

*Due to modernization at CHC, says Villagomez*

# DPH referring fewer patients

By Haidee V. Eugenio  
Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Health has witnessed a decrease in the number of patients referred to off-island medical institutions due to modernization efforts at the Commonwealth Health Center.

Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said the more medical equipment and specialists the hospital has, the greater number of services are given to patients locally and the less need to refer them to off-island hospitals.

Villagomez cited as an example the coming in of a urologist who can attend to 20 to 30 patients. Instead of sending them to Hawaii, Guam or the Philippines,



Joseph Kevin Villagomez

they can now be treated at CHC. "With specialists here and more medical machines, patients don't need to be sent off-island. That will save us... the transportation of both the patient and the escort,

their hotel accommodation, their food," said Villagomez.

He added the hospital is beginning to send fewer patients off-island.

Every month, there are around 10 to 15 patients who are referred to Honolulu, Hawaii. In Guam, there are five to 10 patients being sent every month, mostly to undergo a magnetic resonance imaging test. The MRI is used as a more developed process than the CT scan used by CHC to detect a lot of medical problems like brain tumors.

"Studies even show that patients heal faster when they're being treated in their home environment," Villagomez said.

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# Gutierrez-Bordallo discloses platform



Carl T.C. Gutierrez

By Jojo Santo Tomas  
Variety News Staff

**HAGATNA**— Public-private partnerships, captive insurance plans and ideas incorporated from the HITA (of Angel Santos) and Tom & Lou (Tom Ada and Lou Leon Guerrero) campaigns make up the Democratic party platform, which was unveiled here yesterday.

In keeping with its strategy of a written plan of action, the Gutierrez-Bordallo campaign did not attach a catchy title to their plans this time. "The Way Forward," and the "Vision 2001" plans have been the outline of the executive branch for the last four years.

"We were able to complete 85 percent of what we wanted to do in 'The Way Forward,'" said Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez. "This is now a very pivotal point, especially with the looming Asian economic crisis."

The plan's main goal is economic stability, driven by island improvements in four main categories: Public safety, infrastructure, health care and education.

From the Tom & Lou campaign, the platform has included expansion of the "New Beginnings" program to offer 24-hour

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# CNMI's user fee collections up \$4.5M in first 7 months

By Haidee V. Eugenio  
Variety News Staff

THE CNMI government realized an increase of \$4,460,000 in user fee collections for the first seven months of this year compared to the same period in 1997, the worsening economic conditions notwithstanding.

User fee is paid on locally-manufactured and finished garment products to be shipped out of Commonwealth, which is home to 33 garment companies.

The close to \$4.5 million increase in user fee collection is expected to somehow help refill the government's emptied coffers.

Mike Sablan, special finance adviser of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, yesterday said the increase is fueled by the all-time revenue hike in the sector and the Department of Finance's efficiency in collection.

In July alone, the total user fee collection climbed to \$3.6 million. This was up by \$330,000 from July 1997's \$3.27 million user fee portfolio.

The government's targeted user fee collection for fiscal year 1998 is \$30.6 million. Sablan added that the government is projecting a \$38 million user fee collection for fiscal year 1999 which has just began.

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San Vicente Elementary School instructor Jonas Barcinas (left) teaches students the basic steps of a traditional Chamorro dance during dance class yesterday at SVES stage. Photo by Louie C. Alonso

# DOLI's Zachares: No conspiracy

By Haidee V. Eugenio  
Variety News Staff

DEPARTMENT of Labor and Immigration Secretary Mark Zachares yesterday dismissed speculations that the investigation of two assistant attorney generals are part of a grand scheme to have certain preferred government officials take over their posts.

"It's ridiculous. There's absolutely no political motivation," he told reporters after

meeting with the governor.

Sources earlier alleged Zachares is being eyed for the post held by acting Attorney General Maya B. Kara once the latter's confirmation is not acted upon by the Senate.

This, the sources added, is part of the grand event that led to the demotion of former Criminal Division Chief Ross Buchholz and the resignation of Police Legal Counsel William O' Roarty ef-

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Mark Zachares

# Rota fiesta this weekend

By Louie C. Alonso  
Variety News Staff

ROTA becomes host to a huge island gathering in celebration of the annual feast of San Francisco De Borja this weekend.

According to the Office of Rota Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona, the festivities will start with the culminating event for this year's San Francisco De Borja fundraiser, dubbed as the Queen's Coronation which will take place at the Rota Roundhouse at 4 p.m. Saturday, Oct. 10.

After the coronation, the tradi-

tional novena and procession will follow. Organizers are expecting a large number of participants in the solemn procession.

Also on Saturday, the biggest musical band competition called "Battle of the Bands" will start at 6 p.m.

Battle of the Bands organizer Richard Manglona said bands from Guam, Saipan and Rota will be competing for the event.

Participating groups include Guam's Heritage Band, Locally Owned, Island Remedy, MC Bar-

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# EEOC assists 'whistle-blower'

By **Ferdie de la Torre**  
Variety News Staff  
THE US Equal Employment Opportunity Commission has asked the US District Court to enjoin a garment factory from not renewing the employment contract of one of its employees who helped "expose" alleged discriminatory practices by the company.

Susan L. McDuffie, district director for the San Francisco District Office of the US EEOC, said unless Sako Corporation is restrained from not renewing the employment contract of Carmencita Abad, their investigation on the complaints will be affected.

"The Commission (EEOC) will

be immediately and irreparably injured in its ability to investigate and determine her charge of discrimination and the charges of discrimination to which she (Abad) is a witness or to secure relief for any potential victims of defendant's discriminatory practices," said McDuffie in her declaration.

The Variety gathered that Designated US District Court Judge Marty W. K. Taylor refused Wednesday to enjoin Sako and instead set a hearing on Oct. 20 to determine why the firm refused to renew Abad's contract.

Taylor said Sako is entitled to present witnesses to explain its side of the story.

For the meantime, Taylor allowed Abad to continue working at Sako until the matter is resolved at the next court hearing.

EEOC, according to McDuffie, is familiar with the discrimination charges filed by Emilia Lebona and other workers against Sako Corp. for pregnancy discrimination and retaliation to which Abad is a potential witness.

"I have concluded on behalf of the Commission that prompt individual action in the form of preliminary relief is necessary to carry out the purposes of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964," said McDuffie in her statement filed Wednesday in court.

Abad in her affidavit stated that last Sept. 12 a Sako local manager informed her in writing that her one-year employment contract would not be renewed when it expired on Oct. 8, 1998.

Abad, who has been employed by Sako since 1993, said she in-

formed Sako employees of their rights and assisted co-workers in filing discrimination charges at EEOC.

"I believe that Sako intentionally not renewed my contract in retaliation against me for engaging in protected activities," said Abad, adding that she filed the complaint before EEOC last Sept. 15.

She said she believes Sako intentionally not renewed her contract to scare other employees who will participate in EEOC proceedings.

Sako counsel Robert O'Connor in a telephone interview yesterday said his client has the right to renew or not renew the employment contract of any of its workers.

"And to a particular case, the production manager placed memos and the files about her. She was absent more than eight times without any excuse. She did not time in on her time card. She was also accused of theft...stealing merchandise several years ago. So the company decides not to renew her contract," O'Connor pointed out.

Sako, according to the lawyer, renewed Abad's contract last year because there was a union election at the time and the company does not want to be accused of retaliation.

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## BOS ponders rate cut

By **Jojo Dass**  
Variety News Staff

TAKING the cue from Guam-based banks, Bank of Saipan (BOS) Chief Executive Officer Tomas B. Aldan said he favors cutting down interest rates, even as he expressed hopes other CNMI-based lending institutions would likewise do the same "to help the borrowing public."

Aldan however, said the 20 to 25 basis point decrease in lending interest rates effected by the Guam Savings and Loan and Bank of Guam would hardly make a major dent on business and individuals.

He explained only big companies who borrow huge amounts can feel the effects of the lowered interest rates.

In an interview, Aldan said BOS has been looking into trimming the rates since last week, saying such measure "will be good for the Commonwealth's economy."

Aldan however said he still needs to bring up the matter to the BOS Board for approval.

"I hope all the banks here follow suit to help, in one form or another, the borrowing public," he told Variety.

Continued on page 42

## Alleged rapist charged

By **Zaldy Dandan**  
Variety News Staff

A MECHANIC working for the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. has been accused of kidnapping and raping the 25-year old Palauan woman who was found unconscious on the Gilligan's dance floor Sunday.

The Superior Court set a cash bail of \$35,000 for the suspect, Juan F. Rabauliman, who turned 42 on the day of the alleged rape incident.

His preliminary hearing has been scheduled on Oct. 16.

According to police, the victim was seen running into the Hyatt Regency's lobby at about 3:48 a.m. Sunday, "looking disturbed and requesting for police assistance."

Responding police officers found the victim unconscious on the floor of Gilligan's, a discotheque at the Hyatt.

She was then brought to the Commonwealth Health Center (CHC) where a doctor administered the "rape kit process" on her.

Upon regaining consciousness, according to police, the victim said the suspect did rape her at Tanapag Beach and attempted to rape her again at Micro beach, but she escaped from his pick-up and ran into the Hyatt's lobby.

It was learned that she resides in Western Garapan with her employers, who are a couple.

One of her employers told the police that he saw the victim leaving their house with the suspect at about midnight of Oct. 3.

A Hyatt employee, for his part, told police that a few minutes after seeing the victim running barefoot into the lobby, he saw an old white or beige pick-up truck entering the lobby driveway.

He said the driver was the suspect, who asked if he saw a lady running into the lobby.

The Hyatt employee would later identify Rabauliman in a photo lineup album.

## A growing concern of island govts

# High cost of medical referrals hit

By **MALOU L. SAYSON**

For the Variety

**KOROR (Palau Horizon)** — The Sky-Rocketing cost of medical referrals faced by most of the American Pacific Island nations was addressed through a resolution adopted by the Second Pacific Heads of State Meeting on Health recently held in Tamuning, Guam.

This was learned in an interview

with Sen. Sandra Sumang Pierantozzi, chairman of the Senate Committee on Health and Social Welfare, who together with President Kuniwo Nakamura attended the meeting.

The resolution, according to the lady senator, seeks to find ways of keeping the ever-increasing cost of medical referrals at a lower level as this has already impacted on medical/health care programs of most of the

American Pacific Island nations.

The problem is further aggravated by "improper" medical referrals, like recommending a terminally-ill patient to still go for further medication to other countries.

In the meeting, most of the American Pacific nations, according to the senator, have expressed concern over ever-growing cost of medical referrals which are inadequately funded by the government.

As a result, a lot of medical bills accumulate and therefore compound the existing problems such as lack of medical facilities which, according to the senator, redounds to the detriment

of the people who should be benefiting more from proper medical treatments.

"It (the problem) affects all of us," the senator said.

While this problem has hit most of the American Pacific Island nations, the Republic of Palau, however, has already nudged its way to a more convenient situation wherein the cost of medical referrals has been maintained at a healthy level for the past three years.

The annual cost of medical referrals in Palau has remained at a level of \$800,000. And this has been sustained for three consecutive years

now, the senator said.

This makes Palau rise above the rest in dealing with this perennial problem that has adversely affected its neighboring island nations.

Pierantozzi cited, for instance, the initiative of the Olbilil Era Kelulau (OEK) in putting this matter under control by way of passing a legislation which established so-called Medical Referrals Committee (MRC).

This piece of legislation, according to Pierantozzi, was instrumental in making the MRC free from political maneuverings which have caused the steady climb of medical referral ex-

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## Stayman vs Babauta



Allen Stayman



Juan N. Babauta

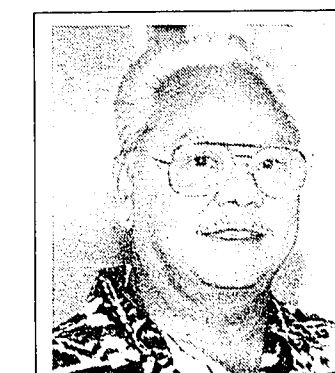
KRNM-FM, Saipan's public radio station, is pleased to announce that it will air a recording of the recent public discussion of CNMI affairs by Washington Representative Juan N. Babauta and Department of the Interior Office of Insular Affairs Director Allen Stayman.

The recording will be broadcast this Saturday and Sunday, October 10 & 11 at 6 p.m. and again Monday and Tuesday, October 12 and 13 at noon.

The two officials were guests on "Talk of the Nation," a National Public Radio show hosted by Ray Suarez.

Hear Stayman's concerns yourself and listen to how Babauta responds to them. That's on KRNM, your public radio station at 88.1 and 89.1 on the FM dial.

## Teno wants free trade zone put on 'fast-track'



Pedro P. Tenorio

By **Haidee V. Eugenio**  
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday called on the Free Trade Zone subcommittee to speed up the final set of recommendations on the creation of a free trade zone on Saipan to boost the Commonwealth's dwindling economy.

The local chief executive expects the subcommittee which is under the Economic Revitalization Task Force to come up with the final report by December.

"They're studying that and then they will submit the final recommendation before the end of this year," Tenorio told reporters.

Investors who will do business at the free trade zone may be offered incentives like low-cost labor or duty free entry of various products.

The Commonwealth Ports Author-

ity (CPA) earlier raised concern that if the revenue-generating garment companies suddenly pack up, then that would translate to less income for the CNMI.

