

# 2 banks cut rates

**Variety News Staff**  
HAGATNA - Two big Guam-based financial institutions have cut their interest rates for Saipan following similar moves in the Guam market in the wake of last week's quarter point cut on the federal funds rate initiated by the Federal Reserve.

Guam Savings & Loan, which was the first Guam bank to cut its rate, has lowered its base rate of interest by 25 basis points.

This effectively lowers the

## *To make loans affordable in times of crisis, say officials*

bank's prime rate from 8.5 percent to 8.25 percent. The prime rate is the key rate from which Guam Savings pegs its commercial loans.

Mark Fish, Guam Savings' chief operating officer and executive vice president, said the bank is even considering dropping long-term residential mortgage loans in Saipan within the next 30 days.

"We're still the largest real-estate lender in Saipan and we work very closely with the Northern Marianas Islands Housing Authority. We feel that we probably can go down at least by one quarter percent for them and we're reviewing that rate right now. We're doing this not only because of the Fed action but also because money overall is cheaper right now," Fish said.

Bank of Guam, which also operates on Saipan, has likewise lowered its lending reference rate from 8.5 percent to 8.25 percent.

The Bank of Guam reference rate, sometimes called the prime rate, is the basis for interest rates charged in most commercial lending at the bank.

As a result, the interest rate charged by Bank of Guam on many loans will be adjusted down-

ward, thus lowering customers' business costs.

In addition, Bank of Guam has also reduced personal loan interest rates to 11.5 percent for amounts up to \$20,000 for as long as five years.

For long-term borrowers, Bank of Guam fixed rate mortgage interest rates for new loans have fallen to their lowest level in recent history.

Bank of Guam fixed mortgage

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## Gov't, Teno named in \$100M taxpayer suit

*Over environmental threat posed by dump*



William C. Campbell II

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

A \$100-million taxpayers' lawsuit was filed yesterday against

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, former Lt. Gov. Jesus C. Borja, the CNMI government, its agencies and top officials to effect the immediate closure of the Puerto Rico dump.

Lawyer William C. Campbell II on behalf of the CNMI taxpayers, sought damages in the amount needed to clean up, remediate, move and close the Puerto Rico dump.

Also named defendants were the Department of Public Works and its acting secretary John B. Cepeda; Department of Public Health Services and its secre-

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Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio poses for the media cameras with officials and staff of the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation after he signed the Disability Employment Awareness month proclamation yesterday.

Photo by Haidee V. Eugenio

## US House approves Guam Organic Act amendments

By Jojo Santo Tomas  
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — An elected Attorney General for Guam is only a few steps away from becoming reality.

The U.S. House of Representatives unanimously passed H.R. 2370 yesterday afternoon (Guam time). It makes three changes to the Organic Act of Guam, including:

- Giving the voters of Guam an

opportunity to elect the AG of their choice starting in 2002;

- Re-defining a legislative "quorum" as a majority of the members present; and

- Clarifying legislative authority to make laws over rightful subjects, instead of only on local subjects.

"This legislation now proceeds to the Senate, where we hope it will be taken up under unanimous

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## Tougher job competition seen in Palau

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff

KOROR, Palau — The government disclosed that competition for employment is starting to get tougher here, with employers more likely to hire local and foreign workers with better education.

The more education people have the better their chances in landing the better jobs in both the public and the private sectors, according to the 1998 Statistical Yearbook.

Communication skills, like the ability to speak and understand English better, have also become an important factor in the employability of people in Palau, since they are supposed to deal with visitors from other countries with tourism being the country's predominant industry.

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## Teno assures there'll be no wage, tax hikes

By Haidee V. Eugenio  
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday assured there will be no minimum wage and tax increases during these times of economic uncertainties.

"At the present time, we have no intentions of increasing the minimum wage especially with the economic downfall," the governor told reporters.

He added that the recent signing of Public Law 11-22 is not meant to raise the minimum wage at this time. He said that the soon-to-be-formed review committee which is mandated by the said law will study possibilities of a wage hike.

"One of the reasons why the legislature passed the legislation is for the commission to come up with a recommendation as to when will be more



Pedro P. Tenorio

appropriate to increase the minimum wage and to come up with some recommendations to the legislature . . .," said the chief executive.

Tenorio, however, added that the appropriate time to have a minimum wage hike is definitely "not now."

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## O'Roarty opts to resign

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

ASSISTANT Atty. Gen. William O'Roarty, who is among government lawyers reportedly being investigated for alleged violation of CNMI labor and immigration laws, has stepped down.

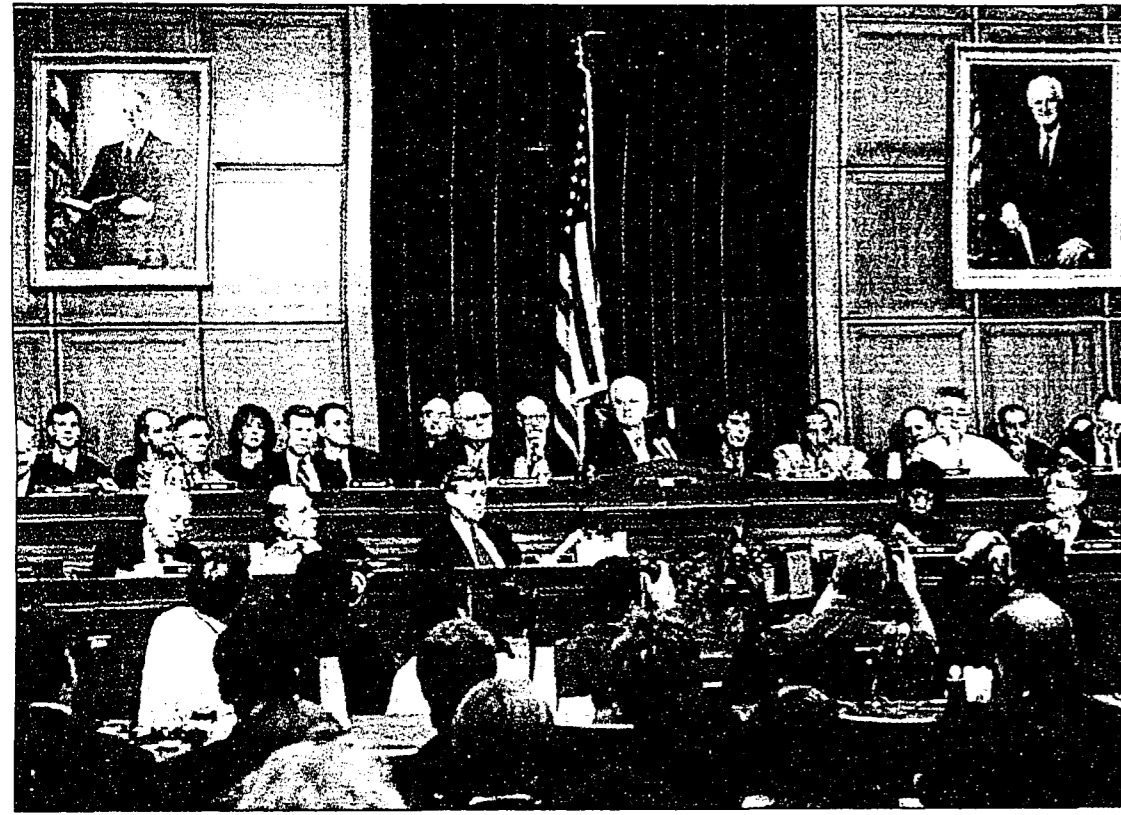
O'Roarty, legal counsel for the Department of Public Safety, in an interview yesterday confirmed that he submitted his resignation Monday to acting Atty. Gen. Maya B. Kara.

O'Roarty, however, stressed that the reported investigation conducted by the Department of Labor and Immigration has

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US House panel opens impeachment hearing

# Debate on Clinton starts



Members of the House Judiciary Committee hold their first hearing where they began a debate Monday on whether to hold hearings into the scandal surrounding President Clinton and begin only the third presidential impeachment inquiry in U.S. history. REUTERS

By John Whitesides  
WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The House of Representatives Judiciary Committee opened a solemn debate on Monday on whether to launch a formal impeachment inquiry against U.S. President Bill Clinton, rejecting Democratic attempts to limit the length and scope of the probe.

The committee shot down a 21-16 party-line vote a Democratic resolution to restrict the investigation to the president's affair with former White House intern Monica Lewinsky and set a Thanksgiving deadline for its completion.

The panel moved toward the expected passage later Monday of a Republican proposal for an open-ended, unrestricted probe of the president.

It would be the first presidential impeachment inquiry since Richard Nixon's Watergate scandal in 1974 and only the third in U.S. history.

"We are not here today to decide whether or not to impeach Mr. Clinton. We are not here to pass judgment on anyone," committee chairman Henry Hyde, an Illinois Republican, said in opening the meeting.

"We are here to ask and an-

swer this one single question-based on what we now know—do we have a duty to look further or to look away?" Hyde said.

Chief Republican investigator David Schippers told the committee he believed Clinton had committed 15 potentially impeachable acts, four more than independent counsel Kenneth Starr alleged in his report to Congress last month.

He split some counts and added others involving conspiracy and aiding the filing of a false affidavit, but dropped abuse of power charges stemming from White House privilege claims and Clinton's refusal to voluntarily testify.

Democratic chief investigator Abbe Lowell said Schippers was adding charges by "subdividing" the existing facts and making a "laundry list of laws" Clinton might have violated.

Members of the committee, reputed to be one of the most fiercely partisan in Congress, invoked founding fathers such as James Madison and Alexander Hamilton in a series of opening statements that laid out their positions.

Republicans said it was their constitutional duty to pursue the allegations sent to Congress, while Democrats questioned if the charges amounted to the "high

crimes and misdemeanors" spelled out in the Constitution as a basis for impeachment.

"This is not Watergate, it is an extramarital affair," said Representative John Conyers of Michigan, the panel's ranking Democrat and the only member who served during the Nixon hearings.

Both sides warned partisanship could destroy the process and ruin what remained of Congress' reputation, but as the debate wore on it became increasingly contentious. The early votes on the Democratic amendments revealed a deeply divided panel.

"This has the potential to be the most divisive issue in American public life since the Vietnam War," said Representative Jerrold Nadler, a New York Democrat.

After rejecting the Democrats' alternative resolution, the panel rejected on another party-line vote an amendment by Democratic Representative Howard Berman of California that would have looked strictly at the Lewinsky matter.



Bill Clinton

The Republican resolution of inquiry would not set a deadline for ending the probe and would allow it to move beyond Lewinsky to issues such as Whitewater, campaign finance abuses or the White House travel office firings.

But Democrats said the facts had been determined during Starr's eight-month investigation and the probe could be wrapped up quickly. "We don't have to do a lot of independent fact-finding," said Representative Barney Frank, a Massachusetts Democrat.

Despite the calls for bipartisanship, Republicans were certain to prevail. The question was how many Democrats would join them. Once approved by the committee, the resolution of inquiry will have to be voted on by the full 435-member House.

Polls have shown the public continues to give Clinton high marks as president even though they disapprove of his affair with Lewinsky. The majority of polls have shown many Americans would like to see an end to the whole thing.

Hyde acknowledged the public was getting tired but said Congress still had to perform its constitutional duty.

"We are constantly reminded how weary America is of this whole situation and I dare say most of us share that weariness, but we members of Congress took an oath — that we would perform all of our constitutional duties, not just the pleasant ones," Hyde said.

But Representative Robert

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House Judiciary Committee Chairman Rep. Henry Hyde, R-Ill. (left) talks with committee member Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass. during the committee's hearing on Capitol Hill Monday where they considered opening an impeachment inquiry against President Clinton. AP

## Japan land owners oppose expansion of Tokyo airport

TOKYO (AP) — Landowners opposed to the expansion of Tokyo's international airport urged the government Monday to scrap a plan to complete a second runway by the end of fiscal 2000, Kyodo News reported.

Representatives from seven families and a factory made the demand in a joint statement issued at a news conference held on

the site of the proposed runway at Narita airport east of Tokyo, the report said.

Two of the seven families live on the proposed runway site, while the other five families and the factory own plots of land on the site. They represented three factions of opponents of the airport.

It is the first time since 1991 that the three factions held a joint news

conference after an alliance opposing the construction of the airport divided into the three groups in the 1980s.

In recent years, several farmers opposed to the airport expansion have settled their disputes with the government, agreeing to sell their land to make room for the runway.

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## Italian PM struggles to save his government

By CANDICE HUGHES  
ROME (AP) — Struggling to save his government only months before the launch of the European Monetary Union, Italian Prime Minister Romano Prodi met Monday with President Oscar Luigi Scalfaro, then said he'd address Parliament on the political crisis.

Prodi said he would consult with the speakers of both houses to set a date for the speech, which is expected later this week.

The political crisis was provoked

by Prodi's far-left ally, the Communist Refoundation Party, which withdrew its support over the weekend. In the past, Prodi has said he would call a confidence vote if Refoundation yanked its support.

"I've always acted with coherence. I've never changed strategy and I don't want to do political gymnastics," Prodi said before meeting with Scalfaro.

Prodi did not mention a confidence vote, but it seemed likely. If Prodi

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A seventh grade student from Calvary Christian Academy examines carefully the sanitan plant that Department of Land and Natural Resources passed around during a seminar on plant propagation yesterday. Photo by Louie C. Alonso

## Federal sanctions in Ritidian 'appealable'

Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — The Attorney General's Office is studying the sanctions imposed by U.S. District Court Chief Judge John S. Unpingco on the Government of Guam regarding the controversial Ritidian Point case.

In an interview, Assistant Attorney General and Public Information Officer May Lee Innocentes said the Attorney General's Office is currently reviewing the order and exploring all options including appealing the order. When asked what the grounds for the appeal would be, Innocentes reserved comment. But she said the order is definitely "appealable" and can be appealed within the federal court system.

By next week, she said the Attorney General's Office should be able to release its decision on what action it might take. The Marianas Variety tried to contact Acting Attorney General Robert H. Kono for comment but was told that he was not available.

In a news release on Monday, Frederick A. Black, U.S. attorney for the Districts of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, said the court has found the filing of the Ritidian complaint "frivolous" and imposed sanctions on Gov. Guam, acting Attorney Charles Troutman, and local attorney Pete Sgro.

The case involved a complaint filed on Sept. 27, 1997 by the Government of Guam on behalf of the Guam Department of Public Works which sought and obtained a temporary restraining order (TRO) enjoining the United States and the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service from securing the gates at Ritidian Point.

Sgro argued that a newly constructed gate was blocking Route 3A leading into the Ritidian Point Wildlife Refuge which impeded access to citizens of Guam and fire, police, and emergency personnel. The Superior Court of

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## Teacher accused of sexual harassment

By Tanya M.C. Mendiola

Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — A 59-year-old Southern High School teacher was arrested Sept. 31 for allegedly making sexually harassing comments to one of his students.

Raymon H. Flezig was arrested after a 15-year-old boy claimed that the teacher sexually harassed him.

According to Department of Education Spokesman Tony Diaz, the boy made the allegations to one of the school counselors that he was sexually harassed by Flezig during the current school year.

The counselor then informed school administrators of the alleged incident. After questioning the boy, administrators informed the minor's parents and the parents called the police to file a complaint.

After conducting with the minor, police arrested Flezig on a charge of child abuse.

Southern High School administrators refused to comment on the allegations because the investigation is ongoing.

Diaz said DOE is conducting its own separate investigation into the matter and the department is still gathering information.

According to Diaz, Flezig was

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# Senators air concerns over how AGO is run

By Haidee V. Eugenio  
Variety News Staff

THE PRELIMINARY meeting between Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and members of the Senate on issues pertaining to the Attorney General's Office became lecture time for Maya Kara, the governor's nominee for permanent attorney general.

This as the governor yesterday told reporters that the members of the Senate Standing Committee on Executive Appointments and Governmental Investigations (EAGI) raised a number of concerns regarding Kara's nomination.

Among these concerns is management of the Attorney General's Office which is presently headed by Kara in an acting capacity.

"There are some concerns on the function of the office. It's just a matter of management of the AG office," said the governor, but declined to make further statements on the matter.

While some of the Senate's concerns were already been addressed, the governor believes there are still some that still need to attend to.

"There are still some concerns I



Maya Kara



Pedro P. Tenorio

believe. They also asked the nominee to produce some things so she's working on it now," he said.

Earlier, EAGI committee chair Sen. David Cing said Kara's lobbying for I&S appropriation bill in the House of Representatives was one of the reasons why the Senate decided not to act on her nomination.

The governor withdrew his nomination of Kara on Sept. 23, in deference to the outstanding concerns of the Senate EAGI committee.

But since then, the governor stands pat on his decision to re-

submit Kara's nomination which needs the Senate's confirmation.

During the governor's meeting with certain senators, however, there was no assurance that the Senate will act on Kara's nomination.

"No assurance yet from the senators," said the governor.

The governor and the senators will meet again to try to resolve the concerns raised about Kara's nomination.

"We're trying to set a date to meet the other members of the committee to find out what would be the best for me to do," he said.

## Marianas Air plane figures in an 'incident' during test flight

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

A SIX-seater Cherokee plane operated by the Marianas Air figured in an "incident" yesterday morning on Tinian after newly installed parts being tested proved defective, Wayne Pangelinan, the airline's general manager said.

In an interview, Pangelinan said though that no one was hurt and the plane was unscathed.

"It went on a test maintenance flight but unfortunately the new spare parts were defective. It is

not our fault," said Pangelinan.

He explained such test flights are necessary whenever new parts are installed as required under regulations of the Federal Aviation Authority (FAA).

"We follow the rules," said Pangelinan.

The plane took off at the West Tinian International Airport at around 10:00 in the morning and returned shortly after the pilot detected there was something wrong.

