

Ingram has cut down on DPS overtime expenses



Charles W. Ingram Jr.

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

PUBLIC Safety Commissioner Charles W. Ingram Jr. is "diligently" complying with the Office of Personnel Management's (OPM) recommendations for his department to minimize overtime expenses, in light of findings DPS spent half of the \$12 million incurred

by the previous administration on overtime expenses for FY 1997.

"Mr. Ingram is taking necessary steps as outlined in a memorandum we sent him," said OPM Director Mathilda A. Rosario.

"He is making all efforts," she added.

She failed to divulge contents of the outline but nonetheless said it includes proposals to enforce provisions of the law that bars exempt employees from taking overtime work.

A task force, led by OPM, has been set up to investigate why the previous administration spent so much in overtime work.

Rosario said the task force recently conducted its first meeting.

She declined to say actions being taken so far.

"We're just getting orga

Continued on page 51



Students from GTC Elementary School take a break after a dance performance during Garapan Elementary School's Ethnic Week Celebration yesterday.
Photo by Laila C. Younis

Under proposed INS rules:

FAS citizens will face deportation

By Jan Furukawa
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA, Guam — Citizens of the Freely Associated States who are not working or going to school full time after a year of living here will be deported, according to proposed Immigration and Naturalization Service rules expected to be issued today.

A 60-day public comment period will however follow today's issuance.

The proposed rules and regulations are for insular territories of the United States, including Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands.

"We've been pushing the INS

to come up with rules relating to 'habitual residents,' which are non-immigrants who have no rules governing them to clarify what are their responsibilities and their rights," Guam Congressional Delegate Robert Underwood said yesterday in a telephone interview.

"If, after one year, a person is not gainfully employed in a job that meets the poverty line — \$8,000 for one person, and so on — or a full-time student in higher education, then they're subject to deportation," he said.

The congressman said he and other elected officials, including Gov. Carl Gutierrez, Legislative

Speaker Tony Unpingco and Sen. Carlotta Leon Guerrero, would write to the U.S. Department of Justice. They plan to submit a combined, unified statement on the matter.

"Justice has nothing to do with Compact impact, or conflicts that people may have on Guam, but it would be simply to clarify the rules and regulations on habitual residents," Underwood said.

When the FAS and U.S. governments signed the Compact agreements, they provided for FAS citizens to come to the U.S. for work and school. That made them legal migrants, which makes

Continued on page 51

CNMI Gov't will keep Labor office in Manila

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THERE IS still room left for the CNMI office in Manila.

The CNMI government is shaving off the medical referral section but will keep the employment processing division at the Manila Liaison Office despite the hiring moratorium, it was gathered.

Government spokesperson Frank Rosario said only the medical referral office will be dissolved but added that austerity measures will still have to be instituted at the employment processing division.

"We will still have the labor part to take care of. The labor part will stay," Rosario told Variety.

He said the employment processing division should stay despite the hiring moratorium since the Northern Marianas is still recruiting workers from the Philippines.

He cited a provision under the freeze-hiring law which allows

Continued on page 51

Murkowski bill to set up a system of asylum here

THE CNMI would be required to host aliens seeking asylum if the Commonwealth reform bill pending in the US Congress is enacted into law.

The bill, S 1275, which is now up for floor deliberation at the US Senate, includes a provision that establishes an asylum system in the CNMI under supervision of the US Attorney General.

The CNMI, which under the Covenant controls its own im

Continued on page 51

Gutierrez's address stresses on education



Guam Gov. Carl Gutierrez enters the hall where he once served at the Lehislaturan Guahan to deliver his State of the Island Address yesterday.
Photo by Eduardo C. Silguenza

HAGATNA, Guam—Gov. Carl Gutierrez yesterday issued a call for unity, asked politicians to set aside politics and concentrate on making Guam schools "more effective."

"I call on our community to join in new efforts to make our schools more effective," Gutierrez said in his State of the Island address.

"I am issuing a call to unity, a call to disarm the political rhetoric, and a renewed commitment for all sides of the political divide to join together for the good of the school children," he added.

The governor promised to com-

plete the construction of the Upi Elementary School by the end of the year.

The administration, he said, is breaking ground for new schools in Machanao and Asan.

"As we focus on the school children," Gutierrez said, "we must ensure that every child has a chance to succeed."

"This means that we as a community must help our schools build the foundation for academic success," he added.

He also emphasized the need to enhance early childhood development programs, citing

Continued on page 51

Fund denies 'Tinian 4' claims

By Haidee V. Eugenio

Variety News Staff

THE NMI Retirement Fund has denied the release of death benefits due to relatives of four dead persons because of absence of proper contribution records.

The four people who died in a sea accident in 1997 were reportedly employed by the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission.

"They were supposedly employed by the Tinian Casino Gaming Control Commission, but we never had any document or information that says they are actually employed by the said agency," Fund Administrator Edward H. Manglona told the Variety during a Board of Trustees' special meeting.

He added that the four deceased are not eligible for certain benefits and entitlements under the Retirement program because the Fund was not provided with any record of them making any contribution to the Fund.

Manglona said that although the Commission has shown copies of a contribution check and personnel action, they were submitted late, and did not specify the exact

date of their recruitment since the Fund gives benefits only to those who have been contributing for a couple of years already.

The issue continues to arise after the Fund first denied the pension claims of the relatives of the deceased persons. They then sought the help of government officials and the TCGCC to ask the Fund to reconsider its decision. But to no avail.

"The Board denies the benefits until such time when the Tinian Gaming Commission comes up with an information that these people were actually employed by this company," said Manglona. In his letter to Manglona, TCGCC Commissioner Joaquin

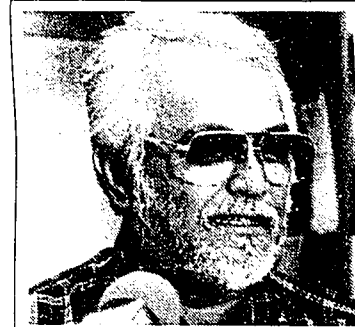
Borja said that the deceased were "bonafide employees of the Commission" but did not present any paper to prove it.

Borja also admitted that the untimely remittances of the deceased contributions were due to the Commission's inability to pay accordingly.

"At the time in question, the Commission did not have the financial capability to timely pay the retirement contributions of the deceased. However, the Commission made the payments subsequent to the fact . . .," said Borja.

The four deceased persons were Clifford M. Manglona, Ignacio S.N. Aquinog, Isaac P. Palacios, and George A. Manglona.

Torres opposes office space for CNMI Bar at Complex



Stanley Torres

By Ferdie de la Torre

Variety News Staff

FORMER Congressman Stanley Torres has opposed the judiciary's reported plans to provide office space for the CNMI Bar Association in the Judicial Complex.

"Personally I don't agree with that because the CNMI Bar is an association of lawyers. I think they should not be accommodated in the building unless it has to do with judicial work," Torres said in an interview.

The former lawmaker expressed opposition with such idea after he overheard Courts Director Edward

C. DeLeon Guerrero mentioning that the CNMI Bar will have a space in the building.

When contacted yesterday, DeLeon Guerrero refused to comment on the issue.

Torres said other than disciplinary actions and ethics any Bar organizational functions should not be conducted in the building unless the group will pay rent.

"Otherwise I don't agree for them (Bar) having a space for five on public building," he pointed out.

If the Bar gets a space, Torres said, the legislature should carefully review the judicial budget and identify how much expenses that space is costing the public.

"They (lawmakers) should deduct the office's cost from the judiciary's appropriated budget. The legislature should come up an opposition to that," he added.

Sources, however, said providing a free office to the Bar may not be realized because the Family Court will likely instead occupy the available space.

Ayuyu hits 'lack of planning'

By Mar-Vic C. Munar

Variety News Staff

CRITICIZING the Department of Public Health's alleged "lack of planning" on the health screening requirement, business leader Jose C. Ayuyu says the government should shoulder all expenses that may be incurred by employers in the event that alien workers are asked to go through another medical tests.

"We complied with the regulations; we sent out our alien workers for the health screening test, and now they're saying these clinics are not qualified,"

said Ayuyu, president of Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said some of the clinics, not properly accredited by the federal government, may have been using non-acceptable procedures such as the Rapid Reactive Test "which leaves room for false negative and false positive results."

He hinted the possibility of recalling health certificates issued by some of these private clinics.

Villagomez is also proposing that the health screening job be reassigned to the Commonwealth Health Center.

"We've done what we were told to do, but the department should have assisted us because we're not experts on this matter," Ayuyu said.

Asked if employers would oppose any requirement for them to go through the health screening process again, Ayuyu said, "We won't oppose it as long as they would shoulder the expenses."

He said because of the government's "lack of planning," the employers and the employees have "wasted a lot of time and money."

Port fee waiver for tuna cargo

By Aldwin R. Fajardo

Variety News Staff

WITH THE impending demise of the garment industry in the Northern Mariana, the government may need to tap other industries that would sustain shipping activities in the islands.

Tinian previously was a transshipment point for tunas caught around Micronesian waters. "I was encouraging Sen. Manglona to possibly push for the continuation of that."

He stressed that the resumption of tuna transshipment activities in the CNMI would help generate additional revenues for local businesses, which will indirectly benefit the government.

"I think it is something we should seriously look into," he said, citing Guam which has been generating revenues from tuna transshipment activities.

Tenorio said there is a need to improve the air and sea ports in the Commonwealth. He cited an open Japanese market for tuna catches since there are direct flights to some cities in

he has discussed with Senate President Paul Manglona some ways that would help facilitate the completion of the Saipan dock, and the continuation of tuna transshipment activities.

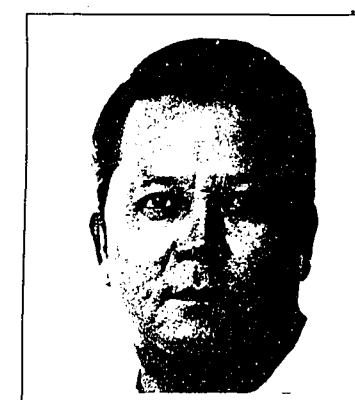
Sen. Juan P. Tenorio said he will ask the Commonwealth Ports Authority for a possible waiving of port fees to attract shipping companies that transship tuna catches from all throughout the Western Pacific Region to do business in the Commonwealth.

"In fact, I am going to talk with the CPA to take that into consideration and see whether we can deal with that because of the eminent departure of the garment industry here," Tenorio said.

He added that the Northern Marianas need industries to fall back on to sustain activities at the air and sea ports, thus, revive the cash-strapped Ports Authority and CNMI's dwindling economy.

"So if we can provide tax exemption or maybe waive some of the port fees and things like that to make it [transshipping of tunas] attractive," he said.

Tenorio also mentioned that



Sen. Juan P. Tenorio

Japan from the NMI.

He said this may mean additional activity in terms of air-freight and unloading the catch at the Saipan harbor, which will then be transported to the international airport for transshipment.

"It is very good since we have direct flights to Japan. By being able to tap into the airfreight to Japan, it will be economically beneficial for us here," he said.

Tinian Chamber of Commerce

President Phillip Mendiola Long said his organization will sponsor the introduction of a resolution on tuna regionalism when business leaders throughout the region meets in December.

He pointed out that the proposal would help perk up the economic feasibility of the CNMI, as well as encourage the region to unify island states' economic zones.

Under the existing set up, island nations negotiate their own licensing fees, or rates they charge fishing companies who would fish around its territorial waters, and charges imposed on shipping companies using dock facilities for the transshipment of the catches.

Members of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures has adopted a resolution pushing for the development of a regional fishing cooperative arrangement among island member states.

Guam Senator Carlotta Leon Guerrero said considering the rich fishery resources of the region, this should have been manifested by better infrastructure, education and health facilities.

Guerrero said islanders in the Western Pacific should learn how they can join hands and linking their goals together, "so we can be assured that the benefits of our resources come to the islanders first."

FFA said this association would handle fisheries management, access arrangements and domestic industry development. The arrangement would feature government involvement, possibly with the private sector, to distribute income among the parties.

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One charged with car theft, another with 'ice' possession

By Jacob Leon Guerrero
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA, Guam — The Attorney General of Guam on Tuesday filed theft charges against Kimmie Marie Siguenza.

According to a compliant filed in the Superior Court, Siguenza was charged for allegedly driving stolen vehicles on two occasions.

She was also charged with escape for allegedly fleeing while in the police custody.

The compliant alleged that last May 31, Siguenza was seen driving a 1998 Mitsubishi Mirage owned by Venture Transportation Corporation which was earlier reported to have been stolen.

Siguenza was pulled over by police along Tutuhan Drive, Agana Heights.

The compliant alleged that on June 2, Siguenza was seen driving a 1992 Nissan Sentra owned by Marilyn C. Encaracion which was reported to have been stolen.

She was seen driving the car in the parking lot behind the Hamilton Hotel, located in Hagatna. She was pulled over and placed under arrest.

In another Superior Court report, drug charges were filed by the Attorney General against Christopher James Grantham in the Superior Court.

Grantham was allegedly caught last June 1 possessing plastic straws that contained crystal methamphetamine, commonly known as "ice."

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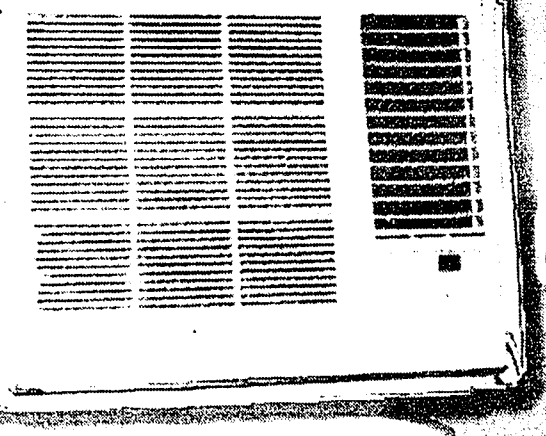


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AROUND the Islands

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

Garapan Elementary celebrates culture



The "Chuukese Dancers" from Shinning Kepwe's group perform a Chuukese traditional dance during the Garapan Elementary School "Ethnic Week" celebration yesterday.

By Laila C. Younis
Variety News Staff

STUDENTS at Garapan Elementary School are wrapping up their celebration of "Ethnic Week" with a "Carnival Day" today at the school's campus.

"We started last Monday with different cultural activities for students to appreciate and learn about other cultures that exist here," said GES Principal Juan L. Babauta.

"It is also a way to remind students to be proud of their heritage and to respect it," he said.

GES's traditional "Ethnic Week" included activities like tours to the Commonwealth Mu-

seum of History and Culture, Carolinian Utu, and the Man'amko Center.

Parents and guest speakers also

visited the schools to do cultural presentations and students from different schools showed up for

Continued on page 44



Students from Garapan Elementary School perform to "Heal the World" during their "Ethnic Week" celebrations yesterday.

SVES opens book fair for students

By Laila C. Younis
Variety News Staff

THERE are tables and tables filled with new books and students at San Vicente Elementary School are "excited" to pick out their very own.

The school year's first "SVES Book Fair" opened yesterday with parents volunteering to man the book stations cluttering with "eager customers."

"What can I get for \$1.00?", asks a second grader, after eyeing several books.

"Well, you can get this one," says parent Brenda Aguon. "It's about puppies."

The young girl walks away with a new book from the Troll Company and a huge smile on her face.

"This is a good chance for students to pick out the books they want," said Aguon.

"And for parents to volunteer and get involved with their children's education," she said.

SVES Principal Martha Haberman points out that the



Students at San Vicente Elementary School choose from the new books at the SVES Book Fair yesterday.

SVES Parent/Teacher Association organized the book fair as a fundraiser.

"It has been a while since the school has had a book fair and we are glad that the PTA decided to have one," said Haberman.

"They ordered the books from the Troll Company and by selling the books to the students, they will make a little profit from it," she said.

"The books are all for children, aiming at topics like sci-



SVES Principal Martha Haberman joins a teacher from SVES in looking over some of the new books at the Book Fair yesterday.

Photos by Laila C. Younis.

SCS holds meetings

THE SAIPAN Computer Club announces its new meetings dates and times: Saturday, June 6th and June 20th. Also on July 11th and July 25th.

All meetings are from 6:00 p.m. to 8:00 p.m. For more information, call Ron at 235-3858.

CCAC announces visual workshop

THE COMMONWEALTH Council for Arts and Culture is informing local artists about a visual arts workshop sponsored by the Tougaloo Art Committee in Tougaloo, Mississippi, a release from CCAC said.

The Tougaloo Art Colony is a week-long intensive workshop open to serious art participants—visual artists, art educators, college-level art students and emerging artists.

Studio courses in the visual arts will be taught by nationally know artists.

This year's colony will focus on figurative imagery with emphasis on ethnic and cross-cultural influences.

Dr. Alvia Wardlaw, noted scholar and curator of African American Art and Associate Professor of Art History at Texas Southern University, will lecture on "The figure in African American Art: A study in the Aesthetic Definition of Self."

Guests artist instructors will include Nanette Carter, Larry Walker, Bob Pennebaker, Willie Birch and Yvonne Tucker.

For more information on this workshop, all interested visual artists, art teachers and college level art students may contact Tina Wabol Foster at the Arts Council at 322-9982 or 322-9983.

Keep CNMI Clean and Green

AROUND the Islands

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OES kicks off Academic Fair



Students from the Oleai Elementary School Bilingual Class prepare to sing "Kultura" during their Academic Fair yesterday.

Photo by Laila C. Younis

By Laila C. Younis
Variety News Staff

STUDENTS at Oleai Elementary School are taking what they have learned a step further.

At the "OES Academic Fair" which kicked off yesterday, students demonstrated what they learned to teachers, parents and Public School System officials.

"This is an opportunity for students to showcase what they have learned so far. As we are wrapping up the school year, students can demonstrate what they have achieved," said OES Principal Evelyn Manglona.

"We started 'thematic teaching' in Oleai Elementary. Now, students are learning through themes and units. This school year's overall theme was 'It's a Wonderful World,'" she said.

"Next year's theme will be 'Ex-

ploring Our Changing World'. This is just part of a focus students will be looking at when learning a subject," she added.

The 4th Annual OES Academic Fair presented various performances from all of the school's



Camping Time. The Girl Scouts from Oleai Elementary School gather for a photo during a recent camping trip at Managaha Island.

Photo Courtesy of OES



The Oleai Elementary School Drum Corps drum up some action during the OES Academic Fair yesterday.

Photo by Laila C. Younis

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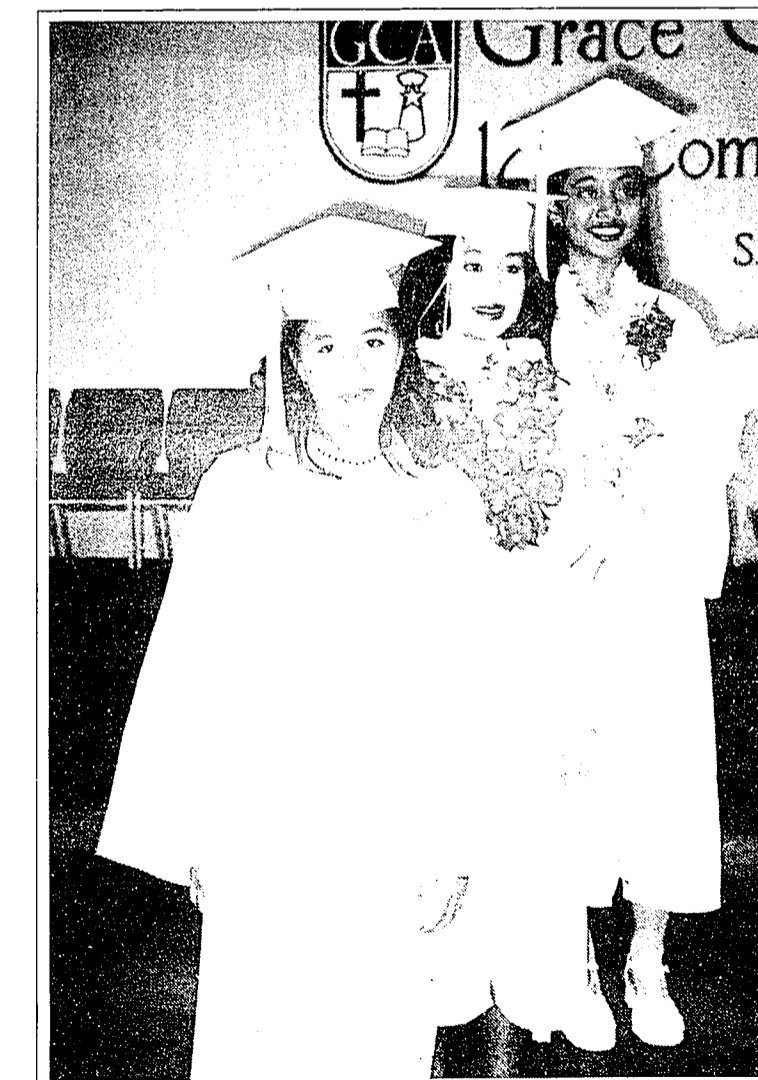
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Honor Students. From left, Grace Christian Academy's top students, 1st Honorable Mention Awardee Marrion Mitchell, Salutatorian Kristine Cruz, and Valedictorian Carmelita Gutierrez smile for the camera during a recent graduation ceremony.

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Guam Sen. Santos asks for probe of GPA lease

By Jacob Leon Guerrero
Variety News Staff
HAGATNA, Guam — Sen. Angel L. G. Santos is asking U.S. District Attorney Frederick Black to look into alleged irregularities surrounding the Guam Power Authority's lease of the former Harmon Payless Supermarket/Super Drugs building.

Santos assailed the GPA Board of Directors for entering into a \$2.56 million lease agreement for the facilities that would later be renovated and cost the government another \$1.1 million.

Santos chided GPA for obligating Guam's taxpayers to pay for the renovation of the commercial building in the total amount of \$1,425,740 after making the lease commitment.

The three-year lease contract was executed on Oct. 1, 1997.

Santos said the GPA Board approved the lease as early as July 23, 1997, but the facility

was not occupied until 11 months later.