The CPA added that the completion of the \$42 million Saipan Harbor

Continued on page 42

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# CCAC hosts Islands Arts exhibit

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By Louie C. Alonso  
Variety News Staff

THE COMMONWEALTH Council for Arts and Culture will be hosting the 14th Annual Islands Arts Exhibit, which is considered as the largest contemporary arts display on Saipan, starting on October 13.

Arts Council Executive Director Robert Hunter said the exhibit is not only limited to paintings of Saipan's best local artists but it will also feature the other forms of arts such as sculpture, sketches, among others.

"We already sent out and distributed invitations to different artists here on Saipan to come and

participate on the 14th Annual Islands Arts Exhibit. We now have some sample works but we are still waiting for others," said Hunter.

Arts Council said the local artists could now display more of their during the exhibit.

For this year's exhibit, organizers will not implement "artists' limitation" in terms of how many works an artist could display in the event.

The Islands Arts Exhibit, Hunter added, will not just focus on the Micronesian theme as what was displayed at the recent Micronesian Crafts Exhibit.

Hunter said they are welcoming different kinds of art materials

and subjects so that everyone can see the various influences on the local artists.

The Islands Arts Exhibit, Huntersaid, has no specific theme. The Arts Council wants to get the people to have an opportunity to see and feel different art subjects.

Last year, the Islands Arts Exhibit had 40 participants. Today, the organizers of the event are trying to tap in the same number of artists-participants.

However, Hunter said the Arts Council has no plans of having grandiose opening ceremony for a this activity unlike the Micronesian Crafts Exhibit which fell under the CNMI Heritage Month celebration.

## SVES receives \$84K US grant

By Louie C. Alonso  
Variety News Staff

SAN VICENTE Elementary School has recently received an \$84,000 federal grant for the enhancement of student learning activities inside the campus.

SVES Principal Martha Haberman yesterday said they have already consulted the SVES's Parents Teachers Association recently for input on programs and activities they may want now that they have the federal funding.

"We are very pleased that we now have the federal grant that will enhance the students' learning inside the campus. The funding is a big plus for our school to create different programs necessary for student development," said Haberman.

However, SVES has come up with plans of creating after school activities.

"We are planning to create tutorial services for the students. Like if they are not good in Mathematics or Science, we will hire tutors to teach them after school. This is a bold move for SVES to increase the learning potentials of our students," continued Haberman.

Haberman added that they will also included weekend outdoor activities for students.

"Not only do the students love to hike but through this activity, they will be able to learn the different sites that is part of Saipan's history," she said.

SVES at present are focusing on other extra-curricular activities inside the campus that will boost the students' interest in other worthy projects.

SVES has now regular dancing and visual arts classes which aims to promote the overall learning potentials of the students.

## GES joins DLNR in environment drive

By Louie C. Alonso  
Variety News Staff

HEEDING the call made by the Department of Land and Natural Resources for a greener Saipan environment, Garapan Elementary School will hold its own Arbor Week campaign inside its campus from October 19 to 23.

GES Arbor Week coordinator Kay Shaeffer said the environment drive will include the participation of parents and students to plant trees and shrubs inside the campus.

"Every classes will be doing some study on the effect of trees in the air and how important it is to our health," said Shaeffer.

GES Principal Juan L. Babauta said they are planning to intensify the arbor week campaign by integrating the idea of the environment awareness drive in the students' curriculum.

"Individual classes will be doing posters, artwork and songs. The teachers will try to let them understand the value



Juan L. Babauta

of planting trees and plants in their own villages," continued Babauta.

Shaeffer added that in a recent Parents Teachers Association meeting, many parents signed up to join the arbor week event inside the GES campus.

"It would be great if we could see the parents and students get involved together in this another GES project. We are hoping that those parents who signed up could really show up

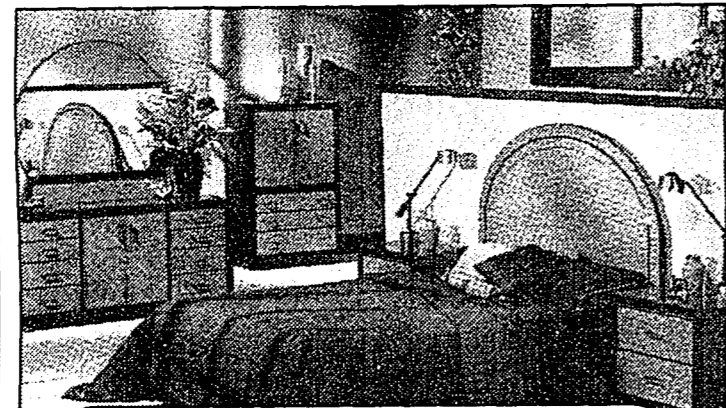
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#40P MUSTANG	ABT-702	Red	\$14,700	\$10,900
#40P TAURUS	ABT-672	Green	\$11,100	\$8,100
#40P TAURUS	ABT-722	Orange	\$11,100	\$8,100
#40P TAURUS	ABT-732	Dark Blue	\$11,100	\$8,100
#40P FORD WINDSTAR	ABZ-312	Black	\$18,275	\$14,225
#40P FORD WINDSTAR	ABZ-322	Silver	\$18,275	\$14,225
#40P WINDSTAR	ABZ-332	Blue	\$17,415	\$13,325
#40P WINDSTAR	ABZ-342	Green	\$17,415	\$13,325
#40P ESCORT	ABZ-311	Red	\$10,110	\$7,150
#40P ESCORT	ABZ-292	Red	\$10,110	\$7,150
#40P ESCORT	ABZ-282	Red	\$10,110	\$7,150
#40P ESCORT	ABZ-272	Red	\$10,110	\$7,150
#40P ESCORT	ABZ-262	Red	\$10,110	\$7,150
#40P ESCORT	ABZ-252	Red	\$10,110	\$7,150
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#40P ESCORT	ABZ-232	Purple	\$10,110	\$7,150
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# AROUND the Islands

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

## Veterans meet

THE U.S. Armed Forces Veterans Association will hold their monthly meeting October 9, 6:30 p.m. at Menachom Atdao Pavillion in Susupe.

Continued on page 44

## U.F.O. tent sale

THE UNITED Filipino Organization, Inc. (UFO) will hold a tent sale starting Friday, October 9th at 4:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. and Saturday/Sunday, October 10-11

Continued on page 44

## NMI Red Cross prepares for the next typhoon

IT'S THE time of the year again; the Northern Mariana Islands Chapter of the American Red Cross is reminding and urging everyone to be prepared for the typhoon season.

Last week, seven people from

the Northern Marianas traveled to the US mainland to assist in disaster operations for Hurricane Georges.

While the volunteers went to get more experience in disaster relief, other volunteers have also

been busy helping the local chapter in preparation for CNMI's own disaster if it happens.

A group of volunteers, MDX Radio Communication, recently helped the chapter in cleaning and

Continued on page 44



Members of MDX Radio Group help in cleaning and re-stocking of typhoon supplies at the American Red Cross Disaster Service Warehouse. (Red Cross Photo)

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# AROUND the Islands

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

## Sugar Plum Tree project underway

*Variety News Staff*  
**HAGATNA**—The Sugar Plum Tree Christmas project goes into its 13th year bringing cheer to abused and neglected children and manamko, who would otherwise receive little or nothing at Christmas.  
 Sugar Plum Tree coordinators are now soliciting individual and corporate sponsors to purchase gifts for needy children and the elderly, from as specified "wish list."  
 Volunteers are also needed to help in the adoption process, organizing gift donations and gift-wrapping.  
 Beginning Oct. 17, coordinators will hang on special Christmas Trees names of children and manamko at the Cottage Arts Collective Holiday Lane Bazaar at the University of Guam Fieldhouse.  
 Sponsors who select names off the trees will be asked to purchase one or two gifts requested by recipients and to return the gifts from Oct. 19 through Dec. 4 to project coordinators at any of the following Sugar Plum Tree locations: the Citizens Security Bank at Julale Shopping Center, the Guam Girl Scouts main office across from JFK High School, and this year's Sugar Plum Tree Holiday House in the Guam Premium Outlets.  
 The gifts must be returned unwrapped.  
 The 1998 Sugar Plum Tree project is supported and directed by Citizens Security Bank, along with other sponsors.

## More donations to CHC

THE CHC Volunteers Association has received a donation of two new trash cans, one wheelchair, and brand new sheets.  
 All donations came from Howard Macaranas, on behalf of his beloved wife, Margarita C. Macaranas, who recently passed away.  
 The CHC Volunteers accepted the items and then donated the same to the Hemodialysis Unit at the hospital.  
 The late Mrs. Macaranas was a hemodialysis patient.  
 The CHC Volunteers and the Hemodialysis Unit of the hospital appreciate Macaranas and his family's heartfelt donation, said the Association in a news release.  
 The CHC Volunteers Association is again encouraging everyone to participate in "Make a Difference Day," Oct. 24, by volunteering to make a difference in the lives of people in the NMI on this day.  
**Continued on page 44**



Left to right, Infection Control coordinators Granya Shearer, Remy B. Tudela, Associate Director of Nursing Luise Noisom, former unit manager hemodialysis Howard Macaranas and CHC Volunteer Ying Steere.

# WEEKEND Special

DISCOTHEQUE  
**GIG**  
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**October 9 & 10**  
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Come and join us and let's Party. As GIG Discotheque party nights perks-up your life till dawn

**\$10.00 ENTRANCE**

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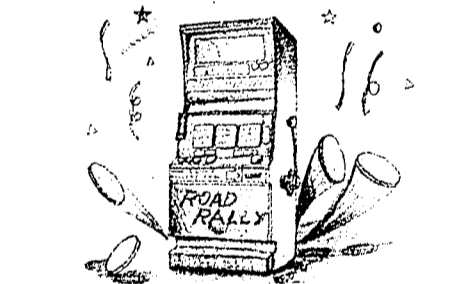
- Get 3 local beers
- 3 Red or White wine by the glass
- 3 All kinds softdrinks of your choice

**Come & Enjoy the night**  
 Must be over 21 with photo ID to enter

## DYNASTY GETAWAY WEEKEND

Need to get away from it all? Come to Tinian on Saturday, 10 October 1998

### SECOND SLOTS TOURNAMENT



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Tournament Times:  
 8:00PM, 8:30PM, 9:00PM, 9:30PM  
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 Prize Presentation at 10:30PM  
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Get your Entry Form at Casino Coin Booth.  
 Free return ferry ticket to Tinian for all entrants.  
 \*CASH PRIZES BASED ON 60 ENTRANTS

### Saturday Night with Sam Joyner and Friends

Reggae, Pop, and Island Beat!



Featuring Saipan's star of stars Candy Taman, along with Felix Sasamoto on guitar, and Mark Martinez on percussion.  
 Everybody could be a winner!  
 Win raffle prizes and dance all night!

9:30PM - 3:00AM  
**COME JAM WITH SAM AND CANDY TAMAN AT JACKPOT LOUNGE**  
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 Drinks from \$2.

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 <b>Charmin</b> 12 Roll <b>\$4.99</b>	 <b>Bars-S Chopped Ham</b> (5 lbs) <b>\$8.95</b>	 <b>NESTEA Iced Teamix</b> (53oz) <b>\$3.99</b>	 <b>Crisco Oil</b> (1 GAL) <b>\$6.99</b>	 <b>US X-Large Eggs</b> <b>\$1.49</b> (doz)	 <b>Calrose Rice</b> 50 lbs. <b>\$14.95</b>
 <b>Kellogg's Cocoa Krispies</b> 15 oz <b>\$3.25</b>	 <b>Kellogg's Frosted Flakes</b> (15 oz) <b>\$3.25</b>	 <b>Kellogg's Corn Pops</b> (10.9 oz) <b>\$3.25</b>	 <b>Gold Medal Flour</b> (5 Lbs.) <b>\$1.95</b>	       	
 <b>Sugar 4.4lbs</b> <b>\$1.59</b>	 <b>Chicken Noodle Soup</b> 10.5 oz <b>79¢</b>	 <b>Ajinomoto (1 lb)</b> <b>\$1.49</b>			
 <b>Armour Vienna Sausage</b> (9oz) <b>\$1.29</b>	 <b>Hormel (Corned Beef)</b> (12oz) <b>\$1.29</b>	 <b>Coco Tuna</b> <b>89¢</b>	 <b>OX &amp; Palm</b> <b>\$1.79</b>		
 <b>Hills Bros Coffee</b> (39 oz) <b>\$8.95</b>	 <b>Sunflower Cuttle Fish</b> (6oz) <b>\$1.69</b>	 <b>Golden State Vinegar</b> (1gal) <b>\$2.39</b>	 <b>Bounty Paper Towels</b> <b>\$1.39</b>		
 <b>MACKEREL</b> <b>89¢ lb</b>	 <b>Imitation Crab Meat</b> (1 lb) <b>\$2.39</b>	 <b>Foam Plate</b> (50 cts) <b>\$2.29</b>	 <b>Niagara Spray Starch</b> (22 oz) <b>\$1.39</b>	 <b>Huggies Supreme</b> 1-2-3-4-5 <b>\$9.95</b>	 <b>Clorox</b> 1 gal <b>\$2.49</b>
				 <b>Zest 3 Aqua Bath Bars</b> <b>\$1.99</b>	



## Case dismissed because AGO can't locate victims

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

SUPERIOR Court Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan has dismissed an assault and battery case against a San Vicente resident after the Attorney General's Office failed to locate the alleged victims.

