



Tree Planting. Acting Gov. Madeleine Z. Bordallo (left bent over) plants a coconut tree at Ritidian Monday afternoon during a gathering of original land owners of the northern land being held by the federal government.
Photo by Eduardo C. Siguenza

US reports conflict on 'transshipment'

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

WHO'S TELLING the truth?

This was what the CNMI and federal representatives to the 902 consultations had to ask yesterday owing to conflicting reports from two U.S. government agencies on allegations some Saipan garment manufacturers are involved in the transshipment of apparel goods.

While a U.S. Customs report received on Monday by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and the CNMI Customs Service maintains there are no illegal transshipment activities by garment firms in the CNMI, a recent report from the Office of Insular Affairs says otherwise.

Acting Customs director Joe Mafnas disclosed that the U.S. Customs report "acknowledged that the potential for illegal transshipment of finished (garment) goods (in the CNMI) is very low."

"That's a fair report for us. In other words, there is no illegal transshipment . . . They did a thorough physical inspection and investigation.



Edward B. Cohen



Allen P. Stayman

"But the recent report from (OIA Director Allen P.) Stayman alleged that there are illegal transshipments," Mafnas said shortly after emerging from the second day of the consultation meetings between Edward B. Cohen, President Clinton's special representative to the 902 talks and the CNMI negotiating panel.

Mafnas also said the OIA report contains "erroneous" facts and accusations with nothing to back them up.

"There was no substantial evi-

dence that there are illegal transshipments . . . The report from OIA is inaccurate, and that's my position," Mafnas said, adding that Stayman's basis may have been based on "poor investigation."

Cohen and other federal representatives listened and asked questions during the three-and-a-half hours presentation made by the CNMI Department of Labor and Immigration, along with the Customs Service, regarding the state

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Hofschneider to push legislation to establish an autonomous CHC

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

REPRESENTATIVE Heinz S. Hofschneider (R-Prec. 3, Saipan) yesterday said the House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare, which he chairs, will soon push for the passage of legislation that would give autonomy to the Commonwealth Health Center.

Hofschneider, in an interview, said House Bill 11-149 has the support of the Department of Public Health (DPH) and together with the health



Heinz S. Hofschneider

insurance bill is considered "top priority" in this year's legislative agenda.

Introduced by Hofschneider and co-sponsored by six other House members, H.B. 11-149 would allow CHC—to be renamed Commonwealth Hospital Corp.—to be accountable for its own financial management and to be "free" from interference from the government's executive and legislative branches.

The bill would allow CHC to be "professionally run" by a

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Guam hosts Asian Chinese Business Conference today

Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — The powerful overseas Chinese business community -- often referred to as the "bamboo network" -- is set to start its 12th Asian Chinese Business Conference on Guam today with opening ceremonies to be held at the Hyatt Regency hotel.

According to Senior Assistant Franklin Chen of the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Guam, the conference will feature overseas Chinese businessmen from Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Thailand, Malaysia, Vietnam, Burma, Philippines, Macao, Australia, New Zealand, Singapore, Indonesia, Fiji, Brunei, India, Solomon Islands, Nauru, Okinawa, and other Asia-Pacific countries.

In addition, high-ranking officials from the Taiwan government will also be attending, including the minister of the Taiwan Overseas Chinese Affairs and the vice chairman of the Taiwan Council for Economy Planning and Development.

"This agency is my country's counterpart of your GEDA, so it is very important," Chen said.

Collectively, the overseas Chinese business community repre-

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Ordot homes to be provided carbon monoxide monitors

By Tanya M.C. Mendloia
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — Families evacuated from Ordot due to the land-fill fire will be given carbon monoxide monitors when they return to their homes.

Civil Defense Director Bob Kelly said the Government of Guam will purchase and install

the monitors in the families' homes.

"Since we are the ones producing the smoke, we should provide the necessary precautionary devices to the families," said Kelly.

Although the air in the area has been tested to be safe for

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'Hillblom estate tax' bill now law

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

THE CNMI's probate law now imposes a Commonwealth estate tax — including that on the inheritance of Larry Hillblom's alleged heirs — after the previous law was amended to achieve its intended purpose of raising revenues for the government.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, in a letter to the Legislature, said he has signed into law House Bill

11-326 which aims to correct technical deficiencies in Public Law 10-10.

The bill is now known as Public Law 11-52.

Rep. Karl T. Reyes, author of the bill, said that this measure will not only impose a local tax on the inheritance of Hillblom's alleged heirs, but also on all estates.

Legislators had earlier branded the said legislation as "Hillbloms law" as they refer to its retroac-

tive applicability to the ongoing cases involving the estimated \$600 million Hillblom estate.

Hillblom was considered one of the most famous and influential businessmen in the Marianas during his time. He died in a plane crash on May 21, 1995.

The governor also said that the passage of said measure was recommended by the Department of Finance secretary in order to be

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Ignoring impeachment

Clinton lays out an 'ambitious' agenda

By TERENCE HUNT
 WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bill Clinton called for "bipartisanship and civility" Tuesday as he assessed the state of the nation and offered a bold plan to use huge surpluses to protect federal retirement and health care programs rather than cut taxes.

Clinton, on a day of high drama that shifted from his trial in the Senate to his State of the Union address before Congress, asked for billions of dollars for new domestic programs, for a better-prepared military and for helping Russia rid itself of nuclear weapons.

He also announced the government will sue the tobacco industry for smokers' health costs.

The Democratic president received a respectful standing ovation from members of both sides in a Republican-dominated Congress bitterly divided over his impeachment.



President Clinton, flanked by Vice President Gore (left) and House Speaker Dennis Hastert, gestures while delivering his State of the Union address on Capitol Hill Tuesday. AP

"First things first," he insisted, pushing a Social Security plan that many in the majority Republican Party oppose.

The beleaguered president, in a confident and animated speech that belied the fact he is on trial in the Senate, received a warm welcome as he echoed an appeal for bipartisanship by new House Speaker Dennis Hastert.

With the economy booming and the budget balanced, Clinton said America's achievements are sometimes overlooked "in the clash of controversy."

Several Republicans boycotted the 77-minute speech; Chief Justice William Rehnquist, presiding over Clinton's trial, also stayed away.

"The state of our union is strong," Clinton declared to rousing applause from an audience that included his wife, his Cabinet, diplomats, and special guests, including baseball star Sammy Sosa.

Clinton introduced Sosa as a

hero of two countries—the United States and his native Dominican Republic.

Clinton made no mention of the sex-and-lies case that led to his impeachment and imperils his presidency. At one point, he singled out his wife, Hillary Rodham Clinton, saying "I honor her" for her work with children and on behalf of the nation.

Republicans, in their response to the president's speech, said the nation's business would not be hurt regardless of the outcome of Clinton's impeachment trial, which continues in the Senate Wednesday.

"Our country is not in crisis," said Rep. Jennifer Dunn. "No matter what the outcome of the president's situation, life in America will go on."

In the ornate House chamber where he was impeached one month ago on a party-line vote, the president was received with respect and

interrupted by applause 95 times. Democrats were most enthusiastic.

Two of his harshest Republican critics — House Majority Leader Dick Armey of Texas and House Majority Whip Tom DeLay of Texas — sat stonily side by side.

As Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott left the chamber, photographers overheard him asking a companion whether Clinton had "no shame."

Clinton called for a dollar-per-hour increase in the national minimum wage and announced that the Justice Department will sue the big U.S. tobacco industry to recover billions of dollars in health care costs spent on smokers.

"With our budget surplus growing, our economy expanding, our confidence rising, now is the time for this generation to meet our historic responsibility to the 21st century. Let's get to work," he said.

The president proposed a \$12

billion increase in military spending, part of \$110 billion to be added over the next six years.

He called for \$4.2 billion — a 70 percent increase — to reduce the threat from Russia's nuclear arsenal and redirect the work of Russian scientists from weapons to civilian research. The initiative would help finance the dismantling and destruction of warheads and dangerous materials and accelerate Moscow's withdrawal of troops stationed outside of Russia.

With the economy booming, Clinton reported "the state of our union is strong. America is working again. The promise of our future is limitless. But we cannot realize that promise if we allow the hum of our prosperity to lull us into complacency."

An advance text of his remarks was released by the White House. The prepared speech made no

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State of Union was more like the 'State of the US Presidency'

By MICHELLE BOORSTEIN
 NEW YORK (AP) — Many Americans watching President Bill Clinton's speech to Congress said it told them more about the state of the presidency than the state of the union.

Michael O. Norton of Boston didn't much like what he saw, but Joe Tarin in El Paso, Texas, was proud of Clinton for sticking to his agenda.

"He's sitting here as if everything's going OK. I think it's just a facade," said Norton, a 40-year-old salesman who watched Clinton's State of the Union speech Tuesday night from the Boston Athletic Club. "He's talking about all the safe issues. This is like a last-ditch effort to save himself."

Others saw a different Clinton — one unswayed by his impeachment trial, one who has stayed true to his agenda despite the political turmoil around him.

"He's more confident — it's like he's not even thinking about the other issues. He's really saying, 'The sky's the limit,'" said Tarin, one of about 20 people who fell silent at the L and J Cafe, a bar and Democratic hangout east of downtown El Paso. "I think he's putting the stamp on his administration. He's saying, 'I'm not going to let history judge me by the impeachment trial.'"

Clinton's words were received with smiles, cheers and heads nodding in agreement at the Mambi Restaurant, a neighborhood bar and chicken takeout spot in northern Manhattan frequented primarily by Dominican immigrants. People stopping in for a drink or dinner were glued to the television, which broadcast the speech dubbed in Spanish.

They had a hero among the guests invited to Congress for Clinton's speech — baseball superstar Sammy Sosa, a Dominican native, who sat with first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton.

As Clinton talked about a proposed retirement savings plan, Pedro Dominguez, a 31-year-old pharmacist from nearby Bergen, New Jersey, said the president had not allowed the trial to cripple his work.

"He looks like a little confused, but he's doing a good job for the

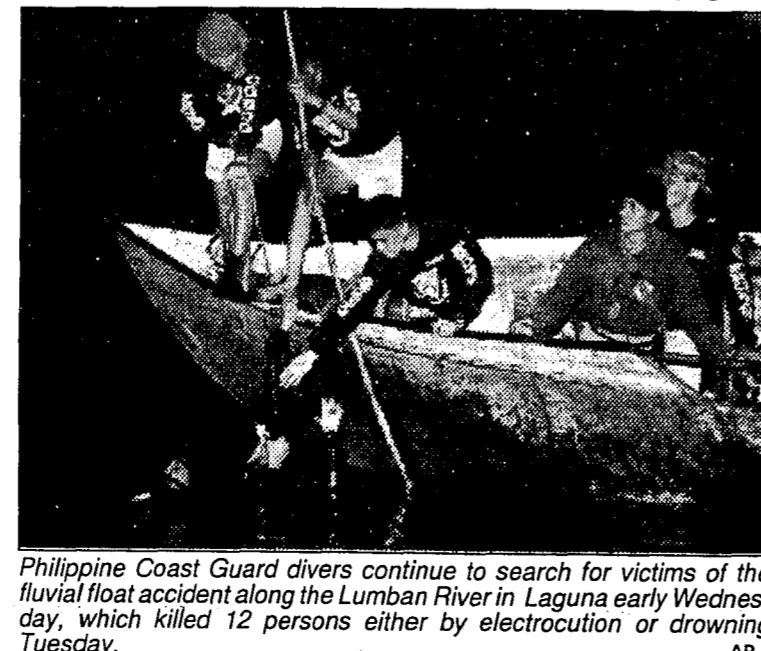
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RP search on for victims of river tragedy

LUMBAN, Philippines (AP) — Rescuers searched the bottom of a river Wednesday for victims of a water festival accident in a town south of Manila that left at least 12 people dead and many others injured, police said.

Police chief Raymundo Oliquiano said two teams of frogmen would continue searching the Lumban River until Wednesday night.

"We are giving the frogmen the rest of the day to look for possible victims before we stop the search," Oliquiano said.



Philippine Coast Guard divers continue to search for victims of the fluvial float accident along the Lumban River in Laguna early Wednesday, which killed 12 persons either by electrocution or drowning Tuesday. AP

Iraq submits critique of US no-fly zones policy

By NICOLE WINFIELD
 UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Iraq sent the United Nations an 11-page critique of the no-fly zones over northern and southern Iraq, saying they have no legal basis. Iraq warned that it has the right to protect itself against the "continuous act of aggression."

Iraq has routinely complained about the U.S. and British-patrolled no-fly zones, but Tuesday's letter was unusual both in its length and its detail.

It also represented a swansong of sorts for Baghdad's outgoing U.N. ambassador, Nizar Hamdoon, who

has been engaged in years of heated exchanges with the Security Council over international restraints imposed following Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait.

Hamdoon is returning to Baghdad to take up a position in the foreign ministry.

In his letter, Hamdoon presented a near line-by-line critique of the American justification for the no-fly zones contained in "talking points" he said were given recently to Security Council members to explain Washington's position.

The explanation, Hamdoon said,

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According to key Covenant figure:

Takeover talk 'inappropriate'

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
 Variety News Staff
 IN THE absence of an authorization from the United States Congress for the Clinton Administration to federalize the CNMI's immigration and minimum wage controls, any discussion on the issue remains inappropriate and without basis, according to a key Covenant negotiator.



Pedro Agulto Tenorio

Former Lt. Gov. Pedro Agulto Tenorio, who was deeply involved in the political status negotiations leading to the enactment of the Covenant, said a Congressional mandate in the form of an amendment to the US-CNMI agreement on minimum wage and immigration must be issued first.

"It is both arrogant and insensitive on the part of the US to insist on discussing this issue, and your office must not dignify nor allow such coercive discussion of the issue [takeover] to take place at

this time," he said in a letter to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

The Covenant negotiator stressed that allowing White House emissary Edward Cohen and four other federal officials to "prematurely" conduct discussions for a federal takeover would undermine the CNMI's right to self-government.

He insisted the need for the US

government to legally enact a federal statute effectively amending the Covenant that would authorize President Clinton's administration to federalize local immigration and minimum wage before any talks on transition is pursued.

"Given the clear motive of the US envoy to practically ram their

wish down our throats, such scheduled discussions of issues should be canceled. It is never too late to correct mistakes and problem areas which the Covenant did not anticipate," the former CNMI official said.

He added that it is more important to address the overall Covenant provisions focusing on

modifying certain provisions which will promote and improve the relationship between the CNMI and the US, "rather than nit-picking on issues of immigration and minimum wage."

The veteran Covenant negotiator emphasized that the although the CNMI Marianas Political Status

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WELCOME. Ed Cohen (right) the US representative to the 902 talks, chats with Press Secretary Frank Rosario (left) and Office of Insular Affairs Field Representative Jeff Schorr who welcomed the federal delegation at the Saipan International Airport Monday night. Photo by Mar-Vic C. Munar

Ignored Labor orders concern Cohen panel

By Jojo Dass
 Variety News Staff
 THE COHEN delegation is concerned about labor orders that are not being enforced by the CNMI government and mostly ignored by erring employers.

Stepping out of a nearly three-hour closed-door meeting with representatives from the Department of Labor and Immigration (DOLI), visiting 902 Special Representative, Interior Deputy Solicitor Edward B. Cohen nevertheless said he found DOLI Secretary Mark Zachares' presentation "fascinating."

But Cohen said he is not making conclusions yet.

"The presentation is fascinating. The discussions are fascinating, yes. But (there are) no conclusions yet," said Cohen in an interview following the meeting held at the Hyatt Regency Hotel in Garapan.

In a separate interview, Zachares said the discussions, during which he was grilled for almost two hours, were "encouraging," even as he expressed hopes his presentation "explained some of the misconceptions" about CNMI's labor and immigration situation as portrayed in a recent report by the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA).

He said the Cohen panel's "largest concern" is the neglected DOLI administrative orders issued against erring employers.

Zachares said he also urged the Cohen panel to participate in joint efforts in areas where the US has "primary responsibilities and where we have mutual responsibilities."

"Their largest concern... is the enforcement of judgments, labor hearing judgments."

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Categorized election papers could speed up fraud trial



Joseph F. Ada

By Eric F. Say
 Variety News Staff
 HAGATNA — Contending attorneys in the poll fraud case yesterday scrutinized election documents categorized by codes over the weekend by Curtis C.

Van de Veld, counsel for former governor Joseph Ada.

The codes showed various groupings of voter documents under question.

Election Commission Director Henry Torres took the stand and went through the categorized stack to verify specific codes.

Torres was asked to verify dubious Affidavits of Registration.

Many affidavits showed voters who did not indicate their dates and places of birth, or places of birth outside the United States, and voters who voted absentee but have not resided on Guam for years.

Ada and his running mate,

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NMC students to stage protest today

By Louie C. Alonso
 Variety News Staff
 STUDENTS from the Northern Marianas College will be staging a motorcade rally today to protest the non-funding of educational assistance program for on-island students.

Spearheaded by the NMC Student Council (StuCo), the assem-

blly will start at the building A parking lot.

Motorcade rally will start at 9:30 and students will be heading to the Administration Building on Capitol Hill.

NMC StuCo Vice President Olai Uludong said it is time for the students to go up the Governor's Office to voice out their concerns

because they severely affected by the problem.

"We feel that PSS is always going up to the legislature to ask money, right? You never heard of NMC going up. What do they expect from us? Just sit even though we don't have our funds for scholarship?" Uludong asked.

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Camacho panel gets GovGuam update

By Jojo Santo Tomas
 Variety News Staff
 HAGATNA — The Committee on Land, Agriculture, Military Affairs and the Arts held an oversight hearing yesterday in an attempt to unify long-range goals for land-related agencies on Guam.

From that, Committee chair

Sen. Marcel Camacho found a host of problems, most of them requiring immediate attention.

"I think the most alarming thing was Chamorro Land Trust Commission. There's a majority of them who are under limited-term employment that runs out in June," Camacho said.

Recently, the Gov. Carl

Gutierrez issued a hiring freeze and the legislature passed measures to prevent the extending of limited-term contract workers.

"That's the dilemma that they're in," Camacho said. "Of the 17 employees, 14 of them may fall in that situation. That would only leave the executive management

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Chamber raises concerns on red tape at the DOLI

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
 Variety News Staff
 WHILE expressing support for government's plan to encourage retirees from Japan to settle in the Northern Marianas, the Saipan Chamber of Commerce raised concerns over the apparent bureaucratic process at the labor and immigration department.

In a letter to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, the Chamber said Senate Bill 11-82, which now sits at the governor's office for signing, will promote a new class of non-residents in the CNMI which is

PUTC chairs will push for pro-Marubeni legislation

By Zaldy Dandan
 Variety News Staff
 THE CHAIRS of the Senate and House Committees on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications will push for the passage of legislation allowing the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to award the contract to Marubeni-Sithe, the Variety learned.

Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez (R-Saipan), the Senate PUTC chair, said his House counterpart, Rep. David M. Apatang (R-Prec. 1, Saipan), will introduce the bill.

And despite the threat of a law-

suit to be filed by the 12 other companies that offered bids for the \$120 million project, Villagomez said the bill has the support of most legislators.

Key legislators on Tuesday had a "closed-door" meeting at the Senate chamber with CUC officials to discuss the contract for the project.

"We're going to introduce the bill because they will still protest anyway," Villagomez said, referring to the losing bidders.

"We're confident that CUC made the right decision in selecting Marubeni-Sithe, and we have the

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

JACK ANDERSON and JAN MOLLER
WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

Like N.Y., Schumer spreads refuse around

SEN. CHARLES SCHUMER is barely three weeks into his U.S. Senate career, but already he's starting to annoy his colleagues. At least those whose offices are in the vicinity of the second-floor suite that Schumer will occupy in the Dirksen Senate Office Building.

It isn't odd to find boxes or office furnishings in the halls of the House or Senate office buildings at the start of a new Congress. New members are moving in, old ones are moving out, and others are moving into fancier suites vacated by retirement or defeat.

Still, the scene outside Schumer's new office is unusual — even compared to the standard chaos that greets each new session. Boxes — filled with papers, books, window blinds and video cassettes — stretch for twenty yards outside Schumer's door. Schumer's new neighbors say the unsightly barricade has been there for two full weeks.

Other hall-mates snicker at the irony of New York's junior senator foisting his refuse on the public domain. For years, New York City has been trucking its garbage to distant jurisdictions, most infamously a few years back when a trash barge sailed the Atlantic coast looking for a home. More recently, New York created a stink by dumping its refuse in Northern Virginia, just across the Potomac River from the Capitol.

Schumer's spokesperson, Kathy Levine, is careful not to characterize the boxes in the hall as "trash."

The boxes contain important files and materials from Schumer's House office, Levine told us. "I don't think the senator's constituents would appreciate having their mail referred to as trash."

That, of course, begs the next question: What would the good citizens of New York think about having their letters sitting in an unmonitored public hallway, free to the prying eyes of curious passers-by?

Defensively, Levine said the constituent letters are in sealed boxes and weren't out in the hall for very long — only a week, tops. Everything, Levine told our associate Kathryn Wallace, would soon be moved. This was confirmed by Schumer's receptionist, who said the trash was scheduled to go by the end of the week — per order of the Senate Superintendent.

Wanting to get to the bottom of this, we called said Superintendent's office, and were told that they could not comment specifically on Schumer's trash. But they did note that the Senate Rules Committee has strict guidelines governing all public space in congressional office buildings.

