



# Marianas Variety

News & Views

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## Chemicals spill at Tinian school

By Mar-Vic C. Munar  
Variety News Staff

BURGLARS barged into and ransacked the science laboratory room at Tinian High School, causing a chemical spill, according to reports that reached the Public School System yesterday.

PSS Deputy Commissioner Margaret Dela Cruz said policemen and agents of the Emergency Management Office and the Division of Environmental Quality were sent to the school to clean up the room and neutralize the spill.

The chemical spill was discovered yesterday morning, Dela Cruz said.

EMO acting Director Ike Cabrera said the EMO office on



Margaret Dela Cruz

Saipan has yet to receive a detailed report.

"We're trying to assess the extent of the spill. We're still waiting for a report," Cabrera told the

Variety.

"We advised them (school administrators) to call if they need us," he added.

Sketchy reports reaching PSS indicate burglars broke into the chemical room at Building K of Tinian High School. The room contains various substances used for students' science experiments.

It was not known as of press time what materials the thieves have carted off.

The burglary has been reported to the police, Dela Cruz said.

PSS Commissioner William Torres, meanwhile, appealed to parents and students not to be alarmed.

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## Justice tells lawyers: 'Improve on image'

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

SUPREME Court Associate Justice Ramon G. Villagomez yesterday told the CNMI Bar Association to look at ways to improve the "bad" reputation of lawyers in the islands.

Villagomez suggested that the Association do more community activities as one way of improving its members' image and to make the profession respectable and enjoyable.

"With more lawyers we have now, the more we can do," said the associate justice in his remarks during the swearing-in ceremony for the 11 new lawyers who passed the February CNMI Bar Examination.

According to Villagomez, he is aware of how people have become critical of lawyers and



Ramon G. Villagomez

of "how expensive they change."

"They're expressing their views. Of course I'm unhappy a lot of people see them (lawyers) that way," he said.

Villagomez pointed out that it is important for lawyers to be conscious about public opinion because that will affect their reputation in the community.

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## Gov't sues 2 businessmen over wastewater discharge

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

THE CNMI government has sued two businessmen for allegedly allowing a commercial building to discharge wastewater from the septic tank onto the ground surface.

The government asked the Superior Court to issue an injunction enjoining defendants Chung Mao Tsai and Fang Wu Nie from using the Taiwan Center for business or lodging purposes until they are in compliance with the Division of Environmental Quality septic

tank and wastewater regulations.

Taiwan Center is a three-story commercial building located in As Lito. Tsai reportedly owns the 2nd and 3rd floor of the building while the first floor belongs to Nie.

Special Assistant Atty. Gen. Richard Folta, counsel for the government, said despite a DEQ administrative order and notice of violation letter sent last March 10 and numerous meetings and follow-up inspections, the defendants still

Continued on page 16

## New DPW division mulled to deal solely with garbage

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Works is set to create a new division that will solely handle the

garbage problem on the island.

In an interview, Public Works Secretary Edward M. DL. Guerrero said his office is now hiring an environmental engineer and another official tasked to oversee the government's solid waste management program.

"They (new hires) will be in charge of monitoring the Puerto Rico dump... of the incinerator and the construction of the new landfill among others," said Guerrero.

The creation of a new division, he explained, was called for by a compliance order issued recently by the US Environmental Protection Agency.

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Edward M. DL. Guerrero



Eight of 11 new CNMI lawyers oblige for a group photo after they were sworn in for admission to the CNMI Bar yesterday. Standing from left are Daniel Furrh, Matthew Gregory, John Chambers, Timothy Farrell and Cindy Adams. Sitting from left are Carol Kerr, Elaine Paplos and Sheila Bowman.

Photo by FDT

## MTC's Internet service still down

By Mar-Vic C. Munar  
Variety News Staff

GOOD news: Internet users subscribing to Micronesia Telecommunications Corp. will get a \$45 credit on their bills for this month.

The real bad news: They will have to wait for "several more days" to get back on line.

MTC's Internet service has been off for almost two weeks now, and subscribers expected the resumption of online services yesterday, but MTC said repair work on its system has failed.

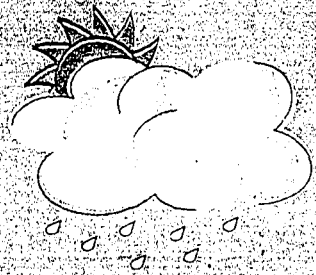
Repair and diagnostic work on the system "revealed additional hardware failure," MTC said in a press statement.

"We are treating this situation very seriously and are committed to doing whatever it takes to get our customers back on line as soon as we can," MTC general manager Del Jenkins said.

The company, Jenkins added, "has ordered duplicate sets of the necessary hardware replacement to be shipped here the fastest way

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## WEATHER Outlook



Partly sunny with a few showers

# China warns Philippines

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)**- China warned the Philippines Tuesday against making any moves in disputed areas of the South China Sea that could jeopardize bilateral ties.

The warning followed a series of incidents between the two countries arising from territorial disputes in the area.

"We hope that the Philippine side will refrain from any move to complicate the situation so as to maintain the overall Sino-Philippine friendly relations," the

Chinese Embassy said in a statement.

The statement cited an incident April 30 in which Philippine naval ships drove away Chinese fishing boats from Scarborough Shoal in the South China Sea.

It accused the Philippines of "unjustifiably" disrupting "a joint international amateur radio exploration activity."

It said Filipinos later landed on the shoal, about 250 kilometers (155 miles) off the western Philippine province of

Zambales, to hoist a Philippine flag and erect markers.

The embassy said the Philippine action "constituted a serious violation of China's territorial sovereignty," and claimed that

Chinese sovereignty over the shoal, which it calls Huangyan Dao, had long been recognized internationally, including by Manila.

China's ambassador to the Philippines, Guan Dengming, lodged a protest in Manila last Friday over the incident.

President Fidel Ramos said the Philippines will look into the protest but urged China to also investigate incursions by armed Chinese ships last month near two Philippine-held islands in the disputed Spratly group, also in the South China Sea.

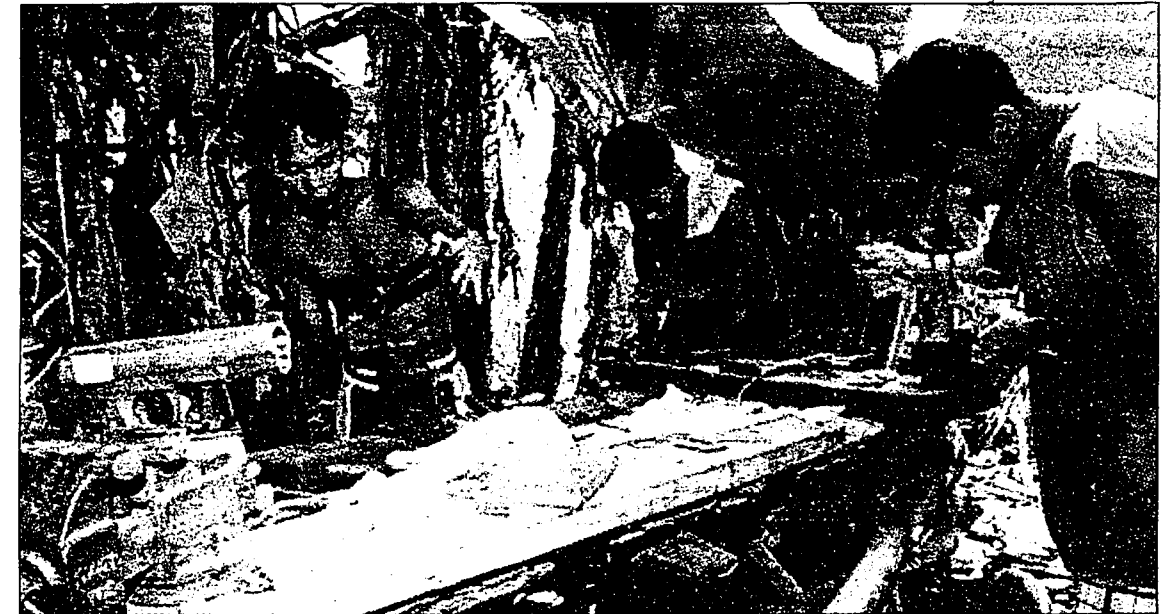
Early last month, five armed Chinese ships and two smaller boats were sighted near two Philippine-held islands in the Spratlys.

The Philippine government protested their presence as a provocation, and the ships later left the area.

China never responded to Manila's protest but issued a statement explaining the ships were in the area on a technical mission.

The Philippines and China are among six countries with overlapping claims to the Spratlys, a chain of atolls and reefs believed to be rich in oil and natural gas.

In another recent incident, the Philippine navy arrested 18 Chinese fishermen in mid-April when their two boats entered Philippine waters without permits on their way to the Pacific's Marshall Islands.



Workers make a copy of a Beretta handgun in a clandestine factory in Danao City in central Philippines. Despite a crackdown on illegal gun manufacturing, an estimated 5,000 gunsmiths in this city labor to make exquisite copies of well-known brands. AP

## Taiwan ruling party narrowly survives 'no confidence vote'

**TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)**- Taiwan's ruling party on Tuesday narrowly defeated a no-confidence motion brought by opposition legislators capitalizing on a public outcry over rising crime.

The Nationalists won the vote 78-76 with one abstention.

The opposition Democratic Progressive Party and the New Party proposed the motion in hopes of toppling Premier Lien Chan.

The legislature doesn't have the power to vote down the premier and the motion wouldn't have been binding. But it was seen as a serious attack on the already slumping prestige of the Nationalists, who have ruled Taiwan since 1949.

Public outrage over crime was set off by the kidnap-murder of the daughter of a popular singer-actress, the latest of three recent high-profile slayings, all of them unsolved.

Four similar resolutions were also expected to be defeated, including one demanding that President Lee Teng-hui address the legislature. An initial attempt to pass a no-confidence motion last Friday also failed.

Meanwhile in the National Assembly, New Party deputies disrupted Lee's

planned state of the nation address, demanding he reach his premier and apologize for the decline of law and order.

Waving banners and wearing smocks festooned with protest slogans, they occupied the podium, forcing the session to be adjourned. Lee had to leave without delivering his speech, which was to have been televised live.

"Public safety has reached such a stage that we had no choice but to hold this protest to reflect the anxiety of the people," said New Party Deputy Wang Chih-ping.

Lee has issued an apology through his spokesman, but the opposition wants him to apologize in person.

The turmoil in the lawmaking legislature, and in the National Assembly which oversees the provincial government, are indicative of the pressure the Nationalists are facing.

A public perception has taken that the once omnipotent party is powerless to root out corruption and fight the underworld.

Lien's reappointment as premier in May, on top of his post as vice president, disappointed those hoping for fresh blood at the top. He offered to resign last week, but Lee asked him to stay.

## Japan envoy to Peru under fire for handling of crisis

**By ERIC TALMADGE**

**TOKYO (AP)**- Freed after four months of being held hostage by a band of heavily armed leftist rebels, Japan's ambassador to Peru might have thought his ordeal was over.

But just weeks after returning to Japan a hero, Ambassador Morihisa Aoki is under siege again. On Tuesday, the foreign minister accepted his resignation.

"I am painfully aware of my responsibility," Aoki told a committee in Parliament, adding that he offered to resign last week.

Foreign Minister Yukihiko Ikeda, speaking before the same committee, said he intended to accept the resignation.