The bench trial for Lorenzo T. Lacy, 54, was originally scheduled last July 14, but AGO was unable to proceed due to lack of witnesses.

Another date for trial was scheduled, but AGO said that despite its "diligent search" and the assistance of the Division of Immigration, it still can not locate the alleged victims, who are also the witnesses, "making it impossible to hold a trial."

Last February, AGO filed two counts of assault and battery charges against Lacy, who allegedly beat up Pynun Phakky and Prapatsom Muangsen on or about Nov. 23, 1997.

Phakky and Muangsen are Thai nationals.

AGO also alleged that Lacy made an unauthorized entry into the victims' property.

In a separate case, AGO again filed assault and battery charges against Juan R. Ayuyu, 48, who allegedly beat up Qisen Chang and Jian Hua Lin last April 21.

A Koblerville resident, Ayuyu is also accused of making an unauthorized entry upon the property of Qisen, "was lawfully advised to leave or desist and refused to promptly do so."

His hearing has been scheduled for Nov. 2.

The hearing for his case was originally scheduled for July 7, but Ayuyu was not served the court summons.

Ayuyu was also not served for the rescheduled hearing last August.

## Machete-wielder nabbed

By Zaldy Dandan  
Variety News Staff

A MACHETE-wielding Fina Sisu resident was arrested early Wednesday morning for disturbing the peace of his boss and co-workers, according to police.

Department of Public Safety spokesperson Rose T. Ada said Roberto B. Alnas, 33, hurled a water cooler that crashed into the window of a room where one of the complainants was sleeping.

The incident happened at around 3 a.m., at the Marianas Star Corp.'s workers barracks in Fina Sisu.

Citing the complainants' account, Ada said Alnas was then seen walking into the barracks' kitchen, and coming out holding a machete.

"He was waving the machete around so someone called the police," Ada said.

Among those who filed a disturbing the peace complaint were Alnas' manager, Byung Soo Jun, 44, co-workers Romeo B. Gomez, 43, and Jaime M. Anciano, 37.

It was not known whether Alnas was drunk when the incident happened, Ada said.

Gomez told the police, however, that last August he had an argument with Alnas, who allegedly tried to stab him, Ada said.

Gomez said he didn't report the incident because he and Alnas are friends.

Anciano, for his part, said he and Alnas had a "problem" last year, which has been settled.

"He doesn't know why Alnas acted that way," Ada said, referring to Wednesday's incident.

"The suspect did not tell us why he did what he did," Ada said.

Police will submit a report to the Attorney General's Office (AGO), which will determine whether to press charges against Alnas.

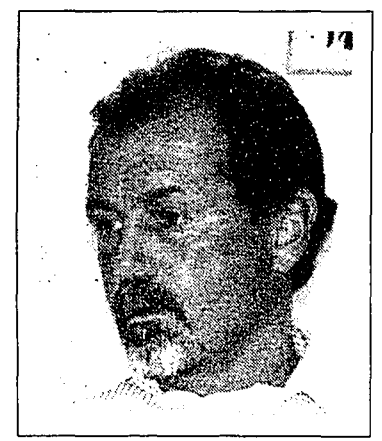
## Pierce: 'Healing process' has begun

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff

THE STRAINED ties between the garment sector and the local community has finally started to go through a healing process, according to the Saipan Garments Manufacturers Association (SGMA).

"The community here is sometimes unwilling to forgive this industry," said SGMA Executive Director Richard Pierce, in an interview.

He said the community is still being reminded of the garment sector's past which was highlighted by reports of labor



Richard Pierce

abuses and a host of other violations.

Pierce likened the garment sector to "someone that had been unfaithful to their spouse and was caught."

"For years and years," said Pierce, "despite the fact that both receive something from the relationship, whenever the unfaithful one shows their face, the other is reminded of that dark day of unfaithfulness."

He conceded the garment industry "was unfaithful, deceitful and manipulative."

"I was there," said Pierce, himself, president of one of the four companies that started the industry with 600 workers in 1984.

"Lies to local and federal offices. Violations. We ran as fast as we could and wouldn't look back. We had nothing to lose," he added.

"Just like in a relationship, it takes a long time to heal that wound."

Currently, however, Pierce said the garment sector has initiated moves to rectify mistakes and get back in shape, a development that has supposedly allowed other business sectors to look again.

These include efforts to join ranks with the Saipan Chamber of Commerce (SCC) and implement an internal, self-governing body that will monitor violations within the industry.

"The healing process has begun," said Pierce.

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## Medical workforce shortage hits Pacific

By MALOU L. SAYSON  
For the Variety

KOROR (Palau Horizon)-As the Pacific Island states unite to wedge a so-called "healthy islands initiative (HII)," it has also started to seriously address the continuing "brain drain" in the medical workforce which has already impacted the health care program of each state and of the region as well.



Sumang Pierantozzi

According to Senator Sandra Sumang Pierantozzi, while the Pacific island states have acknowledged the need to shift to a higher level of commitment in order to advance the health care program there is still the downside brought about by the waning medical workforce.

The heads of Pacific Island states as well as health leaders attending the recent meeting in Tamuning, Guam have come up with a consensus for the resurgence of a well-trained pool of medical personnel.

In Palau, alone, there is an apparent lack of interest in the nursing profession with only 30 nurses, 13 of whom are registered, working in the government health service.

This prompted the government through the Ministry of Health (MOH) and Palau Community College to open Palau Nursing Career Ladder Program.

Pierantozzi said human resources development (HRD) in the medical field both at the na-

special contract" to extend their services until such time the shortfall could be augmented.

In the meantime that this problem remains prevalent, the Pacific Island states have joined hands in establishing HII which, according to Pierantozzi, would not be giving additional financial burden on individual state governments.

"We believe it doesn't take funding to clean one's home and surroundings and educating children to cleanliness and sanitation," the senator said.

The HII is directed more at an education campaign on health and environment that starts at home.

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Pork Butt \$11.95 bag	Golden State Vinegar 1 gal \$2.39	Tide Detergent 42 load / 85 load \$8.99 / \$17.99	Nestea Iced Tea Mix 53 oz \$3.99	Cheil Sugar 4 lbs \$1.49	Joy Dishwashing Liquid 19 oz \$1.29
Pork Spareribs 30 lbs \$27.95 cs	Hunt's Ketchup 32 oz \$1.99	Gain Detergent 42 load / 85 load \$7.99 / \$15.99	Tang orange 20 Qt \$7.99	Libby's Corned Beef w/ Juice 12 oz \$1.39	Reynold's Diamond Foil 200 sq. ft. \$5.95
Beef Stew \$10.95 bag	Nestle Carnation Milk 12 oz 79¢	Diamond-G Calrose Rice 50 lbs \$15.50	Vlasic Whole Dill Pickles 1 gal \$5.69	Sapporo Ichiban 24 ct \$8.99	Aroy-D Coconut Milk 12 oz 79¢
Beef Shortribs \$14.95 bag	Kellogg's Cocoa Frost Flakes 16 oz \$3.29	Morton Salt 26 oz 2 for 99¢	Morton Salt 26 oz 2 for 99¢	Baby Oil Baby Lotion Baby Powder 14 oz \$1.79	

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## American Samoa's Gov. escapes impeachment

PAGO PAGO (Pacnews)— American Samoa's Governor Tauese Sunia will not face impeachment.

The American Samoa Legislature did not pass the resolution calling for the Governor's removal from office for misappropriating government funds and abuse of power.

The Legislature adjourned last Friday without taking any action on the measure automatically killing the impeachment

resolution.

The measure had been introduced three weeks before the Legislature adjourned and the House Judiciary Committee did not have enough time to review all charges against the Governor.

This is because the Government's budget took up much of the legislators' time.

As a result, the resolution was not reported on the House floor for a final vote before adjournment.

## Elsewhere in the Pacific

### Over 100 feared buried alive in PNG landslide

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (AP) — A newspaper reported Thursday that at least 30 people are feared dead after being buried by a landslide in a remote part of Enga Province in the mountainous highlands.

The National newspaper said a church congregation was buried

alive near the isolated Maramuni Station in the north of Enga province last Friday, and said the death toll could rise above 100.

Eight bodies had been recovered and a 9-year-old girl was the sole survivor of the disaster, the newspaper reported.

A spokeswoman for the

administrator's office told Australian Broadcasting Corp. radio she had received reports that 32 had died following heavy rains in the area.

The National Disaster and Emergency Services said it was still awaiting confirmation of the disaster from state emergency authorities.

## France moving towards granting French Polynesia self-government

MELBOURNE (Pacnews)— France is reportedly moving to grant self-government to its Pacific territory, French Polynesia.

The territory's pro-independence groups are concerned about the move.

French Polynesia's President Gaston Flosse has been in Paris,

meeting French President Jacques Chirac and Overseas Territories Minister Jean Jacques Queyranne.

President Flosse says he'd been assured France would change French Polynesia's status from an overseas territory to a French overseas country, thereby mak-

ing self-government possible.

President Flosse has been pushing France for the change since May, when France signed an accord granting greater autonomy to its other Pacific territory, New Caledonia.

But French Polynesia's pro-

Continued on page 44

## Smoking bill under debate in Fiji House

SUVA (Pacnews)—The Tobacco Control Bill, aimed at restricting smoking in Fiji's public places and stopping tobacco advertising, has sailed through the House of Representatives after debate yesterday.

The Bill, if passed into law by parliament, will also prohibit the

sale of tobacco products to those under 18-years of age.

It will further regulate the labelling of tobacco containers and restrict the nicotine and tar content of cigarettes.

Health Minister Leo Smith in his closing remarks assured members that the introduction of the new tobacco legislation will not harm the many tobacco farmers in Sigatoka Valley.

## Premier told to step down

HONIARA (Pacnews)— The opposition grouping in Solomon Islands Rennell-Bellona provincial Assembly has demanded the resignation of premier Ajilon Nasiu, saying he no longer enjoys majority support.

The opposition group leader in the provincial assembly, Francis Taupongi says the opposition now has six members in the ten-member provincial assembly following the defection of Deputy Premier, Douglas Tabea with another member.

Taupongi says a letter signed by the six-member opposition grouping was hand-delivered to Premier Nasiu in Honiara yesterday, giving him until Friday to step down.

Pongi says the opposition grouping will form a new government as soon as premier Nasiu steps down.


## Vanuatu gov't to discuss concerns on redundancy

PORT VILA (Pacnews)— Vanuatu's Council of Ministers will hold an urgent meeting today to look into allegations regarding the rightsizing process under the Comprehensive Reform Programme.

The urgent meeting was confirmed at a press conference by Acting Prime Minister, Father Walter Lini.

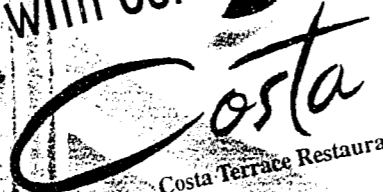
Father Lini says allegations made by concerned redundant workers will be the main subject of the meeting.

He confirmed that if government finds any irregularities in procedures of the rightsizing process, it will ensure the Public Service Commission re-instates affected staff.



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# Thousands flee floods

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP) — Flash flooding in the southern Philippines has swept away thatched houses and forced at least 5,000 people to flee their homes, relief officials said Wednesday.

No deaths were reported, although at least 20 children, including five infants, reportedly suffered minor injuries.

Rain that began earlier this week caused a river to overflow, flooding

parts of Vitali, just outside Zamboanga, said city social services officer Francisco Baredo. Zamboanga is 530 miles south of Manila.

Relief officials estimated at least 900 thatched houses were swept away or blown down by the wind.

Flooding also damaged hundreds of acres of cropland and fish ponds.

Agriculture officials estimated at least \$395,000 worth of rice was destroyed.

## RP vehicle sales dip 55%

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Sales of passenger cars and commercial vehicles in the Philippines 27,512 in the first nine months of the year, down 55 percent from

61,413 a year earlier, an industry association said Thursday.

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Continued on page 44



Passengers disembark from a Cathay Pacific plane upon arrival Wednesday at Manila's airport from its domestic flight. Cathay Pacific Airways has ended its operations after a 10-day period of servicing domestic routes after the country's flag carrier, PAL resumed its operations. AP

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## RP still after Marcos wealth

MANILA (Reuters) — The Philippine government said on Wednesday it would pursue its efforts to recover assets of late dictator Ferdinand Marcos despite a Supreme Court decision acquitting his widow of graft charges.

Tuesday's verdict quashed a

1993 ruling by a trial court which had sentenced Imelda Marcos to 12 years in jail for leasing state property to a medical foundation she headed at terms which state prosecutors said were grossly disadvantageous to the government.

"President Joseph Estrada



Imelda Marcos

stresses that the acquittal of Mrs. Marcos does not put to rest the government's pursuit of the Marcos ill-gotten wealth," a presidential palace statement said.

State prosecutors have filed scores of criminal and civil suits against Marcos for allegedly helping her husband steal billions of dollars from the economy during his 20-year rule.

Some of the cases were filed before local courts 12 years ago after the Marcoses were overthrown in a 1986 popular revolt but all of them have remained unresolved, bogged down in a slow judicial process that allows for repeated postponements of hearings.

