

## NATO, US forces bomb Yugoslavia

By **ROBERT H. REID**  
**BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP)** — Wave after wave of NATO warplanes and missiles struck Yugoslavia into the early hours Thursday, pummeling army barracks, powerplants and air defense batteries to try to force the country's defiant leader to cease his onslaught against Kosovo Albanians.

The NATO attack came after months of diplomacy failed to end fighting that has killed more than 2,000 people in Kosovo and left over 400,000 homeless in the past year.

"Only firmness now can prevent greater catastrophe later," U.S. President Bill Clinton said. "Kosovo's crisis is now full-blown and if we do not act clearly it will get even worse."

The Yugoslav army declared a state of war shortly after the first wave of attacks, which lasted about three hours. Lt. Gen. Nebojsa Pavkovic, commander of Yugoslav troops in Kosovo, said 40 targets were attacked in the first waves, but damage was "minimal" and "the morale of the troops has been preserved."

He also claimed that two NATO planes and six cruise missiles were shot down, and a Belgrade television station reported a German pilot was believed to have safely evacuated his aircraft. But NATO and Western officials repeatedly said all aircraft had returned safely from the overnight campaign.

German Defense Minister Rudolf Scharping said without

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Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio (left) and Lt. Gov. Jesus Sablan (right) assist schoolkids in cutting the ribbon for the new Dandan Elementary School yesterday. BOE chairperson Esther Fleming (center) assists the two officials, as Rep. Karl Reyes looks over.  
Photo by Louie C. Alonso

# 'Stop Saipan scam'

By **Zaldy Dandan**  
Variety News Staff

SAYING that the time has come to "shut down the scam [on] Saipan," a US House Republican is asking his colleagues to co-sponsor legislation that would prohibit local garment products from using the "Made in USA" label and enjoying duty-free privileges.

US Congressman Bob Franks (R-New Jersey), in a "Dear Republican Colleague" letter, said "Communist Chinese... sweatshops [with] abused and ill-treated indentured labor" are taking advantage of a "legal loophole" that allows them to ship \$1 billion-worth of garment products into the mainland US duty free "as if they were actually made by American citizens—at a cost to



Bob Franks

taxpayers of over \$200 million a year!"

Franks said allowing CNMI garment products the use of "Made in USA" labels is "an outrageous taxpayer and consumer rip-off."

Citing a report from the Insight Magazine of the conservative Washington Times, Franks said the "scam" is estimated to destroy some 20,000 American jobs a year.

"[T]he damage to our economy is accelerating dramatically," he said. "Imports from Saipan are growing at the astounding rate of 45 percent a year—fueled predominantly by loopholes in US law that encourage US consumer deception and taxpayer abuse by foreign interests."

Franks said his bill, "The Made in USA Label Protection Act of 1999," seeks to "stop an outrageous scam that is hurting American consumers, ripping off American taxpayers and destroying tens of thousands of American jobs."

Franks made no mention of "re-

forming" the CNMI's labor and immigration policies by extending appropriate federal laws as proposed by the only other pending bill in the US House that would directly affect the islands' garment industry—H.R. 730, which is co-sponsored by US Reps. George Miller's (D-California) and John Spratt (D-South Carolina).

A member of the House Budget Committee and of the Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, Franks has been described as a "national leader in promoting revitalization of the manufacturing sector of the economy."

He is a recipient of citations from the National Taxpayers' Union, the Citizens Against Government Waste and the anti-budget deficit Concord Coalition.

## New Dandan School opens

By **Louie C. Alonso**  
Variety News Staff

THE PUBLIC School System yesterday inaugurated the Dandan Elementary School which will accommodate an increasing number of students in the area.

Education officials headed by PSS Commissioner Rita H. Inos and Board of Education Chairperson Esther Fleming welcomed parents and students to the newly-built school facility.

Dandan Elementary School has a total of 16 classrooms, a multi-purpose building, cafeteria, administration building, kindergarten building and a special education room.

The school's acting principal, Frances Taimanao, said the

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## Rush on for auto insurance compliance

By **Rene P. Acosta**  
Variety News Staff

VEHICLE owners trying to beat the deadline for compulsory automobile insurance have been flooding the offices of various insurance firms on the island, it was learned yesterday.

In an effort to comply with the newly enacted law which will take effect three days from today, motorists have been queuing up at insurance companies.

Meanwhile, the Department of Public Safety yesterday called

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## 3 Guerreros to join Froilan's Reform Party

By **Zaldy Dandan**  
Variety News Staff

FORMER governor Lorenzo I. DL Guerrero, former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Ramon S. Guerrero and former Saipan mayor Jesus S. Guerrero are joining the newly-formed Commonwealth Reform Party, according to former governor Froilan C. Tenorio.

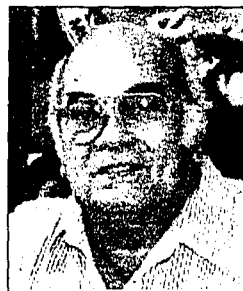
In an interview yesterday, Tenorio at the same time said he will be the new party's candidate for governor in 2001, but added that "if we come up with a better candidate I will endorse



Lorenzo I. DL Guerrero



Ray S. Guerrero



Jesus S. Guerrero

him."

The Guerreros—all former Republicans—supported Tenorio, whose running mate was the former mayor, in the 1997 elections.

Tenorio ran against Lorenzo I. DL Guerrero, whose campaign manager was Ray S. Guerrero, in the 1989 and 1993 elections.

A former Democrat, Tenorio said the Democratic Party's act-

ing chair, former Saipan mayor Jose S. Rios, and his predecessor, Lupe Borja, have also expressed willingness to join the new party.

"I hope nothing will be left of the Democrats, but I think [former lieutenant governor Jesus C. Borja's faction] will do their own thing.

Asked to comment on the new party, Borja, who ran with Tenorio in 1993 and against him in 1997, said "Good luck."

"I have had enough of the Democratic Party," Tenorio

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# CUC wants bidders ranked

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff

THE COMMONWEALTH Utilities Corp. (CUC) yesterday moved to have an independent firm rank qualified bidders for the controversial \$120-million power plant project in an apparent effort to satisfy protesting companies and ensure a stable power supply.

Burns & McDonnell International, said CUC Executive Director Timothy Villagomez, needs at least two months to complete its second phase of the review, raising hopes the stalled power plant project may finally get off the ground by June this year.

In its first phase of the review, Burns & McDonnell was able to narrow down qualified bidders from 13 to nine. The CUC's selection committee had six.

"The intent here is to try to resolve some of the ongoing protests basically, so that we can move forward with this and get it out of the way," said Villagomez, in an interview with reporters following a CUC Board meeting at the Pacific Gardenia Hotel's conference room.

Villagomez said Burns & McDonnell will immediately be given a notice to proceed with the ranking.

David B. Howe, vice president of the Enron International, a competing bidder, expressed satisfaction with the CUC move, saying it is the "right step."

Enron was behind Marubeni-Sithe, CUC's chosen firm, by a slight margin.

"The announcement that CUC will (have) Burns & McDonnell

review best and final proposals is what we have been proposing all along. We think it is the right step for the people of Saipan," said Howe, also in an interview with reporters following the CUC Board meeting.

"We will rank wherever we rank," said Howe, when asked if he is confident Enron will be first under Burns & McDonnell's list. He said Enron's proposal is "extremely competitive."

"All we have been asking for simply is that the playing field be leveled and the all issues be reviewed properly. We feel strongly that our proposal is extremely competitive. We are certain that we will have a capable and comprehensive review," said Howe.

The legal battle over which firm

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# Incentives readied for investors at FTZ

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
Variety News Staff

THE GOVERNMENT has finalized a list of incentives that would be given to investors who would wish to establish businesses in the CNMI's free trade zones, FTZ sub-committee chairman Bob Jones disclosed.

Jones said the Department of Finance is mandated by enabling legislation to establish a Special Rebate Trust account for the FTZ investors' deposits, which cannot be commingled with other government funds.

He said the CNMI offers many non-cash incentives to encourage investors to establish business in the Commonwealth and to undertake infrastructure responsibilities.

Non-cash incentives include duty-free privileges on imports

and up to 100 percent corporate tax rebates depending on the training and investment benefit to the local residents.

CNMI is also exempted from the Jones Act or the US Merchant Marine Act of 1920 which restricts foreign carriers from transporting any cargo from the US to the island.

This prevents higher freight rates since American vessels cannot monopolize the transportation of all CNMI-bound cargo.

Also, foreign flag vessels often have freight rates that are lower than American flag carriers. The expected increase in the volume of cargo, as well as the reduction in the existing high freight rates, will ultimately reduce the cost of living in both

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# Relatives of sexual assault victim apprehend suspect

By Jacob Leon Guerrero  
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — Police officers were called to a Mongmong residence early yesterday morning regarding the sexual assault of a 15-year-old girl.

Twenty-year-old Trono Pickop, of Mongmong, was arrested in connection with the incident.

According to police spokesman Ron Taitano, family members of the victim notified the authorities that they apprehended a man in their house who they said had sexually assaulted the girl inside the house.

The victim's mother told the police that early yesterday morning she woke up and found that her daughter was not in her bed. When she went inside the living

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# Sewer project faces more delays

By Jojo Dass  
Variety News Staff

THE snagged \$4.9 million sewer line project, which stretches from the airport to Aguingan, appears headed for more delay after the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. (CUC) yesterday insisted it is not paying for liquidated damages being claimed by the contractor on grounds of a stop work order temporarily issued last year by the Commonwealth Ports Authority for lack of funds.

Utilities Executive Director Timothy Villagomez, in an interview with reporters, explained the liquidated damages fall outside a recent memorandum of understanding reached between CPA and CUC, under which the latter agrees to shoulder a certain portion of the total project cost.

"There is a dilemma here wherein the contractor is claiming some liquidated damages as a result of the stop order. I want to go on record that it has nothing to do with CUC. That is between CPA and the contractor.

Once that thing is resolved, I would be more than happy to proceed with this project," said Villagomez.

"If CPA wishes to pay these people, they should do so outside of the MOA.

It is not fair for CUC to be penalized or to be part of the penalty for damages that have been incurred outside of this contract," he stressed.

Villagomez said a new bidding process will not be necessary once CUC takes over the sewer line's construction. He added however that it is the contractor's prerogative to decide whether it will hold on to the project.

"The Legislature wants to see this project go through. I want to see this project go through. The CPA wants to see this project go through. But the problem is the contractor has some legitimate claims.

"If the contractor refuses to do this work because of this thing, they have their right and I don't think the blame should be cast on CUC," said Villagomez.

Ravindra Gogineni, general manager of the Pacific Drilling Co., the project's contractor, in a separate interview said the company is still "trying to work things out with CPA."

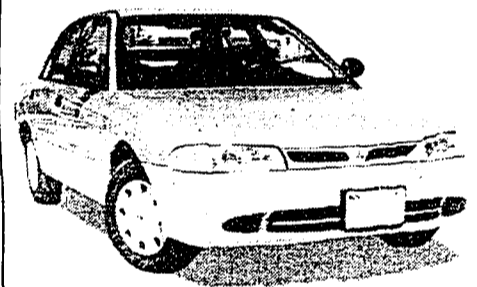

The company has said it has incurred equipment standby expenses due to the project's temporary suspension.

Variety tried but failed to reach CPA Executive Director Carlos Salas as he was in a meeting as of press time yesterday afternoon.


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Northern Marianas Protection & Advocacy Systems, Inc. (NMPASI) congratulates each of the participants in the "Americans with Disabilities Act" (ADA) Employment Conference held last week - "each of you represents a very small fraction of our population with the type of insight about the ADA that you now possess".

NMPASI further acknowledges that the opportunity could not have been afforded to you without generous support from the following co-sponsors:

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## Youth suicide in Micronesia said to be highest in world

By EILEEN O. OREIRO

*For the Variety*  
**KOROR (Palau Horizon)** — Youth suicide rate in Micronesia is one of the highest in the world, according to a prominent Supreme Court Judge.

Speaking before the 6th Belau Women's Conference held at the Palau Community College Cafeteria, Palau Supreme Court Associate Justice Janet Weeks noted that the suicide rate in Micronesia among youth ranges from 20 to 240 per 100,000, depending on the island.

Suicide rate is outstandingly high among males. According to Weeks, of completed suicides in Micronesia, 93 percent is male against seven percent rate among females.

Average age of suicide victims is in the range of 15 to 30 years old.

Oftentimes, suicide victims die in a gruesome way as statistics show that 85 percent is committed by hanging against nine percent by gunshot and six percent by poisoning and other means.

In Samoa, there is a quaint way of committing suicide among youth. Figures show that 81 percent of the suicides is committed by taking "paraquat," a deadly weed poison.

Weeks reported that in Guam, for every completed suicide, there are at least four times as many attempts. "That means 80 to 960 persons in 100,000 have tried taking their own lives; some were successful, some not," she noted.

For 1998 alone, there were 34 reported suicide cases in Guam.

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Sixth-grade Frank M. Borja (left) interacts with first-graders Jesileen Iglecias, Tracy Sanchez, and Marton Conner during the weekly Buddy Reading Program at Tinian Elementary School. Contributed photo

## PSS temporarily suspends kindergarten registration

By Louie C. Alonso  
*Variety News Staff*

THE PUBLIC School System is temporarily suspending the registration of kindergarten students for the next school year until it finds sufficient funds to finance the operations.

Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos told school administrators during a meeting yesterday that once the school system finds ways and means to afford kindergarten, PSS will register the students in a later date.

"Right now we are just registering first grades....we don't want to give false hopes so we are not yet registering kindergarten

levels," Inos told the principals. Principal Rep. Evelyn Manglona said if PSS could identify resources as soon as possible, it may open-up registration for kindergarten levels in the summer.

The commissioner reminded the principals that PSS is not mandated by law to retain the provision of kindergarten education. "We should take care of what is mandated first," Inos added.

But she also clarified that prioritizing primary grade levels does not mean that kindergarten level is not essential to children's education.

Inos said that if the community

is concerned about the early childhood program, the school system will be putting the kindergarten students to headstart 4 and 5.

Under the law, PSS is mandated to serve students between the ages of 6 to 16 years old, which is from the primary grade levels to high school.

At present, the education system is offering kindergarten program at its own expense.

In early reports, Inos said that if funds to be used for the basic services of children from 6 to 16 years old continued to decrease, PSS would take a priority of eliminating the kindergarten level.

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## To discuss budget needs

# Teno consults NMI mayors

By Aldwin R. Fajardo  
*Variety News Staff*

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio is meeting today with CNMI mayors to finalize plans that would help the Administration make deeper cuts in budgetary allocations due to the continued decline of government resources.

Tenorio said his Administration is still to decide on proposals to cut personnel cost by 10 percent across-the-board but he expressed optimism that the issue will be resolved during his meeting with island mayors.

"We have not decided yet on plans to reduce personnel cost by 10 percent across the board but I would be meeting with governor's council in trying to make a final preparation for the submission of the budget to the legislature," he told reporters yesterday.

The governor said he would bring up to the attention of the island mayors the inevitable need to further reduce the government's expenditures in light of the dramatic drop in revenue projections for the next fiscal year.

The mayors of Saipan, Northern Islands, Rota and Tinian make up the so-called Governor's Council which the chief executive convenes yearly for budget consulta-



Pedro P. Tenorio

tion purposes. "I would ask and inform mayors from various islands that we have to be mindful of the resources that we have," he said, adding that the budget will have to be submitted to the legislature before the end of the month.

He stressed that the FY-2000 proposed budget will have to reflect conservative revenue projections as ruled out suggestions

that his Administration resort to deficit spending to continue to effectively run the government.

