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Filder o March 26, 1999

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, power plants 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 fullblown 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 Reves 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 cosponsor 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 billionworth 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 Ameri-- can 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 Continued on page 50



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 takes effect three days from today, motorists have been queueing up at insurance companies. Meanwhile, the Department of Public Safety yesterday called **Continued on page 45**

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 newlyformed 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

The Guerreros-all former Re-

publicans-supported Tenorio,

whose running mate was the

former mayor, in the 1997 elec-

· · · · · · · · · · ·

him."

tions.

Jesus S. Guerrero

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

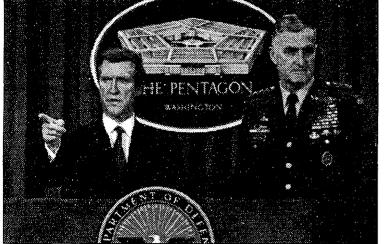
Asked to comment on the new party, Borja, who ran with Tenorio in 1993 and against him in 1997, said "Good luck." "I have had enough of the Democratic Party," Tenorio Continued on page 50

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said the Democratic Party's act-

Bombings debated at UN

rzegovina



U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohen (left) and Gen. Henry H Shelton, chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, hold a press breifing at the Pentagon on Kosovo Wednesday. Earlier, President Clinton an-nounced that U.S.-led NATO airstrikes had been launched against Serbian military targets.

justified.

By NICOLE WINFIELD

UNITED NATIONS (AP) ---Russia called an emergency meeting of the U.N. Security Council to demand NATO stop its strikes on Yugoslavia.

Instead, it got an earful of reasons why the bombing raids were

Several countries, including the United States, Britain, France, The Netherlands, Canada, Slovenia, Albania, Bosnia and Germany, speaking on behalf of the European Union, backed the NATO strikes as the only option left after



A map with arrows pointing throughout central Europe was used by President Clinton in his televised address to the nation where he presented his case for the U.S.-led airstrikes in Kosovo.

diplomacy to settle the Kosovo dispute failed.

To Moscow's credit, some even acknowledged Wednesday that the Security Council hadn't explicitly authorized the intervention. But they stressed that NATO action was a necessary exception given the grave humanitarian situation in Kosovo and Belgrade's violation of international demands for a settlement with the ethnic Albanians

"The action being taken is legal," British Ambassador Jeremy Greenstock told the council. "It is justified as an exceptional measure to prevent an overwhelming humanitarian catastrophe."

Russia found some support for its position from Secretary-General Kofi Annan, who said force was legitimate but that the council should have been involved in any decision to use it.

China and India, along with Belarus, squarely backed Moscow

China fears such unauthorized intervention because of its own dispute with Tibet and Taiwan.

India faces an insurgency in Kashmir that could make it wary of international intervention. The Security Council in 1948 called for a plebiscite in Kashmir but India has refused, saying it would undermine its territorial integrity.

India — which rarely asks to speak at council meetings --- made an impassioned speech, saying anarchy would rule if individual countries or regional blocks be allowed to take "arbitrary and unilateral" action against others.

"What is particularly disturbing is that both international law and the authority of the Security Council are being flouted by countries that claim to be champions of the rule of law," said Indian Ambassador Kamalesh Sharma.

Those countries, he said, "contain within their number permanent members of the council whose principal interest should surely be to enhance - rather than undermine — the paramountcy of the Security Council in the maintenance of international peace and security."

Russia's position has been that the Security Council must explicitly authorize military intervention. The United States and its allies say they had that authorization based on previous council resolutions.

Slovenia's U.N. ambassador Danilo Turk acknowledged that the council had allowed itself to be sidelined on the Kosovo dispute because members couldn't agree to stronger resolutions that explicitly spelled out what measures could be taken to enforce U.N. demands.

"It is true that sometimes force is used without an explicit basis in the Security Council resolutions," he said. "And it is not a new phenomenon. This may be different from the kind of perfect world which we would all like to have, but it is a part of reality."



US Congress airs support for US troops

By TOM RAUM WASHINGTON (AP) Members of the U.S. Congress are giving overwhelming support to American forces in the Balkans conflict even though nany say they still have reser vations about the NATO airstrikes.

Still, "we're there," House Speaker Dennis Hastert, Republican of Illinois, told the House of Representatives late Wednesday in advance of its near-unanimous vote supporting U.S. troops. "We can debate the reasons why we're there. ... But we are there."

Hastert said U.S. pilots are "in the skies over Kosovo and Serbia as we speak. We know how dangerous their mission is. We wish them Godspeed and certainly a safe return." The House voted 424-1 for

a resolution expressing "the



greatest pride" in the nearly 22,000 U.S. military now in the Balkans.

"The House of Representatives supports the members of the United States Armed Forces who are engaged in military operations against the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and recognizes their professionalism,

dedication, patriotism and courage," says the 112-word resolution.

The measure was silent on the underlying policy. By contrast, the Senate voted 58 to 41 Tuesday night to support the bombing campaign.

However, once the bombing was under way, the Senate by voice vote and without debate passed a resolution Wednesday night supporting U.S. forces and recognizing "their professionalism, dedication, patriotism and courage."

House Armed Services Chairman Floyd Spence, a South Carolina Republican, said he still had "deep reservations about the direction of our policy in Kosovo." And Rep. Doug Bereuter, Republican of Nebraska, said it was Continued on page 46

Gov't watches meat imports

By Aldwin R. Fajardo Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday called for vigilance on the possible entry of contaminated meats or animals infected with virus now plaguing Malaysia especially since majority of meat products sold in local markets are imported.

Although experts have emphasized that no medical findings can prove that the virus can be transmitted through ingestion of the meat of infected animals, Tenorio said the government is not taking any chances.

The governor said public health and customs officials have been asked to watch out for possibly infected animals or meat products of virus-stricken animals coming from Malaysia.

An outbreak of Japanese encephalitis caused by mosquito bites has been reported in Malaysia where 50 people have already died, prompting authorities to kill more than 1,600 pigs.

The virus carried by Culex mosquitoes attacks the brain and causes high fever, vomiting and a coma. It is transmitted from pigs to humans through mosquito bites.

The government wants to make sure that none of the meat products sold in local markets were smuggled from Malaysia, thus, the tightened inspection of cargoes entering the CNMI through air and sea ports.

Tenorio said he does not want to see another incident similar to the food poisoning circumstance Wednesday where more than 500 Chinese workers reportedly required immediate medical attention due to severe poisoning manifestations

He said government officials must always stay vigilant in cases when public health and welfare



Pedro P. Tenorio

are at risk, stressing that prevention has proven to be less expensive and more effective than medication

He commended public health, safety and environment officials who promptly dispatched teams to look at the mass food poisoning Wednesday where more than 500 people reportedly fell sick.

"Like the incident Wednesday, public health people went over

made "improper" purchases

with the NMC-issued credit

"If she was using the card for

personal use, of course that's

improper but we're still looking

During the hearing, however,

Hofschneider asked NMC's

comptroller, Harris Lawrence,

regarding the "propriety" of al-

card.

at it," he said.

and try to determine the cause of the sickness. They are still looking into all the possible causes of that," he told reporters.

The governor said he would like to know if the poisoning incident was caused by imported or by the food that are presently being sold around the islands.

"I have asked them to immediately check it to determine the real cause," he stressed.

Manglona: FAS citizens are unfairly stereotyped

By Zaldy Dandan

Variety News Staff ROTA Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona says the bill that would mpose immigration and residency restrictions on Freely Associated States citizens may be unfair to Micronesians in the CNMI and may lead to another confrontation with the federal government.

Manglona at the same time said that if the CNMI "can extend a helping hand to [our] less fortunate [Micronesian] brothers and sisters [then] we should do it." He said FAS citizens migrate to the CNMI "because we have been blessed the opportunities they lack [in their islands]."

Though there may be limits to generosity, Manglona said, "we should not harden our hearts against widows, orphans, single mothers with children, the handicapped and the truly disadvantaged" among the Micronesians. The mayor's letter to the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Relations (FFR) followed that of Rota Municipal Council Chair Alex A. Apatang, who described the bill, H.B. 11-294, as "long overdue ... timely, immediately needed and must be [enacted]."

Most if not all CNMI agencies and officials that submitted their



Benjamin T. Manglona

comments to the committee. which held a public hearing on Rota Monday, share Apatang's concerns.

But for Manglona-a former Covenant negotiator, Senate president and lieutenant governor-the committee should first assess the attitude of the federal government regarding some of the bill's "findings."

"Does the US," he asked FFR Chair Melvin O. Faisao (R-Prec. 3, Saipan), "agree that the CNMI 'has the power to impose appropriate, nondiscriminatory limitations on the habitual residence of FAS citizens'?"

Further, Manglona said, "Does the US agree that a fair interpretation of the Covenant and Com-

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Ingram admits he was once connected with jail project firm

By Rene P. Acosta

Variety News Staff PUBLIC Safety Commissioner Charles W. Ingram yesterday admitted that he was formerly connected with Wackenhut Corp., one of the firms that have expressed interest in building the new jail facility.

Ingram, however, said his connections with the Hawaiian-based prison builder and consultancy firm ended "a long time ago."

Ingram said he was tapped as a consultant in March 1997 by two former Honolulu policemen who were with Wackenhut and were

then headed to Saipan for a "marketing visit." Ingram said his job with the

company ended a month later. He said he is also against any

plan to "sole-source" the construction of the new jail.

Ingram's connection to Wackenhut was disclosed by former Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind.-Prec. 3, Saipan), who said that Ingram, then with the criminal division of the Honolulu Police Department, went to Saipan with two other company officials and offered to construct the new cor-Continued on page 41



Hafa Adai Magazine Chief Editor Kazuhito Katgoka (far left), Office Manager Rio Ohue (far right) and a staff photographer took 1999 Miss NMI Int'l Michelle Sablan and 1999 Miss NMI 1st Runner-up Miyuki Hill for an all day photo shoot for their upcoming July issue yesterday.

Capitol Hill watch group formed

By Rene P. Acosta

Variety News Staff CAPITOL Hill residents have started forming a watch group in light of mounting concerns over the spate of robbery and burglary incidents happening in the area.

There have been nine alleged burglary and robbery cases that occurred in Capitol Hill over the past four weeks alone.

Yesterday, these concerns were expressed by at least two wives

who attended a public hearing at the Susupe Multipurpose Center in preparation for the oversight hearing on Department of Public Safety and Division of Corrections by the House committee on judiciary and governmental operations.

"I cannot go outside with the kids, because of the robberies. Somebody might just be watching around," said Ruth, who re-Continued on page 41

along," HEW Chair Heinz S. Hofschneider (R-Prec. 3, Saipan) told the Variety. "NMC just wanted all the extra money it can have."

NMC, moreover, has to fix its cash management system to allow it to "stretch" the funding assistance it receives and allow the students to receive their grants on time, he said.

But Hofschneider will not com-

lowing an individual to have a credit card backed by the Agnes M. McPhetres college's full faith and credit. Lawrence said the card was authorized by the board of regents

"It was properly done," he said

At the same time, Lawrence said he has asked Bank of Hawaii for a printout of all the NMC's credit card transactions.

"It's not yet complete but we also want to find out what is

Continued on page 43

HEW reportedly looking into NMC president's credit card purchases ment on whether McPhetres

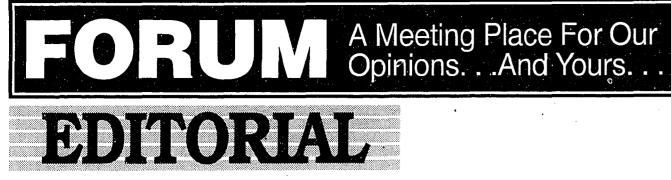
By Zaldy Dandan Varietv News Staff

THE NORTHERN Marianas College issued a credit card for its president, Agnes M. McPhetres, whose purchases with the card are now being investigated by the Office of the Public Auditor, yesterday's House oversight hearing revealed.

NMC's dean of student services George Pangelinan, at the same time, admitted that by tapping available federal funding, the college can accommodate eligible student even without the local Educational Assistance Program (EAP) grants.

It was the "protest rally" staged by NMC students over the lack of EAP grants that triggered the House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare (HEW) oversight hearings.

"The money to allow the students to enroll was there all



New burden coming up

WHILE the soon to be enforced law that mandates liability insurance for all vehicles plying Saipan's roads means well, there is just . no way it can be looked at as "practical" by a greater majority of people in this community.

It is readily apparent that the passage of this law is slowly becoming "anti-consumer" in as much as it unduly burdens the ordinary citizen who is already already overburdened in one way or another by the ongoing economic crunch.

Admittedly, this law will protect victims of car accidents who, without such a law, usually end up waiting long periods because the other party has no means of paying accident damages on its own.

But the only other group that may be rejoicing over this measure are the insurance companies who obviously would be the ones most benefited by the Act.

Not that this industry deserves no help from government, it's just that government should be more discriminate in enacting laws that could end up being anti-consumer.

The statute's faults are two-fold. First, its proponents in the Legislature, while championing the welfare of vehicular accident victims, miscalculated the new law's financial ramifications to the average person. They did not expect the law to create within the industry such a strong "sellers' market," where insurance companies can become too imposing on their customers, without having to worry about losing business.

The mandatory nature of the insurance expense has effectively given some of these companies the luxury of being able to dictate terms to their customer, however rational or irrational, like the "under-25 year old driver" plan or the "no 10-year-old car or over" policy.

The end result of this new law is that insurance rates would tend to rise, for as long as there will be takers.

On the other hand, it is impractical for legislators to impose such a mandatory requirement on an across-the-board basis. No matter how drastic reported accident figures shoot up, still only a small portion of the motoring public, in any given year, stands the risk of getting into accidents.

But then, the biggest consideration here is that everyone should be allowed to set his priorities, which a lot of people, would agree, should not be dictated by someone else, not even the government.

Why should a family of five, earning barely enough to put food on the table, be forced to spend a few hundred dollars to insure, for instance, a shabby-looking, rusty old car on the off-chance that a family member may get into a serious accident driving it?

It is just plainly wrong for legislators to be imposing this requirement, which is just too much for a lot of people to bear.

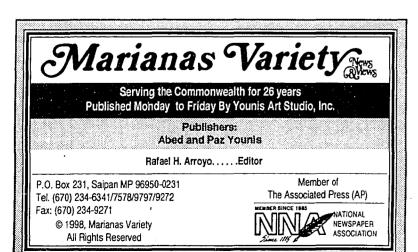
Clearly, the choice has to be made by the individual, basing on his own finances, his priorities and his needs.

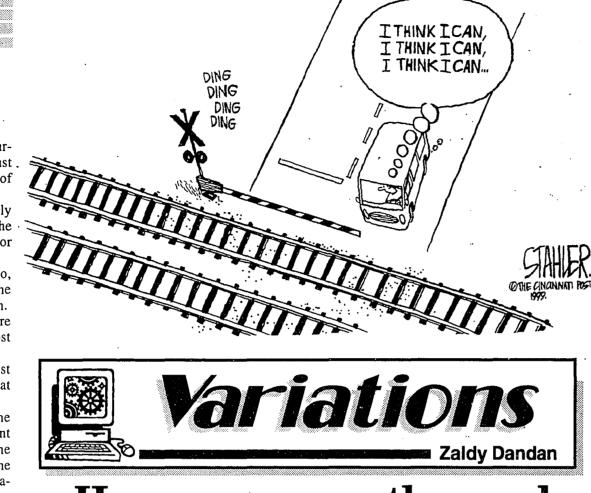
Leaders should realize that it is impractical for the average person to be prioritizing on this additional expense item at a time when layoffs, retrenchment and joblessness are the buzzwords.

Next week, the mandatory auto insurance will take effect, but somewhere down the line, something should be done about this law. It is hoped that a thorough review can bring a quick realization of a badly-thought requirement vis-a-vis good public policy.

Leaders, after all, should be sensitive and sympathetic enough to see the difference.

This is one of those laws that deserve to be repealed.





How green was the card

NOT SINCE it was reported that the CNMI government may consider granting permanent residency to certain alien workers was there anything comparable to the "excitement" caused by the rumor of the "Not Included in Federal Takeover" rubber stamp. For the past few days, it was the only question I was asked every time I picked up the phone or run into a kababayan. My standard reply was that, as far as I know, only a bill passed by the US Congress and signed into law by the US president can determine who will "benefit" from a "federal takeover." This is assuming, as most of us alien workers happily assume, that the extension of federal immigration law to the islands will result in our getting "green cards."

Last Tuesday, we came out with a report that, I thought, would finally clear things up. Citing flat-out denials from the Division of Immigration, the Department of Labor and Immigration (DOLI) and the Office of the Governor, we reported that there is no such policy to stamp an alien worker's passport with the words "Not Included (or Not Valid) in Federal Takeover." However, some callers still insist that someone's friend's relative's second cousin's co-worker *saw* a passport bearing the aforementioned rubber stamp. I'm still waiting for a photocopy of that passport.

Not that I totally disbelieve it cannot happen. Even DOLI did not rule out the possibility that someone at Immigration may be having too much fun with his private collection of rubber stamps. Still, the idea that there could be an Immigration officer doing it for his own amusement is, for me, as believable as the suggestion that an "anti-garment industry saboteur" was behind the food poisoning incident at L&T.

Not surprisingly, most alien workers would prefer that there is such a rubber stamping policy. Indeed, the rumor that

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such a policy exists was not so much as "frightening" for nonresidents—particularly for the unfortunate ones who had to make sudden and radical changes in their vacation plans—as actually comforting: "Federal Takeover," like Jesus at the end of the world, "is Coming."

I have, during the past two years, repeatedly pointed out that not a single CNMI reform bill, either in Congress or as proposed by the White House, calls for an automatic granting of permanent residency to aliens. But so far as this issue is concerned, I have never met a kababayan who will not tell me that I'm very wrong. I hope I am.

I do not-more accurately, I no longerconsider it deplorable for any alien here in the Northern Marianas to hope that he or she could become a CNMI permanent resident or a green card holder or even a US citizen. How can anyone blame them for realizing that one of the main reasons they're getting \$3.05 an hour and not \$2,000 a month is their lack of a green or blue passport with an eagle on it? And how can I dare tell them that although they've been here for more than 10 years, pay local taxes, are actually counted in determining the number of legislators an election precinct is entitled to, and are directly affected by laws enacted without their consent—how can I say to them that they should not even dream of finally ceasing to be an alien in a place they have learned to love?

At any rate, Will Rogers once said that the only thing that can stop hair from falling is the floor. Similarly, the only thing that can stop these "federal takeover = green card" rumors is the actual enactment in Washington, D.C. of a CNMI reform bill.