It was not yet clear who Aoki's replacement would be. Ikeda said he intends to let Aoki step down before the results of a government investigation into the incident are released. The investigation is expected to conclude next month.

Aoki was called before the committee to answer to a barrage of attacks on his handling of the crisis, which began last December when the leftist rebels stormed a gala reception Aoki was holding to celebrate the birthday of Japan's Emperor Akihito.

Aoki and 71 other hostages were freed by Peruvian commandos four

months later. He was injured in the raid and still uses crutches to walk.

Though all the rebels, two soldiers and one hostage died after being freed in the final raid, none of the 24 Japanese hostages was killed or seriously injured. Aoki's role in keeping the situation from leading to more bloodshed was initially hailed by Japan's government and media.

That praise, however, was quickly replaced by a series of angry attacks in Parliament and in the press.

The accusations range from the serious to the silly.

Critics have slammed Aoki for everything from not ordering enough security before the attack to chain-smoking through a news conference held shortly after his release.

Over the past week, popular weekly magazines have quoted unidentified former hostages as saying Aoki was a coward who treated them with a mixture of rudeness and arrogance.

According to one weekly, the Shukan Bunshun, Aoki drank copiously throughout the crisis, prompting the Japanese hostages to secretly write a letter to the government requesting he be replaced by a Japanese diplomat tasked with observing the negotiations.

# House commends Tenorio

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

IN A RARE display of support, the Republican-dominated House of Representatives recently adopted a resolution commending Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio for his efforts in promoting the CNMI in Washington, D.C.

Though introduced by Tenorio party mate Minority Leader Dino M. Jones (D-Saipan), House Resolution 10-107 was signed by Tenorio critic Rep. Stanley T. Torres (Ind.-Saipan) and adopted by the entire House.

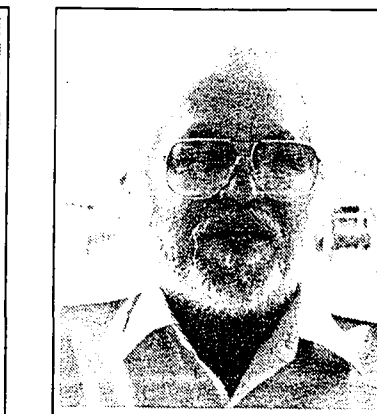
The resolution noted the governor's consistent efforts in the past three years to improve CNMI-federal relations, and mentioned U.S. House Majority Whip Tom DeLay's (R-Texas) speech defending the CNMI's control over its minimum wage rate and immigration.

DeLay's speech, according to the resolution, was a direct result of

## Support obtained for Governor's lobbying efforts in D.C.



Dino M. Jones



Stanley T. Torres

Tenorio's meeting with DeLay and other U.S. House leaders, among them Speaker Newt Gingrich (R-Georgia).

"Despite party differences, all the

elected representatives of the Commonwealth have a common interest in seeing that we improve relations with the federal government, and most par-

ticized the lobbying efforts as being "too expensive," but according to a Variety source, "legislators can't deny that the continuing publication of pro-CNMI articles in national newspapers and magazines, as well as the glowing remarks given by some U.S. congressmen regarding the CNMI's 'economic miracle' were the result of Tenorio's efforts."

Citing the need for a more aggressive lobbying efforts, Tenorio hired Washington-based consultancy groups that invited U.S. congressmen and staffers to visit the CNMI, and arranged meetings between the governor and U.S. congressional leaders.

Some CNMI House members have

## Armed man 'sexually assaults' teener

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

A KNIFE-wielding man reportedly sexually assaulted a 14-year-old girl inside a residence in Chalan Kanoa before dawn yesterday.

Acting Public Safety Information Officer PO2 Amold K. Seman said the victim was taken to the Commonwealth Health Center.

Initial investigation showed that at 3:22 a.m., the suspect reportedly broke into the victim's house through the back door.

The suspect entered the bedroom and sexually assaulted the victim.

"When the suspect fled, the victim

went to the next room and told her mother about the incident.

Seman said the suspect was allegedly armed with a knife.

The case was placed under further investigation.

Meanwhile, a former administrative officer for the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation in Rota who was charged for embezzling government funds entered a plea agreement with the Attorney General's Office yesterday.

Defendant Joaquin S. Quitugua agreed to plead guilty to theft by failure to make required disposition of funds received, theft, forgery, and embezzle-

ment.

The government will recommend 20 years' imprisonment, all suspended except for the first two years without parole.

According to Assistant Atty. Gen. Ross Buchholz, Quitugua while employed at CUC, stole \$114,000 from daily deposit collections of CUC on or between Oct. 1, 1990 and April 30, 1994.

At separate incidents, Quitugua also took \$17,600 from septic tank pump services, \$2,000 from power plant emergency fund from CUC and illegally reimbursed \$1,400 in hotel bills.

## Kagman III gets power December

By Rick Alberto  
Variety News Staff

THE power-installation project in Kagman III homestead is slated to be completed by December, it was learned yesterday.

The project costs \$2.8 million, according to Pamela A. Mathis, public information officer of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp.

She said the project consists of 353 power-line poles and 3.5 miles of high-voltage wires.

It is considered one of the biggest power line projects undertaken by the

CUC.

The installation of power is going on simultaneously with the installation of underground water pipes.

According to the status report as of April 30 from the Governor's Water Emergency Task Force, the targeted completion date of the waterline project is Jan. 5 next year.

The \$1.670-million water project includes the installation of fire hydrants, valves, service laterals, and meters for each homestead lot.

The report said the actual trenching of the waterline began last March 26.

At one time, the report said, the trenching machine broke down after hitting a hard rock. The machine has since been repaired, it added.

The Pacific Drilling Ltd. is the contractor for the project.

Mathis said wells will be drilled in Kagman III for its own use.

The Kagman III homestead has 1,136 lots. An estimated 314 houses are ready to be hooked up to the power lines, according to Mathis.

Mathis added that these houses can be hooked up soon and need not wait till December.



OCULAR INSPECTION. Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio confers with Emergency Water Task Force chair Timothy Villagomez recently on the status of the waterline and power-installation projects at the Kagman III Homestead. At background is the trenching machine used for the waterline project.

## Top police, fire officers got hefty OT pay in '96

By Mar-Vic C. Munar  
Variety News Staff

HIGH ranking officials and several police officers of the Department of Public Safety received huge overtime compensation--some two to three times bigger than their base salaries--in fiscal year 1996, according to an Overtime Analysis Report on DPS.

Department of Finance records obtained by the Variety showed that of the total \$7 million overtime payments to government agencies for FY 1996, \$3.8 million went to DPS. This amount far exceeded the department's overtime appropriation of \$262,624.

In FY 1994, appropriation for DPS was \$165,450, and its overtime record registered at \$2.463 million.

In FY 1995, it had an of appropriation \$271,697, while overtime expenditures totalled \$2.8 million.

The report indicated that in FY 1995, Compact Impact funds of \$1.432 million were used to offset police overtime.

"The expenditures were transferred out to DPS into the grant account," the report said.

Records obtained by the Variety, however, do not indicate the source of extra overtime money paid to DPS employees.

Finance Secretary Tony Cabrera, and Office of Budget and Management Director Ely Cabrera were not available to give comments.

Under the law, reprogramming of funds from unused accounts is allowed to offset unforeseen expenses.

Based on the Overtime Analysis Report on DPS, the top 10 officers who received the biggest take home, including base salaries and overtime pay, for the subject fiscal year were:

- Lt. Antonio Kaipat, \$127,864 (base salary: \$42,558);
- Rota Fire Chief Roberto Hocog, \$102,463 (base: \$44,685);
- Asst. Chief of Tinian Po-



Jose Castro

lice, \$95,332 (base: \$44,685);

- Tinian Police Capt. Vicente Borja, \$93,680 (base: \$44,685);
- Asst. Police Chief Raymond Camacho, \$89,643 (base: \$46,920);
- Asst. Traffic Chief Joaquin Castro, \$80,358 (base: \$46,920);
- Lt. Francisco Cruz, \$80,135, (base: \$33,345);
- Capt. Manuel Mangero, \$77,825, (base: \$44,685)
- Capt. Edward Flores, \$77,767, (base: \$44,685);
- and
- Asst. Chief of Logistics, Santiago Tudela, \$75,431 (base: \$46,920).

Among the 11 divisions of DPS, Saipan Police--which had an overtime budget of \$52,123--had the biggest overtime expenditures which registered at \$1.2 million.

DPS Commissioner Jose Castro, in a telephone interview, defended the excess expenditures.

"The public should consider the services we render. There are unexpected events and situations that we have to respond to," Castro said.

DPS does not have enough personnel to attend to the needs of the community, he said.

"That's why we're using our available men, and it's not fair for them to work extra hours without getting overtime pay," Castro said.

"If the Legislature responds to our request for additional FTEs, then there wouldn't be a need for our employees to work extra hours," he added.

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Camacho on debate over new lands law:

# 'I'd like to be optimistic'

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff  
PUBLIC Lands Director Bertha Camacho yesterday expressed hopes a solution may finally be arrived at on the stand-off between Gov. Froilan Tenorio and the Legislature regarding the creation of a public lands board.

"I would like to be optimistic about getting things resolved for the benefit of these people waiting (for their land deals to be done)," said Camacho in a phone interview.

She said it is fortunate that those with ongoing transactions with DPL were "patient enough to wait" and not resort to drastic and regrettable measures.

"I guess they understood that there will be no point in trying to tear my office down or in picketing. The only



Bertha Camacho

surest thing for them to do is wait," Camacho said.

There are close to 500 pending land transactions with DPL that had to be momentarily thrown in limbo

following the enactment of Public Law 10-57. The new law transfers authority over public lands from the governor to still to be created Board of Public Lands.

Transactions awaiting action include some 150 cases involving land acquisition and exchange deals; some 200 homestead lottery applicants for the Kagman Phase IV program; close to 100 village and agricultural homestead applicants and "very urgent" home loans.

Those with pending village and homestead transactions, Camacho said, already have their permits and were just waiting for the issuance of land deeds.

The Kagman lottery, for its part, was scheduled last month but had to be postponed following the bill's enactment into law.

"These are things we critically need to address," stressed Camacho.

Tenorio has refused to name appointees to the BPL saying he op-

poses giving a board authority over public lands.

The Senate, for its part, has passed Bill 10-87 that would allow for a temporary appointment of BPL members, a move described by Tenorio's PIO as "kind of ridiculous."

Tenorio has said he will not sign any amendment to the new public lands law.

He vowed to contest the law's constitutional mandate before the court.

## Sun Inn Hotel, injured man to settle case involving ADA

By Mar-Vic C. Munar  
Variety News Staff

SUN INN Hotel has reached a settlement agreement with a disabled man who had sustained injuries after slipping in the hotel's bathroom.

Alfred Quintanilla, through lawyer Timothy Skinner, sued Sun Inn in the U.S. District Court on July 11, 1996 in connection with his accident on August 1995.

Quintanilla had complained of the hotel's alleged failure to comply with the American with Disabilities Act.

The hotel's facilities, he said, were not accessible to people with disabilities. Its bathroom, for example, did not have handrails to assist disabled persons while entering and exiting the shower area.

Quintanilla is suffering from myotonic dystrophy, a condition associated with "weakness and wasting of

the temporal, facial, sternocleidomastoid and girdle muscles and which causes a slow deterioration of the brain cognitive functions."

He checked into Sun Inn on Aug. 17, 1995 along with five other members of his family.