"The budget would be balanced which means whatever resources that we have, we have to expend within the available means," he added.

As this developed, the Saipan Municipal Office has begun discussions on more cost-cutting measures following the Administration's cropped budget ceiling which is almost 50 percent lower than the office's original budget request, according to Acting Mayor David Igitol.

In an earlier interview, Igitol said some of the ideas thrown out to cope with the drastic cut-down of budget implemented by the Office of Management and Budget include the reduction in personnel cost.

He added that the budget ceiling is very low that it is almost 50 percent less than the municipal office's original request. He re-



David Igitol

sused to say how much budget is the Mayor's Office asking for the fiscal year 2000.

Igitol also said that one drastic measure being looked at seriously right now is retrenchment although this is in the least of the office's priority.

He stressed that the Mayor's Office is still weighing its options although he dropped strong hints that it would be either the 10 per-

cent reduction in manpower hours or an abatement of personnel costs by retrenchment.

He said the 10 percent across the board reduction in personnel cost has been the primary target by all government agencies in reference to next fiscal year's budget ceiling.

Projected government earnings for fiscal year 2000 dropped by two percent to \$206 million paving the way for tighter budget allocation, lower spending plan and more cost-cutting measures.

In anticipation of the further decline in revenues which is feared to hit rock bottom during the next fiscal year, the governor has instructed financial managers to come up with a workable plan of action.

Tenorio was wary that revenue collections would sink deeper during the next fiscal year as he expressed concerns on the capability of the government to arrest its corresponding consequences like payless paydays.

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### Man convicted for splashing betel nut chew on woman's face

By Ferdie de la Torre  
*Variety News Staff*

A TAXI driver was convicted for slamming chewed betelnut at a woman's face during a 1997 confrontation at a parking lot in San Antonio.

Superior Court Associate Judge Timothy Bellas at a bench trial said based on evidence presented the court finds beyond reasonable doubt that Juan G. Muna was guilty of assault and battery.

The charges carry a maximum penalty of one year imprisonment and \$1,000 fine, according to Assistant Atty. Gen. Colin Thompson who successfully prosecuted the defendant.

Bellas set the sentencing for Muna on April 14.

Muna assaulted Waraporn Relyea, a Thai taxi driver, at the parking lot of the Pacific Islands Club on Oct. 26, 1997, court records showed.

According to court documents, the victim was sitting on a table with her sister and a friend waiting for taxi cabs when Muna came and started yelling at her.

The defendant then took a betelnut from his mouth and threw it on the victim's face.

Muna admitted in court that he threw the betelnut but stated he had no intention to hit the woman.

Muna said he told the victim to drive slow and the victim asked for a fight.

Apparently, Muna wanted to control the taxi business at PIC.

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### Camp Hyatt Easter Camp



Kids play ball at a previous Camp Hyatt.

SPRING Break kicks off with a special Easter Camp brought to Saipan's youth by Hyatt Regency Saipan with a program that will run Monday thru Thursday from 9:00 am to 3:00 pm. Hyatt said in a news release.

Kids will enjoy swimming, arts and crafts, music, gardening, games, and much more. Camp is priced at \$95 per session. The week will end with a poolside

party for the whole family. All kids who enroll in the Easter Camp will be invited free of charge to participate in the famous Hyatt Easter Egg Hunt on Easter Sunday.

Camp Hyatt is designed for children between the ages of 3 and 12.

For more information about Camp Hyatt, Please call Denise Hewitt at 234-1234 ext. 25.

### DPH, PSS in health tie-up

By Louie C. Alonso  
Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Health is tying up with the Public School System in its continuous efforts to promote a healthy lifestyle among the CNMI's youth.

Chailang Palacios, DPH health promotion and wellness coordinator, told PSS principals yesterday about the public health department's goal of bringing a healthier and more physically fit CNMI aging community.

She asked the principals to continue the School-based Nutrition and Physical Activity Partnership Program (SNAPP) and to let the students have a walking activity at least once a month.

Palacios also encouraged the school administrators to include the manamkos in their activities as part of a DPH program dubbed, "Healthy Aging Begins Early in Life."

Public Health's other activities include the discussion of the manamko physical activity day in

all schools.

According to Public Health, it was suggested that schools compete in inviting manamkos and walking with them.

The activity could take place in September or October and the reward would be sports equipment.

DPH will also have a teen symposium on April 10 at the Hyatt Regency Hotel where it will tackle different issues concerning the local youth which includes controversial topics like teenage par-

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TES sixth-grade A & B Honor Roll students gather for a photo. Front row, left to right: Matua Villagomez (B), Gerald Mundo (B), Rita Borja (B), and Jodyann Adriano (B). Back row: Christian Manahana (B), Ringo Reyes (B), Carl Cepeda (B), and Nathan Diaz (A). Not shown are Lina Evangelista (B) and Joewayne Cruz (B).

### BPL proposes rules change

THE BOARD of Professional Licensing pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, gives notice that is proposes to amend its Rules of Professional Conduct for Engineers, Architects, Land Surveyors and Landscape Architects.

Interested persons may obtain

copies of the proposed amendments from the Board's office located on the 2nd floor of the Island Commercial Center Building, Middle Road, Gualo Rai, Saipan.

Anyone interested in commenting on the proposed amendments may do so within 30 days from the date it was published in the Commonwealth Register on March 18.

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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

## Fireworks tonight

THE International House of Prayer, out of Osaka, Japan and Tokushima Memorial Group will be sponsoring an hour long fireworks display at the grounds of the Marianas Hotel tonight, March 26, starting at 8 pm. "We recently wrote letters to all memorial groups that have monuments/shrines in the CNMI, inviting them back to perform their religious ceremonies. We have received good responses from them and have in fact coordinated several services in the past few months," said Perry Tenorio, MVA's Managing Director. "We are happy to assist with memorial arrangements for IHOP again this year for their IHOP again this year for their

Continued on page 42

## Humanities Council pushes for family literacy program

By Loule C. Alonso  
Variety News Staff

THE HUMANITIES Council is pushing for the implementation of the family literacy program in the Commonwealth as part of its recognition on the importance of parental involvement in children's education.

The council has been taking extra efforts in encouraging families to adopt its Motherhead/

Fatheread program.

The program is a nationally recognized and highly-acclaimed literacy development one designed to train parents of young children to use selected storybooks and a variety of interactive activities to develop children's reading, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.

Yesterday, program trainer Ivan Propst spoke before the public

school principals on the importance of literacy and the role of parents and the entire family in the local education system.

The council is asking some help from the principals to encourage parents to provide quality reading/storytelling time with their children.

"We need volunteers to improve the resources that school has to

Continued on page 42

## Advocacy group lauds Hofschneider



From left, Antonio LG Cabrera, GDCC Planner; Lydia M. Sablan, GDCC Chairwoman; Arlene A. Yamagata (back), GDCC Program Officer; Henry U. Hofschneider, Tinian Administrative Services Officer; and Thomas J. Camacho, GDCC Executive Director.

For the Variety ADMINISTRATIVE Services Officer (ASO) for Tinian Public School System (TPSS) Henry U. Hofschneider was honored Saturday for his efforts to employ the developmentally disabled.

The ASO acts as the support unit for TPSS in such areas as fiscal and budget, food and nutrition, housing, maintenance, payroll, personnel, procurement and supply, and transportation.

The honor was bestowed in celebration of March as the Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

The CNMI Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council (GDCC) held this year's annual Recognition Award Luncheon at the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

Before the luncheon, GDCC Executive Director Thomas J. Camacho sent a letter to Hofschneider that read in part, "The GDCC is proud to recognize those employers in both the public and private sectors who pave the way for people with developmental disabilities in the area of employment."

Camacho's letter went on to say, "It is our pleasure to announce that Administrative Services Office—PSS Tinian has been selected to receive a recognition award for improving the lives of

Continued on page 42

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<b>Real-Fresh Milk</b> (32 oz.) <b>\$13.95</b> c/s	<b>Kellogg's Cocoa Krispies</b> (15 oz) <b>\$3.39</b>	<b>Kellogg's Corn Pops</b> (10.9 oz) <b>\$2.99</b>	<b>BAR-S Jumbo Franks Hotdog</b> <b>89¢</b>	<b>Tiger Shrimps</b> 16/20 1 lb <b>\$6.95</b>	<b>Pork Chop (family bag)</b> <b>\$13.95</b>
<b>Sugar 4.4 lbs</b> <b>\$1.29</b>	<b>Chicken Noodle Soup</b> 10.5 oz. <b>79¢</b>	<b>Bounty Paper Towel</b> White <b>\$1.39</b>	<b>Best Foods Mayonnaise</b> (32 oz) <b>\$3.69</b>	<b>Flank Steak</b> <b>\$17.95</b> bag	<b>Beef Shortribs (family bag)</b> <b>\$17.95</b>
<b>MARY KITCHEN Corned Beef Hash</b> 15 oz <b>\$1.69</b>	<b>Hormel (Corned Beef)</b> (12 oz.) <b>\$1.19</b>	<b>MASTER A-1 Tuna</b> <b>89¢</b> Tree Diamond Tuna <b>99¢</b>	<b>DEL MONTE Whole Corn</b> <b>.69¢</b>	<b>Beef Stew</b> <b>\$12.95</b> bag	<b>Ribeye (family bag)</b> <b>\$17.95</b>
<b>Armour Vienna Sausage</b> (9.25 oz) <b>\$1.29</b>	<b>MORTON Salt</b> <b>59¢</b>	<b>Golden State Vinegar</b> (1 gal) <b>\$2.39</b>	<b>TANG</b> (20 Q/T) <b>\$8.95</b>	<b>Ground Beef</b> (10 lbs.) <b>\$15.95</b>	<b>Portuguese Sausage</b> <b>\$1.95</b>
<b>MACKEREL</b> <b>89¢ lb</b>	<b>Imitation Crab Meat</b> (1 lb) <b>\$1.99</b>	<b>CANDLE (Jar)</b> <b>99¢</b> Each <b>\$11.95</b> c/s	<b>Wonderful</b> (3 kg) <b>\$6.95</b>	<b>BLUE RIBBON Bleach</b> 1 Gal. <b>\$1.39</b>	<b>BAR-S Bacon</b> <b>\$1.99</b>
				<b>BAR-S Chopped Ham</b> (10 lbs.) <b>\$14.95</b>	



## Solomons wants U.S. to reopen Honiara embassy

**HONIARA (Pacnews)** — Solomon Islands Prime Minister, Bartholomew Ulufa'alu wants the United States Government to reopen its embassy in the capital, Honiara.

He said a request had been relayed to the US Embassy in the Papua New Guinea capital, Port Moresby.

The embassy in PNG currently looks after the Solomon Islands.

Radio Australia reports the United States closed its embassy in Honiara in the late 1980's as a cost-cutting measure.

Ulufa'alu said the Government also wanted the European Union to upgrade its office in Honiara to Charge' d' Affaires level.

The European Union has an office in Honiara manned by a delegate, but the Head Office is in Port Moresby.

Prime Minister Ulufa'alu made the announcement following his Government's successful negotiations with the British Government to retain its High Commission in Honiara.

## Elsewhere in the Pacific Court ruling sought on poker machines in American Samoa

**PAGOPAGO (Pacnews)** — An American Samoan Legislator says he will seek a High Court ruling on the fate of poker machines in the territory.

Mauputasi Legislator, Muavaefaatasi Ae Ae Junior, said a court ruling would decide once and for all whether poker machines should be allowed in the territory.

The House of Representatives recently rejected a Senate Bill that would have banned all forms of gambling, including poker machines, from American Samoa.

"It's my last hope to rid our island of these evil machines," said Muavaefaatasi.

He said his colleagues in the House and Senate had wasted so much time on bills aimed at controlling the devices or outlawing them altogether, without any results.

"It's been just talk. There's too much money involved and poker machine owners are too powerful."

Meanwhile, the last pending bill dealing with poker machines, a Senate measure which would hike the annual licensing fee of the gambling devices from \$US1000 to \$US35,000, has been shelved indefinitely in the House of Representatives.

Some member said it was unlikely the bill would muster enough votes to go through, judging from the results of the last gaming bill.

Even Governor Tauese Sunia's administration can't seem to agree on what to do with the poker machines, which were supposed to be banned in 1989, but instead have tripled in number.

Late last year Governor Tauese announced he was going to hike the annual licensing fee of the gambling devices from \$US1000 to \$US35,000, has been shelved indefinitely in the House of Representatives.



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### PNG telecom liberalization earns praises

**PORT MORESBY (Pacnews)** — The South Pacific Forum Secretariat has praised efforts by Papua New Guinea (PNG) to liberalise its telecommunications sector by the year 2001.

The Secretariat's Deputy Secretary General, Josefa Maiava, said PNG had moved ahead of most Forum Island countries in liberalising the sector.

He invited PNG to take a leading role in the forthcoming Forum Communication Policy meeting next month and present papers at the preparatory seminars.

### Fallen Fiji soldier may be given Victoria Cross

**SUVA (Pacnews)** — The elite British Special Air Service (SAS) Unit wants to recognise a Fijian soldier for his gallant fight that claimed his life 27 years ago in a secret war in Oman.

A report in London's Sunday Telegraph said the regiment would ask the Queen and British Prime Minister Tony Blair to give Sergeant Talaiasi Labalaba the Victoria Cross.

The late Sergeant Labalaba was a member of the SAS team that went on a mission, code-named Battle of Mirbat, in 1972. He died at the age of 29.

The newspaper report said his comrades still remember him as their Fijian war hero who fought for six hours to hold off some 400 communist rebels.

The young soldier single-handedly operated a 25 pound gun, a job normally done by three men, as he fired at point blank range at the advancing rebels and saving the lives of his comrades, the report said.

The report said more than half the enemy were killed or wounded before Sergeant Labalaba, who had already been shot in the chin, was killed by a bullet through his neck.

Fiji's only Victoria Cross recipient is Corporal Sefanaia Sukanaivalu, who was killed in the Papua New Island of Bougainville during the Second World War.

### New Vanuatu president calls for national unity

**PORT VILA (Pacnews)** — Vanuatu's new President, Father John Bani, has called for national unity.

He was elected to the high office yesterday.

Previously, Father Bani was active in the independent movement alongside the late Father Walter Lini and current Prime Minister, Donald Kalpokas.

Soon after his election, the Anglican priest said his country's national problems could only be solved if people united.

"We must come to a point where we recognise our problems and be able to put ourselves in them and find ways of solving them. But the important thing is to unite ourselves," Father Bani said.

### Uncertainty in top police post

**SUVA (Pacnews)** — Fiji's Police Commissioner, Isikia Savua's position remains uncertain because the Constitutional Services Commission, the body responsible for making new appointments, is yet to be established.

Savua's contract expires in six days.

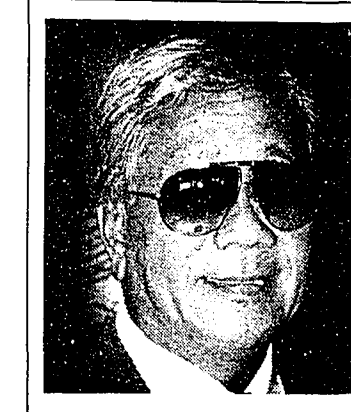
The Disciplined Services Commission said it did have powers to appoint Police Commissioners under the new Constitution.

According to Secretary-General to Parliament, Mary Chapman, the Government was in the process of establishing the Constitutional Services Commission.

She would confide the commission would be ready in a week's time.

## Palau seeks sewage solutions

By MALOU L. SAYSON  
For the Variety  
**KOROR (Palau Horizon)** — Experts say the "ponds and wetlands interface system (PWIS)" is the best alternative to address Koror's sewage treatment problem.