Until then, when in doubt, call us and we'll try to get the answers from the appropriate government officials.

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Letters to the Editor Letters to the Editor Letters addressed to other publications or to third parties and those endorsing particular political candidates are discouraged. All letters are subject to editing. The Variety reserves the right to reject any letters. Name withheld OSHA's Strasheim agrees will not see print.

Dear Editor:

After careful consideration, I feel compelled to comment on the public debate contained in the editorial letters from Richard Pierce, SGMA Executive Director, and William Dean regarding Mr. Pierce's recommendation that SGMA members cooperate with OSHA.

The core issue of their letters is whether employers should refuse OSHA entry when compliance officers attempt an inspection.

First, for the record, the OSHA Act gives OSHA the right to enter any workplace to conduct inspections. Federal Court interpretations make clear that employers have the right to deny entry if OSHA does not have a warrant.

OSHA's practice is to avoid ior, our compliance officers

seeking a warrant in advance are professionals.

of every inspection simply because seeking a warrant would clog the courts. However, in each case when we are denied entry, we do seek a warrant. I can recall

ceeding inspections. Exercising a legal right is no reason for us to do anything except establish our legal right to enter — and we do this through the warrant process.

Third, William Dean has stated the OSHA inspectors have "unjustly" targeted CNMI with far more inspections than anywhere else in Region IX. Although I have set the record straight on this a number of times, I will do it again.

Using 1997 as an example, there were 14,242 OSHA inspections throughout the four states and the Pacific Territories covered by Region IX. Of these, 315 were in the CNMI. The total penalties assessed

in Region IX was \$20,029,623. Of this amount, \$857,317 was assessed in CNMI.

Fourth, Dean states that OSHA will only seek a warrant for employee complaints or if there is a hazard that is obvious from off premises. Not true, Bill. Most warrants OSHA obtains are for regularly scheduled visits.

Bill Dean sells consultative services and safety equipment, but when it comes to knowing this aspect of OSHA policy, Bill is selling bad information.

Last - and most important -I applaud Richard Pierce for his advice and efforts to set a tone of voluntary compliance and cooperation with OSHA. While some of the garment manufacturers have a lot of room for improvement, we at OSHA have seen marked improvement in others among these employers.

Some of this may be because of OSHA, but I believe much of the credit goes to those who are voluntarily trying to do the right thing to improve the safety of their workplaces.

Within OSHA, we are trying to work cooperatively with the SGMA, within the limit of our authority, to help them make their workplaces models of good safety and health.

There is still a lot to be done, but I think it is good for the business of the industry and I know it's the right thing to do. Frank, I think Richard Pierce

is giving good advice. That's my opinion.

FRANK STRASHEIM Regional Administrator OSHA Region IX

Junkets prime reason for running for office?

Dear Editor:

The taxpayers will pay a total of \$3,240.25 per person to send Karl Reyes and other elected representatives to Texas to play golf with Tom DeLay this weekend and beg him to fight against including the CNMI in the proposed increase of the federal minimum wage to \$5.65 per hour.

The more the name of Tom DeLay is associated with the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands as it's Chief Protector and Savior, the heavier a price we will pay in Washington in years to come.

It is a shame to see a decent man like Karl Reyes doing damage to the CNMI's reputation by kissing the "Hammer's" feet for the sake of the garment industry and other businesses that just can't grasp the concept that indigenous people will stay unemployed or never leave government work unless the private sector starts paying decently.

This five-day trip will cost the taxpayers almost \$11,000 if three representatives attend. Is this what they call an austerity measure? Is it the belt-tightening Teno has referred to?

Was it a nice golf course? Did the taxpayers pay the \$3,000 charitable donation entrance fee to play in the charity-celebrity golf tournament? Was it our representatives' own money? If so, why use the taxpayers' money for travel and per diem?

How many actual minutes will our leaders spend with DeLay? Did "Slow" go? I bet he did!!! How could he resist an opportunity to golf with his hero? I'm sure we'll be treated to a beautiful \$11,000 golfing photo!

Sometimes I think junketing is the prime reason for running for office. That's how one gets to go to the Philippines, Japan, Korea, Taiwan, China, Honolulu, Washington, New York, Texas and points east and west on the taxpayers' dollar without over having to spend one's own.

few examples when OSHA

was unable to obtain a war-

For example, in 1998,

OSHA was refused entry on

25 inspection attempts in

Saipan. Twelve of these em-

ployers later relented and al-

without warrant.

lowed the OSHA inspections

For the other 13 denials of

entry, OSHA was able to ob-

tain the warrants and conduct

Second, OSHA does not in-

crease the scope of the inspec-

tions after serving a warrant.

While Mr. Pierce is probably

a keen judge of human behav-

the subsequent inspections.

rant.

Over the last few years legislative and executive branch junketing to the above places has' resulted only in a bigger garment industry, leasing out of more public land and more foreign workers for the wealthy connected people in the recruitment business.

It's also the reason why we can't come up with matching funds for federal CIP projects. It's better to spend money on wining, dining, brandy and cigars than have water 24 hours a day, I guess.

Times are tough now so the Legislature's long-time love affair with junketing must end. This junket is a perfect example of why.

In this high-tech age, there's really no more reason for having to leave Saipan. If our elected leaders want to bed DeLay, let them use the phone, fax or the "beg-net".

Traveling on the people's buck should now become a rate and accountable event.

It takes over 50 hours of flying and waiting time to reach Texas from Saipan and return. Have any of our elected representatives spent this much time talking to unemployed, local people on Saipan to find out whether THEY would benefit from having the federal minimum wage here, especially a higher one?

Or do these elected representatives only listen to the garment gang?

KENNETH L. GOVENDO

Keep graduate and professional students in mind on NMC reform

Dear Editor:

I recently read that a scholarship reform is in the works. Well, I'd like to put my two cents in. There are three reasons why the reform will not work for graduate or professional students.

First, the reform suggests that students are encouraged to seek federal grants. This will not work for graduate or professional students because the federal government does not offer grants to graduate or professional students.

Second, there was a sugges-

tion that students find part-time jobs to help out with personal expenses. Law students are discouraged from working during their first year of law school because of the demanding and rigorous course load.

Third, there was a suggestion that students can survive with \$15,000.00 a year for school and living expenses. If I had a choice as to which school to attend, I would find the "cheapest" (and I use the word "cheap" lightly because education is not cheap) and apply there.

Unfortunately, the school I am

attending is a private law school and the tuition alone is \$10,000 a semester (this does not include books and study aids).

Graduate and professional students do not always have an option as to which law school or graduate school to attend. Graduate and professional schools are very competitive.

I sincerely hope that graduate and professional students are kept in mind when evaluating the reform.

> MARIE RIOS MARTINEZ

Hearing may bring changes at DPS

By Rene P. Acosta Variety News Staff

REPRESENTATIVE Frank Cepeda is optimistic the oversight hearing which his committee would soon push through at the House of Representatives will bring in changes at the Department of Public Safety and the Division of Corrections.

Cepeda presided over the public hearing held yesterday by the committee on judiciary and governmental operations which he chairs, during which concern were raised over the spate of burglary incidents in the area.

A former DPS staff psychologist also recommended some changes and the adoption of necessary programs for the corrections office.

Cepeda, whose committee will conduct the oversight hearing on April 14, however still has refused to

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voice opinion on the concerns that were raised saying he wanted to be fair as much as possible until the hearing is not terminated.

The committee chairman said he does not want to come out with issues on the House hearing, because he does not want to be accused of creating it himself.

However, he said he is sure his committee will bring changes to the PDS and DOC, since it may file a needed legislation, or just make recommendations to the governor arising from the result of the investigation.

During the public hearing, former DPS psychologist Greg Miles said there seems to be a lack of training, education and experience on the part of corrections officers.

He said the atmosphere at the DOC is "tense" and there has been no effective commu-

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nication on the site which probably courted the cases of riots and escape.

Miles also recommended to the committee that DOC be removed from the DPS, noting that the corrections has been dominated by former policemen.

Along with this, he also came out with an idea that the corrections office creates three deputy posts, the deputy director for program, security, and the custodial to effectively manage and run the facility.

Miles said these programs have been in place during the term of the former administration, but these "were killed" by the succeeding administration.

There were no riots nor escape incidents before, he said, adding that they even have had carving, farming, and other programs for the prisoners.

CUC wants bidders ranked

By Jojo Dass Variety News Staff

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THECOMMONWEALTH 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 review best and final proposals is 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

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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

Continued on page 43

ustomers tirst_

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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.

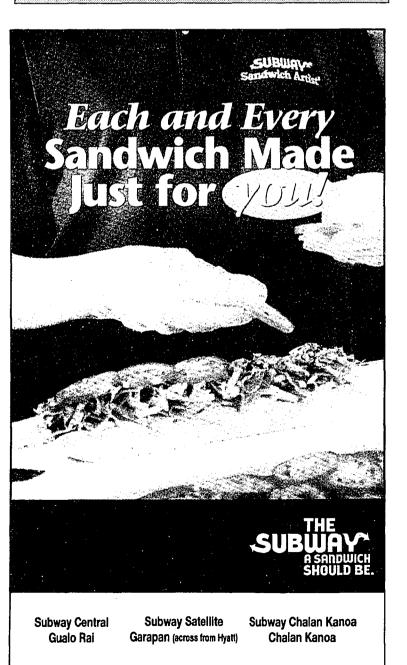
Also, foreign flag vessels often have freight rates that are lower than American flag carriers. The expected increase in the volume of cargo, as well as the reduction in the existing high freight rates, will ultimately reduce the cost of living in both Continued on page 43

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 spokes-

man 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 morn-

ing she woke up and found that her daughter was not in her bed. When she went inside the living Continued on page 43



Message of Appreciation

*See dealership for complete details.

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 faction 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;

Hyatt Regency Saipan

Duty Free Shoppers Saipan

Midway Motors

Flores, Inc.

On behalf of everyone who participated and CNMI's community of individuals with disabilities, NMPASI extends a sincere thanks to each of the co-sponsors.

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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 illagomez.

"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.



Bacteria found in L&T food samples

By Haldee V. Eugenio Variety News Staff

WHILE the 500-plus victims of Wednesday's food poisoning are now in stable conditions, health officials are yet to trace the original source of the poison-causing bacteria found in the food samples eaten by the garment workers. Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez vesterday confirmed that bacteria were indeed found in the food samples served by L&T Garment Manufacturing Corporation's cafeteria to workers Tuesday night.

However, health officials still have to identify which of the bacteria found in the food samples triggered the mass poisoning. Preliminary results of the investigations conducted by the Department of Public Health showed that bacteria were found in the peking duck, rice, cabbage and other food consumed by the victimized Chinese garment work-

Coral Cour Point

Resort Club

"When we got the samples of the food, they all had some bacteria so we don't know yet what the source (of the poisoning) is so

we are looking everywhere. 'It could be the peking duck, the rice or the cabbage. These food had the bacteria," Villagomez said in an interview shortly after visiting the L&T compound.

LawyerStevenP.Pixley, chief legal counsel of Tan Holdings which is the mother company of L&T, confirmed all the workers downed by the incident are now in stable conditions and are already back to work.

L&T's garment manufacturing facilities are now back in operations, as well as the cafeteria which was earlier temporarily shut down. Villagomez pointed out that

the cafeteria has already made a **Continued on page 43** By Eric F. Say

Variety News Staff HAGATNA — Governor Carl Gutierrez has signed Budget Bill 147 into Public Law 25-03 but not without reservations.

He also has appointed Michael J. Reidy as director of Education. His first order of business is to make sure that educators are paid tomorrow despite a letter sent out by former director Roland Taimanglo saying that paychecks were going to be late.

The governor's action came on the heels of the 25th Guam

Legislature's transferring the control of the Department of Education back to the Executive branch. According to Gutierrez, this is done at a time of great crisis for DOE, including financial strain and confusion surrounding numerous reorganization plans. "Most importantly, our limited resources are not getting into the classrooms where they can benefit the true constituency of DOE, our children," Gutierrez said.

Gutierrez told Reidy, who had his young son on his lap, that he is putting his full faith in him to

immediately assume this very serious responsibility.

"Your strong background and steady track-record will provide the stability needed to assure the people of Guam that the Department of Education is the first priority of this Administration, and that no efforts will be spared in moving forward to better serve our children," Gutierrez said.

Gutierrez said he is relying heavily on Reidy to reestablish the communications link between DOE's management and its personnel. "The personnel of the Continued on page 44

Fund's assets up by \$11.5M in month

By Haidee V. Eugenio

Variety News Staff WHILE a number of businesses in the CNMI are still hurting from the economic crisis, the NMI Retirement Fund continues to generate millions of income with fiscal year-to-date stock market investments registering at \$55.530

million as of end-January. For the month of January alone, the value of stock market-invested

assets of the Fund went up by \$11.5 million compared to the previous month's records, latest figures show.

Acting Fund administrator Fred F. Camacho yesterday disclosed that the latest off-island portfolio reported a one-month gain of 3.51 percent net of fees and expenses. He added that the Fund's FYTD stock market-invested assets is

pegged at \$55,529,556 as of end-

January.

This amount, on top of the locally-invested assets, comprises the available resources for the Fund members' retirement benefits.

"It takes time to really get the stock market investment reports so the latest will only be in January when we gained \$11,465,372. We are still waiting for the February reports," said Camacho.

In January, however, two of the Fund's money managers posted a net loss. Invesco Asia, Ltd. had a 2.28 percent loss, while G.D. Bjurman had 4.96 percent loss.

Among Fund's money managers, Atalanta had the greatest stock market assets of \$25 million for FYTD, followed by Provident with \$13.6 million

Renaissance came in third with \$12.2 million while BEA International has \$2.3 million.

G.D. Bjurman posted a FYTD investment value of \$1.2 million, Continued on page 44

CPA takeover of new marina proposed Bv Aldwin R. Fajardo

Variety News Staff

MARINE Revitalization Corporation president Anthony Pellegrino has asked the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) to take control over the \$4.3 million Outer Cove Marina.

Pellegrino raised the possibility of transferring MRC's control of the Outer Cove Marina to the CPA in a recent meeting with executive director Carlos H. Salas and seaport manager Tony Cabrera.

Pellegrino said the takeover would give CPA control over another port which could mean additional revenues without practically infusing or coughing out fresh capital since major improvements have already been undertaken for the marina.

Once the takeover plans push through, CPA would assume all liabilities of MRC including the payment for the \$4.3 million loans from various commercial banks used to develop the marina.

Under the existing contract, MRC will build and operate the Outer Cove Marina and transfer its control to the ports authority Continued on page 44

Coral Ocean Point Revort Club **Golf Event Announcement**

C.O.P.'S SPRING SPECIAL (MARCH 24TH-APRIL 9TH)

All persons paying the local play fee will receive a coupon good for one free drink in our Clubhouse Restaurant upon completion of their round.

C.O.P DOUBLE PEORIA GOLE CHALLENGE "LONG RUN COMPETITION"

- Piace: 1st **BEFIEL Bounds** of Golf Ticket for 4 pax comp. poolside BBQ 6 FREE Rounds of Golf Ticket for 4 pax comp. poolside BBQ 2nd Place: 4 FREE Rounds of Golf Ticket for 4 pax comp. poolside BBQ Place: 3rd Place: 4 FREE Rounds of Golf 4th 5th Place: **4 FREE Rounds of Golf**
- 6th Place:

From March 24th through April 9th, Coral Ocean Point will be having a Double Peoria Golf Challenge. This competition will be open to all players with a valid CNMI drivers license or alien registration card

YOU PAY YOUR \$60.00 PLAY FEE AND RECEIVE THE FOLLOWING ITEMS:

A meal coupon for snack food/at C.O.P. Clubhouse Restaurant

MENU:

1)

- a. Choice of Juice (Tomato or Orange or Pineapple or Grapefruit
- b. Toasted Bread or Morning Roll w/ Butter, Jam and Marmalade
- c. One (1) Boiled Egg
- d. Coffee or Tea of Milk
- A sleeve of MacGregor golf balls.
- 2) A coupon of 15% discount for C.O.P. any restaurants. 3)

To enter simply pay the 60.00 play fee and receive, a meal coupon for snack food at C.O.P. Clubhouse Restaurant/and sleeve of MacGregor golf balls. After you've completed your round turn your signed and attested scorecard at the Pro-shop. We will be announcing the first weeks' winners, on April 1st and the second weeks' winners will be announced, on April 10th.

PRIZES INCLUDE:

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Free rounds of golf, merchandise from our Pro-shop and complimentary tickets to our pool side B.B.Q.

4 FREE Rounds of Golf

Man charged in bank

Palau on FAS measure: **U.S. tampering of Compact** provisions is 'the real issue'

For the Variety

KOROR (Palau Horizon) — The Government of Palau is in no way trying to modify the terms of the compacts signed by the Freely Associated States (FAS) with the United States federal government, but is only trying to raise its concerns over a proposed measure which would impose immigration and residency restrictions on Micronesians.

In an interview, Presidential Chief of Staff Timmy Shmull clarified that Palau is not protesting the FAS bill. "Actually, it's not a protest. We just want to relay our concerns," Shmull said.

Shmull told Palau Horizon that the real issue is the inclination of the US federal government to tamper with the provisions of the COFA which give FAS citizens like Palauans the "privilege" to freely migrate to the US, including its continental territory, to either look for employment or further their education.

"That was one of the main reasons why Palauans went to the polls [referendum on the compact], because they believe that privilege



Melvin O. Faisao

is contemplated in the COFA,' Shmull said.

Shmull went to Saipan last March 15 and met with Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) House Speaker Diego Benavente and Chair Melvin O. Faisao (R-Prec. 3, Saipan) of the House Committee on Federal and Foreign Relations. Faiso is one of the FAS bill's main sponsors.

Benavente, according to Shmull, believes"it's not appropriate at this time to pass the bill." Hearings are still to be conducted around Saipan, including Rota and Tinian.

In Saipan, Shmull submitted a position paper on House Bill 11-

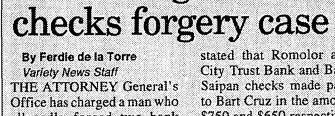
294 and took the opportunity to voice the concerns of the government of Palau particularly on Article 4 - Immigration, Section 141 of the Compact of Free Agreement (COFA).

It was reported earlier that the government of Palau was very critical of the FAS bill because of some provisions which, Shmull said, would only "punish" FAS citizens, and its enactment could only be described as a "rogue action."