One of the cases centres on government claims over more than \$500 million of Marcos deposits in banks in Switzerland. Swiss authorities have transferred the money to an escrow account in a Manila bank on condition they will not be released until the courts have decided on who it belongs to.

About 10,000 victims of human rights abuses during the Marcos regime are also claiming the money.

The government has held talks with the Marcos family and the human rights victims on sharing the money but no final deal has been reached.

Ferdinand Marcos died in exile in Hawaii in 1989.

His widow, who normally basks under media attention, has refused to talk to reporters since her acquittal on Tuesday but she released a statement saying: "Thank God... justice prevailed."

"If God is on your side, who can be against you," she said.

# Mail blackout in Majuro

By Giff Johnson  
For the Variety

Majuro — It's supposed to be "off-peak" season for airlines, but virtually no mail is being flown into Majuro this month by Continental Micronesia — forcing the U.S. Postal Service to resort to sending priority air mail by sea on Matson's monthly barge service.

No mail has arrived in Majuro from the outside world in ten days, and none is expected until the Matson cargo ship arrives next week, according to local post office officials.

Continental officials in Honolulu told U.S. Postal Service officials that the airline would be unable to handle first class mail from October 1-15, according to Majuro post office staff. Even express and registered mail is not arriving on Continental, according to assistant Postmaster Danny Note.

Mail delivery to Majuro has worsened in the past two years, as Continental reduced its service connecting Majuro with Guam and Hawaii from four to three flights.

But last month, Continental Micronesia cut the service to

just two flights weekly, and little mail has arrived since then.

Continental is the only carrier on the Honolulu to Guam route, but does not have a contract for carrying mail.

U.S. Postal Service officials advised the Majuro post office that because of the inability of Continental to carry mail, a big shipment of first class mail for Majuro was shipped on the Matson barge "Islander," scheduled to arrive in Majuro on Tuesday next week.

"We expect more than 8,000 pounds of first class mail on the barge," Note said. Additional third and fourth class mail will also arrive on the barge, which takes about two weeks to get from Hawaii to the Marshall Islands.

The U.S. Postal Service must treat mail for the Marshall Islands and Federated States of Micronesia as "domestic," while in effect having to deal with a foreign nation, said a U.S. Postal Service official in response to questions about mail service to the Marshall Islands.

Because of this situation, the U.S. Postal Service is "unable to exercise the same level of control that we normally do with domestic mail," the official said.

In the past, the fishing company Ting Hong has carried mail from Guam to Majuro on its flights to pickup tuna shipments in the Marshalls. Note said, however, that Ting Hong has indicated to the U.S. Postal Service that it cannot carry mail at this time.

When Continental announced it was reducing its flights September 1 through the Marshalls and Federated States of Micronesia to two each week — except during peak seasons when it would add additional flights, the FSM government fully supported the alternate service schedule, while the Marshall Islands supported the schedule for peak months but objected to

the elimination of the flight that included a stop in Majuro, the USPS official said.

"The essential problem is that Continental and the governments of the Marshall Islands and Micronesia have agreed to a new air service pattern, which they have every right to do, thus forcing us to tailor our 'domestic' service to their new routes," the USPS official said.

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## Kosrae taps Lintiaco for promotions campaign

HONOLULU — The island State of Kosrae has selected the Lintiaco Company in Honolulu, Hawaii to conduct an awareness campaign in the Northern American market.

The public relations firm will bring travel writers from selected publications to Kosrae to generate feature stories, the company said in a news release.

Kosrae is the easternmost island state of the four Federated States of Micronesia.

It is located in the Western Pacific, approximately midway between Hawaii and Guam.

It is known as a lush, "high" island with volcanic peaks covered in rain forests and navigable freshwater rivers which flow through mangrove forests.

Sandy beaches break through the mangrove shoreline to provide easy access to the narrow surrounding reef. The reef flats surrounding Kosrae are considered to be among the most pristine remaining in the world.

Besides diving and snorkeling, the island offers paddling through mangrove rivers, visits to the traditional and isolated village of Walung, hiking through rain forests, bathing beneath waterfalls and exploring ancient Kosrae ruins.

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# Estrada: Asia needs help

By JIM GOMEZ  
 MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Asian countries cannot recover quickly from the region's financial storm without help from the world's wealthiest nations because agencies such as the International Monetary Fund have "frighteningly insufficient" funds, Philippine President Joseph Estrada said Wednesday.

Estrada called on the United States and other rich nations to contribute more to the IMF, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank.

The international financial institutions have been at the forefront of bailing out Asian countries, including Thailand, Indonesia and South Korea, ravaged by the 15-month financial crisis.

Estrada said their help is crucial, "but it is now clear that the resources of these institutions, particularly the IMF, are frighteningly insufficient."

Therefore, additional commitments for financial support from industrialized nations are needed for a quick recovery from the regional crisis, Estrada told a meeting of trade ministers from the Association of Southeast Asian Nations.

Estrada also renewed a call for ASEAN to organize an international conference on ways of reducing the negative impact on developing countries of free flows of capital. Large amounts of money flowed into many Asian countries for a number of years, and then suddenly dried up last year as investors became wary of the region.

"The world is dealing with a new



Philippine President Joseph Estrada (5th from right) link arms with delegates attending the 30th ASEAN Economic Ministers meeting in Manila Wednesday. From left is Brunei's Pehin Dato Abdul Rahman Taib, Laos' Liang Thykeo, Indonesia's Ginandjar Kartasmita, Malaysia's Asmat Kamaludin, Myanmar's Brig. Gen. David O. Abel, Philippine President Joseph Estrada, Philippine Trade Minister Jose Pardo, Singapore's Lee Yock Suan, Thailand's Suphachai Panitchpakdi and Vietnam's Troung Dinh Tuyen.

phenomenon of massive amounts of capital flowing across national boundaries at lightning speed — bloating economies into fragile bubbles as they rush in, and shaking economies to their foundations as they are withdrawn," he said.

Estrada said it was important for ASEAN countries to continue reducing trade barriers and integrating their economies more tightly to attract more investment.

ASEAN trade officials agreed on Tuesday to hasten plans to demolish

trade barriers in the region to encourage trade and investment and help Asia recover from the financial storm.

The officials set a goal of complete elimination of tariffs for many products traded in the region by the year 2003, instead of their previous goal of only bringing tariffs below 5 percent by that year.

Later Wednesday, ASEAN officials were to sign an agreement creating an ASEAN Investment Area that would remove barriers to investment from other ASEAN countries by the

year 2010, and by 2020 for investment from non-ASEAN nations.

Under the agreement, businessmen from one ASEAN country would be granted the same privileges in areas such as land ownership and investment rights as their counterparts in another ASEAN country in which they wish to invest.

However, the agreement is subject to exemptions if a country's constitution limits equal treatment.

Estrada also urged ASEAN countries to allow freer exchanges of views,

alluding to Southeast Asian countries troubled by internal strife and sensitive to outside opinions.

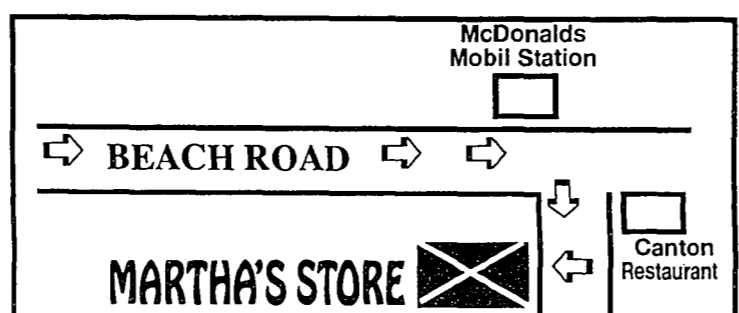
While struggling to solve their economic problems, ASEAN governments should also find ways of easing the plight of poor people who have been particularly hurt, Estrada said.

"The poorest of our masses, they who get hurt first and the hardest in any economic downturn, will always be restive, and rightly so, if the fruits of development go mostly to the already well-off," he said.

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# China bans Starr report



Kenneth Starr

By Charles Hutzler  
 BEIJING (AP) — Like soft porn and subversive novels, China's press censors have banned Chinese-language versions of Kenneth Starr's report detailing President Clinton's affair with Monica Lewinsky.

Chinese officials disliked the report's salacious details and worried that its contents somehow would damage improving Chinese-U.S. relations, media and publishing sources said Wednesday.

Because the sources work in enterprises strictly supervised by the government, they spoke on condition of anonymity.

The ban, however, is likely to have little effect. Pornographic videos and Penthouse magazine can be bought on many street corners.

Although the private lives of Chinese leaders are off-limits to the media, interest is high. Underground copies of a banned book about the late Mao Tse-tung's dalliances still circulate.

A popular Chinese Internet search engine, Sohu, records several thousand hits a day at its Clinton scandal site.

One or two publishers supposedly printed the Starr report in Chinese and distributed their versions to local sellers, the sources said.

The Communist Party-run Propaganda Department, which has ultimate authority over the media, decided to issue the ban last week, and the government's Press and Publications Administration ordered book stores this week to take copies of the report off the shelves, the sources said.

In a rare display of openness, the state-run Beijing Morning Post reported the ban Tuesday, but company officials later refused to comment.

A Beijing city propaganda official, who identified himself as Mr. Zhang, said the Beijing Morning Post ran an unauthorized report and that no final decision had been made on the report.

Since the scandal broke, Chinese reporters have been subjected to endless directives from the Propaganda Department not to report any sexual details, the sources said.

One source said the Propaganda Department tried to put together an edited, cleaned-up version of the Starr report, but found it impossible to do.



Off-duty soldiers do sightseeing in front of portrait of Mao Tse-tung, ex-president of China, at Tiananmen Square in Beijing, China. AP

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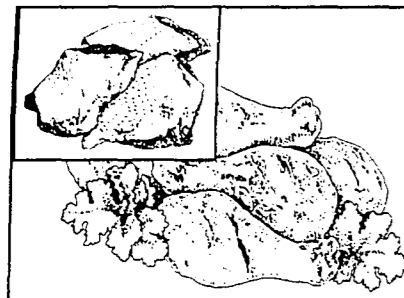
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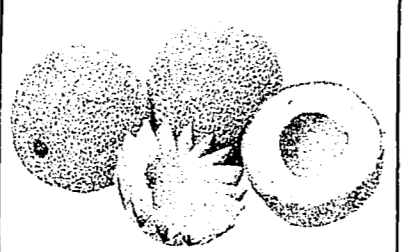
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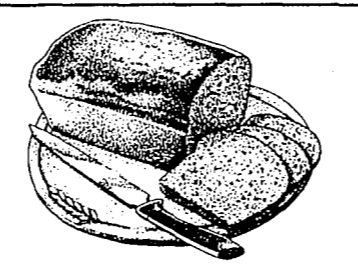
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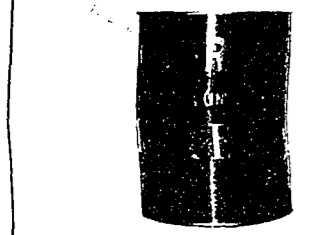
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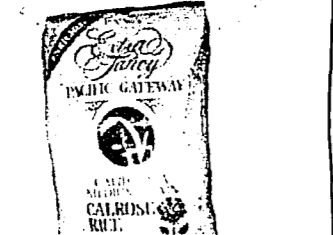
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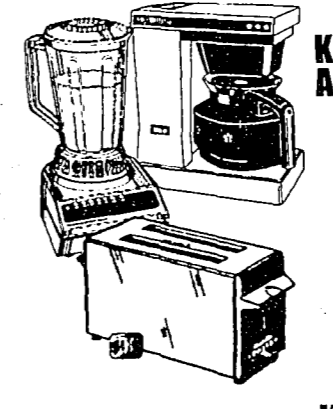
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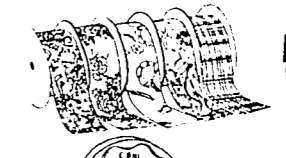
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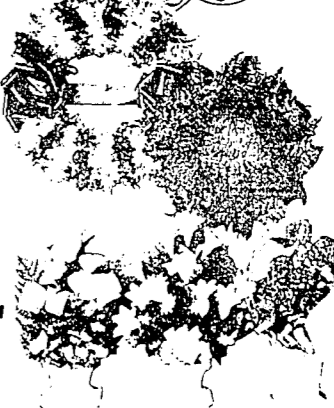
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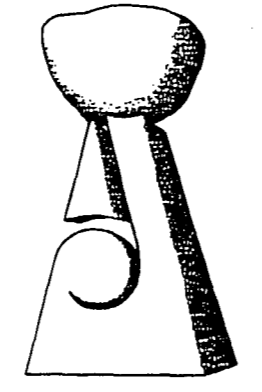


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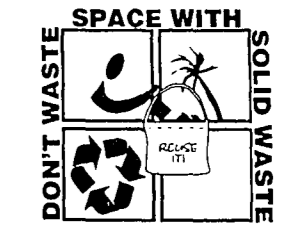
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## No new proposal for Hong Kong recession

# Tung gloomy on economy



Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa poses during his annual policy address to the Hong Kong Legislative Council in Hong Kong Wednesday. To the disappointment of the territory mired in recession, Tung failed to deliver new measures to kick start the sagging economy and painted a gloomy picture. AP

By Marcos Calo Medina

**HONG KONG (AP)** — Hong Kong's leader presented a gloomy economic outlook Wednesday in his second annual address, offering no new proposals to rescue the Chinese territory from recession.