"Why did GPA enter into a \$2.56 million lease agreement first, only to assume the responsibility of paying a phenomenal cost of \$1.1 million to renovate the existing structure that is obviously inadequate?," Santos asked.

Aside from the renovation costs, Santos said the government spent another \$325,740.00 to repair the damages caused by Typhoon Paka.

"I was told that change orders to the project are currently being processed between GPA and the contractor which will increase that amount by another \$141,000.00 for the construction of a parking lot and modifications mandated by the Americans with Disabilities Act," Santos said.

"Why should GPA have to pay \$1.425 million to renovate a commercial building that will

Continued on page 44

Mandatory quarterly CPA budget review proposed

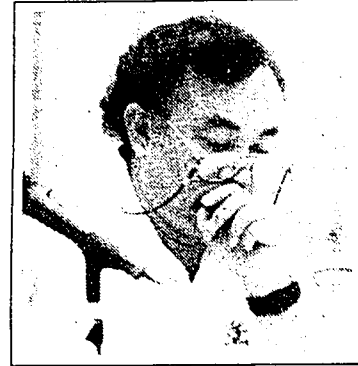
By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff
WITH HARDLY a trace of financial recovery, the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) may need a comprehensive and immediate audit following reports that the agency has been over-manned.

Documents obtained by the Variety recommended a formal mandatory quarterly budget review and certification by management, an encumbrance process to assure that funds are actually available before funds are committed.

The same recommendations were made by the Executive Transition Committee in January but observers claimed the proposal was apparently ignored.

Board member Roman Palacios said there is a need to dismiss CPA employees who have allegedly been irregularly recruited since 1994 to keep the Ports Authority at pace with its self-instituted austerity measures.

"We can also ask employees who are eligible for early retirement to



Roman Palacios

relinquish to enable CPA to reduce its financial deficit," Palacios said. He said, however, that the ports agency has been in strict compliance with its severity program.

A review of its personnel disclosed that the agency has accumulated a total of 252 employees with a cumulative annual income of at least \$8.5 million.

Documents revealed that in 1994, the Ports Authority had 167 employees with a combined total income of about \$3.6 million.

"This represents an enormous

increase in personnel and indicates that the additional employees were given generous salaries. Of particular concern, the number of employees on Rota and Tinian doubled although activities at the air and sea ports hardly increased," the document said.

Palacios said that with the present financial condition of the Ports Authority, superfluous employees should be terminated. "I understand that this may cause some inconveniences but they should understand too, that they should have not been hired, to begin with," he explained.

Reports claimed CPA management failed to comply with the provisions of its personnel manual in that people were hired without proper vacancy announcement.

A recent report has also suggested that CPA should reduce expenses by eliminating unnecessary travels. It stressed that the agency's failure to respond to concerns raised by its financial consultant has contributed to CPA's poor financial condition.

The same report recommended that the US Department of Interior or the US Congress audit the Saipan Harbor Improvement Project (SHIP) because of the increase in scope and cost, as well as the delay in completion.

The project underwent numerous change orders during the last three years.

One of them involved over \$741,000 as additive to the existing contract for dredging work in Rota.

Requests for audit has been previously made to determine whether the change orders were justified and legal.

"It has been said that change order number 7 with over \$741,000 of additive cost is a result of work initially intended to be covered by liquidated damage of \$1 million against the contractor by performing certain dredging work in Rota harbor," according to the documents.

During the Fiscal Year 1995, none of the six supplemental budget requests, amounting to more than \$6.5 million, were approved with the certification of the CPA comptroller.

In 1996, some \$22.9 million in total supplemental budget were approved without the certification of the chief accountant, while close to \$245,000 in total additional budget were okayed without the accountant's knowledge.

Meanwhile, the same report recommended that members of CPA Board of Directors submit courtesy resignations immediately for failure to comply with the Open Government Act, the Government Ethics Code Act of 1992.

Board members were also asked to file courtesy resignations for their failure to properly manage CPA finances.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio was urged to take action, pursuant to a provision in the CNMI Constitution which guarantees "removal for cause" should CPA board members fail to submit courtesy resignations.

Fund to move \$10-M in equities to int'l markets

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff
IN ORDER to comply with its investment allocation policies, the NMI Retirement Fund's Board of Trustees has approved a plan to move \$10 million from US equities to international markets.

Fund Administrator Edward H. Manglona said that the US equity market returns have increased the assets in the US asset class to a value which is outside the strategic asset allocation range of 88 percent for US, and 12 percent for the international assets.

"We want to shift some assets to increase our exposure in the international markets to comply with our investment allocation policies," Manglona told the Variety.

The recommendation comes from the Fund's investment consultant Merrill Lynch, he said.

As of end of March, the Fund's assets were placed at \$301 million. Of this figure, \$274 million comes from US equity managers, namely, the Atlanta, Renaissance, Provident, Bjarman and Invesco FI.

The remaining \$27 million came



Edward H. Manglona

from international managers such as the BEA and the Invesco Asia.

By moving \$10 million from the US equity managers to an international manager like BEA, the Fund will then be in compliance with its investment policy, according to the Fund.

Since Atlanta manages the largest piece of NMI Retirement Fund's money, it is advisable to move more money from it, the recommendation paper stated.

"The goal, when changes are made, is to move toward keeping the Atlanta, Renaissance, and Provident portfolios roughly the same size, so that NMI does not

have too much exposure to any of these core managers," it said.

The Merrill Lynch recommendation also said that the BEA manages the NMI international portfolio with a focus and expertise on international markets, and all of the emerging markets like Asia, Europe and South America.

"NMI would receive better diversification by placing these funds with an international portfolio that has been BEA's style, rather than specifically into one market," said the recommendation.

It also noted BEA's outstanding performance during the past three years.

The paper also said that the Asia Pacific assets managed by Invesco Asia should not be changed since they are volatile.

"At some point in the future, NMI Funds should consider increasing the size of the Invesco Asia portfolio," said the paper.

This plan was one of the two recommendations given by Merrill Lynch which the Board of Trustees approved on Wednesday during a special meeting.

DPW asked: Upgrade meridians

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff
THE SAIPAN and Northern Islands Municipal Council urged the Department of Public Works to look into the safety of motorists by installing fluorescent paints or light reflectors on traffic meridians.

This traffic measure, said SNIMC Chairman David L. Igitol, would help direct motorists, especially at night.

In his letter to DPW Acting Secretary Jose P. Rosario, Igitol pointed out that the current conditions of traffic meridians throughout public highways lack safety measures that can help direct motorists.

"We urge your department to do something to alleviate the dangers inherent with the current condition of these traffic meridians," Igitol said in his letter.

He cited a minor traffic accident on

Susupe Beach Road in front of the Diamond Hotel when a car on the inner lane heading north hit the meridian that was not visible.

"We are concerned about the safety of our constituents. We are confident that there will be fewer traffic accidents related to these barriers once fluorescent paint or light reflectors are installed appropriately," Igitol concluded.

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Ex-Pagan residents air concerns



LETTING THEIR VOICES HEARD. Former Pagan residents led by Cinta Kaipat (foreground) filled the Susupe Multipurpose Center Wednesday evening during a public hearing on HB 11-42.

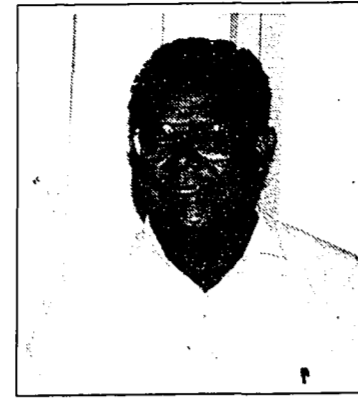
By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THE author of the proposed bill seeking to permanently prohibit the habitation of Pagan island said after a public hearing Wednesday night that he would consider the sentiments of Pagan's former residents who want to return to that island.

"We have a lot of concerns expressed tonight, especially by the people who are affected by the bill if it becomes a law. What the committee will do is review those comments and those concerns and take action from there," Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio, who is chairman of the House committee on natural resources, said in an interview after the hearing.

House Bill 11-142 proposes to declare Pagan as unsafe for habitation because of "long-term volcanic activity." The bill also seeks to declare the island as a protected area for the propagation of endangered species and as a destination for ecotourism.

The four-hour hearing at the Multipurpose Center in Susupe was attended by over 100 former Pagan and



Manuel A. Tenorio

other Northern Islands residents who oppose the bill.

The former Pagan residents were led by Cinta Kaipat, who delivered a stirring statement before the committee members.

Tenorio also said his committee has to consider other comments it has received from other quarters aside from the Pagan residents.

"We'll have a committee meeting and come out with a report on what action to take, whether or not to recommend pushing the bill or to incorporate the concerns

that were mentioned (in the hearing), especially by the people of the Northern Islands," Tenorio said.

Tenorio said his main concern was the safety of the people, considering that Pagan is volcanic.

Pagan residents evacuated from the island when its volcano erupted in the early 1980s. Since then they have not been allowed to return.

The bill has afforded the residents who have long been desiring to go back to Pagan an opportunity to voice their wish.

Tenorio admitted that there has been no followup study on the volcanic activity on Pagan.

"We do have to write to the people who are responsible for monitoring the volcanic activity and see what they have to say about habitation," Tenorio said.

He said that if the scientists find out in the future that the island is safe for habitation on a permanent basis, the law prohibiting the habitation of Pagan can be amended.

"No law is permanent. It can always be amended in the future," he pointed out.

Court puts on hold sentencing of cops guilty of traffic charges

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE SUPERIOR Court has put on hold pending an appeal the sentencing of a police officer who was found guilty of traffic violations, including driving while under the influence of alcohol.

Associate Judge Edward Manibusan granted the request of Police Officer Daniel Martinez for stay of sentence pending his appeal in

the Supreme Court.

Manibusan in the order issued Wednesday said based on court documents Martinez had fully satisfied the criteria for granting a stay of sentence.

During a bench trial, Associate Judge Miguel Demapan found Martinez guilty of DUI, failure to take the breathalyzer test, driving without license, and failure to yield.

Demapan, however, acquitted Martinez as to the charge of reckless driving.

The officer was off duty when he was found operating a vehicle while under the influence of alcohol in Garapan in the early morning of Aug. 5, 1997, court papers said.

Martinez, through counsel Bruce Berline, filed a notice of appeal on April 30.

Last May 18 Demapan sentenced the defendant to 30 days in jail, all

suspended except six days with 10 hours credit for time already served.

Demapan also ordered the officer to pay \$600 fine and suspended his driver's license for six months. He was placed on probation for one year.

Ten days later, Berline filed an amended notice of appeal to ensure that the sentencing was included in the defendant's appeal.

Berline, in the motion for a stay, stated that Martinez is "not a flight risk, is not appealing for the purpose of delay and his appeal raises substantial issues likely to result in reversal."

Berline said as defendant's sentence is of a short duration, without such stay being granted, his appeal will be moot.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Ramona Manglona, who prosecuted Martinez, did not oppose the motion.

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According to Villagomez:

'Legislature not ready to delegate renaming tasks'

By Haldee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

SENATE Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez said the naming of streets and public buildings still falls under the responsibility of legislators and not the Mayor's office.

Villagomez, chairman of the Saipan Streetnaming Commission, was responding to Saipan Mayor Jose C. Sablan's call for a clarification of some parts of Senate Local Bill 11-4, particularly on the task of naming public buildings.

The bill, otherwise known as the Saipan Street Naming and Street Address Numbering Act of 1998, is authored by Villagomez.

"Right now, the legislature has been doing it and I am not sure if it will be ready to relinquish that authority of naming public buildings," Villagomez told the Variety.

Sablan pointed out that the bill needs to clarify if his office is responsible for naming public buildings, as provided by Local Law No. 5-6.

The street naming project



Thomas P. Villagomez

originally began with the passage of Saipan Local Law No. 5-6 on Feb. 1988, instituting a street directory commission to establish a street naming system for Saipan.

Among the provisions of the said law is the naming and numbering of streets and public buildings.

Upon the passage of Executive Order 94-3 on Aug. 1994, the Street Directory Commission was abolished, but its duties and mandate were transferred to the Office of the Mayor of Saipan.

Despite this change, Sablan said the law did not specify if

the naming of public buildings is still under the Mayor's office.

Villagomez, however, said that the legislature welcomes any possible suggestions from the mayor, particularly on possible names of public buildings and streets.

"If the mayor is interested in contributing names, then he can continue to do so. But then again, it will be up to the legislature if it will support the mayor's suggestions or not," Villagomez said.

Voicing out his personal opinion, Villagomez said that delegating the task to only one individual, especially in a small community like Saipan, is oftentimes open to abuses.

"Street naming involves people. It is open to abuses. I still feel that if it will gonna go to a final decision process, then it should go through the Commission, and with the sanction by the delegation," said Villagomez.

He also said that the governor has the power to veto whatever proposal that comes from the legislature.

Hofschneider raps DPH over health screening

By Haldee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

REPRESENTATIVE Heinz Hofschneider said the Department of Health's refusal to extend the 90-day emergency health screening and penalize late conformists was "loosely evaluated and thought of."

The 90-day period expired last May 26.

Hofschneider, chairman of the House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare, said the DPH decision demonstrated how the government poorly deals with the private sector.

"The way I look at it, it is an advantage to the government. We really have to look whether we are equipped with the right policies or not before we embark in similar aggressive policies like the emergency regulations.

"It proves a legitimate ineptitude of the government and the private sector to deal with such a regulation," Hofschneider pointed out.

He added that the real intent of the emergency health screening is to provide health services to non-resident workers, and not for "statistical purposes."

"The purpose of the emergency health screening is to screen all and not for statistical purposes where you may just get your numbers and extrapolate (on those)," he said.

The legislator pointed out that there is just one person who carries a disease, especially when it is con-



Heinz Hofschneider

tagious, but who has not been screened, then "it does not do justice for that kind of policy."

"The next time we take over a policy, first we have to look at the ramifications, the impact that it will create," Hofschneider said.

He added that the DPH has defeated its main purpose.

"It really defeats the purpose because if you want to alarm the people that we have so many cases of TB, HIV or syphilis here, but you only tested 50 percent of the population, it does not do justice to the other 50 percent who has not been screened," he said.

Public Health Division Director Jon Bruss earlier said the DPH liaison office has received about 22,000 physical examination forms from private clinics since Feb. 25. Within this period, the DPH has issued over 18,000 health certificates. About 4,000 health tests are

Continued on page 44

Owners clarify on DOLI raid:

'Seized equipment are not from Karaoke club'

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE KARAOKE system and other equipment government recently seized following a raid at Koblerville bar actually belonged to the hotel leasing out the facility to the nightclub's owners, it was gathered yesterday.

Son Daecil of the Koresco Hotel, in a phone interview, said the company is discussing appropriate measures to reclaim the equipment worth thousands of dollars.

"We want to take back our property," Son said.

Son explained operators of Club 1004, the karaoke bar, were only using the facilities provided by the hotel under a two-year contract.

The bar is at the Koresco Hotel's fourth floor.

"We did not manage (Club 1004)," stressed Son.

He also denied allegations the hotel itself was illegally hiring nonresident workers as implied by a government media release on last month's raid at the karaoke bar.

The Club 1004 raid yielded five female Korean nationals found without proper work documentation.

Son said Koresco has asked Chang Hyun Corporation, which runs Club 1004, to "correct or remedy the damage that has been done."

"Otherwise," he warned, "we will bring the matter to (our) legal counsel (for the necessary action)."

The equipment were seized as part of a criminal investigation of the club's owners for the illegal employment of nonresident workers, according to the Department of Labor and Immi-

gration (DOLI).

Rob Goldberg, DOLI lawyer explained the seizure is justified under a "specific immigration forfeiture statute which states that government can seize any personal property that is used in connection with (the) violation of immigration laws."

A certain Song Jong Choun, Kim Sang Hee and Han Gi Won, the club's owners, are facing what DOLI claimed as "possible prosecution under the law."

The raid on Club 1004 culminated a month-long initial investigation made possible by information provided by a government confidential informant.

It was part of three operations against night bars that resulted to the arrest of 11 alleged illegal nonresident workers.

AGO's help sought in collecting aggrieved workers' money claims

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Immigration (DOLI) has, in three separate directives, asked the the Attorney General's Office (AGO) to assist five non-resident workers in collecting \$47,000 awarded them as compensation for having been abandoned with unpaid wages by their employers.

The AGO's help is also being sought on the \$8,000 fine imposed on the three employers involved for allegedly folding up their business establishments and fleeing the Commonwealth.

The employers, identified as Qian Li Li, Virgilio and Lourdes Imperial, and Alona Cenizal, were permanently barred from hiring new nonresident workers should they opt to return and reestablish business.

The workers, for their part, were allowed to transfer to new employers.

Qian, according to Linn Asper, DOLI's Administrative Hearing Office (AHO) Supervisor, left 13 nonresident workers after closing his business, the American Lida Development Corporation.

Eleven of Qian's workers have remained unaccounted for while the two, identified as Pan Feng and Wu Jian Lan were respectively awarded \$10,126 and \$1,952 in unpaid wages and liquidated damages.

Qian was fined \$6,500 for alleged labor law violations.

Asper likewise ordered at least three insurance firms to deliver proceeds of any bonding that applies to Pan and Wu.

The Imperials, who operated the V&L Enterprises, were, for their part, fined \$1,000 for alleged labor law violations.

Their workers, identified as Henry Manlulu and Sooriya A.M.A. Fatima, were awarded \$13,400 and \$13,000 in unpaid

wages and liquidated damages.

The two's bonding firms were also ordered to apply their coverage "to the full and maximum extent."

Cenizal, who operates the Alona Dine Enterprises, was fined \$500 for alleged labor law violations.

Her employee, identified as a certain Irma Villavicencio, ac-

quiesced to Asper's findings on her two year-old complaint, was abandoned, a total of \$3,750 in wages, unpaid.

Villavicencio was awarded \$7,500 also in unpaid wages and liquidated damages.

Asper said the workers' monetary claims and fines imposed against the employers are "due and payable immediately."

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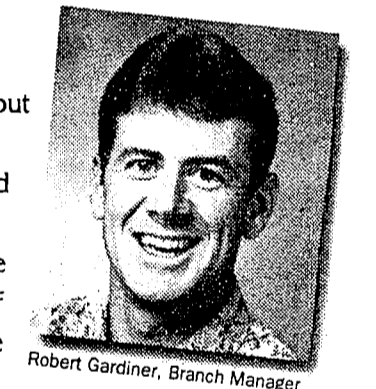
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RP Centennial events at ARC

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

FOR the second year in a row, the Aqua Resort Club's fine-dining restaurant Raraina has been chosen as the venue for the invitational luncheon reception by the Philippine consulate on June 12 when the Philippines celebrates its 100th year of Independence from Spanish rule.



Julia Heidemann

The luncheon will be preceded by a *vin d'honneur* which will be led by Philippine Consul Julia Heidemann.

For this special affair, Aqua Resort will offer an array of Filipino dishes that include, for the main course, lechon de leche (roasted pig suckling), shrimp rellenong, barbecue pork skewers, beef tapa, empanaditas, and stuffed hot wings.

The cold appetizers will include kilawin isda (raw fish in relished vinegar), crispy kangkong fritter, chicken rellenong with garnishes, and green mango with bagoong.

For dessert Aqua Resort will prepare various kinds of rice, cas-

sava and root-crop cake and buko (young coconut) pie.

Pol V. Urcia, Aqua Resort's food and beverage manager, said that about 80 guests are expected to come to this Centennial luncheon-cocktail.

Hyatt Regency Saipan will lend some nationalistic spirit to the occasion by contributing coconut pith carvings of Philippine historical landmarks.

The carvings, occupying a 90

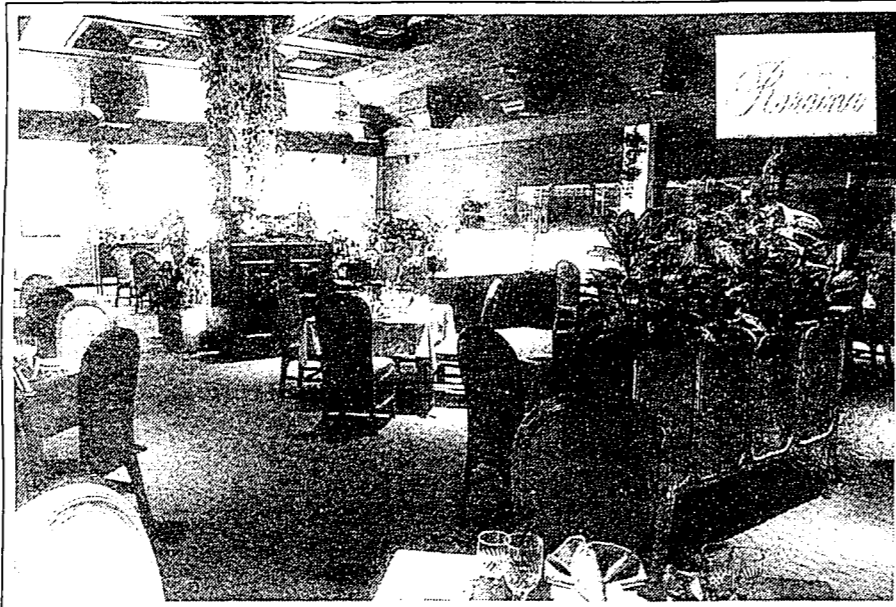
centimeter by 60 centimeter space, will be the buffet table's centerpiece.

They will be executed by Hyatt Sous-Chef Bienvenido Chavez.

Pacific Gardenia Hotel, Golden Lobster Restaurant, and D'Elegance Restaurant will also contribute their specialty dishes. Filipino chefs will demonstrate how these dishes are prepared and cooked.

For example, Golden Lobster, which is owned by Filipino-American Roland Jastillana, will prepare paella and rellenong manok (stuffed chicken), and Pacific Gardenia arroz valenciana.

Incidentally, Golden Lobster will be the venue for a fundraiser breakfast (\$5 per person) on June 12 at 8



RARAINA: Venue for the centennial celebration of Philippine Independence on Saipan

a.m. The fundraiser is being organized by the Philippine Centennial Organizing Committee.

