

# OPA audits 'ignored'

By Mar-Vic C. Munar  
Variety News Staff

SEVERAL government agencies audited by the Office of the Public Auditor have ignored the watchdog agency's recommendations to correct irregularities in their systems.

According to an OPA report released yesterday, at least 126 of the 191 recommendations it had made between July and December 1997 remain unacted upon.

Public Auditor Leo LaMotte noted that cases of delinquencies

## Most recommendations not adhered to, resolved, says report

had increased since June 1997 when OPA released its last annual report in which it noted 35 recommendations that were ignored.

The increase in cases of delinquencies has prompted LaMotte to seek the assistance of the Inter-agency Audit Coordinating Advisory Group in enforcing compliance from the "auditees."

LaMotte, in an annual report submitted to the audit advisory

group, noted that there are still outstanding recommendations since 1994 and 1995.

Because of this, LaMotte reiterated an earlier proposal for the Governor to designate an official from his office to enforce OPA's audit recommendations.

The public auditor initially made this proposal in 1996 when OPA first noted delinquencies among government agencies.

"This suggestion was not con-

sidered, however, because the coordinating group members did not hold any discussion, and no recommendation was made to the governor," LaMotte said. "From July through December 1997, OPA tracked 199 audit recommendations in 41 final reports issued to various departments and agencies of the Commonwealth government during the year and outstanding from previous years. Of the 199 audit recommendations, 23 are closed and 176 are either open or resolved. Of the 176 open or resolved recommendations, 126 are considered delinquent," stated the Report on CNMI Agencies' Implementation of Audit Recommendations March 1998.

The report contains summaries of investigations and findings on 19 agencies and programs audited by OPA. These include the Office of the Governor, the Departments of Commerce, Public Safety, Public Works, Community and Cultural Affairs, Public Health, and Lands and Natural Resources.



Leo LaMotte

sidered, however, because the coordinating group members did not hold any discussion, and no recommendation was made to the governor," LaMotte said.

"From July through December 1997, OPA tracked 199 audit

## Outage prevented Senate from acting on crucial bills

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

YESTERDAY afternoon's power outage on Capitol Hill prevented the Senate from acting on the so-called amnesty and poker/sunset bills.

Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) has vowed to push for the passage of H.B. 11-76, the bill that would allow illegal aliens to seek amnesty and legal employment

But the Legislature has no back-up generator, and the Senate adjourned in darkness.

However, the Senate confirmed the following nominations before adjourning: Commonwealth Utilities Corp. board

member Juan S. Dela Cruz, Marianas Public Land Trust board member Joey Patrick San Nicolas and Civil Service Commissioner Diane H. Borja.

Manglona, in an interview yesterday, said the amnesty and the poker/sunset bills were the items on the agenda when the power interruption occurred before 1 p.m.

"We will, of course, take up these important bills in the next session," he said.

In an earlier interview, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said he supports the amnesty legislation and will act immediately on the bill that would limit a person to only

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Guam Governor Carl T.C. Gutierrez speaks during a news conference yesterday where he vetoed Bill 238, a new tax legislation. With him at right is Tax and Revenue Director Joey Duenas. Photo by Jacob Leon Guerrero

## Gutierrez vetoes tax measure

Jacob Leon Guerrero  
Variety News Staff

TAMUNING, Guam — No new taxes.

This was Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez's emphatic announcement as he vetoed Bill No. 238 yesterday during a media conference at the Ricardo J. Bordallo Governor's Complex.

Bill No. 238 seeks to raise real property taxes, including for the

manamko and people with disabilities.

Gutierrez was adamant that the increase in taxes is totally inappropriate.

"It is not a time to again zap the citizenry with higher taxes especially the senior citizens and the disabled," Gutierrez said.

Joey Duenas, the Director of Revenue and Taxation was also present when the Governor ve-

toed the bill. He shared Gutierrez's view that a tax raise is just not acceptable.

"It represents a 100% increase on the tax rate on land," Duenas pointed out.

Expressing disappointment with the Legislature for moving the bill, Gutierrez said: "This bill kind of shook me up."

"Now is not the time to raise

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## Guam builds memorial at KAL 801 crash site

Variety News Staff

HAGATNA, Guam — Construction of a memorial dedicated to the victims of Korean Airlines 801 crash started at the Nimitz Hill crash site with a ground-breaking ceremony led by Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez yesterday.

The memorial will consist of a reflection area with benches and a walkway heading north and ending at a spot overlooking the

airport runway in the distance.

A 20-foot obelisk inscribed with the names of all people on board the fateful flight will be erected at the overlook.

Korean Airlines flight 801 crashed about three miles short of the Guam International Air Terminal on August 6, 1997. Some 228 of the 254 passengers and crew aboard perished in the accident.

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## Current wage level below poverty line, says Sablan

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff

THE CURRENT minimum wage is below the poverty level considering the high cost of living in the Northern Mariana Islands, Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan said yesterday.

"I think it is below," Sablan said when asked of his opinion on the ability of minimum wage earners to cope with the current cost of living in the Commonwealth.

"But when I say I think, I am qualifying my statement because there was this Hay Group study that does not say we have to increase," he told Variety.

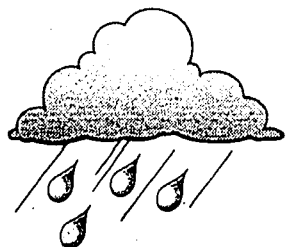


Jesus R. Sablan

He said the Hay Group study recommended a temporary suspension of any wage increment within 12 to 24 months, until

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## WEATHER Outlook



Partly cloudy with scattered rainshowers

# Japan marks Children's Day



Children are lifted by their parents for a better view of a performance at Tokyo Disneyland on the Children's Day, Tuesday in Urayasu, east of Tokyo. The Management and Coordination Agency reported the number of children in Japan aged 14 or younger fell by 330,000 from a year earlier to 19.18 million as of April 1. AP

# Hun Sen rules out amnesty

By WONGPAITHOON BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)—Cambodian strongman Hun Sen on Thursday ruled out amnesties for Khmer Rouge leaders still fighting the government, saying the guerrillas chieftains must stand trial for their crimes. "It would be unacceptable to raise the question of giving amnesty to people like Ta Mok, Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan. These people can't avoid a trial," Hun Sen said at a press conference in Bangkok on the last day of a two-day official visit to Thailand.

The Cambodian co-prime minister was referring to the three top leaders of the remnants of the Marxist guerrilla group.

The trio have been on the run from a government military offensive in the jungles of northern Cambodia near the Thai border.

The United States has said it

wants to put the remaining Khmer Rouge leaders on trial for crimes against humanity if they are apprehended, and has asked the Cambodian government not pardon them.

The Khmer Rouge were responsible for the deaths of as many as 2 million Cambodians from executions, torture, overwork and starvation during their 1975-79 rule.

The U.S. has pushed for the formation of a tribunal, but has been blocked by United Nations Security Council counterpart China, which was once a strong supporter of the Maoist-inspired guerrilla movement.

## Estrada gets Iglesia backing in RP election

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Iglesia ni Cristo, a large Philippine church group, declared its support Wednesday for Vice President Joseph Estrada, the chief opposition candidate in next week's presidential elections.

The endorsement by the group, which expects all its members to vote according to its instructions, will further solidify Estrada's wide lead in popularity polls.

But the church group said it is backing the ruling party's candidate for vice president, Sen. Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo.

Political analysts estimate that Iglesia ni Cristo could bring in as many as 2 million votes for its picks.

The far larger Catholic Church has said it will not officially back any candidates in the May 11 national elections.

But outspoken Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin has warned that the leading presidential candidate may be "disastrous for the country."

Sin did not identify Estrada by name, but it was a clear reference to the vice president, a former actor and college dropout who has a formidable 19 percentage point lead in voter surveys over ruling party candidate Jose de Venecia, his closest rival. Estrada has been criticized for a history of womanizing, heavy drinking and gambling.

He claims that his only vice now is cigarettes.

"We chose Vice President Estrada because we perceive him to be the most credible in fighting graft and corruption and criminality," Iglesia ni Cristo said in a statement.

It said its intention is not to meddle in politics, but to "preserve the unity of the members of the church in expressing judgment on those who are running for public office."

Ten candidates are running to succeed President Fidel Ramos, who is constitutionally barred from a second six-year term.

At least 100,000 other candidates are running for 17,340 national and local posts.

# High Court rules vs 'Dadang 6'

By Mar-Vic C. Munar Variety News Staff

THE six Rota residents, known as the "Dadang Six," will now have to vacate a public land they are occupying in Songsong Village after the Supreme Court refused yesterday to stay a trial court's eviction order.

The case stemmed from the government's suit against the six "squatters" who have built homes at the Dadang property in Songsong Village.

## Ruling paves way for eviction from Rota public land

Ordered to leave the property were Vivencio Anglo, Celso Catindig, Nestor Jingco, Andronico Pelen, Aquilino Semana and Donicio Semana, all of whom are Filipinos who have acquired US citizenship.

Last year, the Superior Court ruled in favor of the government, saying the six had trespassed on a public land. Associate Judge Miguel Demapan or-

dered them to leave the property in 30 days after the promulgation of the order.

Last November, the six appealed the eviction order, but Demapan denied their motion.

On behalf of the six, then Rota Mayor Joseph Inos had appealed to the Board of Public Lands to allow the six to remain in the Dadang property.

But board chairman Thomas

dered the enforcement of the eviction order.

Incumbent Rota Mayor Benjamin Manglona, inheriting the case from his predecessor, filed another appeal last May 4, telling the Supreme Court that "Rota will be forced to assist the families in finding replacement homes."

Manglona also told the court that the "public benefited" from the improvements made by Anglo's group in the property.

In dismissing the Mayor's appeal, the Supreme Court said that "the issue raised has already been sufficiently addressed" in the trial court's ruling.

The court said "Dadang Six" would have been allowed to stay in the property had they proved that their eviction would cause them "irreparable injury."



Benjamin Manglona

B. Aidan had declined the mayor's plea, invoking the board's obligation "to protect the NMI people's land." Last January Demapan or-



Lt. Gov. Jesus Sablan and Gov. Pedro Tenorio present the Most Outstanding NMC Employee of the Year Award to Lisa Hacskaylo during yesterday's NMC Employee Recognition. Photo By Aldwin Fajardo

# US, Marshall Islands start economic talks

By Giff Johnson For the Variety

MAJURO—U.S. and Marshall Islands officials open talks Thursday in Majuro aimed at reviewing economic progress and use of American funding under a Compact of Free Association treaty.

With the end of the Compact just three years away, these economic consultations "are gaining more significance," said Foreign Affairs Secretary Robert Muller.

"It's a useful opportunity to sit down with the U.S. and review what's taken place to develop our economy."

Marshall Islands officials view these talks as helping to set the stage for renegotiation of the Compact scheduled to begin in 1999.

The U.S., which is providing about \$55 million in funding this year to the Marshall Islands, is keen to hear reports on progress in economic development.

"We are looking forward to an update on the Marshall Islands' progress on its public sector reform program," said U.S. Ambassador Joan Plaisted.

Muller said that the Marshall Islands would be giving reports on its Asian Development Bank-supported reform program and efforts to improve the environment for private sector development.

The Marshalls has cut about 20 percent of its government workforce in the past two years, but despite reform efforts aimed at stimulating a productive economy the country remains almost entirely dependent on U.S. and other donor country aid.

State and Interior Department officials are flying in from Washington, D.C. for the two days of talks in Majuro.

Susanne Butcher, the Director of State's Office of Australia, New Zealand and Pacific Island Affairs, will be in Majuro for the discussions.

Plaisted said the U.S. is particularly interested to hear from the Marshalls side what is happening on the economic and government budgetary situation, as well as the status of a loan from the Asian Development Bank of \$3.5 million that has been held up for almost nine months because the Marshalls had not met conditions laid down by the ADB.

Plaisted said that the U.S. is particularly concerned to learn of the Marshalls plans for a hospital for the large urban population on Ebeye Island that remains unfinished despite multi-million dollar funding from the U.S.

"We're concerned with the long-delayed Ebeye hospital," she said.

Also of interest to the U.S., said Plaisted, is what kind of followup has been undertaken to the government-sponsored National Economic and Social Summit held in January that brought together 150 community representatives to produce a plan of action to deal with the Marshalls' economic problems. The summit made recommendations for stimulating the private sector and establishing stricter ethics in government, among other plans she said, adding that the U.S. is interested how the these summit

The annual talks have been held for the last four years.

# Filipino in ARC case asks US court to cite Teno in contempt

By Rick Alberto Variety News Staff

THE Filipino contract worker who sued officials after he was sent back to the Philippines for allegedly having an invalid alien registration card last March filed the other day at the federal district court two motions, one of which is seeking to hold in contempt Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and the other defendants.

In his motion, Marmil Cayabyab claimed the defendants—who also included Labor and Immigration Secretary Mark

D. Zachares, acting Atty. Gen. Robert Dunlap, Assistant Atty. Gen. Robert Goldberg and the CNMI—disobeyed a temporary restraining order by failing to provide him breakfast or lunch on March 28 while under detention.

Cayabyab also filed a motion for a preliminary injunction ordering the defendants to return him to the CNMI at their expense and not to arrest and detain him in connection with the pending case.

Both motions, filed by Cayabyab's lawyer, V.K. Sawhney, will be heard on June 5.

Cayabyab was detained by the Department of Labor and Immigration for seven days, from March 22, the day of his arrival from vacation in the Philippines, to March 28, when he was flown back to his country.

The TRO, issued on March 27, required the defendants to provide Cayabyab with food, medical care and access to his attorney during his detention. Sawhney said.

Sawhney, moreover, said the defendants should be cited for

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# Man gets 6 mos. for 'ice,' marijuana

By Ferdie de la Torre Variety News Staff

SUPERIOR COURT Associate Judge Edward Manibusan has ordered a man to spend six months in jail for illegal possession of "ice" and marijuana.

Manibusan following a plea agreement asked Juan Diego Aguon to enroll in a government-approved drug treatment program.

Aguon was also required to pay \$250 fine and \$250 as restitution to the CNMI drug program.

The defendant was charged in 1997 with illegal possession of a controlled substance ("ice") and illegal possession of controlled

substance (marijuana). In 1996 the government charged Aguon with illegal possession of a controlled substance (marijuana) and illegal possession of a controlled substance with intent to deliver.

The defendant was also slapped with illegal possession of ammunition in separate case filed in 1996, court documents showed.

Aguon and counsel Assistant Public Defender Masood Karimpour signed a plea agreement with the government represented by Assistant Atty. Gen. Marvin Williams.

Aguon pleaded guilty of illegal

possession of "ice" and marijuana in the 1997 case.

In return, the Attorney General's Office recommended the dismissal of Aguon's two 1996 cases.

The court accepted the plea and dropped Aguon's 1996 cases. Court documents indicated that on March 5, 1997 Drug Enforcement Agency arrested Aguon who was found in possession of three grams of 'ice' and 2.5 grams of marijuana.

The defendant was caught in possession of ammunition and marijuana in 1996, court papers showed.

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## EDITORIAL

### Bold action needed to fight battle against prostitution

THE PROPOSAL aired by DOLI Secretary Mark Zachares for an anti-loitering law could not have come at a more opportune time. DOLI, as well as other law enforcement agencies, have long failed miserably in containing the problem of prostitution especially at tourist areas on Saipan.

One only needs to pass by Garapan's red light district at night to realize the magnitude of this problem and how the trade has flourished unabatedly.

While there is a law that outlaws this nefarious trade in the CNMI, it seems to be insufficient in actually stopping the world's oldest profession from flourishing here.

The problem with prostitution is, it is being conducted clandestinely and away from the prying eyes of the public.

Only the pimp, the prostitute and the customer get privy to a transaction. And unless law enforcers go undercover, it is very difficult if not impossible for them to really catch the people engaged in this kind of activity hand-to-hand.

That is why despite the fact that DOLI patrols have been fielded back in Garapan, pimps and prostitutes continue to ply their trade right under the very noses of immigration agents.

If this problem is to really be solved, there needs to be something in the books to help law enforcers pin down their quarry.

And Mr. Zachares has the answer—enact an anti-loitering law. Having such a law would empower government agents to accost suspicious-looking characters standing at street corners and who apparently have no reason to be there.

This way, as Mr. Zachares points out, DOLI could at least check on these individuals for any possible links to prostitution rings.

Take them in and ask questions later. Is this too harsh? Maybe.

But the important thing is it is not as harsh as it is just. For without such a law, agents are underhanded in chasing these lawbreakers. They have absolutely no grounds to take these people in even if they are really engaged in this underground trade.

True, that while an anti-loitering law could be a most effective method of flushing out the pimps and prostitutes lining up Garapan's red light district, it may entail serious concerns about the manner it is to be implemented.

Arrests should be done very discriminately and professionally.

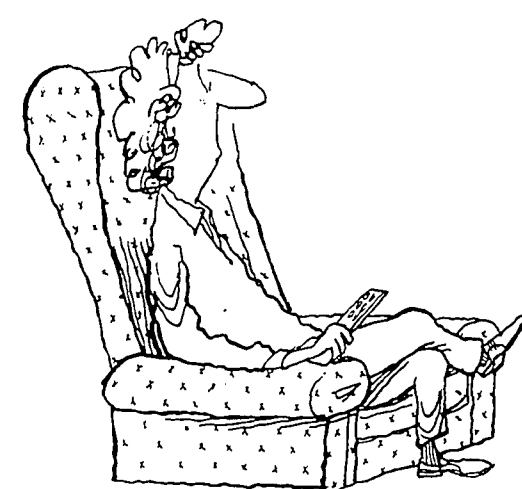
While some people may say that there is a great potential of authority being abused and of individual rights being trampled upon, parameters should be carefully laid out so that arbitrary arrests are avoided.

The important thing is that the battle against prostitution has to be fought and won and a law against loitering is the only viable option left to overcome this problem.

No more running around, no more excuses. As long as reason is on their side, let DOLI agents use the strong arm of the law. To dabble on technicalities would only weaken the campaign.

An adversary as powerful as prostitution syndicates, after all, deserve the boldest action.

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PEACE ACCORD,  
NEXT ON  
SPRINGER



**Variations**  
Zaldy Dandan

### By a mile and a half

A GUAM-based newspaper came out recently with a typically platitudinous editorial on how leaders of cash-strapped governments "must rethink their spending habits," which was also the opinion piece's title and not "Uh, Duh," as some would suppose after reading it.

Particularly deplorable for the opinion writer is the "almost \$11 million" spent by "past administrations" on Washington lobbyists and consultants, when that money could have been used to—"you guessed it right—"improve the quality of life in the CNMI." It then went on to inform us that "since tourist income—which is a major industry on Saipan—has declined more than 31 percent... residents need to insist that government leaders re-evaluate their spending accordingly." To buttress its painfully banal and thoroughly self-evident "moral of the story," the editorial cited the plight of 350 NMC students who may not be able to graduate "because their CNMI-funded scholarships haven't been paid." It was not mentioned, however, that the "scholarships" are outright grants to students whose families are not necessarily indigent; and that it was the ongoing economic slump, and not the fees paid to lobbyists, that is causing the government revenues to drop faster than Guam leaders could say "We want a commonwealth, too."

In short, the editorial, by pointing out the obvious, missed the point. (See this op-ed's title.) It seemed unable to appreciate, moreover, the extent of the new administration's austerity measures: the reduction in the number of "official trips," government cars and mobile phones; the laying-off of the more expendable government employees; and, perhaps more glaring, the continued non-employment of hundreds of local Republican partisans. The administration, it should be noted, has adopted these austerity measures in a community where the government is the local residents' main, some say sole, employer. Therefore, it is not taking all the austerity measures that need to be instituted? Probably because "this year," according to the editorial, "more than \$400,000 has been spent for lobbying?"

I cover the Hill myself but this is the first time someone in the media has fingered a figure on the CNMI's lobbying expenses so far this year. Which, of course, doesn't necessarily mean that the figure is false. So let's suppose that the number is factual, together with the millions paid by the previous administration to lobbyists, particularly to Preston Gates. What do they prove? Misplaced priorities? Not at all. Considering the dynamics of US con-

gressional politics, and the vulnerability of continued local control over immigration and labor, which used to have critics in both the US GOP and Democratic parties—considering all this, the hiring of Preston Gates two or three years ago was a brilliant, almost inspired, move. Once set loose on D.C.'s Capitol Hill, its lobbyists approached members of the party that is expected to retain its majority for years to come—the GOP. Preston Gates depicted the commonwealth as a place where GOP ideas are already realized, which silenced the CNMI's critics in the party, whose leaders then vowed to help fend off the "liberal" feds.

This is the point that the editorial missed. For the CNMI's leaders, nothing is more important than this economic setup, from which most if not all the blessings every local resident enjoys emanate, including generous grants to college students. Premised on continued local control over immigration and labor, the system, despite the current economic downturn, can still produce \$240 million for the next fiscal year, and that doesn't include the \$6 million from public land revenues. Hence, if this economic setup is threatened, its defense would be, and is, the commonwealth government's main task. The CNMI's leaders, contrary to the homilies of the aforementioned editorial, know what their priorities are.

Indeed, the editorial could have raised more relevant issues, but didn't. It could have, for instance, asked the following questions: Why should a US commonwealth's economic setup still need intensive and "high tech" lobbying in order for it to survive? What kind of a setup is this that has managed to create the modern and tamer, though no less lamentable, equivalent of a caste system in which others could vote and own land, while others could only vote, and most could "only" pay taxes and neither vote nor own land? Why does it continue to attract too much adverse attention and has even been blamed for the miseries of some alien workers? And, despite Preston Gates, why are the CNMI's congressional allies seemingly affected by media reports the commonwealth and its lobbyists consider as "slanted, sensational and exaggerated"? Why should these US House Republicans sponsor a reform legislation that is almost a clone of the Democrats' federal takeover proposal?

The CNMI's leaders, to be sure, need to do some pretty serious rethinking. Not solely about what funds to allocate where, but, more important, what economic setup should accommodate who.

### JACK ANDERSON and JAN MOLLER WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

## Florida cracks down on insurance fraud

TALLAHASSEE, Fla. — Dr. John Rende, a 38-year-old dentist in Jacksonville, decided he didn't want to work anymore. But he still wanted to be paid.

So he arranged to have a pair of miscreant brothers, Robert and Kenneth Alberton, chop off his right index finger with an axe. Because he could no longer practice dentistry without the crucial digit, Dr. Rende was set to collect at least \$72,000 a year in disability for nearly three decades. (He was also making a sizable amount from his homeowners insurance policy for the "woodcutting" accident.)

But the Albertons were not satisfied with their cut for the cut, and began pressing the digitless dentist for more money. Dr. Rende got frightened, and went running to the FBI.

Based on his confession and other evidence, in 1994 the Albertons were each sentenced to 33 months in jail for fraud, and were ordered to make restitution. The nine-fingered dentist got 27 months in jail.

The Rende-Alberton case was a rare one at the time for Florida, because the con artists were caught. But lately, this state's officials are cracking down. Workers comp claims had been skyrocketing, and a significant number of them are believed to be fraudulent.

"When claimants steal money by padding claims or faking injuries, we all suffer," charged reform-minded Florida Insurance Commissioner Bill Nelson to our associate Dale Van Atta. Nelson has been applauded by officials in other states for the example he has set by cracking down on fraud.

He believes that the issue is a no-brainer. "Every state should be placing the highest priority on fighting this fraud because we are all paying for it, one way or another. We're all victimized when someone commits workers comp insurance fraud."

Part of his initiative included the impaneling of a grand jury specifically to investigate workers compensation and other insurance fraud. And it was not a moment too soon. It's been costing state taxpayers millions of dollars — and hiked insurance rates, costing businesses and individuals more in premiums.

Until now, the Rende-Alberton case was an exception because it was uncovered and prosecuted. And so was the Lenahan case, one of the most colorful we came across in a thorough investigation of workers comp fraud.

Bill Lenahan, a friendly ex-New York cop known as Uncle Bill to friends and neighbors, was working a private security job when he got into an argument over a parking space with a man who then threw him over the hood of a car. The injury required the removal of a ruptured disc.

Lenahan and his wife, Phyllis, maintained that Dr. Douglas Martin had botched the surgery, which had somehow unsettled his 64-year-old brain. First, the couple applied for a workers comp claim and handily won \$900,000 in workers compensation, including \$60,000 a year paid to Phyllis for the 24-hour care of her husband.

Had the Lenahans stopped there, they might never have been found out. But they got greedy. They lodged a malpractice suit against Dr. Martin and put on a slam-dunk civil suit with seldom-equalled panache. A half-dozen highly respected neurosurgeons pronounced Lenahan mentally incapacitated.

The jury, hearing Mrs. Lenahan's tales of her husband's mental impairment, was moved to tears and awarded him \$2.6 million. The insurance company quickly settled for \$2.25 million.

That should have been the end of it, except Dr. Martin was furious. He couldn't believe his back surgery could have caused such mental problems. He was so sure the Lenahans were faking, that he hired a private investigator to tail Uncle Bill and videotape his movements.

It was hard to keep up with the traveling couple, who used the settlement to buy a fleet of luxury cars, three boats, a custom-built home and two condominiums in the Florida Keys. But with persistence, the gumshoe caught Lenahan dancing a jig, jogging, climbing stairs, and decorating their \$250,000 yacht, as well as conducting numerous coherent conversations with individuals.

Armed with this the civil trial judge vacated the settlement, and Palm Beach prosecutor Moira Laisch tried and convicted them of defrauding the state workers comp system and of grand theft. They were sentenced to seven years in prison and ordered to turn all their assets over to the insurance company.

And the Lenahan lawyers? They had been fooled along with everyone else, consequently maintaining that they should not have to give up their contingency fee, which was a third of the insurance settlement. The courts upheld them: They were allowed to keep the \$750,000, not a dime of which they'd have received if the fraud had been uncovered just minutes before the jury reached its verdict.

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## Letters to the Editor

### Parks, not police substations

Dear Editor:  
Call it predisposition, a natural tendency or an inclination. We can blame it on history, the weather (El Nino?), or just plain geographic misfortune. The plain truth is it's just not in our nature to plan things.

Que sera, sera? In the pre-Spanish period planning extended as far as the next typhoon season. Then it was time to pick up the pieces and start all over again.

We epitomized the Greek way of living for the moment. Not necessarily because we enjoyed it as much as it was, by nature, the way of the islands.

Today, it appears things have not changed a whole lot. We obviously did not plan for the Puerto Rico Dump, multi-track schools, the 4-day workweek, the School Choice Program, the prison for illegals, the 40,000 foreign work force, the economic dip and teen gangs.

Since the tragic death of one of our youth there's been much talk. Some try to identify the cause, some to rationalize and some just to cast blame.

For most of us, it is time to look deep into ourselves as a community and try to make some kind of sense out of this shockingly sense-

less act. Kids don't kill period, at least not in this community. For all of us, it's time to pay attention. We have heard the distress call. It's time to act. We must ask ourselves just what have we done for our youths?

How much of our resources are we directing towards youth programs and activities? An insignificant amount and most of it is intended for programs that deal with already troubled youths with virtually zero for preventive and alternative programs.

We have a tilted perspective considering the extravagant spending on luxurious government buildings. It's like buying a cheap car and spending a lot more on repairs.

If we are in agreement that a strong family unit is a key element for social stability then we should reflect on that. Let's build parks and recreational facilities in every village.

Maybe then we won't need to build police substations instead. The prevailing attitude, it seems, is that sports and recreational proposals are considered "pet projects" intended to only serve political ends. It's time to change that outlook.

The media play an instrumental role in promoting positive alternatives for youths. Coverage of sports activities needs to be expanded. Consider it a civic responsibility.

The Church and other religious organizations should reach out to these youths and make an impact on their lives.

Mr. Sam Joyner represents a role model for civic volunteer work. He's definitely making a difference.

The school, yes the school is such a critical factor in this equation. We should focus more on the affective or social/emotional development of children. I think the school as an institution has unintentionally sacrificed that over intellectual growth.

In my visits to schools, I find it rather disturbing not to hear children singing and rarely engaging in social/emotional building activities.

The conscience of this community has been wounded and we are all left a little less secure in our lives.

Let's not let the passing of a youthful life once full of promises go in vain.

JOSE C. MAFNAS

## Why pay for 'unnecessary' ads?

Dear Editor:  
Businesses are required to publicly announce all openings they plan to fill with workers from foreign lands.

So for days on end, week after week, month after month, year in and year out, businesses, in order to comply with labor rules and regulations, must put out job announcements for openings, (to include those that we already know, from years of experience, no local applicants will come forward to apply for).

This requirement is premised on the idea that jobs must be announced for the benefit of all resident and other U.S. eligible applicants who, by law, have first shot at any employment opportunities in the CNMI.

This, even after it has become clear that there are jobs which resident workers, for various reasons, simply don't want. Resident work-

ers refuse to work in the private sector for reasons ranging from the unrealistic expectations of some employers (particularly in light of management's tendency to compare resident workers versus non-resident workers) to uncertain work environment, from lack of incentives to insensitive management, from the vastly different set of motivational factors that guides local workers than one that guides guest workers, to a take home pay (that doesn't take you home, that is!).

Businesses, however, continue to pay the advertising fees which amount to \$35.00 per print advertisement and up to \$70.00 per radio and/or TV ad thereby demonstrating a real need for workers and pinpointing the shortage of local workers or the hesitancy of these workers to join the private sector for reasons cited above.

Others have argued that businesses either pay these small fees to bring in foreign workers or adjust salaries and wages in the private sector in order to attract more resident workers.

But while businesses do not appear at all peeved at having to pay these fees, we must question the seemingly unnecessary expenditure.

More, we question the inefficient use of the hard-earned dollar and wonder if perhaps there is a way the government, jointly with the business sector, could put this resource (advertising fees) to more productive ways to improve the lot of resident applicants and job seekers, that is, if business must continue to pay advertising fees to satisfy the requirement of labor rules and regulations.

Requirements made academic by the fact that local workers simply do not want these jobs or that there is simply not enough local workers to fill the jobs.

Continued on page 62

## There's HB 11-165, at last

Dear Editor:  
At long last, someone like Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho noticed the awful sight of those dead animals on public roads.

I applaud him for introducing House Bill No. 11-165, which gives the Mayor's Office the responsibility of removing and disposing animal remains from public highways.

I think this is a serious problem and it's getting worse. For one thing, the air we breathe is supposed to be fresh air, not stinky air.

And it could also cause more accidents among motorists be-

cause they don't want to run over a dead animal in the middle of the road.

I can't remember how many times I have to pull over just to spit or vomit each time I smell the odor and the awful sight of the decomposing bodies of dead animals on the highways.

I hope the Legislature will support this bill and make an appropriation for the Mayor's office to do this kind of job.

Again my salute to Rep. Rosiky F. Camacho.

ELENA M. RAMOS

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# Wage board bill OK'd

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

THE SENATE yesterday passed a bill that proposes the creation of credible minimum wage review committees patterned after the American Samoa's special industry committee.

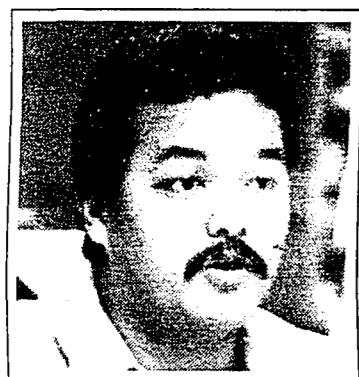
Once established, the wage review committees would set a minimum wage rate or rates for each industry in the Northern Marianas.

The bill states that the governor, in consultation with the administrator of the Wage and Hour Division of the US Labor Department, will appoint members to the committee.

The bill, S.B. 11-46, was introduced by Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota), and now heads to the House of Representatives, which will have a session today.

Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Prec. 2, Saipan) yesterday said the House leadership is currently reviewing the legislation and will decide whether to act on it today.

Manglona, in a separate interview, said his bill was drafted in consultation with the House leadership and Gov. Pedro P. Tehorio.



Paul A. Manglona

Senate Majority Leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), for his part, described the bill as the fulfillment of the CNMI leaders' promise to the US Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, which conducted a public hearing on the CNMI last March.

"We said we will reform our labor and immigration, and here it is," Reyes said.

No more special interests? Saying that it is in the CNMI's best interest to establish wage review committees, S.B. 11-46 states that its purpose is to facilitate the commonwealth's goal of setting minimum wage rate or rates for each industry, "as rapidly as eco-



Diego T. Benavente

nomicly feasible without curtailing economic prosperity."

The bill states that the current

wage and salary review board has been ineffective in accomplishing this goal and should be abolished.

The committees, according to the bill, will be "more broadly representative of the general public and not beholden to or unduly influenced by special interests."

Each industry committee will consist of 11 members:

- Two persons representing employers in the industry, appointed by the governor.

- One CNMI resident representing employers in the industry, appointed by the US Labor

Department's Wage and Hour Division administrator.

- One person representing employees in the industry, appointed by the governor.

- One CNM resident representing employees in the industry, appointed by the administrator.

- One person representing the CNMI's general public, appointed by the governor.

- Five additional members, one appointed each by the US House speaker, the US Senate majority leader, the administrator, the CNMI House speaker, and CNMI Senate president.

## Sablan sees no more need for another US Congress hearing

By Haldee V. Eugenio  
Variety News Staff

LT. GOV. Jesus Sablan yesterday said there is perhaps no need for another public hearing on the US House Resources Committee's new legislation to reform CNMI's current labor and immigration policies.

"Perhaps US Congress has done a meticulous, arduous and rigorous hearing and the parties have been heard," he told the Variety, referring to the recent US Senate hearing conducted by Sen. Frank H. Murkowski.

Sablan also welcomes the postponement of the planned May 13 hearing since it will provide a lot more time to ana-

lyze the measures. "It will give us ample time to prepare ourselves so that we can present the position of the Northern Marianas in a more convincing and more competent manner," said Sablan.

The legislation will be introduced by US Rep. Elton Gallegly. It proposes the creation of a CNMI non-voting delegate seat in the US House of Representatives, among others.

Sablan said that he hasn't heard anyone against a non-voting representation in the US Congress for the people of the Northern Marianas.

"For that, whatever analysis comes out, it will be in favor of having a non-voting delegate in the US Congress for the North-

ern Marianas people," he said. Sablan also said that the CNMI's declining economy may hamper its ability to respond to all identified problems and there is a need for some help from appropriate US government agencies.

He added that with the establishment of US agencies' offices here, there will be more effective enforcement of laws.

