

## Heinz: Repeal of viewer's tax stands a good chance



Heinz S. Hofschneider

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

REPRESENTATIVE Heinz S. Hofschneider (R-Saipan) yesterday said the local bill that would repeal the Viewer's Tax

law now stands a good chance of making it after the House passed a proposed measure seeking to derive funding for youth and Man'amko programs from poker machine jackpot winnings.

"I am doing a count on who is going to be here and who is not so that I can call a session and hopefully we can pass the repealer, hopefully," said Hofschneider, the chair of Saipan's legislative delegation.

He said House Local Bill 11-15, which he introduced, may finally be passed, considering that the lawmakers passed House Bill 11-464 during a re-

**Continued on page 26**

## 8 fall in gambling raid

EIGHT Chinese nationals were arrested over the weekend in a raid conducted by joint elements of the Attorney General's Office, the Department of Public Safety and the Department of Labor and Immigration.

Acting Attorney General Maya B. Kara yesterday said the raid was made on the strength of a search warrant issued by the Superior Court for suspected illegal gambling business at the former Mai Thai restaurant in Garapan in the early morning hours of Sunday, September 12.

The search warrant was served by officers of the AG's Investigative Unit (AGUI), the DPS and DOLI, Kara said in a press release.

**Continued on page 26**

# Continental defends move to cut HK flights

By Haldee V. Eugenio

Variety News Staff

CONTINENTAL Micronesia yesterday placed the blame on the continuous decline in the number of Saipan-bound passengers from Hong Kong and Taipei for its recent decision to terminate direct flights to the CNMI starting October 1.

Walter Dias, Continental vice president, said the decision was a result of a decreasing number of Hong Kong and Taipei passengers travelling to Saipan during the past six months.

From January to May of this year, only six percent of the passengers on the Taipei-Saipan flights actually disembarked in Saipan, while the other 94 percent continued on to Guam, according to Dias.

He also disclosed that a mere 40 percent of the passengers on board Hong Kong-Saipan flights actually disembarked in Saipan.

"Most of the passengers are continuing on to Guam and the trend was decreasing for the Saipan-bound passengers. Our GSAs have been disappointed by MVA's performance in these



Walter Dias

markets," Dias said.

He went on to say that Continental's move will not, in a way, affect the number of passengers bound for the CNMI.

"Based on the number of Saipan passengers on these flights, it will not have an impact on Saipan visitor arrivals," the airline official said.

Marianas Visitors Authority chairman David M. Sablan earlier disclosed the airline's plan of terminating direct Hong Kong-Saipan flights, saying all passengers originating from Hong Kong will have to be routed through

Guam.

"There's not much we (MVA) can do. This is business decision by Continental..." Sablan said, as he raised concern on possible overloading of Guam-Saipan flights once the direct flights are terminated next month.

The MVA official then urged Continental to increase Guam-Saipan flights to address this concern.

In his response, Dias said Continental will have four flights per day each way beginning October 1, as opposed to its current flights of only three each day for the said route.

Dias also disclosed Continental will maintain connecting flights for the Taipei and Hong Kong markets.

"We have created a through-flight for Hong Kong-Guam-Saipan. Flight 986 originates in Hong Kong, stops in Guam and continues to Saipan after a convenient 45 minute connection. This is all on the same aircraft. The Saipan-Hong Kong Flight 985 works the same way," said the airline official.

**Continued on page 26**

## Plutonium shipment said to be passing near FSM

SUVA (Pacnews) - The environment group, Greenpeace, has urged the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) to close its waters to a shipment of Japanese plutonium that may be moving into their Exclusive Economic Zone (EEZ) at any day now.

Greenpeace has been closely monitoring the two vessels, Pacific Pintail and Pacific Teal, carrying mixed oxide fuel (MOX) from Britain to Japan.

Last week, the vessels were sighted close to New Caledonia and Vanuatu and both governments were warned to take action.

Vanuatu and Fiji have issued strong statements condemning the shipment of the hazardous nuclear wastes through the Pacific.

The international environment organisation has also called on FSM to work with other South Pacific countries to reach a regional agreement to stop the ship-

**Continued on page 26**

## Diesel fuel used to 'taint' water supply at CAO

By Rene P. Acosta

Variety News Staff

AN ALERT security guard thwarted what could be a poisoning attempt at the Carolinian Affairs Office, when he discovered that the building's water storage tank has been laced with diesel gasoline.

Officials, including CAO Executive Assistant Frank M. Rabauliman did not say whether the attempt was meant for CAO employees.

Variety tried to reach the police to shed light into the matter but failed.

Rabauliman, who was expecting an investigation report from the police, said the poison attempt occurred last August 31.

The office, located on Beach Road, Garapan, failed to make an arrest but it appeared that the watchman managed to get a description of the suspect.

Rabauliman said the case was discovered between 10:00 p.m. and 11:00 pm by Kenneth Pedro.

Pedro allegedly found an empty gasoline container

strewn beside the storage tank located right at the back of the Carolinian.

Rabauliman said that upon checking, they found out that the diesel oil had been poured into the tank.

"Whoever did this, I don't know his motive, but the main intention is to pollute the water," the executive assistant said.

He said he "strongly condemns" the incident.

The office immediately drained

and cleaned the tank the next morning.

Rabauliman said police who have responded to the case never interviewed Pedro, and only did so when he insisted that the

**Continued on page 26**



Carolinian Affairs' Executive Assistant Frank Rabauliman points to the office's water tank which he said was deliberately tainted with diesel oil by an unidentified culprit.

Photo by Louie C. Alonso



## In Moscow

## Explosion kills 28



Ministry of Emergency Situations officers carry a body-bag containing a victim at the site of the blast that tore apart a Moscow apartment building Monday. It was the second major explosion in the Russian capital in four days.

MOSCOW (AP) — A suspected bomb blast destroyed an apartment building before dawn Monday in Moscow, killing at least 28 people and leaving scores of others seriously injured.

The blast wrecked an eight-story apartment building in southern Moscow just four days after an explosion shattered a similar building elsewhere in the Russian capital. The blasts were about four miles apart.

Police said at least 28 people, including two children, were killed in the explosion, which leveled the building. Five people were injured, they said. They appealed for help in finding a man believed linked to both apartment blasts.

About 150 people lived in the

building, although there were no reports on how many people were home at the time of the blast, police said.

Vladimir Legofhin of the Ministry of Emergency Situations said there was little hope of finding many survivors because the entire building collapsed. The explosion apparently was at the center of the building on the ground floor, he said.

"If anyone is left alive, it would be an absolute wonder," he said while directing rescue efforts at the scene.

More than 300 rescue workers with scores of ambulances and fire engines were at the scene. The voices of survivors were heard initially in the rubble and rescue work-

ers with dogs tried to find them.

Stunned local residents, many in their nightclothes, stood on the street staring at the wreckage of the building. Smoke enveloped what remained and firefighters extinguished flames in the rubble.

"This huge explosion shook me out of my bed and there was a huge cloud of dust. I understood immediately it was a bomb. I know there were many old people and children living in the building," said Vladimir Kanshin, who lived in a neighboring building.

The blast sprayed the surrounding area with jagged glass and rubble for hundreds of yards. A school and two kindergartens are located less than 200 yards from the shattered building.

## Vendors punished for selling games featuring war with Taiwan

BEIJING (AP) — Authorities have punished retailers selling computer games showing Taiwan's military defeating an invasion by mainland Chinese forces, the newspaper People's Liberation Army Daily reported Monday.

The CD-ROM computer

games, with titles like "Crush the Chinese Invasion" and "Defend Taiwan's territorial seas," were being sold openly recently in an electronics market in the city of Chengdu, in western China's Sichuan province, the report said.

The authors of the article said they bought the games and after

discovering their "reactionary" content, informed the police.

Authorities reacted swiftly, confiscating more than 10,000 of the games and "severely punishing those involved," the report said without providing any other details about actions taken by the police.

They bought the games and after



China national day. A gardener works on a 50th anniversary sign near a corner of a Beijing street. Preparation work for China's 50th National Day is rushed as Oct. 1 approaches.

## News briefs

## 3 die in Hong Kong as temperature soars

HONG KONG (AP) — Three people have died from suspected heatstroke and many others have fallen ill as an approaching tropical depression slowed winds and trapped heat and air pollution in the atmosphere, officials said Monday.

A blanket of gray smog hung low over the Hong Kong harbor early Monday as air pollution levels in downtown Central reached dangerous levels, at which people with heart and respiratory illnesses were warned to stay indoors and avoid physically strenuous activities.

W.P. Kwok, a Hong Kong Observatory spokesman, said temperatures in the past days were not exceptionally high, but the heat would not disperse as wind speeds became extremely low ahead of a tropical storm.

## Jet casing falls before plane lands

PALM BEACH, Fla. (AP) — A 200-pound piece of engine casing from a Continental Airlines jet landed on an empty street Sunday after the engine failed soon after takeoff, forcing the pilot to return for an emergency landing. No one was injured.

Flight 1933, a Boeing 737, was headed for Houston when one of its engines failed, Federal Aviation Administration spokeswoman Kathleen Bergen said from Atlanta.

The piece of engine cover landed on the empty street, causing no damage or injuries, said Jim Craft, operations supervisor with the Palm Beach County Department of Airports.

## Cambodian king weak, but not in grave condition

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — A son of ailing Cambodian King Norodom Sihanouk said Monday that his father is experiencing chronic weakness from old age, but the monarch does not suffer from any life-threatening ailments.

Prince Norodom Ranariddh — one of several princes rumored to be in line to succeed Sihanouk on the throne — tempered remarks made by the king on Sunday that his health was steadily deteriorating.

## Indian minister's son arrested on rape charge

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Police arrested a minister's son in northern India for allegedly abducting and raping a teenage girl, a newspaper said Sunday.

Suba Singh, the minister's son, and his brother-in-law Baljeet Singh illegally kept 17-year-old Gurpreet Sharma for nearly two months and allegedly raped her several times, The Asian Age newspaper quoted police as saying.

Suba Singh is the son of Punjab state's Agriculture Minister Gurdev Singh. Suba Singh and his brother-in-law surrendered to police on Saturday in Ludhiana, a town 290 kilometers (180 miles) north of New Delhi.

## Castro dines with Menem's daughter

HAVANA, (Reuters) - Cuba's President Fidel Castro, who has been the target of sometimes sharp criticism by Argentine President Carlos Menem, received Menem's daughter Zulema for dinner on Saturday night, diplomatic sources said.

The dinner in Havana came at the end of a three-day private visit to communist-ruled Cuba by "Zulemita" Menem. It renewed speculation about whether her father the Argentine president might change his previously announced intention not to attend a summit of Ibero-American leaders in Havana in mid-November.

## Opposition holds anti-gov't protests in Bangladesh

DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP) - Police fired tear gas Sunday to scatter nearly 3,000 rampaging antigovernment protesters who exploded crude bombs, attacked government offices and set vehicles on fire.

At least 100 people were injured. Dozens of protesters were detained by police. Burned-out tear gas shells, splinters of homemade bombs, rocks and wooden sticks littered the downtown streets after more than two hours of pitched battles between police and the protesters.

## Japan postpones satellite launch, again

TOKYO (AP) — Technical difficulties once again thwarted Japan's attempt to launch a multi-purpose satellite on Sunday, but space agency officials said they will try again later this week.

Problems with a sensor that detects the depletion of fuel in the H-2 rocket used to carry the satellite forced the launch's delay, said Takashi Endo, a spokesman for the National Space Development Agency of Japan.

## BOE certifies 14 candidates

By Louie C. Alonso  
Variety News Staff

THE BOARD of Elections yesterday announced it has certified the nominating petitions of 13 candidates running for elective posts in the November midterm elections.

BOE Executive Director Gregorio C. Sablan said two candidates eyeing congressional seats as independents for Saipan's election precinct four have been officially certified.

They are Benigno M. Sablan and Justo S. Quitugua.

Incumbent Sen. David M. Cing



Benigno M. Sablan Justo S. Quitugua Pedro P. Castro Pedro Nakatsukasa Anicia Q. Tomokane

(D-Tinian) has also been certified by the board to run under the island's Tinian Democratic Party.

The board has certified a total of eight congressional candidates under former governor Froilan C.

Tenorio's CNMI Reform Party.

Reform Party's certified candidates include Pedro P. Castro, Pedro T. Nakatsukasa, and Joseph M. Palacios, all for Precinct one.

Other certified candidates under the Reform Party's banner are Vicente H. Sablan and Anicia Q. Tomokane who are both running for the election district two, Joaquin T. Quitugua for election

district three, and Josephine C. DLGuerrero Mesta for election Precinct four.

For the Republican Party, BOE has certified two candidates which include Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota), and Rep. Alejo M. Mendiola (R-Rota), who are both running for another term in the office.

According to Sablan, the Democratic Party and other candidates from the Republican Party will be officially filing the nominating petitions of their candidates tomorrow, Sept. 15.

## CUC board not to accept firm's Hawaii invitation

By Marian A. Maraya  
Variety News Staff

FOR ETHICAL reasons, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) board of directors has scrapped plans to stop over Hawaii on their way back from the American Public Power Association (APPA) training in San Francisco, CUC officials announced yesterday.

CUC Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez yesterday revealed that the board members have declined the invitation to visit the utility operation sites in Maui and Oahu by Hawaiian Electric Company (HECO) citing concerns that its parent company, Hawaiian Electric Inc. (HEI), is one of the companies vying for the 80-megawatt power plant project.

"The invitation, recently reported in the media has been declined," said Villagomez. "The board did not want any contact, however unrelated, with a subsidiary of a company competing for the power plant."

Villagomez further expressed that the board is in the process of selecting a company which will build and operate the long-delayed \$120 million project.

The board is set to study the report put together by Burns and McDonnell, the independent consultants firm hired by CUC to review the power plant bidders' proposals, as soon as they arrive from the business trip.

The board of directors, who are scheduled to attend utility management training courses this week in San Francisco, were supposed to pay a visit to Hawaiian Electric and the CUC's sister utility, Maui Electric.

The purpose of the side trip was for the board to take a look at the utilities' power plant and compare it with CUC's facilities.

## Cepeda: New group might dominate NMI community

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff

THE COMMONWEALTH government could end up dominated by naturalized Americans if the exodus of its skilled and educated indigenous residents to the US mainland and Guam continues, Rep. Frank G. Cepeda (R-Saipan) has warned.

"My fear is that if we don't revolutionize ourselves now, in another generation the entire complexion of our elected government will be unrecognizable from what it is today," said Cepeda.

Cepeda said the commonwealth may be seeing "fewer and fewer Tenorios and Camachos and more and more names like Lee, Kim, Yamamoto, Smith and Jones" in its government.

Cepeda recently arrived from an economic conference in Hawaii where, he said "ideas such as shared experiences with a diverse group for a common goal..." for growth were discussed.

Cepeda lamented though that the commonwealth government may not be able to successfully develop



Frank G. Cepeda

its own growth strategy "if some of our best educated and technically skilled people have been chased from the islands to the mainland" where they are better paid and where "they don't have to deal with island concepts such as graft, corruption, mismanagement and lack of accountability."

"At the same time," he added, "there are educated, skilled, hardworking members of our community who have not evacuated to the mainland but who have preferred to concentrate their efforts in the private sector."

## 16,000 voters projected for polls

By Louie C. Alonso  
Variety News Staff

THE BOARD of Elections is projecting approximately 16,000 registered CNMI voters for the upcoming midterm elections on November 6.

The forecast was made by Executive Director Gregorio C. Sablan as he disclosed that registered voters for the November elections has skyrocketed to a total of 13,594 as of Sept. 13, a month away from the deadline for voter registration on Oct. 7.

As of yesterday, there are a total of 5,067 registered voters in elec-

tion district one, the largest precinct on Saipan.

BOE figures also show that San Antonio village currently has 838 voters; San Vicente, 2,797; Koblerville, 831; and Kagman a total of 601.

Election district two, which is composed of Chalan Kanoa and Susupe villages, has a total of 1,041 registered voters.

A total of 3,003 registered voters have been certified by the board in election district 3, which is comprised of San Jose and Garapan villages, and the Northern Islands. Tanapag, San Roque, and Capi-

tol Hill villages, comprising election district 4, have a total of 2,271 registered voters.

Saipan collectively got the biggest number of registered voters with a total of 11,382 out of the 13,594 total number of CNMI voters as of yesterday.

Election district 5 (Tinian) has a total of 991 registered voters while election district 6 (Rota) has a total of 1,221.

BOE has been strengthening its campaign in the three principal islands of the CNMI for the registration of the most possible number of voters in the upcoming elections.

## OPA junks firm's appeal on school project

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety Associate Editor

THE OFFICE of the Public Auditor has denied an appeal of Sablan Construction Co., which is protesting the Department of Public Work's decision to award a \$330,000 Tinian project to Telesource CNMI, Inc.

Public Auditor Leo L. LaMotte, in a report, said "no facts supported" Sablan Construction's allegation that Telesource's selection was arbitrary and capricious.

Sablan Construction's lawyer, Brian Sers Nicholas, has also argued that Telesource failed to submit required bid documents on time.

But LaMotte said it wasn't Telesource's fault.

He said it was DPW that made an error in the distribution of the bid package, causing Telesource's failure to submit



Leo L. LaMotte

its bid in the prescribed form.

OPA's decision upholds the decision of the Division of Procurement and Supply to allow Telesource to submit the lacking documents after the bid opening date.

LaMotte at the same time said his office found nothing to "indicate that DPW acted in bad faith when it entered in giving Telesource

an incomplete bid package."

Sablan Construction can still ask OPA to reconsider its decision.

The company filed a protest in April with the Division of Procurement and Supply after learning that the contract for the construction of two buildings for the Northern Marianas College's Tinian campus would be given to Telesource.

Procurement and Supply denied the protest in May, saying it was the government's error that prevented Telesource from submitting the required documents before the bid opening date.

Further, Telesource's late submission had no material effect on the original bid and did not improve its competitive position.

In June, Sablan Construction brought its protest to OPA.

## Jury trial for 6 in alien smuggling opens

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

A JURY trial began yesterday in federal court for the six Chinese who were among those charged for alleged smuggling of undocumented aliens in Guam.

As of press time yesterday, Assistant U.S. Atty. Gregory Baka was conducting his opening arguments before a panel of jurors.

The six defendants led by Jian Hui Xue were indicted with conspiracy to commit an offense

against the U.S.—alien smuggling for financial gain, attempted alien smuggling for financial gain, and attempted alien smuggling to a place other than at a designated port.

The defendants pleaded innocent of the charges.

Baka said the U.S. government will present 18 witnesses during the trial.

Baka told the jurors that they expect to hear testimonies how the boat was intercepted, how the

voyage started in Fujian Province in China and much money the aliens were asked to pay.

Baka said the jury will hear from witnesses, including six passengers of the vessel, testimonies about some of the boat people beaten up by the so-called enforcers.

Court records indicated that U.S. Coast Guard authorities intercepted last May 29 the fishing vessel carrying 51 undocumented Chinese near Guam.



# Fund taps FHB as money manager

By Haidee V. Eugenio

Variety News Staff

THE NMI Retirement Fund's Board of Trustees has chosen First Hawaiian Bank over Pacific Century Trust as its newest money manager, specifically to manage \$5 million in large cap investment, it was learned yesterday.

Fred F. Camacho, acting Fund administrator, disclosed the contracts for both the First Hawaiian Bank and the New York-based

Gabelli Asset Management Company, the newly-chosen money manager to handle small cap value portfolio, are up for signing by the Board chairman.

Camacho said the Fund will hand over to the two firms a total of \$10 million for them to start managing before the end of the year.

Each firm will be managing \$5 million each for a start.

"The Fund will most likely

make money available to them sometime in early October," said Camacho.

The Fund now has a total of eight money managers, including the two new firms.

Gabelli and First Hawaiian Bank were chosen over other firms on account of "expertise, integrity and enthusiasm."

There were about 30 applications from local and off-island firms received by the Fund during

the application period, and the candidates were narrowed down to five — three for small cap and two for large cap.

First Hawaiian Bank was the first firm to submit application to the Fund.

The CNMI pension office's decision to hire two new investment managers was precipitated by G.D. Bjurman and Associates' net loss of \$1.4 million for its fiscal year-to-date returns ending in

April. Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, after consulted by the Fund, earlier said the administration sees no problem axing the delinquent money manager as the Board deemed it fit to continue providing benefits to pensioners.

The Fund's other money managers include the BEA International Equity, Atlanta, Invesco Management & Research, Renaissance and Invesco Asia.

## Gov't seeks to settle right of way for road project

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

THE PROPOSED drainage site for the Nan Ocha road plan is on private land, said Rep. David M. Apatang (R-Saipan), adding that government is now exhausting all efforts to clear this right-of-way issue standing in the way of the \$1.2 million project.

Apatang said the Department of Public Works is currently "finalizing" the drainage plan and is also trying to settle land area disputes involving private properties affected by the project.

"We have to clear those things out from top to bottom. The issue with the drainage down at the bottom is that it is a private property. Those things have to be cleared before we start," said Apatang.

The lawmaker assured government is "still on schedule" despite the right-of-way problems.

He said he is slated to hold a meeting with DPW Technical Services Division chief Andrew Smith this week "to go over what has been done." "Hopefully the request for proposal will be out soon. By the end of October an invitation to bid will be completed," said Apatang.

Apatang has said that upgrading the Nan Ocha road is vital in that it will ease the burden on motorists who have to trek an uphill dirt road going to and from work.

"I cannot overemphasize the urgency of this project," said Apatang, in an earlier letter to DPW.



Senior citizens gather at the Manamko center in Garapan for an activity Thursday.

Contributed Photo

## The Doctors Clinic seeks OK of GMHP settlement

By Eric F. Say

Variety News Staff

HAGTNA — The Doctors Clinic has filed a motion in the U.S. District Court on Guam urging the approval of a settlement agreement with Guam Memorial Health Plan.

Under the proposed agreement, The Doctors Clinic (TDC) would settle its debts to GMHP.

The settlement, which is part of TDC's ongoing, post-bankruptcy financial reorganization, states that TDC will pay GMHP \$200,000.

But TDC, in turn, wants a reduction of GMHP's administrative claim from \$1.16 million to \$532,000, which TDC will pay over a period of seven years at 7 percent annual interest.

TDC also wants GMHP to reduce its unsecured claim of \$2.9 million to \$25,000.

Further, under the settlement, TDC and GMHP will release each other from all claims arising out of their former business relationship.

TDC said if the court approves the settlement, the company will be unlikely to borrow funds in order to emerge from bankruptcy.

Court documents show that TDC owes money to over 250 local and off-island vendors.

If the court approves the settlement, these vendors will get partial payment from TDC. U.S. District Court Judge John S. Unpingco will hear TDC's motion on Sept. 24.

## MHS stage play to put focus on diabetes

By Louie C. Alonso

Variety News Staff

THE FRIENDS of the Arts (FOA) will present the critically acclaimed play "Steel Magnolias" in conjunction with the Department of Public Health campaign to highlight awareness of diabetes in the CNMI.

The play will be held at the Marianas High School Studio Theater from Sept. 17 to 26.

According to play director Harold Easton, who is also the MHS Speech and Drama Student Program teacher, knowledge and commitment make diabetes controllable.

The program will be produced by FOA's Susan E. Fishman and Norma Matthews.

Diabetic discussion groups will be held after the Sunday matinees. Shows will be held at MHS theater, Building H, Friday and Saturday evenings, Sept. 17, 18, 24 and 25 at 7:30 p.m. with Sunday matinees on Sept. 19 and 26 at 3:30 p.m.

Tickets are sold \$10 and \$5 for those under 18. The play received critical and popular acceptance in its premier production by New York's WPA Theatre.

Cast members will come mostly from Friends of the Arts, and MHS students will be manning the technical aspects of the play.

## DEQ lifts violation notice vs Paradise Hotel

By Rene P. Acosta

Variety News Staff

A VIOLATION notice that was issued by the Division of Environmental Protection to Paradise Hotel two weeks ago has been rescinded following appropriate action taken on the matter by the hotel's management.

In a statement, DEQ said it lifted the notice of violation

against the hotel last week after it quickly moved and fixed its infraction on the CNMI's Safe Drinking Water Standards.

"We are happy to report that the Paradise Hotel is genuinely concerned about the safety of their guests and employees," the statement quoted Director Ignacio V. Cabrera as saying.

The hotel was issued the violation notice for exceeding the al-

lowable level for microbiological contaminants. The infraction was allegedly traced to its kitchen.

"After being served a Notice of Violation, the hotel moved quickly to identify the problem. The company then proceeded to correct the problem by following a plan reviewed by DEQ," the release said.

The order's lifting followed DEQ's tests which yielded nega-

tive results.

Cabrera said they "were more than happy to work with the island establishments in order to help them correct any problems they might have."

DEQ said it will continue to monitor CNMI businesses and residences, and enforce all laws and regulations carved out to protect the environment.

## Northwest moves to hike arrivals

By Haidee V. Eugenio

Variety News Staff

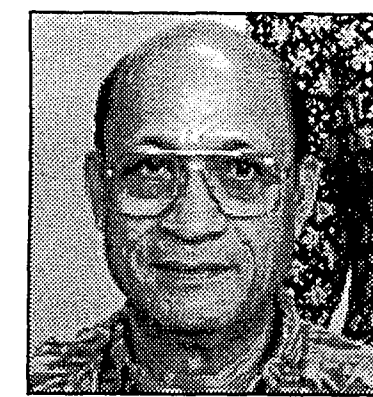
FOLLOWING Northwest Airline's decision to utilize bigger aircraft in all its flights to the CNMI starting in October, the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) expressed optimism this will result in greater number of Japanese visitors into the CNMI.

