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Teno signs \$13M CIP bill

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday signed a House-sponsored bill into law paving the way for the construction of over \$13 million worth of capital infrastructure projects (CIP).

House Bill 11-408 became Public Law 11-79 to guarantee local matching funds for the construction of several infrastructure projects which will be partially funded by the federal government under the Section 702 of the Covenant.

Tenorio is upbeat on the ripple effect of the new construction projects which, he said, will provide for the much needed fresh capital into the Commonwealth's struggling economy.

PL 11-79 corrects the technical deficiencies in PL 11-78. This deficiencies include the abrupt change made by the CNMI Leg-



Pedro P. Tenorio

islature in the seven-year CIP Plan which earlier prompted the governor to veto some items contained in HB 11-380 which is now known as PL 11-78.

Only two projects — the construction of a new prison facility and the completion of the Marianas High School gymnasium — under the original CIP bill were preserved.

The Adult Prison/Crime Lab, Immigration Detention facility and Youth Facility will initially get funding under the new CIP law.

Infrastructure projects on Saipan that include the Nang Ocha Road, Chinatown sewerage system, and power, water and wastewater systems for Koblerville homesteads, Tanapag homesteads will have to be included in the CIP Plan before it gets funding.

The governor explained the

need to formally amend the CIP Plan, incorporating the project changes in order to comply with federal requirements for release of funds.

He said the Plan requires legislative resolution to make substantive changes. He added a formal plan amendment must be done for Rota's Sinapalo/Songsong road improvement.

The CIP Plan identifies Sinapalo Road Improvements but it does not include the Songsong

project. A formal amendment is also needed to include the West Tinian International Airport in the project list.

Tenorio said the projects listed under PL 11-79 will vastly improve the infrastructure on Rota, Saipan and Tinian, as these will also provide a much needed boost in the local economy by getting over \$13 million in total funds circulated within the CNMI.

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Creation of regional airline gets big push

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

LEGISLATORS from Palau and the Northern Marianas are seeking support from members of the Asian Pacific Parliamentarians' Union (APPU) for the development of a regional airline that would provide air transportation between nations in the region.

The CNMI and Palau national delegations offered a resolution aimed at soliciting backing for the proposed regional airline during yesterday's first plenary session of the 65th APPU Council Meeting being held on Saipan.

Traveling to different islands in the Western Pacific region have proven to be very complicated, according to Palau House of Delegates Speaker Ignacio Anastacio, citing the experience of some APPU delegates who arrived on Saipan only after several days after leaving their country.

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Manglona defends casino plan:

'I don't want my people to die with empty stomach'



Benjamin T. Manglona

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

ROTA Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona yesterday asked for

open minds among those who oppose his plan to have a casino on Rota, saying the facility is meant to "save the people of Rota from dying with an empty stomach."

Manglona's remarks came a day after Tinian Sen. David M. Cing expressed strong opposition to the casino project, stressing that the Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino (TDHC) should first be given enough time to "take off" before Rota can have its turn.

"We don't want a fight between the islands. I just want

Continued on page 23



MHS. Student-artists from Marianas High School gather around Guam Gov. Carl Gutierrez during the first day of Micronesian Art Fair which was held in Guam last week. Contributed Photo

\$1.6M for Palau hotel project

By EILEEN OREIRO-TABARANZA
For the Variety

KOROR (Palau Horizon) — A Chinese businessman plans to infuse a total \$1.57 million worth of investments on Palau to operate the KB View Hotel, establish a mini-brewery, brew pub and guest service facilities in Airai.

In his application to Foreign Investment Board (FIB), Xinhua Wang, a Chinese national who wants to lease, operate and manage the KB View Hotel, said improvements to the hotel include construction of a second floor above the existing restaurant.

Wang will create a new, more scenic restaurant for the purpose of expanding the restaurant. He added that he will construct a rooftop karaoke lounge and barracks by adding a fourth floor to the

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Stage is set for APIL's 18th general assembly on Guam

Variety News Staff

HAGATNA--All is set for the 18th General Assembly of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) which will be held tomorrow and Friday at the Legislature's session hall in Hagatna.

Opening remarks will be delivered by APIL president and Guam Sen. Carlotta Leon Guerrero followed by remarks from the following member delegations: American Samoa, the CNMI, Chuuk, Pohnpei, Kosrae, Yap, Marshall Islands, Palau, Nauru, Kiribati, Hawaii, and Guam.

On Thursday, the first panel presentation will discuss the possibility of having a regional airline for the Pacific.

Joaquin Flores, Freedom Air general manager, will discuss Freedom Air's potential as a

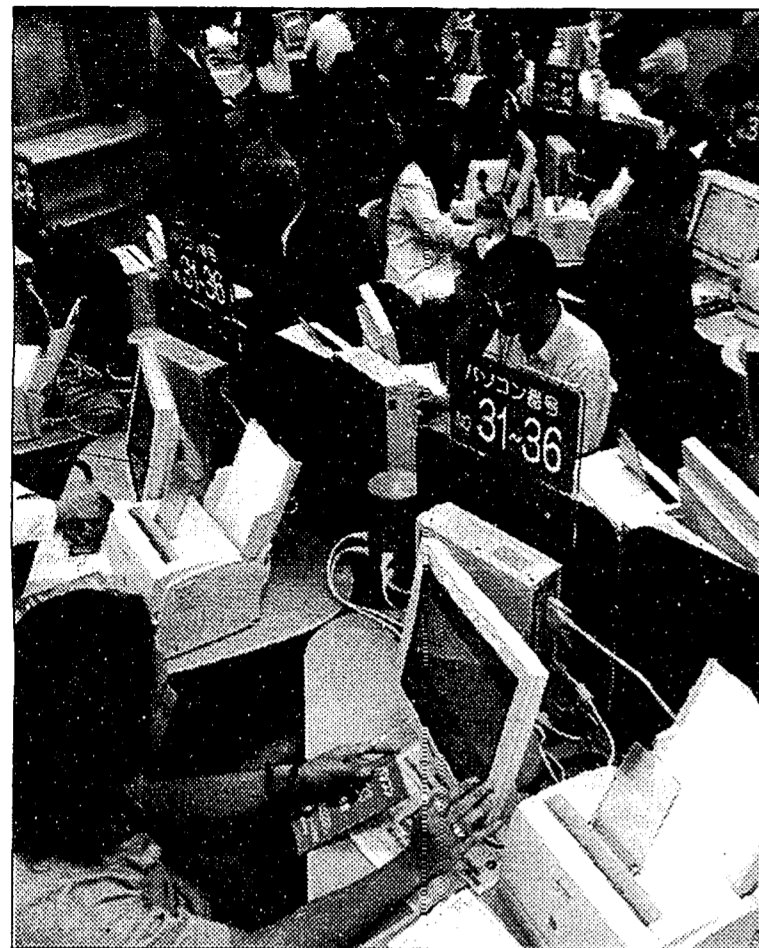


Carlotta Leon Guerrero

future jet airline operator for the region while Continental Airlines marketing and sales vice president Wally Dias will tackle Continental's proposed creation of a regional advisory board.

Sen. John C. Salas, who chairs the APIL committee on trade and commerce, will report on a resolution requesting APIL gov-

Continued on page 23



Job seekers concentrate on operating personal computers at the Shinjuku Hello Work, a municipal placement center, in Tokyo Monday. Japan's jobless rate remained steady at a record high of 4.8 percent in April.

Japan economy stops worsening

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's economy has stopped deteriorating as a result of government spending, though risks remain, the government said Tuesday. In its closely watched monthly report, the Economic Planning Agency upgraded its assessment of the nation's economy in June for the first time in three months. The agency said that the economy "has stopped deteriorating and is fluctuating sideways." Since March, the assessment had said "downward movement continues to slow to a halt."

The report is considered a key indicator of government thinking on the state of the economy and can sometimes anticipate new policy initiatives. Japan is struggling through its worst recession in 50 years amid record high joblessness and aggressive restructuring at corporations.

The report said that private spending continues to be pressured by wage concerns as corporations restructure, but is showing signs of slight recovery from spring lows. Last month's report said consumption was simply fluctuating at low levels.

Production was also slightly upgraded from May's report with some progress noted in inventory adjustment. Last month's report said that production was close to bottoming out.

A team of U.S. experts found no reason last month to believe at this stage that an underground building site in North Korea violated a 1994 nuclear deal between Washington and Pyongyang, the U.S. State Department said.



Taichi Sakaiya

"The downside risk for the economy remains, but it has gotten smaller," said Takashi Omori, director of the national economic division at the EPA's research bureau. The agency also highlighted strength in the housing sector. Construction starts for new private homes in Japan rose by 12.5 percent in April after soaring 19.1 percent in March and 9.0 percent in February. Total housing starts rose 1.1 percent on year — the first rise in percentage terms in 28 months.

But analysts say the rise is not necessarily an indication that consumer sentiment has turned positive. Instead, the trend reflects both newly implemented tax incentives for home buyers and concerns that long-term interest rates may be headed higher.

EPA head Taichi Sakaiya said as much in a television appearance Sunday, suggesting that the gains may not be sustainable. "The housing investment rise isn't part of an upward trend, it was a sudden blip higher, so I don't know if it's bottomed out," he said.

Concerning negative factors, the agency said Japan's labor situation remains severe. The country's jobless rate remained at a postwar record high of 4.8 percent in April. Sakaiya said that the jobless rate is likely to rise above 5 percent in the coming months.

Also, corporate investment in plant and equipment "continues to fall at a fast pace," the report said. Government stimulus policies, however, continue to support some sectors, the report said. The credit crunch affecting enterprises has eased somewhat, and government loan guarantees continue to temper growth in the number of bankruptcies, the report said.

Corporate bankruptcies in April fell 33 percent on the year and 8.1 percent from March, private credit research agency Teikoku Databank Ltd. said. It was the sixth month in a row of on-year declines and the fourth month in a row of falls exceeding 30 percent.

Some analysts, however, have said that the credit guarantees amount to little more than life-support measures for enterprises that remain shaky.

US House Republicans seek a way out of budget bind

By Vicki Allen
WASHINGTON (Reuters) — House Republican leaders tried to build support on Monday for a plan to appease their conservative wing and break the logjam over budget bills that threatens to derail their legislative agenda. Meeting with several groups of House of Representatives lawmakers, Speaker Dennis Hastert outlined measures intended to keep fiscal 2000 spending within limits set by a 1997 budget-balancing agreement, but also boost spending on defense and education.

"It is a game plan that will reflect Republican priorities while sticking with the fiscal discipline we passed in our budget," said a spokesman for the Illinois Republican. Hastert's spokesman said the plan "will see savings in all 13 of the appropriations bills," but with more money for the Pentagon than President Clinton has requested. There will also be a boost in education spending over current levels, he said.

Lawmakers emerging from the meetings declined to give specifics, saying Hastert was to speak to the full Republican caucus early on Tuesday.

"I'm satisfied with what he's doing. He's got a plan," said Representative Tom Coburn, an Oklahoma Republican. Coburn had led an uprising of conservatives who charged that Hastert had no strategy to pass the 13 bills to fund the government in fiscal 2000, starting Oct. 1.

Coburn and other conservatives are worried that Republicans are on course for a repeat of last year's huge catchall spending deal with the White House, which broke budget limits by \$20 billion.

The haggling over the budget inside their own ranks showed how difficult it is for Republican leaders to pass even relatively routine bills with a fragile six-seat majority. Conservative Republicans last month blocked an "easy" farm spending bill supported by their own party because they said it put them on the road to breaking limits set by the 1997 budget pact to eliminate the federal deficit.



Dennis Hastert

The House Appropriations Committee has to cut \$20 billion from current spending levels in order to meet the limits set by the budget pact. It adopted a plan to put enough money into less controversial bills, such as agriculture, to get them approved quickly. Conservative Republicans claimed the strategy would require drastic cutbacks in the more controversial bills, including those for labor, environment and health programmes.

They said the required cuts virtually ensured the bills would be vetoed by the White House - if they manage to get through Congress. They charged that the committee has no strategy for passing the controversial bills.

Similarly, the public safety has also entertained papers from applicants seeking to have their weapons and ammunitions covered by licenses. Based on its report submitted to the Office of the Governor, the department, for the past year alone, received about 424 applications for permits of firearms and explosives of which 110 was issued.

In his report to the House committee which is conducting an oversight hearing on DPS, Public Auditor Leo LaMotte has earlier scored the department for its apparent laxity in the issuance of licenses for guns thereby causing the proliferation of loose firearms. His office deplored the apparent negligence of the public safety department in monitoring the guns

DPH checks food outlets

By Haldee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

FAILURE to get rid of rats, cockroaches and too much grease resulted in the temporary closure of a Garapan-based restaurant since last week, the Department of Public Health disclosed yesterday.

David Rosario, public health advisor, said DPH had warned Kaizoku Restaurant II about its serious violation of health and sanitation regulations a week

after the closure.

The restaurant, however, ignored the warning, prompting the DPH's Bureau of Environmental Health to order its temporary closure during its May 30 to June 5 inspections.

"We ordered them to correct their deficiencies but they did not do anything about it," said Rosario.

Due to the violation, DPH required the said restaurant's man-



Joseph Kevin Villagomez

agement and staff to undergo personal hygiene training, structural hygiene seminar and safe food handling training yesterday.

When BEH personnel re-inspected the restaurant yesterday afternoon, no improvement had been done.

"That is actually the second time they ignored the warning so they

will remain closed until their proper compliance," said Rosario.

During the one-week interview, DPH gave Grade A to six eating and drinking establishments. These include the Northern Marianas College Snack Bar in As Terlaje; Shogun Restaurant in Garapan; and four firms at the Grand Hotel in Susupe, namely, the AOI Restaurant, Madonna Disco Bar, Sushi bar and Teppan Yaki.

Grade B went to Onwel Garment Employee Cafeteria in Susupe; D' Elegance Restaurant in Garapan; Hyun Jim Garment Employee Cafeteria and Pang Jin Garment Employee Cafeteria both located in Gualo Rai.

No establishment received Grade C.

BEH said while Grade A indicates highest standard, those who receive Grade B and C still need

to institute corrective measures like cleaning the kitchen and food preparation surrounding, making sure that the chopping board is not wood, or strict enforcement of wearing "kitchen" uniform among food handlers.

Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez has repeatedly warned consumers against patronage of food and drinks establishments that are not complying with existing health and sanitation regulations. He said these unsanitary firms increase risks of communicable and food-borne diseases.

Aside from ensuring private sector's compliance with health and sanitation laws, DPH's regular and unannounced inspections are also aimed at instituting corrective and preventive measures to avoid recurrence of massive food poisoning in the CNMI.

2 tourists drown

By Rene Acosta
Variety News Staff

TWO Japanese tourists drowned in CNMI waters, Sunday, police reported yesterday.

The first victim, identified as 67-year-old Koichi Kano was reaching for his drift slippers while frolicking by the Mañagaha Island beach when big waves carried him out into the open sea.

A police report said Kano swam after his slippers which were washed away by waters outside the island's designated swimming zone.

His relatives told police that they saw the man struggling against the strong currents while getting back until he disappeared from their sight.

The lifeguards eventually recovered Kano's body. He was taken to the hospital but didn't make it.

The second victim, identified as 27-year old Iwata Susumu, went with a group of divers at a Tinian dive point for an expedition at around 11 am.

The report said the woman was seen "sinking to the bottom of the ocean" at the Dump Coke area of the Tinian Dock, which is the site of their second dive.

According to the report, Susumu was free diving at the rear of their boat when a fellow diver spotted her sinking.

The other diver informed their instructors who rescued Susumu who eventually died at the Tinian Health Center.

About 450,000 Japanese tourists to come to NMI

By Haldee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

THE JAPAN government yesterday disclosed over 450,000 of its citizens are expected to visit the CNMI this year in line with the country's recovery from the Asian economic crisis.

At the same time, Japan said the CNMI — particularly Saipan — has remained to be one of the most-favored destinations among Japanese citizens mainly because of security issues.

This despite the weakening of the Japanese yen which translated to less number of Japanese who travelled outside their country for vacation.

Yoshinori Ono, Japan's chief delegate to the Asian-Pacific Parliamentarians' 65th Council Meeting said Japanese are very much concerned about security matters when it comes to choosing a place for rest and recreation.

He noted that despite a decline in Japanese arrivals into the CNMI from 450,000 in 1997 to 370,000 in 1998, the CNMI has continued to receive considerable tourists mainly because of its safety features.

"We are seeing an increase in the number of Japanese travelling abroad (this 1999), and we really hope those who will come into the CNMI will exceed the 450,000 of 1997 ...

"CNMI is a very good place and it is very safe here. Security is main concern," said Ono, as he also noted CNMI's beach facilities for scuba diving and swimming, among others.

Ono pointed out the CNMI is attractive among old and young Japanese.

He, however, urged the CNMI to do something to lower down the cost of staying here to further

rest and recreation. **Continued on page 22**

House divided on four-year term

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE HOUSE of Representatives may be divided on a legislative initiative extending tenure of its members to four years, according to Rep. Frank G. Cepeda (R-Prec.-4, Saipan).

In an interview yesterday, the Chair of the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations said the division may be a result of two schools of thought about the extension.

He explained that allowing for a two-year term is good in that it allows people to remove elected officials from their posts if they don't leave up to their expectations.

On the other hand, he said, a four-year term could mean people may be stuck with an elected official who is not performing well.

"In my observation," said Cepeda, "the House is split on this."



Frank G. Cepeda

House Legislative Initiative 11-9 seeks to amend Article II Section 3 of the CNMI Constitution to extend the term of members of the House of Representatives from two to four years.

The proposal was introduced by Rep. Melvin L.O. Faisao (R-Prec.-3, Saipan) who said there is a need to extend the lawmakers' term to "improve the political process."

Castro sets criteria for trust of Hillblom heirs

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

SUPERIOR Court Judge Pro Tem Alexandro C. Castro yesterday issued an order listing 10 criteria as requirements to recognize the trust of Larry Hillblom's children. Castro said if the guardians for

the kids will be able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the court regarding the conditions, the court will then qualify such trust to receive shares from the Hillblom estate.

Four children have been recognized. **Continued on page 22**

Bill to protect people's privacy

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety Associate Editor

A SENATE bill now before the House of Representatives would impose criminal sanctions on acts that violate a person's right to privacy.

Sponsored by Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez (R-Saipan) and Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), S. B. 11-144 would also mandate that those whose privacy were violated should receive compensation.

The bill was introduced and passed by the Senate shortly after ABC's "20/20" aired its episode on Saipan which featured footage of garment magnate Willie Tan taken by a hidden camera.

The bill proposes to prohibit anyone from "invading" an adult

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DPS still issuing gun permits despite lack of procedures

By Rene P. Acosta
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DESPITE concerns raised by the Office of the Public Auditor (OPA) on the apparent absence of procedures in the issuance of gun permits, the Department of Public Safety did not stop processing such applications, it was learned.

Similarly, the public safety has

also entertained papers from applicants seeking to have their weapons and ammunitions covered by licenses.

Based on its report submitted to the Office of the Governor, the department, for the past year alone, received about 424 applications for permits of firearms and explosives of which 110 was issued.

In his report to the House committee which is conducting an oversight hearing on DPS, Public Auditor Leo LaMotte has earlier scored the department for its apparent laxity in the issuance of licenses for guns thereby causing the proliferation of loose firearms.

His office deplored the apparent negligence of the public safety department in monitoring the guns

whose papers have already expired or transferred by their original owners to new ones.

"As a result, a number of firearms in the communities of the CNMI are unlicensed and unaccounted for and more than \$39,000 in licensing fees have not been collected," the government's auditor noted.

