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Audit questions \$10-M sole-sourced contracts

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

THE GOVERNMENT had contracted \$9.88 million worth of professional services which were not sufficiently documented to qualify for sole-source procurement, resulting in widespread abuse in the selection of such private contractors.

This was disclosed by the Office of the Public Auditor yesterday in a final report on the audit of the CNMI government's executive branch professional service contracts from Oct. 1, 1995 to May 4, 1998.

Public Auditor Leo LaMotte, in his report, said the executive branch procured professional services "in violation of the CNMI Procurement Regulations."

The review of 48 sole-sourced

contracts selected for detailed audit showed that more than 95 percent — amounting to \$9.88 million — were not sufficiently documented to qualify for sole-source procurement.

"This and the fact that the majority (about 64 percent) of professional services contracts were procured using the sole-source method indicates widespread abuse in the selection of contractors," said LaMotte.

Under procurement rules, a contract may be sole-sourced—without going through competitive bidding—if a vendor or contractor is uniquely qualified to provide the services required by any government agency.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio requested OPA on Feb. 16, 1998 to initiate the said audit as he raised



Leo LaMotte

concerns about the sole-source contracts entered into by the previous administration of Froilan C. Tenorio, who served as governor from January 1994 to January 1998.

There had been concerns that the previous government sole-sourced contracts even if there

were other vendors capable of providing the services required.

Among the transactions OPA questioned in the report are the allegedly unlawful payments amounting to more than \$3.39 million to Preston Gates Ellis & Rouvelas Meeds, and six other companies.

Preston Gates, the CNMI's lobby group in Washington DC, was allowed to continue incurring expenditures although no new contract had been approved, said the report. Billings not covered by the previous administration totaled \$3.23 million.

The six other companies were paid a total of \$161,106 for services rendered outside the contract period.

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Aliens take up 77% of Saipan's labor force

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

THESE figures are surely for the record books.

CNMI's annual population growth of 8.5 percent is by far the highest known population growth rate in the world, Bank of Hawaii's newly-released CNMI Economic Report indicated.

The total population increased by 373.4 percent in a 19-year period, or from 16,780 in 1980 to 79,429 as of the first quarter of 1999.

This most recent figure, however, does not yet include the population in smaller islands.

"CNMI's population growth can only be characterized as explosive," according to the report prepared by BOH's regional economist Wali M. Osman.

Population growth rates for most of the developed world — of which the CNMI is technically a part — range from 0.7 to one percent.

And compared to the 2.5 to 4.0 percent typical of the Pacific's developing economies which were already considered high, CNMI's growth rate is high.

The report said since the CNMI population has increased mainly as a result of the influx of temporary foreign workers on Saipan, the island's labor force figures offer some insight to the CNMI's demographic and economic evolution.

Saipan's total population is currently placed at 71,790. Of this figure, only 30,154 individuals or 42 percent are U.S. citizens. The rest are temporary foreign workers.

Moreover, non-resident workers comprise 77.4 percent or some 35,746 of Saipan's total 46,183 labor force. Only 22.6 percent or 10,437 individuals employed and are actively seeking work in Saipan are U.S. citizens.

The BOH report also said a large majority of foreign labor works in the private sector, while U.S. citizens make up only 12.3 percent of total private sector employment.

Among the largest employers in the private sector are garment-makers, hotels, restaurants, retail outlets, other

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Guam election body in chaos

Variety News Staff

HAGATNA - A disgruntled Guam Elections Commission official yesterday resigned from her job, even as she accused GEC Executive Director Gerald Taitano of lying to Board members about vital documents being requested by Board member Douglas Moylan.

"In my years of serving the Commission, I have at no time seen a Board member use... influence on the... operations of this office," acting Administrative Director Tina Cruz said.

"Your (Taitano) actions in today's meeting has pushed me even further into my decision. How dare you lie in front of me today about things that I know are untrue. You lied about not instructing (a co-worker) not to give documents to Atty. (Douglas) Moylan in front of the members of the GEC," Cruz wrote Taitano in her resignation letter.

Cruz said her co-worker, whose name is being withheld for security reasons, is writing a response to police investigators about instructions allegedly given her.

The instructions, she alleged, were given by Duenas to block the release of Freedom of Information requests filed by Moylan.

The documents were forwarded to Moylan in response to a request he made to Guam International Airport Authority Manager, Jerry

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All set for Halloween, kindergarten students of Dandan Elementary School hold out their scary, self-made masks yesterday.

Photo by Marian Maraya

Sablan, Hill to keep '99 beauty titles

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE BEAUTY titles currently held by Miss NMI International Michelle B. Sablan and Miss NMI First Runner-up Miyuki Hill are not going to change, the Northern Marianas Beauty Pageant Association clarified yesterday.

Paula Bermudes, NMBPA public relations director, told the Variety Sablan will represent the CNMI at the 2000 Miss Universe Pageant but that she will

still be Miss '99 NMI International.

Similarly, Hill will keep her title as NMI First Runner-up despite NMBPA's decision to give her the opportunity to represent the Commonwealth in this year's Miss International Pageant in Japan slated for Dec. 14.

Bermudes clarified the titles of Sablan and Hill following concerns raised by some quarters' resulting from pageant organizers' decision not to hold the 2000 pageant.

NMBPA also announced earlier that Sablan just turned 24 last April therefore is unable to join the Miss International Pageant in Tokyo.

The age requirement of Miss International Pageant is between 17-23 years. The NMBPA's contestant agreement is reportedly patterned after the Miss Universe pageant rules and regulations which state that a contestant must be between 18-27 years of age.

Continued on page 62

Gunmen storm parliament

Prime minister, 7 MPs shot dead

YEREVAN, Armenia (AP) — Gunmen who stormed the parliament and killed the prime minister and other top officials surrendered Thursday and released all their hostages, the president's office said.

The gunmen gave up their weapons and were taken by police to the Security Ministry for questioning, officials said. The gunmen were being escorted by Andranik Martanyan, a leader of the Unity Party, who was one of the hostages.

The breakthrough came after President Robert Kocharyan negotiated with the gunmen's leader and promised they would be given a fair trial.

There was no immediate word on the condition of the hostages, mainly lawmakers and senior officials, who had been held overnight in the parliament building.

Hundreds of police and army troops had surrounded the parliament building in central Yerevan throughout the night and authorities had been considering using special forces to end the stand-off.

Earlier, the attackers killed the prime minister and seven other politicians in a torrent of gunfire.

The leader of the gunmen, Nairi Unanian, told a local television station: "This is a patriotic action. This shake-up is needed for the nation to regain its senses."

"The country is in a catastrophic situation. People are hungry and the government doesn't offer any way out," he said.

In an interview with Armenian TV channel A1 Plus, he said the deaths were unintended except for Prime Minister Vazgen Sarkisian, who he claimed had failed to serve the nation. The other deaths, he said, were "the result of technical mistakes."

"Other than the prime minister, Vazgen Sarkisian, all the others are innocent victims," he said in the



Police officers escort Armenian parliament members after being released by terrorists Thursday. Nationalist gunmen surrendered Thursday after killing the prime minister and seven others, saying they did it to save the country from political and economic collapse. AP

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interview, as reported by the ITAR-Tass news agency.

Armenian television broadcast footage of the stunning attack, showing at least two men in long coats firing automatic weapons in the parliament chamber. Some law-

makers dove under their desks, others fled into the streets.

One of the attackers approached the prime minister and said: "Enough of drinking our blood," according to reporters present during the attack. The premier calmly responded, "Everything is being done for you and the future of your children."

The attacker - identified by reporters as Unanian, an extreme nationalist and former journalist - opened fire.

Despite falling popularity: Estrada insists on charter change

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine President Joseph Estrada said Thursday he will pursue plans to amend the country's constitution despite his plunging popularity.

"I will do it because I believe that this will be for the interest of our Filipino people, especially the masses," he said.

Estrada, who won a landslide election victory in 1998 on a pro-poor platform, wants to stimulate the economy by easing constitutional restrictions on foreign ownership of land and key industries.

His determination to amend the constitution has been highly unpopular, with many Filipinos believing that opening up the charter could undermine democratic provisions installed after the ouster of the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.

Several recent polls have shown sharp declines in Estrada's popularity since the constitutional changes were proposed.

Social Weather Stations, a respected survey group, said earlier this week that 56 percent of Filipinos currently say they are satisfied with Estrada's performance, down from 78 percent in June.

Those dissatisfied with Estrada rose from 12 percent to 27 percent during the same period, it said.

While the economy is recovering strongly from Asia's financial crisis, Estrada's administration has been wracked by a number of controversies, and increasing numbers of Filipinos are dismayed by the pace of reforms to tackle poverty.

FDA OKs new flu pill

WASHINGTON (AP) — Flu sufferers are about to get a second new drug that promises to ease miserable influenza symptoms a little this winter.

The Food and Drug Administration on Wednesday approved Tamiflu, the first pill effective against both types A and B flu. Tamiflu joins a competing but inhaled drug, Relenza, that the FDA approved earlier to also fight both flu types.

Health experts say neither drug should replace flu vaccines - the shots clearly offer people a better chance at staying flu-free all winter. The flu kills 20,000 Americans a year, a toll doctors say would drop if more people got vaccinated.

But doctors also welcome the new treatments because so many Americans forgo vaccination.

Older flu medicines worked against only the type A flu, which accounts for about two-thirds of the estimated 20 million U.S. flu cases yearly, and doctors have said those medicines didn't work well.

Postmaster's suggestion:

'Choose priority mail'

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

NORTHERN Mariana Islands Postmaster John San Nicolas has advised all letter senders to send their packages and letters through priority mail listing if they want them to reach destinations faster.

San Nicolas made the call in the wake of complaints made

by letter senders, particularly those from the United States, that mails being sent to the CNMI take weeks, even months to arrive.

Most of the complaints were coming from companies in the U.S. mainland, which have been sending their materials in bulk through sea transport.

San Nicolas cited J.C. Penney and other companies which regularly send magazines and other materials through standard mail, by boat.

"Of course, if they don't want to put priority stickers, then certainly it will come via the standard mail," he said.

The postmaster said that unlike in the States where the standard mail can be moved by bus, train, or other means of land transportation, the service can only use sea transport when brought into the CNMI.

If they choose priority mail, the letters and packages will be brought into the island by plane, he said.

"If you are not going to put these letters and other deliveries by airplane, it will take time, and the most is two months," he said.

San Nicolas said that some magazine customers from the island have even complained that sometimes they receive two different copies in a single mail.

He said this is not remote since ships carrying bulk mail do not close their containers and sail unless these are completely full.

Gov't seizes 'military beer' resold in stores

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

THE GOVERNMENT has started confiscating from various Saipan business establishments cases of military beers that are up for illegal re-selling. Re-selling military beers is a violation of federal and military laws.

Andrew Salas, director of the Department of Commerce (DOC) Alcohol, Beverage and Tobacco Control (ABTC) yesterday said the seizure of these items is still ongoing, citing one recent case when 16 cases of military beers were confiscated from a single store.

"We are going to confiscate everything. There will be no more (excuses); nobody can say he is misinformed or ignorant of the law with regards to military beers or products... You cannot re-sell something that came into the island and did not pay excise tax," Salas said in an interview.

A case of military beer is sold at the U.S. Armed Forces Veterans Association for \$13.50,



Tamuning pre-school students Jaelene Marie "The Purple Spider" Sanchez, Darla "Queen Amidala" De Guzman and Darian "Darth Maul" De Guzman pose for the camera at yesterday's Halloween festivities at the Paseo playground on Guam. Photo by Tim dela Cruz

Federal rules push back Marpi landfill deadline

the one that is really giving us pain."

Sablan said the contractor commissioned to build the initial phase of the proposed landfill in Marpi is "ready and waiting" until the US Fish and Wildlife Service gives the go-signal.

Before this can be done though, the commonwealth government is mandated by the ESA to abide by a "habitat mitigation" plan ensuring that threatened or endangered bird species affected by the project are transferred to a different site to ensure existence at safe numbers.

"It (ESA) is hampering (efforts to build the landfill on time) but it is not intentional. It is a federal requirement that we must meet. We have been delayed by the birds but that is of course, a concern we have to respect," said Sablan.

A delay in the closure of the Puerto Rico dump could mean another administrative order from the Environmental Protection

Bellas confident he will be retained by voters

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

SUPERIOR Court Associate Judge Timothy H. Bellas yesterday expressed confidence that people will vote for his retention on the bench.

"To some degree I guess, I'm a little bit confident because I live in this community for close to 20 years. And I have contact with people and I am not talking about a particular race, I have contact with all kinds of people," said Bellas in an interview.

Bellas also stated that he has seen a lot of maturity in the electorate during his stay in the Commonwealth.

Bellas is seeking to serve another six-year term on the bench as a trial judge pursuant to a Constitutional amendment. His term as judge expires in year 2001.

The judge said that as an attorney he may not have the reputation as the best lawyer on the island, but he believes most of his clients left his office feeling good about the fact that he represented them.

Some judges, Bellas said, take the perspective that they have to be aloof, be uninvolved at all, and even shy away from people at parties or social gatherings.

"I don't take to that perspective. My perspective is that people are mature enough to understand that when I see you at a party, socially, you are being friendly. When you come to the court and I put on my robe, then that way you have to understand that I have to act professionally. I have to decide the case based on I think the law is and not because I happen to see you a night before or two weeks before at a party," he explained.

Bellas said he thinks the "isolation thing" is unnecessary.

"I think people understand that you are not a monk in a

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Teno warns those who get around Labor rules

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff
GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday warned companies against employing guest workers for a fee and listing them under local names to make up for the 20-percent requirement on the hiring of locals, saying they will be dealt with the full force of the law if caught.

Tenorio's remarks was made even as Job Training Partnership Executive Director Felix Nogis and Employment Services Director Alfred Pangelinan met at the Governor's office to settle a "misunderstanding" stemming from Nogis' earlier statements alleging that Pangelinan's office has not been doing its job of integrating as many local workers into the private sector.

Tenorio said the meeting was also meant to iron out ways by which JTPA can efficiently work with the Department of Labor and Immigration (DOLI) on the employment of resident workers.



Pedro P. Tenorio

"If you know of anybody doing this (illegally hiring guest workers), please let us know," the governor urged.

"We have to take some action. I don't appreciate this kind of thing; we don't condone this kind of thing. We want to make sure that they meet the requirements of the law. Using somebody else's name or (hiring) ghost employees, I hate to see that thing happen," Tenorio said.

There have been a number inci-

dents where DOLI, during routine inspections, stumbled on a list of local employees only to find out that those actually taking the job positions were guest workers.

Reliable sources have also told Variety that the "hiring fee" ranges from \$300 to \$500 to be paid \$50 every pay day by the guest worker.

Meantime Tenorio said his staff met with Nogis and Pangelinan to find ways ensuring that the 20-percent requirement on the hiring of resident workers is being observed by the private sector.

"I think there is a misunderstanding. (But) it is not too much of a misunderstanding," said Tenorio.

Tenorio also defended Pangelinan saying DOLI is keeping track of the hiring requirement.

The JTPA office gives hands-on trainings to locals, enabling them to land jobs in the private sector

Lawyer's statements prevented land deal

By Eric F. Say
Variety News Staff
THE US Air Force no longer needed the land along the Harmon Cliffline area and was willing to get back to the Guam government for free in late 1998.

But a lawyer commissioned by the 36th Air Force Wing at Andersen Base allegedly issued unfounded remarks that led to confusion and public outcry over the matter.

This, in a nutshell, was revealed by the Chair of the Governor's Task Force on Land, Environment and Economic Recovery Peter Sgro, who told Variety that U.S. Air Force Secretary Whit Peters secretly visited Guam in late 1998 to discuss land issues with Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez and tell him that the land is no longer needed.

The meeting was not made known at the time, Sgro explained, because of a federal mandate restricting public acknowledgement of a presidential cabinet officer's visit prior to an election.

The discussion, said Sgro, focused on two major issues involving the return of excess federal property and the "outsourcing" of Air Force functions to reduce costs.

However, the return of AF land was preempted by the public statements made by the lawyer, Thomas E. Sheldon, who wrote then Native American and Insular Committee Chair Manase Mansur in January of 1997, saying he believed it was absurd for Congress to even consider giving back the land, which he said had an

estimated value in excess of \$500 million dollars.

The meeting, Sgro said, was very positive on the return of lands and "outsourcing" of Air Force business to local private businesses.

Sheldon, Sgro said, allegedly used his public activities outside the scope of policy established by superior Air Force commands, which then created unnecessary confusion in an area where the leaders of the Air Force and Guam government have been progressing well.

Sheldon's activities, Sgro said, was brought to Peters' attention.

Sgro also represents several families who said their ancestral lands were unjustly taken by the federal government after WWII.

A letter to Andersen Base Commander Col. Mark Gehri written by a coalition of several Chamoru land activist groups was critical of Sheldon.

The Colonized Chamoru Coalition in the letter called on Gehri to tell Sheldon to stop his personal remarks because if he is being paid by the federal government to represent the Air Force in legal matters, it is unethical for him to give personal opinions on Air Force land issues in public.

"Let us not forget that Mr. Sheldon's position or capacity with the U.S. Air Force deals with sensitive subjects and issues that literally have legal ramifications between the federal government and the Chamoru people," the coalition reminded Gehri in an Oct. 18, 1999 letter.

Scouts get veteran status

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff
SOME 55 Chamorros and Carolinians who served as scouts and police for the U.S. military during the Second World War were yesterday finally given veteran status officially.

In simple ceremonies at the Legislature, Juan N. Babauta, CNMI's resident representative to Washington D.C. said the decision to issue veteran status to the locals was arrived at by the US Secretary of the Air Force, on behalf of the Secretary of Defense.

"These men risked their lives in 1944 and 1945 in service with the US military. They have waited over 50 years for their bravery to be acknowledged. I am glad they will finally have the honor they earned," Babauta said.

The task to identify and process documents regarding the matter was not easy though, Babauta said, as voluminous materials had to be reviewed in search of records validating the locals' role during the war.



Juan N. Babauta

Babauta formally petitioned the Defense Department for veteran status for the men on Oct. 1, 1997.

Babauta said the next step will be to establish that the locals were part of what was the "Marine Scouts."

"We will assist in applications if requested by the men or their families," said Babauta.

Following this, Babauta said he will work with the CNMI Veterans Affairs to find out what specific benefits the men or their survivors may be eligible for through

the US Department of Veterans Affairs.

The "Marine Scouts" was organized by the U.S. military to assist in mopping-up operations in 1944 and 1945 against several hundred Japanese forces held out in the island following the invasion. The Japanese soldiers remained in hiding and harassed the Americans with nighttime forays and sniper attacks.

The Scouts were issued Marine Corps uniforms, trained to use rifles and grenades and instructed in hand-to-hand fighting.

Once on duty, platoons of Scouts combed Mt. Tapuchao,

the hill areas of Lualau and Kagman, and northward on the ridges to Marpi, rooting out Japanese soldiers that they encountered.

The Scouts also were part of the American expeditions to Pagan and Maug to round up Japanese soldiers stationed there.

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JNB wants Tanapag in US list

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff
THE NORTHERN Marianas' Resident Representative to Washington D.C. will vigorously lobby for the inclusion of the Tanapag polychlorinated biphenyl (PCB) contamination problem into the federal government's National

Priority List which would allow for a speedier clean-up. The task is an uphill climb though.

In an interview, Juan N. Babauta said he will also be "fully" supporting plans to close the Tanapag public cemetery permanently or until such time when the area has been cleared of the cancer-causing chemical that has leaked out from an abandoned capacitor.

The capacitor had been shipped to Saipan, along with several others, from a defense ballistic missile command post at the Kuwajalein Atoll near Hawaii.

Babauta disclosed that the Army Corps of Engineers will now be integrating recommendations made by a firm commissioned to make a study on the contamination. The recommen-

dations, mainly seeking to address health concerns of the villagers, were stricken out in the final report made by the Corps.

The Corps will now be implementing these recommendations.

Babauta said he has submitted an application to place the Tanapag area under the NPL.

"Of course," he said, "I will be lobbying to have it listed."

Babauta said though that Norman Lovelace, EPA manager for Pacific Insular Area Programs, has cautioned him that inclusion into NPL "does not mean that money will come pouring in from every direction."

Babauta also said that Lovelace made it clear there may be "difficulty" in putting Tanapag at the

Continued on page 58

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A Guam Fire Department and an Air Force medics treat an injured man after a simulated air crash yesterday morning. Photo by Eduardo C. Siguenza

Rehab work on Corrections facilities done by Dec. 15th

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff
REPAIR of the Division of Corrections' prison facilities is anticipated to be completed by Dec. 15, Rep. Heinz S. Hofschneider (R-Saipan), who chairs government's prison task force has disclosed.

In an interview, Hofschneider said the ongoing renovation, which includes reinforcing the perimeter fence and upgrading the facilities' sewer and water lines among others, was partly set back by the recent riot that left "everything that is breakable, broken."

The repair is part of the government's \$2.3-million "short-term" solution to problems besetting the prison compound, which includes the construction of a half-way house behind the Motor Vehicle Bureau's office.

"It is almost finished," said Hofschneider. "The completion is anticipated by Dec. 15."

Part of this project is the construction of additional cells and the beefing-up of the prison compound's security personnel.

Hofschneider at the same time said the task force has issued a request for proposal in connection with the engineering and architectural design of a new \$17-million prison facility. Deadline for submission of these proposals has been set for Nov. 15.

Calls for an escape-proof prison compound has lately mounted following a recent jailbreak that spawned public furor against officials of the Department of Public Safety.

Public Safety Commissioner Charles W. Ingram Jr. has admitted the jailbreak involving three prisoners was caused by a "deviation to procedures."

Some quarters said the dilapidated state of the current DOC facilities, including aging chain links, had contributed to the four jailbreaks that had occurred under

Ingram's term.

But Hofschneider thinks otherwise.

"Regardless of whether we do work or not, the jailbreak is going to happen. It has nothing to do with the ongoing construction. Regardless of whether we do the fence (on time) and do a good job on the fencing, if they (prisoners) are going to break out, they will find ways to break out.

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Appellants,

v.

MIGUEL M. SABLAN, etc.
Appellees,
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, etc.
Intervenors.

On Appeal From The
United States District Court
For The Northern Mariana Islands

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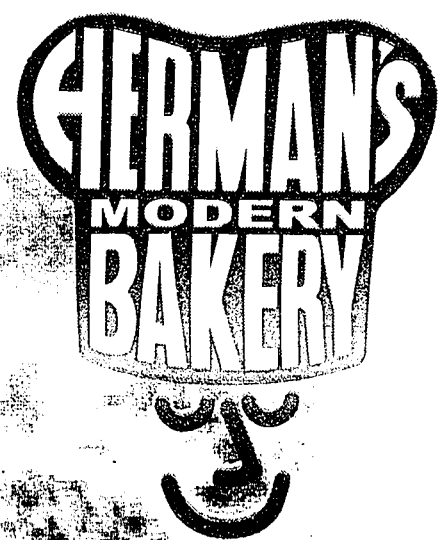
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STANLEY T. TORRES and JEANNE H. RAYPHAND,
Appellants,

v.

MIGUEL M. SABLAN, etc.
Appellees,
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA, etc.
Intervenors.

