

80 homesteaders get NMHC help; 50 deeds out

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

SOME 80 homestead permit holders will be assisted by the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. in obtaining loans to construct houses following a "grant of public domain" issued on their lots by the Division of Public Lands.

At the same time, acting Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Bertha Leon Guerrero, in an interview, said close to 50 permit holders have been issued deeds after a review of their lots qualified them for the land title.

"There are 80 (homestead permit holders) that have already been approved by the Attorney General's Office and also by DPL and the Board of Public Lands to issue a grant of public domain over to NMHC to assist our homesteaders in building their houses," said Guerrero.

By issuing a "grant of public domain," a homestead permit holder becomes eligible for loans with the NMHC using their lots as collateral.

The permit must however be at least three years old.

"DPL and NMHC are working



Bertha Leon Guerrero

together in assisting homesteaders to get the loans to build their houses," said Guerrero.

Guerrero said most of those entitled to NMHC loans are permit holders who need funds for their houses' "finishing touches."

She said more homestead permit holders may soon avail of the loan arrangement.

Meantime, acting DPL chief Henry Hofschneider said the close to 50 homestead permits who were finally issued land deeds were those whose cases have been pending since 1995 and 1996.

"The deeds were issued to people who have already fulfilled all the requirements," he said.

The deeds were likewise issued following review by the AGO.

Hofschneider said government is conducting an inspection of homestead permit holders in Kagman III in view of releasing more deeds.

"We are in the process of reviewing those (permit holders) we still have so many under review," said Hofschneider.

Chun: DOI 'pushed' for more OSHA inspections



Walter Chun

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

WALTER Chun, a former official of the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) yesterday suggested the agency has intensified its inspection of labor camps in the CNMI upon instruction from the Department of Interior.

Chun, in a letter sent to Saipan media, said DOI "funds these inspections and this is what they want."

Local officials perceive DOI as a "nemesis" of the CNMI. They suspect that DOI is orchestrating a "smear campaign" against the Commonwealth to push the federal takeover proposal in US Congress.

Chun, meanwhile, said another reason cited by OSHA Region 9 to justify its intensified inspections in the CNMI was that "the number and type of violations (here) are very serious."

But he criticized OSHA for focusing too much on the CNMI while ignoring larger-scale violations of safety standards in other parts of the

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Fund: Terminate Woosung contract

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE NMI Retirement Fund has sought the termination of the contract between Woosung Construction Co., Ltd. and the Department of Public Works due to the delay in the completion of the Judicial Complex project.

Retirement Fund Administrator Edward H. Manglona told the Variety yesterday that the Fund's Board of Trustees are very concerned over the continuing delay of the multimillion-dollar complex.

He said he asked E.F. Camacho Engineers and Architects, a firm hired by DPW to perform the contract administration of the project, to speed up the process of termi-



Edward H. Manglona



Efrain F. Camacho

nating the Woosung contract.

Manglona recommended that avail of the surety bond to complete the remainder of the building.

The money used in the construction of the complex comes from the Retirement Fund pursuant to a loan agreement it had with the CNMI government.

Meanwhile, Efrain F. Camacho, president of E.F. Camacho Engineers and Architects, concurred with the Fund's request that

Woosung's contract be terminated and that surety be brought in.

"In fact, we recommended several months ago that DPW should terminate Woosung's contract for default. However, DPW has not yet acted on our recommendation," said Camacho in his letter sent yesterday to Manglona.

Camacho yesterday also urged acting DPW Secretary John B. Cepeda to halt Woosung's contract for default.

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Alien card 'brouhaha' to be looked into-- Tenorio

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday said he will look into complaints regarding the supposed "redundancy" of the alien registration card.

Nonresident workers who already possess an entry permit are still required to pay for the alien registration card (ARC), which costs \$25, or the equivalent of 8-hours in minimum wage rate.

The CNMI minimum wage rate is \$3.05 an hour.

At the same time, Tenorio said alien workers should appreciate the CNMI government's efforts to enforce health screening and ensure a "healthy community."

He said the government does not intend to generate revenues from the health screening fees and ARCs.

CNMI law requires that

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Saipan Mayor Jose C. Sablan (center) poses for a photo with the six 1998 Miss NMI Universe contestants (from left) Sonya Pangelinan, Katrina Manning, Amor Soruis, Verna Crisostimo, Helene Lizama and Leonella Morales at the annual MHS Cultural Day last Saturday.

Photo by Laila C. Younis

Australian gov't hit for 'bias' on migrants

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Close to 3,000 migrants accused the Australian government of discrimination Thursday for allegedly favoring visa applicants from six countries over others.

In a class action in the Federal Court, about 2,800 migrants claimed the government's special visa category for people from selected countries is in breach of Australia's Racial Discrimination Act.

The countries are Sri Lanka, Kuwait, Lebanon, Iraq, China and the former Yugoslavia.

David Bennett, lawyer for applicant Maria Macabenta, from the Philippines, said the Racial Discrimination Act required that people of different national origins should enjoy rights to the same extent.

He said the people involved in the action were not eligible for the special visa, as they did not hold valid passports for the six specific countries.

"We say that's discrimination on the grounds of national origin," he told judge Brian Tamberlin.

The special visas became available in October last year and allow any person who came to Australia from the six named countries before certain dates to apply to remain in Australia permanently.

Annan: US is key to Mideast peace

By JAMAL HALABY
AMMAN, Jordan (AP) — The United States has the key mediating role in the Middle East peace process, the U.N. chief said in urging Palestinians and Israelis to work with American officials for a permanent settlement.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan's praise of the U.S. effort came on the same day British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook wrapped up a visit to the region in a bid to expand Europe's role in the peace process.

Annan didn't comment Wednesday on the European initiative.

"The mediator for the Palestinian-Israeli issue is the United States, and I support very fully their efforts, and I encourage the parties to work energetically and constructively with



Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa greets U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan at Cairo airport Wednesday. Annan arrived from Amman, Jordan on the second leg of a Middle East tour. AP

them in search for a durable peace," said Annan, who reiterated that he did not plan to step in as mediator.

Annan, who arrived a day earlier in Jordan, toured two Palesti-

nian refugee camps with Crown Prince Hassan in Amman, where he chatted with residents under freezing temperatures and heavy snowfall.

Annan later flew to Cairo for meetings with Egyptian officials. His Mideast tour will also take him to Syria, the Palestinian territories and Israel.

The Mideast peace talks have been deadlocked since the right-wing administration in Israel came to power in 1996 vowing a tougher line in negotiations with the Arabs.

Annan and Hassan, King's Hussein's brother and heir to the throne, inspected the services provided to camp refugees who fled their homes in the 1948 and 1967 Arab-Israeli wars. About 120,000 Palestinians live in the two camps run by the U.N. Relief and Works Agency.

Government officials said Hassan and Annan talked about ways to make Israel comply with U.N. Security Council resolutions, which urge its withdrawal from Arab lands captured in the 1967 Mideast war.

"Jordan stressed the fact that the U.N. should apply the same standards while enforcing its resolutions, in other words to be as firm with Israel the way it is with Iraq," said one senior government official who spoke on customary condition of anonymity.

Annan and Hassan also discussed methods to ease the suffering of Iraq's 22 million people, straining under sweeping sanctions imposed following the 1990 Iraqi invasion of Kuwait.

Cook, the British foreign Secretary, said Wednesday in Beirut, Lebanon that Syria expects progress in its long-stalled talks with Israel before it will support a plan for Israeli forces to withdraw from southern Lebanon.

Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon, is demanding the return of the Golan Heights, a strategic plateau that Israel seized in the 1967 war. Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu says the area is vital to Israel's security.

Negotiations have been stalled since March 1996.

Japan trade surplus up 88%

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's merchandise trade surplus in February climbed 88.7 percent compared to the same month last year to 1.28 trillion yen (\$9.8 billion), the Japanese Finance Ministry said Thursday.

The surplus, which is measured as goods pass customs but before adjusting for seasonal factors, was slightly larger than a 1.15 trillion yen (\$8.8 billion) average forecast of Tokyo-based economists compiled by Dow Jones Newswires and Nikkei News.

Imports to Japan shrank 15 percent to 2.81 trillion yen (\$21.6 billion) and exports grew 2.7 percent to 4.09 trillion yen (\$31.4 billion), the ministry said.

Zachares warns departing workers:

'No ARCs, no reentry'

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

ACTING Labor and Immigration Secretary Mark Zachares has warned that nonresident workers leaving the Commonwealth will be refused entry if they fail to show alien registration cards.

The warning came following reports that five nonresident workers, who had left the Commonwealth on official function elsewhere, have been denied entry upon failure to show an ARC.

"I would advise that if you are about to travel from the CNMI right now and you're an alien worker, that you make sure that you have your (Alien Registration) card or a

receipt that your card is in the works," said Zachares.

Close to 1,300 nonresident workers have been found without ARCs during simultaneous unannounced inspections conducted by labor and immigration operatives in at least five garment factories since last week.

Government has ordered these workers to secure ARCs within 24 hours or face possible deportation.

However, a lawyer for Tan Holdings Group of Companies, from which the bulk of workers without ARCs were found, is contesting the legality of deporting a nonresident worker on grounds of not having an ARC.

"They (government) have taken the position that it is deportable. It's our position that it is not," said Steven Pixley, in an earlier interview.

Pixley said he is seeking a dialogue with Rob Goldberg, counsel for the Department of Labor and Immigration on the

matter.

Zachares has maintained that ARCs ensure that the holder is free of tuberculosis, HIV and syphilis as the worker would first have to undergo medical tests prior to the issuance of the "yellow card."

"It (ARC) is one way that we can be assured that people are actually getting their medical tests," explained Zachares.

DOLI has been abuzz with activities brought about by hundreds of workers queuing up to apply for an ARC since the unannounced inspections started last week.

Reyes to introduce legislation for creation of a wage review board

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

SENATE Majority Leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) yesterday said he will reintroduce a bill that would create a wage review board, this time with federal participation.

Saying that any wage hike should be justified by a study, Reyes maintained that the CNMI should not "tremble" everytime Washington, D.C. raise a concern regarding the local minimum wage.

"That's no reason for us to act irresponsibly," he said. "Any wage hike should (also consider) the possible impact on the local

economy."

The creation of a "credible" wage review board is among the recommendations of the Senate-House joint committee on CNMI-federal affairs.

The previous boards, according to the Legislature's leadership, failed to achieve the goal of setting a viable and credible minimum wage rate for the islands.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, in an earlier interview, said he is not keen on increasing the local minimum wage rate, saying that the private sector is already hurting from the Asian currency crisis.

He added, however, that he will make a decision on a wage hike

only after consulting wage studies, particularly the 1997 Hay Group report, which recommends against it.

The Hay Group report stated that any increase in the local minimum wage would be disastrous to the CNMI economy.

But the report was totally ignored by the White House and its allies in Congress.

The US Interior Department and other proponents of "federal takeover" are urging for the gradual increase of the minimum wage—currently pegged at \$3.05 per hour—until it reaches the federal rate of \$5.15.

Tenorio will sign bill on hiring moratorium

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday said he will sign the bill that would stop the hiring of alien workers in the CNMI before he leaves for Washington, D.C.

The governor, who will testify before a US Senate committee on March 31, said he still has to review House Bill 11-31, but added that the CNMI needs such legislation.

"If there's no flaw in the bill I'll sign it today or tomorrow," he told reporters.

Tenorio at the same time expressed support for H.B. 11-77, which seeks to create a special fund for the Public School System (PSS).

He said the bill would alleviate the PSS's classroom shortage and even eliminate the multi-

track calendar system.

Passed on Tuesday by the House of Representatives, H.B. 11-31 proposes to prohibit the new hire of alien workers, particularly in the garment industry.

Exempted from the moratorium are alien workers who are already in the CNMI and whose contracts will be renewed.

Also exempted is the hiring of an alien worker to replace another alien in the same employment position.

The bill would authorize the governor to grant other exemptions, specifically to prospective employers who have invested at least \$5 million in either a "major new development" or the expansion of an existing development project.

Gov't to sign I&S contract

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THE CNMI government is going to sign the controversial advertising contract with the Japanese advertising and public relations agency I&S, it was learned yesterday.

The \$3.5-million contract is supposed to end in September when fiscal year 1998 ends, but the I&S has stopped doing promotional work for the CNMI based on the Attorney General's Office's position

that the ad agency should stop its promotional work owing to the lack of a formal contract.

The Marianas Visitors Bureau met in executive session yesterday to discuss a letter sent by the Attorney General to I&S.

The letter reportedly has asked the I&S to submit receipts for expenses it incurred in its promotional campaigns for the CNMI.

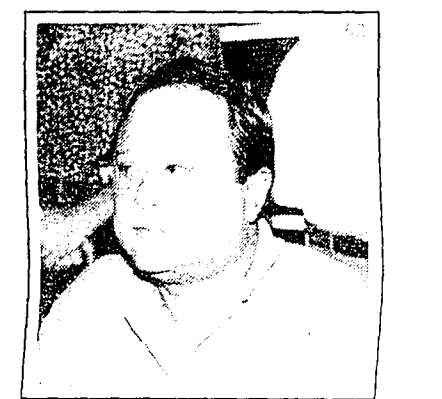
Earlier the government was reported to have expressed a stand that it would stick to the AGO's position on the contract.

A possible lawsuit and cancellation fees of the same amount as what the government will pay if it signs the contract have been cited as the consequences for the non-signing of the contract.

"The governor is looking at it (contract) very seriously," Antonio S. Guerrero told the Variety in an interview.

Asked about the chances of the government signing the contract, Guerrero said, "The contract is a different matter, but the governor wants to see that...we pay (the I&S)."

Guerrero also said he had



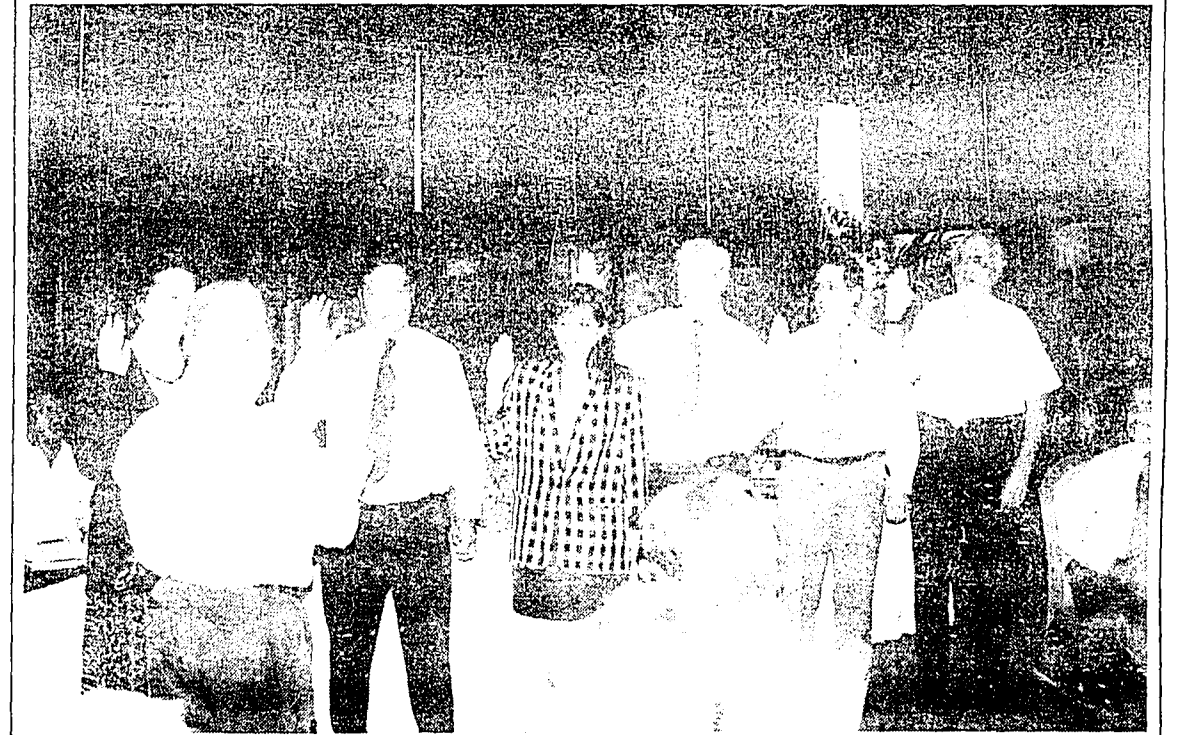
Antonio S. Guerrero

talked to the governor's adviser on tourism who said he had nothing against the government paying for the services the I&S had rendered up to the time it had stopped doing promotional work.

Guerrero said Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio was concerned that "I&S had rendered a service."

A reliable source, meanwhile, said the contract was under renegotiation.

The MVB had given the I&S a verbal go-ahead signal in September last year to proceed with the promotional work for the CNMI banking on the promise of former Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio to sign the contract.



Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio (back to camera) administers the oath of office to the new officers of the CNMI Bar Association yesterday at the Aqua Resort Club. Former Justice Ramon G. Villagomez (second from left) has taken over as president replacing Mike White (right).

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EDITORIAL

Scrap the ARCs

THE CURRENT uproar over alien registration cards (ARCs) appears to be one needless offshoot of the ongoing crackdown on erring Saipan employers.

Although the current campaign to rid the garment industry of labor law violations is commendable and long overdue, the attention given this card requirement just doesn't make sense.

It seems authorities have unnecessarily made a big issue of such a small requirement, instead of focusing on the more bothersome labor problems like stinking bathrooms, cramped barracks and unpaid overtime.

The whole thing borders on harassing an already harassed group of individuals. Swooping down on business establishments and threatening employees of deportation if they don't have the card is quite an ordeal for these workers.

Barring reentering workers for not having their ARCs is even more unconscionable, especially since there was not much of a warning about the consequences of not carrying these IDs upon their entry at the airport.

True, workers under the law are supposed to carry their ARCs in their person at all times. But shouldn't their be some form of consideration given in as much as this requirement has not been fully enforced over the years and workers have gotten used to not being stopped and admonished for such an infraction.

One other concern is the appearance that the card requirement has become a money-making imposition.

While government bemoans the financial crisis it is in and needs to step up its revenue efforts, it is almost immoral to think of the down-trodden working class as a veritable source to shore up collection, especially since most of these people are toiling hard for a meager amount of wages.

Shelling out \$25 is already a big expense for these workers, especially for minimum wage earners, who have to give up a day's pay just to put up with this seemingly unnecessary requirement.

Why unnecessary?

Because it is a bureaucratic redundancy.

DOLI officials have defended the ARC requirement as one way of ensuring workers have gone through the needed TB and HIV disease checks.

If this is the contention, why can't DOLI just attach this requirement to the issuance of the entry permits? After all, isn't a health examination already a requisite for the renewal of worker permits?

It would definitely make sense if government just comes up with one single card, the LIIDS card, except if the intention is really to milk workers of more cash.

What the crackdown on ARCs has resulted to is a lot of inconvenience for the workers and their employers, not to mention the tremendous amount of hours spent queuing up at the DOLI counters and the resultant panic it has caused.

We hope that Gov. Pete P. Tenorio would act swiftly in addressing this problem as it is quickly causing resentment among an otherwise uncomplaining non-resident worker community.

Workers can live with reasonable regulations and requirements of the law.

The ARCs rule, however does not seem to fall under that category.

KENNETH STARR AT AGE 100...



Variations
Zaldy Dandan

Displaying patriotism

I THINK it's the flu speaking as I write this, which is why I hope *nanang* Julie wouldn't mind if I raise an issue over the Consulate's plan to provoke patriotism among the Filipinos in the CNMI by "enjoining" them to display the Philippine flag at their barracks. It would, I think, have the same result as an aphrodisiac used by a nostalgic 89-year old satyr who wants to get it up.

According to a Variety report, the US citizens-led, and hence misnomered, United Filipino Organization (or ET, I mean, UFO) is also preparing activities for June 12th, which will mark the 100th anniversary of the declaration of Philippine independence ("under the protection of the Mighty and Humane North American Nation," read the original proclamation written in Spanish, and it was not referring to Canada.)

The report, in addition, mentioned a festival sponsored by the Philippine Centennial Foundation in the mainland US. The festival's "centerpiece" is the jeepney, "a mirror of the Filipinos' talent to embrace forms from many countries to come up with a distinctively Philippine 'style.'" In other words, our ability to transform surplus US military vehicles into something gaudy and kitschy, a road nuisance and an environmental hazard. Philippine transportation officials have actually revived plans to phase out the use of the jeepney for public transportation, but this is, I guess, a minor detail for the festival's organizers.

Meanwhile, in all government offices back home, employees have been ordered to wear the *barong* or the *terno* every Monday in observance of the centennial.

All this, the government seems to assure us, will rekindle Philippine nationalism in more ways than just watching the national team compete in the Asian basketball championship, or our candidate vie for the Ms Universe title.

However, these "measures" merely manifest a state-sanctioned confusion over form and substance, over gestures and deeds. As if, for example, those miniature flags propped by sticks could pass for national sentiment, the existence of which remains problematic. For a

Filipino is only an individual, not a member of a nation, as the patriot Jose Rizal noted in 1890, perhaps not knowing that 108 years later it would remain a valid observation.

And there being no real national sentiment to commemorate, it is likely that the centennial celebrations here will highlight folk dances and folk music, which will be labeled Philippine "culture." Again, it seems that nothing has changed. "National culture," says Filipino historian Renato Constantino, "is not the glory and the achievement of the past; it is not folklore; it is not a revival of tradition. [Rather] it is the summation of the needs of the people, the description of their present condition, the appraisal of their values, thoughts and emotions, the depiction of their struggle to liberate themselves."

That was written in 1969, but we are still into *tinkling* and *fandango sa ilaw*. We still believe, moreover, that heeding the IMF's advice and exporting rattan and gewgaws are the keys to economic development, and we have refused to learn anything from the post-World War II industrialization of Japan, South Korea and Taiwan. We still think like a US colonial and we neither have appreciation for our history and our people's heroic struggles to be free nor do we intend to have one. We send our sons and daughters to universities that they may get a job abroad. Those of us who are abroad would rather stay there. Our government, knowing this, calls us "new heroes," and we believe it.

To make an approximate comparison, if the Palestinians are the people without a nation, then the Philippines are a nation without people. I say approximate because the Palestinians, at least, now administer a sliver of territory.

Of course, things can never be hopeless for the Filipinos, as their country's history, though largely ignored, will show. But it is doubtful whether displaying the Philippine flag at their barracks would instill nationalism in our *kababayan* who, even as I write this amid a haze of flu, is still wondering when the hell will the feds take over and hand out those lovely green cards.

JACK ANDERSON and JAN MOLLER WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Forbes has successfully framed debate

MALCOLM S. Forbes was positively giddy last week.

The once-and-future presidential candidate, who prefers the name "Steve," was joyous because President Clinton used a major policy speech to denounce a Republican plan to sunset the current tax code as an "irresponsible scheme."

Clinton's speech was notable not for its policy substance, which is consistent with past administration policy, but because it legitimized two years of steady conservative propaganda by the millionaire publishing heir from New Jersey.

For the past month, Forbes has been on the road with what he calls a "tax code termination tour," trying to drum up support for a congressional GOP plan to abolish the current tax code by July 4, 2001, and replace it with a simpler system. Forbes, of course, prefers the flat tax, arguing that every family would save big under the plan (few more so than Forbes himself).

If he hasn't yet captured the imaginations of the suburban "soccer moms" and other swing voters who decide presidential elections, he's definitely getting the attention of GOP grass-roots activists and the political cognoscenti in the nation's capital. In straw polls of Christian conservatives and other party activists, Forbes has outpaced most of his prospective rivals. And his inherited millions have caused inside-the-Beltway types to take notice.

Says presidential historian Allan Lichtman of American University: "I think he's a strong candidate, for a number of reasons. No. 1, it's a wide-open field (in 2000). There's no clear front-runner. ... No. 2, he has a lot of money and can spend a lot of money in the primaries. This time around, no one's going to have all the money. The regular party money will scatter."

His best efforts notwithstanding, Forbes won't be the next president of the United States; that much we'll predict with near-certainty. But it won't be for a lack of trying. In the two years since he abandoned his quixotic bid for the 1996 Republican nomination, Forbes has campaigned virtually full time for the 2000 nomination, even though the primary season is still nearly two years away and he isn't close to officially announcing his candidacy.