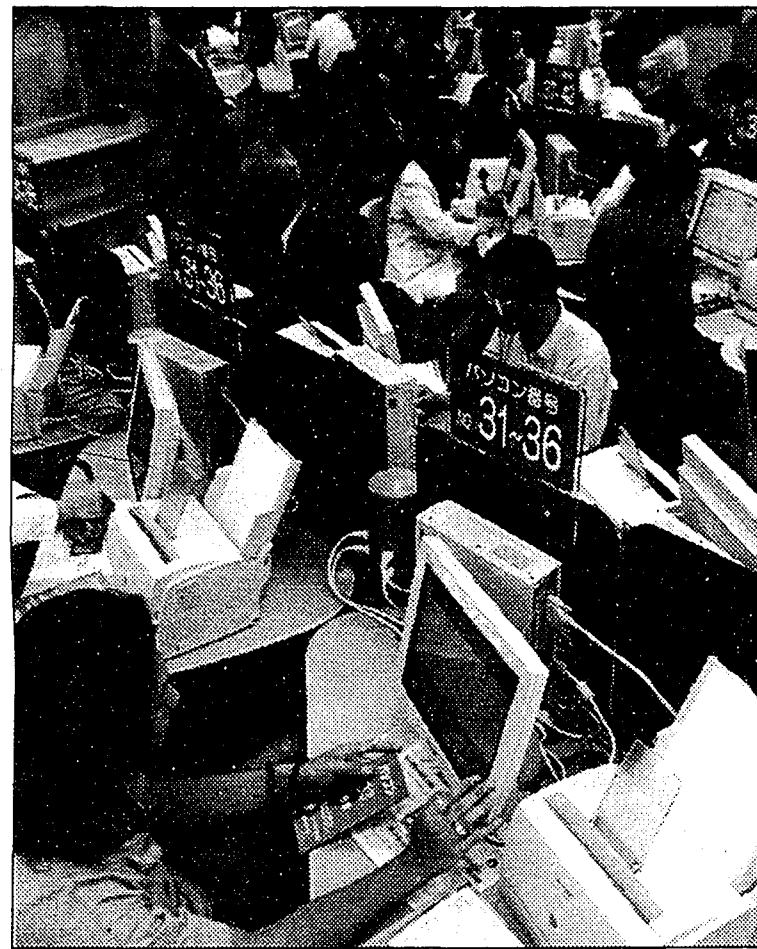
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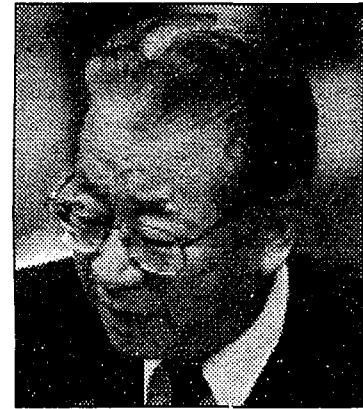
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This despite the weakening of the Japanese yen which translated to less number of Japanese who travelled outside their country for vacation.

Yoshinori Ono, Japan's chief delegate to the Asian-Pacific Parliamentarians' 65th Council Meeting said Japanese are very much concerned about security matters when it comes to choosing a place for rest and recreation.

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The proposal was introduced by Rep. Melvin L.O. Faisao (R-Prec.-3, Saipan) who said there is a need to extend the lawmakers' term to "improve the political process."

"I like it. Two years is okay in the event we let the wrong person to give us public service. However, if we find an individual who is doing a good job, he can be given the opportunity to perform without worrying about reelection.

"In case we have four years and in the event we hire the wrong person, (then we're stuck)," said Cepeda.

A public hearing has been set for June 15 at the Susupe Multipurpose Hall for the matter. Along with HLI 11-9, two other initiatives will be discussed.

These are HLI 11-7, which seeks to amend Article III, Section 23 of the (CNMI) Constitution by replacing the word "indigenous" with the word "Chamorro"; and HLI 11-3, which seeks to amend Article VI of the Constitution to abolish the municipal councils and establish district commissioners in their place instead.

Castro sets criteria for trust of Hillblom heirs

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff
SUPERIOR Court Judge Pro Tem Alexandro C. Castro yesterday issued an order listing 10 criteria as requirements to recognize the trust of Larry Hillblom's children.

Castro said if the guardians for

the kids will be able to demonstrate to the satisfaction of the court regarding the conditions, the court will then qualify such trust to receive shares from the Hillblom estate.

Four children have been recognized.

Continued on page 22

Bill to protect people's privacy

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety Associate Editor
A SENATE bill now before the House of Representatives would impose criminal sanctions on acts that violate a person's right to privacy.

Sponsored by Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez (R-Saipan) and Senate Floor Leader Pete P. Reyes (R-Saipan), S. B. 11-144 would also mandate that those whose privacy were violated should receive compensation.

The bill was introduced and passed by the Senate shortly after ABC's "20/20" aired its episode on Saipan which featured footage of garment magnate Willie Tan taken by a hidden camera.

The bill proposes to prohibit anyone from "invading" an adult

Continued on page 21

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EDITORIALS

Not needed

HOUSE Bill 11-426 wants to achieve what stoning to death in other societies has failed to do. And that is to discourage spouses from committing adultery.

Introduced by House Minority Leader Dino M. Jones, the bill proposes that having an affair should be considered a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than two years, and a fine of not more than \$5,000.

Mr. Jones says his bill aims to "encourage fidelity and faithfulness among spouses." Which is, to be sure, a worthwhile effort. But like the more draconian penalties imposed elsewhere on two-timers, it would neither reduce nor stamp out adultery. We might as well invent a drug to "cure" us of libido.

If the bill becomes law, however, there would be a dramatic increase in the amount of criminal cases filed in the local trial court, which is already groaning under the weight of backlog. Instead of disposing of the more pressing cases involving labor abuse, illegal immigration, child abuse, burglary, theft, assault and murder, our judicial system would also have to deliberate on legal issues that are better handled in divorce proceedings.

Still, like Mr. Jones, we believe that the institution of marriage deserves all the help it can get from government, which, however, can only do so much. Preventing adultery is not one of them.

We think Mr. Jones knows that, too, because his main concern about adultery is not that it is happening, but that too many alien workers are supposedly committing it, and that it should also be a reason for deporting them. He said so during discussions on deportation legislation. When told that adultery is not, at present, a crime Mr. Jones said it ought to be. Hence his bill.

But again, his concern for the morality of alien workers is already being addressed by, for example, the stringent requirements of the CNMI Marriage Licensing Office and the Philippine Consulate that Filipino nationals have to meet before they could get married here. Moreover, philandering Filipinos can be sued for bigamy by their spouses back home.

Meanwhile, there is something that is causing more anxiety among the people than alien workers with too many girl- or boyfriends—burglaries, lots of them, and they remain unsolved.

What is the government doing about it?

Ditto

THE HOUSE Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations (JGO) will hold a public hearing next week on the following House legislative initiatives, which are proposals to amend the Constitution:

- H.L.I. 11-3, which seeks to abolish municipal councils and replace them with district commissioners;
- H.L.I. 11-7, to create an Office for Chamorro Affairs; and,
- H.L.I. 11-9, to extend the term of House members from two to four years.

We urge the public to attend the hearing so they could also tell the committee why these legislative initiatives should be rejected.

Indeed, if something should be done about the current government set-up—which is the goal of these legislative initiatives—it should involve the reduction of its size, not further expansion.

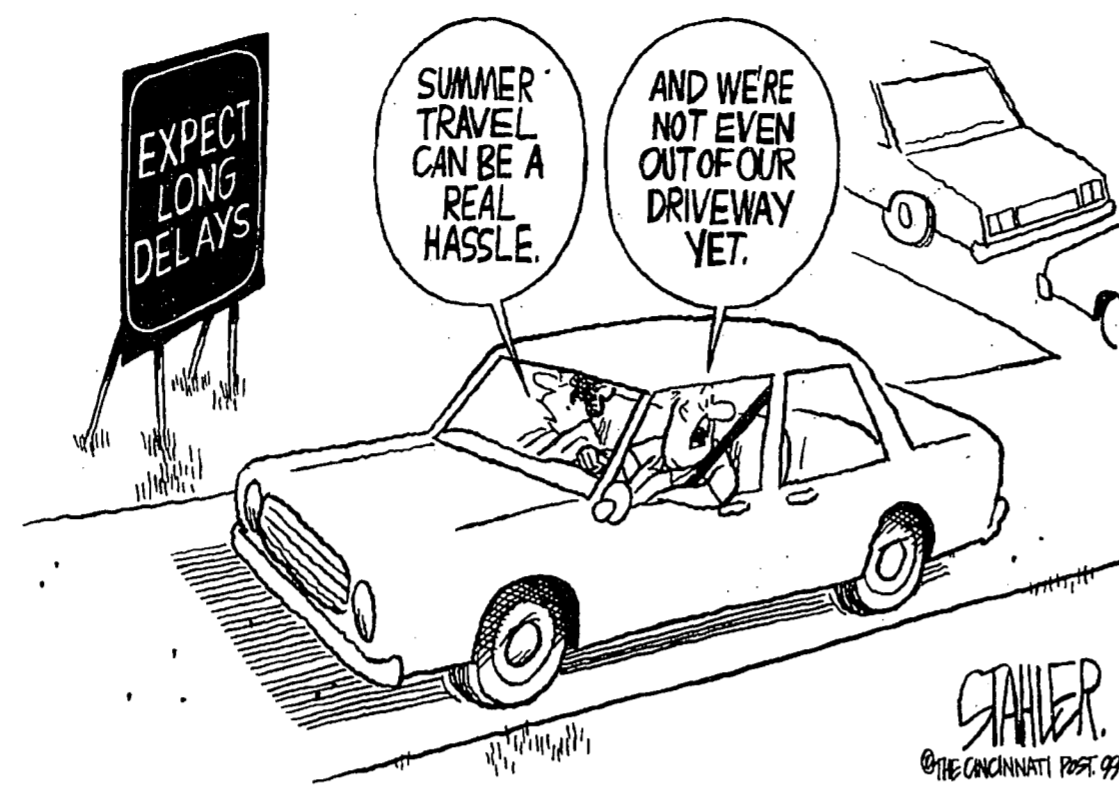
H.L.I. 11-3, at least, would reduce the number of council members—to be renamed "district commissioners"—from three to two on Rota and Tinian, but would increase Saipan's from three to four. Perhaps "district commissioner" sounds better than "municipal council member," but we usually need to have a more compelling reason than that before we tinker with the Constitution.

H.L.I. 11-7 aims to create a superfluity because it can be said that the entire CNMI government apparatus is already an office for the local people. In any case, if there is a concern—and there is—that the Chamorros, and the Carolinians for that matter, are becoming a minority in their own home then this proposed constitutional amendment is not the way to address it.

H.L.I. 11-9 proposes to extend the term of House members, which is perhaps not a bad idea if it also includes expanding the term of the senators. However, and particularly in light of the economic slump, voters want their representatives to be, well, more responsive, and they usually are if they know they could be thrown out of office in the next two years.

Meanwhile, despite the administration's austerity measures, the government remains too large for its own good.

What is the government doing about it?



Get real

WE cannot doubt the noble intention of Rep. Dino Jones' anti-adultery bill. It may not offer a full guarantee, but at least it would try to discourage "infidelity and unfaithfulness" among spouses. The bill would make adultery a felony punishable by imprisonment for not more than two years and a fine of not more than \$5,000.

Mr. Jones probably didn't realize that he may have dropped a stink bomb when he introduced the bill. When an unidentified member of the House "groaned audibly" upon introduction of the bill last week, Mr. Jones has surely been given a preview of what the bill's discussion would be like.

The Variety has received anonymous letters protesting Mr. Jones' bill. (The letter are unnamed for obvious reason.) One of the letter-senders asked if "Congressman Jones doesn't have anything else intelligently (sic) to introduce as a bill instead of tampering with other people's private lives!"

The letter-sender (who is obviously very furious judging from the number of exclamation points and capitalized words in his text) says that adultery "is very common around the world." Therefore, he suggests: "Congressman Jones should get real because I ain't opening my closet for (sic) anyone!!!"

If the bill becomes law, guess who will be the first to be prosecuted? Ask our angry anonymous letter-sender.

I'm philosophically against outing philanderers, but fair is fair. Members of the Legislature who would vote for the bill should be able to show an untainted clean record. To quote Hustler publisher Larry Flynt, "Those who've decided to set themselves up as judges of sex and lies should themselves be judged."

The Jones legislation should have a rider provision that says: "Those who would disqualify themselves from the bill's discussion shall receive a get-out-of-jail-free pass."

Well, legislating morality is not an easy task.

□□□

Hasta la vista. When I joined the Variety four years ago, the paper had only two news staff members. Raffy Arroyo, a former shipping reporter from the Manila Chronicle, and Ferdie dela Torre, my investigation partner in Manila where we both

covered the National Bureau of Investigation. Raffy, the editor, found out later that I would give him headaches with the number of people complaining about some of the things that I've written, aside from the libel threats he has to deal with. He hates my music. Raffy's jokes are funny—sometimes. But he's the coolest.

Rick Alberto of the Manila Times joined us later, and amused us with his funny one-liners delivered in a deadpan fashion. Rick has gone back to Manila—"to real life," Rick said.

Zaldy Dandan, who was editor for the Marianas Observer, joined us months later. It's nice to have Zaldy around because he has a credit line with amazon.com which I can always ride on. Plus, Zaldy is like a walking encyclopedia. He knows everything. Really.

Jojo Dass, who has a hippie nonchalance, later became an additional character in the sitcom-like newsroom. He loves to romanticize his toasted bread and soba diet, which he shares with me sometimes. His swollen foot is a bit okay now. It'll be in his next column for sure.

Last year Tony Celis, who probably mistook me for a job recruiter, approached me at Joeten Library and said, "Hi, I always read your column. Do you have a job opening at the Variety?" Now, we have a sports guy, and he's looking for a wife.

Then came the New Wave generation: Aldwin Fajardo who is always in love with girls especially the one from the Visayas; Louie Alonso, the only reporter at the Variety who really knows how to use the camera; and Haidee Eugenio, the "virus-buster" who loves heavy metal music.

Rene Acosta is relatively the newest member of the news staff. He's like a big brother who once tried to terrorize my Superman. Never mess with Rene. Even the most arrogant news source can't beat him.

June Padua is our editorial assistant. She's the only sane person in the newsroom. But she's getting there. She better stay sane.

Why do we always get sentimental when we recapture memories from way back? Why do we long for them? Ah, I don't know where this article is going to. It's no fun to write a goodbye column. Goodbyes are no fun.

See ya . . .

Gov't explains land offer

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff
THE ATTORNEY General's Office has denied the claim of a man that the CNMI government and some of its agencies had

offered to pay cash for a disputed land. Assistant Atty. Gen. Thomas E. Clifford in response to a lawsuit filed by Roman B. Matsumoto stated that the offer

was for a land exchange in which the private land in question was to be valued at \$150 per square meter. Matsumoto is not entitled to any compensation other than

public lands with a total value comparable to the private land acquired, said Clifford, counsel for the government and its agencies named as defendants in the complaint.

Matsumoto in the complaint stated that in July 1991 the government, through the defendant agencies, issued an MOU for a right of way acquisition for Augusta Matsumoto and all heirs and claimants' land located on Saipan.

Two years later, the plaintiff Matsumoto sued the government, Division of Public Lands, Department of Public Works, AGO, Division of Land Registration and Survey, and Office of the Governor.

The plaintiff sought compensation in the amount of \$208,950 for his land allegedly acquired

Continued on page 21

Reyes panel to check revenues before acting on FY2000 budget

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety Associate Editor
THE HOUSE Committee on Ways and Means will "double check" the government's current revenue collections before it acts on the \$206.7 million proposed budget for fiscal year 2000, its chair said yesterday.

Rep. Karl T. Reyes (R-Prec. 1, Saipan) said the committee wants to determine whether government collection will be equal to the projections made by the proposed budget.

"Right now, I think the projection is holding and that it will be retained," Reyes said.

"If the collection remains stable and once we receive word from departments and agencies requesting for a public hearing on their proposed budgets, the committee will begin its review



Karl T. Reyes

right away and finish its work by next month," he said.

Reyes said he expects the budget bill to reach the Senate by August. Meanwhile, departments, activities and agencies that want a public hearing have until June 22 to inform the committee.

To ensure the "smooth passage" of the FY 2000 budget bill, Reyes earlier said he will ask for a joint House-Senate review as was done last year.

Submitted to the Legislature last April, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's proposed FY 2000 budget of \$206.7 million would reduce the appropriations for all executive departments and agencies with the exemption of PSS, DPH and DPS.

The proposed FY 2000 budget, which is the lowest since FY 1994, includes the \$4.1 million revenues from public land leases used exclusively by the Division of Public Lands (DPL) mainly for homestead development.

Excluding DPL's budget, the CNMI government has \$202.6 million for its operations and activities in FY 2000.

Tighe sues borrower, but latter files a counterclaim

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff
WRITER Ruth L. Tighe has sued a man who allegedly refused to pay money he borrowed from her during previous years.

Tighe, through counsel Linda M. Wingenbach, asked the Superior Court to order defendant David L. Winnie to pay a total amount including interest \$7,147.79.

Winnie, however, filed a counterclaim seeking to recover damages from Tighe allegedly in the form of excessive interest payments for multiple loan agreements over the last five years beginning in 1994.

Wingenbach in Tighe's complaint filed with the Superior Court, said on Jan. 29, 1998, the parties entered into an agreement whereby Winnie, as borrower, admitted he owed plaintiff \$10,000 for various amounts of money she had loaned him over several previous years.

Wingenbach said Winnie agreed to repay the amount owed plaintiff at the rate of \$400 per month plus interest.

Defendant made only 13 payments, making him current only through Feb. 1999. Each of the payments were late, said the lawyer, adding that Winnie is in default on the loan.

The complaint said that last May 10 Tighe sent defendant a written notice to terminate the loan agreement.

Since the notice to terminate,

no additional payments have been made, Wingenbach said in the complaint.

Believing that Winnie was imminently planning to perma-

Continued on page 21

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				AMT	TERM	INTEREST EARNED	
7.38%	3 MOS	\$ 1000	→	\$ 100,000	X 90 days	= \$ 1,819.72	\$ 101,819.72
				\$ 50,000	X 90 days	= \$ 909.86	\$ 50,909.86
				\$ 25,000	X 90 days	= \$ 454.93	\$ 25,454.93
				\$ 10,000	X 90 days	= \$ 181.97	\$ 10,181.97
7.88%	6 MOS	\$ 1000	→	\$ 100,000	X 180 days	= \$ 3,886.02	\$ 103,886.02
				\$ 50,000	X 180 days	= \$ 1,943.01	\$ 51,943.01
				\$ 25,000	X 180 days	= \$ 971.51	\$ 25,971.51
				\$ 10,000	X 180 days	= \$ 388.60	\$ 10,388.60
8.25%	12 MOS	\$ 500	→	\$ 100,000	X 12 mos	= \$ 8,250.00	\$ 108,250.00
				\$ 50,000	X 12 mos	= \$ 4,125.00	\$ 54,125.00
				\$ 25,000	X 12 mos	= \$ 2,062.50	\$ 27,062.50
				\$ 10,000	X 12 mos	= \$ 825.00	\$ 10,825.00
8.75%	18 MOS	\$ 100	→	\$ 100,000	X 18 mos	= \$ 13,113.01	\$ 113,113.01
				\$ 50,000	X 18 mos	= \$ 6,556.51	\$ 56,556.51
				\$ 25,000	X 18 mos	= \$ 3,278.25	\$ 28,278.25
				\$ 10,000	X 18 mos	= \$ 1,311.30	\$ 11,311.30
9.00%	30 MOS	\$ 100	→	\$ 100,000	X 30 mos	= \$ 22,487.64	\$ 122,487.64
				\$ 50,000	X 30 mos	= \$ 11,243.82	\$ 61,243.82
				\$ 25,000	X 30 mos	= \$ 5,621.91	\$ 30,621.91
				\$ 10,000	X 30 mos	= \$ 2,248.76	\$ 12,248.76

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Japan, S. Korean legislators:

'Buildup heightens tension'

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff
PARLIAMENTARIANS from Japan and South Korea yesterday warned that the launching by

North Korea of its ballistic missiles last year and its alleged continued buildup of nuclear weapons could heighten tensions in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Speaking before legislators from across the region during the first plenary session of the Asian Pacific Parliamentarians' Union Council Meeting here, Japanese

delegation chief Yoshinori Ono said the post Cold War era has not ended the threat hanging over the region.

According to Ono, North Korea's launching of its "taepodong" ballistic missiles at the end of August last year cast a shadow of unease over Japan and the entire Asian region.

