



Marianas Variety News & Views

Micronesia's Leading Newspaper Since 1972

Vol. 25, No. 199
©1997 Marianas Variety

Monday • December 29, 1997

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

DeLay here

Tan firm plays host to key U.S. House leader

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

UNITED STATES House Majority Whip Tom DeLay (R-Texas) arrived on Saipan late Saturday evening on a week-long fact finding mission, which involves a look into the local minimum wage and immigration policies that CNMI critics in Congress want to federalize.

DeLay, the third highest ranking leader of the U.S. House of Representatives, was met at the airport by Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio and his aides, the governor's acting spokesperson said yesterday.

Frank M. Eliptico said DeLay will be meeting with various government and private sector officials, and will also inspect the damages caused by the supertyphoons that have recently



Tom DeLay

hit the Northern Marianas.

One of the first receptions held in his honor was hosted by Tan Holdings Corp.—which operates Saipan's biggest apparel factories—last night at the Pacific Islands Club.



Willie Tan

Tan Holdings is owned by the family of Saipan garments magnate Willie Tan.

DeLay, who arrived with his wife, daughter and staff members, is believed to be the highest

Continued on page 28

El Niño dry weather to last for 8 months

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

AN EIGHT-month dry season. This is what is in store for the CNMI, according to a forecast of the Pacific El Niño-Southern Oscillation (ENSO) Applications Center.

The El Niño phenomenon has in fact already manifested itself in the CNMI, as the rainfall recorded for Capitol Hill in July-September was only 63 percent of the normal, while that for October was 73 percent.

On the other hand, the rainfall values recorded at the Saipan International Airport for the same period were 103 percent and 114 percent, respectively.

"This is unusual, in that Capitol Hill is normally wetter than the Airport," the Pacific ENSO Update (4th quarter issue) noted.

The higher rainfall levels in October were attributed to ty-

phoon Joan. Also, supertyphoon Keith made the first half of November wet in the Commonwealth, the Update said.

It said that with the strength of the current El Niño event, "very dry conditions are still expected for Guam and the CNMI."

Since mid-November, it said, conditions had been extremely dry for Guam and the CNMI, adding that the "conditions are expected to become even drier by January and continue that way until summer (June-August)."

The Update apparently had been prepared before supertyphoon Paka dumped rains on Guam and the CNMI last Dec. 16.

Paka, however, was correctly predicted as the ENSO Center said in the Update that a typhoon could develop in the Marshall

Continued on page 28

After Clinton declaration:

Federal reps on Rota to discuss relief effort

By Gerr R. Cayabyab, Jr.
Variety News Staff

REPRESENTATIVES of Federal disaster agencies will meet today with Rota Mayor Joseph S. Inos to discuss federal relief operations that begin there this week.

After declaring Guam a major disaster area, President Clinton last Dec. 24 included the island of Rota as federal disaster area for the damages wrought by supertyphoon Paka, making residents qualified for federal grants and temporary housing assistance.

Acting Emergency Management Office Director Greg A. Deleon Guerrero yesterday said representatives of the Small Busi-

ness Administration and Federal Emergency Management Agency are seeking to finalize with Mayor Inos the setup of the federal disaster offices there.

"The team also would like to know the damage assessments provided by the designated disaster personnel of the Rota Mayor's Office," Guerrero said.

He added that after supertyphoon Paka, volunteers of the American Red Cross-NMI Chapter proceeded to Rota to assist affected families.

Red Cross volunteers from the mainland have continued to arrive on Rota since Dec. 18.

Rota Mayor-elect Benjamin T. Manglona had earlier called

Continued on page 28



A vendor hawks a crowd of people seeking new year items in Tokyo's famous Ameya Yokochō market place Sunday. Thousands of people visited for last-minute shopping in preparation for the New Year's celebration. Metro police estimated turnout at over 41,000 shoppers within a period of an hour and a half. AP

Garment sector 'unfazed' by Asian currency crisis

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

DESPITE the adverse effect of the ongoing Asian currency crisis to CNMI's tourism industry, the garments sector will remain strong and unfazed, a government economist said.

Department of Commerce economist Sohale Samari said he does not see an immediate effect of the continuing appreciation of the US dollar against regional currencies to the

Northern Marianas' lone manufacturing industry.

"I don't see any (immediate effect) on this (garments industry)," Samari said in an interview with the Variety.

He explained that more investors from countries in the Asia-Pacific region have expressed interest doing businesses in the Marianas, citing the islands' booming economy.

He also attributed the influx of big foreign investors into the

Marianas to the fact that CNMI is a "trusted" United States insular area.

"Basically, as a matter of fact, since this is US soil, more nations from the Asia-Pacific region may seek to do business over here. So I don't see any effect on that area," he said.

While stressing that the effects of the currency crisis on certain sectors would not be that easy to predict, Samari said he thinks the garments industry will not be

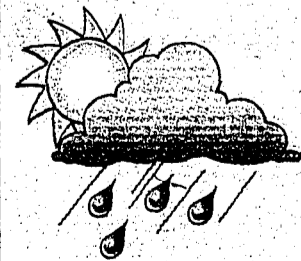
"much" affected.

"The garment (industry) is not going to be affected that much with the turmoil in currency, but these things are very hard to predict. It is very hard for anybody to say this might happen or not," he said.

Samari said one factor that has to be considered in identifying the effects of the currency turmoil on a certain industry is to know where the

Continued on page 28

WEATHER Outlook



Partly cloudy with isolated showers

Breakthrough in bird flu

By Didi Kirsten Tatlow
HONG KONG (AP)—Blood tests on hundreds of people in Hong Kong have shown that some apparently can fight off the mysterious "bird flu" virus before it causes serious illness, health officials said Saturday.

Doctors have discovered antibodies to the virus in the blood of nine people tested who never became severely sick, the officials said. The presence of antibodies means a person has been exposed to the virus and has developed resistance. Only one or two of the nine people remember having had any symptoms

of the virus, which until recently only affected poultry. All those who tested positive for the antibodies had contact with chickens or with an infected human, lending some support to theories the virus can be passed on by birds or possibly people.

Among 11 people known to have developed full-blown flu from the virus, three have died. Eleven other people who have fallen sick are suspected of having the virus, and one of them has died.

Two of the 11 suspected cases were disclosed Saturday. The 1-year-old boy and 72-year-old man were hospitalized in satisfactory condition, according to a government statement.

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

They also tested 29 poultry workers and 419 people who had no contact with the boy or with chickens.

Hong Kong health officials and doctors from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention told reporters that the blood tests did not answer the key question of how humans are contracting the virus.

Five of the nine positive cases were poultry workers, the officials said, supporting the theory that the virus's main transmission route is from birds to humans.

However, the other four were a

health worker who cared for the 3-year-old boy, a laboratory worker, a neighbor, and a member of a sample group of staff, students and students' parents from the boy's school.

None of the people unconnected to the boy or chickens tested positive.

"Undeniably, the fact that a health care worker has tested positive for antibodies means we have to be very concerned about it," said Dr. Margaret Chan, Hong Kong's health director.

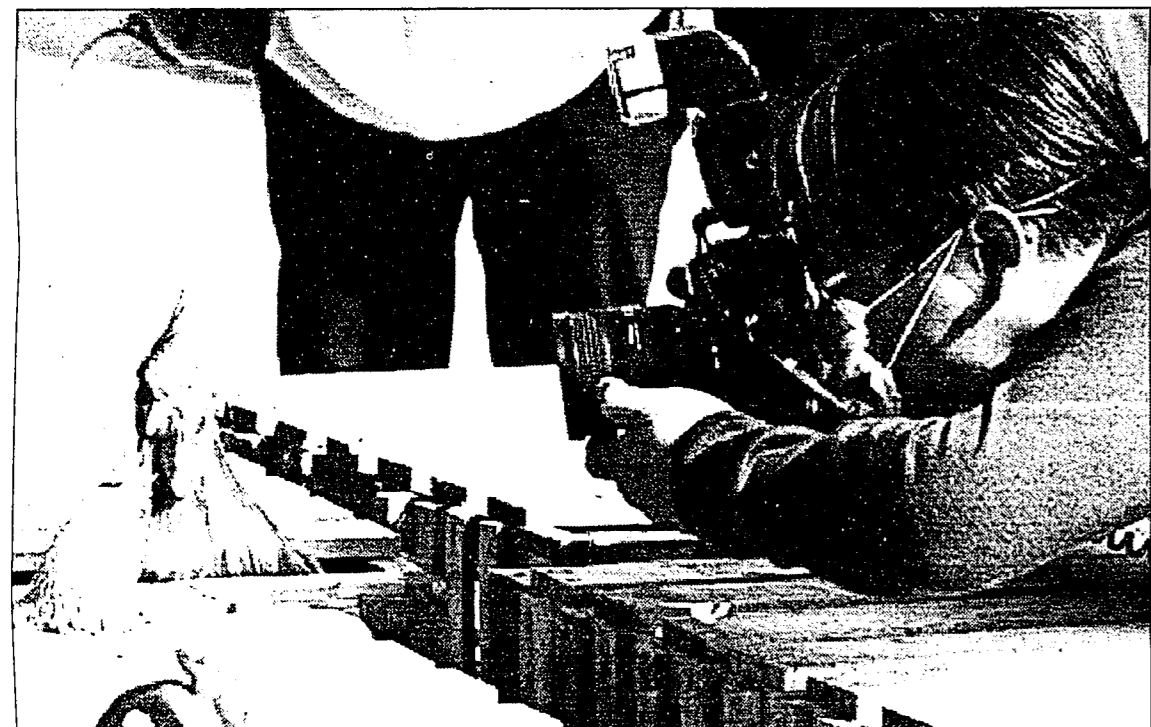
Human-to-human transmission is necessary for a virus to spread widely and cause an epidemic, she said.

"The data leave open the question of whether there is human-to-human transmission. I think they certainly don't close the door on that," said Dr. Keiji Fukuda of the Centers for Disease Control, which analyzed the blood samples.

However, Chan said the positive tests among poultry workers means that measures to clean up chicken farms are more important than ever.

The long-term scenario for the flu's development remains uncertain, in part because influenza viruses are capable of mutating, Fukuda said.

"Right now we're all in a period of uncertainty about what is going to happen to these infections in Hong Kong," Fukuda said.



A press photographer wearing a mask to prevent inhaling possible infested air works on a chicken during media coverage of a section of a Hong Kong poultry wholesale market Sunday. The market was declared an infested place by an authority after three people died because of the bird flu in Hong Kong. AP

Travel by Telephone to **Japan** and save with The *New* RightPlan

Call Japan for just **\$1.05** per minute*

All Day, Every Day!

Reach Out **ITE**

Tel: 234-8521 • Fax: 234-8525 • E-mail: custspn@itecnmi.com

*additional minute rates billed in 6-second increments

Taipei mayor favored to win top party post

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taipei mayor and likely presidential candidate Chen Shui-bian appeared poised to lead his party after the incumbent chairman announced Sunday he would not seek another term.

Chen, the Democratic Progressive Party's most popular politician, has stated repeatedly that he is considering running for chairman and is widely considered the front runner for the post.

Speculation that he would run rose considerably after current Chairman Hsu Hsin-liang announced he wouldn't contest the election next June.

"I warmly welcome Chen Shui-bian to take over the party chairmanship," Hsu told a news

conference at party headquarters.

Hsu, who led the party to victory in local elections last month, said he felt he had completed his "historical mission," winning popular support for the DPP.

"It's time to turn things over to the next generation who will lead the party to face the challenges of the 21st century," said Hsu, who unsuccessfully sought the party's nomination for the 1996 elections. Taiwan's first direct, popular balloting for president.

But he left no question he would continue to be involved in opposition politics, saying: "The day I have been preparing for my whole life has not yet come."

Australia pushes tougher laws to curb sex slave trade

ADELAIDE, Australia (AP)—Australia's Justice minister on Sunday signalled the government would push for tougher laws to curb the burgeoning sex slave trade between Asia and Australia.

Amanda Vanstone said there was every likelihood draft laws would be completed by the end of February and she expected a bill to be presented to parliament in the next six months.

"The important thing is we need federal legislation to ensure we can get at the organizers of this crime.

"There is state legislation in place that deals with sex slaves as prostitutes, but we want to get at

the perpetrators of this crime and make life very difficult for them." She said the legislation would have no impact on the current sex industry in Australia.

"This legislation will be aimed quite specifically at getting people who bring young Asian girls into Australia, keeping them in servile conditions working as sex slaves."

Goldberg requested the court to issue an order barring the respondents from hiring alien workers unless they have complied with the Labor orders and Non-Resident Workers Act.

The lawsuits, according to Goldberg, were "meant to prevent other employers from adopt-

Torres ouster affirmed

By Laila C. Younis
Variety News Staff

THE SUPERIOR Court has ruled that the Board of Education did not violate the Administrative Procedure Act in terminating William S. Torres' contract as Commissioner of Education.

In a ruling issued last Tuesday, Associate Judge Timothy H. Bellas disagreed with Torres' assertion that the BOE "failed to abide by the Act in deciding to terminate his contract. He had argued that BOE Chair Don Farrell "should have recused himself for bias."

In denying Torres request of a Temporary Restraining Order, Bellas stressed that his decision "should not be viewed as an ultimate decision" on whether Torres has

Judge rules in favor of Board's action to fire COE

"any cause(s) of action at law for the termination of the contract.

Bellas also explained that the "literal reading" of I CMC 9109 indicates that the open Board meeting on December 22nd is not an "evidentiary meeting" and therefore, the section does not apply to the meeting.

The TRO motion filed by Torres last Monday asked the court to declare his termination as "null and void" due to Farrell being "irretrievably biased" against him.

Torres' Attorney John A. Mangiona explained in earlier statements that the Board had "failed to adhere" to the Act when they voted to terminate



Timothy H. Bellas



Don Farrell

Torres by not "acting on the motion to recuse Farrell".

Bellas also pointed out that Torres was a "political appointee who can be removed with or without cause as stated in his excepted service contract". "As such, the alleged bias

of Mr. Farrell is immaterial, if Mr. Torres' contract is terminated without cause," he said.

Man sues bus company for damages in accident

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

A BANGLADESHI who was injured after the car he was driving was hit by a Tasi Tours bus sued for damages last week.

Mohammed T. Hossain accused driver Juan Semar of "deliberate disregard and reckless indifference to the safety of others" when he operated a 1996 Ford Super Wagon bus with license plate no. BUS 555 last Sept. 11.

Because of Semar's "reckless, gross, negligent and careless" driving, the bus collided with Hossain's vehicle, the complaint stated.

Aside from Tasi Tours and Co., Hossain named the Pacifica Insurance Underwriters, Inc., as defendant.

On the day the incident occurred, Hossain said, an insurance policy issued by Pacifica to Tasi was in force. "Said policy contained an agreement

by Pacifica to pay for any injury and damages inflicted on any third person by the owner of the insured vehicle or any authorized person operating the vehicle."

Hossain claimed that his injuries required hospitalization and the services of physicians and surgeons, nurses, physical therapists, and other medical and rehabilitative personnel.

Hossain, represented by lawyer David G. Banes, also claimed that as of the day of filing, Dec. 22, he had not fully recovered from his injuries and that his damages continued to accrue in amounts to be proven at the trial.

Also, the plaintiff continued, he had suffered wage loss and future earnings and earning capacity.

Hossain sought awards for general, special, and punitive damages in amounts to be proven at the trial.



PSS Commissioner William Torres (center) sits in during last Monday's meeting of the Board of Education where his termination was taken up. Judge Timothy Bellas has ruled against Torres' TRO motion which sought to nullify the Board's action.

DOLI takes four more employers to court

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Immigration has sued four more employers as part of its ongoing campaign against work-related abuses in the CNMI.

Named defendants were John Kim doing business as Flying Angel Hover Cruise Co., Frank P. Sablan of Christopher's Enterprises, Remedios Mike, and Bertha Ariola.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Robert Goldberg, counsel for DOLI, asked the Superior Court to compel the defendants to pay their respective guest workers their unpaid wages and damages.

Goldberg requested the court to issue an order barring the respondents from hiring alien workers unless they have complied with the Labor orders and Non-Resident Workers Act.

The lawsuits, according to Goldberg, were "meant to prevent other employers from adopt-

ing similar tactics to abuse non-resident workers."

Goldberg said Labor investigator Herbert Soll issued an administrative order last Jan. 7 requiring Mr. Kim of Flying Angel to pay his guest worker \$10,000 in unpaid wages and liquidated damages.

The government lawyer said Mike was ordered by Labor hearing office supervisor Linn Asper to pay \$3,947.84 in unpaid wages and damages to an alien worker.

On the other hand, Labor issued administrative orders last May and September asking Sablan to pay \$100,000 in unpaid wages and damages to nine Bangladeshi workers.

Meanwhile, Labor ordered Ariola on Nov. 14, 1996, to pay \$10,000 in unpaid wages to her guest workers and fines and damages.

Goldberg said all defendants refused to comply with Labor orders and failed to appeal the Labor decisions.

CPA seeks federal help to get its Tinian seaport projects through

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE COMMONWEALTH Ports Authority is seeking federal help for improvement projects on Tinian Harbor, it was learned during the week-end.

CPA board director Pedro Nakatsukasa, in a letter to Francis M. Dayton, of the Department of Army in Guam, said the agency needs immediate funding for the "badly needed" improvements in the Tinian Harbor.

"... (CPA needs to) secure funding from your office and/or other Federal Agencies for the badly needed improvements to the harbor," Nakatsukasa said.

The Tinian Harbor, he added, is a remnant of the US Military occupation force which built the seaport facility during the Second World War in 1944.

He said the only renovation work done on the "typhoon-battered" seaport facility was the concrete piling of the bulkhead on half of the main dock.

Nakatsukasa said the breakwater has been breached on several sections rendering it almost useless in protecting the docks from direct open ocean wave.

He did not specify how much would be needed for the repair and rehabilitation of the Tinian seaport facility but said lack of funds restricts CPA from performing even the simplest and littlest work.

"While we know that it will cost several million dollars to bring the Tinian Harbor to a safe seaport facility, the lack of funds restricts us from performing even the most rudimentary work," he said in his letter.

He stressed the need to conduct immediate rehabilitation actions to rebuild the harbor facility "while there is still some salvage value remaining."

"It is with this in mind that I am courteously requesting your office's assistance through the CPA in securing funds as well as directing us to the proper channel to secure funds for the badly needed upgrading of the Tinian Harbor," Nakatsukasa said in his letter to Dayton dated Dec. 23.

He said all islands in the Northern Marianas are serviced either through harbor or airport facilities and that the people's livelihood consequently depends on these facilities.

Hotel told to get permit

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff
THE Silver Resort Hotel on Chalan Kanoa near Pacific Gardenia will have to apply for a coastal permit after the Coastal Resources Management determined Wednesday last week that it falls under the major siting category.

As early as May 22, the CRM wrote the hotel owner, Lee, Man Saeng, requesting information on the number of rooms of the hotel.

The purpose is to make a determination on whether the conversion meets the water demand for a CRM major siting permit.

After receiving no response to its inquiry, the CRM again wrote last Dec. 24 as a "final notice."

In the letter, Director Jack M. Aguon gave the hotel five days from receipt of the notice to give the information. If the CRM did not get a response, Aguon said, it would seek a search warrant from the Commonwealth Trial Court. This would enable CRM enforcement agents to enter the hotel's premises and obtain the needed information.

If the CRM found that the hotel meets the CRM's criteria for a major siting permit, it could result in fines of up to \$10,000 per day from Dec. 24, Aguon warned.

Lee personally went to the CRM Dec. 24 and met with Chief Enforcement Officer Jack Salas.

After learning that the hotel had 22 rooms, Salas informed

the owner that the hotel requires a major siting permit, as its water consumption is equivalent to 4,785 gallons of water per day.

Salas explained that any project requiring 3,500 gallons of water and above per day falls under the major siting category.

the owner that the hotel requires a major siting permit, as its water consumption is equivalent to 4,785 gallons of water per day.

Salas explained that any project requiring 3,500 gallons of water and above per day falls under the major siting category.

Bank of Guam declares increase in dividends

BANK of Guam has announced an increase in its quarterly dividends paid to share holders during its regular meeting last December 22.

According to a news release, the Bank's Board of Directors voted to increase the regular quarterly dividend rate from \$0.08 per share to \$0.09 per share, a 12.5 percent increase in the quarterly distribution of the Bank's profits to shareholders.

It is anticipated that this new, higher dividend rate will be the standard per-share amount paid in the future, the bank said.

Anthony A. Leon Guerrero, President and Chief Executive Officer of the Bank and Vice Chairman of the Board, explained that the continuing profitable performance of Bank of Guam, along with the Bank's strong capitalization, has allowed this in-

crease in payments to shareholders.

"The diligent efforts of the Bank's staff and management have made it possible to increase the returns to our shareholders, who have given their confident support to us over the past twenty-five years," he said.

"Our growth and success over the years shows that the People's Bank is providing the financial services needed in the communities we serve, and our customers have rewarded us for our commitment to providing the best banking services anywhere in the Pacific."

The new dividend rate will be paid on December 31, 1997, to all shareholders of record as of that date.

For more information, please call William D. Leon Guerrero, Executive Vice President and Chief Operating Officer at 472-5273.

Lawyers play 'Good Samaritans'

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff
TWO lawyers played good Samaritans last Christmas by saving a family from possible "separation" by the Superior Court's deportation order.

able, but was initially granted the right of voluntary departure provided that she purchase her return air ticket and leave the Commonwealth.

During the hearing, Fermina told the court she did not have money to buy a ticket, prompting Demapan to order her deported immediately.

Fermina was then detained at the Immigration with her two-year-old child.

With the court's order, Fermina's scheduled marriage would be hampered because under the law she could not come back to the CNMI in five years.

Their story caught the attention of Israel who was in another separate court hearing.

After Israel watched Fermina's sad story on TV, he called his buddy

(Hill) by phone. Israel promised to shoulder the ticket and requested Hill to provide her free legal services.

Hill agreed and was able to come up with a stipulation with Assistant Atty. Gen. Nancy Gottfried, counsel for the Immigration Division.

Following the stipulation, Demapan set aside his Dec. 17 order and allowed Fermina to voluntarily depart from the CNMI on or before Jan. 7, 1998. Voluntary deportation permits a person to come back anytime in the CNMI.

The Variety learned that Fermina's marriage to her boyfriend pushed through recently.

Fermina spent Christmas with her husband and child on Saipan.

Bary Israel provided Fermina Tobias a return plane ticket to Manila while Joe Hill rendered free legal services for the dismissal of the court's deportation order to the Filipina.

Fermina, a non-resident worker, was all set to marry her boyfriend from Guam this Yuletide season.

Last Dec. 17, Immigration officers, however, arrested her for overstaying in the CNMI.

Associate Judge Miguel Demapan found Fermina deport-

Rota undecided on Shogun offer

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff
THE ROTA municipality has not decided yet whether to accept the offer of a donation consisting of the tanker that ran aground off Rota waters last Nov. 6, it was learned last week.

Tim Bruce, counsel for Rota Mayor Joseph S. Inos, said Tuesday last week that the mu-

nicipality was still in the process of finding out how much it would cost to clean the tanker before sinking it to make it a "dive attraction."

M/T Shogun ran aground the reefs off Rota Harbor while on its way from Tinian. It was carrying some 5,500 barrels of petroleum products.