"I think that with their and our resources, we can make things a lot better. By resources, I mean not only monetary, but also expertise in the field of enforcement whether in civil rights matter or human rights, or even non-payment of wages," he said.

# Land dispute rages in Guam

By Jan Furukawa  
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA, Guam— Norbert P. Perez, who is charged with obstructing government function, obstructing a public roadway, and reckless conduct, will not give up his fight for his family's property.

He defends himself against the charges without a lawyer.

"I hope they put me in jail, because as soon as I get out, I'm gonna block the road again!" Perez said in an interview after the trial.

Perez insisted that he be allowed to speak in Chamorro during the trial.

Despite the objection by prosecutor Donna Rodriguez, Superior Court Judge Joaquin Manibusan, Jr. on Monday gave in to Perez's request.

In an interview last week, Perez

said he was not asking for special treatment, but "for equal protection under the law. I'm asking for justice," he added.

He said the government of Guam took nearly an acre of his family's land at Cha'ot in Sinajana for the bridge, pump station and pipeline that are there, and to expand Route 4, which used to be a two-lane road.

He explained that the Navy originally condemned the area in the 1930s and deposited \$3,600 with the proper disbursing entity at the time.

The original owners of the land never took the money, and it remains to this day at the U.S. District Court, he said.

Perez said his family bought the land in the 1960s before the federal government turned over excess lands to the Guam govern-

ment. The compensation issue, he said, has never been settled.

Perez was arrested for early last year when he blocked the busy roadway. It was the third time he was arrested for the same offense.

He was arrested along with her mother, but only he was detained for five days.

Four months later, public officials — including Vice Speaker Tony Blaz and several mayors — blocked the road to the Ordut Landfill in protest of its use despite federal threats to fine the government for continuing to violate numerous environmental regulations.

"I'm bringing the government to bear with the issue of discrimination," said Perez who is a Vietnam war veteran. "What did those 71 Chamorros die for? It's ter-

rible! Lakus-hit, something is wrong here, and I'm gonna fix it." "This whole U.S. government was founded on civil disobedience... When I do it, I get pros-

ecuted," he added. Perez had subpoenaed mayors and senators to testify in his defense, but they declined.

Continued on page 62

## House to act today on MVB reorganization bill

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

SPEAKER Diego T. Benavente (R-Prec. 2, Saipan) said the House of Representatives will act today on legislation that would reorganize the Marianas Visitors Bureau.

Benavente, in an interview yesterday, said the bill, S.B. 11-29, will be considered a priority and is likely to be passed today.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, in an earlier interview, reiterated his administration's support for the legislation, saying that he is committed to return MVB into its former semi-autonomous status.

The reorganized MVB, he added, will have more participation from the private sector and will no longer be under the Department of Commerce.

Introduced by Senate Majority Leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), S.B. 11-29 would also abolish MVB's current board—the members of which are mostly appointees of the previous administration—and give the governor a free hand in choosing new members. -MVB Chair Antonio S. Guerrero recently suggested the outright

Continued on page 18

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## Miller bill says US universities must take stand vs sweatshops

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

THE UNITED States House of Representatives has adopted an amendment that requires all the nation's colleges and universities to rid sweatshop and child labor from products bearing their names.

US Rep. George Miller (D-California) introduced the amendment, according to his media release yesterday.

He is urging all schools to follow the lead of several major universities that have adopted codes of conduct.

These codes require companies that manufacture t-shirts, baseball caps and other merchandise bearing the university logo or name to adhere to a rigorous set of labor standards.

Miller's media release said the codes of conduct are "in response to a growing demand by students and consumers to take steps to end the abuse of sweatshops and child labor."

The release did not mention if any of the local garment manufacturers, some of which have

Continued on page 62

## Ex-cop pleads innocent on misconduct raps

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

A FORMER police sergeant has denied government's allegations that he stole public funds while he was employed with the Department of Public Safety.

Joseph Arriola Flores, through counsel Pamela Brown, waived reading of information and advisement of his rights.

Flores during a hearing in Superior Court pleaded innocent to charges of theft and misconduct in public office.

Associate Judge Edward Manibusan set a status conference on June 29, 1998.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Marvin Williams in the complaint said in Sept. 1995 through Aug. 1996 "unlawfully took the property of the CNMI government by claiming and receiving overtime pay to which he was rightfully entitled to."

Williams said the amount taken exceeded \$250.

In another case, Associate Judge Timothy Bellas yesterday ordered a Chinese national to depart CNMI in 48 hours at her own expense after she was found guilty of theft.

Bellas asked Gui-Bin Wu to pay \$200 fine and \$110 for attorney's fee. Wu was arrested Tuesday for stealing a pair of Christian Dior sunglasses worth \$180 at Duty Free Shoppers in Garapan.

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# 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

# 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

## NMC recognizes top employees

By Haidee V. Eugenio  
Variety News Staff  
MORE THAN 30 employees of the Northern Marianas College

(NMC) have been given awards for commitment and dedicated service during yesterday's Employee Recognition Ceremony.

In attendance during the event was Gov. Pedro Tenorio, the guest speaker, together with Lt. Gov. Jesus Sablan. Tenorio, in his

speech, espoused the importance of NMC employees' services in uplifting the well-being of the CNMI community.



Lisa Hacskaylo

Edward Camacho, spokesperson of the Employee Recognition Team, said that the rationale behind the yearly recognition is to promote esprit de corps and camaraderie among the NMC employees, as well as to acknowledge the employees' outstanding service in the performance of their duties and responsibilities.

It took two years of planning to be able to prepare and set up a set of criteria for the annual program.

"We have two years of planning to ensure that the recognition for NMC employees will be fair. Everybody here is great, but we have to narrow it down," said Camacho, who is also the chairperson of the Law Enforcement Department of NMC.

Accordingly, all NMC employees, faculty, administrators and ancillary service providers were surveyed to find out exactly their opinion as to the set of criteria that will be imposed, as well as the presentation itself.

"This is a teamwork. We do peer recognition, supported by the administrators. I think it (the awards) is fair for everybody," he said.

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## Students attend Guam tourism meet



Simon Sanchez High School students display their "Outstanding Tourism Student" awards at the GCC tourism conference. From left are Ray Cajudo, Rosalie Ocampo, Tourism Teachers Juliet Constantino and Patty Duenas, Aileen Boquiren and Isabel Santos.

By Sara Grant  
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA, Guam — Tumon-Guam Community College's Tourism Department hosted its sixth annual Tourism Training Education Day at the Guam Hilton Hotel, yesterday.

More than 200 secondary and postsecondary students enrolled in GCC's Tourism programs attended the conference, sponsored by the Guam Visitors Bureau, titled "Tourism: the Life-Line of Our Economy".

The purpose of the conference, subsidized by The Guam Visitors Bureau and GCC, was to increase

tourism awareness, to help students develop skills for working in the visitor industry, and to allow students to enhance relationships with tourism professionals.

Many different workshops were offered such as destination marketing, food preparation and Continental Business First In-flight Service.

Workshops were sponsored by various Guam businesses including Innova Technologies, Guam Plaza Hotel, Pacific Star and Palace Hotels, Island Wedding Service, GM/SC Johnson Floor Care, Continental, Seawalker, Paradise Aqua and PCI.

Awards were presented to top students in GCC's Tourism programs at several Guam High Schools.

Receiving an award titled "First Year Outstanding Tourism Student" were Ray Cajudo (food and beverage category), and Rosalie Ocampo (hotel operations category), both tenth graders from Simon Sanchez High School.

Second year outstanding tourism awards were given to Isabel Santos (food and beverage), and Aileen Boquiren (hotel operations), both seniors, also attending Simon Sanchez.

Dominic Moore, a junior at

Simon Sanchez, said he learned a lot from the conference.

"I thought that the conference was very informative and I became aware of important tourism issues. For example, I understand, now, how tourism really is the life line of our economy on Guam," Moore told the Variety.

Moore plans to attend college and major in tourism or business. Juliet Constantino, tourism

teacher at Simon Sanchez, said some important things came out of this conference.

"This event is a good way to give the students exposure to the hotel industry and it is quite a challenge for them because of many interactive workshops," Constantino said.

Other teachers said they felt students better understand about the decline in tourism and what they can do to improve that.

## New high school civics book out next school year



Esther Fleming

By Mar-Vic C. Munar  
Variety News Staff

THE PUBLIC School System is expected to release soon the first civics textbook that explains the CNMI's political structure and its relationship with the United States, an education official announced yesterday.

Esther Fleming, member of the Board of Education, said PSS has already announced a bidding for the printing of *Self-government and Citizenship in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, U.S.A.* by

Trust Territory archivist Samuel F. McPheters.

The book, which was conceived two years ago, will be used by secondary level students.

Fleming said the board's Committee on Curriculum and Instructional Assessment, which she heads, has recommended that the textbook be included in the school year 1998-99 curriculum.

"We are trying to get in touch with [Marianas High School] to see if the school is ready to include it in its curriculum," Fleming said.

Former Education Commissioner William S. Torres said the book would "help our students comprehend the new status [of the Northern Marianas] under the American flag."

"It's not a book of rules of good citizenship, rather a set of materials which should result in students understanding what

Continued on page 66

## Stray dog facility to need \$100,000 more

By Haidee V. Eugenio  
Variety News Staff

THE \$54,000 budget for the Stray Dog Control project may not be sufficient to finish the construction of its facilities, as well as the maintenance of its operations, according to its officer-in-charge Edward Villanueva.

"We have been given a \$54,000 budget for the overall project. But the way it looks now, we still need \$100,000 more. We may not have enough fund to finish the project before we start reinforcing it," Villanueva told the Variety.

He said that the budget given to

the project did not itemize where the total amount will be used, making it hard to make both ends meet.

"We are dealing with different suppliers of materials, and the prices vary," he said.

According to Villanueva, four full time employees will be assigned to the facility. However, due to limited budget, it is anticipated that there may be a need for voluntary manpower assistance.

For the meantime, the program is utilizing staffers from the Mayor's office and the Department of Public Works.

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## Sec. Zachares leans toward extending May 25 deadline

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff  
COMMON sense dictates that there should be more time will be given to allow all of the estimated 40,000 guest workers undergo health tests, acting Labor and Immigration Secretary Mark Zachares said.

Zachares stressed though that government will closely be monitoring progress of the health tests and take appropriate actions should the number of guest workers taking it declines in case an extension is declared.

"We will still enforce strict compliance (of the emergency health regulation)," he assured.

Zachares said a only about one-fourth of the 40,000 nonresident workers have undergone HIV, syphilis and tuberculosis tests in the nearly four months that the regulation has been in effect.

Guest workers are required to take the tests before being issued alien registration cards.

Zachares' calls for an extension echo a similar request made

Wednesday by the Saipan Chamber of Commerce (SCC) which said that it is not "practical" to enforce the May 25 deadline imposed by government on the tests.

Jose C. Ayuyu, in an interview, said the Chamber is considering asking government for an extension.

He said four months is too short a time if all 40,000 guest workers are to undergo the medical check up.

Ayuyu added that most employers can not afford to "get too many people to the health clinics" for fear of hampering business operation.

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

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.

## 'No need to extend health screening date'— Tenorio

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff  
GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday said there is no thinkable reason to extend the May 25 health screening deadline even if nonresident workers are left with only 18 days left to undergo medical tests and secure health clearances.

"I don't see any reason why [there would be a need to extend health screening] unless there is a very good reason," Tenorio said, when asked if his government would be amenable for an extension of the deadline.

He said the date has already been set, stressing that facilities have also been made available since February to have all 42,000 foreign workers in the Northern Mariana Islands comply with the emergency health screening requirement.

"The date has been set, the facility has been available. I



Pedro P. Tenorio



Joe C. Ayuyu

don't see any reason why they cannot have the screening," he added.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Joe C. Ayuyu said the May 25 deadline is not feasible to have all 42,000 foreign workers undergo checks for communicable diseases like HIV, TB and sexually transmitted diseases.

Ayuyu said the period meted out for the testing was not fea-

sible, adding that the Chamber is looking at asking the government for an extension. He said the extension may not necessarily be too long.

"Just enough time to have everybody get their health certificates," he said in an earlier interview with the Variety.

The Department of Public Health on Wednesday issued a warning that penalties will be meted out against nonresident workers who fail to secure health certificates on or before the May 25 deadline.

Acting Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said only 15,000 guest workers have been tested so far for HIV, TB and syphilis.

The government enforced the new health screening requirement following reports from Atlanta-based Center for Communicable Diseases indicated that cases of infectious diseases like TB, syphilis and HIV infection TB in the Commonwealth has already reached intolerable proportions.

So far, the public health division has documented four cases of HIV infection from the nonresident labor community. Two workers who tested positive for the AIDS virus have already been deported while the other two are still waiting for the results of their confirmatory tests.

The DPH has received 133 referrals to the Chest Clinic and 52 referrals to the HIV/STD Clinic. To date, there have been 51 new cases of active tuberculosis diagnosed since February 25.

Ten cases of syphilis have been confirmed from a total of 48 referrals. The total number of syphilis cases in 1997 was less than 10, according to Villagomez.

## If non-compliance to regs persists

# DPH fears TB outbreak

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff  
THE PUBLIC health department yesterday expressed alarm non-compliance with the emergency health regulation may put efforts to combat the disease in futile.

Noncompliance among foreign workers has been raising fears of a possible TB outbreak, considering that the disease is already endemic in the CNMI.

Acting Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, while admit-

ting that examining all of the remaining 30,000 aliens by May 25 may not be possible, said the deadline remains.

"The public health is at stake. We can't take this issue lightly," he said.

Villagomez is urging all non-resident workers to comply with the emergency health screening regulation, citing the increase in the number of reported cases of HIV infection, syphilis and tuberculosis.

Dr. Artin Mahmoudi, medical director for tuberculosis and lung diseases, said the CNMI has the highest TB rate in the Pacific and in the US mainland.

Mahmoudi said at least 150 for every 100,000 persons in the Northern Mariana Islands are infected or are sick with TB.

This figure is dramatically higher than the rate in the US mainland at eight cases per 100,000 population.

The Commonwealth Health

Center is rooting the increase in TB cases to the influx of nonresident workers to the CNMI.

A disease ethnicity report indicated that 47 percent of TB cases on the island were from among

the Filipino community, followed by the Chamorro, Chinese and Carolinian communities respectively.

Villagomez said TB is a contagious disease.

Continued on page 12

## Hillblom Estate: \$126M in 2 mos.

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff  
LARRY Hillblom's estate realized \$125.6 million return on investment in the past two months, according to documents filed in the Superior Court.

Estate executor Bank of Saipan in its activity report said the estate received in March approximately \$1,392,783 while in April the major cash receipt was \$11,422,198 through the DHL International escrow.

BOS Trust Officer Russell K. Snow said that last April 30, the estate earned \$112,835,549 from the sale of Hillblom's all A and B shares in DHL Corporation.

DHLC and DHLI and their

shareholders claimed they had certain rights to purchase the stock owned by a shareholder who died pursuant to a shareholder's agreement.

DHLC and DHLI are both Hillblom's major assets.

The Superior Court had approved an agreement to settle the claims, providing the estate \$112.8 million and \$282 million for DHLC and DHLI shares respectively.

On the other hand, Snow said, the executor anticipates the estate receiving approximately \$55,810,000 later this summer upon closing its sale to Northwest Airlines of all of its interest in Air Partners, L.P..

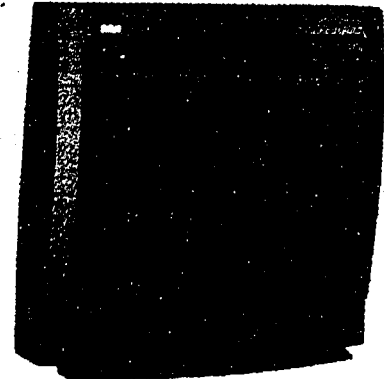
Another \$1.8 million is expected to be received by that time from Air Saipan, said the Trust Officer in the executor's report.

He added that the estate cash and investment position as of Feb. 28, 1998 was \$279,842,810.

Court papers showed that the estate was estimated to be worth \$600 million to \$700 million and not \$450 million as originally reported by the executor.

The executor has resolved 20 claims, including the heirship petitions by eight Hillblom's alleged children, in the probate which is now on its third year.

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# CDA chair throws support Tinian Dynasty a 'success story'

By Rick Alberto  
Variety News Staff  
THE CHAIRMAN of the Commonwealth Development Authority board said yesterday the first casino on Tinian is a "success story."  
"Since the soft opening of the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino last April 25, it looks like it's going to be a success story," Juan S. Tenorio said.  
Tenorio said that since the hotel and casino opened, a new airline, Marianas Air, has started

to fly to Tinian.  
Another airline, the Coral Airline, is also planning to come in, and the Northwest also plans to add flights, Tenorio said.  
Within the last 10 days about eight private jets have landed on Tinian and Saipan, bringing in casino players from Hong Kong, Taiwan and Japan, Tenorio said.  
He said the multiplier effect of the five-star facility, the first on Tinian as well as the CNMI, has resulted in more mom and

pop stores opening on the island.  
The smaller hotels have also benefited as they enjoy full occupancy, Tenorio said.  
"The whole town itself is blooming," he said.  
A lot of people from Saipan have also been trooping to the new hotel and casino not only to take a curious look at its facilities but also to try their luck in the casino's 80 gaming tables and over 400 slot machines.



Juan S. Tenorio

Tenorio said there are also a lot of Chinese and Koreans going to play in the casino.  
He said the Tinian Dynasty "would put us in the map again and lure more investors to Tinian."  
The CDA board chairman also expressed optimism for the Commonwealth as he said "we're moving up."  
"We are accustomed in reaching the bottom, and we have always survived," Tenorio said.

## Bulk of labor cases attributed by Zachares to manpower firms

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff  
AROUND 80 percent of all existing labor complaints can be traced to manpower agencies, acting Labor and Immigration Secretary Mark Zachares said.  
The bulk of the complaints involve unpaid wages and unprovided work.  
"Every major black eye that we got... (are linked) to manpower agencies," Zachares said in an interview.  
These, he said, include the infamous Ubongen case which involved close to 200 Bangladeshi workers gypped by a Filipino cabdriver named Segundino Ubongen.  
Zachares, citing government investigation on operations of manpower agencies, said most of these firms' only assets are its labor pool.

"That's why we are left stuck with these people (workers) once they (manpower agency operators) pack up and leave (the Commonwealth)," said Zachares.  
"Their only assets are their people. Until they can show us fixed assets, they can not be allowed to operate," said Zachares.  
The department, late last year, started implementing strict regulations requiring manpower agencies to undergo rigid financial screenings before being allowed to bring in workers.  
The move came after a commerce department study showed that manpower agencies are creating an abnormal situation resulting to the unemployment of nonresident workers.  
The department also found



Mark Zachares

out that there were over 400 sham manpower agencies operating in the Commonwealth.  
Meantime, the new regulation has been forcing several manpower agencies to transfer their current labor pool to direct employers, fold up and open new establishments, mostly related to the direct employment of workers — guard duty and maintenance firms.  
Government records show that there are now over 50 such manpower agencies.  
The Department of Labor and Immigration (DOLI), in the past few months, have transferred close to 500 workers from these firms to their direct employers.  
Zachares said the regulation is paying off as it has effectively closed down manpower agencies which does not have the financial capability to sustain employment of guest workers.

## DPH... Continued from page 11

gious disease. Like a common cold, it spreads through the air.  
Since the institution of the emergency health screening regulation, the Public Health Division has received 133 referrals to the Chest Clinic, with already 51 nonresident workers confirmed to have been infected with active TB.  
In 1997, the DPH diagnosed a total of 106 cases of active TB which was almost double the 1996 tally.

# CDA endorses Tinian bond

By Rick Alberto  
Variety News Staff  
THE Commonwealth Development Authority is endorsing the proposed flotation of up to \$150 million by the Tinian municipality, but said its legality has to be ironed out.  
In an interview, CDA board Chair Juan S. Tenorio said the CDA is ready to help Tinian in carrying out this project.  
"There's a potential income on the local level and that can be used for bridge financing for five years until such time that a permanent financing is established," Tenorio said.  
The other day Tinian's legisla-

tive delegation and municipal council adopted a joint resolution authorizing the floating of a maximum \$150-million bond to be used in financing the islands essential infrastructure projects including the expansion and improvement of the air and seaports.  
The resolution sets aside no less than \$5 million a year from the island's revenues and unused Covenant funds to pay for the bond.  
"It is good that they will be using their local funds, and CDA is in support and is endorsing the concept that Tinian would take (the lead)," Tenorio said.  
A past proposal of the Com-

monwealth Ports Authority to float a \$140-million bond didn't get the full support of the Tinian delegation on the issue of repayment, as two delegates did not like the idea of Tinian allotting a portion of the casino revenue.  
"It's about time that the Tinian municipality gathered together in harmony and worked together," Tenorio said.  
Tenorio said this would be the first time a municipality floats a bond.  
However, Tenorio said the CDA will be discussing with its bond counsel the issue of whether Tinian is qualified to float a bond under the Constitution.  
The Tinian bond will be discussed in the CDA board meeting Tuesday next week.  
Tenorio said there are about four parties interested to finance the infrastructure projects under the build-operate-transfers scheme.  
Also, the CDA will be discussing the bond proposal with five underwriters on how to go about the project, Tenorio said.

## Legislator alarmed on 'evaporating culture'

Teregeyo said the idea of building a multipurpose arts center 17 years ago should be pursued, as she solicits support from the Marianas Visitors Bureau. [ARF]



Oscar Babauta

A LEGISLATOR yesterday expressed dismay over what he feels is an "evaporating" local culture, as he urged the Arts Council to take aggressive steps in the promotion of the native teachings.  
"Our culture is evaporating. With a westernized education that we are getting, I am beginning to sense the departure of our culture," Rep. Oscar Babauta said.  
He said the youngsters have also apparently stopped speaking the local Chamorro language, adding that there should be hostile measures that have to be taken promptly to save the vanishing local culture.  
"We can't afford to lose our own language," Babauta said.  
This is the reason, he said, behind the regulation which obligates both public and private schools to include bilingual subjects in grade and high schools.  
"We need concerted effort from volunteer groups, local residents and the Arts Council to intensify the promotion of our local way of life and tradition," he stressed.  
Earlier, Rep. Ana S. Teregeyo has espoused the plan of building a CNMI Culture and Performing Arts Center. She introduced a house bill seeking to allocate a special fund for the establishment of the arts center.  
She said a special account will be created by the finance department which will set aside 10 percent of the total occupancy tax collected, adding that the fund will be used for all the expenses in the construction and furnishing of the building.

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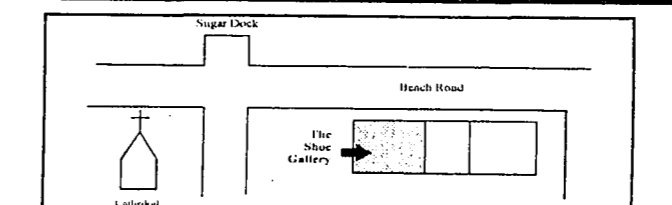
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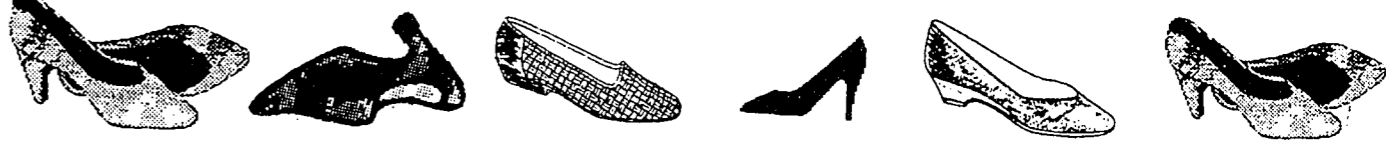
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**Mother's Day feature:**

# Mother: The 'tie that binds'

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff

SHE WAS a beautiful and brilliant young girl. She had so many times been tapped to represent her school and her community in several beauty

and talent competitions during her youth.

I would also hear stories how many times she marched on stage reaping medals for her good scholastic standing during her grade and high schools.

She would have been a practicing doctor now had she not become *just a woman*.

I can no longer recall how many times she would sigh in disappointment because she failed to realize her



dreams only because her father believed she was *just a woman* whose world is confined inside the house - to prepare meals, wash the dishes and take care of her children.

Her parents did not allow her to go to college because she would be *just a wife* to a husband who shall do the breadwinning for the family, and *just a mother* to children who would be needing her services at home.

She was told that all she has to learn were how to do the household chores and how to rear her children - no more, no less.

But she was not immediately convinced by her parents' explanation that our culture dictates that *women are just women* confined inside the four corners of the house - that it is a tough man's world outside.

Her parents, however, were determined to stop her from pursuing with her dream to finish college and hold a degree. She says her parents never attended any of her school's recognition programs where she got a medal or two, to discourage her from dream-

ing big. Not even in her high school graduation did her parents show up.

And they have apparently succeeded. Because at 17, a year after she graduated from high school, Sofia married a small-scale businessman about nine years her senior. She was fortunate though. Her husband allowed her to work as a secretary in a big liquor company.

She never became a doctor as she wanted all her life. At least, she was given an equal chance by her husband to pursue a career. But her corporate life was never meant to last long since she had to resign after giving birth to her third baby who suffers from congenital heart disease.

Sofia, since then, devoted all her precious time inside the house taking care of her three, and eventually four, kids without regrets.

But she has promised herself never to deprive her only daughter the same opportunity she had been robbed of only because she was *just a woman*. Sofia allowed her only daughter choose the kind of life and profession she wants to follow.

Her daughter now works as an accounting staff in a leading commercial bank in Manila. Now, Sofia feels the fulfillment she had been dispossessed of. Her two older sons failed to finish college but they are now raising their respective families and their own businesses.

Now, Sofia says she does not regret leaving her corporate career in favor of her family. "Nothing can take place the time a mother spends with her children." For her, the most valuable experience a woman can have is spending full time in her home with her family.

For a lot of people, she was *just a woman*. And I thank God she preferred what she is now. After all, I cannot imagine my father working to earn a living and at the same time wash the dishes and do the laundry.

I can only thank God Sofia is there to do the other half of my father's obligation. We are lucky enough there are *just women* who definitely are more than just a man. Had Sofia not become *just a woman*, there will be no one I can call Mom.

She taught me how to value the role of women in the society. Because of her, I realized that *women are not just women*. They are not just sisters and grandmothers. Not just aunts and nieces. They will be mothers who will always be behind their husbands' and their children's success.

The truth is, women make the difference. For our family, at least, Sofia is the tie that binds.

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## Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands



# Message

*"My mother was the most beautiful woman I ever saw. All I am I owe to my mother. I attribute all my success in life to the moral, intellectual and physical education I received from her."*

-George Washington

Even a great man like George Washington realized the special place that mothers hold in our hearts, providing unique and universal lessons on life, love and compassion. Mother's Day is a welcome opportunity to celebrate motherhood and to recognize our mothers' unconditional love. It is a love for and by another human being that is unsurpassed.

Mothers impart both the strength that enables us to face our challenges and the love that comforts and sustains us. Our mothers have a real opportunity to impact our lives in a very positive way through nurturing and love. It is their lifelong devotion to motherhood that teaches us how to be productive, responsible and caring people.

To all of you who have taken on the role of raising a child - here's to you! May God grant you the character, patience and love to see it through. Happy Mother's Day to all who have the courage to nurture and the privilege to love a child.



*Pedro P. Tenorio*  
PEDRO P. TENORIO

*Jesus R. Sablan*  
JESUS R. SABLAN



# 'Bangladesh protest can hurt ties'

By Jojo Dass

*Variety News Staff*  
A RANKING federal official said the US State Department is now "looking into" a diplomatic protest recently filed by the Bangladesh government over the alleged abuse of its nationals in the Commonwealth.

This was gathered as a government official privy to ongoing talks on the matter described the concerns being raised by Bangladesh as having "serious" implications on diplomatic relations between the two countries.

"It is serious," the official said requesting anonymity.

Jeff Schorr, in an interview, meanwhile said the State Department is now trying to address the Bangladesh government's protest.

"The State Department is looking into it. I think they will probably arrange something... I don't have the details yet," said Schorr.

"They (federal officials) are trying to resolve this in a positive way with the CNMI government, at some point," he added.

The Bangladesh government's Washington D.C. embassy, in an April 27 letter, requested the State Department "to initiate appropriate measures to enforce, safeguard and uphold the rights and interests of migrant workers from Bangladesh working in the CNMI."

"It appears that workers from Bangladesh were in many cases lured into employment contracts with false promises of lucrative

employment in premium US companies in US leading to US "green cards," the Embassy said.

The Embassy noted that its workers tried to seek legal actions "to hold the employers to their contractual obligations but the authorities have not been helpful."

There are, according to official estimates, close to 2,000 Bangladeshi guest workers in the Commonwealth.

More than half of these have pending complaints of labor abuse filed at the Department of Labor and Immigration (DOLI). The bulk of the complaints involve unprovided work, and unpaid wages.

The department's Administrative Hearing Office (AHO), had, in most of these cases, issued rulings awarding the affected workers tens of thousands of dollars.

However, none has actually received the amount as the erring employers have continuously defied DOLI's directives.

Acting DOLI Secretary Mark Zachares, in a bid to address the problem, has initiated talks with the Attorney General's Office (AGO) to explore the possibility of seizing assets of these employers to have it converted into cash and paid to the workers.

Observers however noted that such move can be an uphill climb as CNMI employers, like those in the US mainland, can have immunity from seizures by declaring bankruptcy.

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CUC-RFP-98-0026 May 8, 1998

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting proposals from qualified A/E engineering firms for the design of Koblerville Subdivision Sewer Line on the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The selected firm is expected to prepare construction documents consisting of plans and specifications, and project cost estimates.

The proposed design scope of work will include the following:

1. Installation of gravity transmission collector lines and force main lines;
2. Installation of pump stations, including pumps, piping, and flow/pressure/level data recording equipment.
3. Installation of standby generators and generator houses;
4. Installation of service laterals; and
5. Upgrade of existing lift stations affected by connection of new lines.

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

Proposals will be evaluated and selection made based on Qualification of the Principal and Proposed Staff - 30 points, Experience in Similar Projects - 25 points, Proposed Project Approach - 25 points, and Time Frame of the Work - 15 points.

The three firms which receive the highest ratings will be invited to submit price proposals. CUC will then enter into negotiations with the one submitting the lowest price.

A pre-proposal meeting will be conducted at the CUC Wastewater Office in Sadog Tasi, Saipan, CNMI at exactly 10:00 a.m. on Tuesday, May 26, 1998.

Six (6) sets of the proposals and copies of the business licenses must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked CUC-RFP-98-0026 to CUC, Procurement & Supply Office, P.O. Box 1220, Lower base, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 3:00 p.m., local time, Thursday, June 11, 1998. Late submissions will not be considered.

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

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any defects in the said proposals, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest. All proposals will become the property of CUC. Award of project is contingent upon final approval of funding from OIA.

All inquiries shall be directed to Mr. Edward Babauta, Wastewater Division Project Engineer, at telephone number (670) 322-6706/7179.

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ  
Executive Director

# Marshalls president, speaker feud

By Giff Johnson

*For the Variety*  
MAJURO — Marshall Islands President Imata Kabua warned the nation that Speaker Kessai Note's denial of voting rights to Nitijela (parliament) members in the closing days of the March session has planted the seeds of dictatorship in the Marshall Islands.

The President confirmed this week during a nationally broadcast Continuation Day speech marking the Marshalls 19th anniversary that he and "other defenders of the Constitution will file a lawsuit against the Speaker of the Nitijela for unlawfully removing four votes from a properly called vote in the Nitijela."

In hard-hitting words that were a dramatic departure from the usual pabulum that typifies speeches on these occasions, Kabua declared that "our Constitution is under attack by individuals who have placed political ambition above the law."

In late March, Note declared several Nitijela members, including the President, to have a conflict of interest over two separate pieces of legislation related to imposing a ban on gambling, and prevented the legislators from casting votes.

Legislation to repeal the two year old gambling law was easily

approved 18-7, but a tandem law to ban all gambling except for church-sponsored bingo would have been defeated had Note not disqualified the President and others with business interests in gamb.

But the President said the issue was not about gambling or the church versus the state. "It is about protecting the Constitution and everyone's rights as individuals," he said. He called the Speaker's action a big step "backwards" that "plants the seeds of suppression, intolerance and dictatorship."

He warned that the Speaker's action has far-reaching implications for all Marshall Islanders. "Today, the vote denied just happened to relate to gambling," Kabua said. "In two years it could relate to the election of the President or the confiscation of your property and lands."

The Constitution is under serious threat by the Speaker's actions, he said. "These people have used an insignificant issue to create a law which would authorize new police powers," he said. "This would allow your home or business to be invaded, based solely on suspicion, not the law. They did this in a manner which is against the law and the rules of the Nitijela."

Note was off-island and unavailable for comment.

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Also — try our Mother's Day special:  
• Grilled Salmon Steak with hollandaise sauce, accompanied with steamed fresh vegetables and potato. Refreshing orange sherbet served for dessert.

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# RP exports rise by 24%

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Strong sales of electronics helped Philippine exports jump 24 percent in March from a year earlier to \$2.47 billion, the government said Wednesday.

March's exports represented an 11 percent increase from the previous month. For the first quarter of 1998, exports totaled \$6.82 billion — also 24 percent higher than a year earlier, the National Statistics Office said.

Shipments of electronics and components rose 48 percent to \$1.28 billion in March and accounted for 52 percent of total exports for the month. Garments exports followed, improving by 1.2 percent to \$195.6 million.

Computer peripherals and parts ranked third among the country's exports with total shipments valued at \$149.6 million, 19 percent higher than a year earlier.

The U.S. market remained the top destination of Philippine exports in March, accounting for \$813.3 million worth of goods. The amount was 19 percent higher than the year-earlier level.

Japan followed, buying \$417.9 million worth of Philippine goods, or 17 percent of Philippine exports. The Netherlands, owing to continued demand for computer pe-

ripherals and inputs, ranked as the Philippines' third most important market, purchasing a total of \$156.6 million worth of goods. The government announces imports separately each month. In recent months imports have slowed — a result, analysts say, of the region's currency crisis, which has made imports more expensive.