Northwest will upgauge its aircraft, from DC 10 to the 440-seater Boeing 747 next month.

MVA Board chairman David Sablan said Northwest's decision will be a big boost to the local tourism industry as there will be some 200 more seats available for Japanese tourists bound for the CNMI.

"That means we will have additional seats available for tourists and hopefully all the seats will be occupied," said Sablan, adding that the number of available seats is but a separate issue from having passengers to fill in those seats.

MVA managing director Perry Tenorio also said yesterday both



David M. Sablan



Perry Tenorio

the CNMI and Guam will benefit from Northwest's upgauge of aircraft.

Sablan said the CNMI will, in turn, work harder to entice more Japanese visitors to come to the CNMI to be able to maximize the use of bigger aircraft to and from the two destinations.

CNMI tour operators are also requesting Northwest to operate direct Nagoya-Saipan air service to help boost arrivals into the islands.

Northwest's decision of equip-

vide CPA with traffic forecast of the expected passenger increased based on the equipment upgauge; and amendment or termination of the incentive fee extension if its jeopardizes the airport's debt service payment.

In related news, MVA said Asiana Airlines' move of flying daily, direct flights from Seoul to Saipan starting yesterday would further strengthen CNMI's hold of the Korean market.

Sablan said Asiana's move was in fact earlier than was actually expected.

"We are very pleased that Asiana has decided to really accelerate because the information we received before is they might begin daily flight here in October so this is two weeks earlier. That would mean then that on a weekly basis, we have 260 more seats available," said Sablan.

Aside from Asiana, Northwest and Japan Airlines also operate daily flights to the CNMI.

ment upgauge was prompted by the Commonwealth Ports Authority's (CPA) conditional approval of extending its airline incentive program by seven months.

Sablan, who is also member of the CNMI Aviation Task Force, said the incentive program includes the 50 percent reduction in landing fees to Northwest, provided it will meet three requirements.

These conditions are: Upgauge of equipment, from DC10 to B747 anytime now until January; pro-

## Saipan not ready for unified tariff

By Marian A. Maraya

Variety News Staff

SUBJECT to federal maritime pressures, Saipan is not ready to embrace a "unified tariff" policy as the Association of Terminal Operators and Stevedoring Companies (ATOSCOM) mulled over its implementation for various ports in Micronesia, revealed Saipan Stevedore General Manger Joannes Taimanao yesterday.

At the 26th Annual ATOSCOM meet held in Palau last week, ATOSCOM members delved into adopting a uniformed tariff among island nations in Micronesia. Uniformed in the sense that tariff rules governing the members are similar, according to Taimanao.

"But we cannot set this rate here on Saipan," said Taimanao. "We have to bear in mind that we are under federal maritime suggestion. And our rate structure cannot be the same."

"In Saipan's case, more equipment and labor are needed," added Taimanao.

But Taimanao further said that uniformed tariff for ATOSCOM members will hopefully be realized by next year.

Also during the ATOSCOM meet, members adopted the new set of constitution and by laws, after 25 years.

The 26th annual ATOSCOM general membership meeting held last September 6 to 8 at the Outrigger Palasia Hotel in Koror, Palau was attended by 45 to 50 port operators and stevedores all over Micronesia.

The agenda was centered on discussions pertaining to the implementation of a unified tariff among island nations in Micronesia.

Issues dealing with shipping industry was also discussed.



Saipan first timers. Japanese tourists gamely pose for the camera as they enjoy their first stay on island at the Hafa Adai Beach Hotel in Garapan.

Photo by Louie C. Alonso

## Gov't makes pitch on food safety

SAFE FOOD preparation, handling and storage has received better attention as acting Gov. Jesus R. Sablan yesterday signed the First Annual Food Safety Education Week which will kick off from September 20 to 25.

Public health advisor David Rosario said the proclamation puts prime importance on the "preventive" rather than "curative" aspect of public health education, as he dispelled speculations the upcoming event was prompted

by any recent rise in the number of food-borne illness in the CNMI.

This year's theme, "Food: Cook it safely — It's a matter of degrees," focuses on the importance of safe food handling and preparation in order to protect the community from food-borne diseases.

Meanwhile, Bureau of Environmental Health inspector Edward Camacho expressed hopes the CNMI will begin observing the occasion for a whole month next year, just like in the United States where it has been celebrated for a month for five years now.

In his proclamation, Sablan encouraged individuals and establishments involved in food handling to ensure safe and wholesome food for human consumption, and to endorse the week-long celebration.

The CNMI Food and Nutrition Council also lined-up activities for the event, including demonstrations on safe food handling to be presented to both the youth and adults. (HVE)

## SAIPAN VETERINARY HOSPITAL

Temporarily Closed  
from Sept. 18- Oct. 3 as  
Dr. Eugene Clothier is off-island  
for continuing education.

To my valued clients, I will be remaining  
at Saipan Veterinary Hospital  
as sale not consumated.

# Read with your child everyday.

W WALLACE THEATRES

\$5.00 BARGAIN MATINEES

BEFORE 3:30 PM SAT/SUN/HOL  
BEFORE 6:00 PM MON-FRI

HOLLYWOOD THEATRES

STADIUM SEATING ALL THEATRES  
CLEAR VIEW TO SCREEN  
EXTRA LEGROOM

ALL DIGITAL SOUND  
DOLBY EX

Tuesday, September 14

DEEP BLUE SEA R

5:00 • 7:30 • 10:30 pm.

HAUNTING PG-13

4:45 • 7:15 • 10:00 pm.

IRON GIANT PG

7:00 p.m.

MYSTERY MEN PG-13

4:30 • 9:45 pm.

BOWFINGER PG-13

5:00 • 7:30 • 10:00 pm

AMERICAN PIE R

5:15 • 7:45 • 10:30 p.m.

THOMAS CROWN AFFAIR PG

4:45 • 7:15 • 10:15 p.m.

MISS KRISTINA MORAN NR

4:30 • 7:00 • 10:15 p.m.

24 HOUR SHOWTIME: 234-9000



# FORUM

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

## BREWED

By Jojo Dass

### Loophole

SOME Senate leaders are not too keen about the much-ballyhooed free trade zone bill the House has passed.

In a recent discussion I had on House Bill 11-389 with Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) and Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez (R-Saipan), an impression was arrived at regarding possible loopholes the bill could create on the hiring moratorium law.

Under the bill, free trade zone investors will given a whole slew of tax privileges and an exemption from the moratorium law. The catch though is that they will have to pay guest workers the federal rate.

Giving free trade zone workers federal salary levels, according to proponents of the bill, will encourage local workers to seek employment there. But since they lack the needed skills, they will first have to be trained by presumably the first batch of skilled guest workers to be hired.

So what happens when this first batch's time is up? Will they eventually find their way illegally into business establishments outside the zone, taking in a lower salary base but noting that such is not necessarily bad considering the mighty dollar? These workers after all will not be coming from the U.S. mainland. Sound business decision dictates that they be brought in cheap. And that points to skilled workers from perhaps, Asia — Philippines among them.

And how attractive really will the free trade zone to investors whose business mindset compels them to reject anything not handed down on a silver platter?

Asking free trade zone investors to pay workers federal rates could hit a raw nerve and might actually defeat the CNMI's plan to attract good business at the zone. Other countries with devalued currency and skilled workers remain tempting and is expected to compete with the commonwealth for a good share of the trade zone market.

\*\*\*\*\*

House Judicial and Governmental Operations Committee Chair Frank G. Cepeda (R-Saipan) may not necessarily be stretching his imagination too much when he wrote that the steady stream of skilled and educated indigenous individuals going to the U.S. mainland for work is taking its toll on the government.

Pretty soon, he said, we may have a Lee or Kim or Yamamoto or Smith or Jones (we already have a Jones) in government or even as governor.

So what's wrong with that?

Nothing much except that it diminishes the government's identity and, perhaps more importantly, could start an unnecessary paradigm shift where laws will be enacted to the detriment of the dwindling indigenous populace.

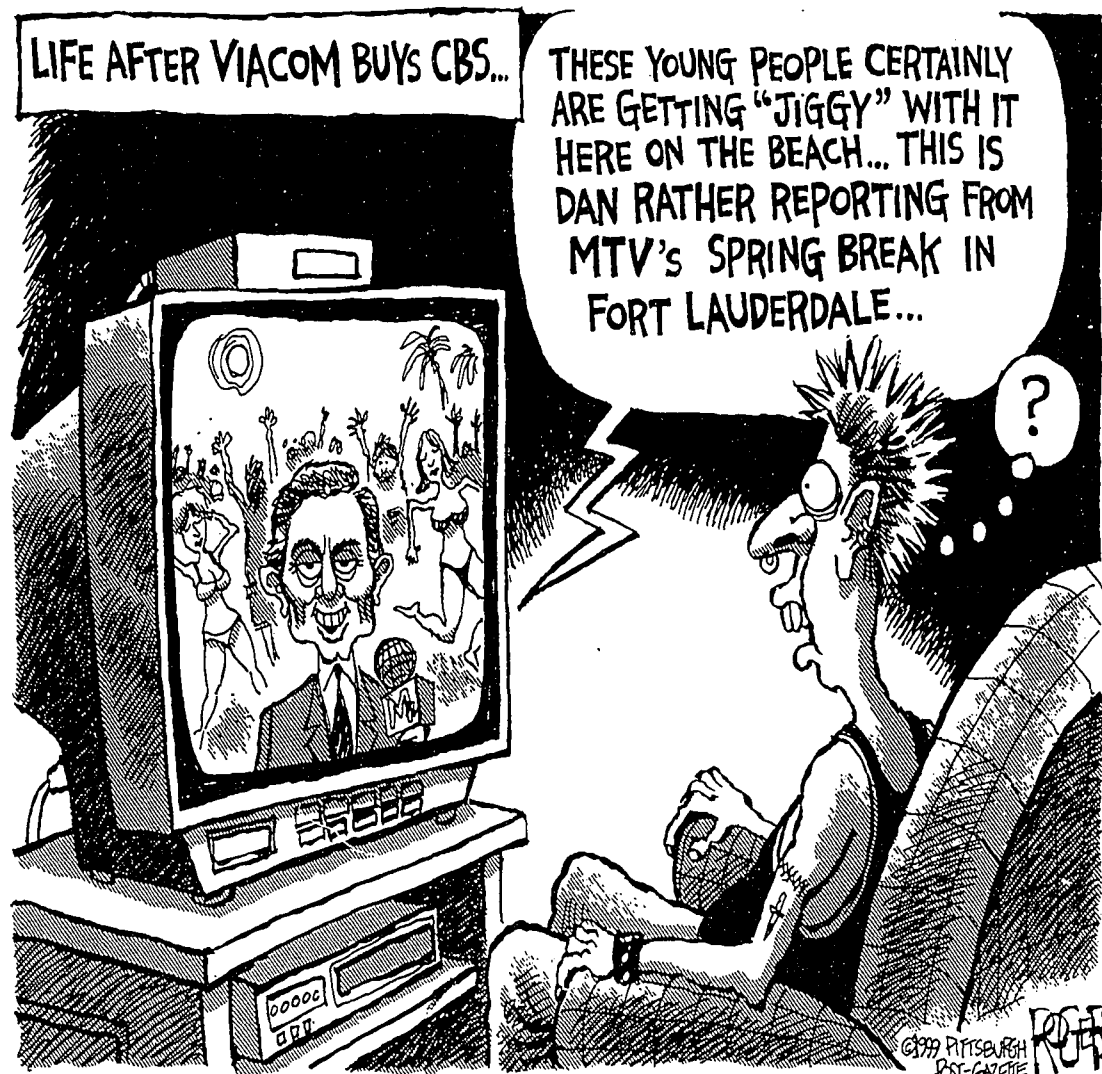
But what's really strange about Cepeda's warning is that government, despite the austerity measures it is implementing, has always been the commonwealth's primary employer to which business tycoon Willie Tan's empire probably stands second.

But that's just it. Government is stuck with the deadwood and semi-skilled. It has to hire somebody from the U.S. mainland to do "consultancy work" and bungle things right on its face.

The NMI's crème de la crème is anywhere but in government.

And how do we attract them? Run government the way it should be: professionally.

Maybe doing away with nepotism is a good start.



JACK ANDERSON and JAN MOLLER

### WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

### National health insurance, unintentionally

THE LAW of Unintended Consequences is at play on Capitol Hill, and your health insurance is on the line. The story is fascinating; the possible result surprising.

Last year, the insurance lobby spent \$77 million in campaign donations and lobbying expenditures — besting for the first time the enormous money flow of the giant pharmaceutical industry. They want you to know that the new managed-care reform ideas — specifically the Patients Bill of Rights coming from the White House and bills pending in Congress — are un-American.

These are simply scare tactics of a concerned industry, according to John Stone, the spokesperson for Rep. Charlie Norwood, R-Georgia. Norwood and John Dingell, D-Mich., have come up with a bill that Stone says gives the power to sue back to the patient, a power that was stripped from the patient during ill-considered 1974 reforms.

But there is a catch — a big catch. Stone says that despite what the insurance companies would like the public to think, patients cannot sue their employers for health care gone wrong through this pending legislation, unless the employer in question is also the doctor or the insurance company. We disagree.

The bill actually states: "Employers cannot be sued for their choice of health plan, or benefits package."

And the Speaker of the House, concerned that the bill is too hard on business, commissioned Tom Coburn, R-Okla., and John Shadegg, R-Ariz., to come up with a plan that would tread the course between business and consumers. But this bill also falls short: "Em-

ployers are protected from any liability if they are not exercising 'discretionary authority' to make a decision on a claim for benefits."

The language quoted from both bills add up to the same thing: Employers beware. The first lists employer's sue-free areas; the second notably uses the word "if" when referring to employer liability.

Enter the Law of Unintended Consequences: Specifically, what company, large or small, is going to be willing to provide employees with a health plan, if by doing so the company itself is placed at risk?

Employer-provided health-care plans are pass-through benefits, not employer-provided services. Yet these bills making their way through Congress do not explicitly exclude employers from liability. The guaranteed result? Employers will discontinue the health plans.

Enter the Second Unintended Consequence: Health-insurance companies will be compelled to deal directly with the public in the sale and collection of insurance premiums, just as they do with auto, life and property insurance.

Enter the Third Unintended Consequence: Individuals who are rejected or charged exorbitant premiums due to pre-existing conditions or age would have no where else to turn except the government, giving us the final result: national health insurance. Yet, instead of being national health insurance as the first resort, it would be the last resort, and America will have stumbled into a private-public combination that could be just the solution to national health insurance that has eluded administrations from Truman to Clinton.

### ANALYSIS

### Battered Asia confronts security threats

By Andrew Browne

AUCKLAND (Reuters) — From North Korea's missile threat to tensions across the Taiwan Strait and carnage in East Timor, security flare-ups have confronted a battered Asia with new crises.

Just as the region is being nursed back to economic health, it is having to grapple with dangers even more menacing than the currency collapses of 1997.

There are real fears of an arms race in north Asia, armed conflict between China and Taiwan and political unravelling in Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous nation.

Australian foreign minister Alexander Downer summed up the alarm by warning of a "regional Armageddon" if the United States was dragged into war in the Taiwan Strait.

The tensions have overshadowed a meeting of 21 Asia-Pacific economies in New Zealand.

Senior officials arrived at the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum clutching briefing papers on trade liberalisation, e-commerce and the millennium bug.

But they have since been dashing from meeting to meeting to put together an international peacekeeping force for East Timor.

The immediate concern is to halt murder and violence in East Timor by militia gangs, backed by sections of the police and armed forces, seeking to thwart an overwhelming vote for independence by the territory's 800,000 people.

At stake is the political stability of Indonesia where powerful generals appear increasingly to be pulling the strings, threatening a fragile democracy — and even more fragile economic recovery.

East Timor has brought together an outraged region in a rare display of solidarity.

But the Taiwan-China confrontation, and North Korea's plans to test-fire a long-range missile, are exposing dangerous divisions.

As Pyongyang readies a giant scaffold to blast off its Taepodong-2 rocket, capable of hitting Alaska and Hawaii, the security map of North Asia is being redrawn.

Japan is edging further away from its post-war pacifism. Old rivals Japan and South Korea are being pushed together, and both are seeking to find shelter under a revived U.S. "Star Wars" missile defence umbrella plan.

On Sunday, U.S. President Bill Clinton met leaders of Japan and South Korea to discuss North Korea.

The result was an appeal to North Korea to drop the missile test, and economic inducements.

All these developments have alarmed China, which harbours a terror of Japanese rearmament.

The Cold War arms race ultimately bankrupted the Soviet Union, and China's communist leaders have no desire to follow that path to oblivion as their economy slows.

Beijing is openly suspicious that the North Korean threat is being deliberately exaggerated by Washington and Tokyo to justify closer military ties.

Chinese foreign ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao on Sunday criticised unnamed countries seeking to "create a mountain out of a molehill" on North Korea.

Ultimately, Beijing believes the aim is to "contain" China. It fears the unspoken agenda of Washington and Tokyo is to bring Taiwan into their defence alliance.

Taiwan is the one issue that could draw the United States and China into military confrontation.

Comments by Taiwan President Lee Teng-hui proclaiming "special state-to-state relations" with China have increased the chances of conflict.

Beijing took the remarks as a virtual declaration of independence.

On Saturday, Clinton clashed with Chinese President Jiang Zemin as he sought vainly for assurances that Beijing would not use force against Taiwan. Chinese state television news last week showed pictures of bombers filling the skies, warships firing salvos of surface-to-air missiles and troops rushing ashore with flame-throwers in a mock invasion of Taiwan.

The images were shocking, but the region is not yet holding its breath.

Military analysts have seen no evidence of large-scale military manoeuvres by Beijing, and they note China's response to Lee's provocations has so far been confined largely to angry rhetoric and propaganda-style images.

Besides, China's antiquated military is still not up to a crossing of the Taiwan Strait.

On North Korea, too, the picture may be somewhat less alarming than it appears at first. Pyongyang has made a habit out of securing economic gains by threatening military terror, and has in the past pulled back from the brink.

### ANALYSIS

### How German state polls affect parliament

BERLIN (Reuters) — Defeat for Germany's Social Democrats in an election to the state legislature in the eastern German state of Thuringia on Sunday has further eroded the federal government's support in the upper house of parliament.

The result means the conservative opposition Christian Democrats have a narrow relative majority over Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder's SPD in the Bundesrat, which is made up of delegates from the 16 states.

But since neither Schroeder nor his CDU opponents command the absolute majority required for a decision in the upper house, both remain condemned to seek consensus if an ambitious programme of economic reforms is to become law.

The Christian Democrats took outright control of Thuringia and can end their "grand coalition" with the SPD. That will range the state firmly against the government in the 69-seat Bundesrat and

raise the clear anti-government vote to 28 votes from 24. The pro-government remains unchanged on 26 votes.

States must cast their votes as a bloc or not at all, so Thuringia, like other grand coalition states, has had to abstain on divisive votes in the past. Sunday's result will end that.

The SPD and their ecologist Green coalition partners lost their 35-vote absolute majority after a state election defeat last February. However, they had until a week ago been able to make up the shortfall by deals with a small opposition party, the Free Democrats, in one state.

After the September 5 drubbing, when the SPD lost Saarland completely to the CDU and was forced to find a coalition partner in Brandenburg, the government could count on just 26 votes compared to 33 before the latest round of elections began.

Remaining votes are held by states where the SPD is in coal-

ition with the CDU and therefore do not normally vote.

The CDU is expected to retain control of Saxony's four votes on September 19. It could also capture Berlin's four on October 10 if it gets enough support to do without its coalition with the SPD in the capital.

That would still not bring it to 35. But further success next spring could well do so. The SPD's hold on Schleswig-Holstein (four votes) looks fragile, as does its grip on the country's biggest state, North Rhine-Westphalia (six votes).

The ruling party expects defeats in city hall voting there this Sunday. Voters elect a state legislature next May.

This is the make-up of the Bundesrat after Sunday's election in Thuringia and last week's elections in Saarland and Brandenburg.

The SPD in Brandenburg is in talks to form a coalition with the CDU after losing its absolute majority.

### ANALYSIS

### Angola trapped in a profiteers' war

By William Maclean

LUANDA (Reuters) — Angola's return to civil war has lit a fuse of anger among civilians trapped in a profiteers' conflict that enriches a comfortable elite and robs a long-resilient people of hope, human rights workers and diplomats say.

Risking careers and repeated arrest, peace activists in government-held areas have begun to raise their voices against a 25-year-old power struggle that condemns increasing numbers to starvation and disease.

"Angolans are reaching the extremes of suffering, barbarism, social humiliation and total perversion of the use of power," activists said in a Manifesto for Peace in Angola issued recently.

"Those who possess might are looting the country's wealth, with the help and complicity of other countries and foreign adventurers," the group of 150 academics and churchmen said on behalf of what they said was a majority silenced by fear of reprisals from both belligerents.

Both sides corrupt. Massive graft on both sides of the battle lines had turned a onetime Cold War side-show conflict into a sophisticated business that has long since lost any ideological underpinning, said the church leaders and activists working to strengthen civil society.

"The people feel betrayed by the politicians," Vacarias Kamvenho, Bishop of the southern city of Lubango, told Reuters in an interview.

"The country is polarised between the government and UNITA, and those in between struggle to make themselves heard because they are not strong enough to stand up. That's why we have to set up the peace movement to explain that peace is the only way."

He said he agreed "partially" with an observation that the capi-

tal Luanda, its population swelled dramatically by refugees this year, had lost some of its legendary resilience to conflict and had moved closer to a point where political instability could erupt.

Some Angolans fear an eventual worst-case result would be a new "confusao" or confusion - the Angolan term for mass killings in Luanda in 1992 triggered by the collapse of an earlier peace process brokered by Portugal, Russia and the United States following U.N.-observed elections.

But Kamvenho said people still clutched shreds of hope.

"Elsewhere in Africa, when people reach extremes, they start throwing stones at ministers' cars. In Angola they don't do this, and it is not because they are afraid of the police. It is because they still have some hope."

"But the authorities should look at how people are suffering and they should be truly concerned to help them."

Peace hopes repeatedly dashed. Angola's peace hopes have been repeatedly dashed during the conflict between the former Marxist government and the rebel National Union for the Total Independence of Angola, which resumed last December following the collapse of a 1994 peace accord.

The government holds many of the cities, funding many of its operations from a booming oil industry, while a resurgent UNITA holds more than two thirds of the countryside, financing its activities from illegal diamond sales.

The fresh conflict has brought starvation in the countryside and the return of once defeated diseases like polio and sleeping sickness, a collapse of the national kwanza currency and the continued deterioration of government services already hobbled by graft

and incompetence.

Diplomats said that decades of loyalty to the ruling Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola had eroded since the return to war in December, although fear of UNITA remained a unifying factor.

The government had lavished expensive weaponry on an army badly shaken by defeats from UNITA around the turn of the year but was incompetent at paying and feeding its troops.

A recent recruitment drive garnered less than 7,000 out of a targeted 30,000 as the offspring of the elite left rapidly overseas to avoid the draft, Luanda residents said.

Almost bereft of a middle class, the country's wealth gap yawns between a comfortable elite who drive four wheel vehicles and shop in Johannesburg, Paris and Lisbon, and millions of poverty stricken Angolans who live in sewage-flooded sand hovels adjoining Luanda.

Kamvenho said he saw no sign that the government had used a huge influx of oil investment to better the lives of ordinary people.

"So far I see only misery, famine and starvation," he said. "Where the money goes, I have no idea."

Residents of Luanda point wryly to the relative peace in the diamond badlands in the northeast where both UNITA and the government have fields properties that provide lucrative sidelines for generals of both sides.

Gentleman's agreement on oil. Some say the truce is the result of a gentleman's agreement between UNITA, which will not attack the government fields as long as it obtains illicit fuel supplies from corrupt state officials. Some see a glimmer of hope in the attention Angola is drawing from the international oil industry, a global constituency with deep pockets and political clout.

## Marianas Variety

Serving the Commonwealth for 26 years  
Published Monday to Friday By Younis Art Studio, Inc.

Publishers:  
Abed and Paz Younis

Rafael H. Arroyo Editor  
Zaldu Dandan Associate Editor

P.O. Box 231, Sapan MP 96950-0231  
Tel. (670) 234-6341/7578/9797/9272  
Fax: (670) 234-9271

© 1998, Marianas Variety  
All Rights Reserved

Member of  
The Associated Press (AP)  
NATIONAL  
NEWSPAPER  
ASSOCIATION



## Easier entry for foreign nationals from Japan eyed

By Haidee V. Eugenio  
Variety News Staff

MARIANAS Visitors Authority (MVA) Board chairman David Sablan said efforts to facilitate the easier entry into the CNMI of non-Japanese citizens in Japan for strict tourist and business purposes are underway, as part of the agency's mandate of luring in more visitors to come into the islands.

Sablan, however, assured the MVA's actions would not jeopardize the Department of Labor and Immigration's (DOLI) duty to protect and regulate the borders of the CNMI.