Aqua Resort is also, for the second year, holding a Fiesta Filipino Food Festival from June 8 to 12 and every Saturday during the whole month of

June, from 6:30 p.m. to 9:30 p.m.

Aqua Resort's chefs, under the supervision of Executive Chef Hubert S. Friedle, will prepare Filipino delicacies including rellenong alimasaag (stuffed crab), sinigang na hipon (shrimps in tamarind soup), kare-kare (pork knuckles and ox tail with peanut coconut sauce), lengua mechado (ox tongue stew), gatang laing (taro leaves cooked in coconut milk), and lumpiang sariwa (fresh coconut sprout spring rolls).

Tuba, or fresh coconut wine, and the world-famous San Miguel beer will be served, too.

The venue for this food festival is the Costa Terrace Restaurant.

Aqua Resort will also hold a Philippine Night on June 10, Wednesday, when its staff will perform Filipino dances and songs at the hotel lobby from 8 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Friedle swears that the Filipino food festival will be a real treat not only for the Filipinos but also for the locals and other nationalities.

Friedle said last year's food festival received good comments and was well received.

"This year we'll make it better," he swore.

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• Ensaladang Talong, Labanos, Ampalaya, Kamatis at itlog na Maalat (Eggplant, Radish, Bitter Melon, Tomato with Red Salted Eggs Salad)	• Hinornong Isda (Oven Baked Fish)	• Imihaw na Lamang Dagat (Grilled Mixed Seafoods)
• Rellenong Alimasaag (Stuffed Crab)	• Lengua Mechado (Ox Tongue Stew)	• Palabok (Noodles with condiments)
• Gatang Laing (Taro Leaves with coconut milk)	• Filipino Desserts and a many more...	

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<p>1.49 /lb Beef Spare Ribs Family Pack</p>	<h3>U.S. PORK</h3>	
<p>1.79 /lb Pork Shoulder Steak Family Pack</p>	<p>2.39 /lb Ground Pork</p>	

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<p>7.99 /cs Sapporo Ichiban Ramen 21 cts/cs</p>	<p>99¢ /ea Tabasco Sauce 2 oz.</p>	<p>4.99 /ea Nestle Drink 53oz.</p>	<p>4.99 /ea Milo Food Drink 750 gm.</p>

US Coast Guard arrests China boat in N. Pacific

HONOLULU (Pacnews)—The Honolulu-based U.S. Coast Guard cutter Jarvis has taken control of a Chinese fishing vessel 700 miles northeast of Tokyo for allegedly violating the North Pacific Anadromous Fish Convention.

Apparently using an outlawed drift net which can extend for miles and indiscriminately catch everything in its path, the Chinese Fishing vessel No. 16 was believed to be fishing illegally for Pacific salmon and steelhead trout.

The crew also is suspected of having cut its drift net loose, after it was spotted from the air by a Coast Guard helicopter crew.

A law enforcement team from the 378-foot cutter Jarvis boarded the Chinese vessel and took control of the ship late Wednesday afternoon.

Thirty fishermen were aboard. Earlier this week, a second Chinese fishing boat, the Tai Sheng, was apprehended in the same general area off the Aleutian Islands by the Alameda, California-based cutter Boutwell.

The Tai Sheng, which the Coast Guard pursued for five days, was observed fishing illegally with more than nine miles of drift net.

The Coast Guard is continuing an investigation into the activity of both Chinese fishing vessels.

Elsewhere in the Pacific Pacific may become haven for child sex abusers, say officials

By **ROBERT KEITH-REID SUVA, Fiji (AP)** — The tolerant attitudes and relative innocence of Pacific Islanders, combined with the isolation of their communities, make the region an appealing prospective "safe haven" for foreign child sex abusers, authorities warned Thursday.

Fear that the Pacific will become an alternative to Asian brothel centers has prompted governments and child protection agencies to coordinate a regional response.

Government, police and social service officials from 12 Pacific Island countries met in Suva this week to design a plan to nip in the bud the development of a commercial child sex trade.

Greg Urwin, Australia's senior diplomat in Fiji, told the conference recent efforts to combat the child sex

trade in Asia has prompted abusers to look for alternatives.

"(They) seem more inclined to look at this (Pacific Island) region, where perhaps controls may be perceived to be less stringent, where society generally may be perceived as more tolerant and relaxed and where the innocence of children and families may seem more easily exploitable," Urwin said. Australia funded the conference.

Christine Beddoe, of Australian non-government organization End Child Prostitution, Pornography and Trafficking, said there were definite indicators of a child sex trade beginning in Samoa, Vanuatu, the Solomon Islands and Fiji and "high risk indicators" in Tonga.

However, except for a few proven cases involving children in Fiji and the Solomon Islands, evidence indi-

cating the spread of commercial child prostitution remains largely anecdotal.

Resolutions from the conference include agreements on greater collaboration between police, governments and communities in each country, the introduction of stringent anti-child abuse laws, the need for heightened public awareness and the establishment a regional network to identify and combat child prostitution.

Urwin said an absence of effective anti-abuse legislation and effective enforcement needed to be urgently remedied.

Urwin said Australia and Fiji has just signed protocols for tighter control of child adoption procedures, for improved treatment for young victims of sexual, physical and mental abuse and for exchanges of information.

Niue plan underway to revive honey industry

ALOFI (Pacnews)—Investigations are underway to determine if Niue's honey industry is worth reviving.

The industry, which started in 1967 as a partnership between a New Zealand beekeeper and the now defunct Niue Development Board, produced up to 75 tonnes of honey a year from 1250 hives, The Niue Economic Review reports.

When the industry was fully privatized in 1991, production had dropped to an all time low.

The honey factory and the hives are now in poor condition and require substantial capital investment to make the business viable.

Experts say around \$NZ50,000 (\$US26,000) would be required to operate 600 hives or \$NZ100,000 (\$US52,000) for 1200 hives.

The government is considering inviting New Zealand beekeepers to invest in a joint venture which is seen to have good potential for gaining export earnings.

At present the company is being privately managed under the wing of the Niue Development Bank.

Tuvalu set to begin plans for development

MELBOURNE (Pacnews)—Tuvalu's prime minister, Bikenibeu Paeniu, says his recently re-elected government is ready to go ahead with development plans and constitutional reform.

Paeniu has just completed a tour of Tuvalu's outer islands, where he explained the government's plans, Radio Australia reports.

Paeniu says he plans to introduce a range of new measures, including a code of conduct for leaders and the creation of an ombudsman's office.

The prime minister says the government will extensively involve the people of Tuvalu in the reform programme.

Vanuatu to restructure state banks

PORT VILA (Pacnews)—Vanuatu's council of ministers has endorsed a plan to restructure the National Bank of Vanuatu and the Development Bank of Vanuatu.

The restructure will provide the foundation for the long term future of the NBV.

In making the announcement, minister for finance and economic

management Sela Molisa said as a result of this, the Development Bank of Vanuatu ceased lending operations Wednesday.

He said the government will increase its equity in the NBV and the Asian Development Bank will also contribute funds to the NBV to strengthen the capital base of the restructured organisation.

Molisa said a new company

will be formed, to be called Asset Recovery Limited, which will purchase, for a discounted value, the bad debts of DBV, NBV and the Vanuatu National Provident Fund.

The company will be responsible for pursuing all those clients of the banks and the VNPFF who have failed to meet their responsibilities to repay loans.

High rate of urban migration

PORT VILA (Pacnews)—Vanuatu's minister of lands, Sitas Hakwa says the increasing inavailability of land and resources in the islands is causing an increase in the rate of urban migration.

He made the statement Monday when opening the environment week in Port Vila, Radio Vanuatu reports.

Hakwa said having available resources in the rural areas will assist in keeping the people from moving into the urban areas.

He said the population of the two urban centres is today increasing at an annual rate of over 7%.

The minister has also called on the people to look after the environment so that resources are available for the future generation.

Tongan man completes major canoe project

NUKU'ALOFA (Pacnews)—A Tongan man residing in Hawaii has just completed a major canoe project to be exhibited at the Wineburg Foundation in Lahaina Maui.

The Wineburg Foundation owns a shopping complex on the island of Maui, about one kilometre to the southern part of Honolulu, Radio Tonga reports.


As a move to attract buyers, the foundation is embarking on several advertising projects. One of

them involves a double-hulled canoe built by Tongan Tui'one Pulotu.

Pulotu expects to build a similar canoe to be exhibited in Tonga, as part of a national celebration to welcome the new millennium.




Pulotu says he has been to Fiji to locate the material for the Tongan Kalia.

He has sent over a model to his contacts in Tonga, and is awaiting approval from government.

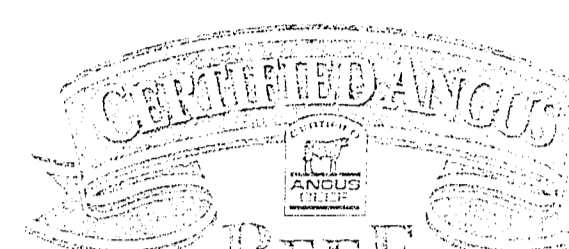


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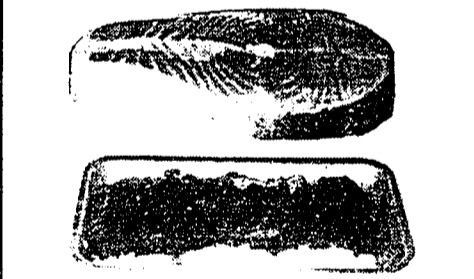
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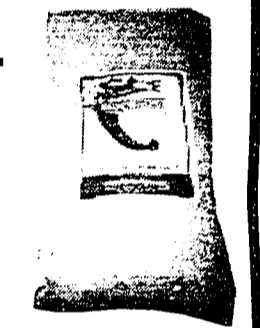
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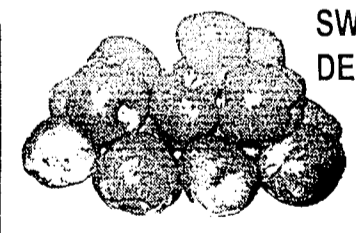
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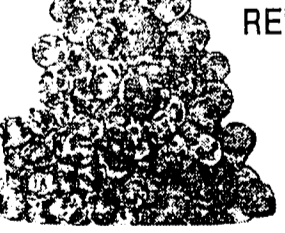
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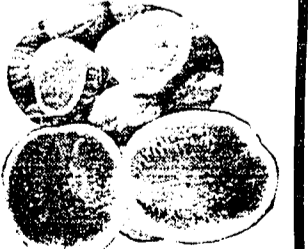
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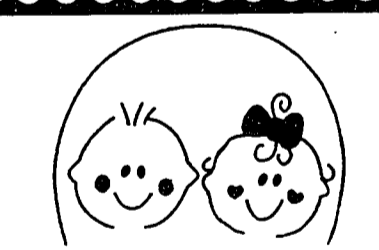
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Alarm raised on nuke cleanup

By Giff Johnson
For the Variety
MAJURO — A former Bikini Atoll worker issued a warning Thursday (June 4) to Marshall Islanders who will be working on a U.S.-funded nuclear cleanup and rehabilitation project at Rongelap Atoll, scheduled to start next month.

Marshall Islander John M. Milne, who worked in a nuclear cleanup program at Bikini in the 1970s and heads the Marshall Islands Radiation Victims Association, said he is concerned for the people who may go to Rongelap and work.

"Many of the members of our group (who worked at Bikini and Enewetak atolls) have radiation-related health problems," he said. "Our aim is to make sure that Marshallese who go to Rongelap are aware of the situation, and that the company doing the work provides precautionary measures for the workers (to insure their safety)."

Rongelap was dusted with radioactive fallout from nuclear weapons tests at Bikini in the 1950s. It has been uninhabited for 13 years since Rongelap islander evacuated their home fearing exposure to radiation in the environment.

The U.S. government is now providing about \$45 million for cleanup and rehabilitation work at Rongelap that could pave the way for a return of the exiled population in the next several years.

A two-year \$9 million project kicks off next month, with construction of a dock, worker barracks, airport improvements and related construction at Rongelap to establish a base camp for ongoing cleanup work at the isolated atoll, according to Rongelap officials.

Considering the construction work and clearing of jungle overgrowth that will be done at Rongelap preparing the island for resettlement, "they'll have to be exposed to radiation," Milne said. "Our concern is to see that they are provided the means to safeguard their health."

He said that this might be in the form of masks to prevent inhaling radioactive material during construction work or dosimeters that are worn by individuals to measure radiation exposure.

At Bikini more than 20 years ago, workers weren't provided with any safety precautions of information during cleanup efforts.

Bikini was the site of 23 nuclear tests.

"We want this new (Rongelap) crew to have an idea about radiation, so they know what to do on Rongelap," Milne said. He said that Marshallese and others who had worked on Bikini and Enewetak have "fallen through the cracks" of U.S.-provided health and compensation programs which do not recognize them as "exposed" to radiation.

Without access to adequate medical treatment, many of these workers have died of cancers that, if diagnosed early, might have been treatable, he said, adding he didn't want to see the same pattern repeated with Rongelap workers.

US SENATOR Daniel K. Inouye (D-Hawaii) is requesting that \$19 million be added to the budget of the US Interior Department to complete the funding of a pension program for Micronesians who are ex-US government employees.

Without this additional funding some 4,000 Micronesians will soon lose the small pension they now receive from the Prior Service Trust Fund, he said in a news release.

The Micronesians worked between 1944 and 1968 for the US Departments of the Navy and Interior, and for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands administered by the U.S.

The pension program began in 1968; and a trust fund was established in 1986 with an \$8 million appropriation from Congress out of which the pension payments are made. But those monies are running out.

According to Trust Fund Administrator Jerold Facey, "at the time it was understood that the \$8 million was a down payment on the US obligation.

Now the time has come to complete funding of the program.

In 1997, the former chief actuary of the US Social Security Administration, Robert Myers, determined that an additional \$15 million would be needed. Be-

cause of changes in interest calculations the amount now required is \$19 million.

"We are very encouraged by Senator Inouye's decision to help complete funding for Prior Service," says Facey.

I'm sure that as a veteran on World War II himself he must have a special sympathy for those pensioners who aided the US in wartime.

"Many of them served as Marine Scouts in the Mariana and Marshall Islands, putting their lives at risk for the United States," said Facey.

"What we have is a finite group of people. There will be no new members. Congress, therefore, be assured that once these funds are appropriated, it will have fulfilled its promise."

names of the government officials.

The Nitijela committee is preparing to issue similar subpoenas to Bank of Guam and Bank of Hawaii regarding the same three individuals, according to Nitijela officials.

The Marshall Islands High Court ordered a local bank to turn over financial records of three government officials subpoenaed by the Nitijela (Parliament) Public Accounts Committee.

The High Court ruling followed an appeal by Bank of Marshall Islands attorney David Strauss asking the High Court to quash the subpoena issued by Public Accounts Chairman Senator Rien Morris, saying that it was a violation of privacy provisions of banking laws.

But Marshalls Chief Justice Daniel Cadra denied the motion, ruling that the bank has to give the requested records to the Nitijela committee.

The Public Accounts Committee demanded bank account information for three government officials, associated with the passport sales program, and their wives. Nitijela officials declined to release the

A 1997 government audit reported that there was insufficient documentation to audit the entire sales program.

In his ruling this week, Chief Justice Cadra said that Nitijela rules under the Constitution allow its committees to investigate matters, including summoning witnesses, and searching for papers and records.

The investigation of the passport scheme was a matter referred to the Public Accounts Committee by the Nitijela and it has authority to conduct its investigation, Cadra said.

The documents requested are sufficiently definite and relevant to the investigation, and individual privacy is not compromised, he said.

"The depositors have no legitimate right to privacy as the documents requested are not private records but business records of the bank," Cadra concluded.

Earlier this week, Public Accounts Committee member Senator Tadashi Lomoto said that the investigation was making significant progress and the committee should be ready to report to the Nitijela during its August session.

Inouye backs funding for Micronesian pensions



Daniel K. Inouye

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Marshalls passport sales probe targets govt officials

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Several staffers from the Agency for Human Resources Development (AHRD assigned to the Department of Public Works help rebuild several vehicles damaged by Super Typhoon Paka in December to reusable conditions.
Photo by Eduardo C. Siguenza

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Man charged with 'ice' gun violations

By Jacob Leon Guerrero
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA, Guam — Ronnie Sevilla Analista has been charged by the acting Attorney General of Guam, with drug and firearm violations after he was caught in a recent sting operation.

In a compliant filed at the Superior Court of Guam, Analista was charged with possession of controlled substance, possession with intent to deliver and possession of a firearm without an identification card.

According to court documents on or about April 28, May 1 and 28, Drug Task Force Agents conducted three controlled buys using a confidential informant at Analista's residence on G.S. Borja Street, in Santa Rita.

On April 28, the informant, monitored by the Drug Task Force agents, allegedly purchased approximately one gram of methamphetamine or "ice", from Analista for \$500.

Allegedly on May 1 & 28, an informant monitored by the Drug Task Force agents again bought .25 grams of "ice" for \$150 each time from Analista at the same address in Santa Rita.

According to the complaint, Analista was identified each time as the alleged person who possessed and delivered the drugs to the confidential informant.

On or about June 1, Drug Task Force special agents obtained a search warrant for the residence on G.S. Borja Street, in Santa Rita. The search yielded numerous drug paraphernalia and a weapon.

The weapon was reported to be a .22 caliber pistol, manufactured by North American Arms.

The compliant states that Analista does not possess a firearm identification card.

The compliant was filed on Tuesday June 2, 1998, an indictment is pending on the decision of the Grand Jury.

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Japan wants anti-nuke forum

TOKYO (AP) — Japan will propose convening an international forum on preventing the spread of nuclear weapons in the wake of recent nuclear tests by India and Pakistan, a Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman said Wednesday.

Foreign Minister Keizo Obuchi will formally announce plans for a meeting of experts from around the

world on the non-proliferation issue in a speech scheduled for Thursday, the spokesman said.

Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto preempted that announcement when he mentioned the proposal early Wednesday while appearing before an upper house of parliament ad hoc committee.

Preparations will begin soon on

convening the forum later this summer, possibly in the city of Hiroshima, Japanese newspapers said.

Japan, the only country ever to suffer a nuclear attack, has been among the harshest critics of India and Pakistan after those nations carried out nuclear weapons tests last month.

It has punished both countries by suspending economic aid.

The foreign ministry official, who declined to be named, said that the site and date of the forum has not been decided yet, but indicated it may not be held until autumn.

On Tuesday, forty-six countries in the Conference on Disarmament, including Japan and the United States, demanded that India and Pakistan immediately cease testing nuclear arms and join in the global move to eliminate the weapons.



Hashimoto: No nukes

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Survey: Nearly one in every two Japanese men admits buying sex

TOKYO (AP) — A survey of Japanese men released Wednesday found that nearly one in every two admitted to having paid prostitutes for sex at least once.

The findings were made in a survey of about 2,500 adult males across Japan between August and October of last year that was conducted by the Asia-Japan Women's Resource Center, a civic group handling women's issues.

Of the 2,500 respondents, 46.2 percent said they have paid for sex,

while 51.3 percent said they have never done so.

"It shows they (Japanese men) are very nonchalant about paying for sex, as thought," said Yukiko Tsunoda, a lawyer for the group.

Like other Japanese polls, the survey provided no margin of error. And Tsunoda cautioned that the men surveyed included acquaintances of group members and were not picked entirely at random.

As many as 61.1 percent of those who said they had paid for sex also

said they think it desirable to have a society without prostitution, the survey showed.

Prostitution was officially banned in 1956, but the sex industry remains prosperous at loosely disguised "soup land" brothels.

Japan has come under international criticism as a growing number of Southeast Asian women complain of having been lured to Japan with promises of jobs only to be forced into prostitution by the "yakuza," Japan's mob.

Toxins in ground water near Toshiba plant

TOKYO (AP) — Local environmental agency officials have found high concentrations of a toxic chemical in water under a Toshiba Corp. plant in the central Japanese city of Nagoya, a spokesman for the city's Environment Protection Agency said on Wednesday.

Ground water under the factory contained 470 milligrams per liter of trichloroethylene, or TCE,

15,670 times the level the environmental agency considers safe, according to the agency official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

TCE causes cancer in laboratory animals, and studies indicate it may be the cause of lupus erythematosus and other connective-tissue and immune-system diseases.

The city does not use ground water for drinking water, the offi-

cial said. Nonetheless, the city will offer physical examinations to residents who request them from August.

Environmental officials in Nagoya are so far not blaming Toshiba for the contamination, saying they are still investigating the source and extent of the spill.

They have questioned 13 businesses in the area and found that a nearby metal-products factory used TCE from 1988 to 1990.

According to the agency official, the factory said it properly disposed of the TCE it used.

For its part, Toshiba claims it has not used TCE in the area in the last 15 years, according to company spokesman Keisuke Ohmori. Ohmori said the company "suspects it came from other facilities."

Toshiba's plant in Nagoya, 269 kilometers (168 miles) west of Tokyo, makes home appliances.

In a previous incident, a former Toshiba plating factory that had been located nearby was blamed as the source of toxic substances including TCE found there in October.

The environmental official said his agency did not believe the plating factory was also the source of the newly discovered contamination because it was some 350 meters (yards) away and ground water between the areas was not polluted.

Toshiba said it is working with Nagoya city to investigate the contamination.

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The Drummer of a "dragon boat" exhorts his crew during traditional dragon boat races in Singapore Sunday. Over 60 boats with 24-man crew each on board from 13 countries raced in the annual event, commemorating the water rescue of a Chinese patriot Qu Yuan in 2788 BC. AP

Military chief asking for end to Suharto criticism

By CHRISTOPHER TORCHIA
JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Student protesters shouted "Hang Suharto" outside Parliament on Wednesday as Indonesia's military chief appealed for a halt to "out of control" condemnation of the ousted president.

Suharto, a former army general who turns 77 next Monday, faces growing demands that he surrender riches accumulated during three decades in power.

In a television interview, new President B.J. Habibie urged Indonesians not to dwell on the country's corrupt past and to focus on economic recovery. With the economy expected to shrink by at least 10 percent this year, the task is a daunting one.

