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To serve Saipan, Guam and Palau

Task force eyes 3 more airlines

By Marian A. Maraya
Variety News Staff

THE AVIATION Task Force is set to meet and discuss next week the possibility of tapping three more airlines to service Saipan, Palau, and Guam in light of a reduction in Continental Micronesia's flight services, Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) Board of Directors Chairman Roman Palacios disclosed yesterday.

In an interview, Palacios said the task force has to seriously consider inviting more airlines to provide air transportation services considering that Continental has started phasing out some of its flights.

He said the task force is eyeing



Roman Palacios

Cebu Pacific, Japan Airlines (JAL), and Air Nauru to do direct flights to Saipan.

"We are looking out for the convenience of the passengers," said Palacios.

But Palacios said he fully empathizes with the cost-cutting measures Continental Micronesia is currently administering.

"We can't blame Continental a hundred percent. I understand there is no great market for them, what with the current economic situation," said Palacios.

Palacios further said that the additional airlines would be benefiting many Pacific nations like Palau and the Philippines, to name a few.

"There would be direct Palau-Saipan, Saipan-Palau flights available," said Palacios.

For the first time, the task force is considering bringing in Cebu Pacific, a Philippine-based do-

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DPH expands delivery of health care services

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

FOR THE first time starting tomorrow, the Department of Public Health (DPH) will extend certain critical services until night time in order to address the expanding health needs of the CNMI.

Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, in a statement, said the extension of DPH's service hours for free breast cancer, pelvic and pap smear screenings until night time every Thursday is a fitting response to the administration's goal of reaching out to the whole community.

At the same time, Villagomez said free breast screenings will also be offered in the San Antonio Clinic when its expansion is completed before the end of the year.

"In the near future, we will



Joseph Kevin Villagomez

locate the program away from the congestion of the CHC for more efficiency and privacy, and continue to be open one night a week for those who cannot visit in the daytime.

"This is part of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's promise to expand medical services to the people of our Commonwealth," said

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Dwindling orders bring collections of user fee down

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE GOVERNMENT's user fee revenues from the garment sector has declined by an average of \$189,000 a month, or some \$1.7 million, compared to projected collections since the start of the current fiscal year up to July.

This was due to dwindling orders from the U.S. mainland, according to the Chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means.

"I know for a fact that user fee on garments has decreased," said Rep. Karl T. Reyes (R-Saipan), in an interview yesterday.

Reyes attributed the decline to less production and exported quantity.

User fee collections from the garment sector is among four "top money-makers," Reyes said, along with business gross receipt tax and poker machine fees.

Reyes did not say whether recent reports in the U.S. mainland about alleged widespread labor abuse in the CNMI's garment industry and mounting concerns from leaders in Congress could have caused the decrease in purchase orders.

The decline in user fee revenues has also affected the government's overall collection.

Figures obtained from Reyes showed that actual total collections — \$159 million — was only about \$881,504 higher than the \$158.2 million projected receiv-

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Noel Quitugua, community development specialist from the Indigenous Affairs Office, speaks before GTC Elementary School students about Chamorro traditions as part of Cultural Heritage Month. Photo by Louie C. Alonso

Fund assures of more stable pension system

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

THE NMI Retirement Fund yesterday assured contributing members of a more financially stable pension system following the administration's disclosure that it can meet its monthly obligations to the Fund.

At the same time, Fund acting administrator Fred F. Camacho expressed optimism the govern-

ment will continue to commit regular, scheduled payment to the pension system for the coming fiscal year just like what it did from June to September when it paid a total of \$6.4 million.

The first payment under the four-month plan, was received in June, while the last payment is scheduled for today.

The CNMI government is in arrears with its employers contri-

bution to the Fund. As of June 15, the aggregate amount is about \$24 million, and increasing at an average rate of \$828 every 15 days.

Camacho also said key finance officials in the government are currently tied with the hearing in Congress and therefore, commitment to pay its obligations to the Fund may have to be made right after the said event.

"Members don't have to worry

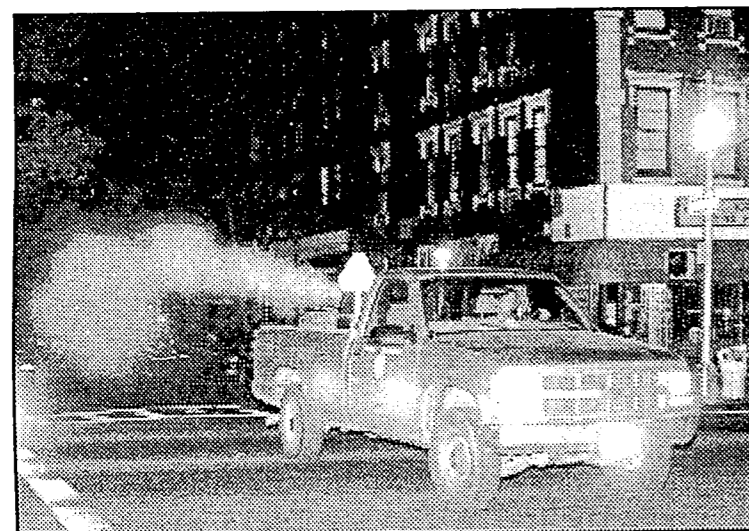
too much. The Fund is in good shape and we are optimistic the government will continue to pay its obligations to the Fund as the revenues are starting to pick up," said Camacho.

Rep. Karl T. Reyes (R-Saipan), chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee disclosed earlier that the government is earning enough rev-

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More encephalitis cases reported

NEW YORK (AP)—Two more cases of potentially deadly encephalitis were reported Monday as the city's battle against virus-carrying mosquitoes continued with additional aerial and ground spraying.



A truck releases an insecticide spray intended to kill mosquitoes in the Manhattan section of New York.

The new illnesses bring the total number of confirmed cases of St. Louis encephalitis to 11, including three deaths. The latest cases — a 15-year-old who has been hospitalized and a 38-year-old who health officials say appears to have recovered — are significantly younger than those previously infected.

"Until now, the youngest person who had a confirmed case was 58 years old," said city Health Department director Neal Cohen. "Younger people, given stronger immune response generally have milder forms of the illness."

The city is awaiting lab results of 65 other people who also may

have been infected, including a 79-year-old woman who died Saturday in Queens. She would be the fourth person to die from the virus if tests prove she died from encephalitis.

St. Louis encephalitis can cause seizure, paralysis and swelling of the brain that is sometimes fatal, especially to infants, the elderly and people with immune deficiency.

Democrats to blame GOP for veto of tax cut bill

WASHINGTON (AP)—After President Clinton vetoes the Republicans' \$792 billion tax cut, the Democrats are going to blame them for the lack of any break for taxpayers.

Or try. That backspin argument from the Democrats will be the next phase of the maneuvering over tax cuts, with Clinton waiting to veto the GOP bill he calls excessive, a risk to vital programs, the surplus and the economy itself. The Senate Republican leader now says that's it, no fallback compromise.

Clinton says he's for "sensible

tax cuts," less than half the size of the GOP measure, and designed to benefit lower and middle income Americans. The administration is willing to bargain up to \$300 billion.

In each case, that would be over 10 years, and taxpayers wouldn't see any big breaks immediately under either version.

There's always the possibility of compromise, but Clinton balked earlier at a \$500 billion cut, which had some Democratic support, a fallback GOP tax cut advocates weren't buying anyhow.

So it's the veto, perhaps later

this week, Republican leaders having held the bill since it passed on Aug. 5 so that Clinton wouldn't be able to reject it while Congress was in its summer recess and he had the stage to himself. Besides, the Republicans said they'd spend the late summer building taxpayer support for their tax cut to put more pressure on Clinton.

But after a month of trying, the polls still put tax cuts far down the list of voter concerns, and showed more people more interested in reducing the national debt. When the question is put as Republicans put it, lower taxes or increased spending, majorities prefer tax cuts.

US wants Security Council seat for Japan

UNITED NATIONS (AP)—Richard Holbrooke, the new U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, said he intends to campaign vigorously for Japan to get a permanent seat on the U.N. Security Council.

He also said he believes the U.S.-Japanese relationship is the most important in the world for the United States.

Holbrooke went to Japan's U.N. Mission on Monday for an official meeting and press conference with Japan's U.N. Ambassador Yukio Satoh, whom he described as his oldest and closest friend among the more than 180 envoys to the world body.

"I want to express my personal and my official congratulations," Satoh said.

Holbrooke, who presented his credentials last week after waiting more than a year to fill the post, recalled that when he was assistant secretary of state for East Asian and Pacific affairs in the Carter administration, Satoh was at Japan's Foreign Ministry.

News briefs

Cuba calls for sanctions against US

HAVANA (AP)—Cuba's National Assembly began its session Monday by lashing out at the United States, calling for sanctions against the neighboring nation for its long-standing "genocidal" embargo against the communist island.

In a lengthy proclamation read by National Assembly President Ricardo Alarcon, the legislative body stated that "the economic blockade imposed by the United States of America on Cuba constitutes an act of genocide."

"This full-fledged blockade, shamelessly and euphemistically referred to in official terms with the apparently innocuous word 'embargo,' has been progressively intensified throughout the last 40 years," the declaration read.

Gingrich gets divorce deal

ATLANTA (AP)—Former House Speaker Newt Gingrich has reached a divorce agreement with his wife. The Atlanta Journal-Constitution reported Tuesday.

The confidential agreement between Gingrich and his wife Marianne was reached Monday and "gives them both support to live off of," said Randy Evans, Gingrich's attorney.

Mrs. Gingrich's attorney, John Mayoue, told the newspaper that an agreement was reached, but would give no details.

The agreement was reached prior to a Thursday hearing that was expected to attract national media, especially after the disclosure of Gingrich's relationship with a 33-year-old congressional aide, Callista Bisek of Virginia.

Credit card protection scheme eyed

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal regulators are taking aim at companies that try fraudulently to sell credit cardholders unnecessary protection from unauthorized charges.

The Federal Trade Commission is announcing cases against several companies Tuesday alleging they misled people into thinking they needed more protection than the law provides to keep from being held liable for card charges they did not make. According to the FTC, the businesses bilked consumers out of \$25 million by exploiting fears of card theft, loss or Y2K-related problems.

The attorneys general of Illinois, Ohio, Arizona, Florida, West Virginia and Wisconsin plan similar actions, FTC officials said.

World Bank says will needed for AIDS fight

LUSAKA (Reuters)—The World Bank on Monday told African governments that money was not enough to stem the spread of AIDS and that Africa required commitment and leadership for its campaign against the disease to succeed.

"It's not money alone that will resolve this crisis, it must take political commitment. Governments must lead and the international community must be prepared to support them," Callisto Madavo, World Bank Vice President for Africa, told Reuters in an interview.

Madavo is in Zambia for the International Conference on AIDS and Sexually Transmitted Diseases (ICASA).

Mitchell to push anew for N. Ireland accord

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP)—The American architect of last year's Good Friday peace accord for Northern Ireland resumed his mission Monday to rescue the historic but increasingly troubled agreement.

But even as former U.S. Sen. George Mitchell was unpacking his bags, the major Protestant party — whose support is essential for the Good Friday accord to work — was struggling to keep hard-line members from openly rebelling.

After an emotion-packed three-hour meeting of his senior members, Ulster Unionist Party leader David Trimble announced that his leadership remained "rock solid." The price for continued party unity, however, was for Trimble to condemn plans to reform the province's predominantly Protestant police force. That is an important plank of the peace accord.

Panama police defy Colombian paramilitary threat

PANAMA CITY (Reuters)—The head of Panama's security forces promised on Monday to maintain security on the border with Colombia despite threats by Colombian paramilitary groups to attack Panamanian police.

Right-wing paramilitaries and leftist guerrillas from Colombia's civil war have spilled across the border in recent months into Panama's Darien Gap, an isolated forest region linking Central and South America.

CUC rates lowest in Pacific

By Marian A. Maraya
Variety News Staff

AMONG many public utilities in the Asia-Pacific, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) has been pinpointed as the utility which charges the least in residential rates, during the recent Pacific Power Association (PPA) meet held in Pohnpei, CUC Board Chairperson Rosario M. Elameto recently disclosed.

The 8th PPA meet last month was attended by several CUC officials and according to Elameto, CUC was honored to learn that CUC is most efficient in that it charges the least rates in the Pacific for residential customers.

"Utilities offering low income or indigent rates charge 11 cents per kilowatt and as you know, our regular rate is 11 cents per kilowatt.

"Therefore CUC already charges residential customers a rate classified for the indigent or low income by most Pacific utilities," said Elameto.

"CUC also offers the customer friendly rate structures while other utility rates are extremely complicated and hard to figure out," she added.

Meanwhile, at the meet, CUC Executive Director was unanimously elected as the Chairman

of the PPA among a competitive field of highly qualified managers in the Asian-Pacific region.

Villagomez, according to Elameto, will lead the association into the next millennium by improving uniform standards, reliability, customer service, communications, maintenance, and employee training.

The term for the coveted chairmanship is three years.

Elameto and the rest of the CUC board of directors, including Villagomez and CUC's Legal Counsel, Asst. Atty. General William Ohle, are set to attend the Policymaker's Training in San Francisco this week.

The training is being held under the American Public Power Association (APPA), an organization headquartered in Washington D.C. APPA is a leading utility education association.

Witness: Alien smuggling boat's passengers bore bruise marks

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

A U.S. COAST Guard interpreter yesterday testified that some of the Chinese passengers of a fishing vessel which was intercepted last May near Guam had visible injuries.

At the ongoing jury trial in federal court against six defendants in the alleged human smuggling case, the U.S. Coast Guard Chinese interpreter said he observed at least 15 passengers with bruise marks at different parts of the body.

The interpreter, who was among those U.S. Coast Guard staff that first inspected the boat, described the injuries as about two to three inches long and two days old.

Assistant U.S. Attorney Gregory Baka during Monday's opening arguments told a panel of jurors that they will hear from witnesses, including six passengers of the vessel, testimonies about some of the passengers beaten up by the so-called enforcers.

Court records showed that the U.S. Coast Guard authorities intercepted the fishing vessel carry-

ing 51 undocumented Chinese near Guam last May 29.

Court documents stated that as many as 15 passengers had been severely beaten up by the "enforcers" while enroute to Guam.

The purpose of the beatings, court papers said, was to get the smuggled aliens to call back to their families in China to have them make a large payment on the smuggling.

The U.S. Coast Guard interpreter stated that he had also observed one passenger lying on the floor.

The passenger appeared semi-conscious, the interpreter added.

The U.S. government's witness was still on the stand when the Variety left the courtroom yesterday during the trial for the six defendants led by Jian Hui Xue.

The defendants were indicted with conspiracy to commit an offense against the U.S.—alien smuggling for financial gain, attempted alien smuggling for financial gain, and attempted alien smuggling to a place other than a designated port.

Babauta: New law does not allow DOLI to revoke permit

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE CHAIR of the House Committee on Commerce and Tourism, who has also authored the vetoed House Bill 11-409, yesterday expressed hopes the Department of Labor and Immigration (DOLI) allows smaller companies in garment factory mergers to retain their permits.

In an interview, Rep. Oscar M. Babauta (R-Saipan) insisted that Public Law 11-76, known as the "garment addition" law, does not allow DOLI to revoke licenses of smaller garment factories that have entered into a merger with bigger ones.

"There is nothing in the provisions of the law that says you cannot recruit nor replace a worker if you change your license name. That is a corporate decision of the company," explained Babauta.

Babauta said he will be discussing the matter with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio when the latter returns from the US mainland.

Tenorio vetoed the bill before

he left.

In doing so, the governor explained he is "concerned (HB 11-409) would undermine intentions of PL 11-76 as well as PL 11-6 (the hiring moratorium law) and... create an environment in which the total number of alien workers in the garment industry will never be reduced."

"It's vetoed but I am waiting for the governor to return so that I can explain the real intent of the bill (which) is to allow further continuation of these companies to operate under new management even with a merger," said Babauta.

"The bottom line is the whole number, the figures remain the same. You can't exceed what is already established in PL 11-76," he added.

The DOLI has been maintaining that a company "absorbed" in the merger loses its guest workers' permits.

Such understanding however, is "incorrect" and may be challenged in court, according to House legal counsel Stephen MacKenzie.

Sablan signs two bills into law

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

ACTING Gov. Jesus R. Sablan has signed into law proposed measures addressing pending problems on land matters and allowing retirees to receive survivor benefits in addition to any retirement and other benefits.

House Bill 11-432, introduced by House Minority Leader Dino M. Jones (D-Saipan), seeks to address an "unfair and unanticipated problem" with the commonwealth retirement system.

"Currently," stated the bill, "a Class I employee member of the retirement system cannot receive both their own earned retirement benefits and any survivor's benefits due him or her on account of the death of a spouse."

No such restrictions exist on Class II members, according to



Jesus R. Sablan

the bill.

In signing HB 11-432 into Public Law 11-95, Sablan said survivor's benefits is an "entitlement of an eligible surviving spouse of a Fund member."

"Therefore, no eligible survivor who is also a Fund member, should be forced to elect between

his or her earned benefits or the survivor's benefits. The surviving eligible spouse is entitled to both benefits," said Sablan.

Sablan also approved Senate Bill 11-135 which adds teeth to a homestead law allowing the Division of Public Lands (DPL) to waive requirements, limitations or regulations in connection to agricultural homesteading program in effect prior to Jan. 9, 1978.

In approving S.B. 11-135 into Public Law 11-96, Sablan said the measure will provide legal basis for DPL and the Board of Public Lands to address pending problems regarding land matters which involved the land that was taken away from various individuals by the U.S. Military or the Trust Territory administration.

Youth Congress election slated for Monday

By Marian A. Maraya
Variety News Staff

ONLY six more days to go until the CNMI youth elects members to their Congress yet there is not much sign of political activity evident in the community.

Unlike the past year where youth candidates put out campaign posters and maximized their chances of getting sufficient votes, this year, the candidates have apparently decided to tone it down on campaign schemes.

But whether the candidates campaigned or not, the Youth Congress elections are on and set for Monday, Sept. 20, according to Youth Congress clerk Nancy Sanchez.

The Youth Congress last year recorded slightly over a thousand registered voters, said Sanchez.

Registered voters last year not need worry about registering this year, according to the Youth Congress.

Eligible voters are those that have attained the age of 14, who will be 21 prior to the expiration of his/her term, who has not been convicted of a felony or crime involving moral turpitude, or who has received pardon restoring his/her civil rights.

Precinct voters must be a resident of their respective precinct for at least ten months prior to the election date.

Student voters must be enrolled either full time or part time in their

respective schools.

The voter registration has been completed last Aug. 20 but the Youth Congress has yet to reveal the exact number of additional voters who registered for the year.

The CNMI Youth Congress was created to provide a system which would allow the youth to prepare to meet the challenges of the future.

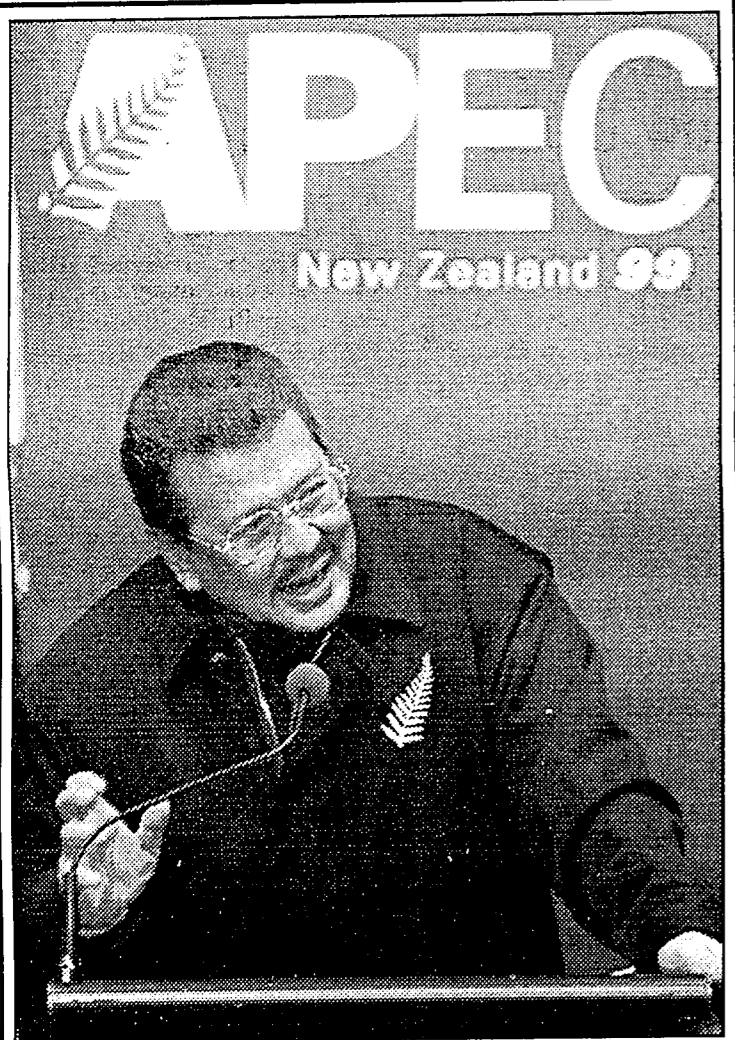
This is said to be an opportunity for the youth to voice their concerns and act on those concerns by creating their own legislation and/or resolutions to address any problems that affect them directly.

