian conviction that unless we have more regulations, more taxes and more allocation of energy, or redistribution of energy of wealth to the Third World, we're not going to be able to solve a problem that, I believe, can be solved with technology, if there is a problem."

Clinton's budget not to slash taxes



President Clinton

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton's budget proposal will contain neither broad-based tax cuts nor a plan to balance the budget early, ideas that are reckless and irresponsible, a White House adviser declared Sunday.

"Washington should not return to its bad habits of spending money it doesn't have. That's what got us into trouble in the first place in the 1980s," Rahm Emanuel said on NBC's "Meet the Press."

With the strong economy driving the budget deficit down more quickly than predicted, some Republicans including House Speaker Newt Gingrich have prodded Clinton to produce a balanced budget in 1998, three years ahead of schedule.

Others have suggested sweeping tax changes, including proposals to radically simplify the tax code and replace the personal income tax with a national sales tax. Emanuel said Clinton will maintain "a very steady policy," however, as he did with his support of tax cuts in the past years targeted to the working poor and to pay college tuition.

In 1998, Clinton will propose tax incentives to help pay for child care, Emanuel said.

"That's been a very specific ap-

Police role in man's death investigated

NEW YORK (AP) — The Brooklyn prosecutor's office and police Internal Affairs officials are investigating the subway death of a high school teacher after he was involved in a bar altercation with six undercover narcotics detectives, police said Sunday.

A police spokeswoman said the case was "under active investigation" but declined to provide any details.

News reports said the six detectives had been placed on modified duty, with their guns and shields confiscated, while the case is investigated.

The reports said Reginald Bannerman, 35, a Brooklyn high school teacher, was killed by a subway train on Dec. 19, just hours after he was involved in a dispute at a Crown Heights restaurant where the officers had attended a birthday party.

His death was ruled a suicide, but investigators stepped in after relatives of the victim, quoting witnesses, said the fight involved the officers and continued at the subway station, and that Bannerman was trying to evade the detectives when he ran onto the tracks and was hit by a Manhattan-bound No. 2 train.

Vandals deface Islamic symbol near White House

By Jonathan D. Salant
WASHINGTON (AP) — Artist Mohamed Said Ouafi brought a friend to a grassy area near the White House to show off his sculpture of a crescent and star, the Islamic answer to the nearby National Christmas tree and giant Hanukkah menorah.

But when the Arlington, Va., resident arrived at the site Friday night, he saw the large green crescent in its place, but the accompanying orange star was gone. Ouafi searched the area and found the plywood star lying near a garbage can about 300 feet away, damaged and covered with a red, spray-painted swastika.

"Hopefully, it's just a kid who doesn't mean to hurt," Ouafi said Sunday.

But Arab-Americans assembled with Ouafi in front of the defaced sculpture to condemn the vandalism said the incident was especially painful because this marked the first year Islam's crescent and star joined Christian and Jewish reli-



Artist Mohamed Said Ouafi talks about the vandalism of his sculpture of a crescent and star, the Islamic answer to the nearby National Christmas tree Sunday near the White House in Washington. Someone pulled down the star, covered it with a spray-painted swastika and dumped it into a nearby garbage can. AP

gious symbols on the Ellipse, a grassy area between the White House and the Washington Monument.

The plywood, wood and plaster sculpture was erected Dec. 19 and is scheduled to be removed on Jan. 11.

"We know how much Americans respect religion," said Omar A. Kamhi of the American-Arab Anti-

hates to see harmony between the religions."

But M.T. Mehdi, secretary-general of the New York-based National Council on Islamic Affairs, said he believed the vandalism was the work of supporters of Israel, either fundamentalist Christians or Jewish extremists.



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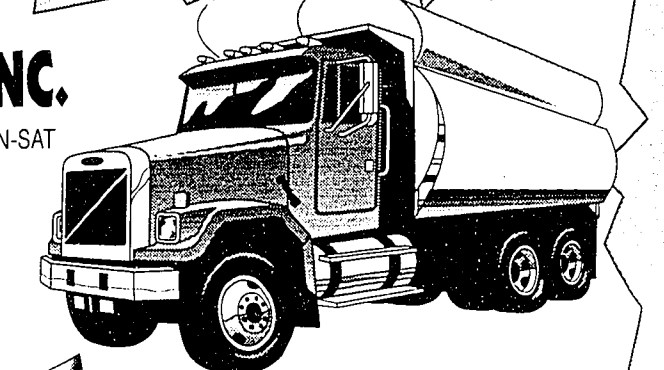
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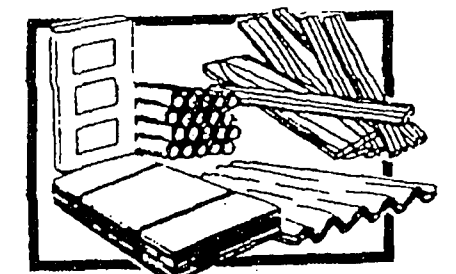


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also known as (Fermin Anko)
would like to invite all relatives and friends to join us in prayer for our Beloved Husband, Father, Grandfather and Brother as we remembered him in prayer on his First Year Anniversary.



DAILY MASS AS FOLLOWS:

December 26, 1997 (Friday)	Cathedral - 6:00 am San Antonio Church 6:00 pm	December 31, 1997 (Wednesday)	Cathedral 6:00 am St. Jude Church 6:00 pm/9:00 pm
December 27, 1997 (Saturday)	Cathedral - 6:00 am San Vicente Church 6:00 pm	January 01, 1998 (Thursday)	St. Jude Church - 7:00 am
December 28, 1997 (Sunday)	St. Jude Church 6:00 am St. Jude Church 8:00 am	January 02, 1998 (Friday)	Cathedral - 6:00 am San Antonio Church 6:00 pm
December 29, 1997 (Monday)	Cathedral - 6:00 am San Vicente Church 6:00 pm		
December 30, 1997 (Tuesday)	Cathedral - 6:00 am San Antonio Church 6:00 pm		

On Saturday, January 03, 1998 at 6:00 am Mass will be followed at the Cathedral. We the family like to invite everyone to join us for breakfast at the Cathedral ground.

On Saturday, January 03, 1998 at 4:00 pm Mass will be followed at San Antonio Church. Rosary will be said at 3:30 pm after the 4:00 pm mass. We, the family again like to invite everyone to join us for Dinner at Halina's Kitchen.

We, would like to extend our sincere and heartfelt appreciation and gratitude to all our relatives and friends for your prayers for our beloved one.
You will always be remembered in our prayers.

Thank You, Undangkulo Na Si Yu's Ma'ase.
LUISA MATAGOLAI-QUITUGUA YAN I FAMILIA

Happy Birthday
Menchi
From Argie

Clinton to ask for food safety funds

By Laura Meckler
WASHINGTON (AP)—President Clinton is set to ask Congress for a 9 percent increase in spending on food inspection and safety, a significant jump in a budget expected to have little overall new domestic spending, an administration official said Sunday.

The \$71 million increase comes in response to public fears over food safety, intensified this year when 1,400 Americans became sick after eating tainted Guatemalan raspberries and 25 million pounds of Hudson Foods Inc. ground beef were recalled.

"This is part of the administration's ongoing effort to turn what had been essentially a 19th century food inspection system in one that's ready for the 21st century," an administration official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Sunday.

The increase will be requested in Clinton's budget for the 1999 fiscal year to be unveiled in February. It would bring total spending on food

safety to \$817 million.

The administration official noted that overall discretionary domestic spending will increase by just 1 percent under the terms of the balanced budget deal, meaning a 9 percent increase is significant.

The extra money would be divided among three agencies, he said:

—\$41 million more for the Agriculture Department to improve testing for meat and poultry. The money would also pay for education programs for groups, such as the elderly, who are particularly susceptible to food illnesses, and cafeteria workers in schools.

—\$25 million more for the Food and Drug Administration to hire more than 60 people to inspect food being imported from abroad, an initiative that was announced in October.

—\$5 million more for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to step up detection efforts of food-borne diseases.