He cited an earlier memorandum requiring certain foreign nationals residing in Japan to secure an Authorization to Board (ATB) from DOLI before they are allowed to visit the islands.

"It's strictly immigration requirement that we have to comply with," said Sablan but declined to give more details of the plans.

The MVA official said the Russian and Chinese markets, including those who have been residing in Japan for years now, have a potential of boosting CNMI arrivals, the same way as Japanese citizens do.

He added that legitimate tourists should not be given hard time to enter the CNMI.

CNMI arrivals took a deep plunge in months as the Asian economic crisis forced tourists to

think twice before taking off-island vacations.

"We are still working to facilitate the entry of people from other nations such as Russia and China who are (residing) in Japan or passing through Japan to come to Saipan."

"Those are the sticky spots that immigration is still working on," said Sablan.

DOLI earlier issued guidelines to be used for consideration in the issuance of ATBs. The memorandum enumerated the foreign nationals residing in Japan that need to secure ATBs from the CNMI DOLI secretary.

These include those from Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Peoples Republic of China, Afghanistan, Cuba, India, Iran, Iraq, Libya (including Bosnia, Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro, Slovenia and Macedonia), North Korea, Vietnam, Nigeria, Armenia, Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, the German Democratic Republic, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Mongolian People's Republic, Poland, Romania and the Union of Soviet Socialist Republic.

DOLI Sec. Mark Zachares earlier said foreign nationals who have already acquired permanent residency in Japan and in possession of a re-entry permit are authorized to enter the CNMI without an ATB, provided they sub-

Continued on page 26

## High court affirms '85 ruling on land dispute

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

THE CNMI Supreme Court has affirmed the Superior Court's decision involving a 1985 civil case arising from a disputed land lease rental payments.

The high tribunal in its judgment issued Friday upheld the lower court's judgment in the findings of fact in the case between James L. Hemley and FKG, Inc.

The Supreme Court, however, remanded to the lower court to recalculate the figures using the same facts and reasoning from the lower court's opinion.

Such review of the figures is needed to ascertain if any arithmetical mistakes or miscalculations were made in whether FKG Inc. made the total payment of \$399,891.34 on the ground lease and its amendment, said the Supreme Court ruling penned by Chief Justice Miguel Demapan and concurred by Justices Pro Tem Marty W. K. Taylor and Juan T. Lizama.

The justices also remanded to lower court the issue on whether lawyer David A. Wiseman has accounted for \$156,096.26 and whether Hemley still has an unaccounted balance of \$23,663.56 rental payments from FKG.

Court records showed that the case originates from a divorce action filed by Lucia P. Hemley against James L. Hemley and granted in 1986.

The property in the marital settlement agreement, as part of the divorce decree, included two lots in Garapan which were partly held in trust for the couple's four children.

At the time of the divorce, the Garapan lots were encumbered by two mortgages by the Mariana Islands Housing Authority and the Bank of Guam.

Lucia Hemley and the four children brought various court actions against the ground lease.

The lower court in June 1995 directed FKG Inc. to submit all payments for rent on the Garapan property leased to FKG and held by James Hemley for the benefit of his children to be paid to the Law Offices of Wiseman.

All lease payments made for the benefit of the children of age were placed in a trust account established by Wiseman until the time the court would decide whom the payments should be made.

The parties were ordered to submit their respective accounting of disbursement of funds prior to the hearing on the motion.

The Superior Court in 1996 is-

sued its order, finding that FKG was owed the amount of \$77,994.79 in credit.

The trial court also held that James L. Hemley had an unaccounted balance of \$23,663.56 for which reimbursements must be made and that Wiseman shall disburse \$2,355.75 which had not been accounted for.

James L. Hemley, through counsel Wiseman, filed a motion for relief from the decision and accounting of Trust Fund on the ground the order contained errors and mistakes caused by the court's oversight or omission.

The Superior Court denied Hemley's motion.

The parties appealed.

The Supreme Court said the confusion arises from the tangled payments made over the course of the lease and its amendments.

From 1987 through 1995, the justices said, in addition to hiring counsel, FKG retained the services of a certified public accountant to review all of the payments made to ensure that FKG was properly being credited with payments made to James L. Hemley and the sources other than Hemley.

From the accounting report, Continued on page 26

## Apatang seeks input on telecom measure



David M. Apatang

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff

THE CHAIR of the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communication said he is soliciting inputs from concerned quarters in connection with the proposed measure seeking to give telecommunications regulatory powers to the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. (CUC).

"Right now, we are soliciting comments on the telecommunications bill. It is a very comprehensive bill. We are asking for public comments," said Rep. David M. Apatang (R-Saipan). "There has been a lot of changes from the original version," he added.

Apatang expressed hopes a finalized version of House Bill 11-122 may be released by the end of this month.

The committee, following discussions with Bob Webb, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's special assistant for telecommunications,

moved to refine the bill to allow CUC regulatory powers over the local telecommunication sector after it was established in an earlier public hearing held in June that the commonwealth government does not have funds to operate a telecommunications regulatory agency.

House Bill 11-122, is a 19-month proposed measure introduced by Rep. Melvin O. Faisao (R-Saipan).

The bill's original version seeks to derive funding for the regulatory body from the Micronesian Telecommunications Corp.

MTC, however, has rejected it. The PUTC draft amendment is seen to add more teeth to CUC's regulatory mandate. The CUC, while having regulatory powers in the past, could not actually deny petitions for rate increases from MTC, the commonwealth's sole telecommunications company.

Giving CUC more powers, Apatang has earlier explained, allows the commonwealth to do away with creating a telecommunications commission which is required if the CNMI is to benefit from the 1996 Federal Telecommunications Act.

The law requires states and territories to put up their own regulatory commission in exchange for inclusion into the U.S. rate integration system and funds for public schools' and libraries' phone bills, among others.

## Okinawa legislator visits

THE CNMI last week played host to a visiting group led by Japanese Congressman Koukichi Iramina from the Okinawa Prefectural Assembly, in line with the celebration of the 99th Visit the Marianas campaign.

Iramina and several off-island officials were on hand to take

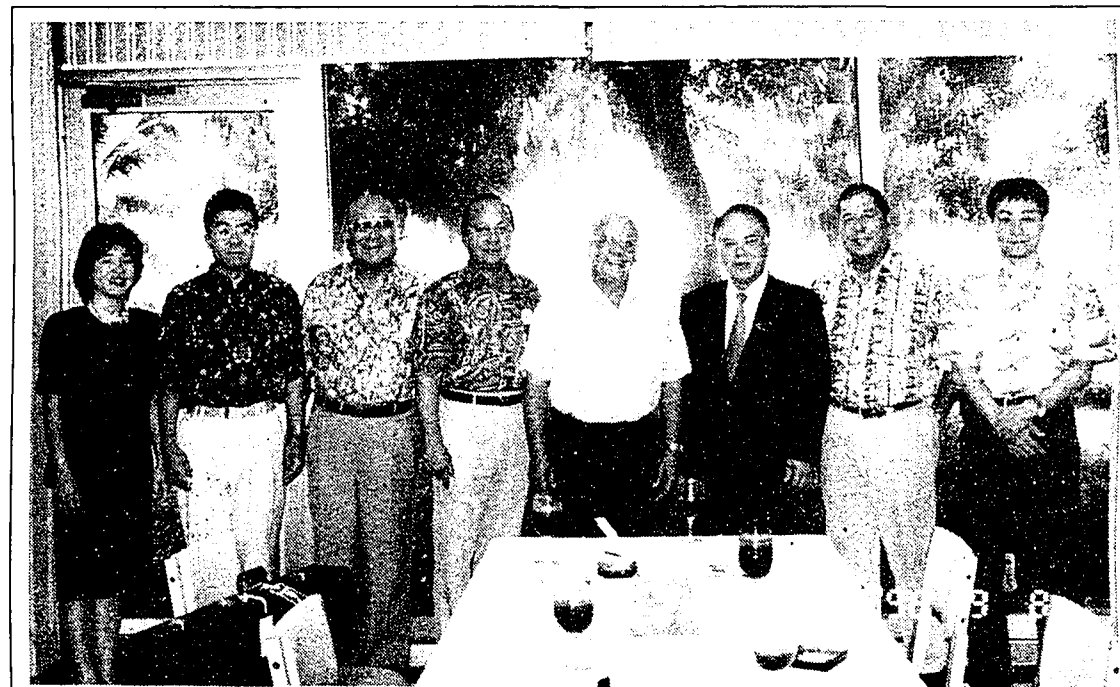
part in the Tourism Marianas Appreciation Dinner hosted by the Marianas Visitors Authority at the Hard Rock Cafe last Thursday.

Gov. Pete P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan also hosted a luncheon at the Hafa Adai Beach Hotel Hana Restaurant for the guests.

Taking the opportunity during

the visit, Iramina also visited the Aging Center where he entertained the Man Amkos with a number on the traditional Okinawa guitar, shamisen.

"The Man Amkos enjoyed the official's visit as they recalled several songs taught to them during the Japanese times, which he sang to them," a news release said.



Gov. Tenorio and Lt. Gov. Sablan pose for a group photo at a luncheon hosted in honor of visiting Japan Congressman Koukichi Iramina (3rd from right) with off island officials and top management of PDI at Hafadai Beach Hotel.

## PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to P.L. 8-41, Section 11, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus Sablan through the Board of Professional Licensing (BPL) are hereby giving notice that it will hold its regular monthly meeting on Tuesday, September 21, 1999 at 10:00 AM at the Board's Office located on the 2nd Floor of the Island Commercial Center Building in Gualo Rai, Saipan. Agenda for the board meeting is as follows:

1. Call to Order
2. Determination of Quorum
3. Review and Adoption of Agenda
4. Review and Adoption of Minutes - May, June & July 1999
5. Board Meeting Minutes
6. Communications from Governor's Office & Legislature
7. Governor's Office
8. Legislature
9. Chairman's Report
10. Board Administrator's Report
11. Investigator's Report
12. Committee Reports - Chair to establish standing committees
13. Old Business:
  - A. Applications for Board's Review
  - B. Review and Discussion of BPL Administrative Regulations
14. New Business
15. Miscellaneous Business
16. Election of Vice-Chair
17. Adjournment of Meeting

/s/ FRANCISCO Q. GUERRERO  
Chairman

CNMI GOVERNOR'S DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES COUNCIL  
System of Technology-Related Assistance for Individuals with Disabilities (STRAID)  
Assistive Technology Project  
Building #1310, Capitol Hill  
P.O. Box 2565 CK, Saipan, MP 96950

## PUBLIC NOTICE

In accordance to the "Open Government Act", the fourth CNMI Assistive Technology (AT) Advisory Board Meeting will be held at the Assistive Technology (AT) Center, Bldg. #1310, Capitol Hill, Saipan, on September 20, 1999, at 9:00 AM to 11:30 AM. Interested persons are invited to attend.

## AGENDA

- I. A. Call to Order
- B. Quorum Present
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes of Last Meeting
- II. Election of Officers
- III. Update on H.B. 11-321: "Assistive Technology Warranty Act of 1998"
- IV. Appointment of Adhoc Committee
- V. Assistive Technology (AT) Center Opening
- VI. Miscellaneous
- VII. Adjournment

If you would like to present information to the Advisory Board during the session, please contact the CNMI Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council Assistive Technology Project Office at 322-3014 (Voice/TDD) or 322-3015 (Voice) to schedule a five-minute time on the Agenda. If you need accommodations for orally or visually communicated information, please contact our office seven (7) days prior to the meeting to request such accommodations.

/s/Daniel L. Camacho  
Chairman, CNMI AT Advisory Board

/s/Thomas J. Camacho  
AT Project Director

## Guam saw 9,100 new residents last year

Variety News Staff

ABOUT 9,100 new residents came to Guam to live during 1998, according to a report released by the Bureau of Planning.

These new residents were a diverse group, reflecting Guam's growing cosmopolitan makeup, the bureau noted.

The largest number arrived from Micronesia (28.6 percent), followed by the United States (23.1 percent), Japan (14.3 percent), the Philippines (13.7 percent), and other areas (20.3 percent).

About one-quarter of new residents stated they intended to remain on Guam for five years or longer while about 1,600 of the new arrivals were children under the age of 18 years, many of who will attend Guam's schools, the bureau reported.

The most common reason stated for moving to Guam was employment (about 38 percent), with 17 percent coming to join family and friends, 15 percent for educational purposes, and 13 percent to pursue business opportunities.

Data for the report was summarized from the forms collected from each arriving airline passenger by Guam's Customs and Quarantine Agency, which also provides visitor arrival data for the island.

## PSS sees payroll deficit

By Louie C. Alonso  
Variety News Staff

AN OFFICIAL from the Public School System has projected a deficit in the school-level payroll once the proposed budget set by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio for PSS is approved in October.

Bill Matson, the acting fiscal and budget officer of PSS, cited in his report that the projected PSS payroll of \$333,516 will cover the 15 PSS schools in the Commonwealth, including the Anatahan School in the Northern Islands.

Payroll for Marianas High School, which has the biggest budget appropriation among all CNMI public schools, sees a deficit amounting to \$18,188 if the proposed budget of the governor for PSS is approved.

Hopwood Junior High School

expects to spend \$3.116 million in payroll costs for FY 2000. With the governor's appropriation at only \$3 million, the lone public middle school on Saipan could see a \$83,845 deficit for the next fiscal year.

The biggest projected budget shortfall will be for Garapan Elementary School with a projected deficit of \$158,471 owing to its projected \$2.3 million payroll needs versus the proposed governor's allocation of \$2.2 million.

San Antonio Elementary School comes close with its \$158,216 expected deficit.

Rota Elementary School will have a \$100,564 shortfall due to its payroll of \$1.7 million versus the governor's proposed budget of \$1.6 million for the next fiscal year.

## Judge tells lawyer: Slow down

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

SUPERIOR Court Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan asked lawyer Joseph A. Arriola to "take one step at a time" during yesterday's hearing over an illegal gambling case.

Manibusan told Arriola to slow down after the latter moved to dismiss the case charging his clients led by Juan Aquino with illegal gambling activity.

At the hearing, Arriola, on behalf of his clients, requested for a preliminary examination.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Elaine Paplos opposed the motion, saying there was no need for such preliminary hearing considering that the defendants are not in custody.

Manibusan denied Arriola's request.

Arriola told the court that his clients enter a not guilty plea.

Arriola then informed the court that his clients moved to drop the case, citing that the information did not contain the name of the Attorney General.

Continued on page 26

## OSHA fines Guam firms

Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — The Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has issued citations for willful and serious violations, and proposed penalties of \$300,300, against a Guam construction company and one of its subcontractors following an OSHA investigation of a trench cave-in which injured three workers.

OSHA issued citations for three willful violations with multiple instances and one serious violation, including proposed penalties of \$172,200, to Core Tech International (CTI).

OSHA issued similar citations, and proposed penalties of \$128,100, to CTI subcontractor Big Light Construction.

According to OSHA, the willful violations against both companies are for failure to provide cave-in protection for Big Light Construction employees working in excavations on the Tumon Bay Infrastructure Beautification Project despite a previous citation from OSHA and numerous warnings from the onsite management contractor.

OSHA said the serious violations are for failing to have a competent person inspect the excavations to verify that cave-in protections were in place prior to allowing employees into the excavations.

The citations resulted from an OSHA inspection of a March 10, 1999 trench cave-in which trapped and injured three Big Light workers.

Two of the injured were admitted to a hospital for treatment.

One of them required extensive emergency surgery to repair fractured ribs and damage to his internal organs. The third worker was treated at the scene and released.

"The violations by Core Tech International and Big Light Construction are especially egregious because both employers were advised of the dangers on numerous occasions and knowingly continued to place their workers at risk."

"The injured workers in this case are lucky to be alive," said Frank Strasheim, regional administrator for OSHA in San Francisco.

According to Strasheim, the blatant disregard for worker safety despite numerous warnings is reprehensible.

"Three days after the trench collapsed, project workers were back in the unprotected trenches. The company corrected the hazard only when OSHA posted a Notice of Imminent Danger and threatened to stop work in the trench by court order."

OSHA said Core Tech was inspected and cited for similar conditions in January 1999. That case was subsequently contested by the company.

**startec+PCI**  
announces **NEW** long distance  
calling plans with **HUGE SAVINGS**  
on all of your long distance calls!

Compare a call using startec+PCI's Global Connect Plan to other long distance carriers:

Country	startec+PCI*	GTE Pacifica	Savings w/ startec+PCI	IT&E	Savings w/ startec+PCI
Australia	\$2.84	\$5.50	48%	\$5.06	44%
China	\$5.06	\$14.30	65%	\$13.16	62%
Hong Kong	\$2.84	\$5.50	48%	\$5.06	44%
Japan	\$2.91	\$6.00	52%	\$5.52	47%
S. Korea	\$3.22	\$6.00	46%	\$5.52	42%
Philippines	\$2.78	\$5.00	45%	\$4.60	40%
Taiwan	\$3.53	\$14.50	76%	\$12.88	73%
USA	\$0.73	\$1.40	48%	\$1.29	44%

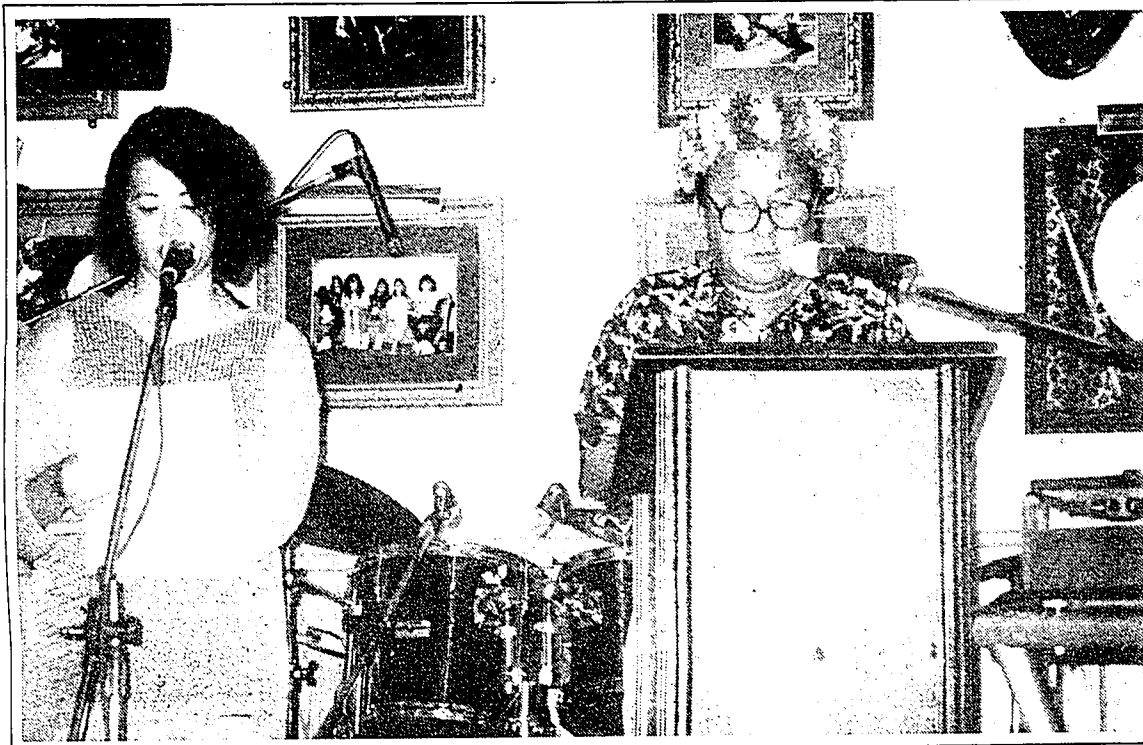
Call for even **GREATER SAVINGS** on our Business Calling Plans!

*Sign up and  
start saving  
today!*

**startec+PCI**  
GLOBAL COMMUNICATIONS  
2nd Floor, Joeten Office Bldg.  
Susupe, Saipan MP 96950  
(670) 235-4724  
(670) 234-8418 Fax  
[www.netpci.com](http://www.netpci.com)

Comparison is based upon a 9.2 minute call placed at 7:00 p.m. on a Saturday. \*startec+PCI amounts reflect a 25% startec+PCI Global Connect calling plan discount for which conditions apply. For details, please contact startec+PCI at 235-4724.





Acting Gov. Jesus R. Sablan welcomes guests and visitors during the VIP Dinner party at Hard Rock Cafe Friday night, as part of the Plumeria Dreams '99 campaign. Photo by: Haidee V. Eugenio

## Inos at SHRM meet

THE CNMI Chapter of the Society of Human Resource Management (SHRM) will hold its monthly membership meeting on September 23, Thursday 11:30 am at the Hyatt's Giovanni's Restaurant.

The cost for the luncheon will be \$15 for members and \$20 for non-members.

Guest speaker Commissioner of Education Rita H. Inos, Ed.D., will discuss the Commonwealth's School-to-Work program and what the Society and local private businesses can do to make the



Rita H. Inos

program succeed.

Chapter membership meetings are not limited to members.

Prospective members and companies or individuals interested in the discussion topic are invited to attend.

Members and others interested in attending this luncheon discussion, should contact Rheta or Liz at the Hyatt Regency Human Resource Office at 234-1234 or fax to 233-0182 to make reservations.

Everyone is urged to do so at the earliest date to ensure seating.

## US Military to do FDM bombing run

THE U.S. Military CVW-Air Wing Five (5) unit, will be conducting bombing exercise on the island of Farallon De Mendenilla.

The scheduled exercises are from Tuesday through Thursday, September 14 - 23, and will promptly commenced at 8:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m.

The general area of this exercise will be on the island of Farallon De

Mendenilla Training Area (R-7201), from surface to 5,000 feet mean sea level (MSL) on a ten (10) nautical mile radius on all quadrants.

Due to the danger imposed by this exercise, the general public, especially tour operators, fishermen, and commercial pilots are advised to stay clear of this area during the time and dates indicated.

## US Armed Force Vets meeting

THIS IS to inform all members of the U.S. Armed Forces Veteran Association that there is a special meeting on Tuesday, September 14, 1999 at 6:30 p.m. at the Veterans Affairs Office in As Lito.

Others interested are also invited to attend.

Main agenda for this meeting is to discuss about Veterans Day that will take place in Rota this coming November 11.

## GES students of the week



**Dolorico Amande**, fourth grade from Mrs. Erpison's class is a good role model to his classmates. He comes to school eager to learn and ready to face any challenges in his class activities.



**Francine Camacho**, fifth grade from Mrs. Snodgrass's class is consistently prepared for her lessons. She is attentive and responsible. She immediately begins her assignments and works diligently to get excellent grades.



**Franklin Camacho**, kindergarten student from Ms. Jebehn's class always comes to school with a smiling face ready to face new challenges. Ms. Jebehn's class loves Franklin for his behavior in class.



**Larra Ramos**, second grade from Ms. Aldan's class is an excellent student. She comes to school everyday well-groomed and ready to learn. She is always on task and takes the initiative to help her peers when needed.



**Marvin Camacho**, first grade from Ms. Geraghty's class is a great kid. He comes to school everyday with a big smile and is always ready to learn. He is an excellent listener and a very hard worker.



**Rachel Sison**, sixth grade from Mr. Robert's class is a dependable, trustworthy young lady who is always willing to lend a hand. She is an active, self-motivated learner. Rachel is an efficient worker, making the most of her time here at school.



**Wes Tomokane**, third grade from Mrs. Gomez's class D-104 would like to send Wes a one way ticket to success!! We know the path he has laid out for himself is straight and his journey prosperous.

## Possible H-bomb test fallout in Bikini

# 'Exposed women' develop thyroid tumor, says survey

By Giff Johnson  
For the Variety

**MAJURO** — Nearly four in ten Marshall Islands women alive at the time of the 1954 Bravo hydrogen bomb test at Bikini who were examined by Japanese medical doctors have thyroid tumors, according to a progress report on a multinational medical study of Marshall Islanders.

The results of a four-year nationwide thyroid survey in the Marshall Islands "are important to all exposed populations in the world," the Japanese, American and British authors of the report said. They noted that the "frequency of nodules (in the Marshalls) was relatively high, though this is partly a result of screening with high-resolution ultrasound."

Principal investigators of the study include Dr. Tatsuya Takahashi of the Nagasaki University Medical School, Dr. Klaus R. Trott of St. Bartholomew's and the Royal London School of Medicine and Dentistry, and Dr. Steven L. Simon of the U.S. National Academy of Sciences, who previously directed the Marshall Islands Nationwide Radiological Study.

The report was published in Friday's Marshall Islands Journal.

The survey of Marshall Islanders who were alive in 1954 showed that women have a much higher level of thyroid problems than men.

Women had a 37.7 percent rate of thyroid nodules, while the rate for men who were alive in 1954 was 21.2 percent.

The study involved examinations of a total of 5,825 Marshall Islanders by doctors from Tohoku University Medical School between 1993 and 1997.

The nationwide thyroid study was launched to investigate whether radioactive fallout from the Bravo test at Bikini "was the

primary causal agent which was responsible for an excess of thyroid disease in the Marshall Islands and (whether) the affected area was significantly larger than previously believed."

U.S. officials have maintained, since 1954, that only two inhabited atolls — Rongelap and Utrik — were exposed to Bravo test fallout, while mounting scientific and health evidence suggests the fallout path exposed many more populated islands.