Chief Executive Tung Chee-hwa said Hong Kong's "difficult" situation will continue well into 1999.

He said the economic downturn may push the budget deficit much higher than the June estimate of \$2.56 billion, slowing growth in government expenditure in the next few years.

Hong Kong's economic recovery hinges on "an improvement in the external economic environment, a steady interest rates, stability in property market and the restoration of public confidence," he said.

Tung said the government's priority is to stabilize property prices, which have fallen 50 percent since last October.

Weeks after Tung's inaugural policy address last year, Hong Kong was swept into Asia's financial turmoil.

The once-booming economy is expected to shrink by 4 percent this year, and unemployment is at a 15-year high.

Vanessa Yeung, head of research at G.K. Goh Securities (HK) Ltd., said there was nothing substantial in Tung's address.

"These kinds of policies will not help the economy in the short term."

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# Myanmar gov't arrests 54

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — Myanmar's military government said Wednesday it had arrested 54 people for staging anti-government demonstrations and accused groups funded by the Vatican, the U.S. government and financier George Soros of inciting unrest.

Of the 54 arrested, 23 were members of the National League for Democracy, the political party of opposition leader Aung

San Suu Kyi, and included one elected member of parliament.

"In July and August of this year, the NLD has stepped up its confrontational activities and attempted to create unrest and upheaval," Col. Thein Swe, a high-ranking military intelligence officer, said at a news conference.

The 54 people were arrested for participating in brief "hit-and-run" street demonstrations calling for an end to military rule in Myanmar, also known as Burma.

More than 1,000 people joined in the first, near Yangon University on Aug. 24. The second erupted near the Sule Pagoda in downtown Yangon on Sept. 22.

Thein Swe said the dissidents instigated unrest in collaboration with exiled Myanmar students in Thailand who are backed financially by the Vatican-based Jesuit Refugee Services, the U.S. government-funded National Endowment for



Activists from Asian countries march with Myanmar students' flag and banners past the Myanmar Embassy in Bangkok on October 1. A group of human rights activists marched to five southeast Asian embassies to protest what they say are increasing human rights violations in the region. AP



Suu Kyi

# Thai PM warns Cabinet

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — It was the first order of business Thailand's Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai raised at the first meeting of his new Cabinet this week.

"Corruption will not be tolerated. I can't protect any dishonest person," Chuan told his ministers.

The irony is that the seven-party coalition government led by Chuan, widely regarded as one of the most honest politicians in Thai history, is awash in corruption scandals.

They began shortly after he was named prime minister last November, and the allegations — some substantiated, others unproven — include:

• The minister of transport and communications was accused of rigging bids for a digital communications network.

• The minister of interior allegedly used timber from a national park to build his home, while investigating illegal loggers.

• The minister of health and his deputy were forced to resign over price fixing of medical supplies at hospitals.

• The deputy minister of agriculture resigned after farmers complained the ministry was selling them seeds at inflated prices.

• Farmers groups now charge the ministry is inflating the price of fertilizer.

• A deputy education minister has accused one of his counterparts of rigging bids and overcharging schools for computers.

• There has been speculation that kickbacks were involved in awarding a contract to turn Bangkok's zoo into an amusement park.

Just a few years ago, when Thailand's economy was booming, there was little public outrage over politicians taking pay-offs or skimming off contracts.

"But not now, when we are going through an economic crisis."

People's tolerance level has been lowered," said Professor Kasian Tejapira, a political scientist at Thammasat University in Bangkok.

If even half of the corruption allegations are true, then millions of dollars have been lost at a time when unemployment is nearing 2 million and the government is receiving a \$ 17.2 billion bailout from the International Monetary Fund.

Recent polls show the public still supports the prime minister. But confidence in his coalition's honesty is declining.

The scandals also threatened the unity of the governing coalition, which had only a slim parliamentary majority.

To ensure his government would not fall, Chuan brought in another party Monday. While that increased the number of government lawmakers, polls showed voters doubted the honesty of the new coalition partner.

"This new lineup is not for the sake of the people, but to lengthen the life of the government," said

Weng Tojirakan of the Confederation for Democracy, an activist group. "But if the prime minister cannot root out corruption, then the government will not last."

Despite Chuan's warning to his ministers, parliament's makeup makes it likely new scandals will emerge.

While many of the 387 lawmakers are honest, law enforcement officials say there are also many godfathers, alleged drug smugglers, oil smugglers, people profiting from prostitution and other vices, people accused of looting financial institutions and even some who have been arrested for assault.

Furthermore, corrupt bureau-



Thai Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai walks past lines of newsmen as he arrives Tuesday at Government House in Bangkok for a meeting with his new cabinet members. AP

crats were behind many scandals. Thailand is only a few decades removed from a feudal society where officials expected gifts in exchange for basic services.

"Corruption is ingrained in our system," Professor Kasian said about the persistence of that attitude.

Former Prime Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, who leads the opposition, has vowed to launch a no-confidence debate against Chuan using the corruption scandals as ammunition.

He is unlikely, however, to succeed. Most Thais believe the opposition is more corrupt than the government.



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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 Wóomi.

/s/ Felix R. Nogis  
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/s/ Luis M. Limes  
Vice President

Democracy, and the Open Society Institute of billionaire George Soros.

The 54 were not among the 967 members of the opposition detained by the government since May to prevent the NLD from convening the parliament elected in 1990.

Suu Kyi's party won 82 percent of the seats in the assembly, but the military has refused to allow it to meet. The 1991 Nobel Peace Prize winner was under six years of house arrest at the time of the election.

Gen. Kyaw Win, the deputy chief of intelligence, told the news conference that the 967 were not in fact detained, but had been invited to government guest houses for discussions.

Asked when they would be invited to return home, he said it depended upon the activities of the NLD.

Kyaw Win, who was a student activist in the 1960s, answers directly to intelligence chief Gen. Khin Nyunt, one of the military government's most powerful leaders. He insisted the military had dealt gently with the NLD by not sending its members to prison or outlawing the party.

"You remove a thorn with a needle, not an ax," he said. "However, if the NLD accelerates its confrontational tactics to a certain extent, the government will have to act in the interest of the people and the country."

Kyaw Win dismissed condemnations heaped upon the military by many Western governments for the mass detentions of opposition members and other human rights abuses.

"We are a military government trying for the establishment of a democratic country," he said. "You cannot judge us by the standards of fully developed democratic countries."

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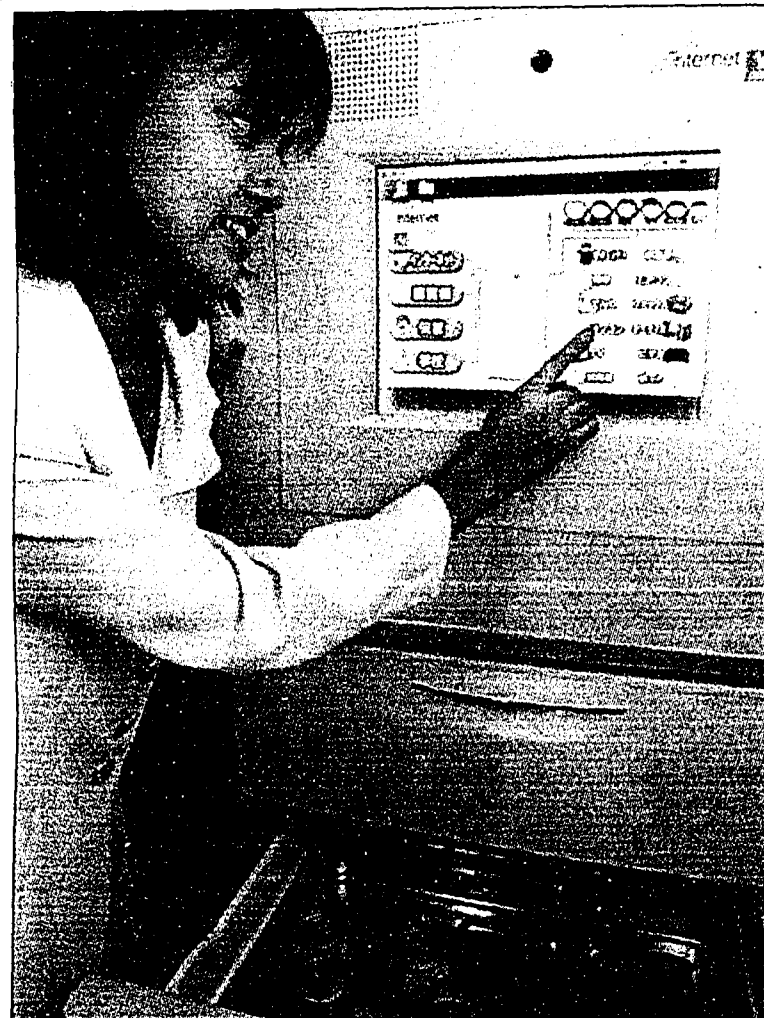
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## Online-only bank launches

HOUSTON (AP) — Billing itself as the first fully chartered online-only bank in the United States, CompuBank launched its Internet-based services on Wednesday. The institution is the first exclusively online bank to receive a charter from the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency and approval by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp., CompuBank officials said. The bank offers traditional services such as checking and savings and wire services. Via its Web site at [www.compupbank.com](http://www.compupbank.com), the bank also offers instant access to account status, account statements up to 12 months and check images up to three years. Several other banks offer online banking in conjunction with their traditional branch services. CompuBank, based in Houston, is backed by private investors.



A model touches a panel screen installed in a newly introduced "Internet Refrigerator" at the PC World Expo in Makuhari, Japan. The unique refrigerator is connected with all household equipment like telephone, air conditioner, bath, television, security, etc., which could be controlled by the touch panel or verbally through a built-in microphone. AP

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Division of Labor

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KIM, JUN  
Complainant(s),  
vs.  
POINT LAND MASTER/MR. YUL OK  
Respondent(s).

LABOR CASE: 96-105

### PUBLIC NOTICE

TO: COMPLAINANT AND RESPONDENT

The Complainant(s) and Respondent(s) in the above titled cases and other subsequent '96 cases have been listed below in this PUBLIC NOTICE to inform both parties that they have failed to maintain contact with the Division of Labor regarding their cases. Notice is hereby given that their cases will be DISMISSED unless they contact the DIVISION OF LABOR within THIRTY (30) DAYS after the date of this PUBLIC NOTICE. Please contact Labor Investigator VINCE S. SALAS in person at the Department of Labor and Immigration or telephone 664-2076 to discuss your case.

- |                     |  |
|---------------------|--|
| 1. L.C. No. 96-0051 | Zhou, Rong vs. American Sunglow Corporation                    |
| 2. L.C. No. 96-0093 | Hui, Zhao vs. Kyung Jae Corporation                            |
| 3. L.C. No. 96-0100 | Aquino, Danny I. vs. Johny Angeles                             |
| 4. L.C. No. 96-0146 | Javier, Nhora I. vs. Araceli Hernandez                         |
| 5. L.C. No. 96-0160 | Jacinto, Edmund R. and Alfonso L. Domingo vs. Hyun Corporation |
| 6. L.C. No. 96-0198 | Remojo, Marianita vs. Lieto, Julie Tudela                      |
| 7. L.C. No. 96-0208 | Banatas, Nathaniel P. vs. Reyes, Antonio A. dba BPS            |

Dated this 28th day of September, 1998.

/s/ GIL M. SAN NICOLAS  
Director of Labor

## House OKs limits on Internet pornography

By TED BRIDIS  
WASHINGTON (AP) — Rejected by the courts in an earlier effort to restrict Internet pornography, the House of Representatives voted Wednesday to require companies to verify an adult's age before showing online material "harmful to minors."

"There are literally thousands of sites devoted to every manner of perversion and brutality," said Rep. Michael Oxley, the bill's sponsor. "Unfortunately, the Web is awash in degrading smut."

Included within the bill, passed on a voice vote, was a far less controversial proposal to require companies on the Internet to obtain parental consent before collecting personal information from children on the Web.

The anti-porn legislation requires companies to verify a customer is over 16 by asking for a credit-card number, adult access code or "any other reasonable measures" before showing "harmful" material. Violators would face fines up to \$50,000 and up to six months in prison.

"This will further erode the notion of freedom of speech," complained Rep. Barney Frank. "This goes far too broad. I believe it will be judged unconstitutional."

The Senate voted 98-1 earlier Wednesday to amend a similar measure, sponsored by Republican Dan Coats of Indiana, that would impose a moratorium on any new state or local taxes while a federal commission sorts out tax op-

portunities for electronic commerce. Coats said tax benefits shouldn't be extended to online pornographers whose material is available to children.

If the Senate approves the tax bill with the Coats amendment, a conference committee would need to resolve differences between it and the House bill before Congress adjourns on Friday.

Critics compare the legislation, which they describe as "CDA 2," to the 1996 Communications Decency Act, which the Supreme Court overturned last year as unconstitutional. It sought to ban anyone, not just commercial Web sites, from sending "obscene or indecent" material to minors.