The rules say that anything moved into the hallway must be removed by the end of the business day. Non-compliance can result in corrective action from the Senate Rules Committee or the Occupational Safety and Health Administration.

Yes, even trash disposal on Capitol Hill is enveloped in bureaucracy.

MISPLACED RESOURCES — Six years ago, Bill Clinton infamously promised to run "the most ethical administration in history."

It didn't take long for those words to become, in White House parlance, "inoperable." But even though law and order may not be the rule at the top, it's being drummed into the minions.

At the Treasury Department, no fewer than 14,404 employees have undergone "integrity awareness" training. In the six months ending Sept. 30, nearly 500 presentations were given, mostly to Internal Revenue Service personnel, "that are designed to heighten their awareness of ethics and integrity," according to a recent report by Treasury's Office of Inspector General.

An OIG official, speaking on condition of anonymity, told us that all new Treasury employees used to undergo ethics training. Cutbacks have since forced the OIG to give these briefings "as opportunity arises." But despite everything going on at the White House, our source told us that the integrity classes do not cover sexual harassment in the workplace.

The training may not have come a minute too soon. Judging from the same report, high crimes and misdemeanors aren't exclusive to the Oval Office. For example, an agent from the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms pleaded guilty to "conspiracy and bribing a public official" for his role in a scheme to sell resident-alien "green cards." Investigators caught on after the agent showed signs of living far beyond the means of his modest government salary.

In the IRS, one employee was tossed out after being caught in an illegal refund scheme, in which the employee and three co-conspirators tried to claim \$150,000 in false refunds.



Info-Tech Corner

By David T. Hughes
For the Variety

Does the 'Net serve your news needs?

THERE'S a mini-debate going on between a few of the computer writers at the newspaper. The question is where do most people go for news, weather and sports information.

One writer says she relies to a major degree on the Internet. Still another says they depend on television and cable networks.

I kinda' fall in the middle of the spectrum. Television still offers me a capsule view of news and it's delivered to me in an osmotic mode, as I get ready for work each morning. Being a child of the 50's and 60's I also rely on newspapers a great deal for local news and some national news. Radio keeps me up on traffic problems during my work commute.

The Internet does play a vital role in my daily news fix because it allows me to - narrow- the focus of information I - need - to do my job. There are so many more sources of geek information that would never see the light of day in a regular newspaper, be given 10 seconds of airtime on television or radio.

Most of that information is "pushed" to me via email from various sources, so much so that I actually spend more time reading email dispatches than physically going to their sites.

I keep up with information from my hometown in Arkansas by reading the Arkansas Democrat (www.ardemgaz.com) newspaper as faithfully as I read the Journal newspapers. News from my beloved Saipan comes in from reading two of that island's newspapers that are online. I even find time on occasion to see a video-streamed copy of their nightly cable newscast.

During my work day I use the capabilities of Real Audio to tune various news radio stations across the country. CSPAN to peek into the impeachment circus, or if I want a chuckle or two I'll spend a few minutes with Garrison Kieler and an archived broadcast of "A Prairie Home Companion."

There's nothing like hearing about the lives of the folks from Lake Woebegeone to put things in perspective. While it's not necessarily news, it is "information."

I also rely on television news for school closings during bad weather. I'd much rather rely on a school district website if I could - depend - on it.

Local television is a dependable and delivers information I need in a timely manner.

Where Internet news shines is sports. I'll con-

cess to not being a sports fan, but from what I understand from the fanatics who worship the various shapes of sports balls the 'Net is the place to be for THE ultimate sports fix.

Not only are the major sports news stories featured in colorful magazine style, it's more comprehensive than any daily newspaper's sports section could ever be.

Web site's like www.espn.com are wildly popular and profitable because they serve a specific need. Just go to any major web search engine and click on "sports." Hundreds of sites from that of the NFL to individual fan sites will make themselves known.

Just how do -YOU- use the Internet for news and information. Send me email at dhughes@wizard.net and tell me if you depend on the 'Net or more traditional delivery vehicles and why. I'll print the best letters.

'NET DEMOGRAPHICS A 'CHANGIN'
Quick: If you have mental picture of the 'average' Internet user, what would it be? A male teenager? A geeky guy with taped glasses? Giggling kids in a chat room?

A majority of new Internet users are women, according to a survey of Internet usage conducted last November by the Washington, DC-based Pew Research Center for the People and the Press.

Among people using the Net for the first time in the previous 12 months, women accounted for 52 percent and men 48 percent, the Associated Press reported.

Center director Andrew Kohut said the Internet audience is broadening from primarily computer-savvy users to a group more similar to the makeup of the U.S. population.

The survey focused on the appetite for news on the Net, finding that weather is the most popular subject. Forty-one percent of US adults use the Internet regularly, the Pew report said, up from 23 percent in 1996, according to a brief on "The Internet Daily" mailing list.

Older folks are also taking to the Internet like ducks to water. A recent AARP report said that men and women in their 60's and 70's are showing that "old dogs" can learn new tricks when it comes to getting on the Internet.

Community centers in retirement villages are being transformed into classrooms to teach how to use the Internet.

'Most prolific' senators

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff
ROTA'S Ricardo S. Atalig (R) has so far filed the most number of bills in the 11th Senate and has attended all the 18 sessions last year, records showed.



Ricardo S. Atalig

Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan) and Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez (R-Saipan) have the second and third "best record" based on the number of bills filed.



Pete P. Reyes

As of yesterday, 97 bills have been filed or pre-filed in the Senate. Of this number, five have been enacted into law, six are before Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, and four have been vetoed.

esses." Two of his local bills have been vetoed.

Reyes filed 19 bills, two of which became law—P.L. 11-15, the creation of the Marianas Visitors Authority, and P.L. 11-22, prohibiting the importation of vehicles that do not comply with US safety standards.

Atalig, who is in his second term, filed 24 pieces of legislation, which includes six local bills. Of these proposed laws, one has been passed by both houses of the Legislature only to be recalled from the Office of the Governor—S.B. 11-5, which would restrict the number of alien workers that could be employed as waitresses or "host-



Thomas P. Villagomez

esses." One of his local bills, including one local, and a legislative initiative, which is a proposed constitutional amendment on referenda involving public lands.

Of these bills, one has been enacted into law (P.L. 11-30, to allow the use of private firearms at shooting galleries), one was vetoed (S.B. 11-1, to clarify the Legislature's investigative and contempt powers), while one is before the governor (S.B. 11-30, which involves the amount autonomous agencies pay the Office of the Public Auditor).

Sen. Juan P. Tenorio (R-Saipan) filed 10 bills, three of which are now before the governor, while one was vetoed—S.B. 11-74, to establish local preference to local bidders on government construction projects.

As requested by the governor, Tenorio has re-introduced an improved version of the same bill.

Sen. David M. Cing (D-Tinian) introduced nine bills, one of which is now before the governor—S.B. 11-95, to allow the registration of right hand drive vehicles that entered the CNMI prior to the enactment of law banning such vehicles.

Cing said he has six more bills currently being drafted by the Senate legal counsel.

Sen. Joaquin G. Adriano (R-Tinian) introduced eight bills, including two local. Like the Senate president and Atalig, he has maintained a perfect attendance record.

Sen. Edward U. Maratita (R-Rota) filed five bills. (Next week: The 11th House of Representatives)

McPhetres denies having prior knowledge of EAP cash problem



Agnes McPhetres

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff
NORTHERN Marianas College President Agnes McPhetres said the announcement that there was no fund for NMC's scholarship program came as a surprise to her, denying an administration official's claim that she knew

about it as early as August last year.

McPhetres was reacting to remarks made earlier by governor's planning and budget representative Vicky Villagomez.

McPhetres said during last year's discussion on educational assistance program (EAP), Villagomez, Danny Nielsen, members of NMC's Board of Regents and some government officials only agreed that the government would give NMC \$575,000 to fund the scholarship for fall semester.

She said the meeting did not touch on anything about spring semester scholarship fund.

"I personally asked them if we would have money for the spring semester. They did not say yes or no. They said it would be reduced. They never came up to

say this is the only money for the whole year," McPhetres said.

McPhetres said NMC had reduced drastically the amount of money allocated for the students.

"It used to be \$2,000 per student. Because they gave us \$575,000, we waited until the registration was completed to see who were eligible," she said.

"The amount was reduced to amount between \$1,300 and \$1,400. So the students who registered between 12 to 15 credits got \$1,200 or \$1,300 instead of \$2,000," McPhetres said.

She said a letter to the governor from Villagomez stated that NMC would receive \$575,000 in three installments.

McPhetres said NMC is still waiting for the third installment.

PSS finds more federal resources

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff
BILL Matson, acting budget Officer of the Public School System yesterday said additional federal resources could be used for PSS new programs specifically Goals 2000 and Technology Literacy Federal program.

PSS will receive \$108,000 for 11 Goals 2000 classroom grants at \$7,100 each and one \$30,000 professional services grant to a school.

Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos said PSS has more than \$250,000 in technology funds for school grants in which about 25

cal year 99 CNMI allotments to your schools," Inos said.

However, Matson told the principals that PSS may not have federal funds in October.

"We took every penny we had to get through the first quarter. If we did not have those federal resources, we would be in a payless situation by the end of quarter," Matson said.

Matson said PSS took money from the federal funds to put in the system's budget.

"We don't have that guarantee that we could still have that money next year," Matson said.

Guam records second traffic fatality for '99

By Jacob Leon Guerrero
Variety News Staff
HAGATNA — Guam suffered its second traffic fatality for 1999 last Tuesday.

According to Guam Highway Patrol Officers, an accident occurred late Tuesday afternoon on Rt. 15 in Mangilao, a half-mile north of the Mangilao Golf Course.

Forty-year-old Michael Rosario, of Harmon, was driving an empty DODEA school bus north on Rt. 15 headed for Andersen Air Force Base while 20-year-old Clancia Onglungel, of Mangilao was driving a 1993 Nissan Sentra south.

Highway Patrol officers reported that Onglungel lost control of her car and encroached

onto the on coming lane. Her car then collided with the school bus.

Onglungel and her five-year-old brother who was a passenger in the Nissan Sentra were injured and taken to the Guam Memorial Hospital.

The five-year-old boy complained of neck pains. Onglungel sustained serious internal injuries including fractured ribs and a fractured pelvis.

Onglungel was pronounced dead later that evening at GMH.

The driver of the school bus did not sustain any injuries.

Highway Patrol officers said that the roads were dry at the time of the accident.

The case remains open and is under investigation.

Goldberg files writ of mandamus on Bellas

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff
THE ATTORNEY General Office (AGO) has filed a petition for writ of mandamus before the Supreme Court to compel Superior Court Associate Judge Timothy Bellas to decide on the two deportation cases pending before his courtroom.



Robert Goldberg

The petition was filed yesterday before the high court by assistant solicitor general Robert Goldberg.

Continued on page 22

Guam Winchell's robbed

By Jacob Leon Guerrero
Variety News Staff
HAGATNA — An unarmed man made off with a little over \$100 last Tuesday evening, from Winchell's Doughnuts in Hagatna.

According to police spokesman Ron Taitano, the incident occurred shortly after 8 p.m. on Jan. 19. The suspect was described to be Caucasian, between 24 and 26 years old, 5'4" tall, 130 lbs., with short hair.

He was wearing a blue long-sleeved shirt, with a white inner shirt and a dark cap.

It was reported that the man walked into Winchell's and bought a doughnut. When the cashier opened the register the suspect reached over and grabbed the money from the register's cash tray.

The suspect then fled the store.

The cashier was not injured in the incident. The case remains open and is under investigation.

If you have any information you may call the Guam Police Department at 472-8911 or Crime Stoppers at 477-HELP.

US to help Guam on cost of jailing aliens

Variety News Staff
HAGATNA — Guam has been deemed eligible to receive federal funds from the Department of Justice to help pay the costs of incarcerating undocumented aliens who have committed serious crimes and have been convicted of felony or misdemeanor offenses.

In a statement, the U.S. Department of Justice said it will continue to provide much-needed funds to state and local jurisdictions

to reduce the number of illegal aliens housed in the nation's correctional facilities.

The State Criminal Alien Assistance Program (SCAAP), which was authorized by Congress under the 1994 Crime Act and is administered by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA) provides financial assistance to states and localities burdened by the costs of incarcerating criminal aliens in their correctional systems.

Guam has lately been the entry point of numerous illegal aliens, especially from mainland China. Until the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service decides what to do with the illegal aliens, they are incarcerated in the Department of Corrections' already crowded facilities.

Since the passage of the 1994 Crime Act, the Justice Department has awarded over \$1.6 billion to states and localities to help

Continued on page 22

CPA fares badly in debt service

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

WITH THE ebb of revenues it currently generates, embattled Commonwealth Ports Authority [CPA] is 96 percent short of being able to meet its debt service coverage requirement, it was disclosed.

CPA's bond indenture requires the agency to cover the debt service payment ratio of 1.30, but current figures show that the Ports Authority is able to make available only about \$5,895 by end-December last year.

This is at least \$120,500 off from the 1.30 debt service coverage requirement, according to a CPA financial report. Deloitte and Touche has projected that CPA was to generate \$126,411 during the first quarter of the year for this purpose.

Deloitte and Touche also projected some \$97,239 in available net cash to debt service but actual figure was registered to have reached only \$4,595.

"This indication means that CPA should increase the rates one way or the other so that we can meet the requirements by the bond indenture, as well as not defaulting bonds," said Roman Tudela, chairman of the board's finance committee.

CPA's aviation division has generated \$2,330,157 in total operating revenues for the first quarter of fiscal year 1999, which is 29 percent lower than the previous year's \$3.27 million tally.

CPA board chairman Roman Palacios said the reduction in the number of flights by Continental Micronesia, Asiana Airlines and Northwest Airlines was the major factor in the sharp decline in aviation revenues.

Continental's enplanement, deplanement and landing figures dropped by 37 percent, 50 percent and 45 percent respectively. Even if the Ports Authority would reduce personnel costs by 23 percent, the available cash and the current revenue level will still not be sufficient to meet the debt service payment, Palacios said.

He added that the only option left for CPA is to simply increase its rates even as this move is seen to bring tough battle between the Ports Authority, the Legislature and the airline companies.

The agency's financial consultants have recommended that the Ports Authority increase its landing fees by 64 percent and departure facility charge per passenger by 38 percent to generate the required additional revenue.

Two United States-based bond underwriters commissioned by the Ports Authority suggested that CPA raise its rates by 30 percent in fiscal year 2000 and fiscal year 2002, as well as reduce its personnel costs by 15 percent in FY2000 and FY2001 to mitigate the negative financial impact of the garment industry pullout.



Roman Tudela

\$1.40 for signatory airlines. The financial consultants said this is necessary as this is one of the two options left for the Ports Authority to pay its bond by 2008.

Officials claimed this is the only way left to enable the Ports Authority to stop a possible default in bond payment as it will also assure CPA's compliance with the bond indenture.

Reyes: Port fee hike to also raise airline fares

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

THE CHAIR of the House Committee on Ways and Means yesterday said the Commonwealth Ports Authority's proposal to increase its fees and service charge could lead to higher airline fare and the further reduction of Continental Micronesia's flights to Saipan.

Rep. Karl T. Reyes (R-Prec. 1, Saipan), in an interview, said CPA may have legitimate reasons to increase the fees, one of which is to improve its bond rating.

The last time CPA increased the fees, moreover, was 10 years ago, Reyes said.

"But we should also be concerned about the possible impact on the price of airline tickets and on tourism," he added.

Reyes said he will recommend to CPA officials, who were scheduled to meet yesterday



Karl T. Reyes

with legislators, to instead look into CPA's land leases with shipping companies.

"That's a better (revenue-generating) area to tap," he said.

Reyes at the same time noted that CPA, an autonomous agency, can raise its fees without consulting the Legislature.

"So I consider it a nice gesture on the (CPA officials') part that they will meet with us to discuss

the fee hike proposal. "I'm willing to listen carefully to their justifications," he said.

In a report submitted to CPA last November, the Ohio-based Ricondo & Associates (R&A) states that "it will be necessary for CPA to raise both the airline landing fee and the facilities service charge by mid-1999."

The report added, "...It is felt that the increased costs remain reasonable and should not further affect traffic in an adverse manner."

On the basis of its assumptions and analysis, R&A blames both the Asian economic crisis and the restructuring of Continental's hub on Guam as the main reasons for the current decline of airport traffic in the CNMI.

Still, according to R&A, tourism and related services—par

Continued on page 22

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2148 U	TOYOTA HILUX PICK UP	AAW 130	92	\$4,000.00
2064 U	MITSUBISHI MIRAGE	AAB 065	92	\$4,000.00
2134 U	MAZDA 626 4DR SEDAN	AAM 967	91	\$4,500.00
2135 U	HYUNDAI ELANTRA	ABM 682	93	\$4,500.00
2014 U	SUBARU LEGACY 4DR SEDAN	AAN 788	90	\$5,000.00
2127 U	MITSUBISHI MIRAGE	AAN 686	93	\$5,000.00
2026 U	TOYOTA HI-LUX P/UP	AAX 113	91	\$5,700.00
2130 U	TOYOTA 4-RUNNER	AAR 038	90	\$6,000.00
2103 U	TOYOTA COROLLA 4DR SEDAN	ABX 101	92	\$6,350.00
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GTA finalizes Navy, Saipan contracts

Variety News Staff
HAGATNA — The Guam Telephone Authority (GTA) has finalized a contract to help maintain Navy telephone facilities, GTA Interim General Manager Vince Arriola disclosed.

"We are partnering with the Williams Group on a contract with the Navy to oversee the Navy's local telecommunications system. This involves almost 5,000 lines for the Navy housing and basically all the unrestricted areas."

According to Arriola, the Navy earlier put out a request for proposal for firms to bid on the project and GTA was asked to partner with the Williams Group for the project on the maintenance side.

"We have a team working on a pricing structure right now. This is certainly going to be an additional benefit to GTA in terms of additional revenue."

In addition, Arriola said the roaming contract that GTA is preparing for Saipan is also ready to be finalized. The contract has al-

ready gone through GTA's legal counsel review and the authority's engineering department has approved it.

"We are ready to send this next week to the Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation (MTC) after GTA board approval. All technical aspects have been worked out between ourselves and MTC in Saipan and we are looking forward to having a roaming service between Guam and the Marianas islands," Arriola said.

Boy struck by vehicle, lands in ICU

By Jacob Leon Guerrero
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — An 11-year-old boy is in critical condition after being hit by a car early Tuesday evening.

According to Highway Patrol officers, the accident occurred Tuesday at around 6:12 p.m. on Rt. 10 in front of Untalan Middle School.

Twenty-nine-year-old Glen Hirosak, of Mangilao, was driving his 1986 Toyota Tercel east on Rt. 10 headed towards Mangilao on the first lane when the 11-year-old boy reportedly ran into traffic and was struck by Hirosak's car.

The boy sustained head injuries and was immediately taken to Naval Hospital. He was later transported to the Guam Memorial Hospital.

He is listed to be in critical condition in the intensive care unit at GMH.

Highway Patrol officers stated that the roads were dry at the time of the accident.

The case remains open and is under investigation.

Trial is set for accused who invoked freedom of religion

By Eric F. Say
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — A man accused of smuggling marijuana wants to build his defense by invoking freedom of religion.

The drug case has been sitting in the court for nine years. The suspect believes marijuana is a religious item, but lawyers appointed to represent him disagree with him.

Ben T. Guerrero, a.k.a. Ras Iyan ben Makahna was charged with drug-smuggling after customs officers found several ounces of the marijuana in his luggage on Jan. 2, 1991 as he tried to re-enter Guam from California via Hawaii.

Superior Court Judge Michael Bordallo yesterday set the trial of the case for Jan. 26.

Bordallo instructed Guerrero to either represent himself or use the services of his court-appointed attorney.

Attorney Paul Vernie has asked to be removed from the case, but Bordallo refused his request.

The case hasn't been tried partly because Guerrero and the 12 court appointed-attorneys

differed on how to deal with the case.

The differences extend into areas that Guerrero considers to be in conflict with his belief that marijuana is traditional medicine and that smoking it is a religious sacrament.

Guerrero's defense is grounded on the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993, which protects certain religious rituals such as the use of peyote in the Native American Church.

Religious and medical use of marijuana laws across the country is being challenged in court systems nationwide. California and Arizona voters overwhelmingly approved the use of the drug for AIDS patients as well as for glaucoma and other ailments.

A proponent for the medicinal use of marijuana, Dr. Chris Dombrowski, a physician at Doctors Clinic in Harmon, said, "If we legalized pot, we'd probably see a 30 to 50 percent drop in the use of cocaine, metamphetamine and heroin."

Dombrowski has maintained on numerous occasions that he

Continued on page 22

\$38,000 bail set for rape suspect

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

SUPERIOR COURT Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama yesterday set a \$38,000 bail for a man who allegedly kidnapped and raped a Chuukese woman last week.

The suspect, Taitano Terou Achipan, 28, was whisked to the Superior Court for bail hearing

after he was arrested Tuesday night by policemen at the office of Express Garments where he works.

His victim, told police that Achipan had fetched her and offered to take her home, but was instead brought to Banzai Cliff where she was allegedly abused inside the suspect's Toyota Ter-

cel car.