Philippine President Fidel Ramos, right, combs his hair as his chosen Presidential candidate Jose De Venecia flashes the thumbs up sign as they make the rounds of the streets of Cebu city, 365 miles south of Manila, Wednesday to campaign for this coming Monday's national elections. Thousands of supporters lined up the streets of the country's premier city in the south for De Venecia's last campaign rally. AP

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## Imelda Marcos won't officially withdraw

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Imelda Marcos has decided not to officially withdraw from next week's presidential election in the Philippines, but will not actively campaign, an associate said Thursday.

The widow of former dictator Ferdinand Marcos, facing a jail term and trailing in the polls, announced on April 29 that she would withdraw from the race, leaving the race to 10 other candidates.

Hundreds of supporters physically blocked her, however, when she tried to file an official withdrawal with the Commission on Elections a day later.

One supporter grabbed the withdrawal form from her hand and tore it up. Mrs. Marcos, known for having a flair for the dramatic, decided not to withdraw formally after some supporters threatened to commit suicide if she officially pulled out of the race,

said the associate, who declined to be named. Mrs. Marcos' name has been printed on official election returns and votes for her will be counted, election officials said. The election is scheduled for next Monday.

In the latest poll by the widely-respected Social Weather Stations survey organization, Mrs. Marcos' support rating dropped to just 0.3 percent this week, down from 2 percent last month.

Mrs. Marcos will focus her efforts on campaigning for her son, who is running for governor of Marcos' home province of Ilocos Norte, and her eldest daughter, Imee, who is seeking a congressional seat, the associate said.

Vice President Joseph Estrada, who was once an ally of Marcos, is the leading presidential candidate with a 33 percent support rating in the same survey.

## House to . . .

Continued from page 7

abolition of MVB, saying that it would lead to substantial savings for the government. But the governor and the speaker disagreed. Tenorio said MVB needs to be

reorganized not abolished. For his part, Benavente, in an earlier interview, said the CNMI "needs now, more than ever," the services of MVB. He said S.B. 11-29 would improve the agency's performance. He added that the proposed reorganization would not displace MVB employees.

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## Skate discloses plan to reduce his staff

MELBOURNE (Pacnews)—Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Bill Skate has announced plans to reduce his department staff by 40%.

The reduction will represent the loss of 464 employees. Radio Australia reports.

The Prime Minister's announcement follows an unexpected inspection Wednesday of his department's offices concerning the absence of many workers from their desks.

Skate said one of the best ways to deal with absenteeism is to remove a few of the divisions in his department which are duplicating what other departments are already performing.



Bill Skate

The divisions to be abolished are Protocol, Human Resources and Legal Services.

## Fiji tackles issue of doctors

SUVA (Pacnews)—Fiji's health minister, Leo Smith, says the matter of unregistered doctors practising in the country has been discussed with the Public Service Commission to streamline the situation.

Smith was reacting to claims by an expatriate doctor interviewed by Network News that

about 50 of his colleagues are practising without being registered with the Fiji Medical Council, Island Networks Corporation reports.

The minister says if legislation relating to the issue is outdated, it will have to be changed. Smith says the matter has to be sorted out quickly because of the doctor shortage the country is facing.

## Elsewhere in the Pacific Bill to help FSM sailors

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSMIS)—President Jacob Nena is proposing to Congress the establishment of a sea duty differential pay for the patrol boat personnel of the Maritime Wing of the FSM National Police.

Under the current agreement, with elimination of overtime differential for public service employees which encompass the patrol boat personnel, they are entitled to compensatory time instead.

During several weeks at sea, many hours of compensatory time are accumulated which later are converted to annual leave.

This affects adversely the efficiency and effectiveness of the boat maintenance program, Nena notes.

Additionally, less time was available for boats to spend at sea as personnel are trying to exhaust their accumulated leave hours.

"An employee of the Maritime Wing of the National Police shall be paid his adjusted base salary



Jacob Nena

for all hours actually worked, up to but not in excess of eight hours per day, in any day or fraction thereof, including the sixth and seventh day of the work week, that he is on duty at sea," said Nena.

"No compensation, regular or overtime, no differential of any sort and no compensatory time shall be due for any additional hours worked in any such day, regardless of how many hours the employee was actually required to work in that day," Nena added.

Hours actually worked while at sea, up to but not in excess of eight hours per day, shall count as straight time for the purpose of determining compensatory time, if any, in a work week spent partially at sea or partially not at sea.

The holiday differential shall apply in lieu of the sea duty differential while at sea on holiday.

The hazardous work differential shall apply in addition to the sea duty differential while at sea, provided that being at sea does not and of itself constitute hazardous work.

"Typhoon emergency differential shall not apply while at sea," Nena said.

The current system has resulted both in reduced morale and less time at sea. The entire patrol program has suffered, Nena reiterated.

## 2 Samoan men plead innocent on theft raps

APIA (Pacnews)—Two Samoan men charged with alleged theft of over 70,000 tala (\$24,700) in total from the Air New Zealand office at Saleufi entered not guilty pleas through their lawyers Monday at the Supreme Court.

Filemoni Filemoni, 26, of Vailima, is alleged to have stolen 67,376 tala (\$23,800) from Air New Zealand between January 1, 1997 and April 16 1998.

The other man, Ieriko Afamasaga, 31, of Fasitootai, is alleged to have stolen 4,853 tala (\$US1,714) from the airline on March 2.

Court Judge Tiavaasue Palefatu Sapulu granted an adjournment until May 18 on application by prosecutor Andre Volentras, to allow the police to complete their investigations into the alleged offences.

## Fiji union raps decision on Air Pacific

SUVA (Pacnews)—The Fiji Aviation Workers Union has described the sale of government's shares in Air Pacific to Qantas as the worst decision made in history by government.

Union leader Attar Singh says valuable profits from the company which could have been reinvested into Fiji's economy will be drained overseas, Island Networks Corporation reports.

Singh says the money will be sent away overseas and will not be used to create any employment within the airline and the country. Qantas now has 46 percent shares in the national airline.

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

The Fiji government will retain the majority 51 percent share.

# Estrada solidifies lead

By OLIVER TEVES  
MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Vice President Joseph Estrada, the main opposition candidate in next week's presidential elections in the Philippines, has solidified his lead, according to a survey published Thursday.

Estrada received a support rating of 33 percent, 18 points ahead of his closest rival, ruling party candidate Jose de Venecia, the Social Weather Stations survey organization said.

Estrada has dominated the field of 11 presidential aspirants in all five surveys conducted by the widely-respected polling group since January. A former movie star and college dropout, he has admitted to woman-



Joseph Estrada

izing, heavy drinking and gambling in the past.

An SWS survey last week gave Estrada a 32 percent rating.

Despite his apparent popular support, some business groups worry that Estrada does not have the ability to lead the country's economy to continued strong growth.

Estrada and his running mate, Edgardo Angara, visited the Manila Stock Exchange Thursday to seek support from the business community.

"You have nothing to fear from an Estrada presidency, which is sure to come," Angara said.

"We must be partners for progress," Estrada told the traders in a brief

speech.

Ruling party candidate De Venecia received 15 percent support in the SWS survey, published in the Manila Standard newspaper.

De Venecia has served as House speaker and has a reputation as a wheeler-dealer. But he has been credited with mustering congressional support for President Fidel Ramos's economic reform agenda.

Sharing third place with 11 percent each were Senator Raul Roco and businessman Emilio Osmena. Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim, who is backed by former President Corazon Aquino, placed fifth with 10 percent and former Defense Secretary

Renato de Villa was sixth with 6 percent.

The ruling party vice presidential candidate, Senator Gloria Arroyo, received 42 percent support, far ahead of Angara's 18 percent. Presidents and vice presidents are elected separately and need not be from the same party.

Ramos is limited by the Philippine constitution to a single, six-year term and will step down June 30.

The election to replace him is scheduled for next Monday.

SWS said it polled 1,500 voters nationwide from May 2 to 4 for its latest survey, which has a margin of error of 3 percentage points.

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# Fans mourn Japan guitarist

By CHISAKI WATANABE  
TOKYO (AP) — Tens of thousands of fans flocked to the funeral Thursday of a popular hard rock guitarist who killed himself last week. The rocker's death has already led three young women to try to kill themselves. The line of grieving fans

stretched for several kilometers (a few miles) outside the Buddhist temple in central Tokyo where services were held for Hideto "Hide" Matsumoto, guitarist for the band X-Japan. Police mobilized helicopters, boats and about 100 officers.

Another 170 private security guards were deployed to keep the throng of fans from disrupting traffic. Most of the fans were in their teens or early twenties and were clad in black clothes. Many had brightly dyed hair, a trademark of



A youngster helps her friend who fainted outside the Tsukiji Honganji Temple where funeral services for Hideto Matsumoto, a popular rock guitarist, are held in downtown Tokyo Thursday. Matsumoto, known as "hide," hanged himself last week. Grieving fans formed several kilometers long lines to mourn their idol. AP

Matsumoto's band, which broke up last September. Alarmed by the big turnout, the temple set up a first-aid room after about 12,000 fans

visited the temple for Matsumoto's wake Wednesday.

Ambulances were on hand Thursday to treat fans overcome by the heat.

Police had no official estimate of the crowd size Thursday, but it appeared to be well over 20,000.

The guitarist's death has generated an alarming outpouring of emotion.

A 14-year old girl tried to hang herself Monday night at her home in Tokyo using a towel tied around her neck, the same method Matsumoto used to kill himself, according to Japanese media reports.

Matsumoto killed himself last Saturday.

Another girl jumped from a bridge Monday night, and police were investigating her identity, the reports said.

Both girls were in critical condition.

On Wednesday, a 19-year girl who attended the wake and was taken to the emergency room cut her wrist with a paper knife.

She was taken to a hospital but had only superficial cuts, said a monk at the temple, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

X-Japan was among Japan's most popular hard rock bands before it broke up last September.

The band, whose hits included "Tears" and "Endless Rain," held its farewell concert on New Year's Eve.

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Children play on the arm of lying Gulliver at Fuji Gulliver Kingdom park in Kamikuishiki, Yamanashi Prefecture on Children's Day, Tuesday. AP

## Report: Japan Finance official hangs himself

TOKYO (AP)—An official who worked at Japan's beleaguered finance ministry has hanged himself, police said Thursday, just days after the suicide of a senior central bank executive.

Koji Onishi, 28, was discovered hanging Wednesday night in his room in a Finance Ministry dormitory in Tokyo, said police spokesman Shigetada Nagaoka.

He was the third finance ministry official to commit suicide so far this year.

Onishi was a junior official in the ministry's International Finance Division. Because of his young age, he was unlikely to

have been involved in a bribery scandal that has rocked Japan's most powerful bureaucracy. Kyodo News reported.

"This is something I decided by myself," read a suicide note found in his room.

The ministry has been a primary target of an investigation into influence-peddling by bureaucrats who were wine and dined by banks and other businesses subject to government regulation.

On Saturday, Takayuki Kamoshida, the Bank of Japan's chief executive in charge of anti-corruption efforts, hanged himself in Tokyo.

## PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Coastal Resources Management Program (CRMP) will be holding a public hearing regarding Coastal Permit Application No. SMS-98-X-107 submitted by US-CNMI Development Corporation through their representative Micronesian Environmental Services for the operation of the US-CNMI Development Corporation garment production in San Antonio, Saipan.

The public is invited to attend and to submit written comments and/or to make oral comments regarding this project. All written and oral comments received will be made a part of the permit application record, and will be considered in any decision made concerning the proposed project.

The public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, May 21, 1998 at 6:30 pm at the San Antonio Elementary School. A second and final notice of this public hearing will be published at a later date.

Please contact the Coastal Resources Management Office at 234-6623/7320 or 3907 if you have any questions or require further information regarding this project.

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Prominent politician foresees:

# 'Less power' for HK Legislature

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong's first elected legislature under Chinese rule will have less power than its predecessor, and many people feel the relatively toothless body won't be worth voting for, a prominent politician said Wednesday.

Pundits have predicted voting on May 24 may be marred by low turnout, despite a costly government registration drive and a TV and poster campaign to stimulate interest.

The government has promised the legislature will be credible,

and international organizations have acknowledged its efforts to ensure fair elections.

Many believe one reason for reduced public interest in voting is "they doubt very much the efficacy of their vote," said Margaret Ng, a well-known barrister who was a member of Hong Kong's last elected legislature.

China disbanded that body when it took over in July 1997, saying it did not agree with the rules that produced it.

Under a new voting system, just 20 of the legislature's 60

members will be chosen by direct vote on May 24. Thirty seats will be chosen by an elite from selected professions, and 10 will be chosen by an electoral college of 800.

The system is largely a hold-over from British rule and gives great weight to Hong Kong's business and professional community, at the expense of middle- and lower-income voters.

The public feels "the whole election system is a sham. ... Everybody, I think, being hu-

man, wants to participate in such things which have power and make a difference, and are much less enthusiastic about participating in something which is only a gesture," Ng said.

Ng, who is seeking re-election in the legal constituency, said two new provisions in Hong Kong's China-written constitution would limit the power of the legislature.

Written permission from Hong Kong's China-appointed leader, the chief executive, must be obtained before a lawmaker

can introduce a motion that affects government policy — a "very big limitation" on their power, Ng said.

And new voting procedures within the legislature would make it harder to pass any such motion, she said.

Under the new constitution, Hong Kong, which has never elected its government or leader, will continue to have an executive-led government, but the number of directly elected members of the legislature is to rise to 30 over the next 10 years.



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A man walks past some Hong Kong election flags promoting the upcoming legislative election at a carnival in downtown Hong Kong Sunday. The first election under Chinese rule will be held May 24, but most voters are expected to stay at home. AP

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## Malaysian gov't, union debate joblessness rate

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — The government claims that 44,000 workers have lost their jobs during the economic slowdown, a figure disputed by trade unions.

Last year saw 18,863 layoffs, while another 25,210 workers lost their jobs from Jan. 1 through April 18 this year, Deputy Human Resources Minister Kadir Sheikh Fadzir told the New Straits Times for Wednesday editions.

The statistics were released Tuesday amid an ongoing debate between the government and the Malaysian Trades Union Congress (MTUC) over unemployment figures.

The trade union had been quoted earlier this week as saying that a half-million people were expected to be out of work by the end of the year, a staggering figure challenged by the human resource ministry.

Kadir told Parliament Tuesday that unemployment was not a serious problem and claimed that nearly all the laid-off workers had found other jobs.

In addition, the country still had 1.2 million legal foreign workers, while a shortage of workers was still being seen in the plantation industry, he said.

MTUC secretary-general G. Rajasekaran stood by its 500,000 figure and defended the trade union's right to derive its own estimates on unemployment figures since the government had failed to provide one. Rajasekaran was quoted in local newspapers Wednesday as saying that the union based its figures on the projected decrease in the economic growth rate from 8 percent in 1997 to 2.3 percent this year.

He urged the government to provide a detailed forecast of the unemployment figure before telling trade unionists to be silent on the issue.



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# Thousands protest labor laws

MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — Fueled by a bitter and protracted docks dispute, tens of thousands of unionists and supporters marched through Australia's second largest city Wednesday to protest the federal government's labor laws.

The crowd, estimated by police to be 75,000-strong but which organizers claimed swelled to more than 100,000, halted traffic as it marched through Melbourne and rallied at an inner city church to hear speeches and messages of support from international trade union organizations.

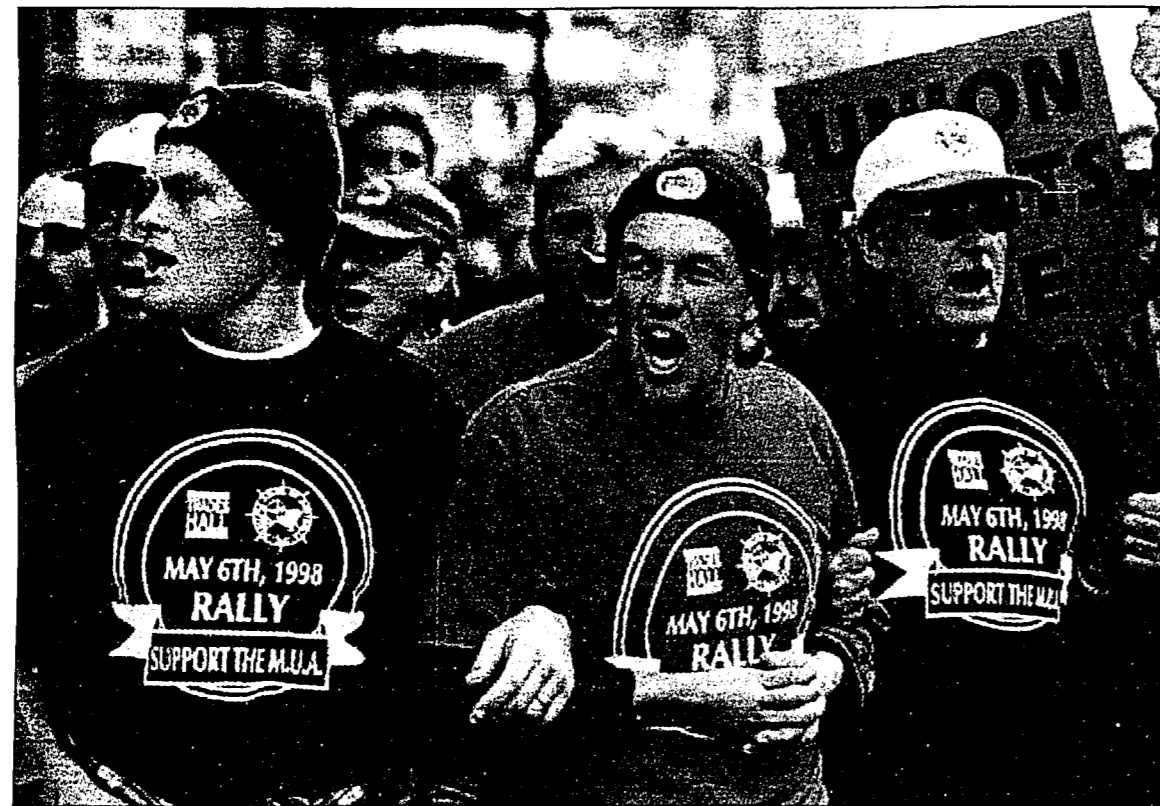
Leaders of various unions said the current battle for control of the nation's docks between government-backed Patrick Stevedores' Holding Pty. Ltd.'s moves to reform its ports by firing 1,400 union workers and hiring non-union labor.

The plan was short-circuited by the courts, which ruled firing workers just for being members

of a union is illegal. Patrick's docks remained frozen Wednesday as a stand-off continues between the union and the company about security on the docks.

The union has refused to return to work until guards who took part in locking out unionized workers on April 7 are replaced by guards unconnected to the dispute.

The company has refused to replace the guards and says security is needed to protect company managers and equipment.



A section of the crowd of at least 50,000 union workers crowd into the streets of Melbourne, Australia, Wednesday in a mass rally to protest against the Federal Government of Australia's industrial laws in a massive support of the recently sacked dockside workers. AP

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## Anti-uranium protesters storm North Ltd. offices

BRISBANE, Australia (AP) — Demonstrators stormed offices of resources company North Ltd. Wednesday to protest the plan building of uranium mine in Australia's Northern Territory.

Five anti-uranium protesters occupied part of the companies offices in Brisbane for longer than two hours, offering staff cups of tea they claimed was made with water from a creek contaminated by a North Ltd. subsidiary company.

"None of them (the staff) accepted it, funnily enough," protesters' spokeswoman Kate Lecchisaid.

North owns 64 percent of Energy Resources of Australia, which operates the Ranger uranium mine in the Northern Territory and plans to open a second mine at nearby Jabiluka.

Protesters wearing mock radia-

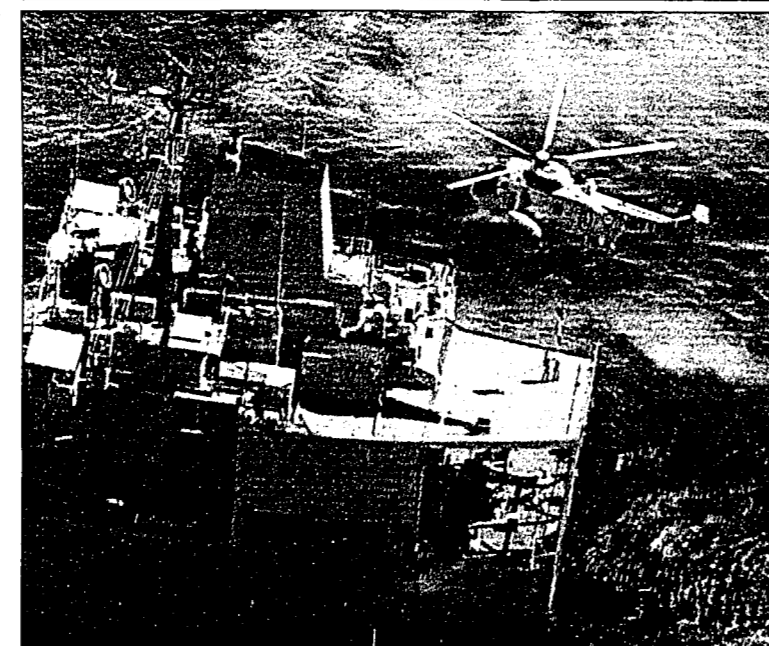
tion suits hung banners from the roof of the North office, and asked investors not to invest in environmentally irresponsible companies.

"We are informing North shareholders that their hard-earned money is being used to create 60 million (metric) tons of radioactive waste in Kakadu," Lecchisaid, referring a national park surrounding the Ranger and Jabiluka mining leases.

"Shareholders should divest themselves of North shares or call on North to stop uranium mining activities."

An ERA spokeswoman, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the company "respects the right of the protesters to protest, as long as they don't break any laws."

There were no arrests at Wednesday's protest.



A helicopter lifts an injured sailor from HMAS Westralia, Australia's largest navy ship, after an explosion that killed four Tuesday near Perth, during trials eight nautical miles off the coast of Western Australia state. Three men and one woman died in the engine room. A fuel leak is blamed for the explosion which began a 90-minute blaze. AP

# Japan arrests 12 'illegals'

TOKYO (AP) — A 36-year-old woman and an 18-year-old man were among a group of 12 Chinese arrested in the port city of Kobe Wednesday for trying to sneak into Japan by hiding in a cargo container, a police spokesman said.

The Chinese, ranging in age from 18 to 48, are suspected of violating Japan's immigration laws, said Tetsuo Nakayama of the harbor police in Kobe, 435 kilometers (272 miles) west of Tokyo.

The arrested Chinese, all from the southeastern province of Fukien, carried no passports, Nakayama said. The group was discovered after a security guard at the port heard noise coming from inside a container that had been unloaded from a Panamanian-registered vessel on Monday.

The container came from the Chinese city of Talian and according to shipping documents was supposed to have carried 20 boxes of silk mats.

Nakayama said the arrested Chinese told police they were hoping to find jobs in Japan. Each paid about 1.5 million yen (\$11,450) to an unidentified man who arranged the trip, the police spokesman said.

Police said they are investigating whether Chinese gangsters, known "Snakeheads," were involved in arranging the entry attempt. Meanwhile, police in Tokyo said

Wednesday they have arrested two Chinese alleged to be members of the Snakeheads on charges of confining another Chinese, who was also arrested on a charge of illegally entering Japan.

A police spokesman identified the two alleged gang members arrested as Shi Yianbo, 35, a construction worker, and Zong Zhiqing, 29, a shop employee.

Shi and Zong allegedly confined Li Lifang, 30, at Shi's apartment in Tokyo on Tuesday, forcing her to pay part of travel expenses from China to Japan, said the police spokesman who spoke on condition of anonymity.

Li, who told police she has entered Japan illegally under arrangements of the Snakeheads in January, was found after she called a friend for help on a cellular phone, the police spokesman said.

Last year, a total of 1,360 foreigners were arrested for trying to enter Japan illegally, more than double the figure for all of 1996, according to National Police Agency figures.

Of the total arrested, about 90 percent were Chinese.



Kiichi Takiuchi, left, a job advisor, instructs an unemployed woman to fill in an application form in Shinjuku public employment office in Tokyo. As Japan's sluggish economy continues, unemployment rate jumped to a record high of 3.9 percent in March. AP

## Australia launches \$10M aid package to Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — The Australian ambassador flew to the drought-hit province of Irian Jaya Wednesday to launch a \$10 million aid package of food, medicine and supplies.

"As a close neighbor and friend of Indonesia, Australia has a strong humanitarian concern for the welfare of the Indonesian people," the Australian Embassy said in a statement.

Ambassador John McCarthy was to witness the first delivery of supplies from the city of Wamena to Baliem Valley, the area worst-hit by the drought, the statement said.

The drought relief team, which includes a 90-member task force of Australian and Indonesian military personnel, will use three Black Hawk helicopters, a Caribou aircraft and a Hercules plane to air-lift supplies to remote villages.

Several tons of food, medicine and other supplies are expected to be delivered to about 90,000 people over the next two months.

The Australian Agency for International Development said last month that some 563 people had died due to malnutrition from the drought in the past year in the Wamena region.

Australia has contributed about \$50 million in aid to Indonesia since forest fires and economic turmoil swept the archipelago last year, the statement said.

Irian Jaya, which borders Papua New Guinea, is one of Indonesia's poorest regions.



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# New Thai central bank chief

**BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)** — The Thai Cabinet approved the appointment of the blunt-spoken Chatu Mongkol Sonakul as central bank governor Wednesday in an effort to overhaul the institution, badly discredited in the country's economic crisis.

Chatu Mongkol, who quit as Finance Ministry permanent secretary in a row with the previous government over the crisis last year, is expected to restore independence to a bank that had become a tool of political and business interests in recent years.

Chatu Mongkol replaces Chaiyawat Wibulswadi, who announced his resignation Monday after nine months as Bank of Thailand governor.

Chaiyawat was blamed in a report on the bank's failings for squandering the country's foreign reserves in a failed defense of the baht against currency speculators.

The baht ultimately went into free-fall, triggering a chain reaction of economic crises across Asia. Thailand, Indonesia and South Korea have been forced to seek some

\$120 billion in bailouts led by the International Monetary Fund.

Chatu Mongkol's appointment still needs all-but-certain approval by King Bhumibol Adulyadej, a distant cousin.

Chatu Mongkol, 54, has garnered many enemies during a long career for shooting down financial policy proposals from corrupt politicians.

The reputation is expected to serve him and the government of Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai, which needs to increase the Bank of Thailand's credibility to restore investor confidence and lift the economy out of recession.

The report says the bank should surrender power to supervise financial institutions to a new agency and instead focus on doing a better job on monetary and exchange policy.

The Bank of Thailand eminently failed to oversee the operations of banks and finance companies, often pumping in money to trouble agencies without adequate checks.

More than half of Thailand's financial institutions have been declared insolvent and closed or taken over by the government due to huge amounts of bad loans.



Chatu Mongkol Sonakul talks with reporters Wednesday during a news conference in Bangkok. Sonakul has been appointed as central bank governor for Thailand. He is expected to restore independence and confidence in a system that was badly shaken by the economic crisis. AP

# Australian envoy sees some changes, and problems

**By PAUL ALEXANDER HANOI, Vietnam (AP)** — When Sue Boyd arrived in Hanoi 3 1/2 years ago to take up her post as Australian ambassador, there were no traffic lights and only two foreign restaurants.

Things have changed a lot since then, at least cosmetically. But as Boyd prepares to transfer to Hong Kong, what she sees are the challenges that remain as Vietnam slowly opens to the world.

She readily admits there is a tendency to forget the improvements and expect too much too quickly.

At the same time, "The last 10 years, they have made the easy changes," Boyd said Wednesday at a farewell lunch with reporters.

The political security that has attracted foreign investors comes at a price, she said.

Such stability is the result of a rule-by-consensus system that makes tackling fundamental changes difficult.

So while Vietnam is seeking more investment to fuel growth and improve living conditions, foreign businessmen are waiting to see if the government will come through on promises to improve the climate by slashing red tape and reducing insidious harassment.

From an Australian perspective, that means opening up the insurance sector, creating more favorable conditions for mining companies to operate and generally easing the day-to-day hassles that plague foreigners living and operating in the country.

Boyd realizes that major changes — necessary for a trade agreement to the United States, then membership in the World Trade Organization — will be painful, with unemployment rising as inefficient state enterprises shed jobs.

The ruling Communist Party relies on grassroots support, and there is no government safety net for those who will be idled.

"They must be very aware of what happened in Poland, East Germany and Hungary," she said, referring to former communist regimes that failed under public pressure to reform.

Boyd said change in Vietnam traditionally has come in times of crisis, and that the fallout from the Asian financial troubles are providing a "window of opportunity."

"Some are saying that now is a big enough crisis to mobilize change," she said. "The great incentive is to stay in power."

The new leadership — the party general secretary, prime minister and president all have been chosen several months ago — has shown some positive signs, but it remains to be seen if they will follow through on their promises.

# Lawmakers hit Israel pressure



Newt Gingrich

**By Jim Abrams WASHINGTON (AP)** — House Speaker Newt Gingrich strongly condemned White House pressure on Israel to compromise on territorial issues, saying the administration has become pro-Arafat and is blackmailing Israel.

Gingrich was joined by lawmakers from both parties Wednesday in alleging that the administration is trying to force a solution in the Middle East that would be against the best interests of Israel.

President Clinton said at a news conference it was Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu who first advocated a faster pace toward talks on a final settlement between Israel and Yasser Arafat's Palestinian Authority.

"I have tried to find a way actually to do what he suggested," Clinton said. "I have done my best for a year now to find the formula that would unlock the differences between them to get them into those final status talks. That's all I am trying to do. There is no way in the

world that I could impose an agreement on them or dictate their security to them even if I wished to do that, which I don't."

At his own news conference, Gingrich, R-Ga., said: "Now it's become the Clinton administration and Arafat against Israel."

On Israel's 50th anniversary, Gingrich said, "The Clinton administration says 'Happy birthday. Let us blackmail you on behalf of Arafat.'"

The administration has indicated that the holding of a White House ceremony next week to open final status talks depends on Israel's agreement to a U.S. proposal to withdraw from 13 percent of occupied West Bank territory.

Arafat has agreed to the proposal, but Netanyahu has warned he will reject any invitation that comes with an effort to dictate the scope of any withdrawal.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright, in an interview Wednesday on PBS' "The NewsHour with Jim Lehrer," said convening the talks Monday remains conditional on Netanyahu's acceptance of the U.S. proposal.

"He has to make his own assessment as to whether he thinks that the ideas that we've presented provide a basis for this process to go forward," Albright said.

Gingrich sent Clinton a letter Wednesday saying that America's most loyal ally in the Middle East "should not be punished with threats and ultimatums."

A separate letter, signed by a majority of the House's 435



US Secretary of State Madeline Albright addresses a press conference at the Churchill Hotel in London, Tuesday following the breakup of Middle East peace talks. After two days of separate talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat, Albright said some progress had been made, and the talks could move to Washington. AP

members, also said conditioning Israel's participation in the talks to an American plan "would be counterproductive."

"It's absolutely outrageous," said Bill Paxon, R-N.Y., a sponsor of the letter. The administration position is "nothing short of extortion when it comes to trying to force the hand of Israel."

State Department spokesman James Foley denied that the United States was attempting to hand Israel an ultimatum.

"I can certainly assure you today that the U.S. has no intention of issuing any kind of diktats or ultimatums to a good friend such as Israel," Foley said.

He said the United States sees the invitation for a Monday meeting at the White House as a "strategic opportunity to put the peace process — which is in the interests of Israel, the Palestinians, the United States and all the peoples of the Middle East — back on track."

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Deadline for submission are as follows:

Rota	May 20, 1998
Tinian	May 29, 1998

To ensure fairness, application will not be accepted after the aforementioned established date per island.

signed:  
 /s/Felix R. Nogis  
 JTPA Executive Director

# Kaczynski joins 'most dangerous' at Co. jail

**FLORENCE, Colorado (AP)** — Unabomber Theodore Kaczynski has been put behind bars at Supermax, joining some of the nation's most dangerous criminals at a \$60 million federal prison dubbed the Alcatraz of the Rockies.

Twelve-foot (3.5-meter) fences topped with razor wire and a cell with a concrete bed and a chair greeted Kaczynski, who began serving four life sentences plus 30 years on Tuesday for a bombing spree that left three dead and 29 injured.

The 55-year-old mathematician was sentenced in Sacramento, California, on Monday under a plea bargain that spared him a possible death sentence.

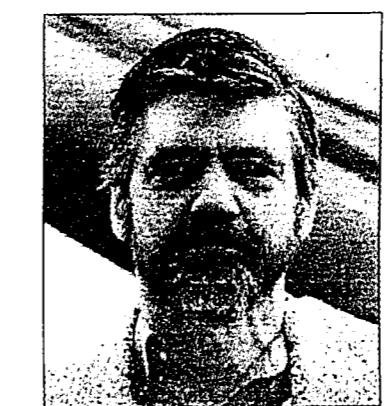
Kaczynski joins Oklahoma City bomber Timothy McVeigh; Ramzi Yousef, mastermind of the World Trade Center bombing; and Charles Harrelson, the hitman father of TV and film star Woody Harrelson.

The high-security federal prison opened in 1995 in this town of 3,500 people about 100 miles (160 kilometers) southwest of Denver. Kaczynski, like all newcomers and prisoners deemed dangerous, was placed in solitary confinement.

He will be locked down 23 hours a day in a 12-by-7-foot (3.5-by-2-meter) cell designed so that inmates cannot make eye contact with other prisoners or see anything except walls and sky.

Solitary confinement inmates cannot go to the library or the dining room or attend religious services.

A courtroom inside the prison ensures inmates never have to leave the grounds.



Theodore Kaczynski

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# Pilgrims the first to use Malaysia's new airport

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — A group of Muslim pilgrims returning from Mecca Wednesday became the first passengers to use Kuala Lumpur's new international airport.

Led by Deputy Transport Minister Mohamad Ali Rustam, a group of Malaysian officials greeted the 340 pilgrims at the 9 billion ringgit (\$2.4 billion) airport, whose first phase was completed despite the economic crisis that has forced the government to put off many expensive projects.

The airport will be one of the largest in Southeast Asia once it is completed.

It opened with one operational runway and facilities to handle 25 million passengers and 1.2 million tons of cargo annually.

When finished, it is expected to have five runways and a capacity of 60 million passengers a year.

The new airport is being built to ease congestion at the existing Sultan Abdul Aziz Shah Airport that serves Kuala Lumpur.

"It was a smooth landing. I was guided well by the tower and had no problem at all adjusting to the new airport," said Malchow Kenneth, commander of the jetliner carrying the pilgrims.