After knowing the cost, Bruce said that's the time Rota



Tim Bruce

will know whether it can afford to shoulder the cleaning of the vessel.

Chembridge Tankers Ltd.

has offered to donate the vessel to Rota and suggested to make it a dive attraction. The donation includes the ship's equipment worth several hundreds of thousands of dollars, according to Chembridge.

Bruce, at the same time, said the cleaning of Shogun had been unofficially estimated to cost \$60,000.

CRM Director Joaquin M. Aguon has said that the cleaning should include dismantling the vessel's electrical lines and pipes, among other things.

Chembridge has given Rota up to Jan. 4 to decide on whether to accept the donation. Otherwise, it

would tow the vessel to Southeast Asia for repair, conversion or scrapping.

Bruce said they hope to make a decision before or on Jan. 4.

Bruce also said that if Rota accepts the donation, a special appropriation has to be made for the cleaning and related fees including the \$1,500 federal permit application fee.

"The (sinking) project is still alive and it has possibilities," Bruce told the Variety.

He asked these possibilities include asking for donation from the private sector and turning over the title of the ship to a non-profit corporation.

OLD ISLANDER HOTEL, GARAPAN
Call 233-7480 FOR TO-GO ORDERS
FREE DELIVERY OF LUNCHES IN THE GARAPAN AREA
1100 to 1400 HRS 06 - Dec 29th to Jan 2nd 1998

LUNCH MENU

Sandwich of the Week:
Toasted Turk

Smoked Turkey Breast, Monterey Jack Cheese, & Guacamole on a sour dough hoggie served with french fries or beer battered onion rings. \$7.00

Monday: 8 oz. Breaded Chicken Breast with Country Gravy and Mash
Tuesday: 6 oz. "Angus" Beef Kabob w/ Mushrooms & Spanish Rice
Wednesday: 6 oz. "Angus" Top Sirloin ala Monterey w/ Mash Potatoes
Thursday: CLOSED NEW YEAR'S DAY
Friday: Pub Style Fish & Chips (Mahi Mahi or Yellowfin Tuna)

All of the above are priced at \$7.50 and served with tortilla chips and salsa, and bottomless iced tea, or soft drinks.

Flash!!! We also serve the entire Ritzzy's Tex-Mex Menu at Lunch Time.

Our Kitchen is always open from 1100 to 0100 hours daily, except Saturday & Sunday, the Restaurant opens at 1700 hours.

HAPPY HOUR DAILY FROM 4 PM TO 7 PM. ALL DRINKS ARE TWO FOR ONE! BUY ONE AT THE REGULAR PRICE AND RECEIVE THE SECOND ONE FREE!!

If you or your company any do not wish to receive the weekly fax, Call 233-7480 and we will discontinue same.

Cheers!!
Eazy Black

DPS makes 6 DUI arrests on Christmas

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff
POLICE arrested six persons for driving under the influence of alcohol during the three-day Christmas holiday as part of the Department of Public Safety's campaign against drunken driving throughout the Yuletide season.

DPS Information Officer Maj. J. J. Castro said the six persons were arrested in separate places from Dec. 24 to 26.

Castro said the arrestees were pulled over for DUI by the police conducting Highway Criminal Interdiction (HICI) and sobriety checkpoints.

The DPS will continue its campaign against drunken driving with the implementation of the Aggressive Driver Interdiction Program (ADIP) today and tomorrow.

Under ADIP, police officers will be going after the so-called aggressive drivers who are disregarding road safety in the CNMI.

DPS traffic statistics in 1996 accounted aggressive driving acts for half of all traffic crashes in the Commonwealth.

Unmarked police vehicles to be operated by officers who are uniformed will be conducting ADIP, DPS earlier said.

On Wednesday, the DPS will conduct an island-wide motorcade to conclude their month-long Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention campaign.

HICI will continue on Jan. 1 and 2.

Budweiser

presents

KAPENA

Live at

Sunset Bar & Grill

Tickets \$10

Includes a complimentary choice of one bud family beer.

Opening Act: Cool Change Band 7pm

Celebrate the New Year with the hot Hawaiian sounds of Kapena! It's tons of fun with the Bud Family on special all night long!

Sponsors:

Budget Rent A Car

HEAVY DUTY TYPHOON SHUTTERS

Residential • Commercial • Churches • Hotels •

ACCORDION SHUTTERS (270mph)

with lock & key-maximum protections: typhoon, sun/rain, security and vandalism deterrent

PANEL SHUTTERS (200mph)

practical & economical

BOTH ELIGIBLE FOR TYPHOON INSURANCE WAIVER*

25% OFF SALE

Back by popular demand • Good through Dec. 31, 1997

CALL FOR A FREE ESTIMATE NOW

FINANCING AVAILABLE ON APPROVED CREDIT

AMS Alliance Metal Specialties

TEL: 288-2678 FAX: 288-7887

VISIT US AT: basement warehouse, across from Saipan Health Clinic, As Lito
8:00 AM - 5:00 PM MONDAY - FRIDAY 8:00 AM - 12:00 NOON SATURDAY
* FOR PARTICIPATING FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ONLY

Herman's Holiday Promo

Effective Monday, December 22nd, thru Sunday, January 3, 1998

Primerib 22# **\$75.00**

Smoked Ham 20# **\$60.00**

Turkey 20# (w/stuffing) **\$50.00**

Additional Stuffing **\$3.50** lb

Brown Gravy 14oz **\$2.50** cup

All Package comes with a Christmas Cake. (Regular Flavor)

The package can only be purchase at the Wholesale Dept.

Call Jhun or Beth at
234-6809 or 234-7459
Call today to place your order!

Herman's Modern Bakery, Inc.

Tenorio urges BPL, DLNR:

'Settle differences on crucial bill'

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

SENATOR Juan P. Tenorio (R-Saipan) is urging the Board of Public Lands and the Department of Lands and Natural Resources to "sit down" and thresh out their differences over a bill that would establish an upland mitigation bank.

Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR) Secretary Maggie DLG. Wonenberg favors the passage of House Bill 10-475, while Board of Public Lands (BPL) Chair Tomas B. Aldan has said that there is no "rush" in passing it.

Tenorio, who chairs the Senate Committee on Resources, Development and Programs, described the bill as "important," but added that DLNR



Juan P. Tenorio



Margarita DLG. Wonenberg



Tomas B. Aldan

and BPL should "settle their differences" before the Senate acts on it.

The bill proposes the creation of the upland mitigation bank in Kagman, Marpi and Bird Island for habitats or "sanctuaries" for endangered species and "sensitive" wild-

life "displaced" by development projects.

Developers who want to meet the mitigation requirement of permits could then buy "credits" from the bank.

Both the bank and its revolving fund would be under DLNR's management and

control.

Citing a letter from the U.S. Interior Department's Fish and Wildlife Service supporting the measure, Wonenberg has said that the bill is "for the benefit of our people now and for the future."

In her letter to Tenorio,

Wonenberg said DLNR is mandated to protect and preserve wildlife, including endangered species, but has no authority to receive funds.

H.B. 10-475 would give such an authority to DLNR.

Without the bill's passage, Wonenberg said, "(DLNR) and...all our residents will continue to face dilemmas with development and with the future of our natural resources."

For his part, Aldan said a study of the endangered species has yet to be completed, adding that "before we permanently tie our hands, let's know what we are doing."

BPL is an independent government entity whose creation was opposed by Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio who has direct supervision of DLNR.

'Sword-wielder,' 4 others nabbed in disturbance

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

FIVE persons, including one armed with commando sword, were arrested after they came to a house in San Antonio Tuesday night and challenged a teenaged boy to a fight.

Department of Public Safety Information Officer Maj. J. J. Castro said the arrestees—four male juveniles and a man—were charged with disturbing the peace and criminal trespass.

Castro said prior to the incident, a 14-year-old Korean boy received a phone call from an unidentified person threatening to kill him.

The boy ignored the caller, but after 10 minutes the suspects on board a pick-up truck arrived.

The suspects, one brandishing a sword, asked the boy to come out from the residence.

The boy's mother asked the suspects to leave, but they refused.

Responding police officers arrested the suspects and recovered the sword.

Meanwhile, an unidentified person/s broke into L&T barack in Navy Hill Tuesday night.

The burglar/s took money, jewelries and camera belonging to five Chinese men.

Police placed the case under further investigation.

CPA to decide on lease today

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

AFTER having been blocked by the Transition Committee during last week's meeting, the Commonwealth Ports Authority board will decide today on the proposed Island Fresh Co.'s 25-year lease contract.

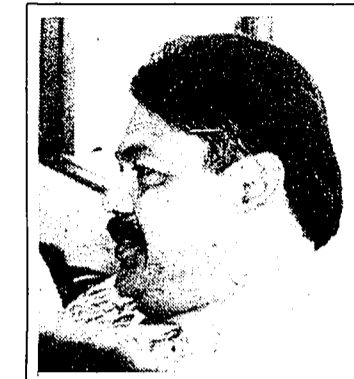
As this developed, the Transition Committee has reportedly written CPA, demanding for the copies of several contracts entered into by the agency with various private entities.

The CPA board will convene this afternoon to discuss several contracts and agreements with private companies, while they are also expected to make public the agency's drawn-up measures to pay its service debts.

Sources said CPA officials, led by Chairman Victor Hocog, last week held an emergency meeting where measures to pay the ports body's service debts were drawn up.

The measures are expected to be revealed this afternoon. Sources also said the incoming administration has become "worried" about the present financial status of the CPA.

In a board meeting Monday



Victor Hocog



Lorenzo I. DL. Guerrero

last week, lawyer David A. Wiseman stood up and questioned why the Island Fresh Co.'s lease agreement was in the board's agenda when it was not among the items published in the newspapers.

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

Former Gov. Lorenzo I. DL. Guerrero has threatened to file charges against the Teno-Pepero Transition Committee if he fails to get the lease contract with the CPA.

Guerrero's application for a lease on the property dates back to March 23, 1994 when

he wrote former Marianas Public Land Corp. executive director William Concepcion.

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

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

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

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

MVB Board: Teno Administration will decide on I&S contract's fate

By Laila C. Younis
Variety News Staff

THE INCOMING administration may have to decide on the fate of the Marianas Visitors Bureau \$3.5-million contract with I&S Corporation, according to the agency's top officials.

"The MVB Board has agreed to let the incoming administration decide on what to do with the I&S contract," said MVB Managing Director Anicia Q. Tomokane in an interview yesterday.

"Governor Froilan C. Tenorio informed us he will sign the contract if we cut it down from a one-year to a six-month contract," she said.

"But the agency has already started with promotional work, and even the plans for March and April next year has already been laid out," she added.

Tomokane stressed that an "advertising contract is different from a construction contract or any other contract."

"We can't simply cancel it

or cut it short. We have approved the contract and its terms and we have to stick with it or it is money down the drain," Tomokane said.

She continued: "We are still hoping to have the contract signed by the governor, but if it does not work out, then the board will look to the incoming administration for its blessing."

"We are small players competing with larger markets and we have to stay ahead of the game. We can do this by solidifying and upgrading our image," she added.

Tomokane explained that "it takes time to realize the impact of advertising."

"The TV ads may not guarantee instant results, but it has to be understood that it may take from six months to a year to see the numbers go up," Tomokane said.

She said it takes time for the ads to "manifest themselves" and for the "image to sink in. It is very critical that we keep representation."

MVB's prime advertising campaign with I&S includes the slogan "Blue! Blue! Blue!"

which emphasizes the CNMI's clear blue waters and blue skies, according to MVB Marketing Assistant Edward Manglona.

"The campaign is only a year old and the image has already been exposed to the Japanese market," he said. Tomokane pointed out that Guam's recent slack in tourism because of super typhoon Paka "is bringing more tourists to the CNMI."

"But what will happen after they (Guam) are back on track? We have to keep working on attracting more tourists," Tomokane said. "Other government agencies are asking for more money so it does not make sense to cut back on the CNMI's top revenue generating agency," she said.

The MVB board reached the decision at a special board meeting held Saturday.

The board members also decided to renew the office contract of the Korea representative for a year and the Taiwan representative for six months, according to Tomokane.

Looking for liquidity, safety and guaranteed rates? Our Climbing Rate CD is the answer.

7.00% APY*
4th 91 days
5.25% APY*
3rd 91 days
4.50% APY*
2nd 91 days
4.25% APY*
1st 91 days

With a Climbing Rate CD you can enjoy some of the highest rates around, as well as access to your funds every 91 days without penalty. Or you can leave the dollars in and earn a guaranteed higher rate during the next 91-day term. The minimum opening deposit is just \$5,000. This offer ends soon.

To open a Climbing Rate CD now visit either branch.

Guallo Rai Branch
Guallo Rai
Commercial Center
Middle Road
(670) 235-3090

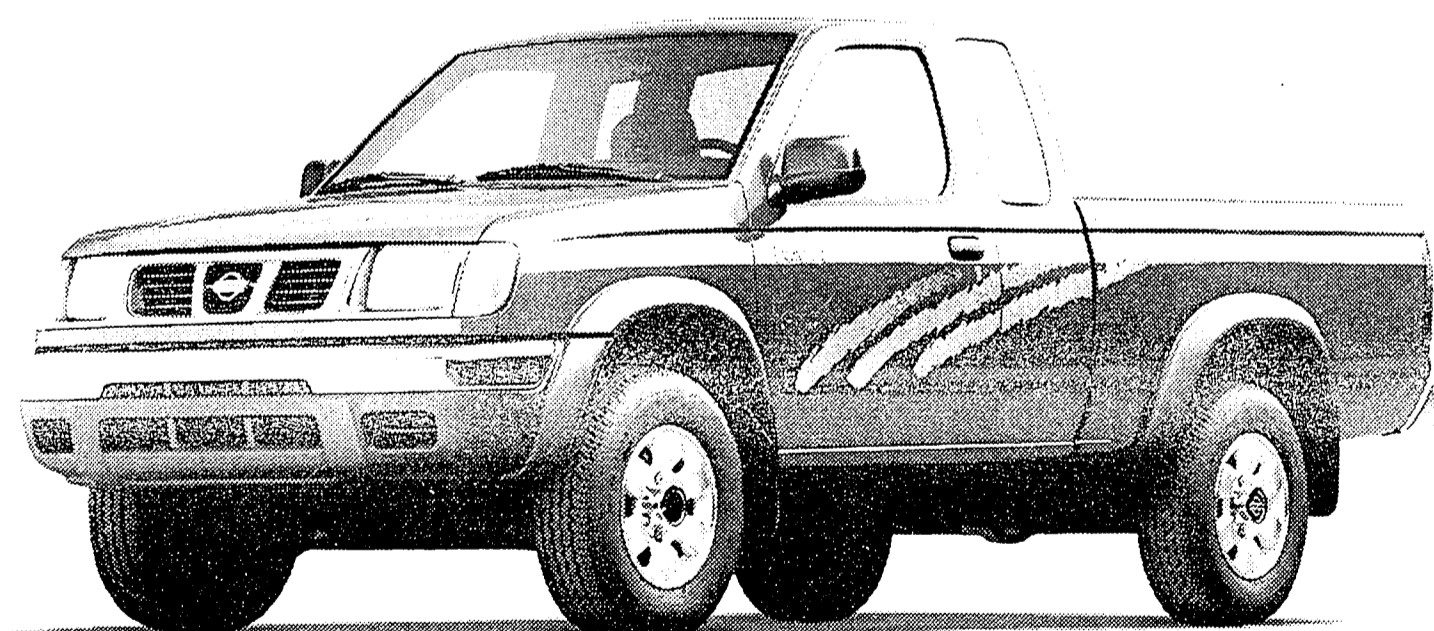


Yes you can.

*Annual percentage yields (APY) are accurate as of 8/29/97 and are subject to change without notice. An early withdrawal penalty may be imposed if withdrawal occurs before the end of any 91-day term. The Climbing Rate CD is a series of four 91-day terms. A minimum balance of \$2,500 is required for the entire term. Fees may reduce earnings. These rates cannot be combined with any promotional offers or bonus offers. \$250,000 maximum deposit. Member FDIC

Certificate of Deposit

Introducing the all new
1998 Nissan FRONTIER



• The most power in its class • Standard anti-lock brakes • Alloy wheels • Air conditioning • AM/FM stereo, cassette •

Available now at...



JOETEN MOTOR COMPANY INC.
AUTO SALES, PARTS & SERVICE

234-5562 to 5568 or 235-5557 or 235-5559

First on Saipan!



Enjoy the ride.™

Say 'No' to Drugs

After CNMI trade mission to Manila:

RP trade mission expected

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE Philippines has been organizing a business mission among Saipan investors in its bid to strengthen its trade re-

lationship with the Northern Marianas.

Philippine Vice Consul Ronell Santos said the Department of Foreign Affairs has advised all diplomatic offices

around the world to focus on "economic diplomacy" other than labor issues.

Santos said the Consulate is expecting a return trade mission by Filipino businessmen to CNMI after the proposed visit of Saipan investors to the Philippines in February next year.

This is going to be the first trade mission ever to be conducted by the Philippine Consulate and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, if the plan pushes through.

"We are hoping to open doors and explore new possibilities of trade between the Philippines and the CNMI," Santos told the Variety.

He said whatever will be accomplished depends on what the Saipan investors are look-

ing for "and what they expect to get."

A team of businessmen from the Northern Mariana Islands is scheduled to undertake a trade mission to the Philippines early next year, according to Santos.

He said the Consulate has been coordinating with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce for the business visit.

"We are organizing a trade mission with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce and we are already completing the outline of the mission," Santos said.

He said the trade visit will possibly happen by February of next year, depending on the result of the negotiations between the Philippine Consulate and the Chamber.

"By February 1998, a team

of businessmen in the CNMI will go on a trade mission to the Philippines," he said.

He said the trade mission will coincide with the 1998 Economic Zone (Ecozone) Centennial Showcase, which was set to be held early next year as part of the Philippines' celebration of its 100th year of independence.

He added the CNMI businessmen will be toured around the country's export zones in Mactan, Baguio, Bataan and the Cavite-Laguna-Batangas-Rizal-Quezon (Calabarzon) area.

Santos said his office is still negotiating with the Chamber for the scheduled trade mission, while adding that information on various trade fairs in the Philippines have also been forwarded to the Chamber.



SAIPAN SUPPLY, INC.

Construction Materials Specialist

We have materials that is not available in the island.

We accept special order:

- Plumbing
- Civil
- Electrical

Our store located at: District I Chalan Kanoa. Beside Philippine Good's barracks.

Tel. 235-7797 • Fax: 235-7798



CHC Volunteers hold Christmas raffle

THE COMMONWEALTH Health Center Volunteers Association held its Annual Christmas Raffle last Dec. 17 in front of the CHC Gift Shop, and declared a total of 53 winners.

Forty of the winners got a Christmas basket filled with goodies accompanied with a ham, while 12 winners re-

ceived pumpkin pies and one winner received a case of soda, a news release said.

All prizes have been claimed except ticket no. 3552, and ticket no. 469603 (no name and telephone number).

The volunteers extend their appreciation to First Floral for donating the baskets and wrap-

pers, Pacific World Enterprises for their donation of hams and Pacific Gardenia for the Pumpkin pies.

According to the volunteers, proceeds from this Christmas Raffle will go towards purchasing one Fetal Monitor and one baby Incubator for Rota Health Center.

Senator on his worker liability bill:

'It is beneficial to all'



Thomas P. Villagomez

By Zaldy Dandan

Variety News Staff

THE AUTHOR of the controversial bill that would no longer require employers to pay the medical costs of their alien workers has defended the measure as "beneficial to all," and fair.

Senate Majority Leader Thomas P. Villagomez (R-Saipan), at the same time, said Senate Bill 10-4 is not "discriminatory" as its critics have claimed, adding that it is the current requirement that is unfair to locals.

Unlike alien workers, locals hired by the private sector have to pay for their own medical costs, Villagomez said in an interview.

"Why is it that we have to pay all the expenses of the nonresidents, when (locals) are not getting the same treatment?" he said.

His bill, he said, would still make employers responsible for the workers' "protection," with the added requirement that alien workers would now have to "contribute" for their own medical costs.

"If it's work-related, the employers should still pay, but if it's not work-related why should they pay?" Villagomez said.

Asked for the "backlash" the bill might cause in Washington, D.C., Villagomez said "Why don't they pay for the medical costs of the alien workers?"

"Why don't they be concerned, too, with locals who are not getting it?" he said.

S.B. 10-4 was recently passed by the House of Representatives, and now heads to Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio for his signature.

The House legal counsel has said that the bill may violate fed-

eral law, a view shared by some members of the House leadership.

However, the Senate legal counsel in a memo dated March 26, 1996, said the bill can be enacted into law provided it is drafted to avoid any equal protection problems.

As passed by both houses of the Legislature, S.B. 10-4 allows employers to deduct the cost of health insurance premiums from their alien workers, even if the deductions reduce the worker's net pay below the applicable minimum wage.

Under the legislation, the employer will no longer be responsible for the following medical costs of an alien worker:

- Dental care
- Pregnancy and childbirth
- Routine physical exam (other than required by the Nonresident Workers Act)
- Non prescription medication and drug
- Preexisting conditions at the time of recruitment
- Activities outside the scope of employment and off the premises, including barracks, of the employer

In justifying its provisions, S.B. 10-4 states that the medical costs for the alien workers are continually increasing due to current law holding employers responsible for medical related expenses of alien workers "24 hours a day...regardless of the nature of the activity...or the source of the illness or injury..."

The bill states that the require-

ment should only include emergency and acute care.

But because of this requirement, according to the bill, some employers have restricted the freedom of activities of its workers during unsupervised hours.

"The purpose of this Act is to reduce conflicts between workers and employers and to increase the unencumbered liberty enjoyed by the workers during non-work-

ing hours," the bill states.

In her June 6, 1996 memo, however, House legal counsel Maya Kara said the bill is "fatally flawed" as it violates the Pregnancy Discrimination Act of 1978, and allows employers to deduct medical premiums even if it lowers the pay to below the prevailing minimum wage.

Other critics of the bill noted that it would only be "fodder" to

the mounting clamor in Washington, D.C. to extend federal minimum wage and immigration laws to the CNMI for its supposedly "irresponsible" wage and immigration policies.

With its economy heavily dependent on alien labor, such a "federal takeover" is considered "disastrous" by most of the CNMI's business and political leaders.

Stricter enforcement of laws to uphold PWDs' rights urged

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

A NON-GOVERNMENTAL organization is urging for the stricter implementation of laws upholding the rights and privileges of persons with disabilities (PWDs).

The Pacific Islands Community Conference, a non-profit organization advocating advancement of PWDs, said there is a need to heighten public awareness on issues concerning the disabled.

PICC official Jack Peters, in a telephone interview, said the basic rights of PWDs have been well-protected in the Northern Marianas in terms of laws and regula-

tion. Peters said, however, that very few of the laws and regulations have been in actual compliance due to the absence of rigorous compliance requirements.

He noted that there has been a much more concerted efforts in making people aware on issues concerning the PWDs, but the laws are not "strenuously enforced."

"There has to be an official system in enforcing the laws for the persons with disabilities. Although you will see disabilities parking around the island, there is no assurance someone else will not take the slot," he said.

The PICC, according to Pe-

ters, is conducting workshops and conferences to intensify public awareness on the basic rights and capabilities of PWDs.

He said they have been working on their intensified campaign to make the employers aware that PWDs can make excellent workers.