On Appeal From The
United States District Court
For The Northern Mariana Islands

JURISDICTIONAL STATEMENT

THEODORE R. MITCHELL
Post Office Box 2020
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: 670/234-9800
Telefax: 670/234-3325
Counsel of Record

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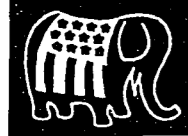
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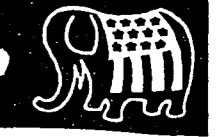
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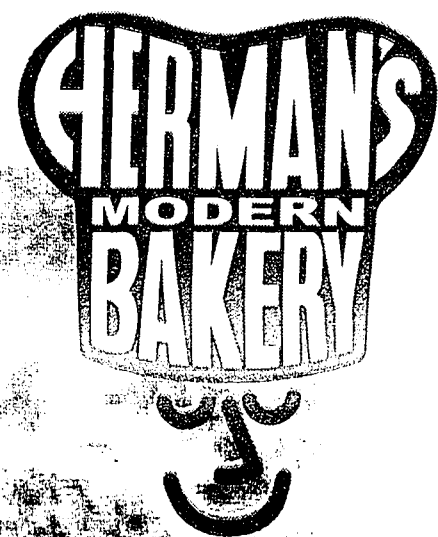
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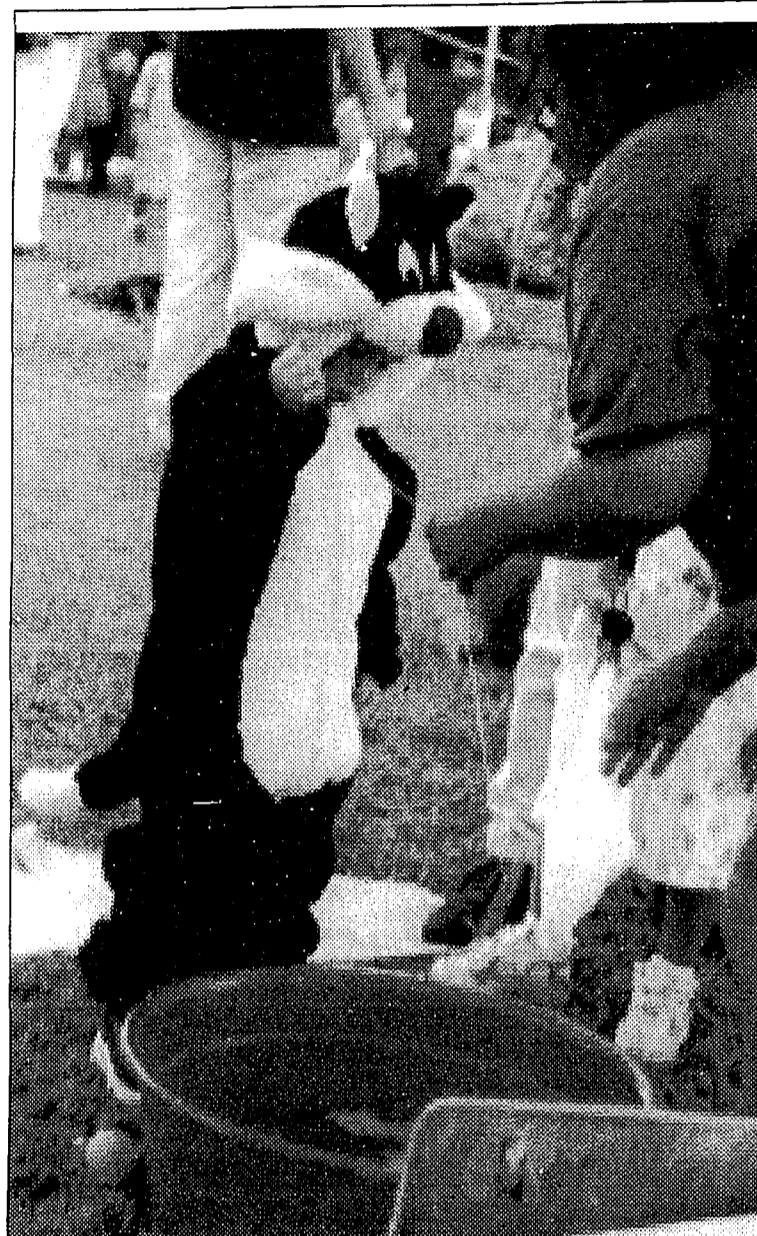
Guam holds Halloween carnival

HAGATNA — Some of the island's pre-school children got a head start on Halloween yesterday at the Paseo playground. With canopies erected to shelter those in attendance from the light sprinkle, three, four, and five-year old children walked around carrying their "Halloween passports" and participated in the morning activities. The event attracted approximately 200 children and parents.

The Department of Education's Special Education Division, in cooperation with

First Lady Geri Gutierrez's People Helping People organization, sponsored the event. Coordinators Marijull Taitano and Terry Lujan of P.C. Lujan Elementary School said the Halloween festival was organized to bring preschool children together, allow for some interaction, and give them a fun day. Preschoolers were also allowed to bring one sibling/guest to the event. The preschool programs of P.C. Lujan Elementary School, Tamuning Elementary School, Wettengel Elementary School,

Marcial A. Sablan Elementary School, and D.L. Perez Elementary School participated in yesterday's event. The children also participated in making lollipop ghosts, face-painting, bean bag tosses, and designing a pumpkin blind-folded. As the children made their way from canopy to canopy, their passports were stamped indicating their visit and participation in the activities. After each activity, treats such as candy, popcorn, toys, and an outfit were handed out.



Tamuning pre-schooler three-year old Raymond Ver is dressed as Sylvester at yesterday's Halloween carnival held at the Paseo in Hagatna. Photo by Tim de la Cruz

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The clothes given to the children were those confiscated by the Department of Customs and Quarantine. Customs Officer III Darlene Merfalen said the Department of Customs and Quarantine — which seized many counterfeit goods coming into Guam — wrote to the various patent companies for permission to donate the confiscated goods to the first lady's organization. Upon approval, many items such as clothes, shoes, hats, and bags were donated to the non-profit organization, Merfalen said. "Instead of us (the Department of Customs and Quarantine) destroying the counterfeit goods we felt it would be better to donate it to a worthy cause with the authorization of the patent holders," said Merfalen. Whether the smiling faces of the children came from the treats they received or the fun they had, Deaf and Hard-of-Hearing preschool teacher Kristi Hol-

land said the opportunity for interaction was good because it made the children feel like they are a part of a greater preschool population. Not many activities are done island wide for preschool students, she added. Holland also said the event made parents part of a larger community of adults with children having special needs. Mothers of Tamuning Elementary School preschoolers Joann Sanchez and Darlene De Guzman learned about the event from their children's teacher. Sanchez, whose three-year old daughter Jaelene Marie dressed up as a purple spider, said the activities were really good. De Guzman said her children Darla and Darian were excited and looked like they were having a lot of fun. Yesterday's Halloween event had a lots treats for children and the tricks came only from those playing pranks on each other and having a good time. TH

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PSS losing administrators

By Marian A. Maraya
 Variety News Staff

MAJORITY of Public School System principals, vice principals, and counselors are slowly thinking about vacating their current administrative positions in pursuit of a teaching career, a PSS counselor yesterday said. Terry Ada, lone counselor of William S. Reyes Elementary School, said some school officials are considering the teaching profession since such position pays relatively more than what school administrators make. The known fact that some teachers make more money than administrators is greatly affecting the "morale" of principals, vice principals, and counselors as managers of the school administration, a public school principal earlier stated. Ada said that there are currently two to three existing counselors on the public schools on island, including herself. "Most administrators are going into teaching. They want to retire

and go into teaching because they will make more money that way. "Now, we have two more retirees who will be going back to teaching so that they can double their money," Ada said. "We're losing people..." she added. School administrators have been pushing for salary increase for the last two years. They first aired their grievances in 1997. The Board of Education during last week's special meeting, said that PSS will have to look at the school system's finances before they can implement the increase. PSS, according to Federal Programs Officer Bill Matson, has to hurdle with the budget shortage. Earlier, the 20 percent salary increase for school administrators was approved by the Legislature. The enacted law states that administrators be given the increase, upon availability of funds. With the kind of work that administrators do, Ada expressed

that the meager amount of salary they get is an injustice. "I am handling 700 kids," she said. Ignacia Demapan, vice principal of Tanapag Elementary School, said that some teachers have higher salaries than the principals right now. Demapan noted that there are discrepancies as many teachers are earning \$48,000 a year while principals only get \$38,000. "Some of counselors are being asked to substitute in classrooms and they're asking more than what we're tasked to do. We've pretty much overwhelmed...I have been stretched too much," said Demapan. But despite the long delay, the administrators said they are "hanging on" in the hopes that they finally be granted the salary raise.

Bus shortage preempts student field trips

By Marian A. Maraya
 Variety News Staff

THE PUBLIC School System has temporarily suspended conducting field trips using PSS buses due to shortage of the highly needed transportation services, it was learned. Food Services and Acting Bus Services Administrator Jesus Dlg. Sanchez expressed fear that the temporary suspension of field trips may curtail the students' potential in acquiring actual hands-on learning experiences from events that happen out of the classroom. "We have now suspended field trips although we really feel bad about this," said Sanchez. Sanchez added that going out and seeing live accounts of the real world at large is just as vital as formal classroom learning. "That aspect of student learning is being suspended at this point in time, because of our situation," said Sanchez. The problem mainly rests on the 14 functional buses that are apparently not enough to cover all schools on island. Continued on page 58

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Some of our satisfied clients wrote from Philippines last June - August 1999:

Dear Auntie Minda,
 Who would ever thought that angels could name in human form? Well, it actually happened when Auntie Minda came into our lives. She is truly God's blessing for she has unconditionally and unselfishly shared her massage & chiroprathy expertise to help restore our family in good health. She has realigned our cervical and spinal columns which brought back our good posture and has made all our activities like walking, sleeping, going up the stairs, etc. easier for all of us. She has relieved my dad from his asthma and his recurring colds & cough; and my mom from her terrible back, neck & hip pains. She realigned Sherwin's (my brother) shoulder blade; and Sheryl's (my sister) back which truly relieved her from excruciating back pain and repositioned her uterus which in turn freed her from dysmenorrhea. Personally, not only did Auntie Minda has helped my family from all their physical ailments, but she cured me from an unknown discomfort which has burdened my family and I for more than a year. At the age of 19 years old my parents brought me to all specialists and well-known doctors they know (neurologist, endocrinologist, cardiologist, etc.) Also, I have experienced all types of medical tests just to discover the real cause of my uncontrollable tremor, which is seen prominently in my hands. The unstoppable tremor has greatly affected me especially in school where use of the hand is very vital since I'm taking up Dentistry course. Finally, my family's last resort was MRI test done to me during our summer vacation visit in the U.S. However, none of the findings and tests can pinpoint the real source/cause of my tremor not until Auntie Minda treated me the very first time at my condominium July of 1998. Not only did she discover the cause of my sickness, but she prayed over me and showered me with positive and uplifting words which has helped me recover faster. After she left, I gained weight, I was able to climb the stairs by myself without the fear of falling, do handwork without shaking and a lot more activities which I'm not able to do with ease before. Auntie Minda, in behalf of my whole family, we truly appreciate everything that you have done for my family and I. We will forever be thankful for your kindness and service. We will never forget your latest visit (June-August 1999) where you have become part of our family. You have treated us with your superb massage, your steam bath treatment, and your all-natural treatment (hot oil, skin care, natural juices, "bawang" & honey treatment for pimples, "luya" w/alcohol & oil for massage, hot compress treatment, etc.), and not to mention being the family's official hairdresser. If I'm gonna enumerate all the things you've done for us and what we've learned from you, I can go on forever. Auntie Minda, all we want to say is "THANK YOU SO MUCH". May God continue to bless you and your family. May you continue to touch other people's lives as much as you have touched ours; and may you be able to help more people just by your healing touch and prayers. GOD BLESS! Take care always! Love Yah!

Sincerely yours,
 /s/Mrs. Lette Villareal /s/Dr. Hermogenes "Boy" P. Villareal
 /s/Maria Sheryl Villareal /s/Sherwin Villareal /s/Shery Villareal

Alabang Village, Alabang Muntinlupa City, Philippines

Dear Minda
 There is so much to thank for. First, God gave Minda Cullen a gift to do chiroprathy and reflexology. Then, she came to my family to share her Godgiven gift. My husband had never ending pains, he easily got tired; he would pant and slouch. Exercise was almost impossible because of all the discomforts popping every now and then. Golf which he liked to do so much was becoming rare or an unfinished game (in a golf cart at that). The pains are gone; his body has been straightened; he feels stronger he can do five kilometer brisk walking in about 45 minutes without panting; once again, he is able to enjoy GOLF.

But of course my husband is just one of us. After a few sessions with Minda, I felt better too and with my nerves relaxed, I decided to have all my children checked. My daughter's and my son's back were being treated and they felt relieved after the first session. Follow-up treatment is recommended. There is also mother who is feeling stronger and her pains are gone as well. She says that Minda is superb!

I have friends lined-up when she comes back to the Philippines in three (3) months time.

God had truly been kind to MINDA and my family

/s/Yasmin V. Espinosa
 Alabang Village, Alabang Muntinlupa City, Philippines



Tun Ramon Tudela of Saipan was so fortunate on his 75th birthday having his photo taken with beautiful Northern Mariana belles. (From left) Sister Cathy Friend; Ana Tudela, his wife; Sister Chilang and Tan Vicky Reyes, his sister. The celebration, attended by about 300 people, took place in Guam last Sunday. Photo by Eduardo C. Siguenza

Artists, vendors sought for Garapan market

THE GARAPAN Street Market Committee is informing all interested parties that application forms for the weekly street market are now available at the Marianas Visitors Authority, the Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture, the Office of Carolinian Affairs and the DPS Koban in Garapan.

Participating vendors selling handicraft items, imported merchandise, or operating food booths should complete applications and submit them to MVA with the deposit fee beginning October 25.

Preference in location will be given to those participants who completes application by Monday, Nov. 15.

The new market will showcase local artists and entertainers, and the sale of food and merchandise representing ethnic groups from around the Pacific Rim.

The Third Street in Garapan is the location site for the market and will be open from 6 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Thursday nights.

The inaugural evening will be December 2, and the Honorable Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio will participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony.

Entertainment will be provided by local performing artists, at no charge.

Questions may be addressed to Rhoda Smith, chairperson at 233-5650, or Martin Duenas at 664-3200.

US Marines celebrate birthday

A BIG celebration for the 224th birthday of the U.S. Marine Corps will take place on Saipan, on Wednesday, November 10th.

This year's celebration will be held at Kelly's Place, located in the Arizona Building, Beach Rd, San Jose.

The affair will be informal, with no dinner charge, cover charge or fees of any type. Festivities will commence at 8:00 PM.

All former and present Marines are invited for a night of memories, and to pay honor to their Corps.

The long, proud and glorious history of the United Marine Corps dates from November 10, 1775, when the Continental Congress first authorized two Battalions of Marines to be raised to serve aboard American ships of war.

The first recruiting was conducted at Tunn Tavern, located in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Every year since that historic date, U.S. Marines stationed the world over, afloat and on shore, during war, and in peace, have celebrated the Marine Corps Birthday every November 10th.

U.S. Marines have served with distinction in every war and conflict the United States has been involved in.

Over this period, they have repeatedly earned the reputation of being the "First to Fight". Along with this reputation have come a number of nicknames - among these; Leatherneck (taken from the high leather collars first worn by Marines to deflect saber cuts), Devil Dogs (given to Marines by the Germans during World War II, as a result of their fighting ability), and Jarheads (reportedly as a result of their very high, short haircuts).

For further information, you may contact Ron Mandell. Daytime phone: 236-9854/45/49. E-mail: Ronmandell@hotmail.com or Sam Petty. Day phone: 234-9084, evenings: 3222-0744.

NMC president search heats up

By Rene P. Acosta

Variety News Staff

THE SELECTION process to choose Agnes McPhetres' replacement as president of the Northern Marianas College is in full swing as Board of Regents Chairman Ramon G.

Villagomez disclosed that all of the regents have been tasked to become part of the screening body.

Villagomez yesterday said that the six-man board, including himself, has been transformed into a committee of a

whole so that all of the regents can participate in the actual deliberation and screening of all the applicants.

The decision to create the board into a committee of the whole was decided upon last Tuesday during the board's special meeting.

McPhetres is going to retire from the college presidency at the end of this year, a position which she held since the island's lone post secondary institution was founded more than 18 years ago.

So far, 20 applicants have expressed their interests to replace the outgoing president but only one of them will be selected. Of the applicants' number, only four were from the Northern Mariana Islands, it was learned.

Villagomez said the committee will be going over the application papers that were submitted to determine who should be moving to the next stage. The only criteria that will be determined on this stage are the ap-



Ramon G. Villagomez



Agnes McPhetres

licants' qualifications.

Those who will not be qualified will be automatically deleted.

The committee will again review the retained application papers before moving on to the grading process.

Villagomez explained that each regent, including himself, are only entitled to give a maximum point of ten.

The first five applicants who would be tallying the highest

points will be automatically drafted to form the semi-final list.

After this, the board chairman said the five semi-finalists will be undergoing the last stage which is the interview portion, and from there the regents will initiate a votation.

Villagomez said the regents will vote to decide on who should be the one to succeed McPhetres.

PSS Food Services needs nutritionist

By Marian A. Maraya

Variety News Staff

THE PUBLIC School System Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) is beefing up efforts to improve its food and nutrition program by eliminating low-value foods or junk food at the school setting.

PSS Food Services Administrator Jesus Dlg. Sanchez yesterday said however, that the program, tasked at providing subsidized meals for students under the Block Grant PSS receives from the U.S. Department of Agriculture, is currently lacking a key personnel.

With the absence of its former lone food nutritionist, Tina P. Goodwin, PSS would have to find a replacement in order to be able to maintain the level of quality the program offers, according to Sanchez.

The nutritionist is the one who designs the monthly menu that students avail of in school. And in going about the menu, the nutritionist takes into account the foods' nutritional value.

Since the position has been vacated a month ago, PSS has already announced its availability, said Sanchez.

Prior to 1997, the school system's food services operated without a practicing nutritionist. And according to Sanchez, FNS has come a long way since then.

In the current school year, about 10,000 students are enrolled in the breakfast and lunch program, said Sanchez.

"This is interesting because he Block Grant that we received from Region 9, 97 percent of it is earmarked for food.

"And it's excellent because

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Born: August 8, 1956
Spouse: Juan Aldan Ichihara
Parents: Juan Atalig De Leon Guerrero (Late) Trinidad Santos Borja De Leon Guerrero (Late) Jose San Miguel Ichihara
In-Law: (Late) Teresa Rosario Aldan Ichihara
Children: Belinda, Roselle, Keoni, Brigette, Kenneth Joel, & Ricky

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EDUCATION

Master of Education (M.Ed.)
Educational Administration
University of Hawaii at Manoa, 1992

Bachelor of Arts (B.A.)
Liberal Studies
(Bilingual Education) with High Honors
University of Hawaii at Manoa, 1981

HONORS/AWARDS

CNMI Legislature House Resolution
1995 Outstanding Pacific Educator
1995 International Space Camp Recipient, Huntsville, AL
1994 CNMI Teacher of the Year
1994 Koblerville Elem. School Teacher of the Year

EXPERIENCE

1998-present	Retired Educator	Principal
1996-1998	Koblerville Elem. School	Classroom Teacher
1989-1996	Koblerville Elem. School	Principal
1986-1989	G.T.C. Elem. School	Vice Principal
1984-1986	G.T.C. Elem. School	Vice Principal
1981-1984	Garapan Elem. School	Chamorro Teacher
1981	University of Hawaii at Manoa	Training & Educational Leave at UHM
1979-1981	Tanapag Elem. School	Classroom Teacher
1978-1979	Tanapag Elem. School	

A member of numerous professional groups in education.
Has attended numerous continuing professional development and workshops.
Very active in community involvement.

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"ICHIHARA Para I Taotao-ta"

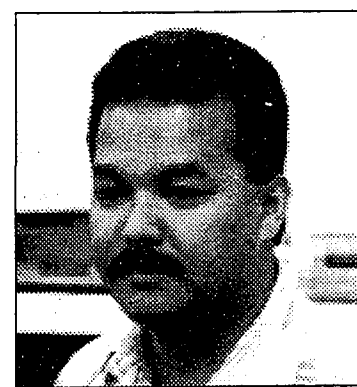
Paid for by the Committee to Elect Brigida Dlg. Ichihara
Chairman: Jose N. Santos, Treasurer: Barbara Macduff

Off-isle students seek help

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff
SENATE President Paul A. Manglona has written Scholarship Office head, Hilaria Santos raising concern on the "apparent lack of communication" between the agency and off-island students.

"The apparent lack of communication between your office and the students who are busy attending institutions of higher learning throughout the United States seriously alarms me," Manglona said.
Manglona's letter came at the heels of a recent dialogue he had with CNMI students in Guam.

In that meeting, the SO students expressed disappointment with the way the scholarship program is being administered under Santos' leadership.
Manglona asked Santos to look into the students' concerns and set a dialogue with them to be attended by representatives from the Office of the Govern-



Paul A. Manglona



Alejo Mendiola Jr.

nor, the Office of the Attorney General and the Legislature.
The students have been asking intervention from members of the Legislature, particularly the Senate President over their concerns.

These problems and programs include the incentive plan: teacher scholarships; tuition increases; routing of checks; and the educational leave.
"The students raised valid concerns regarding their frustration and disappointment with a number of issues affecting the implementation and administration of the scholarship program," Manglona wrote Santos.

The Senate President said the problems were not only raised

by students who are enrolled in the University of Guam in particular, but also those who are currently studying in the U.S. mainland.

Manglona and Rep. Alejo Mendiola Jr. met with the students studying in Guam last week.

Manglona said that despite the differences in the opinion between the Legislature, the Scholarship Office, and the government's attorney, the three offices should be continuing their communications in order to serve the students.

He asked that Santos' office set a date, at the earliest period, for a dialogue with the students who are enrolled in Guam to address the problems.

Hagoi wetland awaits US Navy go-ahead

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

The UNITED States is currently soliciting comments from residents on the proposed hand over of the Hagoi wetland in Tinian for international protection.

The Navy's position, particularly of its two commands which hold jurisdiction over the entire CNMI, is that it may not release the wetland unless the public demand so.

The government has been strongly pursuing the inclusion of Hagoi into the list of areas covered by the Convention on Wetlands or what is more commonly known as the Ramsar Convention.

The Ramsar Convention is an inter-governmental treaty that have been signed by 116 states.

Hagoi has been considered a wetland of international importance, which the government said deserves Ramsar protection.

Hagoi is considered the least-disturbed wetland in the whole Mariana Islands and it is home to 18 percent of all of the region's moorhen.

Hagoi was recommended by Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Tinian Mayor Francisco Borja to be included in the Ramsar list on May 24, 1999, but was not acted upon due to the absence of an approval from the Navy.

The wetland falls within the Navy's Exclusive Military Use Area where training exercise are being held periodically. The Navy however said Hagoi was spared during exercises.

Approximately two-thirds of Tinian is currently leased to the US Navy.

The Navy said the designation of Hagoi will restrict its forces under their Marianas Training Plan, and will certainly create conflicts with the military.

It added "that it will not likely support the Governor's nomination unless political or public pressure forces the Navy to take serious consideration of the proposed designation."

The Navy said comments can be forwarded directly to Admiral Thomas Fargo, the commander-in-chief of the US Pacific Fleet at 250 Makalapa Drive, Pearl Harbor, Hawaii 96860-3131.

They can be sent also to Rear Admiral Jonathan Greenert, the commander of the Naval Forces Marianas, with an address at PSC 455, Box 152, FPO AP 96540.

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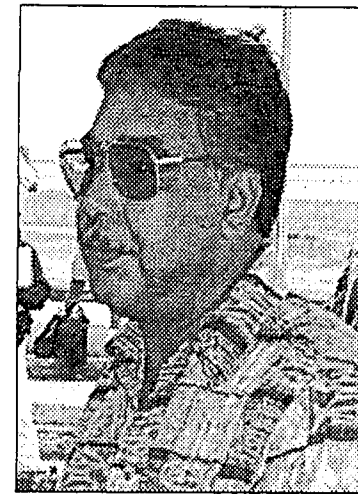
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In Majuro

US releases secret nuke docs

MAJURO — U.S. government officials said yesterday in Majuro that the U.S. Department of Energy has released more than one million pages of formerly classified documents relating to the U.S. nuclear testing program in the Marshall Islands.

The DOE is now in the process of processing another 350 nuclear test era documents for the Marshall Islands that will bring to a close seven years of searches as part of the DOE's policy of "openly disclosing this important information to the people of the Marshall Islands," Paul J. Seligman, the deputy assistant secretary for health studies at DOE, said in a letter to Foreign Minister Phillip Muller earlier this month. The letter was released by U.S.



Phillip Muller

Ambassador Joan Plaisted in Majuro yesterday.

The formerly top-secret documents, mostly from the 1950s, include reports on exposure of Marshall Islanders to nuclear

test fallout from many of the 67 nuclear weapons tests conducted at Bikini and Enewetak.
Some of the documents revealed radiation experiments planned by Brookhaven National Laboratory doctors for islanders from Rongelap who had been exposed to fallout from the massive 15 megaton Bravo hydrogen bomb in 1954.

Marshall Islands officials said that a number of the test-era documents are providing a foundation for the Marshall Islands to appeal to the U.S. for additional financial compensation and expanded medical care as the newly declassified documents demonstrate that fallout was more widespread than previously admitted by U.S. authorities.

Seligman said that all-told, 14,000 DOE documents had been released as part of the U.S. carrying out its commitment to the Marshall Islands to open its files. The thousands of released documents have been posted on the DOE's Internet website, he added.

Seligman also announced that the DOE had approved a \$45,000 grant for the Marshall Islands Embassy in Washington to train embassy personnel in archival search techniques and to facilitate their access to and use of DOE's electronic filing system.

Marshall's Foreign Minister

Phillip Muller commended the DOE on its document release program. He said that while the Marshalls believes there are still many documents that have yet to be released, the Marshalls appreciated the DOE's effort at providing the reports that had never before been seen by Marshall Islanders.

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Guam senators pass 'Sunshine measure'

HAGATNA—The legislature yesterday passed Bill 334 (COR) which approves the lists of Sunshine Reform Act exemptions submitted to the Committee on Health, Human Services, and Chamorro Heritage.

Sen. Simon A. Sanchez II (R-Tamuning), author of the bill, said the Sunshine Reform Act of 1999 (Public Law 25-06) will still be the framework that will be used.

