

Continental's Korea flights facing snags

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

CONTINENTAL Micronesia's plans to operate chartered flights from Korea to the Micronesian region face snags after another airline threatened to withhold all seats to any market from any travel agent supporting Continental's chartered flights, it was learned yesterday.

Walter Dias, vice president for Continental, said as a result of the threat, the travel agent purchasing the charters was unable to support the program.

If not for this, Continental could have been flying from Korea again for the first time since it terminated its flights from the said market early last year, he said.

Although he declined to comment on the reported "code sharing" negotiations between Continental and Korean Airlines (KAL) to service the CNMI, Dias said Continental is currently reviewing opportunities to re-enter the Korean market in light of the country's rebounding economy.

"The new Continental 737-800 aircraft now arriving in



Walter Dias

Micronesia will allow us to enter markets previously excluded because of economics. We believe the Korean market will continue to grow during the next few years," said Dias.

David Sablan, Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) Board chairman earlier expressed hopes that once the code sharing between the two airlines materializes, there will be direct flights to Saipan and not via Guam.

The MVA chair met last week with Korean Air vice president J.B. Lee to follow-up on the CNMI government's request to fly to the

CNMI. KAL said the decision will be known as soon as the result of the investigation on the Guam crash in 1997 is out.

For the meantime, KAL is eyeing a tie up with Continental to service the CNMI, said Sablan.

Continental announced last week its intent to operate Seoul-Micronesia charter flights for the peak honeymoon period from October through early December.

"However, according to the agent purchasing the charter, personnel from another airline with flights to Micronesia from Korea threatened to withhold all seats to any market from any agent supporting charters on Continental. As a result, the agent was unable to support the charter program," said Dias.

The expansion into the South Korean market was one of the short-term plans unveiled by Continental president William Meehan last week, along with the introduction of new jets, and an increase in its Manila freight ca-

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Fishing tips. Former Justice Ramon Villagomez (right) demonstrates the use of his talaya while Rotarian Ed Salas curiously looks during the Saipan Rotary Club's Family Function at the Plumeria Resort beachside last Saturday.

Froilan: 2001 bid depends on how party fares in 1999



Froilan C. Tenorio

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

FORMER Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio on Tuesday said his chances of running for governor in 2001 will depend on how the Reform Party fares in the upcoming midterm elections.

Tenorio, the chairman of the party, said if the result of the November elections "is not convincing enough for me, then I guess I'm not running."

Still, he said, Reform Party gatherings are "doing very good." Even members of the Carolinian community, a known

pro-Republican bloc, have been attending party meetings, he said.

Tenorio said this indicates a "political shift" brought about by the economic crisis.

"I think we have a good chance of getting in at least three, altogether at least five seats in the Legislature," he said.

Tenorio said Reform could also muster independent voters.

"The reason," he said, "is obvious. It's the economy, darn it."

Reform is fielding seven House candidates on Saipan.

The party's vice chairman, former Commonwealth Utilities Corp. executive director Ramon S. Guerrero, is running against incumbent Sen. Juan P. Tenorio (R-Saipan).

"I like to think that all of them have a good chance of winning," said the former governor.

The Democratic Party's standard bearer in the 1989, 1993 and 1997 elections, Tenorio served as governor from 1994 to 1998.

Piece-meal budget may be needed

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE LEGISLATURE may have to pass a piece-meal budget to accommodate critical departments and pass an appropriations bill in time for the coming fiscal year which starts next week.

Noting there is "still so much work to be done" in finalizing the omnibus \$211 million budget for FY 2000, House Ways and Means Committee Chair Karl T. Reyes (R-Saipan) said the Legislature may have to act fast on the funding needs of the



Karl T. Reyes

Departments of Public Health, Public Safety, and Public Works as well as the Public School Sys-

tem to ensure continuity of their operations.

"That is another possibility," said Reyes. "We are trying to work on the overall budget first," he added.

"If we can not complete the package for the budget, at least we can identify funding for all of these very important agencies and fund all of these," Reyes further said.

At the same time, Reyes said the committee is finalizing administrative provisions of the budget bill to allow for repro-

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DPH gets 2 new doctors for CHC

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Health (DPH) has taken another step in improving the delivery of health care services to the CNMI with the addition of two new medical staff.

In a memorandum dated Sept. 20, acting Health secretary Terry Tripp announced the arrival of Dr. Benjamin Sawer and Dr. Francois Claassens, both of whom will be working with

DPH for the next two years.

Sawer is a general surgeon, while Claassens is an emergency physician.

Tripp reminded DPH personnel to extend cooperation and assistance to the two new doctors as they provide medical services for the Commonwealth Health Center.

In an earlier interview, Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said the recruitment of doctors and nurses for DPH

remains a priority for the government despite the implementation of certain austerity measures like freeze-hiring of non-medical staff and suspension of annual salary increments.

Villagomez also said DPH currently has about 36 doctors and more are expected to arrive soon.

Aside from new medical staff, DPH regularly facilitates the visit of off-island medical spe-

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Aftershocks rock Taiwan

Quake death toll placed at 1,800 and still rising

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Two strong aftershocks rocked Taiwan Wednesday even as rescuers struggled to reach victims of a more powerful quake a day earlier that killed more than 1,800 people.

Rescuers scrambled all night Tuesday and into the daylight Wednesday, pressing to unearth thousands of people trapped under the debris of the powerful tremor.

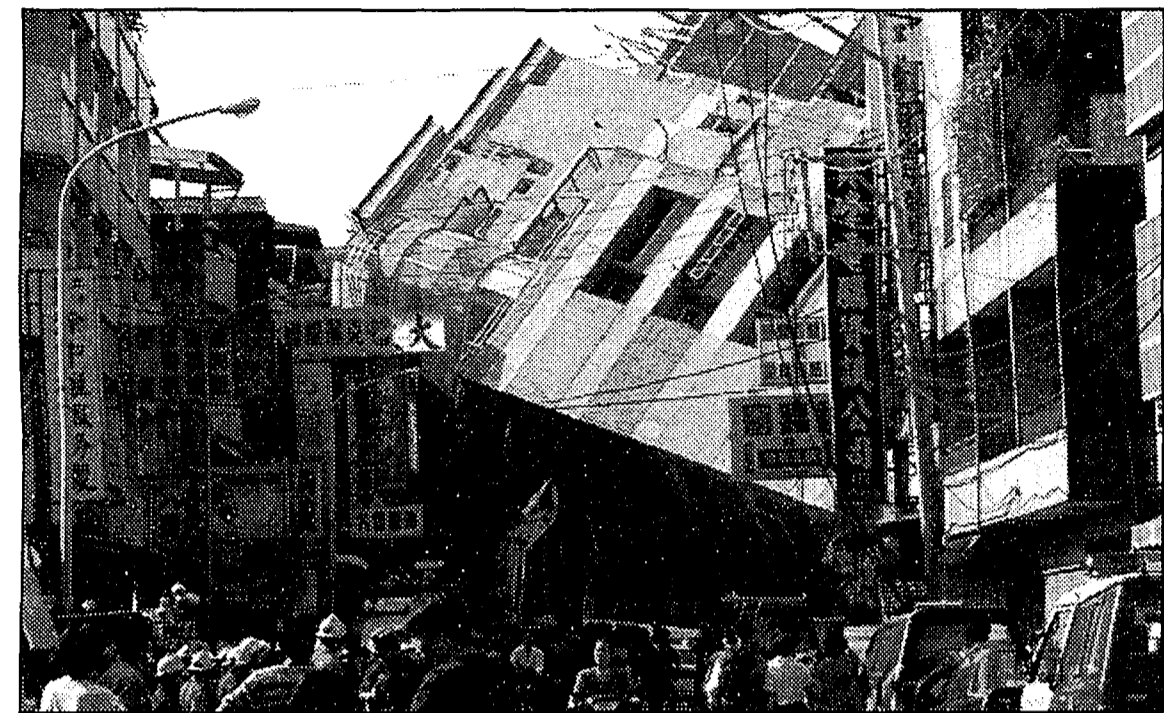
More than 100,000 Taiwanese were homeless after the 7.6-magnitude quake toppled houses and high-rise apartment complexes across central Taiwan early Tuesday. Roads buckled in waves, chunks of land rose up to create new hills, cracked buildings tilted at crazy angles and a bridge was left dangling in the air.

By Wednesday, 1,712 people were dead, more than 4,000 were injured and almost 3,000 were believed trapped in the rubble, according to the Interior Ministry's disaster management center. About 4 million households were still without power.

The aftershocks that rocked the island Wednesday had preliminary magnitudes of 6.8 and 6.1, respectively. They were among more than 2,000 aftershocks since Tuesday.

Wednesday's tremors were felt in Taipei, shaking buildings and sending many frightened citizens out of their homes and into the streets again. There were no immediate reports of injury.

After the strong aftershocks, state radio said cracks had been discovered at one of the island's largest reservoirs and warned downstream residents to evacuate their homes. It said some water



Residents stay in a distance as they watch ongoing rescue operations Wednesday in Dongshi, near Taichung Taiwan to get to survivors still trapped inside. A strong earthquake with a magnitude of 7.6 hit the island country Tuesday killing some 1,800 people.

was already flowing through the cracks.

Taiwan is hit by dozens of quakes each year, but most are centered in the Pacific Ocean east of the island and cause no damage. The earthquake Tuesday was the island's second deadliest quake - after a 7.4 magnitude one killed 3,276 people in 1935.

"We're pulling the dead out one by one, but it's hard to get an overall picture of the number of fatalities," said Chen Wen-hsien, a rescue official in the central city of Fengyuan, 30 miles from the epicenter. He had to plug his nose with tissue after part of a building began shifting from an aftershock, releasing the stench of a corpse

still inside.

A sniffer dog's whimper was seen as a hopeful sign that someone was still alive under the rubble of a toppled 12-story building in Fengyuan. But hope was fading fast as the number of bodies being found surpassed the number of survivors.

"I don't think there will be any more survivors," said one neighbor who only gave her name as Liu. "This morning they already found three people. All were dead," she said, watching a chain of soldiers wearing surgical masks clear debris from the pile of concrete, tile and splintered wood.

Taiwan's Central Weather Bureau listed the quake at 7.3 mag-

nitude, a little less than the U.S. Geological Survey's estimate. The bureau said the quake's epicenter was in Nantou County, 120 miles south of the capital of Taipei, where most of the deaths occurred.

Morgues filled up with bodies and officials appealed for donations of bulldozers, cars, quilts and food. Rescue crews from the United States, Singapore, Japan, Switzerland and Russia were on their way to provide assistance, as was a U.N. disaster assessment team.

Taiwan's political nemesis, the communist regime in Beijing, offered aid, but with a subtle dig at the island it considers a renegade province.

Chinese President Jiang Zemin said the disaster "hurt the hearts of people on the mainland as the Chinese people on both sides of the Taiwan Strait are as closely linked as flesh and blood."

China's Red Cross said it would provide \$100,000 in disaster aid and \$60,000 worth of relief supplies.

The Taipei government expressed cautious thanks.

"This would be a good beginning to improving ties," said Su Chi, chairman of the Mainland Affairs Council, which is responsible for Taiwan's relations with China. "I hope we can work on this basis and make efforts together to build up stable and peaceful relations."

Ties between Taiwan and mainland China had recently sunk to a new low after Taiwan's President Lee Teng-hui said Beijing must deal with the island on a "state-to-state" basis.

Lee surveyed the damage by helicopter and urged officials and citizens to concentrate on saving lives.

In Tungshih, a city of 60,000 in a nearby mountainous area, virtually every house was damaged and one in three was ruined, with all power, water and communications links cut off.

Several hundred bodies were piled up in an open-air morgue, Lee Wen-wei, an administrator at the Farmers Association Hospital in Tungshih, told The Associated Press. The hospital lost power and was evacuating patients.

Exhausted rescue workers in Tungshih said they did not have enough heavy machinery to dig through all the rubble.

RP volcano causes panic

LEGAZPI, Philippines (AP) — A Philippine volcano belched thick ash-laden smoke high into the air Wednesday, causing panic among residents of nearby villages, officials and witnesses said.

Mayon Volcano, one of the most active volcanoes in the Philippines, shot grayish steam up to six kilometers (3.7 miles) into the air but there were no signs a major eruption would occur, the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology said.

Disaster officials said there were no immediate reports of deaths or injuries. The volcano is in Albay province, 342 kilometers (210 miles)

southeast of Manila. Residents in Albay's capital city of Legazpi said they felt the ground shake mildly as the volcano spewed ash and smoke shortly before noon, sending many residents running out into streets.

A Legazpi resident told a Manila radio station that he thought a nearby police camp was bombed when he heard an explosion while driving.

Mayon, a popular tourist attraction, last erupted in February 1993, killing at least 70 people. Scientists have been closely monitoring the volcano since it belched ash-laden steam on June 22.

Japan trade surplus falls

TOKYO (AP) — Japan's trade surplus with the world fell in August from the same month last year, the government said Wednesday. But the politically sensitive trade surplus with the United States continued to rise.

The merchandise trade surplus, the measure of all goods exported by Japan minus those imported, declined 22.6 percent to 68.9 billion yen (\$6.57 billion), the Finance Ministry said. The surplus, unadjusted for

seasonal factors, slightly exceeded the average forecast of 68.2 billion yen (\$6.55 billion) by Tokyo-based economists surveyed by Dow Jones Newswires.

Again bucking the overall trend, however, was the trade surplus with the United States, which jumped 24.3 percent in August to 534.4 billion yen (dls 5.09 billion), the fourth straight year-on-year rise, the ministry said.

Pilot sues PIA, Christian

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

A FORMER pilot of the Pacific Island Aviation, Inc. who survived an aircraft crash landing off Ladder Beach in 1997 filed a defamation lawsuit in federal court against PIA and its president Robert F. Christian.

Nicolas Guy Pohl and his wife Kathleen Pohl asked the U.S.

District Court for the NMI to order PIA and Christian to pay them \$525,000 in damages.

The couple sued PIA and Christian for conspiracy to depriving persons of equal protection of the laws, intentional infliction of emotional distress, and defamation.

The Variety contacted Christian to get his side, but a PIA

staff said the president was off-island. PIA vice president James Stowell was also unavailable for comment.

According to the complaint which was filed Tuesday, Pohl commenced employment at PIA in May 1997 as an airline pilot/dispatcher.

On Nov. 24, 1997, a PIA aircraft was removed from revenue service due to a severe engine/airframe vibration.

Two days later, the complaint said, PIA told Pohl to do a functional check flight on that aircraft. He test flew the plane as directed by PIA dispatcher and maintenance agents.

The aircraft, however, suffered a catastrophic engine failure while Pohl was performing the functional check flight.

Pohl crash-landed the plane into Saipan channel just off Ladder Beach. He tried to swim to the beach, but he was rescued by a fishing vessel.



Robert F. Christian

The plaintiff suffered multiple injuries, including a glass imbedded in his head. He was hospitalized for several days.

While Pohl was in the hospital, the complaint said, Christian verbally threatened him and his wife to "dummy up during the FAA/National Transportation safety board investigation if you know what is good for

your, or else."

Christian then removed the pilot from flying status on Dec. 31, 1997 allegedly due to the recent aircraft accident. The following day, he was put on full-time desk work as an airline dispatcher.

The complaint said Christian harassed and ridiculed Pohl on the desk job. The defendant allegedly told him that he must have something wrong with his mental capabilities and that he must have brain damage due to being knocked unconscious after the crash.

According to Pohl, he saw a psychiatrist on Guam for symptoms of emotional job distress caused by constant harassments by Christian and other PIA managers.

"Pohl was harassed and emotionally scared for being like 'Forest Gump' according to Christian and his agents at PIA," the complaint added.

MVA bats for better marketing in Japan

By Haldee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

WHILE arrivals from Japan continue to pick up again, the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) said it should be able to get its Japan advertising and promotion money's worth—more than what it is currently getting.

MVA said a better marketing of the CNMI in Japan should be pursued for the islands to become more competitive than any other tourist destinations.

"We are doing promotions but not enough... We should increase our presence in major areas in Japan," said MVA Board chairman David M. Sablan, adding MVA should not rely solely on Dentsu 10 in promoting the CNMI.

MVA granted a \$1.9 million contract to Dentsu Account Management Division 10 for the creation of Saipanda, which was formally introduced in Japan on March 1.

"For about \$2 million spent in Japan (to promote the CNMI), that is very expensive compared to how much we are spending in Korea, for example," said Sablan.

At the same time, MVA is urging Japan Airlines, North-



David M. Sablan

west Airlines and Continental Micronesia, as well as various travel agents to further promote the CNMI in Japan.

Japan arrivals in August were pegged at 33,412, a mere one percent decline from last year during the same period.

The holding of a comprehensive workshop-seminar in Japan is also one of the suggestions tossed during Tuesday's Board meeting, as MVA prepares for its activities for the coming fiscal year. MVA also plans to welcome the Year 2000 with remarkable tourism events.

Another Board member said MVA should establish a "philosophy" which will guide the tourism industry where it really wants to be.

Guam gets US Census contract

By Eric F. Say
Variety News Staff

OVER FIVE million dollars and hundreds of temporary jobs are headed to Guam as Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez signed an agreement with the federal government regarding the year 2000 population and housing census.

The United States mandates a census every 10 years. Since 1920, Guam has been included in it.

According to Census 2000 coordinator for Guam, acting Commerce Director Isabel Lujan, the agreement is unique to insular areas such as Guam and Puerto Rico.