The Japanese survey divided islanders into three basic categories relating to significance of radiation exposure from the U.S. nuclear testing program: those alive at the time of the March 1, 1954 15-megaton hydrogen bomb test at Bikini code-named Bravo; those born after the Bravo test but before the end of testing in late 1958; and islanders born after the testing finished up to 1965. The U.S. tested 67 nuclear weapons at Bikini and Eniwetok, many of which were powerful hydrogen bombs.

Even women and men born in the seven years after the testing had a 12 percent and 7.4 percent thyroid tumor rate, respectively, the report said.

Overall, the 5,825 Marshall Islanders in these three age categories had a 25.17 percent rate of thyroid nodules, with 1.17 percent being cancerous.

The reported noted that this exhaustive survey of Marshall Islanders has assisted many to obtain financial compensation from the Majuro-based Nuclear Claims Tribunal. According to a 1996 tribunal report, 69 percent of all its compensation awards were for thyroid-related problems.

"A high proportion of these individuals was able to file valid claims because of the evidence that was provided by the Nationwide Thyroid Study," the report noted.

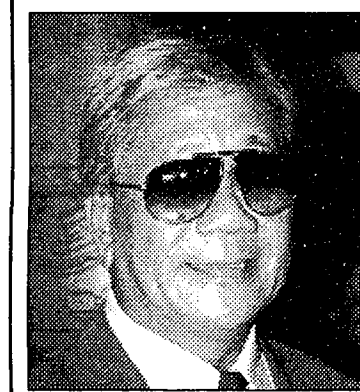
The study, titled "A Progress

Report of the Marshall Islands Nationwide Thyroid Study: An International Cooperative Scientific Study," does not present any conclusions about its findings. It says that lack of funding has delayed completion of the results, though a multinational group of scientists is committed to completing the study.

"The Nationwide Thyroid Study, once a study supported by the Marshall Islands through the Compact of Free Association, has evolved into an international research effort despite the absence of funding for the past three years," the report said. One reason this progress report was issued is to "inform interested agencies of our progress and of the clear need for funding to ensure a timely completion of the study."

"Support of our study will ensure timely release of the study findings and would allow for a legitimate assessment of the need for additional investigations in the Marshall Islands to be made," the report concluded.

## Nakamura seeks loan to fund student aid



Kuniwo Nakamura

By Eileen O. Tabaranza  
For the Variety

**KOROR (Palau Horizon)** — President Kuniwo Nakamura has proposed legislation to Olbilil Era Kelulau (OEK) authorizing him to borrow \$500,000 from the Bank of Hawaii to fund student aid and that the loan be repaid out of fiscal year (FY) 2000 Scholarship Fund appropriation.

Nakamura said the funds will be used to pay student tuition and other expenses that are due prior to October when FY 2000 appropriated funds will be available. The money will be for immediate use by the Palau National Scholarship Board (PNSB).

The president's proposed ap-

propriation for Scholarship Fund is \$1.25 million, the same amount as the present FY.

The president said the legislation is primarily needed to satisfy the bank that the national government has sufficient funds to pay off the loan.

After informing the OEK about the proposed loan, he said the OEK finds the proposed borrowing to be reasonable under the terms as they have been described and delegates to the president the authority to negotiate and enter into a loan agreement.

Under the proposed bill, the loan payment and all interest, fees and charges associated with the loan shall be paid directly by the national treasurer to the Bank of Hawaii from the FY 2000 Scholarship Fund budget within 30 days following the appropriation of funds.

The PNSB shall manage the balance of the FY 2000 appropriation for the Scholarship Fund in such a manner, including restricting new scholarships or student loans as necessary in order to reserve sufficient cash for student tuition and other expenses that will come due in September 2000.

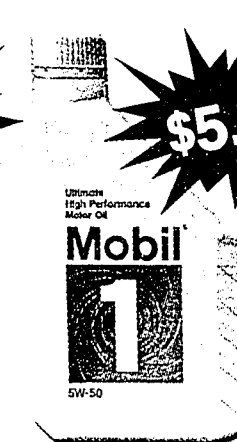
## Give Your Engine Advantage Over the Elements.



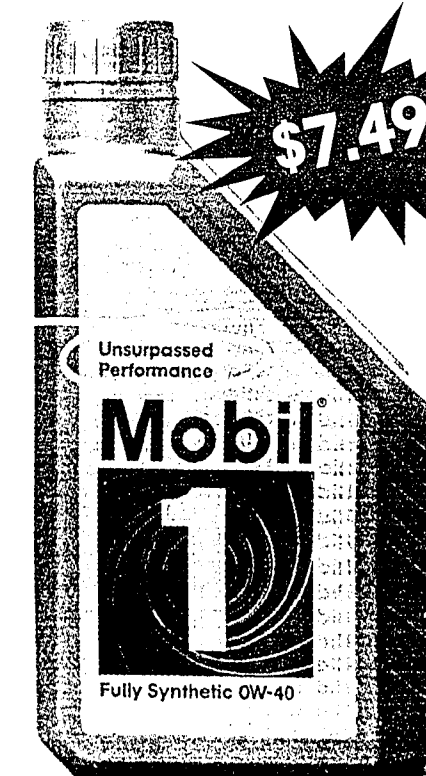
**HD-30**  
• All-around performance  
• Heavy Duty mineral oil  
• For all standard passenger vehicles



**XHP**  
• Extra High Performance  
• Mineral Oil  
• For turbocharged & high-performance engines  
• Exceeds API SJ/CF, CCMC G4/PD-2 requirements



**Mobil 1 5W-50**  
• Fully-synthetic oil for superior performance  
• Keeps any engine running like new  
• Meets or exceeds all major oil requirements

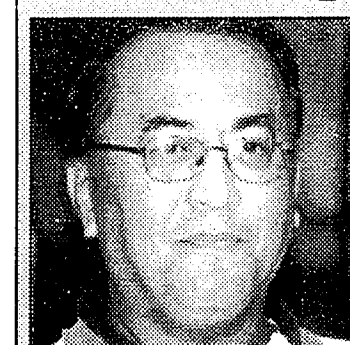


**Mobil 1 0W-40**  
• New Tri-Synthetic formula for unmatched performance  
• Unmatchable startup and high-temperature protection  
• Exceeds all engine oil requirements

Available only at  
Mobil service stations  
and authorized outlets.

**Mobil oils**  
Your unfair advantage

## Former Guam senator now GM for its ports authority



Francisco Camacho

**HAGATNA** — Former Sen. Francisco Camacho is the Port Authority of Guam's new general manager.

PAG's board of directors on Friday approved his appointment.

He has served as acting gen-

eral manager since the death of Joseph Q. Cruz last August 15.

Camacho was deputy general manager since Feb. 10 of this year. He served in the 24th Guam Legislature, but failed to win reelection.

Port Police Chief Chris N. Perez, meanwhile, was appointed deputy general manager.

Perez served as a senior chief petty officer in the U.S. Navy for 22 years before retiring in 1991.

Before his appointment as port police chief in 1996, he served as an officer of the Guam Police Department. (Jay Pascua)

### STORE HOURS

Middle Road : OPEN 24 Hours Daily  
Garapan Express : Sunday to Saturday - 6 AM to Midnight

Sale is for limited time only, while supplies last.



**Keep Saipan Clean & Beautiful!**





Leaders of the 21-nation Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum pose for a group photo session in front of the Auckland Museum Monday. From left: Chilean President Eduardo Frei, Chinese President Jiang Zemin, Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee-hua, Indonesian Economy Minister Ginandjar Kartasasmita, Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo, New Zealand Prime Minister Jenny Shipley, Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Ahmad Badawi, Sultan Hassanah Bolkiah of Brunei, Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Mekere Morauta, Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori, and Philippine President Joseph Estrada. AP



#### COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS OFFICE OF THE CIVIL SERVICE COMMISSION

### PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Civil Service Commission hereby gives notice that the Board will meet on Wednesday, September 15, 1999. The Board will convene at 9:00 a.m., at the Civil Service Commission's Conference Room in Saipan. Additional information concerning this meeting is available at the Commission Office, Building No. 1211, Capitol Hill, Saipan. The Commission may also be reached at phone numbers 322-4363 and 322-6954 or fax number 322-3327.

#### AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES - June 29, 1999
- IV. CORRESPONDENCE/REPORTS
- V. NEW BUSINESS
  1. Presentation of Resolution - Felix R. Fital  
Former Commissioner
- VI. OLD BUSINESS
- VII. HIRING OF LEGAL COUNSEL
- VIII. ELECTION OF OFFICERS
- IX. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- X. ANNOUNCEMENT
- XI. ADJOURNMENT

/s/VICENTE M. SABLAN  
Chairman  
Civil Service Commission



#### Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

Wakin's Bldg., Gualo Rai, Tel. 234-7145/7146/6293  
Saipan, MP 96950

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan through the Office of the Public Auditor is soliciting proposals for a financial and compliance audit of the *Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA)* and its subsidiary, the *Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC)* for the fiscal year ended September 30, 1999 in accordance with OMB Circular A-133 and applicable auditing standards. Proposals shall be submitted to the Public Auditor, P.O. Box 1399, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 4:00 p.m., on October 8, 1999. Copies of the RFP package may be obtained from CDA at Wakin's Building in Gualo Rai. Inquiries may be directed to Ms. MaryLou S. Ada, Executive Director, at telephone no. 234-6245. The Office of the Public Auditor at The Commonwealth Development Authority reserve the right to reject any proposal in the interest of the CNMI Government.

/s/MaryLou S. Ada  
Executive Director

## PNG sends its delegate home for 'misbehaving'

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — Papua New Guinea has ordered a delegate to a Pacific Rim free-trade forum to leave New Zealand after he made inappropriate comments to a female hotel worker, officials said Sunday.

After the City Life Hotel in Auckland informed the government, New Zealand diplomats

related the incident to senior members of the Papua New Guinea delegation, who then ordered the diplomat to leave New Zealand, the officials said.

Officials with the police and New Zealand Foreign Ministry and organizers of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation conference all declined to name the

official or detail the comments he made.

Neither the hotel nor the woman involved filed a formal complaint with the police or government, the officials said.

The Papuan delegation's spokesman did not respond to a telephone query, and an assistant refused to comment.

## Party ousts Fiji deputy PM

SUVA (Pacnews) - Fiji's co-Deputy Prime Minister, Adi Kuini Speed has been ousted as leader of the Fijian Association Party (FAP). FAP is one of party in the ruling coalition with the Fiji Labour Party (FLP).

In a surprise move at the weekend, the FAP national executives called an extra ordinary meeting and unanimously elected former President of Senate, Ratu Tu'akaitau Cokanautu as party leader.

Adi Kuini was not present at the meeting.

The new party leader said the main reason behind the change in leadership is the lack of consultation within the party.

"It's a multi-party Cabinet, one of the unwritten rule is greater consultation between parties on matters of national interest, especially in addressing the more sensitive issues. Consultation is foremost un-

der the existing system of multi-party government, and we just wish to promote that under our new party leadership because lately some of the decisions taken have been frustrating," Ratu Tu'akaitau said.

Ratu Tu'akaitau said there is a strong support for the Party's new leadership. The Government has been informed of the change in leadership.

Acting Prime Minister, Doctor Tupeni Baba has received a formal letter from the FAP and has informed Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry who is away overseas.

"We also know that there might be a contest from the other side, Adi Kuini and her supporters, so we understand that some action will take place regarding the challenge of this extraordinary meeting, which was held over the weekend," Doctor Baba said.

Adi Kuini said the meeting was

unconstitutional and will take legal action against her party's national executives.

"What has become clear is that those at the meeting were determined to overturn my nominations and elect themselves or their supporters.

That was only possible by electing a new leader.

Of the five nominees put forward by the meeting yesterday, three are from Tailevu.

The choice of the meeting does not reflect the spread of seats won by the party, particularly the 4 urban seats," Adi Kuini said.

Political commentators say the split within the FAP is likely to affect the naming of the Party's five nominees to Senate.

Already Fiji's Upper House has delayed its sitting because of the court action challenging the Leader of the Opposition's list of names to Senate.

## Cook Islands wants to be a party to Lome

RARTONGA (Pacnews) — The Cook Islands Government has made an application to Brussels to become parties to the successor to the Lome Convention.

The current Lome 4 expires in February next year.

According to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Immigration (MFAI) Secretary, Edwin Pittman the likelihood of Cook Islands setting up an embassy in Brussels is dependant on the outcome of

the Lome application.

"If the application is unsuccessful, a diplomatic mission will not be set up, however should it be accepted, the detailed determination of costs and benefits of establishing a mission in Brussels would then be undertaken," Pittman said.

No decisions have been finalised on the foreign embassy initiative but MFAI is convinced that it would be good for the coun-

try.

According to Pittman "governments establish missions abroad in order to promote a wide range of national objectives" Pittman said

"In the right location and staffed with well trained, pro-active Cook Islanders, a Cook Islands mission could generate benefits in terms of increased economic relations and trade and investment opportunities with the host country," Pittman said.

# Japan to rush RP train loan

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi offered Sunday to fast-track funding for a commuter train line in the Philippines' capital, an official said.

In a meeting with Philippine President Joseph Estrada, Obuchi said Japan would rush the processing of a loan for the extension of Manila's Light Rail Transit line to Cavite, south of Manila, Philippine Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu said.

The project, which Philippine officials call the Japanese-Philippine Friendship Bus Railway Transit System, is designed to relieve the city's notorious traffic congestion.

Estrada also asked Obuchi to consider funding for a new international airport in Iloilo in the central Visayas, a container port project near Cagayan de Oro in the southern Philippines, and an anti-flooding project just north of Manila, Espiritu said.

A beaming Estrada, emerging from the meeting with Obuchi, said the Japanese leader "assured me that a very high percentage will be given to us."

Obuchi also talked to Estrada about next month's ballot for the director-general of the United Nations Educational, Scientific

and Cultural Organization, Espiritu said.

Both Japan and the Philippines have nominated candidates for the UNESCO post. Japan's nominee is Koichiro Matsuura, head of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee and former ambassador to France.

The Philippines' is Rosario Manalo, secretary-general of the UNESCO National Commission of the Philippines.

They will face eight other candidates from around the world, but an Asian is expected to win.

Japan, which has carried out a strong campaign on behalf of Matsuura, believes Manalo is a leading rival, and has suggested that the candidate with fewer votes drop out after the first round of balloting.

Obuchi and Estrada agreed that the issue would be settled by their foreign ministers, Espiritu said.

UNESCO is one of the United Nations' largest organizations, with 2,200 staff and an annual budget of more than \$ 320 million.

The Japanese and Philippine officials are in Auckland to attend annual meetings of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation forum.

## RP stocks end lower

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine stocks fell Monday for the third trading day in a row because of concerns about a possible domestic interest rate hike, traders said. The peso was higher against the dollar at midday.

The Philippine Stock Exchange index of 30 selected companies ended down 10.64 points, or 0.5 percent, at 2,088.69. On Friday, the index lost 34.26 points, or 1.61 percent.

Erwin Balita, analyst at Securities 2000, said investors were worried that an expected rise in treasury bill rates in the auction later Monday would trigger a rise in broader interest rates.

The broader All Shares Index was down 3.15 points, or 0.44 percent, at 713.06. It lost 7.86 points Friday.

Losers beat gainers 59 to 44, with 39 issues unchanged.

The market largely focused on three gaming companies, which together accounted for nearly half of Monday's trades.

BW Resources lost 50 centavos to 28 pesos, and Mondragon rose 25 centavos to 3.20 pesos on talks that two tycoons with substantial gaming interests are considering taking a stake in the debt-laden company.

Belle Corp. gained 5 centavos to 3.10 on reports the battle for control of the company may soon be resolved.

In currency trading, the peso was buoyed against the dollar by the strength in the Indonesian rupiah and Thai baht following Jakarta's decision to allow international peacekeeping forces in East Timor.

## Jollibee eyes ChowKing

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine's food giant Jollibee Foods Corp. said it is interested in acquiring full ownership of ChowKing Food Corp., the nation's largest Chinese fast-food chain.

Jollibee, which owns and operates the largest hamburger chain in the Philippines, said it wants to acquire ChowKing if majority owners accept its terms.

Buying ChowKing would expand Jollibee's revenue base and enhance its dominance in the Philippine fast-food market, analysts said.

The family of Jollibee Chairman Tony Tan Caktiong, who owns half of ChowKing, is urging a group led by ChowKing President Robert Kuan, the chain's other major shareholder, to approve a buyout, the national Philippine Daily Inquirer reported.

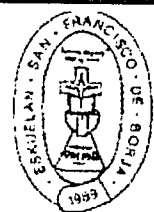
No timetable was set for competing the deal, Jollibee said in a statement.

The sale needs the approval of the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Trading of Jollibee issues were temporarily halted Thursday because of the report.



Philippines President Joseph Estrada (left) shakes hands with Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi as they hold a bilateral talks in Auckland Sunday. Both leaders are participating in the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum summit meeting. AP



## 1999 BISITA LUTA FISHING DERBY

October 7 and 8, 1999

*Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja*

In Cooperation With:

Office of the Mayor  
Rota Legislative Delegation

Marianas Visitors Authority  
7th Rota Municipal Council

**TOTAL MONETARY PRIZES**  
**\$16,500.00**


\*\*\*Should you wish to participate, you may register at any of the following locations:

**ROTA:**  
Eskuelan San Francisco de Borja (Tel. #532-5000/1200)  
Marianas Visitors Authority (Tel. # 532-0327)

**SAIPAN:**  
Mt. Carmel School (Tel. # 234-6184/7188)  
Marianas Visitors Authority (Tel. # 664-3200)

**GUAM:**  
CNMI Liaison Office (Tel. # 646-9181/2)

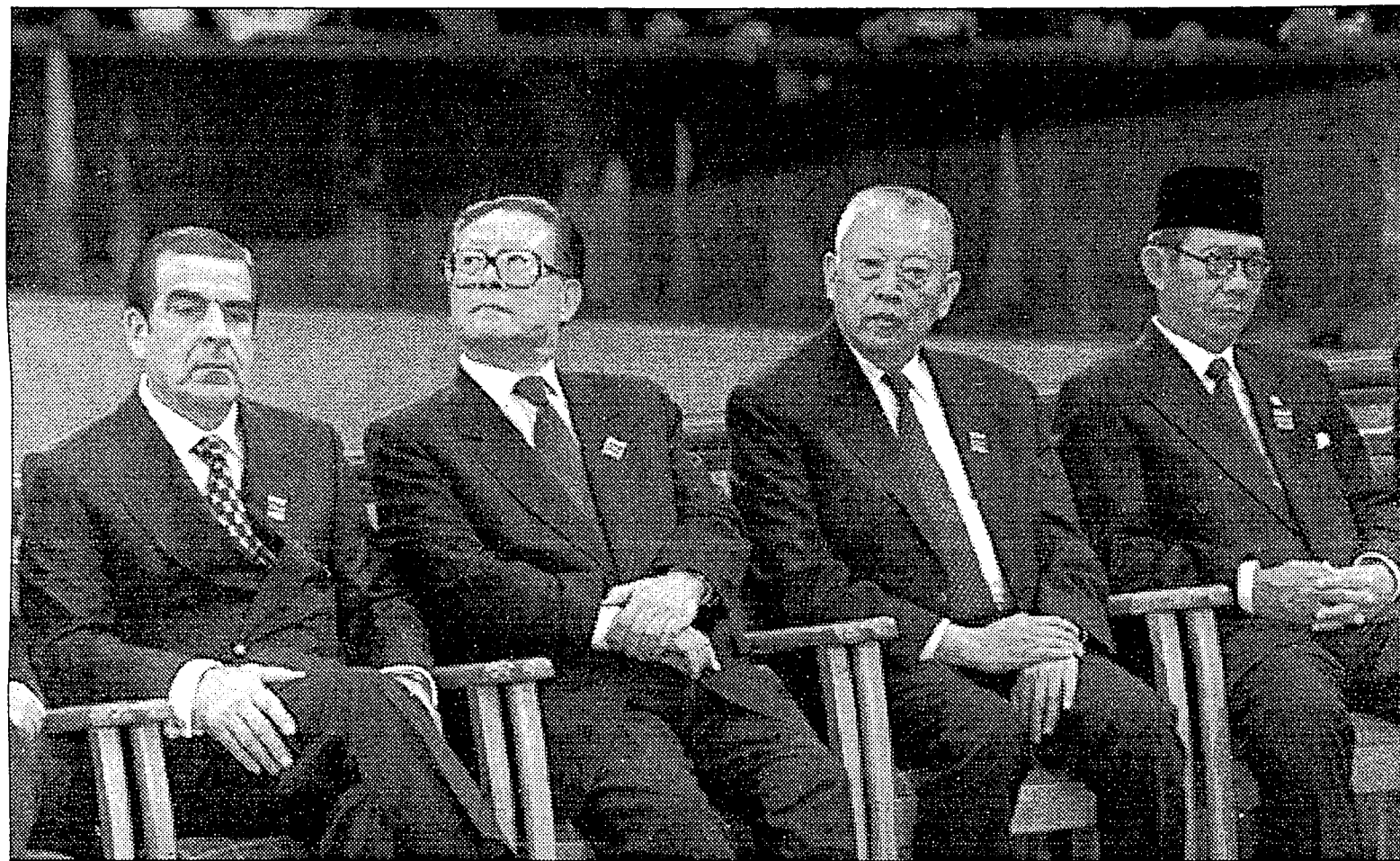
**Website:**  
<http://www.Klaro.net>





As APEC leaders meet

# Signs of Asia recovery seen



Leaders of the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum, from left, Chilean President Eduardo Frei, Chinese President Jiang Zemin, Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee-hua, Indonesian Minister Ginandjar Kartasasmita, attend an official welcome ceremony in traditional Maori style in Auckland Sunday. AP

**AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP)** — Fears of an economic meltdown have long since vanished, giving way to encouraging signs of recovery in many of Asia's trouble spots.

So instead of worrying about regional financial disasters exploding into a worldwide crisis, or seeking to engineer more massive bailouts, Pacific Rim leaders got a breather from fretting over serious economic woes and found their talks at the New Zealand summit overshadowed by the crisis in East Timor.

Aside from some short-lived market shocks in Indonesia as the violence in East Timor spun out of control last week, the economic doomsday scenarios from last year seemed a world away at this year's Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

meeting.

"The rebound from the crisis from a year and a half or two years ago has proceeded better than expected," said Russell Jones, chief Asia economist at investment bank Lehman Brothers in Tokyo.

But even though things are looking up everywhere from Japan, the region's financial dynamo, to South Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, Thailand and Malaysia, not all is well. "Probably, the economies have done the easy bit," Jones said, citing policies to spend money to stimulate growth as one example.

"The difficult part is getting an expansion which is sustained. You have to address the issues that provoked the crisis to begin with, or you run the risk of a repeat."

Along those lines, experts say many parts of Asia still need to improve market transparency, their banking systems, market regulations and openness — the areas where problems festered for years in many Asian economies before blowing up in July 1997 when Thailand's currency, the baht, was devalued, setting off a chain reaction that swept the region.

Stock markets, which often act as an early barometer to financial recoveries, have been pointing for months to an upswing across Asia.

Some of the real economic statistics are starting to bear out the bullish predictions, although much economic growth has come from a lower base level in economies that were walloped.

Analysts say Japan's

economy is emerging from its worst recession since World War II and could show modest growth this year.

But some caution that Japan's long climb back has been more a matter of cleaning up bad business practices and becoming more efficient rather than creating much of a bigger economic pie.

"It's a jobless recovery — there will be no jobs created," said Jesper Koll, chief economist at investment bank Merrill Lynch in Tokyo. "You've got Japan stable, gaining a competitive edge through domestic restructuring."

The extended economic growth in the United States, a huge consumer of Asian goods, has lent a big helping hand across the region.

South Korea's economy has been viewed as the star in the nascent recovery. Working to build back up with help from a \$58 billion International Monetary Fund bailout package, the South Korean government is seeking to crack open the nation's closed business system.

The troubled conglomerate Daewoo is spinning off most of its subsidiaries, and President Kim Dae-jung is demanding reforms at other major chaebol, or conglomerates, including Hyundai, Samsung, LG and SK.

Kim says recovery is impossible if the heavily indebted conglomerates are not revamped, and he hopes to set a precedent "and straighten the economy so that it will grow on the basis of the middle class."

"South Korea's economic problem is multilayered," said Kim Byong-joo, an economics professor at Seoul's Sogang University.

"The problem on the surface, the foreign currency crisis, is obviously over. They also have done a lot to reform the banking and corporate sectors."

But our labor market is not as flexible as we hoped for. And if you go even deeper, you can see the government's control over the finance sector has actually increased after it nationalized several financial institutions."

Seoul's efforts to revamp the banking sector hit a setback recently when the London-based banking giant HSBC Holdings pulled out of talks on buying a controlling stake in Seoulbank, which was taken over by the government and is supposed to be sold off under the IMF bailout.

The government then said it would inject another U.S. \$3.75 billion into Seoulbank to make it more attractive to a foreign buyer.

## Taiwan protests 'shabby treatment' by NZ minister at APEC

**TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)** — An aggrieved Taiwan has protested what it considers shabby and discriminatory treatment from New Zealand's Foreign Minister at the summit of Pacific Rim countries, the Foreign Ministry said Sunday.