Aside from Quintanilla, three others are also suffering from similar disabilities, according to court records.

On the night of Aug. 18, Quintanilla was getting out of the shower area when he slipped, fell and hit his head on the toilet bowl.

"Due to his fall," the complaint said, "Alfred sustained a contusion on his scalp, tenderness at the posterior portion of his skull, and temporary visual and speech problems, general weakness and numbness."

The fall also caused him to sprain both his feet and to suffer a fracture on

his right shin, the complaint said.

Skinner and David Banes, lawyer for Sun Inn, said both parties have agreed to settle the case "without admission of liability or wrong doing on the part of the defendant."

Banes said settlement was reached last week but written agreement has yet to be signed.

The lawyers said they would keep the settlement amount confidential.

"Both parties have come to conclusion that the case should be resolved. There's no reason why lawsuit could not be settled," Skinner said.

Banes, for his part, said the defendant hotel maintains it was not liable for Quintanilla's injuries.

"If there was any ADA violation, the hotel is now in full compliance," Banes said.

## MVB pays tribute to pioneers of Marianas tourism industry

By Rick Alberto  
Variety News Staff

THE managing director of the Marianas Visitors Bureau paid tribute to the people who pioneered in the local travel and tourism industry, thanking them for transforming the CNMI into one of the top travel destinations in the Pacific.

Speaking during the Recognition Night last week honoring outstanding tourism employees, Anicia Q. Tomokane described the industry pioneers as "brave souls who recognized our potential for tourism, and who matched their convictions with hard work in a locale that, back then, was regarded as remote if not downright mysterious."

Ten years ago, Tomokane noted, the CNMI was host to only 157,000 tourists. Last fiscal year, 722,000 visitors came.

Tomokane said the pioneering industry workers surmounted such challenges as uncertainties and doubts to "put us on the world's stage as one of the Pacific's leading vacation destinations."

"The time has come for you to take the center stage of our grati-

tude, and to be recognized for your success," Tomokane said in her remarks.

Addressing those who joined the industry more recently and made remarkable accomplishments, she said, "You certainly have a high standard to match, and I congratulate you on your achievements. We are fortunate to have you in our local industry, and we hope that you will be with us for many years to come."

The MVB honored seven "outstanding" employees representing different tourism-related establishments and 14 others who have been in the industry for 10 years or more during the Recognition Night held Friday at the Diamond Hotel. The Recognition Night was part of the CNMI Tourism Week celebrations.

The honored employees of the year were Fernando V. Espiritu of Aqua Resort Club; Mr. Lee, Tae Young of S.R. Coco Tour;

Liesel Alajaga of Hafa Adai Beach Hotel; Antonio Ichio of Tasi Tours & Transportation; Juliano Matsutaro of Dai-Ichi Hotel; Ms. Choi, Eun Sook of Asiana Airlines; and Mrs. Moon



Anicia Q. Tomokane

A. Lee of Korean Airlines.

The industry "pioneers" who were honored were Thomas Dela Cruz, Teresita Matsumoto, Tadao Kumagai, Juliana Cabrera, Toshiichi Kase, Osamu Kobayashi, Franklin Encio, Marcial Quintero and Maria Eugenio, all of Hafa Adai Beach Hotel;

Jesus Hocog of Tasi Tours and Transportation, Luisa C. Camacho of Japan Airlines, Johnsen Shiprit of Saipan Sea Ventures and Pelley Boat Charter, and Ellen Q. Camacho of RIC Tours Saipan.

# Cing bares BPL choices

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

SENATOR David M. Cing yesterday revealed the names of the Senate's nominees for the Board of Public Lands submitted recently to Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio.

The list, which includes well-known political and business leaders and a nun, contained 17 nominees from Saipan, 5 from Rota, and 1 from Tinian.

Public Law 10-57 requires that the BPL board be composed of 3 directors from Saipan, 1 from Rota and 1 from Tinian.

The governor will make nominations to the board, subject to Senate confirmation.

As earlier reported by the Variety, former Supreme Court chief justice



Vicente T. Salas Robert C. Naraja Efrain F. Camacho Tomas B. Aldan Marian Aldan Pierce

Jose S. Dela Cruz heads the list of the Saipan nominees which includes

Jesus G. Villagomez, Larry DLG Cabrera, Augustine M. Tagabuel, Jesus D. Sablan, Francisco M. Diaz, Vicente T. Salas, Robert C. Naraja, Efrain F. Camacho, Tomas B. Aldan, Herman Q. Guerrero, Francisco C. Ada, Joseph I. Pangelinan, Vicente N. Santos, Felipe Ruak, Maria T. Pangelinan and Marian Aldan Pierce.

From Rota: Efrain S. Taimanao, Joaquin Taitano Cruz, Joe Taimanao Calvo, Sr. Benedict San Nicolas and Alice A. Hocog.

From Tinian: Richard U. Hofschneider.

Cing (D-Tinian), who chairs the Senate Committee on Executive Appointment and Government Investigation, yesterday told the Vari-

ety that the nominees are all "very credible and well respected" individuals.

Governor Tenorio on Monday confirmed receiving the list of nominees, and said that he has sent letters to all of them.

He said he will nominate those who will express willingness to serve in the board.

## Camacho files weapons bill, license plate tag measure

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff

REPRESENTATIVE Rosiky F. Camacho has filed a bill that would penalize gun owners found to have allowed minors access to the firearm.

House Bill 10-413, or the "Minor Firearm Control Act,"

Camacho said, seeks to civilly hold any person who allow minors access to guns liable for any damage that the gun may cause whether to the minor, another person or property.

It also seeks to impose a fine of \$1,000 and 30 days imprisonment on persons who deliberately give a gun to a minor for an act constituting misdemeanor.

Those who fail to reasonably secure their guns and have it stocked away from minors will be slapped a \$500 and a three-day imprisonment also for misdemeanor.

Camacho, in his bill said, the move was made after the Legislature found that there is a prob-

lem in the Commonwealth on how minors easily gain access to guns.

Reps. Karl T. Reyes, Manuel A. Tenorio, Malua T. Peter, Oscar M. Babauta, Melvin O. Faisao, Joaquin G. Adriano and Stanley T. Torres have signed up for the bill.

In another bill meanwhile, Camacho moved to have vehicle license plates tagged according to villages as has been the practice in Guam.

House Bill 10-411 calls on the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to make a list of CNMI villages where each will be given a three-letter code (GAR for Garapan or TAN for Tanapag).

License plate's will hence begin with the three letters.

Camacho noted that such set up will be helpful to law enforcement officers.

Reps. Karl T. Reyes, Jesus T. Atiao, Oscar M. Babauta and Stabley Torres have signed up for the bill.

## Bill requires pet owners to leash dogs

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

SENATE Majority Leader Thomas P. Villagomez has filed a bill that would require all dog owners or caretakers to keep their dogs on a leash while at public places.

Senate Bill 10-82, or the "CNMI Leash" legislation, states that the leash should be no more than six feet. Violators would be fined \$75.

The bill states that many dog owners and caretakers bring dogs to pub-

lic places without placing the dogs on a leash.

Allowing dogs to run freely in public places "intrudes on the rights of others in the use and enjoyment of the public areas, and places others at risk of being attacked and bitten by the dogs."

The bill states that banning unleashed dogs in public places is needed to protect the public.

Meanwhile, the Senate Select Committee on Salary Adjustment created

by Senate President Jesus R. Sablan will hold a public hearing today on three wage hike bills.

Invited to testify are the directors of the Office of Personnel Management and the Office of Management and Budget, the Finance Secretary, the public auditor, the mayors of Saipan and the Northern Islands, other department heads and interested individuals.

The hearing will be held at the Senate chamber on Capitol Hill, and will start at 10:30 a.m.

# Put Yourself Back on Top

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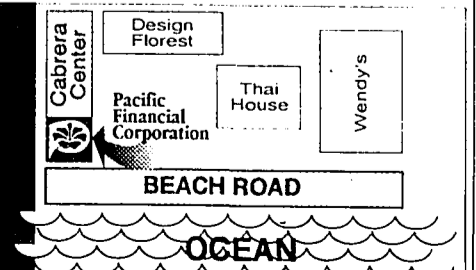
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## PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL RFP #97-007

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting proposals from firms interested in conducting impact studies on the Year Round Education versus Traditional Education and an impact study on the implementation of the Multi-Track System to affected schools. Proposal requirements are available at the Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan during regular working hours except Holidays. All proposals to be submitted must be facemarked "RFP97-007" and delivered to the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan, no later than 2:00 p.m., May 23, 1997. Any proposal received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

A non refundable fee of twenty five \$25.00 U.S. Dollars must accompany the proposal. The twenty five dollars maybe a cashier's check, certified check, or other forms acceptable by the Public School System and made payable to PSS Treasurer. The proposer is required to submit with his proposal a copy of his business license.

Should the Public School System foresee a need for discussion with prospective proposer, please be informed that discussion maybe conducted with responsible offeror for the purpose of clarification and to ensure a full understanding of, and responsiveness to the solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revision maybe permitted after obtaining submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offer.

The CNMI Public School System reserves the right to award on a single or multiple award or to reject any and all proposals for any reason and waive any defect in said proposal if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of the Public School System.

/s/ WILLIAM S. TORRES  
Commissioner of Education

/s/ LOUISE CONCEPCION  
Procurement & Supply Officer

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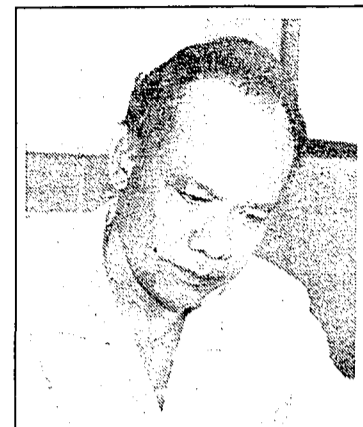
# CRM hits coral poaching

By Rick Alberto  
Variety News Staff  
THE Coastal Resources Man-

agement has expressed concern about the taking of live corals by some people from the Saipan

Lagoon. CRM Director Manuel C. Sablan said the same concern was aired by several participants in the recently two-day forum/workshop on the Saipan Lagoon. Sablan said people usually take the live corals for use as lime by betel nut chewers. "I'm very concerned with that thing," Sablan told the Variety, although he claimed this matter is under the jurisdiction of the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife.

He said no one should be allowed to get any live coral. At the same time, Sablan pointed out the problem of determining whether a certain coral is dead and therefore can



Manuel C. Sablan

be taken. "I believe it is the responsibility of the Fish and Wildlife to make that particular designation that it is dead coral and that

it is all right to pick it up for the traditional purpose of covering it into lime," Sablan said.

Sablan said the participants, who expressed their concern pointed out that the people they saw were mining live corals.

Live corals are usually found in shallow waters, Sablan said. "So they are always inside the lagoon, never outside the lagoon."

These live corals being picked, Sablan said, usually look like sprouting horns or fingers.

"These are the ones they (pickers) collect for the lime," he said. "That's calcium carbonate."

The corals are usually turned into lime by burning them.

## Senate eyes legislative solutions to ongoing public lands standoff

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff  
SENATORS yesterday announced that legislation for pending land transactions will be filed whenever the Senate holds a session.

In the resumption yesterday of the Senate Committee on Executive Appointment and Government Investigation hearing on public lands, Sen. David M. Cing (D-Tinian) said a bill on the land lease in Chalan Kanoa has already been prefiled.