"On the mainland U.S., the Bureau of the Census conducts the survey, but here on Guam the federal government contracts with the local government

with the local Department of Commerce as lead agency," Lujan said.

The census questionnaire covers a variety of subjects including name, sex, age and other statistical data.

Lujan said this information is used by the federal government to determine funding for Guam, and by private industries that study the feasibility of conducting business in this area.

She stressed, however, that confidentiality will be maintained.

"Census workers who are hired must pass security and employment clearances and can face a \$5,000 fine and five-year prison term if confidentiality is breached," Lujan said.

To conduct the census here, nearly 950 people will be hired

on a temporary basis, most for a period of one to six weeks.

Training and mileage are part of the compensation package, Lujan said.

The governor said he is "very pleased" to see that funding for the census has more than doubled since 1980.

"The information derived from this exercise will be very helpful to Guam for long-term planning as well as cost recovery from federal programs," Gutierrez said.

The questionnaire will be mailed to every Guam household in mid-March next year. Census takers will then collect the forms and assist people in correctly filling them out.

The 1990 census recorded a total population of 133,152 on Guam.

Immigration officer to spend five days in jail

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

SUPERIOR Court Associate Judge Timothy H. Bellas yesterday handed a five-day jail term to an Immigration officer who was convicted for grabbing and trying to kiss an ex-Labor prober.

Bellas sentenced Vicente S. Pangelinan to 30 days' imprisonment, all suspended except five days.

Bellas placed Pangelinan under one year probation and required him to perform 150 hours of community work service.

The defendant was also asked to pay \$300 fine.

A stipulation between the Attorney General's Office and the defendant shall be signed as to when Pangelinan start serving the five days in jail.

According to unconfirmed in-

formation gathered by the Variety yesterday, the Department of Labor and Immigration (DOLI) terminated Pangelinan's employment Tuesday.

After a two-day bench trial last July, Bellas found Pangelinan guilty of assault and battery (with sexual contact).

The judge, however, acquitted the defendant of the charge of misconduct in public office.

Court information showed the offense happened at DOLI office on July 25, 1998.

The victim, who was on overtime as Labor investigator, was doing her work when the defendant came in, embraced her from the back and tried to kiss her.

The victim tried to get out, but the defendant gripped her. She was freed when she kept resisting and screamed, court papers said.



Guam First Lady Geraldine T. Gutierrez along with Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez presents a check of \$25,000 to Dr. Peter Liu, former president of the United Chinese Association of Guam for the Taipei Earthquake Relief Fund. Presentation took place at the Taipei Economic and Cultural Office in Hagatna yesterday.

Photo by Eduardo C. Siguenza

ANNOUNCEMENT

The Committee to Re-Elect Representative David Mundo Apatang wishes to invite all supporters, relatives and friends to come and help support your representative



Dinner Fundraiser

When: September 29, 1999, Wednesday
Place: Pacific Gardenia Sunset Bar & Grill
Time: 6:30 p.m. - 10:00 p.m.

Tickets will be made available at the door at a price of \$25.00 per person

or
You may contact the Precinct #1 Office of Rep. David M. Apatang at 235-1948

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Paid by the Committee

PSS readies retiree payments

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff
THE BOARD of Education has authorized the Public School System to use \$250,000 from its resources to pay the 30 per-

cent retirement bonus of its 1998-1999 retirees, it was learned.
But according to Bill Matson, the acting fiscal and budget officer of PSS, the \$250,000 allo-

cation of BOE for the retirees is only \$280,000 short of what the local education agency needs for the overall payment of the 30 percent retirement bonus which costs \$530,000.

The fiscal officer said the local education agency will be doing some research on where to get additional resources and is expected to come up with its findings in a few day's time.

The PSS is expected to allocate some funding from its non-appropriated resources to add to the \$250,000.

Matson pointed out that these non-appropriated resources is not from the local government funding.



Bill Matson

It was learned that checks for the retirement bonus is pending at the PSS Treasury for verification.

A government official who refused to be identified said that it is better for PSS to find its own resources for the payment of the 30 percent retirement bonus for its 1998-1999 retirees because if the local education agency would ask the government further assistance for the payment of the bonus, it will surely get a thumbs down from the Department of Finance or other officials from the Capitol Hill.

PSS has already paid its retirees all other benefits and privileges except the 30 percent retirement bonus due to the depleting coffer of the agency.

Guam senators not keen on new budget proposal

By Eric F. Say
Variety News Staff
AN ALTERNATIVE fiscal year 2000 budget plan offered by the chairman of the legislative committee that traditionally has oversight on the finances of the Government of Guam is apparently being ignored by lawmakers.

But Ways and Means Committee Chairman Tony Blaz (R-Ordot) is still pushing for it. In a press conference that was not well-attended, Blaz reiterated that his proposed budget plan "is prudent and reasonable."

Noting that GovGuam revenues have declined even while the deficit has soared to nearly \$130 million, Blaz said vacancies in GovGuam should be left unfilled and the posts themselves eliminated.

He also wants to prohibit the creation of new positions unless approved by the Legislature.

Blaz, likewise, wants to

• Cut personnel services by shortening the work-week to 32 hours; and,

• Create a Gross Receipt Tax credit program for all taxpayers for the purchase of food and medicine.

Blaz, moreover, is urging for the creation of a permanent independent budget review office within the Legislature for the monitoring of GovGuam's revenue projections and budget expenditures.

"Throughout the last four years, this government has failed to put in check and reverse a hemorrhaging deficit," he said.

Blaz described GovGuam's financial situation as "virtually catastrophic," and the "worst" the island has faced.

What everyone has feared has finally arrived, he added.

Revenues collected went down from \$530 million in FY 1996 to a projected \$450 million for FY2000—a decline of \$80 million, he said.

Tan guilty of beating his wife

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

SUPERIOR Court Associate Judge Timothy H. Bellas yesterday convicted former Public Auditor Scott Tan for beating his wife last March.

Following a plea agreement, Bellas sentenced Tan to one year imprisonment, all suspended.

Bellas placed the defendant under one year probation and required him to pay \$200 fine.

The judge asked Tan to write a letter of apology to his wife Cecilia Tan.

The former public auditor was also ordered to seek appointment at the Commonwealth Health Center to determine whether he is an appropriate candidate for alcohol/aggression counseling.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Nicole Forelli charged Tan with assault and battery for allegedly "unlawfully strike, beat, wound and otherwise do bodily harm to Cecilia Tan" last March 24.

Tan and counsel signed a plea agreement with the Attorney General's Office. He pleaded guilty.

Bellas earlier denied the defendant's entry to the Adult Diversion Program based on the Probation Office's determination pertaining to the beating complaint.

The Probation Office opposed such application to adult diversion because of Tan's 1994 conviction to a theft case.

Last June, the court discharged the defendant from probation over the theft case and voided his conviction after the businessman was found to have complied with all the terms of the probation.

Kara's designation questioned

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff
SAIPAN—A local lawyer yesterday questioned Maya Kara's designation as CNMI's acting attorney general.

Joseph A. Arriola said since Kara's initial appointment as AG was rejected twice by the Senate, the Attorney General's Office (AGO) could not bring charges against his clients.

Arriola raised this legal issue in his motion to dismiss the illegal gambling charges against his nine clients led by Juan Aquino.

AGO, through Assistant Attorney General Marvin J. Williams, filed last Sept. 1 the illegal gambling case against Aquino and eight others.

At the Sept. 13 hearing, Arriola requested the court to conduct a preliminary examination, but Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan

denied it.
Arriola, on behalf of his clients, entered a plea of not guilty. He, however, noted that the information filed by AGO did not state who the acting AG was.

In the motion to dismiss, Arriola said the information should be dropped because the CNMI does not have a lawfully appointed AG to file and prosecute charges against any individuals.

The lawyer said the unambiguous language of the CNMI Constitution indicates that the governor can appoint an AG only with the advice and consent of the Senate.

He pointed out that the governor is authorized to make appointments to positions requiring the advice and consent of the Legislature and withhold communications of such appointment for up to 30 days.

The statute dictates, Arriola

said, that if an appointment automatically terminates, the nomination is, for all intents and purposes, deemed rejected and such nominee does not have any authority to act.

"More importantly, such a person may not again be 'temporarily appointed' to the same position or otherwise permitted to hold the same position in an acting capacity. Such a person could be nominated to the post subsequently but would have no authority to act until confirmed," he said.

Arriola said Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio appointed Kara as AG on July 2, 1998.

Told that the Senate was against her appointment, Tenorio withdrew the nomination in fall of 1998.

But despite the governor's withdrawal, Kara remained acting AG.

Arriola said Kara was AG continuously from July 6, 1998



Maya Kara

through Oct. 22, 1998, a period of over 90 days without Senate confirmation.

Under the statute, he stressed, the AG position was and is currently vacant and Kara cannot be re-nominated for it.

Moreover, Arriola said, the Senate's rejection in Dec. 1998

and reaffirmation of its rejection of Kara's appointment precludes her from having any authority to act as AG.

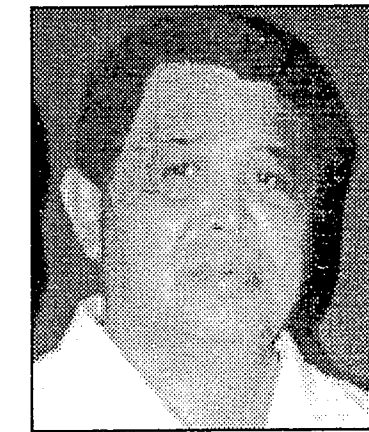
"The position is in effect legally vacant. Therefore, the CNMI does not have a lawfully appointed AG to prosecute violations of commonwealth law," Arriola pointed out.

He added that in essence, what the CNMI has is a *de facto* AG usurping the powers reserved for a lawfully appointed AG.

Arriola said Kara's intermittent designation as the acting AG not only circumvents but clearly violates the Commonwealth Constitution and the 90-day termination rule under the CNMI Code.

Therefore, he said, the charges filed against his clients must be dismissed as a violation of the CNMI Constitution and the CNMI Code.

Maratita: Manglona was 'very generous'



Edward U. Maratita

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff
FORMER Tinian senator Herman M. Manglona was "very generous" to his constituents, having "helped a lot of people" during his term, said acting Senate President Edward U. Maratita (R-Rota).

"I feel bad this thing happened to him. I miss my colleague. He was a good senator. His track record was good. He consistently ran undefeated," said Maratita.

"I know Manglona for being generous to the community of Tinian. On the personal level, I think he has helped a lot of people too. He was well-liked by his people. But for some reasons in life, we make mistake, we are not

perfect," added Maratita.
Maratita said the bribery scandal involving Manglona should be held as a lesson for other "public servants."

"Don't use your office to further personal interests. You are accountable to public trust," he said.

Maratita has earlier requested Finance Secretary Lucy DLG. Nielsen to freeze all of Manglona's government accounts and immediately conduct an inventory of public properties assigned to his office.

Maratita said he is still awaiting an official report on the matter. He nonetheless said the Office of Procurement and Supplies (OPS) has started the inventory.

Manglona has pled guilty to charges he accepted bribes and tried to influence a federal grand juror to push for a vote against his indictment.

Manglona entered the guilty plea last Sept. 13. He left his post as senator the day after.

He is now out on a \$100,000 property bond. Sentencing for the 53-year old Manglona is set for Dec. 21.

According to the court, Manglona accepted several payments totaling \$14,500 from the Sablan Construction Co. Ltd. while mayor of Tinian in 1996.



Herman M. Manglona

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DEEP BLUE SEA Friday 5:00 - 7:30 - 10:30 pm.	R
HAUNTING Friday 4:45 - 7:15 - 10:00 pm.	PG-13
IRON GIANT Friday 7:00 pm.	PG
MYSTERY MEN Friday 4:30 - 9:45 pm.	PG-13
BOWFINGER Friday 7:30 PM.	PG-13
THOMAS CROWN AFFAIR Friday 5:00 - 10:15 PM.	PG
AMERICAN PIE Friday 5:15 - 7:45 - 10:30 pm	R
WARAT Friday 4:30 - 7:00 - 10:15 PM.	NR

24 HOUR SHOWTIME: 234-9000

Guam eyes help from Asia-Pacific Chambers of Commerce

Variety News Staff
THE ASIA-Pacific Council of American Chambers of Commerce (APCAC) will help Guam lobby for federal legislation that would benefit the island's economy as well as share economic and business opportunities within the Asia-Pacific region.

This was learned after the Guam Chamber of Commerce board of directors discussed local economic issues with APCAC Chairman Mark Israelsen who was on Guam for the Oracle meetings in his capacity as vice president for consulting services at Oracle Corporation.

APCAC is expected to lend support to the Guam Chamber on the following issues:

• Application of U.S. Tax Treaties to Guam—H.R. 2462, introduced on July 1, 1999 by Congressman Robert A. Underwood (D-Guam), House Resources Committee Chairman Don Young (R-Alaska) and Congressman George Miller (D-California), contains a provision that will allow Guam to mirror U.S. tax treaty rates, essential to the attraction of foreign investment capital to Guam;

• Guam Chamber's Armed Forces Committee (AFC)—this committee is lobbying for more U.S. military liberty stops on Guam; and,

• Business Hub Initiatives—the



The Guam Chamber board of directors met recently with APCAC Chairman Mark Israelsen. Photo shows (from left) Philip J. Flores, Allen A. Pickens, Thomas Michels, Lou Sanchez, Israelsen, Daniel L. Webb, Eloise R. Baza, Carl Peterson, Antoinette D. Sanford and Gerald S.A. Perez. Contributed Photo

Guam Chamber's efforts to attract Foreign Sales Corporations, insurance companies and trusts.

According to Guam Chamber President Eloise R. Baza, APCAC's support would be very helpful to Guam because it is working to persuade the U.S. to increase its assistance toward the economic recovery of Asian nations, which are essential to

Guam's economy.

"The exports of the various states to Asia support more than 3 million American jobs. Guam is the closest U.S. destination to the Asian nations and markets for 30 percent of total American exports valued at more than \$200 billion annually," Baza said.

"Our country's trading partners

in Asia are the key markets for Guam's tourism.

APCAC's lobbying efforts for Asia's recovery are consequently helpful to our economic recovery. We intend to be represented at next month's APCAC meeting in Tokyo hosted by the Chamber of Commerce in Japan," Guam Chamber Chairman Daniel Webb added.

DPS asks informant to come forth

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Safety is requesting the assistance of the public in finding the suspect(s) in the homicide case of 40 year old Cesario P. Valerio.

Valerio was assaulted as he was standing watch at the Courtney's Plaza in Chalan Kanoa in the early hours of May 4, 1999.

The victim was reported to have been struck on the head and body. He was rushed to CHC where he was admitted in the Intensive Care Unit for the injuries he received, swelling on the left side of his head, possible internal injuries to his head. The victim later died at a hospital in the Philippines.

Recently, DPS received a tip about

the homicide on the Crime Stopper Hotline. The Department of Public Safety's Crime Stoppers office is requesting for the caller to call the Crime Stoppers hotline again as the officers investigating the case need additional information.

Crime Stoppers is still offering a reward of up to \$1,000.00 dollars for information leading to the arrest of the individual(s) involved in this homicide incident.

Anyone with information is asked to call the Department of Public Safety's Crime Stoppers hotline at 234-7272.

Crime Stoppers guarantees that the names of the callers will be kept confidential.

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FORUM

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



JACK ANDERSON and JAN MOLLER
WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

SUVs—or anarchy

WASHINGTON — Bigger is better when Newton's Second Law (for every action there is an equal and opposite reaction) is at play. And it is at play every day on America's highways, where anarchy reigns.

The problem started becoming acute when sales of sport utility vehicles (including minivans) joined with pickup trucks to swell the ranks of big, heavy vehicles. It was a matter of taste, efficiency and safety — safety, that is, for their occupants.

Baby boomers became more interested in inside size and comfort than outside looks as their families grew. At the same time, fuel efficiencies made the SUVs socially (and environmentally) acceptable. And safety was found in size and steel.

But SUVs did not make the roads safer for drivers of smaller vehicles. In fact, the statistics are both startling and socially revealing. Most Americans could not afford the bigger, safer vehicles. Worse still, the typical car's weight went down to accommodate aerodynamic, fuel-efficient designs, increasing the weight gap.

To ascertain the risk larger cars, specifically SUVs, pose to passenger-car drivers, the Department of Transportation commissioned a survey of highway fatalities, taking the make of the cars involved into consideration. The survey covered relationships between vehicle size and fatality risk in model years 1985-1993. Here are the facts:

- SUVs appeared on the road more than

"THE TRUTH will out." Such Arnold H. Glasow's famous line has suddenly come into our mind when former Senator Herman M. Manglona pleaded guilty to an information charging him for accepting bribes and trying to influence a grand juror to push for a vote against his bribery indictment. The Manglona bribery stories had hugged the headlines over the past few weeks. The episodes appear like a well-scripted film wherein the suspects have fallen one after the other. And the climax was the downfall of the main antagonist.

We started the Manglona series when we were able to obtain court records last Aug. 30 about ongoing Federal Bureau of Investigation's probe on bribery. The documents contained Saipan businessman Tito Sablan's guilty plea to an indictment charging him for bribing then Tinian Mayor Herman Manglona in exchange for business with the Tinian Mayor's Office in 1996. The following day, the media got hold of a complaint filed by the U.S. Attorney's Office against Manglona's aide, James King Manglona. James was arrested by FBI agents after he attempted to influence a federal grand jury and preempt a bribery indictment against Herman Manglona.