Nichols could avoid death, some believe

By Steven K. Paulson
DENVER (AP)—Terry Nichols probably won't be sentenced to death by a federal jury, but he wouldn't stand a chance in an Oklahoma trial, attorneys said Sunday. "It would be a major upset if the (federal) government were able to obtain a verdict of death," Stephen Jones, former attorney for convicted Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh, said on the CBS program "Face the Nation."

Jones said "it would be easy to convict Terry Nichols and Timothy McVeigh in Oklahoma" of state murder charges, as local prosecutors say they will attempt to do.

Gerry Spence, a prominent defense attorney, said trying McVeigh and Nichols in Oklahoma on murder charges would amount "to a legalized lynching."

Appearing on ABC's "This Week," Spence said federal laws that allow the two convicted bombers to be tried on state murder



Terry Nichols

charges amount to double jeopardy.

But Oklahoma County District Attorney Bob Macy insisted the two men could get a fair trial in his state without violating their civil rights.

"There's no group of people anywhere that want the right person identified, prosecuted and convicted than the citizens of Oklahoma County," he said.

Federal jurors convicted Nichols

on Tuesday of conspiracy and involuntary manslaughter in the April 19, 1995, bombing that killed 168 people.

But the jury declared Nichols innocent of murder, concluding he did not set out to kill anyone. The jury will return Monday to hear testimony of victims and witnesses for Nichols before they decide whether he should get the death penalty on the conspiracy charge.

McVeigh was convicted of murder and conspiracy charges in June and sentenced to death. His case is on appeal.

Oklahoma Gov. Frank Keating, appearing on "Fox News Sunday," said "there is certainly a very real question whether or not Nichols will receive a severe penalty for his involvement in the destruction of this building and the killing of these people," and said the state will provide the money to try the two men again.

He said he is confident the two men could get a fair trial in Oklahoma, but he would not rule out moving it to another state, such as Texas.

Jones also said McVeigh's chances on appeal were improved when U.S. District Judge Richard Matsch allowed Nichols to introduce evidence that was barred from McVeigh's trial.

Mayor robs bank, is charged

UPPER DARBY, Pa. (AP)—A suburban Philadelphia mayor who lost his recent bid for re-election walked into a bank in broad daylight, told a teller he had a bomb and left with \$1,500, police said.

About 1 1/2 hours later, Daniel F. Devlin, the mayor of nearby Darby, surrendered to police and returned the money from the Friday hold-up. He was charged with robbery, terroristic threats and related charges. He was freed on \$15,000 bail.

Devlin, 51, who served one four-year term before losing last month's election, was apparently distraught about money because he lost his job as a representative with the Pennsylvania State Lottery, police said.

Devlin walked into the Mellon PSFS Bank around noon Friday wearing sunglasses and a baseball cap, police said. He did not have a bomb.

About a dozen people were in the bank, but they didn't realize what had happened. Police did not know whether anyone recognized Devlin.

"I'm shocked," said newly elected Darby Mayor Paula Brown, who will be sworn into office Jan. 5. "I had heard there were problems but I didn't expect this. I feel bad for his family."

'Gulf forces will stay'

By JOHN DIAMOND
KUWAIT (AP)—President Saddam Hussein shows no sign of loosening his hold on power in Iraq and is likely to remain for years to come a threat to vital U.S. interests, the U.S. area commander says.

Calling Saddam "a great thug," Marine Corps Gen. Anthony Zinni said the Iraqi leader will prove difficult to remove from power.

"No one's going to get in close to take the shot. Anyone who would dare to would be self-sacrifice," said Zinni, who as head of the U.S. Central Command has responsibility for American military operations in the Persian Gulf area.

And as a result of Saddam's staying power, U.S. forces—including troops Zinni visited Sunday in central Saudi Arabia and Kuwait—must remain in the oil-rich region indefinitely, he said.

Zinni's bleak assessment comes as U.S. frustration over Saddam's defiance of U.N. weapons inspections runs high, with increasingly mainstream voices in the United States are urging his forcible removal. Zinni gave little credence to such proposals.

"The (Iraqi) people would like to see him gone, but they're too much afraid," Zinni said. "It's a very rock-solid dictatorship, run ruthlessly. It's hard for opposition to take hold."

Saddam runs Iraq like an organized crime boss, Zinni said.

"He's a great thug," Zinni said. "Any potential opposition gets taken out pretty quickly, even if it's just a rumor of opposition."

With such a potential foe remaining in power, Zinni offered little comfort to those who would like to see the United States scale back its costly military presence in the gulf. Nowhere is that presence more visible than at Prince Sultan Air Base, Saudi Arabia, Zinni's first stop on a four-day trip to the region. The sprawling military city in the desert is home to 4,500 U.S. airmen charged with patrolling the skies over southern Iraq.

In the wake of the June 1996 terrorist bombing of an Air Force apartment complex in Dhahran, Saudi Arabia, much of the U.S. force involved in the deny-flight air missions over Iraq have been concentrated at the central Saudi Arabian air base. The facility hums with activity as diesel generators crank out enough electricity to power a small city, tanker trucks shuttle 250,000 gallons of jet fuel per day, and 10,000 concrete compounds that will replace the U.S. forces' tent-city housing.

"I think you're going to see a U.S. presence for a while to come," said Zinni. "I don't think we can tell (the troops) that there's an end date, that the sanctions will be over in three years, four years, whatever."

U.S. intelligence, which closely watches the Iraqi military, says Saddam's military strength is eroding in some areas as tanks and planes age and as international sanctions deny the Iraqi forces new weapons or even spare parts for old ones.

"We have very good intelligence about him. We know what kind of airplanes he has. We know how to engage," said Air Force Brig. Gen. Bentley Rayburn, who commands the U.S. forces at Prince Sultan.

"If the Iraqis start anything, we know how to just whale on them, big time."

Iraqi air defenses do remain formidable, said Air Force Lt. Col. Mike Nowak, who heads the air base operations center and keeps close tabs on intelligence information. The army, although only half the size of the force that lost to a 33-nation coalition in the 1991 Persian Gulf War, remains capable of invading Kuwait again on 24 hours' notice, Nowak said.

Kuwait is Zinni's second stop. In the emirate, he planned to visit Army troops who conduct regular exercises with Kuwaiti forces in the desert facing the Iraqi frontier.

Of Saddam, Zinni said, "He's very dangerous now. He probably still will be very dangerous in one to two to three years. If the pressure stays on him, in five years, I've got to believe that he's not as dangerous."

Despite the sense of danger in the Middle East, the overall tone from key U.S. officials both here and in Washington was of patience, of waiting out the Iraqi president.

"The United Nations inspectors must be on the ground,

As Saddam likely to remain a threat, says US general

allowed ... to inspect the biological and chemical weapons. They must have free access," White House adviser

Rahm Emanuel said Sunday on NBC's "Meet the Press."

But asked how long the United States would allow Iraq to continue refusing access to inspectors, Emanuel said: "We will have a very determined and steady hand in pursuing our goal, and we'll be very measured about it."

to continue refusing access to inspectors, Emanuel said: "We will have a very determined and steady hand in pursuing our goal, and we'll be very measured about it."

to continue refusing access to inspectors, Emanuel said: "We will have a very determined and steady hand in pursuing our goal, and we'll be very measured about it."



An unidentified Iraqi woman holds her sick baby at the Saddam Hospital for children in Baghdad Wednesday watched by Michael Bremer of Chicago, a member of the American group "Voices in the Wilderness," holds a sack containing medicine and toy donations. AP

PUBLIC NOTICE

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It's a party everybody can
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fun, drinks, fireworks
and great music!
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Fireworks show at midnight!
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One round trip ticket
to Asia Pacific

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2.75
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The Mattaio Band

N. Ireland Protestants 'retaliate'

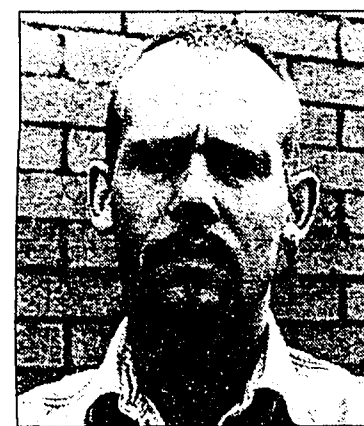
By SHAWN POGATCHNIK
BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Pro-British extremists killed a former IRA prisoner and threatened wider violence Sunday after their own commander was assassinated inside Northern Ireland's top-security prison. Politicians warned that the resumed bloodshed is a trap to derail already shaky peace talks on the future of the British-ruled province.