Hardly a day goes by that Forbes doesn't lob a grenade against the Clinton administration. Using his "issues" organization — Americans for Hope, Growth and Opportunity — as a kind of campaign headquarters, Forbes has crisscrossed the country making speeches and trying to refine the stilted campaigning style that hurt his performance in 1996. Last year he made 205 speeches, including 50 fund-raisers, leaving him little time to pursue the publishing business that his father left him.

Unlike the last self-funded presidential candidate, Ross Perot, Forbes is politicking the old-fashioned way: by pandering to any audience that will have him. In New Hampshire, the privately educated Forbes has been running radio ads telling Granite Staters how to fund their public schools. Similar ad campaigns have cropped up in other states where local referendums were on the ballot.

Some Republicans have suggested, jokingly, that the Forbes media crusade is threatening to "privatize the (Republican National Committee)."

The net result of all this: While Forbes remains a long-shot to win his party's nomination, he has defined the terms of the debate, two years before the first presidential primary.

COMPUTER DISASTER — In the very near future, disaster relief workers at the Federal Emergency Management Agency's numerous field offices will be able to call up potentially life-saving information on their computers in a matter of seconds. At least that's what agency bigwigs would like everyone to believe.

As we reported last week, development of a new, comprehensive FEMA computer system, dubbed the National Emergency Management Information System, is 10 months behind schedule and \$23 million over budget. Agency spokesmen acknowledge that early tests of NEMIS exposed "shortfalls," but insist these kinks have been worked out and the system will be up and running by spring 1999.

FEMA employees working on the project have confided to us that NEMIS is still plagued by numerous problems, and have doubts as to whether the vaunted computer system will ever prove reliable.

Complained one insider: "When I turn on the computer and it doesn't work or when I turn on the computer and keep pressing buttons and they're not doing what they're supposed to be doing, I'm frustrated."

Following a winter in which El Nino related storms devastated many American communities, that's not very comforting.

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Letters to the Editor

Time to abandon ship

Dear Editor:

The cries of innocence and protest of no wrongdoing coming from our garment factories have a familiar ring to them—reminds me of Iraqi officials saying they have no facilities for the manufacturing of nuclear, chemical or biological weapons of mass destruction!

Expecting Saipan's garment factories to admit they have committed serious violations of laws or regulations is akin to expecting Saddam Hussein to voluntarily call over UNSCOM inspectors and say, "Look here, let me show you my latest batch of anthrax germs!"

As the evidence mounts about the unsavory practices of our "wonder" industry, I get more and more disgusted as I think about the legions of staffers and Congressmen who came here and sung the praises of Saipan's garment industry.

I hope they are being horribly humiliated by recent revelations and this embarrassment will cause them to abandon the CNMI ship. Good riddance! You gentlemen have clearly demonstrated to me that EVEN U.S. CONGRESSMEN will say anything for a few rounds of golf and a free vacation!

Since the CNMI government is so short of funds and owes millions of dollars to its taxpayers in refunds, I think it's outrageous for Tenos to spend hundreds of thousands of dollars of government funds on a public rela-

tions firm to continue with its ludicrous "economic miracle-land image" in the national media—a campaign designed entirely for the benefit to the garment industry.

Saipan has only been an "economic miracle-land" for the garment industry itself, high-priced government consultants and, of course, public relations "experts."

As a taxpayer, I would rather have my taxes used to pay overtime and beef up our Labor, Immigration and prosecutorial forces.

Let this rich industry pay for its own public relations.

Or better yet, let's have \$1 per garment tax to defray the costs of public relations and enforcement brought upon us by the garment industry.

I hope Tenos keeps the pressure on the garment industry after the March 31 hearings.

The Legislature, if properly pressured by the general public, can do its part by immediately passing a law limiting the number of garment workers in the CNMI to no more than 7,500, which was the number before "Froilan the Terrible" single-handedly did away with the limits.

The CNMI is not honor-bound to keep 15,000 garment workers on Saipan.

The law should provide that 7,500 SHALL be the number here no later than July 1, 1998. The proposed moratorium is so full of loopholes that we can call it another "MORE-

A-TORIUM."

Passing a law reducing the present size of the garment industry by 50% is the best message the CNMI could send to Washington at this time.

Why don't our legislature stop fooling around and do something real?

The problem with passing such a law is that many of our elected representatives, either individually or through their political parties, received lots of money from the garment industry for their campaigns.

The implied promise for accepting this money was, no doubt, no increase in taxes and letting the industry do what it pleases.

It is now appropriate to remind our elected representatives that they represent the people and a great majority of our people would gladly like to see the industry disappear and the U.S. take over immigration.

Legislators, don't be afraid to find out—ask your constituents.

When it comes to reporting on the garment industry, the CNMI has only one local newspaper—the Marianas Variety.

Please keep reporting and keep digging.

There's no reason why you can't win the Pulitzer Prize for an in-depth story on Saipan's garment industry—the real inside information is right here on island.

KENNETH L. GOVENDO
Attorney At Law

For permanent hiring moratorium

Dear Editor:

This nonsense about having a one year moratorium on hiring new alien workers is nothing more than a cat-and-mouse game which the legislature wants to play with the U.S. Congress.

I don't think we can fool Congress with such a clearly artificial show of reform.

What gives away is the fact that the moratorium is only good for one year. That means after one year, the CNMI can resume bringing in an equal number of aliens or

even more.

The problem that aliens should not outnumber the local population, which is generally the cause of a lot of labor abuses, cannot be solved by a one year moratorium.

I just can't believe that our legislature is not satisfied with the 40,000 plus aliens we already have by still leaving an implication that after one year of moratorium the CNMI can still recruit more aliens.

What we need is a permanent moratorium, and it should be incorporated in the Covenant, as suggested by Lt. Gov. Sablan.

Once the moratorium is in place, let the legislature decide whether we should gradually or abruptly diminish the number of aliens that we have.

The sooner we trim the number of aliens, the better it will be for our locals who will have the opportunity to be trained, for be employed and to receive a much higher rate of wages, which normally occurs when supply of labor is low.

REYNALDO O. YANA
Attorney & Counselor at Law

Behind Tomas B. Aldan on EIC

Dear Editor:

I'm writing this letter with great pleasure to take a stand behind Tomas B. Aldan, the present Chairman of BPL, for an article written some time ago in the Marianas Variety about his strong stance against the abolishment of the so-called "EIC" better known as the Earned Income Credit.

This shows that Mr. Aldan is more compassionate and caring for those of our people who are poor because they come from the low income bracket who are barely making it to make ends meet.

Now that just because our government is experiencing shortages of funds due to economic down trends, the poor people of the CNMI are going to be castigated, punished and sacrificed.

I strongly agree with Mr. Aldan that the "EIC" tax refunds belong to the poor people and it is for the very purpose of its existence (as a law) that it's there to help the poor people of the CNMI when it comes to annual tax refunds.

For those boys in the House who are attempting to be the main sponsors of such "EIC" abolishment, I want you to know that all the poor people of the CNMI at this point in time are closely watching and monitoring you for your upcoming re-election. There are more than enough votes from the poor people combined together for you not to come back and sit in the same chair.

The poor people of the CNMI strongly have confidence and appellation on Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

Gov. Tenorio is a man of compassion and caring for the grassroots and poor people of the CNMI.

The poor people of the CNMI are heavily relying on Gov. Tenorio as a savior to continue and identify funding for the disbursement of "EIC" refunds for the poor people of the CNMI.

Thank you very much Mr. Tomas B. Aldan for your caring concern of the people of the CNMI. I want you to know that the poor people of the CNMI are standing ready not to re-elect those boys in the House who may be directly or indirectly attempting to abolish the so-called "EIC" tax refunds.

RAY M. SAKISAT

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Bond delay hurts casino hopes

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff
A BUSINESS sector leader yesterday said further delays in the flotation of bond for the

island's airport may jeopardize marketing efforts to make Tinian the casino gambling hub of the Pacific. Analysts believe direct

flights can encourage more gamblers to fly to the island, as the Commonwealth bends towards promoting Tinian as the gambling center of the Pacific with the grand opening of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino next month. "It is very unfair of the CPA [Commonwealth Ports Authority] to justify all of that funding for Saipan and Rota, and refusing to float a bond for Tinian," said Phillip Mendiola Long, president of the Tinian Chamber of Commerce.

Long was referring to the \$54.6 million bond floated by CPA. Proceeds of the fund will be used to finance existing projects of CPA such as the \$7.6 million dredging work at Saipan harbor, corridor expansion of the Saipan International Airport and other federal-funded projects which need complement funding from the ports agency.

The Tinian business leader also expressed disappointment over CPA's apparent refusal to float the bond for the island's airport, which Long said would be detrimental to the casino industry "in this part of the Common-

wealth." CPA executive director Carlos Salas has said that the Ports Authority is not increasing its proposed bond to \$80 million, citing dwindling air and sea ports revenues.

The Commonwealth Development Authority [CDA] wanted CPA to increase its proposed bond flotation from \$54.6 million to \$80 million to accommodate Tinian airport expansion project.

With next month's grand opening of the first casino in Tinian, Long said CPA officials may have failed to realize that the airport needs immediate funds in order to bring in as many casino players as possible.

"How do they expect us to bring in casino gamblers without a better airport? There have to be direct flights to Tinian for the casino industry to kick off," he told Variety.

He stressed that the Tinian business community agrees that there is a need to 'tighten the belt' but added that CPA should have identified what projects have to be financed first.

"I don't have anything against CPA but it doesn't make sense to say they don't have the money if they don't even know how much it is going to cost them," he continued.

Long lamented that CPA officials must reconsider their priorities, "especially now that everybody is predicting that Tinian's casino industry will save CNMI's ailing economy."

"If they think the casino industry is going to help the CNMI economy, they have to help Tinian get an airport. And study what to cut and where to put the money first," he said.

He said Tinian would be in a 'major crisis' if it failed to have its airport rehabilitated and improved, while adding that CPA must help encourage the growth of the casino industry, especially now that Saipan is at a losing end with dwindling tourist arrivals.

Long said there are other directions to look at. "Down south is the island of Tinian which has a bright potential to encourage more tourism activities with the pending opening of the casino," he continued.

Salas said CPA is getting separate financing for the Tinian project, while adding that his office is still working out some important details in terms of repayment of the bond that has to be floated to finance the project.

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

'20/20' report bothers leaders



Pedro P. Tenorio Paul A. Manglona Diego T. Benavente

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday downplayed "20/20's" exposé on the CNMI's "sweatshops," saying that the commonwealth's reputation has already been tarnished by similar reports in the past.

The governor, however, admitted that he was "surprised" and "disappointed" over the "20/20" episode, which featured an interview of a pregnant Chinese garment worker who claimed that she was asked by her employer to get an abortion.

"We're not trying to deny these problems, and we're (now) trying our best to rectify these problems," Tenorio said.

He added that he will look into the allegations documented by "20/20," which is aired on ABC and is one of the most prestigious TV magazine shows in the US.

Tenorio, together with Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan, administration aides, the Legislature's presiding officers and members of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, yesterday watched the "20/20" episode on video.

The episode was aired in the mainland US last week.

"20/20" also interviewed US Interior Department's Insular Affairs Director Allen Stayman, who said that the CNMI can "insist" on having an alien labor-dependent economy, "but not under the US flag."

Asked for a comment, Tenorio

said he's not sure what Stayman "is trying to say."

He added that similar allegations shown on "20/20" have been raised in the past and should have been brought to the attention of the Office of the Governor.

"We would have done something about it," he said.

Tenorio reiterated that any company in the CNMI violating workers' rights will face heavy fines or even closure.

"We didn't wait for '20/20' to air before we (conducted unannounced inspections) of garment factories," he said.

"We are already doing something about these problems. If they still (occur) we will not tolerate it."

He added that administration is committed to reforms which, he added, will neither be downgraded nor repealed.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota), in a separate interview, said the "20/20" report was "unfair."

"They probably have an agenda," he said, but did not elaborate.

But Manglona added that the administration and the Legislature remain serious in their attempts to correct "mistakes."

House Speaker Diego T.

Benavente (R-Prec. 2, Saipan), for his part, said he remains "hopeful" despite the "20/20" episode.

He said the CNMI can still convince Congress that a "federal takeover" is not needed, and that the commonwealth will implement the needed reforms.

"There will be no more busi-

ness as usual here," he said.

Meanwhile, Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan has informed President Clinton's 902 representative Edward B. Cohen of the governor's decision to postpone the 902 talks.

With the US Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee set to conduct a public hearing on the

CNMI, Tenorio has said that it is no longer urgent to have 902 talks.

The committee, chaired by US Sen. Frank Murkowski (R-Alaska), is considering a White House-sponsored legislation that would strip the CNMI of control over its immigration and minimum wage policies.

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MCV programming changes to take place

SUSUPE, Saipan — When Marianas CableVision makes changes to their channel lineup next week, viewers will notice many temporary additions to their regular service.

Several "premium" movie channels will be unscrambled as MCV technical crews make adjustments to the signal going to each and every subscriber.

"Premium channels require a small device or 'trap,' as we call it, to either permit or prevent you from seeing that service, depending on what you've chosen," says MCV General Manager Joe Butters.

When the lineup is changed, MCV then has to "re-trap" each residence and apartment complex so that they will be getting the right services.

"Since we can't change out everybody at once, we will be unscrambling the movie channel signals and duplicating them in the upper channels for a short time, so that folks who are paying for those channels can still watch them," said Butters.

This is expected to take about two months to complete.

Butters cautions parents though to pay a little more attention to children's TV viewing habits during this time.

"On the one hand, it's nice to get an HBO or Showtime free for awhile, but there are some programs on these channels that parents may not want their kids to see. Unfortunately, the project we have ahead of us does not allow us many options on blocking out some adult content, so we're asking for some help from families on this end," adds Butters.

Starting next Monday, MCV's premium channels will be located between channels 15 and 23.

They will also be duplicated from 56 to 64 to ensure that subscribers who are paying for those services still see them during the time MCV is completing this project.

However, Butters adds that subscribers can call any of the Customer Service line, 235-4628/6365-7 if they are not receiving a service they should be having or if they would like more information on receiving some of these channels once the project is complete.

MCV advises subscribers to make a note of these changes and to watch for further announcements on programming and service area schedules so that they can be better prepared for the changes taking place over the next several weeks.

DFW officials attend Hawaii conference on brown tree snake

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

ACTING Fish and Wildlife Director Richard Seman, and Scott Vogt, head of the CNMI government's Brown Tree Snake Control Program, are expected to be back tomorrow from a five-day Honolulu conference with federal authorities.

The conference, called by the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, was meant to assess the CNMI government's efforts to contain threats posed by brown tree snakes.

It also aimed to evaluate CNMI's BTSCP within the context of the USFWS' Control Plan.

Seman and Vogt were recommended by USFWS Pacific Islands Manager, Robert P. Smith, to be the Commonwealth's delegation to the conference.

No details on the conference's results were immediately available.

But knowledgeable sources said

Continued on page 33

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AROUND the Islands

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Local companies donate to Red Cross



Committee Chair Tracy Guerrero (second from right) joins PacificCare staff and other committee members in presenting the company's \$2,000 and first-aid station donation to the Red Cross Walk-a-Thon.

THREE local companies recently extended their "community spirit" by donating prizes for participants of the upcoming American Red Cross Walk-a-Thon, according to Committee Chair Tracy Guerrero. PacificCare, Island Apparel and Pacific Subsea Saipan, Inc. all gave their share to one of the island's largest community events aimed to help the people of the CNMI in times of need, Guerrero noted. "Without this donation, the cost of the event would be higher and less funds would go to provide the services of the Red Cross," Guerrero

said referring to Island Apparel's donation to print all Red Cross t-shirts.

According to a press release, Island Apparel has been donating printing services to the Red Cross for the past three years, and "continues to show their support".

PacificCare also donated \$2,000 and a first-aid station for the walk-a-thon participants, according to Guerrero.

She also pointed out that Pacific Subsea has given 40 tickets for a submarine ride which goes in line with the Red Cross "educational focus on the island's youth and young adults".

"For a number of years, the company has donated this package and students have not only had the chance to learn about and support the Red Cross, but also to learn about Saipan and its marine activity," said release.

"About a month ago, the Committee decided to focus their prizes on items that either be educational in themselves or that could be used

by teachers as awards for the efforts of their students," the release noted.

The walk-a-thon will also offer prizes to adult participants who will rank as the "top adult" by raising the largest amount in pledges.

The deadline to submit pledges and money collected to qualify for prizes is on March 28th and no later than 9:00 a.m., according to Guerrero.

"We will also announce all the winners at 12 noon on that day. We are encouraging everyone to participate as we have great prizes in store," said Guerrero.

The Red Cross Walk-a-Thon is scheduled for March 28th and registration will open at 5:30 a.m. Forms can be picked up at Power 99, I&E, Island Apparel, MITA Travel, and PacificCare. (LCV)



Committee Chair Tracy Guerrero is all smiles when receiving Pacific Subsea Saipan's donation to the Red Cross Walk-a-Thon of a 40-pax submarine ride.

Power 99 joins efforts to save baby Brandi

POWER 99 FM, a division of Sorenson Pacific Broadcasting is joining the move to help Brandi Sheyenne Igitol, an infant who needs immediate heart surgery.

The radio station is issuing a Corporate Challenge to all the local business and government agencies including anyone who would like to

make a donation to the parents of Brandi Sheyenne.

Brandi Sheyenne was recently diagnosed with a complex congenital heart disease.

The family has left to the mainland to undergo this complicated heart surgery and needs to provide \$30,000 to proceed with this important surgical procedure.

Both parents are employed however, the need to raise more funds is there and she needs everyone's help.

Power 99 FM's Morning Host and Program Director Joe Naputi and Station Manager Curtis Dancoe had issued a Corporate Challenge to appeal to any and all companies on Saipan to make a donation to The Baby Brandi Fund.

In exchange, a marketing advertis-

ing schedule will be provided by Power 99 FM of equal the value of every donation to be used by the end of March.

Since the time is limited, this corporate challenge will be in effect until Saturday, March 21 at the conclusion of the Health & Fitness Fair at the Joeten Kiyu Library.

Other people who wish to make a donation to the Baby Brandi Fund may do so by stopping by the Power 99 FM studio, 2nd floor of the Cabrera Center of CHC Gift Shop, or send a check payable to CHC Volunteers Association (Donation Drive for Brandi), P.O. Box 409 CK, Saipan, MP 96950.

To issue your Corporate Challenge, contact Power 99 FM at 235-7996 and pledge now!

Rota CHC Volunteers donate fetal monitor

THE CHC Volunteers Association recently purchased and will donate a fetal monitor and a heat lamp with mobile base for the Commonwealth Health Center on Rota.

Fetal monitors allow physicians and nurses to detect possible problems of unborn babies through internal and external monitoring and recordation of the fetus' health and well-being.

The monitors are especially critical for high-risk pregnant women. These monitors have long been needed by the Rota Health Center, the Association said in a news release.

The move to purchase the fetal monitor for the Rota Health Center began when Susan Schwarz and Amparo Tenorio, president and vice president of the CHC Volunteers Association (respectively) went to Rota with several other volunteers in 1997.

There they met Dr. Zabo who asked the volunteers to help purchase a much needed fetal monitor.

Today, the volunteers are pleased to announce that a monitor with twin capabilities and a heat lamp with mobile base will eventually become property of the Rota Health Center.

AROUND the Islands

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

Torres graduates from U.S. academy

KENNETH C. Torres, son of former Congressman Stanley and Arlene Torres, has graduated from the Border Patrol Academy of the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS).

Torres was one of the 47 who were sworn in to the Border Patrol at a March 6 ceremony in Charleston, South Carolina, a news release from Washington Rep. Juan N. Babauta disclosed.

"Kenneth Torres is certainly a credit to the Northern Marianas," says Babauta who attended the graduation along with staff member Francisco Taitano of Tanapag.

"He is the first person of the Northern Marianas descent to become a federal border patrol agent—a highly demanding position carrying a great degree of responsibility."

The INS Board of Patrol is responsible for maintaining the security of United States borders.

"We are very proud to be able to watch Kenneth receive his badge and swear his allegiance to the United States," Babauta added.

Torres, 27, began his civil service



Washington Representative Juan N. Babauta congratulates Kenneth C. Torres after he was sworn in to the U.S. Border Patrol recently.

NMBPA-audition

INTERESTED in becoming a Master or Mistress of Ceremonies for the 1998 Miss NMI Universe Pageant?

Well, the Northern Marianas Beauty Pageant Association is looking for you.

Come and audition this Sunday, March 22nd at the Hotel Nikko

Theater Hall open from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 p.m.

A second audition will be given on March 29th also from 10-2 p.m. at Hotel Nikko Theater Hall.

For more information contact NMBPA President Becky Cruz at 322-7814.

Continued on page 35

KRNM Opera Night a success

SATURDAY'S "Night at the Opera" fundraiser at the Pacific Islands Club raised over \$10,000 for KRNM-FM, Public Radio for the Northern Marianas. Singers Molly Claymon, Alfredo Daza, Karen Ferguson, Armando Gama, Norman Shankle and Coach Bryndon Hassman provided two and a half hours of well-known operatic works along with a healthy dose of popular 20th century pieces.

The group was on Saipan as part of the San Francisco Opera Center's Pacific Rim Cultural Exchange.

All of the singers were participants in the center's Adler Fellowship Program. Singers from the San Francisco Opera have been visiting Saipan annually since 1993.

The event consisted of a gourmet meal with appropriate wines, an auction of items donated from many businesses and individuals in the community, and the performance.

PIC General Manager Bart Jackson served as auctioneer and pushed hard to stimulate bidding for the items on the block.

The San Francisco artists performed in the center of the assembled guests, creating a sense of intimacy that got the crowd involved in their performances.

Primary local sponsors of the tour are Continental Micronesia and the Pacific Islands Club.

NMC placement tests scheduled


STUDENTS interested in attending Northern Marianas College degree and certificate programs are required to take free math and English tests for placement purposes.

Those interested in attending NMC this Summer or Fall Semester should know that the English Placement Test will be given at the end of this month on March

30th—from 1:00-4:00 p.m. in Rm. V110 and on March 31st—from 5:30-8:30 p.m. in Rm. K2.

If you need special arrangements for the test, please contact Jami Sefiane at 235-3253.

For more information about placement tests, call the NMC Office of Admissions and Records.



SAIPAN COMMUNITY SCHOOL
 registration for the 1998-99 school year is being held in March and April

Month of March: Pre-Registration for all returning students and their siblings. Registration for all students from Saipan Community Church.

Month of April: Open registration for all students grades Kindergarten through 8. Kindergarteners must be 5 years old by August 31, 1998.

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US Court hears apportionment case

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

US DISTRICT COURT Judge Alex Munson yesterday denied "tentatively" the government's motion to dismiss a taxpayer's lawsuit challenging the constitutionality of the CNMI Senate apportionment.

Munson has yet to issue a written decision, but government lawyers said they don't expect the judge to reverse his "tentative ruling."

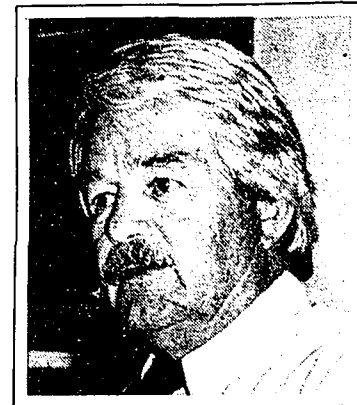
Munson heard yesterday morning the oral debate on the case filed by Jeanne Rayphand and Stanley Torres who are asking the federal court to strike out the provision in the Covenant which gives the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota equal representation in the Senate regardless of their respective popu-



Robert Goldberg



Alex Munson



Ted Mitchell

lation.

The plaintiffs, represented by lawyer Ted Mitchell, said voters from Saipan, which has the biggest population among the three islands, are denied equal protection because Tinian and Rota senators are controlling the political process although they represent islands with numbers of resi-

dents that account for only 10 percent of the CNMI's population.

"The whole purpose of this lawsuit is to try to correct the imbalance that exists now between Tinian, Rota and on the other hand Saipan," Mitchell said.

Respondents in the case are officials and members of the Board of Elections.

