

Fund to hike Gov't contribution to 26%

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

IN ORDER to maintain the stability of the NMI Retirement Fund, the government's regular contribution needs to be increased immediately from 24 percent to 26 percent, according to the latest actuarial study prepared by an independent firm.

Acting Fund administrator Fred F. Camacho said the Board of Trustees already approved the increase in contribution, and plans are underway to implement it as soon as possible.

"The Board approved it but we need to advise the governor and the (Department of) Finance about it . . . It may be in effect next month," said Camacho.

The Fund, however, is caught in the middle of two issues.

While increasing the government contribution by two percent will hike the \$20 mil-

lion-plus government liability to the Fund, failure to increase the contribution immediately would undermine the pension system's ability to sustain its operations in the long-run.

The CNMI executive branch is in arrears on its employer's contribution to the Fund.

As of June 15 this year, the aggregate amount is about \$24 million.

Under the 1998 actuarial study prepared by the Honolulu-based Buck Consultants, Inc., the government contribution should be raised to 25.9819 percent or 26 percent.

The last actuarial study in 1997 proposed to maintain the existing rate of 24 percent for the government contribution.

The Fund at that time was looking forward to a one percent reduction in government contribution due a decrease in government employees.

DPH seizes banned medicine from stores

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

A CONSIDERABLE volume of prohibited prescription and over-the-counter drugs was confiscated recently from at least two retail and drug stores operating on Saipan, the Division of Public Health disclosed over the weekend.

Antibiotics, birth control pills, anti-aging tablets and vitamin syrup are among those seized from two Garapan-based firms operated by Chinese and Filipino citizens.

DPH deputy secretary Ned Arriola said this is the first time the Bureau of Environmental Health (BEH) personnel confiscated banned medicine from stores since the implementation of Public Law 11-40, otherwise known as the Pure Food, Drug, Cosmetic and Device Act signed by Gov.



Ned Arriola

Pedro P. Tenorio in November 1998.

"Before, they would only inspect or monitor (stores) but with that law, they can now enforce, confiscate products. It's not that they were not confiscating illegal drugs before, but it's only now that they are legally-mandated to do so," said Arriola.

At the same time, DPH issued a stern warning against businesses that are selling banned medicine, saying their products are up for confiscation once they are caught selling them.

BEH inspector David B. Cepeda said a \$500 to \$5,000 fine and a three-year maximum imprisonment await violators.

"It's not only drug stores that we are inspecting, but also any kind of business that sell prescription and over-the-counter drugs. Some of these people sell these medicine underground but we have our way of knowing their illegal activity," said Cepeda.

Aside from drug and retail stores, BEH also regularly conducts inspections of eating and drinking establishments in the three islands to ensure their compliance with sanitation laws.

Continued on page 26



Christopher Stahl (left) takes Carla Gutierrez for his wife during ceremony held at Dulce Nombre De Maria Cathedral Basilica. The bride is the daughter of Guam Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez. Photo by Eduardo C. Siguenza

Fireworks light up sky as Gutierrez daughter weds

By Eric F. Say
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — If you happened to be near Hagatna Saturday night, you might have wondered if the sudden fireworks show had something to do with next year's Fourth of July celebration.

Actually, the beautiful light show was a gift from Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez and Guam First Lady Geri Gutierrez to their

daughter Carla Helene and new son-in-law Christopher Stahl at a reception following their wedding.

Guests feasted on 32 pigs, three large cows, thousands of fish and over 2,000 pounds of shrimp—all donated by friends of the family.

"I've been looking forward to this day for 32 years now and I'm so proud that it is happen-

Continued on page 26

Youth polling at NMC needs to be re-done

By Marian A. Maraya
Variety News Staff

THE YOUTH Congress elections held recently at the Northern Marianas College (NMC) needs to be done again, according to Legislative Bureau officials, after finding alleged ballot and voter discrepancies.

Poll coordinators at the college allegedly produced their own ballots, photocopying it from the original, it was learned over the weekend.

Upon receiving the filled cop-

ied ballots, Youth Congress coordinators immediately brought the matter to Floor Leader Ana S. Teregeyo's attention, after which Teregeyo said that they would have to reject them.

"I noticed that they were photocopies because the original ballots have a seal. And the ones they submitted were unmarked," said Youth Congress Clerk, Nancy Sanchez.

The Variety made efforts to contact the NMC student council for comments but failed.

Discrepancies were also noted by the Bureau based on the ballots NMC submitted.

Out of the 32 registered voters at NMC, 85 votes were received.

And out of the 85, only 10 of them were registered voters, according to Youth Congress officials.

Youth Congress supporter Rep. Karl T. Reyes said that photocopied ballots should not be the main factor in non-vali-

Continued on page 26

Lawyers sue each other over Hillbroom dealings

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

A LAWYER from Palau has filed a lawsuit against a Guam-based law firm and three of its attorneys over a contractual dispute pertaining to the heirship claims of Junior Larry Hillbroom.

Attorney Johnson Toribiong asked the Superior Court to declare as jointly liable to him defendants Family and Immigration Law Clinic (FILC) and its lawyers Roland Fairfield, Ross Putnam and Jack Avery.

Toribiong sought compensation from defendants equal to the value of services provided by Toribiong and Coughlin law firm (T&C) in relation to the amount recovered by Hillbroom from the estate of his multimillionaire father Larry



Junior Larry Hillbroom

Hillbloom.

According to Toribiong's complaint filed Friday through counsel G. Anthony Long, shortly after Hillbloom died in a plane crash on May 21, 1995, Kaelani Kinney

Continued on page 26

In Taiwan

2 pulled from wreckage



Sun Chi-kwang is assisted by rescuers in Taipei. He survived for six days under the rubble by drinking his own urine and eating apples.

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — Rescuers burrowed through a shattered high-rise yesterday to rescue two brothers who had survived six days beneath the rubble of Tuesday's earthquake.

Sun Chi-kwang, a 20-year-old engineering student, and his 25-year-old brother Sun Chi-feng, drank their own urine, ate apples and gave each other encouragement while trapped in the 12-story complex, which housed a hotel, bank and offices.

The younger brother, stripped

to the waist, was standing upright and appeared healthy as he was lifted from the rubble by a crane. His elder brother was rushed from the scene on a stretcher.

After the rescue, workers continued to dig through the rubble hoping that several others still inside could also be found alive.

The brothers were playing cards on the third floor of the complex when the earthquake hit, Taipei Mayor Ma Ying-jeou quoted them as saying.

"This is really great. This is really

good news," said the mayor, who was at the site of the dramatic rescue.

The earthquake, which struck Tuesday and killed more than 2,000 people, wrecked the 78-room Sungshan Hotel. The bottom floors of the hotel collapsed, leaving it leaning on a neighboring commercial building. Otherwise, the powerful tremor otherwise did relatively little damage in the Taiwanese capital.

About 100 people were rescued from the structure, but a number of others were trapped inside.

Reputed JFK mistress dies

DUARTE, Calif. (Reuters) — Judith Campbell Exner, who claimed she was the mistress of President John F. Kennedy and that she delivered messages from him to Chicago Mafia boss Sam Giancana, has died of breast cancer. She was 65.

A spokesman for City of Hope Cancer Centre in the Los Angeles suburb of Duarte said on Saturday that Exner died there just before midnight local time on Friday after a long battle with metastatic breast cancer.

In her autobiography, "My Story," Exner detailed what she said was a nearly two-year affair with the president.



Judith Campbell Exner

After divorcing her husband, actor William Campbell, Exner in the late 1950s dated Frank Sinatra, who she said introduced her to

Kennedy after a Las Vegas concert and later to Giancana.

Exner claimed that among the messages she carried to Giancana from President Kennedy were details of a plot to kill Cuban leader Fidel Castro.

In a 1998 interview with the Los Angeles Times, Exner said she made 10 or 12 courier trips from Kennedy to Giancana and set up a couple of meetings. She said it did not occur to her to ask questions.

"JFK was the leader of the Free World. Castro was the archvillain of the Western Hemisphere, and Sam, so JFK told her, was 'working for us.'"

In the United Kingdom

Bill Gates 2nd most powerful man

LONDON (Reuters) — Microsoft founder Bill Gates is second only to British Prime Minister Tony Blair in the power he exerts on British life, a survey in the Sunday Times said.

Another American, the head of the U.S. Federal Reserve Alan Greenspan is in third place while media magnate Rupert Murdoch comes fourth.

Chancellor of the Exchequer Gordon Brown comes fifth and

is the only other British politician to make the top ten.

But power seems to rub off on those who walk with the powerful. Blair's official spokesman Alastair Campbell is ninth in the survey while the prime minister's chief of staff, Jonathan Powell, is 40th.

But the embattled leader of the opposition Conservative party, William Hague, does not even make it into the top 100.

The Sunday Times said it em-

ployed techniques developed by Stewart Clegg, professor of management at the University of Technology in Sydney to measure executive power, the power of ideas and reputation and the impact of single events.

In the power pecking order, Prince Charles outranks his mother and the reigning monarch, coming in at 36th while Queen Elizabeth is listed in 47th place.

News Briefs

4 die in RP bombing

MANILA (Reuters) — Four revellers were killed and 22 injured when an unidentified man lobbed a hand grenade at a dance party in the central Philippines, police said on Sunday.

About 150 people, mostly teenagers, were celebrating a religious fiesta in a park near Cebu city on Saturday when the grenade exploded, police superintendent Amulfo Cruz told Reuters.

He said the incident was related to a feud between two families and that the grenade was apparently aimed at members of one of the families who were at the dance.

Gore announces organ donation plan

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Clinton administration announced a series of initiatives aimed at increasing organ donation, including a \$13 million grant to educate people.

"The steps we are taking today will not only highlight the need for organ donation, it will make organ donation more possible and will help more of America's families to share the gift of health and life," said Vice President Al Gore. Gore was joined at Friday's announcement by both organ donors and recipients.

The initiatives include a \$13 million grant to community organizations to improve the donation request process, increase outreach to minority communities and implement school-based and workplace donor education programs.

Pinochet hearing not last step in legal process

LONDON (Reuters) — The formal extradition hearing in the case of former Chilean dictator Augusto Pinochet starts in a British court on Monday, but it is far from the last step in a legal process that has already lasted nearly a year.

The session before Magistrate Ronald Bartle is to consider whether to send Pinochet to Spain to face trial on torture charges dating from his 1973-1990 rule in Chile. Pinochet, 83, was arrested in London last October 16.

The extradition hearing is set to last five days. But unlike at a regular trial, evidence does not have to be presented, and thrilling courtroom drama may well be lacking.

China retirees seek pensions

BEIJING (AP) — Retired auto workers in two north Chinese cities held sit-down street protests this week to complain about unpaid pensions, a human rights monitoring group reported Saturday.

In Changchun, a major city in China's northeast where state enterprises make up much of the economy, 200 retired workers stopped traffic at an intersection Thursday and Friday. Police simply diverted traffic around them and no officials went out to talk to them, the Information Center of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China reported in a statement.

Venezuela chafes at Colombian president's comments

CARACAS, (Reuters) - Bumpy relations between Venezuela and Colombia hit another snag on Saturday over President Hugo Chavez's perceived meddling into the neighbouring country's prolonged civil conflict.

The Venezuelan government chafed at reported comments by Colombian President Andres Pastrana urging Chavez not to intervene in Colombian domestic issues.

The Washington Post Friday quoted Pastrana as saying that he was uneasy about Chavez's attempts at seeking a high profile role in Colombia's fragile peace process.

"I'm asking Chavez, please stay in your yard and we'll manage our own problems," Pastrana said this week, according to the newspaper.

Cuban doctors to leave Honduras

HAVANA, (Reuters) - More than 100 Cuban doctors and medical staff working in Honduras will return home after the two countries failed to agree upon terms for continuing the medical cooperation programme, a Cuban health official said on Saturday.

Citing "discrepancies over terms," Jorge Delgado Gustillo said Cuba's Health Ministry would not be signing a new collaboration accord with the Honduran health authorities.

The 108 members of the Cuban medical brigade, which was sent to the Central American nation last November to help injured and sick survivors of Hurricane Mitch, will return to Cuba on Sept. 30, the Cuban news agency Prensa Latina quoted Delgado Gustillo as saying.

Castro sanctions AGO

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE SUPERIOR Court has sanctioned the Attorney General's Office for not responding to requests to provide documents in connection with a lawyer's pending lawsuit against the CNMI government and two former public auditors.

Judge Pro Tem Alejandro C. Castro said having considered the motion, including argument of counsels, and good cause appearing, it is ordered that plaintiff Robert A. Bisom is awarded sanctions in the amount of \$860.

Castro presided over the hearing on Bisom's motion to compel further responses to interrogatories and to request to produce documents against defendants. Bisom sued the government, Tan, and former temporary appointed Public Auditor Robert D. Bradshaw after he was terminated from his employment with the Commonwealth for alleged political and religious reasons.

Bisom, former legal counsel for the Office of the Public Auditor, filed the lawsuit in 1996, demanding damages against the defendants. Court documents showed

that Bisom, through counsel Jay H. Sorensen, filed the motion to compel pursuant to Commonwealth Rules of Civil Procedure on the grounds, that defendants' responses served last July 2 were insufficient.

Plaintiff also sought sanctions for his expenses in bringing the motion. Sorensen said that last May 3 interrogatories to defendants and request to produce documents were filed and served.

An extension of time to respond was given last June 18, but that no responses were timely served within the extended time.

Sorensen said Bisom filed the motion to compel answers to interrogatories and request to produce documents due to the fact that no responses had been filed. Last July 2, Sorensen said he faxed to defendants' counsel a letter requesting further responses to certain interrogatories to which defendants objected.

Bisom agreed to take the first motion to compel off calendar to give defendants time to respond. There has been no further responses served, said Sorensen.

The interrogatories include, among other things, concerning payment of salary to Bradshaw for each of the last four pay periods of his employment.

Sorensen said this information is not only relevant but important to the issue whether Bradshaw was in compliance with the requirements of the statutes governing the public auditor, which is a key issue in this case.

Sorensen stressed that the fact that the records may be difficult to get to is not a sufficient reason to avoid responding to the interrogatories.

Acting Attorney General Sally

B. Pfund in an Aug. 16 declaration said the AGO's civil division has been operating with a very low staffing level for a considerable period of time.

"While we have endeavored to meet the civil legal needs of the Commonwealth during this period by working harder and more efficiently, the shortage has prevented us from being able to provide even minimal double coverage of cases," Pfund said.

This problem, she added, has been compounded by the departure of two additional assistant attorneys general in the last few weeks.

"Because of this there is no attorney in the office other than Assistant Atty. Gen. William Bush with sufficient familiarity with this case to timely respond to the motions that are pending," she said.

With Bush's unexpected emergency absence from the Commonwealth, Pfund said, she assigned Assistant Attorney General L. David Sosebee, who recently joined the office, to assist in responding to the motions and preparing the case for trial.

INS to reimburse GovGuam \$4.4 million

By Jay Pascua
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA—The Interior Department has assured Guam that the \$4.4 million reimbursement from the federal government for the cost of detaining illegal aliens here will be processed as soon as possible.

Congressman Robert

Underwood (D-Guam) said the identification of funding "begins the process of fulfilling a commitment to the Government of Guam by the Clinton administration to reimburse [the island] for its effort in helping to stem the flow of illegal immigration from China."

Underwood added, "we get an immediate shot of \$4.4 million plus

a real strong commitment and avenue for getting the entire balance," which is more than \$8 million.

Underwood said the reimbursement puts Guam in a much better position to get more federal money next year.

He said Guam should receive \$4.4 million over the next few days.

Beaten motorist sues

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

A MOTORIST has filed a lawsuit after he was allegedly attacked by a driver and his companion during a vehicular collision in San Jose.

Benjie F. Ladrangan sought for damages against defendants Dominic Kileleman Helgen, Pius M. Helgen and Moylans Insurance Under Writers, International.

As a direct and proximate result of the assault and battery, the complaint said Ladrangan was "made sick, sore, and lame and still suffers great bodily pain and discomfort from the wounds, contusions, abrasions on his left face, neck and head, and otherwise suffered a severe nervous shock."

According to Eric Smith, counsel for Ladrangan, the incident happened along San Jose Road last July 2 at 5:12 p.m. near Dolphin Wholesale.

Smith in the complaint said that plaintiff was driving a 1985 Isuzu car in an eastbound direction along San Jose Road while Dominic was operating a 1990 Toyota pick-up truck in the opposite westbound direction on the same road.

When the two vehicles were near Dolphin, Dominic in an attempt to make a U-turn, recklessly and unlawfully drove the truck into the path of the car by executing the turn so sharply.

As a direct and proximate result of Dominic's reckless and negligent turn, the truck struck Ladrangan's car.

Ladrangan's car was completely wrecked and demolished.

Repair estimate obtained by plaintiff indicates that the cost for repairing it far exceeds the value.

The complaint said that immediately after the collision, a male passenger of Dominic first alighted from their vehicle and without provocation violently assaulted plaintiff who was sitting in his car seat.

Dominic's male companion attempted to strike Ladrangan's head with his fists and hands. Plaintiff moved his head so the man failed to hit him.

Dominic also alighted and without provocation, assaulted plaintiff with his hands and fists.

Ladrangan was beaten on the left side of face, neck and head causing various contusions, abrasions and lacerations, the complaint said.

Smith said Pius Helgen, father of Dominic and owner of the truck, acted negligently in entrusting the truck in that he knew or should have known that his son was an incompetent, careless and negligent driver.

Smith said Moylans issued Dominic an automobile liability insurance policy.

"Demand has been made on Moylans by plaintiff for payment of the maximum, liability insurance coverage for property damage, but Moylans has refused to pay all or any part," the lawyer added.



The Tanapag Women's Stick Dancers perform at the closing ceremony of Carolinian Week last Saturday. Photo by Louie C. Alonso

CPA offers airlines new incentive

By Marian A. Maraya
Variety News Staff

STARTING October 1st, the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) will reduce arrival and departure fees by 50 percent, to existing and new airlines which take on a new market, CPA officials disclosed.

At a CPA board meeting Friday, ports authority officials decided that airlines should be granted up to 50 percent off the total passengers it brings to Saipan, effective immediately and all way to October 2000.

Originally, the ports authority mulled giving the same consideration to new carriers.

According to CPA Board Treasurer Roman Tudela, the concept is not being entirely ruled out.

"We are not deciding against it. But the board still does not have



Roman Tudela

the necessary information to pursue the initiative," Tudela said.

The Airline Incentive Program (AIP) has provided CPA over \$25,000 in savings from May 1999 to the present.

Japan Airlines (JAL) and Asiana Airlines are said to be the ones taking full advantage of the airline

incentive program, according to Executive Director Carlos H. Salas.

CPA's AIP offers 50 percent reduction on arrival and departure fees for each additional passenger above a historical median passenger load factor plus 15 percent.

The AIP originally stretches on a 10-month period from May 1, 1999 to February 29, 2000.

This period has been determined to be critical in terms of timing, on CPA being able to generate additional revenue to meet debt service coverage.

In earlier reports, Salas said that the extended incentive program would actually discount the new airport rates set to be implemented starting March 2000.

The ports authority is also scheduled to implement the new airport rates during the same month.

Payment for teacher differentials OK'd

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

THE BOARD of Education has approved the payment of the 20 percent differential for multi-track teachers, which costs \$187,221.

The multi-track differential will be paid for those teachers who taught in different schools in various schedules due to lack of teaching personnel in the school level.

However, like the 30 percent retirement bonus of PSS retirees, actual payments for the recipients were not clearly stated



Anthony Pellegrino as to when they are coming. When BOE member Anthony Pellegrino asked Bill Matson,



Bill Matson the PSS fiscal and budget officer, when the payments can be made, the officer gave the

board some options on how to pay.

"If we're going to pay immediately, what we're fundamentally going to do is use up personnel allotment in total for the whole thing and then at the end of the fiscal year, which actually begins in October, presuming that we're short, (we're going to use) our payroll amount," the fiscal officer explained.

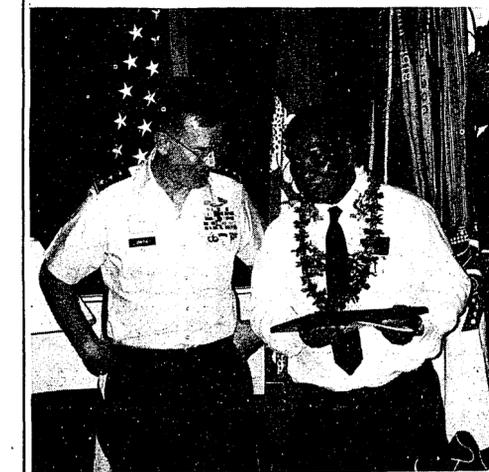
If PSS has to pay the 20 percent differential for multi-track and the entire amount of the 30 percent retirement bonus im-

mediately, and if there's a deficit in its overall expenditures, the local agency will be using the indirect costs.

"So that is the way to pay because actually, it could be interpreted that you want us to wait until all the other expenses for this year are paid, but if you want to do it immediately, then it has to be understood that we're going to use indirect funds in case we're short," Matson said.

The payment for the teachers' differential will be extracted from the \$3 million balance of PSS from FY 1999.

Villagomez takes CASA role



Ramon G. Villagomez (right) proudly accepts the civilian aide certificate from Lt. General Ed Smith at the investiture ceremony Saturday at the Hyatt.

By Marian A. Maraya
Variety News Staff
FORMER Supreme Court Justice Ramon G. Villagomez was officially installed as the new Civilian Aide to the Secretary of the Army (CASA) during a special investiture ceremony Saturday night at Giovanni's, Hyatt Regency.

In front of distinguished guests and dignitaries, Villagomez assumed his new role as liaison between the CNMI and the United States Army.

CASAs are business and community leaders selected by the Secretary to support army leaders across the country through personal contact and correspondence with their colleagues.

Villagomez succeeds Manny S. Villagomez, former CNMICASA who served a seven-year tenure under the U.S. Army.

During the investiture, U.S. Army Lt. General Ed P. Smith commended both the former and the new civilian aides for their exceptional contributions to the commonwealth.

"Manny Villagomez served seven commanding generals. He has been a friend and has always been supportive of the U.S. Army. He has done a superb job. He is a patriot. I also give my sincerest welcome to the new civilian aide. I am sure he will do an equally good job," said Smith.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio was also present to congratulate the two Villagomezes for making CNMI proud.

"Congratulations to the outgoing and incoming civilian aide. We are proud to be associated with such wealth," said the governor.

The new CASA, during the ceremony, extended his thanks to the former CASA, for his confidence and recommendation.

Manny Villagomez, upon his exit as civilian aide had to submit three nominations to Secretary of the Army Louis Caldera.

All three were reportedly qualified, with impressive credentials. But with only one position to fill,

to West Point because show me a West Point graduate and I will show you a leader," he said. The 50-year-old new civilian aide has been the associate justice of the CNMI Supreme Court/Trial

Court of the Federated States of Micronesia from 1986 to 1997. He has been Chairman of the State Rehabilitation Council since 1997. He is the incumbent President

of the CNMI Bar Association. Furthermore, he is also Chairman of the Board of Regents of the Northern Marianas College. His term ends on May 24, 2001.

'Takeover to spell end of economy'

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

FORMER Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio said extending federal immigration laws to the commonwealth would result to the collapse of the local economy.

Tenorio, in an interview, maintained that a federal takeover of the commonwealth's immigration laws is uncalled for. He said the incumbent administration should be able to justify an anti-takeover position before Congress.

"I still say that it is not appropriate for the federal government to takeover immigration control from us. I feel that our government should be able

to justify to the U.S. why. "Basically, if immigration control is to be taken over by the federal government, it will mean the end of the tourism industry, the end of the garment industry, the end of almost everything," said Tenorio.

"It is just going to destroy the commonwealth as we know it."

Tenorio's remarks came at the heels of announcements made by House Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan), who, shortly after arriving from the congressional hearings in Washington, D.C. late last week, said concerns being raised by critics of the CNMI on the U.S. mainland have actually dwindled to "almost nothing."

Benavente said this may indicate that the administration of the incumbent Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio may be on the right track in its efforts to institute reforms and bring the commonwealth's house back in order.

The former governor has not denied he is running in the next gubernatorial race in 2001.

He however said his decision to do so could be influenced largely by the outcome of the scheduled November midterm elections where his newly formed Reform party is fielding at least eight candidates including one for the Senate.

