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Gov't looks at \$240M budget

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

DUE TO a significant reduction in government revenues, the administration will likely submit a \$240 million budget proposal for fiscal year 1999, which may be the first time in CNMI history that a budget proposal is less than that of the previous fiscal year.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, in a media conference yesterday, said the budget package is still being drafted, but will be completed and submitted to the Legislature in April, as required by law.

He said his staff is currently working on a budget proposal that could probably amount to \$240 million, or \$7 million less than the government's current budget.



Pedro P. Tenorio

The former administration's FY 1998 budget proposal totaled \$262 million, but was later scaled down to \$252 million, which is still the largest budget outlay in CNMI

history.

However, the Legislature did not act on the budget bill, with key legislators saying that they doubt the accuracy of the figures submitted by Tenorio's predecessor.

Since the beginning of FY 1998 on Oct. 1, 1997, the CNMI government has been operating under the \$247 million FY 1997 budget act.

But despite the government's critical financial condition, the governor reiterated his administration's commitment to pay the taxpayers' rebates.

At the same time, Tenorio said he would not object if the Legislature scraps the so-called "sun-

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CDA encourages CPA to hike bond float to \$80M

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THE COMMONWEALTH Development Authority wants the Ports Authority to increase the bond it is proposing to float from \$60 million to \$80 million to accommodate the Tinian airport expansion project.

In an interview with reporters during a break in yesterday's CDA board meeting, board chair Juan S. Tenorio said this is the more pragmatic thing to do instead of floating another bond later to fund the project.

The proceeds from the proposed bond issue would solely go to the funding of existing unfinished projects at the Saipan International Airport.

Originally, the CPA sought to float in the open market \$140 million most of which would have funded the expansion and improvement of both the Tinian air and sea ports.

The deal, however, was



Juan S. Tenorio

aborted on account of former CPA officials' differences with Yu Corp. over allegedly jacked up fees including finder's fee.

"Instead of \$60 million, let's float \$80 million so there'll be additional \$20 million that can accommodate Tinian, too," Tenorio said.

Tenorio said the higher bond float would save on costs re-

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Man gets life sentence for kidnapping, assault

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

SUPERIOR Court Presiding Judge Alexandro Castro meted a life sentence to one of five men who allegedly kidnapped and assaulted an 18-year-old student last year.

Castro sentenced 22-year-old Neildino Taisacan to life imprisonment for kidnapping and one year in jail to run concurrently for assault and battery charges.

Castro has given Taisacan 10 days to appeal the sentence.

The judge agreed with Assistant Atty. Gen. Aaron Williams that the charge of kidnapping a person and "not releasing him uninjured" carries a mandatory life sentence.

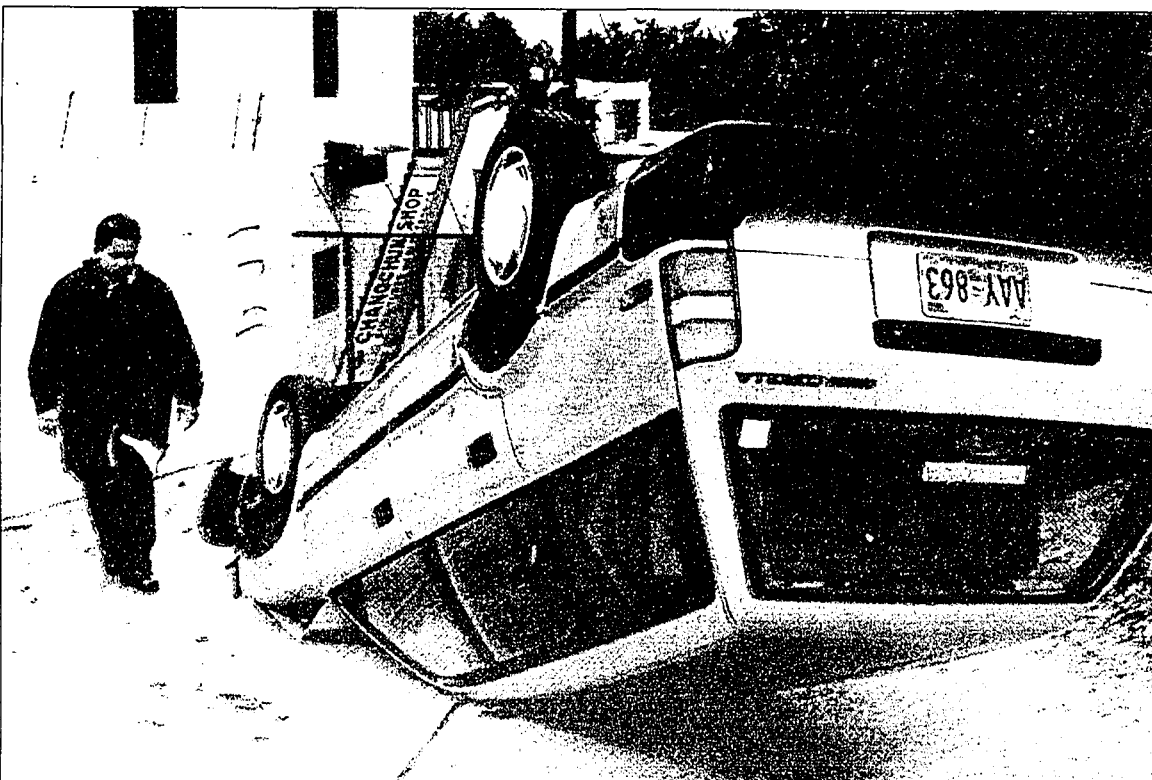
Court documents showed that while the student was walking on 16th Highway in San Vicente on Feb. 2, 1997, Taisacan and four other men came and forced him into their car.

The suspects started beating the victim and drove him to Dandan where they assaulted him again.

The defendants, some of whom were armed with a gun and knife, threatened to kill the student, it was alleged.

Court records indicated that the victim managed to escape and reported the incident to the police.

During a bench trial last December, Castro found Taisacan guilty of kidnapping and assault and battery.



MISHAP. Police Officer Eric David inspects a station wagon which turned-turtle after losing control along Middle Road in Chalan Laulau yesterday. Witnesses say the driver was badly hurt.

Tinian leaders lobby for PSS construction fund



Francisco M. Borja

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

TINIAN officials are lobbying the Legislature to pass a bill that will establish a special account from which the Public School System could draw funds for its school construction loans.

The Tinian Municipal Council on Monday adopted a resolution requesting the Tinian Legislative Delegation to support House Bill 11-77, which was passed by the House of Representatives two

weeks ago.

The resolution, introduced by Councilwoman Evelyn B. Manglona, has been transmitted to officials of the central government.

Tinian Mayor Francisco M. Borja, for his part, wrote to Senate President Paul Manglona and Speaker Diego Benavente and Tinian Legislative Delegation chairman Sen. Joaquin Adriano, seeking assurance that the funding for Tinian elementary class-

rooms is given priority.

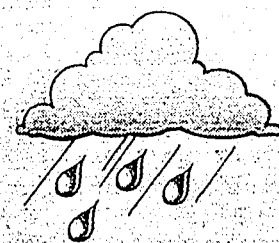
Borja said the existing school facilities in the island have been heavily damaged by supertyphoon Keith.

Meanwhile, the Manglona resolution stated that HB 11-77 would "pave the way for full development of our educational infrastructure needs."

Under HB 11-77, the PSS account would be filled with \$2 million each fiscal year--

Continued on page 28

WEATHER Outlook



Partly cloudy with isolated showers



Turkish medical students chant slogans against Istanbul University authorities following a ban on their Islamic style head coverings, during a demonstration in downtown Istanbul Tuesday. Despite a decision to delay the enforcement of a headscarf ban, hundreds of students pressed ahead with a week-long demonstration at the medical faculty campus. AP

Deposed Cambodian PM tried in absentia

By KER MUNTIT PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — The trial in absentia of ousted Cambodian Prime Minister Norodom Ranariddh, deposed by his co-premier Hun Sen in a July coup d'etat, began Wednesday in a military court in Phnom Penh.

Hundreds of journalists, human rights workers, government officials and curious onlookers converged on the Defense Ministry lecture hall where the trial is taking place.

Ranariddh is charged with illegally importing weapons into Cambodia, which carries a penalty ranging from 6 months to 8 years in prison.

Diplomats and international observers have called the charges politically motivated.

Wednesday's trial, which is expected to last just one day, is the first of two for the deposed co-prime minister. He will also be tried March 17 for



Norodom Ranariddh

allegedly conspiring with outlawed Khmer Rouge guerrillas.

Prince Ranariddh, who has been in exile since the bloody coup on July 5-6, has denied all charges against him and has refused to recognize the trial as legal.

A table for his defense, with a microphone, remained empty. He is expected to fol-

low developments from Bangkok.

At the center of the courtroom were 10 crates addressed to Ranariddh labeled as "evidence." The government contends they contained weapons. Samples of antitank armaments were also displayed.

The Cambodian government has accused Ranariddh of smuggling weapons into the country to prepare for his own violent takeover before he was toppled.

The charges are widely seen as an effort by Hun Sen to rid himself of his most formidable opponent in national elections scheduled for July 26. A conviction in the Hun Sen-controlled courts is virtually assured.

Ranariddh's father, constitutional monarch King Norodom Sihanouk, has said

Continued on page 12

Kim appoints close aide chief of intelligence

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — President Kim Dae-jung appointed a close aide as South Korea's intelligence chief Wednesday with orders to overhaul the agency he said once kidnapped and tried to kill him.

Lee Jong-chan, 62, who until recently headed the president's transition team, served at the spy agency during the 1970s, when then strongman Park Chung-hee used it to suppress political dissent.

Despite his background, however, Lee is considered a moderate conservative.

"Because he has firsthand knowledge of the inner workings of the agency, Mr. Lee will be well-positioned to reform the agency and prevent it from meddling in domestic politics," said presidential spokesman Park Ji-won.

During his election campaign, President Kim promised to overhaul the Agency for National Security Planning so that it will focus on its original role of gathering information overseas.

Until the early 1980s, the organization was known as the Korea Central Intelligence Agency.

It was a tool wielded brutally by the country's former military dictators to shadow, kidnap and torture South Korean dissidents. Most observers say it has curbed its previous excesses while still keeping its foot in domestic politics.

Kim had been the agency's most high-profile victim until December's election made him the first opposition leader to take power in South Korea. Fearing he was a threat to South Korea's conservative governments, the agency had painted Kim as a dangerous communist for his campaign for greater human rights during the 1970s and 80s.

In 1973, when Kim was in political exile in Japan, he was kidnapped from a hotel room by KCIA agents. Kim says the agents were stopped by U.S. intervention from drowning him in the Sea of Japan, then released him in Seoul several days later.

Chamber leader on anti-takeover prospects:

'Tough fight ahead'

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE NORTHERN Mariana Islands will have a lot of explaining to do to convince the federal government against the proposed takeover of the Commonwealth's immigration and labor functions.

"It is going to be very difficult," Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Joe C. Ayuyu told reporters yesterday.

Ayuyu said the federal government appears to be really bent on its immigration and minimum wage takeover plans "regardless of what we say."

He said the business community is coming out with a position paper for the March 31 hearing, but disclosed that Chamber members are yet to reach a consensus whether they are for or against the federal takeover of CNMI's labor and immigration.

"We will write a letter for the chairman of the commit-

tee to give the Chamber the opportunity to present its position," Ayuyu said, adding that the takeover have been seen to have serious implications on the CNMI economy.

He said the strong position taken by the US Government is coming now "because in the past, we were not able to correct our own labor problems."

Ayuyu also said there had been a reluctance in the implementation of the proposed minimum wage increase during the previous years.

But he said the business community remains hopeful that the federal government will give the present CNMI administration the chance to correct the islands' labor and immigration problems in the next four years.

The business sector leader said he is predicting a dramatic change in the attitude of business managers in the Northern Marianas on the way businesses are conducted.

"The federal government must also be sensitive on the economic situation of the Commonwealth," Ayuyu said, adding that the CNMI administration has already made a position against the takeover.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has said that his administration is

opposed to the federal takeover of the CNMI's labor and immigration.

He said that though the Chamber have not taken any position on the issue yet, the business sector is hoping to come out with a consensus when the group's members convene next week to discuss the issue.

Ayuyu explained that nonresident workers may initially find the federal takeover attractive because there will be better barracks and higher wages "but there may no longer be nonresident workers to live in the barracks and to receive the salary."

Teno says 902 talks should have preceded US takeover legislation

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

THERE should have been 902 discussions between the CNMI government and the White House prior to the Clinton administration's submission of its "federal takeover" proposal to Congress, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said yesterday.

Now that the US Senate has set a hearing on "federal takeover" legislation, Tenorio said there is no longer a need to discuss labor and immigration issues with the White House.

President Clinton's 902 representative, Edward B. Cohen, has said that the 902 discussions should be on the extension of federal minimum wage and immigration laws to the islands.

But, according to the governor, "I don't know why we should still discuss it when they've already submitted a bill to Congress."

Cohen is deputy solicitor of the US Interior Department, which has been the lead federal agency urging for a federal takeover.

Tenorio said the 902 talks are still important in establishing better relations with the federal government, but added that the CNMI 902 panel



Pedro P. Tenorio

will raise other issues when discussions are resumed.

The governor said he will leave it to the CNMI's five-man panel to decide on what issues to raise.

It was the previous administration that suspended the 902 talks shortly after President Clinton, in May 1997, recommended an end to the CNMI's control over its immigration and minimum wage.

Then governor Froilan C. Tenorio branded the talks "useless," citing the President's announcement, which he

said was made without consulting the CNMI through the 902 process.

Prior to the suspension of the talks, there were three items on the 902 agenda:

- As requested by the previous administration, Cohen evaluated the effectiveness of the office of the CNMI resident representative, and presented a report for consideration by the 1995 Constitutional Convention.

- A proposal from the White House clarifying that the first three miles of submerged lands surrounding the CNMI are owned and controlled by the commonwealth.

- A proposal from the CNMI that would have imposed restrictions on the granting of US citizenship to children born to non-residents.

Businessman hurt in stabbing

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

A BUSINESSMAN was allegedly stabbed and seriously wounded at his residence on Tinian Tuesday night.

The Variety gathered that the victim identified only as Mr. Lee, owner of a construction firm, suffered multiple stab wounds to the different parts of the body. He was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center.

Mr. Lee was allegedly found by a friend lying in a pool of blood at his house in San Jose Village.

Sketchy information showed that unidentified men attacked the victim.

Unconfirmed information had it that the businessman was assaulted by a group of construction workers.

The case was placed under further investigation.

In another report, former senator Jose P. Mafnas sought police's assistance after a man allegedly played poker at his Liberty Game Room in San Antonio with bouncing checks worth \$1,300.

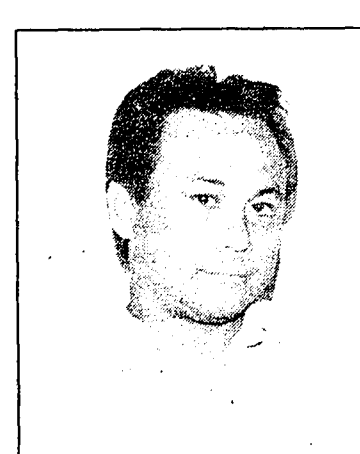
Mafnas said the man promised him to pay cash after he informed him he had no money in the bank. The suspect, however, failed to pay.

No arrest was made yet.

At Garapan Elementary School, two 12-year-old male students were caught for allegedly smoking marijuana in the campus Tuesday afternoon.

In another case, a 12-year-old boy was arrested for allegedly shoplifting a pouch at Townhouse in Chalan Kanoa Tuesday morning.

VAO awaits DPL action on veterans cemetery



Joe Palacios

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE VETERANS Affairs Office of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs said that it is only awaiting the action of the Division of Public Lands so that the design for the State Veterans Project can finally be amended.

VAO Director Joe Palacios said the SSFM Engineers, Inc.

Continued on page 9

RP to continue own health regs

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE PHILIPPINES is not doing away with its own health screening requirements for all Northern Marianas-bound Filipino workers, it was disclosed yesterday.

RP Vice Consul Ronell Santos said health screening procedures like chest X-ray and blood tests against HIV infection have always been a policy enforced by the Philippine Department of Labor and Employment [DOLE]

among all overseas-bound workers.

"We cannot do away with that," Santos told Variety, while adding that Filipino workers are still subject to other medical examinations depending on the regulations enforced by the host country.

The Philippine government, he said, makes it sure that all out-bound Filipino workers have been

Continued on page 28

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

JACK ANDERSON and JAN WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Memo's tone suggests a lawyer's hand

AT the heart of the current Clinton scandal are two simple questions, which have little to do with what Monica Lewinsky and President Clinton may have done behind closed doors in the Oval Office.

Did the president tell the truth? And did he — or any of his subordinates — encourage others to lie?

President Clinton isn't talking, and neither, so far, is Lewinsky — though she apparently had plenty to say to former friend Linda Tripp. So we are left to judge this administration by the few clues that have been provided, chief among which is the so-called "talking points" memo, which was given to Linda Tripp by Monica Lewinsky before Tripp's deposition in the Paula Jones case.

Some of the talking points suggest the work of an experienced legal mind, not a former White House intern who refers to her old boss as the "creep." Could it be that Lewinsky, who supposedly gave the three-page document to Tripp, had help in preparing its contents?

If so, it wouldn't be the first time White House higher-ups got involved in "coaching" subordinates under fire.

We take you back to a now-forgotten episode in Clinton scandal lore, the Filegate affair of 1996. Beefy, blustery Craig Livingstone, who had worked as a prankster on Clinton's 1992 campaign, found himself charged with directing security at the Clinton White House. In this job, Livingstone promptly requested and received 900 FBI files on Republican officials who once had held White House security clearance.

The list included such notable names as former Secretary of State James Baker and former Press Secretary Marlin Fitzwater. Yet the files languished in the White House for months before they were returned to the FBI.

Embarrassed, the administration — and Livingstone — explained it away as a bureaucratic snafu. An accident.

Under oath, Livingstone said that the files of George and Barbara Bush, Dan and Marilyn Quayle as well as hundreds of other former officials FBI files were mistakenly requested by referencing an outdated Secret Service list.

But the testimony of a young intern, Mari Anderson, who worked for Livingstone early in Clinton's first term, contradicts Livingstone's claim.

Anderson told a Senate committee, under oath, that Livingstone was well aware that files for long-gone GOP officials were being requested and received. Livingstone and others even cracked jokes about it, she said.

More notably, Anderson says she remembers making entries into a log that was kept on the files during the period between March 29 and Sept. 21, 1994 — the pages from which are still missing. Livingstone has said no records were kept of the files during that period.

Files continued to be improperly dispatched to the security office until Livingstone resigned in 1996 amid a firestorm of Republican indignation.

The testimony prompted Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, chairman of the Judiciary Committee that initially handled the investigation, to note that Anderson "appear(s) to be the one person the White House has not been able to reach prior to our interviewing her."

Another young White House worker, Lisa Wetzel, revealed to Judiciary investigators that the White House did reach her before her hearing. Wetzel said that prior to her hearing, she was interviewed and coached for hours by White House lawyers. After the hearing, she was debriefed by the same lawyers.

That's not how things always worked. In 1996, our associate Kathryn Wallace spoke with a woman who worked in the security office during the Bush administration.