The U.S. Postal Service wants to lease the land for a \$2 million postal facility, but with the ongoing deadlock on public lands, Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio has said that the CNMI is in danger of losing the federal funds

for the project. He said the land lease should be signed this week.

Cing, the committee chair, yesterday said if the lease agreement is "really urgent, we'll request the Senate president to call for a session so we could pass the bill for it immediately."

He said the bill would allow the governor to sign the land lease agreement.

Even with the standoff between the Legislature and the governor over the management of public lands, Cing said the Legislature will "set a direction."

Senate Vice President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota), in an interview before the hearing, said the governor has been blaming the Legislature for the current deadlock, "when it's him (Tenorio) who will not appoint members to the Board of Public Lands." (see related story)

Division of Public Lands Director Bertha T. Camacho yesterday handed to the committee a list of

pending land lease transactions which needed only the signature of the governor for approval.

Public Law 10-57, the bill for which Tenorio vetoed but became law after the Legislature's veto override, transferred authority over public lands from the governor to a yet to be formed Board of Public Lands.

Tenorio said he will veto any amendments to the law, and will even challenge its constitutionality in court.

Tenorio and Lt. Gov. Jesus C. Borja were invited in yesterday's hearings, but did not show up.

However, Borja's special assistant, Jack C. Muna, testified on behalf of the lieutenant governor, while acting Attorney General Robert Dunlap II answered questions for Tenorio.

Without Borja and Tenorio, who have opposing views on public lands management, discussions during yesterday's hearing were mainly about homestead lots.

## Many alien nurses not keen on NCLEX policy

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff  
MANY alien nurses at the Commonwealth Health Center are not interested in taking up the required National Council Licensure Examination.

Judith Avery, director of public health nursing development, disclosed that currently only eight nurses have sat for the NCLEX test.

"There are many who feel that they will not pass the exam so they are not spending the hundred plus dollars for the costs of the exam. They plan to return to the Philippines when their contract is up," Avery said.

The Filipino nurses who consist majority of nursing staff in the hospital, the director said, would agree to stay longer if allowed to practice without having to first pass the NCLEX.

"Those who pass the NCLEX will leave for work on the U.S. Mainland where salaries are higher and there is a greater chance for advancement," she said.

Avery said six have passed and of those, one already left the CNMI and three others have asked for letters of reference.

About 150 trained nurses will be replaced as a consequence of the requirement that all nurses pass the NCLEX by June 1, 1997.

The recruitment agencies claimed they cannot find qualified replacements for that large number of nurses in such a short period.

Avery explained that from the beginning of the NCLEX application process until the test results arrive can take over six months.

## 2 missing Kiribati fishermen found

TARAWA (Pacnews)—Two missing I-Kiribati fishermen have been found in the Marshall Islands after drifting in the open sea for about 5 months.

Taku Katatia, 38 from Tarawa and partner, Tamungo Teitikai 24, from Maiana, landed safely on Mili Atoll in the Marshall Islands last Thursday, Radio Kiribati reported.

Reports from Mili said they were in good health and were looked after by the

mayor before taken to Majuro where arrangements are being made to repatriate them to Tarawa, the capital of Kiribati.

The two were first reported missing on December 24 last year on an aluminium boat with a 15 horse power engine, but rescue boats and planes never spotted them.

Radio Kiribati says the incident shows that I-Kiribati fishermen continue to prove themselves as great survivors at sea.

## PNG director arrested

PORTMORESBY (Pacnews)—The director of the Individual Rights Community Advocacy Forum in Papua New Guinea, Poves Parkop has been arrested and charged by police.

He was charged with two counts of unlawful assembly - relation to the

Sandline issue, NBC reported.

Parkop's arrest brings to four the number of non-government organisation activists arrested by police for their involvement in the Sandline issue.

Parkop will appear before the District Court yesterday.

## INVITATION FOR PROPOSAL

The NAURU COUNCIL is inviting qualified, interested firms to submit a proposal for management of the Nauru Building, Susupe Village, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Proposals are sought for management, under contract, of the building and its environs, including marketing, leasing and maintenance, in exchange for a management fee.

Proposals may be submitted, in writing, by mail to Nauru Council, Post Office Box 590, Saipan, MP 96950, or by personal delivery to the Nauru Office, Sixth Floor, Nauru Building.

Arrangements for inspection of the Nauru Building and for obtaining information about the current status of building operations may be made by calling 234-6941 or by visiting the Nauru Building Office.

The Nauru Council reserves the right to reject any and all proposals or to engage a management firm by means of a negotiated contract.

## Elsewhere in the Pacific

# Solomon Islands, PNG formalize trade accord

SUVA (Pacnews)—Papua New Guinea and Solomon Islands have signed a bilateral technical cooperation agreement that will foster trade between them.

The agreement was signed at Valavala Estate, Savusavu in Fiji's northern Vanua Levu island, where the two leaders attended the 11th Summit of the Melanesian Spearhead Group,

media reports state. PNG acting prime minister John Giheno and his Solomon Islands counterpart, Solomon Mameloni said the agreement sets the framework for the two governments to formalise existing bilateral cooperation in various areas including education exchanges, provision of judges, magistrates and other technical experts and facilitate coop-

eration in other areas of mutual interest.

In a joint statement the two leaders said the agreement would complement the framework treaty guiding relationships between PNG and Solomon Islands signed in Port Moresby on September 16, 1995.

This, they said, was in line with their governments' intention to strengthen and diversify their bilateral relationship.

## Tonga hotel project to begin soon

NUKU'ALOFA (Pacnews) - Extension work for the International Dateline Hotel in Tonga will begin in August this year as planned despite the change over in the financial backing of the project.

One of the directors of the National Development Corporation Limited (NDCL), the agent for the Dateline project, leaves for the United States this month for signing of a new contract with a number of financial groupings in Los Angeles, Radio Tonga reported.

The NDCL recently suffered financial confusion when the chairman, Clare Morse, who held 35 percent shares of the funds for the hotel project, filed for business bankruptcy towards the end of last year in the state of Utah.

The NDCL has since recruited new financial partners.

The Dateline Hotel extension project covers the construction of 124 new rooms a restaurant and conference rooms plus the remodeling of the present hotel structure.

The project is expected to be completed in July 1999.

## Official: Illiteracy a problem in Vanuatu

PORT VILA (Pacnews)—Vanuatu's deputy prime minister and minister of education, Donald Kalpokas, says illiteracy is a problem in the country and the government is devoting all possible resources to eliminate the problem.

He said this year approximately 20 percent of the national budget has been allocated for this purpose, the Trading Post reported.

Kalpokas said with the support of

international donors and the non-government organisations, the government is working to eradicate illiteracy, by improving the training of pre-school teachers to ensure that all children receive a thorough grounding in the skills of reading and writing; and supporting a review of the work of the Vanuatu Teachers college to ensure that the general teaching of English and French is improved.

## Visitor arrivals to Fiji show strong growth

SUVA (Pacnews)—There's been a strong growth in visitor arrivals to Fiji in the first two months of this year, continuing a trend experienced in 1996.

The 26,000 visitors for February is a record for the month and represents a 17.7 increase over the same period in 1996 the Fiji Times reported.

But preliminary results indicate that the increase in March and April was more modest.

However, even though the two months indicate there will be an

other record year of visitor arrivals, according to industry sources, the results so far show strong overseas demand for tourist services.

But the problem, they say, continue to be on the supply side with shortage in up-market hotel accommodation and insufficient airline seats to meet potential demand from some areas. Fiji's Bureau of Statistics attributed much of the boost in arrivals for February to the hosting of the World Festival of Praise in Suva.

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**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**  
**PUBLIC NOTICE**

Mr. Juan S. Tenorio, Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), announces that NMHC will be conducting a Home Ownership Seminar on Wednesday, May 21, 1997, from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. at the Joeten-Kiyu Public Library. The purpose of this seminar is to provide information and the practical aspects in obtaining an ideal house. The event marks another step where the government agencies and private sectors working together to share the important functions and responsibilities in dealing with prospective homeowners.

NMHC anticipates to have speakers who will present topics on choosing a house, energy efficiency, fire safety, selection of contractor(s), construction methods, appraisal, shopping for a residential loan, title examination and insurance, project inspections, budget and house maintenance, permits (Building Safety office, Division of Public Lands and Environmental Quality, and Coastal Resources Management Office), etc...

Prospective homeowners who have yet to commence or complete construction of their house are encouraged to participate in this event. Anyone interested in receiving more details concerning the above, is encouraged to contact the NMHC at telephone numbers 234-7689/7690/6866/9447.

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

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# JAL: Osaka-Saipan flight to depend on load factor

By Rick Alberto  
Variety News Staff

THE continuance of Jāpan Airlines' direct flight service between Osaka and Saipan will depend on the average load factor, the airlines' Saipan station manager said.

"We need over 80 percent load factor in order to continue this direct flight service," Hideo Tomioka told the Variety in an interview. This means that a direct flight plane should have an average of over 80 percent seat occupancy.

JAL inaugurated the Osaka-Saipan five-times-weekly direct flight last April 2. On Tuesdays and Fridays, the flights remain by way of Guam.

Prior to this, tourists originating from the Kansai International Airport in Osaka came here via Guam where they had to make a one-hour stopover.

A review of the April passen-



Hideo Tomioka

ger record provided by JAL showed that 3,033 passengers took the Osaka-Saipan direct flights, or a load factor of 74 percent.

Tomioka said they were satisfied with this first-month figure, but pointed out that it should go up further to make the service viable in the long run.

During the same month last year, JAL carried 2,047 Japanese

# Governor guests on Jon Anderson Live

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio once again sits down and discusses the issues of the day on tonight's Jon Anderson Live. The topics highlighting Tenorio's guesting may include the Governor's recent choice of Saipan Mayor Jesus S. Guerrero as a running mate for the fall election, the recent agreement with the Chinese government, and the state of the island's labor situation.

Both the Governor and Jon will be taking your calls and comments on this edition of Jon Anderson Live.

Jon Anderson Live is a talk show where viewers can call in with their comments and questions on the is-



Jon Anderson

ues that matter in the CNMI. Jon Anderson Live airs every Wednesday night at 7:00 p.m. on KMCV Channel 7.



Bitter adversaries in a lawsuit involving local government powers, Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio (right) and Rota Mayor Joseph S. Inos (left) greet each other during last Saturday's Democratic Party fundraising dinner. To the governor's right is OMB Chief Eli D. Cabrera (center).

# Activities being planned for Historic Preservation Week

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio is set to proclaim May 18 to 24 1997 as Commonwealth Historic Preservation Week, the Historic Preservation Office said.

The event is held annually to promote greater awareness about the program and to stress the need to preserve and protect the Commonwealth's irreplaceable historic and cultural resources, HPO said in a news release.

To mark the week, the HPO has scheduled several activities which are open to the public.

Historic Preservation Week activities will begin on Monday, 19 May, with an artifact display and open house at the HPO's office at the Saipan International Airport.

The open house runs from Monday until Friday. On Tuesday, there will be guided tour to historic and prehistoric sites in the Naftan area of Saipan.

A number of features will be cleared which until recently was not accessible to the general public. This includes a Japanese Shinto Shrine underneath a limestone outcrop cave, four stone lined circular open gun emplacements, three cir-

cular concrete subterranean gun emplacements and one partially completed bunker with a 6 inch British Whitworth Gun.

On Wednesday, the HPO will take senior citizens (man am'ko) on a guided tour of several historic sites on Saipan while on Thursday, the public is invited to participate in the archaeological recording of an ancient Latte site in Kagman.