Asst. Atty. General Robert Goldberg, chief counsel for the government, has asked the court to dismiss the case arguing that the issue had already been decided on by the CNMI Supreme Court and the US District Court some years ago.

Goldberg invoked the federal court's 1987 decision in Hillblom case, in which the constitutional challenge to the Covenant was dismissed as a political issue that should be resolved between the CNMI and the U.S. through 902 consultations.

Munson, however, was not convinced that the Hillblom ruling was an appropriate basis to dismiss the case.

Mitchell said the Hillblom

"Hillblom went to ask the court to give a ruling that it is right," he added.

Goldberg also argued that the Rayphand case should be dismissed based on the Supreme Court's ruling in *Sablan v Tenorio*. In this 1994 ruling, the high court threw out the complaint, citing the "legislative immunity" being enjoyed by the respondents, who included the governor and members of the Legislature.

Munson, however, said the legislative immunity principle does not apply to the present case because the respondents are election board officials who "are not acting legislatively but administratively."

Munson, in a brief interview later, said he hasn't made a final decision on the case.

case was "meaningless" as it was never decided on the merit of the issue.

"Hillblom didn't ask the court the same thing that we're asking now. We're saying that this malapportionment is wrong and that it violates the US Constitution," Mitchell said.

AGO opposes the release of slay suspect pending trial

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE ATTORNEY General's Office yesterday opposed a murder suspect's request to be released to a third party custodian pending trial of the case.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Kevin Lynch said given the disregard for human life defendant Berlin Sedurante had demonstrated, the government does not see how a third party custodian living in another household can effectively "insure the court he will not be a danger to the community."

Lynch said the government is also unconvinced that the

surrender of Sedurante's travel documents will guarantee his continued presence in the Commonwealth.

Antonio M. Atalig, counsel for Sedurante, asked the Superior Court to modify the pre-trial release order for clients.

Atalig said in the absence of any clear and convincing evidence that Sedurante is a flight risk, defendant shall be released to a third party custodian pending trial.

Sedurante was charged with second degree murder in connection with the fatal assault of a carpenter in Garapan on July 1, 1997.

The court originally set a \$100,000 bail for his release, but later reduced it to \$10,000 cash. The trial was set for July 13.

Lynch said the case resulted from an unprovoked attack upon the victim by defendant who was intoxicated at the time.

"Defendant attempted to hijack a busload of workers and the deceased was a passenger on the bus whom defendant struck, causing the death," said the prosecutor.

Lynch said the defendant has no ties in the CNMI and apparently came to the Commonwealth for work purposes.

"It is fairly well known that there is a market in forged travel documents, which makes it possible for a person who has no travel documents to leave the Commonwealth," he said.

"Given the gravity, the nature and circumstances of the offense and the other factors listed, the \$10,000 bond set by the court is not excessive and is proper under the circumstances of this case," Lynch added.

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Airline official unperturbed:

Moratorium hardly to affect route

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE MORATORIUM on the importation of new guest workers to the Northern Mariana Islands is expected to impact air traffic demand to and from the workers' home countries.

But Continental Micronesia said the freeze-hiring law will hardly affect the airline's Manila flights since the Guam market can offset the declining demand in the Commonwealth.

"There has been a steady decline in the number of foreign workers' movement. We are already seeing lower number (since the Asian recession)," said Continental vice president for sales and promotions Walter Dias.

Dias explained that the number of people in Guam who have been traveling back and forth Manila can support the airline's operation of the route at a break even level.

He said at least 40 percent of the Guam population has Filipino relatives, which could already be enough to support the Manila route.

"There's a pretty strong demand

for Guam. The moratorium in hiring new workers in CNMI, which may result to declining demand on Saipan, is expected to generate no real effect in Continental's Manila route," he stressed.

Starting next month, Continental is fielding seven flights weekly, or one flight a day, to Manila. The airline, aside from its Guam hub, is also stopping over the islands of Palau and Yap before proceeding to Manila.

But Dias said some flights will just be stopping over Guam from Saipan before proceeding to the Philippines. Continental is pulling out 727 aircraft, and will replace these with Boeing 757 in its Manila route to allow more seating capacity.

At the same time, Dias said Hong Kong is in for a "very difficult" period and foreign worker traffic changes may impact Continental's Hong Kong's service levels.

He said there has been a 50 percent decline in inbound traffic in Hong Kong, notwithstanding the large outbound traffic drop.

"There has been a dramatic change

in demand. Continental, beginning April 2, is coming out with two roundtrip flights to and from Hong Kong fielding B757 aircraft.

Despite changes in its schedule due to the Asian financial turmoil, the airline is expanding its market by flying to three new Japanese destina-

tions starting next month in an effort to reboot Saipan's ailing tourism industry.

The development of Continental's Guam hub will also ensure that Saipan will connect to Bali, Cairns, Noumea and other new markets, as the company expects more than 140,000 tourists from nine cities in Japan, Asia,

Honolulu and the mainland to the CNMI.

Dias disclosed that the airline has acquired five brand new 757 aircraft to fly Guam, Saipan, Japan, Manila, Hong Kong and Bali routes. The first of the five airplanes is now flying the Nagoya-Osaka-Saipan-Guam route.

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Tanapag land surveyed for possible homesteads



Bertha Leon Guerrero

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

GOVERNMENT has momentarily halted plans to develop a portion of Marpi for homestead lots and instead has commissioned a firm to survey a 50-hectare land in Tanapag for possible homesteads.

In an interview, acting Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Bertha Leon Guerrero said the Marpi project has been put on hold due to the absence of basic infrastructures and the high cost of clearing the area of World War II bombs.

"It's going to take a lot of money and it's going to be a long time before it (Marpi homestead) is actually opened," said Guerrero.

"We are looking at the most that we can develop at the money that we have rather than put our money way over (Marpi site) there where it is going to be a while before it

eventually materializes," she added.

"We are just trying to maximize our funds." For his part, Henry Hofschneider, Division of the Public Lands' acting Director, said government is now in the process of hiring a surveyor to assess a 50-hectare portion of Tanapag for possible construction of some 500 homesteads.

Also, studies are being made to determine whether the conversion of the area into a housing facility could endanger certain bird species.

The proposed Tanapag homestead lots is situated near an abandoned World War II US dumpsite where 52-gallon drums can still be found stocked by a creek bank.

Earlier, Rep. Dino Jones has expressed concerns the dumpsite may have toxic waste that could contaminate waterways in the area.

Jones had sought assistance from the Division of Environmental Quality which, in turn, had conferred with the US Army Corps of Engineers over the matter.

The USACOE, which has responsibility for the clean-up of formerly used defense sites (FUDS) in the Pacific, has claimed that the Tanapag dumpsite is not listed in their jurisdiction.

War relics, including human bones and government-issued eating utensils, can be found at the dumpsite.

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BOE brings meetings to schools

THE Board of Education will schedule their meetings in the evenings and hold them at the public schools to encourage more parents and teachers to participate in the development of the school affairs.

The BOE in a news release said, the first of these school-based BOE monthly meetings was held at the Garapan Elementary School Cafeteria last Thursday, March 12. With over forty parents and teachers attending.

Several questions were raised by members of the Garapan community about CIP issues like when will the Garapan school be connected to the Garapan sewerline.

Other questions were about the advantages and disadvantages of switching from a multi-track year round education (MTYRE) school schedule to a single track year round education (STYRE) school schedule as advocated by many members of the board.

BOE said it appreciates all the suggestions and the questions which parents and teachers have the opportunity to raise during the community input segment of the BOE meeting.

The next BOE school-based meeting is scheduled to be held at Koblerville Elementary School Cafeteria on April 9, 1998, at 6:00 p.m.

The BOE is cordially inviting parents, teachers and concerned members of the community to attend this meeting.

Man charged with 'sexual abuse' of child

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE ATTORNEY General's Office yesterday charged a man for allegedly sexually abusing two girls in 1996 and 1997.

Aldin Blas Igisaiar was charged with two counts of sexual abuse of a child before the Superior Court.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Ross Buchholz in the complaint said Igisaiar sexually abused a child on Sept. 9, 1996, and another girl on April 30, 1997.

The 19-year-old Igisaiar was summoned to appear in court on April 6.

Meanwhile, the AGO yesterday added an additional rape charge to a man who was earlier charged with sexual abuse of a child.

The AGO said Jimmy Roy Ezekias, 25, sexually abused a child last Feb. 15 and 16.

Ezekias also raped the victim on the same date, said the government's amended complaint.

In another case, the AGO yesterday charged a man for allegedly shoplifting a wrist watch at the Duty Free Shoppers last Jan. 11.

Harin Choi, of Fina Sisu, was charged with theft and conspiracy.

"The defendant with the intent to promote and facilitate the commission of the crime of theft, did unlawfully agree with J.C. that one or more of them would engage in conduct or solicit the conduct which was calculated to become, if completed, the offense of theft and that one or more of them committed an overt act in pursuance of such conspiracy," said Assistant Atty. Gen. Aaron Williams in the complaint.

Merge of CAO, IAO is being proposed

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

REPRESENTATIVE Frank G. Cepeda yesterday said he is "consulting the community at large" and his "constituents in the Legislature" over his proposal to merge the Office of Indigenous Affairs and the Office of Carolinian Affairs.

"The Chamorros and Carolinians are two distinct ethnic groups who have lived together as one community over the past two hundred years," said Cepeda in a public statement.

"We have a common history, we share a common faith, and will share a common future."

Cepeda said he is proposing a merge Office of Indigenous Affairs because Chamorros and Carolinians "are rapidly becoming a minority in our own islands."

"I feel the only way we can survive is to work together towards

common goals, and not towards similar goals separately," said Cepeda.

He said merging the two offices, both ethnic groups "will remain diverse, yet equal."

"We will be two peoples of one community working towards common goals," he said.

In a related development, Cepeda said he recognizes the need for the creation of a National Guard unit in the Commonwealth which, unlike Saipan's Reserve unit, would be directly under the control of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

The Reserve unit can only be mobilized by Presidential Decree.

The local unit of the National Guard, for its part, can be mobilized for emergencies such as typhoons, earthquakes, rescues at sea or drug prevention.

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Heart disease risk 'high' in women

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

WITH OBESITY fast becoming an epidemic in the Northern Mariana Islands, experts believe local women are twice at risk in developing heart disease and stroke, which is the leading cause of adult disability.

Each year, about 100 women in the Northern Marianas are admitted to the Commonwealth Health Center for heart disease-related conditions. A heart attack occurs when an artery is blocked, preventing oxygen and nutrients from getting to the heart.

In a recent women's health conference, CHC internist and pediatrician Dr. Norma Ada said

Gov't to form body to tackle tourism slump

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio will form a committee in an effort to shore up the sagging tourism industry in the CNMI, the chairman of the Marianas Visitors Bureau board of directors said yesterday.

Antonio S. Guerrero said the committee would be going out to meet with prospective investors including two airline companies in Taiwan that are reportedly interested to fly in.

"One (airline) is very serious to come in, and there's another one that is very interested to fly to the Marianas," Guerrero said in an interview with mediama.

Guerrero said the governor was concerned about the continuity of the CNMI being projected and promoted in its various tourist markets.

Since October, a confluence of factors like the Korean Airlines crash in Guam in August that resulted in the suspension of flights to Micronesia and the Asian economic turmoil has led to a critical reduction in the number of tourists here.

Another factor that contributed to the decline is the stoppage of promotional work by I&S, the Marianas Visitors Bureau's official advertising and PR agency in Japan in the absence of a formal contract that the government has refused to sign.

A renegotiation is reportedly in the works between the CNMI government and the I&S.

Guerrero said structural reforms like the reorganization of the MVB as proposed in a newly introduced Senate bill would help in a more aggressive promotion of the CNMI.

"The reorganization would be very effective if that comes true because they're going to go back to the previous system where the tour-related businesses like the Duty Free Shoppers and the hotels would be very, very much involved in this promotion and also in this reorganization that is going to happen," Guerrero said.

cardiovascular disease is the leading cause of death among indigenous population in the CNMI.

Heart attack is characterized by chest, jaw, neck, shoulder and arm pains, nausea and vomiting. Ada said the chest pain is often described as squeezing, burning or heavy type of pain and can occur during rest, sleep, exercise or periods of mental stress.

The World Health Organization said heart disease and stroke is most common among obese people, who are also vulnerable to diabetes and mellitus.

In the Micronesia, up to 70 percent of women and 65 percent of men are class-1 obese, which refers to people weighing between 80 and 85 kilograms. The highest obesity rate in the world has been reported among Melanesians, Micronesians and Polynesians.

Ada said diabetes is one of the most common diseases in the CNMI affecting about 1,880 people. At least 28 percent of the indigenous population over

the age of 40 have diabetes.

Experts said the principal causes of the accelerating obesity problem are sedentary life-styles and high-fat, energy-dense diets. Beside obesity, Ada identified several known risk factors for heart disease, which include smoking, high-blood pressure and post menopausal status, as well as clan history for CVDs.

"Cigarette smoking is the leading preventable cause of death among women in the US. If a woman smokes, the risk of heart disease is two to four times higher than for a non-smoking woman," she said.

Heart disease and stroke boil down to obesity, which experts said has blown out to becoming an epidemic that reflects the profound changes in society and behavioral patterns of communities they have a genetic predisposition to gain weight readily when they are exposed to unhealthy diets and lifestyles.

An ounce of prevention

Ada mentioned several factors

to prevent heart attack and stroke. She is advising women to consume balanced diet, which has to be low in fat and salt but high in fiber, adding that at least a 30-minute walk everyday will also minimize the risk of heart attack and stroke.

"Quit smoking," she strongly said, adding that alcohol should be drunk in moderation and that people, especially those at the high-risk age group, should see a medical practitioner at least once a year.

WHO experts said prevention policies aimed at a country's entire population were imperative. The policies, they said, must include promoting healthy lifestyles, consumption of vegetables, fruits grains and cereals, and increased physical activity.

Health officials also advised that countries with high obesity cases must encourage behavioral change among its population, with emphasis on weight management rather than on short-term weight reduction.

Phyllis Hazelwood, CHC dietician, said active women who regularly perform some form of high impact exercise are more likely to maintain stronger bones, as well as avoid stroke and heart attack risks, as they age.

Hazelwood said aging women should jog, walk, jump, dance and do aerobics for exercise and relaxation. She mentioned areas where people can walk at, other than the Beach Road Pathway which include: Marpi pathway; Navy Hill baseball field; airport field, among others.

Weight bearing exercise done on a regular basis - daily or minimum of 3-4 times a week for at least 30-60 minutes each exercise session.

Hazelwood said exercise reduces high blood pressure, helps control weight, relieves stress, improves muscle strength, helps control joints swelling and pain associated with arthritis, improves stamina endurance and helps reduce the risks of fracturing bones.

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CNMI In Focus

An economic contingency plan

By William H. Stewart, Economist
Economic Service Counsel

I was thinking about the government and private sector's current preoccupation with the possible loss of immigration control and the imposition of the federal minimum wage and wondered what would be on the Commonwealth's agenda if these vital issues were not of such immediate concern.

Certainly there are many other important matters to address none the least being education, health, infrastructure improvement and, from my perspective, economic diversification and growth.

If the burning issues of the day were not of so much concern would attention be directed, and energy and resources expended, toward encouraging increased foreign and domestic investment?

If so, in what areas should such an endeavor be aimed - increased tourism; the exploitation of marine resources; computer software develop-

ment businesses; the creation of a long range, comprehensive master development plan designed to direct the island into the next century?

Considering the future of manufacturing and the fact that the World Trade Organization and its signatory members will be eliminating trade barriers in the near future and, in particular, import quotas on most manufactured products in a move to embrace "free trade" among nations - the period remaining for the CNMI's export manufacturing sector is limited.

Phase four within the agreement negotiated in the Uruguay Round of trade talks which covered multi-fibers takes effect on January 1, 2005.

All the sensitive import items entering the United States market are within this phase including CNMI manufactured garments.

The net effect being that the Commonwealth's use of Headnote 3 (a) within the U. S. Customs Schedule which has permitted duty free

entry of qualified manufactured products from the Northern Marianas, what ever they may be, garments, widgets or baby diapers, will no longer offer a manufacturer any advantage in doing business here.

They will be able to manufacture products any where in the world except mainland China and Taiwan and ship them to the United States.

Indeed, sometime within the next six and one half years manufacturers in China and Taiwan will probably be able to do the same.

Recently on CNN there was a news story about immigrant workers in Thailand, Malaysia and elsewhere that were being sent home as a result of the economic meltdown in the those nations.

I have never given much thought to immigrant workers employed in other nations but realized that as long as these nations permit companies to pay their guest workers far less than the minimum wage earned in the United States, and offer few, if any, benefits, then American workers on the mainland will never be able to produce products that will compete in price with imports from Southeast Asia, Central America and elsewhere.

In any case, the treatment of such workers in those foreign nations will not matter a bit as the United States will be unable to do anything about conditions in their workplace.

When the economies of southeast Asia get straightened out - and they will - their exports to the United States will increase and because their workers earn lower wages, their products will be landed in the United States at a lower cost than can be produced domestically.

The higher paid American workers will lose jobs in various industries while the American consumer will benefit from the lower and more competitive prices of the imported items.

That is, he or she will benefit as long as they have a job to earn the



Bill Stewart

money to purchase the product.

The government will have eliminated the CNMI's garment industry and it will not have the slightest effect on the United States labor market within that domestic industry.

American garment workers will be out of a job sooner or later. I saw a sport coat advertised in an American catalog that had been made in Russia, exported to the United States at retail price of \$69.

Imagine what the Russian worker was paid to produce this garment. Probably the equivalent of about one dollar an hour or less.

The universal "game plan" is to keep manufacturing costs down to remain competitive and keep profits up. Everyone can do it except the United States based garment manufacturer.

His production costs are high because of higher wage rates and costly government regulations.

Remember the North America Free Trade Agreement, (NAFTA), that was touted to increase jobs for American workers.

A recent issue of the *Economist Magazine* carried a story which read, "the future of *Paseo del Norte* turns on the *maquiladora* (factory) assembly lines where Mexican workers use American equipment to make goods that get exported duty-free to the United States.

General Motors established a plant

in Juarez as early as 1971. Now, 330 *maquiladoras* in Juarez employ nearly 200,000 people, more than any other border city."

This is a direct result of the fact that "economics pulls labor intensive work to the Mexican side of the border. Work that needs a lot of capital or education tends to stay on the American side."

Again, the all consuming goal is to keep manufacturing costs down - move plants to locations where this is possible. There are no occupational health and safety laws in Mexico, Central America or Asia.

No environmental regulations or historical preservation concerns.

No requirement to provide employee medical and retirement benefits. Companies move to these locations to maximize profits, almost always because of low labor costs, few regulations and a large pool of available workers willing to work for low wages under austere conditions.

Some readers may think I'm pro-garment industry - the fact is I'm not. I could care less whether they stay or leave the Commonwealth. My interest is with the economy and its measurement.

The industry happens to be a major player here.

When the garment industry does leave the islands all that will have been accomplished is reduced tax revenues for the CNMI government and less money placed in circulation in the local economy.

With no garment industry and thus no garment workers, CUC will have an excess of power generating capacity with no one to buy it's full production potential and a fixed, debt service obligation to meet with reduced revenues.

The Ports Authority may also be faced with a similar scenario - an obligation to service bond interest

Continued on page 35

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Leap of faith

'Miracles can come true'

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

TEARS were seemingly flowing endlessly down her cheeks five years ago. And why not, she was diagnosed to have been afflicted with an already at an advance stage cervical cancer. Facing death is not an easy thing to do, especially for a mother who raises five children. Just the thought of leaving the kids behind makes Roma Aranda sick, what more a chronic disease that was slowly leading her down her grave.

"Almost five years ago, in April of 1993, I was diagnosed with cervical cancer and it was [already at] stage-3. I know that when you hear the word cancer, you think that you're going to die, and that's exactly what I felt," Roma testifies.

She says it was not very easy to accept especially when she was religiously taking her regular annual medical check up in the Philippines. No cancer was detected until she bled profusely, was rushed to the Corn-

monwealth Health Center [CHC] where she was diagnosed to have been suffering stage-3 cervical cancer.

One can just imagine the pain Roma had to go through, dealing with the thoughts of leaving her family behind and the physical pain she had to bear with an advance cervical cancer which not so many are able to survive.

"I was lost, depressed, and I don't want to socialize, I don't want to talk to anybody. It's like I shut the whole world down," she adds.

She confesses that she started having a lot of anxieties. "I was taking anxiety pills because I was having nervous breakdown and a series of fainting spells."

Roma was president of the Children of God the Father Inc., of Our Lady of the Most Holy Rosary Oratory, former president of the 1st Women's Lions Club on Saipan and vice president of the Filipino-USA Association [FILUSA] before the cancer news broke down.

"I entirely quit from all of my civic activities because sometimes I wasn't feeling very well considering my anxiety problems," she admits.

But persisting thoughts that she was alone in her ordeal did not last long. Soon, Roma discovered she had so many friends to turn to. "It seemed like the Blessed Mother and the Lord spoke to me telling me to have my medication and I will be healed."

She says it was her faith which brought her to the doorsteps of medical institution in Hawaii where she underwent rigid radiation therapy for 25 days and radium implant.

"I knew that God was with me and at that moment, whatever he decides, I'll surrender myself entirely to Him. But with the treatment that I went through and all the prayers during my ordeal with cancer, I braved the pain," she recalls, tears starting to run down her cheeks.

Roma learned one lesson from her cancer ordeal: "Think positive because that can pull you through."

"Each one of us has a special gift of God, especially women, we are the mothers and we have children to take care of and if we're gone from this world, who's going to take care of them," she adds.

There is no doubt in Roma's heart



Roma Aranda

and mind that her recovery and eventual survival from cancer was the will of the Divine Providence. "It's a miracle!" she quips.

A lot of people know her for being a very religious person.

"Up to the time that I was ready to die in my room and yet I still didn't want to go to the hospital because I believed that the Lord and the Blessed Mother was there. They can and they will heal me" she says.

But she believed her prayers brought her to the hospital. "The Lord wanted me to get the proper medical care for my treatment so that's how I got treated."

"I attribute my recovery to the Divine Providence, my recovery is a miracle," she continues.

Of course, like other normal people, Roma, despite her faith, was frightened. She felt like the world was trembling down on her, thinking death was already knocking upon her door.

"I thought of death. It wasn't easy [because] I have five children," she says.

But unlike some people who blame God for their misfortune, Roma held on with her trust that the Lord and the Blessed Mother, whom she is devoted to, will help her survive and give her a second life.

"My faith becomes stronger when I fell ill. I know that the Lord will not abandon me. I knew I will recover because of my faith. I never gave up, I know the Blessed Mother's intercession will help me survive," she stresses.

Five years hence, Roma remains a mother to her five children and a loving wife to her husband. She proudly stood before 300 multiracial women during a health conference recalling every detail of her once painful but lesson-filled ordeal.

"Prayers bring family together," she says.

Indeed, prayer does. Because as Roma stood before her counterparts, she appears to be a living effigy of God's miracles and a living proof that nothing is impossible even with just a little leap of faith.