Seamus Dillon, a 45-year-old Catholic security guard, was shot to death when he confronted two gunmen from the outlawed pro-Protestant Loyalist Volunteer Force outside a rural hotel late Saturday.

The masked killers wounded two other bouncers and a 14-year-old bar worker as they shot up the Glengannon Hotel, which was packed with young people at a dance club.

The attack came hours after the Irish National Liberation Army, an IRA splinter gang opposed to the larger group's July

Ex-IRA prisoner killed as violence follows IRA prison hit



Billy Wright

cease-fire, shot and killed Loyalist Volunteer Force founder Billy Wright at the Maze prison.

His successors said his death makes it necessary for them to resume killing Catholics.

"This attack and future attacks lay squarely at the feet of republicans," the group said in a statement. "For too long the Protestant people have watched their very faith, culture and identity being

slowly eroded away."

The peace talks among eight parties depend in part on sustaining cease-fires by pro-British paramilitary groups and the Irish Republican Army. Both have representatives at the talks but are under pressure to strike back after Saturday's violence—either into enemy turf, or against the dissidents within their communities.

"This is going to be the first of many testing Mowlam, the British minister responsible for governing Northern Ireland.

Wright, 37, was the most brutal Protestant militant in Northern Ireland. Dubbed "King Rat," he was believed responsible for the killing of more than a dozen Catholics.

His group had been blamed for killing four Catholics this year: two Gaelic sports officials, an 18-year-old woman dating a Protestant, and a 17-year-old hitchhiker whose body was dumped in a pit filled with acid and animal car-

casses.

Dillon, meanwhile, spent more than 20 years in prison for killing a policeman but was paroled in 1994 after severing his IRA ties, his family said.

Ken Maginnis, a negotiator for the main Protestant party, the Ulster Unionists, said IRA commanders "have been looking for an excuse to get back to violence"

and that Dillon's killing might prove "convenient."

But Martin McGuinness, chief negotiator of the IRA-allied Sinn Fein party and a reputed former IRA chief, urged his supporters "to be calm, to be reflective, to realize there's a bigger picture here."

McGuinness said the killings of Dillon and Wright "have to be seen as direct attacks on the peace process."



Royal Ulster Constabulary officers view bullet holes in the walls of the Glengannon Hotel outside Dungannon, where four people were shot late Saturday in what appears to have been a reprisal for the Irish National Liberation Army murder of the Loyalist Volunteer Force leader Billy Wright. AP

Chechens held in terror plot

MOSCOW (AP) — Police in the Volga River city of Saratov arrested three armed Chechens suspected of plotting to carry out a terrorist attack.

The three carried a Kalashnikov assault rifle, a pistol, a bomb equipped with remote-control devices and two detonators, said Anatoly Yatskov, deputy chief of the regional police department dealing with organized crime.

He described the three as a "criminal group with terrorist intentions," the ITAR-Tass news agency said. The men's identities were not revealed.

Yatskov said the three Chechens were arrested on Saturday while secretly surveying the area around a central food market and apparently planning to plant a bomb there. One of the men was injured during the arrest, he said.

The three were charged with illegal possession of arms but might later also be accused of terrorism, according to Yatskov.

Chechens have been blamed for numerous terrorist attacks in Russia both during and after their republic's 1994-96 independence war with Moscow.

The war ended with an uneasy peace treaty this year that left the status of the Muslim republic unresolved. Numerous armed gangs continue to operate in Chechnya outside its government's control.

In another Volga River city, Volgograd, police early on Sunday seized a small two-seat plane, which was en route to Chechnya in a truck container. The SP-90 was dismantled, and documents described it as a training device for pilots, ITAR-Tass said.

Police launched an investigation into whether the plane was purchased legally.

Netanyahu stresses:

'West Bank is crucial'

PEDUEL, West Bank (AP) — Armed with binoculars and maps, Benjamin Netanyahu and half his Cabinet scaled the highlands looming over central Israel on Sunday to press their point that the Jewish state must hold on to key parts of the West Bank.

"We see, a few kilometers away, the high-rises of Tel Aviv and the runway of our international airport," the Israeli prime minister said. "It is clear that the authority over this hill-top ... is very important to the security of the country."

Israel's claims in the West Bank will be at the center of Netanyahu's talks with President Clinton next month, ahead of a promised troop pullback from part of the territory.

Netanyahu maintains that before settling the scope of the pullback Israel must decide which parts of the West Bank it can never give up — so he has held a series of Cabinet debates and two West Bank tours for the

sometimes dazed-looking ministers. Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, who is to meet with Clinton separately next month, said last week he would present a comprehensive plan to revive the peace process.

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat said the plan would include placing an international force in West Bank areas that Israel wants to keep. But Netanyahu adviser David Bar-Ilan

said Israel would not accept the deployment of foreign troops in the West Bank.

Israel's Maariv daily reported Sunday that Arafat and Netanyahu would also meet in Washington, joined by Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. The report could not be confirmed.

Under a series of Israel-PLO agreements reached between 1993-96, Israel must carry out three troop pullbacks in the West Bank by mid-1998, which the Palestinians hope will expand their autonomy from 27 percent of the territory to 90 percent.

Netanyahu now wants to carry out just one redeployment before proceeding to talks on a final peace settlement.

On Sunday's tour, Netanyahu stressed his opposition to returning to the pre-1967 borders, when Israel at its narrowest point near the coast was about 10 miles wide.

Cabinet hawk Ariel Sharon, a former general and defense minister, lectured his colleagues on the windswept bluff, located halfway between Jerusalem and Tel Aviv.

"There is a crucial need for a security zone under our control," he said, using a pointer and maps tacked up on a board.

Sharon said such a zone should be at least 90 miles deep. But since that would eat into the friendly neighbor-



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, right, is upbeat while answering questions from journalists Sunday as Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon tries to catch up with him at the settlement of Maale' Ephraim in the West Bank overlooking the Jordan Valley. Members of the Israeli cabinet took part in a second tour of the West Bank as they try to decide how much territory to hand over to Palestinian rule. AP

kingdom of Jordan, Sharon said Israel would settle for 12 miles — which still would take up about a third of the West Bank and leave Israel in control of hundreds of thousands of Palestinians.

Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai has proposed a somewhat narrower "security zone" for Israel. Netanyahu's government also

is claiming a large area around Jerusalem, the Jordan River Valley and areas where most Jewish settlements are located.

Even Mordechai's proposal, the most generous option discussed in the Cabinet, would retain for Israel about half the West Bank.

In the coming pullback, Netanyahu appears prepared to offer the Pales-

tinians about 10 percent of the territory — far less than the Palestinians want but still a wrenching proposition for his rightist-religious coalition.

On Sunday, the ministers were met by several dozen demonstrators at the settlement of Maaleh Ephraim overlooking the Jordan River Valley.



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Directors of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), through its Chairman, Mr. Juan S. Tenorio, is soliciting sealed proposals from licensed companies in the Commonwealth, engaged in providing ground maintenance services. Areas to be maintained include common grounds described in Proposals Specifications which are available at the NMHC Office, anytime between the hours of 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Sealed proposals, in duplicate, will be received until 10:00 a.m., January 16, 1998 at NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan, at which time and place all proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. The proposal documents shall be signed by the owner or authorized representative of the firm, and shall be enclosed in an envelope which shall be responsible for the proper placement of its firm's name, address, telephone and fax number on the outside of the proposal envelope.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on Wednesday, December 18, 1997 at 10:00 a.m. at the Central Office in Garapan.