Malaysian pilgrims arrive at Kuala Lumpur's new international airport Wednesday, the first passengers to use the \$2.4 billion airport. AP

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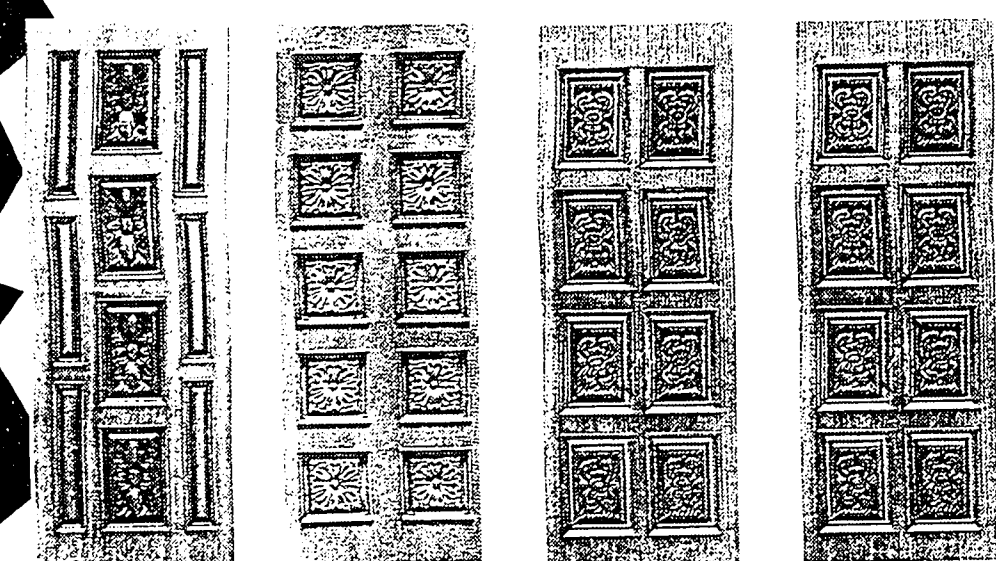
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## Suharto to visit Cairo for summit of G-15



Suharto

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — President Suharto will attend the meeting of the Group of 15 developing nations in Cairo on May 11-13, the government said Wednesday. Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said the 76-year-old leader will leave for Cairo on Saturday.

The announcement came as rioters looted in the northern city of Medan for a third day.

Alatas said the current economic crisis in Southeast Asia will be the main topic of the meeting.

The last G-15 meeting was held in Kuala Lumpur in November.

Suharto will remain in Cairo after the G-15 meeting to hold talks with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak.

The two leaders will discuss ways of strengthening ties between the two developing nations, Alatas said.

Suharto is scheduled to return to Indonesia on May 15.



Boonruang Buachan of Bangkok, Thailand, cuddles up with a bunch of poisonous snakes Wednesday at a shopping mall. Buachan is attempting to break a record by spending a week with 100 poisonous snakes in a glass-encased room. AP

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## Farmer to live with snakes in record attempt

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — A farmer, who claims he can speak snake language, says he plans to live a record-breaking week with 100 of the poisonous reptiles in a glass-encased room.

"We are friends. We understand each other," said Boonruang Buachan, 29, when contacted by telephone inside his snake-infested chamber in a Bangkok shopping mall.

Used to the tough upcountry life, Boonruang said he was more worried about catching a cold from

the air-conditioning than the fangs of cobras and other deadly snakes that slither over him.

Boonruang, who began his cohabitation Tuesday, said he would break a Ripley's "Believe it or not" record if he managed to stay a full week.

Besides claiming he can easily communicate with the animals, Boonruang believes that in his previous life he was a "Prince of Snakes," a creature of Thai mythology.

Boonruang said he's been around snakes since his childhood in

Sisaket, a poor northeastern province, and only been bitten once. That's when he tried to stop a drunk man from a snake attack.

The only protective device he has donned are goggles to prevent some possibly poisonous saliva from accidentally entering his eyes when he curls the snakes around his neck and head.

The idea for the snake live-in came from Television Channel 7 which had earlier filmed Boonruang's remarkable relationship with snakes.

A room was arranged on the fourth floor of the Bang Khae Mall which has already attracted thousands of viewers. Boonruang performs two shows a day, playing with what he calls his "pets, like cats and dogs" and commanding them to "play dead."

Fifty of the snakes, he said, are his own, while the television station provided the others.

Also introduced into the snake pit Tuesday were 20 kilograms (44 pounds) of live frogs which will probably be enough to feed the snakes for a week.

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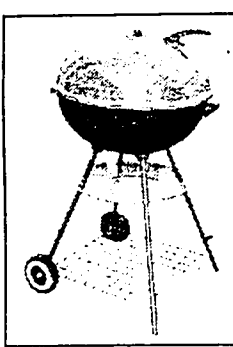
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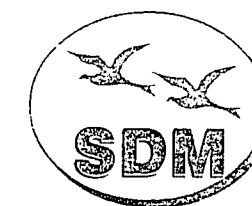
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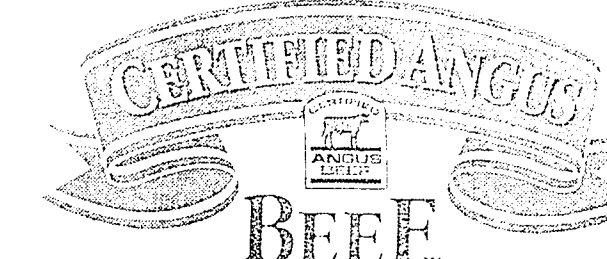
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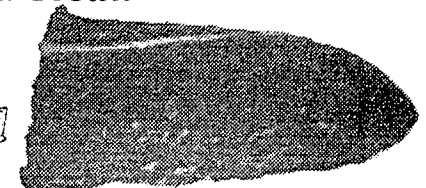
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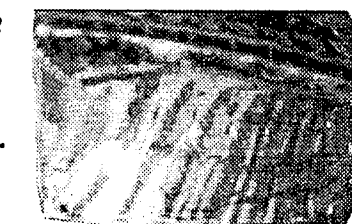
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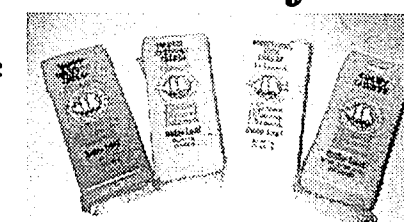
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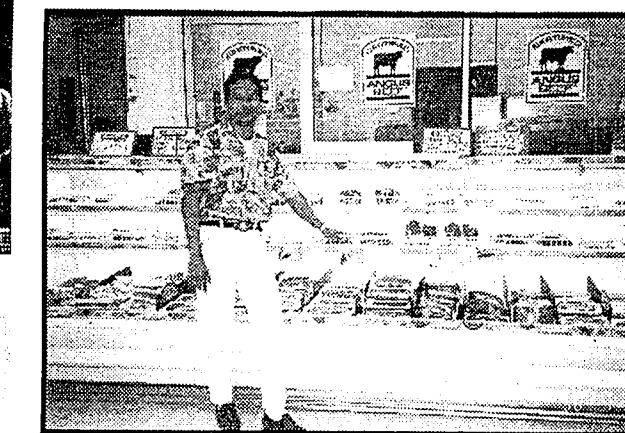
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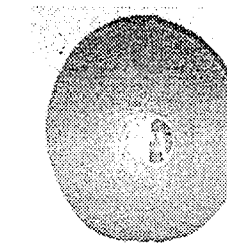
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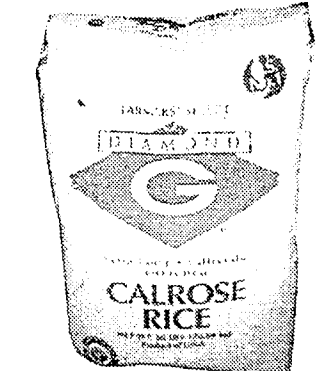
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# Samsung plans to downsize

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Samsung, South Korea's biggest conglomerate, said Wednesday it will drastically cut its debt and shed subsidiaries to help it weather the nation's financial crisis.

Industry officials said other conglomerates, including Daewoo, LG and SK, are expected to follow suit this week.

President Kim Dae-jung is urging the country's conglomerates to slim down under remedies imposed by the International Monetary Fund, which organized a record \$58 billion bailout package for South Korea in December.

Unbridled expansion by the conglomerates has been cited as a major reason for South Korea's financial woes. A typical conglomerate maintains 40 to 50 subsidiaries under its wing.

On Wednesday, Samsung said it will focus on electronics, financing, services and one or two other unspecified businesses while selling all or part of the minor subsidiaries.

But it did not say whether its future core businesses would include auto manufacturing. Samsung's entry into the auto market this year triggered angry reactions from other car makers and raised concern over a supply glut at home and abroad.

Samsung said it will use the money from selling subsidiaries to reduce its debt-to-equity ratio

from the current 317 percent to 200 percent by the end of next year. It also plans to dispose of billion of dollars of real estate.

In April, Samsung Heavy Industries Co. announced a \$765 million deal to sell its construction-equipment division to Volvo Construction Equipment Corp. of Sweden.

One of the key conditions of the IMF's bailout is a restructuring of South Korea's heavily indebted, family-oriented conglomerates.

Eight of them collapsed last year with heavy debts, aggravating the overall crisis.

The IMF is requiring big South Korean businesses to adopt a new consolidated accounting system that gives a clearer picture of their financial status.

With the old bookkeeping system, South Korea's big businesses have been accused of spreading their losses among numerous subsidiaries.

Samsung Electronics Co., for

example, reported \$89.5 million in profit last year. But under the new accounting system, which would include debt by its subsidiaries, the company actually had a \$442 million loss, according to the Korea Stock Exchange.

The old system has allowed big businesses to expand quickly, but when a subsidiary collapsed, the rest of the conglomerate also went under in a chain reaction.

That happened last year when eight of the nation's top 30 conglomerates, including Halla,

Sammi and Kia, collapsed with huge debts in bank loans. Korean conglomerates have grown in close partnership with past military-backed governments.

Their aggressive expansion enabled them to produce cheap products as diverse as cars, garments and television sets.

But they also have been accused of sponging up most of the nation's available credit, using unfair pricing to kill off smaller competitors and concentrating wealth in a few families.



Kwon Young-hae, former intelligence agency chief, center, is led into the Seoul Court House to go on trial for the first time for masterminding a series of smear campaigns against President Kim Dae-jung in last year's presidential election Monday. AP

## Korean guilty of stealing military computer chips

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The Defense Ministry said Wednesday it was investigating whether classified electronic maps were divulged by a man convicted of stealing military computer components.

The man, identified only by his last name Park, was sentenced to a suspended 10-month prison term by a South Korean court Wednesday on a theft charge.

Park, 27, was a former employee of a South Korean company that makes electronic maps for the military.

He was accused of sneaking into the company's office within the Defense Ministry headquarters in December and stealing three computer hard disks and five computer chips.

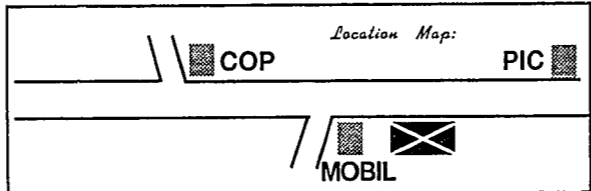
He later sold them for 560,000 won (\$418) in a Seoul electronics market, prosecutors said.

Only one of the hard disks has been retrieved, they said. Park testified that he stole the goods to retaliate for his dismissal early last year.

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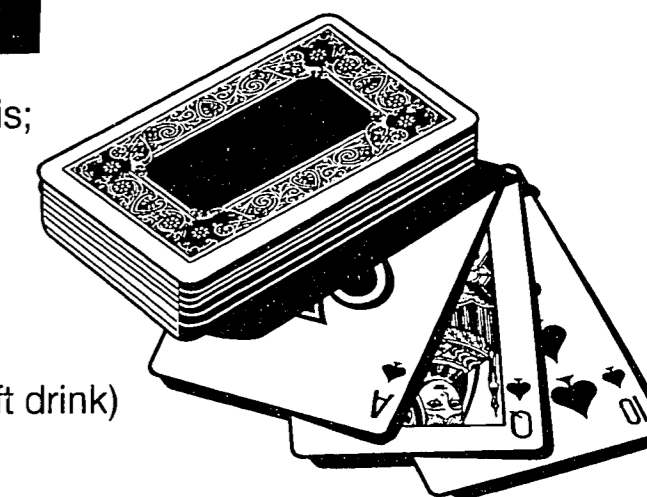
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09:30 AM	10:20 AM	11:00 AM	11:50 AM
1:30 PM	2:20 PM	3:00 PM	3:50 PM
4:30 PM	5:20 PM	6:30 PM	7:20 PM
8:00 PM	8:50 PM	11:00 PM	11:50 PM
01:00 AM	01:50 AM	02:30 AM	03:20 AM

\*First come first serve.

*"Bet with your head not over it."*

## New Sri Lanka law to punish unlicensed practicing doctors

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)** — People practicing medicine without licenses can be jailed up to six months in Sri Lanka under a new law voted by Parliament on Tuesday.

As against 6,000 registered doctors in Sri Lanka, an estimated 75,000 unlicensed

people run clinics, mostly in villages, health ministry officials say.

Under the new law, those found guilty can also be fined up to rupees 50,000 (\$ 820).

If a person violates the law even after conviction, the fine and prison terms could be doubled.

Government subsidizes health services for 18 million Sri Lankans, but health centers don't have enough doctors, equipment or medicines.

The poor people often visit clinics run by unlicensed people who offer cheaper medical services.

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS CUC-RFP-98-0023 April 10, 1998

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is requesting proposals from qualified firms to perform a routine maintenance program on thirty-six (36) of CUC's standby emergency generators.

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work at the CUC Procurement & Supply Office in Lower Base, from 7:30 to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for government observed holidays.

CUC will conduct two surveys of the existing equipment, at which time all prospective proposers will be able to verify initial conditions of all engine generators. The dates of these tours will be April 28, 1998 and April 29, 1998. The tours will begin at exactly 8:30 a.m. on both dates. There will be no exceptions to these two dates or times.

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

Proposals will be evaluated and selections made base on Price - 40 points, Overall Plan - 20 points; Experience of firm and its personnel - 20 points; and Location of firms - 20 points.

Six (6) sets of the proposal and copies of the business license must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked CUC-RFP-98-0023 to CUC Procurement & Supply Office, P.O. Box 1220, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 3:00 p.m., local time, on Wednesday, May 13, 1998.

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

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

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ  
Executive Director

### REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CUC RFP 98-0017 May 8, 1998

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting proposals from qualified firms for the Rehabilitation of Power Plant I Smoke Stacks and Roof Fans.

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

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

Proposals will be evaluated and selection made based on Cost - 40 points, Previous Experience on Similar Project - 30 points, Proposed Work Plan and Soundness of Approach - 15 points, and Completion Time - 15 points.

Six (6) sets for the proposals and copies of business licenses must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked CUC RFP 98-0017, to CUC Procurement & Supply Office, P.O. Box 1220, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 3:00 p.m., local time, Tuesday, June 9, 1998. Late submission will not be considered.

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

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

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ  
Executive Director



Bangladesh's main opposition leader Khaleda Zia speaks at a press conference at her official residence in Dhaka on Tuesday. Khaleda protested a peace treaty that Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina's government signed last year with tribal insurgents in southeastern Chittagong. AP

## Peace and order in Bangladesh 'at a low'

**DHAKA, Bangladesh (AP)** — Politicians have teamed up with criminals to nearly destroy law and order in Bangladesh, business leaders said.

In a strongly worded statement published Tuesday, leaders of the country's Chamber of Commerce and Industry and its affiliated bodies referred to the armed thugs who regularly extort money from or kidnap business people.

Many of the thugs work for political parties, who use them to intimidate political opponents and allow them to prey on businesses in exchange.

"All political parties seem to

have developed a mind set that they need armed criminals to ensure support for their political program," the business leaders' statement said.

"The unholy alliance between the political parties and criminals have brought about near collapse of law."

The statement urged the government and political parties to rededicate themselves to the rule of law, saying the morale of the business community has been "devastated by the unabated incidents of abduction of businessmen, rape, murder and hijacking."

## Tamil rebels stop fighting as UN officials does visits

**COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)** — Tamil Tiger rebels began a two-day cease-fire Wednesday as a top U.N. official probing the effect of war on children visited Sri Lanka's northern battle ground.

Olara Otunnu, special representative of U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan, left by road for the northern city of Vavuniya early Wednesday to meet government officials, military and Tamil Tiger representatives.

"We have every reason to believe that Mr. Otunnu's mission is going on well," said Arbe Ofstad, a U.N. official in Colombo.

Sri Lankan military officials said there were no reports of any fighting in the north and east theaters, where sporadic clashes are usually a daily occurrence.

The Tigers announced Sunday they would observe a unilateral cease-fire Wednesday and Thursday, apparently timed to coincide with Otunnu's visit

to the war theater.

Otunnu arrived Sunday on a week-long visit to Sri Lanka, one of the few countries identified by the U.N. as needing special attention to protect its children.

Otunnu is driving from Colombo to the government controlled Vavuniya town, 210 kilometers (130 miles) to the north, because there are no civilian flights to the area.

Otunnu will visit rebel-held territories near Vavuniya. He is scheduled to spend Wednesday at the rebel-controlled town of Madhu, near a 19th century Catholic shrine that now houses tens of thousands of Tamils who have fled the fighting.

The Tigers have been fighting since 1983 to create a homeland for the Tamil minority they say is discriminated against in jobs and education by the Sinhalese majority.

More than 52,000 people have been killed in the ethnic war.

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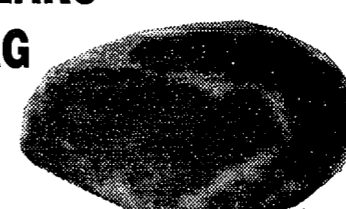
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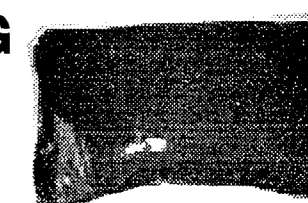
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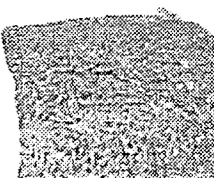
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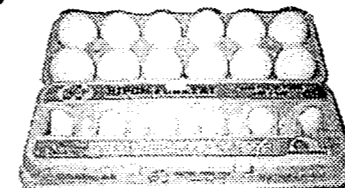
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# Clinton warns Yugoslavia

By TERENCE HUNT  
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton warned Yugoslavia that Western allies are ready to "substantially turn up the pressure" if necessary to stop a two-month Serb crackdown on ethnic Albanian militants in Kosovo. "We don't want another Bosnia," he said Wednesday.

## Says allies ready to act to stop Kosovo violence

Joining Clinton at a news conference, Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi said Kosovo was a "hot point" in the Balkans and "a source of worry for us." More than 150 people have died in the restive Serbian province where ethnic Albanians make up more

than 90 percent of the population. After three hours of talks, Clinton and Prodi played down tensions caused by the deaths of 20 people when a U.S. Marine jet sliced through a gondola cable in the Italian Alps last February.

Clinton said it was "a horrible

human tragedy" and "my regret is profound."

He said he would ensure that "we behave in a completely honorable way" to rectify the tragedy.

Prodi said he was awaiting developments but added that "I've seen a deep involvement of the American political authorities."

With the two leaders trading effusive compliments, Prodi proclaimed a "magic moment of American-Italian relations. We have no point of disagreement." Clinton said the prime minister, who took office in 1996, has led Italy "on a path of fiscal responsibility and genuine recovery."

The president said they were both deeply concerned about tensions in Kosovo, a province of Serbia, which is Yugoslavia's dominant republic.

"The absence of a genuine dialogue there is fueling a conflict that could threaten regional stability," Clinton said.

"We're working urgently to establish unconditional talks that can avert escalating violence."

"But we must and will be ready to substantially turn up the pressure on Belgrade should it keep blocking the search for a political solution, or revert to indiscriminate force," Clinton said.

Last week, the United States and other leading countries authorized sanctions against Yugoslavia to pressure President Slobodan Milosevic into peacefully solving the crisis. Only Russia abstained from adopting the sanctions.

Keeping alive the possibility of sending allied troops to Kosovo, Clinton said, "No option should be ruled out. We do not want another Bosnia in Kosovo. Too many people have died there already in indiscriminate violence."

Clinton said the Serbs "don't want to give up a big part of their



Bill Clinton

country which they believe — and is — legally part of their country. So they obviously need to sit down and talk through how the legitimate aspirations of the Kosovo Albanians can somehow be manifest in giving them some measure of self-government and decision-making authority over their lives within the framework of Serbia."

Prodi said he agreed, but cautioned that sending troops is potentially dangerous because they become potential hostages.

Meanwhile, the chief U.S. mediator for the Balkans, Robert Gelbard, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the outbreak of violence in Kosovo "has the potential, if allowed to spiral out of control ... to threaten stability, not just in Yugoslavia, but in the region as a whole."

"Despite repeated warnings, Belgrade so far has blocked unconditional dialogue," he said, adding, "I want to be very clear."

Extremists on both sides are the only ones who will gain by a delay in getting dialogue started."

Gelbard said the United States "continues to work on all possible options that are available regarding our desire to find a peaceful solution in Kosovo. All options are on the table and available. We have not ruled anything out. President Milosevic is well aware of that."



The top international official in Bosnia, Carlos Westendorp (left) and NATO's top commander in Europe, U.S. Gen. Wesley Clark, talk with journalists in the western Bosnian town of Drvar Friday. Officials arrived to declare diplomatic war on local Croats who have killed and run riot in efforts to expel Serb residents returning from wartime exile. AP

# Cop, politician killed in Kosovo



A plainclothes policeman with the corpse of a slain Albanian gunman, allegedly belonging to Kosovo Liberation Army Wednesday. The gunman was killed after he attacked a police patrol, killing a policeman and wounding two other policemen. AP

according to Beta.

The newest killings came in the wake of warnings Tuesday from Veljko Odalovic, deputy director of the Kosovo Serb government, that ethnic Albanians must give up on independence or face a wider war.

Kosovo Albanians comprise 90 percent of the province's population. Most want independence from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia.

More than 150 people have died in a two-month Serb crackdown on ethnic Albanian militants.

Kosovo Albanian leader

Ibrahim Rugova, meanwhile, repeated that any talks on Kosovo's future should be held under third party mediation and in a neutral country — conditions Serbia rejects.

Last week, the United States and other key world powers introduced sanctions on Yugoslavia to pressure President Slobodan Milosevic into peacefully solving the crisis. Only Russia abstained.

There were no details on Wednesday's attack on the police unit, but the assault appeared to be the

work of the Kosovo Liberation Army, the clandestine armed ethnic Albanian group that has claimed responsibility for dozens of killings of Serbs and pro-Serb ethnic Albanians since 1996.

Tanjug, the state-run news agency of Yugoslavia, reported that two people — one a Serb, the other an ethnic Albanian loyal to Serbia — were killed Monday and Tuesday by the Kosovo Liberation Army.

The body of an unidentified third man was also found Tuesday.

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DATED this 06 day of April, 1998.

/s/ GIL M. SAN NICOLAS  
Acting Director of Labor



Policemen take shelter in the village of Trstenik, some 30 km southwest of Pristina Tuesday. The patrol was attacked by Albanian gunmen during a post-mortem investigation in the village where police found a corpse of an unidentified man killed by small arms. AP

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# Clinton warns Yugoslavia

By TERENCE HUNT  
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton warned Yugoslavia that Western allies are ready to "substantially turn up the pressure" if necessary to stop a two-month Serb crackdown on ethnic Albanian militants in Kosovo. "We don't want another Bosnia," he said Wednesday.

## Says allies ready to act to stop Kosovo violence

Joining Clinton at a news conference, Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi said Kosovo was a "hot point" in the Balkans and "a source of worry for us." More than 150 people have died in the restive Serbian province where ethnic Albanians make up more

than 90 percent of the population. After three hours of talks, Clinton and Prodi played down tensions caused by the deaths of 20 people when a U.S. Marine jet sliced through a gondola cable in the Italian Alps last February. Clinton said it was "a horrible human tragedy" and "my regret is profound."

He said he would ensure that "we behave in a completely honorable way" to rectify the tragedy.

Prodi said he was awaiting developments but added that "I've seen a deep involvement of the American political authorities."

With the two leaders trading effusive compliments, Prodi proclaimed a "magic moment of American-Italian relations. We have no point of disagreement." Clinton said the prime minister, who took office in 1996, has led Italy "on a path of fiscal responsibility and genuine recovery."

The president said they were both deeply concerned about tensions in Kosovo, a province of Serbia, which is Yugoslavia's dominant republic.

"The absence of a genuine dialogue there is fueling a conflict that could threaten regional stability," Clinton said.

"We're working urgently to establish unconditional talks that can avert escalating violence."

"But we must and will be ready to substantially turn up the pressure on Belgrade should it keep blocking the search for a political solution, or revert to indiscriminate force," Clinton said.

Last week, the United States and other leading countries authorized sanctions against Yugoslavia to pressure President Slobodan Milosevic into peacefully solving the crisis. Only Russia abstained from adopting the sanctions.

Keeping alive the possibility of sending allied troops to Kosovo, Clinton said, "No option should be ruled out. We do not want another Bosnia in Kosovo. Too many people have died there already in indiscriminate violence."

Clinton said the Serbs "don't want to give up a big part of their



Bill Clinton

country which they believe — and is — legally part of their country. So they obviously need to sit down and talk through how the legitimate aspirations of the Kosovo Albanians can somehow be manifest in giving them some measure of self-government and decision-making authority over their lives within the framework of Serbia."

Prodi said he agreed, but cautioned that sending troops is potentially dangerous because they become potential hostages.

Meanwhile, the chief U.S. mediator for the Balkans, Robert Gelbard, told the Senate Foreign Relations Committee that the outbreak of violence in Kosovo "has the potential, if allowed to spiral out of control... to threaten stability, not just in Yugoslavia, but in the region as a whole."

"Despite repeated warnings, Belgrade so far has blocked unconditional dialogue," he said, adding, "I want to be very clear."

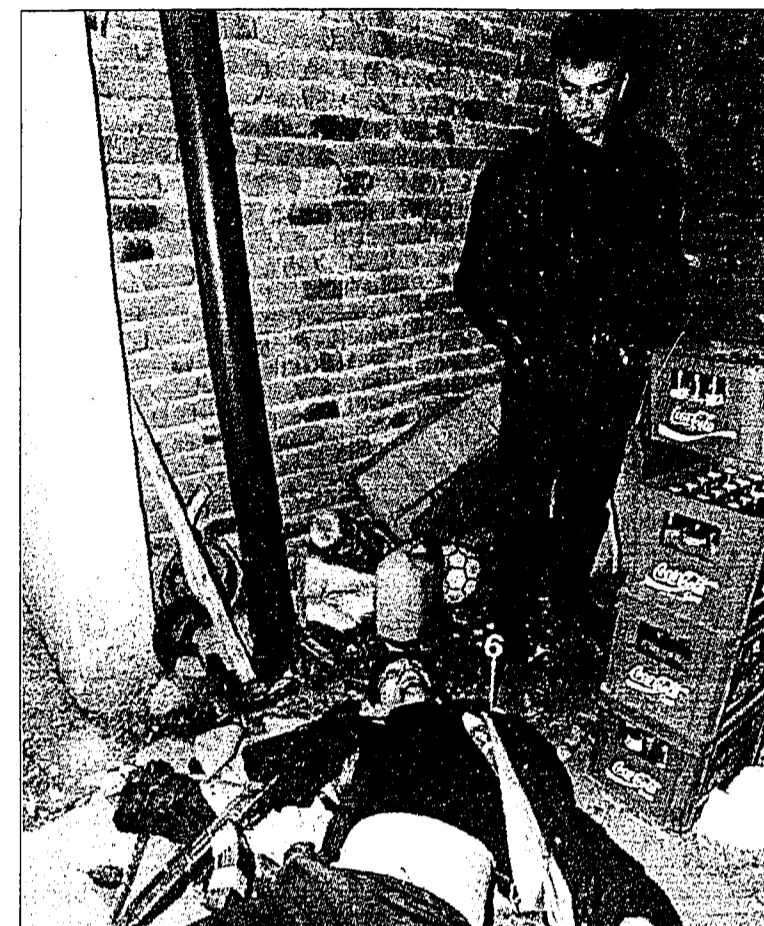
Extremists on both sides are the only ones who will gain by a delay in getting dialogue started."

Gelbard said the United States "continues to work on all possible options that are available regarding our desire to find a peaceful solution in Kosovo. All options are on the table and available. We have not ruled anything out. President Milosevic is well aware of that."



The top international official in Bosnia, Carlos Westendorp (left) and NATO's top commander in Europe, U.S. Gen. Wesley Clark, talk with journalists in the western Bosnian town of Drvar Friday. Officials arrived to declare diplomatic war on local Croats who have killed and run riot in efforts to expel Serb residents returning from wartime exile. AP

# Cop, politician killed in Kosovo



A plainclothes policeman with the corpse of a slain Albanian gunman, allegedly belonging to Kosovo Liberation Army Wednesday. The gunman was killed after he attacked a police patrol, killing a policeman and wounding two other policemen. AP

By JOVANA GEC  
PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP) — Ethnic Albanian militants seeking to wrest Kosovo province from Serbia attacked a Serb police patrol on Wednesday, killing one officer and wounding two, police said. An attacker was also killed. Ethnic Albanian officials said one of their own was killed in a separate attack underlying the tit-for-tat nature of the struggle over Kosovo. He was identified as Rifat Shala, a regional politician. His brother was badly wounded. Pressure appeared to be growing on the Serbs to accept ethnic Albanian demands for foreign mediation of talks between the two ethnic groups, with Russia,

the Serbs' most powerful ally, reportedly backing the idea.

The Beta news agency cited Russian Deputy Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov as suggesting that the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe get involved as a "participant in establishing negotiations."

Speaking in Belgrade on Tuesday, Ivanov was also quoted as saying that Russia is considering sending troops to Macedonia to join the U.N. peacekeepers there.

Russia is also interested in sending observers to the Yugoslav-Albanian border to help prevent weapons smuggling into Serbia, the larger of Yugoslavia's two remaining republics, said Ivanov.

according to Beta. The newest killings came in the wake of warnings Tuesday from Veljko Odalovic, deputy director of the Kosovo Serb government, that ethnic Albanians must give up on independence or face a wider war.

Kosovo Albanians comprise 90 percent of the province's population. Most want independence from Serb-dominated Yugoslavia.

More than 150 people have died in two-month Serb crackdown on ethnic Albanian militants.

Kosovo Albanian leader

Ibrahim Rugova, meanwhile, repeated that any talks on Kosovo's future should be held under third party mediation and in a neutral country — conditions Serbia rejects.

Last week, the United States and other key world powers introduced sanctions on Yugoslavia to pressure President Slobodan Milosevic into peacefully solving the crisis. Only Russia abstained.

There were no details on Wednesday's attack on the police unit, but the assault appeared to be the

work of the Kosovo Liberation Army, the clandestine armed ethnic Albanian group that has claimed responsibility for dozens of killings of Serbs and pro-Serb ethnic Albanians since 1996.

Tanjung, the state-run news agency of Yugoslavia, reported that two people — one a Serb, the other an ethnic Albanian loyal to Serbia — were killed Monday and Tuesday by the Kosovo Liberation Army.

The body of an unidentified third man was also found Tuesday.

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# Clinton salutes PM Prodi

By Lawrence L. Knutson  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — At a "magic moment of Italian-American relations," President Clinton saluted Italy's prime minister at a formal dinner Wednesday evening and presided over a night of Italian opera sung by American voices.

The "magic moment" quote came from Prime Minister Romano Prodi, who told Clinton during a joint news conference that it was an apt description because in the current state of relations between the two countries,

"we have no point of disagreement." That point made, the Italian guests and their American hosts and a guest list that included actress Sophia Loren could settle themselves at 16 round tables for 10 in the White House East Room, each set with porcelain from the Eisenhower and Franklin Roosevelt administrations.

Giacomo Puccini and Giuseppe Verdi, the Italian operatic giants, were the composers of the after-dinner entertainment. But the performers were all-American, more than 30 young singers from across the country.

The singers, who were performing excerpts from six operas, including Verdi's "La Traviata" and Puccini's "La Boheme," were selected at the suggestion of Placido Domingo, artistic director of The Washington Opera. Soloists included David Miller, Marcus Haddock, Angela Turner Wilson and Maria Spacagna.

In the distinctions that make up protocol, it was an official dinner, not a state dinner, because Prodi as prime minister is head of government, not head of state.

The menu, designed by Walter

Scheib, the executive White House chef, was a tribute to Italian tradition and the fresh produce of an American spring.

Thirty vegetables went into the dinner, including the artichokes and fiddlehead ferns with wild leek dressing that started in a spring vegetable tart.

The main course: Alaskan halibut with gremolata risotto. "It's a beautiful, beautiful fish," said Scheib. "We had it yesterday (in the White House kitchen) for lunch and then again for dinner."

The desert, a towering offering by

White House pastry chef Roland Mesnier, was an ice cream tower. Specifically, it was an 18-inch high representation of the Tower of Asinelli in Prodi's home town of Bologna.

It was made of chestnut ice cream on a cake of Georgia peaches frosted in white and accented with the Italian national colors, red and green.

"We used milk cartons for the forms," Mesnier said. "The base is a two quart milk carton and the top is a one-quart milk carton."

# Commander: Jet flew too fast, too low in Italy

By ESTES THOMPSON  
**CAMPLEJEU, North Carolina (AP)** — A Marine Corps jet was flying too low and too fast when it cut the cables holding an Italian ski gondola, killing 20 people, says the squadron commander of the plane's crew.

"It's not the way I would fly it... That's pushing it pretty hard," Lt. Col. Richard Muegge said Tuesday during an investigatory hearing into the incident on Feb. 3 over an Italian ski area.

Six witnesses testified on the first day of the proceeding, called an Article 32 hearing, against Capt. Chandler Seagraves, 28, and Capt. William Raney II, 26. Both were back-seat crewmen in the Prowler

EA-6B jet, responsible for operating radar jamming gear.

The hearing will determine whether the two captains should be court-martialed for the incident.