Historic Preservation Week activities will wrap up on Friday with an excavation at the Agingan archaeological site.

HPO offices on Rota and Tinian will also conduct events to mark preservation week.

These activities are scheduled to take place from 8:30 to 11:00 in the mornings and 1:30 to 4:00 in the afternoons.

On Saipan interested individuals, or teachers who wish to have their classes participate in any of the proposed activities are invited to contact the HPO at telephone # 664-2120 to sign up and get more information about these events. On Rota contact Pete Duenas at 533-0818 and on Tinian, Carmen Sanchez at 433-0220.

# ABC reminds on renewals

THE Alcoholic Beverage Control (ABC) Office reminds all licensed business establishments that applications for Alcoholic Beverage Control license renewals are now being accepted at the ABC Office located at the Department of Commerce Building on Capitol Hill.

The deadline for filing of renewal applications, including payment of fees, is June 30, 1997, a notice from ABC said.

All licensees whose renewals fees remain unpaid as of June 30, 1997 will automatically be suspended pursuant to 4 CMC Section 5528. Licensees which remain suspended as of July 31,

1997, due to unpaid renewal fees, will automatically be revoked and the Secretary of Commerce shall not issue a renewal license.

If a license is revoked as of July 31, 1997, a new application must be submitted for consideration by the Secretary of Commerce, the notice read.

Application forms are now available and may be received from the ABC Office anytime between 7:30 am and 4:30 pm on weekdays except on holidays.

For more information please call the ABC Office at telephone numbers 664-3060 or 664-3065.

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# Judge recuses self from murder case

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

SUPERIOR Court Associate Judge Timothy Bellas has disqualified himself from presiding the case of two suspects in the fatal mauling of a Filipino security guard at Nikko Hotel.

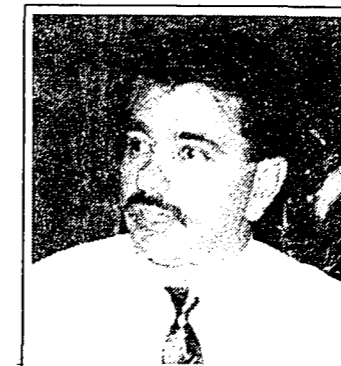
Presiding Judge Alexandro Castro said in his order issued yesterday that Bellas has been forced to recuse himself due to an on-going conflict.

Theodore R. Mitchell, counsel for defendant Sidney Tenorio Camacho, is representing Bellas' wife in the judge divorce case.

Following the recusal of Bellas, Castro tossed the case to Associate Judge Miguel Demapan.

Castro said the jury trial in the case is still currently set for Nov. 24, 1997.

Sidney Camacho and his cousin Alex Agulto Camacho were charged with murder in the second degree and aggravated assault and battery.



Timothy Bellas

Court information showed that the two defendants mauled Bernardo M. Tique, who was on duty at Nikko Hotel last Dec. 1. Tique then died in a Philippine hospital as a result of the assault.

The defendants reportedly got kicked when the victim asked them to leave the poolside where they and other companions were swimming. The pool was closed at the time.

# Mitsubishi allows new CUC scheme for loan payments

By Rick Alberto  
Variety News Staff

CREDITOR Mitsubishi Corp. has allowed the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to buy a higher-interest-earning time certificate of deposit, or TCD, from which the CUC withdraws to make its payments.

According to CUC's financial report as of Feb. 28, which was submitted to the board of directors early this month, the TCD was earning a 4.9375 percent interest per annum.

Before this the CUC had only one option: to deposit its semi-annual payments in an escrow account that earned only 1 percent interest p.a.

CUC made a loan with Mitsubishi in the amount of \$15.9 million for the Saipan

power plant project. Since 1992 Mitsubishi has required the CUC to deposit monthly \$200,000 with the Asahi Bank, Ltd. in an escrow account.

From this account the CUC withdraw its amortization payments to Mitsubishi every March and September.

Because of the bank account's low interest, CUC Executive Director Timothy Villagomez and Comptroller Yenny Tom requested Mitsubishi last February to change the escrow account requirement.

One option the officials requested was for the CUC to make direct payments to Mitsubishi and not through a Japanese bank.

Apparently the direct payment scheme was not granted.

According to the financial re-

port, Mitsubishi informally agreed to the purchase of a TCD.

"When a payment is due, CUC will transfer funds from the escrow account and/or time certificate of deposit to Mitsubishi's account," the report explained.

The report said the CUC first purchased a 31-day TCD last Feb. 28 for \$155,000 with an interest rate of 4.75 p.a.

When this matured one month after, the CUC added another \$155,000 to the maturity value for another purchase of a 30-day TCD for \$310,634, with a 4.9375 interest p.a.

CUC's debts as of Feb. 28 stood at about \$6 million, the report said.

CUC's escrow account had a balance of over \$2.3 million, the report also said.

# Pohnpei landslide relief goods still pour in

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT of Community and Cultural Affairs has raised close to a hundred boxes of relief goods and an estimated \$4,000 in cash for last month's victims of the Pohnpei landslides.

"And we're still getting more," said DCCA Secretary Thomas A. Tebuteb.

"We have a lot more than what we had earlier sent... we're receiving a very positive response from the community," he added.

Among the donors, he said, are Pacific Islands Club which donated a truckload of relief goods; Saipan Stevedore Inc. which issued \$2,000 and the Tan Holdings Corp. which gave out \$1,000.

"(donations) just keep coming in," Tebuteb said.

A shipment of about 28 boxes of relief goods and \$6,000 were sent to Pohnpei on May 1 as part of CNMI's efforts to assist the island state in recovering from the landslides which buried houses and left about 20 persons dead last April 20.

The second shipment, Tebuteb said, is scheduled to be sent on May 30.

The relief drive came in the midst of calls made by Senate and House leaders who urged CNMI citizens to assist the victims.

"Without help of caring neighbors, it will take the remaining family members a long time to restore what was lost," said Senate President Jesus Sablan and Speaker Diego Benavente in a joint communiqué.

"It is not right that in the midst of their mourning for lost loved ones, they should have to (be) alone (in bearing) the burden of seeking to rebuild their homes and lives," they added.

Extending assistance to neighboring islands, the leaders said, "is keeping with the highest Pacific traditions of hospitality, caring and community support."

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(From left to right) Danny Camacho, Edgardo Villano, Herminta Mullican, Roberto Du, Yoko Watanabe and Alfredo Absenares (Not in the picture are) Juan Blas, Lee Vanes, Rodelio Pasamba, James Sablan.

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See complete rules for details.

**GO WELL GO SHELL**





Mexico's President Ernesto Zedillo, left, and Philippines President Fidel Ramos inspect an honor guard during Ramos' official reception at the National Palace Monday, in Mexico City. Ramos, on a five-day visit to Mexico, will travel on to Panama. AP

## Philippines, Mexico share 'experience of rebellion'

By TRINA KLEIST  
MEXICO CITY (AP) - Philippine President Fidel V. Ramos has pushed for trade, investment, and cultural and technological exchanges during his five-day state visit here.

But in a brief private meeting Monday, Ramos and Mexican President Ernesto Zedillo talked about another area of mutual interest: fighting guerrilla uprisings.

"Our president said the most important thing is patience, constructive patience," Philippines government spokesman Hector Villanueva said.

Both countries have faced ethnic, peasant and religious rebellions. The Philippines has largely resolved its problems; Mexico hasn't.

In Mexico, a mostly Indian rebel group, the Zapatista National Liberation Army rose up in the southeastern state of Chiapas 3 1/2 years ago.

In 1996, the Marxist group Popular Revolutionary Army, or EPR, appeared for the first time in several southern states.

A few other armed, clandestine

groups are believed to be operating in Mexico as well.

Negotiations with the Zapatistas have foundered and a partial accord on Indian rights and limited autonomy continues unimplemented.

Meanwhile, dozens of suspected EPR leaders have been jailed on sometimes questionable charges. Mexican human rights workers have criticized the militarization of peasant communities throughout the country and of police forces in Mexico City.

In the past decade, the Philippines has faced rebel movements from both the far right and the far left, as well as a Muslim separatist movement on the

island of Mindanao.

Similar to the Zapatistas and hundreds of unarmed peasant movements in Mexico, the issue behind the Muslim separatist movement was the recuperation of ancestral lands, Villanueva said.

But now, the former leader of the separatist movement governs the Mindanao Muslim Autonomous Region, and negotiations continue with leftist groups, Villanueva said.

Ramos encouraged Zedillo to continue on the path of seeking accommodation with rebel groups within legal frameworks, Villanueva said.

## RP to look into Chinese protest over 'incursion'

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - The Philippines will investigate a protest by Beijing over the Philippine navy forcing Chinese boats from an area

claimed by both countries, according to President Fidel Ramos.

But Ramos urged China to also probe incursions by armed Chinese ships last month near two Philippine-held islands in the disputed Spratly Islands, said a presidential office statement issued in Manila.

The Chinese protest is the latest in a series of spats between the two countries arising from territorial disputes in the South China Sea.

"There's really no need for protest and counter-protest if we only follow the code of conduct that already has been agreed to by both governments," the statement quoted Ramos as telling reporters in Mexico, where he is making a state visit.

He was referring to a bilateral code of conduct in the Spratlys, which prohibits "provocative" actions such as sending armed ships into the area without prior notice.

China protested after Philippine navy ships on April 30 drove away a Chinese speedboat and two fishing boats from Scarborough Shoal, about 250 kilometers (155 miles) off the western Philippine province of Zambales, the statement said.

It said Beijing claimed that Filipino fishermen later landed on the shoal, destroyed Chinese markers and hoisted a Philippine flag.

News reports said Chinese Ambassador to the Philippines Guan Dengming lodged the protest in Manila last Friday, explaining that the Chinese ships were in Scarborough for an unspecified "youth activity."

Early last month, five armed Chinese ships and two smaller boats were sighted near two Philippine-held islands in the Spratlys. The Philippine government protested the stay of the seven Chinese ships as a provocation, and the ships later left the area.

China never responded to Manila's protest but issued a statement explaining the ships were in the area on a technical mission.

The Philippines and China are among six countries with overlapping claims to the Spratlys, a chain of atolls and reefs believed to be rich in oil and natural gas.

In another incident, the Philippine navy arrested 18 Chinese fishermen in mid-April when their two boats entered Philippine waters without permits on their way to the Pacific's Marshall Islands.

# Battle for Kinshasa looms

By TOM COHEN  
KINSHASA, Zaire (AP) - A U.S.-backed effort to avoid a final battle for Zaire's capital appeared to waver Monday, with the rebel alliance calling a general strike to coincide with pivotal peace talks in Zaire's civil war.

Should there be a breakdown of talks Wednesday between President Mobutu Sese Seko and rebel leader Laurent Kabila, the two sides may have to fight it out, said mediator Thabo Mbeki, South Africa's deputy president.

"If agreement is not reached, in reality, it opens the way to a military solution being the only thing on the cards," Mbeki told reporters in Capetown. Mbeki leaves Tuesday to help set up the talks aboard a South African ship off the coast of Congo.

Other signs indicated fear of an impending battle for Kinshasa. The U.S. Embassy cut its staff from 37 to 25 people on Monday, and U.S. officials stepped up preparations for evacuating an estimated 300 American citizens from the city.

Local newspapers and leaflets distributed in Kinshasa warned residents to stay home and soldiers to remain in their barracks during the three-day strike, called by the rebels and political opposition groups beginning Wednesday.

