

U.S. hearing is off

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

THE UNITED States House Resources Committee has postponed indefinitely its May 13 public hearing on a new legislation that would reform the CNMI's labor and immigration policies, according to the commonwealth's representative in Washington, D.C., Juan N. Babauta.

In a telephone interview, Babauta said there is still no word from the committee if the hearing would be rescheduled.

Babauta, together with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and the Legislature's presiding officers, earlier requested Resources Committee Chair Don Young (R-Alaska) to reschedule the May 13 hearing.

They said the CNMI needs more time to prepare for it. "A hearing will give us an



Don Young

opportunity to present our plans and how we will deal with the problems before us," Babauta said. "Our only concern is that the hearing is being scheduled too soon."

At the same time, Babauta revealed that a discussion draft of a reform legislation is now being discussed by the committee.

The legislation, which will be



Juan N. Babauta

introduced by US Rep. Elton Gallegly (R-California), is still unnumbered and unsigned, Babauta said.

"There is still no bill to discuss at this time," he added.

"Everything is very much in flux especially on the issue of whether there will be a hearing or not."

The discussion draft, however,

contains three noteworthy provisions, Babauta said.

It proposes the creation of a CNMI non-voting delegate seat in the US House of Representatives, the waiving of the local matching fund requirement for federal grants under the Covenant, and the "strengthening" of the Covenant Section 902 consultation process.

Babauta said lack of representation in Congress is part of the problem the CNMI faces.

"Representation is very fundamental," he said.

"It is so unfortunate that anybody in Congress—when they want to and when they feel like it—can introduce legislation for a group of US citizens they don't represent.

"I think this should be corrected, and this proposed legislation by Mr. Gallegly is surely

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Anti-loitering law may help in gov't fight vs prostitution

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

AN ANTI-loitering law is being proposed to add more teeth to the government's drive against prostitution, it was learned.

Acting Labor and Immigration Secretary Mark Zachares, at yesterday's regular meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce (SCC), said he has spoken with the Attorney General's Office (AGO) "to see whether we can enact a statute" that will bar persons from hanging around suspiciously in the streets of downtown Garapan and other tourist areas on the island.

Zachares, in an interview, said such a law could "possibly" deter activities of a prostitution ring operating in Garapan.

"In some cases, we favor it (anti-loitering law)," he said.

Zachares, speaking at the

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Guam mayors move to get incinerator suit dismissed

By Jan Furukawa
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — The Mayors' Council of Guam will ask the Superior Court later this month to dismiss the suit filed against Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez which halted the construction of an incinerator for the island's solid waste project.

The court last week granted the council's 56-page Motion to Intervene, filed on the mayors' behalf by Attorney Peter R. Sgro, Jr., who yesterday said the mayors can now file a counterclaim to allegations made by Sen. Ben Pangelinan and Santa Rita Mayor Joseph C. Wesley.

"The Council members felt it was very important to intervene and seek an immediate dismissal of the case, because any possibility of wiping out decades of laws that now exist would cause great harm to all taxpayers and residents of Guam," Frank J.C. Camacho, executive director of the council, said yesterday.

"Numerous mayors by existing law act as executive heads for the administration of the laws of Guam in their respective jurisdictions, and they felt it was necessary to preserve decades of laws that became law without the signature of the governor," he added.

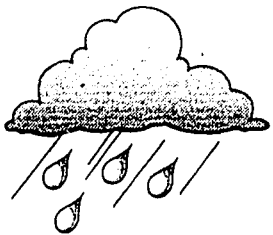
Sgro said Pangelinan "had knowledge of the governor's inten-

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IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch (left) meets with CNMI Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio (center) and Judge Edward Manibusan during a reception at the Guam Hilton Hotel Tuesday night. Tenorio and Manibusan both lobbied the president for the CNMI's admittance into the Olympic family. Photo by Eduardo C. Siguenza

WEATHER Outlook



Partly cloudy with isolated showers

'VOTE' formed, gears up for Guam election

By Jan Furukawa
Variety News Staff

TAMUNING, Guam—A multi-sectoral group has been formed in Guam to take part in discussions of issues to be taken up during elections.

The group called the Voice of the Electorate" (VOTE) will serve as the liaison between the community and the government, particularly the Legislature.

The group was founded by busi-

nessman-lawyer Peter R. Sgro Jr. Its members include lawyers, academicians, business and community leaders.

Among the functions of the Voices, according to its press release is to work with the Legislature on bills that affect Guam's tourism, public health, education, economy, culture, revitalization, and education among others.

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Reyes wants gov't travel on Northwest, not Continental

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

SENATE Majority Leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) yesterday said he will introduce a resolution urging government officials and employees on official trips to patronize Northwest and not Continental Airlines.

Reyes said Northwest offers better rates than Continental, the CNMI's primary carrier.

The government, he added,

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Pete P. Reyes

Nicaraguan President suspends top officials

By FILADELFO ALEMAN
MANAGUA, Nicaragua (AP)—Nicaragua's president suspended six top officials Tuesday following the disclosure that a private jet he had used had been stolen from the United States and may have later transported drugs.

Among those suspended by President Arnoldo Aleman were the civil aeronautics director, the top police anti-drug official, and the liaison with the international police agency Interpol.

Aleman also suspended the director of the Immigration Service in a separate case involving the trafficking of illegal aliens.

"The increase in drug trafficking and the illicit business that allows undocumented aliens to enter our country... reveal serious deficiencies in the administrators in charge of these areas," Aleman said.

Aleman named three commissions to investigate the cases—two looking at the plane and one the immigration scandal—and gave them a week to present their findings.

The Lear 35A jet, worth \$1.5 million, was stolen in Fort Lauderdale, Florida, on Dec. 15 and flown to Nicaragua nine days later. Police said false documents were used to register it. The plane's true owner has not been identified.

The government was offered the use of the plane and Aleman flew in it Feb. 4 to a meeting of Central American presidents in El Salvador.

Aleman's office said officials didn't know the plane had been stolen.

Vice President Enrique Bolanos and other officials also had used the plane. In April, the plane was flown to Medellin, Colombia, where authorities suspect it was used for drug trafficking. Traces of cocaine were found inside.

Authorities didn't say who offered Aleman the plane or who later flew it to Medellin, though they said it was no longer in government use.

Suspended were civil aeronautics director Mario Rivas, Interpol liaison Carlos Bendana Sequeira,

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Netanyahu says he stays 'flexible'

By DANNY BEN-TAL
TEL AVIV, Israel (AP)—Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu declared Tuesday on his return from peace talks in London that he was prepared to be flexible in negotiations with the Palestinians but that security would remain his first concern.

Netanyahu told cheering crowds at a convention of his ruling Likud party that peace was in reach.

"We are working towards peace very seriously. There are difficulties, it is not easy," Netanyahu said. "But we will reach peace."

However, Netanyahu, under U.S. pressure to set terms for a West Bank pullback, returned to renewed threats from right-wingers to topple him if he makes new concessions to the Palestinians.

The prime minister left London directly after a round of talks with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, in which she sought to win an increase in Netanyahu's offer of a withdrawal from another 9 percent of



Benjamin Netanyahu

the West Bank.

Right-wingers who had threatened earlier to bring down Netanyahu's government hailed his stance at the London talks, but said if he agrees to the widely reported American plan, they will carry out the threat.

"So far, so good," said Michael Kleiner, head of a group of right-wing legislators, saying the prime minister "stood his ground even though he was under heavy pres-

sure."

But he added that if Netanyahu agrees even a 9 percent withdrawal—let alone the 13 percent pullback the Americans have proposed—"we will topple him."

Kleiner's group claims to have the support of at least 17 of the 120 members of parliament, some of them coalition members from the National Religious Party. It could theoretically tip the balance against the government in a no-confidence vote.

Upon his return, Netanyahu told the convention crowd: "I am prepared to be flexible where possible but on the issue of security for the citizens of Israel I am not flexible."

Meanwhile, Israel Radio cited a U.S. official speaking on condition of anonymity as saying that Netanyahu conditioned a 13.1 percent troop withdrawal on a deal over the next withdrawal.

Channel Two reported Netanyahu will seek approval from his cabinet to accept the deal which would incorporate the third and final withdrawal into final status agreements.

Netanyahu's spokesman, David Bar-Ilan, denied any such deal had been secured at this stage.

"There are discussions about all sorts of possibilities but no deal has been struck," Bar-Ilan said.

'No Rota water crisis'

By Marc Hizon
For the Variety
Rota, (RDSU)—There are no water wells in Rota nor is there a water crisis on the island, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Rota said.

CUC Deputy Director Antonio Reyes said although water rationing is occurring on Rota, it is strictly a conservation effort.

Reyes took exception to an article in the Variety last week that indicated "Rota wells are drying up."

Reyes said there is no truth to that.

Reyes stressed that first of all, Rota do not have water wells.

The island taps water through natural water cave (Matanhanom) and diverted to eight inch pipes which is then treated and stored on two reservoirs.

There is a one million gallon tank for the village of Songsong an half a million gallon tank for the villages of Sinapalo I and II.

CUC Rota insists rationing strictly a conservation measure



Benjamin T. Manglona

"The article is not factual. The information did not come from my office and in turn has created negative effect on visitors' outlook of the island," Reyes emphasized.

Rota is in safe water level and is being monitored periodically, said Reyes.

CUC Rota has been implementing water conservation for the longest time, especially during dry season.

He said it is typical effort to keep the water in the average level. Water rationing is just a conservation effort, Reyes said.

"This is not the first or second year we have been rationing water. This is not something new on island. Back in the early 80's when I was director of Public Works, we have been implementing water hours on island, we do rationing in order to make it available for everyone," Reyes said.

Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona on the other hand lashed out at the article: "Rota does not deserve this, a definite fault in context and very misleading. Rota's reputation as having the best water in the entire Mariana Islands was ruined."

Manglona fears that potential investors may not come on the impression that Rota has no water anymore.

He stressed Rota does not have deep wells like Saipan and Tinian.

"In fact, if Rota's water dries up, I shall declare Rota a disaster area immediately. And it is not the case. The water rationing we have right now is just preventive measure, it is not unique and is not a serious matter as negligently reported," Manglona said.

Editor's Note: The Variety admits that its use of the term "wells" in the subject article, referring to Rota's water springs, was inappropriate. Our sincerest apologies.

BOS says it has settled biggest Hillblom claims

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff
LARRY Hillblom's estate executor Bank of Saipan claimed it has settled the largest and most monetarily significant claims against the multimillion estate.

BOS Trust Officer Russell K. Snow said the executor has resolved 20 claims in Hillblom's probate which is now on its third year before the Superior Court.

Snow in the executor's activity report stated that the resolved claims include the petitions filed by the parents of eight alleged Hillblom children as well as the DHL International and DHL Corporation.

The sale of Hillblom's shares in DHL closed last week with late businessman's estate earning \$112.8 million.

Currently, Snow said, there are 17 active claims against the estate which potentially may get \$60 million.

The Trust Officer explained that to date the estate has liquidated or is about to liquidate in excess of \$500 million of Hillblom assets.

"The executor's primary task and goal is to marshal and liquidate the assets in a manner that is both cost-effective and that results in receipt of fair value," Snow said.

However, he stated, because many of the remaining assets seize raise difficult issue, it is more cost-effective for the executor merely to maintain certain assets (rather than prepare them for disposition).

Judge sued by former in-law

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff
SUPERIOR Court Associate Judge Timothy Bellas has been sued by his former mother-in-law for alleged non-payment of debt amounting to \$176,000.

Victorina Camacho Sablan, through counsel Theodore Mitchell, asked the trial court to order Bellas to pay the debt and its interest from August 1991.

When contacted by the Variety yesterday, Bellas' secretary said the judge refused to comment about the complaint.

According to Mitchell in the complaint filed Tuesday afternoon, on Aug. 29, 1991 Bellas and Frances Sablan-Bellas, then husband and wife, "made and delivered to plaintiff, for value received, a certain promissory note."

Under the promissory note, the complaint said, defendant Bellas promised to pay plaintiff the sum of \$200,000 on May 5, 1992 with 7 percent interest per annum.

A payment of \$24,000 has been made on the note, Mitchell said in the complaint.

"The sum of \$176,000 plus interest remains due and owing on the note," Mitchell added.

Gov't employee nabbed for threatening official

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff
A GOVERNMENT employee was arrested Tuesday for allegedly threatening to choke the deputy director of the Division of Land Registration and Survey.

Public Safety Information Officer Maj. J.J. Castro identified the arrestee as Oscar Lujan Takai, 46, a surveying officer.

Castro said Takai and deputy director Consolacion C. Togawa were fighting who was going to use a cassette player on that day.

Investigation showed that Takai demanded to take the cassette player, but Togawa refused because she would use it.

Takai took the cassette and threatened to choke her with the cassette's cord if she would get it from him.

Togawa then called up the police.

Meanwhile, a Japanese female tourist reported that she lost her money and credit card she placed in a safebox at Hafa Ada Hotel.

The tourist said she put her ¥100,000 and credit card in the hotel's safebox Saturday.

While she was preparing to leave Tuesday, she discovered that ¥10,000 of the money and the credit card were stolen.

In other report, a woman who was caught shoplifting a pair of eyeglasses through a surveillance camera was arrested at the Duty Free Shoppers in Garapan Tuesday night.

Arrested for theft was Qui Bin Wu, 35, a Chinese.

Guam tackles bill on FSM fish shipments

By Jacob Leon Guerrero
Variety News Staff
HAGATNA, Guam—A bill seeking to resolve business grievances between Guam and the Federated States of Micronesia generated mixed views during a student forum yesterday at the University of Guam.

The forum, sponsored by Ron Augon's PA 201 class, speakers discussed the potential impact of Bill 444 to the economy.

The main clause of the Bill aims at quarantining fish off-loaded from the FSM on Guam for 72 hours.

The fish mainly tuna, are supposed to be scheduled for delivery to Asian markets usually in 24 hours after landing on Guam, opponents say.

"The bill would essentially ruin the tuna because it will rot on island before it ever reaches the market, they said.

According to a co-author of Bill 444 Senator Mark Charfauros, the main purpose of the Bill is to bring the FSM to the negotiating table in order to resolve business practices which have had a detrimental effect on Guam businesses and economic growth.

The issue stems from a 1993 interpretation by the FSM Attorney General which declared Guam as a foreign entity.

This was seen to have caused a negative impact on Guam's economy because Guam-based businesses operating in the FSM have been levied foreign business tax.