The tragedy strained relations between the U.S. and Italy and is likely to be discussed during Wednesday's meeting between President Bill Clinton and Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi, White House spokesman Mike McCurry said Tuesday.

"This has been a subject of enormous concern and pain to both of our governments. I wouldn't be surprised if it does come up," McCurry said. "I think we have dealt with this in a sensitive way, and in a way that is designed to ensure

that justice is done." Muegge said that when he flew the low-level training route through the Italian Alps, taking off from an air base at Aviano, he flew at what he called the best speed of 420 knots (775 kph) and the minimum allowed altitude of 1,000 feet (300 meters).

The Prowler crew was flying between 480 knots and 530 knots (883 kph and 975 kph) and the pilot reported after the crash that he'd been flying at 800 feet (240 meters), Muegge said. The crash investigation report said the cable was sliced at about 370 feet (110 meters).

"I wouldn't say it was unsafe, but it reduces your reaction time," Muegge said of the jet's speed.

"I don't consider flying below 1,000

feet (300 meters) unsafe, but it's not what we're allowed to fly. If I see that, it tells me something is being done not the way it's supposed to be," he said.

The hearing was scheduled to resume Wednesday with six more prosecution witnesses. Defense attorneys estimate they will present between seven and 10 witnesses.

On Thursday, the defense plans to show the judge the back seat layout of a Prowler in a hangar at the Cherry Point Marine Corps Air Station, about an hour away.

Another hearing is scheduled for June 15 for the Prowler's pilot, Capt. Richard Ashby, 30, and navigator, Capt. Joseph Schweitzer, 30.

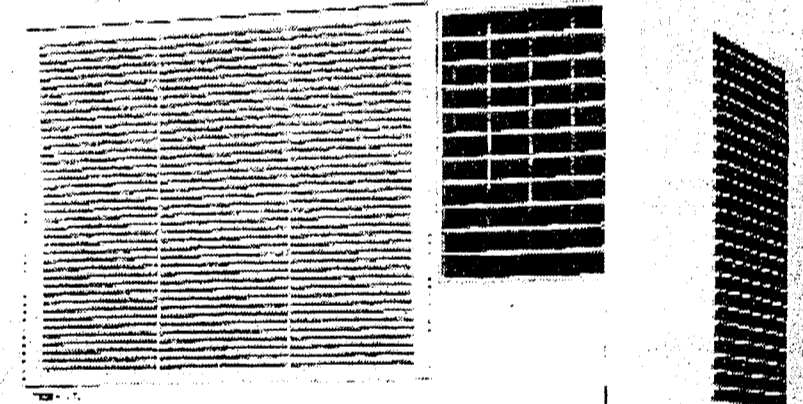
The four crew members each face 20 counts of involuntary manslaughter and 20 counts of negligent homicide. The maximum sentence for each manslaughter count is 20 years in prison.

After the hearing is completed, possibly as late as Friday, Lt. Gen. Peter Pace, commander of the U.S. Marine Corps Forces, Atlantic, will receive a written report and recommendation before deciding whether to order a court-martial for the crew members.

Earlier Tuesday, the judge heard conflicting testimony as to whether there were known gondola cables in the area.

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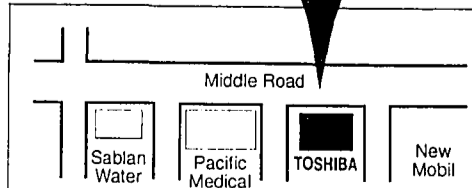
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# IRS bill moves in Senate

By Rob Wells  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — A bill to restructure the Internal Revenue Service moved closer to approval Wednesday as the Senate adopted a plan to finance the ambitious \$18.3 billion measure.

By a 56-42 vote, the Senate approved a plan by Sen. William V. Roth Jr., R-Del., the Finance Committee chairman, that would raise \$8 billion by allowing more senior citizens to convert their traditional Individual Retirement Accounts into Roth IRAs.

The vote was the first significant amendment to the \$18.3 billion IRS overhaul bill, which is expected to win final passage Thursday. The remainder of the bill is financed through other items, such as eliminating some targeted tax breaks and restricting foreign tax credits.

The bill would allow the IRS commissioner to revamp the agency to serve specific types of taxpayers. It would create a nine-member board with private citizens to oversee the agency. It also seeks to protect taxpayers from abusive conduct and more closely review the management and conduct of IRS workers.

With nearly 100 provisions, the bill covers much territory, from requiring the IRS to publish telephone numbers of local offices to banning the agency's use of the "illegal tax protester label."

Senate approval of the financing package came after Sen. Bob Kenney, D-Neb., vigorously challenged it as benefiting "a very select group of people," wealthy senior citizens who have more than \$100,000 in retirement income.

"It is essentially an accounting gimmick, used by people over 70 1/2, that will basically enable them to pass to their heirs, tax-free, assets that they currently own," said Kenney.

Congress' Joint Committee on Taxation estimates 170,000 taxpayers would convert to Roth IRAs, paying an average \$47,000 in taxes.

Kenney and others said the Roth plan has significant long-term costs that haven't been explained and would drain revenue away from needed social programs in the later years.

"In order to fund a growing tax cut for these individuals, we're going to be cutting programs for middle-income Americans," Kenney asserted.

Roth defended his proposal. "Those criticizing the rollover provision have the objective of limiting retirement savings choices for taxpayers who reach the end of their working years," he said.

Despite this argument, some lawmakers said Roth's proposal raises expectations that the Senate and House will quickly resolve differences in their competing bills for restructuring the IRS.

The other major debate was over an amendment by Sen. Fred Thompson, R-Tenn., to have an IRS union representative on the oversight board covered by conflict of interest rules.

Thompson's amendment would reverse a decision in the Finance Committee to waive criminal conflict of interest rules for the IRS union representative. The committee approved the waiver to make it easier to

recruit people for the panel and allow the person to vote on personnel issues. The GOP strongly opposed the waiver.

"Waiving these conflict of interest statutes establishes a very bad precedent," Thompson said.

In other major amendments, the Senate:

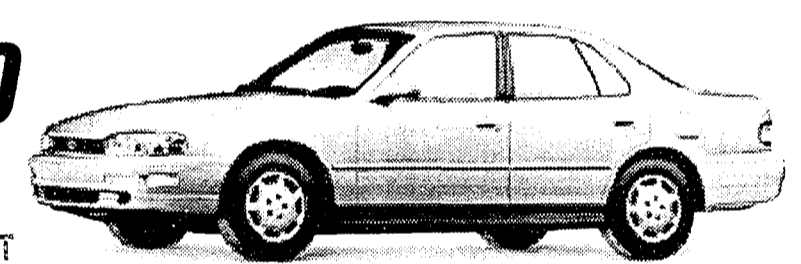
- Defeated 74-25 a proposal by Sen. Kit Bond, R-Mo., to make the oversight board a full-time instead of part-time board. The plan also would have denied the treasury secretary and an IRS union representative seats on the board.
- Approved by voice vote a plan by Sen. Harry Reid, D-Nev., to have the IRS commissioner issue a report on payments to informants in criminal investigations.
- Agreed by voice vote to require the IRS to study how to combat tax avoidance by foreign controlled corporations doing business in the U.S. The sponsor, Sen. Byron Dorgan, D-N.D., cited a study by two Florida International University professors that contends the U.S. government was cheated out of \$42.6 billion in tax revenues in 1997.



Internal Revenue Service Commissioner Charles O. Rossotti appears before the Senate Finance Committee Friday on Capitol Hill. Rossotti vowed to "investigate every allegation" raised in the Senate's probe of the tax collectors' criminal investigative arm. AP

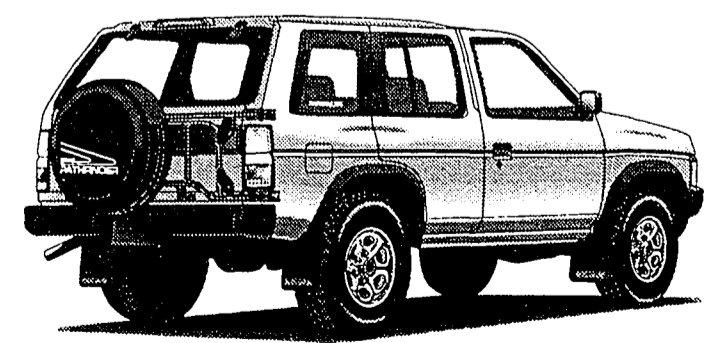
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Capt. Chandler Seagraves, left, from Nineveh, Ind., one of four Marine fliers whose jet sliced a ski-lift cable last February in Italy, killing 20 people, talks to military counsel Lt. Hugh J. Eighmie, right, as they return to a Camp Lejeune, N.C., courtroom Tuesday after a break in Seagraves Article 32 hearing. Also shown are military counsel Capt. Paul Kaplan, back left, and Lt. J.D. Rutkowski, back right. AP

# US Military training may yet be held 'separately'

By Laura Myers  
**WASHINGTON (AP)** — Over Clinton administration opposition, a key House committee voted for separate military training for women and men Wednesday, accepting the argument that the change could thwart sexual misconduct and distractions.  
 "All we're trying to do is get basic training back to basic training, not social experimentation," said Rep. Gene Taylor, R-Miss.  
 Opponents on the House National Security Committee, in debating the defense authorization bill, said separating men from women during training will work against cohesion in the field and could result in less equality for female soldiers in the male-dominated armed forces.  
 "It will roll back opportunities for women. ... It will not reduce sexual misconduct," argued Rep. Jane Harman, D-Calif. "We learned long ago that a policy of separate but equal results in un-

equal opportunities."  
 Rep. Tillie Fowler, R-Fla., a leading opponent of separate training, failed to win committee approval for an amendment to hold off on a decision until a congressional commission studying the matter makes its report. The amendment failed, 23 votes for and 30 against.  
 Under the legislation, the Army, Navy and Air Force would be required to house and train male and female recruits separately, something the Marine Corps already does.  
 A panel headed by former Sen. Nancy Kassebaum Baker, R-Kan., studied the question last year after a sex scandal at an Army base in Aberdeen, Md., and recommended separate basic training last year for all military services.  
 "The sexual dynamic is both an attraction and a distraction," Rep. Roscoe Bartlett, R-Md., said Wednesday in arguing for separation. "There's no place for this

in the armed forces."  
 The Pentagon would have to begin gender-separate living and training by April 1999, although waivers would be allowed until October 2001 to give the services time to build facilities as needed.  
 The committee approved \$8 million for the Army to buy locks and take other measures to separate the sexes until barracks can be built at a cost of about \$160 million.  
 The House plan goes beyond recommendations of Defense Secretary William Cohen, who wants the services to house male and female recruits in separate areas but doesn't want separate basic training.  
 On the defense budget itself, lawmakers grumbled that it falls short of needs to keep the military in fighting form.  
 "This budget is good for economic security, but I'm not sure it's good for national security," complained committee Chairman Floyd Spence, R-S.C.  
 Under last year's balanced budget deal between Congress and President Clinton, defense spending for fiscal year 1999 is limited to about \$270 billion, which Spence and several Republican members of his committee said isn't enough to maintain full military readiness.  
 Spence calculated defense spending will fall \$54 billion behind the rate of inflation in the next five years, meaning programs will have to be curtailed, he said.  
 The Pentagon acknowledged Tuesday that maintaining a high level of preparedness among its 1.4 million force is "a challenge." But spokesman Ken Bacon said the military is still able to fulfill its required capability of fighting two major regional conflicts at the same time if necessary.  
 In other measures in the Defense Authorization Act for the fiscal year beginning Oct. 1, the committee voted to:  
 • Boost funding by \$802 million for maintaining property, equipment and spare parts, saying this would help improve readiness.  
 • Set a limit on spending for troops keeping the peace in Bosnia to \$1.86 billion for the year. So far, some \$10 billion has been spent.  
 • Authorize annexation of 44.5 acres of military property around Arlington National Cemetery to allow for more burials. The veterans cemetery, now expected to be full by 2025, could accept burials for an additional 15 years.  
 • Lift a one-year moratorium on deploying U.S. land mines that was to begin Jan. 1, 1999, which was approved in 1996 with an exception for the demilitarized zone in Korea.  
 The Clinton administration refused to join a movement last year to ban the use of land mines worldwide, and Republicans in Congress don't want the moratorium to go into effect.  
 The bill is expected to come up for a House vote the week of May



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# 10 more die as rains hit Italy



Residents walk in a mud-covered road of Quindici, in the Neapolitan area, where torrential rains and rivers of mud burst into towns killing at least 25 people and leaving more than one thousand homeless Wednesday. AP

NAPLES, Italy (AP) — At least 10 people were dead Wednesday after two consecutive days of torrential rain caused massive landslides and flooding in southern Italy.

Using military helicopters and on foot, thousands of fire fighters and emergency workers searched for another 44 people feared buried, Italy's civil protection agency said.

Rivers of mud burst into town centers, tearing apart houses and bridges, swallowing cars and sending panicked residents fleeing.

More than 3,000 people were left homeless throughout the region from Naples to Salerno, about 60 kilometers southeast (37 miles), chief civil protection officer Andrea Todisco said.

Many residents spent Tuesday night on roof tops or on the highest floors of apartment buildings to avoid the flow of mud.

In Samo, a town of about 2,000 residents, the mud burst through the first floor of the "Villa Malta" hospital, sweeping away part of a staircase.

Relief workers were searching for several doctors and patients feared buried under the mix of rubble and mud, Italian news reports said. The approximately 200 other patients at the hospital were being transferred elsewhere, the reports said.

Piles of mud and boulders covered railroad tracks and roads in the area, bringing circulation to a virtual standstill.

Todisco said the army had been summoned to help with relief work and that experts were determining whether more slides were likely. Rain continued Wednesday, but meteorologists predicted an improvement later in the day.

## Britain urges Asian govt's to help poor

LONDON (AP) — Britain's Treasury chief on Wednesday urged Asian governments to consider the plight of the poor and unemployed as they try to solve their financial problems.

"There's a modern need for welfare systems to be built throughout Asia and these are welfare systems that help people become more employable," Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown told BBC from Jakarta.

"It's the poor and the unemployed who suffer most if the economic reform programmes fail and every economic reform program must have a social element."

Brown, in Indonesia on a Far East tour, said he wanted Britain to set an example to the rest of the world by putting social concerns at the heart of economic reform.

He also said greater openness is vital in economic reform.

"I'm making a speech to the Stock Exchange in Jakarta and I will be emphasizing that the way ahead for every country, and that includes European countries as well as Asian countries, is to have far more open and accountable systems of government," Brown said.

"One of the most important things that has been learned is there has to be greater openness, transparency and accountability," he said.

"If that happens, then people can see how decisions are being made, you avoid crises by acting earlier on information available and you have a better understanding within the whole population of what governments are trying to achieve."

He dismissed a suggestion that he had been snubbed by the Malaysian Prime Minister, Mahathir Mohamad, who did not meet the chancellor when he visited.

Mahathir was reported to have been upset at British press coverage of recent riots in a Malaysian detention center for illegal immigrants.

Brown pointed out he had met the Malaysian deputy prime minister for several hours.

# Dutch PM wins 2nd term



Dutch Prime Minister and Labour Party leader Wim Kok, left, and his wife Rita, cast their ballots for general elections in Amsterdam Wednesday. AP

By Mike Corder  
AMSTERDAM, Netherlands (AP) — Boosted by a vigorous economy, Prime Minister Wim Kok won a second term in national elections Wednesday that strengthened his coalition's grip on parliament.

With 98 percent of the votes counted, media projections showed that Kok's ruling coalition would win 98 seats in the Dutch parliament's 150-member lower house — up from its current total of 92 seats.

Kok's left-leaning Labor Party led the way with 45 seats, followed by the right-leaning Liberals with 39 and the centrist Democrats 66 Party with 14 seats.

The results assured both Kok and his coalition of second terms.

thanks at least in part to strong economic growth and an unemployment rate of just 4.8 percent.

In the Netherlands, the government has been ruled by coalition since 1917, as no single party has been able to get enough votes to govern alone. Elections for parliament's less influential upper house were not held Wednesday.

Speaking to a euphoric crowd at a post-election party, a beaming Kok said he was delighted with the victory. "We have won big time," he said.

"I see today's result as an important expression of trust from the electorate — of trust and also appreciation for the clear social democratic Cabinet policy over the last years."

Though the coalition overall ap-

peared to post gains, the Democrats 66 Party was projected to lose 10 of its 24 seats. Party leader Els Borst had said the party would not rejoin the ruling coalition if it wins less than 12 seats.

"It is a disappointment," Borst said. But she did not immediately rule out taking part in new coal-

ition with Kok's party.

Turnout was expected to be about 80 percent of the 11 million registered voters.

Foreign policy was not an issue, since Dutch foreign policies have merged with those of the European Union in recent years. Instead, debates centered on pocketbook is-

ssues such as tax deductions on mortgages, health care and social security reforms.

The country's extreme-right Nationalists Party, which won three seats in parliament in the last elections in 1994 with an anti-foreigner platform, was projected to retain just one seat.

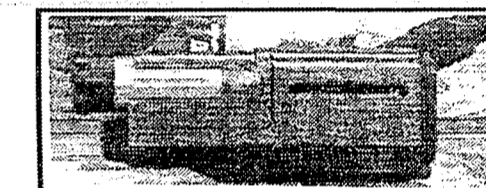
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## Exiled Chinese dissident hospitalized in Canada

MONTREAL (AP) — Wei Jingsheng, a leading Chinese dissident in exile, fell ill and was hospitalized on his way to a human rights conference in Montreal.

There was no firm word on Wei's condition early Wednesday, or even where he was: Montreal's St.-Luc Hospital said Tuesday he had been treated and released.

"He suffered a minor heart attack, more or less," said Kenneth Cheung, a spokesman for a pro-democracy Chinese group in Montreal.

Wei, 47, was released from prison in China in November to seek medical treatment in the United States.

Wei had spent virtually every day since 1979 in prison for his pro-democracy work, and suffered from heart problems, high blood pressure and other illnesses that



Wei Jingsheng

worsened behind bars.

He had been on his way to Montreal to speak Tuesday at a conference sponsored by the writers' group PEN and the International Center for Human Rights.

Organizers told the audience at the conference that Wei "had great difficulty" earlier in the day in Toronto, on his way to Montreal, Cheung said.

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# Militants kill 13 Hindus

JAMMU, India (AP)— Suspected Muslim militants killed 13 Hindus in remote northern villages in India's Kashmir state over the last two days, police said Wednesday.

The killings came barely two weeks after guerrillas massacred 25 Hindus in a mountainous village, prompting residents to demand better security in the area that borders Pakistan, India's hostile neighbor.

No group immediately claimed responsibility for the attacks, but police blamed guerrillas fighting for the independence of predominantly Hindu India's only Muslim-majority state.

Police said that a gun-wielding band raided the home of a retired government worker, shooting him and five of his house guests overnight.

The retired worker was among the two people who survived the attack in Surankote, about 200 kilometers (125 miles) northwest of Jammu, the state's winter capital.

In another incident Tuesday, guerrillas sprayed villagers with automatic gun fire in Mangalotha, 225 kilometers (140 miles) northeast of Jammu, killing five people, all Hindus. The villagers were returning from

a hospital in district capital Doda with the bodies of four other Hindus who had been gunned down by guerrillas a day earlier.

Police said 10 Hindus from Mangalotha village were missing. It was not clear if the militants had kidnapped them or if they had run away, a police officer said on condition of anonymity.

State police chief Gurbachan Jagat said the attacks were aimed at forcing Hindus to move out of the districts, where Muslims are in a slight majority.

Since last month's attack near the border, local lawmakers have urged Defense Minister George Fernandes to post more federal troops in the area.

Fernandes assured them his government was doing everything possible to restore peace.

Dozens of groups in Kashmir are fighting for independence or to merge with officially Islamic Pakistan.

India regularly accuses Pakistan of training and arming Kashmiri militants.

The two nations have fought two wars over Kashmir. Pakistan says it only gives moral support to the separatist movement.



Indian Army chief for Kashmir Krishan Pal shows arms and ammunition to Indian Defense Minister George Fernandes, left, during a visit to the troubled state of Jammu and Kashmir last April 29. Fernandes has said China had stockpiled weapons along India's borders, extended its airfields in its Tibet province and established a military foothold in neighboring Myanmar. AP

# Italian PM visits White House

By SONYA ROSS  
WASHINGTON (AP) — Of the many issues President Bill Clinton may discuss with visiting Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi, one looms large: the Marine jet accident that killed 20 skiers in the Italian Alps.

Clinton was expected to raise the tragedy Wednesday as he and Prodi meet at the White House in the Italian leader's first official visit.

Clinton is hoping to assuage any remaining sore feelings among the Italian people, said White House spokesman Mike McCurry, and is anxious to see how Prodi will respond.

"This has been a subject of enormous concern and pain to both of our governments," McCurry said Tuesday.

"We just need to see how they address it. I think we have dealt with this in a sensitive way and in a way that is designed to ensure that justice is done."

While Clinton prepared to greet Prodi, a military court in Camp LeJeune, North Carolina, began hearings into whether two crewmen should be court-martialed over the Feb. 3 accident, in which a low-flying Marine jet from the U.S. air base in Aviano severed a cable on a ski lift, causing a gondola packed with skiers to crash into the mountainside.

In ensuing days, angry Italians decried American pilots as careless "Rambos" and Communist leaders demanded the closure of U.S. military bases in their country. Clinton phoned Prodi and promised a full investigation.

Beyond the skiing fatalities, Clinton wanted to discuss the summit of industrialized nations next week in Birmingham, England.

A White House official, speaking Tuesday on condition of anonymity, said the president wants to feel out Prodi on matters such as international crime, global climate change and policy toward Kosovo, the Yugoslav province where ethnic Albanians are seeking independence, and the Middle East.

Clinton also was to update Prodi on his recent six-nation tour of Africa and ways to encourage development there, the official said.

An official close to the meeting, also speaking on condition of anonymity, said the White House anticipates Prodi would bring up the United States' failure to pay its dues to the United Nations and the financial crisis in Asia.

And, the official said, Prodi is expected to raise his country's disagreement with sanctions against Iran and Libya.

McCurry acknowledged "that general topic might arise," as well as the recent visit to Tripoli by members of



Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi calls on a questioner during his joint news conference with President Clinton at the White House Wednesday. Offering his regrets for "a horrible human tragedy," the president promised justice for the Marine jet accident that killed 20 skiers in the Italian Alps. AP

the Italian parliament. The visit breached a 1992 U.N. ban against flights to and from Libya, imposed in response to the 1988 Pan Am bombing over Scotland that killed 270 people.

During the trip, parliament member Vittorio Sgarbi was quoted on Libyan TV as saying he did not regret violating the ban and would fly to Libya again. "We do not accept that anyone should decide where we can go and how we should go to the place we want to go to," he said.

McCurry said he was not certain that the legislators' visit itself would come up in the meeting Wednesday, but was certain "our differing approaches on some matters related to Libya, Iran and others might be a topic."

While Wednesday's visit is Prodi's first as Italian prime minister, it is not his first visit to Washington. He was here in 1996 as president of the European Union.

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## Hospitals in India, Canada forge tie-up

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Doctors at two hospitals in India and Canada performing complicated heart surgeries on infants can now exchange medical information instantly through technology provided by an American computer company.

Two Intel Teamstations donated by the Intel's Indian subsidiary will help doctors at the Sri Ramachandra Medical College near the southern Indian city of Madras consult with experts at the Toronto Sick Children's Hospital.

The doctors will no longer be limited by slow telephone and fax links, Intel said in a statement Wednesday. Instead, they can share X-rays, pictures and other complicated medical data over the facility instantly.

The facility was set up at the initiative of doctors K.R. Balakrishnan, pediatric cardiovascular surgeon at Ramachandra Medical College and Peter Einstein of the Children's Heart Project International in Toronto who wanted to share the latest information instantly.

The two are among the few surgeons worldwide who perform complicated in heart surgery on infants, Intel said said.

"This technology has tremendous applications," said Balakrishnan. "The results will be shared with the medical community in India."

Several states in India have planned to set up videoconferencing facilities in small towns to enable doctors there to consult with experts in large hospitals.

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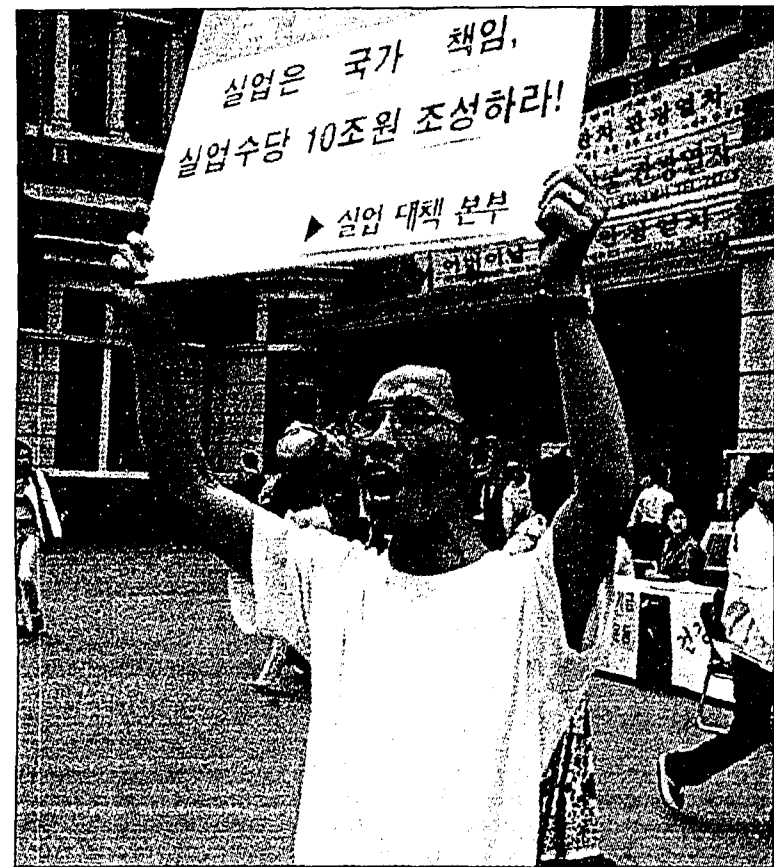
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# Plane crash kills 6 in RP

CEBU, Philippines (AP) — A single-engine plane crashed in the central Philippines Wednesday, killing all six people aboard, officials said. The Cessna 206 plane, reportedly owned by the Asian Christian Aviation Ministry, was on its way from the southern Philippine city of General Santos to Cebu when it crashed on Bohol Island. The plane skimmed coconut tree tops before smashing into the ground in the town of Tubigon. Bohol is about 610 kilometers (380 miles) southeast of Manila. No other details were immediately available.



A member of the People Victory 21, a citizen group, shouts anti-government slogans during a street campaign for unemployed people at Seoul Station Thursday. The number of jobless workers has been increasing since the country accepted the IMF's bailout last year. The banner says: "The government should be responsible for unemployment." AP

## HK share prices fall on bad regional news

HONG KONG (AP) — Share prices in Hong Kong fell below a support line immediately after opening Thursday to hit a new three-month low as investors were spooked by bad news in the region and at home. The key Hang Seng index fell 2.3 percent fifteen minutes after opening to 9,927.18 points. The market stayed below 10,000 all morning, ending the morning trading session at 9,880.79 points, down 228.35 points from the previous day's close. Escalating violence in Indonesia, a threat of strikes in South Korea and concerns about a rate increase in the United States all helped drag down the market, dealers said. The fall was the fourth straight decline so far this week. Analysts had warned that once the index slid below 10,000 points, it was likely to begin a free fall until hitting a support level near 9,800 points. In addition to worry about events overseas, traders said concern has grown over rising unemployment in Hong Kong. Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-hwa warned at a conference Thursday that "painful" structural changes in the economy "may go on for some time longer," and predicted it would take at least two years for Asia, and Hong Kong, to recover from the economic crisis that began last July in Thailand.

## RP peso tumbles

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine stocks and the peso tumbled Thursday as unrest in Indonesia spilled over into neighboring markets, traders said. The 30-share Philippine Stock Exchange Index fell 21.16 points, or nearly 1 percent, to 2,189.97, adding to Wednesday's 2.5 percent loss. The peso, meanwhile, briefly hit a low of 42 pesos per dollar. It averaged 40.532 pesos at midday, compared to 39.387 pesos on Wednesday. Currency traders said the weaker peso was due solely to the regional currency situation and not to any rekindled jitters over next Monday's national elections. Expectations of peaceful and largely fair elections have helped stabilize the peso in recent days. On Wednesday, rioters staged violent protests in Medan, Indonesia, over sharp increases in the costs of fuel, electricity and transportation. Indonesian police re-

# Netanyahu shuns US dictates



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu uses a clenched fist while talking about Israel's security during a press conference in Central London Tuesday. Netanyahu announced that Middle East Peace talks would continue in Washington next week. AP

By GWEN ACKERMAN JERUSALEM (AP) — Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said Wednesday he would reject any U.S. "dictates" on the scope of an Israeli pullback in the West Bank but said he would nonetheless go to a new round of talks set for next week in Washington. Netanyahu convened his nine-member inner Cabinet to discuss what the Israeli press characterized as a U.S. ultimatum: Israeli acceptance by Monday of an U.S. proposal for a 13 percent withdrawal or cancellation of a White House ceremony to open final status talks. "We do not accept dictates," Netanyahu said on Israel Radio. U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright said that if Israel accepted the American propos-

als, U.S. President Bill Clinton would preside over the launching Monday of a new round of Mideast talks on the toughest issues: the future of Jerusalem, Jewish settlements, Palestinian demands for a state and refugees. "I went to London and I will go to Washington, and I will go anywhere needed," Netanyahu said. "We will not give up on peace just as we will not give up on security." Netanyahu's Cabinet has agreed in principle to make one further withdrawal in the West Bank provided the land transfer is matched by Palestinian steps including a crackdown on Islamic militants. Netanyahu has said he would give the Palestinians an additional 9 percent and indicated that he could agree to a pullback of up to 11 percent.

The full Cabinet of 17 ministers was expected to make a decision on the U.S. proposal Sunday. Yehudit Ahronov reported Wednesday that Netanyahu would not reject U.S. proposals but would demand a U.S. letter promising not to recognize a unilaterally declared Palestinian state. Arafat has threatened to declare statehood in a year's time if negotiations remain stalemated. The daily Maariv said Netanyahu was prepared to accept a 12 percent to 13 percent withdrawal, a move certain to be rejected by right-wingers in his Likud-led coalition. Hard-liners have threatened to bring down his government if Netanyahu gives in to U.S. pressure. Palestinians warned a gloomier picture and pointed that U.S. credibility was at stake. "Netanyahu

## Jewish youth knifed dead in Old City

JERUSALEM (AP) — An Arab knifer stabbed to death a Jewish youth as he walked through Jerusalem's Old City on his way to pray at the Western Wall Wednesday, police said. Police cordoned off the Old City and were searching for the assailant. Several dozen Arabs were detained. Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert called the incident "very, very grave," and urged the government to take further steps to stop "Arab terrorists." The knifing attack came after U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright failed to reach a breakthrough in talks with Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in London. The Old City is in a part of Jerusalem claimed as a capital by both Israel and the Palestinians. The fate of the area is to be decided in final status talks. An Israeli woman was slightly wounded in a stabbing attack in another Jerusalem neighborhood Sunday.



Members of the Israeli burial society examine in Jerusalem's old city Wednesday the body of stabbed 28-year-old Jewish seminary student Chaim Kerman. Kerman was stabbed to death early Wednesday as he was on his way to pray at the Western Wall. AP

always welcomes meetings in any place because this only buys him time. But eventually he will come to the end of his rope, and the closest ally to Israel will come out and say Israel does not want peace," said Palestinian Information Minister Yasser Abed Rabbo. Marwan Barghouti, leader of Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat's Fatah faction in the West Bank, called for suspending the talks altogether while warning that the alternative to peace was violence. In Jerusalem, a 28-year-old Jewish seminary student was stabbed to death by a Palestinian in the old walled city Wednesday. Israeli soldiers foiled a stabbing attack on a soldier in the West Bank city of Hebron. Receiving a rousing reception from his party members, Netanyahu returned from the London peace talks Tuesday night declaring that his flexibility in negotiations would not come at the expense of Israeli security. "I am prepared to be flexible where possible, but on the issue of security for the citizens of Israel I am not flexible," Netanyahu told cheering crowds at a convention of his ruling Likud party in Tel Aviv. The daily Haaretz newspaper quoted unidentified Israeli government sources as saying that the three sides agreed in London on two of the three main issues: steps Palestinians would take while Israel makes a three-phased withdrawal and putting aside Palestinian demands for a further pullback beyond the 13 percent. Palestinians currently have limited control over 27 percent of the West Bank, where 1.8 million Palestinians live. Under the U.S. plan, autonomy would be extended to about 40 percent of the area.