The Youth Congress is intended to foster leadership and familiarity with the legislative and election process among the youth.



GTC Elementary School students sit in amazement as they take part in a Cultural Heritage Month activity in school yesterday.

Photo by Louie C. Alonso



Erap at APEC. Philippine President Joseph Estrada gestures at a news conference in Auckland following the conclusion of the APEC Leaders' Summit. The President talked about the Philippines' commitment to join the UN peace-keeping forces in East Timor. AP

BOE designates polling places

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

THE BOARD of Elections has identified 13 designated polling places for the upcoming Nov. 6 midterm elections.

San Antonio Elementary School is the polling precinct for election district 1-A. San Vicente Elementary School for district 1-B, Koblerville Elementary School for 1-C, and Kagman Agriculture Station for 1-D.

For election district 2, BOE designated William S. Reyes Elementary School.

Oleai Elementary School and Garapan Elementary School are the designated polling places for election district 3-A and 3-B respectively.

For election district 4, the designated polling places are Tanapag Elementary School (A), Gregorio T. Camacho Elementary School (B), and the House of Representatives Chamber (C).

Tinian Elementary School will be the lone polling place for election district 5, as well as Rota High School for election district 6.

For section 9 voters, BOE designates Oleai Elementary School to be the proper polling place.

Meanwhile, the board has certified another Saipan senatorial candidate Ramon S. Guerrero (Kumoi) from the former governor Froilan

C. Tenorio-led CNMI Reform Party ticket.

BOE also clarified that it projects 14,000 registered voters this November, not 16,000 as earlier reported.

The rest of the candidates from the Democratic Party and Republican Party will be officially filing nominating petitions this afternoon at the BOE office.

PDO questions police interrogation anew

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE PUBLIC Defender's Office has questioned anew the police's interrogation of a detained Filipino as it was done without informing the Philippine Consulate Office.

Assistant Public Defender Daniel C. Bowen said such conduct violates the reasons underlying the notification requirement of the Vienna Convention.

Bowen raised again the Vienna Convention issue in PDO's motion to suppress defendant Edgar Jamison's statement taken last May 15 by police officers who were investigating a stabbing and robbery case.

Bowen stressed that Jamison's statement should be suppressed so that it may not be used at trial as it violates the Covenant and Jamison's right to due process.

According to court records, Ernest and Thelma Strange, owners of Club Jama, were confronted and later attacked by two men last May 9.

Ernest received injuries to his leg after he was allegedly stabbed

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Ingram fires traffic policeman

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

A TRAFFIC officer has been sacked reportedly by Public Safety Commissioner Charles W. Ingram Jr. over an administrative case involving misconduct in public office.

Police Officer III Joaquin Camacho was terminated effective last September 8. He was asked to turn in his firearm, badge, and other government issues.

The termination letter was dated September 7 with effectivity set for the following day. It was not known whether the officer had appealed his termination.

Being appointing authority, Ingram had decided to give full effect to the adverse action (termination) as originally proposed after he upheld the allegations hurled against Camacho.

The traffic officer was charged administratively for misconduct and theft arising allegedly from his unauthorized presence in a poker



Charles W. Ingram Jr.

house while he was on duty. Ingram said that Camacho, through his lawyer had admitted his presence at the establishment, but that it was on the instruction of his shift supervisor. The latter, however, denied giving such order.

Camacho's supervisor, who was not named, allegedly even briefed the officers including the sacked policeman not to leave their assigned beats or zones unless needed and approved by him. Ingram said Camacho never

called the Central (DPS) to inform it of his location or even his presence at the poker house as required.

Officers are ordered to call Central every 15 to 30 minutes while on duty.

The commissioner also said the record showed that Camacho had been assigned at another beat and his presence at the establishment was a proof that he abandoned his zone without approval from the supervisor.

Ingram did not buy Camacho's reasoning that the witness against him and the officer who investigated the case were relatives.

He said that the officer has never shown any sign of favoritism or bias against any suspect or victim. The officer, according to him performs his job with integrity and fairness.

Ingram advised Camacho to appeal his termination with the Civil Service Commission if he deems it necessary.

Babauta: Easy to sell FTZ idea

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

REPRESENTATIVE Oscar M. Babauta (R-Saipan) yesterday said he is "very convinced" the free trade zone body can "sell" the site to foreign investors despite proposed measures requiring federal wage rates for workers.

Babauta's remarks came at the heels of observations made by some officials who noted that businessmen would be less attracted to a CNMI free trade zone than they will be in Asian free trade zones, for instance, where they can have more for their dollars.

Paying free trade zone workers the federal rate would mean

a higher production cost compared to operating a factory at a Philippine special economic zone, officials cited.

"I am very convinced that the seller of the free trade zone... I am very convinced that they can be able to sell the FTZ program," said Babauta in an interview.

At the same time, Babauta said there is "sufficient labor and immigration laws" guaranteeing that no loophole in the hiring moratorium law will be caused by the proposed measure establishing the free trade zone.

"It does not necessarily create a loophole" because primarily if those employees are to be recruited off island, that means they will have to comply with present

labor laws," said Babauta.

Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez (R-Saipan) has earlier said guest workers at the zone could eventually find their way illegally employed at establishments outside the site, thereby causing the number of guest workers in the commonwealth — estimated to be at 30,000 — to swell further, to the anticipated dismay of the federal government.

Senate President Paul A. Mangiona (R-Rota) has said the Senate will "expeditiously" act on House Bill 389 — the free trade zone bill.

Senators however moved to hold passage of the bill for further deliberation last week.

CDC sees difficulty in poisoning case lab tests

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

THE ATLANTA-based U.S. Centers for Disease Control is currently having difficulty concluding its laboratory findings on food samples taken from the March food poisoning incident on Saipan which downed 1,167 Chinese garment workers, the Department of Public Health (DPH) disclosed yesterday.

However, while CDC is facing problems in its laboratory tests, it is making progress in analyzing

the results of the survey conducted among some 2,000 workers from the same garment company.

Ed Diaz, DPH's lone epidemiologist, said CDC is having problems with the food samples taken from the canteen that served the victims either because "there is not enough food sample or they did not find anything unusual."

"But everything is going on smoothly as far as the survey is concerned," he said, adding that the survey is "a little bit more powerful than the laboratory

tests."

The results of the survey will pinpoint the culprit behind the massive food poisoning, and will help prevent another outbreak of the same nature in the CNMI.

Diaz also explained that even if CDC finds organisms on the food samples, that doesn't mean it's the cause of the food poisoning as many factors are involved. He said CDC is somehow focusing much on the survey.

Diaz, however, said that it re-

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Fuel price hike going under House scrutiny

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

A KEY member of House of Representatives has taken issue with the recent fuel price adjustments by oil giants Mobil and Shell.

Rep. David M. Apatang (R-Saipan), chairman of the House committee on public utilities, transportation and communication yesterday wrote the two oil companies to air his concerns about their pricing.

"Our gasoline and diesel prices have always been significantly higher than Guam's," said Apatang in his letter to Shell Guam general manager Ken Smuin and Mobil Oil Marianas President/GM Tim Glath.

"I have asked the Attorney General to look into this issue and



David M. Apatang

determine if the consumers of the CNMI are being treated fairly," he said.

Apatang also asked the two officials if they can establish self-service stations on Saipan and whether prices of gasoline could

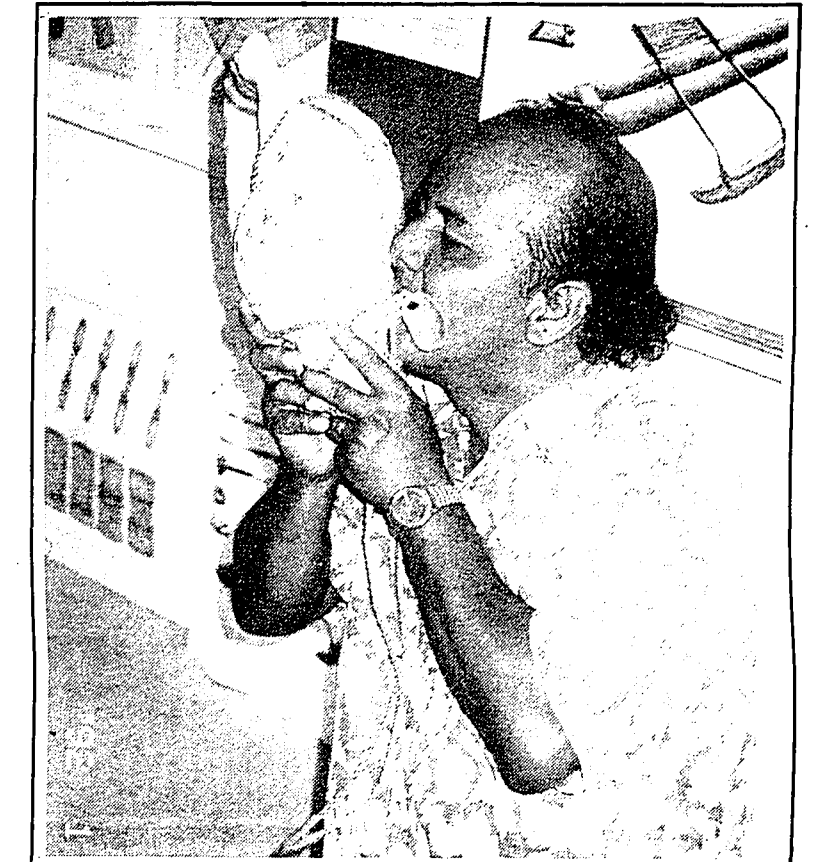
be lowered once "self service stations" are introduced here.

Mobil Oil Marianas raised fuel prices by five to six cents a gallon less than a month ago. Shell Marianas followed suit shortly thereafter.

Mobil said the hike was spawned by spiraling product costs which was brought about by the increase of oil prices in the Singapore regional market.

Aside from this, Mobil Vice President and Sales Manager Abi Adigun also said that regional refineries have been cutting back production which has led to the about 25-cent a gallon increase since the beginning of this year.

According to Apatang, his committee is now on the process of reviewing the increase.



IAO's Noel Quitugua demonstrates how to blow a conch shell during a Cultural Heritage Month activity at GTC Elementary.

Photo by Louie C. Alonso

Guam chemical canisters off to Johnston

By Eric F. Say
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Carl T.C. Gutierrez has received word from the U.S. Department of Defense that the 16 Chemical Agent Identification Sets (CAIS) recently found on the Santos property in Mongmong have been transported to Johnston Atoll for disposal.

The recovered canisters are of World War II vintage and contain substances classified as chemical warfare material.

Federal law provides that obsolete World War II munitions or agents found in the Pacific

War Campaign Theater can be flown for ultimate disposal to the small Western Pacific Atoll.

The Pentagon said the canisters contain no more than 360 milliliters of sulfur mustard, which is a blister agent, and about the same amount of another blister agent called Lewisite.

The army base on Johnston Atoll is equipped to safely store these substances until final disposal can be arranged.

"Dedicated military aircraft will be used to transport the canisters from Guam and they will be accompanied by U.S.

Army Technical Escort Unit from Guam," the Pentagon said.

Regional leaders, including Hawaii Gov. Ben Cayetano, have been notified of the transportation plan and that all-precautionary measures necessary to protect human health and safety have been implemented.

Gutierrez met recently with officials from the Defense Department, providing them with documents that may indicate where other possible chemical agents may have been dumped after the war.

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Wednesday, September 15

DEEP BLUE SEA	R
5:00 • 7:30 • 10:30 pm.	
HAUNTING	PG-13
4:45 • 7:15 • 10:00 pm.	
IRON GIANT	PG
7:00 p.m.	
MYSTERY MEN	PG-13
4:30 • 9:45 pm.	
BOWFINGER	PG-13
5:00 • 7:30 • 10:00 pm	
AMERICAN PIE	R
5:15 • 7:45 • 10:30 p.m.	
THOMAS CROWN AFFAIR	PG
4:45 • 7:15 • 10:15 p.m.	
MISS KRISTINA MORAN	NR
4:30 • 7:00 • 10:15 p.m.	

24 HOUR SHOWTIME: 234-9000

FSM official wins award

KOSRAE (Pacnews)—A conservation officer from the state of Kosrae in the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) has been named the "1999 Indigenous Conservationist of the Year" by the Seacology Foundation.

The officer, Madison Nena, works for the Kosrae's Utwe-Walung Conservation Area Marine Park.

The park is a local eco-tourism project supported by the villages of Utwe and Walung to promote conservation and provide education on the environment. Under the project, Kosrae's natural rainforest, mangrove and coral reef ecosystems are shared with visitors through guided tours of the park.

The Seacology Foundation said the award to Nena, recognises "heroic achievement by an indigenous leader".

The foundation will honour Nena at a special ceremony in Hawaii in December.

The Seacology Foundation is a non-profit organisation dedicated to the preservation of the South Pacific's rainforest, ecosystems and island cultures.

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7.38%	3 MOS	\$ 1000	→ @ 7.38%	\$ 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	→ @ 7.88%	\$ 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	→ @ 8.25%	\$ 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	→ @ 8.75%	\$ 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	→ @ 9.00%	\$ 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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The United States has made great strides to become Y2K compliant, but other countries are far behind where they need to be. According to the Senate committee, the countries that pose the greatest danger to their populations, and to world stability, are China, Japan, Russia and Italy. The Russians are so nervous about the possibility of errant missiles being fired that they will soon announce their participation in a new nuclear tracking site in Colorado Springs called the Center

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The 20th century—10 great achievements

A SERIES of articles is now being released by the United States Center for Disease Control (CDC). The series is titled: "Ten Great Public Health Achievements — 1900-1999." I will share some of these achievements with you over the next several weeks.

There have been a lot of important discoveries during this century, and anyone trying to pick "the ten greatest" will certainly have a difficult time. I am not sure I agree with the CDC, but here is their list:

1. Vaccinations;
2. Motor-vehicle safety;
3. Safer workplaces;
4. Control of infectious diseases;
5. Decline in deaths from coronary heart disease and stroke;
6. Safer and healthier foods;
7. Healthier mothers and babies;
8. Family planning;
9. Fluoridation of drinking water;
10. Recognition of tobacco as a health hazard.

Vaccinations are dear to my pediatrician heart, and have resulted in the elimination of smallpox, elimination of polio in much of the world, and control of measles, tetanus, diphtheria, and hemophilus influenzae, type B.

Motor-vehicle safety has led to enormous reductions in deaths and injury from auto accidents. Seat belt use, better auto design and improved roads have all contributed.

Work-related diseases, such as "Black Lung" disease in coal miners, silicosis and injuries from unsafe workplaces, have all been dramatically reduced.

Infectious disease control has come from many improvements. Better sanitation, cleaner water and the discovery of antibiotics have all played important roles.

Coronary heart disease and strokes.

Deaths from coronary heart disease and stroke are much less now. Part of this is due to better detection and treatment, and part to lifestyle changes to prevent these killers.

Safer and more nutritious foods.

Better and safer foods have eliminated vitamin deficiencies in many parts of the world. Many diseases caused by unclean foods have been eliminated or controlled by better food handling and pro-

cessing.

Infant and mother health. There have been amazing reductions in the deaths of mothers and infants. Better nutrition, better and more accessible care along with advances in knowledge have all contributed to this 90-99 percent improvement.

Family planning.

Expanded opportunities for women as well as the social and economic implications of smaller and healthier families have resulted from increased knowledge and use of family planning.

Fluoridation. Water fluoridation has reduced dental disease in both children and adults since it began in 1945.

Tobacco.

The recognition of tobacco as a health hazard has resulted in massive campaigns to reduce the use and abuse of this substance. The campaigns are working.

These are their 10 choices. What are yours? I will be writing about each of these in detail over the next few months.

As we approach the end of this century, it is good to remind ourselves that we have done some things right.

OPINION

Indonesia's promises

A BREAK in the slaughter is now a live prospect in East Timor as a result of the decision announced yesterday by Indonesian president B. J. Habibie. Or is it? Mr. Habibie invited the United Nations to send an international peacekeeping force of "friendly" nations — presumably a force heavy with fellow Asians — to protect the population of East Timor, to restore security and order there and — of highest importance — to put into effect the results of the referendum of Aug. 30. In that balloting, an overwhelming 80 percent of the electorate opted for independence from Indonesia, which invaded, terrorized and annexed the former longtime Portuguese colony 25 years ago.

The instant question, however, is whether President Habibie is in a position to enforce his decision on the Indonesian army, which is, depending on the author or the co-conspirator, with the local militias, of the ravaging of East Timor in and after the referendum two weeks ago. Or could it be that his announcement yesterday was calculated by him, or will be exploited by hypernationalist elements in the armed forces, to justify a strategy of delayed and limited implementation?

The authorities surely are concerned to derail the economic and other sanctions that many countries, and the United Nations, have threatened to put into

play. In the confusion the Indonesian armed forces conceivably could try to consolidate their grip on East Timor and especially to block the return of the tens of thousands of East Timorese who have been driven out of their country since the referendum.

The vagueness and equivocation about peacekeepers that marked the remarks of Gen. Wiranto, chief of the armed forces, can only feed the general suspicion about his political intentions in this crisis. His murderous conduct in East Timor has cost him any claim to the slightest confidence either of the East Timorese or of the international players. Certainly it is far too early to take sanctions off the table; they are essential to see to the proper enforcement of the Habibie commitments.

President Clinton was reported to be pleased by the Habibie peacekeeping pledges, which the United States had a diplomatic hand in eliciting. His national security adviser, Sandy Berger, said yesterday that the American role would be confined to airlift, logistics, transportation and communications.

Mr. Berger said he did not envision American participation in "infantry," the branch of military operations most associated with the possibility of casualties. The avoidance of casualties may help knit up American

public and congressional support for participation in this operation but can't be the defining goal of any peacekeeping mission.

Leadership of the peacekeepers is falling to Australia, which has its own high-level interests in stabilizing that Pacific quarter, in preempting large inflows of refugees from nearby Timor and, inevitably, in living with Indonesia afterward. That Australia has been a loyal and useful American ally through the 20th century's thick and thin played a part in determining the Clinton administration to join the Timor peacekeeping team, and should have. Cooperation with and deference to local allies ought to be a standard part of American policy in dealing with regional crises.

What is urgent now is Indonesia's prompt and full delivery on President Habibie's promise to undo all that can be undone of Indonesia's atrocities — atrocities that are not yet at an end. Indonesia met the near-universal call for an independence referendum in East Timor with ghastly killing, looting and burning. Its record puts it under a strict obligation to allow relief and freedom for its victim. Otherwise, it will earn penalties burdening and isolating a country that itself desperately needs the cooperation and company of the rest of the world.

(Washington Post)

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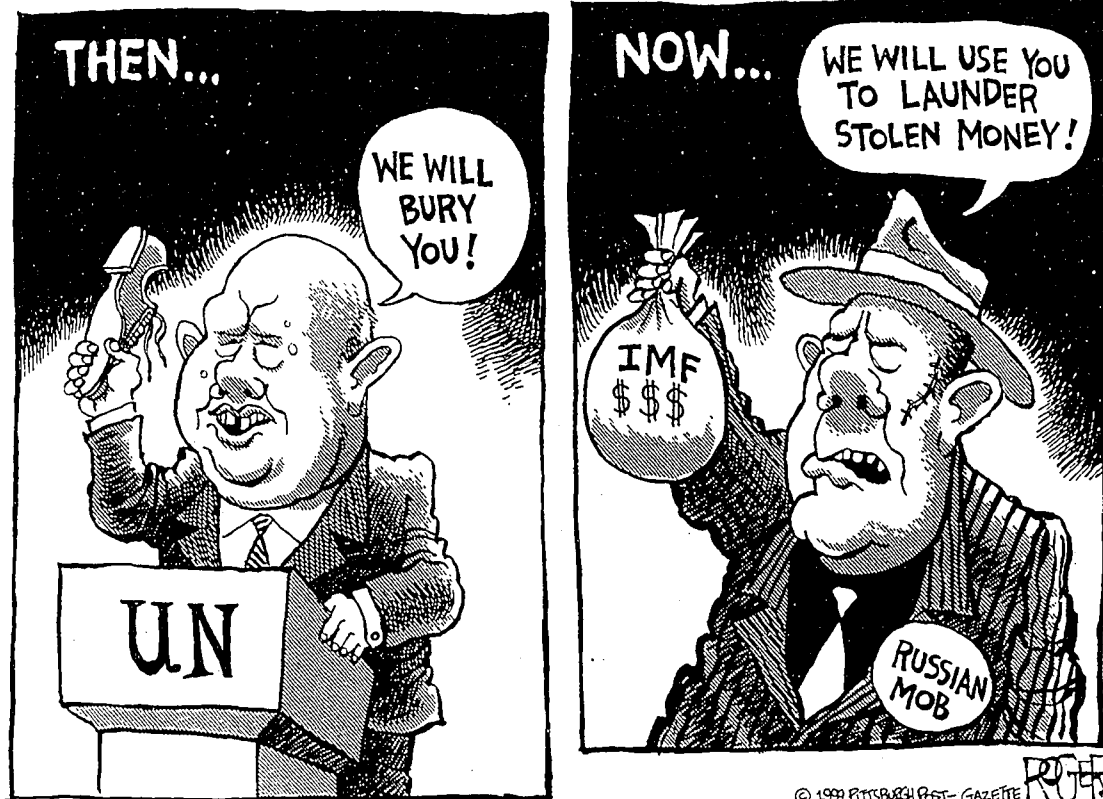
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"North Korea will never say for how long it will put off the missile launch and will never promise not to launch," said Satoshi Morimoto, a senior analyst with Nomura Research Institute. "The tentative agreement is good, but the big issues have been postponed, that's all."