The organization has been coordinating with various private and government agencies in advocating that there is much more to give PWDs than pity and understanding.

"Trust that they can do what is expected of them as individuals and they will deliver as they are asked to," Peters said.

Let's Make 1998 Truly The CNMI's Year of Education!

I was pleased to read just the other day, from no less a source than the *Christian Science Monitor* that the major trend of public education in the United States in the 90's is something I've been promoting for a long time, namely, "holding schools accountable for their students' performance." Or you might say holding schools accountable if the schools don't make the kids perform.

You see this trend all over the states these days and national Republicans and Democrats have both jumped on the education bandwagon, proposing different solutions as you might expect, though it's obvious they'll both make whatever adjustments the public opinion polls tell them to make. It's a hot issue.

It isn't exactly a brand new issue though, either in the states or in the CNMI. Parents in both places have long expressed public dissatisfaction with the



FROM THE GOVERNOR'S DESK
I MANAHANTE PARA HAMYO/LEADERSHIP FOR THE PEOPLE

educational bottomline. The question is what efforts are being made to change things for the better.

The constant refrain on our shores from the Public School System is also heard on the mainland, namely, 'give us more money and things will get better.' Well, this line no longer goes over too well in the states, where results from even the better funded districts have been sliding too. As the *Monitor* points out, in the past six years, 22 states have passed laws giving state and local officials such as mayors the right to stick their noses into the public education business. Ant they've proceeded to do just that. Right now, a fifth of Chicago's public schools are on academic probation and if test

scores and other indicators don't go up, administrators and entire teaching staffs face the ax.

These aren't hollow threats either, as 11 former Chicago high school principals learned; seven Chicago high schools have been reorganized under the current program as well. In another move for accountability, the Illinois law that led to these developments also allowed Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley to remove the city's elected school board and replace it with a board of trustees, something for our own Board of Education to think about.

I have long favored a school voucher/choice program as a way to both create accountability in our

educational system as well as pulling up the test scores and performance of our children to the levels we'll need to compete in the next century. I am not surprised to learn from the *New York Times* that about half of the 50 states are now considering some sort of voucher proposal. Also, since my school choice/voucher bill was introduced earlier this year, studies of experimental programs in both Milwaukee and Cleveland have shown improvements in test scores and general satisfaction with the educational progress of the children involved.

Elsewhere, the picture is not bright. Parents of black and Hispanic kids in Denver overwhelmingly feel the schools are giving the short end of the stick to their children, which is one of the causes behind a class action suit recently filed against the local school district, demanding vouchers and transportation for students who want to attend other schools. One Colorado legislator

reviewing a request for an increase in the education budget described reading and writing test scores for minority fourth graders in the system as "pathetic." The state education commissioner is now threatening to pull accreditation of Denver schools that don't raise the scores. Despite the suit and thousands of unhappy parents, not to mention children suffering from substandard education, Colorado doesn't appear likely to get a voucher system, without a change in its state constitution. We're much more fortunate in the CNMI, where much less restrictive language on our Constitution gives us an opportunity to enact groundbreaking voucher/choice legislation. In 1998, let's make the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas a national leader in educational reform! Si Yu'us ma'ase

From M. Variety
Art & Advertising Staff

Stereo's For Christmas

Compact Component Systems



Starting at **\$13.95** / Week

Rack Stereo Systems



Starting at **\$25.95** / Week

JVC SONY

TIRED OF CREDIT HASSLES?

- ✓ No Repair Bills
- ✓ No Security Deposit
- ✓ No Credit Check
- ✓ No Long-Term Obligations

DIAL Rent-to-Own

We want your business!

Middle Road, Gualo Rai next to Subway **234-7368**

Elsewhere in the Pacific PM hopes for one nation

PORTMORESBY (Pacnews)—Solomon Islands prime minister, Bartholomew Ulufa'alu, said Tuesday that he hoped that Papua New Guinea and his country would one day merge to form one nation. Ulufa'alu arrived with his PNG counterpart, Bill Skate, on Buka island Tuesday to celebrate Christmas on Bougainville. The National reports.

Promoting Melanesian unity over the current peace process on Bougainville, Ulufa'alu said the two countries were brothers, adding that they shared the common ancestors, common ethics, tradition, and values. He said at a wel-

coming ceremony in Buka town that he hoped a Melanesian confederation of PNG, Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Fiji would be formed to leverage political and trading powers.

The new-found harmony between the two countries is in direct contrast to the previous rocky relationship under former Solomon PM Solomon Mameloni.

Meanwhile, Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer announced Tuesday he would make a lightning visit to Bougainville early in the New Year. He said he would be travelling to

Bougainville on January 2 to meet members of the Truce Monitoring Group and inspect Australian aid prospects. Downer said he would also meet senior members of parties to the Bougainville truce, including the PNG government, the Bougainville Transitional Government, the Bougainville Interim Government, and the BRA.

Gold mine lays off 470 as world gold prices dip

SUVA (Pacnews)—Almost 470 workers from Fiji's Emperor Gold Mines have been sent home on voluntary separation schemes as world gold prices continue to plunge.

But a statement from Emperor says it's envisaged there won't be any more layoffs in the near future, Radio Fiji reports.

The statement says around 800 workers had applied to go on the special scheme to help the com-

pany remain afloat.

The scheme package reportedly includes two months pay as well as free housing and electricity for six months.

Those being laid off were officially notified last Friday.

Emperor according to the statement hopes these workers will be able to return to the mines in the NOT too distant future.

Emperor Mines still employs over 1,600 people.

Samoan airliner plans memorial

APIA (Pacnews)—Samoa's flag carrier, Polynesian Airlines, is considering a memorial January next year to mark the crash of its Twin Otter last year into a hillside that killed three people.

The memorial will come at the

same time as the final report by the New Zealand Transport Commission on the accident which is due in about the first week of January.

The plan was announced by Polynesians chief executive officer, Richard Gates.

manager, Dr Marcus Woibun, a team of health officials has been sent into the district, which is only accessible by air, to investigate the mystery illness. He said the cause of the deaths would be established after the investigators returned to Vanimo and carried out further laboratory tests.

The three villages alleged to have been affected by the disease have a total population of 1,000 people.

Solomons bank to unveil new products

HONIARA (Pacnews)—The Development Bank of Solomon Islands (DBSI) will introduce three new products in the new year.

They are a Credit Line, Lease Finance and Venture Capital, SIBC reports.

Chairman of the DBSI board John Asipara revealed this during an address at the 20th anniversary of the bank last week.

He said research has been completed and policy papers on the three new products will be put before the board in January.

Asipara said the bank hoped this would foster its relationship with clients including the private sector and the general public.

In 1996 DBSI launched two products, the Mani Gro Savings and term deposits which so far have yielded \$SI 20 million (\$US4.4 million).

Mystery PNG illness yet to be identified

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews)—The mystery illness that struck the Yapsie area of West Sepik province of Papua New Guinea, which has reportedly claimed the lives of 30 people so far, has not yet been identified.

The disease was reported to have struck three villages in the Telefomin district late last month. The National reports.

According to the provincial health

Ramos orders spending cuts

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—President Fidel Ramos has ordered government offices to cut expenses by at least 25 percent next year to help cope with Asia's currency turmoil.

Ramos issued the order Saturday and recommended steps to cut expenses to ease a steep rise in the budget deficit caused largely by the Philippine currency's deteriorating value.

The Philippine currency has fallen from 26 pesos to about 40 pesos per U.S. dollar since July.

Ramos said it was important for government agencies "to match expenditures with available resources" to maintain economic stability and sustain the country's economic growth while financial troubles sweep Southeast Asia.

Among the steps he suggested was suspending all for-



Fidel Ramos

ign travel by government personnel next year, except when foreign grants paid the costs, and a freeze on most new financial benefits for government employees.

The ban on official trips abroad, however, exempts Ramos, who is planning to visit Switzerland next year to address an international economic forum.

Government offices also

have been asked to reduce consumption of fuel, water, electricity and office supplies, according to a copy of Ramos' order.

A ban on the purchase of new government cars and equipment also has been imposed.

The austerity plan, drawn up by a government budget com-

mittee, takes effect Jan. 1 and will last for a year unless lifted by Ramos.

Officials said the peso's decline has driven up the value of foreign currency-denominated expenses and interest payments on the country's huge foreign debt, resulting in a large budget deficit this year.

Budget Secretary Salvador Enriquez said the government deficit this year already has reached more than 14 billion pesos (\$359 million), largely because of the peso's decline.

He said the problem has been worsened by a shortfall in government revenue collection this year.

Bandits abduct wealthy southern RP businessman

ILIGAN, Philippines (AP)—A coconut plantation owner was abducted in the southern Philippines Sunday despite a government crackdown on ransom kidnappings.

Police said four armed men dragged Jacinto Pepito, 85, into a car after he opened a

family-owned grocery in the southern city of Iligan. No group has claimed responsibility or demanded ransom.

Kidnappings, mostly of wealthy businessmen, have been on the rise recently in Manila and many areas in southern Mindanao region, putting pressure on President Fidel Ramos to take stronger steps against the crimes.

Early this month, officials announced the arrest of 25 suspected kidnapers in a major anti-kidnapping drive following public protests over an upsurge in abductions. Many of those arrested were freed for lack of evidence.

Police senior inspector

Graciano Mijares said Pepito's son fought with the kidnapers but was unable to stop them from nabbing his father.

A neighbor, who was seen with the armed men before the kidnapping, is being questioned by police, Mijares said.

On Friday, Muslim bandits freed Robert Buehs, a German executive of a fishing cannery after ransom was paid near Zamboanga City, about 850 kilometers (530 miles) south of Manila.

Buehs, 50, of Rhede, Germany has worked at a fish cannery in Zamboanga for 17 years and was the first German to be abducted in the Philippines in recent years.



Two revelers (foreground) use a concrete bench to sleep as papers and plastics litter Manila's Rizal Park, a day after celebrating Christmas Friday. Filipinos are enjoying a long holiday as the Government decided to declare Friday a non-working day following the Christmas celebration. AP

REMINGTON CLUB - AMERICAN STYLE BAR

Avail our happy hour half the price from 5:00-7:00 p.m. daily.

Come one, Come all and let's enjoy the alluring performance of the **BIG BEATS BAND.**

Every night (except Tuesdays)
Infront of Dai-Ichi Hotel
Tel # 234-5449

Just Arrived

YAMAHA 4-Wheelers

Blaster 200CC

Breeze 125CC

also Just Arrived... Jog Scooter 50CC

Badger 80CC

JOETEN MOTOR COMPANY INC.
AUTO SALES, PARTS & SERVICE
234-5562 to 5568 or 235-5557 or 235-5559
First on Saipan!

A Season of Clear Choices!
Sale good December 1-31, 1997.

Wow! Check out these Low Prices on Great Motorola products now on sale at Saipan Cellular & Paging!

\$99 Motorola Profile 300

\$75 Motorola Bravo LX

\$79 Motorola Express Xtra

3 Rings for the Season

SAIPAN CELLULAR & PAGING
The Choice is Clear.

For more info call Tel: 235-PAGE Fax: 235-7640

Located at the former Pacific Offices, 1st Floor, HS Lee Bldg, Chuank, Lita Lita, MP 96961

Breakthrough in Silk Air crash:

'Black box' recovered

By Ali Kotarumalos
JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Working in zero visibility and guided by sonar readings, divers found one of two "black box" recorders Saturday belonging to a jetliner that crashed into a muddy Sumatran river.
 Information from the retrieved black box, or flight data recorder, could help explain why the Silk Air Boeing 737-300 plunged into the Musi River on Dec. 19, killing all 104 people aboard.

The black box was found in about 30 feet of water in the area where the Singapore-owned plane hit the river and disintegrated halfway through a flight from Jakarta to Singapore.
 The box was to be flown to the United States on Sunday for analysis, the official Antara news agency reported, quoting Indonesia's transportation minister, Haryanto Dhanutirto.
 Indonesian investigators have neither the expertise nor the facilities to analyze the flight recorder, which

tracks a plane's speed, altitude and flying angle before a crash.
 An accompanying voice recorder, which records sounds and radio conversations in the cockpit, remained missing, said Dwiyono, an officer at the Search and Rescue Post at Palembang Airport near the crash site.
 Indonesian and Singapore officials agreed Saturday that mainly unidentified human remains found by divers should be buried in a common grave near the crash site, about 250 miles northwest of Jakarta.
 Indonesian President Suharto had agreed to the concept of a common

grave, Dhanutirto said. Singapore officials would have to agree to the location.
 Singapore's Transport Minister Mah Bow Tan, who visited the site Friday, said he supported the plan for a common grave as long as the relatives of the victims agreed.



An Indonesian salvage diver receives his collection net before getting back into the muddy Musi River during the search for wreckage and bodies at the site of the downed Silk Air jetliner in Palembang Wednesday. Divers on Saturday recovered one of two flight recorders of Silk Air Boeing 737-300 which crashed last week. AP

RAINBOW PAINT SUPPLY
 Guam's largest paint wholesaler now open on Saipan

Exclusive Distributors for:

- Sherwin Williams Paints
- Frazee Paints
- Pacific Polymers
- Textured Cartridge of America
- Graco Sprayers & Water Blasters
- Ameron Protective Coatings
- United Coatings Roofing Products

Pre-Grand Opening Special
 P.V.A. Interior/Exterior \$59.00/Pail

Phone No. 235-6663
 Located behind MVB/Mazda in San Jose.
 Come by and see us.
 Hours: Mon-Fri 7:30am - 4:30pm * Sat. 8:00am - 3:00pm * Sun. Closed

Truck bomb explodes in Sri Lanka

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP) — A truck bomb killed three people when it exploded in southern Sri Lanka early Sunday, in an

attack officials blamed on Tamil rebels.

The truck exploded before dawn along a main highway near the southern port city of Galle, 200 meters (yards) away from a Navy camp, said police officials who spoke on condition of anonymity.
 Officials were not certain whether the three dead had been aboard the truck, or were passers-by. Several houses in the area were damaged, but the residents were unharmed.

The officials suspected the Tamil Tiger rebels, who are fighting for a separate homeland in the country's north and east. The rebels have frequently exploded truck bombs and carried out attacks in the capital, Colombo.

"We have given details of the truck to the motor vehicle department. They may be able to give us more information about the owner," said a police official who spoke on condition of anonymity.
 The rebels weren't immediately available for comment.

Last week, Tamil rebels killed seven members of a moderate Tamil group preparing to participate in next month's local elections, military officials and news reports said.

The government has scheduled voting in the Tamil heartland after a gap of 15 years as a step to decentralize power and win back the support of minority Tamils — and to marginalize the main guerrilla group, the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam.

Japanese girl gets transplant

LOS ANGELES (AP) — An 18-month-old girl who was unable to obtain a heart transplant in Japan remained in critical condition on Saturday, a day after surgeons here performed the lifesaving operation.

Rina Taira underwent four hours of surgery on Friday after a donor heart was flown in from Phoenix, Ariz., said Matt Brown, a spokesman for the University of California, Los Angeles, Medical Center.
 Details about the donor were not released.

Rina was diagnosed shortly after birth with a heart condition known as dilated cardiomyopathy, a genetic disease where the heart muscle becomes enlarged until it is unable

to pump blood effectively. She arrived in Los Angeles last month after a support group raised about \$384,000 in Japan to finance the operation.

Until recently, Japanese law had declared a person dead when the heart stopped, making it impossible to remove the heart or liver before the organs had deteriorated too much to transplant. A law passed in October permits heart transplants from brain-dead donors, but only for children 15 and older.

Another Japanese girl who came to the U.S. for a heart transplant, 8-year-old Miyuki Monobe, died in April at UCLA Medical Center while awaiting a donor heart.

Opposition party in Japan disbands



Ichiro Ozawa

By Chester Dawson
TOKYO (AP) — In a move that could backfire by giving a lift to the slumping prime minister, the leader of Japan's largest opposition party dissolved his group Saturday and promised to re-emerge in a stronger form.

The New Frontier Party's breakup was seen as an attempt to create a new grouping free of the squabbling that has prevented it from taking advantage of Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto's problems, including a sputtering economy.

Ichiro Ozawa, the party's president, vowed to put together a new party with his most loyal backers as early as Jan. 5.

"We aim to form a reincarnated group which can truly fight to carry out the ideals and policies of the New Frontier Party," Ozawa told reporters. "It's best that we enter the new year feeling refreshed."

Ozawa, 55, is likely to try to align his group with a disgruntled conservative faction of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party. That faction has been at odds with a group close to Hashimoto that favors an alliance with two minority liberal partners in the coalition government.

Still, disbanding the New Frontier Party is a big gamble for Ozawa, who bolted the Liberal Democrats in 1993. He has supported sweeping reforms, including expanding Japan's role in

international peacekeeping and cutting income taxes by 50 percent.

Yet, he has failed to present a real challenge to the prime minister, and the move to constitute his party runs the risk of splintering the opposition enough for Hashimoto to retain power.

The prime minister's ratings have slipped in recent months as the Japanese economy has come to a standstill. A slump in the stock market and the failures of a string of financial institutions in the past month have added to Hashimoto's woes.

The opposition's dissolution could also provide an impetus for additional defections to the Liberal Democrats before the next Parliament session, which begins Jan. 12.

Formed three years ago, New Frontier has 220 members in the two houses of Parliament. In the more powerful 500-seat lower house, it has 126 seats, compared to the ruling party's 254.

Ozawa hopes to take at least 100 of his backers with him to form the new party — 80 lower house legislators and 20 upper house members.

But the outspoken Ozawa, author of the 1993 book "Blueprint for a New Japan," has grown increasingly unpopular among some of his own party members, who feel he is too heavy-handed. About 40 lawmakers have left the party since its dismal showing in an October 1996 election for Parliament's more powerful lower house.

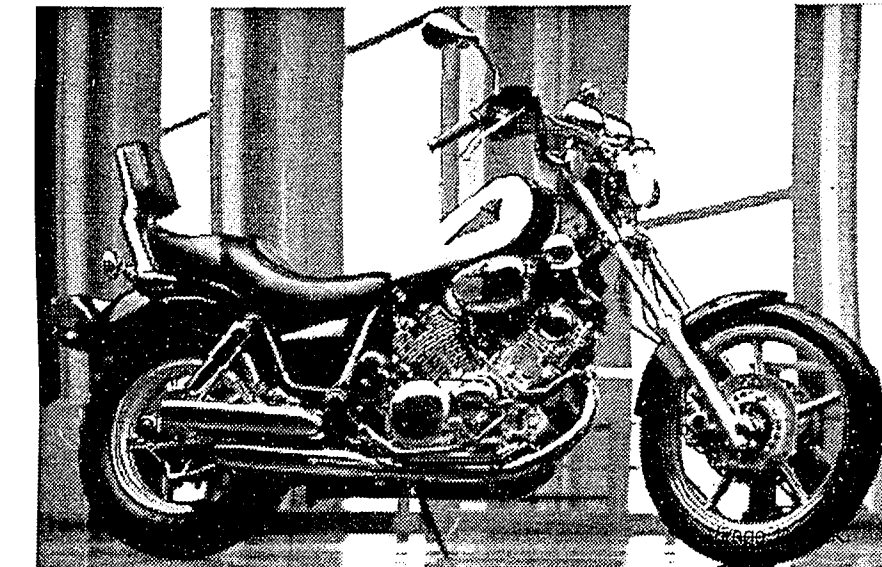
On Friday, a group of upper house members affiliated with a Buddhist religious group decided to run without New Frontier's backing in elections slated for next summer.

Ozawa, who served as a shadow power behind a series of governments that ruled earlier this decade, was formerly a key figure in the ruling Liberal Democratic Party.



Nago Mayor Tetsuya Higa is surrounded by reporters after meeting with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto in Tokyo Wednesday. Higa said the Okinawan city would accept the plan to build an offshore U.S. military heliport even though nearly 54 percent of the voters in a referendum expressed opposition. AP

NEW ARRIVALS! YAMAHA Virago MOTORCYCLE



- 1100cc \$6,995.00
- 750cc \$6,595.00



Visit our showroom today
JOETEN MOTOR COMPANY
 AUTO SALES, PARTS & SERVICE
 234-5562 to 5568 or 235-5557 or 235-5559
 First on Saipan!

Budweiser

KING OF BEERS.

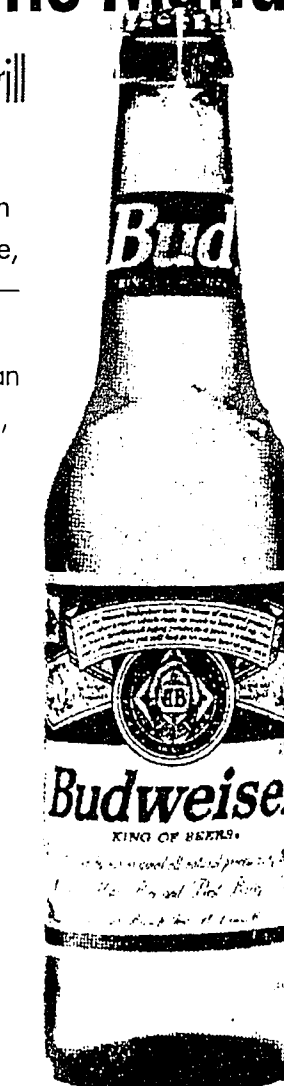
Presents New Year's Eve with the Mattaio Band

at Sunset Bar & Grill

Blow out the old year and ring in the new with Hawaii's premier reggae, gospel and R&B band — The Mattaio Band.
 It's a party everybody can afford with lots of food, fun, drinks, fireworks and great music!
 We'll see you there.

December 31, 1997
 Doors open at 7 pm.
 Tickets are only \$10
 Fireworks show at midnight!
 Raffle Prizes!

Budweiser Family
 2.75
 on special all night
 Free Pupus
 10pm - Midnight

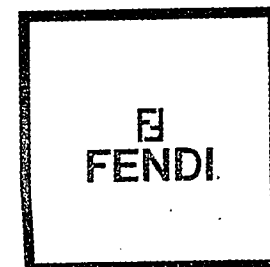


The Mattaio Band

- Peña House
- Continental Micronesia
- SHIMBROS



Thanks Sale for CNMI residents



Selected

FENDI,
 PRIMA
 CLASSE
 brands



Have been drastically reduced by

30%-90% Off

Date & Time:
 January 1 (Thursday) 1:00 am - 8:00 pm
 January 2 (Friday) 11:00 am - 8:00 pm

VENUE: 2nd Floor of La Fiesta 1



All Sales are Final
 Only Cash, Visa & Master Care are accepted.
 For more information call AOI Saipan Corporation
Tel. 322-0506
Fax: 322-0507

Mayor charged in Mexico massacre

By Mark Stevenson
ACTEAL, Mexico (AP) — Authorities on Saturday night charged the mayor of this mountain community with murder and said he allegedly provided the weapons used to slaughter 45 villagers, then tried to cover up the killings.

Jacinto Arias Cruz and 23 supporters from villages near the Maya hamlet of Acteal were formally charged with homicide, causing injuries and illegal association. They were taken to a prison in the state capital, Tuxtla Gutierrez.

Arias Cruz is mayor of Chenalho municipality, which includes both Acteal and Los Chorros, where many of those arrested live.

An official with the federal attorney general's office, Jose Luis Ramos Rivera, said Arias Cruz lied to investigators about his knowledge of the massacre. He said Arias Cruz claimed to have learned of the massacre only on Tuesday, but an entry in a notebook dated Monday recorded the killing of the villagers.