Kuniwo Nakamura



Yutaka Gibbons

In this light, Koror State High Chief Ibedul Yutaka Gibbons has urged President Kuniwo Nakamura to once and for all "act now" rather than address the problem at hand by piecemeal.

In his Mar. 22 letter to the President, Gibbons said, "I urge you to pursue the combination of mechanical and natural wetlands and ponds to address the growing sewage problem in Koror."

The Ibedul just received environmental assessment reports for the proposed Malakal wastewater treatment plant (WTP) upgrade from Robert A. Gearheart of Humboldt State University, Arcata, California and Norman Lovelace of the United States Environmental Protection Agency (EPA).

The two reports vouched for the PWIS as a viable alternative to the proposed "mirror image" mechanical expansion of the existing Malakal WTP.

From the start, the Koror State government is more inclined to adopt a combination of mechanical and natural wetlands and ponds to address the growing sewage problem in Koror.

In fact, the high chief has "taken the lead" on the issue, considering the different interpretation of the Memorandum of Agreement (MOU) inked in early October last year by the national and the state governments to correct the Malakal STP.

Lovelace, the Pacific Insular Area program manager of the U.S. EPA, endorsed the PWIS, although the proposed Parson's "mirror image" mechanical expansion of the existing Malakal WTP is also capable of treating wastewater to a level where it would meet Palau's water quality standards.

The difference, according to Lovelace, lies on the "proper operation and maintenance of the treatment system."

Historically in Palau, however, such proper operation and maintenance has not been the case as evidenced by the existing plant which has not functioned properly for several years, observed Lovelace.

In his letter dated last Mar. 10, Lovelace stressed to Gibbons that "effective treatment will not be fully realized without a full commitment to properly operate and maintain the treatment system."

Gearheart, an engineering professor, likewise recommended the PWIS, considering Palau's critical need for a reliable and effective system to minimize the impact of wastewater on the receiving waters.

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# RP assures int'l donors

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine President Joseph Estrada told international donors Wednesday that his administration will stress long-term reforms rather than dole-outs, and balance economic growth with more equitable distribution to the poor.

Estrada's comments were relayed by Finance Secretary Edgardo Espiritu, who is heading the Philippine delegation at two

days of talks with donors that began in Tokyo Wednesday.

The government hopes to receive at least \$5.5 billion in aid pledges at the meeting, sponsored by the World Bank and Japan, the Philippines' largest donor.

"We do not intend to waste our country's resources, as well as the resources made available to us by the donor community, on dole-out programs and quick-fix



Edgardo Espiritu

strategies that divert these resources from long-term reforms to short-term political gains," Estrada said.

He said there is a need to balance economic growth with equity to attain sustainable development. Therefore, he said, his administration plans to invest not only in infrastructure projects such

as roads and airports, but also in education, health and basic housing.

Estrada pledged his government would also fight corruption.

"It means systematically combating graft and corruption not only to prevent substantial wastage of resources but to start building a culture of honesty, hard work and meritorious and principled advancement," he said.

The Philippine delegation also includes central bank Gov. Gabriel Singson and Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon.

Delegates from at least 16 donor countries and 11 multilateral funding institutions are attending the meeting, the presidential palace said.

Estrada took office last June after winning a landslide election victory on a pro-poor campaign platform.

# Ramos denies misuse of \$190-M in gov't funds



Fidel Ramos

By OLIVER TEVES  
MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Former Philippine President Fidel Ramos denied Wednesday charges that he and five members of his Cabinet misused 7.33 billion pesos (\$190 million) in government funds.

A Senate committee that investigated government projects to celebrate the Philippines' independence centennial in 1998 recommended the prosecution of Ramos and the other officials for "technical malversation or misapplication of public funds."

The committee said Ramos and the others failed to prove that the money used for the projects came from savings of their agencies and not from other sources. It said the money appeared to come from appropriations that had been "previously allotted by law for other purposes."

At a news conference, Ramos said the accusation "falls flat on its face" because he had ordered all government agencies to set aside 25 percent of their budgets as savings or reserves.

He also criticized lawmakers for giving so much attention to the funding while passing only one of 10 of the Estrada administration's priority bills in nine months.

The Philippines last year celebrated the 100th anniversary of its declaration of independence from more than 300 years of Spanish colonial rule.

The Ramos administration funded many projects to mark the occasion, including a permanent "Centennial Expo" at the former U.S. Clark air base, now a sprawling industrial estate.

Ramos said the projects "were done in the best interests of the country, in accordance with law."

He repeated statements he made during Senate hearings last year that the projects have attracted investment, tourism and generated jobs in the area around Clark, which was devastated by the eruption of the Mount Pinatubo volcano in 1991.

Ramos' testimony last October was the first time that a former Philippine president has appeared in a Senate investigation.

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## Charges vs. Tan dismissed

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)** — A Philippine court dismissed Wednesday the government's 26.5 billion peso (\$685 million) tax fraud suit against business tycoon Lucio Tan, one of the country's richest men.

Judge Alex Ruiz of the Regional Trial Court in suburban Marikina threw out the suit on a technicality, saying the charge sheets against Tan were defective because the cases were not approved by Beethoven Rualo, chief of the Bureau of Internal

Revenue.

Philippine laws require the approval of the revenue chief before any tax suit can be filed in court.

Ruiz also said the Justice Department lost its legal grounds for filing the charges after the Bureau of Internal Revenue declared Feb. 11 that "no fraud was committed" by Tan and his companies.

The Justice Department filed tax evasion charges on Dec. 1 against Tan, his Fortune To-

bacco Corp., 11 affiliates, and company executives to recover allegedly unpaid taxes.

Tan, a supporter of President Joseph Estrada, also owns a majority of Philippine Airlines and has banking and beer interests.

Estrada had castigated Justice Secretary Serafin Cueva

for filing the case without coordinating with the Bureau of Internal Revenue, which said evidence against Tan was weak.

The revenue office had charged Tan with tax evasion in 1993. But that case did not proceed because Tan, in a se-

ries of appeals that reached the Supreme Court, managed to get the charges suspended pending an investigation by the Justice Department.

Tan claimed the tax cases were brought against him for not supporting former President Fidel Ramos' candidacy in 1992.

## Shanties at Manila's Int'l airport removed

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)** — Authorities demolished about 80 shanties Wednesday outside a perimeter wall near the main runway of Manila's international airport in a continuing effort to remove risks to aviation safety, an official said.

Slum dwellers, holding onto land titles, pleaded but were ignored by a demolition crew, which tore down the shanties just outside the concrete wall at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport.

Airport officials said the land titles were all fake and the slum dwellers had been notified a year ago to dismantle their shanties, which stand on land owned by the airport.

Antonio Gana, the airport's general manager, said the re-

moval of the shanties was part of government efforts to reduce potential aviation hazards in compliance with safety standards set by the International Civil Aviation Organization.

"Those areas could become a haven for people who might want to do harm to our operations," Gana said.

Most of the squatters were relocated to two government housing sites. Those who did not qualify were given 5,000 pesos (\$128) to help find new homes.

In metropolitan Manila, squatters on public and private land account for nearly one-third of the more than 8 million population.

Most of the squatters live dangerously along canals, railroad tracks and on stilts along the shores of Manila Bay.

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# RP Gov't, rebels call ceasefire



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Governor Carl T.C. Gutierrez  
Lt. Governor Madeleine Z. Bordallo

The Governor of Guam, Carl T.C. Gutierrez, through the Director of the Department of Public Works, is soliciting bids for the **Storage Repair and Extension of Hagatña Mayor's Office**, Project No. 610-1081-L-AGN. Sealed bids in duplicate will be received at the Department of Public Works, Contracts Administration Section Office until 2:00 p.m., April 16, 1999. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud shortly afterwards in the Division of Capital Improvement Projects Conference Room, Building "B", Department of Public Works.

Contract time is (75) calendar days. All bids must be accompanied by a bid security in the amount of 15% of the total bid amount. Bid security may be bid bond, certified check of cashier's check made payable to Treasurer of Guam. A non-refundable amount of \$75.00 is required as payment for each set of invitation for bids documents which can be obtained from the Contracts Administration Section, Department of Public Works commencing on March 26, 1999. A receipt of payment should be obtained from the cashier no later than 4:30 p.m. at the Contracts Administration Section, Department of Public Works when applying for the bid documents.

The Department of Public Works hereby notifies all bidders that it will affirmatively insure that in any contract entered into pursuant to this advertisement, minority business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids in response to this invitation and will not be discriminated against on the grounds of race, color and national origin in consideration for an award.

The right is reserved to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in the bids in the interest of the Government of Guam.

A pre-bid conference will be held on April 7, 1999 at 9:00 a.m. at the Division of Capital Improvement Projects Conference Room, Building B. All prospective bidders are requested to be present.

/s/ GIL A. SHINOHARA  
Acting Director

**MANILA, Philippines (AP)** — The military has begun withdrawing troops to allow the safe release of an army general and four other military and police officers held captive by Communist rebels, a priest who helped negotiate the release said Wednesday.

Communist leaders have also ordered a cease-fire during the release of the captives.

In a statement Wednesday, Luis Jalandoni, head peace negotiator for the Marxist umbrella group, the National Democratic Front, said rebel commanders would implement the cease-fire and begin the officers' release once they verify the government's cessation of offensive operations.

The Rev. Pete Lamata said he has sent a copy of the withdrawal order from Chief of Staff Gen. Joselin Nazareno to the NDF. He said the rebels were awaiting a similar order from national police chief Roberto Lastimoso.

Lamata said a senior military commander told him the troop withdrawal may take three days.

Jalandoni said in a statement sent from the Netherlands, where he and some other rebel leaders live in exile, that the cease-fire would ensure the safety of the rebels, the captives, and others involved in the release.

The rebels announced last week that they would free the captives, including Army Brig. Gen. Victor Obillo, the highest-ranking military officer seized by the Communist rebels in their 30-year insurgency, some time between March 19 and April 22 if the government halts offensive military actions.

President Joseph Estrada denounced the abductions as terrorist acts, suspended peace talks and withdrew safety guarantees for rebel peace negotiators.

The rebels, surprised by Estrada's actions, at first insisted on negotiations with the government for the release of the captives.

But they later signed an agreement with a group of priests, including Lamata, and a senator in which they agreed to turn over the officers to a representative of the International Committee of the Red Cross.

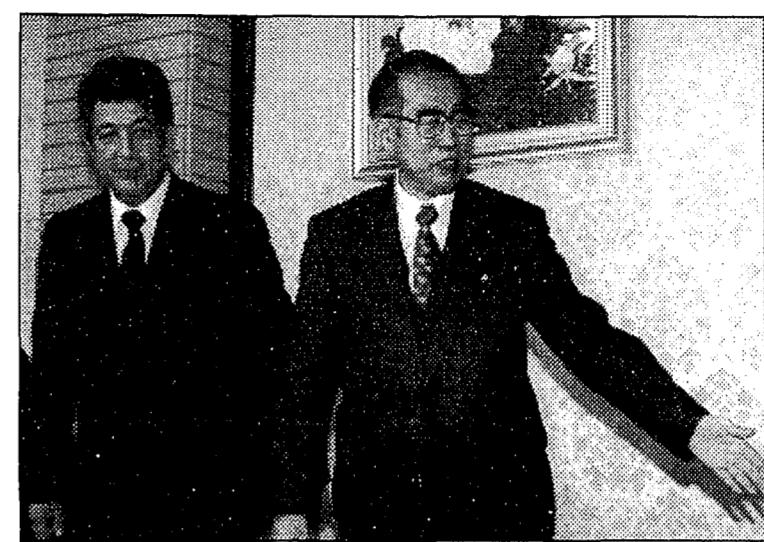
Obillo, the commander of the 55th Engineering Brigade, and an aide were seized on Feb. 17 outside southern Davao City.

# Japan OKs record tax cuts

**TOKYO (AP)** — Japan's Parliament on Wednesday approved a record-breaking set of tax cuts totaling 9.4 trillion yen (\$79 billion), in a further effort to pull the nation out of its worst recession in decades.

The cuts are Japan's largest ever. Combined with an 81.9 trillion yen (\$691 billion) budget passed in Parliament last week, they are intended to stimulate Japan's ailing economy, suffering from a deep banking crisis and slumping domestic demand.

The tax package gained final approval in Parliament's upper house and are scheduled to take effect April 1, said government spokesman Satoshi Watanabe.



Uzbek Prime Minister Ulkur Sultanov (left) is shown the way by his Japanese counterpart Keizo Obuchi at the beginning of their meeting at Obuchi's official residence in Tokyo Wednesday.

Of the reduction, 6.86 trillion yen (\$58 billion) is for permanent tax cuts, applicable mainly to income, residential and corporate taxes. A further 2.6 trillion yen (\$22 billion) is for strategic tax cuts, including tax relief on mortgages, Watanabe said.

The government will finance the measures with deficit-financing bonds, he said.

In addition, income tax will be slashed by 20 percent, with the maximum reduction set at 250,000 yen (\$2,110), while residential tax will be reduced by 15 percent, up to a maximum of 40,000 yen (\$338).

As for corporate tax, the effective tax rate will be cut from 46.36 percent to 40.87 percent, which is almost on a par with rates in other industrialized countries. The step, to take effect in April, will cut corporate taxes by a total 2.3 trillion yen (\$19 billion).

The government is also set to abolish taxes on securities transactions and commissions at some exchanges, Watanabe said.

The recently-approved budget, also to take effect on April 1, includes legislation to boost government spending by 5.4 percent and calls for 10 trillion yen (\$84 billion) in new public works outlays.

## Japanese court rules overwork led to death of newspaper worker

**TOKYO (AP)** — A Japanese court ruled Wednesday that a newspaper employee died from overwork and ordered the government to pay compensation.

Deaths recognized as caused by overwork total about 70 a year in this nation dominated by an intense work ethic. In Japan, the spouse and children of those who die from work-related illnesses or injuries are eligible to receive government compensation.

Over the last decade, when deaths from overwork, known here as "karoshi," began to draw more attention, those receiving such compensation have grown to include families of people who died from overwork.

The Mito District Court ruling reversed the March 1990 decision by the government to turn down an application for compensation payments to the family of Yasuo Murakami, who died of a stroke Feb. 20, 1998 — a day after he returned from his work at the paper's publishing department and collapsed.

The ruling requires the government to pay the compensation, costs of the funeral and the legal expenses of the family.

The authorities had contested the hours of overtime Murakami had allegedly put in and argued that his death was not work-related, said Labor Ministry official Norio Niwa. The government may appeal Wednesday's ruling, he said.

The family applied for the payments, saying that Murakami's death was caused by exhaustion from regularly clocking some 25 hours of overtime a week, Kyodo News service reported.

Even more difficult to prove in the courts are suicides caused by overwork, or "karo-jisatsu." The authorities can turn down applications from such families, saying the workers voluntarily ended their lives.

Earlier this month, a separate court ordered the government to pay compensation to the family of a man driven to suicide by overwork.

In that ruling in the Nagano District Court, Mori Iijima's suicide by hanging in his garage was caused by exhaustion and depression from 80-hour weeks at his job in a machine shop.

## Six injured in RP night club grenade blast

**ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP)** — A grenade exploded in a night club frequented by police and soldiers in a southern Philippine town, injuring at least six civilians, the military said Wednesday.

A military spokesman said an unidentified man hurled the grenade into the club in a downtown area of Ipil in Zamboanga del Sur province Tuesday night, injuring six customers who were taken to a hospital.