Under the COFA between FAS and the US, the federal government will "reimburse" US states and insular areas for the "impact" of the FAS citizens on their infrastructure and public services. Hawaii, Guam and the CNMI, however, have accused the federal government of its failure to do so.

The CNMI, which hosts some 5.308 FAS citizens in 1995, in claiming a range of \$11 million to \$21 million worth of "impact" funds a vear.

To address the issue, the government of Palau is going to formally invite Speaker Benavente and Rep. Faisao, who have initially agreed to come to Palau, for further discussion of the bill.



allegedly forged two bank checks in an attempt to steal money. Abdon Romolor was

charged with two counts of forgery, three counts of possession of forged writing, possession or removal of government property, and attempted theft by deception.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Marvin Williams said the 22-year-old Romolor committed such offenses last Monday. Arraignment for Romolor was set for April 5. Williams in the complaint

TIME: 1:00 P.M. ~ 11:00 P.M.

stated that Romolor altered City Trust Bank and Bank of Saipan checks made payable to Bart Cruz in the amount of \$750 and \$650 respectively.

Williams said the defendant did knowingly possess forge writing by presenting the checks to the two banks with the knowledge that such checks were signed without proper authority.

The prosecutor said Romolor also altered a CNMI government identification card no. from the Saipan Mayor's Of-

"Defendant without proper authority possessed the property of the CNMI government, **Continued on page 43**



Japanese gets 70-mo. sentence

By Ferdie de la Torre

Variety News Staff MAN who was arrested in a major drug bust involving over 300 grams of crystal methamphetamine was sentenced yesterday to 70 months' imprisonnent

US District Court Judge Alex Munson ordered Michihide Izumi to spend five years and 10 months in jail for smuggling 'ice" at the Saipan Airport.

Munson said that while in jail, Izumi shall participate in a drug treatment program approved by the Board of Prisons and un-

dergo educational and vocational program as well.

The judge said the sentence is appropriate considering the huge amount of "ice" confiscated and to deter other individuals who might otherwise be inclined to use CNMI for drug distribution.

portation of methamphetamine, conspiracy to import, possession, conspiracy to possession, possession with intent to distribute, and conspiracy to possession with intent to distribute. The defendant and counsel





Izumi was charged with im-

Continued on page 43

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 sulcide 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. Continued on page 42



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



BEACH ROAD CHALAN LAOLAO (Next to Triple J Motors and CNMI Travel) Phone 235-6111, Fax 235-6714

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

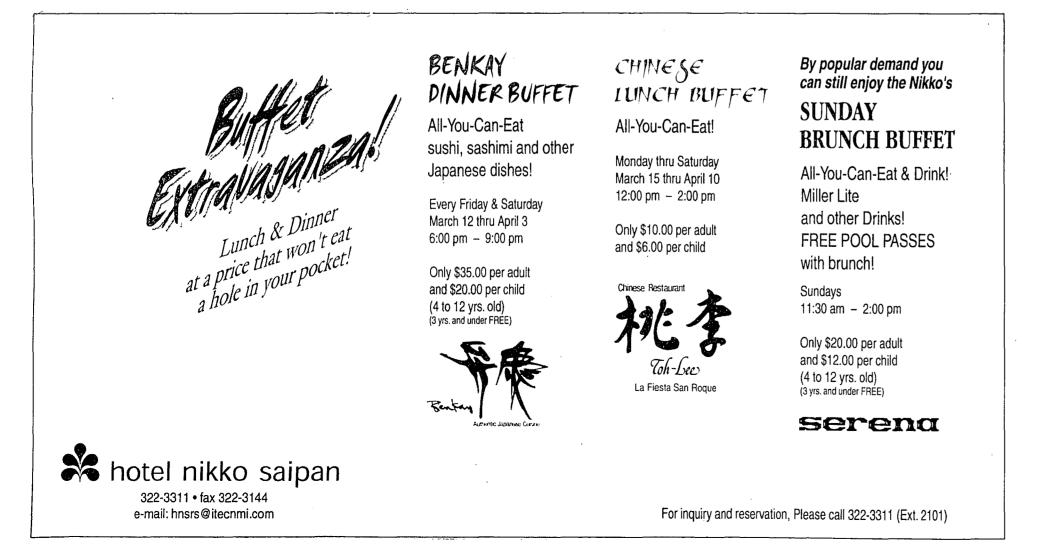
is concerned about the early childhood program, the school system will be putting the kindergarten students to headstart 4 and 5.

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.

Continued on page 42



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-



"The budget would be balanced



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

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

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 began 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



David Igitol

fused 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

ent 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

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.

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 comment-

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

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 vouth.

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 manamkophysical 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-Continued on page 42



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 Manahane (B), Ringo Reyes (B), Carl Cepeda (B), and Nathan Diaz (A). Not shown are Lina Evangelista (B) and Joewayne Čruz (B)

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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.

PNG telecom

liberalization

earns praises

- The South Pacific Forum Sec-

liberalise its telecommunications

The Secretariat's Deputy Sec-

He invited PNG to take a lead-

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 un-

likely 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 enforce American Samoa's no gambling law and vowed to close down all poker machines, except the 182 which were in the territory before the 1989 ban.



SAN ROQUE-AS MATUIS PARISH

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22nd \$100.00 Cash
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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, codenamed 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 singlehandedly 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 Po- powers to appoint Police Comlice 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 missioners under the new Constitution.

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

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

Palau seeks sewage solutions

By MALOU L. SAYSON For the Variety

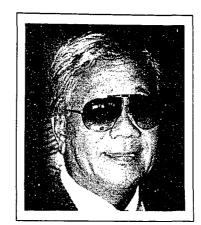
KOROR (Palau Horizon) -Experts say the "ponds and wetlands interface system (PWIS)" is the best alternative to address Koror's sewage treatment prob-

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 system because of the long term benefits, if you don't do it now it will be more costly and difficult."

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



Kuniwo Nakamura

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



Yutaka Gibbons

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."

professor, likewise recommended the PWIS, considering Palau's critical need for a

Gearheart, an engineering reliable and effective system to minimize the impact of wastewater on the receiving waters.





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



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 Rarnos 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.

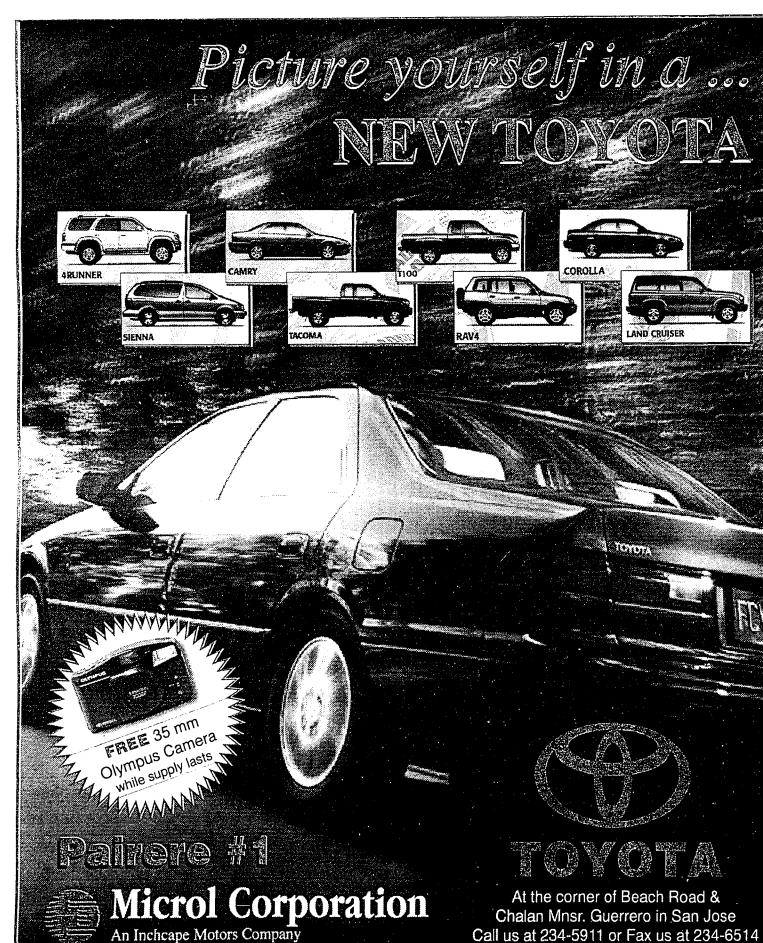
The Ramos administration funded many projects to mark the occasion, including a permanent "Centennial Expo" at the former U.S. Clark air base, now a sprawling industrial estate.

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.





FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 1999 - MARIANAS VARIETY NEWS AND VIEWS-19







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

port.

airport.

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

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 Cuevas 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 series 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.



RP Gov't, rebels call ceasefire



INVITATION TO BID DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

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.

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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 highestranking military officer seized by the Communists 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 negotia-

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.

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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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 Utkur 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

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 compensa-

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

TOKYO (AP) - A Japanese reversed the March 1990 decision death was caused by exhaustion by the government to turn down an from regularly clocking some 25 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 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, saving 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 sui cide by hanging in his garage was caused by exhaustion and depression from 80-hour weeks at his job in a machine shop.





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.

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

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



Hakuo Yanagisawa

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

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

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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.

Thailand begins AIDS vaccine trial

BANGKOK, Thailand up to \$9 million, with most (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 coun-

The AIDSVAX vaccine being tested is produced by VaxGen Inc., a Californiabased 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, AIDSVAX 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 ex- hoping for 5,000 by summer. periment. Intravenous drug users are considered suitable by AIDS, in large part befor 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

Half the volunteers will receive the vaccine while the someday we will have a other half will be given a medicine that will prevent placebo. The test will cost the spread of HIV."

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.

AIDSVAX 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

I hailand has been rayaged cause 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

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.

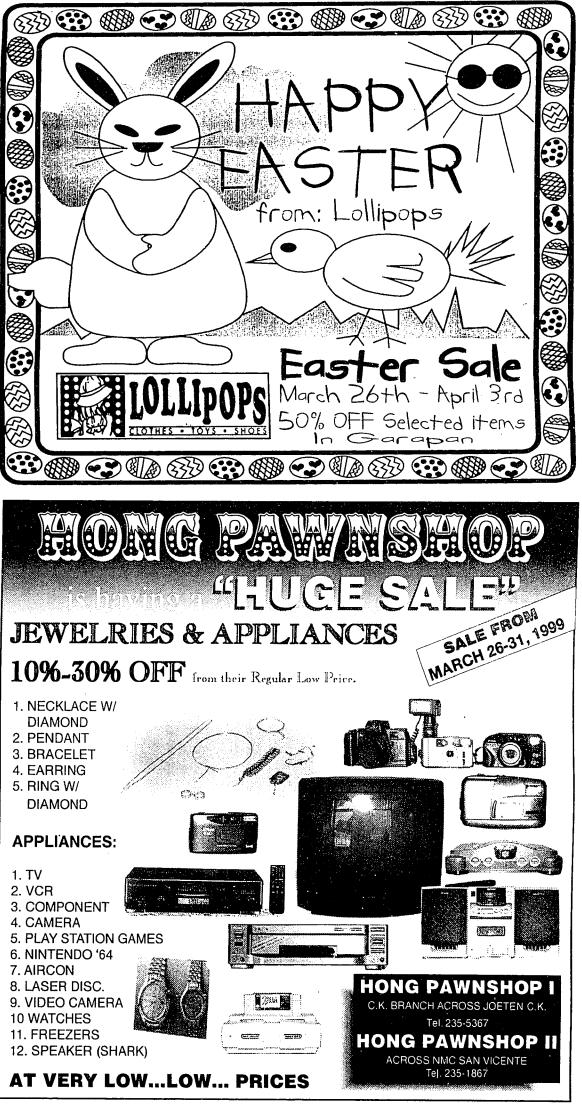
The two ships, with false Japanese markings, were first spotted in Japanese waters early Tuesday. They fled into North Korean waters after being chased for 24 hours by Japanese coast guard ships and navy destroyers firing warning shots.

South Korean military offi cials 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.

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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

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.

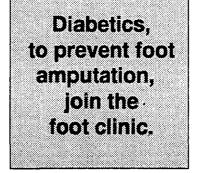
Jackson said he planned to be active in the contest, waging "a moral fight that lies beyond politics" over such issues as education, health, prisons and diversity in corporate leadership.

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 wa posted on the Web page of the Rainbow/PUSH coalition of which he is president www.rainbowpush.org - and on the Web site of his congressman son www.jessejacksonjr.org.





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Kids dress as Teletubbies to celebrate the first birthday of the Teletubbies U.S. television series at New York's FAO Schwarz toy store Wednesday.

US sues New York City for clean air violations

NEW YORK (Reuters) — The ing a compliance order issued 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 violatMarch 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 vehicles that compact or crush the appliances. The city allegedly does not remove refrigerants. which contain ozone-depleting substances such has 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 organisations contend the EPA has no business making rules for bioengineered crops with builtin 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 offi-

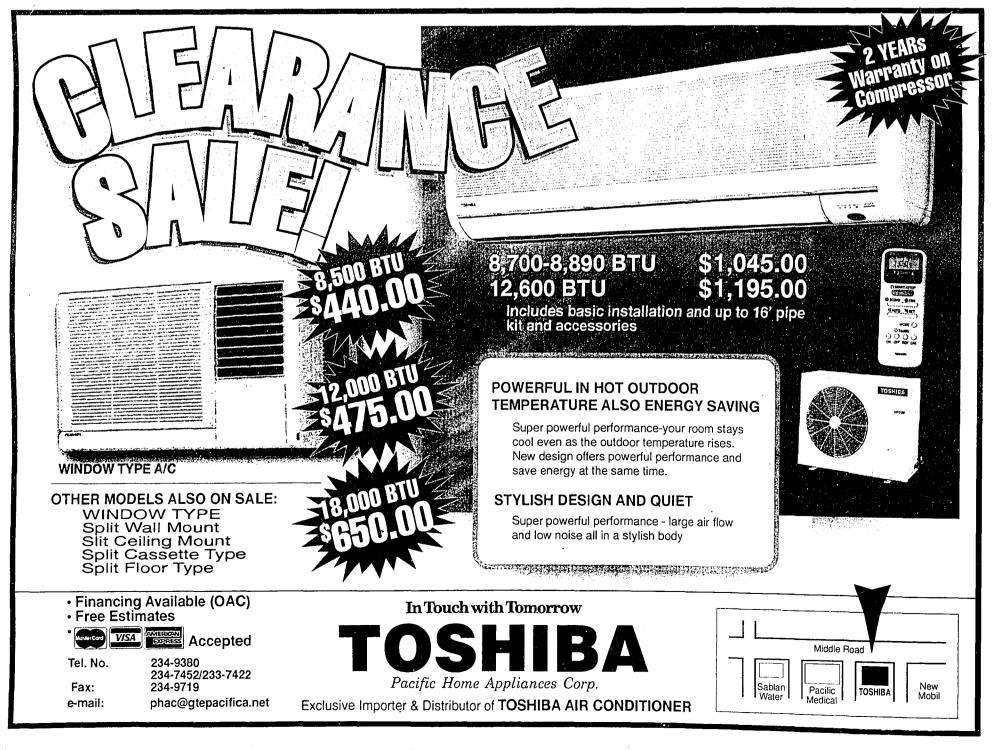
Combest asked the EPA to reopen its formal rulemaking on plant pesticides, and take a closer look at the costs to the plantbreeding industry.

Among other things, the EPA's term of "plant pesticide" has been criticised 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 "plantexpressed 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 'winwin' 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

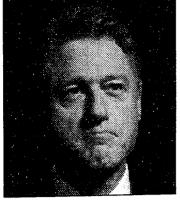
conduct air and missile strikes with NATO. Such resolutions usually are passed by overwhelming numbers.

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 postimpeachment 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 exploded in January 1998. 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

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 fundraising 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.