Ramos Rivera, at a news conference in Tuxtla Gutierrez, also said Arias Cruz tried to cover up the massacre, bringing together the participants and briefing them on what to tell authorities.

"The participation of the municipal president consisted of investigating (the massacre) and providing the weapons and later trying to make some kind of agreement with those involved to get them together on their version,



Refugees arrive in the village of Polho in the southeastern Mexican state of Chiapas, while a group of peace observers, mostly from Mexico City, look on Saturday. Thousands of people are fleeing their homes in the municipality of Chenalho for fear of an attack like the killing of 45 villagers in Acteal on December 22. AP

using his own words, about the problem that was happening," he said.

Sixteen other people were formally charged with murders on Friday night, bringing to 40 the number of villagers from the Chenalho area now under arrest for the massacre. In addition, three minors have been remanded to juvenile custody.

Masked gunmen wearing uni-

forms showed up in Acteal on Monday, methodically gunning down villagers — mostly women and children — with weapons ranging from .22-caliber rifles to AK-47s. Thirty-one people were injured in the attack.

The massacre has outraged Mexicans and brought calls for the resignation of the governor, the interior secretary — even President Ernesto Zedillo.

Rebels of the Zapatista National Liberation Army, who rose up in January 1994 to demand rights for Chiapas state's poor Indians, issued a statement Saturday night blaming the federal government

for condoning the massacre.

The men charged in the massacre are all Indians from communities in Chenalho. Like their victims, they spoke the Maya language Tzotzil. Like their victims, they farmed subsistence plots of land.

That has left many Mexicans struggling to understand how political differences among them could have led the attackers to form a death squad and gun down their neighbors with chilling brutality.

Human rights activists say the killings were probably carried out to strengthen the ruling party's

political control in a county split between government supporters and sympathizers of the Zapatista rebels.

Arias Cruz and his supporters are members of Mexico's ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party, or PRI. Most of the victims were members of the peasant group Las Abejas — The Bees — who support the goals of Zapatista rebels but not their armed struggle.

Since March, residents say, PRI supporters in the nearby town of Los Chorros — where most of those charged in the massacre live — began receiving automatic weapons from a mysterious source, mounting nighttime patrols and harassing residents they accused of supporting Zapatistas.

"They said, 'We are going to do away with the Zapatistas,'" said Roman Catholic lay worker Alonso Lopez Mendez, who fled Los Chorros in September after one of the armed patrols fired shots at his house.

On Saturday, about 200 soldiers moved into Los Chorros for the first time in years and evacuated 320 terrified residents to nearby Polho. The residents said armed men linked to the PRI have dominated the town for years and harassed people not connected to the party.

But the question remains: What did the attackers hope to gain by killing 45 people, most of them women and children?

One answer may be land. In this largely agricultural state, thousands of people of different political affiliations have been run off their farms by gunshots in the night.

And an ongoing dispute between residents of Acteal and Los Chorros came to a head last year when squatters seized a gravel pit that lies near the site of the massacre.

Chiapas Gov. Julio Cesar Ruiz Ferro blamed the massacre on a combination of "Chiapas' history of conflicts between ethnic and community groups, land disputes, political and religious differences."

But even if the massacre had local motives, it appears state officials were at the very least negligent in failing to stop it.

Some witnesses say local police knew of the hours-long massacre as it started and refused to enter the town. State government officials said local police told them halfway into the massacre that the town was peaceful.

And some witnesses said state officials tried to cover up the massacre when it ended by hurriedly taking away the physical evidence and piling the bodies into a truck and speeding them away to the state capital.

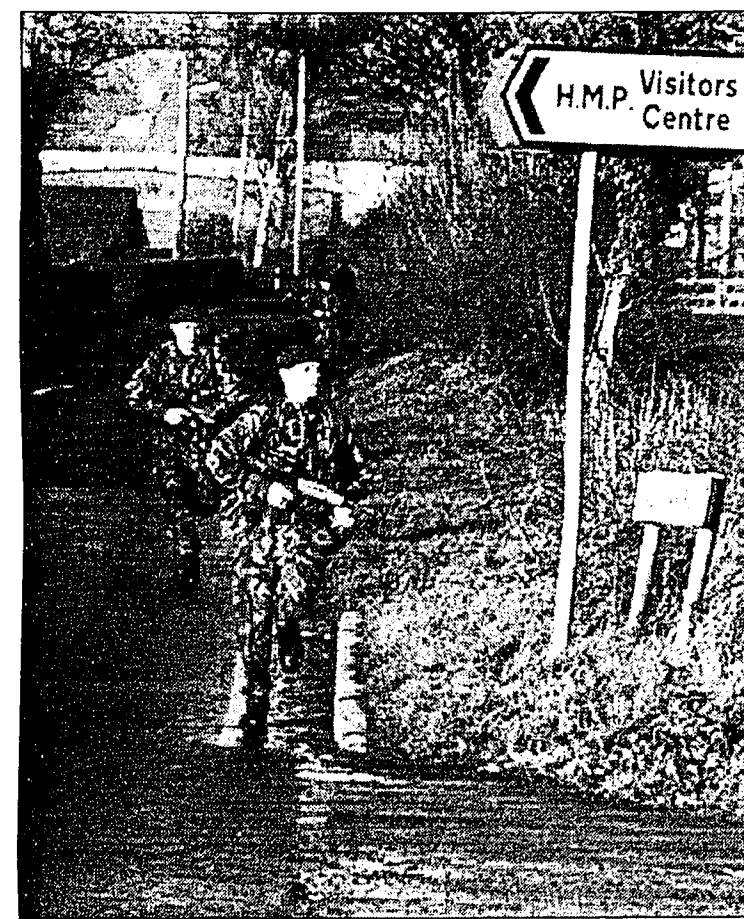
The political fallout has yet to be determined. Survivors and opposition groups alike have called for the resignation of Ruiz Ferro and of Interior Secretary Emilio Chuayffet.

Ireland killing prompts attacks

By Shawn Pogatchnik
BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Jail-house assassins fired five bullets Saturday into a cocky icon of Protestant militancy who some fear could do as much damage to Northern Ireland peace-making in death as he did in life. An Irish Republican Army

splinter gang killed Billy Wright, widely known as "King Rat," inside Northern Ireland's top-security Maze prison.

The assassination was followed hours later by an apparent retaliatory attack by gunmen who opened fire on hotel customers in a mostly Catholic neighborhood,



Soldiers patrol the surrounding area around the Maze prison Saturday following the murder of leading Protestant Loyalist prisoner Billy Wright by a hit squad from a splinter group of the Irish Republican Army. Police closed roads in religiously divided west Belfast and kept watch elsewhere for possible retaliatory strikes against Catholics. AP

including a 14-year-old boy. Police could not confirm the religious or political affiliations of any of the victims.

In another incident, masked Protestants commandeered at least six vehicles at gunpoint and set them on fire.

Both Wright and his killers opposed the cease-fires, which opened the way for negotiations on the future of British-ruled Northern Ireland.

Moderate Catholic political leader John Hume warned that Wright's assailants "have the success of the entire peace process in their sights."

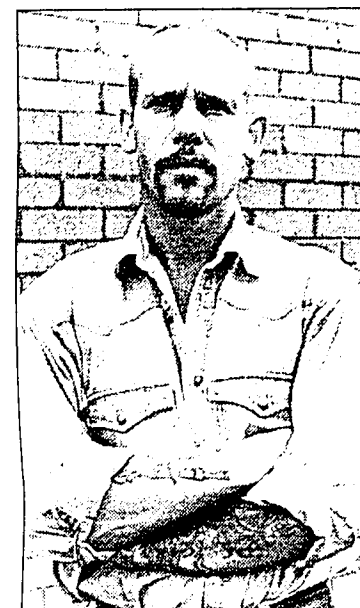
Ken Maginnis, lawmaker for the main Protestant party, the Ulster Unionists, appealed "to everyone — at church level, political level, industrial level, community level, wherever — for God's sake, hold things tight for the next 24, the next 48 hours."

In the hours after Wright was shot to death inside police closed roads in religiously divided west Belfast and kept watch elsewhere for possible retaliatory strikes against Catholics.

But the precautions didn't prevent gunmen Saturday night from opening fire on customers departing the Glengannon Hotel in a mostly Catholic area near Dungannon, 40 miles west of Belfast. In addition to killing a man, they wounded three people.

Wright, 37, was the defiant leader of the Loyalist Volunteer Force, a growing pro-British paramilitary group that he founded last year to oppose the peace strategy of his former comrades in the Ulster Volunteer Force. He became a hero to Protestants opposed to negotiations with Sinn Fein, the party allied with the IRA.

Dubbed "King Rat" by the tabloid The Sunday World in 1990,



Top Loyalist paramilitary Billy Wright in this March 1997 file photo. Wright was shot dead inside the top-security Maze Prison Saturday. AP

Wright was the most ruthless figure to emerge from Northern Ireland's pro-British paramilitary groups, which in the 1990s matched the IRA killing for killing.

He survived a half-dozen IRA assassination attempts and shrugged off a death threat from his Protestant former comrades.

A forbidding figure with icy blue eyes, tattooed arms, stud earrings and close-cropped blond hair, Wright admitted in a 1992 interview with The Associated Press that he had planned the killings of more than a dozen Catholics, including two members of Sinn Fein.

He insisted that each victim had secret IRA associations, and called his approach "terrorizing the terrorists."

On Saturday, Protestant politicians, already furious over this month's escape of an IRA prisoner dressed as a woman, demanded the resignations of Northern Ireland Secretary Mo Mowlam and prisons chief Alan Shannon.

Mowlam said Wright's killing was a serious breach of prison security, but added: "Resignation at this stage would be an excessive step."

David Irvine, political spokesman for the Ulster Volunteer Force, urged militant Protestants "not to fall into this brutally laid trap."

"They want us to strike back, to blow the peace process apart, to take blame off of where it belongs."

Wright, who privately boasted of the Catholic blood on his hands, was convicted earlier this year of threatening to kill Protestant witnesses in a court case.

the Beauty

Mitsubishi Mirage

- Dual Airbags • Air Conditioning
- Automatic Transmission • Power Windows
- AM/FM Cassette • Power Locks • Power Steering
- 1.5 Liter Engine • European Styling
- 60/40 Split Rear Seat • Full Carpeting • Cloth Interior

only \$14,595

AND THE BEAST

MITSUBISHI MONTERO

- Power Windows • Power Locks
- AM/FM Cassette • 3.0L V6 Engine
- 4 Wheel Drive • Air Conditioning
- 7 Passenger Seating

only \$24,995

Customer First

TRIPLE J MOTORS
 NEW CARS • USED CARS • PARTS • SERVICE
 A DIVISION OF TRIPLE J SAIPAN, INC. Garapan, Beach Road 234-7133

Power outage affects thousands

LONDON (AP) — Thousands of people in Britain and Ireland were without electricity for a third day Saturday, following powerful storms that killed seven people.

As the storms that struck on Christmas Eve died down, utility companies worked around the clock to try to restore power.

Six people died in Britain and one in Ireland from toppled trees and walls, and in storm-related traffic accidents.

In North Wales, 2,200 homes were still without electricity Saturday, according to the power company Norweb. Northern Ireland Electricity said 150 homes were still without power in its territory.

Meanwhile, a search resumed for a French fishing boat with five crewmen that disappeared off the Welsh coast on Christmas Eve.

**COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
 CPA BOARD OF DIRECTORS
 NOTICE OF MEETING**

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Froilan C. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus C. Borja, through the Commonwealth Ports Authority Board of Directors, hereby give notice that the regular meeting of the CPA Board of Directors which is in recess will reconvene on Monday, December 29, 1997 at 1:00 p.m. at the CPA Conference Room, Saipan Seaport Office, on Saipan.

The following items are on the agenda, as amended, for the above-referenced meeting:

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS (completed)**
 1. Call to Order
 2. Roll Call
 3. Adoption of Agenda
 4. Adoption of Minutes (10/24/97 & 11/17/97)
- II. CORRESPONDENCE (completed)**
- III. COMMITTEES REPORT (completed)**
 1. Finance Committee
 - a. Adoption of Financial Statements
 2. Seaport Facilities Committee
 3. Airport Facilities Committee
 4. Personnel Committee
- IV. EXECUTIVE REPORT (completed)**
 1. CPA Tenants Christmas Party
- V. OLD BUSINESS (completed)**
 1. CPA Ports Revenue Bond
 - Resolution No. 04-97
 2. Salary Increase
- VI. NEW BUSINESS**
 1. Supplemental Budget Request No. 98-02 (revised) (completed)
 2. Island Fresh-Lease Approval
 3. Rota Terminal & Transfer-Lease Approval
 4. Tinian Stevedore, Inc.-Space Permit Approval
 5. Rosephillrus-User Agreement Approval
 6. Bid Award - Rota Arrival Area Air-conditioning
 7. Authorize New CPA Signatures-Banking Purposes
- VII. PUBLIC COMMENT(S)**
- VIII. (Executive Session) LEGAL COUNSEL'S REPORT**
- IX. ADJOURNMENT**

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/ANTONIO S. CAMACHO Date: DECEMBER 23, 1997
 Acting Chair, Board of Directors.

**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
 JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION THAT THE CUC MERIT HIRING SYSTEM SHALL BE APPLIED AND ADMINISTERED ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL CITIZENS AND NATIONALS AS DEFINED BY THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH CONSTITUTION AND STATUTES REGARDLESS OF AGE, RACE, SEX, RELIGION, POLITICAL AFFILIATION OR BELIEF, MARITAL STATUS, HANDICAP OR PLACE OF ORIGIN.

POSITION TITLE: Trades Helper (Meter Reader) • Limited Term (6 months)

DUTIES: Under the general supervision of the Meter Reader Supervisor, the incumbent travels throughout the villages and other designated places and records readings on electrical and water meters. Computes monthly charges against records for accuracy. Makes monthly inspection of all houses with utility services. Reports all additional electric and water appliances used regularly that are not listed previously. Prepares and distributes monthly charges and delinquent notices to proper customers. Reports meters that are not registering accurately and those that are damaged or being tampered with. Performs other related duties as assigned.

LOCATION: Utility Services Division, CUC, Saipan

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: GED or experience equivalent to high school diploma. Basic Math and English test will be given to applicants. Must be fluent in English and Chamorro.

STARTING SALARY: \$9,616.20-\$11,681.76 per annum.

This announcement closes on December 30, 1997. Applications are available at the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Lower Base, Saipan, the CUC Rota or Tinian office. Copy of diploma and/or official transcript and recent police clearance must be attached.

Cuban youth flock to Church

By Anita Snow
HAVANA (AP) — They grew up without God in what was once an officially atheist country, the sons and daughters of militant communists who never considered enrolling them in catechism class.

Others were baptized as children of nominal Roman Catholics, and never returned to church.

But Cuba's young people are flocking to the Roman Catholic Church and other faiths, searching for lost traditions and a spirituality they say is lacking in their lives. Their presence in the pews has become even more pronounced with the approach of Pope John Paul II's visit to Cuba next month.

"I needed a change in my life. My life was so turbulent with too many parties, too much drinking," Alfredo Placencia, 30, said Saturday outside the Jesus de Miramar Catholic church, where Cuba's leading prelate led a gathering of 1,200 young people.

"Now if I don't go to Mass every day, I feel bad. The church is now the center of my life," he said. Placencia was baptized as an infant, but did not return to church until a year and a half ago. He is studying for his first communion.

"These young people are the hope of the church in the 21st century," said the Rev. Felipe Tejerino, the parish priest at Jesus de Miramar. Tejerino, who is from Spain, said he has seen interest in the church blossom since he arrived in Cuba six years ago.

"The young people are looking for a way out from their problems and find that the church satisfies them," the priest said.

Saturday's crowd, including those from their early teens to early 30s, crammed into the pews at Jesus de Miramar — Havana's largest church — to sing Christmas songs and listen to a special message from Cardinal Jaime Ortega.

Ortega warned them to beware of "escapes" from life that could cause physical and spiritual harm — drugs, sexual promiscuity, alcohol.

"A home with a family, an affectionate life: a husband, a wife, children — that is naturally right," the prelate said. "In your search for sense in your life, look for a centering place: the Catholic Church."

Ortega also spoke of young Cubans' mounting interest in the church, saying 1,500 letters reach the Vatican each week from Cuba, most of them from young people.

The young men and women, most of them wearing T-shirts announcing the upcoming papal visit, listened attentively and responded enthusiastically.

The Cuban church has no estimates of the number of young people attending services, but a visit to any Roman Catholic parish in Havana will find a majority of worshippers under 30, singing loudly and swaying to the music, holding hands with their friends.

At the Medalla Milagrosa

church in the Santa Suarez neighborhood, an especially active parish, nearly 500 young people attend catechism classes every Saturday.

Born after the 1959 revolution that brought Fidel Castro to power and the ensuing early years of tension between his communist state and the church, Cuba's young Catholics say they rarely have experienced the problems some churchgoers did in the 1960s and 1970s.

"I have never been marked for being a Christian," said Joel Estevez, 16. "Not at school, not anywhere."

Castro's communist govern-



Hundreds dance and sing with Cuban Cardinal Jaime Ortega, seated center, during a Catholic youth celebration Saturday at the Jesus de Miramar church in Havana. AP

ment officially embraced atheism in 1962, and in the years that followed many churchgoers stopped attending religious services for fear of not being seen as sufficiently "revolutionary."

But state-church relations have warmed in recent years, especially since the government officially declared itself secular rather than atheist in 1992 and the Communist Party dropped a ban on religious believers in 1991.

Even young people from militantly communist, atheist families say they have encountered little resistance from their parents when they announce they are going to church.

Ex-Zambian leader on hunger strike



Kenneth Kaunda

LUSAKA, Zambia (AP) — Lawyers visited former President Kenneth Kaunda Saturday at a maximum security prison, where Zambia's founding father pledged to continue a hunger strike until he was charged or released.

Kaunda, 73, who leads the opposition to President Frederick Chiluba's government, was arrested on Thursday, just days after returning to Zambia following a months-long lecture tour.

The detention of the man who led Zambia to independence from Britain in 1964 has drawn protest from the United States, South Africa and other nations.

Though no charges have been filed, Foreign Minister Kelli Walubita said Kaunda was a suspect in a coup attempt in October. Kaunda repeatedly has denied any involvement.

Kaunda was out of the country when soldiers seized control of the state radio station and broadcast that they had overthrown Chiluba. Loyalist troops quickly crushed the rebellion.

Gen. Malimba Masheke, a top official in Kaunda's United National Independence Party, said lawyers visited Kaunda at Mukobeko maximum security prison in Kabwe, an industrial town 80 miles north of Lusaka.

Kaunda was being held alone in a cell and was still refusing food and water. "He's very weak. I am really fearing for him," Masheke told The Associated Press. He said Kaunda's family, party officials and even prison inmates pleaded with him to eat or at least accept water.

Kaunda was served with a 28-day detention order Thursday under a state of emergency declared after the failed coup.

Chiluba's critics claim the government is using the attempted coup to suppress political opposition. Police have detained another opposition leader for more than a month.

About 90 people, most of them soldiers, have been arrested on suspicion of involvement in the failed coup. All have had 28-day detention orders extended indefinitely.

South African President Nelson Mandela asked the Zambian government to either release Kaunda or bring him to trial immediately.

"The detention without trial of political opponents is contrary to the basic principles of a democratic polity," he said.

Chiluba ousted Kaunda from 27 years in power in the nation's first multiparty elections in 1991.

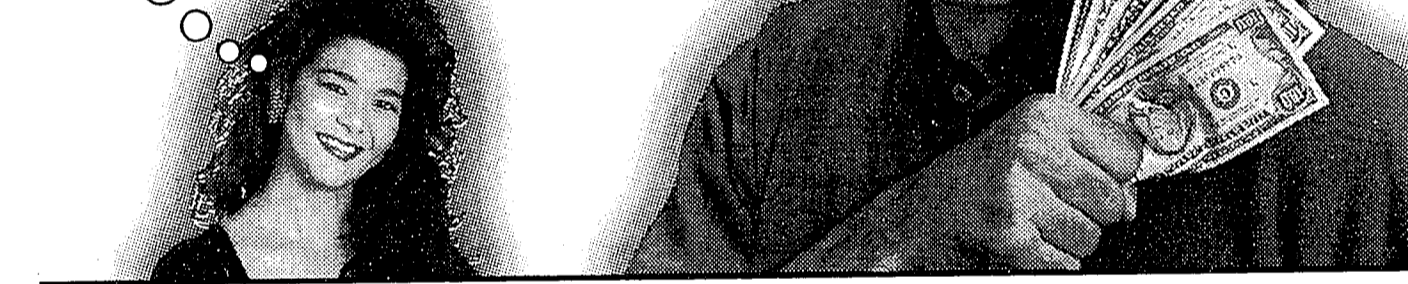
Government and Private Business Employees Join Now!

If you think StayWell is just your average health plan,

THINK AGAIN!

Think of the plan that covers you **100%** at selected hospitals in the Philippines, Hawaii and the US West Coast.*

Think of the only plan that **refunds** your money when you stay healthy.



Think of the plan that **costs less** than most other health plans.

Think of the plan that offers **more doctors** in Guam & Saipan than any other plan.

Think of the only plan that provides **airfare** to off-island hospitals when you're seriously ill.



Now you're thinking!

STAY WELL
insurance

Now is the time for both government and private business employees to enroll. It's easy to join. Just see your personnel officer, or call StayWell at 233-4260/1/2. Find out for yourself why "It pays to StayWell".

*Co-payments waived. Subject to terms and conditions of policy.

Small print text including contact information for StayWell Office and insurance details.

Underwritten by: ZURICH INSURANCE (GUAM), INC.

IT TAKES TWO TO MAKE 401(K) WORK

AN EMPLOYER WITH ENOUGH FORESIGHT TO OFFER A 401(K) PLAN THAT ALL EMPLOYEES CAN UNDERSTAND AND PARTICIPATE IN AND ...

EMPLOYEES WHO UNDERSTAND THE IMPORTANCE OF TAX-DEFERRED SAVINGS FOR THE FUTURE.

PACIFIC CENTURY TRUST (FORMERLY HAWAIIAN TRUST) HAS BEEN HELPING COMPANIES FIND SOLUTIONS TO RETIREMENT PROBLEMS FOR 60 YEARS. NOW MAYBE IT IS TIME FOR US TO HELP YOU, TOO.

PACIFIC CENTURY TRUST

A DIVISION OF BANK OF HAWAII
134 W. SOLEDAD AVENUE, AGANA • PHONE 477-0430

Any investments in stocks and bonds are subject to risks that may result in loss of principal, and are not deposits or obligations of, or endorsed or guaranteed by Bank of Hawaii or Pacific Century Trust, and are not insured by the FDIC, the Federal Reserve Board or any other government agency.

Peru bus crash: 27 die

LIMA, Peru (AP) — A bus carrying holiday travelers through the Peruvian Andes struck a rock and tumbled 500 feet down a mountainside, killing 27 people and injuring 36, rescuers said Saturday. The crash happened Friday night just south of Huancayo, 120 miles east of Lima, in

Peru's central Andes mountains, local fire commander Crisanto Shiraishi said. The bus was about 10 miles out of Huancayo, loaded with passengers bound for the Andean city of Ayacucho, when it struck a large rock that had been washed onto the road by heavy rains, Shiraishi said.