Babauta wants MVA to have more dollars

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

REPRESENTATIVE Oscar M. Babauta (R-Saipan) is working on giving the Marianas Visitors' Authority more funds for better promotional campaigns.

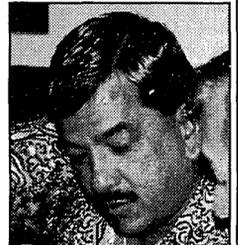
In an interview, Babauta said he has been discussing the matter with House Ways and Means Committee Chair, Rep. Karl T. Reyes (R-Saipan) to see if additional funding can be given to MVA for the next fiscal year.

"The MVA is taking every step to improve the promotions (despite) the limited funding that they have. I, for one, continue to support the increase of MVA's funding to continue promoting in a wider scope," said Babauta.

He explained that MVA's fiscal year 1999 budget is below what it got in 1998.

"I am still discussing with the Chair of the Ways and Means to see if additional funding in the first few quarters of this new fiscal year can be given MVA," said Babauta, explaining that the money can be juggled primarily from the lapses in funds from which a certain percent may be earmarked for MVA's promotional projects.

The local tourism industry has been set back with the series of currency devaluation that rocked



Oscar M. Babauta

most Asian countries back in 1997. As a result, tourists have been preferring to go to these destinations where they can spend more with their money than in the commonwealth.

"Marketability-wise, it is a very competitive market out there. Definitely, tourists that are traveling will go for those (destinations) where they can have more for less."

"However, I am still confident that the Northern Marianas will continue... as a primary market in the tropical islands within our region," said Babauta in an earlier interview.

He added that basic rates in the supposed cheaper tourist destinations are almost at par with what the CNMI offers in terms of hotel accommodations and ground transportation.

W WALLACE THEATRES
\$5.00 BARGAIN MATINEES
BEFORE 3:30 PM SAT/SUN/HOL
BEFORE 6:00 PM MON - FRI

HOLLYWOOD THEATRES
NEXT TO PRICE COSTCO
STADIUM SEATING ALL THEATRES
CLEAR VIEW TO SCREEN
EXTRA LEGROOM

ALL DIGITAL SOUND
DOLBY EX

Monday, September 27th

THE BLAIR WITCH PROJECT	R
4:45 - 7:00 - 9:30 pm	
DEEP BLUE SEA	R
5:00 - 7:30 - 10:30 pm	
HAUNTING	PG-13
4:45 - 7:15 - 10:00 pm	
IRON GIANT	PG
4:30 pm	
UNIVERSAL SOLDIER	R
7:00 - 9:45 pm	
CHILL FACTOR	R
5:15 - 7:30 - 10:15	
AMERICAN PIE	R
5:15 - 7:30 - 10:30 PM	
DUDLEY DO RIGHT	PG
5:00 - 7:15pm	
WARAT	NR
10:00pm	

24 HOUR SHOWTIME: 234-9000

Attao confident Senate to OK his alternative to viewer's tax

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

HOUSE Vice Speaker Jesus T. Attao (R-Saipan) has expressed confidence the Senate will pass House Bill 11-464 which seeks to cut five percent from the 10-percent gaming jackpot tax and have it used to fund youth and Man amko projects.

Attao's bill is an alternative to the recently-repealed viewer tax law, which requires video tape borrowers and movie patrons to pay 15 cent for each tape and movie.

The 15-cent tax was meant to fund youth projects. However, the Saipan Legislative Delegation moved to repeal it by passing Rep. Heinz Hofschneider's (R-Saipan) House Local Bill 11-15, noting Attao's bill.

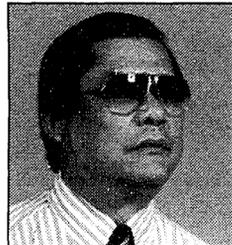
"I am pretty much sure the Senate will pass that (HB 11-464) maybe on the next regular session," said Attao.

"We repealed the video tax law because of the bill that I introduced. My bill will address that," he added.

Attao said he specifically filed his bill to address mounting concerns about the 15-cent tax.

"I supported the repealer bill because my bill will replace the viewer tax."

I am pretty much sure the Senate will pass it. The bill is very



Jesus T. Attao

important," said Attao.

Hofschneider has said Attao's bill helped convince members of the Saipan Legislative Delegation to repeal the viewer tax. He said the body is "in full support of Attao's proposed measure."

"There are other ways that we can fund youth programs and that is essentially what Vice Speaker Attao has introduced. That is why they were in full support of the new legislation (HB 11-464) that was introduced and passed by the House and is now at the Senate," said Hofschneider, in an earlier interview.

"That (Attao bill) is a more appropriate piece of legislation," he added.

The 15-cent video tax was enacted into law to fund construction of village youth centers.

New computer virus

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

INTERNET users have another reason to be wary as time when receiving an electronic mail purportedly coming from Microsoft.

Bob Webb, special assistant for telecommunications, warned anyone who receives an email from "support@microsoft.com" with an attachment called "Y2KCOUNT.EXE" should not attempt to open the said attachment.

"Don't open the attachment and just delete the email," said Webb, adding that once the attachment is opened, there is nothing else that the user can do.

Known as a variant of Trojan, the said virus installs itself into one's system, and then sends all the username/password combinations

to a third party.

The said Trojan presents itself as a Microsoft Year 2000 Counter, with a message, "Start the countdown NOW. Let us all get in the 21 Century. Let us lead the way to the future and we will get YOU there FASTER and SAFER."

The attached file, meanwhile, is a self extracting archive file. If the attached "exe" is run, it displays a fake error message box containing the text, "Password protection error or invalid CRC32!"

Although no firm or individual in the CNMI was reported to have received the said Trojan virus, Webb said it is better to be prepared and alert. He added that just like the Melissa scare, as well as the "California," "Worm," and "Chernobyl," the Trojan viruses alert should also be taken seriously.

BEER PRICE

75¢ only!

at **ARIZONA SPORTS BAR**

Cut this coupon & bring to Arizona Sports Bar on or before October 1, 1999. Drawing will be held on October 2. Winners will receive big prizes!

Come & enjoy... Customer's Name _____ Tel. No. _____

Come visit us at our new office in the HANMI BUILDING

Beginning SEPTEMBER 27, 1999

STAY WELL Insurance

PHONE: 233-4200/119 FAX: 233-4460

Garapan Central Park

Sugar King Park

Middle Road, Garapan

Hanmi Bldg.

D'Torres Bldg.

Old Japanese Hospital

FORUM

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

EDITORIALS

Reality check

IMAGINE a CNMI resident telling the FBI to stop going after corrupt local government officials because, after all, there are also government crooks on the mainland U.S. Imagine the derision that would be heaped on that person.

Yet every time federal officials raise grave concerns regarding labor and immigration abuses in the CNMI, there is this almost visceral urge, particularly among the apologists of the local garment industry, to invoke this pot-and-the-kettle routine, which, rather than "defend" the CNMI's economic setup, merely confirms what its critics have been saying all these years.

People who appreciate logic don't "defend" the prostitution activities on Saipan by citing Manila's red-light district. They don't justify the "shadow contracts" signed in China by garment workers who are working legally in the CNMI by railing about the illegal, hence underground, sweatshops in California.

The issue, as everyone who is not an apologist knows, is the CNMI's continued control over its immigration and minimum wage policies, and whether Congress, as provided by the Covenant overwhelmingly ratified by the people of the Northern Marianas, should now extend federal immigration and minimum wage laws to these islands.

Mercifully, the CNMI government officials who appeared recently before the U.S. Senate and House committees tried to ward off allegations of labor and immigration abuses by citing statistics and legislation showing how they have been addressed or are being addressed.

In other words, they are sticking to the proverbial point. Something that the other "defenders" of "local self-government"—which, in some parts of Saipan, is apparently also known as the garment industry—should try for once. Let's leave the stick-your-thumbs-into-your-ears-and-flap-your-fingers-while-saying-nyaah-nyaah-nyah-nyah-nyah to our kids, please.

We told you so

NOT SURPRISINGLY, someone noticed that the appointment of the CNMI acting attorney general who is signing court documents has been, not once, but twice rejected by the Senate. The question now is this: How many other defendants sued by the CNMI government would, well, follow suit and clog the court docket with similar motions to dismiss?

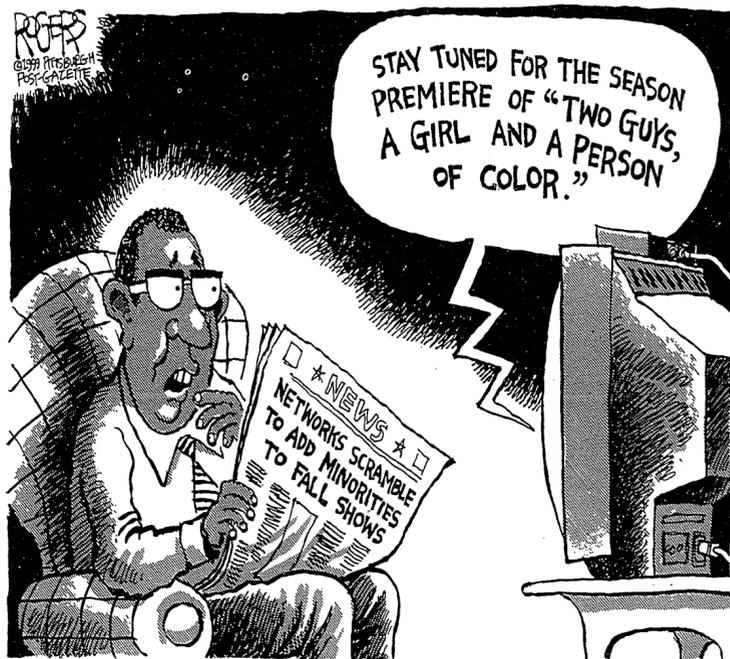
We were told that the Senate has "kept its peace" after being assured that the CNMI's attorney general *in fact*, Maya Kara, will soon move out of the Attorney General's Office. Apparently, she will be named as one of the governor's legal advisers. There is another unconfirmed report that several assistant attorneys general are not renewing their contract, but it is not known whether this has something to do with working for a government agency that still has, after more than five years, no "permanent" head.

In any case, regardless of Ms Kara's employment status, the Senate and the Office of the Governor should have moved quickly to resolve this issue of "appointment in (over?) acting capacity."

As we've said before, if the Senate now considers Ms Kara an acceptable nominee, then she should be confirmed. If nothing has changed as far as the senators are concerned then they should do the CNMI government and the Constitution a favor by taking this issue to court.

Happily, someone finally did.

The CNMI government, which is plagued by far more serious problems, can no longer afford to be distracted by a legal question that could have been resolved as early as this year.



JACK ANDERSON and JAN MOLLER
WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

To investigate or legislate

WASHINGTON — The latest Democratic mantra is that Republicans are more interested in investigating than in legislating, and if the GOP isn't careful, the public will soon be saying the same thing.

At last count, the Republican-led Congress had 38 ongoing inquiries to root out possible wrongdoing by the Clinton administration. Congress has a legitimate responsibility to act as a watchdog, but the proliferation of investigations suggests a partisan agenda in addition to a genuine search for truth. Several new investigations launched this fall could tar Vice President Gore's quest for the presidency, but they could also backfire and create problems for the GOP.

Here's the likely fallout from the current round of investigations:

— Russian money-laundering: Iowa Republican Jim Leach, chairman of the House Banking committee and a veteran of the Whitewater scandal, is back with his worn sweater and folksy style. This time he's trying to untangle rubles from dollars, and get to the bottom of an alleged money-laundering scheme. The charge is that the Clinton-Gore administration looked the other way while the Russian oligarchs and the Russian Mafia looted the treasury and might have made off with International Monetary Fund (IMF) dollars.

The upside for the GOP: Raising questions about Gore's Russian connection neutralizes the vice president's advantage on foreign policy in the upcoming election.

The downside: Corruption is not new in Russia, and there's no evidence that IMF funds were diverted. In their zeal to get Gore, the GOP will make claims it cannot support. New York Republican Peter King said it best when he warned his colleagues to stick to policy questions and not veer off into scenarios that feature "black helicopters" and Gore as a

Russian agent.

— Waco: Republicans realize that Rep. Dan Burton, R-Ind., who is leading the investigation, is not their best spokesman, so they're talking about creating a joint House and Senate task force to examine the government's role in the conflagration that took the lives of the Branch Davidian cult members.

The upside for the GOP: There are serious questions that need to be answered about the bungled operation.

The downside: Former Sen. John Danforth, R-Mo., a man of impeccable integrity, is asking those questions, and he should proceed without a bunch of partisan sleuths on his heels. Danforth complains that Senate investigators recently traveled to Waco without even giving him a courtesy call. The anti-government sentiment generated by Waco benefits Pat Buchanan's rump candidacy.

— FALN: Offering clemency to jailed members of the Puerto Rican nationalist group was not President Clinton's most popular act, but the GOP is on shaky ground when it demands the president turn over private documents from former White House counsel Charles Ruff, who recommended the clemency. It is Clinton's constitutional obligation as president to withhold those documents, and he is on strong legal ground in doing so.

The upside for the GOP: Suspicion that Clinton was trying to help his wife with the Hispanic vote in New York could boost presumed Republican candidate Rudy Giuliani's chances in next year's Senate run.

The downside: Republicans will never find out if the Clintons talked about the clemency ahead of time, and Hillary is going to win the Hispanic vote in New York anyway. Ongoing hearings could look like piling on to Hispanics and undermine George W. Bush's outreach effort to the growing Hispanic vote.

Rush

By Haidee V. Eugenio

Round two

IT'S NOT because the Second Youth Congress Elections lacked media mileage that only a little percentage of the registered voters cast their votes last week. The Variety, in fact, has been very cooperative with the organizers to get the word out to the community.

The problem, no doubt, lies in the youth's public display of apathy, the organizers' seeming inadequacies, the schools' apparent disregard and the lack of concern of everyone involved. And where have all the youth senators of the First Congress gone when their leadership was needed? Ridiculous, really.

A total of 1,542 registered voters were expected to cast their vote on Sept. 20, yet only a very small percentage of that figure showed up. To think that the concept is no longer new, why is it that the voter turnout was worse than the first time the same kind of election was held?

And that's not media's fault.

Reality bites but it's only when it bites that we do something about it. And now that there are talks of a re-election at least for the Northern Mariana College, we will see who's really doing what.

.....

Finally, the NMI Retirement Fund's Board of Trustees named last week somebody to become the new administrator of the pension system's office after almost 10 months of being vacant.

But it seems there's something wrong somewhere. Or maybe, we did not understand the process.

Weeks before the Board members would vote, spectators — and even candidates vying for the said post — said no matter how big their credentials are, it would surely be Juan S. Torres who will be named. While certain individuals opine it's because of political affiliation or support, or a pressure from the Governor's Office and the Legislature, they failed to have their concerns raised to the powers-that-be. And no one wants to talk about it.

Torres was chosen by all the six Board members. Board chairman Vicente Camacho, the seventh member, reclused himself from the election process due to his close relationship with one of the candidates, acting Fund administrator Fred F. Camacho.

And why is it only now that the Board is asking Torres to submit his educational credentials, after he was already chosen? Perhaps the Board should have probed on the educational background of all the candidates long before the day of the voting process. Was there a rush?

Will there be a "round two" selection if Torres ever fails to meet the requirement which popped up only after he was named as new administrator of the Fund?

.....

Contrary to earlier projection of a budget deficit, the Public School System last week disclosed a hefty \$3.27 million balance by the end of fiscal year 1999. That's good news.

But Board of Education chair Esther S. Fleming is not condoning any mistake as she lashed at PSS acting budget officer Bill Matson. She said she disagrees with the figures representing the budget balance submitted by Matson as they are far different from the figures she arrived at.

Fleming went on to say she lost confidence on the financial reports presented to the Board and that she "does not think the figures provided are accurate."

After all has been said, what's next? Will there be some sort of housecleaning at PSS?

Literacy is life learning and connection to the future

Letters to the editor

Not racist

IN THE Sept. 14 edition of the Variety, I warned the people of our commonwealth that we stand in danger of losing control of our future if we don't "revolutionize ourselves."

My comments in that article were based on demographic data I came across that showed the indigenous population of the Marianas on the decline. In other words, instead of census figures showing an increase in the indigenous population, it is showing a drop in those numbers. That is not to say we have stopped producing babies.

It is just that when those babies reach maturity and seek to enter the work force they have limited opportunities here in the Northern Marianas. They can apply for positions in an already bloated government bureaucracy, or search for meaningful employment in the private sector. They have two private sectors to choose from.

One is here in the Northern Marianas, where the preference is for cheap foreign labor; the other is on the mainland U.S. where the demand is for the educated and

technically skilled. Why would our brothers and sisters, making good money on the mainland, want to return to the CNMI where they can make no better than \$3 or \$4/hour, and where they stand to be black listed for exercising their constitutional rights of free expression?

You know, sometimes I think we resemble more the rest of Asia than the rest of the United States; not in reference to our ethnic make-up, but in reference to the way we govern ourselves.

A Saipan Tribune opinion column referred to these extrapolations as "entrenched racist politics." How the columnist came to that imaginative conclusion is beyond me. Perhaps the key word here is "imaginative."

For the record, I see nothing wrong with an ethnically diverse Legislature. As a matter of fact, I encourage it. After all, this is America, isn't it? Or, are we only Americans when it comes to asking the federal government for money? (Forgive me. That is another subject.)

The columnist made six points

and I agree with all of them. And, I would add two more: 7) With an ethnically diverse Legislature we are less likely to see our elected officials snap to attention and say, "Yes, sir!" every time they get a phone call from a kingmaker with deep pockets; 8) With an ethnically diverse Legislature, perhaps we will see fewer all-expenses-paid-junks.

However, as members of the indigenous population of the Northern Marianas, I feel it is in our interest to maintain a presence in the legislative process. I fear if we don't use our political freedoms wisely we stand to lose them, and our future will once again be dictated by those who have no appreciation for our historic and cultural past.

To those intent on dragging this issue out for political reasons, be my guest. This will be the last I have to say on the subject. However, rest assured that I will have more to say on other issues that affect our commonwealth.

REP. FRANK G. CEPEDA
Precinct 4, Saipan

Earthquake zone

WITH THE earthquake in Taiwan, I cannot help reflecting again on something that I have had in mind for years.

Our islands are in a critical earthquake zone. The Marianas Trench, where the Pacific tectonic plate intersects the Philippine plate. These areas are known as subduction zones and we have one just a few miles to our east.

What this means is we can expect to experience a major earthquake at any time. Just because we have not had a major earthquake here since early in this century does not mean that we will not have one any

time soon.

As a matter of fact, the longer we go without earthquakes, the greater likelihood that we will one day have a very serious earthquake. The one we had here in the early part of this century was at least 100 times stronger than the one that was experienced in Taiwan this week.

I am not a structural engineer, but I am a building contractor with many years of experience. I can say with some certainty that when (not if) there is again a major earthquake here, there will be some serious damage to many buildings here and perhaps loss of life.

I think this is an issue that the government should address as there are many buildings here that are structurally unsound. I have read that when the Germans were here early this century their experiences led them to create a building code that prohibited the use of concrete.

Of course today, we have reinforced concrete, but there is more to constructing seismically sound buildings than using reinforced concrete. The earthquake on Guam a few years back (that was mild) proved that.

REP STEPHANSON
San Vicente, Saipan

Cold day in paradise

HAVE YOU heard the catch phrase, "Fly with the warmth of paradise"?

Sounds really inviting huh? You have probably saw it in some magazine or even heard it in a song on some TV ad. It's Continental Micronesia's sales pitch.

Recently, I had the opportunity to experience this "warmth of paradise." Last year, I won an economy class round trip ticket for one to Noumea and '99 Visit the Marianas Golf Tournament.

Last week, I called the ticket counter to claim my prize. Very politely, I was told that Continental Micronesia will fly me to Noumea only on Sept. 23 and out of Noumea only on Oct. 1.

To give it that "warmth of paradise" effect the airline agreed to leave me stranded on Guam for a whole day before flying me out to Noumea. To further accentuate the spirit of island hospitality I was told that this is their only and final offer before the certificate expires on Oct. 14.

To live up to their commit-

ment to "fly with the warmth of paradise," the certificate states that the airline ticket is "non-endorsable, non-transferable, non-extendable, non-refundable."

Actually, I was looking for a warning that reads: "Bring extra cash just in case Continental Micronesia decides to stop all flights to your intended foreign destination."

JOSE C. MAFNAS
As Matusi, Saipan

He got it straight

NOW let me see if I got this straight. According to the newspaper's Sept. 23 issue, one guy got a \$200 fine and no jail time for beating up his wife, while

another got five days in jail plus 150 hours community service plus a \$300 fine for trying to kiss his co-worker, and all of this from the same judge.

Seems a guy is better off hurting rather than loving.

JAM KIRBY
Garapan, Saipan

LETTERS to the editor must carry the full name of the writer and signature, with a telephone number (in case of faxed or mailed letters) for verification. Letters addressed to other publications or to third parties and those endorsing particular political candidates are discouraged. All letters are subject to editing. The Variety reserves the right to reject any letters. Name withheld and unsigned letters will not see print.

Marianas Variety
Serving the Commonwealth for 26 years
Published Monday to Friday By Younis Art Studio, Inc.

Publishers:
Abed and Paz Younis
Rafael H. Arroyo Editor
Zaldy Dandan Associate Editor

P.O. Box 231, Saipan MP 96950-0231
Tel. (670) 234-6341/7578/9797/9272
Fax: (670) 234-9271
© 1998, Marianas Variety
All Rights Reserved

Member of
The Associated Press (AP)
NATIONAL NEWS PAPER ASSOCIATION

School, PSS told to act on school attack

Parent says son was assaulted

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff
ARE YOUR kids safe in school? This is the question raised by a disappointed parent who has blamed the administration of GTC Elementary School and the Public School System Friday for alleged inaction on the case of her child who was allegedly assaulted by a classmate.

The mother of the child said her son was stabbed by a female classmate Thursday morning.

"I received call from Vice Principal Terry J. Litulumar last Thursday morning saying that my son was attacked by a female classmate with a pencil and he has a cut on the neck," the mother told the Variety.

According to her, the school

did not even rush the student to the hospital even if the administrators noticed that the pencil's lead was stuck through the neck of the student.

A friend, the mother said, picked up her son at GTC Elementary School and rushed him to the Pacific Medical Center where he was treated and released.

What bothers the mother was that the female classmate was not even suspended or given any disciplinary action even if her son is reportedly the second victim of the attacker.

If the attacker will not be given any disciplinary measures by the school level administrator, the mother said she will be seeking damages for the hospital bill and the hours of work that she missed

due to the incident.

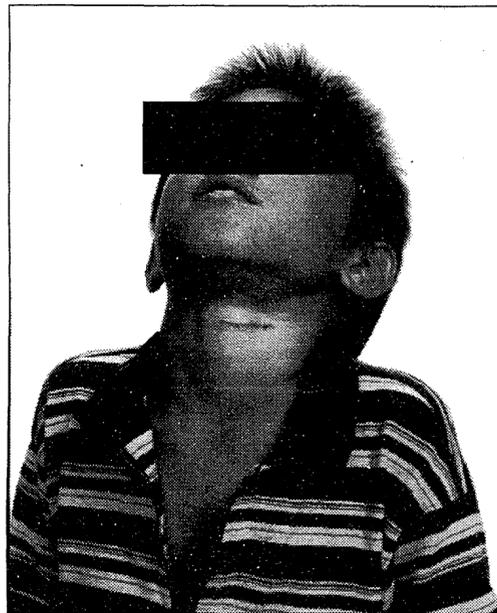
GTCES administration reportedly said the female classmate could not be suspended because she is only on third grade.

The parent had already reported the incident to the Department of Public Safety.

Based on the Board of Education policy, the principal may suspend a student if his or her conduct endangers any student or other persons.

However, the policy also stated that suspension should be avoided for students in the primary grades such as from kindergarten to 3rd grade.

The Variety contacted GTCES administration but Litulumar refused to comment on the incident.



GTC student shows the cut in his neck caused by the pencil attack. Contributed photo

Superior court dismisses case as victims are no longer available

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff
SUPERIOR Court Associate Judge Timothy H. Bellas dropped on Friday a criminal case against a former accountant who allegedly stole approximately \$7,000 from co-workers by forging documents in 1995.