In addition, the FSM issued a policy in 1993 prohibiting countries with permits to fish FSM fisheries from docking on Guam except Japan.

"Ever since, I personally felt that the compact was violated," Sen. Charfauros said.

According to Charfauros, the bill has already generated action from the FSM and local leaders aimed at resolving the issue before it becomes law.

The Bill did raise opposition from members at the forum mainly from the business community, Legislature, and the Administration.

China-Russia hotline for presidents set



Jiang Zemin Boris Yeltsin

BEIJING (AP)—China and Russia have opened a direct presidential hotline to improve understanding between the former communist rivals, the Foreign Ministry announced Tuesday.

The secure telecommunications link, China's first with a foreign capital, will allow presidents Jiang Zemin and Boris Yeltsin to "exchange views on bilateral relations and international issues at any time," Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao said.

"The opening of this hotline will promote the close contact between the two sides and facilitate mutual understanding and trust between the two sides," Zhu said at a twice-weekly briefing for reporters.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright and Chinese Foreign Minister Tang Jiaxuan signed an agreement for a U.S.-China hotline last week, but Zhu said he did not know when it would open.

China and the Soviet Union engaged in a tense rivalry for the allegiances of the socialist world during the Cold War and fought border skirmishes in the late 1960s.

Relations have improved steadily over the past decade.

FSM seeks to ease exit rule on alien workers



Jacob Nena

PALIKIR (FSMIS)—President Jacob Nena transmitted to Congress a proposed legislation to eliminate the requirement that a nonresident or a foreign worker must leave the FSM before he or she is re-employed by a different employer.

Nena assured Congress Speaker Jack Fritz saying that "the time is ripe to revisit this twelve-year old statutory provision, the current effect of which is too burdensome on the private sector that we have collectively decided should be bolstered."

"I am transmitting herewith a proposed bill that if enacted would eliminate this undesirable requirement. I ask that the Congress consider this measure favorably," he said.

The original intent of the subject provision was to ensure that an FSM employer should try to fill a vacancy with FSM citizens with similar or comparable qualifications and to repatriate foreign workers who are no longer needed for the job for which he or she was initially recruited or employed.



Guam Chief Justice Peter C. Siguenza Jr., (left), huddles with Superior Court Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood (center) and her brother Daniel after he delivered his annual territorial judiciary address last Friday. Photo by Eduardo C. Siguenza

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



By Ferdie P. de la Torre



Red Rum as in Mur Der

THE brutal murder of a 13-year-old boy inside his bedroom in Dandan Homestead last Thursday afternoon has alarmed a lot of people in the community. The fact that the suspects, all in their teens who belong to a gang called Red Rum, has even alarmed those people more.

The first suspect to be arrested, a 14-year-old, allegedly stabbed the victim several times on different parts of his body. He has allegedly confessed to killing the boy upon the order of Red Rum "leaders" as part of the gang's initiation rite.

Ross Buchholz, chief of the Attorney General's Office Criminal Division, admitted that it was the first time investigators have "encountered" this Dandan Homestead-based Red Rum gang. Buchholz said probers are digging into the background of this group. He encouraged members of the community to report to the concerned authorities any information about the gang.

Sources said the gang probably got its name from "Mur Der" which reads Red Rum in reverse, apparently after the Jack Nicholson-stared horror movie "The Shining." Upon further research in the Internet, we were more surprised to learn that Red Rum is about killing people. We heard frightening voices from the screen that seemed to come from the devil's yelling of "Red Rum...Red Rum." We also saw, among other things, a picture of a boy looking at the words Red Rum printed on a wall of a house.

Aside from Red Rum, our sources said, there are other gangs on Saipan. These include Tarjan, The Dreamers, Local Boys, and Chélu. The groups are mixes of different nationalities from different villages. The members are mostly males aged nine to 18 years old and are said to be into drugs.

Sources said Tarjan is considered the biggest and most violent group. But with the death of one of its members in a shooting incident a few years ago, some gangsters tend to stay away from trouble. The Dreamers, sources said, used to be violent in the early 80's. Most of its members, however, are getting older and many already have their own families.

The Local Boys, composed of Chamorros, Carolinians, and Filipinos, was allegedly involved in criminal mischiefs, burglaries and thefts. Not enough information are available about Chélu because like Red Rum the group is new to the authorities.

Joining gangs is not against the law, but with the killing of the 13-year-old boy in Dandan perhaps our youths should think twice before joining any gang. There are other youth organizations that are worth participating in. It's not too late for members to avoid groups that have been involved in violent and unwholesome activities. Kids should inform their parents about their group because parents are the right persons who can give them the best advice.

Lt. Nicolas Leon Guerrero, operations supervisor of the Department of Public Safety Criminal Investigation Bureau, underscored the need for parents to keep their children from joining gangs. We agree with Leon Guerrero that kids join gangs because their parents perhaps do not give much attention. These teenagers tend to socialize with others and end up joining gangs. Parents should observe their children's behavior. Maintaining an open communication with your kids is the best way to keep them away from trouble.

Data from the Family Court show that majority of the troubled youths today are either neglected or lacking parental attention. About 90 percent of these delinquent juveniles come from indigent or poor families. To address the problem, perhaps our government officials should consider the Mayor's Office's proposal to change the start of the current curfew from 11 p.m. to 9 p.m.

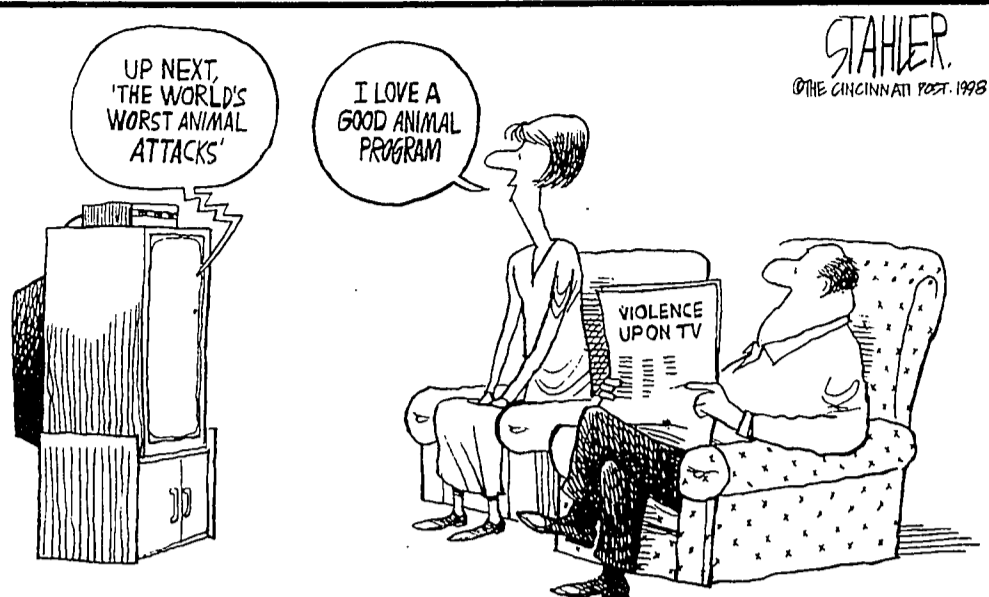
Why not put more teeth to our present juvenile code? The way it is now, only 17-year-olds can be charged in court as adults in murder, traffic and other offenses. Thus, a 14-year-old can be convicted in such cases, but he or she will be released on reaching the age of 18.

It's about time our lawmakers considered passing House Bill 11-158 which seeks to revise the juvenile code. Introduced by Rep. David Apatang, the proposed law allows authorities to charge juveniles aged at least 14 years and who commit murder and other serious offenses to be charged as adults. It's high time our government officials, parents, community and police joined hands to address the problems on our troubled youths. Action is needed before another "Red Rum killing" occurs.

A LAWYER who likes to file lawsuits against the government was recently asked by a judge why he included a certain government agency as co-defendant. Perhaps confused with all the suits he filed against the government, the lawyer simply stared at the judge and said: "Yeah, why did I include it?" Of course, the judge dismissed the claim against the agency.

[Send your comments through e-mail; strikethat@hotmail.com]

SALAM YOUNIS



Letters to the Editor

Concerns on EAP grant

Dear Editor:
Recently, the Educational Assistance Program (EAP) has been the main focus regarding educational funding at the Northern Marianas College. I read an article from "CNMI on-line" implying that EAP recipients abuse their privileges by purchasing T-shirts or pencils costing \$1.50 on their grants through the NMC bookstore.

Realistically speaking, purchasing these items is a trivial matter. For example, if you have a voucher allowing purchases up to \$500 of supplies at the NMC bookstore without specific requirements, then technically you can purchase anything in that bookstore. EAP recipients do not receive cash or a check, but a voucher and any remaining funds is returned to the general fund.

As for the "pampered" NMC students who are EAP recipients, their purchases are accountable and documented. This is in contrast to the recipients of other scholarships or grants, where accountability of funds is not mandatory. A student may receive funds intended for his or her education.

Instead he or she purchases items, such as new clothes or a stereo system without the grantor's knowledge.

We teach our children, "Knowledge is power and education is the key."

Unfortunately, the education of those students receiving EAP at NMC may come to a sudden halt, because of the depleted funds in the government.

Dear Editor:
By now you are probably aware of the crisis that we the students of the Northern Marianas College are facing.

There is a nasty rumor somewhere that there will be no funds for this summer semester.

There is no money for the EAP grant recipients. I will not be directly affected because I am a PELL grant recipient, but I and many more of the PELL grant recipients will definitely be affected in some ways.

If all goes well, I aim to graduate by Spring of next year, but with an obstacle like this, I'm afraid that I might not graduate on my set date.

Dear Editor:
I am a concerned citizen as well as a student at Northern Marianas College.

I am concerned about the college's budget. Where does all the money go?

I was told that the college was supposed to have new classrooms built on the campus.

It is necessary to have new classrooms because the rooms we have now are small and old.

The building V and M classrooms are nice and clean but the rest are uncomfortable.

And recently, the EAP grant has been cut off for the summer semester.

I am under the EAP grant and I need to take summer courses to graduate on time.

Because I am unable to afford to pay for summer courses on my own, I will need to overload myself with classes for Fall '98 and Spring '99 semesters.

This will put a lot of pressure on me.

The budget should be spent more wisely to benefit the students and staff of NMC.

Ironically, the students not affected by this new development are the students attending colleges or universities off-island and who will continue to receive the government's financial assistance.

Students in this program are allowed to attend schools abroad before completing an Associate Degree at NMC to further their education.

It appears that the students at NMC are being penalized for attending an accredited college in the CNMI, which is less expensive than attending an off-island college or university.

Attending a prestigious university is a privilege, not a requirement.

In my opinion, there should be criteria in allowing students to acquire an associate degree in the CNMI and further their education by attending an off-island university to acquire the desired degree.

I applaud the CNMI Government in assisting the less fortunate and indigenous people of the Commonwealth in obtaining a better education for themselves and hopefully returning to teach and educate the people of the CNMI.

It would be a great injustice to have this innovative program of acquiring higher education cease or suspended, because of misplaced priorities.

MARTHA PACE

This may be the result if there will be no funds for the summer because classes will be canceled.

Classes will be canceled if not enough students enroll.

We the students have been told to go ahead and register as though there is money, but I'm afraid this is not good enough to assure us that classes will not be canceled.

The governor has promised that there will be money for the EAP grant and this letter is to ask the governor and all the members of the government to prioritize this issue as a matter for the future of the CNMI.

IRENE CARLOS

A relevant issue raised

Dear Editor:
I am writing regarding the article "Cepeda raps gov't office" on Variety's May 5th issue.

Mr. Cepeda's concerns are about the poor performance of government employees and the government's hiring system needing improvement.

The article states that Mr. Cepeda "had received several complaints about inefficiencies and poor services in government offices."

I am glad that Mr. Cepeda has raised this issue. I know people who on several occasions have had to deal with government employees that were rude and unhelpful.

I hope you follow up on this issue and let us know how our taxpayer's dollars are being spent.

ISSAC WILLIAMSON

Babauta: Small business is 'key'

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

WITH BIG foreign investors apparently discouraged by restrictive investments law and the inability to import nonresident workers, the Northern Mariana Islands should rely on small businesses to support the local economy.

Rep. Oscar Babauta said local residents should be given equal opportunity in owning and operating businesses in the Commonwealth, adding that there is a need to awaken the locals' entrepreneurial spirit.

"Everyone is naturally gifted with an entrepreneurial intelligence. We just need to tap that consciousness and complement it with hardwork and determination," Babauta said.

He said the dependence of the local economy to big foreign tourism-oriented investments must be minimized by encouraging CNMI residents to take the initiative and participate in the business activities.



Oscar Babauta

"Maybe we can manufacture or assemble chips here. We can also make handicrafts and involve in soap-making with our island coconuts," he said, adding that a small variety or a "rolling" store can also make significant contribution to the economy.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio on Friday proclaimed May as the CNMI Small Business Development Month, in an effort to solicit participation from

among the local residents in business exhibitions and ventures.

Tenorio said the Business Development Center (BDC) assists in the continuation of private sector jobs for local citizens as an alternative to dependence on government employment.

He said BDC, in partnership with the government and the Saipan Chamber of Commerce, is coming up with workshops, seminars and forums to help entrepreneurs and small business owners increase competencies in handling commerce.

The business center is also slated to organize the First Annual CNMI Business Exposition in the Northern Mariana Islands. No definite date has been reached yet.

Babauta, in previous interview, urged businesses in the NMI to shift concentration from foreign to the local market in order to survive the economic slump.

He said most of the retail outlets

and department stores on the island cater to tourists, leaving local and temporary residents very little option with regards to trading.

He urged the government to encourage businessmen to come to the CNMI and manufacture different types of items other than garment products.

Babauta said local businessmen who operate even small retail outlets in Garapan should start shifting market strategy and lure participation from among local and temporary residents.

'May 25 deadline impractical'



Jose C. Ayuyu

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

THE SAIPAN Chamber of Commerce (SCC) said it is not "practical" to enforce the government's May 25 deadline on the screening of the estimated 40,000 nonresident workers for communicable diseases.

It stressed that the timeframe allotted for the purpose was, to begin with, not feasible.

Jose C. Ayuyu, in an interview during yesterday's regular SCC meeting, said the four months given for HIV, syphilis and tuberculosis tests is too short a time to ensure that

all 40,000 nonresident workers would have undergone it by the cut-off date.

"I don't think it is practical," he said.

Ayuyu said the Chamber is considering asking government for an extension.