"The plane is fine," Pangelinan

assured. He said the test flight is also part of Marianas Air's efforts to "extend a 110 percent safety" on its flights.

Marianas Air started operations in April this year. It has four planes with a daily flight from Saipan to Tinian and back.

It also flies cargo to Rota whenever there is enough.

The airline is pursuing appropriate actions regarding the incident.

## Guam's visitors greeting program starts next year

Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — Sen. Alberto Lamorena V, the chairman of the legislative committee on tourism, is reviving a proposed Visitor Arrival Greeting Program that will assist tourists on Guam upon their arrival at the airport.

In an interview, Lamorena said that after months of delay following the Supertyphoon Paka recovery efforts, the visitor arrival program would be resumed.

"We wanted this to be on track late last year, but then Supertyphoon Paka came and the project was delayed," Lamorena said.

He added that the Visitor Arrival Greeting Program was drawn up to enhance the tour-

ism experience of visitors coming into Guam, especially the Japanese.

"This is a program that's going to be implemented by Guam Visitors Bureau. And I have a committee that's working on the program now."

The program is already funded with money made available by the Guam Legislature. Lamorena sponsored an appropriation amounting to \$150,000 from the Tourist Attraction Fund to the Guam Visitors Bureau for the purpose of establishing the visitor arrival program.

Under the program, a group of greeters will be welcoming and assisting Guam visitors through the arrival process.

The senator is working with a

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## NMI car sales down by 27% in September

By Haidee V. Eugenio

Variety News Staff

STILL suffering from economic crisis, the automotive industry's total sales portfolio during the month of September went down by 27 percent or 122 new units, compared to the 167 units sold during the same period last year.

Latest data from the Commonwealth Auto Dealers' Association (CADA) also reveal that the overall car sales for the first nine months of the year dipped by 22 percent from last year's figures.

The September car sales portfolio of 122, however, is better than the previous month's 101 new cars sold.

The perennial Toyota cars which are distributed by Microl

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



## Flights

Mar-Vic C. Munar

### I heard it through the grapevine

THE demotion of Ross Buchholz from being chief of the Attorney General's Office Criminal Division has rattled speculations and interesting *chismis* (Tagalog for gossip) buzzing in the island, particularly in the legal circle. And if sources are to be believed, the whole thing involves a list of dramatic personae.

Mr. Buchholz and Police legal counsel William O'Roarty (who just resigned effective December) have been placed under investigation for allegedly hiring an illegal alien to perform domestic job. According to our sources from the legal community, the illegal alien worked, on separate occasions, for Mr. Buchholz and Mr. O'Roarty "once every two weeks."

Speculation No. 1: Our sources in Susupe suspect it was part of a "personal vendetta"—the exact word used by our sources. A lawyer, who allegedly has axe to grind against the two, didn't waste the opportunity to "get even," thus tipped off the labor and immigration department.

Speculation No. 2: It was a fellow government lawyer who had nudged the labor and immigration officials about Mr. Buchholz' and Mr. O'Roarty's alleged illegal activity—allegedly for reasons more political than legal.

Speculation No. 3: Other sources speculate the investigation had something to do with Mr. Buchholz' and Asst. Atty. Gen. Marvin Williams' successful prosecution of 11 policemen accused of beating a burglary suspect. Four of whom were convicted. Mr. O'Roarty had a major role in the outcome of the case.

Speculation No. 4: In harmony with the investigation and all, sources in Capitol Hill say, Mr. Buchholz' demotion was only a keynote to musical chairs.

Mr. Buchholz' position as chief of the Criminal Division, according to sources, would be given to Asst. Atty. Gen. Aaron Williams, who is under the Criminal Division and assigned at the labor and immigration department.

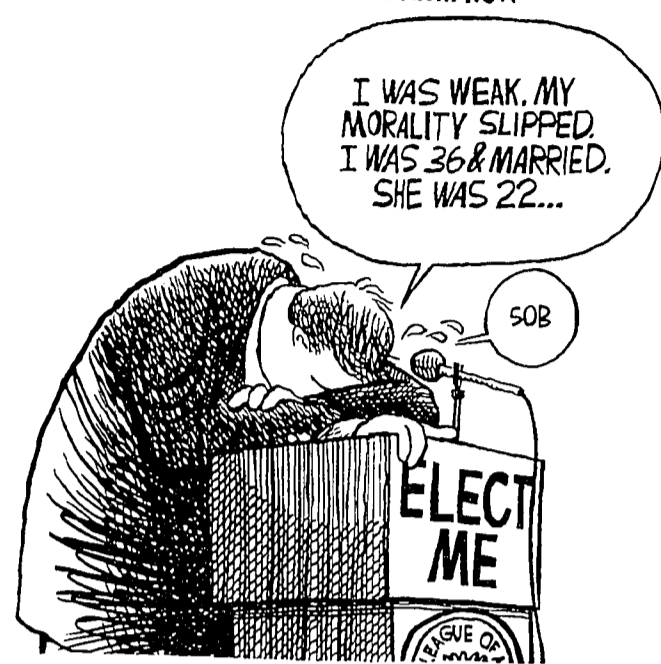
If acting Atty. General Maya Kaya is not confirmed by the Senate, she would be appointed as the governor's legal counsel, the position occupied by Doug Muir during the administration of Froilan C. Tenorio. Labor Secretary Mark Zachares would be named Attorney General. Rob Goldberg would be promoted either as chief of the AG's Civil Division or Secretary of Labor.

God save the aliens!  
Again, let me qualify that these are talks—baseless or otherwise—running through the grapevine.

The governor, as always, is very quiet.  
At any rate, whether or not the investigation is politically motivated, we can't beg the question. If indeed Mr. Buchholz and Mr. O'Roarty violated the law, the governor's warning should not be shrugged off: "No one is above the law."

Next question: How many other officials are doing or have done the same thing and not being called to account for?

### THE FALL CAMPAIGN



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

#### Time for U.S. to square up with the U.N.

WASHINGTON — While we in the media have been focused on President Clinton's domestic travails, the world has become a more dangerous place.

North Korea is lobbing test missiles over the Sea of Japan and continuing its aggressive quest for a nuclear bomb, in defiance of a pact it signed with the United States vowing otherwise. Saddam Hussein has succeeded in driving out those pesky U.N. inspection teams, and Slobodan Milosevic's troops are on the verge of "cleansing" another ethnic group as the outside world sits silent.

Many people have argued that Clinton's domestic troubles have hampered his administration's ability to deal with these crises as it normally would. The critics may be right; a weakened president makes an inviting target for America's enemies.

More worrisome at the moment is a political stalemate between the administration and Congress, which is adding immeasurably to the erosion of American influence on the world stage. The world's wealthiest country is also its biggest dead-beat.

There was a time not long ago when the United Nations — led by America — might have taken a more active response to these crises. But right now, the only thing American officials can agree upon when it comes to the U.N. is the size and shape of a shiny new headquarters building.

As things stand, America owes nearly \$2 billion in back dues to the U.N. If that debt isn't paid up on Dec. 31, there's a good chance we'll lose our vote in the General Assembly. While the vote means little in real terms (big decisions are made in the Security Council), the embarrassment factor is reason enough to settle up.

The Clinton administration has asked for \$475 million in this year's budget to start making good on that debt, part of a three-year plan to square our accounts once and for all. Congress has approved most of that money, but with a long list of conditions — the key one involving abortion — that has drawn a presidential veto threat.

Republican critics rightfully note that the U.N. bureaucracy is inefficient and bloated, and argue that support should be conditioned on management reforms. But Secretary General Kofi Annan has won high marks for tackling reform issues that his predecessors preferred to ignore. Of course, the best way to influence those reforms is to have a seat at the table.

The complaints also beg another question: If the U.N. is so bloated, why is the American delegation

asking for new office space to relieve overcrowding? And why are some of the leading critics of the world body prepared to deliver the goods?

While the battle over back dues rages, lawmakers are also about to approve the construction of the most expensive — per square foot — federal office building in history.

A bill pending in Congress would allocate \$53.5 million toward construction of a new, 15-story headquarters building for the U.S. delegation. It would be built on the same site as the current headquarters, but with an array of anti-terrorist security measures.

"Terrorism wasn't a concern when this building was built," explained one high-ranking State Department official in New York. "You're dealing with a building where people leave, walk across the street and pass resolutions against countries like Iran and Iraq. We need a secure building, or at least one that would have a chance to survive a bomb blast."

When completed, the new building would cost an estimated \$522 per square foot. For its size, construction costs will even surpass the \$800 million spent on the Ronald Reagan Building in downtown Washington, the cost of which more than doubled from an original estimate of \$362 million.

The State Department must be less worried about its diplomats in Canada. That's where the most recent U.S. embassy was built, and that only cost \$347 per square foot.

Standing in the way of this project is a lone senator, Republican Jeff Sessions of Alabama, who wants to kill the project until congressional investigators have had a chance to study the matter. But after a summer in which two U.S. embassies in Africa were bombed by Muslim extremists, Congress is in no mood to pinch pennies on a project being billed as an anti-terrorism measure.

Sessions admits that conditions are overcrowded in the current digs, which were built to house 90 workers but host as many as 350 during peak activity in the fall.

"There's no doubt that several of these people could be housed just a few blocks down the street," Sessions told us. "They say they need more entertaining room. Most people rent hotels for that."

In a political climate where building new offices takes on greater importance than restoring America's credibility by paying our bills, it's no wonder the world is a more dangerous place.

# Cepeda to US: 'Back off a little'

By Haldee V. Eugenio  
Variety News Staff  
REPRESENTATIVE Frank G. Cepeda has asked the U.S. government to "back off a little" in trying to address concerns on the CNMI labor and immigration problems.

"You know and I know that if Washington backs off just a little, there will be a relaxation of effort on the part of both the garment industry and CNMI officials to continue with the reform efforts that have been going on since the threatened federal takeover," Cepeda said in his letter to Allen Stayman, director of the Office of the Insular Affairs.

Cepeda, however, admitted that many of the labor and immigration difficulties that the CNMI faces itself today are its own making.

He said that as early as the time of the Reagan administration, the



Frank G. Cepeda

federal government already warned the CNMI to do something about its immigration, wages and other issues.

He added that two of the CNMI's previous administrations promised to clean up the mess but did nothing.

"Instead of working with the federal government to rectify these problems, the previous CNMI administration hired an expensive legal firm to fight against change," said Cepeda, who heads the House committee on judiciary and governmental operations.

The legislator made it clear though that the CNMI has come to realize that the Clinton administration is serious "in cleaning up the mess here." He added there are many in the CNMI who are happy to see the federal government take a strong stand on the issues.

He, however, pointed out that the federal government should leave it to the CNMI to decide what steps to take to address its own labor and immigration concerns.

Cepeda said he is not asking the federal government to back off completely, but just to "change



Allen Stayman

course slightly."

"Instead of the feds taking over where we have stumbled, why can't we run on a parallel course in a mutual effort to rectify these problems," he said.

The JGO committee chair suggested to Stayman to send to CNMI

federal immigration officials "to work with, observe and help train CNMI immigration officials," among others.

Cepeda also said that based from an article last week from Sacramento Bee, a newspaper from U.S. Cong. George Miller's home state of California, he has a strong case for his arguments.

"It points out that despite wage and labor laws protecting garment workers in the U.S., there are still abuses.

"So you see, what the federal government is railing against in the CNMI is also happening in George Miller's state, and probably other states like New York," said Cepeda.

He also cited that the federal government is already over 200 years old, while the CNMI government is only one generation old.

### Yigo mother arrested for allegedly trying to choke own son

By Jacob Leon Guerrero  
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — A 39-year-old Yigo woman was arrested Monday afternoon for trying to choke her own son.

Police spokesman Ron Taitano said the woman, Rosalin Taisipic Taimanglo, was charged with child abuse assault and family violence.

She was later confined at the Agana Detention Facility.

Taimanglo's husband contacted the police after he got home from work and found out what had happened. Taitano said that officers on the scene found red marks on the boy and later contacted Child Protective Services.

In other police news, two girls

reported to officers at the Department of Youth Affairs that they were sexually assaulted by male relatives.

The investigation has determined that one of the complainants, a 13-year-old girl, alleges that sometime back in February she was sexually assaulted by a known male relative while at a residence in Dededo.

The other girl alleges that she was sexually assaulted by a known male relative while they were inside a residence in Agana Heights last April.

The officers have turned the case over to the Criminal Investigation Section of the Guam Police Department.

The suspects have been identified by police.

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### A 'Flood' of medical info

By William L. Flood, MD  
Pediatrics, Saipan Health Center

#### Mumps

MUMPS is the second "M" in the MMR vaccine.

The first "M" is measles, and the "R" is rubella, or German measles.

Since 1977, when the MMR vaccine came into common usage, the number of cases of mumps seen in the US has plummeted.

It is now a rare disease. Still, parents often bring in children with swollen neck glands wondering, "Is this mumps?"

Mumps usually begins with a mild fever and pain and swelling in the glands just in front of the ear.

While mumps may begin on one side, it usually spreads quickly to the other side and the children's cheeks bulge out like chipmunks.

The glands involved are the parotid glands.

These glands are on the side of our cheeks, and when they swell they cover the angle of the jaw and make the ears stick out.

They also hurt.

When we eat foods, especially sour foods like pickles or lemon drops, the parotid glands squeeze down and force out saliva to help us digest

these foods.

This led to the old "pickle test" where a child with suspected mumps was given a pickle to eat.

If they yelled or shouted nasty things because it hurt, they had mumps (or they didn't like pickles).

There are several other bacteria and viruses which can also infect these glands, so the "pickle test" was really not all that specific.

Other similar glands in the body also get swollen and painful.

The pancreas under the stomach can cause stomach pain. Swollen testes in young men may produce groin pain.

In very rare cases men were left sterile after a mumps infection.

The immunization for mumps is given as part of the MMR shot at age one, with a booster needed before beginning school.

While mumps is a fairly mild illness, it is teamed up in the MMR with two "bad actors" — measles and German measles.

It is important to get this immunization.

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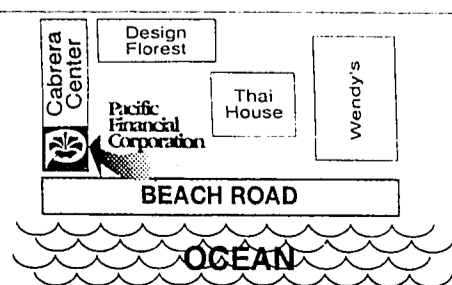
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# Palau upbeat on tourism

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff  
**KOROR, Palau** — Despite the overall nine percent decline in visitor arrivals to Palau during the first eight months of the year, industry officials remain upbeat on the prospects of the country's largest revenue-generating sector. This, as travelers from Japan registered a three percent growth from January to August, compared with figures recorded during the same period last year. Official tally from the Palau

Visitors Authority indicated that Japanese arrivals totaled 14,343 during the first eight months of 1997, climbing to 14,829 during the same period this year. Mary Ann Delemel, PVA managing director, stressed that although the increase in the number of Japanese arrivals to Palau did not reach a double-digit growth rate, the development is a good indication that the country remains a top tour destination among travelers from Japan. Delemel explained that while

other destinations in the Micronesian region suffer a sharp decline in arrivals from the Japanese market, Palau registered a growth rate significant enough to boost confidence among local industry players. "It is good for Palau because even though Japan showed slight increase, arrivals from the country to other Micronesian destinations have sharply decreased. For Palau to experience three percent growth is already a good indication that the tourism industry here is doing better," she said. At the same time, travelers from Europe jumped by 19 percent from January to August this year. PVA records noted that some 1,271 European travelers set foot on

Palau last year, increasing to 1,517 during the same period this year. Visitors from the United States also increased by 20 percent from 7,366 in 1997 to 8,828 during the period under review this year. On the other hand, visitors from Taiwan, Palau's other largest tourism market, dropped by a whopping 33 percent, from 21,766 during the Jan.-Aug. period last year to 14,679 this year. Delemel stemmed down the overall nine percent drop in visitor arrivals to the sharp decline of the Taiwan economy, as a result of the worsening Asian crisis, last February. Tourists from Australia and New Zealand numbered 425 during the period under review in

1997, dropping by four percent this year to 408. Hong Kong travelers declined by 44 percent from 147 last year to 82 this year. As is with Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, visitor arrivals from Korea to Palau dramatically slipped down by 73 percent, from 1,425 last year to 390 in 1998. Of the total, 46,943 arrivals from January to August this year, some 41,077 planned in to Palau as tourists; 2,803 were on business trip; while 2,563 came here for employment. Total number of tourists this year dropped by six percent from 1997; business trips jumped by 46 percent and employment arrivals increased by 20 percent from 2,137 to 2,563.



WALTZING. Frances Sablan and Carolinian Affairs Executive Assistant Frank Rabaulman dance the Ballan Batsu last Friday at the Garapan Central Park. Photo by Louie C. Alonso

## Atalig: Rota people getting a 'raw deal' on agri-homestead program

SENATOR Ricardo S. Atalig (R-Rota) said the people of Rota were getting a "raw deal from both local and federal permitting agencies" on the designation and approval of agricultural homestead lots on Rota.

In a letter to Director of Public Lands Bertha C. Leon Guerrero, Atalig registered his frustration with the bureaucratic obstacles that have hampered the timely distribution of agricultural homesteads in the first senatorial district.

"At the core of this issue is our right to self determination," said Atalig in a news release.

"Tell me why the US Navy can come to Rota armed with bombs and dubious justifications and destroy a designated fish reserve, while at the same time, a young Rotanese man can't even get permission from the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Ser-



Ricardo S. Atalig

vice to plow a hectare of land to help his family because of a nesting crow?" How are we supposed to accept such a blatant double standard?"