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92012	1992	Hyundai	Scoupe 2Dr	Ebony Black	\$2,995.00
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93006	1993	Isuzu	Trooper 5Dr Wgn	Blue	\$13,995.00
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93009	1993	Honda	Prelude 2Dr Coupe	Milano Red	\$13,895.00
94001	1994	Nissan	Maxima GXE 4Dr Sdn	Ruby Pearl	\$14,995.00
94005	1994	Chevy	Camaro 2Dr Cpe	Red	\$14,995.00
94006	1994	Ford	Explorer XLT 4WD 4Dr SUV	Dark Blue CC	\$16,995.00
94007	1994	Ford	Escort LX 2Dr Sdn	Tabago Green	\$6,995.00
95002	1995	Mazda	Protege	Emerald	\$9,995.00
95004	1995	Hyundai	Sonata GLS 4Dr Sdn	Navy Blue	\$9,995.00
95006	1995	Ford	F150 4WD XL Scab 8Ft Bed	Oxford White	\$14,995.00
96001	1996	Nissan	200SX 2Dr Cpe	Aztec Red	\$12,995.00
96003	1996	Nissan	200SX 2Dr Cpe	Cloud White	\$12,995.00
96004	1996	Nissan	Maxima GXE 4Dr Sdn	Starfire Blue	\$17,995.00
96007	1996	Honda	Delsol 2Dr Cpe	Black	\$14,995.00
96008	1996	Nissan	2WD SE K Cab Pick-up	Platinum Gold	\$15,995.00
96011	1996	Ford	Aerostar Wagon	Red	\$16,995.00
96012	1996	Nissan	Sentra XE 4Dr Sdn	Cloud White	\$11,995.00
97001	1997	Nissan	Altima GLE 4Dr Sdn	Beige Pearl	\$17,995.00
97003	1997	Nissan	Maxima GXE 4Dr Sdn	Cloud White	\$23,995.00
97005	1997	Nissan	Pathfinder XE 5Dr Wgn	Sahara Beige P	\$23,995.00
97007	1997	Nissan	Sentra 4Dr Sdn	Cloud White	\$11,995.00
97008	1997	Nissan	Sentra 4Dr Sdn	Cloud White	\$12,195.00
97011	1997	Ford	Escort 4Dr Sdn	Pacific Green	\$11,995.00
97012	1997	Ford	Escort 4 Dr Sdn	Mocca Frost	\$12,995.00
97016	1997	Ford	Taurus GL 4Dr Sdn	Silver	\$19,995.00
97017	1997	Nissan	2WD XE K Cab Pick-up	Autumn Sunburst	\$16,995.00
97019	1997	Nissan	Sentra XE 4Dr Sdn	Cloud White	\$11,995.00
97020	1997	Ford	Taurus LX 4Dr Sdn	White	\$19,995.00
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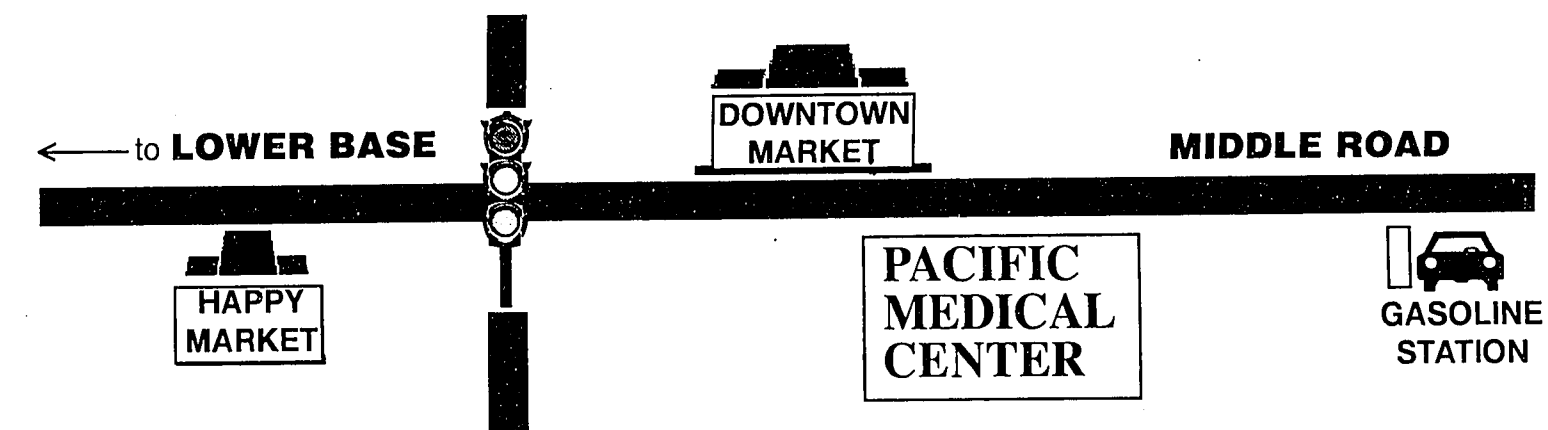
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Guam-FEMA report on Paka effects done

AGANA, GUAM — Governor Carl T. C. Gutierrez on Friday lauded FEMA and GovGuam representatives upon the completion of a 129-page evaluation report on Typhoon Paka's effects on the island's building performance and electrical power distribution systems.

The report, followed a determination on buildings that performed well, and those that performed poorly, as well as evaluation of the electrical power distribution system.

A Hazard Mitigation Technical Assistance Program (HMTAP)

Kiribati's convention concludes

TARAWA (Pacnews)—The Constitutional convention in Kiribati which has been going on for the last five days will be officially closed today.

The more than 200 delegates from across the nation representing all sectors of the community have amended some Sections and Clauses of the present Constitution and added new ones, Radio Kiribati reports.

The outcome of the six-day convention, will be further scrutinized by

government and raised to parliament for approval. But the amended bill will be referred back to the people before the House debates on it.

It will need two thirds of the 41 members of parliament to change the constitution.

Team was deployed to Guam by FEMA, and they teamed up with local agency officials.

The team focused on "mitigation" — which simply defined, is a measure taken to prevent the event from recurring (such as structural failure) and reduce the impact of an event if it does occur again. "While it is a more costly alternative, it is important that our public facilities, as well as private residences, to the greatest extent possible, be constructed with concrete," said Gov. Gutierrez.

"We know that our island will be constantly threatened by storms. In



Carl T. C. Gutierrez

the past century, we have experienced 19 storms that have caused significant damage. Paka was very likely one of the most damaging."

UN asked to endorse Bougainville monitors



Bill Skate

cial state negotiator for Bougainville, Sir John Kaputin, has told the PNG parliament the peace monitors would take over from the current truce monitors, Radio Australia reports.

Sir John credited the current peace on Bougainville partly to the presence of the Truce Monitoring Group, but the said total peace would only be achieved by the Bougainvilleans themselves.

Radio Australia's Port Moresby office says while the UN Security Council might endorse the peace monitors, it is unlikely to provide any troops for the exercise.

They will still come from within the region - mostly from Australia. Sir John said the PNG government would seek the appointment of a special UN Observer Mission to monitor the cease-fire arrangements.

MELBOURNE (Pacnews)—Papua New Guinea will approach the United Nations Security Council to endorse a peace monitoring group for Bougainville, when the permanent cease-fire in the province takes effect at the end of April. Prime minister Bill Skate's spe-

Elsewhere in the Pacific American Samoa governor, 3 officials to reimburse \$10-M

PAGOPAGO (Pacnews)—The American Samoa Senate has petitioned the High Court to order Governor Tauese Sunia and three other government officials to reimburse about \$10 million which they spent without legislative approval.

The funds were raised from storage fees at the government's fuel tank farm between 1993 and 1997.

The Senate contends that the defendants violated the law in that they

authorised the spending of tank farm revenues without the legislative's approval.

Along with Governor Tauese are the chairman of the American Samoa Petroleum Cooperative Alo Paul Stevenson, executive director of the American Samoa Power Authority Abe Malae and Petroleum Division manager Jack Kachmarik.

According to the complaint, on

June 1997 Governor Tauese and Abe Malae authorised \$510 million from tank farm monies to pay the governor's visa credit card account.

It also states that Malae and Jack Kachmarik transferred \$160,000 of the same revenues to the ASG Treasury to pay for renovations to the governor's official residence.

The complaint states that these transactions were illegal.

Gov't finds Samoan MP guilty

APIA (Pacnews)—Samoa's Member of Parliament for Aana Alofi No. 1, Suafoa Lautasi, was Tuesday found guilty by the Magistrates Court of negligent driving causing death.

He was also charged for failing to stop to ascertain if a person was in-

jured and failing to report the accident within a reasonable time to the authorities.

Suafoa, 53, is to appear again in court on March 30 for a probation report and sentencing.

The police proved that on Novem-

ber 25 last year, Suafoa driving a white double cab pick-up struck and killed Mathew Seiuli, 21, on the west coast road at Malie village. Seiuli, a police officer, died shortly after arrival at the hospital from internal bleeding from injuries to his liver and spleen.

Vanuatu's parliament to convene on March 30

PORT VILA (Pacnews)—Vanuatu's newly elected parliament will meet in its first ordinary session on March 30.

This was confirmed in a radio message from the clerk of parliament, Lino Bulekuli dit Sacsac, to the 52 newly elected members of parliament.

Bulekuli says the first sitting of the country's sixth parliament will take place on March 30 at the parliament house in Port Vila.

The main business to be debated during the session is the election of a new prime minister.

Following Wednesday's signing of a Memorandum of Agreement (MOA) by the Vanuaaku Pati and the National United Party to run a coalition government, VP will hold the prime ministership while NUP will take the position of deputy prime minister.

Tongan officials' case rescheduled

NUKU'ALOFA (Pacnews)—Tonga's principal magistrate Palavilala Tapueluelu, has rescheduled for April 8, the hearing that was lined up for Wednesday between police as the plaintiff and the Minister for Lands, Survey and Natural Resources, Fakafanua as defendant. Fakafanua was due to appear on charges in connection with alleged fraudulent conversion, accepting bribe and distortion, Radio Tonga reports.

The plaintiff requested a reschedule to allow them time to complete their work on other charges as well as a review to the current bail condition.

Tapueluelu ordered two new sureties to be brought to court with the defendant for a review.

It is understood police was dissatisfied with the bail conditions set by Magistrate Samiu Palu, Monday, at their application to remand the defendant in custody for 8 days, and are therefore lodging an appeal with the Supreme Court for a review.

Solomons appeals for help to overcome crisis

HONIARA (Pacnews)—Solomon Islands Prime Minister Bartholomew Ulufa'alu has appealed to Solomon Islands' bilateral and multilateral development partners to help the country out of its financial and economic crisis.

Speaking at the opening of the Government-Development Partners' meeting Wednesday, Ulufa'alu said the country's economy has been among other things crippled by weak balance of payments which was exposed by the collapse of the log export trade.

He also stressed that there was lack of coherent and feasible strategy to correct weaknesses, and the absence of political will to undertake

reforms. Ulufa'alu said the government's credibility had been destroyed because little or no action had been taken on promises

made in the past. He said also that the administrative and accounting machinery of

government had been deeply undermined by gross act of negligence and deliberate sabotage.

Ulufa'alu said powerful business interests have developed effective means of controlling politicians and public servants, thus influencing the government decision making process.

But he said the present government's policy and structural reform programme is aimed at rectifying these weaknesses and to steer the economy in the right direction.

He indicated however, that this requires cooperation on the part of everyone in the country and assistance from the country's development partners.

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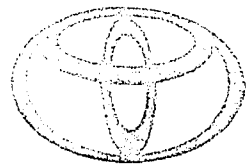
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U87-004	1991	BUICK CENTURY	ABA-217 5995
U87-221	1988	SUPRA	AAA-533 3995
U87-251	1988	CAMRY	AAG-969 2695
U87-188	1990	CAMRY	AAK-520 2695
U87-150	1990	CAMRY	AAR-337 2695
U87-241	1990	CAMRY	AAW-531 3695
U87-273	1990	CAMRY	AAZ-941 3695
U87-315	1990	CAMRY	ABV-011 2695
U87-197	1991	CAMRY	ABB-721 3995
U87-279	1992	CAMRY XLE	AAW-849 9595
U87-310	1994	CAMRY V6XLE	ABO-562 13995
U87-270	1992	CAMRY LE	AAW-196 6695
U88-038	1996	TERCEL 2 DR.	ABG-680 10995
U88-043	1991	TERCEL 4DR.	AAV-504 4995
U88-008	1991	240 SX	AAS-669 7995
U87-088	1992	SENTRA	AAU-734 1795
U88-030	1992	STANZA	AZ-325 5500
U88-029	1992	HONDA CIVIC	AAV-369 7995
U87-312	1992	ELANTRA	AAV-003 1995
U87-214	1990	SUBARU LOYALE	AAM-328 1995
U87-314	1991	MAZDA 323	ABJ-682 3995

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	PRICE
U88-012	1993	4X2	ABL-713 4995
U88-023	1991	4X2 EX-CAB	AAZ-261 5495
U87-239	1991	4X2 EX-CAB	ABC-282 3995
U88-035	1992	4X2 EX-CAB	AAV-544 6995
U88-032	1991	4X2 EX-CAB	9495
U88-041	1991	4x4 XCAB ALUM BED	AAV-469 6995
U88-028	1992	TACOMA 4x4 EX-CAB	ABJ-725 16995
R88-002	1995	T100 4 x 4 EX-CAB	ABU-041 15995
U88-022	1995	T100 4 x 4 EX-CAB	ABV-612 17495
U88-016	1995	T100 4 x 4 SR5	ABU-872 17495

STOCK	YEAR	MODEL	PRICE
U87-032	1993	FORD EXPLORER	ABA-395 12995
U87-253	1994	MONTERO	ABO-111 14995
U88-013	1996	RAV-4	ABF-948 17995
U88-024	1996	RAV-4	ACA-271 15995
U87-199	1990	4-RUNNER	AAL-790 10995
U88-007	1991	4-RUNNER	AAW-075 10995
U87-034	1991	4-RUNNER	AAV-815 10995
C88-003	1991	4-RUNNER	AAV-125 10995
U87-222	1992	4-RUNNER	AAV-453 10995
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U87-319	1995	4-RUNNER	HIDE 18995
U88-015	1995	4-RUNNER	ABC-374 18995
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-011	1990	JEEP CHEROKEE	AAR-996 9995
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Indonesian VP arrives in Japan



Indonesian Vice President Bacaruddin Habibie, left, shakes hands with Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto at Hashimoto's official residence in Tokyo Thursday. Habibie is in Japan for a four-day official visit. AP

TOKYO (AP) — Indonesian Vice President Bacaruddin Habibie arrived Wednesday for talks with Japanese leaders about his Southeast Asian nation's economic crisis.

During a four-day visit, Habibie will meet with Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi and other officials, Japan's Foreign Ministry said.

Habibie's trip follows a meeting Sunday in Jakarta between Hashimoto and Indonesian President Suharto in which Japan pressed Indonesia to speed up the implementation of promised economic reforms.

The International Monetary Fund has postponed extending the latest installment of a \$ 43 billion emergency rescue plan for Indonesia amid concern Suharto was backsliding on his commitment to liberalize his country's economy.

Japan and Singapore have agreed to contribute \$ 5 billion to the IMF-orchestrated bailout package for Indonesia, making them the two largest single contributors.

Habibie was sworn in Monday as Indonesia's new vice president.

Foley says Japan trade surplus could become a political issue

TOKYO (AP) — U.S. Ambassador Thomas Foley said Wednesday Japan's growing trade surplus could become a political issue in the United States during this year's congressional elections.

Speaking at a luncheon, Foley urged Japan to open its markets and buy more goods from the ailing economies of Southeast Asia and South Korea.

One way for Tokyo to soothe trade tensions and help ease the Asian economic crisis would be to revive domestic growth.

Foley said he would be "very impressed and satisfied" with an 8 trillion to 10 trillion yen (\$ 62 billion to \$ 78 billion) economic stimulus package that he said he expects Japan's governing Liberal Democratic Party to propose soon.

Last week, the Finance Ministry



U.S. Ambassador to Japan Thomas Foley, left, tries food at the Food Expo '98 in Makuhari, east of Tokyo, last week. Foley warned Japan's trade surplus can become a political issue in the U.S. AP



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House Speaker Jose De Venecia, left, dances as President Fidel Ramos endorses him to be the standard-bearer of the ruling LAKAS-NUCD party during the kick-off campaign rally in Manila in this Feb. 10, 1998 file photo. AP

After Cebu Pacific tragedy

RP pushes for radar project

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Citing an airplane crash last month that killed 104 people, the Philippines' transportation chief pressed Tuesday for restoration of a shelved radar project to improve air safety.

Transportation and Communications Secretary Josefina Lichauco said the Feb. 2 crash of the Cebu Pacific DC-9 was a reminder of the urgent need to improve the country's radar system.

A 3.45 billion peso (\$86.2 million) radar system upgrade was being planned in 1994 by GEC-Marconi Avionics of Britain but was shelved after criticism that the project was overpriced.

The plan was to create a national system uniting civilian and military radar, which now are operated separately.

"Seeing that most of the recommendations of the air safety task force in 1994 remain unaddressed to this day, there definitely is a need for the project to be implemented, in fact, within the soonest time possible," Lichauco said in a statement.

"Effective air navigation (is) something we have to undertake urgently

given the nightmare of the recent air tragedy," she added.

The plane crashed as it was preparing to land in the southern city of Cagayan de Oro. Air transport officials investigating the accident have not released a report on its cause.

Civil authorities now operate about five radars across the Philippines. The military has only one fully functioning radar facility, hampering the country's ability to detect foreign intrusions.

The functioning radar, on Lubang Island in Mindoro province, south of Manila, monitors the southwestern section of the archipelago.

Two other radar stations in the north were not fully functional, the military chief said in a Senate hearing last October.

The military depends on the government's civilian radar to monitor foreign air and sea intrusions but these have limited capabilities, officials said.

The Philippines used to depend on the sophisticated radar systems of the U.S. military when it still maintained bases in the country.

RP welcomes rights pact

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A breakthrough human rights pact with Communist rebels should greatly reduce armed hostilities in poor regions, the Philippine government said Monday.

The human rights accord was to be signed later Monday in the Netherlands, where peace talks aimed at ending one of the world's longest Marxist insurgencies have proceeded sporadically since 1992.

"Along the tortuous way, we have hurdled many obstacles to reach what at times seemed to be an unreachable goal," Howard Dece, the chief government negotiator, said in a statement.

The accord, called the Comprehensive Agreement on Respect for

Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law, is the first of four agreements the two sides hope to reach in a political settlement to end nearly three decades of insurgency.

Details of the agreement, which commits the two sides to respect human rights, were not immediately released.

"The first fruit of this agreement must be a marked reduction or, better yet, a total suspension of armed hostilities," Dece said.

He said the two sides will be able to shift their focus from "annihilative offensives" to the promotion of human rights, especially for poor Filipinos.

RP group, Microsoft in IT pact

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The Lopez Group of the Philippines said Wednesday it will sign a memorandum of understanding with Microsoft Corp. to explore several areas of partnership in the field of information technology.

Among the projects being considered by the two companies are the setting up of a learning center for students and the creation of Internet

technology dedicated to the banking and travel sectors, it said.

The memorandum is to be signed Friday, during Microsoft chairman Bill Gates' scheduled visit to Manila.

The Lopez Group includes power retailer Manila Electric Co., holding concerns Benpres Holding Corp. and First Philippine Holdings Corp., and ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp., the Philippines' largest TV network.

Earlier, Philippine diversified concern Ayala Corp. announced it also would sign a memorandum of agreement with Microsoft that includes exploring ventures in electronic commerce, digital entertainment and the possible establishment of a technology zone or an investment area devoted to information technology-related companies.

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Indonesia deports critic

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — A reporter-activist who has long accused Indonesia of human rights abuses in East Timor was deported Wednesday after entering the country illegally, authorities said.

Allan Naim was put on a flight to Singapore after giving a news conference a day earlier in which he said the United States was training Indonesian troops in violation of a congressional ban.

Banned from Indonesia since 1992, Naim entered the country "apparently after changing his passport," said Naina Akhmadyah, spokesman for the

information ministry.

He did not elaborate. Indonesian forces trained by the Pentagon include a special forces commando unit called Kopassus, according to Naim. Human rights groups say Kopassus has tortured and killed civilians.

On Tuesday, U.S. officials said the training is legal. They said it is not covered by a six-year old congressional statute that bars

Indonesian troops from taking part in a U.S. training program for foreign soldiers known as IMET.

"We have never tried to hide these exercises. We've always confirmed them as they occur," said Craig Stromme, U.S. Embassy spokesman.

Naim referred to the training program in an article he wrote in The Nation magazine, based in New York City.

Naim said he was beaten when he witnessed a massacre of civilians by Indonesian troops in 1991 in East Timor, a former Portuguese colony that Indonesia invaded in 1975 and annexed in 1976.

A small group of separatist guerrillas is still fighting the Indonesian military.

The United Nations does not recognize Indonesian sovereignty in the half-island territory.



Indonesian police in riot gear look towards University of Pancasila students who have spilled off their campus onto the street in Jakarta Tuesday. Testing the patience of riot police, hundreds of students attempted to move their protest against President Suharto and Indonesia's economic crisis to the streets. AP

SE Asia eyes early warning system

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Stung by the biggest economic crisis in decades, Southeast Asian nations are developing an alarm system to help defuse future turmoil before it erupts.

The system would depend on "a checklist of triggers of financial and economic crises," according to a draft proposal from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations seen Wednesday by Dow Jones Newswires.

The proposal was approved in principle by ASEAN finance ministers

last month in Jakarta, Indonesia. They asked the Manila-based Asian Development Bank to help develop it.

The warning bells include over-valued currencies, lending booms, and increases in short-term borrowing denominated in foreign currency.

The economic crisis was blamed on "poor banking supervision and lack of transparency" in the financial system.

The crisis began last July when Thailand abandoned its fixed exchange-rate system after nearly draining its foreign reserves in a futile defense of the baht.

The illness spread rapidly to other Asian countries that foreign investors thought resembled Thailand in their financial flaws. Eventually, financial markets worldwide were affected.

Thailand, South Korea and Indonesia are in recession and have received more than \$100 million in bailouts arranged by the International Monetary Fund. Most other Asian countries are suffering lower growth.

As the crisis began, some Southeast Asian countries blamed foreign currency speculators. But increasingly, leaders acknowledge the blame lay with regional governments.

The ASEAN proposal says such mistakes can be avoided by practices used by the Group of Seven leading industrial countries and ECOFIN, an organization of European Union finance ministers.

Leaders of those groups hold regular meetings in which they coordinate cooperation on economic-policy issues, the proposal says.

ASEAN countries also need to go beyond the global economic-monitoring system adopted by the IMF, the proposal says, which fails to capture "the essence of regional relationships."

A regional system can encourage peer pressure to pursue sound policies, it said. A database could be developed to compare relative financial health between members.



Chinese President Jiang Zemin leans over to chat to former Foreign Minister and Vice Premier Qian Qichen during a break in the National People's Congress in Beijing Wednesday. Qian retired and was replaced Wednesday as Foreign Minister by Tang Jiaxuan. The congress also elected a new cabinet Wednesday. AP

Singapore to maintain active role in local property market

SINGAPORE (AP) — A government minister has said Singapore will continue to monitor the local property market and make efforts to curtail sharp swings in land prices which could undermine the country's financial and economic stability.

Development Minister Lim Hng Kiang told Singapore's parliament Tuesday the government has no plans to lift anti-speculation curbs on the property market implemented in May 1996. The Straits Times newspaper reported Wednesday.

The measures were implemented during a period when property values ballooned, but in recent months weak demand has caused real estate prices to fall.

The government's stance is important because it is the main supplier of land for property development.

Kiang said the government will promote pricing transparency by publicizing its land sale programs in advance and providing information on property stocks, occupancy levels and supply, the newspaper report said. "But at the end of the day, market forces will settle the price levels, not the government," the paper quoted Kiang as saying.

Islamic banks urged to help Indonesia end economic crisis

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesia is appealing to Islamic banks around the world to help it overcome its worst economic crisis in three decades.

In a meeting Wednesday, President Suharto told an official of the Organization of Islamic Conference, which represents more than 50 countries, that Islamic banks were not doing enough to back Indonesia.

The official, Muchrim Hakim, said there are about 40 Islamic banks nationwide.

"We hope the banks will help Indonesia with their money, not promises and oral statements at seminars or gatherings," said Hakim, vice president of the Islamic Chamber of Commerce for Southeast Asia.

Indonesia is 90 percent Muslim. Hakim, who visited Dubai recently, said Dubai Islamic Bank would accept Indonesian letters of credit to help Indonesian traders export cotton to that country.