At the same time, Suh Chung Hwa, head of the Republic of Korea delegation, said North Korea's move to test-fire one of its missiles last year halted efforts by the international community to foster peace in the Asian region.

He said works for the reduction and nonproliferation of weapons of mass destruction have been underway since the end of the Cold War. "However, to our dismay, nuclear tests were carried in South Asia in May of last year, and in August, we saw North Korea test-fire one of its missiles."

Hwa explained that such tests of nuclear weapons and development of missiles could easily prompt the heightening of tension in the Asia-Pacific region that may also cause subsequent arms race.

He called for the formulating of strong international and regional measures that would advance efforts aimed at reducing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction such as nuclear and chemical arms.

For its part, South Korea has signed the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty and the Comprehensive Nuclear Test Ban Treaty.

"Establishing a lasting peace between South and North Korea is one of our government's top priorities. Not only are we providing the North with humanitarian aid, but we have also been able to promote tours to Mt. Kumgang, various investment projects and agricultural cooperation," he said.

According to him, Seoul is also enticing Pyongyang to make efforts to eliminate all doubts that the world holds against North Korea, as well as make reciprocal friendly gestures to the global community.

North Korea has been dubbed as the world's most isolated country.

The Japanese Diet, meanwhile, passed a bill relating to the guidelines for the US-Japan Defense Cooperation. Ono said Japan, in the past, had focused only on its own interest in peace.

"However, as a member of the Asia Pacific, our role in the 21st century is to contribute to the peace and security of the Asia Pacific through US-Japan security cooperation," he said.

"We must achieve financial security and peace by applying our wisdom and efforts in order to implement cooperative joint efforts by the people of Asia in every world," Ono added.



Japanese delegates sit together in discussion during yesterday's Asian-Pacific Parliamentarians' Union meeting at the Hyatt on Saipan. Photo by Maria C. Alonso



Makoto Wakasugi (right), the Secretary General of Asian-Pacific Parliamentarians' Union, state the organization's financial report during yesterday's meeting. Also shown in photo are CNMI Senators Thomas Villagomez (left) and Pete Reyes.

Reyes urges APPU members' flag carriers to fly to NMI

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff
SENATE Floor leader Pete P. Reyes yesterday urged member countries of the Asian-Pacific Parliamentarians' Union to look into the possibility of extending their flag carriers' flights into the CNMI to boost tourism and ease travel. "We are still concerned about providing sufficient and adequate air service

for this region. So, I am asking member countries of the APPU to consider it because most of them have their own airline and we don't have an airline here," said Reyes during a break in the APPU's session. "We want to request that... if it is feasible to come out and establish (extension) companies here in the CNMI and fly the region or in the case of Japan, increase the number of flights," said Reyes.

Reyes, who assumed post as chair of the APPU's 65th Council meeting, said he does not want to "leave any stone unturned in our effort to try

and increase the number of flights servicing the (Northern) Marianas and the region here."

Reyes, in his address to the APPU delegation, said that while CNMI is "finally beginning to see a positive increase in tourism arrivals... after a period of long decline" problems, like sufficient air service, remain to beset the local tourism industry.

"Although this (increase in arrivals) is indeed an encouraging development for our region, we continue to encounter troubling obstacles with regards to airline service and accessibility within our region," said Reyes.

Reyes noted that APPU members are "unnecessarily restricted and actually more disconnected" due to problems with air mobility.

"We, the Asian-Pacific Parliamentarians' Union, truly are an interconnected and powerful group when viewed as a political body united in the pursuit of peace, stability and prosperity in our region."

Continued on page 22

APPU debates charter changes

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

PROPOSED changes to the Constitution governing the Asian Pacific Parliamentarians' Union drew a debate among legislators from member countries during the first plenary session of the 65th APPU Council Meeting here yesterday.

The delegation from the Kingdom of Thailand suggested the creation of a committee which will review the proposed amendments to the APPU charter being put forward by Malaysia, Samoa and the Philippines.

According to Kudpe Saikrachang, member of the Thai delegation, the proposal requires thorough review of the APPU Council. He said the countries sponsoring the charter change failed to clearly specify the provisions that warrant amendments.

Yoshinori Ono, head of the Japanese delegation, supported Saikrachang's concerns as he emphasized the need to provide member countries with a more

comfortable time to study the proposed charter change.

"Actually, we have not studied it. The Council has not studied the proposal yet, some of the members have even said that it should be looked at by the General Assembly," Saikrachang told reporters in an interview.

He pointed out that each delegation should be given a representation to the committee that will look at the proposed changes to the APPU Constitution before any action is taken by the Council.

He said, however, that the Thai delegation supports one aspect of the proposed amendment which is to limit the number of times the Union holds meeting every year. At present, APPU holds separate conference for the Council Meeting and the General Assembly.

"Considering what is going on here, it is more appropriate to have a limited number of meetings because it is useless to have so many meetings without important issues to discuss, Saikrachang

said. "But altogether, there are many points in the proposed amendments which may not be agreeable."

He did not say what specific items in the revised APPU charter are not agreeable to the Thai delegation. He only said his group and the rest of the member countries have the prerogative to study the proposal.

Philippine Congressman Carlos Padilla said the Thai delegation was asking sponsors of the Constitutional changes to specifically identify the provisions in the existing charter that they proposed to amend.

"I think that is also within the prerogative of Thailand to raise that observation. Even Japan is asking for more time. They just want to review whether there are some items in the proposed amendments that merit approval," Padilla said.

Delegation from the Philippines and Malaysia reported that majority of the APPU members have

recognized the need to amend some provisions of the existing charter, particularly the way Council Meeting and General Assembly are being held.

"I have been receiving comments that the way the Council Meeting and the General Assembly gets boring and dragging," Padilla said, explaining that the Council Meeting does not have the power to approve the charter change but can recommend such initiative to the General Assembly.

Malaysia's head of delegation Datukwira Abu Seman Yusop, for his part, said he has nothing against the concerns raised by Thailand and Japan because the APPU charter involves the interest of all members.

"Since it is the case, we have to look into more details of the proposed amendment. We have to have a committee. That's why Thailand proposed the creation of a committee that will study the proposed amendments," he told Saipan reporters.

American Pacific Nursing Leaders' Conference Week

CNMI Governor Pedro P. Tenorio proclaimed June 14-18 as American Leaders' Council (APNLC) Conference Week yesterday to recognize the hardworking nursing leaders in the ten Pacific Islands who have maintained a strong and vital networking and linkage among themselves since APNLC was established in 1978.

APNLC members will meet in the CNMI next week to reaffirm their commitment to one another in working collaboratively and cooperatively in addressing problems and concerns confronting nurses in the American Pacific Basin. Every year, the APNLC con-

ducts conferences tackling issues on nursing, educational needs, expertise of nurse members from in and out of their council for the benefit of citizens in the American Pacific Basin.

This year's theme focuses on "Trans-cultural Nursing in the Next Millennium."

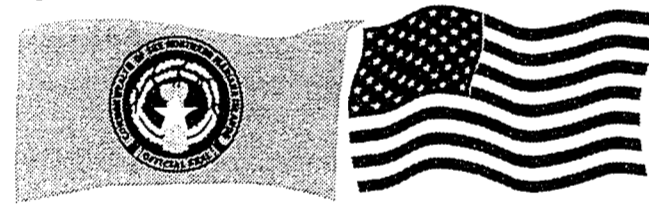
The ten Pacific Island jurisdictions included in the APNLC are American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas (CNMI), Federated States of Micronesia (Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk, and Yap), Guam, Hawaii, Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Belau.



Japan's Yoshinori Ono (right) explains his point on the charter change of Asian-Pacific Parliamentarians' Union to Philippine Delegates Cong. Carlos Padilla (left) and Ofelia Cruz (center) during a break yesterday. Photos by Maria C. Alonso

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16 ethnic groups to take part in Festival of Cultures

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

SIXTEEN ethnic groups have confirmed participation in the First CNMI International Festival of Cultures slated from July 16 to 18 at the American Memorial Park, officials said.

Cultural Heritage Executive Committee chairperson Ike Demapan said the Marianas Visitors Authority will get involved in the event as part of its Visit the Marianas '99 campaign.

"In this momentous event, approximately 16 ethnic groups will partake in a vivid display of cultural expression. Each group will have its own cultural village in which an array of ethnic dishes as well as beautiful arts and crafts will be available for the public to experience," said Demapan, who is also the resident executive of the Indigenous Affairs Office

The event will be participated in by the Japanese Association, Korean Association, Chinese Association, Filipino Association, Fiji Association, Hawaiian Holomua Group, Marshallese Association, Palau Community Association, Yapese Association, Pohnpeian

Association, Thailand Group, Chuukeese Association, CNMI Group and Indian Group.

According to Demapan, a soft opening for the celebration will be held on July 16 at 6 pm.

He said each national village's display of exquisite ethnic dishes and arts and crafts as well as cultural demonstrations and live band entertainment will be open to the public from 6 pm to 10 pm.

On July 17 at 9 am, each of the cultural participants will represent their native countries in a parade of floats that will extend from the Carolinian Affairs Office grounds all the way to the American Memorial Park, west side area.

The grand opening ceremony will follow at the main stage. Cultural entertainment and live band performances will commence upon completion of the ceremonies, and will continue until 10 pm.

On the final day on July 18, there will be a brief ceremony at 9 am before the festivities. All the ethnic villages will be simultaneously opened to the general public from 9 am to 6 pm.

Muna wins prestigious Japan Emperor's award

By Haldee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

COLLECTING hundreds of skeletal remains of Japanese soldiers who vanished during World War II in the CNMI and the Pacific has made the 80-year old Nicolas Q. Muna a recipient of one of the highest honors given by the Japanese government.

Muna is the only second Chamorro to be conferred the Order of the Rising Sun — Silver Rays — by Japan Emperor Akihito.

The other honoree was the late Mayor Vicente D. Sablan who received the Order posthumously on September 2, 1987.

"I would always feel content when the family of the dead Japanese had the ashes but it was really sad to see the families grieving," Muna told the *Variety* (through an interpreter) as he recalled 16 long years of collecting skeletal remains of soldiers.

He said after collecting the bones, he and his fellow men would burn these in the Marpi



Nicolas Q. Muna

area where a monument was built in honor of Japanese soldiers.

According to the Consular Office of Japan on Saipan, the Silver Rays has been conferred upon Muna in recognition of his valuable contributions in assisting the Japanese government's "bone collection missions" in the search for and recovery of skeletal remains of Japanese soldiers from 1979 to 1995.

"His dedication and assistance in this humanitarian task, to en-

sure the peace of the departed souls, will be long-remembered by the people of Japan," the Consular Office said in a media statement.

"I thank Japan for its recognition," Muna said.

Muna, who was a policeman at that time of the mission, would also travel in other areas of the Pacific like Yap for the same purpose.

He said the Japanese government gave him \$45,000 a month for all equipment and supplies needed for the mission.

Now a father of 12 children and grandfather of 42 grandchildren, Muna said the "bone collection mission" is an unforgettable part of his life.

Muna was born on October 17, 1918 and is a former director of the division of Corrections of the Department of Public Safety.

The presentation of the Order will be held at the Dai-Ichi Hotel tonight, with the presence of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan, Muna's family and other guests.

MHS blends tradition and technology in boat-building

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

AS PART of the Public School System's training to equip students with knowledge and skills upon exiting high school, the boating department of the Marianas High School is teaching its students to build boats using modern technology.

PSS started offering Boat Building course as an elective only this school year.

According to teacher Jeff Cope, the program has now 13 students who have built 13 boats this school year.

"Boat Building is being offered to students as an elective who have an interest in boats and woodworking. Wooden boats as opposed to fiberglass boats are making a comeback in many parts of the world largely due to the advent of epoxy res-

ins which adds to the longevity of woods," Cope said in an interview.

Cope added the boats that MHS students built could last for decades.

With the use of epoxy resins, water cannot penetrate on the wood, Cope explained.

According to students Tyler Benson and Abraham Falig, the program taught them how to read blue prints, build the boats and how to mix epoxy resins correctly.

"I taught the students on perseverance. It means when they start something, they should follow it all the way through its completion," Cope said.

The students will be hosting a barbecue party this weekend to put the boats into the water.

Cope said, the program is also selling boats to the community.

Housing fair for Filipinos set to kick off next week

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

THE PAG-IBIG Overseas Program will be hosting a housing fair for Filipinos who want to buy houses and lots in the Philippines.

The fair will be held from June 19 to 20 at the Filipino Workers Resource Center in Nauru Building, Susupe.

According to Lynell F. Fulgencio, the program's information officer on Saipan, the housing fair was originally scheduled to coincide with the 101st celebration of Philippine Independence on June 12.

But due to time constraint, the Philippine Consulate Office on Saipan decided to move it to a later date.

The event is a whole day affair which will start from 8 am until 6 pm.

Fulgencio said the program is hoping to bring three to five estate developers in the CNMI.

The information officer added that Filipino nationals can avail

of a housing loan under the Pag-Ibig Overseas Program if they have made at least 12 monthly contributions, an active member, and has not availed of a housing loan except lot purchase loan at the Pag-Ibig Fund, either as principal or co-borrower.

Last year, the program brought three estate developers in the CNMI and offered mostly low-cost housing for the Filipinos on the island.

Under policy of the program, Filipinos earning US\$1,000 shall have a contribution of \$20 monthly while those earning with over US\$1,000 shall have a monthly contribution of \$40.

Fulgencio said members with \$20 monthly contribution can have a maximum of PHP250,000 payable in five to 10 years while members with \$40 monthly rate could loan up to PHP500,000 worth of housing project.

He added Filipinos who are married to a foreign national can

Continued on page 22

Jones, CDC to address contamination

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

REPRESENTATIVE Dino M. Jones (D-Prec. 4, Saipan) said he will closely be working with representatives of the Atlanta-based Centers for Disease Control (CDC) who will look into the adverse effects of left-over World War II materiel on Saipan, saying it is "better late than never."

"Unfortunately," said Jones, "the (post war) US naval administration did not take on the contaminants and the health of the people. The Trust Territory government likewise did not do something about it. This is a long-overdue health and contamination problem," said Jones, in an interview during a break in yesterday session of the Asian-Pa-

cific Parliamentarians' Union (AAPU) at the Hyatt Regency Hotel.

It's a good thing, Jones said, that CNMI is now getting assistance from CDC through efforts of the commonwealth public health department.

The CDC representatives will be coming this month.

Continued on page 22

Worker asks court to step in

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

AN ALIEN worker who was allegedly forced into prostitution by her employer yesterday requested the Superior Court to step into her Labor complaint.

Mei Zheng, through counsel Joe Hill, asked the court to review the

order issued by the director of the Division of Labor in her labor complaint against her former employer.

Zheng sought an order reversing the Department of Labor and Immigration's decision and remand with instructions for DOLI to accept for filing and hearing

her complaint. The petitioner also requested to allow her to work with another employer or get a Temporary Work Authorization while the matter is pending on appeal.

According to the petition, Zheng entered the CNMI as a

Continued on page 22

FSM inaugural July 21st

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSMIS) — An organizing core group has been established and has begun work preparing for the joint inaugural celebration for FSM's new leaders scheduled for July 21.

The joint inaugural celebration for the new President, Vice President, Speaker and members of the 11th Congress will be held in front of the FSM Congress Chamber in Palikir, Pohnpei.

The inaugural inter-denominational service is scheduled for the 20th of July with location and time yet to be determined, a news release from the administration said.

The organizing group chaired and vice chaired by Senator Peter Christian and Secretary of Foreign Affairs Epel Iton, respectively, is making arrangements for the inaugural celebration including establishment of the following committees: Program

chaired by Lorin Robert from the Department of Foreign Affairs, vice chairman, John Sohl from FSM Telecommunication; Hotel, Ground Transportation: chairman, Weiner Hadley from the Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure; and vice chairman, Bismark Weilbacher, a private business man; Air Transportation: chairman, Akillino Susaia, Pohnpei Port Authority, vice chairman, Waynold Yamaguchi from the Department of Transportation, Communication and Infrastructure; Social Affairs: chairman, Mohner Esiel from the Immigration Office and vice chairman, Kosak Keller from the FSM Supreme Court in Palikir; Security: chairman Tarios Ludwig from the Department of Justice, vice chairman Francisco Joseph from Pohnpei State Police; and Finance

is chaired by Sihna Lawrence from the Department of Finance and Administration and vice chairman is Larry Gambone from the FSM Auditor's Office.

Invitations have been sent out

to foreign governments with which FSM has diplomatic relations, and international organizations of which FSM is a member, as well as to the states in the federation.

FSM's close Micronesian neighbors such as Guam and CNMI, including organizations and individuals who are friends of the FSM are also included in the list.

Fund awaits budget approval

By Haldee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

THE NMI Retirement Fund has postponed for the second time the approval of its \$374,300 budget for fiscal year 2000 while awaiting for the Senate's formal letter of confirmation for Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's two appointees to the Board of Trustees.

Fund Board chairman Vicente Camacho said the pension system officials are expecting to receive the formal letter any time soon to be able to decide on important matters like the budget approval.

The Senate confirmed Marian DLG. Tudela and Thomas I. Saures for the Fund's Board of Trustees on June 2.

Tudela and Saures' confirma-

tions bring to seven the total number of the Fund's Board members, as required under the law. Camacho expressed hopes the budget will be approved in the next Board meeting.

"I don't see any problem with the budget proposal. We are just waiting for the Board to act on it," the Fund official added.

In its operating budget justification, the Fund allocated \$208,900 in salaries and personnel benefits, and \$165,400 for operations and other expenses for FY 2000.

Earlier, the five-member Board said the deferment of the budget approval would further derail the long-awaited Fund offices in Rota and Tinian.

The Board is also expected to

approve the \$7.1 million FY 2000 budget for the CNMI Group Health and Life Insurance Plan.

Under GHLIP's formal budget request, the bulk—or \$6,580,395—is required to settle all legitimate claims processed in accordance with established guidelines of the health insurance program.

Personnel costs requested amounts to \$352,300 which reflects the hiring of two additional claims analysts to help eliminate the backlog in the daily processing of claims. A substantial portion of personnel workload involves processing medical claims.

Approximately 7,000 units of claims are received monthly, and average of 120 claims are processed daily by four claims processors.

GEPA says employees are 'burnt-out'

By Eric F. Say
Variety News Staff

THE ADMINISTRATOR of Guam Environment Protection

Agency warned that the island is nearing an environmental crisis because the agency is "so undermanned."

Jesus Salas, in his testimony before the Legislature's Resources Committee chaired by Sen. Joanne Brown (R), said GEPA's personnel are already facing "burnout."

Although GEPA is "staying afloat," he said, "we are hyperventilating."

Salas was referring to the added pressures placed on his agency by problems at the Ordot landfill and the identification of contaminants in water wells around the island.

He told the committee that his agency will be further pressed when a limited term employee's contract runs out next week.

Several of the agency's department heads testified that the size of GEPA's staff has not been increased for the past 10 years.

At the same time, they say that

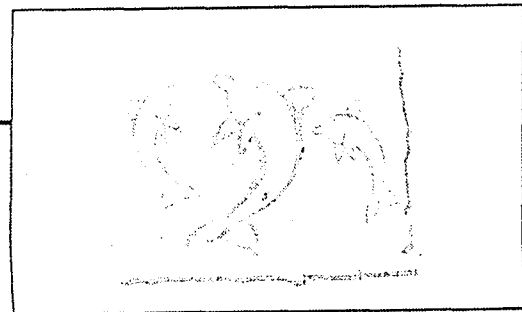
Continued on page 22

NOTICE

As of June 1, 1999, the Northern Mariana Islands Museum of History and Culture is charging admission:

- Adults \$3
- Students age 12-54 (with I.D.) \$1
- Children under 12 and Adults over 54 Free
- Pre-scheduled School Groups Free

Call (670) 664-2160 for more information.



Marianas High School Class of 1989

Attention all Marianas High School Class of 1989, we are celebrating our 10th Year Reunion on June 12, 1999 (Saturday). Memorial Mass is set at Kristo Rai Church, 2:00 p.m., followed with the Banquet at Saipan Grand Hotel, SeaSide Hall, 6:30 p.m. Tickets are available for the banquet, \$20.00 for single and \$35.00 for couple.