Atalig went on to say he remains a staunch advocate of environmental protection but he was "not prepared to compromise when the issue involves the in-

alienable rights of the indigenous people of the CNMI."

"We have shown a willingness to bend over backward in an effort to promote and institute strict conservation measures that will protect the indigenous plants and animals of our island. Now it's time for the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to start accommodating the indigenous people of Rota."

Atalig ended his letter on an optimistic note saying that the Coastal Resources Management Program (CRM) and the Rota leadership are exploring options that will expedite the entire homestead permitting process.

"We have over 700 applicants, more than enough viable farm land and leaders that are ready to help on any way, shape or form. It's time for us to start looking at what we can do instead of just saying we can't," he said.

## Education Island opens

By Louie C. Alonso  
Variety News Staff  
AS PART of the awareness drive for the Soil and Water Conservation Month, event organizers has opened up the Education Island in Kagman for the public.

Soil and Water Conservation Month chairman Patrick Calvo said they are trying to bring the students at the Kagman site to help them fully understand the importance of wildlife.

"We are trying to get the agriculture students to visit Education Island first where they could help us in planting more trees in the site," said Calvo.

The trails in Education Island were already constructed by the Soil and Water Conservation Month group. Calvo added they already planted more plants in the four-acre site.

"It really looks like a real wildlife now. We have indigenous plants all around the site. And one of the reasons why we are eager to build this Education Island is to provide shelter for the birds and other habitats," continued Calvo.

The awareness drive of Soil and Water Conservation Month coincides with the campaign of Arbor Month which is hosted by the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

"We go hand in hand with the Arbor Month because they are doing the same kind of awareness like what we are trying to do which is planting more trees in schools and the community. I think this is better because it gives the public more information against envi-

Continued on page 22

## Chamber urges workforce survey

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff  
BASELINE data on the indigenous workforce is needed to determine the extent to which nonresident workers can be allowed into the local employment scene, according to the Saipan Chamber of Commerce.

In its six-page position letter on Senate Bill 11-71, Chamber President Jose C. Ayuyu suggested such a study will identify jobs shunned by indigenous workers who do not have the necessary skills for it or who look down on being employed under such category saying it does not benefit them.

"There has never been a study conducted to determine the... availability of the local



Jose C. Ayuyu

workforce," said Ayuyu in the letter sent to Sen. Juan P. Tenorio, the bill's proponent. "Perhaps," he proposed, "the Legislature should commission a study to be done with a primary objective to identify the many job positions in the CNMI

that a local person would not consider to be employed in." Ayuyu said such job categories include, among others, domestic helps, waitresses, garbage collectors, and dishwashers.

He said a baseline survey on the local workforce "would not be a difficult or lengthy task," adding that the Chamber "will commit" to assist government on the matter.

"Once such fact is determined," Ayuyu said, "... we could see job positions that are desirable or would be accepted to the local workforce, and then determine an approximation as to how many local people would be available to fill in such positions."

Ayuyu said the Legislature,

having a baseline data at hand, move on to formulate regulations on the employment on nonresident workers "that would have a realistic basis."

The Chamber, as well as other business groups, oppose S.B. 11-71, which seeks to limit the stay of nonresident workers in the CNMI saying the bill, if enacted, will result to a "significant disruption (on) the necessary continuity of business operations... along with costly expenses."

The Legislature, in justifying the bill, claimed it is needed to address US concerns on the Commonwealth's labor and immigration affairs.

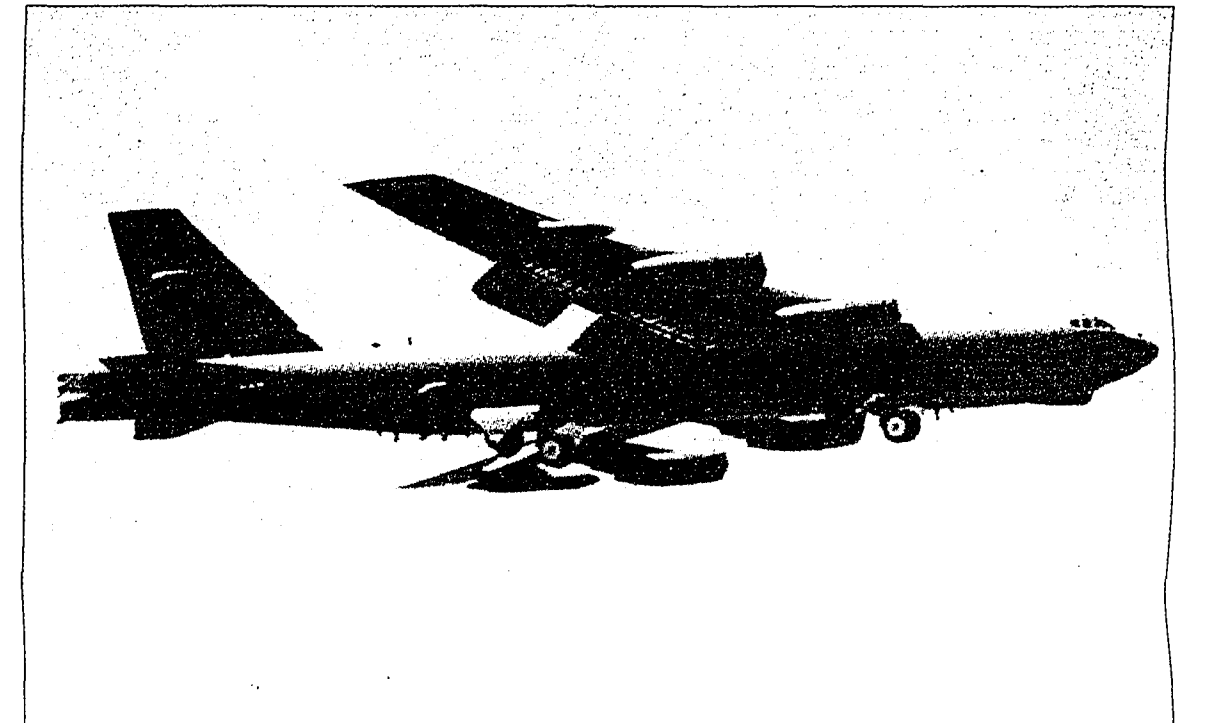
The Chamber, however, maintains the bill "is not the answer."

## Unruly man is arrested

By Jacob Leon Guerrero  
Variety News Staff  
HAGATNA — A Dededo man was arrested and taken to prison Monday evening on various charges including disorderly conduct, public intoxication, obstructing government operations, and resisting arrest.

Police spokesman Ron Taitano said officers removed Eugene Peter Paul Barker from a residence after he was reportedly causing trouble. While he was detained at the Dededo Precinct, he repeatedly yelled, and obstructed the police dispatcher from communicating with in-coming calls.

The suspect was transferred later to the Agana Detention Facility.



A B-52 takes off at Andersen Air Force Base to return to home base in Barksdale, Louisiana. Three Bombers participated in 30-day Global Power exercise in the Pacific Region. They will be flying non-stop for 20 hours, covering a distance of 8,800 miles. Photo by C.J. Urquico

## Newly-appointed OIA official



Royline F. Wada, a long-time islands health official who has worked with every hospital and health department in the U.S.-related Pacific islands, has been appointed Technical Assistance Officer by the Office of Insular Affairs. Ms. Wada's appointment was announced by OIA Director Allen P. Stayman. Previously headquartered in Honolulu, her new work with the islands will be Washington-based.

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Sen. Edward Maratita (right) receives from Joeten Motors GM Carlos Camacho the key to a new Ford ride-on mower valued at \$2,895 for the San Francisco De Borja Fiesta. Photo by Tony Celis

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# DPL: AGO reviews L&T lease

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff

GOVERNMENT is reviewing the lease agreement it entered into with L&T Group of Companies to determine whether an ongoing litigation qualifies for the "excused delay" provision it stipulates, according to the Division of Public Land (DPL).

In an interview, DPL Deputy Director Henry Hofschneider said the division is still awaiting word from the Attorney General's Office (AGO) on whether L&T lawyer Steven P. Pixley's argument on the matter holds water.

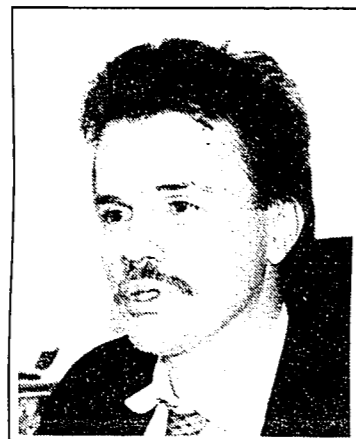
"We want them (AGO lawyers) to look at it (Pixley's letter). We have forwarded it to them," said Hofschneider.

"(DPL) is awaiting advise from AGO," he added.

Pixley, in his letter to DPL Director Bertha Leon Guerrero, maintained government can not terminate L&T's



Bertha Leon Guerrero



Steven P. Pixley

lease for a Navy Hill mall complex explaining that the agreement supposedly provides an "excused delay" clause covering litigation.

The pending case involves legal action filed in 1995 by then congressman Stanley T. Torres and lawyer Jeanne H. Rayphand against then governor Froilan C. Tenorio, then

Lands and Natural Resources

secretary Benigno M. Sablan and Guerrero.

In filing their case, Torres and Rayphand claimed the lease agreement is allegedly against the public's interest as the land was leased for \$3 million when it was supposedly worth \$8 million.

However, lawyer Robert Goldberg who is representing government asked the court to

dismiss the lawsuit, arguing that DPL's termination notice has "rendered it moot."

DPL terminated L&T's lease for the Navy Hill Pacific Mall complex project on grounds

of alleged breach of contract and unpaid rent which has amounted to \$118,500.

The lease agreement involved 38,574 square meters of land in lower Navy Hill.

## BPL 'inclined' to approve Marpi cable car project

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff

THE BOARD of Public Land (BPL) is "inclined" to approve a draft lease agreement with a Korean-ran firm proposing to build a Marpi cable car service after the latter, though requesting that it be done on phases, agreed to include back provisions requiring it to construct supplementary shops.

In an interview, BPL Chair Tomas B. Aldan said he "has no problem" with the draft prepared by the Division of Public Land (DPL) on the lease.

"So long as it (lease agree-



Tomas B. Aldan

ment) has a definite time frame, I don't have a problem," said Aldan.

The Board, he said, is "inclined to approve it."

Saipan Leisure Corp. (SLC), which is planning to build a cable car system from atop Suicide Cliff down Banzai Cliff, conceded to DPL's insistence that it adhere to the original text of the lease agreement where it was stipulated that a coffee shop will be constructed on Suicide Cliff while a department store will be erected on Banzai Cliff.

SLC officials however proposed that the support establishments be built on the fifth year of the cable car service's operation.

SLC officials, according to DPL, has signified good faith intentions to push through with the project.

They explained though that they would need to first have a copy of the agreement to the Korean government before the latter can allow them to take their funds to the Commonwealth.

The Korean government has imposed such measures in the face of an economic crisis it is currently experiencing.

"It's okay if they need to show proof first," said Aldan.

Aldan said BPL is trying to arrange a Board meeting this weekend.

An earlier meeting was canceled after the Board failed to arrive at a quorum.

A cable car service, officials said, would add another attraction for tourists visiting the Commonwealth and is thus, hoped to help boost visitor arrival rates which have consistently been decreasing over the past several months.

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## DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH OCTOBER 1998

• A Proclamation •

The mission of the CNMI Office of Vocational Rehabilitation is to eliminate unemployment and promote independence among eligible individuals with disabilities throughout the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The CNMI Office of Vocational Rehabilitation values those people with disabilities who wish to be employed, along with other families, their significant others, and those who are willing to help such persons with disabilities to realize their dreams of meaningful employment and at least some measure of self-sufficiency.

The main goals of the CNMI Office of Vocational Rehabilitation and State Rehabilitation Council are to help disabled persons who are currently unemployed to acquire the skills and training necessary to make their employment abilities and opportunities equal to non-disabled candidates.

Compares to the current 4.5 percent of unemployed persons in the United States, some 70 percent of adults with disabilities across America remain unemployed despite a strong and prospering economy during the past years.

The President of the United States, by Executive Order, has called upon the people of the nation to work together to overcome the dire consequences of unemployment of people with disabilities.

The CNMI Office of Vocational Rehabilitation supports the hiring of qualified persons with disabilities in both the public and private sectors of our Commonwealth.

There exists several CNMI agencies that work in cooperation with the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation which can provide information and referral dealing with disabled persons, including the Developmental Disabilities Council, the State Independent Living Council, and the Abilities Center at the Northern Marianas College.

The hiring of persons with disabilities will make an important contribution to our society by reducing the dependence of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands on imported guest workers.

The employment of persons with disabilities will reduce government expenditures on support programs and increase government revenues when they become taxpayers.

Most importantly, employment of persons with disabilities will provide a better quality of life for those citizens, will be of great benefit to their families, and be a positive contribution to the strength and diversity our island community.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, BY VIRTUE OF THE FOREGOING, I, PEDRO P. TENORIO, Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, by virtue of the authority vested in me by the Constitution and laws of the Commonwealth, do hereby proclaim the month of October 1998 as DISABILITY EMPLOYMENT AWARENESS MONTH, and call the government and private sectors of the Commonwealth to observe the month and support the appropriate programs and activities.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand on this 6th day of October 1998.

*Pedro P. Tenorio*  
**PEDRO P. TENORIO**  
Governor

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## MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

On behalf of the Board of Directors, we would like to take this opportunity in extending our sincere appreciation and gratitude for the following individuals and firms for your unselfish support and contribution in making our cultural week celebration a great success;

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- Vice-Speaker Jesus T. Attao
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- Marianas Marine Management, Inc. (MMM)
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- M.S. Villagomez, Inc.
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- Hopwood Refalawash Dancers
- Local Dancers
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- Local Wave Band
- MC Barrio-Mwamwaay-Cions
- Olomwaay Band
- Refaluwash Genealogy Society
- Refaluwash Tuufey Dancers
- Talabwog Men Dancers
- Talabwog Women Dancers
- Tipiycew Band
- Urule Dancers

Cognizant of the present economic slump, we are deeply grateful for your overwhelming support and contribution to a worthy endeavor. It is through your efforts and sacrifices that makes the event a tremendous success, making our jobs worthwhile.

Once again Thank You, Si Yuus Maase, Olomwaay, me Tirow Wóómi.

/s/ Felix R. Nogis  
President

/s/ Luis M. Limes  
Vice President

# 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

## DLNR urge schools: Plant trees

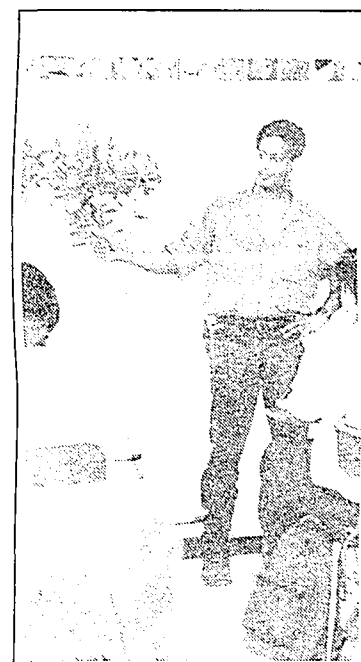
By Louie C. Alonso  
Variety News Staff  
OFFICIALS from the Department of Land and Natural Resources visited the Calvary Christian Academy yesterday and held a one hour seminar for seventh grade students on the importance of planting trees in the community.

The seminar was part of the activities for the celebration of Arbor Month that kicked off last Thursday.

Vic Guerrero of DLNR taught the students on the basic aspect of planting and trees propagation.

"The kids need education in agriculture and environment. They need to know the importance of having trees and the benefits that they give to the people. Trees are the cheapest, most available natural resource that we have. We must take care of the trees in order for them to care of us," Guerrero said.

Guerrero said they are visiting most



Vic Guerrero of DLNR shows the Pink Tacoma Tree to the students of Calvary Christian Academy yesterday.

schools in the island for DLNR's campaign for Arbor Month.

"It is the best time for the kids to learn this things while they are still young. However, the adults are never too old to learn these things, either. We are zeroing now to the elementary level. The earlier they learn in taking care of the environment, the better," added Guerrero.

Today, some students of the Calvary Christian Academy will be going to the Marpi Commonwealth Forest Trail. They will be assisted by some employees of the DLNR.

The Marpi trail is known to have a unique natural history of the Limestone Forest. The trail is 1.8 miles or 2.9 kilometers in which the hiking time is approximately two hours.



Seventh grade students of Calvary Christian Academy listen attentively to Department of Land & Natural Resources official discussing the importance of planting trees in the community. Photos by Louie C. Alonso

## CNMI Red Cross to hold family safety day on Halloween

By Louie C. Alonso  
Variety News Staff

HERE'S probably another reason to celebrate Halloween: The American Red Cross (ARC) has decided to hold its family safety campaign on the same day.

ARC will be training families on how to respond and prepare to different emergencies and disasters.

Cassandra Ely of Red Cross said the original date of holding the Family Safety Day was moved from August to October.

However, due to bigger activities lined up for this month — Family Violence Awareness, Arbor, Soil and Water Conservation among others — they finally slated

the event to halloween.

The Family and Safety Day, Ely said, will be held at the Price Costco where CPR/FA demonstrations will be performed and fire safety information will be distributed.

Other activities include resources for teachers where Red Cross will give out Big Bird Awareness Disaster videos to teachers and the family disaster planning.

Red Cross will also have HIV counselling during the event.

"We want to let the people know that we are also offering HIV tests during the Family Safety Day. If they want to have HIV tests, they could check the Red Cross out there during the halloween," said Ely.