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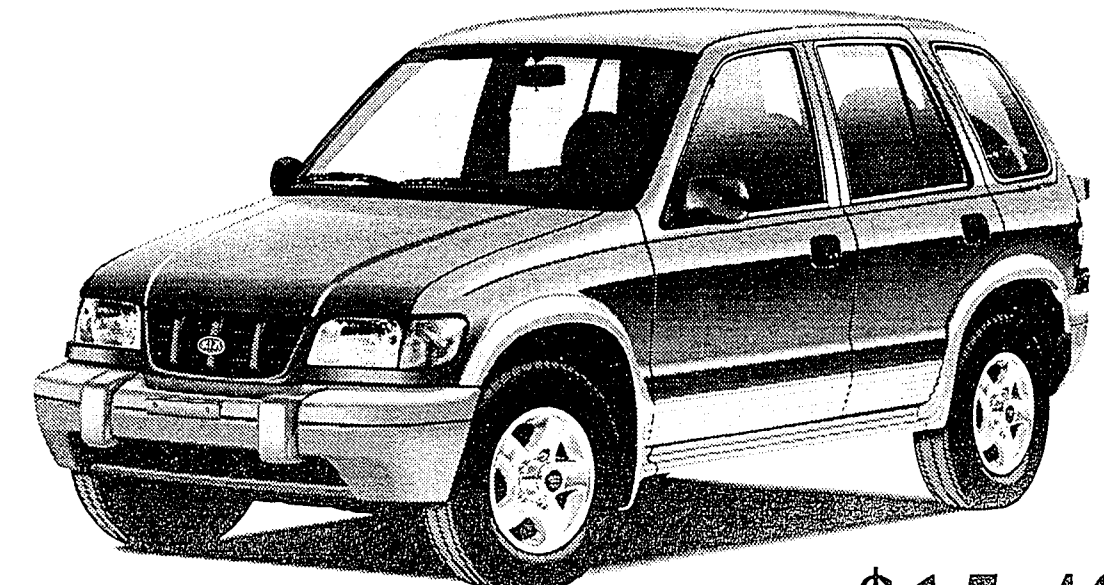
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Cambodia to privatize polls

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — The government has signed a tentative agreement with a private company to finance the July 26 elections in case foreign countries refuse, officials said Wednesday.

Ung Huot, quietly signed the agreement this month with Ciccone, an Israeli-Argentine company, for as much as \$ 26 million if needed.

Prak Sokhon, Hun Sen's adviser, confirmed the deal but said he had few details about it. Khieu Sopheak, an adviser

to Sar Kheng, a co-minister of the interior, also confirmed the deal.

Sar Kheng has said the country could return to civil war if the elections are postponed and urged foreign countries to donate quickly.

The government would pre-

fer international aid as a pre-endorsement of the elections.

The elections will be the first in Cambodia since the 1993 U.N.-organized polls that were won by Prince Norodom Ranariddh's royalist party.

Hun Sen, who led a Vietnamese-backed communist government during the 1980s, forced his way into a co-premiership with Ranariddh by threatening renewed civil war.

Hun Sen toppled Ranariddh in a coup last year and appointed Ung Huot as his replacement. Hun Sen has called elections to legitimize his rule and win back foreign aid lost after the takeover.

The government is seeking \$ 21 million in electoral aid. The

European Union has pledged \$ 11.5 million, but has indicated it would withdraw the funds if the polls are not free and fair.

Japan has pledged \$ 3 million.

The exiled Ranariddh was convicted in absentia Wednesday on charges of plotting a coup with Khmer Rouge guerrillas before he was overthrown by Hun Sen.

The conviction is part of an attempt by Hun Sen to discredit the prince.

It was also belongs to a Japanese plan to bring the prince home to contest the elections.

Now that he has been convicted, he would need a pardon from his father, King Norodom Sihanouk.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

CUC RFP 98-0018
March 6, 1998

The Executive Director of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is soliciting proposals from Architectural and Engineering Firms for the design of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Building, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Interested firms may pick-up a scope of work at the CUC, Procurement & Supply Office during normal working hours and prior to the deadline.

Interested firms must submit five (5) copies of their qualifications, proposals, and updated Standard Forms 254 and 255 in a envelope identified by the request for proposal no. CUC-RFP-98-0018 no later than 3:00 p.m., April 7, 1998, to the Procurement & Supply Office, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Lower Base, Saipan. The price proposal shall be submitted in a separate envelope that is sealed and identified on the outside by the following: "CUC-RFP-98-0018-Price Proposal."

Selection of the three highest ranked firms will be made by a committee based on the evaluation factors listed below. Thereform, the three highest ranked firms' price proposals will be opened and recorded by Procurement & Supply. The firm with the lowest price proposal will be awarded the project.

The Evaluation of proposals will be based on the following factors:

1. The firm's capability to perform the work within the time limitations (30 maximum points);
2. Qualification of Principal and proposed staff (20 maximum points);
3. Recent experience with projects of similar size and scope (20 maximum points);
4. The firm's methodology or project approach (20 maximum points);
5. Proposed energy saving features and innovative technology to be included in the design (10 maximum points).

Discussions may be concluded with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in its sole opinion, to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals shall become property of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation.

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Executive Director

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC RFP 98-0012
February 27, 1998

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is requesting proposals from qualified firms for the supply of fuel for its power plants on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. CUC is requesting two options: (1) supply for a period of two (2) years; (2) supply for a period of five (5) years.

The Specifications may be picked up at the CUC Procurement & Supply Office in Lower Base, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 p.m. and 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for Government observed holidays.

Offerors shall provide a certification signed by a principle of the company stating that the company has in the past, and is currently, in compliance with all applicable CNMI and federal labor laws. Should the company be unable to provide such certification, the company must provide a written explanation as to why, including a description of any violations of such labor laws and any remedial action taken. FAILURE OF THE COMPANY TO PROVIDE SUCH CERTIFICATION OR EXPLANATION IS GROUNDS TO REJECT THE ENTIRE PROPOSAL.

Proposals will be evaluated and selections be made based on CIF Cost (60 points), and Reliability of Supply (40 points).

Payment terms shall be NET SIXTY DAYS FROM INVOICE DATE. Fuel to be supplied must be warranted to meet specifications.

Six (6) sets of the proposals and copies of the firm's CNMI Business License must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked CUC RFP 98-0012, to CUC Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, P.O. Box 1220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than Monday, March 30, 1998 at 3:00 p.m., local time. Late submissions will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposals, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Executive Director



Elder statesman and president of the Buddhist Liberal Democratic Party Son Sann, left, talks as his son Son Soubert sits behind during his party congress in Phnom Penh Saturday. Son Soubert was voted president of the newly renamed Son Sann Party after his father resigned to take part in the run up for the July 26 elections. AP

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General: Thai shelling kills 7

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — A Thai general said Wednesday that seven members of a Myanmar band of marauders were killed and 20 wounded when his troops shelled their camp across the border.

The Thai army shelled the base inside Myanmar belonging to the pro-Yangon Democratic Karen Buddhist Army on Sunday in retaliation for its cross-border attacks on refugee camps in Thailand.

Members of the DKBA are reportedly furious over the Thai assault and have vowed to burn down all the refugee camps in Thailand.

"Good. I'm glad they are furious. This (retaliation) is one way of telling the DKBA that we will not tolerate their actions."

We will not allow our sovereignty to be violated," said Gen. Chamlong Phothong, commander of the 3rd Army, based along the Thai-Myanmar border.

He said the casualties were confirmed by Col. Sai Phone of the Myanmar army in neighboring Myawaddy.

More than 100,000 people, mostly ethnic Karen, are living in more than 20 refugee camps in Thailand after fleeing abuse and offensives by the Myanmar army.

Most of the refugees are sympathetic to the Karen National Union, a guerrilla group that has been fighting for Karen autonomy since 1948.

The Myanmar army has launched an offensive against the KNU 7th Brigade, which abandoned its mobile



Karen refugees walk along a camp trail Tuesday in Mae Hla, Thailand. More than 100,000 Karen are sheltered in a string of camps along the rugged border with Myanmar. AP

headquarters inside Myanmar this week.

Myanmar army operations against the KNU are frequently accompanied by theft, burning of villages, rapes, torture and extra-judicial killings against Karen villagers.

The DKBA split from the KNU and allied itself with the military government in Myanmar, also known as Burma, in 1994. It has repeatedly attacked the refugee camps in Thai-

land.

"I can't accept the fact that innocent people, women and children, in these camps are being attacked. There are just too many children running around in these camps," Gen. Chamlong said.

"We look at them as refugees but the DKBA looks at the Karens in these border camps as terrorists," he added.

Also Wednesday, the Australian

government condemned the attacks on the camp and instructed its ambassador in Yangon to protest to the Myanmar government and ask it to stop the DKBA attacks.

The DKBA is armed and controlled by the Myanmar army. Refugees have said that Myanmar troops have participated in some of the attacks on the refugee camps.

"The Myanmar army in the area keep saying that they cannot control the DKBA," Gen. Chamlong said.

He said that in the past, the attacks on the camps were intended to force the refugees to return to Myanmar under DKBA control. Now, however, with the refugees clearly rejecting the DKBA, he believes the attacks are motivated by revenge.

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Dead man sentenced to 20 years

PHNOMPENH, Cambodia (AP) — The Cambodian court that convicted deposed co-prime minister Norodom Ranariddh of conspiracy also ordered a 20-year prison sentence for one of his co-defendants, even though he has been dead for almost eight months.

The late Brig. Gen. Chao Sambath, former deputy chief of the army's intelligence department, was one of dozens of Ranariddh supporters executed in the aftermath of the coup last July in which Second Prime Minister Hun Sen toppled Prince Ranariddh.

Judge Nhey Thol said the government decided to try Chao Sambath because it was not convinced he was dead.

"The court has no evidence, so we still consider him alive," he told reporters before the trial opened.

Chao Sambath's badly decomposed body was exhumed by human rights workers in Kompong Speu province five months ago. He had been shot in the head and had a broken leg and arm, indicating probable torture before the killing, they said.

Family members positively identified Chao Sambath's body, including a distinguishing tattoo on his forearm. They criticized the court proceedings Wednesday.

"If they want to put him in prison, they will have to go get his bones," said a relative who asked to not be identified. "They already killed him — isn't that enough?"

The military court on Wednesday found Ranariddh, Chao Sambath and two other Ranariddh loyalists guilty of plotting a takeover in league with Khmer Rouge guerrillas. Ranariddh, in exile since the coup, received a 30-year prison sentence.

The charges are widely seen as politically motivated, and the trial is being called a sham by observers. The court system is under the influence of Hun Sen's Cambodian People's Party.

Amnesty International, the London-based human rights group, called the decision to summons Chao Sambath "farfetched" and noted no one had ever been arrested for the killing and torture of scores of the prince's supporters.



Gen. Tum Sambol, former military adviser of Prince Norodom Ranariddh, talks in the witness stance during the second trial in absentia of Ranariddh at the military court in Phnom Penh Tuesday. Prosecutors accused him of seeking allies among Khmer Rouge guerrillas to stage a coup last year before he was himself deposed as co-prime minister. AP

Australia to streamline immigration appeals

By ALAN THORNHILL
CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — The government said Wednesday some illegal foreigners arriving in Australia had been detained for "appalling" lengths of time, and outlined a plan to streamline immigration appeal procedures.

A United Nations Human Rights Committee in May last year criticized Australia for detaining for more than four years a Cambodian man who arrived illegally by boat. The committee said his human rights had been breached.

The Australian government rejected the criticism at the time. But Immigration Minister Phillip Ruddock topped the figure Wednesday, saying one applicant had waited five and 1/2 years for a decision on his refugee application.

"This is appalling," Ruddock said. Many other foreigners refused entry to Australia, either as migrants or refugees, faced very long delays, he said.

Under the conservative Liberal-National government's plan, applicants' right to appeal deportation decisions by the government-appointed Refugee Review Tribunal would be removed from the courts, which are independent of government. Instead, most appeals would be heard in special tribunals set up by the government.

Ruddock criticized decisions Australian judges have made in deportation cases.

"Only two weeks ago, a (government) decision to deport a man was overturned by the Federal Court, although he had been convicted and served a jail sentence for possessing heroin with a street value of U.S. \$2 million (Australian dollars 3 million)," Ruddock said.

"The courts have reinterpreted and rewritten Australian law, ignoring the sovereignty of parliament and the will of the Australian people. This is simply not on."

The new measures, if enabling legislation is passed in the upper house of Parliament, where the government does not have a majority of votes, will reduce the amount of time taken for judicial review and retain the fairness of the present system, Ruddock said.

Immigration lawyer Colin McDonald said the plan would be a disaster if implemented.

"It is essential, if there is to be any semblance of fairness in the refugee appeal system, for there to ultimately be an entitlement for recourse to a judge," McDonald said.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

DPW98-RFP-011
MARCH 6, 1998

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) and in conjunction with the Rota Mayor's Office, are soliciting sealed proposals for the Architectural/Engineering Design of the Public Library on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Sealed proposals must be marked "DPW98-RFP-011" One (1) original and five (5) copies of proposals must be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 4:00 p.m. local time, Thursday, April 9, 1998.

The Scope of Work is available on or after Tuesday, March 10, 1998, at the DPW Technical Services Division, Lower Base, Saipan. Any questions/concerns must be submitted in writing to Mr. Andrew W. Smith, P.E., Director of Technical Services Division no later than close of business Monday, March 30, 1998.

Proposals must include the following:

1. Updated Standard Forms 254 and 255;
2. Design Approach and Methodology;
3. Project Schedule

Proposals will be evaluated by an Evaluation Committee and a selection will be made based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of principal(s) and proposed staff (30%);
2. Experience on similar projects (30%);
3. Time frame for the design work (20%);
4. Completeness of the proposal (20%)

All responses to this RFP should include any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for the project, including excise taxes.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs at 60% of the cost, with 40% matching funds provided by the CNMI Government.

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal in the interest of the government. All proposals shall become the property of the CNMI Government.

/s/ JUAN B. CEPEDA
Acting Secretary of Public Works

HERMAN S. SABLAN
Acting Dir., Procurement & Supply

DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW98-IFB-013

February 27, 1998

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Department of Public Works are soliciting sealed bids for construction of the Garapan Drainage Improvements, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Sealed bids, in triplicate, will be accepted in the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan until 2:00 p.m. local time, Monday, March 30, 1998 at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bids received after the above time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

A bid bond of fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid price must accompany the bid. This security may be certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 4466."

Specifications and plans of the project are available on or after Tuesday, March 10, 1998 at the Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, Lower Base, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of one hundred fifty dollars (\$150.00) is required for each set; payment to be made to the CNMI Treasurer.

Pre-bid Conference for this project will be held at 10:00 a.m. local time, Monday, March 23, 1998 at the Conference Room, DPW Main Office, Gualo Rai Saipan.

The bidder is required to submit with his proposal a copy of his business permit compliance with the licensing laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Attention is called to the Labor Standard Provisions for Wage Rate Determination and payment of not less than the minimum salaries and wages as set forth in the Specifications must be paid on this project.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands with the exception of bid bonds, certified checks or cashier's checks which will be returned to the bidders in accordance with the specifications section entitled *Instructions to Bidders*, subsection 5 "Bid Guarantee".

The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal in the interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Interior, Office of Insular Affairs at 60% of the cost, with 40% matching funds provided by the CNMI Government.

/s/ JUAN B. CEPEDA
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply

According to Butler: Iraq inspections done in a year

By ROBERT H. REID
UNITED NATIONS (AP) — U.N. arms experts could finish their job in Iraq within a year if Baghdad honors last month's agreement and allows weapons inspectors unhindered access to presidential palaces and other sites, the chief inspector said Wednesday.

That could set the stage for the Security Council to lift crippling economic sanctions imposed on Iraq in 1990 after President Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, touching off the Gulf War.

"My perception is... that we could get this done within a year or so — maybe slightly less," Richard Butler, head of the U.N. Special Commission, said in an interview with Associated Press Television.

"Who knows? It depends on the degree of cooperation" from Iraq.

Butler leaves New York on Thursday for meetings in Vienna with the International Atomic Energy Agency. He then travels to Baghdad, where he will hold talks Sunday and Monday with Iraq's deputy prime minister, Tariq Aziz.

U.N. officials said that Butler's teams will then begin inspecting eight presidential compounds that Iraq agreed to open under a deal signed Feb. 23 with Secretary-General Kofi Annan.

Iraq had placed those sites off limits, prompting the United States and Britain to assemble a huge military force in the Gulf and threaten air

Over 40 die in Cameroon of mystery virus

YAOUNDE, Cameroon (AP) — More than 40 people have died in the past three months of an unidentified virus in Cameroon's East province, health officials said Wednesday.

The disease, which is marked by severe headaches, vomiting and bloody diarrhea, has not yet been identified, Dr. Mpiwong Lombo, a Cameroonian health official, told The Associated Press.

Victims can die of dehydration three days after contracting the disease, he said.

While the disease has some of the same symptoms of the deadly Ebola virus, Ebola has been ruled out, Lombo said.

Health officials quoted on state radio said 330 cases had been reported since December in the Ngoyla area, which borders the Republic of Congo.

Out of those, 40 had died, 147 had been cured and the rest were being treated in nearby hospitals.

The privately-owned Galaxy newspaper also carried reports of the disease, but put the casualty figures at 63, with more deaths daily.

It said Ngoyla, which has a population of about 100,000, had only two senior nurses for the whole area.

Ebola, which causes massive internal bleeding and is spread through bodily fluids, kills up to 80 percent of those infected.

Symptoms include fever, vomiting, diarrhea and severe internal and external bleeding.

Outbreaks occur in Africa, where a 1995 outbreak in Congo, then called Zaire, claimed 245 lives.

Butler's inspectors are trying to determine whether Iraq has complied with U.N. orders, issued in 1991, to destroy all long-range missiles and chemical, nuclear and biological weapons.

Iraq claims it has complied but that the United States and Britain have manipulated the inspection program to keep sanctions in place. Butler, however, said he believed that once his team reported Iraqi compliance, "I'm sure they'll be full support from the council" to end sanctions.

He said the biggest question was the state of Iraq's biological weapons program.

"It is the field where Iraq has been the least helpful," Butler said. "After all, in our seven-year relationship, they spent the first four years denying they had such a program at all."

He said Iraq's most recent claims about the state of its biological weapons program "sadly has been a story that has not been able to be accepted, not just by us but by international experts."



Aviation Ordnanceman 3rd Class Scott Nelson transports an AGM-65 "Maverick" missile to an F/A-18 "Hornet" aboard the aircraft carrier USS John C. Stennis Tuesday in the Persian Gulf. Stennis is deployed to the Persian Gulf in support of Operation Southern Watch. AP



March is Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month

Think "People First"

Language is a reflection of how people see each other. That's why the words we use can hurt. It's also why responsible communicators are now choosing language which reflects the dignity of people with disabilities — words that put the person first, rather than the disability. Read on for a short course on using language that empowers.

1. Think "people first" Say "a woman who has mental retardation," rather than "a mentally retarded woman."
2. Avoid words like "unfortunate," "affected" and "victim." Also, try to avoid casting a person with a disability as a superhuman model of courage. People with disabilities are just people, not tragic figures or demigods
3. A developmental disability is not a disease. Do not mention "symptoms," "patients" or "treatment," unless the person your writing about has an illness as well as a disability.
4. Use common sense. Avoid terms with obvious negative or judgmental connotations, such as "crippled, deaf and dumb, lame and defective." If you aren't sure how to refer to a person's condition, ask. And, if the disability is not relevant to your story or conversation, why mention it at all?
5. Never refer to a person as "confined to a wheelchair". Wheelchairs enable people to escape confinement. A person with a mobility impairment "uses a wheelchair."
6. Try to describe people without disabilities as "typical" rather than "normal."

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US may help China on missiles

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration has decided to offer China access to missile technology now barred to it if Beijing agrees to end exports of missiles to Iran, Pakistan and other developing nations, The Washington Times reported Wednesday.

The proposed deal will be presented in China next week by senior State Department officials, the paper said. It said the proposal was sent on March 12 to senior officials at the State, Commerce and Defense departments, the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative and NASA.

The paper quoted from a cover letter, stamped "secret," from Gary Samore, a White House National Security Council official, which said: "In essence, we would offer the expanded commercial and scientific space cooperation with China (in limited areas) if China meets our conditions for joining the MTCR and controlling its missile-related exports to Iran, Pakistan, etcetera."

The initials in the cover letter refer to the 29-nation Missile Technology Control Regime, which China has promised several times over the past six years to follow even though it is not a signatory to the pact.

The Times said a deal could be signed during President Bill Clinton's visit to China, which may come as early as June, but that it is uncertain whether China will go along with the proposal. "This is something that is under consideration," the paper quoted one senior administration official as saying. "It's not a done deal."



A group of Chinese women look at a models of Chinese Long March rockets at an exhibition of space technology in Beijing Wednesday. AP

Pentagon restricts drug

By LAURA MYERS WASHINGTON (AP) — The Pentagon said it won't give U.S. troops an experimental drug that has been implicated in post-Gulf War illnesses except when a specific nerve gas attack is imminent.

The drug, pyridostigmine bromide, or PB, "is a valuable and necessary element" of defense against chemical weapons attacks, Gary Christopherson, acting assistant secretary of defense, told the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee in a letter.

But in the future, he said, PB will be used only if "intelligence indicates imminent use of the nerve agents Soman or Tabun against U.S. forces" or when one of the poisons is actually being used.

During the Persian Gulf War against Iraq in 1991, the military gave PB to about 600,000 troops without their consent although the Defense Department had no reason to believe Soman and Tabun were being used. Instead, intelligence indicated Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein had stockpiles of the nerve gas Sarin.

Sen. Jay Rockefeller of West Virginia, ranking Democrat on the Senate committee, said Tuesday that the limited use for the drug suggests the

Pentagon never should have given it to Gulf War troops.

"The DoD has finally acknowledged that our troops were given a drug to protect against a nerve agent they knew the enemy did not have," Rockefeller said. "That this happened to our troops is very disturbing. That it took the DoD seven years to admit their error is inconceivable."

The Department of Defense guidelines for the future use of PB were laid out in a letter to the committee, which held a hearing Tuesday on the matter, in answer to questions posed by Rockefeller.

The senator said he wanted to know Pentagon plans on the use of vaccines and drugs to counter chemical weapons in case the Iraq crisis flares into conflict.

In January, the United States came close to ordering a substantial air attack on Iraq after Saddam refused to allow U.N. inspectors full access to suspected sites for making nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

The inspectors are now back at work, but U.S. forces remain on alert, including aboard two carriers.

Defense Secretary William Cohen already has announced plans to speed up vaccinations of U.S. troops to

counter anthrax. During the Gulf War, the Pentagon didn't tell U.S. troops they were given the experimental PB because the military did not want to tip off Iraq about its preparations for such attacks.

The Food and Drug Administration, which had approved the drug's limited use, complained and the Pen-

tagon said future vaccinations will be fully disclosed.

PB is under scrutiny for possible links to Gulf War illnesses, which can include chronic fatigue, headaches, nausea, diarrhea, depression, joint and muscle pain, rashes, memory loss and insomnia. Thousands of Gulf War veterans have complained of

such undiagnosed maladies. One theory says such illnesses may have been caused by troop exposure to chemical weapons, including Sarin nerve gas, during the war. Another theory suggests the combination of the anti-nerve gas drug, PB, and an insecticide called Deet may be causing illnesses.

INVITATION FOR BIDS COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION CUC-IFB98-0015

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, is soliciting sealed bids for the construction of TATACHOG/SONGSONG and TENETO/PONIA POINT WATERLINE PROJECT, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sealed bids shall be identified on the outside of the envelope by the Invitation for Bids No. CUC-IFB98-0015. Bids in duplicate will be accepted at the Procurement and Supply Office, CUC, at Lower Base, Saipan until 2:00 p.m., on March 27, 1998, at which time and place will be publicly opened and read aloud.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or other form acceptable to the Economic Development Administration and the CNMI government made payable to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation with a notation on the face of the check: "Account No. FW97-R001 (EDA)."

The bidder is required to submit with his proposal a copy of his CNMI Business permit in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the Economic Development Administration (EDA), U.S. Department of Commerce and with matching funds from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of Interior and the CNMI Government. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval from both EDA and OIA.

The project consists, in general, of installing 4.5 miles underground 10-inch and 8-inch waterlines with appurtenant valves, fittings, hydrants, service laterals, and meters.

A non-refundable payment of \$300.00 is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after March 6, 1998 at the Water Division Office, CUC, Saipan. A pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at 10:00 a.m., on March 13, 1998, at the CUC Conference Room, Rota. A project site visit is scheduled following the pre-bid meeting.

Attention is called to the Labor Standard Provisions for Wage Rate Determination of the CNMI Classification and Salary Structure Plans and the U.S. Davis Bacon Wage Rates. The higher of the federal and local wage rates shall be paid on this project.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government.