"It's going to take time (to have all workers take the tests)... there are over 40,000 workers... as a matter of fact, there may be a need for us to extend it (health screening)... to request for an extension," said Ayuyu.

He explained that most employers "can not get too many people to the health clinics" as such will be "very difficult."

Ayuyu nevertheless said an extension may not necessarily be "too long."

"Just enough time to have everybody get their health certificates," he said.

Acting Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez had said nonresident workers who fail to secure medical certificates on or before May 25 deadline may be penalized.

He said only 15,000 of the

workers have been tested so far, meaning the remaining 25,000 have only about 19 days to undergo the health check-up.

Government implemented an emergency health regulation in February 25 this year after a study by the Center for Disease Control (CDC) showed that TB has reached "epidemic" proportions in the Commonwealth.

Villagomez, in an earlier interview, said the results so far is beyond what was expected.

Four cases of HIV infection have been monitored. Also, 51 cases of active TB have been documented while 48 syphilis cases have been referred for treatment.

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Teener in sexual abuse case enters plea bargain

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

ATEENAGER accused of sexually abusing two kids has entered into a plea agreement with the government.

Defendant Aldin Blas Igisaiar with counsel Assistant Public Defender Dan Bowen signed the agreement with Assistant Atty. Gen. Barry A. Hirschbein who represented the government.

Igisaiar, 19, was charged with two counts of sexual abuse of a child. The charges carry a maximum penalty of five years' imprisonment and \$2,000 fine.

Under the agreement, Igisaiar will plead guilty of both charges. In return, the government will recommend that the imposition of sentence against the defendant shall be suspended for four years.

Igisaiar will be placed under probation and required to pay child support pursuant to the agreement.

The AGO will recommend that Igisaiar shall perform 80 hours of community work service.

Court documents showed that the defendant sexually abused two girls, both under 16 years old, on Sept. 9, 1996 and April 30, 1997.

Lack of infrastructure snags Marpi homesteads

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

GOVERNMENT said it is facing a problem on the Marpi homestead site bigger than the World War II bombs that infest the area: The absence of power and water supply.

In an interview, Vince T. Castro, Chief Planning Officer of the Division of Public Lands (DPL), said developing the site may take longer than other proposed homestead areas since government has yet to install the utilities.

"The bigger problem is the infrastructure. There is no water and power (there)," said Castro. He nonetheless assured the division will still be pushing through with plans to develop the Marpi site.

"We are making every effort to open it (Marpi site) as soon as possible," said Castro. He however stressed that the division needs to make sure that needed infrastructure can be provided.

The lack of infrastructure has been found to be among factors homestead permit holders are taking a longer time to build their houses and actually occupy the lots.

Plans to develop the Marpi site has been in the works since 1996. It will be recalled that then Lands and Natural Resources Secretary Benigno M. Sablan had said that government may face difficulties ridding the area of the bombs.

The division, for its part, ear-

lier said government may have to forego the Marpi project in favor of other proposed areas to optimize resources.

Officials said cleaning up the World War II bombs will be costly. There however, is no immediately available estimate on the amount that can be spent for the purpose.

Castro, in an earlier interview, said government is working on acquiring fund from appropriate federal agencies to have the area cleared of bombs.

Marpi was the site of bloody encounters between US and the Japanese forces during the remaining few days of the latter's 1944 invasion of the island.

Castro said DPL is planning to open some 1,000 homestead lots in the area by the end of next year.

Teno to act ASAP on poker limit bill



Pedro P. Tenorio

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday said he will act immediately on legislation that would limit a person to only 50 poker machines and repeal the sunset provision on the excise taxes.

Tenorio, however, declined to say whether he will veto or sign the bill.

"Let's just say that if it's sent to my office I would review it and act on it as soon as possible," he said.

Introduced by House Ways and Means Committee Chair Karl T. Reyes (R-Prec. 1, Saipan), the legislation, H.B. 11-103, has been passed by the House of Representatives and is now before the Senate.

As of presstime last night, it was not known whether the bill will be taken up in today's Senate session.

The bill proposes to repeal the sunset provisions in Public Law 9-22, which could mean an additional \$4 million for the administration's fiscal year 1999 budget proposal, Reyes told the Variety.

The 1995 law states that the 50 cent tax per cigarette pack, and 15 cent tax per gallon of fuel would only be in effect for three years.

The rates would then return to 25 cents for cigarettes and 10 cents for gas.

The sunset provision took effect last January.

At the same time, H.B. 11-103 seeks to eliminate the tax break on the earned income credit—which costs the CNMI \$4 to \$10 million a year—and open up the ownership of poker machines.

In addition, the bill seeks to lift the cap on the issuance of poker machine licenses on Saipan, but would impose a limit on the number of machines that a person can operate.

The bill provides that an operator and his affiliate can only have a maximum of 50 poker machines. Licenses in excess of this limitation would not be renewed.

The current law, P.L. 9-22, allows the government to issue only 200 poker machines for each of the commonwealth's three major islands.

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WE SUPPORT. Speaker Diego Benavente (left) and Senate President Paul Manglona (right) present to Michael Kwan, Chairman of Hong Kong Investment (Overseas) Inc., (center) a joint resolution from the Legislature expressing support for the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino.

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Pohnpei gets set for Games

PALIKIR (FSMIS) — Vice President Leo Falcam has requested that staffers Aurelio Joab and Jim Tobin from the Departments of Justice and Health, Education and Social Affairs, respectively, be allowed to participate in the preparations by Pohnpei State for the upcoming Micronesian Games in Palau.

Falcam stated that there is much preparation taking place in the FSM for the Micro Games to be held in the Republic of Palau in August 1998.

The Micro Games is open to participation from Palau, Marshalls, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), Nauru, Kiribati and the States of Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

Falcam advised interested state government to notify the Department of Foreign Affairs of their interest for such training scheme and seek additional information if needed.

\$75,000 for fireworks is too much—Chamber

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

SPENDING \$75,000 for a fireworks display on Liberation Day is "excessive" considering the economic downturn that the Commonwealth is experiencing, Jose C. Ayuyu, President of the Saipan Chamber Commerce (SCC) yesterday said.

"That's a lot of money given the present economic condition," Ayuyu said when asked if the Chamber will be willing to donate the amount for the event.

"It's very excessive. I think we can still have a celebration and enjoy it too without spending so much money," he added.

Ayuyu said the Chamber has yet to receive a formal request from the event's organizing committee but nonetheless expressed doubts if its members can actually chip-in enough cash to come up with the needed amount.

"I'm going to have to ask the members. (But) I don't know whether they have the capability to put out that kind of money," he said.

The organizing committee led by Frank DLG. Demapan has been groping for money to be used to finance the fireworks display after the Office of the Governor, which traditionally releases the amount, told them it does not have funds for the purpose.

The committee has tried soliciting from the Marianas Visitors' Bureau (MVB) but has reportedly yet to receive confirmation.

It has also faxed a request to James Lin, President of the Saipan Garment Manufacturers' Association (SGMA) who has expressed willingness to help but, at the same time, hit Demapan for saying "\$75,000 is peanuts to the garment factories."

Demapan has said that there may not be fireworks display on this year's Liberation Day festivities if efforts to solicit fund from MVB and SGMA fail.

Sources said the committee is considering asking money from the Chamber.

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May 8, 1998

From:
Gina and Island's Horizon Staff
Ric, Em-Ric, Lito, Brother Romie

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

CHC Volunteers donate to Tinian

THE COMMONWEALTH Health Center Volunteers Association presented two very important hospital equipment to the Tinian Health Center last April 16. The hospital equipment include

one Pulmo Aid Nebulization System and one large wheelchair that will come in handy as the hospital steps up its services to the local population on Tinian.

This will be the second wheelchair donated by the volunteers since the last one donated four years ago, the Association said in a news release.

CHC Volunteers Association members Susan Schwarz, Lupe Sabino, Rita Tenorio and Rose White

and young volunteer Coral Wonenberg, went to Tinian to deliver the equipment requested by the Tinian hospital administration.

The equipment were purchased by the Volunteers Association as part of their ongoing charitable assistance to the government-operated health centers in the Commonwealth.

The association extends sincere appreciation to the generous individuals and companies who contributed to the Volunteers Association in one form or another.

Also, the association thanks the staff and management of the Commonwealth Health Center and the general public for patronizing the CHC Gift Shop.

It is through the generous support and donations of our people that the volunteers are able to continue their dedicated services.

"We're on phase two of the project. As to the status of the construction, it is about 65 percent finished," Villanueva told the Variety.

The stray animal area is within a 4,000 square meters of land, while the one-storey office building is 20 x 30 meters in size. Meanwhile, the construction of the kennel which will shelter the

stray dogs, is still pending due to some changes in its previous floor plan. Construction is expected to start before the month of May ends.

"What we're looking at is that, instead of a straight-shaped building, it will be an L-shaped," said Villanueva.

The kennel, which was originally planned to have 25 dog compartments, will now have 30 compartments. The facility can house more than 100 dogs.

Dogs will be segregated according to their breed, or whether they are sick or not. Dogs without tag or leash are considered stray, as well as those which have tags but room in public and private properties.

Villanueva said that once the construction of the kennel is finished, it is not surprising if people will voluntarily bring in their dogs, or get to see a box of puppies within the area.

Guam high school senior wins Presidential Scholar Award

By Sara Grant
Variety News Staff

SANTA RITA, Guam-How did Neil Weare feel when Governor Carl T. C. Gutierrez came into his art class at Southern High School yesterday to proclaim it "Neil Weare Day?"

"Shocked and surprised," said the seventeen year-old senior and recent winner of the 1998 Presidential Scholar Award.

Neil and his classmates were working quietly on a mural project when the Governor and an entourage of press and officials surprised them at the end of the school day.

The Governor declared Wednesday, May 6th, "Neil Weare Day" on Guam, and presented the student with a proclamation.

Gutierrez announced that by receiving the Presidential award, "Neil has brought honor to his school, the island of Guam and most importantly, his family."

Only 141 out of 2.5 million graduating seniors receive this prestigious award which signifies excellence in education and promise of greatness in young people.

The scholars are chosen on the basis of their accomplishments in many areas including academic and artistic success, leadership, and involvement in school and the community.

Students may not apply individually for the award, nor may their schools nominate them. One reason Neil originally qualified for the award was because of his high score on the SAT test.

To be considered further, students must submit other materials such as essays, high school transcripts, and teacher recommendations.

Neil's parents, Dr. Bill and Nancy Weare, were present yesterday afternoon for the Governor's surprise visit. Mrs. Weare explained, "We are so honored by this." The Weares have quite a bit to be proud of.

Here are a few of Neil's scholastic achievements: number one in his class at Southern High, two time all island Academic Challenge Bowl member, National Merit Scholarship winner, and a member of the National Honor Society.

Neil has also excelled in athletics. He is currently the reigning all island champion runner for the 800 meter, 1,500 meter, and 3000 kilometer races.

He has qualified for the Micronesia Games and he plays varsity soccer.

As part of the United States Presidential Scholars Program, students select teachers who have influenced them the most, and in Mid

Continued on page 9



CHC Volunteers led by Susan Schwarz (right) deliver the equipment to Mayor Francisco M. Borja (from right) and Tinian health officials. (CHC Volunteers photo)

Red Cross stresses on disaster awareness

EACH YEAR, American Red Cross nationwide responds to more than 60,000 disasters—houses or apartment fires, typhoons, floods, earthquakes, tornadoes, hazardous material spills and other natural and man-made disasters.

The number of disasters has increased over the past five years.

In fact, the CNMI alone responded to several typhoons in the last quarter of 1997, the local chapter said in a news release.

"All chapters of the American Red Cross, including the Northern Mariana Islands Chapter, continually work to be ready to respond when a disaster threatens or strikes," it said.

As part of the Red Cross preparedness for the fast approaching typhoon season in the Pacific, the NMI chapter together with the CNMI Emergency Management Office has conducted disaster response orientations for the islands or Rota, Saipan and Tinian.

Government leaders from each island who are directly involved in disaster services and response, including the Northern Islands Mayor's office, were invited to attend the orientation.

The purpose of this is to discuss the responsibilities of each government agency before, during and after a disaster.

Red Cross will also be conducting leadership training in Administering a Small Disaster Operation. The participants for this training are staff and volunteers from Saipan, Tinian and Rota who will be able to administer operations for no more than thirty families affected.

This is to ensure that assistance to client is given in a timely manner because Red Cross knows "Help Can't Wait."

Anyone wishing more information about preparedness or who wished to volunteer and support Red Cross disaster assistance efforts may contact NMI Chapter at 234-3459 or stop by the office at Airport Road.



Tinian participants to a recent Disaster Response Orientation.

AROUND the Islands

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Stray dog facility up soon

By Haldee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

THE CONSTRUCTION of the Stray Dog Control office at the Kagman area is nearing completion, according to officer-in-charge Edward Villanueva.

"We're on phase two of the project. As to the status of the

construction, it is about 65 percent finished," Villanueva told the Variety.

The stray animal area is within a 4,000 square meters of land, while the one-storey office building is 20 x 30 meters in size.

Meanwhile, the construction of the kennel which will shelter the

stray dogs, is still pending due to some changes in its previous floor plan. Construction is expected to start before the month of May ends.

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Dogs will be segregated according to their breed, or whether they are sick or not. Dogs without tag or leash are considered stray, as

well as those which have tags but room in public and private properties.

Villanueva said that once the construction of the kennel is finished, it is not surprising if people will voluntarily bring in their dogs, or get to see a box of puppies within the area.

Business subjects in HS curriculum urged

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

IN ARDENT attempts to encourage local residents to set up their own businesses, a legislator yesterday urged education officials to include basic business management courses in high school curriculum.

"Previously, they used to offer basic accounting to high school students. That's where the students first really learn how to work with figures with respect to business accounts," said Rep. Oscar Babauta, chairman of the House committee on tourism and commerce.

Babauta is urging educational institutions and school officials to see if either basic accounting or business management can be included as high school subjects.

"I hope that our educational institution, both public and private, could revisit the issue again and probably be amenable and try to offer subjects other than the regular curriculum required," he told Variety.

He added that it will be prudent to include either accounting or business subjects in the high school curriculum "so our children will learn the trading system earlier."

"I think it would be wise to include basic accounting and basic business management in the curriculum. Through prudent management, we can come out victorious," Babauta stressed.

The commerce department was urging more participation to business activities from among the local population, in an effort to pump in more

investments into the Commonwealth's declining economy.