NMHC hereby notifies all proposers that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contracts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, handicapped/disabling conditions, or national origin.

Questions or additional information may be directed to Edith C. Fejeran, Office Manager, at 234-0447/7689/7670.

NMHC reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any and all proposals in the best interest of NMHC.

/s/MARYLOU S. ADA
Corporate Director

Death and Funeral Announcement

IN HER DEATH SHE NOW JOINS HER:

Father: Alejandro L. Cabuang
Father-In-Law: Sylvester T. Cruz
Brother: Hermie A. Cabuang
Sister-In-Law: Rosemarie E. Cruz

She will live forever in the hearts and memories of her:

Husband: Jose P. Cruz
Children: Joanna & Rome, Christopher Ian, Kenny Kurt, Joseph Jr., Gavin Kerry and Reeka Janae
Mother: Marina A. Cabuang
Mother-In-Law: Ana P. Cruz

Brothers/Sisters/Spouses and their children:
Rudy A. Cabuang: (Cheryl, Arcie, Stella, Angela, Maridel and Boots)
Amando & Mina Cabuang: (Ronald, Lynlyn, Emmaruth, Espie Edith, Margaret & Carmen)
Tony & Teyang Cabuang: (Cecil)
Cecilia & Jeffrey Cruz: (Jecelle, Raymond & Jamilla)
Connie & Lyndsy Hinoguin: (Benedict & Lindsay Jr.)
Rafael A. Cabuang

Brothers/Sister-In-Law/Spouses and their children:
Edward P. Cruz
Dolores & Samson Palacios: (Dwight, Verna & Betsy Ann)
Jesus & Edna Cruz: (Conrad & Jason)
Bernie & Peter Palacios: (Regina, Reena, Peter Jr., & Reallyn)
Lorenda P. Cruz: (Milton Brent)
Luis & Marciana Cruz: (Emerson, Elizabeth, Peelay & Jennifer)
Jeffrey & Cecilia Cruz: (Jecelle, Raymond & Jamilla)
Principia & Melvin Mokeya: (Thealanie Mac)
Close Family Member: Cynthia A. Borja

She is additionally survived by numerous Aunts, Uncles, Godchildren, Nieces and Nephews

Rosary is being said at daily at 12:00 noon at night at 8:00 pm at Tinian Health Center. Viewing will be on Saturday, January 03, 1998 commencing at 8:00 am at the residence of Mrs. Ana P. Cruz in San Jose Village Tinian. Mass of Intention will be offered on the same day at 2:30 pm. Burial Services will follow immediately after the mass.

PLEASE JOIN US
THE FAMILY

**TERESITA
REBECCA
CABUANG CRUZ**

"Terry"

was called to her Eternal Rest
on December 26, 1997 at the age of 46.

Violence mars Kenyan polls, Moi win apparent

By Hrvoje Hranjski
MOMBASA, Kenya (AP)—Posters showing a confident, smiling President Daniel arap Moi fluttered along the potholed streets of this Indian Ocean port where most opposition voters have fled tribal violence.

Attacks and arson that almost emptied the former opposition stronghold of Likoni, just south of Mombasa, left few to vote against the ruling Kenya African National Union. And so, Moi, who has governed since 1978, appeared headed victory in Monday's general elections.

But he was less certain of easy wins in other parts of this potentially prosperous but highly corrupt and decaying East African nation. Corruption has cost the country international loans and is blamed for its bad roads, hospitals and schools.

One of the stiffest challenges for presidential candidates in Kenya is figuring out how to appeal to as many as possible of the country's numerous ethnic groups. Moi has marketed himself as the most inclusive candidate.

Whether the 73-year-old can take

the presidency outright or will face a runoff against one of 14 contenders depends on turnout among 9 million registered voters, and on how well his two leading rivals mobilize the urban vote.

While campaigning in his Rift Valley homeland Sunday, Moi expressed confidence he would win a fifth, five-year term.

The campaign has been marred by violence, for which Moi has been condemned at home and abroad. An estimated 200,000 people fled from the coast—and from jobs in Kenya's lucrative tourism industry—after a spate of attacks in August that killed at least 72 tribesmen suspected of favoring Moi's opponents. At least three local activists with the Kenya African National Union were arrested for the violence.

The dozens who dared to return seemed to have bigger worries than Monday's elections.

"I have no job, the food comes from the church, and I lost my voting card when I fled in August," said a 40-year-old member of the Luo, Kenya's second-largest

tribe, which has felt marginalized by Moi's rule.

The former hotel employee, who refused to give his name, said he saw no point in taking sides in the political battle.

Saturday was the last day of campaigning for the 27 parties vying for 210 elected seats in Parliament. In addition to winning a seat in Parliament, a successful presidential candidate also must take no less than 25 percent of the vote in at least five of Kenya's eight provinces.

Moi has managed to construct an alliance of small tribes and insists only he can hold together the country's 42 ethnic groups.

"It is still a tribal vote," said election Justice and Peace Commission.

Moi won the 1992 elections with an impressive 62 percent of the vote on the coast, where he has a huge following among the indigenous, largely Muslim population.

This year, Malasi said, the politically orchestrated violence appeared to guarantee no serious opposition challenge to ruling party candidates on the coast.

Man ...

Continued from page 1

on the floor. Responding emergency medical technicians arrived and transported the victim to CHC where he was last reported in coma because of serious head injuries.

U.S. ...

Continued from page 1

will jeopardize the local economy. "Mr. DeLay believes that the CNMI can be a model of a free market economy," Feehesy said. However, he added, DeLay will also look into the allegations of labor abuse during his week long fact-finding mission.

Hocog ...

Continued from page 1

ing difficulties financing the CIPs because the money "that we are generating from our operations cannot pay for the projects."

"It seems like, you know, that's life, that's where we are right now."

It is only on the CIP part where we are working so hard because we lack money to finance these projects," he added.

The CFA comptroller also said the ports body is "broke" only when it comes to financing the capital improvement projects.

"Of course right now we might be moving into a bigger problem because the economy is in a downturn as opposed to our projections," he said.

CPA, according to Demapan, has been anticipating a shortfall of at least \$2 million for the fiscal year or a monthly shortfall of about \$200,000.

Hocog, upon hearing Demapan's disclosure, stepped in and stopped the CPA comptroller from revealing further financial scenarios.

"Don't stretch the entire scenario, just answer the question," Hocog told Demapan who explained that he was just stating the

cause of serious head injuries. Rupinta was arrested for assault and battery. But no formal charges yet were filed against him. Assistant Attorney General Robert Steinborn told the Variety that additional investigation was conducted following the victim's death.

"We take these allegations very seriously," he said. DeLay, who arrived Saturday evening with his wife, daughter and two staff members, is here on the invitation of outgoing Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio.

He and his staff will be meeting with various government and private sector officials, and will inspect garment factories and housing barracks.

details behind the CIP financing mess.

Hocog added that since CIPs are the only problem, such an aspect is now being looked into, and not the operations of the entire agency itself.

The CPA board, in a meeting Monday last week, approved the temporary suspension of some 35 capital improvement projects and imposed a moratorium on the hiring of new employees for the next six months, in an effort to recover from its deficit.

The agency had been handed over close to \$23 million when the new administration assumed office in 1994. The surplus fund eventually reduced to almost zero now due to alleged mismanagement.

"My true concept of CPA on a regular operations (is that) we do have money for operations. We are concerned about the anticipated flotation of the bond to finance other projects that the board deems necessary for the infrastructure, so that is our concern now that we have to look into," Hocog stressed.

The CPA chair said they are concerned about how the agency can redirect available funds from the least important to the more important projects, which must be prioritized at this point.