Student protesters who helped dislodge Suharto accuse him of deepening Indonesia's financial crisis by exploiting state wealth.

The authoritarian leader quit May 21 amid campus demonstrations and riots over price increases.

A government commission, meanwhile, said the death toll over several days of riots in Jakarta in mid-May

was 1,188, more than double an estimate by the military. Many victims were looters trapped in buildings set afire by arsonists.

In a report released Wednesday, the National Commission on Human Rights also criticized the armed forces for failing to take prompt action to prevent rioting.

About 2,000 banner-waving students rallied in a major highway outside Parliament, demanding that Suharto be put on trial for economic crimes. Soldiers closed off the road.

Chanting "Reject Habibie," the protesters scoffed at their new president's pledge to hold general elections in 1999, saying he was a corrupt lackey of Suharto and should step aside.

A close ally of Suharto for decades, Habibie is bowing to popular demands for democratic reform.

Later the military blocked off a major downtown intersection to stop a convoy of about 20 busloads of protesters from staging a demonstration at Jakarta's National Monument, adjacent to the Presidential Palace.

Gen. Wiranto, the armed forces

chief, said the nation of 202 million people should pardon Suharto because he boosted economic growth and averted chaos by relinquishing power.

"Lately, condemnation and harassment against the former president and his family have been exaggerated and, in some cases, have gotten out of control," said Wiranto, a former personal aide to Suharto.

"The armed forces will take necessary measures to stop it," Wiranto said without elaborating.

The military is the most powerful institution in Indonesia, which is beset by uncertainty about its political future.

It is doubtful that Habibie, who has a shaky power base, would make any policy decisions without the backing of Wiranto.

In an interview with Cable News Network that was broadcast Wednesday, Habibie argued against a painful investigation of misdeeds that could divide the nation.

"You have unlimited problems in the past. Where are you going to stop?" Habibie said.

"So I think it is not worthwhile to dip into the past. I have to look to the future and create a better life... for the people."

In a separate interview with the New York Times, Habibie said Indonesians should not indulge in "Wild West" justice against the former leader.

State prosecutors have launched an inquiry into corruption under the old government, including complaints that Suharto's family abused its influence to build huge business empires.

However, critics doubt they will aggressively pursue the former president.

Earlier this week, opposition leader Megawati Sukarnoputri urged people to stop denouncing Suharto, who rose to power in the 1960s by edging aside her father, Indonesia's founding President Sukarno.

Still, sentiment against Suharto was strong among about 200 supporters of Megawati who joined students outside Parliament to demand government action to help the poor.

"Everybody knows he's corrupt so the case must be processed legally," said protester Daulat Sidaat.

"It will give an example for the future of Indonesia."

Police detain 2 Singaporeans carrying corpses

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP)—Police have detained two Singapore nationals who were driving in a car with two male corpses, one in the boot and the other in the back seat, the national news agency said Wednesday.

The bodies, that police said were of Malaysians aged about 30, were believed to be of murder victims, Bernama news agency reported.

The two Singaporean men, detained Tuesday at a road checkpoint, were produced before a local magistrate in Rompin town in the eastern coastal Pahang province, Superintendent Mokhtar Mohd.

Ali of Pahang Police said. The bodies had been sent for autopsy.

The news agency did not give any more details.

World meteorologists say:

El Niño coming to an end

By JONATHAN DRAKE
SINGAPORE (AP)—There was good news Wednesday from the world's weather forecasters: the massive disruptions caused by El Niño are coming to an end.

The World Meteorological Organization said the current round of El Niño "is in its dying stages," but conceded there was considerable uncertainty "about the rate of weakening."

El Niño, a disruptive weather phenomenon that returned in 1997, has been blamed for flooding in Kenya, drought in Indonesia and heavy snow in the southwestern United States.

It has even been credited with lengthening the days on Earth by slowing its rotation.

Unlike previous episodes which lingered for years, the current El Niño "is showing clear signs of weakening," said the World Meteorological Organization, a U.N. agency.

The organization's update said the four conditions typical of the weather phenomenon are becoming less pronounced.

The four conditions are warming in the eastern Pacific Ocean; shifting of precipitation from the western to the eastern Pacific; slowing of trade winds; and changes in sea level.

El Niño causes reversals of normal weather patterns, resulting in drought in usually wet locales and flooding in arid areas.

It also helps trigger some man-made disasters.

For example, fires set by farmers and plantation owners in Indonesia in 1997 and 1998 swept through unusually dry forests, shrouding much of Southeast Asia in thick haze.

The World Meteorological Association (WMO) said it is difficult to predict just when this round of El Niño will come to an end.

"One model has conditions moving rapidly towards normal by mid-1998, and another has El Niño lingering on towards the end of the year," the report stated.

During a press conference Tuesday, the organization's secretary-general Godwin Obasi, of Nigeria, said he expected the former scenario, with El Niño tapering off by the end of this month.

Such a development could be followed by the so-called La Niña effect, which could reverse some of the effects of the current disturbances and, in Southeast Asia, help curb some of the forest fires.

However, the international weathermen said it's far from certain whether La Niña will occur.

The U.N. weather agency predicts drier-than-normal conditions

over Indonesia, Micronesia and southern South America during the next two months.

Wetter conditions than usual will continue over the central and eastern equatorial Pacific and over

southeastern South America.

John Miller, chief of the environment division at WMO, told The Associated Press that the forecast was a conservative prediction that discounted the possibility of

an immediate end to El Niño or a La Niña episode.

This was despite growing evidence to suggest such an occurrence, because forecasts rely on a consensus of results in the computer predictions.



National Hurricane Center Director Jerry D. Jarrell, left, speaks during a news conference next to Jack Kelly, director of the National Weather Service at the National Hurricane Center in Miami. With El Niño muting bad weather over the Atlantic, the hurricane season may get off to a slow start and still turn out average. AP

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Thailand to close 35 overseas offices

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Thailand will close or merge at least 35 government offices in 16 foreign countries to save money amid the continuing economic crisis.

The Cabinet approved the closures Tuesday, deeming them necessary despite previous budget cuts of 683 million baht (\$ 17 million) in the foreign service this fiscal year.

A recent audit of Thailand's 275 overseas offices in 65 countries found they were both too scattered and that there was too much overlap from the 10 ministries with foreign postings.

Representation will be affected in Australia, Austria,

Belgium, Britain, China, France, Germany, Hong Kong, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Malaysia, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Singapore and the United States.

The ministries of finance and agriculture will each be forced to shut down seven offices, while the Foreign Ministry will suspend the postings of 73 diplomats and cut short the tours of 140 by one year.

Other affected ministries include education, labor, commerce, industry and defense. The Civil Servants Commission will close eight offices abroad and the Public Relations Department four.

Representatives of the Tourism Authority of Thailand, which is mounting a major campaign to



A clothing store worker prepares for a discount sale at a Bangkok department store Tuesday as Thailand continues to confront its economic crisis. AP

bring in badly needed foreign exchange, will share offices with state-owned Thai Airways International.

Rights group doubles riot death toll in Indonesia

By ALI KOTARUMALOS
JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — main human rights watchdog Wednesday said at least 1,188 people died in rioting that led to the resignation of autocratic President Suharto last month.

The figure is more than twice as high as official estimates made by the military, which the National Human Rights Commission, or Komnasham, accused of doing too little, too late to quell the violence and save lives.

"Komnasham has received quantitative reports that there was an excessive material loss because of the riotings, including ... the killings of 1,188 people and 101 injuries along with some cases of rape," the commission said in a report.

It said 40 shopping centers, 2,479 shop-houses and 1,604 shops were attacked, burned or looted, along with 1,119 automobiles, 1,026 private homes and 383 offices.

The commission did not provide a breakdown of the death toll, but said it was based on reports in Jakarta and other parts of the country from May 12-25.

It noted that security forces had failed to anticipate signs that rioting would erupt. Moreover, when the violence started "there were no signs of serious efforts by the security forces to prevent the spread of the rioting."

The 25-member commission urged the government of new President B.J. Habibie to "thoroughly investigate security apparatus for letting, not preventing or immediately dealing with the riots."

It also called for an inquiry into allegations that much of the violence had been the work of "well-organized groups who started the rioting and burnings."

In a three-page statement, the commission noted that members of the ethnic Chinese community were frequent targets in the unrest.

Although Chinese make up only a fraction of Indonesia's 202 million population, they dominate commerce and industry, and have been made into scapegoats for the country's worst economic crisis in three decades.

The commission was set up by the Suharto regime but has earned a reputation for independence in its investigation of human rights abuses.

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Malaysian police ban on rallies hit

By ALVIN UNG
KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Warning that Malaysia could plunge into "a new dark age," the leader of the main opposition party Wednesday slammed the police for banning three public meetings over the past four days.

"Has Malaysia suddenly descended into a police state in a matter of days?" said Lim Kit Siang, head of the opposition Democratic Action Party.

In a statement, Lim alleged that police in riot gear Tuesday disbanded a meeting organized by the DAP in village in the central state of Malacca.

The party had applied for permission for the Pantai Kundor gathering on May 22. Lim said, but the request was rejected one day before it was scheduled to commence.

Police broke up the gathering while DAP was hosting a dinner for its panel of speakers — comprising leaders from four opposition parties.

It was not clear whether DAP had planned to go ahead with its meeting.

On Tuesday, Kuala Lumpur police suddenly withdrew permission for a meeting of residents to discuss the city's severe water rationing.

Over the weekend, police had disbanded a gathering of lawyers at a city hotel, saying organizers hadn't obtained a permit. Lim and his son were to speak at that meeting.

"These high-handed and undemocratic police actions are ominous signs that Malaysia is heading toward a police state," said a joint statement by

eight opposition leaders condemning the disbanding of Tuesday's village meeting.

The police bans have been criticized by the opposition and human rights groups.

"We're just amazed at their paranoia," said Hamdan Adnan, president of the Federation of Malaysian Consumers Associations.

Nearly 2 million residents of Kuala Lumpur and its suburbs have faced water rationing for three months as the reservoirs hovered at critical levels. Authorities have blamed the water shortage on scant rains, but residents say it was a crisis caused by mismanagement.

"The right of consumers to assemble and discuss matters that concern their day-to-day living is the most basic of democratic rights in a civil society," said Ramdas Tikamdas, president of the National Human Rights Society.

Lim, the opposition leader, urged the government to move toward greater democratization in view of the recent developments in Indonesia that led to President Suharto's ouster.

"Malaysian government leaders are afraid of the Indonesian contagion, but they must draw the right lessons."

Police cited security concerns for disallowing the meeting, but did not elaborate.

"They are operating under the police act, section 27. If the police chief has a strong reason to stop the meetings, he can," said police spokesman, Samsuddin Ali.



Larry Irving, U.S. assistant secretary of communications, is displayed on a large screen as he reads a statement from William Kennard, head of the U.S. Federal Communications Commission, to a meeting of telecommunication and information ministers from Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) countries. The statement urged greater cross-border competition in countries which have traditionally had telecommunication monopolies. AP

Australia vows to bring back fugitive exec

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Prime Minister John Howard said Wednesday the government will do everything within its legal means to bring back fugitive businessman Christopher Skase, who fled to Spain.

Skase is living in Majorca after failing to return to Australia to face charges related to the U.S. \$1 billion (1.6 billion Australian dollars) collapse of his Quintex media and resort empire in 1989.

He has become the focus of Australian public outrage over the apparent ease with which he evaded the law, and for his millionaire's lifestyle on the resort island while

many of his creditors went broke. Australia has ruled out reopening failed 1994 extradition proceedings against Skase on the grounds that this is not permitted under Spanish law.

But the government has lobbied Spain not to renew Skase's residency status after Spanish authorities seized his expired Australian passport, raising hopes Skase will be forced to leave Spain for another country.

Howard said he had written to his Spanish counterpart about the issue because he shared the resentment of the Australian public at what Skase had been able to do.

"Now I want him brought back to

this country to face the laws of Australia," Howard said in a Perth radio interview.

"And I say that on behalf of a lot of people who have suffered as a consequence of his behavior," Howard said.

Howard said his letter to the Spanish government had not yet had any effect.

"But I would imagine my letter will have some effect on the attitude of the Spanish government," he said.

"And there remains the case that we're trying to get him back and we are going to use all of the legal means that are at our disposal to do so."

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It also called for an inquiry into allegations that much of the violence had been the work of "well-organized groups who started the rioting and burnings."

In a three-page statement, the commission noted that members of the ethnic Chinese community were frequent targets in the unrest.

Although Chinese make up only a fraction of Indonesia's 202 million population, they dominate commerce and industry, and have been made into scapegoats for the country's worst economic crisis in three decades.

The commission was set up by the Suharto regime but has earned a reputation for independence in its investigation of human rights abuses.

Malaysian police ban on rallies hit

By ALVIN UNG KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Warning that Malaysia could plunge into "a new dark age," the leader of the main opposition party Wednesday slammed the police for banning three public meetings over the past four days.

"Has Malaysia suddenly descended into a police state in a matter of days?" said Lim Kit Siang, head of the opposition Democratic Action Party.

In a statement, Lim alleged that police in riot gear Tuesday disbanded a meeting organized by the DAP in a village in the central state of Malacca.

The party had applied for permission for the Pantai Kundur gathering on May 22, Lim said, but the request was rejected one day before it was scheduled to commence.

Police broke up the gathering while DAP was hosting a dinner for its panel of speakers — comprising leaders from four opposition parties.

It was not clear whether DAP had planned to go ahead with its meeting.

On Tuesday, Kuala Lumpur police suddenly withdrew permission for a meeting of residents to discuss the city's severe water rationing.

Over the weekend, police had disbanded a gathering of lawyers at a city hotel, saying organizers hadn't obtained a permit. Lim and his son were to speak at that meeting.

"These high-handed and undemocratic police actions are ominous signs that Malaysia is heading toward a police state," said a joint statement by

eight opposition leaders condemning the disbanding of Tuesday's village meeting.

The police bans have been criticized by the opposition and human rights groups.

"We're just amazed at their paranoia," said Hamdan Adnan, president of the Federation of Malaysian Consumers Associations.

Nearly 2 million residents of Kuala Lumpur and its suburbs have faced water rationing for three months as the reservoirs hovered at critical levels. Authorities have blamed the water shortage on scant rains, but residents say it was a crisis caused by mismanagement.

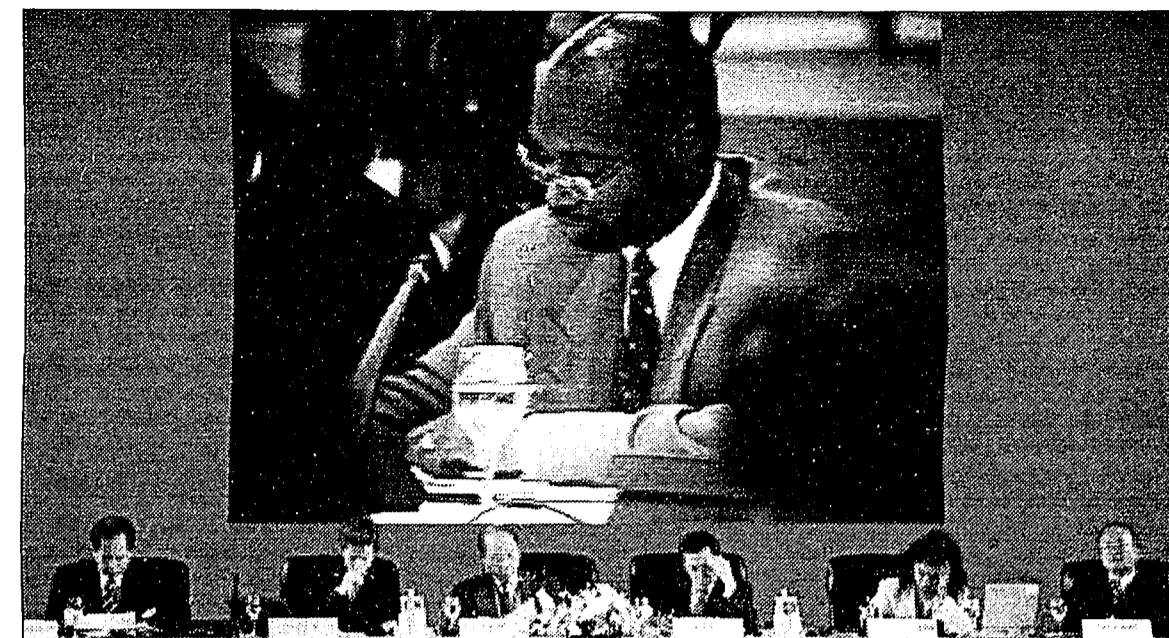
"The right of consumers to assemble and discuss matters that concern their day-to-day living is the most basic of democratic rights in a civil society," said Ramdas Tikamdas, president of the National Human Rights Society.

Lim, the opposition leader, urged the government to move toward greater democratization in view of the recent developments in Indonesia that led to President Suharto's ouster.

"Malaysian government leaders are afraid of the Indonesian contagion, but they must draw the right lessons."

Police cited security concerns for disallowing the meeting, but did not elaborate.

"They are operating under the police act, section 27. If the police chief has a strong reason to stop the meetings, he can," said police spokesman, Samsuddin Ali.



Larry Irving, U.S. assistant secretary of communications, is displayed on a large screen as he reads a statement from William Kennard, head of the U.S. Federal Communications Commission, to a meeting of telecommunication and information ministers from Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) countries. The statement urged greater cross-border competition in countries which have traditionally had telecommunication monopolies. AP

Australia vows to bring back fugitive exec

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Prime Minister John Howard said Wednesday the government will do everything within its legal means to bring back fugitive businessman Christopher Skase, who fled to Spain.

Skase is living in Majorca after failing to return to Australia to face charges related to the U.S.\$1 billion (1.6 billion Australian dollars) collapse of his Qintex media and resort empire in 1989.

He has become the focus of Australian public outrage over the apparent ease with which he evaded the law, and for his millionaire's lifestyle on the resort island while

many of his creditors went broke.

Australia has ruled out reopening failed 1994 extradition proceedings against Skase on the grounds that this is not permitted under Spanish law.

But the government has lobbied Spain not to renew Skase's residency status after Spanish authorities seized his expired Australian passport, raising hopes Skase will be forced to leave Spain for another country.

Howard said he had written to his Spanish counterpart about the issue because he shared the resentment of the Australian public at what Skase had been able to do.

"Now I want him brought back to

this country to face the laws of Australia," Howard said in a Perth radio interview.

"And I say that on behalf of a lot of people who have suffered as a consequence of his behavior," Howard said.

Howard said his letter to the Spanish government had not yet had any effect.


"But I would imagine my letter will have some effect on the attitude of the Spanish government," he said.

"And there remains the case that we're trying to get him back and we are going to use all of the legal means that are at our disposal to do so."




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Pollution alert on Yangtze

BEIJING (AP) — Pollution along China's Yangtze River is harming the health of residents and clogging a crucial power plant, state media reported Wednesday.

The National environmental Protection Agency and the ministry over-

seeing shipping along the river launched a month-long publicity campaign Tuesday to get boats, businesses and people from treating the Yangtze like a garbage dump.

In reporting the campaign, China Daily described the river, the world's

third longest, as a "muddy stream plagued with rubbish of every conceivable kind." It called the condition "deplorable."

Few of the 27 ports along the 6,400-kilometer (3,800-mile) river have garbage collection or disposal facilities, the newspaper said.

Ships alone dump 8,000 tons of garbage, 100 million tons of sewage and 5,000 tons of waste oil into the

Yangtze every year, China Daily said.

It added that factories and tourist restaurants were also to blame. The health of people living along the river is suffering and the pollution is affecting the operation of the Gezhouba power plant, the newspaper said without elaboration.

No mention was made about pollution's possible effects on the Three Gorges Dam, the world's larg-

est hydroelectric project, being built in the middle reaches of the Yangtze.

When completed 11 years from now, the dam will hold back a 600-kilometer (350-mile)-long reservoir touching on its west end the heavily industrialized city of Chongqing.

Environmentalists have decried the project's lack of sanitation facilities and fear the reservoir will become little better than a large, open sewer.

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A Chinese tour group visits a local pagoda in Hong Gai village on the outskirts of Ha Long bay, Vietnam Tuesday. Thanks to streamlined procedures for residents of the border provinces between China and Vietnam, an average 1,000 people mostly from China cross the border for shopping or an excursion to Ha Long Bay. AP

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Vietnam drought officially over

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — Vietnam's worst drought in a century is over, thanks to the onset of the delayed rainy season, official media reported Wednesday.

Power cuts, imposed because of falling reservoir water levels at crucial hydroelectric power plants, have been dropped.

The drought caused an esti-

mated \$385 million in damage, the English-language Vietnam News quoted the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development as saying. Most of the damage was to the country's two main cash crops, rice and coffee.

But storms now are exacting a toll.

Five people were killed and two others were injured by lightning in the Mekong Delta province of

Vinh Long in two separate incidents Sunday and Monday.

Two other people were killed by lightning in the Mekong Delta province of Can Tho on Sunday.

A heavy thunderstorm knocked out power to parts of Hanoi on Tuesday night.

Most of the city's traffic lights were still off Wednesday morning.

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Ung Huot hopes border issues resolved by 2000

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — Cambodian First Prime Minister Ung Huot hopes that border issues with Vietnam can be resolved by the year 2000, the Labor newspaper reported Wednesday.

In an interview with the paper, Ung Huot said the two countries may add other agreements soon to the three that were signed during his two-day visit to Vietnam.