All interested classmates are urged to contact Gerard B. Salas at Tel. No. 322-7734 (w) 235-7428 (h) or Leonina Lizama - Castro at Tel. No. 234-6243/7729 (w)

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NMC to borrow funds to address Y2K woes

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

THE NORTHERN Marianas College has pushed through with its plan to borrow money from Bank of Hawaii which will be used in fixing problems pertaining to the millennium computer glitch.

The move was undertaken by college officials as a result of the meeting which they held more than a week ago wherein turning to the bank for funding was laid out as among the possible options.

Frank Oliver, NMC's computer programmer said yesterday they have already informed the Bank

of Hawaii about their decision to secure a letter of credit in the amount of \$125,000 which will be used in the purchase of a software that is y2k compliant.

"What we are waiting only right now is a response from the bank," said Oliver, adding that they were hoping to install the system soon.

The college lone computer programmer said they have also already wrote officials of the software dealer, ABT Incorporated, which is based in Pennsylvania, informing them about the plan.

He said they are also waiting for the reply of company officials.

As presented earlier by NMC President Agnes McPhetres, the college will avail of the letter of credit by using a \$3.5 million college money as a collateral.

McPhetres said the amount is deposited with Pacific Insurance, which is the owner of Bank of Hawaii.

Aside from the bank, McPhetres said the college is also looking forward to the Y2K funding provided by the Office of Insular Affairs for Us territories, as a possible source of money.

She said NMC is expecting to receive about \$200,000 from the OIA.

NMHC projects said underway

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

CONSTRUCTION activities are simultaneously going on in the CNMI for various federally-funded projects of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation in the CNMI, according to NMHC corporate director MaryLou Ada.

Ada said the Kagman Community Center is about 40 percent complete while the Pinatang Park and Gymnasium on Rota are 45 percent done.

For the year 1999-2000,

Ada in an interview said NMHC is very excited because it is going to put the grant for battered women shelter.

The shelter, she explained, will serve as a sanctuary for counseling or a safe haven for women and kids that have been the victims of domestic violence.

The corporate director also stated that NMHC will then move to Tinian to complete the island's Teen Community Center.

On Rota, Ada said, Chamolinian and Carolinian huts

will be built along the beaches. "We're also looking forward for the ground breaking of Treatment Center for the Division of Mental Health Services for the mentally-challenged patients that are ready to go out there in the community," Ada said.

The funds for all such projects are from the Community Development Block Grant. CDBG's goal is to build a better and stronger community to provide a foundation for a sense of neighborhood.

Bill could lead to doctors' exodus

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety Associate Editor

HOUSE Minority Leader Dino M. Jones (D-Prec. 4, Saipan) said the enactment of a bill that proposes to eliminate housing benefits for government employees may lead to the resignation of several doctors working for the Commonwealth Health Center.

Jones, in a letter to Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Prec. 2, Saipan), said salaries given to CHC doctors are already substantially less compared to the rates in the mainland US.

The enactment of the bill—S.B. 11-61—would cause many of the doctors to leave CHC, Jones said.



Dino M. Jones

"This is something that I'm not willing to risk. We need to ensure that the commonwealth has an

adequate number of skilled medical personnel to take care of our population."

The bill would also affect the operations of the Attorney General's Office (AGO) and government offices, which usually hire their lawyers from the mainland US, Jones said.

Again, he added, the pay scale for government lawyers are not as substantial compared to what they could make in private practice.

Still, Jones said he agrees that changes should be made to the way housing benefits are handled in government contracts.

But, he added, S.B. 11-61 is not
Continued on page 22

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Cook Islands to upgrade hospital in Rarotonga

RAROTONGA (Pacnews) — The Cook Islands' Health Ministry has announced a \$NZ1.3 million (\$US0.68 million) project to upgrade the Rarotonga Hospital.

Health Minister Tupou Faireka said the project was finalised during his visit to the World Health Organisation (WHO) in Geneva last month. He said the funds would go towards repairs to the old part of the Rarotonga Hospital, and a new intensive care ward.

Funds have also been allocated to upgrade the gynaecology and obstetrics unit.

About \$NZ0.5 million has been approved to purchase medical equipment.

The funds for the project will come from the Japanese Government and WHO.

Australia extends terms of Bougainville monitors

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews) — Australia is preparing to keep its peace monitors in Bougainville for another 12 to 18 months.

In line with that timetable, Australia's federal cabinet has just extended the term of the monitors for another four months.

Australians have been deployed as unarmed monitors on Bougainville since December 1997. Australia contributes 245 of the 300 monitors and the cost so far has passed \$AUD20m dollars (\$US13 million).

The Foreign Affairs Department says as the peace process advances the monitoring group will be scaled back, but it estimates this will take another 12 to 18 months.

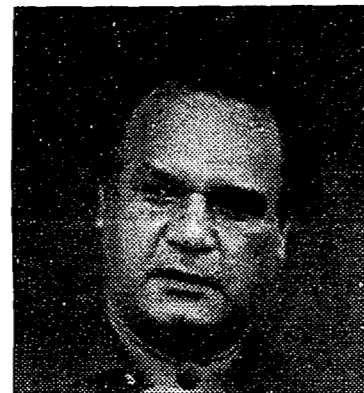
The submission to the parliamentary inquiry says a hasty withdrawal would threaten what has been achieved.

Fiji and Vanuatu and New Zealand contribute peace monitors to the war-torn Papua New Guinea island of Bougainville.

Elsewhere in the Pacific

Prime minister says he is 'still in control'

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews) — Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Bill Skate says he is still in control of the country after sacking four of his ministers and brought in old "enemies" in a Government he described as "formidable" and the best team to solve PNG's economic crisis.



Bill Skate

In a move which splits his major coalition partner, People's Democratic Movement, Skate sacked the party's new leader, Sir Mekere Morauta and three other ministers in favour of his one-time deputy prime minister, Chris Haiveta and three other Pangu stalwarts.

Haiveta would be appointed deputy Prime Minister within two weeks following a decision by the incumbent Iairo Lasaro to relinquish the second highest chief executive post in government.

Skate sacked Haiveta in 1997 after accusing him and the then agriculture minister, Andrew Baing, of trying to topple his government following the broadcast of the infamous Mujo Sefa tapes on Australian Broadcasting Corporation television.

Following the swearing-in ceremony at Government House, Skate admitted that he had sacked Haiveta for personal reasons and for his own political survival.

He and Haiveta said they had resolved their political differences and were committed to working together as a team up to the year 2002, when PNG goes to its first elections in the new millennium.

The PDM ministers sacked along with Sir Mekere, who was fisheries minister, were Vincent Auali (transport), Mao Zeming

(housing) and Herowa Agiwa (environment and conservation).

Those appointed to succeed them are Haiveta (fisheries), Samson Napo (housing), Michael Ogio (environment and conservation) and Sir Pita Lus (transport).

Another Pangu MP, Robert Nagle, was appointed minister for justice, replacing Simon Kaumi from the PNG First party, who now takes over the vacated Rural Development Ministry.

The PNG Prime Minister accused Sir Mekere of not using his vast experience to help fix the nation's economy, which was now in deep trouble.

He described Haiveta as one of the best leaders in PNG who will help solve the economic crisis.

"I am in control," the Prime Minister declared when addressing a news conference immediately after the swearing-in of the new ministers.

Hours after that, he issued another statement calling on four of his own PNG First party MPs to resign or be sacked for disloyalty.

poration television.

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Solomons PM says weapons stored in NZ belongs to gov't

HONIARA (Pacnews) — The Solomon Islands Government is yet to decide on what to do with arms bought by the former Mamaloni Government, currently stored in New Zealand.

This was revealed in Parliament by Prime Minister Bartholomew Ulufa'alu and his National Security Minister, Robin Meseputi.

Ulufa'alu said the arms, worth \$AUS19 million (\$US12.6 million) was bought from an arms supplier in the United States more than a year ago.

The Government has agreed to store the arms for two years in New Zealand. The two years expires at the end of this year.

National Planning Minister, Meseputi said the Government has not decided on what it will do with the arms, to sell them or bring them to Port Vila.

Former Prime Minister, Solomon Mamaloni had bought the arms for civil purposes and use during emergency period.

The consignment includes a hanger, night vision equipment and other sophisticated military hardware.

They were diverted and stored in New Zealand because the former Mamaloni Government felt it was inappropriate to bring the consignment at that time when peace talks to end the Bougainville crisis were in progress.

Tongan gov't announces closure of supplies dep't

NUKU'ALOFA (Pacnews) — The closure of the Government Store Services in Tonga at the end of this month will affect 12 established and 22 daily paid workers.

The Government Stores Services will wind-up at the end of June following a Cabinet decision that there is too much competition from the private sector.

The move will affect stores in Tongatapu and Vava'u.

The department has been under the Ministry of Finance after being transferred from the Ministry of Works in 1986.

Government officials said all established staff would be transferred to the Finance Ministry.

The remaining workers would most likely be made redundant.

The Government Store was set-up in 1918 to import goods and supplies for Government Ministries and Departments.

Exercise, not necessarily to lose weight, but to enhance circulation.

RP peace talks sought

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The Philippine government told local officials and law enforcers Monday to begin peace negotiations with splinter Communist rebel groups following the termination of peace talks with the main Communist party.

Government officials also discussed ways of thwarting a possible resumption of major attacks by the guerrillas.

"We are asking you to now begin to be more active in the pursuit of peace initiatives at the local level," Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo said.

Arroyo said last month's termination of peace talks by the National Democratic Front, the main Marxist umbrella group, "does not mean that we are not talking anymore and we are at war."

"We are merely changing our conversations and dialogue partners," she said in a statement.

The NDF, which has held on-and-off talks with the government since 1992, withdrew from the negotiations on May 28, a day after the Philippine Senate approved an accord allowing U.S. troops to resume large-scale military exercises in the country.

NDF leaders said the passage of the Visiting Forces Agree-

ment with the United States violated Philippine sovereignty and warned that the talks' cancellation could lead to a resumption of high-profile rebel attacks.

President Joseph Estrada, who is making a state visit to South Korea, has authorized government negotiators to pursue peace talks with Communist rebels at the regional level.

Presidential Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora said the government has identified several Communist rebel groups which may be interested in peace talks.

He declined to name the groups and denied that the government's intention was to further splinter the Communist movement.

There are a number of groups that broke off from the Communist Party of the Philippines in recent years because of differences over ideology and tactics.

The government has notified the NDF that it will cancel safety guarantees it granted to rebel negotiators and their consultants in the peace talks.

The cancellation of the guarantees, which takes effect after 30 days, will expose rebel officials with pending arrest warrants to possible arrests.

The VFA was approved by 18 of 23 Philippine senators de-

spite strong opposition from Catholic church leaders and left-wing groups.

The accord allows the resumption of military exercises and U.S. ship visits which were suspended in 1996.

Estrada has said the rebels used the VFA's approval as an excuse to terminate the talks.

Prior to the dispute over the VFA, the rebels suspended the peace talks after Estrada imposed what they said were unacceptable conditions, including conducting the negotiations under the framework of the Philippine constitution.

The rebels have been fighting for a Marxist state in the Philippines since the late 1960s. But battle casualties, surrenders, factionalism and a decline in popular support have weakened the Communist movement, one of the longest active Marxist insurgencies in the world.



Philippine President Joseph Estrada (left) toasts with South Korean President Kim Dae-jung during a dinner reception hosted by Kim, at the presidential palace in Seoul, Monday. Estrada is on a four-day visit to forge bilateral ties between two countries.

ATTENTION ARTISTS

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The NMI Council for the Humanities and the CNMI Council for the Arts and Culture are interested in awarding an art commission to commemorate the millennium. We envision a series of historical paintings celebrating the strength, endurance and adaptability of the indigenous people of the Northern Mariana Islands. Over the centuries the indigenous people of these islands have demonstrated countless times and in countless ways an extraordinary ability to adapt to profound changes in nearly every aspect of life—religious, economic, political and cultural. And despite all the upheavals and vicissitudes of thousands of years of history the people and their culture are still here intact. We want to celebrate this quality and preserve this unique history for future generations. Respondents should consider these requirements:

- The theme for these paintings, the single element that ties them all together is: The Endurance of a People and Their Culture. The paintings must be based in the history and culture of the Mariana Islands. Respondents may consider historical events, folklore, legends, stories, songs, dance or any other appropriate cultural expression to emphasize the theme.
- The paintings must be painted on a material that will withstand time and the elements.
- The paintings will be displayed at the CNMI Museum in the recessed arches underneath the covered walkway. These arches are approximately three inches deep, six feet tall, and five feet wide. Paintings will be protected by a transparent barrier. Both paintings and barrier must be removable. (The cost of the barrier is not part of the proposal).
- As many as six paintings may be necessary.
- Deadline for completion is January 1, 2000.

Respondents should submit pencil or charcoal sketches, and/or paint studies of each painting, a brief narrative explaining the overall composition of the paintings, the historical and cultural basis for each, how the theme is expressed through out the series, and plan for completion including the total cost of the proposed paintings. The Humanities Council and the Arts Council will select the artist or artists based on these submissions. Sealed proposals must be submitted to the Humanities Council office located on the ground floor of King's Plaza in Dandan by the close of business on June 17, 1999. Selection is final and any or all submissions may be rejected. This is a competitive project with a funding range of up to \$25,000.

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5 die in RP earthquake

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A strong earthquake with a preliminary magnitude of 5.1 shook a southern Philippine province, collapsing small buildings and houses and injuring at least five people, officials said Tuesday.

Disaster officials said there were no immediate reports of deaths in Bayugan, the hardest hit of several towns in Agusan del Sur province, which was rocked by the earthquake at 3:45 p.m. (0745 GMT) Monday. Reports from the region were delayed because of poor communications.

Teresita Bolok of the Office of

Civil Defense said at least five people were hurt, mostly by falling debris and glass shards.

"One man jumped out of a window in panic," she said.

"Children panicked and ran, causing injuries," said an initial report by the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology.

The institute sent civil engineers to the province to survey the damage.

A three-story commercial building was among the structures destroyed, but most others were one-story wood and concrete structures, including a small movie

theater, a school, stores and a funeral home. The destroyed buildings tilted slowly, giving people inside time to rush out, said government seismologist Leonila Bautista.

She said the earthquake apparently triggered liquefaction of the ground, a phenomenon in which soil loses its rigidity, causing structures to sink or tilt.

The earthquake was centered 21 kilometers (13 miles) southwest of Prosperidad near Bayugan and was caused by a movement of the southern portion of the Philippine Fault, which stretches from

the southern island of Mindanao to the main Luzon Island in the north, seismologists said.

Bautista said several minor aftershocks were felt after the main quake.

Disaster officials took relief goods to Bayugan to help residents displaced from damaged homes. Agusan del Sur is about

830 kilometers (515 miles) southeast of Manila.

The Philippines is in the so-called Pacific "Ring of Fire," where earthquakes and volcanic eruptions frequently occur.

Nearly 2,000 people were killed when a magnitude 7.7 earthquake rocked the northern Philippines on July 16, 1990.

RP stocks rise on lower interest rates

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — A steady softening of domestic interest rates buoyed Philippine stocks Tuesday, offsetting concerns over a possible increase in U.S. interest rates, traders said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange Index of 30 selected companies rose 12.06 points, or 0.5 percent, to 2,415.07 after rising 48.41 points Monday.

"The declining trend of local interest rates is providing the market some support," said Mariline Katimbang, vice president for research of Magnum International Securities Inc.

The broader All Shares Index rose 5.6 points to 780.04 after advancing 11.36 points Monday. Gainers beat losers 69 to 40, while 38 issues were unchanged.

Philippine Long Distance Tele-

phone Co., still basking in the news of its acquisition of mobile phone provider Smart Communications and the entry of Japan's Nippon Telegraph and Telephone as new investor, led advances. PLDT shares rose 5 pesos to 1,125 pesos.

In Monday's weekly auction, treasury bill rates slid to their lowest levels in three years after a cut in the central bank's key overnight rates and lower-than-expected inflation in May. The average yield of 91-day treasury bills was 9.491 percent.

Worries over a possible increase in U.S. interest rates, however, have tempered the market's gains.

"Foreign investors in particular are consolidating their positions, awaiting a possible increase in U.S. interest rates," said Astro del Castillo, analyst for A and A Securities.

PLDT denies role in wire-tapping

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., the country's largest telecommunications company, said Tuesday it is not involved in wiretapping.

"PLDT, as a policy, does not allow wiretapping and any such occurrence, if proven, is unauthorized," PLDT Executive Vice President Antonio Samson said in a statement to the Philippine Stock Exchange.

Samson's comments came after the Philippine Daily Inquirer newspaper published a report Monday linking two unidentified PLDT executives to alleged

illegal wiretapping by a special police agency, the Presidential Anti-Organized Crime Commission.

The commission has denied tapping the telephone lines of government officials, legislators and other prominent citizens.

Samson urged the Inquirer to identify the executives mentioned in the article to enable PLDT to conduct an investigation.

"We need to know those allegedly involved in this illegal activity so that we can conduct an investigation and take the necessary and appropriate legal and corporate actions," Samson said.

"It is unfair to implicate the company and its executives in this wiretapping mess without any due process," he said.

The newspaper report did not affect PLDT's stock, which continued to rise Tuesday after gaining 6 percent Monday.

PLDT has been rising since an announcement Friday by Japan's Nippon Telegraph and Telephone Corp. that it will buy a 15 percent stake in the company.

"That news about wiretapping had no impact whatsoever. The market is still digesting the NTT buy-in," said Edward Teodoro, an analyst at Securities 2000 Inc.

For Kosovo refugees

Taiwan pledges \$.3B aid

By CHRISTOPHER BODEEN
TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Taiwan will provide U.S. dollars 300 million to care for Kosovo refugees and speed reconstruction of the embattled Yugoslav province once they are allowed to return home, President Lee Teng-hui said Monday.

Foreign Minister Jason Hu said exact amounts of aid, target recipients and the timing of its delivery were still being looked into.

Taiwan also will provide loans this week to new ally Macedonia, whose already-struggling economy has been disastrously affected by the war in Kosovo and is now host to an estimated 240,000 Kosovar refugees.

The aid will include emergency supplies for refugees and contributions to long-term reconstruction efforts by the international community in Kosovo once a peace plan is accepted, Lee told a news conference.

The Macedonia deal includes a \$12 million low-interest loan for infrastructure such as roads and bridges, and a \$3 million trade grant from the import export bank, said Lin Hsiao-chuen, an eastern Europe specialist at the Foreign Ministry.

Taiwan also wants to arrange for Kosovo refugees to receive short-term technical training in Taiwan, Lee said.

The government has also secured loans for eight Taiwanese businesses who have committed to investing \$3 million in Macedonia, Lin said.

The aid package reflects increasingly aggressive attempts by diplomatically isolated Taiwan to play a greater role in the international community.

"We hope the three aid measures will contribute to the advancement of a peace program for Kosovo and allow all the refugees to return at an early date to safe and peaceful homes in Kosovo," Lee said.

Taiwan will also sign trade agreements during the visit this week of Macedonian Prime Minister Ljubco Georgievski, who arrived Sunday at the head of a 59-member delegation.



Taiwanese President Lee Teng-hui announces the donation of US\$300 million in emergency and long-term assistance to Kosovar refugees at a news conference at the presidential office in Taipei Monday. The aid package reflects diplomatically isolated Taiwan's increasingly aggressive efforts to participate in the international community. AP

Taiwan has already provided \$2 million in cash and millions of dollars in medicine and other aid to help Macedonia cope with the refugee burden.

Macedonia recognized Taiwan in January in hopes that aid from the wealthy island would give its moribund economy a much-needed boost.

That decision enraged China, which claims Taiwan as a rogue province with no right to diplomatic ties. Beijing retaliated by severing relations with Macedonia and used its veto in the United Nations Security Council to block extension of a U.N. peace keeping force there.

Taiwan has reportedly offered Macedonia direct economic aid worth at least U.S. \$235 million and the possibility of \$1 billion in investment.

China and Taiwan separated amid civil war in 1949 and constantly are fighting to win the diplomatic recognition of small countries whose allegiances can be swayed by the promise of aid.