The Department of Commerce is launching a promotional campaign that would make local residents aware how they can become capitalists.

The DOC said many people in the NMI are apparently not aware that they can avail of loans from the Development Authority to start their own businesses.

The commerce department expressed alarm over many investor's failure to pursue with their planned investments.

Acting Commerce Secretary Bernardita T. Palacios earlier urged the legislature to consider the temporary suspension of the new Foreign Investment Law to attract more businesses.

So far, only two foreign investors were given the go signal by the DOC to push through with their projects last year.

Joeten honors Employee of Quarter



J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc. President Clarence Tenorio presents JCTE Employee of the 1998 First Quarter, Raymond B. Sanchez with an award certificate plus a \$200.00 gift certificate. A luncheon was also held on his behalf. Sanchez is a Computer Operator for the Joeten Main Office and has been with the company for three years.

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Guam . . .

Continued from page 8

June, Neil will be traveling to the White House with Southern High School Physics teacher, Sandra Frander, for the Presidential Scholars National Recognition Week.

Neil plans on attending Louis and Clark University in Portland, Oregon, next year, where he has been awarded the Barbara Hirschi Neely Scholarship.

"I want to major in biochemistry and then go into sports medicine," said Neil.

The Weares have lived on Guam for nine years.

Neil has attended Truman Elementary, Piti Middle, Oceanview and Southern High Schools.

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USFW lobbies for bill on endangered species

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff
THE United States Fish and Wildlife Service is urging the CNMI Senate to pass House Bill 11-75, which seeks to prohibit the consumption by elderly people of fish and game which are in the federal list of threatened and endangered species.



Thomas P. Villagomez

The bill has already been passed at the Lower House over two months ago.

Brooks Harper, field supervisor for the Pacific Islands ecoregion, wrote Sen. Thomas P. Villagomez late last month that the passage of the bill and its eventual enactment into law would allow the granting of federal funds for many CNMI programs like the Rota Habitat Conservation Planning project.

Villagomez had asked Harper's help to apply for exemption from the Federal Endangered Species Act's prohibition from the taking of the federally listed green turtle, or hagan.

The green turtle meat has been used to cook a traditional dish served by some Chamorro and Carolinian families during important celebrations like

fiestas. "I understand...you would like...this custom...to be continued by current and future generations," Harper said in his letter.

In response to Villagomez's request, the FWS office on Saipan in turn brought to the attention of the Western Pacific Fishery Management Council (Westpac) and the National Marine Fisheries Service Villagomez's concerns.

Westpac has agreed to organize, together with the National Marine Fisheries, the University of Hawaii Sea Grant, and the FWS a workshop in the CNMI to discuss the findings of a 1977 report that addresses the tra-

ditional use of the green sea turtle in the CNMI.

Under Public Law 8-19, the CNMI Division of Fish and Wildlife is directed to give all confiscated fish and wildlife, including federally listed species, to the Office of the Aging for consumption of senior citizens.

HB 11-75, which would amend PL 8-19, excludes the consumption of federally listed species.

Harper said PL 8-19 violates the Federal Endangered Species Act so that it bars the granting to the CNMI of grants under the section 6 program.

The enactment into law of HB 11-75 will allow the CNMI to receive grants, Harper said.

Harper told Villagomez that his desire for the passage of the bill is not due to any direct benefit that the FWS would derive.

"I see it (passage) as a way to provide the CNMI additional resources to address endangered species conservation needs that can help in resolving longstanding development issues like Rota's agricultural homestead," Harper said.

Non-CNMI residents to pay Managaha fee

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

NON-CNMI residents, even if they are US citizens or Micronesian residents, have to pay a \$3.00 surcharge tax once they disembark on the Managaha Island pier, Mayor Jose C. Sablan said after reviewing House Local Bill 11-7.

The bill seeks to impose a surcharge tax or fees paid by passengers who disembark on the Managaha Island pier.

Although the Mayor agrees on the remaining provisions of the bill, he wants to clarify that FSM and US citizens that do not reside in the CNMI are not exempted from paying fees on the Managaha Island pier.

"Unless there is a constitutional taboo treating FSM citizens as non-residents, I fail to see why they should be exempted from the surcharge tax imposition," Sablan wrote in his letter to Rep. Heinz Hofschneider, author of the said bill.

Sablan added that the bill is "very local in nature" and therefore, "it would not be improper to impose the surcharge tax on all non-CNMI residents."

Vic Pangelinan, Special Advisor to the Mayor, explained to the Variety that "US citizens from Guam, Hawaii, other FSM or mainland who go here as tourists should pay the fee. Only US citizens or FSM citizens who reside in the Common-



Mayor Jose C. Sablan

wealth are exempted from paying the surcharge tax."

The bill, however, falls short of explaining whether non-resident workers in the CNMI are exempted from paying the surcharge tax on the Managaha Island pier.

"This bill does not specifically say 'indigenous people'. To me, if alien workers are defined as a non-resident worker, so be it. The term 'non-resident' would apply to any tourist, but let the legislature work on it," Pangelinan added.

The revenue generated from the imposition of the tax will be used to fund the construction, maintenance and operation of the Saipan Cultural Center and the Saipan Youth Programs, according to the bill.

As required under the law, the mayors from the respective senatorial district are given the opportunity to review and comment on all local bills within 30 days.

Meetings can wait at CRM

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

EVER wondered why the Coastal Resources Management board of directors has not met since January?

"Right now I guess we're in a bit of a state of limbo because we have not called a board meeting recently simply because we're kind of in a situation of transition," CRM acting Director Peter

J. Barlas explained.

Barlas said he's waiting until the transition period is finalized and the situation stabilizes, "which I think is going to be in the near future."

"As soon as that happens, we're going to go ahead and get together as a new board since the governor is poised to go ahead," Barlas said.

Barlas added that he was glad a

new secretary has been appointed at the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

He explained that the DLNR secretary is the most important member of the board in relation to the CRM.

The last time the CRM called a meeting of the board was last Jan. 7 when Jack Aguon was acting director.

Barlas also pointed out that the

CRM operations have not been impaired at all, as the office continues with permitting process for permit applications of various projects.

These permit applications for the major siting projects are circulated to the board members who are the heads of the DLNR, the Department of Commerce, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Division of Environ-

mental Quality, and the Historic Preservation Office.

Barlas also said that the monthly board meetings called by Barlas' predecessor, Manuel Sablan, were made as a matter of policy.

"It's not a regulatory requirement that we have board meetings," Barlas said, adding that he will reinstate the policy "as soon as we have a more stable situation."

'Deadwoods' have to go, says Zachares

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

ACTING Labor and Immigration Secretary Mark Zachares yesterday expressed hopes the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) can identify "deadwoods" in his department so that proper action can be taken to optimize its workforce.

Speaking before businessmen during a regular meeting of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce (SCC), Zachares hinted that there may be deadwoods at the Department of Labor and Immigration (DOLI), saying he is "hopeful" an ongoing audit of its staff by the Office of Personnel Management (OPM) can weed them out.

Zachares referred to deadwoods as workers whose employment has outgrown its necessity.

"I am for streamlining. It is a necessity for government," said Zachares.

Zachares described the deadwoods as a "drain in the morale and efficiency" of the department.

His remarks came at the heels of mounting calls by the business community for government to trim down its bureaucracy.

The calls were made after Capitol Hill recently sent off signals indicating that more business taxes, meant to replenish government's coffers, are in the offing.

The Chamber has repeatedly expressed concerns on reports showing that 70 percent of government's operations goes to salaries of public sector workers.

Concerns were raised too after the Department of Finance (DOF) recently revealed that the previous administration spent \$12 million in overtime expenses during fiscal year 1997. Half of this amount was used up by the Department of Public Safety (DPS).

The new administration is currently investigating whether there had been an abuse of regulations on overtime work.

Zachares meantime said he has started implementing "severe" austerity measures in his department.

"We'll see some belt-tightening," he assured.

Jetski operator meted a fine by CRM for 'overspeeding'

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

A JETSKI operator has been fined \$500 by the Coastal Resources Management for overspeeding in a restricted zone in the Saipan Lagoon.

It was the first time this year

that the CRM slapped a fine against a jetski operator.

According to the CRM, the erring jetski operated by Marianas Aqua Sports, Inc., was monitored Tuesday morning in the beach fronting the Dai-Ichi Hotel.

The CRM enforcement offic-

ers on a routine monitoring allegedly saw a Marianas Aqua Sports staffer launch a jetski into the water and operating it at a high speed and making 90-degree maneuvering within the 200-yard zone.

Continued on page 24



ENGROSSED. Acting Labor and Immigration Secretary Mark Zachares and Antonio Pellegrino, Vice Chair of the Saipan Chamber of Commerce (SCC) minding their own business during yesterday's SCC regular meeting at the Hyatt Hotel. Photo by Marvic C. Munar

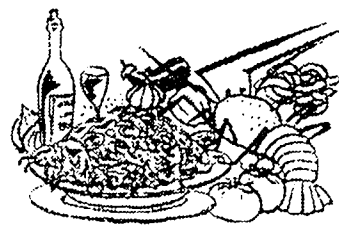
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**Fiji analyst says:
Year 2000 computer
glitch to cost billions**

SUVA (Pacnews)—Fiji Development Bank analyst Keith Mason says the Year 2000 computer problem has the potential to close businesses in Fiji and badly affect the national economy.

The problem is that instead of reading the year as 2000, computers may assume the year is 1900 or zero-zero.

Mason pointed out to South Pacific Forum Information Technology experts meeting in Suva last week that a recent government survey in Australia found that only ten percent of all companies with revenue of over one billion Australian dollars were in Year 2000 compliance.

Fifteen percent of the companies, he added, are at risk of failure. In the United States, a banking regulatory body already has found that 21 banks cannot survive Year 2000 problems and have been told to shut down.

These problems are caused, says Mason, by computer hardware and software using two digits to identify the year instead of four. The Fiji Development Bank computer programmer emphasised that Year 2000 crisis "is very real and potentially very costly."

Each line of computer code will have to be examined and changes made. In many cases, chips—as found in cash registers—will have to be replaced.

Litigation over the matter has already begun.

**RP is no longer 'Sick
Man of Asia'— report**

CANBERRA, Australia (AP)—The Philippines is weathering the Asian economic crisis better than many of its neighbors and a devalued currency should improve its trade, according to an Australian government report released Monday.

The Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade report said the image of the Philippines as "the sick man of Asia" is out of date. It said an over-valued peso had been holding back the Philippines trade for years, but this had changed because of the regional economic crisis.

Like most other regional currencies, the Philippine peso was devalued sharply when the crisis hit in the second half of 1997.

The report said that by March 1998 the peso had regained much of the ground it lost, with its value against the U.S. dollar just 40 percent less than it was in July last year.

In trade weighted terms the fall is just 29 percent, the report said. "Over-valuation was a major reason the Philippines failed to achieve east Asian-style growth in the 1960s, 1970s and 1980s," the report said.

"It made Philippine exports uncompetitive, slowing output and employment growth. Hence the peso's devaluation should substantially improve the trade balance, which has been chronic for decades."

However, the report noted that public and private foreign debt in the Philippines totals U.S. \$ 58 billion (Australian dollars 90 billion), U.S. \$ 15 billion (Austra-

lian dollars 13 billion) of which is short term debt.

High interest rates, a narrow tax base and high population growth are all still major problems in the Philippines, it said.

The report predicts around 2 percent economic growth in the Philippines in 1998, down from 5.5 percent last year.

Reforms in bank regulation, fiscal management, taxation enforcement, trade and investment liberalization and agriculture are needed to increase the growth rate.

"This will be essential to raise the economy's growth performance to the 7 to 8 percent needed to progressively raise living standards for the mass of the population and to strengthen the economy's resilience to major external shocks," the report said.

Front-liners ready-- Pentagon

By SUSANNE M. SCHAFER WASHINGTON (AP) — While front-line U.S. military units are ready to go to war, maintaining a high level of preparedness among the entire 1.4 million-man fighting force remains "a challenge," the Defense Department's spokesman said Tuesday.

Responding to recent reports of spare part shortages in the field and undermanned units, Pentagon officials said the military is still able to fulfill its required capability of fighting two major regional conflicts at nearly the same time.

Defense Secretary William Cohen and the chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Gen. Henry H. Shelton, "believe that the first-to-fight forces are highly ready and are prepared to go when and where they have to go; and that maintaining readiness throughout the force is a challenge."

speaking on condition of anonymity, several military officers joined Bacon in stressing that while problems exist in secondary and tertiary units, those who are slated to be the first into battle stand ready to do what the nation requires.

with military funding in the waning days of this fiscal year. "It's a challenge that is being addressed aggressively by the services today. ...Key to being able to maintain readiness is congressional action on several pieces of legislation," Bacon said.

Congress is working on the 1999 defense budget, and action remains to be taken on several other items dealing

Senate urged: Ratify nuke accords

By LAURA MYERS WASHINGTON (AP) — Citing growing support in Russia for approval of an arms-control treaty, President Bill Clinton's national security adviser urged the Senate to ratify a package of agreements to ban nuclear testing and limit weapons and missile defense systems.

"The future of arms control is now," Sandy Berger said Tuesday in a speech to a pro-defense business group. "We must not let this extraordinary opportunity slip away."

Berger, who leaves for Moscow on Wednesday to prepare for a meeting next week between Clinton and

Russian President Boris Yeltsin, said the administration's goal is to see approval of the pacts by year's end.

They include the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty and an updated Anti-Ballistic Missile Defense Treaty, as well as amendments to the START II nuclear weapons reduction agreement that would give Russia more time to destroy missiles.

Senate leaders, particularly Foreign Relations Committee Chairman Jesse Helms, have been withholding consideration of the treaties until after Russian lawmakers ratify START II.


Some Republicans also oppose changes to the 1972 ABM treaty that would prevent development of a national missile defense system and argue against banning nuclear tests, saying it would be difficult to verify.

In January, Helms wrote Clinton that the test ban treaty — approved by 149 nations, including all declared nuclear powers except the United States — had no chance of entering into force for at least a decade.

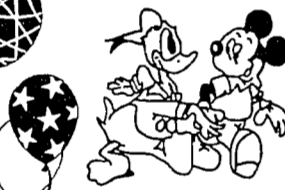
Pressing the Senate for swift ratification, he added, would be "exceedingly unwise."

On the ABM treaty, Helms questioned the need for it. "It is vital that the Senate conduct a thorough review," he said.