### USED CARS SALE

STOCK YEAR MODEL

CARS	YEAR	MODEL	PRICE
U97-284	1991	CADILLAC DEVILLE	AAV-759 5995
U97-155	1990	MERCEDES 300 SEL	AAV-412 6595
U97-264	1990	MERCEDES 300 SEL	AAV-102 1995
U97-309	1989	BMW 325i	ABZ-061 5995
C98-004	1991	BUICK CENTURY	ABA-217 5995
U98-004	1996	CAMARO CONVERTIBLE	AAZ-061 19995
U98-080	1991	PONTIAC TRANSPORTER	AAW-025 5995
U97-251	1988	CAMRY	AAG-959 1995
U97-241	1990	CAMRY	AAW-531 2995
U97-273	1990	CAMRY	AAZ-541 2995
U97-315	1990	CAMRY	ABV-011 1995
U97-270	1992	CAMRY LE	AAW-196 7995
U98-076	1988	COROLLA	AAF-449 3995
U98-066	1991	COROLLA	AAU-493 4995
C98-008	1991	COROLLA WGN.	ABF-581 5995
C98-009	1995	TERCEL 2DR.	ABG-680 9995
U98-046	1993	TERCEL	AAZ-459 4495
U98-038	1989	TERCEL	AAI-125 2995
U97-307	1992	HONDA CIVIC	AAV-369 5995
U98-061	1991	ACCORD LX	ABK-083 6995
U98-044	1994	EXCEL	ABA-003 3995
U97-312	1992	ELANTRA	AAI-003 1595
U97-214	1990	SUBARU LOYALE	AAW-928 1995

TRUCKS	YEAR	MODEL	PRICE
U98-012	1989	4x2	ABL-713 3995
U98-050	1989	4x2 EX-CAB	AAS-951 6495
U98-023	1991	4x2 EX-CAB	AAZ-261 4995
C98-010	1992	4x2 EX-CAB	ABG-961 5995
U98-035	1992	4x2 EX-CAB	AAW-544 6495
U98-070	1992	4x4 EX-CAB	AAV-154 8495
U98-032	1991	4x4 EX-CAB	8495
U98-041	1991	4x4 XCAB ALUM BED	AAV-469 7995
U98-028	1995	TACOMA 4x4 XCAB	ABJ-725 17995
U98-065	1995	T102 4x4 SR5	ABD-823 12995
U98-002	1995	T102 4x4 EX-CAB	ABU-041 14995
U98-022	1995	T102 4x4 EX-CAB	ABV-612 12495
C98-007	1995	T102 4x4 EX-CAB	ABE-306 12495
U98-016	1995	T102 4x4 SR5	ABU-872 14495
U98-057	1993	ISUZU 4x2	ABB-285 5495

SPORTS UTILITY	YEAR	MODEL	PRICE
U97-253	1994	MONTERO	ABO-111 13995
U98-054	1991	MAZDA MPV	AAV-795 7495
U98-013	1996	RAV4	ABF-948 16695
U98-056	1989	4-RUNNER	7495
U97-199	1990	4-RUNNER	AAI-790 9995
U98-007	1991	4-RUNNER	AAW-975 9995
U97-034	1991	4-RUNNER	AAV-915 10495
C98-003	1991	4-RUNNER	AAI-125 5995
U97-222	1992	4-RUNNER	AAW-453 9995
U98-031	1992	4-RUNNER	AAW-734 12995
U97-319	1995	4-RUNNER	HIDE 18995
U98-015	1995	4-RUNNER	ABC-374 18995
U98-074	1989	PATHFINDER	AAS-291 7995
U98-079	1995	PATHFINDER	ABG-855 17995
C97-007	1990	JEEP	AAW-037 2995 (AS IS)
U98-011	1990	JEEP CHEROKEE	AAW-996 8995
U98-039	1991	PREVIA VAN	AAV-247 8995

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# Yeltsin meets Uzbek leader

MOSCOW (AP) — Plans for increasing economic cooperation topped the agenda of talks Wednesday between Uzbek President Islam Karimov and his Russian counterpart Boris Yeltsin. "Links between Uzbekistan and Russia should be stronger," Yeltsin said at the start of the two sides' talks, according to the

Interfax news agency. "We understand the degree of your influence on the countries surrounding you, and we cannot but be interested in strengthening our two countries' relationship." Karimov arrived late Tuesday for a three-day visit to Russia. On Wednesday morning, he laid a wreath at the Tomb of the Un-

known Soldier just off Red Square. He then joined Yeltsin in an official welcoming ceremony in the Kremlin's ornate Catherine Hall on Wednesday morning. Interfax said. The two leaders headed into a meeting expected to result in several economic agreements, includ-



Boris Yeltsin.

ing a contract for joint production of passenger jets.

Russia is already the Central Asian country's main trading partner. Uzbek Ambassador Shamansur Shakhaliyov said on Tuesday that the potential for even greater economic cooperation between the two former Soviet republics was vast.

In addition to aviation projects, the two countries are interested in cooperating in mining, processing minerals and other natural resources, he said.



Russian President Boris Yeltsin, right, welcomes his Uzbek counterpart Islam Karimov prior to their talks in Moscow's Kremlin Wednesday. Plans for increasing economic cooperation topped the agenda of talks Wednesday between Uzbek and Russian Presidents. Karimov arrived late Tuesday for a three-day visit to Russia. AP

IN THE OFFICE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY  
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

In the matter of:  
Chai, Kai, Feng, dba U.S.A.  
Ocean Development Co., Ltd., dba Honey Gift Shop & Honey Karaoke Club, dba Diamond Night Spot Karaoke Club.  
Licensing Case No. 1-98

### NOTICE OF INTENT TO REVOKE OR SUSPEND LICENSE; NOTICE OF HEARING

TO: CHAI, KAI FENG

The Secretary of Commerce has determined that you have violated Section 4 CMC § 5611 (f) (1) (D) of the Business Licensing Statute, and Section 1100 D of the Business Licensing Regulations, Comm. Reg. Vol. 16, No. 11, at 12734 (November 15, 1994), to-wit:

1. Failure to comply with Commonwealth Law, as described in the attached Administrative Order (Exhibit "1").

A hearing is scheduled for the 20th day of May, 1998, at 10:00 a.m., at the Administrative Hearing Room, of the Department of Commerce, at the Donni Hill Complex, Capitol Hill, Saipan. At the hearing you will be entitled the opportunity to show compliance with the above referenced lawful requirements to retain your Business License. The hearing shall be conducted pursuant to the Administrative Procedure Act, 1 CMC § 9101 et seq, and applicable statutes and Business Licensing Regulations.

DATED this 20th day of April, 1998.

/s/Bernadita T. Palacios  
Acting Secretary of Commerce

## NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, are hereby giving notice that the NMHC is soliciting proposals from licensed companies in the Commonwealth engaged in building maintenance services to provide maintenance of its Section 8 Housing Units in Rota.

Sealed proposals will be received until 10:00 A.M., June 8, 1998 at NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan, at which time and place all proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. The proposal documents, which are available at NMHC's Office in Saipan and Rota, shall be signed by the owner or authorized agent of the firm, and shall be enclosed in an envelope which shall be sealed and clearly labeled, "ROTA-BUILDING MAINTENANCE PROPOSAL". Companies shall be responsible for the placement of its firm's name and address on the outside proposal envelope.

NMHC hereby notifies all proposers that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contracts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, handicapped/disabling conditions, or national origin.

Proposal Specifications may be obtained at the NMHC Office in Garapan, anytime between the hours of 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays. Questions or additional information may be directed to Mr. Norman Pangelinan, Manager for Program and Housing Division at 234-6866/9447, and in Rota, Mr. Charles Manglona, Field Office Representative may be contacted at 532-9410.

NMHC reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any and all proposals in the best interest of NMHC.

/s/ MARYLOU S. ADA  
Corporat Director

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing agency"

# Local polls a test for Blair

By Maureen Johnson  
LONDON (AP) — With everything to gain and nothing to lose, Britain's beleaguered Conservatives enter local elections Thursday hoping to put a crimp in Prime Minister Tony Blair's record popularity.

Most analysts say this year's results in 166 local authority districts can only make Conservatives look better, while Blair's Labor party faces voter complacency and charges that the party has become overmighty.

Also on Thursday, Londoners will vote in a referendum to give the capital its first mayor, the latest move in a constitutional shakeup by Blair. All the major parties are in favor, and a straw poll indicated strong support among the 5 million voters.

Although elections for London's mayor would not be held until late 1999, the race is already on for party nominations.

Thursday's vote in 166 local authority districts presents difficulties for each big party.

Twenty years of defeats have left the Tories running just 23 local authorities across the nation, compared with 250 in 1979. The Conservatives also did badly in 1994, when the council seats up for election on Thursday were last contested.

A year ago, Labor ousted the Conservative government in a landslide election victory.

"We expect to see the Conservatives will do very poorly," said Patrick Dunleavy, professor of government at the London School of Economics. "But they will do better than they did in the spring of '94. So there will be conflicting messages."

Despite the popularity of his centrist "New Labor," Blair's party faces supporters who might not bother to vote.



British Prime Minister Tony Blair (left) and former Prime Minister John Major (right) answer media questions at Belfast's Waterfront Hall Wednesday. Their visit to Belfast is the start of an offensive for a "yes" vote in the May referendum. AP

## Annan visit could spur Burundi talks

By Karin Davies  
DAR ES SALAAM, Tanzania (AP) — U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan's meetings with three Burundians under tight rein by the country's military-backed government could jump-start stalled peace talks, a senior U.N. aide said Wednesday.

Annan planned to meet Thursday with former presidents Sylvestre Ntibantunganya and Jean-Baptiste Bagaza, and speaker of the National Assembly, Leonce Ngendakunana, during a brief visit to Burundi as part of an eight-nation African tour.

Authorities have sporadically confined the three men to their homes, and restricted them from engaging in politics and traveling.

The secretary-general's aide, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Annan's meeting Thursday could revive the peace process.

"Indications are that the process will begin again before long," the aide said.

During Annan's visit to Burundi, he will also meet with retired Maj. Pierre Buyoya, who deposed Bagaza in an army-led coup in 1987, and Ntibantunganya in 1996.

The U.N. head met Wednesday in Dar Es Salaam with Tanzanian President Benjamin Mkapa, whose government has spearheaded efforts to end the conflict in neighboring Burundi, which has claimed more



Kofi Annan

than 200,000 lives since 1993.

Regional leaders imposed trade and transportation sanctions on Burundi after a 1996 coup that installed Buyoya as president.

Mkapa said Buyoya must ease restrictions against Ntibantunganya, Bagaza and Ngendakunana before trade and transportation sanctions are lifted.

The U.N. aide also said the men should be allowed to travel abroad. Hutu rebels are trying to oust Buyoya's Tutsi-led government and army, and reinstate a Hutu as president. Tutsi paratroopers assassinated the country's first democratically elected president, a Hutu, in October 1993.

Although Hutus make up 85 percent of the population, Tutsis control Burundi's government, military and economy.

"The main enemy of the Labor Party is not any renewed enthusiasm for the Conservative Party, but complacency among Labor voters," Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott said Wednesday.

Critics also point to corruption or inefficiency in some town halls that are bastions of leftist Laborites, such

as Sheffield in northern England and Hackney in London's East End.

Both the Conservatives and Labor face strong challenges from the Liberal Democrats, the third-running party nationally that traditionally does well in local ballots.

Dunleavy believes that no municipalities outside the London boroughs

will change hands, partly because only one-third of the seats are being contested. In the capital, all 1,917 seats are up for election.

There is no voting this year in Scotland and Wales.

Labor controls 92 of the districts being contested, the Liberal Democrats 21 and the Conservatives seven.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND IMMIGRATION  
Division of Labor

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The following persons with pending Labor and/or Agency Case are hereby notified to report to the Division of Labor, Enforcement Section, located on the 2nd floor of Afetna Building, San Antonio, Saipan on or before the prescribed date and time indicated (Thursday, May 21, 1998 at 3:00 p.m.).

LABOR/AGENCY CASE NOS.

LC No. 96-419                      LC No. 96-513                      LC No. 97-012

### NAMES

- |                           |                    |                    |
|---------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| 1. Md. Sultan Ali         | 6. Md. Baschu Mia  | 10. Mohammed       |
| 2. Amir                   | 7. Md. Rana Molla  | Koklesur Rahman    |
| 3. Anwar                  | 8. Morshalin Molla | 11. Abdur Rahim    |
| 4. Md. Ashik Elahi        | 9. Abdul Momen     | 12. Md. Rahim      |
| 5. Mohammed J. Hoque Khan |                    | 13. Md. Gias Uddin |

Failure to appear at the Division of Labor on or before the date and time specified above shall be grounds for dismissal of the above cases. Furthermore, appropriate action(s) and/or sanction(s) shall be taken against the above individuals, which will include the referral of their names and/or matters to the Division of Immigration for proper action(s).

Dated this 15th day of April, 1998.

/s/ GIL M. SAN NICOLAS  
Acting Director of Labor

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND IMMIGRATION  
Division of Labor

## PUBLIC NOTICE

The following persons (Employees of American Lida Development Limited Corporation) with pending Labor Case No. 97-560 and 98-023, and Agency Case No. 98-011 are hereby notified to report to the Division of Labor, Administrative hearing Office, 2nd floor of Afetna Building, San Antonio, Saipan on Tuesday, May 19, 1998 at 9:00 a.m.

### NAMES

- |                   |                |                   |
|-------------------|----------------|-------------------|
| 1. Cao Hui Quan   | 6. Pan Feng    | 11. Yan Jin Tang  |
| 2. Cao Zhong Xian | 7. Wang Ying   | 12. Yu Shi Zhong  |
| 3. Du Bei Rong    | 8. Wu Jian Lan | 13. Zhao Qun Xiao |
| 4. Lei Ming Hao   | 9. Wu Ju Xuan  |                   |
| 5. Lu Rui Chang   | 10. Wu Wei     |                   |

Failure to appear at the Division on or before the date and time specified above shall be grounds for dismissal of the above cases. Furthermore, appropriate actions and/or sanctions shall be taken against the above individuals, which will include the referral of their names and/or matters to the Division of Immigration for proper actions.

Dated this 15th day of April, 1998.

/s/ GIL M. SAN NICOLAS  
Acting Director of Labor

# Ex-Thai PM Chatichai dies

By Robert Horn  
**BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)** — Chatichai Choonhavan, Thailand's "no problem" prime minister, died Wednesday of complications from cancer. He was 76.

He died at Cromwell Hospital in London, where he underwent surgery for cancer surgery a month ago, government officials and members of his Chart Pattana Party said. The hospital reported he had suffered from liver cancer.

The cigar-smoking, wine-loving Chatichai served as prime minister from 1988 to 1991, when Thailand enjoyed a booming economy. He countered critics

who called his government corrupt with a smile and a mantra-like slogan of "no problem," thus earning his moniker.

After leaving office in 1991, the veteran politician remained active in Thailand's hurly-burly, often corrupt politics. In November, he made a final, failed bid for the premiership.

"I grieve for him and his family," said Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai, at times a Chatichai foe. Chuan interrupted his Cabinet meeting Wednesday and ordered a moment of silence.

Thai embassies abroad lowered their flags to half-staff, while television stations showed file foot-

age of Chatichai at leisure, riding a motorcycle or playing golf and the violin.

The Chart Pattana Party, bound together by its respect for Chatichai, is now expected to be torn by a succession struggle. It is the No. 2 opposition party in the Thai parliament.

An advocate of big business, Chatichai was once accused by his university lecturer son of being "100 capitalistic" and not caring for Thailand's majority farmers.

A millionaire playboy, ambassador to several countries and the youngest general in Thai history, Chatichai's ever optimistic —



Chatichai Choonhavan, known as Thailand's "No Problem" prime minister during the economic boom days poses in Bangkok in this Sept. 24 1996 file photo. He died Wednesday of cancer complication in London. He was 76. AP

some would say willfully blind — style as prime minister eventually wore thin with the country's top generals, who deposed him in 1991.

Fed up with graft, Bangkok's middle class at first welcomed the coup, only to revolt against the army in 1992.

Born April 5, 1922, in Bangkok.

he was the only son of Field Marshal Phin Choonhavan, the most powerful general of his day. He saw action in Burma and China during World War II, fought in the Korean War, and became an assistant military attache in Washington D.C. in 1949.

Chatichai is survived by his wife, Boonruen, and a daughter and a son.

*Happy 3rd Birthday*  
**Cheyenne Uchelbil**  
 "Upin"  
**Isimang**  
 From: Mommy

## REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

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

### 9-15 Passenger Van

Specifications for the above are available at NMC Procurement & Property Management Office, building "L", As Terlaje Campus.

Proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked RFP 98-003 to Procurement Office, building "L", no later than 4:00 p.m. May 22, 1998.

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

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

/s/TEE ABRAHAM  
 Vice-President for Administration

# Peru crash: 74 missing

By David Koop  
**LIMA, Peru (AP)** — Rescuers battled sucking mud and heavy rain Wednesday to pull 13 injured survivors from the wreckage of an Occidental Petroleum plane that crashed in the Amazon jungle and burst into flames with 87 people aboard.

The survivors — some of whom were seriously hurt — had to be carried three miles on litters because driving rain prevented their evacuation by helicopter.

Company officials said the 13th person was found in the muck nearly 18 hours after the plane went down.

Despite mud that swallowed some bodies, authorities held out hope that more survivors could be found among the dense grass and foliage. But they also declared the remaining 74 people missing and feared dead.

"We still have hope. There are so many places for the injured to be," said Jose Diaz, spokesman for Los Angeles-based Occidental Petroleum.

The Boeing 737, which Occidental chartered from the Peruvian air force to transport oil workers, plummeted into the swamp late Tuesday, three miles short of the airport at Andoas, an oil camp 650 miles north of Lima.

Most of the 79 passengers on the plane, including an American and a Venezuelan, were oil workers employed either by Occidental or local contractors. The flight also carried a crew of eight, but there were no crew members among the survivors.

The lone American aboard the plane, engineer Harold Whitehead, was not among those rescued Wednesday, Occidental officials said. Whitehead worked for the Peruvian engineering company Grana y Montero, and his family lives in the Peruvian river port of Iquitos.

Both the air force and Occiden-



Vice President of International Operations of Occidental Petroleum Bob Ireland, left, speaks during a press conference accompanied by President General of Occidental Peru Anthony Holt, center, and Chief of Public Relations Orlando Pereyra, right, Wednesday in Lima, Peru. Rescuers battled sucking mud and heavy rain Wednesday to pull 13 injured survivors from the wreckage of an Occidental Petroleum plane that crashed in the Amazon jungle and burst into flames with 87 people aboard. AP

tal said they have no information on bodies found.

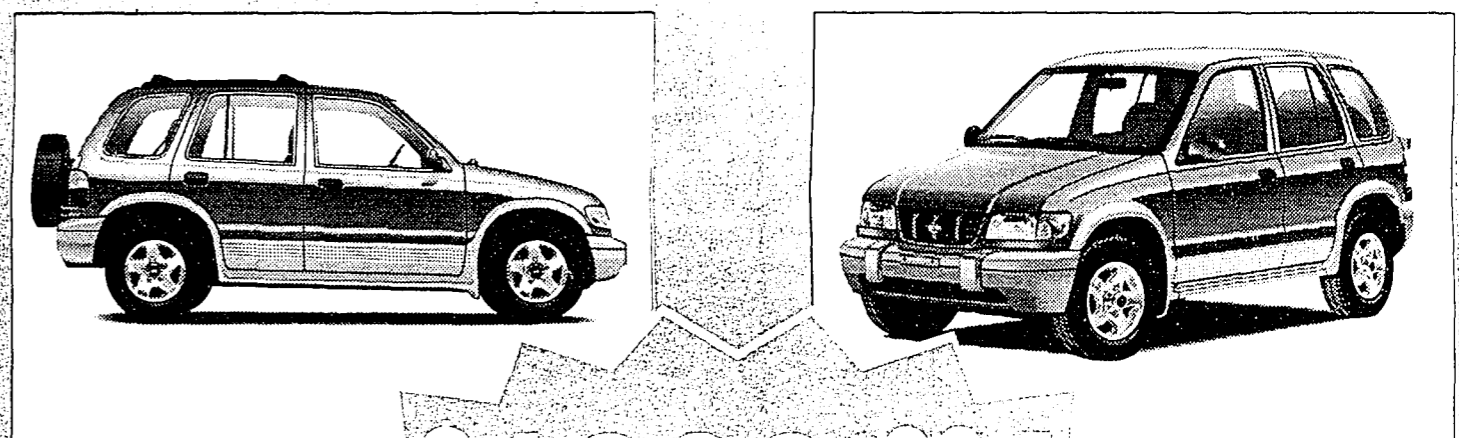
The plane was flying the workers from Iquitos to Andoas, an oil camp in a remote stretch of jungle near the Ecuadorian border.

The cause of the accident was not known. A light rain was falling at the time of the crash, but it should not have affected the flight, Diaz said.

The plane that crashed, a Boeing model no longer manufactured, was delivered in 1983 and later acquired by the Peruvian air force, said Russ Young, a spokesman for Boeing Commercial Airplane Group.

Occidental has pumped oil around Andoas for 26 years and has a contract with Peru's air force to transport its workers, company officials said.

It was the second Peruvian air force plane to crash in northern Peru in just over a month. On March 29, a Russian-made military transport plane carrying 61 people crashed outside Piura, 530 miles northwest of Lima, killing 22 people and injuring 40. The crash was attributed to engine failure.



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**Commonwealth Utilities Corporation**  
**JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT**

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

JOB VACANCY NO. 98-007      OPENING DATE: 05/01/98  
 CLOSING DATE: 05/15/98

**POSITION TITLE: ACCOUNTANT IV (General Ledger Accountant)**

**DUTIES:** Maintains the general ledger on the OrCom System. Coordinates with A/P, A/R, Payroll, Fixed Assets, Work Orders, Treasury, Billing and Inventory module managers to ensure all modules are closed and distribution reports are submitted on a timely basis. Maintains subsidiary ledgers on all balance sheet accounts not maintained by other modules. Ensures that all subsidiary ledgers are reconciled to the general ledger on a monthly basis. Revises the General Ledger Chart of Accounts in the OrCom System, if necessary. Also, creates or changes the financial statement controls & formats in the OrCom System as directed by the Chief Accountant. Prepares monthly, quarterly and year end financial statements for review of the Chief Accountant. Performs monthly bank reconciliation of all bank accounts. Provides accounting support to external and internal auditors during audits. Performs other duties as assigned by the Chief Accountant.

**LOCATION:** Comptrollers Office, CUC, Saipan

**QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS:** BS/BA Accounting degree from an accredited college. Three (3) years general ledger accounting experience, preferably with a governmental or private utility or company equivalent to the size and scope of CUC. Two (2) years experience preparing complete financial statements for review by management. Must be proficient in electronic spreadsheets and word processing. Must meet both minimum education and experience requirements and pass qualifying accounting Tests. Copy of degree, official transcript, and police clearance must be attached to the application.

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 \$22,576.96 - \$27,437.44 Per Annum  
 The Salary given will be determined by the qualifications of the appointee.

This announcement closes on May 15, 1998.  
 Applications are available at the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Lower Base, Saipan, the CUC Rota or Tinian office.

FAILURE TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION.

**DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND IMMIGRATION**  
 Division of Labor

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

The following persons with pending Compliance Agency Case(s) are hereby notified to report to the Division of Labor, Compliance and Monitoring Section, located on the 2nd Floor of Afetna Building, San Antonio, Saipan, on the specified date and time indicated below:

NAME	AGENCY CASE NO.	DATE & TIME
Jian, Guo Wang	CAC #98-073-03	6/04/98 at 9:00 a.m.
Xian, Guang Liu	CAC #98-073-03	6/04/98 at 9:30 a.m.
Xiang, Jun Yang	CAC #98-073-03	6/04/98 at 10:00 a.m.
Yuan, Ji	CAC #98-073-03	6/04/98 at 10:30 a.m.
Yue, Ling Xu	CAC #98-073-03	6/04/98 at 11:00 a.m.
Yun, Xia Ding	CAC #98-073-03	6/04/98 at 2:00 p.m.
Zhan, Liang	CAC #98-073-03	6/04/98 at 2:30 p.m.
Zhongli, Cao	CAC #98-073-03	6/04/98 at 3:00 p.m.
Tan, Yuan Jun	CAC #98-097-04	6/04/98 at 3:30 p.m.
Li, Xing Pei	CAC #98-097-04	6/04/98 at 4:00 p.m.
Yuan Yuan, Fang	CAC #98-097-04	6/05/98 at 09:00 a.m.
Chongqing, Zhao	CAC #98-097-04	6/05/98 at 09:30 a.m.

Failure to appear shall be grounds for dismissal of the above cases. Furthermore, appropriate action(s) and/or sanction(s) shall be taken against the above individuals, including the referrals of their matters to the Division of Immigration for their action(s).

DATED this 04 day of May, 1998.

/s/ GIL M. SAN NICOLAS  
 Acting Director of Labor

# PUBLIC NOTICE

The CNMI Supervisory Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System will hold its regular meeting as follows:

DATE: Thursday, May 14, 1998  
 TIME: 9:30 AM  
 PLACE: Pacific Gardenia Hotel Conference Room, Chalan Kanoa

- AGENDA:
1. Call to order
  2. Roll call
  3. Review of minutes
  4. Review/approval of Draft CNMI FY1997 and FY1998 Edward Byrne Memorial State & Local Law Enforcement Program Grant Application.
  5. Review/approval of subgrant applications for FY1995, FY1996, FY1997, and FY1998.
  6. Announcements.
  7. Adjournment.

Regular meetings are open to the public. Interested persons are welcome to attend. Please call the Criminal Justice Planning Agency at 664-4550-7 for more information.

# PUBLIC NOTICE

The CNMI Youth Advisory Council for the Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) program will hold its regular meeting as follows:

DATE: Wednesday, May 13, 1998  
 TIME: 9:30 AM  
 PLACE: Pacific Gardenia Hotel Conference Room, Chalan Kanoa

- AGENDA:
1. Call to order.
  2. Roll call.
  3. Review of minutes.
  4. Review/approval of Draft FY1998 OJJDP Grant Application.
  5. Review/approval of subgrant applications for FY1995 and FY1997
  6. Announcements.
  7. Adjournment

Regular meetings are open to the public. Interested persons are welcome to attend. Please call the Criminal Justice Planning Agency at 664-4550-7 for more information.

# Pope prays for dead in murder-suicide



Two Swiss Guards stand at attention as Pope John Paul II prays before the coffins of slain Swiss Guard Commander Aloise Estermann, his Venezuelan wife Gladys Meza Romero and non-commissioned officer Cedric Torney in the chapel of the Swiss Guards at the Vatican Wednesday. AP



Pope John Paul II greets Swiss Guard Aloise Estermann and his Venezuelan wife Gladys Meza Romero during a private audience at the Vatican in this May 6, 1997 file photo. AP

By DANIEL J. WAKIN  
 VATICAN CITY (AP) — Many details have emerged about the slaying of the pope's Swiss Guards commander and his wife, but one major mystery remains: the contents of a letter written by the guard said to have killed them.

Cedric Torney, 23, shot the couple in their home and then put the gun to his mouth and killed himself, papal spokesman Joaquin Navarro-Valls said Wednesday.

Torney's funeral was planned for Thursday in St. Anne's, the church inside the Vatican walls used by its employees and residents.

A buildup of resentment over a reprimand by Estermann and the denial of a decoration, combined with a "peculiar" psychology, led to the outburst of violence, the spokesman said. He acknowledged that Torney had not shown himself to be unbalanced before.

Ninety minutes before the slayings Monday evening, Torney gave a letter to a fellow guard, to be passed on to his mother and sisters, 17 and 25. The Vatican has a copy, Navarro-Valls said.

But officials are leaving it up to the family to release the contents, he said. The letter could shed light on Torney's frame of mind and motives.

Meanwhile, another figure remained touched by mystery: Torney's former girlfriend. The spokesman said the guard had recently broken up with a young Rome woman. She is said to have prayed and wept over his casket in a Vatican chapel Wednesday, but the ANSA news agency report could not be confirmed.

Torney's funeral in the small church was to come a day after thousands of people filled St. Peter's Basilica Wednesday to mourn Col. Aloise Estermann, 43, and his wife, Gladys Meza Romero, 49. It was to have been Estermann's happiest day: the pope named him commander of the guards hours before the shootings, and he was to have been sworn in Wednesday.

Torney was nearing the end of his second two-year stint with the guards, the 100-member papal force that for five centuries has drawn on Swiss Catholic men to perform ceremonial duties in the Vatican and protect the pope.

His family has said the onetime mechanic was looking forward to returning to Switzerland to work.

# Firms file motion to dismiss tobacco suit

By KARREN MILLS  
 ST. PAUL, Minnesota (AP) — Tobacco companies asked a judge to dismiss the \$1.7 billion lawsuit filed against them in Minnesota, saying the plaintiff's claims hadn't been proved.

And the foreign-owned subsidiaries — B.A.T. Industries PLC, the British parent of Brown and Williamson; British-American Tobacco; and BAT (U.K. and Export) Ltd. — said the judge should rule in their favor because the plaintiffs did not show they had jurisdiction over foreign companies.

One defendant got its wish when the plaintiffs without explanation dropped their case against BAT (U.K. and Export) Ltd., about which the jury heard little in 14 weeks of testimony.

The plaintiffs — the State of Minnesota and Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Minnesota — also asked for rulings Tuesday on a number of complex legal issues in their favor.

By mid-evening, the judge ruled in their favor and said the defend-

dants can't claim the state filed the lawsuit too late.

Motions for directed verdicts are common before a case goes to the jury. Judges may direct verdicts if they feel there isn't enough evidence against a defendant for jurors to get the case.

Minnesota and Blue Cross claim the tobacco industry conspired to hide the dangers of smoking, marketed to children and manipulated nicotine to keep smokers hooked.

At issue is whether the defendants should pay \$1.7 billion that the state says it spent treating smoking-related illnesses. The plaintiffs also seek punitive damages.

Jury instructions were scheduled for Wednesday. If no settlement is reached, the defense was to give final arguments Thursday and the plaintiffs on Friday. The case was to go to the jury after final arguments are complete.

In Washington, Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle said a settlement in Minnesota would "expedite" national tobacco policy in Congress.



Sen. Orrin Hatch (R-Utah) holds up a pack of cigarettes from China during hearings by the Senate Judiciary Committee on raising of tobacco prices and opportunities for a black market. AP

## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

JOB VACANCY NO. 98-028

POSITION TITLE: INTERNAL AUDITOR

DUTIES: Primarily responsible for the overall internal audit of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation. Responsible for reviewing the reliability and integrity of financial and operating information and the means used to identify, measure, and report that information. Reviews the operations or programs to ascertain whether results are consistent with establishment objectives and goals and whether the operations or programs are being carried out as planned.

LOCATION: CUC, Saipan

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: BS degree in Accounting or equivalent. At least five (5) years experience in external or internal auditing; at least three (3) years experience in electronic spreadsheets and word processing software.

STARTING SALARY: \$32,250.00 - \$36,750.00 per annum. Salary will be determined upon experience and qualifications.

This announcement closes on May 15, 1998. Application are available at the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Lower Base, Saipan, the CUC Rota or Tinian office. Copy of diploma and/or official transcript and recent police clearance must be attached.

## ASSISTANT MANAGER WANTED

**PACIFIC POST** a company licensed to do business in the CNMI will be opening for business in Garapan within the next 6 weeks and is seeking an individual capable of learning their operation to such a degree that they can become the assistant manager of the operation.

Services provided by the company will include postal services, fast copy services, digital printing services and various post printing work.

Qualifications of the successful candidate are:

- Resident of the CNMI,
- Holder of an AA degree or higher, although strong marketing and customer service experience can be substituted,
- Computer literate,
- Capable of learning to operate various print, copy and design equipment,
- Ability to go into the market place to meet existing and new customers.

Salary will be commensurate with qualifications. Health care and other benefits are given after probationary period.

Please fax resume of no more than 2 pages to 671-649-3629 with contact information no later than May 11, 1998.

Pacific Post is an EEO Employer

## 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
  - II. Roll Call
  - III. ADOPTION OF AGENDA  
 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

## Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Standby Emergency Generator Maintenance Program CUC-RFP98-0023

### NOTICE OF CANCELLATION

This serves as notice to all parties interested in offering standby emergency generator maintenance that the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is canceling the request for proposal (RFP) in accordance to Section 3-201 of the CUC Procurement Regulations.

Any questions regarding the cancellation of the RFP shall be directed to Mr. Mariano DLG. Fajardo, Procurement & Supply Supervisor, at 322-6585 or fax to 322-6582

## NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND IMPORTANT MESSAGE TO GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES

### Last Chance For Enrollment In Government Life Insurance!

This is to advise all CNMI Government Employees and Retirees that Individual Assurance Company (IAC) will conduct a final enrollment orientation at the Multi-Purpose in Susupe on Tuesday, May 12, 1998 from 8:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m.

Everyone must re-enroll and complete the New Group Life Insurance Enrollment Form. If you missed the enrollment meetings previously conducted at your department or agency, or have not filled out the new enrollment form, please make your time available to visit the above location between the specified times and sign up to continue your Group Life Insurance Program along with any of the new and improved benefits.

If you have any questions, please contact our office at telephone numbers 235-4718/9.

Thank you for your cooperation and understanding and hope to see everyone there.

# PUBLIC NOTICE

The Board of Directors of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), represented by Mr. Juan S. Tenorio, Chairman, is informing the public that NMHC's Rota Field Office will be accepting applications for the Rota Section 8 Housing Program Waiting List.

Acceptance of applications will begin on April 27, 1998 and will close on May 8, 1998 or immediately after the submission of thirty (30) applications. NMHC will accept applications only from families numbering 4 to 8 for three bedroom units and families numbering 6 to 10 for four bedroom units.

Housing assistance will be given on a housing preference standards subject to priorities in providing Housing Assistance as established by NMHC.

No person shall be denied housing assistance on account of race, color, religion, sex, handicap disabilities, familial status, or national region.

For details regarding the nature of the Section 8 Existing Housing Program, contact Mr. Charles A. Manglona, Rota Field Representative, at 532-9410, or visit NMHC's Rota Field Office at Songsong Village, Rota.

/s/MARYLOU S. ADA  
 Corporate Director

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

# Mayor wins senatorial primary

By NED KILKELLY

The mayor of Indiana's second-largest city won a close race for the state's Republican Senate nomination, setting up another tough fight with former Gov. Evan Bayh for the state's open U.S. Senate seat.

Fort Wayne Mayor Paul Helmke traded the lead with two rivals before pulling ahead in late returns.

Helmke had 129,309 votes, or 35 percent, while attorney John Price had 124,005 votes, or 34 percent, with 96 percent of precincts reporting.

Peter Rusthoven, an attorney and former speechwriter for Ronald Reagan, conceded earlier in the evening.

Bayh, the uncontested Democratic nominee, has a war chest of \$3 million. His father, Birch Bayh, once held the same Senate seat, until Dan Quayle beat him in the Reagan sweep of 1980.

The seat is open because Republican Dan Coats — who took it over when Quayle became vice president in 1989 — is retiring at 54 to return to the private sector.

Ohio's John Glenn, 76, is also leaving the Senate. The four-term Democrat is returning to space aboard the shuttle Discovery.

Gov. George Voinovich, barred from running for a third term, decided to run for Glenn's seat, and easily won the Republican Senate primary. Voinovich, 61, is heavily favored to beat Democrat Mary O. Boyle, a former Cuyahoga County commissioner, who faced no primary opposition.

In North Carolina, Democrats nominated millionaire lawyer John Edwards to challenge Sen. Lauch Faircloth.

The Republican incumbent, seeking a second term, was easily re-nominated over two political un-

knowns.

Edwards, 44, making his first bid for public office, won the Democratic primary with 50 percent, more than enough to avoid a runoff. He dedicated his victory to former governor and senator Terry Sanford, who died two weeks ago at age 80.

Sanford lost the Senate seat to Faircloth in 1992.