All inquiries should be directed to Ernesto L. Villarín at telephone number (670) 322-9383.

/s/ TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Executive Director

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CUC RFP 98-0013 March 6, 1998

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting proposals from firms capable of providing Janitorial Services for its offices.

The Scope of Work may be picked up at the CUC Procurement & Supply Office in Lower Base, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for Government observed holidays.

Offerors shall provide a certificate signed by a principle of the company stating that the company has in the past, and is currently, in compliance with all applicable CNMI and federal labor laws. Should the company be unable to provide such certification, the company must provide a written explanation as to why, including a description of any violations of such labor laws and any remedial action taken. FAILURE OF THE COMPANY TO PROVIDE THE CERTIFICATION OR EXPLANATION IS GROUNDS TO REJECT THE ENTIRE PROPOSAL.

Proposals will be evaluated and selected made based on Cost - 50 points, Experience - 30 points, Approach to Project - 20 points

Six (6) sets of the proposals and copies of business licenses must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked CUC RFP 98-0013, to CUC Procurement & Supply, P.O. Box 1220, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 3:00 p.m., local time, Wednesday, March 25, 1998. Late submissions will be not considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposals, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All bids shall become the property of CUC.

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Executive Director

NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE

Board of Regents
Regular Meeting Agenda
BOR Conference Room
March 27, 1998, 10:00 a.m.

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

- I. Opening Procedures
 - A. Welcoming Remarks by Chair
 - B. Review/Approval of Agenda
 - C. Review/Approval of Minutes
- II. Fiscal Committee's Report
 - A. Financial Statement
 - B. NMC Foundation Plan of Action
- III. President's Report
 - A. Program Presentation
 1. School of Business & Hospitality
 2. College Logo
 3. Sister School relationship with Miyazawa Gakuen
 4. Membership in Capitol Improvement Committee
 5. Monthly Reports
 6. Travel Reports (February 2-28, 1998)
- IV. Old Business
 - A. School of Education, College Lab School expansion
- V. New Business
 - A. Budget Authorization, Policy # 2550
 - B. Recruitment and Hiring Practices, Adm. Proc. # 4008
 - C. Vacation Leave, Adm. Proc. # 4301
 - D. Suspension and Termination Adm. Proc. #4352
 - E. Tri-semester Sessions
 - F. Senior Citizens' Tuition Waiver
- VI. Executive Session
- VII. Miscellaneous
- VIII. Adjournment

ALL INTERESTED MEMBERS OF THE PUBLIC ARE WELCOME TO ATTEND

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Labor and Immigration Division of Labor

PUBLIC NOTICE

The following person with pending Labor or Agency Case are hereby notified to report to the Division of Labor, Enforcement Section, located on the 2nd Floor of Afetna Building, San Antonio, Saipan within THIRTY (30) days from the date of the publication of this notice.

NAME	LABOR / AGENCY CASE NO.
1) Alexander F. Aguilar	Labor Case # 96-493
2) Irma S. Villavicencio	Labor Case # 96-599

Failure to appear at the Division on or before the date and time specified above shall be ground for dismissal of the above cases and appropriate action and/or sanction shall be taken against them, including the referrals of this matter to the Immigration Office for their actions.

Dated this 26th day of February, 1998.

/s/Lynn H. Asper
Hearing Officer

Algeria disallows UN rights visit

By Geir Moulson GENEVA (AP) — Algeria appealed to the world's main human rights commission on Wednesday for help in combating terrorism, but refused to consider allowing U.N. human rights experts into the country.

Algerian Foreign Minister Ahmed Attif asked the 53-nation U.N. Human Rights Commission to acknowledge that Algeria faces terrorism and to help cut off money and weapons to the terrorists, among other things.

"It is urgent that the international community understand the unacceptability of terrorist violence, in whatever form and with whatever motivation," he said. Terrorists in Algeria "wanted to impose a totalitarian, retrograde society," Attif said, not mentioning the armed Islamic militants whom the government has been battling since

1992. Some 75,000 people are estimated to have died in the conflict.

Attif rebuffed suggestions that a U.N. inquiry might be needed to determine whether human rights violations have occurred during the conflict. Private human rights groups contend that Algeria's security forces may have taken part in some of the attacks.

Attif said the government wouldn't consider a visit by U.N. experts at the moment. Moreover, experts on execution and torture hadn't asked to visit, he said.

However, U.N. officials, speaking on condition of anonymity, said experts had met with the Algerian diplomats to express "their desire to make a joint mission to Algeria." The Algerian government, which puts the death toll at about 27,000, insists the warfare is an internal affair and has rejected calls for a full international investigation.



Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., looks over an ejection seat from an A-4 plane, similar to the one he ejected from, presented to him on Capitol Hill Tuesday to mark the 25th anniversary of his release from a Vietnamese prisoner of war camp. AP

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLAND

CNMI PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Request for Proposal
RFP98-004

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from firms interested in conducting desk audit on positions at the Central Office, the Tinian Administrative Services Office, and the Rota Administrative Services Office. Proposal requirements are available at the Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan. All proposals must be sealed in an envelope and facemarked "RFP98-004 Proposal" and is due no later than 2:00 p.m., March 30, 1998, and submitted to the Procurement & Supply Office, situated on the 3rd floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950. Proposals will be evaluated based on the following criteria:

1. Firm's Experience	20%
2. Personnel Experience	15%
3. Firm's proposal approach	20%
4. Progress Schedule/Timeline	20%
5. Cost	25%

A pre-proposal conference will be held on March 12, 1998 at 2:00 p.m. at the Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the Nauru Building. All prospective proposers are required to submit their questions in writing pertaining to the proposal requirements and must be submitted two days prior to the pre-proposal conference. All questions must be submitted directly to Charlie Kenty at the Human Resources Office situated on the 3rd floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan and maybe contacted at telephone number 664-3761.

All prospective proposers are required to submit their responsibility determination documents in compliance to PSSPR3-301. Responsibility determination documents must be submitted in separate envelope and facemarked "RFP98-004 Responsibility Determination" Responsibility determination documents are due at the date, time, and place of the proposal deadline.

All documents received shall be the sole property of the CNMI Public School System. Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit a proposal determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure a full understanding of, and responsiveness to the solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. In conducting discussions, there be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors. The Public School System reserves the right to award a single or multiple award or to reject any or all proposal if to do will be to its best interest.

/s/ MARGARET C. DELA CRUZ
Acting Commissioner of Education

/s/ LOUISE CONCEPCION
Procurement & Supply Office

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

SOLICITATION FOR LEGAL SERVICES

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

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

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

/s/ JUAN S. TENORIO
Chairman of the Board

Gore sets up PAC for 1998 elections

WASHINGTON (AP) — Laying the groundwork for 2000, Vice President Al Gore is putting his political action committee into place.

Marla Romash, spokeswoman for the newly formed "Leadership '98," said seven staff members will be hired soon, and the PAC will move into office space in the next week or so.

"The committee will be up and running," she said.

The PAC, run by longtime White House aide Nick Baldick, will raise money for Democratic candidates this year. Romash said the goal for 1998 is \$4 million.

Dismissing suggestions that



Al Gore

PAC is designed to bolster Gore's presidential aspirations, Romash said the committee "will close at the end of the year."

Still, the PAC gives Gore an opportunity to build up political IOUs that could pay off in the presidential election year.

Potential party rivals House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., and Sen. Robert Kerrey, D-Neb., are also traveling the country helping congressional candidates.

Gephardt is chairman of the Democratic Congressional Campaign Committee, and Kerrey heads the Senate committee for Democrats.

Romash said the PAC's seven staff members will focus on fund raising and political activities on a regional basis.

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DHL WORLDWIDE EXPRESS IS SEEKING CUSTOMER ORIENTED COURIERS FOR P/U & DELIVERY OF TIME SENSITIVE MATERIALS. MUST POSSESS A VALID DRIVER'S LICENSE AND CLEAN DRIVING RECORD. ABILITY TO LIFT UP TO 70 LBS & EXCELLENT COMMUNICATION SKILLS ESSENTIAL. MUST BE ABLE TO TYPE 35-45 WPM.

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- TUITION ASSISTANCE PROGRAM
- 401K PLAN

APPLICATIONS MAY BE PICKED UP AT THE SAIPAN SERVICE CENTER LOCATION IN CHALAN LAULAU (WHITE TWO-STORY BUILDING AT THE NORTH OF MCDONALD'S RESTAURANT. NO PHONE CALLS, PLEASE.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

The Northern Marianas College is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from qualified companies for the following:

RFP: 98-004 FOR CONSTRUCTION MANPOWER

Specifications for the above are available for all interested proposers and may be picked up at NMC Procurement & Property Management Office, building "L", As Terlaje Campus.

Proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked RFP98-004 to Procurement Office, building "L" no later than 4:00 P.M. Friday, April 03, 1998.

The Northern Marianas College reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in the proposals if determined by the College to be in its best interest. All proposals shall become the property of NMC. For additional information, please call NMC Procurement at 234-6128 extension 2300 or 2301 or 2302

/s/ IGNACIA B. VILLALUZ
Acting Procurement & Property Officer

/s/ TEE ABRAHAM
Vice-President for Administration

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY OF PUBLIC WORKS

AMENDMENT NO. 1

Request for Proposals
DPW98-009

Road Paving and Drainage Improvements, Rota
March 6, 1998

This Amendment shall form a part of the contract documents. It is the intent of this Amendment to issue changes and/or make corrections.

The Request for Proposals, DPW98-RFP-009, dated February 13, 1998 is hereby corrected as follows:

1. The Scope of work for this project will be available on or after Monday, March 9, 1998 at the DPW Technical Services Division, Lower Base, Saipan.
2. All questions/concerns must be submitted in writing to Mr. Andrew W. Smith, Director of Technical Services Division, no later than close of business on Monday, March 23, 1998.
3. The new deadline for submittal of proposals is 4:00 p.m., local time, Monday, March 30, 1998.

All other requirements of the Request for Proposals will remain as stated.

/s/ JUAN B. CEPEDA
Acting Secretary of Public Works

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply

Alien . . .

Continued from page 1

an alien worker, upon entering the CNMI, has 90 days to apply for an ARC.

Fund . . .

Continued from page 1

He said that during a meeting last Jan. 27 with court representatives, DPW indicated it will take steps to end the contract, but "nothing seems to have been done since then."

"We would like to reiterate our strong opinion that Woosung is in default, the contract should be terminated, and surety should be brought in to complete work," he pointed out.

Camacho stated that Woosung has vacated its site office and removed much of equipment from the building in Susupe.

He said there are only five to six

In addition, medical tests are required prior to the issuance of ARCs.

Acting Labor and Immigration Secretary Mark Zachares has said that the ARC requirement ensures that alien work-

ers take medical tests. With the Department of Labor and Immigration (DOLI) now conducting unannounced inspections, hundreds of workers have been swarming DOLI's office in San Antonio.

At least three nonresident workers have already been refused entry after they failed to show ARCs, according to an earlier Variety report.

The workers, who came from Manila, were already eight months into their contracts in the CNMI.

Woosung workers employed on the project and no meaningful construction progress has been made this year.

"It is difficult to see how this project will ever be successfully completed if DPW allows the current situation to continue," Camacho added.

Woosung is seeking \$5.2 million in damages against DPW as a result of the additional expenses brought by various changes in the construction designs.

It was reportedly agreed during a recent meeting with DPW and Woosung officials that Woosung will finish the project this month as minor fixing is only needed to complete the complex.

Chun . . .

Continued from page 1

United States.

"It is difficult to understand why a federal agency has targeted a small group of employers in the Pacific while turning their back on the large group of employers in the US with high injury/illness rates and poor rate of compliance with the OSHA standards," Chun said.

He mentioned, for example, statistics which showed that of 354 labor camp inspections in 1997, at least 77 percent or 271 were conducted in the CNMI.

"All of the employers in the States were inspected once in 1997. The employers in the CNMI were inspected repeatedly, at least 47 or 17 percent of these employers were inspected twice during 1997; some of them were inspected more than twice," Chun said.

He pointed out that inspections here are "easy to con-

duct and employers are afraid to contest, i.e., the contest rates are very low for the CNMI compared to the rest of the Nation."

Chun said that the CNMI's noncompliance rate was 60 percent of the 271 companies inspected, while noncompliance rate in the US is 65 percent of the total average.

"It seems that even though the CNMI is targeted and inspected more frequently than the employers in the States, their compliance rate is lower than the employers in the States," Chun said.

He said no one could tell if the labor camps in other states are "as bad or better" than the CNMI because OSHA inspectors "have not attacked other states like they have in the CNMI."

"I present this information in an effort to realistically present the facts because without it, a solid and concerted effort to create change cannot be attempted," Chun said.

DFW . . .

Continued from page 7

the meeting focused on, among others, the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife's swift response to calls of snake sightings.

The conference, said a government official, "provided opportunities" for concerned agencies "to exchange notes" and "upgrade programs."

In a related development acting Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Bertha Leon Guerrero, who announced Seman's and Vogt's

scheduled arrival, said an official from the United States' Department of Agriculture is arriving on March 28 to pay a courtesy call to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

Leonard Newell, according to Guerrero, will likewise evaluate the Commonwealth's forestry program and submit recommendations on the matter.

Newell, said Guerrero, will be meeting with his local counterpart, Stanley Villagomez of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources' agriculture division's forestry section.

Oops, sorry!

An article in yesterday's Variety ("Mayors may now hire retirees," page 5) mistakenly stated that Public Law 11-4 would allow mayors, including the mayor of Saipan, to hire retirees. The said law actually pertains only to the mayors of Rota and Tinian. We apologize for the error. -Ed.

Assist your child in his/her homework.

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Quality Counts.

1991 Subaru Legacy (71005A)	\$4,995
1992 Subaru Loyale s/w (7H160A)	\$5,995
1991 Buick Regal (7M121A)	\$5,995
1989 Mazda B2200 Pickup (8M125A)	\$5,995
1992 Toyota Tercel (8H077A)	\$6,995
1988 Suzuki Samurai (8P197)	\$6,995
1989 Suzuki Sidekick (8P204)	\$7,995
1991 Subaru Legacy (8P212A)	\$7,995
1992 Subaru Legacy s/w (7H142A)	\$8,495
1991 Honda Prelude (2P164A)	\$8,595
1991 Honda Accord (7H132A)	\$8,995
1993 Hyundai Elantra (8M115A)	\$8,995
1994 Toyota Tercel (8M140A)	\$9,495
1991 Mazda RX7 (7H135A)	\$9,995
1988 Mercedes Benz (7H054A)	\$10,995
1994 Hyundai Sonata (7H180A)	\$10,995
1993 Mazda 626 (8M033A)	\$10,995
1992 Isuzu Trooper (7H080A)	\$11,995
1992 Mitsubishi Diamante (7M149A)	\$11,995
1995 Ford Escort (8P239)	\$12,595
1996 Mitsubishi Mirage (8M136A)	\$12,995
1994 Ford Escort s/w (4P236)	\$12,995
1995 Oldsmobile Ciera (8P235)	\$12,995
1991 Toyota 4-Runner (8M039A)	\$13,595
1996 Toyota Corolla (6P206)	\$13,995
1992 Toyota Camry (8M129A)	\$13,995
1997 Isuzu Hombre Pickup (7H254)	\$14,995
1997 Hyundai Tiburon (7H143A)	\$14,995
1995 Toyota E-Cab 4x4 Pickup (8M136A)	\$15,995
1995 Chevrolet Camaro Conv. (8M104A)	\$16,995
1994 Ford 15 Passenger Van (4R245)	\$16,995
1994 Mitsubishi 3000GT (4R259)	\$18,995

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION (CUC) 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: INTERNAL AUDITOR

DUTIES: Primarily responsible for the overall internal audit of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation. Responsible for reviewing the reliability and integrity of financial and operating information and the means used to identify, measure, and report that information. Reviews the operations or programs to ascertain whether results are consistent with established objectives and goals and whether the operations or programs are being carried out as planned.

LOCATION: CUC, Saipan

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: BS degree in Accounting or equivalent. At least five (5) years experience in external or internal auditing; at least three (3) years experience in electronic spreadsheet and word processing software.

STARTING SALARY: \$32,250.00 - \$36,750.00 per annum. Salary will be determined upon experience and qualifications.

This announcement closes on March 27, 1998.
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.

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DESIGN BUILD

The Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) of the Northern Mariana Islands is soliciting proposals from qualified A&E/Construction firms to provide professional services and construction for the renovation on the existing Commonwealth Development Authority Building and Parking Area, Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Interested firms are requested to obtain a copy of the RFP package, [Scope of Work dated March 6, 1998] at the CDA office. All A&E/Constructors shall call CDA on Friday, March 20, 1998, between 8:00 a.m. - 4:00 p.m. at 234-6245 to inquire if additional information and/or revisions to the scope of work dated March 6, 1998 are available for pick up.

A&E/Contractor shall submit one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed proposals to the Commonwealth Development Authority no later than 4:00 p.m., Monday, April 6, 1998.

A pre-submission proposal conference for this project will be held on Tuesday, March 31, 1998, at 2:00 p.m. at the Commonwealth Development Authority, Conference Room.

All inquiries regarding the scope of work shall be submitted to the CDA office in writing and addressed to Ms. Lydia M. Sablan, Acting Executive Director, no later than 4:00 p.m., Monday, March 30, 1998.

Fax or mail to: Commonwealth Development Authority
P.O. Box 2149
Saipan, MP 96950
Fax: (670) 234-7144

The Commonwealth Development Authority reserves the right to reject any proposal in the best interest of CDA.

/s/LYDIA M. SABLAN
Acting Executive Director

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Josh Dandan
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Microsoft to mentor Bill Gates prodigies

By JOCELYN GECKER
KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — To cultivate Malaysia as the Silicon Valley of the East, Microsoft pledged Wednesday to launch a mentoring program for the country's budding information technologists.

As Malaysia pushes itself through an economic crisis, plans to build a multibillion dollar cybercity, known as the Multimedia Super Corridor, have been touted as the country's ticket to the future.

Although Microsoft has yet to invest in the MSC itself, the software giant will invest 1 million ringgit (\$270,000) to seek out and nurture 1,000 computer techies aged 12 to 15, Microsoft said.

"We want to start them at the same age Bill Gates started," said Derrick Khoo, who will head the newly formed talent search, called the Malaysian Young Programmers Club, or MyPC.

Gates, who was in Malaysia for a

one-day conference attended by 3,000 business and technology leaders, lauded the MSC as a key to Malaysia's progress.

He said widespread technology education would expedite the project's success.

Microsoft is "focused on developing the next generation of teen-agers who are interested in software and multimedia development," Gates said in a written statement.

"The younger generation of Malaysia are critical to the future and success of the MSC and the nation," said Khoo.

"The primary aim is to make software development an industry of itself in Malaysia."

When asked whether 1 million ringgit (270,000) — to be stretched over three years for software and mentoring — was adequate for molding the youth of tomorrow, Khoo said the program's initial success would determine the funding.

Slow tourism reduces Duty Free sales

PARIS (AP) — LVMH-Moët Hennessy Louis Vuitton, the world leader in luxury goods, said Tuesday its 1997 net profit reached 4.5 billion francs (\$750 million), up 23 percent, from 3.7 billion francs (\$616.6 million) a year earlier.

But reduced tourist traffic in the Asia-Pacific region pushed down sales in Duty Free Shops, which fell 4 percent, or 16 percent in dollars, a statement by the company said.

That downturn is expected to continue during the first half of 1998.

Total revenues reached 48 billion francs (\$8 billion), up 54 percent, from 31 billion francs (\$5.2 billion) in 1996, the company said, adding that operating profit was up 17 percent, to 8.3 billion francs (\$1.38 billion) in 1997.

LVMH is known for its prestige products like champagne and wines, cognac and spirits, luggage and leather goods, perfumes, beauty products and couture.

LVMH has a stake of 11.47 percent in Britain's Guinness PLC, while Guinness has 34 percent of Moët Hennessy, LVMH's drinks side.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

CUC RFP 98-0011
 March 13, 1998

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is requesting proposals from qualified firms for the supply of lubricants, lubricating oils, greases, etc., for its power plants on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. CUC is requesting two options: (1) supply for a period of two (2) years; (2) supply for a period of five (5) years.

The Specifications may be picked up at the CUC Procurement & Supply Office in Lower Base, between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for Government observed holidays.

Offerors shall provide a certification signed by a principle of the company stating that the company has in the past, and is currently, in compliance with all applicable CNMI and federal labor laws. Should the company be unable to provide such certification, the company must provide a written explanation as to why, including a description of any violations of such labor laws and any remedial action taken. FAILURE OF THE COMPANY TO PROVIDE SUCH CERTIFICATION OR EXPLANATION IS GROUNDS TO REJECT THE ENTIRE PROPOSAL.

Proposals will be evaluated and selections be made based on CIF Cost (60 points) and Reliability of Supply (40 points).

Six (6) sets of the proposals and copies of the firm's CNMI Business License must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked CUC RFP 98-0011 to CUC Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, P.O. Box 1220, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than Tuesday, April 14, 1998 at 3:00 p.m., local time. Late submissions will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of proposals and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defects in said proposals, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in the best interest of CUC. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
 Executive Director

INVITATION FOR BIDS COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION CUC-IFB98-0016

The Office of the Executive Director, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, is soliciting sealed bids for the construction of SINAPALU/CHUGAI WATERLINE PROJECT, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sealed bids shall be identified on the outside of the envelope by the Invitation for Bids No. CUC-IFB98-0016. Bids in duplicate will be accepted at the Procurement and Supply Office, CUC, at Lower Base, Saipan until 3:00 p.m., on March 27, 1998, at which time and place will be publicly opened and read aloud.

A bid guarantee of 15 percent of the total bid price must accompany the bids. The security may be in cash, certified check, cashier's check, or other form acceptable to the CNMI government made payable to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation.

The bidder is required to submit with his proposal a copy of his CNMI Business permit in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of Interior and with matching funds from the CNMI Government. The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of approval from OIA.

The project consists, in general, of installing 4.0 miles underground 6-inch and 4-inch diameter waterlines with appurtenant valves, fittings, hydrants, service laterals, and meters.

A non-refundable payment of \$200.00 is required for each set of Plans, Specifications, and Proposal Forms, available on or after March 6, 1998 at the Water Division Office, CUC, Saipan. A pre-bid conference for this project is scheduled at 11:00 a.m., on March 13, 1998, at the CUC Conference Room, Rota. A project site visit is scheduled following the pre-bid meeting.

Attention is called to the Labor Standard Provisions for Wage Rate Determination of the CNMI Classification and Salary Structure Plans and that payment of not less than the minimum salaries and wages as set forth in the specifications must be paid on this project.

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any imperfection in the bid proposal in the interest of the government.

All inquiries should be directed to Ernesto L. Villarin at telephone number (670) 322-9383.

/s/ TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
 Executive Director

Torres . . .

Continued from page 9

most important lesson learned at the Academy," Babauta commented.

Torres said "perseverance" was key to his success at the Academy. "I crossed paths with many people who doubted my abilities because of my size and my foreign accent but have always managed to get their attention and respect after I expressed my convictions. I always had the desire and determination to get the things I wanted, that was easy. But it was

perseverance that kept me in the game."

The Academy is a rigorous five-month program of physical and mental training. "I learned to drive at high speeds, shoot with my weak hand and somewhat speak Spanish," Torres says of his Academy training. "But I know there is much more to be learned."

Torres will serve at a duty station in Imperial Beach, California, continuing to learn and serve his country.

most important lesson learned at the Academy," Babauta commented.

Torres said "perseverance" was key to his success at the Academy. "I crossed paths with many people who doubted my abilities because of my size and my foreign accent but have always managed to get their attention and respect after I expressed my convictions. I always had the desire and determination to get the things I wanted, that was easy. But it was

An economic . . .

Continued from page 10

There are only two ways for a government or a business to make money: hold expenses and increase income.

If that's not possible - then maintain the income level and reduce expenses.

So what might the scenario be when the garment industry relocates? There are those in the community that would welcome a reduction in the size of the economy along with fewer nonresident workers.