Wednesday's talks, backed by the United Nations and South Africa, must overcome deep divisions between Mobutu and Kabila before they can even take place.

Agreement on two major issues must be reached - the composition of a transitional authority and when Mobutu will retire as president and leave the country.

The rebels insist Mobutu must resign immediately and surrender power to a transitional authority led by Kabila, or face a rebel attack on Kinshasa. But Mobutu has refused to quit, saying he would give up the presidency only after elections to choose a new leader.

Kabila's rebels have rejected the election of Roman Catholic Archbishop Laurent Monsengwo Pasinya as president of parliament, the constitutional successor to Mobutu. One scenario for ending Zaire's conflict had involved Mobutu resigning for health reasons, and Monsengwo then handing power to a transitional leadership led by Kabila.

But a rebel spokesman said Monsengwo was too close to Mobutu, and the rebels intend to continue their advance on Kinshasa even if Wednesday's talks proceed.

Kabila claims his fighters are within 30 miles (50 kilometers) of Kinshasa. Mobutu's elite forces, allegedly aided by former Angolan rebel fighters, are likely to put up stiff resistance.

Information Minister Kin-kiey Mulumba told reporters Monday that fierce fighting continued near Kenge, 120 miles (200 kilometers) east of Kinshasa, and government soldiers were making a defensive stand.

But others in the capital, including military sources, said the defensive line was shaping up much closer, along the main road that runs past the capital's airport.

There are also fears that Zairian army soldiers will rampage, repeating the pillaging sprees of 1991 and

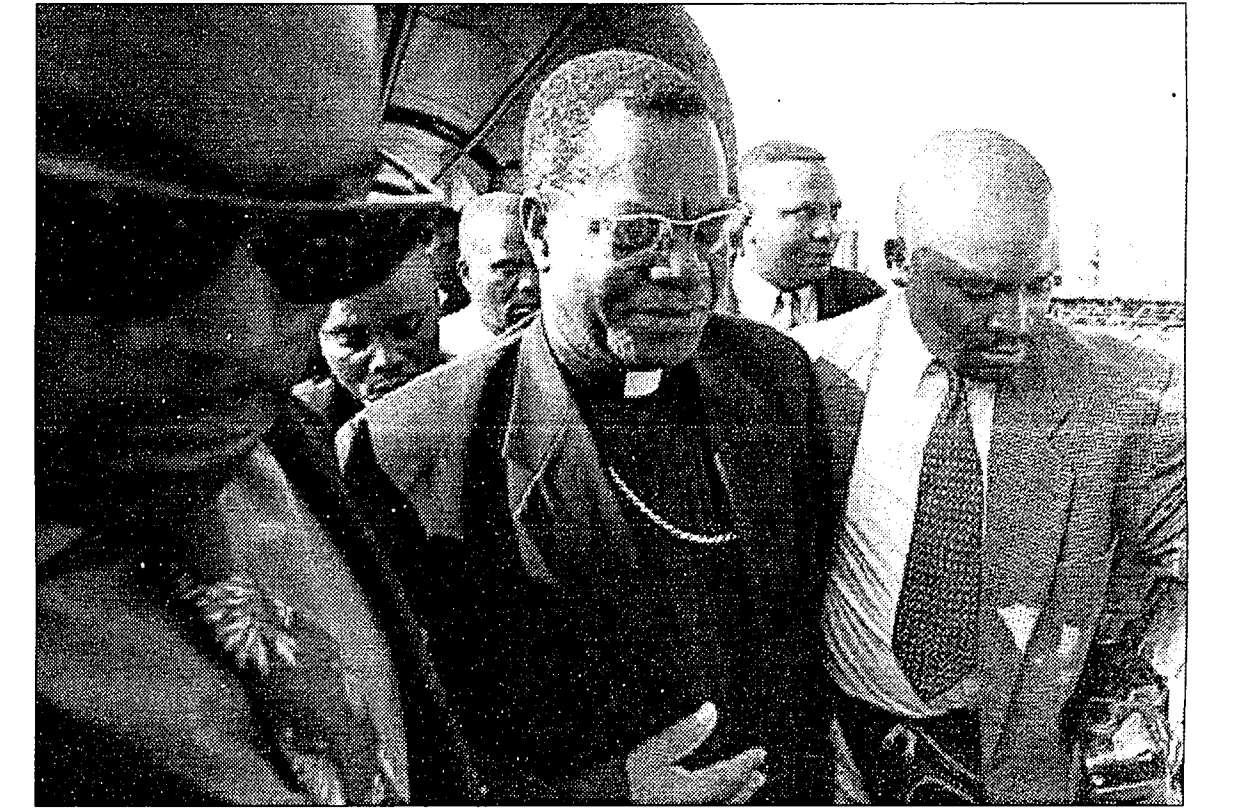
1993 that killed hundreds.

Meanwhile, another 6,000 malnourished, sick Rwandan refugees were found in a camp previously sealed off by Kabila's rebels, U.N. officials said Monday.


The U.N. team said more people were emerging from the dense tropical forest near Obilo, 50 miles (80 kilometers) south of Kisangani, Zaire's main city in the northeast. The rebels had blocked access to Obilo since May 2, after reports of attacks on refugees by Zairian villagers and rebel soldiers.

"The people were clearly in a desperate situation," U.N. refugee spokesman Julian Fleet said by telephone from Kisangani. "They seemed exhausted. There were corpses lying around the camp, next to where people were cooking and sleeping."

The estimated 80,000 Rwandan refugees in central Zaire are part of the 1.2 million Hutus who fled to eastern Zaire in 1994 fearing retribution for the slaughter of 500,000 minority Tutsis, organized by the extremist Hutu government.



Archbishop Laurent Monsengwo, center, arrives in Kinshasa with bodyguards Monday. Monsengwo could become interim leader of Zaire in case President Mobutu Sese Seko steps down. Rebel leader Laurent Kabila refuses to accept Monsengwo's nomination. AP



COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
Commonwealth Development Authority

## PUBLIC NOTICE

(MAY 8, 1997)

### CDA Lifts Moratorium on Commercial Loans

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Froilan C. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus C. Borja through the CDA Board of Directors, the Chairman of the Board, Juan S. Tenorio announced today that the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) Board of Directors approved by Resolution to conditionally lift the moratorium on commercial loans. Commercial loans such as commercial buildings/apartment rentals can only be entertained via commercial banks' participation with a 90 percent guaranty from CDA. All others will be entertained, directly or via commercial banks' participation.

The CDA Board determined it necessary and appropriate to place a moratorium on commercial loans for apartment buildings and commercial buildings. The moratorium was made necessary first by the reduced demand of apartments and commercial space and the subsequent lower prices lessees (renters) were willing to pay in some cases less than the cost of the space. CDA by its Act cannot compete with commercial banks and its lower interest rates could be considered as a form of competition.

The CDA Board has determined that in specific areas there exists the need for apartments and/or commercial space, therefore, CDA plans to lift its moratorium and will commence when required by a commercial bank at 90 percent guarantee of loans to qualified borrowers.

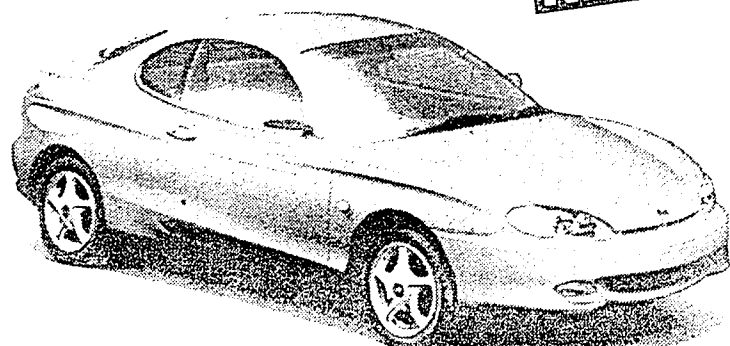
The potential borrowers are advised to contact his or her commercial bank and apply for a commercial loan under the terms and conditions of the particular bank. The Bank officials will determine whether or not a CDA guarantee is needed to improve the borrowers credibility and will so advise the borrower and CDA. At which time, the borrower may make an application to CDA for said guarantee. All guarantees are subject to the terms and conditions of CDA and subject to CDA Board approval.

The CDA will begin accepting applications May 15, 1997.

/s/ JUAN S. TENORIO  
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

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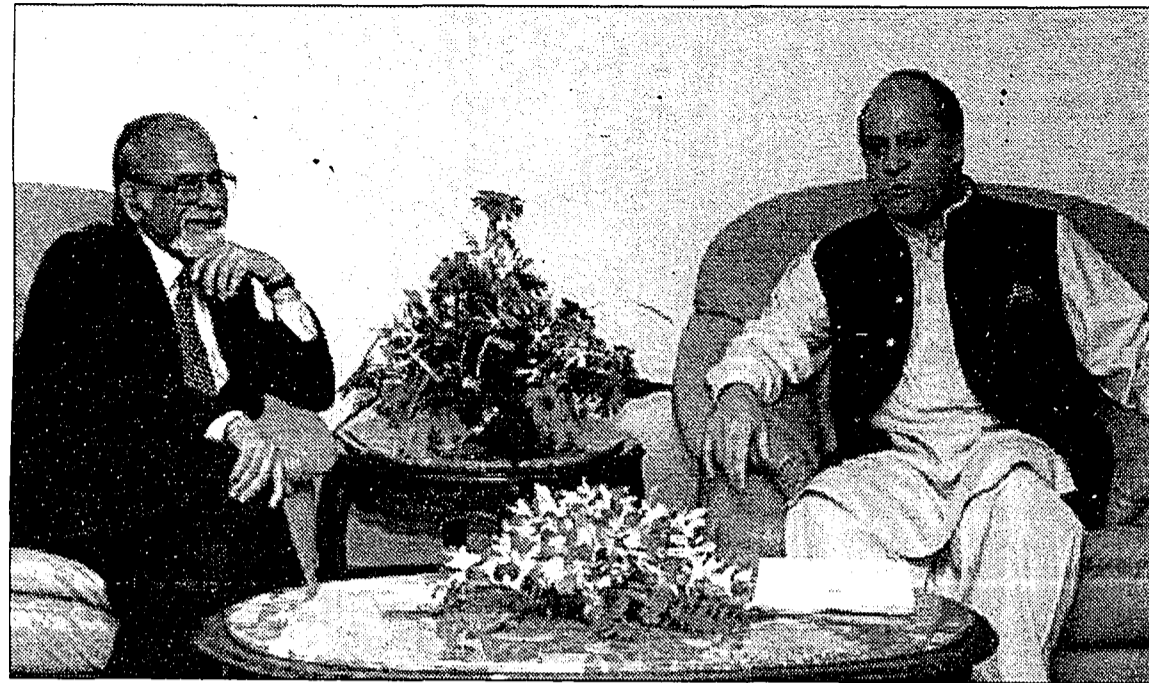
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Indian Prime Minister I.K. Gujral, left, chats with Pakistan Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif at the Kurumba Island resort Monday, a first meeting between leaders of two hostile nations in four years. AP

**Food, poetry ease tension at India-Pakistan PMs' meeting**

By RANJAN ROY MALE, The Maldives (AP) - Their nations are hostile, but that didn't make for a cold, businesslike first contact between the prime ministers of India and Pakistan.