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European meat scare in Asia

HK suspends European beef, dairy sales

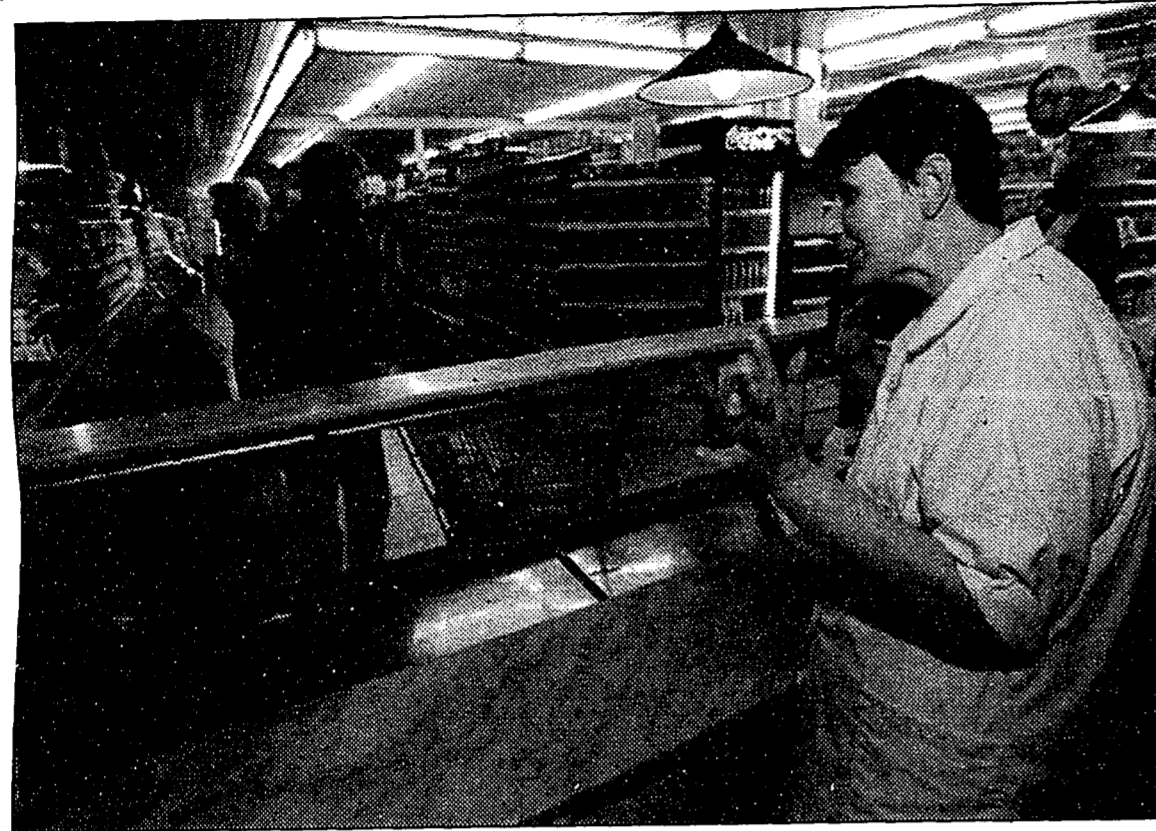
HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong on Monday told local shops to stop selling beef and dairy products from four European countries following a scare over cancer-causing dioxin in some Belgian foods.

The Department of Health said the suspension of dairy products from Belgium, France, Germany and the Netherlands would include infant milk formulas and baby food.

Last week, the government ordered stores to stop selling poultry and pork products from the same four European countries.

A government statement said the Hong Kong food industry had been very cooperative in pulling the food from store shelves.

Tainted food was traced last week to a supermarket in Ostend, Belgium.



An employee at the Spiegelaere supermarket in Ostend Saturday on the Belgian coast is faced with an empty meat counter after the government ruled poultry, eggs and pork and beef with high fat contents unfit for consumption because of the dioxin food scandal. AP

Korea bans sale of Belgian, French pork

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — South Korea ordered a ban Monday on the sale of French, Dutch and Belgian pork because of possible contamination by cancer-causing dioxin.

South Korea has already halted imports of pork and other poultry products from Belgium last week and of pork from France and the Netherlands Sunday.

Belgian poultry, cattle and pigs were found to have been exposed to animal feed contaminated with dioxin.

South Korea has imported 2,484 tons of French pork this year, of which 1,408 tons have already been distributed. Of 2,882 Dutch pork imported this year, some 1,977 tons have been distributed.

South Korea also imported 3,370 tons of Belgian pork this year, of which 2,430 tons have already been distributed.

About 225 tons of Belgian egg whites were waiting for customs clearance. The undistributed products will be collected and destroyed, government officials said.



Two women stock up on their 'approved' New Zealand dairy products at a supermarket in Singapore on Monday. The Singapore Government has directed shops to suspend sales of all livestock and livestock-derived products imported from any European country. AP

Thai gov't bans Belgium dairy and meat products

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — The Thai government Monday banned meat, eggs and dairy products imported from Belgium because of contamination with dioxin, a deadly chemical.

Dr. Mongkol na Songkhla, head of Thailand's Food and Drug Administration, said the ban would start Tuesday, joining nations from Switzerland to South Korea banning the Belgian products.

The Livestock Department was ordered to closely check products already imported from Belgium for dioxin contamination. None has so far been found, Mongkol said.

Sixteen Thai companies im-

port the banned products from Belgium in the form of chocolate, biscuits, meat and related products.

The Belgian government has banned several categories of food to its citizens following the discovery of dioxin contamination in animal feed. The ban was extended Monday to butter.

Belgium's food industry federation said the 11-day crisis already has cost the sector about 20 billion francs (\$500 million).

The United States blocked European Union imports of pork and poultry, and Singapore banned all meat products from the 15-nation group, of which Belgium is a member.

China calls for pause in the bombing

(Reuters) — The secretary-general said that China, a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council with veto power, wanted a pause in the bombing before it approves a resolution on the peace plan, now being negotiated in Bonn. And Beijing was asking for a complete report on NATO's bombing of its embassy in Belgrade last month, he said.

"The way the process is moving along (one) may be able to satisfy them, more or less simultaneously" with the passage of a resolution. If not, "something has to give and don't ask me what," he said in answer to queries by CBS correspondent Leslie Stahl during a U.N. forum sponsored by Civilisation magazine.

Foreign ministers from the Group of Seven industrial nations and Russia were meeting in Bonn again on Tuesday to draft the resolution that would authorize Yugoslav forces to withdraw from Kosovo and NATO and other troops to go into the Yugoslav province.

Problems arose late on Monday between the Western countries and Moscow on how the international troops going into Kosovo would be organized. Annan said he expected the foreign ministers to reach a conclusion on Tuesday or at the latest on Wednesday.

Clinton names new US envoy to South Africa

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — President Bill Clinton will nominate Delano Lewis, the former head of National Public Radio, to be U.S. ambassador to South Africa, the White House announced on Monday.

Lewis served from 1994 until last year as president and chief executive officer of NPR, a radio network partially funded by the federal government. It provides news, information and cultural programming.

In the late 1960s he served as director of the Peace Corps' East and Southern Africa Division.

Unlike in the old days

Suharto waits in line to vote



Former Indonesian President Suharto shows his inked dipped finger to reporters as election workers look on after casting his ballot in Jakarta Monday. After 32 years of Suharto's authoritarian rule, Indonesian people decide the country's future in the freest parliamentary elections in 44 years. AP

By HARIS SYAMAUN

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesia's former authoritarian President Suharto waited in line for 10 minutes Monday to do what he had stopped people from doing for decades: vote in a democratic election.

Suharto, who turns 78 on Tuesday, walked from the house of his eldest daughter, Siti Hardiyanti Rukmana, to a polling station 50 meters away on a tree-lined street.

Wearing a light brown batik shirt, he was accompanied by Rukmana, another of his three daughters and one of his three sons.

The former president waited in a queue of 30 people, then smiled and raised his ballot papers. Security guards pushed a crowd of journalists out of the way to let him leave.

In past elections, Suharto and

other top government officials did not have to wait to vote. His ruling Golkar Party used to win landslide victories in carefully managed polls, but has been trailing in opinion polls.

It finished fourth with 32 votes in Suharto's polling station, where the Indonesian Democratic Party of Megawati Sukarnoputri led with 90.

Suharto lives quietly in a wealthy Jakarta neighborhood. He was ousted last year after riots and protests and now faces a corruption investigation amid allegations that he illegally amassed billions of dollars during his rule.

Amien Rais, a pro-reform leader who voted for his National Mandate Party in Indonesia's cultural capital of Yogyakarta, said Suharto should be tried.

"If the trial finds that Suharto is proven to have deposits home

and abroad ... then the wealth should be returned to the Indonesian people," the official Antara news agency quoted Rais as saying.

Suharto then could avoid jail time by apologizing, Rais said. "If he is then sentenced to seven to eight years in prison, then there is an impression that Indonesians are bearing a grudge," he said.

Suharto's successor, President B.J. Habibie, drove in a black Mercedes to a polling station in a park near his house. He was the ninth in line to vote and waited 25 minutes. His wife, Hasri Ainun, was next.

Habibie, who launched democratic reforms that led to the parliamentary elections, was accompanied by 20 security guards. A military tent was set up near the voting post.

"God willing, this election

will be free, just and fair," said Habibie, who has been nominated by Golkar as its presidential candidate. The new Parliament will help choose a head of state later in the year.

Golkar was third at Habibie's polling station with 107 votes to 247 for Megawati's party.

Megawati, an opposition leader whose supporters have staged huge campaign rallies, voted in a tent in a muddy soccer field near her home on Jakarta's southern outskirts.

"Let's just wait for the result," said Megawati, who wore a white blouse and a blue skirt. Members of her Indonesian Democratic Party for Struggle have worn the party colors of red and black at their rallies.

Another prominent opposition leader, Abdurrahman Wahid, had to be guided into a polling station by aides and family members because he is sick and has poor eyesight. He voted with his wife, who is confined to a wheelchair.

"I'm surprised that the election in Indonesia has been peaceful and safe. I had been worried that there would be upheaval," said Wahid, head of the Muslim-based National Awakening Party.

After Suharto quit, Indonesia continued to be plagued by outbreaks of violence tied to ethnic, religious and political tensions. Economic hardship also has caused strain in the nation of 210 million people.

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors NOTICE

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan hereby give Notice that pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, a Regular Meeting of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) Board of Directors will be held on Wednesday, June 9, 1999, at 10:00 AM in the CUC Conference Room located on the 3rd floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan. The Agenda is as follows:

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Minutes
 1. March 19, 1999, Regular meeting
 2. March 25, 1999, Special meeting
- II. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
- III. EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S REPORT
 - A. Financial Report
 - B. Rota
 - C. Tinian
- IV. COMMITTEE REPORTS
 - A. Water Desalination Steering Committee
 - Discussion on New RFP for Water Desalination
- V. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Saipan 80-Megawatt Power Plant Project
 - B. Commonwealth Ports Authority Sewer Project
- VI. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. EPA & APIL Conferences
- VII. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- VIII. CORRESPONDENCE
- IX. EXECUTIVE SESSION

Pursuant to PL 8-41, Section 13, Item (6), the Board may vote to meet in Executive Session.

 - A. Litigation
- X. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ JUAN S. DELA CRUZ
Chairman

PUBLIC NOTICE

APPLICATION FOR CNMI WATER QUALITY CERTIFICATION

The Antidegradation Policy of the Water Quality Standards of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands requires that in making a determination for a Water Quality Certification, the Commonwealth shall assure that the protection and maintenance of the quality of the waters of the Commonwealth are an historic and legal right of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands.

An application for Water Quality Certification must be submitted to the Division of Environmental Quality for any proposed activity that will impact the waters of the Commonwealth. Upon receiving an application, DEQ issues a public notification which describes the proposed activity and potential impacts on water quality, aquatic life and human health. A thirty (30) day public comment period will commence from the date of the first publication of the notice.

The Director of DEQ may conduct a public hearing to solicit comments on the application if a hearing is requested by the public. DEQ will make a determination for issuing a Water Quality Certification based upon a complete technical review of the application and the public comments received.

DEQ is soliciting comments on the following application for a CNMI Water Quality Certification.

1. APPLICANT: Antonio S. Borja, Big Boyz II Marine, San Jose Village, Tinian, MP 96952
2. APPLICABLE STATUTORY AUTHORITY: CNMI Commonwealth Environmental Protection Act (Public Law No. 3-23); CNMI Environmental Regulations, Water Quality Standards, Parts 3 (Commonwealth Register Vol. 19 No. 01, January 15, 1997, as amended).
3. LOCATION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY: 75 yards offshore of Tachogna Beach, San Jose, Tinian. (Identified as Class AA Marine Waters in the CNMI Water Quality Standards)
4. DESCRIPTION OF PROPOSED ACTIVITY: Big Boyz II Marine is requesting a CNMI Water Quality Certification for the installation of an 8' by 7' floating dock and 8 buoys. The floating dock and buoys will allow the commercial operation of jet skis within the course areas recently designated by the Coastal Resources Management Office. The buoys will delineate the jet ski course, and the floating dock will be used by patrons of the jet ski business. All structures will be secured with concrete block anchors. To minimize disturbance, the anchor blocks will be located on sandy sections of sea floor away from live coral and sea grass beds. Refueling and maintenance of jet skis from the platform will not be allowed.
5. IMPACT OF THE PROPOSED ACTION: Under the CNMI Water Quality Standards, the protected uses of Class AA Marine Waters include the support and propagation of shellfish and other marine life, conservation of coral reefs and wilderness areas, aesthetic enjoyment (enjoying the scenery, sunbathing, etc.) and compatible recreation (such as swimming, snorkeling, fishing, etc.). The jet ski operations may adversely affect existing, protected uses of the waters in this area. Leaking fuel or oil from jet skis may at times degrade the water quality in the location of the floating dock and jet ski course. Depending on currents, the water quality nearby Tachogna, Tago, and Kammer beaches may also be temporarily degraded by such emissions. The recreational use of these beaches may also be affected by air and noise pollution from the jet ski activities. The marine resources in the area, including coral reefs, fish, and other aquatic biota may be affected by the noise, vibrations, emissions, and accidental spills associated with these activities.

Written comments and inquiries should be submitted to DEQ within thirty (30) days of the first date of publication of this notice. Please mail comments to Director, Division of Environmental Quality, P.O. Box 1304, Saipan, MP 96950

China officials denies Cox charges

BEIJING (AP) — Rebutting a U.S. congressional report that alleges Chinese spying, a top aerospace official said China had a solid commercial satellite program long before launching U.S. satellites, a state-run newspaper reported Monday.

China Aerospace Corp.'s spokeswoman Zhang Lihui maintained that security made any theft impossible: U.S. satellites entered China free of customs checks and were stored under around-the-clock protection of a U.S. surveillance system, the China Daily reported.

A U.S. congressional committee concluded that China

stole nuclear secrets from U.S. weapons labs over 20 years and that China used its commercial satellite program to improve its rocket technology. In particular, the report said information provided by Hughes could perhaps be used to make China's nuclear missiles more reliable.

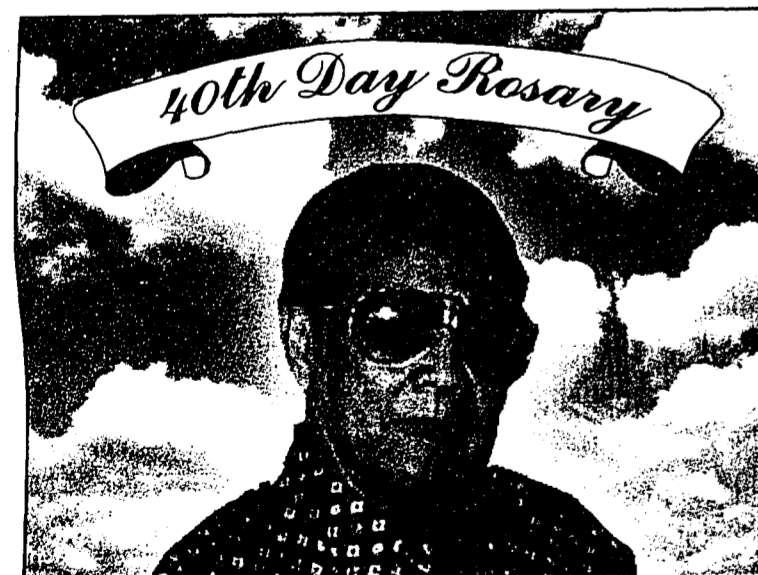
Zhang, the spokeswoman, maintained that security made any theft impossible: U.S. satellites entered China free of customs checks and were stored under around-the-clock protection of a U.S. surveillance system, the China Daily reported.

The spokeswoman accused U.S. politicians of confusing the

technology used for satellite launches and that for launching missiles and blurring the distinction between necessary coordination and divulgence of sensitive information.

"Since last April, some anti-China politicians in the U.S. have been dreaming up stories about the issue," China Daily quoted Zhang as saying.

The state-owned aerospace company will post more information on its website to prove that China developed its own technology, she added.



40th Day Rosary

We, Estela, Ethel Marie, and family would like to invite all relatives and friends to join us in prayer as we commemorate his 40th day of eternal life. Rosary will be held Wednesday, June 9, 1999, at 7:00pm at the family residence: 174 Aurora St., Dededo, Tel: (671) 632-1954. Dinner will be served after the Rosary.



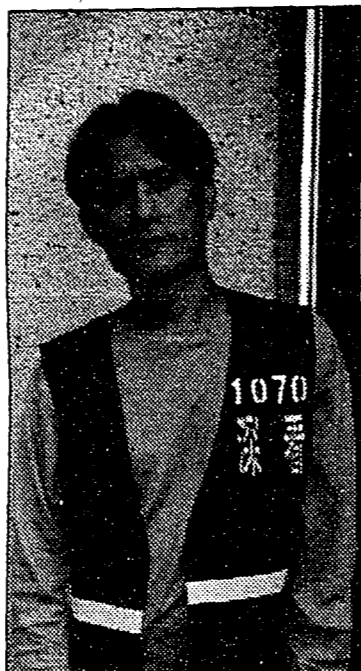
In Guangdong's biggest corruption case

China executes 6 people

BEIJING (AP) — Chinese courts on Monday executed four smugglers and two officials who abetted their smuggling of cars, steel, diesel oil and other goods in a

case that underscored extensive collusion between criminals and officials in China. The case, involving 31 defendants and tried by five courts, was

billed as the biggest corruption case ever in Guangdong, the southeastern province known as a haven for crime. The heavy sentences are intended to prove Chi-



Li Shen of Hong Kong, shown in this picture, and five other people, including two Hong Kong residents and two Zhanjiang Customs officers, were executed Monday in south China's Guangdong province. AP

But in an indication of the extent of the graft, those convicted included the heads of two customs bureaus, a vice mayor and a police commander in charge of border patrol, Xiphua said.

Courts last month issued death sentences for smugglers Li Shen, Zhang Qi, Deng Chongan — all from Hong Kong; mainland partner Lin Chunhua; and customs investigator Zhu and his boss, Zhanjiang customs chief Cao Xiukang. Eight others got suspended death sentences, which are usually commuted to life in prison if the prisoner repents.

Guangdong's Higher People's Court Monday morning upheld the death sentences and ordered that they be carried out immediately, Xinhua reported. It did not specify the method, but most executions in China are carried out by gunshot.

Investigators busted up the ring last year after Chinese leaders declared a nationwide crackdown against smuggling so rampant it was eroding government revenues and distorting markets. In Guangdong, the campaign dovetailed with an attempt by Beijing to enforce its authority by firing local leaders who had ignored central government orders.

"The harm from smuggling is extremely intense," People's Daily, the authoritative newspaper of the Communist Party, said in an editorial released Monday night for publication Tuesday.

Smuggling "endangers the economic and industrial security of the people. It abets the corruption, selfishness and decentralism of some places and units. It undermines the central authorities unified command. It harms the party and government's prestige with the people," the newspaper said.

nese leaders' determination to end the graft that has undermined public confidence in Communist Party rule.