Last Sept. 8, Herman Manglona made an appearance in federal court, but at the time it could not be ascertained whether it had something to do with the bribery accusations leveled against him. The court proceedings were sealed. The senator's son, Herman Jr., joined the controversies. While Marianas Cable Vision cameraman Tony Cobb was taking footages outside Horiguchi Building in Garapan shortly after the senator came out from the courtroom, Herman Jr. approached. The son then spat into the camera with a mouthful of orange or red-colored juice. Cobb was able to capture the spitting incident on tape. But Herman Jr. fled before the police came.

The following day, we gathered that James Manglona's guilty plea was unsealed at the federal court in Guam. The 32-year-old James admitted to an information charging him for trying to influence a grand juror to push for a vote against the lawmaker's bribery indictment. Among the conditions of the plea agreement was that James shall cooperate with the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's Office in the bribery probe. Judge Alex R. Munson then unsealed the guilty plea of businessman Jesus Santos Sablan. It appeared that it was the 60-year-old Jesus Sablan who first admitted to an indictment charging him for bribing Herman Manglona. Jesus Sablan, president of Sablan Construction Co. Ltd., actually entered the guilty plea way back on May 26.

Last Sept. 15, our colleague got hold of Herman M. Manglona's resignation letter to Senate President Paul A. Manglona. He is the first CNMI lawmaker to resign. Last Tuesday, Judge Munson unsealed Herman Manglona's guilty plea to charges he accepted bribes and tried to influence a federal grand juror to push for a vote against his indictment. Under the agreement, a separate indictment charging him with one count of mail fraud and six counts of bribery concerning programs receiving federal funds, shall be dropped by the U.S. government. Court records then showed that Herman Manglona entered the guilty plea last Sept. 13. He stepped down as senator the following day.

It's sad to see witnessing a "tragic end" of CNMI's very successful political careers. Herman served in the Congress of Micronesia and two terms as Tinian mayor. He was serving his second term as senator. Impressive. He never lost in a CNMI poll. And it's miserable to hear a 60-year-old businessman involved in the case apologizing to court for such terrible mistake. The whole case should serve as an eye-opener to everyone in the community. That the FBI, U.S. Attorney's Office, and the CNMI Office of Public Auditor are watching—whoever and whenever. We're quite sure that there are a lot of people out there who are restless nowadays. We bet, the Manglona case is only a tip of an iceberg. More to come. Anyway, it's easier to catch a crook than a limping person. If at first you succeed, please...don't take any more stupid chances.

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Info-Tech Corner

By David T. Hughes
For the Variety

Where does school authority end?

SOMETIME last year I wrote a column about a kid who had been kicked out of school because he put up a web page that was critical of the school's web center. In fact, it was a parody.

The kid sued and won—on First Amendment grounds. I was of two minds at the time. The first being the kid's parents should have taught him better respect. However, my prime concern was for the young man's freedom of speech rights and if they actually extended to school kids.

The same thing has happened again elsewhere in the nation...my hearing isn't as good as it once was and I missed the location when it was being talked about on a radio newscast.

Essentially, a high school kid had posted some unkind comments about some of his high school instructors on his personal web site. The powers, which are at the school, took exception to his attitude and told him to take it down or be expelled. I'm still researching the story and hope to learn more this week.

Loyal readers know how I feel about this: The Constitution is absolute when it comes to our right to speak in public. Now, the question should be at what point does a school's authority end?

As a parent I receive all kinds of notes from the school district telling me what rules my kid has to follow—including his transit to and from school. My personal take on those "rules" are that once he steps off school property (including a school bus) his actions are my responsibility. The school district has no legal right to interfere, period. Fine.

By the same token it's my responsibility to instill in my child the responsible and safe way to conduct oneself, as well as the consequences if our rules are not followed.

What does have to do with the Internet? Parents should understand that they also still have responsibility for their children's actions in the virtual world. If their pride and joy uses a computer—any computer—in such a way to injure someone or impede business or disrupt the orderly process of government moom and dad could end up writing a check for their fun and games.

Said kid has the right to say that he doesn't like so-and-so teacher or that a certain class is unpleasant. However, if that criticism ceases being general and starts inching over into a personal attack, civil laws relating to such things as libel and slander can be brought into play.

I'll also admit that I think school personnel do not receive the amount of respect they deserve in school. As a parent I would not allow my child to promulgate on the web or anywhere else anything that dissed an educator. It's how I was raised. I always called my teachers: "ma'am" and "sir" to their faces and I guess that latent respect carries on.

Here's an example of what some student could post to his or her web page: "Mr. Smith's class is boring. I don't learn anything there." That may be offensive to Mr. Smith, but it is not actionable (Warning: shade tree lawyer at work.)

But, if that same student said "Mr. Smith always favors the football team—they never fail a test" or "Mr. Smith spends a lot of time scoping the girls in his class..." then it could be lawyer time. Kiddo doesn't have any coin, so mom and dad get hit with a megabuck lawsuit.

Even if the allegations made on the web site were substantiated in a court of law (good luck) mom and dad would have paid through the nose for a barrister to defend against the lawsuit.

Does the school have the right to demand that the student take down the web page or be expelled? I really don't think so. Do they have the right to demand the web page be taken down or they will sue? That's a different matter.

The young man in question's web site was removed—not by his parents or a lawyer, but by his provider. It was free space and the ISP said that the student had violated the standard usage agreement. The school complained to the ISP and that was all it took.

Of course, that action in itself brings up another question. Does an ISP have the right to regulate web content as long as it conforms to local laws? One thing I think all can agree upon is that a school or district cannot regulate their students off school property and threaten suspension or expulsion. To allow that would be just too, too much.

Courts of law are in place to settle these disputes. Time lost in education can never really be replaced. Even if a student's suspension or expulsion was overturned the time he or she lost in class is gone forever.

Finally, the web is not the place for childish name-calling or kids playing "in your face" with educators. They should use their web space to show their individual talents, interests or ideas. If they have an idea that can benefit their school put that on the web.

What's in a name? One gee-whiz thing about Microsoft's explorer package is that users can search for sites based on good old plain English names. The company has been outting that message for several weeks now on radio commercials.

It's an idea whose time has come, but still needs some work. IE essentially uses a search engine and takes the keyword(s) typed in and uses that as a search criteria. An example would be that someone wanted to find the newspaper's home page and would just type in "Journal."

You'd get a long list of sites with "Journal" in it, and the same holds true with "Journal Newspapers" as the search criteria.

Where name searching comes in handy is when you are looking for a specific brand name.

A 'Flood' of medical info

By William L. Flood, MD
Pediatrics, Saipan Health Center

Ten great achievements—auto safety

AUTOMOBILES and automobile safety are certainly a 20th century phenomenon. I guess in the 1800's horse and carriage safety would have been the headlines.

Auto accidents became a health problem as soon as we had automobiles. By the 1960's almost 50,000 Americans were dying every single year from motor vehicle accidents. The problem became too big to ignore.

In 1966, the Highway Safety Act and the National Traffic and Motor Vehicle Safety Act were enacted. In addition, physicians with the U.S. Public Health Service realized that standard public health methods might be useful in curbing the ever-increasing number of motor vehicle accidents and deaths.

The Public Health Service started with their model of disease caused by infections. The infected person is the "host." The germ is the "agent." And where it all happens is in the "environment." For auto safety the "agent" became the car; the "host" was the person involved (as a driver, passenger or pedestrian) and the "environment" became the roads.

Control of infection traditionally depends on attacking all three

factors — the host, agent and the environment. In infections we can strengthen the host (vaccinations, nutrition), control the agent (antibiotics), and modify the environment (draining wetlands to control mosquitoes, improved sanitation and water).

For auto safety these physicians and lawmakers modified the agents (cars) with better safety features like shatter-resistant glass, breakaway steering wheels, safety belts and car seats. They modified the environment (roads) with research and laws requiring safer roads—better lighting, separation of traffic, guardrails and lane marking. And they modified the host (us humans) by massive educational programs on driving safety, laws against drunk or impaired driving, helmet laws for motorcycles and enforcement of traffic laws.

It has all paid off. Today there are over 10 times as many cars and miles being driven as in the 1920's, but the accident and fatality rates have plummeted. Legislators, physicians, and citizen groups like MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) have all paid important roles.

We still have challenges, today

and in our future. Young drivers are still at a much higher risk. New and better driving education, the growth of "graduated" driver licensing (where driving privileges, like driving with passengers or after dark, are gradually added as the young driver proves his or her ability to drive in a mature and responsible manner), and programs to reduce teen-age drinking or substance abuse, have all helped. We still need more.

In the future better safety restraint systems, both active and passive, are needed, along with better protection for infants and toddlers. Existing laws need to be vigorously enforced and parents educated about the importance of these simple safety steps.

Elderly drivers, and pedestrians, will be an increasing problem as the population ages. The numbers of those over age 65 will be double its present number by the year 2030. These adults have special challenges such as impaired mobility, poor night vision and hearing problems. They will require strategies that have not yet been developed.

Drive safely. And wear your seat belt! Let's all make it into this next millennium in one piece.

China embraces socialist style stocks

By William Kazer
SHANGHAI, China (Reuters)—When 77-year-old Lin Jingji was a young man he had heard of how others made and lost fortunes trading stocks in Shanghai. The Communist Party stopped all that when it took power 50 years ago, shutting down the Shanghai bourse as China's fervent revolutionaries rooted out the evils of capitalism.

Now, as the People's Republic of China prepares to celebrate its 50th anniversary while seeking to rescue its massive state sector from a sea of debt, the country's two stock markets, in Shanghai and Shenzhen, are seen as a lifeline. In May, an editorial in the People's Daily, the main voice of the Communist Party, even suggested it was a patriotic duty to dive into the stock market, which the authorities see as a source of money to refloat sinking state firms.

Many, like Lin, heeded the call and he is now an avid trader, though perhaps not quite in the tycoon class. "I've probably made some money at it," he said as he watched an electronic display board flicker red and green, showing the latest share prices.

The very building in which Lin monitors his holdings symbolizes the ideological twists and turns the nation has witnessed.

Now a vast trading hall, it was once a Russian Orthodox church and later a government office building. Asked if he ever thought he would see this day, Lin just chuckled and shook his head.

On October 1, communist China marks the day revolutionary leader Mao Zedong stood atop the Gate of Heavenly Peace on the edge of Tiananmen Square, the political heart of the country, and proclaimed the founding of the People's Republic.

Communist leaders, emboldened by their stunning victory over the Nationalist armies of Chiang Kai-shek in a long and bloody civil war, turned their attention to remoulding society.

As well as shutting Shanghai's stock market, they confiscated private property and searched high and low for class enemies. "Great Helmsman" Mao fretted about how to prevent his new "red" state from "changing colour", putting his nation through periodic upheavals—like the decade-long Cultural Revolution from 1966-76—to forge an ideological purity. But his eventual successor, the pragmatic Deng Xiaoping, set out to shift course for the ship of state.

In 1979, Deng began ambitious market-style reforms that dismantled much of Mao's utopian vision and cleared the way for private enterprise.

"To get rich is glorious," he said. But it took until 1990 for Shanghai to proclaim the rebirth of its stock market—and even then it was described only as an experiment. It is now well out of the laboratory. Both stock exchanges have sleek new homes. More than 900 firms, almost all of them state-controlled, are listed. Some 40 million people deal in shares.

Premier Zhu Rongji, another pragmatist willing to borrow unorthodox ideas that seem to work, encouraged Shanghai actors to bring to the stage the idea of the stock market as the saviour of sick state firms. The Shanghai People's Art Theatre recently held its premier of "A Stock Market Destiny", about how a money-losing state firm eventually turns itself around with help from the stock market.

"The leaders wanted to show the positive side of the stock market," said producer Zhu Dakun. Actor Lu Liang, who stars as an embattled executive locked in a takeover battle, embodies that ideological flexibility. As he prepared to go on stage, he shrugged when asked about the play's ideological implications. "People are just looking for a better living," he said. "What is important is how to meet those expectations."

China showed it was getting serious about those expectations in July when it implemented its first Securities Law. That was designed to bring some order to the volatile stock market, which had seen more than its share of insider trading, accounting tricks and investor fraud. It ushered in higher standards for brokers, tougher penalties for abuses by listed companies and sweeping new powers for market regulators.

China has also unveiled a series of bullish measures to encourage share buying, including allowing stock mutual funds, granting new financing channels to brokers and cutting fees, and lifting a ban on state and listed companies trading shares. Some investors say Beijing wants to make sure the unlovely stock market doesn't spoil the 50th anniversary festivities.

Cao Xiuhua, a hotel worker who is a newcomer to the stock market, said she was moving her money into shares for now, confident that no one will take away the punch-bowl to end this party just yet.

"The market will go up, at least until October 1," she said.

Heidemann discourages Filipino tourists from seeking jobs here

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

PHILIPPINE Consul Julia C. Heidemann yesterday said Filipino tourists coming in to the commonwealth to seek jobs are not entitled to benefits from the RP government as enjoyed by legitimate Overseas Filipino Workers (OFW).

Heidemann made this comment upon learning that there are still Filipinos who come to the CNMI as tourists to find jobs.

She said the Philippine Consulate Office on Saipan is discouraging this practice, and said tourists working in the CNMI are not considered an OFW, and thus are not qualified to get privileges and benefits from the Philippine government in case of accidents.

In case the Filipino tourists find jobs in the CNMI, the Consulate Office is advising them to exit first from the commonwealth while their



Julia C. Heidemann

club entertainers in the CNMI are from the Philippines.

The Philippine Consul said that the tourists who found jobs in the CNMI and was given a working permit by the Department of Labor and Immigration upon their stay are not documented in the POEA and the Philippine Consulate Office.

Heidemann said the Consulate Office cannot protect the rights of the Filipino workers in the CNMI if they came in merely as tourists.

It was also learned that the Consulate Office is ironing out some plans with DOLI to cease the issuance of working permits to Filipino nationals who came to the CNMI as tourists.

This policy is also meant to encourage all Filipino workers in the commonwealth to obtain proper documentation process in Manila which would prevent any possible labor abuse.

working papers are being processed by their employers.

Heidemann strongly recommended that all OFWs coming to the commonwealth go through proper documentation process in the Philippine Overseas Employment Agency (POEA).

The Consulate meantime said it cannot confirm unofficial reports saying that 90 percent of

Need for tighter NMI forestry measures seen

By Marian A. Maraya
Variety News Staff

TIGHTER legislations need to be created to better preserve CNMI's forests as the existing laws governing it do not ensure total protection and conservation of the islands' natural resources, said a visiting forester from the U.S. Department of Agriculture Forest Service, Leonard A. Newell yesterday.

Newell, who came to the Mariana Islands to do routine assistance and monitoring of the islands' forests expressed that CNMI do not have enough laws to go by, with regard to safeguarding its forests.

He and Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR) Secretary, Dr. Joaquin Tenorio have been long pushing for laws establishing commonwealth forests, according to Newell.

"I have been working with Dr. Tenorio for many years on forest legislations for the CNMI. And between the two of us, we have been trying for almost two decades. It hasn't been easy..." said Newell.

"Laws establishing commonwealth forests only exist as ideas and proposals right now. We would like to get this going as

soon as possible to make sure that the forests are protected.

"Right now, they are protected by assertive general's agreement but then if somebody wants to go ahead and do something...if they have influence, they can do it, regardless of the what the agreement says," Newell said.

He also said that this is no way to manage the resources. He added that some strict, definite rules should be applied.

Although the state of CNMI's forests couldn't be better, Newell said that it could still use more support from the Legislature.

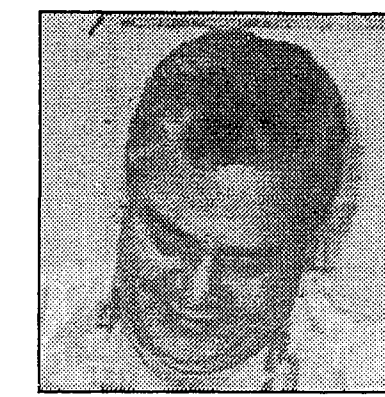
Chairman of the House Committee of Natural Resources, Rep. Manny Tenorio yesterday was reached for comment, but was unavailable.

"I think when the economy picks up, which is hopefully soon, the Legislature will be able to find some additional funding to help keep forestry programs going," said Newell.

The U.S. Forest Service provides approximately half of the funding needed for CNMI forestry programs.

For Fiscal Year 1999, a total of \$170,000 in federal money was set aside for the programs.

BOE nixes precinct level count



Gregorio C. Sablan

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

A TOP Board of Elections official opposes House Minority Leader Dino M. Jones' proposal to conduct counting of ballots for this year's midterm elections at the precinct level.

In an interview yesterday, Executive Director Gregorio C. Sablan of BOE said Jones' proposal is "more expensive and difficult" than the current centralized ballot counting process.

"Rep. Dino M. Jones' pro-



Dino M. Jones

posal will be setting us backwards. Precinct level tabulation is a difficult process," he said.

Sablan also refused to buy the reasoning behind the proposal, saying that cheating in the local elections "is already a thing of the past."

Jones earlier said a vote count in the precinct level will "minimize time for counting...and there will be no cheaters since every polling place will have representation from the candidates."

"The Legislature should be

making better laws," said Sablan.

The BOE director also took exception to Jones' statement that precinct level ballot counting would speed up the

tallying process and the proclamation of winners.