Supporters said the "harmful to minors" standard was much narrower than "indecent" and thus more likely to withstand scrutiny by the courts.

Sen. Christopher Dodd added a provision requiring Internet service providers, such as America Online, to sell or give free parental filtering software to customers.

The administration has indicated it opposes the legislation, although it's unclear whether President Bill Clinton would veto it.

Clinton's top telecommunications adviser, Larry Irving of the Commerce Department, recommended that parents be given high-tech tools, such as software filters, rather than a "static, imperfect solution" such as a new law.

## On impeachment move in Congress

# Clinton asks vote of conscience

By LARRY MARGASAK  
WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton said Wednesday that members of the House of Representatives should cast "a vote of principle and conscience" on whether to approve a broad, Republican-written impeachment inquiry against him. He denied he was trying to pressure lawmakers.

"It's up to others to decide what happens to me and ultimately it's going to be up to the American people to make a clear statement there," the president told reporters in the Oval Office. "More important than anything else to me is they do the people's work and then let the people decide where we go from here."

In return, Sen. Robert Byrd, the senior Democrat in the Senate, offered "friendly advice" to the White House: "Don't tamper with this jury." Senators would be the jury if impeachment resolutions were approved by the House and a Senate trial was convened.

A day before the House is set to approve the impeachment inquiry, Democrats were searching for an alternative that would satisfy both liberals and conservatives in the party, as well as those with tough re-election races.

After a House Democratic caucus, it was clear that a number of lawmakers — especially conservatives and those in tough races — would vote for the Republican resolution.

"This cannot be a vote where

you try to defend the president of your own party," Rep. Tim Roemer told reporters in expressing support for the

Republican proposal. But most Democrats who spoke at the meeting said they would show strong party unity by voting

first for a more limited inquiry — even though it's destined to fail.

"We're a party and we have to start thinking like a party," Rep. Gary Ackerman told reporters. Another Democrat, Rep. Ellen Tauscher said she spoke to the president, who pledged to cooperate with any inquiry. She said she might vote for the Republican resolution to get an inquiry moving, but acknowledged: "It's not easy to vote for any inquiry that's going to be open-ended, that looks like a rehash of a bunch of salacious material."

Lawmakers said several members of the Congressional Black Caucus were among those stressing unity.

The White House denied that Clinton was engaged in an intensive lobbying campaign. Press secretary Joe Lockhart said the president had called a half-dozen lawmakers in the last few days, and that half of those were return calls to members

who had called him. Clinton also denied trying to pressure lawmakers, saying, "I think everybody should cast a vote of principle and conscience."

Meanwhile, a small group of Democrats prodded the White House to drop its opposition to the open-ended impeachment inquiry sought by Republicans.

Rep. David Minge of Minnesota, a lawmaker on the Republican target list for this fall, said he telephoned White House chief of staff Erskine Bowles on Tuesday night to urge that the White House reverse course.

Bowles was noncommittal, Minge said, adding, "I don't know if he's going to do this but that's what I conveyed to the White House."

The disclosure that some members of the rank-and-file were seeking an about-face in the White House strategy was fresh evidence of the turmoil within the Democratic Party.



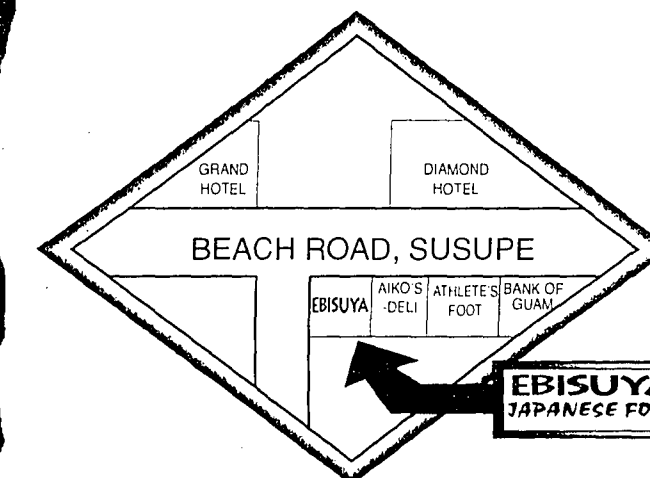
President Clinton makes a point while addressing a Democratic fundraiser in Washington Monday. Earlier in the day, the House Judiciary Committee voted 21-16 to send a recommendation to Congress to proceed with an impeachment inquiry. AP



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# IMF mulls key US proposal

By MARTIN CRUTSINGER  
WASHINGTON (AP) — A proposal President Bill Clinton put forward to calm turbulent financial markets caught officials at the International Monetary Fund off guard and will need further refinement, a top IMF official said Wednesday.

Jack Boorman, IMF's policy director, called the U.S. recommendation to speed IMF loans to countries threatened with investor flight a "distant" part of the global architecture officials are struggling to create to cope with the current crisis and prevent future crises.

"I want to make sure that efforts on this front are not discussions that take away from the first order of business — dealing with the crisis," Boorman told a small group of reporters during an interview.  
Calling it more a "concept" than a thought-through proposal,

Boorman said the idea merited further consideration. However, he said, a number of potential problems would have to be resolved, including how to involve rich countries and the private sector along with the IMF in supplying emergency loans.

The feeling is that all three groups need to be involved to offer enough resources to persuade frightened investors to leave their money in a particular country.

Boorman said Clinton's proposal caught the IMF off guard because it had not been raised by the U.S. representative to the organization during preparations for the annual meeting or in discussions by a separate group of 22 nations convened by the United

States to explore reforms to the global financial system.

The IMF learned of the proposal only a few days before Clinton made it public last Friday in brief remarks on the South Lawn of the White House, he said.

Clinton, who has given increasing attention to the financial crisis in recent weeks, has been involved in a series of brainstorming sessions at the White House with his top economic advisers, searching for bolder proposals to contain what he has called the biggest threat to the global economy in 50 years.

Boorman, an American, made his remarks as the annual meetings of the 182-nation IMF and World Bank were heading to their closing sessions Thursday.

# Major Web firms push privacy plan

By CHRIS ALLBRITTON  
NEW YORK (AP) — Eight major Web companies announced a multimillion dollar online privacy initiative Wednesday aimed at heading off legislation in Congress.

Microsoft, Excite, Lycos, Infoseek, Snap, Netscape, Yahoo! and America Online revealed the Privacy Partnership effort at the sixth annual Internet World convention in New York.

The online ad campaign is aimed at educating consumers about privacy rights and encouraging companies to post clear and easily accessible policies dealing with the collection of personal data.

Susan Scott, executive director of TRUSTe, a nonprofit industry group that aims to promote online commerce, said privacy was the No. 1 reason people were suspicious of using the Internet to conduct online commerce.

At a news conference, Scott said a recent study revealed that 61 percent of people who didn't use the Internet indicated they weren't online because of concern over how their personal data would be used.

The campaign will take the form of donated banner ads on the Web sites of the participating companies. From Oct. 12 until the end of the month, the companies expect to reach about 85 percent of the American online audience by flooding the Web with between 150 million and 200 million displays of ad banners.

The Privacy Partnership is aimed at heading off pending legislation in Congress. The Clinton administration has taken a hands-off approach to the Net, but privacy advocates, the Federal Trade Commission and the European Union are demanding some kind of federal regulation to protect consumers.

# Louisiana ex-governor faces another probe

By ALAN CLENDENNING  
NEW ORLEANS (AP) — A retired state transportation official was charged Wednesday with conspiring with former Gov. Edwin Edwards to wiretap the homes of two FBI agents.

Neither Edwards nor his son Stephen, who was also implicated in the alleged scheme, was charged. Edwards has been the target of a wide-ranging FBI corruption investigation for at least 18 months.

Dempsey White, 76, a former state transportation official, was arrested and charged with conspiracy to commit illegal wiretapping.

In court papers, the FBI said the Edwardses and White wanted to intercept FBI agent Geoffrey Santini's telephone

conversations, along with those of federal prosecutors.

On July 22, Edwards allegedly told an informant he was interested in "what's happening, what he (Santini) thinks, and what he believes." The court papers did not identify the second FBI agent targeted for wiretapping.

The former governor said of the allegations Wednesday: "I know nothing at all about it. I don't know what White did. But he didn't do anything on my instruction, direction or with my knowledge."

The federal investigation has looked into such things as cattle sales to state prisons, a defunct insurance company and a failed attempt to bring basketball's Minnesota Timberwolves to New Orleans.

### INVITATION FOR BIDS

DPW98-IFB-032  
September 24, 1998

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI), through the Department of Public Works (DPW), are soliciting competitive sealed Bids from qualified CNMI construction firms for the Intersection Improvements and Installation of Traffic Signals at Various Intersections Project on Saipan. The estimated magnitude of this project is between \$300,000 and \$500,000.

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, must be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 PM October 26, 1998, at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened.

A Bid Bond of fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be certified check, cashier's check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with a notation on the face of the check, "Credit Account No. 44660". Bid Bond must be executed by a surety approved by the CNMI government.

There will be a Pre-Bid conference for this project at 2:00 pm, local time, on Thursday, October 15, 1998 at the DPW Conference Room, Office of the Secretary, Gualo Rai, Saipan. The scope of work, drawings, and bidding documents will be available on or after September 28, 1998 at the Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, Lower Base, Saipan, MP. There is a cost of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for the Scope of Work documents. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer, a receipt of payment must be presented when acquiring the project package. Any questions/concerns must be submitted in writing to the Director of Technical Services Division, DPW, Lower Base, no later than 4:30 p.m., October 15, 1998.

The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, must be executed by the surety U.S. Treasury listed insurance or CNMI approved affiliate, equal to 100% of the price specified in the contract. Performance time for the completion of the construction project is 150 (One hundred fifty) calendar days after receipt of the Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages to be assessed at the amount specified in FP-92, 1992, Table 108-1, per calendar day.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the FHA.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in the best interests of the CNMI. All Proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

/s/ JUAN B. CEPEDA  
Acting Secretary of Public Works  
September 22, 1998

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply  
September 23, 1998

### INVITATION FOR BIDS

DPW98-IFB-029  
September 24, 1998

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI), through the Department of Public Works (DPW) in cooperation with the Tinian Mayor's Office, is soliciting competitive sealed Bids from qualified CNMI construction firms for the asphalt paving of approximately 1.0 mile of Suicide Cliff Road (Route 200) on the island of Tinian. The estimated magnitude of this project is between \$300,000 and \$500,000.

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, must be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00PM October 23, 1998, at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened.

A Bid Bond of ten percent (10%) of the total bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be certified check, cashier's check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with a notation on the face of the check, "Credit Account No. 44660". Bid Bond must be executed by a surety approved by the CNMI government.

There will be no Pre-Bid Conference for this project. The scope of work, drawings, and bidding documents will be available on or after September 28, 1998 at the Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, Lower Base, Saipan, MP. There is no cost for the Scope of Work documents. All questions/concerns must be submitted in writing to the Director of Technical Services Division, DPW, Lower Base, no later than 4:30 p.m., October 15, 1998.

The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, must be executed by the surety U.S. Treasury listed insurance or CNMI approved affiliate, equal to 100% of the price specified in the contract. Performance time for the completion of the paving project is 90 (Ninety) calendar days after receipt of the Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages to be assessed at the amount of \$500 (Five hundred dollars) per calendar day.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the FHA.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in the best interests of the CNMI. All Proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

/s/ JUAN B. CEPEDA  
Acting Secretary of Public Works  
September 22, 1998

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply  
September 23, 1998



STS-95 Payload Specialist Chiaki Mukai of Tokyo, Japan stands next to Sen. John Glenn, D-Ohio, during a break in training exercises Wednesday morning at Kennedy Space Center, Fla. Seven members of the STS-95 crew are preparing for an Oct. 29, 1998 launch. AP

## Jury awards \$39M damages over chemical leak incident

CHARLESTON, West Virginia (AP) — A federal jury on Wednesday awarded \$38.8 million in punitive damages in a class-action lawsuit against FMC Corp., stemming from a chemical leak that injured at least 10 people.

The U.S. District Court jury award represents about 5 percent of the Chicago-based company's net worth of \$776 million. A judge must decide how to divide the award among 343 plaintiffs.

On Tuesday, the jury awarded an average \$8,300 in actual damages to 10 people who claimed they were injured by the leak of 6,000 pounds (2,700 kilos) of phosphorous trichloride in December 1995. FMC plant manager Brian McConnachie met with plant officials about four months before the accident to discuss problems with the reactor that ultimately failed. McConnachie and the employees concluded it did not need to be shut down.

Evidence indicated that faulty equipment in a reactor contributed to the leak. Phosphorous trichloride combined with rain that day to form hydrochloric acid.

Five highways were closed for more than two hours, and thousands of residents were asked to stay inside to avoid contact with the leak. FMC attorneys declined to comment Wednesday.

FMC makes fertilizers and chemical compounds used in motor oil and a variety of other products.