The bill approves the lists of the Act exemptions submitted to the Legislature's Committee on Health, Human Services, and Chamorro Heritage which is being chaired by Sanchez.

During Wednesday's session,

there was some confusion due to inconsistencies in the lists submitted by various agencies and different legislative oversight committees.

Sanchez said under the Sunshine Reform Act, the agencies were again required to submit lists that were, in their opinion, not covered by the original "sunshine" law.

As legislative committees scheduled public hearings on those lists, senators found out that the Sunshine Reform Act, particularly Title 6, already have language that protects things like personnel records and P.L. 25-06 did not repeal them.

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GVB eyes Korea marketing

Variety News Staff
HAGATNA -- In light of the bad publicity Guam has been getting in Korea, the Guam Visitors Bureau (GVB) is further cranking up its ongoing marketing efforts to sustain the momentum that GVB

has already achieved in the Korean market.

The Korean market has been in an upswing for Guam during the last few months but recent media reports about the ill-fated Korean Airlines (KAL) flight which

crashed two years ago has again put Guam in an unfavorable light.

According to GVB, Korean media, especially KBS Radio, have been reporting that the Guam airport is responsible for the KAL crash.

With the U.S. National Transportation Safety Board hearing on the KAL crash coming up next week, GVB is anticipating more bad publicity for Guam. This is the reason why it is taking the proactive approach and stepping up its marketing efforts in Korea.

GVB's Korean marketing committee has already made a motion to recommend that all sales and marketing promotions related to the Korean market pass through the committee first so that all Korean marketing efforts are focused, centralized, and honed by Korean marketing experts in the committee.

GVB has also set advertising, sales market development, and trade shows in Korea as one of its priorities for fiscal year 2000. Of the Korea marketing committee's overall budget, GVB plans to allot 23 percent to sales and market development (including special airline and travel agency promotions) amounting to some \$223,000.

Some \$235,000 likewise will likewise be spent in Korean advertising and \$109,000 will be used for the WEDDEX & KOTFA trade fairs, Korean honeymooners being an important market for Guam.

In addition, GVB also plans to

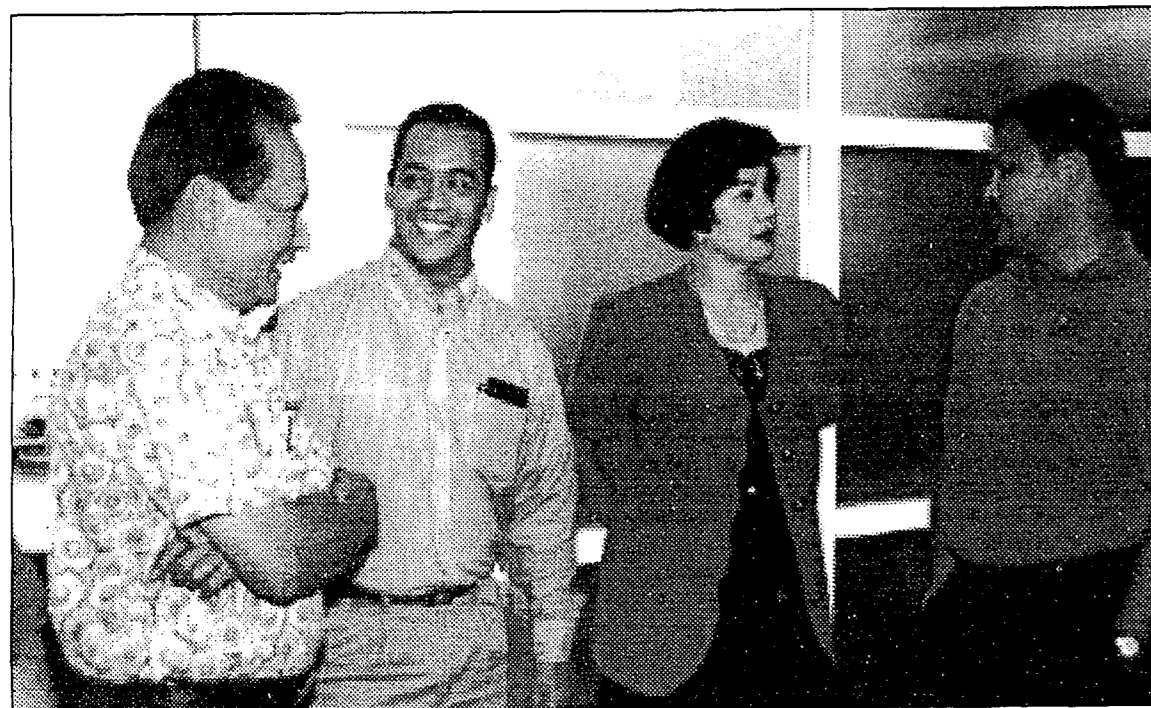
fund TV crews from Korea that will film on Guam, the "I Love Guam Year Campaign," the "Happy Honeymoon Campaign," the development of a Korean market website, a college spirit promotion, and various seminars and promotions on the Korean market.

GVB is also launching a cooperative promotion for Asiana's daily service to Guam. This consists of leaflet production, travel agents ad support, weekday promotions, media familiarization tours, and print media advertising.

Asiana Airlines recently introduced daily flights to Guam and GVB expects the new flight schedule to increase seat capacity from the Korean market by 40 percent. Moreover, Continental Airlines is still planning to begin service from Seoul to Guam but the airline is not prepared to release any information at this time.

Assuming Asiana will maintain a 9 flights a week schedule using B767 aircraft with 260 seats, GVB said 144,820 annual seats can be realized from Asiana.

If Continental pushes through with its plan to initiate charter service twice a week using B737 aircraft, this would add another 14,688 annual seats for the Korean market.



Speaker Tony Unpingco, Sen. Frank Aguon Jr., assistant vice president Institutional/Pacific Islands Department for Bank of Hawaii Guam branch Marilyn Perez Magofna, and Kenneth Lujan of Small Business Administration enjoy a conversation Wednesday at the bank's Hagatna branch.
 Photo by Eduardo C. Siguenza

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The National Honor Society of Marianas High School recently elected officers for SY 99-00. From left (1st row): Treasurer Julliver Kintz, President Andrew Borja, and Parliamentarian John Jimeno. (2nd row) Secretary Janice Santos, Historian Carmen Indalecio, Vice President Min Jung Yoon, and Corresponding Secretary Jihye Choi.

Live Guam snake brought to Hawaii

Variety News Staff
HAGATNA -- A live brown tree snake from Guam was legally brought into Hawaii to help train dogs detect snakes which are considered to be the greatest threat to Hawaii's environment.

The move is also seen to prevent brown tree snakes from establishing in Hawaii.

The snake has been nicknamed "Sam" by Hawaii governor Ben Cayetano, the Honolulu Star-Bulletin reported.

The Hawaii Legislature last year passed a bill to allow the animal to be imported. The state has an \$18,000, three-year contract with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to keep Hawaii supplied with a snake.

According to Hawaii agriculture officials, it is cheaper to import a snake and train dogs in Hawaii than to send dogs and handlers to Guam to be trained.

Hawaii has four dogs that inspect planes and luggage for snakes. With a live snake, the state hopes to increase the number of dog and inspector teams to seven.

The Guam snake was the first snake legally brought into Hawaii and it costs about \$900 to neuter and import the animal.

The snake is being held in a box, inside another locked box with two padlocks and every time it is brought out, the snake is put into a double-secured cotton bag.

Three inspectors are to be on site every time it is taken out for training and a radio transmitter has been attached to it so that inspectors can track it if it escapes.

The said type of snake has already brought irreparable damage to Guam's bird population.

Ana Sablan Teregeyo

has you and your concerns in mind...



WOMEN'S ISSUES

Women have always had pivotal roles in the enrichment of the family, community, the nation and the world. The Anti-Prostitution Law (PL 8-14), as amended, and the proposed Domestic and Family Violence Act are there to remedy some of the social ills of our society. My goal is to make sure that family and women issues are given priority.



YOUTH

Preparing our children for the challenges of the future is the reason why I am here. Laws such as the CNMI Youth Congress Act (PL 8-27), as amended, and the restriction of tobacco sale to minors are there to empower our children to develop their leadership skills and to protect their health as well. Your children and their future are my priority.



ARTS AND CULTURE

Arts and culture and the people are one. As Founder and Board Secretary of CNMI Cultural and Performing Arts Center Foundation, I wish to awaken people's awareness of the fact that arts and culture are the soul of our nation. It reflects what we are, how and why we are. To me, it is essential that we keep in touch with ourselves, our heritage, our present. We should be proud of what we are and what we can be.



TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

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Isles seek means to better deal with rising sea levels

SUVA (Pacnews) — The international community must take an integrated approach in helping small island states boost their capacity to deal with disruptive climate change and sea-level rise.

Delegates from nine Pacific island countries attending the Climate Convention conference being held this week in Bonn, Germany, said the Climate Convention and its Kyoto Protocol contained ten separate references to the need to improve the capacity of developing and vulnerable countries to meet their Convention commitments and begin the steps they would have to take to adapt to climate change.

They said these provisions needed to be gathered under one umbrella, to provide a coherent framework within which specific projects can be designed.

John Mooteb from the Federated States of Micronesia said it was critical that capacity-building projects should be driven by the needs of the country.

"What the donor community thinks we need is not always appropriate," Mooteb said.

"For example, one of our outer islands was given a huge walk-in refrigerator. But it uses too much electricity, and it is too big for that community's needs. So instead it is being used as a storage shed."

Vanuatu delegate, Russell Nari said it was also essential that projects should be designed so their effects continued long-term.

"If you introduce a new technology, you can't just walk in and walk out. The country receiving that technology needs to know how to operate and maintain that technology.

And it has to be cross-checked

to make sure the country can afford to maintain and operate it long-term."

Nakibae Teuatabo from Kiribati said small island states urgently needed assistance in developing the planning and decision-making tools they would need, as climate change impacts became more severe.

"We need to be able to apply the tools, and we need to be able to collect necessary data and establish data systems," Teuatabo said.

"Our capacity building needs cover a wide range of areas, but some of the more pressing include data gathering and analysis for vulnerability and adaptation options studies and compilation of greenhouse gas inventories. We also need a broad range of skills, research and technologies to help us deal with coastal erosion."

Teuatabo said another specific

need in Kiribati was research to establish a definition of drought, so the public could receive drought warnings.

"Then there is the growing need to protect our coasts. We are interested in establishing mangroves as a first line of protection, but we need assistance in investigating whether mangroves will grow in certain locations, how to carry out a pilot project, which varieties to select, how to grow young plants in nurseries and how to transplant them."

He said as well as integrating capacity building provisions in the Climate Convention, there was also a need to integrate regional initiatives.

"One country may already have knowledge and skills that could be applied in another as well. We need assistance in pooling our regional knowledge."

PNG island said sinking

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews) — A Papua New Guinea Government Scientific Team has confirmed the islands of Duke of York in the East New Britain Province are sinking. And it has strongly recommended that islanders relocate to higher grounds, possibly in the Gazelle-Peninsula.

The Investigation team led by Senior Lands Officer, Orim Ladi has completed its report and will be handed over to the East New Britain Government for its action.

The team confirmed reports of the sinking Islands with several government services including a wharf and parts of a school and aid post already under water.

A United Nations Development Program Scientist, Doctor Simon Saule who also carried out studies on the Islands says the islands are sinking at a rate of 2 to 3 centimetres a year.

Media ban lifted in Solomons

HONIARA (Pacnews) — The Minister of State Assisting the Prime Minister, Alfred Sasako says restrictions placed on the media in the Solomon Islands lapsed on October 15.

This is around the same time the State of Public Emergency was lifted.

Sasako made the clarification after an earlier statement from the Prime Minister's office said the media restriction was still in place.

The State Minister said the media restrictions were amendments to the State of Public Emergency, so they naturally lapsed when the emergency ended.

He however called on the me-

dia to continue to be responsible, balanced and fair in their reporting of the current situation.

"This is particularly relevant in view of the continuing social unrest, which are experiencing on Guadalcanal and the reported retaliatory action by Malaitans. While militant activities may have subsided the political climate remains fluid and ethnic situation continues to be as volatile as ever," Sasako said.

He said the media must be careful not to unnecessarily incite the situation but to assist in informing people about the peace process now underway on Guadalcanal.

Meanwhile, in another development, officials from Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea have

noted the lack of progress in implementing the provisions of the Basic Border Agreement.

The agreement pertains to the border between the countries, which separates Bougainville from the Western and Choiseul Provinces.

Officials from the two countries had however acknowledged during bilateral talks in Port Moresby last week their own difficult situations back home were affecting the agreed work programmes identified in the last 12 months.

The programmes include the traditional inhabitants meeting, the border liaison meeting and the joint border committee meeting.

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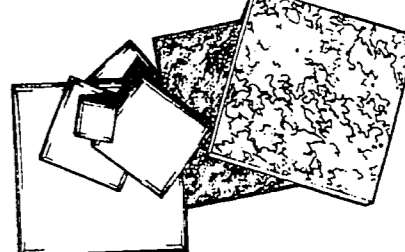
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Report: Guam emerges from slump

BANK OF Hawaii's Guam Economic Report October 1999, researched and written by Regional Economist Dr. Wali M. Osman, describes Guam as a U.S. territory which is beginning to emerge from a severe downturn caused by a significant decline in East Asian tourism and the Asian financial crisis.

Guam finished 1997 with a small 1.4 percent gain in tourist arrivals, despite Asian financial ills, a Korean Airlines plane crash and a violent storm, mainly on the strength of an 8.2 percent rise in its dominant market, Japan, and a 2.9 percent gain in gross island

product.

Also, Guam experienced price deflation in 1997, with its consumer price index dropping from 101.82, in the first quarter, to 101.01 in the fourth quarter.

In 1998, visitor arrivals to Guam dropped 17.7 percent, with arrivals from Korea down 83.0 percent, following suspension of KAL flights to Guam after the late 1997 crash.

Based on preliminary data, gross island product dropped 1.9 percent, making this the territory's worst recession of the decade.

Following the very small 1997 GIP gain this decline signaled an

erosion in the territory's standard of living.

Most tourists from Japan and other east Asian markets participate in package tours that major wholesalers sell for large groups. These visitors are usually on limited budgets and do not have the spending money "free and independent" travelers may have.

Osman suggested that Guam's tourist industry may want to look into identifying and pursuing longer-staying and higher-spending tourists as well as families traveling with children, another rapidly growing market segment.

Guam's total population is esti-

mated to have reached 163,373 in 1999, up 2.3 percent from 1998.

Likewise, in 1990-98, the population growth rate averaged 2.3 percent, almost the same as in the previous decade, while employment growth resembles that of developing economies.

Osman states that if the population continues to expand rapidly while the economy does not generate the mix and number of jobs the increasingly educated labor force expects, per capita income is unlikely to improve.

Of the total reported labor force of 72,700 in June 1999, 11,060 were unemployed, for

an official jobless rate of 15.2 percent in June 1999.

In September 1997, the beginning of the current economic and employment downturn, Guam's unemployment rate was reported to be 9.2 percent.

Guam's economy remained weak in the first half of 1999, with employment figures revealing a continuing loss of jobs.

Osman points out that total visitor arrivals for 1999 likely to rise 2.5 percent, or more, if fourth-quarter bookings follow the third quarter's — suggesting the possibility of some improvement in the economic out-

Estrada cracks down against pornography

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine President Joseph Estrada pledged Wednesday that his government will follow through on a campaign to ban films and publications that have become increasingly sexually explicit.

Estrada, a former actor, said movie producers have overstepped the bounds of decency and offended society.

"We'll prove to them that they committed an offense," Estrada said in a radio interview.

Films and magazines have become increasingly explicit during Estrada's administration, with frontal nudity permitted by his Movie and Television Review and Classification Board in several recently released movies.

Under previous governments the MTRCB acted as a censorship board, telling producers to remove certain portions of movies. In contrast, Estrada's more liberal board has merely issued ratings, which often were relaxed on appeal.

While the country's strong Catholic Church campaigns steadfastly against pornography, so-called "bold" movies routinely attract large audiences and wide publicity.

Estrada urged the classification board to toughen its standards and reject "indecent" films, and warned he may replace its members.

"Any repetition of this kind of bold films will be dealt with accordingly," he said.

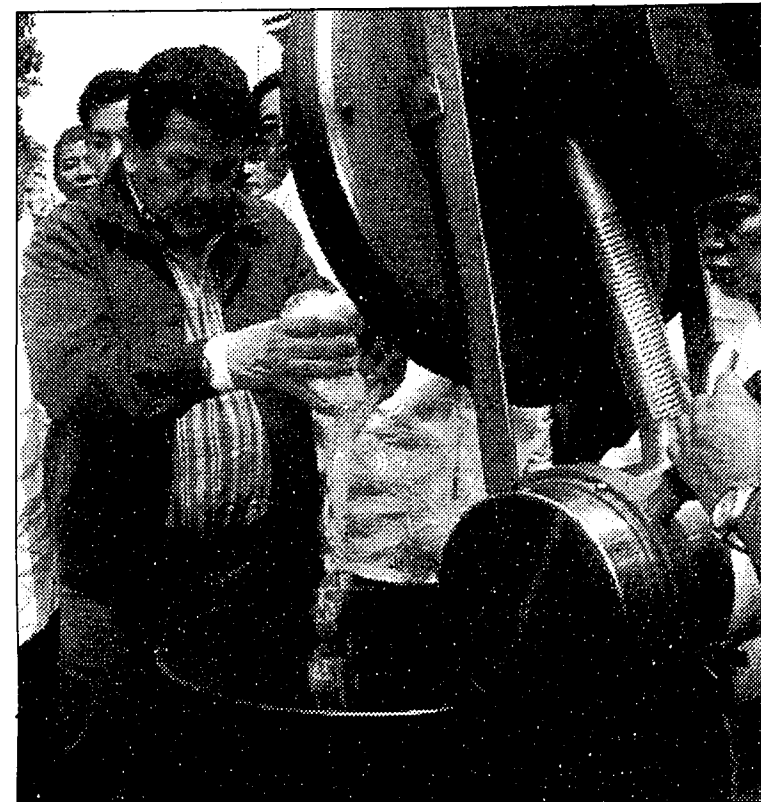
Church groups have also expressed concern. A group in Quezon City in metropolitan Manila burned Playboy and other magazines last week in an anti-pornography protest.

ming was heightened last week by provocative costumes worn by movie star Rosanna Roces at a televised award ceremony.

One dress exposed one of her breasts, which was covered only by a hand-painted design. Pictures of the costumes were splashed across the front pages of newspapers and broadcast repeatedly on TV news programs.

The exposure prompted Estrada to order Executive Secretary Ronaldo Zamora to mobilize anti-crime agencies to step up an anti-pornography drive.

Church groups have also expressed concern. A group in Quezon City in metropolitan Manila burned Playboy and other magazines last week in an anti-pornography protest.



Philippine President Joseph Estrada pours a bag of some 108 kilos (238 pounds) of methamphetamine hydrochloride or "shabu" worth P220 million (U.S. \$5.5 million) into a portable incinerator before burning it at the Malacanang grounds Wednesday. The activity is part of the President's anti-drug campaign. AP



PLEASE ELECTION PRECINCT # 4 Tom Basa Pangelinan

Tom Basa Pangelinan

To my family and friends of Election Precinct Four encompassing As Matus, San Roque, Achugao, Tanapag, As Mahetog, Capitol Hill, As Teo and Kagman I, it gives me great pleasure to endorse the candidacy of Tom Basa Pangelinan for the House of Representatives. Tom Pangelinan is running under the Republican Party banner.



Juan Nekai Babauta

Tom presently serves as a member of the Board of Education. His career has been dedicated to education, which I sincerely value. As a teacher, he has received numerous recognitions and awards for excellence in teaching. As a principal of Hopwood Junior High School, he has implemented programs in improving students achievement.

With Tom Pangelinan working together with Rep. Frank Cepeda in the Twelfth Legislature the residents of Election Precinct Four can be assured of the best representation.

Please vote Tom Pangelinan, Rep. Frank Cepeda, Sen. Juan P. Tenorio and the rest of the Republican Party candidates in the upcoming election on November 6, 1999.

Agnes M. McPhetres
Agnes M. McPhetres
Resident Representative to the United States

Ascheleghin me Olomwaay,
Joquin M. Rabauliman
JOAQUINA M. RABOULIMAN

To The People of Election Precinct IV

We the undersigned professionals of the CNMI would like to take this opportunity to offer our endorsement of the candidacy of Mr. Thomas B. Pangelinan for Congressman from Precinct 4.

Mr. Pangelinan has already offered a lifetime of Public Service to the people of the CNMI as an educator. He has served as a teacher, a school principal, a consultant to Pacific Resources for Education and Learning, and most recently as a member of the Board of Education. His accomplishments as the Principal of Hopwood Junior High School are legendary, as a supporter of the students in his charge and of the educators who served with him at that school.

At this juncture, Tom has elected to continue his service to the Commonwealth as an elected representative of the people, broadening the impact of his dedication to the islands that he loves, and serving the residents of the district. We believe that with his innate sense of fair play and his unique ability to "cut to the core" of the issues that confront him, no one will better serve the needs of his constituents and the Commonwealth.

For these reasons, we are proud to support his candidacy for office, and urge all voters from the precinct to do the same.


Agnes M. McPhetres
Agnes M. McPhetres

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Robert A. Erickson

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MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The World Bank expects the Philippines will continue to seek loans for at least the next decade as the country grapples to reduce poverty, an official said Wednesday.

Bernard Funck, the World Bank's Manila-based economist, said helping to reduce poverty remains the World Bank's main role in the Philippines, where close to 40 percent of the country's 75 million people are estimated by the Washington-based development bank to live below the poverty line.

"As poverty remains, the bank has a reason to be here," Funck said.

He said delays in implementing reforms undertaken by the Philippine government in return for World Bank loans have prevented the country from taking full advantage of the financial assistance that would have been at its disposal.

"It's no mystery that the present performance of loan disbursements is not as good as it should be," Funck said in an interview with Dow Jones Newswires.

The World Bank economist cited the slow passage of the General Banking Act, a bill to strengthen the country's banking system.

Amendments to the bill are still bogged down in the political process.

Funck said the Philippines could also tap more funds if it presented the World Bank with more "big ticket" projects aimed at reducing poverty.

"The Philippines is still at a stage where the number of projects is under their headroom," Funck said.

Over the next three years, the World Bank expects to lend between \$1 billion to \$1.5 billion to the Philippines, an amount similar to the funds approved for 1996-1999. Additional structural reforms could see this amount rise to \$2 billion.

However, the World Bank has indicated that funding over the next three years could fall to as low as \$500 million to \$750 million if there are substantial delays in implementing reforms and development projects.

Funck said the slow implementation of projects such as road construction has delayed the disbursement of loan payments as well as the approval of new loans.

This year, the government has tapped \$640 million in loans from multilateral agencies and bilateral sources, mainly for budgetary support. In addition, several bond sales on the international market have raised some \$1.5 billion this year.

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Ventura: No to 2000 question

MINNEAPOLIS (AP) — Gov. Jesse Ventura tried again Wednesday to clear up questions about his presidential ambitions by issuing a resounding "no."

A day earlier, the Reform Party governor had told Harvard Current magazine that he would consider running if Minnesotans mobilized behind him.

"I said that I'm not running, that I won't run and they said to me, 'Well what if it means saving the third-party move-

ment?'" Ventura told reporters.

"And I said, if indeed it got to that point, it would require the people of Minnesota to come out and say, 'It's OK, governor, run for president.'"

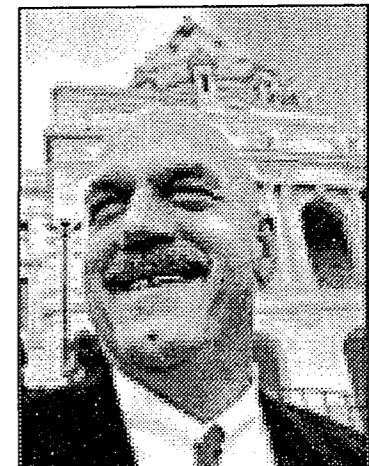
He emphasized, "It does not mean I'm doing it. I said that would simply be one thing that would have to happen, but the 'nos' preceded that. No no no. I'm not."

Ventura also acknowledged his long-standing policy of never saying never to any-

thing, and blamed the media for contorting his comments to make something out of them.

"Certainly, I don't know if tomorrow, anything can happen tomorrow. But I tell you no means no and you don't believe me for whatever reason," Ventura said.

He said the Harvard student interviewers were "really begging" him to run in an attempt to save the third party and that he was clear he wouldn't run. Before climbing into his Lin-



Gov. Jesse Ventura

coln Navigator and riding off, Ventura joked that he might quickly change his mind, turn around and say, "Yes, I'm running!"

Pat Buchanan, who joined the Reform Party on Monday and is seeking its presidential nomination, plans several stops in Minnesota on Thursday.

On the possibility of meeting with Buchanan, Ventura said, "It's not on my schedule." Would he support Buchanan as the party's nominee? "I plan to have no comment," Ventura said.

