



Marianas Variety

News
& Views

Micronesia's Leading Newspaper Since 1972

Vol. 25 No. 243
©1998 Marianas Variety

Thursday • February 26, 1998

Saipan, MP 96950
Serving CNMI for 25 Years

50¢

Gutierrez raps Speaker over bills, voting record

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

GUAM Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez yesterday demanded transparency in the Legislature, saying his office is not being promptly given access to legislative records.

Invoking the Freedom of Information Act, Gutierrez wrote to Guam Speaker Antonio R. Unpingco asking for copies of the voting records of various bills passed by the Legislature during the January-February sessions.

A press release from the Guam Governor's Office said Gutierrez "was disturbed that the Legislature appeared to be hiding the information."

"In the past, these voting records were routinely faxed to the Governor's office at the same time that the bills were transmitted to the Governor's office," an irked Gutierrez stated in his let-



Carl T.C. Gutierrez

ter to Unpingco. "They are public records, and any individual has the right to request them and obtain a copy, even the Governor."

Gutierrez complained that members of his staff had made "repeated verbal requests" for copies of the voting records, but received no response.

"It is a sad day when records

Continued on page 20

In line with Teno-Pepero's '100-day plan'

Gov't 'fast-tracks' more homesteads

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

ACTING Gov. Jesus R. Sablan yesterday said the administration is now reviewing over 3,000 homestead applications filed by residents of Saipan, Rota and Tinian.

Sablan said land has already been identified for the applicants, adding that the administration "will try its very best to start giving out lots."

"This is in line with our 'First 100 Days' commitment," he said, referring to the campaign promises of the Republican gubernatorial ticket.

Sablan said he has met with acting Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Bertha C.



Jesus R. Sablan

Leon Guerrero, and will soon sign the necessary contracts for surveying, delineation of boundary and subdivision of plots.

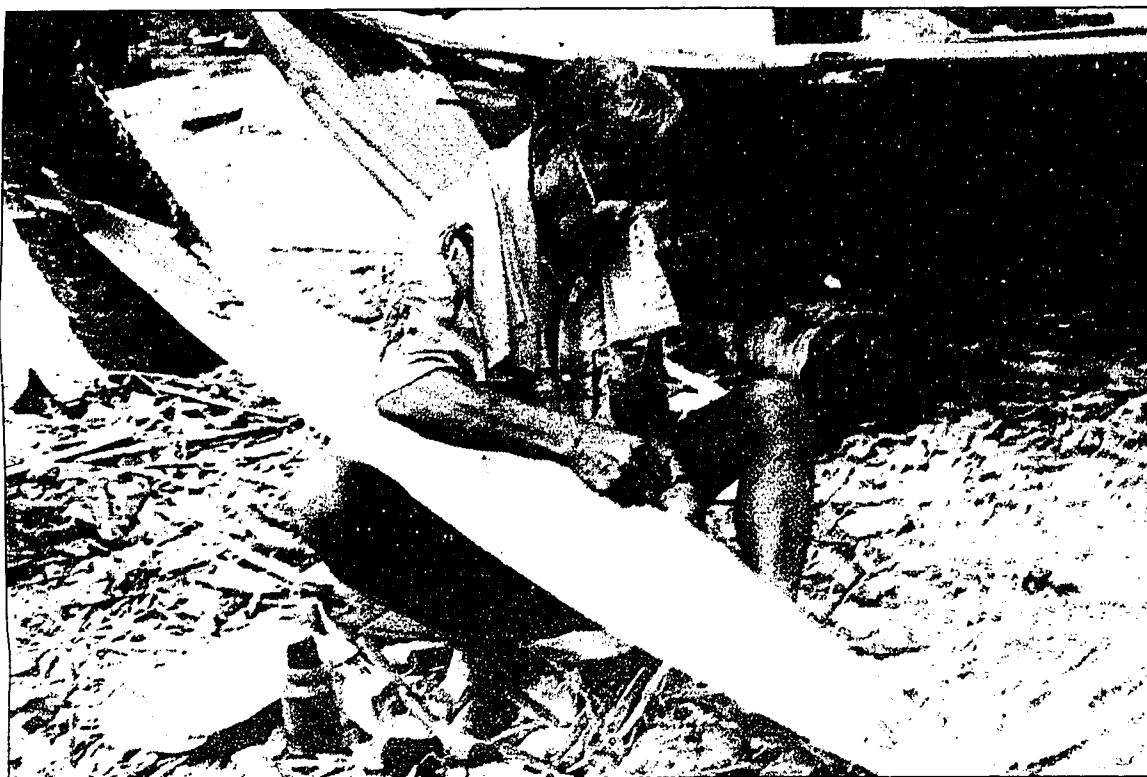
The last time a report on homestead applicants was made public was in Sept. 1997 when six individuals were issued land deeds by the Board of Public Lands (BPL).

Aside from being NMI-descent, applicants are required to build a house at their expense and to "consistently occupy it."

During a three-year period, the Division of Public Lands (DPL) will "monitor" the applicant before the latter qualifies for a deed.

Last August, BPL also granted deeds to some 15 homestead applicants.

In addition, BPL also opened up a 500-hectare portion of Tanapag to accommodate 50 new homestead lots.



Dr. Mau Piailug, a master navigator and traditional leader, works steadily on a small canoe to be presented together with a larger canoe project by the Carolinian's Affairs Office.
Photo by Lalla C. Younis

Brother of Vice Speaker drowns

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

A BROTHER of Vice Speaker Jesus T. Attao drowned after trying to rescue his son who was swept by strong water currents near Managaha Island yesterday afternoon.

Max Attao, who was in his late 40's, was pronounced dead at the Commonwealth Health Center at 1:39 p.m., according to acting Public Safety Information Officer Maj. Claudio Norita.

Norita said initial investigation showed that the tragedy happened while Max and his 18-year-old son were line fishing north of Managaha Island.

Norita said Max and his son left Smiling Cove Marina at 12 p.m. aboard a small boat.

As they anchored the boat, Max's baseball cap flew off into the water, prompting the son to jump onto the ocean to retrieve it.

The son recovered the cap, but the strong currents swept him away from the boat.

Max threw a life vest at his son, but the latter drifted further away.

At this juncture, Max jumped to rescue him. The son yelled, telling

Continued on page 20

'I&S, Tomokane have no future with MVB'-- Dr. V

By Lalla C. Younis
Variety News Staff

MARIANAS Visitors Bureau Managing Director Anicia Q. Tomokane may have sealed her fate with the Executive Committee of Governor Pedro P. Tenorio's transition team when she challenged the subcommittee report on the I&S Advertising Agency's \$3.5 million contract.

In a press conference yesterday, Executive Committee

Transition Chair Dr. Jose T. Villagomez branded Tomokane as one having "no future" with the CNMI's tourism agency.

"It looks like Mrs. Tomokane is looking all around the CNMI to put the blame on this I&S fiasco. First, it was the former governor Froilan Tenorio, then the present administration and the legislature and now the transition committee. Who is she going to blame next, the Pope?," said Villagomez.

"She has got to do her job in



Anicia Q. Tomokane

coming up with a better presentation to this administration if she wants the contract to be signed. The committee has no interest in the I&S contract, except the fact that there is no contract to speak of and that is our main concern," he said.

"And the way this I&S issue is being handled, I doubt that she has many friends left as far as this is concerned. And it is also not fair for I&S, I don't

Continued on page 20

Total
solar
eclipse

A TOTAL solar eclipse can be observed around the northern part of South America, the Caribbean Sea, the Atlantic Ocean and the Pacific Ocean, including the Marianas tomorrow afternoon (Saipan time), astronomers disclosed.

According to a website
Continued on page 20

Kim Dae-jung sworn in

By PAUL SHIN

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - Former dissident Kim Dae-jung was sworn in as South Korea's president Wednesday, pledging democratic and economic reforms and a new relationship with communist North Korea.

The inauguration marked the first transfer of power to an opposition party in the turbulent 50 years of South Korea's history as an independent nation.

"Today is a proud day when a democratic transition of power is taking place on this soil for the first time," Kim said before some 45,000 invited guests and common folk at a plaza in front of the National Assembly building.

Since its founding in 1948, South Korea has been governed by the same conservative political groups. And through out of those years, Kim, 74, was persecuted as a dangerous dissident, an apostle of democracy in a land of military dictators.

Among the invited guests were



New South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, right, prepares to shake hands with outgoing President Kim Young-sam after being sworn-in at the National Assembly in Seoul, Wednesday. AP

Kim's three immediate predecessors Kim Young-sam, Chun Doo-hwan and Roh Tae-woo. Chun and Roh, ex-army generals, seized power in a 1979 coup, arrested the new president on sedition charges and condemned him to death.

Kim was spared after intervention by the United States, but spent 15 years in prison, exile and house arrest and survived what he believes were three assassination attempts by the military leaders who watched as he took the oath of office Wednesday.

In his acceptance speech, Kim renewed his promise that his "government of the people" will not seek political revenge and will push democracy and a free market economy hand in hand.

"Democracy and the market economy are two sides of a coin or two wheels of a cart. If they were separated, we could never succeed," he said.

"Some nations that have rejected democracy and accepted only a market economy have ended up suffering disastrous setbacks, as illustrated by Nazi Germany and militarist Japan," he said.

Declaring that reviving the economy is his biggest task, the new president said a lack of democracy resulted in collusion between politics and business in

Continued on page 20

Cop guilty of 'misconduct'

By Ferdie de la Torre

Variety News Staff

SUPERIOR Court Associate Judge Timothy Bellas yesterday convicted a policeman accused of stealing government funds and of misconduct in public office.

Following a plea agreement Bellas ordered PO2 Lourdes C. Tomei to spend three years in jail, all suspended.

Bellas placed Tomei in three

years' active probation and required her to pay \$348.54 restitution to the CNMI Department of Finance. She was also asked to perform 200 hours of community work service.

The police officer was charged with two counts of theft and misconduct in public office.

Tomei and counsel Brien Nicholas entered a plea agreement with the government repre-

sented by Assistant Atty. Gen. Robert Steinborn.

The defendant pleaded guilty of the charges.

Bellas said Tomei shall not be employed by the government for a three-year period at the Department of Public Safety, Labor and Immigration, Customs in an enforcement capacity, and by the Commonwealth Ports Authority as a police officer.

"Tomei will not be employed in any other way in a law enforcement capacity, except for those positions not involving an enforcement capacity such as driving test examiner or data processor for Bureau of Motor Vehicle or dispatcher for Communications on the same period," the judge said.

Court information showed that last Oct. 28 the defendant claimed

that she worked overtime in her capacity as a government employee while she did not perform her official duties.

The government paid Tomei \$131.88 for overtime claimed but not worked, court documents indicated.

Documents said the officer was also paid \$216.66 for overtime claimed but not worked last Nov. 5 to 16.

Agency hiring of nurses to be gradually stopped

By Zaldy Dandan

Variety News Staff

ACTING Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez yesterday said the hiring of nurses through manpower agencies will not be stopped immediately but phased out gradually.

"We don't want to do it drastically, otherwise no one would take over," Villagomez said.

He said the administration's plan regarding the direct hiring of the nurses may not require legislation.

Less than half of the 120 nonresident nurses currently hired through two manpower agencies already have US accreditation and may be hired directly, Villagomez said.

"Our task now is to find the FTEs (full time employee positions) for these accredited nurses," he said.

Villagomez at the same time said the administration's concern over the quality of public health care led to the decision to do away with manpower

agencies.

"If the nurses are hired through agencies, the CNMI government has not much say about the selection process," he said.

"What we want is to interview these nurses directly."

Members of the Senate leadership, together with Rota's municipal officials and a top adviser of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, have recently expressed grave concern over the conditions of the nurses hired through agencies.

At Rota's health center, a "health crisis" was averted only after Rota's municipal government and the Tenorio administration identified funds to pay the nurses' salaries.

The Rota health center owes the manpower agency \$111,853, which cover four months or nine paydays.

The agency managed to pay the nurses three months worth of paydays, but the nurses have yet to be paid for the past two pay periods.

Troops subdue hijacker, to end airline standoff

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) - Security forces disguised as caterers boarded a Turkish Airlines plane Wednesday and captured a Cypriot hijacker who claimed to be on a mission from God, television stations reported.

No one was harmed during the operation launched after the hijacker refused to surrender and insisted that the plane must continue on to Iran, private NTV and ATV television stations said.

The hijacker, who claimed to be carrying a bomb in a teddy bear, hijacked Flight TK-491 shortly after takeoff from the southern city of Adana en route to Ankara, the capital, on Tuesday.

He released 21 of the 62 passengers after landing in the southeastern city of Diyarbakir, the main city of Turkey's troubled southeast, where Kurdish rebels have been fighting for autonomy since 1984. About 37,000 people have died.

There were still 41 passengers and five crew members aboard when he was captured.

The Anatolian news agency listed four of the passengers as foreigners but it was not known if any were among those freed. The nationalities of the foreigners were not immediately available.

State Minister Refaiddin Sahin told the Anatolia agency that the

Continued on page 20

Battle of Saipan hero dies at 104

By Mar-Vic C. Munar

Variety News Staff

US ARMY Maj. Gen. Ralph C. Smith, who captured Saipan from Japan during World War II, died in his sleep last January 21. He was 104.

The San Jose Mercury News reported that Smith "had a light lung infection, and he wasn't eating."

"His heart just stopped (beating)," according to the January 26 issue of the Mercury News.

Smith made headlines all over America on Nov. 23, 1943 following the fall of a Gilbert Islands atoll.

Smith headed the 27th Infantry Division which captured Saipan, the first Japa-

nese-held island in the Allies' World War II march across the Pacific.

During the Battle of Saipan, Ralph Smith infuriated his superior Marine General Holland Smith who blamed him for the faulty order received by the 27th Infantry Division men in their offensive against the Japanese forces. This resulted in heavy casualties on the part of the US forces.

Holland Smith relieved Ralph Smith from the 27th Division. Ralph Smith was sent back to Pearl Harbor.

However, according to Don Farrell's book, *History of the Northern Marianas*, Army Lt. Gen. Simon Bolivar Buckner conducted an investigation of

Holland Smith's action, and concluded that the relief of Ralph Smith "was not justified."

Holland Smith was "prejudiced against the Army," according to historian Harry A. Gailey.

Ralph Smith started his 30-year military career when he joined the Colorado National Guard in 1916.

Between wars, he taught French at the Military Academy at West point.

Smith also helped negotiate the establishment of CARE.

The Mercury News, quoting a book by Gen. S.L. Marshall, described Ralph Smith as "ranga and breezy in nature."

Man in Tinian burglary convicted

By Ferdie de la Torre

Variety News Staff

THE SUPERIOR Court convicted a man accused of a series of burglary and theft cases, including one at the Tinian Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

Associate Judge Timothy Bellas in an order issued yesterday set the sentencing for

Ricardo M. Borja on April 15. The Attorney General's Of-

fice charged Borja with three counts of burglary and five counts of theft.

The defendant pleaded guilty to burglary charges. In return, Assistant Atty. Gen. Kevin Lynch, on behalf of the government, recommended the dismissal of the remaining charges.

Court information showed that in March 1995 Borja broke into the Tinian DLNR

Office and stole the cash box and \$2,460 cash and checks.

In May 1995, the defendant burglarized the Tinian Marine Stevedore and stole \$575 cash.

Court documents indicated that in July 1995 the defendant stole \$705 cash, bag, credit cards, papers, passport, purse, and keys from a vehicle.

Borja also stole \$1,250 cash and a bag from another person, documents said.

March 15 start for 902 may yet push through

By Zaldy Dandan

Variety News Staff

THE DECISION to begin the 902 talks on March 15, as urged by the White House, now rests on the newly formed CMMI panel, acting Gov. Jesus R. Sablan said yesterday.

Sablan, who heads the CNMI panel, said he still considers it too early to start the negotiations next month.

But, he added, "if the other members of the panel are okay with March 15 then I'll go along with them."

"The timetable is still negotiable, and I'm not going to unnecessary prolong or delay the 902 consultations."

"The only reason I was reluctant to commit the panel to a specific schedule is because the panel was not yet established," he said.

"Now that the team has been formed, if there's a need to meet (with the White House) earlier, then we'll meet earlier."

Sablan at the same time said the CNMI panel will soon communicate officially with President Clinton's 902 representative, lawyer Edward B. Cohen, and will begin discussions on the Commonwealth's



Jesus R. Sablan

agenda.

Besides Sablan, who will head the panel, Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota), House Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Prec. 2, Saipan), former Supreme Court associate justice Ramon G. Villagomez and Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Jose A. Ayuyao have been asked to join the CNMI's 902 team.

In addition, Washington D.C.-based lawyer, Howard Willens, Rota Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona and Resident Rep. Juan N. Babauta were also asked to serve as advisers.

However, apart from setting

Continued on page 8

TIRES AS LOW AS \$29.95*

EXPRESS TIRE & LUBE

TRIPLE J

THE NO. 1 NAME IN TIRES

Our Tire and Rim Prices Include Mounting & Computerized Balancing

Customer First

AUTO SERVICE CENTERS

WE SERVICE ALL MAJOR BRANDS

Mitsubishi • Hyundai • Isuzu • Toyota • Nissan • Honda • Ford • Chevy • Chrysler • Jeep • BMW • Mercedes • Mazda & more!

BRAKE SERVICE

FREE BRAKE INSPECTION

for every PURCHASE OF 4 TIRES!

FRONT-END ALIGNMENT

- Inspect front & rear suspension
- Adjust caster, toe & camber (when applicable)
- Most cars

\$59.95

TUNE UP

- 4-Cylinder
- Replace Spark Plugs
- Set Timing
- Most cars & light trucks

\$59.95

MAINTENANCE SERVICE

- Oil & filter change
- Lubricate chassis
- Top off all fluids
- Rotate & balance tires
- Service battery terminals
- Inspect brakes
- Most cars & light trucks

\$65.95

OIL & FILTER CHANGE

- Drain old oil & add up to 5 quarts of Castrol or Shell Oil
- Install new name-brand oil filter
- Disposal fee \$3.00 extra

\$29.95

RADIATOR FLUSH

- Evacuate old coolant
- Check for possible leaks
- Refill with new coolant

\$59.95

COMPLETE TIRE OUTLET

PASSENGER TIRES		MARSHAL TIRES		LIGHT TRUCK TIRES	
155R12	\$29.95	185/60R13	\$59.95	155R12	\$54.95
155R13	39.95	195/60R14	79.95	165R13	54.95
185/70R13	59.95	30/9.50R15	119.95	185R14	89.95
185/75R14	62.95	31/10.50R15	149.95	195R14	99.95
195/75R14	69.95	215/75R14	99.95	205/75R14	99.95
175/70R14	59.95	215/75R15	104.95	215/75R15	104.95
185/70R14	64.95	215/85R16	129.95	215/85R16	129.95
195/70R14	74.95	225/75R16	134.95	235/85R16	149.95
195/70R14	74.95	33/12.50R15	159.95	245/75R16	159.95
205/70R14	79.95	35/12.50R15	169.95		
205/75R15	79.95	265/75R16	169.95		
215/75R15	84.95				
225/75R15	89.95				

YOKOHAMA

PERFORMANCE RADIALS

AS LOW AS \$89.95

EUM-2

EUM-3

EUM-5

COMPLETE WHEEL

ENKEI NOW IN STOCK

AS LOW AS \$129.95

FINANCING AVAILABLE!

Apply for a Triple J Express Tire & Lube Card. Available Soon!

Shell Gas Station on Middle Road, Gualo Rai

Hours: Mon-Sat 7:30AM-7:00PM

Open Sun 8:00AM-5:00PM

234-TIRE (8473)

235-4455/6550

Prices valid until February 28, 1998, while supplies last. Not with any other offer. Tire design varies by tire size and brand.

FORUM

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

STRIKE THAT!
By Ferdie P. de la Torre



Warrant-less raid in As Liyo

LAST week a woman alleged to be physically and verbally abused decided to leave their house in Sinapalo Village on Rota because her live-in partner allegedly kept on harassing her to move out from their home. She rented a house in As Liyo Village with her one-year-old daughter hoping to start a new life.

The 25-year-old woman, who works as a waitress in a restaurant, carried some of the appliances which she believed belonged to her. After two days, she was surprised when her live-in partner arrived and started taking back the things from her rented house.

The woman tried to stop him from taking the things away, but instead the six-footer live-in partner slapped her on the face and choked her. She called the police. But the man told her he was not bothered at all since he had reported ahead that she had allegedly stolen things from their house.

Police officers later came and the man immediately talked with them. The complainant asked them to talk in English because she couldn't understand what they were talking about. One of the officers then handcuffed her and brought her to a police vehicle. She left the child to a friend when the officers told her she would be taken to the police station.

On the way to the police station, she begged the officer to bring her to a clinic for medical examination. The officer agreed and took her to Rota clinic. A clinic staffer who took pity on her asked the officer why he had to handcuff the hapless woman. Embarrassed, the officer removed the handcuff. After the examination, the woman was investigated at the station and was later released.