Bellas dismissed the case against Herminio Madlang-Awa following recommendation of the Attorney General's Office to drop the complaint.

Assistant Attorney General Marvin J. Williams asked the court to drop the case because one victim died two years ago in the

Philippines and the other victim cannot be located.

"Without having victims to testify a trial, the government will not be able to meet its burden," said Williams in an interview.

The AGO charged Madlang-Awa, a Filipino, with various theft and forgery cases in 1995.

Williams said as accountant working with the same company Sablan Construction with the two victims, Madlang-Awa had the authority to make withdrawals and deposits into their accounts.

On several occasions, Williams said, without the victims' author-

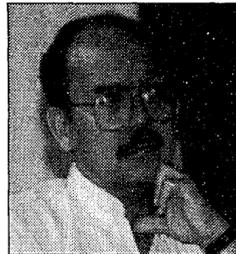
ity, the defendant withdrew funds that were in excess of the amounts that were authorized.

At the Oct. 7, 1996 hearing, Madlang-Awa evaded the jurisdiction of the court, prompting the Superior Court to issue a \$10,000 bench warrant.

Williams said authorities last week arrested Madlang-Awa and the court issued a deportation order against him for overstaying.

"An order of deportation has already been entered against defendant to make withdrawals and deposits into their accounts. So it is in the best interest to deport him at this point rather than holding a trial..." Williams said.

GTA will hold its employee elections



Vince Arriola

Variety News Staff
Hagatna-- The Guam Telephone Authority (GTA) is set to hold the first of its agency-wide employee elections that will select the members of GTA's Employee Coordinating Committee.

The committee is crucial to GTA's privatization plan because this is the body that will serve as the employees voice in the GTA privatization process.

The first election will be held this Friday at the the GTA offices in Dededo, Tamuning, and Julale Center.

"The election this Friday will only be for employees in the plant department. The notices will go out to plant department employees by Wednesday and then we'll have the election by Friday," GTA General Manager Vince Arriola said.

"I don't anticipate any problems with the election process. We are working to have every single employee involved in the election process with the exception of unclassified employees," he added.

The Guam Election Commission (GEC) will be supervising the poll to ensure that it is open to all qualified GTA employees and that the election is fair, honest, and transparent.

GEC will also be helping out with staffing as well as providing voting booths, ballots, and ballot boxes. The voting will take place from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. and campaigning is prohibited within 100 feet.

According to Arriola, each department in GTA is eligible for representation in the committee. Employees of each department can vote only for nominees coming from their own department.

Once the members of the employee coordinating council are elected, they will convene, get themselves updated with the privatization plan, and then work on choosing a financial adviser who will help guide the employees in the privatization process.

"When our elections for the GTA employee coordinating council are completed, we can start working on the last final draft plan of the privatization task force," Arriola said.

Once the financial adviser is on board, the coordinating committee will organize forums for the more than 400 GTA employees to explain the privatization process. The employees will be broken down into batches of 50 so that the forums will be more effective.

As soon as the privatization proposal is agreed upon, the plan will be submitted to the GTA board, Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez and the Legislature for consideration.

Home Depot starts Pacific sales operation

Variety News Staff
THE HOME Depot, the world's largest home improvement retailer, has started its Pacific operations, opening its first store in Hawaii and offering a toll-free number for Guam customers who want to order from the company's vast line-up of goods.

The new Hawaii store in the Iwilei district of Honolulu, which includes 130,000 square feet of indoor retail space and 15,000 square feet in the garden center, employs approximately 300 "associates" and will be open 24 hours a day, seven days a week.

"I'm proud of the fact that we'll stock many unique products from local vendors," Iwilei Store Manager Bill McKale said in a statement.

"This is the first Home Depot to carry local bamboo flooring, we have doors with etched glass insets of Diamond Head and Bird of Paradise, and every plant in our garden center is supplied by a Hawaii business," he said.

Aside from opening its Hawaii store, The Home Depot has also established a toll-free number (877/253-9232) for neighboring Hawaiian islands as well as Guam and Samoa.

Customers can order products through the export department at the store and schedule a delivery to their home or business.

McKale said the establishment of a toll-free number for Guam is another effort on The Home Depot's part to adjust to the unique needs of residents of an island state.

The news release did not mention whether The Home Depot will be establishing a store on Guam although there have been speculations about a major U.S. retailer occupying the "anchor" space in the Micronesia Mall's new shopping wing.

Founded in 1978, The Home Depot currently operates 864 stores in 45 states (including Hawaii), Canada, Puerto Rico and Chile.

The company posted gross sales of \$30.2 billion in fiscal 1998 and currently employs 190,000 people.

For six consecutive years, the company has been ranked by Fortune magazine as America's Most Admired Specialty Retailer.

You can avoid accident, if you...

Drive Safely

Utilities regulatory body sought



Melvin O. Faisao

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff
REPRESENTATIVE Melvin O.

Faisao (R-Saipan) wants to put in place a broad regulatory body that will oversee the CNMI's telecommunication, cable TV, power, sewer, water and trash collection industries.

Faisao pre-filed has House Bill 11-480 which creates the Commonwealth Utilities Regulatory Commission, establishes its powers and prerogatives and provide for the appropriation of its operational funds.

The Commission, according to Faisao's bill, will be composed of at least five commissioners all to be appointed by Gov. Pedro P.

Tenorio.

The Commission is being proposed to be given powers to impose and collect fees from utility companies to underwrite operational expenses and establish a reserve not to exceed an amount equal to its prior year expenditures and obligations.

The bill also allows the Department of Finance to maintain the generated funds into a segregated special account.

"The Commission shall have exclusive jurisdiction over all public utilities in the commonwealth so far as may be necessary to carry

out provisions (of the bill)," stated Faisao's proposed measure.

Faisao's bill gives the commission enforcement powers including holding public hearings, issue subpoenas, and impose administrative fines of up to \$25,000 for each violation.

A continuing violation would mean adding another fine but not to exceed \$500,000 "if the violation involves a non-essential service."

The commission's other powers include rate scheduling, the determination of a rate base and the prohibition of "unjust and unreasonable rates."

Dream come true for Filipina guest worker

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff
IT WAS a dream come true for Elena I. Arrojo, an overseas Filipino Worker who last week was given the keys to a brand new car which were given to her last Thursday.

The white 2000 Mitsubishi Mirage was presented to Arrojo by Triple J Motors for winning the 2nd grand prize at the recent annual American Red Cross Club 200 raffle.

A cook at Jay's Restaurant in Middle Road, Arrojo found out that she won the 2nd prize only the day after the raffle night event.

During the car key presentation at Triple J Motors Thursday afternoon, Arrojo expressed happiness over the prize which costs over \$13,000.

She said she will just be selling the car to provide her family back home more money.



Elena I. Arrojo (right) receives the key to a 2000 Mitsubishi Mirage from Triple J's Randy Steele last Thursday afternoon. Photo by Louie C. Alonso

You are cordially invited to

Senator Juan Pangelinan Tenorio

"MORGEN"

on September 30, 1999 (Thursday) 6:00 p.m.-10:00 p.m.

at Royal Taga Beach Club

DONATION - \$ 50.00 PER COUPLE

Tickets available at the door. Please come and join us.

Si Yuus Maase, Ghilisou, Thankyou, Salamat for your generous support
Paid by the Committee

In preparation for the upcoming holiday season, Herman's Modern Bakery and Tan Marikita's cafe will be closed for inventory on September 30, 1999.

Please be sure to pick up any orders needed for the 30th by the 29th.

Thank you for your kind understanding.

Phone: 234-6139/6809 Fax: 234-9152
hmb@gtepacifica.net

Youth leaders set goals



A hundred student leaders gather at Hyatt Regency Hotel Friday to attend the PREL-sponsored Youth Conference. Photo by Louie C. Alonso

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff

ONE HUNDRED student leaders from different Saipan high schools gathered Friday at Hyatt Regency Hotel for the culmination of the 1999 Youth Leadership Conference's Goal Setting 2000 sponsored by the Pacific Resources for Education and Learning.

The conference was coordinated by Marianas High School's Student Council (Stuco).

The group had invited student leaders from Mount Carmel School, Calvary Christian Academy, Marianas Baptist Academy, Northern Marianas Academy, Grace Christian Academy and the coordinating school.

According to MHS Coordinator Shivon P. Quitugua, who is also a member of MHS Stuco, the purpose of the conference is gather student leaders from various schools and share together different ideas.

"We could also form bonding and closeness with participating schools. School leaders can learn from each other. We want to work hard for excellence in education. We want students to participate in the different programs available to them," Quitugua said.

The conference had Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos delivering an inspirational message with former Chamber president Kerry M. Deets as keynote speaker.

Deets told the youth leaders that knowing when to quit is one of the main characteristics of being a good leader.

She used her own experience as an example when she gave up her position recently as Saipan Chamber of Commerce president.

She added that a good leader could manage people through change.

BOE reminds on registration deadline

THE OFFICE of the Board of Elections wishes to remind all eligible voters who wish to register to vote in the Commonwealth elections that the last day to register is Thursday, October 7.

Residents of Saipan may visit the Office of the Board of Elections in Garapan, from 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday to Friday. Voter registration is also conducted from 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. on Saturday at Price Costco in San Jose.

Residents of Tinian may contact Carmen DLC. Farrell or Matthew Masga for information on when the staff of the Board of Elections will be conducting registration in their municipality.

Rota residents may contact Messrs. George or Charles A. Manglona for registration drive schedules for Rota. A person is eligible to vote if he, on November 6, 1999, is 18 years of age or older, domiciled in the Commonwealth, has re-

sided in the Commonwealth at least 45 days prior to the election, not serving a sentence for a felony, has not been declared by court to be judicially insane, and is either a citizen or national of the United States, as defined in the Northern Mariana Islands Constitution.

Voter registration will cease at 4:30 p.m. on October 7. For more information, please call the Office of the Board of Elections.

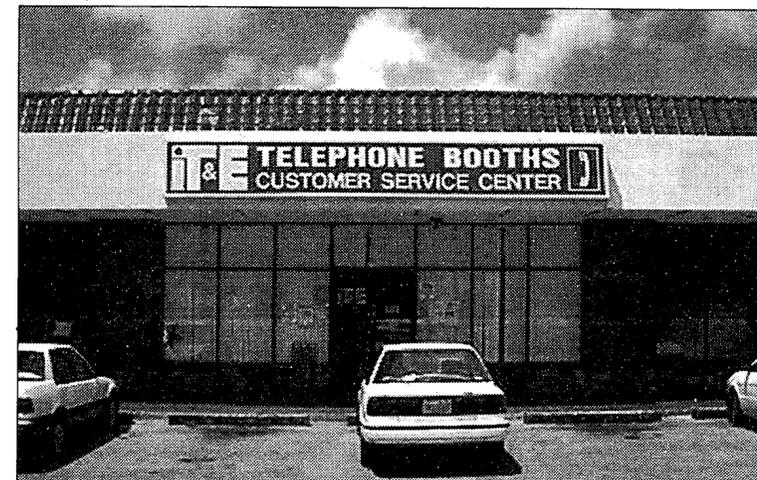
Give to Red Cross

THE AMERICAN National Red Cross has launched a \$25 million fundraising campaign to meet the needs of the victims of the devastation left by Hurricane Floyd and Tropical Storm Harvey.

In response to this campaign, the local NMI Chapter has designated all of its coin box collections from September 24 to October 24 for the American Red Cross Disaster Response Fund.

To help victims of these and other disasters, simply drop your spare change or dollars in to any of the Red Cross coin boxes between the said period.

IT&E seeks to be local carrier



Under its interconnection request, IT&E would be able to lease wireless and landline telephone facilities from GTA for reselling to island customers. Photo by Variety News Staff

Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — A decision is expected to be made soon whether long distance carrier IT&E will be allowed to provide local telephone service on Guam.

"The past week, we've been in negotiation with IT&E and we've been talking with legal counsels and our rate consultants from Price Waterhouse," Guam Telephone Authority (GTA) General Manager Vince Arriola said.

"I can't go any further into the specifics because we're still at the negotiation stage but we should be able to wind up soon. We're at the 90 percent stage. We'll have a final review of the documents," he added.

Last April 7, IT&E filed a request for interconnection and other business arrangements with GTA citing section 251 of the Telecommunications Act of 1996.

This Act is aimed at establishing a pro-competitive, deregulatory national policy framework to accelerate rapid private sector development of advanced telecommunications services to all Americans

by opening all telecommunications markets to competition.

According to Arriola, negotiations have been going very well and GTA staff have been excellent in providing technical information on the interconnection request of IT&E.

"It's been a very fruitful negotiation. IT&E has been very professional in negotiating with us.

"But I can't discuss the details as a courtesy to IT&E and the Public Utilities Commission (PUC) which eventually has to make the ultimate and final decisions," Arriola said.

According to PUC, phone companies have the duty to negotiate business arrangements with other carriers unless one can prove that the other carrier's request is unduly burdensome economically.

During previous hearings on IT&E's interconnection request, GTA asserted that as a rural carrier it should be exempt from providing interconnection with any requesting carrier as well as providing wholesale interconnection for retail purposes.

But PUC noted that that under section 251(f)(1)(B) of the 1996 Telecommunications Act, GTA's rural exempt status can be terminated by the commission if, after receiving a bona fide request for interconnection, PUC finds that the request is technically feasible, consistent with universal service principles, and not unduly burdensome economically.

According to PUC, GTA has the burden of persuading the commission that IT&E's request is either unduly burdensome economically or inconsistent with the 1996 Telecommunications Act's universal service principles.

Under its interconnection request, IT&E would be able to lease wireless and landline telephone facilities from GTA for reselling to island customers.

IT&E has the biggest chunk of the long distance telephone service market on Guam.

Its interconnection request is expected to have a significant effect on GTA's privatization plans.

Guam honors its top ten teachers

Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — The Teacher Appreciation Day organizing committee has made its selection of the top 10 teachers (based on seniority) from a field of 195 nominees from the community.

The selected teachers are:
• Sister Lydia Marie Borja (45 years of teaching, still active);
• Magdalena Flores (45 years of teaching, active);
• Carmen D. Manibusan (43 years of teaching, retired);
• Carmen Maria Indalecio (39 years of teaching, retired);
• Maria P. Dollinger (38 years of teaching, active);
• Sister Ignatia Sanchez (38 years of teaching, active);

• Cresencia A. Meno (37 years of teaching, retired);
• Matilde Sablan (36 years of teaching, retired);
• Beatrice F. Blas (35 years of teaching, retired);
• and Sister Mary Rose Elliott (34 years of teaching, active).

The teachers were chosen for having served the longest as classroom teachers on Guam.

They will be honored along with school principals and the longest serving teacher at each school tomorrow, Sept. 28, in a special dinner hosted by the Confucius Society of Guam.

Many gifts and discounts have been donated by member companies of the Guam Chamber of Commerce

which is in the midst of celebrating Chamber Week and has taken on the task of helping honor Guam's teachers.

Teacher's Appreciation Day on Sept. 28 is the birthday of one of the world's most influential teachers, Confucius.

The Chinese philosopher, who died in 479 B.C., spearheaded the drive to educate the masses because education formerly had only been available to the wealthy in China.

He coined the phrase, "teaching knows no discrimination." Confucius Societies all over the world will be hosting similar Teacher Appreciation Days on this date.

SAIPAN CHIROPRACTIC

- BACK PAIN
- NECK PAIN
- PINCHED NERVES
- JOINT PAIN
- MUSCLE SPASM
- KNEE & FOOT PAIN
- SHOULDER PAIN
- HEADACHES

CNMI INSURANCE
MOYLANS
PACIFICA

U.S. LICENSED BOARD CERTIFIED DOCTORS

233-BACK (2225)

Have you had Lifeline for a year?
If so, it's time to renew.
Please visit us today!

Do you need a
Lifeline?
Get the home phone your family needs.

If you are over 18 and currently receiving any of these benefits:

- Supplementary Social Security Insurance
- Federal Public Housing Assistance or Section 8
- Food Stamps
- Medicaid
- Low-Income Home Energy Assistance

FOR ONLY **\$19** PER MONTH

You are qualified to receive single-line telephone service

Telephone service ensures you have access to emergency services, including 911 and access to operator and directory assistance.

New Lifeline subscribers can have their service connected through the special Link-Up program --

- Get a \$30 discount on installation
- Pay the balance on the installation charge over 12 months interest free.

mtc Micronesian Tel
Beyond the call

GALLERIA

DFS Saipan Limited is seeking to hire a **Visual Coordinator** to join the Visual Merchandise Team.

If you have creative and artistic work experience and/or educational background, consider being a fast-paced, active member of store setups, displays and promotions.

The position requires physical mobility of display units and schedule flexibility including nights, weekends and some holidays.

Organized, deadline oriented candidates may apply in person at the Galleria in Garapan. No phone calls please.

"DFS is an Equal Opportunity Employer"

DFS airport shop sweeps EOM honors

IN A September 17th morning ceremony, members of DFS Saipan Limited gathered to celebrate William Salas and Brigida Pinault as Employees of the Month for the month of August.

Recommended for Sales Associate of the month by sales manager Luis Villagomez, Brigida is known to attack her daily workload with great enthusiasm.

She continually volunteers to work anywhere in the store to help the DFS team and she constantly strives to deliver first-class service to all customers.

Brigida joined the DFS team in April 1978 and currently works at the Airport Shop.

In the category for sales support and recommended by Mike Troup, William takes extreme pride in doing his job well.

He works very well without direct supervision and is a vital player in the behind-the-scenes functions of sales support.

William is also known as a very ethical and honest person. William has been with DFS since November 1986 and presently works in the Airport Shop.

Brigida and William both were given Employee of the Month Certificates and a \$100 gift certificate for their achievements.

They are now eligible for Employee of the Year in their respective categories.

From left: DFS's Irene Facey, Eisio Blesoch, William Salas, Brigida Pinault, Mike Troup, Miyuki Kamada. Contributed photo

For obstruction of justice, assault

Legislator, son convicted

By Eileen O. Tabaranza
For the Variety
KOROR (Palau Horizon) — An Angchesar legislator who was a contender in the 1998 Ngeshar gubernatorial elec-

tions, and his son were convicted for obstruction of justice and for assault and battery.

The case stemmed from an altercation legislator Paulus Ongalibang and his son had with national conservation officers pertaining to a boat incident last year.

The officers had maintained a close watch on Ongalibang's boat, which they suspected was carrying an air compressor and other illegal fishing equipment.

The Palau National Code (PNC) specifically prohibits the use of any form of underwater breathing apparatus such as

scuba tanks, air compressors, among others other than snorkel for fishing.

In August of last year, conservation and police officers obtained a search warrant from the Palau Supreme Court and proceeded to conduct a search on Ongalibang's boat.

They were not able to search the boat. Ongalibang and his son Ray, attacked the officers and escaped with their high-speed boat. Charges were later filed against the two.

Paulus was found guilty of assault and battery against a conservation officer. He was sen-

tenced to three days in jail for that crime.

He was also convicted of obstruction of justice and was "sentenced to one year imprisonment at the Koror jail, all but forty five days is suspended and defendant shall be placed on supervised probation after his incarceration."

Ongalibang's son, Ray, received a one-year suspended sentence and was placed under supervised probation during which he would perform 120 hours of community service in the next 12 months as determined by the probation officer.

Continental Micronesia to launch its four new 737 aircraft on Guam

By Eileen O. Tabaranza
For the Variety
KOROR (Palau Horizon) — Continental Micronesia, the Pacific region's main passenger and cargo carrier, will show-

case four of its nine new generation Boeing 737-800 aircraft on Sept. 29 this year on Guam as part of the airline's Pacific fleet modernization program.

Continental Micronesia Sales and Promotions Manager Walter B. Dias, via e-mail to Palau Horizon, said Continental will display the new aircraft at its Guam maintenance facility on Sept. 29.

The 737 open house will include pilots, mechanics and flight attendants who are knowledgeable about the aircraft.

"The arrivals of these new aircraft also demonstrate Continental's strong commitment to the Pacific region as the nine 737 aircraft represent an investment of over \$300 million," Dias said.

He said the first brand new 737 aircraft arrived on Guam last Sept. 22 from the Boeing factory and the airline is expected to receive three additional aircraft during the next four weeks.



Walter B. Dias

These aircraft deliveries are part of Continental's Pacific fleet modernization plane, which will ultimately result in all new Boeing aircraft for the Guam operation and one of the youngest fleets in the Pacific, Dias said.

The first four aircraft will replace the four 757's which will be returned to Continental's domestic routes, he added.

Dias stressed the aircraft will actually enter services on Oct. 1 and will be operated on Sapporo, Sendai, Nagoya, Hong Kong, Bali, Manila and Carins routes.

As Boeing has a backlog of orders, the next five 737's will begin arriving in July 2000. These aircraft will be used to replace the remaining five 727's. At this time, Dias said,

the 737's will be operating on Palau and the other Micronesian islands.

He said the new generation 737's will have 155 total seats configured as 14 first class and 141 coach class, which will allow replacement of the Boeing 727's without a loss in capacity.

The new aircraft have much more range capability, fly faster and have a video entertainment system. They also meet stage three noise restrictions and are more efficient, offer greater reliability and simplified maintenance, he said.

"As we continue to work closely with the Palau Visitors Authority on promoting the country to the U.S. mainland, the new aircraft will allow us to appeal to more U.S. customers. This will allow Continental to more efficiently serve the Palau market," Dias pointed out.

The new aircraft may also allow increased frequencies when market conditions improve, he added.

He further said the airline will also be replacing its DC-10 fleet within the next three years.

Remengesau off to Washington, D.C.

For the Variety
KOROR (Palau Horizon) — Vice President Tommy Remengesau, Jr. will lead a Palau delegation to Washington D.C. to attend the International Monetary Fund-World Bank Annual Board Meeting and the United Nations General Assembly to be held on Oct. 25-28, 1999 in Washington and New York, respectively.

The vice president, together with the Ministry of Administration's Bureau of National Treasury Director Elbuchel Sadang and Division of Budget and Management Chief Cashmere



Tommy Remengesau, Jr.

Remengesau, left for Washington D.C. on Sept. 23.

Remengesau said he will

make two public statements — one for the general assembly and the other for a special session for small island states in the international arena.

"Concerns that are unique to the small island states and nations of the world will be heard on this forum and Palau will prepare its papers on the climate change phenomenon and how it is affecting our environment," the vice president said.

He said the conferences are very important for Palau to bring to the international forum the assistance from the United Nations. (Eileen O. Tabaranza

Palau tries out mediation

By Eileen O. Tabaranza
For the Variety

KOROR (Palau Horizon) — A private lawyer has underscored the importance of mediators in eliminating unnecessary litigation between land claimants and disposing of the backlog of many land disputes.

According to Attorney Johnson Toribiong, the mediation process was a concept which civil attorneys on Palau recommended to the legislature. He added that several attorneys and himself have worked together on a draft amendment to the Land Court Act to introduce the concept of mediation as a necessary or pre-requisite to litigation.

"We see this (concept) as necessary because we saw so many land cases which should not be litigated and appealed at a great extent to the claimants," Toribiong pointed out.

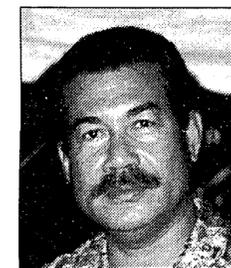
The amended Land Court Act now provides for a process whereby a claimant and the adverse claimant can choose from among the mediators whom they trust to mediate their claims before going to the court.

The new law requires that parties to disputed land claims participate in a mediation session to try to settle the dispute. The parties may agree to select a qualified mediator from an approved list. If the parties do not settle, the matter goes to hearing before a Land Court Judge.

The intent of the law is to eliminate unnecessary litigation between land claimants who are more often than not are relatives. It is expensive to them plus the fact that it breaks down the family relationships on Palau, the attorney said.

"I think it (mediation process) is good for Palau because the country at one time was very unified, especially in terms of the clans and families. But due to these land disputes, certain clan members relationships are no longer warm and close," Toribiong noted.

The mediation process is strictly voluntary and the mediator's role is to help both parties to achieve a common understanding, he added. "Mediators will try to bring you into some common understanding where you may be able to



Johnson Toribiong

resolve your differences perhaps by dividing the property or by dedicating it to the other person to use it," he stressed. Toribiong said Palau needs at least 50 mediators.