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Philippine President Fidel Ramos leans back to greet the crowd as he conducts a surprise motorcade to campaign for his chosen Presidential candidate Jose De Venecia late Monday afternoon in Manila. The president is actively campaigning for the ruling candidate, who is lagging behind in most of the surveys for next Monday's national elections. AP

RP inflation rises to 7.9% in April

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Inflation in the Philippines rose to 7.9 percent in April from 7.3 percent the previous month on a year-to-year basis but stayed comfortably within the government's annual target.

A widely expected rise in food prices, which account for a large chunk of the consumer price index, boosted the inflation rate, according to figures released by the government Tuesday.

Food costs rose 5.5 percent in April on an annual basis compared to 4.5 percent in March. But the increase in fuel and utility prices declined to 7.7 percent from 8.4 percent, and economists said stable international oil prices are likely to keep fuel costs in check in coming months.

The main inflation worry is whether the El Nino weather condition will result — as some fear — in abnormally low rainfall during this year's rainy season, which should have started this month.

Peregrine Securities (Phils.) Inc. chief economist Luz Lorenzo said failed harvests could put heavy pressure on food prices, which have already risen in recent months, partly because of the weaker peso, which makes imported products more expensive.

Earlier concerns that unbridled campaign spending would cause a sharp surge in consumer prices are unlikely to materialize, economists now believe.

With only days to go before the May 11 election, Philippine markets have largely discounted the expected election victory of Vice President Joseph Estrada, an opposition candidate who leads in opinion polls.

Some business groups worry that Estrada, a former movie star, may not be able to lead the Philippines to continued strong economic growth.

The April data raised hopes that inflation, while expected to rise somewhat in coming months, won't reach double digit levels this year.

Average inflation for the first four months of the year was 7.3 percent, which central bank Governor Gabriel Singson noted is well below the government's 1998 inflation target of between 7.5 and 8.5 percent.

"Overall price developments remain encouraging, although the economy has gone through a traumatic period of peso depreciation and higher interest rates," Singson said.

He said the central bank expects relative price stability over the rest of the year as monetary authorities stick to their "sound" policies.

"I remain confident that we will be able to meet our inflation target for the rest of the year," he said.

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Elsewhere in the Pacific New Caledonia embarks on path towards independence

NOUMEA, New Caledonia (AP) — The French territory of New Caledonia has embarked on a surprising chapter of its history by seeking — peacefully — to end the violence that has torn at the Pacific island nation for years.

On Tuesday, French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin and the leaders of separatist and anti-independence forces signed an agreement that could lead to an amicable divorce from France by the year 2018.

All of those involved hope the gradual transition toward independence will help New Caledonia avoid a new round of bloodshed in its search for statehood.

New Caledonia is one of the few French territories that survived the great wave of decolonization during the 1950s and 1960s, when France lost the vast majority of its colonies, primarily in Asia and Africa, often as the result of wars.

Attached to France in 1853, the archipelago is located in the middle of the Pacific Ocean, 20,000 kilometers



Lionel Jospin

(12,350 miles) from Paris. France views New Caledonia as a strategic political and economic asset.

The territory has about 30 percent of the world's nickel reserves.

Fierce riots and political killings in the 1980s stunned the French and galvanized the search for a peaceful solution to the islands' political status.

Jean-Jacques Queyranne, the French State Secretary for Overseas Territories, accompanied Jospin to

New Caledonia this week for the signing ceremony. He attributed the current agreement to the pragmatism of all parties involved.

Under the agreement, a referendum will be held in December on a transition period of "shared sovereignty" for the archipelago, to be followed in 2018 by a second referendum on self-determination.

"It is a compromise that doesn't totally satisfy us," said Rock Wamnytan, president of the pro-independence forces on New Caledonia.

However, Wamnytan said the agreement was "acceptable" because it would facilitate the archipelago's preparation for full independence.

"For us, there will sooner or later be independence here in 15 to 20 years. Our concern, our vision for the future, is to ensure that a community with a future emerges."

About 152,000 people live in New Caledonia. Nearly half are native to the islands, while about one-third are of European origin. The rest of from other parts of Polynesia.

Solomons hopes for lasting peace deal in Bougainville

HONIARA (Pacnews)—Solomon Islands police commissioner, Frank Short, says security treats posed to Solomon Islands by the nine-year war on Bougainville has exhausted the local security force's budget over the past years.

When giving a brief security overview of the country to the Solomon Islands/New Zealand Security Mutual Assistance Programme talks in Honiara Tuesday, Short expressed the hope that the ceasefire agreement signed April 30 will result in a lasting peace, SIBC reports.

He says although the agreement was boycotted by the Ona faction, he believed that lasting peace can be achieved when talks resume in June this year.

Short says while the Solomon Islands' western border has been quiet in the last few weeks and deployment of force reduced, the country cannot afford to be complacent.

He says the para-military police needs to be "well equipped, well trained, kept motivated and effectively and ably commanded."

American Samoan official cited for contempt of court

PAGO PAGO (Pacnews)—The commissioner of public safety in American Samoa, Teo Fuavai, has been found in contempt of court for the release of a defendant who escaped from authorities while awaiting a court appearance.

Teo has been ordered to pay \$US100. Defendant Timo Gasio who was convicted of felony driving, slipped out a side door and escaped, before he was to appear in court. The court heard Gasio fled to the home of Commissioner Teo to seek his assistance for his release.

Gasio who is from the same village as the Commissioner, told the court that he had been released on orders from the Commissioner.

Mahathir woos investment



Mahathir Mohamad

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysia's foreign minister urged American companies Tuesday to invest more in Southeast Asia to help the region tide over its economic crisis.

"We need the support and understanding of friendly countries like the U.S., particularly the private sector, which are key players in the market," Abdullah Ahmad Badawi said at a meeting with a delegation of American businessmen.

But speaking at a different forum, of his own party activists, Abdullah's boss, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, struck a different note.

Explosion on navy ship kills 4 sailors

PERTH, Australia (AP) — Four sailors died Tuesday in an explosion and fire on Australia's largest naval ship, a spokesman said.

"They were working on part of the machinery and were in the immediate area where the fire flashed out," the spokesman said.

A fuel leak is blamed for the explosion which began a 90-minute blaze.

Fire broke out in the machinery room and spread to the bilges of the transport ship HMAS Westralia during trials eight nautical miles (15 kilometers) off the coast of Western Australia state, Royal Australian Navy spokesman Vic Jeffery said.

The four killed — three men and one woman — died in the engine room.

Five of the ship's 60 crew members were reported injured and had been airlifted by helicopter to a hospital in the state capital, Perth, suffering smoke inhalation and minor burns.

The fire has been contained and the crew will remain aboard, Jeffery said. Fire in the the bilges was brought under control by flooding the hold with foam.

The Westralia, a supply ship, refuels other ships at sea and weighs 40,870 metric tons fully loaded.

The ship played a key role in the Southern Ocean rescues of solo yachtsmen Tony Bullimore of Britain and Thierry Dubois of France in January 1997 when it refueled the HMAS Adelaide, enabling the frigate to reach the men faster by using both engines.

Fiji to sell more Air Pacific shares

SUVA (Pacnews)—The Fiji government Tuesday agreed to sell more Air Pacific shares to the Australian airline, Qantas, which will now hold a total of 49 percent of shares in the Fiji carrier.

Government will retain the majority 51 percent share, Island Networks Corporation reports.

Information Minister Senator Filipe Bole told a cabinet news conference that shares worth \$F20 million (\$US10m) will be sold to Qantas, whose offer was better than American Airways and Air New Zealand.

He says the sale and purchase agreement between the two airlines is expected to be signed today.

Pacific isles hail accord in Noumea

CANBERRA (Pacnews)—Pacific leaders have hailed the Noumea Accord on the political future of New Caledonia and it may lead to the French territory's participation in the South Pacific Forum.

Chairman of the Forum and Cook Islands Prime Minister Sir Geoffrey Henry says that New Caledonia may be given observer status at the South Pacific Forum, Radio Australia reports.

He says that although membership of the Forum was not open to Territories or Colonies, the Noumea Accord was an irreversible step towards independence.

Henry says that once the changes to implement the accord had been made, New Caledonia may be given observer status. Sir Geoffrey was one of 20 Pacific leaders who attended the historic signing.

French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin and rival separatist and pro-French groups signed the accord Tuesday in the New Caledonian capital launching the territory on the path to autonomy.

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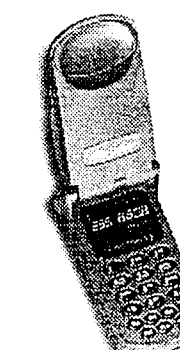
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HIV infection on the rise in Hong Kong

HONG KONG (AP) — The number of reported cases of HIV infection in Hong Kong has risen to 1,005, with 48 new cases reported in the first three months of 1998, Hong Kong's Department of Health said Tuesday.

Thirteen new AIDS cases were reported in the same period, bringing total AIDS cases to 322. HIV often develops into full-blown AIDS.

Reporting of both HIV and AIDS is voluntary in Hong Kong, a territory of 6.5 million people.

Heterosexual transmission was the main route of infection, with just one homosexual transmission for every five heterosexual transmissions, the government said.

And men were four times as likely to pass HIV infection to their female partners than were women to their male partners, it said.

Cell phone business is booming in Singapore

SINGAPORE (AP) — Mobile phones are becoming increasingly popular in affluent Singapore, where over a quarter of the population now totes the trendy devices, the republic's communications minister said Tuesday.

The number of Singaporeans using mobile phones has nearly doubled from 14 percent of the population a year ago to 27 percent today.

Pager subscribers have risen to about 44 percent of the population, the minister, Mah Bow Tan, said at a ceremony awarding licenses to operate new fixed and mobile phone services.

"In terms of cellular and paging penetration, we are now among the highest in the world," the minister said.

Mah attributed the boost in business to rising affluence and the gradual liberalization of Singapore's monopolistic telecommunications industry.

"The start of competition in mobile communication services marked the beginning of a new era for Singapore's telecoms industry," he noted. "Consumer demand for mobility and communication increases with affluence."

Singapore's regulatory body, the Telecommunications Authority of Singapore, awarded permits to operate a fixed line service and a mobile network, both to a consortium called StarHub.

It comprises British Telecom, Japan's NTT, and local partners Singapore Power and Singapore Technologies Industrial.

StarHub said it hopes to garner 35 to 60 percent of Singapore's fixed line market and at least 25 percent of the mobile phone market after it begins operating in April 2000.

Currently Singapore Telecom, 89 percent government-owned, has a monopoly on basic phone services, and shares the mobile phone market with a private company, Mobile One.

Mah stressed that Singapore is "committed to the liberalization of our telecommunication sector and it will not stop in the year 2000" when StarHub will initiate services.

Singapore: More raids vs piracy

SINGAPORE (AP) — Averaging 15 raids a day, businesses and law enforcement authorities in Singapore have seized 100,000 items of pirated software and CDs this year, according to local news reports Tuesday.

Singapore authorities have announced recent changes in copyright laws and stepped up raids on sellers and manufacturers of the illegal items in the last few weeks.

The U.S. Trade Representative had been threatening to place the republic on a watch list because sales of pirated items are increasing in Singapore and there are more cases of the wares being shipped elsewhere from the island.

During the televised destruction Monday of a pile of 40,000 pirated compact discs, CD-Roms and video CDs, the minister of state for law and home affairs, Ho Peng Kee, gave the figures on raids and seized items for the first quarter of the year.

He and other government officials have given repeated speeches defending Singapore's efforts to enforce intellectual property rights.

But American officials want the government to do more, and on Saturday, U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshefsky, put Singapore on the Watch List of 32 countries where intellectual property rights are endangered.

"Levels of (intellectual property rights) protection in Singapore exceed those of other countries in the Asia-Pacific region," the U.S. report said. "However, recent trends indicate that piracy, particularly CD-based copyright infringement, and transshipment are growing."

A notable deficiency is Singapore's self-policing copyright enforcement policy, which is outdated and ineffective.

"The government has shown a willingness in recent months to enforce the copyright laws itself rather than leave the responsibility to right holders," the report said.


"We will closely monitor developments to determine whether this trend continues and whether a proposed new voluntary industry code of conduct for CD producers reduces piracy."



German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, right, welcomes the Senior Minister of the Republic of Singapore, Lee Kuan Yew, left, prior to their talks on the bilateral relations of their countries in the Bonn Chancellery Tuesday. AP



Office of the Job Training Partnership Act
Office of the Governor



PUBLIC NOTICE
April 27, 1998

SUMMER JOB


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DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS **FRIDAY, MAY 08, 1998**. NO APPLICATION WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE ESTABLISHED DATE.

APPLICATION CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE **MHS COUSELOR'S OFFICE** OR THE **JTPA OFFICE** LOCATED DIRECTLY ACROSS CUC. FOR INQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT MR. MARTIN PANGELINAN OR MRS. LAURENT T. CHONG AT 664-1700/4.

/s/ FELIX R. NOGIS
JTPA EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR



Dock workers to return to jobs

By ROHAN SULLIVAN SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Almost a month to the day after their firing triggered a battle that brought many Australian ports to a standstill, all 1,400 union dock workers dismissed by Patrick Stevedores are expected to return to work Wednesday.

Financial administrators for Patrick employment companies said after a day of talks with the Maritime Union of Australia and the federal government that while a plan for the long-term survival of the company's port operations had not been reached, the docks will open.

"We expect the work force to recommence operations from tomorrow after resolving two small operational and safety issues," administrator, the accountancy firm Grant Thornton, said in a statement.

The restart will end union pickets and blockades which have frozen Patrick docks for a month, reducing movement off Australian ports by about 30 percent and producing a backlog of a reported 10,000 containers and other imports.

The pickets were in response to Patrick's firing of all of its unionized work force on April 7, when private security guards with attack dogs moved in to lock out dock workers and protect about 370 nonunion replacement workers.

Tuesday's meetings follow a ruling Monday by the High Court, which upheld an earlier court ruling that Patrick Stevedores' Holdings Pty. Ltd. had acted illegally in firing the workers just because they were union members and affirmed the lower court's order that they be rehired.

But the court, the nation's highest, gave the administrators unfettered powers to operate the docks along commercial lines, which the government claims includes discretion to hire nonunion labor or put the Patrick companies into liquidation.

The administrators have given themselves a deadline of May 25

Nicaraguan ...

Continued from page 2

National Police anti-drug chief Carlos Palacios and subcommissioners Clarence Silva Montenegro, Domingo Navas and Ramon Cortez.