These people should also be willing to accept the "trade-offs" that accompany reduced economic activity and the distinct possibility that a smaller economy means diminished government revenues, less government services with fewer employment opportunities which seems to be the career choice for many.

Less money in circulation and thus lower profits for many businesses; reduced demand for leased land and rental property; less disposable income; possibly reduced retirement benefits; lower salaries and, as a result of what economists refer to as unachieved or limited "economies of scale" resulting from a smaller market, possibly higher utility rates along with an increase in the cost of living primarily as a result of higher freight rates on

imported commodities because surface carriers will have to contend with a one way revenue generating voyage by returning with empty cargo holds.

It other words, "deadheading."

It may be that we will soon have an economic tiger by the tail and we had better attempt to plan to ride it's back rather than run the risk of winding up inside.

There is nothing wrong in anticipating the worst and planning to mitigate the impact.

If events don't transpire as anticipated - no harm has been done. It's only a contingency plan. I think it's better to stay ahead of the game and "jump the gun" with a plan, than not to jump when the gun goes off.

As one who remembers the Great Depression of the thirties, witnessed technological change that forced thousands of coal miners out of work forcing fathers to abandon their families in order to qualify for food stamps and experienced a number of severe economic recessions in the United States.

I have those distant days as a perspective. Let me tell you that the time to close the barn door is before the horse escapes.

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**PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT
 REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL**

RFP No.: RFP98-0042
 FOR: POTENTIAL NONPOINT SOURCES OF POLLUTION (NPS) PROJECTS

OPENING DATE: APRIL 10, 1998 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

GOVERNOR PEDRO P. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS R. SABLAN, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING COMPETITION PROPOSALS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR POTENTIAL NONPOINT SOURCES OF POLLUTION (NPS) PROJECTS. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP PROPOSAL FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE ACTING DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.).

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN
 ACTING DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

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- Computer systems starting at \$1,599.95
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AND MUCH, MUCH MORE!!!
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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
 FOR THE
 NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
 Saipan Shipping Co., Inc.
 Plaintiff,
 vs.
 The Diesel Powered Fishing Vessel M/V "NAGO 11", about and equipment in rem, and Similar Gear off the sister vessel "NAGO 15", in rem;
 ROSHE INTERNATIONAL, Defendants.
 Civil Action No. CV98-0009

NOTICE OF ARREST

TO ALL CLAIMANTS AND CREDITORS:
 PLEASE TAKE NOTICE

That process in the form of a Warrant For Arrest has issued from the above entitled Court and was executed on February 27, 1998 by seizure by the U.S. Marshals' Service of the above in rem defendants, to wit:

Fishing vessel M/V "NAGO 11"
 One container of its gear;
 One container of assorted gear off sister vessel M/V "NAGO 15" AND

THAT any and all claimants and creditors are required to file:
 Claim: Within 40 days of February 27, 1998;
 Answer: Within 20 days thereafter;
 Said claims and answers to be filed in the above entitled Court, with a copy served on plaintiff's counsel.

Donald R. Hazlewood
 P.O. Box 468
 Saipan, MP 96950

Dated this 27th day of February, 1998

Clerk of the Court
 /s/ Alex R. Munson

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1992 TOYOTA COROLLA DELUXE
 Automatic, 4 Door Sedan, AC, White, Stereo w/Cassette \$5,500.00 O.B.O.
 Call: 235-8857 Leave Message

RESTAURANT FOR SALE

Last Price: \$5,000.00
 Location: Garapan, Hotel Street Infront of Hyatt
 Size: about 300 square feet
 Contact: Jane at 235-6688/287-1108

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)

**Drink Don't Drive
 Drive Don't Drink**

First Anniversary Rosary

We, the family of the late

Monica Wabel Rogalifo

would like to invite our relatives and friends to join us in prayers for our loved one.

Nightly rosary will be said at the sister's residence, Juliana W. McEntee in Airport Road starting, March 22, through March 30, 1998 at 8:00 p.m.

Special mass of intention will be on March 30 at St. Jude Church at 5:00 p.m.

Final rosary will be said at 12:00 noon, on March 30 at the sister's residence, Juliana W. McEntee in Airport Road.

We thank you all,
 The Family

10th Death Anniversary

This is to inform friends and relatives of our beloved late wife, mother, grandma, great-grandma,

Maria Taitano Lieta

wife, of Vicente Iguel Lieta,
 that a mass of intention commemorating her 10th Death Anniversary will be said on Tuesday, March 24, 1998 at 6:00 p.m. at Santa Remedios Church in Tanapag. Your prayers will be greatly appreciated. Dinner will be served immediately after mass.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase Ginen I Familia

GUANGDONG DEVELOPMENT CO., LTD.
 P.O. BOX 1640, SAIPAN, MP 96950
 TEL. 268-2288/6688

WAREHOUSES FOR RENT

LOT AREA OF 21000SQ
 TWO WAREHOUSES OF 5000SQ & 3500SQ
 PARKING LOT & CONTAINER DECK AVAILABLE

PLEASE CONTACT OUR OFFICE IN AS LITO

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
06 DANCER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: CHANPAC INC. dba Club Jama Tel. 235-9182(3/27)F25834

01 ASSISTANT MANAGER-Salary:\$3.50 per hour
Contact: AMERICA JOINT PARTNER CO. LTD. dba Beijing Store Tel. 235-5717(3/27)F25833

02 KITCHENHELPER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
02 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: JNM KINTOL CORP. dba Auntie Mag's Diner Tel. 288-0375(3/27)F25832

01 STOCK CLERK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: PAULOR CORPORATION dba Alpha Market Tel. 235-2949(3/27)F25829

01 (PROPERTY MANAGER) TRAINER -Salary:\$1,500.00 per month
Contact: MACHONES (SAIPAN) CO. LTD. Tel. 234-9100(3/27)F25827

01 AUTO BODY REPAIRER-Salary:\$3.05-3.85 per hour
Contact: TASI TOURS & TRANSPORTATION INC. Tel. 235-9373(3/20)F71031

01 STEEL WORKER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
04 MASONS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
05 CARPENTER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: BRIAN P. REYES dba BPR Professional Services Tel. 234-9127(3/20)F25757

02 SINGER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
04 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: WESTERN PACIFIC ENT., INC. dba Kimchi Cabana Night Club Tel. 234-6622(3/20)F25758

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour
01 BUILDING MAINTENANCE (REPAIR)-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour
Contact: M N D COMPANY Tel. 287-3300(3/20)F25754

02 COOK-Salary:\$800.00-1,100.00 per month
Contact: NIPPON GENERAL TRADING CORPORATION dba Country House Restaurant Tel. 233-8223(3/20)F25755

01 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: CAPITAL ENTERPRISES CORPORATION dba Capital Bowling Center Tel. 233-7899(3/20)F25756

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$8.50 per hour
Contact: WHITE, PIERCE, MAILMAN & NUTTING Tel. 234-6547(3/20)F71017

01 WAITRESS REST.-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: MR. BAIK, HONG SIK dba BJ Garden Restaurant Tel. 235-3008(3/20)F25760

01 SALES REPRESENTATIVE-Salary:\$4.50 per hour
Contact: CONWOOD PRODUCTS, INC. Tel. 235-3501(3/20)F71038

01 BEAUTICIAN-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 CASHIER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: ROBERT J. BRACKEN dba Thailand Store Tel. 235-8603(3/20)F71039

01 TRANSLATOR-BI-LINGUAL (KOREAN)-Salary:\$3.50-6.00 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CLINIC dba Family Dentistry/Optical Clinic Tel. 234-6323(3/20)F25764

01 HOUSEKEEPING-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: CAMACHO INVESTMENT CORPORATION dba Summer Holiday Hotel Tel. 235-0874(3/20)F25762

01 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: CHUNG HUA INC. dba Chung Hun Rest. Tel. 234-7764(3/27)F25838

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: HWANG HAE MOUSTRIAL (SPN) CO. LTD. Tel. 235-1213(3/27)F25848

01 CAR MAINTENANCE (AUTOMOBILE)-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: SANG JEE CORPORATION dba S.J.C. Rent A Car Tel. 235-2020(3/27)F25849

01 MASON-Salary:\$3.25 per hour
Contact: V & C ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. 322-1840(3/20)F25763

01 ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICER-Salary:\$7.21 per hour
01 TEACHER-Salary:\$4.25 per hour
Contact: CATHOLIC DAUGHTERS OF THE AMERICAS dba Little Angels Child Care Center Tel. 233-0720(3/20)F25766

01 INSURANCE UNDERWRITER-Salary:\$1,300.00 per month
Contact: PACIFIC BASIN INSURANCE, INC. Tel. 234-5860(3/20)F71109

01 ASST. ADVISOR-Salary:\$1,000.00 per month
Contact: TANDEM SKYDIVE SAIPAN, INC. Tel. 288-5867(3/20)F71108

01 WELDER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 ALUMINUM SASH WORKER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN ALUMINUM & GLASS CO. Tel. 233-2410(3/27)F25836

01 WELDER-Salary:\$3.50-5.00 per hour
Allowance: \$110.00 housing allowance plus \$50.00 gasoline allowance per month taxable
Contact: STS ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. 235-3760(3/27)F25824

01 MAINTENANCE BLDG.-Salary:\$3.65 per hour
06 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
03 GROUNDS KEEPER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: CANICE PATRICK M. DIAZ dba Marianas Maintenance Svcs. Tel. 234-0863(3/27)F25851

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: F.K. CORPORATION dba New K-Store Tel. 288-2700(3/27)F25847

02 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour
01 ASPHALT AND CONCRETE BATCH PLANT OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour
Contact: WESTERN EQUIPMENT, INC. Tel. 322-9561(4/3)F71345

01 GAMEROOM ATTENDANT-Salary:\$3.05-3.35 per hour
Contact: JESUS V. DELEON GUERRERO dba Tuba Arcade Tel. 234-3533(4/3)F71333

01 GEN. MERCHANDISE SALESPERSON-Salary:\$3.05-3.25 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN GARDEN CENTER, INC. Tel. 234-3533(4/3)F71334

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:\$900.00 per month
Contact: NEW CONCEPT CORP. Tel. 288-1313(4/3)F25928

01 MAINTENANCE (BLDG. REPAIR)-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN DOLPHIN CORP. INC. dba Dolphin Wholesale Tel. 234-6067(4/3)F25931

01 SHEETMETAL WORKER-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
01 EQUIPMENT DISPATCHER-Salary:\$3.05-5.00 per hour
Contact: BLACK MICRO CORPORATION Tel. 234-6800(4/3)F71347

01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: MR. BIDENCIO C. AMADO Tel. 256-0221(4/3)F25933

01 CLASSROOM TEACHER-Salary:\$612.60 Bi-Weekly
Contact: SR. MARY LOUISE BALZARINI, MMB PRINCIPAL/SISTER REMEDIOS EARLY CHILDHOOD DEV. CTR. Tel. 234-6247(4/3)F25937

01 SENIOR PHYSICAL THERAPIST-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 ASSISTANT MANAGER-Salary:\$1,000.00 per month
Contact: STERLING CORPORATION dba Dynamic Massage (4/3)F71349

01 SALES CLERK-Salary:\$3.05-9.00 per hour
01 NIGHT AUDITOR-Salary:\$3.05-6.00 per hour
08 COOK-Salary:\$3.05-8.50 per hour
03 WAITRESS, RESTAURANT-Salary:\$3.05-7.50 per hour
02 HOUSEKEEPING, CLEANING-Salary:\$3.05-6.50 per hour
01 (MAINTENANCE) MANAGER-Salary:\$500.00-2,100.00 per month
01 MAINTENANCE WORKER (SWIMMING POOL)-Salary:\$3.05-8.00 per hour
01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$3.05-6.50 per hour
Contact: SUWASO CORPORATION dba Coral Ocean Point Resort Club Tel. 234-7000 71028

01 OPERATIONS MANAGER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: TARO SUE CORPORATION dba Taro Sue Store Tel. 234-5416(4/3)F25930

01 CRUSHER SUPERVISOR-Salary:\$1,000.00-1,400.00 per month
08 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per month
01 HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per month
01 PLUMBER-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
01 MASON-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
01 IRONWORKER (STEELMAN)-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
Contact: BLACK MICRO CORPORATION Tel. 234-6549(3/27)F71233

01 CARPENTERS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 AIRCON & REF. TECHNICIAN-Salary:\$1,000.00 per month Plus \$225.00 monthly housing allowance
Contact: TOWN HOUSE, INC. dba Town House Shopping Center Payless Supermarket Tel. 235-6351(3/27)F71238

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:\$800.00 per month
02 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$700.00 per month
03 CABLE LINEMAN HELPER-Salary:\$3.05-3.25 per hour
01 YARD WORKER-Salary:\$500.00 per month
01 COMMUNICATION MANAGER-Salary:\$1,500.00 per month
03 CABLE SPLICER-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour
01 AUTO DENTER/REPAIRER-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour
01 PAINTER-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour
01 LINE CABLE SUPERVISOR-Salary:\$1,500.00 per month
Contact: ORIENTAL ENTERPRISES, INC. dba Marianas Communication Services Tel. 234-7878(3/27)F71247

01 ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: CHUNG HUA INC. Tel. 234-7764(3/27)F25839

01 OPERATION ASSISTANT (CARGO) -Salary:\$3.65-4.00 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN SHIPPING COMPANY, INC. Tel. 322-9707(3/27)F25841

01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 MANAGER-Salary:\$3.50 per hour
Contact: ACORN S.J. KIM CORPORATION dba New Olympic Market Tel. 322-6858(3/27)F25846

01 NOODLE MAKER-Salary:\$3.10 per hour
Contact: ROWENA L. O'CONNOR dba K's Dimsum & Noodle Tel. 234-3307(3/27)F71250

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• 4-Door Sedan White
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San Vicente, 1583 sq.m.
Tuturan, 5851 sq.m.
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Contact: Frank Yuan
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APARTMENT in GARAPAN FOR RENT
• STUDIO TYPE \$500
• 2 BEDROOM TYPE \$850
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AT SAIPAN GOLD BEACH HOTEL
FOR RESTAURANT, GIFT SHOP, AND PROFESSIONAL SERVICE
SUBMIT YOUR PROPOSAL TO TERRY H. KIM
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PUBLIC NOTICE
IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF FRANCISCA LAIROPI, Deceased.
CIVIL ACTION NO. 97-1234B
NOTICE TO CREDITORS
Notice is hereby given by the undersigned Vicente M. Taitano, administrator of the estate of Francisca Lairopi, deceased, to the creditors of, and all persons having claims against decedent, that within sixty days after the first publication of this notice, creditors of the decedent file their claims with the necessary vouchers in the office of the Clerk of the Superior Court, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Saipan.
DATED this 6th day of February, 1998.
/s/ VICENTE M. TAITANO

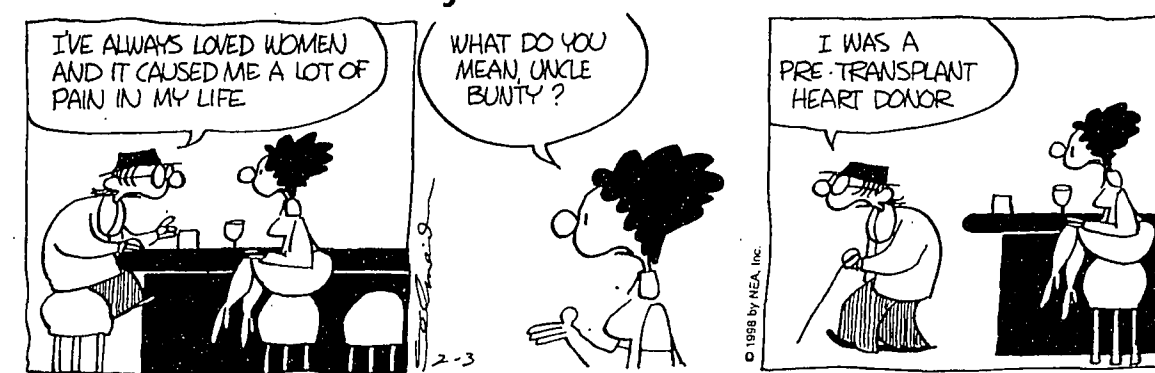
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One Bedroom, One Living Room Fully Furnished, Garapan Area (Royal Condo) Middle Road Across Castro Mobil Station Call: 233-7188

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

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\$850/month
San Vicente Area
Quiet Neighborhood
Open House Sunday (10am-4pm)
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The Passport of
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was lost in the Airport area.
If found, please call at 235-2112

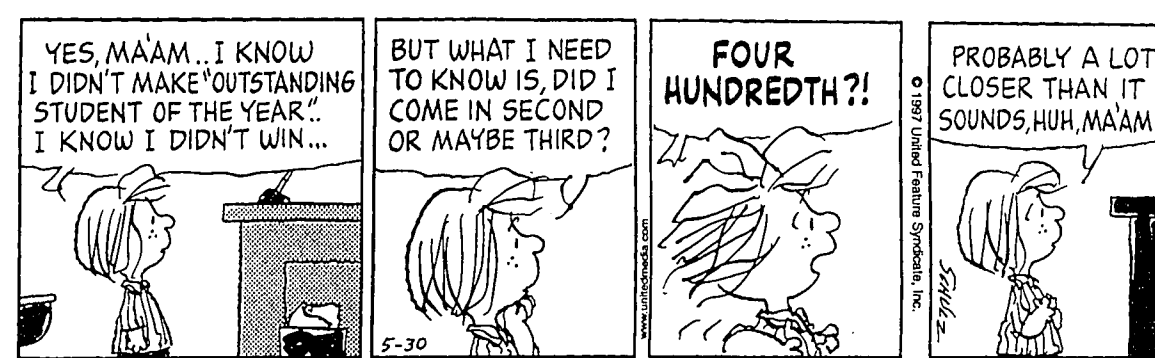
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STELLA WILDER YOUR BIRTHDAY

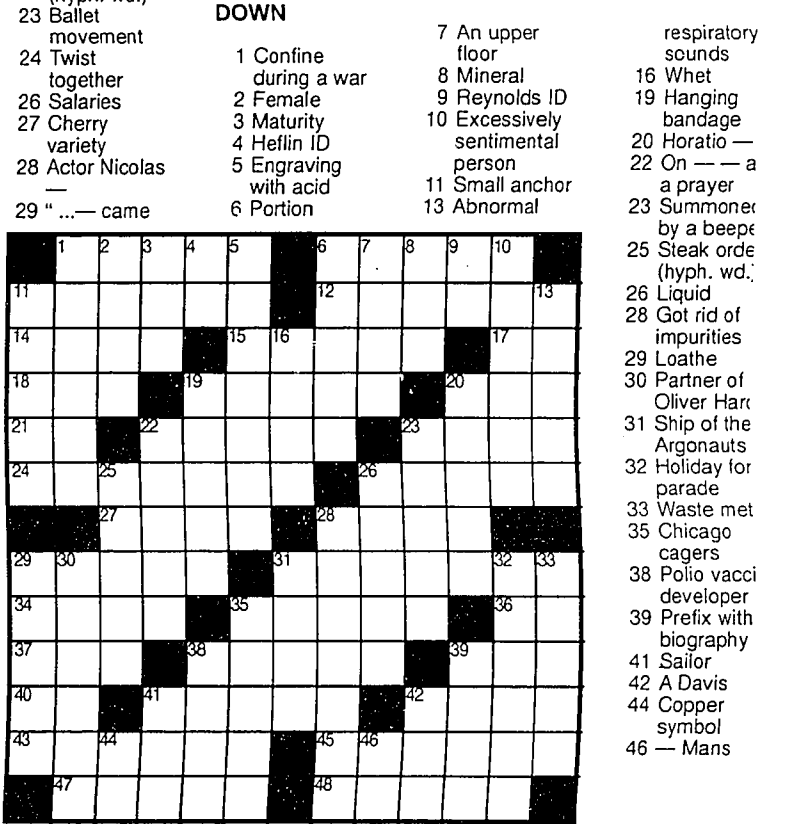
FRIDAY, March 20, 1998
By Stella Wilder
BORN today, you are quick-witted, hard-working, straightforward and honest, and always willing to accept the fact that there may be more you can do to improve yourself both personally and professionally. It is likely you will get a quick start in life, taking advantage of situations that others your age might consider to be misfortunes. You are so strong and single-minded that you never let anything hold you back for long; there are times when it almost seems as though setbacks do not affect you because you refuse to notice them!
You share a great deal with other Pisces natives, and all those born on this date are in some ways perfectly identical — at least on the inside. It may be difficult for you to get along with those who share your birthday.
Also born on this date are: Holly Hunter, actress; William Hurt, actor; Bobby Orr, hockey player; Carl Reiner, actor, writer and director; Fred Rogers, children's TV personality.
To see what is in store for you tomorrow, find your birthday and read the corresponding paragraph.
SATURDAY, MARCH 21
ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You may find yourself fighting against someone today who was on your side only yesterday. Try to determine what caused the turnaround.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You are going to have to trust that you know how to deal with a difficult situation when it arises. Preparation can only do you so much good.
GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You are sure to enjoy a good deal of energetic and passionate activity throughout the day, but later you'll require more in the way of solace.
CANCER (June 21-July 22) — You may have trouble getting in touch with someone who has requested to be a part of your decision-making process. Never fear; you have more time.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — You may feel as though someone is watching over you today, not to keep you from danger, but because he or she is jealous of your potential.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Domestic affairs take on an unusual tone today, and you must strive to keep things open and honest, especially where young ones are concerned.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — It is likely to fall to you to take care of those who are unable to care for themselves today. Try not to be too authoritative; be gentle!
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — You may be afraid of something that's not likely to happen, at least not today or anytime soon. You will have time to prepare yourself fully.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Issues of doubt and mistrust must be set aside today. It is important that all those in your life enjoy equal status at this time.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Unpredictability may prove to be your greatest strength today. You can keep a rival wondering what's next while you surge ahead.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — You don't want to lose track of the up-to-date information you've collected recently. Make sure you keep accurate records.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — You may be attracted to someone whose behavior you normally would shun, but today, for some reason, you're not yourself in many ways. Copyright 1998, United Feature Syndicate, Inc.



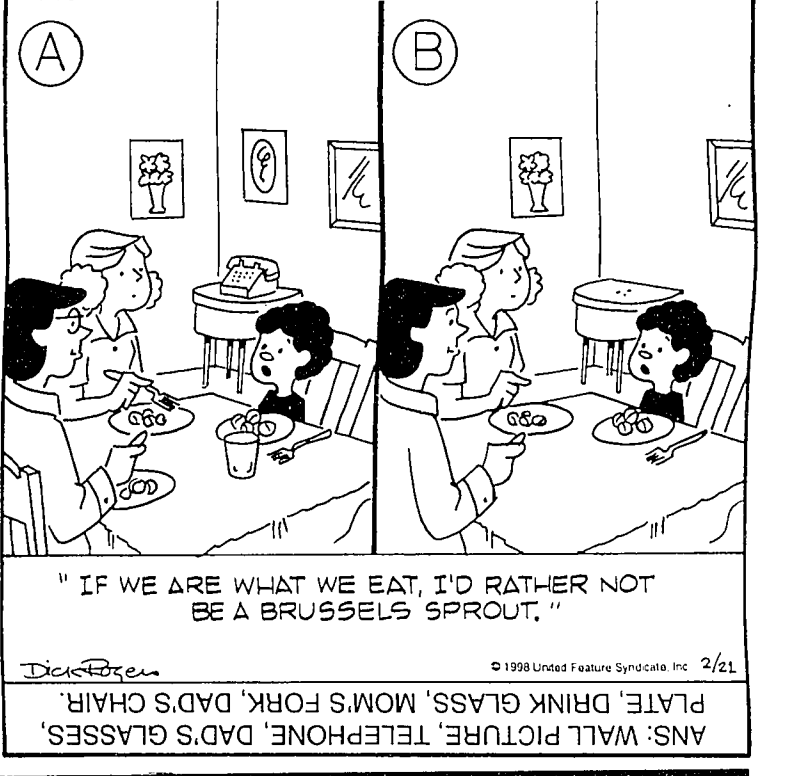
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12 Feeling of intense fear
14 To be (Fr.)
15 Abrade
17 Scale
18 Dolores — Rio
19 Abridged
20 An ocean (abbr.)
21 Athens native (abbr.)
22 Skirt type (hyph. wd.)
23 Ballet movement
24 Twist together
26 Salaries
27 Cherry variety
28 Actor Nicolas
29 " — came
31 a spider..."
34 Loud noise
35 Stock
36 Potatoes — gratin
37 Color
38 Sweetener
39 Question word
40 Alternative word
41 Claw
42 Remote control button
43 "Total —"
45 Makes happy
47 Lies in wait
48 Layout of interior furnishings
DOWN
1 Confine during a war
2 Female
3 Maturity
4 Heflin ID
5 Engraving with acid
6 Portion
7 An upper floor
8 Mineral
9 Reynolds ID
10 Excessively sentimental person
11 Small anchor
13 Abnormal
14 respiration sounds
16 Whet
19 Hanging bandage
20 Horatio — a prayer
23 Summoner by a beep
25 Steak order (hyph. wd.)
26 Liquid
28 Got rid of impurities
29 Loathe
30 Partner of Oliver Hart
31 Ship of the Argonauts
32 Holiday for parade
33 Waste met cagers
38 Polio vacci developer
39 Prefix with biography
41 Sailor
42 A Davis
44 Copper symbol
46 — Mans



KidSpot™ THERE ARE SEVEN THINGS IN DRAWING "A" THAT ARE MISSING FROM DRAWING "B." HOW MANY CAN YOU FIND?