Faircloth, 70, himself a multimillionaire, said he wasn't worried about running against Edwards, who already has spent more than \$3 million of his own money on television ads.

In Ohio, neither party had a primary in the race to succeed

Voinovich. Republican Secretary of State Bob Taft — the latest in a long political line of Tafts and great-grandson of the late president — will face Democrat Lee Fisher, former state attorney general, in November.

Indiana and Ohio both had primaries to replace long-time Democratic congressmen who are retiring.

In southeastern Indiana's 9th District, voters faced their first election in 34 years without Lee Hamilton on the ballot. His party's nominee is Baron Hill, a former state representative, who easily beat two rivals Tuesday.

He'll face Jean Leising, who won a four-way Republican primary. Leising, a former state senator, lost

the last two elections to Hamilton.

In Ohio's 11th District, which covers Cleveland's east side and suburbs, Democrat Louis Stokes, the state's first and only black congressman, is calling it quits after 30 years.

Cuyahoga County prosecutor Stephanie Tubbs Jones won a five-way race to win the Democratic nomination.

Talk show host James Hereford defeated three rivals in the Republican primary.

Ohio Lt. Gov. Nancy Hollister beat millionaire businessman Frank Cremeans for the Republican nomination to challenge Democratic Rep. Ted Strickland in the 6th District.

## George Michael arraignment delayed

By AMANDA COVARRUBIAS  
BEVERLY HILLS, California (AP) — British pop star George Michael wasn't in court for his arraignment hearing on a misdemeanor lewd conduct charge, but plenty of reporters were.

Tuesday's court session was heavily covered, in particular by a contingent from Great Britain. Reporters and camera crews crowded into Beverly Hills Municipal Court, only to learn the proceeding would be postponed until May 15.

What's more, the 34-year-old pop star chose to stay home and let his attorney do the talking.

"He's terrific. There's no problem," said Michael's lawyer, Ira Reiner, when asked how his client is doing.

Reiner, the former top prosecutor in Los Angeles County, was recently hired by Michael and said he needed more time to review the case.

"We're just reviewing the entire file before a decision is made as to what the appropriate plea's going to be," Reiner told a news conference outside the courthouse.

When asked about Michael's well-being, Reiner said: "One is always anxious to get a matter like this, or any matter, resolved and get

it behind you."

He said his client is "in very good humor and good spirits."

Michael has been charged with a single misdemeanor count of lewd conduct that carries a maximum sentence of six months in jail and a \$1,000 fine.

He was arrested April 7 when an undercover police officer allegedly saw him commit a lewd act alone in a restroom at Will Rogers Park, which is across the street from the Beverly

Hills Hotel on Sunset Boulevard.

Michael posted \$500 bail and was released later that night.

He acknowledged later that he is gay and said he was embarrassed by the arrest.


He told CNN, "I won't even say it's the first time it's happened."

Michael and his band Wham! burst onto the pop scene in 1983, but the group broke up three years later. His hits include "Faith" and "I Want Your Sex."



Members of the media from around the world "hurry up and wait" outside Beverly Hills, Calif., Municipal Court after the lewd conduct case against British pop star George Michael was delayed Tuesday. AP

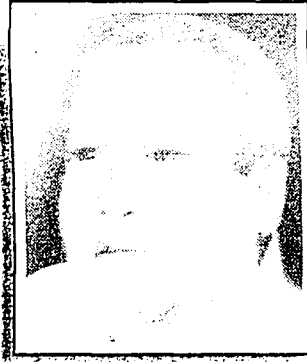
**4TH ANNIVERSARY ROSARY**



This is to inform all relatives and friends of **Isabel Basa Pangelinan (Inden)** that the **4th Anniversary Rosary** will be said at the residence of Juan B. Pangelinan and Margarita A. Villagomez, in Marpo Valley, Timian, beginning on May 2, 1998 at 8:00 p.m. to May 9. Mass of Intention will be at 5:00 p.m., on May 9, at San Jose Church in Timian. Dinner will be served after the mass at the above resident. Please join us in prayers for our beloved Nana.

Thank you yan Si Yuus Maase, From the Family

**20th ANNIVERSARY ROSARY**



We, the family of the late **Nicolas Iglecias Torres**

Would like to invite all relatives and friends to join us in prayer for my beloved husband and our father as we remember him in prayer on his 20th year anniversary beginning on May 05, 1998 at 8:00PM to May 13, 1998. Mass of intention will be at 5:00pm on May 13, at San Jose Church.

Dinner will be served after mass at Merced F. Torres residence in Gualo Rai.

Please join us in prayer for my beloved husband and our father.

Thank you Yan Si Yuus Maase, FROM THE FAMILY

**OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION**

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

This is to inform the public that the State Independent Living Council will hold its meeting on Thursday, May 14, 1998 at 11:00AM at the PREL Office located in the 2nd floor at Bank of Hawaii in Puerto Rico. Interested persons are welcome to attend. The following agenda will be discussed:

- CALL TO ORDER
- ADOPTION OF AGENDA (ACTION)
- ADOPTION OF 4/16/98 MEETING MINUTES (ACTION)
- PROPOSED AMENDMENTS IN THE BY LAW (ACTION)
- CONTRACT WITH RRTC ABILITIES CENTER (ACTION)
- INDEPENDENT LIVING GRANT (DISCUSSION)
- MISCELLANEOUS (DISCUSSION)
  - National Independent Living Council Affiliation & Training
  - Status of Annual Report
  - State Plan (FY 1999-2001)
  - SILC/OVR Conference (Washington, DC)
- ADJOURNMENT

/s/ BRIAN FARLEY  
Chairperson

In compliance with the American With Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but requires accessibility such as large print or sign language interpreter, must call 664-6538 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY). Advance notice is necessary to allow ample time to make necessary arrangements.

# Bishop commits suicide

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — A Catholic bishop shot himself to death in eastern Pakistan, apparently to protest a death sentence against a Christian for blaspheming Islam, police said Thursday.

Bishop John Joseph committed suicide Wednesday in front of the court building in Sahiwal, 270 miles south of Islamabad, after visiting the family of Ayub Masih, police in Punjab Province said.

Masih, 25, was convicted April 27 of speaking favorably about British author Salman Rushdie, who is under a death penalty by Iranian religious leaders for allegedly making blasphemous comments about the Prophet Mohammed in his book "Satanic Verses."

Masih is being held pending appeal. No date has been set for his execution.

Before killing himself, Joseph, of nearby Faisalabad, addressed a gathering at Masih's house, saying the charges were false and concocted to force 15 Christian families to drop a local land dispute.

Noting that Masih had been accused by a Muslim man, Joseph maintained that the case was essentially one man's word against another's. He alleged that the judge gave twice as much weight to the accuser's charges because he was a Muslim.

Pakistani law requires death for anyone who defiles the prophet's name. Critics charge that the vaguely worded law is often misused by religious zealots against religious minorities.

Several Christians have been sentenced to death, but those convictions were overturned by higher courts.



A Pakistani ice seller uses U.S. flags for cover Monday due to recent heat wave in Lahore. American and Indian flags are on sale in different places for Shiite and Sunni religious Muslims to burn on the occasions of their protest rallies against these countries. AP

May 10, 1998

**PHOENIX ART STUDIO**  
FINE ART & SIGN ART

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For Mother's Day Gift, Have An Artist Sketch A Portrait Of Your Mom

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Artist: Chen Xiao Ping  
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**May 8 & 9 only**

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- JVC Component System 6 CD Changer \$319.00 SALE
- JVC Mini-Component System 3CD Changer \$299.00 SALE

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# OPEC plans output cuts

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP) — The United Arab Emirates' oil minister said Wednesday that oil producers may have to further slash production to boost prices.

Obaid bin Saif al-Nasser, who is currently serving as president of the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries, said he expects prices to rise later this year. "Oil producers have to exert efforts to protect oil prices from

deteriorating," he told the official Emirates News Agency.

He said he expected "an increase in the oil prices in the second half of this year."

In March, OPEC and non-OPEC producers promised to cut some 1.5 million barrels of oil a day to boost prices.

Prices fell to a nine-year low following the group's November decision to pump more oil just as demand was eroding because of

the Asian economic crisis and a mild winter.

Al-Nasser said any decision to cut production must be coordinated between OPEC members and non-members.

Several other OPEC ministers have said recently that further cuts are likely at the organization's June 24 meeting in Vienna.

Oil is trading for about \$20 a barrel. Al-Nasser said he sees \$20 a barrel as a reasonable price.

## Malaysian ringgit recovers

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Offshore trading helped the Malaysian ringgit recover slightly against the U.S. dollar Thursday, after it plunged to a morning low of 4.06.

At mid-morning, the dollar was being quoted at a mid-range of 3.87, still up sharply from 3.77 ringgit the previous day.

The ringgit's strengthening off its morning low followed reports in Singapore that the Malaysia's central bank began selling dollars at the 4.00 ringgit mark, although both foreign and local dealers said they hadn't spotted the central

bank aggressively buying ringgit.

A Kuala Lumpur-based dealer expressed doubt the central bank would have enough "conviction" to aggressively defend the ringgit, given recent comments by Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad that he'd like to see lower interest rates. The dealer believes most of the ringgit trading was offshore.

The ringgit has lost its value against the dollar by more than 30 percent since last July, when the regional currency crisis was sparked by a plunge of the Thai baht.

As the dollar's climb came

against the regionals generally, it would be futile to expend resources defending the ringgit, he said.

"It's a confidence game," he explained. "If there's a leak in one country, it all starts to unravel in the region."

A Hong Kong-based dealer noted that the denials from the People's Bank of China and Hong Kong's chief executive Tung Chee-hwa that China would devalue its currency as a result of a wave of currency devaluations elsewhere in the region has also taken pressure off the ringgit.

## Business & Trade

# Chrysler, Daimler talk merger



Workers work on a Mercedes Class A car at a production line of the new Mercedes plant in the southern German city of Rasstatt, in this Oct. 15, 1997 photo. Daimler-Benz AG confirmed in a joint statement with United States automaker Chrysler Corp., that they are in talks for a possible link-up of the two companies, Wednesday. AP

By JOHN HUGHES  
DETROIT (AP) — Chrysler Corp., a flag-waving champion of the Buy American movement that once staved off bankruptcy with a government bailout, said it is discussing a merger with Germany's biggest industrial company, the maker of the Mercedes-Benz.

Dow Jones News and the Detroit Free Press reported late Wednesday that the merger would be announced Thursday morning in London. Sources said the merger plans were completed after both boards met Wednesday.

The Financial Times of London reported Thursday that the transaction has already been approved by Deutsche Bank, Daimler-Benz's biggest shareholder, and by Kirk Kerkorian, the largest shareholder in Chrysler.

The proposed merger, which reportedly values Chrysler at more than \$35 billion, would be one of the largest industrial pairings ever.

The merged company would have a range of products and an international scope far greater than Daimler-Benz and Chrysler have individually.

Chrysler would get greater access to the European market, something it has strived for.

The No. 3 U.S. automaker also would round out its mainly mass-market offerings in light trucks with Mercedes, which primarily makes luxury cars.

Daimler-Benz would gain a bigger foothold in the American market, where it has been working to increase sales.

And since two of every three vehicles that Chrysler makes is a light truck, the German company could participate in the popular U.S. pickup and minivan segments that don't make as much sense for a luxury brand.

"To some extent there is a hand-in-glove fit," said Scott Merlis, an analyst with Merlis Automotive

International Inc. "I would say it looks like a match made in heaven to the extent the two cultures can coexist."

According to Dow Jones and the Free Press, both Chrysler and Daimler will exchange their stock for shares in a new holding company to be called Daimler Chrysler.

The company will have dual headquarters in Auburn Hills, Michigan, and Stuttgart, Germany and co-chairmen, Robert Eaton of Chrysler and Juergen Schrempp of Daimler.

The new company will be a German legal entity, Dow Jones reported.

If wholly merged, the companies would have had revenues of \$131 billion last year — \$70 billion for Daimler-Benz and \$61 billion for Chrysler.

By comparison, No. 1 world automaker General Motors Corp. had nearly \$178 billion in revenues in 1997 while No. 2 Ford Motor Co. had \$154 billion.

The companies cautioned earlier Wednesday, however, that a deal is far from certain.

They said in a joint statement Wednesday that a merger could take the form of a stock swap, but that any agreement would be subject to approval by the boards and shareholders of both companies — among other conditions.

Mercedes-Benz has increased U.S. sales 67 percent this year, largely with the help of its hot-selling M-Class sport utility vehicle.

But the German automaker is still a bit player in terms of U.S. volume, accounting for a little more than 1 percent of industry sales so far this year.

Similarly, Chrysler sold only 17,713 vehicles outside North America last month, more than half of that in Europe.

Chrysler sold nearly 221,000 vehicles in the United States last month.

were confirmed in a joint statement, and ended the day with a 7.2 percent gain.

Chrysler shares rose 18 percent, or \$7.37 1/2, to close at \$48.81 1/4 on the New York Stock Exchange, while Daimler's U.S.-listed shares rose 6.4 percent, or \$6.50, to \$108.56 1/4. Chrysler is a powerhouse in the United States, with 94,300 employees and a 16 percent share of new vehicle sales this

year. Only GM and Ford sell more, with shares of 31 percent and 24 percent, respectively.

Daimler, Germany's largest industrial group, produces luxury autos, trucks and buses via its Mercedes-Benz division.

Other Daimler divisions are involved in areas like aerospace, defense and financial services, and it wasn't clear whether they would be included in the deal.

### Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

#### PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold a special meeting on Monday, May 11, 1998, at 5:00 p.m. in the Fund Conference Room, Saipan.

#### AGENDA

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- B. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- C. OLD BUSINESS
  1. WCC Appeal - Case No. SPN-96-002
  2. Loan Purchase Agreement
- D. ADJOURNMENT

## PAHIBALU

To All Visayan,  
There will be a general membership  
meeting on May 10, 1998 at 2:00PM,  
Sunday at Joeten Kiyu Library in Susupe.

*Daghan Kaayong Salamat*

## VIZMINDA ASSOCIATION

Literacy is CAREER and CAREER FREEDOM.

**Budweiser**  
KING OF BEERS

PRESENTS.....  
"Raggae, Blues, and R&B"

Featuring:  
*Valerie Davis*



WHEN:  
Friday and Saturday  
May 8 & 9

WHERE:  
Casa de Roma

TIME:  
6:00PM

Tickets: \$20.00  
(Includes One Bud Family of Beer)

"All Profits will be donated to CNMI Youth Center of Music and Performing Arts"

## Who is lying about Korea financial crisis?

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — In an ongoing government investigation

into whom to blame for worsening South Korea's financial crisis, former President Kim Young-sam has pointed an accusing finger at one of his economic advisers, prosecutors said Wednesday.

Prosecutors said that in a written statement given early last week, Kim singled out his finance minister, Lim Chang-yuel, for mishandling the crisis and damaging South Korea's international credibility.

Lim was appointed finance minister only two days before South Korea officially asked the International Monetary Fund on Nov. 21 to bail out its sinking economy.

The ex-president said in the statement that his government had already agreed with the IMF on a bailout before Lim's appointment, said a spokesman for the Seoul prosecutors who spoke on condition of anonymity.

If true, it would raise questions as to why Lim told reporters after his Nov. 19 appointment that South Korea had not decided yet whether to go to the IMF for help.

Lim's remark was later blamed for aggravating South Korea's financial crisis by driving away uneasy foreign investors.

Lim rebutted his boss' claim, saying that he was unaware of the decision.

"Who in the government would defy when told by the president as many as three times of the decision to go to the IMF for help?" Lim told reporters on Wednesday.

In an earlier report to the government's Office of Audit and Inspection in March, the former presi-



Kim Young-sam

dent was vague on Lim's role in the crisis.

But in last week's report to the prosecution, the ex-president claimed that he had told Lim three times that South Korea was turning to the IMF for help.

The dispute is expected to have a significant impact on the government's investigation into the crisis, for which two top officials of the previous government — former Finance Minister Kang Kyong-shik and former presidential economic adviser Kim In-ho — are already under investigation.

The two were fired a few days before South Korea called in the IMF for assistance.

The two could face criminal charges for worsening the crisis. The dispute also has political implications as Lim is running as a governing party candidate in local elections on June 4 for the governorship of the populous Kyonggi province surrounding Seoul.

Lim's role in the financial crisis already has become a hot campaign issue.

South Korea's economy was bailed out by the IMF on Dec. 3 with a \$58 billion package.

# Asian flu stops book fair

SINGAPORE (AP) — The 29-year-old Festival of Books has been cancelled this year, partly because the regional economic crisis has caused a decline in participants, the organizer said Wednesday.

"There are not sufficient participants," said K.P. Sivam, explaining that the festival, which pre-sold 140 stalls last year,

would not take place in September.

Sivam said another factor is competition from the World Book Fair, which started in 1996, and takes place in June, three months before the festival.

"Our members have been participating in both fairs these last two years," Sivam said.

There are also a couple of other fairs that showcase books, but sell gift items, too.

Sivam said the members of the National Book Development Council of Singapore and the Singapore Book Publishers Association want to take a year or two "to review other trends" to determine how and whether the festival will continue.

# Beatle George goes to court

LONDON (AP) — In a rare public appearance, George Harrison went to court Wednesday to stop the sale of a recording of the Beatles singing drunkenly in a Hamburg club in 1962.

Lingsong Music Ltd. wants to market CDs from the appearance at the Star Club, the group's last gig there after signing with EMI Records.

Harrison called the recording one of the "crummiest" ever of the band.

Edward Taylor, who made the recording, claimed John Lennon gave his verbal consent. Harrison said even if he did, the agreement wouldn't be binding.

"One drunken person recording another bunch of drunks does not constitute business deals," he said.

An album of songs from the tape was released in 1977 on the Polydor label after the Beatles failed to get a High Court injunction against it.

Lennon was shot to death in 1980.

Harrison said Lennon's widow, Yoko Ono, and the two other surviving Beatles — Paul McCartney and Ringo Starr — chose him to appear in court.

They want the original recording turned over to them or destroyed.

# Campbell in Bucharest

BUCHAREST, Romania (AP) — Bread and salt aren't Naomi Campbell's cup of tea.

The supermodel skipped the traditional Romanian greeting on Wednesday after arriving in the city in a gleaming green Mercedes for a one-day publicity stop.

Journalists just got a glimpse of her clad from head to toe in stretch black before she headed off to hand out musical instruments and medicine, host a reception and visit a casino.

Campbell, 27, who didn't speak or pause for photographers, disappointed waiting journalists and a little girl who had come to greet her with bread and salt.

# School cancels on Indigo Girls

KNOXVILLE, Tennessee (AP) — It's strike three for the lesbian folk duo.

The lesbian folk duo was supposed to give a free concert Wednesday at Farragut High School, but school officials canceled.

It's the Grammy-winning group's third high school show to be called off in a week.

Farragut Principal Ed Hedgepeth said the duo's sexuality wasn't a factor.

The concert was canceled because of news reports last weekend that the Indigo Girls used profanity at a previous concert, he said.

"I'm not sure exactly what context (profanity) was used, whether it was used in an actual song or whether it was used on stage at some point in a comment," Hedgepeth said.

"I'd rather err on the side of caution when it comes to the people that we have presenting in the schools," he said.

Kanishka Biddanda, co-editor of the school newspaper, tells a different story.

"It's understood by everyone that the show was canceled because the Indigo Girls are gay," she said. The newspaper helped sponsor the concert.

# Malcolm X landmark mullied

BOSTON (AP) — Malcolm X's boyhood home is under study as a historic landmark.

The city Landmarks Commission voted unanimously Tuesday to look into whether the house in Roxbury meets legal requirements for landmark status, which would keep it safe from demolition or major renovation.

Malcolm X, then 14-year-old Malcolm Little, moved from Lansing, Michigan, to the three-story wood-frame house owned by his older sister Ella in 1941.

He was living there when he was sentenced to prison for burglary in 1946 and returned to it briefly when he was paroled in 1953.

The house is owned by Ella's son, Rodnell Collins.

# Tyson graces Music Awards

MONACO (AP) — Former heavyweight boxer Mike Tyson presented the group "Savage Garden" with an award Wednesday at the star-studded 1998 World Music Awards in Monaco.

The American fighter had to request official permission to travel overseas as part of his probation for a 1992 rape conviction, and he must give his passport back to court after he returns home.

Tyson and movie star Mickey Rourke both gave out the award to the Australian group, which was named the World's Best Selling Australian group in 1998. Accompanied at one point by a top model, Tyson appeared relaxed and pleased to be in the limelight again.

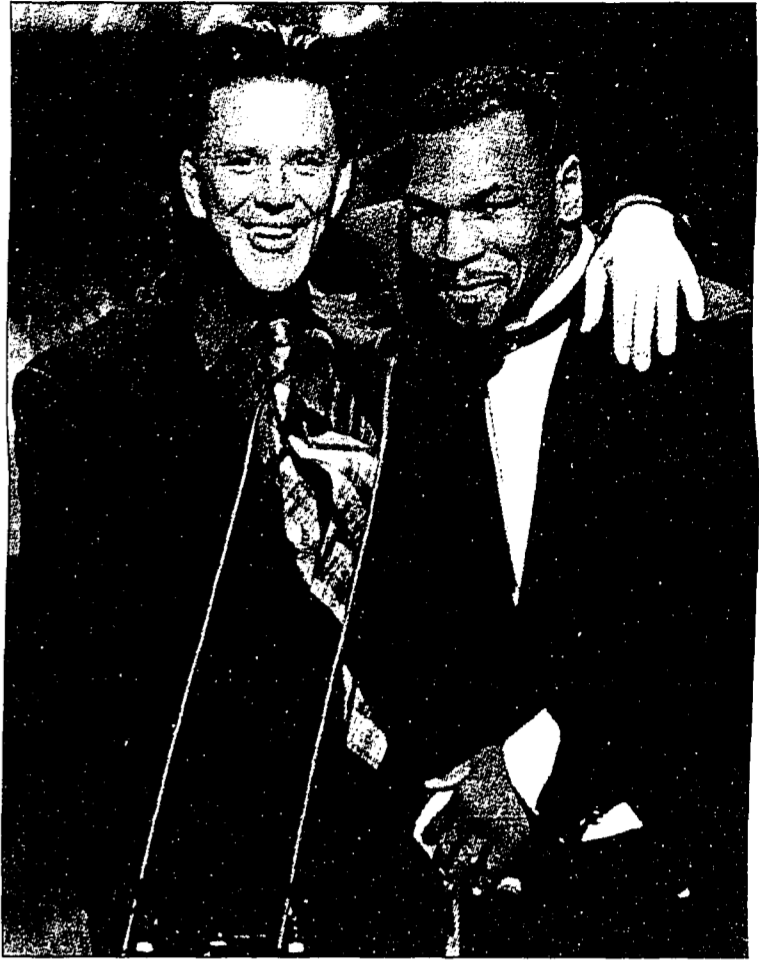
The World Music Awards use record sales as the only measure of performance in naming award winners.

Prince Albert of Monaco, Gloria

Stefan, Roberto Carlos and actress Ursula Andress were among the other presenters.

The winners included Puff Daddy as the World's Best Selling New Artist, the Spice Girls as the best selling British group and Andrea Bocelli as the World's Best Selling Classical Artist.

Before going to Monaco, Tyson stopped briefly in Paris and toured the Louvre art museum on Tuesday. Tyson's passport has



Former world heavy-weight boxing champion Mike Tyson, right, and US actor Mickey Rourke present the World's Best-Selling Australian Group of the Year award during the 10th World Music Awards in Monaco, French riviera, Wednesday. AP



US pop group Backstreet Boys receive the award of the World's best-selling Dance Group of the Year, during the 10th World Music Awards in Monaco, French Riviera Wednesday. AP

been in the possession of the court since travel restrictions were placed on him as part of his probation. He has about one more year to serve on his probation.

Tyson, who has a home in Southington, Ohio, was banned from boxing last July when he bit off a piece of Evander Holyfield's ear during a bout.

## Message of Appreciation



*We, the family of the late*

### LORENZO TUDELA CAMACHO

Would like to express our sincerest and most profound gratitude to all our families, relatives and friends for all the kind expressions of love, support, sympathy, prayers and condolences extended to us during our time of sorrow. Your presence at the nightly rosaries, funeral mass and at the final resting place is greatly appreciated and will always be remembered.

Our SPECIAL THANKS is extended to our Techas: Mr. Donald B. Mendiola, Ms. Lily M. Celis and Mrs. Mary SN. Pangelinan (Hawaii), CNMI Hawaii Liaison Office, Queen Medical Center, Commonwealth Health Center, Emergency Response Team, Department of Public Safety, CPA Staff and Airport Security, His Excellency Bishop Tomas A. Camacho, Father Isaac Ayuyu and the Clergy of the Diocese of Chalan Kanoa, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio, Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, Mayor's Office, CUC, Precinct I Representatives, Congressman Jesus & Mrs. Mona Attao, Veterans Affairs (Marine Scout Troop), Nina Chandi Camacho's Family (San Roque) Nan-Ita Kulas Muna's Family, Nan Icha-Goru Basa's Family, Ray Kumoi/Mona/Julie & Friends, Tun Christin-Eugenia Dela Cruz's Family, Tun Jose-Acha Sakisat's Family, Tun Enrique-Luisa Kisa's Family, Juan-Lydia Pangelinan & Nan Meggy Esang Tenorio's Family, Tun Jesus-Kika Santos' (Chung) Family and Tun Juan-Chong & Tan Lana Sanchez's Family and those others too numerous to mention, for their valuable assistance and support in so many ways in the lost of our beloved.

WE WILL REMEMBER YOU IN OUR HEARTS AND PRAYERS  
Un Dangkulu Na Si Yuus Ma'ase

THE FAMILY

## Third Anniversary Rosary



### Maria Tenorio Guerrero

*"Nan Kita' Pan"*

The family of the late Maria T. Guerrero invites all our relatives and friends to join us for the Third Anniversary Rosary of our beloved one. Also, the rosary will be offered for the following:

- +Herman Reyes Guerrero;
- +Juan Pangelinan and Francisca Camacho Tenorio;
- +Luis Camacho and Rita Sablan Tenorio;
- +Alberto Camacho Tenorio;
- +Ana Camacho Tenorio;
- +Jose Camacho Tenorio;
- +Santiago Camacho Tenorio;
- +Froilan Camacho Tenorio; and,
- +Francisca Tenorio Guerrero

Nightly rosary will be held at the family residence in Dandan by Herman's Modern Bakery, beginning Wednesday, May 13, 1998, at 7:00 p.m. Also, daily Mass will be offered at Mount Carmel Cathedral from Wednesday to Wednesday, May 20, 1998, except on Sunday, Mass will be at San Vicente Church. All Masses will be at 6:00 a.m.

On the final day, Thursday, May 21, 1998, rosary will be said at 12:00 Noon. The Third Anniversary Mass will be offered at 5:00 p.m. at San Vicente Church and dinner will follow at the family residence.

Kindly Join Us in Prayers and Intentions.

THE GUERRERO (PAN) AND TENORIO FAMILIES

## AUTOMATIC SELLER MACHINE

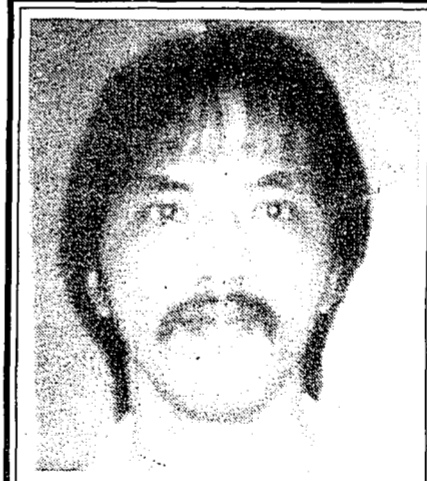
Busy schedule? You still have plenty of time to place a classified ad. Just fax your ad copy to 234-9271. It's a quick and easy way to sell your unwanted items for quick cash.

If you don't have access to a FAX machine. Call 234-9797/6341/7578 and a representative will help you place your ad over the phone.

**Marianas Variety News & Views**

FAX your ad to  
234-9271

## DEATH AND FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT



### DANIEL RAYMOND Deleon Guerrero Aldan

September 10, 1961 - April 30, 1998

Dearly beloved you had passed away,  
But we'll reunite again someday,  
Though it's 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*

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.

<p><b>Wife:</b> Vivian Urumelog Aldan</p> <p><b>Children:</b> Jennifer and Ashley</p> <p><b>Mother-in-law:</b> Concepcion Urumelog Kus</p> <p><b>Grandmother:</b> Concepcion Cabrera Deleon Guerrero</p> <p><b>Grandmother:</b> Magdalena Terlaje Pangelinan</p> <p><b>Sisters :</b> Lillian DLG and Ambrose Bennet (Peter Jonathan, Shequita, Yvonne &amp; Yvette) Jenny Deleon Guerrero Lee and Melvin M. Masga (Luisa, Tanishia, Lea, Nikko &amp; Maya)</p>	<p><b>Sisters and Brother-in-Law:</b> Antonia Urumelog &amp; Rick Omar (Andrew, Jacklyn, Jethrow, Rick Jr &amp; Jerolyn) John, Diego and Bernie DLG. Urumelog (Kimberly, Jonathan, Jocelyn) Erna and Jim Uddin (Nacimma, Nashlyn, Apolna) Patrick Urumelog Rowena Urumelog Johnny Joe Urumelog Steven Urumelog</p>
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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.





Marianas Variety Classified Ads Section

DEADLINE: 12:00 noon the day prior to publication
NOTE: If some reason your advertisement is incorrect, call us immediately to make the necessary corrections.

Employment Wanted



01 AUTO MECHANIC-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: RICHARD E. MIRANDA dba J & R Auto Shop Tel. 322-1735/(5) 8F26304

10 MACHINE PRESSER(PRESS OPERATOR)-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
40 SEWING MACHINE OPERATORS-Salary:\$3.05-6.00 per hour
10 CUTTER-Salary:\$3.05-3.15 per hour

01 PLUMBER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
02 CARPENTER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
02 MASON-Salary:\$3.05 per hour

01 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR-Salary:\$4.50-5.00 per hour
Contact: GEORGE F. FLEMING dba Fas Moving & Storage Comp. Tel. 322-6587/(5)8F26292

01 MAINTENANCE BUILDING REPAIR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN KORESCO CORPORATION dba Saipan Koreesco Resort Club Tel. 288-6001/(5)8F26295

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 MANAGER, DEPARTMENT-Salary:\$4.00 per hour
03 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (BUILDING)-Salary:\$3.05 per hour

01 AIR CONDITIONING TECHNICIAN-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
01 ADMINISTRATIVE MANAGER-Salary:\$700.00-1,000.00 per month
02 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour

01 SHOP SUPERVISOR-Salary:\$800.00-2,500.00 per month plus \$425.00 housing allowance per month Japanese skills required
Assist sales manager in providing direction and motivation to department personnel to work towards accomplishments of department objectives.

02 CARPENTERS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 JANITOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 PAINTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN-Salary: \$1,000.00 bi-weekly
Contact: L & W AMUSEMENT CORP. Tel. 234-8864/(5)15F26394

01 MAINTENANCE REPAIR BLDG.-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MARGARITA R. TENORIO dba Saipan Office Supply Tel. 234-3021/(5)15F26393

01 STORE MANAGER (Retail)-Salary: \$1,050.00 per month
Contact: PHILIPPINE GOODS, INC. dba Retail General Merchandise Tel. 234-6485/(5)15F72049

01 SALES MANAGER-Salary:\$800.00-1,300.00 per month
01 INSTRUCTOR-Salary:\$800.00-1,100.00 per month
Contact: COMMONWEALTH MARINE LEISURE CORPORATION dba Marine Sport & Leisure Tel. 234-9157/(5) 8F26296

05 TRUCK DRIVER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: JG SABLAN ROCK QUARRY CO. Tel. 234-3219/(5)8F71931

01 (CLAIMS EXAMINER)-Salary:\$1,040.00 per month
Contact: MOYLAN'S INSURANCE UND. Tel. 234-2489/(5)8F71934

04 ELECTRICIAN-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: HONG ELECTRIC ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. 234-1324/(5)8F26300

02 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05-3.40 per hour
01 MAINTENANCE BUILDING REPAIR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
02 HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC-Salary:\$3.05-3.70 per hour

50 GARMENT WORKER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
02 ASST. SUPERVISOR (SEWING DEPARTMENT)-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
05 SUPERVISOR (SEWING DEPARTMENT)-Salary:\$3.05 per hour

02 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
155 SEWER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: JOO ANG APPAREL, INC. Tel. 235-2731/(5)8F26299

02 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 GENERAL MANAGER-Salary: \$1,200.00 per month
Contact: COMMONWEALTH GARMENT INC. Tel. 234-7558/(5)15F26385

01 PLUMBER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: ROCK CONSTRUCTION CO., INC. Tel. 234-6163/(5)15F26386

01 SALES CLERK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: DAVID DUNLOP dba Pacifica Galleria Tel. 233-2787/(5)15F26389

02 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: FUJI PACIFIC, INC. Tel. 234-0583/(5)15F26390

01 MASON-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MR. BIDENCIO C. AMADO dba ABC Ent. Tel. 256-0221/(5)15F26391

01 AUTO MECHANIC-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: A.C.C.S. CORPORATION dba Cartown Tel. 235-9441/(5)15F26392

02 WAITRESSES-Salary: \$3.05-3.35 per hour
Contact: NIIZEKI INTERNATIONAL SAIPAN CO., LTD. dba Discotheque GIG Tel. 234-5050/(5)15F72065

01 MANAGER, REAL ESTATE FIRM-Salary: \$3,000.00-4,000.00 per month
Contact: NIIZEKI INT'L SAIPAN CO., LTD. Tel. 234-5050/(5)15F72066

01 PURCHASING MANAGER-Salary: \$750.00-1,000.00 per month
08 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour

02 SHEET WORKER-Salary: \$3.05-3.75 per hour
01 CIVIL ENGINEER-Salary: \$850.00-1,200.00 per month
01 DRAFTERS-Salary: \$850.00-1,900.00 per month

01 DRIVER-Salary: \$3.05-3.75 per hour
01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$750.00-1,000.00 per month

01 MASON-Salary: \$3.05-4.25 per hour
02 WAREHOUSE WORKER-Salary: \$3.05-3.30 per hour
Contact: SABLAN ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. 234-1558/(5)15F72064

01 SALES REP.-Salary: \$5.00 per hour
Contact: IT&E OVERSEAS, INC. Tel. 234-8421/(5)15F72059

01 STORE MANAGER (Retail)-Salary: \$1,050.00 per month
Contact: PHILIPPINE GOODS, INC. dba Retail General Merchandise Tel. 234-6485/(5)15F72049

01 SALES CLERK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: J & JEV ENT., INC. dba Bay View Market Tel. 256-9483 26232

03 TRAVEL COUNSELOR-Salary: \$7.03 per hour
Contact: CREATIVE TOURS MICRONESIA, INC.(5/15)F72079

02 HOUSEKEEPING, CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05-4.95 per hour
02 KITCHEN HELPER-Salary:\$3.05-4.85 per hour

01 WAITRESS SUPERVISOR (RESTAURANT)-Salary:\$3.05-9.50 per hour
01 F & B MANAGER-Salary:\$700.00-92,300.00 per month
03 COOK-Salary:\$3.05-5.95 per hour

02 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: SAMURAI CORPORATION dba Hyaku-Ban Rest. Southern Cross Trop. Res. Tel. 234-3374/(5)22F26477

01 ARCHITECT-Salary:\$1,400.00-2,000.00 per month
Contact: DEV & ASSOCIATES, INC. Tel. 234-6187/(5)22F26478

01 OPERATIONS MANAGER-Salary:\$3.25 per hour
Contact: LC CORPORATION Tel. 235-5229/(5)22F26479

01 COLOR STRIPPER-Salary:\$3.05-3.10 per hour
05 PRESS OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05-3.10 per hour

01 CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE-Salary:\$3.85 per hour
Contact: MARIANAS REPAIR COMPANY, INC. Tel. 234-9084/(5)22F26481

01 GIFT SHOP SUPERVISOR-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour
Contact: KWOK KWUN LEE Tel. 234-8715/(5)22F26486

01 GENERAL MANAGER-Salary:\$1,800.00 per month
Contact: SAIPAN JC CORPORATION dba Home Appliance Tel. 235-3404/(5)22F26487

01 MANAGER, SALES-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 SALESPERSON-Salary:\$600.00-800.00 per month

01 PAINTER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: NEW SAIPAN DEVELOPMENT, INC. Tel. 234-2256/(5)22F26488

01 CASHIER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 SUPERVISOR-Salary:\$\_\_\_\_\_
02 STOCK CLERK-Salary:\$\_\_\_\_\_

05 COOK-Salary:\$3.30-4.00 per hour
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\$600.00/month "Fully Furnished" 24 hrs. water "Swimming Pool" Restaurant "Quiet Place Located in China Town"

APARTMENT, SHOP 4 RENT
New in Tanapag Main Road Side
• 2 Bedroom 2 Unit Furnished • Shop for Restaurant, Club, Laundry, Fashion, Shoes, Motel, etc.