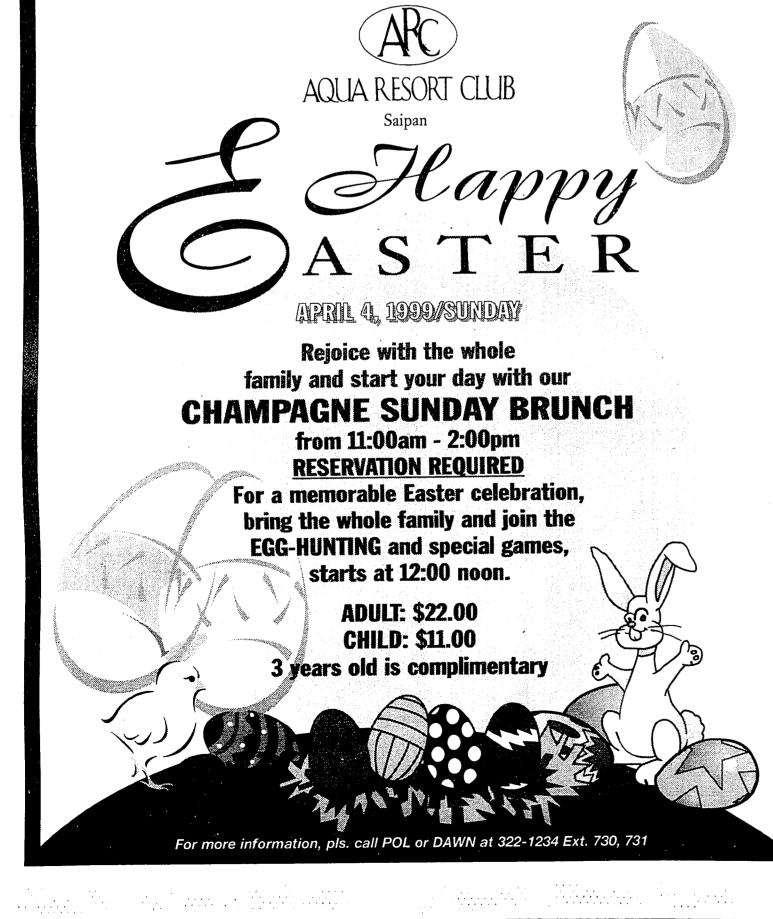
US sues . . Continued from page 28

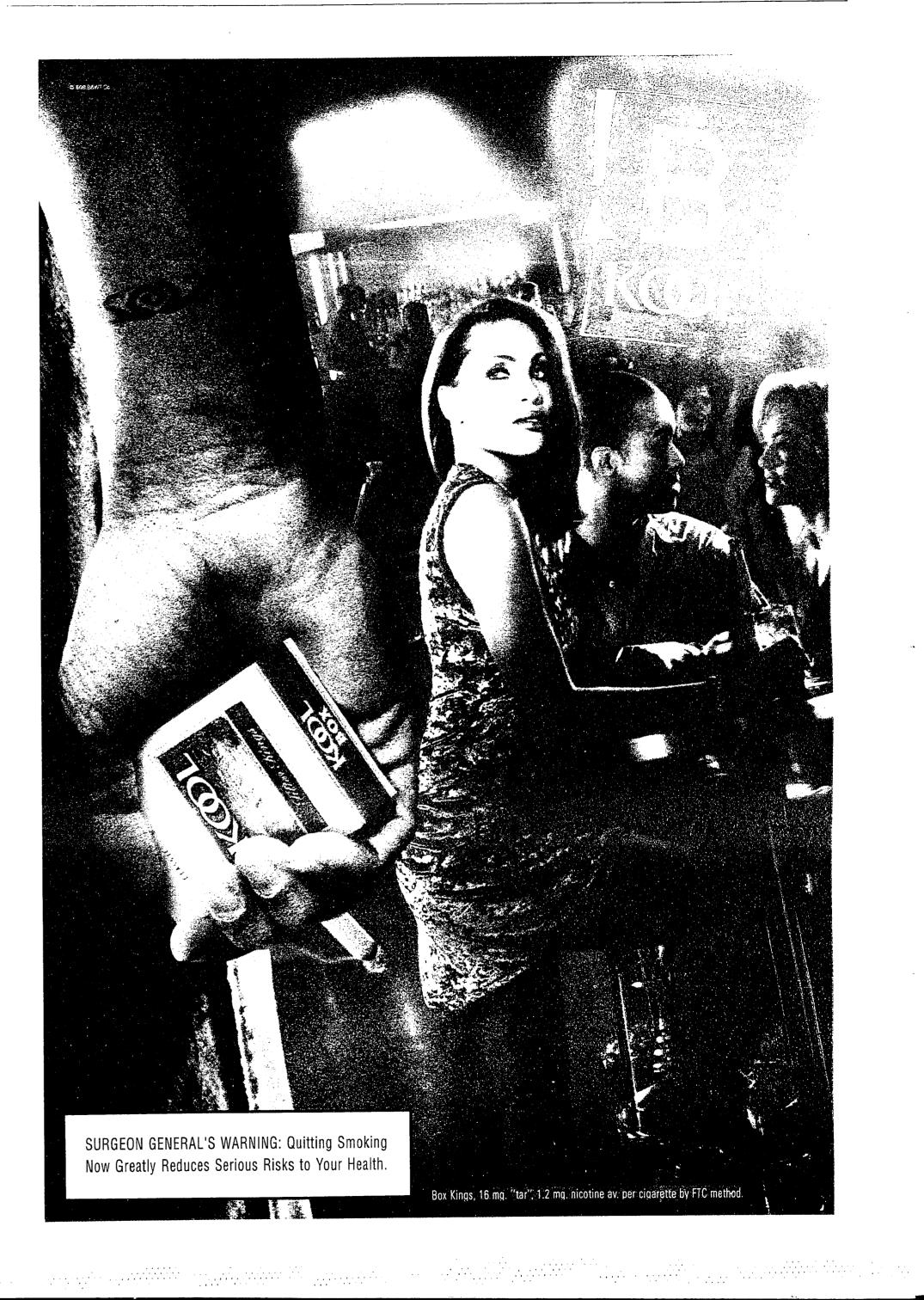
frigerants are released into the air, the suit said. The complaint also charged that the substances are released at the city's household appliance collection centre.

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

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Clinton defends NATO strikes Says only firm action would stop greater catastrophe

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.

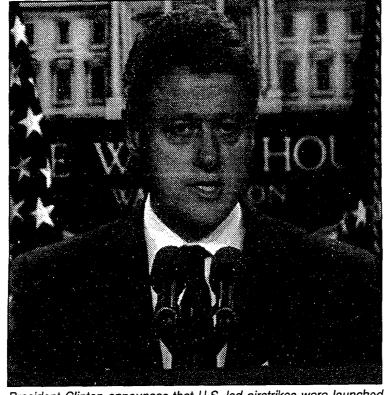
The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) announced it had launched the air strikes about 2 p.m. EST (1900 GMT) and witnesses in Pristina said the bombing sent red flashes across the night sky before plunging the city into darkness.

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.

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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 destabilise 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 Mississipp 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 Pullella ABOARD THE USS PHILIP-PINE 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 (173metre-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.

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 foredeck 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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Annan chides both sides

By Anthony Goodman UNITED NATIONS (Reuters) — Secretary-General Kofi Annan, walking a fine line over NATO bombing of Yugoslavia, said on Wednesday the use of force might at times be legitimate in the pursuit of peace but that the Security Council should be involved in any such decision.

In a statement from which both supporters and opponents of NATO's action could draw comfort, he expressed deep regret that, "in spite of all the efforts made by the international community, the Yugoslav authorities have persisted in their rejection of a political settlement.'

At the same time he said that while the U.N. Charter

required.

gave regional organisations an important role in maintaining international peace and security, it gave the Security Council primary responsibility, and NATO's founding treaty acknowledged this.

"I speak to you at a grave moment for the international community," Annan told reporters some two hours after NATO warplanes began hitting Yugoslav targets.

The NATO attack came in response to Belgrade's refusal to accept a peace plan for the Serbian province of Kosovo, whose ethnic Albanian majority is battling for independence.

The plan would give Kosovo autonomy for a three-year interim period and dispatch a 28,000-strong NATO force to

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Department of Labor and Immigration

Division of Labor

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Dated this 22nd day of March, 1999.

/s/Gil M. San Nicolas

Director of Labor



implement the agreement. "Throughout the last year, I have appealed on many occasions to the Yugoslav authorities and the Kosovo Albanians to seek peace over war, compromise over conflict," Annan

"I deeply regret that, in spite of all the efforts made by the international community, the Yugoslav authorities have persisted in their rejection of a political settlement, which would have halted the bloodshed in Kosovo and secured an equitable peace for the population there."

"It is indeed tragic that diplomacy has failed, but there are times when the use of force may be legitimate in the pursuit of peace," Annan said, appearing to express understanding for NATO's action.

In helping maintain international peace and security, Chapter VIII of the U.N. Char-

ter "assigns an important role to regional organisations," he added, alluding to NATO.

But, he continued, "as secretary-general I have many times pointed out, not just in relation to Kosovo, that under the Charter the Security Council has primary responsibility for maintaining international peace and security - and this is explicitly acknowledged in the North Atlantic Treaty," he said.

"Therefore the council should be involved in any decision to resort to the use of force," he concluded, implicitly reprimanding NATO for having acted without Security Council authorisation.

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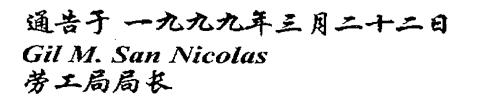
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EU blames Milosevic

By Paul Taylor

BERLIN (Reuters) — European Union leaders declared on Wednesday that Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic was wholly to blame for NATO air strikes on his country over Kosovo.

In a statement issued after NATO began bombing Yugoslav military targets, the 15 EU leaders attending a summit in Berlin said: "President Milosevic is fully responsible for what is going on now."

"It is in his hands to stop the (Western) military action by immediately halting his violent action in Kosovo and accepting the Rambouillet agreement."

In contrast to an EU statement issued earlier in the day, which did not endorse NATO military action, the leaders' second statement contained an implicit endorsement of the strikes - a baptism of fire for most of Europe's new leaders, none of whom was in office at the time of the 1991 Gulf War.

"The North Atlantic Alliance has now carried out action against military targets in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to end the humanitarian catastrophe in Kosovo," the statement said.

"The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia must now bear the repeatedly threatened hard consequences of its failure to cooperate with the international community to reach a peaceful solution to the Kosovo crisis," the leaders added.

The show of European unity was marred by a statement from neutral Austria, the previous holder of the EU's rotating presidency, that it would close

Slobodan Milosevic

its airspace to NATO warplanes because there was no U.N. mandate for military action.

Several of the EU leaders broadcast solemn statements to their home audiences from Berlin, explaining the decision to

put their airmen in harm's way. The summit was suspended at one point for 15 minutes so German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, the host, could take a telephone call from an irate Russian Prime Minister Yevgeny Primakov about NATO's bombing plans.

The leaders of Britain, France and Germany spoke with U.S. President Bill Clinton by telephone during the night and French President Jacques Chirac called Russian President Boris Yeltsin on Wednesday to urge him to use his influence with Milosevic to appeal to him to accept the Rambouillet peace plan

Schroeder said his red-green government's decision to send German troops into offensive action for the first time since World War Two had not been taken lightly, but the values of freedom, democracy and human

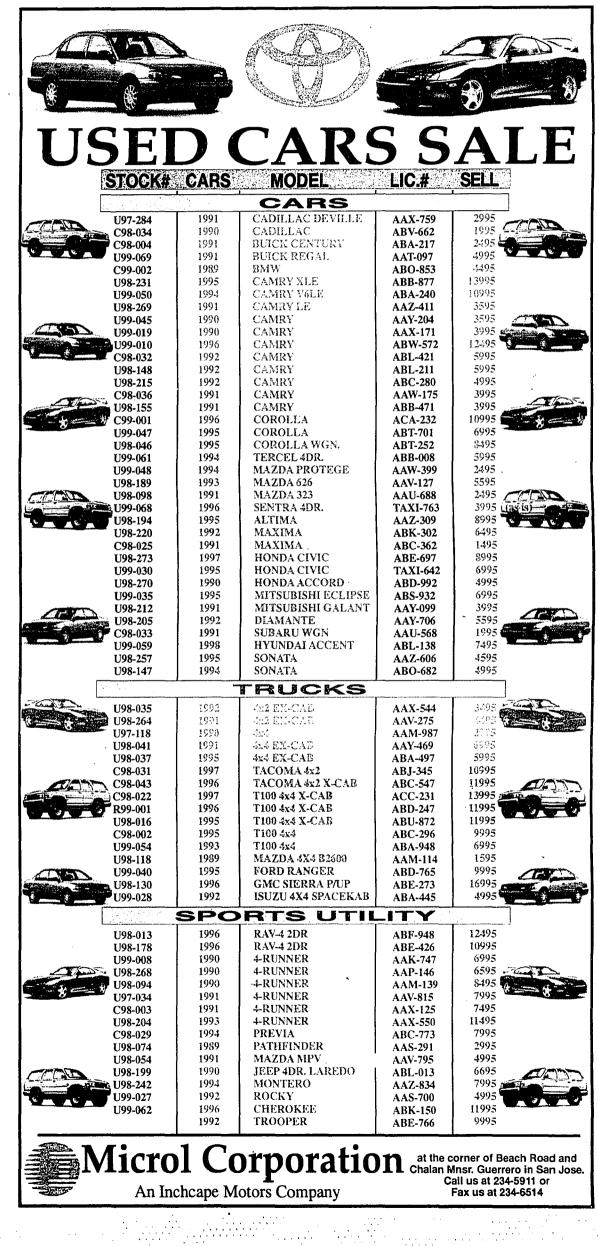
rights could not be trampled under foot just one hour's flight from Germany. In their earlier declaration, the

15 leaders said: "On the threshold of the 21st century, Europe cannot tolerate a humanitarian catastrophe in its midst."

"Aggression must not be rewarded. An aggressor must know that he will have to pay a high price. That is the lesson to be learned from the 20th century," they said.

"We urge the Yugoslav leadership under President

Milosevic to summon up th courage at this juncture to change radically its own policy. It is not yet too late to stop the internal repression and to accept the international community's mediation efforts," the statement said.





Britain's Deputy Prime Minister John Prescott addresses the British parliament in London, in this image from TV following the announcement Wednesday that NATO had launched air strikes against Yugoslavia. AP

9.5

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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

Bid No.

Bid Opening

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Time: April 14, 1999

For

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

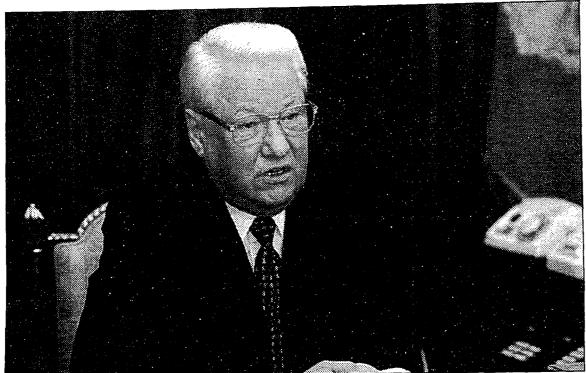
Yakushkin told NTV television Yeltsin would meet senior officials on the crisis on Thursday.

Carl T. C. Gutierrez

Governor

Madeleine Z. Bordallo

Lt. Governor



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.

Both U.S. President Bill Clinton and French President Jacques Chirac had telephoned Yeltsin before the bombing be-

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 cri-

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 Gutseriyev, 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, children, elderly people.'

Ultra-nationalist Vladimir Zhirinovsky 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 Novitsky, told state television.

Cohen says US warplanes safe after Yugoslavia raid William Cohen WASHINGTON (Reuters) — U.S. Defence Secretary Will-

iam 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. Sealaunched and air-launched cruise missiles, with backing from other warplanes, spearheaded the attacks, he said.

Cohen, speaking as the air campaign continued, said there had been some engagement between Yugoslav and NATO

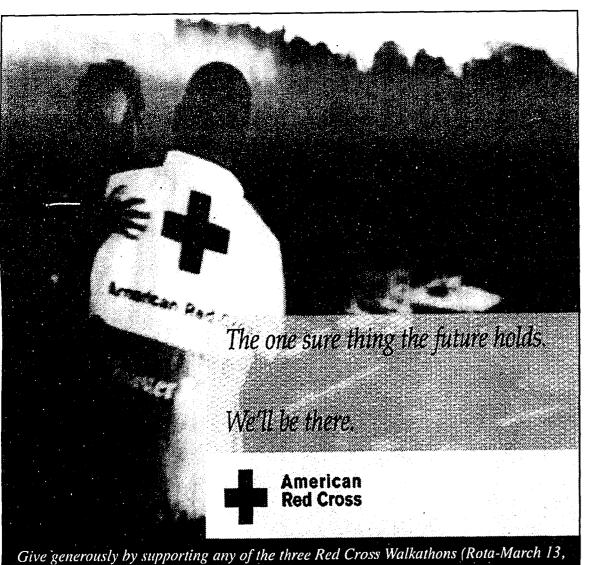
planes. "There was some air-toair engagement that has taken place. But I think we need more nformation before we can confirm what the result of that was,' he said. "Our aircraft have safely returned - those that were in the region to date," he said.

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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Tinian-March 20, Saipan-March 27) or send your donations to American Red Cross, P.O. Box 814. Saipan, MP 96950. Your continued support is necessary.

NO ONE DESERVES CANCER, SO BE SCREENED FOR IT.

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.

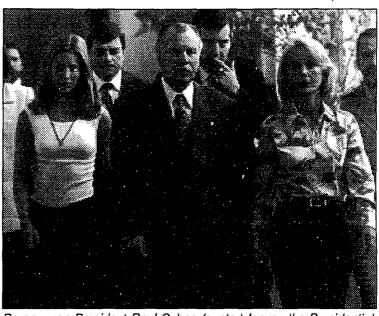
Angry deputies, some in tears, voted by a two-thirds majority for Cubas to be tried by the Senate for freeing former army chief Lino Oviedo last year after he had been jailed for 10 years for a 1996 coup attempt.

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.

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 flowerdecked 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 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 stonethrowing crowds shouting slogans against Cubas and Oviedo, injuring 37 people.

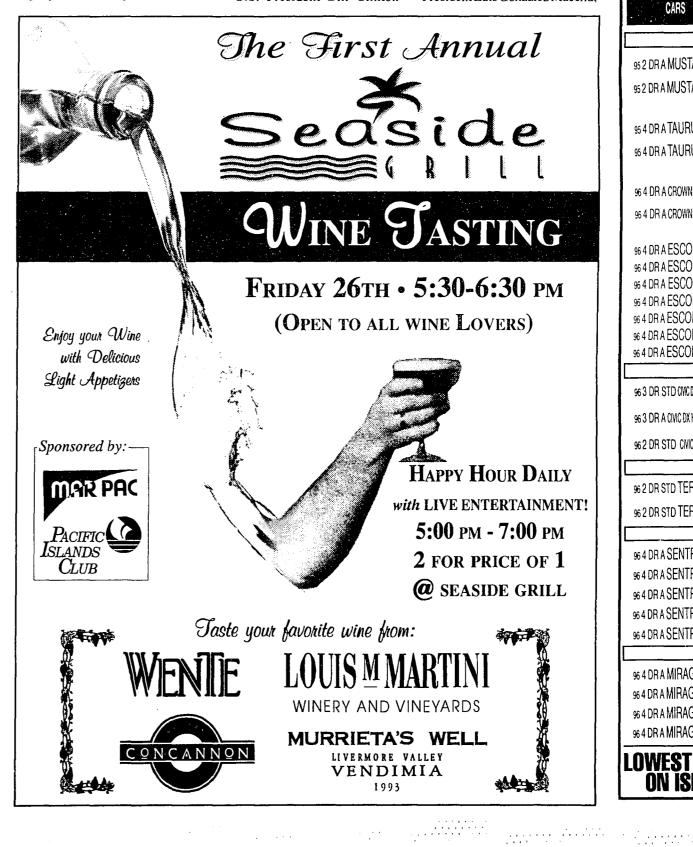
Strikers demonstrated outside Congress and 10,000 peasants who had marched to Asuncion earlier in the week demanding state subsidies were drawn into the protests at Argana's killing.

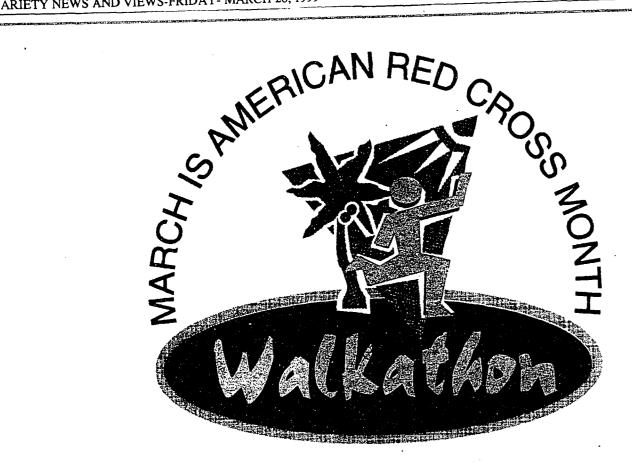
Oviedo's supporters were also mustering support to confront their opponents on the streets. "This is going to turn ugly. We're going out on the streets to defend the president," shouted one man to reporters.