He said the CNMI will need extra tallying machines if it intends to do the precinct level ballot counting, similar to

other countries' methods in counting ballots.

Jones is set to prefile his bill next week seeking an amendment to BOE's rules and regulations in the ballot counting process.



Republican Party supporters take to the street Friday afternoon to hold a campaign for the upcoming elections in November.

DOC expects more licensed tobacco sellers

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

THE NUMBER of CNMI business establishments with licenses to sell tobacco products is expected to double within six to seven months, the Department of Commerce disclosed.

Andrew Salas, director of DOC's Alcohol, Beverage and Tobacco Control said the number of tobacco licenses — currently pegged at 375 — will increase and may exceed the number of firms with licenses to sell

liquor as businesses get accustomed to Public Law 11-75.

Salas said there are a total of 1,073 businesses with license to sell alcohol.

Of the total 375 tobacco licenses, 331 operate in Saipan, while Rota and Tinian have 22 firms each, as of the first week of September.

"What I believe is going to happen is that very soon, the tobacco licensees will come close to the number of alcohol licensees within six to seven months.

"Sooner or later the demand for cigarettes is going to outweigh the \$100 cost (to secure a license)," said Salas.

At the same time, the ABTC chief urged other businesses to secure a license first before selling cigarettes in order to avoid confiscation of merchandise, regardless of whether their tobacco products are legal or illegal.

Under CNMI laws, cigarette products labeled with "US General Surgeon Warning" are considered illegal and should not be sold.

Power outages in CK, Kobler

AS THE Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) continues to improve the Chalan Kanoa power system, crews will be installing new power poles and high voltage wires this Saturday for the William S. Reyes Elementary (WSR) School.

In order to install the new power system, the utility will turn off the power to protect the lives of its customers and employees.

This Saturday, the following areas will not have electricity:

WSR, areas in the west of WSR, the Bolis store, past Rem's business, heading south toward the Pacific World Wholesale, Chalan Piao, and all the way up to the As Perdido intersection.

The outage is effective 8 a.m. and will last no later than 4 p.m. On Monday, the Koblerville MHA housing will be affected. From the Tung Hing Inc. store north to houses numbered K-01 to K-28.

The power outage is expected to occur from 8 a.m. until 11 a.m.

Travel tax waived for Filipino NMI residents



Ronell B. Santos

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

EFFECTIVE this month, all Filipino permanent residents in the commonwealth will be exempted from paying the travel tax when visiting the Philippines, pursuant to a new Philippine law recently enacted.

According to the Philippine Consulate Office, nationals who have become CNMI residents used to pay a travel tax worth P1,260 (\$31.50) along with a terminal fee of P550 (\$13.75).

With the passage of the new law, Vice Consul Ronell B.

Santos said permanent residents will only have to pay the terminal fee when visiting the Philippines.

They however need to submit proper documents to the Consulate Office on Saipan including proof of residence in the CNMI to avail of the privilege.

The proof of residence, Santos said, could either be an official document issued by the CNMI government "evidencing the grant of permanent resident status to the Filipino citizen", or a certificate of residence issued by the Philippine Consulate Office.

To be able to receive a certificate of residence, Filipino permanent residents must have resided on Saipan for a period of five years or more and has not been away from the commonwealth for more than six months.

Santos added that issuance of certificate of residency also requires that the permanent resident has filed his/her Income Tax Return and paid tax for the last three taxable years.

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The World, Closer to Home

PSS wants computer literacy early for kids

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

THE PUBLIC School System is planning to implement computer literacy programs beginning in the kindergarten level to boost student achievement.

During a Curriculum and Instructions Committee meeting yesterday, Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos made a proposal to strengthen technology literacy among public school students to better prepare them for the job market after finishing school.

"The students should use computers as a tool for finding more knowledge and opening up the world," Inos told committee members yesterday.



Rita H. Inos

Teaching students on computer literacy at an early age could prepare them for professional development courses when they reach senior years, the committee said.

PSS is planning to teach its students basic accounting methods, word processing, and computer programming.

Members of the committee said yesterday the board must come up with a policy standardizing computer literacy down to the grade school level.

In the present classroom setting, Principal Representative Evelyn Manglona said, teachers use computers in the classroom as part of the curriculum or lesson plan.

Part of the suggestions thrown in is the determination on the number of computers available in public school classrooms from kindergarten to third grade level.



CAO Executive Assistant Frank Rabauliman (left) and DCCA Sec. Thomas Tebutebit together during last Saturday's Refaluwasch mass held on Managaha Island in honor of Chief Aghurubw.

Photo by Louie C. Alonso

Guam kicks off Chamber Week

Variety News Staff
THE GUAM Chamber of Commerce Week kicked off yesterday with a media briefing on its up-

coming activities and the Chamber week proclamation signing at Adelup.

According to Guam Chamber Chairman Dan Webb, the purpose of the Chamber Week celebration this year is to celebrate the many partnerships that the Chamber has formed during its 75-year history.

Webb said the Chamber will continue to encourage public/private partnerships and strive to improve the economy through activities such as those of the Armed Forces Committee, working on establishing Guam as a vacation destination for Armed Forces personnel stationed throughout the region, and continuing to promote unification as a means to prosperity through encouragement of Chamber membership.

For the rest of the year, Webb said the Chamber faces exciting challenges as it continues to promote Guam's economy, encourage business investments, and lead the island community into the millennium while at the same time celebrating three-quarters of a century of dedication to improving the island's social, economic and business community.

According to Chamber President Eloise Baza, issues on the Chamber agenda include: initiatives to promote Guam as an R&R (rest and recreation) site to the Armed Forces in the area; increasing contracting opportunities for Guam business with the military; revising Guam's Business License Law and other laws that can be readily updated with model U.S. laws; further increasing airline seat capacity; reviewing port regulations; supporting initiatives for insurance and development of Guam-based trusts; and sponsoring training programs, seminars and networking opportunities for small business.

As the Chamber reflects on its accomplishments, Baza said Guam's business leaders today can look ahead to building on a great legacy and to opportunities for greater accomplishments in the new millennium.

Nakamura asks for \$9-M CIP budget

By Eileen O. Tabaranza
For the Variety

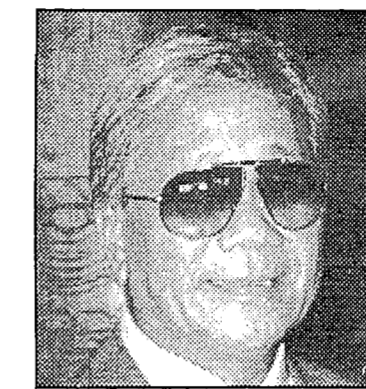
KOROR (Palau Horizon) — Two months after he transmitted the fiscal year (FY) 2000 operations budget to the Olbiil Era Kelulau (OEK), President Kuniwo Nakamura last Sept. 14 submitted a separate budget for Capital Improvement Programs (CIP) projects for FY 2000.

The president had earlier submitted a slimmer budget for FY2000 amounting to \$50.26 million as compared to FY 1999's approved unified budget of over \$54 million. The FY 2000 operations budget is still being reviewed by the OEK.

The FY 2000 Capital Improvement Programs (CIP) Budget Act transmitted to the Senate seeks to appropriate a total of \$9.046 million, bulk of which is earmarked to health facilities, construction, renovation and repairs.

For FY 2000, the six highest priority proposed projects to be funded are: health facilities, construction and renovation with total a budget of \$2.622 million; state government CIPs, \$2 million; Supreme Court building repairs, \$82,000; purchase Embassy building in Washington, D.C., \$1.4 million; rural sanitation project, \$300,000; and Japan grant aid project banking charges, \$30,000.

Other important projects which the president have not prioritized include water and wastewater system repairs, \$650,000; Peleliu water and wastewater studies, \$200,000; school construction and



Kuniwo Nakamura

repairs, \$541,000; school buses, \$331,000; jail expansion and public safety boat engines, \$185,000; Bureau of Lands and Survey building roof and repair and vehicle purchase, \$88,000; replacement of Y2K non-compliant equipment, \$177,000; and development of master plans for all states, \$440,000.

He said total revenue available for CIP purposes is \$30.8 million. Out of this amount, \$15 million is Compact Section 212(b) capital account funds, \$9.6 million is investment earnings on the Compact Section 212(b) account, \$1.2 million is Compact Section 211(b) energy production funds which may be used for either energy-related CIP projects or energy operating purposes, and \$5 million is investment earnings on the Compact Section 211(b) account.

The FY 2000 budget is proposed to be funded entirely with the investment earnings on the Compact Section 212(b) Capital Account.

The emphasis of the proposed

FY 2000 CIP appropriations is on upgrading, repair and augmentation of existing infrastructure and capital equipment, the president said.

Nakamura, this time, has put health facilities construction, renovation and repairs on the top list, as he noted that it is now the time to expand and repair the Belau National Hospital (BNH) and to replace the old public health building.

Each facility, he added, has served the government's health services needs long.

In the area of health facilities, seven CIP projects are proposed to be funded, five of which are proposed for BNH and two projects for the public health facility.

The president has earmarked \$150,000 for the expansion of the professional services building; \$45,000 for the expansion of medical records division; \$185,000 for the general renovation of BNH; \$35,000 for painting BNH; and \$498,000 for the construction of a new Ministry of Health Office building.

The two public health services projects for which funding is required are public health building repairs and the construction of a new building with an estimated construction cost of \$40,000 and \$1,669 million, respectively.

"This is an urgent need to repair structural damage and fix unsafe conditions. The new building, to be located on national government land adjacent to the old hospital, would house offices, clinics, laboratory and other public health programs," the president said.

Palau shipping industry bullish

By Eileen O. Tabaranza
For the Variety

KOROR (Palau Horizon) — The local shipping industry is projected to post a bullish performance in the next three years due to the expected large inflows of construction materials.

"Shipping industry will improve. The community demands that it will improve," Belau Transfer and Terminal Company Operations Manager Bill Keldermans has predicted. Keldermans based his optimistic projection on the expected increase in imports, particularly building materials.

He said the primary booster of the expected increase in imports would be the construction of the 53-mile compact road project around Babeldaob and the K-B bridge project, which needed large volume of building materials.

Although he could not give the total volume and value of construction materials imports, Keldermans said figures for this year are not very far

behind last year's.

"Over the four-year period of construction of the compact road project, the total amount of materials that will be used for this road would double our (average) imports," Keldermans said. Construction of said project will kick off in October this year.

This could be realized, he said, if the construction of said project will really start this year.

However, Keldermans expressed doubt that overall imports will peak this year, saying that it would not be very significant unless the government develops another industry on Palau.

Data revealed that total imports in May this year hit the highest at \$9,379 million. However, total imports slowed down in June and July this year at \$6,166 million and \$6,477 million, respectively.

In addition, he said people have nothing to worry about the regular shipment of products since vessels are bringing in a lot of containers on a weekly basis.

"The problem that people

didn't realize about shipping here for being so expensive is because the ship goes back empty," Keldermans said.

Unless the country develops some heavy export-oriented industries that can fill up all the empty containers, this would continue to be the situation, he said.

He also cited that distributors are now getting their supplies regularly. Keldermans pointed out that there would be no problem in warehousing the regular commodities if shipment comes on a weekly basis.

If the vessels keep on coming in monthly as it was before, then there is a need for more warehouses, he said.

Keldermans cited, for example, if Surangels shipped four containers of rice a month, it should make a storage base for these volume of rice for the whole month. But if the ship comes once a week, Surangels would not be spending money for storage purposes.

"When you do that, warehouse base needs capital to do all the storage," Keldermans said.

Keep Saipan Clean & Beautiful

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Promotional & Open Competitive Examination Announcement Human Resources Office

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School Personnel System shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6-10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, handicap or place of origin.

Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT No: PSS-026-99
OPENING DATE: September 03, 1999 CLOSING DATE: Until Filled
POSITION/TITLE: EQUAL EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY OFFICER
SALARY: Ungraded - \$40,000.00 - \$48,620.00 PA
LOCATION: Public School System, Central Office

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The incumbent serves as the Equal Employment Opportunity internal consultant and is responsible for providing leadership and administering the EEO programs for the Public School System (PSS) of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The position reports to the PSS Legal Counsel. Responsibilities include providing technical assistance and guidance in all areas of EEO program implementation, administration and enforcement in consultation with the Board of Education, Commissioner of Education, upper level PSS Program Managers, and the Board of Education's Legal Counsel. Incumbent will be responsible for interpreting applicable laws, regulations, policies and program guidance, and conducting EEO programs and activities to enhance PSS's compliance to laws including PSS's initiatives on EEO matters. Incumbent will also be responsible for system wide compliance, training, and education related to the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA), Individuals with Disabilities in Education Act, (IDEA), section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act of 1970, Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, other related local and federal laws, and programming activities assigned to the position by the Board of Education or the Commissioner of Education through their Legal Counsel. Incumbent will also be responsible for all legal assignments delegated to him/her by the Board of Education's Legal Counsel.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

Exerting up to twenty (20) pounds of force occasionally and/or a negligible amount of force frequently.

QUALIFICATIONS REQUIREMENTS:

Applicants must have graduated from a United States Accredited Law School and conferred the Juris Doctorate Degree plus four (4) years work related experience. Applicant must be a current member of a U.S. State Bar Association, in good standing, with a minimum of one year of practice as an attorney. Experience in the field of education law is preferred. Applicant must possess the knowledge, skills, abilities and competencies to successfully perform the duties of the position.

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN APPLICATION FORMS AT THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT NAURU BUILDING, THIRD FLOOR, OR MAIL YOUR CURRENT APPLICATION FORMS TO:

ATTN: PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM
HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE TEL. NOS (670) 664-3703/3761
NAURU BUILDING, THIRD FLOOR
P.O. BOX 1370 CK
SAIPAN, MP 96950

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

Promotional & Open Competitive Examination Announcement Human Resources Office

It is the policy of the Board of Education, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, that the Public School Personnel System shall be applied and administered according to the principles of equal employment opportunity as defined by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Public Law 6-10, regardless of age, race, sex, religion, political affiliation or belief, marital status, handicap or place of origin.

Applicants for this position must be a U.S. Citizen or be eligible and authorized to work in the U.S., including the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

EXAMINATION ANNOUNCEMENT No: PSS-025-99
OPENING DATE: September 03, 1999 CLOSING DATE: Until Filled
POSITION/TITLE: FISCAL & BUDGET OFFICER (Chief Financial Officer)
SALARY: PL -3501 - 12 \$28,807.51 - \$49,266.21 PA
LOCATION: Public School System, State Office

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES

The applicant for this position shall report directly to the Commissioner of Education. Plans, formulates and recommends financial policies, standards, techniques, and decides relative to the overall financial activities of the Public School System. Creates an interactive budgeting process to that key financial management centers, such as Legislatures, Department of Finance, OPA, and independent auditor, are linked under a unified checks and balances on public funds matters. Consults with and advises the members of the Board of Education, the Commissioner of Education, the School Principals and the Program Managers on all matters relating to financial and budget issues. Collaborates with the Federal Programs Office, the Human Resources and the Procurement & Supply Office on all financial budget status. Advocates a positive relationship with members of the Legislature (both House & Senate) to assure conditional support on legislative issues affecting the Public School System, in particular the annual budget processes. Works with and maintains cooperative relationship with the CMMI Government Executive Branch, in particular the Governor's Special Assistant on Management and Budget, the CMMI Department of Finance and cognate government agencies involved with financial and budget matters, technical assistance support for computer services, gathering of pertinent information or related specialized functions. Performs other related duties as assigned. Organizes, Controls, Supervises and directs the overall financial requirements of the Public School System. Supervises Personnel of the Fiscal & Budget Office. Manages the operation of the Finance & Budget Office and the computerized financial management system. Schedules the monthly and annual financial reports and comparative analysis reports. Recommendations and implements the creation of customized financial reports. Delegates agency representation for the annual single audit and all other Public School Systems audits. Systematizes the program development for the facilitation and coordination of the financial activities of the Public School Systems. Drafts and submits sustainable annual budget request for the Public School System. Insures that all monies due to the Public School System are collected and deposited in a timely manner to appropriate bank accounts:

- CIP funding are collected and deposited in a timely manner.
- All federal grants are properly billed and drawn down, and deposited accordingly.
- All local funds appropriated by the CNMI Legislature are allotted and cash transfers are transmitted from the CNMI Treasury to PSS accounts.
- All claims against the PSS are closely scrutinized to assure validity and propriety of settlements.

PHYSICAL DEMANDS:

Exerting up to twenty (20) pounds of force occasionally and/or a negligible amount of force frequently.

JOB REQUIREMENTS:

This position may require the applicant to perform some travel, evening and weekend works.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS:

Applicant must hold a Bachelor's Degree in Accounting, Business Administration, or a related fields and must hold a valid licensure as a Certified Public Accountant.

Applicants must also have knowledge and experience in the following areas:
In-depth knowledge of Generally Accepted Accounting Principles, including governmental accounting, budgetary, and cost accounting. Knowledge of the CNMI laws and regulations including laws and regulation relating to governmental finance, administration, and personnel. Knowledge of budget and accounting requirements relating to federal education programs. Knowledge of JDE/IBM computer applications. Ability to communicate and build consensus with and among stakeholders, including legislative, central and school level management, state representatives of other CNMI agencies. Experience in working with short and long range planning. Experience in working with CNMI and federal legislative entities. Experience in working with policy setting bodies.

Preferred a candidate holding a CPA designation issued by any State of the United States, its territory or possession.