After a few hours, the woman's live-in partner, accompanied by three officers, went back to the As Liyo house. With the help of the three cops one of whom was in civilian clothes, he took more items from the house.

She asked him to at least spare the aircon as their child could not sleep well without it. When he refused, one officer grabbed the aircon.

Without the aircon and bed, the mother and child were forced to sleep on the carpet that night. But the sadder part of this saga was that a centipede bit the child on the forehead and arms. The girl was last reported to have a high fever.

The incident is another example of a domestic violence case. What is bothersome here is the participation of our police officers. In the first place handcuffing the hapless woman like a dangerous criminal was uncalled for. Remember she was the complainant and was even the one who requested police assistance after she was beaten.

Another aspect to look at is that the incident occurred at the woman's house. Assuming that the man earlier filed a complaint against her for stealing, didn't our enforcers realize that the two used to be live-in partners? That the items might belong to both of them? Is it true that the man had been jobless for a few years while they were living together? The raid was also conducted without a search warrant. Nothing!

Our sources said the man's brother is a police officer assigned at the Detective Division. We were told that the officer had no direct participation in the incident. Fine. We trust Rota Public Safety Resident Director Richard Taisacan's impartiality. However, a separate independent probe is needed to prevent a possible whitewash. Acting DPS Commissioner Vicente Sema, can you please step into the case, Sir?

AT a recent jury trial in the Superior Court, a piece of man's ear lobe was preserved in a jar and presented as evidence against a person accused of biting the victim. The ear lobe in the jar caught the attention of the jurors, judge, and other people in the courtroom. After looking at the jar, all eyes were shifted to the victim's ear.

The victim, who has protruding ears, expressed desire to have a surgery to fix back the removed ear lobe. But most people in the courtroom seemed to disagree with his idea. A clerk of court quipped: "Man, how I wish to tell him it looks better now. He better ask Tyson to bite the other ear to make it balanced."



Letters to the Editor

On the claims of OSHA's Frank Strasheim

Dear Editor:

I read the Monday, Feb. 23 issue of the Variety on the comments by OSHA's Frank Strasheim regarding living conditions of non-resident workers in the CNMI. What especially caught my attention was his assessment that these kinds of conditions are not seen on the mainland. I would like to bring the following facts to Mr. Strasheim's attention:

I had the opportunity to live in a county in North Metro Atlanta in Georgia for a few years.

The main industry in that country was a chicken processing plant operated by Tyson, the Arkansas industry giant. As we may recall, the owner of Tyson is a friend of President Clinton.

The plant employed mainly Mexican nationals for its labor force.

The poor wages, lousy benefits and hard work failed to attract any locals to work in the plant. This influx of the local sheriff being one of these landlords.

These individuals would buy old, dilapidated house trailers. A 12 feet by 40 feet, one to two bedroom trailer could be bought for approximately \$1,500.

These trailers were then set up in a field somewhere, forming a small rural slum.

The trailers were rented for an average of \$400 plus a month. Utilities were included, as many of these people did not have the means to pay the necessary deposit to open an account with the power company.

One could find up to twelve workers, men, women and children sharing one of these trailers. You can imagine the living conditions in one of these "communities."

Violence was an everyday occurrence.

My husband, who worked for the local prosecutor's office used to tell me about the horrible assaults, rapes and murders occurring in these cramped living quarters.

These poor people worked for mini-

mum wages with no medical benefits and no health insurance.

They received no housing or food allowances or subsidies. Nobody paid any attention to the conditions they were forced to live in, and if they were hurt on the job, they received a bus ticket back home to Mexico.

Where was OSHA and the U.S. Department of Labor? Nowhere to be seen or heard!

Once when we visited the city of Waycross in southern Georgia, we drove by a restaurant at night, and we observed some people on the roof of the building.

My husband notified the local police as we thought a burglary might be in process.

The local law enforcers explained that these were not burglars but Mexican employees of the restaurant. They said that in the summertime their employer provided living quarters that were too hot to sleep in, so they kept their beds up on the restaurant

Continued on page 20

Camacho to Chamber: Take stand on poker

Dear Editor:

Will the Saipan Chamber of Commerce please rise and take a stand on the poker monopoly issue? Surely, the Chamber being the proponent of the free market system should have a stand.

It cannot remain mum on the very fundamental issue of freedom in the free market system and enterprise.

It's got to have a stand one way or another.

This is a matter that borders on morality, antitrust (U.S. Attorney, how about your stand?) and the economy, but we have to know what is the chamber's position. Surely, it cannot remain neutral and it cannot act like the legisla-

ture have always acted—passing a law that is in the first place contrary in all respects to the free market system, which repeatedly our lawmakers encourage, (i.e. development of golf courses, hotels, etc.) except on the poker industry.

We all cry competition is healthy and good for everyone but not in this industry.

So long as there is no competition in this industry, the industry cannot adjust to market forces and ultimately to its demise or proliferation.

It has not been tested.

Thank you for your attention and I hope that you closely examine this issue as it touches on the very fundamental issue

of freedom in the market place.

V.C. CAMACHO

P.S. For Guam readers: I am referring to a certain law that limits ownership of poker machines to about two or three people and only around 234 machines.

The law gives unfair advantage to people that want to get into the business.

Lawmakers we can all assume agree that this law is fair, constitutional and in all respects good.

Forget the moral side on this, we will deal with that later, but let the free market take its course or kill the industry.

Salmonella cases rising

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

SALMONELLA, a bacterial intestinal disease, is plaguing the Northern Marianas more than it does other Micronesian islands and the United States mainland. Figures from the Department of Public Health indicated that salmonella cases are higher in CNMI than in Hawaii, American Samoa, Guam and the mainland. The DPH recorded 66 cases of salmonella, a disease manifested

by an acute inflammation of the small intestine, last year, which was slightly higher than the previous year's 54 cases.

Percentage difference between the CNMI and mainland US also jumped to 103 percent in 1997 from 87 percent during the previous year.

The public health department is now looking into the cause of the disease on the island, while experts from the Center for Disease Control in Atlanta is consolidat-

ing efforts with the DPH.

As in any intestinal disorders, salmonella poses greater risks among infants and children, while dehydration among infants is believed to be severe.

As it is in other countries,

salmonella cases are higher during the rainy season since rainfall may trigger activities among its bacterial carrier.

Health experts said food-borne diseases are at least 300 times more frequent that they are reported, stressing the need

for environmental sanitation and personal hygiene.

Spread of the disease is also prevented through proper food preparation. The disease is also manifested by the sudden onset of headache, abdominal pain, diarrhea and nausea.

New regs make HIV test mandatory for workers

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

NONRESIDENT workers will be subjected to mandatory HIV and syphilis tests while private clinics will not anymore be allowed to issue health certificates.

Government is likewise doing away with skin tests for a more accurate screening of the workers' health.

"Sometimes, skin tests show negative reading but there still is an active TB. Also, if not placed correctly, the skin tests may provide false reading," said Connie C. Guerrero Public Health Liaison Officer of the Department of Labor and Immigration.

"Skin tests," she said, "are not reliable."

Government has issued amendments to health screening regulations after the Center for Disease Control confirmed that the rate of tuberculosis in the islands has doubled last year.

The amendments are meant to contain tuberculosis, AIDS and sexually-transmitted diseases.

Under the amendments, a sealed envelope containing results of a worker's health tests will be forwarded by the employer from the private

clinic which conducted it, to Guerrero's office.

There, the employer will be asked pay \$20 for documentation prior to the issuance of a certificate.

This, however, is the procedure if the tests showed there is nothing wrong with the worker.

In cases where there are "abnormalities," Guerrero said the concerned private clinic submits results to the Commonwealth Health Center which then notifies the employer for appropriate action.

For their part, workers who have just arrived in the Commonwealth will have to report to a doctor for health screening within 10 days of entry.

Guerrero said this measure is being taken as "many of employees are coming in with diseases."

She said workers could not be stopped from having prior health screening before leaving their country of origin since in most cases these countries already have existing regulations requiring such tests.

Inmates to plant trees

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

SOME 15 inmates from the Division of Corrections will be going to the Lau Lau watershed area tomorrow to plant trees as part of the revegetation program being undertaken by the Division of Environmental Quality and the US Department of Agriculture Natural Resources Conservation Service.

Albert Guerrero, DEQ environmental technician who coordinates the Friday tree-planting, said it will be the first time the inmates are participating in the project, which started in September last year.

Guerrero said once a week DEQ and NRCS staffers and volunteers go to Lau Lau to plant acacia trees and grass in exposed surfaces.

The area being planted is a one-hectare privately owned lot whose owner has allowed the DEQ and NRCS to use it for one of their demonstrations projects.

The project aims to mitigate soil erosion in the 20-hectare Sabunan Laolao area of the 320-hectare Lau Lau watershed.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND IMMIGRATION
DIVISION OF LABOR
SAIPAN, CNMI

PUBLIC NOTICE

ATTENTION: JOY VILLAMOR RAVELO
Labor Case No. 93-340

The Department of Labor and Immigration has lost contact with the above-named nonresident worker.

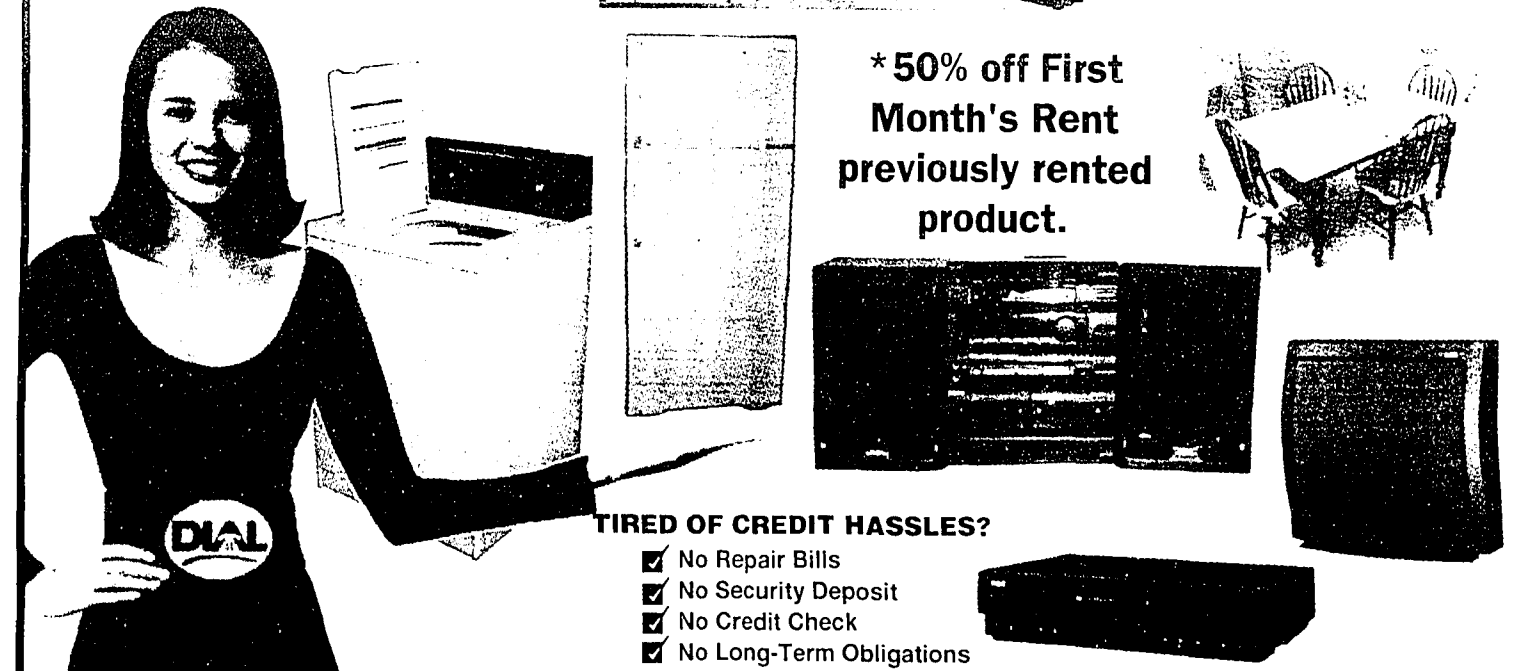
Mr. Joy V. Ravelo is hereby notified to appear at the Department of Labor and Immigration, Hearing Office, 2nd Floor Afetna Square Bldg., San Antonio, Saipan. Failure to appear within twenty (20) days after posting of this notice will result in dismissal of the above-Labor case and an Order of Repatriation.

Dated this 6th day of February, 1997.

E. H. Cay
Hearing Officer

Furnish your home for half the price in February!

50% OFF
FIRST MONTH'S RENT!



We want your business!

Middle Road, Gualo Rai
next to Subway

234-7368

Proposal to name Admin bldg after the late Juan A. Sablan

By Rick Alberto

Variety News Staff
THE ADMINISTRATION Building, the seat of the executive branch, is being proposed to be renamed as the Honorable Juan Atalig Sablan Memorial Building to honor the first Micronesian of Chamorro ancestry to be appointed as deputy high commissioner of the Trust Territory Central Government of the Pacific Islands.

The proposal is contained in

House Bill 11-99 introduced recently by Rep. Jesus T. Atiao.

Atalig was appointed by President Jimmy Carter in January 1978 to the second highest position in the central government which had administrative jurisdiction over the Marshall Islands, Ponape, Kosrae, Truk, Yap, Palau and the Northern Mariana Islands. He was deputy high commissioner up to 1981.

The Administration Build-

ing used to serve as the central government headquarters.

The bill designates the governor to prepare a plan of dedication within a reasonable period after the bill becomes a law.

The bill also requests the governor to buy a bronze plate bearing the new building's name, with the money taken from his representative allowance.

The bronze plate shall be accordingly permanently inscribed on the wall of the Administration Building.

Gamblers' mentality made some susceptible to Nigerian fee scam

By Aldwin R. Fajardo

Variety News Staff
CONSUMER counsel Diane McDevitt said the Nigerian advance fee fraud schemes become apparently successful because of the investors' "gambler's mentality."

McDevitt said AFF victims were made to believe that they can continue to recoup their losses by continuing to play out the deal.

"This strategy, of course, result in more losses for the victims," she said.

She added that AFF perpetrators are rarely prosecuted,

citing a report from US authorities which said only 5-10 percent of the victims are likely to come forward to report the incident.

McDevitt rooted this down to the victims' fear of having been prosecuted under existing US laws, while adding that victims normally keep mum due to embarrassment.

At least one US court has upheld civil forfeiture proceeds attributed to an AFF scam.

"Advance fee fraud schemes are only limited by the AFF criminals' imagination. In ad-

dition to the over-invoiced account scam, AFF perpetrators routinely carry out scams based on contract fraud which is normally cash on delivery," McDevitt said.

The AGO said other schemes perpetrated by the AFF syndicate include hard currency conversions or black money, and the sale of crude oil at below market prices.

CNMI consumers who may have received recent communications or letters from Nigeria related to money fraud are urged to report to and contact AGO's consumer counsel.

Focus:

Banking sector must learn from the slump

By Aldwin R. Fajardo

Variety News Staff

BANKS, which have a very conservative market perception, will weather the ongoing economic slump plaguing the Northern Marianas economy as they learn hard lessons from the crisis, a senior bank official disclosed.

And while economists predict a conservative year-long recession that will affect majority of businesses on the island, the banking sector, as well as other financial institutions, will remain standing still.

Bank of Saipan chief executive officer Tomas B. Aldan said banks have made good profits during the past years, adding that the sector is expected to maintain an upward trend.

"The banking industry is still healthy and so long as it remains in a pretty good situation, there is not much to worry about," Aldan told Variety.

And despite the crisis, bankers believe there were hard lessons to be learned from the economic turmoil, which should set back economic gains of the Commonwealth.

The turmoil's aftermath may see the institution of several measures to strengthen prudential rules, including tighter reportorial requirements for banks, guidelines for asset valuation and loan-loss provisions, and measures to curb insider abuse.

Many bankers believe the crisis could lead to a more resilient banking system and a stronger credit culture among borrowers.

Aldan said non-performing loans have always been attached to the banking industry, adding that every bank, in one form or another, has been confronted with such industry-related problems.

But he promptly added that non-performing loans have an impact on a bank's growth, especially when an institution "has a lot of it."

"It renders banks to put in more resources, as it result to a cut down on dividends and lesser value of stocks," he explained.

He said, however, that non-performing loans are not much of a problem in the Northern Marianas.

"We don't have much. People here know how to pay when they have to pay," he said, citing an insignificant number of non-performing loans on the island.

Aldan also downplayed the negative effects of the entry of bigger banks into the Commonwealth market, saying there are more good things than bad things about competition.

"We will feel the pinch (of bigger banks' entry), but right now, we don't see the impact. Maybe down the line we will notice it better," he said.

He pointed out that existing banks will always feel the pressure whenever there is a new player in the market but stressed that it should serve as a challenge to members of the business community in terms of coming up with various strategies to attract customers and clients.

Indeed, banking officials believe more banks would mean lower interest rates since the market will be able to provide more avenues for personal and commercial loans.

The entry of new banks in the Northern Marianas is expected to make the banking industry more competitive which can lead to lower interest rates.

Economists have predicted more activities in mutual fund brokerage and in the stock market, citing the presence of some US-based financial institutions on the island.

Banking director Oscar C. Camacho previously said a healthy competition is brewing up in the banking industry with the entry of foreign banks into the CNMI such as the First Hawaiian Bank and the Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.

The Department of Commerce earlier noted an increase in bank assets from \$530,917 during the third quarter of 1996 to \$540,211 last year, representing a 1.8 percent jump from the previous tally.

Banking experts have expressed optimism that total loan deposit ratio could still improve with the entry of new banks into the Northern Marianas.

DFW: says Mayor should find resources to transport goats

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

NORTHERN Islands Mayor Joseph T. Oguimoro should find his own resources to transport goats from his jurisdiction to Saipan and have it sold to finance development projects.

"I admire the mayor's concern. I also admire his vision. I totally support it," said acting Fish and Wildlife Director Richard Seman.

"But," he stressed, "we wish he could proceed with it and not wait (for us)."

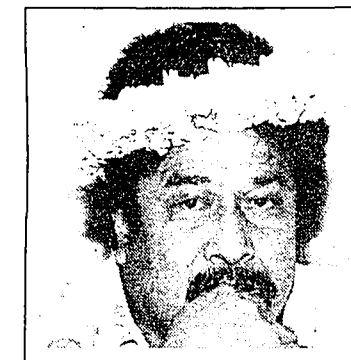
"He should find resources and get it done."

Seman's remarks stemmed from DFW's ongoing "population reduction" of goats on Sariguan Island following a study that finds the feral animals' overwhelming presence there is posing a threat to the place's ecological balance.

Oguimoro has expressed reservation on the operation saying the goats, instead of being euthanized, should just be transported to Saipan and be sold so revenues generated could help finance his projects in the Northern Islands.

Seman insisted though that funds for the project did not cover transportation expenses for the feral animals.

Oguimoro nevertheless said he will be ready to coordinate with DFW once the latter proceeds with a similar



Mayor Joseph T. Oguimoro

operation in other parts of the island chain.

Seman meanwhile said DFW will have to reassess the activity.

He explained that support from Oguimoro and other concerned government agencies fizzled out as the project kicked off last January.

"Maybe what we need to do now before we proceed is to look and see what it is they (Oguimoro and other officials) want or hope for us to do that we did not address," he said.

"The bottomline is we have a huge responsibility to the ecology of those islands... there is no better move now than to do similar operations," Seman stressed.

DOLI looks for runaway worker with tuberculosis

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

GOVERNMENT operatives are hunting down a 30-year old Chinese worker who recently ran away from her employer after tests showed she is afflicted with tuberculosis.

The extent of Ming Hua Jin's infection could not immediately be determined but public notices posted by the Department of Labor and Immigration said she is a "serious threat... highly contagious."

Jin has been on the island for merely three months, according to Connie C. Guerrero, DOLI's Public Health Liaison Officer.

This has raised questions on the credibility of health screenings given to workers leaving China for overseas employment.

Jin, who used to work at Sako Garments Manufacturing Co. in San Antonio, fled her employer reportedly after being informed that a plane ticket has been acquired for her return to China.

"She was at her barracks (workers quarters) and she ran away. When her employer came to give the plane ticket, she was not there," said Guerrero.

Guerrero said authorities have been receiving phone calls from concerned individuals about Jin's supposed whereabouts.

"We are investigating each and everyone. People say they have seen here and (location) is everywhere, not just one certain place," said Guerrero.

She said the areas named by phone callers have already been put under surveillance.

She refused to divulge more. Sources however said these include quarters of Chinese workers.

Bellas cites Nabors for contempt

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

SUPERIOR Court Associate Judge Timothy Bellas issued yesterday an order sentencing former Tinian official William B. Nabors for ignoring a court order.

Bellas handed a three-day jail term, all suspended, against Nabors after the court found him in contempt during Monday's hearing in connection with a 1986 civil case.

Bellas said the condition of the suspended sentence was that Nabors should turn over all of the documents required in the court's Jan. 5 order to S. Joshua Berger, counsel for plaintiff Commonwealth Bank Northern Marianas Islands.