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

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952 DR A MUSTANG	ABT-702	Red	\$14,350	\$9,995
95 4 DR A TAURUS	ABT-722	Champagne	\$10,975	\$7,395
95 4 DR A TAURUS	ABT-732	Dark Blue	\$10,975	\$7,395
96 4 DR A CROWN VICTORIA	ABZ-312	Black	\$17,090	\$13,100
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96 4 DR A SENTRA	ABV-372	Ruby Prl	\$10,485	\$7,375
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96 4 DR A MIRAGE	ABV-312	Green	\$9,745	\$6,775

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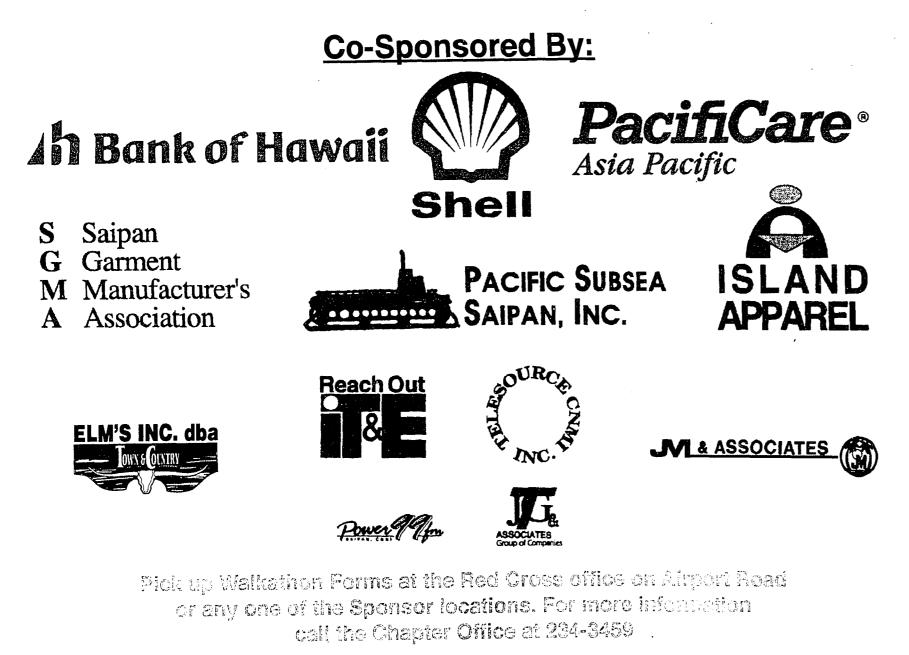


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31 confirmed dead in Kenya train crash



Kenyan Army personel load into an helicopter victims of the passenger train which crashed in the Tsavo Nationa Park in KenyaWednesday.

By RODRIQUE NGOWI

NAIROBI, Kenya(AP)—A passenger train traveling from Nairobi to Mombasa derailed early Wednesday, killing at least 31 people, including five foreigners, the Defense Department said.

The nationalities of the foreign dead were not immediately available, military spokesman Nicholas Simani said.

Simani said the Kenyan armed forces were participating in all aspects of the rescue operation and were flying injured to Nairobi for treatment.

Daniel Burstow, a 20-year-old British student from Sussex University who arrived at Nairobi Hospital in a mini-van with five other British nationals, said most of the passengers in the first class carriage in which he was traveling were asleep when the accident occurred.

"I noted that the train was traveling rather fast. The next thing I know is that there was a rather large noise and a lot of commotion," said Burstow, who wore a bandage on one leg as he entered the hospital's emergency ward.

State-run Kenya Railways earlier confirmed 23 people dead in the accident that occurred on the single-track railway at 4:15 a.m. (0115 GMT), about half a kilometer past a trestle that straddles the Tsavo River on the edge of Tsavo National Park, 250 kilometers (155 miles) southeast of Nairobi.

"Owing to this serious and unfortunate occurrence, the corporation (Kenya Railways) immediately alerted the National Disaster Operation Center, which in turned mobilized other rescue teams," a Kenya Railways statement said.

Scott Kelleher, a spokesman for the air rescue service, AMREF, that is part of the NDOC, said one plane had taken injured to hospital in the Indian Ocean port of Mombasa, and other injured have been taken to Moi Hospital in Voi, 45 kilometers (28 miles) southeast of the derailment site.

Military sources told AMREF there were about 400 passengers on the train that leaves Nairobi every evening for Mombasa and returns the following day.

Heavy rains in recent weeks washed out portions of the railroad northwest of Nairobi on the route to Kampala, Uganda.

It was not immediately known whether the track or the railway bed in the Tsavo area had been damaged by the rains.

In January 1993, 61 people were killed 50 kilometers (30 miles)

Protestors storm Bahamas parliament

By Athena Damianos

NASSAU, Bahamas (Reuters)— Hundreds of union workers stormed the Bahamas parliament on Wednesday to protest against privatisation of the state-owned telephone company, forcing police to bolt the doors of parliament.

The demonstration in Rawson Square, in the heart of the Bahamian capital, turned ugly when police arrested a labour leader. Some 500 protesters breached police barricades and tried to enter the House of Assembly while lawmakers were in session.

The protest was the result of simmering anger over a host of government decisions on labor issues. At a recent rally, telephone company workers tossed beer and peanuts at Prime Minister Hubert Ingraham as he emerged from

parliament

"The government can't hide now. The time is for the government to come out now and solve this problem," said Obie Ferguson, president of the Trade Union Congress.

Three people were arrested during the demonstration, including Charles Rolle, president of the Bahamas Electrical Union.

Deputy Prime Minister Frank Watson said one officer was kicked and someone sprayed mace at police.

The government has announced plans to privatise the state-owned Bahamas Telecommunications Corp, but was not yet considering offers. Consultants recommended that the BaTelCo work force be cut from 2,100 employees to fewer than 1,000. northwest of Wednesday's accident site when a train traveling from Mombasa to Nairobi plunged into a rain-swollen river where a bridge had been swept away.



Aerial view of the passenger train which crashed in the Tsavo National Park in Kenya Wednesday. At least 31 people are dead with dozens of wounded.

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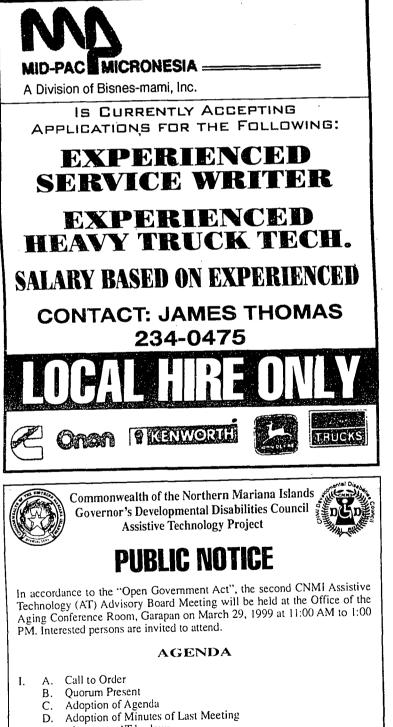
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97037 1997	. FORD	. RANGER XL 2WD PUP	MED WILLOW GREEN	\$10,995.00
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98003 1998	NISSAN	. FRONTIER XE 2WD K-CAB	TIMBER FROST	\$14,995.00
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\$1.3-B farmers aid OK'd

PUBLIC NOTICE 3/26/99

PURSUANT TO 1 CMC § 9910, GOVERNOR PEDRO P. TENORIO, LT. GOVERNOR JESUS R. SABLAN, AND THE BOARD OF PUBLIC LANDS, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC LANDS (DPL) OF THE DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES, ARE HEREBY GIVING NOTICE THAT THE MEETING OF THE BOARD OF PUBLIC LANDS SCHEDULED ON MARCH 18, 1999 WAS UNAVOIDABLY POSTPONED.

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.



- II. Amendments to AT by-laws
- III. Update on AT Center
- IV. Assistive Technology Act (ATA) 1998
- V. Updates on Conference **RESNA** Conference
- 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.

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

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 dlrs 968 million 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.



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.

Microsoft, Argentina ink pact for 'technical collaboration'

MIAMI (AP) — Bill Gates and Argentine Président 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 meet-

Tuesday during speaking markets. ing 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-

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."

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.

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

Ingram . . .

Continued from page 3

rections facility. Wackenhut has the endorse-

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 occassion, 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.

pipes, and a young couple painted the floor of their wooden house. Eliezer Halfor, laying a water line Tuesday to the new settle-

ment, 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

ment of Rep. Frank Cepeda (R-Prec. 4, Saipan), the chairman of the House Committee on Judiciarv and Governmental Operations. Cepeda said Wackenhut is an

Cepeda, said the input which

were taken from the participants

during the public hearing will be

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

"internationally renown consultant and builder of prisons."

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

part of the subject of the actual oversight hearing which will be conducted on April 14.

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 West Bank, Gaza and east Jerusa-

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

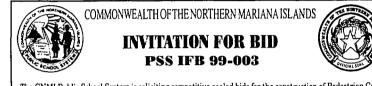
avail. Peter Lerner, a spokesman for the Israeli military in the West

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.'



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

Specification requirements maybe 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 maybe 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 <u>8:00 a.m.</u>, 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 maybe 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 icensing Law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

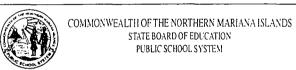
All bidders are required to submit their responsibility determination documentation in compliance to PSSPR3-301. Responsibility determination documents must be submitted in separate envelope and facemarked "IFB99 003 Responsibility Determination" and the responsibility determination documents are due on the date ime, 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 Classifica-tion 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. Covernment of the Northern Mariana Islands with the bid bonds, certified checks or cachier'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 t lo so is in the best interest of the Public School System.

/s/ LOUISE CONCEPCION



s/ RITA HOCOG INOS, Ed. D.

ommissioner of Education

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

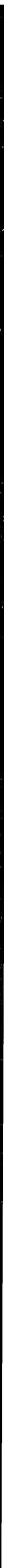
The CNMI Public School System is soliciting for competitive sealed bidding for the procurement of 1 to 2 units 66 passenger capacity school bus(es). Detailed specifications are now available at the Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Šaipan, MP 96950 during 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 to 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



Human Continued from page 14

offer," the trainer said.

Propst said the program is composed of 18 volunteer trainers who attended a 24-hour training session conducted by Motheread/ Fatheread Institute on Saipan in October last year.

The local trainers are retired teachers/educators, private business persons, public school teach-

ers/specialists, many of whom are

parents and grandparents. The trainers can conduct training sessions for parents residing in the Commonwealth in which the parents in return will read to their children and engage them in various story-sharing activities. According to Propst, the pro-

gram could help the parents to recognize that their own stories in books are good way to communicate with their children and to recognize the individuality of their

children and learn to accept it.

Part of the program's goals include helping the parents understand the messages in children's stories, let the parents become familiar with many ways to use stories as a way to improve children's academic skills in listening, speaking, reading, writing, comprehension and critical thinking.

The importance of this program is to let the parents discuss important parenting skills and issues

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works Saivan, Mariana Islands 96950 **INVITATION FOR BIDS** DPW99-IFB-010

March 12, 1999

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Department of Lands & Natural Resources (DLNR) are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply and Installation of an Air-conditioning System for the New Fish and Wildlife Office Building, Lower Base, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Sealed bids, in triplicate, must be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan no later than 2:00 p.m. local time, Friday, April 9, 1999, at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

A bid bond of fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid amount must accompany the bid. Certified Checks or Cashier's Check must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 4466". Bid Bond must be executed by a CNMI approved surety.

The project package is available on or after Monday, March 15, 1999 at the Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, Lower Base, Saipan. A cost of seventy-five dollars (US\$75.00) is required for each set; payment to be made to the CNMI Treasurer. A receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package.

A Pre-Bid Conference for this project will be held at 10:00 a.m. local time. Friday, March 26, 1999 at the DLNR Conference Room, Office of the Secretary, Lower Base, Saipan. All questions/concerns regarding this project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m. local time on the Pre-Bid Conference date to the Office of the Director, Technical Services Division, DPW, Lower Base, Saipan.

The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds equal to 100% of the price specified in the contract. Performance time for completion of the project is ninety (90) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at one hundred dollars (\$100.00) per calendar day.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal in the interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/JUAN B. CEPEDA Secretary of Public Works /s/HERMAN S. SABLAN Director, Procurement & Supply /s/DR. JOAQUIN A. TENORIO Secretary of Lands & Natural Resources

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of the Secretary of Public Works INVERTION FOR BIDS

DPW99-IFB-012 March 26, 1999

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) and the Department of Finance (DOF) are soliciting sealed bids for the Supply and Installation of Aluminum Typhoon Shutters for Various Offices of DOF. The offices include the Division of Finance & Accounting, Electronic Data Processing Division, and Division of Treasury offices on Capitol Hill, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Contractors must visit the sites and familiarize themselves with the three (3) offices covered under this project.

An original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan no later than 2:00 p.m. local time, Tuesday, April 20, 1999 at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened and read aloud.

A bid bond of fifteen percent (15%) of the total bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 4466". The Bid Bond must be executed by a CNMI approved surety.

The bid documents are available on or after Tuesday, March 30, 1999 at the Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, Lower Base Saipan. A cost of twenty five dollars (US\$25.00) is required for each set; payment to must made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package.

All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to the Director of Technical Services Division, Lower Base Saipan, Attn: Mr. Andrew W. Smith, P.E., no later than 4:30 p.m., April 12, 1999.

The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds equal to 100% of the price specified in the contract. Payment and Performance Bonds must be executed by a CNMI approved surety. Performance time for completion of this project is forty-five (45) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at fifty dollars (US\$50.00) per calendar day.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal in the interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/JUAN B. CEPEDA Secretary of Public Works /s/LUCY DLG. NEILSEN Secretary of Finance

/s/HERMAN S. SABLAN Director, Procurement & Supply

with other adults in a supportive environment.

children's interest in asking questions, creates early positive experiences with books and strengthens family bonds, communication and relationship.

Fire . . .

Continued from page 14 annual memorial service," added

Tenorio. Prior to the fireworks display, IHOP will conduct its memorial services at the Nanmeido Temple located at the Sugar King Park at 3:00 pm.

At about 6:00 pm that evening, there will be food and local arts sales at the Marianas Seaside Cir-

Advocacy . . . Continued from page 14

people with developmental disabilities.'

During the luncheon, GDDC leaders once again praised Hofschneider for his employment practices

Lydia M. Sablan, GDDC Chairwoman, said the annual recognition observance was to honor "Community employers that help the disabled through employment."

Sablan thanked those employ-

DPH . . . Continued from page 12

enthood.

Reina Camacho, symposium coordinator, will be bringing in students from different junior and

Youth . . . Continued from page 10

25 of which comprised of males and the remaining were females. It was noted that these cases were prevalent among youth between 20-24 years old.

Alcoholism emerges as the culprit, acting a "courage booster" that enables young men to commit suicide in Micronesia. Socioeconomic conditions, history and culture in Micronesia are add-ons to the worsening suicide problem in the region.

Suicide rate in Micronesia, according to Weeks, is even higher as compared with the global rate which is at 10 in 100,000 persons. In the United States [mainland], suicide rate, Weeks said, is at 11.5 per 100,000.

Assuming the ratio in other Micronesian islands is similar, the rate of attempted suicides is at staggering 80 to 960 per 100,000.



Continued from page 10

If PSS could not find enough funding for the retention of the kindergarten level for the next school year, the school system will move up the kindergarten teachers to teach in the primary grades.

Inos raised the idea of minimizing the class size in the lower grades (from grades one to three). Once PSS transferred the kin-

Principals warmly received Humanities Council's program in which Tanapag Elementary School is presently conducting a weekly family reading activity inside the campus spearheaded by the 1999 CNMI Teacher of the Year Barbara Lou Gilles.

cuit track area.

In addition, entertainment will be provided by local musicians and an aspiring Japanese musical group called "Baby Boo."

To ensure safety, the public is asked to stay within the designated viewing area throughout the duration of the fireworks display.

For more information on the event, please call Mrs. Masako Nishigaya at 322-2264 or the Marianas Visitors Authority at 664-3200.

ers for their support, and said, "We will continue to work together to help the disabled by enhancing their livelihood through employment."

Following Sablan, Camacho added, "These awards are to recognize those who made the extra effort to hire individuals with disabilities.". Camacho said these awards are presented to show their appreciation.

"We will continue to recognize those who open doors to the disabled to improve their lives and become more independent,' Camacho said.

senior high schools both in the public and private sectors where they will talk about issues affecting them.

The symposium is entitled, "Unity in diversity, be part of the solution."

A great deal of research has noted the tragedy and causes, but remedies for the situation are less noted, Weeks pointed out.

"Experts tell us the only way to reduce these numbers is to learn first the roots of the problem, so we can intervene early enough to stop it," the supreme court judge said.

She further said that in other cultures suicide arises from depression. "Here it seems to result mostly from anger, mixed with a desire for love or respect - a feeling that someone whose respect they desperately want, does not give them that respect," Weeks said.

The supreme court judge stressed that the second most common motivation is "shame," Weeks has recently seen very publicized arrests as resulting to what appears to be prisoners' suicide. In such cases it is said the person terribly suffers public embarrassment.

dergarten students to headstart, there will be a total of 18 CNMIwide kindergarten teachers who could move up to primary grades and augment the depleting personnel resources of the school system.

In last month's Board of Education meeting. Inos asked the community to understand that PSS may be forced to make a hard decision based due to its limited financial capability to run the school as smoothly as it can with the best services that students can get.

PSS.

The program could also increase

Steven Pixley signed a plea agreement with the US government represented by Assistant US Atty. David T. Wood.

Izumi pleaded guilty to importation of "ice". The US government recommended the dismissal of the remaining charges to which the court agreed.

Wood said the drug bust has demonstrated the importance of

CUC... Continued from page 6

will build the 80-megawatt power plant project has been dragging for almost a year now as protesting bidders, emboldened by a rec-

Incentives ... Continued from page 6

Guam and the CNMI.

The CNMI, being exempt from certain provisions of the Jones Act, can allow any foreign flag surface vessel to pick

Relatives

Continued from page 6

room she saw the silhouette of a man. She saw the man run out of the living room sliding door. The mother discovered her

daughter hiding behind the couch naked.