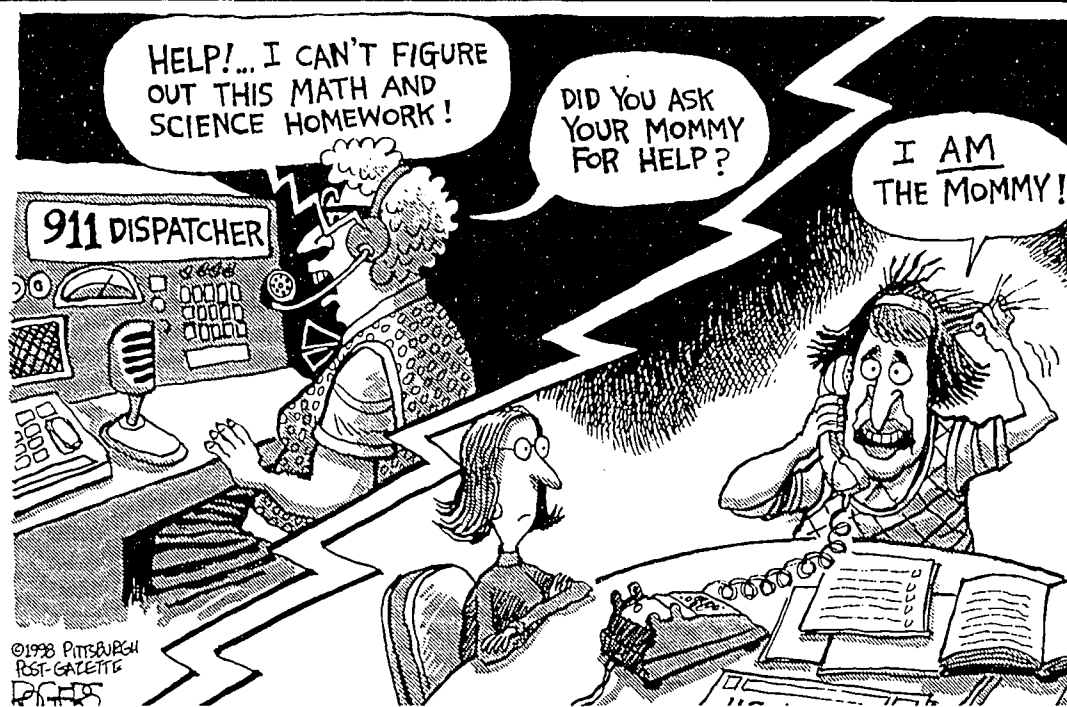
The former staffer wouldn't be quoted by name, but told of an instance when she was deposed by congressional investigators on a long-forgotten issue. But when this worker approached officials in the White House counsel's office for advice, she was rebuffed. They explained that it was improper to interfere with testimony or with an ongoing investigation.

It is possible, of course, that Monica Lewinsky drew up the talking points by herself, without any help or consultation from above. She has been quoted in one of the infamous tapes saying she's "lied all (her) life," so it's not too far-fetched to think that she might have drawn up a blueprint for someone else to do the same.

But if Filegate is any indication, it should come as no surprise to anyone if the infamous "talking points" turn out to be the work of someone other than Lewinsky.

The more things change in this scandal-ridden White House, the more they stay the same.

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END MERRY-GO-ROUND 2-20-98



STRIKE THAT!
By Ferdie P. de la Torre

Boy's nightmare at daycare

SCOTT Waddell noticed a drastic change in his three-year-old son's behavior when he dropped him off at a daycare center one day in August. The boy did not want him to leave the daycare.

In the ensuing days, the boy would hold onto him tightly. The boy refused to enter the daycare. Then he started crying when father told him he had to leave. Waddell asked the boy what was wrong. The boy replied: "I'm afraid, Daddy...I'm afraid of the teachers....please don't leave!"

Waddell then turned him over to his wife and went to the car where he waited for her. Eventually his wife came down carrying their son a daycare attendant trailing them.

They went to a nearby appliance store to try to comfort the boy. When they came out after a few minutes, the child was still very upset and did not want to leave his mother's arms. As the couple were getting late for work, the mother handed her son to the daycare worker.

The boy was screaming his head off, trying to get away from the daycare worker. He climbed the guard wall on the second floor, screaming, begging his parents not to leave.

The couple later went back to the center because they sensed something wrong. At the center, they saw the boy sitting in the corner of the room with one of the daycare workers talking to him, apparently still trying to calm him down.

When the boy saw his father he ran to him. They all decided to go home. To calm down the boy, Waddell promised they would not take him to the center anymore.

Later Waddell couple learned why their son was scared to stay in the center from their seven-year-old daughter who told them that some daycare personnel scared the boy with a needle if he misbehaved. The girl said the daycare workers chased her brother with a needle, threatening to inject him.

The girl said her terrified brother would hide behind her but that the teachers would yell at her to stay away from him. She said one time a teacher chased the boy with a hypodermic needle. The boy screamed and ran away.

One time at an unholy hour when the boy was still awake, he hugged his mother and said: "Don't bring me back to the daycare anymore...OK mommy?" His sister was terrified too. She felt guilty that she could not help her brother.

Waddell filed a child abuse complaint against the center at the Department of Public Safety. A social worker at the Division of Youth Services stated that the allegations were bad enough and decided to make her own probe.

Last Sept. 18 Waddell received a call from a DPS investigator, requesting another interview from the girl. The investigator stated that the officer who took the original complaint resigned and no report was written. Thus, a second interview was arranged.

Waddell, however, was surprised when the social worker told him that DYS dropped out of the case since Waddell's kid appeared to be fine. DYS allegedly closing the case from its side. The social worker told Waddell that DPS referred the case to the Attorney General's Office for evaluation as to whether to prosecute the case.

Waddell contacted AGO only to find out the agency had never heard of the case. Last Nov. 25 Waddell was told that the police investigator in charge was on vacation. He was told that a supervisor would call him. Waddell never received a call. The following month, he called DPS and was again promised that a supervisor would call him. Again, he didn't get the call.

The boy's traumatic experience in the daycare center needs immediate investigation as it may open up unreported cases. If there is no strong evidence against the center, then the boy's parents need not wait in uncertainty. Paging acting DCCA Secretary Eloise Furey and new DPS Commissioner Charles Ingram! Will you kindly take a look at the boy's case? We cannot wait and afford to see needle-wielding teachers chasing more kids.

A SUPERIOR Court employee was cleaning his eyeglasses with a piece of cotton, but he didn't notice that the cotton got stuck on the right pair of eyeglasses. When the employee was wearing the eyeglasses, he was surprised at seeing "clouds" all over the court. Bothered, the employee went to the clerk of court's office. But still, he saw "clouds." He looked at the documents and was shocked seeing "clouds" on the papers. "What is happening to the world?" he asked himself. The employee's misery ended only when another employee saw his eyeglasses and asked him why he put cotton on it. Relieved, the employee said: "Oh my God, that's why I saw cotton all over. Lucky I did not enter the courtroom or else I would have seen 'heavenly clouds' on Judge Castro's head."

House panel mulls 902 input

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

THE HOUSE Committee on Federal and Foreign Relations vowed to take an active role in the 902 consultation process by contributing its own report and recommendations to the CNMI's panel.

Committee Chairman, Rep. Melvin O. Faisao said committee members at Tuesday's meeting agreed to come up with an official "position statement" relating to immigration issues, as well as the Clinton Administration's proposal to levy tariff on garment exports to the United States.

The "position statement," Faisao said, would be contained in a report that will be submitted to the Legislative body for approval.

Two bills now pending in US Congress seek to extend immigration and minimum wage laws



Melvin O. Faisao

in the CNMI. The bills, one filed by Sen. Daniel Akaka, and the other proposed by President Clinton, also seek to scrap the CNMI's privilege to use the "Made in USA" label.

Faisao said the CNMI is not challenging the power of Congress to take over the control of immigration, but local leaders



Jesus P. Sablan

would try to convince Congress that "such proposal would kill the CNMI's economic progress."

"Coordination is a must as we have already started addressing crucial issues directly to U.S. Congress in the form of a resolution," Faisao said.

The House of Representatives earlier adopted a resolution urg-

ing US Congress "not to entertain" the Clinton Administration's tariff proposal.

The CNMI's 902 panel, headed by Lt. Gov. Jesus P. Sablan, is gearing up for the talks.

"One of my major concern was the need to agree on a method to coordinate this committee's tasks with the 902 consultation process so that our position and strategies will be united when presented to the federal government," Faisao

said.

"There is nothing that would preclude this committee from seeking the assistance of the lobbyists in Washington hired by our government to continue to coordinate with us on all critical legislation now pending with the US Congress that would affect the CNMI," Faisao said.

"We intend to do this concurrently."

DOI's FAS stand baffles Teno

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio said Tuesday he was baffled by the Department of the Interior's recommendation on regulating the entry of Micronesians citizens into the CNMI.

"The U.S. government said we should allow Micronesians to enter the CNMI, and now they're saying we should regulate their entry into Commonwealth," Tenorio said in an interview.

"I'm afraid we may be violating the Compacts [of Free Association] if we impose restrictions," the Governor added.

The DOI in its 1998 report on Compact impact reminded the CNMI it had the authority to impose a one-year limit on the stay of certain Micronesians entering the CNMI, saying the Compacts did not give them the right to establish "habitual resi-

dency" in the any of the U.S. territories.

"Until we get clarifications from the DOI, we would not issue any regulations or else they might accuse us of violating the Compacts," Tenorio said.

The Immigration and Naturalization Services (INS) is expected to issue soon the regulations to limit the stay of certain Micronesians who enter the CNMI and Guam by virtue of the Compacts.

DOI's Office of Insular Affairs has said the INS regulations are now "in the final review stage."

The Compacts permit citizens of freely associated states—Palau, Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia—to enter, work, and "establish residence as non-immigrant in the United States and its territo-

ries."

DOI said these migrants are not considered immigrants "because they are not given the right to immigrate," and therefore they cannot establish "habitual residence" in a territory or possession of the US.

They may be subjected to "nondiscriminatory limitations," DOI said.

The Compacts defined "habitual residence" to exclude "residence of any person who entered the United States for the purpose of full-time studies... or who has been physically present in the United States... for less than one year."

SC positions still vacant



Ramon G. Villagomez

Pedro M. Atalig

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

THE Supreme Court is still awaiting appointments for the positions vacated by Associate Justices Pedro M. Atalig and Ramon G. Villagomez who both retired last December.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio told reporters yesterday that at least six potential candidates are being considered for the two positions, but he said he won't make a decision until he gets recommendations from the legal community.

The Governor won't iden-

tify the six candidates.

Superior Court Presiding Judge Alexandro Castro and Associate Judge Miguel Demapan are among the prominent names that float as possible nominees.

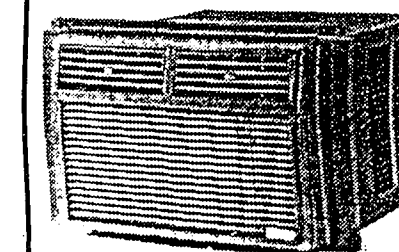
Sources at the court earlier told the Variety that Associate Judge Edward Manibusan is likely to replace Castro.

While declining to confirm the possible nomination of Castro and Demapan, Tenorio said he may have to come out with more names to include nominees for the Superior Court in case the appointments to the Supreme Court would be plucked from them.

The Governor said he will meet with members of the Senate, the Bar Association, CNMI lawyers "to gather input from them."

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I&S will stop work for CNMI this week

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

WITHOUT a "go-ahead" signal from the CNMI government, I&S will cease all its promotional work for the Northern Marianas by the end of this week, it was learned.

There are, however, cancellations fees involved if the Tokyo-based advertising agency stops its promotional work for which it hasn't been paid since Oct. 1997.

Despite the absence of a signed contract for the last five months, I&S has been paying for all the promotional work it has been doing in Japan for the CNMI.

The administration, moreover, has yet to decide whether to sign I&S's \$3.5 million contract with the Marianas Visitors Bureau (MVB).

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has said he will consult with the Attorney General Office (AGO), which has a "cease and desist" position on the contract.

But the governor yesterday said that regardless of the eventual decision on I&S, the CNMI should continue attracting Japanese tourists, who comprise the bulk of the islands' visitors.

Assistant Attorney General Mark Williams has advised I&S that the

position of AGO and the CNMI government on the contract has not changed since Jan. 30, when AGO told I&S to stop its promotional work for the Northern Marianas.

He said the proposed contract has not been signed and is therefore not legally binding on the CNMI government.

In its reply to Williams, a copy of which was furnished to AGO, MVB, and the Office of the Governor, I&S said its promotional work for the CNMI can not be canceled without paying cancellation fees.

Because MVB gave I&S the "go-ahead signal" as early as September of last year, the agency has already reserved slots in selected Japanese media outlets, I&S said.

Thus, even if the CNMI government cancels I&S promotional activities, I&S already has obligations to the media outlets, which I&S has to pay.

If MVB cancels, I&S said, MVB would lose all privileges from Japanese media and airlines which I&S worked to achieve for the CNMI.

I&S's promotional work for the CNMI is believed to have contributed to the 40 percent increase in the islands' tourism during the past six years.

Displaced Bangladeshis ask help from governor

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE CLOSE to 60 employees of a local guard duty firm who have complained of alleged labor violations were given until May 27 to secure employment or face repatriation.

Linn Asper, head of the Department of Labor and Immigration's Administrative Hearing Office, issued the order after the workers' employer, Borja Security Services, did not show up in Tuesday's hearing of the complaint.

Declaring a default against BSS, Asper likewise directed Joseph Ada, Labor Investigator handling the case, to present, by March 31, computations on fines that may be imposed against BSS.

Asper had issued an earlier order barring BSS from further hiring non-resident workers.

Meantime, the Bangladeshi workers, feeling they will be sent home without getting their money claims, sought audience with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio who was then on official tour of the department.

Tenorio was briefed on the status of DOLI's Labor and Immigration Information and Documentation Sys-



Pedro P. Tenorio

tem, a computerized database.

Visibly dismayed, the governor asked for apologies and gave assurances as the workers, jobless over the past several months, tried to persuade him into addressing their plight.

"I'm sorry about this thing happening to many of you," said Tenorio.

"The government really feel sad about this. We will try our best," he added.

DOLI, upon arriving at computations of the fines against BSS, will issue an order asking the latter to pay the workers whatever amount was arrived at.

The order, however, may be ap-

pealed to acting DOLI Secretary Mark Zachares, and may even be pursued before the courts in case the latter upheld it.

DOLI can also refer the case to the Attorney General's Office in case BSS declares it does not have the money to pay.

The AGO, for its part, can pursue the matter also before the courts.

The process takes several months to complete.

"DOLI can do nothing if the employer says he has no money. We may be sent home without our money," said the workers told Tenorio through their spokesperson, Mohammed Serajul Islam.

The workers were part of the 40 Bangladeshis who marched from Susupe to the US labor department's office in Garapan late last year to seek assistance.

They have claimed that DOLI has been "ineffective."

A number of their compatriots have filed complaints against Borja last year.

DOLI issued a ruling, directing Borja to pay them back. The workers reportedly did not get a cent.

Retrenched RP workers prefer to stay in CNMI

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

JUN, a 28-year-old travel agent, is one of the many retrenched Filipino workers in the Northern Mariana Islands who do not want to return to the Philippines.

In fact, the Philippine Labor Office here said there are hundreds of Filipino workers like Jun who prefer to stay on the island despite the closure of their previous offices due to the economic slump.

Lawyer Araceli Maraya, Philippine labor attache, said her office has been receiving numerous requests from laid off Filipino workers who want to continue their stay on the island and look for another employer.

"We are helping them facilitate their transfer to other companies which are in need of employees," Maraya told Variety.

But she promptly added that the facilitation of transfer papers will be extended only to workers whose entry permits are still valid.

The Philippine Consulate is trying to come up with an arrangement with the Department of Labor and Immigration (DOLI) to allow retrenched OFWs to scout for another employment provided their entry permits are still valid.

Many laid off Filipinos have been asking the RP labor office to help facilitate their transfer to another firm, according to Maraya.

She said most of the retrenched workers are apparently do not like to return to the Philippines, because of the present economic situation in the country. Reports claimed thousands of workers in the Philippines have been either laid off or furloughed due to the financial crisis.

Maraya said there have been incidents of abandonment of Filipino and other nonresident workers by some employers who were forced to shut down.

She said that the closure of several businesses on the island has impacted the number of abandoned Filipino workers and the number of OFWs being hired for employment in the Northern Marianas.

But she noted that a large number of workers who come to her office for the facilitation of their transfer papers have already found second employers.

"It (transfer) has to be documented," she said, adding that her office is particularly receiving several requests from Filipino workers who were hired by manpower agencies.

The Philippine labor office has reported that it is processing fewer employment contracts as a result of the slumping CNMI economy. The volume of new hiring contracts processed by the office has dwindled by 30 percent.

Guam's Coral Reef panel to convene

AGANA, Guam—The Guam Coral Reef Initiative Policy Advisory Committee is meeting this week to discuss among other things the draft Coral Reef Protection bill, the Guam Governor's Office announced.

The committee will also seek ways to address the damage to reefs brought about by typhoon Paka.

Gov. Carl T. C. Gutierrez had established the committee to preserve and protect Guam's coral reefs.

"Guam's coral reefs are the lifeblood of our island. Without coral reefs the fish would die along with much of our island's beauty and its attraction to visitors," Gutierrez said.

"Our visitors come to Guam because of our natural beauty, white sandy beaches and colorful, vibrant waters," he added, warning that "the loss of our reefs would also see the loss of fishing, one of our island's oldest sports and traditions."

The yet-to-be finalized Coral Reef Protection Bill seeks to prohibit the collection of coral and reef rock within Guam's Coastal Boundaries.

The bill sets a schedule of fees for damage to coral reefs with offenders paying as much as \$1,000.00 per square meter of reef area damaged.

The bill would also make the use of vehicles in Guam's Coastal Boundaries, including the beach area 10 meters inland, unlawful for sea turtle nest protection.

It will likewise establish a reef restoration and preservation fund for the purpose of restoration of damaged reef areas.

Among Guam's coral reef initiative projects and programs is the "Village to Village Education Road Show" which proposes to develop material for presentation during village meetings, particularly in small, more traditional villages where daily utilization and reliance on the reef is the strongest.

The project will concentrate on public education of reef function, geology, health, stress, and ways which we can all contribute to the

Continued on page 28

Susupe multi-purpose center named after current governor under '95 law

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

A LOCAL law signed by then governor Froilan C. Tenorio named the multi-purpose center in Susupe after the man who would later frustrate his reelection bid, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

The governor's acting spokesperson, Frank S. Rosario, yesterday said the local law was signed on May 12, 1995.

Sponsors of the local bill, which was enacted by the Saipan Legislative Delegation on March 16, 1995, include then Governor minority leader Vicente T. Attao (D-Prec. 1), then majority leader Jesus T. Attao (R-Prec. 3), Oscar M. Babauta (R-Prec. 2), Ramon C. Dela Cruz (D-Prec. 1), Heinz S. Hofschneider (Ind.-Prec. 3), Mametto U. Maratita (D-Prec. 1), Alvaro A. Santos (D-Prec. 4) and Stanley T. Torres (Ind.-Prec. 3).

Asked yesterday if he, in turn,



Pedro P. Tenorio

would name the Beach road pathway after his predecessor, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio quipped that he might ask joggers to join a "Name that Pathway Contest."

At the same time, the governor said he has met with a private sector group willing to improve and clean up the pathway, which he described as a "good project."

"I'm very happy that this administration is working closely with the private sector," he said.



Froilan C. Tenorio

Construction for the pathway, which stretches from Kilili beach to South Garapan, started in May 1997, and was scheduled to be completed last January.

Construction, however, is still ongoing.

The Northern Marianas Housing Corp. applied for \$900,000 pathway project, which is mostly funded by federal Community Development Block Grant.

DOC reviews data from LIIDS

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT of Commerce is reviewing the Department of Labor and Immigration's preliminary figure on the number of nonresident workers issued permits last fiscal year.

"Commerce (department) is looking at that number and adjusting it for different reasons," said Joyce Lignell, Project Direc-

tor of DOLI's Labor and Immigration Information and Documentation System (LIIDS).

Lignell said this is being done to break the data down according to workers who were issued permits but were currently employed through temporary work permits and those who actually have been repatriated or deported.


The move, Lignell explained, will provide a more accurate pic-

ture of the CNMI's labor front.