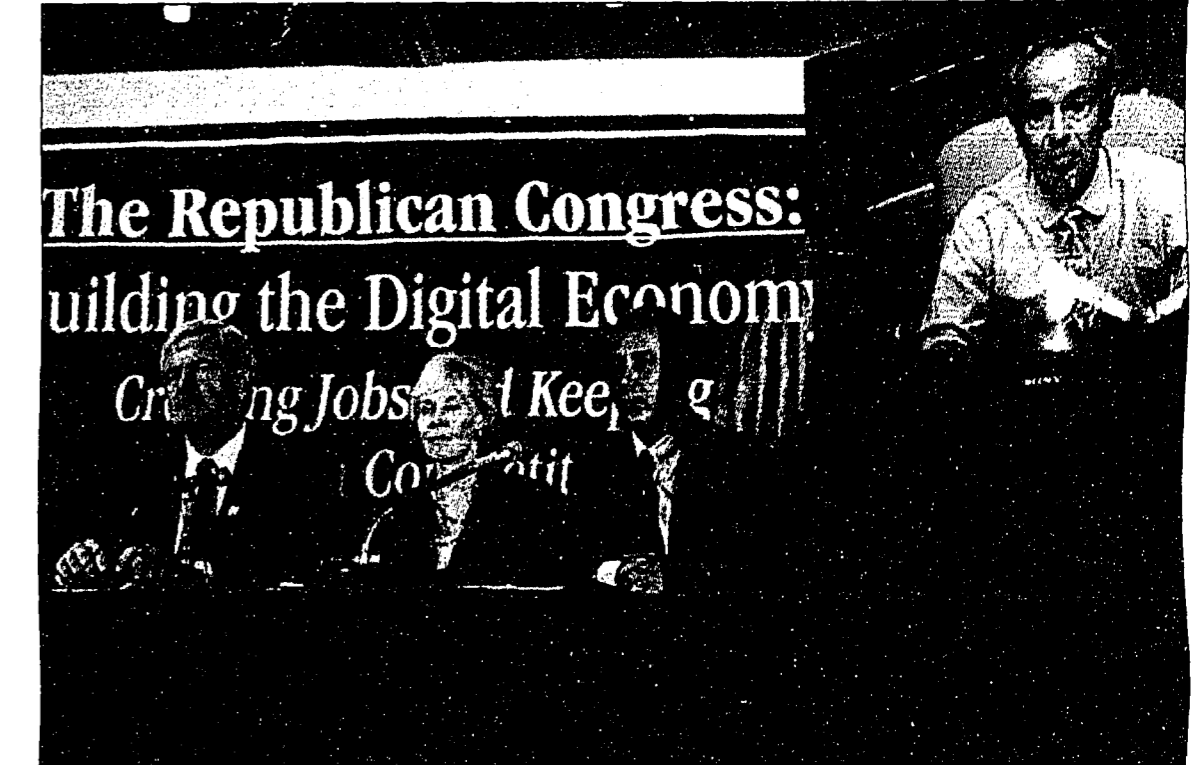
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Speaker of the House Newt Gingrich (left), Reps. Jennifer Dunn and John Boehner, hold a "high-tech" news conference at the Capitol with Intel CEO Andy Grove participating via tele-conference Wednesday. Gingrich and other Republican leaders used the event to point out the advances they have made during the 105th Congress on high technology issues. REUTERS

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### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

IT IS THE POLICY OF THE COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION (CUC) THAT THE CUC MERIT HIRING SYSTEM SHALL BE APPLIED AND ADMINISTERED ACCORDING TO THE PRINCIPLE OF EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR ALL CITIZENS AND NATIONALS AS DEFINED BY THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COMMONWEALTH CONSTITUTION AND STATUTES REGARDLESS OF AGE, RACE, SEX, RELIGION, POLITICAL AFFILIATION OR BELIEF, MARITAL STATUS, HANDICAP, OR PLACE OF ORIGIN.

Job Vacancy No.: 98-042 Opening Date: 09/28/98 Closing Date: 10/30/98

### Electrical Engineer

DUTIES: Duties include planning and design of distribution systems, including substation, primary, secondary and customer services and the preparation of specifications, reports and cost estimates. Will work closely with construction, operations and marketing personnel.

LOCATION: COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION, SAIPAN

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENTS: BS in Electrical Engineering from an accredited university; five years minimum experience working for an electric utility and/or as an electric utility consultant. Good interpersonal skills are a must.

STARTING SALARY: \$38,000.00-\$45,000.00 PER ANNUM PLUS HOUSING

Submit resume with salary history to Human Resources, CUC.

Applications are available at the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Lower Base, Saipan, the CUC Rota or Tinian office. Copy of diploma and/or official transcript and recent police clearance must be attached.

FAILURE TO PROVIDE THE REQUIRED DOCUMENTS WILL RESULT IN AUTOMATIC DISQUALIFICATION.



# Prodi faces Parliament

By Vania Grandi  
ROME (AP) — A breakaway faction of Italy's Communist party indicated Wednesday it would take up Premier Romano Prodi's appeal for support, boosting the chances that the center-left government could survive a confidence vote.



Italian Premier Romano Prodi stresses a point during his speech at the Italian Parliament Wednesday. AP

The Communist Refoundation party, led by Fausto Bertinotti, decided over the weekend to withdraw support for Prodi, saying the proposed 1999 budget did not do enough to stimulate jobs, particularly in Italy's lesser developed south, where the jobless rate runs about double the national average of 12.5 percent.

Prodi, who has relied on the Communists' votes in the lower Chamber of Deputies throughout his 2 1/2-year term for a majority, was forced to call the confidence vote, expected Friday, to determine whether his coalition still commands a majority.

Arguing that Italy needs political stability to maintain its place within Europe and the European Monetary Union, Prodi went before Parliament earlier Wednesday and appealed to his frayed majority to reunite.

"I don't think that any of the forces in the majority can hold back their support," Prodi told lawmakers. "I think that even you, Bertinotti, must be feeling the same weight and the same responsibilities that we feel."

Hours after Prodi spoke, the Communists' No. 2, Armando Cossutta, told hundreds of his followers that it was time to "disobey" the party's hard-line stance and support Prodi despite unhappiness over the budget.

On Monday, Cossutta resigned as party president, calling Bertinotti's tactics "wrong and dangerous."

Communist leaders in Parliament said the next day that they would heed Cossutta's appeal to prevent the government from falling, but it was still unclear how each deputy would vote.

With votes from Cossutta's faction, Prodi would be just shy of a majority in the 630-seat Chamber of Deputies, but a few abstentions and some stray votes from centrist lawmakers in the opposition could be enough to win the confidence vote.

Prodi has outlasted all postwar premiers except Socialist Bettino Craxi, who was premier from 1983 to 1987. Prodi's is Italy's 55th government since World War II.



Italian Communist Refoundation Party's president Armando Cossutta (left) and Party's MP Oliviero Diliberto (right) clap their hands, as Party's secretary Fausto Bertinotti jots down, at the end of Italian Premier Romano Prodi speech at the Italian Parliament Wednesday. Prodi's government will face an expected vote of confidence on Friday. AP

## Bin Laden ex-secretary indicted

By Gall Appleson  
Law Correspondent  
**NEW YORK (Reuters)** — A former personal secretary to Osama Bin Laden, the Saudi exile suspected in the bombing of the U.S. Embassy in Kenya, was indicted with three others on Wednesday for conspiring with a violent Bin Laden group to kill U.S. troops and civilians. The charges against Wadh el Hage of Arlington, Texas mark the U.S. government's latest

move in its expanding probe of Bin Laden and his al Qaeda organization. The 238 count indictment, filed in Manhattan federal court, accuses the defendants of conspiring to kill members of the American military stationed in Saudi Arabia and Somalia as well as U.S. nationals employed at the U.S. Embassies in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. The August 7 embassy bombings killed 253 people, including 12

Americans, and injured more than 5,000 in Nairobi. An almost simultaneous attack on the U.S. Embassy in neighbouring Tanzania killed 10 people and injured dozens. Last month el Hage was indicted for lying about his knowledge of Bin Laden's activities but he was not accused of participating in actual acts of violence. The new charges accuse him of being part of a broad plan to kill Americans. He could face life in prison if convicted.

### INVITATION FOR BIDS DPW98-IFB-030 September 24, 1998

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands (CNMI), through the Department of Public Works (DPW), are soliciting competitive sealed Bids from qualified CNMI construction firms for the Reconstruction and Hazard Elimination of Chalan Monsignor Guerrero, Phase III, with an approximate distance of 0.42 mile. The work includes widening a portion of Chalan Pale Arnold for approximately 0.11 mile. All the work will be on Saipan. The estimated magnitude of this project is between \$800,000 and \$1,300,000.

Sealed Bids, in duplicate, must be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 3:00 PM October 30, 1998, at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened.

A Bid Bond of fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be certified check, cashier's check, or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with a notation on the face of the check, "Credit Account No. 44660". Bid Bond must be executed by a surety approved by the CNMI government.

There will be a Pre Bid Conference for this project on Thursday, October 15, 1998 at 10:00 a.m., local time, in the DPW Conference Room, Office of the Secretary, Gualo Rai Saipan. The scope of work, drawings, and bidding documents will be available on or after September 28, 1998 at the Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, Lower Base, Saipan, MP. There is a cost of one hundred dollars (\$100.00) for the Scope of Work documents. Payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer, a receipt of payment must be presented when acquiring the project package. Any questions/concerns must be submitted in writing to the Director of Technical Services Division, DPW, Lower Base, no later than 4:30 p.m., October 15, 1998.

The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment Bonds, must be executed by the surety U.S. Treasury listed insurance or CNMI approved affiliate, equal to 100% of the price specified in the contract. Performance time for the completion of the construction project is 180 (One hundred eighty) calendar days after receipt of the Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages to be assessed at the amount of \$1,000 (One thousand dollars) per calendar day.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of Transportation, Federal Highway Administration. Contract award is contingent upon funding approval by the FHA.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in the best interests of the CNMI. All Proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

/s/ JUAN B. CEPEDA  
Acting Secretary of Public Works  
September 22, 1998

/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN  
Acting Director, Procurement & Supply  
September 23, 1998

## HISTORIC PRESERVATION REVIEW BOARD MEETING

9:00 A.M., October 21st  
at the Division of Historic Preservation Office

- AGENDA
- I. Call to Order
  - II. Orientation of New Board Members
  - III. Election of Officers
  - IV. Adoption of Minutes from June 11, 1996 Board Meeting
  - V. Old Business
    - A. IOTA Update
    - B. Rota Agricultural Homestead
    - C. Other Old Business
  - VI. New Business
    - PROA Partners Contract
    - Museum Opening
    - Saipan International Airport Project
    - Disposition of Human Remains
    - Chugai Pictographs
    - Post Office Expansion Project
    - Mt. Carmel School Expansion Project
    - C.K. Japanese Historic House
    - On-going Compliance Projects
    - Publication Update
    - Rota/Tinian Program Update
    - Saipan Review and Compliance Update
    - HPO FY99 Budget
    - Other New Business
  - VII. Adoption of Resolutions
  - VIII. Adjournment

# MID-PAC MICRONESIA'S PRE-INVENTORY REDUCTION SALE

Sale Starts Sat., Oct. 10th, 8 a.m. - 5 p.m. • Sale Ends Sun., Oct. 11th, 9 a.m. - 1 p.m.

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- No Rain Checks.
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**Truck Mate Crossover Tool Box**  
Reg. \$215<sup>25</sup>  
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**Work Lamp #118TC-1**  
Reg. \$5640  
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**Iran . . .**

Continued from page 39

publishing articles "detrimental to national interests."

Tous angered hard-liners with its anti-war stance by calling for a diplomatic solution rather than military strikes in the conflict with the Taliban militia in Afghanistan.

It also angered hard-liners by questioning Khamenei's authority as the spiritual leader.

In addition to Tous, five other publications have been shut down,

including Gozaresh-e Rouz, Khaneh, Rah-e Nou, Tavana, Jameah-e Salem and Asr-e Ma.

The crackdown is stymying efforts by moderate President Mohammad Khatami to give more freedom to the press.

Journalists say they are the victims of powerful hard-liners in the regime, who have found themselves under increasing attack by an increasingly daring press.

Khamenei has in the past called on the judiciary to deal with what he described as "the abuse of press freedom" by the media.

"We have said time and again that expressing views on every issue is free and those having objections to the government's plans are entitled to publish their objections and no one will stop them.

But there exists a fundamental difference between objection and sabotage." IRNA quoted Khamenei as saying Wednesday.

"If anyone today undermines the economy and the work of this government \_ this government which is the servant of the people \_ he is our enemy. We must confront him," he said.

**Veterans . . .**

Continued from page 12

Members and interested veterans are encourage to attend.

Issues to be discussed is the upcoming Veterans Day Activities.

**U.F.O. . . .**

Continued from page 12

at 9:00 a.m. to 9:00 p.m. at the Mt. Carmel Cathedral ground (baseball field).

Proceeds will benefit Karidat and various projects.

For more information, please call Neneth at 235-5009.

**GES . . .**

Continued from page 10

during the event and help the teachers to teach their kids the importance of arbor week," added Shaeffler.

GES Arbor Week starts from two to six in the afternoon. According to Babauta, they intentionally slated the event after school so that parents could have a chance to participate in the event after work.

As the school's commitment in the environment campaign of DLNR, Babauta added that GES have their own students who are taking care of the environment inside the campus.

**Underwood . . .**

Continued from page 9

and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Administrator D. James Baker.

The conference, hosted by the NOAA, is entitled "Sustainable Oceans: Realizing the Opportunities for APEC Economies," is expected to bring together 10 APEC member nations.