Other family members got up

Bacteria Continued from page 8

lot of progress since the incident, including the replacement of wooden chopping boards into metal ones.

Pixley added that the "sabotage" angle is carefully being investigated.

Villagomez also said it takes time to fully isolate the bacteria, adding that there may be several types that caused the poisoning which is the biggest health-related incident so far this year.

"We cannot release the exact name of the bacteria until everything is final because it might be the wrong bacteria. We will soon release the specific organism and the specific source," said Villagomez.

Staff from the DPH's Bureau of Environmental Health and the Division of Environmental Quality are still conducting on-site inspections and laboratory tests to solve the incident.

The health secretary also expressed gratitude towards DPH personnel --- from doctors, nurses,

HEW... Continued from page 3

NMC's liability in these transactions," he said.

Asked if the revelation about McPhetres's credit card is the committee's "major finding," Hofschneider said, "Not yet."

The oversight hearings have already resulted in the reorganizahaving a joint drug task force in the CNMI.

Court records showed that Izumi arrived at Saipan Airport on Northwest Airlines flight 62

from Japan in August 1998. While a Customs officer was patting down the Japanese national, he felt a suspicious bulge on the defendant's lower back underneath the shirt.

The Customs officer found the drugs contained in a clear plastic bag and taped to Izumi's lower back with a brown tape, accord-

ommendation issued by the Office of the Public Auditor on a new selection process, claim Marubeni-Sithe did not have the best and final offer.

The OPA has described CUC's selection process as "flawed."

up and transport cargo between any US mainland seaport, Hawaii or Guam and deliver it to the Commonwealth.

A free trade zone in the Commonwealth also stands to benefit American firms exporting to Asia and Asian firms exporting to the United States.

and checked outside and found Pickop hiding behind some bushes. Pickop is a friend of the family. The police said that there

wasn't any penetration involved. However, the victim's mother took the girl to the hos-

Pickop was arrested for criminal sexual conduct. He was later booked and confined.

maintenance — who showed readiness to respond to emergency situations like the mass food poisoning.

incident, the Commonwealth health center — where some 250 Chinese workers were admitted out of medical supplies and equipwere medically treated right in their barracks at Lower Base.

Memorial Hospital in case more medical supplies will be needed.

ach cramps, but health officials not severe.

While almost half of the workpatients and investigate the incident.

tion of NMC and the retirement. effective December, of McPhetres, who has repeatedly denied com-

ing the investigation,'

give us relevant documents, some

"We want to do things properly."

ing to court records.

Izumi told authorities that he had been instructed by other persons to wait at a hotel in Saipan for someone to pick up the drugs.

The Drug Enforcement Administration/CNMI Task Force conducted a subsequent follow-up, resulting with the arrest of businessman Kojo Ishibashi. The case against Ishibashi is

pending in court.



to wit: ID card from the Mayor's Office without permission or authority from a storage facility or government property," Willams said.

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Romolor, the government lawyer said, "attempted to purposely obtain property of another by deception by creating or reinforcing a false impression, including false impression as to law, value, intention, or other state of mind."

Defendant did this, according to Williams, by tendering two checks "which had been altered to a merchant, knowing that the checks had been altered."

"Defendant attempted to receive cash in exchange therefore in the amount of \$650 and \$750," Williams added.

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION INVITATION FOR BIDS CUC-IFB-99-0015 March 12, 1999

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive bids from responsible Independent Power Producers and Developers to provide 10 MW of generation for the island of Rota. Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Responsive bidder will be required to:

- Provide 10 MW of efficient generation, with individual unit sizes between 2 to 2.5 MW.
- Utilize the site chosen by CUC while design shall be expandable to accommodate a minimum of 30 MW of generation and be aesthetically acceptable to the surrounding area.
- Perform all environmental & Licensing needs to melt the 30 MW requirement
- Enter into a power purchase agreement with CUC for CUC to buy power on a capacity, operation & maintenance and energy charge per kWh. The agreement will be Build/Own/ Operate/Transfer (BOOT).
- Build and maintain a 4.16kV/13.8kV substation remote from the Power Plant location. This substation shall be designed to service six 13.8 kV feeders expandable to ten feeders.
- Construct Power Plant site by dredge and fill.

Interested parties may pick up the Scope of Work at CUC's Procurement and Supply Office in Dandan during working hours (7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.), or have the Scope of Work faxed or mailed upon request. The Scope of Work will be available for pick up or fax by March 26, 1999, at Room #4, Third Floor of the Joeten Dandan Commercial Building.

All inquiries shall be directed to Mr. Mariano DLG. Fajardo, Procurement & Supply Supervisor, at telephone number (670) 235-7025, ext. 129.

> **Timothy P. Villagomez** Executive Director, CUC

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES CORPORATION INVITATION TO BID

CUC-ITB-99-0013 March 12, 1999

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is inviting interested individuals and firms to bid on surveyed property. Generally, the surveyed properties consists of the following:

- 1) Split and Window Type Air Conditioners
- 2) 48" and 96" Fluorescent Lighting Fixtures

3) Surveyed Vehicles

The vehicles for bid are located at CUC's Office in Tinian, and the rest of the items are at its Saipan location.

Bid Forms and other relative information may be picked up at the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor, Room #4 at the Joeten Dandan Commercial Bldg., during normal working hours and before bid closing date and time.

All inquiries may be directed to Mr. Mariano DLG Fajardo, Supervisor for Procurement & Supply at phone number (670) 235-7025, ext. 128/129.

All bids must be in sealed envelope marked CUC-ITB-99-0013 and submitted to the Supervisor for Procurement & Supply at Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Lower Base, Saipan, no later Tuesday, April 12, 1999, at 2:00 p.m.

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

> **Timothy P. Villagomez Executive Director**

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pital for further evaluations.

medical staff, housekeeping, to

Despite the magnitude of the

during the incident — did not run ment. The rest of the victims

CHC earlier notified the Guam

The workers had complained of dizziness, vomiting and stom-

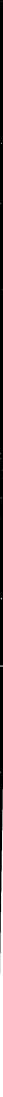
assured the food poisoning was

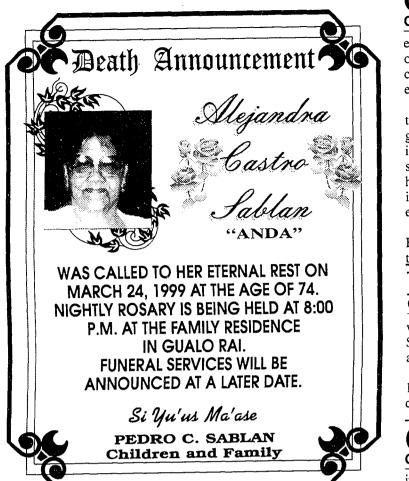
ers were being rushed to the hospital the other day, personnel from DPH, DEQ, Emergency Management Office, Department of Public Safety, American Red Cross and other private and government agencies trooped to the L&T compound to secure the area, treat the

mitting any wrongdoing. "We're getting close in conclud-

Hofschneider said. "We're just waiting for NMC to

of which we requested last May.





Gutierrez...

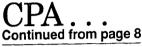
epartment of are the front line in our efforts to provide quality education for our children," the governor added.

Gutierrez has also sent a letter to Speaker Tony Unpingco regarding Bill 147 which he signed into public law. In the letter he said that there are several areas he is concerned about. The first is that the Executive branch is essentially unfunded.

He said that 90 percent of the Executive agencies will not have the funding to continue their

Fund's

while Invesco Asia had \$869,413. Invesco Management and Research has \$314,307. During the first quarter of FY 1999 or from October to December 1998, the value of stock



in 11 years. Pellegrino said it would be more practical to transfer its control earcurrent payroll through Sept. 30, 1999. He said unless revised, the Legislature has set a policy forcing layoffs of even classified employees, let alone continuing the limited term employees.

The letter cited several other areas that the governor feels the Legislature needs to readdress. These include funding for social service programs, and public safety which may be in jeopardy due to blanket reduction in Full Time Employee (FTE) levels throughout all GovGuam agencies.

The governor asked why the market-invested assets of the Fund climbed to \$44.067.

The gains in asset value during the three-month period has not only covered for the losses incurred during the last quarter of FY 1998, but also posted an overall growth for the Fund's assets.

lier than the date stipulated under the contract.

"I don't intend to make money out of the Outer Cove Marina. [I developed it because] I just want to be a good tenant. If there is any Judiciary received a 5 percent increase and the Legislative branch's budget was reduced by only 16 percent despite the fact that the decrease in the number of senators is 24 percent (from 21 to 15 senators) not 16 percent.

He added that the new legislation provides for the temporary continuation of the Executive branch of government beyond April 1, 1999.

"However, there are serious deficiencies," he said.

Further recommendations will be forwarded to the Legislature in the near future as the Legislature is studied further.

During the entire FY 1998, the Fund's total investment assets was pegged at \$307.991 million. The bulk — or \$282.372 million — of these assets came from stocks, bonds and money market funds, while the remaining \$25.619 million in local investments.

government agency who wish to takeover its control, we would transfer it so," he said.

He stressed that current level of revenues is not enough to pay existing loans although he noted that the situation has started to improve. "I have pictured it to be the most beautiful marina in the Pacific."

At present, MRC charges \$4.00 for all paying passengers departing rom the Outer Cove Marina, which s \$0.50 lower that what CPA is proposing to charge all boats using he seaplane ramps and Echo Dock.

CPA is hoping to implement a uniform departure fee in all airports and harbors the ports authority has jurisdiction over.

Manglona ... Continued from page 3

pacts supports this power for us? If not, are we on a collision course with our federal colleagues? Is this the time for such confrontation?"

The mayor at the same time expressed dismay that FAS citizens are being "unfairly stereotyped."

Hesaid while some Micronesians have had a negative impact on local resources, many others have contributed significantly to the local economy.

They have helped us reduce dependence on nonresident workers. Not a few are trained professionals—teaching, for example, in our schools. [M]any FAS citizens have come to us ready and willing to work.

"Through gainful employment, they have supported themselves and their dependents. They have paid taxes. They have been lawabiding and have otherwise contributed to our community. [T]heir cultural contribution has added a welcome color to the fabric of our multicultural society," Manglona said.

He urged the committee to "secure the facts" before acting on the bill: the actual number of FAS citizens that are a "drain" on the economy; the dollar amount of this drain; the CNMI's actual spending to support these Micronesians; the number of employed FAS citizens and their tax contributions.

"It could be that, overall, FAS itizens are more a boost than a burden to our economy," he said.

- 1

In celebratio	In his passing, he join h Parents: Parents-In-Law:	is Ignacio Manglona Vicente Atalig At	a Mendiola & Flora Manglona Taitano alig; Maria Taimanao Atalig; astro; Jesus Villagomez Castro	pr the un
	Son: Grandson:	Woodward Taitar	no Castro	it
	His spirit and memorie Wife: Children, Spouses Rosario A. Taitano Annie (Joaquin) Vito (Candilaria) Alvin (Ellen) Joseph (Betsy) Eileen (Anthony) Allan (Eloise) Rosalyn (William) Mary Dee (Ray) Joey (Alicia)	Rosa Atalig Taita and Granchildro	no en: xander (Marie) r)	pa pa ne w th
Jonna	Donicia A. Taitan		Marcelina A. Taitano:	h
	Albert (Agnes) Dexter (Marcia) Alfred (Naoko')	Janice Bernard Irene	Crispin A. & Marja Lee C. Taitano: Christine Annette (Rodney) Genia	C
aitano Taitano	Serafin A. and Ja Heather Brandon	nice Taitano:	Pola Rosa	c. d
June 14, 1916 — March 22, 1999 Iro Taitano Taitano was called to his eternal	Joaquin A. & Elea Janella Zachary Amber	nor M. Taitano: Al Valentine Ivylin Star	Maria T. & Mel F. Uy: Melisssa (Peter) Michele Michael Peter	ei si o h
rest on March 22, 1999 at the age of 83.	Destince		Carina T. & Paul Wachtler:	te
* march /	Flora T. & Raymo Raymond Jr. Cass Axel Woody	nd M. Castro: LaDonna Tisha	Joaquina T. & Romeo Galinato: Andriano Janelle	ti a
oly Rosary is being said nightly at	Abelina A. Taitan Deron	5 & Fidel S. Men Fidel II	diola, Jr.:	a
anta Maria de Fatima Chapel in eneto Village, Rota, at 8:00 p.m.	Brothors and Sn	ndiola (both decea	A. and Antonette Mendiola, Clarencio ased), Roberto T. and Calistra S. Calvo, leceased).	c v r
Last Respects will be held on	Sisters and Spouses: Cecilia M. (deceased) and Vicente Cing, Margarita M. Mendiola, Ana M. and Mateo Ooka, Stella M. (deceased) and Bendolino Atalig, Maria A. and Manuel Apatang, Ana A. and Mateo Masga			s c
Tuesday, March 30, 1999 at the napel from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. when the mass for Christian Burial	Sister-in-law an deceased), Lucia (Rita C, and Felix), and Abel S. Bai	ria T. and Domingo Q. Atalig (both rcinas, Dolores C. and Juan Q. Muna,	b z e
will be offered. Interment	Brother-in-law: an especial siste	Ramon B. Quicher: Regina S. Bar	ocho cinas	d t
Service will follow at the San Jose Cemetery.	He will be missed	by numerous gre	eat grandchildren, great-great grand- dren, relatives and friends	r a

andra an Andra and Andra and

FRIDAY, MARCH 26, 1999 - MARIANAS VARIETY NEWS AND VIEWS-45

NATO

elaborating that Yugoslav planes were shot down, while U.S. Defense Secretary William Cohensaid fighting occurred in the air between NATO and Yugoslav planes.

A pre-dawn siren in Belgrade apparently signaled the end of the latest alert and, apparently, the first night of bombing.

Explosions resounded in Kosovo's capital of Pristina starting at 7:55 p.m. (1855 GMT), and the city of 280,000 was plunged into darkness when the electricity failed.

More than a dozen explosions pounded the area around Belgrade, the Yugoslav capital, including some near Batajnica military airport and one near a power plant. Smoke rose from the northern suburb of Rakovica, where the independent Beta news agency said a radar station had been hit.

Four missiles struck a military aircraft plant at Pancevo about 10 kilometers (6 miles) north of Belgrade. The blasts destroyed several small sports planes and trainer aircraft. Bits of the tails and wings were strewn along the floor of the factory's hangar In neighboring Montenegro, which with Serbia forms Yugoslavia, an army military barracks in Danilovgrad was in flames after being hit and coastal defenses were struck. Officials said at least one soldier was killed.

The central Serbian town of Kragujevac, a major military-industrial center, was plunged into darkness early Thursday morning after one heavy explosion was heard, Beta reported. Serbian TV said four people were wounded in attacks on four cities in the northern Vojvodina region — Pancevo, Sombor, Kula and Novi Sad — and that there were civilian casualties in a Kosovo village.

Authorities kept a close watch on foreign journalists, preventing them from moving freely and in some cases thwarting broadcasts.

Twenty-five journalists who were on the roof of the Hyatt Hotel to watch the bombardment were detained by police.

Scores of cruise missiles and oneton bombs were fired at Yugoslav targets. Dozens of warplanes were used, including two B-2 stealth bombers appearing in combat for the first time and half a dozen welltraveled B-52s. German warplanes joined in an attack on a sovereign nation for the first time since World War II.

In all, Yugoslav authorities said, NATO targeted five airports, several communications centers, command posts and warehouses and two military factories.

The Yugoslav army condemned the attack as unwarranted "aggression" orchestrated by the United States on behalf of ethnic Albanian "separatists and terrorists."

The first explosions "mark the end of international law and ... have opened up a new sad page in world history," it said.

But the pro-Western president of Montenegro urged President Slobodan Milosevic to reverse his policy which leads to "collective suffering of innocents and endangers the survival of the country."

"These are the tragic consequences of an irrational policy of confrontation with the entire world,"President Milo Djukanovic said, referring to Milosevic's rejection of the Kosovo peace plan.

Russian President Boris Yeltsin ordered his nation to pull out of its partnership with NATO and warned of possible further steps to protest the airstrikes.

In New York, the U.N. Security Council, acting on a Russian request, met in emergency session. Secretary-General Kofi Annan chided the Western alliance for failing to involve the council in its decision to use force.

Milosevic has repeatedly refused to end the war against ethnic Albanian separatists and accept a peace plan for Kosovo, part of the dominant Yugoslav republic of Serbia. Two days of talks with special

U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke,

Rush . . .

Continued from page 1

upon all vehicle owners, whose cars are not yet covered by insur-

ance, to act now before the new regulations catches up on them. The Mandatory Liability Auto Insurance Act which was signed by Governor Pedro P. Tenorio last January 29, penalizes any driver found driving with an un-

insured car. "We have a lot of applicants," said Gene Seago, of Moylan's Insurance Underwriters, who added that a big number of car owners have been turning up at his office everyday.

His employee, Beng Abarca said they have been receiving an average of at least ten phone inquiries, plus the same number of walk-in applicants daily.

Doris Carillo, an employee of

who brokered an end to the Bosnian war in 1995, failed to persuade the Yugoslav leader to accept a U.S.backed plan and its call for 28,000 NATO troops to enforce peace in the province.

The ethnic Albanians, who make up 90 percent of Kosovo's 2 million people, accepted the plan at Paris peace talks, but the Serbs refused.

Fighting raged in several Kosovo villages on Wednesday despite the looming threat of airstrikes. Serb tanks fired volley after volley into areas near Kosovo's southern border with Macedonia, and Associated Press Television News journalists saw about 100 houses ablaze in three devastated villages close to the border.

Royal Crown Insurance Corp., for her part, said they have been lately accepting about 30 applications everyday.

Since December, she disclosed, they have already processed about 300 applications.

The trends cited by the two firms were also shared by the other insurance companies.

According to the Bureau of Motor Vehicles, there were about 22,028 cars that are in use in the NMI.

DPS spokesperson Rose Ada said full enforcement of the new law will start on the first hour of March 30.

The DPS had earlier said it will strictly enforce the monitoring of compliance by putting up road blocks and checkpoints.

The law requires drivers to always bring with them proof of their cars' insurance whenever they travel on the road. An estimated 40,000 Yugoslav army and Serbian police forces are in Kosovo, pursuing the massive crackdown Milosevic launched in February 1998 to try to crush ethnic Albanian rebels.

Only hours before the NATO attack, Milosevic delivered a final message of defiance, urging Yugoslavs in a nationally televised address to defend the country "by all means."