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Houston Rockets' Clyde Drexler talks about his decision to retire at the end of the season during a news conference announcing Drexler as the new head coach of the University of Houston men's basketball team Wednesday in Houston. Drexler, who played for Houston during his college years, will finish the NBA season with the Rockets. AP

Drexler returns as Cougars head coach

HOUSTON(AP) Clyde Drexler has a new job, and he hasn't even left his old one.

Drexler, a member of Houston's Phi Slama Jama dunking fraternity of the 1980s, returned to his alma mater Wednesday as coach of the Cougars but won't take over until he completes his final National Basketball Association season with the Houston Rockets. "After 15 years of doing one job, it was time to do something else," Drexler said. "There comes a time when every-

one must make changes and there's nothing I'd rather do than coach at the University of Houston."

The 10-time NBA All-Star is replacing the fired Alvin Brooks, who in five years had only one winning season.

Drexler, one of the 50 greatest players in NBA history, signed a five-year contract with a base salary of \$1,500,000, although he could earn much more through incentives.

"I love the Cougars and I think we have a great opportunity to bring back

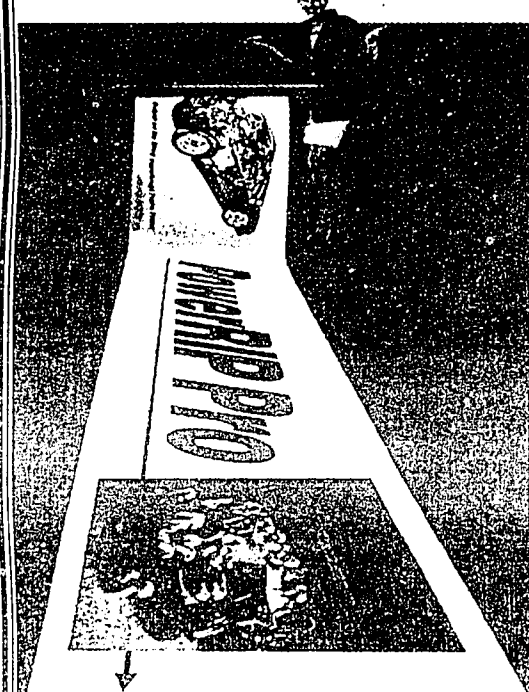
the excitement and the success Cougar basketball enjoyed during my college playing days," Drexler said.

"This is a new chapter in my career and a new challenge, but I'm ready for it."

Drexler and his current Houston Rockets teammate Hakeem Olajuwon led the Phi Slama Jama fraternity that entertained fans with their dunking performances and went to the Final Four three straight years, in 1982 and 1983 with Drexler and in 1984 without him.

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Sedi . . .

Continued from page 40

Braves. Kabekel was leading but they underestimated Fujii to bring in the two runners on base.

Game four
Team Budweiser 12, MGD Starters 2

The fourth game was shut off in the fifth inning with the Starters only scoring a run in the fourth and the fifth inning.

Team Bud rallied four runs in the first inning, three runs in the third with Cowley Ngraidong's three-run homer.

In the fifth inning Gloyd Martin and Clark Ngraidong hit a

back to back homeruns. Gloyd hit a two-run homer while Clark hit a solo homerun.

Johnson Shiprit went three for three.

Game Five
Taga Warriors 21, Turtles 14
Taga Warriors defeated the Turtles in the last game.

Warriors rallied seven runs in the third inning and in the sixth inning Wise Aguon hit a three-run homer while Scott Santos hit a solo homerun. In the seventh inning Cartfield Sablan hit a two-run homer making the score 21-14.

Wise Aguon went four for five. Allan Aguon went three for four while Caleb Dulei four for four.

Golf . . .

Continued from page 40

Seniors Flight, Championship Flight and the Ladies Flight.

A nonrefundable fee of \$125 which includes green fees and an all-inclusive lunch at the tournament site will be charged.

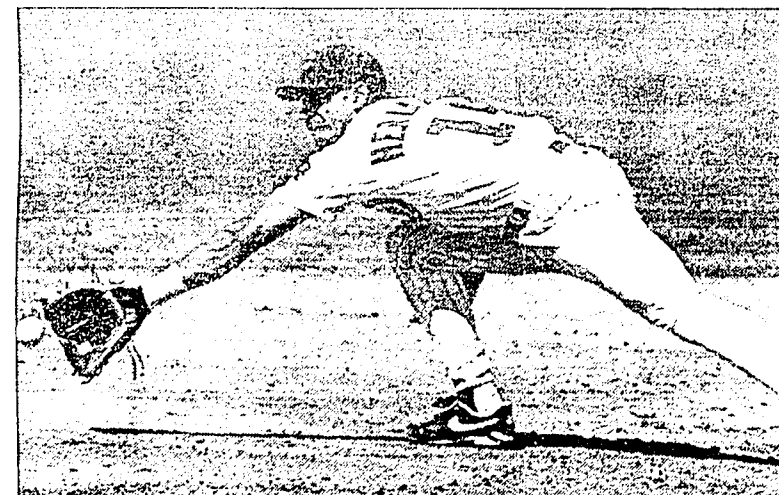
A Mitsubishi Mirage and one Hyundai Accent, both courtesy of

Triple J Motors, are the prizes at stake for the hole-in-one event.

Other prizes include trophies, round-trip tickets and other golf accessories.

Registration forms are available at the various golf courses on island.

For more information, please call Tony Rogo-lofoi at 234-1001 or Jess Wabot at 234-6167.



Chicago Cubs third baseman Jose Hernandez reaches for the ball hit by the Seattle Mariners' Rich Amaral during the third inning of the game in Mesa, Az., Wednesday. Hernandez, who made several tough plays in the game was able to throw Amaral out on the play. AP

Woods tries to end slump

By DOUG FERGUSON
ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — Times are indeed tough for Tiger Woods.

Never mind that he's had a chance to win all of the four tournaments he has completed this year — two seconds and a third before really bottoming out two weeks ago at Doral by tying for ninth.

Ignore his PGA Tour rankings — first in overall driving, second in scoring, fourth on the money list, an average of \$133,400 per event.

The Masters is four weeks away, and Woods is still looking for his first PGA Tour win of the year.

"I'm just hoping to peak at the right time," he said. "I know I need to work on a few things, and I'm working on them right now. But I've got to take care of two tournaments before then."

The first one starts Thursday when Woods leads the best field of the year in the Bay Hill Invitational, where tournament host Arnold Palmer has ordered up thick rough and hard, fast greens at Bay Hill Club.

Woods and defending champion Phil Mickelson are among 36 of the top 50 players in the world at Bay Hill. Among those missing are David Duval, who withdrew Wednesday, and Greg Norman, who has decided to play only Doral and The Players Championship as his prelude to Augusta.

Woods has won once this year, coming from eight strokes off the lead on Sunday to beat Ernie Els in a playoff at the Johnnie Walker Classic in Thailand.

His last PGA Tour victory came at the Western Open in July, a streak of 13 starts.

A slump? Don't bet on it. "I'm playing a lot better than I did last year at this time," Woods said. "Last year I had great rounds, and I had really bad rounds. This year has been pretty much an even keel. If I keep doing that, improving and hopefully get a few putts to fall in at the right time, who

knows? I can start winning again."

Woods didn't exactly roll into Augusta last year with a full head of steam. He tied for ninth at Bay Hill a year ago, although he was never in contention, then tied for 31st the next week at TPC.

At the Masters, he rebounded from a 40 on his first nine holes to win by 12 strokes in a record 18-under-par 270, took a month off and then won again at the Byron Nelson.

Still, there's no substitute for confidence, and Woods would like nothing better than to head to Augusta having won at least once on the PGA Tour. "It would help out a lot," he said. "I've been right there in the hunt going into Sunday, or ended up in the hunt. It would be nice to get that one win under your belt. But if it doesn't happen, it doesn't happen. As long as my game peaks in April."

This week figures to be a stiff test.

Bay Hill can be trouble in prevailing spring winds —

Woods hit a driver and a 4-iron just to reach the 18th hole. And just in case the conditions are relatively tame, the greens won't be.

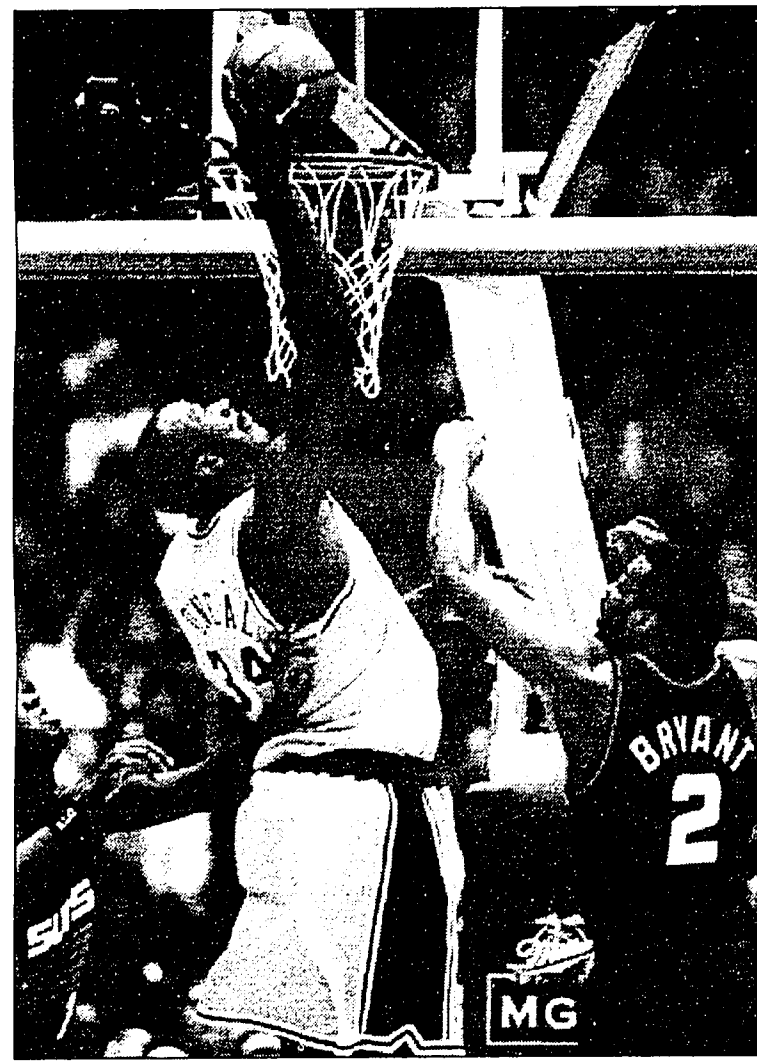
"The thing I've tried to do is give the golfers a little bit of a taste of what they're going to be seeing probably at The Players Championship and the Masters, and that's some fairly fast and hard greens," Palmer said.

"Barring rain, the golf course is going to play reasonably difficult, maybe a little more difficult than it has over the past couple of years."

Mickelson won last year by closing with a 7-under 65 to win by three strokes over Stuart Appleby.

It was his first victory in Florida and seemed to put him in perfect position to win his first major. What did Mickelson do? Miss the cut at TPC and the Masters.

"Last year was a huge disappointment," Mickelson said. "Coming off a win here, I really thought I'd carry it into Augusta."



Los Angeles Lakers' Shaquille O'Neal, center, slam dunks while Phoenix Suns' Danny Manning, left, and Mark Bryant look on during their game Wednesday in Inglewood, Calif. AP

Roy Jones Jr. to fight Virgil Hill

NEW YORK (AP) — Roy Jones Jr., a light heavyweight, turned down a bout against former heavyweight champion James "Buster" Douglas, but says he would move up to fight in that division if it were a title match.

Such a fight not being in the foreseeable future, Jones will take on former WBA-IBF light heavyweight champion Virgil Hill in a 12-round bout April 25 at Biloxi, Mississippi.

The fight, with the contract weight at

177 pounds (80 kilograms), give or take a pound, will replace Pernell Whitaker's challenge in Las Vegas to WBA welterweight champion Ike Quartey.

"I wanted to see Quartey-Whitaker myself," Jones said Wednesday at a media luncheon.

The fight was canceled when Whitaker went into drug rehabilitation.

As for his non-title fight against Hill, Jones said, "I'm still the champion."

His status as the WBC's 175-pound (78-kilogram) champion is uncertain, however.

The WBC has designated a fight Saturday in Berlin between Michael Nunn and Graciano Rocchigiani of Germany, with the winner to challenge Jones.

Jones said he probably wouldn't fight the winner, meaning he would be stripped of the title by the WBC, making either Nunn or Rocchigiani the champion.

In his most recent fight, Jones regained the WBC title he had lost on a disqualification for hitting Montell Griffin while he was down. In the rematch, Jones knocked out Griffin in

the first round Aug. 7.

It appeared Jones was headed toward a heavyweight fight against Douglas, with the understanding he would get a title match against Evander Holyfield if he won. Then he asked the advice of his father, his former trainer.

"My father told me, 'You're not guaranteed enough money,'" Jones said. "You're not a heavyweight, and they tell you if you win, Holyfield will be next. But if you beat a heavyweight, Holyfield might not be next." Jones, a former IBF middleweight and super middleweight champion, has a 35-1 record, with 30 knockouts.

1997 SSA Men's Night League: Division "A" Stats as of March 16, 1998

Compiled by Margaret Tenorio For the Variety		Homerun:	
Team:	Win Loss	Jerry Ayuuy	Team Familia 20
Pepsi SPEC	22 2	Nick C. Leon Guerrero	Bad Boyz 18
Hit & Run	18 4	Nick Guerrero	Northwest 18
I Luv U Man	17 5	Jojo Atiao	I Luv U Man 17
Bad Boyz	15 6	Greg C. Camacho	Camacho Roots 17
Camacho Roots	12 10	Tony C. Camacho	Camacho Roots 16
MTC Mongilik	11 10	Triples:	
La Familia	11 11	Oikong Tkel	Team Bud 10
Sedi Kau	10 10	Ben Mesa	Hit & Run 7
Team Budweiser	10 11	James Soback	Hit & Run 6
GTE Turtles	10 11	Jojo Atiao	I Luv U Man 6
Taga Warriors	10 11	Doubles:	
Team Familia	9 11	Ben Hocog	Team Familia 18
MGD Starters	8 13	Jerome Atiao	I Luv U Man 18
7-Up Kabekel	7 14	Ben Mesa	Hit & Run 17
Northwest	5 16	Ray Saka	MTC Mongilik 14
Tanapag Braves	4 17	Ken Kalen	Team Familia 13
Chelus	2 19	Ben Seman	Hit & Run 13
Batting Leaders 66 times at bat:		RB:	
1. Nick C. Leon Guerrero	Bad Boyz .662	Gloyd Martin	Team Bud 51
2. Gloyd Martin	Team Bud .653	Greg C. Camacho	Camacho Roots 49
3. Bill Benavente	I Luv U Man .652	Nick Guerrero	Northwest 47
4. Ben Hocog	Team Familia .625	Jojo Atiao	I Luv U Man 47
5. Jerome Atiao	I Luv U Man .616	Bill Benavente	I Luv U Man 41
6. Jeff Diaz	Bad Boyz .614	Ben Hocog	Team Familia 41
7. Jojo Atiao	I Luv U Man .603	Runs:	
8. John D. Diaz	Bad Boyz .592	Jerome Atiao	I Luv U Man 46
9. John Reyes	I Luv U Man .580	John D. Diaz	Bad Boyz 45
10. Ray Saka	MTC Mongilik .563	Nick C. Leon Guerrero	Bad Boyz 45
		John Reyes	I Luv U Man 45
		Ben Hocog	Team Familia 44
		Jell Diaz	Bad Boyz 44
		Jojo Atiao	I Luv U Man 43

Happy 2nd Birthday

"Dinga"
Tommy Emil & Thomas Roman D. Reyes
On March 22
From Da, Mom, and Sisters

1997 SSA Men's Night League: Division "B" Stats as of March 10, 1998

Compiled by Margaret Tenorio For the Variety		Triples:	
Team:	Win Loss Pct.	Antonio Celis	Hustlers5 6 players tied at 4 a-piece
1. Laly 4	12 3 .800	Doubles:	
2. MidPac Sunrays	12 3 .800	Mike Leon Guerrero	Toyota Teks 13
3. Toyota Teks	10 6 .625	Inosuke Yamada	Senyevins 9
4. J.C. Fadang	10 6 .625	Jess Hoog	Hustlers9
5. Hustlers	8 7 .533	Albert Lizama Jr.	Hustlers9
6. Senyevins	8 8 .500	Ben Cabrera	Men at Work 8
7. GR Crew	8 8 .500	RB:	
8. Fielders	5 11 .313	Mike Leon Guerrero	Toyota Teks 38
9. Freezers	2 13 .133	Wilfred Kaipat	Laly 4 35
10. Men at Work	2 13 .133	Rick Villazon	Senyevins 30
Batting Leaders 48 times at bat:		Most Runs:	
1. Mike C. Leon Guerrero	Toyota Teks 614	Mike Leon Guerrero	Toyota Teks 30
2. Wilfred Kaipat	Laly 4 .604	Wilfred Kaipat	Laly 4 26
3. Phil Celis	Hustlers .592	Ben Camacho	JC Fadang 25
4. Ben Camacho	JC Fadang .510	Pitching:	
5. Tito Laniyo	Laly 4 .500	ERA:	
6. Manio Arriola	Midpac Sunrays .491	1. John Guerrero	Midpac Sunrays 6.66
7. Mars Kelelman	Midpac Sunrays .462	2. Edwin Kaipat	Laly 4 7.25
8. Jose C. Camacho	JC Fadang .408	3. Newman Techur	Toyota Teks 7.75
9. Randall Aguo	Midpac Sunrays .392	4. Rick Villazon	Senyevins 9.72
10. Greg Sanchez	GR Crew .388	5. Abel Celis	Men at Work 10.42
Most Strike-Outs:		Most Strike-Outs:	
Player	Strike-Outs: Innings:	Player	Strike-Outs: Innings:
1. Rich Villazon	23 85 Innings	1. Rich Villazon	23 85 Innings
2. Abel Celis	22 90 Innings	2. Abel Celis	22 90 Innings
3. Newman	19 102 Innings	3. Newman	19 102 Innings
Mike Leon Guerrero	Toyota Teks 11		
Wilfred Kaipat	Laly 4 11		
JJ Laniyo	GR Crew 9		

SPORTS



Saipan Rugby team accepts a check donation worth \$5,000 from the General Manager of Microl Insurance Andrew Howlett yesterday at the Microl Insurance Office.
Photo by Priscilla T. Castro

Sedi Kau defeats Bad Boyz, 17-12

By Priscilla T. Castro
Variety News Staff

SEDI KAU defeated the Bad Boyz, 17-2, during the first game of the SSA Men's Night League at the Susupe Softball Complex.

In the first and second inning, Sedi Kau scored four runs a-piece and in the third inning they score another two runs.

In the fourth inning they rallied seven runs with Ned Norita hitting a homerun.

Norita was three for four.

Bad Boyz's Jack D. Diaz hit inside the park homer while Nick Guerrero hit a 2-run homer in the first inning.

Tony Flores hit a two-run inside the park homer in the second inning while in the last inning Tom Torres hit a two-run inside the park homer. John D. Diaz went three for four while Tony Flores went three for three.

Game Two
MTC Mongilk 19, Team Fa-

milia 16

Team Familia scored one run in the first followed by ten runs in the second inning with a two-run homer by John Sablan.

In the sixth inning Jerry Ayuyu hit a two-run homer. MTC rallied six runs in the second inning with Ray Saka's three-run inside the park homer while Roland Martin hit a solo homerun in the second inning.

In the third inning Sky Omelau hit a solo homerun with Lefty Shiro's grand slam in the fifth inning.

Dennis Olkeriil and Lefty Shiro went four for five with Ray Saka three for five.

Game Three

Tanapag Braves 5, 7-Up Kabekel 4

Roy Norita hit a solo homerun in the fourth inning while in the seventh Fuji Suel rallied two runs for the victory of the

Continued on page 38

Softball tourney set

By Priscilla T. Castro
Variety News Staff

THE PACIFIC Trading Company in conjunction with the Saipan Softball Association has set the Covenant Day Softball Tournament which will be held on March 27-29 at the Susupe Softball Complex.

This is the first fundraising tournament for the softball and fastpitch softball players who will represent the CNMI in the Micronesian Games in Palau on August 1-9.

The tournament will be a double elimination for both Men's and Women's Division. The entrance fee will be \$200 per team.

On Sunday, there will be a Homerun Derby which will charge an entrance fee of \$5 per player.

For more information, please contact Joe Torres at 235-1662, Newman Techur at 234-0173, Paul Baron at 322-7814 and Carol Ngiraidis at 235-4247.

CNMI's Rugby Team leaves for Manila

By Priscilla T. Castro
Variety News Staff

CNMI's Rugby Team left yesterday for Manila to compete in the 1998 International Rugby's 10th Tournament.

The CNMI Rugby Team will be competing against teams from China, Japan, Korea, Australia, Tonga, Hong Kong, France, Great Britain, Fiji and the Philippines.

The offices of Microl Insurance, General Accident donated \$5,000 to help them

defray some of their expenses during their stay in Manila.

According to Microl Insurance General Manager, Andrew Howlett, they are proud to be sponsor of the team.

When asked about the team's chances, Faaea Talalemotu, vice president of the rugby team, replied, "Well, you know Australia, Tonga, Fiji, France and England produce some of the best rugby players and teams in the world. But we hope to reach the quarter-finals at least."

"We will try our best to win but

it's a very stiff competition. It should be a great rugby tournament," he added.

Rugby Club Secretary, David Banes said this is the first time for them to compete in the Philippines but they have a chance to at least reach the quarter-finals.

During their competitions in other countries like Australia, Great Britain and China, the CNMI sent good players and this time Saipan Rugby team hopes to bring home a trophy.

Golf Fundraising for Oleai School nears

By Priscilla T. Castro
Variety News Staff

PREPARATIONS for the Sid K. Peter Memorial Golf Tournament being hosted by the Refaluwasch Golf Association in cooperation with Pacific Trading shift to high gears as the tournament date approaches.

The tournament, set for March 28 at the Marpi Country Club, benefits Oleai Elementary School which is raising funds for aircon units, computers and other multimedia equipment for the new classrooms that are now almost complete.

The tournament is limited to 60 participants only and features six categories: Championship Flight, A-Flight, B-Flight, C-Flight, Seniors and Ladies.

If there are less than 6 participants in a flight, that category will be cancelled and entrants will be placed in another flight based on their handicaps.

Check-in time is 6 a.m. and tee-off time is 7 a.m. - 9:30 a.m. Participants in the A-Flight will tee off first at exactly 7 a.m.

Subsequent tee off order will be as follows: B-Flight, C-Flight,

Continued on page 38



Lorrie Ogumoro of Garapan Elementary School swings at and misses the ball during the PSS Girl's Softball Tournament at Garapan School Ballfield.
Photo by Priscilla T. Castro

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