Ministry official Andrew Hsia formally complained to New Zealand over Foreign Minister Don McKinnon's conduct at a news conference Friday at the APEC summit in Auckland, New Zealand, the ministry said.

Presiding over the news conference as host, McKinnon complained that

such events were being "dominated" by reporters from Taiwan.

He passed over questions from the Taiwanese press in favor of journalists from China, and blocked Taiwanese Economics Minister Wang Chih-kang from responding to questions about Taiwan's entry into the World Trade Organization, according to a report from Taiwan's official Central News Agency.

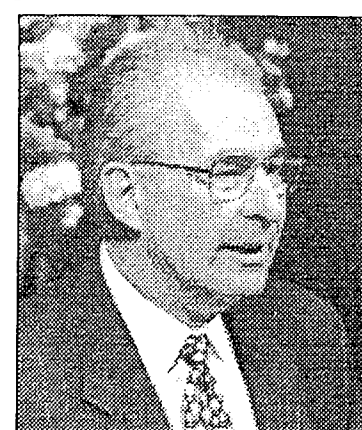
Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan was allowed to answer the questions posed to Wang, and he took the opportunity to reiterate Beijing's demand that Taiwan not be

allowed into the WTO before China, the agency said.

Hsia "communicated our side's displeasure with McKinnon's handling of the matter," the ministry said in a statement.

Taiwan was also upset that McKinnon in separate comments lumped Taiwan together with Hong Kong as "special cases" among the 21 APEC members, and said the two would not be invited to discuss political issues.

All APEC members participate as "economic entities" and there is no differentiation between them on the basis of sovereignty, the ministry said.



Don McKinnon

New Zealand has apologized for "unhappiness" caused by McKinnon's handling of the news conference, the ministry

said.

APEC is one of the few international organizations that diplomatically isolated Taiwan is able to participate in on an equal standing with China — although Taiwan's president is barred from attending the annual leader's summit.

Unlike Chinese-controlled Hong Kong, which is also a full member, Taiwan has been a self-governing democracy since splitting from China amid civil war in 1949.

Like most countries, New Zealand has diplomatic ties with Beijing but only unofficial contacts with Taiwan.

# Indonesia accepts foreign troops

**JAKARTA, (Reuters)** — Indonesia caved in to international pressure on Sunday and agreed to let foreign peacekeepers restore order in East Timor, where its own troops have been supporting a wave of butchery and arson.

President B.J. Habibie's announcement came as clear relief to an international community straining for ways to stop the rampage by pro-Jakarta militias since the population, ruled by Indonesia for the past 24 years, voted overwhelmingly for independence.

Australia, lining up to lead the operation in a territory 400 km (250 miles) from its northern coast, said it was ready to send troops within days.

Some diplomats feared delay over detail. Others hoped that the U.N. Security Council would put formal authority on a fast track to send perhaps 7,000 troops, mainly from Indonesia's regional neighbors.

Bishop Carlos Belo, spiritual leader of mainly Catholic East Timor, said in Lisbon he hoped peacekeepers would land "in 24 hours or 48 hours."

"Now it is time for the violence to stop," the Nobel Peace Prize winner said.

Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand, New Zealand, Britain, France, Brazil and former colonial power Portugal have also promised troops. U.S. President Bill Clinton, "pleased" by the breakthrough, offered non-combat support troops.

But Megawati Sukarnoputri, front-runner to be Indonesia's next president, said: "My worst fears about East Timor have come true."

Habibie should not have held an independence-or-autonomy referendum in East Timor until the country had completed its transition to democracy after last year's downfall of strongman Suharto, Sukarnoputri, daughter of Indonesia's first president Sukarno wrote in an article for Newsweek magazine.

**SLAP IN FACE FOR GENERALS**

The U-turn is also a slap in the face for Indonesia's politically powerful military, which has long ignored foreign criticism on human rights and fears that separatist risings might flare across the 17,500-island nation.

Chief military spokesman Major-General Sudrajat told Reuters the army would cooperate with the peacekeepers.

Armed forces commander General Wiranto, however, was stony-faced when he left a meeting with Habibie just before the president's announcement.

Habibie then went on national television to declare: "Too many people have lost their lives since the beginning of the unrest, lost their homes and security."

"We cannot wait any longer. We have to stop the suffering and mourning immediately," Habibie said.

"I called U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan to inform him about our readiness to accept a peacekeeping force through the U.N. from friendly nations to restore peace and security in East Timor, to protect the people, and to implement the result of the direct ballot of 30th August."

**NO DATE FOR TROOPS' ENTRY**



Indonesian President B.J. Habibie (left) speaks to the media following a series of meetings with his cabinet ministers including Defense Chief General Wiranto (right) Sunday in Jakarta. Habibie announced he has approved the sending of a U.N. peacekeeping force to ravaged East Timor. AP

He gave no date when the troops would go into East Timor, where thousands of people are thought to have been killed and the capital, Dili, has been sacked.

Diplomatic sources in Auckland, New Zealand, where regional leaders and Clinton have been attending an economic summit, said air drops of relief supplies into East Timor could start within a few days.

In East Timor itself on Sunday, thousands of people went into hid-

ing in and around the town of Dare amid conflicting reports of new outbreaks of violence there. A U.N. official, however, said there had no evidence of any fresh trouble.

The U.N.'s Annan "very much" welcomed Habibie's announcement, saying he recognized it had been a difficult decision.

Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas was expected in New York on Monday to work out details of the peacekeeping operation.

"In the meantime," Annan said, "I expect the Indonesian authorities in East Timor and the Government of Indonesia at all levels to do their utmost to maintain order and security in East Timor."

**MILITIAS TOLD TO COMPLY**

Military spokesman Sudrajat said Habibie's decision had been communicated to the militias in East Timor who agreed to lay down arms and go to the negotiating table to resolve their grievances.

## ASEAN prepares for possible role in East Timor peacekeeping force

**AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP)** — Southeast Asian leaders discussed Sunday their possible participation in a U.N. peacekeeping force for East Timor after Indonesia said it would prefer it be dominated by Asian countries.

Leaders from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations spent most of a luncheon meeting discussing East Timor's turmoil with Ginandjar Kartasasmita, Indonesia's economic minister.

Ginandjar said Indonesia's government "is now considering very, very positively" accepting help from the international community to quell the violence, Thai Foreign Minister Surin Pitsuwan told reporters.

Indonesia is facing overwhelming international pressure to allow a U.N.-organized peacekeeping force into East Timor, which it invaded 25 years ago.

Pro-Indonesian militias in East Timor killed hundreds of civilians after the territory voted overwhelmingly in a U.N.-sponsored referendum on Aug. 30 to become independent. Tens of

thousands of other East Timorese have fled, along with most of the U.N. officials who monitored the vote.

Surin said there will be discussions during the next few days "about possible cooperation of all the ASEAN countries in helping to bring peace and order in East Timor."

ASEAN is willing to give "any kind of assistance, including humanitarian aid and a peacekeeping force," he said.

Philippine President Joseph Estrada said Ginandjar told them that Indonesia preferred that the peacekeeping force be composed of ASEAN nations.

"If ever the U.N. will send a peacekeeping force, it should come from ASEAN," Estrada said.

Ginandjar later said in an interview with The Associated Press that East Timor is an Asian problem and it would be best if Asia is given first opportunity to participate in a peacekeeping force.

"We, of course, would like to see more ASEAN participation in the force," he said.

Australian Prime Minister John

Howard said he has contacted several ASEAN countries that responded positively to a request for involvement in a peacekeeping force.

"I think you are going to have quite significant ASEAN involvement if there is a peacekeeping force in East Timor," he said. "That is a very good thing. This is something that should be done on a regional basis."

He said Australia had been asked by U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan to lead the peacekeeping force and had accepted "as a fully fledged participant in the region."

The ASEAN leaders were meeting along the sidelines of the annual 21-nation Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit. All but three ASEAN members — Cambodia, Myanmar and Laos — also belong to APEC.

Ginandjar is representing Indonesia at the APEC meetings because the East Timor crisis forced President B.J. Habibie and Foreign Minister Ali Alatas to stay home.



A crowd of Portuguese protesters demonstrate outside the Indonesian embassy in Madrid Sunday after pro-Jakarta militias unleashed a murderous campaign of terror following the referendum for East Timor to break away from Indonesia. AP



Clinton ahead of talks with Japan, Korea:

# 'Food, not arms for N. Korea'

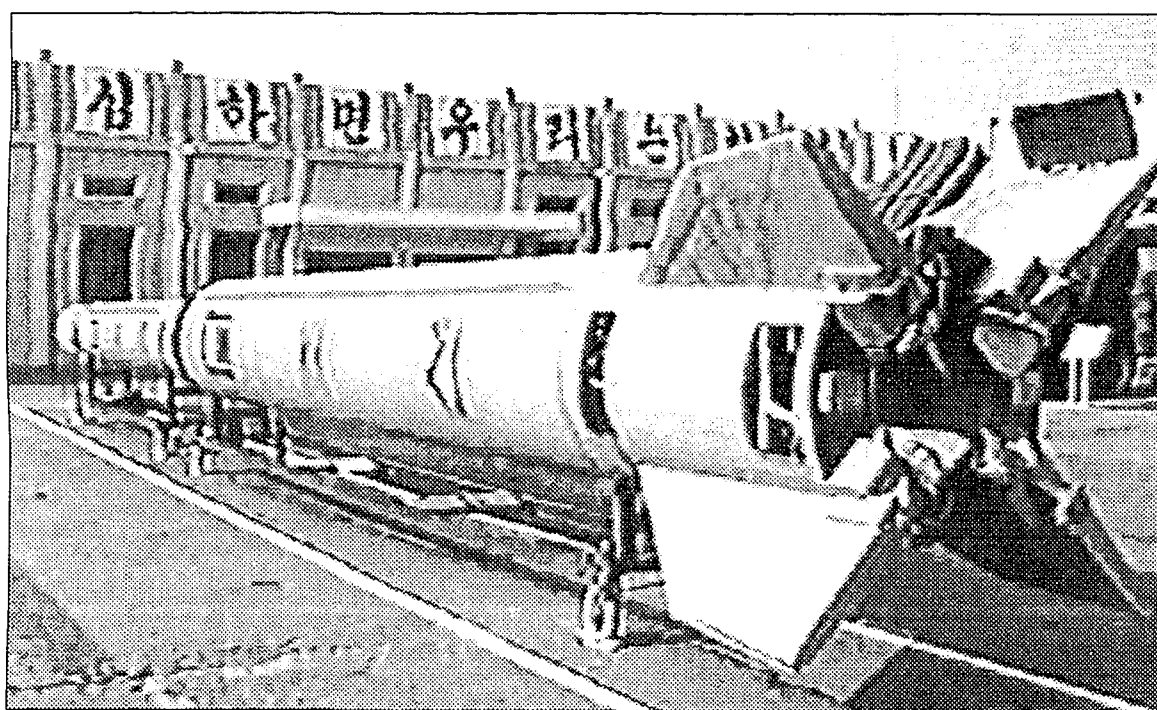
AUCKLAND, (Reuters) - The United States, Japan and South Korea said on Sunday they would work to improve relations with North Korea provided it took steps to reduce tensions.

U.S. President Bill Clinton, speaking ahead of a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi and South Korean President Kim Dae-jung, urged North Korea to give up its desire for weapons that could threaten its neighbors.

"The people of North Korea need food and opportunities," Clinton said in a breakfast speech to business leaders meeting on the fringes of an Asia-Pacific summit in New Zealand. "They need engagement with the South and the chance for a brighter future. They do not need new weaponry that threaten the security of the region and the world," he said.

Clinton later sat down with Kim and Obuchi at his hotel to discuss what he called "our common interest in stability and reconciliation on the Korean Peninsula" and to try to persuade North Korea not to test-fire a long range missile.

In a joint statement released after the meeting, the three leaders said they would work to improve relations with North Korea provided that it "takes steps to reduce tensions and establish



North Korea's Central Television broadcast this photo of what was described as a Taepodong-1 missile, the type of missile that stunned the world when it was test-fired in August 1998. Last Thursday, the communist country celebrated 51st anniversary of the founding of the nation in 1948.

lasting peace on the Korean peninsula and beyond."

Emerging from the meeting, Obuchi said the three leaders agreed they would keep in close contact and cooperate with each other on North Korean issues.

"It was productive that we were able to reconfirm that we will maintain close contact," he said.

The United States and countries in the region are anxiously watching North Korea to see if

it test-fires a long-range ballistic missile. North Korea tested a three-stage missile last year, part of which flew over Japan.

White House National Security Adviser Sandy Berger said before the meeting that it would discuss "what actions they can take collectively to try to prevent that test, as well as what actions they might take should the test go forward."

The United States has been

trying to get North Korea to abandon its missile programme in return for better international relations and a lifting of U.S.-imposed sanctions.

Obuchi said that if North Korea said it would not conduct a test, Japan would review the measures it took against Pyongyang after last year's test.

North Korea has been suffering from famine in recent years. Its leaders are reeling from do-

mestic economic collapse but fiercely defensive of their communist system.

A special U.S. envoy, former Defence Secretary William Perry, last May gave North Korea a proposal for increased outside help in exchange for Pyongyang reining in its missile development and taking a less threatening military stance.

Japan has warned that a missile launch might make it tough for Tokyo to go ahead with a planned \$1 billion contribution to an international consortium building civilian nuclear reactors for North Korea.

In Berlin, the North Korean delegation reported that the United States and North Korea had made progress in talks to reduce tension on the Korean Peninsula.

The talks are the latest in a series stretching back three years and the first since the communist state earlier this month claimed new territorial waters south of a previous border with South Korea in the Yellow Sea.

The United States, which still stations troops along the border to defend South Korea 46 years after a war with northern communists ended without a peace treaty, has urged the reclusive Stalinist state to respect the previous demarcation line.

## HK lawmaker refused entry to mainland China

HONG KONG (AP) — A Hong Kong lawmaker known for her vocal criticism of Beijing's legal system was refused entry into mainland China on Sunday, local press reports said.

Lawyer Margaret Ng, who represents the legal sector in the legislature, was to have attended a law forum in Beijing.

The reports said Ng was barred from boarding a Dragon Airlines plane in Hong Kong because the airline said Chinese immigration authorities considered her visa invalid. Ng reportedly holds a British passport.

Although Beijing does not recognize dual nationality, the Hong Kong government allows a limited number of Hong Kong residents holding foreign passports to sit in the legislature.

Attempts to contact Ng by phone were unsuccessful.

A Hong Kong government spokeswoman said immigration matters concerning the mainland were handled by the authorities in Beijing.

She said the Hong Kong government is willing to convey Ng's complaint to the immigration authorities on the mainland.

Ng has criticised the Hong Kong government for seeking Chinese intervention in the territory's legal system in June

under which Beijing overturned a local court ruling that would have given large number of mainland Chinese the right to enter the territory.

Asked by Radio Hong Kong whether she thought she was not able to visit China because of her criticism, she said "if it had anything to do with it, I would be even more disappointed because I together with other people were very concerned."

"We spoke out because we were very concerned about the rule of law. If by doing so, we can be penalized in this way, then certainly it is not a good sign for Hong Kong," she added.

## Taiwan ATMs pass Y2K test

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Taiwan's automatic teller machines passed a year 2000 computer glitch test Sunday, showing there is no need for Taiwanese to stockpile cash before the new year, finance officials said.

The three-hour test of 256 cash machines belonging to 128 local and foreign banks was entirely successful, said Wang Yao-hsing, a Finance

Ministry official. "What we have done is show that those outlets that most people use for savings, transactions and deposits will work," Wang told reporters.

"People should absolutely have confidence that our financial networks will not be affected," Wang said.

Wang personally joined in the test, withdrawing 3,000 Taiwan dollars in valueless

certificates loaded into the machines for the simulation.

Countries around the world are rushing to reprogram or replace computer equipment to head off anticipated problems due to the rolling over of the calendar on January 1, when computers could read the year 2000 as 1900.

Officials say they fear a run on the banks by a nervous public.



Taiwanese Minister of Finance Chiu Cheng-hsiung (left) and Economy Minister Wang Chih-kang face reporters during a joint press conference of the APEC ministers in Auckland Friday.

## Taiwan rules out retracting Lee's position on statehood

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — President Lee Teng-hui's recent affirmation of Taiwanese statehood is supported by the "vast majority" of Taiwanese, and there is no question of it being retracted as China demands, the Foreign Ministry said Sunday.

"Special state-to-state relations" — the term Lee used to recast ties with China and firm up Taiwan's sovereignty claim — was merely "an objective description of the state of relations and has been embraced by the vast majority of Taiwanese," the ministry said in a statement.

"This reflects reality, so there is no question of retracting or not retracting," the statement said.

The ministry's statement was one of the most emphatic defenses of Lee's stance to date, and comes after a meeting between U.S. President Bill Clinton and Chinese President Jiang Zemin at which Taiwan

was a main topic of discussion.

Jiang has said China will scrap an autumn visit to Taiwan by senior envoy Wang Daohan unless Taiwan says Lee's "state-to-state" remark doesn't apply.

Jiang also said Wang would only agree to meet with Lee during his visit in Lee's capacity as chairman of the ruling Nationalist Party, a demand aimed at stressing China's denial of Lee's legitimacy as president.

China and Taiwan split amid civil war in 1949, and China still regards the island as a breakaway province.

Lee's statement, which came in an interview with German radio on July 9, was seen by China as proof of a creeping campaign for formal independence.

Beijing responded in outrage, renewing threats to use force to bring the island under its control and reiterating that its "one-country, two-systems" blueprint

for reunification is non-negotiable.

In Taiwan, Lee's statement has been widely applauded as a useful clarification, although many are nervous of a replay of Chinese military intimidation launched three years ago in response to a similar assertion of statehood.

Though Lee's statement junked earlier, more ambiguous terminology to describe the relationship, Taiwan says its basic policies towards China — including eventual reunification — remain unchanged.

## Malaysia opposition lashes at Mahathir

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Opposition parties slammed Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad on Sunday for dismissing Anwar Ibrahim's claim that political enemies had poisoned him with arsenic.

Mahathir on Saturday hinted that his former deputy could have faked a medical test showing high levels of arsenic in his urine by substituting someone else's specimen.

Opposition leaders demanded an independent investigation into Anwar's claims. They expressed shock at comments by Mahathir that in Malaysia people weren't killed over politics and that the poison could have come from food given to Anwar by the dissident's family.

Lim Kit Siang, the opposition leader of Parliament, called Mahathir's statements "in terribly bad taste, unbelievable and preposterous."

Lim, in a statement, said the prime minister should not prejudice Anwar's allegations, particularly since he was proven wrong a year ago after dismissing Anwar's now-famous black eye as possibly self-inflicted. The then-chief of police later confessed to the attack, which doctors said could have killed Anwar.

"There is no guarantee that the people won't be beaten," Mahfuz Omar, a PAS leader, said in a statement. "There is no guarantee they won't be poisoned. And there's no guarantee



Mahathir Mohamad

they won't be killed when detained by the police and put in prison."

The opposition leaders listed names of other past politicians killed in the line of duty.

About 2,000 Anwar supporters protested in the capital on Saturday in the biggest anti-government rally since Anwar was convicted in April. News reports said seven people were arrested after a fight broke out with police.

Anwar remained hospitalized Sunday after being admitted for tests on Friday. A lab report from Australia, where a test was done under a pseudonym, showed levels of arsenic 77 times higher than normal. Anwar and his family accused political enemies of trying to kill him.

Anwar's sodomy trial has been adjourned until he is released from the hospital. He is currently serving a six-year jail term for corruption charges. He says all the charges against him are politically motivated.

"... there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness or pain. The world of the past has gone." (Rev. 21:4)



Sister Ursula Blanco Matsunaga, MMB

1905 - 1999

On September 9, 1999 SISTER URSULA BLANCO MATSUNAGA, of Saipan, was called to her eternal home, the place "... where there will be no more death, and no more mourning..."

Sister Ursula will continue to be remembered as the first Micronesian Mercedarian Missionary of Berri (MMB) by all her MMB sisters around the world. The memory of Sister Ursula will continue to live on in the hearts of the many people she loved and served as an MMB. She will be especially remembered by her sister Isabel B. Matsunaga, her cousins, nephews/nieces, grandnephews/nieces, and her goddaughter, Gregoria C. Cabrera.

Rosary is being said at 7:00 p.m. at Kristo Rai Church.

Last respects will be held on Friday, September 17 at Kristo Rai Church beginning at 7:00 a.m. The Mass for Christian Burial will be celebrated at 10:00 a.m. Burial will follow at Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Chalan Kanoa.

"I promise to lay down my life..." (4th Vow of the MMB)



Chief Executive of Hong Kong, Tung Chee Hwa, greets members of a cultural welcoming party during the arrival of China's President Jiang Zemin at Auckland airport Saturday.



# Bush backs son on drug stand

WASHINGTON, (Reuters) - Former U.S. President says his son George was "a rambunctious little guy" but that the leading Republican presidential contender never gave his parents cause to believe he used illegal drugs.

"All this stuff about George's totally irresponsible past, we never saw it," Bush said in a television interview to be broadcast on Monday on the Fox News Channel programme, "The Edge With Paula Zahn."

"Barbara and I never saw this. We knew he had some problems that he faced up to, but no different than most kids," the former president said. A transcript of the interview was released on Sunday.



George Bush

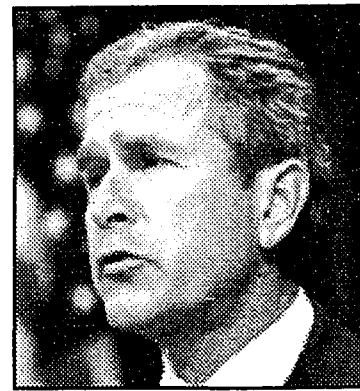
The younger Bush, 53, now governor of Texas and the front-runner for the Republican presidential nomination in 2000, has been dogged by unsubstantiated

rumours about his alleged use of cocaine in the past.

Despite a lack of evidence, under-repeated questioning Bush has said he has not used illegal drugs in the past 25 years and has refused any further response. He has acknowledged that he once drank heavily and made "mistakes" in his youth.

His father denounced what he called "gotcha politics" and backed his son's position, saying: "I think what he's doing is correct and he has my full support."

The rumours of cocaine use have annoyed the elder Bush, who said he did not know where they were coming from. "I don't spend any time thinking about it, except



George W. Bush

I don't like it.... I do feel strongly about gotcha politics, about intrusiveness."

Bush said he had not asked his son about the rumours. "Barbara

and I know that these allegations - most of these allegations have no basis in fact."

The former president said he hoped and believed Americans want to set "very high" standards for the next president.

"But I just, perhaps (I'm) old-fashioned, but I just have great respect for the office itself," said Bush.

"And I'm afraid that President Clinton hasn't lived up to very high standards in that regard and I think the American people see that."

Bush said he was working on a book of his letters - called "All the Best" - to be published in October.

## Gore denies 'Clinton fatigue' notion

INDIANOLA, Iowa (AP) - Vice President Al Gore denied Sunday that so-called Clinton fatigue is dogging his campaign and said history foretells a rebound in next year's election.

"He is probably in a stronger position in the seventh year of any president that I can remember," Gore said of President Clinton in an interview with The Associated Press.

While Gore leads in most polls for the Democratic nomination, those surveys suggest he would face general-election trouble against Texas Gov. George W. Bush, front-runner in the Republican race.

Some analysts say Gore is suffering from his association with Clinton because voters are tired of the Monica Lewinsky scandal and the president's other controversies. And former New Jersey Sen. Bill Bradley argues for a "fresh start" in his nomination contest with Gore.

But Gore argued there's little new in public sentiment as Clinton winds down his administration.

"History shows that there's a

well-established pattern that, regardless of the individual, regardless of the party, whenever our country has a two-term president, there's a feeling in the seventh year that has been described by different labels," Gore said.

"In the eighth year there's a renewed burst of energy and positive feeling about what's been done and the reasons why a president has had two terms."

The issue is delicate for Gore: He is trying to establish his own identity and distance himself from the administration's troubles without jeopardizing his ties to Clinton.

Gore asserted the dynamics of the race will change as an election still 14 months away approaches and voters begin to focus.

"I think you look at the overwhelming positive view of the policies this administration has followed and the president's leadership, especially on the economy," he said.

Bush, on his own campaign swing through Iowa, at first declined to talk about someone who "hasn't won his party's nomina-

tion yet," but then aimed a few words at the vice president.

"I trust people to make the right decisions for their lives," said Bush. "It seems the potential nominee of the Democratic Party trusts government."

Gore shot back: "I'm going to let him take the negative road."

Also in the interview, Gore: • Said the U.S. role in a proposed peacekeeping force in East Timor was still evolving. "We have not ruled in or out any form of participation."

• Refused to be drawn into the debate over Clinton's granting of clemency to a group of Puerto Rican nationalists. "Under the Constitution our founders gave that power to the president, without any checks or balances," said Gore. "I'm not going to stand in judgment of his decision."

GOP presidential candidate Steve Forbes had challenged Gore to take a stand, calling Clinton's clemency offer a "terrorists-for-votes deal" to help Hillary Rodham Clinton win a Senate seat in New York.