"Due to the excessive speed of the bus the driver did not see the rock," he said. The vehicle went out of control and down the mountainside, coming to rest near the banks of the Montaro River, Shiraishi said. The injured were taken to Huancayo hospitals. No foreigners were on the bus. Accidents in Peru's high-

lands happen more frequently during the December-March rainy season when the rains weaken Peru's poorly maintained roads. Friday's crash was one of the most serious since March, when a mudslide pushed a passenger bus over a 1,000-foot cliff near the village of Matara in southeastern Peru, killing 35 people.



A guide shows the canopies put up by archaeologists over the mud city of Chan Chan near the city of Trujillo in northern Peru. Archaeologists covered the city to protect it from the brunt of El Nino. AP

First Anniversary Rosary



DOLORES C. DELA CRUZ
know as *Tan Dolores "Billa"*

We invite all our families, relatives and friends to our beloved mother's first anniversary rosary.

The first nightly rosary begins on Thursday, December 25th, 1997 at 8:00 pm at Juanita and Federico Manglona's residence in San Vicente, Saipan. On the final day, Friday, January 02, 1998, rosary will be at 12:00 noon followed by mass at 6:00 p.m. at the San Vicente Church and reception will follow at the family residence.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase.
The Family

PUBLIC NOTICE

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES
2ND FLOOR, MORGEN BUILDING, SAIPAN
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL. NO. 234-6623/7320/3970 • DECEMBER 29, 1997 • FN: PN1297AA.29

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE RECEIVED APPLICATION	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. ISLANDS FRESH	11/14/97 SPm-97-X-329	MOORING BITTS	NORTH SEA PLANE RAMP	PORT & INDUSTRIAL APC	APPROVED (12/12/97)
2. ASIA PAC. HOTELS, INC.	11/24/97 SMS-97-X-341	HOLIDAY INN HOTEL	GARAPAN	MAJOR SITING	CERTIFIED COMPLETE (12/18/97)
3. GRAND DEV. CORP.	11/24/97 SMS-97-X-342	GARAPAN HOTEL	GARAPAN	MAJOR SITING	CERTIFIED COMPLETE (12/18/97)
4. BIRD ISLAND DEV.	11/28/97 SMS-97-X-348	GOLF COURSE & RESORT	BIRD ISLAND	MAJOR SITING	CERTIFIED COMPLETE (12/18/97)
5. THE WATER CO.	12/03/97 SPm-97-X-350	BUILDING EXTENSION	LOWER BASE	PORT & INDUSTRIAL APC	APPROVED (12/12/97)
6. MR. YOUNG SOO HA	08/01/97 SMS-97-X-225	61 ROOM HOTEL	CHALANKANDA	MAJOR SITING	CERTIFIED COMPLETE (12/18/97)
7. DIORWA, MGM	10/30/97 SMS-97-X-312	GARMENT EXTENSION	AS LITO	MAJOR SITING	CERTIFIED COMPLETE (12/10/97)
8. CALVARY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY SCHOOL	11/06/97 SMS-97-X-317	SCHOOL	CHALANKIYA	MAJOR SITING	CERTIFIED COMPLETE
9. SAIPAN SEA VENTURES	12/09/97 SPm-97-X-	DRYDOCK	SEA PLANE RAMP	MAJOR SITING	APPROVED (12/10/97)
10. HAFADAI BEACH HOTEL	12/09/97 SSm-97-X-355	CHAPEL REPAIR	HAFADAI BEACH HOTEL	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED (12/12/97)
11. MASAFUKI YAMAMOTO	12/09/97 SSm-97-X-356	FILMING	ALL SHORELINE APC'S	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED (12/09/97)
12. THAI HOUSE REST.	12/09/97 SSm-97-X-357	SIGNBOARD	BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED (12/15/97)
13. SUN PUBLISHING	12/10/97 SSm-97-X-358	FILMING	ALL SHORELINE APC'S	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED (12/10/97)
14. GEORGE C. DUEÑAS	12/11/97 SSm-97-X-359	FUNDRAISING	13 FISHERMENS PARK	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED (12/17/97)
15. RAY ALVAREZ	12/12/97 SSm-97-X-360	FISH MARKET	BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN	SHORELINE APC	UNDER REVIEW
16. RAY ALVAREZ	12/12/97 SSm-97-X-361	MOTORCYCLE SHOP	BEACH ROAD, GARAPAN	SHORELINE APC	UNDER REVIEW
17. RAY ALVAREZ	12/12/97 SLRm-97-X-362	KAYAK RENTAL	SAIPAN LAGOON	LAGOON & REEF APC	UNDER REVIEW
18. HIT TOURS, INC.	12/16/97 SSm-97-X-363	FILMING	ALL SHORELINE APC'S	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED (12/16/97)
19. GOOD DAY COORD.	12/16/97 SSm-97-X-364	FILMING	ALL SHORELINE APC'S	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED (12/17/97)
20. KING-SHER CO. FLYING GOLF COURSE	12/10/97 SSm-97-X-365	FAIRWAY REPAIRS	KINGFISHER GOLF COURSE	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED (12/26/97)
21. LORENZO I. DELEON GUERRERO	12/12/97 SPm-97-X-366	DRYDOCK FACILITY	SEAPLANE RAMP	PORT & INDUSTRIAL APC	UNDER REVIEW
22. MARINE REVITALIZATION CORP.	12/12/97 SLRm-97-X-367	PILE DRIVING	OUTER COVE MARINA	LAGOON & REEF APC	UNDER REVIEW
23. ZOOM!	12/17/97 SSm-97-X-368	FILMING	ALL SHORELINE APC'S	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED (12/17/97)
24. PACIFIC GARDENIA HTL.	12/04/97 SSm-97-X-369	FIREWORKS	PACIFIC GARDENIA SUNSET BAR & GRILL	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED (12/18/97)
25. SAIPAN SEA VENTURES	12/22/97 SPm-97-X-370	DRYDOCK	SEAPLANE RAMP	PORT & INDUSTRIAL APC	APPROVED (12/23/97)
26. SHUEI-SHA INC.	12/24/97 SSm-97-X-371	FILMING	ALL SHORELINE APC'S	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED (12/24/97)

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) calendar days of publication of this notice. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinators. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in CRM Regulations, Section 8 (G).

Bomb explodes near church in Havana as visit of Pontiff nears

By Anita Snow
HAVANA (AP) — A small explosion in front of a church in Old Havana on Saturday caused no injuries or damage but has fueled fears of violence surrounding the pope's visit here next month.

"The explosion was strong. People felt it," said Miguel Saludes, secretary of the towering, colonial La Merced church near the Havana docks. He said the blast caused no damage to the building, an imposing yellow-orange structure built in 1792 that is a popular stop on tours.

There were no reports of arrests and there was no immediate reaction from the Cuban government. Church spokesman Orlando Marquez said the explosive device was about 4 inches long. No other details were available.

Uniformed police left the scene a few hours after the explosion. But a church official said security agents in civilian clothing stayed and attended a morning Mass, which was held as scheduled.

The church's five priests were all asleep in an adjacent building when the device exploded.

Cardinal Jaime Ortega, interviewed Saturday after presiding over a gathering of 1,200 Catholic youth, said the explosion was troubling but that he doubted it would affect security measures for the Jan. 21-25 visit here by Pope John Paul II.

"It appears to have been a small device, of simple construction," Ortega said. "It provoked no damage — only alarm."

US general in charge of Gulf forces:

Iraq could hide weapons



Anthony Zinni

By John Diamond
PRINCE SULTAN AIR BASE, Saudi Arabia (AP) — President Saddam Hussein could use the Islamic holy month of Ramadan, which begins next week, to further conceal Iraq's chemical and biological weapons from U.N. inspectors, the general in charge of American forces in the Persian Gulf area said Saturday.

Marine Corps Gen. Anthony Zinni, setting out on a four-day regional tour, predicted a quiet Ramadan militarily but warned that Iraq may use the lull against the international inspections by agents of the U.N. special commission, or UNSCOM.

"If they are hiding things and moving things, (Ramadan) could give them the time and the cover to do it," Zinni told reporters traveling with him to this sprawling air base, from which U.S. warplanes conduct deny-flight missions over Iraq. "The longer we go without inspections in places that UNSCOM really, truly expects something might be hidden, the better the chance is that something could be hidden to the point where we could get a cold trail and lose it."

The United States and U.N. allies have been pressing Iraq to open to weapons inspection scores of sensitive sites' including some of Saddam's presidential palaces. Though Iraq has given ground to inspectors recently, it has declared many sites strictly off limits and denied it holds chemical or biological weapons.

Ramadan, marked by daytime fasting, is the most sacred month of Islam's lunar calendar. It begins next Wednesday at the latest.

During the holy period, when daytime activity in most Muslim countries tapers off significantly, Iraqi officials probably will be unavailable to escort inspection teams, Zinni said. The Iraqi military probably will lie dormant, and the chance of U.S. military

action is remote. "I doubt seriously that we would do anything during Ramadan," Zinni said. "Because of the way they do Ramadan, they virtually shut down. ... Militarily, it means we're probably going to be frozen in place for that period."

Zinni, a stocky, blunt-spoken officer whose hair is burred in a regulation Marine crew cut, heads the U.S. Central Command, a military headquarters based in Tampa, Fla., responsible for an arc of countries stretching from Kenya and Somalia in East Africa, across the Middle East, to Iraq and Iran at the Persian Gulf. It is the position held by Gen. H. Norman Schwarzkopf during the Persian Gulf War, and if tension with Iraq should rise to the point of conflict, Zinni would be the commander in charge.

A key priority for Zinni is to ensure that leaders in Kuwait, Saudi Arabia and other gulf countries support the regional U.S. military posture.

In a recent Pentagon news conference, he said that contrary to media reports, friendly gulf states are willing to support heavy retaliation to an Iraqi provocation, for example the targeting of an American U-2 spy plane flying reconnaissance missions for the United Nations.

During the in-flight interview, however, Zinni struck a cautionary note emphasizing that the gulf allies want to avoid conflict with Iraq. Short of such an Iraqi provocation, he said, their support for U.S. military strikes would by no means be assured.

"They would not like to see it ever have to come to the point where we have to use military force," Zinni said. A U.S. decision to strike Iraq without an Iraqi provocation "would be a hard decision for them to support. I'm not saying it's impossible. It's going to have to be looked at case by case ... but it's going to be one that's going to be difficult for them. It's something that they really fear and they don't want to see happen."

Primarily, U.S. forces are in the Persian Gulf to protect U.S. energy supplies, Zinni said. The 30,000 or so Americans also are to defend gulf states against Iraq's still-formidable military.

But the U.S. presence remains a touchy issue in the region, with gulf states anxious to avoid angering Baghdad or to appear to be siding with the United States against fellow Muslims.

Because of this political sensitivity, some gulf states were anxious to keep publicity sur-

rounding Zinni's visit to a minimum. An ever-present terrorist threat against U.S. forces in

the gulf is only the most palpable indicator of that sensitivity. Even in a trip built around visits with U.S. troops

at well-guarded installations, the security surrounding Zinni's movements was heavy.



Iraqi President Saddam Hussein chairs a meeting of the Revolutionary Command Council and the Regional Command of the ruling Baath party in Baghdad Friday. Iraqi leaders accused the United States on Friday of planning air strikes which would plant fake chemical or germ warfare evidence at sites declared out of bounds to U.N. inspectors. AP

Budweiser
KING OF BEERS.

Presents
New Year's Eve in Paradise
at the
PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN

Budweiser Family
on special all night!

December 31, 1997
6:30pm - 1am

\$85/Adult
\$150/Couple
\$560/Table (8 persons)
\$35/Child (12 years and under)

For ticket information, call 234-7976, ext. 5158.

Basque groups rally in Spain

By Mar Roman
MADRID, Spain (AP) — Thousands of supporters of the political arm of the Basque separatist group ETA marched in northern Spain on Saturday, the first such gathering since party leaders were convicted of collaborating with the armed group.

Members of the Herri Batasuna party led marchers peacefully through downtown Bilbao, 220 miles north of Madrid. Neither the organizers nor police gave an exact number of marchers. The entire 23-person leadership of the party was sentenced to seven years in jail on Dec. 1, for collaborating with the violent ETA, which has killed nearly 800 people since 1968 in its campaign for the independence of the Spanish Basque country.

The trial came after the party had used a video in an electoral campaign in which ETA gunmen put forward their proposals to end the region's conflict.

The Herri Batasuna party charged the sentences were too harsh and warned they would have "serious and direct consequences."

On the day most of the 23 were jailed, suspected ETA gunmen shot and wounded the bodyguard of a ruling Popular Party councilor. A week later, councilor Jose Luis Caso, also of the governing party, was shot dead.

Nearly 50,000 Spaniards demonstrated Dec. 13 in San Sebastian to protest the politician's slaying.

Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar's government refuses to deal with ETA until it lays down its arms.



Tens of thousands march through central Bilbao demanding the liberation of the 23 jailed leaders of the Basque separatist group Herri Batasuna Saturday. The Herri Batasuna leaders were jailed early December 1997 for seven years each for collaborating with the outlawed armed Basque separatist group ETA. AP

PUBLIC NOTICE

From: The Department of Public Safety (December 12, 1997)

Renewal Fee for Personalized Vehicle License Plates

Beginning in 1998 the required registration fee for all Personalized vehicle licenses will be \$100. This fee will be required on all new applications and on all renewals. These fees are required by Bureau of Motor Vehicles Regulations which were adopted in October 1988,

These Regulations require an additional fee schedule to the fee schedule set forth in 9 CMC 2104. The following additional fees will be collected pursuant to this Regulation beginning in 1998:

1. Personalized license plates: \$75 + \$25 (required by statute) = \$100
2. Sample (collector's plates): \$75 + \$25 (required by statute) = \$100

All motor vehicle used for commercial purposes will also be required to pay additional fees pursuant to the Regulations:

1. Taxi: \$25. + the appropriate fee required by statute.
2. Dealer: \$200. + the fee required by statute.
3. Trailers and Low Boys: \$25. + the fee required by statute.
4. Trucks: \$100 + the fee required by statute.
5. Buses: \$25. + the fee required by statute.

In the past, additional fees for these special categories were only charged for the initial application. The Regulations make no such distinction and require these fees to be additional to the fees charged by statute. This includes renewal of registration of the vehicle licenses.

All safety inspections for motor carriers are the responsibility of the Department of Public Safety, Office of Highway Safety (Special Programs). All motor carriers must have satisfactorily passed a current safety inspection conducted by the Office of Highway Safety (Special Programs). These inspections are conducted free of charge.

Only those safety inspections conducted by the Office of Highway Safety (Special Programs) or by U.S. Department of Transportation will be accepted by the Department of Public Safety and the Division of Motor Vehicles. Previous licenses or authorizations by the Bureau of Motor Vehicles to conduct safety inspections for motor carriers are revoked.

Questions concerning safety inspections for motor carriers should be directed to the Office of Highway Safety (Special Programs).

Train crash in Belgium kills two

ANDENNE, Belgium (AP) —

A passenger train crashed into a car and derailed into a nearby house Saturday, killing two people and injuring 30 passengers.

The accident killed the two people in the car and left two train passengers seriously injured. The other passengers were treated for minor injuries, according to a police official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

The train was traveling between Liege and Mouscron on the French border late Saturday morning when it collided with the car near Andenne, 40 miles southeast of Brussels.

Two of the train's three cars derailed and one slammed into the house.

Woman falls to death at Colosseum

ROME (AP) — An Italian woman who wanted to see the Colosseum at night after it closed fell to her death early Saturday inside the 1,900-year-old arena.

Anna Brancadoro, 27, had scaled the main gate with her boyfriend and had climbed up the ruins of an old arch on the second level when she apparently lost her balance and fell some 80 feet, the Italian news agency ANSA reported.

Slipping into romantic monuments at night, including the Colosseum and ancient Roman forums, is very popular among Roman couples out on dates.

Bosnian Serbs convene a 'divided' Parliament

By Radul Radovanovic
BIJELJINA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — Opponents and supporters of Bosnia's most-wanted war crimes suspect clashed in parliament Saturday during their first session since last month's elections.

Reflecting the deep rifts between allies of Radovan Karadzic and his opponents, the start of the session was delayed several hours, casting doubt on the likelihood legislators would agree on a new government.

The first recess was called 20 minutes into the meeting, after deputies disagreed on procedural questions. Further pauses followed as the two sides hammered away at each other on issues ranging from how to broadcast the session to whether Karadzic's chief rival should be allowed to speak.

Only the threat of outside intervention by Carlos Westendorp, the chief representative of the international community, appeared to keep legislators in their seats.

"The new elections have solved nothing," said Karadzic supporter Momcilo Krajsnik, the Serb member of Bosnia's three-man presidency, as the session ended with a tentative agreement to reconvene early next month. "If we carry on like this, I don't see how it is possible to solve problems in the future."

If the legislators fail to agree on a premier and his ministers, a government might be named by Westendorp.

Hanns Schumacher, representing Westendorp, urged the hard-liners to co-exist with the country's other nationalities or risk becoming the "North Korea of Europe, where a corrupt few enjoy their lives to the detriment of the whole society and lock their territory to the outside world."

He also said their backing of wartime Bosnian Serb leader Karadzic was unacceptable.

Bosnian Serb President Biljana Plavsic, Karadzic's chief rival, also urged democratic reforms and an opening up of the Bosnian Serb statelet to the outside world. Her comments were generally low-key, calculated not to antagonize opponents in the legislature.

"Democratic processes are the only alternative," she said, urging all legislators to be tolerant and to concentrate on improving the catastrophic economy instead of continuing factional disputes.

"The new elections have solved nothing," said Karadzic supporter Momcilo Krajsnik, the Serb member of Bosnia's three-man presidency, as the session ended with tentative agreement to reconvene early next month. "If we carry on like this, I don't see how it is possible to solve problems in the future."

Elections last month saw Karadzic's supporters lose their majority. Although Karadzic's Serbian Democratic Party remains strongest, his opponents, grouped around Plavsic, gained a sizable foothold that would permit them to govern in a coalition.

The rival camps appeared far from an agreement on a new premier and Cabinet. Karadzic backers proposed

two people from their ranks as head of government, and those supporting Plavsic pushed their own candidate. Earlier this year, Plavsic split from

Karadzic's party, accusing its officials of corruption and defiance of the U.S.-brokered Dayton peace agreement.



Momcilo Krajsnik, Serb member of the Bosnian collective Presidency, left, Archbishop Vasilije, center and Biljana Plavsic, Bosnian Serb President at the first session of Bosnian Serb Parliament in Bijeljina Saturday. AP

Windsor Castle opens to public

WINDSOR, England (AP) — Windsor Castle opened its doors to the public Saturday for the first time since the completion of a \$62 million restoration of state rooms gutted by fire five years ago.

The verdict from visitors was a thumbs up.

"It is a miracle what has been done to restore the castle, especially bearing in mind how it was just ash and rubble after the fire," said George Snaith, 75, who came from Wales. "The amount of workmanship that has gone into it is amazing."

The renovation was finished in November, ahead of schedule and about \$5 million under budget.

It was just in time for Queen Elizabeth II and her husband Prince Philip to host a 50th wedding anniversary dinner and ball on Nov. 20 at the castle, the monarch's favorite royal residence.

Other portions of the sprawling white stone castle, which sits atop a hill above the River Thames 20

miles west of London, were reopened to tourists shortly after the Nov. 20, 1992, fire.

The fire—which was started by a curtain resting on a high-intensity spotlight—capped a year that also saw the collapse of the marriages of the queen's sons, Prince Charles and Prince Andrew.

Nine state rooms were destroyed or severely damaged and 100 other rooms were affected.

A memorial plaque identifies where the blaze started. The castle now holds \$25 million worth of fire prevention equipment, including smoke detectors.

"I saw the castle when it was first opened after the blaze and have been coming every three months to watch what was done," said Windsor resident John Foulkes, who brought his 8-year-old son to see the restoration. "I think the beauty of it is the craftsmanship this country still has and it is fantastic the sort of skill which has gone into it."

Clearance Sale

Buy a new Nissan or Ford and receive a Free Radio Cassette Player



*Offer ends December 31, 1997 or while supplies last.



Happy Holidays

from

JOETEN MOTOR COMPANY INC.

AUTO SALES, PARTS & SERVICE

234-5562 to 5568 or 235-5557 or 235-5559

First on Saipan!



An unidentified Kurdish child is helped out of a dinghy after being rescued from the Turkish ship Ararat that ran aground off the Italian southern coast in Sovereto, Saturday. Some 820 illegal immigrants, most of them Kurds, were brought to shore from the Turkish ship after a six-day voyage. AP

Pardon of terrorists fuels debate in Italy

By Frances D'emilio
ROME (AP) — The Christmas pardon of six imprisoned terrorists by Italy's president is stoking an old debate on how to close the books on some of the country's most painful chapters, including whether to grant corrupt politicians amnesty.

"Amnesty is a big, hot potato, and the gentlemen who govern us, like the prudent men they are, are making a test, holding out their little hands and if they feel it's still burning, they'll pull back," commentator Giorgio Bocca wrote on the front page of Saturday's *La Repubblica*, a left-leaning Rome daily.

Center-left Premier Romano Prodi ruled out that his government would propose legislation for a cor-

ruption amnesty, newspapers reported Saturday. "For now the problem absolutely isn't on the table," he was quoted as saying.

The presidential palace on Friday announced that President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro had pardoned five members of the leftist Red Brigades and a member of one of the extreme right groups.

Domestic terrorism stunned Italy in the 1970s and early 80s with bomb attacks, assassinations and kidnappings.

All of those pardoned by Scalfaro were nearing the end of prison terms for convictions for membership in armed gangs and subversive association and not directly involved in any murders.

One of the pardoned Red Brigades, Claudio Cerica, told

RAI state TV that after 20 years all convicted domestic terrorists should be freed. A longtime fugitive, he was arrested earlier this year after he turned in to police a wallet he found on a Rome street.

In July, Italy's justice minister came out in favor of pardons for terrorists.

A few months before that, Deputy Premier Walter Veltroni, a former Communist, joined a chorus of leftists protesting the supreme court's rejection of the final appeal of three leftist militants convicted of the 25-year-old killing of a Milan police chief.

The supporters argued that alleged ringleader of the killing, Adriano Sofri, a professor in Florence, had long ago reformed himself and should not have to serve his 22-year sentence. Scalfaro's pardons fueled new calls for Sofri's release.

What to do about corruption suspects has lacerated Italy since media mogul Silvio Berlusconi, himself a defendant in corruption cases, became premier in 1994 and his justice minister proposed an amnesty for most kickback suspects. The proposal went nowhere after a national uproar.

The "Tangentopoli," or Kickback City scandals toppled an entire class of politicians and businessmen earlier this decade. Most of those hundreds of cases have yet to come to trial or final appeals.

Inspired by the presidential pardons, the Chamber whip of Berlusconi's Forza Italia party, Beppe Pisanu, called for a blanket amnesty for all those who pay back what they took in kickbacks for public contracts.

The head of the Chamber's Justice Commission, hardline Communist Refoundation member Giuliano Pisapia, on Saturday called on lawmakers to make up their minds on the terrorism issue.

"Every time I hear different positions, and that seems unfair both for relatives of victims and those of the inmates," Pisapia said.

Netanyahu warns militants



Benjamin Netanyahu

By Jack Katzenell
JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu promised Saturday to crack down on Jewish right-wing militants trying to provoke religious conflict with Muslims.