APARTMENT FOR RENT
\$800.00/month "Fully Furnished" 24 hrs. water "Swimming Pool" Restaurant "Quiet Place Located in China Town"

Fee Simple 6 acres Hilo Hawaii with 3 bdrm, 3 bath, 2 family room. \$259, 900

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IN CONJUNCTION WITH THE NATIONAL TOURISM WEEK, THE MARIANAS VISITORS BUREAU WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE CNMI "TOURISM MONTH" WILL BE CELEBRATED THROUGHOUT THE MONTH OF MAY. ONE OF THE HIGHLIGHT EVENTS DURING THIS MONTH IS THE LOCAL FOOD FAIR COMPETITION TO BE HELD ON SATURDAY, MAY 16, 1998 AT THE MVB OFFICE FROM 10:00 A.M. UNTIL 12:00 NOON.

Deadline for reserving a booth is Tuesday, May 13, 1998 before 5:00 p.m. For more information, please contact the Marianas Visitors Bureau at 664-3200/3201 and ask for Amma Cabrera.

1998 CNMI TOURISM MONTH CELEBRATION

Name: Address: Occupation: D.O.B.: Sex: Tel. Home: Work:

Event Information Entry Form

Date: May 16, 1998 (Saturday) Deadline: May 13, 1998 (Tuesday 5:00 p.m.)

Venue: Marianas Visitors Bureau Stand by Time: 8:30 a.m. Entry Fee: None Note: Only food of local origin will qualify for prizes

Judging Time: 10:00 a.m. - 11:00 a.m. Open to public from 11:00 a.m. to 12:00.

Category of Food: Soup, Salad, All of the above, Entree (Meat, Chicken or Fish), Dessert

Participant's Signature: Date: For more information and to turn in entry form, please contact the MVB Office at 664-3200/3201.

\*\*\* MAXIMUM OF FORTY (40) SLOTS ONLY SO PLEASE REGISTER EARLY \*\*\*

Auto Insurance 40% off From total Premium with no claims. 1st year 10%, 2nd year 15%, 3rd year 20%. If more than 1 car Get another additional 20% Discount

FOR SALE TOYOTA CELICA SPORT TURBO ALL-TRAC, RED, '90, with 41,000 miles. CD/Cassette / Radio with 10 speakers system. LIKE NEW. \$8,900 negotiable. OBD 235-1906

FOR SALE '89 Jeep Cherokee, Parts Only \$200, Rebuilt Transfer for Jeep \$900, Gateway 2000 386125 Computer Upgraded Memory \$300, Johnson 6.5HP Out-Board Motor, Need Tune-Up \$250, Man's Single Speed Bike \$50.00

FOR SALE 1993 BMW 318i No rust, excellent condition, Sunroof, 2 door, auto, JVC Stereo, New Exhaust and Brakes, \$4,500 Or Best Offer - Leaving Island

FOR SALE San Antonio, Near Beach Area 1004 SQM (55 years lease) DOWN PAYMENT MADE \$90,000 UNFURNISHED APARTMENT BUILDING (2RM X 7, 480 SQM BUILT) PRICED TO SELL \$90,000 PLEASE CALL 822-2312, 295-0508 822-6883, 235-0285

APARTMENT FOR RENT STUDIO TYPE - \$350 Including Power • Water Single or Couple Only (Kobiervilla) Tel. 294-1233(Day) 288-2222(Evening)

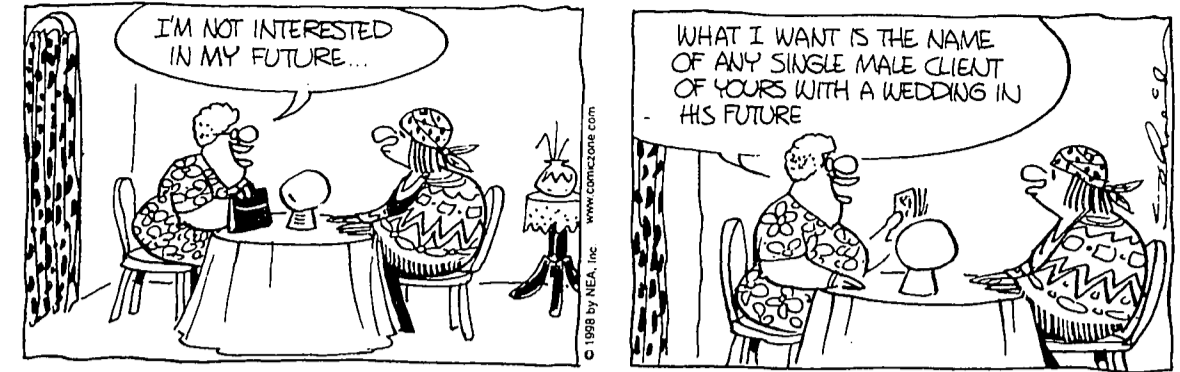
FOR SALE 1984 PREVIA VAN Aircon, AM/FM Tape, 67,000 MI, Good Condition \$11,500 OBO Tel. 322-7754/53

LONG-TERM LEASE • 4,000 + M², Kagman Area, Saipan \$20,000/M² • 9,000 + M², Tanapag, Saipan \$25,000/M² Tel. 287-8388/288-8672 Fax: 288-8671 Terms Negotiable

FOR SALE 1990 323 MAZDA \$1,800.00 OBO With Aircon, Tinted, Good Condition Call: Weekdays: 294-9737 Weekends: 234-0882 Ask for LOLIT

HOUSE FOR RENT 3 Bedroom, 2 Bathroom Semi-Furnished House in Papago, \$1,100/mo. Built (1) one year ago. Call: 256-3695

Eek & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



Garfield® by Jim Davis



PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz



STELLA WILDER YOUR BIRTHDAY

Born today, you are renowned for your honesty, and for your willingness to share credit for your successes with others while assuming the blame for your failures all by yourself. In this way, you are a generous individual, and you understand that you are the only person who is truly responsible for the events of your own life and for their eventual outcome.

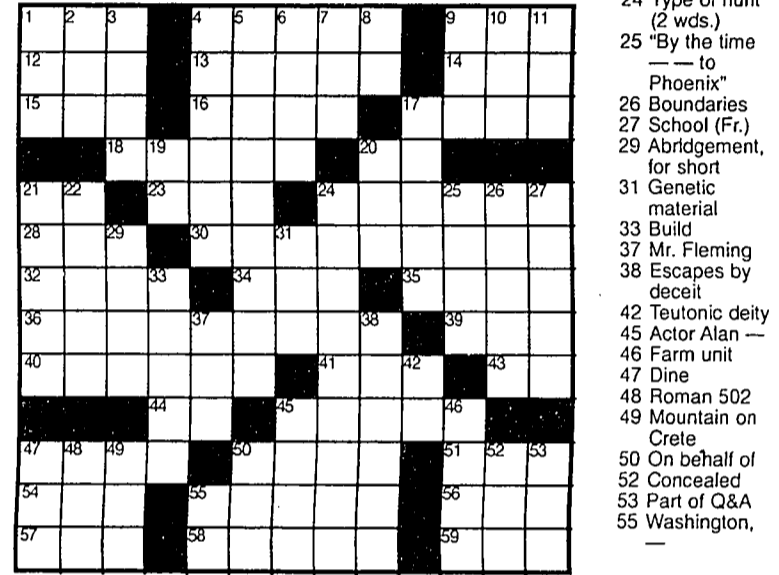
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You are feeling better and better about yourself at this time, and a lingering memory is receding further and further from the forefront of your mind. GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You may find yourself seeing even the most mundane things through the eyes of a poet today.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — You may be facing more opportunities right now than you have at any time in the recent past. Don't go crazy; pick and choose with care. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Others are likely to gravitate toward you all day long — but not for the reason you think.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS 1 Buddy 4 Recurring pattern 9 Court matter 12 Pension-plan abbr. 13 Baseball great 14 Not at home 15 Reid or Conway 16 Concoct 17 Beige 18 Ecstasm 20 Cyprinoid fish 21 Golden Gate Bridge locale (abbr.) 23 Switch positions 24 Store folder 28 Guido's high note 30 Of overall plans 32 Loose garment 34 Those

Answer to Previous Puzzle SOAK MEAT TEM TEEN INFO ITA URSULA TR RAN RIMS TEASE FULLTIME ID ATSEA UMA EGG CA DNA SEN ILL THE YMA ROLLE AB PREAMBLE AIESOP RATA TIET OH REDSOX ORE PAUL IONA POIR SITS CLOT



KidSpot™ by Dick Rogers

THE PUZZLER HERE'S A PUZZLER THAT SHOULD KEEP YOU TIED UP FOR A WHILE. BY CHANGING THE POSITION OF JUST ONE LETTER, CAN YOU MAKE A NEW WORD THAT MEANS THE OPPOSITE OF 'UNITED'? United

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## Outage . . .

Continued from page 1

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, H.B. 11-103, which was introduced by House Ways and Means Committee Chair Karl T. Reyes (R-Prec. 1, Saipan).

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.

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.

Saipan has 244 poker machines, but the law has a provision that allows for a reduction by attrition until the number goes down to the allowable 200.

## Guam . . .

Continued from page 1

Construction for the memorial was made possible by a joint effort from the Government of Guam, the U.S. Federal Government, local businesses and private landowners, who donated land and materials.

Also, The Korean Association of Guam (KAG), through private fund raising efforts, has donated approximately \$100,000 to the

memorial fund.

Present at yesterday's ceremony were members and leaders of the Korean Community, headed by KAG president Charles Lee, and Korean Consul General WonTae Kim. The head of the Guam Chapter of the American Red Cross, Jillette Leon Guerrero and Captain Dave Harmon of the Salvation Army were also present.

A blessing was offered by Father David Quitigua, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Hagatna.

## Gutierrez . . .

Continued from page 1

taxes as we are suffering from a downturn in our economy; right after a typhoon when people are trying to restore and rebuild their lives back, and then you're telling them that their taxes will be doubled.

"Forget it, it's not going to happen."

The status of the bill will re-

main dead until the Legislature convenes within two weeks and the Senators vote to override the veto.

Speaker Antonio R. Unpingco has said he would not push for an override so that "we can fully resolve questions the bill has raised."

According to Unpingco, he would further amend the bill according to the Governor's request so as to clarify the issue.

## Hornets . . .

Continued from page 8

the fourth quarter, the Hornets' shooting percentage was hovering around 35 percent. Mason and Rice were struggling, a combined 9-of-24 through three quarters.

So coach Dave Cowens turned to

his bench. Curry hit a 3-pointer with 6:46 left to spark a 9-0 run and his follow-up jumper gave Charlotte a 64-63 lead, its first since the first quarter.

Armstrong extended the edge with consecutive jumpers, and Charlotte held off the Bulls the rest of the way. Viade Divac had 19 rebounds for Charlotte.

## Tagaman . . .

Continued from page 68

May 16, 1998  
4:00-5:00am - Final registration (everyone) - HBH Fiesta Hall  
5:30am - Tagaman Triathlon - start/swim  
10:30-12:00noon - reclaim wetsuits - HBH parking lot  
6:00-9:00pm - Awards Banquet - HBH

## Manning . . .

Continued from page 68

endorsement contracts. Adidas has a deal to outfit the Tampa Bay Buccaneers this season and could add another team next year. Adidas America, the Beaverton-based U.S. division of the German athletic shoemaker, did not disclose the terms of the deal.

## New high. . .

Continued from page 8

being a good citizen is, how to participate, and why it is important," McPhetres stated in his preliminary notes.

Although political circumstances may have changed over time, McPhetres said the students should still have "a clear understanding of the original intent of the founders of the Commonwealth."

The book contains the CNMI's history, as well as explanations of the nature of the Covenant that

established the CNMI as a commonwealth, and its practical applications.

The author had included in the textbook the original sources of information such as negotiation reports, speeches, and other presentations.

McPhetres has been a resident of the Northern Marianas since 1973.

For 10 years he in was charge of development program of general political education called Education for Self-government.

He has taught Marianas and Micronesian history in both secondary and post-secondary levels.

## NMC . . .

Continued from page 8

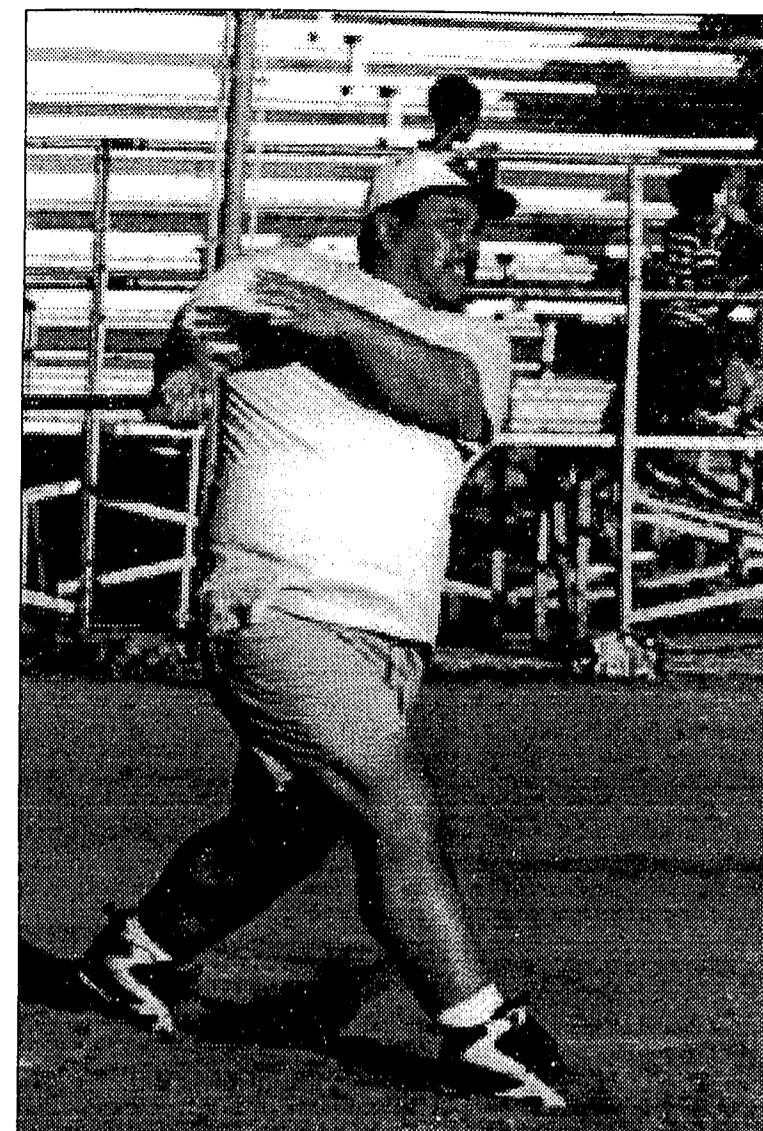
There were 30 NMC employees who were given "Total Quality Improvement" certificates after their completion of the said seminar.

Six outstanding employees were also awarded: Charlie Layugan, outstanding ancillary service provider; Lucy Seaver, outstanding support personnel; Lisa Haackaylo, outstanding faculty; Rosamond Rice and Roy Fua, outstanding administrators; and, Lino Santos, for his "Above and beyond the call of duty" service to the College.

Gov. Tenorio also presented the "Division employee of the year" award to Lisa Haackaylo. Edward Camacho was also given a special award.

Aside from the plaques of recognition that were given to awardees, they were also presented a \$100 each.

"We want to give more than \$100 but because of the austerity measures and all those kinds of things, we have to lower the monetary award. We know that \$100 is not enough to pay them back for their contributions, services and hardwork but it's a small way of saying thank you," said Camacho.



Joe Poblete blasts a two-run homer to lift Nissan Motors Guam over the Continental Jets, 13-12, for the Guam Hotel and Restaurant Softball League division championship and the pennant flag.

Photo by Eduardo C. Siguenza

## Saipan . . .

Continued from page 68

at the tournament," "SYBA and our young bowlers are very grateful

and wish to thank all their parents, SYBA members, Saipan Bowling Center and everyone who made their trip possible for our youth to represent the CNMI in this tournament."

## Lakers . . .

Continued from page 68

The 68 points were the fewest given up by the Lakers in a playoff game.

The Sonics made 13 baskets during the last three quarters and shot 33 percent (25-for-76) for the game.

Games 3 and 4 will be held in Los Angeles Friday and Sunday, with Game 5 in Seattle next Tuesday.

Robert Horry added 10 rebounds as the Lakers outrebounded Seattle 62-43.

Detlef Schrempf and Hersey

Hawkins, who combined for 39 points in Game 1 Monday night, had a total of 11.

They were a combined 3-for-14 shooting.

Los Angeles pulled ahead 64-49 after three quarters, holding the Sonics to 4-for-17 shooting in the third period.

Seattle went the final 7:55 of the quarter without a basket.

In the fourth quarter, the game was over after Van Exel sank a 3-pointer in the first 21 seconds to make the score 67-49.

## Michael . . .

Continued from page 68

Payton, of the Seattle SuperSonics, made the defensive team for the fifth time.

Malone, of the Utah Jazz, and the Atlanta Hawks' Mutombo, chosen the NBA's Defensive Player of the Year on Tuesday, are on the team for the second time.

"We pride ourselves on playing solid defense," Jordan said. "Offensively we can go on and off, maybe make some jumpers or maybe not. But defense, we know, wins championships."

Just look at Chicago's five NBA titles this decade. Though the Bulls have Jordan, who averaged 28.7 points to edge O'Neal for his 10th scoring title, defense has been the corner-

stone of their title runs.

And as the Bulls get older and the titles pile up, defense becomes even more important.

"Right now, that's what we have to rely on," Pippen said. "Defensively, that's what this team's bread and butter is. That's how we have to create some offense."

The rest of the second team consists of Charles Oakley of the New York Knicks at forward; guards Mookie Blaylock of the Hawks and Eddie Jones of the Los Angeles Lakers; and center David Robinson of the Spurs.

Duncan is the fifth rookie to make the all-defensive second team.

The others were Robinson (1990); Manute Bol (1986); Hakeem Olajuwon (1985) and Kareem Abdul-Jabbar (1970).

## American League

# Yankees stop Rangers

IN Arlington, Texas, at first it seemed like the Yankees would cruise to their 21st win in 23 games. Then, Texas turned it into New York's wildest win of the season.

Jorge Posada hit a go-ahead single in the eighth inning, and Derek Jeter drove in a career-high five RBIs as the Yankees beat the Rangers after blowing a 9-0 third-inning lead.

New York outhit Texas 18-14 in extending its latest winning streak to seven.

Bernie Williams keyed the eighth with his second triple of the night, and Posada followed with the go-ahead hit off Danny Patterson (0-1). Jeter added a ninth-inning homer.

Texas, which lost its third straight following a five-game winning streak, got a three-run homer and five RBIs from Juan Gonzalez, who raised his major league-leading total to 41.

Mike Simms hit a two-run homer and Ivan Rodriguez had four RBIs for the Rangers.

Mariners 10, White Sox 9

In Seattle, Joey Cora tripled in the eighth inning and scored the go-ahead run on David Segui's foul-pop sacrifice fly as the Seattle Mariners outlasted the Chicago White Sox.

Seattle, which won its fourth straight to reach the .500 mark at 16-16, wasted leads of 5-2 and 6-4, then came back from a 9-6 deficit in the seventh on Dan Wilson's three-run homer off Keith Foulke.

Ruben Sierra homered twice for Chicago, and Edgar Martinez and Russ Davis also homered for Seattle.

Ken Griffey Jr. made a spectacular catch in the fifth to rob Albert Belle of an extra-base hit and two RBIs.

Griffey went to the base of the center-field fence, jumped and got his glove above the wall to make the catch with two on.

**Blue Jays 6, Angels 5**

In Anaheim, California, Jose Canseco and Tony Fernandez hit solo homers and pinch-run-

ner Juan Samuel scored the go-ahead run on a fielder's choice grounder by Fernandez as Toronto rallied to beat Anaheim.

Mike Stanley led off the eighth against Shigetoshi Hasegawa (1-1) with a drive toward the top of the right-field fence, and was awarded a double when a fan reached over and caught the ball.

Greg Cadaret relieved Hasegawa one out later, and with the infield in, Samuel beat the hurried throw home by second baseman Carlos Garcia on Fernandez's grounder up the middle.

The victory went to Kelvin Escobar (1-1), who was activated from the 15-day disabled list before the game.

He struck out his first three batters and pitched 1 1-3 perfect innings. Randy Myers pitched the ninth for his eighth save.

The Angels blew a four-run lead and lost their fourth in a row.

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The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting sealed proposals from qualified firms or firm with significant experience in Airport Project Feasibility Consulting, Seaport Project Feasibility Consulting and Gaming Industry Feasibility Consulting to serve as a project feasibility consultant of the Authority for airport bond issuances and other forms of financing. This Request for Proposal will serve as the basis for the selection of Airport Project Feasibility Consultant, Seaport Project Feasibility Consultant and Gaming Industry Project Feasibility Consultant for upcoming bond Issuances or other forms of financing.

A proposal package which describes the required services can be obtained at the Commonwealth Ports Authority office, Saipan International Airport, beginning May 6, 1998. Ten (10) copies of the proposal must be submitted to the Executive Director of the Commonwealth Ports Authority at the Authority's main office no later than 4:00 p.m., local prevailing time, on May 22, 1998.

For additional information, please call Mr. Carlos H. Salas, Executive Director, Commonwealth Ports Authority, at (670) 664-3500; Fax (670) 234-5962.

## SPORTS



*Eastern semifinals series:*

# Hornets even with Bulls

CHICAGO (AP)—Dell Curry and B.J. Armstrong took over for Charlotte's slumping starters, combining for 21 points in the fourth quarter as the Hornets beat Chicago 78-76 Wednesday night.

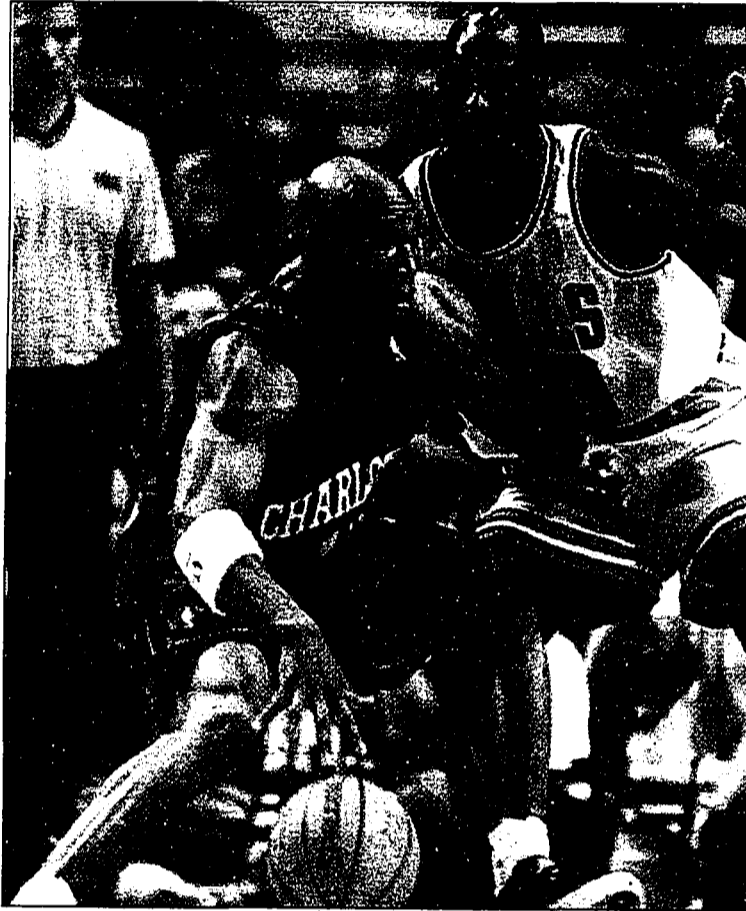
The victory evened the Eastern Conference semifinals at one game apiece, with Game 3 on Friday in Charlotte. It is the second straight year that Chicago lost Game 2 of the conference semifinals.

Anthony Mason had 15 points and Glen Rice 14, but it was Curry and Armstrong who carried the Hornets.

Curry had 13 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter, and Armstrong scored eight of his 10 in the final period as Charlotte overcame an eight-point deficit.

Armstrong's jumper with 18 seconds left sealed the game, and the former Bull, who played on three of Chicago's championship teams, turned to his old teammates, pumped his fist and woofed.

Michael Jordan had 22 points, including eight in the fourth quarter, but it wasn't enough to help the cold-shooting Bulls. Chicago was just 8-



Charlotte Hornets' Bobby Phillips (13) tries to penetrate on Chicago Bulls' Michael Jordan during the opening minutes of their Eastern Conference semifinal game Wednesday in Chicago. The Hornets won to even the Eastern semifinal series. AP

of-24 (33 percent) in the fourth quarter, and 31-of-85 (36.5 percent) overall.

Scottie Pippen, who finished with 13, missed all six of his field goal attempts and was scoreless in the final period.

Coming off a cold performance Sunday, Charlotte looked as if it was headed for another bad night.

Trailing by eight midway through

Continued on page 66

## Saipan youth bowlers back from Singapore

FOUR of Saipan's young bowlers recently returned from Singapore after one week of competition in the 1st Asian Schools' Championship hosted by Singapore Youth Bowling Association in Singapore.

Representing Saipan Youth Bowler's were Kathy Pangelinan, Hannah Borja, Jonathan Tenorio and Jonathan Hensley. The team was managed by SYBA President Norbert Diaz.

The tournament consisted of nine countries from the F.I.Q. Asian zone with a total of 10 teams. Team members were students from Jr. High School through college.

"The Saipan team did very good considering their age and experienced. But more important was the goodwill and friendship earned by their presents

Continued on page 67

## Lakers 92, Sonics 68

IN SEATTLE, SuperSonics coach George Karl got Shaquille O'Neal and the Los Angeles Lakers really steamed.

Stung by Karl's criticism of O'Neal's high elbows and hip-hop moves in the paint, the Lakers evened their Western Conference semifinal series with Seattle at one game each with a 92-68 victory Wednesday night.

O'Neal scored 26 points, including 20 in the first half, and also had 10 rebounds and four blocked shots before leaving with 4:20 to play and the Lakers ahead by 21.

The Lakers played without 19-year-old All-Star Kobe Bryant, who missed the game because of the flu.

Eddie Jones added a career playoff-high 23 points and Nick Van Exel had 16 for the Lakers.

Vin Baker had 13 points and Gary Payton and Sam Perkins 12 apiece for Seattle, which was held to a franchise-low postseason scoring output.

The previous low was 70 in a 21-point loss to Houston in 1982. The Sonics did come back to win that series.

Continued on page 67

## Michael Jordan leads NBA All-defensive Team

By Nancy Armour

CHICAGO (AP)—Scottie Pippen watches Allen Iverson and Shaquille O'Neal's smooth moves, and he's impressed. But defense, now that's a different story.

"The younger players, they all come in and want to have a great, patented move. That's their thing coming into the game, have a killer crossover or have a great dunk," the Chicago Bulls forward said.

"From the defensive standpoint, there hasn't been anyone lately that's come in the league and really made a great defensive stand or been known as a defensive player."

Just look at the NBA's All-Defensive team, announced Wednesday. Michael Jordan—a veteran. Pippen—another veteran. Karl Malone, Gary Payton and Dikembe Mutombo. Veteran, veteran, veteran.

No rookie has made the first team

since the award began after the 1968-69 season, though Tim Duncan, Rookie of the Year from the San Antonio Spurs, made the second team.

"I pride myself on it," said Pippen, who made his seventh defensive team. "I think it's a part of the game that really goes unnoticed, to some degree."

Jordan, who won a record 10th NBA scoring title this season, made a record ninth defensive team.

He has now passed Bobby Jones for most selections to the defensive team.

He was the leading vote-getter, collecting 25 first-place votes and 53 points from the 29 NBA coaches who vote on it.

He was the only player named on the maximum 28 ballots. Coaches could not vote for players on their own team.

Continued on page 67

## Manning signs deal with Adidas

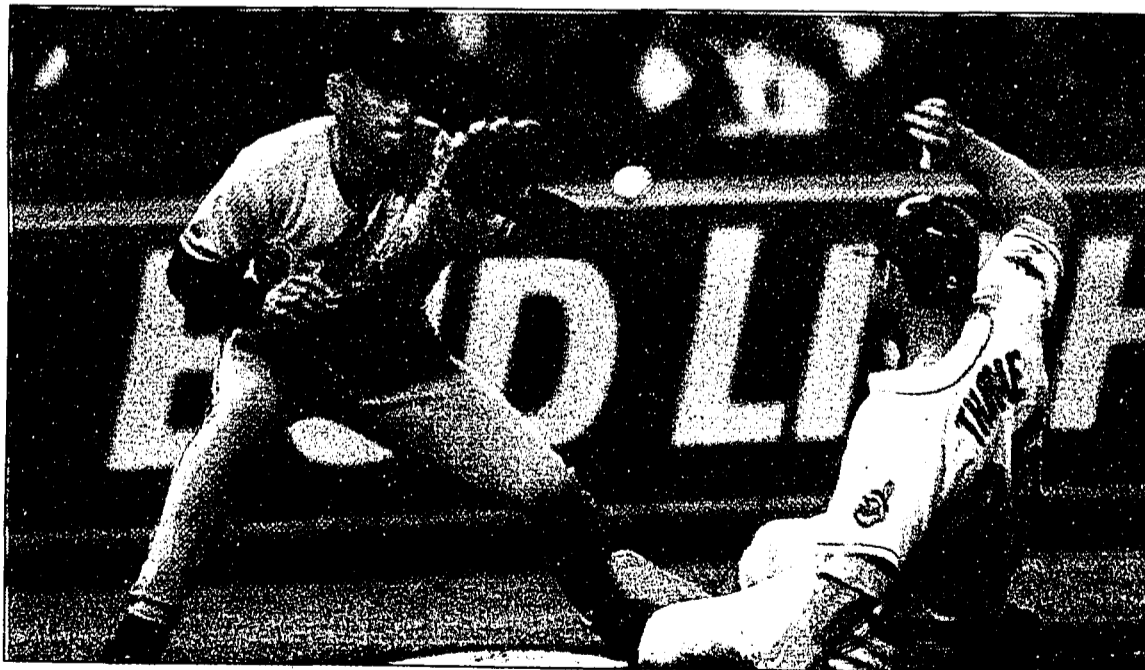
BEAVERTON, Ore. (AP)—Peyton Manning, the No. 1 NFL draft pick, has signed an endorsement deal with Adidas America.

The former Tennessee Volunteer quarterback and current Indianapolis Colts was runner-up to Michigan's Charles Woodson in the Heisman voting.

Adidas on Wednesday said Manning becomes only the third NFL player to represent the company, which got into the football licensing market last December.

Tennessee Oilers running back Eddie George and New York Jets receiver Keyshawn Johnson also have

Continued on page 66



Cleveland Indians runner Jim Thome (25) slides safely into third base as Baltimore Orioles third baseman Cal Ripken (8) waits for the ball in the fifth inning Tuesday at Jacobs Field in Cleveland. Thome advanced on Indians batter Shawon Dunston's fly ball to right field. AP

## Tagaman Triathlon schedules

May 15, 1998

10:00am - Course Inspection (meet Hafa Adai Beach Hotel)

1:00-5:00pm - Pre-registration (everyone) (special arrangement only Guam Athletes arriving 4:45 flight).

Bike inspection - HBH parking lot (Bikes will not be kept overnight, you are responsible for it overnight)

5:30-6:00pm - Orientation - HBH Garden

6:00-7:30pm - Carbo Party - HBH Fiesta Hall

Continued on page 66

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