When police took her statement, the victim told investigators that she does not know the name of the suspect although she knew him quite a little and described his looks.

Investigators then worked on the case until the suspect was caught Tuesday night.

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US court convicts Japanese for 'ice'

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff
A JAPANESE national has been convicted by the United States District Court for delivery of crystal methamphetamine and was sentenced to 26-months jail term.

In handing out the verdict, Judge Alex R. Munson also ordered 48-year old Yukio Yasuhashi to undergo a four year supervised release after serving his term.

The sentence was imposed on the Japanese who was ordered committed to the US Bureau of Prisons by Munson the other day.

The judge gave Yasuhashi a lighter sentence after he entered into a plea agreement wherein he admitted the charge.

Yasuhashi was arrested on September 20, 1997 and was charged with the delivery of ice before the district court.

The maximum sentence under the offense involving more

Continued on page 22

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Gov't to expedite decision on A&E contract for dump

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff
THE GOVERNMENT is fast tracking the selection of a private company which will undertake the design and construction of a new sanitary landfill to finally close down the Puerto Rico dump, according to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

In fact, the selection process is already nearing completion, the local chief executive disclosed.

He said the government is not only concerned about the Puerto Rico dump's impact on the environment and the local tourism but also to the health hazards it might

have on CNMI residents, thus the need to hasten the closure of the landfill and the construction of a new one.

Tenorio said the government intends to promptly close down the Puerto Rico dump. "While the project has proven in the past to be very complicated, thanks to the help of the United States-Environmental Protection Agency, we are making significant progress," he said.

Environmental assessment studies conducted on the new site in Kalabera have already been completed. The CNMI government has been working to imple-

ment an integrated solid waste management plan consisting of the closure of the Puerto Rico dump, the opening of new landfill and the operation of incinerators and transfer stations.

Kalabera, situated at the northern end of Saipan, has been designated as the landfill site.

The program would be needing \$16 million and funds must be raised to complete the project, which will be partially funded through CIP, a federal government grant.

The closure of the Puerto Rico dump site remains a concern of

Continued on page 22

CPA execs warned against giving developers 'exclusive lease rights'

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff
PORTS Authority officials have been cautioned against granting exclusive rights over CPA property to private developers, in efforts to prevent a possible repetition of previous agreements when the agency ended up losing money.

Rex Palacios, CPA financial consultant, said the Ports Authority should make sure whether the proposal made by Seafix Inc. to develop a full-service marine repair facility on Saipan dock has right potentials to succeed.

Palacios reminded CPA officials to require the submission of a preliminary study which will prove that the project being proposed by Seafix is beneficial to both the Ports Authority and the



Rex Palacios

private company.

"CPA should look into this before it makes a commitment to avoid a repetition of previous incidents when the agency leased property that are not generating revenues," according to the financial consultant.

He cited a recent agreement between the Ports Authority and the Tinian Shipping which granted the private firm exclusive rights over a portion of the Saipan harbor. Now that the shipping company is swamped into a deep financial problem, CPA has to suffer with it because of the agreement.

"The Ports Authority did not benefit much in granting exclu-

sive rights to Tinian Shipping's use of CPA property at the seaport and that should serve a reminder before any agreement is forged," he explained.

CPA executive director Carlos H. Salas, on the other hand, disclosed that the proposal submitted by Seafix Inc. indicated bright potentials, as the operations will be similar to that of Guam.

Salas also said the Ports Authority is protecting itself through the revenues that may be generated from the lease agreement and other fees, assuring that the Memorandum of Understanding [MOU] will be drafted in a way that will safeguard CPA.

Seafix, a subsidiary of Ambyth Shipping Micronesia Inc. which is a prime shipping agency in the Pacific Region, is interested to lease the waterfront land at the seaplane ramp on Lower Base and the South end of the newly renovated commercial dock.

Currently, Seafix undertakes shoreside fabrication work and shipboard welding, painting and engine overhauls for both commercial ships and US Navy craft. It is planning to expand its ship repair business.

DOLI to do undertake more raids next week

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff
MORE raids will be conducted by the Department of Labor and Immigration (DOLI) on garment factories starting next week.

In an interview yesterday, Immigration Director Edward R. Sablan said the "compliance check" is part of ongoing efforts to ensure that CNMI garment manufacturers are observing labor and immigration laws.

It is also meant to compel establishment owners to correct violations cited in earlier raids.

"We are not going to stop doing this compliance check," said Sablan.

The department's officials said DOLI already has developed a list of CNMI establishments scheduled to undergo a "compliance check."

The department's Division of Labor is currently conducting an investigation on a San Antonio garments factory on suspicion its management is overcrowding the company's housing facility for nonresident workers.

The factory was raided last week shortly after a \$1-billion class action suit was filed in the US and on the island against mainland garment retailers and Saipan manufacturers.

Close to 30 different establishments including night spots, garment factories and construction companies have been subjected to raids since DOLI embarked on a more aggressive enforcement stance in March last year.

The raids yielded a range of violations of occupational safety standards, as well as labor and immigration laws.

Major Asian hotel buyouts seen

Variety News Staff
HAGATNA — With the continuing regional economic crisis, a real estate financing company is predicting that major buy-outs of troubled Asian hotels are imminent.

Rob Stiles, managing director of Sonnenblick-Goldman's Asian Operations, said that while he expects little respite for Asia's hotel markets and existing troubled hotel owners in the short-term, exceptional value-buying opportunities are beginning to emerge.

According to Stiles, the supply of hotel rooms has grown substantially in most of the region in the last few years only to be met by flat or falling demand associated with the region's current economic contraction.

This environment, coupled with depreciated local currencies and profits, are increasing the pressure on hotel owners that had financed their properties with U.S. dollar loans.

Although, this is bad news for existing owners, the severe economic cycle in Asia is expected to create risk adjusted value-buying opportunities for the shrewd investor.

Stiles speculated that there will be a resultant fundamental change in the direction of hotel investment capital flows.

"For many years, direct hotel equity investment flowed in only one direction — out of Asia. A major reversal of this trend is underway. Asia is now and will continue to be a net recipient of hotel equity capital."

Changes are occurring on two levels, Stiles noted.

First, the emergence of international investment into Asian hotel real estate; and secondly, in dispositions of off-shore investments by Asian owners.

To date, Stiles said both pricing and policy issues have provided little opportunity for foreign investors looking to enter Asia's hotel sector.

"Markets with few restrictions on foreign investment were too highly priced. Those more emerging markets, which might have offered a better yield, had policy problems which effectively prevented foreign investors from entering the market."

As a result, Stiles said changes in pricing, foreign ownership regulations, and other policies, will be critical for securing the international capital infusion the industry now needs in Asia.

"Yield attractive investment opportunities are, in fact, beginning to emerge. Initially, these changes will occur in the mid-market sector where owners in default of loan agreements are more likely to lack protective political connections."

According to Stiles, "more opportunities will emerge as banking and political reforms increase the pressure on even the most well connected owners."

Stiles indicated that many of the best hotel investment opportunities in Asia will be quietly

negotiated with no public market or exposure.

Relationships with existing owners and local bankers will be critical in accessing the relatively short-fused deal flow that is beginning to emerge.

In general, Stiles said Asian hotel investors and real estate investors are responding to both the Asian economic crisis and to the peaking or recently peaked markets outside Asia by selling North American, European and Australian assets.

Stiles pointed out that assets acquired in those markets a few years ago by Southeast Asian investors (bought at or near the bottom of the cycle) are likely to yield attractive, currency-charged capital gains.

While the disposition (both voluntary and involuntary) of Japanese-owned hotels has been underway for a number of years, Stiles said the remaining inventory is immense.

Stiles further noted, "changes in Japanese banking regulations

leading to increased requirements for more conservative classifications of non-performing loans will accelerate the pace of asset disposal

sitions considerably — both offshore and domestically."

Stiles concluded that "Asia's troubles are creating global buy-

ing opportunities — and those which will quietly emerge in Asia over the next couple of years are not likely to be seen again."

Arrivals down 24% in 1st quarter

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff
VISITOR arrivals in the Commonwealth dipped by 24 percent during the first quarter of fiscal year 1999 as a result of the continued weakening of the Japanese yen against the U.S. dollar.

From October 1998 to December 1998, there were only 116,560 arrivals, compared to the 152,693 visitors recorded during the same period of the previous fiscal year, records from the Marianas Visitors Authority show.

For December 1998 alone, tourist arrivals were pegged at 43,122 (as opposed to an earlier report's 31,222 tourists), a 17 percent decrease from the previous year's December figures.

October and November records also showed a 31 percent and 24 percent decline, respectively.

While other main tourism markets showed a decline, arrivals from Hong Kong went up by 33 percent, or from 1,081 during the first three months of FY '98 to 1,436 as of end-December 1998.

Among the Commonwealth's markets, arrivals from Korea witnessed the greatest decline of 53 percent, or from 21,773 to only 10,305.

Visitor arrivals from Japan — CNMI's prime market — plunged by 19 percent during the period under review.

U.S. arrivals posted a 21 percent decrease, while Taiwan arrivals dived by 29 percent during

the first three months of FY '99.

Tourist arrivals from the Philippines also went down by 20 percent, while Russia arrivals plunged by 30 percent. Arrivals from China also dived by 25 percent, while the remaining markets' arrivals went down by 27 percent.

A survey conducted by the Japan Travel Bureau projected a 3.9 percent drop in overseas travel during the year end or New Year holidays, the second year in a row that overseas travel during this period declined.

JTB attributed the decline in travel to the sequence of holidays which was not favorable, as well as the outbound figures from Japan that had dropped below the previous year's figure.

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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

CCAC hosts schools art exhibit

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff
THE COMMONWEALTH Council for Arts and Culture (CCAC) will be hosting a student arts exhibition dubbed as "The Elementary Schools Invitational Art Exhibit" from February 5th to 29th at the CNMI Gallery of Arts and Culture located next to Capitol Hill Post Office.
CCAC is inviting all public and private elementary school students from first to 6th grade levels to participate in the exhibit.

CCAC Coordinator Tina Foster said all submitted works must be an original piece of the student.
CCAC and the program coordinator are accepting various artwork which include painting, drawing, sculpture, ceramics, traditional crafts among others.
Foster added that all artwork submitted to the Arts Council must be matted or mounted on heavy stock (poster board or heavier).
CCAC is reminding all interested student artists that all chalk, charcoal, pasteur or oil pastel work that they will be submitting to the Arts Council must be fixed properly so the medium will not smudge or rub off.

Latte of Freedom kicks off contest

By Tanya M.C. Mendiola
Variety News Staff
HAGATNA — The Latte of Freedom Foundation kicked off an essay or article writing contest yesterday at the University of Guam.

The contest is open to all registered university students.
The Foundation sponsored the contest in conjunction with the Communication Department of the U.O.G. College of Arts and Sciences.
The contest challenges participants to write about the Latte of Freedom Monument and Building. Contestants must provide the history and the future of the Latte Foundation.
The contest will go on until March and winners will receive cash prizes and the chance to get their works published in national and international magazines and newspapers.

CCAC stressed there is no size limitations for the art materials. Each participating school may submit up to 30 pieces of work. Foster said that if space inside the gallery does not allow

all materials to be displayed, the Arts Council reserves the right to make the selection of pieces to be exhibited.
Deadline for the submission of entries will be on January 29.

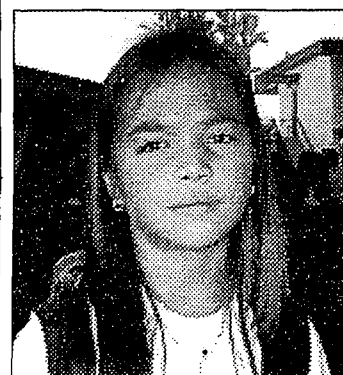
Food & Nutrition Conference slated

THE Department of Public Health, in collaboration with the CNMI Food and Nutrition Council, is organizing a "Food and Nutrition" Conference to be held February 10, Wednesday at the Hyatt Regency's Giovanni's Restaurant from 8:00 am to 4:30 pm.
The purpose of the conference is to bring about heightened awareness to issues related to Food and Nutrition in the CNMI and to bring about a healthier, more physically fit CNMI Community, the council said in a news release.
The following topics will be covered at the conference: Healthy living, Diabetes Control, Women's Health, School-Based Health Promotion, Food Security, and Consumer Education and Protection.
To pre-register for the conference, please call Lauri Roberto or Chailang Palacios at 234-8950 ext. 2020 or 2035.

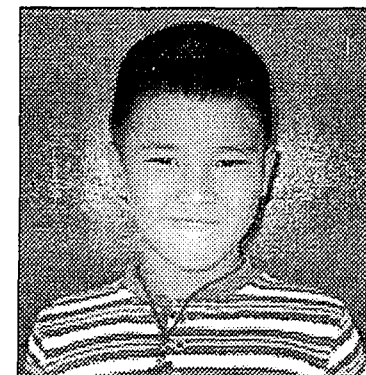
CHC public announcement

THE Mortuary Unit at the Commonwealth Health Center is seeking any relative(s), friend(s) or employer(s) of "John Doe" a Chinese national approximately 33 years of age, slim build, light complexion, whose body was found in Obyan Beach on September 14, 1998 and whose remains are still being held at the Commonwealth Health Center.
Anyone with any information on John Doe's last address or employer is urgently asked to contact CHC at 234-8950, ext. 2700.

GES Students of the Week



Brittany Concepcion, sixth-grade student from Mr. Limes' class, is very quiet and friendly to students. Brittany completes her work, homework and other tasks given to her by her teachers.



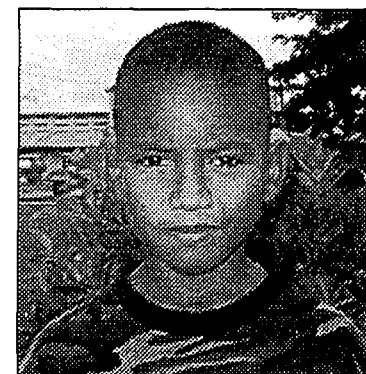
Joey Songao, second-grade student from Mrs. Middleton's class, has worked very hard to get to where he is at today. He has made great strides in reading and writing and is one of the class's "math experts." He loves to help others when his work is complete.



Kathlyn Mendiola, first-grade student from Mrs. Schultz's class sets an excellent example in her class. Mrs. Schultz is so proud of the way she listens, follows directions, and does her best each day.



Britney Santos, third-grade student from Ms. Young's class is an excellent student who tries her very best to reach her school goals. She is in the "A" Honor Roll this quarter and maintains an excellent school record.



Obichang Tell, fourth-grade student from Mr. Tilson's class has shown a great amount of improvement this year. He has been an excellent author of many well-written and interesting stories. His homework is always neatly written and turned-in on time.



Valerie Laccina, fifth-grade student from Mr. Schuler's class is a bright student who is well-liked by all her classmates. She is cheerful and always comes to school with a good attitude.

Bill seeks to relocate Dededo flea market



Frank B. Aguon

By Jojo Santo Tomas
Variety News Staff
HAGATNA — In an attempt to ensure safety of the vendors and patrons of the weekend Dededo Flea Market, Sen. Frank B. Aguon has introduced Bill No. 5, which would change the location to a safer one.
If passed, the bill would allow

the Dededo mayor to negotiate with the Department of Parks and Recreation to allow the flea market to be held in the parking area.

The Dededo Sports Complex is scheduled to open before the upcoming South Pacific Games four months from now.

"The primary concern is the safety of our people enjoying the flea market," Aguon said. "But this proposal would allow the Dededo Flea Market to be more readily accessible to the elderly and the disabled, and would also allow for growth and expansion of the market due to the larger land area available."

Hundreds of vendors cater to the thousand-plus residents who come to the flea market every weekend. Including new and used items, there are fresh fruits, vegetables, and fish on sale.

2 arrested in Harmon

By Jacob Leon Guerrero
Variety News Staff
HAGATNA — A man and a woman were arrested last Monday evening after a traffic stop.
According to police spokesman Ron Taitano, police officers stopped a car at around 7:30 p.m. on Adrian Sanchez Street in Harmon.

The officers pulled the car over after the vehicle was observed failing to stop at a stop light.

After officers confronted the female operator, they discovered that there was an outstanding warrant of arrest issued out for her.

The woman was then arrested for the warrant. When the officers conducted a search, they found crystal methamphetamine within drug paraphernalia inside the car.

Arrested that evening was the driver, Young Sun Felton, 39, of Tamuning for warrant of arrest and possession of a controlled substance, and Dale Martin Alfon, 25, of Dededo, the passenger, for possession of a controlled substance.

The two were later booked and confined.

Man in barracks rampage charged

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff
A MAN whom the police held for Sunday's rampage at a worker barracks in Lower Gualo Rai has been charged with various offenses.

Police has charged Abdon Teregoyo Romolor, 22, a resident of Koblerville, with burglary, theft, assault with dangerous weapon, and criminal mischief.

Romolor, was arrested by responding policemen after he and two other companions broke into the barracks early Sunday wherein they destroyed several property.

The three suspects also damaged seven parked cars by smash-

Continued on page 22

Issa blames businesses for dumping trash into sewer

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff
THE FOUL odor coming from the vicinity of sewage pumping stations in Garapan may be caused by unscrupulous business owners indiscriminately dumping waste at sewer lines.

Mustafa Issa, vice president of the Hotel Association of the Northern Marianas Islands (HANMI), alleged that small Garapan establishment operators are dumping waste like used cooking oil, and garbage at a storm drain designed to contain water run-off during the rain.

"The problem is coming from some small businesses in Garapan dumping garbage in the sewer," said Issa, who also is Hyatt Regency Hotel's general manager. "They don't know what to do



Mustafa Issa

with it, and so they dump it at the storm drain," he added.

"The biggest problem out there is the small restaurants, dumping all the garbage and wasted stuff in the drainage for the rain water."

Issa said most big hotels have barrels used to dispose of their used

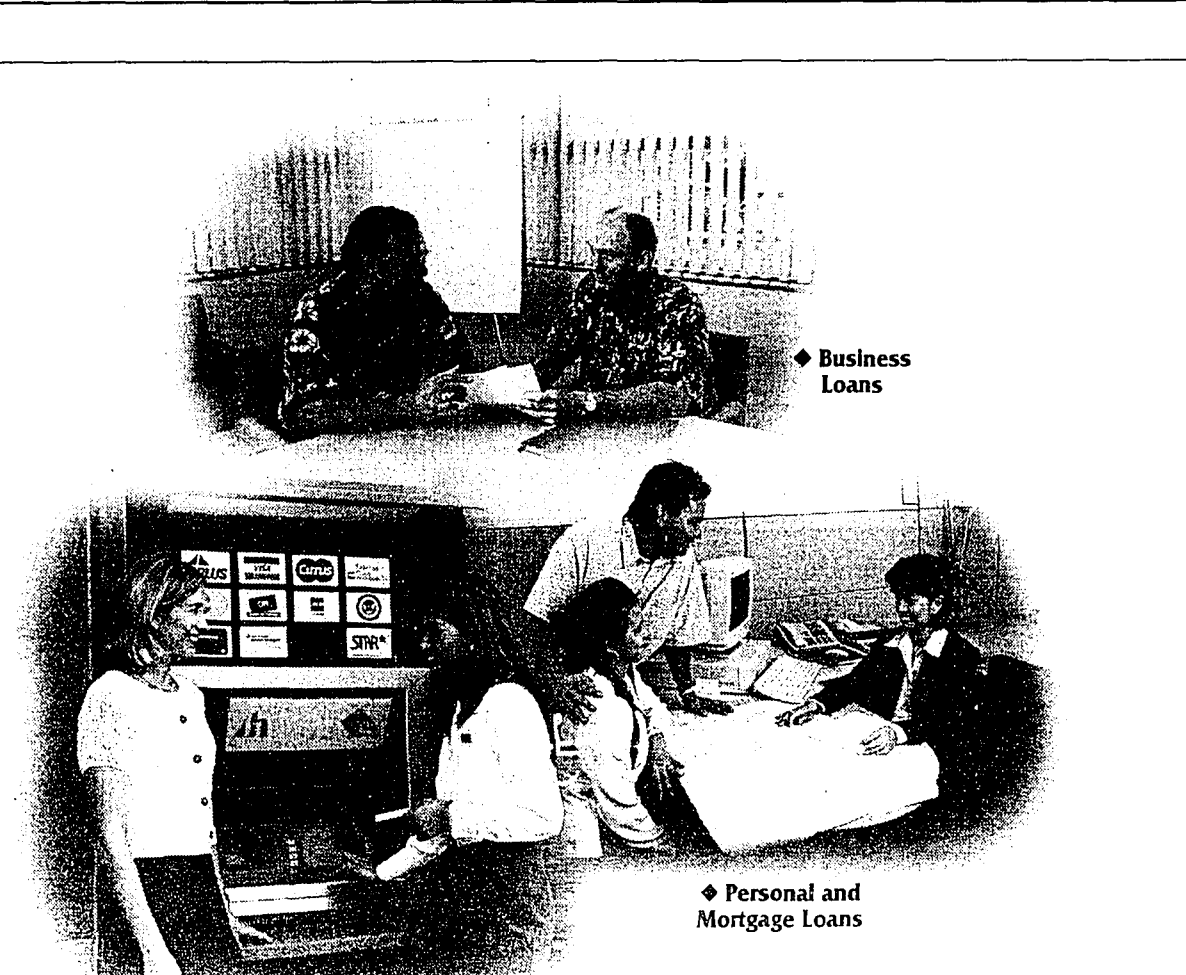
oil which is then shipped abroad for proper treatment.