It is also seen to give needed data support on placement firms which have continuously been involved in sham recruitment activities.

LIIDS, a computerized database system on worker-related data was developed as a "prototype" in 1995.

Continued on page 28



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LIIDS program may have to be downsized

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Immigration's computerized database and tracking program may have to be downsized due to financial constraints.

The Labor and Immigration Information and Documentation System (LIIDS) which was developed as a "prototype" in 1995 was conceived to evolve into a program that will enable stricter control of incoming workers.

It is also designed for a more accurate identification of overstayers and illegally employed individuals, and swift interaction between concerned government agencies working on labor and immigration-related cases.

"If this administration wants LIIDS but can't afford to... (spend) \$6 million over the course of the next two years, then we have to find a way to scale things down to make it functional as a tracking system, as a control program."

"Maybe with not all the parts and pieces that we require," said Joyce Lignell, LIIDS Project Manager, in an interview.

"What we would not develop will have to be carefully thought out."

Lignell said the program had a \$1.5 million appropriated budget in 1995.

Thus far, she said, the program has spent \$1.3 million for installation of needed components, including a physical base and security, and operation.

Lignell estimated that government will have needed at least \$6 million by the year 2000 to keep the program functional.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and other government officials toured

Continued on page 28



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MARCH 31st 1998 FACE TO FACE TOKYO DOME, JAPAN

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LIVE MUSIC MARCH 20th

AROUND the Islands

The Around the Islands section covers community stories, local events, and cultural activities. Should you have a story you would like to share, or an event that needs to be covered, contact Laila at 234-6341

DFS 'adopts' WSR first grade, donates air-cons

By Laila C. Younis
Variety News Staff

IT has been a long wait for the first graders at William S. Reyes

Elementary School, but now Duty Free Shoppers Ltd. by "adopting" the entire grade level, will provide air-conditioners and supplies

for all their classrooms.

According to WSR Principal Maria Pangelinan, the generous gesture of the DFS is "a first for the school" for a company to get involved in the educational process by "adopting" a class or grade level.

"We were so thrilled when we heard of DFS's kind contribution. The students do need the air-conditioning and classroom supplies. The kindergarten and the first grade really needed the help," said Pangelinan.

"DFS donated \$19,600 and from those funds we can buy 10 air-conditioners for the first grade and kindergarten classes. The remaining of the funds will go to classroom supplies and materi-

als," she said.

But DFS, a long-time community friend, did not stop there. Pangelinan also noted that the company donated two sets of playground equipment.

"We are in the process of setting up the playground equipment. Solid Builders, a local company, will be donating manufactured sand and the Mayor's Office will help us with construction," said Pangelinan.

"Also, we are trying to get the best bid for the air-cons, and electrical installation. We also hope there will be a company that will offer reasonable costs," she said.

"We have formed a task force from the school to look into the best deal we can get. We are also

considering going out to the private sector and start the concept of adopting a class or grade level," she added.

Pangelinan noted that the idea for "corporate sponsorship" came from the "innovative thinking of the WSR first grade teachers".

"The teachers were the ones who went out and asked for support. They worked hard to get the help they needed for their students and their classrooms," said Pangelinan.

"The WSR Parent/Teacher Association also has been very active in getting the new program started and we have been successful with our recent fundraising's for the school," she said.



WSR First graders gather in front of one of their classrooms soon to receive air-conditioning from DFS Ltd. Joining the WSR teachers are principal Maria Pangelinan (left) and WSR PTA President John Guerrero (center). Photo by Laila C. Younis

I Taotaota to take on Women's issues

PROGRAMAN I Taotaota is featuring the First Lady's Vision: Healthy Women, Healthy Families, Strong Community with Dr. Taro-Atalig and Chai Ayuyu from Public Health, and Marian Tudela, Director of Women's Affairs, on tonight's live show on Marianas Cable Vision (MCV) hosted by Frances M. Sablan.

Join us tonight in discussing

women's health and issues, the presentations and activities for the March 7, 1998 conference, the important role women play in our CNMI community, and more.

Please tune in to Programan I Taotaota tonight on channel 7 at 7 p.m. and call the MCV studio tonight at 235-6382, 3 or 4 to comment on the topic and/or ask questions.



Students from Oleai Elementary School search for soil samples, flowers and insects during their Science Exploration Day on Monday. Photo by Priscilla T. Castro

Hyatt to name camper of the month

CAMP HYATT located inside the Hyatt Regency will be offering scholarships to its Daily Camp Hyatt Program.

Eligible kids are encouraged to apply. Each month a new student will be named and will receive a free month of Daily Camp Hyatt.

Application Forms have been sent to all the schools and are also available at Club Elan Fitness Centre (inside the Hyatt) and at Lollipops.

Applicants for April should have their applications completed and turned into Club Elan Fitness Centre by 5:00 p.m. Friday March 13.

The Daily Camp Hyatt program runs from 12:30 to 5:00 Monday to Friday. It is designed for children between the ages of 4 and 10.

It features activities such as gardening, cooking, swimming lessons, Japanese lan-

guage lessons, arts and crafts, sports, and more.

Local children are mixed in with children staying at the hotel, making the experience truly international.

Program Director Krista Ruchaber says, "Our scholarship program is designed to give something back to the community."

Each month we will be able to expose one child to some great experiences.

We have built our new camp around the success of our traditional Summer Camp Hyatt. We have designed an experience that is perfect for after school or those just about to start school. It isn't like normal child care, it is child development."

For more information about Daily Camp Hyatt, or for more information about the scholarships available, please call the Hyatt at 234-1234.



AROUND the Islands

The Around the Islands section covers community stories, local events, and cultural activities. Should you have a story you would like to share, or an event that needs to be covered, contact Laila at 234-6341

1998 Saipan Super Show slated

THE LONG awaited debut of The Super Show will be on May 25th, Memorial Day organizers of the event said.

The 1998 Saipan Super Show will feature the latest factory automobiles by Saipan Auto Dealers, custom cars created and built by local car owners, a selection of motorcycles, including live local entertainment a Sound Off Competition, Hydraulic Exhibition, and more.

"It's something that's not been done yet and we're very excited," said Curtis Dancos, Power 99 Station Manager.

There will be a total of eight categories on display consisting of Lowrider Mini Trucks, Lowrider cars, Euro Class Cars, Classic Cars & Trucks, 4X4 Trucks, Motorcycles, Lowrider Bicycles and a special Non-Competition category for car enthusiasts that would like to be part of the show.

There is a \$25.00 registration fee due.

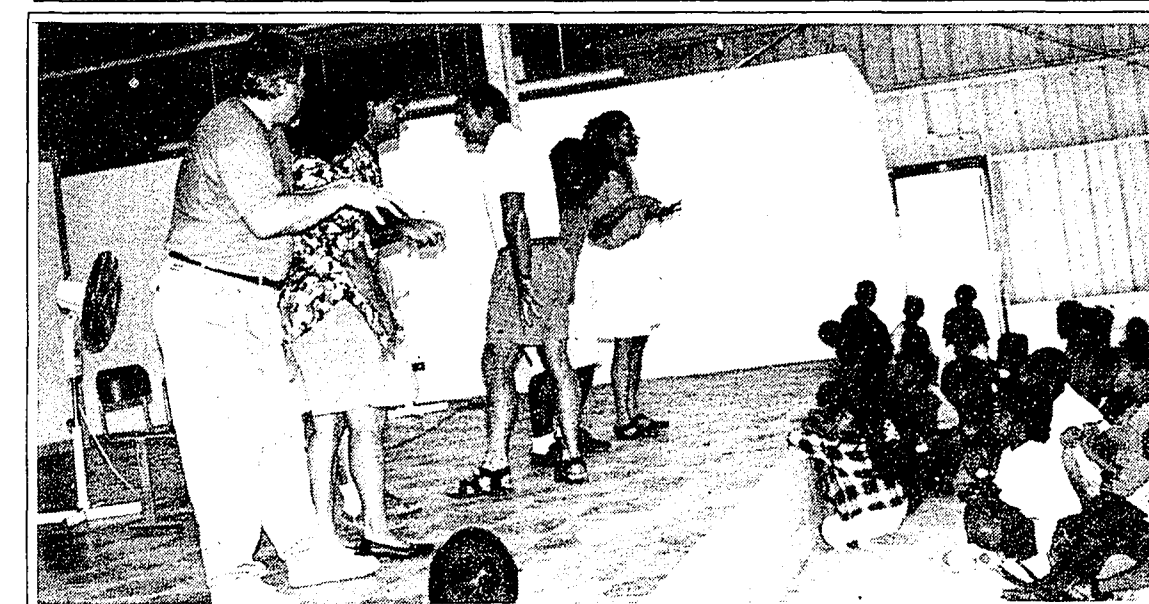
Super Show trophies will be awarded to first and second place and Super Show plaques will be awarded to third place in all categories excluding the non-comp category.

A sound-off competition will also be held where car owners that pack a powerful punch of noise thru their car stereo will be able to compete in a (SPL) sound pressure level contest.

Prizes will be awarded in their respective wattage class.

The 1998 Saipan Super Show is presented by Budweiser and is open to the public for free.

Sponsors of the 1998 Saipan Super Show will feature their products and services relating to the auto industry, including food booths and local entertainment.



'Poetry Alive!' performers Rodney Bowling (far left) and Hedy Fischer (far right) together with WSR teacher volunteers act out a funny poem for WSR students yesterday.

'Poetry Alive!' shows are on

By Laila C. Younis

Variety News Staff

WHO EVER thought poetry could come alive on stage, words jumping out of a page and into lively characters?

Well, students and teachers here may have to look at poetry a little differently now thanks to two dynamic performers turning poetry into a dramatic show.

"Poetry Alive!" Rodney Bowling and Hedy Fischer are hitting stages at different schools and are conducting workshops for teachers and mentors at the Joeten-Kiyu Library from March 4-6th.

"The notion with poetry is that it tends to be boring and children might not like it. The show offers a different way of looking at poetry," said Bowling.

"We work with poetry that can be found in the children's books and rather than just reading it, have the children interact with it," he said.

"It is not a way to replace traditional teaching, but to offer another way to present literature. And the children love acting it out," he added.

"We are also here to work with teachers on how they can bring this to their classrooms. We'll show how to transform poetry into an active learning tool," said Fischer.

"The level of poetry depends on our audience. We'll work with high school level poetry with high school students and another set of literature for college students," she said.

According to Bowling, "Poetry Alive!", is a company based in North Carolina that sends duo teams across the mainland and abroad doing over 2,000 performances a year.

"We have been going since 1984 and we have reached close to 5 million people. Our only rule is to stick to the words of the poems, but we get creative with our characters," said Fischer.

The International Reading Association sponsored "Poetry Alive!" through the "Fund for Improvement of Secondary Education" provided by the Northern Marianas College School of Education. All performances are free, and for more information, contact 235-2974.

Keep Saipan Clean & Beautiful

GES Kinder registration

GARAPAN Elementary School will be starting Kindergarten registration for school year 1998-99 on March 9 until May 1, 1998 from 8 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.

Registration will be held at the Counselor's Office at Garapan Elementary School.

Requirements are as follows:

- Birth Certificate
 - Health Insurance Policy
 - The child must be five years of age before and by August 31, 1998.
- The school will accept students that are residing in Garapan, China town, Gualo Rai, Upper and Lower Navy Hill, Puerto Rico and Sadog Tasi.

VAO . . .

Continued from page 3

capacity of 300 burials and crypt interments.

The CNMI Veterans Cemetery Committee's plans is to accommodate an additional 800 burial sites for both current and future veterans and possibly their families.

Palacios said they have to make amendments to reduce the cost because the US DVA

has found the project, which will cost between \$4 million to \$5 million, too expensive.

Palacios said Congressman David M. Apatang is writing a letter urging the Board of Public Lands to provide additional land to meet the demands of US DVA.

The director said in his recent meeting with Gov. Pedro Tenorio, the chief executive expressed strong support with the cemetery project.



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The music starts at 10PM!

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Leave hungry, shame on us.

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Elsewhere in the Pacific

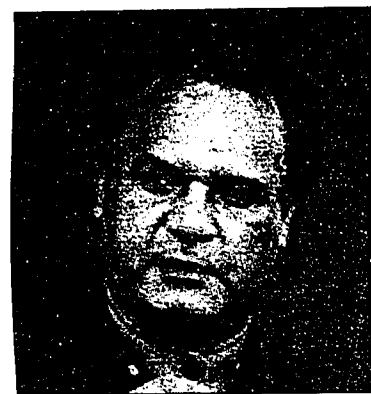
Radical amendments to PNG Constitution sought

CANBERRA (Pacnews)—Papua New Guinea's prime minister, Bill Skate, used a national television address Monday to propose radical changes to the country's constitution.

The proposal aims at abolishing parliament's power to remove a Prime Minister through a no-confidence motion.

Instead, dismissal powers would be vested in a six member government caucus committee, which would include the Prime Minister.

In his address, extracts of which were shown on Australian television, Skate said the changes were necessary for stable government



Bill Skate

and to build investor confidence in PNG.

The PNG Opposition has described the proposal as undemo-

cratic and dictatorial.

Opposition Leader Bernard Narakobi said that Skate was simply trying to ensure his hold on office and the changes would spell an end to democracy in PNG.

However, Skate says the move is in the interest of stability of government, NOT personal power.

"There are some people who will say this change is being proposed so I can protect my position as Prime Minister. This is NOT true. If this change is passed in parliament, the government caucus would be able to remove me as Prime Minister at any time they feel I am NOT performing", he said.

Australia gov't still mulling Fiji request

CANBERRA (Pacnews)—Australian government departments are still considering a request by Fiji to relax the rules of the SPARTECA trade agreement.

In January, a delegation of Fiji government ministers visited Canberra to seek relaxation of the rules to help Fiji cope with the impact of its decision to devalue the Fijian dollar by 20 per cent.

The delegation specifically asked for a 10 per cent reduction of the rule of origin provision in

the SPARTECA agreement.

Goods in Fiji now get duty free access to Australia if they contain at least 50 per cent locally-made materials.

Fiji wants that reduced to 40 per cent Australian trade and industry officials have been considering the request but to date there has been no response.

A spokesman for the Fiji High Commission in Canberra told Pacnews it was hoped a decision would be made by the end of March.

New vaccine for dengue

NUKU'ALOFA (Pacnews)—The World Health Organisation has reported a new vaccine against the dengue fever which is currently affecting some Pacific countries.

WHO says Thailand scientists have developed the world's first successful vaccine after a 10 year WHO funded research effort at Thailand's Mahachulalongkornrajavidyalaya University.

WHO officials say efforts are now being made to arrange for the vaccine to be produced commercially.

Islanders face water shortage

TARAWA (Pacnews)—Kiribati's former rich phosphate island of Banaba, that never run out of water during the mining era, is experiencing acute water shortage.

The huge water reservoirs and the water system on the island are leaking and no longer working, Radio Kiribati reports.

Following repeated requests from the islanders, government is assign-

ing water engineers from the Ministry of Works and Energy and two water consultants from SOPAC in Fiji to inspect the system.

They are to carry out a feasibility study for the best method to provide regular water to the people.

The islanders are meanwhile getting their water from the caves in drought periods.

Vanuatu general elections Friday

PORT VILA (Pacnews)—It's days to go before the general elections in Vanuatu, and the 220 candidates contesting the elections are winding up their campaigns.

Election day Friday March 6 has been declared a national public holiday by the head of state, President Jean Marie Leye.

The minister of home affairs, Robert Karie, has announced a ban on the sale of liquor during the election period - beginning midday today to Saturday morning.

The two Commonwealth representatives now in Vanuatu to observe the elections, Kosi Latu and Doctor Michelle Forster, have begun meeting the different political leaders and government officials.

Over 113,000 registered voters will cast ballots in this election for the new 52-seat parliament.

University of South Pacific receives aid from Canada

SUVA (Pacnews)—The University of the South Pacific has received a total of F\$2.2 million (\$US1.1m) from the Canadian government to fund scholarships for postgraduate research and projects in marine studies.

Nine students have been awarded scholarships this year, 8 to do Master degree studies and one for a Doctor of Philosophy degree.

The funding will provide for a total of 16 Masters and four Doctoral scholarships, 10 training attachments and related support, as well as further development of the marine studies programme.

The aid is aimed at increasing the skills of Pacific island nations in the sustainable management and development of their marine resources.

New Caledonia activists want sovereignty back

CANBERRA (Pacnews)—The leader of the Kanak Socialist National Liberation Front (FLNKS) in New Caledonia, Rock Wamytan, says the people of the French territory want decolonisation and the return of their sovereignty.

Radio Australia quotes Wamytan as saying France must recognise the identity of the Kanak people, but he declined to give further details on their demands at this stage.

New Caledonia's 200,000 people are due to hold a referendum on self-determination at the end of this year.

However, they have yet to settle differences over the exact formula for

self-government to be put to the vote.

The separatist FLNKS and the loyalist Rally for Caledonia in the Republic held three days of talks with the government last week and are to resume negotiations in Paris on March 31 on a new constitutional framework.

The FLNKS favours a state in association with France, but settlers want to remain part of France.

Wamytan said the issue of immigration would also figure high in the talks with the French socialist government.

Climate research grant

SUVA (Pacnews)—A project of the climate research group at the University of the South Pacific has won a technology award in Japan.

The joint Japanese-South Pacific project was chosen from 57 others for the 7th Nikkei Global Environment Technology Grand

Prix.

USP professor of natural products in chemistry William Aalbersberg says the project on vulnerability and response strategy to climate change and sea-level rise first looked at the standard methods used for this type of research.

Palau dedicates new power plant

PALAU—The completion and dedication ceremony for the upgrading of electric power supply under Japanese Grant Aid was held last Monday at the new Malakal Power Plant Yard.

A \$9.8 million grant from the government of Japan enabled the installation of two state-of-the-art generators and accompanying facilities that will boost the existing power facilities at the IPSECO power station in Aimeliik.

President Kuniwo Nakamura thanked the government of Japan for their efforts to aid the Palauan economy through grants and other assistance packages over the years.

Nakamura also noted that a survey team will be sent to Palau from Japan towards the end of this month to do preliminary studies in the design and construction of a permanent connecting bridge between Koror and Babeldaob islands.

The president said he believes this is a good indication that Japan will help Palau as it endeavors to secure financial assistance in the construction of a permanent bridge between the two islands.

The Palau Public Utility Corporation Chairman, August Remoket, said the addi-



Kuniwo Nakamura

tional power upgrade of the seven mega-watt generators will ensure a surplus of electric power in the Republic, even after the northern states of Babeldaob are hooked up to the electric system.

Nakamura attended the dedication ceremony along with the Japanese Consul General, Susumu Yamagishi.

Yamagishi was in Palau just over a year ago to sign an Exchange of Notes for the grant funding the upgrade of the power supply in Malakal.

Contractors for this project are Marubeni Machinery & Engineering Corporation and Nishimatsu Construction Company.

The consulting company for the work is Yachiyo Engineering Company.

Report: Asian crisis to hit Australia job growth soon

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — The Asian currency crisis will curb the growth of jobs in Australia next year, the government's latest trade outlook warned Wednesday.

The severe deterioration in trading conditions in East Asia will have an adverse impact on Australian exports to the region, the "Trade Outcomes and Objectives Statement 1998" said.

Lower export earnings resulting from the Asian downturn will affect domestic activity, creating lower corporate profitability and higher input costs, the 265-page report said.

"The consequent slowing in output growth will affect unemployment, though not until later in 1998/99 given the lags between output variations and employment," the report said.

Trade Minister Tim Fischer said the government saw the need to maintain momentum for economic reform and trade liberalization as an imperative.

"The government is committed to Asia for the long haul," Fischer told Parliament.

"We are talking to Australian businesses and putting in place practical measures to assist Australian companies over coming months."

Import prices were set to rise, as most of Australia's imports came from countries against whose currencies the Australian dollar had depreciated, the report said.