A few other people were slightly hurt in a stampede that followed the blast, said Rafael Romero of the military's Southern Command, adding that no police or soldiers were among the injured.

Police are investigating if Muslim extremists are behind the explosion.

Authorities have blamed the Abu Sayyaf, a small but violent Islamic separatist group, in a number of grenade explosions in buses and government buildings earlier this year in areas of the southern Mindanao region where the rebels are known to have a presence.

Abu Sayyaf rebels raided Ipil's downtown area in 1995, killing 53 people and burning down banks and other commercial establishments.

Ipil is about 770 kilometers (475 miles) south of Manila.

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**COUNTDOWN NEW MILEAGE**

Japan financial reform minister:

# 'Banks need capital reserves'

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By J.L. HAZELTON  
TOKYO (AP) — Shoring up Japan's banks with an injection of taxpayer money is the only way to stabilize the industry and restore public trust, the country's financial reconstruction chief said Wednesday.



Hakuo Yanagisawa

Japan's banks need capital reserves as plentiful as those in the United States, otherwise they will not be able to regain international confidence, Hakuo Yanagisawa said in a speech at the Foreign Correspondents' Club of Japan.

After that there will be time to deal with whatever non-performing and questionable loans remain, preferably by banks removing them from their balance sheets and repackaging them for sale.

Yanagisawa said that he doesn't believe that it will take 10 years or more for Japanese banks to completely wipe away their problem loans, as some critics have claimed.

"In Japan, once something starts, it's very quickly achieved," he said.

Yanagisawa's Financial Reconstruction Commission is overseeing a bad-loan cleanup that is the cornerstone of the government's plan to pull the country out of its worst recession since World War II.

Japan's banks have been hobbled by a bad loan burden estimated to total at least 70 trillion yen (\$596

billion). The problem has led to a credit crunch which has hampered attempts to pull the economy out of its tailspin.

The bailout package of 7.5 trillion yen (\$63.9 billion) is supposed to allow 15 of Japan's largest banks to dispose of their bad loans by March 31, the end of the fiscal year and the date when the cash injection is due.

Part of the deal was that the banks had to submit restructuring plans.

"They pledged that they are going to improve their profits and from those profits they will pay back the government," Yanagisawa said.

If they should fail, then there might be some discussion of management responsibility as a way to promote further restructuring, he said.

# Seoul monitors Japan ship furor



South Korean soldiers take a close look at North Korean weapons and other equipments found in a North Korean spy boat which sunk in a gunbattle off the south coast three month ago. AP

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea said Wednesday it was closely monitoring an incident in the Sea of Japan, in which Japanese naval destroyers pursued two unidentified ships which fled toward North Korea after intruding Japanese waters.

"Given the seriousness of the situation — Japan's first such use of its military ships — we're closely watching the developments," a presidential official said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"As far as we know, the mysterious ships violated Japanese

territorial waters, so Japan has the right to pursue them," he said.

The official said the fact that Japanese ships fired only warning shots indicated that they exercised restraint in pursuing the intruders.

The two ships, with false Japanese markings, were first spotted in Japanese waters early Tuesday. They fled into North Korean waters after being chased for 24 hours by Japanese coast guard ships and navy destroyers firing warning shots.

South Korean military officials said they have no information on the ships, which Tokyo officials believed to be from North Korea.

The incident took place amid lingering tension between Japan and North Korea, following Pyongyang's firing of a multistage rocket last summer which overflew Japanese territory.

North Korea claims that it launched a satellite but Tokyo believes it was a ballistic missile which can reach anywhere in Japan.

## Thailand begins AIDS vaccine trial

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Six people, the first of a hoped-for 2,500 volunteers, went to a Bangkok medical center Wednesday to receive shots in the first large-scale AIDS vaccine trial in a developing country.

The AIDS-VAX vaccine being tested is produced by VaxGen Inc., a California-based company. Last June, the company started the world's first trial of the vaccine in the United States with a planned 5,000 volunteers.

Although about 30 possible AIDS vaccines are being developed, AIDS-VAX is the only product which has reached so-called Phase Three testing, which involves large-scale tests on human subjects.

"We hope it will be a success because we have already passed the first and second phases," said Dr. Kajit Chupanya, the Thai project director.

The Thai volunteers, all former drug addicts, are supposed to be AIDS-free and willing to spend their next three years on the trial.

Some 2,500 volunteers will be needed for the experiment. Intravenous drug users are considered suitable for the trial because they are a high-risk group for the disease.

The first results are expected in about 30 months. The volunteers will receive education and counseling to try to reduce the levels of HIV infection.

About 5 percent of the group would normally become infected every year, experts say.

Half the volunteers will receive the vaccine while the other half will be given a placebo. The test will cost

up to \$9 million, with most of the money coming from VaxGen Inc.

"I'm happy to be able to do this and to make some contribution to society," said a volunteer who asked that his name not be used.

AIDS-VAX is designed to help keep an uninfected person from being infected by the human immunodeficiency virus. It would not cure AIDS.

Volunteers are told the vaccine is unproven and does not guarantee protection. Unlike other vaccines, it doesn't use a live virus to trigger the body's immune system.

The vaccine being tested in Thailand is different from the product used in the United States, to match the different strains of HIV that exist in Thailand.

In the United States, 53 clinics, universities and medical centers are testing the vaccine, including sites in Baltimore, Chicago, Denver, Los Angeles, New York, Philadelphia, St. Louis and San Francisco. About 1,500 people have signed up across the nation and VaxGen is hoping for 5,000 by summer.

Thailand has been ravaged by AIDS, in large part because of its freewheeling sex industry.

A spokesman for a hospice outside Bangkok which houses several hundred people who carry the HIV virus said interest there in the vaccine was keen.

"Patients here follow news of the vaccine trial," said Chalermpol Polmuk. "They want to know the latest developments, and how it might help them. We all hope that someday we will have a medicine that will prevent the spread of HIV."

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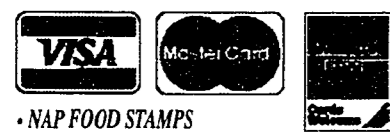
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# Jackson out of US race



The Rev. Jesse Jackson talks to reporters in San Jose, Calif., in this Feb. 28, 1999, file photo. Jackson, a two-time Democratic presidential candidate, apparently will not make a new bid for the White House in 2000.

By Andrew Stern  
**CHICAGO (Reuters)**— The Rev. Jesse Jackson said on Wednesday he will not enter the presidential race, further boosting Vice President Al Gore's front-running position for the Democratic Party nomination.

The 57-year-old civil rights leader and social activist did not endorse Gore or the only other Democrat seeking the nomination - former Sen. Bill Bradley of New Jersey - saying that would be "premature."

But he told reporters he had "worked closely" with Gore and both he and Bradley are "men of integrity... they have no scars on their reputation. They are very able, qualified men."

Jackson said he planned to be active in the contest, waging "a moral fight that lies beyond politics" over such issues as education, health, prisons and diversity in corporate leadership.

He also said he would conduct a number of voter registration drives, beginning next month with a one-week campaign in Mississippi.

His activity on that front could be good news for Democrats because he was credited with registering 2 million new voters during his last presidential run in 1988.

"Time spent running for president is time that cannot be spent doing something else," Jackson said in an announcement posted on two Internet sites.

"I've got so many issues I want to raise. I've got so many battles left to fight. I simply believe that I can most effectively advance that work, those issues, and these battles outside the context of a presidential campaign," he said.

In 1984 Jackson unsuccessfully challenged former Vice President Walter Mondale for the nomination and in 1988 lost the nomination to former Massachusetts Gov. Michael Dukakis.

Though he withheld an endorsement he said his party "is blessed to have good and decent people willing to make (the) commitment and sacrifice" required to run for president.

"We are, I believe, at the leading edge of the next frontier of the civil rights movement: the battle for a broader

sharing of economic power and wealth," he said.

"I'm not going to run for president. But I am going to act. I am going to march. I am going to roll up my sleeves and work as hard as I know how to work," he added. "I am going to speak out. I am going to raise uncomfortable issues. I am going to be an unabashed advocate for the least of these in our society. I am going to demand accountability from those with power and wealth and clout."

His announcement was posted on the Web page of the Rainbow/PUSH coalition of which he is president - [www.rainbowpush.org](http://www.rainbowpush.org) - and on the Web site of his congressman son [www.jessejacksonjr.org](http://www.jessejacksonjr.org).

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## US sues New York City for clean air violations

NEW YORK (Reuters) — The federal government sued New York City on Wednesday, alleging it has been breaking the Clean Air Act since 1992 by crushing discarded household appliances and thereby releasing ozone-depleting substances.

The civil lawsuit, filed in Manhattan federal court, also alleged New York City has been violat-

ing a compliance order issued March 25, 1994, by the Environmental Protection Agency telling the city to discontinue its improper disposal methods.

The suit is seeking penalties of up to \$27,500 per day for the alleged violations.

According to the lawsuit, the city collects discarded appliances from New York residents in ve-

hicles that compact or crush the appliances. The city allegedly does not remove refrigerants, which contain ozone-depleting substances such as chlorofluorocarbons (CFCs), before crushing the items.

During the compacting process, the ozone-depleting substances contained in gaseous form in re-

Continued on page 30

## EPA's new rule on pesticides hit

By Julie Vorman  
WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Farm state lawmakers from both parties on Wednesday attacked the Environmental Protection Agency's plan to start regulating genetically modified plant pesticides, saying the rules could stifle the biotechnology industry.

Grower groups and 11 scientific organizations contend the EPA has no business making rules for bioengineered crops with built-in resistance to certain pests because the plants are no different than those bred by conventional methods.

The issue also raises questions about how well the EPA, U.S. Agriculture Department and Food and Drug Administration have divvied up responsibility over parts of the food chain. While the EPA regulates clean air, water and pesticides, the USDA reviews bioengineered plants for safety and the FDA monitors food additives and safety.

During the past three years, genetically modified crops have expanded rapidly and now dominate U.S. plantings. More than half of all U.S. soybeans and cotton grown in 1999 will be genetically engineered for resistance to certain herbicides.

"We must be sure that regulatory excess does not suffocate this (biotechnology) industry," said Representative Larry Combest, a Texas Republican who heads the House Agriculture committee.

Two of the Agriculture panel's subcommittees held a rare joint hearing of 44 House lawmakers to question EPA officials.

Combest asked the EPA to re-open its formal rulemaking on plant pesticides, and take a closer look at the costs to the plant-breeding industry.

Among other things, the EPA's term of "plant pesticide" has been criticized by some groups as a deliberate attempt to bring the issue under the agency's jurisdiction, and likely to arouse public suspicion. A group of industry officials and scientists earlier this month said they preferred "plant-expressed protectant" instead.

Jim Aidala, associate assistant administrator of EPA, said the agency had no option except to issue regulations based on its reading of a 1947 law.

"Without an exemption or federal registration, you would be in violation of the law," Aidala told the panel. "We see this as a 'win-win' for both the environment and the growers."

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# Kosovo Clinton's big test

By Steve Holland

**WASHINGTON (Reuters)** — The Kosovo crisis presented President Bill Clinton with the biggest test of his credibility among Americans since the Senate acquitted him of impeachment charges five weeks ago.

Clinton's critics in Congress, some of whom tried to have the president removed from office over the Monica Lewinsky affair, chose to support U.S. forces in action against Serb targets despite their distaste for Clinton's overall Kosovo policy.

"Whatever our reservations about the president's actions in the Balkans, let no one doubt that the Congress and the American people stand united behind our men and women who are bravely heeding the call of duty there," said Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, a Mississippi Republican.

Reflecting their unease, senators voted 58-41 late on Tuesday in favour of a resolution authorising the United States to

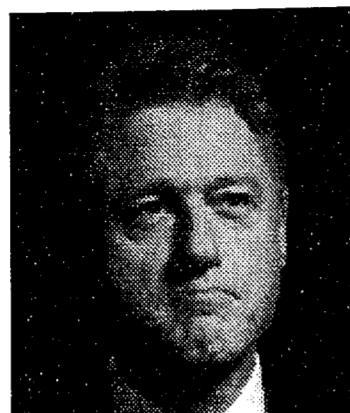
conduct air and missile strikes with NATO. Such resolutions usually are passed by overwhelming numbers.

Some members of Congress have been deeply sceptical of a NATO intervention into the civil war of a sovereign nation and did not believe Clinton prepared the American people sufficiently for U.S. involvement.

Clinton, who launched military action against Iraq and suspected terrorist targets in Afghanistan and Sudan during the Lewinsky scandal, said that only tough action now against Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic can prevent greater catastrophe later.

"Our NATO allies unanimously support this action. The United States must stand with them, and stand against ethnic violence and atrocity," Clinton said.

At the White House, spokesman Joe Lockhart welcomed the Senate vote even though it was far from unanimous. The White House position has been that



Bill Clinton

Clinton could act with or without congressional support.

"We believe it's important that there is an expression of support from Congress and we've received that," Lockhart said.

Kosovo is not the only post-impeachment disagreement between Clinton and the Republican-led Congress. China's suspected spying on U.S. nuclear secrets has drawn fire.

And Republicans have been

reluctant to support Clinton's proposal for \$956 million in hurricane relief aid for Central America, preferring to tie spending cuts elsewhere in the budget to the measure, which would force Clinton to veto it.

At a news conference last Friday Clinton said there was not much left for him to say to his opponents about the impeachment struggle.

"I think it's best for me not to focus on that now," he said. "I think it's best for me to focus on my job... I am trying to convince the Congress to adopt what ... would be the most ambitious set of legislative proposals yet in my tenure."

The Kosovo crisis in one sense has served to bring Clinton together with his opponents.

Already twice in the last week Republican leaders of Congress have been at the White House to consult on the situation in Kosovo.

Before a Feb. 23 meeting, Clinton had not met congressional

leaders from both parties in a private White House meeting since July 1997. There were no meetings during the long months of the Lewinsky controversy, which exploded in January 1998.

As evidence of the post-impeachment tensions lingering between Clinton and Republicans, the chairman of the Republican National Committee, Jim Nicholson, attacked the president for planning a Democratic fund-raising tour later this week.

"I ask you to have the decency to suspend your relentless foraging for campaign cash while our troops are in harm's way," he said in a statement.

Lockhart gave a stinging response, "Frankly we don't need the unsolicited advice from Mr. Nicholson."

After the air strikes began, the White House announced Clinton's fund-raising trip had been postponed.

Clinton, pressured by Democrats and Republicans to address the Kosovo subject more publicly, has been emphasising it in many speeches and the effort appears to be paying off - to a point.

An ABC News "Nightline" poll on Tuesday found a 14-point jump in the number of Americans who believe vital U.S. interests are at stake in the Kosovo conflict, up to 41 percent compared with 54 percent who said there was no vital interest for America.

And it said there was a 10-point rise in the number who would favour sending U.S. troops to enforce a peace treaty there, up to 60 percent from 37 percent opposed.

## US sues . . .


Continued from page 28

frigerants are released into the air, the suit said. The complaint also charged that the substances are released at the city's household appliance collection centre.


The suit alleged New York City was violating the Clear Air Act, which was enacted in 1990 to protect the layer of stratospheric ozone that shields the earth from harmful radiation from the sun. The radiation may cause skin cancers, cataracts and other harmful conditions.

The federal government charged that the city is breaking a section of the law that regulates emissions of substances such as CFCs that might deplete the ozone layer.