Vice President Al Gore high-fives 7-year-old Cassandra Lyford (left), as her classmate Morel Scarline, 6, watches Friday at Ella Risk Elementary School in Central Falls, R.I. Gore was visiting the school. AP

## Thurmond back in hospital

WASHINGTON (AP) - Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-S.C., has been admitted to the Walter Reed Army Medical Center for tests and observation after complaining of feeling weak.

Thurmond, 96, the oldest senator ever, was admitted Saturday night, his press secretary, John DeCrosta, said Sunday. DeCrosta said doctors expected the senator to be released Monday afternoon.

Physicians wanted to find out why he has been fatigued, DeCrosta said in a statement. "Doctors will also evaluate the various medications Thurmond is taking and may decide that changing prescriptions and dosages will assist him."

Thurmond's last disclosed hospitalization was Aug. 22 at the medical center in Washington, two days after a brief stay in hospital in Columbia, S.C.,

where he had collapsed at a University of South Carolina reception.

Thurmond had surgery for an enlarged prostate during that August stay at Walter Reed, a procedure originally scheduled for November.

DeCrosta said the senator has made an estimated five previously unreported trips to the medical center on weekends in the last three months for a variety of complaints. He said none required an overnight stay or caused him to miss any work or Senate votes.

Thurmond, in a Charleston, S.C., newspaper interview, recently described his health as "generally all right."

"I'm not planning to die soon," he told The Post and Courier. "I expect to serve my term out."

A member of the Senate since 1954, Thurmond's current term ends in 2002.

## To revive US-Russian military ties

# Cohen on Russia mission

MOSCOW, (Reuters) - U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen arrived in Russia on Sunday night on what he called a mission to "re-energise" military ties with Moscow after a chill sparked by NATO's springtime bombing of Yugoslavia.

Cohen, starting a two-day visit, told reporters flying with him from Washington that he looked forward to Monday talks with Defence Minister Igor Sergeev and Russian lawmakers on nuclear arms cuts, a controversial U.S. missile defence plan and other issues.

"It is an effort to re-energise our contacts," said Cohen, noting that relations had improved only slowly since the June wind-up of 11 weeks of U.S.-led NATO air strikes staged to stop Serbian ethnic cleansing in Kosovo.

The raids enraged Moscow, a traditional ally of the Serbs, and



Strobe Talbott

put some U.S.-Russia military programmes in deep freeze.

"There was obviously a very difficult period that we went through with the Russians following Kosovo. But since that time, we have cooperated in areas that are in our mutual interest," Cohen stressed.

He noted that U.S. and Russian peacekeeping troops were now working together in Kosovo.

"I have a good relationship with Minister Sergeev and we will try to build upon that in the next couple of days," said the secretary. He will fly to Russia's

Kola Peninsula en route home on Tuesday to watch nuclear submarines being cut up with the help of U.S. funds under arms-control treaties.

### Treaty to be signed

In addition to discussing further peacekeeping cooperation and increased military exchange visits, Sergeev and Cohen on Monday will sign a landmark agreement under which their military officers will jointly man a missile launch-detection centre in the United States as the year 2000 dawns on January 1. The confidence-building cen-

tre at U.S. Space Command headquarters in Colorado will put both sides in close contact should any Russian computers with so-called "Y2K" bugs mistakenly indicate a nuclear missile attack somewhere in the world.

Cohen meets first on Monday with key members of the Duma, the lower house of Parliament, to press for final ratification of the 1993 START-2 nuclear arms reduction treaty.

Ratification has been hindered by Russian opposition to a proposed U.S. anti-missile system

which Moscow says would violate a joint 1972 anti-ballistic missile (ABM) treaty.

START-2 was passed by the U.S. Senate in 1996, but has been held up in the Duma over a number of issues including the Kosovo conflict. It would cut nuclear warheads on each side to about 3,500 by 2003. But the delay has also thwarted formal negotiations on START-3 that could further reduce those arsenals to 2,000 warheads each or lower.

"START-2 is in our mutual interest. We really can't go forward in a substantive fashion on START-3 until there is a ratification of START-2," Cohen told reporters on his aircraft.

### Talbott eyes talks

He noted, however, that U.S. Deputy Secretary of State Strobe Talbott had been in Moscow in recent days for a new round of informal U.S.-Russian talks to lay the groundwork for START-3.

They would also pave the way for possible changes in the ABM treaty between the two countries.

Russia has complained that the ABM treaty would be violated by a tentative U.S. plan to base about 100 missiles in Alaska capable of shooting down a small number of missiles accidentally or intentionally fired at the United States.

But Cohen stressed on Sunday night that the initial U.S. national missile defence plan "is of a limited nature and could not possibly pose any undercutting of their (Russian) deterrent capability."

## Buchanan 'very close' to joining Reform Party ticket

WASHINGTON, (Reuters) - Conservative Pat Buchanan said on Sunday he was "leaning ... strongly" toward bolting the Republican Party to run for president on the Reform Party ticket, his strongest statement yet on his plans.

After faulting his party for being too liberal, Buchanan said he faced the prospect of being outspent in his third run for the Republican nomination as well as crowded by "four or five candidates competing for the same base I've got," creating a primary election season "that's almost closed, and rigged."

"We are very close to making that decision," Buchanan replied when pressed by moderator Tim Russert on NBC's "Meet the Press" programme if he would jump to the Reform Party.

"I'll tell you, you know, it's time maybe to take a bye from the regionals and go straight to the finals."

At another point in the interview, Buchanan said he wanted to decide by Oct. 15 whether he would become the second presidential candidate to leave the Republican Party. New Hampshire Senator Bob Smith quit the race in July to run as an independent.

"So, we're going to take a very hard look at doing it. But I'll tell you honestly, we're leaning in that direction right now," Buchanan said.

"Strongly?" asked Russert. "Strongly," Buchanan answered.

Buchanan said he wanted to confer with party founder Ross Perot and Minnesota Governor Jesse Ventura, the highest-ranking office-holder in the party.

If he switched loyalties, Buchanan said, "I will carry with me my convictions, by beliefs, my ideals." Buchanan has highlighted opposition to abortion and to free trade agreements besides wanting to limit immigration and U.S. intervention in world affairs.

A fiery speaker and long-time political commentator, Buchanan was not deterred by polls suggesting a third-party campaign would harm Republicans and potentially hand the election to the Democratic nominee. Instead, he said, the figures showed he could catapult into the lead if given a forum for his views.

Republican National Chairman Jim Nicholson hopes to meet Buchanan by the end of September to try to persuade him to stay in the Republican race.



Pat Buchanan (left) is welcomed to the United We Stand America National Conference by UWSA founder Ross Perot in Dallas in this Aug. 12, 1995 file photo. Buchanan came closer than ever Sunday to saying he would quit the Republican race and campaign for the Reform Party's nomination. AP



# Milosevic foes tighten ranks

**BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP)** — In a joint move against Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic, Serbia's opposition parties and the leadership of Montenegro plan to work more closely with each other on reforming the country, a top opposition leader says.

Democratic Party leader Zoran Djindjic told Montenegro's state television late Saturday that he, other opposition leaders and Montenegro's top officials next week will make public a "joint declaration for fast democratization of our country...and basis for



Slobodan Milosevic

new relations between Serbia and Montenegro."

The Yugoslav federation of Serbia and much smaller Montenegro is tense as discontent mounts against Milosevic. Milosevic is trying to suppress Serbia's opposition parties and is also at odds with Montenegro's reformist, pro-Western leadership, which he has shut out from governing bodies on the federal level.

The joint declaration is to be announced after a meeting of Serbian opposition parties and Montenegro's government on Sept. 18 or 19 in the Montenegrin capital, Podgorica.

Although Djindjic didn't elaborate, the agreement apparently included provisions that Montenegro will keep or further broaden its autonomy within the Yugoslav federation.

Montenegro has largely gone

its separate way from Serbia, pursuing its own economic development and foreign relations. It was recently exempted by the European Union from strict economic sanctions against Yugoslavia, which now apply only to Serbia.

Independent, Belgrade-based B2-92 radio reported that several Serbian opposition leaders met directly with Montenegro's president Milo Djukanovic on Saturday to discuss future cooperation.

## Bomb explosion rocks Corsica

**BASTIA, Corsica (AP)** — A bomb blast heavily damaged a French government building in northern Corsica early Sunday, police said.

The bomb, which went off just after 5 a.m. (0300 GMT), blew out the windows of customs offices in the port town of Saint-Florent, just north of Bastia.

No one claimed responsibility

for the attack and no injuries were reported.

Last week, a nationalist group claimed responsibility for six bombings that have damaged French government buildings on the island in recent weeks.

The statement from the Front for the National Liberation of Corsica, or FLNC-Historic Wing, was issued as French

Prime Minister Lionel Jospin wound up a two-day visit to the island.

Nationalists have waged a 24-year campaign against mainland France. In February 1998, the top French official in Corsica, Claude Erignac, died after he was shot in the head while walking through a crowded street in Ajaccio.



Relatives watch as cemetery workers put a coffin of Olga Irmak to the collective grave during the funerals at the Khimkinskoy cemetery in the outskirts of Moscow, Sunday. The Thursday morning explosion in the Moscow apartment building killed at least 95 people, in the latest of several explosions to rock Russia recently.

AP

## Russia launches more strikes vs militants

**MAKHACHKALA, Russia (AP)** — The three crewmen of a helicopter gunship shot down during fighting in southern Russia were all killed as they parachuted to the ground, officials said Sunday.

The helicopter was hit Saturday as it attacked a hilltop in the Novolakskoye region of Dagestan, where federal forces have been battling Islamic militants for a week.

Initially, officials said one of the crewmen of the Mi-8 helicopter had parachuted to safety, but Defense Ministry spokesman Viktor Gubriy acknowledged Sunday that all three were picked off by gunmen during their descent.

After the helicopter strike, Russian jets bombed six villages within breakaway Chechnya, destroying several homes and killing at least one family, according to Chechen authorities.

Russian Interior Ministry spokesman Mikhail Arkhipov said bombs could have landed on the Chechen villages, which are located near the Dagestani border, but claimed Russia was targeting militants, not settlements.

The militants crossed over from Chechnya last Sunday and occupied several villages as part of their attempt to carve out an independent Islamic state in Dagestan.

Russian forces also continued

attacking militants in two villages in another part of Dagestan on Sunday.

The militants took over the villages and implemented their strict version of the Koran last year.

The estimated 400-500 fighters have built tunnels and fortified entrenchments in the villages, making it difficult for government forces to push them out.

The ITAR-Tass news agency reported Sunday that Russian jets and artillery had destroyed a large group of the militants in Karamakhi and that federal troops were close to taking the village.

But such claims have been made several times before. Arkhipov, the Defense Ministry spokesman, said he could not confirm whether the Russian forces had made any progress in capturing Karamakhi.

The Russians say hundreds of rebels have been killed since fighting began in August, though the militants say the claim is exaggerated.

The Interior Ministry said Sunday that it had suffered 157 troops dead and 645 wounded since the start of the fighting.

When asked for a casualty toll for Defense Ministry soldiers, Arkhipov said he was under orders not to give out the information.

## Kazakhstan admits its MiG jets went to N. Korea

**ALMATY, (Reuters)** - Kazakhstan admitted for the first time on Sunday that a number of its MiG-21 fighter planes were sold to North Korea, but said the government had no knowledge of the sales.

Foreign Minister Kasymzhomart Tokayev said in a statement that "a group of people" had supplied the planes to North Korea, bypassing Kazakh export controls.

"Until this incident, the export control system excluded deliveries of weapons to so-called 'problem countries'," it said. "But due to criminal and

irresponsible actions by a group of people, this export control system was breached."

The arms scandal broke a month ago, prompting criticism from South Korea and the United States, and raising a serious threat of U.S. sanctions being imposed on the oil-rich Central Asian state, Western diplomats in Almaty say.

President Nursultan Nazarbayev ordered an investigation into the illegal sales last month. His defense minister and national security chief were both removed last month as a result of the scandal, the second in-

volving MiG fighters this year. Tokayev's statement did not say how many planes were delivered to Stalinist North Korea or when. Media reports had put the number at around 30.

"This group received a large amount of cash, in American dollars, for carrying out this contract" with Pyongyang, the statement added.

Kazakhstan's ageing arsenal, consisting largely of the remnants of the great Soviet military machine, is sold through privatised or partly privatised companies.

While the government has de-

nied any knowledge of the sales to North Korea, the episode has been a major embarrassment to Nazarbayev, giving the impression that the government has little control over who sells which arms to whom.

"The Kazakh leadership is truly sorry about what has happened," the statement said.

Kazakhstan has enjoyed generally good relations with the West since independence in 1991, but the MiG sales to North Korea have added to a worsening international image.

Kazakhstan's economy is in decline, and the impoverished

state of 15 million can ill-afford to lose tens of millions of dollars in U.S. aid every year, and more importantly, the support of billion-dollar foreign investment in the key energy and metals sectors.

In March, six Kazakh MiGs were seized in Azerbaijan's capital Baku on the suspicion they were bound for Yugoslavia despite an international arms embargo. Kazakhstan denied they were going to Belgrade, and the planes were later released back to Kazakhstan.

## If Israel reneges on agreement:

# 'Palestinians to declare state'

**JERUSALEM (AP)** — Palestinian officials said Sunday they are "surprised" by suggestions that Israel may forego a final peace deal, and said Palestinians will unilaterally declare a state if Israel reneges on its obligations under peace agreements.

The officials spoke on the eve of the resumption of final peace talks, which are supposed to determine the ultimate status of the Palestinian entity and the fate of Jerusalem, claimed by each side as its capital.

Entering the negotiations, the two sides were expressing different expectations. The Palestinians said a final peace deal must be reached within a year, while Israeli Prime Minister Ehud Barak said that the parties may conclude after a year that a deal cannot be reached and drop the efforts altogether.

Chief Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat balked at Barak's suggestion that, in the case of deadlock, long-term interim agreements could replace a final arrangement.

"I'm surprised," Erekat told Israel TV, calling upon Barak to "rise to the occasion" and seize the opportunity presented by the resumption of final status talks, expected Monday evening.

Presumably, if interim agree-



Ehud Barak

ments were to be extended in lieu of a final status arrangement, Jerusalem and large chunks of the West Bank would remain under Israeli control.

Barak has declined to specify what he means by long-term interim agreements.

The Palestinians claim all of east Jerusalem, the West Bank and Gaza Strip, captured by Israel in the 1967 Mideast War, as the site of their future state.

"The Israeli people must prepare themselves to live in their own state, next to a Palestinian state, in the June 4, 1967 boundaries with east Jerusalem as its capital," Erekat said.

Barak has said that all of Jerusalem and large blocs of Jewish settlements in the West Bank will remain in Israeli hands in any final arrangement.

## Gulf states put up \$40M for integrated defense

**DUBAI, (Reuters)** - Gulf Arab states have earmarked \$40 million for the first phase of a long-delayed plan to integrate their defense systems, a Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) military official was quoted as saying.

The official Qatari News Agency (QNA) quoted assistant secretary-general for GCC military affairs, General Faleh Shatti, as saying 70 million Saudi riyals (\$18.7 million) had been allocated for fibre optics to facilitate communications among GCC armies and 80 million riyals for a security belt project.

Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar and the United Arab Emirates in 1997 agreed on practical steps to link their states by a secured military communications network, radar coverage, early warning

and military exercises.

The GCC states - which depend mainly on Western powers for their defence - have separately spent hundreds of millions of dollars in recent years on command, control, communications, computer and intelligence systems which they now plan to integrate.

The C4I intelligence systems link is a first step towards forming a GCC-wide early warning air defence shield which would also retrieve information from airborne and other devices like Saudi Arabia's AWACS (Airborne Warning and Control System) aircraft.

Shatti told QNA after a GCC foreign ministers meeting in Saudi Arabia on Saturday that the projects were proceeding according to plan despite some delays.

## 20 killed in Syria bus plunge

**DAMASCUS, Syria (AP)** — A bus flipped over and fell six meters (19.8 feet) from bridge, killing 20 people, including five children, the official Al-Baath newspaper reported Sunday.

The accident, which took place Friday night along the Homs-Tartous highway about 180 kilometers (110 miles) north of Damascus, also left 42 injured, the

paper said. It was not clear how many are in critical condition.

The paper said that the bus crashed into the edge of the bridge after one of its tires blew out. It skidded and fell from the bridge, crushing the bus entirely. Sixteen people were dead at the scene and the remaining four died on the way to the hospital.

## We Design & Print

- Brochures • Calendars • Books • Menu Covers
- Posters • Corporate Logo • Letterheads
- Business Cards and more . . .



**Younis Art Studio, Inc.**

P.O. Box 231 Saipan MP 96950 Located in Garapan  
Tel.: 234-6341 • 7578 • 9797 • Fax: 234-9271

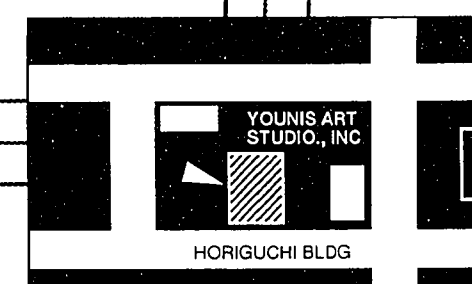
Publisher of:

**Marianas Variety**  
Micronesia's Leading Newspaper Since 1972



**THE VOICE OF THE PEOPLE**

We've been a medium for the public exchange of ideas for many years. We take that responsibility seriously. Our goal is to bring you the people and events that touch your life objectively. Without you, we'd be speechless.







Calista Flockhart and Dylan McDermott (right) lend a hand to David E. Kelly as he holds his two Emmys during the 51st Annual Primetime Emmy Awards in Los Angeles, Sunday. Kelly won for best comedy series for "Ally McBeal," which Flockhart stars in and best drama series for "The Practice," which McDermott stars in.

## Musicians appeal for new farm aid policy

**BRISTOW, Va., (Reuters)** - Musicians led by country icon Willie Nelson appealed for new U.S. agricultural policies at the Farm Aid '99 concert on Sunday, the eve of a congressional debate on a multi-billion-dollar bailout package for farmers.

The day-long concert at the Nissan Pavilion in Prince William County, Virginia, near the nation's capital, gathered a variety of musical acts and hundreds of activists to press for laws to help independent growers hurt by weak farm prices and to stave off corporate control of the food sector.

"It's not just bad weather hurting the family farmer, it's corporate greed and bad laws, and it's time for action," said Carolyn Mugar, executive director of Farm Aid.

Nelson and artists Neil Young and John Mellencamp founded Farm Aid in 1985 to increase awareness of the plight of family farmers and to raise money for their survival.

Since the first concert in Champaign, Illinois, some \$14 million in grants have been given to more than 100 activist farm groups in 44 states.

Nearly two decades later, concert founders said their dire warnings made 15 years ago increas-

ingly have been realized, with the government now estimating there are fewer than 2 million farms remaining in the United States.

"We're here to make sure family farmers continue to be part of this country's future. The future of the American family farmer is the future of communities, families, businesses and churches, the quality of food and the environment," Nelson said.

Activists came from all over the country to attend the concert. They waved placards denouncing genetically modified crops, U.S. Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman and corporate giants Cargill Inc. and Continental Grain Co., which recently received conditional government approval for merging their grain units.

Farm Aid backers noted that even as much of the country is thriving economically, the farmer is not. The farmer's share of each food dollar has dropped steadily over the last 40 years, from 41 cents in 1950 to only 20 cents in 1998, they said.

The main culprit for the farmers' woes, according to many participants at the concert, is a law enacted three years ago to reform the agricultural sector, the so-called "freedom to farm act."

The 1996 law deregulated farm-

ing, removing most federal controls on what farmers grew, letting them switch from crop to crop to pursue profits in the marketplace.

In exchange, direct federal supports for the first time were capped. In the past, federal farm spending automatically went up whenever crop prices went down. The record was \$26 billion in 1986.

Farmers will get about \$16.6 billion in farm subsidies and conservation payments this year.

Activists gathered for the Farm Aid concert were planning to hold a family farm rally on steps of the U.S. Senate on Monday morning. Last week, the Clinton administration said it would support billions of dollars in aid to rescue U.S. farmers from a second year of extremely weak grain prices.

The Republican-controlled Senate has already approved \$7.65 billion in emergency farm aid. In 1998, a record \$5.9 billion bailout package was approved.

This year's Farm Aid concert was the first held near Washington, but possibly not the last.

"I think it might be a good idea, to stay right here, until this goes one way or the other... so we can look at the big picture," Young said.

## The myths about antibacterial soap

**HIGH POINT, N.C. (AP)** — Popular antibacterial hand soaps provide extra protection against nasty germs like staph, E. coli and salmonella, but they aren't new, they don't sterilize hands and they aren't approved by the FDA.

Nonetheless, consumers have made antibacterials a big business. Last year, retailers sold about \$400 million worth of antibacterial hand soap.

Half the dish soaps on grocery shelves bear antibacterial labels. Antibacterial agents also are used in toothpaste as well as in cleaners for fabrics, rugs, kitchen counters and toilet bowls.

For all that, many experts say thorough handwashing with regular soap is still the best way to clean hands and prevent the spread of disease. Moreover, some are concerned that antibacterials might lead to development of bacteria-resistant strains.

"What's important is washing your hands," said William Schaffner, chairman of the department of preventive medicine at Vanderbilt University School of Medicine. "What's less important is what you use."

Purported germ-killing soaps have been on the market since the 1920s, according to the Soap and Detergent Association. Hospitals have used germ-killing scrubs for many years.

Only in recent years has the term "antibacterial" become a buzzword in the soap products industry, said Keith Hostetler, vice president of Ciba Specialty Chemicals' antibacterial products division in High Point.

Swiss-based Ciba makes Triclosan, a bacteria-killer and growth inhibitor created in 1965 and found in antibacterial soaps sold by companies such as Dial, Colgate-Palmolive and Bath & Body Works. Ciba first used Triclosan in laundry detergent to fight odor-causing bacteria, Hostetler said.

The 1970s saw the advent of germ-killing soaps like Irish Spring and Life Buoy, but most did not bear an antibacterial label.

Liquid Dial, with an antibacterial formulation and label, was introduced in 1986, said Dial spokeswoman Nancy Stern. It was the first liquid antibacterial soap.

Dial began stamping its bar soap with antibacterial labels in the early 1990s without changing the makeup of the soap, which had been around since 1972, according to Janet Donohue, a spokeswoman at the Soap and Detergent Association. That practice is acceptable so long as companies reapply with the U.S. Food and Drug Administration.

Other companies began introducing antibacterial soap three to four years ago.

Antibacterial products are catching on because people travel more and use public

transportation, more children go to day-care centers, and hospital patients are being released more quickly, Donohue said.

"I think the public likes it. I personally like the antibacterial soap. Why would I take the risk if I have the option (of using antibacterial soap)," said Barbara Jorgensen, a spokeswoman at Bath and Body Works. Owned by The Limited, the store introduced antibacterial hand soap in 1996.

While antibacterial product-makers acknowledge regular soap works, too — by washing away germs — they say their products kill the germs and stop bacteria growth for as long as six hours.

Hostetler said Triclosan adds staying power to soap, which is important because most people either don't wash their hands at all or enough.

"It's a convenience, an extra level of protection," he said.

In a test at Ciba that shows the long-lasting effect of the product, a volunteer washed her hands with liquid soap and then placed her fingers in a petri dish teeming with staph bacteria.

She returned to the lab two, four and six hours later to repeat the test without washing her hands. When the petri dishes were examined 24 hours later, researchers found the bacteria was killed in the areas touched by the volunteer.

Experts, however, say it is impossible to kill all the germs on hands.

While Triclosan slows bacterial growth, bacteria always grows back, said Ralph Raasch, associate professor in the school of pharmacy at the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

"The skin has lots of bacteria on it. It's very difficult... to totally destroy the population with any chemical," Raasch said.

A study last year by Tufts University showed antibacterial agents and antibiotics might even cause bacteria to become resistant.

The federal Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and the American Medical Association do not support or criticize use of antibacterial soaps, but favor a good handwashing with regular soap and water to prevent the spread of disease.

Antibacterial soaps fall into a gray regulatory area. The FDA hasn't weighed in yet with standards and approvals pending further study. Hostetler said antibacterial manufacturers tend to follow standards last proposed by the FDA in 1994.

While conceding antibacterials do not sterilize the skin, Hostetler says they control bacterial growth. "Less bacteria is better than more bacteria,"

# IMF hit lending record

**WASHINGTON, (Reuters)** - The International Monetary Fund loaned its member states a record \$30.5 billion in the financial year that ended April 30, but now believes the worst of the world's economic problems are over.

The IMF's annual report, a summary of the fund's activities over the year, said Brazil was the largest single borrower in 1998-99, taking up \$9.7 billion as its economy buckled under the strain of the world financial crisis.

Russia was also a big borrower, receiving \$5.6 billion from the IMF, said the report, released on Sunday.

However, First Deputy Managing Director Stanley Fischer told reporters the crisis which led to the massive borrowing had

passed its peak. Even Russia, which reneged on the terms of a string of loan programmes with the IMF, was doing better than expected, Fischer said.

To be sure, "there are still many problems," he said, pointing to Ecuador and Indonesia as countries to watch. "But I have a sense that it is more like back to the normal underlying level of (economic) instability."

The IMF has played a key role in international efforts to resolve the financial crisis, which started in Thailand in July 1997 and spread relentlessly around the world. Its \$27.3 billion in lending for 1997-98 had also been a record.