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The 20th century—10 great achievements

A SERIES of articles is now being released by the United States Center for Disease Control (CDC). The series is titled: "Ten Great Public Health Achievements — 1900-1999." I will share some of these achievements with you over the next several weeks.

There have been a lot of important discoveries during this century, and anyone trying to pick "the ten greatest" will certainly have a difficult time. I am not sure I agree with the CDC, but here is their list:

1. Vaccinations;
2. Motor-vehicle safety;
3. Safer workplaces;
4. Control of infectious diseases;
5. Decline in deaths from coronary heart disease and stroke;
6. Safer and healthier foods;
7. Healthier mothers and babies;
8. Family planning;
9. Fluoridation of drinking water;
10. Recognition of tobacco as a health hazard.

1. Vaccinations. Vaccinations are dear to my pediatrician heart, and have resulted in the elimination of smallpox, elimination of polio in much of the world, and control of measles, tetanus, diphtheria, and hemophilus influenza, type B.

2. Motor-vehicle safety. Motor-vehicle safety has led to enormous reductions in deaths and injury from auto accidents. Seat belt use, better auto design and improved roads have all contributed.

3. Safer workplaces. Work-related diseases, such as "Black Lung" disease in coal miners, silicosis and injuries from unsafe workplaces, have all been dramatically reduced.

4. Infectious diseases. Infectious disease control has come from many improvements. Better sanitation, cleaner water and the discovery of antibiotics have all played important roles.

5. Coronary heart disease and strokes. Deaths from coronary heart disease and stroke are much less now. Part of this is due to better detection and treatment, and part to lifestyle changes to prevent these killers.

6. Safer and more nutritious foods.

Better and safer foods have eliminated vitamin deficiencies in many parts of the world. Many diseases caused by unclean foods have been eliminated or controlled by better food handling and pro-

cessing. 7. Infant and mother health. There have been amazing reductions in the deaths of mothers and infants. Better nutrition, better and more accessible care along with advances in knowledge have all contributed to this 90-99 percent improvement.

8. Family planning. Expanded opportunities for women as well as the social and economic implications of smaller and healthier families have resulted from increased knowledge and use of family planning.

9. Fluoridation. Water fluoridation has reduced dental disease in both children and adults since it began in 1945.

10. Tobacco. The recognition of tobacco as a health hazard has resulted in massive campaigns to reduce the use and abuse of this substance. The campaigns are working.

These are their 10 choices. What are yours? I will be writing about each of these in detail over the next few months.

As we approach the end of this century, it is good to remind ourselves that we have done some things right.

OPINION

Indonesia's promises

A BREAK in the slaughter is now a live prospect in East Timor as a result of the decision announced yesterday by Indonesian president B. J. Habibie. Or is it? Mr. Habibie invited the United Nations to send an international peacekeeping force of "friendly" nations — presumably a force heavy with fellow Asians — to protect the population of East Timor, to restore security and order there and — of highest importance — to put into effect the results of the referendum of Aug. 30. In that balloting, an overwhelming 80 percent of the electorate opted for independence from Indonesia, which invaded, terrorized and annexed the former longtime Portuguese colony 25 years ago.

The instant question, however, is whether President Habibie is in a position to enforce his decision on the Indonesian army, which is, depending, the author or the co-conspirator, with the local militias, of the ravaging of East Timor in and after the referendum two weeks ago. Or could it be that his announcement yesterday was calculated by him, or will be exploited by hypernationalist elements in the armed forces, to justify a strategy of delayed and limited implementation?

The authorities surely are concerned to derail the economic and other sanctions that many countries, and the United Nations, have threatened to put into

play. In the confusion the Indonesian armed forces conceivably could try to consolidate their grip on East Timor and especially to block the return of the tens of thousands of East Timorese who have been driven out of their country since the referendum.

The vagueness and equivocation about peacekeepers that marked the remarks of Gen. Wiranto, chief of the armed forces, can only feed the general suspicion about his political intentions in this crisis. His murderous conduct in East Timor has cost him any claim to the slightest confidence either of the East Timorese or of the international players. Certainly it is far too early to take sanctions off the table; they are essential to see to the proper enforcement of the Habibie commitments.

President Clinton was reported to be pleased by the Habibie peacekeeping pledges, which the United States had a diplomatic hand in eliciting. His national security adviser, Sandy Berger, said yesterday that the American role would be confined to airlift, logistics, transportation and communications.

Mr. Berger said he did not envision American participation in "infantry," the branch of military operations most associated with the possibility of casualties. The avoidance of casualties may help knit up American

public and congressional support for participation in this operation but can't be the defining goal of any peacekeeping mission.

Leadership of the peacekeepers is falling to Australia, which has its own high-level interests in stabilizing that Pacific quarter, in preempting large inflows of refugees from nearby Timor and, inevitably, in living with Indonesia afterward. That Australia has been a loyal and useful American ally through the 20th century's thick and thin played a part in determining the Clinton administration to join the Timor peacekeeping team, and should have, Cooperation with and deference to local allies ought to be a standard part of American policy in dealing with regional crises.

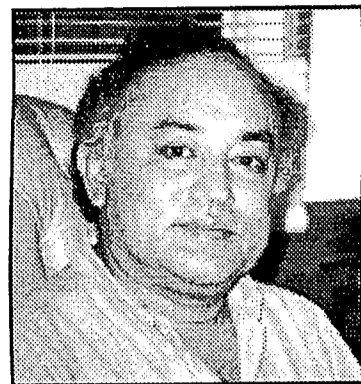
What is urgent now is Indonesia's prompt and full delivery on President Habibie's promise to undo all that can be undone of Indonesia's atrocities — atrocities that are not yet at an end. Indonesia met the near-universal call for an independence referendum in East Timor with ghastly killing, looting and burning. Its record puts it under a strict obligation to allow relief and freedom for its victim. Otherwise, it will earn penalties burdening and isolating a country that itself desperately needs the cooperation and company of the rest of the world.

(Washington Post)

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CPA awaiting support on transshipment plan

By Marian A. Maraya
Variety News Staff
THE COMMONWEALTH Ports Authority (CPA) is presently awaiting decision from the Association of Terminal Operators and Stevedoring Companies (ATOSCOM) regarding the ports authority's request to review a board resolution promoting Saipan as a transshipment point in Micronesia, it was learned.



Roman T. Palacios

Fresh from the ATOSCOM meet in Palau, CPA Board Chairman Roman T. Palacios and Saipan Stevedore General Manager Joannes R. Taimanao revealed that it is too early to tell whether ATOSCOM will respond favorably to CPA's initiative.

"It was an informal invitation and we have not received any response yet," said Taimanao, in an interview.

The organization has yet to study CPA's request, according to Taimanao.

With the recent completion of a major ports redevelopment project at the Port of Saipan, CPA is confident that it is more than capable of engaging in the transshipment of containerized cargoes and vehicles destined for other ports in and around the Micronesian region.

In a greater scope, CPA officials foresee this measure as a means to improve CNMI's economy.

In an earlier report CPA board treasurer Roman T. Tudela disclosed that Saipan as a transshipment point in Micronesia

could greatly enhance the CNMI economy, not to mention, increase CPA's revenues.

Presently, Guam is the sole island operating as a transshipment point in the whole of Micronesia.

This being the case, Tudela air concerns that this set up makes commodities more costly.

Furthermore, CPA pushing for this initiative to break the monopoly and thus provide shippers an alternative.

Meanwhile, at the ATOSCOM meet last week Palau Shipping/Kambara, FSM/Kyowa Shipping Line, PM&O Shipping Line, Matson Navigation Co. and Sea-Land Service Co. administered carriers presentation in from of members.

During the meeting, ATOSCOM members also adopted a new set of regulations at the same time, a new batch of officials were elected.

Saipan Stevedore is the incumbent ATOSCOM Vice President.

Hiring freeze may risk GLAA bonds

Variety News Staff
THE GOVERNMENT of Guam hiring freeze enacted by the Legislature may jeopardize Guam International Airport Authority (GIAA) bonds issued to provide primary financing for the airport terminal and related improvements.



Gerald P. Yingling

Stanley J. Dirks of the international law firm Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe warned that the hiring freeze could be interpreted as an "impairment" of the contract GIAA has with its bondholders.

Dirks and his company acted as special legal counsel to GIAA when the agency issued \$240 million in bonds to finance the new airport terminal and various airport-related improvements.

Dirks cited provisions of the bond agreement which state that GIAA must use its revenues to preserve the airport in good working order at all times to protect the owners of GIAA's bonds and to

assure that the airport shall be self-sufficient and self-sustaining.

Earlier, GIAA General Manager Gerald P. Yingling said the hiring freeze could hamper airport operations and prevent GIAA from accomplishing its objectives.

He said the hiring freeze could affect response time and disrupt the smooth flow of airport services because GIAA would have its hands tied in hiring critical personnel.

According to Dirks, the Attorney General of Guam has already released an opinion stating that the hiring freeze violates the separation of powers doctrine between the executive and legislative branches and is therefore inorganic as applied to departments of the executive branch.

Dirks said many of the airport's bondholders could view the subjection of GIAA's hiring process to legislative review and approval as a breach of GovGuam's promise not to limit or alter the rights vested by the bond agreement to fulfill the airport's promises to its bondholders.

This obligation, Dirks added, includes the promise to operate the airport in an efficient manner consistent with the wishes of the owners of the bonds.

Dirks warned that litigation or even the threat of litigation based on a challenge made by bondholders could have a negative impact on GIAA and the government of Guam.

GTA cracks down on drugs

Variety News Staff
THE GUAM Telephone Authority (GTA) has widened the scope of its drug-free workplace program, increasing the number of positions that will be subject to random drug testing.

According to GTA General Manager Vince Arriola, this mea-

sure is necessary to ensure that GTA's service to the public continues to be efficient and effective.

Arriola said telephones are a vital part of people's lives so the problem-free delivery of telephone services must be maintained through personnel who are mentally and physically alert and free of drugs.

In the past, GTA's drug testing was limited to new hires, newly promoted personnel, and individuals with reasonable suspicion of drug use.

But under the new GTA regulation, more positions have been added for drug testing, especially those positions critical to the safety and security of the agency's systems and customers.

"We included all the positions that directly and immediately relate to public health and safety within GTA and those positions that require the highest trust and confidence within the agency," Arriola said.

Supervisors and personnel in touch with sensitive information will also be tested as well as those directly involved with public interaction, those that drive official GTA vehicles, employees with access to phone lines (whether they be repair or installation), and personnel with access to GTA's switches and data files.

To set an example, Arriola and all the positions that fall under the general manager's office will also be subject to testing.

"I believe we should lead by example. We'll also include the

personnel department because these are the people who will administer the drug-free workplace policy," Arriola said.

Other employees who will be tested include cable splicers, installers, repair men, switching technicians, customer service representatives, employees involved in inventory, auto mechanics, heavy equipment operators, engineers and even accountants.

All in all, some 381 positions will be subject to drug testing under GTA's drug-free workplace program.

To make sure that the testing is random, the process that will be used will be numerical using no names to ensure objectivity and surprise.

"Only the general manager and one other person will know who will be tested. And we and the subjects will know on the day itself," Arriola said.

The testing will be done either at GTA's personnel office or at private clinics, depending on the number of people to be tested.

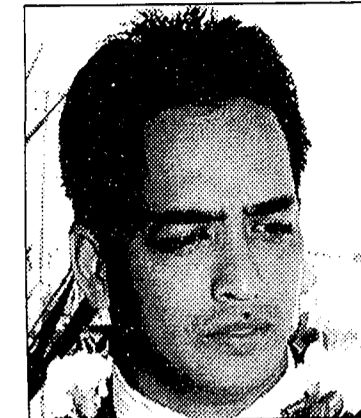
The widened scope of GTA's drug-free workplace program complies with Civil Service Commission procedures and has been approved by the Attorney General's Office.

"We have one of the strongest drug-free policies in the government. This sends a message not only to employees but the public as well that we will not tolerate drugs in the workplace," Arriola said.

He added that all employees have been made aware of the agency's drug testing policy.

Guam senator alarmed over release of illegals on island

By Eric F. Say
Variety News Staff
HAGATNA—Senator Frank B. Aguon (D-Yona) has expressed concern over the number of illegal Chinese immigrants that have been granted asylum here and the impact it might have on the community and the slumping economy.



Frank B. Aguon

Aguon, in a letter to the local Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) officer-in-charge David Johnston, said those granted asylum will adversely affect Guam's social welfare programs.

These programs currently cost the Government of Guam millions of dollars.

"In light of the present local economic condition and the difficulty that many of our own people experience in obtaining gainful employment, it is imperative that any direct impact that these individuals may have on our local community through their release be minimized, rather than adding a further burden to the community," Aguon said.

Currently, there are over 400 illegal immigrants detained at the Department of Corrections. Aguon said if only half of that number are granted asylum locally, "the impact on the community would be great."

Johnston has provided Aguon with statistical data regarding the release of asylum seekers into Guam, which the senator described as "somewhat alarming."

Among the illegal Chinese immigrants that have entered Guam, 508 have been classified

as having "credible fear," making them candidates for asylum. Sixty-seven have been prosecuted, while 34 have already stood trial, convicted and are serving time before they will be deported to China.

By the end of August, 25 have been granted asylum.

Since September 8, another 15 were granted asylum.

Aguon wants to know whether these immigrants would be eventually flown to the mainland U.S.

He said "high-powered" lawyers from New York provide the airfare for the asylum-seekers who head to the mainland U.S.

Aguon said something is "unusual" about expensive lawyers traveling half-way around the world to represent illegal immigrants and then getting those granted asylum to New York City.

At the same time, the senator requests INS pay the airfare of those granted asylum who do not have the "New York" connection.

Restaurant shut down by Public Health Dept.

VIOLATIONS of existing health and sanitation standards have resulted in the temporary closure of one San Antonio-based restaurant last week, according to the Department of Public Health (DPH). On its Sept. 5 to 11 inspections, the DPH's Bureau of Environmental Health ordered the temporary closure of American Kai Hua Restaurant, until full compliance with regulations on safe food handling and preparation are made.

All the other 12 eating and drinking establishments that were inspected got the highest compliance rating of "A."

John Tagabuel, BEH supervisor, said bar and restaurants have become more cautious in the handling of food for public consumption following the series of closures reported in recent months.

"There's improvement," said Tagabuel, adding that the establishments fear closure of their business so they are forced to observe safe food handling practices as called for by DPH's sanitation laws.

The establishments that received Grade "A" include those housed in the Saipan Grand Hotel, namely, the Employee Cafeteria, Coral Restaurant, Sea Side Hall Kitchen, Coffee Terrace and San Tanka Karaoke Club.

Managaha Island firms that got the highest compliance rating include the Managaha Beach Bar, Coral Garden Restaurant and Managaha Barbecue Stand.

Also receiving Grade A are the Mochies Disco Karaoke in Gualo Rai, Africa Fine Dining in Garapan, Sun Palace Motel Snack Bar in Susupe and Karaoke Music Hall in Chalan Kanoa.

DPH warned consumers against patronage of establishments that are not complying with existing health and sanitation regulations, as they 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 that plagued the CNMI in March. (HVE)

Liquor, cigarettes comprise bulk of excise tax

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff
EXCISE tax collections from beer and alcoholic beverages constitute the bulk of revenues generated by government on imported merchandise with at least \$1.9 million having gone into the coffers in the first five months of the current fiscal year.

Available figures obtained from the House Ways and Means Committee also showed that government collected some \$1 million in excise tax from cigarette products during the same base period.

Overall, government was able to collect some \$8.3 million in excise tax from a range of items including \$359,000 in soft drinks; \$171,000 in construction materials; \$256,000 in automobile parts; \$291,000 in leather goods; and \$104,000 in jewelry.

Actual excise tax collections from construction materials fell short of the projected \$280,000 revenue generation.

Government also managed to pull in \$16.2 million in garment user fees and another \$2.3 million in hotel occupancy tax. Some \$511,600 was also collected from bar taxes.

Licensing fees, another revenue source, were able to generate \$988,000 including \$404,000 in business license fees; \$355,000 in vehicle registration fees; \$72,000 in building safety code fees; and \$81,600 in corporation fees.

Some \$5.1 million was also generated from amusement machine fees the bulk, or some \$5.06 million, collected from poker machines. "Kiddy rides" generated \$27 million.

Service charges, also another source of revenue, were able to contribute \$5.1 million into the government's coffers.

Some \$3.4 million of this, or the bulk, came from hospital services while another \$1.1 million was generated from alien registration fees.

Government slightly overshot its estimated \$27.6 million business gross revenue tax collections. It collected \$28 million.

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Labor has new hearing officer

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff
A PRIVATE lawyer formerly with the law office of Rex Kosack has been hired as a new hearing officer of the Department of Labor and Immigration.

Jerry Cody was hired last week and immediately began his work as an arbitrator with the Division of Labor.

The lawyer has replaced former hearing officer Linn Asper who went on an annual leave last June 25, which extends up to his resignation.

Asper, a former judge in the mainland, it was learned, has resigned to be "with his family."

It was Asper who suggested that the government go strict with businesses in hiring.

With Cody's hiring, the Division of Labor now has two hearing officers, including Herbert Soll, to adjudicate cases that are turning up and pending before the division.

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Back-to-back concert at Gilligan's



The Uddah Band (T.U.B.) guested back to back with the Blocks for two nights over the weekend. Also in photo are Gilligan's assistant manager Nizam Omar, and event organizers. Photo by Marian Maraya

Auditions for 'Days of Wine and Roses'

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

THE FRIENDS of the Arts is scheduled to open up auditions for its next production, Days of Wine and Roses, on Sept. 25 and 26 at Marianas High School.

The auditions will be from 10 am to 2 pm on both days at MHS Studio Theater room 101-H.

Friends of the Arts will be needing 10 men of all ages, 10 women of all ages and one female child.

According to MHS Drama and Speech Program teacher Harold Easton, with such a big production, there are many types of characters to play.

"The sizes of the roles vary greatly from the lead role, that is long, to several small parts with very few, but necessary lines, to say," Easton said.

According to the Friends of the Arts, there is no acting experience necessary and no preparation needed for the upcoming audition.

Easton said the Days of Wine and Roses is a melodrama portraying the effects of alcoholism.

To give audition participants some hints on the story of the play, he said that the loss of career, self esteem and ultimately the disintegration of the family will be evident in the play.

Easton added that the Department of Public Health will be providing information on alcoholism at the performances.

"Being part of a production like this is fun, educational but requires a lot of effort. The end result gives all participants something to be proud of," he added.

The group is preparing for this next production after the staging of its upcoming play, Steel Magnolias which will be held from Sept. 17 to 26 also in MHS Studio Theater.

NMI collections for RP housing program down

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

A PHILIPPINE housing loan program has seen a sharp decline in monetary dues from members based in the CNMI, it was learned.

The Pag-Ibig Overseas Program's collection saw a decrease in the months of July and August compared to earnings received by the agency at the end of the second quarter.

Based on the latest statistics prepared by information officer Lynell F. Fulgencio, collection from members in the past months only amounted to \$4,240 in July and \$5,480 in August.

The new data is comparable to past months' collection, at \$16,985 in April, \$18,239 in May and \$26,792.61 in June.

Fulgencio noted that there were only eight new members in July as compared to 18 for the month of June.

The housing fair held at Nauru Building in June was the reason for the large number of new members in that month, Fulgencio said.

However, new members in August have increased to 19.

According to Fulgencio, the sharp increase in new members in the month of August is due to services the agency conducted on the island of Tinian.

The agency has also collected \$9,496 from housing loans in July and \$12,854.50 in August.

He said the program has approved a total of 95 housing loans, as of June.

Out of the 95 approved loans, 43 are for Saipan members.

Unlike the Pag-Ibig program in the Philippines, the membership of Filipino workers in the CNMI program is not mandatory.

The monetary contribution of Filipino workers in the program is individualized.

Part of the CNMI Pag-Ibig services are the savings program and housing loan.

Tuna boom brings concerns

By Giff Johnson
For the Variety

MAJURO — Majuro's tuna transshipment business is booming again, with the arrival this week of nine large transshipment vessels that are off-loading thousands of tons of tuna caught by Asian purse seiners.

But the increased tuna transshipment trade, which is generating revenues for the government, is also generating complaints in the community about pollution from the tuna fishing fleet parked in Majuro's lagoon. At Thursday's Majuro Chamber of Commerce meeting, several local business people raised concerns about garbage and bilge effluent being dumped into the lagoon. And the local weekly newspaper, the Marshall Islands Journal, has published letters from individuals who report seeing ships dumping garbage overboard.

Since June, 107 purse seiners and 24 larger carrier ships have used Majuro's port for transferring tuna, said Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority officials today (Friday). "We've just scratched the surface of the fishing season," said Marshall Islands Marine Resources Authority fisheries officer Glenn Joseph. "We're going to be really jammed up with vessels in a couple more weeks."

The tuna schools are massing to the southeast of the Marshalls where it borders Kiribati's waters and it's drawing the Asian fishing fleet in record numbers, he said.