He said Hyatt has recently purchased a \$35,000 burner to save on the cost of hiring a firm to send it elsewhere abroad.

"We purchased an oil burner to dispose of all wasted oil. We used to send it, pay a company in order to take it in barrels and take it back to Australia to burn it," said Issa.

Concerns have been raised recently over foul smell coming out of areas near the pumping stations which are being operated by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. (CUC).

The utilities agency is currently investigating Garapan establishments, including big hotels in the area to trace where the foul smell is coming from.



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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Civil Service Commission

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, the Civil Service Commission hereby gives notice that the Board will meet on Thursday, January 21, 1999 and Friday, January 22, 1999. The Board will convene at 9:00 a.m., on both dates, at the Civil Service Commission Office, Building No. 1211, Capitol Hill, Saipan. Additional information concerning this meeting is available at the Commission's Office. The Commission may also be reached at telephone numbers 322-4363 and 322-6954 or fax number 322-3327.

AGENDA

- I. CALL TO ORDER
- II. ROLL CALL
- III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES - September 22, 1998 - September 23, 1998
- IV. LEGAL COUNSEL'S REPORT (Executive Session)
- V. OLD BUSINESS
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
- VII. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
- VIII. ANNOUNCEMENT
- IX. ADJOURNMENT

/s/VICENTE M. SABLAN
Chairman
Civil Service Commission

Major shipyard in the making near Moresby

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews) — Papua New Guinea is set to have what it claims will be the biggest shipyard east of Singapore.

The developers of the Poreporena Highway, Curtain Brothers, are building the multi-million Kinas shipyard on Motukea Island, at the northern end of Port Moresby's extensive harbour.

The shipyard will be able to handle several overseas vessels at the same time.

The project will involve the construction of two dry docks and a massive slipway that will handle ships of all sizes, and an industrial

park with engineering shops, grit blasting and all the facilities needed for modern ship maintenance.

Project spokesman, Frank Mills, says there is nothing like Motukea in the region.

He says the facility will attract a lot of business because it is uniquely situated on trade routes between Australia, Japan and Korea, at the crossroads of South East Asia and the South Pacific.

The shipyard will have road connections to the nearby NapaNapa oil refinery area, the Port Moresby harbour and the Poreporena Highway.

Samoa discuss closer economic cooperation

APIA (Pacnews) — About 750,000 cases of the Apia brewed Vailima beer pours into American Samoa each month, according to Speaker of the American Samoa House of Representatives, Aina Saoluaga Nua.

Aina was leading a high-level delegation from the territory last week for talks on economic cooperation between the two countries.

He identified tourism, trade, tariffs and tax as areas where coordination is needed.

As an example, he says a visit by an American tourist would not be complete without a visit

to both Samoas, so co-ordination is necessary in promotional activities overseas, particularly flight schedules and tour arrangements.

American Samoa is Samoa's main market with the emergence last year of fish as Samoa's top export, most of which is sold to canneries in the territory.

Star Kist Samoa from American Samoa wants to lease Samoa's fish market in Apia and equip it with costly refrigerators for greater control of product quality.

Talks between the cannery

Continued on page 22

Elsewhere in the Pacific Samoa gov't mum on hiring of former PM

PAGOPAGO (Pacnews) — The office of Samoa's Prime Minister has failed to answer questions about the conditions of employment of former prime minister, Tofilau Eti Alesana, now drawing pay as a senior minister of cabinet though seriously ill, says newspaper publisher, Savea Sano Malifa in an editorial in his Sunday Samoa.

Is the senior minister attending Cabinet meetings, is he still receiving his annual salary of more than 100,000 dollars (\$33,320), Savea writes.

He also questions whether the

public will still be responsible for his overseas travels and medical expenses if he has to travel, and whether he still gets other benefits such as free car and residence.

Savea's publication, the Samoa Observer, raised these questions weeks ago, but says it is getting no reply from the press secretariat prime minister Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi, created recently.

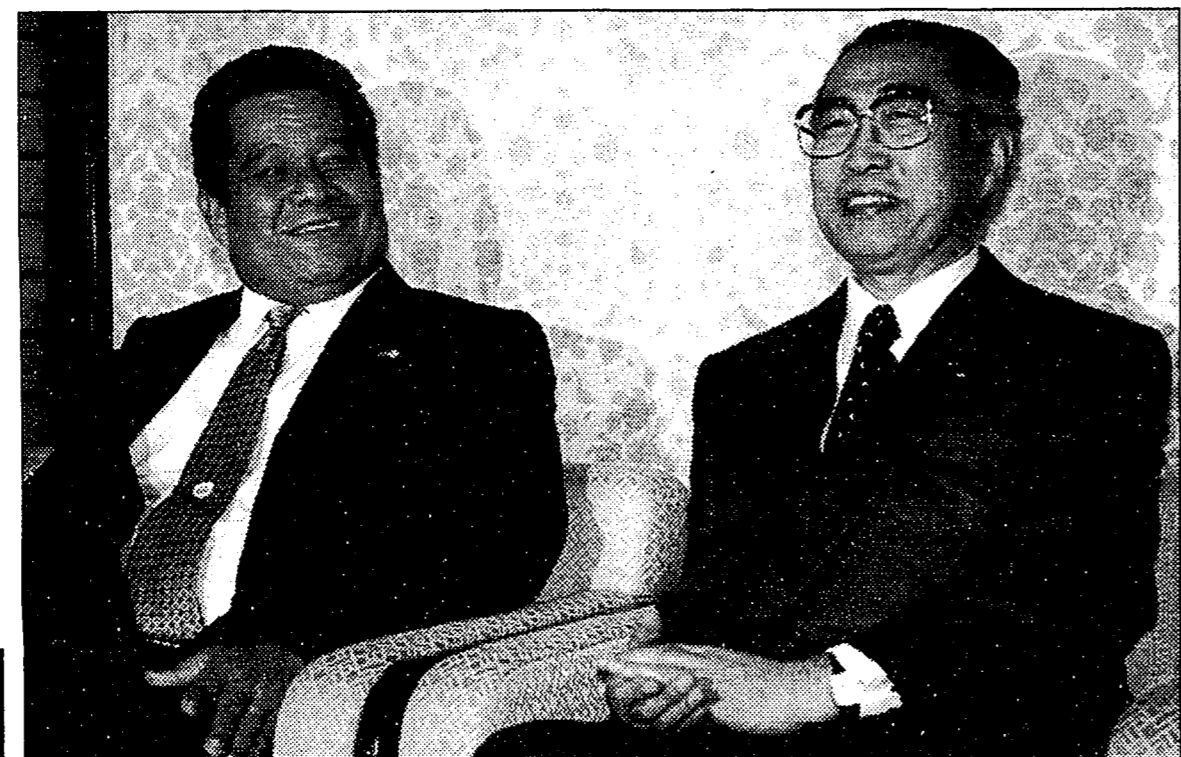
As deputy PM, Tuilaepa was government spokesperson, a post from which he told the media in weekly meetings, decisions Cabinet made that week.

Questions about other matters were not allowed by Tuilaepa and led to clashes with Samoa Observer reporters and criticism that the meetings were a joke.

Medical treatment for Tofilau, who resigned from office last November because of liver cancer, heart condition and a range of other ills, means travel to New Zealand.

He was gaunt and frail during his televised swearing in as senior minister in December.

The post was created for him by Tuilaepa.



Federated States of Micronesia President Jacob Nena (left) shares a smile with Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi prior to their talks in Tokyo on Monday. Nena is visiting as chairman of the South Pacific Forum. AP

Floods in Fiji disrupt travel, strands many

SUVA (Pacnews) — International and domestic flights from the Nadi International Airport in Fiji were cancelled today and scores of passengers left stranded, as rain and torrential floods continue to hit parts of Fiji.

The western division on Fiji's main island of Viti Levu has been battered by rain and flooding, caused by a low-pressure system being influenced by a cyclone near Vanuatu.

The Western Division recorded its highest ever one-day rainfall today, with the Nadi Weather Office warning that floods will worsen during high tide tonight.

The towns of Nadi and Ba in the division are inaccessible by road.

Air Pacific cancelled flights to Sydney and Melbourne and Air Fiji cancelled domestic flights, disrupting the travel plans of scores of passengers.

The Nadi Weather Office says the weather is expected to remain the same for the next few days.

Nauru signs loan accord with ADB

NAURU (Pacnews) — Nauru will carry out a major economic and structural adjustment programme to be funded by the Asian Development Bank (ADB).

The government has signed a loan agreement with the ADB, after the Bank mapped out the adjustment programme following its review of Nauru's economy.

The programme takes into account the expected exhaustion of the island's phosphate reserves within the next eight to 12 years, according to the government.

It says economic and financial

structures will be put in place to allow an orderly adjustment when phosphate incomes come to an end.

Other key points in the programme include plans for domestic revenue generation from selected taxes and customs duties and budget control measures accompanied by reforms in public financial management.

The government says it also foresees a strengthening of essential banking services as well as improvements to public enterprises.

American Samoa raises House election question

PAGOPAGO (Pacnews) — A senior member of the American Samoa Senate, is stirring up public interest on a recurring question - whether Senators should be elected by popular vote.

Senator Faiivae Gala'I, in a letter to the editor in the Samoa Post newspaper, urges the Youth

of Samoa to "speak up" on the question.

He says he is in favor of electing senators.

Members of the Senate are elected by their districts, selected through the consensus of village councils, comprising

Continued on page 22

Emotional homecoming for nuclear test exiles

Rongelap rites planned

By Giff Johnson
For the Variety

MAJURO — Rongelap Islanders now living in exile are planning a major ground breaking ceremony on their home atoll in early March to officially kick-off a U.S.-funded nuclear rehabilitation effort — an event that will mark the first time for many island elders to return to Rongelap in the 14 years since their evacuation.

The event marks the first time that a ground breaking ceremony is organized so that both key Marshall Islands and U.S. government officials could be on hand — and have access to the island by plane, thanks to a recently fixed runway that reopened the island to air service for the first time since 1985.

Rongelap Mayor James Matayoshi said that the visit and ceremony is being timed so that President Imata Kabua, U.S. Office of Insular Affairs director Allen Stayman, and Rongelap elders can visit and see first hand the improvements and infrastructure developments on this northern atoll.

But primarily the visit on March 10 will be an opportunity, even though brief, for Rongelap Islanders to see their home islands once again.

"It's very emotional to set foot on your home island (after so many years)," Matayoshi said. The visit in March "will be a historic trip back home for the older people. They'll be touching their islands for the first time since 1985."

Rongelap was engulfed in a snow storm of radioactive fallout from the "Bravo" hydrogen bomb test at Bikini Atoll in 1954.

The 86 islanders living on Rongelap received a heavy dose

of radiation, suffering from vomiting and diarrhea and later hair loss and skin burns as a result of their exposure.

Despite assurances by U.S. government doctors and scientists that Rongelap was safe, Rongelap Islanders became increasingly skeptical as their rate of thyroid tumors and cancer continued to increase.

For years, island leaders unsuccessfully called for independent medical evaluations.

Finally, in 1985, the several hundred islanders resident at Rongelap evacuated the atoll, moving to Mejato, a tiny isolated island in Kwajalein Atoll, which houses the top secret U.S. missile testing range.

Rongelapese evacuated because they feared radiation exposure from Rongelap's environment.

Studies conducted subsequent to their high profile relocation on board Greenpeace's Rainbow Warrior ship confirmed the need for cleanup and rehabilitation work to make Rongelap safe for permanent habitation.

The U.S. government recently provided a fund of \$45 million to begin cleanup and resettlement work at Rongelap.

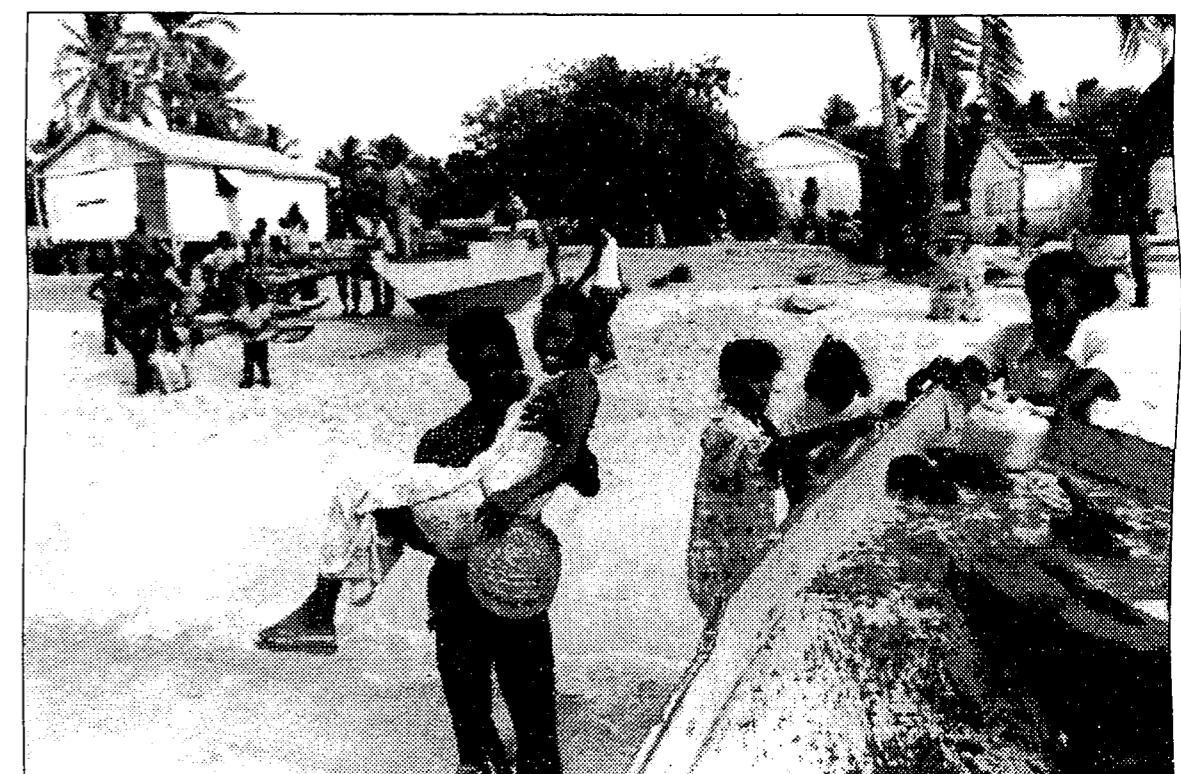
Only a handful of islanders have made brief visits in recent months as the phase one rehabilitation work funded by the U.S. government has gotten underway.

The ground breaking on March 10 will have double significance, Matayoshi said, since it falls within a few days of the March 1 Nuclear Victims Remembrance Day national holiday in the Marshall Islands which commemorates the 1954 Bravo test fallout that hit Rongelap and other islands.

A field station has already been established on Rongelap. By early March, Matayoshi expects that the generators pro-

viding electricity and reverse osmosis units producing fresh water will be installed and functioning in support of the cleanup

work. Roads, a dock, the airport and other basic infrastructure are under construction now.

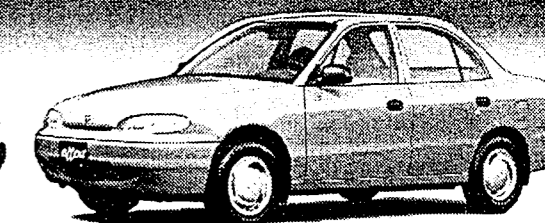


Rongelap Islanders evacuate their home atoll in the Marshalls Islands in this 1985 file photo, fearing continued radiation exposure. This March, many islanders will return for a visit, the first time in 14 years. Photo by Shimada Koushi

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY

PUBLIC NOTICE
JANUARY 20, 1999

PURSUANT TO PUBLIC LAW 8-41, SECTION 11, GOVERNOR PEDRO P. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESU'S R. SABLAN, THROUGH THE CDA BOARD OF DIRECTORS ARE HEREBY GIVING NOTICE THAT THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY (CDA) WILL BE HELD ON TUESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1999 AT 10:00 A.M. THE MEETING WILL BE HELD AT THE NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION CONFERENCE ROOM, GARAPAN, SAIPAN.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 1. Roll Call
- II. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- III. ADOPTION OF MINUTES
 1. October 23, 1999
 2. December 18, 1998
- IV. REPORTS
 1. Fund's Availability Report
 2. Chairman's/Executive Director's Report
 3. Comptroller's Report
- V. OLD BUSINESS
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
 1. Economic Development Conference March 1999
 2. Economic Free Trade Zone
 3. Comprehensive Brochure for Future Trade Mission
- VII. DCD MATTERS
 1. Loan Reports
 2. Loan Requests/Applications
- VIII. ADMINISTRATIVE MATTERS
- IX. OTHER MATTERS
- X. ADJOURNMENT

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a)(7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session).

JUAN S. TENORIO
Chairman, CDA Board of Directors

Top drug lords fall in sweep of Manila

MANILA, Philippines (AP)— Three suspected top Chinese drug lords were among more than 1,000 suspected drug traffickers and users arrested during a four-day sweep of Manila and nearby suburbs, police said Tuesday.

Chua Tong Hong, George Sy and Hung Kin Sing, all believed to be from mainland China, and a Filipino companion were arrested by police Sunday during a sting operation at an apartment house in suburban Mandaluyong, police said.

Police said the Chinese were trying to sell 21 kilograms (46 pounds) of methamphetamine hydrochloride, known as "shabu" in the Philippines and "ice" overseas, worth 42 million pesos (\$1.1 million) when an undercover agent announced the arrest.

The others, mostly street-level pushers and drug dependents, were arrested in several slum

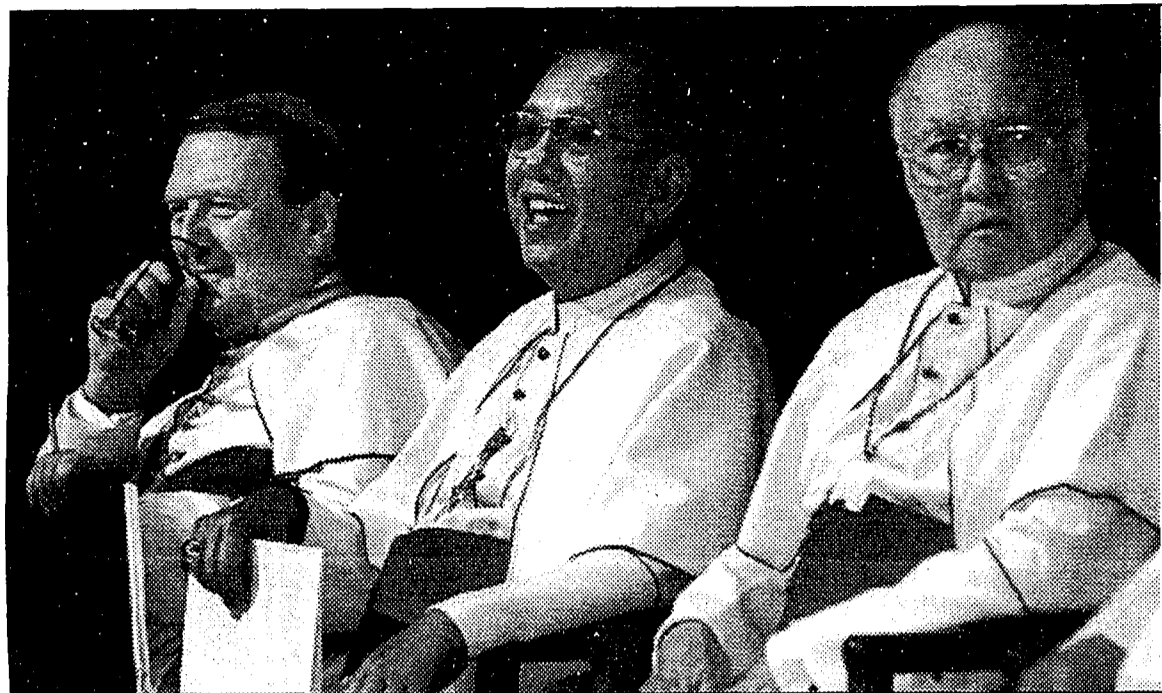
areas in Manila and nearby cities, police said.

Drug charges are being readied against those arrested. Drug trafficking is punishable by death.

Police anti-narcotics commander Reynor Gonzales said the raids were part of a massive anti-drug campaign launched by the government following the creation of the National Drug Law Enforcement and Prevention Coordinating Center.

The Philippines is considered a market for shabu and a transshipment area for other drugs like cocaine and heroin from Southeast Asia to markets in Japan, Europe and the United States. It also is one of the world's largest producers of marijuana.

About 2 million Filipinos out of a total population of 70 million are illegal drug users, according to police estimates.