Red Cross is expecting to have

20 to 25 disaster volunteers during the event.

Part of the event is the staging of "Fun Day" that will start from nine in the morning to two in the afternoon where Red Cross people will give out free candies for kids who will attend the event.

"This Red Cross activity has nothing to do with the halloween celebration. We only felt that halloween is the best time to reach out to more people. And during halloween, there are lots of kids roaming around with their parents. And I guess this is one of the best ways to teach the young ones about the importance of safety and preparation during disasters," said Ely.

## Artist tries hand at floral business

By Louie C. Alonso  
Variety News Staff

ALL SOUL'S Day is approaching and with it come flower specialty shops all across the island.

Local artist Chen Xiao Ping will be opening another flower specialty shop at her Koblerville art studio, today in preparation

for the November 1 religious holiday.

The Phoenix Art Studio will have a special display of corona flower arrangements.

Aside from this, flowers and baskets will also be available for those who want to design their own coronas.

All materials, according to

Chen, are from China.

"We have started doing this kind of business seven years ago," said Chen.

"I am the one who is designing the arrangements of flowers. We used to have a specialty shop at the front of Townhouse but now, I just use my studio here in Koblerville for the display of the coronas," she added.

The sketches, logos, paintings and ceramics that Chen is currently displaying at the shop will be removed temporarily to accommodate all the corona arrangements.

Prices for the coronas costs between \$10 to \$100.

"The \$100 are huge coronas. However, customers could ask me what kind of design they want and what color," added Chen.

Aside from the display of corona arrangements, the 26-year old artist is looking forward to be nominated in this year's Governor's Arts Awards where she was cited a recognition last year for her visual works.



Local artist Chen Xiao Ping weaves the corona basket she's putting on sale starting today until All Saints' Day Nov. 1. Photo by Louie C. Alonso

# AROUND the Islands

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## MCS campaigns vs family violence

By Louie C. Alonso  
Variety News Staff

AN OUNCE of prevention is a pound of cure.

And with that cliché in mind, students and staff of the Mount Carmel School is launching a strong campaign against domestic violence.

When Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio proclaimed October as Family Violence Awareness Month, MCS through the help of Division of Youth Services (DYS) intensified violence awareness campaign at the campus.

Most MCS students made family violence awareness posters and posted them around the campus area. Others wrote essays that describe domestic violence and abuses.

According to MCS President, Sis. Kathleen Sarmiento, the campus-wide campaign started last year.

"DYS is very helpful in making our students and staff aware of the abuses that happen in society.

"By wearing blue ribbons, we are letting everybody know that we are against any form of family violence. We know that it is happening to anybody so we really have this big campaign on violence and abuse prevention," said Sarmiento.

MCS is bringing in guest speakers to discuss domestic violence issues. At present, they are negotiating with the director of DHS on the matter.

"We want the students to know that violence is not proper. This is

not something that they should live with but this is something that they must prevent," said Sarmiento.

Aside from the domestic violence awareness campaign, MCS is also teaching their students that it is wrong to be abusive or violent whether verbal, physical or emotional as this may lead to the disintegration of the family later in their life.



High School Students from Mount Carmel School fall in line outside the campus as part of the fire exit drill that Fire Division conducted last Monday. Photo by Louie C. Alonso

## P.A.W.S. sponsors pet immunization clinic

PET ASSISTANCE and Welfare Services (PAWS), a non-profit organization is sponsoring a low-cost immunization clinic for immunizing dogs, cats, puppies and kittens.

Dr. Kelvin Malakooti from the Animal Medical Clinic on Guam is coming to vaccinate dogs and cats on Saipan at a very low cost. All charges are subsidized by PAWS and below the cost of the vaccine alone.

This will be the second clinic in a series of four and will be held this Sunday, October 11 at the 4-H Club House located on Beach Road across from Marianas High School.

Because of the long waiting period, the clinic will be limited to immunization, deworming and/or heartworm or feline leukemia testing only.

Registration will be from 10 a.m. to 12 noon only.

Animals will not be registered after noon. However, PAWS will continue to service all animals registered before noon until all are seen.

Priority in line will be given to paid up-to-date PAWS members. For more information, please contact Bobbi Grizzard at 322-9464.

## Dynasty dubs its first slots tourney a success

TINIAN — Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino's first slots tournament, held September 26th proved to be an instant success, the Hotel said in a news release.

The tournament initially required 60 people to enter but due to an overwhelming response, an extra session was held to accommodate the waitlisted contestants from as far as Guam.

"Even with the extra session some people were disappointed that they missed out," said Electronic Gaming Manager and tournament director Adrian Patch.

The tournament, played on spinning reel-type machines required each contestant to push a button or pull a handle on their machine for 10 minutes. The three contestant with the most credits at the end of each session qualified for the final.

Mrs. Hilda Joyner of Saipan was the Inaugural winner after notching up 725 credits in the 10-minute final, receiving \$900 in Tinian Dynasty slot tokens for her win.

Second prize went to Gemma Reyes and the third to Rolly Bugarin. Other prizes on the night included



Inaugural slots tournament Hilda Joyner receives first prize from Tinian Dynasty Casino Manager Claran Carruthers. (Dynasty photo)

dinner certificates and special Tinian Dynasty logo watches.

By popular demand, the next slots tournament is scheduled early this coming Saturday, October 10th and promises to be another fun night with prizes and giveaways and the entry fee is \$10, the hotel said.

### We are now accepting listings for our new Community Calendar section.

Listings must pertain to events such as weddings, christenings, anniversaries, special observations or occasions, achievements of local residents and activities of non-political local organizations and groups. We will be happy to list ongoing or weekly events such as club meetings, support groups, sports events, etc.

### How to list your event with Community Calendar

- Listings must pertain to events such as weddings, christenings, anniversaries, special observations or occasions, achievements of local residents and activities of non-political local organizations and groups.
- Information must be accompanied by all information concerning the event. I.e., names, dates, places, event title, etc. Also include phone numbers and contacts for additional information. Be as complete as possible.
- Photos must be accompanied by appropriate captions and identification of subjects in photos.

Listings for CNMI can be faxed to (670) 234-9271 or mailed to: Marianas Variety, Community Calendar, P. O. Box 231 Saipan, MP 96950

Listings for Guam can be faxed to (671) 649-4687 or mailed to: Marianas Variety, Community Calendar, 960 South Marine Drive, Suite 152, Tamuning, Guam 96911. E-mail us at: yas@gtpeacific.net

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*Despite controversies:*

# 'AGO revamp unnecessary'

**By Haldee V. Eugenio**  
Variety News Staff  
AMID CONTROVERSIES and issues currently being raised concerning the Attorney General's Office and its staff, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday said that having a revamp may only cause harm rather than improvement for the said agency.

First there was the Senate's action against the nomination of Maya Kara as permanent attorney general. Then a legislator earlier alleged that a number of local issues are not properly addressed because of the inefficiency of the AG office.

The latest issue is the investigation of two assistant attorney generals who are being investigated by the Department of Labor and Immigration (DOLI) for alleged viola-

tion of CNMI labor and immigration laws.

DOLI Sec. Mark Zachares said Ross Buchholz, former senior prosecutor of the AGO's Criminal Division and Department of Public Safety Legal Counsel William O'Roarty are being investigated for hiring an illegal alien as domestic worker.

While Buchholz was being demoted to prosecutor, Roarty has just filed his resignation yesterday (see related story).

The governor, however, dismissed speculations that a revamp is needed, saying there may be lack of teamwork within the office, and the case of the two officials does not really pose threat to the daily operations of the office.

"I don't think we have a lot of problems with the AGO. We just



Pedro P. Tenorio

need a good management and good team to work together. I'm sure if they work together, we could accomplish a lot of things," he told reporters.

Tenorio also expressed hopes that the alleged violations of the two assistant attorney generals is just "tip of an iceberg" or there may be a lot more

high-ranking government officials who violate local laws.

"I hope not, and if there's more, we're not interested in prosecuting these people. We're only asking people to try to comply with the existing laws and regulations. That's all what we're asking," he said.

Tenorio also believes that the two AG office officials did not really intend to violate local labor and immigration laws.

"I don't think there's any intention of hiring illegal alien," said the governor, but added that if somebody accused somebody, the government still has to look into the allegation.

He earlier pointed out that no one is above the law. He said that regardless of whether an individual involved in a certain violation is a top government official or a plain employee, the

law will always apply to him. "We cannot just sit and do nothing," he said.

The local chief executive added that Kara, who heads the AG office in an acting capacity, is now meeting daily with her staff to monitor the operations and functions of the said agency.

He reminded local residents — especially government officials who are supposed to uphold the law — to refrain from hiring illegal non-resident workers.

"I think everybody knows that they are not entitled to hire illegal aliens. Our local people who are hiring non-resident workers must take immediate action and check either an individual is illegal or if he does not possess any entry permit," he said.

## 2 banks . . .

*Continued from page 1*

rates are currently at 6.25 percent for 15 years, 6.63 percent for 20 years, and 6.75 percent for 30-year mortgages.

Joseph Bradley, Bank of Guam vice president, chief economist, and special assistant to the president, said the rates should hold at least for the next month and a half.

"The Federal Reserve Open Market Committee meets again toward the end of November and there is already speculation that the Fed may lower the rates again," Bradley said.

When asked whether Bank of Guam will have a corresponding cut in rates if the Fed lowers its rates again, Bradley said this depends largely on what the larger banks such as Citibank and Bank of America will do.

"Those banks sort of set the trend for the industry. But in general over the last couple of decades, as the Federal Reserve Open Market Committee has changed its target rate, the larger commercial banks have also changed their prime rate."

Fisher echoed this view saying it's likely that the Fed will reduce the key borrowing rate by another 25 basis points or one quarter of one percent probably by year-end.

"This is good news for consumers with the holiday season coming up. We always offer Christmas loan packages for people that need money over the holidays. This year, because of the drop in rates, loan rates could be cheaper but I'm not sure yet exactly how much cheaper."

He added that in Saipan, the lower Guam Savings rate applies to loans which are priced using the base rate of interest.

"There are some commercial

loans which are fixed at the time they are booked while there are some loans that float with a certain percentage or number of points over base. The ones which are floating over base will be affected. All new loan borrowings which are geared to base would be 25 percent cheaper," Fisher said.

Last week, the Federal Reserve moved to inoculate the U.S. economy against a spreading global economic crisis by cutting the key federal funds rate to 5.25 percent.

This is the rate which the Fed charges banks for overnight borrowings. It is also the key rate from which most commercial banks price their commercial loans.

In a news release, Bank of Guam President Anthony Leon Guerrero said that his bank is proud to do its part in serving the people of Guam and the Micronesian islands.

The bank is confident that this re-

duction in interest rates will help stimulate new economic activity.

Increased support for consumer spending, new home purchases and lower costs of business financing will improve conditions in the islands during this time of need," Leon Guerrero said.

He added that in its regular meeting last Sept. 28, Bank of Guam's board of directors also voted to increase regular quarterly dividends from \$0.09 to \$0.10 per share.

This is an 11 percent increase in dividends, paid to more than 3,500 shareholders in Guam and throughout the Micronesian islands.

Leon Guerrero said Bank of Guam is doing everything it can to return the islands to prosperity and the bank's dividend increase will have a significant effect on the economies of the region.

With the current poor economic situation in Guam and the CNMI, Guam Saving's Mark Fish said the lowering of Guam Saving's rate will

help make loans more affordable for the average person.

"We think the rate change is good because during this time of a slow economy, a lower rate enables people to afford needed loans. If we hadn't lowered the rate, more people would have hesitated to borrow because of the economic slowdown and the projection for continued tough times ahead. And that's also one of the reasons why the Fed dropped the rate."

"They saw that banks were tightening credit and it was harder to get loans so they are trying to stimulate the economy by making borrowing more affordable," Fish said.

Bank of Guam's Joseph Bradley added that having the lower rate is also Bank of Guam's way of supporting the economic recovery of our region.

"We expect this to boost business on Guam and Saipan."

## Teno . . .

*Continued from page 12*

tary Joseph P. Villagomez; and Division of Environmental Quality and one of its top officials, Antonio I. De Leon Guerrero.

Campbell in the complaint asked the Superior Court to issue a judgment declaring that the disposal and dumping actions taken by the defendants are violative of Commonwealth statutory law.

Specifically, Campbell sought a ruling that the disposal and dumping actions taken by the defendants are violative of the CNMI Constitution and are contradictory to their constitutional duty to protect the health and welfare of the citizens of the Northern Mariana Islands.

"Although this legal action will undoubtedly draw criticism as being political, it is not about politics. It is about an unbelievable health and safety hazard—a monument to some peoples' total disregard for the consequences of 'fouling their nests,'" said

Campbell in a press statement.

The complaint stated that since the Commonwealth was created in 1976, the CNMI government has allowed the open dumping of trash, garbage and other solid waste at the Puerto Rico dump.

The dumping, the complaint said, has resulted in extreme environmental damage to the water and aquatic life in contravention of the US Clean Water Act, statutes and Constitutional provisions.

The dump in the past had numerous fires creating smoke and other noxious gases, causing injury to plaintiffs, other residents, investors and tourists in the CNMI, said Campbell in the complaint.

Campbell said CNMI has received several million dollars in US Government financial assistance in "efforts to achieve a progressively higher standard of living for its people."

Very little, if any, of the capital improvement project funds have been expended on controlling the open dump at Puerto Rico, said the lawyer.

He said that in 1992, the administration of Gov. Lorenzo I. DL. Guerrero and Benjamin T. Manglona "broke ground" for construction of a new sanitary landfill in the area of the Marpi Depression.

"Since that time and for numerous months thereafter, much rock blasting and soil excavation took place to prepare a site, suitable for installation of a butyl plastic liner and associated cover and drainage systems to complete a proper US EPA compliant sanitary landfill," Campbell said.

Campbell said that on April 27, 1996 then Lt. Gov. Borja signed a partial termination agreement of the NMI and the US.

Such agreement, he pointed out, abrogates the responsibilities of the US government to provide Defense Environmental Recovery Program and any other financial assistance to remediate, remove, or clean up the dump.

Borja's drafted documents, the lawyer said, will cost the CNMI government \$26 mil-

lion in lost lease back payments.

"To worsen the situation, through Borja's negotiations the CNMI government not only released the US Government from liability to itself, it also indemnified the US from any legal actions by third parties for whatever damages or injuries they may receive," he said.

The CNMI government, according to Campbell, did pay \$937,482 for unused leaseback payments for the year Borja signed, on behalf of his people, this agreement.

Creating a real disaster, he said, the administration of then Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio and Lt. Gov. Borja gave orders to have the Commonwealth Ports Authority to dump sand and other dredging materials from the lagoon which added to the increased garbage load has expanded the gross volume of the Puerto Rico dump.

In causing or allowing the harbor seaport dredge to do into the Puerto Rico dump, Campbell said Borja was in

violation of the CNMI Constitution and the Commonwealth Solid Waste Management as amended by the Emergency Puerto Rico Dumpsite Closure Act of 1994.

The lawyer said the promise of the current administration of Gov. Pedro Tenorio in the election campaign of 1997 to close the dump within the first 100 days has not been fulfilled.

"Moreover, the current administration have actually progressed backwards in the construction of Marpi sanitary landfill by directing that or causing materials be moved from the Puerto Rico dumpsite to fill in the excavation at the Marpi Depression," he said.

Campbell said the plaintiffs seek for an order against all defendants currently in offices of the executive branch to immediately cease transferring materials from the Puerto Rico dump and or the bottom of the lagoon to disposal in the former sanitary landfill site in the Marpi Depression.

## Marshalls dispute widens

# Kabua rebukes Chief Justice

**By Giff Johnson**  
For the Variety  
**Majuro** — Marshall Islands President Imata Kabua and his cabinet launched a stinging public attack on the nation's Chief Justice, following a ruling against the government in an ongoing parliamentary vote of no confidence controversy that has prevented the Nitijela (parliament) from conducting its business.

In a statement broadcast nationally yesterday on government radio, the government said that American Chief Justice Daniel Cadra was not fit to be a judge, adding that his opinion was "wrong" and "is poorly reasoned, legally flawed and badly written."

The statement said the government will appeal the decision which supported the position of the parliamentary opposition.

Both the government's attorney general and opposition senators had gone to the High Court seeking a ruling to break the Constitutional deadlock that forced the Nitijela to recess late last month without passing the new fiscal year national budget.

Cadra ruled last week that a motion of no confidence, as one of the most important issues before the parliament, must be voted on and could not be avoided by an unconstitutional boycott of the Nitijela by senators.

He said that allowing the motion to lapse would send the message to all public officials that they could avoid Constitutional obligations by unconstitutional actions.

The President led a walkout

from Nitijela on September 7 in a dispute over whether the no confidence motion should be held by open roll call or secret ballot vote.

The government said the Chief Justice's decision "is nothing more than a political statement of opinion by an activist judge who is clearly biased against the 18 members and in favor of the Speaker, Senator Litokwa Tomezing and their lawyer."

The Chief Justice said that the government party members of parliament who boycotted the session had violated their oath of office.

The government retorted that, in fact, "those senators honored their oath of office" while the minority opposition was violating the Constitution.

The government attacked the Chief Justice for lacking "judicial temperament, intellectual honesty and objectivity when he willingly interprets the rules in

favor of the minority and then uses bogus excuses to avoid interpreting the rules when the rules will favor the majority."

The statement ridiculed the Chief Justice's opinion that a vote

must be held. The government said that a "fair and democratic government cannot be achieved by denying the majority of the Nitijela, 18 Senators, their Constitutional right to a

roll call vote and allowing the minority to have a secret ballot."