INTERESTED APPLICANTS MAY OBTAIN AND SUBMIT COMPLETED APPLICATION FORMS TO THE PSS HUMAN RESOURCES OFFICE AT NAURU BUILDING, THIRD FLOOR, OR MAIL YOUR CURRENT APPLICATION FORMS TO:

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Fiji supports calls for reform in UN

SUVA (Pacnews) — Fiji has supported calls to reform the United Nations (UN) and has suggested that membership of the Security Council be increased to reflect the different geographical regions of the world.

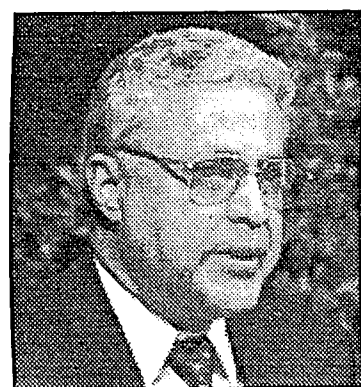
Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry highlighted this in his inaugural speech to the UN in New York.

Chaudhry said the 54-year old world body must review its Charter to reflect the realities of today.

"On the Security Council, Fiji thinks there should be an increase in both the permanent and non-permanent membership based on a more equitable representation of the different geographical regions," Chaudhry said.

He urged the UN to review the existing regional groupings in the United Nations for the purpose of representation in various organs and specialised agencies, with a view of configuring them.

"The countries of the South



Mahendra Chaudhry

Pacific region, for example, are currently split between the Asian Group and the Western European Group. Australia and New Zealand are part of the Western European Group. On the other hand, Fiji and other island states are members of the Asian Group.

Such a configuration, is not only discriminatory on ethnic lines, it is also, in these days, artificial and irrelevant," Prime Minister Chaudhry said.

"I think it's time member States

from the South Pacific should be allowed to have their own distinctive regional grouping in the United Nations. In proposing this, we are not asking for something that is totally new. In fact, this is already the accepted arrangement in such UN agencies as the World Health Organisation and the Food and Agricultural Organisation," he added.

Chaudhry reaffirmed to the UN Fiji's commitment to a peaceful settlement on war torn island of East Timor in Indonesia.

"As a member of the UN family, Fiji stands ready to participate alongside other member States in the United Nations peacekeeping forces in East Timor in laying the foundation for lasting peace on this new nation. We also call on the international community to provide tangible assistance to enable east Timor to rebuild its shattered economy," he said.

Population growth in Pacific slowing down

SUVA (Pacnews) — Population growth in the South Pacific is slowing but remains high.

The "State of the World Population 1999" report said this means that each year the Pacific population grows by more than 150,000, that is approximately equal to the combined populations of Tonga and Marshall Islands.

"At this growth rate, Papua New Guinea will have to cater for an additional 90,000 people or more each year while Marshall Islands and Solomon Islands will double their populations in less than 20 years," the report said.

The report launched in the Fiji capital, Suva today said the total population of the Pacific is less than 7 million.

This includes Cook Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

According to the report there are more adolescents and youth than ever before in the Pacific Islands, a consequence of past high fertility.

"This group accounts for about

20 percent of the total population, as compared to the world population of 17 percent. Increasing access of this group to reproductive health information and services, education and jobs is essential for accelerated and sustainable social and economic development," the report said.

"School age is expected to grow substantially in the 21st century in several of the island countries. At present 40 percent of all Pacific children fail to complete a basic primary education and only one in five graduate from secondary school. Efforts to improve access to schooling need to be doubled in the face of anticipated increases in the number of children and youth.

By next month, world population will reach the six billion mark.

"Global population has quadrupled this century, growing faster than at any time in previous history. At the beginning of the 20th century, the world population was approximately 1.5 billion. Nearly half of all people will be under 25 and there are over a billion young people between 15 and 24, the parents of the next century," the report said.

"This group accounts for about

Kiribati needs time to implement free trade

SUVA (Pacnews) — Kiribati says it's not ready to be part of the free trade, proposed by the South Pacific Forum.

While forum economic ministers have endorsed the concept in principle in July this year, South Pacific Forum lead-

ers are expected to discuss it further when they meet in Palau next month.

President Teburoro Tito told Pacnews while Kiribati think it's a noble idea, small island states should approach it with caution.

"Kiribati has taken a very cautious approach. We do not want to be pushed even though we are told that all our problems would be solved. I can just flash back and see the history of colonisation. I feel this is another form of colonisation, another form of domination and I would like to remind my friends from small nations to be careful. We should join hands together and look at something that is relevant to our small societies," President Tito said.

He said the free trade area is the agenda of the bigger nations that is of no value to the small islands of the Pacific.

"I see the free trade as the agenda of the big man in the global scene to move around and take control of the resources, even the political power of people to determine which economic direction they should take. Now that is my perception from a small island country. It's like a small fish being asked to have a shark in a small lagoon. Now the shark will have his own agenda," he said.

"We see that as a threat to our resources, to the way we do things. We have to face it. We have to try and do something about it."

One of the first to be first affected by free trade within the islands would be small business.

RP to do quake drills

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Officials will organize earthquake drills in the Philippines following a 7.6 magnitude temblor that killed hundreds of people in nearby Taiwan, Vice President Gloria Arroyo said Tuesday.

"We're going to be conducting our own drills here because there are earthquakes happening all over the region," Arroyo told reporters.

"If and when, heaven forbid, it happens to us, we'll be ready," she said.

Tuesday's early morning quake in Taiwan killed at least 656 people, destroyed more than 1,000 homes and toppled buildings islandwide. With a preliminary magnitude of 7.6, the quake was the strongest to hit Taiwan in a decade.

Both Taiwan and the Philippines are located in the so-called Pacific "Ring of Fire," subject to frequent earthquakes and volcanic activity.

Nearly 2,000 people were killed when a magnitude 7.7 earthquake rocked the moun-



Gloria Macapagal Arroyo

tainous northern Philippines on July 16, 1990.

Arroyo said the drills would be organized by the government's National Disaster Coordinating Council, which has offices in key cities and towns, but did not say when or how extensive the drills would be.

Raymundo Punongbayan, chief of the Philippine Institute of Volcanology and Seismology, said there is still no way to accurately predict the occurrence of earthquakes anywhere in the world.

"It's not automatic that when something happens to a neigh-

boring country, that we'll be the next," he said.

Gloria also said the government is coordinating with Manila's de facto embassy in Taipei to determine if there are Filipino casualties from the earthquake. About 114,000 Filipinos work in Tai-

wan. Virginia Galvez, a Taipei-based Philippine labor representative, said in an interview with a Manila radio station that organizers have sent out teams to hard-hit areas to check hospitals and workplaces for possible Filipino casualties.

She said their search is being hampered by downed telephone lines and power outages in many affected areas. "We're not discounting any possibility. We're going from hospital to hospital," Galvez said.

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\$6.2M to remove vessels in American Samoa

PAGOPAGO (Pacnews) — The U.S. National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) has announced the award of an additional US\$6.2 million to remove abandoned long liners in Pago Pago Harbour. Most of the vessels are victims of past hurricanes.

The NOAA funds will be expended in consultation with the

U.S. Coast Guard and the American Samoa government to fully remove the rusting ships, some of which continue to leak oil and other pollutants.

In reaction to the funding announcement, American Samoa's delegate to the U.S. House of Representatives in Washington, Eni Faleomavaega, recommended that the American Samoa gov-

ernment pass a law requiring that all vessels entering Pago Pago Harbour be certified and bonded. Then, he said, in the event of hurricanes or other problems, insurance would already be in place to cover expenses involved in removing damaged vessels.

Such cases then would no longer incur government expenditures, he stressed.

Have We Got A Winner!

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L-R: Ray Yumul (YCO), Josephine Mendez, Jeff Boyer (Shell Marianas)

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At least 4 killed, dozens hurt in bus bomb blast

ZAMBOANGA CITY, Philippines (AP) — At least four people, including two small children, were killed and dozens of other passengers were seriously injured Tuesday as a bomb exploded inside a bus in the southern Philippines, police said.

An unidentified woman was found dead on the bus, her head blown off, while a 36-year-old man and his 6-year-old daughter, along with an unidentified younger girl, died at a nearby hospital, duty police officer Virgilo Fuentevilla said.

The bus was parked at a terminal in Dipolog City, about 25 kilometers (16 miles) east of Zamboanga for a rest stop, when

the bomb exploded in the middle of the vehicle, Fuentevilla said. The lunchtime blast also injured several passengers on another bus parked next to it.

At least 24 of the passengers, who were resting inside the bus, were treated at two nearby hospitals. Some of them were in critical condition.

The rest of the about 60 passengers had left the bus before the explosion, Fuentevilla said. So far, no one had claimed responsibility.

Police were still investigating the type of explosives used. Police suspected a timing device similar to those used in earlier bombings in the region.



Former Philippine President Cory Aquino (right) shakes the hands of Manila's Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin after the noise barrage outside the Sto. Domingo church in suburban Quezon City Tuesday. AP

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Obuchi wins re-election

TOKYO (AP) — Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi easily won re-election Tuesday as head of his party, ensuring that Japan will keep pumping public money into the economy to spur recovery.

Obuchi's campaign stressed that he needed a fresh term as prime minister to make sure that the economic turnaround his policies helped engineer keeps going. He had repeatedly promised to pass a substantial economy-boosting package as soon as he won re-election.

The head of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party automatically becomes prime minister because the party controls the majority in both houses of the Diet, or parliament.

Obuchi won 350 votes, about 70 percent of those cast in the three-way contest. Former party Secretary-General Koichi Kato got 113 votes, while former Construction Minister Taku Yamasaki had 51.

"I am grateful for the clear support from my party members and lawmakers," Obuchi said.

When Obuchi took office last year, Japan was mired in its worst recession in 50 years. Since then, he has pushed through massive public spending, tax breaks and a bailout package for debt-laden



Re-elected Liberal Democratic Party president Keizo Obuchi (center) holds hands with his contestants former Construction Minister Taku Yamasaki (left), and former party Secretary General Koichi Kato following Obuchi's victory for the Party election. Obuchi was re-elected as the party leader for the second term. AP

banks.

As a result, Japan's economy grew in two consecutive quarters this year - after shrinking the previous five quarters. Obuchi has soared in approval ratings, scoring 50 percent or higher in recent Japanese media public opinion polls.

With his decisive victory,

Obuchi is likely to be even more confident about his free-spending policies.

"It means he has a strong mandate to lead," said John Neuffer, a political analyst with Mitsui Marine Research Institute in Tokyo. "He will be continuing to fix the economy with lots of pork thrown in for good measure."

By concentrating heavily on stimulating growth, through, Obuchi risks putting less emphasis on other economic reforms - such as encouraging corporate layoffs - that some people feel Japan needs to keep up with international competition.

"There is a danger that the

administration may backslide on basic structural reforms," said Shigenori Okazaki, a political analyst with Warburg Dillon Read.

Obuchi's competitors had offered the same basic policies as him. With Obuchi's landslide taken for granted, they ran not to win but to boost their standing for a shot at leadership after he steps down.

In the days ahead, Obuchi probably will shuffle his Cabinet to include members of an opposition party called Komeito, which is closely linked to a Buddhist group.

Although many Japanese are leery of giving a religious group influence in national politics, the ruling party needs Komeito support to pass key bills in Parliament.

With the outcome clear, Tuesday's vote generated little public interest despite its importance to the national political scene.

"I think that the U.S. system in which the common people vote for a president is preferable," said Kazuo Sueoka, a Tokyo office worker. "But since there aren't any good candidates, I guess Obuchi will have to do."

Komura tells UN: Japan should not pay more dues if denied council seat



Masahiko Koumura, foreign minister of Japan, addresses the 54th session of United Nations General Assembly Tuesday. AP

in dues and peacekeeping expenses.

He noted that Tokyo's share of the regular U.N. budget was higher than four of the permanent council members combined.

"One cannot but question the fairness of a situation in which Japan is expected to pay an assessed contribution that exceeds the sum of the contributions made by the four permanent members of the Security Council, not including the United States," Koumura said.

U.N. dues are calculated through a complicated formula, based on national wealth. The five permanent council members, however, pay a surcharge for peacekeeping.

Japan is assessed nearly 20 percent of the regular U.N. budget compared to permanent council members Britain at 5 percent, France at 6.5 percent, Russia at 1.49 percent and China at less than one percent.

Washington is mandated to pay 25 percent but will not do so and insists its dues should be lowered to Japan's level, despite a far higher national income. But so far U.N. members have refused to reduce the U.S. contribution until it makes a substantial dent in its arrears.

The General Assembly has been considering reform and expansion of the 15-nation Security Council for six years.

If two major industrial nations-

Germany and Japan - are given permanent membership in the council, as many advocate, how many developing countries should be similarly elevated, and how they should be chosen are key questions.

Another point of controversy is whether the permanent council members should retain undiluted veto rights.

At the same time Italy has successfully organized a group of medium-sized states to oppose reform if this resulted in a permanent seat for Germany, which would leave Italy as the only major European Union nation not on the council.

Germany is assessed at 9.8 percent of the current regular budget and Italy at 5.4 percent. Koumura noted that no single country was opposed to reforms per se. "Nevertheless progress toward reform is far from satisfactory," he said.

"The amount of time that has been expended in discussions so far tells of the difficulty that lies in the way of reforming an organization," he said.

The Japanese minister warned that if members failed to carry out reforms international trust in the United Nations would be undermined.

"This would not only destroy the United Nations but would be suicidal to all member states and the international community as a whole," he said.

Malaysian opposition unites

Anwar chosen as candidate for PM

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysia's opposition coalition chose Anwar Ibrahim as its candidate for prime minister on Tuesday, despite the ousted deputy prime minister's six-year prison sentence for corruption.



Anwar Ibrahim

Leaders of the four political parties that form the Alternative Front, or Barisan Alternatif, made the announcement in a statement faxed to news agencies.

The statement said that if the coalition wins elections widely expected by the end of the year, it would try to overturn his conviction through a judicial inquiry into the "political conspiracy which has led to Anwar's imprisonment."

Three key opposition activists were arrested Tuesday in what appears to be a fresh crackdown on dissent. Police arrested two leaders of the opposition National Justice Party, headed by Anwar's wife, Azizah Ismail, after they surrendered at police headquarters in Kuala Lumpur.

Several officers dragged Tian Chua, the party's vice president, and youth leader Mohamed Ezam Mohamed Nor inside the building. The two were accompanied by their lawyers, while 50 supporters chanted slogans against the government of Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad.

"The government can arrest us but more leaders will rise up," Tian said in a statement. "The threats by Mahathir cannot oppress the people anymore."

National Justice Party officials said Badrol Amin, another senior party member, was also picked up by police Tuesday for participating in a demonstration Sunday by about 10,000 people. Tuesday's arrests came a day after four other activists were detained.

Anwar's nomination for prime minister was the first unified policy proposal by the reformist coalition. Skeptics say the coalition's multiethnic and religious makeup may hinder its success in Malaysia, where poli-

tics are largely divided along ethnic lines.

"Once justice is delivered, he will be able to lead the nation, God willing," said the coalition's statement. It added that an interim prime minister chosen by Parliament would lead Malaysia until Anwar was released from jail.

The statement was signed by leaders of the Parti Islam SeMalaysia, the Democratic Action Party, the Malaysian Peoples' Party and the National Justice Party. The four parties united in April in response to Anwar's ouster from government, which was followed by unprecedented rallies demanding an end to Mahathir's 18-year rule.

Mahathir sacked Anwar, his longtime protege, in September 1998, citing corruption and illegal sex. Anwar was arrested, convicted of corruption charges and is now on trial for sodomy. He denies the charges, saying they are politically motivated.

Anwar was hospitalized nearly two weeks ago when lab tests organized by his family showed an abnormal level of arsenic in his body. A government hospital has yet to release its own test results.

In Washington, World Bank President James Wolfensohn said he was "deeply concerned" about Anwar after hearing reports on his health.

"He is still my friend and I hope we can get him out of jail," Wolfensohn said. Until his arrest, Anwar headed a World Bank committee that represented developing nations.



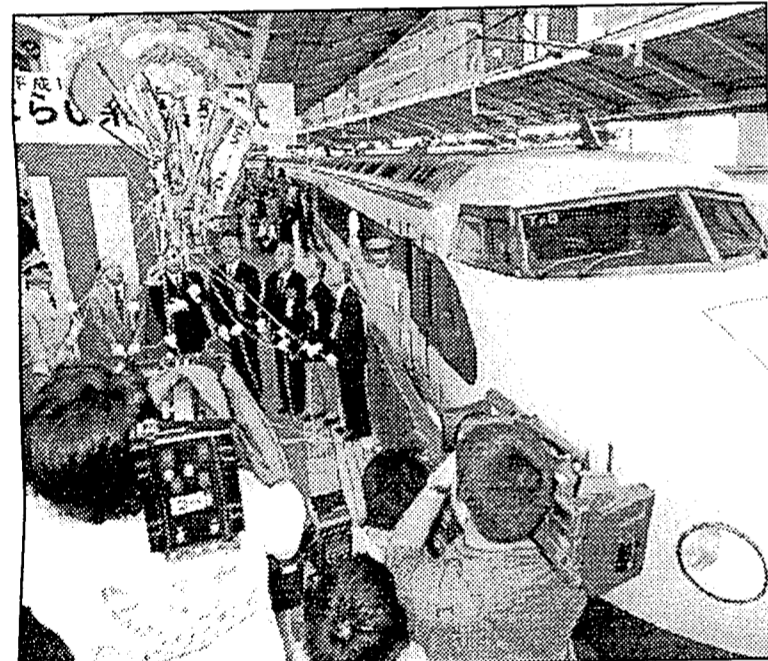
Tian Chua (right), vice-president of the opposition National Justice Party, and youth leader Mohamed Ezam Mohamed Nor (left) shake hands with their supporters before they were arrested Tuesday in what appears to be a fresh crackdown on dissent. AP



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Local TV crews zoom their cameras in on the departing Shinkansen bullet train during a retirement ceremony at Tokyo Station. The last of many zero models made its final run Saturday. AP

Happy Birthday Happy Birthday Happy Birthday

Happy Birthday Happy Birthday Happy Birthday

Happy 2nd Birthday

"Nipi" Terorio babayo

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God bless you...