Manila Archbishop Cardinal Jaime Sin (center) laughs beside Cardinal Jose Sanchez, special envoy of Pope John Paul II (left) and Papal Nuncio Archbishop Gian Vincenzo Moreni during the opening rites of the 1999 Festival of Confehrance on God the Father in Manila Wednesday. AP

Troops, rebels on alert as Ramadan ends

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP)— Government troops and Muslim rebels were on maximum alert to prepare for attacks that both sides said they expect from the other following the end Tues-

day of Ramadan, Islam's holiest month.

Al Haj Murad, deputy chairman of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front, said villagers living near their camps have fled out of

fear of being caught in fighting after seeing government troops, tanks and artillery moving near rebel strongholds.

"Tension is running high in central Mindanao because of the massive deployment of soldiers," he said.

Murad denied military reports that Muslim rebels were preparing to attack government positions to mark the end of Ramadan. He said Muslim rebels placed their troops on alert early Tuesday.

Col. Horacio Lapinid, spokesman of the military's Southern Command, said government troops went on maximum alert on Sunday.

Police forces have been on alert since last month following the killing of Aburajak Janjalani, leader of a smaller but more violent Muslim rebel group, the Abu Sayyaf.

On Monday, President Joseph Estrada said reports of earlier clashes between government troops and Muslim rebels should not cause alarm.

"Those are isolated cases, but everything is normal," he said.

"Those talks about war in Mindanao are simply not true."

Murad said about 1,000 heavily armed soldiers backed by tanks and artillery batteries and air support were seen near Camp Abubakar, the MILF's main headquarters located in Maguindanao province. Other camps have also reported seeing government troop movements, he added.

So far, there have been only occasional exchanges of mortar and artillery fire and no casualties have been reported, Murad and military spokesmen said.



Joseph Estrada

CRIMINAL JUSTICE PLANNING AGENCY

Public Service Announcement - Availability of Federal Funds

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) kindly requests your assistance in announcing the availability of funds for the Victims of Crime Act (VOCA), Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG), and LLEBG State and Local Training and Education Assistance Programs. The amount available under the VOCA program is \$240,000, LLEBG program is \$185,512, and the LLEBG Training is \$30,000. The CJPA is the CNMI's administering agency for all three (3) programs.

Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) Program — \$240,000. This is a formula program administered at the federal level by the Office of Victims of Crime Act (OVCA), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), U.S. Department of Justice. This is a continuation program designed to provide direct services to victims of child abuse, domestic violence, sexual assaults, survivors of homicide, and other crime victims. The Fiscal Year 1998 strategy proposed to use 5% or \$12,000 of the grant for administration and 95% or \$228,000 for direct services.

Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) Program — \$185,512. This grant is made available under the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The program is designed to provide units of general-purpose local government with funds to underwrite projects in reducing crime and improving public safety. Projects under this program must be funded in accordance with the LLEBG seven authorized purpose areas. Funds under this program can be used to support the hiring, training, and employing of additional law enforcement officers and necessary support personnel on a continuing basis. Furthermore, funds can also be used to procure equipment, technology, and other material directly related to basic law enforcement functions, as well as establishing crime prevention programs involving cooperation between community residents and law enforcement personnel to control, detect, or investigate crime or to prosecute criminals. The Fiscal Year 1998 strategy proposed to use 3% or \$5,565 of the grant for administration and 97% or \$179,947 for direct services.

Local Law Enforcement Block Grant (LLEBG) State and Local Training and Education Assistance Program — \$30,000. The purpose of this program is to provide funds that may be used for scholarships for training or education courses, for reimbursement (in whole or in part) of course fees for contracts to organizations to provide training, and for travel expenses related to attending a training or educational course in or out of state. Funds may also be used to sponsor a training course at the local or State level. The intended recipient of the funds is the Criminal Justice Planning Agency. The CJPA office will be responsible in determining training needs based on input from local law enforcement agencies.

The funds will be awarded by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System (CJPA Supervisory Council) through a sub-grant process consistent with the project description outlined in the CNMI's FY1998 applications and accompanying strategies for the VOCA and the LLEBG programs. These programs will be administered by the Criminal Justice Planning Agency. The Supervisory Council is expected to meet on Thursday, February 4, 1999, and will review all applications and proposals submitted to the CJPA on or before Monday, January 25, 1999.

Interested applicants must contact the CJPA at 664-4550-7 or stop by the CJPA Office on Capitol Hill (House #1314) to obtain a Sub-Grant Application Form. For more information, please contact Mr. Harry C. Blanco, CJPA Executive Director, at the above telephone number or e-mail (harry.cjpa@saipan.com). Thank you.

Sincerely,

/s/Harry C. Blanco

According to Economic minister:

Japan in nat'l crisis

TOKYO (Reuters)— Economic Planning Agency Minister Taichi Sakaiya said on Tuesday that Japan is facing a time of "national economic crisis" but reiterated it could achieve 0.5 percent economic growth in the next business year starting in April.

"The nation's economy is in what might be called a national

economic crisis as it faces its worst postwar recession with an (expected) economic contraction for a second consecutive year," Sakaiya said in a speech to the regular session of parliament, which started on Tuesday.

"The most important task for the time being is to get the

economy out of the recession and revitalise it."

Sakaiya said Japan needed to get out of a "recessionary cycle" by revitalising its financial system, boosting demand, and taking steps for the severe labour market.

By doing so, he added: "We can expect economic growth of around 0.5 percent in fiscal 1999/2000."

Sakaiya said it was difficult to expect an economic recovery through support from the nation's exports given sluggish Asian economies.

Japanese firms have become reluctant to invest due to a drop in wholesale prices and a feeling of excess capacity in the supply side of the domestic market, he added.

"In order to support the economy, we need to boost demand by expanding social infrastructure and stimulating consumption through tax cuts," Sakaiya said.

Regarding 31.5 trillion yen worth of new Japanese government bond issuance for the initial 1999/2000 budget, Sakaiya said although the soundness of

the nation's fiscal condition was important, the most urgent task was to get the economy out of the recession.

He said the nation's revenues would increase as the economy began growing again, adding: "We should not think the current fiscal deficit will directly lead to future burden."

Sakaiya said the government would demand more efficient business management and disclosure from financial institutions in accordance with the revitalisation of the financial system.

Japan bankruptcies in '98 2nd highest since WWII

TOKYO (AP)— Japan's severe recession caused corporate bankruptcies to soar 17.1 percent to 19,171 cases in 1998, the second highest level since World War II, a private credit research company said Tuesday.

Debt left behind by collapsed companies rose 2.6 percent to 14.38 trillion yen (\$126 billion), the highest since the war, said The Teikoku Databank Ltd.

The country's severe economic slump took its toll across the business spectrum, as bankruptcies increased at double-digit percentage rates last year in all sectors. Companies were hurt by plunging prices and the severe credit crunch in the banking sector, which is staggering under massive soured debts.

Failures in the construction industry exceeded 5,000 cases for the first time in 13 years, and failures in manufacturing topped 3,000 for the first time in 12 years.

On the bright side, the number of bankruptcies trailed off toward the end of the year, with corporate collapses falling in December for the second straight month.

December bankruptcies dropped 26.6 percent from a year earlier to 1,169 cases, while bankruptcy debt dropped 59.7 percent to 1.107 trillion yen (\$97.5 billion).

In November, the number of company failures fell 4.6 percent to 1,360 cases for the first decline in 18 months.

Teikoku said small company bankruptcies fell sharply in December as insolvencies blamed on difficulty obtaining operating funds dropped to 37, the lowest level for any month last year. That followed the implementation of government programs to help smaller companies obtain access to loans.

But Teikoku said bankruptcies of medium-sized companies continued to rise, and that overall business conditions remained extremely harsh.

"With consumption mired in an extreme slump amid a deteriorating economy and a bleak future outlook, the steep drop in bankruptcies is nothing but a temporary phenomenon," Teikoku said in its report.

Obuchi says he remains confident about recovery

TOKYO (Reuters)— Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi said on Tuesday he was confident the nation's economy will recover and post gross domestic product growth of around 0.5 percent in the next fiscal year beginning in April.

"With a combination of various policies (taken by the government) and efforts by the private sector, I am confident that the economy will recover to around 0.5 percent growth in fiscal 1999," Obuchi said in a key policy speech to the regular session of parliament, which started on Tuesday.

Obuchi pledged that he would make utmost efforts to revitalise the economy by making 1999 "the first year of economic revival."

The government took measures to boost demand last year, including a nearly 24 trillion yen economic stimulus package.

Obuchi said it was also vital to press ahead with structural reforms and step up "supply-side" reforms in order to achieve self-sustained recovery of Japan's economy.

Supply-side reforms aims at shifting resources to growth-generating sectors while while reducing excessive and unproductive capacity in other industries.

It was also particularly important to create more good-quality jobs and raise productivity, he said.

The government will draw up an "Industrial Revitalisation Plan" by the end of this month for these purposes.

With regard to the massive volume of outstanding government debt, which is expected to amount to 327 trillion yen, Japan will need to review fiscal and tax systems in the medium- to long-term perspective after the economy is put on a recovery path, Obuchi said.

Obuchi said Japan has the responsibility to actively contribute to the stability of Asian currencies and economies.

With the advent of the euro in January 1, Japan must take steps to promote further international use of the yen, he said.

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To plan future of Hong Kong

Tung meets world experts

By Dominic Lau
HONG KONG (Reuters) — Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-hwa meets his high-powered international advisory council, including Rupert Murdoch and former Fed chairman Paul Volcker, for the first time on Wednesday to help plan the territory's development.

The meeting comes just after Hong Kong received another grim reminder of its economic plight since the end of British rule in July 1997, with its unemployment rate hitting a record high.

Political and economic analysts praised Tung for seeking some international input on Hong Kong's economic woes but said they did not expect much from the first gathering.

"Hong Kong needs to have fresh input from outsiders who have the experience and who have been running successful businesses," said Dong Tao, regional economist at Credit Suisse First Boston. But he said there was no magic solution for solving Hong Kong's short-term economic problems.

Hit by Asia's financial crisis, Hong Kong had negative growth in the first three quarters of 1998, and the government forecasts gross domestic product fell by

five percent for the whole of 1998. Unemployment was 5.8 percent in the final quarter of 1998 and was likely to rise further, the government said on Monday.

Tung, a former shipping tycoon appointed by China to run Hong Kong, named 14 world finance experts and business leaders to help him plan a long-term strategy.

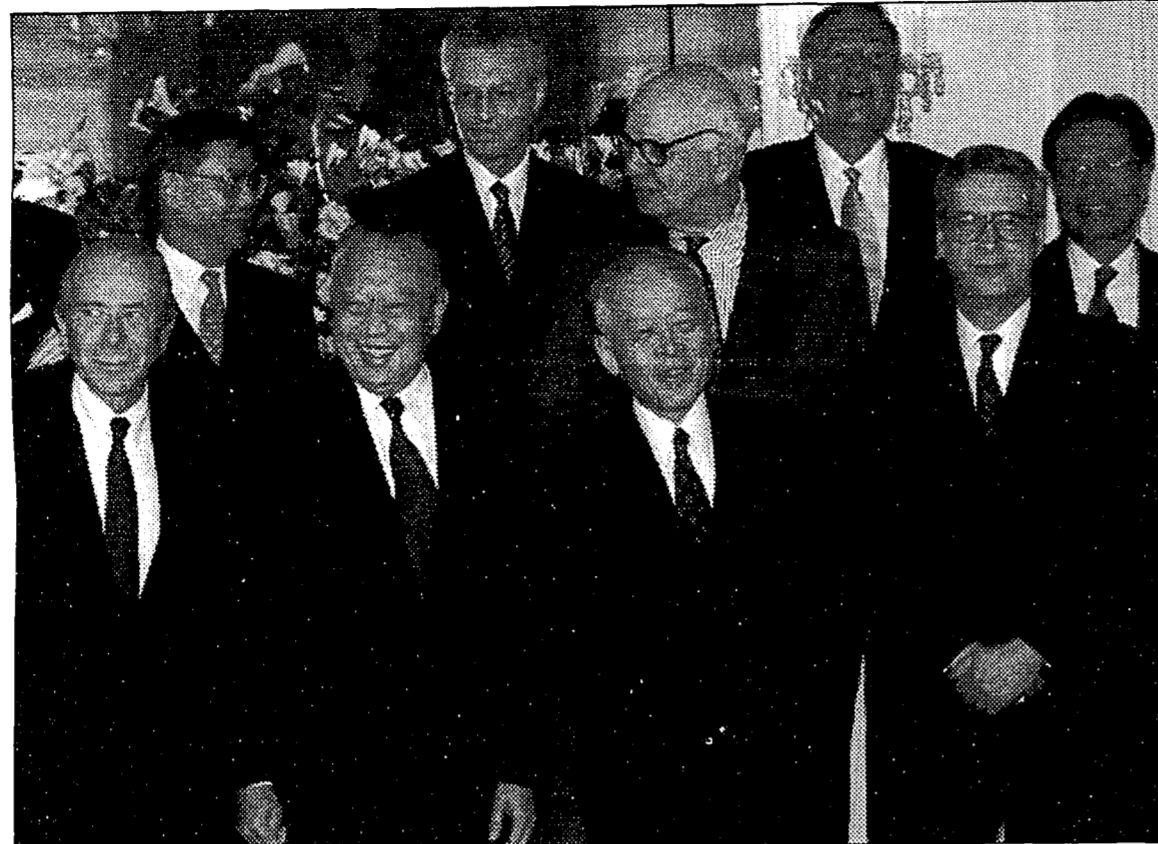
The Council of International Advisors will be chaired by Tung. Among the members are former U.S. Federal Reserve Chairman Volcker, chairman of News Corp Ltd Rupert Murdoch, and former chairman of HSBC Holdings Plc Sir William Purves.

They expect to hold a meeting once a year.

Tung held a dinner reception on Tuesday at Government House, the former residence of British governors, to welcome the finance experts and corporate leaders.

"I welcome anything that shows Tung Chee-hwa getting out of his office, meeting people outside of his normal civil servant yes-men," said political analyst Michael DeGolyer. "It may result in some minor improvement here and there."

But trade unionist and Hong Kong legislator Lee Cheuk-yan said it was doubtful whether the



Hong Kong's chief executive Tung Chee-hwa (front, second from left) poses with members of a council of international advisers appointed by the government to advise it on the territory's economic development Tuesday.

meeting would be of any use.

"I don't think the committee can do much by holding a meeting once a year," he said. "These international investors may only care about lowering the cost in doing business and give a wrong signal to Tung that by lowering the cost is the way forward."

Hilmar Kopper, chairman of supervisory board of Deutsche Bank AG, declined comment on Tuesday what he would say in the council.

But he said Hong Kong companies should consider investing in

Germany, chiefly in Germany's small and medium-sized companies which are the backbone of German industry and trade.

"I think Hong Kong needs a reassessment of what markets to retain," he told a news conference. "I wonder why more companies in Hong Kong don't make use of the words 'Made in Germany.'"

Other members of the council included chairman of Toyota Motor Corp Shoichiro Toyoda, chairman of the Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Ltd, Tasuku Takagaki,

president of Royal Dutch Petroleum M.A. van den Bergh, chairman of supervisory board of Siemens AG Karl-Hermann Baumann, chief executive officer of Motorola Inc Christopher Galvin, president of Philips Electronics Cor Boonstra, president of Power Corporation of Canada Andre Desmarais, chairman and chief executive officer of American International Group Inc Maurice Greenberg, and chairman of supervisory board of Suez Lyonnaise des Eaux Jerome Monod.

World Bank considers loans for Malaysia and Indonesia

BANGKOK (Reuters) — The World Bank said on Tuesday it was in talks with the Malaysian government on extra funding to help with a fiscal stimulus in the country but a few more weeks of discussions were needed.

The bank's Vice-President for the East Asia Region, Jean-Michel Severino, told Reuters the World Bank board might also discuss funding from its \$1 billion pledge for crisis-hit Indonesia in March. But a decision on that would hinge on substantial financial and political reforms.

Asked about Malaysia, Severino said in an interview: "We are in active discussions with them. Last year, around May or June we lent them \$300 million. We are now discussing lending to help them deal with the social impacts of the economic crisis."

He said additional funding to Malaysia, in excess of the \$300 million already lent, would depend on complete

agreement with Malaysia on policy directions.

"We have not reached that point yet. It will take us a few more weeks at which point we can really say yes or no. It can be an important amount of money," Severino added.

"The amount is not something I can tell you about as it is being discussed. It won't be for (funding) balance of payments, but to fund budget deficit ... for fiscal stimulus," he said.

Malaysia has been hit by its worst recession in decades. It launched capital and currency controls in October last year to try to insulate itself from external economic shocks.

On Indonesia, Severino said the World Bank was preparing a package of structural adjustment loans under a \$1 billion pledge made for the troubled country when it was struck hard by a financial crisis last year.

"We are preparing a package of structural adjustment loans that might be approved by the board in a couple of months'

time," he said.

"At the same time we are focusing on (Indonesian) financial and corporate restructuring, management of social problems and deepening of the social safety net and finally the governance and corruption issues in the country," he added.

"We have to have enough confidence that substantial reforms and progress will be made in these fronts, before we present this (loans) to the board," Severino said.

"Most of this money will be disbursed right after the board meeting which might be in March ... provided we have full agreement with the government on enough reforms in the key areas," he added. "As always, everything hinges on reforms."

Indonesia is due to hold a national election on June 7, even as it grapples with severe social and economic problems facing its huge poverty-stricken population.



Residents look through a book sponsored by the China Charity Foundation from the floods of 1998 in Beijing Sunday. Purchase of the 190 yuan book (\$23) were to go to flood victims.



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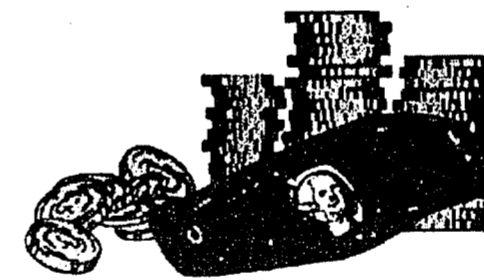
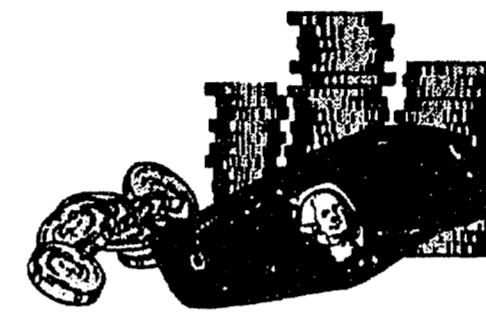
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On February 1, 1999, GMH will begin referring all overdue accounts for 1998 and prior years to Rev. & Tax. The list will include the name of the patient as well as the guarantor of patient accounts.

Income Tax Refunds for all persons on the list who owe money to the Hospital will be held by the Department of Revenue and Taxation. In addition, money from the Income Tax Refund will be used to pay the portion of the Hospital bill outstanding to GMH.

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All persons who pay their open account balances on or before February 1, 1999 at the Hospital will be removed from the list to be sent to Rev. & Tax. Those who think they may be on the list can call GMH at 647-2339 to verify if they have an overdue account listed for Income Tax Refund garnishment.

The GMH Business Office will be open from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Monday through Friday to collect payments or answer any questions you may have regarding your account.

Korea peace talks begin



Park Kun Woo (left) head of the South Korean delegation, invites his counterparts to shake hands prior to the start of the fourth round of the Korean Peace Talks at Geneva, Switzerland Tuesday. From left are Park Kun Woo of South Korea; Charles Kartman, U.S.; Kim Gye Gwan, North Korea, chairman of the talks; and Qian Yongnian, China.

By Andrew Gray
GENEVA (Reuters)—Officials from the United States, China and the two Koreas began a fresh round of talks on Tuesday aimed at cooling tensions between Seoul and Pyongyang.

The talks, which have been taking place in Geneva on and off for more than a year, have as their eventual goal a permanent peace between North and South Korea.

Participants played down any chance of a breakthrough in this fourth round, scheduled to last four days. They said the four parties would meet in sub-committees on Wednesday.

"After listening to the keynote addresses, my feeling is that there are still significant differences of views among the delegations," Kim Gye-gwan, the head of the North Korean delegation, told reporters.

"I have the feeling we will have to work very hard to narrow down the differences," he said through an interpreter.

Diplomats say the fact that North Korea - which has recently stepped up propaganda attacks on Washington, Seoul and Tokyo - is chairing this round may make progress difficult.

The four-party discussions are aimed at replacing the fraying truce that halted the 1950-53 Korean War with a permanent accord to normalise North-South relations.

"It's a very complicated matter. We're trying to solve a problem that has been left over by history," said Qian Yongnian, the head of the Chinese delegation.

"So we can't hope to get it settled in the next few days."

U.S. delegation head Charles Kartman gave little away as he left the talks. "We're going to have sub-committee meetings from tomorrow," he said. "So far, so good."

South Korea's delegation chief, Park Kun-woo, said the first meeting had been conducted in a "businesslike manner" and the working groups would get down to substantial matters in their closed-door talks.

Formation of the sub-committees, looking at an overall peace framework and ways of reducing tensions on the Korean peninsula, was agreed at the last round of talks in October.

Geneva has become a focal point for diplomatic efforts to defuse inter-Korean tensions.

U.S. and North Korean officials held talks in Geneva last weekend over a site in North Korea which Washington fears could be part of a new nuclear weapon effort by Pyongyang. Those talks are due to continue next weekend.