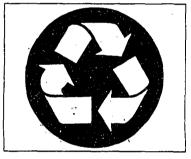
"What is at stake here is the freedom of the entire country, and Kosovo was only the door intended to allow foreign troops to come in," Milosevic said.

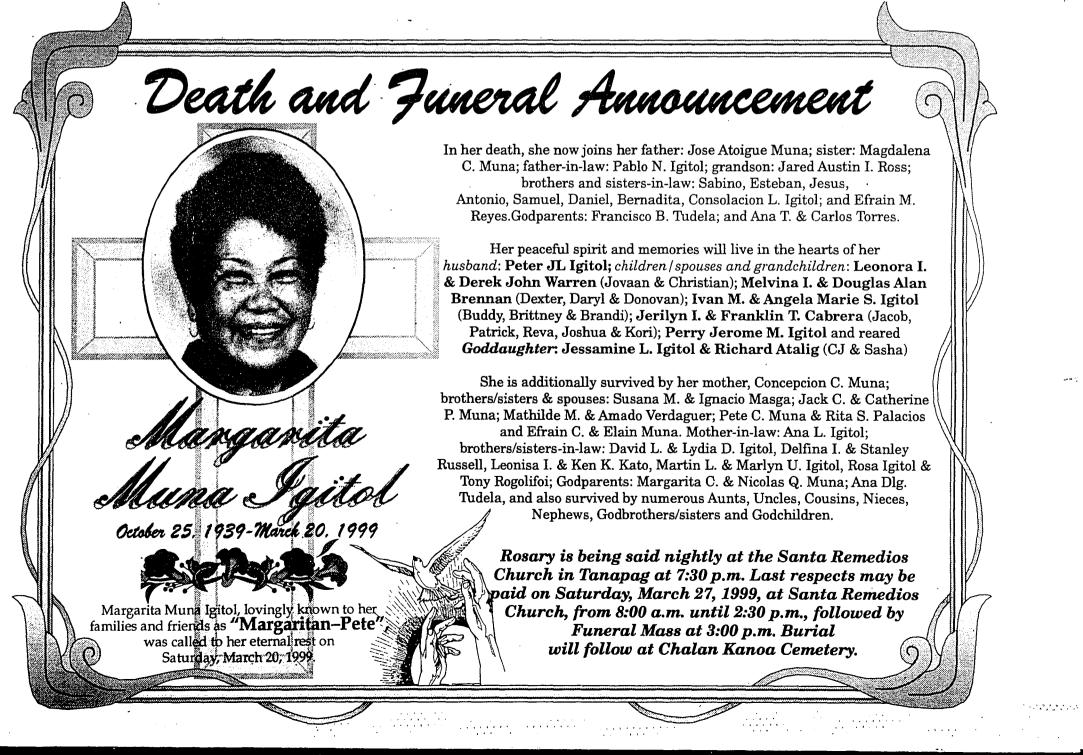
Western allies said the door was open at any time for Milosevic to accept the Kosovo deal — which the Albanians have already signed.

Likewise, vehicles are not permitted to be manned on the street if they are not covered by insurance.

A fine of \$100 and \$150 for the first and second offenses respectively, has been set for drivers caught without the car's insurance.

Those arrested driving a vehicle that is not insured will be fined \$350 and \$500, also for both first and second offenses. Their license would also be revoked until they have completely paid the fine.







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 decadic 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 my 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.

If we encountered a people that counted by space between their fingers, they might use a base 4 or base 8 system. For example, 11 in base 10 would be 23 in base 4, since the '2'

would stand for 2×4 and the '3' for 3×1 . 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. Eggshaped, 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-

long here. But perhaps we can communicate if you will tell me this. If you take two, and then two more, is what you get, exactly four?"

"I never heard. Of such strange. Word as four," replied the Triumphian. "When we take. Two and Two. More we get. Eleven, no less. And no more."

"What," the student shouted. "This means war. For two and two is four. This I know and need to know no more." And with these words, the student, with a stick in hand, ran to attack the triumphian.

The triumphian, reluctantly, shot a ray from the third buckle on his belt, and the student was no more. The turtle and Triumphian walked away, sadly shaking their heads. "Too bad," the turtle said, "he just couldn't understand. Your base is three, just like our Divinity."

Puzzles

1. Base Three. Did you understand this story? Do you know what a base three num-

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

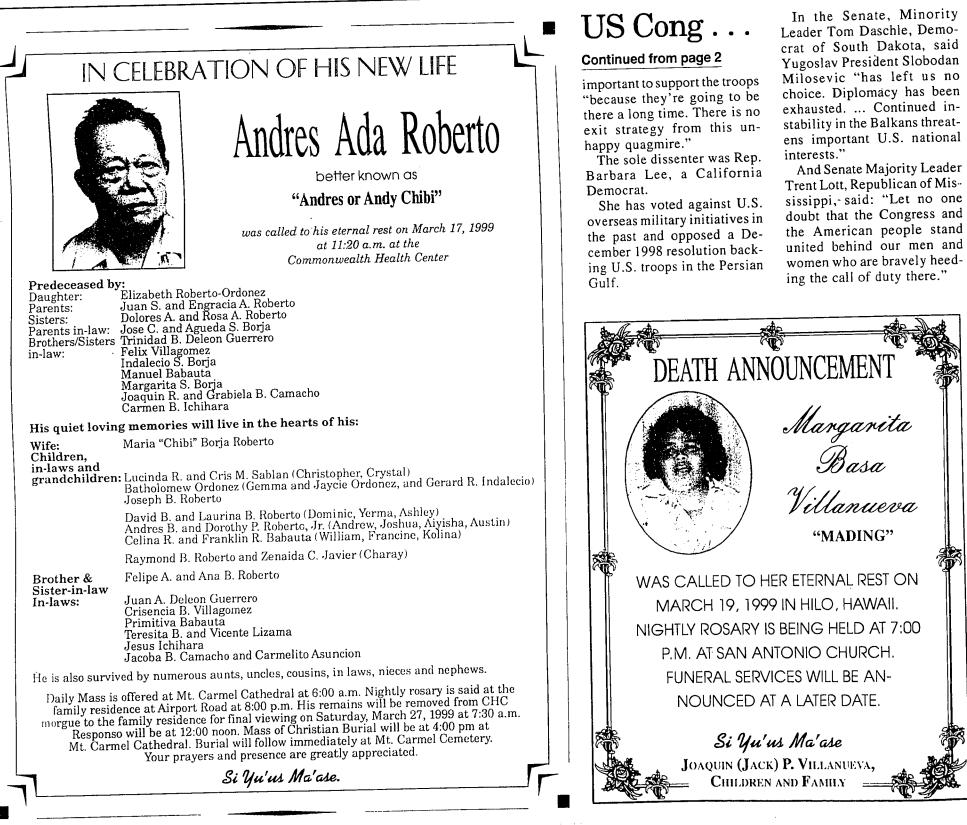
2. Cubes. There are three ways known by which you can combine the sums or differences of three cubes to equal 100. Can you find any?

3. What Day is It? When the turtle woke up from a three week sleep, she asked the Triumphian what day it was. The Triumphian 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 onethird.

 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.
 165 and 561.



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In the Senate, Minority

Leader Tom Daschle, Demo-

crat of South Dakota, said

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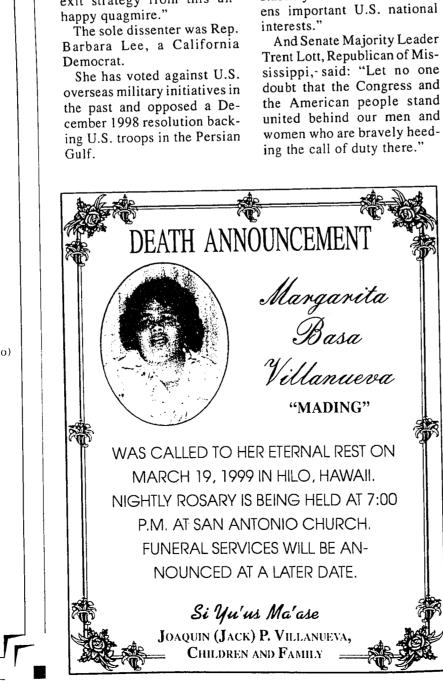
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exhausted. ... Continued in-

stability in the Balkans threat-

US Cong. IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE Continued from page 2 important to support the troops "because they're going to be there a long time. There is no Andres Ada Roberto exit strategy from this unhappy quagmire." better known as Democrat. "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: Elizabeth Roberto-Ordonez Gulf. 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 Felix Villagomez Indalecio S. Borja in-law: Manuel Babauta Margarita S. Borja Joaquin R. and Grabiela B. Camacho Carmen B. Ichihara His quiet loving memories will live in the hearts of his: Maria "Chibi" Borja Roberto Wife Children, grandchildren: Lucinda R. and Cris M. Sablan (Christopher, Crystal) Batholomew Ordonez (Gemma and Jaycie Ordonez, 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. Babauta (William, Francine, Kolina) Raymond B. Roberto and Zenaida C. Javier (Charay) Felipe A. and Ana B. Roberto Brother & Sister-in-law Juan A. Deleon Guerrero In-laws: Crisencia B. Villagomez Primitiva Babauta 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.

Anna an ann an Anna an





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Marianas Variety

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Contact: TRANSAMERICA (SAIPAN)

CORPORATION Tel. 234-1629(4/

Contact: PACIFIC CENTURY INT'L

INC. dba Gecko Mini Tel. 235-3999(4/

Contact: ZHAO KUAN LI dba Feng Ze

01 ELECTRONICS MECHANIC-Sal-

SALES CLERK-Salary:\$4.25 per

Contact: COMMUNICATION SPECIAL-

ISTS dba Communication Specialists,

01 COMPUTER OPERATOR-Sal-

Contact: COMMONWEALTH MARINE

LEISURE CORP. dba Marine Sports &

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Contact: TOWER CONSTRUCTION

CORPORATION Tel. 234-6161(4/

01 SALES CLERK-Salary:\$3.05-4.00

Contact: YOU WON TRADING COR-

PORATION Tel. 233-2025(4/2)F30359

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INC. dba BJ Garden Restaurant Tel.

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08 CARPENTER-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per

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dba Saipan Ocean View Hotel Tel. 234-

01 SALES MANAGER-Salary:\$800.00-

Contact: LC CORPORATION Tel. 288-

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Contact: COMPUTER WORLD TECH-

NOLOGY, INC. Tel. 235-2684(4/

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01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$3.05 per

14 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR

06 CUTTER, HAND-Salary:\$3.05 per

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01 NURSE-Salary:\$4.00 per hour 02 PHARMACISTS-Salary:\$4.00 per hour

arv:\$3.05 per hour

Contact: DR. J. RICHTER Tel. 322-8890(4/2)F30373

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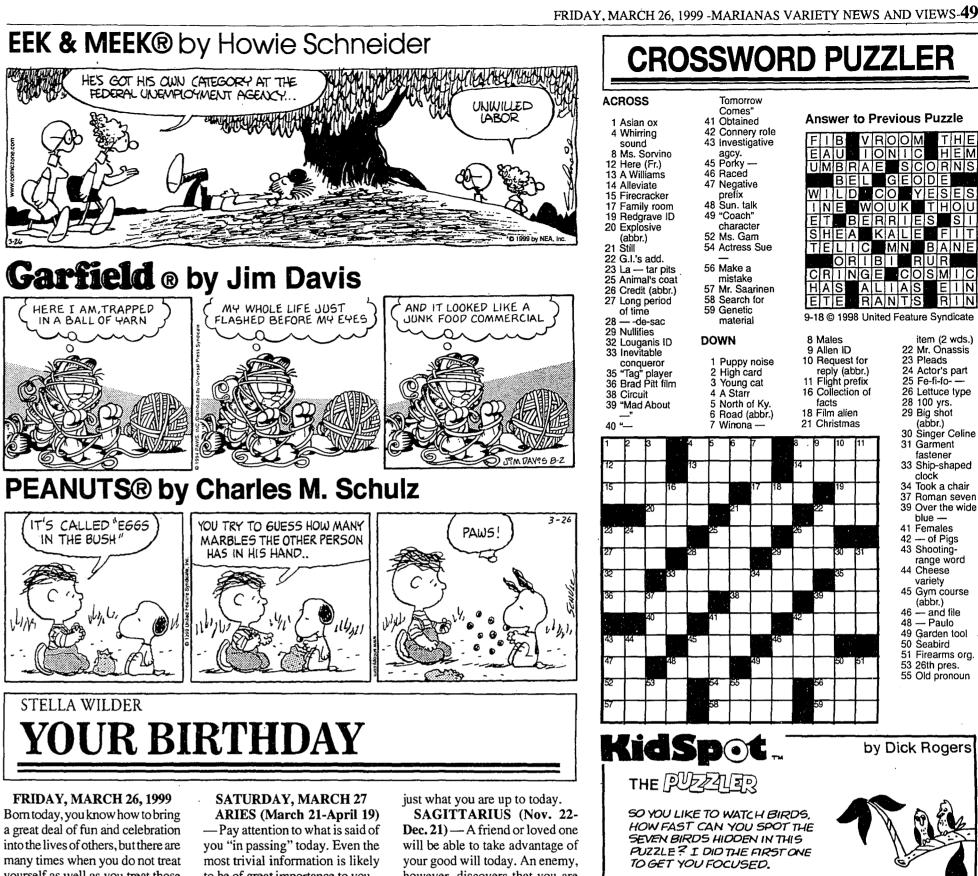
1.000.00 per month 01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER.

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Owen's Enterprises Tel. 235-3580(4/

BLDG.-Salary:\$3.05 per hour

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yourself as well as you treat those around you, and this is something you must work on if you are to enjoy your own successes in life. Despite the fact that you are immensely talented and able to do many things at once with great facility, you often miss out quite on the enjoyment that your successes can bring, simply because you are so concerned with moving forward. You are afraid that if you stand still long enough to "smell the flowers," opportunity will pass you right by!

You go at things with more gusto than most other individuals, and though your creativity may be relatively limited, you have a way of seeing things in a unique way. However, this might not always be an advantage. You enjoy learning from those around you, but experience is your best teacher.

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.

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.

to be of great importance to you.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) -Pay attention to those unspoken signals that only good friends can interpret correctly. You'll receive a timely and invaluable message.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) ----Strategy is everything today, and you're going to have to use your wits if you expect to avoid the pitfalls that are plaguing others. CANCER (June 21-July 22)

---- The bizarre and unexplainable will always hold a special fascination for you, but today you must keep your mind on more practical matters

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) ---What you see or hear by accident today is likely to prove most important to you almost immediately. You may have to swing into action!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — 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.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) ----You'll find yourself under some influences that you cannot identify or name. It may be more difficult for you to proceed until you're "in tune.

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

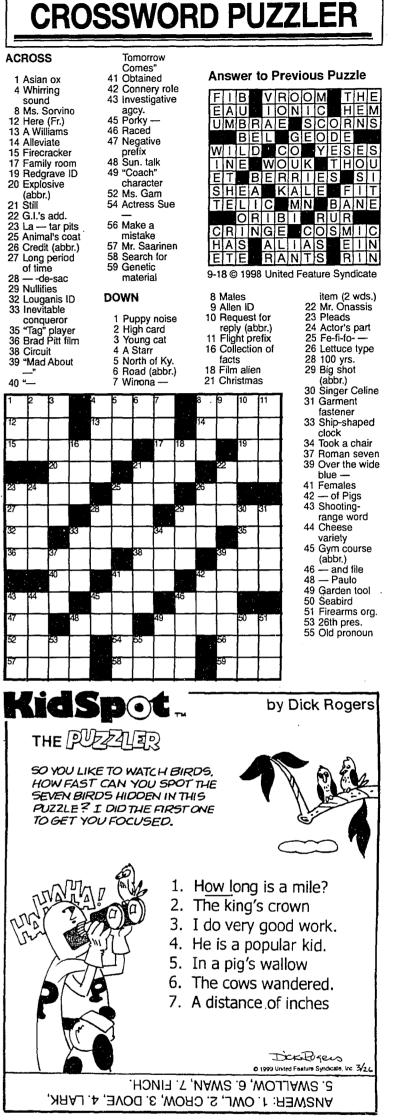
however, discovers that you are quite formidable.

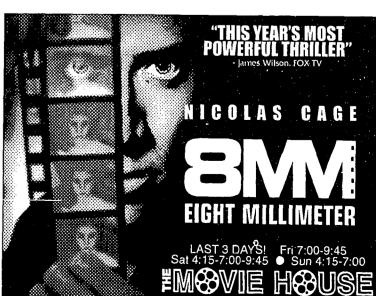
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — After a period of doubt and insecurity on the job, today you may feel as though you'll be back on track and flying high during the coming week.

AOUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) - It's important that you exercise the right of free-agency throughout the day, even when you are challenged by those who claim authority.

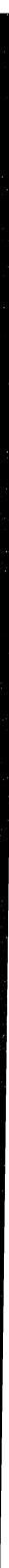
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) --- There is no point denying what others already know today. Take the time to reflect on your motives before you begin changing your methods.

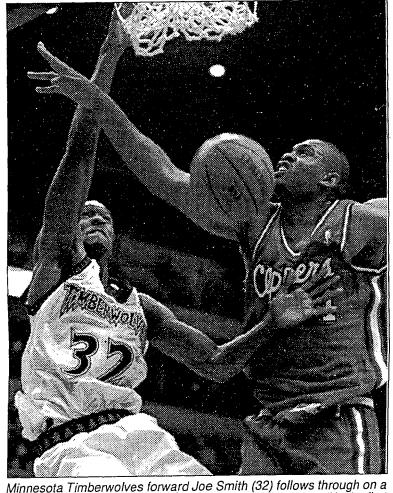






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dunk over Los Angeles Clippers center Michael Olowokandi in the first quarter in Minneapolis, Sunday. The Clippers beat the Timberwolves 100-85. AP

Kings . .

Continued from page 52

overtime. We had to really settle down and execute our pass plays, "said Kings new head coach, Elias Rangamar.

Defending the hill, as well as providing the arsenal was Starzz'z Carlos Santos.

Santos scored the ballgame's high mark of 28 points.

leam . . . Continued from page 52

manship award as well.

Citing criteria, MIBT's Tinian coordinator, Prince Monkeya said, "it is not unusual for players to get a little emotional on the basketball court but, the Palauan players displayed great discipline, and self control, both on-court and off the court."

Palau's Edson Chiokai was voted Most Valuable Player (MVP).