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Mom, Dad, and the Echaluse Family

Happy Birthday Happy Birthday Happy Birthday

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MPAA P-13

Japan sends rescue team, \$550K in aid

TOKYO (Reuters) — Japan will send about 100 rescue workers and \$500,000 in emergency financial aid to Taiwan to help the island recover from a massive earthquake which killed at least 1,100 people on Tuesday, the Foreign Ministry said.

The team will include police, firefighters, and personnel from the Maritime Safety Agency and aid organizations.

Seventy members will arrive in Taiwan on Tuesday and the remainder will go on Wednesday, a ministry spokesman said.

Taiwan, which has no diplomatic ties with Taipei, will send the team at the request of the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

The financial aid will be made through private organizations which promote exchanges between Japan and Taiwan.

Japan will study if additional financial assistance is necessary after further assessing the situation, another ministry official said.

Earlier, Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi offered his sympathy over the quake, which measured 7.6 on the Richter scale and was believed to be the strongest ever in Taiwan.

He quickly dispatched a six-member team of Japanese government and aid organization officials to the island.

Top government spokesman Hiromu Nonaka noted that Taiwan had helped Japan when the central city of Kobe was struck by a devastating earthquake in 1995 which killed 6,500 people.



A Taiwanese boy carries his family's Chinese warrior gods up a crumbling street after being rescued from their collapsed house after the early morning earthquake Tuesday some 90 miles from the tremor's epicenter in the city of Fengyuan in central Taiwan. AP

Economists in Taiwan confident:

Quake will not derail economy

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — The earthquake that hit Taiwan on Tuesday probably won't derail the island's rapid economic growth because key ports and high-tech businesses escaped the worst damage.

Economists said the financial fallout should be limited since the quake was centered in a mountainous region dominated by agriculture and tourism. Some noted that despite the widespread destruction to homes and high-rise buildings, the island's infrastructure seems largely unaffected.

"Initial reports show the ports, airports, highways and refineries are still operating normally," said Graham Courtney, a Tokyo-based

analyst for the investment bank Warburg Dillon Read. Taiwan's latest forecasts had predicted economic growth of 5.7 percent this year. According to the investment bank CS First Boston, the quake might trim that figure by 0.2 to 0.4 percentage point, and likely have no impact on Taiwan's growth in 2000.

The biggest problem for businesses such as Taiwan's huge semiconductor industry appeared to be power outages. But analysts said factories that have been shut down may need to recalibrate sensitive machinery, which could take a few weeks.

Taiwan's semiconductor sector accounts for about 10 percent of the world's chipmaking capac-

ity and about 80 percent of the "motherboards" used to run personal computers, according to the Semiconductor Industry Association. Many of the island's factories work under contract for chip companies in other countries, although not for industry giants such as Intel and Texas Instruments.

Based on preliminary reports, the quake didn't cause significant structural damage at Taiwan Semiconductor Manufacturing Corp. and United Microelectronics Corp., the two major operators of chip fabrication facilities in Taiwan, according to a report by Merrill Lynch semiconductor analyst Joseph Osha.

"However, the quake did cause emergency shutdowns at most

fabs in Hsinchu, where essentially all of Taiwan's fabs are located," said Osha, estimating that between one and two weeks of production will be lost if power is restored shortly. But, "if damage to buildings or equipment has occurred, then the impact on supply will likely be more severe."

In other industries, China Steel Corp. said operations were minimally affected, although a cracked pipe in a waste-gas recycling system will force temporary cutbacks in molten iron production.

The state-owned Chinese Petroleum Corp. said it would close the Taoyuan refinery for a day or two because electricity had been cut, but the company has two other refineries operating normally.

US crew heads to Taiwan to help

SPRINGFIELD, Va. (AP) — Less than a month after returning from the devastation in Turkey, the elite Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue Team left on Tuesday for earthquake-ravaged Taiwan.

Seventy of the team's 135 members flew from an Air Force base in Dover, Del., on an 18-hour flight. The quake struck on Monday.

"They will have a plan when they hit the ground," unit spokeswoman Renee Henningsen said.

Most of the team members who were sent to Taiwan also took part in a mission to earthquake-devas-

tated Turkey, where they saved four lives. That mission ended Aug. 24, marking the shortest interval between assignments for the team, which travels to disaster zones around the globe.

"This is their fastest turnaround," Ms. Henningsen said.

Upon returning home, team members receive counseling to deal with the tragedies they have seen.

"When they are over there, they are dealing with an emergency, and the stress might not come out until afterward," Ms. Henningsen said. "They go through all sorts of

emotions." The team is expected to be in Taiwan a week to 10 days. People buried in rubble are unlikely to live longer than that. The unit will be split into two teams that will work 12-hour shifts.

The team, made up of Fairfax County firefighters and paramedics, doctors, engineers and communications specialists, is one of two in the nation called on to help in international disasters. The other is from Miami-Dade County in Florida.

The team is commissioned by the U.S. government to provide international aid at a moment's notice. The government pays for training, some equipment and the costs associated with the missions.

The Taiwan quake is the team's ninth mission. The team helped out after an earthquake in Armenia, the Oklahoma City bombing and the bombing of U.S. embassies in Tanzania and Kenya, among other disasters.

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MIKE "ROCK" GUERRERO
 FROM: RITA & MANNY

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

We, the family of the late,
BETSIN DAVID PHILLIP

Extend our most profound appreciation to all of our relatives and friends, for your continuous support during our time of mourning. Your prayers, sympathy, kindness, and thoughtfulness have been most comforting and touching, especially during the nightly rosary. Words can only attempt to express our sincere gratitude. Please be assured that you will always be remembered in this family's thoughts and prayers.

Thank you, Un Dangkulu Na Si Yuus Maase
 Ginen I Asaguana Yan Famaguon

US okays \$55M for East Timor force

WASHINGTON (AP) — Reflecting America's minimal role in the international peacekeeping mission, the Pentagon said only two American soldiers were in East Timor on Tuesday. The U.S. contingent standing by in Australia was expected to be near its full strength of 200 by Wednesday.

P. J. Crowley, deputy assistant secretary of defense for public affairs, said the Americans would remain in Darwin until the Australian commander of the U.N.-authorized force, Maj. Gen. Peter Cosgrove, decides they are needed in East Timor.

"It's off to a very smooth start," Crowley told a Pentagon briefing as Wednesday dawned in East Timor with about 3,000 international peacekeepers on the ground and 500 more expected during the day. He said no resistance or violence had been reported.

About half the U.S. force is expected to be used in the region, which has been plagued by violence since its residents voted overwhelmingly Aug. 30 to break away from Indonesia. The U.S. force mostly includes specialists in communications, supply and intelligence with no combat troops.

"We're set to go whenever the commander feels those capabilities are needed," Crowley said.

On Wednesday, President Clinton authorized U.S. military assistance worth up to \$55 million to states participating in the East Timor mission.

A Marine liaison officer and a public affairs officer were the only U.S. military personnel in East Timor on Tuesday, after the U.S. force commander, Marine Brig. Gen. John G. Castellaw, spent a day checking out the area.

Castellaw and four other marines had returned to Darwin where the U.S. force reached 140. Another 50 U.S. soldiers from around the Pacific were expected by Wednesday. And 14 civil affairs personnel left Fort Bragg, N.C., for Darwin on Tuesday.

In addition to the ground force, 527 American personnel were aboard two U.S. Navy ships in the area — the guided missile cruiser USS Mobile Bay and the ammunition ship USNS Kilavea. Personnel on the Mobile Bay have been using the ship's communications and other facilities to help control the airlift of soldiers from Australia to East Timor, Crowley said.

Three U.S. helicopters were available on the ships for possible use in East Timor and a Marine KC130 cargo plane had made at least one flight carrying Australians into the region, Crowley said. Three other U.S. transport planes also were in Darwin for the operation.

The Americans have stockpiled 300,000 humanitarian daily rations in Darwin, and Crowley said he expects U.S. soldiers to work with nongovernment groups when it is safe for private relief workers to return to East Timor.

Journalists rescued

DARWIN (Reuters) — A British journalist, a U.S. photographer and their two local staff had been rescued unharmed from a militia attack in East Timor, but a Dutch journalist remained missing in Dili, Australian defence said on Wednesday.

The Sunday Times reporter Jon Swaine, U.S. photographer Chip Hires, and their driver and translator had spent the night after the attack under protection of multinational troops, Australian defence spokesman Colin Blair told Reuters.

"Our information is they were all shaken but did not suffer any injuries," Blair said. "They spent the night at the (Australian) 3rd Brigade headquarters at the (Dili) airport."

British Brigadier David Richards, a member of the U.N. force, told BBC television that Swaine and Hires had driven a car out of Dili when they were attacked. He said they fled into the bush and were rescued by troops in helicopters and armoured vehicles.

Britain's The Financial Times said one of its journalists, Dutch national Sander Thoenes, had gone missing in the East Timor capital Dili after he had left his hotel on Tuesday.

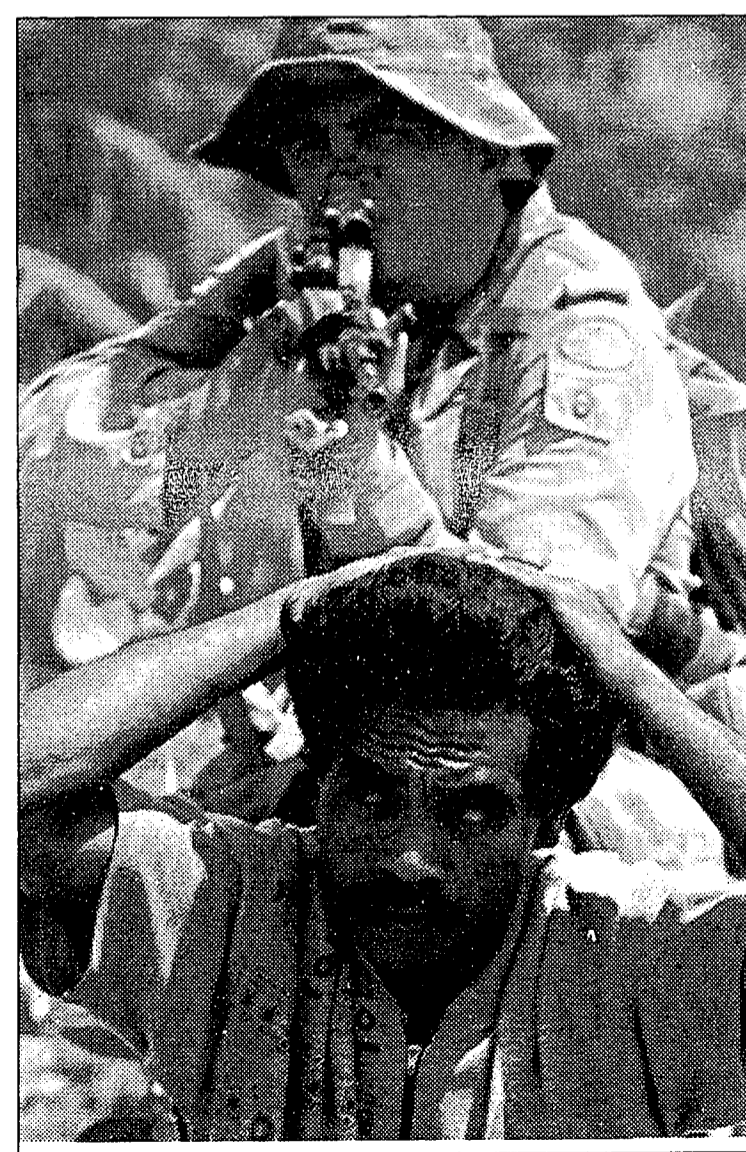
"I have not heard any more information on him unfortunately," Blair said. Thoenes, 30, had been a Financial Times correspondent in Jakarta for the last two years, spoke fluent Indonesian and also worked for the Dutch weekly Vrij Nederland.

Thoenes had arrived in East Timor earlier on Tuesday to relieve another Financial Times reporter, Gwen Robinson.

A bloodbath erupted in East Timor after it voted heavily in favour of independence in a U.N.-run referendum on August 30.



East Timor's Roman Catholic Bishop Carlos Ximenes Belo tries to make his way through the crowd during his visit in Oporto, Portugal Tuesday. Belo was evacuated to Australia after his house in Dili was stormed by anti-independence militias. AP



An Australian soldier aims his assault rifle at a suspected militiaman who was arrested along with four others at the entrance of the Dili airport in East Timor, Tuesday. AP

Death and Funeral Announcement

SHE IS SURVIVED BY HER:

Husband:
 Antonio P. Taitano "Saiketa"

Children/Spouses & Grandchildren:
 Nazario Francisco
 Romeo & Monique Francisco (Andre, Stefan & Monica)
 Wilfredo & Elenita Francisco (Philip, Sheena, Mico, Ralph, Neil, Alvin & Wilfredo)
 Ma. Lourdes & Pepito Reyes (Mari Louchelle, Josef Pepito & Paolo Josef)
 Ruby Francisco

LOURDES J. TAITANO
 D.O.B.: May 7, 1943
 Died: September 17, 1999

Nightly Rosary is being said at 8:00 p.m. at the residence of Antonio P. Taitano in Chalan Piao. Viewing and last respect will be on Saturday, September 25, 1999 at St. Jude Church in Koblerville between the hours of 8:00AM to 10:00AM. Mass will be at 10:00AM. Burial will follow at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery. Lunch will be served at St. Jude Church after the burial.

Clinton at General Assembly

'UN must do more'

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — President Clinton challenged the United Nations and countries in Africa, Asia and elsewhere on Tuesday to strengthen their ability to stop mass killings like those in Kosovo and East Timor.

The United States "cannot respond to every humanitarian catastrophe in the world," he told the General Assembly. "We cannot do everything everywhere." Clinton also urged the world body to engage in an all-out battle against poverty for the 21st century and to "assure that weapons of mass destruction will never be used on our children."

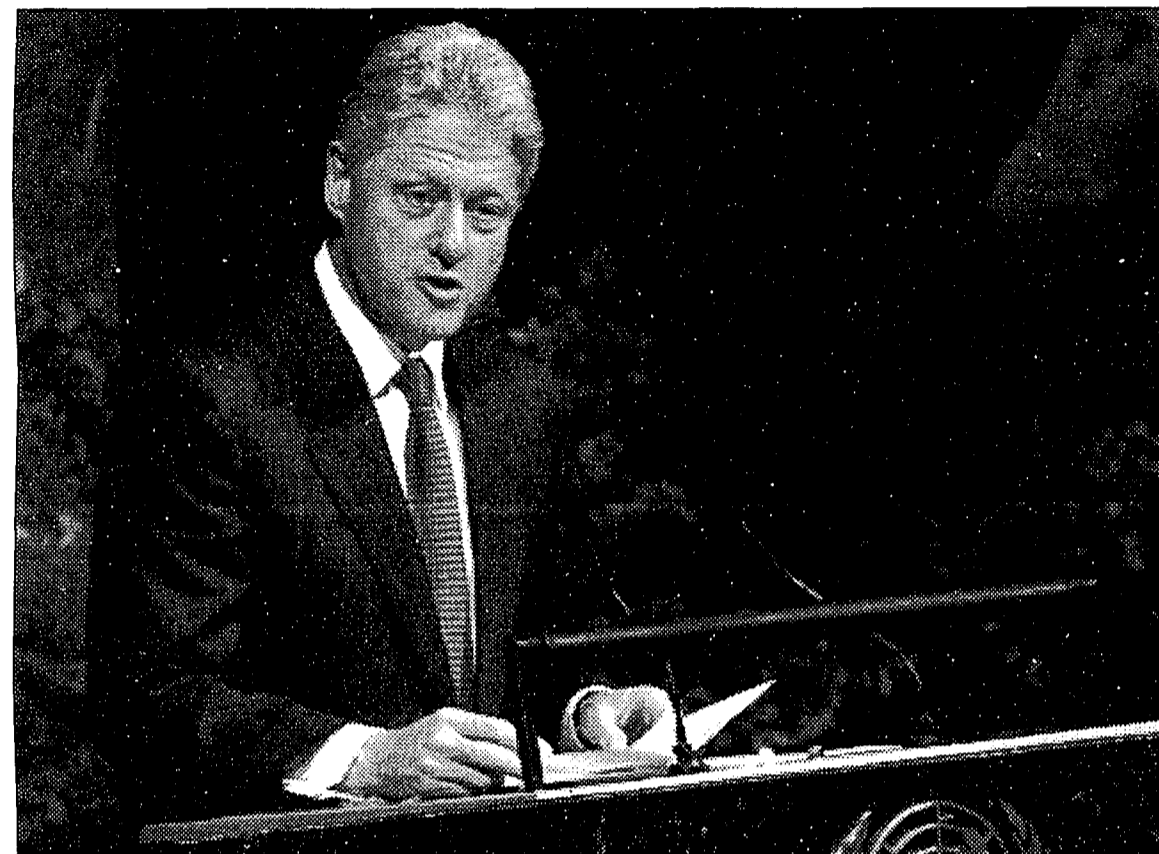
"Let us resolve in the bright dawn of this new millennium to bring an era in which our desire to create will overwhelm our capacity to destroy," Clinton told the 188-member body.