The Korean purse seine fleet has moved over from its earlier position in the Federated States of Micronesia into this area just to the east of the Marshalls, he indicated. And to save time on off-loading, many of their vessels are transshipping in Majuro. Fishermen and fishing companies like Majuro, he said. "They're getting a better deal on fuel and supplies than in Kiribati," he said, adding that the fishermen are leaving Majuro happy and happy fishermen translate into productive fishermen.

The Marshalls charges just \$600 per boat that enters the port for transshipment, which means that from the first 131 ships, it has netted \$78,600. MIMRA's role is to increase the number of ships visiting Majuro, since this affords major economic spinoff opportunities for local businesses that supply the ships with everything from food and fuel to hotel rooms and entertainment, MIMRA's director Danny Wase said.

Japanese long-liners are also using Majuro for transshipment of sashimi-quality tuna, although in smaller numbers. Three long-

liners have transshipped their tuna in recent weeks, largely as a result of the tuna schools being in the vicinity of the Marshalls so that off-loading here saves them weeks of non-productive travel time to Guam or Japan, Joseph said.

Lax enforcement of environmental regulations, however, is

worrying Majuro residents and local businesses, an increasing number of which have begun to rely on revenues generated by the arrival of tourists and scuba divers using the lagoons and beaches around the atoll. While the fisheries department's low fees and reduced red tape for processing the ships has fueled

the boom in fish vessel arrivals, other agencies are responsible for environmental monitoring.

Environmental Protection Authority officials indicated that while they've heard complaints, they have obtained no hard evidence of lagoon dumping by the tuna vessels — evidence which they need to prosecute offenders.



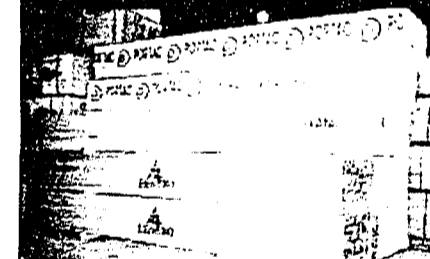
A Korean purse seiner off-loads tuna onto a mother ship for transshipment to Asian canneries. Asian fishing and government representatives met with island fisheries officials in Honolulu last week for talks on a Pacific conservation and management convention. Photo by Giff Johnson

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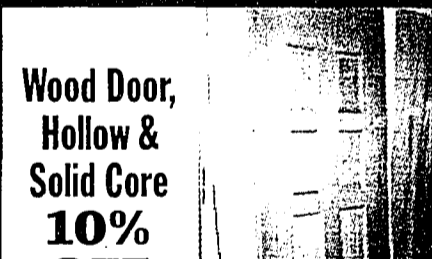
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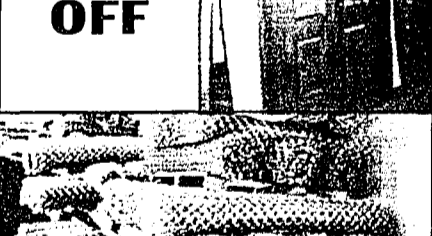
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Canadian foreign minister begins four-day visit to Fiji

SUVA (Pacnews)—Canada's Foreign Minister, Lloyd Axworthy yesterday began his four-day official visit to Fiji. Axworthy, who arrived with a Canadian Government delegation this morning, held talks with the Acting Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr Tupeni Baba, in Suva this afternoon. He is expected to hold discus-

sions with officials at the South Pacific Forum Secretariat tomorrow. Canadian assistance to the Pacific Islands region is expected to be at the centre of discussions at this meeting. Later on Tuesday, Axworthy will visit Mau Village in the Namosi Province, northwest of the capital Suva, to launch the Canada Fund Sanitation Project.

He travels to Nadi, in the western part of the main island of Viti Levu later in the week where he will visit the country's only community television network, before flying back to Canada on Friday. This is the first Canadian Ministerial visit to Fiji since Prime Minister, Pierre Trudeau opened the Science Building at the University of the South Pacific in 1982.

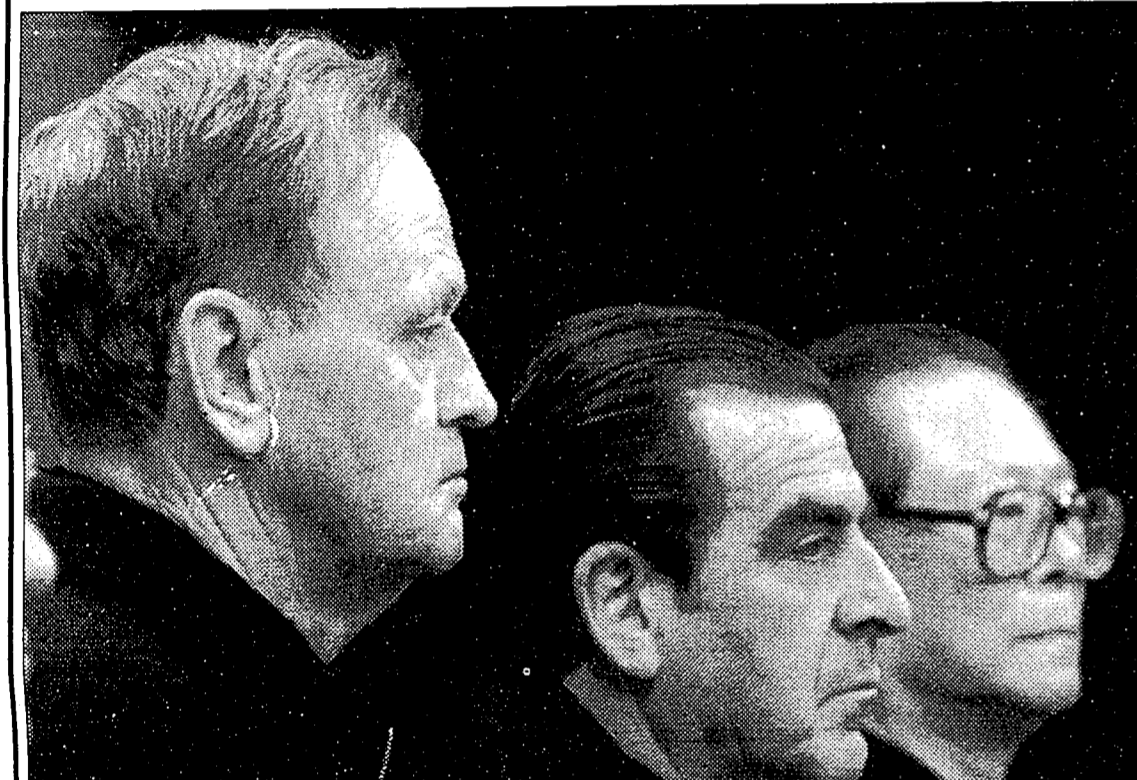
US to train Fiji armed forces

SUVA (Pacnews)—The United States will introduce a new form of military training to Fiji's armed forces, the new American Ambassador to Fiji told a news conference in the capital, Suva today. Osman Siddique, who presented his credentials to Fiji's President Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara earlier today, said the US wants to strengthen Fiji's peacekeeping capabilities through this institutionalised training programme.

"It is a non-lethal training programme where soldiers are trained on all aspects of peacekeeping. Fiji is known world over for its strengths in peacekeeping under the United Nations banner. And the US wants to strengthen that," Siddique said. Fiji is one of only two countries in the southeast Asian region to undertake peacekeeping training for their armed forces under the US programme. Bangladesh is the other country to benefit under the programme. "President Clinton announced the US will commit \$US500,000 for the military training programme. Army personnel will also be sent to the US for other specific areas of training," Siddique said. The military exchange between

Fiji and the US was suspended in 1987 after the two military coups. Siddique said the US decided to resume military ties after the recent political developments in Fiji. "This is an exciting and important time for Fiji. Free and fair elections took place in May, marking the restoration of full democracy following the military coups in 1987 and subsequent political tension between the ethnic Fijians and ethnic Indian citizens of Fiji," he said. Another area the US is looking at strengthening in Fiji and the Pacific is in trade and investment. "There is an economic potential in Fiji for US firms. Fiji offers the perfect location for facilitating the often neglected small and medium sized businesses entering the Asian market place," Siddique said. "As your Ambassador, I shall work to achieve significant increases in the sale of US goods and services, cultural and education exchange between our people and in the promotion of tourism related investment," he said. Ambassador Siddique who is also accredited to Tonga, Nauru and Kiribati will present his credentials to the Tongan Government on September 21. No date has been set for the other two countries.

Leaders at APEC summit in Auckland



Canadian Prime Minister Jean Chretien, Chile President Eduardo Frei and China President Jiang Zemin (from left) listen to the final declaration in Auckland, New Zealand Monday. AP

Nauru mourns ex-president

YAREN (Pacnews)—One of Nauru's most respected politicians, former President Lagumot Harris, passed away in Melbourne, Australia on September 8. Harris, aged 61, was recently appointed Chairman of the newly established Nauru Rehabilitation Corporation. He was twice elected by Parliament as President of Nauru. He served in the first Parliament of Nauru in 1968 and was Member of Parliament for many years. He also served as General Manager of the Nauru Phosphate Corporation. Harris was a devout Christian and served as church elder, preacher and choirmaster. Lagumot is survived by his wife, Amenda, and 10 children.

Bougainville residents said desperate for food

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews)—Many villagers living on atolls near Bougainville are in desperate need of food aid, a Papua New Guinea (PNG) Government Minister has warned. Public Service Minister and Chairman of the National Investigative Committee, Philemon Embel, said people living on the atolls, especially in the Carteret Group, had gone without food for days. He said rising sea levels had resulted in seawater sediment ruining the soil and affecting food crops. Much of the land had been lost since 1996 through erosion, the Minister said. He made the comments after his committee's tour of the Province after receiving reports from the atolls and the acting district manager of the Carteret Islands, Paul Tobasi. Embel has called on all line government agencies, particularly the National Disaster and Emergency Services, to immediately address the situation. "I am also appealing to business houses, non-governmental organisations, and the general public to assist our people who have been adversely affected," he said. "I am informed the Carteret Islands are the worst hit and the situation is so critical that some families have gone without food for at least four to five days. In many instances, people are now living on fish alone." He said the nursing officer had predicted an outbreak of disease on the islands. The Minister said the short-term requirement would be to provide immediate food assistance to the people on a quarterly basis, and to look at agriculture rehabilitation.



A rescuer carries a teenage girl survivor after their van, carrying at least 14 people, was buried by a landslide in Tuba town, Benguet province, north of Manila Monday. Rescuers have dug out five bodies pinned under mud and boulders. AP

Fatal landslide buries people

TUBA, Philippines (AP)—A landslide set off by torrential rain buried a van carrying at least 14 people on a mountainous Philippines road Monday, police said. Rescuers dug

out five bodies and pulled one survivor from the vehicle. Police and firefighters battled heavy rain to recover the other occupants of the van, which was pinned under mud and boulders in Tuba town in Benguet province, said fire officer Victor Kigis, one of the rescuers at the site. A teen-age girl was pulled out alive and taken to a hospital, Kigis said. A large part of a mountainside, softened by several days of rain, collapsed on a road, burying the van, which was carrying commuters from Dagupan province to Baguio, a resort city in Benguet, said Chito Castro of the National Disaster Coordinating Council. The driver of a taxi saw the slide bury the vehicle and called police, officials said. A tropical storm has been dumping rain and causing flashfloods in the past four days in many areas of the main northern island of Luzon, including congested metropolitan Manila. Tuba is about 210 kilometers (130 miles) north of Manila.



Philippine President Joseph Estrada gestures at a news conference in Auckland following the conclusion of the APEC Leaders' Summit on Monday. AP

RP commits to E. Timor peace force

MANILA (Reuters)—Philippine Defence Secretary Orlando Mercado said on Monday the government may send at least 500 soldiers to East Timor as part of a multinational peace-keeping force. Mercado told a news conference President Joseph Estrada had ordered him to send a Philippine contingent to East Timor "now that the Indonesian government has issued such a request for an international force."

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REP. MARIA "MALUA" TAISAKAN PETER
Independent

I am happy to announce that my family has given their support and have fully endorsed my re-election as a Precinct 3 Candidate for the House of Representatives. We invite you for a gathering of family, friends and supporters on Friday, November 17th from 6 to 9 p.m. at our residence in Chalan Lulau.

Sen magof yo para bai na fan manungo hamyo na i asagua-ho yan i familian mame ma supotta yu para bai hu kontinua manetbe gi gima i Kongreso. En kombibida hamyo ni man gaige gi Precinct 3 para en dana'i ham gi Bietnes, Septiembre dia 17, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. guato gi gima mame Chalan Lulau.

Ighi meseigh ibwe areepiya ngalighami bwe scholilimway me yaamem schoo reghi alisi yey ibwe sobweilo angaang ye ilo lol me Kongreso. Ai ke tingor ngalighami yami meseigh bwe aubwe schuuto remam wol Bietnes, Septiembre 17th, 6 p.m. - 9 p.m. me rel imamam me Lemeyal.

Let your voices be heard. Vote "MALUA" November 6th. Olomwaay. Si Yu'us Ma'ase. Thank you for your support.

Precinct 3 INDEPENDENT Candidate

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APEC ends on high note

AUCKLAND, New Zealand (AP) — President Clinton expressed confidence Tuesday that Congress will support an international peacekeeping force for East Timor that will probably include "a few hundred" Americans. He said he hoped the mission could begin in a matter of days.

Clinton concluded a summit with Asian leaders on the optimistic note that "Asia's economic recovery is clearly under way."

The region's receding but still daunting economic troubles were to have been the focus of the summit, but leaders found themselves scrambling to respond to the violence that followed an independence referendum in the Indonesian province.

Leaving Auckland for a day of rest on New Zealand's South Island, Clinton urged Indonesian leaders to act responsibly until a force can be assembled and sent to East Timor under Australian leadership.



Chilean President Eduardo Frei, Chinese President Jiang Zemin, Hong Kong Chief Executive Tung Chee-hua and Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, bid each other farewell Monday at the conclusion of the APEC summit in Auckland.

"Until the international peacekeeping force deploys, it is essential that Indonesia works to prevent further violence," he said. "It must facilitate efforts to quickly bring humanitarian assistance to the people who have suffered so very greatly."

Clinton said U.S. participation would probably consist of "a few hundred people rather than 1,000 on the ground." He had called about 10 members of Congress, and others in the administration were busy conferring with leaders on Capitol Hill.

"My sense is that Congress, even though we are heavily committed in the Balkans and elsewhere, will support a mission if we are there in a clearly supportive capacity," Clinton said. "This will be overwhelmingly an Asian force."

"We're talking here about hundreds, not thousands, of Americans that would be involved and not necessarily all of those would be based in East Timor," National Security Adviser Sandy Berger said.

Nobel laureate Jose Ramos Horta, an East Timorese activist, told Clinton that about 200,000 people have been displaced from their homes during the independence struggle.

Clinton also welcomed a tentative deal reached with North Korea in Berlin under which, "we understand and expect North Korea will refrain from testing long-range missiles of any kind" while a firmer accord is negotiated. He said he was considering easing trade sanctions against North Korea.

At the State Department, spokesman James Rubin said the United States was awaiting the outcome of talks at U.N. headquarters in New York between the Security Council and the foreign ministers of Indonesia and Australia on a peacekeeping force for East Timor. Once that is done, the size and nature of U.S. participation can be decided, Rubin said.

He said the United States probably would limit its contribution to providing communications, logistics, transportation and intelligence support, as opposed to sending combat forces.

The administration declared Clinton's talks here a success after the reopening of trade negotiations with China, the missile accord with North Korea in Berlin, and Indonesia's grudging agreement to accept outside help to restore order in East Timor.

Clinton left for a scenic alpine resort on South Island after the summit of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation forum. The area — scene of a gold rush in the 1860s — is a wonderland of mountains, lakes, rivers and valleys.

"This has truly been a good week for stability and U.S. interests in Asia," Berger said. Yet, there were some disappointments.

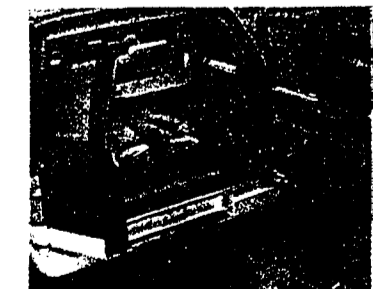
Negotiators failed to complete a trade deal between Vietnam and the United States.

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PLEASE COME AND "BISITA LUTA" AND THE PEOPLE OF ROTA WILL MAKE YOUR STAY PLEASANT AND ENJOYABLE.

THANK YOU AND DANGKULO NA SI YU'US MA'ASE!
SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

OCTOBER 06-07, 1999

6:00 A.M. - 6:00 P.M. ROTA ANNUAL FISHING DERBY

OCTOBER 08, 1999

8:00 A.M. - 2:00 P.M. GAMES COMPETITION
5:00 P.M. - 8:00 P.M. STREET DANCE COMPETITION
6:30 P.M. - 11:00 P.M. PARADISE OPEN MARKET

OCTOBER 09, 1999

8:00 A.M. - 11:00 P.M. PARADISE OPEN MARKET
4:00 P.M. SAN FRANCISCO DE BORJA FIESTA QUEEN CORONATION, NOVENA & PROCESSION
6:30 P.M. BISITA APPRECIATION DINNER
8:00 P.M. BATTLE OF THE BANDS

OCTOBER 10, 1999

10:00 A.M. SAN FRANCISCO DE BORJA FIESTA MASS
12:00 NOON - ? FIESTA LUNCH
1:00 P.M. - ? LIVE ENTERTAINMENT, DANCE PERFORMANCES, COCK-FIGHTING DERBY, RAFFLE TICKET DRAWING, ETC.

Dalai Lama calls for compassion

DHARMSALA, India (AP) — The turn of the millennium will be "just another day and night" for the Dalai Lama, unless mankind resolves to end the kind of suffering going on in East Timor and other trouble spots.

Tibet's exiled spiritual leader, opening an international conference Sunday on science and spirituality, said compassion must lead to action if the next era is to be any different.

"When we see these sort of unfortunate things, just to feel sorry ... that is not sufficient," he said. "The new millennium is nothing special, just another day and night."

The Dalai Lama has lived in exile in Dharmasala since 1959, when he fled Chinese rule in Tibet.



Two Australian aid workers Steve Pratt (right) and Peter Wallace (left) recently freed from prison in Yugoslavia on spying charges, are welcomed back to Canberra Monday, after spending five months in a Belgrade jail.

Families welcome home freed Australia workers

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Two Australian aid workers imprisoned in Yugoslavia during the NATO bombardment came home Monday to an emotional reception from their families and colleagues.

Steven Pratt, 41, and Peter Wallace, 31, flew into Sydney early Monday before going on to the capital, Canberra, where their families — including Pratt's wife Samira and his week-old daughter Yasmina — were waiting to greet them.

"She's a lovely baby and my wife is a courageous woman," Pratt said as Samira fought back tears. "It's almost like walking on air, it's been quite a moment."

Pratt and Wallace were released Sept. 1 after spending 154 days in a Belgrade jail. They had been sentenced to 12 years and four years, respectively, for espionage — a conviction they insist was a miscarriage of justice caused by a wartime misunderstanding. They were freed after being pardoned by Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic.

In Canberra, both men were engulfed by well-wishers and CARE staff members, who were holding daffodils to reflect the yellow ribbons tied to trees at Governor General Sir William Deane's residence during the fight for their release.

"It's wonderful to see the family again and to be back home again. I've never been so pleased to be back in Australia," Wallace said.

Pratt and Wallace, who work for CARE Australia, were arrested during the NATO airstrikes on Yugoslavia along with Branko Jelen, a Yugoslav national also working for the organization.

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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
 Produce Concession Booth
 Rota International Airport

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting proposals from interested firms or individuals to operate Two (2) Produce Concession Booths at the Rota International Airport. Interested firms and/or individuals are encouraged to specify in their proposal the types of produce and/or services they intend to offer to the travelers. Each booth available is 110 square feet, and is located at the West End of the Terminal. This space is available for inspection between 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Proposal packages may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 1055, Saipan, MP 96950, or at the Office of the Rota Ports Manager, Rota International Airport P.O. Box 561, Rota, MP 96951; for a fee of \$50.00 per package. A pre-proposal conference will be held on September 17 at 2:00 p.m. at the CPA Conference Room located on the second floor Rota International Airport.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) must receive proposals no later than 2:00 p.m. October 8, 1999, in order to be considered for the award. In evaluating proposals, CPA will consider (but is not limited to) the following criteria:

1. Financial Proposals
2. Management Team
3. Customer Services
4. Pricing

The successful and unsuccessful proposers will be notified within thirty (30) days after October 8, 1999.

Should you have any questions or need additional information, please contact Mr. Herman R. Bermudes at 664-3531.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority reserves the right to reject any and all proposal in accordance with Section 3.2(7) and 4.1 of its Procurement Rules and Regulations.