The conference is in celebra-

tion of the International Year of the Ocean.

Underwood pointed out that as delegate, he would be able to actively participate in the discussions with Pacific nations on the conservation and development of the Pacific Ocean resources.

In the past, Guam representatives were treated as no more than observers and had been denied involvement in any of the APEC discussions about island resources and economy.

**Police . . .**

Continued from page 9

accelerating in reverse and struck the patrol car. The suspect then fled the scene.

Untalan pursued the suspect and located the car a short distance away in the subdivision with the

engine running, but the suspect was gone.

The Maxima was impounded. The suspect was described to be a male Filipino, about 5'6"-5'7" tall, between 145 and 155 lbs., with black hair and a dark complexion.

The patrol car sustained minor damage.

**Local . . .**

Continued from page 8

program by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges, the regional academic accrediting body.

Kujawa is involved in several professional certification and accreditation review groups in the State of California.

"I'm impressed with the NMC program," the professor said. He noted that, as a new program, it is designed to meet current national standards and avoid being tied to past practices.

Kujawa also said that he appreciated that design is experience based, enhancing student skills in areas particularly relevant to local instruction.

Kujawa, who received his doc-

torate in education from the University of Michigan, is heavily involved in undergraduate and graduate degree programs related to teacher training at the University of San Diego.

The University of San Diego was founded by the Sisters of Sacred Heart and now has an enrollment of 6,600 with graduate programs in education, business, nursing and law.

**Ex-Hillblom..**

Continued from page 3

the time of the settlement, the lawyer said, DHLI was already discussing the reissue of the shares to a "strategic investor."

"The BoS and its counsel know, or should have known, that the reissue price was materially increased by a calculation necessary to take into account that the buyer of the reissued stock would, upon purchase of a 22

percent interest in DHLI, succeed to 22 percent of the purchase price (reflecting new equity in the company)," Eason said.

On the other hand, Eason argued that the case is removable because the action presents a federal question over which the US District Court has jurisdiction.

The simple reason that the case is removable, she said, is that plaintiff (BoS) previously released the defendants of the subject claims in separate DHL settlements.

**RP vehicle . . .**

Continued from page 20

Inc. attributed the sharp decline to tighter credit and higher interest rates.

Banks have become very selective with their loan approvals since the regional financial crisis broke. Those able to receive loans must pay sharply higher rates.

In September alone, sales of passenger cars fell 32 percent from a year earlier to 1,984.

**France . . .**

Continued from page 18

independence groups are concerned, unsure whether the change would be a step towards independence or a concentration of power in the hands of President Flosse.

Meanwhile independence leader Oscar Temaru is in Paris for meetings with French government representatives for the first time in 20 years.

**Sugar . . .**

Continued from page 14

with other corporate sponsors including Hawaiian Rock, the American Greetings Car Company, the Pacific Daily News, Matson Navigation, Guam Premium Outlets, Guam Girl Scouts, and

The Office of the Governor. Messages can be left on the Sugar Plum Tree Hotline at (671) 479-9111.

**More . . .**

Continued from page 14

day.

The Volunteers are connecting with the national Points of Light Foundation in their drive to encourage all citizens of the world to take part in the Make A Difference Day.

On this day volunteers will support projects dedicated to helping children, the elderly, the environment, the homeless, and many others.

**NMI . . .**

Continued from page 12

rearranging the warehouse for typhoon supplies such as clean-up kits, comfort kits and other necessary emergency items.

Containers were also recently sent to Rota and Tinian to be used for their single-family disaster supplies such as for fire.

Training volunteers are also continuously being planned and

scheduled.

Seven people were sent to Guam in September and are now certified supervisors for Damage Assessment.

Eight others were certified as supervisors for Family Service.

For more information about typhoon preparedness or volunteering or Red Cross assistance efforts, contact the chapter at 234-3459 or stop by the office at Airport Road.

**NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION**

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS SAIPAN, MP 96950



EQUAL HOUSING OPPORTUNITY

**PUBLIC NOTICE****DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS**

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairman, Mr. Juan S. Tenorio, is reminding the public that acceptance of applications for the Koblerville Expansion Project commenced on October 2, 1998 and will close on October 15, 1998. Acceptance of application will only be from 8:00 a.m. through 10:00 a.m.

Those individuals that have picked up applications are urged to contact the NMHC Office at 234-7689/7670/6866/9447, for more information or for an appointment if needing assistance in filling out the application.

MARYLOU S. ADA  
Corporate Director

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

**WORLD MENTAL HEALTH DAY**

OCTOBER 10, 1998

World Mental Health Day was created to raise awareness of human rights and mental health. This commemoration is meant to highlight the importance of respecting the dignity of individuals with mental and emotional disorders, underscore their need for human treatment, and draw attention to violations of their basic human rights.

World Mental Health Day is sponsored by the World Federation for Mental Health and co-sponsored by the World Health Organization. Rosalyn Carter is serving as its Honorary Chair.

In honor of World Mental Health Day, the Protection & Advocacy (P&A) System is restating the Principles adopted on the issue by the General Assembly of the United Nations, December 1991. The following proclamation outlines the rights associated with people with mental illness.

**All persons have the right to the best available mental health care, which shall be part of the health and social care system.**

**All persons with mental illness, or who are being treated as such persons, have the right to protection from economic, sexual and other forms of exploitation, physical or other abuse and degrading treatment.**

**Every person with mental illness shall have the right to live and work, as far as possible, in the community.**

**A determination of mental illness shall never be made on the basis of political, economic or social status or membership of a cultural, racial or religious group, or any other reason not directly relevant to mental health status.**

**Every patient shall have the right to be treated and cared for, as far as possible, in the community in which he or she lives.**

**Every patient shall be protected from harm, including unjustified medication, abuse by other patients, staff or others, or other acts causing mental distress or physical discomfort.**

For information on protecting the rights of persons with mental illness, contact the Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI) at telephone numbers 235-7273 (voice) 235-7278 (TDD).









## SPORTS



## Rotary Youth Basketball

# Phenoms defeat San Vicente Heat, 63-35

By Tony Celis

Variety News Staff

THE PHENOMS overran the San Vicente Heat, 63-35 in Wednesday night's Rotary Club Youth Basketball League (ICBL), played at Gilbert Ada, gym.

The Heat were taken by surprise from the early minutes of the basketball game when Phenom guard Fred Peliseman and point-guard, Jerry Babauta took full control of the game.

Starting with a three-point shot, Peliseman was soon scoring at will. Babauta's rebounding, both offensively and defensively compounded Heat's low scoring woes. The Heat rarely got a chance for a second shot on any missed ball.

By the end of the first half the Phenoms led 40-7, with 21 points

coming from Peliseman.

In the second half of the game the Phenoms' secondary players got a chance to test their skills and did well.

Playing against the Phenoms, the Heat managed to get within 20 points, but the gap quickly widened again as the Phenoms' starting five were sent back into the basketball game.

Fred Peliseman finished the game with 37 points, while Jerry Babauta added ten points, for the Phenoms victory.

For the San Vicente, Heat, Mell Tagubual scored 11 points, while Jesse Fasi had six points.

**PANTHERS 49, SAINTS 29**

The Panthers defeated the St Jude Saints in the second game Wednesday night.

It started out like a typical pick-

up game and ended the same way.

The Saints players were clearly not prepared for the Panthers' more physical contact game.

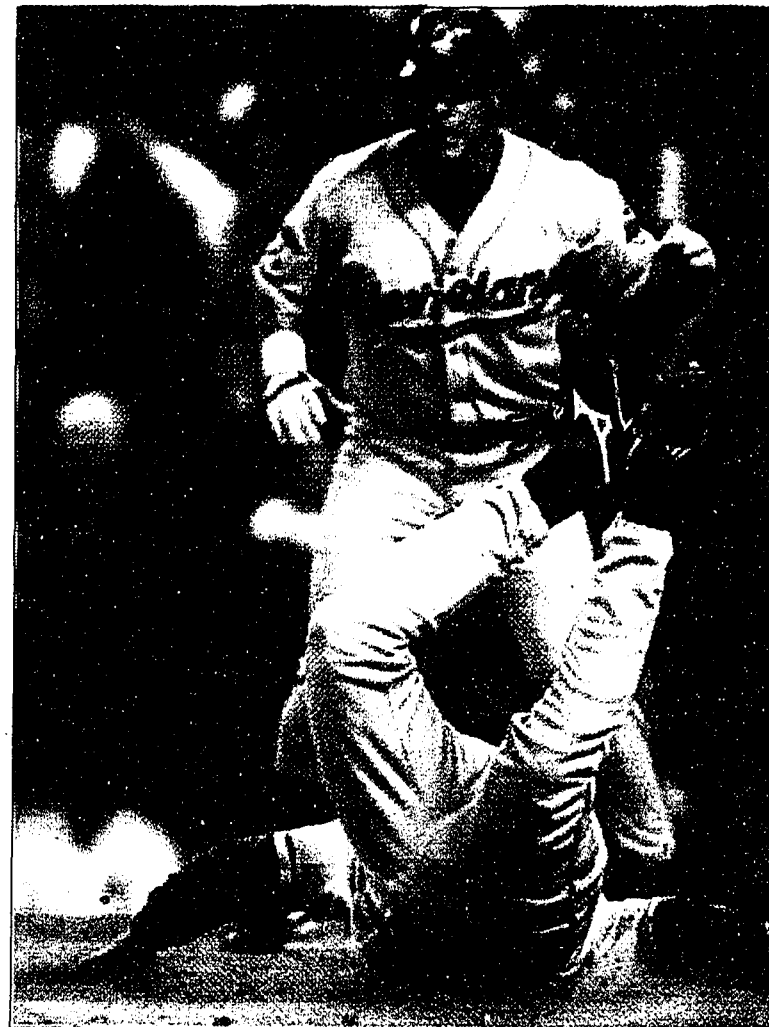
For the Panthers squad, it was every man to himself, except that occasionally a player would pass the ball to another, only to the surprise of his teammate who ended up losing the ball in most instances.

"They need to practice team-work. They also need a leader on the court," said a basketball fan watching the game.

At halftime, the Panthers were ahead 29-16.

In the second half, the Saints managed only six and a-half baskets for thirteen points.

The Panthers fared better; they averaged a basket every two minutes for 20 points.



Enrique Wilson of the Cleveland Indians slides safely into homeplate to score the game-winning run as Brian Giles (rear) cheers him on in the 12th inning of Game 2 of the American League Championship Series at Yankee Stadium in New York, Wednesday. Wilson scored on a bunt by Travis Fryman. REUTERS

## Law Enforcement goodwill softball tourney on Tinian

THE "1998 Law Enforcement Goodwill Softball Tournament" will be played over the weekend in San Jose Park, Tinian, according to Tinian Assistant Chief of Police Tony Kiyoshi.

The Guam Police Department and the Guam Customs Division is sending both a mens' and womens' team to the tournament.

Likewise, the Saipan Department of Public Safety, Police and Customs Divisions will also be competing this weekend.

Tinian Police, Customs, Immigration and Quarantine Divisions will also be in for the competition.

The double elimination round will begin tomorrow at 9 a.m. and continue until 6 p.m.

The "Goodwill Tournament" Champions will be determined in Sunday's championship game.

## Sports Calendar

### Saipan Youth Football League

Saturday Oct. 10

11 a.m. Eastern Eagles vs. Northern Cyclones (bantam)

1 p.m. Central Vikings vs. Western Hurricanes (bantam)

Sunday, Oct. 11

11 a.m. Central Vikings vs. Western Hurricanes (pee-wee)

1 p.m. Central Vikings vs. Western Hurricanes (midget)  
(All games are played at the Airport Football field)

Continued on page 50

## AL championship series

# Indians prevail over Yankees in 12 innings

By RONALD BLUM  
NEW YORK (AP) — The umpires botched the call, Chuck Knoblauch blew his cool and the Cleveland Indians escaped Yankee Stadium with a split.

After 11 innings of excruciatingly intense baseball, Game 2 of the American League championship series turned on a bizarre bunt play in the 12th inning Wednesday.

Umpires failed to call Travis

Fryman out for interfering with Tino Martinez's throw as he ran inside the line on his bunt attempt, and Enrique Wilson broke a 1-all tie by scoring all the way from first base as Knoblauch stood at the bag pointing and arguing, instead of picking up the ball.

Kenny Lofton followed with a two-run single, and the Indians beat New York 4-1, evening the AL

Continued on page 50



American golfer Tiger Woods (right) with movie star Samuel L. Jackson on the first tee at St. Andrew's golf course in Scotland, Wednesday during a practice session for the Dunhill Cup International golf tournament which starts Thursday.

AP

## Jordan leaves options open for return to Bulls

CHICAGO (AP) — Michael Jordan says he is not ruling out returning to the Chicago Bulls, the Chicago Tribune reported.

"What's most important right now is for me to see where the league is going, then look deep inside myself to make a clear-cut decision. So for now I'm keeping my options open," Jordan said in an interview published in the Tribune's Thursday editions and on the newspaper's Internet site.

Jordan said his final decision must await the conclusion of the NBA lockout that has canceled the preseason schedule and threatens



Michael Jordan

at least part of the regular season. Jordan, 35, said he is "completely healthy, and the love I

Continued on page 50

### SAIPAN

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