Census launches campaign

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Census Bureau kicked off its campaign Wednesday to make sure everyone is included in next year's national head count.

"America cannot have a successful census without the support of the American people," said Rep. Dan Miller, R-Fla., chairman of the House Government Reform's Census subcommittee.

The goal is to combine advertising, community involvement and other promotions to make sure everyone is aware of the census and to get people

to mail back their forms.

Census Day is April 1, 2000, with the results used to reapportion seats in the House and many state and local districts and to distribute \$185 billion in federal aid to cities, states and communities.

Various types of advertising in 17 languages focuses on the theme, "This is our future. Don't leave it blank."

In the past, Census promotions have relied on free public service announcements, which usually ran on television and radio at odd hours when few were tuned in.

This year, a \$167 million paid advertising campaign is planned, with Census expected to be the third largest broadcast advertiser in the month before the count - trailing only McDonald's and Burger King.

The campaign will begin Nov. 1 and has three phases: educational, motivational and nonresponse follow-up.

The ads present messages about Census 2000 for the general public, as well as specific messages for blacks, Hispanics, Asians, American Indians, native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders and Alaska natives.

House tackles assisted suicide

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House approved legislation today that would authorize drug enforcement agents to crack down on physicians who intentionally use federally controlled drugs to help patients die.

The House voted 271-156 for a bill sponsored by House Judiciary Chairman Henry Hyde that would penalize physicians who aid in a suicide, but the measure also says controlled substances are medically legitimate for treating pain.

The bill also authorizes \$5 million for more training and education to improve end-of-

life care.

The measure is a major setback for Oregon, the only state that has legalized physician-assisted suicide for terminal patients with fewer than six months to live. All 15 patients who died under the law during its first full year in 1998 used controlled substances to take their lives.

"Suicide is the ultimate act of despair and facilitating the intentional killing of a human life is the opposite of healing," said Hyde, R-Ill.

But opponents argued the bill would discourage pain treatment for tens of millions of Americans.

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Anti-hate crime bill pushed

WASHINGTON (AP) — With the father of a shooting victim supporting them, Democrats on Wednesday took up President Clinton's call for anti-hate crime legislation, calling the Republicans blocking it "racially insensitive."

Sen. Edward M. Kennedy, D-Mass., who leveled the charge, was joined by Democrats, religious leaders and Alan Stepakoff of Los Angeles, whose 6-year-old son Joshua was injured Aug. 10 by a gunman who raked the North Valley Jewish Community Center with bullets.

Lawmakers must "send a clear message that our society is too mature a country, too great, to tolerate these kinds of crimes no matter where in the United States people live or travel," Stepakoff told reporters after noting that Joshua has recovered enough to play soccer again.

Referring to the Republicans, Kennedy said: "I don't think that there is any question that this lead-



Edward M. Kennedy



Tom Daschle

ership is racially insensitive to what is happening out across America."

The racism charge flared earlier this month when the Senate rejected the nomination of Missouri Supreme Court Judge Ronnie White to be U.S. District Judge for the Eastern District of Missouri. Democrats from Senate Minority Leader Tom Daschle of South Dakota to Rep. Maxine Waters of California accused Re-

publicans of rejecting him because he is black; Republicans cited his record on the death penalty and drug enforcement.

On Wednesday, against the backdrop of an escalating budget fight, Democrats leveled the charge again as they pushed for Congress to take another look at legislation that would add crimes motivated by sexual orientation, gender and disability to the list of hate crimes - race, religion, color

or national origin - already covered by federal law. Inclusion in the law means higher penalties for violators and gives federal prosecutors the option of stepping in if local authorities decline to press charges.

Republican leaders, however, say such legislation is repetitive and refuse to include it in spending bills.

"A crime is a crime," said House Majority Leader Dick Armey of Texas.

The Senate included two versions of the legislation in a \$39 billion spending bill to fund the commerce, state and justice departments, but the House omitted it. Negotiators who reconciled the two ultimately left the hate crimes measure out of the final version Congress sent to the White House.

Clinton vetoed the spending bill, in part because the hate crimes legislation was missing, and has demanded that Congress restore it.

Republicans said they were just

rejecting a bad bill.

"Any time we have a policy dispute they decide to call us names," said John Feehery, spokesman for House Speaker Dennis Hastert, R-Ill. "There's a general agreement among Republicans and a lot of other people that any crime is a hate crime and once you start classifying by group, you give special significance to which group is included and which is not."

Democrats have accused Republicans of being racist for refusing to protect specific groups from hate crimes in a year that saw mass shootings and murders of members of those groups.

"If there were real compassionate conservatism, then hate crimes would be in the" spending bill, said Sen. Charles Schumer, D-N.Y. "We cannot just talk about being compassionate and then say that it's okay to beat up someone ... because of their race or their creed or their color or their sexual orientation."

2 stockbrokers killed in New Jersey rubout

COLTS NECK, N.J., (Reuters)

- Two stockbrokers were found dead in a pool of blood on a mansion floor in a double execution-style slaying, authorities investigating the case said Wednesday.

Authorities said workmen found the bodies of Mair Lehmann, 37, of Woodmere, New York, and Alain Chalem, 41, on Tuesday in the million-dollar, 16-acre mansion where Chalem lived with a girlfriend.

They said the men traded penny stocks for investors on the Internet. Prosecutors, who had no suspects yet, were investigating whether the killings were linked to their business.

Chalem was shot several times in the head, indicating a struggle, and Lehmann suffered one bullet wound to the back of the neck, Monmouth County Prosecutor John Kaye said.

Cellular phones, one hit by gunfire, were found near the bodies. The phones had more than 90 messages on them, many from locations overseas.

Kaye said investigators were probing the traders' connections with "people they did business with in an organized way," including people in Russia.

Kaye said the brokers were believed to be involved in practices that violated FCC regulations and might have led to the murders.

But he said a disgruntled investor was not a likely suspect. "If you lost money trading, you'd want your money. If you kill them, there is no money," Kaye said.

Investigators were looking for clues in the business's computer hard drives, cell phone logs and other records.

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Juana Muna Camacho

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Rosa Sablan Tudela

Mariano Palacios Camacho
Valeriana Acosta Camacho

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Author the appropriation for the construction of Koblerville School Base-ball Field

Co-author the appropriation for the construction of San Vicente Tennis/Basketball Courts

Author the appropriation for the construction of San Vicente Road

Author the appropriation for the water lines connecting San Vicente & DanDan

Coordinator for the Palacios power distribution in Afetnas

GOALS & OBJECTIVES

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Repeal and Re-enact new comprehensive laws that work for all sectors of our community

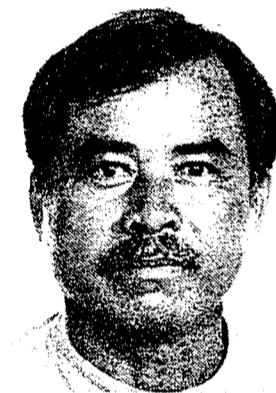
Repeal tax laws that drive away and Bankrupt businesses

Protect recipients of our Scholarship Program

Advocate for a coordinated Sport & Recreation Programs

The community must be requested for input and eliminate the railroading of legislation

Enact appropriation law for the construction of DanDan Parks & Recreational facilities



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Bachelor Degree
University of Guam

High School
Mount Carmel

PUBLIC SERVICES:

Delegate, 1st Constitutional Convention
Chairman, Judiciary & Government Operations, 2nd Legislature

Chairman, Judiciary & Government Operations, 6th Legislature

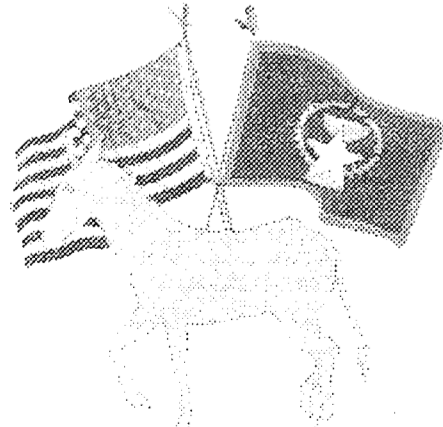
Member, 8th Legislature

COMMUNITY SERVICES:

Manager, San Vicente Softball Team, 1976-Present

Administrator, Little League, 1993-1996

Served in other capacity as Vice President, San Vicente Parish Council



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- Mercedes Eusebio

evian



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- Jumico Chua
- Ignacio Aldan
- Patricia Sablan



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White House:

'No deal on Moseley-Braun'

WASHINGTON (AP) — The White House on Wednesday rejected as "completely unreasonable" the terms of an offer by Sen. Jesse Helms for a quick hearing on the ambassadorial nomination of former Sen. Carol Moseley-Braun.



Jesse Helms

The stalemate increased the likelihood that President Clinton would give the Illinois Democrat, who was the nation's first black female senator, a so-called "recess appointment" as ambassador to New Zealand, Democratic officials suggested.

That would enable her to serve without Senate confirmation until the end of this Congress, when Clinton leaves office.

White House officials, how-

ever, said it was premature to discuss such an option.

Clinton last made use of the constitutional device to install James Hormel, an openly gay San

Francisco businessman, as ambassador to Luxembourg earlier this year when Senate conservatives blocked a confirmation vote.

Helms, chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, offered to hold a hearing and a vote next week - if his panel were given an array of tax and Justice Department documents by Monday. In a letter to Clinton, the North Carolina Republican said the documents were vital to his committee's consideration of Moseley-Braun's nomination.

But White House officials said the request was exhaustive, covering tax and other records of nearly everyone who had worked for her in the Senate or her campaigns. White House spokesman Joe Lockhart said the request for the sensitive documents could not - and would not - be met.

"He's made a completely unreasonable and un-meetable request," Lockhart said. "It wasn't a serious



Carol Moseley-Braun.

demand. Anyone who looks at the demand would understand that."

Helms spokesman Marc Thiessen later said the senator's overture was "a very serious offer... If they don't want to take it, that would be an unfortunate choice."

Thiessen said the Monday deadline "is not a drop-dead deadline" and could be extended a little, al-

though that could delay the hearings. If administration officials can't find the requested documents, it only suggests they didn't do a very good job in vetting the nominee in the first place, Thiessen said.

Among the issues are allegations, never proven, that Moseley-Braun used leftover 1992 campaign funds to pay for personal luxuries. The accusations were raised during her unsuccessful 1998 re-election campaign against Republican Peter Fitzgerald.

Both sides are accusing the other of playing politics.

Helms made his offer for hearings next week after civil rights groups and congressional Democrats castigated him for apparently seeking to block the vote.

The two clashed during Moseley-Braun's one term, most memorably on the Senate floor over use of the Confederate flag. She later accused Helms of taunting her in an elevator by singing "Dixie."

Helms orders Congresswomen out

WASHINGTON (AP) — Jesse Helms ordered Capitol police to remove several congresswomen from a Senate hearing Wednesday after they disrupted the meeting by trying to present him a letter supporting an international treaty against sexual discrimination.

Helms, R-N.C., who chairs the Foreign Relations Committee, has blocked a Senate vote on the 1979 United Nations treaty.

Rep. Lynn Woolsey, D-Calif., led the congresswomen and several female staff members to Helms' office and then to the Foreign Relations Com-

mittee, where he was presiding over a hearing on China. They tried to present him a letter signed by more than 100 House members in support of the U.N. Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women.

After asking the women to "please act like ladies," Helms directed Capitol Police to escort them from the hearing room.

"The women of the House will no longer tolerate his delay tactics," Woolsey said. She said Democratic representatives had attempted to meet with Helms for nearly five years on the treaty,

but had been unsuccessful.

"I do not know what the senator's objections to the treaty could possibly be, because he hasn't told us," said Woolsey.

Rep. Nita Lowey, D-N.Y., and Rep. Nancy Pelosi, D-Calif., were also among the half-dozen congresswomen who took part in the protest.

House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt, D-Mo., said later that any member of Congress should be able to enter a hearing, even unscheduled, and be allowed to speak. Helms' reaction to the congresswomen, he said, "is wrong - shouldn't have happened."

Record US budget surplus

WASHINGTON (AP) — After decades of deficit gloom, the United States posted a record \$123 billion federal budget surplus last year, marking the first back-to-back surpluses since Dwight Eisenhower was president.

The good news announcement - exceeding all estimates - sparked a battle for bragging rights Wednesday between the White House and the Republican-led Congress, with both sides hoping to reap political dividends in next year's elections.

President Clinton said American businesses and workers have benefited from lower interest rates, a shrinking national debt and a growing pool of investment capital.

"We have closed the book on deficits and opened the door on a new era of economic opportunity," Clinton said. The president, battling Republicans over spending, accused the GOP of writing a budget that siphons \$18 billion from the Social Security surplus. "That is wrong and it doesn't have to be," he said.

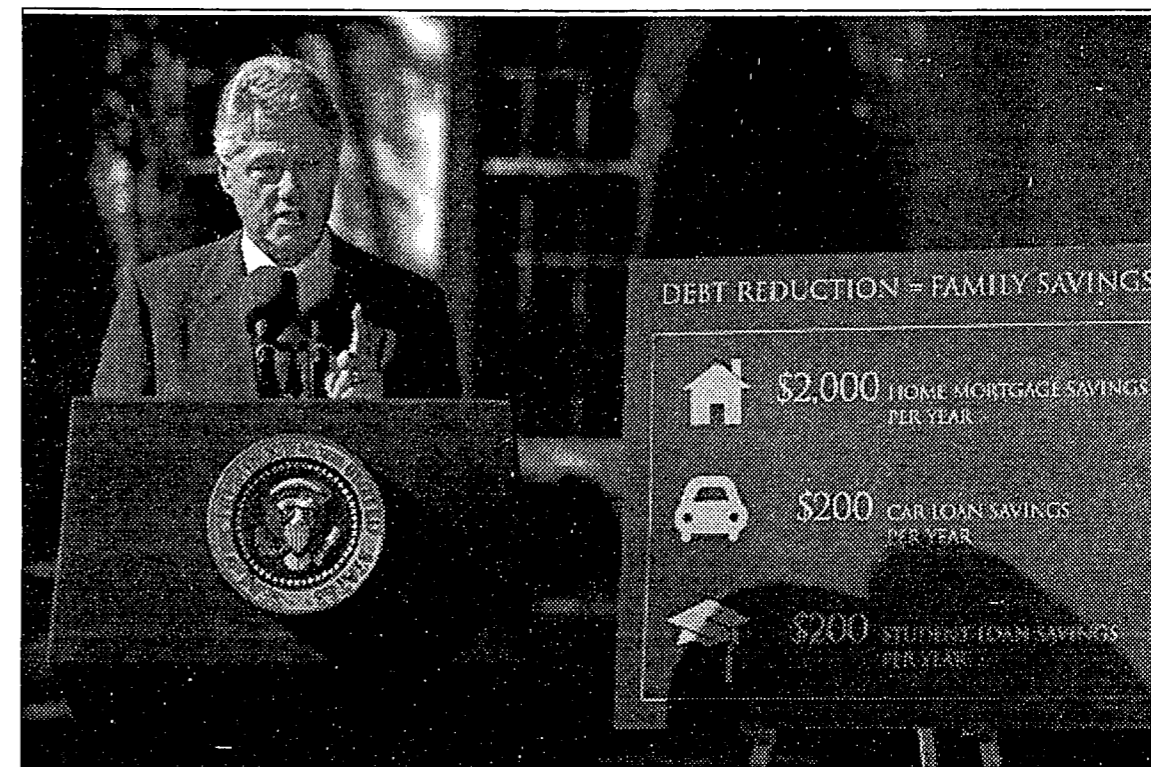
Republicans also claimed credit for the surplus.

"This is what happens when Republicans take care of the government checkbook and hold the line against tax hikes and more spending," said Rep. Bill Archer, R-Texas, chairman of the tax-writing House Ways and Means Committee.

The administration acknowledged the 1999 surplus came entirely from Social Security. The huge benefit program is collecting more in payroll taxes than it is paying out in benefits. Without the Social Security cushion, the government would have had a \$1 billion deficit.

Despite the two surpluses in a row, the government still has a \$5 trillion debt.

The United States was plagued by a long string of budget deficits since 1931 in the wake of the Depression and then World War II. In all that time, there were only eight years of surplus. The tide finally



President Clinton speaks to reporters about the largest budget surplus and debt paydown in U.S. history during a news conference outside the Oval Office Wednesday in Washington. AP

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turned when the government broke into the black in 1998, and now the government projects surpluses far into the future.

Democrats and Republicans have spent Social Security surpluses for decades but both have pledged this year to leave that money alone, trying to cast themselves as protectors of the massive pension program.

Last year, before taking Social Security into account, the government had a \$29.9 billion deficit but a \$99.2 billion Social Security surplus turned the overall deficit into a surplus of \$69.2 billion.

With the onset of surpluses, the government has paid down the national debt by \$140 billion over the last two years, the largest debt reduction in American history, Clinton said. The shrinking debt also has meant lower interest costs for the government, Clinton said, and more investment capital for businesses.

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Access to US nuclear lab computers are limited

WASHINGTON (AP) — Scientists from sensitive countries such as China or Iran are to be barred from connecting with Energy Department computers that contain even unclassified information beneficial to a nuclear weapons program, says a department official.

"We will have a policy out within the next five days that will greatly tighten foreign access" to computers at the department's weapons laboratories, department security director Eugene Habiger told a House Commerce subcommittee on Tuesday.

That policy is part of broad plans to tighten security at the nuclear weapons labs after security lapses allegedly allowed China to obtain nuclear secrets at a New Mexico lab.

Gore, Bradley debate

HANOVER, N.H. (AP) — Al Gore and Bill Bradley, locked in a neck-and-neck race in New Hampshire's early primary, each sought the advantage Wednesday in their first debate of the Democratic presidential campaign.

The stakes were highest for the vice president, who has watched a commanding lead in national and state polls dwindle in the face of Bradley's surprisingly strong campaign. The former New Jersey senator is rated even or slightly ahead in New Hampshire, where the nation's first primary is scheduled for Feb. 1.

"Every day is an important day when you're campaigning," Bradley said, playing down the significance of the televised forum, even as dozens of journalists and supporters crowded around him during a tour of Main Street on the Dartmouth College campus.

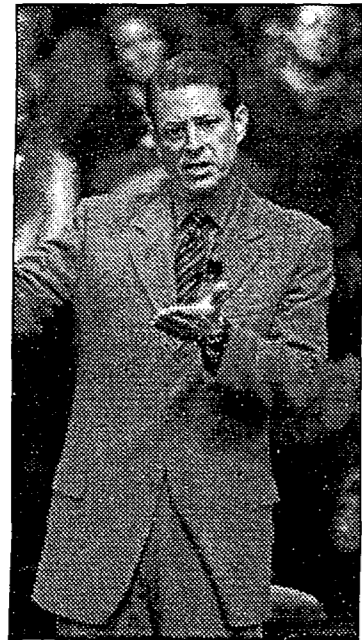
Gore shook hands at the same spot later in the day, stopping to read to youngsters at a local bookstore.

"Two! Four! Six! Eight! Who are we going to nominate? Bradley!" the former New Jersey senator's supporters yelled, drowning out Gore backers during both strolls.

The campaigns converged for a 60-minute televised forum in which audience mem-

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Democratic presidential hopefuls Vice President Al Gore (left photo) and Bill Bradley (right photo) participate Wednesday in a town meeting at Dartmouth College in Hanover, N.H. AP

bers furnished the questions. The format allowed little chance of back-and-forth between the two Democrats.

Gore is trying to rejuvenate his presidential bid with a more relaxed, less rigid style on the campaign trail. At the same time, he has sharpened his criticism of Bradley, calling him a "left of center" insurgent who would build an enormous federal deficit with his health care and anti-poverty plans.

All but ignoring the barbs, Bradley is sticking to a months-old strategy to portray himself as the candidate of big ideas and Gore the timid practitioner of "trifling things." While Gore jazzes up his performances, Bradley still wears reading glasses on the stump and avoids sound bites; his style is a lack of style.

Gore advisers cautioned him before the debate to avoid appearing too negative, though he was poised to seize on any

Bradley's team had the former senator ready to respond if Gore went on the attack.

"We're not going to just let him mischaracterize us," said Bradley's communications director, Anita Dunn.

The debate was held in the context of new Democratic polling that underscored Bradley's surge. A Quinnipac College survey released Tuesday showed him leading Gore 47 percent to 39 percent in New Hampshire, just outside the margin of error.

Bradley has pulled even in New York and has narrowed the vice president's lead in Iowa.

Two polls released Wednesday showed that Bradley trails Gore nationally, though he has gained ground since July and April, respectively. Other polls suggest that Gore has slowed his slide in national polls this fall.

The vice president had expressed no interest in debat-

ing until Bradley dashed his hopes for an easy primary contest. Gore now says he wants to debate weekly, though the campaigns have agreed on only a handful of dates before the first votes are cast in Iowa's late-January caucuses.

Gore brought three Cabinet secretaries to New Hampshire to praise his performance in post-debate interviews.

After the Democrats, five of the six Republican candidates - absent the front-running George W. Bush - will have another turn at debating Thursday night. They met last Friday without drawing sharp lines on major issues.

Bush skipped the debates, citing schedule conflicts, but as the front-runner he also is unwilling to let the others at him so soon. He has agreed to a debate in Manchester, N.H., on Dec. 2.

DRIVE SAFELY



Bradley and Gore shake hands prior to their participation Wednesday in a town meeting at Dartmouth College, in Hanover, N.H. Shown at center is Dartmouth President Jim Wright. AP

McCain has voucher plan

HANOVER, N.H. (AP) — Republican presidential candidate John McCain on Wednesday proposed a \$5.4-billion school voucher program that would be funded by ending government subsidies for ethanol, sugar and the gas and oil industries.

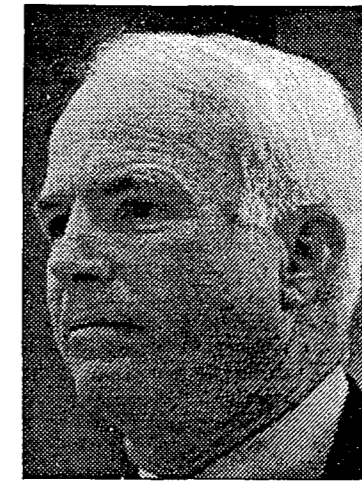
Under the three-year pilot program, each state would receive money based on the number of children in its public schools. States would decide which schools and children would be eligible for the program, although the money would be targeted to poor children in poorly performing school districts. The \$2,000 grants would help

send children to private schools, McCain said.

The Arizona senator challenged his rivals for the Republican presidential nomination to support his plan. He will face all of them except Texas Gov. George W. Bush in a televised forum Thursday.

"I hope each candidate in my party who agrees we need choice and agrees we need experimentation also agrees we need a way to pay for it," he said.

Ending ethanol subsidies would provide \$1.5 billion for the voucher program, McCain said, while \$3.9 billion would come from phasing out tax credits and subsidies to the



John McCain

oil and gas industry. Eliminating sugar subsidies would add \$390 million more, he estimated.

"These subsidies are an example of the influence of special interest in Washington," he said.

Ethanol - alcohol distilled from corn and mixed with gasoline - is a

particularly key campaign issue in Iowa, where the first presidential caucuses are held.

McCain, who skipped Iowa's summer straw poll and has not focused on the state, said his opposition to ethanol goes back far longer than his presidential ambitions.

Building to be named after Eisenhower

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Eisenhower's name would grace Washington's most distinguished office building under legislation sent to President Clinton.

The ornate Old Executive Office Building - now occupied by the vice president and White House branch staff - would become the Dwight D. Eisenhower Executive Office Building under legislation passed Tuesday by the House.

The Senate passed the bill last

week.

Eisenhower served in the building in the early 1930s as an aide to Gen. Douglas MacArthur and is credited with saving it from demolition during his presidency.

Eisenhower, an Army general and native of Denison, Texas, who grew up in Abilene, Kan., led the Allied invasion of Europe and became the nation's 34th president.

Former Kansas GOP Sen. Bob Dole lobbied for the change as

"something that will touch the heart of every World War II veteran, indeed every American who remembers Dwight D. Eisenhower as one of America's greatest 20th century leaders in peace and war."

The bill is one of the final legislative accomplishments of longtime Rhode Island Sen. John Chafee, the Republican committee chairman with jurisdiction over the building. Chafee died Sunday night.