"This will have a modest impact on consumer price inflation," it said.

"The current account deficit is expected to rise as a share of gross domestic product in 1997/98 and 1998/99, as strong import growth continues to outpace export growth."

Financial instability and volatile currency movements are expected to continue until market confidence improved.

In Australia, suppliers of raw and intermediate goods, making up the bulk of exports, were expected to be hit the hardest.

"These developments mean that Australian exporters will have to work harder than ever to penetrate markets and establish a competitive advantage in East Asia as well as in other markets," it said.

Fischer said exporters were diversifying their efforts, resulting in a fall in exports to Japan and a new focus on fast-growing markets including Iran, Egypt, South Africa and Mexico.

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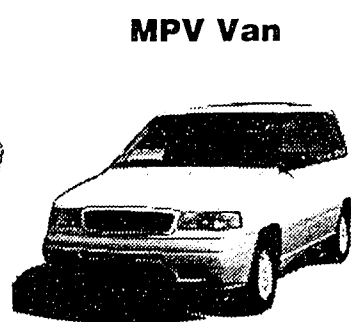
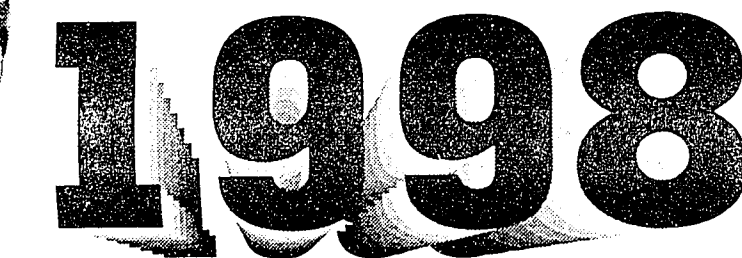
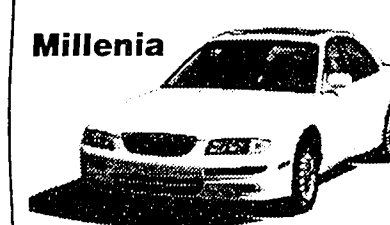
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Nena stresses on good governance



Jacob Nena

PALIKIR (FSMIS)—FSM PRESIDENT Jacob Nena has said that his administration is hinged on "good governance," as it remains "committed" to nation-building and economic development.

Nena made the remarks during a speech addressing a conference by members of the Association of Pacific Islands Public Auditors last week.

The purpose of the training/conference was focused on prevention and detection of fraud by directing the auditing technicians on the tracks of potential fraudulent activities.

"As auditing officials, you are, in effect, responsible for monitoring the quality of governance in your various locations, as officials responsible for assessing the quality of financial management

and program performance of the public agencies," Nena said.

Nena told the participants that their responsibility is not simply to shine light on waste, fraud, abuse or inept performance, but also to offer solutions to problems found as well.

"It's not enough to simply produce lengthy reports and then 'walk away until next year,'" Nena said.

The President hurled a challenge to apply the very same performance principles in their audit work as in auditing public agencies, recommending "user-friendly audit reports" as a starting point.

Nena stated that too often audit findings recommended remedies are buried in the reports that clear remedial action are not taken by appropriate leaders or government officials.

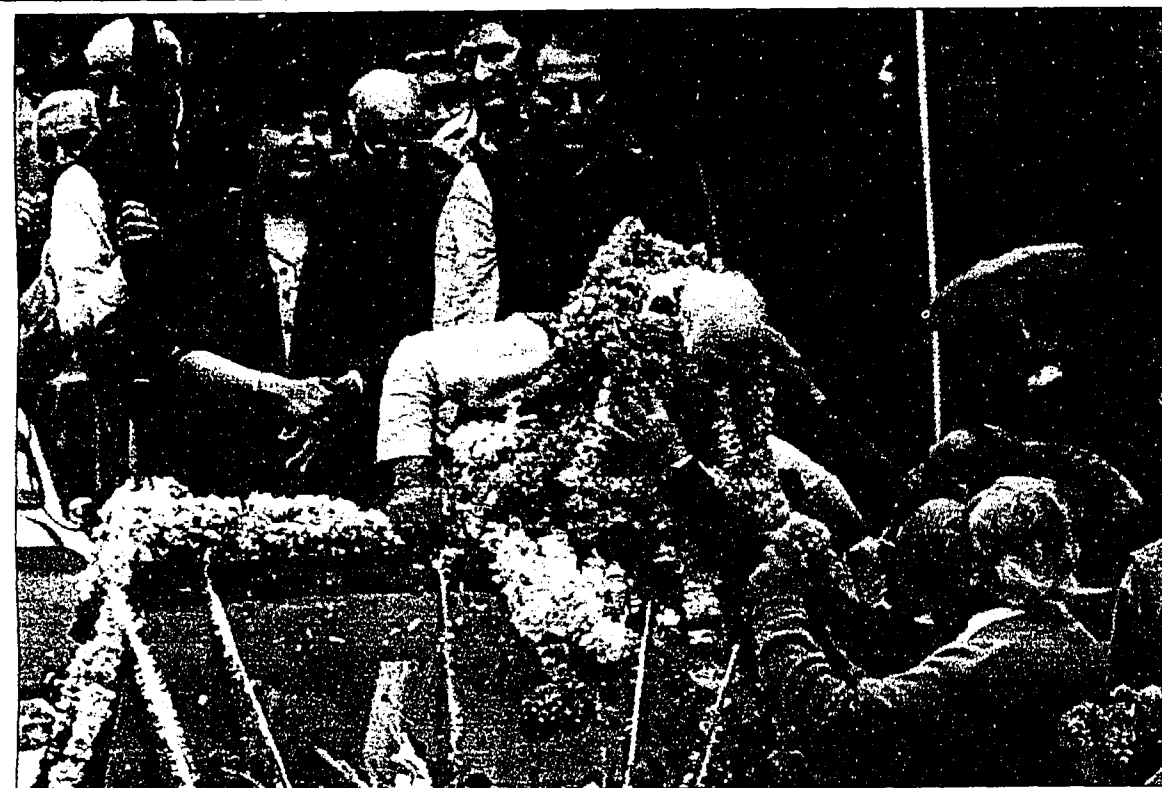
Deposed . . .

Continued from page 2

he will pardon his son if convicted.

Military authorities seized a two-ton shipment of handguns, assault rifles and ammunition on May 26 at Sihanoukville Port, 185 kilometers (115 miles) southwest of Phnom Penh.

Video of the weapons' arrival was aired on all six tele-



Hindu Nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party supporters place garlands around the neck of winning parliamentary candidate Madan Lal Khurana Wednesday. The BJP was likely to win the most seats of any party in India's countrywide general elections, but perhaps not enough to form a new government. The Congress Party was likely to form an alliance with United Front in an attempt to prevent the BJP from forming a government. AP

vision stations Tuesday to sway popular opinion against Ranariddh.

The prince's loyalists said the shipment — labeled as "spare parts" — was for Ranariddh's personal security forces.

"This is the point that will make Ranariddh dead in front of the court," said Hun Sen in a television footage aired late Tuesday.

Although Ranariddh and Hun Sen shared power, Hun

Sen had greater control over the armed forces which were split along political lines.

As the coalition grew increasingly tense, Ranariddh's army commanders, feeling threatened and outgunned by Hun Sen's forces, were looking for ways to strengthen themselves militarily.

Many diplomats have welcomed the trial as the first in a series of steps to pave the way for elections. It is part of a four-point Japanese-sponsored

peace plan aimed at assuring the prince can return to Cambodia for the polls.

Ranariddh's participation is regarded as essential by the international community for the polls to be considered free and fair.

Also standing trial in absentia Wednesday were deputy chief of staff of the royal Cambodian armed forces Nhek Bunchhay and Thach Suong, chief of Ranariddh's bodyguard unit.

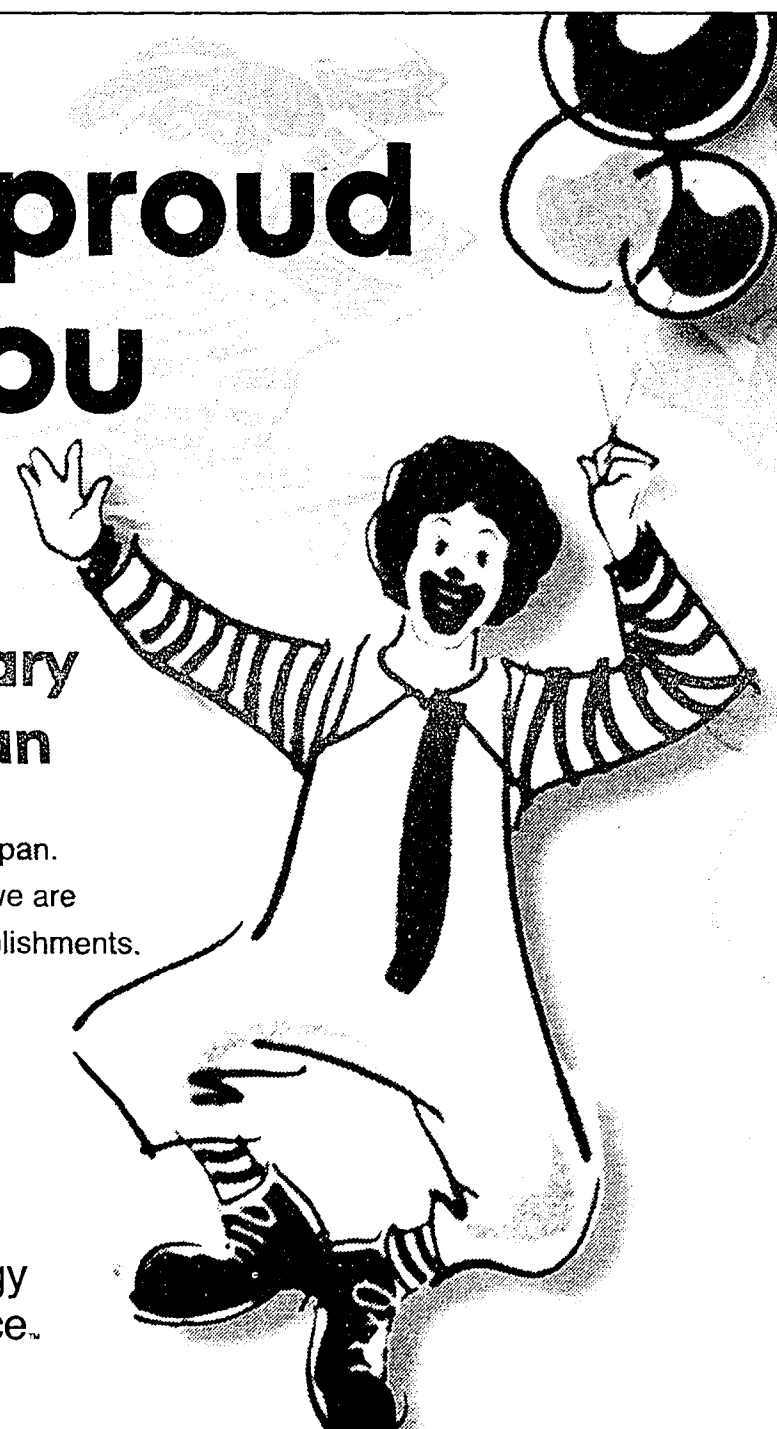
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Saipan franchise turns 5

A world called McDonald's



Five Years. A home of a variety of hamburgers and delights. This McDonald's restaurant along Middle Road is a favorite place of food lovers and health buffs alike.

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

HE WAS walking around the dining area smiling and greeting customers as they come and go. He can almost be mistaken as a member of the restaurant's service crew, only, he was not wearing a red shirt and a blue cap.

Joe C. Ayuyu, franchise owner of two McDonald's restaurants on Saipan personally supervises the store operations during his free time, making sure everything is in order and customers get what they want to McDonald's.

Ayuyu recalls how Saipan, which then looked like a "jungle," almost failed to host a McDonald's store when executives of the multinational company in Chicago came down to conduct an ocular inspection of the island.

"The moment he stepped off the plane, he asked for the next flight back and quipped the area is not yet ready for McDonald's," Ayuyu remembers.

He says the executive did not even want to tour the island, but he, nevertheless, was encouraged to. This did not change his initial impression of the island though.

"This place isn't just ready for McDonald's," he adds quoting the official.

But destiny had it that the international burger chain must have a branch on Saipan. The island eventually got the green light for the establishment of the first McDonald's restaurant a year later.

And in March 1993, Ayuyu opened the first McDonald's store along Middle Road.

Ayuyu says he had an interesting experience trying to win the ownership of the McDonald's franchise in the Commonwealth.

"There were a [large] number of people who applied for the franchise ownership when McDonald's executives finally decided Saipan was all set for a branch down here. They announced that they are looking for interested individuals or groups in the franchise business," he continues.

Ayuyu says competition was quite stiff during that time but "I felt I was already equipped with my experiences so I pushed through and braved the challenge."

He had worked for the government

as an economic development specialist after he graduated with an economics degree from the University of Hawaii in 1975. Two years later, he was already heading the commerce and labor department.

Armed with an economics background, both academically and professionally, Ayuyu went on to become the economic planning adviser of the CNMI Governor, with over 20 employees under his direct supervision.

After his civil service reign, he pursued a corporate career as vice president and manager of the Bank of Guam from 1982 to 1989 where he administered his leadership skills running daily operations of the bank's branches in Saipan, Guam, Truk and Majuro.

But he felt he needed to know more so he moved in as vice president and general manager of Hakubotan, from

1989 to 1993.

The entrepreneur spirit he had since his childhood came to life when he realized he was making a lot of money for the companies he was working with during that time.

"I know that one day I will open my own business because when I was running the companies I worked for, I was making a lot of money and everytime I look at the sales report, I said I want to do something like this for myself," Ayuyu recalls.

He said he sort of heard music when news started to spread around Saipan that McDonald's is looking for individuals who may be interested to hold a franchise of the multinational hamburger chain.

"I know then that I already have the experience and the leadership skills to run my own business so I showed them what I got and I was selected. I think they were thinking I was a

pretty balanced person that's why they chose me," he continues.

Ayuyu adds he was aware that his long-term goal was to open a business of his own "and I never dreamt of running a McDonald's franchise but I think I was destined to."

"Well, I am very fortunate to have ever been given the opportunity to own a restaurant as established as McDonald's," he says.

But he believes having an established and prestigious trade name is not all that it takes to keep the business growing.

For one, he says, the dedication and the interest in what we do will drive people to move forward and aim higher. "Success does not start and end with owning a business," he adds.

"Owning a business is one thing but keeping the business growing is another thing. I'm very happy that we have managed to continue the growth of our business this long. I'm very grateful to the community for the support," he quips.

Ayuyu recalls the first year of operations was really struggle because

that was the period of adjustments and trying to come up with a group of individuals who have the interests in meeting and serving people.

"We were amazed by the turn out during the first days of our operations. In fact, the guy who thought Saipan wasn't ready for McDonald's yet was surprised when we sent him the sales report," he says.

Maybe the guy was wondering where were the "jungle people" hiding, he adds.

According to Ayuyu, another important of running a business is finding the right employees who may have the same concern to the company. He says he is lucky enough a lot of his "first" workers are still with the company.

"All the money in the world is not enough. It takes a lot of patience, good employees and a deep interest in what we do to be really successful," he advises.

But good employees, he says, are not easy to find. He says they have to be taken care of properly and be

Continued on page 28



Children find a paradise of voluptuous burgers and collectible toys in McDonald's, — the only child-oriented restaurant on Saipan.

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Top INS official sacked

By Michelle Mittelstadt
WASHINGTON (AP) — A Justice Department troubleshooter dispatched by Attorney General Janet Reno last year to fix the immigration service's error-riddled citizenship program has been removed from his post.

Robert K. Bratt was removed Monday night as head of naturalization operations at the Immigration and Naturalization Service at Reno's direction and is returning to the Justice Department, spokeswoman Carole Florman confirmed Tuesday.

Bratt's removal from INS is not necessarily permanent. INS Com-

missioner Doris Meissner on Tuesday named another Justice official on loan to her agency, James Angus, as acting executive director of naturalization operations.

Officials with knowledge of the situation, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Reno's decision to return Bratt to Justice stemmed from a Justice inspector general's investigation that began before Bratt's assignment to INS.

A spokeswoman for Inspector General Michael Bromwich declined comment. But an official with knowledge of the situation,

speaking on background, said the probe isn't centered on Bratt.

Florman declined to discuss any investigation or other reason for Bratt's move. "I am constrained by the Privacy Act from discussing whether or not there is any link," she said. "I can say the decision by the attorney general was not based on any adverse findings against him."

Bratt has been assigned to Justice's management division and will not be demoted, Florman said.

Reno last April tapped Bratt, who was administrative officer for Justice's criminal division, to



Janet Reno

oversee a top-to-bottom fix of INS' much-criticized citizenship program.

The immigration service has drawn sharp criticism from Capitol Hill for sloppy procedures that allowed more than 180,000 for-

eigners to become citizens in 1996 without awaiting the results of criminal background checks. The agency also is under fire for huge backlogs that are causing waits of up to two years for citizenship.

As part of the overhaul supervised by Bratt, INS added new safeguards to its naturalization program and is in the midst of a major modernization and a push to improve customer service. Congressional committees are holding hearings Thursday on the program.

Bratt, who in 1996 received the attorney general's award for distinguished service, has held a number of senior positions within Justice. He helped direct training of a new police force in Haiti and established procedures for government compensation of Japanese-Americans interned during World War II.

Jobless immigrant jumps out 9th floor window of NY building

By LARRY NEUMEISTER

NEW YORK (AP) — A jobless immigrant who went to the Immigration and Naturalization Service to be deported Monday went crashing through a ninth-floor window of the federal building in New York City and fell to his death.

Alan Atkinson, an INS spokesman, said the man came to the INS offices to offer himself for deportation because he had overstayed his visa and had lost his job.

The man was told by INS workers that he would be given an appointment to return at a later date, Atkinson said.

The man left the ninth-floor INS investigative section early Monday afternoon and went to unoccupied offices on the same floor, where he apparently leaped from one of those offices.

Atkinson said he did not know the identity of the man or the part of the former Soviet Union where the man had most recently lived.

Renee Miscione, a General Service Administration spokeswoman, said the man went through quarter-inch (half-centimeter) glass in the 42-story building, which houses the FBI, the INS and dozens of other federal agencies in lower Manhattan.

The apparent suicide occurred in a concrete plaza filled with workers on lunch break.

"People were gasping and screaming," said Sheila Blunt, who looked up and saw the window shatter as the man crashed through it.



Robbery suspect David Scott Ghanit is led from a US Airways plane at Charlotte Douglas Airport Monday in Charlotte, N.C., following his arrest in Mexico. He is charged with stealing a van stuffed with cash from the vault at Loomis, Fargo & Co. in Charlotte. AP

Puerto Rico gets best chance at statehood

By DAVID BRISCOE

WASHINGTON (AP) — Despite resistance from English-only advocates in mainland United States and Puerto Ricans who don't want statehood, the 100-year-old island commonwealth may be getting its best chance yet at becoming the 51st state.

It would be the start of a long road with no guarantee of success, however. President Bill Clinton and both majority and minority leaders in the House of Representatives are backing a plebiscite that would allow Puerto Ricans to choose statehood, independence or continuation as a commonwealth.

A House bill up for a vote Wednesday or Thursday would set in motion a process that could lead to statehood or independence in 10 years.

But an effort to amend the bill to require that English become the only official language of the United States, whether Puerto Rico becomes a state or not, could delay or scuttle it. A similar bill is pending in the Senate.

"Americans are going to wake up Thursday morning with Puerto Rico well on its way to becoming the 51st state, and they're going to ask: Why weren't we informed?" said Rep. Roger Wicker of Mississippi, in asking for a delay.