Former cabinet minister and now opposition Senator Litokwa Tomezing said that the opposition

*Continued on page 22*

## El Nino draws fishing fleet to Majuro

**By Giff Johnson**  
For the Variety  
**Majuro** — Weather conditions caused by El Niño have brought the Asian and American purse seine fishing fleet to the Marshall Islands — with major economic benefits to the nation, said officials at the Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority (MIMRA).

In the past month, seven Taiwanese and 26 Korean purse seiners have purchased fishing licenses to join some 31 Japanese vessels that were already licensed under an experimental fishing agreement.

Even three purse seiners owned

by states in neighboring Federated States of Micronesia have purchased licenses in recent weeks, MIMRA staff report.

Licenses alone have injected more than \$1 million into the country's coffers, and the boats also pay five percent of the value of their catch that is caught in the Marshalls to the country after it's been sold.

The Marshall Islands have never experienced such an explosion of license purchases because these islands are normally to the east of the prime tuna fishing grounds in the Pacific.

But the ocean water warmed by the

extended El Niño of late 1997 and early 1998 has pushed the schools of skipjack and yellowfin out of the traditional Micronesian, Nauru and Papua New Guinea fishing grounds to a more easterly location in and to the east of the ocean area of the Marshalls and Kiribati, according to MIMRA.

Foreign purse seiners are fishing in waters close to or in the Marshalls 200 mile zone and Majuro's port is providing for quick transshipment of tuna so that the seiners can head back to the fishing grounds.

Since late last week, two Korean

*Continued on page 22*

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## Body of sunken RP ferry's captain found

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The missing captain of a Philippine ferry that sank last month outside of Manila Bay has been identified among unclaimed bodies at a funeral parlor, investigators said Monday.

National Bureau of Investigation fingerprint expert Bayani Palad said Capt. Esrum Mahilum, skipper of the Princess of the Orient, was identified after a rechecking of the bodies of 11 unidentified victims.

The ferry, with 505 people aboard, sank Sept. 18 in stormy weather off Batangas province, leaving at least 70 people dead and 80 others missing.

Palad said he had ordered the opening of all sealed caskets at the parlor as part of a check on

reports that Mahilum may have survived the accident and was in hiding. He said fingerprints from one of the bodies matched Mahilum's.

Authorities had offered a reward for information about Mahilum's location.

Meanwhile, the coast guard laid barriers along Manila's coast in an effort to control the spread of oil leaking from the sunken ship.

The ship was carrying at least 600,000 liters (160,000 gallons) of fuel oil when it sank. In some areas, the oil slick is two inches (5 centimeters) thick and has damaged oyster and fish farms.

It could also affect beach resorts and damage marine resources.

Continued on page 22

# PAL employees return to work

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine Airlines employees returned to work after nearly two weeks Monday to prepare to reopen Asia's oldest airline, while PAL officials continued talks with at least two airlines on an injection of much-needed capital.

PAL ticket offices began booking reservations and maintenance crews readied planes at Manila's international airport in preparation for Wednesday's reopening. "We're back to work," said Alex Barrientos, president of PAL's ground crew union.

PAL, the Philippines' flag carrier, closed Sept. 23 after failing to persuade the union to accept a

management-proposed recovery plan.

In a second referendum last Friday, however, a wide majority of the workers voted to accept the plan, under which their collective bargaining agreement would be suspended for 10 years in exchange for a 20 percent share of the company's stock.

"I still want to work and the company has been good to me," said Cecille Poco, an employee working at a PAL ticket office in Manila.

PAL executive vice president Manolo Aquino said the airline would resume 14 round-trip domestic flights on Wednesday, and

may restart some international flights Oct. 15.

He said PAL plans to eventually scale down its operations and has returned several Airbus planes it will no longer need.

PAL officials, however, hope to get back two Boeing 747-400 planes seized recently in Los Angeles and Hong Kong at the demand of one of PAL's foreign creditors, the U.S. Export-Import Bank.

Aquino appealed to militant union members still opposing the recovery plan to abide by the decision of the majority of the union's 6,700 members.

Continued on page 22

## Estrada to appoint VP as acting president while on trip

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine President Joseph Estrada said Monday he will appoint Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as temporary head of government when he visits Singapore next week.

As vice president under his predecessor, Fidel Ramos, Estrada was allowed to run the country only once when Ramos was away on foreign trips. Ramos and Estrada belong to rival political parties.

Estrada said he would never treat his vice president, also a member of a rival party, the same way.

Estrada also promised to cut down on foreign trips because of the Philippines' economic difficulties. The state visit to Singapore, scheduled for Oct. 11-13, will be his first overseas trip since becoming president in June.

He is to hold talks with Singaporean leaders and address an international economic forum there.

## Foreign capital rises 30% in RP for last 7 mos.

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Direct foreign investments in the Philippines rose 30 percent to \$506 million in the first seven months of this year from \$389 million in the same period a year earlier, the central bank said Monday.

Central bank Deputy Governor Edgardo Zialcita attributed the increase to continued confidence in the country's economic prospects despite a slowdown in overall output caused by the regional financial crisis and a lengthy drought.

"This is a very positive sign that confidence is still high," Zialcita said.

The country's gross national product shrank 0.7 percent in the

Continued on page 22



Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (right) is joined by House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt (left) President Clinton and White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles as they make a joint plea to the Republican Congressional Leadership not to shut the government down over budget differences. AP

# Bowles stepping down as White House chief of staff

By Laurence McQuillan  
WASHINGTON (Reuters)—White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles on Monday said he will step down this month, the third high-level White House official to announce his departure as Congress presses its scandal probe of President Bill Clinton.

Bowles, who was a key figure in reaching last year's agreement between the White House and Congress on balancing the budget, had planned to leave last year but bowed to Clinton's request that he remain at least through this year's budget negotiations with lawmakers.

Congress hopes to adjourn for the year by the end of this week so lawmakers can campaign for the Nov. 3 elections.

Senior White House adviser Rahm Emanuel announced that he will leave on Oct. 19 to return to his home town of Chicago to teach part-time at Northwestern University and pursue and investment banking career.

On Friday, White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry left his job for private pursuits, including lecturing and teaching at the college level.

All three were caught in the whirlwind surrounding the White House because of the scandal involving ex-intern Monica Lewinsky.

Other White House staffers acknowledged that the Lewinsky affair has taken its toll on members of the administration at all levels and said it played a role in the departures of the three officials.

"If it (the scandal) hadn't happened, it might have been harder for them to leave," said one White House aide.

The jockeying over who should succeed Bowles began almost as soon as it was known that he would be leaving. One group has been advocating the elevation of Deputy White House Chief of Staff John Podesta, in part as a reward for his hard work and loyalty to Clinton.

Others, however, urge the selection of a more high-profile person for the job - suggesting Clinton turn to a current or former member of Congress who could effectively argue for administration policy in public and in private session on Capitol Hill.

For a second-term president, Clinton has had relatively few departures by key members of his administration - something that has been commonplace in the past.

There has been speculation that one of the most powerful members of his Cabinet - Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin -

may leave in the not too distant future.

Last week in New York, Rubin declined to answer a reporter's question about how long he intended to serve in his post. "I would recommend you ask my wife," he said. Rubin's wife, Judith, has made no secret of her dislike for Washington.

There has been some speculation that Health and Human Service Secretary Donna Shalala, upset that Clinton had misled the Cabinet and the nation on his relations with Lewinsky, might leave - but those close to her say she has no intention of stepping down.

Attorney General Janet Reno, who recently collapsed in church and was hospitalized, also has no plans to leave, her aides say.

Back in January, a week before Clinton's sex-and-perjury scandal erupted - Bowles scotched speculation about his imminent departure and said he would remain for a "long period of time" to help Clinton pursue an ambitious domestic agenda that subsequently got buried by the scandal.

A Bowles confidant said he expected the chief of staff would "take a hard look" at entering the 2000 campaign for North Carolina's governorship.

# Reno questioned attacks on Sudan, Afghanistan

NEW YORK (AP)—The White House ignored Attorney General Janet Reno when she questioned whether evidence linking Islamic extremist Osama bin Laden to the bombings of two U.S. embassies in Africa was strong enough to justify retaliatory attacks. The New Yorker magazine reported.



Janet Reno

The magazine also said in its Oct. 12 edition, due on newsstands Monday, that the White House kept planning for raids on suspected terrorist targets in Afghanistan and Sudan so secret that four members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and FBI Director Louis Freeh were bypassed entirely.

The Aug. 20 Tomahawk missile strikes hit bin Laden's purported terrorist training camp in Afghanistan and the Al Shifa pharmaceutical factory in Khartoum, Sudan.

President Bill Clinton said the Khartoum raid was justified because evidence of a nerve gas component had been found at the plant.

The New Yorker piece, by veteran investigative journalist Seymour Hersh, said Reno believed that the evidence tying bin Laden to the embassy attacks did not meet the "Tri-pol standard," a gauge used to justify the 1986 bombing of Libya in retaliation for actions by Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi.

Chris Watney, a Justice Department spokeswoman, said she could not comment on "internal security deliberations." A Pentagon spokeswoman declined to comment to The Associated Press on Sunday.

The article also said the Clinton White House consulted the Joint Chiefs chairman, Gen. Henry H. Shelton, on the raid plans but instructed him "not to brief the three generals and one admiral who run the nation's armed forces, nor to consult with experts in the Defense Intelligence Agency."

So "the four men who know more about the use of force than anyone in

the White House" were kept out of the planning loop and learned of the plan one day before it was carried out, the article said.

"There is ... widespread belief that senior officials of the White House misrepresented and overdramatized evidence suggesting that the Tomahawk raids had prevented further terrorist attacks," Hersh writes.

"The lack of trust shown toward the Clinton White House by the military and intelligence communities goes well beyond the usual bureaucratic backbiting over a failed military action, and is far more corrosive."

Freeh was excluded, Hersh writes, even though his agency had actively investigated the events that precipitated the raids—the Aug. 7 bombings of the U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, that killed 259 people, including 12 Americans.

The article said Freeh and many of his top aides believe the agency was left out because Clinton "questions his political loyalty."

The FBI did not return a call seeking comment.

David Leavey, spokesman for the National Security Council, said, "We feel confident in the evidence that shows the bin Laden association with Al Shifa and fully justifies the action the president ordered on Aug. 20."



NAACP President Kweisi Mfume is arrested on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court after crossing police lines Monday in Washington. Mfume was one of 19 demonstrators arrested as they tried to promote the hiring of more minority law clerks at the Supreme Court. AP

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## Body of sunken RP ferry's captain found

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The missing captain of a Philippine ferry that sank last month outside of Manila Bay has been identified among unclaimed bodies at a funeral parlor, investigators said Monday.

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# PAL employees return to work

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine Airlines employees returned to work after nearly two weeks Monday to prepare to re-open Asia's oldest airline, while PAL officials continued talks with at least two airlines on an injection of much-needed capital.

PAL ticket offices began booking reservations and maintenance crews readied planes at Manila's international airport in preparation for Wednesday's reopening.

"We're back to work," said Alex Barrientos, president of PAL's ground crew union.

PAL, the Philippines' flag carrier, closed Sept. 23 after failing to persuade the union to accept a

management-proposed recovery plan.

In a second referendum last Friday, however, a wide majority of the workers voted to accept the plan, under which their collective bargaining agreement would be suspended for 10 years in exchange for a 20 percent share of the company's stock.

"I still want to work and the company has been good to me," said Cecille Poco, an employee working at a PAL ticket office in Manila.

PAL executive vice president Manolo Aquino said the airline would resume 14 round-trip domestic flights on Wednesday, and

may restart some international flights Oct. 15.

He said PAL plans to eventually scale down its operations and has returned several Airbus planes it will no longer need.

PAL officials, however, hope to get back two Boeing 747-400 planes seized recently in Los Angeles and Hong Kong at the demand of one of PAL's foreign creditors, the U.S. Export-Import Bank.

Aquino appealed to militant union members still opposing the recovery plan to abide by the decision of the majority of the union's 6,700 members.

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## Estrada to appoint VP as acting president while on trip

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine President Joseph Estrada said Monday he will appoint Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as temporary head of government when he visits Singapore next week.

As vice president under his predecessor, Fidel Ramos, Estrada was allowed to run the country only once when Ramos was away on foreign trips. Ramos and Estrada belong to rival political parties.

Estrada said he would never treat his vice president, also a member of a rival party, the same way.

Estrada also promised to cut down on foreign trips because of the Philippines' economic difficulties. The state visit to Singapore, scheduled for Oct. 11-13, will be his first overseas trip since becoming president in June.

He is to hold talks with Singaporean leaders and address an international economic forum there.

## Foreign capital rises 30% in RP for last 7 mos.

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Direct foreign investments in the Philippines rose 30 percent to \$ 506 million in the first seven months of this year from \$ 389 million in the same period a year earlier, the central bank said Monday.

Central bank Deputy Governor Edgardo Zialcita attributed the increase to continued confidence in the country's economic prospects despite a slowdown in overall output caused by the regional financial crisis and a lengthy drought.

"This is a very positive sign that confidence is still high," Zialcita said.

The country's gross national product shrank 0.7 percent in the

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Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle (right) is joined by House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt (left) President Clinton and White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles as they make a joint plea to the Republican Congressional Leadership not to shut the government down over budget differences. AP

# Bowles stepping down as White House chief of staff

By Laurence McQuillan  
WASHINGTON (Reuters) — White House Chief of Staff Erskine Bowles on Monday said he will step down this month, the third high-level White House official to announce his departure as Congress presses its scandal probe of President Bill Clinton.

Bowles, who was a key figure in reaching last year's agreement between the White House and Congress on balancing the budget, had planned to leave last year but bowed to Clinton's request that he remain at least through this year's budget negotiations with lawmakers.

Congress hopes to adjourn for the year by the end of this week so lawmakers can campaign for the Nov. 3 elections.

Senior White House adviser Rahm Emanuel announced that he will leave on Oct. 19 to return to his home town of Chicago to teach part-time at Northwestern University and pursue and investment banking career.

On Friday, White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry left his job for private pursuits, including lecturing and teaching at the college level.

All three were caught in the whirlwind surrounding the White House because of the scandal involving ex-intern Monica Lewinsky.

Other White House staffers acknowledged that the Lewinsky affair has taken its toll on members of the administration at all levels and said it played a role in the departures of the three officials.

"If it (the scandal) hadn't happened, it might have been harder for them to leave," said one White House aide.

The jockeying over who should succeed Bowles began almost as soon as it was known that he would be leaving. One group has been advocating the elevation of Deputy White House Chief of Staff John Podesta, in part as a reward for his hard work and loyalty to Clinton.

Others, however, urge the selection of a more high-profile person for the job - suggesting Clinton turn to a current or former member of Congress who could effectively argue for administration policy in public and in private session on Capitol Hill.

For a second-term president, Clinton has had relatively few departures by key members of his administration - something that has been commonplace in the past.

There has been speculation that one of the most powerful members of his Cabinet - Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin -

may leave in the not too distant future.

Last week in New York, Rubin declined to answer a reporter's question about how long he intended to serve in his post. "I would recommend you ask my wife," he said. Rubin's wife, Judith, has made no secret of her dislike for Washington.

There has been some speculation that Health and Human Service Secretary Donna Shalala, upset that Clinton had misled the Cabinet and the nation on his relations with Lewinsky, might leave - but those close to her say she has no intention of stepping down.

Attorney General Janet Reno, who recently collapsed in church and was hospitalized, also has no plans to leave, her aides say.

Back in January, a week before Clinton's sex-and-perjury scandal erupted - Bowles scotched speculation about his imminent departure and said he would remain for a "long period of time" to help Clinton pursue an ambitious domestic agenda that subsequently got buried by the scandal.

A Bowles confidant said he expected the chief of staff would "take a hard look" at entering the 2000 campaign for North Carolina's governorship.

## Clinton airs Kosovo concerns to Yeltsin

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — President Bill Clinton spoke with Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Monday and told him of U.S. concern that Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic was making "false promises" to stall NATO military strikes.

"The president stressed the idea that we've been down this road before and that only full compliance" would prevent allied strikes in Kosovo, White

House Press Secretary Joe Lockhart said of the latest Serb troop movements in the region.

Yeltsin, who opposes NATO plans to use air strikes to halt the violence in Kosovo, spoke with Clinton about the efforts of a high-level ministerial delegation he sent to Belgrade during the weekend.

Lockhart said Clinton told the Russian leader "he was concerned that Milosevic was playing the classic game of making false

promises designed to remove international pressure."

"He made the point that we don't wish to use force but what happens next depends upon President Milosevic," Lockhart told reporters.

U.S. special envoy Richard Holbrooke was in Belgrade on Monday to warn the Yugoslav president that air strikes were inevitable unless U.N. demands were met.

# Reno questioned attacks on Sudan, Afghanistan

NEW YORK (AP) — The White House ignored Attorney General Janet Reno when she questioned whether evidence linking Islamic extremist Osama bin Laden to the bombings of two U.S. embassies in Africa was strong enough to justify retaliatory attacks, The New Yorker magazine reported.

The magazine also said in its Oct. 12 edition, due on newsstands Monday, that the White House kept planning for raids on suspected terrorist targets in Afghanistan and Sudan so secret that four members of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and FBI Director Louis Freeh were bypassed entirely.

The Aug. 20 Tomahawk missile strikes hit bin Laden's purported terrorist training camp in Afghanistan and the Al Shifa pharmaceutical factory in Khartoum, Sudan.

President Bill Clinton said the Khartoum raid was justified because evidence of a nerve gas component had been found at the plant.

The New Yorker piece, by veteran investigative journalist Seymour Hersh, said Reno believed that the evidence tying bin Laden to the embassy attacks did not meet the "Tri-poli standard," a gauge used to justify the 1986 bombing of Libya in retaliation for actions by Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi.