A mediator has the duty to advise a claimant whose claim is very frivolous. In mediation, no law is to be imposed as long as these claimants reach a mutual understanding. If they don't, they have to move toward to "evaluative mediation," which means until claimants drop their claims.

"In mediation, they talk about their similarities, what they can really agree on and see if they

can work out something about these points they have agreed on. Then we have the chance to reflect on it or perhaps accept the mediator's recommendations to avoid going to the court," Toribiong said.

He also stressed the need to repair the social fabric of a clan relationships which was caused by land disputes. "Palau is a small country. We don't need to fight," the lawyer said.

Under the new statute, Toribiong said that six Palauan attorneys, including himself, Attorneys Carlos Salii, Johnson Toribiong and Mariano Carlos, volunteered to conduct the training of 100 Palauan mediators and land registration officers.

Attorneys Oldiais Ngirakelau, Roman Bedor and Yuki Dengokl, who are the three part-time Associate Judges of Land Court will assist them.

The new statute authorizes the use of consultants to conduct the mediators training on Palau. Off-island English-speaking experts unfamiliar with Palauan culture, customs, language and land law were by-passed in favor of using

local Palauan volunteer attorneys. Under the new statute, mediators must be Palauan, at least 30 years old, have lived on Palau for not less than seven years, have some legal training or expertise in customary matters, and be recognized in the community for either leadership capability or intelligence.

2 Dinners for \$22

Two Barbecue Chicken and Babyback Rib Combos plus a half loaf of our world-famous onion rings for only \$22

TONY ROMA'S FAMOUS FOR RIBS

Must Present Coupon Expires October 15, 1999 Not Valid with any other offer.

SAIPAN: La Fiesta Mall III (2F) (Above Capricciosa) (670) 322-9191

New land court chief judge sworn-in

By Rene P. Acosta
For the Variety

KOROR (Palau Horizon) — President Kuniwo Nakamura has appointed former Marshall Islands Chief Justice Daniel Neal Cadra as Palau's new Land Court Chief Judge.

Cadra replaces Senior Judge Tmewang Rengulbai, who resigned and got elected as the governor of the State of Airai.

He was sworn into office last Sept. 20 by the president in a ceremony attended by court employees and government officials.

Before Cadra took his oath as the new chief judge, the Land Court had only three full-time and five part-time associate judges.

Cadra was a chairman of the Judicial Service Commission of the Republic of Marshall Islands before coming to Palau.

He is a member of the Pacific Judicial Council and was former member of the Statutes, Bylaws, and Rules Committee of the State of Alaska Bar Association.

Before occupying the highest post of Marshall Islands' High Court, Cadra served in the same judicial body as an associate justice.

He was also a former district court and acting district court judge of the State of Alaska Second Judicial District.

On Cadra's appointment, Nakamura said "the Land Court can now take up all the important questions of rights to the lands of Palau, a critical time in the development of the Republic of Palau."

"It is truly a pleasure to welcome Judge Cadra to the Republic of Palau, to administer

the oath of office to Judge Cadra, and to see him take his seat as the Chief Judge," the President said in his welcome speech.

Nakamura said with Cadra's presence in Palau, the government "now sets the stage for the Land Court to fully address the fundamental questions assigned to the court."

"We pledge our full support and offer our best wishes for Judge Cadra and all his colleagues at the Land Court. May they be blessed with the wisdom and intelligence necessary for them to fulfill the grave responsibilities we have bestowed upon them," he said.

The newly appointed chief judge, on the other hand, said

the efficient workings of the Palauan justice system lay on the judge and to the people and the lawyers, who he said should be prepared and thorough in presenting their cases.

He said he should be fair and honest in dealing with land cases that would be reaching his sala while resolving them at the most expedient time.

NEW SERVICE!

Expanded Paging Coverage

SIGN UP TODAY!

Now you can receive your pages whether you're on Saipan or Guam!

Two easy steps to Expanded Paging Coverage:

- Come down to SAIPANCELL.
- Sign up for Expanded Paging Coverage for only \$4 a month. — THAT'S ALL!

With Expanded Paging Coverage you can receive your numeric or alphanumeric pages and be notified of voice mail when you're on either island! It's super easy and Expanded Paging Coverage works on all SAIPANCELL pagers! Sign up today!

For more information call 235-PAGE.

SAIPANCELL COMMUNICATIONS The Choice is Clear.

Telephone: (670) 235-PAGE • Fax: (670) 235-7640
Open: Monday-Friday 9am to 6pm • Saturday 9am to 3pm • Sunday closed
Gualo Rai Main Building, Middle Road

"One Pager & One Number for Both Saipan & Guam!"

SAIPAN VETERINARY HOSPITAL
Temporarily Closed from Sept. 18- Oct. 3 as Dr. Eugene Clothier is off-island for continuing education.
To my valued clients, I will be remaining at Saipan Veterinary Hospital as sale not consumated.

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS COUNCIL FOR THE HUMANITIES
GRANT WRITING WORKSHOP
SAIPAN
OCTOBER 2, 1999 - SATURDAY
9:00 A.M. - 11:00 A.M.
JOETEN-KIYU PUBLIC LIBRARY
Call 235-4785 for more information.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
COMMONWEALTH DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
September 22, 1999

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Development Authority (CDA), are soliciting proposals from qualified financial institutions authorized to do business in the Commonwealth to provide interim financing in the form of a loan or loans to fund capital improvement projects in the Commonwealth. CDA is an autonomous agency that has the statutory authority under Commonwealth Law to issue bonds and borrow money, from time to time, to fund capital improvement projects in the Commonwealth.

CDA is requesting proposals from qualified FDIC financial institutions who have experience and financial capability to provide such interim financing. Your firm is invited to submit a proposal to serve as interim financier. Proposals shall be submitted to:

Commonwealth Development Authority
P.O. Box 2149
Saipan, MP 96950
Email Address: CDA@itccmi.com

no later than October 07, 1999 at 4:00 p.m. Copies of the RFP package may be obtained from CDA at Wakin's Building in Gualo Rai. Inquiries may be directed to Ms. MaryLou S. Ada, Executive Director, at telephone nos. 234-7145/46/6245/6293. The Commonwealth Development Authority reserves the right to reject any proposal determined not to be in the best interests of the Commonwealth.

/s/ Juan S. Tenorio
Chairman, Board of Directors

US envoy presents credentials in Tonga

NUKU'ALOF A (Pacnews) — United States Ambassador to Tonga, Osman Siddique says if Tonga positions itself to take advantage of the new products, new destinations and new opportunities from the U.S. then the country has a great future.

Siddique was addressing journalists in the capital, Nuku'alofa this week after he presented his credentials to King Taufa'ahau Tupou IV.

"The United States and Tonga are locked in personal, commercial and state level co-operations based on bilateral issues.

The good relation between our two people is most prevalent of all our relationships," Siddique said.

Speaking of Tongans in the

\$800.00 Weekly Potential Processing Government Refunds at Home. No Experience Necessary 1-800-966-3599 Ext. 1976

RECYCLE

PUBLIC NOTICE

THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE WISHES TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE DEADLINE FOR SUBMITTING APPLICATIONS FOR THE POSITION OF PRESIDENT

WILL BE ON FRIDAY, OCTOBER 1, 1999 AT 4:30 P.M.

For more information please stop by the Human Resources Office or call us at 234-5498 ext. 1015

THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE IS AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS RETIREMENT FUND

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Position: ACCOUNTANT III
Location: SAIPAN

The incumbent works under the direct supervision of the Manager, Accounting Branch, and is expected to be knowledgeable in all facets of accounting, including the preparation of financial statements and reports. Employee is expected to perform his/her duties with minimum supervision.

DUTIES & RESPONSIBILITIES will include preparation of all financial reports for the Workers' Compensation Commission accounts; preparation or providing assistance in the preparation of financial statements and other financial reports for the Fund, including employees payroll, income tax, and time and attendance accounts; performs the reconciliation of bank accounts; and other duties as assigned.

MINIMUM QUALIFICATIONS: Graduation from college with a bachelor's degree in accounting or finance, or an associate's degree in accounting or finance plus two years of experience in preparing management financial reports.

WORK REQUIREMENTS: Knowledge of bookkeeping and accounting principles with the ability to prepare financial reports; basic knowledge of an ability to operate IBM-PC compatible and software such as Lotus, Quatro Pro, Peachtree, dBase IV, and WordPerfect, etc.; and ability to communicate effectively in written and oral form.

SALARY AND BENEFITS: Regular employee benefits apply pursuant to established employment rules and regulations in effect. Starting salary depends upon qualifications and experience within the following range:

FROM: Pay Level 29 Step 01, or \$21,506.41 per annum To: Pay Level 29 Step 07, or \$28,807.51 per annum

For an application form and a detailed position description, please visit the front office of the NMI Retirement Fund at Capitol Hill, Saipan. **Deadline for submission of applications is 5:00 p.m., Thursday, October 7, 1999.**

The NMI Retirement Fund is An Equal Opportunity Employer

Samoa stresses on trade at UN General Assembly

NEW YORK (Pacnews) — Samoa's Ambassador to the United Nations, Tuiloma Eroni Slade, says trade will be an important issue for his country at the upcoming Special Session of the United Nations General Assembly for small island developing states in New York.

"Trade is an important one for all of us in the Pacific, partly because of the lesson it holds for us.

I think we need to catch up with what is going on elsewhere in our own little way," Slade said in an interview with PACNEWS.

Slade said his Government believes trade policies need to be flexible to reflect the needs of the small island countries.

According to him, Samoa has spent quite a significant amount of time and energy on reforms in

its monetary and economic system.

"I think we believe very deeply in a similar approach that has been undertaken in the Pacific region by the (South Pacific) Forum Economic Ministers Meeting (FEMM).

I think very good work has been done in terms of sharing of experiences. We believe in reforms and open market systems," he said.

"On the other hand this special session takes place at a time when yet again natural disasters is causing devastation in so many economies as was the case with Hurricane Floyd in the Caribbean."

"The problem is no matter how well reformed, how well organised island economies are, our countries are so small that their econo-

mies could be devastated overnight by a natural disaster.

I think it is difficult to say, yes this is one issue, because a life of a vulnerable country - vulnerable economically and environmentally - the choices are very few."

Samoa's Prime Minister, Tuilaepa Sailele Malielegaoi will head Samoa's delegation to the special session.

Tuilaepa, who arrives in New York at the weekend, will be one of the first Pacific leaders to speak at the special session.

The Special Session from September 27-28 will review the progress made on the Barbados Plan of Action adopted by over 100 countries in 1994 at the Global Conference on the sustainable development of Small Island developing states.

Tonga human rights movement push fight for democratic gov't

TAHITI (Pacnews) — The Tongan Human Rights and Democracy Movement (THRD) leader, Akilisi Pohiva will continue to fight for the promotion of the rights of all Tongans and to eventually achieve its goal of a democratic government elected by the people.

Pohiva was speaking at the 8th Nuclear Free and Independent Pacific (NFIP) conference in Tahiti on "Human Rights and Good Governance."

Pohiva said the THRD's Constitutional Review Committee has completed its work on a draft constitution, which proposes two major changes.

"The first major change is the restructuring of the Legislative Assembly and the Executive Branch of government which shifts the power of the monarchy to the executive, or the ministers elected by the people."

"The second major change is the reallocation of the land rights to give people a fair share of the

monetary benefits gained from the land resources."

A people's representative in the Tongan parliament, Pohiva said between now and the year 2002, the THRD will be working hard on a preparation for a national referendum to be held before the next election.

The referendum should ask: "Should the people elect all the members of parliament including nobles representatives and all government ministers?"

The Tongan Deputy Prime Minister said they would need time to consider the request by the Movement for the referendum and they would give their reply later.

"Ours is a struggle against an authoritarian ruler who is well protected by a constitution designed by a western administrator and advisers," Pohiva said.

He added that: "the fundamental issue our movement has been dealing with in the past nine years or so, has been the lack of justice and accountability in our government."

Pohiva alleged that despite the fact that the Tongan government has been called on several occasions to account for incompetence, mal-administration and misuse of public funds by some of the ministers and senior officers, lack of accountability still prevails up to this moment.

He said the Tongan royal family, like the Suharto family in Indonesia have taken over most of the profitable business options available in the country.

"As an example, I took government to the court, after a long battle to get the government account for the unlawful selling of Tongan naturalisation passports.

A few days before the trial, the Tongan government, under the royal command of His Majesty, called an emergency meeting of parliament only to pass retrospective legislation legalising the unlawful action taken by the government thus bringing an end to that long struggle for accountability," Pohiva said.

Air Fiji crash report: Pilots had alcohol

SUVA (Pacnews) — A report into the fatal Air Fiji crash into the highlands of Viti Levu, the main island, has revealed that traces of alcohol were found in the two pilots' urine and blood samples.

17 people perished in the crash at Delailasekau in the rugged mountains in Namosi in August. The plane crashed minutes after taking off from Nausori airport bound for the Nadi International airport.

The Aviation Minister Meli Bogileka when officially releasing the result yesterday declined to make any conclusions from the report saying this was not part of the final crash report. He also re-

fused to elaborate on the findings. "A medical report on the ill-fated plane crash in Namosi has shown that the pilot, Kitione Galuinadi and co-pilot, Filipe Racule, both had traces of a chemical compound found in alcohol," Bogileka said.

"The chemical, pathologists believe, had caused the two to experience fatigue and lose concentration during the flight and may have caused the crash."

The report said Racule had 0.01 units of alcohol while Galuinadi had 0.02 units.

The chemical found in their blood, the report said is normally used to treat allergies.

Pacific youths on Japan trip

SUVA (Pacnews) — Forty youths from the Pacific Island countries will leave for Japan to participate in the "Asia Pacific Youth Invitation Programme" which starts from September 29 to October 13.

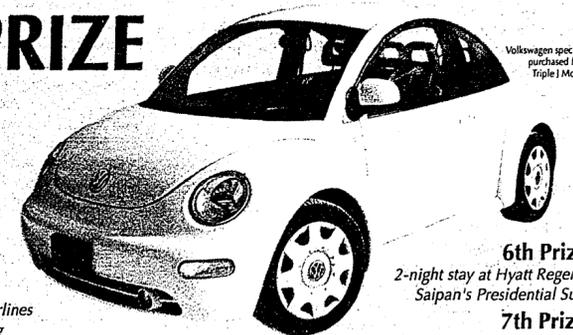
The programme aims to promote friendship and mutual understanding among youths of Asian and Pacific Island countries and Japan.

A total of 115 youths from 23 countries will be participating in the programme, which will discuss topics as education, environmental problems, peace issues and international cooperation matter for the 21st century.

Hyatt to raise \$2M for kids

TICKETS ARE ON SALE NOW!

GRAND PRIZE The All New 1999 Volkswagen Bug



Volkswagen specially purchased from Triple J Motors

- 1st Prize:**
2 Round Trip tickets to Bali on Continental Airlines and 3-night stay at Bali Hyatt
- 2nd Prize:**
Round Trip ticket to Hong Kong on Asiana airlines and 3-night stay at Hyatt Regency Hong Kong
- 3rd Prize:**
Round Trip ticket to Korea on Asiana Airlines and 3-night stay at Grand Hyatt Seoul
- 4th Prize:**
Round Trip ticket to Japan on Japan Airlines and 3-night stay at Hyatt Regency Osaka
- 5th Prize:**
2 Round Trip tickets to Guam on Continental Airlines and 3-night stay at Hyatt Regency Guam

- 6th Prize:**
2-night stay at Hyatt Regency Saipan's Presidential Suite
- 7th Prize:**
3-night stay at Grand Hyatt Fukuoka, Japan
- 8th Prize:**
3-night stay at Hyatt Regency Cheju, Korea
- 9th Prize:**
3-night stay at Hyatt Regency Pusan, Korea
- 10th Prize:**
3-night stay at Hyatt Regency Manila, Philippines
- And more...**



Hyatt Regency Saipan Presents

HYATT INTERNATIONAL CHARITY EVENT:

"Children of the World Charity Sweepstakes"

Tickets may be purchased at all Hyatt restaurants, DJ's Corner and Front Desk. Also available at the CHC Volunteers Gift Shop.

\$10 EACH
BOOKLETS OF 6 FOR JUST \$50.00

The Hyatt Regency Saipan, in accordance with Hyatt International Hotels, is raising \$2 million to build the Children's Village for orphaned, underprivileged and sick children of the world. Every child deserves a chance, as the children of today will become the leaders of tomorrow. With every purchase of a sweepstakes ticket, you will help a child reach their potential. Help build the Children's Village with a purchase of a ticket today.

"\$2 MILLION BY THE YEAR 2000 FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD!"



All proceeds to benefit HHH Children's Village for orphaned, underprivileged and sick children of the world, and the CHC Volunteers' Association.



DRAWING DECEMBER 31, 1999

Continued on page 27

Taiwan enacts emergency decree



Taiwanese President Lee Tung-hui (center) walks with officials on a tour of earthquake damaged in Dali, central Taiwan Friday. There has been increasing anger by earthquake survivors over delays in the handling of the emergency situation.

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP)—Taiwan's president on Saturday signed a rarely-used emergency decree that gives the military increased powers to maintain order and creates severe sentences for black-marketeers who try to take advantage of the destruction caused by a devastating earthquake.

The decree, imposed only three times in the past four decades, would supersede all existing laws for six months. It was passed by President Lee Teng-hui and his Cabinet, but must still be approved by the legislature, which Lee controls.

The decree would increase punishment for people who charge exorbitant prices for necessities that have become scarce. It also would allow troops and police to be dispatched to maintain order in stricken areas.

The order could worry people in a nation where martial law ended just a little more than a decade ago. There have been few incidents of looting or other prob-

lems, and Lee sought to play down any concerns he was being too heavy-handed.

"The military is also the government, you know," he said.

Lee signed the decree Saturday night, using a traditional Chinese ink pen that resembles a paintbrush. With the expanded powers, he said, soldiers could operate more smoothly in relief efforts following the 7.6-magnitude quake that killed about 2,000 people.

"If aircraft are needed, we fly in aircraft," Lee said. "If soldiers are needed, we send soldiers. Without the army there's no other way to work."

The emergency decree will come up within the next few days in the legislature, which is firmly controlled by Lee's ruling Nationalist Party.

Hopes of finding survivors from Tuesday's quake were fading. Still, Taiwanese and foreign teams continued to search for signs of life beneath tons of concrete and steel.

rattled central Taiwan and sent debris tumbling from collapsed structures in areas that were hard hit earlier.

Power was cut in parts of Taichung. Local television said three foreign aid workers were hurt in the aftershock, which had a preliminary magnitude of 6.8. No other information was immediately available.

Officials say some 10,800 housing units were totally destroyed or severely damaged in Tuesday's quake.

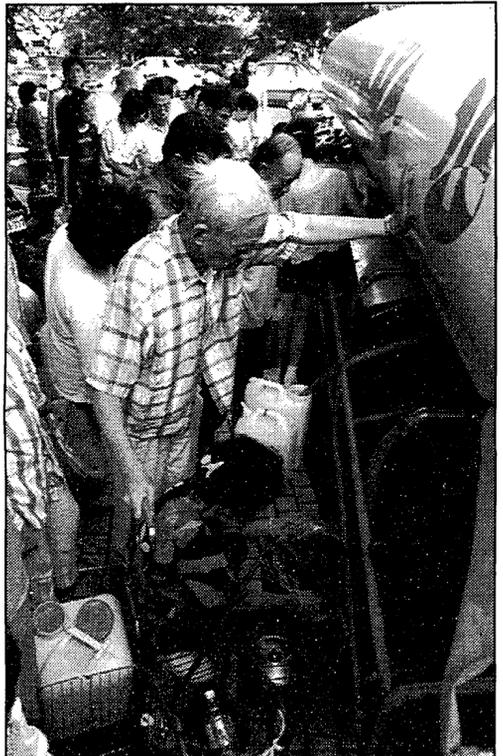
The emergency decree will also make it easier for the government to acquire private land where housing could be built for homeless quake victims. And Vice Premier Liu Chao-shiuan, speaking

on television, said the government would make available low- or no-interest loans to those who wanted to rebuild their homes.

The decree can be expected to draw fire from elements of Taiwanese society, sensitive to anything that smacks of authoritarianism. Democratic rule was only introduced here in 1987 following 38 years of martial law.

Some residents, though, thought it was a necessary step.

"There will be people who will try to take advantage of the disaster and loot other people's homes," said Taichung hotel clerk Shu Yin-Peng. "We should have measures that allow us to quickly move against these people and punish them."



Quake victims crowd around water tanks at a refugee camp in Nantou, central Taiwan, on Friday. Tens of thousands were left homeless by Tuesday's earthquake.

The Disaster Management Center said late Saturday that 2,002 people had been killed, 8,544 injured, 209 were trapped under rubble and 23 were still missing from Tuesday's earthquake. Officials had previously cited a death toll of nearly 2,200 people, but that was reduced early Saturday after the government discovered that two hard-hit counties had double-counted some victims.

Besides continuing search and rescue operations, local officials, civilian teams and soldiers were struggling to provide adequate shelter, food and health facilities.

Health officials in the central Taiwan town of Tungshih reported garbage strewn in the streets, unclean water, lack of running water in toilets and other health hazards they said could bring on a host of ailments.

In Taiwan's third largest city, Taichung, many residents were still sleeping in open spaces, fearing aftershocks. Several thousand have already shaken Taiwan, including one Sunday morning that

US rescuers find trouble in Taiwan structures

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — American rescuers who freed a man from the rubble of Taiwan's killer quake said Saturday the wrecked buildings here were even more shoddily constructed than those they encountered in last month's killer earthquake in Turkey.

"These are probably the worst buildings we've seen in a long time," said Dewey Perks, a firefighter who lives in Leesburg, Va., but travels the world to save people in disasters like the 7.6-magnitude earthquake that struck Taiwan on Tuesday.

Members of the elite Fairfax County Urban Search and Rescue Team flew in the day after the quake with a few colleagues from Miami-Dade, Fla. Their mission was called off Friday when they stopped finding signs of life.

The rescuers said support pillars of the wrecked buildings had been made of concrete that was poured around empty oil cans, creating huge bubbles of air within that easily collapsed when the quake struck.

"Maybe they were trying to save some money on concrete," said Robert Rojas, a

firefighter from the Metro Dade squad in Miami. "That's horrendous."

Taiwanese authorities have reportedly arrested several building contractors. Sixteen more have been prevented from leaving the island as authorities probe the construction irregularities that outraged Taiwan.

Some 2,000 people died in the quake.

The U.S. rescuers said they saw similar corner-cutting just last month in cheap Turkish buildings that were built using salty sea sand in the concrete. Many collapsed during

the Aug. 17 quake that killed more than 15,000 people in Turkey.

But even the crumbly concrete in Turkey was "a heck of a lot better than newspapers and oil cans" that contractors in Taiwan used to put up the buildings that crumpled, Rojas said.

The Taiwan quake was the Virginia team's ninth mission. Other assignments have included an earthquake in Armenia, the Oklahoma City bombing and bombings of the U.S. embassies in Tanzania and Kenya.

Within hours of arriving in

Taiwan, they had found and rescued 33-year-old survivor Hsu Tse-kai from a ruined building in Touliu in earthquake-ravaged central Taiwan. They kept working, using sniffing dogs and sonar listening devices, but found no more signs of life.

Rescuers said the decision to stop digging is made more difficult by the grief of people at the scene who are still clinging to hopes - however slim - that a loved one in the rubble might still be alive.

"You always hope that you can save more than you ever end up saving," Perks said.

Boy lasts 87 hours in rubble

DALI, Taiwan (AP) — A 6-year-old boy buried for 87 hours was recovering from his ordeal today, but it was virtually certain his parents and two sisters had perished in their earthquake-shattered apartment building.

South Korean rescuers said they found four bodies in the collapsed room where Chang Ching-hung managed to hang on to life until he was pulled to safety Friday.

They held off declaring Chang's entire family dead because a positive identification of all the corpses had not yet been made.

Using their hands to remove concrete and other debris, South Korean and Japanese search and rescue teams were able to wedge Chang out of the wreckage after a seven-hour effort.

"I need water. Why am I here, and where are my parents?" were his first words to rescuers, according to the Korean team leader Choi Jin Jong.