The chairman of the House Resources Committee, Rep. Don Young of Alaska, got his panel to approve the plebiscite 44-1. He said Tuesday he would fight any effort to attach the English-only provision.

If the bill becomes law and predominantly Spanish-speaking Puerto Ricans choose change, Congress would then set up a decade-long transition to a new status — either statehood or independence. Both Congress and Puerto Rico would have to approve any final status change, to take place in 2008 or later.

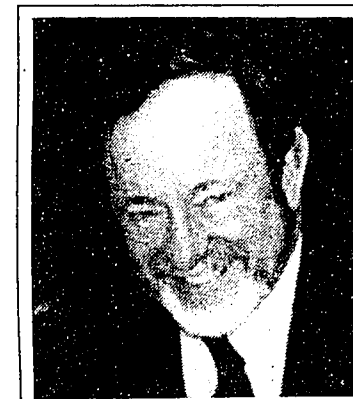
Scores of Puerto Ricans converged on Washington Tuesday for the vote, and groups backing the two most viable options — commonwealth and statehood — took out dueling newspaper ads and lobbied House members.

Diverse issues affecting the debate include an emotional confrontation over the prevalence of the Spanish language in Puerto Rico, the cost of adding a significantly less prosperous 51st state to the rest of the nation, the impact six new Puerto Rican seats would have on the House of Representatives and whether islanders really want to give up separate Olympic teams and Miss Universe contestants.

Puerto Ricans are U.S. citizens who serve in the military and enjoy most of the privileges and responsibilities of American citizenship, but they don't vote in presidential elections, don't pay federal income taxes, and have only one nonvoting delegate in Congress.

Puerto Ricans who oppose statehood point to the advantages they have with commonwealth status.

"It allows us to be Puerto Ricans while still being U.S. citizens," said Anibal Acevedo-Vila, presi-



Don Young

dent of the pro-commonwealth Popular Democratic Party. "If you choose statehood, you will put in danger your culture, your identity, your nationhood. If you choose independence, you will lose your U.S. citizenship."

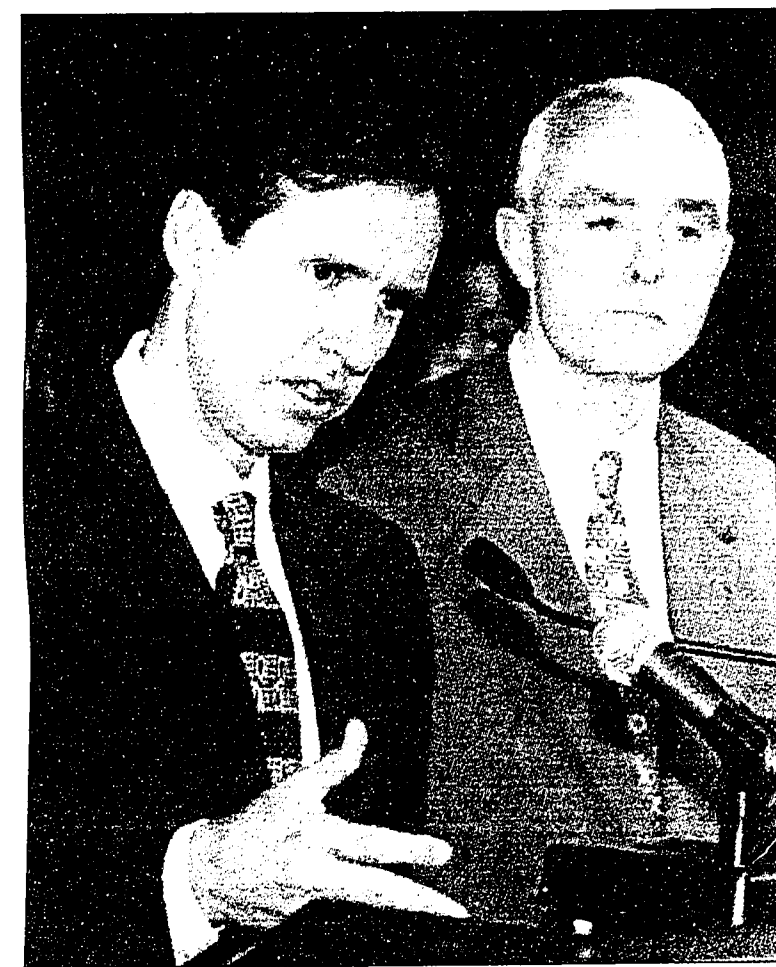
Even commonwealth proponents, however, would like to see changes, including less congressional control over the territory and the ability to negotiate separate economic relations

with its non-U.S. neighbors.

Other U.S. territories that have nonvoting members of Congress — American Samoa, Guam, the Virgin Islands and the District of Columbia — are watching the issue closely. All the nonvoting delegates support the plebiscite measure, but with varying degrees of enthusiasm. D.C. Delegate Eleanor Holmes Norton wants statehood for the district. Others would like to gain some of the status Puerto Rico already has.

"It is now time for Congress to take action to bring to these 3.8 million U.S. citizens political, economic and social equality," said Delegate Carlos Romero-Barcelo of Puerto Rico.

Puerto Ricans last voted on the issue in 1993 in a nonbinding plebiscite that carried no mandate for congressional action. The results: Commonwealth proponents won 48.6 percent, statehood 46.3 percent and independence 4.4 percent. A majority vote would be required for Congress to act after a 1998 plebiscite.



Drug Czar Barry McCaffrey, right, joins Bolivian Vice President Jorge Quiroga during a Washington news conference Tuesday to discuss his country's drug policies. Quiroga expressed confidence of continued U.S. aid in the drug battle. AP



Rosario Murillo, right, the common-law wife of former Nicaraguan president Daniel Ortega, center, reads a prepared statement to reporters Tuesday at the Sandinista Party Headquarters in Managua, Nicaragua. Murillo's statement denied charges made by her daughter, Zolamerica, that Ortega sexually abused her since she was 11 years old. Sandinista legislator, Monica Baltodano is at left. AP

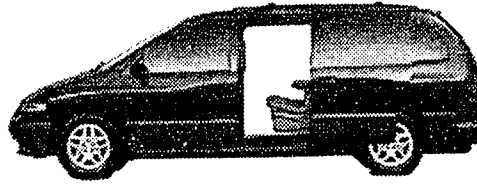


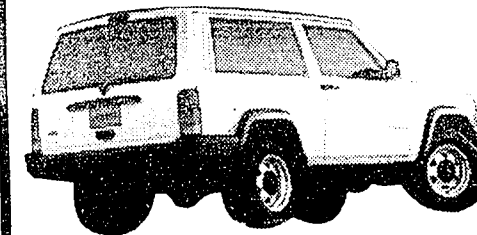
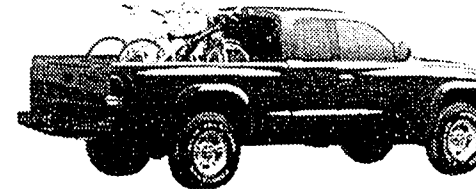
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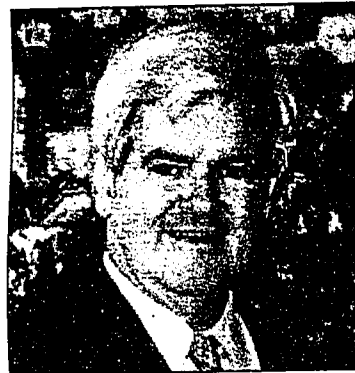
\$8B federal surplus seen

By Alan Fram
WASHINGTON (AP)—There should be an \$8 billion federal surplus this year that will swell to \$138 billion by 2008, shattering an uninterrupted three-decade streak of deficits, the Congressional Budget Office said Tuesday.

After months in which private economists have forecast a 1998 surplus, the CBO report was the first official prediction for black ink this fiscal year, which runs through Sept. 30. CBO had projected a \$5 billion shortfall for 1998 in January, and the Clinton administration envisioned a \$10 billion deficit for 1998 just last month.

On Tuesday, CBO said it expected surpluses of \$9 billion in 1999 that would dip to \$1 billion in 2000. But it said surpluses would expand again to \$13 billion in 2001, \$67 billion in 2002 and \$53 billion in 2003 and grow steadily thereafter.

Republicans and the White House greeted the announcement by squabbling over who should get credit and how to use the money. House Speaker Newt Gingrich and other GOP leaders stressed a suggestion they have made before: Some of the surplus should be diverted to new, individual in-



Newt Gingrich



Trent Lott

vestments that people would use to build up their Social Security retirement accounts.

"The No. 1 concern we have" is to keep Social Security fiscally sound and to "begin a transition" to some form of interest-bearing accounts, Gingrich, R-Ga., told reporters.

Gingrich provided no details for the idea. But House Budget Committee Chairman John Kasich, R-Ohio, said House Republicans have been discussing giving part of the surplus to people who are still working for individual retirement accounts they could use to enhance their future Social Security payments.

Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., also said some of the surplus could be applied to Social Security in a way that could result in tax

cuts. Senate Republicans have talked internally about using the surplus to reduce the payroll tax that finances Social Security, GOP aides say.

President Clinton has said surpluses should be used to reduce the accumulated \$5.4 trillion national debt until lawmakers agree how Social Security can be strengthened for the impending retirement of the baby boomers. In the interim, the surplus should not be used for tax cuts or higher spending, he has said.

"This is good news, but it doesn't mean a lot if Congress doesn't stick to the president's call to save Social Security first," said White House spokesman Barry Toiv.

Many Republicans, including Gingrich, Lott and many House members, have said they want part of the surpluses

used to cut taxes. But the party is divided on that question between those who think tax cuts are an integral GOP message that can't be ignored and those who think it would be political folly to challenge Clinton's linkage of the surplus to strengthening Social Security.

"That does, of course, increase the likelihood of tax cuts," Kasich said of the new surplus figures.

But his counterpart, Senate Budget Committee Chairman Pete Domenici, R-N.M., noted that the surpluses for the next few years are tiny fractions of the \$1.7 trillion annual federal budget, barely enough for noticeable tax cuts. He said the money should be set aside for Social Security, not tax reductions.

"That ought to be the highest priority we have if we're genuinely concerned about the problems confronting America," he said.

The improved CBO surplus figures reflect increased expectations since January for revenue collections, a phenomenon that reflects the robust economy and has been prevalent for two years. Republicans credited their drive to cut taxes and spending since taking congressional

control in 1995. The White House and Democrats emphasized Clinton's 1993 deficit-cutting package, which Congress approved without any GOP votes.

Last month, the White House said it expected a \$10 billion deficit this year but a \$9.5 billion surplus for 1999. The next updated White House projection is not due until the summer.



Surgeon General David Satcher testifies on Capitol Hill Tuesday before the Senate Public Health and Safety subcommittee hearing on the worldwide threat of infectious diseases. AP

US-Japan deregulation talks take off in Tokyo

TOKYO (AP) — The United States and Japan kicked off two days of deregulation talks Tuesday amid increasing pressure on Tokyo from its trading partners to shore up an ailing domestic economy.

Officials from both sides held working level talks Tuesday to prepare for the following day's high-level negotiations on financial, telecommunication, pharmaceutical and housing deregulation, the Japanese Foreign Ministry said.

Ex-investor gets 12 years for part in loan scandal

By KOZO MIZOGUCHI

TOKYO (AP) — An Osaka court Monday sentenced a former high-rolling stock investor to 12 years in prison for fraud in a case that illustrated the speculative excesses of Japan's once flourishing "bubble" economy.

The prison term for former restaurateur Nui Onoue, 68, was announced at the Osaka District Court, a court official said, on condition of anonymity.

Onoue, once reputed to be the largest individual stock investor in Japan, had been indicted on fraud and breach of trust charges involving 270 billion yen (dls 2.14 billion).

She was arrested in September 1991 on charges of colluding with a former manager of a local credit union to use more than a dozen fake deposit certificates as collateral for stock deals.

In an effort to cover major stock losses, Onoue used the certificates to obtain dls 2.8 billion in loans, of which dls 1.8 billion came from the Industrial Bank of Japan, a pillar of the country's financial establishment.

While operating a high-class Japanese style restaurant in Osaka's Sennichimae entertainment district, Onoue spent huge amounts on stock investments from the late 1980s through the early 1990s.

Osaka, a major commercial and industrial center, is about 400 kilometers (248 miles) west of Tokyo.

Onoue's saga had captivated the nation because it provided a personal account of how the Japanese economy ran amok in the 1980s, when wild speculative buying sent real estate and stock prices surging.

Four other finance company officials have been convicted of illegally extending loans to Onoue.

Wednesday's talks were to be chaired by Koichi Haraguchi, Japan's deputy minister for foreign affairs, and Deputy U.S. Trade Representative Richard Fisher.

The United States has accused Japan of creating unfair barriers to foreign products by allowing such practices as colluding to set prices, manipulating contract bids and enforcing regulations that push up the cost of doing business in Japan.

American business leaders have also complained that Japan doesn't accept international standards in areas such as intellectual property rights, medical equipment and pharmaceuticals.

Japan's trading partners have been urging it to accelerate the implementation of an ambitious deregulation program aimed at providing a competitive spark the Japa-

nese economy may need to recover from a prolonged slump.

The reforms include Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's "Big Bang" plan for financial deregulation which are expected to allow foreign banks and brokerages to enter business areas that have effectively been the exclusive domain of Japanese financial institutions.

Meanwhile, representatives from the European Union and Japan continued a separate set of talks Tuesday in Tokyo which targeted deregulation of the financial services, telecommunications and transportation industries. A press briefing on the negotiations was expected later in the day.

On Monday, EU officials urged Japan to accelerate its deregulation efforts to boost economic growth throughout Asia.



Wearing or carrying pink items, members of a women group march toward the National Diet building in Tokyo, seen in the background Tuesday marking National Girl's Day. About 50 marchers demanded equal opportunity for women in Japanese society. AP

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18-MARIANAS VARIETY NEWS AND VIEWS-THURSDAY-MARCH 5, 1998

China condemns AI's human rights report

BEIJING (AP) — China accused Amnesty International of making irresponsible allegations Tuesday in a report about human rights abuses and urged the advocacy group to change its tactics.

The London-based group accused China of sending more than 200,000 people to labor camps last year without charges or trial. The organization also said Christians, Muslim minorities and Tibetan Buddhists had been detained and in some cases executed.

In the past year, Amnesty International said it has documented widespread torture, grossly unfair trials, ill-treatment in police cells and the extensive use of the death penalty in China.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao criticized the group during a

news briefing.

"Amnesty International often makes use of some hearsay or ill-based reports to launch irresponsible accusations against China," said Zhu, who refused to comment on specific allegations in the report.

"We hope that Amnesty International will change its course. If it sticks to it, it is not of any help," Zhu added.

The government contends that abuses are investigated and punishments are handled according to law by an independent judiciary.

But Amnesty said justice in China remains unpredictable, with certain groups being singled out for rough treatment.

Also Tuesday, police arrested dissident Shen Liangqing, who had peti-

tioned China's legislature for political reforms and a crackdown on corruption, another human rights group said.

Police in the eastern city of Hefei notified Shen's family that he was arrested, the Hong Kong-based Information Center of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China said.

Shen's arrest brings to three the number of dissidents formally charged in a roundup of activists petitioning the National People's Congress, which opens its 1989 session Thursday.

Despite laws aimed at improving the criminal justice system, access to lawyers is not granted to all suspects and trials are often quick, with perfunctory appeals. Police have the right to send offenders to labor camps for up to three years without trial.



Chinese Premier Li Peng, left, and Vice Premier Zhu Rongji stand for the Chinese National Anthem at the opening ceremony of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference in Beijing's Great Hall of the People Tuesday. Li will step down after two terms as China's premier and is expected to be replaced by Zhu. AP

Mondale meets with Indonesia's Suharto

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — President Bill Clinton's special envoy met with Indonesian leader Suharto early Tuesday to discuss U.S. concerns that Jakarta is not moving fast enough to reform its hobbled economy.

Former U.S. vice president Walter Mondale went to

Suharto's residence in an upscale Jakarta neighborhood for a meeting at 9 a.m. local time (0000 GMT).

Mondale was joined by David Lipton, treasury undersecretary for international affairs, and Stanley Roth, undersecretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs.

Mondale was expected to reinforce earlier messages from Clinton that Indonesia must continue with sweeping reforms demanded by the International Monetary Fund under a \$43 billion rescue package, backed by the United States, Japan and other wealthy countries.

White House spokesman Mike McCurry refused Monday at a briefing in Washington to discuss the details of Mondale's message for Suharto but said Mondale would stress the U.S. view that Indonesia must make a strong commitment to the IMF bailout plan.

"President Suharto should place his full authority and the full authority of his office behind the economic reforms that he has agreed to," McCurry said.

He said Clinton chose to send Mondale, rather than a member of his administration, because he wanted someone who would be a personal emissary. Mondale has also served as U.S. ambassador to Japan.

Mondale is the latest in a long list of U.S. and other foreign officials to visit or contact Suharto about the crisis, which has paralyzed the economy of the world's fourth most populous nation.

Clinton has called Suharto twice from Washington in recent weeks amid fears that Indonesia might back away from its IMF commitments.

El Niño havoc may be until May

By Alexander G. Higgins
GENEVA (AP) — El Niño will wreak more havoc on world climate patterns, U.N. meteorologists predicted Tuesday, saying the weather phenomenon would spawn storms and drought stretching into May.

The World Meteorological Organization said parts of the western and southern United States face more troubles next month, though it predicted El Niño would weaken from May to July.

"Increased storminess and wetter-than-normal conditions are expected to continue over California and the southern third of the United States," it said, adding that it will remain warmer over much of central North America.

Drier than normal conditions are expected over northern South America and parts of southern Africa, the report said. It also will continue to be drier than usual in Indonesia, where forest fires are prompting fears of a return of the choking haze that covered much of Southeast Asia just months ago.

The El Niño update issued Tuesday was the fourth such report by the U.N. agency. It refined earlier predictions that El Niño would continue into late spring and gave an accounting of some of the worst damage caused by the weather pattern.

—In Kenya, about 1,500 people have been killed since October by malaria spread by flood waters.

—Peru and Ecuador have faced "tremendous downpours" with up to five times the normal annual rainfall in a single day in coastal areas.

—Guyana and Papua New Guinea, on opposite sides of the Pacific, have been hit by severe drought.

—Colombia has been hit by both extremes, with heavy rainfall threatening landslides on the Pacific coast and forest fires raging inland.

El Niño, which means "the child" in Spanish, is the nickname for a periodic warming of waters in the eastern Pacific, off the coast of Peru. It generally happens every two to seven years, with strong episodes occurring every 15 years or so.

The phenomenon affects weather patterns, creating droughts in some areas and heavier than normal rains in others.

Forecasters are now working on what weather pattern will follow this El Niño, which has been the strongest on record.

A return to normal is considered the most likely, but a reverse pattern — known as La Niña — remains a possibility, the report said.

La Niña, a pool of colder-than-normal water in the Pacific, has the opposite effect to El Niño, bringing heavy rain where it was dry and drought where it was wet.



Darlene Martin, 38, a registered nurse from Santa Monica, Calif., reaches for her asthma inhaler Tuesday. The recent El Niño rains have brought in a bumper crop of allergy-producing weeds, flowers and molds that have filled doctors' waiting rooms with the sniffing and the itchy-eyed. AP



Former U.S. Vice President Walter Mondale, left, meets with Indonesian President Suharto at his Cendana Residence in Jakarta Tuesday. Mondale, who is U.S. President Bill Clinton's special envoy, urged Suharto to stick to economic reforms demanded under the \$43 billion IMF bailout plan despite the inevitable hardships. AP

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JAL lays off its workers in Honolulu

HONOLULU (AP) — More than 80 employees of Japan Airlines who are based in Hawaii are losing their jobs.

The airline announced Tuesday it will cut the positions from its operations at Honolulu International Airport as part of a restructuring of its U.S. operations.