Pyongyang kept up its broadsides against the West on Tuesday with an attack on U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen's recent visit to South Korea and Japan.

"His junket showed that the U.S. moves to isolate and stifle the DPRK (North Korea) militarily are getting more reckless from the beginning of the year, assuming a new dangerous aspect," a Korean Central News Agency report monitored in Tokyo said.

Clinton to boost military

By DAVID BRISCOE
WASHINGTON (AP)—President Bill Clinton offered proposals Tuesday to bolster Americans' safety against terrorism at home and instability abroad. They included big increases in defense spending and assistance to Russia to help reduce its weapons arsenal.

In his annual State of the Union address, Clinton focused primarily on domestic affairs, but he also outlined major initiatives that could affect America's dealings with other countries.

The largest is a proposed \$12 billion increase in defense spending — part of a plan to add \$110 billion over six years.

Republicans who have a majority in both houses of Congress generally want more money for the military, but other foreign affairs proposals will find a mixed reaction in Congress.

Some details of Clinton's proposals were provided by the president's national security adviser, Sandy Berger, before the speech to both houses of Congress. Clinton was speaking just hours after White House lawyers ended their first day of arguments in the Senate impeachment trial of the president.

On the global economic front, Clinton called for a new round of world trade negotiations, hoping to counter protectionist forces set loose by current financial turmoil.

The president's plan for assistance to Russia would add to the Nunn-Lugar program aimed at dismantling nuclear weapons. It would increase funding by 70 percent over five years to help redirect the work of Russian scientists from weapons research to peacetime pursuits and accelerate Moscow's troop withdrawals outside Russia, in addition to dismantling and destroying warheads and weapons materials.

Berger said programs would include destruction of 50 tons of plutonium, funding to put 8,000 Russian scientists into civilian research and help for Russia in tightening export controls. The increase also would go to domestic programs aimed at throwing a safety net over Americans in response to both foreign and domestic terrorist threats.

As part of this, Clinton asked for increased support for U.S. diplomacy around the world, focusing on the need to make embassies more secure as well as to give embassy personnel the resources needed to represent the world's only remaining superpower. Berger cited a 50 percent decrease in funding for U.S. diplomacy over the last decade.

Domestically, the president's proposals also would include money to research vaccines and develop public health surveillance to protect against chemical or biological dangers, training of police and fire fighters to handle such emergencies, and the hiring of technical experts, including computer experts to protect against technical sabotage, either foreign or domestic.

Clinton's plan to boost military

spending is prompted by growing concerns over the U.S. military's readiness to handle complex post-Cold War threats. Military spending has been declining since 1985.

Berger said concerns include the need for pilot training, for spare parts, and for modernizing the smaller military to ensure that it can "do the job." The increase also would fund a 4.4 percent military pay raise and improved benefits for military personnel.

Clinton's speech also set the stage for a far-reaching NATO summit in Washington, which is expected to attract heads of states from more than 44 countries, including all NATO members, for the admission of Poland, Hungary and the Czech Republic into the alliance.

Berger said that although the president was not mentioning it, the administration remains committed to keeping the door open for new NATO members and views "enlargement as an ongoing process."



President Clinton shakes hands with House Speaker Dennis Hastert of Illinois prior to giving his State of the Union address on Capitol Hill Tuesday. Vice President Gore applauds at left.

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U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen (right) receives the National Security Merit "Tongil Medal" from South Korean President Kim Dae-jung during his visit at the presidential palace in Seoul Friday.

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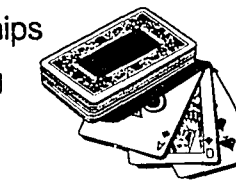
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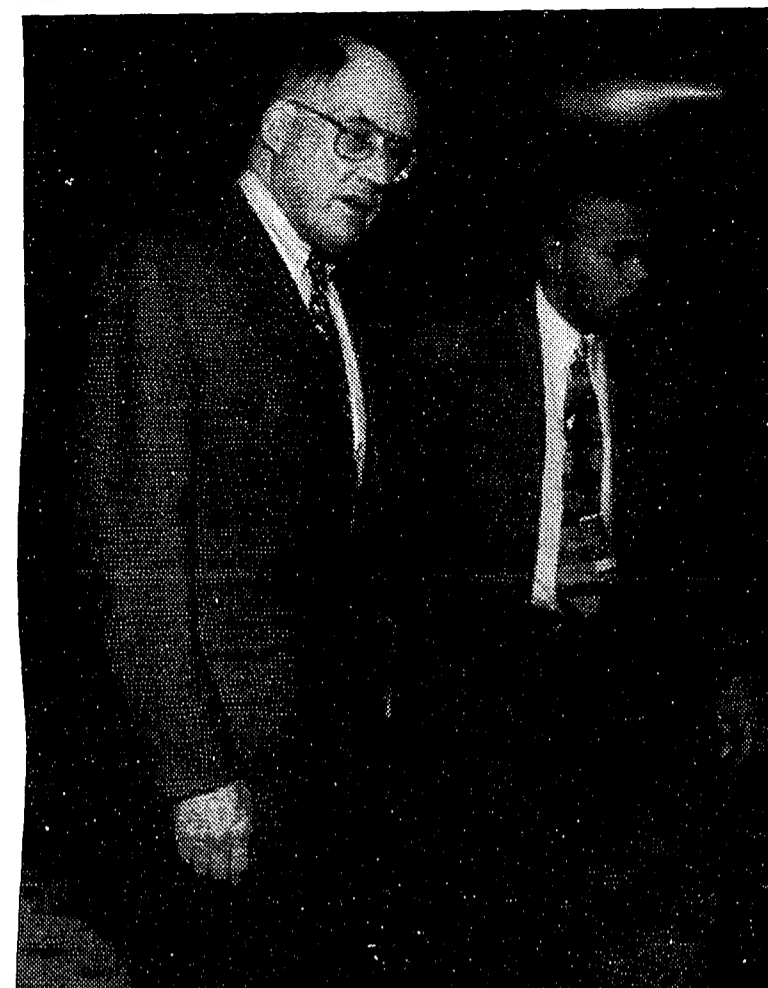
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Chief Justice William Rehnquist (left) leaves the Senate Chamber on Capitol Hill Tuesday after adjourning the Senate's impeachment trial against President Clinton for the day. The Senate heard the president's lawyers begin their defense Tuesday. AP

Lewinsky testimony risky for both sides

By LAURIE ASSEO
WASHINGTON (AP) — Both sides in President Bill Clinton's impeachment trial could face big risks if Monica Lewinsky is called to testify.

"It's a nightmare for everybody. We hear so many stories about this woman; who knows what the truth is?" says New York lawyer Gregory Joseph, former chairman of the American Bar Association's litigation section.

"In trials, stuff happens. It never plays live the way it does on paper," added Denver lawyer Larry Pozner, president of the National Association of Criminal Defense lawyers.

House prosecutors want the Senate to call witnesses to help decide whether Clinton should be removed from office for what he did in covering up his affair with Ms. Lewinsky, a former White House intern.

Putting Ms. Lewinsky on the stand could backfire for the pros-



Monica Lewinsky

ecutors if it turns into a "sordid sex tell-all," said Pozner.

But she could hurt Clinton too. "Her testimony keeps alive the issue of perjury and the more troubling issue of obstruction of justice," said Edward Ohlbaum, a law professor and director of the trial advocacy program at Temple University.

Although many have read her grand jury testimony and heard her voice in tape-recorded con-

versations with Linda Tripp, "You don't know how she's going to come across testifying publicly," said Washington lawyer Barbara Nicastro.

The lawyers would get a chance to judge her demeanor ahead of time. The Senate trial agreement says witnesses will be called to testify only if both sides get a chance to question them in advance.

Ms. Lewinsky herself faces no risk, aside from the embarrassment of having to testify, as long as she tells the truth.

In exchange for immunity from prosecution, she promised Independent Counsel Kenneth Starr last July she would testify truthfully in court and in "congressional proceedings." Because of the immunity deal, she can't rely on the Constitution's Fifth Amendment protection against self-incrimination to avoid testifying.

Continued on page 22

George W. Bush sworn in as Texas governor, eyes White House

By Alan Elsner
AUSTIN, Texas (Reuters) — George W. Bush was sworn in on Tuesday for a second term as governor of Texas, calling for racial and ethnic reconciliation and a return to traditional moral values — issues that may become themes for a White House campaign in 2000.

With his father, former President George Bush, and his mother, Barbara Bush, among many family members in the audience, Bush took the oath in front of the state

Capitol building on a cloudy, breezy day.

The sun came through just as a 19-gun salute boomed out and F-16 planes swooped over the domed building.

Bush, 52, the first man to win two consecutive four-year terms as governor of Texas, said the state's future should be based not only on economic prosperity but also on moral values.

"Some people think it's inappropriate to make moral judgments

any more. Not me," he declared.

"As we begin a new century, our dream for all of Texas should be based not just on prosperity but the values that make prosperity worthwhile."

While no mention was made of the impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton underway in Washington, it was clearly on the minds of many of the 20,000 people who came to see Bush sworn in.

Newly elected Lt. Gov. Rick Perry, who was sworn in just be-



Texas Gov. George W. Bush and his wife Laura wave during the inaugural parade Tuesday after he was sworn in for his second term as governor. AP

fore Bush, seemed to be making an unfavorable comparison between Clinton and the Texas governor when he proclaimed: "George W. Bush is a man of character, the kind of man we can point out to our children and say, 'I want you to grow up like him.'"

Bush himself said America seemed to be putting too much faith in economic success, just as it once put too much faith in the ability of government to improve their lives.

"Government can't solve all our problems. Economic growth can't solve all our problems. In fact, we're now putting too much hope in economics just as we once put too much hope in government," he said.

"Reducing problems to economics is simply materialism. The real answer is found in the hearts of decent caring people who have heard the call to love their neighbors as they would like to be loved themselves. We must rally the armies of compassion."

Bush, who managed to win almost half the Hispanic vote and a quarter of the black vote last November in his landslide re-election victory, returned to his theme of

racial reconciliation in his speech.

Breaking briefly into Spanish, he said Texans must not allow race to divide them. He said they should celebrate diversity but also embrace unity through common values.

Banners carrying the theme "Together We Can - Junta Podemos" - were strung across the main street of Austin, Texas, echoing the Bush message of outreach.

Bush has already been crowned the early favorite for the Republican presidential nomination, even though he has not yet officially made up his mind to run.

The self-declared champion of "compassionate conservatism" has said he will not announce a decision until late spring, after the Texas Legislature has finished its upcoming term. He is expected to focus on enacting two central election pledges: engineering far-reaching educational reform and lowering property taxes.

Bush begins his second term with sky-high approval ratings of 87 percent in his home state. One recent poll found that 68 percent of Texans would support him for president.

NMC . . .

Continued from page 3

Youth Congress Vice Speaker Winfred Camacho stressed NMC SuCo is not discouraging students

Camacho . . .

Continued from page 3

left in the office."

Since the implementation of the Chamorro Land Trust Act that allowed residents to lease land at \$1 per year for 99 years, the CLTC has been busy surveying those lands and handing out plots to residents. That also, has become a problem, as the CLTC has run out of money to continue paying a private surveyor to mark off those plots.

"It is important that (the CLTC) continue their operations uninterrupted," Camacho said. "We need to make this a priority."

CLTC acting director Ron Teehan said there is some money that exists, but legislation is necessary to release those funds.

"If they cannot continue to survey the lands, they cannot lease out the

from going off-island to study.

Camacho added that their concern is for on-island scholars to be given an equal opportunity like their off-island counterparts.

"We just want the (government) to provide the same opportunity for stu-

lands and the leasing comes to a halt," Camacho said.

Also under scrutiny were the Departments of Land Management and Agriculture.

The strategy was to look at what they are doing and what plans they have and ensure that they all coincide," Camacho said. "I did see a divergence in some areas."

Camacho also discovered that a revolving fund, used to help farmers, has halted its operations because of a lack of money. The fund was set up for farmers to borrow against it, then replenish it. Agriculture acting director Joseph Sablan said although there are efforts to collect, there is a problem with farmers not paying up.

With the CLTC having leased out dozens of agricultural plots, the demand for assistance will grow.

"There is definitely a need there for farmers," Camacho said.

Chamber . . .

Continued from page 3

beneficial to the Commonwealth's best interests.

But the business organization also raised concerns on the alleged unmanageable bureaucratic process inherent at the Department of Labor and Immigration (DOLI), adding that it may be detrimental to the intent of the bill which is to make CNMI a retirement haven for senior Japanese citizens.

"The DOLI should be mandated, either by regulation or by an Executive Directive, to expedite and unclog the bureaucracy of the department so that a prompt issuance of the permit will be accommodated," the Chamber said.

It also suggested that a yearly renewal of the retirees' permit with a corresponding annual fee be imposed by regulation to help the government refill its depleting coffers, in light of the downturn in the tourism industry.

Under the proposed measure, an applicant should be required to pay a non-refundable application or renewal fee of \$1,000 and an additional \$500 for the applicant's

spouse.

SB 11-82 proposes to lower the entry requirement for non-immigrant foreign retirees.

Current law allows entry for those who have invested \$200,000.

Sen. Juan P. Tenorio (R-Saipan), proponent of the bill, has said that the current economic conditions which have virtually lowered value of property and the prospective retirees' disposable income have triggered the reduction in the entry requirement.

Tenorio said the legislation was passed as part of government's efforts to attract more of Japan's senior citizens, who reportedly get an average of \$700,000 in savings, to settle in the Northern Marianas.

The Chamber said it concurs with Tenorio's opinion regarding the positive effects of allowing a new class of nonresidents to retire in the Commonwealth, since it is expected to be followed by professionals.

"A retirement community is necessarily followed by professionals, such as those providing medical and financial services, as well as a variety of other needed services that the CNMI business community could either provide or benefit from," the business group said.

PUTC . . .

Continued from page 3

obligation to the people to get this project rolling so we can avoid a power crisis."

Apatang, in a separate interview, said the bill will be carefully drafted, adding that he will also recommend a public hearing.

"The power situation is not good, and regardless of how the bids are evaluated someone will sue the government anyway."

"It's going to be a never ending process and meantime the people are suffering due to the power crisis," Apatang said.

Villagomez at the same time revealed that even the Attorney General's Office (AGO) "has no problems" with the Marubeni-Sithe contract.

He cited a Sept. 22, 1998 letter from AGO saying that the contract can be approved in accordance to law. (AGO, however, said it will withhold approval until CUC obtains

a final ruling on the concerns then raised by the Office of the Public Auditor (OPA).)

Villagomez, moreover, said based on computations made by CUC, choosing Marubeni-Sithe will result in the least monthly cost for the utility company.

Without a new power plant, CUC Executive Director Timothy Villagomez earlier told the Variety that the CNMI may face a serious power problem beginning this year.

CUC projects a power shortfall of 12.93 megawatts by August 2000.

However, OPA has upheld an appeal filed by one of the losing bidders, the Pacific Marine Industrial Corp. (PMIC), and called for a new round of selection process.

OPA said the process used by CUC was "flawed."

CUC officials said they may bring OPA's ruling to court, but eventually decided to issue out a new request for proposal for an independent evaluator that will review the bids all over again.

ents who go to school here. Give them the opportunity to learn. Give them what they need," Camacho said.

Uludong added she registered at NMC as early as December only to be informed a week before the opening of the classes that EAPs are cancelled.

"I feel like a lot of students attend school here because they are not privileged. They don't have the means and resources to go off-island and attend college there.

They chose to stay here because of the finances," she said.

According to Uludong, it is not fair for on-island students to be given a cut in their scholarship.

"Usually the people who go off-island can fend for themselves. They usually have the means and resources to support themselves unlike us here who depend on this scholarship," Uludong added.

Camacho said that without money for scholarships, government is denying equal opportunity for the stu-

dents to advance themselves.

Camacho and Uludong said students now are really disappointed.

The students, they said, should only worry about their education and not the tuition.

The student council said they are anticipating 300 students to join in the motorcade today.

Upon reaching the Governor's Office, the council's designated spokespersons will be meeting with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to air their concerns.

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IN LOVING MEMORY

Joint Anniversary Rosary

We, the Families of the Late

PEDRO I. KANI
2nd

ANTONIA P. KANI
10th

NICOLAS P. KANI
21st

Cordially invite all our relatives and friends to join us in prayers as we commemorate the joint anniversary rosary of our beloved parents and brother. Nightly Rosary will commence on Friday, January 22, 1999 at 8:00 P.M. at the family residence in Tanapag by the beach.

On the final day, Saturday, January 30, 1999, Rosary will be said at 4:00 P.M. followed by Anniversary Mass of Intention at 5:00 P.M. at Santa Remedios Church in Tanapag. Dinner will be served immediately after Mass at the family residence.

We sincerely thank you for your love, prayers and support.

Please Join Us

From: The children, brothers, sisters and grandchildren

22-MARIANAS VARIETY NEWS AND VIEWS-THURSDAY- JANUARY 21, 1999

Lewinsky ...

Continued from page 20

But if she lies, the agreement can be voided and she can be prosecuted for perjury. Therefore, she would be expected to stick closely to her previous testimony in the case.

New York trial lawyer Gerald Lefcourt said Clinton's lawyers can try to reinforce Ms. Lewinsky's statement to the grand jury that "No one ever asked me to lie and I was never promised a job for my silence."

Prosecutors can ask about her statement that even though Clinton did not tell her to lie, he also did not urge her to tell the truth.

"I knew what that meant," she told the grand jurors.

Prosecutors can ask about presidential secretary Betty Currie's retrieval of gifts Clinton gave Ms. Lewinsky. And they can try to use her testimony to bolster their argument that Clinton lied about details of their physical relationship.

They could do that "in a G-rated way" by simply asking her to con-

firm that her grand jury testimony on that question was truthful, said John Barrett, a New York University law professor and former prosecutor in the Iran-Contra arms and money scandal.

Several lawyers predicted attorneys on both sides will question Ms. Lewinsky cautiously to avoid seeming to abuse her, but Barrett said they must be ready to be more aggressive if her testimony seems to favor the other side.

One of the worst things that could happen to the prosecution, Pozner said, would be if she were to "look up and say, 'I said before no one pressured me.'"

Nicastro said Ms. Lewinsky could harm the president by testifying that she got a clear impression he wanted her to continue covering up the affair as they had before.

Even if Ms. Lewinsky's testimony did not change the known facts in a major way, "The exercise will at least allow the Senate to size her up — test her credibility, memory, motivations, attitude, maturity and perception," Barrett said.

Samoas ...

Continued from page 12

and the government of Samoa took place late last year.

A bigger, newer ferry will start sailing between the two countries next week, encouraging Samoa's farmers to sell greater quantities of their products in the territory.

Samoa's Prime Minister and Finance Minister, Tuilaepa Sailele

Malielegaoi, who hosted the American Samoa delegation, views the territory as a gateway for Samoan products into the United States - favorable tariff arrangements permitting.

Influential politicians like American Samoan congressman, Faleomavaega Eni Hunkin, view closer economic links between the two Samoas as a more important priority than political unification of the Samoan islands.

Nauru ...

Continued from page 12

chiefs, who are usually all male.

Senator Faiivae writes that females in districts that do not recognize female matai are eliminated from the selection of Senators because of their gender, thereby denying the equality guaranteed by the United States constitution.

He calls the Senate, "an all male institution" which he could support "if women were never given the equal opportunity and eligibility" in the Samoan culture generations ago.

He says very few women have been recognized for their cultural

leadership in Samoan political history until recently, because they have always been considered unqualified.

The issue of electing senators by popular vote comes up during election campaign debates, and was most recently asked by Congressman Faleomavaega Eni Hunkin and his unsuccessful challenger in the November general elections.

The Samoa Post also ran an editorial after the last elections, which supported a change in the selection of Senators.

Usually the only counter views to these arguments come from elderly chiefs, senators and the relatives of both groups.

Man in ...

Continued from page 11

ing their windshields.

The suspects were reportedly looking for a man who was in a

blue truck which went toward the direction of the barracks.

After failing to find the man and the vehicle they are looking for, the suspects went into a rampage.

US court ...

Continued from page 8

than ten grams of ice is not more than 40 years and a fine of not more than \$2,000,000 plus a five-year supervised release.

The amount of "ice" involved was not indicated.

With the assistance of his counsel, Lawyer Gregory J. Koebel, the Japanese entered into an agreement which greatly reduced his sentence.

Reyes ...

Continued from page 7

ticularly the gaming industry—

US to ...

Continued from page 6

pay for incarcerating criminal aliens.

Eligible applicants included states and localities that exercised authority with respect to the incarceration of an undocumented

Gov't ...

Continued from page 8

the US Environmental Protection Agency which issues a Compliance Order to the CNMI government in September 1994.

Based on earlier studies, the government should spend approximately \$60 million to \$90 million over the next 10 years to build incinerators and open a new landfill.

The Division of Environmental

remain the comparative economic advantage for the CNMI.

Further, "With a newly refocused marketing effort, the CNMI could be considered in a more

US to ...

Continued from page 6

pay for incarcerating criminal aliens.

Eligible applicants included states and localities that exercised authority with respect to the incarceration of an undocumented

Trial is ...

Continued from page 6

had yet to see a marijuana addict and although he couldn't

Goldberg ...