Searchers later found bodies which were almost certainly Chang's 33-year-old mother, his father and two sisters, aged four years and four months. They died along with 19 others in the 12-

story building. Tuesday's 7.6-magnitude earthquake, which killed nearly 2,000 people, pancaked the bottom floors of the apartment while the structure above bent in a precarious angle. Chang's family was living on the second floor.

The Koreans and Japanese are among teams from more than two dozen other nations and international organizations that rushed in to help Taiwan.

Officials say more than 2,200 persons have been rescued in operations that some have criticized as being slow to get started and unprofessional.

The Korean experts expressed astonishment today that the Taiwanese teams were not even equipped with such standard items as search and rescue video cameras.

"The Korean teams all have these cameras ready, but the Taiwanese didn't even have one. Why not? This is very strange," said Kang Hyung-kyu, one of the Korean rescuers.

The Koreans, waiting to go back inside the apartment building today, were all toting cameras. They



South Korean Rescue team members load six-year-old survivor Chang Ching-hung into an ambulance after he was pulled out from a collapsed building Friday in Dali, Taiwan. Cheng was buried early Tuesday morning when a 7.6 magnitude earthquake struck Taiwan.

are long retractable rods with a tiny video camera, microphone and light on the end.

Strapped to their stomachs is a video screen that gives them a view of what is inside the small

crevices and holes around them. Workers were climbing atop the debris at the base of the building, using welding torches to cut through mangled steel rods that held large chunks of concrete to-

gether. Once rods were severed, two large construction cranes moved in and started clawing at the huge slabs of concrete to clear a new path for the rescue squads.

Mother tried to help her nine-year-old daughter in quake

TAICHUNG, Taiwan (AP) — Chen Guan-jun sits on the edge of a metal chair, her eyes fixed on her daughter's limp body in a hospital bed.

When the little girl stirs - bending a leg or twitching an arm - Chen jumps up and leans forward, looking for any new sign of recovery.

Just how 9-year-old Pei-jun ended up in the hospital bleeding and unconscious with a fractured skull is still a nightmarish blur to Chen, days after the huge earthquake that killed more than 2,100 people.

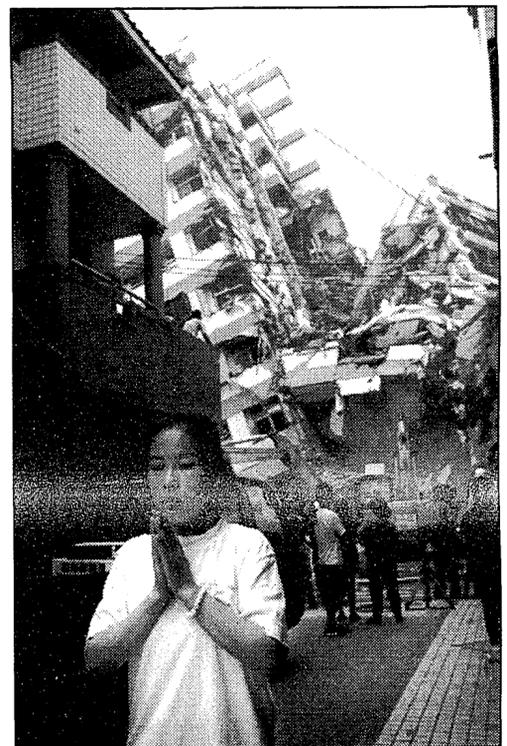
There was a terrifying swaying back and forth, the thud of plaster falling on Chen's chest, clothes soaked with blood, a deafening helicopter ride and now nurses coming and going to check on her daughter, covered by a yellow sheet with only a bruised little foot sticking out.

Talking slowly so she wouldn't rupture the numerous stitches on cuts around her mouth, Chen described how she and her daughter had a simple supper of rice and fried cabbage the evening before the tremor hit early Tuesday.

She chatted with Pei-jun (pronounced pay jwin) about school and other things too trivial to recall now.

"She's a wonderful girl," said Chen, squinting her eyes to hold back tears while looking at the girl's long black hair spread out on the pillow. "She always listens to me and works hard in school."

Some time after their meal, Chen joined the girl in the bed they shared, lying side-by-side.



An unidentified Taiwanese woman prays near her destroyed apartment building Saturday in Dali, Taiwan.

Mother and daughter usually spent the night in the drug store where Chen works in the small, central city of Puli, just miles from the quake's epicenter.

Unable to afford a baby-sitter, Chen would take the girl to the store and they both slept

there so Pei-jun wouldn't have to wake up for a late night ride home.

Being jolted awake in a room that is shaking and swaying violently was a sensation that Chen, 35, had never felt before.

When the bed started to rattle

about 1:45 a.m. Tuesday, she immediately tried to see what was happening. But before she could sit up, plaster, tile and splintered boards crashed down on the bed, burying the mother and daughter.

"I'm much stronger and was able to dig myself out," said Chen, who suffered mostly facial injuries, including a large red and purple bruise on her right cheek. "But my daughter was trapped there, covered up, unable to breathe."

Working furiously and already soaked in blood, Chen quickly threw the debris off her girl and carried the child out the back of the store, which was still standing. Stumbling in the dark, she ran into a neighbor who raced them to a nearby clinic. But like the rest of the town, the clinic was blacked out, so Chen searched elsewhere for help for her unconscious daughter.

She passed several other collapsed shops and apartment buildings that toppled or leaned precariously in the city, one of the hardest hit by the 7.6-magnitude earthquake. The tremor knocked out bridges outside the city, blocking many rescuers from reaching the town.

Once Pei-jun reached a hospital miles away, the girl's head injuries were immediately classified as serious. Doctors put her on a helicopter for a flight to the biggest hospital in nearby Taichung, the island's third-largest city.

"I'm still a little dazed and can't recall when we made it to the hospital here," Chen said. "Maybe four or five hours after

the quake." The rest of the morning was equally fuzzy as mother and daughter were separated while doctors and nurses treated their injuries.

While Chen recounted their nightmare, Pei-jun lay silently with her eyes closed in her hospital bed, her right arm wrapped around a stuffed blue rabbit that she gently stroked.

On her right wrist, she wears a Buddhist prayer bracelet with wooden beads - a gift from a group of monks and nuns who stopped by her bed to pray for her.

Pei-jun's injuries look much more serious than they are. A bruise extends diagonally across her face where a falling board smashed into her. A thick gauze pad covers a deep cut on her forehead. Blotches of black and blue cover parts of her cheeks.

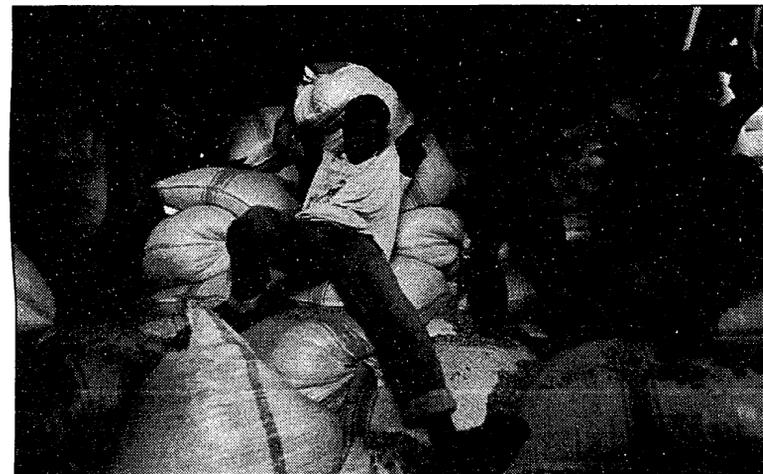
Doctors told Chen that tests showed there was no injury to her brain and that cuts on her face would probably not leave noticeable scars. When she will be released from the hospital is uncertain.

Chen and her husband, Jiang-tang, have spent most of their time watching over their little girl. While Chen talked, the father, a 38-year-old house painter, sat next to the bed, his head bowed, his hand gently holding his daughter's hand.

When asked if she felt like a hero for saving her daughter, Chen reddened and then snapped: "No, I'm just human. It's what we should all do. We should all do it."

In East Timor

Peacekeepers ignore looting



East Timorese residents lift sacks of coffee beans as they loot a warehouse in Dili Saturday. After the departure of the bulk of Indonesian soldiers from Dili, citizens walked freely in the streets Saturday scavenging for basic amenities, looting warehouses, and searching for militia members who ransacked the city.

DILI, East Timor (AP)—Hundreds of East Timorese looted one of the few warehouses not destroyed in recent weeks, hauling away tarpaulins and coffee Saturday while peacekeepers chose not to interfere.

Many of the looters had recently returned to Dili, East Timor's capital, after spending weeks hiding in the hills from rampaging pro-Indonesian militias. They re-

tured to find their homes razed and were searching for materials to build makeshift shelters.

While the real prize seemed to be the bright orange tarpaulins used to wrap coffee bags, children as young as 10 hauled away 110-pound bags of organically grown coffee. Highly prized by international merchants like Starbucks, the coffee is one of East Timor's few cash exports.

and West Timor showed that most villages were severely damaged. Fires still burned some villages.

Most of the destruction was caused by pro-Indonesian militias taking revenge on East Timorese for voting overwhelmingly for independence in a U.N.-supervised referendum on Aug. 30. Hundreds, perhaps thousands, were killed and human rights groups say hundreds of thousands were forcibly deported from the province.

Independence activists said the deportations were part of a deliberate policy to replace the population with people who want the territory to remain part of Indonesia.

There have been reports of militias in West Timor harassing the refugee camps where 150,000 East Timorese now live.

"We still hope the multinational force will go to protect them or return them to East Timor," student Aderito Soares said. "We just know they are being guarded by the same militia and military that have done this to us."

U.N. agencies worked to piece together a picture of the situation across the island, including makeshift camps in West Timor. Details were not released, but U.N. spokesman David Wimhurst said the problems are "big, very big."

People continue to starve in the jungle rather than risk returning to homes that may no longer ex-

ist. U.N. officials estimate that three in four houses have been destroyed.

Military flights have been dropping food and medicine to refugee camps in the mountainous interior. But the hinterlands remain almost inaccessible because militias still lurk along many roads.

Col. Mark Kelly, chief of staff for the peacekeeping mission, said security was improving in Dili and that peacekeepers are almost ready to begin providing security outside the capital. A food convoy to East Timor's second largest city, postponed Friday for security concerns, left Dili under guard Saturday for the 80-mile drive to Baucau.

Armindo Maia, former head of the University of East Timor and now a prominent independence leader, said a top priority was reconciling the refugees with those who helped the Indonesian military.

"When you see someone killing and raping your wife and children and burning your house it is normal to hate the perpetrators," he said in Dare, a stronghold for independence supporters filled with refugees.

A message from Jose Alexandre "Xanana" Gusmao, East Timor's independence leader in exile, was read to a crowd waiting for relief supplies.

Regular commerce also began to return to Dili, with vendors carrying bundles of leafy vegetables on poles, making their way to nearby refugee camps. Trucks ferried people around. Motorbikes buzzed the streets.

The United Nations admitted Saturday that the humanitarian crisis in East Timor is much worse than expected. Two new reconnaissance flights over both East

Bank scandal, E. Timor threaten Indonesia's chances of recovery

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—First there was \$80 million missing from a state-run bank. Then came reports of Indonesian troops attacking civilians in East Timor.

The one-two punch was just what Indonesia's international reputation and economy - finally showing signs of strength two years after the economic meltdown in Asia - did not need.

Now crucial recovery loans from the International Monetary Fund are on hold, stock trading is down and tourists are canceling vacations to Indonesian resorts.

And then, just when it looked like things couldn't get worse, Parliament approved a bill empowering the military to limit civil liberties. The act set off two days of violent protests and sent the rupiah spiraling. The government quickly suspended the measure, but the damage was done.

"For Indonesia, it's been one bit of bad news after another," said Ping Tan, an analyst with J.P. Morgan in Singapore. "And it all adds up to the investor's perception that Indonesia is again a very risky place."

When the Asian financial crisis hit in 1997, the rupiah plummeted to an all-time low and triggered widespread riots. Six months later, authoritarian President Suharto was forced to quit after 32 years of iron-fisted rule. Indonesia prepared for democratic elections as a hopeful international commu-



B.J. Habibie

nity pitched in to help the country recuperate.

But Standard & Poor's is now comparing the economy of the world's fourth-most populous nation to those of Russia and Pakistan. In a report released Thursday, J.P. Morgan said foreign investment in Indonesia fell by 50 percent in 1999 compared with the same six-month period last year.

Citing the Bank Bali corruption scandal - which allegedly involved funneling government funds into President B.J. Habibie's re-election campaign - Tan said Indonesia had no chance of gaining ground before the presidential election in November by a special assembly of legislators and government appointees.

Some of Habibie's closest associates have been implicated in so-called "Bali-gate." On Friday,

Parliament recommended suspending some of the country's leading financial officials, but Habibie rejected the proposal.

The government has refused to publish a PriceWaterhouseCoopers investigation into the case, citing banking security laws. A synopsis, excluding the names of those fingered, was published instead.

The IMF, the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank have urged the government to release the complete audit, warning that a cover-up could result in an end to loans.

Such a move would be devastating for Indonesia, whose reputation has been badly tarnished by events in East Timor.

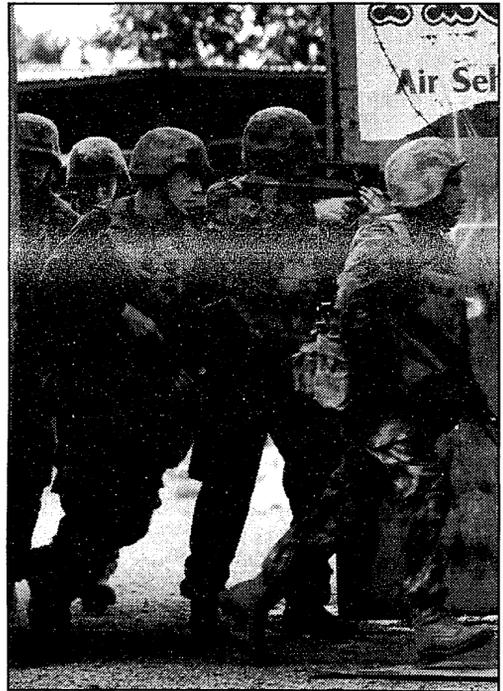
In Singapore on Saturday, a senior IMF official called the scandal a "very important governance issue," but said the money involved did not come from IMF loans.

"The Bank Bali issue is very much of concern of the IMF," Stefan Ingves, director of the IMF Monetary and Exchange Affairs Department told reporters Saturday. He said the scandal was impeding the country's economic recovery.

Even with a weakened rupiah, which fell 6 percent Friday, hotels on the resort island of Bali said Australian tourists, who make up the bulk of their clientele, are

canceling reservations. Australia is leading the multinational force in East Timor and its citizens and diplomatic mis-

sions have been targeted by angry demonstrations. As a result, Australia has issued several travel warnings.



Armed Australian peacekeepers conduct house-to-house search for anti-independence militia in Dili, East Timor Friday.

ASEAN pursues free trade

SINGAPORE, (Reuters) - Southeast Asian economic chiefs meet in Singapore this week to pursue an ambitious free trade plan as the region strives to overcome its economic woes and Indonesia roils with internal strife.

"The very fact that the Indonesian government is about to change makes it difficult for any decision by the meeting to be really believable," said Bruce Gale of the Political and Economic Risk Consultancy, a Hong Kong-based think tank.

Indonesia, which saw days of riots in Jakarta this week sparked by an unpopular new security measure, held parliamentary elections in June and is to choose a new president in November.

But Singapore officials told reporters ahead of the 31st Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN) Economic Ministers meeting beginning on Monday the 10-nation group was on track with and may even accelerate its regional free trade plan.

The ASEAN Free Trade Area (AFTA) aims to slash tariff barriers for a wide range of goods to between five and zero percent for most of its member countries by 2003.

"The idea is to achieve, for the founding six countries of



President of Sri Lanka Chandrika Kumaratunga (left) and International Monetary Fund Director Michel Camdessus, confer at the start of the G-24 developing nations at IMF headquarters in Washington Saturday. Kumaratunga is also the finance minister of her nation and chairman of the G-24.

ASEAN by 2002, 60 percent of the inclusion list," said Tay Thiam Peng, deputy secretary, trade and regionalisation, with Singapore's trade and industry ministry.

"It is still at the proposal stage...but it is certainly a proposal that we are aiming towards," Tay said.

He said ASEAN wants founders Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand to meet the zero-to-five percent goal by 2003. New members would have more time: Vietnam until 2006, Laos and Myanmar until 2008, and Cambodia until 2010.

But the members approach to the tariff cuts have been uneven.

Malaysia recently proposed delaying tariff cuts on automotive parts, while Thailand offered to reduce tariffs on an additional 1,190 items to show its commitment to AFTA.

Cambodia said last month it was reducing its reliance on import taxes to be able to cut tariffs to meet AFTA requirements.

But ASEAN was expected to back Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong's proposal for a joint investment roadshow to promote the region as a common market to investors in North America and Europe.

"That is something ASEAN

is always good at doing - presenting an outside face to the world to present their common interest," Gale said.

Tay also said the worst appeared to be over for Indonesia, one of the nations hardest hit by the Asian economic crisis.

"We have seen the worst as far as Indonesia is concerned... If we look at the trade figures of Indonesian exports and imports over the last six months, they have been growing at double digit rates, more than 10 percent a month," he said.

Political analysts also said the turmoil in East Timor was unlikely to be discussed at the ASEAN meeting.

"I think they don't want to embarrass Indonesia. It is the tradition of not wanting to have other members lose face," said Chaiwat Khamchoo, head of International Relations at Chulalongkorn University.

East Timor voted overwhelmingly on August 30 for independence from Indonesia.

The territory has since been in flames as rampaging pro-Jakarta militias killed thousands, Indonesian troops began pulling out, some torching buildings as they went, and a United Nations force moved in to restore order.

G7 says Japan has pledged to boost its economy further

WASHINGTON, (Reuters) - Major industrial nations said on Saturday Japan had agreed to inject more money into its fragile economy to boost growth and rein in its rising yen, which they agreed was a threat for the entire world economy.

Finance ministers and central bankers from the Group of Seven (G7) major industrial nations gave no indication in a statement issued after their meeting on Saturday that they are willing to join Japan's recent efforts to stop the yen's rise by selling it on the open market.

"We shared Japan's concern about the potential impact of the yen's appreciation for the Japanese economy and the world economy," the statement said. It is extremely rare for the G7 to mention a specific currency when it discusses foreign exchange markets.

Japanese authorities pledged to "implement stimulus measures until domestic-demand-led growth is solidly in place and, in the context of their zero interest rate policy, to provide ample liquidity until deflationary concerns are dispelled," the G7 said.

The outlook for Japan's economy, the second largest in the world, and the impact of the rising yen on its fledgling recovery figured high on the agenda of the G7 - Britain, Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States.

The yen has risen about 14 percent against the dollar since early

July, a gain large enough to spark fears it could make Japanese exports too expensive and throw Japan's recovery off track, and threaten the health of the global economy.

Japan wanted the support of its G7 partners in its battle to tame the high flying yen. But the United States has been reticent about the idea of joint intervention in currency markets and urged Tokyo to go further to reflate its economy and boost domestic demand.

Last week the Bank of Japan said it would not inject new liquidity into the economy, something its G7 partners - and the United States in particular - have been calling for vociferously. Japan's commitment to economic stimulus appeared to be a major step toward satisfying its partners' demands.

While Japan failed to secure any commitment for joint intervention, the ambiguity of the G7 statement left the threat of such a dramatic move open. Italian Treasury Minister Giuliano Amato said the statement did not rule it out.

"There could be intervention," Amato told a news briefing following the G7 meeting. "The G7 does not rule out yen intervention, but does not state that the intervention will take place, nor does it specify timing or amount."

But European Central Bank President Wim Duisenberg said currency intervention was not discussed at the meeting.

"Interventions were not discussed, but the intention is to con-



The G-7 financial ministers begin their meeting as the media looks on in the Decatur House Saturday in Washington. The widening imbalances in global trade, a weakening dollar and a falling U.S. stock market are key concerns at the meeting of the world's seven largest industrial countries.

tinue to cooperate as is appropriate," Duisenberg told reporters.

The G7 statement, falling back on its standard language, said the group was watching foreign exchange markets developments closely and would cooperate as appropriate.

U.S. Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers declined to go beyond the G7 statement.

"A good deal of thought and care went into the words we chose in the (G7) communique, certainly with respect to these issues, and I would not want to try and inter-

pret the words further for you. I think they speak for themselves," Summers said at a news conference following the G7 meeting.

The group said it saw more stable conditions in the world economy and that it saw signs of renewed growth in many Asian nations which had been battered by the financial crisis.

The financial leaders also said that the economies of the European Union were looking brighter, but also urged more structural reforms.

Economic growth in Europe and Asia could take some pressure off

the United States, which as the world's major engine of growth in the last few years, has seen its trade deficit soar to record highs. Those deficits have unnerved financial markets and have helped fuel the yen's rise against the U.S. dollar.

The G7 statement - which in large parts reflected language recently used by U.S. officials - said economic prospects for major industrial nations had improved. But it added that "we still face a number of challenges" to make the world economy a better and more stable place.

After veto of tax cut bill

Clinton-GOP fight not over

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the aftermath of President Clinton's veto of the GOP tax-cut package, the president and the House's top Republican found little common ground Saturday as they took the tax fight to the airwaves.

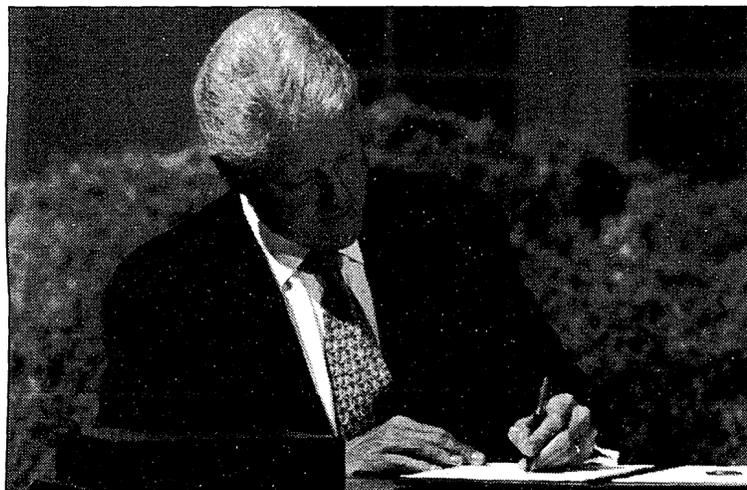
Clinton wants negotiations on tax cuts less than the \$792 billion he vetoed Thursday and on money for debt reduction and programs the GOP wants eliminated. Speaker Dennis Hastert calls that "a fool's choice" that defies "plain Midwestern common sense."

"Common sense and the federal government are not often used in the same sentence, but we are working hard to bring some old-fashioned common sense to the way government works," Hastert, R-Ill., said in the GOP's weekly radio message.

He said the vetoed bill would have "put fairness back in the tax code." It would have helped two-income married couples, people who have a death in the family or care for aging parents, and parents who want to save for their children's education.

"These are common-sense changes in a tax code that often defies common sense," Hastert said. "Mr. President, I think you made a mistake by vetoing this tax fairness package."

In his radio address, Clinton said he rejected the tax plan be-



After weeks of partisan jockeying over taxes, President Clinton vetoes the \$792 billion tax cut pushed by Republicans Thursday in the Rose Garden at the White House.

cause "it was just too big, too bloated. It would place too big a burden on our economy and run the risk of higher interest rates and lower growth."

At the same time, he said, "It would have created an untenable choice for the Congress: these irresponsible cuts on the one hand, or on the other diverting ever more funds from the Social Security surplus and from debt reduction."

New battle lines already are being drawn.

On Friday, the House Ways and Means Committee began moving a five-year, \$23.3 billion bill to renew expiring tax credits and ensure that millions of middle-class taxpayers do not become liable for the alternative minimum tax.

The bill has enthusiastic backing from both parties' members.

But Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers privately told Democratic leaders he would urge the president to veto it in its current form because the tax breaks are not paid for.

Clinton and Hastert each promoted his approach to saving Social Security, the financially endangered national retirement program facing the huge baby-boom generation's imminent re-

irement.