/s/ CARLOS H. SALAS Executive Director September 3, 1999 Date

EMERGENCY PROCUREMENT
 Invitation for Bid
 CC IFB99-0032
 September 10, 1999

The CNMI Public School System, through the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, is soliciting bids from General Contractors for upgrading classroom lighting and replacement of Administration building air-conditioners at Marianas High School. The scope of work, specifications, and proposal package requirements are now available at the CUC Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan, during regular business hours. Copies of the bid package may be obtained for \$60.00 per set. All proposals are to be submitted in duplicate and face-marked "CUC IFB 99-0032 Marianas High School Electrical Upgrade" and delivered to the Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the Joeten Dandan Building, Saipan no later than 9:00 a.m., September 24, 1999. Any proposal received after the aforementioned date and time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

A pre-bid conference for the aforementioned IFB will be held on Wednesday, September 15, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. at the jobsite at Marianas High School, Saipan. Interested parties are requested to submit all their questions pertaining to the proposal package requirements in writing Attn: Christopher Fryling, CIP office no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, September 17, 1999 by fax 664-3798, or by mail delivery to the CIP office, 4th floor, Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan. All submitted questions will be responded to in writing at least three working days before the bids are due.

A bid bond of 15% of the total proposed price must accompany the bid. This security may be a certified check, cashier's check, or bid bond made payable to the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation. The bidder is requested to submit with the proposal a copy of a current General Contractor's License in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

All bidders are required to submit their responsibility determination documents in compliance with PSS PR3-301. Responsibility determination documents must be submitted in a separate envelope face-marked "CUC-IFB 99-0032 Responsibility Determination Document." Responsibility documents are due at the same date, time, and place of the IFB deadline as mentioned above.

The responsible bidder with the lowest bid price will be awarded a contract with the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds equal to 100% of the price specified on the contract. Performance time and completion of the project is one hundred forty (140) calendar days from date of Notice to Proceed. Liquidated damages for work exceeding the performance time will be assessed at five hundred dollars (\$500.00) per calendar day.

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation reserves the right to award on a single or multiple award or reject any or all proposals in the best of interest of the Public School System. Inquiries related to this announcement may be directed to Christopher Fryling at telephone 664-3738.

/s/ TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ Executive Director, CUC

Japan fully supports Habibie's initiatives



Obuchi told reporters. Obuchi urged the United Nations and Indonesia to swiftly come up with concrete plans to save the region. "We must fight time to avoid any further loss of lives, and Japan is willing to fully cooperate," he said.

Obuchi did not elaborate on how Japan intends to contribute, but Japanese officials said it was unlikely Tokyo would provide personnel for a U.N.-led operation. "It's a bit premature to prejudge what possible cooperation we can extend in that regard," Japanese Foreign Ministry spokesman Sadaaki Numata said.

Numata told Reuters Television that a dispatch of personnel to the U.N.-led force was unlikely.

"We have our own policy regarding our participation in the U.N. peacekeeping forces and there has been an ongoing public debate on this process in Japan."

US: Pakistan has full China missile system

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — A new U.S. intelligence report states publicly for the first time that Pakistan has received M-11 short-range ballistic missiles from China, raising once again the question of whether U.S. law warrants imposing tougher sanctions against Beijing, administration and congressional sources said on Monday.

The unqualified conclusion, contained on page five of the declassified intelligence report on missiles issued on Thursday, states: "Pakistan has Chinese-supplied M-11 short-range ballistic missiles."

The statement, which reflects the consensus of the U.S. intelligence community, revives a long-simmering dispute between the intelligence community and the policymakers.

The U.S. State Department and the White House have long taken issue with such assessments, arguing that while Pakistan has acquired components of M-11 missiles, the evidence does not prove Islamabad actually possesses complete systems.

The issue of whether Pakistan possesses only missile components or whether it has full systems is significant because China could be subjected under U.S. law to more serious sanctions for such a transfer than have been imposed in the past.

But imposing sanctions now could cause new problems in U.S. efforts to work cooperatively with Beijing on many issues and, administration officials said, they are unlikely to happen.

"That's the first time that I'm aware of in an unclassified forum that there has been that specific statement" on China transferring complete M-11 systems to Pakistan, one administration official said about the new intelligence report.

"This is obviously a more significant statement than what has been said before publicly" about the extent to which Pakistan possesses M-11 capability, he told Reuters.

A congressional source agreed, saying: "That's the first time in an unclassified document that the administration has admitted categorically that Pakistan has Chinese-supplied missiles."

"Now the question is, when is the administration going to impose sanctions?" he added.

In fact, the National Air Intelligence Centre at Wright-Patterson Air Force Base in Ohio hinted at the intelligence community's finding in an April 1999 report on ballistic and cruise missile threats.

It included Pakistan in a chart on short-range ballistic missile systems, indicating that Islamabad had fewer than 50 M-11 launchers. But that was a rather obscure reference and escaped wide notice, even among administration experts.

Nevertheless, the fact that Pakistan has complete Chinese M-11 systems is one of "the worst kept secrets.... It has been common knowledge" in the intelligence community and the government for years, one intelligence source said.

A U.S. State Department official insisted that the finding contained in the latest national intelligence estimate on missiles - which includes input from the department's own intelligence bureau - is not based on any new information.

As a result, it does not change the view of policymakers that there is not sufficient proof that Pakistan has complete missiles, he told Reuters.

"In terms of a determination, we have not reached a legal conclusion that Pakistan has received full M-11 missiles," the official said.

He noted that the United States has a responsibility to impose "very high evidentiary standards" before imposing sanctions, especially when a government like China has denied providing Islamabad with complete missile systems.

In two instances - once by U.S. President George Bush's administration in 1991 and again by U.S. President Bill Clinton in 1993 - the United States imposed mild sanctions on China for transferring M-11 components to Pakistan.

But the sanctions were lifted in both cases when Beijing agreed to, but did not formally sign, the global Missile Technology Control Regime, which aims to ban the spread of ground-to-ground missiles capable of sending a 1,000 pound (453 kg) payload 186 miles (300 km).

The sanctions were category 2 sanctions, covering the transfer of missile components and dual-use items. Harsher sanctions are called for in event of a category 1 violation, covering the transfer of complete systems.



Confucians march through the Confucius Temple Saturday in Beijing to celebrate 2,550th anniversary of Confucius' birthday. Men in black are called "The principal sacrificial officials and his assistants." AP

Japan hails progress on US-N. Korea missile talks

TOKYO (Reuters) — Japan on Monday welcomed progress made in talks between the United States and North Korea over Pyongyang's missile programme, saying it may lead to an easing of Tokyo's sanctions against the reclusive nation.

Japan's Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi said that while the talks in Berlin did not mean that Pyongyang had completely suspended its missile programme, Japan would be willing to lift sanctions if North Korea made further efforts.

"If North Korea shows a clearer stance, then we are willing to consider lifting sanctions," Obuchi told a news conference in Auckland, New Zealand, following the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum's summit meeting.

North Korea shocked Tokyo last August by test-firing a three-stage missile, part of which flew over Japan, prompting it to impose sanctions including a freeze on food aid.

"I hope we can seize every opportunity to talk directly with North Korea and establish a situation in which we can lift the sanctions we have been enforcing since last year," Obuchi added.

The United States said on Monday that North Korea had agreed to observe at least a temporary freeze on testing long-range ballistic missiles and as a result Washington was considering easing some economic sanctions against Pyongyang.

"This is an important initial step for addressing our concerns about North Korea's missile programme," said White House National Security Adviser Sandy Berger, also in Auckland.

"It's now our understanding and expectation the North Koreans will refrain from testing any long-range missiles for the duration of our negotiations to improve relations," Berger said.

The U.S.-North Korean accord was reached in six days of talks between the two sides in Berlin at a time when tensions have been high on the Korean Peninsula and in Japan at the prospect of a new destabilising test-firing of a long-range missile.

North Korea's missile programme has sparked alarm not only in the United States, which worries that a long-range missile could hit U.S. territory, but also in China and Japan, which fear Pyongyang's actions could spark a regional arms race.

Death & Funeral Announcement

JOSE CASTRO DELA CRUZ
 D.O.B.: December 15, 1931
 Born to Eternal Life: September 6, 1999

PREDECEASED BY:
 Father: Jose Cruz Dela Cruz
 Mother: Rita Villagomez Castro Dela Cruz
 Sisters: Rosita Castro Dela Cruz, Victorina Castro Dela Cruz

SURVIVED BY:
 Brothers & Sister-in-Law:
 Domingo C. & Lourdes P. Dela Cruz
 Jesus C. Dela Cruz/Maria I. Torres
 Thomas C. & Carmen SN. Dela Cruz

Reared Children & Spouses:
 Victorina Dela Cruz & Jose C. Camacho
 Juan T. Dela Cruz/Sia
 Jacqueline T. Dela Cruz/Tony
 Patrick T. Dela Cruz/Joann
 Ana T. Dela Cruz-Dizon (deceased)
 Allen T. Dela Cruz

He is additionally survived by numerous uncles, aunts, cousins, nieces & nephews

Nightly rosary is being said at 7:00 p.m. at San Antonio Church. Viewing & last respect will be held on Thursday, September 16, 1999 at San Antonio Church from 7:30am - 10:00 a.m. Interment will follow at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

After the burial everyone's invited for lunch at San Antonio Church.

Your prayers are greatly appreciated.
 Thank You from the Family

Keep Saipan Clean & Beautiful!

Buchanan bid could tighten up US race



Pat Buchanan

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — If presidential candidate Pat Buchanan bolts the Republican Party for a third-party run, he would tighten the White House race and inject new life into it, political pollsters and analysts said on Monday.

But they said it is too early to know if such a move by the fiery conservative could actually alter the outcome of the contest, which polls show Republican George W. Bush as the runaway front-runner.

"This could become the most significant development yet in campaign 2000," said David Kozak, a professor at Gannon University and a member of the board of directors at The Centre for the Study of the Presidency. "It would be good news for Democrats since Buchanan would draw conservatives away from the Republicans," Kozak said.

But as Ed Gillespie, a Republican political consultant, said, "It is too early to tell what will happen."

Gillespie noted that historically the first 7 or 8 percent of

the vote picked up by a third-party candidate is from people who would not have voted for the Democrat or Republican.

"If Buchanan could attract upward of 10 percent, then he could be a factor," said Gillespie, who had worked in the now-defunct White House campaign of Representative John Kasich of Ohio.

Buchanan said on Sunday he was seriously considering leaving the Republican Party and seeking the presidential nomination of the Reform Party.

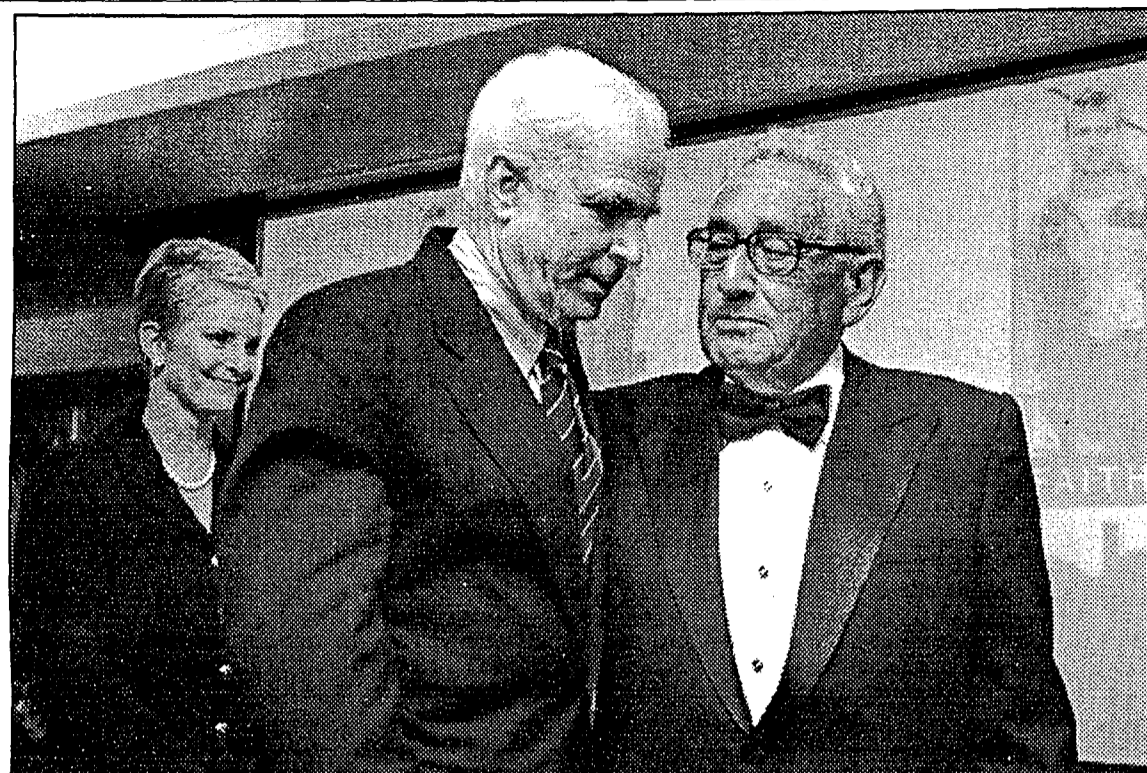
A variety of national polls have long shown Bush holding a 15 to 20 percentage point lead over Vice President Al Gore, the Democratic presidential front-runner.

But a survey last month by Schroth & Associates showed Bush's numbers could shrink if Buchanan was the Reform Party nominee. It had Bush with 39 percent, Gore at 35 percent and Buchanan at 16 percent.

A CNN/Time poll in July found that if Buchanan was on the Reform Party ticket, he would get 9 percent, compared to 48 percent for Bush and 38 percent for Gore.

Dean Spilotes, a political science professor at Dartmouth College, said, "Pat Buchanan has the Republican Party worried. He has a loyal and even rabid following, and if nothing else, he could make the race a lot more interesting."

Buchanan, making his third bid for the White House as a Republican, complained on Monday that the party establishment has abandoned its core conservative values.



Republican presidential hopeful Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz. (center), speaks with former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger as McCain's wife Cindy looks on Wednesday at a party in New York to launch McCain's book "Faith of My Fathers."

McCain signs books, hopes to get known much better

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Sen. John McCain of Arizona, the latest in a line of presidential candidates turned author, drew several hundred admirers Monday as he signed his book "Faith of My Fathers" in a Capitol Hill bookstore.

McCain's book chronicles the way he was shaped by his grandfather and father, both four-star admirals, as well as his own experiences during five years as a prisoner of war in Vietnam when he had to withstand physical and mental torture.

"It is the story of three imperfect men who faced adversity and

emerged with their honour intact," the McCain campaign said in a statement to the media.

McCain, seeking the Republican presidential nomination, said he had not written the book to advance his White House ambitions, but acknowledged it could help him become better known.

"I really bridle at the prospect of saying this is a vehicle to convince people to vote for me for president. This is a vehicle, I hope, to dispel some of the cynicism and pessimism that permeates young America today about the virtue and value of public service," he said.

"The reality though is that people read this book and approve of me and my family, obviously that can have some beneficial effect on my presidential campaign because they will know me better," McCain added.

Four of this year's Republican presidential field have already written books: apart from McCain, they include former Vice

President Dan Quayle, publisher Steve Forbes and columnist Pat Buchanan.

Texas Gov. George W. Bush, leading the rest of the Republican presidential field, including McCain, in fundraising and in the polls by a wide margin, is said to be working on his own volume, although some political analysts believe he has no need to venture into print.

Among Democrats, former Sen. Bill Bradley published a book last year about his life while Vice President Al Gore published a book on the environment, "Earth in the Balance," in 1992.

McCain said one of his biggest problems as a presidential candidate was that he was so little known compared to Bush and former Cabinet secretary Elizabeth Dole. He is focusing his campaign largely on the states of New Hampshire, South Carolina and California and appealing especially to military veterans.

Hillary denies surgery rumors



Hillary Rodham

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP) — She may be changing her address and thinking about a new job, but an aide says Hillary Rodham Clinton is sticking with the face she has.

Tabloid reports that Mrs. Clinton was eyeing plastic surgery are not true, spokeswoman Marsha Berry said Monday.

Mrs. Clinton is expected to run for the Senate from New York next year, and she and President Clinton are buying a house in suburban Westchester County just north of New York City. Speculation about cosmetic surgery began Sunday when the New York Post's front page featured the headline "Hill's Nip & Tuck." The tabloid, citing unidentified sources, said Mrs. Clinton had spent nearly an hour recently consulting with a Manhattan plastic surgeon.

"It's not true," Berry said Monday.

"I thought yesterday, when we said we didn't know anything about it, that that would kill it," Berry said. "But clearly it didn't."

Asked if Mrs. Clinton has had any consultations about plastic surgery or planned to have any such discussions, Berry said, "No."

Court says use may be justified

Medical marijuana issue raised

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — A federal appeals court Monday raised the possibility that clubs that provide medical marijuana might be reopened, saying "medical necessity" could make some patients exempt from laws against pot.

In a rebuff to the Clinton administration, the 9th U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals told a judge who had issued an injunction against such groups to consider exempting patients and doctors who could show "medical necessity." The injunction against six medical marijuana clubs had been issued at the request of the Justice Department.

The court did not order the exception but said there was evidence that would justify it.

One of the six Northern California clubs, the Oakland Cannabis Buyers' Cooperative, "has identified a strong public interest in the availability of a doctor-prescribed treatment that would help ameliorate the condition and relieve the pain and suffering of a large group of persons with seri-

ous or fatal illnesses," the court said in a 3-0 ruling.

The court noted that the "necessity" defense — showing that breaking the law was the only way to prevent a more serious harm — would be available if federal authorities prosecuted patients or club officials for violating federal drug laws.

Because the government sought an injunction against future law-breaking instead of prosecuting anyone, the order should be worded to exclude conduct that likely would be allowed if a person cited the necessity defense at trial, the court said.

To be eligible for such an exemption, patients would have to show that they have tried legal alternatives to marijuana and found that they don't work or cause intolerable side effects, the court said.

The ruling was applauded by Robert Raich, a lawyer for the Oakland cooperative, which served about 2,000 patients before being closed by court order last year. It later reopened as a

center for hemp products and patient support, but not for marijuana distribution.

"The 9th Circuit is correctly recognizing that cannabis has medical efficacy to a large class of patients and that it should be recognized under federal law under the medical necessity defense," Raich said.

He said the ruling could lead to the reopening of the Oakland cooperative for the limited number of patients who could show medical necessity.

No one was immediately available at the Justice Department to

respond to the ruling, a spokesman said.

Medical marijuana clubs sprang up around California after the November 1996 approval of Proposition 215, which allowed patients with serious illnesses to obtain and use marijuana at their doctors' recommendation without being prosecuted under state law. The drug is used to relieve pain and other effects of AIDS, cancer and certain other diseases and their treatments.

The Justice Department responded by suing six Northern

California clubs, saying the absolute federal ban on marijuana distribution overrode Proposition 215.

U.S. District Judge Charles Breyer agreed, issuing a contempt order last year that forced four of the clubs to stop distributing marijuana. Two of the clubs, in Fairfax and Ukiah remain open because the government failed to present evidence that they were distributing marijuana at the time. Other informal organizations scattered around the state also continue to supply medicinal marijuana.

US judge dismisses 2 slave labor cases

NEW YORK (Reuters) — A U.S. federal judge on Monday dismissed two lawsuits brought by former Nazi-era slave labourers against their German employers, saying treaties precluded the suits, lawyers involved in the cases said.

The two German companies that won the dismissal were the chemicals company Degussa and electronics giant Siemens, said Michael Hausfeld and Ed Fagan, two of the lawyers involved in the cases.

The attorneys vowed to appeal the court's ruling that the class-action suits were blocked by a 1921 treaty. "It's the wrong decision," Fagan said.

No further details of the Newark, New Jersey, court's ruling were immediately available.

Along with other class-action attorneys, Fagan and Hausfeld are suing a number of German companies for profiting from the use of slave and forced labourers during the 12 years that the Nazis ruled Germany.

Those lawsuits, which sought \$18 billion in damages, have been one of the driving forces behind a planned new compensation fund that German companies are creating.

In return for paying reparations, the German companies want a guarantee that they will not face any new claims from Holocaust survivors.

Whether the ruling would affect U.S.-German negotiations to craft the reparations fund for as many as 1.5 million to 2.3 million slave and forced labourers who still are alive was not immediately clear.

Hausfeld said there would be no impact. "We've always approached this the way the Germans structured it, that they have no legal liability so the question is, what is their moral responsibility?"

Man seeking heir considers church

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — A 79-year-old man seeking an heir for his \$375,000 estate said Monday he'll give the cash to a church, as long as he gets some answers to spiritual questions first.

Clayton Goward is inviting clergy from all faiths — and anyone else who is interested — to a forum on the afterlife.

"I'm hoping someone there will enlighten me and I can feel better about facing eternity," Goward said.

In July, Goward put a personal ad in the Star Tribune asking for ideas on what to do with his estate. Not being on good terms

with his three adult sons, he said he had no worthy heirs.

Since then, international media coverage has led to more than 34,000 replies.

On Sunday, Goward placed another ad in the Star Tribune, listing several questions he has about spirituality.

Next month (no date has been set) he will invite up to 50 people to his Pine City home in east-central Minnesota for a discussion of religion. He plans to serve Kentucky Fried Chicken with all the trimmings, and cake and ice cream.



Vice President Al Gore is applauded by Jim Neeley (left), president of the Tennessee AFL-CIO, at the group's convention in Nashville, Tenn., Monday. In his speech to the organization, Gore said he will work to improve education and job-training, and to protect the rights of unions to organize.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS DPW99-RFP-031

September 30, 1999

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified engineering firms for the Design of Nang Ocha Road Paving and Improvements, San Vicente, on the island of Saipan, in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A Scope of Work will be available for pick-up on or after Thursday, September 16, 1999 at the Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, Lower Base, Saipan.