The immigration director, Carlos Garcia, is being investigated in connection with the death of 19 Ecuadorian immigrants in accidents in recent weeks while crossing Nicaragua on the way to the United States.

to work out a plan to offer Patrick's creditors demonstrating the company's ports are economically viable.

"There is a lot of work ahead of us to get the parties to form a workable deed of arrangement," the administrators said.

"Whether or not this comes about is dependent on the goodwill of the parties and their propensity to compromise."

Workplace Relations Minister Peter Reith has threatened to withhold promised money to pay out dock workers unless the union agrees to radical reform, including reducing the overall numbers of workers and the hiring of some nonunion labor.

Union boss John Coombs said after Tuesday's meeting job losses had not been discussed, but that the union had already agreed to accept some voluntary pay outs.

The union has agreed to defer payment for its workers for two weeks until Patrick's cash flow resumes, which the administrators said allowed them to rehire all 1,400 on a short-term basis.



Sacked waterside workers cheer on the East Swanson Docks in Melbourne, Australia, Monday after the announcement by the High Court of Australia that they must be rehired by Patrick Stevedores, who fired the entire work force of 1,400 on April 7. AP




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Hun Sen, Ranariddh talk



Cambodian Co-Premiers Hun Sen, center, Ung Huot, left, and few others vote for a proposal to amend the electoral law Tuesday. Strongman Hun Sen climbed down from his refusal to speak to his archrival Prince Norodom Ranariddh and telephoned him to break an unexpected deadlock in parliament over coming elections. AP

By ROBIN McDOWELL
PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — Cambodian strongman Hun Sen backtracked Tuesday on his pledge not to speak to his archrival, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, and telephoned him for the first time since deposing him as co-premier in a coup last July.

Meanwhile, in northern Cambodia, battle lines appeared to be static between Khmer Rouge guerrillas trapped on high ground near the border with Thailand against government forces slowed by land mines and concentrated fire.

Hun Sen called Ranariddh and persuaded him to suspend a boycott of the National Assembly by

opposition legislators that prevented a quorum in the body Hun Sen has controlled with little trouble since the coup.

The climbdown marked a quick political victory by Ranariddh after returning from Monday from exile following two shorter trips marred by security concerns.

The boycott marked the biggest — and most successful — show of opposition defiance in months.

Ranariddh ordered enough legislators to return to parliament so election laws could be passed, 80-5, setting May 18 as the start of registration.

Separately, Hun Sen agreed to changes in vote counting de-

manded by the opposition to reduce chances of ballot fraud.

Hun Sen's reversal of his vow never to speak to Ranariddh unless he dropped the title of first prime minister showed his willingness to compromise to hold elections July 26 in a bid to win back legitimacy and foreign aid lost after his coup.

"I told him that we will meet next time, no problem," Hun Sen told reporters. "Anytime, but secret ... we must cooperate for the benefit of the nation ... Our only enemy is Pol Pot."

Pol Pot led the Khmer Rouge regime between 1975 and 1979 that caused the deaths of as many as 2 million people.

He died April 15 of a purported

heart attack amid the government military offensive against die-hard guerrillas.

The Khmer Rouge have had a working alliance with small, pro-Ranariddh forces in northern Cambodia since the coup.

Both have struggled to survive attacks by Hun Sen's larger army.

Hun Sen claimed that Gen. Khan Savoeun, the number-two commander of pro-Ranariddh forces, was coming to Phnom Penh to discuss peace and reintegrating royalist troops into the army.

Japan, instrumental in arranging Ranariddh's return to Phnom Penh, was playing a role in the Khan Savoeun talks, Hun Sen said.

Hun Sen suggested the top royalist commander, Gen. Nhek Bunchhay, might receive an amnesty so far refused to him should he allow the reintegration.

Thai military officers, speaking on condition of anonymity, said that some 500 pro-Ranariddh fighters had left their stronghold of O'Smach on the Thai border to fight alongside the guerrillas.

A pro-Ranariddh soldier was carried Tuesday into Thailand for

treatment for a severe head wound.

Cambodian Defense Minister Tea Banh said that it remained unclear exactly where the Khmer Rouge leaders were, however, and how many troops they still controlled.

"Generally speaking, the area that used to be under the control of the Khmer Rouge now belongs to the government," Tea Banh said. "We have reached almost everywhere."

A Khmer Rouge officer claimed that fighting was being waged at various spots along a 10-kilometer (7-mile) stretch of the border and that 14 pro-government troops had been killed Monday.

Speculation has been building that the top Khmer Rouge chieftains in the wake of Pol Pot's death — Ta Mok, Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan — are divided, with Ta Mok preferring to fight while the others want to come under Nhek Bunchhay's command in the hope of striking a peace deal with Hun Sen.

But Nhek Bunchhay would be under pressure to turn them over to trial for crimes against humanity, though no court has been created to try them.

Airline cancels flights to Jakarta, Kuala Lumpur

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Australian airline Ansett Holdings Ltd. said Tuesday it will suspend its daily service to Jakarta and Kuala Lumpur from May 31 as a result of "considerable losses" on the route.

"The decision has been heavily influenced by the worsening economic conditions created by the Asian currency crisis and an over-supply of capacity in the region," Ansett said in a statement.

The airline said the suspension of the service will lead to redundancies for 27 flight attendants and a total of 63 ground

staff in Indonesia and Malaysia.

The airline said it plans to continue to travel to its other Asian destinations: Hong Kong, Osaka, Shanghai and Taipei.

In January, Ansett canceled its service to South Korea as travel to Australia by Asian tourists plummeted in the wake of the Asian economic crisis.

In addition, as travel to Bali by Australian tourists climbed, spurred by the weakness of Indonesia's rupiah, Ansett in March added two new flights to Denpasar from Australia.



Deposed co-premier Prince Norodom Ranariddh, center, greets his supporters upon his arrival at the Phnom Penh airport Monday. Ranariddh returned from exile to prepare his severely weakened royalist party for elections called by his archrival Hun Sen, who deposed him in a bloody coup last July. AP

China raps India defense chief

BEIJING (AP) — China lashed out Tuesday at India's defense minister for describing Beijing as his country's biggest military threat, and said the comment could hurt chances of improved diplomatic ties.

Foreign Ministry spokesman Zhu Bangzao said China always worked for friendly relations with its neighbors, including India and Pakistan, and "does not pose any threat to any countries."

"The so-called argument that China is the biggest potential threat to India is absolutely ridiculous and is not worthy of

refutation," Zhu said at a twice-weekly briefing for reporters.

In a television interview broadcast Monday, Indian Defense Minister George Fernandes said China has surrounded India with military installations and stockpiled nuclear weapons in Tibet along the Indian border.

"I think there is a reluctance to face the reality that China's intentions need to be questioned," he said.

Fernandes also claimed that the Chinese army trained and equipped forces of neighbor-



George Fernandes

ing Myanmar, also known as Burma, and set up spy equipment at Myanmar's Coco Is-

lands, 40 kilometers (25 miles) from the northern tip of Andaman and Nicobar, a cluster of Indian islands east of the mainland in the Bay of Bengal.

Zhu, the Chinese spokesman, dismissed those claims "utterly fictitious and entirely baseless."

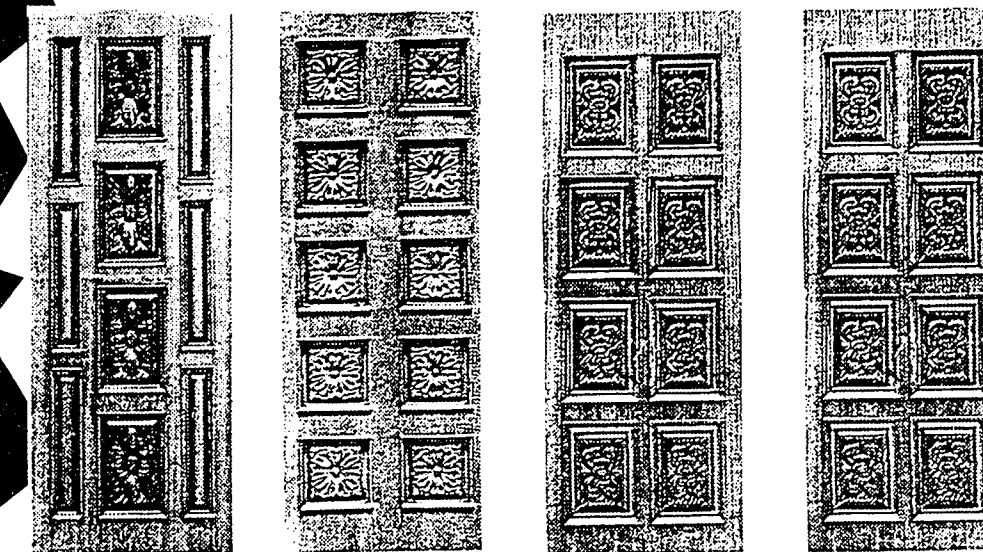
"The remarks by Fernandes seriously sabotage the favorable atmosphere for improving bilateral relations between China and India," he said. "China cannot but express its utmost regret and resentment."

Fernandes' accusations came

days after the first visit to India by a chief of China's People's Liberation Army. Gen. Fu Quanyou's talks with Fernandes and other Indian leaders were a sign of improved ties between the two countries. Two weeks ago, Fernandes accused China of repeatedly entering a frontier area in the north-eastern state of Arunachal Pradesh, where the nations fought a war in 1962.

Indian-Chinese relations have improved in recent years, but differences remain over their disputed border, despite 10 rounds of talks since 1988.

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DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT



ANTONIO SANTOS SABLAN, JR.
 "Jun-Jun"

Date of Birth: February 7, 1985 Died: April 30, 1998

Survived by:
 PARENTS: Antonio M. Sablan & Marian T. Santos
 BROTHER: Thomas S. Sablan
 SISTER: Trinna Victoria S. Sablan
 GRANDPARENTS:
 Antonio B. Santos (deceased) & Trinidad T. Santos
 Gregorio S. Sablan & Victoria P. Manibusan (deceased)

Additionally survived by numerous uncles, aunts & cousins.

Rosary will be held at Mr. & Mrs. Serafin P. Tudela's (Antonia) residence in As Teo on Thursday, May 7, 1998 at 8:00PM. On May 8, 1998, Friday, Rosary will be held at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 11:00AM.

Last respect may be paid on May 8, 1998 from 8:00AM. to 2:30pm. Mass of a Christian burial will be held at Mount Carmel Cathedral at 3:00PM. Interment will follow at the Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Thank you for all your support & prayers.

FROM THE FAMILY

Starr wins another round

By RON FOURNIER
WASHINGTON (AP) — After weeks of reeling beneath a barrage of White House criticism, independent prosecutor Ken Starr is suddenly four-for-four in legal skirmishes against President Bill Clinton.

But don't count out this president, the master of delay — the ultimate survivor.

"When people start using words like 'stonewall' over and over and over again, he will lose standing," predicted A.B. Culvahouse, White House counsel under President Reagan. "So far, he's not paying that price."

Yet the cost of his defense-by-delay rose measurably Tuesday, when word leaked from a federal courthouse in Washington that a judge had short-circuited Clinton's executive privilege claim.

The ruling is under wraps, but the bottom line is that aides Bruce Lindsey and Sidney Blumenthal must answer some questions for a grand jury investigating Clinton's relationship with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky.

Citing the judge's gag order, the president has refused to acknowledge that he has invoked executive privilege — let alone justify his actions. In a remarkable exchange overseas last month, the Clinton dodged reporters' questions by saying aides in Washington were responsible

Prosecutor looking for more Clinton delay tactics

for the executive privilege claim.

This is all part of a larger political strategy to shelter Clinton from comparisons to Richard Nixon, who triggered a constitutional crisis and public uproar by refusing to turn over Watergate tapes until ordered to do so by the Supreme Court.

So far, his strategy has worked. His job approval rating is still at an all-time high and few Americans are telling pollsters they object to the use of executive privilege.

Critics expect him to continue down this same road: Refuse to comment on the legal action — hoping the public won't pay attention — and do what he can to drag the case out.

"I think you can expect the Clinton strategy to continue to be delay, delay, delay, delay," Republican strategist Ralph Reed said. Indeed, presidential lawyers were mulling whether to appeal the judge's ruling — an action that could keep the question up in the air for many more months.

Supporters argue that Clinton is protecting himself from a zealous prosecutor and upholding a critical constitutional privilege. The public understands — or isn't paying any attention, they say.

"Denying the privilege is a significant event. However, the public is wise and they will not make



President Clinton looks on as Sen. Strom Thurmond, R-SC., greets Nancy Reagan, wife of former President Ronald Reagan during a dedication ceremony for the Ronald Reagan Building and International Trade Center in Washington Tuesday. AP

judgments until they know whether or not there were efforts to obstruct justice," said Tom Rauh, a Democratic activist from New Hampshire.

Still, the judge's ruling caps a highly successful run for Starr. In recent days:

- The Whitewater grand jury indicted close Clinton friend Webb Hubbell on Thursday.
- Former Clinton business part-

ner Susan McDougal was indicted Monday.

Republicans hope the executive privilege ruling leaves Clinton one less route out of this mess. Reed called it a "devastating setback for Clinton, because not only is he on the wrong side of history but now he's beginning to lose the only thing that's kept them afloat, which is a sense that they can delay indefinitely coming clean with the facts."

Other GOP officials, particularly lawyers, realize Clinton has many more cards to play.

"I doubt whether it will have much of a political impact but I've been puzzled by the lack of a political impact all along," said William Barr, an attorney general under President Bush.

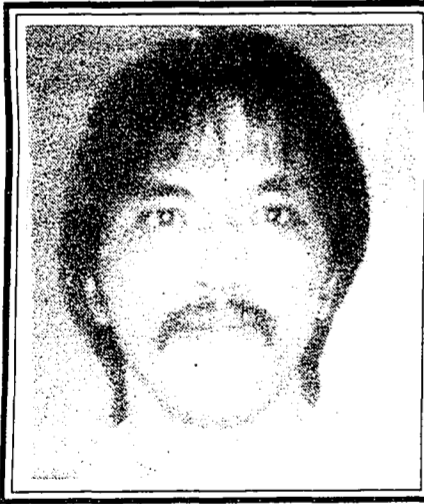
"I've been upset that a lot of the prerogatives of the presidency have been sacrificed for the personal interests of this particular president."

Stephen Gillers, professor of law at New York University, said he was not surprised by the ruling and expects it to be upheld. But that doesn't mean Clinton won't take a few more turns at bat.