"It is plain common sense to put the trust back in the Social Security trust fund," Hastert said. "Paying off your debts also makes sense to people in the heartland of America. We propose to pay down \$2.2 trillion public debt accrued by the federal government... We in the common-sense Congress have chosen this path, but we need the president's cooperation" by accepting reduced government spending.

Clinton said "the congressional majority continues on a track that doesn't adequately fund America's real priorities, while already spending large amounts of the Social Security surplus."

While using "budget gimmicks" to spend Social Security money clandestinely, the president said, "they're still not providing nearly enough for education and other vital priorities."

"The Republicans should work with us to create a budget that pays for itself with straightforward proposals," he said.

Hastert countered: "Some have said that we should negotiate with the president, that we should have a grand compromise where American families get minimal tax relief while the White House gets more Washington spending. That is a fool's choice," Hastert said.

President gained 18 pounds, but in excellent health, say doctors

BETHESDA, Md. (AP) — President Clinton has gained 18 pounds since his last complete physical examination but is in "excellent health," a team of doctors reported Saturday. They said swollen vocal cords were causing his recent hoarseness and recommended he rest his voice.

The 53-year-old president, who has enjoyed generally good health since entering the White House in 1993, weighs 214 pounds, still within the normal range of up to 220 pounds for a 6-foot-2-inch man, said Clinton's physician, Dr. Connie Mariano.

"He would feel best and most fit if he could drop about 10 pounds," White House press secretary Joe Lockhart told reporters outside the Bethesda Naval Medical Center.

Doctors recommended a low-calorie diet and more exercise, which Lockhart said Clinton's staff will try to help Clinton maintain.

Two small skin abnormalities were removed from Clinton's forehead in what doctors described as a routine precautionary treatment. Such skin conditions, typically caused by sun exposure, sometimes can become cancerous.

Clinton's battery of tests took about five hours, and included checkups by 14 specialists, including a cardiologist, dermatologist and urologist. It was his fifth complete physical examination as president.

Clinton has been bothered by a hoarse and raspy voice since returning from a trip to New Zealand in mid-September. His voice broke twice during a speech Tuesday to the United Nations General Assembly, but seemed to improve a bit after a day with no public speaking engagements on Wednesday.

By Friday night, Clinton again was noticeably hoarse. He repeatedly cleared his throat during two evening political speeches.

The doctors diagnosed the swollen vocal cords caused in part by "voice overuse." The recommendation: Clinton rest his voice over the next 10 days, and no yelling at the television during sporting events.

Clinton kept up on the Ryder Cup golf tournament during the testing regimen, Lockhart said. There was no word on the calorie count of the lunch the doctors shared with Clinton afterward - chicken enchiladas with mango sorbet for dessert.

During his last physical, in October 1997, the president was fitted with in-the-ear hearing aids. They helped with a longtime problem that Clinton said made it difficult to understand voices in crowded receptions or sometimes even to catch what hecklers were shouting at him.

The 1997 medical team also removed a benign cyst from the president's chest and pronounced him fully recovered from an injury to his knee that hospitalized him for a few days early in the year.

Clinton used crutches for months after tearing a tendon when he stumbled on steps at the Florida home of golf pro Greg Norman.

Over the years Clinton also has had an additional cyst removed from his neck and a precancerous skin lesion removed from his nose. Doctors described all of those conditions as common for a man his age.

Clinton also has taken prescription medicine to inhibit severe heartburn known as acid reflux disease. He also has a number of allergies, including sensitivity to household dust and grass and weed pollen.

Gore, Bradley in 'real contest'

WASHINGTON (AP) — Al Gore and Bill Bradley squared off Saturday for the first time, previewing a "real contest with real choices" between the sitting vice president and his surging challenger seeking the Democratic presidential nomination in 2000.

Addressing powerful Democrats from across the country, Gore promised to "work my heart out" for their support. Bradley urged them to embrace - not shirk from - a fight for the party's nomination.

"What better way to energize voters... than a contest that brings two people together for a spirited debate of ideas - a real contest with real choices decided by voters in caucuses and primaries throughout this nation," Bradley told the Democratic National Committee.

Gore walked from behind the lectern to wander the stage. Unusually informal and emotional, he energized the crowd with criticism of Republican front-runner George W. Bush.

Attacking Bush's pro-gun views, the vice president asked of Bush, "Why don't you join us to take the weapons of evil out of the hands of evildoers?"

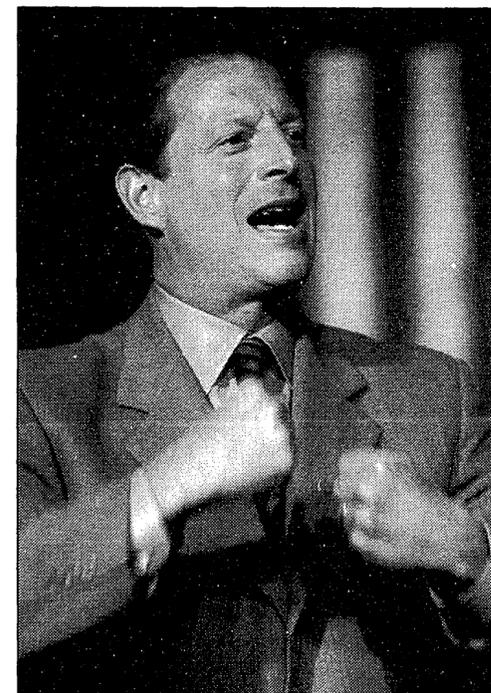
In back-to-back speeches, neither candidate mentioned the other by name, though they slipped in subtle digs. It marked the first time the two foes made a joint appearance to court the same crowd, both campaigns said.

The 428 DNC members, most of whom are allies of Gore and President Clinton, cast votes at the Democratic presidential convention.

Though he is the party's front-runner, Gore had the biggest need for a solid speech. Even in the DNC's bastion of Gore allies, the perception is taking hold that his campaign is lackluster and suffering from ties to Clinton's scandal-plagued presidency.

Gore did not mention Clinton in his remarks.

In hallway and barroom conversations, the activists talked about new polls in New Hampshire showing Bradley in a dead heat with Gore. Independents and



Democratic presidential hopeful Vice President Al Gore speaks at the Democratic National Convention Fall Meeting in Washington Saturday.

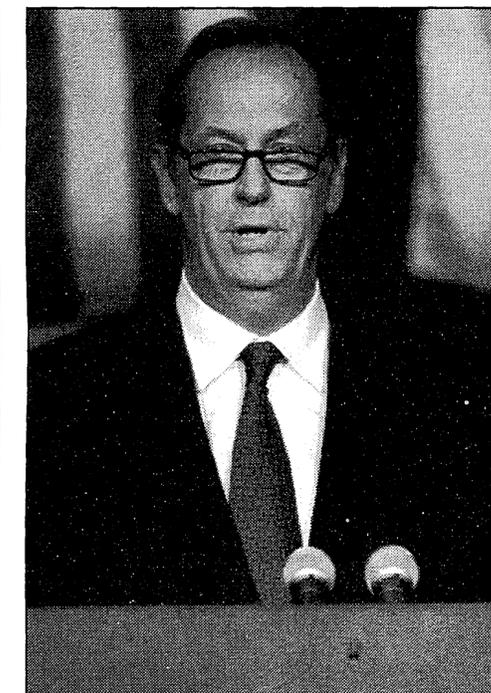
moderate Democrats are especially drawn to the former New Jersey senator in that first-in-the-nation primary state and in neighboring New York.

Gore holds big leads elsewhere.

"I'm telling people this is a long process and he's committed to working for America's families. We're solid in Iowa. We're solid in California," Gore campaign chairman Tony Coelho said.

Bradley hoped to continue mending relations with some hardcore Democrats who recall that he left the Senate in 1996 after calling the political system - and, by implication, his party - "broken."

With an understated delivery, Bradley tried to spell out why Democrats should consider re-



Democratic presidential hopeful Sen. Bill Bradley takes his turn to speak at the Democratic National Convention Fall Meeting in Washington Saturday. Bradley and Vice President Al Gore squared off for the first time Saturday previewing a "real contest with real choices" for the Democratic presidential nomination in 2000.

In the end, perhaps recognizing the audience was stacked in Gore's favor, Bradley struck a civil tone. "I want you to know that whether you are for me or against me that we share that same goal of mutual respect," Bradley said.

Gore, accused of being too stiff for presidential politics, used his hands for emphasis. He echoed Bradley's call for gun control but focused more on family and education issues.

He, too, offered veiled criticism of his challenger. "I have never been for (school) vouchers," Gore said, recognizing that most of the activists know that Bradley once supported limited programs.

Gore's campaign clearly wants to make the case that Bradley

abandoned the party in 1996 and Gore is the race's true Democrat. The vice president's supporters wore buttons that read, "Always a Democrat" - with "AL" in blue letters and the rest in red.

The flashy, expensive Gore campaign and ploddingly efficient Bradley campaigns showed their stuff.

Bradley made a non-descript entry to the room, spoke with reading glasses perched atop his nose and waded through the crowd afterward. Gore sped through the crowd, flanked by Secret Service agents, with rock music blaring throughout the hall.

They were interrupted by applause in roughly the same numbers. Afterward, activists said both performed well but not great.

Forbes blasts Bush as 'silent'

ANAHEIM, Calif. (AP) — Presidential candidate Steve Forbes lashed out at fellow Republicans, accusing congressional leaders, George W. Bush and two other governors Saturday of failing to stand up for principle on crucial issues facing them.

Forbes denounced Texas Gov. Bush and Gov. John Engler of Michigan for failing to support a ballot measure in Michigan to create a school voucher system. Engler has said the measure, which would let public money pay children's private and parochial school expenses, has "no hope of passing."

"Leadership means acting from principle," Forbes told reporters. "I spoke out in favor of that referendum. Governor Bush has been silent."

Forbes criticized Tennessee Gov. Don Sundquist, another Republican, for saying he would sign a bill creating a state income tax if the Tennessee Legislature passes it. Tennessee and eight other states have no income tax.

"That goes against Republican principles," Forbes said. "I spoke out against that tax increase, because I think it's what politics does too often - always finds new ways to pick your pockets."

"Governor Bush has been silent," he said.

Both Sundquist and Engler are Bush supporters.

Forbes also castigated Repub-

lican congressional leaders for "indicating they're going to leave the field" after President Clinton vetoed their tax-cut proposal last week.

"They should show principle and gumption and nerve and do precisely the opposite," Forbes said. "They should break that bill up into five or six different bills so people could actually understand what's in the thing, such as getting rid of the marriage penalty."

Then Republican leaders should send the separate bills to Clinton, Forbes said, "and let him veto each and every one."

"I came out in favor of that. Governor Bush has been silent," Forbes said.

Bauer welcomes Buchanan departure from GOP's fold

ST. LOUIS (AP) — Republican presidential candidate Gary Bauer said Saturday he would be the obvious beneficiary should Pat Buchanan leave the GOP to run under the Reform Party banner.

But Bauer, who spoke at the annual meeting of the conservative Eagle Forum, urged Buchanan not to leave because the party needs "every conservative we can get to stay in."

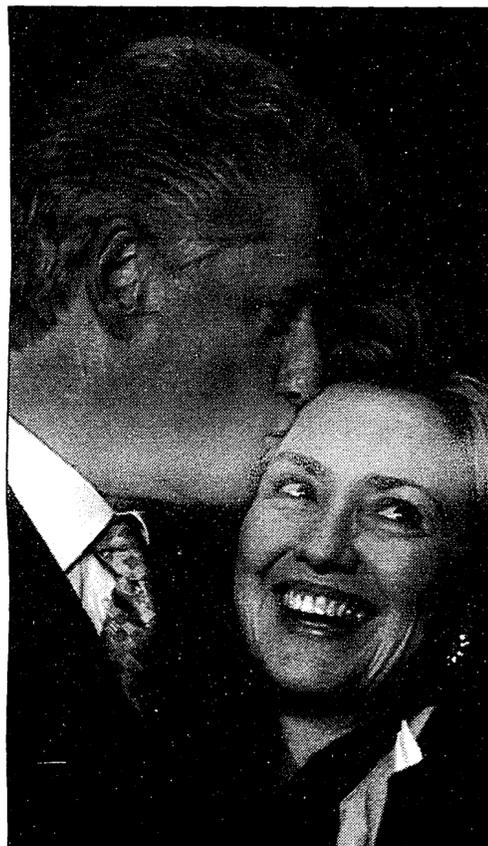
"I don't believe the majority of people will leave with him," Bauer said. "I think most of them will stay in the party, and I'm the natural person to support. If he leaves, there's still going to be a Republican primary held. Those people are going to do

something on that primary day, and I think there's a chance they'll vote for me."

Bauer said he, like Buchanan, has been frustrated with his party during the last two elections, sometimes "running out of shoes to throw at the television."

During his speech, he took several shots at Texas Gov. George W. Bush, criticizing the Republican front-runner for supporting favored trade status with China and not requiring that all judicial appointees oppose abortion rights.

"Our front-runner is looking more and more like the likely nominee of the Democratic Party, Al Gore," Bauer said.



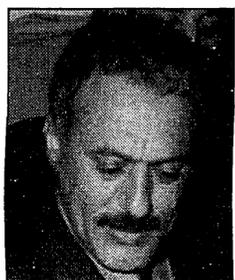
First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton gets a kiss from President Clinton, Thursday in Washington, DC, after being honored by the National Democratic Institute for her efforts to bring global attention to women's issues and democratic transitions worldwide.

Yemen reelects president

SAN'A, Yemen (AP) — Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh was re-elected president as expected, garnering the vast majority of the votes in Yemen's first direct presidential polls, officials said Saturday.

In an election boycotted by opposition groups, Saleh won 96.3 percent of the vote, said Abdullah Barakat, the country's chief electoral officer. Saleh's only rival, Najeb Qahtan al-Shaabi, got 3.7 percent. Barakat said at a news conference.

Authorities said the elections



Ali Abdullah Saleh

were a success, but critics said they were an expensive farce put on to give an illusion of democracy.

Saleh first came to power as leader of North Yemen in 1978. Much of the nation credits him with unifying North and South Yemen in 1990.

He was re-elected by Parliament in 1994. The same year, the constitution was amended to create direct presidential elections.

Al-Shaabi, a little-known politician, was from Saleh's

own party, the General People's Congress. Saleh and al-Shaabi were the only contenders out of 30 nominees to get approval from the GPC-dominated parliament.

Opposition groups boycotted Thursday's polling, claiming it was bogus.

"I didn't vote, and I encouraged my whole tribe not to vote because the results of the elections were known in advance," said Ali Mohsen, a tribesman.

"There was no competition. Al-Shaabi was appointed by Saleh

himself."

Critics said the millions of dollars spent on the elections would have been better invested in projects to help the nation's impoverished 17 million people.

Despite the criticism, many Yemenis felt that just having held the elections was a cause to rejoice. The elections were unusual in the largely undemocratic Arabian Peninsula.

"This is democracy. I voted for Saleh to exercise my rights," said Mohammad al-Awli.

Egyptians to give Mubarak 4th term

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — Portraits of Egypt's president dress up dingy government buildings and crowded Cairo streets. Messages of support for Hosni Mubarak fill the Saturday newspapers. Over the Nile, a tow-plane pulls a banner urging "Yes to Mubarak with Loyalty."

With no other candidates in Sunday's yes-or-no referendum, enough Egyptians are expected to say "yes" to Mubarak to easily grant the 71-year-old president his fourth, six-year term.

"Who am I going to vote for?" Hussein Mohammed, a 42-year-old shoeshine man, asked rhetorically. "Is there anyone else?"

Of Egypt's 64 million people, 24 million are eligible to vote.

Although past referendums have been peaceful, security around the country has been beefed up. More policemen than usual are patrolling major streets in the capital. Security chiefs in Egypt's 26 provinces held meetings Saturday about measures to guard against referendum-day trouble. Their plans were not released.

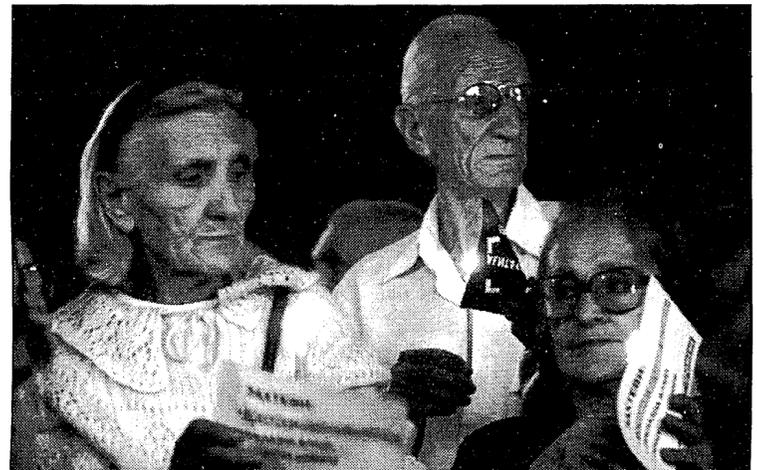


Hosni Mubarak

In the past three referendums, Mubarak has been approved by more than 95 percent of the electorate.

Mubarak's economic reforms - an ambitious privatization program begun in 1991 - seem to be pleasing some Egyptians, who say their support for the president goes beyond a lack of options.

"I will vote for the president, of course, and the reason is economic - because of all the development that has happened in the country since he took office," said Taha Ibrahim, the 32-year-old owner of a flower shop.



Opposition supporters burn candles during an anti-Milosevic rally in Belgrade Saturday.

40,000 rally against Milosevic

BELGRADE, Yugoslavia (AP) — In the biggest rally turnout of late, at least 40,000 people marched Saturday through downtown Belgrade and several thousand more protested in other cities to press their demand for President Slobodan Milosevic's resignation.

The opposition group Alliance for Democratic Change has been

holding daily rallies recently. A Belgrade march Friday attracted nearly 30,000 people, but attendance has generally been much lower than organizers had hoped.

During Saturday's march, four girls laid bouquets of red flowers and people lit candles at the spot where Slavko Curuvija, the owner of a prominent opposition newspaper, was

shot and killed by two gunmen on April 11. The marchers filed past in silence.

Curuvija's newspaper had been banned and fined for criticizing Milosevic and other government officials after a strict media law was adopted in October 1998. He also had been at odds with ultranationalist leader Vojislav Seselj.

US not yet relenting in its air attacks against Iraq

MOSUL, Iraq (AP) — A billion-dollar-a-year air war, forgotten by the outside world but droning on high over dusty Iraqi towns, doesn't appear to be getting Washington any closer to its ultimate goal of ousting President Saddam Hussein.

American and British pilots open fire at least a few times a week, responding to Iraqi air-defense challenges with anything from \$12,000 laser-guided bombs to \$80,000 Maverick missiles. Since December, they've dropped 1,400 bombs and missiles on targets in north and south Iraq.

Maintaining air supremacy is part of Washington's strategy to contain the Iraqi regime and apply the pressure needed to eventually force Saddam out. But diplomats in Baghdad and military and political experts on Iraq say the air war will never destabilize

the government, though it may keep Saddam's shattered military in check. Some question the human cost, regardless of which side is to blame for civilian casualties and damage.

"Saddam has certainly demonstrated his ability to survive, and this kind of campaign doesn't look like it's going to create any dent in that regard," Peter Felstead, editor of Jane's Intelligence Review, said from London.

Allied air operations over northern Iraq are carried out from Incirlik air base in southern Turkey and over the south from aircraft carriers in the Persian Gulf. The Pentagon estimates total costs for fiscal 1999 at \$941 million, which averages out to \$2.6 million a day.

U.S. officials say the missiles have hit more than 375 military targets, including radar sites and anti-aircraft weapons. Iraq claims

nonmilitary facilities are being hit and hundreds of civilians have been killed.

Maj. Mike Young, a spokesman at Incirlik, said civilian damage has been "minimal to none - most of what the Iraqis have reported did not happen."

Steady airstrikes followed a four-day bombing blitz in December ordered by an American administration fed up with Baghdad's lack of cooperation with U.N. weapons inspectors. Since then, allied warplanes have flown 23,000 sorties over Iraq - more than two-thirds the number NATO carried out in the Kosovo war.

Rosemary Hollis, head of the Middle East program at the Royal Institute for International Affairs in London, said the December blitz also may have stemmed from Iraqi opposition information that a coup was in

the works requiring air support. No coup materialized.

"My feeling is that they have turned a bad job into a sort of half-cocked policy of 'Well, you know, nobody is paying attention, so we can do a bit more bombing and maybe it'll erode the regime ultimately' - but it's always maybe," Hollis said.

The air campaign and insistence on strict adherence to U.N. actions laid out after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait make up the most visible aspects of the U.S. strategy toward Iraq. Washington also backs Iraqi opposition groups, though promised aid has been slow to materialize.

Nearly a decade after the Gulf War, the regime shows no outward sign of instability. Still, the United States maintains it has made progress. "He's weaker, more isolated both in-

ternationally and domestically" and on the defensive, U.S. Assistant Secretary of State Martin Indyk said earlier this month in Washington.

For the most part, Iraqis live and work around the strikes. When a distant boom was heard recently in Mosul, 250 miles north of Baghdad, no one waiting in the crowded regional government office looked up or paused in their conversations.

But for children - and families that have lost loved ones or suffered damage blamed on the strikes - the fear often is great. Four months after unconfirmed reports that a missile heavily damaged the Shahr family's home in Mosul, the house is mostly repaired. Still, 8-year-old Ayaa says she feels safer at her uncle's house: "I swear to God, I am scared."

DiCaprio settles suit over movie's release

LOS ANGELES, (Reuters) - Actor Leonardo DiCaprio has settled a \$10 million lawsuit accusing him of conspiring to thwart the release of a low-budget film he made before achieving stardom in "Titanic," lawyers for both sides said on Friday.

Details of the settlement DiCaprio and fellow actor Tobey Maguire reached with a team of independent filmmakers led by producer David Stutman were not disclosed.

But a brief statement from attorneys said that under the deal, the movie in question, "Don's Plum," "will be distributed outside the United States, Canada and their territories."

The settlement bars the film, described by its makers as a "twentysomething slice-of-life" tale set in a restaurant, from being shown commercially in the United States or Canada.

The breach-of-contract suit brought by Stutman in April 1998 charged that DiCaprio and Maguire, a lesser-known actor who starred in "Pleasantville," deliberately blocked release of the movie for "their own egomaniacal purposes."

"Using DiCaprio's 'clout' as a newly anointed 'superstar,' they carried out a fraudulent



Leonardo DiCaprio

and coercive campaign to prevent release of the film and destroy its value," the suit said.

The movie, shot during six days in 1995 and 1996, is about a group of friends who gather at a diner one Saturday night for coffee and wide-ranging conversation about everything from drugs to masturbation.

DiCaprio has said through a publicist that he made the film as a favour for a friend with the understanding it would never be shown as a feature-length picture. According to DiCaprio's camp, the movie originally was conceived as a black-and-white short with an improvised script.

Stutman, however, maintained that he was approached by DiCaprio and Maguire in 1995 - two years before the release of the blockbuster "Ti-

tanic" - to make a film starring them and some of their friends.

He said an agreement was reached under which Stutman would produce and finance "Don's Plum" and all the actors would receive equal billing and equal pay: \$575 for each day's shooting. In addition, the actors would share in the net profits of the movie.

The film was made, and in June 1996 there was a private screening for 150 people, including DiCaprio, who "expressed his unlimited enthusiasm for the film," Stutman said in his suit.

Maguire and his manager, however, were unhappy with Maguire's performance in the movie, and Maguire subsequently enlisted DiCaprio to join him "in a campaign to prevent the release of the film," Stutman said his lawsuit.

The suit said that beginning in the latter half of 1996 and continuing through 1998, DiCaprio and Maguire contacted potential distributors for the film and told them that Stutman had no right to release it and that "DiCaprio was against the film's release and there would be serious and adverse consequences for anyone who attempted to distribute it."

Yahoo! is one of the most popular Internet services, used by about 80 million people. Beijing Founder is a unit of Founder (Hong Kong) Ltd., a Chinese state-controlled electronics publishing company.

Reagan biographer inserts some fiction

WASHINGTON (AP) — In the fourth year after Ronald Reagan left office, his authorized biographer was feeling stuck on the book he was supposed to write. It was then, Edmund Morris says, that he decided to weave fiction into his facts.