The layoffs are among 200 nationwide affecting JAL employees in Hawaii, California and New York, about a quarter of the airline's U.S. workforce.

The company says it's changing the way it handles passengers and their baggage, and says work performed by its Hawaii employees is being contracted out to private firms.

No timetable has been given for when workers will lose their jobs.

JAL operates about 70 flights a week between Hawaii and Japan, and hopes the changes will increase profits.

Hafa Adai



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Colombia rebels try to disrupt elections

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—Leftist rebels have kidnapped politicians and stepped up attacks on police and soldiers to disrupt Sunday's nationwide congressional election, according to the defense minister.

The rebels are trying to "create chaos" before the elections to give the impression they have power, Defense Minister Gilberto Echeverri said Monday evening at a news conference.

The nation's largest and oldest rebel group, the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia, has said it will try to disrupt the vote.

Leftist fighters on Monday kidnapped the mayors of the central Colombian towns of El Calvario and Quetame and killed eight

soldiers in an ambush near the border with Venezuela, Echeverri said.

Bombs also exploded in front of two candidates' headquarters in Neiva, 150 miles southwest of the capital, Bogota. There were no injuries in the Monday attacks.

In the past two weeks, rebels have kidnapped 14 mayors.

Despite the attacks, the run-up to the congressional vote has been calm compared to violence before Oct. 26 municipal election.

In the weeks before that vote, leftist guerrillas killed dozens of politicians, kidnapped 200 others and scared more than 1,000 into abandoning their political aspirations. Anti-rebel paramilitary fighters also targeted candidates they didn't like.

Brazil Congress may yet expel lawmaker

By Peter Muello
RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP)

— When a 22-story apartment building collapsed in a posh beach district two weeks ago, killing eight residents, the reputation of congressman Sergio Naya crumbled with it.

As owner and engineer of the construction company that built the Palace II, Naya has been accused of shoddy workmanship and using poor-quality materials. Beams had corroded and pillars buckled.

Outrage grew when a national TV news program aired an amateur video that showed Naya admitting he has bought used fixtures for his buildings and passed them off as new.

Today, Naya is held up as a national symbol of abuse and arrogance of power — and nearly everyone wants a shot at him.

Congress began proceedings Tuesday to expel Naya and suspend his political rights for eight years. Police are investigating him for contraband. The federal tax bureau wants him to pay \$13.3 million in fines for tax evasion. The Engineering Council in Rio has revoked his license.

President Fernando Henrique is urging changes to the law protecting

legislators from criminal prosecution so Naya can be punished.

Naya's face stares out from the cover of *Veja* magazine, the nation's largest-circulation newsweekly, beside the caption: "The villain of Rio's tragedy."

"Who is Deputy Sergio Naya, who builds low-quality buildings and wants to get the upper hand in everything?" the magazine asks.

Until now, most Brazilians had no idea who he was. In circles of power, however, Naya was known as a man who parlayed political connections into a personal fortune.

Born in the poor southeastern town of Laranjal, Naya's rise began in the late 1970s when he became friends with Gen. Golbery do Couto e Silva, the gray eminence of Brazil's 1964-1985 military dictatorship.

He became a partner in, then owner of, the Sersan construction company, and contracts flowed in. In Brasilia, the capital, he built the annex of Congress, as well as hotels and apartments.

Brazilian media reported that his company also is building a complex of four 18-story apartments in Orlando, Fla. Construction of the Sandy Lake Towers reportedly has been

slowed by building code violations and accusations of late or insufficient payments to contractors.

First elected to Congress in 1986, he once claimed on the Chamber of Deputies floor that his personal worth was nearly \$500 million and included 826 properties in the United States, 5,000 in Sao Paulo state and 3,000 in Spain. A 1994 statement of assets required of all candidates lists assets of about \$2.5 million.

Although structural problems led to a December 1996 evacuation of the Palace II, its Feb. 22 collapse shocked Brazilians.

First, the building in Rio's fashionable Barra da Tijuca neighborhood groaned and shuddered. Firefighters ordered residents out. A few ran back inside to get possessions — and an entire side of the building gave way. Eight people died.

Brazilians, accustomed to seeing slum dwellers lose everything in a flood or mudslide, were stunned at the middle-class disaster.

At a press conference, Sersan officials blamed residents who were remodeling apartments for the collapse. Furious residents punched and kicked the company representatives, who then fled.

Clinton warns Iraq anew

By ROBERT BURNS
WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bill Clinton said Tuesday that Iraq should be "under no illusion" it would escape severe punishment if it violated a pledge to permit unconditional U.N. weapons inspections.

Aides said that meant military action.

On a day in which the Pentagon announced it was speeding plans to give anthrax vaccinations to the 36,000 U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf, Clinton praised a U.N. Security Council resolution endorsing Secretary-General Kofi Annan's agreement with Iraq on weapons inspections.

The resolution warned of "severest consequences" if Iraq failed to comply.

"The government of Iraq should be under no illusion," Clinton said at the conclusion of a White House event promoting tougher laws against drunken driving.

"The meaning of 'severest consequences' is clear."

"It provides authority to act if Iraq does not turn the commitment it has now made into compliance," he added.

Hinting strongly that he might feel compelled to use military force, Clinton said, "No promise of peace and no policy of patience can be without its limits."

Other administration officials were more explicit on the question of a military option.

"This gives us the green light to approach our policy of diplomacy and force and it shows to the world once again that the onus of complying with this agreement is with Iraq," U.S. Ambassador Bill Richardson said.

Even before Annan reached the accord with Iraq last week, the United States maintained that previous U.N. Security Council resolutions gave it the authority to use force against Iraq to ensure compliance.

Most other Security Council members dispute that view, and they still question the American interpretation of Monday's resolution.

Envoys from many countries, including longtime U.S. allies, said Tuesday that only the Secu-

riety Council has the authority to determine whether Iraq has breached the weapons inspections deal, and what should be done in response.

Almost alone, Britain shares the U.S. view. Before Monday's vote, China's U.N. ambassador, Qin Huasun, said Beijing had insisted "that there must not be any automatic authorization of the use of force against Iraq in this current resolution."

Clinton called on Iraq to demonstrate its commitment to the inspections agreement.

"Iraq must fulfill without obstruction or delay its commitment to open all of the nation to the international weapons inspectors — any place, any time, without any conditions, deadlines or excuses," he said.

At the State Department, spokesman James P. Rubin was asked if the administration believes military action would be warranted if Iraq wavered on inspections.

"We'll make that judgment at the time and place of our choosing, but we are making clear the principle underlying our policy, which is that a

violation of this agreement is one that will, in our view, justify the use of military force," Rubin said.

And we've felt that before this resolution, and we feel it after the resolution."

Bacon also said Defense Secretary William Cohen has decided that the 36,000 U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf will be given vaccinations against anthrax, a deadly biological agent that Iraq had ad-

mitted producing in the past. U.S. and U.N. officials believe Iraq may still have some anthrax stockpiled and may retain the capability to produce more in the future.

Anthrax can kill so quickly that by the time any symptoms show up, it may be too late to treat victims.



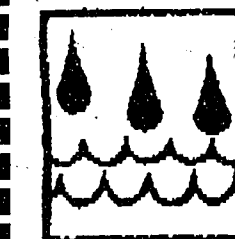
Bill Clinton

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PUBLIC NOTICE

THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH MUSEUM OF HISTORY AND CULTURE WILL MEET ON THURSDAY, MARCH 12, 1998, AT 9:00 A.M. IN THE COMMONWEALTH MUSEUM OF HISTORY & CULTURE (OLD JAPANESE HOSPITAL), SAIPAN. INTERESTED PERSONS ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND. FOR MORE INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL TEL. NO. 664-2160 OR FAX NO. 664-2170.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Ascertain Quorum
- III. Approval of Previous Minutes - Second Meeting of November 20, 1997.
- IV. Report of Committees
 1. Committee on Fiscal and Budget
 - a. Status of F.Y. 1998 Budget & Proposed F.Y. 1999 Budget
 2. Committee on Personnel
 - a. Applications received for Curator position
 3. Committee on Collections
 - a. Collection Policy proposals for discussion
 - b. Establishment of Collections Committee
 4. Chair
 - a. Bill of Sale dated December 11, 1997 with Apex Corporation for Concepcion collection
 - b. Invoice dated December 22, 1997 (received January 13, 1998) from Crown Line Ltd., (PTE) Singapore to CNMI Museum for Concepcion artifact storage fees
 - c. Letter of January 20, 1998 to Acting Attorney General re governance questions
 - d. Letter of February 9, 1998 to Acting Secretary of Finance re Museum Revolving Account funds: amount, location, and consolidation
 5. Executive Director
 - a. Equipment transfer - equipment presently on site
 - b. MTC/GTE contract for telephone system installation
 - c. Letter of January 8, 1998 from Tony Palomo, Guam Museum, greetings and invitation; response to Tony Palomo dated 4 February 1998
 - d. Letter of January 18, 1998 to Acting Director of DCCA re courtesy resignations
 - e. Fax of January 21, 1998 to Managing Director of MVB re status of agreement to renovate Old Laboratory Building
 - f. Fax of February 6, 1998 to Terry Hagen and Pauline Burger of Pacific Galleries and Framing re archival mounting of Freycinet illustrations
 - g. Fax of February 18, 1998 from Xerox Corp. re lease proposal for copier
- V. Old Business
 1. Sugar King Foundation historical interests of Keiichiro Saeki and Yuichi Niizeki.
 2. Status of transfer of Lot 009 D93 and other property to Commonwealth Museum
 3. Museum Exhibits
- VI. New Business
 1. Museum Collections
 - a. Freycinet Collection
 - b. American War Memorial Museum
 - c. Historic Preservation Office
 2. Administrative matters
 - a. Bid Proposals for security service
 3. CNMI Museum Public Law No. 10-5
 - a. Discussion regarding proposed amendments
 4. Other matters
- VII. Miscellaneous
- VIII. Announcements
- IX. Adjournment

Herman T. Guerrero, Chair
February 26, 1998

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With a portrait of the Emir of Kuwait behind, former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher meets with Kuwait's Minister of Information Saud Nasser al-Sabah. Thatcher recently visited British troops deployed in the desert. AP

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Egypt opens Giza pyramids

By Tarek El-Tablawy
CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Egypt opened 10 Pharaonic tombs and three small pyramids to the public for the first time ever Tuesday, completing a key stage in a major overhaul of its ancient sites.

Officials reopened the pyramid of King Menkaure, the smallest of the three great pyramids of Giza, after extensive repairs.

The decade-long restoration effort involves shoring up the Sphinx

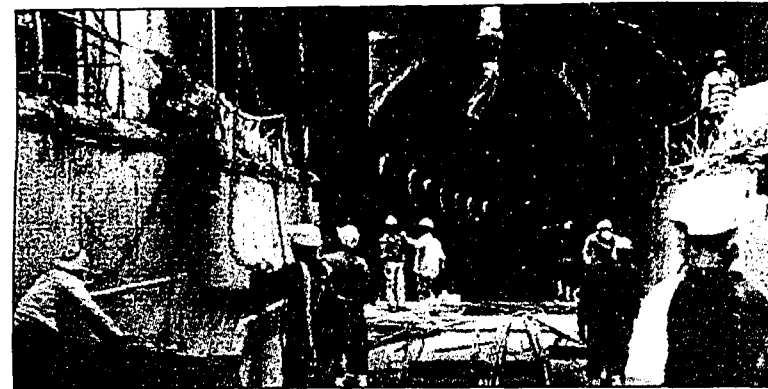
and repairing several other tombs and the burial chambers of the great pyramids, including the largest built by Pharaoh Cheops. Officials would not say how much money has been spent.

Menkaure's pyramid, the smallest of the great pyramids, was closed last year to allow workmen to reinforce walls, erase graffiti and install a new ventilation system.

The pyramids of three more

queens — adjacent to the Menkaure's — are to be renovated in the next phase of work at Giza.

Of the three pyramids opened Tuesday, the largest is the one for Cheops' mother, Queen Hetepheres. It once rose to a height of about 100 feet but its smooth, limestone casing has been scavenged, exposing the jagged and crumbled underlying stones.



Workers prepare to hoist a skip from the floor of the new extension to Cairo's metro Tuesday. The tunnel in the background goes under the Nile and is the first such construction under Africa's longest river. AP

Iran missiles concern Israel

By Judith Ingram
MOSCOW (AP) — An Israeli minister said Tuesday he had no reason to believe Moscow was supplying Iran with missile technology, but that Israel remained concerned that military know-how could still be seeping out of Russia.

Natan Sharansky, a former Soviet dissident who now serves as Israel's trade and industry minister, traveled to Russia this week to seek firm guarantees that Russia's dual-purpose technology — that which has both commercial and defense uses — does not find its way to Iran.

"There is absolutely no evidence and I have no basis to believe that the Russian government consciously favors helping Iran to acquire weapons, rockets," Sharansky said at the

end of his two-day consultations with Russian government officials including Prime Minister Viktor Chernomyrdin and Foreign Minister Yevgeny Primakov.

Sharansky said he was pleased that Russia had taken legislative steps to end leaks of dangerous military know-how.

"But clearly decrees are very important only if they quickly begin to have an impact in practice," he said, noting that Russian technologies and Russian scientists' knowledge had been used in Iran.

Russia maintains close contacts with Iran, while the United States and Israel regard it as a rogue state that supports international terrorism and is trying to build nuclear weapons. Iran denies the charges.

Israeli media reports have said Russia was helping Iran develop missile navigational and delivery systems and knowledge on how to produce warheads, and that thousands of Russians were involved in various Iranian military projects.

Moscow insists it has stopped supplying missile technology to Iran. But security officials have said they have foiled attempts by private Russian companies to provide Iran with dual-purpose technology.

"Generally, both Israel and the United States know Russia's position well: We have not violated, and will not violate our international obligations on non-proliferation of missile technology," said Sergei Yastrzhembsky, President Boris Yeltsin's spokesman.

"It is a complete clean-up," said the head of the Supreme Council for Antiquities, Gaballah Ali Gaballah. In addition to the restoration, workmen cleared old cars, kiosks and houses from the area, he said.

Though discovered in 1924, the 10 tombs weren't opened to the public until Tuesday. They were for judges, ministers and aides to the Pharaohs who ruled Egypt 4,573 years to 4,321 years ago.

Gaballah said the closeness of the tombs to the great pyramids reflected the relationships between their occupants and the Pharaohs.

"The king was the guarantor of the after-life," he said.

Some of them are built with columns, which gives them an appearance of small temples — a feature rarely found in tombs built later. The walls of the tombs are decorated with scenes of offerings of geese, legs of beef and fruit such as figs to the gods. In at least one tomb, there are drawings of ships. Almost none of the original paint remains on the drawings.

The government is now preparing an international gala event for the reopening of the restored Sphinx at the end of this month.

Morocco King slams Israel

RABAT, Morocco (AP) — Moroccan King Hassan II accused the Israeli government Tuesday of both arrogance and obstinacy that are destroying the hopes for Mideast peace created by the 1993 Oslo accords.

Hassan, who has played an important mediating role between the two sides, criticized the government of Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu during a speech marking the 37th anniversary of his ascension to the throne of this North African kingdom.

"The hope that was brought by the Oslo accords to the Middle East is evaporating under the effects of the obstinacy of the Is-

Accuses Netanyahu Gov't of 'arrogance, obstinacy'

raeli government," Hassan said.

He accused Israel of "turning its back on all the signed commitments, persevering in arrogance and exposing its citizens and those of all the region to dangerous tensions."

Hassan also praised what he called the "meritorious flexibility" of the Palestinian Authority in negotiations with Israel.

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, in a message addressed to the king, to use his influence to pressure Israel to respect U.N. resolutions.



King Hassan II of Morocco is followed by his two sons Sidi Mohammed (left) and Moulay Rachid (right) as he leaves the Royal palace in Rabat. The King accused the Israeli government of "obstinacy" that is destroying hopes for Mideast peace. AP

Israel's Weizman faces challenge for presidency

By Karin Laub
JERUSALEM (AP) — The incumbent is a brash, hugely popular ex-fighter pilot who calls world leaders by their first names. The challenger is a small-town mayor twice passed over by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu for a Cabinet job.

Still, President Ezer Weizman is caught up in a tough battle for a second five-year term. In a secret ballot, the 120 members of parliament choose Wednesday between him and Likud Party legislator Shaul Amor.

The reasons for Amor's unexpectedly strong showing: Weizman's history of controversial comments and Amor's willingness to play the ethnic card.

Amor, a 57-year-old Moroccan-born Likud backbencher, has been telling his colleagues it is time a Sephardi Jew won the presidency, which is largely ceremonial but carries great moral weight.

Amor's slogan, "For the first time, a president for the second Israel," plugs into resentment felt by many Sephardi Jews — those who trace their origins to Middle Eastern countries — toward the European-born Ashkenazi elite.

Yitzhak Navon, a Sephardic Jew, served as president from 1978-83. However, he is descended from a Sephardic Jewish family that had emigrated from Europe to Israel — a group that has enjoyed many of the same privileges of Ashkenazi Jews and would not be considered part of the "second Israel" Amor says he represents.

Weizman, 73, is a member of the powerful Ashkenazi elite. His uncle, Chaim, was Israel's first president. Ezer Weizman has served as air force commander and defense minister and he played a key role in negotiating Israel's peace agreement with Egypt.

With his sharp tongue, he also has made many enemies in his long career. He has infuriated women by calling them "maedele" — Yiddish for girlie — and telling a female army officer she was better off at home darning socks than trying to become a pilot.

He has insulted homosexuals and told a fallen soldier's brother who was fed up with Israel that he should go sell fish in New York, then.

Israeli columnists call Weizman "an officer, but not a gentleman." Yitzhak Rabin's widow, Leah, has come out in support of Amor. She apparently is still angry at Weizman

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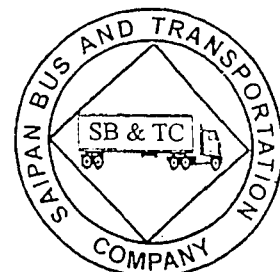
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2 die in Irish pub attack

By SHAWN POGATCHNIK
BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Unidentified gunmen shot several people, killing two, in a predominantly Catholic bar Tuesday, police said, hours after Irish security forces safely defused a 600-pound (270 kg) car bomb near

the Northern Ireland border. There was no immediate claim of responsibility for the attack inside Canavan's Pub in rural Poyntzpass, 25 miles (40 kms) southwest of Belfast. The bar is owned by relatives of a local moderate Catholic politician.

Among the victims were two friends drinking together — one a Catholic, the other a Protestant, both regulars in the bar. At least one victim was shot through the chest, another through an arm. Two victims died at the Daisy Hill Hospital in nearby Newry, a

spokesman there said. Police said two others in the bar suffered less serious wounds that didn't require immediate hospitalization.

Earlier, another unidentified gunman tried to kill a Catholic man working alone at a roadside fast-food trailer near Toomebridge, 30 miles (50 kms) west of Belfast, but his handgun jammed and he fled in a waiting car, police said.

Tuesday began with Irish army experts defusing a car bomb concealed in a hayshed in Hackballscross. The crossroads lies 45 miles (70 kms) south of Belfast and just a mile (2 km) in the Irish Republic. Police said it had been stored there in advance of a likely strike across the border, where the British army has several fortifications.

The violence overshadowed continuing negotiations among seven parties in Belfast on the future of British-ruled Northern Ireland. The talks are supposed to conclude by May with a settlement acceptable to its pro-British majority and Catholic minority.

Their success is partly dependent upon truces being observed by Northern Ireland's rival paramilitary gangs — but the violence underscored how frayed those cease-fires have become.

Irish Foreign Minister David Andrews, who led the Irish government delegation Tuesday, said he hoped the IRA-allied Sinn Fein party would re-enter the negotiations Monday as the British and Irish governments intend.