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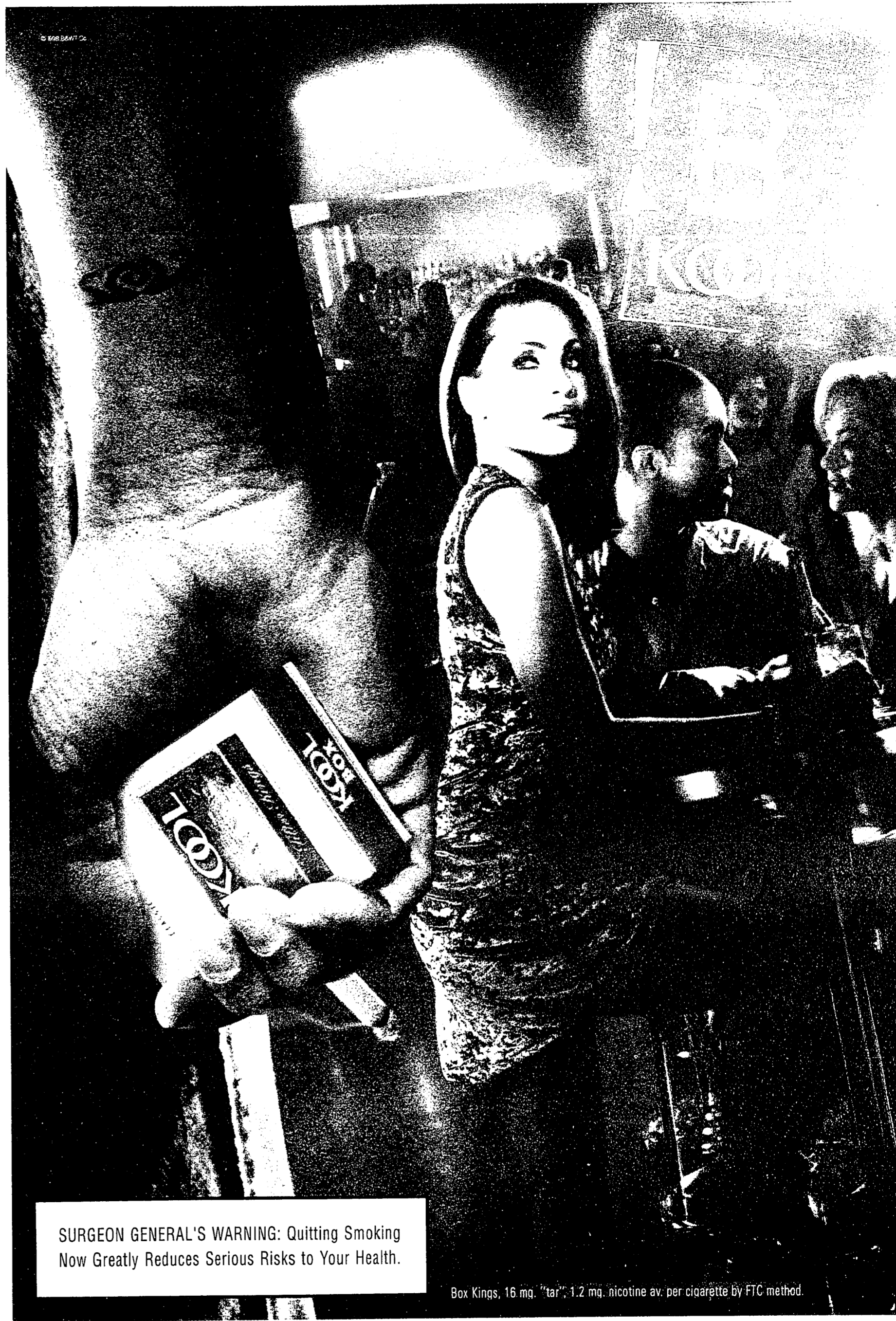
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# Clinton defends NATO strikes

By Arshad Mohammed  
WASHINGTON (Reuters) —

President Bill Clinton said NATO launched air strikes against Serbia on Wednesday to prevent a "greater catastrophe" in Kosovo and blamed Yugoslavia for its onslaught against the province's ethnic Albanians. "Kosovo's crisis now is full blown," Clinton told reporters in a hastily arranged appearance at the White House. "If we do not act, clearly it will get even worse. Only firmness now can prevent greater catastrophe later."

Explosions rocked Pristina, Kosovo's main city, as well as a big Serb military base and airport at Batajnica, the largest military installation near the Yugoslav capitol of Belgrade.

The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) announced it had launched the air strikes about 2 p.m. EST (1900 GMT) and witnesses in Pristina said the bombing sent red flashes across the night sky be-

*Says only firm action would stop greater catastrophe*

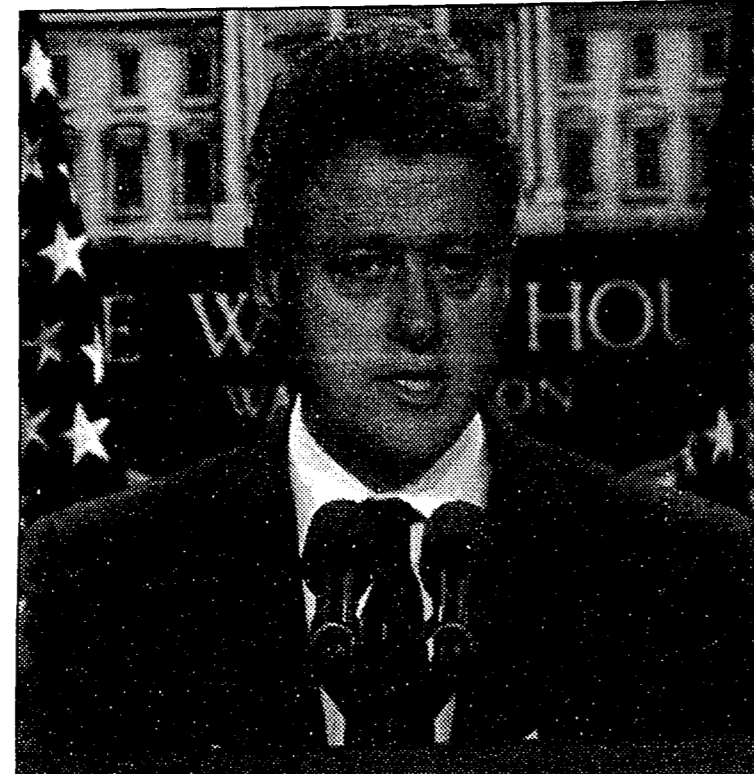
fore plunging the city into darkness.

The strikes are designed to force Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic to halt a Serb offensive in Kosovo and to accept a peace deal for the southern Yugoslav province, where ethnic Albanians are fighting for independence.

Clinton said the attacks had three objectives: showing NATO's opposition to Serb aggression, deterring Milosevic from further attacks on ethnic Albanians in Kosovo, and undermining Yugoslavia's military capability.

The U.S. president blamed Milosevic for the attack, saying he had chosen "aggression over peace" and said NATO wanted to prevent him from "continuing and escalating his attacks on helpless civilians by imposing a price for those attacks."

Clinton said the Serb leader violated commitments he made



President Clinton announces that U.S.-led airstrikes were launched against Serbian targets in Kosovo Wednesday during a short statement from the briefing room at the White House. AP

last autumn to "stop the brutal repression in Kosovo" and spurned repeated diplomatic efforts to end the crisis.

"Instead, his forces have intensified their attacks, burning down Kosovo Albanian villages and murdering civilians," Clinton said.

"As I speak, more Serb forces are moving into Kosovo and more people are fleeing their homes - 60,000 in just the last five weeks, a quarter of a million altogether," he said.

"I have concluded that the dangers of acting now are clearly outweighed by the risks of failing to act - the risks that many more innocent people will die or be driven from their homes by the tens of thousands; the risks that the conflict will involve and destabilize neighbouring nations," Clinton said.

"It will clearly be much more costly and dangerous to stop later than this effort to prevent it from going further now."

The U.S. president also warned the United States that the operation was not "risk-free" and asked for Americans to pray for the U.S. troops in the region, saying that he would address the issue more fully on Wednesday night.

Clinton said he had consulted with foreign leaders as well as the leadership of the U.S. Congress, where many in the opposition Republican party voiced misgivings about the action although they say they support U.S. troops.

"Whatever our reservations about the president's actions in the Balkans, let no one doubt that the Congress and the American people stand united behind our men and women who are bravely heeding the call of duty there," said Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, a Mississippi Republican.

"I wish them Godspeed and promise every resource to ensure a successful completion of their mission and a safe, speedy return to their loved ones," Lott said.

U.S. officials said Clinton called Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Wednesday and spoke "with some passion" to try to overcome Russia's harsh opposition to NATO action against the Serbs.

Speaking after the attack began, Yeltsin said he was "deeply shocked" by the air strikes. Russia has long opposed the use of force against the Serbs, who have long traditional religious and cultural ties to Russia.

White House officials said Clinton would address the nation again at 8 p.m. EST (0100 GMT on Thursday) and they said the president had cancelled plans to make a trip Ohio, Nevada and California over the next three days.

# Tomahawks rain on Serbia

By Philip Pulella  
ABOARD THE USS PHILIPPINE SEA (Reuters) —

Tomahawk cruise missiles lit up the night sky over the Adriatic with comet tails of fire on Wednesday as NATO launched a coordinated attack against targets in Yugoslavia.

The strikes began with six Tomahawks shooting up in less than eight minutes from the deck of the guided missile cruiser Philippine Sea, their booster rockets turning night into day over the 567-foot-long (173-metre-long) ship as it lay some 50 miles off the coast of Croatia.

After a 30-minute pause, three other Tomahawks shot up in less than 25 seconds heading east towards Serbia as a sister ship, the Gonzalez, shot off one missile.

The first missile thundered out of the deck of the high-tech Philippine Sea at about 1750 GMT and about 40 minutes later the first salvo was over.

The sound of gentle waves lapping the grey ship returned to dominate the night under a cloudless starlit sky.

The tell-tale red lights of NATO jet fighters flickered in the night sky as they sped towards their targets as part of NATO's campaign to teach Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic a lesson over his rejection of an international peace plan for Kosovo.

"This is serious business. The moment that we have trained to perform for has arrived," the ship's captain Robert Jenkins told reporters before the strikes began.

"We are going to put live ordnance on the beach," he said.

A deathly silence fell over the ship at 1700 GMT after General Quarters, or battle stations, was announced over the scratchy public address system.

"I told my men: 'This is a combat situation, unfortunately some members of the force that we are targeting may die,'" Jenkins said.

"This is not a softball game. They (my men) understand what we have to do. There will not be any cheering tonight. There will not be any high-fiving tonight," he said.

Just before the first missiles were fired, the ship's Christian chaplain, Lieutenant Frederick McGuffin, got on the horn and read a prayer.

"Lord, we come to you this evening wondering what it may hold. We ask that you watch over us," he said.

After remaining still in the launch point for nearly an hour, the ship picked up speed and sailed inside an imaginary war box drawn on the still waters of the Adriatic awaiting further orders.

The General Quarters was reduced to "modified General Quarters."

If the sailors on the ship had much hair, they would have let it down now. Box lunches were

distributed, coffee was poured and cigarettes were lit on the deck.

"It's game time. This is what we've been trained to do," said Lieutenant-Commander Tom Graves, the ship's chief engineer.

"There may be apprehension but not fear. The sailors know they have a job to do and they're doing it," he said.

The Tomahawk Land Attack Missile (TLAM), which opened the campaign, has a range of some 1,000 miles (1,600 km) and the ship was well within reach of its targets in Serbia.

Hours before the attack began, sailors in the dimly lit Combat Information Centre, the ship's nerve centre, began "spinning" the missiles, loading them with the data necessary to reach



A Tomahawk missile is launched off the deck of U.S. warship USS Gonzalez as it cruises the Adriatic Sea some 50 miles off Yugoslavia's coast Wednesday. AP

Serbia. The "target packages" were readied and countdown began.

The three missiles fired in rapid succession in the second round of the first salvo were shot alternately from the fore-deck and the aft-deck to avoid what the military called "fratricide" or possible airborne collisions of two missiles.

In the Combat Information Centre, Fire Controlman First Class Kenneth McClinton, had his finger on the situation - literally. Despite all the high-tech, despite the dozens of computer screens in the command centre, it was McClinton's finger that pushed the button that fired each missile.

As it was for the rest of his fellow sailors, it was all part of a day's work.

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	Sunday, May 30	ROUND 2: 8:00 AM Shotgun			
AWARDS	Sunday, May 30	Trophies and cash awards immediately following the tournament			
HOTEL	The New ATLANTIS Hotel Casino in Reno is offering participants a special rate of \$45 per night for Friday, Saturday or Sunday nights. You must make reservations directly with the ATLANTIS by calling 1-800-723-6500 and identifying yourself with the "Chamorro Open". Please remember this is a holiday weekend and all hotels will be fully booked. The Atlantis will hold rooms until 45 days before the golf tournament — so reserve early!				
FUN	Sunday, May 30	FIESTA! 1:00 PM, immediately following the tournament - island-style fiesta at Genoa Lakes! In addition to the great food there will be dancing.			
RAFFLES	Each paid golfer will receive one complimentary raffle ticket — win great prizes including golf wear, accessories and a ROUND TRIP TICKET TO GUAM!				
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# Yeltsin halts NATO cooperation

**By Peter Graff**  
**MOSCOW (Reuters)** — President Boris Yeltsin on Wednesday suspended Russian cooperation with the NATO Western alliance in response to its air strikes against Yugoslavia, and called for an immediate halt to the bombing.  
 In a statement released shortly after the attacks began, Yeltsin said he had called for an emergency meeting of the United Nations Security Council.  
 "In Russia there is deep shock at the military actions of NATO against sovereign Yugoslavia, which is nothing other than naked aggression," he said.  
 He said that if the conflict spread, Russia reserved the right to take measures "including those of a military character" to

defend itself and the security of Europe.  
 Yeltsin, who had earlier made a last-minute appeal to NATO to call off the attacks, recalled Russia's representative at NATO headquarters in Brussels and halted cooperation with the alliance under the Partnership for Peace programme, designed to forge closer ties between former Cold War foes.  
 Yeltsin also suspended talks on opening a NATO military mission in Moscow, saying the alliance was trying to assume a "world policeman" role which Moscow found totally unacceptable.  
 Kremlin spokesman Dmitry Yakushkin told NTV television Yeltsin would meet senior officials on the crisis on Thursday.



President Boris Yeltsin makes his address on Russian television in Moscow Wednesday where he made a last-ditch appeal to President Bill Clinton not to take the "tragic steps" of bombing Yugoslavia. AP

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Both U.S. President Bill Clinton and French President Jacques Chirac had telephoned Yeltsin before the bombing began.  
 After speaking to Clinton, Yeltsin addressed the nation, saying air strikes would undermine European security. He urged world leaders to press Clinton to reconsider, and repeated Moscow's view that only diplomacy could resolve the crisis.  
 Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov rang German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder to tell him the air strikes would damage Russia's relations with the West.  
 Russia, which has warm ties

with fellow-Orthodox Christian Serbia, has steadfastly opposed the use of force, saying it risks triggering a wider conflagration in the Balkan region.  
 Communist Party leader Gennady Zyuganov told Reuters: "This is the darkest day of the post-war period. The United States is taking the same route as fascist Germany."  
 Mikhail Gutseryev, a deputy speaker of the lower house of parliament, told Tass: "We are shocked and angered by what is happening because peaceful people will die - women, chil-

dren, elderly people."  
 Ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovskiy and his followers planned a demonstration outside the U.S. embassy in Moscow at 1:30 a.m. (2230 GMT), his office said.  
 A security official in the ex-Soviet republic of Belarus, which borders new NATO member Poland, said Minsk might once more allow Russian nuclear weapons onto its territory as a response.  
 "Such a variant is not excluded," the deputy head of the Security Council, Viktor Novitskiy, told state television.