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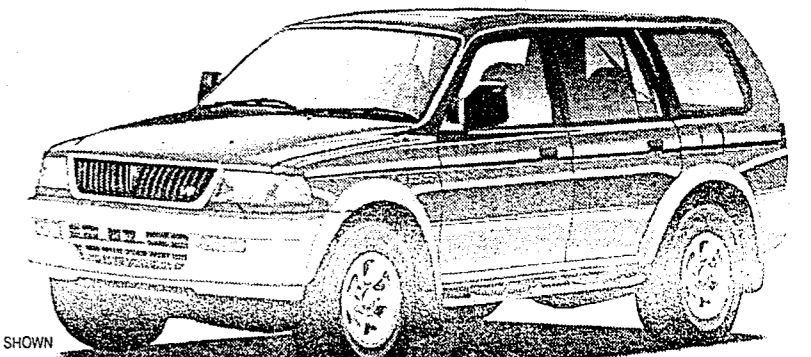
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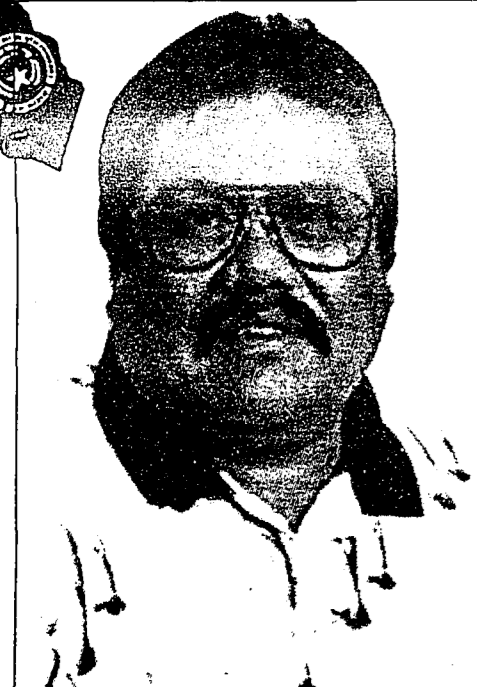
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US farm policy change eyed

WASHINGTON (AP) — Agriculture Secretary Dan Glickman said Wednesday he will offer proposals to Congress next year to overhaul government farm policy and provide more assistance to farmers when commodity prices are low.

The Clinton administration has come under fire from Republicans over the past year for not offering legislative proposals of its own on crop insurance and emergency farm assistance.

"We have an obligation to come up ... with some specific proposals," Glickman said at a news conference. "We've tried to do that, but we're going to have to do a better job in the future."

President Clinton said last week that Congress needed to "revise, revamp and improve" the 1996 "Freedom to Farm" law because it did not take adequate care of farmers. The law was intended to make farmers less dependent on government assistance. But commodity prices dropped sharply last year and Congress has responded by passing successive bailout packages worth nearly \$15 billion.

Direct government payments to farmers this year will total a record \$22.5 billion.

"The farm economy stinks in much of this country," said Glickman, adding that additional assistance probably will be needed next year.

The chairman of the House Agriculture Committee, Texas Republican Larry Combest, said he doubted Glickman's proposals would be sufficiently detailed. Ideas that sound good in theory often have undesirable ramifications when put in practice, Combest said.

"We can't work hypothetically, they have to be specific. The more they are specific the more they will be

players in the final outcome," said Combest.

Combest plans hearings, starting early next year, on possible changes to the 1996 law.

Glickman previously has proposed raising subsidy rates for crops and subsidizing grain storage so farmers could keep crops off the market when prices were low. He also has indicated interest in a proposal by Rep. Charles Stenholm, D-Texas, that would allow farmers to insure a minimum income based on fluctuations in crop yields and prices.

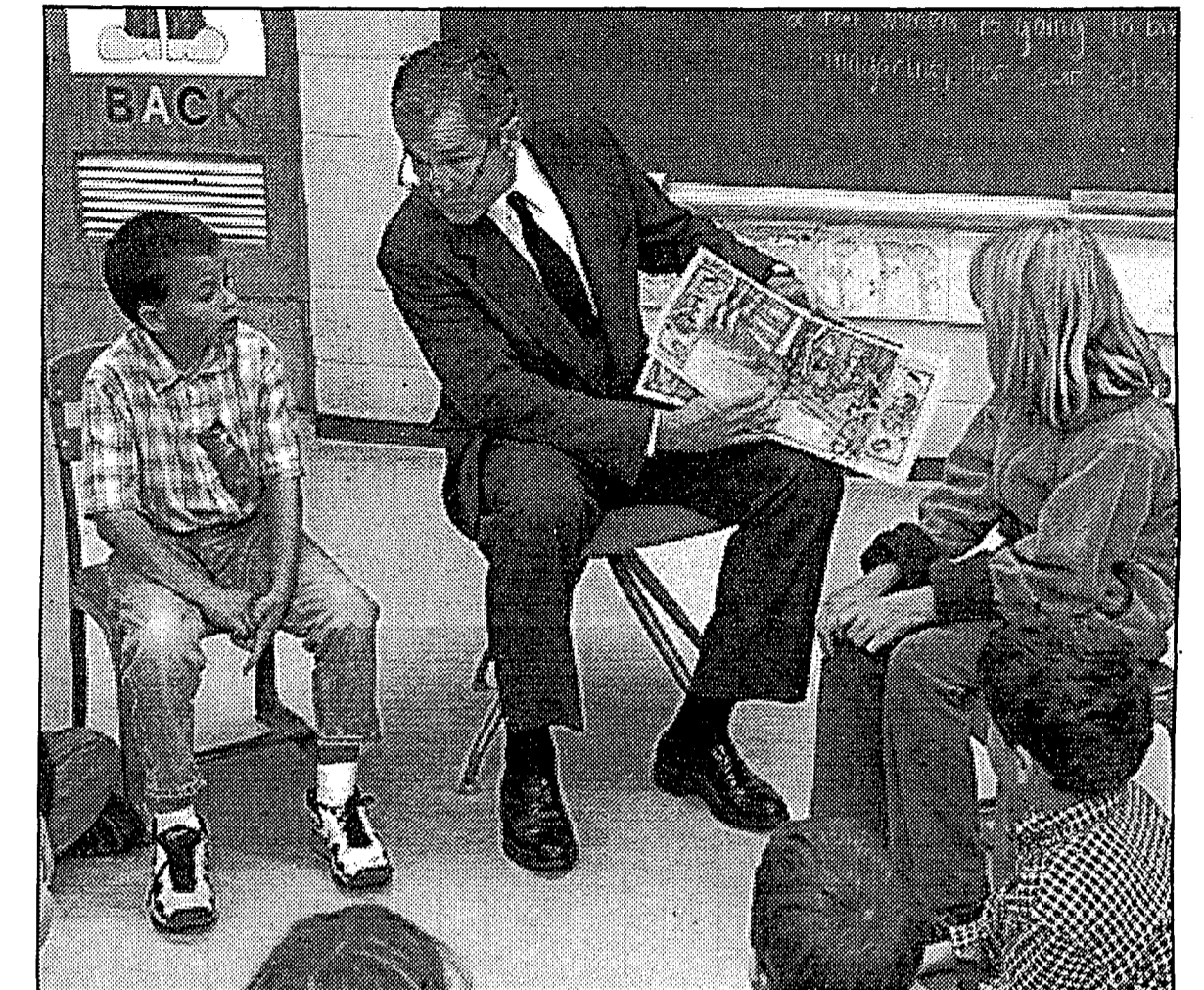
The first checks from this year's assistance package started going into the mail Monday, and additional payments will be going out into next year, depending on the program.

Farmers who lost crops to drought and flooding likely will get a 35 percent advance payment with the rest to come after Agriculture Department totals up all the claims, Glickman said. Congress provided \$1.2 billion for weather-related crop losses.

It may be many months before USDA implements a new program for reporting the prices that meatpackers pay for livestock.

The reporting program was included in the bailout measure but Congress did not allocate any money to operate it. Glickman said it would cost \$4.7 billion to run the system over the next year. The program cannot start until Congress provides an appropriation for it or the department finds another source of funds, he said.

"We're going to start the organization of the program. You can't implement the program without the money," he said.



Texas Gov. George W. Bush reads to a third grade class at East Elementary School in Waukon, Iowa, Wednesday. Bush is seeking the 2000 Republican nomination. AP

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FOR SENATE

Karl Tudela Reyes

Education:
1969 College of Guam, Graduate Program
1966 B.A. in Business Education, College of Guam

Professional Experience:
1998 - Present: Member, House of Representatives, 11th CNMI Legislature
1996 - 1998: Member, House of Representatives, 10th CNMI Legislature
1984 - 1995: General Manager, Comptroller, Sabian Const. Ltd.
1982 - 1984: President, Commonwealth Bank of the Northern Mariana Islands
1981 - 1982: Assistant Vice President, Manager, Bank of Guam
1980 - 1981: Assistant Vice President, Operations Manager, Bank of Guam
1971 - 1980: Assistant Manager, Operations Officer, Bank of America, Saipan Branch
1969 - 1971: Assistant Cashier, Facility Head, Bank of America, Truk Branch
1966 - 1968: Teacher, Intermediate School
1960 - 1961: Teacher, Chalan Kanoa Elementary School

Juan Pangelinan Tenorio (Morgen)

Education:
1954 George Washington High School
1959 University of Guam, B.A. Degree Mathematics

Professional Experience:
1998-Present: Senate Member, 11th CNMI Legislature
1997-1998: Bureau Director, 5th CNMI Legislature
1986: Committee Assistant for Appropriation, CNMI Legislature
1978-1980: Sapan Delegate, 1st Constitutional Convention
1976: Member, Saipan Municipal Council
1976: Chief of Labor, Northern Marianas Transition Government
1976-1978: Assistant Chief, Automatic Data Processing, Trust Territory Government
1970-1976: Administrative Asst., United Micronesia Development Association
1969-1970: Teacher, Marianas High School

Ana Sabian Teregyo

Education:
1971 Marianas High School (GED)
1972-1976 University of Nebraska in Lincoln

Professional Experience:
1998 - Present: Member, House of Representatives, 11th CNMI Legislature
1998 - 2000: Secretary, Association of the Pacific Island Legislature (API), Re-elected (May 98)
1997 - 1998: Treasurer for the Association
1996 - 1998: Member, House of Representatives, 10th CNMI Legislature
1994 - 1996: Member, House of Representatives, 9th CNMI Legislature
1992 - 1994: Member, House of Representatives, 8th CNMI Legislature
1990 - 1991: Executive Director, CNMI Council for Arts and Culture
1979 - 1980: Program Administrator for CETA
1976 - 1979: Employee Dev. & Training Specialist, Personnel Dept., TPIPHQ Saipan
1975 - 1976: Management Intern, Personnel Dept.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Manuel Agulto Tenorio "Brown"

Education:
1963-1968 University of Hawaii, B.S. Agriculture
1963 College of Guam, Summer
1960-1963 Mt. Carmel High School, Diploma
1959-1960 Chalan Piao Intermediate School, Certificate
1952-1958 Chalan Kanoa Elementary School, Certificate

Professional Experience:
1998 - Present: Member, House of Representatives, 11th CNMI Legislature
1996 - 1998: Member, House of Representatives, 10th CNMI Legislature
1992 - 1996: Member, House of Representatives, 9th CNMI Legislature
1986 - 1990: Member, Board of Trustees, Panaga Agriculture & Trades School (PATS)
1987: Member, Law Revision Commission (CNMI)
1983: President, Saipan Chamber of Commerce
1982: Member, Maritime Industry Committee (CNMI)
1980 - 1983: Member, Board of Directors, Saipan Chamber of Commerce
1976: Member 26th Saipan Municipal Council, Chairman, Resources & Development

Herman T. Palacios

Education:
1960-1963 Tumon High School, Tumon, Guam
Student Body President
1963 Diploma

Professional Experience:
1998 - Present: Member, House of Representatives, 11th CNMI Legislature
1997 - 1999: Chairman for Labor & Immigration for the 11th CNMI Legislature
1994 - 1996: Member, House of Representatives, 9th CNMI Legislature
1992 - 1994: Member, House of Representatives, 8th CNMI Legislature
1990 - 1991: Deputy Secretary, Dept. of Labor & Immigration
1986-Present: Palacios Can-Do-Construction/KTJB Auto-Repair Shop, Sole Proprietor
Her Joy's apartment, McSaret & Dwyne's Fishing Adventure and El Lanchero's, Sole Proprietor
1983-1985: Special Assistant to Senate President for Olympio Tudela Borja
Past Vice President to CNMI Contractors Association
Past Representative, NMI District Legislature
Congress of Micronesia

David Mundo Apatang

Education & Training:
San Francisco State University, San Francisco, California
JOINT Optical Information Network (Computer), Presidio of San Francisco, California
U.S. Army Training Center - Ft. Jackson, South Carolina
Alcohol and Drug Abuse - completed June, 1985; Cadre Training Course - March to April, 1985; Code of Conduct; First Aid; Safety; Standards of Conduct; Military Justice Course; Operations Security; Terrorist Threat Training; Subversion and espionage against the Department of the Army; Geneva/Hague Convention - completed August, 1985; Nuclear Biological Chemical (NBC) Training; Human Skill Development; Army Proficiency Readiness Test; Equal Opportunity; Trainee Discharge Program; Non-Commissioned Officers; Development Program; Honorable Discharge; Common Information
Equal Opportunity Program - November 1983, Chicago Illinois
Army Nurse Program - August, 1983, Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis, Indiana
First Sergeants; Conference - June, 1982, Phoenix, Arizona
Station Commanders' Course - February, 1980, Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis, Indiana
U.S. Army Station Commander Course - August-October 1979
Ft. Benjamin Harrison, Indianapolis, Indiana
Central Texas College, Killen, Texas
NCO Advanced Course (10 weeks) - November, 1975, Ft. Benning, Georgia
U.S. Army Advanced Infantry Course - April to June, 1975, Ft. Benning, Georgia
3rd Infantry Division NCO Academy (4 weeks) - January, 1973, Wurzburg, Germany
Instructor Course (2 weeks) - May, 1971, Ft. Lewis, Washington
The Army Maintenance Management System Course - July, 1971, Ft. Lewis, Washington
Jungle Operation Course (3 weeks) Guernita Warfare Course (4 weeks) - April, 1969, Panama Canal Zone
Southern Command NCO Academy (4 weeks) - June, 1969, Panama Canal Zone
9th Infantry Division - Vietnam Basic Leadership Course (2 weeks) - July, 1968
Advanced Individual Training - June to July, 1967, Ft. Polk, Louisiana
U.S. Army Basic Training Center (9 weeks) - April to June 1967, Ft. Ord, California
George Washington High School, Guam; Hopwood Jr. Sr. High School, Saipan

Professional Experience:
1998 - Present: Member, House of Representatives, 11th CNMI Legislature
1996 - 1998: Member, House of Representatives, 10th CNMI Legislature
1994 - 1996: Vice Chairman, Saipan Municipal Council
1997 - 1998: Chief, Procurement and Supply
Special Assistant for Special Projects
Acting Director, Finance & Accounting
Retired US Army ("Member of the Court Martial Committee, Ft Jackson, SC)

Martin Borja Ada

Education:
1976 Mt. Carmel High School
Graduated Salutatorian
1970-1976 Student Council Member, Vice President, President
Northern Marianas College, AA Liberal Arts
University of Guam, BA, Elementary Education

Professional Experience:
1988 - Present: Headteacher/Consultant, 11th CNMI Legislature
1986 - 1987: Public Information Officer, Saipan Mayor's Office
1989 - 1990: Chief of Procurement & Supply, Public School System
1988 - 1989: Vice Principal, Garapan Elementary School
1987 - 1988: School Counselor, Garapan Elementary School
1982 - 1983: Statistics Specialist, Department of Community & Cultural Affairs
1983 - 1984: Information for Juvenile Clients, Department of Youth Services
1978 - 1982: Teacher, William Reyes, San Vicente, San Vicente, Olea and Pagan Adult Basic Education, Marianas High School & Division of Corrections, Saipan Instructor (Conversational Chantero), Northern Marianas College

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Action sought on Japan war crimes

WASHINGTON, (Reuters) - Jewish and Asian-American activists will press Attorney General Janet Reno and Pentagon officials on Wednesday to re-

scind amnesties given to Japanese war criminals after the Second World War.

Rabbi Abraham Cooper, associate dean of the Simon

Wiesenthal Centre, said the activists would also urge Washington to bar Japanese war criminals from entering the country, and to press Japan to

supply lists of such criminals. Cooper cited the case of Gen. Jiro Ishii, a physician who led "Physician Unit 731," a special military unit that conducted widespread medical experiments on Chinese citizens from the mid-1930s through the end of the war.

"This guy would have been very comfortable with Mengele in Auschwitz. It was brutal and gruesome stuff," Cooper said, referring to Nazi concentration camp doctor Josef Mengele, who was responsible for the deaths of 400,000 people but was never tried for his crimes.

Many of Ishii's experiments, conducted with the knowledge of the Japanese Emperor, were aimed at testing chemical warfare agents, Cooper said.

Yet despite ample documentation of Ishii's activities, the United States offered Ishii an amnesty from prosecution to secure the data on his "experiments" and keep them out of the hands of the Soviet Union, which had indicted Ishii after the end of the war, Cooper said.

"He and his colleagues, instead of being tried for crimes against humanity, were given free pass," Cooper said. Ishii, who has since died of natural causes, spent many years working as a consultant to the U.S. government.

Cooper said the group meeting with Justice and Defence Department officials would also push for fuller disclosure of files



Janet Reno

relevant to the Pacific theatre of the war, a move which would enable historians to investigate issues such as the medical experiments conducted by Japan.

Sen. Dianne Feinstein, a California Democrat, is considering introducing legislation to ensure the declassification of such archives.

"We're hoping to build a momentum. If we're successful in getting the administration to make this move, it will ignite interest on the part of younger Japanese," Cooper said.

"While it's symbolic in terms of cleaning up the stain of American actions, it will send a strong signal to Japan," he said, adding that Japan had a "black hole of history" when it came to atrocities committed during the war.

He said any decision to rescind amnesties granted to Japanese citizens was unlikely to result in new prosecutions, since many of the people involved had died.

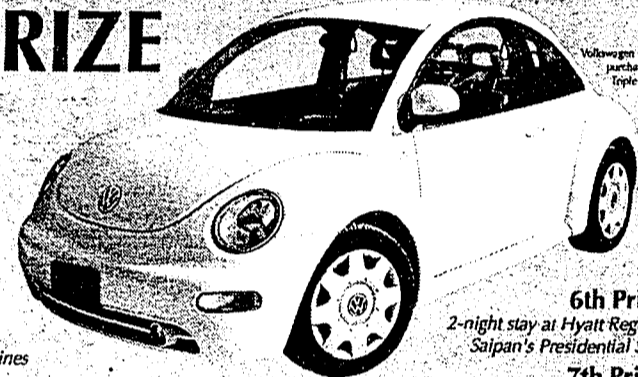
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- 8th Prize:**
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- 9th Prize:**
3-night stay at Hyatt Regency Pusan, Korea
- 10th Prize:**
3-night stay at Hyatt Regency Manila, Philippines

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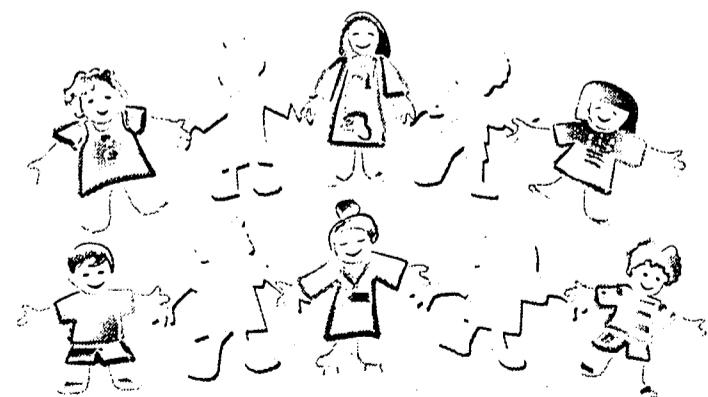
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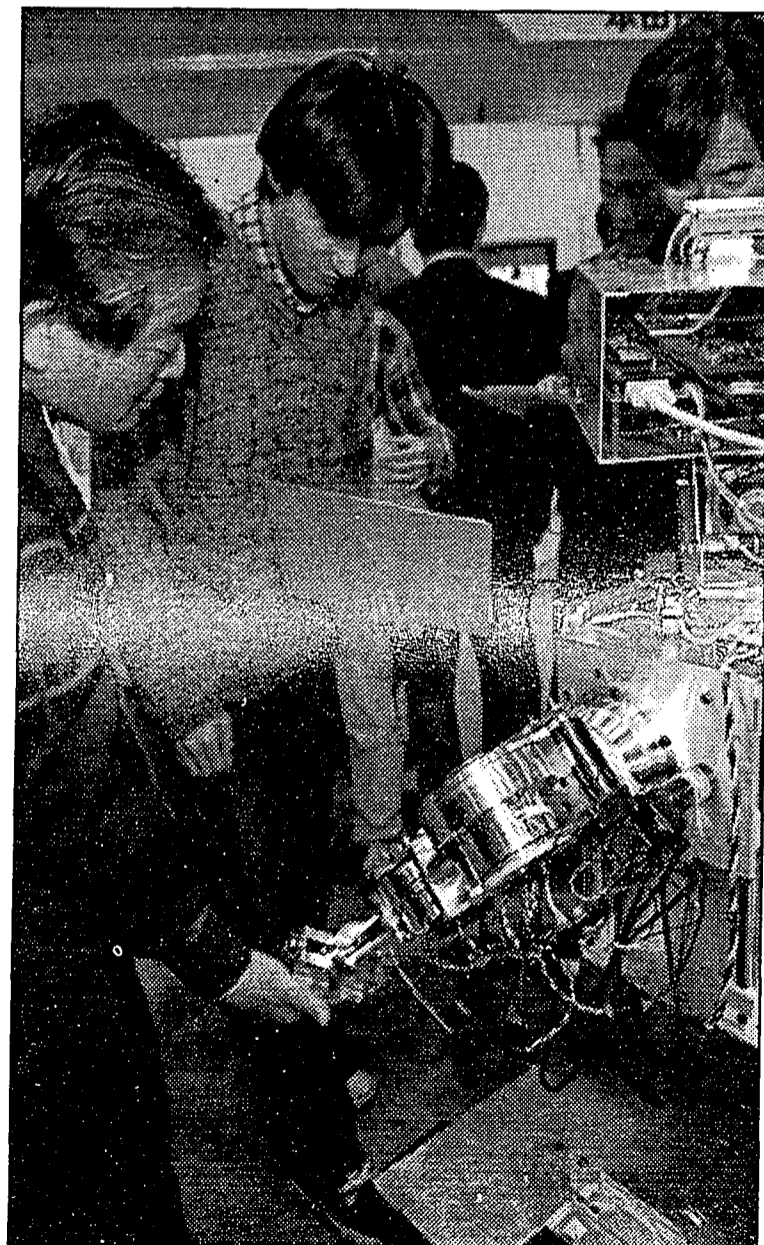
"\$2 MILLION BY THE YEAR 2000 FOR THE CHILDREN OF THE WORLD!"



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DRAWING DECEMBER 31, 1999



A visitor to the 1999 International Robot Exhibition shakes hands with WAMOEBA-2, an emotional communication robot developed by a Waseda University team at Tokyo Big Site exhibition hall in Tokyo. AP

Coalition drags PM ratings

TOKYO, (Reuters) - Public support for Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi's cabinet dipped for the first time in eight months due to voter resentment towards his new three-way ruling coalition, a newspaper poll released on Wednesday said.

A nationwide survey of 1,935 voters, conducted by the Yomiuri Shimbun newspaper at the weekend, showed 51.7 percent of the respondents expressing their support for the Obuchi cabinet.

That, however, was a drop of 4.4 percentage points from the previous month.

Food short in N. Korea

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - North Korea's food production has picked up, but to avert starvation the country still needs millions of tons in food aid or imports, a South Korean government think-tank said Wednesday.

The Korea Agricultural Economy Institute said the impoverished North would reap up to 3.6 million tons of food this year - an increase of 20 percent from last year.

North Korea stepped up the potato farming and begun double-cropping, or planting two crops in the same fields in one year, to boost production, the institute said.

In 1997, the country produced 2.6 million tons of food, and last year it grew about 3 million tons.

The country needs about 6.6 million tons a year to feed its 22 million people.

"North Korea will have a per-



Keizo Obuchi

The Yomiuri said the approval rating for the Obuchi cabinet

dropped mainly because voters felt that "something was wrong" with the three-party ruling coalition formed earlier this month.

Prime Minister Obuchi reshuffled his cabinet this month after his ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP), the Liberal

Party and the New Komeito party agreed to launch a three-way ruling coalition. New Komeito is backed by the influential Buddhist lay organization, Soka Gakkai.

The daily also attributed the drop in Obuchi's approval rating

to the resignation in disgrace of vice defence minister Shingo Nishimura over remarks on Japan's nuclear policy.

Nishimura stepped down last week after saying Japan should consider abandoning its decades-old ban on nuclear weapons.