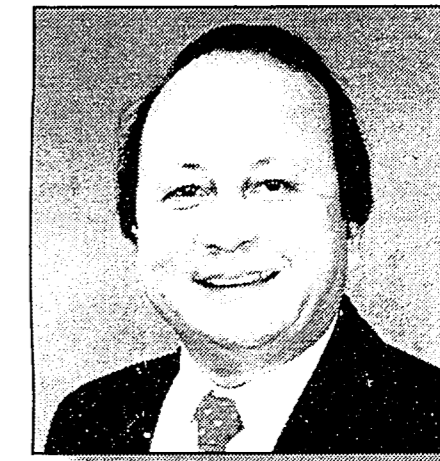
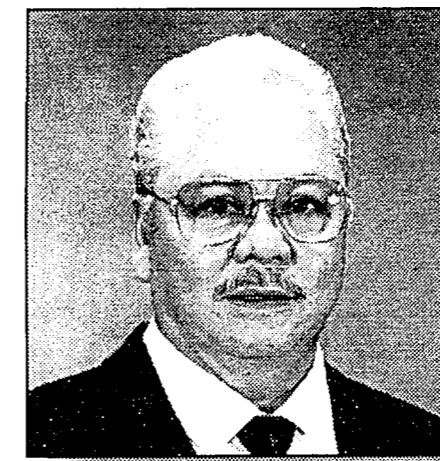
Ung Huot finished his second trip to Hanoi in six months on Tuesday.

The two countries signed agreements on road transport, drug control and cooperation in culture and information.

"We hope that other agreements on telecommunications, tourism, sea and waterway transport will soon be reached," he was quoted as saying.

"We agreed that border experts from two countries will meet and have discussions in Phnom Penh between now and late June. We all hope that the sea and land border issues will be settled by the year 2000. This proves that we are good neighbors and will be good neighbors forever."

Ties have been warming slowly since Vietnam ended a decade-long occupation of Cambodia in 1989.



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As you stand with one foot in childhood, and the other stepping toward the future, we stand proudly beside you wishing you all the courage and strength you will need on your journey. Whichever of life's paths you choose, we hope the days ahead will bring you continued success and even greater happiness.

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- Other terms and conditions effecting the stock and rights of each preferred stockholder are stated in Bird Island Development, Inc.'s First Articles of Amendment, filed with CNMI Registrar of Corporations on November 28, 1997, a copy of which may be inspected at the office of the corporation's attorneys, White, Pierce, Mailman & Nutting, Second Floor Joeten Building I, Susupe, P.O. Box 5222 CHR, Saipan, MP 96950, Attn: Bruce L. Mailman.
- Bird Island Development, Inc. makes no warranty or guarantee, express or implied, of any profit or return on any investment represented by the shares of preferred stock now offered by the corporation, or that the shares of stock now offered will be marketable, now or in future. The corporation's golf course and resort project is in the development stage at present, and no commercial or revenue-producing operations have yet begun. Bird Island Development, Inc., recommends that potential subscribers seek the advice of a qualified investment adviser or stockbroker with regard to the potential risks of purchasing shares in the corporation.

Applications for stock subscription are available at the office of the corporation's attorneys. The application period will open on May 26, 1998, at 8:00 a.m., and will close on June 25, 1998 at 5:00 p.m.; applications will be available on weekdays from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., excepting legal holidays, during the application period. The maximum number of available shares for each applicant will be determined by dividing the number of applicants into the authorized number of shares of preferred nonvoting stock. The number of subscribers, and the maximum stock subscription available to each, will be determined as of the day after the closing date of the subscription application period set forth above. Stock will be issued only after all qualified subscribers have been identified and have confirmed their subscriptions, and to each subscriber only upon payment in full of each such subscription. The corporation reserves the right to extend the subscription application period, or to hold an additional subscription period, if in the opinion of the corporation's directors it would be to the benefit of the corporation and the public to do so.

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According to political parties

Hong Kong not doing enough on economy

HONG KONG (AP) — Major political parties from across Hong Kong's spectrum told the government on Wednesday that it wasn't doing enough to stimulate the recession-bound economy, and reached consensus on their own six-point program.

Held only a week and a half after elections, a special meeting

included parties that won more than two-thirds of the seats in the new legislature. It included government critics, pro-business parties that generally support the government, and grassroots pro-China parties.

Their ability to bridge differences could mean that, despite being controlled by pro-business

and pro-China elites, the legislature may give Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa and his government critics a hard time on economic issues.

"The government is wealthy," said Allen Lee, chairman of the pro-business Liberal Party, who chaired the meeting. "It's the citizens who don't have money."

Australia's uranium mine to be set up soon

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) —

The opening of Australia's first new uranium mine in a decade continues to inch closer, despite the latest vow Wednesday by Aboriginal landowners to block the development. Energy Resources of Australia Ltd. said it expects to begin digging at the remote Jabalu mining lease in the Northern Territory this month, after the territorial government on Tuesday signed authorizations allowing work to begin on the mine's entrance and shaft.

But the company may be left with nothing but a hole in the ground, as it goes ahead without having formal approvals to either build a processing plant or to truck ore to an established mill

at its nearby Ranger mine.

ERA has been forced to consider building a second mill just 13 miles (22 km) from Ranger by Aboriginal landowners' refusal to accept its preferred option, to transport the ore.

The owners of the Jabalu lease oppose the mine, claiming it will cause environmental and indirect cultural damage.

But they are bound by a 1983 contract approving the mill-on-site option.

Representatives of the Mirrar Aboriginal clan said Wednesday they will seek a court order blocking the territory government's approval until an environmental approval process for the on-site mill plan is completed.

WB approves \$225-M loan

By Harry Dunphy WASHINGTON (AP) —

The World Bank's executive board approved a \$225 million rural poverty reduction loan for Indonesia Tuesday but did not act on a \$1 billion bank credit to help shore up the troubled nation's economy.

Both loans had been scheduled for approval by the bank's board on May 19 but were halted as escalating civil unrest that culminated in President Suharto's resignation forced the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund to evacuate staff and suspend operations in Jakarta, the capital.

As for the \$1 billion loan, Graham Barrett, a spokesman for the bank's East Asia operations, said, "We need to take into account the events of the last several weeks before we close off on the loan and submit it to the board."

Barrett did not indicate when that will be. However, he said the loan is tied to an agreement by the International Monetary Fund and Indonesian authorities on another economic rescue package, the fourth since financial turmoil erupted in Asia last summer.

Because of the steep decline in the country's currency, the rupiah, some economic objectives in previous IMF programs must be revised.

Plans for release this week of a \$1 billion IMF credit that is part of Indonesia's previous \$43 billion IMF rescue package were put on hold after civil unrest erupted last month. It has subsided since Vice President B.J. Habibie replaced Suharto as president.

Iwan Jaya Azis, an Indonesian economist who advises the World Bank, said at an economic conference Tuesday that he expected the latest IMF review to be completed within the next few weeks. He said he expected the IMF to be more flexible in its requirements, such as removing government price subsidies on fuel and food.

The approved poverty reduction loan is designed to provide direct help to 7 to 10 million rural Indonesians by strengthening district and village governments so they can build roads, provide water supplies, and rehabilitate schools and health clinics.

Korea labor group to strike

By PAUL SHIN SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — militant labor group said Wednesday it will go ahead with plans for a nationwide strike next week, citing a breakdown in talks with the government aimed at halting growing layoffs.



Kim Dae-jung

The decision by the maverick Confederation of Korean Trade Unions raised concern that labor unrest may persist in South Korea in the midst of its deepening economic crisis.

It also chilled President Kim Dae-jung's hopes of attracting foreign investment during his visit to the United States next week. Kim has stressed the importance of labor peace to his efforts.

"The government is too much uncompromising, especially on layoffs," said Chung Sung-hee, a spokesman from the confederation, which claims a membership of 500,000 in car, shipbuilding and other heavy industries.

Chung said overnight talks with the government to avert the strike broke down because of what he called the government's unwillingness to accept the confederation's demand for a halt to widespread layoffs.

He said the strike, the second in two weeks, will begin on June

That subsequently led to the adoption of a law that makes layoffs easier.

The new committee is supposed to follow up on what was agreed on in January and adopt additional measures, including how to speed up restructuring of bloated, family-oriented Korean conglomerates, or chaebol.

In accepting a \$5.8 billion bailout from the International

Monetary Fund in December, South Korea agreed to liberalize its labor market and force the restructuring of the chaebol to make them more competitive.

The new committee includes delegates from the Korean Federation of Trade Unions, a pro-government group that has generally avoided labor strife.

The government regretted the confederation's decision to stay

out of the committee but said it was optimistic that the group would eventually change its position.

"From now on, our efforts will be directed at creating and systemizing a South Korean model of a social contract to overcome our national crisis through harmony and compromise," said Kim Won-ki, who heads the committee.



Striking workers of Hyundai Motors Co. shout anti-government slogans in a protest against growing layoffs by the nation's leading car maker in Ulsan, south of Seoul Wednesday. Autoworkers and other laborers put down their tools Wednesday in a nationwide strike over job security, ignoring government warnings that labor unrest would scare off badly needed foreign investment. AP

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/s/CARLOS H. SALAS
Executive Director

India heat wave toll hits 1,000

NEW DELHI, India (AP) — Severe heat claimed another 100 victims, taking the total number of dead this summer to more than a 1,000, according to local news agency reports Wednesday.

United News of India reported 100 heat-related deaths Tuesday, most in the southeastern state of Andhra

Pradesh and the northeastern state of Bihar.

Temperatures have ranged from 43 to 50 Celsius (110 to 122 Fahrenheit) across India over the past month, making it the hottest summer in 50 years.

The seasonal monsoon rains have already hit the coast of southern India, bringing respite. The rains will take another

month and a half to reach the plains of northern India that have been hardest hit by the heat wave, but pre-monsoon rains are already having an effect.

In the western desert state of Rajasthan, where temperatures hovered around 48 Celsius (120 Fahrenheit) two weeks ago, the heat has lessened slightly.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL CUC-RFP-98-0028

May 20, 1998

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting proposals from offerors capable of leasing and supplying the following heavy equipment:

- 2 ton - Boom Truck 1 each
- Vacuum Truck 1 each
- Telescopic Aerial Lifts 3 each
- Pressure Diggers 2 each

Specifications may be picked at the CUC Procurement & Supply Office during normal working hours, from now until June 19, 1998.

Proposals will be evaluated and selections made based on Lease Price (40 points), Time of Delivery (15 points), Conditions of Lease (15 points), Parts/Service/Supplies Availability at CUC's Request (15 points), and Payment Terms (15 points).

Six (6) sets of proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked CUC-RFP-98-0028, to Mr. Mariano Fajardo, Chief of Procurement & Supply, P.O. Box 1220, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 3:00 p.m., local time, on June 19, 1998. All proposals received late will not be considered.

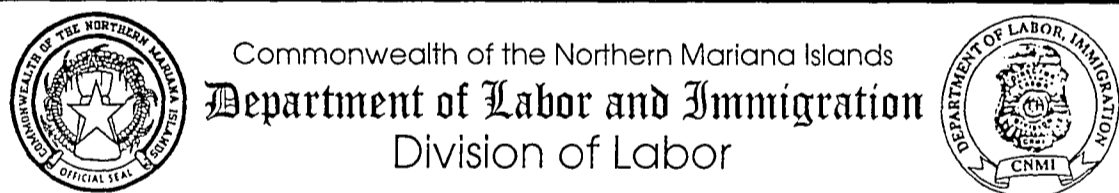
Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit proposals determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to, solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal 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.

The RFP does not commit CUC to award a contract, to pay any costs incurred in the preparation of the proposal under this request, or to procure or contract for services.

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

All inquiries regarding this proposal should be directed to Mr. Mariano Fajardo at telephone number (670) 322-4033, ext. 16, or facsimile number (670) 322-6582.

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Executive Director



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

PUBLIC NOTICE

The following persons (Employees of N.C. Godino Construction Co.,) with pending Labor Case No. 94-108 are hereby notified to report to the Division of Labor, Enforcement Section Office, 2nd floor of Afetna Building, San Antonio, Saipan within THIRTY (30) DAYS (Monday to Friday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm).

EMPLOYEES

- | | |
|------------------------|-------------------|
| 1. RAMOS, TEODORICO | 5. MUNOZ, RENATO |
| 2. TAMINA, JAIME | 6. VICTORIA, NOEL |
| 3. DELOS REYES, JULIUS | 7. JAULA, ANDY |
| 4. VELESTEROS, AZOR | 8. ORAIN, ELINO |

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 21st day of May, 1998.

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



A union leader of South Korea's Kia Motors, wearing a vest with Korean characters reading, "Job Security, leads more than 1,500 workers in singing a labor song during a rally to demand owed wages and job security, at Changmyo Park in Seoul, Wednesday. AP

North Koreans take steps toward market economy

By ROBERT H. REID
UNITED NATIONS (AP) — In a move that could have far-reaching effects, North Korea has agreed to a plan to decentralize some of its agricultural sector and allow small farmers to sell a portion of their crops wherever they can find the best price.

"They are going into what they call 'modernization' but it cannot happen overnight. There are so many implications for the society," Christian Lemaire, the UNDP representative based in North Korea, told The Associated Press.

North Korea and the U.N. Development Program developed the plan to gradually restore food production to pre-1995 levels and end North Korean reliance on emergency humanitarian aid — estimated at \$ 2 billion over three years.

The government is asking for \$300 million to implement the plan.

North Korea's willingness to change their highly-centralized, regimented agricultural system represents an acknowledgment by government officials that state bureaucracy contributed to their critical food shortage, created by a series of severe floods and droughts, other U.N. officials said.

But Lemaire said the North Koreans were reluctant to take steps which

might endanger the system of social controls and benefits which has been the hallmark of its communist system.

The plan, formally presented last week at a two-day conference in Geneva, allows greater autonomy in decision-making for rural agricultural cooperatives, allows cooperatives to develop trade among themselves, creates a system of small-scale credits and permits private households to develop small-scale commerce.

"So they have private plots and they sell the produce to whichever gives the best price — the cooperative or these farmers' markets," Lemaire said.

"Once you start injecting money at that level, it can only go one way," Lemaire said the degree of cooperation between North Korean and U.N. officials had improved dramatically over the last two years as more international attention, generated by the food crisis, has been directed at the North.

"People are also much more open, people go to the markets, it's a tremendous change," he said.

But he said international agencies are still denied regular access to about 20 percent of the country — mainly military zones along the borders with South Korea and China.

Beijing-Shanghai rail soon

BEIJING (AP) — Construction of a \$ 12 billion high-speed railway line between Beijing and Shanghai will begin in 2000, the state-run China Daily reported Wednesday.

Trains will be able to travel up to 300 kilometers (180 miles) per hour along the 1,300-kilometer (800-mile) rail line, the newspaper said.

Initial designs have been com-

pleted although no decision has been made where to start construction, the newspaper quoted Shen Zhijie, the Ministry of Railways official overseeing feasibility studies for the project, as saying.

Shen noted that foreign funds would be required to complete the project but the method of foreign participation has not been determined.

Another Balkan war looms

By Alison Smale
BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — The world may have another Balkan war on its hands in the Serbian province of Kosovo, and how the United States and other foreign powers respond will test what they learned from the years of hesitation over Bosnia.



Slobodan Milosevic

The risks are higher in this round of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic vs. the world. For 3 1/2 years starting in 1992, war consumed Bosnia, Kosovo, with its ethnic Albanian majority, would suck neighboring Albania and Macedonia's Albanian minority into the conflict.

That could touch off an all-out Balkan war if Macedonia, already a fragile neighbor, disintegrates into conflict between its Albanians and Slavs. Others in Europe, including NATO members Greece and Turkey, would end up on different sides.

That's one reason NATO has sounded much more urgent

both sides, it is sounding on the ground like war.

The Kosovo Liberation Army, the clandestine group seeking an independence neither Serbia nor the world want to grant, has grown since Serbian police began a March crackdown. The KLA claims to control about 40 percent of the province.

Fighting already has shut down Pristina airport and some major roads. The KLA is just 12 miles west of Pristina, and perilously close to the main Pristina-Belgrade road, where heavily armed police patrol constantly against attacks from hills just west.

The Yugoslav army is trying to break the KLA by razing villages and giving militants no place to hide.

Traditionally, Serbs regard Kosovo as the cradle of their culture and say they would do anything to defend it. But most have never been there, and are demoralized after 11 years of

Milosevic rule, which has brought war, sanctions, hardship and decay.

A report in Wednesday's Belgrade daily Telegraf said 100 city policemen have been fired for refusing to go to Kosovo and fight.

Still, Milosevic traditionally is at his wily best when waging a war. He also long has killed in Kosovo without provoking much Western response: In 1989, at least 25 Albanians died in one day

when he stripped the province of its autonomy. No foreign government protested.

But Milosevic's hold on power is increasingly stretched. Serbia's sole remaining partner in Yugoslavia, Montenegro, is now led by an anti-Milosevic man and could break away from the federation.

Such tension may produce increasingly erratic responses from Milosevic — and begin a new chapter in Yugoslavia's bloody disintegration.

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1991 Mazda RX7 (7H135A)	\$6,995
1994 Mazda Protege 4dr (8M140A)	\$7,495
1998 Hyundai Accent 4dr (8R304)	\$8,995
1994 Toyota Tercel 4dr (8M140A)	\$8,995
1995 Mitsubishi Mirage (5R294)	\$9,095
1994 Ford Probe (4R262)	\$9,295
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1995 Mitsubishi Eclipse (5R291)	\$13,795
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1995 Isuzu Rodeo 4x4 (5R198)	\$16,295
1991 BMW 735i (1R306)	\$18,595
1996 Mitsubishi Montero (6R197)	\$19,995

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US-EU pact to hit Castro

By HARRY DUNPHY
WASHINGTON (AP) — A U.S. agreement with the European Union would ease trade sanctions against companies that do business with Cuba but also would hit the island's president, Fidel Castro, the Clinton administration said Wednesday.

Undersecretary of State Stuart Eizenstat told a congressional panel the administration will seek approval

from Congress to waive a provision in the sanctions that denies U.S. visas to foreign executives of companies that do business on expropriated U.S. property in Cuba.

The agreement requires congressional approval.

The chairman of the House International Relations Committee indicated any administration legislation to ease Cuban sanctions may be

dead in the water. Republican Rep. Benjamin Gilman said the agreement reached May 18 with the EU has "a number of serious deficiencies" and "regrettably does not represent a viable substitute for the sanctions" in the U.S. law.

Sen. Jesse Helms, Republican chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and author of the legislation, also has criticized the

But Eizenstat said the pact "is the first collective acknowledgment by the Europeans since the Cuban revolution that Cubans have engaged in illegal expropriation of U.S. property."

Castro understands the agreement's significance, Eizenstat said, which is why he has denounced it as a pact between the United States and the EU to strengthen the American blockade of Cuba.

After eight months' negotiations, Eizenstat agreed with the Europeans to ease terms of the Helms-Burton Act, which authorizes U.S. sanctions against international companies that deal with Cuba.

Eizenstat told the committee the accord builds on Helms-Burton and for the first time establishes disci-



Fidel Castro

plines" that major industrialized nations must impose to "deter investment in illegally appropriated properties," not only in Cuba but around the world.

EU is reaching out to its Mediterranean partners

By JEFFREY ULBRICH
PALERMO, Sicily (AP) — The European Union comes together with its Mediterranean partners Wednesday, trying to get the economic cooperation process back on track after last year's derailment by Mideast issues.

A year ago in Malta, the EU's 15 foreign ministers gathered with their 12 Mediterranean colleagues to talk trade and investment, only to see their meeting blown away on the turbulent winds of the Mideast peace process.

Even at the inaugural meeting of the Euro-Mediterranean conference in Barcelona in 1995, heady ideas also fell victim to disputes, that time over human rights.

The Palermo meeting is an informal session with no set agenda.

Organizers hope it will bring the conference back to its original idea of creating a European-Mediterranean free trade and security zone by 2010.

Last year, Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat and then-Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy were the stars of the show, agreeing to resuscitate the moribund Middle East peace talks.

Today, those talks are still stuck, and neither Arafat nor Israel's foreign minister plans to turn up here.

"This meeting is aimed at providing a new momentum to the Barcelona process," EU foreign ministers said in a statement.

Mediterranean nations sell half their exports to EU countries and provide the EU with 20 percent of its energy sup-

plies.

At the same time, half of the Mediterranean nations' imports come from Western Europe.

The EU's per capita income is a dozen times higher than most of the North African and Mideast nations.

Ministers here are continuing efforts to come up with a Euro-Mediterranean Stability Charter and to establish confidence-building measures for the region.

Italian Foreign Minister Lamberto Dini said the EU wants to have this completed by the Euro-Mediterranean meeting in Stuttgart, Germany, next year.

On the economic side, the 27 were to discuss support for economies in transition, private investment in the non-European Mediterranean countries and eventual realization of the free-trade zone.

Despite the wish to move on, however, it's not possible to contemplate security and stability in the Mediterranean without peace between Israel and the Palestinians; Israel continues to occupy a piece of neighboring Lebanon; stability is impossible without a stop to the ceaseless killing in Algeria; no Mediterranean security plan can be complete without Libya, absent here; and Turkey's long battle with the Kurds shows no sign of resolution.

Joining ministers from the European Union are officials from Algeria, Cyprus, Egypt, Jordan, Israel, Lebanon, Malta, Morocco, Syria, Tunisia, Turkey and the Palestinian Authority.



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36"	\$38.95 ea	\$33.11 ea

U.S. Specs Flush Doors, Exterior 1-3/8" x 80" Solid Core	REGULAR	SALE
28"	\$47.95 ea	\$40.76 ea
30"	\$51.95 ea	\$44.16 ea
32"	\$52.95 ea	\$45.00 ea
34"	\$58.00 ea	\$48.41 ea
36"	\$61.95 ea	\$52.66 ea

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Clinton urges US

'Renew

By Terence Hunt
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton urged Congress to renew normal trade benefits for China, saying good relations with Beijing are crucial amid fears of a nuclear arms race in South Asia.

Failure to renew trade privileges would "sever our economic and, to a large measure, our strategic relationship with China," Clinton warned.

Always a contentious issue, the China debate promises to be even hotter this year because of controversies about exports of American satellite technology to Beijing and allegations of illegal campaign contributions. "I think the current circumstances make it a very difficult vote," said House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas.

Nevertheless, three senior Republicans — House Speaker Newt Gingrich of Georgia, Rep. Bill Archer of Texas and Rep. Philip Crane of Illinois — wrote Clinton that China's trade benefits should be treated as a separate issue and deserves support.

The U.S. Chamber of Commerce said normal trade with China "is the right step for business and consumers."