At the peak of the crisis, toward the end of 1998, central banks cut

interest rates to restore confidence and keep liquidity from drying up, but the U.S. Federal Reserve has since reversed two of last year's three interest rate hikes.

Fischer said lessons from the crisis included the need to strengthen a fragile world financial system and to provide more transparency at the IMF and in member countries. He defended the fund's record with its borrowers, but admitted some things could have been done better.

"There are obviously programmes which work better than others," he said, noting that political difficulties in borrowers like Indonesia could disrupt economic programmes.

"I think the great bulk of what we do on lending is successful -

those are the cases you do not hear about."

Still, it will never be easy for the IMF or other lenders to predict when a crisis might or might not occur, he added.

"It is the easiest thing in the world to predict crises," he said.

"All you have to do is blow the whistle every 10 minutes and then you will get every crisis. But if you would be reliable, you have got to also say when there is not going to be a crisis and that is when the difficulties arise."

## Business group set to unveil Internet regulation proposals

**PARIS, (Reuters)** - An industry group backed by some of the world's heaviest hitting executives will unveil a set of proposals on regulating the Internet on Monday, all in the hope of making it easier to do business in cyberspace.

The initiatives, providing guidelines for security, privacy, consumer protection, taxation, liability and other issues, will be presented at a meeting in Paris of the Global Business Dialog on Electronic Commerce (GBDe).

They are intended to help governments and international trade organizations iron out differences in laws and regulations that can crimp the explosion of electronic commerce.

But even the combined weight of companies such as America Online Inc., DaimlerChrysler AG, IBM Corp., Time Warner Inc. and Toshiba Corp. are unlikely to have much impact, analysts said.

While the United States, Europe, and Asia will continue to clash, even the thorniest issues are not really hindering the Internet revolution.

Regulation or not, e-commerce

will keep on expanding, the analysts said.

"I don't believe the absence of regulation has seriously impeded e-commerce," said Ken Fraser at market researcher International Data Corp.

"There are things that make it a bit bumpy, but the road is open."

**No stumbling blocks**  
Millions of consumers are not holding back because, for example, Europe has not decided how to tax online purchases, or because the U.S. restricts exports of powerful encryption technology, other analysts said.

"I don't think consumers are waiting for concrete legislation," said Caroline Sceats at Fletcher Research in London.

"These (e-commerce business) models are going to carry on developing regardless of whether there are regulations in place."

Forecasts on e-commerce give no hint of stumbling blocks. According to Forrester Research, online business trade in the U.S. alone is set to soar to \$1.3 trillion in 2003, from \$43 billion in 1998.

Nevertheless, the Paris meeting will highlight issues that major corporations around the world are anxious to clear up - without

turning them over to government and political bodies.

"We are committing ourselves to creating a self-regulatory framework as well as proposals for politicians," said Markus Payer, a spokesman for German media giant Bertelsmann, whose chief executive is chairman of the GBDe.

Formed in January, the GBDe includes more than 100 companies from all corners of the globe. Along with Bertelsmann's Thomas Middelhoff, Time Warner Chief Executive Gerald Levin and Fujitsu Ltd's Michio Naruto also serve as co-chairman, providing representation at the top from Europe, the U.S. and Japan.

**More protection**  
Walt Disney Co., Deutsche Bank, Nokia Oyj, and Japan's NEC Corp. and NTT are also among the group's members.

The proposals will deal with at least eight areas where laws vary from country to country, and can hinder online commerce.

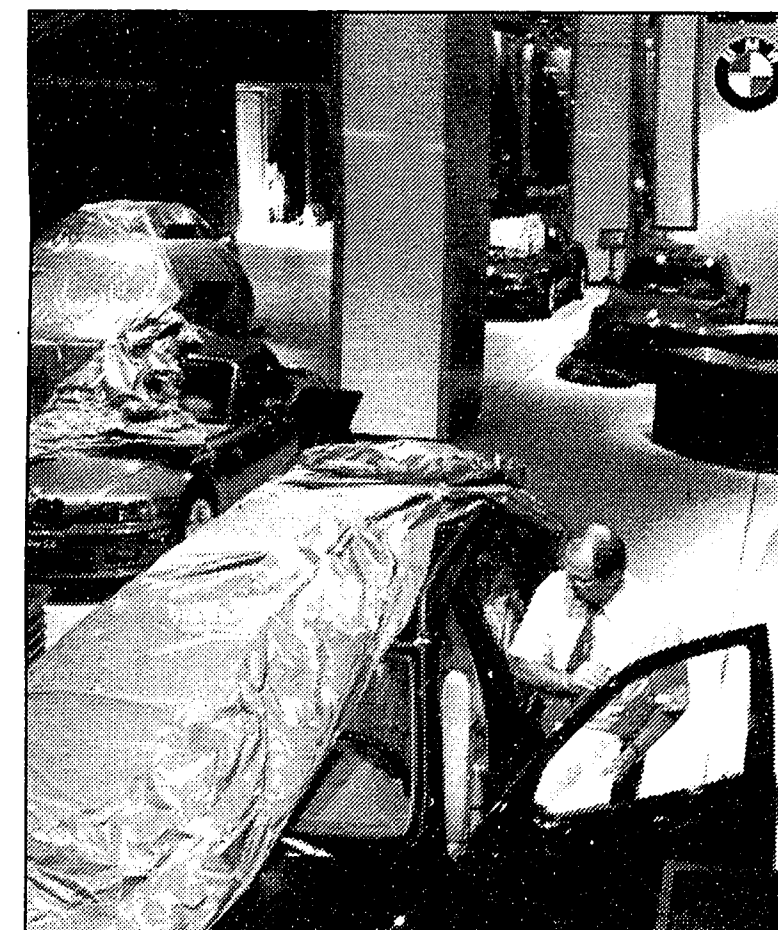
Yet no matter how well thought out, the GBDe initiatives still have to contend with significant and often politically sensitive disagreements.

For example, many countries want powerful encryption technology to be widely available for protecting data on the Internet.

But the U.S. bans export of the latest software. It wants law enforcement authorities to have a key to decode data used in drug dealing or money laundering.

At the same time, Europe wants greater measures to protect personal information on the Internet, while the U.S. so far has allowed the industry to set its own guidelines.

Even the GBDe recognises the enormity of the task it is taking on. "It won't be final and finished on Monday," said Payer, the Bertelsmann spokesman. "The effort will go on."



Several BMW cars, covered with plastic foil, await the beginning of the 58th International Motor Show (IAA) on September 16, in an exhibition hall on Frankfurt's fairground. This year's car show is spread over 225,000 square meters with exhibitors from 44 countries, showing 51 world novelties.

## Scientists are perfecting decaf coffee in Hawaii

**HONOLULU (AP)** — The future of caffeine-free coffee is taking shape in petri dishes at the University of Hawaii, where scientists are growing plants that will produce beans without the buzz.

But don't expect to drink a genetically engineered double-mocha decaf anytime soon.

The first plants won't be available to commercial growers before 2003, with the first caffeine-free cups of java to be sold in 2006, according to John Stiles, assistant professor of plant physiology.

"The decaffeinated coffee you have now is treated chemically to remove the caffeine, and that changes the structure of the bean," Stiles said. "In our process the bean just wouldn't have it to begin with. The quality will be higher."

The university, in conjunction with Integrated Coffee Technologies, now is field-testing caffeine-free plants.

The first commercial crop will produce about 250,000 pounds, enough coffee for several million cups, said Stiles, who also is director of scientific research for Integrated.

Coffee is one of Hawaii's top five crops. First introduced to King Kamehameha I in 1813, coffee was grown on 7,000 acres

and generated \$28.2 million in 1997, according to the state agriculture department.

The state's best known coffee is grown on the Kona side of the island of Hawaii.

Decaffeinated coffee accounts for up to 25 percent of U.S. coffee sales, which reached \$4 billion in 1997, according to the U.S. Department of Agriculture.

The Hawaii-based company so far has invested \$750,000 in the project and expects to spend another \$500,000 to grow the first plants, Stiles said. Seed money came from the state of Hawaii, with additional funding from venture capitalists.

The state university owns the patent for the bean and the process that created it and is leasing that to Integrated.

Monsanto Corp., in turn, is leasing to Integrated some of the procedures used in extracting the caffeine gene. Monsanto will share revenues from the sales of plants and beans and the future licensing of the technology.

Each plant will sell for up to \$1.50, about three times the current price.

Integrated will market the plants to specialty growers more willing to absorb the higher cost and eager to offer better tasting coffee to customers.

## Travolta makes emergency landing

**BOSTON (AP)** — Actor John Travolta's plane was forced to make an emergency landing at Logan International Airport on Sunday after an engine overheated and shut down, an airport official said.

Travolta's private Boeing 707, carrying the actor and seven others, was forced to land about

3:30 p.m. (19:30 GMT), Logan spokesman Phil Orlandella said.

The plane's three other engines were working.

It wasn't clear if Travolta, a licensed pilot, was flying the plane, Orlandella said.

Travolta's private Boeing 707, carrying the actor and seven others, was forced to land about

The plane had been flying from Los Angeles to Bangor, Maine, where Travolta regularly lands when heading to his island home in Isleboro, Maine, about 30 miles (48.27 kilometers) south of Bangor.

Travolta's recent credits include "A Civil Action" and "The General's Daughter."



## Classified Ads Section

## Employment Wanted



## Job Vacancy Announcement

## PUBLIC NOTICE

All interested resident workers are urged to register at the Dept. of Labor & Immigration, Division of Employment Services for the job/s being advertised in which you are qualified and available. For further assistance, please call Alfred A. Pangelinan at Tel. 664-2078.

02 TOURIST INFORMATION ASSISTANT-Salary:\$800.00-1,700.00 per month  
Japanese language preferred with knowledge on Data Base Computer.  
01 COUNSELOR, TRAVEL (CLERK)-Salary:\$800.00-1,500.00 per month  
Reading/Writing and speaking the Japanese language is preferred. Agressive with pleasant personality.  
01 MANAGER, CUSTOMER SERVICE-Salary:\$1,000.00-1,770.00 per month  
Japanese language preferred, strong sales and customer service orientation with knowledge in Data Base Computer.  
01 HOST/STRESS, GROUND-Salary:\$800.00-1,500.00 per month  
Japanese language preferred, pleasant personality and knowledge in Data Base Computer.  
Contact: R & C TOURS SAIPAN, INC. Tel. 234-7430(9/14)T32525

01 REWINDER OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
01 (MOTOR) REWINDER OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.50 per hour  
Contact: PACIFIC ELECTRICAL SUPPLY INC. dba PanAsiatic Investment Tel. 235-3545(9/14)T32514

01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: MARIANAS SANSHO GRP dba Coconut Tel Rest. Tel. 232-5690(9/14)T32515

01 (ASSISTANT) MANAGER-Salary:\$4.00 per hour  
01 MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: LUEN TAI ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. 234-9770(9/14)T32511

01 MACHINIST-Salary:\$3.15 per hour  
01 TINSMITH-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: UNIVERSAL ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. 234-3701(9/14)T32516

01 BARTENDER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: DAE HAN GROUP, INC. dba Don Sports Bar Tel. 233-3513(9/14)T32517

02 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER BUILDING-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: DAE HAN GROUP, INC. dba Royal Condo Tel. 233-3513(9/14)T32518

04 ARCADE (POKER) ATTENDANT-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: DAE HAN GROUP, INC. dba MGM II Fun & Game Tel. 233-3513(9/14)T32519

10 PACKER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
10 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
10 PRESSER MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
02 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: COMMONWEALTH GARMENT MFG., INC. Tel. 234-7550(9/14)T32522

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
01 (ASSISTANT) MANAGER-Salary:\$600.00 per month  
Contact: ANELIA CM. BUENAFLORE dba A & W Aerome Enterprises Tel. 235-0309(9/28)T32671

10 QUALITY CONTROL CHECKER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
25 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
10 MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
04 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: MIRAGE (SAIPAN) CO., LTD. Tel. 234-7550(9/14)T32523

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:\$3.05-5.00 per hour  
Housing allowance \$200.00 plus \$50.00 gasoline allowance per month taxable.  
Contact: STS ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. 235-3760(9/14)T32521

01 WAITRESS, NIGHT CLUB-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
01 BARTENDER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: SHORES OF SAIPAN, INC. dba Club Dera Tel. 234-8166(9/14)T32524

02 SECURITY GUARD-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: COMMONWEALTH RENTER CORP. dba Saipan Shooting Range Tel. 234-3193(9/14)T32504

02 PLUMBER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: TIRSO J. ADRIATICO dba Micronesia Woodcraft Ent. Tel. 235-7631(9/14)T32501

01 SALESPERSON-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: GLOBAL TRADERS, INC. Tel. 234-7415(9/14)T32505

01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: MODERN INVESTMENT INC. dba Royal Restaurant Tel. 234-8900(9/14)T32584

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$1,200.00-1,600.00 per month  
01 UNLOADING CHECKER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
01 DRIVER, SALES ROUTE-Salary:\$3.50 per hour  
01 WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR-Salary:\$3.50 per hour  
01 DRIVER (HELPER) SALES ROUTE-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: McLANE GROUP INTERNATIONAL dba MC International Tel. 234-9314(9/14)T80382

02 QUALITY CONTROL CHECKER-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour  
Contact: UNITED INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION Tel. 235-6888(9/14)T32509

01 CONTROLLER-Salary:\$1,500.00 per month  
Contact: JG SABLAN REALTY & CONST. CO. INC. Tel. 234-3219(9/14)T32507

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$800.00-1,000.00 per month  
Contact: JG SABLAN ROCK QUARRY CO. INC. Tel. 234-3219(9/14)T32506

03 CARPENTER-Salary:\$3.05-3.25 per hour  
Contact: EMILIO P. QUIATCHON SR. dba EQ Construction Tel. 234-8827(9/21)T32602

01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05-3.20 per hour  
Contact: ROWENA L. O'CONNOR dba K's Dimsum & Noodle House Tel. 234-3307(9/21)T80516

01 SALES REPRESENTATIVE (SHIPPING SERVICES)-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: SAI TRANS COMPANY LTD. Tel. 236-2055(9/21)T32603

01 WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR-Salary:\$4.96 per hour  
Contact: ANTONIO S. CAMACHO dba Westpac Freight Tel. 322-1212(9/21)T32604

03 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
01 MANAGER (N/C)-Salary:\$600.00 semi-monthly  
Contact: WESTERN PACIFIC ENT., INC. dba Kimchi Cabana Night Club Tel. 234-6622(9/21)T32607

01 MASON-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: NORTH PACIFIC ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. 233-3990(9/28)T32683

01 TRANSLATOR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: SAIPAN JET-SKI CLUB Tel. 234-5858(9/28)T32678

01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: SENTINEL BBC DEV. CO. dba Pinoy Special Restaurant Tel. 234-6010(9/28)T32679

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:\$3.50 per hour  
Contact: SAIPAN WATERCRAFTS INC. Tel. 234-5858(9/28)T32677

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Plus \$100.00 housing allowance., food allowance \$100.00  
02 ELECTRICAL REPAIRER (MAINTENANCE)-Salary:\$3.05-3.55 per hour  
Plus \$100.00 housing allowance., food allowance \$100.00  
Contact: SAM MARIANAS, INC. Tel. 322-3444(9/28)T32676

01 JANITOR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: MELITON P. VILLAFUERTE dba M.V. Enterprises Tel. 235-0835(9/28)T32675

01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour  
Contact: DIAMOND HOTEL CO., LTD. dba Saipan Diamond Hotel Tel. 234-5000(9/28)T80624

01 CARPENTER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: H&H ENTERPRISES dba Thai House Restaurant Tel. 235-8424(9/28)T32672

01 (ASSISTANT) MANAGER-Salary:\$800.00 per month  
Contact: YUNA CORPORATION INC. dba You-Na Golf Range Tel. 235-2060(9/28)T32673

01 HOUSEKEEPING (HOTEL) CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05-3.15 per hour  
Contact: J & JEV ENTERPRISES, INC. dba Victoria Hotel Tel. 233-2031(9/28)T80612

01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: H&H ENTERPRISES dba Thai House Restaurant Tel. 235-8424(9/28)T32672

01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: H&H ENTERPRISES dba Thai House Restaurant Tel. 235-8424(9/28)T32672

01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: H&H ENTERPRISES dba Thai House Restaurant Tel. 235-8424(9/28)T32672

01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: H&H ENTERPRISES dba Thai House Restaurant Tel. 235-8424(9/28)T32672

01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: H&H ENTERPRISES dba Thai House Restaurant Tel. 235-8424(9/28)T32672

01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: H&H ENTERPRISES dba Thai House Restaurant Tel. 235-8424(9/28)T32672

01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: H&H ENTERPRISES dba Thai House Restaurant Tel. 235-8424(9/28)T32672

01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: H&H ENTERPRISES dba Thai House Restaurant Tel. 235-8424(9/28)T32672

01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: H&H ENTERPRISES dba Thai House Restaurant Tel. 235-8424(9/28)T32672

01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: H&H ENTERPRISES dba Thai House Restaurant Tel. 235-8424(9/28)T32672

01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: H&H ENTERPRISES dba Thai House Restaurant Tel. 235-8424(9/28)T32672

01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: H&H ENTERPRISES dba Thai House Restaurant Tel. 235-8424(9/28)T32672

01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour  
Contact: H&H ENTERPRISES dba Thai House Restaurant Tel. 235-8424(9/28)T32672

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.

## Employment Opportunity

The Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation Limited Saipan is looking for a highly motivated and experienced individual to work in the following position:

## Customer Service Officer in Charge

The individual we seek is likely to have the following qualifications:

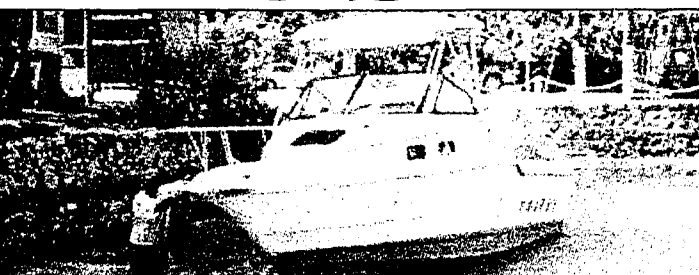
- Experience managing and driving a successful sales team
- Excellent oral and written communication skills
- Able to use a PC to create memos and spreadsheets (very comfortable using Word & Excel)
- Able to work under pressure
- A team player
- Degree from a recognized college or university

HSBC offers competitive salaries commensurate with qualifications and experience as well as an extensive benefits package. If you are the highly motivated individual we are seeking, please submit your resume to HSBC, HSBC Building, Garapan. Cover letters may be addressed to The Manager, HSBC Saipan. No telephone calls and no application requests, please.

As conditions of employment, HSBC requires proof of identity and eligibility to work in the CNMI (RESIDENT WORKERS ONLY), drug testing, police and court clearance, and a credit check. HSBC is an Equal Opportunity Employer.

## HSBC

## FOR SALE



25' Trophy Bayliner, Walkaround w/cabin, new 130HP engines, trailer, VHF, AM/FM stereo, fish finder, GPS, Anchor, toilet, power steering, all new wiring, and many other new accessories. \$29,500.00 Please call 235-5572/74

## LOST WALLET

at Price Costco area last  
Saturday, September 11, 1999.  
Reward will be given, no questions asked.  
Call Pager No. 236-7817

## COMMERCIAL FISHING VESSEL

40 FT STEEL BOAT  
U.S. Coast Guard Safety  
Inspection Approved, Complete Hydraulics  
Generator with Air Con.

Life Raft, EPERB, \$80,000  
(Surveys for \$150,000)  
(912) 954-7412  
(671) 965-7374

## APARTMENT/MINI-MART FOR RENT

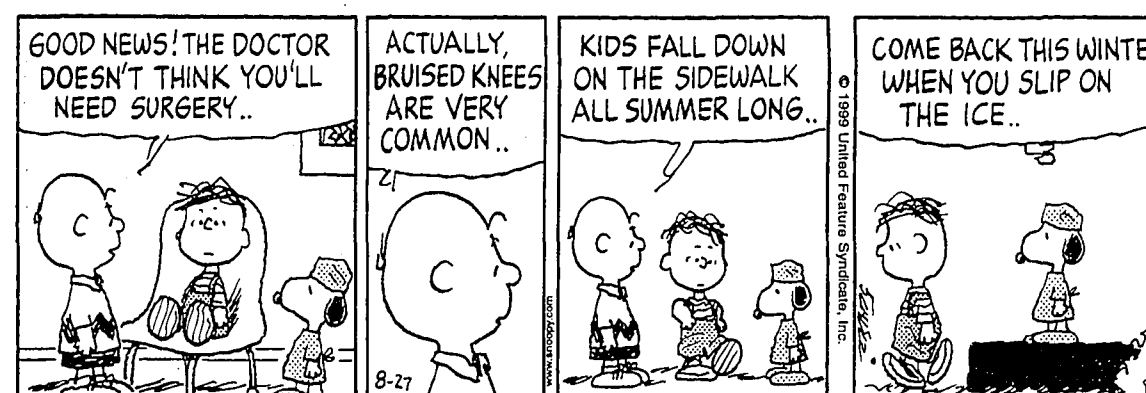
Located in China Town  
Telephone: 233-4378

Give Information About Crimes Committed  
**CRIME STOPPERS**  
CALL: 234-7272 (PARA)

## EEK &amp; MEEK® by Howie Schneider



## PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz

STELLA WILDER  
YOUR BIRTHDAY

TUE., September 14, 1999

Born today, you are likely to grab the attention of the big boys at an early age. Throughout your life, you will have to balance a desire to please superiors with a keen need to stick to yourself and to protect your individuality and your privacy. There are those who will wish to mold your personality, your career, and even your personal life to fit their own desires and expectations. They will have quite a time of it, you can be sure, for you are not tolerant of those who have only their own best interests at heart. Talented, energetic, and rather visionary, you prize your own abilities and insist that they be respected by others as well.

Though other people may at times miss the point, you rarely do anything without investing some deeper feelings and more serious intentions into it. Even your jokes take on the character of morality-plays and other lessons. Highly intelligent, you are sometimes too clever for your own good.

Also born on this date are: Faith Ford, actress; Margaret Sanger, sociologist and author; Joey Heatherton, actress.

To see what is in store for you tomorrow, find your birthday and read the corresponding paragraph.

Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

**WED., SEPTEMBER 15 VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** — You have a wonderful generosity, and sympathy toward those around you. Don't let others take advantage of you as a result today.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** — Your generosity may be called upon today. You have taken pride in that side of yourself in the past, and now is the time to give even more.

**SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** — Be careful not to be too flip-pant in your response to something important that is brought to your attention today. Something rewarding lies in an unexpected place.

**SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** — Not everything is as clear-cut as you might think today. When you find yourself thinking in terms of black and white, it's time for a change.

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** — Obligations must not be overlooked today, particularly where appearances are concerned. How you come across to others is of vital importance.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** — Pat yourself on the back today for all you have accomplished lately. You are not as confident as

others might think, but you should be!

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)** — Planning ahead financially may make it necessary for you to find more creative, less expensive forms of recreation or entertainment.

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** — Those who seem most sure of themselves today may prove, ultimately, to be the most uncertain and doubtful. You're on top of things, however!

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** — You might feel as though you need assurance or validation when it comes to a recent decision. Openness can't hurt, but it isn't required.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** — Bargains await, but you will have to tend to certain key duties before you are free to explore all the financial options available to you.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** — Be careful that you are quite clear today when sharing an irritation or annoyance. Someone is apt to take it personally at this time.

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** — It may be time for you to lower your standards a little. People around you are finding it hard to live up to your private expectations.