## Cohen says US warplanes safe after Yugoslavia raid



William Cohen

**WASHINGTON (Reuters)** — U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen said on Wednesday all U.S. airplanes had returned safely after a first wave of NATO attacks in Yugoslavia.  
 Cohen told reporters the initial targets had been Yugoslav air defences, command and control systems and Serb military forces deployed in Kosovo. Sea-launched and air-launched cruise missiles, with backing from other warplanes, spear-headed the attacks, he said.  
 Cohen, speaking as the air campaign continued, said there had been some engagement between Yugoslav and NATO

planes. "There was some air-to-air engagement that has taken place. But I think we need more information before we can confirm what the result of that was," he said. "Our aircraft have safely returned - those that were in the region to date," he said.  
 Gen. Henry Shelton, Chairman of the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff, said it was too early to assess damage caused in Wednesday's attacks. He declined to give numbers of sorties flown or cruise missiles fired, saying the operation was still going on.  
 Cohen said cruise missiles were fired from both U.S. and British ships, deployed in the Mediterranean. Sophisticated B-2 bombers, not used in combat before, were also employed, he said.  
 "We are striking a range of military targets, including Yugoslavia's extensive air defence system, its command and control system and the military forces that Yugoslavia is using to suppress the Albanians in the province of Kosovo," he said. He gave no indication when the operation would end.

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# Cubas faces impeachment

**By Jose Maria Amarilla**  
**ASUNCION, Paraguay (Reuters)** — Paraguay's Congress voted on Wednesday to impeach President Raul Cubas for freeing a convicted coup leader and it blamed both men for the killing of Vice-President Luis Maria Argana a day earlier.  
 Angry deputies, some in tears, voted by a two-thirds majority for Cubas to be tried by the Senate for freeing former army chief Lino Oviedo last year after he had been jailed for 10 years for a 1996 coup attempt.  
 The Senate summoned Cubas for a hearing to begin Thursday at 10:30 a.m. (9:30 EST/1430 GMT), and it appeared that a coalition of Argana followers and opposition parties could muster the numbers to fire the president.  
 Cubas said he had ordered that his mentor Oviedo be arrested and placed at the disposal of a military tribunal.  
 Oviedo, accompanied by his lawyer, told reporters he had presented himself to the presidential guard in order to clear up his legal situation.  
 "I have not come to be put under arrest," said Oviedo, who was cleared by a military tribunal set up by Cubas last year. The Su-



Paraguayan President Raul Cubas (center) leaves the Presidential Palace in Asuncion, Paraguay with his wife Mirtha Gusinski (right) and his daughter Fatima Cubas (left) on Wednesday. AP

preme Court has ruled that the former cavalryman be sent back to jail, but Cubas has refused to comply.  
 Congress accused Cubas and Oviedo of ordering Argana's killing in a struggle for control of the ruling Colorado Party. But Oviedo denied involvement as Cubas launched a massive manhunt for the killers and closed the country's borders.  
 U.S. President Bill Clinton

joined a chorus of condemnations of the "brutal murder," offering his condolences to Paraguay and urging the country to "put aside politics" and consolidate its fragile democracy.  
 Paraguay's giant partner in the Mercosur customs union, Brazil, reminded Paraguay it must abide by democratic rules.  
 If the Senate finds Cubas guilty he would be replaced - by Senate President Luis Gonzalez Macchu.

an Argana supporter - and could face a jail sentence.  
 One pro-Oviedo deputy was beaten up as he tried to enter Congress to vote on the impeachment and was led away bleeding.  
 The Colorado Party has ruled the poor South American country for half a century without a break, including decades of corrupt dictatorship under Gen. Alfredo Stroessner.  
 A convoy of cars moved slowly through the leafy green streets of Asuncion following a flower-decked hearse carrying Argana's body to be buried before a huge crowd of mourners.  
 Family lawyer Jose Alberto Planas warned Cubas not to attend. "We sent a message to the president's office for him not to come because he'll be thrown out. I repeat: Cubas is Oviedo's accomplice in this barbarous killing of Dr. Argana."  
 The atmosphere in the usually sleepy capital was tense. Troops kept order during the first day of

a general strike by unions who called Cubas "murderous" and demanded his removal.  
 Public transport was paralysed and shops and offices in the city centre kept their shutters down after a night of violence in which police fired rubber bullets at stone-throwing crowds shouting slogans against Cubas and Oviedo, injuring 37 people.  
 Strikers demonstrated outside Congress and 10,000 peasants who had marched to Asuncion earlier in the week demanding state subsidies were drawn into the protests at Argana's killing.  
 Oviedo's supporters were also mustering support to confront their opponents on the streets. "This is going to turn ugly. We're going out on the streets to defend the president," shouted one man to reporters.  
 Argana, 66, was killed early Tuesday when three or four men in military dress swerved a car in front of his jeep in Asuncion and sprayed the vehicle with bullets.

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THE MEETING HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR TUESDAY, MARCH 30, 1999 AT 5:00 P.M. AT DIVISION OF PUBLIC LANDS CONFERENCE ROOM IN AS-LITO.

By ALAN FRAM  
WASHINGTON (AP)— Despite a veto threat and conservative unease, Republicans narrowly muscled \$1.3 billion in aid for Central America, U.S. farmers and others through the House.

With some conservatives upset that the bill was not fully paid for, the Republican's slender majority forced party leaders to frantically hunt for support Wednesday even after the official 15 minutes for the vote had elapsed.

The legislation was approved 220-211, barely averting an embarrassing defeat for new House Speaker Dennis Hastert, on the year's first spending measure. Voting "yes" were 210 Republicans and 10 Democrats, while 11 Republicans, 199 Democrats and one independent were opposed.

"This is going to be a very difficult year" for spending bills because of tight spending limits enacted two years ago, House Appropriations Committee Chairman Bill

Young said.

Linda Ricci, spokeswoman for the White House budget office, said the tight, partisan vote "underscores the need to work together" when Congress and the Clinton administration seek to write compromise legislation in coming weeks.

The measure is similar to a \$2.5 billion package the Senate approved Tuesday. It, too, faces a veto threat because of its spending cuts.

With Congress slated to begin a two-week Easter recess this weekend, it seemed all but certain that lawmakers would not ship a House-Senate compromise bill to President Bill Clinton until next month at the earliest.

There was little dissent in the House over the intent of the bill, which included \$1.3 billion for Central American victims of Hurricane Mitch and other natural disasters, \$152 million for U.S. farmers hurt by low export prices, and \$100 million to buttress Jordan under its new King Abdullah.

Rather, the fight was over Republican plans to pay for part of the bill by cutting programs. These cuts would include \$648 million from U.S. funds that back loans by the World Bank and other international organizations, \$150 million from a program that purchases nuclear materials from Russia, and \$30 million from U.S. food aid shipped abroad.

In a letter to House leaders, Treasury Secretary Robert Rubin said reducing U.S. backing for multinational banks "has rightly become a concern of the markets" and he reiterated earlier administration veto threats.

Administration officials have criticized Congress for its delay in passing the bill. Hurricane Mitch battered Honduras and other Central American countries last October, killing 9,000 and destroying hundreds of thousands of homes and businesses.

The rainy season begins in several weeks, leaving little time for farmers to plant crops.

# To prevent Palestinian state Settlers build in West Bank



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu (left) gestures as Jerusalem Mayor Ehud Olmert adjusts his collar during a press conference following a cabinet meeting held in Jerusalem's city hall Wednesday. Netanyahu held the weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem's city hall to underscore Israel's claim to all of the disputed city. AP

By SARI BASHI  
BAT AYIN, West Bank (AP)— Jewish settlers scrambled to build homes on another West Bank hilltop, trying to prevent the land from becoming part of a future Palestinian state.

A dozen mobile homes, a tent, and two partially-constructed houses crowded this hilltop separated from the larger Bat Ayin settlement by a half mile of steep, winding dirt road. A jackhammer cleared rocks, workers installed pipes, and a young couple painted the floor of their wooden house.

Eliezer Halfor, laying a water line Tuesday to the new settlement, said the area was "state land." Gesturing toward the valley separating the settlement from neighboring Palestinian villages, 15 miles (24 kilometers) south of Jerusalem, he said, "the state owns it so that the Arabs don't take it."

Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat raised his concerns about accelerated settlement expansion with

West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusalem.

Both sides have broken that promise in some ways, but the Palestinians fear that once Israel is no longer bound by the autonomy accords, it will accelerate settlement expansion in hopes of grabbing as much land as possible before final peace talks. Such talks were to have concluded May 4, but have not even begun.

Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu has argued that Jewish settlements need to expand to accommodate natural growth.

The United States has appealed to Israel to suspend settlement expansion — to no avail.

Peter Lerner, a spokesman for the Israeli military in the West Bank, said the settlement near Bat Ayin was established immediately after Netanyahu signed the U.S.-brokered Wye River interim peace accord. However, it did not have permission to build new homes, he said.

Peace Now, an Israeli watchdog group, said Monday that 17 such hilltops have been taken over since Netanyahu's foreign minister called on settlers to grab land following the October signing of the Wye River accord.

Settlement leader Eliezer Roni said he planned to eventually move 500 families onto the hilltop. Contrary to Lerner, he said the state approved the project.

"It's Jewish land," Roni said. "It's not going to go to the Palestinians."

U.S. President Bill Clinton in their meeting Tuesday at the White House.

The Palestinians are concerned about what will happen after May 4, the date the five-year agreement with Israel on Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank and Gaza Strip expires.

Under the autonomy agreement, both Israel and the Palestinians pledged not to take unilateral steps that would pre-empt the outcome of talks on the final status of the

ment of Rep. Frank Cepeda (R-Prec. 4, Saipan), the chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

Cepeda said Wackenhut is an "internationally renowned consultant and builder of prisons."

But Torres said the firm may be "having problems with some of its prison facilities in the mainland U.S."

Cepeda, said the input which were taken from the participants during the public hearing will be part of the subject of the actual oversight hearing which will be conducted on April 14.

**Ingram . . .**  
Continued from page 3

rections facility.

Wackenhut has the endorsement of Rep. Frank Cepeda (R-Prec. 4, Saipan), the chairman of the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations.

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**Capitol . . .**  
Continued from page 3

fused to give her complete name, when she talked to the committee headed by Rep. Frank Cepeda.

For her part, Janel Villegas, who expressed concern for the welfare of her children, said the recent spate of burglaries has been the highest recorded rate so far in Capitol Hill.

During the occasion, Ruth disclosed that they have been forming a neighborhood watch against these robbers. The group is being formed by residents who live at the Hill.

She told the committee that during the past four weeks alone, there have been about eight up to nine cases of burglary or robbery that were committed, with the last one happening last Monday.

Ruth said that with the forming of the watch group, they want to help the police in preventing or curbing the spate of cases.

The public hearing was attended by DPS officials headed by DOC director Gregory Castro and DPS commissioner Charles W. Ingram, who refused to comment when asked for his reactions.



Microsoft CEO Bill Gates (right) smiles as he introduces President Carlos Menem of Argentina as they speak to the Latin American Enterprise Solutions Conference Tuesday in Miami, Fla. AP

## Microsoft, Argentina ink pact for 'technical collaboration'

MIAMI (AP)— Bill Gates and Argentine President Carlos Menem signed an agreement in which Microsoft Corp. pledged to help make Argentina one of the leading Latin American software producers.

Argentina, in turn, agreed to crack down on software piracy by increasing enforcement of intellectual property laws.

Menem and Gates, the company's chairman and CEO, approved the broadly worded deal in a private meeting Tuesday during Microsoft's annual conference on Latin American technology.

After the signing, Gates introduced Menem to executives attending the conference, saying technology improvements will help make Argentina one of the region's first "digital states."

Menem said the government is starting a program called "Argentina 2010" aimed at making the country a strong software exporter to Spanish-speaking markets.

In the agreement, the software giant pledged to cooperate in developing and promoting information technology; provide technological counseling to the Argentine government; and donate educational materials.

"These agreements are pretty minimal in detail," Microsoft spokesman Mark Thomas said. "It's saying we're going to work together, and a lot of the details are to come."

**MP MID-PAC MICRONESIA**  
A Division of Bisnes-mami, Inc.

IS CURRENTLY ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE FOLLOWING:

**EXPERIENCED SERVICE WRITER**  
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234-0475

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council  
Assistive Technology Project

**PUBLIC NOTICE**

In accordance to the "Open Government Act", the second CNMI Assistive Technology (AT) Advisory Board Meeting will be held at the Office of the Aging Conference Room, Garapan on March 29, 1999 at 11:00 AM to 1:00 PM. Interested persons are invited to attend.

**AGENDA**

- I. A. Call to Order
- B. Quorum Present
- C. Adoption of Agenda
- D. Adoption of Minutes of Last Meeting
- II. Amendments to AT by-laws
- III. Update on AT Center
- IV. Assistive Technology Act (ATA) 1998
- V. Updates on Conference
  1. RESNA Conference
  2. Assistive Technology Applications Certificate Program (ATACP)
- VI. Miscellaneous
- VII. Adjournment

If you would like to present information to the Advisory Board during the session, please contact the CNMI Governor's Developmental Disabilities Council Assistive Technology Project Office at 322-3014 (Voice/TDD) or 322-3015 (Voice) to schedule a five-minute time on the Agenda. If you need accommodations for orally or visually communicated information, please contact our office seven(7) days prior to the meeting to request such accommodations.

/s/ Daniel L. Camacho  
Chairman, CNMI AT Advisory Board

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

**INVITATION FOR BID**  
PSS IFB 99-003

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids for the construction of Pedestrian Covered Walkway to the cafeteria located on the Hopwood Junior High School campus on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Specification requirements may be obtained at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950 during regular working hours except holidays. Copies of these documents may be obtained by payment of fifteen dollars (\$15.00) for each set to the PSS Treasurer. Bids in duplicate must be received no later than 2:00 p.m., April 13, 1999 at the Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950, and must be facemarked "IFB99-003: Construction of Pedestrian Covered Walkway to the Cafeteria at Hopwood Junior High School."

A pre-bid conference for this project will be held at 8:00 a.m., local time, Tuesday, March 23, 1999 at the project site at Hopwood Junior High School, Chalan Piao, Saipan. If bidders would like to visit at any other time, they are required to get prior approval from the School Principal Mrs. Lourdes Mendiola. All questions/concerns must be submitted in writing at the pre-bid conference.

A bid bond of 15% of the total bid price must accompany the bid. This security may be a certified check, cashier's check, bid bond or other forms acceptable by the government made payable to the PSS Treasurer, CNMI Public School System, 3rd floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan. The bidder is requested to submit with his bid a copy of his business license as compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All bidders are required to submit their responsibility determination documentation in compliance to PSSPB3-201: Responsibility Determination documents must be submitted in separate envelope and facemarked "IFB99-003 Responsibility Determination" and the responsibility determination documents are due on the date, time, and place of the bid opening.

The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Public School System and will be required to deliver performance and payment bonds equal to 100% of the price specified on the contract. Performance time for completion of the project is forty five calendar days. Liquidated damages to be assessed at a rate of \$100.00 for each and every calendar day work is delayed beyond the specified completion date.

Attention is called to the Labor Standards Provisions for Wage Rate Determination of the CNMI Classification and Salary Structure plans and payments of not less than the minimum salaries and wages as set forth. All documents received shall be the sole property of the Public School System, Government of the Northern Mariana Islands with the bid bonds, certified checks or cashier's check which will be returned to the bidders in accordance with the specification "Individuals for bidders" page 1-2 No. 5 Bid Guarantee.