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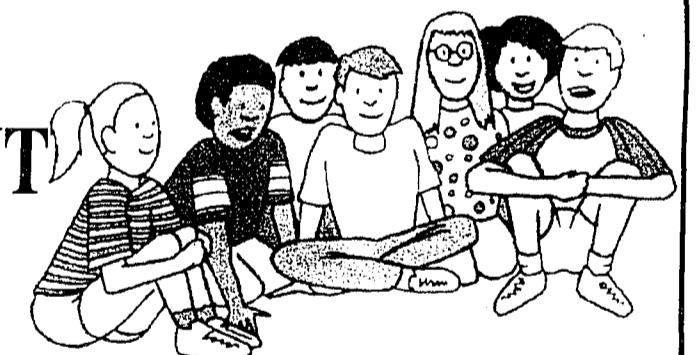


BOTA VOTE ATTAO, Jesus Torres CONGRESSMAN PRECINCT 3

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Thank you, Si Yuus Maase, Olomwaay, Maraming Salamat Po, Mesulang

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II.	Jan. 6, 15, 22, 29, Feb. 5, 12	7th and 8th
III.	Feb. 19, 26, Mar. 4, 11, 16, 25	4th, 5th and 6th
IV.	April 1, 6, 15, 22, 29, May 6	9th and 10th

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Session III ACCELERATED MATH

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US State official reassures China

BEIJING (AP) — A senior U.S. diplomat sought to ease Chinese fears about the United States' plans for a sophisticated anti-missile system on Wednesday, saying it would only be used to defend American troops.

Speaking to China's leading training school for diplomats in Beijing, U.S. Undersecretary of State Thomas Pickering said no decision has been made to deploy the so-called theater missile defense "except where it is necessary to protect U.S. forces."

China has repeatedly raised concerns about the regional anti-missile shield being researched with Japan, saying it could spark a new arms race. It has also warned against installing the system in Taiwan, which China views as a renegade province.

Pickering arrived in Beijing on Wednesday for talks intended to

smooth ties frayed by the NATO bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Yugoslavia during the war over Kosovo.

Without referring directly to the bombing, Pickering noted that "this year, as in many years, we have seen a cycle of ups and downs" in U.S.-China ties.

One persistent source of tension is human rights. In his speech to the Foreign Affairs College, Pickering said, "Americans are deeply concerned about continuing detentions and arrests of members of religious, social and political organizations."

In recent months, China has banned the popular Falun Gong spiritual movement adhered to by millions of ordinary Chinese. It also has cracked down on a fledgling pro-democracy party, rounding up its leaders and putting many on trial or in jail.



Police detain members of the Falun Gong sect sitting on the ground (at left) as well as the woman (right) in Tiananmen Square on Thursday in Beijing. Police questioned people and quietly put those who are suspected Falun Gong practitioners into vans. AP

Factory fire suffocates 20 people to death in China

BEIJING (AP) — A quickly spreading fire in a leather goods factory suffocated 20 workers and injured nine others in the southern Chinese city of Guangzhou, the official Beijing Youth Daily reported Wednesday.

Firefighters extinguished the fire within 15 minutes of being called to the factory around 7:40

a.m. Tuesday and found the dead and injured on the top floor of the three-story building, the newspaper said.

The report called the fire the worst in nearly 20 years in Guangzhou, the economically vibrant capital of Guangdong province near Hong Kong.

The newspaper cited unidentified

authorities as saying that the privately owned factory had no license and the facility was a fire hazard.

Police have detained the factory manager as part of the investigation into the cause of the fire, the newspaper said.

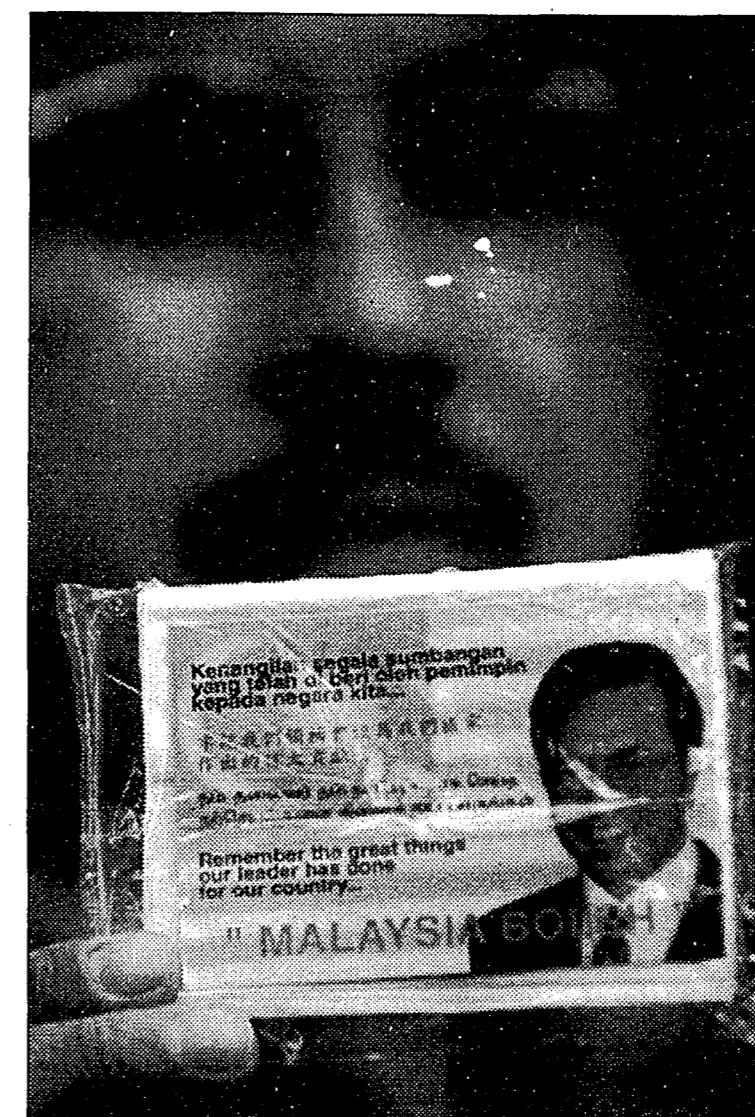
Breakneck economic growth and lax if not outright corrupt officialdom have created a legacy of ill-regulated,

shoddy and badly equipped factories prone to accidents.

A fire in the Kangle amusement parlor in Shuyang County city in eastern Jiangsu province killed 14 people, among them a 4-year-old girl, on Oct. 18, the China Consumer Journal reported Wednesday. It added that the business also had not been given a

permit to open.

Investigators in the northeastern city of Shenyang found that the owner of the Huxi Hotel hired three people to set the building on fire August 29 to collect 5 million yuan (\$ 600,000) from the insurers, the Xinhua News Agency reported. Nine people died and 15 were injured in the fire.



A Malaysian holds up a packet of tissues with a picture of the Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad in Kuala Lumpur Thursday. As a general election approaches, Mahathir's party and his supporters are beginning to use novel ways to campaign. Mahathir faces his toughest electoral battle in his 18-year rule. AP

US to Malaysia: Stop the piracy

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — The United States wants Malaysia to crack down on the piracy of compact discs and video cassettes, a senior U.S. trade official said Wednesday.

"There is concern about the degree of piracy in a number of industries in Malaysia," said Assistant Trade Representative Donald Phillips. "CDs, video and particularly the optical media are the major concerns."

Phillips said at a news conference that he had told local trade officials earlier Wednesday that Malaysia was not doing enough to enforce intellectual property rights.

Phillips was the second visiting U.S. trade official this month to discuss copyright piracy with Malaysia. Assistant Trade Representative Joe Papovich visited Kuala Lumpur during an Asian tour early October.

The meetings reflected increasing U.S. industry concerns about the rise in counterfeit goods in Asia.

In 1998, the U.S. industry


estimated it lost \$ 200 million in potential sales because of the proliferation of illegal video and music cassettes and discs and computer software. The biggest losses were in the video market, with U.S. producers losing an estimated \$ 30 million in potential sales.

Hong Kong and Taiwan remain the main centers for copyright pirating in East Asia, where pirated CDs, video CDs and computer software are widely available at shopping arcades and street vendors at a fraction of the cost of a genuine copy.

But new laws in these nations are pushing such businesses to countries with lenient copyright laws such as Thailand and Malaysia.

Phillips is visiting Malaysia as part of a tour of Asian countries ahead of the World Trade Organization's ministerial conference in Seattle Nov. 30 to Dec. 3.

He said he would meet Malaysia's trade officials to drum up support for U.S. positions on world trade.



#1 INDALECIO

DAVID ALDAN (Lonte')

(Rosan Dabit)

FOR Saipan and Northern Island Municipal Council

Wife: Rosa Songao Hocog Indalecio

Parents: Antonio Palacios Indalecio and Trinidad Manibusan Aldan†

In-Law: Pedro Maratita Hocog and Escolastica Songsong Songao†

Children: Tina and Raymond Bio, Carmen I. Ayuyu, Pedro and Maria P. Castro, William and Josephine Indalecio, Anthony and Willey Indalecio and Maria and Mario Banca

My Dear Voters of Saipan and Northern Islands:

I seek your vote of confidence this coming November 6, 1999 as a candidate for the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council. My only desire at this point and time in my life is to give back to the community my services as a government retiree. You the people of the Commonwealth is where my heart is and it is for this reason that I seek this municipal office so that I can make a difference in the well being of our people and the community in which we live in.

Your vote for me will mean hard work, determination, and a benefit for our community as a whole. Yes, that is all I want in this endeavor that I seek to attain, nothing political, but merely a passion to make a change for the betterment of all our people.

Therefore, I humbly seek your vote of confidence this upcoming general election, November 6, 1999. Please vote for me in my commitment for a better Commonwealth for the good of our community and the betterment and advancement of our future generations now and in the years to come.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase, Oolomwei, Maraming Salamat Po and Thank You.


/s/DAVID ALDAN INDALECIO
#1 on the Ballot for the Saipan and Northern Islands Municipal Council

"Seeking the support of my classmates of 1972"

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I'M #1 ON THE BALLOT.


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Re-Elect

Peter, Maria Taisakan

"MALUA"



OFFICIAL GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
1999

ELECTION DISTRICT NO. 3 - A


SPECIMEN

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Make an X or ✓ within the box before the candidate's name.
2. If you wish to vote for a person whose name does not appear in the name of the person under "Write-in". Write in the person's name in full and make an X or ✓ within the box.

CNMI REPUBLICAN PARTY	INDEPENDENT	CNMI REFORM PARTY	CNMI DEMOCRATIC PARTY
CANDIDATES FOR THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT (SAIPAN AND THE ISLANDS NORTH) - VOTE FOR ONE (1) ONLY			
<input type="checkbox"/> TENORIO, Juan Pangelinan (Morgen) (Incumbent)		<input type="checkbox"/> GUERRERO, Ramon Santos (Kumot)	
WRITE-IN			
CANDIDATES FOR HOUSE REPRESENTATIVES THIRD ELECTION DISTRICT - VOTE FOR SIX (6) ONLY			
<input type="checkbox"/> FITAL, Benigno Repoki	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> PETER, Maria Taisakan (Malua) (Incumbent)	<input type="checkbox"/> QUITUGUA, Joaquin Tertaja (Jack)	<input type="checkbox"/> OLOPAI, Maximo L. (Timmo) (Incumbent)
<input type="checkbox"/> MOFSCHNEIDER, Heinz Sablan (Incumbent)			<input type="checkbox"/> CAMACHO, Luis Sefas (Mang)
<input type="checkbox"/> TORRES, William Sablan (Lee)			<input type="checkbox"/> SABLAN, Isidro Alafg (Sid)
<input type="checkbox"/> TORRES, Estanislao Tudela (Stanley)			
<input type="checkbox"/> FAISAO, Melvin Lawrence Odoshi (Incumbent)			
<input type="checkbox"/> ATTAO, Jesus Torres (Incumbent)			
WRITE-IN			

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In East Timor

Refugees recount rampage

DILI, East Timor (AP) — Anti-independence militiamen terrorized residents of a remote East Timorese enclave right up until the arrival of peacekeepers last week, townspeople said Wednesday.

Oecussi was the last area secured by the multinational forces who landed in East Timor five weeks ago. The troops' commander has rejected criticism from pro-independence rebels and others that troops should have been sent in sooner.

Some residents described killings and rapes they said were committed in recent weeks, but peacekeepers who secured the enclave on Friday said they yet to find evidence of atrocities.

Warrington, company commander of a British Gurkha regiment that spearheaded the drive into Oecussi. "All we've seen is a lot of burned-out buildings."

Less than one-tenth of Oecussi's 50,000 people have returned to their homes since the militia rampage, humanitarian workers said. Tens of thousands took to the hills to hide, and tens of thousands more fled or were driven to Indonesian-controlled West Timor.

East Timor is now under the control of a U.N. team that will oversee its transition to independence. Indonesia has effectively relinquished its claim to the former Portuguese colony, which it invaded in 1975 and later annexed.

The United Nations and humanitarian groups launched a worldwide appeal Wednesday for \$200 million to finance more than 60 projects over the next nine months in East Timor, ranging from food and shelter to education and medical care.

The world body said devastation in the territory was extraordinary, estimating 70 percent of the buildings were destroyed and 75 percent of the population displaced in attacks and looting touched off by an Aug. 30 independence referendum.

In Oecussi, the only structure intact was the cathedral, which has become a gathering point for refugees. There, a list was posted with the names of 34 people reported slain.

It included notations from witnesses describing when and how the killings were carried out - a machete wound, a gunshot.

Villager Juakin Asqueli, 19, said he had seen three decapitated

bodies, mutilated by machete wounds, in a rice paddy west of town. He said the bodies had been there about two weeks.

Other villagers reported finding three bodies in a well outside Oecussi. It was not clear whether they were included on the list posted at the cathedral.

The accounts of killings could not be independently confirmed during a daylong visit by journalists, organized by the military. The area is deemed too dangerous for free travel.

Until the peacekeepers' arrival, armed militias raided the enclave almost daily, crossing over from West Timor, townspeople said. A 24-year-old woman named Aurora, who did not want to give her surname, said she knew many women who had been raped by militiamen.

Fearful refugees are coming back slowly. About 4,000 have been accounted for, aid groups and peacekeepers said.

"It was a ghost town at first," said Lt. David McCammon, an Australian peacekeeper. "I was quite shocked at the devastation."

Humanitarian groups were setting up a clinic in Oecussi this week to supplement the military field hospital already operating. They are also starting emergency food distribution.

"Many were out in the hills a long time," Lise Grande, a U.N. humanitarian coordinator, said in Dili, East Timor's capital. Often, refugees escaped with only the clothes they were wearing, and are returning to find burned, looted houses, she said.

"They returned to nothing - they don't have anything to restart their lives," Grande said.

Suharto graft probe renewed

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Former President Suharto will be the subject of a renewed corruption inquiry, Indonesia's newly appointed attorney general said Wednesday - yet another sign that the country's new government is little like the last.

But Marzuki Darusman acknowledged that Suharto, who ruled for 32 years, might end up with a pardon or amnesty even if wrongdoing is uncovered.

Marzuki's predecessor dropped the case against Suharto two weeks ago - a move that hurt former President B.J. Habibie's re-election campaign.

Habibie later withdrew his candidacy, and Parliament made Abdurrahman Wahid the Southeast Asian country's first freely elected president.

Marzuki, who has headed the National Commission on Human Rights, said an inquiry into allegations against Suharto - who critics say amassed a fortune and stashed it in foreign banks - was important to show the people that the justice system worked.

Suharto, 78 and in poor health, has denied any wrongdoing.

Wahid said Suharto should be questioned again about his wealth, and that Marzuki was entitled to pursue the case.

But the new president said his priority was to recover any ill-gotten gains and use the money to help the poor.

"There are many ways to look for the truth," Wahid said, adding that corruption cases against other former leaders, such as the Shah of Iran and Ferdinand Marcos of the Philippines, recovered little.

The attorney general said he also would examine documents on a separate corruption scandal that involved Bank Bali and several of Habibie's associates. He would then determine how



Suharto

to pursue both cases.

Bank Bali was one of several troubled financial institutions that Habibie's government closed down and parceled off as part of an economic reform program.

About \$80 million allegedly was transferred this year from Bank Bali to a private company controlled by a senior official in Habibie's ruling Golkar Party. The money allegedly was to fund Habibie's failed campaign.

The International Monetary Fund, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank and the Japanese government have shelled billions of dollars in loans to Indonesia because of concern over the allegations.

Marzuki and other new Cabinet ministers were scheduled to be sworn in Friday, but they seemed eager to begin work early.

Economics Minister Kwik Kian Gie already has pressed for an economic turnaround, and pledged to move quickly to repair relations with the IMF.

Kwik said the IMF, which suspended its multibillion-dollar bailout program, "had pledged to assist Indonesia to recover its economy." His focus, he said, would be on saving children from malnutrition.

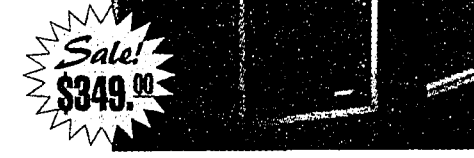
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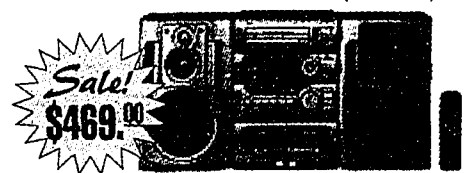
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REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS For Commuter Terminal Concession

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals from interested firms to operate a retail concession at the Saipan Commuter Terminal (the space formally occupied by DFS Saipan Limited). Interested firms are encouraged to specify in their proposal the types of products and/or services they intend to offer to commuter travelers and how to best use the space available. The area of the space available is 964 square feet, and is centrally located at the Saipan Commuter Terminal. This space is available for inspection between 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday.

Proposal packages may be obtained at the Office of the Executive Director, Saipan International Airport, P.O. Box 1055, Saipan, MP 96950, for a fee of \$50.00 per package.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) must receive proposals no later than 2:00 p.m., November 5, 1999, in order to be considered for the award. In evaluating proposals, CPA will consider (but is not limited to) the following criteria:

1. Financial Proposals
2. Management Team
3. Capital Investment
4. Design Rendering
5. Services or Merchandising Mix
6. Customer Services
7. Pricing

The successful and unsuccessful proposers will be notified within ten (10) days after November 5, 1999.

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

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

/s/ CARLOS H. SALAS Executive Director
October 25, 1999
Date

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works
INVITATION FOR BIDS
DPW00-IFB-005

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Department of Public Works and the Public School System, are soliciting sealed bids for the Completion of Sinapalu Elementary School, on the island of Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work, plans, specifications, and bid package will be available on or after Monday, October 25, 1999 at the office of EFC Engineers & Architects, 3rd Floor, Bank of Hawaii building, Puerto Rico, Saipan. A non refundable cost of two hundred eighty dollars (US\$280.00) is required for each set; payment must be made to EFC Engineers & Architects in the form of cash or cashier's check and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package.

A Pre-Bid Conference meeting will be held at 10:00 a.m. Thursday, October 28, 1999 at the project site in Sinapalu on the island of Rota. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to the Director of DPW Technical Services Division, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 2:00 p.m. local time, Tuesday, November 23, 1999 at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened.

An original and two copies of sealed bids must be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan no later than 2:00 p.m. local time, Tuesday, November 23, 1999 at which time and place the bids will be publicly opened.

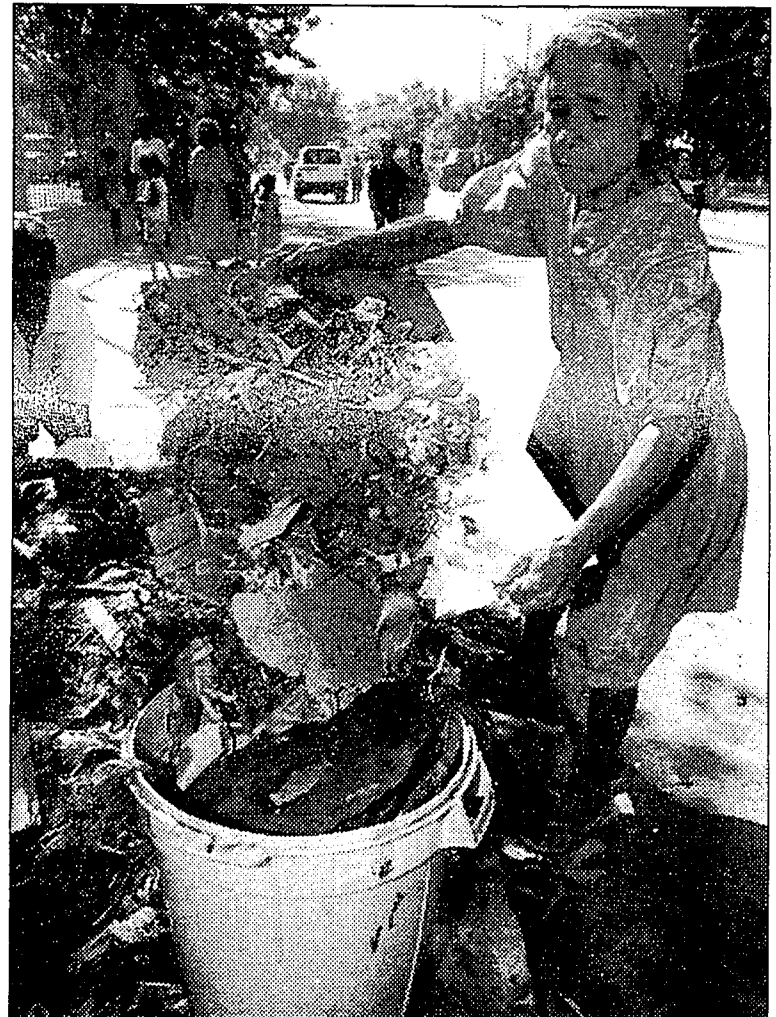
A bid security of fifteen percent (15%) of the bid amount must accompany the bid. This security may be Certified Check, Cashier's Check or Bid Bond. Checks must be made payable to the CNMI Treasurer, with the name of the bidder and a notation on the face of the check: "Credit Account No. 4466." Bid Bonds must be executed by a U.S. Treasury listed bonding company or a CNMI authorized agent thereof.

The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government. Such bidder will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Payment and Performance bonds must be executed by a U.S. Treasury listed bonding company or a CNMI authorized agent thereof. Performance time for completion of this project is two hundred twenty-five (225) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at five hundred dollars (US\$500.00) per calendar day for each day that the project is delayed beyond the established completion date.

The project is funded in part by a grant from U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs (DOA/OIA) with local matching funds provided by the CNMI Government. Award of a contract is contingent upon funding approval from DOA/OIA.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ JUAN B. CEPEDA Secretary of Public Works
/s/ HERMAN S. SABLAN Director, Procurement & Supply
/s/ RITA H. INOS, Ed. D. Commissioner of Education



An East Timorese woman dumps dirt into a rubbish bin at a Dili street Wednesday. With the ongoing return of refugees from West Timor, Dili is slowly becoming more populated and people have begun cleaning up the streets.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc., a leader in the Saipan community is committed to providing excellence in customer and employee satisfaction. We are currently seeking qualified candidates for the following opportunities.

Air Conditioner Technician

- Must have EPA Certification
- Minimum high school graduate
- Must have valid driver's license
- 1-2 yrs. experience preferred
- Must be reliable/flexible
- Customer service oriented
- Highly motivated/good work ethics

Other open positions:

- Part-time Day Security Guard
- Part-time Food Service

Excellent benefits and competitive salaries. If interested, please apply in person at the J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc. Human Resources office located on the 2nd flr. of Joeten Shopping Center, Susupe.

No phone calls please
Closing Date: November 8, 1999

Budweiser
Presents:
Back To Back
Halloweekend Concert at...

Trilligaw's

Rock Out with Guam's All-female Band Sensation!
Saipan's Hottest New Band!

blame adam & Strike Back

• Saturday & Sunday,
• October 30 & 31
• 9:30pm - closing
• \$10 Cover Charge
(includes 2 Bud Family beers)

Budweiser Family \$2.00 All Night

HYATT
FRESH BAKED BREADS
DUNK PC

Mob lynchings up in Cambodia

PHNOMPENH, Cambodia (AP) — Unable to rely on corrupt police and courts, Cambodians are increasingly taking the law into their own hands by lynching suspected criminals, a U.N. envoy said Wednesday.

The growing phenomenon is a serious concern to human rights workers and a sign that an ineffective justice system must be re-

formed, Thomas Hammarberg said at the end of a visit as Secretary-General Kofi Annan's special representative on human rights in Cambodia.

"The government has to build trust in the system of justice," the Swedish diplomat said. "People are fed up and taking the law into their own hands."

Cambodian newspapers have

taken note of the lynching trend, dubbing mobs "The People's Court" of a country where many criminals escape justice by bribing underpaid judges and police officers.

Two lynchings received international attention: the bludgeoning to death of two suspected thieves on the grounds of a Buddhist monastery in May, and a mob of students

at the Phnom Penh School of Fine Arts who severely injured another alleged petty thief in September.

Along with long-term reform of the police and judiciary, the police must recognize the lynchings themselves as a crime, not stand passively by and let killings take place, Hammarberg said.