The two governments, which cosponsor the talks, expelled Sinn Fein last month in punishment for

two killings in Belfast blamed on the Irish Republican Army. Adherence to a 7-month-old IRA truce is the essential condition for Sinn Fein's participation.

Sinn Fein leaders are threatening to stay out unless British Prime Minister Tony Blair meets with them first.

No group claimed responsibility for Tuesday's defused bomb, but police said they suspected an anti-British gang called Continuity IRA was behind it.

The Continuity IRA, opposed to the mainstream IRA's 7-month-old truce, also was blamed for a 250-pound (100 kg) bomb dismantled on a different stretch of the border last week and is suspected of detonating car bombs in two predominantly pro-British Protestant towns last month.

Police blamed extremists within the north's various pro-British paramilitary groups for the abortive gun attack near Toomebridge. The attackers' car escaped in the direction of Castledawson, a predominantly Protestant town.

Also Tuesday, a hard-line Protestant politician contended that police foiled an effort by the IRA to bomb Northern Ireland's police headquarters in east Belfast.

Police refused to comment on the claim by Ian Paisley Jr., justice spokesman for the Democratic Unionist Party, that detectives had discovered a stolen car fitted with fake license plates that matched those of a civilian who works inside the headquarters.

Gates grilled on Microsoft practices



Microsoft Chairman Bill Gates testifies on Capitol Hill Tuesday before the Senate Judiciary Committee. Gates came under intense questioning at the hearing as he was asked repeatedly whether his company restricts Internet businesses from promoting products of rival Netscape Communications Corp. Netscape president Jim Barksdale is at left. AP

By ROB WELLS
WASHINGTON (AP) — Bill Gates, with competitors at his side and U.S. senators in his face, was forced to make his case that Microsoft Corp. isn't a monopoly out to crush rivals in the Internet software market.

The exploding software industry, he said during testimony Tuesday on Capitol Hill, is "an open economic opportunity for any entrepreneur in America."

But he got plenty of argument on that point.

"Some are concerned that where there's a lot of money to be made, or where competition could threaten Microsoft's dominant position, Microsoft exploits its monopoly power — virtually guaranteeing that no one entrant has a realistic possibility of succeeding," said Senate Judiciary Chairman Orrin Hatch.

Gates mounted a vigorous and spirited defense during a Senate Judiciary hearing that stretched over 4 1/2 hours.

The meeting was called to investigate competitive issues in the software industry, but it focused almost entirely on Microsoft.

Besides fielding sharply worded questions from Hatch and others, Gates also was questioned by his fellow witnesses, the CEOs of rivals Sun Microsystems Inc. and Netscape Communications Corp.

Netscape chief executive James Barksdale enlisted the audience's help challenge Gates' view of the industry.

He asked audience members to raise their hands if they had a personal computer at home or work. Several dozen did.

He then asked them to keep their arms up if they were among those without a Microsoft Windows operating system.

Only a handful remained.

"Gentlemen, that's a monopoly," Barksdale said.

Gates asserted that lower prices and vastly improved features in computer software are evidence of an open and thriving market, not one beset by a monopoly.

"In the end, the software industry, which contributed over \$100 billion to the national economy last year, is an open economic opportunity for any entrepreneur in America," he said. Government control, which some have proposed, would only restrict innovation.

"Anybody who is doing great products in this business can do very, very well," Gates said. Hatch quickly replied: "Well, Mr. Gates, if there's predatory pricing. And not if there is improper, monopolistic control."

"I point it out because, it isn't just the business of selling software. It's the business of selling it fairly," the senator said.

The appearance of Gates, the world's richest man, packed the hearing room. Long lines of spectators stretched outside through much of the proceedings.

After Gates' appearance, autograph seekers and well-wishers approached him.

The executive obliged a few, including someone who brought this week's Newsweek magazine, which features Gates on the cover.

The hearing came as Microsoft continues to fight a Justice Department lawsuit alleging it violated a 1995 court order designed to prevent anticompetitive conduct.

Justice lawyers argue Microsoft is leveraging its dominance in Windows software — installed on about 90 percent of personal computers — to gain market share in the market of Internet browsers, which navigate around the World Wide Web.

In January, Microsoft avoided a contempt-of-court citation by agreeing to let computer makers tempo-

rary offer its latest version of Windows 95 without easy access to its Internet Explorer software.

The company is appealing a December federal court order on the browser issue.

Hatch repeatedly questioned Gates about allegations the software maker restricts Internet businesses from promoting products of

rival Netscape.

Gates eventually described limited instances where Microsoft doesn't allow Internet businesses to promote Netscape on one part of their Website.

That's when a computer user reaches Webpages through the "channel guide" on Microsoft's Internet Explorer.

The channel guide is a feature of

preloaded Internet addresses that seeks to simplify navigating the Internet.

"On the pages that you link through the channel guide, that on those pages you don't have a competitive product," Gates said.

Hatch and other senators vowed to press on with their investigation.

PUBLIC NOTICE


Attn: CNMI GOVERNMENT
FHP Independent Plan Members

Effective December 31, 1997, FHP, Inc. has discontinued its CNMI Government Independent Plan. A letter was mailed in November notifying each member of this change. The HIPAA Certificate of Coverage was mailed in January 1998. If you have not received your HIPAA letter, please call CNMI Customer Service immediately at 235-7687.

For those wishing to sign up with the Government health plan, forms are available at the CNMI Retirement Fund and are due by March 15, 1998.

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Bosnian Serb suspect to surrender

By Irena Gajic
BANJA LUKA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — A Bosnian Serb war crimes suspect charged with torturing non-Serbs in a prison camp will surrender to the Hague tribunal, his lawyer said Tuesday.

Zoran Zigic, 40, is one of 13 Bosnian Serbs charged with beating, torturing and killing hundreds of Muslims and Croats in the Keraterm camp in northwestern Bosnia.

The indictment by the U.N. war crimes tribunal for the former Yugoslavia alleges that Zigic took part in a mass execution of prisoners and forced them to perform humiliating and painful acts, such as lying on broken glass and engaging in fellatio.

Zigic was allegedly given free access to the camp, where authorities allowed him to torture prisoners.

The indictment alleged that Zigic was one of a group of Serbs who sealed about 200 prisoners — Muslims and a few Croats — in a building at Keraterm and fired machine guns into it, killing at least 140 and wounding 50.



**NORTHERN MARIANAS
HOUSING CORPORATION**



SOLICITATION FOR LEGAL SERVICES

The Board of Directors of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), represented by the undersigned, is seeking services from qualified firms or individuals licensed in the Commonwealth to serve as legal counsel for the NMHC, such services as providing advice and assistance pertaining to legal matters with respect to its operations. Terms and conditions shall be set forth in a contract to be executed upon selection of the legal counsel.

Qualified individuals or firms must submit a letter of interest, together with a proposed fee schedule and background qualifications of counsel or associates, to Ms. MaryLou S. Ada, Corporate Director, P.O. Box 514, Saipan, MP 96950, or delivery of documents to NMHC's Central Office located in Garapan. Deadline for submission of documents is Friday, March 20, 1998 at 10:00 A.M.

NMHC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfection in same in the interest of the Corporation.

/s/ JUAN S. TENORIO
Chairman of the Board

Rees-Jones feels 'guilt'

LONDON (AP) — Bodyguard Trevor Rees-Jones says he "feels a certain sense of guilt" at being the sole survivor of the car crash that killed Princess Diana and her boyfriend Dodi Fayed. The Mirror newspaper reported Tuesday.

The remarks were part of The Mirror's second day of coverage of the 29-year-old bodyguard's apparently improving memory of the Aug. 31 accident in Paris.

"I'm sure that anyone who survives an accident where

people have died feels a certain sense of guilt," the newspaper quoted Rees-Jones as saying in a two-page interview. "But in my case, the people who died were special people. It doesn't seem right that I should be the only one who lived."

His account bears similarities to claims by Dodi Fayed's father, millionaire Mohamed Al Fayed, who arranged the interview and still employs Rees-Jones.

Rees-Jones said last week-

end that he received no payment for the interview.

On Monday, The Mirror quoted Rees-Jones as saying Diana was conscious after the crash and cried out for Fayed, who was already dead. He also maintained the chauffeur, Henri Paul, who also died and was found to be three times over the French drunk-driving limit, was not visibly drunk when they left the Ritz Hotel.

Al Fayed has denied that Paul, who was also his employee, was drunk. He also has given various versions of

Diana's last words, and maintained there was an anti-Islamic conspiracy to kill the couple, who he claims were engaged.

The French doctor who treated the dying princess in the wrecked Mercedes said she was semiconscious and did not say "anything precise."

Rees-Jones was badly injured and initially had no memory of what happened. But with time and psychiatry, he says his memory is returning and he will speak again to French investigators.

The newspaper said Rees-Jones learned he was the

accident's sole survivor when his mother broke the news to him several days after he emerged from 10 days of heavy sedation.

In a commentary Tuesday, The Guardian newspaper said Rees-Jones might not be influenced by Al-Fayed "but it would have been much better for him to eliminate any doubts by giving his testimony to the French authorities, then to a British inquest."

"Mr. Rees-Jones's memories conform rather neatly to Al Fayed's unproven allegations," added Guardian columnist Henry Porter.



Morning traffic passes under the Alma tunnel in Paris as a solitary tourist stops by the replica of New York's Statue of Liberty flame, turned into a pilgrimage site for Princess Diana's fans. Six months after the crash that killed the princess, her boyfriend Dodi Fayed and their driver, this plaza filled with hand-scrawled tributes and wilting flowers has become Diana's place. AP

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

We, the sons and daughters (Jesus M. Elameto, Estanislao O. Laniyo, Rosario M. Elameto and Maria M. Elameto) and the family of the late Rosa Mareham Elameto take this opportunity to express our appreciation, Ghiriosow, Si Yu'us Ma'ase, and Salamat Po to all our relatives, friends, leaders, our priests our techas, choirs and the most excellency Bishop Tomas A. Camacho.

Your most comforting expression of sympathy, kindness, prayers and support have deeply touched us more than any words of thanks can ever be expressed.

Please be assured that you will always be remembered by the family.

Rosary Mass is on March 7, 1998 at 4:00 p.m. in the Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Please join the family after mass for a dinner at the residence of Ms. Rosario M. Elameto in San Jose/Oleai.

Thank you in advance for your presence.

20th Death Anniversary

We, the family of the late **Rosario Atalig Hocog** cordially invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the anniversary mass of our beloved mother, grandmother and wife.

Mass of intention will be at San Isidro Chapel in Sinapalo. The last day of the anniversary mass will be on Saturday, March 14th at 10:00 a.m.

Lucheon will be served immediately after the mass at the Residence of Mr. & Mrs. Vicente S. Atalig in Sinapalo I across Patty's Beauty Shop.

Daily Mass Schedule:

March 6-8, 12 & 13 at 5:00 a.m. / March 9-11 at 7:00 p.m.

Thank you for your prayers and join us on the final day of the anniversary celebration.

May God Bless You!

From:
The Family

Senate panel endorses 3 new members to NATO

By TOM RAUM
WASHINGTON (AP) — The Senate Foreign Relations Committee endorsed a measure Tuesday that would grant NATO membership to Poland,

Hungary and the Czech Republic.

The resolution, passed by a margin of 16-2, is expected to come before the full Senate later this month, and an "overwhelmingly positive" vote was predicted by Sen. Jesse Helms, the committee chairman.

That would clear the way for the three former Soviet-bloc nations to join the North Atlantic Treaty Organization later this year. Other countries have also asked to join.

Although the resolution approved by the committee does not put limits on future NATO expansion, several senators were expected to propose amendments for a

hiatus during final debate on the matter.

One is a proposal by Sen. John Warner to bar any further NATO additions for three years.

NATO has agreed to consider the issue of inviting additional members to join the alliance in 1999.

President Bill Clinton has pushed hard to modify the 49-year-old organization to let in Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic. That expansion was supported by Helms.

Critics of the resolution contend an expanded NATO could entangle the United States in a series of Bosnia-style peacekeeping missions.

NATO was formed after World War II to confront the former Soviet Union in Europe. It currently has 16 members. The last time it was expanded was in 1980, when Spain was admitted.

KEEP SAIPAN CLEAN & BEAUTIFUL

Clinton friend testifies

By LARRY MARGASAK

WASHINGTON (AP) — Vernon Jordan appeared for several hours Tuesday before the grand jury investigating President Bill Clinton's relationship with Monica Lewinsky, saying he answered all questions and hailing his "enduring friendship" with Clinton.

Emerging from the U.S. Courthouse after a full day behind closed doors with the federal grand jury, Clinton's longtime friend, confidant and golfing companion declined to say what he told Kenneth W. Starr's investigators about Clinton and Lewinsky.

"I answered all of their questions truthfully and completely, to the best of my ability," the prominent Washington lawyer and longtime civil rights figure said. "I shall return on Thursday for more questions."

His lawyer, William Hundley, said that Jordan had been taken through a "slow, step by step" interrogation. But he did not elaborate.

Jordan, however, did seek to minimize speculation that the protracted investigation had "cast doubt on my friendship with President Clinton."

"Let me reassure you that ours is an enduring friendship, an enduring friendship based on mutual respect, trust and admiration," he said. "That was true yesterday. That is true today. That will be true tomorrow."

Clinton has been under siege for six weeks, ever since allegations surfaced that he had an affair with Ms.



Vernon Jordan, accompanied by attorney William Hundley, meets with reporters outside federal court in Washington Tuesday after testifying before a grand jury investigating an alleged affair between President Clinton and Monica Lewinsky. Jordan told reporters that his friendship with the president had not been strained by the experience. AP

Lewinsky and then tried to cover it up by encouraging her to lie under oath about it in the Paula Jones lawsuit.

Both Clinton and Ms. Lewinsky have denied having a sexual relationship. The young woman started at the White House as an intern in 1995 but was transferred about a year and a half later to the Pentagon.

Jordan was the first of three major figures in the controversy to testify.

Starr has been moving toward summoning Ms. Lewinsky before the grand jury but has made no effort yet to question the president in the Lewinsky matter.

Jordan, whose effort to find Ms. Lewinsky a job and an attorney landed him in the middle of controversy, joked briefly with reporters at lunchtime as the White House anxiously awaited the completion of his

appearance.

Presidential spokesman Mike McCurry told reporters he thought that Jordan, Clinton's close personal friend and unofficial adviser, would "absolutely" give testimony helpful to the president.

Meanwhile, individuals familiar with the case said two other figures — White House aide Bruce Lindsey and Clinton's personal secretary Betty

Currie — would probably return for more testimony before the grand jury as early as Thursday.

The day after the story broke, Jordan pledged to talk "directly, completely and truthfully" about his role. He hadn't been heard from publicly since.

Starr's prosecutors were expected to grill Jordan on the role of intermediary that he played in helping Ms. Lewinsky find a lawyer and search for a new job in late December and early January, shortly before the allegations became public.

His contacts with Ms. Lewinsky included four face-to-face meetings, a ride in a chauffeur-driven car and about 10 phone calls.

Jordan has said that his assistance in finding Ms. Lewinsky a job began before he knew she had been subpoenaed in the Jones case and that he helped her find a lawyer only after she had assured him she did not have a sexual relationship with Clinton.

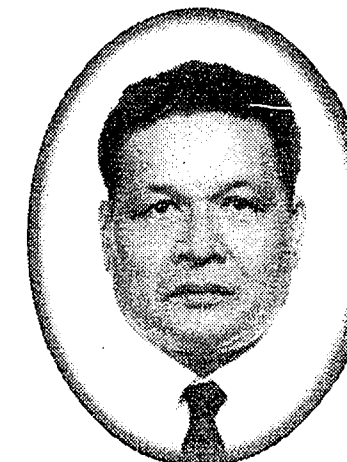
Sources familiar with his account add that Jordan had also received assurances from Clinton that there was no sexual relationship.

Prosecutors are trying to determine whether Jordan's assistance may have been part of a broader effort to encourage Ms. Lewinsky's silence in the Jones case. She got a job offer from one of the companies Jordan contacted just a few days after she signed an affidavit denying an affair with Clinton.

HERBERT SAN NICOLAS

also known as "Michang"

DIED: February 25, 1998 at the age of 72



Predeceased By:

Parents:

Maria Cabrera San Nicolas & Jose Wilson Pangelinan

Vidal Palacios & Maria Aguan Camacho

Parents-in-law:

Francisco Camacho & Rosa Santa Maria Manibusan

Reared Parents:

Ramon Diaz & Rosario Pangelinan Borja

Brothers & Spouse:

Francisco S. Pangelinan, Candido S. Pangelinan, Manuel S.N. Pangelinan, Torcuato S. & Cecilia Borja, Serafin S. Borja, Benbal S. & Maria T. Borja, Antonio A. Camacho, Roman A. Camacho, Juan A. Camacho, Luis A. Camacho

Brothers-in-law & Spouses:

Blas P. Tenorio, Juan S.N. Cabrera, Juan Santa Maria Manibusan, Francisco Santa Maria Manibusan, Jose Manibusan - (Antonia C. Manibusan, Ana B. Manibusan), Joaquin A. Diaz, Jesus Igibara, Ignacio Celis Rosa S. Sablan; Lucia A. Camacho

Sisters:

Sisters-in-law & Spouse:

Rosalia S. Pangelinan, Ignacia Santa Maria Manibusan, Rosa M. & Jose Castro, Maria M. & Jose Blas

Son-in-law:

Joseph "Tudor" Aguan Nauta

Daughter-in-law:

Dolores Taitingfong San Nicolas

Grandchildren:

Carla Rose D. San Nicolas, Xena B. San Nicolas

Survived By:

Wife:

Ignacia "Achalang" Manibusan San Nicolas

Children, Grandchildren & Spouses & Great Grandchildren:

Juan M. & Mariana D. San Nicolas: Carol, John Paz S.N. Nauta & Patrick Jiro: Mark/Ann Doris (Ray, T.J., Vinni), Herbie/Gloria (Brenda Lynn, Paricia, C.J., Justine), Monessa, Joseph Priscilla S.N. & Pedro C. Muna: Peter, Patrick Ramona S.N. & Antonio C. Barcinas: Tanya/Jay (Jayna), Hercia/Chris (Christopher), Niona/Chavo, Alexandra, Nicole Francisco M. & Cynthia T. San Nicolas: Michael (Matthew, Mara, Marissa), Peter, Audrey/Vince (Darren, Dean), James, Herbert, Ignatia Ramon M. & Nenita B. San Nicolas: Vanessa/Gerard (Gerard, Cirigida, Joseph), Sherrie, Maile, Craig, Bo, Shawn Esther M. San Nicolas & Robert Nesbitt: Terence, Russel, Elicia Moises M. & Norinda A. San Nicolas: Oliver, Moricia, Herbert Juan (Penny Walker): Adrian/Jackie (Erlinda, Eloy, Elexia), Moises Jr., Daniel Elisa S.N. & Norbert D. Camacho: Norisa Gil M. & Irene T. San Nicolas: Reneacia, Gilbert, Catherine Eloy M. & Jeanne R. San Nicolas: Christopher

Sisters & Spouse:

Luise P. & Manuel S. Villagomez, Juanita P. & Frank Megilich, Guadalupe P. Tenorio, Gregoria C. Cabrera, Vicenta A. Camacho

Brothers & Spouse:

Juan S.N. & Jun Wong Pangelinan, Bishop Tomas A. Camacho, Francisco & Isabel V. Camacho, Juan A. & Emilia V. Camacho, Roman A. & Beverly J. Camacho

Sisters-in-law:

Dolores Ito Pangelinan, Priscilla D. Pangelinan, Victorina M. Pangelinan, Dolores C. Santos, Maria M. Igibara, Gloria M. Celis

The Holy Rosary is being said nightly 7:00 P.M. at his residence in Tanapag. Last Respects may be paid on Friday, March 6, beginning at 8:00 A.M. - 1:30 P.M. at his residence in Tanapag. State funeral service will be held at the Multi-Purpose Center from 2:00 P.M. - 3:00 P.M. Mass will be offered at Mt. Carmel Cathedral 4:00 P.M. Burial will follow immediately.