India's Inder Kumar Gujral and Pakistan's Nawaz Sharif spoke in Urdu, Pakistan's main language, Punjabi, spoken in both countries, and English during their 1 1/2-hour meeting Monday.

Punjabi is the mother tongue for Gujral, born in Jhelum and Sharif who is from Lahore. Both men were born in towns barely 200 kilometers (124 miles) apart in Punjab, a province now divided between the two nations.

A Chinese lunch from the Ming Court restaurant of the Kurumba Island resort was "spiced up" by their casual exchanges.

Gujral underscored the need to continue contacts, citing a couplet written by Faiz Ahmed Faiz, a famous Pakistani poet. "Guftugu bandh na ho, Baat se baat chale," he told Sharif. It means, "Talks should not end, one should lead to another."

Indian Foreign Secretary Salman Haider said the two leaders displayed a "great deal of explicit and implicit understanding of each other. There was a strong human element in the talks."

When asked his impressions of Gujral, Sharif replied: "I like the man very much."

**DON'T BEAT THE RED LIGHT, OBEY SAFE DRIVING RULE**

**Pollution causes huge fish kill in China lake**

BEIJING (AP) - More than 500,000 kilos (500 tons) of carp were found dead and floating on a lake in central China, killed by heavy pollution, a Chinese newspaper reported Monday.

The dead carp covered the surface of Moshui Lake in an area 10 meters (three yards) wide stretching several kilometers (more than a mile), the Economic Daily (Jingji Ribao) reported.

A photograph showed a rowboat surrounded by floating fish so dense the surface of the water could not be seen. The stench was overpowering when a reporter visited the lake on May 6, the report said.

It quoted a local official as saying the fish kill was caused by heavy

pollution. The economic loss was estimated at at least 2 million yuan (\$ 241,000).

Moshui is one of three large lakes in Wuhan, one of China's main industrial cities.

Before the 1980s, clear water in the lake sustained many kinds of aquatic life, including soft-shelled turtles, silver carp and clams. But as Wuhan's development speeded up under national economic reforms, the lake became a cesspool of sewage and industrial waste, the report said.

Recently, only two kinds of common carp survived in its waters. There has been much talk about cleaning up the lake, but it was "all thunder and little rain," the report said.

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To enter, fill out the official entry form on the back of your non-winning game piece and deposit it into the bin at any Mobil station or at any McDonald's restaurant.

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Grand prize drawing will be held at 2pm on Saturday, May 31, 1997 at the Maite Mobil service station and McDonald's Express.

Some restrictions apply. See official rules at every participating Mobil service station and McDonald's for details and how to obtain a game piece without purchase. Game ends May 31, 1997 or when last game piece is given.

Void where prohibited. Game open to all legal residents of Guam and Saipan except the employees and immediate families of Mobil and McDonald's, their affiliates or subsidiaries, advertising agency, game supplier and any other company involved with the design, production, execution or distribution of the game ticket.

**Int'l relief reaches Iran**

By AFSHIN VALINEJAD HAJIABAD, Iran (AP) - The first international aid supplies trickled into Iran's earthquake-devastated northeast on Monday, and the government vowed to help survivors of last weekend's 7.1 magnitude quake help rebuild their homes and their lives.

Trucks rumbled into the devastated mountain villages carrying tents, blankets, clothes and food for many of the 50,000 people made homeless by the disaster, which the government said killed at least 2,400. A pro-government newspaper in the capital, Resalat, put the death toll at 4,000.

Survivors cheered and mobbed the motorcade of President Hashemi Rafsanjani when he toured the area. At one point, he climbed out of his car to hug an elderly woman who lost her husband. He promised the crowd he would start rebuilding homes within a month and pledged interest-free loans and grants to surviving families.

"We have no other choice but to surrender to our fate," Rafsanjani said. "There are some things that we cannot do, but there are things that we cannot do, like compensate (for) the lives of your relatives."

Searches for loved ones often ended in grief, as villagers in northeastern Iran continued to dig through the dusty wreckage that once was their homes.

One rescue worker in the village of Ardakul switched off his bulldozer when its bucket hit something soft.

**Officials estimate earthquake damage at \$67M**



Hashemi Rafsanjani

Digging with a shovel for a half-hour, Hossan Horshaster uncovered the body of a 27-year-old man clutching his dead 3-year-old son to his chest. The man's wife was found dead on Sunday.

There also were moments of great joy. In Abiz village, Alireza Rayee, 32, was pulled from the rubble Sunday after being trapped for 27 hours. In tears, his mother, Fatemeh, cradled her son's head in her arms and shouted: "God has given my son a second life."

Hardest hit by the quake was a 60-mile (100-kilometer) stretch between the towns of Birjand and Qaen, near the Afghan border. Many of the mud

huts that dot the region collapsed in the quake or during the scores of aftershocks.

Rafsanjani, who must by law step down at the end of his second four-year term in August, interrupted a trip to Turkmenistan to visit the stricken farming area.

Thousands of people mobbed his motorcade, some clinging to his car. Others chanted the traditional greeting, "Khoshamadi," or "Welcome."

Rafsanjani's envoy, Jalil Besharati, promised 500,000 riyals - or \$ 167 - to each person who lost a

relative, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported.

A successor to Rafsanjani will be chosen during May 23 elections, but all four candidates in the tightly controlled race support Iran's fundamentalist Muslim establishment.

Iranian officials estimated the damage at \$ 66.7 million, but there were conflicting reports on the number of casualties. Iranian state TV said at least 4,000 people were killed or injured. Earlier, the government said 2,400 people died and 6,000 were injured. The pro-government newspaper Resalat put

the death toll at 4,000. The differing figures could not be reconciled.

Hundreds of thousands of dollars in blankets, tents, clothes and food from Japan, France, Britain, Italy, Russia and neighboring Gulf countries began reaching the victims.

The United States contributed \$ 100,000 to the Red Cross on Monday to assist victims of the Iranian earthquake.

"We've had our disputes with the government of Iran for many, many years, but we don't have any arguments with the people of Iran," U.S. State Department spokesman Nicholas Burns said. "The people of Iran obviously are in need of support."



Hundreds of passengers, including the Barcelona soccer team, evacuate an Iberia jet at the Barcelona airport Monday after a local newspaper called to say they received a call warning that a bomb was on the plane. AP

**Gadhafi backed 'holy war' in Nigeria, says archbishop**

LAGOS, Nigeria (AP) - Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi's visit to Nigeria last week promoted religious bigotry and persecution, a Roman Catholic archbishop contends.

Olubunmi Okogie, the archbishop of Lagos, accused Gadhafi of encouraging "jihad," or holy war, against Christians by telling Nigerians that "Muslims all over the world should reject all things that were not Islamic."

Such statements "could threaten the peaceful coexistence of all religions in Nigeria," Okogie said at Sunday worship services.

The west African nation's population of 100 million includes large Christian and Muslim minorities. In a jab at Nigeria's autocratic Muslim leader, Gen. Sani Abacha, Okogie said that permitting Gadhafi to arrive in Nigeria with 700 bodyguards was a provocation.

"I want to ask our leaders that if other African leaders come to Nige-

ria, will they be allowed such an unusual privilege?" Okogie said.

Nigeria has formed new alliances since Western nations imposed sanctions for its execution of human rights activists in 1995.

Gadhafi's flight to the Nigerian city of Abuja on Friday violated a United Nations ban on flights out of Libya.

The U.N. Security Council imposed the ban to force the surrender of two Libyans wanted in the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, which killed 270 people.

Eager to flout American attempts to isolate Gadhafi, Abacha refused a U.S. request to detain the aircraft on which Gadhafi flew. He also awarded the Libyan leader Nigeria's highest honor, calling him a true African leader.

Gadhafi told a crowd of 50,000 Nigerians that he wanted to show off Islam's strength against Europe and America.

**Rebels kill 11 villagers**

PATNA, India (AP) - Leftist rebels shot to death 11 villagers in a jungle of eastern India on Monday, police said.

Guerrillas from the Maoist Communist Centre kidnapped the villagers as they traveled in a jeep in the Kodarma area of the state of Bihar, a mica producing region.

They were bodies were discovered in a jungle area 250 kilometers (155 miles) south of Patna, the Bihar state capital.

Police are searching for the rebels in nearby forests, said a police official, who spoke under customary condition of anonymity.

The Maoist Communist Centre is one of many groups that broke away from India's main communist party in the 1960s. It says it fights for a redistribution of Bihar's land from upper-caste landlords to low-caste peasants.

**FIRST ANNIVERSARY ROSARY**

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**JOSEPH ALEPUYO DELEON GUERRERO**

Wish to invite all our relatives and friends for the First Anniversary Rosary of our beloved son "JOSEPH ALEPUYO DELEON GUERRERO" which will commence on May 14, 1997 and end on May 22, 1997.

Nightly rosary is being said at the residence of Mayor and Mrs. Jesus S. Deleon Guerrero (GERE) in Kagman at 8:00 p.m.

On the final day, Thursday, May 22, 1997, rosary will be said at 12:00 noon and Mass will be at 5:00 p.m. at San Vicente Church.

Dinner will follow right after the Mass at the above said residence.

Please join us.  
Mayor & Mrs. Jesus S. Deleon Guerrero (GERE) & Family

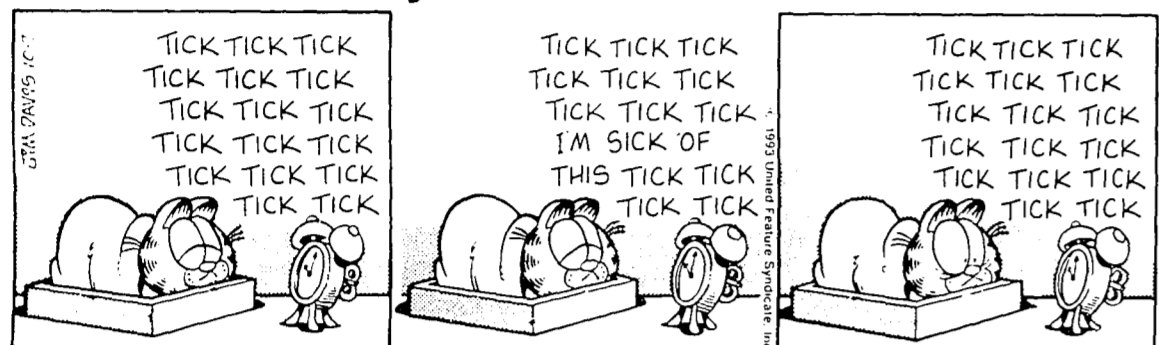




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# STELLA WILDER YOUR BIRTHDAY

By Stella Wilder

Born today, you are a versatile individual, and though you may seem to others to be without direction, the fact is that you are the maker of your own aesthetic...

your daily guide.

THURSDAY, MAY 15 TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — The decision of a friend or relative may not sit well with you today...

You are going to want to do things in a manner that highlights a few particular skills today. Someone in charge is watching you!

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# CLOSERS

There are only two places in the United States where readership of both Gourmet and Family Circle is higher than the U.S. average — Nevada and Alaska.

that the pesticides in these collars are dangerous — many contain DDPV and Piperonylbutoxide, which have been linked to cancer and liver damage.

According to an advocacy group called Citizens Against Waste, the federally funded National Institute of Mental Health has spent \$4.7 million to study slang terms used by New York City Puerto Ricans...

# CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS and DOWN crossword puzzle clues and grid. Includes 'Answer to Previous Puzzle' section.

© 1997 United Feature Syndicate

Grid for the crossword puzzle with numbered squares.