"If all of the documents are not turned over, plaintiff need only file a declaration and the court will order the

incarceration of defendant (Nabors), the judge said.

Court documents showed that the Commonwealth Bank sued Nabors and two other plaintiffs to recover money due under a promissory note.

On May 4, 1983 the Commonwealth Bank loaned Nabors \$2,000 pursuant to a promissory note, documents said.

Plaintiff asked the court to hold the defendant in contempt



Judge Timothy Bellas

for failing to comply with the terms of the court order entered on Jan. 30, 1987.

The court ordered Nabors to pay \$200 per month beginning April 1, 1987 until the judgment and interest of 9 percent is paid and satisfied.

"Nabors payments have totaled \$800. The last payment received was Aug. 5, 1987. The defendant contemptuously disobeyed order by not making payments," plaintiff said.

The court required Nabors to appear and answer questions concerning any assets which he may have to satisfy the judgment rendered against him.

Plaintiff said a monetary judgment of \$3,908 was entered against defendant in 1986 and nothing has been paid since Aug. 1987.

Keep Saipan Clean & Beautiful

KEICO MOTORS

THE POWER OF CHOICE

1998 SPORTAGE

✓ CHECK IT OUT

✓ AIR CONDITIONING

✓ POWER LOCKS

✓ POWER WINDOWS

✓ POWER MIRRORS

✓ AM/FM STEREO CASSETTE

✓ ALLOY WHEELS

✓ SPLIT 60/40 REAR SEAT

✓ ROOF RACK

Introducing **KIA**
\$15,995NAMED
"BEST OVERALL
VALUE"

By: INTELLICHOICE

* not exactly as shown
* quantities limited to stock on handLimited
Time
OnlyLOCATED ON AIRPORT ROAD
NEXT TO THRIFTY CAR RENTAL

AIRPORT

Airport Rd.

HERMANS

KEICO MOTORS

THE POWER OF CHOICE

THRIFTY

KEICO



Tel. 234-0173

The Department of Public Health and Labor and Immigration are requesting the assistance of the general public in locating the following individual:

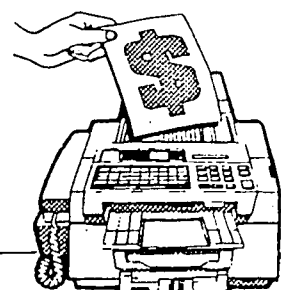
**MINGHUA, JIN**

Date of Birth 8/20/68

A quarantine order was issued for Minghua, Jin on 2/10/98

Minghua, Jin has a communicable disease and is highly contagious.

She is a serious health threat to the citizens of the CNMI. Any information as to her location should be forwarded to the following:

Public Health Liaison Office 664-3168
Chest Clinic 234-8950 Ext. 2056 or 2138**AUTOMATIC
SELLER MACHINE**

Busy schedule? You still have plenty of time to place a classified ad. Just fax your ad copy to 234-9271. It's a quick and easy way to sell your unwanted items for quick cash. If you don't have access to a FAX machine. Call 234-9797/6341/7578 and a representative will help you place your ad over the phone.

Marianas Variety
News

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

National Park Art contest open to NMI residents

THE ANNUAL "Arts for the Parks" art competition, coordinated by the National Park Academy of the Arts is currently underway and the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture has recently received appli-

cation forms for interested participants.

The National Park Academy's "Arts for the Parks" seeks to assist the National Park Service in bringing attention to the importance of our

National Parks, the CCAC said in a news release.

The Academy is accepting two dimensional art only, sizes not smaller than three hundred square inches nor larger than six hundred and sixteen

square inches.

Oil, watercolor, scratchboard, gouache, acrylic, alkyd, tempera, mixed media, pastel, pencil, pen and ink are the only acceptable media.

No photography, sculpture, prints or computer generated art will be accepted.

The subject matter must be taken from any National Park located in the United States or its territories.

In the CNMI, this would be the American Memorial Park in Garapan.

Subjects may include landscape, wildlife and history represented within the areas governed by the National Park Service.

All floral, fauna and geography

must be indigenous to the park depicted.

The submission of two slides of the work is required.

The deadline for postmark of the work is June 1, 1998.

The Academy will be representing numerous awards ranging from \$500 cash awards to \$50,000 purchase awards.

For complete application forms, fee information, awards and rules, please visit the office of the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture, located in Capitol Hill next to the Post Office.

Forms are also available via the internet at www.artsfortheparks.com.



DCCA Patrick Onopey and CAO Gene Igisomar start work on carving a small canoe at the Carolinian Affairs Office in Garapan yesterday. Photo by Laila C. Younis

NMC sponsors 'Poetry Alive!'

By Laila C. Younis
Variety News Staff
THE Northern Marianas College of Education is sponsoring "Poetry Alive!", an exciting and dramatic performance

of poetry, according to International Reading Association President Dr. Nancy Flood.

"The performers are arriving from the mainland and their group 'Poetry Alive!' is

based there. It will be theatrical performance of poetry, adding drama, humor and fun," said Flood.

"For anyone looking for a good show, this is it. We are

only charging \$5.00 admissions, \$2.00 if you are a student and free admission if you are an IRA member," she said.

According to Flood, there also will be IRA meetings and book sales after the performances.

Flood also pointed out that there will be performances for public schools; teachers and NMC faculty and the NMC School lab.

"Students will be able to experience the dramatization of an assortment of poetry and see how fun and exciting poetry can be," she said.

The schedule for performances starts open to the public on Wednesday, March 4th at the Multi-purpose building or the Joeten-Kiyu Library conference room at 3:30 p.m. to 6:00 p.m.

The performances for NMC faculty and mentor teachers are on Thursday, March 5th from 4:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. at the Joeten-Kiyu Library conference room.

On March 6th, Friday, the performances are for the NMC Lab School students and teachers from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Joeten-Kiyu Library conference room.

The "Poetry Alive!" performances, demonstrations and Mentor Teacher workshops have been funded by the Fund for the Improvement of Postsecondary Education.

For more information, contact the NMC College of Education:

Sunday, March 1, FEMA and Commonwealth officials said.

But FEMA representatives will be on island for one week after the DFO closes to handle appeals of decisions on housing assistance for Saipan's applicants.

The IFG Helpline, which disaster victims may call to check on the status of applications for assistance from the Individual and Family Grant Program (IFG), also will continue to operate after the DFO is closed.

The helpline: 664-0383 is open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Saturday.

CNMI will take over operation of the IFG Helpline on March 13.

The registration deadline for Supertyphoon Paka was Monday, Feb. 23.

March . . .

Continued from page 3

a date for the 902 talks, the federal and the CNMI panels are also in apparent disagreement on what issues should be discussed.

Citing persistent reports of labor, immigration and tariff abuses, White House wants the talks focused on how to phase-in federal immigration and minimum wage laws.

But Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio has said that the CNMI panel will raise its own "points for discussion," particularly the need for continued local control over immigration and minimum wage.

The 902 talks are named after the Covenant's Section 902, which provides for consultations between the Commonwealth and federal governments on matters affecting them.

The Covenant is CNMI's basic political document, and governs the Commonwealth's relationship with the United States.

Saipan FEMA office to close on Sunday

THE DISASTER Field Office (DFO), center for disaster response and recovery operations for the federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) and the Commonwealth, will close at 5 p.m.

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

Benson receives CCAC's 'Best Show' award

THE COMMONWEALTH Council for Arts and Culture recently opened the "2nd Annual Photography Exhibit" at the Gallery for Arts and Culture on Capitol Hill, which features the work of amateur and professional photographers from the Northern Marianas.

The "Best of Show" award was recently instituted for exhibits at the gallery and it was presented to photographer Del Benson for his beautiful work titled "Doves of Peace in Motion."

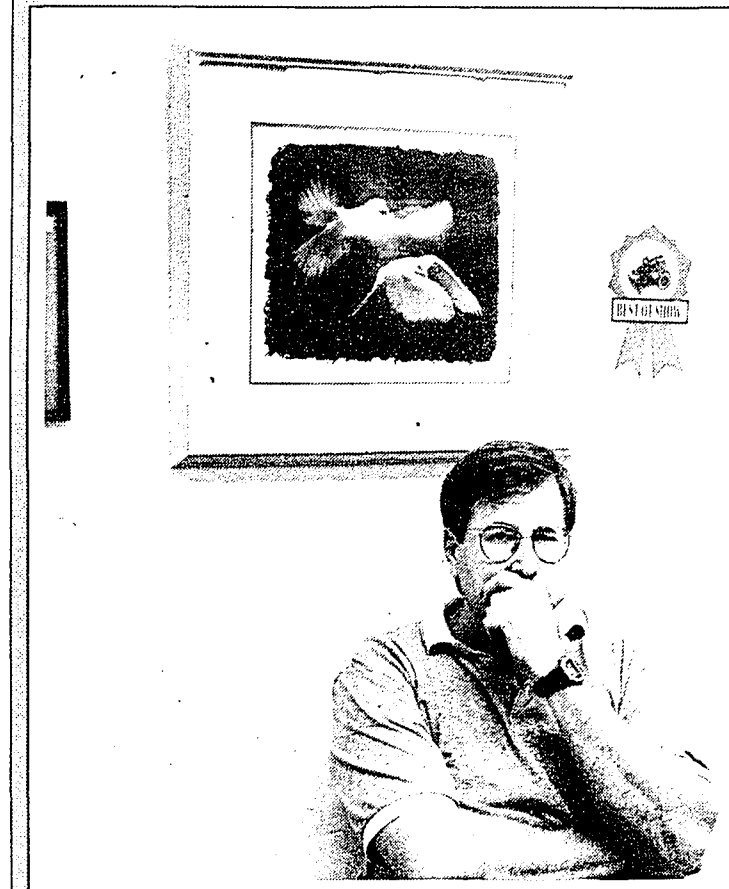
Though many pieces in the exhibit were considered for the award, the panel of judges felt that the quality, artistry and technical merit of the "Doves of Peace in Motion" was most deserving of the award, the CCAC said in a news release.

Benson has resided in the CNMI for nearly a decade. His fine photographic works have been featured in numerous publications and have been used for numerous print advertisements and campaigns and grace public and private collections.

Benson is also a very active event and portrait photographer, regularly commissioned for family, wedding, special event and a variety of other ceremonies.

The public is invited to visit the "2nd Annual Photography Exhibit." Admission is free and hours are 8 a.m. to 4 p.m. Monday through Friday and 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. on Saturdays.

For further information, you may contact Tina Wabul Foster, Angel Hocog or Robert Hunter at 322-9982 or 322-9983.



Local Photographer Del Benson poses by his award-winning piece 'Doves of Peace in Motion'. The award was presented at the 2nd Annual CCAC Photography Exhibit being held until Feb. 27th at the CCAC gallery.

PAWS sponsors pet clinic

PAWS (Pet Assistance and Welfare Service), a non-profit organization is once again sponsoring a low-cost immunization clinic for immunizing dogs and cats, puppies and kittens.

Dr. Kevin Malakooti, from the Animal Medical Clinic on Guam, is coming to vaccinate dogs and cats on Saipan at a very low cost.

All charges are subsidized by PAWS and below the cost of the vaccine alone, PAWS said in a news release.

This clinic is the third in a series of four and will be held Sunday, March 1st at the 4-H Club House located on the beach across from Marianas High School.

Because of the long waiting period, the clinic will be limited to immunization, deworming and/or heartworm or feline leukemia testing only. No other services will be performed.

Also, registration will be from 10 a.m. to 12 noon. No animals will be registered in the afternoon.

However, PAWS will continue to service all animals registered before noon until all are seen.

PAWS is sponsoring these clinics to "Help man's best friend feel better."

IT&E donates to Red Cross Walk-a-Thon

FOR A number of years, IT&E Overseas, Inc., has been a supporter of the American Red Cross Walkathon contributing thousands of dollars to sponsor the event and then on the day of the event also physically operating and aid station to provide refreshments to the tired and hot walkers.

This year, IT&E again stepped up to provide the challenge when Supertyphoon Keith hit Saipan, Tinian and Rota with a donation of \$20,000 cash to the Supertyphoon Keith Disaster Relief Operation.

IT&E also donated calling cards to the disaster relief operations for off-island disaster workers to call home during the holidays.

And once again, IT&E has joined

Red Cross as the first official sponsor of the 12th Annual Walkathon with a donation of \$2,000 to help cover the cost of the event.

IT&E has also committed to man an aid station along the new route on Saipan Beach Road Pathway.

"It is the sponsors such as IT&E, who are generous and consistent in their giving, that make the work of the Red Cross possible each year," said Walkathon Committee Co-chair, Jeff Boyer.

Events such as the 12th Annual Walkathon raise funds to support the chapter in its programs, which include Single Family and Large Scale Disaster Relief, Disaster Preparedness and Education, Armed Forces

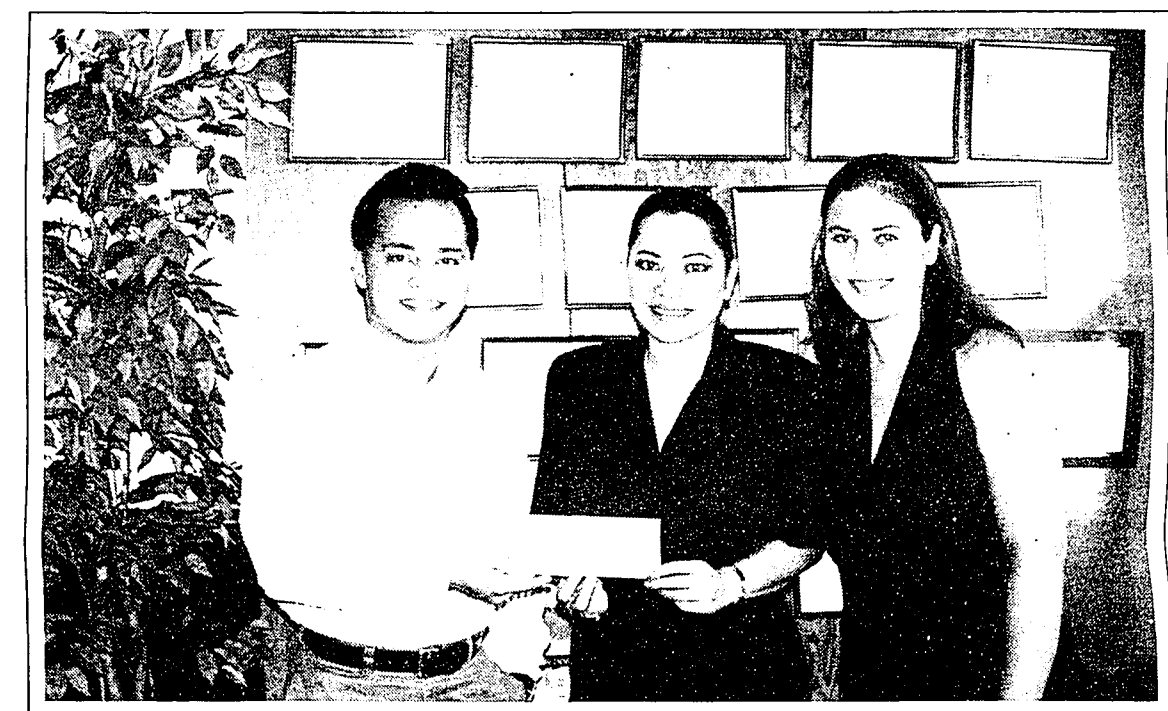
Emergency Services and Health & Safety Education.

The 12th Annual Walkathon is scheduled for Saturday, March 28, 1998 to celebrate month of March as Red Cross Month.

The Walkathon will follow a new route along the Saipan Beach Road Pathway.

Community leaders, businesses, students, government employees and private sector persons are encouraged to join IT&E in their support of the American Red Cross.

Walkers may obtain Walkathon forms at the IT&E office in San Jose or for other locations please call the chapter at 234-3459.



Walkathon Committee Chair Tracy Guerrero (right) and Co-Chair Jeff Boyer (left) accept the \$2,000 donation from IT&E Lupe Flores yesterday. The Walk-a-Thon is scheduled for March 28th. Photo by Laila C. Younis

WSR Kindergarten registration opens

WILLIAM S. Reyes Elementary School Kindergarten registration for 98-99 school year will commence on March 01, 1998, release from the school said.

The registration will begin from 8 a.m. to 11 a.m. and from 1 p.m. to 4 p.m.

Children required to register

should be 5 years old on or before August 31, 1998 and are staying in the following areas: Chalan Kanoa, Susupe, Fina' Sisui, As Perdido, Chalan Piao and As Lito.

The following required documents are needed in order for your child to be officially registered, otherwise be placed in stand-by:

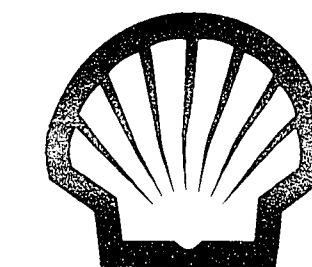
- Birth Certificate
- Health Certificate
- Social Security Number
- Entry Permit (Aliens)
- Map of house location
- Documents stating legal guardianship other than parents.

Last day for registration will be April 30, 1998.



Acting Finance Secretary Esther Calvo and Tax & Revenue Acting Director Roman Reyes (middle) yesterday receive the \$8.5 million check from the Bank of Saipan Chief Operator Herb Flores as a payment for the income tax obligations incurred by the late Larry Hillblom. Photo by Ferdie Dela Torre

IDC Shell
Grand Opening
Feb. 27 10-6pm Feb. 28 10-4pm
March 1 10-4pm



Shell

Event Supported by:

Shell Marianas
Mar-Pac
JM Wholesale
Sea Star Inc.
Saipan Plant Center
Island Souvenirs
Hula-Girl Icecream
Coconut House

Random Prizes* Can Include:

- 12 Sea Star Fishing trips for two
- 6 two for one's at Coconut House
- 12 Bettelnut Seedlings
- Lots of T-Shirts & Hats
- Gift Certificates
- Island Soda
- Balloons for the Kids
- Hula Girl Icecream & Popcorn

IDC Shell is across the street from Pizza Hut & First Hawaiian Bank

*Prizes are handed out with every \$10 cash purchase

Literacy is ADVANCEMENT.



PACIFIC MEDICAL CENTER

PPP 131 Middle Road
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. 670-233-8100

- 1 HEALTH CLEARANCE EXAM
- 2 HIV
- 3 CHEST X-RAY
- 4 RPR

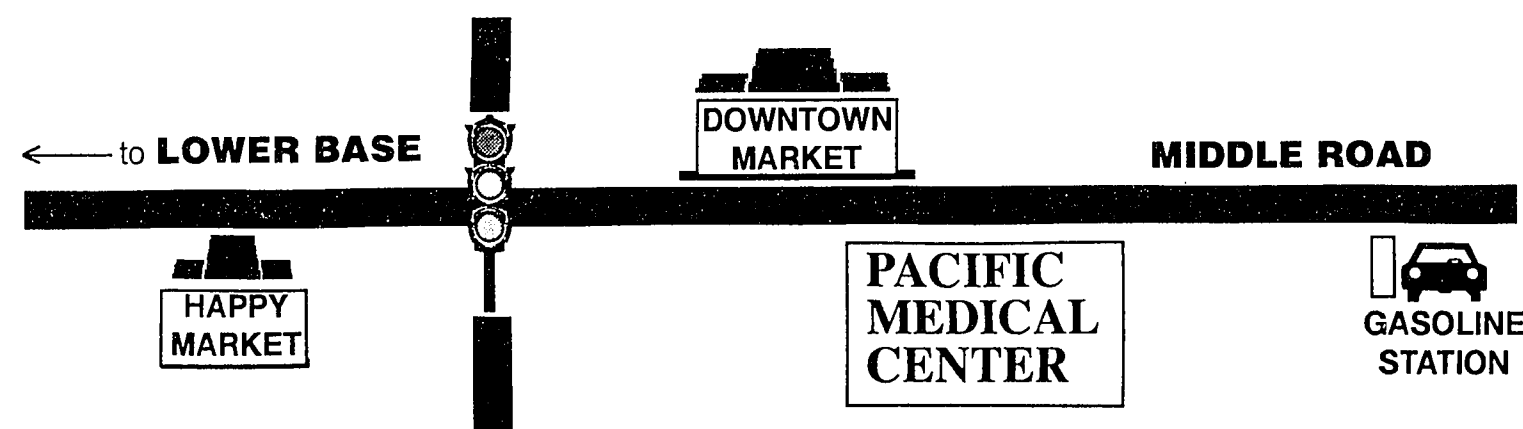
All with compliance with the
Emergency Regulation and the CDC

\$100.⁰⁰

NO APPOINTMENT

Clinic Hours:

Monday-Friday 8:00AM-6:00PM
Saturday 9:00AM-3:00PM



QE2 plan enjoys support, but still needs a review

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

DESPITE the support given to it by the Legislature's leadership, the proposed \$313 million Queen Elizabeth 2 hotel, resort and entertainment complex project will still go through legislative scrutiny and review, House Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Prec. 2, Saipan) said yesterday.