The warning came a day after a court ordered two Israelis detained for plotting to throw a pig's head into a revered Muslim shrine in Jerusalem during Islam's holy month of Ramadan.

"The Israeli government is taking determined action against lawbreakers trying to offend Muslim religious feelings and the government will take forceful action against anyone who tries to instigate a religious war," Netanyahu said in a statement.

The statement did not specify what action Netanyahu planned.

After the plot to throw the pig head was revealed Friday, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat called on Israel to disarm the Jewish settlers in the West Bank and Gaza.

Iraq to resume exports of oil

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) — Iraq's oil minister said Saturday that Baghdad expects within a week to resume oil exports as part of a U.N. oil-for-food program.

Iraq has sent a new aid distribution plan for the third phase of the oil-for-food program to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan for approval and expects a reply in a few days, Amer Mohammed Rashid said. Each phase of the plan lasts six months.

Iraq announced earlier this month that it would not sell oil under the third phase until it received U.N. approval for its new plan for distributing food, medicine and other necessities.

Iraq is allowed to sell \$2 billion worth of oil every six months under the exemption from the crushing U.N. economic embargo, imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

The Security Council has said that it will not consider lifting the sanctions until Iraq fully cooperates with U.N. inspectors working to eliminate Iraq's weapons of mass destruction.

The detainees, Avigdor Eskin and Haim Peckovich, were arrested earlier this week, and a judge ordered Friday that they be held for six more days. A third man — Harel Hershtik, already under arrest in connection with a separate killing — also is suspected of involvement, police spokesman Shmuel Ben-Ruby said.

Ramadan, which begins at the end of December, is a time of increased religious fervor when devout Muslims fast from sunrise to sunset.

Hassan Tahboub, the Palestinian minister of religious affairs, said Friday that while he appreciated the efforts of the Israeli police in catching the three, "there are still a lot of people out there who have the same intentions."



Worshippers at the Church of the Nativity in Bethlehem reach out to shake the hand of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat who had come to participate in Midnight Mass Wednesday. In his traditional sermon, the Latin Patriarch Michel Sabbah decried the difficulties in the Israel-Palestinian peace process and urged Arafat to be wise and courageous. AP

PUBLIC NOTICE

SUMMER JOB

THIS IS TO INFORM ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS THAT THE **GOVERNOR'S JTPA OFFICE** IS SOLICITING ONE HUNDRED (100) APPLICANTS FOR THE YOUTH VACATION EMPLOYMENT TRAINING PROGRAM.

GIVEN THE CRITICAL NEED OF ESTABLISHING WORK EXPERIENCES FOR STUDENTS EXITING THE SCHOOL SYSTEM, PRIORITY CONSIDERATION WILL BE ACCORDED TO **HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS AGES 16 & UP**, WHO ARE BELOW THE POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINE (ECONOMICALLY DISADVANTAGE).

HOWEVER, DEPENDING ON THE AVAILABILITY OF LOCAL FUNDING, THE PROGRAM MAY ACCOMMODATE THOSE STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERED HIGH INCOME (WITHIN THE SAME AGE RANGE) TO FULFILL THE 100 SLOTS.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS **FRIDAY, JANUARY 02, 1998**. NO APPLICATION WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE ESTABLISHED DATE.

ALL STUDENTS ON **BLUE TRACK** ARE ENCOURAGED TO VISIT THE JTPA OFFICE LOCATED DIRECTLY ACROSS CUC, OR CONTACT MRS. GINA S. WESLEY OR MR. MARTIN C. PANGELINAN AT 664-1700/4 FOR MORE INFORMATION.

RESPECTFULLY,

/s/ **MARTIN C. PANGELINAN**
 Deputy Director, JTPA



You can avoid accident, if you...

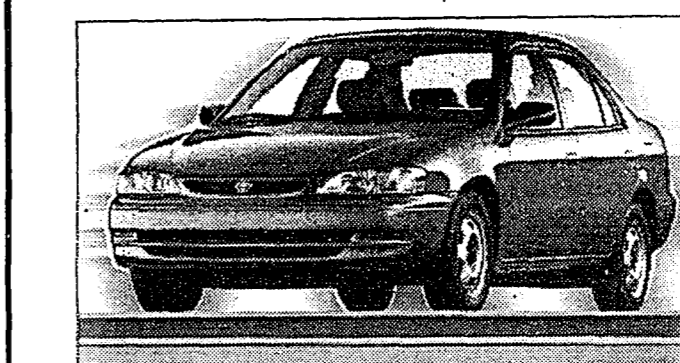
Drive Safely

Pairere #1 Toyota

Microl Corporation
 An Inchcape Motors Company

SAN JOSE • 234-5911

Fax 234-6514



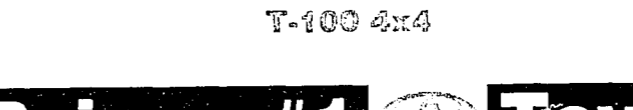
Corolla VE



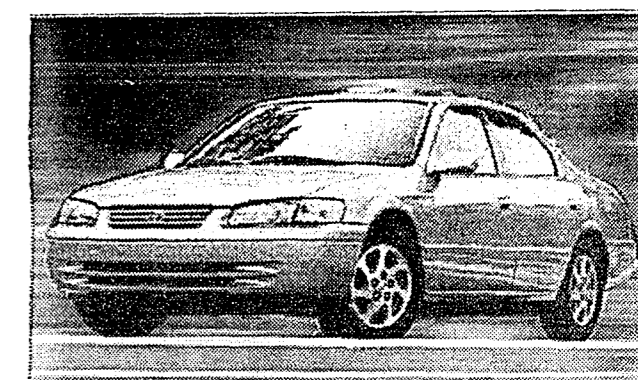
Camry XLE



RAV 4



T-100 4x4



TACOMA 4x2



Pedestrians outside the Boulder County Courthouse walk past signs commemorating the one-year anniversary of the death of Jon Benet Ramsey Friday in Boulder, Co. A rally scheduled for noon at the site attracted only seven participants. AP

Kevorkian caught dropping off body

By RANDI GOLDBERG
DETROIT (AP) — Dr. Jack Kevorkian, the U.S. doctor tried four times assisting suicides, was questioned by police after he and an associate helped two people commit suicide, his lawyer said.

The two retired doctors were questioned Saturday after dropping off the body of a 73-year-old woman at a medical examiner's office.

The body dropped off at the medical examiner's office came about an hour after Kevorkian and Dr. Georges Reding delivered the body of a 53-year-old man to a hospital.

Kevorkian attorney Michael Schwartz said the retired pathologist and Reding were bringing the second body of a woman to the medical examiner's office in a suburb

of Detroit when they were seen by sheriff's officers.

The woman was Mary Langford, 73, from Tampa, Florida, Schwartz said. She suffered from breast cancer that had spread to her lungs, he said.

Schwartz identified the man as Franz-Johann Long, 53, of Bethlehem, Pennsylvania, who was suffering from bladder cancer.

Schwartz said Kevorkian and Reding were both taken to department headquarters and asked if they wished to talk. They declined, and were released.

Sheriff Michael Searing would not say if the department will recommend criminal charges. He said more information would be available Sunday.

Kevorkian, 69, has acknowl-

edged attending more than 70 deaths, although his attorney Geoffrey Fieger has said the number is closer to 100.

Kevorkian has been acquitted in three Detroit-area trials covering five deaths. A fourth trial in June resulted in a mistrial.

Denver wants no gunfire for this new year

DENVER (AP) — Police have some advice for New Year's revelers: don't get out your guns.

The "Celebrate '98 with Your Life" is taking aim at the dangers and legal consequences of firing a weapon in the city.

"It's a dangerous and stupid thing to do," said police spokesman Sgt. Dennis Cribari. "Those bullets have to land somewhere, and innocent people get hurt. We're saying that if you do it, there are severe consequences to your actions."

Consequences include a trip to jail and confiscation of the gun. Someone caught shooting from a car could also lose the car, Cribari said.

On New Year's Day 1993, 11-year-old Eric Villar ran outside with his cousins to celebrate and was hit behind the ear by a bullet. He was taken off life support 11 hours later.

A similar incident on the Fourth of July in 1985 killed a Denver man standing on his porch.

Police Capt. Juan Maldonado approached residents of his district about trying to prevent the shootings. His plan includes both leaflets and stronger enforcement.

Police Chief Dave Michaud solicited Maldonado's idea that he ordered it become a departmentwide effort, Cribari said.

Girl dies after rescuing sister

PARK HILLS, Mo. (AP) — A 9-year-old girl died Saturday after rescuing her 6-year-old sister and trying to pull her young brother from a fire in their apartment.

Brittany Nesser Burger died of smoke inhalation.

The 2-year-old boy, David Noll II, was in critical condition Saturday evening at St. John's Mercy Medical Center in St. Louis. David's father, David, who lived with his son in the apartment, was in satisfactory condition at the same hospital.

The fire was reported shortly after noon. The cause of the fire was unknown Saturday evening, said police officer Doug Bowles.

Bowles said Brittany saved her sister, Katie Burger, by dropping her out a second-floor bedroom window about six feet above the ground. Katie was not injured. Brittany then tried to rescue her brother, but suffered third-degree burns from the flames.

Park Hills is about 60 miles south of St. Louis.

In Florida:

Tornado demolishes homes

By Mike Schneider

HAINES CITY, Fla. (AP) — Tess Bentley knew the high-pitched whine that woke her early Saturday was a tornado. She took two steps and dove into her bedroom closet full of clothes.

Within seconds, Mrs. Bentley, 48, and her two-bedroom house were spinning in the air. She was still in her closet when her home landed upside down on top of a neighbor's house about 50 yards away.

More than 100 homes were damaged by the tornado that tore through the Lake Region Mobile Village, a retirement community 35 miles southwest of Orlando. The twister — part of a series of storms that swamped Florida's Gulf Coast — left four residents hospitalized, but none of the injuries were life-threatening.

Mrs. Bentley suffered only bumps and bruises.

"She's our own little Dorothy," neighbor Dick Runge said. "If this isn't a miracle, I don't know what is."

Mrs. Bentley's home landed on Peg and Carmon Howe's two-bedroom house down the street. Mrs. Bentley, who had been alone in her home, was trapped for two hours underneath siding, shelves and insulation before rescuers freed her from the debris.

"I said, 'This isn't my kitchen. I'm in Carmon's kitchen,'" she said. "I didn't understand that I was in their house."

Mrs. Howe suffered a broken back but was released from the hospital. Her husband, uninjured, escaped through a window.

The storms destroyed 53 mobile homes in Haines City, and severely damaged another 10 in nearby Winter Haven, said Jill Weinschke of the Polk County emergency management services.

Fire rescue crews used rubber boats to evacuate frail and elderly residents

Guards escorting prisoners nabbed

DALTON, Ga. (AP) — One security guard pushed another out of a van Saturday as they fought while escorting nine prisoners from Memphis, Tenn., to Georgia.

The two guards, who work for a private company that transports convicts, were drinking in the van before they started fighting, police said.

The guards were jailed for drunken driving and making a false report that their prisoners had escaped, Sheriff Scott Chitwood said.

The driver, identified as William Rothchild Rogers, stopped the van during the argument and pushed the other guard out, the report said.

The other guard, Matthew Daniel Joyner, was picked up on the side of Interstate 75 and told authorities the prisoners had overpowered the guards and hijacked the van, taking one guard hostage.

When authorities found the van and stopped it, Rogers and the prisoners were taken into custody without incident.



Victims sort through their belongings in the ruins of a home in Haines City, Fla., Saturday after a tornado ripped through the town early Saturday morning. AP

Smaller Lighter Smarter

Motorola's StarTAC Cellular Series

Now starting at Only

\$399*



(actual size)

AAA Cellular
Exclusive authorized agent of GTE PACIFICA Cellular
Tel: (670) 235-8808
Next to Subway in Gualo Rai

- Motorola's Lightest Cellular Phone (3.1 ounces!)
- Dual Detachable Batteries
- Optional VoiceNote™ Answering Machine/Voice Recorder
- Smart Button
- Headset Jack
- Icon-Driven User Interface
- Rapid Internal Charger
- Data Capable
- Optional VibraCall™ Alert
- Optional Two-Line Display

* While supplies last. Choose from any taga plan. Some restrictions apply.

Clearance Sale

Buy a new Honda and receive a Free Radio Cassette Player

*Offer ends December 31, 1997 or while supplies last.

Happy Holidays

from

Simplify.

P.O. Box 238, Salpan, MP 96950 • Tel. 234-8333/8334



**Commonwealth I Sangkattan Siha Na Islas Marianas
Dipattamenton Hotnalero yan Imigrasion
Dibision Setbision Manempleha**

P.O. Box 1007
Saipan, MP 96950
Tilifon: (670) 664-2085/86
Fax: (670) 664-3183



NUTISIAN PUPBLIKU

I Dipattamenton Hotnalero yan Imigrasion un Cabinet-level na eskalera dipattamento ni dibidi entre singko ni mamprisinsipat siha na dibision: i Dibision Hotnalero, Dibision Imigrasion, Dibision Setbision Administrasion, Dibision Hotnalero yan Sistemam Aidentifikasion yan Dokumentu Imigrasion yan i Dibision Setbision Man Empleha. Kada dibision kinabesaya ni Direktot ni gaige gi papa Sekretarium Dipattamenton Hotnalero yan Imigrasion, ya mañefietbe sigon gi minalago' i Gobetno.

I Direktot Setbision Manempleha as Siñot Joseph B. Dela Cruz, ha na'fanmanhahasso' i pupbliku hinerat, espisiatmente i **RESIDENT WORKERS**. (tat komu i taotao tano', Siuidanon U.S., Siuidanon Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands yan Republic of Belau) na i Dibision Setbision Manempleha guiya responsaple para u asigura i ma emplehan-ñiha i Resident Workers gi Praibet siha na Bisnis gi halom i Commonwealth. Este ha engklulusu i para u ma pribeniya ayudun riniferen cho'cho', i ma setefikasion na ti siña i mambakante siha na cho'cho' manma sodda'i ni manresidente siha na hotnalero, i minanehan prugraman emplehao siha, prinebiyen teknikat siha na ayudu yan i ma satban hafa guaha na yinaoyao gi entalo' i manempleleha yan i Resident Workers.

Para mas infotmasyon yan ayudu, put fabot bisisita i Ofisinan-mami gi Dipattamenton Hotnalero yan Imigrasion, Mina' Dos Bibenda, Afetna Square, Sengsong San Antonio osino a'agang maseha hayi na taotao Setbision Manempleha gi tilifon numiru 664-2085 pat 664-2086 osino gi Fax 664-3183.



**Depattamentool Aweeweel Schóól Angaang Llól CNMI
me
Schóól Tooto Angaang Llól CNMI
Bwal Eew Peighil Bwulasiol Angaang**

ARONGORONGOL TOWLAP

Depattamentool Labor me Immigration nge ebwal lo eskalera Cabinet-nil Gobietno nge eyoor limoow ráaráál: 1) Peighil Bwulasiol aweeweel Schóól Tolong Tooto Angaang Llól CNMI, 2) Peighil Bwulasiol Schóól Tolong Wóól Falúw, Wóól Falúw, 3) Peghil Bwulasiol Atministarasion, 4) Peighil Bwulasiol Aidentifikasional meeta, me 5) Peighil Bwulasiol Schóól Angaang Llól Gobietno me Bisnis. Eew me eew bwulasiol kkaal nge eghal eyoor aschay samwool ye re ghal ira bwe Direktood ye e lo faal Sekretariyal Depattamentool Aweeweel Schóól Angaang Llól CNMI me Schóól Tooto Angaang Llól CNMI nge sekeretariya yeel nge e angaang llól tippal Gobietno.

Direktoodul Peighil Bwulasiol Schóól Angaang Llól Gobietno me Bisnis nge Samwer ye Joseph B. Dela Cruz ye e mwuschel ebwe amengi ngeliir towlap me far schókka re tooto angaang falei ye re ira bwe resident workers (Schóól falei, U.S. CITIZENS, schóól Federated States of Micronesia, schóól Republic of the Marshall Islands me schóól Republic of Belau) ye Peighil Bwulasiol Schóól Angaang Llól Gobietno me Bisnis e kke apayú bwe bwulasiyo yeel nge angaangil schagh private mille emmwel rebwe amwuri bwe rebwe scheli resident workers le angaang. Rebwe scheliir reel rebwe abwááriló iya igha eyoor angaang, bwungúwlo bwe angaang we nge esóór schóól falei ye emmwel ebwe toolong llól, me amwuri fetel angaang kka eyoor me ikka aramasal falúw emmwel rebwe toolong, alisir schóól angaang me bisnis me bwal lepateer schóól angaang me schóól atarabwaaghoor.

Ngare eyoor maas tipómw me rebwe scheliigh, au ghal llól llól bwulasio kka llól Depattamentool Aweeweel Schóól Angaang Llól CNMI me Scheoól Tooto Angaang Llól CNMI, Aruwowwal Bibendaal Afetna Square, San Antonio ngere faffaingi inaamwo bwulasiyo kkaal mellól tilifona kkaal #664-2085 ngere 664-2086 ngere yááyá FAX INQUIRIES llól 664-3183.



**Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Department of Labor and Immigration
Division of Employment Services**

P.O. Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 664-2085/6
Fax: (670) 664-3183

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Department of Labor and Immigration is a cabinet-level department with five main divisions: Division of Labor, Division of Immigration, Division of Administrative Services, Division of Labor and Immigration Identification and Documentation System and Division of Employment Services. Each Division is headed by a Director who is directly subordinate to the Secretary of Labor and Immigration, and serves at the pleasure of the Governor.

The Director of Employment Services Mr. Joseph B. Dela Cruz would like to remind the general public, especially **RESIDENT WORKERS** (Locals, U.S. Citizens, citizens from the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Republic of Belau) that the division of employment services is primarily responsible for securing employment for resident workers with the private sector in the Commonwealth. This includes providing job referral assistance, certifying that job vacancies cannot be filled with resident labor, coordinating employment programs, providing technical assistance, and resolving disputes between employers and resident workers.

For more information and assistance, please visit our office at the Department of Labor and Immigration, 2nd floor, Afetna Square, San Antonio Village or contact any of the employment services personnel at telephone numbers 664-2085 or 664-2086 or Fax Inquiries to 664-3183.

Report: Arms hit streets

CHICAGO (AP) — Thousands of powerful, rapid-fire military weapons are being rebuilt and sold to gun dealers for public distribution around the country, the Chicago Tribune reported.

More than a dozen gunmakers use scraps from the United States military and armies around the world to rebuild battlefield firearms, the Tribune reported in Sunday's editions.

The sale of rebuilt military weapons demonstrates the inability of the nation's numerous gun laws to keep some of the most deadly firearms off the streets.

Surplus U.S. firearms that

are not used in the Civilian Marksmanship Program, a government program to teach marksmanship and gun safety, are supposed to be destroyed or rendered inoperable. But gunmakers say the military does a poor job of crushing the guns.

"If you cut a Chevrolet in half, you may not be able to drive the car, but that doesn't mean you can't use the engine and other parts," said William Dailey, attorney for Springfield Armory Inc., a gun company based in Geneseo, Ill.

Military officials say they do a thorough job of cutting up the weapons, and that the law does not allow them to

prevent gun dealers from bidding on the scrap metal.

But Jack Friese, whose Baltimore-based company Armscorp USA makes semi-automatic M-14s powerful enough to pierce lightly armored cars, said he gets regular notices from the military announcing sales and inviting him to bid on the scraps.

For the last 23 years, Friese has used international contacts to negotiate deals for millions of foreign and U.S. military firearm parts.

Dailey said that military rifles are too cumbersome and bulky to be used in crimes. But the Tribune traced one military weapon — the pow-

erful M-1 carbine — to more than a dozen murders in the 1990s. In all of the cases, the killers bought the weapons at gun shops and gun shows.

Gun shows, one of the best markets for secondhand weapons, are almost totally free of state and federal regulation despite a 1993 federal inves-

tigation that found stolen military weapons being routinely sold at them.

More than 95 percent of the nation's estimated 240 million guns are in private hands, the Tribune reported. For the most part, the resale of these guns goes unregulated by federal or local laws.

Clinton condemns murder of jailed militant in N. Ireland



President Clinton

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton condemned the Saturday mur-

der of a jailed Protestant militant in Northern Ireland and for the sake to resist retaliation.

"Nonviolent dialogue and negotiation is the only way to support the forces of democracy and justice," Clinton said through a statement from his press secretary.

"We urge the leaders, parties and people of Northern Ireland not to allow this cowardly act to distract them from the important work at hand, not to engage in acts of revenge."

On Saturday, an Irish Re-

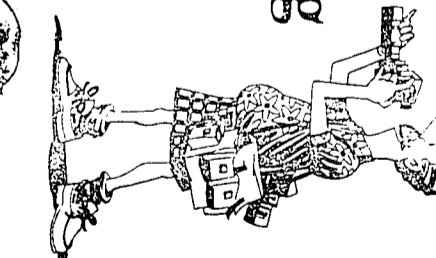
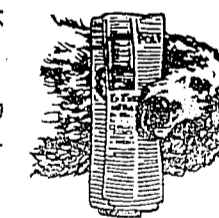
publican Army splinter gang killed Billy Wright inside a Northern Ireland prison. Both Wright and his killers opposed the cease-fires that have opened the way for peace talks.

Said the White House statement issued shortly after Wright's murder: "This killing, coming during the Christmas season, makes no sense at a time when the people of Northern Ireland have real cause for rejoicing at the prospects for peace and prosperity in the New Year."



**Advertising in the
Marianas Variety is inviting
more business, sales and
exposure.**

The Marianas Variety daily reaches not only the offices but also the homes of many of its readers.



Death & Funeral Announcement

Olympia Selepeo Borja

Born Dec. 17, 1933 - Died Dec. 22, 1997
Husband: Carlos Arriola Borja

Daughter of Antonio Pelero & Mercedes Roligat Selepeo
Father & Mother-in-Law, Ignacio Diaz & Ana Cabrera Borja

CHILDREN & FAMILY

DORIS B. & PLASIDO TAGABUEL (Clarence, Arlene, Biden-JR, Gracella & Garland Dela Cruz-Doreen & Rd. John, Junior, Christine and Bo-boy) WILLIAM S. BORJA & REMEDIO CABRERA (Marvin, Wilma & Felipe, Fejeran-Jacoby, Michelle-Bryton, Kaylyn) LOURDES B. & LUTHFUR RAHMAN (Gerald, Geneva, Lani & Lunesa) ROSALIA S. BORJA & PEDRO ILO (Sharleen, Ana Eric & LiAnn) BERNADITA B. & JIMMY MARCELO (Kari, Caroline, Tahira, Olympia & Jimber) SUSANA S. BORJA & JOHN LIMES (Kiku, Francene, Scotty & Jonathan) CARLOS JR & TERESA (Elisha) DANNY S. BORJA

SISTERS & BROTHERS

Margarita S. & + Jose N. Taman, Victoria S. & Henry K. Magofna Florence S. & Jacques Kirby, +Herman & +Dolores R. Selepeo, Francesca S. & +Bernardo Filial, Rita S. & Antonio Saures, +Sylvestre & +Victorina Selepeo

SISTERS/BROTHERS-IN-LAW

Magdalena B. & +Antonio Palacios, Consolacion B & Jose Muna, Lise B. & Gregorio Quitugua, Auria A. Borja, Eugenio & Rosa C. Borja and Josepha B. & +Calistro Ada.