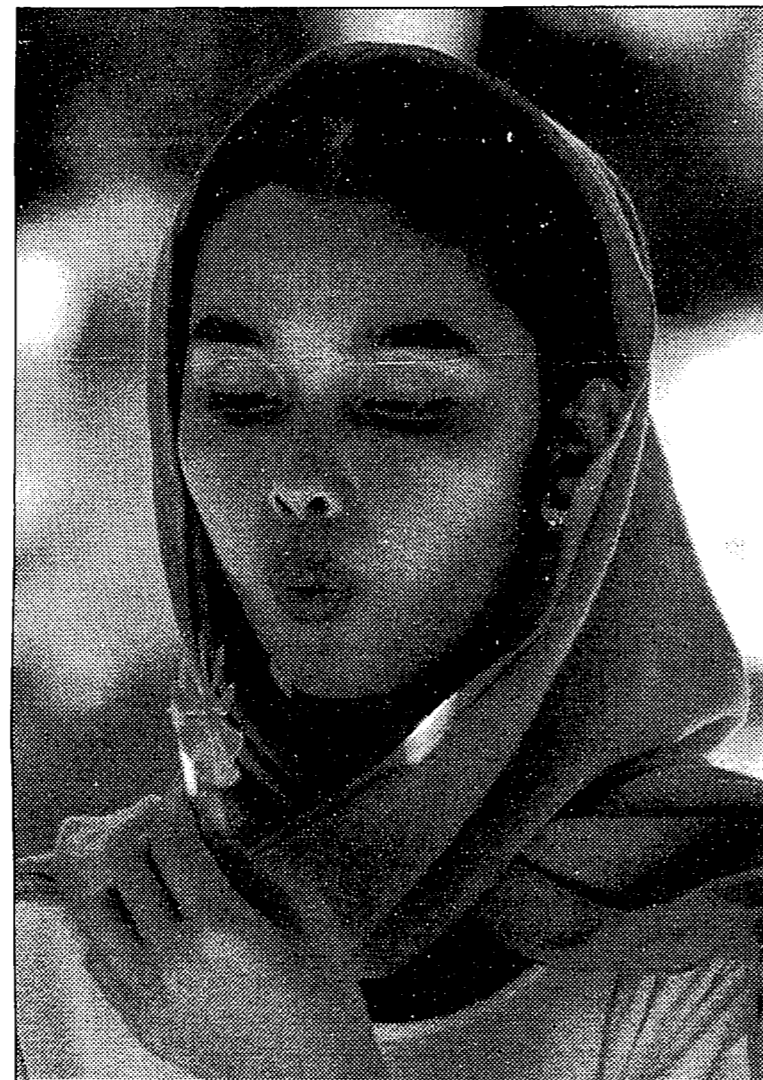
Some human rights reports suggest that police may even encourage the vigilantism, Hammarberg said, urging serious investigation of such accusations.

"Someone should state clearly from the highest levels that, 'Mob lynching is a serious crime. Stop

it! There must be a moral stand and the message to people that this isn't justice, that it is criminal," Hammarberg said.

Gen. Mao Chandara, chief of staff of the national police, said Hammarberg raised the issue with National Police Chief Hok Lundy during a Wednesday meeting.

"Sometimes people just let their anger control them," Mao Chandara said. "They sometimes even beat police officers who try to stop them from attacking thieves. It's difficult, but we're trying to correct the situation. We are not encouraging it at all."



A Cambodian girl blows into a toy windmill in a Cham community alongside the Tonle Sap river in Phnom Penh. AP

Antiques cache excavated

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) — A government excavation team has recovered nearly 100,000 antiques from a trading ship that is believed to have sunk more than two centuries off Vietnam's southern coast, a local official said Wednesday.

The excavation was completed last week after more than a year of work off the coast of Ca Mau province, said Luu Uy Quyen of the provincial culture and information department.

The items, mostly ceramic bowls, dishes and vases believed to date back to the Chinese Yongzheng dynasty in the 18th

century, are now being classified, he said.

Quyen said the excavation started in May 1998 shortly after local fishermen gave information about the sunken ship's location.

This is the first time Vietnam has conducted the excavation of a sunken ship on its own.

In June, Vietnamese experts and divers, along with their counterparts from Malaysia, recovered nearly 300,000 antiques — mostly ceramic bowls, dishes and vases produced by Vietnam in the 15th century — off the central coast near Quang Nam.

Happy Birthday
Sheyvonne Aldan
On Oct. 30
We Love You!
From: Dad, Mom, Sorene,
John-John & Family

Thai gov't faces rebuke

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Thailand's main opposition party will direct a parliamentary no-confidence motion against the government by the end of the year, party members said Wednesday.



Chuan Leekpai

It will focus on allegations of malpractice at the state-run Krung Thai Bank, which racked up massive dud loans when the brother of Finance Minister Tarrin Nimmanhaeminda was the bank's president.

Adisorn Piengket, a leading member of the New Aspiration Party, said party officials met Tuesday to plan strategy for the censure motion, planned for after national celebrations of the 72nd birthday of the Thai king Dec. 5.

"We do not want to do this to topple the government. This is not about winning or losing, but it is about duty and what is right and wrong," he told The Associated Press.

An opinion poll of over 1,100 Bangkok residents by the city's Assumption Dusit University found that 51 percent of respondents agreed with the opposition's no-confidence motion. No margin of error was given.

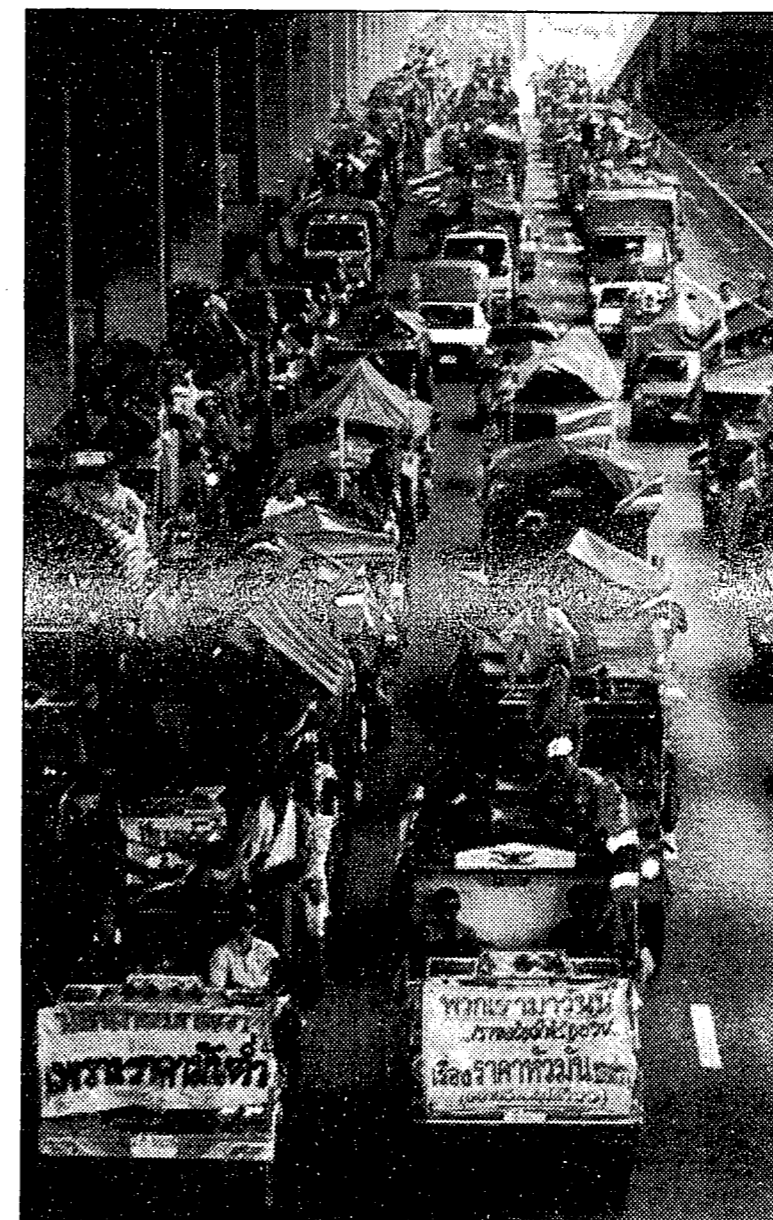
Even members of the seven-party coalition of Prime Minister Chuan Leekpai have demanded a better explanation than the report made by a Fi-

nance Ministry-appointed committee into Krung Thai's lending practices. Thai newspapers have described the report as a "whitewash."

It found some 66 percent of the bank's loans were non-performing. While some malpractice was identified, no one was named as responsible and the bank's lending procedures were deemed essentially sound.

Most of the estimated 630 billion baht (\$16.2 billion) of problem loans were accrued during the presidency of Sirin Nimmanhaeminda, brother of Tarrin.

Private Thai banks also racked up huge amounts of poorly secured loans that have turned non-performing in the economic crisis, for a total of 47 percent throughout the financial system.



Tapioca farmers make their way on the trucks at a Bangkok street as they head for the Government House for a protest Tuesday. About 2,000 farmers from northeastern Thailand took part in the protest against low prices of their crops. AP

Adisorn said the New Aspiration Party, led by Chuan's predecessor as premier, Chavalit Yongchaiyudh, would also attack the government on how aides to Chuan were allegedly using his offi-

cial residence as a warehouse for pirated video compact discs.

Investigators said Wednesday that a preliminary probe showed Chuan's staff was not involved except for his driver.

Chuan, whose political fortunes are dependent on his success in tackling Thailand's economic and financial woes, has said he will call an election before his term is up in November 2000.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
DPW00-RFP-002

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Department of Public Works and the Department of Public Safety, are soliciting sealed proposals from qualified firms for the Design and Construction Administration of a new 344-Bed Adult Correctional Facility for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. Design services shall include all Architectural Design, Electrical, Mechanical, Civil and Plumbing Engineering Design, Interior Design, Surveillance, Control and Monitoring Equipment, Communication Systems, Furniture Specification, Finish selection and all fixed equipment necessary to complete the project including the interconnection of infrastructure and utilities. Phased construction must also be considered.

The Scope of Work will be available at no cost on or after Wednesday, October 13, 1999 at the Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, Lower Base, Saipan.

An original and three (3) copies of proposals must be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, P.O. Box 10008, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 2:00 p.m., Monday, November 15, 1999. All submittals must be sealed and marked "DPW00-RFP-002"

This procurement is made as provided for in Section 4-102 of the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

1. Relevant qualifications and experience of the firm 0 25%
2. Proposed project team organization and individual qualifications - 25%
3. Project approach, Scope of Work, Deliverables and Schedule - 35%
4. References - 15%

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

/s/ JUAN B. CEPEDA
Secretary of Works

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

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation
INVITATION FOR BID
OCTOBER 8, 1999

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting bids from qualified manpower services recruiting agencies for skilled power plant technicians.

Interested parties may pick-up the Scope of Work and a draft contract at the CUC Procurement & Supply Office, 3rd Floor Joeten Dandan Commercial Building, Saipan, during normal working hours (7:30 a.m. 4:30 p.m.), or have the specifications faxed to them by calling (670) 235-7025 - 32, ext. 188.

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

Bids in duplicate and a copy of the firm's CNMI Business License must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked CUC-IFB-00-003 to the CUC Procurement & Supply, P.O. Box 1220, Dandan, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 3:00 p.m., local time on Monday, November 8, 1999. Late submission will not be accepted.

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

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

All inquiries shall be directed to Mr. Mariano DLG. Fajardo, Procurement & Supply Superior, at Telephone Number (670) 235-7025 thru 32, extension 129.

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Executive Director

HALLOWEEN PARTY
Friday, October 29th, 7:30pm to 11pm

- Ladies & Men's Miller Lite Beer drinking contest
- Jello Eating contest
- Variety show with PIC Clubmates

Enter the "Wheel of Fortune" to win cash prizes & Cool Miller Giveaways

\$2.00
Miller Lite on tap

THINK WHEN YOU DRINK

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
DPW00-RFP-003

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Department of Public Works (DPW) and in conjunction with the Public School System, are soliciting sealed proposals for the architectural and engineering design of Kagman Junior High School on the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The Scope of Work may be picked up on or after October 8, 1999 at the DPW Technical Services Division, Lower Base, Saipan. All concerns shall be referred to Mr. Andrew Smith, P.E., Director of Technical Services Division. Questions regarding the Scope of Work or Design Program may be submitted in writing for clarification to the PSS CIP Department, attention Mr. Christopher Fryling, PSS Project Architect.

Proposals must include the following:

1. Updated Standard Forms 254 and 255
2. Design Approach and Methodology
3. Design Team members/firms
4. Qualifications of specific personnel on the Design Team

An Evaluation Committee will evaluate proposals and a selection will be made based on the following criteria:

1. Qualifications of the principal(s) and assigned staff 40%
2. Experience of the firm(s) and staff on similar type projects 40%
3. Suitability of Design Methodology to the project

All proposals are to be face-marked "DPW00-RFP-003. One (1) original and five (5) copies of proposals must be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement & Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than 4:00 p.m. local time, Wednesday, November 10, 1999. All responses to this RFP should include any and all taxes that will be charged to the proposer awarded a contract for the project, including excise taxes.

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

/s/JUAN B. CEPEDA
Secretary of Public Works

/s/RITA HOCOG INOS, ED.D.
Commissioner of Education

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

Castro allows sick boy to leave

HAVANA (AP)—Concern over a sick child's welfare triumphed over political differences today, as Fidel Castro granted Illinois' visiting governor permission to take an ailing 7-year-old boy back to the United States with him for treatment.

The boy, Raudel Alfonso Garcia, suffers from portal hypertension, a potentially fatal disease that produces high pressure in blood flowing from several organs to the liver. Cuban doctors don't have the facilities to treat him.

Castro "has agreed to let him go back, and we are going to take him back with us tomorrow," Gov. George Ryan told an impromptu news conference early today after a meeting with the Cuban president.

"He brought in his medical records and the doctors to talk with us," Ryan said. "The Cubans have made all the arrangements."

A woman who answered the sole telephone used by the entire



Fidel Castro, president of the Republic of Cuba, addresses members of the international press corps Wednesday at a question-and-answer session at Havana University in Cuba following a speech by Illinois Governor George H. Ryan.

community where the boy and the mother live in the central province of Matanzas said that the mother and child left for Havana at 6 a.m. today for the afternoon flight to the United States.

The boy will be brought to UNC Hospitals in Chapel Hill, N.C., for surgery, UNC Health Care

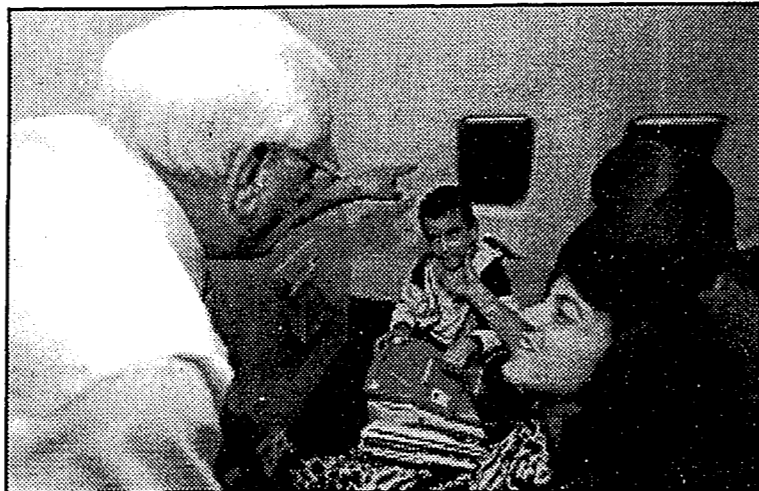
officials said today. The hospital and doctors will waive their fees, officials said.

Ned Walsh, a retired Baptist chaplain at North Carolina State University, has been lobbying the Cuban and American governments to clear the way for the emergency trip.

To speed up the process, the liberal Pullen Memorial Baptist Church asked Sen. Jesse Helms, R-N.C. - a longtime Castro foe and staunch supporter of the U.S. embargo of Cuba - to intercede on the child's behalf. The senator asked Secretary of State Madeleine Albright for an emergency humanitarian visa for the boy and his mother.

The boy's journey, planned for around 2 p.m. today, springs from an unusual collaboration between politicians with opposing ideologies, from two countries that have no diplomatic relations.

"I think we had a very fruitful exchange," Ryan said after he and



Illinois Gov. George Ryan visits with Idalmis Alfonso and her son, Raudel enroute to Chicago's O'Hare International Airport Wednesday. Fidel Castro granted Ryan permission to take the ailing boy back to the United States with him for treatment.

about two dozen other members of the Illinois delegation met with Castro.

Ryan favors lifting the American trade sanctions against the communist country. During the visit that began Saturday, he has repeatedly spoken out against the sanctions, which he says harm both Cubans and Americans.

The Cuban government has depicted Ryan's five-day trip, the first by a U.S. governor since the 1959 revolution, as a reflection of growing U.S. opposition to the trade embargo. Cuban officials have increasingly reached out to American officials who have no connection to Miami or Washington - the two places in the United States where resistance to ending the sanctions is strongest.

Support for lifting at least the ban on food and medicine sales has grown in recent months as members of the U.S. Congress look for ways to help hard-hit American farmers searching for

new markets for their product.

"We can be helpful to the Cuban people," Ryan said Tuesday. "And they can be helpful to us."

Supporters of the embargo, imposed in 1962 to punish Castro's government, say any softening of the sanctions will keep Castro in power. The sanctions have especially strong support in the United States from a politically influential portion of Miami's Cuban exile community. Some Cuban-Americans criticized Ryan for visiting the island.

The governor, a conservative Republican, has made clear that his opposition to the embargo does not signify support for the communist government. Ryan held a meeting Tuesday with some of the island's best-known dissidents at the residence of Vicky Huddleston, the new U.S. Interests Section mission chief.

Ryan also said human rights was among the issues he discussed with Castro.

Colombia rebels seize fotog

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — Leftist rebels seized a Reuters news agency photographer while he was on assignment in a mountain town and said they would put him on trial for publishing a photo

of a rebel leader's face.

Henry Romero, a freelancer who works regularly with the London-based agency, was detained by guerrillas of the National Liberation Army, or ELN, on

Tuesday evening in Jamundi, a town near the western city of Cali.

Reuters' editor-in-chief, Mark Wood, urged Romero's immediate release. "Reuters considers it totally unacceptable that a photographer who works for us should be held captive by the National Liberation Army in Colombia," he said in a statement.

Calling the abduction a violation of the news media's neutral role in Colombia's 35-year-old civil conflict, about a dozen Co-

lombian and international photographers laid down their cameras and held placards with Romero's picture at a demonstration Wednesday in Bogota's central plaza.

The ELN has not issued any statement explaining the action or admitting its responsibility.

Romero, a Colombian, was among several journalists in a rural area of Jamundi covering a Tuesday afternoon meeting between the ELN and relatives of people kidnapped by the rebel

group on May 30 at a Roman Catholic Mass in Cali. Immediately following the church kidnapping, Romero took photographs of victims and their rebel captors in a mountain hideout with the authorization of the ELN, Colombia's second-largest rebel band.

The face of a rebel commander appeared in at least one photo that Reuters sent to subscribers. ELN rebels allow journalists to photograph them, but with their faces covered for fear of reprisals against them or their families.



Photographers protest in front of the Congress building in Bogota, Wednesday to demand the liberation of Henry Romero, a freelance photographer who was detained by rebels of the National Liberation Army.

US not happy about Ryan's trip to Cuba

WASHINGTON (AP) — As Illinois Gov. George Ryan returned home from a meeting in Cuba with President Fidel Castro, the Clinton administration said it opposes such sessions as well as Ryan's advocacy of dropping the U.S. ban on trade with the communist nation.

State Department spokesman James Rubin said Wednesday that personally visiting the Cuban leader should be avoided "to not give the impression that anyone supports the oppression that he has visited on his people."

"We'd prefer that there not be a lot of high-level contact with Castro so long as he refuses to lift his embargo on the Cuban people," Rubin said. "But if people are going to go, as a practical matter, we think it's better to encourage them to focus on human rights than to stick our head in the sand and say we wished you hadn't gone."

As such, the attention Ryan paid to human rights issues during his five-day visit to the Caribbean island nation - the first by a U.S. governor since the 1959 revolution that brought Castro to power - was welcomed. The conservative Republican governor met with some of the country's best-known dissidents and said human rights was among the issues he discussed with Castro in their meeting Tuesday night.

"We certainly support the statements that the governor made that brought attention to the human rights violations in Cuba," Rubin said.

But Ryan also repeatedly spoke out against the nearly 40-year-old American ban on trade with Cuba, saying it harms residents of both countries. Farm groups, powerful in Illinois, have been lobbying aggressively for at least

a partial lifting of the ban to give their struggling constituency another market for their products.

Those Ryan comments were less well-received at home. Rubin said sanctions are here to stay as a key part of U.S. hopes to drive Castro from power. They also have strong support in the United States from a politically influential portion of Miami's Cuban exile community.

"The embargo is the law of the land, and therefore there is no promotion of trade," Rubin said. "We certainly hope Cuban officials have noted that Governor Ryan was demonstrating the benefits of a democracy, that we can have different views in our country about the wisdom of certain policies and those views can be clearly expressed."



CALL FOR ARTISTS AND VENDORS TO PARTICIPATE IN THE GARAPAN STREET MARKET.

TO: All parties interested in selling their handicraft items or imported merchandise, or operating a food booth in the GARAPAN STREET MARKET.

Please be advised that application forms, along with detailed rules and regulations regarding participation, are now available at the locations listed below.

This new market will showcase local artists and entertainers, and the sale of food and merchandise representing ethnic groups from around the Pacific Rim. The market will be located on Third Street in Garapan, and will be open from 6PM to 10PM on Thursday nights. The inaugural evening will be Thursday December 2, and the Honorable Governor Pedro P. Tenorio will participate in the ribbon cutting ceremony.

The event will be promoted to the public with announcements on cable television, local radio stations, newspaper advertisements, posters and flyers. A web site, hosted by GTEPacific, will describe the event in both English and Japanese. The flyers will be distributed in the hotels a few days in advance of the market to attract our tourists.

Entertainment will be provided by local performing artists, at no charge.

You may pick up your application to participate at:
Marianas Visitors Authority
The Commonwealth Council for Arts & Culture
The Office of Carolinian Affairs
The DPS Koban in Garapan.

Completed applications, along with deposit fee, are to be submitted to MVA, beginning October 25. Preference in location will be given to those participants who have their application on file by Monday November 15.

Questions may be addressed to Rhoda Smith, Chairperson, at 233-5650 or Martin Duenas, MVA, at 664-3200

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS
FOR
SECURITY ACCESS SYSTEM UPGRADE

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting proposals from qualified firms to upgrade its flight line security access system to be Y2K compliant. This upgrade will consist of replacing the existing UNIX fileserver, workstations and proprietary software with new computers and Windows NT proprietary software.

Following are the specifications for the computers and ancillary hardware. The current supplier will upgrade the proprietary software to operate on this equipment in a Windows NT environment.

Host Computer - 1 each

- Gate 2000 ALR 7200 NTS or equivalent
- Intel 400 MHz Pentium II processor w/512K
- Integrated 32-bit PCI graphics w/2MB DRAM
- 2 each 9GB Ultra 2 LVD SCSI 7200 hard drive
- 256 MB (2-128 MB modules) PC 100 ECC SDRAM DIMM
- 3.5" 1.44 MB diskette drive
- Integrated Intel PCI 10/100 Twisted Pair ETHERNET
- 17Xmin/40X IDE CD-ROM
- EV500 (13.9" viewable) color monitor
- 104+keyboard
- PS/2 compatible mouse with mouse pad
- 300 watt power supply
- Pre-loaded with NT SERVER v4.0 (1-CPU's), 10 user licenses with service pac 5. Software to be configured as workgroup with administrator password = root.
- Pre-loaded with MS SQL SERVER v7.0 5 user
- Pre-loaded with MS ACCESS 97
- Adaptec 2940U2W (LVD) SCSI controller card
- 4/8 GB HP DAT internal tape drive
- Veritas/Seagate Backup Exec. Pro tape backup software

Workstation Computers - 3 each

- Gateway 2000 E-5200-400 or equivalent
- Intel 400 MHz Pentium II processor w/512K
- IBM 4.5 GB IDE hard disk drive
- ATIRAGE 128 GL 16 MB AGP graphics
- 128 MB (1-128 MB Module) 100 MHz ECC SDRAM
- Sound Blaster Audio PCI 64 D and GC5200 speakers by Cambridge
- 3 COM PCI 10/100 Twisted Pair with WOL
- 3.5" 1.44 MB diskette drive
- 17Xmin/40X max EIDE CD-ROM
- 104+keyboard
- VX700 17" color monitor (16.0" view area)
- 7-bay E series mid-tower case
- MS IntelliMouse with mouse pad
- Microsoft Windows NT Workstation v4.0 with service pac 5
- McAfee Anti Virus Software
- MS ACCESS 97

Responses to this RFP will be judged according to price, delivery, warranty terms, availability of spare parts and capability for on-site service and support. CPA required a completion of the upgrade no later than December 10, 1999 in order to comply with FAR Part 107.