His voice hoarse, apparently from allergies, Clinton coughed and cleared his throat as he spoke.

Clinton suggested the United Nations play an expanded role in preventing mass slaughter and dislocation.

"When we are faced with the deliberate organized campaigns to murder whole peoples or expel them from their land, the care of victims is important, but not enough. We should work to end the violence," he said.

Among other things, Clinton said, "we need international forces with the training to fill



President Clinton addresses the 54th session of the General Assembly at the United Nations Tuesday. Clinton said the United Nations must play a very large role in preventing killings and dislocation of innocent people in conflicts around the world. AP

the gap between local police and military peacekeepers."

"Our response in every case cannot or should not be the same," he said. "Sometimes collective military force is both appropriate and feasible. Sometimes concerted economic and political pressure combined with diplomacy is a better answer, as it was in making possible the introduction of forces

to East Timor."

Later Wednesday, Clinton authorized up to \$55 million in U.S. military assistance to help countries participating in the East Timor peacekeeping force.

Clinton touched lightly on two contentious issues: a disagreement over Iraq and the failure of the United States to make more than \$1 billion in delinquent U.N. payments.

The Clinton administration is willing to ease the sanctions only if Iraq agrees to allow U.N. weapons inspectors back into the country.

But the Security Council remains deadlocked. Russia, China and France - each wielding veto powers - have expressed sympathy with Baghdad's call for an immediate easing of the sanctions that have been in place since the Persian Gulf War in 1991.

In nearly three hours of talks Monday night, Secretary of State Madeleine Albright failed to budge Russian Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov, said a U.S. official. That clouded the prospect for the Security Council adopting a renewal of the inspections that were halted in December.

Said Clinton: "Despite all the obstacles Saddam Hussein has placed in our path, we must continue to ease the suffering of the people of Iraq. At the same time, we cannot allow the government of Iraq to flout 40 - and I say 40 - successive U.N. Security Council resolutions and to rebuild his arsenal."

Clinton also apologized for the U.S. delinquency on back payments.

"I have strongly supported the United States meeting all its financial obligations to the United Nations, and I will continue to do so," he said. "We will do our very best to succeed this year."

The administration has pledged to pay the arrears, some dating to the 1980s, but has been blocked repeatedly by congressional conservatives.

Rep. Chris Smith, N.J., complained that Clinton vetoed a

bill last year that would have paid the U.N. arrears and required U.N. reforms. The president objected to a Smith-sponsored anti-abortion amendment to the bill that would have barred U.S. funds for international family planning organizations.

"We already have provided it once and he vetoed it," Smith said in an interview. "There needs to be accountability" on U.N. spending, he added.

If a sizable installment isn't made by year's end, the United States will lose its vote in the General Assembly. Its Security Council vote would not be affected, however.

The U.S. tardiness in payments wasn't lost on other members, even allies.

Tarja Halonen, Finland's foreign minister, told the General Assembly the United Nations needs "a stable financial basis ... and unconditional payment of contributions to the U.N. by all."

"Unilateral decisions and actions to the contrary are not allowed," she said. Finland currently holds the rotating presidency of the European Union.

Clinton proposed that the world community "wage an unrelenting battle against poverty" as it enters the new millennium.

Despite quantum advances in technology and the globalization of the world economy, 1.3 billion people live on less than \$1 a day, Clinton said.

He announced he would convene a White House conference of public health experts, pharmaceutical companies and foundation representatives to encourage production of vaccines for developing countries.

Other speakers also sounded Clinton's call for more involvement in preventing humanitarian catastrophes - but with a different emphasis.

Ivanov, the Russian foreign minister, suggested the international community do more to combat terrorism, which he suggested included "aggressive separatism."

"The international community and, first of all, the United Nations, should decisively clamp down on any manifestations of separatism," he said.

Moscow blames recent bombings in Moscow, and an escalation of the conflict in Chechnya and neighboring Dagestan, on secessionist-minded Islamic militants.

Ghana's foreign minister, James Victor Gbeho, urged the world body "to do in Africa as much as it has done in other areas," including the Balkans. He suggested the United Nations was paying only lukewarm attention to humanitarian crises there.

3 Clinton trips cost \$72M

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The government watchdog agency, the General Accounting Office, said on Tuesday that three overseas trips by President Bill Clinton cost taxpayers \$72.1 million - triggering protests from some Republicans.

A draft GAO report said Clinton's trip to Africa cost \$42.8 million, a visit to Chile cost \$10.5 million and his trip to China cost \$18.8 million. All the trips occurred in 1998.

Of particular notice to the three Republican senators who commissioned the study - Larry Craig of Idaho, Jeff Sessions of Alabama and Craig Thomas of Wyoming - was the number of travelers that either worked on the advance team for the African trip or went along with the president on it.

The GAO report said that federal agencies represented on the trip paid for about 1,300 people to travel to Africa as either part of the advance team, part of the president's delegation or to provide other support. Clinton visited six African countries.

The dollar figures did not include the cost of Secret Service expenses, which are classified.

"The findings of this draft study are extremely troubling to me," Sessions said.

"I don't know how we can justify this number of travelers. This is not the kind of apparent waste that we need when spending is tight. Presidential travel is important, and I am not suggesting that these trips should not have been taken. I am, however, saying that these expenses must be looked at closely so we can eliminate waste in the future," he said.

The report said the largest of the costs of presidential travel examined were the operating expenses of the president's aircraft and other military passenger and cargo aircraft; travel expenses, including lodging for the travelers; and telecommunications, vehicle and other equipment rentals.

It said that advance trips consumed a lot of cash. Eight separate

teams from the State Department, White House, Secret Service and/or the Defense Department made advance trips to Beijing, X'ian, Shanghai, Guilin and Hong Kong ahead of Clinton's trip to China in June 1998.

"This president has not only travelled excessively, he's travelled to a level that is almost abusive of the right and the privilege and responsibility," Sen. Craig said.

White House spokesman Joe Lockhart, commenting in New York, where Clinton travelled to

speak to the U.N. General Assembly, said. "There is a high cost of providing physical security to the president when he's overseas, and providing secure communications."

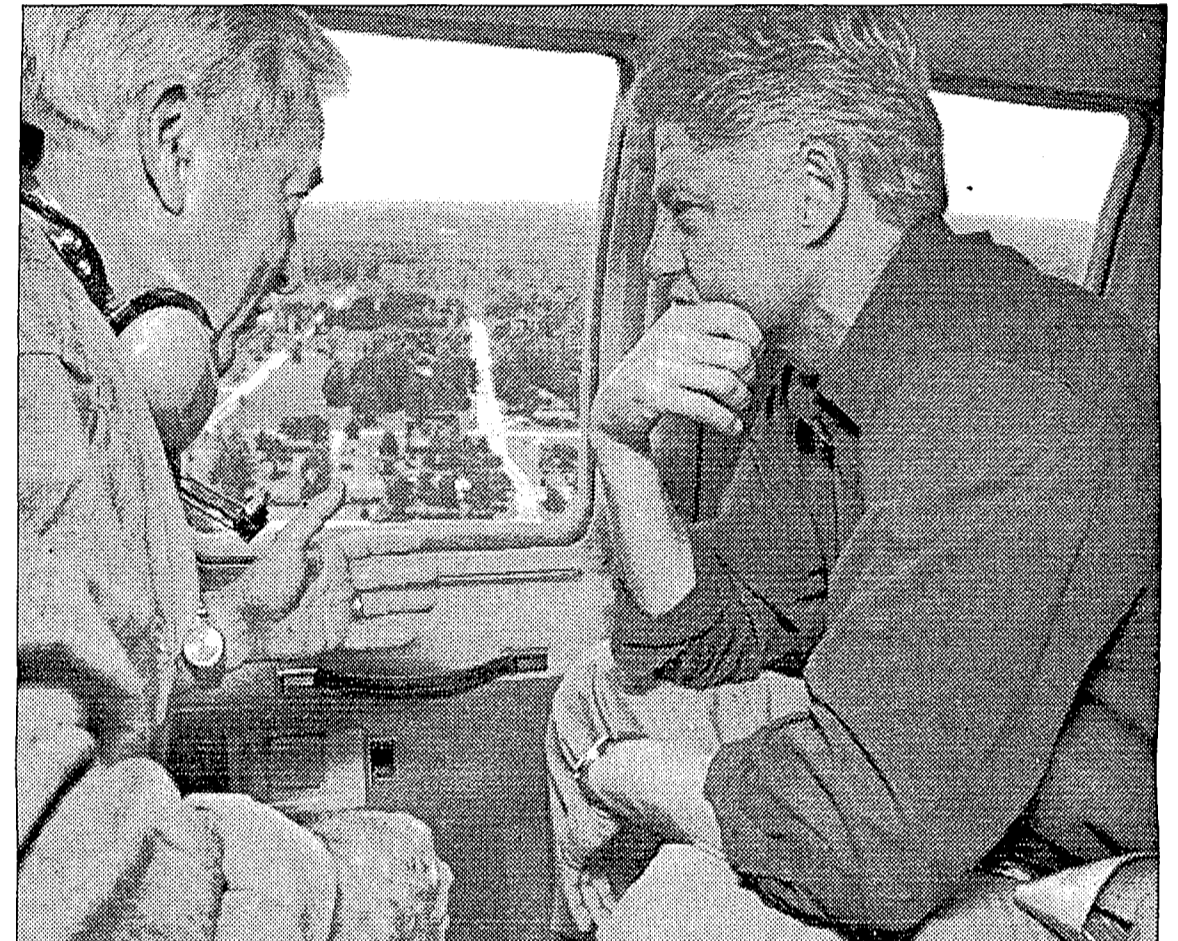
"We are the lone remaining superpower in the world. The president needs the ability to handle any crisis, anytime, anywhere. That comes at a cost," he said.

He also said the "trips more than pay for themselves" by generating increased exports of U.S. goods and advancing U.S. interests in pro-

moting democracy and human rights.

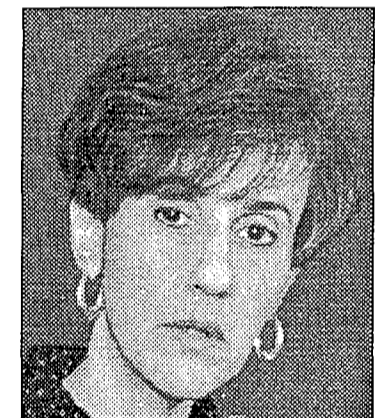
Lockhart called Thomas and Craig "two of the most prolific foreign travelers in the Senate" and said they should know "this is a new globalized world where our interests are not dictated by what's going on at home, it's dictated by what's going on around the world."

Will Hart, spokesman for Craig, said the final report should be completed by next month and would be turned over to relevant committees for any follow-up.



President Clinton and North Carolina Gov. Jim Hunt (left) make an aerial inspection of flood damage wrought by Hurricane Floyd from aboard Marine One on a flight from Raleigh to Tarboro, N.C., Monday. AP

US may appeal WTO ruling on tax scheme



Charlene Barshelsky

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The United States said on Tuesday it may appeal a decision by a World Trade Organisation dispute panel that a U.S. tax scheme covering exports worth \$250 billion breaks world trade rules.

"It is an option that we are seriously considering," said a spokeswoman for U.S. Trade Representative Charlene Barshelsky. "But no decisions have been made."

European Union spokesman Gunnar Wiegand said on Monday that the WTO panel's final report confirmed its interim finding that the U.S. Foreign Sales Corporations, or FSC, scheme violated the world trade watchdog's subsidies code and agricultural agreement.

The EU, which launched the WTO dispute, alleged that the FSC scheme amounted to an export subsidy to U.S. firms, with Boeing Co. and Microsoft among major beneficiaries.

The European Union's new trade chief, Pascal Lamy, hailed the decision.

"We welcome the WTO panel's ruling," Lamy, who took over last week as European trade commissioner, said in a statement.

"This U.S. export subsidy has created an important distortion of

international trade by granting an unfair advantage to U.S. products in third markets and has expanded over the last decade to more sectors, including computer software and agricultural products," he said. A spokesman for the U.S. mission to the EU in Brussels had no comment.

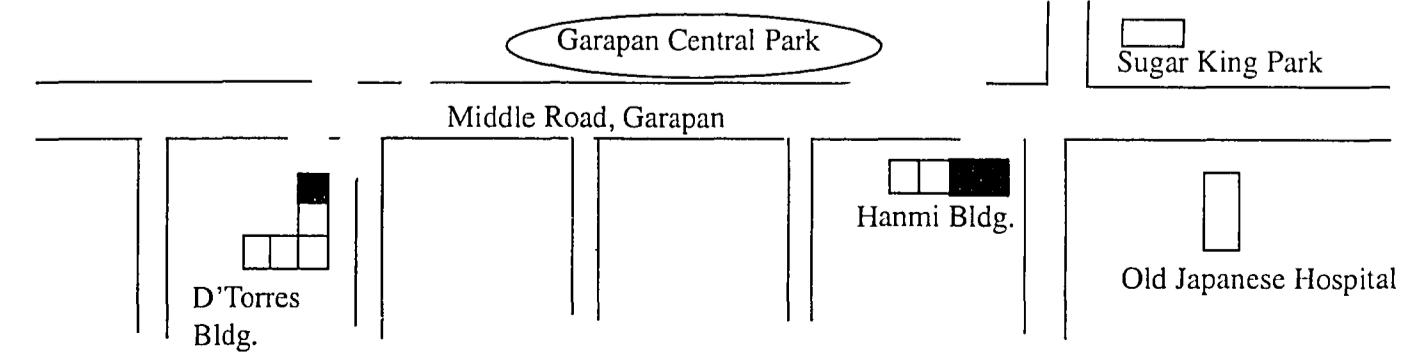
The United States has said the scheme is consistent with WTO rules.

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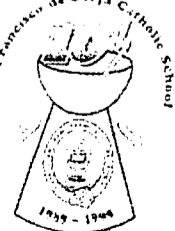


Si Yu'us Ma'ase and Happy Mercy Day

Sister Brigid Perez, RSM




Sister Orlean Pereda, RSM



From the Students, Parents, Faculty & Staff

Bush breaks \$50M barrier

WASHINGTON (AP) — Texas Gov. George W. Bush, continuing to smash all campaign fund-raising records, has raised more than \$52 million, becoming the first presidential candidate to break the \$50 million barrier.

Included in the total is \$550,000 from tickets sold to fund-raisers this week, including one scheduled for Saturday in Boston featuring the governor's father, former President Bush.

Bush advisers indicated earlier this month that they expected the governor to beat the \$50 million mark by the end of September, the close of the next reporting period for campaign finance information.

Bush already has reached that mark, campaign spokeswoman Mindy Tucker said Tuesday, confirming that Bush had raised \$3 million from events over the



Texas Gov. George W. Bush is kissed by a girl during a visit to Southwest High School Thursday in Fort Worth, Texas. Bush made the trip to visit with family and friends of students shot at Wedgwood Baptist Church.

past month, bringing his total to more than \$52 million.

At the end of June, Bush had raised \$37 million and had \$30 million in the bank. His next report is due to the Federal Election Commission on Oct. 15 and covers the period July 1 through Sept. 30.

Bush's \$52 million is more money than any other presidential candidate ever has had to spend on a campaign, even including federal matching funds. Including the federal funds, 1996 Republican presidential nominee Bob Dole had \$45 million to spend and President Clinton had \$43 million.

With money coming in at such a prolific clip, Bush has said that he would not accept federal funding, which would require his campaign to limit its spending to around \$40 million in the primaries. By refusing the fed-

eral assistance, Bush can spend as much as he can raise, allowing him to financially compete with publisher Steve Forbes, who also is not accepting federal funds for his largely self-financed campaign.

Last month, Bush became the first presidential candidate to post daily lists of his campaign contributors on the Internet.

Among other Republican presidential candidates, campaign of Sen. John McCain, R-Ariz., expects to report raising more than \$10 million by Sept. 30, including \$2 million transferred earlier from his Senate campaign account, and activist Gary Bauer reported that he had raised more than \$5 million to date. Other Republicans have declined to disclose their fund-raising totals in advance of Sept. 30, the end of the third quarter.

Gore gets little credit for a robust US economy

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — The booming U.S. economy thus far is a political bust for Vice President Al Gore.

Consider this: since Gore and President Bill Clinton took office on Jan. 20, 1993, the Dow Jones Industrial Average has tripled, the jobless and inflation rates have fallen to their lowest sustained levels in a generation, interest rates have dropped and productivity has climbed.

Yet corporate America has refused to reward Gore by rallying behind his bid to become the next president. Nor has the public.

While polls show Gore far behind Republican presidential front-runner George W. Bush, most sectors of the business community - from Wall Street to oil tycoons - are donating far more money to the Texas governor than the vice president.