Marianas Variety Classified Ads Section

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01 AIR-CONDITIONING MECHANIC-Salary:\$3.05-3.20 per hour
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Contact: ASKA CORPORATION dba Niko Market Tel. 322-2924(1/13)T25110

DEADLINE: 12:00 noon the day prior to publication

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KWEK'S ENTERPRISES SAIPAN, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Opening for a **Manager Position** for a Food Wholesale Company. Must have the following qualifications:

- Must have 2 years experience in a management position.
- At least 2 years previous sales experience.
- Knowledge of Food Products a plus.
- Knowledge of Warehouse Operations a plus.
- Salary will be based on experience.
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P.O. Box 2725
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Complete with Loading Dock
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Area: 5,760 sq. ft.
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The passport of **YIN QIN** was lost in Garapan area. If found please call at 234-6164
PASSPORT #2679019

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GOOD ACCESS
CALL: 235-0709/LEAVE MESSAGE

PUBLIC NOTICE

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN RE FCD AD CASE # 97-0200

ORDER TO SHOW CASE WHY PETITION FOR ADOPTION AND CHANGE OF NAME SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED AND PUBLICATION ORDER

On the reading and filing of the verified petition of Salud Saszha Gamboa for adoption and change of name to Saszha Gamboa Allison, and good cause appearing therefore:

It is hereby ORDERED that:

1. All persons who may be affected or prejudiced by such adoption or change of name appear in the Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands on January 13, 1998 at 10:00am.
2. A copy of this order is published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for three (3) successive weeks preceding the date set for the hearing.

Dated this 10 day of December, 1997.
s/ Virginia Sablan Onerheim, Associate Judge

Cing ...

Continued from page 1

hearing for the year. (See related story in this issue).

"We will ask the governor to testify once he steps down from office," said Cing, who chairs EAGI.

"We will ask him to tell us where in the CNMI Constitution does it say that he can be a lending institution," Cing said.

Sen. Ricardo S. Atalg (R-Rota), who is a member of EAGI, also

expressed "grave concern" over the additional loan from the Office of the Governor, calling it another "Merry Christmas" for the commission, which is under investigation for allegedly "mispending" public funds.

"We haven't finished investigating, but here he is again," Atalg said.

"Where is he getting the money when we haven't even passed a budget, and may even be facing another deficit?" he added.

Cing, in a letter last month to

the Finance Department, said the department head and the governor would be liable for any future disbursements to the commission.

Without a budget of its own, the commission "borrowed" \$2.6 million from the Office of the Governor in December 1996, which Cing has described as "illegal reprogramming" of public funds.

The ongoing Senate investigation has so far revealed "highly questionable" expenditures by the commission, amounting to nearly \$2.6 million by April 1997.

20th Death Anniversary Rosary Announcement

CONCEPCION CAMACHO CABRERA

Date: December 27, 1997 - January 4, 1998
Time: 7:00 p.m.
Place: Dr. Calistro C. Cabrera

Daily mass would be offered at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 a.m.
Final day of rosary mass will be offered on January 4, 1998, at 9:00 a.m. at Mt. Carmel Cathedral, rosary will said at 6:00 p.m., followed by dinner.

Others, remembered in these prayer of intentions are Ramon Taisague Cabrera, Maria C. Joaquin M. Seman, Cecilia Cabrera, Jose C. Remedio S. Cabrera, Antonio C. Cabrera, Soledad C. Vicente T. Cabrera, Maria Campus Camacho/Leonardo Aguan Camacho, & Bernadita C. Reyes.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
In the matter of the estate of FRANCISCA LAIROPI, Deceased.
CIVIL ACTION NO. 97-1234B

NOTICE OF HEARING

Date: January 27, 1998
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Judge: Miguel S. Demapan

Please take notice that Petitioner's hearing for letters of administration shall be heard on Tuesday, the 27th day of January, 1998 at the hour of 1:30 o'clock p.m., in the above-entitled court.

DATED this 18th day of December, 1997.

JOVITA C. FLORES
Clerk of Court

s/Deputy Clerk

BE A LIFELONG LEARNER-READ.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
In the matter of the estate of JOVITA MARIE S. MERCADO and RAYMOND ANTHONY S. MERCADO Minor Children
By DOMINGO B. MERCADO BERNADITA S. MERCADO Petitioner
FCD HD ADOPTION CASE 97-0218

NOTICE OF HEARING

Date: January 27, 1998
Time: 1:30 p.m.
Judge: Miguel S. Demapan

Please take notice that a petition for Adoption of the above named minor children by DOMINGO B. and BERNADITA S. MERCADO as Petitioners, has been filed with the above entitled Court and is open for review at the office of the Clerk of the said court in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of the said Petition for adoption will be held in Court room of the above-entitled court on January 29, 1998 at 9:00 am or as soon as thereafter.

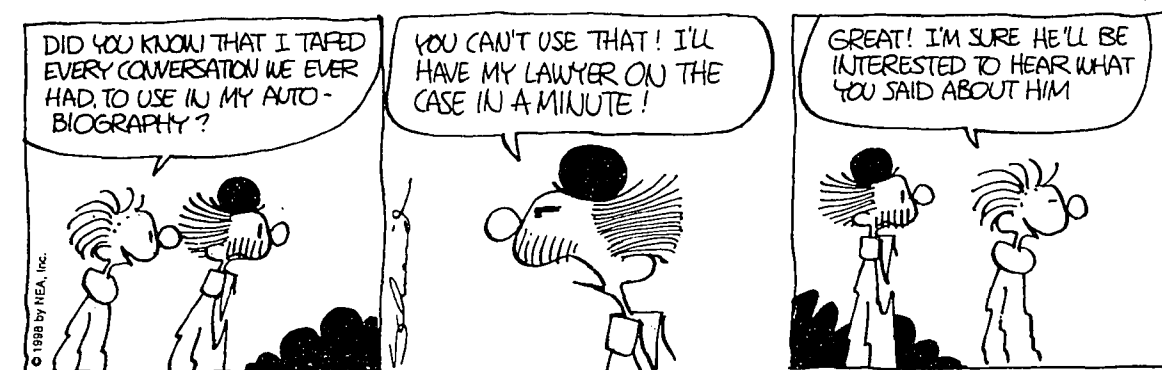
Dated this 29th day of December 1997.

JOVITA C. FLORES
Clerk of Court

s/Deputy Clerk of Court

Exercise makes you live longer

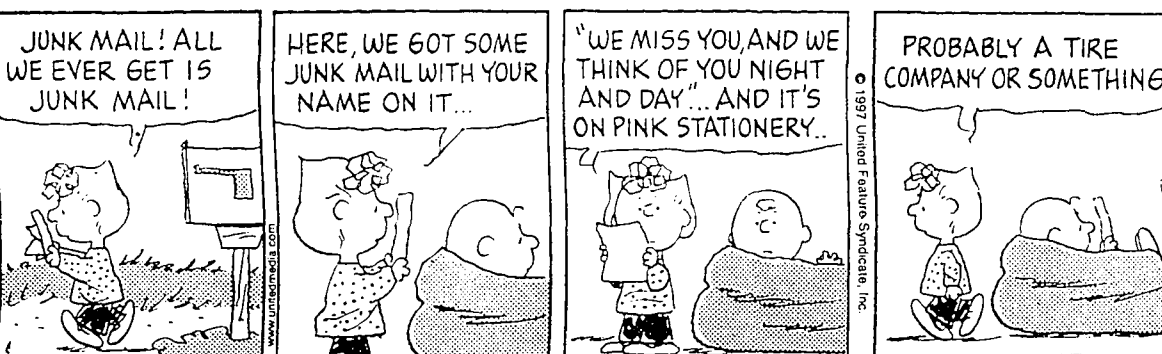
EEK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



Garfield® by Jim Davis



PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz



STELLA WILDER

YOUR BIRTHDAY

By Stella Wilder

Born today, you are one of the most conscientious and circumspect individuals born under your sign, and you have such a driving interest in bettering the world around you that you will work tirelessly, for little personal gain, to make it happen. You understand that it is often the little things that make the most difference; you know how cause and effect works, and you understand that large-scale change is only the impression one gets from a chain of small, closely linked, individual circumstances. You are a top-notch thinker.