Chris Watney, a Justice Department spokeswoman, said she could not comment on "internal security deliberations." A Pentagon spokeswoman declined to comment to The Associated Press on Sunday.

The article also said the Clinton White House consulted the Joint Chiefs chairman, Gen. Henry H. Shelton, on the raid plans but instructed him "not to brief the three generals and one admiral who run the nation's armed forces, nor to consult with experts in the Defense Intelligence Agency."

So "the four men who know more about the use of force than anyone in



Janet Reno

the White House" were kept out of the planning loop and learned of the plan one day before it was carried out, the article said.

"There is... widespread belief that senior officials of the White House misrepresented and overdramatized evidence suggesting that the Tomahawk raids had prevented further terrorist attacks," Hersh writes.

"The lack of trust shown toward the Clinton White House by the military and intelligence communities goes well beyond the usual bureaucratic backbiting over a failed military action, and is far more corrosive."

Freeh was excluded, Hersh writes, even though his agency had actively investigated the events that precipitated the raids - the Aug. 7 bombings of the U.S. embassies in Nairobi, Kenya, and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, that killed 259 people, including 12 Americans.

The article said Freeh and many of his top aides believe the agency was left out because Clinton "questions his political loyalty."

The FBI did not return a call seeking comment.

David Leavay, spokesman for the National Security Council, said, "We feel confident in the evidence that shows the bin Laden association with Al Shifa and fully justifies the action the president ordered on Aug. 20."



NAACP President Kweisi Mfume is arrested on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court after crossing police lines Monday in Washington. Mfume was one of 19 demonstrators arrested as they tried to promote the hiring of more minority law clerks at the Supreme Court. AP

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Visitors roam around a booth opened by Taiwan's electronic industries at the opening of the PC World Expo in Makuhari, east of Tokyo last Wednesday. Several hundreds of exhibitors around the world participated in the electronic exposition. AP

**Taiwan gov't findings:**

# Economic slowdown hurt women more than men

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — More women than men were laid off as Taiwan's employment rate fell to a 15-year low because of the region's economic slowdown, the government said Monday.

The overall employment rate fell to 58 percent in the first six months this year, the lowest since 1983, according to a report by the Council for Economic Planning and Development.

The report found that women had more difficulties finding or keeping their jobs than did the men. And the sluggish job market forced women to give up seeking

jobs.

The employment rate among women dropped 0.45 percentage point from last year's 45 percent, it said.

During the period, women employed by the real estate sector dropped 10.9 percent, while the number for men increased 1.1 percent.

Although Taiwan has largely escaped Asia's economic crisis, it has begun to feel more of the impact in the last few months.

Exports have dropped 7.4 percent in the first eight months this year, and the unemployment rate

climbed to a two-year high of 3 percent in August.

According to a separate Economics Ministry report, the number of new factories dropped 7.16 percent to 3,319 in the first seven months, while factory shutdowns increased 30 percent to 2,331.

The government has pledged to boost the economy by spending 200 billion Taiwan dollars (U.S. \$ 5.8 billion) in public projects in the next two years.

The government last forecast a 1998 economic growth rate of 5.5 percent, down from the earlier 6.2 percent.

# Goh accepts foe's offer to pay defamation damages

By JONATHAN DRAKE  
SINGAPORE (AP) — Singapore's prime minister has accepted J.B. Jeyaretnam's offer to pay him defamation damages in installments, allowing the opposition politician to avoid bankruptcy and retain his Parliament seat.

The High Court awarded Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong 100,000 Singapore dollars (\$ 59,200) in damages in a defamation lawsuit against the Worker's Party chief last year.

Jeyaretnam, who has been sued repeatedly by various government ministers, said he was unable to pay unless in installments.

After an impasse over Goh's offer to waive the award in exchange for an apology, the prime minister began taking steps to declare Jeyaretnam bankrupt in August. Under Singapore law, Jeyaretnam would have lost his seat in the 84-member Parliament, where only three opposition members sit.

Allen and Gledhill, the law firm representing Goh, said in a statement that the prime minister had agreed to accept the payments "in five equal monthly installments."

The law firm also said the petition to bankrupt the opposition leader will be dropped "pending full payment by Mr. Jeyaretnam."

Jeyaretnam told The Associated Press he will pay the first installment Tuesday. But he acknowledged that fears of bankruptcy remained.

His legal costs are estimated at about 150,000 Singapore dollars (\$ 88,800).

"There's the costs, and of course there are seven other suits lined



Goh Chok Tong

up against me," he said, referring to other lawsuits filed by other ministers and politicians from the ruling People's Action Party.

The Goh lawsuit stemmed from Jeyaretnam's statement during an election rally in 1996 that another Worker's Party leader had filed a police report against "Goh and his people."

Even though the statement was accurate, Jeyaretnam lost the defamation case.

A lower court ruled the statement contained defamatory innuendo, and the appeals court increased the amount of damages, saying he acted in malice.

This year's U.S. State Department Human Rights Report cited the case as an example of the Singapore government using legal processes such as libel and defamation lawsuits to stifle freedom of speech and intimidate the political opposition.

Amnesty International and the International Commission of Jurists have also criticized the case. But Singapore has defended its legal and political system and rejected the criticism.



With a papier-mache skull mask symbolizing human rights abuses a performance artist with his face painted the colors of the national flag writhes at the feet of soldiers during a protest against the Indonesian military in central Jakarta Monday. AP

# Thailand has new Cabinet

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai announced a new Cabinet lineup Monday that he hopes will stabilize his shaky coalition government and strengthen efforts to battle the economic crisis.

Chuan's new Cabinet includes members of the Chart Pattana Party, formerly the second largest opposition party, which agreed to join the coalition last week.

With Chart Pattana's 51 lawmakers, the seven-party coalition controls a majority 255 seats in the 387-seat House of Representatives.

That should make it easier for the coalition to push its economic reform package through parliament, where it has met stiff resistance from the opposition.

Despite the reshuffle, Chuan's new Cabinet still has his top technocrats. Tarrin Nimmanahaeminda as finance minister and Supachai Panichpakdi as commerce minister.

"I look forward to working with Chart Pattana in the new government," Supachai told reporters on Monday. "I think they will make a good partner."

Some analysts have questioned, however, whether Chart Pattana will ultimately destabilize the government by trying to strengthen

its own political hand, as it was accused of doing to the government of Prime Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, which fell last November.

Critics said the new lineup was made out of political expediency.

"This new Cabinet is not for the sake of the people, but to lengthen the life of the government," said Dr. Weng Tojirakarn of the Confederation for Democracy.

"But if the prime minister cannot root out corruption, then the government will not last," he said.

Suchit Boonbongkarn, dean of the faculty of political science at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University said that Chart Pattana probably won't do anything to destabilize the coalition since that would hurt its image for the next election.

No election is scheduled until 2000, but no elected Thai government has ever completed its four-year term, either collapsing because of coalition squabbles or being overthrown in military coups.

Chart Pattana gained one ministry deemed crucial to economic recovery: party Secretary-General Suwat Liptapallop was named minister of industry.

Chart Pattana leader Korn Dabbaransi was made a deputy prime minister while also taking



Newly-appointed Commander-in-Chief of the Royal Thai Army General Surayuth Chulanond (right) listens to his predecessor General Chetha Thanajaro during a position handover ceremony at an army base in Bangkok Wednesday. AP

over the ministry of health, which has been plagued by a corruption scandal.

Democrat Secretary General and Minister of Interior Sanan Kachornprasart — Chuan's political point man responsible for forging the coalition together — was also elevated to a deputy prime minister.

The main threat to the government

is the possibility of smaller parties in the coalition, angry over losing Cabinet seats to accommodate Chart Pattana, defect to the opposition.

Some high-ranking members of

smaller parties voiced anger last week at the prospect of losing coveted posts, but no party has so far announced intentions to abandon the Chuan government.

# Shareholder sues over Japan Yamaichi failure

TOKYO (AP) — A shareholder sued former top executives of failed Yamaichi Securities Co. for 6 billion yen (\$ 44.4 million) in damages Monday, accusing them of lying to hide the massive losses that sank the company, Kyodo News agency reported.

The damage lawsuit — the first over the defunct brokerage — names eight executives, including former chairman Tsugio Yukihira, 67, and former president Atsuo Miki, 63, Kyodo said.

Tokyo District Court confirmed that a lawsuit had been filed but refused to provide any details.

Yamaichi, formerly one of Japan's top four brokerages, collapsed last November under the weight of more than 274 billion yen (\$ 2.03 billion) in off-the-book losses. It was one of the country's biggest corporate failures ever.

The former bosses are accused of damaging the company by submitting false financial statements on losses incurred during fiscal 1996, the report said. The suit also alleges the executives of illegally providing stockholders with 6 billion yen (\$ 44.4 million) in dividends despite the losses.

According to the lawsuit, Yamaichi falsely claimed a profit of about 170 billion yen (\$ 1.3 billion) at a stockholders meeting in June 1997 despite losses of about 420 billion yen (\$ 3.1 billion) for the year.

The lawsuit was filed by a former stockholder from the Tokyo area, Kyodo said. Court officials refused to identify the plaintiff.

Yukihira and Miki have already been arrested on charges of making illegal payoffs to corporate racketeers. They have also been tried on charges of violating commercial and securities laws for window-dressing financial statements.

Yamaichi failed after trying for years to juggle trading losses stemming from the collapse of real estate and stock markets earlier in the decade. It closed the last of its branches on March 31, ending 101 years in business.

# Japanese police search the home of poisoning suspects

TOKYO (AP) — Police on Monday searched the home of a woman accused of poisoning a man to collect his life insurance in a case that could be linked to a mass poisoning in the same small town that killed four people. Masumi Hayashi, a 37-year-old former insurance saleswoman, was arrested in the western state of Wakayama on Sunday on suspicion of serving the man food laced with arsenic in September 1997.

Hayashi's husband Kenji, 53, was arrested Monday in a separate insurance scam.

Investigators searched the home

of the couple Monday and checked an irrigation canal which runs by the home. TV Asahi reported police took away a carpet they suspect was stained with vomit.

Police also have taken dust and soil samples from the home to search for traces of the arsenic.

The case could be linked to a poisoning in July in which four people — including two children — died and 60 people became sick after eating curry tainted with arsenic served at a local festival.

Wakayama is 450 kilometers (280 miles) southwest of Tokyo.

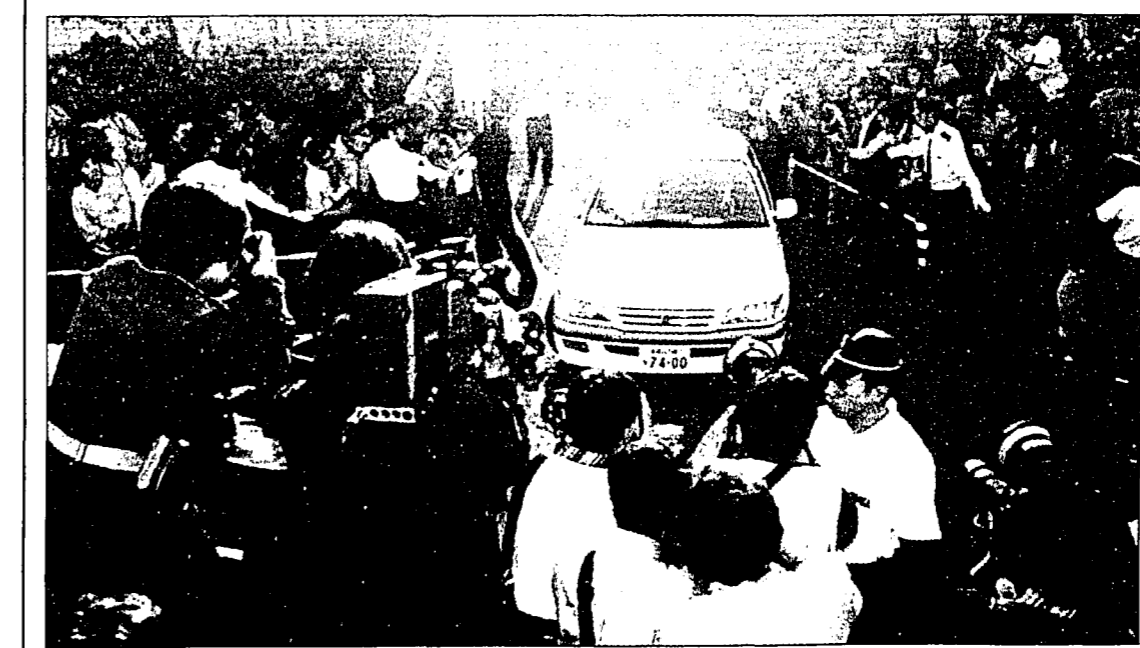
No arrests have been made in the

July killings, but the Kyodo News agency quoted unidentified police sources as saying Masumi Hayashi was assigned to monitor the curry pots at the festival.

The curry poisoning was big news in Japan, where such killings are rare. The crime triggered a rash of copycat poisonings around the country, which led to one death and sickened several other people.

The poisoning scare continued Monday, when 25-year-old man was taken to hospital after feeling sick from drinking coffee he bought at a supermarket in Fukui, on the

Continued on page 22



A police car, carrying a suspect on poison-murder case, drives through a pack of reporters and photographers after their arrest Sunday in Wakayama. A former insurance saleswoman Masumi Hayami, 37, was arrested on a holding charges of insurance fraud and attempted murder. Police will further investigate her possible involvement in poisoning and murder. AP

# Thailand implements two US aid programs

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Thailand has started implementing two major aid programs funded by the U.S. government to help alleviate the social impact of the country's economic crisis, the U.S. Embassy announced Monday.

A \$ 1.5 million health program will provide vaccinations against rabies, polio and Japanese encephalitis, which is an inflamma-

tion of the brain. A \$ 3 million grant will be used to fund a year of graduate study in the United States for 120-125 Thai students.

The programs are part of a \$ 1.7 billion U.S. economic assistance package agreed upon by Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai and U.S. President Bill Clinton during a visit by Chuan to Washington in March this year.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ABOUT THE JOB, PLEASE CONTACT:  
Renee White, (202) 619-3117

# Bhutto, husband indicted

LAHORE, Pakistan (AP) — A Pakistani court Monday indicted former prime minister Benazir Bhutto and her jailed husband Asif Ali Zardari on charges of taking kickbacks from two Swiss companies.

In separate charges, a special two-member Accountability Bench of the Lahore High Court, indicted Bhutto and Zardari for receiving huge commissions for giving pre-shipment inspection contracts to two Swiss companies \_ SGS

and Coteana.

Bhutto has repeatedly denied these charge, saying that corruption cases were meant to ruin her political career. She was out of the country and was represented by her lawyers.

Few months back, a Swiss court had indicted Zardari and Swiss officials of these companies for money laundering and commissions.

Bhutto's government was sacked by former president Farooq Leghari in November 1996 on the



Benazir Bhutto

charges of corruption and misrule.

Zardari, who was present in the court, dismissed the charges saying they were "incorrect" and "baseless".

The court has set the next date of hearing on October 12. Corruption charges have dogged successive governments in Pakistan since 1988 when 11 years of military rule ended with the mysterious air crash that killed President Gen. Mohammed Zia-ul-Haq.

Bhutto was ousted from power twice on corruption charges, while Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif \_ her main political rival was thrown out of power once on similar charges.

A recent report by a British newspaper accusing Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif of amassing a personal fortune and siphoning off millions of dollars from the country has become the latest scandal which has jolted the government.

## Hong Kong welcomes Asia bond flotations

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong would welcome the issuance of bonds in the territory as part of Japan's U.S. \$ 30 billion economic rescue package for Asia, Hong Kong's top financial official said late Sunday.

Japan's regional rescue package would allow countries under distress to issue bonds using guarantees from the Export-Import Bank of Japan or multilateral agencies.

Financial Secretary Donald Tsang told reporters in Washington, where he met Sunday night with Japanese Vice Minister for Finance Eisuke Sakakibara, that Hong Kong hopes some of the highly rated paper ends up being floated in the territory, provided it's backed by strong guarantees.

"If that is the case, Hong Kong would welcome such papers to be floated in Hong Kong if they were denominated in yen, euro or U.S. dollars," Tsang was quoted as saying in a transcript of his media session, issued by the Hong Kong government Monday.

Tsang also said Japan's rescue package may have come later than some would have liked, but that it's still important and necessary.

"I think better late than never. It is certainly a very timely initiative in my view," he said.

His talks with Sakakibara focused on the global situation and ways to avoid worldwide recession.

Tsang, in Washington for the annual International Monetary Fund/World Bank meeting, also met with China's Minister of Finance Xiang Huaicheng.

The United States and a number of other nations in recent weeks have put forward major proposals to overhaul the operations of the IMF, which has been widely criticized for its handling of the Asian crisis.

The IMF's policy committee said Sunday that the global economic outlook has "worsened considerably" and pledged "concrete and rapid action" to deal with the worst global economic crisis in 50 years, but disagreement over how to halt the widening financial crisis remains.

## Indonesia eyes use of local currencies in ASEAN trade

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesia plans to push for a controversial plan to use regional currencies for regional trade when Southeast Asian trade ministers meet in Manila this week, an Indonesian official said Monday.

"Indonesia at present is trying to enhance regional cooperation through using regional currencies," said the official, who spoke to Dow Jones Newswires on condition of anonymity.

The plan follows a dramatic slide in the value of local currencies over the past year. Southeast Asian nations now trade among each other mostly using the comparatively expensive U.S. dollar.

Indonesia's rupiah has been the worst hit of all the currencies in the region.

Trade ministers from the nine-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations are to meet on Wednesday and Thursday.

Economy, Finance and Industry Coordinating Minister

Ginandjar Kartasasmita will lead Indonesia's delegation, along with Trade and Industry Minister Rahardi Ramelan and Investment Minister Hamzah Haz.