Continued from page 5

Goldberg wants the high tribunal to order Bellas to exercise his authority as a judge and decide on the pending cases involving overstaying aliens Alicia Fabricante and Chi Min Yue, whom the AGO and the Division

Takeover ...

Continued from page 3

tus Commission granted the authority for the US Congress to amend Section 503(a) and 503(c) — the immigration and minimum wage provisions — on grounds that the issue will be treated "with a great deal of care and sensitivity."

"[We were hoping that they are] taking into account the special socio-economic conditions in existence at the time prior to a federal takeover, and certainly not for the US to exercise such au-

thority based on politically motivated agenda," he said.

He noted that given the seriously negative federal attitude over CNMI-US political relationship and the present economic situation, "good faith consultations could not be realistically or rationally conducted."

Both sides should acknowledge that productive consultation cannot occur under an atmosphere of hate and suspicion which now dominate the personalities of both the CNMI and the US," the former lieutenant governor said.

He said that Cohen's and his group's objective of imposing

address the spiritual indications of cannabis, he supported medical use. He said that the medical community is quickly moving toward a pill

of Immigration wanted to be deported.

In his recent order on the two cases, Bellas decided to stay his decision pending the resolution of an appeal made by AGO through Goldberg before the Supreme Court on the judge's recent ruling involving Filipina Gemma Sagun.

Bellas, according to Goldberg,

thority based on politically motivated agenda," he said.

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Ignored ...

Continued from page 3

Zachares told reporters.

These labor orders involve fines imposed on employers for violating labor laws, and back wages that should be released to affected guest workers.

The panel noted that these orders, estimated to involve over 500 guest workers, were being only rightly ignored by the employers.

"In the past, yes, we had some problems. But we are trying to

address their concerns now and in the future," Zachares told reporters.

Zachares said DOLI's legal staff is being beefed up with a third lawyer and a para-legal personnel "to assist us in that area."

Currently, he said, DOLI Asst. Atty. Gen. Aaron Williams is working on 42 demand letters requiring the employers to heed the orders.

"I feel like we explained some of the misconceptions or misrepresentations that may have been in the OIA report. I find it a very good dialogue. I am hoping that they recognize some of the re-

Quality previously batted for the immediate establishment of a sanitary landfill even without the incinerators to facilitate the closure of the Puerto Rico dump site.

The DEQ said the next issue to be addressed, if an incinerator is built to dispose of solid waste accumulated in the dump site, is where to dump the ashes.

Aside from this, the emission of incinerators may be pose danger to the people's health since a lot of people catch rainwater to drink.

advantageous position than Guam (as it has) three distinctly different islands as tourist destinations, adding to the CNMI's appeal as a destination," the report stated.

applicant on the number and costs of housing criminal aliens for the fiscal year.

In Fiscal Year 1998, Congress appropriated \$585 million for the SCAAP program, approximately \$10 million of which has been used for administration.

Another \$585 million has been appropriated for Fiscal Year 1999.

that could be taken which would alleviate the cravings that stem from the use of addictive drugs as well as other obsessive and compulsive behaviors.

has allowed Sagun to go on a voluntary deportation, a power which he alleged can only exercised by the executive branch.

Goldberg requested the high court to set an oral argument for the latest petition.

The assistant attorney general used his previous arguments before Bellas' courtroom on deportation cases in filing the petition.

federal standards for a takeover of CNMI laws is premature, suggesting that it would be more useful for the visiting federal officials to walk around the islands and observe the improvements.

"They might be lucky enough to meet a couple of commies and slaves whom Al and George are dying to meet," he remarked.

He also branded as "pathetic" the federal government's proposal to federalize local immigration and minimum wage after CNMI's more than 20 years of successful and fruitful political association with the US under the Covenant.

form efforts that the CNMI has undertaken.

"The basic premise I put forward was that reform is happening. It is (a) reality, but we also need your (federal government's) help... we invite the federal government to assist us in any areas where they have their primary responsibilities and where we have mutual responsibilities," Zachares said.

The Covenant Section 902 talks are being held over the federal government's concerns on CNMI's labor and immigration situation.

to expedite it.

According to clerks, the trial may go for another two weeks. Torres' testimony is nearly over and Man de veld is expected to call more witnesses.

US ...

Continued from page 1

of labor, immigration and customs in the islands.

Customs officials, in particular, brought up the conflicting reports from the U.S. Customs and the OIA during the closed door discussions.

"The 902 panels listened to our presentation because of the reports released by the OIA versus the U.S. Customs ... They're concerned because there are two different reports," said Mafnas.

He expressed optimism that Cohen's group will make a sound judgment after going through the

Hofschneider ...

Continued from page 1

board of trustees, Hofschneider said.

The governor would appoint the board's seven members with the consent of the Senate.

Because the new CHC would be operating on the fees it collects, the government could gradually reduce direct funding to the hospital, Hofschneider said.

"The hospital would still be

Guam ...

Continued from page 1

sents a powerful class of foreign investors and decision-makers. Three of the four Asian tigers - Hong Kong, Taiwan and Singapore - have prospered through the efforts of Chinese capitalists, many of whom are now vastly rich.

Thus, Chen said this gathering of Chinese entrepreneurs offers an exceptional opportunity for the local Chinese and Guam community to meet high-profile business executives from all over Asia and the Pacific region.

"This conference is held every two years and this Guam meeting marks the 12th time that the conference is being held. It's been going on for 24 years already.

Clinton ...

Continued from page 2

mention of Clinton's impeachment or his Senate trial.

The president heavily emphasized education. He said he would send Congress a plan that for the first time holds states and school districts accountable for their progress and rewards them for results. Schools that fail to comply could lose some of the

State ...

Continued from page 2

people — a great job," he said. "He's doing something for the people. He tried to make a better life for the people of the United States."

Jean Joseph, who watched Clinton from a barber shop called Chicago's in the largely black, working-class San Francisco neighborhood of Western Addition, agreed that the president looked confident. However, he said, the confidence was probably coming from Clinton's belief that the pub-

two conflicting reports.

"I'd rather recommend that they see a copy of the U.S. Customs report and compare it with the OIA report and let them decide for themselves," he said.

Cohen could not be reached for comment as of yesterday afternoon.

U.S. Customs officials led by Keith Tamashiro were on Saipan from Sept. 14 to 18, 1998 to check whether local garment companies comply with both federal and CNMI laws with regards to transshipment, importation and exportation of garment products.

They conducted physical inspection of the operations of both the garment firms (including in-

coming cargoes for these companies) and the local Customs.

The inspection team was also able to randomly inspect three garment factories and was satisfied with the results.

These firms are the American Pacific Textile, Inc. (Ampac), Global Manufacturing Corp. and the Hansae (Saipan), Inc.

During the course of their five-day visit, the federal officials discounted allegations that several garment companies in the CNMI are engaged in illegal transshipments of garment products, and even "praised" their cleanliness and "efficiency" of operations.

The OIA's report, meanwhile, alleged that illegal transshipments

occurred in the Commonwealth, where finished garment products from other countries are shipped to the CNMI, and while here, are reported to be re-labeled "Made in the USA" and then shipped to the US mainland.

Stayman, during his visit in June to Saipan, said a report prepared by his agency's consultants confirmed incidents of illegal transshipments in the CNMI.

He did not divulge more information at that time, saying the US Customs Service is still investigating these allegations.

Stayman earlier said the allegations of illegal transshipment started when OIA noted an increase in shipments in CNMI at

the time when the number of workers allowed to enter the island was limited.

"It's interesting to know why shipments went up when workers were not going up. One explanation was workers were working harder or there was transshipment. But that was enough for us to look into that and we were able to get people to say that they essentially witnessed transshipment.

"We don't know the extent of it or whether it is still going on but it would be the report which will answer these questions. It's still a big issue," said Stayman.

The OIA report was received by the CNMI towards the end of December 1998.

Ordot ...

Continued from page 1

high levels of dioxins and carbon monoxide, Kelly said particulate matter, which are by-products of the fire, may cause the levels of carbon monoxide to rise.

Testing for dioxins near the site has been done since the second day of the Christmas Day fire. Through the tests, Kelly said, it was found that there is a correlation between the decrease in dioxins and a decrease in the levels of carbon monoxides.

GovGuam personnel are installing the \$40 to \$50 monitors this week into the homes. The devices are similar to fire detectors and are plugged into wall outlets to monitor carbon monoxide levels.

Ten families from the Fama and Victoriano Lanes to the east of the fire were short-term evacu-

ees who were sent home last week. The families were evacuated when a wind anomaly caused the predominantly western flow to blow east. Kelly said six more families are expected to be allowed to go home sometime this week.

Four families who live west of the fire and also closest to the fire are the only ones remaining in the emergency shelter in the Cliff Hotel.

GovGuam was paying an estimated \$2,000 per day for housing and food for 10 families staying at the hotel.

The amount increased to \$3,000 per day with the increase of evacuees. Kelly said he doesn't expect the daily total for the four families remaining in emergency shelter to exceed \$900.

Officials from Civil Defense, the Guam Fire Dept., and the Dept. of Public Works will meet in a week to evaluate efforts in extinguishing the fire.

Hillblom ...

Continued from page 1

consistent with the provisions of the United States Internal Revenue Code Section 2014.

This section of the IRC applies to foreign death taxes, and which is applicable to the Commonwealth.

Under the newly-enacted law, whenever a federal estate tax is payable to the U.S., there should also be imposed a Commonwealth estate tax on the taxable estate equal to the amount of the maximum allowable credit for foreign death taxes pursuant to the U.S. IRC.

This should also be allowable under the applicable federal estate tax law, which is attributable

to property situated in the CNMI.

The bill also states that the estate tax should not be imposed as a total estate tax liability to the CNMI and the U.S. in excess of the estate tax liability to the U.S. which would result if this amended section were not in effect.

Stressing the need to refill the Commonwealth's emptied coffers, the governor earlier expressed strong support to tax the inheritance of the late Hillblom's children, as well as other businesses and entities who file their taxes in the CNMI.

"I want to make clear that anybody should pay their tax fairly since they file their tax here in the CNMI. I would like to see that at least the CNMI would benefit from the taxes to be collected not necessarily from Hillblom but also others," he said.

no resolution that explicitly authorized the no-fly zones. "It is quite clear that the position of the United States is completely unfounded," Hamdoon wrote.

As such, he said, Iraq has the right under international law "to exercise its legitimate right to self-defense against such a continuous act of aggression."

Since last month's U.S. and British airstrikes, Baghdad has increased its challenge of the no-fly zones, as well

as U.N. weapons inspections and the U.N. humanitarian program in Iraq.

Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz has also called into question the borders of Kuwait — a move which has raised serious concern within the Security Council and Kuwait itself.

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

Union Bank,
Plaintiff,
vs.
Juan L. Evangelista,
Defendant.
Civil Action No. 94-1046

Second Amended
Notice of Sale

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Amended Order issued by the Court in this matter on May 22, 1996, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title and interest of Defendant in and to the following property:

Tract 22845-19 (part of original Tract 22845-REM, A.H. 31), as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2083/84, the original of which was recorded August 2, 1984, as Document No. 84-1598 at the Office of the Commonwealth Recorder, Saipan.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, January 29, 1999, at the hour of 1:00 p.m., at the law offices of White, Pierce, Mailman & Nutting, Joeten Center, Sussup, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. It is the responsibility of each bidder to inspect the property. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

Warranties and Covenants. All property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title, merchantability, and/or fitness for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied, with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.
a. Reserve. The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders, in the sole discretion of the undersigned. Rights and duties of bidders. Consistent with the laws, customs, and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auctions sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: (1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before bid for such property is accepted; (2) to adjudge the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject, on behalf of the seller, any or all bids, for any reason.

b. Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the property listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for item. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the law offices of White, Pierce, Mailman & Nutting, Joeten Center, Sussup, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

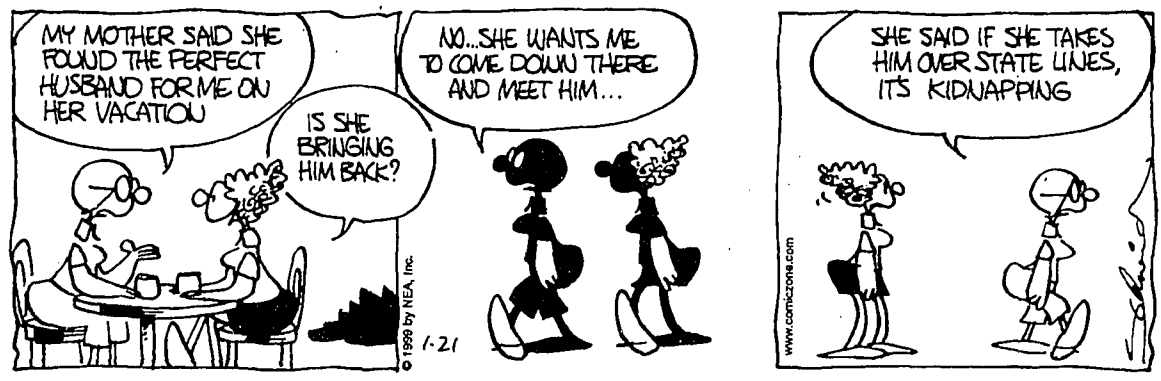
d. Disputes. The undersigned may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

Enforcement of Auction Sale.
a. Deposit. Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the Plaintiff, in cash or by check, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.
b. Memorandum of Sale. If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.
c. Court Approval Required. Every sale is subject to approval by the Court. The auctioneer makes no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if and when court approval is granted.

Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

DATE: this _____ day of December, 1998:
JOHN B. JOYNER, Attorney

Eek & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



Garfield® by Jim Davis



PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz



STELLA WILDER YOUR BIRTHDAY

THURSDAY, JAN. 21, 1999

Born today, you have a highly creative, energetic and rather egotistical personality. Like so many other Aquarius natives, it will come as no surprise to you when you realize that despite your occasionally combative nature, the truth is that you are your worst enemy. You are capable of gestures of great warmth, generosity and poetic beauty, and yet there are times when you stoop to a kind of base, coarse behavior that takes even those who know you best by surprise. During such times, you feel as though a complete stranger has "taken over," and that may indeed be the truth!

Your talents are sure to be clear to everyone when you are still quite young. However, you're not the kind to be forced into doing something before you feel ready, even though you may be prepared in practical ways. You always trust your "gut" instincts.

Also born on this date are: Placido Domingo, opera singer; Geena Davis, actress; Hakeem Olajuwon, basketball player; Robby Benson, actor; Jack Nicklaus, golfer; Christian Dior, designer.

To see what is in store for you tomorrow, find your birthday and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

FRIDAY, JANUARY 22
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — You can "win the day"

without so much as lifting a finger. All you have to do is say the right thing to the right person at the right time.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Don't let someone who has "been there" and "done that" dampen your enthusiasm for something that is completely new to you. Enjoy yourself!

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — It may be time for you to make the first move toward healing a relationship that has suffered from a lack of contact for quite a while.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Now is the time for you to come to the aid of someone who has been too timid to ask for it. Before it's too late, you can do just the right thing.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — It's essential that you keep yourself moving right along today, tackling everything that's on your schedule in the correct order. Don't get distracted.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Don't let familiarity keep you from using your best manners, particularly when you get together with friends or loved ones.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Someone in control may be making a decision about you very soon that will determine where you go from here. Be sure to send correct signals.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Only a fraction of the day is likely to mean what you think

it means. The rest is sure to be a revelation to you in retrospect.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — You're likely to meet someone today who has the power to turn your life around, if you choose to be affected in that way. Weigh the options.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — You can go in either one of two ways today, and one is not likely to be any less rich in potential than the other. You have complete freedom.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Someone is waiting for you to get to the finish line today so that he or she can learn just how you do things. Spend some time being the mentor.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — You're eagerly waiting for someone to tell you that you're on the right track, when the fact is that you already know where you stand.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 Injured
7 Sticky or James —
12 Last syllable of word
13 Fish trap
15 Delirium tremors (abbr.)
16 Entertaining
18 Maiden loved by Zeus
19 - garde
21 Dent plant
22 In addition
24 Singer
26 Chatter
28 Baseball player Mel —
29 Questioned
31 One (prefix)
33 Spielberg ID
34 Type of sch.
36 Sportsman
38 Kyle on door
40 Russian ruler
42 Passes over

DOWN

1 Paul Garrison film
2 Changes
3 Football pos.
4 Actress
5 Farrow
5 Austen title
6 Discourage

with a cloth
45 Above (poetic)
47 Yes —
49 Farm building
50 Unclothed
52 Cure
54 Roman 101
55 Negative prefix
56 — faire
59 Norris ID
61 Comedian
63 Neat —
63 Hat —
65 Tropical vine
66 Envoy

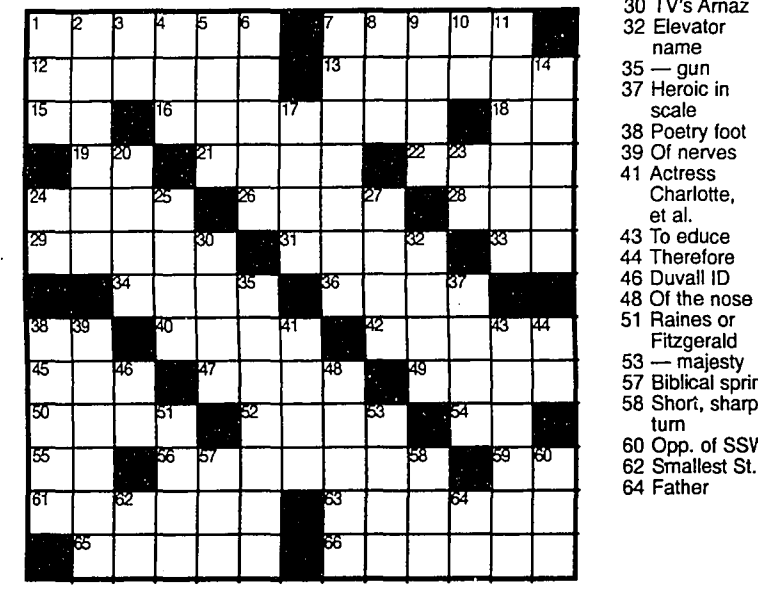
Answer to Previous Puzzle

1 GAVE SLOBS
2 KNIGHT HORROR
3 ERE CHAFE FA
4 DEL SHORT ATL
5 GR ALINE PLIE
6 ENTWINE WAGES
7 BING CAGE
8 ALONG ALTERED
9 BANG BREED AU
10 HUE SUGAR ASK
11 OR TALON MUTE
12 RECALL ELATES
13 LURKS DECOR

7 Radio's
8 Poetic contraction
9 Seaweed
10 Pride ID
11 Lifts
14 Honks

7 Old name for Thailand
8 Sneaker brand name
9 Behold!
24 Apiece (abbr.)
25 Welshman
27 Cognizant of
30 TV's Amz
32 Elevator name
35 — gun
37 Heroic in scale
38 Poetry foot
39 Of nerves
41 Actress Charlotte, et al.
43 To educate
44 Therefore
46 Duval ID
48 Of the nose
51 Raines or Fitzgerald
53 — majesty
57 Biblical spring
58 Short, sharp turn
60 Opp. of SSP
62 Smallest St.
64 Father

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THE PUZZLER

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G S H R O A T A T T P
Ü E E Y O L O M W O S

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Are the Bulls finished

By NANCY ARMOUR
DEERFIELD, Illinois (AP) - Trade in that Scottie Pippen jersey, put the Air Jordans back in the closet and ditch that Dennis Rodman wig that changes colors. The Chicago Bulls are going for a new look, and their names are Bubba Wells, Martin Muursepp and Roy Rogers.

With Michael Jordan retired, the six-time National Basketball Association champions are taking a cue from the Florida Marlins and having a fire sale. Plans A and B are in the trash, so the Bulls will rebuild with youth, general manager Jerry Krause said Tuesday.

But not before sending the championship team off with some nice parting gifts.

"There are many things out there you guys are hearing. There are many things that I'm hearing, some of which are true, some of which are not. But we can't talk about it at this time," Krause said.

"One of the things we felt

very strongly about is the contributions that have been given to this franchise and this city by the players. We had some situations develop where we could help our players, literally, as they left," he added. "As the financial figures are resolved here and come out, you'll find there have been some very nice going-away presents."

Rodman will miss out on the gift-giving, however. The multihued and tattooed rebounder told agent Dwight Manley on Tuesday afternoon that he's retiring, despite interest from several teams. Rodman, who made an appearance as a pro wrestler this summer, wants to go into sports and entertainment. Manley said.

Pippen is the biggest winner in the Bulls sweepstakes. Chicago will sign the seven-time All-Star to a five-year, \$67.2 million deal — with an additional \$15 million in incentives — and then ship him to Houston. The Bulls get Rogers

and a second-round draft pick. Guard Steve Kerr gets a five-year, \$11 million deal before heading to San Antonio for draft picks. And center Luc Longley will get a five-year, \$30 million package before being traded to Phoenix for Mark Bryant, Muursepp and Wells.

While Chicago might not be getting much, if anything, in return this season, the big payoff will come next summer. The Bulls are clearing out so much room under the salary cap with their sign-and-trade deals that they'll be major players in the free agent market — just in time to make enticing runs at Kobe Bryant, Penny Hardaway, Ray Allen and Grant Hill.

"I don't think you'll see a lot of free agent older players here. We have a young core that we like, there are some guys here we think can be fine players," Krause said.