Nightly and noon rosaries are being offered at CHC Chapel at 12 noon, 8 p.m. nad 12 midnight. Body will be viewed and waken at their residence in San Jose (Olea) on December 29, Monday, starting at 3 p.m. Funeral Mass will be on December 30, Tuesday at 4 p.m. at the San Jose Parish Church. Burial will follow at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

From The Family

**Call the Variety
Advertising Rep. to
assist you in your
advertising plans.**
Tel. 234-6341/
7578/9797.
Ask for Bing.

Marianas Variety Newspaper now is distributed daily in many outlets in Koror, Palau and in Kolonia, Pohnpei.

US to analyze mystery disease

By Chege Mbitiru
NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Specimens of a mysterious disease that apparently has caused scores of Kenyans and livestock to bleed to death are being sent to the United States and South Africa for analysis.

Peter Tukey, a virologist at the Kenya Medical Research Institute, said the U.S.-bound samples were being sent to the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta. He was unsure where the South Africa-bound specimens were heading.

The samples include tissues from various parts of victims' bodies, their stools and blood.

Tukey said medical investigators in Kenya have established the disease is either being transmitted from livestock to humans or the other way around, "but we are not near to saying exactly how."

Local reports say up to 217 people have died from the disease in flooded villages around Garissa, 140 miles northeast of Nairobi.

Doctors have been able to confirm only three deaths.

Government lab workers and colleagues at the private African Medical Research Foundation in Nairobi have been testing dozens of blood samples from humans and livestock suspected to have died from the disease.

Veterinarians also were trying to identify the disease.

High fever, diarrhea, vomiting and bleeding from the nose and mouth have been described as symptoms suffered by the human victims. The afflicted livestock also experienced external bleeding.

Twelve possible diseases are being investigated, including yellow fever and dengue. Ebola, which also causes its victims to bleed from the mouth and other orifices, tentatively has been ruled out.

Investigators also were looking at anthrax, the Daily Nation reported Saturday.

Dr. Abdikadir Salat, head of Garissa District Hospital, said five members of one family who had died of the disease within 24 hours had 196 goats apparently killed by the disease, the newspaper said.

Prominent Thais to lobby US for help

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — The Thai government has recruited three former Thai ambassadors to the United States, including an ex-Prime minister, to lobby Washington for help in mending the crumbling economy, local papers reported Sunday.

The three will also ask U.S. creditor banks to rollover loans to Thai corporations and seek more investment from American companies, the Bangkok Post reported.

Thailand is struggling through its worst economic crisis in modern times, which has necessitated a \$17.2 billion bailout supervised by the International Monetary Fund.

Thailand's crisis triggered a regional economic downturn that has seen currencies devalued in

several Asian countries and led the IMF to provide even bigger bailout packages for Indonesia and South Korea.

Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai called upon former Prime Minister Anand Panyarachun and former Foreign Ministers Kasem Kasemsri and Arsa Sarasin to serve as his special team to deal with the United States, the Post reported.

Chuan also asked Anand to serve as his official advisor on economic matters, but Anand said he would only assume the role in an unofficial capacity. The Nation newspaper reported.

Anand, who heads the Thailand Development Research Institute — a think tank partially supported by the government —

served as prime minister twice during the early 1990s and was regarded as a capable and honest technocrat.

The formation of a team to court the U.S. comes just days after Deputy Prime Minister Supachai Panichdikap chided the American government for not coming to Thailand's rescue when the crisis unfolded in mid-1997.

Supachai, who along with Finance Minister Tarrin Nimmanahaeminda are Chuan's chief economic advisors, was quoted in local papers as saying he would introduce investment laws to favor Japanese businesses over American businesses because the Japanese government had provided more economic help than the U.S.

Report: Chinese police force activist into mental hospital

BEIJING (AP) — Police are pressuring the family of a workers' rights advocate to declare him mentally ill and force him into a hospital, a human rights group said Sunday.

In the past month, police in Bengbu, Anhui province in eastern China, have used threats to try to force the wife and parents of Wang Hongxue to declare him a schizophrenic and have him sent

for extensive treatment at a hospital for the mentally ill, New York-based Human Rights in China said in a news release.

Wang, 37, has written critical open letters to the government in the past year urging better protection for workers' rights.

The failure of many state enter-

prises in China has left tens of millions of workers unemployed and struggling to make ends meet.

Wang and other activists throughout the country have been encouraging workers to organize. China has only a government-run labor union and does not allow independent labor groups.

Federal . . .

Continued from page 1
on the US to declare the island a federal disaster area following a speedy Clinton declaration for nearby Guam.

Guam and Rota were the hardest hit in the Mariana Islands chain when Paka swept through last Dec. 17, receiving the brunt of winds reportedly as strong as 236 miles per hour.

Guam Gov. Carl T. Gutierrez initially placed the damage on Guam at \$200 million. Succeeding estimates have yet to be ascertained.

On the other hand, Inos' initial reports of damage on Rota included residences and buildings totally demolished, roads completely "washed out," crops completely destroyed, public facilities like schools and ports damaged.

in prices since the CNMI is importing much of its goods from several countries in the Asia-Pacific region which are experiencing the financial crisis.

As a result of the importation of cheaper commodities, the CNMI will experience lower inflation rate, according to Samari, adding that the low inflation rate in the US mainland will have a chain reaction effect in the Marianas.

Inflation is an abnormal increase in available currency and credit beyond the proportion of available goods, resulting in a sharp and continuing rise in price levels.

block the extension of federal immigration and minimum wage laws to the CNMI, as recommended by the Clinton Administration and the Democrats in Congress.

A staunch conservative, Delay represents the 22nd District of Texas, which includes Brazoria, Fort Bend, and Harris Counties. As party whip, he is respon-

El . . .

Continued from page 1
Islands between mid-November and mid-December and bring heavy rains to Guam and the CNMI.

Paka indeed struck the Marshalls before it pummeled Guam and Rota.

Garment . . .

Continued from page 1
raw materials are being sourced from.

"If the garment factories are getting their textiles from China and Korea or the Philippines, then again, the textile will be cheaper to buy because of the value of the US dollar against these countries' currencies," he explained.

Earlier, Samari said the existing currency crisis may hurt CNMI's tourism industry, explaining that as the US dollar gains

strength against regional currencies, traveling becomes more expensive for the Japanese and Koreans—who comprise the bulk of CNMI's visitors.

But despite this, the government economist said the crisis may result to the influx of low-cost imports from "suffering" countries.

He said Marianas residents are expected to enjoy cheaper imported goods in the next three to six months, citing the value of the dollar against many Asian currencies.

He said he is seeing a downturn

DeLay . . .

Continued from page 1
ranking U.S. congressional leader to visit the CNMI.

It was DeLay and U.S. House Majority Leader Dick Army (R-Texas) who assured Governor Tenorio last June that the Republican-controlled Congress will

LOST PASSPORT

The Passport of **REN JIANG WANG** was lost two weeks ago and never found. This passport is nor and **PASSPORT # 142851861 (Chinese)**

FOR SALE

95 JEEP WRANGLER
30,000 • V6-Auto • Black/Hardtop • Loaded • Aircon • Stereo • \$13,000 or best offer
Tel. 287-1577

APARTMENT FOR SALE

\$170,000 total fixed price
monthly income \$8,000.00
16 units apartment & 3 commercial stores fully occupied
12 years lease remaining
Call Day 234-1233 • Eve 288-2222

FOR SALE

1 - Compaq Presario
Computer, CD Rom, W/ Speakers, Lots of Program, Comes W/Epson Colored Printer
PRICE: \$2,100.00 (O.B.O.)

FOR SALE

1 - 20' Container
PRICE: \$1,100.00 (O.B.O.)
FOR MORE INFORMATION:
PLS. CALL: 322-8031 & 488-4224

NOW AVAILABLE

Car Aircon Evaporator
(Any Type)
\$350.00-Guaranteed For Two (2) Years
Inquire: Tel. 235-3110

HELP WANTED

ACCOUNTANT
Must understand all aspects of Computerized software for GL, AR, AP, preferably MAS90. Must be energetic and able to solve problems independently. Local hire preferred. Salary depends on experience. Contact 256-0292. Resume to PPP 961.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
GUAM SAVINGS & LOAN ASSOCIATION, a Guam Banking Corporation, Plaintiff,
vs.
NORMAN L. DAVIS and ROSITA Q. DAVIS, Defendants.
CIVIL ACTION NO. 97-419

NOTICE OF SALE OF REAL PROPERTY ON FORECLOSURE OF MORTGAGE

Under and by virtue of a Default Decree of Foreclosure and Order of Sale entered on September 18, 1997, I am commanded and empowered to sell at public auction, for cash, the following described real property:
Lot 345 R 269, Rota, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 345 R 096, the original of which was recorded July 13, 1984 as Document No. 84-1070 at Commonwealth Recorder's Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Tract 22919-3-1 (part of original AH 162), Saipan, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2144/2, the original of which was recorded May 14, 1992 as Document No. 92-1618 at the Commonwealth Recorder's Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on Wednesday, the 7th day of January, 1998, at 10:00 A.M. at the Public Station, in Susupe, Saipan, CNMI, I will, pursuant to said Order, sell the above-described real property to satisfy said Decree, costs and expenses of sale, to the highest bidder, for cash, in lawful money of the United States. The undersigned reserves the right to withdraw this Notice, to reject any bid, and to postpone the sale from time to time. Dated this 23rd day of December, 1997.

s. Jose M. Castro, Commissioner
Department of Public Safety

Police Assistance

Call 911



Marianas Variety Classified Ads Section

DEADLINE: 12:00 noon the day prior to publication
NOTE: If some reason your advertisement is incorrect, call us immediately to make the necessary corrections. The Marianas Variety News and Views is responsible only for one incorrect insertion. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time.

Employment Wanted

Job Vacancy Announcement

- 01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: TALUNG'S APART. Tel. 235-5864(12/29)M24984
- 01 QUARRY SUPERINTENDENT-Salary:\$1,000.00-1,650.00 per month
01 ELECTRIC MOTOR REWINDER-Salary:\$3.05-3.60 per hour
01 MECHANIC HELPER-Salary:\$3.05-3.60 per hour
01 BULLDOZER OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05-3.60 per hour
02 BLOCK MAKER-Salary:\$3.05-3.40 per hour
04 CARPENTER-Salary:\$3.05-6.00 per hour
01 STEEL WORKER-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour
01 WAREHOUSE WORKER-Salary:\$3.05-3.40 per hour
04 MASON-Salary:\$3.05-4.70 per hour
04 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05-3.60 per hour
01 CONSTRUCTION WORKER-Salary:\$3.05-5.20 per hour
02 PLUMBER-Salary:\$3.05-4.70 per hour
02 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$3.75-6.00 per hour
01 DISPATCHER-Salary:\$3.05-3.60 per hour
01 AIR TRAC DRILL OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05-3.25 per hour
Contact: CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIAL SUPPLY, INC. dba CMS Tel. 234-6136(12/29)M69901

- 02 BROADCASTER (ANNOUNCER)-Salary:\$1,500.00-1,050.00 per month
Contact: SORENSEN PACIFIC BROADCASTING dba Power 99 Tel. 235-7996(12/29)M69905
- 01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$550.00 per month
Contact: JAPANESE INTERNATIONAL LTD. Tel. 234-5555(12/29)M24978
- 01 AUTO-MECHANIC-Salary:\$3.20 per hour
01 AUTOBODY REPAIRER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 AUTO PAINTER-Salary:\$ 3.05 per hour
Contact: PHILIPPINE EAGLE CORPORATION dba Philippine Eagle Auto Repair Shop Tel. 288-0928(12/29)M24977
- 01 CASHIER-Salary:\$3.15 per hour
Contact: STAR FOUR CORPORATION Tel. 234-5520(12/29)M24982

- 01 ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK-Salary:\$3.50 per hour
01 BRANCH MANAGER-Salary:\$2,500.00 per month
01 OPERATIONS MANAGER-Salary:\$1,200.00 per month
Contact: CLIPPER AIRFREIGHT INC. Tel. 234-0892(12/29)M24980
- 01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$3.80-4.20 per hour
02 HOUSEKEEPING CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: KAN PACIFIC SAIPAN, LTD Tel. 322-4692(12/29)M69896
- 01 (GROUNDSKEEPER) MAINTENANCE-Salary:\$275.00 bi-weekly
Contact: GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY dba Grace Christian Academy Tel. 322-3220(12/29)M69899
- 01 AUTO MECHANIC-Salary:\$3.05-3.30 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN AUTO SUPPLY CO., INC. dba Sasco Service Plus Tel. 234-8379(12/29)M24985
- 01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:\$350.00 Bi-Weekly
Contact: SUSANA T. MAFNAS dba Traveler's Lodge Apartelle Tel. 235-5121(1/5)M25055

- 01 TECHNICAL OPERATOR-Salary:\$4.75-5.75 per hour
Contact: FAR EAST BROADCASTING COMPANY Tel. 322-9088(1/5)M25047
- 01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$850.00-1,075 per month
Contact: RITA C. CABRERA dba Cabrera Center Tel. 235-9898(1/5)M25048
- 01 WAITRESS (NIC)-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: WESTERN PACIFIC ENT. INC. dba Kimchi Cabana Night Club Tel. 234-6622(1/5)M25052
- 01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$3.50 per hour
Contact: MEITETSU SHOPPING CENTER, INC. dba Meitetsu Mart/Penny's Meitetsu (Rota) TEL. 234-6230(1/5)M25053
- 01 JEWELER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: KEVIN Q. CASTRO dba Pawn Saver Tel. 234-2625(1/5)M25054
- 01 BAKER-Salary:\$4.00 per hour
Contact: YONG SANG PACIFIC CORPORATION Tel. Tokyo Bakery Tel. 235-2303(1/5)M25055

- 02 COOK-Salary:\$3.05-4.50 per hour
01 CHEF-Salary:\$1,800.00 per month
01 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour
01 HELPER, COOK-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
01 AUTO MECHANIC-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: MICRO PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT, INC. dba Saipan Grand Hotel Tel. 234-6601/3 Ext. 112(1/12)M69972
- 03 HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
03 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
01 AUTOMOTIVE ELECTRICIAN-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
01 AUTOMOBILE BODY REPAIRER-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
Contact: BLACK MICRO CORPORATION Tel. 234-6800(1/12)M69971
- 04 CIVIL ENGINEER-Salary:\$1,000.00-1,500.00 per month
01 ARCHITECT-Salary:\$1,000.00-1,300.00 per month
01 ELECTRICAL ENGINEER-Salary:\$1,000.00-1,300.00 per month
01 MECHANIC SHOP MANAGER-Salary:\$1,000.00-1,400.00 per month
03 IRONWORKER (STEELMAN)-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
04 CARPENTER-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
01 AIRCON TECHNICIAN-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
02 MASON-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
01 PLUMBER-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
Contact: BLACK MICRO CORPORATION Tel. 234-6800(1/12)M69969

- 03 KITCHEN HELPER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 REST. WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 FAST FOOD WORKER-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
Contact: D'EGANCE ENT., INC. Tel. 234-1189/9(1/5)M25056
- 01 MAINTENANCE (BUILDING REPAIR)-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: PACIFIC EAGLE ENTERPRISES Tel. 234-7914(1/5)M25039
- 01 GENERAL MANAGER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: NEW MYUNG DONG CORPORATION dba Saly Saipan Scuba Diving Shop Tel. 234-1771(1/5)M25040
- 01 ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN-Salary:\$2,000.00 per month
01 SALES MANAGER-Salary:\$1,700.00 per month
Contact: DECISION SYSTEMS CORPORATION SAIPAN Tel. 235-5175(1/5)M25059
- 01 GENERAL MANAGER-Salary:\$5,500.00-7,500.00 per month
Contact: HOTEL NIKKO SAIPAN, INC. Tel. 322-3311(1/5)M25060
- 02 H.E. OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.10 per hour
01 MACHINIST-Salary:\$3.30 per hour
Contact: MARIANAS REPAIRS COMPANY, INC. Tel. 234-9083(1/5)M25062

- 01 AUTOMOTIVE MECHANIC-Salary:\$3.05-5.00 per hour
Contact: FRANKIE RAYMOND P. MUNA dba Frankie's Auto Shop & Towing Services Tel. 235-4448(1/5)M25061
- 01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:\$3.40 per hour
Contact: SUSANA T. MAFNAS dba One Call Services Tel. 235-5121(1/5)M25064
- 01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$4.00-5.00 per hour
Contact: ROMEO J. FRANCISCO dba Romeo J. Francisco, CPA Tel. 235-6726(1/5)M67377
- 01 MANAGER-Salary:\$2,000.00 per month
Contact: EVERTRUST CORPORATION dba 123 Discount Store Tel. 233-4343(12/24) 24775
- 01 AUTOBODY REPAIR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 AUTO PAINTER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: SEBASTIAN M. CAMACHO dba T&S Auto Repair Shop Tel. 235-4374(1/5)M25063
- 01 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 CLEANER, HOUSEKEEPING-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: D & C CORPORATION Tel. 235-2592(1/12)M25093

- 03 CARPENTERS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
03 MASON-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 PLUMBER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: PROFESSIONAL SERVICES CORPORATION (1/12)M25086
- 01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$1,500.00 per month
01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:\$3.50-5.00 per hour
01 SUPERVISOR-Salary:\$4.20-5.00 per hour
01 GRAPHIC ARTIST-Salary:\$5.75-6.25 per hour
Contact: ISLAND APPAREL, INC. dba Island Apparel Tel. 288-3442(1/12)M25087
- 01 DRESSMAKER/SEWER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
02 SEWER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: ERLINDA G. V. LUTERIO A. PALACIOS dba Elmy Enterprises Tel. 234-0810(1/12)M25090
- 01 WELDER-Salary:\$3.10 per hour
Contact: TANO GROUP, INC. Tel. 235-6652(1/12)M25094
- 02 LITHOGRAPHIC CAMERAMAN/STRIPPER-Salary:\$1.00 per hour
R & M ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. 322-3043(1/12)M25092
- 01 MACHINE OPERATOR (CEMENT)-Salary:\$5.00 per hour
Contact: MICRONESIA CEMENT CO., INC. Tel. 322-3333(12/30)T69917
- 02 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$600.00-1,900.00 per month
Contact: NIIZEKI CO. LTD. Tel. 234-5050(12/30)T69927
- 06 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05-3.25 per hour
Contact: ANGEL P. CRUZ, JR. dba La Filipiniana Restaurant Tel. 234-3569(1/12)M25101

KWEK'S ENTERPRISES SAIPAN, INC. JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

- Must have 2 years experience in a management position.
- At least 2 years previous sales experience.
- Knowledge of Food Products a plus.
- Knowledge of Warehouse Operations a plus.
- Salary will be based on experience.
- Will provide housing and transportation.

Pls. mail in your resume with a contact number and address to the following:

Attn: General Manager
P.O. Box 2725
Saipan, MP 96950

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Karidat has an immediate job opening for Youth Development Coordinator. Applications and Position Description are available at the Karidat Office located next to the Korean Association Building in Chalan Kanoa. Office hours are from 8:00 to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday. Deadline for submission is 4:30 p.m., Wednesday, December 31, 1997.

Applicant must be a U.S. Citizen and must have at least a Bachelor's Degree preferably in Social Work or a related field.

For more information, please contact Priscilla Dela Cruz at 234-6981 or 234-5248.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

Quiet Two (2) Bedrooms • Swimming Pool
Tennis Court

KANNAT GARDENS

(Near Northern Marianas College)

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

FOR SALE

1993 LEXUS LS 400

Executive Car, Low Mileage, Like New.
Serious inquiry only. Call: 234-7490

LAND FOR SALE/LEASE

2,359 M²
KOBLEVILLE, OCEAN VIEW
OVERLOOKING PIC/TINIAN
GOOD ACCESS
CALL: 235-0709/LEAVE MESSAGE

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM. INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 98-003

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bid from interested firms for the procurement of Food Items for SY 1997-98 for the island of Tinian. All items to be delivered must be CIF Tinian Public School System. The specification package is now available and can be obtained at the Procurement and Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan during regular working hours. Monday through Friday except Holidays.

All bids submissions must be submitted in duplicate and sealed in an envelope facemarked "IFB 98-003", and submitted to the Procurement and Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan no later than 2:00 p.m. January 15, 1998 at which time and place all bids will be opened and read aloud. Late submission will not be considered under any circumstances.

The CNMI Public School System reserves the right to reject any or all bids if in its sole opinion it is to the best interest of the Public School System. All inquiries to this bidding announcement may contact Mr. Jess Sanchez at the Food Services Program at telephone # 664-3709/3706.

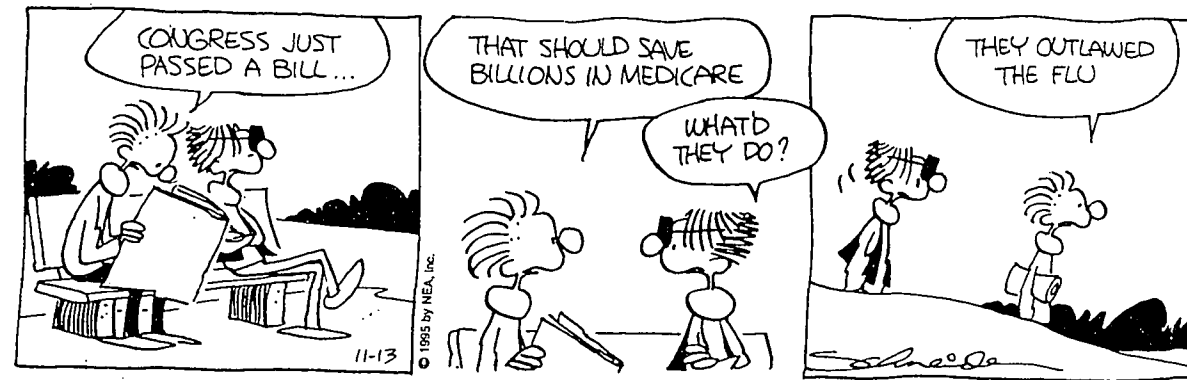
s/William S. Torres
Commissioner of Education

s/Louise Concepcion
Procurement & Supply Officer

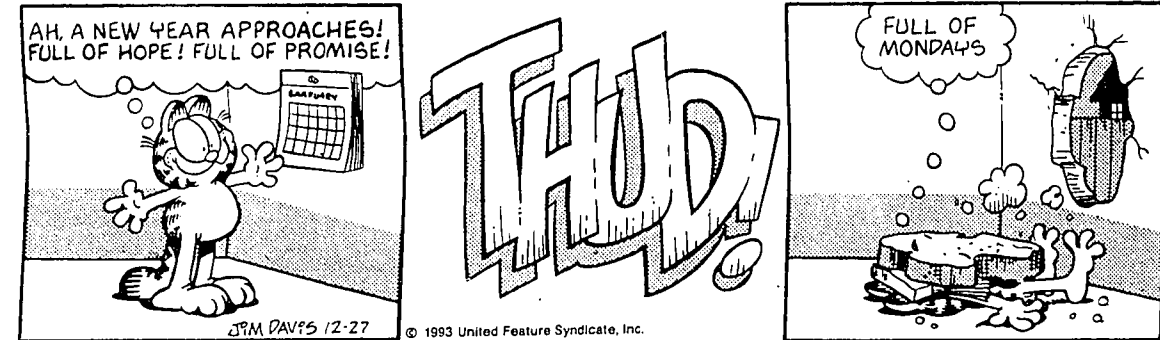


Conserve Power

Eek & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



Garfield® by Jim Davis



PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz



STELLA WILDER YOUR BIRTHDAY

By Stella Wilder
 Born today, you are not always the luckiest person, but you know very well how to rise above all manner of adversity and make the best of less than ideal situations. Almost certainly, you will have to endure at least one period in your life marked by a series of unfortunate circumstances, but whether this occurs in your youth or later in life you are likely to have the wherewithal to avoid any long-term setbacks in your personal or professional life. A hard worker, you're not one to give up what you've earned.