"Clinton still has the Secret Service privilege he's created. There's still the spousal privilege. There's attorney-client privilege. There are all types of privileges he has yet to tap. And sure, he could appeal, though he may decide it looks better to let the aides speak," Gillers said. "That's a political decision."

• Monica Lewinsky lost her claim of immunity in a ruling last month that lifted a major roadblock to his inquiry.
• The Clinton administration's unique claim of privilege shielding the testimony of Secret Service officials who guard the president and the White House.

DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT



of Saipan was called to his eternal rest on Thursday, April 30, 1998 at the age of 36 years. In his death he now joins his parents Alejo Terlaje Aldan and Maria Teresa Deleon Guerrero Aldan. Grandfathers Jose S. Deleon Guerrero, Joaquin Pangelinan and Father-in-law, Wanter Kus

His peaceful spirit and memories will live in the hearts of his family.

Wife: Vivian Urumellog Aldan
Children: Jennifer and Ashley
Mother-in-law: Concepcion Urumellog Kus
Grandmother: Concepcion Cabrera Deleon Guerrero
Grandmother: Magdalena Terlaje Pangelinan
Sisters: Lillian DLG and Ambrose Bennet (Peter Jonathan, Shequita, Yvonne & Yvette)
 Jenny Deleon Guerrero Lee and Melvin M. Masga (Luisa, Tanishia, Lea, Nikko & Maya)

Sisters and Brother-in-Law: Antonia Urumellog & Rick Omar (Andrew, Jacklyn, Jethrow, Rick Jr & Jerolyn)
 John, Diego and Bernie DLG. Urumellog (Kimberly, Jonathan, Jocelyn)
 Erna and Jim Uddin (Nacimma, Nashlyn, Apolna)
 Patrick Urumellog
 Rowena Urumellog
 Johnny Joe Urumellog
 Steven Urumellog

He is additionally survived by numerous, nieces, nephews, cousins, aunts, and uncles.

Rosary is being held nightly at 8:00 p.m. at Kristo Rai Chuch in Garapan.
 Last respects may be given May 8, 1998 starting at 8:00 a.m. at Kristo Rai Church.
 Mass of Christian Burial will be at 4:00 p.m. and funeral services will follow immediately at the Mt. Carmel Cemetery.

Dearlly beloved you had passed away.
 But we'll reunite again someday.
 Though its sad to see you go,
 We'll pray our hearts to let you know
 We'll love you forever, with each passing day.
 And in our hearts, your presence will remain.
 For the good and bad times that you stood by us,
 With the lord we leave you.
 Because in the lord we trust.

Luisa Lee

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- ⊙ \$25 Match Play chips
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New Ferry Schedule* (Effective May 03, 1998)

Depart Tinian	Arrive Saipan	Depart Saipan	Arrive Tinian
06:00 AM	06:50 AM	08:00 AM	08:50 AM
09:30 AM	10:20 AM	11:00 AM	11:50 AM
1:30 PM	2:20 PM	3:00 PM	3:50 PM
4:30 PM	5:20 PM	6:30 PM	7:20 PM
8:00 PM	8:50 PM	11:00 PM	11:50 PM
01:00 AM	01:50 AM	02:30 AM	03:20 AM

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- Representative Herman Palacios

Rep. Kim seeks forgiveness

UPLAND, California (AP) — U.S. Rep. Jay Kim sent voters a mailer that begged forgiveness for his campaign contribution con-

viction and included a photo of a dead woman and child from the Korean War to illustrate his difficult past.

The Republican may be seeking voters' sympathy, said Jack Pitney, a Claremont McKenna College professor of government.

"This is the pity campaign," Pitney said. "It will only play if the people of the district want a congressman they can pity."

The mailer arrived Monday a month before the June 2 primary. It contains an emotional recounting of Kim's Korean War experience before he arrived in the United States and became the first Korean-American congressman.

"Having lived the American dream, I wanted to give something back to my country. In my enthusiasm of running for Congress, I neglected the very important mechanics of my campaign financing and broke the law," the mailer said.



Jay Kim

Kim pleaded guilty in August to accepting more than \$250,000 in illegal campaign donations, including some from South Korean corporations.

The three-term congressman faces three Republican challengers at the primary and remains

under investigation by the House ethics committee.

"I hope you will accept my plea not only as an admission of guilt but also as a statement of contrition and that you will afford mercy to me in imposing my sentence," Kim said.

Kim's congressional press secretary, P.J. O'Neil, wouldn't explain what prompted the mailer. Kim's campaign manager did not return a telephone call Tuesday and Kim himself refuses to grant interviews.

Kim was sentenced to one year probation, 200 hours of community service, a \$5,000 fine and two months of home detention.

He is unable to visit his district until mid-June—after the primary—while he serves out a home detention sentence that allows him to serve in Congress while wearing an electronic ankle bracelet.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY PUBLIC NOTICE

May 6, 1998

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the CDA Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA) Board of Directors will hold its regular meeting on Tuesday, May 12, 1998 at 10:00AM. The meeting will be held at the CDA Conference Room, Wakin's Building, Gualo Rai, Saipan.

- AGENDA:
- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - 1. Swearing in of new CDA Board Member
 - 2. Roll Call
 - II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
 - III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
 - 1. February 5, 1998
 - 2. February 18, 1998
 - IV. REPORTS
 - 1. Fund's Availability Report
 - 2. Chairman's/Executive Director's Report
 - V. OLD BUSINESS
 - 1. Pacific Gardenia Hotel
 - 2. NMHC's Letter of January 5, 1998
 - VI. NEW BUSINESS
 - VII. DCD MATTERS
 - 1. Reports
 - 2. Loan Applications
 - 3. Other DCD Matters
 - VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
 - IX. OTHER MATTERS
 - X. ADJOURNMENT

(Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

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

Gore enjoys Intel Corp. conversation

By TED BRIDIS
WASHINGTON (AP) — Vice President Al Gore was in tech heaven Tuesday, wired into a conversation from Beijing with the chairman of Intel Corp., the world's largest maker of com-

puter chips. Gore and Intel's Andrew Grove, who was in China on business, chatted by video conference at an international economics conference in Washington.

As Grove's face was projected on large screens from tiny cameras, Gore quizzed him about "Moore's law," which predicts the regular doubling of power by semiconductor chips.

The theory was first put forward by Gordon Moore, Grove's predecessor as CEO of Intel. Its latest version predicts the number of transistors that the industry can place on a computer chip will double every two years.

Grove said he saw no technical barriers that might disrupt that doubling until at least 2011.

The two also discussed "telemedicine," in which far-away doctors can diagnose patients in rural areas using the latest video and Internet technology, as an example of digital commerce.

"It should be no surprise... that this explosive growth is having



Al Gore

such a big impact on the economy of almost every nation, because information technology has fueled more than a quarter of America's recent startling real economic growth," Gore said.

Gore and Grove have met several times before, and they talk "fairly regularly" by telephone about technology issues, Gore's spokesman said.

Earlier this year, Grove resigned as chief executive officer of the \$25 billion chip maker and will be succeeded by Craig Barrett, who takes over as CEO later this month.

Reyes . . .

Continued from page 1

could save a considerable amount of money if it switches to Northwest.

"There's nothing wrong in making a choice, particularly now that the government is (cash-strapped)," Reyes said.

Even if Continental would take away the travel privileges it gives to CNMI government officials, savings from choosing Northwest would be more substantial, he said.

Asked if his resolution is in "retaliation" against Continental's recent decision to further reduce its flights to Saipan, Reyes said,

"They can call it whatever they want."

"I call it a cost-saving measure," he added. "The government has to start tightening its belt."

Reyes, together with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and other CNMI officials, including aviation task force chair J.M. Guerrero, recently met with a Northwest executive to discuss how the airline could bring more flights to Saipan.

Tenorio has described his meeting with Northwest vice president for Asia David Wookai as "productive," saying that he assured the airline of the CNMI government's continuing cooperation and assistance.

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Chenne
"UPIN" ISIMANG
FR: MOMMY

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

FOURTH AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Amended Order issued by the Court in this matter on May 22, 1998...

FOR SALE '89 Jeep Cherokee, Parts Only \$200, Rebuilt Transfer for Jeep \$800, Gateway 2000 386125 Computer Upgraded Memory \$300...

FOR SALE Household Items & Furniture Sales Starts - May 09 Pre-Sale by appointment any time 1258 Capitol Hill 322-8092

FOR SALE 1984 PREVIA VAN Air-con, AM/FM Tapé, 67000 MI Good Condition, \$11,500 O.B.O. TEL. 322-7754/53

FOR SALE San Antonio, Near Beach Area 1004 SQM (55 years lease) DOWN PAYMENT MADE \$60,000 UNFURNISHED APARTMENT BUILDING (2RM X 7, 460 SQM BUILT) Priced to sell \$80,000 PLEASE CALL 322-2312, 235-0508 322-6363, 235-0235

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS D. GREG MARNEY, JR., dba DOLPHIN MARINE, Plaintiff, v. BYEONG CHEOL KIM and GLORIA CORPORATION, Defendants. Civil Action No. 97-142

NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to a Writ of Execution issued by the Court in this matter on May 5, 1998, I have levied and executed upon, and will sell at public auction to the highest bidder for current lawful money of the United States, all of the right, title and interest of Defendants in and on the following property:

The sailing vessel "Gloria" a 38' Brown Sailing Trimaran The sale will be held on Saturday, May 16, 1998, at the hour of 11:00 o'clock a.m., the Lower Base, Sea Plane Ramp, Saipan.

FOR SALE AT PUBLIC AUCTION May 16, 1998 at 11:00 a.m. Lower Base, Sea Plane Ramp

Sailing Yacht "Gloria" a 38' Sailing Trimaran Glass Over Ply Cold Molded Construction formerly held COI for 38 passengers plus Master and 2 Crew.

For more information, please contact Atty. Stephen J. Nutting of White, Pierce, Mailman & Nutting Telephone: 234-6547 Facsimile: 234-9537

I LOVE SAIPAN

Jetski . . . Continued from page 11

CRM acting Director Peter J. Barlas said this violated condition H of the operation's coastal permit, which limits the speed of jetskis to a maximum of five miles per hour within 200 yards from the shoreline.

U.S. . . . Continued from page 1

"I have to commend him for bringing this up once more," Babauta said, referring to the congressman's sponsorship in 1996 of a similar proposal.

Anti . . . Continued from page 1

Chamber meeting, lamented that suspected members of the syndicate has "gone around" existing labor and immigration laws by putting up karaoke bars alleged to be fronts for prostitution activities.

Guam . . . Continued from page 1

tions to utilize a waste-to-energy facility for years, since the senator was a senior staffer during the Bordallo Administration.

VOTE . . . Continued from page 1

The group also aims at providing educational forum and debate "in order for the electorate to have a voice on issues that affect residents and

THAILAND LABORERS Specialize in recruiting professional services for Hotels and other industries. Such as Accountant, Engineer, Nurses, Cook, Construction Worker & more Please contact Mr. Nopnarong (Owner) M.T. Diamond Manpower Fax (662) 279-8846 or E-mail - peng@lox1.loxinfo.co.th - or call Saipan Rep. - 235-3611 or 322-5923

LAND FOR SALE Big & Small Lots Great water! great view! great price! ask for Roman or Anita Phone: 322-2253 Pager: 236-7797

The speed limit is in accordance with the Boating Safety Act of 1982, or Public Law 3-25. Barlas directed a representative from Marianas Aqua Sports to meet with the CRM enforcement staff at the earliest time possible and to "take corrective measures to ensure compliance with all conditions of the CRM permit," in addition to paying the \$500 fine.

Waiving the local matching fund requirement for Covenant funding—which amounts to tens of millions of dollars—is another plus for the CNMI, Babauta said. "In view of our economic slump that will be extremely helpful for us," Babauta said he would also back proposals to "put more teeth" to the 902 consultations.

Observers however cautioned that such a law could spark debates between government and human rights advocates. Several tour operators and shopowners, including the management of the Duty Free Shop (DFS) Saipan, have raised concerns over prostitution saying this has been turning Garapan into a "seedy district."

March 3, 1982. The mayors will wait until later this month to file their motion for dismissal because the attorney for the plaintiffs is off-island until then, Sgro said.

The group will establish a network with different organizations across the nation including the Stanford University hospital and cultural groups in Hawaii.

One of the goals of the group is to "create a partnership between the grass roots of our community and the tourism industry for purposes of the need to recognize the importance of how our culture and Made-on-Guam products can be mutually beneficial," Sgro said.

He said people shy away from participating in the law-making process because they don't know how to do it. Board members are Sgro, Junie Terlaje, Grace Low, Larry Lizama, M.D., Mayor Ignacio "Buck" Cruz, Anthony Com, Dr. Katherine B. Agnon, Ron J. Castro, Marcia Damian, Benjamin Afuang, Vicente Meno and Kate Thomas.