"This is certainly an amazing project, but the Legislature still has to approve it and we still have to review it," he said. "That's a given." Benavente said he himself is not sure whether the project proposal has the required backing of 2/3 of all the members of both the Senate and the House of Representatives.

But the speaker said he expects more support for the project once the other legislators are told that the CNMI doesn't have to guarantee anything unless the project has already been constructed.

Under the proposed memorandum of agreement (MOA), Cunard Hotel Company—the new company to be formed by Kvaerner, parent company of the Queen Elizabeth 2 (QE2), and SeaTel—will float bonds to finance the project, which involves turning the "world's most famous ship" into a hotel.

The CNMI, for its part, will be asked to guarantee the \$5.5 million interest payments for the bonds for the next 10 years, or a total of \$55 million.

However, according to Benavente, "the only time we get ourselves committed is when the landscaping, the building of the convention center, the docking area and other necessary infrastructure



Diego T. Benavente

are already completed."

In addition, Cunard will cleanup the Puerto Rico dump—which would have cost the CNMI \$25 million—and will give the Commonwealth a 15 percent stake in a new local corporation, Saipan Convention Center, Inc.

"We need this kind of a boost for the economy," Benavente said.

He added that the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) is already drafting an MOA for the project.

The MOA would then go to the Legislature for its approval, together with the needed public lands and submerged land leases for the project, which is quite possibly the largest of its kind in CNMI history.

A Florida-based company, SeaTel was set up four months ago, which is why it is still not listed, the Variety was told yesterday.

"It's a real and legitimate company," Mark J. Gustavson, the Senate's chief of staff said, when asked on SeaTel's status.

Tanapag cleanup to lead to bigger event

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THE Tanapag Beach cleanup on March 7 will be a prelude to the "big event," which is the island-wide cleanup activity on April 25, Earth Day, the Division of Environmental Quality said.

The Earth Day is the culmination of the Environmental Awareness Week which falls on April 19-25.

DEQ's Kathy Yuknavage, who coordinates the monthly cleanup activity every first Saturday, said they hope to drum up support for the EAW with the March 7 cleanup.

"This month's cleanup is just the prep for the big event," Yuknavage said.

Yuknavage said the cleanup in Tanapag will cover the area from the beach fronting the meeting hall up to the beach

fronting Hotel Nikko, as well as the Tanapag residential area.

Tanapag village residents have been invited to participate in the cleanup.

"We welcome all those who are interested in preserving this beach front area to join us, as well as Tanapag village residents who have been so active in village issues in the past," Yuknavage said.

She said the cleanup brigade members and other volunteers shall meet at the Tanapag Meeting Hall at 8 a.m. on cleanup day.

"Let's start early in celebrating Earth Day by making Tanapag a cleaner place to live and enjoy," Yuknavage said.

The first Saturday cleanup of beaches and other parts of Saipan was started by DEQ eight months ago in June last year.

Part of Saipan Lagoon to be closed to jetskis April 4

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THE Saipan Lagoon fronting the Diamond Hotel will be off limits to banana boats, jetskis and other recreational boats on April 4 from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m., to make way for the holding of the 20th Annual Swill Club competition.

The Coastal Resources Management, in a letter to seven recreational boat operators, requested them to suspend operation for five hours on that day.

The operators in the affected area are the Commonwealth Marine Leisure Corp., Pine Tree Express, Recreation World, J&K Marine Sports, Pacific Marine Sports, JY Corp., and Big Boys II.

The CRM, meanwhile, has reminded jetski operators about the proper disposal of trash in their premises.

Last week alone, two operators were cited for their piles of trash just dumped in their area of operation.

Improper disposal of trash is a violation of a permit condition.

The CRM advised the erring operators to dispose of all trash and debris at the public dump on a daily basis.

It said operators violating a permit condition is liable to monetary fines.

In another development, the CRM conditionally approved the other day the request of Mobil Oil Marianas to demolish existing structures in preparation for

the expansion and modernization of its Middle Road gas service station in Garapan.

The CRM also approved the excavation work and implementation of erosion control.

"This approval is valid only if you secure all other necessary permits and/or approvals including but not limited to clearance from the Historic Preservation Office, Building Code Division, Earthmoving and Erosion Control permit and the Division of Environmental Quality," CRM acting Director Peter J. Barlas said.

Barlas also said the approval does not allow any other construction activities at the site nor does it imply or guarantee the issuance of a CRM permit for the project.

Borja nominated to CDA board

ACTING Gov. Jesus R. Sablan has nominated Captain Antonio M. Borja to serve as a member of the Commonwealth Development Authority's Board of Directors to represent Tinian.

If confirmed, Borja would serve

a four-year term.

Only Joe dela Cruz represents Tinian in the CDA board. Saipan has three representatives, Rota, has two, and Tinian, also two.

Borja's nomination requires the Senate's confirmation.

"The Governor and I are confident that you will be an asset on this vital board," Sablan told Borja.

He reminded him to submit the required statement of financial interests. (MCM)

\$18.00

CHAMPAGNE SUNDAY BRUNCH

Plumeria Restaurant • 11:00 am - 1:30 pm
\$12.00 for Kids ages 4-11

\$7.00

ALL-YOU-CAN-EAT CHINESE BUFFET

Kongo Hanten Chinese Restaurant • Daily 11:30 am to 1:30 pm
Ice Tea Included - Menu changes daily

\$7.00

JAPANESE LUNCH SPECIAL

Yurakuen Japanese Restaurant
Daily Lunch - 3 kinds to choose from 11:30 am - 1:30 pm
(Iced Tea included)

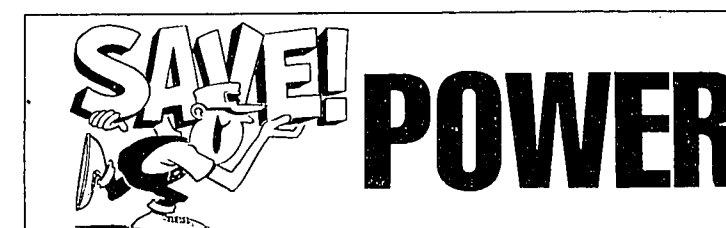
We also bake delicious cakes for all occasions.

Take-out orders are accepted

Call us to make reservations for your Wedding, Christening, Birthday or any kind of Banquet Receptions

Tel 234-5900 ext 376 • Fax 234-5909

SAIPAN DIAMOND HOTEL



Mamaloni told to move out of PM's residence

HONIARA (Pacnews)—Former Solomon Islands Prime Minister Solomon Mamaloni has been given 14 days to vacate the Prime Minister's residence commonly known as the "Red House" at Vavaya Ridge in Honiara.

The notice was sent to Mamaloni last week, SIBC reports.

Mamaloni refused to move out of the house since losing the Prime Min-

ister ship following the August general elections.

Among other things the notice says Mamaloni is not entitled to a government house under the Entitlements Act as Leader of the Independent Group in Parliament.

Since his appointment to the position towards the end of last year, Mamaloni has refused to take his oath of office.

Elsewhere in the Pacific NGA backs Guam on US base closure policy

AGANA—Guam Gov. Carl T. Gutierrez won support from the nation's governors for his initiative aimed at giving local businesses a chance to compete for contracts related to the closure of

US military bases.

Attending the National Governor's Association (NGA) Winter Meeting in Washington, D.C., Gutierrez said several Guam initiatives were given a boost by NGA's Committee on Economic Development and Commerce which recognized the role local small businesses and local governments can play in the endeavor.

The Committee amended its Military Base Closure, Disposal and Reuse Policy to strongly encourage the Department of Defense (DOD) "to ensure that small business play an effective role in re-use efforts," a news release from the Governor's Office said.

The Policy urges that "DOD be cognizant of the efficiencies of small businesses and ensure that small businesses are able to compete effectively for government contracts."

The governor has long been opposed to "bundling" of contracts by some of the military as it seeks to close or realign bases.

"Bundling" is the practice of awarding only one contract to a large corporation for a number of services related to base closure or realignment, relegating small businesses to being subcontractors only.

Further, the NGA endorsement of the governor's initiative also supports any federal civilian workers currently employed in military bases facing closure or realignment seeking outsourcing contracts.

"The Navy's privatization—or outsourcing—program in Guam is resulting in local workers losing

their civil service jobs. But the work still has to be done by someone.

"We have been trying to make the point to the Navy that the local workers should have the first shot at continuing to do these jobs through small business initiatives," the governor said.

To date, Guam notes that the Navy has focused on huge outsourcing efforts that only international conglomerates are able to bid on.

"This is not just prejudiced against our local workers, it takes them right out of the process of fair competition," the release said.

The Committee also endorsed Gov. Gutierrez's motion to protect local governments from being accountable for any liabilities it inherits in the course of the base closure or realignments.

The new Guam sponsored NGA policy calls on the federal government to establish "effective indemnification procedures to protect states against unwarranted liabilities stemming from previous and on-going defense activities at closed, closing or realigned facilities."

Following its Winter Meeting, the NGA will deliver its policy positions to all federal government agencies and departments; Congress; and the White House, serving notice on how the nation's governors collectively feel about a wide ranging number of issues.

Such policy statements often result in legislative, regulatory or executive action to meet the governors' policy goals.

Cook Islands tops in cigarette, alcohol use

RAROTONGA (Pacnews)—Cook Islands has been placed at the top of the list of other Pacific islands for alcohol consumption per capita.

This was revealed at a recent alcohol related workshop held in Auckland, New Zealand, Radio AKTIV Cook Islands reports.

Cook Islands participants to the workshop told community leaders at a meeting in Apia Monday that advertising of alcohol and cigarettes through the local media has been blamed for the increase in the number of young people drinking alcohol today.

Minister of Health Tupou Faireka told the meeting that it was time that everyone in the community took the right step to solve the alcohol problem.

Faireka suggested that issuing of temporary sale of alcohol licenses to sports clubs or other outlets be looked at seriously.

Fiji, NZ discussing military assistance

SUVA (Pacnews)—Fiji's army chief-of-staff, Frank Bainimarama, is in New Zealand for talks on military assistance program with his NZ counterparts.

Senior army officials say the talks are held annually to discuss training programs between the two countries, Is-

land Networks Corporation reports.

Last year a number of New Zealand soldiers were in Fiji as part of their training program and they are now expected to host their Fijian counterparts this year.

Captain Bainimarama is expected back in the country Sunday.

Clinton: Watch Iraq closely

By Barry Schweid

WASHINGTON (AP) - Weapons experts, not diplomats, will take charge of deciding where and when to hunt for hidden Iraqi biological and chemical arms, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright told uneasy senators Tuesday.

She promised to work with the U.N. inspections commission to clear up "ambiguities" in the deal U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan struck with President Saddam Hussein and "to close any possible loopholes."

Projecting caution about the accord, the administration said it would insist on a "quick test" of Saddam's promise to expose all sites, some of which have never been opened, to U.N. inspectors.

"We have to be watching very closely," President Clinton said.

Bill Richardson, the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, returned from New York Tuesday and joined Clinton's other national security advisers at the White House.

House to go over the Iraq agreement. White House spokesman Mike McCurry said it was "largely a technical discussion." The president was to be briefed about the meeting afterward.

At the Pentagon, officials an-



Bill Clinton

nounced that Clinton had signed an order authorizing the call up of 500 members of the National Guard and Reserve in support of the Gulf deployments.

Defense Secretary William Cohen announced Sunday he requested the move, which makes available for up to 270 days specialists such as Navy harbor surveillance troops, Coast Guard port security forces, Army chemical detection forces and Air Force Special Operations C-130 air crews.

Diplomats were added to the U.N. inspection teams for prospective searches of eight of Saddam's six

US troops relieved, skeptical

By Louis Meixler

ABOARD THE USS GEORGE WASHINGTON (AP) - T-shirts showing Saddam Hussein caught in a rifle's cross-hairs are selling briskly aboard the USS George Washington, where an agreement to end the Iraq confrontation was met with relief but also skepticism.

"Nobody is packing their bags," said Rear Adm. Michael Mullen, commander of the U.S. battle group in the Persian Gulf.

Warplanes carrying air-to-air missiles roared into the night sky on Tuesday, headed for the southern no-fly zone over Iraq. Officers said there was little change in their flight plans despite the new U.N.-mediated accord meant to avert a U.S.-led attack on Iraq.

"We will not change our operating schedule," said Capt. Lindell Rutherford, the aircraft carrier's commander. He said the ship still sends some 40 to 50 flights a day over the no-fly zone.

"The possibility of military action may be slightly less than it was a few days ago," Rutherford said, adding that "the next few days will be important."

U.S. forces in the Gulf, which include two aircraft carriers carrying 100 attack aircraft, are expected to remain in the region until Washington is satisfied that Iraq is fulfilling its promise to open previously off-limits sites to U.N. inspectors.

Since it arrived in the Gulf in November, the George Washington has been sending warplanes over southern Iraq to patrol the no-fly zone established by the United States and its allies after the 1991 Gulf War — and to prepare for possible bombing

dozen or more palaces, a gesture to the Iraqi president, who had accused Americans on the commission of espionage.

Also, the U.N. special commission is obliged under the agreement "to respect the legitimate concerns of Iraq relating to national security, sovereignty and dignity."

Still, Clinton and his top advisers gave a generally favorable view of the agreement, which defused a crisis with Iraq that could have boiled over into U.S. bombings.

Albright conceded the function of the diplomats was fuzzy, but she gave assurances "the inspectors will decide where to go," and she even implied the United States could pull out of the deal if the diplomats' role was unsatisfactory.

"Diplomats may be acceptable if UNSCOM (the U.N. special com-

mission) is in control," she told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee. "We will clarify, but we will also test."

Jesse Helms, R-N.C., the committee chairman, was not convinced. "We're in a real jam. With the possible exception of Britain, much of the world appears of a mind to capitulate to Saddam Hussein — and Saddam Hussein knows it," he said. "We're in the disgraceful position of either going along with whatever deal Mr. Annan brought home or being regarded as the bad guys who rejected peace and insisted on war."

Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., told Albright, "We are very uneasy about this agreement. We hope it works."

But given the Iraqi president's record, Dodd said, "one can only

be doubtful, to put it mildly."

Sen. John Ashcroft, R-Mo., assailed both the agreement and the administration, saying "the sad truth is that Saddam Hussein is better off today than he was in October," when the crisis arose.

This "is not a diplomatic triumph, it is a tragedy," Ashcroft said. "Our foreign policy should not be written at the United Nations."

Albright told him she agreed the United Nations should not set U.S. policy. "We have made clear what our interests are," she said, "If Saddam defaults on his commitments, she said, 'we will act forcefully and without delay.'"

"We will not allow Saddam Hussein to take us from crisis to crisis," she said.



Chief Warrant Officer Stacey Schlosser reviews flight deck fire fighting procedures to his crew on Monday aboard the aircraft carrier USS George Washington in the Persian Gulf. The George Washington is deployed to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Southern Watch. AP

Work Opportunity For Individuals with Disabilities

MINI RAFFLE

Saturday, February 28, 1998
2:00pm

Price Costco Parking Lot

LIVE MUSIC Lunch Plate Pick-up point

COLOR TV REFRIGERATOR
and lots of other prizes

Special thanks to Town House and Price Costco for their support

YAS Signs System

"Let this sign build your profit"



VINYL SIGNS: For indoor/outdoor with colors, style and quality, on wood, glass, metal, plastic cloth and walls, designed in computer graphics, artistically drafted, composed with a lot of talent and knowledge, is now available at Younis Art Studio, Inc.

VINYL BANNERS: On cloth and plastic materials, from 1-5 feet wide and length from 3 feet to 50 or 75 feet and more, with any color, letters size and style and rich graphics.

Also hand painted signs and banners, artistically designed and colored on any material surface of all sizes.

DIGITAL PRINT: Signs for inside markets/stores/shops in full colors with print of the goods/merchandise on plastic sheets/boards or on transparencies on special paper or cloth for ceiling hang for display or above shelves, counters and merchandise stands, can easily be produced by the talented and capable sign makers at YAS Sign System.

Full color digital print for back light in shops window or special display in the outdoor, such as food items, drinks cosmetics, perfumes, jewelry and many more.

Vinyl signs are durable, colorful and guaranteed to last for five to seven years in all weather conditions and stands heat temperature 40-180 degrees Fahrenheit.

For all signs need, please visit or call

YAS Signs System

at Younis Art Studio, Inc., in Garapan.

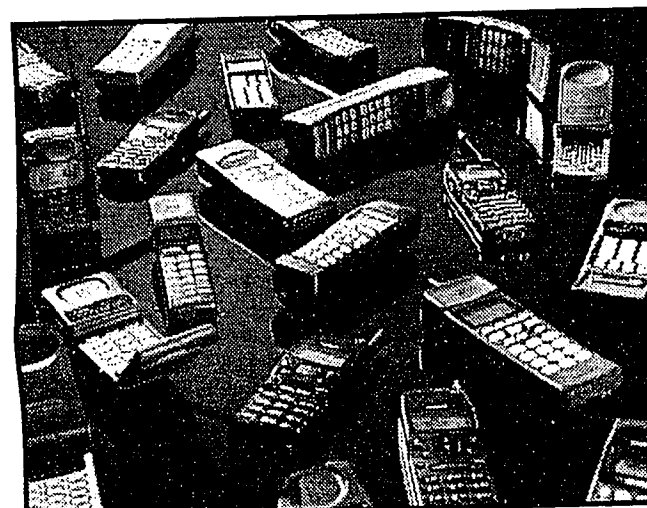
Telephone Nos. 234-6341 & 234-7578 &

234-9797 & 234-9272 or Fax No. 234-9271.

**Even when
you're asleep,
Even when
your phone's off,
24 hours a day...**



**...turn ANY cell phone into
an answering machine!**



PERSONAL SECRETARY

It will revolutionize the way you use cellular.



Exclusively from

GTE PACIFICA

A SUBSIDIARY OF MTC

To all GTE Pacifica cellular customers,
activate your FREE trial today!
Call 682-2745

Iraq urges US forces out of Gulf

By Robert Burns
WASHINGTON (AP) - Inspections or not, if Iraq is still intent on playing a cat-and-mouse game, it is far from certain the United Nations can find and destroy all of its chemical and biological weapons.

"It's a great shell game," said Peter Rodman, a former Reagan administration national security aide. Saddam Hussein "has been cheating since day one."

In the four months since the inspections dispute first reached crisis stage, Iraq has had ample time and opportunity to hide any chemical or biological agents it may have, experts say. Iraq also could preserve the know-how to make more.

"It's not realistic to think Saddam Hussein has changed his mind and is ready to abandon his weapons program," said Gary Milhollin, director of the Wisconsin Project on Nuclear Arms Control, a private group based in Washington.

And if the negotiations had failed? No one thinks bombing is a complete answer, either.

President Clinton himself has said the aim of a military strike would be limited: to constrain, at least for a time, Iraq's ability to use whatever doomsday weapons it may possess.

Milhollin believes the special U.N.

commission that was created to implement Gulf War cease-fire resolutions requiring the elimination of Iraq's weapons of mass destruction stands a reasonable chance of succeeding — if Iraq gives its inspectors complete freedom to search and monitor.

"But I don't think there's any guarantee," Milhollin said.

U.N. inspectors have uncovered a great deal of information about Iraq's weapons program since the end of 1991 Gulf War. Their work revealed that Iraq was further advanced on nuclear weapons, for example, than anyone knew during the war. But they have yet to uncover the full story.

Saddam signed up for U.N. weapons inspections when he accepted the cease-fire deal. He contends that he has given up all of his prohibited weapons and that the United States is pressing inspections in order to undermine his regime, steal military secrets and trample on Iraqi sovereignty.

Almost no one outside Iraq believes Saddam has come clean, and many doubt he ever will.

"It's never going to be 100 percent," said David Albright, president of the Institute for Science and International Security. Even so, he believes Iraq is less dangerous to the world as long as some inspections

continue.

Without U.N. inspections, Saddam almost certainly would resurrect his efforts to build nuclear bombs — his first choice among weapons of mass destruction — Albright believes. He estimates that Iraq could succeed in as little as one year if it were able to obtain weapon-grade uranium or plutonium from abroad. Even U.N. inspections might fail to stop that route.

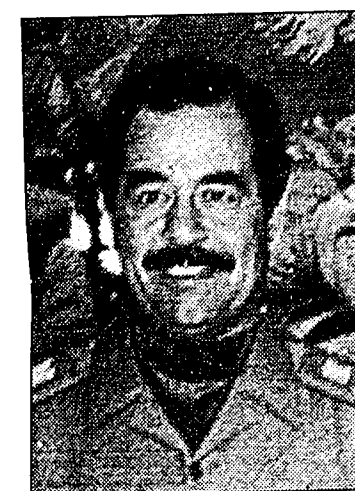
"No verification system is likely to detect the import of small quantities of plutonium or highly enriched uranium," Albright said.

The other great proliferation crisis of the 1990s — a dispute over North Korea's nuclear program that almost led to war in the summer of 1994 — showed the limitations of trying to coerce a dictatorial regime into U.N. compliance.