But House Democratic leader Richard Gephardt of Missouri said he would stand against Clinton. "We must not reward the Chinese Communist government for its continuing political repression and tyranny," Gephardt said.

Another opponent, Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., said Clinton's decision "ignores that China has provided Pakistan with technology critical to its development and recent testing of nuclear weapons."

The congressional debate opens just three weeks before Clinton heads to China, the first American president to visit since the 1989 Tiananmen Square crackdown on pro-democracy supporters. He will make stops in Xian, Beijing, Shanghai, Guilin and Hong Kong between June 25 and July 3.

Clinton announced his most-favored-nation decision in a joint appearance in the Rose Garden with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright before she left for Geneva and a meeting of the five major nuclear powers to try to stem the dangerous arms race between India and Pakistan.

The president said China's participation in the Geneva meeting was evidence of "constructive Chinese leadership" that will be "essential to the long-term resolution of issues involving South Asia."

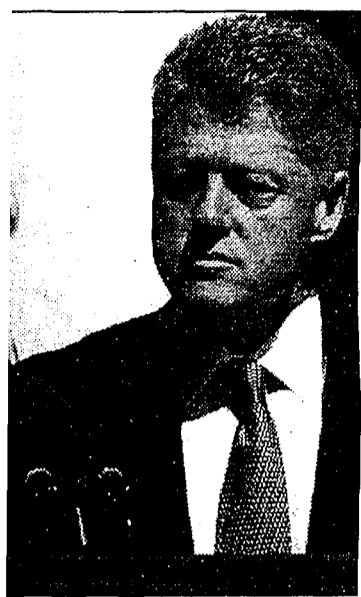
Moreover, he said "trade is a force for change in China, exposing China to our ideas and our ideals and integrating China into the global economy."

Since 1980, every American president, Republican or Democrat, has extended most-favored-nation trade status to China to allow it to sell goods to the United States under the lowest tariffs.

The privilege is permanently granted to almost all U.S. trading partners but must be renewed each year for China.

By law, Clinton is required to no-

Clinton trade ties'



Secretary of State Madeleine Albright. Clinton, the president proposed to visit China, saying "this policy is clearly wrong."

tify Congress of his intention to extend China's trade status 30 days before it expires July 3. Congress has 60 days after the expiration date to object to the recommendation.

Trying to back away from a tempest regarding Clinton's China trip, an administration official said the president's welcoming ceremonies would be in front of the Great Hall of the People, at the edge of Tiananmen Square, and not actually in the square.

A coalition of more than 30 groups had written to Clinton that by going to Tiananmen Square, "you are bestowing legitimacy to the ground where innocent blood was needlessly shed."

"It's technically not in Tiananmen Square," the administration official said, speaking on condition of anonymity. The official said the welcoming site had not been

changed, but the location had been mischaracterized.

Presidential spokesman Mike McCurry suggested there wasn't much difference by changing the description of the site. "If it was a controversy before," he said, "it's a controversy now."

Gary Bauer, a conservative leader and head of the Family Research Council, agreed that "It doesn't sound like much difference."

"The fact they're spinning it this way shows that the pressure that's been on, across the board, by liberal and conservative grass-roots organizations, is beginning to have an impact," Bauer said.

"The real problem is his policy, which has abandoned human rights and national security concerns for commercial consideration and other reasons."

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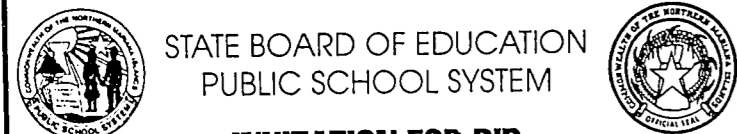
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-Must be 18 years or older.
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-Contestants must provide typed written recipes of their dish with entry form.
-Contestants are limited to one entry form. Contest is limited to first 75 entries.
-Entry forms and recipes must be turned in by 9pm Wednesday, June 17, 1998.
-Contestants must bring prepared dish for judging on Saturday, June 20 from 11am to 11:30 am. Any dishes brought in after this time will be disqualified. Judging will begin promptly at noon.
-Employees and families of Price Costco and Dickerson & Quinn, Ltd. do not qualify for this promotion.
-Recipes will become the property of Hormel Foods-Dickerson & Quinn, Ltd.
-Interpretation of contest rules shall be at the sole discretion of Price Costco and Dickerson & Quinn, Ltd. and any decisions made shall be binding on all contestants. Judges decisions are final.

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**INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IF698-005**

Collateral Equipments For Oleai Elementary School

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bidding for the procurement of collateral equipments for the new classrooms at Oleai Elementary School. Specifications are available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan during regular working hours except Holidays. All collateral equipments must be delivered within 90 days from date of contract award and delivered CIF PSS Procurement & Supply Warehouse, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950.

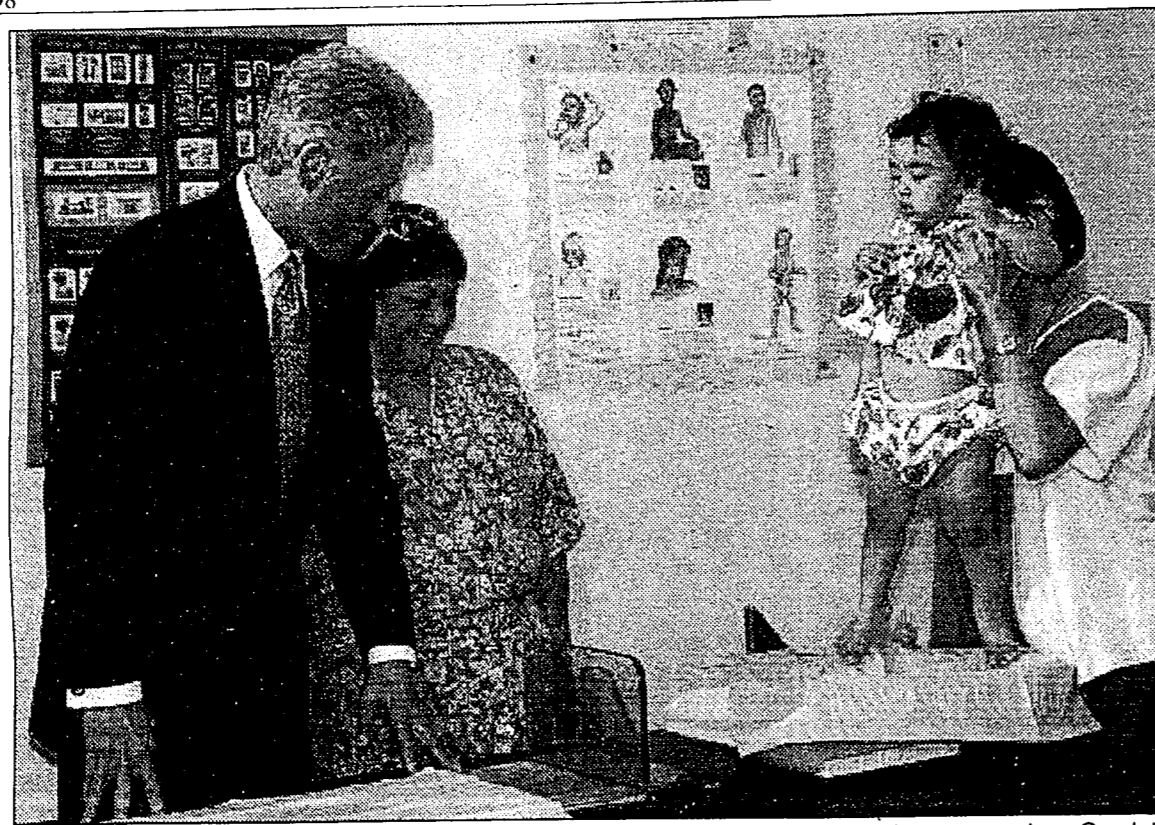
All bids submitted must be facemarked "IFB98-005: Collateral Equipments For Oleai Elementary School" and submitted to the Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 2:00 p.m., June 30, 1998 at which time and place all bids will be read aloud. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

All bidders are required to submit with their bid a copy of their business permit. The Public School System reserves the right to award on a single or a multiple award or to reject any or all bids if to do so is in the best interest of the Pacific School System.

Inquiries to this bid may be directed to the Procurement & Supply Office at telephone number 664-3762/63.

/s/Margaret C. Dela Cruz
Acting Commissioner of Education

/s/Louise Concepcion
Procurement & Supply Officer



President Clinton, left, and Marta Moreno, director of the Magnolia Multi-Service Center, watch as Graciela Barron, right, weighs her daughter, Giselle, 1, Tuesday at the center in Houston, Texas. Clinton and Moreno took part in a roundtable discussion on the importance of census accuracy after touring the facility. AP

Clinton makes pitch for anti-smoking bill

By Robert Burns CLEVELAND (AP)—In an emotional appearance at a convention of young volunteers, President Clinton challenged Congress on Wednesday to act quickly on a bill to reduce teen smoking and chided those trying to "stall, stop or kill" it.

"We will never have a better chance to save a thousand lives a day and save a million kids in the next few years," Clinton said in the keynote address at the national convention of City Year, a network of volunteer programs.

Before making his anti-smoking pitch, Clinton heard touching testimonials from two young people who serve with City Year. Leslie Frye, 19, of Chicago, read from the letter she wrote to Clinton in April asking him to attend the convention.

"This year of community service with a diverse group of young people

has changed my life," she said.

"It has altered who I am and allowed me to work together with people of different backgrounds to transform the environment of this country."

Casey Hunt, 24, of Cleveland, said his work with City Year as an elementary school tutor and a volunteer at a senior citizens center taught him invaluable lessons about what his generation owes to the previous and next generations.

"I've received much more than I have given. I heard the words, 'I'm proud of you, son,' from my mother for the first time," Hunt said, his voice breaking with emotion.

"When he started talking about his mother, I almost started to cry, too," Clinton said as he took the podium on the gymnasium floor at John Carroll University.

Looking out onto a sea of wildly

cheering youngsters in red jackets, Clinton thanked them for their commitment and praised the progress of his AmeriCorps service program that offers college scholarships in exchange for a year of national service.

"AmeriCorps works and it should be extended by Congress into the 21st century," he said.

Clinton has made national service a cornerstone of his domestic agenda. He recalled that he had visited a City Year group in Boston in 1991 as a presidential candidate and said it inspired him to push for AmeriCorps when he entered the White House.

"When I went to City Year in Boston, the lights came on in my mind and I said, 'This is what I want to do,'" he said.

Renewing his call for Congress to act on anti-tobacco legislation, Clinton told his audience of about 1,000 volunteers that the lives at stake were those such as the kids he visited Wednesday at Stephen E. Howe Elementary School in Cleveland, and the dozen City Year volunteers who work there.

"One of the things I'd like for every child in that grade school to know is this: Smoking-related illnesses kill more people every year than AIDS, alcohol, car accidents, murder, suicides, drugs and fires combined — combined," he said.

He said 3,000 young people start smoking every day and 1,000 of them will die early as a result.

"While there are some in Congress who seem determined to stall, stop or kill the tobacco bill," the message he hoped to send back to Washington was "act, and act now."

Afterward, Clinton went to the Cleveland Playhouse for a reception to raise \$500,000 for the gubernatorial campaign of Democratic candidate Lee Fisher. There he returned to the topic of anti-tobacco legislation and noted that if it passes, a portion of the increased tax on cigarettes will be given to the states.

"We're talking major money for a large state like Ohio," Clinton said, adding that this makes it especially important who is elected governor in November.

Gore targets Medicare fraud

By Alice Ann Love MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — The government will start offering senior citizens rewards of up to \$1,000 for help catching doctors or other health care providers defrauding Medicare. Vice President Al Gore announced Wednesday.

"Wherever you live, if you find fraud in the Medicare system, and you turn out to be right and it's eliminated because of your work, you can keep 10 percent of the money we save, up to \$1,000," Gore told senior citizens at the 40th anniversary convention of the American Association of Retired Persons.

Medicare, the nation's health care program for the elderly, is expected to run short of cash when baby boomers begin to retire in about 2010.

Meanwhile, the program loses billions of dollars a year to fraud and waste. New regulations Gore described will enlist senior citizens in the effort to stop the drain.

Starting Jan. 1, those who tip off government investigators will be entitled to 10 percent of whatever ill-gotten gains Medicare can recover, up to a maximum reward of \$1,000.

"I'm going to check my bills more," said Patricia Holm, 70, of Quincy, Ill., who attended Gore's speech.

Congress approved the reward program in concept as part of health care legislation passed in 1996, and the Health and Human Services Department already runs a toll-free fraud hotline senior citizens can call to report suspicious



Vice President Al Gore closes one eye as he tells the crowd at the AARP Convention in Minneapolis, how to read the Vice Presidential Seal so that it looks like it says "Presidential Seal," as he gets in a little campaigning while joking with the audience Wednesday. Gore also told AARP members of an administration proposal to "deputize" senior citizens to tell the government when they think their doctors are engaging in Medicare fraud. AP

activity.

Gore noted the success of a pilot project started by Sen. Tom Harkin,

D-Iowa, that has trained senior citizens in a dozen states to spot Medicare fraud.

One Iowa woman recently saved the program more than \$1 million when she reported that Medicare was billed twice after she was told her first flu shot was faulty and she needed another. It turned out Medicare had been double-billed for many

people's shots.

"That's the kind of help we need from seniors all over the country," Gore said.

The vice president also used his speech at the AARP convention — expected to attract more than 20,000 people over the course of three days — to appeal to senior citizens for support on issues important to Democrats campaigning for this fall's congressional elections.

He ran through the party's legislative wish-list, including a "patients' bill of rights" to protect Americans from abuses by health insurers that increasingly limit

choices to save money, and more funding for cancer research.

But especially, Gore asked members of the formidable "gray" lobby to put their weight behind President Clinton's request that Congress not spend projected federal budget surpluses this year.

Clinton wants the money saved until lawmakers can talk calmly about whether it will be needed to prop up Social Security when baby boomers more than double the number of people drawing retirement benefits early in the next century.

Some congressional Republicans want to use some of the surplus for tax cuts.

FOR SALE

Nino's Pizza has closed its restaurant in Dandan and now concentrates in PIZZA DELIVERY only. We have some restaurant equipment, appliances, furnitures and fixtures, and supplies that we don't need anymore. Most items are still in excellent condition and

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JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

J.C. TENORIO ENT. INC., a leader in the Saipan community, is committed to providing excellence in customer and employee satisfaction. We are currently seeking qualified candidates for the following opportunities:

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J.C. TENORIO ENT. INC., a company that strives to place its customers and employees first, is currently seeking qualified candidates for the following position:

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This position works in an in-house maintenance department with the following responsibilities:

- taking calls
- clarifying customer requests, and
- dispatching maintenance employees.

The ideal candidate requires:

- at least two (2) years dispatching experience
- excellent communication skills both written and verbal
- fluency in the English language
- familiarity with island locations
- outstanding customer service skills, and
- ability to coordinate dispatching of maintenance employees in a responsive and efficient manner.

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Mayor-elect Brown wants more power

Jerry Brown

By Jean H. Lee OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—Jerry Brown is used to thinking global, even celestial.

Now the mayor-elect must begin thinking municipal.

On Wednesday, a day after he won the mayor's race in a landslide, residents were cautious, yet hopeful, that a politician once dubbed "Governor Moonbeam" for his lofty, even quirky ideas can handle the down-and-dirty problems of city government.

"I would say ... if you can run a state, you can definitely run a city," said Michael Nobles, a 34-year-old student lounging downtown.

Brown, who only moved to Oakland in 1994, two years after his third failed presidential bid, was the only white in the mayor's race.

In January, he takes over a struggling, overwhelmingly minority

city of 396,000 that is 43 percent black, 14 percent Hispanic, 14 percent Asian and 28 percent white.

It's also the city that gave birth to the Black Panthers and more recently embraced ebonics. It's major problems are crime, poverty, education and attracting businesses.

But the 60-year-old former governor spent much of Wednesday basking in victory and pitching his plan to transform Oakland into a "strong-mayor" city.

Currently, Oakland's mayor serves as a member of the City Council, with the city manager wielding much of the day-to-day clout. Brown wants voters in November to approve giving the mayor the power to veto legislation and hire and fire the city manager, who is now appointed by the council.

"In a city as diverse as Oakland, there has to be a unifying force, and an elected mayor with executive authority fills that bill," Brown said Wednesday.

"It's more democratic. That's the key point," he said. "The people can elect the one who has authority and is not just a figurehead."

Brown and other strong-mayor proponents already have collected 4,000 signatures. They have until June 25 to get an additional 40,000 to put the proposal on the November ballot.

Saipan's PACIFIC GALLERIES and framing

Pacific Postal Plus

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To our valued customers, Pacific Galleries & Framing has relocated to the Young's Bldg. in Gualo Rai. The map below shows our new location.

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Hollywood Video

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Bank backs fight vs violence

SAN SALVADOR, El Salvador (AP) — The International Development Bank is urging Latin American leaders to fervently fight the violence plaguing much of the region in order to strengthen their economies. "Violence is not a biblical curse," bank president Enrique Iglesias said at the start of a meeting on public security.

"Violence is not only repugnant to all civilized society but an excess that cannot be permitted in Latin America." Bank experts estimate that violence costs Latin America nations at least \$ 1.5 billion annually. In 1996, there were 140,000 homicides in Latin America, a rate of 30 deaths for every 100,000 people which

is the highest for any region in the world, Iglesias said. "We are in the presence of a special theme that has major social, political and economic repercussions," he said. A recent study by the University of Central America showed that in 1995, violence cost El Salvador \$ 777 million — or 13 percent of the gross national product.



Enrique Iglesias, left, president of Interamericano de Desarrollo bank, BID, is greeted by Salvadorean President Armando Calderon Fournier in San Salvador. Iglesias is in San Salvador to meet with 500 Hispanic Caribbean leaders and world experts on issues concern in their regions. AP

El Salvador's President Armando Calderon said Monday that the country's crime problem has been one of the major headaches of his administration.

El Salvador suffers a homicide rate of more than 100 killings per 100,000 citizens.

Colombia, long considered the most violent nations in Latin America, had a homicide rate of 81 per 100,000 in 1996, the latest figures available.

The International Development Bank already has extended credit to

Colombia and Uruguay to help fight violence.

"We are proud to serve not only as a credit agency but as a source of social promotion, Iglesias said.

"In the last few years we have dedicated more than half of our resources to fight poverty and the social problems that stem from it."

More than 500 regional leaders and international experts are attending the session, including representatives from across the Americas and Europe.

Mexican troops raid town

By ALEJANDRO RUIZ GUZMAN NICOLAS RUIZ, Mexico (AP) — One thousand police officers and soldiers swarmed into this small southern Mexican town early Wednesday, firing tear gas, breaking down doors and arresting 141 rebel sympathizers they said had "held the town hostage."

People scattered through the streets and hundreds fought police with poles during a raid that Gov. Roberto Albores Guillen insisted was intended only to "bring the town into conformity with the law."

"We don't care if they're sympathizers of the Zapatista National Liberation Army or if they're Muslims. All we care about is that they respect the law," he said in a telephone interview from the state capital, Tuxtla Gutierrez.

The governor said the raid was peaceful, but television images showed state police kicking people and beating them with wooden poles. One image showed the face of a villager covered in blood.

Authorities said no one was injured, but townsfolk said dozens of people were hurt, most of them by tear gas.

Some of the officers carried assault rifles, and they broke down doors to drag suspects from their beds in the early morning raid. Helicopters flew overhead.

The raid was similar to two others carried out in the last two months in the villages of Taniperlas and Agua Tinta, both sympathetic to the Zapatistas.

Twelve foreigners were arrested and deported during the Taniperlas raid, and a group of Italians who denounced alleged human rights abuses during the raid were later deported for visit-

ing the village without permission.

Albores Guillen denied that Nicolas Ruiz supported the rebels, blaming a "small minority" of the town's residents for intimidating the rest of the town of 8,000 people, 60 miles (100 kilometers) east of Tuxtla Gutierrez.

He said that group didn't allow others to choose their political parties, denied them religious freedom, made unilateral decisions and wouldn't allow the government into the town to build a road and a health clinic.

He said they also "very violently" expelled 33 families from the town who "didn't agree with their ideas."

Most of the people arrested were supporters of the leftist opposition Democratic Revolution Party. Albores Guillen said the raid came only after they refused to negoti-

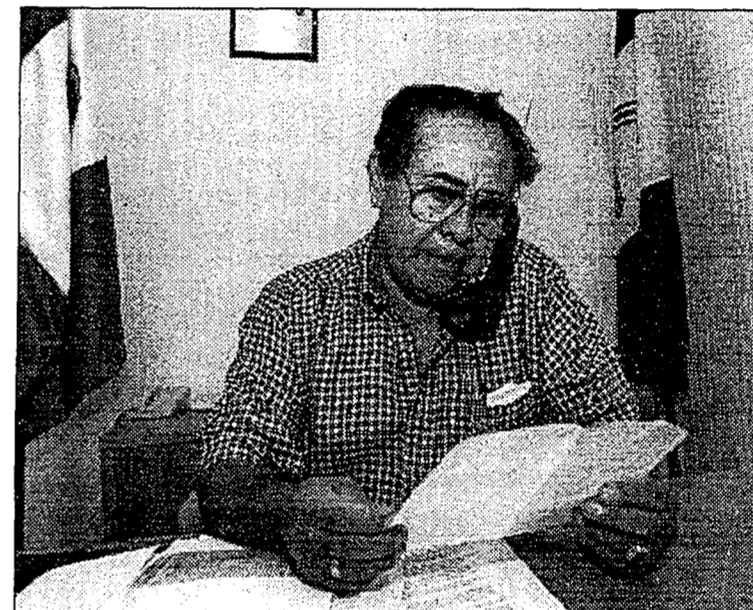
ate. "Hopefully we won't have to conduct any more raids, as long as these groups understand that we're in a new Chiapas," he said.

The governor was appointed in January after his predecessor was forced to resign over alleged government complicity in the massacre of 45 men, women and children in another village that sympathized with the rebels.

Like his predecessor and all other governors in Chiapas' history, Albores Guillen is a member of the ruling Institutional Revolutionary Party.