The leading scorer award went to Saipan's Fred Pelisimen.

Rota settled for the runner-up championship title. The Tinian Stallions took third

place, while in fourth was team, Tinian Community.

Saipan came in fifth, as team Guam took last place.

Guerreros Continued from page 1

said. "That's the second time they've split the party. They did the same thing in 1981 [when I was the candidate for lieutenant governor]."

An avowed conservative, Tenorio said he considers US Republicans as his friends, "but I can't join the local Republican Party because it's anti-economic development.

"Look at what they're doing to the economy! The economy is economy around while retaining cans to join the new party.

And although rebounding statistics aren't kept, a casual observation could point to Santos as the leading rebounder of that ballgame

Teammate Raymond Palacios chipped in with 12 points, but were outmatched by the Sixers' experience.

The Kings' guns proved to powerful for them, as all five starting players in the Kings offense scored in double figures.

Henry Rabauliman led the Kings with 17 points, followed by Bradley Rabauliman and Kelvin Seman with 16 points. Melvin Rabauliman and B.J. Tagabuel pumped in 15 and 14

Sports . . . Continued from page 52

Sunday Mar. 28

Little League baseball

9 a.m. Chalan Kanoa Padres vs. Kautz Glass Glazers 11 a.m. San Vicente A's vs. Little

Knights 1 p.m. Cruisers vs. Dandan Blue

Javs 3 p.m. Kagman Rockies vs.

Tanapag Braves (San Vicente baseball park)

Major League baseball

6:30 p.m. Kautz Glazers vs. UMDA Aces

(Francisco Palacios Baseball

going downhill because of their inaction. That's why we need a new party. And it's going to be well-organized and well-funded."

Tenorio said support for the new party comes mainly from the business sector.

"They're encouraging us to do it because the Democrats are practically gone and the Republicans

are doing nothing," he said. "The only thing they're doing is cutting expenses when what we really need is a more proactive approach.

"There is a way to turn this

Timberwolves beat the slumping Celtics, 87-68

BOSTON(AP)-Kevin Garnett had 22 points and 14 rebounds, and Dennis Scott scored 22 points as the Minnesota Timberwolves beat the slumping Boston Celtics 87-68 Wednesday night.

The Celtics have lost 10 of their last 11, while the Timberwolves won for just the second time in seven games. Kenny Anderson scored 16 points for Boston, which shot just 30.5 percent from the field

Hornets 110, Bulls 81

In Charlotte, North Carolina, rookie Brad Miller led a strong showing by Charlotte's bench and the Hornets capitalized on the absence of Toni Kukoc to beat the Chicago Bulls.

Miller scored 12 of his seasonhigh 25 points in a second-quarter run that put the Hornets in control on the way to their sixth victory in 10 games under new coach Paul Silas. Kukoc, the only member of the Bulls averaging more than 12

points respectively.

The biggest winners however are all the players in the IVYBL, as one parent of a Starzz player commented,"When these boys started playing (basketball) they were lucky to make a basket.

"Most of the Starzz players are football players and this is their first time playing basketball. I think it's good for them to learn to appreciate other sports," he added.

"But most importantly, these boys (and girls) are making friends with the kids from other villages. This league gives them a chance to play (basketball) in the other villages and make friends," concluded Mark Palacios.

Field) Stevedore softball league

10 a.m. No Fear vs. Stradle Car-

rier 11 a.m. Fantastic Four vs. Power Lifters

(Micro Beach baseball park) Mar-Pac Palau softball league

9 a.m. Peleliu vs. Spec

10 a.m. Braves vs. Islanders 11 a.m. Enforcers vs. Worriors

Noon Turtles vs. Sofang 1 p.m. Belias vs. Outriggers

- 2 p.m. Bombers vs. Anguar 3 p.m. Red Torch vs. High Volt-
- age 4 p.m. Fadang vs. Koror Tigers

(Micro Beach baseball park)

local control over labor and immigration, and businessmen know that I know how to do it," Tenorio said. The new party, he added, may

even have a complete slate in the House of Representatives for the November elections.

"The economy will be the issue," he said. "Right now, even Republicans are not satisfied with the way things are. That's why in Precinct 1 alone, [which has six House seats], there are already 19 people interested to run."

Tenorio said he expects several of these "dissatisfied" Republi-

points, stayed in Chicago to rest a sore back.

Pistons 84, Nets 71 In East Rutherford, New Jersey, the Detroit Pistons limited New Jersey a season-low 71 points and only 23 field goals, which

Sports Notes . . Continued from page 52

Basketball League is preparing to kick off its 8th annual basketball

Young men and women from ages 14 to 18 are welcomed to join. The entrance fees for the is year

is set at \$200. Opening date is tentatively sched-

uled for June 14. or more information please call

Elias Rangamar or Jovie Omar at 234-1001/2.

SGA

The Saipan Golfers Association is informing all members of the upcoming Monthly Club Championships tournament.

On Saturday, March 27, the SGA will play its March club tournament at Laolao West Course. Players are reminded to show

up no later than 6a.m., for pairing. Tee-off time is 6:31a.m., sharp!

For more information please call Ray Diaz at 234-5997.

$SPG \dots$ Continued from page 52

alty goal at this stage failed to lock up the result. Instead Manila scored in the corner as the full time whistle blew to level the scores 19-19. Manila's kicker kicked the goal from the sideline to make the final result Guam 19-Manila 21.

"It was the best competition of the tournament and, for the crowd, the most exciting. The Claros brothers, Ryan and Paul, were exceptional, and have given Guam a great new quality ... speed".

Also enjoying good form were Tim Clements, Allan Morrison and Jerry Le in the backs, and Tony Costa and Robb Malay in

New... Continued from page 1

formal opening of the school will be on April 5 after the school system's spring break.

Dandan Elementary School will be hosting a total of 352 yellow track students from Kagman, San Vicente and Dandan in April.

For the next school year, the school population is expected to be much higher.

Taimanao is expecting some 466 Dandan student-residents to register at the new school.

"We are ready. The teachers are ready. They have been working hard this week and fixing up the classrooms. The parents are more than welcomed to come and visit and we want them to participate in their children's education,"

tied a franchise low for the Nets. Bison Dele scored 18 points and Jerry Stackhouse added 17 for Detroit, which shot 51 percent from the field. Keith Van Horn led the Nets with 27 points.

Hash run

The running of the Saipan Hash House Harriers will be on Sat. April 3.

Fee is \$25. for registration before Mondy, and five-dollars additional therafter.

Participants should meet at the Bank of Guam parking lot at 3:30 p.m., Saturday.

For more information please call Bobbi at 322-9464.

RGA The Rafaluwasch Golf Association will hold its March Ace of

the Month tournament on Sunday, Mar. 28, at Coral Ocean Point Resort. Tournament will start at 7 a.m. and

is open to the first 20 golfers, on a firstcome basis.

Qualifying score to beat is 68, set by Joe Mafnas.

Members are informed of the association's quarterly, Best Ball Team tournament, scheduled for Sat. April 10.

The top three teams will share a purse of \$600.

Additional reports will be provided at a later time.

overseas preparation for the South

Pacific Games tournament to be

held June 2-5 and was sponsored

by Budweiser and Continental

Back on Guam the remainder

of the Club hosted matches with

three ships from the Australian

Navy and put on an afternoon of

Tandem Thrust Rugby 10's ac-

The pace of the matches were

fast considering the heat and the

skills excellent. For the record,

Guam beat HMAS Supply 21-0

and HMAS Perth 26-0 to win the

Greg Brown of Guam was pre-

For the next school year, stu-

dents from different public

schools residing in Dandan will

be transferred to the new school.

cutting ceremonies for the school

were officials led by Gov. Pedro

P. Tenorio, who delivered a

Inos, for her part, thanked the

community for its renewed sense

of purpose for the children and

the best education for children. I

ask you not to be tired of our call

to come and help us. I need you to

encourage our kids to go and come

to school, and to offer what is the

best for (them) our children," Inos

Meanwhile, PSS is expected to

open Kagman Elementary School

"Come and help PSS to make

In attendance during ribbon-

sented the MVP trophy.

the forwards. The tournament was the final

Airlines.

tion.

tournament.

she said.

speech.

said.

in November.

their education.

Lipton Tennis heats up

By STEVEN WINE

KEY BISCAYNE, Florida (AP) -On match point, Martina Hingis served, charged forward and smacked a volley into net. She stared at the ball and kicked it in mock frustration, then broke into a big grin.

The Swiss star had plenty of margin for error, and she won the next point to beat Austria's Barbara Schett 6-1, 6-1 on Wednesday in the quarterfinals of the Lipton Championships.

The world's top-ranked player has looked first-rate in Key Biscayne, losing just 11 games in four matches. Hingis' latest victory took just 43 minutes.

"I love it," she said. "You can go do something else if you know you played a great match. I'm going to have a massage."

Hingis' opponent in the semis will be Serena Williams, who

Grand Sumo Tournament.

Kyokushuzan dropped to 5-6.

and bulldozed him out.

Chivotenzan.

three yokozunas for the first time in 49 years.

him down, leaving both wrestlers at 8-3.

Dejima (5-6) to improve to 8-3.

Tuesday's bouts.

Takanohana pulls out

from sumo tournament

OSAKA, Japan (AP) - Hawaii-born Musashimaru downed Mongo-

han Kyokushuzan and shared the lead Wednesday with his fellow

ozeki (champion) Takanonami with four days left in the 15-day Spring

Yokozuna (grand champion) Takanohana withdrew from the tour-

nament with a shoulder injury and ozeki (champion) Chiyotaikai

pulled out due to a broken nose. Both suffered their injuries in

Takanohana's withdrawal left the tournament without any of the

Wrestling before 8,000 spectators at Osaka Prefectural Gymnasium,

Musashimaru, or Fiamalu Penitani, charged No. 3 maegashira (senior

wrestler) Kyokushuzan, or Mongolian Batbayar Davaa, with hand

thrusts and sent him out easily. Takanonami improved to 9-2 and

Takanonami (9-2) clamped No. 7 maegashira Miyabiyama's arms

Miyabiyama is now one victory behind the co-leaders at 8-3 along

with four other wrestlers-komusubis (junior champions) Tochiazuma

and Akinoshima, No. 5 maegashira Tochinonada and No. 9 maegashira

In other major bouts, Tochiazuma charged Chiyotenzan and crushed

Akinoshima sidestepped to left and pulled down his fellow komusubi

wore down Amanda Coetzer 6-4, 6-0. Williams has won 15 consecutive matches and is bidding for her third tournament title in a row, but she's 0-2 against Hingis. "I have some business to take

care of," Williams said. In the men's quarterfinals, Spain's Francisco Clavet beat Germany's Nicolas Kiefer 7-5, 6and France's Sebastien Grosjean won a battle of unseeded players by beating Slovakia's Dominik Hrbaty 6-3, 5-7, 6-1. For the first time in the Lipton's 15-year history, there will be no Americans in the men's semifi-

Hingis' opponent in the semis will be the winner of Wednesday night's match between American Serena Williams and South Africa's Amanda Coetzer. Possible opponents in the final Sunday are second-ranked Lindsay

Davenport of the United States, No. 4 Jana Novotna of the Czech Republic, No. 6 Venus Williams of the United States and No. 7 Steffi Graf of Germany.

"Nobody can say who is going to win this tournament," Schett said.

Don't discount Hingis. At 18, the Swiss miss is no longer the freshest face on the WTA Tour and teen-agers Amelie Mauresmo of France and the Williams sisters are among those challenging her reign



Martina Hingis of Switzerland returns a ball to her opponent Barbara Schett of Austria Wednesday, at the Tennis Center at Crandon during the Lipton Championships in Key Biscayne, Fla.. Hingis defeated Schett 6-1, 6-1. ap

Negotiations hindering Holyfield-Lewis rematch

By ED SCHUYLER JR. NEW YORK (AP) --- Look for the Lennox Lewis-Evander Holyfield rematch to happen in October or November. There are, however, serious negotiations to be held before it happens.

"There's better than a 50 percent chance it will be made," said Dino Duva, president of Main Events, who with Panos Eliades of Britain promotes Lewis, also of Britain. "But a rematch is not made, I can tell you that."

The fight for the undisputed heavyweight championship between Lewis and Holyfield on March 13 in Madison Square Garden isn't deserving of rematch on its merits. The decision of a draw in a bout that Lewis clearly won, how-

nia (AP) — Pat Hurst, who won

her first major title a year ago by

capturing the Nabisco Dinah

Shore, notices a big difference

now when she trudges toward

Not surprising, since Hurst is

"I notice I get tired coming

down the last three or four holes,"

she said. "That's to be expected.

My swing is a little rusty, but I'm

looking forward to this week.

Hurst, 29, hasn't cut down on

her schedule. She has played in

seven of the U.S. LPGA Tour's

first eight tournaments this year,

and hopes to keep going through

the Titleholders event May 6-9.

first for her and husband Jeff

The due date for her child, the

BV KEN PETERS

the end of a round.

six months pregnant.

We'll see how it goes."

ever, will sell a rematch.

Amid several investigations of the decision, including a grand jury probe in Manhattan, Don King, the primary promoter of the March 13 fight, recently announced that the two fighters have agreed to purses of \$15 million each. Holyfield made \$20 million and Lewis \$10 million for the draw, which drew 21,284 fans paying \$11 million and also reportedly had 1.2 million buys at \$49.95 each.

King made at least \$10 million. A rematch would not be set up for King to make that much.

"There has to be parity across the board," Duva said.

"No deal has been made with King for television," said Lou DiBella, senior vice president of

HBO sports. "No deal has been made for the site and no deal has been made for the date."

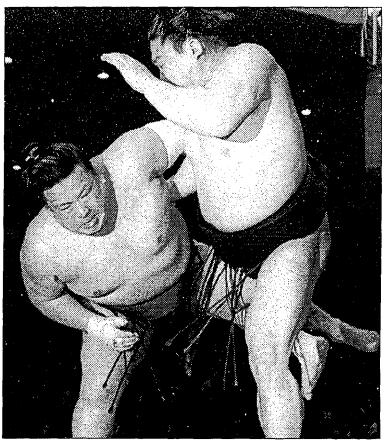
King said both fighters would like the rematch in September, but HBO has a pay-per-view show featuring Oscar De La Hoya on Sept.

De La Hoya, the WBC welterweight champion, is a major payper-view attraction.

"The date has to be selected," DiBella said. "It will not conflict with De La Hoya.

That means the fight probably will be held after September.

Frank Malone, Lewis' manager, has talked about the fight being held in Britain,, but Duva said, "Logistically, it has to be in the United States."



Yokozuna Wakanohana (right) slaps down No. 4 maegashira Higonoumi, in the seventh day of the 15-day Spring Grand Sumo Tournament, Saturday, in Osaka, Japan. Wakanohana is 4-3, and Higonoumi 2-5. Hurst to defend Dinah Shore title

Heitt, is late May. Hurst plans to 612,329 in earnings, eighthon the RANCHO MIRAGE, Califor- take four months off before return- money list and about double what ing to the tour.

"This is my only major this year, sohopefully I'llgoout with a bang," she said.

Hurst said her game is relatively sharp as she heads into Thursday's opening round at Mission Hills Country Club.

"I've been feeling really well," she said. "I haven't been practicing too much. I'm trying to pace myself

Winning a major last year was a key to her career so far, said Hurst, a winner of just one other event in four seasons.

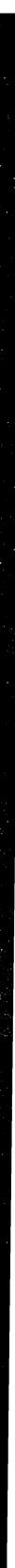
"The confidence level went up so much," she said of the Dinah Shore victory. "When you're playing well against the best players on the tour, it's a great feeling." Hurst finished 1998 with dlrs she had won any other year.

Successfully defending her title in the Dinah Shore will be extremely difficult, her pregnancy aside.

Hurst will face a strong contingent of foreign players, including South Korea's Se Ri Pak Australia's Karrie Webb, England's Laura Davies and Swedes Annika Sorenstam, Helen Alfredsson and Liselotte Neumann.

Pak won four tournaments in 1998 on the way to earning Rookie of the Year honors, and two of those titles were majors --- the LPGA Championship and the U.S. Women's Open.

This will be her first time in the Dinah Shore, and she hadn't even seen the course until this week.



SPORTS **Feam 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



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

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.

nila.

In the most exciting match of the tournament Guam were beaten in injury time 19-21.

According to Coach Jay Seay,

Kings beat Starzz, 68-61

Saturday Mar. 27

Senior League baseball

9a.m. Ol'Aces vs. Young Stars

youngster, ages 14-18, and

lasted four days, from Mar. 17

until Saturday Mar. 20. The tour-

nament took place at Tinian's

Perhaps surprised by Palau's

abilities on the basketball court,

Rota had nonetheless pulled to

within seven points at the end of

Friday Mar. 26

SSA men's fastpitch

6:30 p.m. Sunrisers vs. Midpac

8 p.m. Karl Reyes Islanders vs.

San Miguel Snappers

(Susupe softball field)

Multi-purpose Gymnasium.

the first half.

Gensets

Saipan

Field)

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



(Susupe) Little League baseball Garapan Pirates vs. St. Jude Hustlers Lions vs. New Starz

3 p.m. M.V. Reyes Ol'Aces

(San Vicente baseball park)

Continued on page 50

Devil Rays 9 a.m. San Roque D-9ers vs. 11 a.m. San Antonio Cardinals 1 p.m. Fielders vs. Kagman

Big League baseball

1 p.m. Pirates vs. Tanapag

It was during the second half

that team Palau pulled out all the

stops, as they was held Rota to

just three points in the second

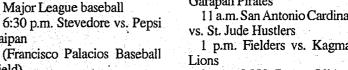
Capping team Palau's 1999

Team Palau received the Sports

Continued on page 50

MIBT championship title was the

other 'most coveted' award.



(Susupe)

(Francisco Palacios Baseball

half.

SPORTS CALENDAR

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, Ma-

"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

am rosters 2) entry fees, and 3) the league's opening date.

Managers and coaches or their

Topics to be discussed are; 1)

representatives must be present

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 at-

tend the meeting.

during the meeting.

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. ATES POUR Photo by Tony Celis

> • Fax: (671) 649-4687 E-mail: yas@gtepacifica.net

GUAM

Tamuning Plaza, GU 96911 • Tel. (67.4) 649-467814 (65.0280M SAIPAN MP

960 South-Marine Drive Suite 1524 30

PB8587443

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P.O. Box 231 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. (670) 234-6341 • 7578 • 9797 • Fax: (670) 234-9271 E-mail: younis@gtepacifica.net mvariety@gtepacifica.net

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