"Normally, financial markets prefer the status quo when things are going well," said Ethan Siegal of the Washington Exchange, a private firm that tracks policy and politics for institutional investors. "But in this case, the markets see President Clinton as the status quo, not Al Gore."

Financial markets were wary of Clinton when he took power. Yet he won them over or at least calmed their nerves.

Clinton did so largely with the help of Robert Rubin, a former Wall Street giant turned Treasury secretary. They opened trade, worked with the Republican Congress to balance the federal budget and gave business some welcomed tax breaks.

"The markets have grown comfortable with Bill Clinton and his pro-market policies, but there are no guarantees Al Gore would follow those policies," said Siegal.

While the markets have been cool to Gore, they have embraced Bush, son of former President George Bush.

"Everyone is fat and happy,"

said Chuck Gabriel, a political and financial analyst with Prudential Securities. "But with Gore 17 points down in the polls, corporate treasurers want to put their money on a winner - and the winner looks like Bush."

Another basic reason Bush is so popular in corporate boardrooms is that he is a Republican and thus seen as more apt to cut federal regulations, curb lawsuits and reduce taxes.

"Simply put, the business community expects better policies from Bush than Gore," said Tom Gallagher of ISI Group, a private firm that does research for institutional investors.

When Clinton and Gore won, a top voter concern was the economy. But surveys find it is no longer a big issue.

"People are taking a good economy for granted because it has been good for so long," said Andrew Kohut of the Pew Research Centre, which has conducted polls on the White House race.

"The conventional wisdom is that most presidential elections are referendums on the current administration, which means Gore should be in great shape because of the economy," Kohut said.

"But instead of focusing on the economy, voters are focusing on Gore as an individual - is he too stiff, is he too boring - and Clinton's personal problems and are tired of it," he said.

Clinton and Gore claimed credit for the robust economy. But critics say Clinton's best move was simply reappointing Alan Greenspan as chairman of the Federal Reserve Board.

"Most people on Wall Street give the credit for the economy to Greenspan, not Clinton," said Gabriel.

During the first six months of 1999, Bush got about \$36 million in contributions, nearly twice as much as Gore.

At the same time, according to a survey of campaign records by the Centre for Responsive Politics, most sectors of the business community gave more to Bush than to Gore.

Bush beat Gore in donations from people in: high-tech, \$379,200 to \$178,085; oil and

gas, \$1 million to \$56,750; commercial banks, \$607,200 to \$130,390; Wall Street, \$1.8 million to \$754,731; insurance, \$695,882 to \$151,125; real estate, \$1.9 million to \$740,825; health care, \$1 million to \$340,648, and automotive, \$536,225 to \$41,075.

Gore got more from: entertain-

ment, \$479,245 to \$357,802; utilities, \$200,665 to \$85,950, and lobbyists, \$435,625 to \$345,594.

They virtually split in contributions from two groups. Lawyers gave \$2.95 million to Gore and \$2.93 to Bush. Educators donated \$391,708 to Gore and \$382,090 to Bush.



Vice President Al Gore (center) greets supporters Tuesday moments after arriving at Hanscom Air Force Base in Bedford, Mass. on Air Force II, seen in the background. Gore will attend a fund-raiser in Weston, Mass.

Both parties raid Social Security

WASHINGTON (AP) — Even as both parties pledge to stop raiding the Social Security surplus, they will spend billions of it this year and may even take a further \$5 billion bite from it soon to help economically ailing farmers.

Republicans promise they won't use Social Security funds to help pay for spending bills they are racing to complete for fiscal 2000, which begins on Oct. 1. In their latest effort to cope with spending problems, GOP leaders may declare the \$1.4 billion budgeted next year for home-heating aid for the poor to be a budget "emergency."

But if they fulfill their vow to leave Social Security alone - which Democrats and even many Republicans privately doubt - that would be an abrupt turnabout.

Both parties routinely spend Social Security surpluses to pay for general government costs. In fact, the last time they didn't was in 1951.

But after two years of partisan maneuvering over the huge pension program for the elderly and disabled, the political dynamic has changed. President Clinton issued a call in 1997 to "save Social Security first," Republicans countered by pushing a "lock box" to prevent the draining of Social Security funds, and now each party says it will leave the money alone.

"Both sides want to inoculate themselves that they won't touch Social Security," said Marshall Wittmann, the conservative Heritage Foundation's congressional affairs director.

Asked to explain the sudden importance of leaving Social Security surpluses alone, White House budget office spokeswoman Linda Ricci said Clinton has helped create a climate in which protecting the program is a priority, "and that doesn't happen overnight."

On Tuesday, House Majority Leader Dick Armey, R-Texas, told reporters that Republicans will not touch Social Security surpluses in 2000 or beyond, calling it "the legislative opportunity of a lifetime and a moral responsibility that's as large as anything I've encountered in this job."

But he didn't mention 1999 or previous years. Asked later why it has been all right to spend Social Security funds until now, he said, "We're getting there as quickly as we can. ... This year suffers a hangover from 40 years of the wrong policy."

Even so, Republican leaders pushing a near \$8 billion emergency relief package for farmers want to enact the legislation quickly so they can spend \$5.5 billion of it in the remaining 10 days of fiscal 1999.

That would help them achieve their promise to leave next year's estimated \$147 billion Social Security surplus alone. But they would still be eating into the \$125 billion Social Security surplus projected for this year.

Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, said Tuesday he doesn't think the bill can be completed in time. But if it is, Republicans hope to either quickly mail the checks to farmers, or use a gimmick: Send the money to a new, off-budget entity so they could claim the government spent it in 1999.

Meanwhile, it remains unclear whether Republicans can honor their promise to write fiscal 2000 spending bills without using Social Security surpluses.

To achieve that, Republicans have decided to bust spending limits enacted in 1997 and use most of the \$14 billion in next year's projected non-Social Security surplus for the spending bills. They will also use an oft-used technique of providing money that is not actually spent

until 2001, easing spending pressure in 2000.

But there are many claims on the money. In a letter last month, the nonpartisan Congressional Budget Office said House budget proposals, if enacted, would erase the \$14 billion and eat into the Social Security surplus by an additional \$13 billion.

That doesn't include the billions it will take to pay for the huge labor, health and education bill, which has not yet been written. And it omits potential new needs such as U.S. operations in Kosovo, relief from Hurricane Floyd's floods, earthquake aid to Turkey and peacekeeping in East Timor.

To use the non-Social Security surplus, lawmakers must declare the spending to be a budget "emergency" so it does not count against the spending limits. So far, they plan to designate as an emergency the \$4 billion cost of next year's census and the portion of emergency farm aid that is not spent in 1999.

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Moynihan to back Bradley



Bill Bradley

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan plans to endorse Democratic presidential candidate Bill Bradley on Thursday, giving a boost to Bradley's underdog campaign against Vice President Al Gore, party officials said Tuesday.

The long-rumored endorsement is expected to be delivered in Moynihan's home state of New York, said three Democratic officials familiar with the plans. They

spoke on condition of anonymity.

Gore holds a wide lead over Bradley in national polls of Democratic voters and has secured endorsement of 109 members of Congress, with more expected to be announced this week. Bradley, a former New Jersey senator, has been publicly backed by just two senators and a congressman.

Sens. Paul Wellstone of Minnesota and Bob Kerrey of Nebraska endorsed Bradley earlier this year.

In advance of the Moynihan endorsement, Gore's campaign on Tuesday announced the endorsements of 10 members of the New York congressional delegation.

"Al Gore's commitment to working families and the things they care about will make a difference in New York," said Rep. Charles Rangel, D-N.Y., in the Gore statement.

"I'm honored to have the support of these effective leaders and to have them as a critical part of our team," Gore said.

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Let your birthday star be your daily guide.
FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 24 LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Get in touch with the "real you" today, as others are doing, and you may be surprised by what you learn from those voices deep beneath the surface.

you are out. You can maintain control, so don't get too stressed-out.
ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Now is not the time for you to try to take anyone's place. Rather, you must strive to play your own role with greater skill and facility.

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SPORTS



Summer Youth Basketball

Get Covered Surf wins 8th in a row

BALANCED scoring from league-leading the Get Covered Surf crew spoiled Oceanic Height's chances of making the Saipan Rotary Club Summer Youth basketball league playoffs.

Frank "the Flash" Aldan's scored 20 points while smooth shooting Simada Imrak's contributed 16 points and six rebounds to seal GCS's win, 82 to 39, Monday night at the ADA Gym.

The Oceanic Heights' charge was led by Melvin Madmeduh's 19 pts and 13 rebounds.

With the win, GCS takes sole possession of first place in the standings with an 8 and 0 record, while Oceanic drops to 1 and 8.

In the earlier game, league scoring leader Freddy Pelisiman followed his 50-point performance a week ago with 37 points to lead the Phenoms to a rout of Lebwel, 92-66.

Frank Mizutani and Jacob Pelisiman also turned in outstanding performances, with Mizutani contributing 17 points, 9 rebounds and game high 7 steals, while Jacob chipped in 16 points, 9 from beyond the arc.

League Team Standings (as of 9/20/99)

Team	Wins	Loss
Get Covered Surf	8	0
Kagman		
Cougars 7	0	
Phenoma	8	1
San Antonio		
Sixers	7	2
San Vicente		
Sunrisers	6	2
Panthers	6	3
Saints	5	6
Lebwel	4	5
Pepsi HI-5	4	6

In last Friday's game, Sept. 17, the Kagman Cougars kept pace with Get Covered Surf atop the league standings, with a 92-66 victory over the San Antonio Sixers II.

It also marked the debut of the recently concluded islandwide village league MVP and scoring champion, Gyles Ruluked, son of former BANMI all-star player Leo Ruluked.

Gyles, on the roster for the Cougars, but couldn't play because the league's ground rules

didn't allow players playing two leagues at the same time had an immediate impact as he hauled down a career high 19 rebounds.

Kagman was led by MVP candidate, Glen "The Pittbull" Dikito's all-around performance, scoring 14 pts, 6 steals and grabbing a career high 22 rebounds.

The Sixers who were outrebounded, 63-29, were led by Jason Sablan's 20 pts and 10 by Kolani Castro.

Meanwhile, Lebwel broke open a close game in the closing minutes of the second half, with a swarming full court trap that caught the warriors off guard.

With the Warriors leading 42-41, Lebwel went into a full-court press, enroute to an 8-0 run to steal the victory from the Warriors and kept their play-offs hope alive.

Lebwel was paced by Joseph Kapileo's 13 points, 5 steals, 6 rebounds and Shaun Fitial's 16 points.

Jimmy Marquez and Derrick Tudela led the Warriors, with Marquez scoring 18 points and Tudela contributing 12 points and 13 rebounds.

San Antonio over Oleai in Girls' Soccer

By Doug Mauro

SAN ANTONIO Elementary overwhelmed Oleai Elementary in the opening day of the 1999 Girls Soccer Tournament on Tuesday, 4-0.

The victory was the first for Coach Ron Hodges' charges in their own home field.

The game was highlighted by the impressive ball handling skills exhibited by both teams.

In the first half, San Antonio struck first with a goal

by Brigitte Ecalico.

Oleai threatened to score in the first half with a few nice shots which were barely blocked by the tremendous goalkeeping efforts of San Antonio.

Just before halftime, Lisa George kicked one in for San Antonio for a two-goal lead at the half.

The second half was more intense, with San Antonio knocking on the door the majority of the minutes.

With superior ball handlers such as Figure Eight Kepwe,

Sherlamma Sablan, and Emmylene Oiteriong, San Antonio was able to add two more goals to finish final half.

Oleai's goalkeeper, Reyna Tebuteb, was tested 35 or more times throughout the match, and San Antonio only came up with 4 scores, for a brilliant performance.

In the other match-up of the afternoon, San Vicente lost by default to Mt. Carmel because of a lack of players.

MGD Pepsi nips Max Falcons in baseball

By Ray D. Palacios
For the Variety

JOHN ACOSTA and Peter Tomokane each knocked in three runs and Audie Maratita went the distance on a five hitter as the MGD Pepsi won a lopsided game against the young and learning team Max Falcons in five innings, 18-1.

It was MGD Pepsi's fourth win in eight outings.

Pepsi jumped on top 5-0 after 1 1/2 innings of play and never

looked back the rest of the way.

After allowing a run in the bottom of the second on Jimmy Manalo's RBI single, Pepsi went on a rampage with nine runs in the top of the third highlighted by Pete Tomokane's two-run double and Manny Sablan's two-run single, three in the fourth on Acosta's RBI double for a 18-1 lead.

They then held off the Falcons in the bottom of the fifth for a ten-run mercy rule.

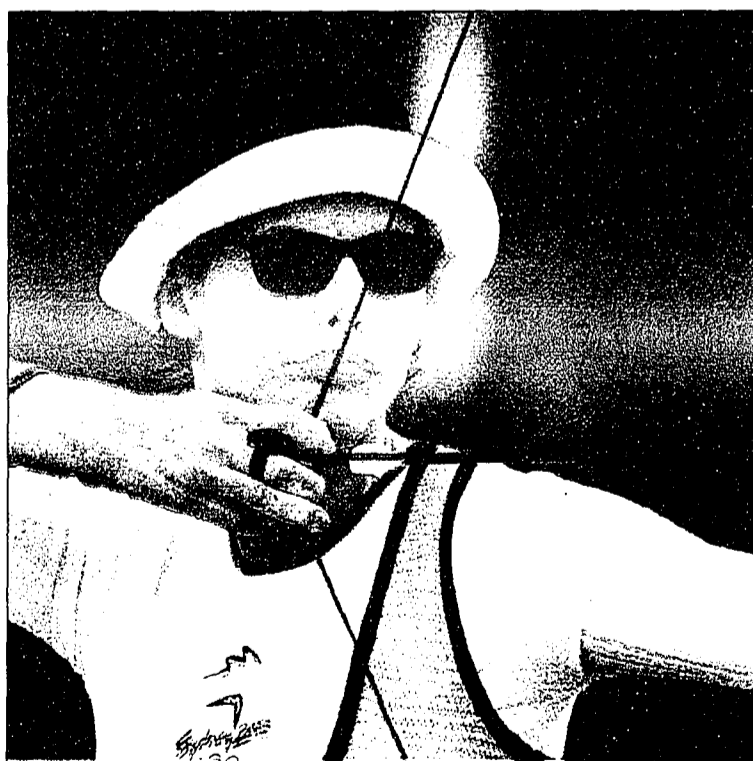
Baseball Stats

Pepsi	POS	AB	R	H	RBI	Falcons	POS	AB	R	H	RBI
Acosta John	CF	5	3	4	3	Moses Iguel	SS	2	0	0	0
Mark Toves	RF	4	3	1	1	Peter Tegita	3B	1	0	0	0
Pat Guerrero		3	1	2	2	Jesse Tomokane	P	2	0	0	0
Manny Sablan	C	3	1	1	2	Greg Magofna	C	2	0	1	0
Roy Celis	LF	2	1	1	0	Ryan Pangelinan	2B	1	1	1	0
Peter Tomokane	3B	4	3	3	3	Jason Reyes	RF	1	0	0	0
Phil Celis	SS	2	1	1	0	John Tegita	CF	2	0	1	0
Pat Sanchez	C					Jimmy Manalo	1B	2	0	2	1
Ben Muna	D/H					Ivan Castro	LF	1	0	0	0
Martin Omelau	D/H					Jesse Magofna	RF	1	0	0	0
John Paul Flores	1B					Jaime Reyes	LF	1	0	0	0
Audie Maratita	P	0	0	0	0						
Freddy George	2B	1	1	1	0						
Tony Guerrero	LF	2	1	0	0						
Joe Guerrero	1B	1	0	0	0						
Everette Ngiraidong	SS	1	1	1	0						

Base on ball: (1) Phil Celis
Strikeouts: (1) Jason Reyes, Jess Magofna, Ivan Castro, Jaime Reyes, John Paul Flores
Stolen base: (2) John Acosta (1) Pat Guerrero, Phil Celis, Peter Tegita
Hit by pitch: (1) Peter Tegita
Error: (2) Ryan Pangelinan, Jason Reyes, Jesse Tomokane, Peter Tegita,
Moses Iguel (1) John Tegita, Jess Magofna
Double: (1) John Acosta, Mark Toves, Pat Guerrero, Peter Tomokane,
Everette Ngiraidong, J.P. Flores, Martin Omelau
Triple: (1) Pat Guerrero

Team	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	R	H	ERROR	LOB
Pepsi	0	5	9	3	1	-	-	-	-	18	17	1	3
Falcons	0	1	0	0	0	-	-	-	-	1	5	12	2

Pitcher	Team	INN	R	ER	H	2B	3B	HR	BB	SO	HB	WP	DEC
Audie Maratita	Pepsi	5	1	1	5	0	0	0	0	4	1	-	W
J. Tomokane	Falcons	5	18	2	18	7	1	0	1	1	0	-	L



Film actress Geena Davis, wearing her official Sydney 2000 T-shirt, lines up her shot on the opening day of competition at the Sydney Olympic Archery Test Event at Homebush Tuesday. AP

UMDA Aces to play in Philippines

By Doug Mauro

For the Variety

THE 1999 Saipan Major League Baseball Champions, the UMDA Aces are gearing up to represent the CNMI in a tournament in the Philippines

next month.

The Aces, headed by coach, Tony Satur, have been practicing four times a week in order to put on their best performance and get back to the form that earned them three championships

in as many years.

The team is heading out October 7 to compete in the weekend tournament in Manila.

They will do battle and return promptly on the morning of Oct. 12th.

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