What surprises your friends and family is that you also give free reign to your feelings, and you work hard to balance your head and your heart in all things. Indeed, you can be quite emotional at times, but you trust that this enables you to understand things better in the long run.

Also born on this date are: Simon Guggenheim, capitalist and philanthropist; Rudyard Kipling, author and poet; Bert Parks, actor and pageant host; Bo Diddley, musician; Ben Johnson, sprinter; Dave Jones, singer and actor; Sandy Koufax, baseball player; Michael Nesmith, singer and actor; Tracey Ullman, actress.

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

WEDNESDAY, DEC. 31
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — It may be more difficult than expected to put together the pieces of a puzzle in order today. A random approach is unavoidable.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Focus on details today and you'll realize that your understanding of the big picture has to change. You have been assuming too much.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — You may be in for a difficult time today, as the collection of data proves complicated, and communication with others is delayed.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You may find yourself in a situation which is more than you think you can handle at this time. If necessary, make time to speak with a superior.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You may be so busy trying to reach one specific goal that you are unwilling to learn lessons that peripheral activities have to offer.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — If it's bargains you're looking for, you may be disappointed by day's end. The fact is, it may be difficult to forge a deal of any kind today.

CANCER (June 21-July

22) — A look back over recent weeks affords you a clearer picture of where you are headed. You can benefit greatly from some time alone today.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Someone may be trying to stand in your way and prevent you from saying what must be said. Be patient; the truth will come out and you'll have your day.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You may find that you have more to do today than you had planned. Tinkering with your schedule will enable you to be more efficient.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Domestic issues are not to be ignored today. You must be willing to sit down and talk about the very things that are most disturbing to you.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Others are likely to gravitate toward you all day long, but how can you be sure it is for the right reasons? Do not make hasty judgments.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Away from home, you're likely to find that your perspective and vision are more clear. You arrive at a conclusion that was long in coming.

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William Kidd, the famous seventeenth-century pirate, was also a wealthy New York landowner.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 "It's — time!"
- 6 Deserve
- 11 Gravit
- 12 Centers of worship
- 14 — first you don't succeed
- 15 Soft mud
- 17 Wallach ID
- 18 Seabird
- 19 Office worker
- 20 Health resort
- 21 Symbol for tellurium
- 22 Ms. Rainer
- 23 Detective
- 24 Charlie
- 26 Long, prolonged sounds of pain
- 27 Above
- 28 Fish trap
- 29 Good-for-nothing
- 31 Lacking foot

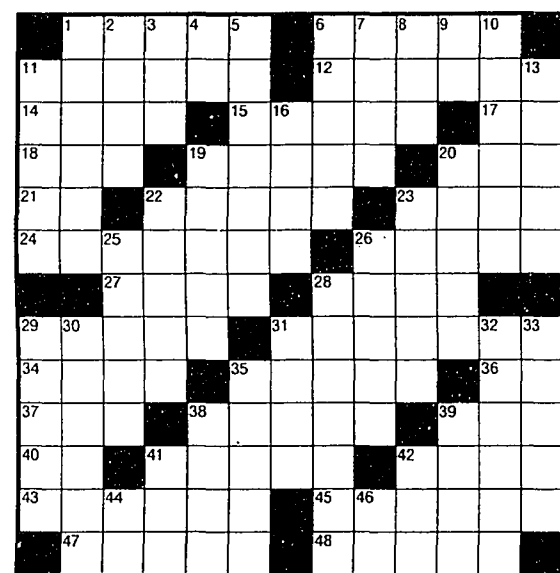
DOWN

- 34 Prophet
- 35 Hot — buns
- 36 Liquid meas.
- 37 Part of O&A
- 38 Tanned skin
- 39 Cow sound
- 40 — "Ease"
- 41 Traveler
- 42 Author of "The Wizard of Oz"
- 43 Indicating sincere honesty
- 45 "The — Files"
- 47 Noblemen
- 48 Recoil

Answer to Previous Puzzle

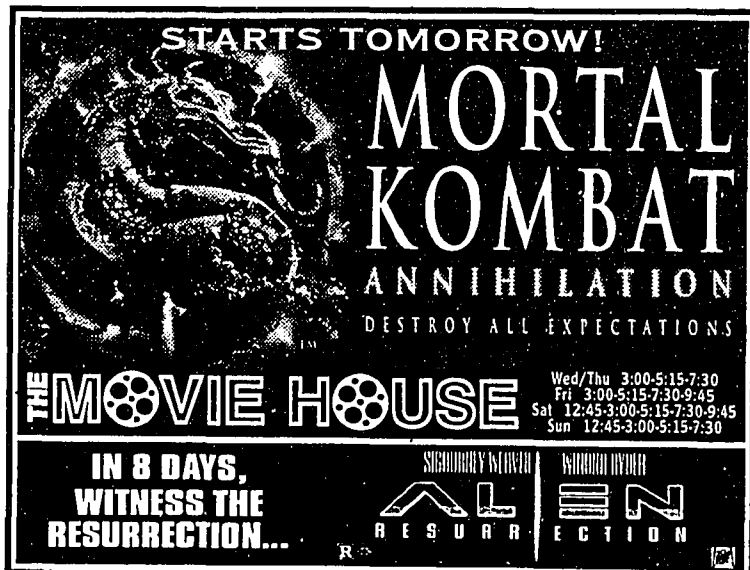
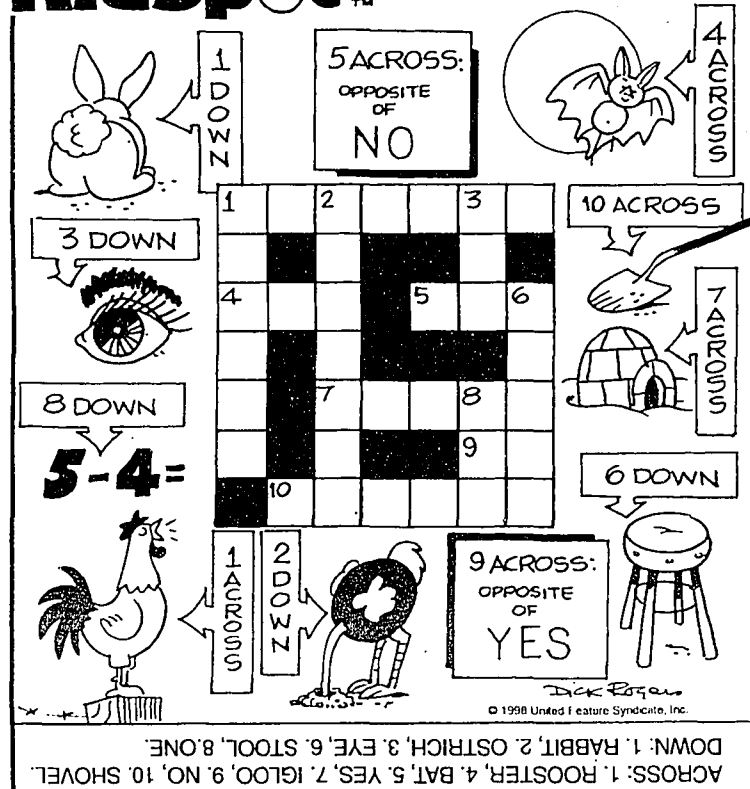
PALS OIL SEEM
OLIN NNE URGE
LISA CAN BIAS
KETTLE IGUANA
CE PEAR
WISH BANGBANG
EIO DEUCE POE
SISTERLY EERO
USES BR
AMELIA MONICA
SELL VIA EROS
EASE EDD SACK
ATES DOE TEAS

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- 7 Tickle Me — (doll)
- 8 Map abbr.
- 9 Des Moines St.
- 10 Boring tool
- 11 Michelangelo
- 13 Graceful birds
- 16 Not as much
- 19 More certain
- 20 Portion
- 22 Prying bar
- 23 Moves in a spiral course
- 25 Cavities
- 26 Reagan's Attorney General
- 28 Former president — Wilson
- 29 Singer Hayes
- 30 Of the teeth
- 31 Woody plant
- 32 Mate
- 33 Minute opening of a plant organ
- 35 — and whey
- 38 Stated
- 39 Not fern.
- 41 32nd pres.
- 42 Mr. Vorse
- 44 Negative
- 46 Late UK princess

KidSpot™ by Dick Rogers



Bucs contain Sanders

By Doug Ferguson

TAMPA, Fla. (AP) — Barry Sanders went from MVP to MIA.