Official media reported staggering amounts of goods smuggled and bribes changing hands. One of those sentenced to death, Li Shen, smuggled more than 3,800 vehicles, 19 tons of steel, 40,000 tons of diesel fuel and 10,000 tons of raw sugar, the Xinhua News Agency said.

The head of investigations for the customs bureau of the port city of Zhanjiang, Zhu Xiangcheng, took in 2.8 million yuan (\$340,000) in bribes and had stashed away another 3.4 million yuan (\$410,000) whose source he could not explain, Xinhua said.

Xinhua gave no totals for the amounts smuggled or paid off.

Tropical Storm Maggie shuts Hong Kong and southern China

HONG KONG (AP) — Hong Kong and southern China were largely shut down early Monday but no injuries were immediately reported as a tropical storm swept past — a day after it brought severe damage and killed several people in the Philippines and Taiwan.

In China's southern Guangdong province, Tropical Storm Maggie blew down power lines and caused blackouts in the urban areas, but no one was reported hurt, China's state-run Xinhua news agency reported.

Heavy rain swelled rivers and streams and destroyed tens of thousands of acres of crops, washing out half of the crops of longan and lychee — popular Chinese summer fruits — in Huilai county, Xinhua and Hong Kong television reported.

Maggie had hit Hong Kong nearly head-on overnight, after the Hong Kong Observatory hoisted the No. 8 and No. 9 serious gale wind warning signals. The storm had peak winds of about 140 kilometers per hour (87 mph).

Some public transport was disrupted and all financial institutions, schools, government offices and courts were closed early Monday, before the observatory lowered the gale signals and many places started reopening.

The airport had remained opened throughout, but 14 flights were delayed.

Strong winds blew down some trees and scaffoldings and Hong Kong was hit by moderate rains, but no major accidents were reported.

By 0600 GMT, Maggie was packing winds that had lessened to 41 kph to 62 kph (26 mph to 38 mph). The storm was centered at about 190 kms (118 miles) west-southwest of Hong Kong, moving at about 25 kph (16 mph) further into China, a government statement said.

Maggie had caused severe damage and some deaths in Taiwan and the Philippines over the weekend.

In the Philippines, Maggie killed at least three people and stranded thousands of commuters, causing major flooding in some provinces.

In Taiwan, Maggie left one dead and four missing on Sunday.

One woman was swept to the sea and drowned off western Penghu Island, and three fishermen were missing after their boat overturned off a coast in southeastern Tainan city, police said. Another man was reported missing when fishing in eastern Ilan, police said.

Maggie's heavy rains and strong winds flooded rice paddies and destroyed fruit plants, causing an estimated damage of more than 150 million Taiwan dollars (\$4.5 million), agriculture officials said.

Mahathir predicts opposition to try dirty tactics in elections

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysia's prime minister on Monday stepped up his attack on opposition parties, accusing them of using shifty tactics, including violence and the help of foreigners, before the upcoming general elections.

"I'm giving my assurance that we will not resort to dirty tactics. We will not seek the help of foreigners," Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who has ruled this Southeast Asian nation for 18 years, told the national new agency Bernama.

"There is no reason for the opposition to accuse the government of being dirty, they are dirty," he added.

Analysts have said Mahathir may call a snap poll as early as July, although general elections are not due for another year. The 73-year-old leader has faced un-

precedented dissent since firing his former deputy, Anwar Ibrahim, in September.

Mahathir has repeatedly accused the foreign media of rooting for Anwar, who insists the charges against him were crafted to end his challenge to Mahathir. Anwar, who is serving a six-year prison term on corruption charges, began standing trial Monday for sodomy, a crime in predominantly Muslim Malaysia.

"The foreign media works for the opposition," Mahathir said.

"They are using the foreign media to attack us. You've read — has the foreign media anything good to say about us?"

Mahathir said the opposition posed a security risk to the nation, citing anti-government street rallies in which riot police have clashed with Anwar supporters who have demanded his resignation.



Mahathir Mohamad

"Supporters of the opposition comprise those who have taken part in demonstrations last year and I am sure they will resort to violence to achieve their objective," Mahathir said.

He added that maintaining security within Malaysia was "a problem" because the foreign

media only showed one side of the story.

"When the police were to use a little violence to control the situation, they will record this and the footage will be shown throughout the world with the purpose of tarnishing our image," the prime minister said.

In the wake of Anwar's jailing, four diverse opposition groups banded together in a coalition calling for political reforms. The group is led by the National Justice Party headed by Anwar's wife, Azizah Ismail.

Recently, a rift has emerged in the coalition over diverging election strategies. The only Islamic party in the coalition, Parti Islam SeMalaysia, favors an Islamic state, which the other three party's staunchly oppose.

Mahathir dismissed the coalition as a viable threat to his rule.

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PUBLIC NOTICE

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairman, Mr. Juan S. Tenorio, is pleased to inform the public that it will commence accepting applications for the single-family residential houses at the Sugar King Estate Part II Subdivision on Thursday, June 3, 1999 until 10:00 a.m., Friday, July 2, 1999. Applications are available at the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan between regular business hours.

Priority will be given to couples or heads of household with dependent(s) who are in dire need of a residential housing unit and who are first-time homeowners.

The houses range in size between two-, three-, and four-bedrooms. A family composing of a minimum of one (1) member may purchase a 2-bedroom house; a family composing a minimum of two (2) members may purchase a 4-bedroom house. Conveniently located at the central part of Saipan, the Sugar King II Subdivision is only a short drive from many major facilities on the island.

There are immediately 40 units available for sale, as follows:

UNIT SIZE	NUMBER AVAILABLE
2-bedrooms	5
3-bedrooms	31
4-bedrooms	4

Potential homeowners may use personal funds to purchase the houses or obtain financing from lenders.

Interested individuals are urged to contact the NMHC Office at 234-7689/7670/6866/9447, for more information.

/s/ MARYLOU S. ADA
Executive Director

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Oral and written communication skills which allow the employee to effectively and professionally communicate with clients and other individuals over the telephone, in writing and in persons.

Organizational skills which will allow the employee to manage multiple priorities and tasks and allow the employee to meet self imposed and externally set deadlines.

Ability to take supervision and comply with the office policies and procedures of the agency.

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Office of the Job Training Partnership Act

Office of the Governor

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Lower Base
Caller Box 10007 Saipan, MP 96950

PUBLIC NOTICE

(04/29/99)

SUMMER JOB

THIS IS TO INFORM ALL HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS SPECIFICALLY FOR SAIPAN (AGES 16 & UP) THAT THE GOVERNOR'S JTPA OFFICE IS NOW ACCEPTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE SUMMER YOUTH EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING PROGRAM.

PRIORITY CONSIDERATION WILL BE ACCORDED TO HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO ARE BELOW THE POVERTY INCOME GUIDELINE. HOWEVER, DEPENDING ON THE AVAILABILITY OF LOCAL FUNDS, THE PROGRAM MAY ACCOMMODATE THOSE STUDENTS WHO ARE CONSIDERED HIGH INCOME (WITHIN THE SAME AGE RANGE) TO FULFILL THE 300 SLOTS.

DEADLINE FOR SUBMISSION IS **FRIDAY, JUNE 11, 1999.** NO APPLICATION WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE ESTABLISHED DATE.

APPLICATION CAN BE OBTAINED AT THE MHS COUNSELOR'S OFFICE OR THE JTPA OFFICE LOCATED DIRECTLY ACROSS CUC. FOR INQUIRIES PLEASE CONTACT MR. MARTIN PANGELINAN OR MRS. LAURENT T. CHONG AT 664-1700/4.

/S/FELIX NOGIS
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Gun control debate at House

By Joanne Kenen
WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The House Judiciary Committee will open its gun control debate on Wednesday, using as its starting point measures closely resembling those passed by the Senate last month, a committee spokesman said Monday.

background checks at gun shows will also resemble the Democratic language narrowly accepted by the Senate, Hyde's spokesman said.

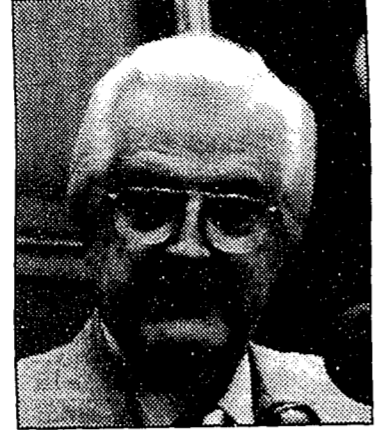
The bill is likely to be bitterly debated and heavily amended in the committee, which is dominated on the Republican side by conservatives who do not share Hyde's views on guns and on the Democratic side by liberals who may try to modify the underlying juvenile crime provisions of the bill.

"We haven't been able to get

a coherent answer about the underlying bill," said Virginia Democrat Bobby Scott, who helped negotiate an earlier bipartisan version that has been thrown into question by the gun debate. "The gun debate has clouded discussion of the juvenile justice provisions."

By the time the committee finishes later this week, the bill may have changed dramatically, and its fate in the full House is also in question.

The Republicans have only a six-seat margin in the House, but guns are a regional issue as well as a party one. About 30 House Democrats from southern or rural districts are likely to join Republican conservatives in opposing tough new measures.



Henry Hyde

legislation similar to, though not necessarily identical to, the Senate.

One area of dispute was whether background checks at gun shows would be conducted in 24 hours, as many Republicans favour, or in 72 hours, which is what the Senate finally accepted. Hyde's spokesman said he would include the three-day period on his bill.

Democrats had tried and failed to get the House to vote on gun measures before starting the week-long Memorial Day break, fearing the delay could dampen momentum and give the National Rifle Association time to step up pressure in the House.

The NRA is particularly opposed to the Senate gun show measure. It urged its members to "saturate" the pro-gun community, and make their voices heard in Congress.

The association said in a membership alert on its Web site that background checks would do nothing to stop school violence or crime but would "create an enormous maze of complex new federal regulations, designed to trap you and fellow gun-owners in a snare of obscure restrictions for activities that have always been lawful and constitutionally protected."

of loopholes in existing gun law increased after the 15 deaths at Columbine High School in Littleton, Colorado in April.

The Senate last month passed a youth crime bill including a package of gun measures, the first gun legislation passed since the Republicans captured control of the Senate in 1994.

But Senate Republicans twisted and turned in that debate, switching positions several times and getting battered by public opinion.

House Republican leaders, already grappling with severe internal divisions over the annual spending bills, hoped to avoid embarrassing disarray over the gun issue and announced last month that they would act on

Similarly, some suburban Republicans, particularly from the Northeast and Midwest, will join Democrats if the Republicans try to water down the measures passed by the Senate.

"The battleground is always the suburbs," said Desmond Riley from the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence. "This will be a tough vote for Republican suburban representatives."

The announcement about the bill and the timetable, which came after Hyde met House Republican leaders, ended a day of speculation about the fate of the juvenile crime bill as the House reconvened after a week-long break. House leaders had considered possibly bypassing the committee, and taking the measure directly to the floor.

The momentum for modest new gun legislation and closure

House Republican leaders, already grappling with severe internal divisions over the annual spending bills, hoped to avoid embarrassing disarray over the gun issue and announced last month that they would act on



Part of an approximate four tons of cocaine sit on a dock after being seized from the freighter China Breeze, Monday in Galveston, Texas. The U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration and U.S. Customs and the U.S. Coast Guard announced that the seizure of the estimated \$400 million worth of cocaine was the result of a 10-month long investigation. AP

HK suspends...

Continued from page 16

month to Belgian animal feed contaminated with dioxin, a carcinogen. The food scandal is considered Europe's worst since Britain's 1996 Mad Cow disease.

The United States has blocked European Union imports of pork and poultry, and Singapore banned all meat products from the 15-nation group. Countries from Switzerland to South Korea took similar measures against Belgian products.

To brief officials on Kosovo peace

German envoy in Beijing

BEIJING (AP) — A German envoy briefed Chinese officials Monday on plans for a United Nations resolution as part of efforts to restore peace to Kosovo, a German Embassy spokesman said.

Gunter Pleuger, the German Foreign Ministry's political director, held one day of meetings Monday with Chinese officials, including Wang Guangya, an assistant minister at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said the spokesman.

Pleuger gave the Chinese a detailed explanation on plans by the G-8 group of leading industrial countries and Russia to draft a U.N. resolution called for in a peace plan to end the Kosovo crisis, a statement released by the embassy said.

In the statement, Pleuger described his talks and "friendly and constructive" and said he encour-

aged China "to play an active role in the search for a peaceful solution."

His visit went ahead despite a last-minute decision by Finnish President Martti Ahtisaari, the chief architect of the peace plan, to postpone a planned one-day visit Monday to Beijing as talks between Serbian and NATO military leaders collapsed.

Pleuger was to leave Beijing on Tuesday, said the embassy spokesman, speaking on condition of anonymity.

German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder called his Chinese counterpart, Premier Zhu Rongji, last week to explain the Kosovo peace deal brokered by the G-8 group and accepted by Belgrade.

China has said NATO airstrikes must stop before the accord can be

brought before the U.N. Security Council. China also has demanded that any settlement exclude Kosovo's secession from Yugoslavia and respect the rights of all the country's ethnic groups.

As a permanent member of the U.N. Security Council with veto power, China could block a U.N. resolution. China has opposed NATO's airstrikes from the start, backed Yugoslavia in the war and denounced the United States and NATO for attacking a sovereign state without U.N. approval. Beijing's opposition hardened after NATO bombed China's embassy in Belgrade May 7.

Gov't ...

Continued from page 5

said, Marianas Public Land Corp., now DPL, issued a letter agreement to exchange property for public land in accordance with Public Law 5-33.

Pursuant to the letter agreement, the complaint said, MPLC

offered to pay \$150 per square meter for the land the CNMI acquired from Augusta.

Clifford explained that under the CNMI law, there is no general entitlement to cash for land acquisition, only to land.

Clifford said Matsumoto failed to exhaust his administrative remedies and his claims are barred by the doctrine of waiver.

Tighe ...

Continued from page 5

nently move away from the Commonwealth with no intention of fulfilling his obligations under the terms of their agreement, Tighe last May 19, sent defendant an E-mail, and a let-

ter, seeking assurance that defendant intended to pay.

To date, the complaint added, Winnie has not communicated in any way with plaintiff.

In response to the complaint, Winnie contended that the agreement is usurious, illegal and unenforceable under the Commonwealth law.

Bill ...

Continued from page 3

person's right to privacy without a "compelling public interest" or without a lawful warrant issued by a judge.

Those found guilty of this violation would be guilty of a crime punishable as a misdemeanor and would pay a fine of up to \$2,000.

The bill proposes that upon conviction, the Superior Court should conduct a separate hearing to determine the amount of compensation the victim should receive.

At the same time, the proposed law would allow a victim to seek damages by filing a civil, instead of a criminal, lawsuit.

Tan's attorney earlier described Global Survival Network's (GSN) secret videotaping of the garment magnate as "outrageous" conduct.

Tan, Steve Pixley added, will file a lawsuit against the Washington-based human rights group.

It was GSN's Steve Galster who posed as buyer and secretly videotaped his conversation with Tan.

Pixley alleged that GSN's intent was to embarrass Tan and ruin his garment business.

Pixley said he believes that GSN has connections with the New York law firm that filed \$1 billion class action lawsuits against local garment manufacturers and their buyers in the US.

Happy 2nd Birthday
 KEALANA LEI
 Limes Taitano
 FROM: Dad, Mom, Lina, Raynelyn & Gigi

PUBLIC NOTICE

OFFICE OF VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION INDEPENDENT LIVING COUNCIL

This is to inform the public that the Independent Living Council will hold its FY 1999 second quarterly meeting on Wednesday, June 16, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. at the Office of Aging in Garapan. Interested persons are welcome to attend.

AGENDA

- Call to Order
- Adoption of Agenda (action)
- Adoption of 4/6/99 meeting minutes (action)
- Old Business
 - MOU with NMC Abilities Center (discussion/action)
 - Member's Attendance and Proxy (discussion)
 - CNMI ILC Housing (discussion)
- New Business
 - Report on 5/17/99 Executive Committee Meeting (discussion)
 - SILC Representation at National Conference (action)
 - Expiration of Membership (discussion)
- Miscellaneous Discussions
- Adjournment

In compliance with the American With Disabilities Act (ADA), individuals who wish to attend this meeting, but requires accessibility such as large print or sign language interpreter, must call 664-6538 (voice) or 322-6449 (TTY). Advance notice is necessary to allow ample time to make necessary arrangement.

/s/ KONRAD REYES
 ILC Chairperson

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

INVITATION TO BID

CUC-IFB-99-0022

June 9, 1999

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting proposals from firms capable of providing **Janitorial Services** for its offices.

The Scope of Work may be picked up at the CUC Procurement & Supply Office at the Joeten Dandan Commercial Bldg., 3rd floor, Room #4 between 7:30 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. and 12:30 p.m. and 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for Government observed holidays.

Offerors shall provide a certification signed by a principle of the company stating that the company has in the past, and is currently, in compliance with all applicable CNMI and Federal labor laws. Should the company be unable to provide such certification, the company must provide a written explanation as to why, including a description of any violations of such labor laws and any remedial action taken. **FAILURE OF THE COMPANY TO PROVIDE THE CERTIFICATION OR EXPLANATION IS GROUNDS TO REJECT THE ENTIRE PROPOSAL.**

Bids in duplicates and copies of business licenses must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked **CUC-IFB-99-0022**, to Mr. Mariano DLG. Fajardo, Procurement & Supply Supervisor. Bids will be accepted at CUC Procurement & Supply Office, Rm. #4, 3rd Floor, Joeten, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 3:00 p.m., local time, Thursday, July 1, 1999. Bids will be publicly opened and read aloud after the bid closing time. Late submissions will not be considered.

Discussions may be conducted with responsible offerors who submit bids determined to be reasonably susceptible of being selected for award for the purpose of clarification and to ensure full understanding of, and responsiveness to solicitation requirements. Offerors shall be accorded fair and equal treatment with respect to any opportunity for discussion and revision of bids and such revisions may be permitted after submission and prior to award for the purpose of obtaining the best and final offers. In conducting discussions, there shall be no disclosure of any information derived from proposals submitted by competing offerors.

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

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
 Executive Director

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 234-9797 ☎ 234-9272 or Fax No. 234-9271.

Reyes . . .

Continued from page 7

gion," he said. "However, when looking at APPU via air space, which is so often our only means of gather-

Bill . . .

Continued from page 10

the way to do it. The government cannot afford the consequences of enacting the bill into law, Jones said. He suggested a public hearing on the issue, and new legislation to address the concerns of the government and its employees, and to be "fair to all

Housing . . .

Continued from page 8

also avail of the housing loan but the lot area should not exceed 1,000 square meters. The monthly amortization of the loan shall not exceed 33.3 percent of the gross monthly income as evidenced by the Employment Contract or Certificate of Employment and Com-

Jones . . .

Continued from page 8

"It's better late than never," said Jones. Jones recalled that Tanapag residents have raised concerns about the ill-effects of abandoned World War II capacitors that have leaked suspected carcinogens on the seaside village's top soil. "They believe their health problems, the changes have to do with the contamination from those batteries and transformers (abandoned) in Tanapag village," said Jones. He added that another concern is the abandoned dumpsite believed left by the US naval administration which was tasked to clean the island and

GEPA . . .

Continued from page 8

the need to provide technical assistance to the community and maintain compliance and enforcement of Guam's environmental protection laws have increased dramatically with the rise in the population. The impact of a public law passed by the 24th Legislature has had a tremendous impact on GEPA, Salas said. That law sus-

ing together in one location, then I affirm that we are unnecessarily restricted and actually are more disconnected than we should be due to the air carriers that control our and our people's access to one another," Reyes added.

concerned." The speaker earlier urged caution in considering any legislation that proposes to eliminate housing benefits for government employees.