# Dolphins...

Continued from page 20

In the girls' action, Nicole Wabul won the shotput and discus events while school mate Eun Jung Lee took the 400 m to keep GCA within contention for the title.

Lady Dolphins a slim 28-22 lead over the Lady Eagles. MBA is third in the overall standings with zero points.

Clara Planas in shotput, Lupe Guerrero in 400m and the 4x100m relay team gave HJHS the important wins while SCS relied on Momoko Kobayashi, Davina Palacios and Jake Acacio's triumphs in the discus, 100m and 200m events to remain in contention.

Table with columns: Place, Name, School, T/D/H. Lists results for PSS Interscholastics Jr. High School Track & Field Results.

Table with columns: Place, Name, School, T/D/H. Lists results for Marianas Baptist Acad. 10920.

Table with columns: Place, Name, School, T/D/H. Lists results for Marianas Baptist Acad. 10920 (continued).

Table with columns: Place, Name, School, T/D/H. Lists results for Marianas Baptist Acad. 10920 (continued).

Table with columns: Place, Name, School, T/D/H. Lists results for Marianas Baptist Acad. 10920 (continued).

# KidSpot FIND THE WORDS. THE NAMES OF THE PICTURE CLUES ARE

HIDDEN IN THE SQUARE. CIRCLE EACH WORD, GOING ACROSS, DOWN OR DIAGONALLY.

Word search puzzle with illustrations of a bat, eagle, owl, cow, shells, and a knife.

Movie advertisement for 'The Devil's Own' featuring Harrison Ford and Brad Pitt. Includes showtimes and 'The Movie House' logo.

# 1997 Mens Major Baseball League

Compiled by Francisco D. Palacios for the Variety

## Batting Leaders Based on 22 or more times at bat

Table with columns: Player, Team, AB, Hit, Batting. Lists top batting performers.

## Pitching Leaders:

Table with columns: Player, Team, G, Inn, ER, Hit, W/L, ERA. Lists top pitching performers.

# Callahan...

Continued from page 20

Yumul of Miller Lite are in fourth and fifth spots with their .423 and .385 averages respectively.

Ed Kapileo, Tony Dela Cruz, Glenn Camacho, Wilber Ada and Jojo Attao are also in the top 10 batters of the league.

Glenn and Ada are tied with similar 8 of 23 tallies for an identical .348 hitting norms.

Nelson gave up 22 hits and six earned runs in 30 innings while Callahan yielded 14 hits and three earned runs in 15 innings.

loss slate. Nelson also leads the strikeouts race with 41, 10 in front of second running Elmer Sablan.

Kautz Glass Glazers' Roy Magofina is in third with his ERA of 2.40 while Ryan Kenen of Team Palau is one step behind with an ERA of 3.00.

Magofina gave up 17 hits and four earned runs in 15 innings. Kenen, on the other hand, surrendered 19 hits that resulted to eight earned runs in 24 innings he manned the mound for Team Palau.

The Wheels' heart and soul gave up 55 hits that led to 21 earned runs in 43 innings for an ERA of 4.39, good for fifth spot in the overall standings.

In the other categories, Callahan paces the most runs department with 17 while John Acosta leads the doubles with four.

# Sportsbits

ICBL 2nd Tournament The Inter Commercial Basketball League is set to hold its second tournament on May 24 at the CMS Basketball Court.

SSA Coed League The Saipan Softball League will have a meeting today, 5:30 p.m. at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym Conference Room.

LL Division Managers and Coaches Meeting The CNMI Little League Baseball will have managers and coaches meeting today, 6 p.m. at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym Conference Room.

Youth League Meeting Organizers of the 1997 Youth Basketball League will have a meeting today, 12 noon, at the Gilbert C. Ada

Gym Conference Room. Coaches, team managers and interested individuals are encouraged to come and take part in the planning of the forthcoming youth basketball league.

Swim Classes The Saipan Swim Club will be offering beginner to advanced swim lessons to children from school age and to adults.

Pre-registration is needed for classes are limited. For more information, call Bill Sakovich at 234-1001; Jean Sakovich at 234-6323; and Jess Ronquilo of Kan Pacific at 322-5226.

SAVA Tournament The Saipan Amateur Volleyball Association will hold an islandwide volleyball tournament on June 2. The tournament will feature competitions in the Men's, Women's, Boys' and Girls' divisions.

# SPORTS



## Pierce, Smith strike in Arafura Games

# NMI bags 2 gold, 3 silver

**By Erel A. Cabatbat**  
Variety News Staff  
JUSTIN Pierce broke John Sakovich's 200m breaststroke record en route to winning the gold medal while Stuart Smith won his age group in the triathlon as CNMI raised its medal haul to five in the ongoing 1997 Arafura Games in Darwin, Australia.

Pierce clocked two minutes and 36.74 seconds to spark the medal rush for the swimming team. Moreover, Pierce erased the old mark of 2:37.51 set by Sakovich.

He also broke the old mark in the 15-16 age bracket set by David Palacios by 7.01 seconds.

The 15-year swimmer likewise finished with a personal best time of 1:10.89 in the 100m butterfly in gaining an alternate spot.

Smith, on the other hand, gave

CNMI its second gold medal in the games by topping the 35-39 year age bracket in the triathlon.

Smith submitted an accumulated time of one hour and seven minutes to finish eighth overall in the ironman event.

The triathlon featured a 1.5 kilometer lake swim, 40km bike run through Darwin and a 10km run. The event attracted more than 80 entries.

Tracy Feger, Jennifer Pierce and Jacoby Winkfield hauled one silver medal apiece in their respective age divisions to provide the other highlights of the swimming team's 1997 campaign.

Feger battled Darlene Rahmawati to a neck-to-neck race in the 100m backstroke before yielding the gold to her Indonesian rival by 1.01 seconds.

Rahmawati bagged the gold with a time of 1:13.50. The 14-year old Feger timed in 1:14.51 for the silver.

In her other events, Feger wound up fourth in the 200m backstroke chopping five seconds off

her personal best as she checked in behind Indonesia, Fiji and Northern Territory.

She also finished sixth and seventh overall in the 100m freestyle and 50M butterfly with clockings of 1:06.97 and 34.00 seconds.

Jennifer won the silver medal in her favorite event, the 50m breaststroke, clocking 37.82 to wound up second behind Zima Peni of Papua New Guinea. The bronze medal went to an Indonesian.

**Continued on page 19**

### 1997 Arafura Games' softball tournament

## All Stars repeat over Brunei, 15-3

**By Erel A. Cabatbat**  
Variety News Staff  
PETE ROBERTO slammed a grand slam in the top of the fifth inning to lead the CNMI All Stars to a repeat win over Brunei, 15-3 in just five innings in the softball competitions of the 1997 Arafura Games in Darwin, Australia.

Roberto went 2 of 3 with three

runs and knocked in four RBIs while Greg Camacho scored twice and drove in one rbi after connecting two hits in three attempts at bat in leading the All Stars to their third win in four starts.

In their previous encounter, CNMI prevailed over the same Brunei squad with a 3-2 decision.

Jess Manibusan took the win after pitching for four strong in-

nings. Manibusan gave up five hits, three runs (one earned) as he struck out three batters without issuing a walk in the All Stars' abbreviated win over Brunei.

Ray Seman also had big game for the All Stars going 2 of 2 from the plate. Ben Cabrera also turned in quality numbers

**Continued on page 19**

### 1997 SML's statistical race

## Callahan keeps batting; ties Nelson in pitching

**By Erel A. Cabatbat**  
Variety News Staff  
JEFFCALLAHAN kept his hold of the batting category while teammate Chris Nelson tied him in the pitching race as the two UMDA Aces dominated the major individual categories in the ongoing 1997 Men's Major League Baseball at the Francisco M. Palacios Ball Field.

In the latest statistics compiled by Frank D. Palacios, Callahan is norming a league's best .565 batting average after

going 13 of 23 attempts at bat to keep the leadership among the league's top batters.

Miller Lite Brewers' Frances George is in second with a .444 average after he belted the ball 12 times in his 27 appearances at the plate.

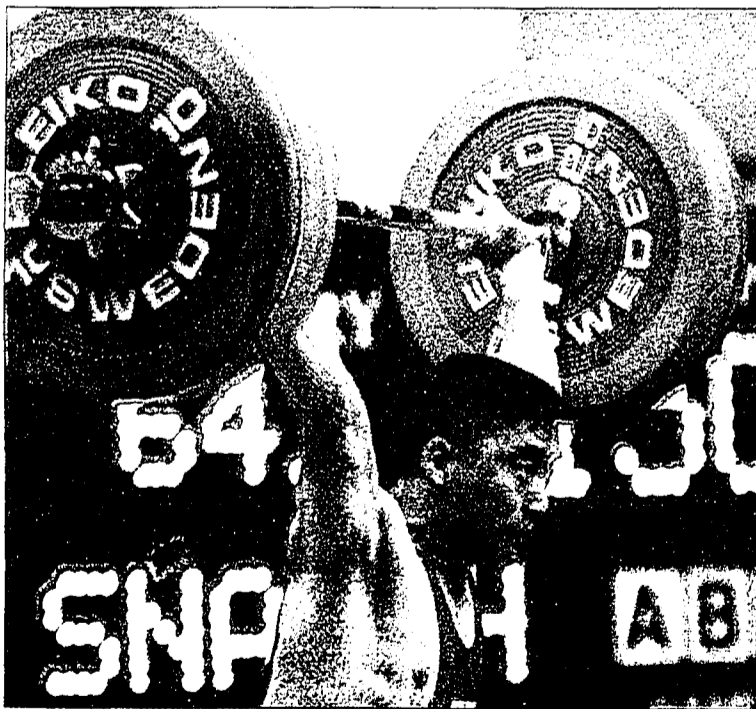
John Reyes is running third with a .429 norm after connecting 12 hits in 28 attempts at bat for the defending champion Toyota Wheels.

Tony C. Camacho and Ralph

**Continued on page 19**



Houston Rockets' Matt Maloney looks for a place to pass from the floor, as Seattle SuperSonics' Hersey Hawkins looks on from behind in the second quarter Sunday, May 11, 1997 in Seattle. The Rockets won in overtime, 110-106. AP



China's Wang Guohua prepares to snatch 150 kilograms in the men's 64-kilogram class event on his way to break his own previous record of 148.5 kilograms at the East Asian Games in Pusan, southern South Korea. Wang, 22, also lifted 150 kilograms in the clean and jerk for a gold medal-winning total of 300 kilograms. AP

### 1997 PSS Track and Field Championships

## Dolphins set pace in HS division

**By Erel A. Cabatbat**  
Variety News Staff  
MARIANAS High School took the lead in the girls and boys division in the high school category based on the latest results in the ongoing 1997 PSS Interscholastic Track and Field Championships at the Susupe Sports Complex.

In the elementary competi-

tions, Tanapag Elem. School is pacing the boys' bracket while Sarpan Community School is in front in the distaff side.

SCS made it a double kill by taking the driver's seats in the boys and action in the junior high school while Hopwood Junior High School (HJHS) took the frontseat in the girls' side with a slim two point lead.

The Dolphins, behind the first place efforts of Sidro Tebuteb, Glenn Nunez, Antonio Piteg, Wayne Pua and the 4x100 relay team, garnered a total of 95 points in the boys' category to pull away from Grace Christian Academy (GCA) and Marianas Baptist Academy (MBA).

GCA could only muster eight

**Continued on page 19**