North Korea still has not turned over evidence the U.N.'s nuclear energy agency needs to verify the country's claim that it didn't build a nuclear bomb. Clinton hasn't threatened to bomb North Korea, the way he has with Iraq. War on the Korean peninsula would be a far bloodier affair.

The world continues to live with uncertainty about North Korea's nuclear program, and it likely will have to tolerate doubts about Iraq, too.

Saddam may still hide weapons



Saddam Hussein

By Eileen Alt Powell
BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - The Iraqi government celebrated its crisis-ending accord as a national triumph Tuesday, telling the Iraqi people that Saddam Hussein had broken U.S. dominance of the U.N. weapons inspections.

Saddam declared Feb. 23, the day the deal was signed, a national holiday.

In a live broadcast on state-run Iraqi Television, Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz insisted "this deal is not backing down from our previous stance."

Bright red newspaper headlines proclaimed Aziz's pact with U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, giving Iraq's version of the terms to end the inspections standoff and giving all the credit to Saddam.

A special session of the Iraqi assembly was called for Thursday, the Iraqi news agency reported. It did not state a reason, but the weapons deal was likely to top the agenda.

The accord, signed by Annan and Aziz on Tuesday, gives U.N. weapons inspectors unconditional access to all suspected weapons sites, including presidential compounds Iraq had kept off limits as symbols of sovereignty.

The United States, backed by Britain, had threatened air strikes to force access to the sites if diplomacy failed. In a sign of easing tensions, the United Nations announced Tuesday that 60 humanitarian workers sent out of the country as the threat of attack grew would return to Baghdad on Thursday.

The evacuation had dropped to about 250 the number of relief workers distributing aid under the U.N.

oil-for-food program, which allows Iraq to sell oil to buy needed food and medicine for its 22 million people.

U.N. sanctions otherwise ban oil sales from Iraq. Iraq hopes that the weapons inspection deal ultimately will bring an end to the U.N. embargo, which has stood since Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The Security Council says it will not lift the sanctions until it is satisfied Iraq has destroyed its long-range missiles and weapons of mass destruction.

In his television appearance, Aziz accused the United States and its allies, especially Britain, of creating the crisis over weapons inspections to try to prolong the embargo.



U.S. Air Force Tech. Sgt. Anthony Mastantuono of Buffalo, N.Y., stands guard beside an F-117A Stealth Nighthawk fighter at Al-Jaber Air Base in the desert between Kuwait City and Iraq Tuesday. The American military vigil in the Persian Gulf is awaiting Iraqi compliance with new diplomatic agreements to allow open inspections for weapons of mass destruction. AP

Israeli spy chief quits

By Dafna Linzer

JERUSALEM (AP) - Israel's spy chief resigned Tuesday over the botched assassination attempt against a Hamas leader in Jordan, a move Israel hoped would mend relations with its neighbor and restore some of the Mossad spy agency's lost luster.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu accepted the reluctant resignation of Danny Yatom, who had been sharply criticized in several inquiries into the failed Sept. 25 attempt on Hamas political leader Khalid Maashal.

The resignation was welcomed in Israel, as well as in Jordan.

"A replacement needs to be found immediately so that the Mossad can begin to learn the lessons here and make the necessary changes," said Uzi Landau, who leads the Knesset committee on Israel's intelligence agencies.

Yatom's turn at the helm had been one of the less glorious for an organization that achieved worldwide fame for daring successes — such as kidnapping Nazi leader Adolf Eichmann for trial and landing an agent in the top echelons of Syria in the 1960s, and tracking down and executing Palestinian terrorists in the 1970s.

The Mossad became a fixture in novels and movies of international intrigue. But in recent years it earned

less flattering attention, such as in a 1990 book by former agent Victor Ostrovsky, who portrayed it as driven by "greed, lust and total lack of respect for human life."

Opposition lawmaker Hagai Merom described the Maashal affair as "an earthquake for the Mossad" that exposed systemic failures in every level of the agency, from highest-level planning to execution in the field.

Mossad agents injected Maashal with poison outside his office in Amman. But he survived and the agents were caught, forcing Israel to free Hamas founder Ahmed Yassin and 20 other Arab inmates to bring the agents back home. An outraged King Hussein then cut off security cooperation with the Jewish state, demanding Yatom's dismissal.

An investigative panel in Israel found that Yatom had not seriously considered the possibility of failure and had not prepared for it. The committee cleared Netanyahu of blame.

The prime minister, seeking to avenge two Hamas suicide bombings in Jerusalem in July and September 1997, had given the final go-ahead for the operation. Opposition leaders have dismissed the panel's absolution of Netanyahu as a whitewash.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, right, is accompanied by Danny Yatom, left, head of Israel's Mossad spy agency, in this Oct. 6, 1997 file photo. Yatom submitted his resignation Tuesday after a government inquiry blamed him for the botched attempt to kill an Islamic militant leader in Jordan. AP

The agency's image suffered yet another blow several months ago when a former agent was indicted on charges that he concocted false reports about Syrian war intentions that reportedly sparked tensions between the two countries in 1980 and again in 1996.

"The Mossad has fallen on hard times operationally, and procedurally, it's not ready for the 21st cen-

tury," said Amir Oren, a columnist for the Haaretz daily.

In his letter of resignation to Netanyahu, Yatom insisted he had done no wrong in the attempt on Maashal and rejected the investigation's findings.

"At the same time, I have no intention of ignoring the report and as the person responsible for the operations of the Mossad, I decided to submit my resignation to you," wrote Yatom, who had been appointed by Netanyahu's predecessor and political rival, Shimon Peres, in March 1996.

Jordanian Prime Minister Abdul-Salam Majali called Yatom's resignation "a positive step," and a senior Jordanian official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that Jordan was now seriously considering working with the Israelis again.

Israelis and Palestinians make progress on Palestinian airport

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel and the Palestinians have made some progress in talks on security arrangements for a Palestinian airport in the Gaza Strip, a Palestinian negotiator said Tuesday.

The two sides were to meet Tuesday evening at the home of the U.S. ambassador to Israel, Edward Walker, to discuss the operation of the airport — one of several elements of a 1995 interim peace agreement that have not yet been carried out.

Peace talks were put on hold during the Gulf crisis, but the United States is expected to make a strong push in the coming days to try and break the yearlong deadlock over an Israeli troop pullback in the West Bank.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, meanwhile, renewed an offer to hold Camp David-style talks under U.S. auspices to try and reach a permanent peace agreement with the Palestinians.

"We are wasting a great deal of time on the interim settlement... instead of tackling the main issue," Netanyahu said in an interview broadcast on Israel TV's Channel One.

However, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat will only agree to such talks once Netanyahu has pulled back troops in the West Bank, as promised, said a Palestinian legislator, Ziad Abu Ziad.

"I don't think there will be permanent status negotiations before the Israeli government completes" its promises stages of redeployment, said the chief Palestinian negotiator, Saeb Erekat.

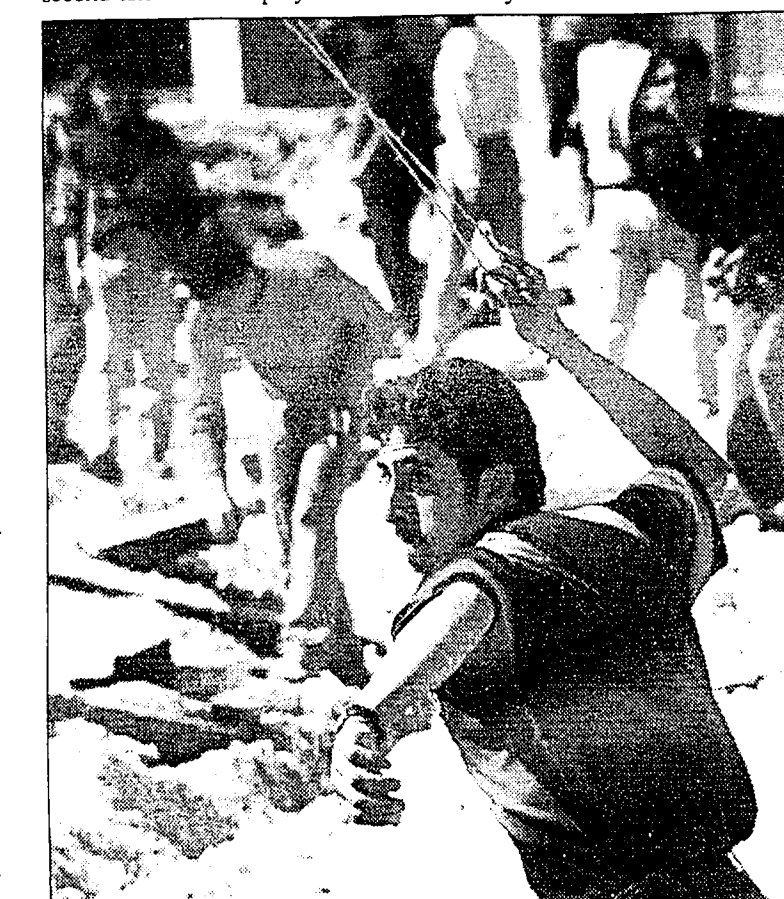
Last year, Netanyahu promised in a U.S.-backed agreement to pull back troops in the West Bank in three stages by this summer.

The Palestinians rejected the first Israeli redeployment offer of 2 percent as insufficient.

Netanyahu has proposed that the second and third redeployments be

merged into one, and that the two sides begin immediate discussions on the permanent settlement.

"I don't know whether it will be in the cabins at Camp David or somewhere else. But we will have to sit down and find out truly where the genuine compromise can be found," Netanyahu said.



A Palestinian youth in the West Bank village of Beit Omar is about to release his sling at Israeli troops during clashes following a pro-Iraq march held at the village Monday. Palestinians continued to show support for Iraq despite an agreement in Baghdad that could diffuse the Gulf crisis. AP

COMMERCIAL SPACE ACROSS PIC HOTEL

Excellent for office, gift shops and snack shops
RATE: \$1500 per month

APARTMENT: ACROSS PIC HOTEL

1-Bedroom semi-furnished \$350.00 month
2-Bedroom (2 unit avail.) \$400.00 month

WAREHOUSE/BARRACK ACROSS PIC HOTEL

* 6,700 Sq. Ft. open area
* 6,000 Gallon Water Tank
* 10 Toilets
* 12 Shower Stalls
* 25 Washtubs

FRONTAGE VACANT LOT ACROSS PIC HOTEL

Area: 1771 S.M.

Excellent for commercial building and restaurant



CONTACT: TITO SABLAN ☎ 234-2585

Northern Marianas College Board of Regents

Regular Meeting Agenda

Friday, February 27, 1998
Board of Regents Conference Room
As Tertiary Campus, Saipan (10:00 a.m.)

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Northern Marianas College Board of Regents are hereby giving notice that a regular meeting of the Board of Regents will be held on Friday, February 27, 1998, at 10:00 a.m. in the Board of Regents Conference Room, As Tertiary Campus.

- I. Opening Procedures
 - A. Welcoming Remarks by Chair
 - B. Review/Approval of Agenda
 - C. Review/Approval of Minutes
 1. Regular Meeting: January 30, 1998
- II. Fiscal Committee's Report
 - A. Financial Statement
 - B. NMC Foundation Plan of Action
- III. President's Report
 - A. Program Presentations
 1. Vocational Technical Education
 - B. P.L. 10-66
 - C. Proposed Amendments to Higher Education Act
 - D. Transition Committee's recommendations
 - E. Monthly Reports
 - F. Travel Reports (January 2-31, 1998)
- IV. Old Business
 - A. School of Education, TTL proposed expansion
 - B. Library Expansion
- V. Executive Session
- VII. Miscellaneous

Asian Business**Coke gets a break**

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's National Tax Administration has concurred with its U.S. counterpart that it will erase about 24 billion yen (\$ 186 million) from taxable income for Coca-Cola (Japan) Co., a news report said Monday.

As a result, the company will be required to pay about 5 billion yen (\$ 38.76 million) in additional taxes, sharply down from about 15 billion yen (\$ 116.28 million) previously demanded, Kyodo News agency reported.

The tax office earlier claimed that the soft drink maker failed to report about 38 billion yen (\$ 294.57 million) in taxable income through paying unusually high royalties to the U.S. parent, Coca-Cola Co.

Infotech industry hit by Asia crisis

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australia's U.S. \$ 2.64 billion (Australian dollars 4 billion) information technology export industry is the latest victim of the Asian economic crisis, with almost 90 percent of respondents to a new survey reporting their business had been adversely affected.

A survey via Internet email of 70 companies by the Australian Information Industry Association found 70 percent were either currently exporting to Asia or planning to begin exports shortly.

But 87 percent of respondents already exporting to Asia said the economic turmoil in the region had been affected their business, mostly by delayed or cancelled projects (68 percent), payment problems (37 percent), lost business (32 percent) and cancelled orders (24 percent).

Association spokeswoman Fleur Bayley said the problem was serious enough to force some smaller businesses to close.

Australian firms' profits fall in 4Q

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—Australian company profits unexpectedly fell in the last financial quarter of 1997, putting business on the back foot even before the fallout from Asia's economic crisis hits, figures released Tuesday showed.

The Australian Bureau of Statistics said company profits before income tax, net interest and depreciation fell 4.5 percent, seasonally adjusted, in the December quarter.

Company profits were 4.1 percent below the same quarter in 1996, the bureau said.

The fall was below the market's consensus forecast of a 2 percent increase, and outside the forecast range of a 2 percent fall to a 5 percent increase.

**JUST SAY
"NO"
TO DRUGS**

Japan vehicle output down

TOKYO (AP)—Sluggish domestic demand for cars and trucks pushed down Japanese vehicle production 9 percent in January compared to the same period last year, the Japan Automobile Manufacturers' Association said Tuesday.

The figure marked the fourth straight month of declines. A total of 834,816 vehicles were produced in Jan., but domestic sales plunged 20.9

percent to 352,997 units, the auto association said.

Exports rose an estimated 5 percent.

Detailed figures on exports will be released later this month.

The slump in the year-on-year production numbers reflects both lower consumer demand following a sales tax increase in Japan last April and a surge in output early

last year before the tax hike was implemented, the auto group said.

February and March output figures will also probably come in lower than last year, it said.

The drop in production in Japan was particularly pronounced for trucks, output of which shrank 13.2 percent to 176,375 units.

Passenger car production

fell 7.9 percent to 653,302 units. The number of buses made fell 2.3 percent to 5,139.

Production at industry leader Toyota Motor Corp. fell 15.2 percent to 266,351 vehicles.

Nissan Motor Co. output declined 10.1 percent to 125,466. Mitsubishi Motors Corp. suffered a 20.5 percent drop to 86,113.

Honda Motor Co. and Mazda Motor Corp. bucked the trend. Honda's vehicle production rose 7.1 percent to 105,017 units and Mazda's climbed 10.3 percent to 72,634.

Qantas to code-share with JAL

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—Australian airline Qantas Airways Ltd. and Japan airlines were Tuesday given the go ahead to code share on flights between Australia and Osaka for six months.

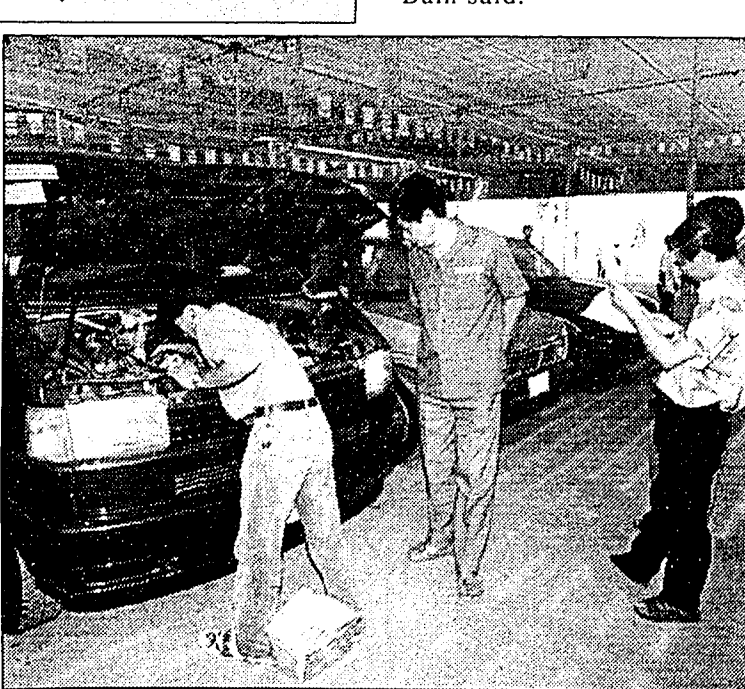
Under the arrangement, approved by the International Air Services Commission, Qantas plans to replace three of its own six B767 services per week with three code share services on JAL between Australia and Osaka from the end of March to the end of October.

The code share is an attempt to offset costs from a decline in the Qantas's returns on the route, the commission said.

The commission said the decision was "finely balanced," but recognized the need to be flexible in dealing with changing market conditions.

"While Qantas and Japan Airlines were the two largest carriers operating between Australia and Japan, the approval to code share is for a limited period only and Qantas has said that it proposes to resume its normal level of operations on the route in November 1998," commission chairman Jim Bain said.

The policy was designed to give Malays — known locally as bumiputera, or "sons of the soil" — a greater role in the traditionally Chinese-dominated economy. Those companies are now suffering increasing debt burdens as the economy slows down.



Thai staff examine one of about 400 cars which were collected from the 56 closed finance companies due to the country's economic crisis in Bangkok Friday. The cars are sold by auction to people. AP

Gov't allows non-Malays to have bigger stake in firms

By BETH DUFF-BROWN

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—The government's top economic adviser on Tuesday said non-indigenous Malaysians could buy into Malaysian companies, modifying an affirmative action economic policy that favors Malays.

Daim Zainuddin, head of the National Economic Action Council, also reaffirmed the government's refusal to bail out businesses on the verge of bankruptcy.

Daim, the former finance min-

ister and a close ally of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, is charged with proposing changes to the government's economic system and presenting those proposals to Parliament for approval.

A victim of the Asian economic crisis, Malaysia's currency, the ringgit, has lost more than 35 percent of its value against the U.S. dollar and the stock markets have plummeted.

Many Malaysian companies were created by an affirmative action program in 1970 called the New Economic Policy.

The policy was designed to give Malays — known locally as bumiputera, or "sons of the soil" — a greater role in the traditionally Chinese-dominated economy. Those companies are now suffering increasing debt burdens as the economy slows down.

The New Economic Policy was updated in 1990 and renamed the National Development Plan. It retained the provision to reserve at least 30 percent equity of companies for Malays.

Korean car makers sharply reducing production

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's largest car maker, Hyundai, has slashed production 60 percent because of a mounting inventory of unsold cars, company officials said Tuesday.

Hyundai Motors Co. produced 5,000 cars daily before a financial crisis hit the country late last year. It now is producing only 2,000 cars a day.

Hyundai will halt production of four passenger car models completely at least until early March to reduce its stock of 45,000 unsold cars, company officials said.

South Koreans are tightening their belt in the wake of a record \$ 57 billion bailout by the International Monetary Fund.

The car industry was one of the hardest hit.

Hyundai used to sell 60,000 cars a month in the domestic market, but now is selling only half that number.

Similar reductions in domestic sales were reported by other car makers.

Ssangyong Motor Co., a four-wheel drive vehicle maker, stopped all production last week.

Two other passenger car makers, Daewoo and Kia, also said they cut production but did not disclose figures.

South Korea is the world's fifth largest auto maker, with a total production capacity of 3.5 million. A little less than half of the capacity is meant for domestic sales.

Thousands mourn lawmaker

TOKYO (AP)—More than 2,000 people, including 50 lawmakers, attended the funeral Tuesday of Shokei Arai, a legislator who committed suicide before police could arrest him in a bribery scandal.

The attendees at the service at a Buddhist temple in Tokyo included House of Representatives Speaker Soichiro Ito, Vice Speaker Kozo Watanabe and Koichi Kato, secretary general of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party, to which Arai belonged.

A police official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto was present at the wake, along with 1,700 people, including 30 lawmakers.

Arai, 50, hanged himself in a Tokyo hotel room last Thursday as Parliament was considering a request to allow his arrest on charges he illegally accepted money from Nikko Securities Co.

Arai, a former finance ministry official, was suspected of receiving 29 million yen (\$ 227,000) in illegal profits from Nikko Securities in violation of Japan's Securities and Ex-

Ash Wednesday in Manila



A Roman Catholic nun applies ash outside a church at suburban Baclaran a blackened ash in the shape of a cross on the forehead of a devotee and her son as she carries an image of the infant Jesus for blessing on the Catholics' observance of Ash Wednesday. Ash Wednesday ushers the start of the 40-day season of Lent in the Catholic religion which climax on the crucifixion and death of Jesus Christ on Good Friday. AP

China says Tibetans' lives improving

BEIJING (AP)—China on Tuesday pointed to climbing living standards in Tibet as proof of improving human rights and assailed the Dalai Lama for not recognizing the benefits of Chinese rule.