Benavente said simply removing the housing benefit will "impact" the government's budget, as it may lead to higher funding for departments, agencies and activities that will have to offer higher salaries to continue attracting off-island recruits.

tion. The program aims to provide Filipino workers/immigrants the opportunity to save for their future while giving them the chance to avail of a house loan of as much as PHP500,000 with the interest rates ranging from 9 percent to 17 percent per annum depending on the loan amount. The program also offers Multi-Purpose Loan (MPL) to qualified members for their immediate financial needs.

manage it after the war. Jones said he still will be coordinating with the US Army Corps of Engineers to rid Tanapag of World War II health hazards. "I still will respectfully request the Army Corps of Engineers to immediately take action on the military dumpsite," said Jones. Commonwealth Washington Resident Representative Juan Nikai Babauta have raised concerns about possible health hazards posed by the left-over war equipment on Tanapag residents. In an earlier interview, Babauta said US Defense Secretary William Cohen has "recognized" that the US is responsible for the abandoned war materiel.

ended all funding and vacated positions once they came open. "As it stands right now I do not have anybody to follow-up on building permits or even underground storage tanks that had to come into federal compliance by the first of this year," Salas pointedly told senators. "If we do not get help soon either by increased funding, or in terms of increased manpower we can not be effective in carrying out our mission and several federal programs will suffer," he said.

About . . .

Continued from page 3

increase arrivals into the islands. "We are taking into consideration the security, the cost of transportation from Japan is cheaper, but if we can ask the CNMI to push down cost of stay in Saipan," he said. The establishment of a regional airline, he said, may also help lower down tourist expenses when they choose to come to the CNMI. "But still CNMI is a prime destination among Japanese," he added.

Records from the Marianas

Castro . . .

Continued from page 3

nized by the court as qualified heir claimants (QHC) to Hillblom's multimillion estate. They are Junior Larry Hillbloom, Jellian Cuartero, Mercedesita Feliciano, and Nguyen Be Lory. Castro said among the conditions to be eligible that a trust shall be established in writing and distributions ordered by the Probate Court go directly to the trust.

The Judge Pro Tem said funds and assets in the trust are to be administered by an institutional trust company or an experienced private trustee who is insured or bonded.

Distributions of income from

DPS . . .

Continued from page 3

In response to the auditor's office report, Public Safety Commissioner Charles W. Ingram Jr. said his office may move confiscate firearms whose papers have not been renewed by their owners. He also insinuated that OPA

Workers . . .

Continued from page 8

nonresident contract worker in 1997 and worked until Feb. 1998 for her employer, Piao Shun Thai, doing business as Pacific In Won Corp. Hill in the petition stated that Zheng who was hired as cook was forced to leave her employment because her employer and their agents required her to work as bar hostess. The woman filed a complaint with DOLI against her employer for breach of contract and failure to pay wages. By letter dated Oct. 22, 1998, Labor Director Gil M. San Nicolas issued his determination denying and refusing to accept Zheng's complaint for filing. Petitioner then appealed the director's denial. By administrative order dated Jan. 25, 1998 but not made

Visitors Authority (MVA) show 127,945 Japanese arrivals into the CNMI for the first four months of the year, and it hopes to attract more visitors this year following the slow but sure recovery of most of its tourism markets. Japan Airlines, for its part, noted that its highest arrival record so far this year was May's 17,907 visitors, marking a 25 percent increase from last year during the same period. The bulk — or more than 50 percent — of Japanese arrivals into the CNMI was brought in by JAL. Kaishun Nishigaya, JAL-

the trust shall be principally for the benefit of the QHCs, but the trust may distribute to appropriate family members consistent with local cultural considerations, he said. The other elements Castro listed are: •Principal may not be distributed, except for the benefit of the QHC, and not without specific approval of the guardianship or supervising court. •Trustee, guardianship and protector compensation to be reasonable. •Trustee, guardianship or supervising court imposes greater frequency, at least annual reports concerning trust income and distributions. •Appropriate control over the placement of trustees. •Trust may postpone signifi-

may have used an old data in its reading of his department involving the issuance of licenses, saying these were the same kind of reports long before he was appointed by Governor Tenorio to his post. However, Ingram did not say what efforts his department is doing to fix the problem which he has inherited from previous predecessors.

known to or served on counsel for petitioner, until last April 6 Labor Hearing Officer Linn Asper, affirmed the director's denial and refusal to accept for filing the complaint. Petitioner filed her notice of appeal to DOLI secretary of such Jan. 25 administrative order. Hill said last May 25 the secretary's order of the appeal was made known to him for the first time when the DOLI's Hearing Office sent a facsimile copy notwithstanding that such order bore a date of May 17. Hill asked the court for judicial review on the grounds that DOLI failed to comply with the Administrative Procedure Act in its refusal to accept and process the complaint. The lawyer said DOLI failed to comply with its own rules and regulations in processing or refusing to process Zheng's complaint. Hill contended that the final

Saipan district sales manager, cited the Special Saipan campaign in Japan and the improving economy as the main reasons behind this year's highest arrival records so far. The airline company has upgraded its Boeing 767 planes to DC-10 which has a seating capacity of 260 passengers. JAL also reactivated its flight services between Saipan and Nagoya following Continental Micronesia's decision to abandon the air traffic route because of weaker demands. JAL's re-entry in the air traffic route gave the carrier a virtually exclusive privilege over the freeway.

cant distributions of principal until a QHC reaches at least 25 years old. •Trust is subject to control of the guardianship or supervising court at least until the QHC reaches legal majority. Castro pointed out that the requisite showing that the QHC trust meets these criteria may be made by direct presentation of competent evidence to the court. In alternative, Castro said, by filing with the court and order from a competent court certifying that it has determined that the QHC trust possesses all 10 listed attributes. The court recently approved the release of \$50 million from Hillblom estate as preliminary distribution to the four kids and Hillblom Charitable Trust.

In his audit statistics, LaMotte disclosed that about 40 percent of the total 1,430 permits issued have already expired and not renewed. He also said the department "lacked adequate policies and procedures to ensure that firearm identification cards are issued only to eligible persons and that all records supporting the issuance are completely and accurately maintained."

order and interim orders of DOLI were arbitrary, capricious and not in accordance with applicable law and the agency's own regulations. "Plaintiff's due process and constitutional rights to enforce her contract and wage/compensation rights under the Nonresident Workers Act, were denied to this alien-petitioner by the agency's denial and refusal to accept and consider her complaint on the merits," Hill pointed out. San Nicolas in his order explained that based upon law and DOLI's policy, Labor lacks the jurisdiction to entertain Zheng's complaint. The director said in Nov. 1996 DOLI issued a new policy which prohibits the acceptance of labor complaints from individuals who are not bonafide non-resident workers. On the other hand, the DOLI secretary stated that there is no acceptable explanation for the late filing of Zheng's complaint.

Teno . . .

Continued from page 1

11-79 infuse more than \$24 million in fresh capital to the Commonwealth's badly hit economy. "These funds will pro-

Creation . . .

Continued from page 1

"It is very complicated to travel into and within the region because of the very limited number of airline seats and exorbitant airline fees," Anastacio told reporters. He explained that increased competition in the region's aviation industry would help drag airfares down, as well as force carriers to provide the traveling sector with better services.

CNMI and Palau leaders said they do not have any particular airline in mind but added that Pacific island nations would be more than willing to accommodate suggestions from member nations of the APPU, including Japan, Taiwan, Malaysia, South Korea and the Philippines. Anastacio is optimistic prospects are brighter that island nations in the Pacific would soon see Asian flag carriers

vide major improvements in our community, but it is only the beginning." Tenorio said the CNMI inevitably needs these projects, as he cited the value of the stimulus they create on the local economy. The CIP Task Force earlier com-

pleting the seven-year spending plan for \$154 million in new capital infrastructure projects. The first \$11 million has been appropriated for the construction of a new prison facility and the completion of the long-delayed Marianas High School gymnasium.

servicing the region, especially when the CNMI and Palau-sponsored resolution for a regional airline is finally adopted by the APPU Council Meeting. However, the APPU Council is not likely to open the floor of discussion for the regional airline proposal due to technical concerns. CNMI and Palau failed to file the resolution before the 15-day deadline.

Instead, it will be discussed during the next APPU Council Meeting in a still undecided venue. Legislators from the smaller islands in Micronesia have filed similar resolution during last year's Association of Pacific Islands Legislatures (APIL) on Tinian but nothing physical has been achieved so far. Government officials from Pacific islands are upbeat on the potentials of finally developing a regional airline especially when such move is

put forward before the leaders of Asia's tiger economies that have a more sound aviation sector. "Micronesia's proximity to Southeast Asia warrants the exploration of the creation of a regional airline," Anastacio said, adding that he is positive about being able to solicit the support of the entire APPU membership on the resolution.

According to the resolution filed by Palau and the CNMI, Pacific island members of APPU suffer from allegedly overpriced airfares and inadequate seating capacities due to the lack of competition within the airline industry in the region. It said APPU members have the necessary resources available to enable member countries to work together in formulating strategies, with the common goal of improving service, expanding seating capacity and reducing airfares within the region.

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Andrew
June 9, '99
From your loving wife
Rose

To prevent HIV/AIDS, Think of the ABC's - Abstain, Be Faithful and use Condom.

Marianas Variety Classified Ads Section

Employment Wanted

Job Vacancy Announcement

PUBLIC NOTICE

All interested resident workers are urged to register at the Dept. of Labor & Immigration, Division of Employment Services for the job/s being advertised in which you are qualified and available. For further assistance, please call Alfred A. Pangelinan at Tel. 664-2076.

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01 MANAGER (STORE)-Salary:\$800.00 per month
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01 GARDENER-Salary:\$3.05-3.85 per hour
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01 CARGO AGENT-Salary:\$3.05-3.60 per hour
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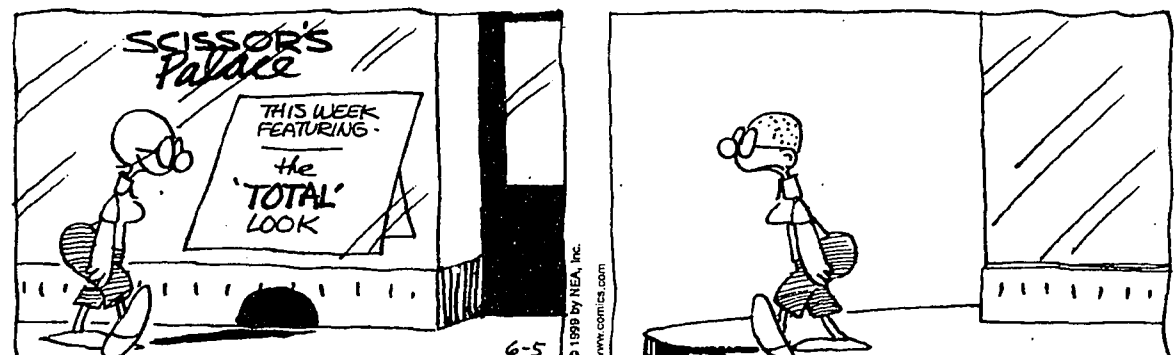
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STELLA WILDER YOUR BIRTHDAY

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 9, 1999
Born today, you are an individual with a definite flair for the dramatic which will serve you well in all aspects of your daily life. You are a creative, versatile, and ambitious individual, but this is not to suggest in any way that you do things only for yourself. You are a natural trailblazer, and you're not likely to engage, on a long-term basis, in any major endeavor which has been popular in the past. Responsible, hard-working, and conscientious, you have a great deal of raw talent which can certainly be parlayed into a remarkable career!
You are curious about life and all it has to offer, and there may be times in which you actually get yourself into trouble simply because you've been "poking your nose" into business that is, quite simply, not your own! You are likely to be the center of things wherever you go; this is your particular cross to bear.
Also born on this date are: Michael J. Fox, actor; Johnny Depp, actor; Jackie Mason, comedian; Cole Porter, songwriter; Jackie Wilson, singer.
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.
THURSDAY, JUNE 10
GEMINI (May 21-June 20)
— A chance encounter must not be taken lightly today, particularly with a member of the opposite sex. First impressions may be dead wrong!
CANCER (June 21-July 22)
— A new adventure is in store for you today, from which you can learn much that will be of value in the coming days and weeks. Thank a friend.
LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)
— Now is no time to wallow in your own insecurities and stubbornness. Try being the first to offer reconciliation as an alternative to strife.
VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)
— Sure, you want the best of everything, but you're going to have to make some compromises today if your pocketbook isn't going to suffer.
LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)
— Take care that your penchant for analyzing everything and everyone around you doesn't become a desire to criticize! Know when to keep quiet!
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)
— Though your plans are coming along nicely, someone may be unintentionally throwing a wrench in the works. It's time to draw the line!
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)
— You may find it difficult today to keep your opinions to yourself, particularly when there is an air of romance prevalent.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)
— You're likely to be a worrier today, and there's nothing anyone can say to ease your anxiety. Internal rhythms may be working against you.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)
— A "special event" is fast approaching, and you should be feeling as ready as you ever will. Congratulate yourself on a job well done!
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)
— Follow your instincts in all things having to do with money and/or relationships. The two are closely related today.
ARIES (March 21-April 19)
— Guard against becoming jealous of those who have little or nothing to do with you at this time. Keep volatile emotions in check today.
TAURUS (April 20-May 20)
— Not everyone will be able to live up to your hefty expectations today. Those who do, however, are likely to remain close for quite some time.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS
1 Sudden bursts of wind
6 Mischievous act
11 —me-not
12 Foreign —
14 Redact
15 Diminish
17 Artificial language
18 Wrong (prefix)
19 Seven (Sp.)
20 TV network
21 Roman, 1,005
22 Asphyxia
23 Sticky solution
24 Before the set time
26 —
27 Incredible
28 Wash and —
29 Floating objects

DOWN
1 Lady —
2 "Trinity" author
3 Rank above a Cpl.
4 "Deum"
5 —glass window
6 Silver (Sp.)
7 Network
8 Mature
9 Nickel symbol
10 Gymnast

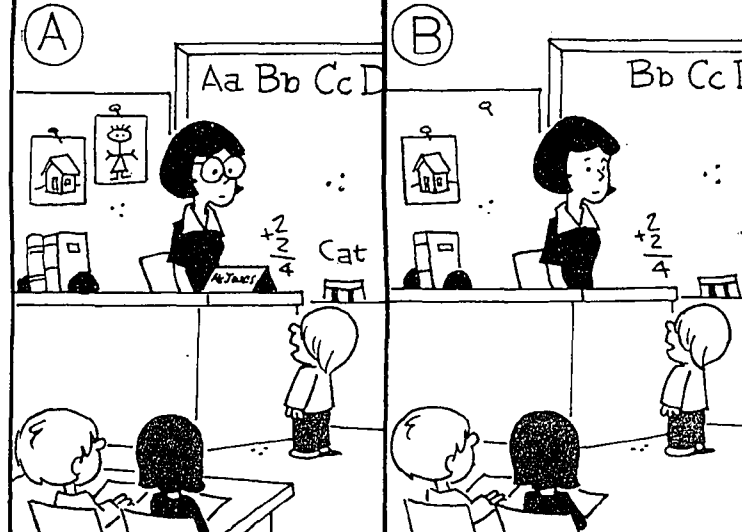
Answer to Previous Puzzle

O	R	A	L	I	Z	A	I	R	A	E		
M	I	R	I	N	I	T	G	E	L	S		
E	S	T	E	A	E	A	G	E	R	N	E	S
N	E	H	R	U	Z	A	N	E				
U	B	D	A	M	O	N	E	S				
S	I	R	P	I	G	G	U	I	L	D		
O	S	L	E	N	W	A	S	A	A			
F	L	E	R	A	I	R	B	L	I	K		
T	M	U	I	R	R	H	O	D	E			
S	T	A	I	R	C	A	S	E	O	I	L	
E	A	R	N	H	I	R	T	D	C	L		
A	L	E	G	E	D	I	E	Y	E	A		

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Guam does good in softball

By Eddie Siguenza
Variety News Staff
TEAM Guam has put itself into a good position to win three softball medals.

Following American Samoa's 7-6 upset victory over Palau, the Guam women softball squad stands unbeaten at 4-0 in Pool A. A Palau victory yesterday would have kept it unbeaten at 3-0. But now American Samoa, Palau and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are tied 2-1 for the Pool B lead.

Despite the loss, Palau scored enough runs in the tournament to maintain first place.

The Guam men slow-pitch team is also unbeaten at 4-0. Right behind is CNMI at 3-1. It's only loss was a 29-23 setback to Guam, a game which the CNMI led 20-5 in

the second inning.

The only team unbeaten like Guam is Papua New Guinea in men's fast-pitch. The powerful New Guineans lead Pool B at 3-0. Guam leads the men's fast-pitch Pool A at 3-0 as well.

Guam and Palau square off at 7 pm in a highly anticipated encounter.

These two fast-pitch favorites have not met since the 1991 SPG, when PNG narrowly escaped with a 4-3 screamer.

Also yesterday, the CNMI men's fast-pitch team reached the play-

offs with a 10-6 victory over the Federated States of Micronesia. The loss knocked FSM out of playoff contention.

The American Samoateams surprisingly ended the SPG noncompetitive. It's men's slow-pitch team ended 0-4. It's fast-pitch team went 0-3. Only the women's slow-pitch victory over Palau yesterday prevented a complete shutout.

The Cook Islands also finished winless in men's fast-pitch (0-3) and women's slow-pitch (0-3). The Nauru women were also winless at 0-4.

N. Caledonia takes swimming gold

By Francis S. Dallsay
THE RAIN that fell over the South Pacific Games swimming venue yesterday didn't stop Guam swimmer Dan O'Keefe from winning the silver medal yesterday in the men's 200-meter butterfly race. With a time of 2 minutes and 11.95 seconds, O'Keefe also broke the Guam Swimming League record for that event.

At the start of the race O'Keefe stood confident in the starting blocks, with his head up. And he raised his arms and waved vigorously to the crowd as the announcer proclaimed his name. As

he quickly entered the pool, his teammates cheered him on from the sidelines.

O'Keefe led the pack in the first 50 meters, but in the next 50, he lost the lead to Olivier Saminadin of New Caledonia. Through the rest of the race, O'Keefe appeared fatigued and continued to trail behind Saminadin.

By the final lap O'Keefe was far behind the more aggressive Saminadin, who timed in to win the gold at 2:08.30.

"I was a little behind because my arms were burning, but I kept the pace going," said O'Keefe.

"And fortunately, my arms didn't give in."

Also winning a medal for Guam was Darrick Bollinger, who garnered the bronze medal in the 50-meter freestyle event. He led the pack during the first 20 meters of the race. But later lost the lead to the younger Leo Biggs of Papua New Guinea.

By the final 15 meters, Bollinger was struggling to finish third. In the end, he touched the wall with a time of 24.14. Biggs won gold with a time of 23.71, and Fiji's Carl Probert garnered silver finishing in 24.05.

CNMI...

Continued from page 28

meter race against Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia and also qualified for the 1000 meter Semi-Final race, as well as the 2,500 meter race.

The Guam Men's Team also qualified for the One-Man 500 meter, the 500 meter (G-6), 1,000 meter and the 2,500 meter races.

"I had the chance to feel out the course and feel more confident about it. I gave it all I had," said CNMI Paddler Eddie Johnson.

"I know the Semi-Finals is going to be tougher, but if I paddle like I did today, I might have a chance," he said.

Johnson added that because he only had about "twenty minutes to practice" in the One-Man Canoe, he is happy about his performance.

Dr. Chris Ebert-Santos of the CNMI Women's Team is also proud of her team's performance.

\$1.6M...

Wang further projected to rake in approximately \$73,000 and \$91,000 from its room and rental revenues on its second and third year of operation, respectively.

In his application for Foreign Investment Approval Certificate (FIAC), Wang also plans to operate a small brewery and produce a locally-made beer.

To boost hotel revenues, Wang said he will make arrangements with travel agents to provide discounts or other incentives to stimulate hotel bookings.

are already in top physical shape when we formed the team," she said.

The 1999 Semi-Final Competition begins today at Matapang Beach Park with the exception of the Men's and Women's 1000 Meter races (See Related Story).