The official said it was unclear whether Ginandjar would also raise with his ASEAN colleagues Indonesian efforts to monitor the country's foreign-exchange earnings better by asking exporters to deposit their hard-currency revenue at the central bank.

Earlier, an official at the investment ministry said ongoing discussions among various ministers \_ including economics and investment \_ focused on installing a system that will require exporters to place their foreign-exchange earnings in Bank Indonesia.

He stressed that the plan under discussion wasn't a form of capital or foreign-exchange control, adding that the exporters would be free to withdraw their revenue at any time "using the spot market rate."

## Malaysian PM: Economy strong

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Fixing the local currency's exchange rate to the U.S. dollar gives businesses stability while ensuring competitiveness against Malaysia's neighbors, Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said Monday.

"Our economy is the most stable in Asia, and traders can do business with greater certainty," he told a business forum.

Malaysia remains in recession, however, and on Monday the central bank again lowered the rate at which it lends to financial institutions. It was an attempt by Bank Negara Malaysia to spur lending.

Mahathir bemoaned the loss of 600 billion ringgit (\$157 billion) in market capitalization in the past 20 months and repeated his criticisms that short-term foreign buying and selling can set up emerging markets for dramatic falls.

"We can do without the dubious benefit of foreign direct investment in the stock market," Mahathir told the Japanese Departmental Store Association. "We will make a distinction between foreign short term investment in the stock market and investments in productive capacities such as manufacturing."

He said the ringgit peg of 3.8 to the U.S. dollar would not be changed "until the exchange rates of competing currencies are really too big and affect our competitiveness to a great extent."



Mahathir Mohamad

"Although the government is now in full control of the exchange rate, we have not strengthened the ringgit too much," said Mahathir, who also took the title of finance minister when he fired Anwar Ibrahim on Sept. 2. He promised no "sudden and extreme fluctuations."

Sweeping capital controls introduced at the beginning of September included: the fixed ringgit exchange rate, a ban on trading of the Malaysian currency and stocks outside the country, and restrictions that went into effect Oct. 1 on how much local and foreign currency travelers can take with them.

The measures have insulated Malaysia for the time being from foreign speculation, but have frightened away the long-term investment in manufacturing and technology that Mahathir wants.

In Washington, Malaysia's

Deputy Finance Minister Mustapa Mohamed said the controls were neither permanent nor a substitute for sound macroeconomic and financial policies, according to a report by the national news agency, Bernama.

They will provide some breathing space for structural readjustment, he told a World Bank seminar on the Malaysian controls. "Give us a chance. ... What's important is the result," Mustapa said.

Shares were mixed on the key Composite Index on Monday, with declines outnumbering advances, as condemnation of Anwar's injuries in police custody pour in from governments as well as the World Bank, International Monetary Fund and United Nations.

Mahathir stressed that improving Malaysia's trade balance with Japan is important for recovery. "Reducing imports of non-essentials from Japan and, of course, exporting more to Japan would reduce this imbalance," he said.

The Bernama news agency reported Monday that Malaysia is expected to receive a \$ 2 billion loan as part of Japan's \$30 billion aid package to stabilize the battered economies of South Korea and four Southeast Asian countries.

Ambassador Issei Nomura was quoted as saying the Japanese government is working hard to quickly disburse the loans.



Indonesian Armed Forces Chief Gen. Wiranto (far left) House Speaker Harmoko (second left) and President B.J. Habibie (third left) share a joke as they watch the military band perform during ceremonies marking the 53rd anniversary of the Indonesian armed forces in Jakarta Monday. AP

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For ME peace impasse

# Mubarak blames Israel



Hosni Mubarak

**JERUSALEM (Reuters)** — Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak blamed Israel for deepening mistrust in the Middle East and warned of an outbreak of violence if Israel did not hand over more land to the Palestin-

ians. "If it doesn't happen, they (Palestinians) will continue to assassinate and kill - I don't want to say more lest I incite them - forever and ever," Mubarak told Israel Channel Two Television in an interview broadcast on Monday. U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright arrives in the region on Tuesday to try to mediate a deal for an Israeli transfer of 13 percent more of the West Bank to Palestinian rule.

Under the deal, Palestinians would control 40 percent of the territory in the West Bank.

Israel has accused Egypt, the first Arab state to sign a peace treaty with the Jewish state, of hampering its peace moves with

Continued on page 22



Israeli soldiers in the West Bank town of Hebron lead six Palestinians who were caught out during curfew Sunday. AP

## Only Israel concessions could bring about accord, says Erekat

**JERICHO, West Bank (AP)** — On the eve of U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright's arrival, a top Palestinian official said without Israeli concessions, her latest peace efforts "won't go anywhere."

Palestinian negotiator Saeb Erekat, speaking to Associated Press Television News in the West Bank town of Jericho, also accused the Clinton administration of allowing Israel to drag its feet on living up to past accords.

"I hope Madame Albright will end this cycle - meeting and arranging other meetings, giving (Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin) Netanyahu the extra miles - because this must stop and we must move to substance," he told APTN.

"We believe that without a clear-cut Netanyahu 'yes' to the American initiative and all its components, I think we won't go anywhere," Erekat said.

The Palestinians earlier this year accepted terms of an American-authored plan for an Israeli troop pullback in the West Bank, but Netanyahu balked, citing security concerns. Talks in the United States last week apparently brought the two sides closer together, however.

Albright was to meet Tuesday - separately - with Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. Her visit is meant to lay the groundwork for an Israeli-Palestinian summit in Washington sometime around Oct. 15.

Albright was to spend only two days in the region, but was accompanied by mediator Dennis Ross, who will likely stay longer to try to coax the two sides as close to an accord as possible before any summit.

Israeli officials had no immediate comment on Erekat's remarks. Much of the country was shut down for the Jewish holiday of Sukkot, which lasts for one week, but main commemorations were Monday.

However, Netanyahu has consistently said that no deal is possible without better security cooperation from Arafat's Palestinian Authority.

The Palestinians say even diligent efforts cannot provide total protection against attacks on Israel by Islamic militants.

For recent atrocities in Kosovo

# Annan blames Yugoslav forces



Kofi Annan



Slobodan Milosevic

**By Anthony Goodman UNITED NATIONS (Reuters)** — Secretary-General Kofi Annan on Monday blamed Yugoslav security forces for most of the recent atrocities in the Serb province of Kosovo and said special police were still operating, nearly two weeks after the Security Council called for a ceasefire.

But in a written report to the council, he did not offer a clear cut assessment of how far Belgrade had complied with a Sept. 23 council resolution, which called for an immediate halt to the fighting in the mainly ethnic Albanian province, an end to repressive actions against civilians and the start of negotiations.

The report was issued as NATO forces were poised for possible military intervention in Kosovo, where Yugoslav forces have battled secessionist guerrillas, resulting in the destruction of dozens of villages and the creation of more than 250,000 refugees.

Though armed intervention was not authorized by the Sept. 23 council resolution demanding a ceasefire and negotiations, a negative report from Annan would be regarded by leading NATO members, who are also leading members of the council, as providing justification for intervention.

In Washington, State Department spokesman James Foley said the United States believed the report "makes crystal clear that there has not been compliance on the part of the Serb authorities with the demands contained in U.N. Security Council resolution 1199."

But Russia's U.N. ambassador Sergei Lavrov gave the opposite interpretation. He said he too agreed with most of the report but said the next step was to get more information to verify Serbia's claims of troop withdrawals over the weekend.

"We need assessments from diplomatic observers and the OSCE who are now allowed in," he said. Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic on Monday took up Russia's suggestion of inviting observers from the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to monitor a withdrawal from Kosovo.

Russia, a traditional ally of Serbia, and China - which cast the sole abstention against the September council resolution - have said repeatedly they would not authorize any use of force in the Kosovo crisis.

Annan in the report said military activity "seemed to wind down in the last days of September," with evidence of heavily armoured formations returning to their barracks. However, the United Nations was still receiving information that "the government's armed presence remains significant and that the operations of the special police continue."

But unlike situations where the United Nations had a direct political presence on the ground, Annan said he did not have the means to provide an independent assessment of compliance, except regarding the humanitarian situation.

"Therefore, the council may wish to make its own judgment in this respect on the basis of the present report," he said.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin discussed the critical Kosovo situation with Annan in a 25-minute telephone conversation on Monday and described Moscow's efforts to get Milosevic to comply fully with the council's ceasefire-and-negotiate demand, a U.N. spokesman said.

The secretary-general's report will now be closely scrutinized in council members' capitals, which are certain to emphasize those elements that dovetail with their respective policies.

Annan appeared to open the door to intervention at least part way by saying that, as the council affirmed in its recent resolution, "the deterioration in the situation in Kosovo ... constitutes a threat to peace and security in the region."

Such language, drawn from the U.N. Charter's enforcement provisions, could be cited to justify punitive measures.

But Annan then went on to stress the need for a political solution, declaring: "It is widely recognized in the international community that the humanitarian crisis is a consequence of what is fundamentally a political problem, which requires a comprehensive political solution through a negotiated settle-

ment." Annan repeated warnings of an impending humanitarian disaster, saying the U.N. refugee agency estimated that more than 200,000 people remained displaced in Kosovo and some 80,000 in neighbouring countries and other parts of Serbia. "If the present state of affairs persists, thousands could die in the winter," he said.

Referring to "appalling atrocities in Kosovo" in recent weeks, reminiscent of the recent past elsewhere in the Balkans, Annan

said: "It is clear beyond any reasonable doubt that the great majority of such acts have been committed by security forces in Kosovo acting under the authority of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia."

"But Kosovar Albanian paramilitary units have engaged in armed action also, and there is good reason to believe that they too have committed atrocities," he said.

"All those involved in the killing and mistreatment of civilians and in the destruction of

property must be brought to justice," he said, calling for a thorough investigation, under effective international control or with international participation.

Annan said conditions must be created to allow the return of a significant number of displaced persons, including a "radical change of policy and behaviour and the introduction of confidence-building measures - such as a withdrawal of police units, a declaration of amnesty and a release of prisoners."

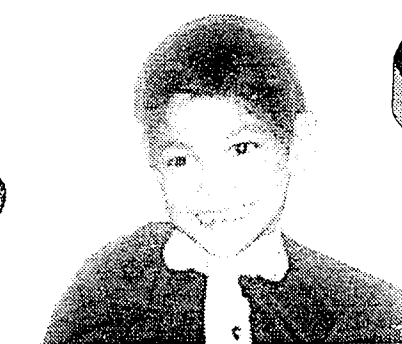


U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke (center) addresses journalists during the press conference in the hall of the Hayat Hotel, in Belgrade early Tuesday. He was speaking after his meeting with Yugoslav president Slobodan Milosevic. Later Tuesday Holbrooke will visit Kosovo and meet the ethnic Albanian leadership. AP

### MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

We the family of the late

## EARL BERNARD T. REYES



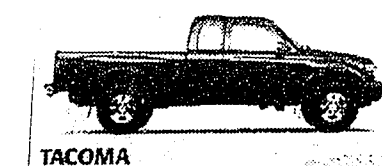
Extend our most sincere gratitude and profound appreciation to all our families, relatives and friends for the continuous physical and spiritual support during our time of mourning and sorrow. Your kind expression of sympathy and personal help extended to us on the loss of our beloved son have been most comforting and touching. Thank you sincerely for sharing in our sorrow. Your presence at the nightly rosaries, funeral mass and on the final resting place is greatly appreciated and will always be remembered.

Our SECIAL THANKS to Archbishop Tomas A. Camacho, Fr. Roger P.T. Tenorio and others too numerous to mention, for their valuable help and support in so many ways.

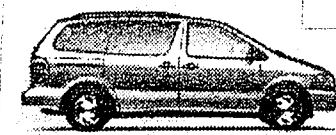
WE WILL REMEMBER YOU IN OUR HEARTS AND PRAYERS.  
Un Dangkulu Na Si Yu'us Ma'ase. God Bless You All  
THE FAMILY

# '98 CLEARANCE

# BIG SAVINGS



TACOMA



SIENNA



LAND CRUISER



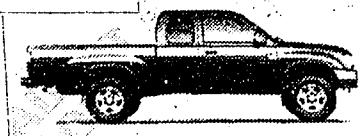
COROLLA



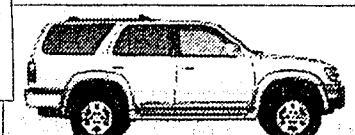
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### Body of . . .

**Continued from page 14**  
Sulpicio Lines has a total of 32 ships. It also owned the Dona Paz, a ferry that collided with a tanker in 1987, killing 4,341 in the world's worst peacetime shipping disaster. A year later, 250 people died in the sinking of another ship owned by the

company, the Dona Marilyn. The company initially refused to pay for the oil cleanup, but began negotiating after the coast guard warned it might face legal charges or a suspension of its franchise. Ships and ferries are the main mode of transportation in this country of 7,107 islands. Many of the vessels are old.

### PAL . . .

**Continued from page 14**  
The militant workers said they plan to seek court action to declare the plan illegal. They claim the plan violates the constitution, which guarantees the right of workers to form unions and bargain collectively for labor benefits. President Joseph Estrada has assured the workers that he will defend their rights during the 10-year suspension, saying it is only a temporary measure to help PAL and the government cope with the Asian financial crisis. PAL's closure left much of the Philippine archipelago without air service, prompting Estrada to enlist Hong Kong's Cathay Pacific and Dragon Airlines to fly some

of PAL's domestic routes to avoid serious damage to the economy. On Monday, the government announced that Cathay Pacific and DragonAir will stop their domestic flights in the Philippines on Wednesday when PAL resumes operations. Cathay Pacific and the United States' Northwest Airlines are seriously considering buying into PAL, Aquino said. A Cathay Pacific team has been in the Philippines since last week to study PAL's operations, he said. Northwest officials are expected to arrive in Manila later this week. Asia's currency crisis hit last year shortly after PAL launched a \$ 4 billion modernization program, greatly inflating the amount of money it must repay to overseas creditors. It has been unable to make payments on \$ 2.1 billion of debt.

### Japanese . . .

**Continued from page 17**  
Sea of Japan coast, Kyodo News reported. Police said they found a tiny hole covered with cellophane tape in the bottom of the container, but have not detected any poisonous substance in the coffee, the report said. In the insurance fraud case, the man Hayashi allegedly poisoned spent nearly five months in a hospital before he was released in January.

The couple has denied the charges, according to police sources quoted by national broadcaster NHK and Kyodo News agency. Commentators urged police to solve the curry case but warned against assuming the Hayashi couple were involved before all the evidence is in. "The most important thing is the probe into the poison curry case," said the Mainichi newspaper in an editorial Monday. "It's true that arsenic was used in both cases, but that doesn't justify any rush to judgment."

### Mubarak . . .

**Continued from page 20**  
the Palestinians. Egypt has rejected the allegations. Mubarak said since Benjamin Netanyahu became Israeli prime minister in 1996 the peace pro-

cess had stalled. "Since (Netanyahu) he came till now, nothing has been implemented. The peace process has stopped," Mubarak said. "You have created an atmosphere of no trust. This is most dangerous aspect," he said.

### Foreign . . .

**Continued from page 14**  
second quarter of the year after expanding 2.0 percent in the first quarter. The government remains confident the country will achieve its GNP growth target of 1.5 percent for the year. Private economists, however, predict slower economic growth and even a possible contraction for the year, with some expecting a contraction of 3.1 percent in the third quarter alone. Zialcita said the bulk of the investments came from Japanese, German and Dutch companies.

### Kabua . . .

**Continued from page 13**  
believes that on a secret ballot, the opposition will be able to attract enough senators, including those who wouldn't vote openly against the President because of customary constraints, to gain a 17 vote majority in the 33 seat parliament to oust the government. The government statement charged that the Chief Justice, the Speaker, his lawyer and a minority of the Nitijela have "banded together to prevent a fair and democratic government." But, said the President and the cabinet, they will not yield to the minority. "They will fight on to protect and preserve the Constitution and the democratic principle of majority rule," the statement said, adding that the people's freedom is in danger if they "allow a minority of their elected officials and their foreign lawyers and judges to defeat the rule of law." The statement said that the 18 senators would seek "by an open, fair and democratic process to amend the rules and enact new laws to protect the Constitution and the rule of law in the Marshall Islands."

### El Nino . . .

**Continued from page 13**  
and two Taiwanese purse seiners have been offloading their catch onto a "mother" ship in Majuro's lagoon for transshipment to fish canneries in Thailand. About 2,000 tons (4 million pounds) of fish is being transhipped in Majuro's lagoon, MIMRA officials estimated. Meanwhile, a Japanese and American purse seiner were in Majuro during the past week, re-

fueling and doing maintenance work before heading back to fishing grounds near Majuro. Originally, the purse seiner wanted 50,000 gallons but "the price was attractive so he went from wanting 50,000 gallons to buying 90,000," Roberts said, adding that he's being bombarded with requests for fuel prices from shipping agents and companies. "The good thing is that the crews of these boats have money and they spend it in Majuro at local restaurants and retail stores," Roberts said. He is hopeful that the good price offered will bring in more of the U.S. purse seiners to Majuro. One U.S. purse seiner bought 90,000 gallons of fuel last week, and a tanker that refuels the seiners on the high seas bought 800,000 gallons of fuel at one go, Roberts said.

### Education . . .

**Continued from page 7**  
ronmental destruction," said Calvo. Calvo stressed that the Educa-

tion Island is owned by the government and currently being manned by the Soil and Water Conservation District headed by Martin Naputi and himself. The awareness group is currently scheduling the field trips of the students in the Kagman site. Calvo said they are arranging the schedule with different interested schools and they preferably held the first Education Island trip on the third week of the month.