The CNMI Public School System reserves the right to award or to reject any or all bids if in its sole opinion to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

/s/ RITA HOCOG INOS, Ed. D.  
Commissioner of Education

/s/ LOUISE CONCEPCION  
Procurement & Supply Officer

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS  
STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION  
PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

**INVITATION FOR BID**  
PSS IFB-99-004

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting for competitive sealed bidding for the procurement of 1 to 2 units 66 passenger capacity school bus(es). Detailed specifications are now available at the Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950 during regular working hours except Holidays. The bus must have a one year maintenance warranty and safety inspected and registered prior to delivery CIF PSSPANDS, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950. The buses must be delivered within 180 days from date of contract award.

All bids must be in a sealed envelope facemarked "IFB99-004" and submitted in duplicate to the Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 2:00 p.m., April 20, 1999, at which date, time and place, all bids will be opened and read aloud. Any bids received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

The bidders are requested to submit a copy of their business permit. The bidder has the right to award on a single to multiple award or reject any or all award if to do so is in the best interest of the Public School System. Inquiries to this bid announcement may directly contact the Procurement & Supply Office at telephone number 664-3763.

/s/ Rita Hocog Inos, Ed. D.  
Commissioner Of Education

/s/ Louise Concepcion  
Procurement & Supply Officer

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

**ADDENDUM NO. 1**  
**CUC RFP 99-0018**  
**Overhaul of Auxiliary System No. 4**  
**at Power Plant 1, Lower Base, Saipan**  
**DATE: Friday, March 19, 1999**

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation is hereby notifying all interested firms that the due date for this RFP has been changed to 3:00 P.M., local time, on Monday, April 5th, 1999.

All other information as provided in the solicitation and scope of work shall remain the same.

**TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ**  
Executive Director  
Commonwealth Utilities Corporation









# Symbolic diversity and the basis of conflict

We take for granted the amazing accomplishment of Humankind entailed in the invention of our positional numeration system. After all, we read the number 155 as one hundred fifty-five because we know that the '1' stands for 1 x 100, and the '5' stands for 5 x 10, and the last '5' stands for 5 x 1. This is our familiar decimal number system, where every digit represents a product of the digit and a power of ten, depending on its position. However, there are an infinity of ways to represent any number, and an infinity of bases that may be used. For example, the Mayans used a vigesimal system (base 20) and the Babylonians used a sexagesimal system (base 60) which we still use today in our common measures of space and time.

would stand for 2 x 4 and the '3' for 3 x 1. In base 3, 11111 would be the perfect square of 102. In base 6, the base 10 fraction 1/3 could be represented as 0.2 rather than the cumbersome 0.333.... In general, mathematics may be seen as the study of the relationships which exist between symbolic forms— that is, as the science of symbolic diversity.

In the following I offer a parable about different bases. The idea is that the study of mathematics may allow for the kind of tolerance that would enable us to accept our differences and avoid those kinds of conflict which result from the different ways cultures may symbolize our common reality.

The Parable of Eleven Turtles

The student asked, "Why must I learn mathematics?"

And the turtle answered, "What musty word this must, like dust and fuss, I see you have no lust to learn mathematics."

"No," said the student, "why


should I care what x is? I know that 2 + 2 is 4, why need I know more? All your functions and your abstract seductions, they bore me to the core."

Just then a flash of light, glowing in the full-moon night. A ship had landed there, as if from nowhere. Egg-shaped, a tripod was its landing gear, three windows graced the top, and out of one of its three doors, climbed the strangest creature that ever walked these shores.

"What's this!" the student cried. "Who are you, so green and ugly, standing there with your three eyes?"

"Have no fear," the creature replied. "I come in. Peace from the Planet Triumph and As you may. Surmise we do. Everything in threes. Our sentences have. Three words and. Of course we. Have three eyes. Our hands have. Three fingers and. The same number. As our toes."

"How strange," the student said. "You certainly don't be-



## Gecko corner

Samuel Gugliotta

ber system is? If so, express the year 2000 in base three.

2. Cubes. There are three ways known by which you can combine the sums or differences of three cubes to equal 100. Can you find any?

3. What Day is It? When the turtle woke up from a three week sleep, she asked the Triumphant what day it was. The Triumphant responded as follows: "When the day after tomorrow is yesterday, today will be as far from Sunday as today was from Sunday when the day before yesterday was tomorrow." So what day was it?

**Answers to Last Week's Puzzles**

1. The probability is one-third.
2. The women fishing were a grandmother, her daughter, and her daughter's daughter. So the grandmother's daughter is both a mother and a daughter.
3. 165 and 561.

### HOUSE FOR RENT

Avail. Furnished or Unfurnished.  
3 Bedrooms, 1 Bath,  
w/Utility Room and 1 Car Garage.  
Trash Collection and  
Lawn Maintenance included.  
Located in San Vicente  
Call: 234-7490 - ELLA

### YARD SALE

SATURDAY, 3/27/99  
9:00AM - 3:00PM  
AS TEO - 256-1058  
Clothes, Luggage, Sports Equipment,  
Kitchen Goods, Books, Toys, etc.

### COMMERCIAL SPACE FOR RENT

STORE - 1,082/SF  
WAREHOUSE - 339,44/SF  
Total: 1,421,44/SF \$1,000/mo.  
Koblerville 288-9430 (evening)

### NICE HOUSES FOR RENT

Executive house with five (5) bedrooms, three (3) bathrooms, two (2) living rooms, two (2) kitchens, four (4) car garage, large living rooms and patio over 5,000 square feet is available for lease at a discount price of \$2,200.00 per month.

Executive house newly built with four (4) bedrooms, three (3) bathrooms, two (2) patios, covered garage, secured fencing around the house at a discount price of \$1,500.00.

Three bedrooms with extra guest room, two (2) bathrooms, three (3) car garage, large terrace house with secured fencing around the house at a discount price of \$1,800.00.

All of the houses are located in a quiet neighborhood in San Vicente. They are also included water tanks with pressurized water pumps. If you are interested to see any of the houses, please call telephone number 235-9099 and leave your name and telephone number.

### APARTMENT FOR RENT

1 & 2 Bedroom, Fully Furnished,  
Split Type A/C on all Rooms  
Including Living & Dining  
- Breezy Atmosphere, Ocean View,  
- Spacious Parking  
- 24 Hours Power & Water  
w/Standby Generator  
- w/ Laundry Facilities  
Please call:  
235-7171/7272  
287-7070

### Computer Tutorial Services

Windows 95 & 98  
Word, Excel, Power Point, Access  
MSN, MSN Messenger, QuickBooks  
Peachtree Accounting, Quick Book  
Repair Program Maintenance  
Home Services Guarantee  
FOR MORE INFORMATION  
CALL: 288-3293

### Apartment For Rent

2 Bedroom Apartment  
(Furnished)  
North of PIC Hotel  
Call: Sally at 234-3694

### House For Rent

2 Bedroom, Fully Furnished,  
24 hrs. water. Located in a  
secluded area in As Lito.  
Call: 288-1209 - 236-7368

### \$800 WEEKLY POTENTIAL

Processing Government refunds  
at home.  
No experience necessary  
1-800-966-3599 Ext. 1976

### CAR FOR SALE

'93 Nissan Pathfinder SE Fully Loaded .... \$9,900  
'96 Honda Civic 4dr, Fully Loaded ..... \$8,995  
'96 Toyota Dyna Ex-Cab Heavy Duty ..... \$8,995  
Pick-up, Loaded ..... \$5,995  
'96 Suzuki Swift 4dr, Sedan w/A/C ..... \$4,995  
For more information pls. call RUDY 235-1242

### NEED ACCOUNTANT

in general office work with computer.  
Helpful w/insurance Knowledge, & D/LC  
Apply in person w/hand written resume at  
7.12 Insurance  
Across street from Pacific Gardenia Hotel in CK

### Budget Car Rental

USED CARS FOR SALE  
1996 Honda Accord  
4 Door, Automatic w/Aircon, Fully Loaded  
\$9,899.00 or best offer  
FINANCING AVAILABLE

QUAM • SAIPAN • ROTA • TINIAN • PALAU • POMPEI  
P.O. BOX 569 CK, SAIPAN, MP 96950  
TEL. (670) 234-3347 • FAX: (670) 288-8232

### For Immediate Hiring

PHILIPPINE GOODS CONST., INC.  
needs employees to fill in job vacancies for  
Electrician • Plumber  
Fin. Carpenter  
Gas/Diesel Mechanic  
Contact Person: Danny Villacrusis  
Tel. 234-8485/0455

### NEEDED SALES REPRESENTATIVES

\$5.00 PER HOUR  
CONTACT  
PACIFIC INFORMATION BANK  
Tel. 322-3348

### Apartment For Rent

2 Bedroom Apartments,  
24 hrs. water, Laundry Area,  
Generator, \$550 a month.  
Located in Dandan.  
Call: 234-6833

### APARTMENT FOR RENT

Studio Type - \$250  
1 Bedroom - \$300  
Koblerville Call: 288-9430 (evening)

### HOUSE FOR RENT

2 Bedroom, Concrete,  
24 hrs. water  
Located in Dandan/As Lito  
Call: 288-8138

### HOUSE FOR RENT

2 Bedroom, Fully Furnished, 24 hrs water,  
High quality and cheap price. Located in China  
Town. Call: 234-7250(W) after 5:00PM or  
233-2289 ask Jang

### HOUSE FOR RENT

2 Bedroom, (1) Bedroom Apartment,  
Fully Furnished, Laundry Room, Security  
Gate w/Intercom. 24 hrs. hot water, High  
quality and cheap price. Located in Koblerville  
Call: 234-7250(W) after 5:00PM or  
233-2289 ask Jang

### FOR RENT

(2) Bedroom, (1) Bedroom Apartment,  
Fully Furnished, Laundry Room, Security  
Gate w/Intercom. 24 hrs. hot water, High  
quality and cheap price. Located in Koblerville  
Call: 234-7250(W) after 5:00PM or  
233-2289 ask Jang

### FOR RENT

(2) Bedroom, (1) Bedroom Apartment,  
Fully Furnished, Laundry Room, Security  
Gate w/Intercom. 24 hrs. hot water, High  
quality and cheap price. Located in Koblerville  
Call: 234-7250(W) after 5:00PM or  
233-2289 ask Jang

### FOR SALE

Caterpillar Generator,  
225KW, Self Contained w/Sub  
Base, Fuel Tank  
Call: JIM 670-234-0475

### PUBLIC NOTICE

TO: ALL OUR VALUED CUSTOMERS

This is to inform the General Public that **Cornelio D. Alomia (a.k.a. Ellie)** Maintenance Repairer, whose picture appears hereon, is **NO LONGER** connected with Great Pacific Ent., Inc.

dba Great Pacific Trash/Refuse Collection effective immediately. Any transaction and dealings he has from this day on will not be honored by the company.

From the management of Great Pacific Ent., Inc.  
Dated: March 12, 1999

### JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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

#### FULL TIME ACCOUNTANT

- B.S. in accounting, preferably CPA
- At least 2 years experience in retail and wholesale accounting
- Must be able to prepare financial statements and reports
- Knowledgeable in computers, preferably in IBM AS-400
- Must be reliable/flexible
- Customer service oriented
- Excellent communication skills
- Highly motivated/good work ethics

EXCELLENT BENEFITS AND COMPETITIVE SALARIES. QUALIFIED RESIDENTS AND NON-RESIDENTS ARE STRONGLY URGED TO SUBMIT THEIR RESUMES IN PERSON AT THE J.C. TENORIO ENTERPRISES, INC. HUMAN RESOURCE OFFICE LOCATED ON THE 2ND FLOOR OF JOETEN SHOPPING CENTER, SUSUPE.

### Aon Insurance Micronesia

has immediate opening for:

#### CLAIMS OFFICER

Successful candidate will have:

- 5-year insurance experience.
- Computer & clerical skills.
- Sound knowledge on automobile repair.
- Must be able to work in a team environment.

Please submit your resume at Aon office at Ground Flr. of Lim's Building cor. Beach Rd. & Airport Rd. San Jose, Saipan.

Aon is an equal opportunity employer.

### Vacancy Announcement

Karidat has immediate job opening for one (1) full time Victim Hotline program coordinator. Application and position description are available at the Karidat office located next to the Korean Association Building in Chalan Kanoa. Office hours are from 8:00 to 5:00 p.m., Monday thru Friday. Deadline for submission is March 31, 4:30 p.m.,

Applicant must be a U.S. Citizen and preferably with background and experience in social work and counseling. Please provide résumé and police clearance.

For more information, please contact Priscilla Dela Cruz at 234-5248, 234-6981.

### HOUSE FOR RENT (2 UNITS)

2-Big Bedroom House, Located in China Town  
Suitable for Housing up to 12 Employees  
24-Hrs. Water Supply, Quiet Place  
Ask for CORA at Tel. 233-9298/9299

### FOR RENT

- Commercial Space
- Korean/Japanese Restaurant
- CW/Complete Furnishing/Equipment
- Studio Type Units Good For Staff Housing

Across  
Dai-Ichi/Hyatt Hotel  
234-7452/9380  
Ask for Ruben

## US Cong . . .

Continued from page 2

important to support the troops "because they're going to be there a long time. There is no exit strategy from this unhappy quagmire."

The sole dissenter was Rep. Barbara Lee, a California Democrat.

She has voted against U.S. overseas military initiatives in the past and opposed a December 1998 resolution backing U.S. troops in the Persian Gulf.

In the Senate, Minority Leader Tom Daschle, Democrat of South Dakota, said Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic "has left us no choice. Diplomacy has been exhausted. ... Continued instability in the Balkans threatens important U.S. national interests."

And Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, Republican of Mississippi, said: "Let no one doubt that the Congress and the American people stand united behind our men and women who are bravely heeding the call of duty there."

### DEATH ANNOUNCEMENT

*Margarita Basa Villanueva*

"MADING"

WAS CALLED TO HER ETERNAL REST ON  
MARCH 19, 1999 IN HILO, HAWAII.  
NIGHTLY ROSARY IS BEING HELD AT 7:00  
P.M. AT SAN ANTONIO CHURCH.  
FUNERAL SERVICES WILL BE ANNOUNCED AT A LATER DATE.


*Si Yu'us Ma'ase*  
JOAQUIN (JACK) P. VILLANUEVA,  
CHILDREN AND FAMILY

### IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE

## Andres Ada Roberto

better known as  
"Andres or Andy Chibi"

was called to his eternal rest on March 17, 1999  
at 11:20 a.m. at the  
Commonwealth Health Center



Predeceased by:  
Daughter: Elizabeth Roberto-Ordonez  
Parents: Juan S. and Engracia A. Roberto  
Sisters: Dolores A. and Rosa A. Roberto  
Parents-in-law: Jose C. and Agueda S. Borja  
Brothers/Sisters: Trinidad B. Deleon Guerrero  
in-law: Felix Villagomez  
Indalecio S. Borja  
Manuel Babaut  
Margarita S. Borja  
Joaquin R. and Grabiela B. Camacho  
Carmen B. Ichihara

His quiet loving memories will live in the hearts of his:  
Wife: Maria "Chibi" Borja Roberto  
Children, in-laws and grandchildren: Lucinda R. and Cris M. Sablan (Christopher, Crystal) Batholomew Ordóñez (Gemma and Jaycie Ordóñez, and Gerard R. Indalecio) Joseph B. Roberto  
David B. and Laurina B. Roberto (Dominic, Yerma, Ashley)  
Andres B. and Dorothy P. Roberto, Jr. (Andrew, Joshua, Aiyisha, Austin)  
Celina R. and Franklin R. Babaut (William, Francine, Kolina)  
Raymond B. Roberto and Zenaida C. Javier (Charay)

Brother & Sister-in-law  
In-laws: Juan A. Deleon Guerrero  
Crisetia B. Villagomez  
Primitiva Babaut  
Teresita B. and Vicente Lizama  
Jesus Ichihara  
Jacoba B. Camacho and Carmelito Asuncion

He is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, in laws, nieces and nephews.