Income, educational and health levels are rising, the Himalayan region's fragile environment is well-protected and Tibetan Buddhism is thriving, the State Council, China's Cabinet, said in a report released by its information office.

All that, the report said, goes unacknowledged by the Dalai Lama, who ran a "dark, savage and cruel" feudal, theocratic state before fleeing into exile in 1959.

"Making no mention whatsoever of the situation where trampling the people's basic human

rights was commonplace in old Tibet, the exiled Dalai Lama has tried every means to cover it up and vilify and attack the development and progress in new Tibet," the report said.

The report largely compiles information previously reported in state-controlled media.

But its release seemed timed to coincide with two high-profile and sensitive visits. And the report contained an appeal for support for China's position.

"The fact that human rights in Tibet have improved is beyond all dispute," it said. "All people, Chinese and foreign, who have been to Tibet and are acquainted with Tibet's history will draw such a fair conclusion."

A delegation of U.S. religious leaders arrived in Lhasa, Tibet's capital, on Monday for four-day look at religious policies.

European Union diplomats and Chinese officials were holding a two-day seminar in Beijing on China's legal system.

Asked whether the report's release was timed to influence foreign sentiment, Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao said similar reports are released periodically.

The State Council's last report on Tibet was released in 1992.

The latest report, titled "New Progress in Human Rights in China's Tibet Autonomous Region," noted among other improvements:

• Tibet's gross domestic product last year reached 7.3 billion yuan (\$ 880 million), a nearly 97 percent increase from 1991.

• Per capita incomes last year reached 5,130 yuan (\$ 620) for urban residents and 1,040 yuan (\$ 125) for rural ones, both well above 1991 levels.

• Life expectancy rose to 65 years from 36 in pre-1950 Tibet.

The report cited campaigns to build schools and promote Tibetan language and said there were 46,380 Buddhist monks and nuns in Tibet.

It said 300 million yuan (\$ 36

million) in cash, gold and silver had been set aside since the early 1980s to repair monasteries.

ut no mention was made of how most of the monasteries were destroyed in radical communist campaigns.

There also was no reference to a nearly two-year campaign to purge monasteries of monks and nuns loyal to the Dalai Lama.

The Dalai Lama maintains he wants genuine autonomy for Tibet, not independence from China.

He worries that Beijing's controls on religion and policies to encourage Chinese migration are undermining Tibetan culture. His peaceful defiance of Chinese rule earned him a Nobel Peace Prize in 1989.

The Dalai Lama "fabricates sensational lies to befuddle world opinion," the report said, adding that lying ran against his Buddhist precepts.

The report admitted that Tibet remained relatively poor compared with the rest of China, but said central and local governments were committed to further improvements.

Indonesian minister hits Australian media over crisis reports

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Indonesia's information minister Tuesday criticized some Australian media groups for their reporting of his country's economic crisis.

Raden Hartono, however, said "in general, reporting by foreign correspondents about the situation in Indonesia has been balanced."

"We are not quite comfortable with reports by some Australian press," he told Indonesian reporters after a meeting with President Suharto.

He did not elaborate or point to any specific media organizations.

Hartono said he had asked the president to help Indonesian media companies that have been hit hard financially by skyrocketing costs for imported newsprint paper and dropping revenue from advertising as the economy flounders.

The Indonesian Newspaper Publishers' Association has said that about 70 percent of the country's 286 newspapers are on the brink of collapse.

Some newspapers have closed while others have reduced the size of their editions and cut back staff.

Television and radio stations have also reduced programing to save money.

"In principle, the president agrees to help alleviate the burden on the Indonesian press," Hartono said without elaborating.

Early this month, Suharto strongly criticized Indonesia's media, saying unfavorable reporting had contributed to the worst economic crisis in 30 years.

He called for a revision of journalistic ethics.

The economic crisis has delivered big rises in unemployment and inflation following a plunge in the value of the rupiah of more than 70 percent.

Soaring food prices have resulted in riots in about 20 towns in recent weeks.

Human rights groups claim that five people were killed and more than 900 have been arrested.

Mahathir: Lift Iraq sanctions

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Tuesday said he hoped economic sanctions imposed on Iraq would be lifted, in light of the U.N.-Iraq pact on weapons inspections.

Mahathir told reporters he was relieved that immediate military strikes against Iraq had been averted. He is skeptical, however, that the signing of the agreement would lead to an end to sanctions.

"...I feel there will be other excuses for not lifting the economic sanctions," he said, without elaborating. U.N. sanctions imposed after Iraq's

August 1990 invasion of Kuwait prevented Iraq from selling oil, its economic mainstay.

As such, shortages and high prices have put many staples and medicine out of the reach of the Iraqi people.

Malaysia has welcomed the deal reached by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan with Iraq over the issue of weapons inspections.

"We received the agreement with joy," Foreign Minister Abdullah Badawi said Monday.

The agreement was signed early Monday by Iraqi Deputy Prime



Mahathir Mohamad Minister Tariq Aziz and Annan, in a last-ditch attempt to resolve the crisis.

Gunmen free UN hostage

By LASHA BERULAVA

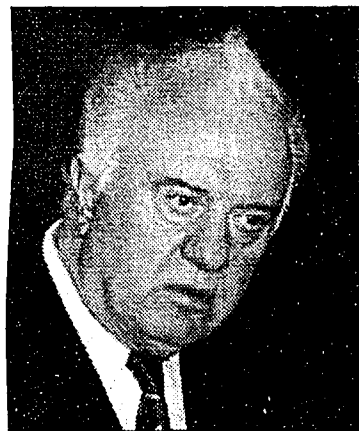
DZHIKASKARI, Georgia (AP) - Kidnappers holding three U.N. military observers freed one of them early Wednesday after reaching a tentative agreement with the Georgian government.

Swedish hostage Maj. Maarten Moelgaard walked out of the besieged house in western Georgia where he had been held since Thursday by opponents of President Eduard Shevardnadze.

The leader of the kidnappers, Gocha Esubua, pledged to release the remaining two hostages after formal political negotiations begin between his representative and the Georgian government.

The release came hours after Georgia's ambassador to Russia, Vazha Lordkipanidze, announced a tentative resolution reached during talks in Moscow in which the Georgian government agreed to the kidnappers' major demand: to begin direct political negotiations with Georgia.

The kidnappers - supporters of a



Eduard Shevardnadze

former Georgian president - have been holed up with the hostages in a village, demanding along with talks the release of seven comrades arrested in connection with a Feb. 9 assassination attempt against Shevardnadze.

Shevardnadze has agreed to take part, the ambassador said. It was not clear exactly what the hostage-takers hoped to gain in the talks. No date for the discussions was immediately announced.

Earlier Tuesday, a party atmosphere prevailed. Red Izabella wine and champagne flowed freely as the hostages and their kidnapper hosts traded toasts and jokes and dug into the steady supply of food officials deliver each day. A fourth U.N. hostage was freed on Sunday as a goodwill gesture.

The three hostages, Moelgaard, Capt. Ronald Garcia of Uruguay and Jaroslav Kulisek, a Czech, say they have been treated well.

The Georgian president says the kidnappers - identified as supporters of the late former President Zviad Gamsakhurdia - are the same men behind the assassination attempt. The kidnappers deny it.

Georgia's first popularly-elected president, Gamsakhurdia was ousted in a 1992 armed coup. He died later under mysterious circumstances. Shevardnadze became president a few months later.

Esubua, the kidnappers' leader, told The Associated Press on Tuesday that he and his comrades would not be satisfied unless they were allowed to



Two hostages—Maj. Maarten Moelgaard, right, of Sweden and Capt. Ronald Garcia of Uruguay are at a meeting with the media as two of their captors stand behind them in Dzhikaskari, Georgia Monday. Moelgaard was released early Wednesday after his captors reached an agreement with the Georgian government. AP

hold political talks in Tbilisi "under the aegis of the United Nations, between official delegations of both sides."

Following the latest captive release, Esubua said the Georgian government had given permission for his representative to travel from Moscow to Tbilisi, the Georgian capital, to argue his case in the negotiations. Esubua said he would surrender once talks were underway.

His representative is Nemo Burchuladze, a former deputy speaker of Georgia's parliament who is living in exile.

The situation was raising tensions between Georgia and Russia, whom some Georgian officials have accused of supporting the assassination attempt.

Annan 'man of the hour'

PARIS (AP)—U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan smiled and waved as he left his Paris hotel Tuesday on his way to New York, where he is to present the agreement reached in Iraq to the U.N. Security Council later in the day.

Annan had no further comment as he headed out of the Hotel Crillon to catch a supersonic Concorde for New York.

The U.N. leader had dinner Monday night with French President Jacques Chirac, who greeted him with "Welcome, bravo, bravo," at the Elysee Palace.

In an interview Monday evening with France 2 television, Annan called positive words from Washington about the agreement "a very good sign."

"I'm glad to hear that. It's very encouraging," Annan said.

Throughout the crisis, France consistently has pushed for a diplomatic solution to avoid a U.S.-led military strike against Baghdad and French officials were pleased by Monday's deal.

Princess suffers a stroke

By Eric Nurse

BRIDGETOWN, Barbados (AP) - Three weeks into a Caribbean vacation, Princess Margaret checked into a Barbados hospital Tuesday after suffering a mild stroke at a party.

The 67-year-old younger sister of Queen Elizabeth II was in stable condition and would fly back to England as soon as she is well enough to travel, Buckingham Palace said.

Wearing a straw hat and holding a matching straw handbag, Margaret walked unassisted to a car that took her to Bay View Hospital outside Bridgetown. She appeared to be comfortable but made no comment to reporters.

Margaret, the queen's only

Queen Elizabeth's sister in stable condition

sibling, had the stroke Monday night at a friend's chalet on the tiny Grenadine island of Mustique, where she has a holiday home.

She was treated on Mustique and flown Tuesday to Barbados, a former British colony, where she first visited a private heart clinic, then was hospitalized for tests.

British embassy officials in Bridgetown arrived at the hospital later. None offered comment.

"Certainly at this stage the signs are positive," Ken Will, an island official, said in a BBC radio interview. "She has been consulted throughout



Princess Margaret

and is fully cognizant."

The princess, who is 11th in line to the British throne, had been due to leave Tues-

day for the island of St. Lucia after three weeks on Mustique, a windswept island popular with royalty and rock stars.

Margaret, now among the least publicly active members of the royal family, spends long periods on Mustique.

Once a heavy smoker, she

had part of a lung removed in 1985. In January 1993, she was hospitalized with pneumonia after becoming ill while staying with friends near London.

Margaret was last seen in public in London late last month when she visited her 97-year-old mother in hospital. The Queen Mother, who had a hip replacement, is recovering at home.

Canada unveils a balanced budget

TORONTO (AP) - The government presented Canada's first balanced budget since 1970 on Tuesday, a milestone resulting from billions of dollars in spending cuts since the Liberal Party came to power in 1993.

Finance Minister Paul Martin offered modest tax breaks in the 1998 budget, plus a new scholarship fund for post-secondary students, but he promised the books would remain balanced for at least the next three years.

"Canadians have paid to see the movie 'The Deficit,'" Martin told the House of Commons in Ottawa. "They don't want to pay to see the sequel."

Martin was the official on the spot when the Liberals, under Prime Minister Jean Chretien, took office in 1993 facing a more than \$30 billion deficit. Big cuts followed, especially in transfer payments to the 10 provinces for health care and education.

Martin received a standing ovation from his colleagues when he announced that the deficit had been erased and declared, "This is a turning point in our history."

The biggest new program in the budget is the so-called Millennium Scholarship Fund, allocating \$1.75 billion to aid college and university students who have been complaining about rising tuitions and heavy post-graduation debt loads.

Martin also offered tax relief for low-income families and increased child care credits, but there were no major tax reductions for middle- and upper-income Canadians.

He proposed an annual contingency fund of \$2.1 billion that would be used to help pay off the \$406 billion national debt if the funds were not needed elsewhere.

The budget calls for spending of \$73.1 billion on programs in 1998-99.

Technically, the budget was a secret until Tuesday afternoon, but Chretien gave a broad hint on Monday when he publicly presented Martin with a bottle of black ink.

Opposition parties already have offered criticisms. The right-wing Reform Party said there should have been bigger tax cuts rather than any new spending, while the left-wing New Democratic Party said Martin should have set firm targets for reducing the country's jobless rate of nearly 9 percent.



Indian police use batons and tear gas against rioting supporters of the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party in New Delhi Monday. Nearly 500 activists of the party demanded the removal of the Uttar Pradesh state governor Romesh Bahandri who sacked the local BJP government. AP

Candidate killed in India violence

PATNA, India (AP) - An armed band shot and killed a socialist candidate and four supporters in a village in northern India on Tuesday. It was only the latest violence in nationwide parliamentary elections bloodied by bombings and attacks and marred by allegations of fraud.

The candidate's widow told police that a Cabinet minister was involved in the killings, said T.P. Sinha of the Bihar state police.

But the minister was not among the four arrested suspects, who were caught attempting to cross into Nepal at Raxaul, 115 miles north of Patna, the Bihar capital.

The killers — believed to be hired gunmen — had left the victims' bodies in a car in a nearby village, Sinha said.

Police have not sought the arrest of the Cabinet minister, Brij Bihari Prasad, who belongs to the rival National People's Party.

No one immediately claimed

responsibility for the deaths of Devendranath Dubey, a Samajwadi Party candidate, and his supporters. No other details about the attack have been released.

Election officials say the violence this year is no worse than usual in a country where religious, caste and economic differences often flare into violence.

Bihar has accounted for some of the worst election-related violence, with 40 reported deaths.

Dubey, like dozens of other politicians in restive Bihar, was facing trial on murder charges. Four days ago, he got a court order restraining police from arresting him in another murder case.

Nationwide, voting has been staggered over a total of six days to allow security forces time to move to different trouble spots. In three days of balloting so far, voting has been completed for

three-fourths of the 543 parliamentary seats at stake.

Elections in Dubey's Motihari constituency were held Sunday amid allegations of vote-rigging by other candidates. The Election Commission is expected to order a fresh election in Motihari.

A fourth round of voting will be held Saturday and vote counting will begin March 2, with only a few seats being contested on the last voting days March 7 and June 21, for snowbound areas.

On Tuesday, two people died from injuries in a mine explosion in the southeastern state of Andhra Pradesh. The explosion on Monday, a day after voting in the area, killed seven people immediately and injured more than 35.

Another 58 people were killed this month in a series of bombings in the southern state of Tamil Nadu. That violence was linked to Hindu-Muslim tensions heightened by the elections.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

LOWA L. JOAB

was called to his eternal rest on February 19, 1998 at the age of 67.

Predeceased by WIFE: Neidren L. Joab, SON: Joeber (Jableke) Joab, DAUGHTER: Janet Joab



Survived by CHILDREN:

Watak & Metwan Kabua, Tony & Nabellu Joab, Lobi & Atma Joab, Ramon & Keslina J. Aldan, Davis & Atriney Joab, Thomas & Antonette D. Joab, Joseph & Laureen J. Batol, Edward & Elwine (Bakin) J. Muna, Dale & Mariam (Mem) J. West, Henry & Henita Joab, Warren L. Joab, Larry & Margaret M. Joab, Marcelina (Telwas) Joab

He is also survived by numerous brothers, sisters & in-laws, uncles, aunts, nephews, nieces, relatives & friends.

Additionally survived by thirty-three (33) grand children & four (4) great grandchildren.

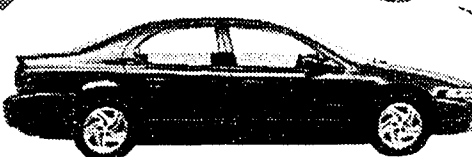

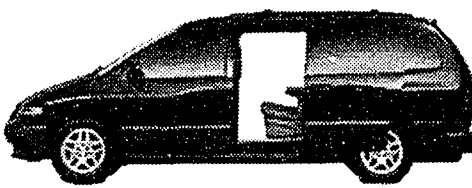

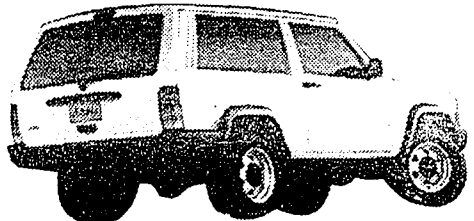
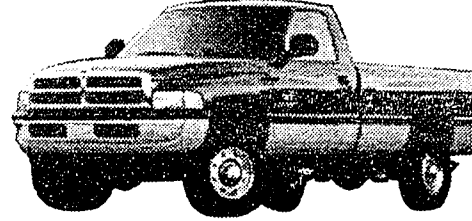

Last respect, viewing & services will be on Thursday, February 26, beginning at 7:00pm - 11:00 p.m. at the Grace Christian Academy. The remains will be flown to Majuro for burial.

Thank you:

The Family



1997's MUST GO!!

		
CHRYSLER STRATUS	CHRYSLER NEON	CHRYSLER CARAVAN
save up to \$6500.00	save up to \$6000.00	save up to \$4250.00
5087080	5067032	5067300
		
CHRYSLER INTRIPID	JEEP CHEROKEE	DODGE RAM
save up to \$5000.00	save up to \$4500.00	save up to \$7600.00
5087087	5067026	5077037
		
DODGE DAKOTA		
save up to \$5000.00		
5077072		

KEICO MOTORS
THE POWER OF CHOICE

AIRPORT LOCATED ON AIRPORT ROAD NEXT TO THRIFTY CAR RENTAL

Airport Rd. HERMAN

THRIFTY KEICO

Tel. 234-0173

On . . .

Continued from page 4

roof under a makeshift tent.

In Atlanta, I have seen federally subsidized housing projects, with plywood instead of glass covering windows; armed drug dealers instead of police patrolling the streets in these projects; elderly people too afraid to leave their homes in the evenings.

I read in the local newspapers about extortion and murders of Asian businessmen in the city.

The local law enforcement agencies had a hard time solving these crimes as many of the victims and witnesses were illegally in the country, and would avoid the police because of the fear of being deported.

So my question is, why this enormous federal concern for Saipan? Our small islands are so many miles away and so much stand to be corrected right there in the mainland.

Our total population is less than that of the one county I mentioned earlier. Something is not quite logi-

cal, especially Director Allen Stayman's unrelenting pursuit of the federalization idea.

One would think that you clean your own house first before going and looking for dirt in other locations.

Maybe Mr. Stayman also could look into the living conditions on some of the Indian reservations.

I can see problems here on Saipan, I believe that we all recognize that we have them.

I have been blessed with the opportunity to visit many corners of the world. I see the problem here as minor compared to what I have seen elsewhere, including the U.S. I also strongly believe that our new administration can and is going to correct them, especially if the U.S. government would kindly offer some support instead of criticism, and also go after the violators in federal court as they can very well do. So far, I have only seen local law enforcement efforts.

MARIA K. ONNI

Kim . . .

Continued from page 2

South Korea, contributing to the country's current crisis.

"I firmly believe that we can overcome today's crisis by practicing democracy and a market economy in parallel," he said.

Saying his new government will try to thaw long frozen relations with rival North Korea, the new president proposed that the two Koreans exchange special envoys to discuss rapprochement.

Kim also renewed his earlier proposal for a summit with North Korean leader Kim Jong Il.

In an apparent response to Kim's earlier offer, North Korea said last week that it is willing to talk with the new South Korean government - something it has refused to do so far years.

Kim set forth three principles - no North Korean armed provocations, no South Korean attempt to absorb North Korea and expanded inter-Korea exchanges - as a basis of peaceful coexistence between the two sides.

Other guests at the outdoor ceremony included former Philippine President Corazon Aquino, former German President Richard von Weizsaecker, former Japanese Prime Minister Yasuhiro

Nakasone, International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch, U.S. civil rights leader Jesse Jackson and pop singer Michael Jackson.

Kim was elected with only 40 percent of the vote but recent public polls put his approval rating at over 90 percent. Under his pre-inauguration leadership, South Korea's economic problems have eased significantly.

Kim needs high public support to implement reforms demanded by the International Monetary Fund in exchange for its record \$57 billion bailout of South Korea's faltering economy in December. His party is a minority in Parliament, and he has to share power with former political foes.

Despite South Korea's economic difficulties, Kim said his government would faithfully support a 1994 U.S.-North Korea agreement under which two modern nuclear reactors are to be built in the communist North by 2003.

The \$ 5 billion reactors are a reward for North Korea's freeze on its suspect nuclear weapons program. South Korea has promised to assume most of the reactor costs.

The United States and Japan are the other major financiers of the reactor deal.

Troops . . .

Continued from page 2

hijacker was acting alone and was not affiliated with any organization.

Airline chief Yusuf Bolayirli told NTV that the hijacker, presumably a Turkish Cypriot, said he was acting on behalf of God and wanted to go to Tehran, the Iranian capital.

NTV said the man wanted to take two pilots and five passengers as hostages.

Bolayirli said the plane, an RJ-

100, could only reach the eastern city of Van, near the Iranian border, with the fuel in its tanks.

The transportation ministry did not allow the plane to be refueled.