### Debate . . .

**Continued from page 2**  
Wexler, a Florida Democrat, ridiculed the high-minded talk that this would be the most important work any of the committee members ever performed. "Our work today is not about providing health insurance for more Americans. It is not about peace in the Middle East or ending genocide in Kosovo," he said, adding, "I plead with the committee to end this madness." The Republican and Democratic counsels each presented their cases to the committee. Schippers alleged five counts of perjury or making false statements, four obstruction of justice counts, one of witness tampering and five new charges including conspiracy. He alleged Clinton may have

conspired with Lewinsky to obstruct justice by providing false and misleading testimony under oath, withholding evidence and tampering with possible witnesses. He also alleged Clinton may have "aided, abetted, counselled and procured" Lewinsky to file a false affidavit and to obstruct justice in the Paula Jones sexual harassment case. Lewinsky filed an affidavit in the Jones case saying she did not have sexual relations with Clinton. He said there was evidence Clinton took affirmative steps to conceal those felonies and failed to disclose them as required. "For the limited purpose of this report, we suggest that Monica Lewinsky's testimony is both substantial and credible," Schippers told the committee. Democrats pounced on that statement, suggesting Republi-

### Italian . . .

**Continued from page 2**  
loses, then he would offer his resignation. Once he does, it is up to the president to decide what to do. Scalfaro could ask Prodi or someone else to form a new government or he could call elections 2 1/2 years early, something most analysts think unlikely. Refoundation is not part of Prodi's center-left coalition, but the government needs its 34 votes to muster a majority in the lower

house. The party rejected Prodi's deficit-cutting 1999 budget, which is designed to meet the criteria for the common European currency. Making Italy part of the euro has been Prodi's top priority since he took office in May 1996. If he resigns, it could raise doubts over Italy's ability to stick to the euro requirements. The crisis cast a pall over Prodi's summit with French Prime Minister Lionel Jospin and French President Jacques Chirac. Like Italy, France is a charter member of the currency club. Protests against the airport crested in the 1970s in violent clashes between police and farmers along with leftist radicals backing the farmers. The airport opened in 1978 with a single runway.

### Japan . . .

**Continued from page 2**  
In 1966, the government announced a plan to build the airport, setting off strident opposition from local farmers who complained they had not been consulted. Protests against the airport crested in the 1970s in violent clashes between police and farmers along with leftist radicals backing the farmers. The airport opened in 1978 with a single runway.

### Tougher . . .

**Continued from page 1**  
The report noted that managerial and professional positions were the largest category during the 1995 census, which spelled the reason why higher education has been made a strict qualification for employment. Skilled workers also tend to face stiff competition for employment in the country's second largest occupational category, which include technical, sales and administrative support. During the time under review, more than six out of every 10 adults were in the labor force. At least one out of every four males in Palau are into construction while one in every three females were in technical, sales and administrative support category.

Employment in construction and manufacturing increased 22.1 percent from 954 in 1990 to 1,165 in 1995. This share of total employment, however, dropped from 17 percent in 1990 to 15 percent in 1995. Total employment in the money economy increased 38.6 percent from 5,599 in 1990 to 7,759 in 1995, a private institution-initiated economic report noted. It said the biggest increase was in private services where payroll employment rose 129 percent from 687 in 1990 to 1,573 in 1995. Trade, restaurants and hotels followed employment growth of 81 percent in 1990-1995 from 800 to 1,448. The third most rapidly rising area during the 1990-1995 period was the combined total of agriculture, fishing and mining where payroll rose 62.3 percent from 446 to 724.

### Teno . . .

**Continued from page 1**  
He also said that businesses and individuals will not be taxed an amount which is higher than what they are currently paying. "I have no intention of recommending to increase any taxes because it won't be appropriate when the businesses are not making any money. You cannot enforce additional taxes... burdening the business sector," he said. The governor also specified the reduction of non-resident workers in the private sector, especially in the hotel industry which reported a mere 40 percent occupancy rate.

The governor is also responding to an earlier concern raised by local garment producers that having a wage hike at this time may only aggravate economic problems in the CNMI. Richard Pierce, executive director of the Saipan Garment Manufacturers' Association, had said earlier that the review committees being formed to study possibilities of minimum wage increase should objectively pay attention to the current economic reality. He said that any abrupt change in the economic factors like an increased wage rate can have a major impact on businesses' ability to effectively produce revenue for the CNMI.

### US . . .

**Continued from page 1**  
consent," said Congressman Robert Underwood. "I have made phone calls to some Senators, hoping that they will help me see this into final passage." While Guam is unable to vote in Congress, Underwood does know several senators who have always been sympathetic to Guam causes and who will listen to him, said Cathy Gault, Underwood's spokeswoman. Sen. Ben Pangelinan, who pushed several amendments to the Organic Act, was pleased with the actions of the House. "This will ensure the politics involved with criminal cases will be the politics the people want, and not the politics of the appointing authority," he said. However, two amendments he suggested were not included. One involved judicial empowerment, which would revert the adminis-

trative power of the courts back to the Supreme Court, and the other amendment would prevent a convicted felon from qualifying to run for Governor. Under H.R. 2370, the AG's term would be for four years, voted at gubernatorial elections. Vacancies in the office can be filled by appointment by the Governor if the vacancy occurs less than six months before a general election, or by a special election within three months of the vacancy. The quorum amendment reflects a necessary change for the upcoming 25th Legislature, which will only have 15 senators. The 24th Legislature recently passed a bill allowing for an elected prosecutor, which would become moot if an elected AG became reality. Pangelinan also has a bill allowing for an elected AG, which already received a public hearing and awaits a committee report. "I think given the actions of the House today, I expect the bill will be reported out soon," Pangelinan said.

### Federal . . .

**Continued from page 3**  
Guam restraining order was issued before the case was transferred to the U.S. District Court. In a radio talk show yesterday, Sgro said the federal court on Guam does not have any right to tell the Superior Court that attorneys who practiced before the Superior Court did something wrong. "The Superior Court first heard

this case and then it was transferred to the federal court," said Sgro, who has been indisposed and confined at the Guam Memorial Hospital since Friday. Sgro added that there was never any complaint before Judge Unpingco that dealt with title. "It only dealt with access for emergency vehicles to get down to that area." He said that he is planning to appeal the case before the 9th Circuit Court. "This is definitely an appealable opinion."

### O'Roarty . . .

**Continued from page 1**  
nothing to do with his resignation. The DPS legal counsel also denied that he hired an illegal alien as his housemaid. "We have somebody who periodically come to clean our house who is a legal (worker)," said O'Roarty, adding that as a government lawyer he has no intention of violating the law. DOLI is reportedly investigating O'Roarty and former Attorney General's Office Criminal Division chief prosecutor Ross Buchholz for alleged violation of CNMI labor and immigration laws. Buchholz, who was recently ousted as head of AGO's Criminal Division, might be assigned to a special project as senior counsel, according to Kara. O'Roarty said since he sent a 60-day notice of his resignation, he has until December to serve as DPS legal counsel. The government lawyer explained that he and his wife have plans to go for a vacation by the

end of this year and subsequently stay in the US mainland "for good." O'Roarty said the salary here is not really good as compared to in the US mainland and he has no plans to take CNMI Bar examination to private practice. "We enjoyed our time here. It's just unfortunate that these things (DOLI investigation) come up," he added. O'Roarty served as prosecutor at the AGO Criminal Division before he was transferred to the AGO Civil Division then appointed DPS legal counsel in May 1996.

### Teacher . . .

**Continued from page 3**  
immediately removed from the school and placed under administrative leave. To Diaz's knowledge, there had been no prior complaints made against Flezvig. Diaz said there are three possible steps that can be taken against

Flezvig, adhering to administrative due process based on the outcome of the department's investigation. The three steps could be dismissal from his teaching position, suspension, or demotion. "We take these things seriously when it comes to the well-being of our children. We're glad that GPD got in there and took ac-


### Guam . . .

**Continued from page 3**  
committee of advisors from the Guam Visitors Bureau, Guam International Airport Authority, Guam Community College, and Customs and Quarantine officials from both federal and local agencies to help carry out the program. "What we're doing now is ironing the procedures and programs with the various committee members. So by early next year, we hope to have this in place," Lamorena said. In addition, Lamorena is work-

ing with the Guam Police Department to develop neighborhood watch programs that will allow Guam residents to participate in helping protect tourists. "I am confident that with these latest combined efforts between the government and the private sector, our beautiful island will become a prosperous tourist haven through diversified Asian markets." Lamorena said he sees another example of partnership between government and private sector in the establishment of a tourism strategic marketing and planning task force created through Executive Order No. 98-8. The marketing task force chaired by Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez and Lamorena includes government officials and representatives of the tourism industry. The aim of the task force is to continually strive to market Guam as a premium vacation destination for tourists throughout Asia. Lamorena also appropriated \$5.7 million to the Guam Visitors Bureau for a marketing campaign in Japan and other Asian destinations.

### NMI . . .

**Continued from page 3**  
Corp., again topped the September chart as 43 units were sold, garnering 35 percent of the market. Nissan and Hyundai cars ranked second with 16 units sold each in September. The two car brands are locally distributed by Joeten Motors and Triple J Motors, respectively. Each gamers a 13 percent market share. Mitsubishi, also distributed by Triple J, came in third with 11


**Happy 11th Anniversary**  
*Manny and Jean*  
  
Fr: Friends  
Ate Yolly, Yang, Nancy, Arnie Amor-Tony, Doris-Elli, Lillian-Richard, Susan-Joseph, Lilibeth-Romy

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Message of Appreciation  
**TAKESHI NAKAZATO**  
  
We, the family would like to extend our deepest and most heartfelt gratitude to all our relatives and friends who gave us such tremendous support, assistance and prayers in the passing of Takeshi Nakazato.  
May God bless all who joined us in prayers during the Catholic Mass and Burial Services.  
SI YU'US MAASE  
From:  
The children of Takeshi Nakazato

**Read with your child everyday.**





# SPORTS



## Rocball at MHS

# Veteran teams prevail over rookie opponents

By Tony Celis  
Variety News Staff

THE KAWABANGA defeated the Serepeins of Pohnpei (SOP) 53-13 in yesterday's preseason girls' rocball game played at Marianas High School.

The veteran Rocball team Kawabangas "juiced" the SOP in four sets, 14-0, 13-3, 16-5 and 10-5.

Sarai Kaipat had 7 aces, 2 xunks, and a goal for Kawabanga.

Teammate Sharma Iginol served 6 aces and 4 xunks, to lead her team to the win.

In the boys division, the rookie team Tech Squared Boys (T2B) lost to the veteran Rocball team of Local Trukeese Homies (LTH), 52-14. The T2B were likewise "juiced" in four sets, 12-3, 14-2,

11-0, 15-9.

Rudolph Phillips scored 4 aces, 3 xunks, 2 kees and 3 goals, and lead the scoring for the LTH's victory yesterday at MHS Rocball court.

James Jeger, organizer of the local Rocball League stated yesterday that the, "Rocball League will begin competition games next week, possibly on Tuesday."



SOP player follows through with her serve during a rocball game against the Kawabanga Team at MHS. Kawabanga defeated the SOP, 53-13.  
Photo by Tony Celis

## Club at the Hyatt Classic Golf tourney slated Oct. 17 at COP

THE THIRD Annual Club at the Hyatt Classic will be held October 17 at Coral Ocean Point Resort.

The tournament format is a four person scramble. The tournament is scheduled to begin at 11:30 a.m., Hyatt said in a news release.

"We are looking forward to an existing day of golf, gourmet food, and great prizes, said Recreation Manager Chris Nelson. We have interesting hole in one prizes, long drive prizes, team prizes, and more. This is an event we do once a year and we intend to make it a true highlight!"

"Our format allows people of all abilities to play together as a team, this is truly a tournament



Chris Nelson

that everyone will enjoy," continued Nelson.

Special features of this tournament include a sports massage station, cognac sipping station,

cigar station, as well as many other surprises.

Golf traffic reports will be provided on air by Hot 98 and MCV will be covering the event and televising highlights.

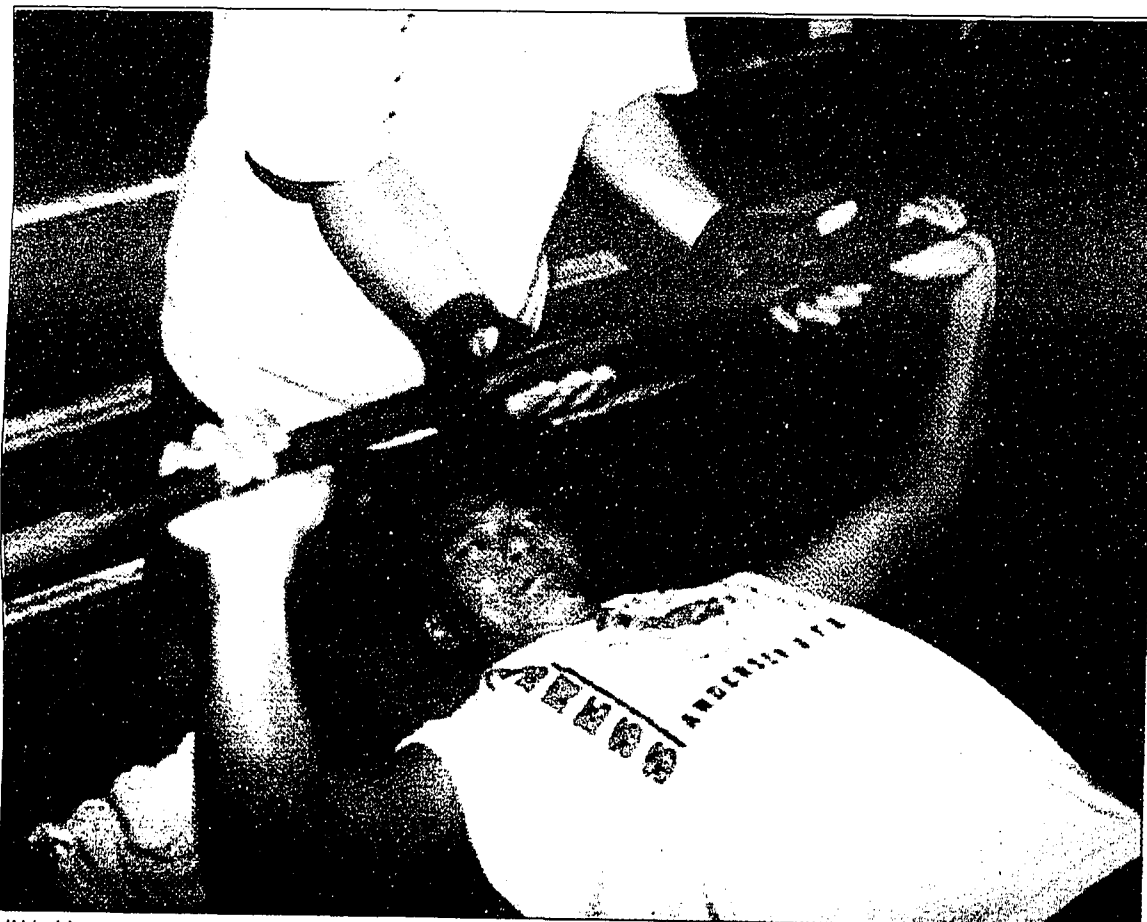
A banquet following the tournament will be held at the Hyatt Poolside and will feature a sumptuous gourmet buffet.

The fee for the tournament is \$85 for Club at the Hyatt Members and \$100 for Guests.

This tournament is limited to 80 entries.

Golfers may sign up at Club Elan Fitness Center inside the Hyatt Hotel.

For more information, please call 234-1234 ext. 25 or 27.



Ji Ho Han, a veteran of the Micronesian Games is one of the prime prospects for a spot in the men's basketball tryouts for the 1999 South Pacific Games. Jin Ho and several others aspirants have incorporated weightlifting into their training three nights a week at the UOG fieldhouse.  
Photo by Eduardo C. Siguenza

## SSA gears for SPG

By Tony Celis  
Variety News Staff

THE Saipan Softball Association, (SSA) is wrapping up their '98 season, and is looking forward to overseas competition, according to Carol Ngraidis, SSA Secretary.

At the conclusion of this year's Men's Fast Pitch and Co-ed League games, the association will then concentrate on the softball teams for the upcoming South Pacific Games (SPG).

Guam will be hosting the '99 SPG slated to begin in April.

As the official sanctioning body, under NMASA, for the CNMI, the SSA is tasked with keeping records and statistics of its individual member players and teams.

Players must be members of the SSA to be eligible for the SPG team selection. Recorded individual statistics is critical. The records are used in the selection process for eligibility for the SPG team.

"We need to keep the players performances in perspective. Some softball veteran players are really good and may need only about three months of practice before sending them to the SPG, Ngraidis said in an interview at her office.

"While other players may have the potential, some lack the talent. Those players with less experience would need more than three months to practice so they can bring their skills up to the level needed for the SPG," said

Continued on page 26

## NBA cancels entire preseason

NEW YORK (AP)—After canceling the rest of its exhibition schedule, the National Basketball Association's perfect record of never missing a regular season game because of a labor dispute is in serious jeopardy.

The league, which had earlier called off the first 24 exhibition games, canceled the final 90 Monday because of stalled labor negotiations with the players.

"At this point, our teams cannot possibly be ready to play any games before November," deputy

commissioner Russ Granik said Monday. "It's sad that we have been unable to have any meaningful negotiations."

The next collective bargaining session is set for Thursday. The league said decisions concerning possible cancellation of regular season games would be made next week. The season is scheduled to begin Nov. 3.

When the two sides finally meet again, they will have only a few days to strike a deal that would

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### SAIPAN

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