You have tremendous creativity, and your unique style will win you numerous admirers and perhaps more than your share of praise in your lifetime. Even when you fail you do so with such flair that it is unlikely that your foible will be remembered for long — and if so, only because you dealt with it so well!

Also born on this date are: William Gladstone, statesman; Andrew Johnson, U.S. president; Tom Bradley, Los Angeles mayor; Ted Danson and Jon Voight, actors; Marianne Faithful, singer and actress; Mary Tyler Moore, actress and producer.

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

TUESDAY, DEC. 30
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Be persistent in your attempt to contact someone who has the information you need to complete a pivotal task on schedule. Do not get lazy!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — You are going to have to keep track of all that is happening around you today if you're also to know what must be done tomorrow.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — A change of plans may be just around the corner, but you're unwilling to acknowledge that you must be flexible as you approach a turning point.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You are not likely to encounter much difficulty this week where others are concerned. Your internal drive may wax and wane.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Collaborative efforts may prove difficult this week, as one member of your team is unwilling to share ideas as openly as others are.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You must not be timid where criticism is concerned, for it is only through open and honest assessment that improvements can be made today.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — You are going to have to get over a few of your own preferences today if you expect to do business with those who might go elsewhere.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Take care you're not being unfair to a friend by judging him or her before all the results are tallied. Do not be ruled by knee-jerk reactions.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You may be waiting for an apology from someone who, only yesterday, crossed the line at the workplace. Do not be tempted to retaliate.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — There may be no way to tell if you are doing things the right way today, but you will want to continue along this path for at least another day.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Starting will prove the most difficult part of the day, and the later you do it the more unlikely you will be to achieve a primary goal.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You may be expecting some compensation for a service that someone else thinks was a free gesture. Clear up this confusion today!

Copyright 1997, United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

Some dinosaurs were no bigger than hens.

Sixty-five percent of Brazilians suffer from malnutrition.

©1996 NEWSPAPER ENTERPRISE ASSN.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 Buddies
 5 Castor
 8 Appar
 12 Ken of Lena
 13 Opp. of SSW
 14 Prod.
 15 Mona
 16 — opener
 17 Prejudice
 18 Ma and Pa

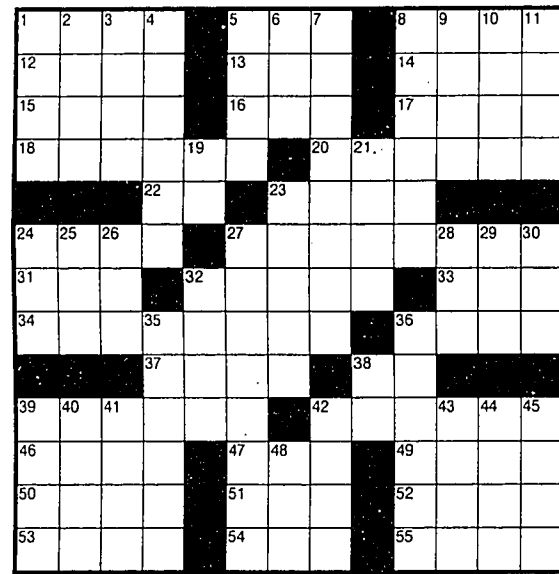
DOWN

1 11th U.S. president
 2 "I cannot tell"
 3 — price
 4 Grab
 5 Single instance

Answer to Previous Puzzle

GUSTIS PRANK
 FORGET LEGION
 EDIT ABATE RO
 MIS SIETE CBS
 MIV APNEA GLUE
 EARLIER THATS
 TILED WEAR
 BUOYS TORNADO
 ANTS MARIA IM
 SIS BELLS LIVE
 ET CARED ATEN
 DETAIL LAKERS
 DUNNE YEARS

© 1997 United Feature Syndicate



KidSpot™ by Dick Rogers

THE PUZZLER

OKAY, SO CHRISTMAS IS OVER. ANYONE WHO THINKS CHRISTMAS DOESN'T LAST ALL YEAR DOESN'T HAVE THIS. TO FIND OUT WHAT IT IS, FILL IN THE SPACES WITH THE NAMES OF THE OBJECTS. THE CIRCLED LETTERS SPELL OUT THE ANSWER.

A ○ ○ _ _ _
 _ _ ○ ○ _ _
 _ _ ○ ○ _ _
 _ _ ○ ○ _ _

ANS: A CREDIT CARD.

© 1997 United Feature Syndicate, Inc. 12/26

STARTS WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 31

MORTAL KOMBAT ANNihilation

DESTROY ALL EXPECTATIONS

THE MOVIE HOUSE

IN 9 DAYS, WITNESS THE RESURRECTION...

© 1997 United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

Clippers clip Nuggets

IN Los Angeles, Rodney Rogers scored 29 points and Lorenzen Wright scored three of his 15 points in the final 34 seconds as the Los Angeles Clippers rallied for a 105-103 victory over the Denver Nuggets on Saturday night.

Brent Barry scored 22 points and Wright added 13 rebounds for the Clippers, who rallied from a 10-point deficit in the final period to end a four-game losing streak and send Denver to its 10th consecutive defeat.

LaPhonso Ellis scored 20 points for the Nuggets, whose 0-15 start on the road is the worst in club history.

They have won only one of their last 30 games away from McNichols Arena, with the lone victory coming in their 1996-97 season finale at Dallas.

Philadelphia 76ers 85, Golden State Warriors 78

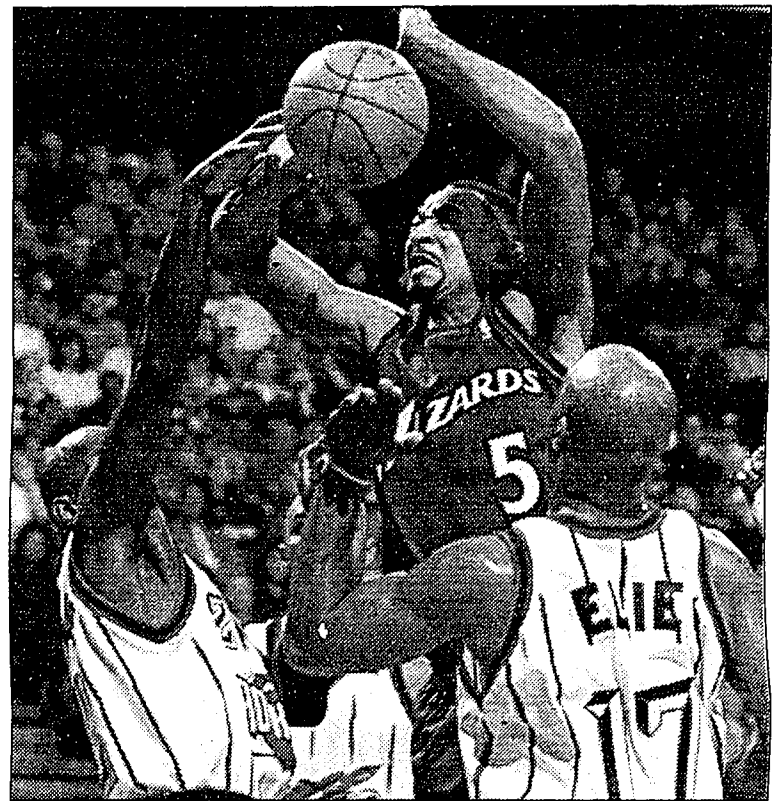
In Oakland, California, Derrick Coleman scored nine of his 22 points in the fourth quarter as Philadelphia broke its six-game losing streak and deprived the Warriors of their first three-game winning streak of the season.

Golden State also had its five-game home winning streak snapped.

The Warriors gave it one last run with a frantic 10-1 spurt over the next two minutes led by Donyell Marshall, whose 3-pointer with 2:34 left cut the lead to 75-74.

But after Coles stole the ball on Philadelphia's next possession, he fumbled it away on the fast break while driving for what would have been a go-ahead basket.

The Warriors never recovered and were outscored 10-4 in the final two minutes.



The Washington Wizards' Juwan Howard, center, gets fouled by the Houston Rockets' Clyde Drexler, left, as he goes to the hoop in the first quarter Saturday in Houston. The Rockets Mario Elie (17) closes the gap on the farside of the play. AP

Baker-Finch fined over pullout

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — Former British Open winner Ian Baker-Finch was fined Tuesday over his decision to disqualify himself from a tournament last Thursday.

Baker-Finch was playing his first four-round professional tournament since walking out of this year's British Open after a disastrous opening round.

He failed to complete the ninth hole in the Coolum Classic after hitting two shots into a water hazard. Although he played the next nine he failed to hand in a completed card.

The Australasian PGA Tour's director of operations, Trevor Herden, would not disclose the details of the fine or any other disciplinary measures.

Baker-Finch was also believed to have been sanctioned for an obscene gesture at a cameraman.

Baker-Finch, who won the British Open at Royal Birkdale in 1991, has been in a deep form slump for almost four years.

Since 1993 Baker-Finch has made three cuts from 22 events on the Australasian PGA Tour and won US \$ 2,800 in prize money.

Arizona . . .

Continued from page 32

97 yards in 24 carries, but twisted his left ankle on a 4-yard run to the New Mexico 1 late in the third quarter and left the game. Eafon scored on the next snap to send the Wildcats (7-5) ahead 20-7 with 2:07 remaining in the period.

Leigh took the Lobos 60 yards in five plays, scoring on a 4-yard keeper, to cut Arizona's lead to six points, but was victimized by inaccuracy in the face of a strong rush.

Sydney to Hobart yacht race on

HOBART, Australia (AP) — A Monday morning duel up the Derwent River is likely as Chinese pocket maxi Exile and the Sydney maxi Brindabella continued their battle Sunday for line honors in the Sydney-Hobart yacht race.

The two big yachts were virtually dead level, with Exile about a mile to seaward, as they sailed down the northeastern coast of Tasmania on Sunday.

The Derwent River marks the final stage of the race into Hobart, the capital of the island state of Tasmania.

The pair, which have spreadeagled the rest of the field, had their spinnakers set as they made about six knots in light easterly winds.

Their estimated time of arrival at the finishing line is 10 am Monday (2300GMT Sunday), although the time could change significantly if weather conditions alter.

Exile, the 66-footer from Hong Kong skippered by owner Warwick Miller and sailed by a top Australian crew, is leading in the race for overall handicap honors.

Since the fleet ran into a gusty southerly off the southern New South Wales coast on Friday night — when early leader Nicorette suffered bow damage that forced it into port for running repairs — Exile and Brindabella have steadily drawn ahead of the rest.

Their battle has been largely tactical with Exile's navigator Peter Shipway setting an easterly course as the two boats searched for favorable winds and currents.

At one stage it was about 20 mile east of Brindabella, although this steadily narrowed Sunday. At no point over the last 24 hours has either boat gained a decisive break.

For most of the period, Exile was around two miles in front, a margin it had maintained at Sunday's official radio schedule.

But a later aerial sighting showed that George Snow's bigger Brindabella, the pre-race favorite which has taken line honors in every other major event on the Australian calendar and has twice been runner-up in this race, had made up ground and was now level with his rival.

As the leaders approached Eddystone Point on the northeastern tip of Tasmania, they had an 80-mile lead over Melbourne yacht P.L.

U.S. . . .

Continued from page 32

will show up from China and who they're bringing and that might make it interesting for the women."

The American squad includes quadruple Olympic champion Amy Van Dyken, world 400-meter individual medley record holder Tom Dolan and two other 1996 individual gold medalists in backstrokers Brad Bridgewater and Beth Botsford.

Urbancsek said the Americans' prospects in the distance freestyle events were "questionable" following the withdrawal through injury of their leading 200-, 400-

and 1,500-meter swimmer, Chad Karvin.

"Obviously that's Australia's strength and right now it's probably our weakness looking at this meet, but the rest of the field, I think we're going to be very competitive."

"We have the world record for the 400 IM event, breaststroke looks like it's going to be an outstanding event, sprint events are traditionally good for the U.S., especially the relays, so I think we have our strengths."

Jenny Thompson and Jon Olsen are the only surviving members of the American team which contested the 1991 world championships in Perth.

Bulls . . .

Continued from page 32

Rony Seikaly added 25 points and 10 rebounds for the Magic, while Mark Price contributed 17 points and nine assists.

Glenn Rice led the Hornets with 27 points, but backup center Matt Geiger was the only other Charlotte player in double figures with a season-high 22 points. He also had nine rebounds before fouling out.

Three baskets by reserve Brian Evans helped the Magic build the lead to 85-70 with 6:18 left in the game. The closest the Hornets got after that was 89-82 on a layup by B.J. Armstrong with 1:23 left. The Magic closed out the victory with 7-of-8 shooting from the free throw line.

New Jersey Nets 112, Milwaukee Bucks 104, 2 OT

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Kendall Gill scored seven of his 25 points in the second overtime and Keith Van Horn had 26 points and 13 rebounds to lead New Jersey over Milwaukee.

With the Nets trailing 99-98 in the second overtime, Gill hit a jumper to put New Jersey ahead for good. Kerry Kittles followed with a pull-up jumper from the key as the shot clock expired.

Glenn Robinson, who led all scorers with 29 points, hit a jumper to pull Milwaukee within a point with 2:33 remaining. But Gill made a 3-point basket, then knocked the ball away from Robinson at the other end and was fouled. He made both free throws for a 107-101 edge. Kittles then iced it with a 3-point shot.

Houston Rockets 111, Washington Wizards 101

In Houston, Brent Price and Mario Elie hit 3-pointers in the final minute as Houston held off a fourth-quarter rally and ended Washington's six-game winning streak.

The Rockets, winning for the first time in four games, got 26 points each from Kevin Willis and Clyde Drexler. Willis and Charles Barkley had 14 rebounds apiece.

It was Washington's first loss to a Western Conference opponent in 10 games this season. The Wizards have not won in Houston in five seasons.

Chris Webber led the Wizards with 26 points and 11 rebounds.



South African fast bowler Allan Donald, third from left, is congratulated by team mates after bowling Australian batsman Mark Waugh, on the third day of the first test at the Melbourne Cricket Ground Sunday. Australia was 4 for 67 at stumps with an over all lead of 190. AP

SPORTS



Bulls stop Hawks for Eastern lead

CHICAGO (AP)—Michael Jordan scored 47 points and Dennis Rodman had 29 rebounds, the most in his 2 seasons with the Bulls, as Chicago defeated the Atlanta Hawks 97-90 Saturday night to take over the lead in the Eastern Conference.

The two-time defending National Basketball Association champion Bulls have won seven consecutive games while the Hawks have lost five straight, season-long streaks for both teams. Chicago, which now has a half-game lead, trailed Atlanta by four games just last week.

Steve Smith scored 18 points for the Hawks, who played most of the game shorthanded in falling to 8-10 since their 11-0 start.

Toronto Raptors 97, New York Knicks 94

In New York, Doug Christie's 3-pointer with eight-tenths of a second remaining gave Toronto its first-ever win over New York.

Damon Stoudamire had a game-high 30 points for the Raptors,



Chicago Bulls' Ron Harper (9) drives to the basket past Atlanta Hawks' Alan Henderson (44) during the first quarter in Chicago, Saturday. Watching are Bulls' Denis Rodman (91) and Bill Wennington, left. AP

who won for only the second time in 14 road games and the fourth time in 28 games all season. Ex-Knicks John Wallace and Christie each had with 18 points, while Reggie Slater added 11 and pulled down 11 rebounds.

Allan Houston scored 21 and

Larry Johnson had 19 and 11 rebounds for the Knicks, who had their 10-game home court winning streak ended.

Portland Trail Blazers 102, Utah Jazz 91

In Salt Lake City, Arvydas Sabonis had 25 points and 11 rebounds and Kelvin Cato blocked four shots in the fourth quarter to help Portland snap Utah's eight-game home winning streak.

Portland held Utah to 14 second-quarter points and took control of the game with a 12-0 run en route to a 51-39 halftime lead. The Jazz went just 5-of-15 from the foul line in the first half.

Cato blocked four shots, three by Karl Malone, in the last eight minutes to stop a Jazz rally.

Orlando Magic 96, Charlotte Hornets 87

In Orlando, Derek Harper scored a season-high 26 points and Orlando ended a five-game losing streak.

Continued on page 31



Kashima Antlers' midfielder Jorginho (2) from Brazil, former FC Bayern Munchen of German, goes for a header in the 2nd half of the Emperor's Cup semi-final Sunday in Japan. Jorginho scored one goal to contribute as Antlers beat Tokyo Gas FC, 3-1. AP

Pippen hints he'll return

CHICAGO (AP)—For the second consecutive day, Scottie Pippen hinted strongly that he is willing to rejoin the Chicago Bulls when he is fully recovered from foot surgery.

"I've got a good relationship with my teammates. They know I'm not going to leave them hanging," Pippen said after Saturday night's 97-90 victory over the Atlanta Hawks.

"When I'm ready to go out there

and play, I'll play. I'm looking forward to getting back."

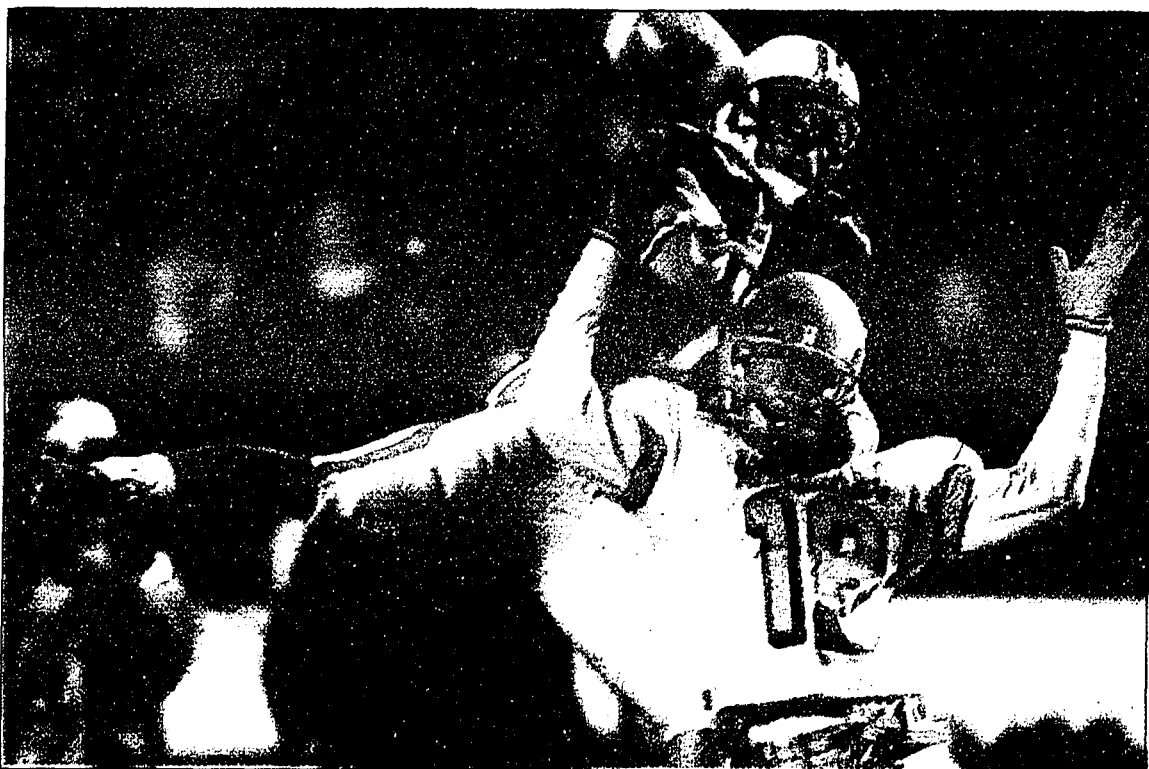
He then got coy, saying he didn't say he'd come back to the Bulls—but he clearly meant the two-time defending NBA champions.

Pippen made a similar comment Friday. It's a stark contrast to the feelings he expressed a month ago when he said he wanted to be traded because he felt disrespected by gen-

eral manager Jerry Krause and owner Jerry Reinsdorf.

Pippen, an All-Star forward who handles most of the Bulls' ballhandling chores, said he hoped to be back "in a couple of weeks."

"But the way they've been playing, maybe I should keep watching," he said after the Bulls' seventh consecutive victory put them atop the Eastern Conference standings.



Arizona's Brad Brennan tries to climb over New Mexico's defender Jameal Woods to catch a pass during the first quarter in the Insight.com Bowl in Tucson, Ariz., Saturday. AP

U.S. swimmers arrive in Australia for world titles

SYDNEY, Australia (AP)—Members of the star-studded United States swimming team arrived in Australia on Sunday, their confidence tempered by concern over the Australian and Chinese opposition.

All but one of the squad of 43, including five of the United States' six 1996 Olympics individual champions, arrived in Sydney and immediately left for their team camp in Wollongong, south of Sydney, to prepare for the world titles starting in Perth, Western Australia on Jan. 7.

Australia's depth of talent and home advantage plus the recent record-breaking feats of China's female swimmers has convinced the Americans that the two countries pose the biggest threat to their domination.

"Australia is going to be there definitely, it's their home court, that's worth about 15 points in basketball, so I think Australia are definitely looking very good," said American men's head coach John Urbancek.

"We don't know which team

Continued on page 31

Arizona beats New Mexico in Insight.com Bowl, 20-14

By MEL REISNER

TUCSON, Arizona (AP)—Trung Canidate scored one touchdown and set up two by Kelvin Eafon, and Arizona had four interceptions in a 20-14 victory over New Mexico in the Insight.com Bowl.

Kelly Malveaux put the lid on the victory Saturday night when he stepped in front of Tommy Hemphill, picked off the pass by New Mexico's Graham Leigh and returned it 44 yards to the Lobos 36 with 4:34 left in the game.

Eafon, who had 13 carries for 45 of his 75 yards in the fourth quarter, ran for two first downs, using up New Mexico timeouts until Ortege Jenkins ran out the clock by kneeling on three straight snaps.

It was a bitter loss for the Lobos (9-4), whose first bowl game in 36 years was also their last game under coach Dennis Franchione, who is headed for Texas Christian University. New Mexico finished with two defeats, the other 41-13 to Colorado State in the Western Athlete Conference championship game three weeks ago.

Canidate missed three games this year because of ankle injuries. He had

Continued on page 31

Marianas Variety News & Views

Micronesia's Leading Newspaper Since 1972

P.O. Box 231 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. (670) 234-6341 • 7578 • 9797

Fax: (670) 234-9271

129
7611501090
0322 MAILED FROM SAIPAN MP 96950
FEB 30 97
PH 8587443