One day after Detroit's 2,000-yard rusher was voted the NFL's Most Valuable Player along with Brett Favre, Sanders wasn't a factor against the Tampa Bay Buccaneers in a 20-10 playoff loss Sunday.

Sanders finished with 18 carries for 65 yards. His longest run was 15 yards, and he had only one other carry longer than 10 yards.

It was the first time Sanders failed to get at least 100 yards rushing since he had 10 carries for 20 yards in a 24-17 loss to Tampa Bay in the second week of

the season.

"We got tired of hearing about Barry Sanders all week," All-Pro linebacker Hardy Nickerson said. "No disrespect to him, but we felt that if we could limit the number of carries Barry had and put him in long second- and third-down situations, we would put the game in our own hands."

It worked.

Sanders had only six carries at halftime, when the Bucs had a 13-0 lead. The Lions only managed to run 24 plays in the first half, and Tampa had possession twice as long.

"They did a good job on Barry, but in the first half we didn't have

the ball enough," coach Bobby Ross said.

That's usually the best way to stop him. In four playoff losses on the road, Sanders now has 152 yards on 52 carries. In every one of those games, the Lions fell behind early.

A raucous crowd, which likely saw the last NFL game at Houlihan's Stadium, cheered wildly every time Sanders was stopped for a minimal gain.

"There's no formula to stopping Barry," defensive tackle Brad Culpepper said. "You just work hard and hope you can grab him."

On Sanders' most productive series, which featured consecu-

tive runs of 15 and 11 yards, he was caught from behind by Chidi Ahanotu for a 3-yard loss on second-and-1 from the 6.

Sanders, who was dressed and gone by the time the Lions' locker room was open, wasn't the only Lions star missing in action.

All-Pro receiver Herman Moore didn't even see the ball until an 11-yard catch with 10:41 left in the third quarter. He finished with four catches for 44 yards.

"They looked like they were playing a precautionary defense to not give up the big play," Moore said.

Sanders and Moore, who combined for 63 percent of the Lions' offense this year, managed only 152 yards between them.

"We never got into any kind of rhythm," Ross said. "Their plan was even simpler than we antici-

pated, but we never got into the game offensively until the third quarter."

"We really struggled getting Barry and Herman into the game early," he said. "We have to look at that to see why."

Sanders rushed for 215 yards on this same field on Oct. 12. It was muddy and slick from three days of rain, but that was the least of Sanders' concerns.

When he bounced outside, the Bucs forced him to keep going until he was out of bounds. When he tried to cut back behind the line of scrimmage, the Bucs got enough push up front to close the seams.

And when Sanders ran straight ahead, linebacker Derrick Brooks was usually there to stop him. Brooks finished with 10 tackles.

•NBA Roundup

T'wolves stop Pacers

AUBURN HILLS, Mich. (AP) — Stephen Marbury scored 10 of his team-high 19 points in the fourth quarter to lead the Minnesota Timberwolves to a 93-89 comeback victory over the Detroit Pistons on Sunday night.

The win, Minnesota's first in Detroit since 1992, was the Wolves' sixth in eight games and moved them to .500 (14-14) for the first time since they were 6-6. Detroit has now lost two straight, both at home.

Tom Gugliotta had 15 points and 13 rebounds for Minnesota, while Grant Hill led all scorers with 27 points. Brian Williams added 19 points and 16 boards for the Pistons.

The Pistons opened a 74-65 lead in the first two minutes of the fourth, but Minnesota answered with a 10-0 run to go ahead by a point with six minutes left.

Eight lead changes later, Kevin Garnett dunked over Williams to make the score 87-84 with 1:28 to play. After a miss by Williams, Gugliotta hit a long jumper to increase the margin to five with 41 seconds left.

Jazz 89, Grizzlies 88

IN VANCOUVER, British Columbia, John Stockton scored 10 of his 20 points in the fourth quarter, including a wide-open jumper with 2.3 seconds left that gave Utah the win.

After squandering a 14-point, third-quarter lead and falling behind by one point twice in the final 38 seconds, the Jazz managed to pull out the win when Karl Malone set a pick on Antonio Daniels that freed Stockton at the top of the key.

The Grizzlies then blew an opportunity to pull out the victory when Daniels' inbound attempt was picked off by Jeff Hornacek.

Karl Malone led the Jazz with 31 points, breaking the 20-point mark for the 28th time in 29 games, and added a game-high 13 rebounds.

Sonics 106, Suns 97

IN PHOENIX, Gary Payton had 24 points, 10 assists and six rebounds as Seattle improved its NBA-best road record to 11-4. Detlef Schrempf added 25 points and nine rebounds for Seattle, which won despite being outrebounded 47-30.

Rex Chapman led Phoenix, which had its four-game winning streak snapped, with 26 points. The Suns lost both Danny Manning and Jason Kidd to injuries.

Manning strained an abdominal muscle late in the first quarter and Kidd rolled his right ankle with 5:44 remaining in the game.

Celtics 108, Lakers 102

IN SACRAMENTO, California, Derrick Coleman and Corliss Williamson got into a fight and Mitch Richmond scored 29 points as Sacramento edged Philadelphia.

With 6:02 remaining in the fourth quarter, an battle under the boards turned into a fight in which Coleman and Williamson both landed punches. The brawl reached the scorer's table, and both players were pulled to the floor and separated.

Aaron McKie of the Sixers got off a shot just before the buzzer, but it was an airball.

Broncos ...

Continued from page 24

meaningless game with New Orleans and had this week off. So like Denver, which looked up home field on Dec. 1 last season, it has to get back momentum.

There's another problem for the Kansas City Chiefs.

Elvis Grbac, who separated his shoulder Nov. 3 against Pittsburgh, made his first start in six weeks against the Saints and was rusty — 5-for-14 for 51 yards. But Marty Schottenheimer says Grbac's the man against Denver over Gannon, who was 5-1 as a

starter.

Denver has problems, too — primarily Terrell Davis' ribs, bruised in Saturday's 42-17 win over Jacksonville, revenge for the 30-27 shocker administered by the Jacksonville Jaguars in last year's playoffs.

"At first I thought I had the wind knocked out of me," said Davis, who had 184 yards rush-

ing when he was injured late in the third quarter. "But when I got back to the bench and sat down, that's when I noticed it. It's painful. When you breathe, you feel it."

The Broncos will not gain 310 yards on the ground — with or without Davis — against the Chiefs, who were seventh in the league against the run.

Injured ...

Continued from page 24

"That hurts."

The Broncos will play at Kansas City next Sunday. Davis might opt to wear a flak jacket or to have a painkilling injection, but that decision will be made later.

Broncos trainer Steve Antonopoulos expects Davis to be almost fully recovered by Sunday.

"Terrell has some pain now," coach Mike Shanahan said, "but Steve feels in the next couple of days the pain should go away and he should be 100 percent by game time."

"There's no chance for further injury, but if he's still in discomfort, he can alleviate that with a

painkiller."

Shanahan said Davis, the American Conference's leading rusher this season with 1,750 yards, did not take any injections for the slightly separated right shoulder that sidelined him for the regular-season finale.

"He took a lot of hits on that shoulder (against Jacksonville), so his shoulder is fine," Shanahan said.

The Broncos had Sunday off and will take Monday and Tuesday off as well, except for a team meeting on Tuesday. Their usual practice routine for a Sunday game will begin on Wednesday.

"We played the Monday night game (Dec. 15), then played on Sunday and then the following Saturday," Shanahan said.

Palacios ...

Continued from page 24

first, with a time of 1:07.95. The top female finisher was Xenavee Pangelinan, also of Saipan Swim Club, with a time of 1:13.14.