A world . . .

Continued from page 13

treated like a member of the family, adding that he has been assuring his employees that their jobs are secured. "If you love your employees, they love you back. And it shows with the way they serve the customers who have always been the backbone of any business," he explains.

He could be bright. Perhaps, he made a big splash as he opened his second branch along Beach Road three years later. And now that his Middle Road

restaurant turns five years old Ayuyu, however, remains a family man who takes time from his busy schedule to help his children in their homeworks. "Time will really come when a businessman will be forced to spend more time in the office than with his family but everything can be worked out fine."

And for this, he has another success formula: enticing the wife to get involved in the business and spend time together with him in the office.

How about the kids? Well, they normally run around the store while the parents run the business.

DOC . . .

Continued from page 6

A DOLI manna said the program "began having 'growth pains'" later that year.

DOLI, through the LIIDS program, has been able to place the preliminary number of nonresident workers issued entry permits in the last fiscal year at 37,600.

LIIDS, according to DOLI, is

seen to support government's full control of arrivals and departures of nonresident workers.

It is also programmed to provide status for DOLI's enforcement activities and add security and "biometrics" to the entry permit identification card.

Further, DOLI is projected to have the ability, through the program, to exchange selected data with other agencies as what DOC is currently doing.

LIIDS . . .

Continued from page 7

LIIDS "nerve center" at DOLI's San Antonio office Tuesday morning.

Officials said Tenorio was looking for ways to minimize the program's cost in light of his administration's tight financial situation.

LIIDS, according to a DOLI

manual, seeks to address at least nine "major" areas in four phases:

- * Arrival and departure control.
- * Entry permits with "biometrics."
- * Immigration case management.
- * Document Imaging.
- * Labor Case management.
- * Employer-resident job match.
- * Detention/deportation.
- * Hearing (adjudication).
- * External agencies interfaces.

Guam . . .

Continued from page 7

welfare of our reefs.

Another project is the "Encouragement of Youth and Development of Youth Groups" which would provide incentive materials for focusing science fair projects on coral reefs.

The project would also develop

printed materials on putting together youth organizations focused on general environmental awareness and coral reef management in particular.

Additional projects in the works include reef restoration, the development of a coral reef education CD-ROM, and educational signage for reefs both shoreline and underwater.

Time celebrates 75th year

By KATHERINE ROTH
NEW YORK (AP) — Time magazine was celebrating its 75th anniversary with a gala Tuesday night featuring glitterati and literati, scientists and politicians, cover guys and cover gals.

The seating chart of the eclectic evening wasn't available beforehand, Mikhail Gorbachev, Bill Gates, Toni Morrison and Steven Spielberg were among hundreds invited.

So were Oscar winner Tom Hanks, funnyman Mel Brooks, supermodel Cheryl Tiegs, along with former presidential aide Dick Morris and Hitler's cinematographer Leni Riefenstahl.

President Bill Clinton was scheduled to address Tuesday night's gathering in Radio City Music Hall.

"It's been 75 years, but we feel really young," Time managing editor Walter Isaacson said.

The magazine was launched in 1923 by two Yale students, Henry R. Luce and Briton Hadden, as "a brief, readable chronicle of significant events."

Over the years, the price of the New York-based weekly went from 15 cents to dls 2.95 as it grew into one of the magazine industry's leaders in circulation and advertising revenue.

It now has more than 31 million readers in 210 countries, and ranked third last year in magazine ad revenue with dls \$33.2 million.

The magazine began its Man of the

Year tradition with aviator Charles Lindbergh in 1927. Wallis Warfield Simpson was the first Woman of the Year, in 1936.

Time has a weekly circulation of over 4 million, mostly by subscription. Princess Diana was on the cov-

ers of the two best-selling issues. The cover Sept. 8, after her death in a car accident, sold over 800,000 newsstand copies, surpassed only by the Sept. 15 commemorative issue, which sold nearly 1.2 million copies.



Muhammad Ali and his wife Yolanda Williams arrive at New York's Radio City Music Hall for the 75th anniversary gala for Time magazine Tuesday evening. President Clinton was to be the main speaker at the event. AP

RP . . .

Continued from page 3

properly checked and screened so they are healthy enough to deliver what they are expected to.

Santos explained that it is the responsibility of the sending government to ensure that the deployed workers would not pose health hazards or threat to the host country.

"We are not lacking proper health screening of our workers. As it (Philippine health screening policy) stands, we implement. We will still implement our own medical requirement," he stressed.

The CNMI government is enforcing a new health screening regulation which subjects all non-resident workers to blood tests against HIV and other sexually transmitted diseases and chest X-ray against tuberculosis and other communicable diseases.

Local health officials have reported an alarming increase of communicable diseases in the Commonwealth. Reports claimed cases of TB, HIV infection and STDs on the island have reached alarming levels.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said the new health screening regulation will stay, despite the earlier opposition by the business commu-

nity, which said that given the present economic situation, employers are not capable to incur additional expenses.

But Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Joe C. Ayuyu said the business sector is not against the new health regulation but the \$150 fee quoted them by the Commonwealth Health Center (CHC) and other private medical service providers for the screening.

Ayuyu said the business community is amenable to the new regulation provided the screening fee is lowered at a reasonable level, adding that the Chamber believes public health is worth the additional expense.

CDA . . .

Continued from page 1

lated to underwriter's and bond counsel's fees because "it is one-shot deal."

The CDA approves any bond float proposal by any government agency and determines beforehand the proponent's paying ca-

pability.

During the board meeting where the CPA bond was the only matter on the agenda, the members also stressed the responsibility of the government in installing the needed infrastructure—specifically an expanded airport to accommodate bigger planes—to address the needs of the emerging casino industry in the island.

Gov't . . .

Continued from page 1

set provision" on excise taxes. Still, Tenorio said he remains opposed to increasing taxes "right away," adding that he would rather ask the Legislature to look for other funding sources.

In an earlier interview, the governor said he is considering an increase in business permit and license fees.

But Tenorio added that any such "adjustments" will not affect individual taxpayers or involve the imposition of new corporate taxes.

Tinian . . .

Continued from page 1

starting 1998—and the fund transfer would continue for 10 years. The proposed fund would be taken from the general revenues collected by the CNMI.

"The transfer required by this section shall have priority over disbursements and allocation of Commonwealth funds other than payroll for government employees," states HB 11-77 which now heads to the Senate.

The account is intended for annual payments of loans and other financing made by PSS.

They pointed out that the first casino investor on Tinian, Hong Kong Entertainment (Overseas) Investments, Ltd., has done its part by pouring in \$150 million to build a casino and hotel with its own water and energy systems.

"The government should do its part by providing an expanded airport," they said.

The bill was approved based on House Joint Resolution 10-36 which allows PSS to borrow \$16 million for the construction of a new high school on Saipan; renovation of dilapidated classrooms and other capital improvement projects identified in the PSS Seven Year CIP Plan for 1997-2003.

The resolution allows the government to serve as guarantor for PSS.

The previous Board of Education then chaired by Don Farrell had secured a \$8.5 million loan from the California Financial Services to cover the construction of a new high school to be built in Kobleville.

Marianas Variety News & Views

Classified Ads Section

DEADLINE: 12:00 noon the day prior to publication

NOTE: If some reason your advertisement is incorrect, call us immediately to make the necessary corrections. The Marianas Variety News and Views is responsible only for our incorrect insertion. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time.

Employment Wanted



01 GENERAL MANAGER-Salary: \$3.05-9.00 per hour
01 OFFICE MANAGER-Salary: \$3.05-8.00 per hour
Contact: UNIVERSAL GROUP DEVELOPMENT INC. Tel. 234-2978(3/5)Th25571

02 SUPERVISOR, ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$3.05-4.50 per hour
04 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.05-3.75 per hour
03 MASON-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour
03 PLUMBER-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour
03 PAINTER-Salary: \$3.05-3.75 per hour
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05 BEAUTICIANS-Salary: \$3.50-5.00 per hour
Contact: JIHAN CORPORATION dba Jihan Beauty Shop & Supply Tel. 322-0414(3/5)Th25574

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01 BRICK LAYER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: GREAT SUN CORPORATION Tel. 235-3403(3/5)Th25575

01 EXECUTIVE ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$600.00 per month
01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: GUERRERO TRADING CORPORATION Tel. 322-2112(3/5)Th25577

01 CIVIL ENGINEER-Salary: \$800.00 per month
Contact: GUERRERO TRADING CORPORATION dba Island Home Developers Tel. 322-2112(3/5)Th25578

01 MECHANIC-Salary: \$4.00 per hour
01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$800.00 per month
01 CALIBRATOR-Salary: \$4.00 per hour
Contact: KAE POONG CORP. dba Kim, Sung Seo Tel. 234-9018(3/5)Th25579

01 CASHIER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MP CORPORATION dba Mercy's Beauty Shop Tel. 235-1990(3/5)Th25582

01 PAINTER-Salary: \$3.30 per hour
04 MASON-Salary: \$3.05-3.30 per hour
04 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour
01 DRAFTSMAN (WORKER)-Salary: \$850.00 per month
01 CIVIL ENGINEER-Salary: \$1,400.00 per month
Contact: NORTH PACIFIC BUILDERS, INC. Tel. 235-7171(3/5)Th25584

01 INSTRUCTOR (SCUBA DIVING) SPORT-Salary: \$1,100.00 per month
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Contact: HONG ELECTRIC ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. 234-1324(3/5)Th25586

01 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIR-Salary: \$3.05-4.50 per hour
Contact: KWICK'S ENTERPRISES SAIPAN INC. Tel. 234-7243(3/5)Th25588

01 QUALITY CONTROL CHECKER-Salary: \$3.05-3.75 per hour
Contact: YANG JIN BUYING & TRADE/INFORMATION SERVICE COMPANY Tel. 235-2421(3/12)Th25588

02 WAITRESSES-Salary: \$3.05-3.25 per hour
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01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.80 per hour
Contact: GREAT PACIFIC ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. 234-7499(3/5)Th70816

02 REST. WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour
01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$4.00 per hour
Contact: ROLAND G. JASTILLANA dba Golden Lobster Rest. Tel. 234-7658(3/5)Th70820

01 LAYOUT ARTIST-Salary: \$3.65 per hour
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01 FARM WORKER-Salary: \$3.25 per hour
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01 ASSISTANT MANAGER-Salary: \$3.05-5.50 per hour
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01 SALES CLERK-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour
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01 BEAUTICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 OFFICE MANAGER-Salary: \$1,400.00-2,000.00 per month
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01 SALES SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$650.00-1,500.00 per month
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01 ASSISTANT MANAGER-Salary: \$800.00-850.00 per month
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01 ASSISTANT RESERVATIONS MANAGER-Salary: \$3.05-12.00 per hour
03 FRONT DESK CLERK-Salary: \$3.05-8.50 per hour
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01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$6.00 per hour
Contact: YOUNIS ART STUDIO, INC. dba Marianas Variety News & Views Tel. 234-6341(3/12)Th70946

01 MAINTENANCE (BUILDING REPAIR)-Salary: \$3.05-4.25 per hour
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Contact: EQUITABLE INSURANCE CO., INC. (3/12)Th25650

01 WAITER-Salary: \$3.55 per hour
02 TRAVEL COUNSELOR-Salary: \$1,200.00 per month
01 MARINE SPORTS INSTRUCTOR-Salary: \$1,260.00 per month
01 GROUND (HOST)-Salary: \$2,600.00 per month
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01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$4.50 per hour
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01 CIVIL ENGINEER-Salary: \$1,100.00-1,900.00 per month
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01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
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01 HEAD WAITER-Salary: \$3.25-4.17 per hour
Contact: PACIFIC MICRONESIA CORPORATION dba Dai-Ichi Hotel Tel. 234-6412(3/19)Th71012

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$1,000.00-1,200.00 per month
02 DRILLER-Salary: \$4.80-5.50 per hour
01 SOIL/MATERIAL ENGINEER-Salary: \$950.00-1,000.00 per month
01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$1,000.00-1,200.00 per month
Contact: GEOTESTING, INC. Tel. 234-7210(3/19)Th71002

01 CONSTRUCTION WORKER-Salary: \$3.05-3.25 per hour
01 LATHE (MACHINIST)-Salary: \$3.05-3.40 per hour
01 WELDER-Salary: \$3.05-3.40 per hour
01 EXPEDITER-Salary: \$3.05-3.40 per hour

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SPORTS



Chicago Bulls' Michael Jordan (23) loses the ball on a rebound as Denver Nuggets' LaPhonso Ellis, center, and Danny Fortson, right, move in Tuesday. AP

GR Crew defeats Hustlers, 12-9

By Priscilla T. Castro
Variety News Staff

THE GR Crew defeated the Hustlers, 12-9 in the first game of the SSA Division "B" last Tuesday at the Susupe Sports Complex.

The Crew scored only in the first and the sixth inning with six runs a-piece.

In the first inning Gene Weaver of the Crew hit a three-run inside the park homer.

In the third inning Tony Celis hit a two-run homer.

In the seventh inning Frank Hocog hit two-run inside the park homer and was perfect four for

four while Tony Celis was three for four. JJ Laniyo of the GR Crew was three for four.

Game Two

Toyota Teks 3, Fielders 2

The second game was shutoff in the third inning because the Fielders lacked a player.

Game Three

Laly 4 19, JC Fadang 1

Game three was also shut-off in the fifth inning when Laly 4 scored 19 runs. Fadang scores a run in the second inning. James Sasamoto of the Fadang was two for two.

Continued on page 31

Mother-daughter tandem wins women's 3.0 doubles

By Priscilla T. Castro
For the Variety

MOTHER and daughter Pam and Barbara Maslins won the Women's 3.0 Doubles defeating four other players.

In the second match Marilyn Igitol and Cynthia Escandor played against the Maslins in three sets with scores of 4-6, 6-1, 6-2.

In the semi-finals Igitol and Escandor defeated Angie Dickenson and Kelly Kamber.

In the Women's 4.0 Doubles, fYuni Park and Eun Lee defeated Kamia Mayumi and Atsuko Yamagishi, with scores of 6-2, 7-6 tie-breaker (7-5).

In the semi-finals Park and Lee defeated Nelia Luna and Lucita Pasana with scores of

2-6, 6-3, 6-4. In the second match, Mayumi and Yamagishi defeated Matie Buenaventura and Sally caddac, 6-4, 6-2 that sends them to the 4.0 finals.

In the Men's 2.0 Doubles, Jun Metran and Alvin Francisco defeated Robert Coracero and Fernando Cajigan in two sets, 6-4, 6-1.

Men's 3.0 Doubles Finals, Emaas and Beltran defeated the team of Maseo Wilson and Steve Nutting in three sets, 3-6, 6-4, 6-3.

In the 4.0 Men's Doubles Filata President Eli Buenaventura and Perry Caddac were defeated by Ray Yana and Jun Villanueva in two sets, 6-4, 6-1.

SML's 1998 season to start March 15

By Priscilla T. Castro
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THE SAIPAN Major League will open its 1998 season on March 15th, with the defending champions UMDA Aces playing against Kautz Glass Glazers in the first game.

The opening ceremony will commence at 9 a.m.

The four starting teams are: UMDA Aces, Miller Lite

Brewers, Kautz Glass Glazers and Team Palau.

This is the first time in the league's history that Toyota Wheels team will not participate.

The San Vicente Sunrisers have yet to confirm if they will be joining the league.

They are given until this Friday, March 6 to sign with the Saipan Major League Asso-

ciation.

The games will be played every Sunday at 10:00 a.m. another game will be played at 2 p.m.s

The Saipan Major League Association has appointed Rose Igitol as the Acting President.

Igitol was the league's secretary/treasurer until the association appointed her as acting president.

1998 Marpac Palau League:

Tanapag Waves edge I Luv U Man, 10-9

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IT WAS quite a game when the first game of the day went all the way to the ninth inning, when the Waves and I Luv U Man tied in three innings.

In the fourth inning both teams tied at six a-piece and again they tied in the seventh inning at seven a-piece.

The game was played again in the eighth inning in which they tied at nine a-piece.

In the ninth inning the Waves won the game by scoring a run while I Luv U Man wasn't able to score a run that gave the Waves the victory. Mario Aldan was two for three with a triple.

Game Two

Aimeliik Enforcers 9, Red Torch 6

The Enforcers defeated the

Red Torch, 9-6.

Red Torch was unable to score any runs until the last inning.

Enforcers' Riag Yoshino was perfect two for two and Nick Guerrero two for three, hitting two homeruns, one in the first inning and one in the sixth inning with four rbis.

Enforcers Ed Cepeda was two for three with two homeruns and two rbis.

Game Three

Pepsi SPEC 19, Warriors 13

SPEC rallied eight runs in the first inning with back to back homeruns by Noel Ignacio and Payton Sakuma.

Noel Ignacio was three for four with a double, a homerun and three rbis while Payton Sakuma was two for three, a double, a homerun and one rbi.

Jerry Ayuyu was three for four with a double, a homerun and

three rbis and Warriors Brady Ubedei was four for four with two doubles, a homerun and four rbis.

Game Four

Tarzans 11, L.A. Bombers 4

Tarzans was able to score 11 runs while the Bombers advanced four runs. John Reyes was two for four with a double, a triple, and two rbis while Fred Kaipat was three for four with a triple.

Game Five

G. Force 13, Senyevins 3

The fifth game was shutoff in the fourth inning with the G. Force leading by 13 runs and the Senyevins with three runs.

G. Force's Ray Seman was perfect two for two while Leo Bobai was two for three with Jess Omar hit a homerun in the

Continued on page 31



Nike Tour golfer Casey Martin is the center of media attention after hitting an approach shot during a practice round for the Greater Austin Open Tuesday in Austin, Texas. The tournament is Martin's first since a court ruled he could use a cart in competition. At right is Martin's caddie Steve Burdick. AP

Marianas Variety News & Views

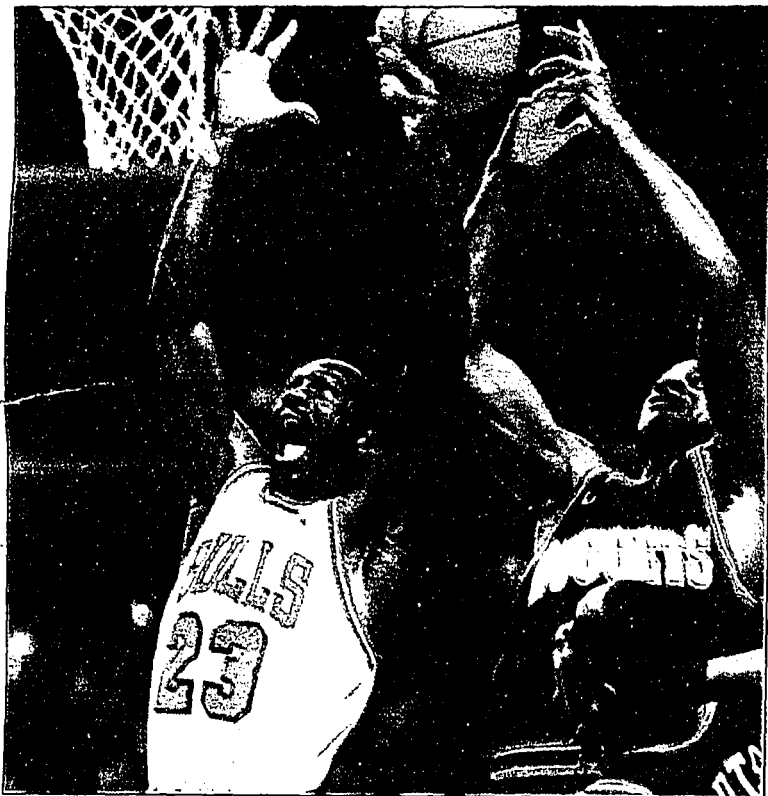
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