Reagan "was eluding me even as he eluded everyone else," Morris tells Newsweek magazine. "When you asked him a question about himself, it was like dropping a stone into a well and not hearing a splash."

So seven years after being granted frequent access to Reagan and under a \$3 million contract for the book with Random House, Morris decided to break his biographer's block by inserting himself as a sometimes-fictional character in the narrative.

Newsweek excerpts 10,000 words of the book, "Dutch: A Memoir of Ronald Reagan," in magazines on newsstands Monday.

Morris said he got the idea as he walked the campus of Reagan's alma mater, Eureka College, in 1992. "I thought of Reagan. If only I could have been there in the fall of 1928! I could describe him as vividly as I could describe him as president."

He said: "My idea was to give physical form to the biographer's mind. It was already there. I just gave it



Ronald Reagan

flesh." Morris reinvents himself and others around him a way that allows him to interact with Reagan and other real people in the former president's distant past. The Associated Press obtained an advance copy of the book, which goes on sale Thursday.

Some historians and others have been critical of Morris' technique, in advance of seeing the book.

"I've never understood the patronizing neurosis among our print editors and our television producers that everything these days, whether it be a report from Chechnya or a new series on 'Masterpiece Theatre,' has to be announced, introduced, explained, 'made easy,' by some authoritative figure," Morris told Newsweek.

"Why can't an original approach be allowed to explain itself?"

Yahoo launches its China site

BEIJING (AP) — U.S. Internet company Yahoo! has launched a China-based Website with a local partner, defying concern about a ban on foreign investment in China's Internet companies.

The site is a Chinese-language version of Yahoo!'s online Internet directory and shopping service, according to Yahoo! and its partner, Beijing Founder Electronics Co.

Yahoo! China debuted Friday - two weeks after China's top telecommunications regulator said Beijing would enforce its ban on foreign investment in Chinese Internet companies.

China is reluctant to let outsiders into what it regards as a lucrative and politically sensitive industry.

However, Beijing is expected to be forced to relax its ban to be admitted to the World Trade Organization, the global trade regulating body that China has been trying to join for 13 years.

Yahoo! and Beijing Founder would not give any financial details of their arrangement or say whether it had been approved by Chinese regulators. But they expressed confidence about the legal status of Yahoo! China.

"Certainly what we are proposing to do today is within the bounds of the law," Yahoo! co-founder Jerry Yang said at a news conference.

Yahoo! is one of the most popular Internet services, used by about 80 million people. Beijing Founder is a unit of Founder (Hong Kong) Ltd., a Chinese state-controlled electronics publishing company.

VEHICLE FOR BID "AS IS" 1998 KIA SEPHIA

FIRST HAWAIIAN BANK

CALL BRIAN OR JULIE AT 235-7119

VEHICLES ARE SOLD IN "AS IS" CONDITION

The Bank reserves the right to refuse any & all bids

The Closing date will be September 28, 1999

2 BEDROOM APARTMENT FOR RENT

Very spacious 2 bedroom in one of the quietest areas of Saipan. Located on the East Side of Capitol Hill with a nice ocean view and cool breezes. Fully furnished, carpeted, with air-conditioning, free trash service, great water, typhoon shutters, garbage disposal, laundry hookups and security lights. Room to BBQ, good parking and close to markets and laundry facilities. Price has been reduced from \$800 to ONLY \$650 PER MONTH

Call 234-7193 and ask Mike for viewing.

Didn't get your paper today?

On Saipan call! (670) 234-6341 • 7578 • 9797

Fax: (670) 234-9271

E-mail: younis@gtepacifica.net

mvariety@gtepacifica.net

Give information about crimes committed

CALL Crimestoppers 234-7272 (PARA)

Marianas Variety Classified Ads Section

DEADLINE: 12:00 noon the day prior to publication
NOTE: If some reason your advertisement is incorrect, call us immediately to make the necessary corrections. The Marianas Variety News and Views is responsible only for one incorrect insertion. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time.

Employment Wanted

Job Vacancy Announcement

For further assistance, please call Alfred A. Pongellinan at Tel. 644-2078.

PUBLIC NOTICE

All interested resident workers are urged to register at the Dept. of Labor & Immigration, Division of Employment Services for the job/s being advertised in which you are qualified and available. For further assistance, please call Alfred A. Pongellinan at Tel. 644-2078.

01 (HELPER) AUTO MECHANIC-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
02 WALTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: AREOPAJITA A. EVANGELISTA dba Nita's Auto Repair Shop Tel. 234-1155(9/27)M32669

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.05-\$3.50 per hour
Contact: EQUITABLE INSURANCE CO., INC. Tel. 234-5452(9/27)M80600

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$650.00-850.00 per month
Contact: GEOTESTING, INC. Tel. 235-6000(9/27)M80583

01 CUSTOMER COMPLAINT CLERK-Salary: \$3.50-6.50 per hour plus \$425.00 per month housing allowance
Contact: DFS SAIPAN LIMITED TEL. (670) 234-6615(9/27)M80596

02 PRESSER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
05 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: JIN APPAREL, INC. Tel. 234-3252(10/4)M32741

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$700.00 per month
Contact: MARDE DLC. PALACIOS dba Marvin's Tailoring, Janitorial and Security Services Tel. 234-2815(10/4)M32743

01 PHYSICAL THERAPIST-Salary: \$3.30 per hour
Contact: S.H.A. PROJECT INC. Tel. 234-1853(10/4)M32744

01 TIRE REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05-4.00 per hour
01 CAR WASHER/ATTENDANT) CLEANER II-Salary: \$3.05-3.60 per hour
01 AUTO PAINTER-Salary: \$3.05-3.55 per hour
02 CAR RENTAL CLERK-Salary: \$3.05-4.75
Contact: NESTOR R. ABLOG dba General Fashion Center Tel. 233-6243(10/4)M32746

01 WAITRESS (REST.)-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: ASIA PACIFIC OVERSEAS, INC. dba BJ Garden Rest.; Marine Sports; Room Rental Tel. 235-3879(10/4)M32747

01 CAFETERIA ATTENDANT (HELPER)-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 KITCHEN HELPER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: CALISTRO & GEMMA FALIG dba Chamolinian Deli Tel. 256-9000(10/4)M32748

01 COOK-Salary: \$1,000.00 per month
01 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: U.S. SAIPAN AROUND THE WORLD, INC. dba Ocean Restaurant Tel. 235-5367(10/4)M32749

01 MESS COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: CHINA INT'L. ENGINEERING CO. LTD. Tel. 288-4994(10/11)M32844

01 OFFICE MANAGER-Salary: \$3.50 per hour
Contact: PACIFIC CARRIE ENT. (SAIPAN) Tel. 235-5528(10/11)M32843

01 COURIER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: HAJIME MORI dba OCS/Fuji Tour Service Tel. 322-6543(10/11)M32847

01 CAFETERIA ATTENDANT (HELPER)-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 KITCHEN HELPER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: CALISTRO & GEMMA FALIG dba Chamolinian Deli Tel. 256-9000(10/4)M32748

01 ELECTRICAL ENGINEER-Salary: \$800.00 per month
Contact: TANO GROUP, INC. Tel. 235-6652(10/11)F80679

01 SPORTS INSTRUCTOR (SCUBA DIVING)-Salary: \$1,000-2,500.00 per month
Read, write, speak, understand Japanese preferred. Two years experience required.
Contact: BLUE SEA SPORTS, INC. Tel. 234-7903(10/4)M32752

01 (GENERAL) MANAGER-Salary: \$1,000.00-2,500.00 per month
Read, write, speak, understand Japanese preferred. College Graduate.
Contact: BLUE SEA SPORTS, INC. Tel. 234-7903(10/4)M32752

01 DRESSMAKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 MASTER TAILOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: GREAT PACIFIC ENT., INC. dba Silhouette Dress/Tailoring Shop Tel. 234-7499(10/4)M32754

07 CORRUGATED MACHINE COMBINING OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: UNITED PACIFIC INVESTMENT TEL. 234-3311(10/4)M32755

01 MANAGER (CUSTOMER SERVICE)-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MELITON R. MENDEZ dba Wide Technical Services Tel. 322-1110(10/4)M32756

01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER, BUILDING-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
04 BAKER-Salary: \$3.05-3.52 per hour
Contact: RDA ENTERPRISES INC. dba Mary's Bakery Tel. 235-6341(10/4)M32757

01 AUTO MECHANIC-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: TABORA ENTERPRISES, INC. dba Saipan Car Care Tel. 234-5601(10/4)M32759

03 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: ALLIED CONSTRUCTION CORP. dba Barney's Pizza & Pasta House Tel. 233-7493(10/4)M80699

01 COOK-Salary: \$3.05-3.45 per hour
01 CLEANER, HOUSEKEEPING-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
02 GROUNDSKEEPER (GARDENER)-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour
Contact: MICRO PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT, INC. dba Saipan Grand Hotel Tel. 234-6601(10/4)M80710

01 MASON-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: RENATO G. AZUCENAS dba Myra's Trading & Construction Tel. 233-3193(10/4)M32761

01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$3.15 per hour
01 COOK-Salary: \$3.15-3.30 per hour
01 COOK HELPER-Salary: \$3.20-3.25 per hour
01 WAITRESS, RESTAURANT-Salary: \$3.10 per hour
01 WAITER, RESTAURANT-Salary: \$3.05-3.20 per hour
01 (ASSISTANT) OPERATIONS MANAGER-Salary: \$4.60-4.70 per hour
Contact: KAN PACIFIC SAIPAN, LTD. Tel. 322-4692(10/11)M80815

01 MESS COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: CHINA INT'L. ENGINEERING CO. LTD. Tel. 288-4994(10/11)M32844

01 OFFICE MANAGER-Salary: \$3.50 per hour
Contact: PACIFIC CARRIE ENT. (SAIPAN) Tel. 235-5528(10/11)M32843

01 COURIER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: HAJIME MORI dba OCS/Fuji Tour Service Tel. 322-6543(10/11)M32847

01 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.15-3.15 per hour
03 MASON-Salary: \$3.05-3.15 per hour
01 ALUMINUM (STEEL) FABRICATOR-Salary: \$3.05-3.25 per hour
Contact: TAC INTERNATIONAL CONSTRUCTORS INC. Tel. 234-1629(10/11)M80814

01 MAINTENANCE BLDG. REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05-3.45 per hour
01 GROUNDSKEEPER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN PLANT CENTER, INC. Tel. 235-4710(10/11)M80813

01 WELDER-Salary: \$3.70 per hour
01 MAINTENANCE REPAIR-Salary: \$3.25 per hour
01 MECHANICAL TECHNICIAN-Salary: \$4.50 per hour
01 MASON-Salary: \$3.25 per hour
01 WELDER-Salary: \$3.35 per hour
Contact: TANO GROUP, INC. Tel. 235-6652(10/11)M80836

01 COMPUTER OPERATOR-Salary: \$800.00 per month
Contact: PACIFIC BASIN INSURANCE INC. Tel. 234-5860(10/11)M80834

2 Bedroom, 2 FB, Spacious Living & Kitchen, 24 hrs. water
Location: Susupe across Grand Hotel

2 Bedroom & 3 Bedroom, 24 hrs. Water
Location: San Jose next to Bianca Hotel

2nd Flr. of Modern Stationary Building in San Jose with ample Parking Space
Area: 1000 sq. ft.

2 Bdrm near Coral Ocean Point and Koberville Elementary School
Fenced location, aircon in each bdrm, refrigerator, stove, water heater
Water, trash collection and sewer paid
Electricity not included.
235-4341 after 5:30 p.m.

2 Bdrm near Coral Ocean Point and Koberville Elementary School
Fenced location, aircon in each bdrm, refrigerator, stove, water heater
Water, trash collection and sewer paid
Electricity not included.
235-4341 after 5:30 p.m.

2 Bdrm near Coral Ocean Point and Koberville Elementary School
Fenced location, aircon in each bdrm, refrigerator, stove, water heater
Water, trash collection and sewer paid
Electricity not included.
235-4341 after 5:30 p.m.

2 Bdrm near Coral Ocean Point and Koberville Elementary School
Fenced location, aircon in each bdrm, refrigerator, stove, water heater
Water, trash collection and sewer paid
Electricity not included.
235-4341 after 5:30 p.m.

2 Bdrm near Coral Ocean Point and Koberville Elementary School
Fenced location, aircon in each bdrm, refrigerator, stove, water heater
Water, trash collection and sewer paid
Electricity not included.
235-4341 after 5:30 p.m.

2 Bdrm near Coral Ocean Point and Koberville Elementary School
Fenced location, aircon in each bdrm, refrigerator, stove, water heater
Water, trash collection and sewer paid
Electricity not included.
235-4341 after 5:30 p.m.

2 Bdrm near Coral Ocean Point and Koberville Elementary School
Fenced location, aircon in each bdrm, refrigerator, stove, water heater
Water, trash collection and sewer paid
Electricity not included.
235-4341 after 5:30 p.m.

2 Bdrm near Coral Ocean Point and Koberville Elementary School
Fenced location, aircon in each bdrm, refrigerator, stove, water heater
Water, trash collection and sewer paid
Electricity not included.
235-4341 after 5:30 p.m.

2 Bdrm near Coral Ocean Point and Koberville Elementary School
Fenced location, aircon in each bdrm, refrigerator, stove, water heater
Water, trash collection and sewer paid
Electricity not included.
235-4341 after 5:30 p.m.

2 Bdrm near Coral Ocean Point and Koberville Elementary School
Fenced location, aircon in each bdrm, refrigerator, stove, water heater
Water, trash collection and sewer paid
Electricity not included.
235-4341 after 5:30 p.m.

2 Bdrm near Coral Ocean Point and Koberville Elementary School
Fenced location, aircon in each bdrm, refrigerator, stove, water heater
Water, trash collection and sewer paid
Electricity not included.
235-4341 after 5:30 p.m.

2 Bdrm near Coral Ocean Point and Koberville Elementary School
Fenced location, aircon in each bdrm, refrigerator, stove, water heater
Water, trash collection and sewer paid
Electricity not included.
235-4341 after 5:30 p.m.

2 Bdrm near Coral Ocean Point and Koberville Elementary School
Fenced location, aircon in each bdrm, refrigerator, stove, water heater
Water, trash collection and sewer paid
Electricity not included.
235-4341 after 5:30 p.m.

NEEDED
AUTO ELECTRICIAN with experience (TWA/Consensual transfer/finished contract)
Apply at MARIANAS REPAIRS CO., INC.
Phone No. 234-9083

NEEDED
WAITRESS, CLUB
• Salary: \$3.05 -5.00/hr.
• with housing allowance
• one (1) year experience
CONTACT: 233-4242

APARTMENT FOR RENT
SAN VICENTE AND GARAPAN AREA
2-BEDROOM FULLY FURNISHED
• SPLIT TYPE A/C BEDROOM, LIVING, DINING & KITCHEN
• OCEAN VIEW/BREEZY ATMOSPHERE
• SPACIOUS PARKING
• 24 HOURS POWER & WATER WITH STANDBY GENERATOR
• LAUNDRY FACILITY
For more information pls. call at 235-7171/7272 • Cell: 287-7070

FOR RENT
(2) Bedroom, (1) Bedroom Apartment, Fully Furnished, Laundry Room, Security Gate w/Intercom, 24 hrs. hot water, high quality and cheap price. Located in Koberville.
MODERN APARTMENT
Contact Person: Daniel Lin Tel. 288-8471 or 483-8484

FOR SALE
1990 Chevy Cargo Van
\$1,495.00 • 8 Cylinder, C20, Two Ton
81,000 miles, Reconditioned Body
Call: Don at 234-7368

FOR SALE BY OWNER
Noritsu Mini Lab Photo Developing, Printing Machine and Photographic Equipments
Made in Japan
Call 287-7444

APARTMENTS FOR RENT
One (1) Bedroom • Furnished • \$350.00 per month
Located in As Lito close to Valley Inn
Studio Type • \$250.00 per month
Rental includes power & water • air conditioned
Located in Chalan Nanea
For inquiries: Call 288-7525 or 235-3864

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITY
GROWING LOCAL COMPANY SEEKING QUALIFIED LOCAL EMPLOYEE. THIS IS A CUSTOMER SERVICE POSITION AT OUR LOCATION AND REQUIRES A LOT OF STANDING AND DEALING WITH CUSTOMERS. IN ADDITION WE ARE LOOKING FOR:
• HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE OR BETTER
• COMPUTER LITERATE
• ABILITY TO LEARN SIMPLE OFFICE MACHINE OPERATIONS
• GOOD WORKING HABITS AND HISTORY
• PROVEN DEPENDABILITY
• WILLINGNESS TO LEARN
• EXPERIENCE ON ADOBE SOFTWARE A PLUS
COMPANY PROVIDES GOOD WORKING CONDITIONS AND GOOD WORKING HOURS. BENEFITS WILL BE AVAILABLE AFTER PROBATION AND THERE ARE EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADVANCEMENT FOR THE RIGHT PERSON.
PLEASE FAX RESUME WITH REFERENCES (NOT MORE THAN 3 PAGES) TO 233-7679 WE WILL ACCEPT RESUMES UNTIL SEPT. 30, 1999
THIS POSITION IS RESERVED FOR LOCAL HIRE AND WE ARE AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER

WAREHOUSE FOR RENT
3 units at 4,800 sq.ft. each, with large parking space, office space and showroom.
Located in Airport Road, Saipan.
Formerly Keico Motors Saipan.
Contact: Nelson at Tel.# 234-9084

FOR RENT
Along Middle road, in front of Diamond Auto Parts
Commercial unit 650 sqft \$700.00
Apartment Unit 2 Rooms 2B/C • Semi Furnished \$400.00
Call 287-7444

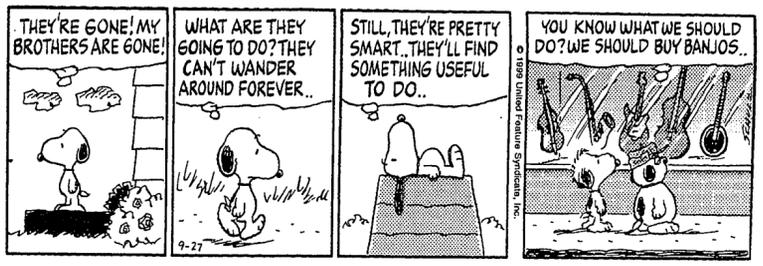
LET US KEEP CNMI LITTER FREE.

KEEP SAIPAN A POLLUTION & DRUG FREE COMMUNITY!

EKK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz



STELLA WILDER YOUR BIRTHDAY

MON., September 27, 1999
Born today, you are able to maintain a first-class public image even when you are going through the most difficult and formidable private circumstances. You carry yourself well no matter what is going on around you, and you inspire confidence in virtually everyone you meet. This is not to suggest that you are immune from insecurity and self-doubt. On the contrary, you may be more vulnerable than most to such threats, but you know better than most how to cope with them in such a way that you minimize their cumulative threat. You're not the kind to withdraw in the face of mounting odds.
You are not out to "make your mark" in any highly publicized manner. You will, however, nevertheless attract a great deal of lasting attention in your lifetime among your peers first, and later among those who realize that your efforts have been very much worthwhile!
Also born on this date are: Shaun Cassidy, singer, actor, entertainer; Cheryl Tiegs, model; Meat Loaf, singer and actor; William Conrad, actor.
To see what is in store for you tomorrow, find your birthday and read the corresponding paragraph.
TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28 LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Anything unsure or nebulous is not for you today. Make sure that you are dealing with hard-and-fast facts, and not rumor or innuendo.
SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Casual conversation can yield a wealth of information today which will come in handy before you know it. The hidden may be revealed during P.M.
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Don't get caught up in everyone else's confusion today. Keep track of your own interests and keep them in order for yourself.
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Work with others today to accomplish a single goal. You have things to contribute, as do they, and collectively you will get the job done.
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — You are more aware of your standing in the community today, and among your professional peers. Personal responsibility is on the rise.
PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — You can win friends and influence people today, as long as you keep your mind focused



JUMP INTO A NEW ROMANCE...WITH A LITTLE HELP FROM A PERSONAL AD!

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS
1 Filmdom's Walter Mitty (abbr.)
5 Game of chance
9 Sine — non
12 Israeli airline (2 wds.)
13 Metallic element
14 Exclamation of disgust
15 Acid
18 Cotton St.
19 Shallow vessels
21 Rig anew
23 Squandered
27 On condition that
28 Up to this point (2 wds.)
29 Three-toed sloths
31 Health resort
34 Parent
35 Scooby —
37 Without end (poet.)
39 "No Angel"
DOWN
1 New Zealand parrot
2 Everyone
3 Asian ox
4 Passed
5 "In & Out" star
6 Estrada ID
7 Short sleep
8 Scent
9 Imbibes
10 Citrus fruit
11 At the drop of
16 Computer
type
20 Nahoor sheep
22 Vowel sequence
23 Poetic foot
24 Future att'n
25 Exam
26 Characteristic of (suff.)
27 Stalemate
30 "Open —"
32 Type size
33 "So be it!"
36 Poem
38 Ground meat dish
41 Except if
43 Status —
45 Symbol for nickel
47 Eastwood ID
49 Make verses
50 Danish island
51 Dec. holiday
52 Second-year student, for short
56 Roman 1,051
58 Witly saying
59 Drivers' org.
60 Football org.
63 Chalcean city



KidSpot™ by Dick Rogers

THE PUZZLER
This quiz will give you a chance to bone up on your anatomy.
Q. How do you make a skeleton sad?
Fill in the blanks. The clues give you the missing letters.
TA _ _ _ AWA _ _
HI _ _ _ NY _ _
B _ _ _ 5-4 =
ANSWER: TAKE AWAY HIS FUNNY BONE

Marianas Variety

"You Can Get What You Want!"
GARAGE SALE
Call 234-9084

DPH . . .

Continued from page 1

Edward Camacho, BEH inspector, said owners of confiscated medicine are given two options: Either to let the banned medicine be destroyed by BEH through incineration or send them back to their country of origin at their own expense.

"We give them the choices. The store owned by the Filipino chose to send back the medicine home, while the Chinese gave us the go-signal to destroy them," said Camacho.

John Tagabuel, BEH director,

said Customs has been doing a remarkable job in intercepting banned medicine from passengers disembarking from passengers.

He, however, said that the items seized from the retail stores have long been circulating in the island, long before the implementation of PL 11-40.

"They kept it and now they are selling it underground," said Tagabuel.

Under the new law, foreign prescription and over-the-counter drugs will no longer be allowed to enter the CNMI unless they are for personal use and are intended to be consumed within 90 days.

It added that only institutional

pharmacies and licensed pharmacists who employ a full time pharmacist will be allowed to fill, dispense, distribute, sell, and provide medicine in the CNMI.

However, over-the-counter drugs approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration will still be sold by general retailers without employing a pharmacist and without prescription.

Exempted from these restrictions are herbal medicine used by Chamorro and Carolinian people in the traditional art of healing.

"We are reminding business out there to comply with the law. Otherwise we will confiscate your products," said Tagabuel.

also started to broker the lawsuit in an effort to retain competent counsel to represent Hillbloom.

Subsequently, FILC retained Lujan. But neither defendants informed Lujan of the manner in which FILC obtained such representation, the complaint said.

As a result of Lujan's efforts, a settlement was reached which provides a cash award to Hillbloom.

FILC is scheduled to receive six percent of the cash award as a result of its willful, malicious and intentional interference with the contractual relationship between Kinney and T&C, said the lawsuit.

In anticipation of receiving percentage of Hillbloom settlement, FILC entered into an agreement providing for the division of the six percent.

In distributing the attorney fees being received by FILC no provision is made for compensating T&C, the complaint added.

Two months after Hillbloom's death, FILC became aware of Hillbloom's heirship claim as well as the contingent fee contract between Kinney and T & C.

The complaint said FILC, through its principles, Fairfield, Putnam and Avery then developed a scheme to financially enrich themselves by getting Kinney to hire FILC in connection with Hillbloom's inheritance claim.

The defendants, the complaint stated, approached Kinney with the intent and purpose to induce, influence or otherwise persuade her to terminate the contingent fee contract with T&C and hire FILC to pursue the claims against the estate.

As a result, Kinney executed a new contingent fee contract with FILC which gave the firm the same rights and responsibilities that she had previously given to T&C.