A Pre-proposal Conference will be held at 2:00 p.m., Thursday, September 23, 1999 at the DPW Conference Room, Main Office, Gualo Rai, Saipan. All questions regarding this design project must be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, September 24, 1999. Questions shall be directed to Mr. Andrew W. Smith, P.E., Director of Technical Services Division, at fax (670) 322-3547 or fax (670) 235-6436.

An original and three (3) copies of proposals must be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, P.O. Box 10008, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 2:00 p.m., Thursday, September 30, 1999. All submittals must be in a sealed envelope marked "DPW99-RFP-031"

This procurement is made as provided for in Section 3-106 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of the Engineering firm - 50%
2. Ability to complete the design within the required time 20%
3. Ability to perform the Scope of Work - 30%

Interviews will be held with those proposers reasonably susceptible of being selected for the award of a contract. Those short listed proposers will be afforded an opportunity to submit their "best and final offer".

All proposals shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if, in its opinion to do so, would be in the interest of the government.

/s/ JUAN B. CEPEDA
Secretary of Public Works

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

... there will be no more death, and no more mourning or sadness or pain. The world of the past has gone." (Rev. 21:4)

*Sister Ursula Blanco
Matsunaga, MMB*

1905 - 1999

On September 9, 1999 SISTER URSULA BLANCO MATSUNAGA, of Saipan, was called to her eternal home, the place "... where there will be no more death, and no more mourning..."

Sister Ursula will continue to be remembered as the first Micronesian Mercedarian Missionary of Berriz (MMB) by all her MMB sisters around the world. The memory of Sister Ursula will continue to live on in the hearts of the many people she loved and served as an MMB. She will be especially remembered by her sister Isabel B. Matsunaga, her cousins, nephews/nieces, grandnephews/nieces, and her goddaughter, Gregoria C. Cabrera.

Rosary is being said at 7:00 p.m. at Kristo Rai Church.

Last respects will be held on Friday, September 17 at Kristo Rai Church beginning at 7:00 a.m. The Mass for Christian Burial will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. Burial will follow at Mt. Carmel Cemetery, Chalan Kanoa.

"I promise to lay down my life..." (4th Vow of the MMB)

Hurricane nears Bahamas

NASSAU, Bahamas (AP) — Panicked Bahamas residents abandoned beachfront homes and scrambled for emergency supplies Monday as Hurricane Floyd's 155 mph winds bore down on the vulnerable, low-lying archipelago.

Floyd could slam into the Bahamas as soon as late Monday and hit Florida by Wednesday.

"I have never been this scared about a storm," said shopkeeper Angel Cheas as she hastily boarded up her windows.

Floyd was on the verge of becoming a Category 5 storm — the most powerful designation for a hurricane — which features top sustained winds of at least 156 mph with higher gusts.

"It's capable of almost cata-

strophic destruction," said Todd Kimberlain, a forecaster at the U.S. National Hurricane Center.

By comparison, Hurricane Andrew was a Category 4 storm when it struck South Florida in 1992, killing 26 people and causing an estimated \$25 billion in damage.

Bahamian officials warned that storm surges of up to 20 feet could sweep as far as six miles inland. That's a terrifying prospect on this island of New Providence, which is only seven miles from north to south and has some 165,000 people, more than half the Bahamas' entire population.

"God is the only one who can help us now," said Nassau resident Mildred Minnis.

All of the northwest and central

Bahamian islands were under hurricane warnings Monday afternoon. A tropical storm warning was posted for the southeastern Bahamas and the nearby British Turks and Caicos islands.

A hurricane watch was extended for the Florida east coast from Florida City to just south of Brunswick, Ga.

In Nassau, the Bahamian capital, long lines formed at gasoline stations and grocery stores and two major supermarkets ran out of bottled water.

Bahamian schools were converted into hurricane shelters, and officials planned to close Nassau's airport later Monday. Organizers canceled a parade to welcome home Bahamian track runners

from the Outdoor World Championship in Seville, Spain.

"We can't ask those girls to come from a safe place to an unsafe place," said Sports Minister Zhivargo Laing.

In San Salvador, a quiet resort island where Christopher Columbus is believed to have first landed in the New World, Riding Rock Inn manager Carter Williams said he moved all of his guests to a shelter at the nearby Church of God. "I worked until about 2 o'clock (a.m.) preparing for the hurricane," Williams said.

The island's Club Med resort said some customers would wait out the storm at the resort.

At 2 p.m. EDT, Floyd's center was located about 90 miles east

of San Salvador in the central Bahamas, and about 470 miles east-southeast of Miami, Fla. It was headed west at 15 mph, and was expected to gradually turn to west-northwest by evening.

Its hurricane force winds extended up to 105 miles from its center with tropical storm force winds stretching to 290 miles.

Experts said that by Tuesday, Hurricane Floyd could approach the Abacos Islands and Eleuthera, which were blasted last month by Hurricane Dennis.

Floyd was joined Monday by Hurricane Gert, which grew from a tropical storm to a hurricane with winds near 75 mph about 1,400 miles east of the Leeward Islands.

US use armed choppers against drug traffickers

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The United States has started deploying armed helicopters to intercept traffickers running drugs across the Caribbean in high-speed boats, U.S. officials said on Monday.

The secret deployment of armed aircraft by the U.S. Coast Guard over the last 10 months has resulted in the seizure of a record 53 tons of Colombian cocaine heading for U.S. cities.

Since late May, helicopters with large calibre guns manned by sharpshooters have stopped four drug-running boats carrying 650 pounds (295 kg) of cocaine and 2,000 pounds (907 kg) of marijuana.

"Let this be a warning to all drug traffickers. We will hunt you down. We will put you behind bars. We will shut you down, and your hideous trade," Transport Secretary

Rodney Slater said in announcing the hitherto secret action.

U.S. counter-narcotics agencies estimate that 85 percent of the drugs coming into the United States across the Caribbean are transported in small hard-to-intercept speedboats.

The Coast Guard said pursuits of drug-running boats are lengthy and rarely result in arrests because smugglers jettison the evidence or escape to foreign territorial waters.

The new U.S. tactic is to use armed helicopters to either intimidate or disable boats suspected of running cocaine, heroin, marijuana and other illegal drugs to the United States.

On Aug. 16, Coast Guard helicopters intercepted a speedboat suspected of smuggling drugs about 50 miles (80 kms) off the coast of Jamaica.

Brazil's Cardoso slams Congress on slow reform

RIO DE JANEIRO (Reuters) — Brazil's President Fernando Henrique Cardoso lashed out at Congress on Monday for delaying reforms key to his government's austerity drive in a determined bid to maintain stability in Latin America's largest economy.

"The reforms are not a foreign demand, they are not the president's plans. They are the necessary condition for Brazil to grow with prosperity and with low inflation," Cardoso told a supermarket convention in Rio de Janeiro.

Cardoso said Brazilians were tired of Congress dragging its heels over the cost-cutting reforms, which the government insists is the only way of securing Latin America's long-term economic stability.

"The country is sick of indecision, the indecision is not coming from the president. It's coming from those that delay, those that don't vote, those that don't come to vote," he said, adding that the measures

were "an objective necessity." The statements marked more of Cardoso's tougher attitude adopted since the government announced a 2000 budget bill at the beginning of this month, promising adherence to strict fiscal targets but also a plan to create 8.5 million new jobs.

Cardoso was speaking as the Vox Populi polling agency released a survey showing that his approval rating slid to another record low of eight percent in September compared with 12 percent in August.

The president's popularity has slumped since a shock January currency devaluation, his support sapped by a sluggish economy and the highest unemployment posted in the first half of this year — since polling began in 1983.



Residents of the eastern end of the Bahamian capital of Nassau line up in a supermarket early Monday morning to buy household supplies in advance of the arrival of Hurricane Floyd in the Bahamas. A very dangerous Category 4 storm, packing 155 mph winds, is forecast.

New Waco evidence reported

WASHINGTON (AP) — A dozen spent rifle cartridges of a type often used by snipers were recovered from a house used by the FBI during the 1993 standoff with the Branch Davidians, the Texas Rangers said today.

The special investigator named by Attorney General Janet Reno will have to determine whether the shell casings came from FBI agents, who have denied firing, or from Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents who used the same house 51 days earlier during the initial firefight.

In a report submitted to Congress, the Rangers also released a letter by a federal prosecutor who told Reno that Justice Department officials may have withheld facts from her regarding the FBI's use of potentially incendiary tear-gas canisters.

"I have formed the belief that facts may have been kept from you — and quite possibly are being kept from you even now, by components of the department," Assistant U.S. Attorney Bill Johnston in Waco, Texas, wrote in his Aug. 30 letter.

The Rangers report said 12 .308-caliber casings and two dozen Israeli-manufactured .223-caliber casings were recovered from a house used by the FBI's Hostage Rescue Team during the 51-day

siege. In an account the FBI has since said was wrong, an FBI agent initially reported hearing shots fired from that house on the siege's final day.

The FBI, which has insisted for six years that its agents didn't fire a single shot during the standoff, refused comment today, as did the Texas Department of Public Safety, which oversees the Rangers.

Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms agents, whose Feb. 28 raid to serve weapons warrants began the siege, also used the house as a sniper post. The agents did fire .308 and .223-caliber bullets, an ATF spokesman said. Whether the shell casings referenced in the Rangers' report came from those agents, "we do not know," said spokesman Jeff Roehm.

The independent inquiry led by former Sen. John Danforth, R-Mo., will examine that question and others stemming from the controversy over the government's conduct, said FBI spokesman Steven Berry.

In June, the Rangers began re-examining selected items from the 24,000 pounds of evidence in their custody from the Davidians' charred compound amid questions about whether incendiary tear-gas rounds were fired by the FBI despite years of statements to the

contrary. The report, subpoenaed by the House Government Reform Committee, confirmed that a 40mm shell casing re-examined by the Rangers was a type of military tear gas round that "burns at 500 to 700 degrees Fahrenheit, and is capable of igniting flammable items."

The Dallas Morning News first disclosed contents of the report today.

Taking on critics who have suggested the use of military tear gas was deliberately kept from Congress, the top Democrat on the House Government Reform Committee today said that the Justice Department notified lawmakers in 1995 that military rounds were used.

A review of government documents provided during the House's earlier Waco investigation "has revealed that the Department of Justice turned over to Congress in 1995 several documents that explicitly discussed the use of military tear gas rounds at Waco on April 19, 1993," Rep. Henry Waxman, D-Calif., wrote Danforth today.

"There is no indication that Chairman (Dan) Burton or his staff thought to review these documents before accusing the attorney general of a cover-up," Waxman added.

Jordan King in historic visit

BEIRUT, Lebanon (AP) — In the first visit by a Jordanian monarch to Lebanon in 30 years, King Abdullah II on Monday discussed Mideast peace and bilateral relations while his wife set about winning over ordinary Lebanese.

After being accorded a 21-gun salute at the airport, Abdullah started talks with top officials and his wife visited a facility where men with disabilities make wheelchairs and repair electronic equipment.

"Bravo, bravo," the 29-year-old queen told the men. "May God give you the strength to continue the excellent job you are doing." The queen patted the head of a young retarded girl who had waited to see her, drawing tears from the girl's mother.

Abdullah — who became king in February after his father's death — met separately with President Emile Lahoud, Prime Minister Salim Hoss and Parliament



King Abdullah II

Speaker Nabih Berri. Jordanian political, economic and security officials held talks with their Lebanese counterparts.

In a statement issued by his office, Lahoud said Abdullah's visit was an "expression of brotherly relations" between the Jordanian and Lebanese peoples.

The Lebanese-Jordanian discussions touched on the peace process — Jordan has a peace

treaty with Israel while part of southern Lebanon is occupied by Israeli soldiers.

In an interview with the Lebanese newspaper Nida al-Watan, Abdullah said he was optimistic that talks involving Israel, Syria and Lebanon could resume soon. He did not predict a date.

Abdullah is the first Jordanian head of state to visit Lebanon since November 1969, according to royal palace sources in the Jordanian capital, Amman.

Relations between Lebanon and Jordan have been lukewarm at best since the 1950s and deteriorated since Jordan's 1994 peace

treaty with Israel. But relations began improving after ties between Jordan and Syria, the main power broker in Lebanon, strengthened following the death of Abdullah's father, King Hussein. The royal couple's visit continues Tuesday.

Palestinians, Israel in final status talks

EREZ CROSSING, Gaza Strip (Reuters) — On the sixth anniversary of their first interim peace deal, Israel and the Palestinians formally launched talks on Monday on a final settlement they aim to achieve within a year.

Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat's de facto deputy Abu Mazen, calling for an end to decades of conflict, met at the Israel-Gaza border for the ceremonial opening of a year of negotiations.

But wide differences on the shape of a lasting peace cast their shadow over the event.

Both sides will have to tackle such explosive issues as the final status of Jerusalem and Jewish settlements, the future of Palestinian refugees and setting permanent frontiers.

"It's definitely going to be very difficult," said U.S. Middle East envoy Dennis Ross, asked by reporters at the ceremony about the 12-month target date for an agreement.

Ross said the United States would play an active role in the process, from U.S. President Bill Clinton down, but ultimately it would be up to the parties themselves to forge an accord.

"With God's help, this settlement will end 100 years of conflict, filled with suffering, between the two peoples," Levy said at the ceremony.

"We also have to remember that both sides will arrive at compromises that may involve painful decisions," he added pointedly.

Abu Mazen said the occasion marked a turning point in Israeli-Palestinian peacemaking. "Let us make history with the required courage, patience and wisdom. The past was marked with denial. Let the future be based

on mutual recognition of self-determination. It is time to heal. It is time to reconstruct. It is the time for peace and peacemakers," he said.

In his speech, Levy set down Israel's bedrock positions under Prime Minister Ehud Barak which Palestinians have said did not differ greatly from those of the man he defeated in May elections, right-winger Benjamin Netanyahu.

"Israel's fundamental principle will be no return to 1967 borders," Levy said, referring to the 1967 Middle East war when Israel occupied the West Bank, including Arab East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip.

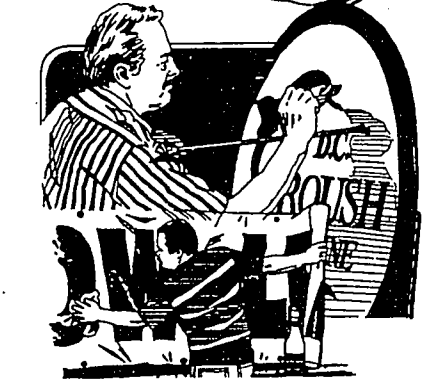
"A united Jerusalem will remain the capital of the state of Israel. Blocs of settlements will remain under Israeli control. No foreign army will exist west of the Jordan river," he said.

Abu Mazen said no one should doubt the Palestinians' will to establish an independent state.

"We aspire to live within the borders of an independent Palestinian state, on the June 4, 1967 boundaries, with holy Jerusalem as its capital," Abu Mazen said.

He said the Palestinians wanted a just solution to the issue of Palestinian refugees and he called for the dismantling of Jewish settlements on occupied land.

The ceremony coincided with the sixth anniversary of the groundbreaking Oslo accord, sealed at the White House with a handshake between Arafat and Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.



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Security tight after blasts

MOSCOW (Reuters) — A devastating bomb tore apart a Moscow apartment block on Monday, killing at least 73 people in the second blast in the capital in four days.

Officials investigating the attacks said suspects had already been detained. Many politicians blamed unruly warlords from the breakaway region of Chechnya, who are now leading an Islamic rebel incursion in the southern region of Dagestan. A key warlord, Shamil Basayev, has denied involvement.

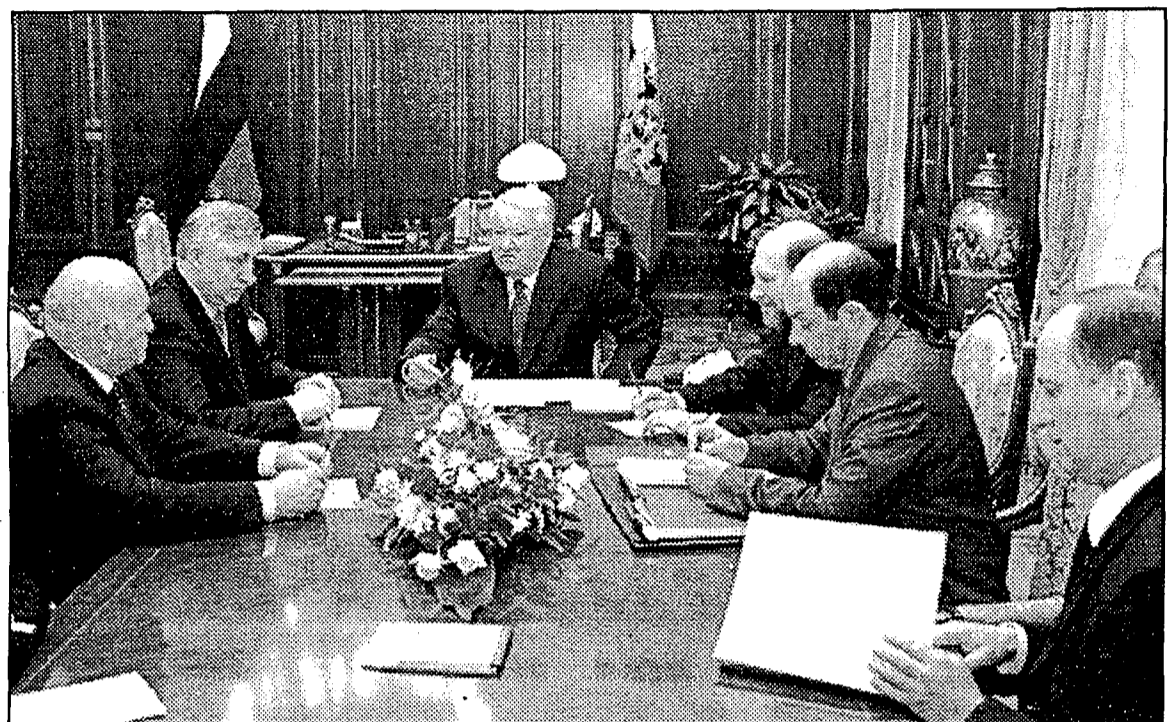
President Boris Yeltsin ordered steps to prevent more attacks after the latest bomb razed the eight-storey building in a blast eerily similar to an attack against a residential block last Thursday which killed 94 people.

Interior Minister Vladimir Rushailo said investigators, now combing cellars and attics throughout Moscow, had found explosives in another building, preventing a fresh attack.

The Monday morning blast shattered trees and threw masonry over a wide area in a southern suburb. A play slide was visible in the rubble as drizzle added to the gloom. Rescuers clambered over the still smouldering mounds of concrete and twisted metal.

Monday was already a day of mourning for over 150 people killed in Thursday's blast and one on September 4 in Dagestan.

"Today, a day of mourning, a



Russian President Boris Yeltsin speaks during a meeting in Moscow's Kremlin Monday. Yeltsin ordered tight security at airports, nuclear power stations and other possible targets due to a recent spate of bombings. AP

new disaster hit us," Yeltsin said in a televised address. "Terrorism has declared war on us, the people of Russia."

He urged Russians to remain calm and vigilant and vowed a tough, swift response to those responsible. Prime Minister Vladimir Putin made similar remarks before he left a summit in New Zealand to return urgently to Moscow on Yeltsin's orders.

"It's difficult even to call them animals," Putin said. "If they are animals, then they are rabid."

No one has claimed responsibility for Monday's blast, nor for previous ones, which included a bomb in a Moscow shopping mall which killed one woman and injured dozens.

Russian news agencies quoted First Deputy Prime Minister Nikolai Aksyonenko as saying suspects were already in detention for the apartment and shopping mall blasts.

"There is a ring of suspects, there are concrete people who have been identified and detained," RIA news agency quoted Aksyonenko as saying after a meeting on fighting terrorism.

Moscow mayor Yuri Luzhkov later said two men had been de-

tained. Interior Minister Vladimir Rushailo blamed Basayev, and another Chechen fighter of Jordanian origin, Khattab.

Both have led rebel Moslem incursions into Dagestan over the last two months. Basayev has denied any link to the attacks while Khattab has threatened terrorist blows against Russia.

Rushailo also said police had found a large amount of explosives in another apartment block, but gave no details.

Itar-Tass news agency, without making it clear if it was the same incident, said 50 bags of explosive mixed with sugar had been found at one address alongside two bags of detonators.

As tension remained high, RIA said a false alarm in one area caused about 1,000 people to quit their apartments and stand on rainy streets as police checked their building.

U.S. Defence Secretary William Cohen, visiting Moscow, condemned the latest attack and told a news conference Washington would help Russia tackle the crisis.

Officials in major Russian centres, including Moscow and St

Petersburg, have introduced tough security measures in residential areas, at nuclear plants and fuel depots.

This third blast in two weeks fuelled rumours the Kremlin would introduce a general state of emergency, a move that would cast doubt on parliamentary elections due December 19.

A Kremlin source told Reuters a meeting of top security officials called by Yeltsin did not discuss such an option, although a Yeltsin aide said a partial state of emergency could be introduced in some parts of Russia.

The State Duma, parliament's lower house, asked Yeltsin and Putin on Tuesday to visit the chamber and report on a crisis that has unnerved normally stoical Muscovites.