One of the passengers freed before the hijacker was seized, Sabahattin Utkur, told ATV that the Cypriot had let people with health problems go, and ordered that no alcoholic beverages be served. Drinking alcohol is forbidden in Islam.

"I have no intention of harming anyone," Utkur quoted the hijacker as saying.

Airline fatalities down in '97

By Randolph E. Schmid
WASHINGTON (AP) - Major U.S. air carriers recorded one of their safest years on record in 1997, with three fatalities, a sharp drop from the 342 lost lives the previous year, the National Transportation Safety Board.

However, the nation's smaller airlines recorded 46 fatalities last year, up from 14 in 1996.

While there was a drop in deaths on major carriers, the total number of accidents increased to 42, up 10, at least partly as a result of a definition change under which more aircraft were classified as major carriers.

The major carriers' three deaths, including two passengers, is the fewest since 1993, when there was just one airline fatality and that was not a passenger.

The difference between 1996 and 1997 illustrated the volatility of statistics in a business where even one accident can claim hundreds of lives.

The three who died last year

were a Continental Airlines passenger who fell through an open catering door while boarding the plane in Lima, Peru; a United Airlines passenger killed when the aircraft encountered sharp turbulence over the Pacific Ocean, and a Delta Air Lines ground crew member run over by a plane's nosewheel at LaGuardia Airport in New York City.

The NTSB did not provide their names.

The year before, 230 people died in the explosion of TWA flight 800 leaving New York and 110 were killed when a ValuJet plunged into the Florida Everglades.

The safety board noted that, statistically, figures from year to year are hard to compare because of changes in classification. Effective in March 1997, all planes with 10 or more seats came under the stricter regulations of major airlines. Previously that classification had covered larger planes of 31 seats or more.

There were five fatal accidents involving smaller carriers.

ers last year, the worst on Jan. 9 when 29 people died in a Comair crash at Monroe, Mich. If that crash had occurred after March, it would have fallen into the major airline category.

Other smaller airline fatalities in 1997, which all involved the smaller aircraft, included eight killed on Nov. 8 in a Hageland Aviation Services crash in Barrow, Alaska; five deaths on another Hageland flight April 10 in Wainwright, Alaska, and two deaths each on an Air Sunshine crash Feb. 8 in the Virgin Islands and an Olson Air Service accident June 27 in Nome, Alaska.

The report also showed 40 deaths in 82 accidents last year on air taxis, which are not included in the statistics for scheduled airlines. The 40 deaths were down from 63 fatalities a year earlier.

Private planes, meanwhile, recorded 646 fatalities in 1997, up slightly from 631 a year earlier.

Gutierrez . . .

Continued from page 1

of voting sheets are not readily available to anybody who requests them," the governor said.

When contacted for comment, Unpingco denied that the Legis-

lature is hiding anything.

"How can we hide anything when the press published our votes the following day after we voted. It was also on TV news," Unpingco said in a telephone interview from Guam.

He said all the Governor had to

do is send his people to the Legislature to pick up copies of the records he was requesting for.

"This is a very minor thing; it is just a miscommunication. All we need is cooperation," the speaker said. "I'm not at war with the Governor."

I&S . . .

Continued from page 1

know if they know what is going on," he added.

Tomokane in a *Variety* article this week asked the transition team to "substantiate their findings," as most of them did not contain any explanations, including the line "do not approve the I&S contract."

MVB Subcommittee Chair JM Guerrero pointed out that Tomokane "was just not happy with the recommendation" and it was "unfortunate" she ignored procurement regulations in not having the contract out to bid.

"The MVB PR and AD committee strongly suggested that the advertising agency be bidded out, but unfortunately, she convinced the Board to disregard their comments because their findings were 'not impressive,'" said Guerrero.

Villagomez also questioned MVB's "protection" of the I&S contract and said he has a "strong suspicion" someone is making money off the contract.

"The personal interest in their end, not ours. The Attorney General's Office and the Public Auditor's Office is following the case very closely. It is not just about legalities, but the activities surrounding it," said Villagomez.

"We are now part of her (Tomokane) list of the possible bad boys who don't agree with her. We would have welcomed her concerns if she had called us, but she decided to go to the media," he said.

MVB Board Chair Antonio S. Guerrero and Tomokane, in an interview yesterday, said that they did not receive "any kickbacks" from the I&S contract.

"They are mistaken if they think I am part of that. I'm against public corruption," said Guerrero. "We followed procurement regulations and we did bid out the contract. We did what we had to do," he said.

"The chairman and I do not know of any such thing as kickbacks here and that is what we have to be proud of," said Tomokane.

"The MVB Board has begun the process of maintaining the same agency for consistency and purpose of building our image," she said.

When asked about the team saying she "has no future," Tomokane's only response to the team was "thank you very much."

Villagomez said the team will recommend to the governor after his trip from Washington, DC to "not approve the I&S contract".

"We did not have a position before on the I&S contract, but because of this development, I'm changing my mind and the team will have a report to present to the governor," said Villagomez.

"The governor and the Lt. governor both are just waiting for the opportunity to get this out of the way as it is from the previous administration," he said.

Brother . . .

Continued from page 1

his father to go back and instead drive the boat to him.

Max, however, just went under water on his way back to the boat.

A private boat passing by was able to rescue the teenager. With the help of the boat's pilot, Max's body was recovered. Max was given cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR) before being taken to CHC, but he did not regain consciousness.

Total . . .

Continued from page 1

dedicated to the February 26 eclipse, the phenomenon can be viewed at around 16:00 GMT or past 2 p.m. Friday (Saipan time).

On-line advisories, however, noted the schedules, as to the eclipse's starting, totality and end time, are subject to change.

A total solar eclipse is an astronomical phenomenon that occurs when the moon is completely covered by the sun.

It is regarded as one of the most popular astronomical phenomena because of its fantastic view characterized by the pearl-color corona appearing during totality.

People who witnessed similar eclipses say the surrounding view during totality, including the horizon, remain bright with the sky being dark.

Viewers are advised not to view the solar eclipse with bare eyes to avoid eye damage.

Marianas Variety Classified Ads Section

Employment Wanted



Job Vacancy Announcement
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
Contact: REMEDIO S./DANIEL S. BUNIAQ dba Marfran Enterprises Tel. 322-0414(3/5)Th25573

05 BEAUTICIANS-Salary: \$3.50-5.00 per hour
Contact: JIHAN CORPORATION dba Jihan Beauty Shop & Supply Tel. 322-0414(3/5)Th25574

01 MANAGER-Salary: \$1,000.00 per month
01 SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$800.00 per month
01 BRICK LAYER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: GREAT SUN CORPORATION Tel. 235-3403(3/5)Th25575

01 EXECUTIVE ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$800.00 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
Contact: COMMONWEALTH MARINE LEISURE CORP. dba Marine Sport & Leisure/Mr. Takeuchi Tel. 234-9157(3/5)Th25585

01 SALESPERSON-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: HONG ELECTRIC ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. 234-1324(3/5)Th25586

01 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIR-Salary: \$3.05-4.50 per hour
Contact: KWEEK'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)Th25589

01 WATCH TECHNICIAN (REPAIR)-Salary: \$650.00 per month
Contact: ISAURO S. EUGENIO dba D.E.E. Enterprises Tel. 234-5272(2/26)Th25511

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.05-3.30 per hour
Contact: MODERN OFFICE FURNITURE & SUPPLIES, INC. Tel. 234-6832(2/26)Th70730

01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05-3.15 per hour
Contact: JESUS V. DELEON GUERRERO dba R & J House Rental Tel. 234-3533(2/26)Th70737

01 AUTOMOTIVE PAINTER-Salary: \$6.60-7.35 per hour
01 AUTOMOTIVE BODY REPAIRER-Salary: \$7.75-9.80 per hour
Plus \$250.00 housing allowance per month.
Contact: MICROL CORPORATION Tel. 234-5911(2/26)Th70739

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.05-4.15 per hour
Contact: JESUS V. DELEON GUERRERO dba JM & Associates Tel. 234-3533(2/26)Th70736

01 AUTO PAINTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 MECHANIC-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.50-4.00 per hour
Contact: JOHN B. ROBERTO dba PC Auto Clinic Tel. 235-0252(2/26)Th25522

01 FRONT DESK CLERK-Salary: \$3.05-4.20 per hour
02 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.05-3.65 per hour
01 HOUSEKEEPING CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05-3.25 per hour
01 MASON-Salary: \$3.05-3.65 per hour
Contact: MODERN INVESTMENT, INC. dba Saipan Ocean View Hotel Tel. 234-6832(2/26)Th70729

01 MASON-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$3.05-3.60 per hour
Contact: M.S. VILLAGOMEZ INCORPORATED dba MSV Construction Company Tel. 234-6108(2/26)Th70744

02 WAITRESSES-Salary: \$3.05-3.25 per hour
Contact: NIIZEKI INTERNATIONAL SAIPAN CO., INC. dba Discotheque GIG Tel. 234-5050(3/5)Th70814

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
Contact: YOUNIS ART STUDIO, INC. dba Marianas Variety News & Views Tel. 234-6341(3/5)Th70822

01 FARM WORKER-Salary: \$3.25 per hour
Contact: YOUNIS ART STUDIO, INC. dba Marianas Variety News & Views Tel. 234-6341(3/5)Th70851

01 ASSISTANT MANAGER-Salary: \$3.05-5.50 per hour
Contact: J&S CORPORATION Tel. 234-1688(3/5)Th25569

01 SALES CLERK-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour
01 SALES CLERK-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour
01 WHOLESALE CLERK (Stock Control Clerk)-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour
Contact: UNIVERSAL GROUP DEVELOPMENT INC. dba Haitian Market Tel. 234-2978(3/5)Th25570

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
Contact: RAINWATER-SAIPAN, INC. dba Water Treatment Co. Help Supply Services Tel. 234-8461(3/5)Th25589

01 SALES SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$650.00-1,500.00 per month
04 SALES ASSOCIATE-Salary: \$650.00-1,200.00 per month
Contact: SAIPAN EMPLOYMENT AGENCY & SERVICES, INC. Tel. 234-7327(3/5)Th25590

02 KITCHEN HELPER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 SHOE REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 AUTO MECHANIC-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: SAPHIRE ENTERPRISES, INC. dba Saly's Beauty Shop Tel. 234-9869(2/26)Th25517

01 ASSISTANT MANAGER-Salary: \$800.00-850.00 per month
Contact: SAIPAN PLANT CENTER, INC. Tel. 234-1572(2/26)Th70735

01 ASSISTANT RESERVATIONS MANAGER-Salary: \$3.05-12.00 per hour
03 FRONT DESK CLERK-Salary: \$3.05-8.50 per hour
Contact: SUWASO CORPORATION dba Coral Ocean Point Resort Club Tel. 234-7000(3/12)Th70943

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
Contact: MISA ENTERPRISES INC. Tel. 234-6900(3/12)Th25649

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$1,100.00 per month
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
02 BARTENDER-Salary: \$4.00-5.20 per hour
Contact: PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT, INC. Tel. 322-8876(3/12)Th25651

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$4.50 per hour
Contact: KIMCO ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. 234-3207(3/12)Th25652

01 CIVIL ENGINEER-Salary: \$1,100.00-1,900.00 per month
Contact: SHIMIZU CORPORATION Tel. 234-5438(3/12)Th25655

01 MECHANICAL ENGINEER-Salary: \$6.00 per hour
Contact: WOOSUNG CONSTRUCTION CO. LTD. Tel. 235-1240(3/12)Th25657

01 AUTO MECH.-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: TROPICAL RENT A CAR INC. Tel. 532-3071(3/12)Th25659

FOR RENT
Ground floor of a concrete commercial building ideally located in As Lito Village, Saipan, CNMI. Available immediately, 4,000 square feet at fifty-five cents (\$0.55) a square foot.

Contact: Mee Hye, Lee, 322-5189 or 235-3207

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 one incorrect insertion. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time.

WANTED SEAMSTRESS
LOCAL HIRE PREFERRED
Please apply in person at
The First Floral Shop
Middle Road Gualo Rai

APARTMENT FOR RENT
Studio Type \$350.00-\$400.00 per month, utilities not included, quiet, single or couple only, immediate move-in, in Koblerville
Tel. 234-1238 (Day); 288-2222 (Evening)

FOR RENT
(2) bedroom, (1) bedroom apartment
Brand New, Fully Furnished, Ceramic Floor Tiles, Laundry Room, Security Gate with Intercom Gate Switch, 24 hours water.
MODERN APARTMENT
AAA-557, Call Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. 288-8471 or 483-8484
Contact Person: Daniel Lin

APARTMENT FOR RENT
2 Bedroom Concrete Apartment
Located Upper Navy Hill
Furnished 24 hrs water
\$600.00/month plus
1 month security deposit
Please call: 322-3607 or pager 236-1023

LOT FOR SALE
San Vicente, 1583 sq.m.
Tuturan, 5851 sq.m.
Capitol Hill, 3420 sq.m.
Contact: Frank Yuan
Tel. 1-626-588-3660 Fax: 1-626-588-3655
E-mail: frank@c-mc.com

OFFICE SPACE FOR RENT
2,200 SQ. FT./ .90c/SQ. FT.
LOCATED AT THE 2ND FLOOR OF
BRIGHT MORNING STAR BLDG. 2
MIDDLE ROAD, GUALO RAI

FOR MORE INFORMATION PLEASE CALL TEL. NO. 233-1133
Pizza Hut First Shell Gas Mochi's BRIGHT MORNING
Hut Hawaiian Station The Field STAR BLDG. 2
Bank

APARTMENT FOR RENT
Quiet Two (2) Bedrooms • Swimming Pool
Tennis Court
KANNAT GARDENS
(Near Northern Marianas College)

235-5686 (8:30 AM to 5:30 PM, Weekdays)
235-5849 (6:00 PM to 9:00 PM, Everyday)

PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL GUARDIAN FOR THE PERSON AND THE ESTATE OF: NICK T. SABLAN, JR., a minor child
by: LUCY T. SABLAN, Petitioner
FCD-GU CIVIL ACTION NO. 98-0051

NOTICE OF HEARING ON PETITION FOR APPOINTMENT OF GENERAL GUARDIAN
Please take notice that a Petition for Appointment of Guardian for the above-named minor child by LUCY T. SABLAN, as Petitioner, has been filed with the above-entitled Court and is open for review at the Office of the Clerk of the said Court, in Saipan, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A HEARING of said Petition for Appointment of Guardian will be held in Courtroom 1 of the above-entitled Court on March 26, 1998 at 1:30 p.m. or as soon as thereafter.
Dated this 23rd day of February, 1998.
JOVITA C. FLORES, Clerk of Court
/s/ DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA

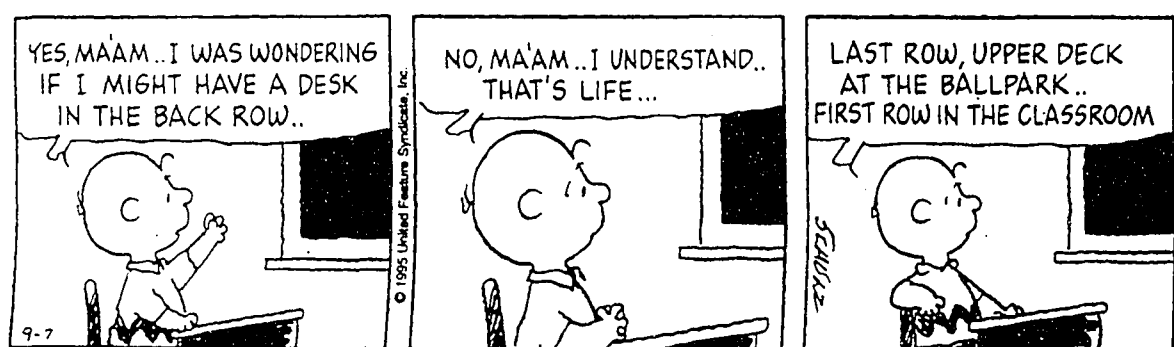
EEK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



Garfield® by Jim Davis



PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz

STELLA WILDER
YOUR BIRTHDAYTHURSDAY, Feb. 26, 1998
By Stella Wilder

Born today, you are by no means a timid, fragile or helpless individual! In fact, you are one of the strongest, most capable, independent, outgoing and confident individuals born under your sign. A go-getter who is almost always satisfied with the results of your efforts, you are continually choosing new and more complex projects to which to devote your considerable energies, and you are always winning praise from others for doing what was formerly considered too difficult to try — or even downright impossible!

You can be a highly emotional individual, but this only serves to better your chances at work, and enriches every aspect of your life. You are not a slave to your feelings, but rather you look to them to inspire and guide you at every turn. You possess a big, generous heart.

Also born on this date are:



Johnny Cash and Fats Domino, singer-songwriters; Jackie Gleason and Tony Randall, actors.

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

FRIDAY, FEB. 27

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Nothing but the best for you today! Can you find someone to share it with who will appreciate it just as much as you do? Sure you can!

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Take care that you don't become too colorful and complex in your self-expression today. Keep things simple and on an accessible level.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — What is considered proper is not for you today. You are feeling mischievous and a bit rebellious. You will want to make your own statement.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You will have the chance to please someone close to you in a manner that is not at all expected, but wholeheartedly accepted and appreciated.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Take care that you aren't so emotional today that you cannot be rational when necessary. Balance thought and feeling as best you can.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Be patient at all times today. Try to conjure up fiery, mercurial feel-

ings and you'll encounter more danger than you are ready for at this time.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Take the time to focus more clearly on those one or two responsibilities that fall to you today. It is essential that you see things realistically.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — You can be quite stubborn, and others actually expect it of you from time to time. Today, however, you may be unusually flexible.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — The more cooperative you can be today, the better — particularly when you find yourself in a position of authority. Share duties fairly.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You may have to rethink certain things today in order to make necessary adjustments and assure yourself that everyone can contribute equally.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — You may encounter one or two formidable obstacles today, but take the time to think things through and you'll see how you can overcome them.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Trust your instincts today as you struggle with a difficult decision that you hadn't expected to make this soon. Move forward at all times.

Copyright 1998, United Feature Syndicate, Inc.
END Your Birthday 02-26-98

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Precious metal in Spain
- 4 Bagnold, et al.
- 9 Horse's kin, mouthpiece
- 12 1963 film for Paul Newman
- 13 Adored
- 14 Corrida cry
- 15 Gold, silver and bronze at the Olympics
- 17 Billfold
- 19 Beer mug
- 21 The whole — and caboodle
- 22 "Believe — not"
- 24 Participated in a marathon
- 26 Knock for a —
- 29 Dressed to the nines
- 31 Craggy hill
- 33 Subordinate officer (abbr.)

- 34 Lancaster ID
- 35 Slender initial
- 37 Ms. Farrow
- 39 Mr. Pacino
- 40 Anglo-Saxon letter
- 42 Sweet potato
- 44 Bagel kin
- 46 Precious
- 48 Capture
- 50 Ginger —
- 51 Also
- 53 A Stooze
- 55 Stone
- 58 Allowable margin of freedom
- 61 Year (Sp.)
- 62 Distributed playing cards
- 64 In addition
- 65 Cowboy's nickname
- 66 Delete
- 67 Affirmative

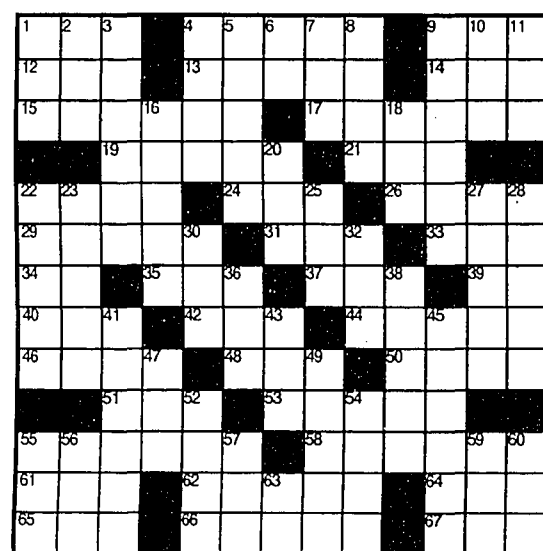
DOWN

- 1 Unit of electrical resistance
- 2 Regret
- 3 Having a good chance (2 wds.)
- 4 Fashion magazine
- 5 Poilite refusal (2 wds.)
- 6 Foman four
- 7 Morning moisture
- 8 Mount Rushmore St.
- 9 Singer
- 10 Ending with
- 11 infant
- 12 Southeast Asian holiday
- 13 "Grows in Brooklyn"
- 14 "Diamond —" (2 wds.)
- 15 A Turner
- 16 22 Asleep (2 wds.)
- 17 Pronunciation mark
- 18 — de plume
- 19 Florida city
- 20 Tumorous membrane
- 21 Secret agent
- 22 Bone of the body
- 23 Mr. Fleming
- 24 Passage way
- 25 Headgear container
- 26 A Davis
- 27 Nevertheless
- 28 Mr. Lowe
- 29 Chicago cagers
- 30 "Ye —"
- 31 "Shogun"
- 32 Network
- 33 Butter square
- 34 Opp. of WSW
- 35 Ending with mountain
- 36 Sue
- 37 Langdon
- 38 Gridiron meas.
- 39 Battery type (abbr.)