1999 South Pacific Games "Reprecharge" Competition Results

Men's 1000 Meter Heat #21

Fiji 4:48.38
Palau 5:07.04
CNMI 5:12.41
FSM 5:49.73

Women's 1000 Meter Heat #22

Wallis and Futuna 5:38.61
Guam 5:43.84
Palau 6:03.21
FSM 6:18.04

Men's (One Man) 500 Meter Heat #23

CNMI 2:54.00
Guam 2:56.00
Palau 3:08.00
FSM 3:14.00

Women's (One Man) 500 Meter Heat #24

Palau 3:20.77
CNMI 3:24.58
Guam 3:35.63

FSM (Did Not Finish)

Men's 500 Meter Heat #25

New Caledonia 2:09.41
CNMI 2:19.07
Palau 2:21.37
FSM 2:34.78

Women's 500 Meter Heat #26

Guam 2:45.29
Palau 2:58.59
FSM 3:08.55
CNMI 3:10.12

Men's (One Man) 250 Meter Heat #27

Fiji 1:21.27
Guam 1:22.85
CNMI 1:23.68
FSM 1:26.90

Women's (One Man) 250 Meter Heat #28

Palau 1:38.45
Guam 1:39.66
FSM 1:42.80
CNMI 1:51.85

Men's 2,500 Meter Heat #29

Fiji 13:39.20
Palau 13:50.55
FSM 13:50.99
CNMI 13:55.55

Women's 2,500 Meter Heat #30

New Caledonia 14:35.85
CNMI 15:30.21
Wallis and Futuna 16:19.60
FSM 16:53.36

\$60,000 could be more, he said, if the brewery operation is successful.

Wang further projected to rake in approximately \$73,000 and \$91,000 from its room and rental revenues on its second and third year of operation, respectively.

In his application for Foreign Investment Approval Certificate (FIAC), Wang also plans to operate a small brewery and produce a locally-made beer.

To boost hotel revenues, Wang said he will make arrangements with travel agents to provide discounts or other incentives to stimulate hotel bookings.

He will also engage in extensive public relations campaigns designed to familiarize the potential market in China.

Wang further said the restaurant will utilize local produce, fish and other meals, while the karaoke lounge will obtain alcoholic beverages and other supplies from local markets.

Wang said the initial 50-year lease and venture will be small in scale, and limited in potential profits for the first 10 years. He said he made a realistic estimate of projected revenues and has significant funds to carry through times of recession and other slow periods.

Wang is optimistic that economic conditions in Asia will improve, and that the hotel venture will allow him to provide facilities and services that are compatible with master and economic plans objectives.

STS...

Continued from page 28

He controlled the tempo of the game since the start of the game. Teammates Tom Alegre, Banjo Basilla helped out with the scoring and Jun Alipio controlled the rebounds.

The Wild Eagles however were still missing the services of standouts Dennis Camacho and Jason Rafael who are still in Guam for the South Pacific Games.

Gary Lashley led Wild Eagles scoring with a helping hand from Emil DeBelen.

In second game GTE Pacifica defeated the Team Cabalen, 90-74 to remain undefeated.

Team Cabalen was ahead in the

early minutes of the game by 15 points but could not hold on to their lead. GTE once again relied on its veteran players and their height advantage was just too much for Team Cabalen.

Next game is scheduled on June 12 at Civic Center Basketball Court with AON/Dollar Days Huskies taking on STS Bus Company for the first game which will start at 6:30 pm. MDX versus Team Cabalen will play on second game.

On Sunday, June 13, the Team Cavite versus Jooten Selection will play first and in second game ICBL All-Stars versus Team Cabalen and the games will start at 7:30 am.

The winners of these games will play in the afternoon for championship round which will start at 4:00 pm.

Braves...

Continued from page 28

one of the most dramatic baseball endings for the League's Big League Championship crown, in the second game of the day.

Lefty Tito Santos in relief of Josh Muna was very impressive on the mound to seal the game and title.

In their first match-up last May 22, the Expos edged Starz in the bottom of the 7th, 3-2. Last May 31, the Starz avenged the loss and defeated the Expos also in the last inning by a score of 4-3.

Robert Bansil, the League's Batting King assured everyone of his rightful title as he ripped three

hits in the losing effort. Muna is the E.R.A. champion and earned the win while Santos was credited with the save. He is the 1999 Strikeout King with 68 overall.

For Manager Tino Camacho of the Expos, year 2000 will be a different Northern San Roque Expos. He assured the District Administrator that a secret arsenal weapon is about to be born.

Manager Frankie Torres and Head Coach Jerome Salas responded back and greeted Camacho and informed him personally that Robert Bansil will be in Starz uniform next season with a big smile.

NMI Men's... Continued from page 28

with a two-round total of 155. Kim shot an 81 in the first-round and followed with a very good performance in the second round at 74.

Falling behind, in 20th place is Eddie Peter with a two-round total gross 159, followed by Joseph

Camacho in 26th place with a gross 163.

This year's SPG men's golf competition attracted 60 players. Nauru trails the men's individual competition at 223 gross total.

Race...

Continued from page 28

said Race. For Jeff Race taking in a movie is in his immediate plans after the doubles loss.

What will the tennis coach do after retiring from SPG competition? "If I do return for another SPG it'll be as coach," said Race.

For Hannah Borja, her plans for the next SPG is already in mind. "I'll definitely be training and I'll be back," said the 16-year-old

Mount Carmel student But for Minji Kim a return to the softball field is more likely where she'll more often be seen from now on.

"That's it for me. No more tennis," said Minji. Like her teammate Minji Kim is 16-years-old and a student of Mount Carmel.

Still looking for that elusive SPG medal, Cho Chang Hyun will definitely be back on the court preparing for the next SPG. The first thing Hyun plans to do upon his return to Saipan will be to "hit the sack."



The participants in Barny's Under-18 Chess Tournament shake hands as Philippine Labor Representative Araceli Maraya (3rd from left, background) and CNMI Chess Association officers (from left) Lito Bermudes, Almer Santos and Ely G. Buenaventura watch.

Dela Cruz takes the lead in junior chess tourney

MARK David Dela Cruz took the early lead in the 1999 Barny's Cup chess tournament for children under 18, notching two wins in as many rounds.

Dela Cruz's victories came at the expense of Richard Magcalas and Oliver Igisari.

Half-a-point behind Dela Cruz are Paul Magcalas and Mark Ryan Dela Cruz, who share second-third

places. Sponsored by Barny's, the CNMI Chess Association (CCA) and the Philippine Consulate, the round-robin tournament is held every Sunday from 1 to 5 p.m. at the Nauru Building in Susupe.

Interested players can still join the tournament.

Meanwhile, CCA is inviting interested players to join the ac-

tive chess tournament to be held this Sunday, also at the Nauru Building.

For more information, call any of the following: CCA president Ely G. Buenaventura at 234-6070 or 483-1618; CCA vice president Almer I. Santos, 236-3435; and reigning CNMI chess champion Manny Domingo, 235-2030. (zd)

Fiji nabs netball gold

LED BY captain/goalkeeper Vilimaina Davu and hot-shooting Vasiti Vocea, Fiji stormed over Papua New Guinea yesterday to claim the gold in netball in the XI South Pacific Games 60-32.

At the outside courts at George Washington High School, Davu from the start led an aggressive Fiji defense to stifle PNG, running from her position under the basket to tip balls away from PNG offensive players or to intercept their passes.

Feeding off their captain's performance, Fiji began to convert

PNG turnovers into baskets and took an early lead at 6-1. The teams basically traded baskets, but then Fiji began to score twice for every PNG tally, and by the end of the first quarter it was 19-13.

Then the second quarter happened. And it was the beginning of the end for PNG.

Fiji's defense held PNG scoreless for nearly four minutes while the lead raced to 24-14. Vocea did not miss for nearly 10 minutes and tallied on seven consecutive shots as Fiji staked out a commanding lead at the end of the

half, 29-18.

But the second half was more of the same, as Fiji ran off an offensive attack led by center Unaishi Rokoura. Fiji set off on a 12-2 run to lead 41-20 as Vocea continued her hot shooting streak.

Fiji's defense continued to dominate the PNG attack and that, coupled with Vocea's streak shooting was too much to overcome.

Vocea tallied 44 points on 59 attempts, shooting 83 percent of the game.

Also tallying 13 for Fiji was goal attack Lanieta Tuiseese.

Tahiti still unbeaten in volleyball

By Patrick Lujan
For the Variety

DEFENDING gold medal winners Tahiti continued its dominance in men's volleyball in the XI South Pacific Games with a thrilling victory over Fiji, 25-23, 25-22, 25-20. The Tahitians have yet to lose a set in SPG competition at Southern High School.

The Tahitians took advantage of poor passing by Fiji to grasp the victory yesterday. The Fijians' lack of effectiveness with the ball only stoked Tahiti's already high-

powered offense. Led by middle blocker Julien O'Connor and also high-flying outside hitter Etienne Paofai, Tahiti stormed off with the victory. Also contributing was Tahiti's other outside hitter, Marc Vaki.

The Tahiti triumph capped off pool play in volleyball competition, and play continues today in both women's and men's divisions for medal contention.

For the XI South Pacific Games ended yesterday at action at Southern High School.

Tahiti and New Caledonia, winners of their pools in both the men's and women's divisions, are: Today's schedule: In women's games: 10 a.m. - Guam (Pool A - No. 2) vs. PNG (Pool B - No. 3)

Noon - Fiji (Pool B - No. 2) vs. Tonga (Pool A - No. 3)

In men's games: 4 p.m. - Guam (Pool A - No. 2) vs. Wallis and Futuna (Pool B - No. 3)

Little League Baseball

1999 Senior League Division Awards

- 1999 Pennant Champion: Tanapag Braves (7-0 record)
- Runner-Up Champion: Dandan Jets (6-1 record)
- Batting King: Jeremiah Suel - Tanapag Braves (14-24-583)
- Runner-Up: Joseph Borja - Koblerville Hustlers (11-23-478)
- Runs Champion: Jimmy Alikxa - Tanapag Braves (13)
- Runner-Up: Manning Salas - Young Stars, Jeremiah Suel - Tanapag Braves & Dane Lizama - Koblerville Hustlers (10)
- Doubles Champion: Joel Crisostomo - Kautz Glass Glazers, John Tenorio - Dandan Jets, Billy Camacho - Dandan Jets & Joshua Aguon - Kautz Glass Glazers (2)
- Triples Champion: Brady Alikxa - Tanapag Braves & Maynard Cruz - Kautz Glass Glazers (3)
- Runner-Up: Jonathan Camacho - Dandan Jets & Maynard San Nicolas - Tanapag Braves (2)
- Homerun King: Jonathan Camacho - Dandan Jets (1)
- Runs Batted In: Jimmy Alikxa & Jeremiah Suel - Tanapag Braves (8)
- Runner-Up: Ray Dela Cruz - Dandan Jets, Joseph Borja - Koblerville Hustlers & Maynard Cruz - Kautz Glass Glazers (7)
- Earned Runs Average King: Maynard San Nicolas - Tanapag Braves (0.42)
- Runner-Up: Henry Rabauliman - Ol'Aces (33)
- 1999 Sportsmanship: Kautz Glass Glazers
- 1999 Regular Season MVP: Jeremiah Suel - Tanapag Braves
- 1999 Third Place: San Roque D'9ers
- 1999 Championship MVP: Jeremiah Suel - Tanapag Braves (4-7-571-3 RBI's)
- 1999 Runner-Up Champions: Dandan Jets
- 1999 Senior League Champions: Tanapag Braves

1999 Big League Division Awards

- 1999 Pennant Champion: San Vicente Starz (8-3 record)
- Runner-Up: Pirates (7-4 record)
- Batting Champion: Robert Bansil - San Roque Expos (14-33-424)
- Runner-Up: Joshua Muna - San Vicente Starz & Mike Pangelinan - Tanapag Devil Rays (423)
- Runs Champion: Dan Rekesesik - San Roque Expos (14)
- Runner-Up: Robert Bansil - San Roque Expos & Tim Malony Pirates (13)
- Doubles Champion: Len Maratita - San Vicente Starz (6)
- Runner-Up: Tyrone Attao - Pirates (5)
- Triples Champion: James Jones - San Roque Expos & Jonathan Delos Santos - Pirates (3)
- Homerun King: Robert Bansil - San Roque Expos & Joshua Muna - San Vicente Starz (1)
- Runs Batted in Champion: Len Maratita - San Vicente Starz (9)
- Runner-Up: Jonathan Delos Santos - Pirates (8)
- Earned Runs Average King: Joshua Muna - San Vicente Starz (0.45)
- Runner-Up: Tito Santos - San Vicente Starz (0.85)
- Strike Out King: Tito Santos - San Vicente Starz (68)
- Runner-Up: Jerome Delos Santos - Koblerville Hustlers (60)
- 1999 Sportsmanship: San Roque D'9ers
- 1999 Regular Season MVP: Tito Santos - San Vicente Starz
- 1999 Third Place: Koblerville Hustlers
- 1999 Championship MVP: Len Wayne Maratita - San Vicente Starz (4-4-5 RBI's)
- 1999 Runner-Up Champions: San Roque Expos
- 1999 Big League Champions: San Vicente Starz

Race, Sinclair lose to Fiji

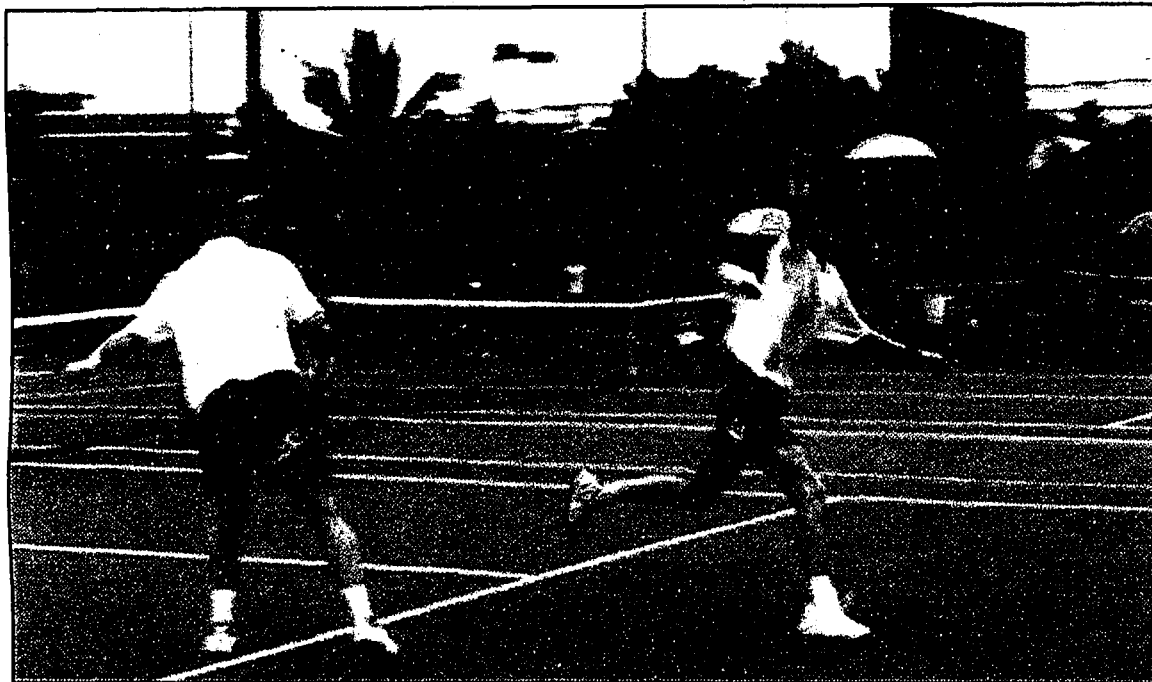
By Tony Cells
Variety News Staff

CNMI'S hopes of a medal in tennis was dashed after Jeff Race and

Peter Sinclair fell, 6—2, 3—6, 1—6 against Tikaram/Morriswala of Fiji, yesterday at Hagatna tennis courts.

"I really though we were going to win," said Sinclair.

"They weren't playing that well in the first set."



CNMI's Jeff Race returns a ball against Fiji's Tikaram/Moriswala in men's doubles yesterday at Hagatna. Fiji won, 6-2, 6-3, 6-1.
Photo by Tony Cells

CNMI paddlers get into semis

By Lalla C. Younis
Variety News Staff

SPIRITS ran high among local paddlers from CNMI and Guam as the 1999 South Pacific Games "Reprecharge" Competition at Matapang Beach closed yesterday, sending them off to the Semi-Finals in several

outrigger events.

Despite the cloudy skies and occasional drizzle, the CNMI Men's Outrigger Team gave it their best shot and qualified for the 500 meter Semi-Final race.

CNMI Paddler Eddie Johnson also grabbed first in the One-Man 500 meter race against Guam,

Palau and FSM, and Ann Jordan of the CNMI Outrigger Women's Team took second. The women paddlers also qualified for the 2,500 meter race.

The Guam Women's Team demonstrated strong will power as they pulled in first in the 500
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Braves, Starz Little League champs

THE TANAPAG Braves and the San Vicente Starz beat separate opponents to win the 1999 Senior League and Big League Championships, respectively, last weekend.

A jam-packed crowd at the Palacios Field saw Braves, also the 1999 Senior League Pennant Champions, edging their archrival power house Dandan Jets 9-8 in extra inning Saturday.

Jimmy Aliksa plated in

Tyrone Phillip in the bottom of the eight for the game's winning run.

It was the Braves' ninth straight win without a loss including the post and final game of the year.

Jeremiah Suei, the Regular and Finals M.V.P., led the Braves tomahawk chop with three hits and scored twice in the winning effort.

Billy Camacho, Ray Dela Cruz and Jessie Aguon led the balanced Jets attack with two hits apiece.

The Jets' loss came only from the hands of the Braves in the season opener back in February 28 by a score of 5-4.

Starz 10, Expos 9

In the Big League, Pennant Champ San Vicente Starz behind All-Star catcher Len Maratita's four hits and five runs batted in proved to be the key for the Starz success in the finals as they edged out the San Roque Expos 10-9 in possibly
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CNMI began losing ground during the second set as the Fijians awoke from their slumber and regained their composure in front of a packed audience.

"We were asleep in the first set. But we started warming up after the (first-set) loss and had to fight back," said Fijian Sanjeev Tikaram.

If the second set was warm-up time for the Fijians the third and final set was hot.

Taking a commanding lead at 0—4 before Race/Sinclair won a point for 1-4. But the Fijians

came right back on the next serve and broke a double duece for point then won game-point on straight serves for the quarter-finals match.

"That's it for us," said Jeff Race.

Although the CNMI didn't win any medals they did come out with seven wins, which is six more than at the last SPG, according to Race.

John Taitano, a Florida university student and playing in his second SPG won two matches.

"I'm really happy for John. In his first SPG he was beat badly,"

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NMI Men's Golf in 3rd

By Tony Cells
Variety News Staff

TEAM-GOLF competition has the CNMI currently in third place after the second-round was played at the Guam International Country Club (GICC) in Dededo.

Team CNMI shot a 239 in the first-round and followed up with effective and better shooting in the second-round with a 226 for a gross 463 score.

Team Fiji takes the lead with gross 453, after a 221 first-round and 232 second-round shooting.

Second place is being held by team New Caledonia with a 455 gross score.

At the heels of CNMI is team Guam in fourth place. Guam shot a 239 in first round and 226 in second-round for gross 465—just two strokes behind CNMI.

American Samoa follows in fifth place at 466 gross. While Norfolk Islands picks up sixth place at 468 gross.

In men's individual competition, CNMI'S Jess Wabol currently is in ninth place after two rounds. Wabol shot a 78 and 76 in the first and second rounds respectively.

One-stroke behind Wabol, in 12th place is CNMI'S Michael Kim
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STS, Saipan Ice win in Mark Shark League

THE 1st Annual Mark Shark basketball tournament opened over the weekend at the Ada Gym with STS Bus Company defeating MDX Radio Communication, 115-62 Saturday.

It was STS second win in a row after it beat the Rosviecar Wild Eagles last week.

Jorge DeGuzman of STS lead the charge with 30 points while Noel Reyes was the leading scorer

for MDX's losing cause with 18 points. It MDX team remains winless

In the other game, Saipan Ice & Water Company remains undefeated after it prevailed over Wild Eagles, 108-89.

Ric Alegre of Saipan Ice & Water Company showed the opponents why he is still one of the best basketball players around.

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