Marianas Variety Classified Ads Section

Employment Wanted

Job Vacancy Announcement

- 01 TOUR COUNSELOR-Salary: \$1,100.00 per month Plus \$350.00 housing allowance (monthly) Contact: HST SAIPAN INC. Tel. 234-6052(5/7)Th26275
01 MECHANIC, AUTO-Salary: \$3.05-4.00 per hour Allowance: Gasoline Allow: \$50.00 and housing allow: \$110 per month taxable 01 AUTO PAINTER-Salary: \$5.00-6.00 per hour Allowance: \$50.00 gasoline allow: per month taxable. 02 TOUR GUIDE-Salary: \$5.00-7.50 per hour Allowance: \$50.00 gasoline allowance per month taxable Contact: STS ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. 235-3760(5/7)Th26273
01 AUTO MECHANIC-Salary: \$3.05-3.85 per hour 01 AUTO BODY REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05-3.80 per hour 01 TRAVEL COUNSELOR-Salary: \$800.00-1,450.00 per month 01 INSTRUCTOR-Salary: \$1,250.00-4,050.00 per month Contact: TASI TOURS & TRANSPORTATION INC. Tel. 235-9373(5/7)Th71907
01 SALES SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$1,400.00-1,800.00 per month Contact: LOUIS VUITTON, INC. dba Louis Vuitton Saipan, Inc. Tel. 233-0637(5/7)Th26271
01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.25-4.25 per hour Contact: MINA DE SAIPAN, INC. dba Salt & Pepper Rest. Tel. 322-3377(5/7)Th26272
02 HOLLOW BLOCK MAKER-Salary: \$3.05-3.25 per hour 03 PLUMBER-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour 02 STEEL WORKER-Salary: \$3.05-3.85 per hour 01 CRUSHER OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05-3.25 per hour 05 CONSTRUCTION WORKER-Salary: \$3.05-4.55 per hour 01 AUTO PAINTER-Salary: \$3.05-3.20 per hour 01 PAINTER-Salary: \$3.05-3.15 per hour 01 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05-3.85 per hour 02 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$3.05-3.85 per hour 06 MASON-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour 09 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.05-4.55 per hour Contact: CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIAL SUPPLY, INC. dba CMS Tel. 234-6136(5/7)Th71919
01 SUPERVISOR FINISHING SECTION-Salary: \$3.05-11.00 per hour 02 SUPERVISOR PRODUCTION-Salary: \$7.50-13.50 per hour 02 MARKER-Salary: \$3.05-3.65 per hour 01 SUPERVISOR, CUTTING SECTION-Salary: \$6.00-11.80 per hour 01 CIVIL ENGINEER-Salary: \$950.00-1,100.00 per month Contact: TANO GROUP, INC. Tel. 235-6652(5/7)Th71928
01 MANAGER FRONT OFFICE-Salary: \$850.00-1,300.00 per month 01 RESERVATIONS MANAGER-Salary: \$850.00-1,300.00 per month 01 RESTAURANT MANAGER-Salary: \$850.00-1,800.00 per month 01 WAITRESS, SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$3.05-4.40 per hour 03 WAITRESS, RESTAURANT-Salary: \$3.05-3.70 per hour 02 WAITER, REST-Salary: \$3.05-3.70 per hour 01 BARTENDER-Salary: \$3.05-3.70 per hour 01 BAKER-Salary: \$3.05-3.70 per hour 01 CHAUFFEUR-Salary: \$3.05-4.15 per hour Contact: MICRO PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT, INC dba Saipan Grand Hotel/Mr. Domingo Cruz Tel. 234-6601 Ext. 112(5/14)Th72025
01 CHEF DE PARTIE-Salary: \$3.50-4.50 per hour Contact: AQUA RESORT CLUB SAIPAN CO., LTD. dba Aqua Resort Club Tel. 322-1234(5/20)W72145

- 01 MANAGER, TRAVEL AGENCY-Salary: \$1,500.00-3,100.00 per month Bilingual in Japanese Language Contact: GUAM TOKYU EXPRESS, INC. Tel. 235-7621(5/7)Th26269
02 DENTAL ASSISTANT-Salary: \$680.00-820.00 per month Contact: GENTLE GRIN CORPORATION dba Smile Saipan Dental Clinic Tel. 235-3720(5/7)Th71910
01 OPERATION MANAGER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour Contact: LUZVIMINDA S. INDALECIO dba Mendez Iron Works Tel. 288-1251(5/7)Th26291
01 DENTAL ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.50-8.00 per hour Contact: SAIPAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CLINIC dba Family Dentistry/Optical Clinic Tel. 234-6008(5/7)Th26290
01 OFFICE MANAGER-Salary: \$1,600.00 per month Contact: PEDROA. TENORIO dba Pete A. Tenorio & Assoc. Tel. 234-8555(5/7)Th26289
01 DIVISION MANAGER, FOOD & BEVERAGE-Salary: \$2,500.00-\$5,150.00 per month 01 RECREATION FACILITY ATTENDANT-Salary: \$3.05-4.00 per hour 01 CLEANER HOUSEKEEPING-Salary: \$3.05-3.55 per hour 02 COOK-Salary: \$3.05-3.55 per hour Contact: HOTEL NIKKO SAIPAN Tel. 322-3311(5/7)Th26286
01 MASON-Salary: \$3.05 per hour 02 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour 01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour Contact: MR. BIDENCIO C. AMADO dba ABC ENT. Tel. 256-0221(5/7)Th26285
01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$3.75-5.75 per hour Contact: PACIFIC SECURITY ALARM, INC. Tel. 234-5626(5/7)Th26284
01 CIVIL ENGINEER-Salary: \$820.00 per month 01 SALES PERSON-Salary: \$3.80 per hour Contact: SALA INTERNATIONAL SAIPAN CO., LTD. dba Sala Crystal Tel. 322-8126(5/7)Th26282
01 TOUR COUNSELOR-Salary: \$6.17 per hour Contact: NIPPON TRAVEL AGENCY MICRONESIA, INC. dba Mach Tour Tel. 234-9309(5/7)Th26281
01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour Contact: LUIS P. & MARIA S. CRISOSTOMO dba APC Company Limited Tel. 235-5847(5/7)Th26279
01 SHEET METAL WORKER-Salary: \$3.15-3.25 per hour 01 MASON-Salary: \$3.20-3.50 per hour 01 CIVIL ENGINEER-Salary: \$950.00-1,100.00 per month Contact: TANO GROUP, INC. Tel. 235-6652(5/7)Th71928
01 MANAGER FRONT OFFICE-Salary: \$850.00-1,300.00 per month 01 RESERVATIONS MANAGER-Salary: \$850.00-1,300.00 per month 01 RESTAURANT MANAGER-Salary: \$850.00-1,800.00 per month 01 WAITRESS, SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$3.05-4.40 per hour 03 WAITRESS, RESTAURANT-Salary: \$3.05-3.70 per hour 02 WAITER, REST-Salary: \$3.05-3.70 per hour 01 BARTENDER-Salary: \$3.05-3.70 per hour 01 BAKER-Salary: \$3.05-3.70 per hour 01 CHAUFFEUR-Salary: \$3.05-4.15 per hour Contact: MICRO PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT, INC dba Saipan Grand Hotel/Mr. Domingo Cruz Tel. 234-6601 Ext. 112(5/14)Th72025
01 CHEF DE PARTIE-Salary: \$3.50-4.50 per hour Contact: AQUA RESORT CLUB SAIPAN CO., LTD. dba Aqua Resort Club Tel. 322-1234(5/20)W72145

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.

- 01 SURVEY HELPER-Salary: \$4.75 per hour Contact: CASIRO & ASSOCIATES dba Land Surveying Tel. 235-7410(5/21)Th26468
02 SEAMSTRESS-Salary: \$3.05-5.50 per hour Contact: CCI CORPORATION dba Travel Boutique Tel. 234-3600(5/21)Th26469
01 WAREHOUSE MAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour 02 PACKAGER, HAND-Salary: \$3.05 per hour 04 SCREEN PRINTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour 06 EMBROIDERY-MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour 03 WAREHOUSE WORKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour 19 PATTERN GRADER CUTTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour 01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour 10 PRESSER MACHINE-Salary: \$3.05 per hour 01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour 02 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour 02 SECURITY GUARD-Salary: \$3.05 per hour Contact: UNITED INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION Tel. 235-6888(5/21)Th26464
01 MAINTENANCE BUILDING REPAIR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour 02 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.05-3.20 per hour 01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour 01 MASON-Salary: \$3.10 per hour Contact: PEDRO C. SAN NICOLAS dba PAB Construction Tel. 322-3045(5/21)Th26474
01 DISHWASHER-Salary: \$3.15-3.31 per hour 04 HOUSEKEEPING CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05-3.57 per hour Contact: KAN PACIFIC SAIPAN, LTD. Tel. 322-4692(5/21)Th71717
05 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour Contact: AUNTIE MAGS FOOD CATERING SERVICES Tel. 288-0964(5/21)Th26475

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS IN THE MATTER OF THE GUARDIANSHIP OF THE PERSON OF: LEE, BO RAM and LEE, AH RAM, minors, by: CHOI, MYUNG SIK, Petitioner. FCD GU CASE NO. 98-0157 Amended NOTICE OF HEARING Notice is hereby given that on July 2, 1998, at 8:30 AM in the courthouse of the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Susupe, Saipan, petitioners will petition the court to be appointed guardian at the above person of the above named minors. Dated this 30th day of April, 1998. /s/ REYNALDO O. YANA Attorney for Petitioner

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file an answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of the Summons upon you and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Antonio M. Atalg Law Office, the Plaintiff's counsel, whose address is AAA 122 Caller Box 10001, Joeten Commercial Bldg., II, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing. Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court in the Civic Center, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally unless otherwise notified. If you fail to file an answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint. By Order of the above Court. Clerk of Court Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands /s/ DEPUTY CLERK OF COURT

APARTMENT FOR RENT \$600.00/month Fully Furnished 24 hrs. water Swimming Pool Restaurant Quiet Place Located in China Town Restaurant For Rent \$1,800-\$2,000/month Contact: 233-4378 anytime

APARTMENT, SHOP 4 RENT New in Tanapag Main Road Side 2 Bedroom 2 Unit Furnished Shop for Restaurant, Club, Laundry, Fashion, Shoes, Motel, etc. Please Call 322-2312, 6363, 235-0508, 0235

FOR RENT (2) Bedroom, (1) Bedroom Apartment, Brand New, Fully Furnished, Ceramic Floor Tiles, Laundry Room, Security Gate with remote Gate, Swiss 24 hours water Modern Apartment AAA-557, Call Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950 Tel. 288-8471 or 483-8484 Contact Person: Daniel Lin Page 234-4228

Keep Saipan Litter Free!

SPORTS



IOC mulls NMI's entry

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff
GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday said the International Olympic Committee's president has promised to look into the CNMI's application for IOC membership.

Tenorio, who met with Juan Antonio Samaranch on Guam, said he was assured that the CNMI's application will be discussed by IOC's full committee.

The governor said Superior Court Associate Judge Edward Manibusan, the president of the local golf association, and CNMI sports official Bill Sakovich were with him during the meeting with Samaranch.

Because of a new membership rule, the Northern Marianas can not join IOC.

However, the islands, which are a US commonwealth, applied for membership 10 years ago, before the implementation of the new rule on "semi-independent" countries.

On this basis alone, Tenorio's acting spokesperson Frank S. Rosario has said, the CNMI should be exempted from the new rule.

Even Guam, which is a US territory, is an IOC member, he said.

It was the Guam Olympic Committee that arranged the governor's meeting with Samaranch, who visited the territory before heading to Pohnpei where he will meet with the president of the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM).

FSM, which has a "freely associated" status with the US, has

Continued on page 27



Visiting IOC president Juan Antonio Samaranch, in suit, poses with women officials of various sports groups on Guam during a reception in his honor Tuesday night at the Guam Hilton Marianas Ballroom.

Photo by Eduardo C. Siguenza

UMDA Aces win over Palau Chiefs

CHRIS Nelson and Norman Tenorio combined on an eleven hitter and Ben Hocog and James Soback each had two hits with a double and a triple as the UMDA Aces welcomed back Nelson with a 7-3 victory over the Palau Chiefs.

It was a tight ballgame with the Aces leading, 3-2, after five innings before the Aces slowly but surely chipped away with a run each in the sixth and the seventh and two in the eighth for a 7-3 lead.

The Chiefs started out strong in their last at-bat with the first two batters getting on base on singles but tight defense ended all Chiefs' hope as the Aces ended the ballgame on a double play and a pop-up for their fifth victory in seven games.

Earlier in the day, the league leading Miller Lite Brewers posted their fifth victory in a row with an easy 9-0 forfeiture decision over the Kautz Glass Glazers.



Daniel Poblete swings on his way to carding a 76 in Guam Junior Golf Tournament held Saturday morning at the Nimitz golf links.

Photo by Eduardo C. Siguenza

SSA League winds up

Game 1 of Best of Three Championship Play-Off: Men's Softball League Division "A"

Pennant Champ, Pepsi Spec defeated 4th placer A.K.S. Bad Boyz 15-5, Runner up Pennant Champ, Bud Light I Luv U Man beat 3rd placer Lite Beer Hit & Run 9-8.

At the first game, Bad Boyz scored 2 runs on top of 1st inning but made none on the 2nd and 3rd. Pepsi Spec, for its part, scored 6 runs bottom of 2nd.

Noel Ignacio hit at double and scored from Payton Sakuma's 2-run homer.

Another 2 runs scored from Johnwayne's single hit. Catcher Percy, brought in Johnwayne from his triple hit. Extra hitter, Kuich, brought in Percy, the final run of the inning.

At the Bottom of 3rd, both Payton Sakuma and Timothy Omengkar made a 2-run homer that made the

Continued on page 27

SGA touney set for May 10

THE SAIPAN golfers Association is inviting all SGA members to the May 1998 monthly club championship tournament this Sunday, May 10 at 6 p.m. at the Coral Ocean Point Resort & Country Club.

All members are asked to please report to the Golf Course no later than 5:45 p.m. for pairing.

For more information, please contact Ray Diaz at 235-7304.

Falcon, Lions, Pirates, Jets win their weekend games

THE Tanapag Falcons won their second game in a row stopping team Toyota in four innings, 15-4, via a ten-run mercy rule in the resumption of the CNMI Little

League.

Jack Sablan went three for three with a triple and two RBI's and Manuel Castro had a double and a triple to lead the Falcons.

The Kagman Lions rallied for five runs in the bottom of the fifth and five more in the sixth inning en route to a 14-13 upset over the M.V.

Continued on page 27

Little League Baseball Round Up

TEAM	R	H	2B	3B	HR	RBI	BB	HP	50	LOB	PITCHER
Blue Jays	4	6	1	0	0	2	1	0	7	2	J. Kintol
S/V Aces	3	6	1	0	0	3	1	0	7	2	M. Salas
PIRATES	7	7	1	1	0	3	2	0	10	5	G. Cruz
Rockies	2	5	1	1	0	1	1	1	5	2	T. Fital
Tigers	14	7	2	0	0	6	5	3	1	2	B. Coldeen
Padres	0	0	0	0	0	0	1	0	6	1	B. Magofna
Falcons	15	8	1	4	0	8	7	0	5	1	B.J. Sablan
Team Toyota	4	1	0	0	0	3	6	0	7	5	B. Vergith
Lions	14	7	3	0	0	5	13	1	9	5	J. Ramnani
O'Aces	13	18	1	1	1	6	1	0	8	5	J. Wabol
Hustlers	11	10	4	1	0	6	8	2	6	7	J. Reyes
Knights	10	9	1	1	0	6	6	0	6	8	J. Camacho
SENIORS DIVISION:											
Dandan Jets	13	14	0	2	0	7	7	0	5	6	J. DL Santos
Tanapag Brewers	7	6	0	0	1	3	5	1	16	4	D. Sablan
BIG LEAGUE:											
Hustlers	13	14	5	1	0	11	3	0	4	2	P. DL Guerrero
S/R Expos	3	5	0	0	0	3	0	0	4	1	J. Joyner