In the 200-m freestyle category first place finishers were Saipan Swim Club's Robert Jordan, (2:15.30) and Tomoko Kitami of St. Mary's Buccaneers.

David Palacios of Saipan Swim Club won first place in the 100-m men's butterfly (1:02.15) and Xenavee Pangelinan in women's (1:13.73).

The 100-m freestyle went to Josh Taitano of Saipan Swim Club

(58.72) and Tomoko Kitami of St. Mary's (1:05.83).

In the 100-m breaststroke category, Jacoby Winkfield came in first with a time of 1:16.70. Jennifer Pierce of Saipan Swim Club finished first in the women's category, with a time of 1:28.10.

In the 50-m backstroke category, Dean Palacios of Saipan Swim Club came in first with a time of 40.67 and Kazuma A. of Central Sport.

In the 50-m breaststroke, the first place went to a swimmer from Central Sport, I. Masashi, with a time of 35.17, and S. Maya, also of Central Sport, with a time of 39.83.

In the 50-m butterfly Saipan Swim Club's Seung Jin Lee

emerged first (32.54) in the men's and I. Izumi of Central Sport (31.76) in the female.

In the 50-m freestyle, St. Mary's Jimmy Heagle (26.78) and Central Sport's K. Yuka (28.93) were the top male and female swimmers.

In the 4x100 medley the Saipan Swim Club, with a total time of 5:05.96, was tops and in the 4x50 medley the honor went to St. Mary's Buccaneers.

After the swim meet, the Saipan Swim Club held a water polo clinic. The Japan team learned water polo from the Saipan Swim Club members.

"They (Japanese) loved doing the sport," Bill Sakovich of the Saipan Swim Club said.

Taga ...

Continued from page 24

one homerun and four RBIs. Bill C. Camacho was 2 for 4 with one double, one homerun, and two RBIs.

Game Five
MTC Mongilk defeated Northwest

19-15. In the last four innings Northwest was leading, 8-5, but in the top of the fifth inning the MTC Mongilk rallied, putting in 14 runs and giving them the lead, at 19-8. In the last two innings Northwest scored seven runs, but it was not enough to defeat the MTC

Mongilk.

Ted Ngewakl was 2 for 4 with a homerun in the top of the fifth inning and three RBIs. Roland Martin was 2 for 3 with one homerun and three RBIs, while Michael Ngribabul was also 2 for 3 with one double.

SPORTS



1997 SSA Men's Night League

Taga Warriors upset Team Familia, 27-15

By Priscilla T. Castro
Variety News Staff

TAGA Warriors defeated Team Familia Friday night at the Susupe Softball Complex.

The Warriors scored a total of 27 runs compared with Team Familia's 15 runs.

Warriors' first baseman Cartfield Sablan had two doubles and five RBIs.

Teammate Brady Ubedei batted two homeruns in the top of the fourth inning and the sixth inning with four RBIs.

Team Familia's Kent Kalen was 3 for 4 with six RBIs. He made two homeruns, with one in the bottom of

the third and the other in the bottom of the fifth inning.

Game Two

Bad Boyz defeated the Pacific Turtles in the second game, 22-20. The Turtles just needed two runs to tie the game but it was not enough when they only rallied in seven runs.

Ray Villagomez of the Bad Boyz was perfect 4 for 4. Nick Leon Guerrero was 3 for 3 with two doubles, four RBIs, and a homerun in the first inning. Pitcher John Diaz was 3 for 4 with two RBIs and a homerun in the bottom of the third inning.

Game Three

Team Budweiser lost again after I Luv U Man shut out the game, 23-13.

In the first inning, I Luv U Man went all the way rallying 13 runners to lead the game in the first inning.

David Kapileo was 3 for 4 with one double, a homerun and four RBIs. John Reyes was 2 for 4 with one double, one homerun, and one RBI.

Game Four

Camacho Roots upset the Tanapag Waves, 24-14. Mike C. Guerrero was perfect 3 for 3 with two doubles, one triple, and three RBIs, while Donald C. Camacho was 4 for 5 with one double and two consecutive homeruns in the fifth and sixth inning with four RBIs.

Greg C. Camacho was 2 for 4 with
Continued on page 23



Denver Broncos quarterback John Elway (7) scrambles out of the pocket as teammate Gary Zimmerman blocks Jacksonville cornerback Deon Figures (27) during first quarter action at Denver's Mile High Stadium on Saturday. Elway completed a pass to Rod Smith for a 43-yard touchdown on the play. AP

Heat over Pacers, 108-90

MIAMI (AP) — Alonzo Mourning scored 22 points and grabbed 13 rebounds and Tim Hardaway had 21 points and 10 assists as the Miami Heat beat the Indiana Pacers 101-90 Sunday night.

In a matchup of two of the top teams in the Eastern Conference, Miami outscored Indiana 8-1 in the final 1:57 to secure its fourth win in five games.

Both teams entered with 18-9 records, and Miami spoiled the Pacers' bid to post their best start after 28 games since joining the NBA. Miami had lost its two previous meetings with Indiana this season.

Rik Smits, who scored 29 points in the Pacers' 104-89 win two weeks ago, was held to eight points in 22 minutes. Reggie Miller paced Indiana with 19 points, shooting 11-of-12 from the free throw line and 3-of-13 from the field.

Mourning shot 10-of-12 from the field and Hardaway bounced back from a poor first half.

A dunk by Dale Davis capped a 6-0 run and left Indiana trailing 93-89 with 1:56 left. Mourning made a 14-footer, and after a missed 3-pointer by Mark Jackson, P.J. Brown hit a foul-line jumper off a pass from Dan Majerle to up the lead to 97-89 with one minute left. Hardaway sank four consecutive free throws in the final 46 seconds to ice the victory.

Jackson's layup cut the Pacers' deficit to 69-67 before Miami

Continued on page 23

Injured Davis expects to play against Chiefs

By JOHN MOSSMAN

DENVER (AP) — With a week to get healthy, Denver Broncos running back Terrell Davis says there's no question about his status for the next playoff game.

"There is no decision to be made," Davis said Sunday, one day after rushing for 184 yards and two touchdowns in a 42-17 victory over Jacksonville but leaving the game late in the third quarter with bruised ribs.

"I'm playing. If it improves as much this week as it did since Saturday night, I'll be fine."

Davis knows he will have to endure some painful moments until then, however.

"I told a friend last night not to make me laugh," he said.

Continued on page 23

Broncos get a chance to reverse AFC momentum

By DAVE GOLDBERG

NEW YORK (AP) — On Nov. 16, Pete Stoyanovich changed the course of the American Conference's race for the U.S. National Football League's Super Bowl with a 54-yard field goal that inched over the crossbar and gave Kansas City a 24-22 victory over Denver.

The Broncos have a chance to reverse that momentum next Sunday in the highlight game of the playoffs' second round.

All four games are rematches of regular-season games.

When Denver went into Kansas

City that November day, the Broncos were 9-1, two games ahead of the Chiefs, who were playing backup quarterback Rich Gannon. A win, and Denver would have all but locked up the AFC West and home field in the playoffs; instead it's had to play a wild-card game and must win two more road games to get to the Super Bowl.

But at least the Broncos have momentum, something they didn't have last season.

Kansas City wrapped up home field on Dec. 15, then played a

Continued on page 23

Palacios tops 200m individual medley in SSC meet



Saipan and Japan swimmers who took part in the swimming competition hosted by Saipan Swin Club Friday pose for a group photo with their coaches at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

By Priscilla T. Castro
Variety News Staff

THE SAIPAN Swim Club competed with teams from Saipan and Japan last Friday at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool and emerged winner in most of the categories.

In the 200-m individual medley, David Palacios of Saipan Swim Club won first place clocking 2:24.45 and among the females the top finisher was Kristi Goodrick of St. Mary's Buccaneers with a time of 3:05.66.

In the 100-m men's backstroke category, Josh Taitano of the Saipan Swim Club was

Continued on page 23

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