"I thought a war had broken out," said an elderly woman called Nina. "I'm so scared, it's scary to walk home at night. And now they're bombing us in our beds."

Four people were pulled alive from the wrecked building soon after the blast at 5:00 a.m. (0100 GMT) on Monday but since then only corpses, Emergencies Ministry officials said. They said seven children were among the 73 dead.

Mass graves in Bosnia exhumed

SARAJEVO, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP) — The Muslim Commission for Missing Persons started new exhumations Monday at several mass grave sites in Bosnia, a local official said.

"We are expecting to find several hundred Muslim bodies, mostly civilians," a deputy head of the commission, Jasmin Odobasic, told The Associated Press on Monday.

The exhumations will be conducted in the area near Srebrenica, site of the war's worst massacre, where some 7,000 people were killed.

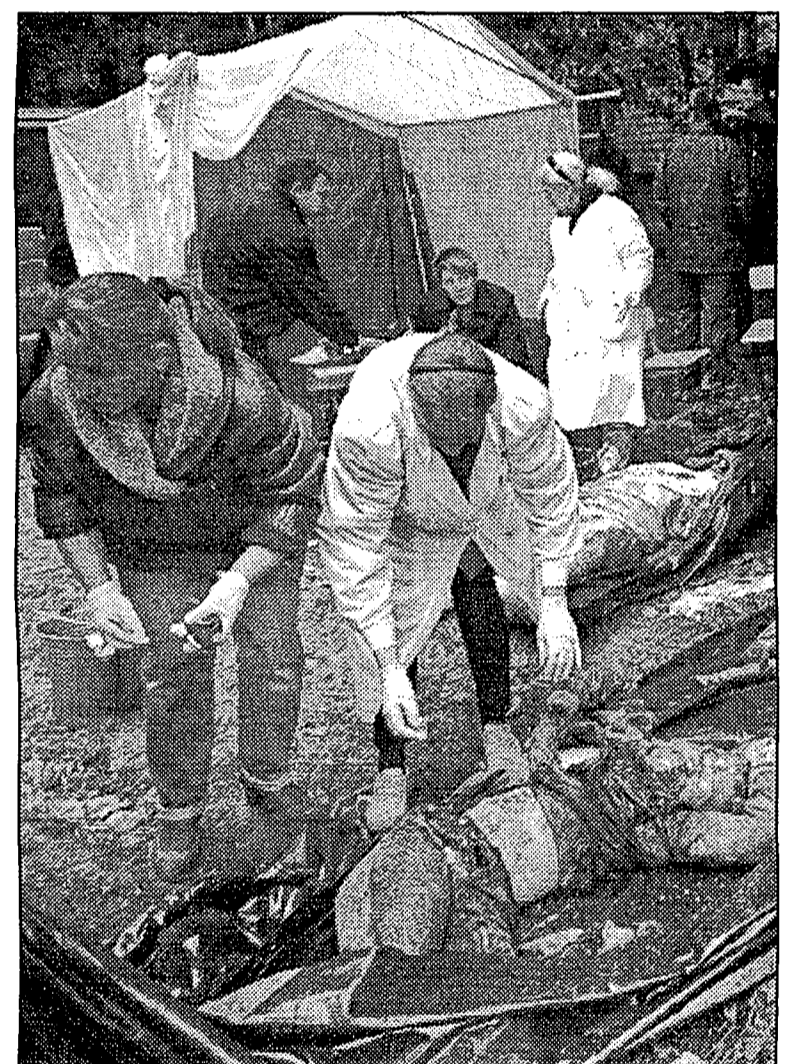
Other sites include the eastern town of Foca, where more than

1,000 Muslims were executed; the northwestern town of Prijedor, where several concentration camps for Muslims and Croats were located; and an area near the southern town of Gacko.

All these sites are under Bosnian Serb control and it is believed that victims were killed by Serb military units during the 1992-95 Bosnian war.

Since the war ended, more than 4,000 bodies have been exhumed in Bosnia, Odobasic said.

Estimates are that some 200,000 people were killed in the Bosnian war, and international experts say more than 24,000 people are still missing.



Paramedics examine victims' bodies at a site of the blast that tore apart a Moscow apartment building Monday. A suspected bomb demolished a large apartment building, leaving 34 people dead and scores of others missing in the second major explosion in the Russian capital in four days. AP

US condemns Moscow bombings

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The United States on Monday condemned as an act of terror the latest bomb blast to shake Moscow and offered to assist in the investigation.

A bomb destroyed a Moscow apartment block on Monday, killing at least 58 people in the second devastating blast in the capital in four days.

"The United States government condemns the apparent bombing that took place in Moscow," said U.S. State Department spokesman James Rubin.

"Nighttime explosions in two apartment buildings were clearly planned to maximize loss of life. Acts of terror in all their forms have no place in a democratic

society," he said.

He noted that Russia is conducting an investigation into the bomb blasts and said, "We stand ready to assist that investigation and we'll be discussing possible assistance with the Russian authorities shortly."

A group of Russian security officials was due in Washington this week to discuss money-laundering and other crime-related issues with officials of the U.S. Justice Department and other agencies.

Given the recent bomb blasts, "we would expect to... (also) talk to those officials... about what kind of forensic and other support we could provide on an urgent basis," subjects on which

the United States has expertise, Rubin said.

The recent bombings "only serve to strengthen our commitment to the government of Russia and to the people of our two countries to work more effectively together to combat these kind of heinous crimes," Rubin said.

He extended formal U.S. condolences to the families of the victims of the blasts and underscored President Boris Yeltsin's call for Russians not to rush to judgment against people of certain nationalities or religious faiths.

Officials in Moscow investigating the attacks said suspects had already been detained.

Microsoft makes e-commerce move

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — Microsoft Corp. on Monday unveiled details of its Windows DNA 2000 software, putting its influence behind an effort to allow developers to write software that can help companies more easily exchange data and conduct electronic commerce.

Microsoft will begin shipping its new tools this year that will allow developers to stitch together an array of Web services, applications and devices anywhere around the world, Microsoft president Steve Ballmer told a gathering of Web programmers.

"This will provide the extensibility for a Web site to 'talk' to another Web site," Ballmer said. "You will be able to program the Web."

The strategy marks a significant shift away from Microsoft's focus on personal computers that are run by its Windows operating

system.

While working to maintain Windows' dominance, the Redmond, Washington-based company is hoping to carve out a significant share of the growing e-commerce market by offering software that allows devices such as handheld personal computers, cable set-top boxes and even cellular phones to communicate with one another.

The moves come as competitors such as Sun Microsystems are unveiling products that bypass Windows in favor of the Internet.

The moves by Microsoft are also notable because they show the company is moving more firmly to embrace a relatively new technology called extensible markup language, or XML.

XML is a way to tag electronic information with identifying codes so that businesses can ex-

change information without worrying about the need to reformat data so that it can be retrieved and viewed by others.

For example, a business can easily send orders to a parts supplier across the Web without paying big consulting fees to an outside company to set up an electronic network necessary to translate the information.

Microsoft hopes to capitalize on XML by providing what it calls "friction-free" software that would keep server networks from suffering critical failures and data loss — a problem that vexes Web surfers looking to buy or sell products during busy periods.

The company also hopes to provide a variety of different services to e-commerce companies. One such program, called Passport, would authenticate a customer's identity and credit-card information to process payments.

Digital photos become commonplace

(AP) — Digital photography that once was exotic is now becoming commonplace, which means more is expected of the software used to process and manipulate the images.

Adobe Systems of San Jose, Calif., is now offering Photoshop Limited Edition and it's a good middle-of-the-road alternative for those who want more than the simple editors usually bundled with cameras or scanners, but don't need the full-powered complexity of Adobe Photoshop 5.5.

Available for both Windows and Macintosh platforms, Photoshop LE has the same look and feel as the full version, but concentrates on the capabilities most likely to be needed by a nonprofessional.

Those include image-enhancing and correcting tools, special effects, making multiple-image composites and the ability to create original art and to use layering.

Layering allows the user to deal with individual elements of a composition as though they were transparencies stacked on top of one another. It allows you to change the background, for example, without disturbing an object in the foreground.

Although the software has a toolbar interface, it's very much for those whose needs are beyond the routine. You know you're getting into deeper waters when the "Quick Reference" card is four 8.5 by 7.5-inch pages. Or, when you get an explanation of the fine points of pattern dithering vs. diffusion dithering. (Dithering means adjusting the pixels that are next to each other so that they give the illusion of a different color. It's the way a monitor that can display only 256 colors handles colors 257 and up.)

That said, if you've grown beyond the simple stuff and don't want the major investment of time and money in the full version, Photoshop LE will handle just about any personal and most professional digital-image photo-editing requirements.

System requirements for the Mac: PowerPC-based computer, System 7.5 or later. For Windows: a Pentium and Windows 95 or later. Both platforms want at least 16 megabytes of RAM, a 256-color monitor and a CD-ROM drive and 40 megabytes of available disk space.

Adobe products are widely available at retail and Photoshop LE is priced at \$99.

If the Macintosh is your computer of choice and you're looking for a graphics studio with clip art and design capability, give Nova Development's Print Explosion a try. Designed exclusively for the Mac, Print Explosion offers more than 4,000 designs for greeting cards, signs, banners, invitations and other graphics products.

The list of included goodies is long: 50,000 graphics, 1,200 photos, 1,000 fine-art images, 500 True Type fonts, templates for paper product, scanner support, 2,000 greeting-card designs and more.

Using Print Explosion is intuitive and straightforward and it supports all Mac printers. The only problem I had using the software was getting it away from my wife, a teacher, who is using it to crank out worksheets and bulletin-board material daily. Sorry, kids.

System requirements: any PowerPC-based Mac, including iMac. System 7.5.5 or later, 16 megabytes of RAM, CD-ROM drive. Print Explosion is available at retail for \$49.95, but they will also sell it to you online at <http://www.novadevelopment.com>.

Toshiba to cut nearly 5,000 jobs

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's Toshiba Corp. plans to slash nearly 5,000 jobs and omit its interim dividend payment for the first time in half a century in response to deteriorating earnings prospects.

Citing worsening conditions in the semiconductor market, Toshiba said Monday it expects a consolidated loss of 15 billion yen, or \$139 million, and a

pretax loss of 10 billion yen, or \$92.6 million, for the fiscal year ending in March 2000.

Previously, Toshiba had forecast a group net profit of 25 billion yen, or \$231 million, and a pretax profit of 40 billion yen, or \$370 million.

Poor short-term prospects have led to stepped-up restructuring, said Toshiba President Taizo Nishimuro, and the

company will slash its work force to 58,600 by March 2000 from the current 63,200.

It was unclear if the job cuts would come from layoffs or attrition.

The omission of the interim dividend will be Toshiba's first in 49 years. The company hasn't yet decided how much its dividend will be at fiscal year-end.

Procurement and Supply CNMI Government
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
 RFP NO. RFP99-0073
 FOR: EQUAL ACCESS LONG DISTANCE TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES
 OPENING DATE: OCTOBER 13, 1999 TIME: 10:30 A.M.
 GOVERNOR PEDRO P. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS R. SABLAN, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING SEALED PROPOSALS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR EQUAL ACCESS LONG DISTANCE TELECOMMUNICATION SERVICES.
 INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP PROPOSAL FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.).
 /s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
 DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

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INVITATION TO BID
 ITB NO. ITB99-0072
 FOR: MAINTENANCE OF BALLFIELDS, TRACKS & THE SURROUNDING AREAS
 OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 24, 1999 TIME: 1:30 P.M.
 GOVERNOR PEDRO P. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS R. SABLAN, THROUGH THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING COMPETITIVE SEALED BIDS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR THE MAINTENANCE OF BALLFIELDS, TRACKS & SURROUNDING AREAS.
 INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP BID FORMS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.).
 /s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
 DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

Procurement and Supply CNMI Government
REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
 RFP NO. RFP99-0068
 FOR: PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE, REPAIR AND CALIBRATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER'S BIOMEDICAL EQUIPMENT
 OPENING DATE: SEPTEMBER 17, 1999 TIME: 10:00 A.M.
 GOVERNOR PEDRO P. TENORIO AND LT. GOVERNOR JESUS R. SABLAN, THROUGH THE DIRECTOR OF THE DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, ARE SOLICITING SEALED PROPOSALS TO QUALIFIED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS FOR PREVENTIVE MAINTENANCE, REPAIR AND CALIBRATION OF THE COMMONWEALTH HEALTH CENTER'S BIOMEDICAL EQUIPMENT. INTERESTED INDIVIDUALS OR FIRMS MAY PICK UP PROPOSAL FORMS AND SPECIFICATIONS AT THE OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR, PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY, LOWER BASE, SAIPAN, DURING WORKING HOURS (7:30 A.M. TO 4:30 P.M.).
 /s/HERMAN S. SABLAN
 DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY

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01 MANAGER, RESTAURANT-Salary:\$580.00-1,500.00 per month

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01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$3.05 per hour

09 HAND SEWER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour

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

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01 WAITRESS N/C-Salary:\$3.05 per hour

01 GARDENER-Salary:\$3.35 per hour

01 SUPERVISOR (F&B)-Salary:\$580.00-1,700.00 per month

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03 AUTO A/C TECHNICIAN-Salary:\$3.05 per hour

01 MAINTENANCE BUILDING REPAIRER-Salary:\$3.50-4.00 per hour

01 MASON-Salary:\$4.00 per hour

01 INTERPRETER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour

01 MAINTENANCE REPAIR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour

01 BEAUTICIAN (Barber)-Salary:\$3.05 per hour

01 (GENERAL) MANAGER-Salary:\$2,000.00 per month

01 MAINTENANCE (MANAGER) (AIRCRAFT)-Salary:\$1,500.00-3,300.00 per month

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01 STOCK CONTROL CLERK-Salary:\$3.10-3.30 per hour

02 HEAD WAITER-Salary:\$4.17-5.10 per hour

01 MAINTENANCE BUILDING REPAIR-Salary:\$3.05-3.30 per hour

01 HOUSEKEEPING CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05-3.25 per hour

01 SALES REPRESENTATIVE-Salary:\$3.05 per hour

01 SALES REPRESENTATIVE-Salary:\$3.05 per hour

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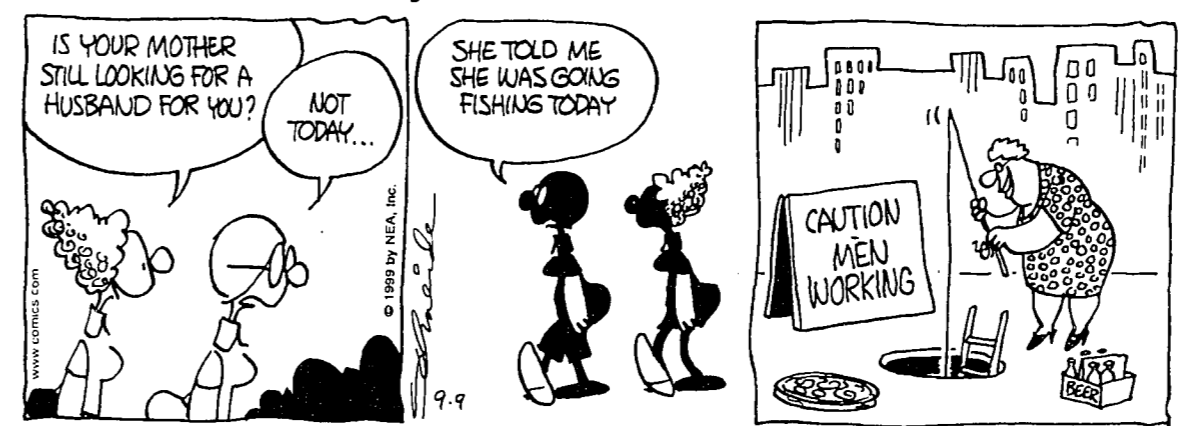
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CLASSIFIED ADS FIRST

Boxer in critical condition

NORTH KANSAS CITY, Mo. (AP)—Boxer Randie Carver underwent brain surgery and remained in critical condition Monday after being knocked out during a fight at Harrah's North Kansas City Casino.

The surgery was completed late Sunday. Carver, 25, of Kansas City, Mo., was knocked out in the 10th round of a scheduled 12-round bout with Kabary Salem. Carver's family requested that

no other information be released on his condition. Kim Shopper, a spokeswoman for North Kansas City Hospital, said Monday.

Randy Singer, director of Missouri's Division of Professional Registration, which oversees the boxing-regulating Missouri Athletic Commission, said the commission's staffers were going to review a videotape of the fight Monday. But he said the commission's authority was

limited to considering whether fight officials, who license, acted properly.

Carver, who billed himself "the Natural," is a former Golden Gloves champion who won the North American Boxing Federation super middleweight championship at the casino last year. He brought a 23-0-1 record into the championship fight, televised on the Fox Sports Net.

PDO . . .

Continued from page 4

with a screw driver.

The suspects also allegedly took money and items, including a vehicle, from the couple.

Both suspects fled the area.

Bowen said when Jamison turned himself to the Department of Public Safety on May 15 at 2:40 a.m., a police investigator questioned him about the incident later at 11:25 a.m.

Another police officer, Bowen said, attempted to translate into Tagalog for Jamison.

Bowen said at no time following Jamison's arrest nor at the time of the interview did DPS officials call or contact the Philippine Consulate.

"At no time during the period prior to the interview did any DPS officer inform Jamison of his right to communicate with or contact the Philippine Consulate," he pointed out.

"The interview, therefore, was conducted without Jamison having had counsel and assistance from consular officials regarding his rights and options while in the custody of a state or territory of the U.S.," the lawyer said.

Bowen said it was Jamison's desire to have the assistance of an attorney prior to questioning.

The defense attorney said the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations sets forth procedures when a citizen of the sending country, such as the Philippines, is detained or in the custody of authorities in the receiving country, the CNMI or the U.S.

The Vienna Convention, a treaty to which the U.S. is a signatory, confers on an individual the right to consular assistance following arrest, Bowen said.

"When Jamison was detained for over eight hours without being advised that he could have the assistance of a Consular Officer, he was prejudiced in that he was subjected to a police interview without the proper notification of his rights as a citizen of a foreign country through the Vienna Convention," he added.

Assistant Public Defender Robert T. Torres first raised the same Vienna Convention issue last month in a criminal case against Sergio Inabangan, also a Filipino.

Torres noted that the Philippine Consulate recently brought the issue with the executive branch to advise DPS and the Department of Labor and Immigration of their obligations and duties under the Vienna Convention.

CDC . . .

Continued from page 4

ally takes a long period of time to translate from Chinese to English, to "code", analyze, among others, the survey forms.

"But we are optimistic the results of the survey will be given before the end of the year," Diaz added.

The U.S. Labor's Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) described the March food poisoning at the L&T Garment Manufacturing Corp. in Saipan as the biggest occupational health-related incident in U.S. soil so far.

Musashimaru . . .

Continued from page 28

Takanohana is 0-2.

In other major bouts, ozeki Dejima bulldozed out No. 1 maegashira

Tamakasuga, leaving both wrestlers at 1-1.

Ozeki Chiyotaikei charged No. 2 maegashira Asanoshō with a series of hand thrusts and sent him out for his second victory against no defeats. Asanoshō is 1-1.

Sekiwake (junior champion) Kaio grabbed ozeki Takanonami's belt and threw him out for his second victory against no defeats.

Takanonami is 1-1.

No. 12 maegashira Kyokutenho, or Mongolian Tsevegnyam Nyamjav, held on No. 13 maegashira Yotsukasa's driving attempts at the ring's edge and threw him down to improve his record to 1-1. Yotsukasa is 0-2.

In the juryo division, just below the senior makuuchi division, No. 10-ranked Hoshitango, or Argentine Imach Marcelo Salomon, was

pushed out by No. 12-ranked Tamarikido (2-0) for his first defeat against one victory.

No. 10-ranked Sentoryu, or American Henry Armstrong Miller, sent out No. 13-ranked Tamananada, leaving both wrestlers at 1-1.

In makushita, the top junior division, No. 26-ranked Kuniyama (1-0), or Brazilian Vander Ramos, threw down No. 27-ranked Otoriyu.

No. 6-ranked Wakaazuma (0-1), or Yoshinobu Kuroda from Brazil, was shoved out by No. 7-ranked Toyozakura.

In sandanme, the second highest junior division, No. 85-ranked Kaihakistan (1-0), or South Korean Baeg Yun-gi, sent out equally-ranked Chiyotaka.

No. 66-ranked Ryuo (0-1), or Wang Yu from Shanghai, China, was pushed out by No. 67-ranked Kaishin.

In the jonidan, the third highest junior division, No. 118-ranked Kotonomori (1-0), or Brazilian Mario Fuchiue, pulled down No. 119-ranked Daitenryu.

Wrestlers in junior divisions have only seven bouts during the 15-day tournament.

tying or game-winning drives. "I'm going to clue the world in on this Mile High magic," Elway told the fans. "They can talk about the altitude. They can talk about the field. They can talk about everything, but the key thing to Mile High magic is you."

Before the game, Elway watched from a luxury box as Broncos alumni were introduced. He looked calm, sipping occasionally from a Coors bottle and talking to his 8-year-old daughter Juliana.

Task . . .

Continued from page 1

mestic airline gone international.

But Palacios said the airline may have to upgauge its equip-

ment first before any official arrangements can be defined.