The rebels staged a brief uprising in 1994, demanding greater rights for Mexico's poor Indians.

Peace talks stalled after the government backed off of a treaty the two sides had signed on greater Indian autonomy.



Cuernavaca Chamber of Commerce President Jose Maria Roman speaks on the phone with the wife of a businessman who has been kidnapped in Cuernavaca, Mexico Saturday. The kidnappings continue to inflame public sentiment and have driven away potential investors and sent many business leaders packing. AP

COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
POSITION VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

POSITION VACANCY:
 Executive Director of the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA), Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

SALARY RANGE:
 \$48,000 to \$70,000 per annum depending on qualifications.

DUTIES:
 Manage and oversee CDA's general operations, including the administration of all loans, and enforcement of all provision of the loan agreements, investments and other transactions; prepare operating manual to implement the general operation and management policies, and development objectives and strategies established by the CDA Board including all internal administrative procedures, specific loan procedures, and other matters relevant to the practical implementation of Public Law 4-49 as amended; monitor the progress and financial status of the project financed by the Board; report to the Board at each board meeting the activities of CDA; prepare annual activity report of CDA; prepare annual administrative budget; hire employees; and perform other duties as the board may require. (Applicants are requested to get copies of detailed Position Description at CDA Office.)

BASIC QUALIFICATION
 Interested applicants must possess a graduate degree in business administration, economics, engineering, accounting or law from an accredited college or university, in addition, a minimum of five (5) years of professional experience in banking procedures and activities or in economic development and financial management, of which three years were in supervisory or directorship level.

CLOSING DATE:
 Interested applicants must submit his or her employment application to CDA Office, located in Wakin's Building Gualo Rai, Saipan no later than Monday, June 29, 1998. If the application is sent by mail, interested applicants must provide ample time to reach CDA Office before the closing date.

SEND APPLICATION, RESUME AND SUPPORTING DOCUMENTS TO:

Mr. Juan S. Tenorio
 Chairman, CDA Board of Directors
 Commonwealth Development Authority
 P.O. Box 2149
 Saipan, MP 96950

Interested applicants must be a U.S. Citizen

For inquiries, please contact Ms. Lydia M. Sablan, Acting Executive Director at (670) 234-6245 or send e-mail to cda@itecni.com

/s/Juan S. Tenorio
 Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION
AMENDED 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 and ground maintenance services to provide maintenance of its Section 8 Housing Units in Rota.

Sealed proposals will be received until 10:00 A.M., June 22, 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 Panglilan, 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
 Corporate Director

'NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing agency'

Police busts Mexico's biggest meth cartel

By FRANC CONTRERAS MEXICO CITY (AP) — Two top leaders of Mexico's largest methamphetamine cartel have been arrested, dealing a major blow to one of the major suppliers to the United States, the federal Attorney General's office announced.

Ending a 26-month investigation, police arrested brothers Luis and Jesus Amezcua Contreras on Monday and Tuesday.

They are charged with money laundering and criminal association, said Deputy Attorney General Mariano Herran Salvatti, the agency's head of anti-drug operations.

"With the detention of these suspects, the Attorney General's office believes Mexico's largest methamphetamine and amphetamine trafficking cartel has been broken up," he said Tuesday.

Along with the arrests, Mexican police seized dozens of businesses in three states, including ranches, pharmacies, gasoline stations and restaurants belonging to the cartel.

In some of those properties Salvatti said police found chemicals used for producing methamphetamine in Mexico and illegally sending the drug to the U.S.

Methamphetamine — a highly addictive synthetic drug also known as crank, ice or crystal — has gained popularity along the U.S. West Coast and central states, surpassing usage of crack and other drugs in many communities.

The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration said the Amezcua brothers' organization was the largest methamphetamine and chemical trafficking gang known to U.S. law enforcement agents.

Another Amezcua brother, Adan, and a brother-in-law already were in custody.

The cartel's power grew dramatically in recent years, largely because the Amezcua brothers collaborated with Colombian drug dealers sending cocaine to the U.S., according to U.S. and Mexican anti-drug officials.

"While trafficking cocaine for the Colombian organizations, the Amezcua brothers learned the lessons of marketing and structuring the drug trade as an international business," the DEA's statement said.

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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 Friday, June 5, 1998, at 3:00 p.m. in the Fund Conference Room, Saipan.

AGENDA

A. CALL TO ORDER
 B. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
 C. NEW BUSINESS
 1. Check Signatory
 2. Fund Continuing Operations
 D. ADJOURNMENT

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Come & Enjoy the night
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Israel not asking Abbas arrest

By Jack Katzenell
JERUSALEM (AP) — The former PLO guerrilla chief who masterminded the 1985 Achille Lauro hijacking that killed an American passenger poses no threat to Israeli security, Israel's attorney general said Wednesday.

Attorney General Elyakim Rubinstein wrote that Israel doesn't plan to seek the arrest of Mohammed Abbas, who is currently visiting in the Pales-

tinian-controlled Gaza Strip. Rubinstein responded to a petition by two Israelis and Dov Hikind, a New York state assemblyman from Brooklyn, who have asked the Israeli Supreme Court to order the arrest of Abbas.

In a statement to the court,

Rubinstein said Abbas "does not pose a security threat" and that an arrest "would probably cause real friction with the Palestinian side."

Acting on Abbas' orders, guerrillas seized the Italian cruise ship off Egypt. They shot an elderly American passenger in

a wheelchair, Leon Klinghoffer, and threw his body overboard.

The hijackers surrendered to Egyptian authorities, who put Abbas and his men on a flight for Tunisia. The U.S. Navy forced the flight down in Italy, but Italian authorities allowed Abbas to flee.

An Italian court later convicted Abbas and two other PLO guerrillas in absentia and sentenced them to life in prison.

In 1996, Israel allowed Abbas, also known as Abul Abbas, to return to the Gaza Strip to attend a session of the Palestine National Council. Since then he

has returned to Gaza three times and has described the current stay as an extended one.

"We had always said that what took place on the ship had not been planned and had not been organized and I wasn't on the ship," Abbas said from Gaza.

Under a 1993 peace agreement with the Palestinians, Israel allowed thousands of PLO guerrillas to return from abroad and enter the new autonomous Palestinian areas.

Rubinstein said it would be unreasonable to prosecute Abbas for acts committed before that.

US condemns Iran bombings

WASHINGTON (AP) — The United States strongly condemned on Tuesday terrorist attacks in Iran which were carried out by an outlawed opposition group.

A bomb exploded at the Revolutionary Prosecutor's office in Tehran, the capital, and officials said at least three people were killed and two injured.

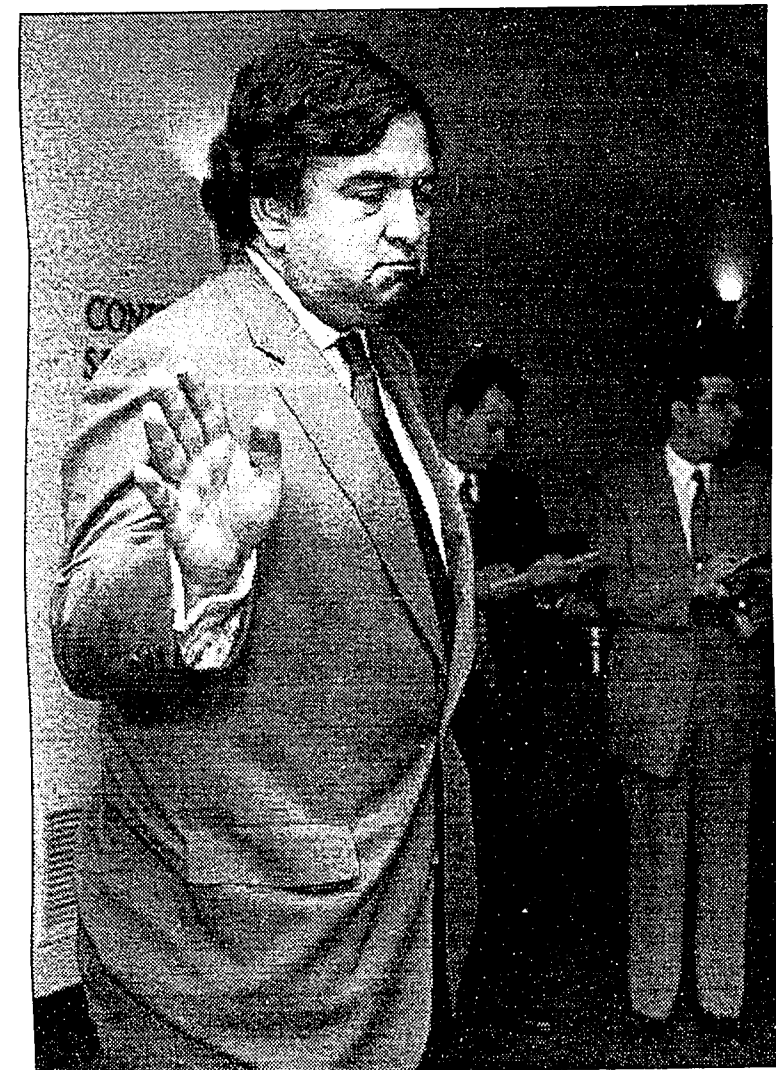
State Department spokesman James P. Rubin noted that the Mujahedeen el-Khalq, which claimed responsibility for the attacks, has been designated a foreign terrorist organization by the secretary of state.

The Paris office of the Mujahedeen called Rubin's statement "an unjustifiable interference in the internal affairs of the Iranian people."

"It said the statement" was more of the same shameful policy of appeasement of the bloodthirsty mullahs."

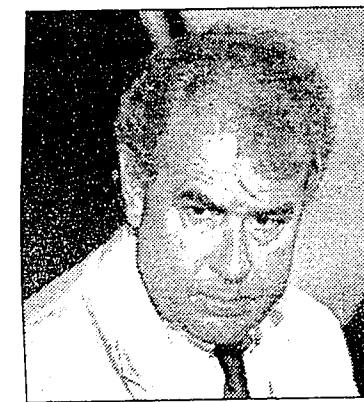
In an earlier statement, the Mujahedeen said the attacks came in retaliation for the killing of its fighters in recent months.

Bill Richardson, US ambassador to the UN, gestures while addressing the media after morning consultations on Iraq with the U.N. Security Council Wednesday. Although Iraq maintains it has destroyed illegal materials, Chief U.N. Inspector Richard Butler used photos, charts and records to press his claim that Baghdad is still hiding illegal weapons.



Bill Richardson, US ambassador to the UN, gestures while addressing the media after morning consultations on Iraq with the U.N. Security Council Wednesday. Although Iraq maintains it has destroyed illegal materials, Chief U.N. Inspector Richard Butler used photos, charts and records to press his claim that Baghdad is still hiding illegal weapons.

Butler: Baghdad is still hiding illegal weapons



Richard Butler

U.N. arms inspectors must certify Iraq free of illegal weapons before the council will lift sanctions imposed in August 1990 after President Saddam Hussein invaded Kuwait, touching off the Gulf conflict.

Iraq says it has destroyed illegal materials, and Russia, France, China and others have been pressuring the U.N. Special Commission, or UNSCOM, which Butler heads, to back up his claims to the contrary.

"UNSCOM has dealt a devastating blow to Iraq's credibility," U.S. Ambassador Bill Richardson said after the morning session.

"UNSCOM has produced documents, charts that catalogue the gaps and inconsistencies in Iraqi claims in the chemical, biological and other fields."

Richardson said the evidence showed a "pattern of concealment" by Iraq and that Baghdad still has "a long way to go" to satisfy conditions for ending sanctions.

"Iraq has a lot of explaining to do," he said.

British Ambassador John Weston said it was clear "there are a number of unanswered questions" even in the field of missiles, one of the areas where the United Nations said progress in disarmament had been made.

By ROBERT H. REID
UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Dealing what the U.S. ambassador called a "devastating blow" to Iraq's credibility, the chief U.N. inspector used photos, charts and records Wednesday to press his claim that Baghdad is still hiding illegal weapons.

Richard Butler presented his evidence before the Security Council in an effort to convince the 15 members that Iraq has still failed to comply with U.N. orders to destroy all long-range missiles and chemical, nuclear and biological weapons.

Butler's presentation lasted throughout the day Wednesday and was to resume behind closed doors Thursday at 10:30 a.m. (1430 GMT).

**STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM**

**INVITATION FOR BID
PSS IFB 98-006**

FOOD SERVICE VEHICLE

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bidding for the procurement of one unit cargo van for the Food Services Program on Tinian. Specification requirements are available at the Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan. The vehicle must have a one year maintenance warranty, must be rust proof/under coated and safety inspected prior to delivery CIF Public School System Tinian Administrative Services Office, Tinian, MP with registration fee payable to the CNMI Treasurer. The cargo van must be delivered within 30 days from date of contract award.

All bids must be sealed and facemarked "IFB98-006. Cargo Van For Tinian Food Services Program" and submitted in duplicate to the Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan no later than 2:00 p.m., July 07, 1998, at which time and date, and place all bid will be opened and read aloud. Any bid received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances. The Public School System reserves the right to award on a single or multiple award or reject any or all bids if it is in the best interest of the Public School System.

All inquiries to this announcement may contact the Procurement & Supply Office at telephone number 664-3762/63.

Rita Hoces Inos, Ed. D.
Commissioner Of Education
Luisa Concepcion
Procurement & Supply Officer

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The Division of Youth Services and the Community Support Committee for "FOR THE CHILDREN" campaign would like to thank the following businesses and individuals who generously donated gifts and volunteered their time during the APRIL CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT AWARENESS MONTH and the MOTORCADE

Our congratulations to Ms. Leonina Lacay (mother of four month old baby Brian), the prize winner in collecting all 16 messages from the Children's Declaration.

AA Enterprises Adriane Dlg. Flores All Motorcade Participants Alma Lamadrid Amanda Weindi Amelia Newport Anicia Sonoda Anita Tomokane Anita Soll Ann Marilyn Cabrera Anna Jane M. Manalo Anthony Long Aqua Resort Club Bank of Hawaii-Susupe Barbara Rudy Bay View Market Ben-Kit Bobby Cadillacs Calvary Academy Camino Market Capitol Hill Discount Market Capitol Hill Market Carla Brewer Carmen Gaskins Carolinian Affairs Office Chacha Store Char's Beauty Salon Char's Thrifty Mart Chris Ballinger Cindy K. Classic Designs (Kobler I & II) Claudio Norita Coastal Resources Management Collin Bush Commonwealth Dev't. Authority Commonwealth Utilities Corp. Councilwoman Maggie Sablan Dan McConnochie Dan Nielsen Dandan Market David Ostendorf Dawn Chrystal Kenney Dawn Lorete Dayna O. Ngirchongor DCCA - Rola Dept. of Comm. & Cultural Aff.-Tinian Dept. of Comm. & Cultural Affairs-Rota Dept. of Finance Dept. of Public Health Diego's Fish Mart Dion Ngotel Division of Environmental Quality Dixie Inos Domar Donella Somol Doris Nuique Doris S. Nuique Down Town Market DPS Traffic Section Dr. Chris Ebert-Santos Dr. Estella Christian Dr. Helen Taro-Atalig Dr. Norma Ada Edmund Villagomez Eliceo Cabrera & Children Erica Sonoda Esco's Bakeshop Everyone who wore their blue ribbon	Family Market Family Violence Task Force First Lady Sophie Tenorio Fishing Tackle Flamingo Market Fletcher Pacific Former Lt. Gov. Jesus Borja Fr. Gary Fr. Isaac Fr. Roger Frances B. Manibusan Frances Sablan Fresh Market Garapan Elem. School Governor Pedro P. Tenorio Grace Christian Academy Green Market Gregorio T. Camacho Elem. Sch. Halina's Kitchen Han Nam Supermarket Happy Market II Helene Yun Lizama Henry Manalo Heog Choi Herman Guerrero (Jun Pan) Herman's Bakery Herman's Modern Bakery Highway Market Hopwood Junior High School Hot 98 Housing Corporation Ika's Market Isidro Lizama J. C. Tenorio Enterprises J.R.C. Market Janice Sablan JCU/JDU kids Councilwoman Maggie Sablan Jenny's Mart Jerome Iakopo Jin Young Market Joe Ayuyu Joe Naputi Joeten Motors Joeten-Kiyu Public Library John Aguon John Guerrero John Oliver Gonzales Jon U. Igitol Juan I. Killeman Juan L. Babauta Judge Tim Bellas Julie Crisostomo Justin Pierce K Mini Mart K.L. Market Kagman Retail Store Kang's Market Karidat KCN/MKZMI AM/FM Kim's Mini Mart Kimberly Mendiola Kimberly Seman Koblerville Elem. School KSAI Family Radio Laulau Resort Linda L. Crisostomo Lotte Market Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan	Lt. Governor's Office Lucia A. Ada Lucia Somol Lucky Supermarket Lucy Nielsen Maria Luisa Santos Maria S. Sablan (Chechang) Maria Sablan Ruby Tudela Marianas Baptist Academy Marianas Cable Vision Marianas High School Marianas Variety Mary's Bakery Mayor of Saipan, Jose Sablan McDonald's of Saipan MCM Retail Store Meitetsu Mart Melanie Sibelang Melissa A. Acosta Michael Kim Michael White Michelle Ignoef Microl Corporation Mobil Airport Road Mobil Gas Station, Oleai Beach Rd. Monica C. Lizama Monte Pladevega, Jr. Mt. Carmel School Nan Ocha Store Naomi Castro National Office Supply New Fresh Market New "K" Store New Star Market Nicole Forelli Nikko Market Northern Marianas Academy Oasis Discount Store Office of the Senate Oleai Elem. School Oleai Market Olivia Tebuteb Oria Deck Orrin Ogumoro Pacific Gardenia Hotel Pacific Islands Club Pacific Market Pacific Trading Co., Ltd. Pat DeBeer Payless Supermarket Perry John B. Borja PIMI dba Midway Motors PL's Mart PL's Retail Store Power 99 Price Costco Procurement & Supply Public Health Puerto Rico Shell Ramona V. Manglofia Razor Tebuteb Reo Arriola Rep. Bennet Seman XO Market Rep. Karl Cepeda Rep. Max Ollopal Rep. Oscar Babauta	Rep. Rosiky Camacho Reyna A. Tebuteb Richard Pierce Rita C. Guerrero Robert A. Aidan Roberto Santos Rose Pangelinan Rose White Rosmar store Ruby Ochiai Rudolpho's S.S. Market Saipan Bowling Center Saipan Chamber of Commerce Saipan Community School Saipan Diamond Hotel Saipan Fitness Center Saipan International Saipan Service Station, Inc. Saipan Tribune San Antonio Elem. School San Jose Mart San Vicente Elem. School San Vicente Food Mart Sara Market II Scholarship Program Seiji Sonoda Senator Pete Reyes Senator Thomas (Kiyu) Villagomez Seventh Day Adventist Sharon Robbins-Muzammil Shell Dandan Shell Gas Station, Gualo Rai Sonya Artero Sonya Pangelinan Speaker Diego Benavente Sr. Kathleen Sarmiento Sr. Mary Louise Sr. Remedios Pre-School Sugar Dock Market Susan Schwarz Tan Holdings Corporation Tanapag Elem. School The North Star Tinian High School Tom Tebuteb Tomomi E. Ada Tony Pellegrino Travis Collman Triple J (Shell Gas Station) Tropical Color Tropical Gardens, Inc. Tyler Benson Union Bank of California, N.A. Vahid Yamartino Vaughn Cabrera Velma Reyes Vicky Tudela Wally Dias Wendy's Whispering Palms School William S. Reyes Elem. School Women's Affairs Office Xinxin Store Youth Enrichment Services Yvonne Atalig Zenaida Javier Zion Market
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Lewinsky team moves quickly

By Larry Margasak
WASHINGTON (AP)—Moving quickly in an effort to ward off an indictment, Monica Lewinsky's new defense team has contacted prosecutors in a prelude to negotiations for an

immunity deal, legal sources said Wednesday. While the initial contacts could not be characterized as negotiations, serious talks were on the horizon, said sources familiar with the development.

speaking on condition of anonymity.

Starr is well acquainted with Ms. Lewinsky's new lawyers, Plato Cacheris and Jacob Stein. In fact, Stein and Starr worked with each other — although in different roles — during the Senate investigation of former Sen. Bob Packwood, R-Ore.

Prosecutors could gain in their investigation of President Clinton if they secure Ms. Lewinsky's cooperation through Cacheris and Stein, something they could not do with the former intern's first lawyer, William Ginsburg.

Ginsburg came close in the opening days of the controversy to sealing a deal for full immunity for Ms. Lewinsky. He provided a written offer outlining her testimony and received a letter back indicating prosecutors could accept the terms, according to people close to the situation.

But the effort fell apart at the last minute, and relations soured as Ginsburg went to court claiming Starr reneged on the deal. Starr won that legal battle. By the end, Ginsburg was calling Starr names and demanding Clinton fire the prosecutor.

Sources familiar with the original offer have said Ms. Lewinsky offered to change her public story and acknowledge a physical relationship with Clinton but was vague on whether she was asked to lie or obstruct justice.

Ginsburg, a Los Angeles medical malpractice attorney, left the defense team Tuesday saying he had failed in his major objective — negotiating the immunity deal — and was wor-



Monica Lewinsky

ried an indictment might be imminent.

A lawyer familiar with Ms. Lewinsky's defense said her new lawyers will make a fresh pitch to Starr by saying "we don't know what has gone on before."

Also on Wednesday, White House officials said a presidential aide who previously refused to answer questions before the grand jury, Sidney Blumenthal, was expected to return to testify on Thursday.

Blumenthal had declined to answer certain questions about Clinton on grounds of executive privilege, but the White House withdrew that claim this week.

Starr is investigating whether Clinton and Ms. Lewinsky lied under oath when they denied in the Paula Jones sexual harassment lawsuit that they had sexual relations.

Prosecutors also want to know whether Clinton and presidential friend Vernon Jordan encouraged Ms. Lewinsky to lie by finding her a job and lawyer, and whether other presidential aides tried to obstruct the investigation.