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- Buddies
- Castor —
- Appear
- Ken or Lena
- Opp. of SSW
- Prod
- Mona —
- opener
- Prejudice
- Ma and Pa
- Tropical lizard
- Cerium symbol
- Juicy fruit
- Express desire
- "Chitty Chitty, Bang Bang"

name

- Utilizes
- Reynolds ID
- "Something About"
- "Touched by an Angel" character
- Auction
- By way of
- Cupid
- Comfort
- Mr. Byrnes
- race
- Sweetshop
- Female deer
- Oolong and pekoe

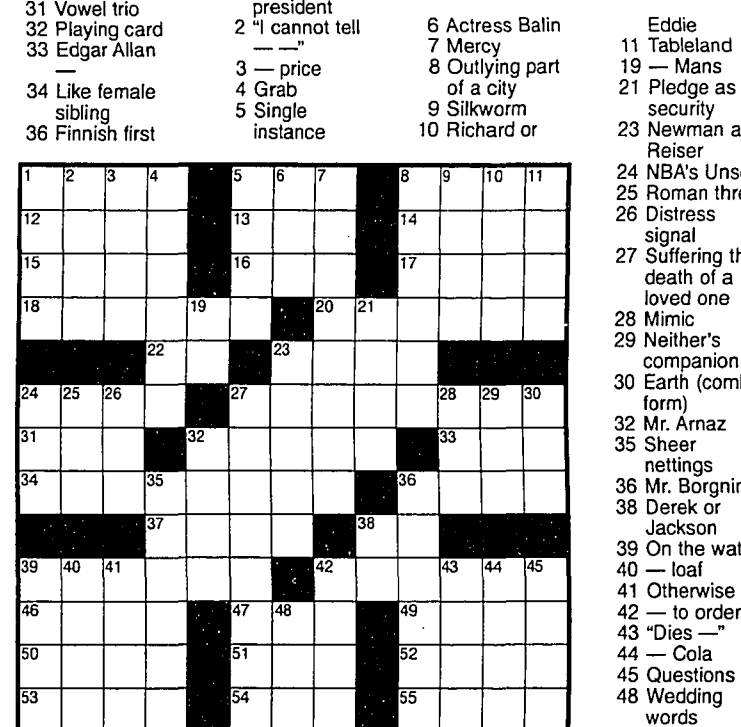
DOWN

- 11th U.S. president
- "I cannot tell"
- price of a city
- Grab
- Single instance

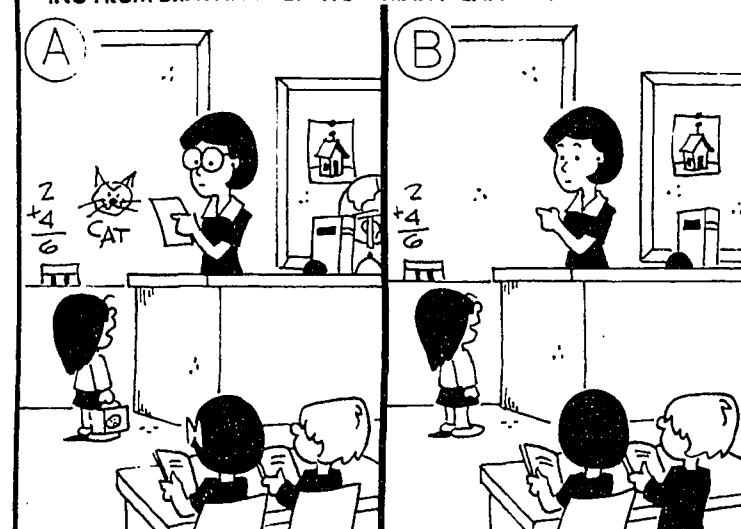
Answer to Previous Puzzle

GUSTIS PRANK  
FORGET LEGION  
EDIT ABATE RO  
MIS SIETE CBS  
MV APNEA GLUE  
EARLIER THATS  
ILED WEAR  
BUOYS TORNADO  
ANTS MARIA IM  
SIS BELLS IVE  
ET CARED ATEN  
DETAIL LAKERS  
DUNNE YEARS

12-25 © 1997 United Feature Syndicate



## KidSpot™ THERE ARE SEVEN THINGS IN DRAWING "A" THAT ARE MISSING FROM DRAWING "B." HOW MANY CAN YOU FIND?

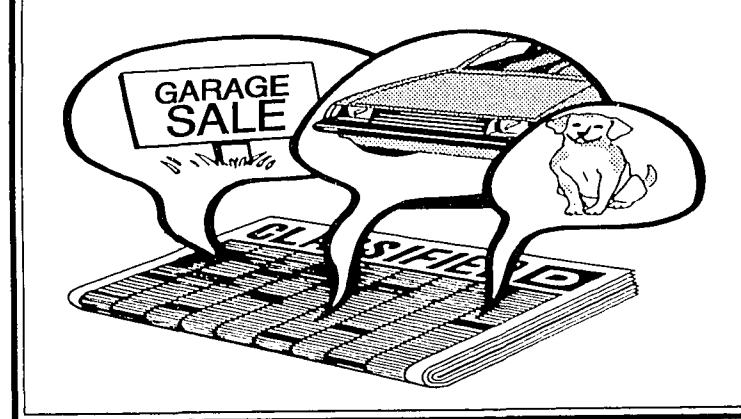


"My late-for-school excuse may be technically incorrect and not quite believable. But then again, I'm not a lawyer."

ANSWERS: CAT ART, EXCUSE NOTE, LUNCH PAIL, GLOBE, HAIR BOW, BOYS CHAIR, TEACHER'S GLASSES.

## Marianas Variety News &amp; Views

"You Can Get What You Want"



WANT TO JUMP START YOUR ROMANTIC LIFE? TRY A CLASSIFIED AD!



## Heinz . . .

Continued from page 1

cent session.

House Bill 11-464, which was introduced by Vice Speaker Jesus T. Attao (R-Saipan) seeks to cut five percent from the 10-percent tax on jackpot poker winnings and have it used to fund youth and Man amko projects.

"There is now a permanent, a

better appropriation for the youth program... so that there will be a more stable source of funding for specific projects which could assist the youth and (be used for the) maintenance of their facility," said Hofschneider, referring to Attao's bill which now goes to the Senate.

The 15-cent Viewer's Tax aims to fund construction of village youth centers.

Asked why a public hearing was not called on the matter,

Hofschneider replied that the bill was referred to the Ways and Means Committee the members of which "early on decided to pass it since they thought 15 cents is innocuous."

Hofschneider earlier said the tax, which is imposed on each rental of a video tape and on each movie ticket is unpopular, noting several petitions with hundreds of signatures calling for its repeal.

## Cowboys . . .

Continued from page 28

one.

In Atlanta, bitter memories of last January's NFC championship game danced in the heads of the Minnesota Vikings when kicker Gary Anderson shanked a fourth-quarter field goal.

Except this time, Morten Andersen missed as well.

The Vikings erupted for 17 second-quarter points and held on for a 17-14 win over the Atlanta Falcons in a rematch of the first NFC championship overtime game since the NFL-AFL merger.

Last year, Andersen's 38-yard field goal 11:52 into overtime lifted the Falcons to a 30-27 win over the Vikings and their first trip to the Super Bowl.

In Chicago, the new-look Bears used a wide-open offense to make coach Dick Jauron's debut a successful one as Shane Matthews passed for 245 yards and two touchdowns in a 20-17 victory over the Kansas City Chiefs.

Matthews played all but one series, completing 25-of-38 passes, including scoring tosses of 10 yards to running back Curtis Enis and one yard to tight end John Allred.

In New Orleans, the Saints forced three turnovers, including a 14-yard touchdown on a fumble return by Tyrone Drakeford on the game's first play, and recorded seven sacks en route to a 19-10 victory over the Carolina Panthers.

"There were a couple of huge turnovers that were catastrophic and we didn't recover from it,"

Carolina's new coach George Seifert said.

Saints prize rookie running back Ricky Williams re-injured his sprained left ankle in the second quarter and missed the entire second half. He finished with 40 yards on 10 carries.

In Philadelphia, Chris Jacke's 31-yard field goal as time expired capped a remarkable second-half comeback as the Arizona Cardinals posted a 25-24 victory over the Eagles.

The Cardinals trailed 21-0 after a quarter, 24-6 at the half and 24-15 with just over four minutes left.

It marked the ninth time in 27 games that quarterback Jake Plummer has rallied the Cards to victory after a fourth-quarter deficit.

In St. Louis, Kurt Warner threw for 288 yards and three touchdowns to lead the Rams to a 27-10 victory over the Baltimore Ravens, spoiling the debut of coach Brian Billick.

Warner, who became the Rams No. 1 quarterback when Trent Green tore ligaments in his knee in a preseason game, completed 26-of-42 passes as St. Louis won its season opener for the fifth time in six years.

At Tampa Bay, Christian Peter returned a fumble for a touchdown and Andre Weathers scored on an interception return as the New York Giants' defense overcame its inept offense and defeated the Buccaneers 17-14.

The Giants were outgained 254-107 in total offense and Tampa Bay had a 15-4 advantage in first downs.

## Bud . . .

Continued from page 28

190 Q's Team Kagan	82	83	165	49.70%	0
187 Figueroa's Strad Rats	80	85	165	48.48%	0
186 L'House Hal Tricks	80	85	165	48.48%	0
189 Figueroa's BCom.	77	88	165	46.67%	0

SEDA SF99 "C" League

#	Names	W	L	G	%Wins	Forfeits
154	MDX Pointers	92	73	165	55.76%	0
148	RCA Duffers	89	76	165	53.94%	0
147	Figueroa's Ruzkies	88	77	165	53.33%	0
145	Tomokane's Kamakazi	88	77	165	53.33%	0
151	Shooters	88	79	165	52.12%	0
149	Bud's Most Wanted	86	79	165	52.12%	0
146	Q's Virgin Widow	79	86	165	47.88%	0
150	Don's FT Untamed	78	87	165	47.27%	0
153	D.A.P. Pjn Throwers	72	93	165	43.64%	0
152	Angus Beef Eaters	62	103	165	37.58%	0

SEDA SF99 "D" League

#	Names	W	L	G	%Wins	Forfeits
156	Lite House Bull Hitters	103	62	165	82.42%	0
158	Olcai Magic Target	80	85	165	48.48%	0
157	Bud's Bunnies	74	91	165	44.85%	0
155	Figueroa's Yahoos	73	92	165	44.24%	0

SEDA SF99 Mixed Doubles League

#	Names	W	L	G	%Wins	Forfeits
161	Bong & Fina	107	43	150	71.33%	0
172	Noll & Jean	84	66	150	56.00%	0
164	Vidal & Paula	91	74	165	55.15%	0
166	Danny & Cristy	80	70	150	53.33%	0
168	Kio & Brett	70	65	135	51.85%	0
160	Trina & Melvin	69	66	135	51.11%	0
165	Jeff & Elvia	72	78	150	48.00%	0
162	Joanne & Derence	62	73	135	45.93%	0
167	Irvin & Claudine	53	97	150	35.33%	0
159	Jesse & Dawna	27	93	120	22.50%	0

# Agassi wins US Open

NEW YORK (Reuters)—Andre Agassi turned up the power in the last two sets to overcome a tenacious Todd Martin and win the U.S. Open championship in a surprisingly tough, five-set struggle on Sunday.

Agassi raised his game to new heights after losing a pair of tiebreakers to beat Martin 6-4 6-7 (5-7) 6-7 (2-7) 6-3 6-2 in a rousing, all-American final.

"The way he played, it's just disappointing someone had to lose," said second seed Agassi, who claimed a \$750,000 payday for his fifth Grand Slam crown. "He played so well I felt like I was hanging on by a thread for most of the match."

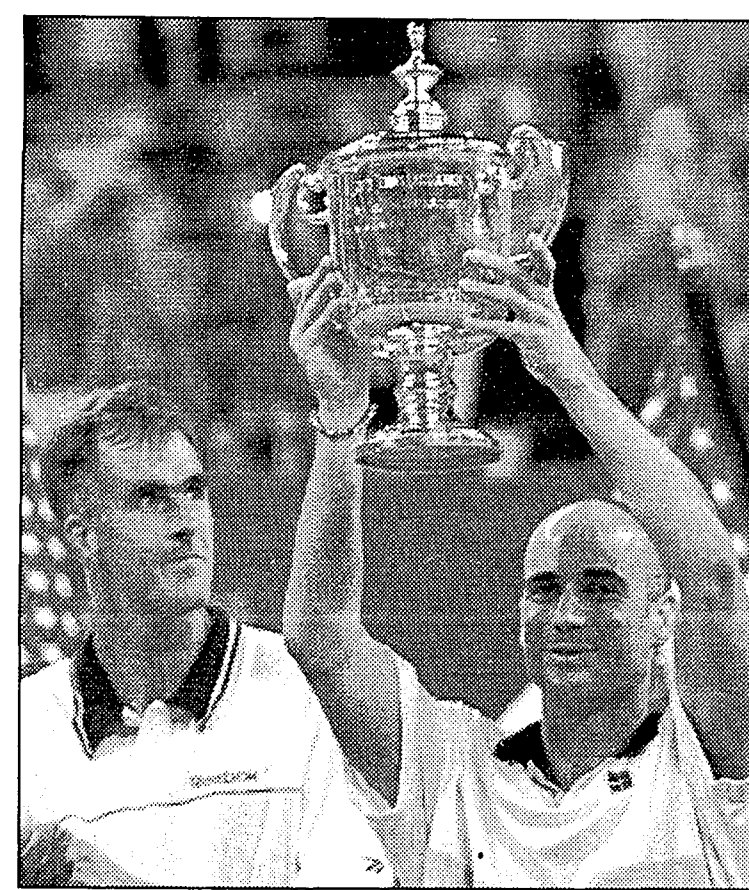
Martin faded physically by the end of the three-hour, 23-minute battle of 29-year-olds, missing his best shot yet at notching a first Grand Slam title.

"Andre you played great, you deserved it," said Martin, tearing up a bit at the trophy presentation on court after his extraordinary challenge.

"I couldn't think of a better way to go out than to play a great match against a great champion."

Few had figured Martin to be much of a match for Agassi, who completed a career Grand Slam this year by winning the French Open and had already assured his ascension to world number one by beating third seed Yevgeny Kafelnikov in the semifinals.

But the towering, 6-foot-6 (1.98 m) Martin played the match of his life, serving brilliantly, drilling home 23 aces, and holding his own in groundstroke rallies against the



Andre Agassi hoists his winners trophy as Todd Martin looks on after Agassi won 6-4, 6-7 (5-7), 6-7 (2-7), 6-3, 6-2 in the U.S. Open men's singles championship in New York Sunday.

ball-striking wizard from Las Vegas.

He appeared to have Agassi on the ropes after using his big serve to win the second and third-set tiebreakers, improving his impressive 1999 record in those deciders to 25-13.

"I was very worried," admitted Agassi. "He was serving great and volleying great, picking balls up from the pavement. And he was holding his own from the baseline."

that was worrying me the most.

"I felt like I was behind the whole time even though I won the first set."

Martin pressed the action by charging the net at every chance—at one point having to duck below the net to avoid being knocked out by a ferocious Agassi passing shot from close range.

"I knew I had a chance to win. I knew I had a chance to lose," said Martin. "I knew I had to continue to

play well on my serve, and better on his serve. Unfortunately, neither of those two things happened."

The supremely fit and determined Agassi, who won the French title after losing the first two sets of the final to Andrei Medvedev, again finished on a high note, while the injury-plagued Martin gradually wore down.

Agassi found himself trailing despite never once losing a service game, but the charismatic champion stormed back to break Martin twice in the fourth set to level the match.

The first break was set up by a Martin double fault in the third game and clinched by Martin's long forehand.

After Agassi survived two break points in a four-deuce eighth game, the champion broke again for good measure in the next game when his serve return hit the net tape and Martin's backhand volley response sailed long.

In the fifth set, Agassi, running to his chair during changeovers while Martin shuffled to his seat, ran off nine points in a row as he broke Martin at love and held his serve to lead 3-0 as the tide finally turned in his favor.

Agassi, who lost only three points on serve in the last set, broke Martin again to finish off the match when his backhand drive at 15-40 forced a netted backhand reply from Martin.

Martin posted a remarkable 77 winners in the match, forcing the action with 97 approaches to net that yielded 62 points. Agassi tallied just 45 winners. <br>

But the most telling statistic was Martin's inability to break through on Agassi's serve. Eight times he reached break point, but was turned away every single time.

Agassi made good on five of his 10 break opportunities.

"I don't ever remember any five-setter I've ever played where I never lost serve," said Agassi.

"I really had to make every point incredibly important. It was that crucial that I took care of my own service games because I knew I wouldn't get many chances."

Martin, who has struggled with elbow, shoulder, hip, shin, abdomen and groin muscle injuries this year, and who needed intravenous fluids after his five-set comeback win over Briton Greg Rusedski in the fourth round, admitted he slowed down at the end.

"The biggest problem was that I lost my legs a little bit," said Martin, who collected \$420,000 as he equalled his runner-up showing at the 1994 Australian Open. "When that happens, the serve is the thing that goes."

Agassi noticed the difference. "Ultimately, it was his legs. Toward the end he dropped off a hair, he lost a little on his serves. And I maintained and even went up a bit in the fifth."

But Martin gave Agassi all the credit.

"More than anything else I thought it was the relentless pressure he put on me. Every game he seemed to be there. Over five sets with all this pressure, that's quite an achievement."

## Kido tops at Japan LPGA

RITTO, Japan (AP)—Fuki Kido never trailed as she shot a 2-under-par 70 Sunday and won the 70 million yen (\$636,000) Japan LPGA Championship by six strokes, her first major title in 14 years as a pro.

It was Kido's first victory this season and fifth overall.

Kido, a five-shot leader overnight, birdied the par-3 second hole and parred the rest on the front nine.

She added two birdies against a bogey after the turn en route to a 7-under 281 total over the 6,500-yard (5,915-meter), par-72 Biwako Country Club course.

The other player who finished under par was rookie Midori Yoneyama, winner of last week's Fujisankei Ladies. She also had a 70 on way to 1-under 287.

Yukiyo Haga, who went around in 72, placed third with a 1-over 289 total.

"I feel like I just performed wonders," Kido said. "I thought for long a major title was beyond my reach."

Kido received the winner's check of 12.6 million yen (\$114,000) and a five-year tour card.

OAKVILLE, Ontario (Reuters)—Hal Sutton turned the final round of the \$2.5 Canadian Open into an exhibition as he cruised to an impressive three-stroke victory on Sunday.

Sutton began the day one stroke off the pace, but built a six-shot lead after nine holes to snuff out any excitement for the large gallery at Glen Abbey.

About the only person who didn't think the tournament was over by that stage was Sutton himself. Way back in 1983 he surrendered a six-stroke final-round lead at the Anheuser-Busch Classic, so he wasn't going to take anything for granted this time.

Nonetheless, he remained in control of his game to finish off the job with a three-under-par 69. "You don't know how hard it is to play with a lead like that," said Sutton, who finished at 13-under 275.

"I tried to say right where I was with my mind. I felt under control the whole way."

Fellow American Dennis Paulson (69) claimed second on 278, while third-round leader Lee Janzen continued his recent history of poor final rounds as he shot 76 to fall back into a tie for

third with Justin Leonard, Dudley Hart and David Sutherland at 281.

Englishman Nick Faldo, winner of six major titles, shot 71 for eighth place at 283, his best result in nearly two years on the U.S. PGA Tour.

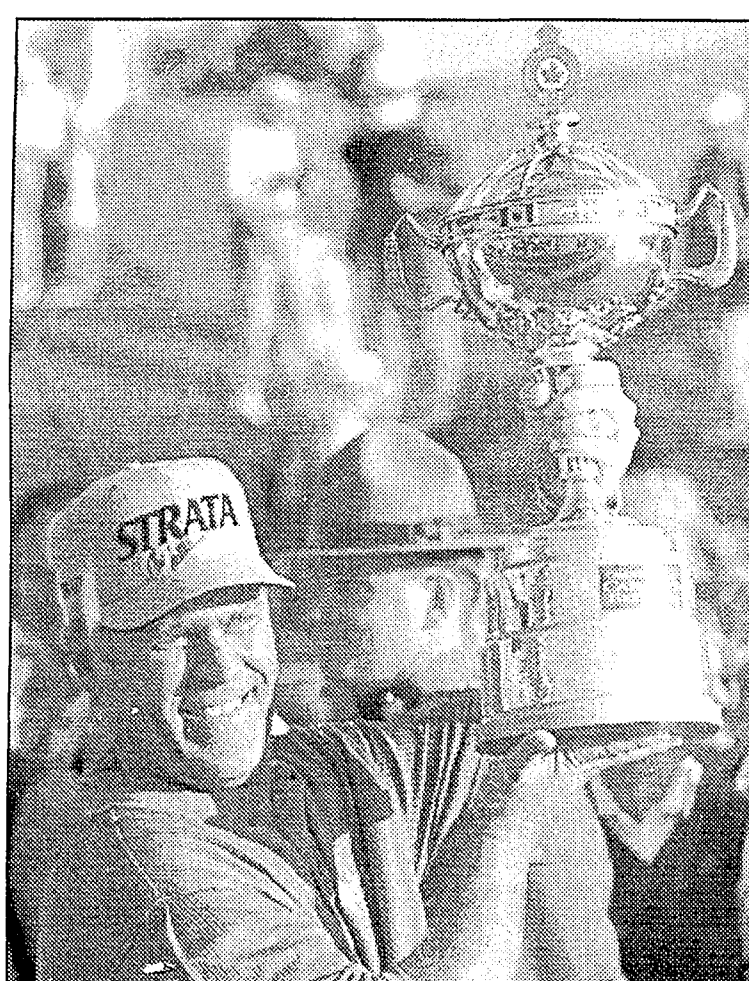
But the day belonged to Sutton, who demonstrated that he will be a formidable part of the American team that will attempt to win back the Ryder Cup from Europe in two weeks.

Indeed, Sutton became only the fifth member of the American team to win on the tour this year, joining Tiger Woods, David Duval, Payne Stewart and Jeff Maggert.

"You keep writing about how our Ryder Cup team hasn't won heading into the Ryder Cup, so I had to win," Sutton said.

"When I saw the wind coming from the opposite direction today, I liked that, because that meant you had to be on your game."

Sutton, 41, who collected \$450,000 for his 11th PGA Tour victory, his first this year, said he would have headed to the Ryder Cup in a good frame of mind, no matter what had happened this week.



Hal Sutton of Bossier City, La., hoists the trophy after winning the Bell Canadian Open golf championship at Glen Abbey in Oakville, Ont., Canada on Sunday.

## Continental...

Continued from page 1

MVA earlier expressed disap-

## Plutonium ...

Continued from page 1

ments.

The call comes as a delegation of British, French and Japanese nuclear industry officials continue to refuse to tell Fiji journalists the whereabouts of Pacific Pintail and Pacific Teal.

Greenpeace estimates the two vessels could enter FSM's Exclusive Economic Zone any time this week.

"With each freighter containing some quarter tonne of plutonium, some 7 tonnes of high explosive ammunition and hundreds of tonnes of fuel oil, this transport

pointment on Continental's decision to terminate direct flights, but said the issue of "profitability" remains to be the main determinant.

"We are disappointed but obviously Continental made those decision based on profitability and therefore we cannot fight that," said Sablan.

is a recipe for disaster," said Damon Moglen of Greenpeace.

"Incredibly, the transporters have not sought prior consultation and agreement with the endangered en route nations - this is clearly about secrecy and not democracy."

In a defiance of statements of opposition from Fiji and Vanuatu, one of the visiting nuclear industry officials, Captain Graham Bates said "If we consider it necessary, we could enter Fiji waters."

All ships have the right of passage through a country's territorial waters."

"This shows blatant disregard for the sovereignty of South Pa-

cific nations," Samantha Magick of Greenpeace Pacific said.

"The fact is that countries do have the right to control such dangerous transports in order to protect the natural resources and or well being of the public."

Clearly nations like FSM do not have the capacity to deal with a nuclear transport accident and should therefore declare such shipments should not enter its EEZ," Magick said.

Greenpeace has written to the Government of Federated States of Micronesia that it joins other South Pacific countries in making a public statement that plutonium shipment should not enter its EEZ.

viewed for a statement.

He also said that prior to the discovery of the incident, Pedro "had observed possible suspect."

Rabauliman, however, decided not to give further information pending the result of the investigation which has been dragging for 14 days now.

## 8 fall ...

Continued from page 1

Upon arrival and after the officers announced their purpose, the agents had to use force to effect entry after the occupants refused to unlock the door.

Some 23 individuals were hiding on the premises, eight of whom were arrested for illegal gambling.

Another Chinese female, who was ordered deported earlier this year and had an outstanding bench warrant, was arrested by DOLI.

DOLI officers detained two other Chinese who had no proper identification.

Further investigation is being conducted concerning immigration violations.

"Gambling is a violation of CNMI law and will not be tolerated," said Kara.

## High...

Continued from page 8

the Superior Court found that FKG had paid over the course of the term of the lease through the year 1995, the sum of \$399,891.34 when only \$312,500 was due.

The difference that FKG paid out, \$77,994.79 would be gradually credited to FKG, said the justices.

The trial court computed that payments made by FKG to Wiseman should be in the amount

of \$156,096.26, said the justices, adding that the lower court that the lawyer had accounted for only \$153,740.51, resulting in the difference of \$2,355.75.

The Supreme Court said by looking at the trial court's findings of fact and the evidence upon which they were based, the figures are not clearly erroneous and should not be second guessed by an appellate court.

"This Court (Supreme) can ascertain from the record the manner in which the court (Superior) arrived at its judgment. We can

assume that the trial court in allowing certain items did not make a mathematical error," the justices said.

Since this case involves a detailed financial accounting, the justices said, the possibility exists that the lower court arithmetically miscalculated some of the figures.

"However, this Court runs the risk of further entangling the accounting by supplanting the figures of the lower court with new computations," they pointed out.

"That's (memorandum) still in place and the industry is observing that," added Sablan.

The MVA official also reiterated the administration's stand on

the non-issuance of Invitational Letters to the mainland China or elsewhere.

"By all means, invitational letters will not be allowed," said Sablan.

## Easier...

Continued from page 8

mit or present a handful of important documents.

Arriola said he would file the

motion in five days.

Manibusan replied: "File your motion whenever you want." The judge then set a status conference for Nov. 3.

The Clerk of Court recently issued a subpoena against Manibusan following a request by Arriola in connection with the

raid at alleged illegal gambling operations at the former Abracadabra Dive Shop in Garapan.

It was Manibusan who issued the search warrant.

Associate Judge Timothy H. Bellas ruled that there was no need for Manibusan to testify in connection with the raid.

## Judge...

Continued from page 8

The lawyer continued explaining, but Manibusan interrupted by telling him to follow the rules as the motion shall be set in further proceedings.

Arriola said he would file the