Palacios also noted JAL's impressive service performance despite the ailing economic conditions.

"Look at how fast JAL has come. It is now offering more

chartered flights and I understand they have started providing 747 flights," he said.

Meanwhile, at the aviation task force meeting next week, Palacios hopes to get an open dialogue going on the feasibility of this initiative.

DPH . . .

Continued from page 1

Villagomez.

These health screenings will be extended from 4 pm to 8 pm every Thursdays. Current screening services are offered only from 8 am to 4 pm only every Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Ned Ariola, deputy secretary for public health yesterday said the ongoing expansion of the San Antonio Clinic is expected to be finished in December.

"This is in line with our aim of going out to the community, es-

pecially in those populated areas," said Ariola, adding that the construction of two new clinics in Kagman and San Roque are also being eyed by DPH.

DPH's free screening service is part of the National Breast and Cervical Early Detection Program, the first nationwide chronic disease prevention initiative implemented by the federal government.

This program provides screening services for breast and cervical cancer to women in the CNMI.

These services are offered to women who meet the program's enrollment requirements based on

family size, family income, the absence of health insurance, and residency status requiring a women of at least one complete year's stay in the CNMI.

DPH earlier disclosed that at least five of some 490 women — or one in every five — in the CNMI who underwent the annual special mammogram service has breast cancer.

It added that Chamorro women are three times more likely than white women in the U.S. to die of breast cancer because of late diagnosis. While CNMI has a 76.8 breast cancer death rate, U.S. has only 21.6 rate, DPH said.

Dwindling . . .

Continued from page 1

able for the first nine months of the current fiscal year.

The government has estimated that it would have collected \$211 million by the end of the current fiscal year.

The local garment sector has repeatedly been under fire from reports in the U.S. mainland about allegations of abuse, even prostitution, involving garment workers.

Federal officials have also repeatedly alleged that Saipan garment factories are exploiting a "loophole" in Headnote 3(a) of the US Harmonized Tariff Code which

allows the CNMI to import manufactured products to the U.S. mainland quota-free.

This, they said, has placed U.S. mainland garment manufacturers, who pay workers the federal rate, at a disadvantage as they incur higher production cost compared to local producers who pay \$3.05 an hour.

Fund . . .

Continued from page 1

venues to meet monthly obligations.

The legislator said the CNMI's actual revenues could reach around \$211.3 million by the end

if the fiscal year, or some \$2.3 million more than the \$209 million projected revenues.

Fiscal year-to-date off-island investments of the Fund stood at \$332,480,166 in May, comprising the bulk of resources available for pensioners' benefits.

Mike Sablan, special finance and budget advisor of Gov. Pedro

P. Tenorio, earlier said the government is yet to ascertain its next batch of payments after fiscal year 1999.

"We will evaluate further quarterly collections and economic trends to determine the contribution level to which the government can commit after that time," said Sablan.

Blue . . .

Continued from page 28

the final out for his first save.

LaTroy Hawkins (9-13) allowed six runs and 10 hits in 5 1-3 innings.

Rangers 8, Royals 4, 10 innings

In Kansas, Roberto Kelly singled home the go-ahead run off Jose Santiago (2-4) and Texas scored four unearned runs in the 10th inning, getting help from errors by third baseman Joe Randa and first baseman

Mike Sweeney.

Ivan Rodriguez went 2-for-5 with a two-run homer and three RBIs for the Rangers, who remained 5 1/2 games ahead of Oakland in the AL West.

John Wetteland (4-4) pitched two scoreless innings.

Broncos . . .

Continued from page 28

honor."

Elway, who retired after winning his second straight Super Bowl title, is the 16th member of Denver's Ring of Fame and the first inductee since Louis Wright was inducted in 1993.

The Broncos waived the mandatory five-year waiting period for Elway's induction. He is sure to be

inducted into the Pro Football Hall of Fame when he becomes eligible in 2004.

Only Dan Marino, who was in the Miami locker room during the halftime ceremony, has more passing yards than Elway, who finished with 51,475.

Elway also had 300 career touchdown passes and an NFL-leading 148 victories as a starter. Marino is second with 142.

The statistic Elway will be remembered best for is his 47 game-

NFL action

Dolphins stop Broncos, 38-21

DENVER (AP)—John Elway wouldn't have had it any other way.

If someone had to spoil his retirement party, it might as well be Dan Marino, the last quarterback left from that illustrious class of 1983.

With major help from the special teams, who blocked a punt and a field goal to set up 10 points, the Miami Dolphins beat Denver 38-21 Monday night, spoiling Brian Griese's coming out party as Elway's successor in the Broncos' first game in

pursuit of a third straight Super Bowl title.

It also put a damper on the halftime ceremony in which Elway's name and number were placed in the Broncos' Ring of Fame.

Marino, who was 15-of-23 for 215 yards as he began what might be his final quest for an elusive Super Bowl ring, had a 12-yard TD pass to rookie fullback Rob Konrad and a 4-yarder to O.J. McDuffie.

Karim Abdul-Jabbar and another rookie, J.J. Johnson, had 1-yard TD runs and Olindo Mare added a 37-yard field goal as the Dolphins ended Denver's 24-game regular season home winning streak that extended back to December 1996.

Griese, selected over Bubby Brister by coach Mike Shanahan to start in Elway's place, wasn't bad, finishing 24-of-40 for 270 yards and throwing TD passes of 61, 11 and 4 yards to Ed McCaffrey, the last coming with 34 seconds to play. He also was sacked with about

four minutes to play by Rich Owens and fumbled with Jason Taylor recovering in the end zone for the Dolphins' final score.

But his arm didn't present the fear factor Elway's did, allowing Miami to play eight men close to the line of scrimmage to shut down Terrell Davis, who finished with 61 yards on 19 carries.

Late in the first half, for example, Griese underthrew a wide-open McCaffrey, who had to come back for the ball and dropped it.

Griese started off like another Elway, hitting McCaffrey between Brock Marion and Shawn Wooden for the 61-yard score on the first series of the game.

The Broncos held their 7-0 lead into the second quarter and looked about to go ahead 10-0. But Lorenzo Bromell blocked Jason Elam's 44-yard field goal attempt and Terrell Buckley returned it 43 yards to the Denver 36. Four plays

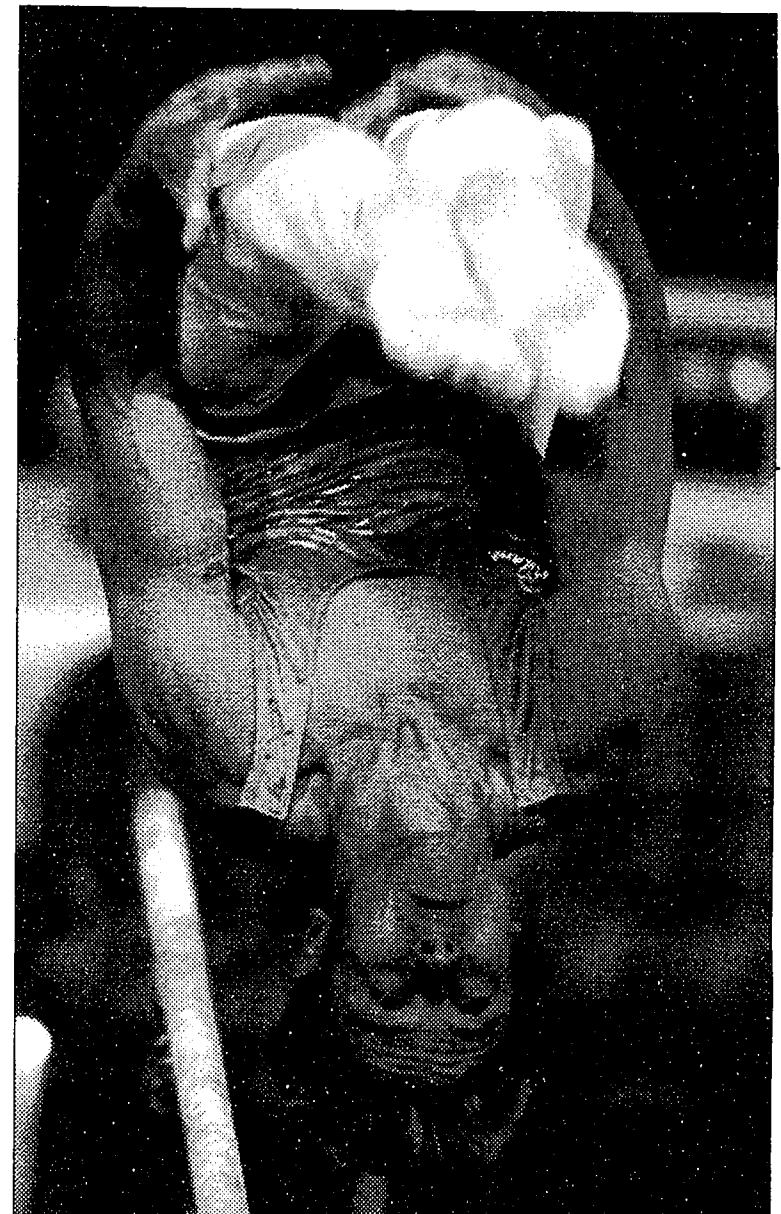
later, Abdul-Jabbar took it into the end zone to tie the score.

Then Marino took the Dolphins 80 yards in seven plays, highlighted by a 40-yard pass to Tony Martin, the new speed receiver signed as a free agent. Marino capped that one with a 12-yard pass to Konrad, all alone in the right flat.

On Miami's next possession, Greg Jeffries partially blocked Tom Rouen's punt, setting up Mare's field goal with one second left in the half making it 17-7.

Johnson scored to cap the opening drive of the second half, 65 yards in nine plays that gave Denver a 24-7 lead. Griese's second TD pass cut it back to 10.

But then Miami middle linebacker Zach Thomas sacked Griese on a fourth-and-1 at the Dolphins' 40. Marino then completed passes of 11 yards to Troy Drayton, 20 to Martin, 14 to McDuffie and 4 to McDuffie for the score that made it 31-14.



South African gymnast Dewald Laubscher dismounts the parallel bars in the All-Africa Games men's individual all-around competition in Johannesburg, South Africa, Monday. AP

Stewart, O'Meara at Dunhill

ST. ANDREWS, Scotland (AP)—Payne Stewart and Mark O'Meara will represent the three-time champion United States at next month's Alfred Dunhill Cup.

The third member of the team for the Oct. 7-10 tournament will be announced shortly, organizers said Monday.

Stewart won this year's U.S. Open, while O'Meara was the 1998 Masters and British Open winner. The third spot might go

to Tiger Woods, who played on last year's team which lost in the semifinals to Spain.

South Africa, bidding for an unprecedented third straight victory, will field the same team that has won the cup the past two years: Ernie Els, David Frost and Retief Goosen.

Scotland will field European money leader Colin Montgomerie, 1999 British Open champion Paul Lawrie and Gary Orr.

Spain will field a team of 19-year-old sensation Sergio Garcia, 1999 Masters champ Jose Maria Olazabal and Ryder Cup player Miguel Angel Jimenez.

European Ryder Cup captain Mark James will lead the English team of Lee Westwood and David Howell.

Other top names include France's Jean Van de Velde, who lost a playoff at the British Open, and Zimbabwe's Nick Price.

Seahawks sign former 49er Hanks

KIRKLAND, Wash. (AP)—The Seattle Seahawks announced Monday they have signed former San Francisco free safety Merton Hanks, who was released last week.

Hanks spent eight seasons with the 49ers and was selected to four Pro Bowls.

With the 49ers, he played in

125 games, including 109 starts, and made 31 interceptions.

In Seattle, where the secondary is made up of Shawn Springs and Willie Williams at cornerback and Darryl Williams and Jay Bellamy at safety, Hanks will be used in the team's nickel defense, when the Seahawks go to five

defensive backs.

"We have pretty good guys in the secondary and he knows that," Seahawks coach Mike Holmgren said. "But he also knows that we run five and six defensive backs in there a lot. I feel very fortunate to have him. He will help us."

Nets' Williams gets more surgery

EAST RUTHERFORD, N.J. (AP)—New Jersey Nets center Jayson Williams, who is battling to return from a career-threatening leg injury, will have more surgery on his right knee on Tuesday.

The arthroscopic surgery will be done to clean out loose particles, general manager John Nash said in a statement released by the team late Monday.

Williams, an All-Star in 1997-98 and one of the NBA's top rebounders, broke his right leg

and partially tore knee cartilage in a collision with teammate Stephon Marbury during a game against Atlanta on April 1.

Williams underwent surgery the next day to repair the displaced fracture as well as the cartilage.

Dr. Russell Warren, who performed the surgery, told the team at the time that a second surgery would be needed sometime during the rehabilitation, Nash said.

"Jayson has been making good progress," Nash said. "Dr. Warren felt the procedure was necessary at this time to allow the leg to continue to fully rehabilitate."

Warren will perform the surgery Tuesday at the Hospital for Special Surgery in New York.

In 30 games last season, Williams averaged 12 points and 8.1 rebounds. He was leading the league in offensive rebounds at the time he was hurt.

US Open ratings soar

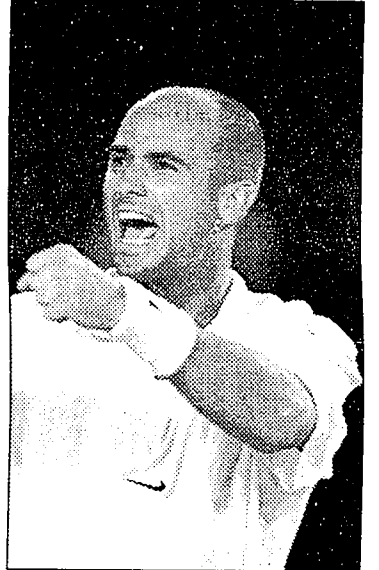
NEW YORK (AP)—The all-American final between Andre Agassi and Todd Martin more than doubled last year's ratings in the U.S. Open final. And the men didn't even fare as well as the women.

CBS' Sunday afternoon match in which Agassi outlasted Martin in five sets posted a 7.1 overnight rating and a 14 share, up 133 percent from last year when Rafter defeated Mark Philippoussis.

But for the third straight year, the women posted a higher overnight rating than the men in the U.S. Open finale.

Serena Williams' upset win over Martina Hingis in the women's championship Saturday had a 7.2 overnight mark and a 17 share. That was double last year's title match between Lindsay Davenport and Martina Hingis.

It was the first time that the U.S. Open women's final followed the men's semifinal matches. Usually, it is played between the two matches.



Andre Agassi

The tournament was the highest-rated since 1991, posting a 4.1 overnight rating, up 52 percent from last year's 2.7.

The rating is the percentage of television households tuned to a broadcast while the share is the percentage watching a program among those televisions in use at the time.

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SPORTS



Blue Jays beat Yankees

TORONTO (AP) — David Wells pitched a four-hitter to beat his former team for the first time in four starts this season, as the Toronto Blue Jays beat New York 2-1 Monday night to hand the Yankees their fourth straight loss.

The Yankees, coming off a three-game sweep by Boston, remained 3 1/2 games ahead of the Red Sox, who lost to Cleveland 11-7. New York was held to one run for the third time in four

games.

Vernon Wells hit his first career homer for the Blue Jays, who entered the day 6 1/2 games behind Boston in the AL wild card race.

Wells (14-10), acquired in February in the Roger Clemens deal, was 0-3 with a 5.49 ERA against the Yankees this season before throwing his sixth complete game this season and the 35th of his career.

Orlando Hernandez (16-8) took the loss.

Indians 11, Red Sox 7

In Cleveland, Kenny Lofton returned from a strained right hamstring to homer for the first time since June 11, driving in three runs to lead Cleveland.

Boston's lead over Oakland in the wild-card race slipped to two games.

Lofton, who had missed nine games, was 3-for-4, and Richie

Sexson and Harold Baines each hit three-run homers.

Charles Nagy (16-9) allowed five runs and eight hits in 5 2-3 innings, improving to 7-1 against Boston since Aug. 13, 1992. Paul Shuey pitched two innings for his sixth save.

Tim Wakefield (5-10) took the loss.

Athletics 8, Devil Rays 3

In St. Petersburg, Florida, Jason Giambi, Randy Velarde and Olmedo Saenz homered as Oakland won its fifth straight.

Miguel Tejada had a two-run single during a five-run, third inning against Bobby Witt (7-13) for Oakland, which has won 13 of its last 18 road games.

Kevin Appier (15-12) allowed three runs and seven hits in eight innings, improving to 6-3 since Oakland acquired him from Kansas City on July 31.

Orioles 5, Mariners 4, 10 innings

In Baltimore, Cal Ripken homered and drove in three runs, and B.J. Surhoff scored the winning run in the 10th inning on a throwing error by Jose Mesa (2-6) as Baltimore completed its first four-game sweep of Seattle.

Ripken hit a two-run homer in the second inning and a sacrifice fly in the sixth. He went 1-for-2 with two walks and needs 18 hits over his final 18 games to reach 3,000 career hits this season.

Baltimore has won seven straight, matching its season high.

The Orioles are 32-25 since the All-Star break but 68-76 overall. Rookie B.J. Ryan (1-0) earned his first major league win by working 1 1-3 hitless innings, striking out three.

Tigers 3, White Sox 2

In Chicago, Rob Fick had a three-run homer for his first hit of the season, and Dave Mlicki won his eighth straight start to lead Detroit.

Fick, who had not played since shoulder surgery in May, got his first hit in 12 at-bats since he was activated Sept. 8. It was his fourth homer in 36 career at-bats.

Mlicki (13-10) allowed three hits in seven-plus scoreless innings, struck out five and walked three. His winning streak is Detroit's longest since Doyle Alexander won eight in a row from Aug. 20-Sept. 23, 1987.

Todd Jones pitched the ninth for his 25th save in 29 chances, allowing a two-run homer to Greg Norton.

John Snyder (9-12) lost his sixth straight decision.

Angels 6, Twins 5

In Minneapolis, Mo Vaughn homered in his fourth straight game and drove in three runs as Anaheim won for the fifth time in six games. Vaughn had three hits to finish 8-for-11 with three homers and eight RBIs in the series.

Mike Magnante (5-2) pitched 2 2-3 scoreless innings of relief for the win. Shigetoshi Hasegawa got

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Maurice Greene of the United States, world record holder in 100-meter dash (left) smiles with Japanese sprinter Koji Ito, Asian record holder in the event, at a press conference at a Tokyo hotel Tuesday. Greene and Ito will compete in the '99 International Super Track and Field meet at the National Stadium in Tokyo Wednesday. AP

Musashimaru suffers upset in Grand Sumo

TOKYO (AP) — Musashimaru suffered his first defeat and his fellow yokozunas (grand champions) Takanohana and Wakanohana their second upsets on Monday, the second day of the 15-day Autumn Grand Sumo tournament.

Hawaii-born yokozuna Akebono, whose real name is Chad Rowan, remained undefeated at 2-0.

In the day's final bout at Ryogoku Kokugikan Sumo arena in downtown Tokyo, No. 1 maegashira (senior wrestler) Tochiazuma sent out Hawaii-born yokozuna Musashimaru after a battle of more than 2 minutes.

Tochiazuma, who defeated Takanohana on opening day, dodged Musashimaru's initial charge of driving attempts skillfully and forced him out for his second victory against no defeats.

Musashimaru, or Fiamalu Penitani, is 1-1.

A sumo wrestling bout usually ends in 10 or 15 seconds.

Akebono charged No. 2 maegashira Kyokushuzan from Mongolia with a powerful hand thrust and sent him out. Kyokushuzan, or Tsevegnjam Nyamjav, is 0-2.

Komusubi (junior champion second class) Kotonishiki charged Wakanohana with a series of hand thrusts, grabbed his opponent's belt and sent him out. Kotonishiki is 1-1 and Wakanohana 0-2.

Komusubi Musoyama attacked Takanohana with a leg trick and threw him down for his second victory against no defeats.

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Broncos retire Elway' No. 7

DENVER (AP) — John Elway gave Denver one last Mile High memory.

On the field where he won 105 games, Elway was inducted into the Broncos' Ring of Fame on Monday night and watched as the No. 7 jersey he wore for 16 seasons was retired.

Accompanied by his wife, Janet, and their four children, Elway turned his 15-minute tribute at halftime of the game with Miami into an emotional dedication to the fans who watched him grow from an immature quarterback to a certain Hall of Famer.

"I'm so happy that the Baltimore Colts traded me here, you can't believe it," Elway said, his voice wavering. "I'm going to miss you, but I'm not going to be far away because I'm going to be a Denver Bronco forever."

Unlike his retirement speech



Miami Dolphins quarterback Dan Marino walks off the practice field. Marino seeks to spoil Denver quarterback John Elway's retirement party with a win against Broncos in Denver Monday night. AP

in April. Elway remained fairly composed as he addressed the crowd of 76,000 at Mile High Stadium.

He walked onto the field to Billy Idol's "Rebel Yell" and flashed a thumbs up to about 100 men dressed in white No. 7 jerseys.

"Sometimes there is a player that becomes so important to us and so much our hero that his number and name become synonymous," Denver owner Pat Bowlen said. "There will never be another No. 7 on the Broncos."

Tears formed in Elway's eyes as his name was unveiled on the facade of the stadium's north-west corner.

"I'd really like to say what an honor it is to see my name up there," Elway said. "To have my name associated with the Ring of Fame is truly a great

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