Answer to Previous Puzzle

DIG FEES CLAP
ETE ROME NILE
FORCES VON ER
ARE AES ACE
ONLY ERN TS
LID CDS BAKER
DN GISELLE EE
EASED NET ALL
ET WAS ITSY
THE HAL ADO
EA REF ENAMOR
EDIT ENID TIRE
NAME RORY CAN

1-26 © 1998 United Feature Syndicate



STUMPED? Call for Answers • Touch-tone or Rotary Phones
85¢ per minute • 1-800-454-3535 ext. code 500

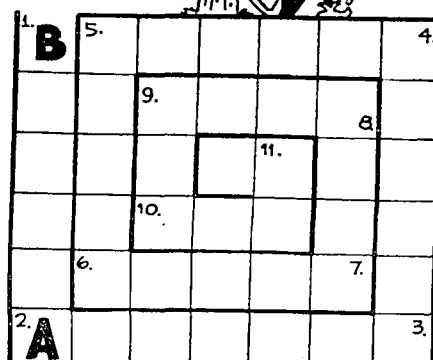
KidSpot™ by Dick Rogers

LETTER ROUND UP

THE LAST LETTER OF EACH WORD BECOMES THE FIRST LETTER IN THE NEXT WORD AS YOU FILL IN THE BOXES.

CLUES:

1. A YELLOW FRUIT.
2. NAME FOR U.S.A.
3. MONTH AFTER JULY.
4. NET AND RACKET GAME.
5. 4+3.
6. OPPOSITE OF DAY.
7. CLOTH SHELTER.
8. FROGLIKE ANIMAL.
9. CAT'S ENEMY.
10. OPPOSITE OF BAD.
11. OPPOSITE OF DON'T.



Dick Rogers © 1998 United Feature Syndicate, Inc. 1/25

'OD 'I 'GOOD 'OI 'DOG '9 'TAD '9 'TENT '7 'THIGH '6 'NIGHT '5 'SEVEN

ANS: 1. BANANA, 2. AMERICA, 3. AUGUST, 4. TENNIS, 5. SEVEN

"WHAT A JOY TO WATCH!"

ENTERTAINMENT TONIGHT, Leonard Maltin



PG-13 PARENTS STRONGLY CAUTIONED
SOME MATERIAL MAY BE INAPPROPRIATE FOR CHILDREN UNDER 13

THE BIG ONE IS COMING MARCH 4

TITANIC ADVANCE TICKETS ON SALE NOW! FREE SOUVENIR TITANIC COLLECTIBLE PEN WITH EVERY ADVANCE TICKET PURCHASED BEFORE MARCH 4 (LIMITED TO QUANTITY ON HAND.)

Tiger Woods praises Charlie Sifford

VALENCIA, Calif. (AP) — When Charlie Sifford is honored this weekend for winning the Los Angeles Open 29 years ago, Tiger Woods will have a very personal reason to shake his hand — and thank him.

Woods, whose mother is Thai and father is black, fully realizes that his friend helped break golf's color barrier almost three decades ago.

"Charlie, in my opinion, is one of the most courageous men ever to play this sport," said Woods, who will compete this week in the Nissan Open, formerly called the Los Angeles Open.

"To deal with the things he had to deal with, society and the racism, he kept fighting and fighting to the point where he knocked down the Caucasian clause. If it wasn't for him, his strong will, who knows, I might have

never had the chance to play golf. My dad might not have picked up the sport."

Woods, 22, considers Sifford and Lee Elder, another black golf pioneer, like grandparents.

"They're awesome. They call me, I call them, we just talk. We have a great relationship," he said.

Although Woods is from a different generation than Sifford and Elder, he also has experienced discrimination at times in his life.

"I had to deal with a lot of the things they had to when I was growing up and I wasn't allowed to play in a lot of places," Woods said. "My dad explained to me what these two gentlemen did and I just kept going."

"I learned at a very early age." The learning experience included his first day of kindergarten.

"Some sixth graders tied me to a tree and threw rocks at me and yelled 'nigger' at me the entire time," Woods said. "The teacher came and let me go but didn't walk me home, and I only lived across the street."

"The sixth graders chased me all the way home. I had my own friends that were cool; it was just one of those deals. We grew up middle class or a little above that."

We were the only minority family

in our block." Sifford, 75, was 39 before blacks were allowed on the tour. He became the first black tour member to win a tournament, the 1967 Greater Hartford Open.

Nets 110, Grizzlies 101

By Tom Canavan

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP) — Sam Cassell scored 26 of his 28 points in the second half and the New Jersey Nets snapped a three-game losing streak by beating the Vancouver Grizzlies 110-101 Tuesday night.

Kerry Kittles added 29 points and career-high 13 rebounds and Jayson Williams had 18 points and 15 rebounds as New Jersey handed Vancouver its 11th loss in 12 games.

Bryant Reeves had 31 points and a season-high 15 rebounds and Shareef Abdur-Rahim added 26 points for Vancouver, which is 0-6 all-time against the Nets.

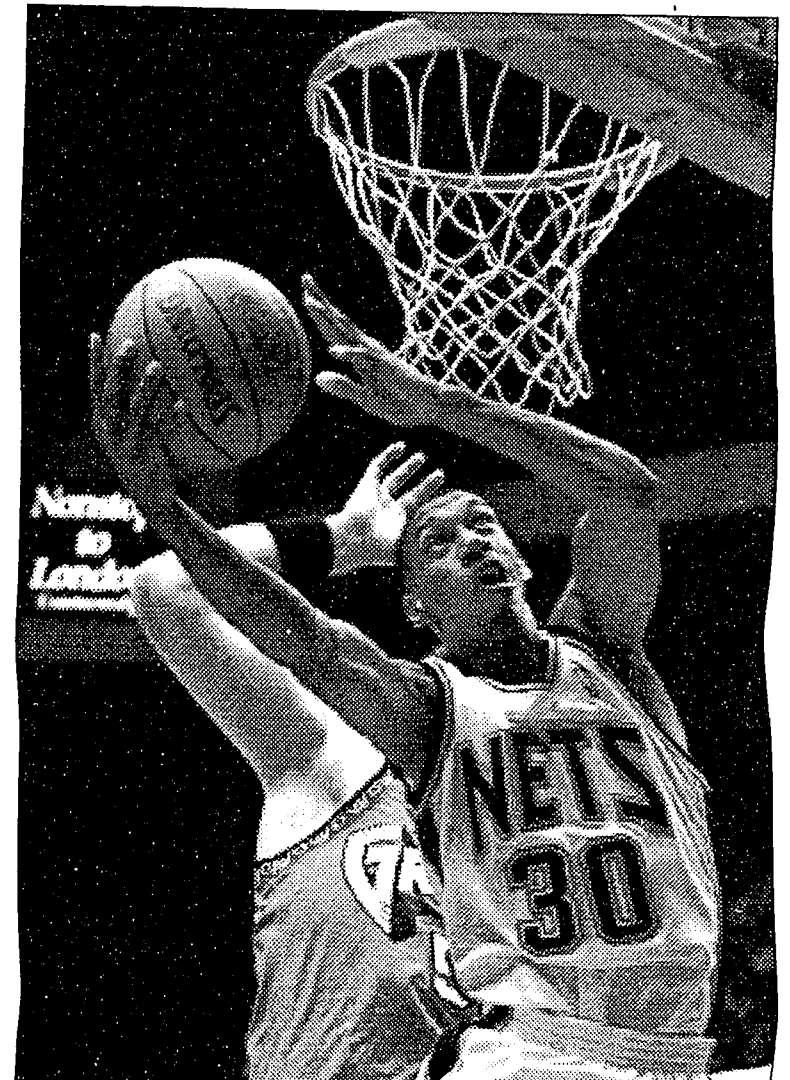
Cassell scored 16 points in the final quarter, hitting all five of his shots from the field and 6 of 7 from the free throw line. He made his final six shots from the field, and most of them touched nothing but net.

Cassell opened the fourth quarter with a jumper and he had seven points in a 12-4 spurt that gave New Jersey an 87-80 lead with 8:26 to play.

A baseline floater by George Lynch and a 3-pointer by Pete Chilcutt cut the Nets' lead to 87-85, but Sherman Douglas hit two free throws and Kittles made his third 3-pointer in as many tries for a 92-85 edge with 5:35 to go.

Vancouver got within five points on three occasions down the stretch, the last when Reeves scored on a rebound to make the score 101-96 with 1:04 to go. However, Keith Van Horn hit a 3-pointer to put the game out of reach.

Van Horn, who has been in a



New Jersey Nets' Kerry Kittles (30) goes to the hoop in front of Vancouver Grizzlies' Bryant Reeves during their game in East Rutherford. AP

SPORTSBITS Continued from page 24

Course Golf Resort.

Due to the limited space available, SGA encourages members to call Ray Diaz for reservation. Show time is 5:50 a.m. Tee-time is scheduled for 6:10 a.m.

For more information please contact Ray Diaz at 234-5997.

CNMI Chess Association Elects New Officers

The CNMI Chess Association is gearing up for an exciting year of activities and tournament throughout 1998. Until a permanent venue is established for tournament play, interested chess players are invited to meet on Sunday mornings at 10:00 a.m. near the 13 Fishermen's Memorial Monument.

Last Sunday, the board of directors elected the officers for this season. They are as follows: President Ely Buenaventura, Vice-President Junnel Lomantos, Secretary Almer Santos, Treasurer Jun Ocena, Auditor Paul Elauria, Public Relation Officer Carl Pogue, Sergeant at Arms Marlon Yucampo and Manny Domingo.

Taga Classic Body Building Championship

The Body Building Association has scheduled the Taga Classic Body Building Championship for May 9th.

Deadline for interested competitors is March 13th. The association established a \$25.00 membership fee per year.

For more information, please contact Ty Izuka at Midway Motors or Abner Venus at 234-5911.

5th Rota Blue Triathlon

The 5th Rota Blue Triathlon will be held on Saturday, April 11th, starting at 7:00 a.m. at East Harbor on Rota.

Distances are 1.5km swim, 40km bike, 10km run.

For more information, contact Stuart Smith at 256-0292.

ICBL Open to Filipino Basketball Teams

Interested Filipino teams are invited to participate in the upcoming Intercommercial Basketball League which will start sometime in March.

Anyone interested should contact Archie Rosario at 234-6136.

(P.T. Castro)



Oleai Elementary School Teacher Brian Lettinga's 5th grade students are out playing volleyball during their Physical Education Class at Oleai Elementary School grounds yesterday. Photo by Priscilla T. Castro

SPORTS

Laly 4 still in lead

By Priscilla T. Castro
Variety News Staff

THE LALY 4 are still leading in the Division "B" of the 1997 Saipan Softball Association Men's League.

The first game last Monday night was shutoff because of the ten-run-rule in effect. The game was stopped in the fifth inning with a score of 17-4.

Climaco Laniyo was four for four with a triple and scored two runs. Fred Kaipat was three for four with two consecutive homeruns and a triple.

Game Two Senyevins 21, Torres Ref. Freezers 11

The second game was also

stopped in the fifth inning because of the ten-run-rule.

The Senyevins in the bottom of the third inning managed to run in eleven runners to lead the game by nine runs.

Charlie Saimon was four for five with a homerun and one rbi, while Eddie Benjamin was four for four with three single runs.

Game Three GR Crew 15, Men at Work 4

All four games were shutoff last Monday night.

The GR Crew shutoff Men at Work in bottom of the sixth inning when the GR Crew was leading by eleven runs.

Jess Mesa was three for four

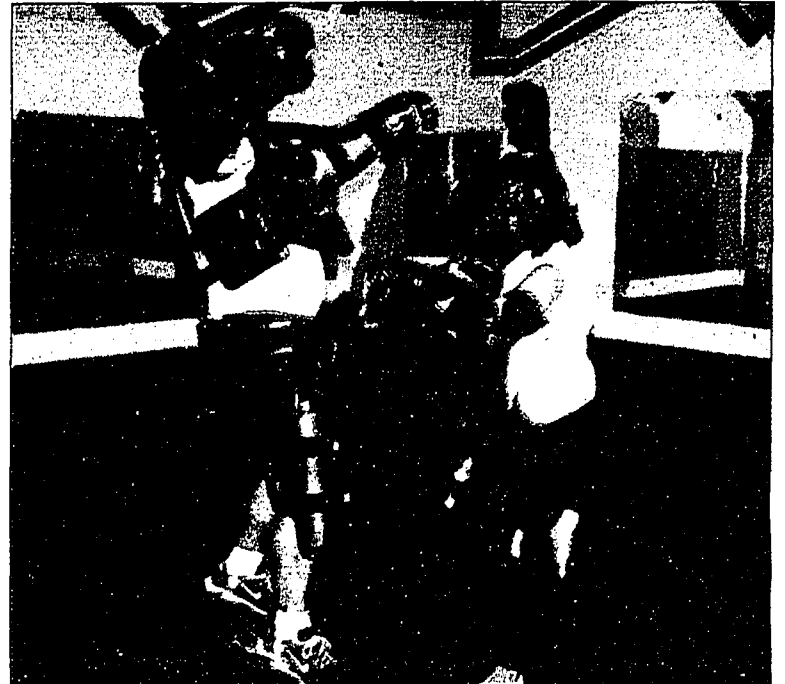
with a single and a double and homered in the second inning running in two runs.

JJ Laniyo was two for four with a double and a homerun in the bottom of the sixth inning.

Game Four MidPac Sunrays 19, Fielders 6

Ton Guerrero was three for four with a double and two triples and four rbis. In the bottom of the fifth inning Alex Villazon hit the ball and the fence but it was not a homers so they gave him a triple.

In the top of the fourth inning the Sunrays managed to run in nine runs for the victory of the last game.



Demonstrators show the moves for women in defending themselves. The NMC will be holding Women's Self-Defense Class this coming Saturday at the College.
Photo by Priscilla T. Castro

SPORTSBITS

RGA February Ace Tournament

This is to inform all interested Refalawasch Golfers Association members that the February Ace Tournament will be held next Sunday, March 1, at Laolao Bay West Course.

There are 32 slots open, so its a first-come-first-served basis. The score to win is 69, in which Ben Taitano won the February Qualifier. Showtime will be at 11:00 a.m. and tee-off time is at 12:00 p.m.

For more information, please contact President Tony Rogolifo or Joe Lizama at 234-1001/1002.

Saipan Major League Managers Meeting

This to inform all managers for the Saipan Major League that there will be a meeting on March 2, 1998 at 11:30 a.m. at Royal Taga Beach Club.

Agenda for the meeting are the upcoming baseball season and on this day the deadline for entrance fee and rosters are to be submitted.

For more information, please contact Tony Rogolifo at 234-100 or 1002.

SGA February Club Championship

The Saipan Golfers Association will hold its monthly club championship this coming Saturday, February 28, at Laolao Bay West

Continued on page 23

NMC to hold Women's Self-Defense Class

By Priscilla T. Castro
Variety News Staff

THE Northern Marianas College Continuing Education will be holding a course on Women's Self Defense to be conducted by Instructor Searay Beltran.

In an interview with the Variety, Beltran said he has been teaching self-defense for men for 15 years, but in 1987 a friend of his told him to interview two women in the States who were victims of rape, so he interview them and later taught them how to defend themselves.

Later after the course the

two women called several friends and that's how Beltran started teaching Women's Self-Defense.

According to Beltran, a woman who took the self-defense course can defend herself from anyone regardless of their size.

Beltran also said the strongest parts of the body are the palm and forearm and on the lower part of the body, the knee and the foot.

Thus, these body parts should be used to defend yourself.

The course will teach women safety awareness and

about the environment, how to carry your purse, your keys or any valuable things that you always carry with you at times.

The course will start this Saturday, February 28 at NMC and they will even have course held at the Saipan Fitness Center in Garapan soon.

If you are not able to attend the course you can call Beltran for individual training at 235-6464.

Registration forms are now available at the Northern Marianas College Building V. Continuing Education Office or call Abbie Cing or Bonnie Tudela at 234-3690 ext. 1813/1814.



OES teacher Wilson Saimon's second graders are shown exercising during their Physical Education period at the school grounds yesterday.

Photo by Priscilla T. Castro

1998 Dart League Stats

Division A:			
Team	Win	Loss	Pct
Norpac Dart Busters-A	26	17	62
MGD dont Touch My Beer	17	13	57
Crown Royals	25	20	56
Oleai Beach Bums	25	20	56
Len's Strikers	22	23	49
Revolution X	22	23	49
Rudy's White Trash	14	16	47
R.C.A.	20	25	44
Akashi	7	23	23
Division B:			
Island Magic	20	13	61
STS Snipers	20	13	61
Norpac Dart Busters-B	13	9	59
Saipan Jet Ski Club	19	14	58
Buds Bar Choice	19	14	58
TDC Puro Pinoy	14	19	42
Len's Lounge Lizards	13	20	39
Blind Hats	8	14	36
Mom's Bad Company	6	16	27
Division C:			
Rudy's Rudeties	22	11	67
Norpac Papaitan Boyz	21	12	64

Continued on page 23

Marianas Variety News & Views

Micronesia's Leading Newspaper Since 1972
P.O. Box 231 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. (670) 234-6341 • 7578 • 9797
Fax: (670) 234-9271

150 00.780 FEB 26 98
6583 MAILED FROM SAIPAN MP 96950



Simply The Best

Since 1989

FREE
WITH PURCHASE
OF ANY
PIZZA

WORLD FAMOUS

Our pizza has been enjoyed by pizza lovers from around the world

FAVORITE COMBINATIONS

	SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE
1. CHEESE ONLY	\$8.95	\$13.50	\$16.50
2. CHEESE & PEPPERONI <i>or Spiced Beef, or Italian Sausage, or Canadian Bacon, or Shrimp, or Crab</i>	\$9.75	\$14.75	\$17.95
3. CHEESE, SPICED BEEF & MUSHROOMS	\$10.50	\$15.75	\$18.95
4. HAWAIIAN SPECIAL <i>Canadian Bacon, Pineapple, Mushrooms</i>	\$10.50	\$15.75	\$18.95
5. NEW YORK'S FAVORITE <i>Pepperoni, Bell Peppers, Olives</i>	\$10.50	\$15.75	\$18.95
6. GARLIC LOVERS <i>Pepperoni, Sausage, Lots of Garlic</i>	\$10.50	\$15.75	\$18.95
7. VEGETARIAN <i>Olives, Bell Pepper, Onions, Mushrooms, Fresh Tomatoes</i>	\$11.50	\$16.75	\$18.95
8. SEAFOOD <i>Crab, Shrimp, Bell Pepper</i>	\$11.50	\$16.75	\$18.95
9. BOBBY CADILLACS COMBO <i>Pepperoni, Sausage, Olives, Mushrooms, Bell Pepper, Onions</i>	\$12.50	\$17.75	\$20.95

PIZZA TOPPINGS

MEATS			SEAFOODS			VEGETABLES			
SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE	SMALL	MEDIUM	LARGE		SM	MED	LAR
\$1.00	\$1.25	\$1.50	\$1.00	\$1.25	\$1.50				
Pepperoni, Italian Sausage			SHRIMP CRAB			Fresh Tomatoes .	.75 ¢	\$1.00	\$1.25
Canadian Bacon			Extra Cheese			Bell Peppers	.75	1.00	1.25
Spiced Beef			\$1.25 • \$1.50 • \$1.75			Jalapeno Peppers	.25	.50	.75
						Pineapple	.75	1.00	1.25
						Garlic	.25	.50	.75
						Mushroooms	.75	1.00	1.25
						Black Olives	.75	1.00	1.25
			Extra Sauce - No Charge			Onions	.25	.50	.75

FOR TAKE OUT ORDERS CALL 234-3976 OR 233-1180

Your PIZZA will usually be ready for pick-up within 20 minutes. We will tell you if its going to take longer.
Or you can tell us what time you want to pick-up your PIZZA

Pizza Gazette

First Edition - Saipan's Leading Pizza News Rag - Feb. 25, 1998

BIG PIZZA NEWS

Do you get more for your money at **BOBBY CADILLACS** than at **PIZZA HUT™** ?

BOBBY CADILLACS large thin crust pizza is about 16", **Pizza Hut™** is about 14" (According to their most recent menu). That's about 30% more at **BOBBY CADILLACS**.

BOBBY CADILLACS gives you a **FREE** 14" thin crust one-topping pizza with each large 16" pizza you purchase. This is a good Deal!
And it's a good Deal everyday, year around.

BOBBY CADILLACS price for a three-topping thin crust pizza is \$18.95.
Pizza Hut's™ price for a three topping thin crust pizza is \$20.99.

GOOD PIZZA NEWS DURING LENT

BOBBY CADILLACS seafood pizza is a delicious blend of sauce, mozzarella cheese, cheddar cheese, provolone cheese, fresh frozen shrimp, crab and bell pepper.
Brought together on special thin crust.

Buy a large for \$18.95. Get a medium **FREE!**