Prosecutors have secret tape recordings made by a Lewinsky friend, Linda Tripp, in which the former intern alleged she had an affair with Clinton and was asked to cover it up.

Charles Bakaly, a spokesman for Starr, said Wednesday he could not comment on specific contacts with Stein and Cacheris but added, "Ken Starr has known both lawyers a long time."

He pointed out that Starr worked closely with Stein after Starr was chosen to review Packwood's personal diaries during the ethics investigation of the senator's sexual and official conduct. Stein was Packwood's lawyer.

Cacheris negotiated Fawn Hall's immunity arrangement with prosecutors in exchange for her testimony about document shredding at the National Security Council by Oliver North in the Iran-Contra affair.

Meanwhile on Wednesday, news organizations including The Associated Press asked the Supreme Court to rule on whether the news media should have access to court hearings in the grand jury investigation involving Ms. Lewinsky.

An appeals court has ruled that the First Amendment provides no right of public access to the court arguments over various issues, including executive privilege and attorney-client privilege, invoked by the president and White House lawyers.

Edited transcripts of those hearings have been released weeks later.

Apology is issued for sex questions

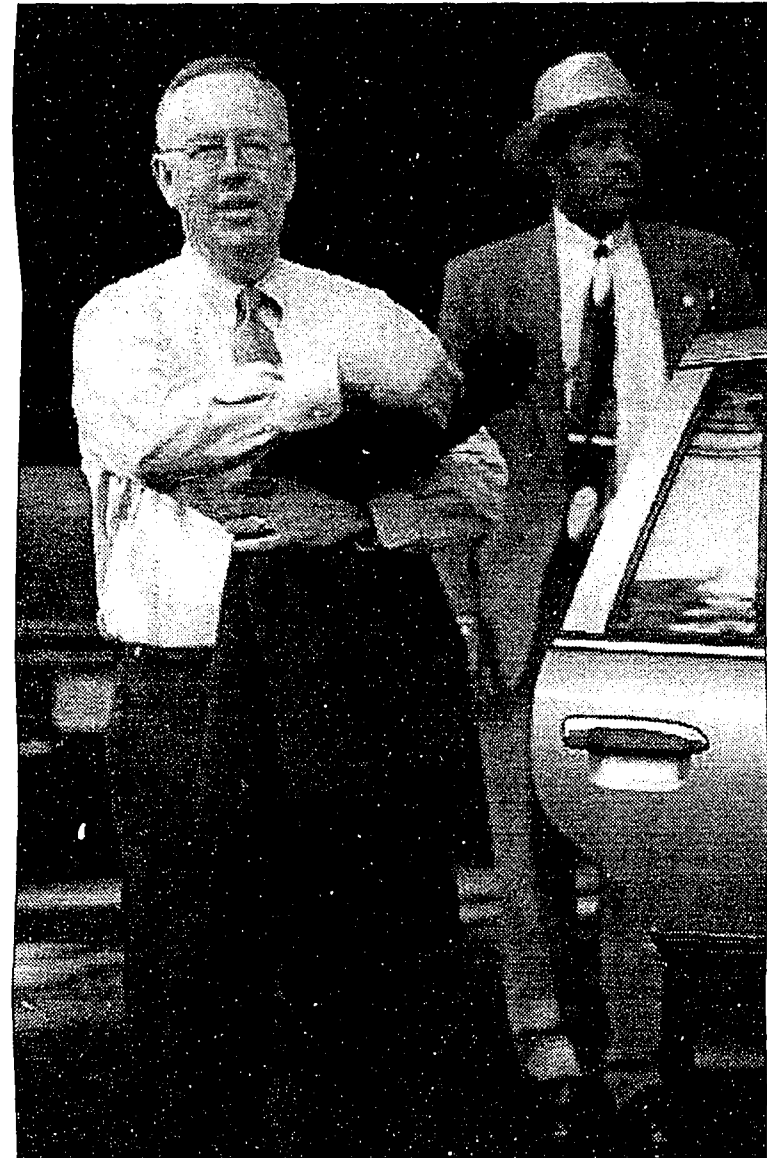
By Nicole Ziegler
SPRINGFIELD, Ill. (AP) — The Illinois Board of Education apologized Wednesday for sending out a test that asked hundreds of 11th-graders explicit questions about sex.

The health education test, sent to 61 high schools as part of a statewide pilot project, contained questions about the AIDS virus that referred to anal and oral sex. The test also asked students the most effective way to avoid sexually transmitted diseases but did not list abstinence as an option.

"I am as shocked and dismayed as anyone that questions as insensitive as these would be used on any kind of assessment of Illinois students," state Superintendent Joseph Spagnolo said in a letter of apology to affected schools.

The Rev. Robert Vanden Bosch, director of Concerned Christian Americans, said an apology cannot repair the harm done.

"Every child in the state of Illinois who took this test has already been mentally molested by the state Board of Education," Vanden Bosch said.



Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr folds his coat as he leaves the McLean (Va.) home Wednesday. Starr is hoping that the U.S. Supreme Court decides quickly on whether President Clinton can invoke executive privilege to shield testimony in the Monica Lewinsky investigation. U.S. Marshall in background refused to give his name. AP

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For inquiries concerning registration and course availability, call the Community Services Office at 234-5498, Ext. 1813-1814. For additional details, see the Summer 1998 Community Services Program brochure available at NMC or Joeten-Kiyu Library.

COURSE NUMBER/TITLE	UNITS	DATES	TIME	DAYS	ROOM	INSTRUCTOR	FEE
IBM APPLICATIONS							
CG 010 IBM PC: THE BASICS	4	JUNE 15 & 17	6:30-8:30PM	M, W	W-2	F. OLIVER	\$40
CG 022 WINDOWS '95	10	JUNE 16-30	6:30-8:30PM	T, TH	W-2	F. OLIVER	\$110
CG 030 INTRO TO INTERNET	10	JULY 13-29	6:30-8:30PM	M, W	W-3	F. HILL	\$110
CM 020 INTRO TO LOTUS 1-2-3 RELEASE 5 FOR WINDOWS '95	10	JUNE 16-30	6:30-8:30PM	T, TH	W-3	S. MENSAH	\$110
CS 010 INTRO TO EXCEL 7 ON WINDOWS '95	10	JULY 2-16	6:30-8:30PM	T, TH	W-3	S. MENSAH	\$110
CP 028 INTRO TO MICROSOFT WORD FOR WINDOWS '95	10	JUNE 15-29	6:30-8:30PM	M, W	W-3	S. MENSAH	\$110
CG 028 MICROSOFT OFFICE '97 (UPDATE)	4	JULY 13 & 15	6:30-8:30PM	T, TH	W-2	D. COOPER	\$50
CG 028 MICROSOFT OFFICE '97	12	JUNE 20-JULY 18	9:00-12Noon	SAT	W-2	D. COOPER	\$110
CG 045-1 Y2K (YEAR 2000) SEMINAR	3	JUNE 25	8:00-11:00AM	TH	A-8	F. OLIVER	\$70
CG 045-2 Y2K (YEAR 2000) SEMINAR	3	JULY 9	8:00-11:00AM	TH	A-8	F. OLIVER	\$70
CG 045-3 Y2K (YEAR 2000) SEMINAR	3	JULY 16	8:00-11:00AM	TH	A-8	F. OLIVER	\$70
CG 036 WEB PAGE DESIGN FOR TEACHERS	10	JULY 21-AUGUST 4	6:30-8:30PM	T, TH	W-3	G. STEWART	\$80
MACINTOSH APPLICATIONS							
CM 010 MACINTOSH: THE BASICS	6	JUNE 20-27	12:30-3:30PM	SAT	W-1	R. NEWPORT	\$65
CM 040 INTRO TO CLARISWORKS	10	JUNE 22-JULY 6	6:30-8:30PM	M, W	W-1	J. SMITH	\$100
CM 031 INTERNET FOR TEACHERS	10	JUNE 30-JULY 14	6:30-8:30PM	T, TH	W-1	J. SMITH	\$100
BUSINESS							
BU 039 EFFECTIVE LETTERS & MEMOS	6	JUNE 15-24	6:30-8:00PM	M, W	V-205	I. PROPST	\$65
BU 033 GRAMMAR & PUNCTUATION FOR THE OFFICE	6	JUNE 29-JULY 8	6:30-8:00PM	M, W	V-205	D. SVOBODA	\$65
LANGUAGE							
JA 040 BEGINNING CONVERSATIONAL JAPANESE	20	JUNE 15-AUGUST 5	6:30-8:00PM	M, W	A-4	R. CAMPBELL	\$105
JA 042 INTERMEDIATE CONVERSATIONAL JAPANESE	20	JUNE 23-AUGUST 13	6:30-8:00PM	T, TH	A-4	R. CAMPBELL	\$105
EN 010 BEGINNING CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH, LEVEL A	24	JUNE 15-JULY 22	7:00-8:30PM	MWF	A-11	J. HOLAN	\$130
EN 011 BEGINNING CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH, LEVEL B	24	JUNE 29-AUGUST 5	7:00-8:30PM	MWF	A-3	B. PEREZ	\$130
EN 012 INTERMEDIATE CONVERSATIONAL ENGLISH	24	JULY 13-AUGUST 17	7:00-8:30PM	MWF	C-4	B. PEREZ	\$130
CH 010 BEGINNING CONVERSATIONAL CHAMORRO	20	JUNE 15-JULY 29	6:30-8:00PM	M, W	R-1	N. TAISACAN	\$105
CR 010 BEGINNING CONVERSATIONAL CAROLINIAN	20	JUNE 16-JULY 30	6:30-8:00PM	T, TH	R-3	J. ELAMETO	\$105
CR 011 INTERMEDIATE CONVERSATIONAL CAROLINIAN	20	JUNE 15-JULY 29	6:30-8:00PM	M, W	R-3	J. ELAMETO	\$105
CM 010 BEGINNING CONVERSATIONAL MANDARIN	20	JUNE 15-JULY 29	6:30-8:00PM	M, W	A-5	T. WILSON	\$105
TA 010 BEGINNING CONVERSATIONAL TAGALOG	20	JUNE 16-JULY 30	6:30-8:00PM	T, TH	R-1	J. VILLAGOMEZ	\$105
GENERAL INTERESTS							
GC 020-1 BALLET & CREATIVE MOVEMENT (Ages 4-6)	6	JUNE 13-JULY 25	10:00-11:00AM	SAT	V-110	E. DRUMWRIGHT	\$45
GC 020-2 BALLET & CREATIVE MOVEMENT (Ages 7-10)	6	JUNE 13-JULY 25	11:00-12Noon	SAT	V-110	E. DRUMWRIGHT	\$45
AC 019 BEGINNING MWARMWAR MAKING	3	JUNE 27	9:00-12 Noon	SAT	A-7	E. RANGAMAR	\$15
AC 020 INTERMEDIATE MWARMWAR MAKING	3	JULY 11	9:00-12 Noon	SAT	A-7	E. RANGAMAR	\$15
YOUTH CLASSES							
YP 003 EXPLORING WINDOWS '95 FOR YOUTH	8	Please call to preregister	TBA	TBA	TBA	R. SANCHEZ	\$85
YP 004 INTRO TO INTERNET FOR YOUTH	8	(Dates & Time will be arranged if we get minimum enrollment)	TBA	TBA	TBA	R. SANCHEZ	\$85
YP 010 CONVERSATIONAL CHAMORRO/CHAMORRO LEGENDS	6		TBA	TBA	TBA	M. ROSARIO	\$40

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UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
SAIPAN SHIPPING CO., INC. Plaintiff,
vs.
The Diesel Powered Fishing Vessel MV "NAGO II", about 198 tons, her tackle, gear, and equipment in rem, and Similar Gear off the sister vessel "NAGO 15", in rem; ROSHE INTERNATIONAL, Defendants.
Civil Action No. 98-0009

NOTICE AND ORDER FOR JUDICIAL SALE

TO: ALL INTERESTED PARTIES
PLEASE TAKE NOTICE THAT on Tuesday, June 30, 1998 at 10:00 a.m. at the office of the U.S. Marshal's Service, First Floor, Houguchi Building, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI, the above captioned in rem defendants, to wit: The fishing vessel MV "NAGO II", her gear and tackle, along with similar gear and tackle off the sister vessel "NAGO 15" sold to the highest bidder(s), individual items, or entire lot, as is, where is, without warranty, at public auction. Details set forth below in the following order:
ORDER FOR JUDICIAL SALE
Good cause appearing, Plaintiff having a default judgment entered in its favor, the above captioned in rem defendants are ordered to be sold at public auction under the following provisions:

- This notice to be published on four consecutive weeks in the CNMI Marianas Variety prior to the date of sale.
- Date and Place of Sale: See above notice.
- Inventory and further information to be available at the offices of Saipan Shipping Co., Inc., Charlie Dock, Saipan, CNMI.
- Bidding to be by individual items first, to followed by any bid(s) on the entire lot (to supersede individual items). Highest bidder(s) prevail.
- Plaintiff SAISHIP is permitted to bid part or whole of its judgment herein as judgment credit-bidder.
- Other bid payments to be in cash or cashier's check.
- This order may be modified, as necessary.
DATED this 14th day of May, 1998.

/s/ Alex R. Munson, Judge

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SPORTS



Jazz over Bulls in OT

By CHRIS SHERIDAN
SALT LAKE CITY (AP) — John Stockton atoned for missing a last-second shot in regulation by scoring seven points in overtime as the Utah Jazz defeated the Chicago Bulls 88-85 Wednesday in the opening game of the National Basketball Association Finals.

In a sloppy game that seemed to take forever to be decided, the Bulls missed a chance to steal a game and wrest homecourt advantage away from the Jazz.

"You couldn't ever ask for a better opportunity to win on their court," Chicago coach Phil Jackson lamented. "I feel like we let one slip away."

That's because Stockton made all the big plays in overtime and Scottie Pippen missed a tying 3-pointer at the buzzer. And the Jazz walked off leading the series, something they never did in last year's finals.

Stockton ended up shooting 9-for-12 from the floor for 24 points with eight assists and two steals. Karl Malone added 21 points and Bryon Russell had 15 to help Utah overcome 33 points from Michael Jordan. Stockton started his

overtime flurry with an assist to Malone for a layup that broke a 79-all tie.

Pippen, yelled at by Jordan late in the fourth quarter for rushing a 3-point shot, then had the ball poked away by Jeff Hornacek as he drove to his right. Stockton gathered the loose ball and went in for a three-point play that put Utah ahead 84-79.

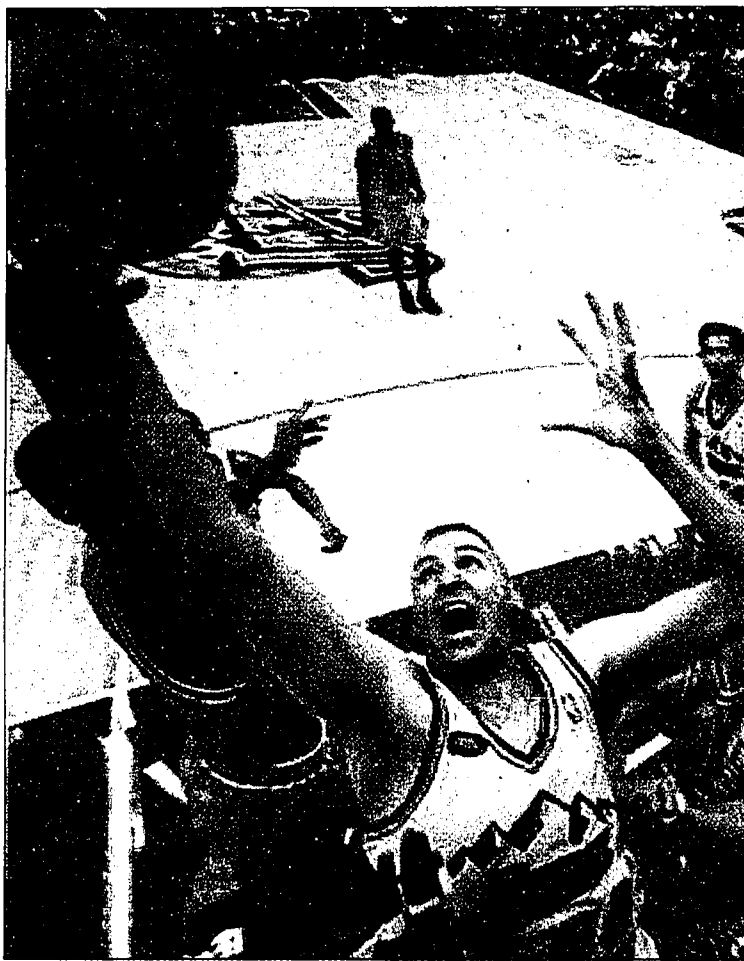
Jordan made one of two free throws and a jumper to cut the deficit to two with 2:07 left, but the Bulls would not score for another two minutes.

With 43 seconds left and the ball in Chicago's hands, it ended up going to Luc Longley. He tried going to the hoop and had the ball deflected away for Chicago's third turnover of overtime. Bryon Russell recovered, the Jazz ran the clock down and Stockton made the shot of the game.

Guarded by the slow-footed Steve Kerr, Stockton drove to his right, jumped off the wrong foot and made the shot from about 10 feet (three meters) away.

Toni Kukoc hit a 3-pointer with 5.4 seconds left, and Stockton made two free throws with 3.5 seconds left to give the Jazz another three-point lead.

"They just kept coming back.



Utah Jazz's Greg Ostertag (00) goes for a rebound against the Chicago Bulls' defense as Michael Jordan watches from the background during overtime in Game 1 of the NBA Finals in Salt Lake City, Wednesday. The Jazz went on to win 88-85 and take a 1-0 lead in the best-of-seven title series. AP

We're going to have to play better than that if we're going to win this thing," Stockton said.

The Bulls fired the ensuing inbounds pass upcourt and tipped it to Pippen at the 3-point line, but his shot was too long.

"Stock's got the ice water in his veins," Russell said. "You know he wants that ring. Stock took over that game."

Coming off 10 days rest and playing a Bulls team that was extended to seven games by Indiana in the Eastern Conference finals, the Jazz led most of the game but could never pull ahead by more than eight.

They kept Jordan somewhat in check, limiting him to 13-for-29 shooting. Pippen shot only 7-for-19 with five turnovers, Kukoc was 4-for-12 and Chicago's reserves scored only eight points.

The Jazz got 22 points from the bench, including eight by Howard Easley, outscored Chicago 52-34 in the paint and 21-6 on fast-

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San Vicente A's battle for top spot in Little League

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

SAN VICENTE A's have inched to the top position in the Little League Baseball as they defeated

Kaultz Glass Tigers, 7-5, last Sunday.

Rick Manahane of SV A's went 2 for 3, scored 2 times and blasted a 2 run homer for the third con-

secutive time in the last three games.

In the heart-stomping game of the A's and Tigers, Elton

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Little League Pitching Leaders

By Frank D. Palacios (As of Sunday, May 31, 1998)
For the Variety

PLAYER	TEAM	G	INN	ER	H	BB	W/L	ERA
"MAJORS"								
Luis Iguel	Falcons	4	17.1	1	15	4	1-2	0.35
Jack Lizama	O'l' Aces	4	10.2	1	5	17	2-0	0.56
Jesse Wabol	O'l' Aces	6	11.1	2	2	16	1-1	1.16
Rick Manahane	S/V Aces	8	30.2	5	21	2	3-1	1.45
Bobby Coldee	Tigers	9	31.1	10	15	29	6-3	1.92
"SENIORS"								
Anthony Benavente	D-9ers	4	21	3	14	17	3-1	1.00
Jonathan Delo Santos	Kagman Jets	5	26.1	9	18	17	3-1	2.39
Emilio Manahane	Braves	4	7.1	3	10	10	0-1	2.86
Daniel Sablan	Braves	5	25.2	14	33	11	3-1	3.82
Ray Dela Cruz	Kagman A's	3	9	9	10	7	0-1	7.00
"BIG"								
Tito Santos	Braves	3	12.1	2	17	4	2-0	1.14
Kevin Kapileo	Braves	4	15.2	3	8	9	1-0	1.34
Patrick Guerrero	Hustlers	4	21.1	6	23	15	1-0	1.97
Audi Maratita	Starz	4	17.2	5	9	6	1-2	1.98
Jon Joyner	Expos	2	11	6	11	7	0-2	3.82

Strikeout Leaders:

Majors: (63) Tyron Fital (58) Bobby Coldeen (54) Chris Salas (48) Ray Cruz (44) Jesse Taisacan, William Kaipal (38) John Sanchez, Ryan Duenas
Seniors: (54) Jonathan Delos Santos (32) Anthony Benavente (20) Daniel Sablan
Big: (27) Patrick DeLeon Guerrero (23) Kevin Kapileo (20) Tito Santos (18) Audi Maratita

Holyfield-Akinwande fight Sunday on MCV

TOUTED as "D-Day Dynamite," Evander "The Real Deal" Holyfield puts both his WBA and IBF heavyweight titles on the line against challenger Henry Akinwande this Sunday, June 7 on MCV, a press release from MCV said.

MCV will go live via satellite to the "Mecca of Boxing," Madison Square Garden-New York City for this special boxing event.

Holyfield (35-3, 25 KO's), steps into the ring to defend his belts for the first time in seven months, after taking the IBF crown from Michael Moorer last November.

The WMA heavyweight belt of course came from the famous Tyson/Holyfield-"Finally" bout a year earlier.

Holyfield's defense of that victory in the controversial June 1997 rematch remains as one of boxing's most bizarre events, as Tyson was disqualified for biting Evander's right ear.

Akinwande was crowned the WBO heavyweight champion title by defeating Jeremy Williams in June 1996.

He held that title until last year when he was disqualified by referee

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RGA qualifying round

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

The Refalawash Golf Association (RGA) will have its qualifying round on June 6 at Lao Lao Golf Resort.

Tee time is 6:27 a.m. The members are encouraged to be at the

golf course at least 30 minutes before the scheduled tee time.

RGA's champion last month was Jess Wabol and Sonny Flores was the ace of April.

All monthly champions will be competing in December for the year's overall champion.