Daily Mass is offered at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 a.m. Nightly rosary is said at the family residence at Airport Road at 8:00 p.m. His remains will be removed from CHC morgue to the family residence for final viewing on Saturday, March 27, 1999 at 7:30 a.m. Responso will be at 12:00 noon. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 4:00 pm at Mt. Carmel Cathedral. Burial will follow immediately at Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

*Si Yu'us Ma'ase.*

Marianas Variety Classified Ads Section

Employment Wanted



PUBLIC NOTICE

All interested resident workers are urged to register at the Dept. of Labor & Immigration...

83 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: 3.05 per hour

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

04 WAITER-Salary: \$3.05-3.40 per hour

01 WAREHOUSE WORKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$3.05-4.00 per hour

01 SALES REPRESENTATIVE-Salary: \$3.05-3.25 per hour

Classified Ads FIRST

01 CARPENTER-Salary: \$4.00-4.50 per hour

01 COMPUTER OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.50 per hour

01 TRUCK DRIVER (LIGHT)-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$4.00-4.50 per hour

01 SUPERVISOR(PRODUCTION)-Salary: \$3.50 per hour

01 DISC JOCKEY-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour

01 CIVIL ENGINEER-Salary: \$800.00 per month

03 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05-3.30 per hour

01 SALESPERSON-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

03 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

05 COOK-Salary: \$3.30-4.00 per hour

02 CONSTRUCTION WORKER-Salary: \$4.00-4.50 per hour

01 MAINTENANCE BUILDING REPAIR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

10 HAND PACKAGER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 CLEANER, BUS-Salary: \$3.05-3.70 per hour

01 SUPERVISOR, MECHANIC MAINTENANCE-Salary: \$900.00-2,000.00 per month

01 (ASSISTANT) OFFICE MANAGER-Salary: \$1,000.00-3,200.00 per month

01 REFRIGERATION AND AIRCONDITIONING TECH. -Salary: \$3.05-3.30 per hour

01 AUTO PAINTER-Salary: \$850.00 per month

04 GAS ATTENDANT-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 BARTENDER-Salary: \$4.00 per hour

03 MASON-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 SALESPERSON-Salary: \$3.10 per hour

01 VIDEO RENTAL CLERK-Salary: \$3.25 per hour

01 MECHANICAL ENGINEER-Salary: \$4.00 per hour

01 MECHANICAL ENGINEER-Salary: \$4.00 per hour

01 NURSE-Salary: \$4.00 per hour

01 DANCER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASST.-Salary: \$3.05-3.15 per hour

01 FOUNTAIN SERVER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 WAITER-Salary: \$3.05-3.75 per hour

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.25-3.50 per hour

01 CIVIL ENGINEER-Salary: \$800.00-1,000.00 per month

01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER, BLDG.-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

DEADLINE: 12:00 noon the day prior to publication

NOTE: If some reason your advertisement is incorrect, call us immediately to make the necessary corrections...

01 BLDG. MAINTENANCE, REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05-5.00 per hour

02 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.05-3.60 per hour

01 PURCHASING MANAGER-Salary: \$634.40-1,800.00 per month

01 DRIVER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 ELECTRONICS MECHANIC-Salary: \$4.50 per hour

01 COMPUTER OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 MASON-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour

01 SALES CLERK-Salary: \$3.05-4.00 per hour

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$800.00-1,000.00 per month

01 ALUMINUM (INSTALLER) FABRICATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 CIVIL ENGINEER-Salary: \$800.00-1,200.00 per month

01 DRIVER-Salary: \$3.05-3.75 per hour

01 PURCHASING MANAGER-Salary: \$800.00-1,000.00 per month

01 NURSE-Salary: \$4.00 per hour

01 DANCER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.25-3.50 per hour

01 CIVIL ENGINEER-Salary: \$800.00-1,000.00 per month

01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER, BLDG.-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 MASON-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

02 MASON-Salary: \$3.25 per hour

01 MAINTENANCE (ASSISTANT), BUILDING REPAIR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 (GENERAL) MANAGER, DEPARTMENT-Salary: \$3.50-4.50 per hour

01 SALES REPRESENTATIVE-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour

01 BEAUTICIAN-Salary: \$600.00 per month

01 BEAUTICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 TOUR GUIDE-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour

01 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 FRONT DESK CLERK-Salary: \$3.05-4.20 per hour

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

04 COMPUTER TECHNICIAN (SPECIALIST)-Salary: \$5.00 per hour

01 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

02 SEWING SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 INDUSTRIAL ENGINEER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour

03 AUTO PAINTER-Salary: \$3.85-3.30 per hour

01 (AUTO) ESTIMATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.25-3.50 per hour

EK & MEK® by Howie Schneider



Garfield® by Jim Davis



PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz



STELLA WILDER YOUR BIRTHDAY

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 1999 Born today, you know how to bring a great deal of fun and celebration into the lives of others...

SATURDAY, MARCH 27 ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Pay attention to what is said of you "in passing" today.

just what you are up to today. SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — A friend or loved one will be able to take advantage of your good will today.

You go at things with more gusto than most other individuals, and though your creativity may be relatively limited...

Also born on this date are: Robert Frost, poet; Tennessee Williams, playwright; Sandra Day O'Connor, U.S. Supreme Court justice; Leonard Nimoy, actor; Erica Jong, writer; Bob Woodward, journalist; Diana Ross, singer-actress; Marcus Allen, football player.

DRUGS ARE NOT COOL! JUST SAY NO! You may be longing for the grass that is on the other side of the fence today. Perhaps it is time for you to tend to your garden just a bit more.

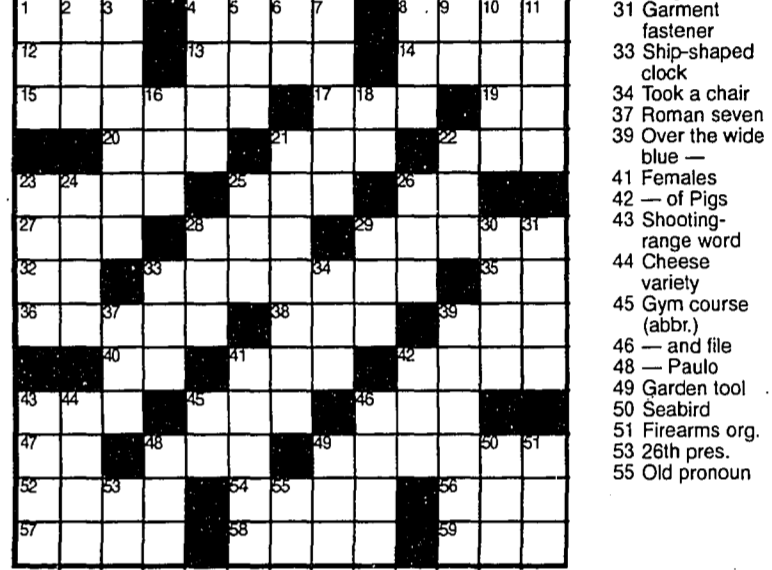
To see what is in store for you tomorrow, find your birthday and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Your own unpredictability may be the very thing that paradoxically lets the competition know

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS and Down crossword puzzle clues and grid

Answer to Previous Puzzle: 1 Asian ox, 4 Whirring sound, 8 Ms. Sorvino...



KidSpot™ by Dick Rogers

THE PUZZLER SO YOU LIKE TO WATCH BIRDS. HOW FAST CAN YOU SPOT THE SEVEN BIRDS HIDDEN IN THIS PUZZLE? I DID THE FIRST ONE TO GET YOU FOCUSED.

THIS YEAR'S MOST POWERFUL THRILLER. NICOLAS CAGE 8MM EIGHT MILLIMETER





# SPORTS



# Team Palau MIBT champs

By Tony Cells  
Variety News Staff  
STILL FLYING high from the county's excellent showing in the

'98 Micronesian Games, team Palau performed brilliantly, and won the Marianas Invitational Basketball Tournament (MIBT)

84-61 over team Rota last Saturday. The tournament provided both the excitement and experience for

youngster, ages 14-18, and lasted four days, from Mar. 17 until Saturday Mar. 20. The tournament took place at Tinian's Multi-purpose Gymnasium.

Perhaps surprised by Palau's abilities on the basketball court, Rota had nonetheless pulled to within seven points at the end of the first half.

It was during the second half that team Palau pulled out all the stops, as they were held Rota to just three points in the second half.

Capping team Palau's 1999 MIBT championship title was the other 'most coveted' award.

Team Palau received the Sports  
Continued on page 50



Action between Palau vs. Rota in Tinian's Multi-Purpose Gym. Team Palau won the MIBT championship game, 84-61. Contributed photo

## SPORTS CALENDAR

Friday Mar. 26

SSA men's fastpitch  
6:30 p.m. Sunrisers vs. Midpac Gensets

8 p.m. Karl Reyes Islanders vs. San Miguel Snappers  
(Susupe softball field)

Major League baseball  
6:30 p.m. Stevedore vs. Pepsi Saipan

(Francisco Palacios Baseball Field)

Saturday Mar. 27  
Senior League baseball  
9 a.m. Ol'Aces vs. Young Stars

(Susupe)

Big League baseball  
1 p.m. Pirates vs. Tanapag Devil Rays

(Susupe)  
Little League baseball  
9 a.m. San Roque D-9ers vs. Garapan Pirates

11 a.m. San Antonio Cardinals vs. St. Jude Hustlers

1 p.m. Fielders vs. Kagman Lions

3 p.m. M.V. Reyes Ol'Aces vs. New Starz  
(San Vicente baseball park)  
Continued on page 50

## Youth soccer registration up at Saipan Health Clinic

YOUTH soccer is in its third year in the CNMI. Children from 5-18 years old, again have the opportunity to participate in an organized soccer program. The league will continue until the end of July. Volunteer coaches from the adult soccer leagues have volunteered and will supervise and train the players. Practices and soccer games will take place at the Airport Road football (soccer) field from 5 p.m. until 6:30 p.m. on Tuesdays and Fridays. On Saturdays the practices will be from 3:30 p.m. until 5:30 p.m. The CYSO will have its second day of registration on Saturday Mar. 27 beginning at 9 a.m. until 1 p.m. at the Saipan Health Clinic. Interested children who missed last week's registration can sign up then, and take the necessary physical at the same time. Registration fee is \$30. which cover the physical exam, insurance and equipment.

## SPG's rugby squad performs in Manila

THE SPG Rugby tour party have returned from the Manila 10's International Tournament having enjoyed their most successful result to date. In Saturday March 20 pool action, Guam beat Mekong Pirates from Vietnam 12-0, Pot Belly Pigs from Hong Kong 26-0 but lost their final match to Royal Brunei Yacht Club 0-10. This placed Guam in the Sunday Plate competition. Guam won their quarter final against Old Herpetonians of Hong Kong 15-5 and their semi final 26-5 against Mekong Pirates. This placed them in the Plate Final against hosts, Manila. In the most exciting match of the tournament Guam were beaten in injury time 19-21. According to Coach Jay Seay, "Manila were big, fast, and experienced, and we were pretty much the opposite. The intensity of the game was higher than any played before by Guam". Manila scored first and kicked the conversion to lead 5-0, Guam then scored twice with one successful conversion to take the lead 12-7. Both sides swapped converted tries to give Guam the lead 19-14. Unfortunately a missed pen  
Continued on page 50

## Kings beat Starzz, 68-61

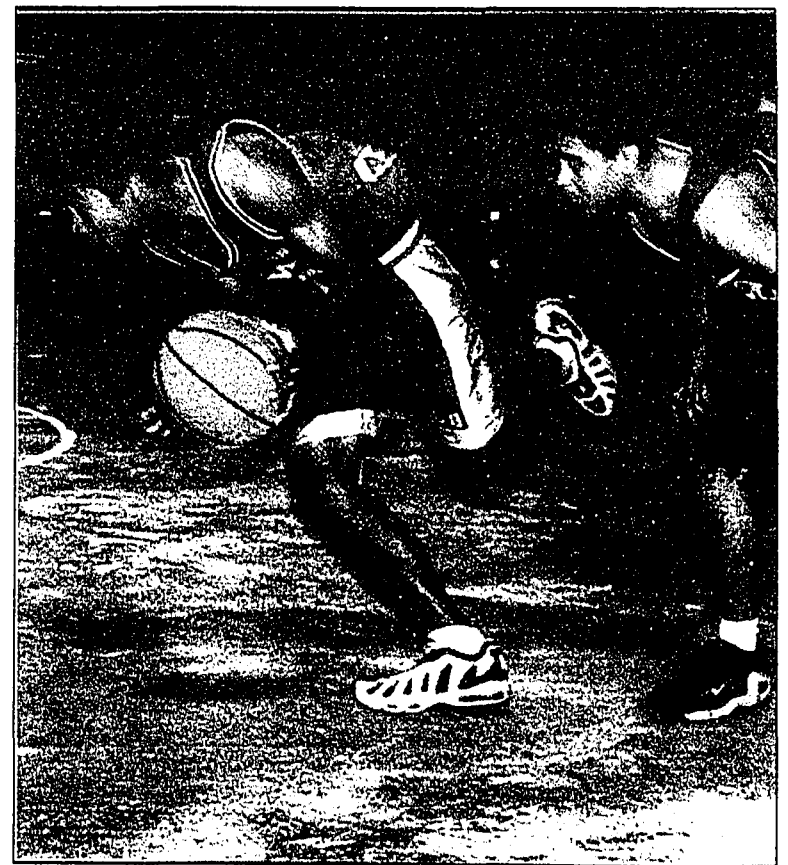
By Tony Celis  
Variety News Staff  
THE KINGS of Oleai defeated the Capitol Hill Starzz, 68-61 in Islandwide Village Youth Basketball League (IVYBL) championship playoffs action. With Wednesday's win, the Oleai Kings set themselves up to face, perhaps the toughest team in the league, the San

Antonio Sixers, tonight in San Antonio, starting at 6:30 p.m. Feared by most, the San Antonio Sixers ended the regular season spotless, at 9-0. Adding to the difficulty of beating such a formidable young basketball squad is John Ngeskebei. Ngeskebei's game point average (gpa) during the regular season was an astounding 27.5

Another San Antonio player, Nicanor Ranas, will add additional explosive to their offence. Nicanor averaged 18.4 points per game during the regular season. Taking the hill Wednesday night was not a walk in the park by any means. "I thought we would go into  
Continued on page 50

## SPORTS NOTES

ICBL  
THE Inter-Commercial Basketball League will be holding a meeting Saturday Mar. 27, at the CMS basketball court in Gualo Rai. Team members are urged to attend the meeting. Managers and coaches or their representatives must be present during the meeting. Topics to be discussed are; 1) team rosters 2) entry fees, and 3) the league's opening date. Eight teams have signed up for the league and organizers are still accepting registration from other businesses to enter their (company's) team(s). Entrance fee is \$950. which includes free uniforms. For more information please call Archie at 234-6136.  
RCYBL  
The Saipan Rotary Club Youth  
Continued on page 50



Oleai King's B.J. Tagabuel dribbles away from a Capitol Hill Starzz player after a successful steal. Oleai Kings won the ballgame 68-61. Photo by Tony Cells

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