The complaint said defendants immediately began to sell shares in the lawsuit to other persons and

Lawyers . . .

Continued from page 1

contacted T&C and informed them that the late businessman was the natural father of her son, Hillbloom.

Kinney requested legal representation from T&C regarding her son's inheritance rights resulting from Hillbloom's death.

The complaint said T&C conducted an investigation into Kinney's claim and determined that Hillbloom had a meritorious inheritance claim against the Hillbloom's estate.

T&C then enforced a contingent fee contract whereby the firm agreed to pursue all legal avenues to establish Hillbloom was the natural father of Hillbloom and to recover the latter's rightful inheritance.

T&C's compensation was a percentage of any recovery obtained by Junior, the complaint said.

Fireworks . . .

Continued from page 1

ing," the governor told the Variety.

"The First Lady and I are going out of our way to show how happy we are that our daughter has found a very fine gentleman who will love and take care of her."

Gutierrez said he wanted to make the reception a memorable one.

Thousands of people including officials from the mainland U.S., the Philippines, the Northern

Marianas, Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia enjoyed Guam's island hospitality at its best.

One of the thousands in attendance was Des Kreger who said, "When Carl throws a party, you never know what will happen next."

A few minutes later, the fireworks went off.

Father of the groom and retired Navy Admiral Don Stahl said, "We are happy that my son Chris and Carla are now planning a life together and that this beautiful island will be a part of our lives."

All the food and decorations—which included a working waterfall and brilliant lighting—were donations to the bride and groom.

"Not a single penny of taxpayer money was spent on this affair," the governor said.

It was the bride's wish, moreover, that the monies that may have been given to her would instead be handed to the First Lady's "People Helping People" program.

The bride and the groom will be leaving island shortly to reside on the East Coast where her husband is a practicing attorney.

Precinct 4 - Melkiann Taitano; Precinct 5 - Frances V. Hofschneider; and Precinct 6 - Dean Manglona.

For School representations: Mt. Carmel School - Kekoa Villanueva; Grace Christian Academy - Joshua Blalock; Marianas Baptist Academy - Ramona S. Concepcion; Northern Marianas Academy - Frances Somorang; Tinian High School - Portia Taitano; Rota High School - Marcela Sablan; Marianas High School - Andrew Borja, Joaquina Salas, and Franklin Palacios.

MGD . . .

Continued from page 28

innings as the Stevedore Pirates won their eighth game of the season with one defeat with a fifth inning 10-0 shut-out over the Kautz Glass Glaziers last Friday in the Youth Summer League Baseball.

Short-stopper John Reyes took over the batting lead going 3 for 3 for a .536 ave. Chris Palacios

chipped in going 2 for 3 with a double and three RBIs to lead the Pirates offensively.

The Pirates jumped on top 3-0 in the bottom of the first on just one hit, thanks to three Glaziers errors and never looked back the rest of the way scoring four more in the second, and three in the fourth for a 10-0 lead.

Kapileo and company then re-tired the side in the top of the fifth for the ten-run-rule shut-out.

from Steve Bellisari - one for a 59-yard touchdown and another to set up a score - as Ohio State rallied to beat Cincinnati.

Wolverines...

Continued from page 28

State scored four touchdowns in the first seven minutes and the Seminoles (4-0, 3-0 ACC) made life miserable for North Carolina quarterback Ronald Curry.

Curry, who was recruited by Florida State, had three passes intercepted, fumbled once and was sacked five times. North Carolina (1-2, 0-2) has lost its first two ACC games for the first time in a decade.

No. 2 Penn State 45, Indiana 24

At State College, Pa., Rashard Casey completed 13 of 15 passes for 196 yards and two touchdowns, and ran for 66 yards and a spectacular touchdown to lead Penn State over Indiana.

Rashard, the No. 2 man in Penn State's quarterback platoon, was on the field for all five of the team's offensive scores as the Nittany Lions (5-0, 1-0 Big Ten) beat Indiana (1-3, 0-1) for the fifth straight time.

No. 5 Texas A&M 23, Southern Miss 6

At College Station, Texas, Jay Brooks and Michael Jameson returned interceptions for touchdowns in the second half and Terence Kitchens kicked three field goals, including one from 62 yards.

Brooks' 41-yard return for a score midway through the third period gave the Aggies (3-0) a 16-0 lead. Southern Miss (2-2) scored the only offensive touchdown of the game, a 54-yard pass play from Cable Davis to Todd Pinkston, on the second play of the fourth quarter.

No. 7 Tennessee 17, Memphis 16

At Knoxville, Tenn., Tee Martin hit Cedrick Wilson with a 15-yard touchdown pass with a minute left to give Tennessee (2-1) a victory over Memphis (1-3).

No. 11 Georgia 24, Central Florida 23

At Athens, Ga., Georgia (3-0) escaped with a win after 28-point underdog Central Florida missed an extra point with 5:21 left.

Javier Beorlegui missed the PAT after a touchdown pass from Vic Penn to Page Sessoms. The Golden Knights (0-4) still had a chance to pull off the upset after driving to the Georgia 20 in the final minute.

But two costly penalties, including a questionable offensive pass interference call, knocked Central Florida out of field-goal range.

No. 12 Ohio St. 34, Cincinnati 20

At Columbus, Ohio, Ken-Yon Rambo caught two long passes

from Steve Bellisari - one for a 59-yard touchdown and another to set up a score - as Ohio State rallied to beat Cincinnati.

In the first meeting of the teams in 68 years, the Bearcats (2-2) played as if last week's 17-12 upset of then-No. 9 Wisconsin was no fluke. They built a 17-3 second-quarter lead before Ohio State (3-1) scored 31 straight.

No. 13 Purdue 31, Northwestern 23

At West Lafayette, Ind., Drew Brees' 99-yard TD pass to Vinny Sutherland with 6:20 left gave Purdue a victory over Northwestern.

Purdue (4-0, 1-0 Big Ten) was protecting a 24-23 lead when Sutherland got behind the defense on a third-down play, caught the ball near his own 40 and outraced two defenders to the end zone for the longest play in school history.

Alabama 35, No. 14 Arkansas 28

At Tuscaloosa, Ala., Freddie Milons caught a touchdown pass and threw another for Alabama, which overcame six turnovers to beat Arkansas.

Alabama (3-1, 2-0 SEC) snapped a two-game losing streak against Arkansas (2-1, 0-1). The Crimson Tide played a sloppy game - Arkansas scored 25 points off turnovers - but made the big plays when needed.

No. 15 Kansas St. 35, Iowa St. 28

At Ames, Iowa, David Allen returned a punt 94 yards for a touchdown and quarterback Adam Helm scored on a 1-yard run with 2:34 left as Kansas State (3-0, 1-0 Big 12) overcame a 19-point halftime deficit against Iowa State (3-1, 0-1).

It was Kansas State's biggest comeback in coach Bill Snyder's 11 seasons. The Wildcats also avoided their first loss to an unranked team in the regular season since a 27-23 setback to Iowa State in 1993.

Stanford 42, No. 18 UCLA 32

At Stanford, Calif., backup QB Joe Borchard threw five TD passes, including a Pac-10 record 98-yarder to Troy Walters, as Stanford (3-1) held off UCLA (2-2).

Walters, who also caught scoring passes of 30 and 18 yards, had nine receptions for 278 yards - a Stanford record for receiving yardage in a game. Borchard was 15-of-19 for 324 yards after relieving the injured Todd Husak in the second quarter.

No. 19 Michigan St. 27, Illinois 10

At Champaign, Ill., Lloyd Clemons rushed for 141 yards, T.J. Duckett ran for two touchdowns and Ivory McCoy had a 22-yard TD reception as Michigan State defeated Illinois in a Big Ten opener.

NBA to be less physical

VANCOUVER, British Columbia (AP) — No more grabbing a player's jersey as he tries to come around a screen. No more hip-bumping, forearm-checking or excessive banging.

The NBA will not be as physical in the upcoming season, and the players will just have to adapt.

That was the word that went out to the league's referees Friday as the NBA told them to wield their whistles aggressively in an effort to open up the flow of the game and crack down on the off-the-ball contact that has contributed to the slowing down of offenses.

"When you talk about physical play, we're not talking about the problem of flagrant fouls anymore. We solved that," NBA vice president of operations Rod Thorn said. "But the problem of grabbing and holding and the impeding of progress is where the game has gotten much more physical over the past 5-6 years than it ever was."

Four official rules changes are being adopted for the 1999-00 season, but the crackdown on

overly physical play is not among them. The league will simply instruct its referees to keep a vigilant eye out for clutching, grabbing and banging away from the ball, or players being hindered running around screens.

"Rules that were always on the books we are now going to enforce," Thorn said.

Of course, what constitutes a foul in one ref's mind might not in another's, and Thorn acknowledged there will be a gray area regarding exactly how much contact will be allowed away from the ball. But he said the league office will work with referees in an effort to develop a consistent standard.

"We expect all our refs to know what to call and what not to call. We don't want a lot of ticky-tack fouls called," Thorn said.

"Pressing out with the forearm, or using a hip, knee or leg to impede a player running through a screen - that'll all be called," supervisor of officials Ed Rush said.

The meeting between the referees and the league's competition committee was one of several held among NBA personnel on a full

day of activity in the league meetings, which are held every two years.

The day began with a general session, including a speech by commissioner David Stern, attended by team employees. The league's 29 general managers will meet this morning, and a league-wide dinner will be held in the evening.

With trade talk at a relative lull - although Scottie Pippen and Glen Rice rumors refused to die - much of the focus was on the rules changes, be they official or unofficial.

Thorn, in a candid admission of what's ailing the game aesthetically, said the league wants to encourage fast breaks and a more wide-open style of play. The NBA is coming off the lowest-scoring season in its history, one in which just the Sacramento Kings averaged 100 points. The league-wide average of 91 points a game was the lowest since the shot clock was introduced in 1954-55.

"Of the 29 teams, 25 of the offenses are basically the same," Thorn said, "and I dare say that the majority of teams don't have a

secondary fast break in their play book anymore. We're hoping this will get offenses to do some different things. We want to see some different looks and attacks."

The officials rules changes are:

- A prohibition on forearm checking, except below the free-throw line.
- A 5-second rule limiting the amount of time an offensive player not facing the basket can control the ball below the free-throw line before he must pass, shoot or pick up his dribble.
- Resetting the shot clock to 14 seconds instead of 24 on certain stoppages of play.
- An exemption from illegal defense rules for players positioned on the strong side of the court.

The change in the illegal defense rule will amount to allowing a zone defense in the low post. Theoretically, it will encourage defenses to use double-teams to guard against entry passes into the low post, thereby deterring offenses from dumping the ball into the big man and then standing around waiting for him to either make a move or pass the ball out to the 3-point line.

"I think there will be a transitional period where things are called real literally for a while, and it'll take time for both the players and officials to figure out what's too physical and what's not," Indiana president Donnie Walsh said.

New Jersey Nets coach Don Casey wondered whether the referees might crack down too much on incidental contact in their zeal to rid the game of physical play.

"They will have it in their minds that if they allow incidental contact it will get bigger, so that one bothers me," Casey said.

The result, hopefully, will be more cutting, passing and mid-range jump shooting.

"It's going to be harder to score in a set, half-court offense, so it'll be in teams' best interests to run, push the ball upcourt and shoot the ball early," Thorn said.

Coaches and team executives said they will take a wait-and-see attitude toward the rules changes, which were first enforced during summer league games and resulted in an inordinate number of fouls.

"I think there will be a transitional period where things are called real literally for a while, and it'll take time for both the players and officials to figure out what's too physical and what's not," Indiana president Donnie Walsh said.

New Jersey Nets coach Don Casey wondered whether the referees might crack down too much on incidental contact in their zeal to rid the game of physical play.

"They will have it in their minds that if they allow incidental contact it will get bigger, so that one bothers me," Casey said.

US will need a lot more help to regain Ryder Cup

BROOKLINE, Mass. (AP) — For all the problems big government can't solve, here's one the bureaucrats in Washington might want to try their luck at: Helping America get the Ryder Cup back.

That means seven players have exactly one chance.

That means seven players have exactly one chance.

Enough with relying on overpriced, overhyped, homegrown talent. It's time to try something different. It's time to give the U.S. Immigration and Naturalization Service a chance.

One way or another, America needs to find a dozen golfers like the ones Europe keeps packing its squads with. Golfers with nerves as steady as their skills. Who will sacrifice their own games or egos, when needed, to set a teammate up with a better chance. Who understand the difference between overlooked and undervalued.

At the close of play Saturday, Europe rolled out to a 10-6 lead and needed only four points from the dozen singles matches Sunday to hang onto the cup for a third straight meeting. This is how daunting the mission is: No winning side has ever made up a deficit of more than two points in the history of the competition.

"We knew coming in here it was going to be tough," said Davis Love III, one of the few Americans to get in the way of Europe's juggernaut. "I'm just hoping that we wore these guys out, that some of them got rusty and some of them got tired."

That was the main talking point among members of the U.S. side. They were reduced to hoping that Europe's decidedly undemocratic approach to the matches would boomerang in the singles and ultimately cost them the cup.

Unlike his U.S. counterpart, European captain Mark James has kept three of his players - rookies Andrew Coltart of Scotland, Swede

Jarmo Sandelin and Frenchman Jean Van de Velde - glued to the bench through the first two days of matches. He set up his four pairs and sent them out both days with exactly one chance.

That means seven players have exactly one chance.

That means seven players have exactly one chance.

"I didn't ask anyone if they were a little tired," James said. "I asked if they wanted to play. Two different things."

"Some days," he added, "I feel tired as soon as I get up."

The better question to ask James might be where the European team keeps finding the tough, tireless components to fill out its team.

The disappearance of the "Fab Five" - Seve Ballesteros, Nick Faldo, Bernhard Langer, Ian Woosnam and Sandy Lyle - was supposed to signal the end of Europe's dominance in the Ryder



European Ryder Cup playing partners Lee Westwood (left) of England, and Darren Clarke, of Ireland, walk with team captain Mark James (right) during the foursomes competition Saturday at The Country Club in Brookline, Mass. AP

Cup. After all, it was the emergence of that group, which won 16 majors between them, some two decades ago that enabled Europe to win or hold onto the cup through five of the last seven meetings.

Replacing them was supposed to be impossible. So Europe reloaded instead.

Scot Colin Montgomerie has stepped forward to replace Ballesteros as the team's lightning rod, challenging the Americans verbally and absorbing the hostile gallery's best shots. He's collected 21/2 of a possible four points.

Eccentric Swede Jesper Parnevik and the charismatic Spanish teenager, 19-year-old Sergio Garcia have combined to become the unshakable anchor that the Ballesteros-Olazabal duo used to be. In four matches, they've won three times and tied the fourth.

Young Brits and close friends Lee Westwood and Darren Clarke have provided the steady influ-

ence of Faldo and whichever Anglo he happened to be paired with at the time. Jimenez, Harrington and Olazabal, no longer the dominant Ryder Cup force he was once, have filled in admirably as role players - taking the place of Costantino Rocca, Philip Walton and Ignacio Garrido.

The American resurgence on Saturday kept some slim hope alive. After digging themselves a four-point hole on opening day, they played Europe even Saturday and now approach the one format - singles - where their clear superiority in the world rankings and on the money list might translate into some serious points.

The question is whether that advantage will come too late to make up the difference.

Hyatt . . .

Continued from page 15

Hyatt International is currently interviewing for a global agency which will partner with the company in developing, administering, and operating a residence/hospice facility that will house children accepted on a need basis.

Bernd Chorenge, president of Hyatt International, has agreed to volunteer the skills and services of its cooperative architectural and design teams in structuring the site for the Children's Village.

Tickets will be on sale for \$10 each or booklets of 6 for \$50 at all of the Hyatt's restaurants, the DJ's corner near the lobby, the hotel's front desk, and at the CHC Volunteers Gift Shop at the hospital.

For more information on the Hyatt Regency Saipan's Children

of the World Sweepstakes, call 234-1234 or visit the Hyatt in Garapan.

There are Hyatt 187 Hyatt hotels and resorts around the world. Hyatt International through its subsidiaries operates 58 hotels and 19 resorts in 34 countries with an additional 26 hotels under development.

Hyatt Hotels Corporation, a separate company, operates 110 hotels and resorts in the United States, Canada and the Caribbean.

Reservations or information for any Hyatt Hotel worldwide can be obtained by calling toll free in the United States and Canada 1-800-233-1234, your local Hyatt Hotel or worldwide sales office or your travel planner.

Hyatt is accessible on the internet at www.hyatt.com. For news on Hyatt Hotels and Resorts, visit our press room at www.hyatt.com/athyatt/press.

Belated Happy Birthday*Mrs. J.*

From your friends

KEEP SAIPAN CLEAN & GREEN

SPORTS



San Antonio defeats Mt. Carmel in soccer

By Doug Mauro
For the Variety

THURSDAY'S 1999 Girl's Soccer action saw San Antonio Elementary School's girls romping away with a victory over Mt. Carmel School, 6-1 at their home field in San Antonio.

San Antonio now has a perfect 2-0 record.

In the first five minutes of the game, none of the those gathered to watch knew who was going to dominate the day's game.

Minutes later, however, SAES's Emmy Oiteriong got on the receiving side of a goalie rebound to put the ball through, for a goal to go up 1-0.

Some thirty seconds later, Brigitte Ecalico toe-punched the second goal in for San Antonio on a break-away.

She followed that up with two more goals in the first half to complete a hat trick.

In the closing seconds of the

first half, Figure Eight Kepwe booted one into the netless goal to put SAES up 5-0 at halftime.

The second half started with Figure Eight placing one in to go up 6-0.

It was after this goal that the action intensified.

Mt. Carmel, banking on remarkable power from Rellani Ogumoro, threatened to score five or six times causing hysteria in the visiting crowd.

Finally, in a play at the mouth of the goal, Francine Bennett got a leg on one to break the shutout and give Mt. Carmel their first score.

Mt. Carmel failed to score on a pair of penalty kicks because of the awesome goaltending by Mary Kepwe.

Ron Hodges, the coach for SAES described his team as, "a bunch of sisters with quality skills."

Henny Alayda also contributed big in the victory.

Youth Summer League

MGD Pepsi shuts out Northern Yankees

Team Standing as of Sept. 24

Team	Win	Loss	Pct.	GB
Saipan Stevedore				
Pirates	8	1	.889	-
Northern Yankees	6	3	.667	2
MGD Pepsi	5	4	.556	3
Kautz Glass Glazers	3	6	.333	5
Tanapag Falcons	0	8	.000	7 1/2

IT WAS a pitching duel last Thursday in the Youth Summer League Baseball with MGD Pepsi Joe Guerrero coming out victorious over Northern Yankees Joshua Muna as the Pepsi blanked the Yankees, 3-0.

Guerrero gave up three hits with a walk, a hit by pitch, and fanned nine while Muna did his share but lacked offensive support allowing three runs on five hits with two walks and four strike-outs, Pat Guerrero was the man offensively for MGD going 2 for 2 with a triple, his league leading third of the season, and knocked in two of MGD's three runs.

It was Pepsi's second victory over the Yankees in three outings handing the Yankees their third loss of the season to drop two games behind the league leading Stevedore Pirates. Designated hitter Jack Guerrero's sacrifice RBI in the top of the second score the other Pepsi run.

Kevin Kapileo pitched a one hitter and struck out ten in five

Continued on page 26

1999 Youth Summer League Baseball

Batting Leaders: (Based on 19 or more time at bat)

Players	Team	AB	HIT	Batting
John Reyes	Pirates	28	15	.536
Dean Camacho	Glazers	22	11	.500
Peter Sablan	Pirates	27	13	.481
Ken Kalen	Glazers	28	13	.464
Chris Palacios	Pirates	24	11	.458
Jess Taitano	Glazers	27	11	.407
Ned Norita	Glazers	28	11	.393
Manny Sablan	Pepsi	29	11	.379
Pat Camacho	Yankees	24	9	.376
Bruce Norita	Glazers	27	10	.370

Runs: (14) P. Sablan (11) M. Aguon, K. Kalen, B. Norita, G. Pangelinan, M. Toves, J. Taitano

Doubles: (3) F. Kaipat, K. Kalen, P. Tomokane, J. Acosta

Triples: (3) P. Guerrero (2) G. Pangelinan, M. Sablan, K. Kalen

Homeruns: (2) B. Norita (1) N. Norita, P. Camacho, J. Taitano

RBI: (13) P. Sablan (12) B. Norita (9) N. Norita, P. Camacho, J. Taitano

Pitching Leaders: (Based on 9 or more innings)

Player	Team	G	INN	ER	HIT	W/L	ERA
Tito Santos	Yankees	4	24	1	14	2-0	0.29
Kevin Kapileo	Pirates	3	11	4	11	1-1	1.91
Joshua Muna	Yankees	3	15	6	14	1-2	2.80
Eddie Diaz	Pirates	3	12	5	15	1-0	2.92
Joe Guerrero	Pepsi	3	17	8	15	1-1	3.29
Eric Kani	Glazers	4	16	8	18	0-3	3.50
Chris Camacho	Yankees	4	14	7	13	2-1	3.50
Jess Pua	Glazers	3	11	7	18	1-0	4.45
Pat Guerrero	Pepsi	4	12	8	18	2-0	4.67
Jess Tomokane	Falcons	4	13	26	51	0-3	14.00

Strike-outs: (36) Tito Santos (23) Pat Guerrero (20) Joe Guerrero (18) Kevin Kapileo

College football

Wolverines nip Wisconsin

(AP) — Michigan made Ron Dayne disappear in the second half. Dayne's Heisman Trophy hopes may have disappeared in the process.

Tom Brady threw two touchdown passes and the fourth-ranked Wolverines held Dayne to 88 yards, all in the first half, as the Wolverines beat No. 20 Wisconsin 21-16 Saturday in a Big Ten opener.

Dayne carried 22 times, but not at all in the last 10 minutes of the game as the Badgers tried to catch up. He needs 1,105 yards in Wisconsin's seven remaining games to break Ricky Williams' Division I-A rushing record.

Michigan (4-0), which held Syracuse to 59 rushing yards last week, shut down its opponent's ground game for the second straight week. Dayne ran eight times in the second half for no net yardage and twice failed to get critical first downs for the Badgers (2-2), who couldn't rebound from last week's loss to Cincinnati.

In other Top 25 games, it was No. 1 Florida State 42, North Carolina 10; No. 2 Penn State 45, Indiana 24; No. 5 Texas A&M 23, Southern Mississippi 6; No. 7 Tennessee 17, Memphis 16; No. 11 Georgia 24, Central Florida 23; No. 12 Ohio State 34, Cincinnati 20; No. 13

Purdue 31, Northwestern 23; Alabama 35, No. 14 Arkansas 28; No. 15 Kansas State 35, Iowa State 28; Stanford 42, No. 18 UCLA 32; Wyoming 10, No. 19 Michigan State 27, Illinois 10; No. 24 Air Force 7; and Wake Forest 31, No. 25 North Carolina State 7.

With Wisconsin's Barry Alvarez coaching from the press box because of an ailing right knee that will have to be replaced, the Badgers saw their eight-game home winning streak snapped by Michigan.

The Wolverines took a 14-0 lead in the first quarter on Brady's 8-yard TD pass to Aaron Shea and a 45-yard run off a double-reverse by David Terrell. Wisconsin closed to 14-9 at halftime on a 32-yard field goal by Vitaly Pisetsky and Dayne's 34-yard TD run in the second quarter.

Michigan made it 21-9 on Brady's 23-yard TD pass to DiAllo Johnson in the third quarter. Wisconsin scored on a 13-yard bootleg by backup quarterback Brooks Bollinger with 1:29 left in the game and then tried an onside kick, but Michigan recovered and ran out the clock.

No. 1 Florida St. 42, North Carolina 10
At Chapel Hill, N.C., Florida

Continued on page 26



Germany's Axel Schulz (left) of Germany is hit by Wladimir Klitschko of Ukraine during their European Heavyweight Championship fight in Germany, Saturday. Klitschko won via an 8th round knock out.

SAIPAN

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

Marianas Variety News & Views
Micronesia's Leading Newspaper Since 1972

960 South Manning Drive, Suite 101
Tamuning Plaza, GU 96911
Tel. (671) 649-4678 • 646-1308 SAIPAN MP 96950
Fax: (671) 649-4687
E-mail: gvariety@ite.net

FIRST CLASS MAIL