"Hopefully, all the things we've done will put us in a good position to be a major

player in the free agent market as we go down the line, because that's going to be a continuing situation."

Until then, however, it's probably going to be pretty ugly. With only four players — Ron Harper, Toni Kukoc, Randy Brown and Keith Booth — under contract, new coach Tim Floyd is already bracing himself for a rough debut.

"He (Krause) really believes that maybe taking a step back a little bit early will allow us to get to the championship level quicker than what other teams have been able to do in the past. I have to believe in that," Floyd said. "You just hope there's brighter days ahead and you hope some of these guys that show up for camp are pretty good players."

Keeping the team from self-destructing when it hits its first big losing skid would be nice, too. Veteran center Bill Wennington, one of the few free agents who expects to stay in Chicago, said it will be up to him, Kukoc and Harper to hold the team together.

After three years of winning NBA championships and having their way with the rest of the league, Wennington said this season will be an adjustment.

"It's going to be a new beginning for everyone," he said.

"It's going to be a trying time and we're going to have to work together to make sure the rest of the wheels don't fall off."

Wakanohana leads, Takanohana suffers

TOKYO (AP) — Wakanohana held on to the lead at 10-0 as fellow yokozuna (grand champion) Takanohana suffered his fourth upset loss Tuesday with five days left in the 15-day New Year Grand Sumo Tournament.

Sekiwake (junior champion) Chiyotakai remained one victory behind Wakanohana at 9-1, followed by No. 12 maegashira (rank-and-file wrestler) Hamanoshima at 8-2.

Wrestling before 11,000 spectators, Wakanohana sent out No. 5 maegashira Tokitsuumi after fighting off his pushing attempts. Tokitsuumi is 3-7.

Takanohana tried to grab No. 5 maegashira Kotoryu's belt during the initial charge, but Kotoryu twisted him down for his fifth victory against five defeats. Takanohana fell to 6-4.

Chiyotakai charged Takanonami with hand thrusts and sent him out, handing Takanonami his sixth defeat against four victories.

Ozeki Musashimaru, or Fiamalu Penitani, defended No. 4 maegashira Minatofuji's arm throw attempt at the ring's edge and forced him out for his fifth victory against five defeats. Minatofuji is 3-7.

Hamanoshima grabbed No. 7 maegashira Terao's belt and sent him out, leaving Terao at 5-5.

Komusubi (junior champion second class) Kotonishiki, the winner of the previous tournament in November, threw down No. 3 maegashira Akinoshima in a battle lasting three minutes and 21 seconds. A sumo bout usually lasts five or 10 seconds.

No. 8 maegashira Kyokushuzan, or Mongolian Batbayar Davaa, threw down No. 15 maegashira Dewaarashi for his fifth victory against five defeats. Dewaarashi is 1-6 with three absences.

In the juryo division, just below the top makuuchi division, No. 9-ranked Hoshitango, or Argentine Imach Marcelo Salomon, slapped down No. 4-ranked Ooikari (3-7) for his eighth victory against two defeats.

No. 6-ranked Kyokutenho, or Mongolian Tsevegnyam Nyamjav, was sent out by No. 1-ranked Oohinode. Both wrestlers stood at 5-5.

In makushita, the top junior division, No. 19-ranked Hoshiandesu (3-2), or Argentine Jose Antonio Juarez, drove out No. 22-ranked Hokutoriki.

In the lowest-ranked division of jonokuchi, No. 18-ranked Kuniuzuma (5-0), or Brazilian Vander Ramos, crushed No. 27-ranked Ueyama.

Wrestlers in junior divisions have only seven bouts during the tournament.

IVYBL . . .

Continued from page 28

extending "goods sportsmanship" to the youngsters.

"I'm really happy there is a youth basketball league. It keeps my younger brother busy and it keeps him off the streets," said Evelyn Kani, who was cheering on the Capitol Hill Starz.

The first girl basketball player in the IVYBL roster goes to San

Antonio's Zelda Magofna. Playing the position of guard, Magofna is a fine player and seems at ease on the basketball court. Her shots are timed and well placed. She is aggressive and well disciplined, a basketball fan said.

Tonight's basketball game is between the visiting Tanapag going against the youths from Oleai. The basketball game starts at 6:30 p.m. at Oleai basketball court next to Oleai Elementary School.

Rodman to hang Jersey

By CHRIS SHERIDAN
NEW YORK (AP) — Dennis Rodman, the colorful, pierced and tattooed seven-time National Basketball Association rebounding leader, has decided to retire from basketball, his agent said Tuesday.

"He doesn't want to play," agent Dwight Manley said. "He wants to go into the sports and entertainment field. Some people have convinced him that he wants to become a movie star."

Manley said the Chicago Bulls forward gave him the news late this afternoon over the telephone.

He is retiring even though several teams are interested in him,

Manley said. He declined to be specific.

"I don't think that would be fair to those teams," he said.

Rodman won three championships with the Chicago Bulls in 1996, 1997 and 1998, and two titles with the Detroit Pistons in 1989 and 1990.

His career was also marked by outrageous antics, which include: dating Madonna; flying off to gamble in Las Vegas several times a month; marrying actress Carmen Electra and then seeking an annulment; and dressing in drag at his book signing.

Rodman also made an appearance as a professional wrestler

over the summer and said he would like to continue doing that.

"I'm not going to represent him anymore," said Manley, who was obviously miffed at his star client's decision.

Manley refused to predict whether Rodman would change his mind, but said his decision to stop representing him "is irreversible."

Rodman's retirement brings further drama to the breakup of the Bulls.

In the past week, Michael Jordan has retired and Scottie Pippen, Luc Longley and Steve Kerr have agreed to sign-and-trade deals sending them to Houston, Phoenix and San Antonio, respectively



Rodman, the colorful and controversial seven-time NBA rebounding leader, has decided to retire from professional basketball, his agent said Tuesday. In the past week, Michael Jordan has retired and Scottie Pippen, Luc Longley and Steve Kerr have agreed to sign-and-trade deals sending them to Houston, Phoenix and San Antonio, respectively.

Broncos defense looking to win second Superbowl

By JOHN MOSSMAN
DENVER (AP) — The Denver Broncos' defense is in a rut, and what a lovely rut it is.

The Broncos have held their two playoff opponents to identical anemic rushing totals — 14 yards on 13 carries.

One more effort like that, and the Broncos figure they can start sizing their second straight Super Bowl championship rings.

In an AFC divisional playoff game on Jan. 9, the Broncos shut down Karim Abdul-Jabbar and the Miami running attack, forcing Dan Marino to try to win the game by himself. Marino was not up to the task, and Denver romped 38-3.

In Sunday's AFC championship game, Curtis Martin and his New York Jets teammates were similarly stuffed. Even though Vinny Testaverde threw for 356 yards, he had two passes intercepted and the Broncos won 23-10.

In the last four games, in fact, the Broncos have been superb against the run, yielding a combined 88 yards on 67 carries for a per-carry average of only 1.3 yards.

It is the same sort of late-season surge the defense mounted a year ago. Denver struggled against the run for most of the 1997 regular season and finished a mediocre 16th in the National Football League, allowing 112.7 yards per game. They yielded

47 yards per carry, the highest ever for a Super Bowl champion, but tightened their run defense in the playoffs.

This year, they improved to No. 3, allowing 80.4 yards per game and 3.6 yards per carry, but have been even better the last month.

"We have veteran leadership," defensive end Neil Smith said Tuesday, "and I think we just know when it's time to turn it on late in the year."

On Jan. 31, the Broncos will try to turn it on again in the Super Bowl against Atlanta's Jamal Anderson, who finished second in the NFL to Denver's Terrell Davis with 1,846 yards rushing.



American Michael Chang hits a return during his center court match against Mark Philippoussis of Australia at the Australian Open Tennis Championships in Melbourne, Wednesday.

Moya out of Australian Open

By ROHAN SULLIVAN
MELBOURNE, Australia (AP) — French Open champion Carlos Moya, knocked out in the first round of the Australian Open Tuesday by Germany's Nicolas Kiefer, blamed a virus and plunging confidence for the loss.

The No. 4 seed was out-hit by the powerful No. 37-ranked

Kiefer, who won 6-7 (7-9), 6-4, 7-6, (8-6), 6-3 in 3 hours, 21 minutes.

"He played a lot better than me, I played really bad," Moya said. "I'm not confident at all. It happens."

Kiefer, 21, was a quarterfinalist at this tournament last year while Moya was out in the second round.

Moya, 22, recovered from that setback to beat fellow-Spaniard Alex Corretja in the French Open and reach the semifinals at the U.S. Open.

Moya said his normally attacking game was hampered by a lingering influenza virus which he picked up as soon as he arrived in Australia earlier this month.

More money may mean less playing

By DOUG FERGUSON
ORLANDO, Florida (AP) — Two weeks gone, halfway home to a million.

A year ago, it took until the third week of February before anyone on the PGA Tour climbed past the \$500,000 mark in season earnings. David Duval was the first, but only after two top-10 finishes in California, a tie for 27th at Phoenix, then a win at Tucson.

Jeff Sluman just spent the first two weeks of the year in Hawaii and returned to the mainland with \$531,050, thanks to a tie for 13th in the season-opening Mercedes Championships and winning the Sony Open in Honolulu last week.

The good news for the PGA and its rich new world of golf is this: Sluman has not said anything about taking the rest of the year off.

At least not yet.

As the PGA embarks on a year in which total prize money is up 40 percent to \$1.32 billion, one of the concerns is that more will mean less — the more money a player makes, the less he is likely to play.

"It's conceivable," Duval said, "that come the U.S. Open, there might be a player at \$3.5 million if you win the right events. That's all great. He could say, 'I'll take off and see y'all at the Tour Championship.'"

"The problem with that is you're going to lose some competitive sharpness. And you might lose it for a long time."

Phil Mickelson can attest to that.

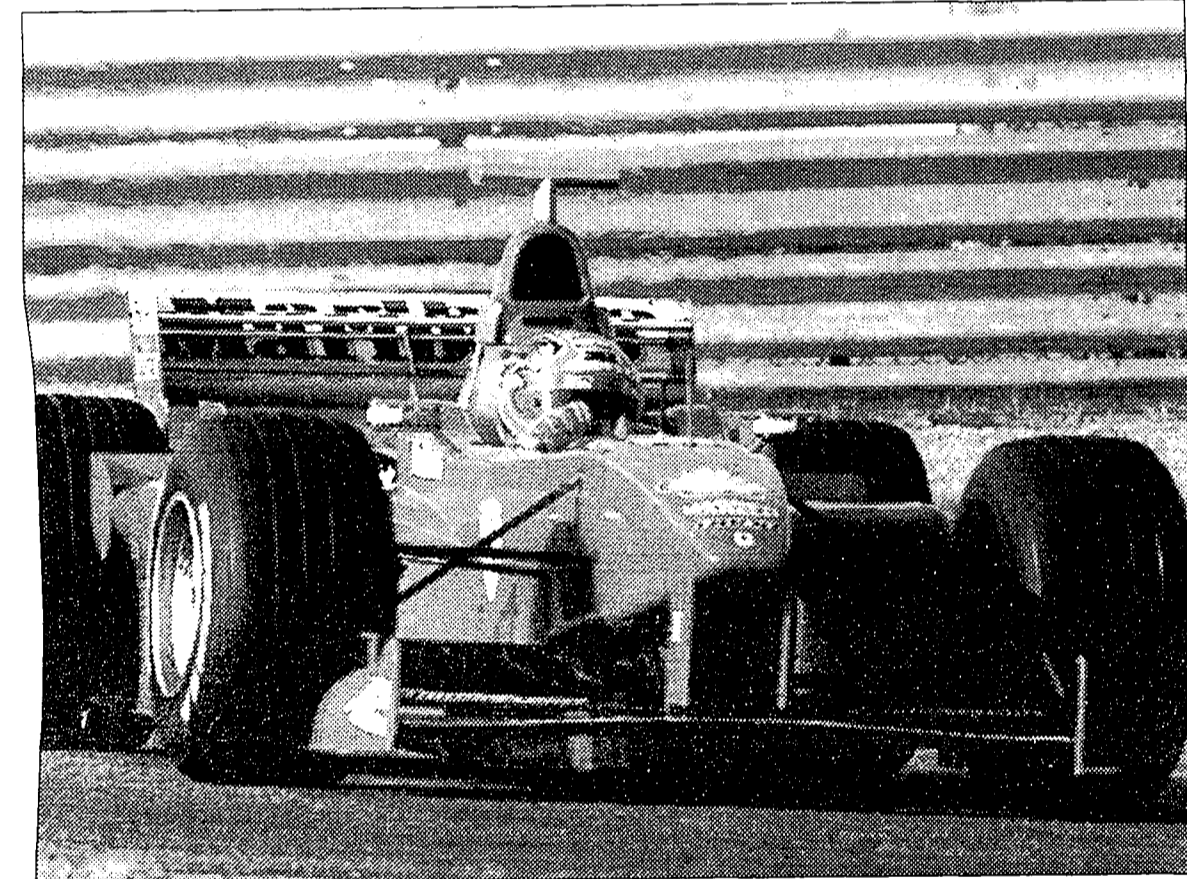
A year ago, he won at Pebble Beach and was runner-up in the Sprint International and World Series to move from 13th to second on the money list. Mickelson took the next six weeks off and returned in style — he missed the cut at Las Vegas, missed the cut at Disney and finished 17th out of 30 players in the Tour Championship.

Commissioner Tim Finchem expects growing pains to come with the largest increase in total prize money since it tripled to about \$450,000 the year after the end of World War II.

At the root of the change are the three World Golf Championships events, which account for one-third of the \$36 million in new money. Finchem's hope is that more players will play more tournaments, instead of taking corporate money for private outings or appearance money overseas.

"This level of prize money allows us to compete more effectively for the attention of our players," he said. "Our focus is to have a system whereby the total number of tournament starts on average by the top 30 or top 50 players is as good or better than it was before."

"I believe that will happen." Tiger Woods already has suggested that he may drop a few tournaments to compensate for the Match Play Championship in late February and the Stroke Play Championship in November.



Four-time motorcycling World Champion Max Biaggi of Italy steers the Ferrari F300 Formula-1 car during his very first lap as a car racer at the Maranello track, Monday.

SPG . . .

Continued from page 28

open up their wallets.

"We have to keep pushing en-

velopes, and it was the sports federations driving it," Guzman said. "Everything before then was just speculation.

Now we have a hard dollar figure to work with.

loss," said a very concerned Smith.

On the bright side, according to information received, a witness — to the incident — had noted seeing a vehicle in the vicinity. The witness further noted unusual activity going on in the area where the tent was located.

According to Smith, the description and vehicle license plate number of the "suspect" vehicle is already known.

The committee has decided to give the perpetrator(s) an opportunity to return the tent or to contact Pacific Trading Company, and advise them of the tent's location.

"Now, our biggest challenge is getting the word out to the public."

Guzman said there are plans for massive fund-raising efforts, including a telethon and other drives.

A waiting period for the tent's return is being extended until Monday afternoon.

If the tent is not returned by that deadline, the committee officials will file a police report and information regarding the description and license plate number of the vehicle, seen by the witness, will be turned over to police, said Smith.

"We hope it does not have to come to involving the police. A race event like this is of benefit to the entire island and should not be ruined by the actions of a few," Smith added.

Organizers. . .

Continued from page 28

Beach after the race.

Most troubling, though, is if the tent is not recovered, the committee will have to use funds from the money being saved to pay for the tent. The money that was raised is intended to send the athletes to the South Pacific Games (SPG).

"The loss of these funds will hurt our chances to send our local triathletes to SPG. We just cannot afford this kind of

SPORTS



IVYBL entertains fans



Zelda Magofna dribbles the ball during the San Antonio vs. Capitol Hill IVYBL action, Tuesday night at Capitol Hill. San Antonio won the ballgame, 39-37. Photo by Tony Celis

By Tony Celis
Variety News Staff

THEY are the youngest organized basketball league players on the local sports scene. And while the Islandwide Village Youth Basketball League (IVYBL) individual players may not be able to dazzle the fans with stunning basketball moves, there is something more special the fans get. The action is pure and exciting.

During Tuesday night's basketball game, San Antonio edged by Starzz, 39-37 in Tuesday night's basketball game at

Capitol Hill.

The referees are more concerned with making sure the young players execute proper basketball techniques, rather than trying to find every foul committed. Part of the IVYBL program is to teach the young hoopster, basic basketball skills.

"With the proper skills learned these youngsters should be able to develop into good basketball players as they get older," said Tony Rogolofoi in an earlier interview.

That concern spills over into the basketball court. A forward

player was called twice for "travelling" on two consecutive possessions. His teammate was heard telling him, "plant your feet, plant your feet".

While some players may be competing on the basketball court for their first time, they nonetheless appear to be giving it all they've got.

Basketball fans are also very supportive of the youngsters. Often times the cheering can be heard, from across the basketball court, most often the fans cheer both teams, in hopes of

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SPORTS NOTES

Tri-Athletes

THE Northern Marianas Islands Triathlon Federation (NMITF) is announcing that both male and female athletes, who are interested in competing in the triathlon event at the 1999 South Pacific Games (SPG), must submit their names and qualifications to NMITF team coach, Stuart Smith by Jan. 30.

The selection process, for individuals wishing to make the team will be based on their performance in the recently concluded Salt & PepperMan Triathlon, as well as upcoming Rota Blue Triathlon, the Tagaman. Other international competition, individual results will also be looked into.

Interested tri-athletes should fax their name and a brief "triathlon resume" to 322-7117, or mail to NMITF PPP 361, Saipan 96950.

SEDA

The Saipan Electronic Darts Association (SEDA), team captain's meeting is scheduled for Sunday, Jan. 24 beginning at 7 p.m. Rudolph's Restaurant in Sadog Tasi, has been selected as site for the meeting.

Team captains are required to be present at the meeting. League officers will hand out the team captain's folders, and discuss the play schedules, and also collect sponsor and player fees.

The league will start on Monday, Jan. 25.

If you have any questions please contact Gary Weakley at telephone 233-4397 or page him at 236-5090.

SPORTS CALENDAR

Thursday, Jan. 21
Youth Volleyball
5 p.m. Zenith vs. Hornets
5 p.m. Aschoscho vs. GCA Eagles (Ada Gym)
IVYBL
6:30 p.m. Tanapag vs. Oleai (Oleai basketball court)

SPG Commission offers a favorable testimony

By Jojo Santo Tomas
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA - "One-hundred twenty-nine days and counting. It's time for Guam to shine in '99."

Those conclusive words were offered by South Pacific Games Executive Director Clifford Guzman following his testimony yesterday in front of senators.

"I get goose bumps just thinking about it," Guzman said. "These Games are going to happen. There's no way we'll duplicate the embarrassment of 1975, not if I have anything to do with them."

The SPG commission, along with Guam National Olympic Committee president Rick Blas, presented a status update to legislators as the Games loom just four months away.

They established, conclusively, that although there has been much accomplished, there is much more to be done, and it will take the support of the entire community.

Additionally, the Games organizers are trying to spread the confidence they share with a message - the returns to our island and its people are incalculable.



Clifford Guzman South Pacific Games Organizing Committee

able.

The price tag for the Games sits at \$6.4 million, with food being the biggest expense at \$2.6 million. Other expenses include venues, sports equipment, the Athletes Village, security, ceremonies and marketing.

The returns are just as promising. Media coverage alone will result in \$5 million in benefits, Guzman said.

Guzman said the biggest hurdle overcome in the last month was establishing what exactly the individual sports federations needed.

Since then, it's become easier to establish the Games schedule and planning becomes easier.

Now, it's time for Guam to

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Organizers asking for return of tent

By Tony Celis
Variety News Staff

WHILE the committee of the 1999 Salt & Pepper Triathlon were busy wrapping up last minute details after Sunday's triathlon race, not-so-honorable member(s) of society were also busy at "work".

Stuart Smith, organizer of the triathlon event that took place over this past weekend, regrettably has informed the Variety that a canopy tent, belonging to Pacific Trading Co. was taken without by unknown person(s), without permission, from the PauPau Beach area.

Sometime during Sunday night, the tent described as being "large" with the "Lite Beer" logo affixed to it was stolen.

"This tent was generously loaned to us by Pacific Trading Company," said Smith.

The tent was used for shelter during the athletes party at PauPau

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BANMI league stats

TEAM	W	L	TEAM	W	L
Brothers	2	0	Oi'Aces	1	1
Team Lite	2	1	STS	1	1
Stevedore	2	1	Hooters	0	2
Local Stars	2	1	Flyers	0	3

Top scorers	TEAM	GP	T/PTS.	AVE.
Peter Camacho	Lite	3	78	26.0
George Masga	Local Stars	3	72	24.0
Edward Diaz	Brothers	2	46	23.0
Ranno Reyes	STS	2	44	22.0
Banjo Basila	STS	2	43	21.5
Abong Camacho	Oi'Aces	2	43	21.5
Dado Vistal	Stevedore	3	64	21.3
Winsor Peter	Lite	3	59	19.6
Bobeth Deleon	STS	2	38	19.0
Jason Raphael	Oi'Aces	2	37	18.5
Jess Dela Cruz	Brothers	2	37	18.0
Dave Sablan	Flyers	3	53	17.6
Keith Gardner	Stevedore	3	53	17.6

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