Interested firms must submit proposals no later than 4:30 p.m., October 29, 1999. CPA reserves the right to reject any and all proposals for any reason if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Carlos H. Salas
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 1055
Saipan, MP 96950

/s/ Roman S. Palacios
Board Chairman/Contracting Officer

Date: October 15, 1999

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Secretary of Public Works

INVITATION FOR BID
DPW00-IFB-001

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Department of Public Works, are soliciting sealed bids for the Sinapalo II Subdivision Street Paving, Rota, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The project package is available on or after Wednesday, October 13, 1999 at the Technical Services Division, Department of Public Works, Lower Base, Saipan. A non-refundable payment of one hundred dollars (US\$100.00) is required for each set; payment must be made to the CNMI Treasurer and a receipt of payment must be presented when obtaining the project package.

No Pre-Bid Conference will be held for this project. All questions regarding this project must be submitted in writing to the Director of DPW Technical Services Division, Lower Base Saipan or fax (670) 322-3547 no later than 4:30 p.m., Friday, October 22, 1999.

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

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

The responsible bidder submitting the lowest responsive bid will be awarded a contract with the CNMI Government and will be required to deliver Performance and Payment bonds, each equal to 100% of the contract price. Payment and Performance Bonds must be executed by a CNMI approved surety. Performance time for completion of this project is one hundred twenty (120) calendar days. Liquidated damages will be assessed at Five Hundred Dollars (US\$500.00) per calendar day.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the U.S. Department of the Interior, Office of Insular Affairs (DOI/OIA) at 50% of the cost with 50% matching funds provided by the CNMI Government. Award of a contract is contingent upon funding approval from DOI/OIA.

All bid documents received shall become the sole property of the CNMI Government. The Government reserves the right to reject any or all bids and to waive any imperfection in a bid proposal that does not effect the elements of price, quantity, and delivery of the bid, in the best interest of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

/s/ JUAN B. CEPEDA
Secretary of Public Works

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

Miller Lite BEER & PEPSI

HALLOWEEN

SUNDAY BRUNCH

SAIPAN DIAMOND HOTEL

at the
Plumeria Restaurant
Sunday, October 31st
11am to 2pm

Adult: \$20.00
Child: \$10.00

Includes Miller Lite & Pepsi 20% Local Discount

116 people killed, mostly civilians

Russia bombs Grozny

GROZNY, Russia (AP) - Russian jets screamed over the Chechen capital on Wednesday, bombing houses and killing scores of people as ground forces fought to approach the city from three directions.

The attacks were some of the heaviest against Grozny since Russia launched its campaign to wipe out Chechnya-based Islamic militants.

President Boris Yeltsin said Russian troops would not stop their offensive until they "destroy the center of international terrorism in Chechnya."

Chechen military headquarters said 116 people, mostly civilians, were killed in Wednesday's air and artillery attacks, but the figure could not be confirmed. Streams of desperate civilians fled to the countryside.

Huge plumes of smoke rose over Grozny as pairs of Russian jets roared over the city. Bombs and rockets destroyed houses and apartment buildings, including the home of warlord Shamil Basayev.

Basayev's fighters were among those who twice attacked the neighboring Russian republic of Dagestan in August and September, prompting Russia to launch the campaign to eliminate them.

Russian officials also blame the militants for apartment bombings in Russia last month that killed some 300 people.

Russia has repeatedly said its military actions are limited to attacking rebel positions. Air Force Chief Anatoly Kornukov said Wednesday that "peaceful civilians both in and outside Grozny are spared missile and bombing strikes."

But Chechen Vice Premier Kazbek Makhashev called Wednesday's raids "state terrorism ... a slaughter of the people." Scores of civilians, including women and children, have been killed by the attacks on Grozny and other Chechen towns in recent weeks, according to independent observers.

Yeltsin said Wednesday that Moscow was determined to press ahead with its campaign.

"Russian soldiers and officers are bringing peace back to the long-suffering Chechen land," he said in his most extensive comments yet on the fighting.

Yeltsin left Moscow on Wednesday for a vacation, apparently content to let his officials handle the war.

Meanwhile, Russian forces in eastern Chechnya took control of



Russian soldiers on APCs head for new positions in the Naurski district of Chechnya, northwest of Grozny Tuesday. Russian tanks and soldiers battled their way Tuesday to the edge of Grozny as federal artillery and jets blasted targets across the breakaway republic.

four villages and surrounded two others, Russian Defense Ministry spokesman Gennady Alyokhin said. Russian forces in the region were focusing air and artillery raids on the nearby city of Gudermes, he said.

The four captured settlements - Azamat-Yurt, Stepnoye, Nizhni Gerzel and Kadi-Yurt - lie along a strategically important highway running east to Dagestan and just a few miles from Gudermes, the Russian military command said.

Gudermes, Chechnya's second-largest city, is 20 miles east of

Grozny. Seizing it would be a major step toward full Russian control of eastern Chechnya. The city has been well fortified by militants.

The offensive in the east came as Russian tanks and soldiers closed in on Grozny from the north. Chechen militants traded fire with them about two miles from the city's outskirts and battled Russian forces in the village of Tolstoy-Yurt, to the north.

Troops pressing from the west heavily shelled the town of Pobodinskoye.

The forces on all fronts made only small advances because of fierce Chechen resistance, the Interfax news agency reported, citing unspecified military officials.

Chechen commanders appeared confident about defending the capital, where guerrillas inflicted severe losses on the Russian army in street fighting during the 1994-96 Chechen war. The Chechens say they have built concrete bunkers and other sturdy defenses.

Chechen Foreign Minister Ilyas Akhmadov played down Russia's attacks, saying Chechnya would fight on and win the war even if Grozny fell.

"Militarily speaking the situation is not dangerous," Akhmadov said in The Hague, Netherlands, after meetings with Dutch Foreign Ministry officials. "We are not fighting a classical war here. Even if we surrender the capital it doesn't mean that we surrender the war."

Russia has sent mixed messages over whether it will try to take Grozny. After early successes, the Russian military now appears to be trying to occupy all of the republic and end its de facto independence.

Moscow Interior Ministry troops commander Arkady Baskayev said Wednesday that the capital would definitely be taken.

"Yes, of course, and not only Grozny. Time doesn't matter, the main thing is to be well-prepared for the operation and take (Grozny) without big losses," he said in an interview on the Echo of Moscow radio station.

UN prosecutor: Arrest Milosevic

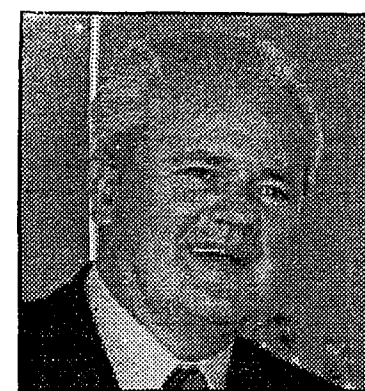
SKOPJE, Macedonia (AP) — The new chief prosecutor of the Yugoslav war crimes tribunal said Wednesday her top priority was the arrest and trial of Yugoslav President Slobodan Milosevic and two Bosnian Serb warlords.

Carla Del Ponte, a former Swiss federal prosecutor, was on her first tour of the Balkans since she succeeded Louise Arbour of Canada last month at the international court in The Hague, Netherlands.

"Public indictments against war criminals my office already made are my top priority," Del Ponte said at a news conference in the Macedonian capital, Skopje. She planned to travel to Kosovo on Thursday, and then to Bosnia and Croatia later this week.

The tribunal has indicted dozens of Serbs, Croats and Muslims for war crimes committed during the conflicts in Bosnia, Croatia and Kosovo. Many of those suspects, including Milosevic and Bosnian Serb wartime leaders Radovan Karadzic and Ratko Mladic, remain at large.

"Milosevic, Karadzic and Mladic must be arrested and brought for trial," Del Ponte declared. "Please write it down, so it might help."



Slobodan Milosevic

Del Ponte said more than 400 forensic experts had completed investigations at a quarter of the 450 alleged mass graves and war crimes sites in the Serbian province of Kosovo.

"Now our forensic investigative work will slow down during the winter months," she said. "But we will return to Kosovo next spring because we have a lot of work to do."

Milosevic and four top associates were indicted for war crimes in connection with Yugoslavia's crackdown against Kosovar Albanians earlier this year. The crackdown led to NATO's bombing of Yugoslavia, which forced the Serb army and police out of Kosovo.

Thousands of ethnic Albanians

are believed to have been killed by Serb forces. Del Ponte said the tribunal was also looking into possible crimes by ethnic Albanians against non-Albanians in Kosovo.

"That was an armed conflict we found responsibility on both sides," Del Ponte said. "We are concerned especially about high level responsibility in the military and political section."

In the Netherlands, the tribunal accused Serbia and Croatia Wednesday of hampering efforts to bring suspected criminals to justice.

In its sixth annual report, the tribunal said 35 people named in public indictments remained at large, mostly in the Balkans.

But Serbia "persists in its disregard for the rule of law," refusing to extradite suspects or allow investigators access to potential crime scenes, the report said. Croatia, it said, was stalling on extraditions.

Croatia protested in a letter to the tribunal's president, Gabrielle Kirk McDonald, that said Zagreb had surrendered one suspect in August and approved the extradition of another, though the suspect's transfer was suspended because of illness.



Top ranking Montenegrin official Miodrag Vukovic (right) and vice-president of the ultra-nationalist Serbian Radical Party, Tomislav Nikolic, in the coastal town of Sveti Stefan, some 50 km south of Podgorica, Monday.

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Division of Historic Preservation, Department of Community & Cultural Affairs, wishes to advise the general public that the Historic Preservation Review Board will hold it's annual meeting on November 10, 1999. The meeting will be held from 8:30 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. at the Division of Historic Preservation located along Airport Road.

Interested individuals are invited to attend.

AGENDA

- I. Call to Order
- II. Adoption of Minutes of October 21, 1998 Meeting
- III. OLD BUSINESS
 - a. Mt. Carmel School Building
 - b. Update on IOTA Project
 - c. Update on PROA Project
 - d. Other Old Business
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
 - a. Review Board Operating Procedures
 - b. Human Remains Repatriation Policy
 - c. Kenneth Moore Proposal
 - d. Joab Historic House
 - e. FY2000 HPO Federal Grant Application
 - f. FY2000 HPO Local Budget
 - g. HPO Fees
 - h. Publication Update
 - i. Rota/Tinian Program Update
 - j. Saipan Review & Compliance Update
 - k. Other Old Business
- V. ADOPTION OF RESOLUTIONS
- VI. ADJOURNMENT

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairman, Mr. Juan S. Tenorio, is forming the public that it will be **EXTENDING THE ACCEPTANCE** of applications for the single-family residential houses at the Sugar King Part II Subdivision to **10:00 a.m. on Friday, October 29, 1999**. Applications are available at the NMHC Office in Garapan, Saipan between regular business hours.

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

The house range is size between two-three-, and four-bedrooms. A family composing of a minimum of one (1) member may purchase a 2-bedroom house; a family composing a minimum of two (2) members may purchase a 3-bedroom house; and a family composing a minimum of three (3) members may purchase a 4-bedroom house. Conveniently located at the central part of Saipan, the Sugar King II Subdivision is only a short drive from many major facilities on the island.

Units Size	Number Available
2-bedrooms	4
3-bedrooms	26
4-bedrooms	9

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

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

MARYLOU S. ADA
Executive Director

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

Soviet agent convicted in Estonia

TALLINN, Estonia (AP) — A former Soviet official was found guilty of murdering three people in an Estonian forest 50 years ago, one of a dozen convictions in a campaign to seek justice for Stalinist-era abuses in the three Baltic Sea states.

Karl-Leonhard Paulov, 75, was sentenced to eight years in jail, but judges suspended the term because so much time had passed since the crime.

The conviction Tuesday was for murdering three Estonians hiding from Soviet authorities in the 1940s, when the Soviet Union took over the tiny northern country.

Thousands took refuge in Baltic forests in the years during the Soviet occupation. Many sought to avoid deportation to Siberia, while others took up arms in resistance.

As a young agent, Paulov was ordered to capture or kill such forest dwellers. Prosecutors said he shot two of his victims in the back.

Looking frail and clutching a cane, Paulov told the court he had acted in self-defense. He said he was glad he didn't have to go to prison, but feared prosecutors would appeal to have him jailed.

"This has all hit me very deeply," said Paulov, who has cancer, according to Eesti Paevalt newspaper. "I can't sleep at night."

There have been a dozen con-

victions on charges related to Stalinist-era crimes in Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania since they gained independence in 1991 and pledged to bring former Soviet agents to trial.

Moscow has criticized the trials, saying the former Soviet republics were exacting revenge on ailing, elderly men, many of whom still held Russian pass-

ports.

Relatives of Paulov's victims said they were disappointed Paulov would not be jailed. But some were just happy Paulov had to account publicly for the killings.

"Let God punish him further," said Oie Kurg, one of the relatives, according to Eesti Paevalt.

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

SECOND REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

FOR DESIGN, PROCUREMENT & INSTALLATION SERVICES FOR AN AUTOMATED PUBLIC PARKING CONTROL SYSTEM SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for Design, Procurement and Installation services for an Automated Public Parking Control System at the Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A scope of work and conceptual design layout plan are available for pick-up on or after October 27, 1999 at the CPA Engineering Department, Saipan International Airport. Those proposers that have secured the package for the first RFP may use the same documents in preparation of their proposals.

Interested proposers must submit one (1) original and four (4) copies each of their proposals no later than 4:30 p.m., November 10, 1999. Late proposals will not be entertained.

Proposals will be evaluated and scored based on the following criteria:

a. Design showing plans and specifications.	5%
b. Procurement proposal, brand names, deliver schedule, manufacturers and suppliers warranties, maintenance requirements and parts availability.	15%
c. Construction, installation and training time frame.	10%
d. Proposed price	70%

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

Send information to: Mr. Carlos H. Salas
Executive Director
Commonwealth Ports Authority
P.O. Box 501055
Saipan, MP 96950-1055

/s/ROMAN S. PALACIOS
Contracting Officer/Board Chairman

October 25, 1999
Date

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ON SPECIAL

Khatami visits France

PARIS (AP) — Iran's president began the first visit to France by an Iranian leader since the 1979 Islamic revolution on Wednesday, urging respect among nations during a trip that prompted French authorities to tighten border security and raid the offices of an Iranian opposition group.

President Mohammad Khatami, who is locked in a fierce power struggle with conservative clerics in Iran, was kept apart from angry protesters who held demonstrations in Paris. On the three-day visit, the moderate president is aiming to fortify Iran's timid ties to the West.

French police, fearing violence from Iranian opposition groups, stepped up security and staged a pre-dawn crackdown on members of Iran's largest exile organization. Up to 40 people, most apparently members of the People's Mujahedeen of Iran, were detained.

France also increased border controls along frontiers with Germany and Italy, sending back many Iranians trying to enter the country to protest Khatami's presence in France.

Interior Minister Jean-Pierre Chevènement, justifying the measures, spoke of "serious and precise threats."

The Iranian president, on his second trip to Europe since his 1997 election, has reached out to



Iranian President Mohammad Khatami (left) shakes hands with French President Jacques Chirac on the steps of the Elysee Palace prior to their meeting Wednesday in Paris. Khatami begins a three-day visit to France, the first by an Iranian leader since the 1979 Islamic Revolution. AP

the West, seeking dialogue over confrontation. But his power struggle with hard-liners in Tehran means he must tread carefully.

The visit comes during a period of increased tension between various factions in Iran, and many cases of alleged human rights abuses, including the charging of 13 Iranian Jews as spies.

After a lengthy meeting with

French President Jacques Chirac, Khatami said he sought a world in which all nations have equal weight, "where all nations respect each other, a pluralistic world, a world without domination, where all countries live in peaceful co-existence."

Khatami expressed the wish that, in such a world, nations could "profit from the respective possi-

bilities." Khatami's visit to France was the first by an Iranian leader since France harbored Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini before his victorious return to Tehran two decades ago. Since then, France has had rocky relations with the Islamic Republic. The visit by Khatami falls into a diplomatic void - neither offi-

cial nor private - and his agenda remained vague.

A speech planned at the U.N. Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization was canceled, apparently because adequate security could not be assured.

When police raided the French headquarters of the People's Mujahedeen of Iran early Wednesday, they surrounded their compound north of Paris and briefly detaining some militants.

A Washington-based Mujahedeen member, Hedayat Mostowfi, said by telephone that masked police with dogs dragged him from his bed at a Paris apartment rented as a "temporary office" for the Khatami visit.

The Mujahedeen, which the U.S. State Department lists as a terrorist organization, has an army based in Iraq.

Up to 2,000 people attended a Mujahedeen-sponsored demonstration. A second demonstration led by France's main Jewish group protested the March arrest of 13 Iranian Jews to be tried as spies.

Chirac asked Khatami for an "equitable examination of their case," presidential spokeswoman Catherine Colonna said later.

Both France and Iran placed great weight on the visit that Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi called a "turning point."

Schroeder gov't harshly assailed

BERLIN (AP) — German Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder marked his government's first anniversary Wednesday not with celebratory words but rather a new bid to rescue his unpopular austerity budget from mounting opposition.

The usually media-friendly Schroeder stayed largely out of the public eye following a morning Cabinet meeting, at which the subject of the anniversary didn't even come up, according to government spokeswoman Charima Reinhardt.

Opposition conservatives were not so shy, accusing the government of failing to set out a clear direction for a country facing more than 10 percent unemployment and increased global competition.

"That was a lost year for Germany," former Chancellor Helmut Kohl, whom Schroeder ousted last year, told ProSieben television. "We're the leading country in Europe, and it doesn't make me happy that we're at the rear" in such areas as unemployment and economic growth.

Conservatives accused Schroeder of shifting course again Wednesday with a Cabinet decision to restructure an unpopular austerity budget for next year to keep the opposition from blocking the package in parliament's upper house.

The plan calls for \$17 billion in cuts targeting some of the welfare state's most sacred cows, including pensions and unemployment benefits. Everyone from farmers



Gerhard Schroeder

to firefighters has taken to the streets of Germany's just-restored capital of Berlin in recent days to protest.

While the ruling coalition of Social Democrats and Greens has a comfortable majority in the lower house, recent state-election losses - blamed on the proposed budget cuts - have strengthened the opposition's hand in the upper house, where the states are represented.

So Finance Minister Hans Eichel, after insisting no changes would be made, announced the plan would be restructured to allow \$15 billion of the proposed cuts to be passed without the upper house, where Germany's 16 states are represented.

Included in that would be the controversial two-year slowdown on pension increases, prompting opposition leaders to cry foul.

Eichel, arguing that the cuts were needed to ensure Germany's economic future, said the government wanted to prevent the

conservatives from seeking to score political points with retirees by blocking the budget.

"We'll get everything through that we can without the Bundesrat," he said. "We don't want the tug of war to drag on into next year."

He said the remaining cuts - mostly in rent subsidies - were not being dropped, but would be negotiated separately.

Eichel said the restructuring, approved Wednesday in the Cabinet, was designed to demonstrate to financial markets Germany's commitment to controlling spending and reducing its huge budget deficit.

The government argues the package will lubricate the German economy and help bring down unemployment.

But old guard Social Democrats view Schroeder's combination of cuts in the welfare state with \$4.4 billion in corporate tax relief as a betrayal of the party's working-class roots.

Disillusionment with Schroeder's attempts to steer the traditionally left-leaning party toward the political center have sent the government's popularity plummeting in opinion polls.

In brief statements on nightly news programs, Schroeder conceded his coalition had faced difficulties with internal disagreements, but said he was still ready to fight.

"The situation is much better than the opinion people have of us, so we have to bring the opinion in line," Schroeder said.

Yeltsin leaves for a vacation

MOSCOW (AP) — President Boris Yeltsin went to the Black Sea resort of Sochi on Wednesday for a vacation, a news report said.

The Russian leader arrived in Sochi late in the afternoon, the Interfax news agency said. He last traveled to Sochi, one of his favorite rest spots, in May.

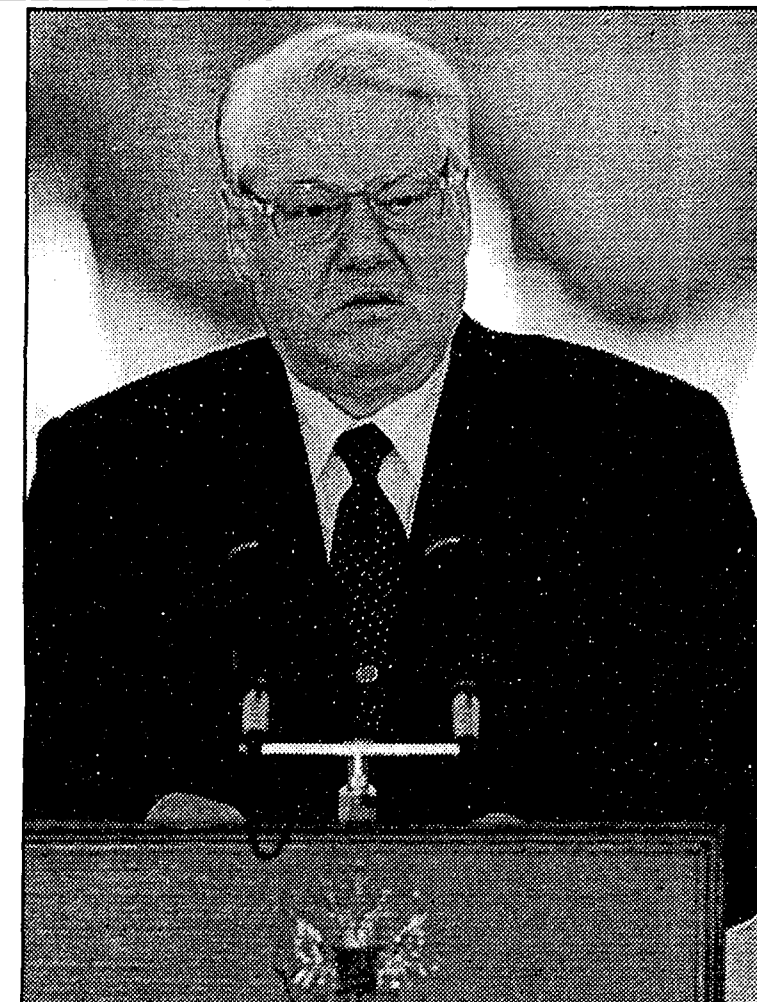
Yeltsin's spokesman, Dmitry Yakushkin, said Tuesday that the president would be on holiday for at least a week.

Yeltsin, 68, had been at work only for a few days before his vacation. He was hospitalized for three days on Oct. 9 with the flu and took 10 days to fully recover at home. Doctors said the illness wasn't serious.

The president has been plagued by health problems, including pneumonia, bronchitis and heart trouble, for much of his second term. But he insists he will not resign before he is constitutionally required to step down next summer.

He began his vacation as Russian jets launched new attacks on Grozny, the capital of breakaway Chechnya. Federal forces invaded Chechnya in September to wipe out Islamic militants based there.

Just before he left Moscow, Yeltsin led an award ceremony for military and cultural luminaries at the Kremlin. He said Moscow would push on with its battle against the militants so that people in Chechnya can "live calmly and peacefully."



Russian President Boris Yeltsin addresses military and intellectuals during an awarding ceremony in Moscow's Kremlin, Wednesday. AP

Serb convoy fleeing Kosovo attacked

PRISTINA, Yugoslavia (AP) — A convoy of Serbs fleeing Kosovo under NATO escort came under attack Wednesday in the western city of Pec, the U.N. refugee agency spokesman said.

The convoy of at least 150 people leaving the southwestern city of Orahovac was traveling to Montenegro when it was attacked by people who attempted to pull evacuees from the vehicles, U.N. refugee agency spokesman Peter Kessler said.

Several cars and vehicles were set on fire, though it is unclear whether all of them were in the convoy. About 35 people were taken to the Italian headquarters of the NATO peacekeeping force, where a mob of angry ethnic Albanians gathered outside.

Serbs seeking to leave the province often have asked NATO to escort their convoys

to avoid attacks by ethnic Albanians seeking revenge for an 18-month crackdown by Serb forces. The crackdown ended when NATO forces entered Kosovo on June 12 after a 78-day bombing campaign.

The alliance has pledged to fight the rash of violence against Kosovo's minority Serbs, saying the alliance would not permit any single ethnic group to rule the province, which is part of the Serbia.

It was unclear whether any of the evacuees attacked Wednesday were injured, though four people were unaccounted for after the attack.

Earlier Wednesday, hundreds of Serb villagers blocked a major Kosovo highway with tree trunks, cars and buses to demand that NATO peacekeepers track down two Serbs who disappeared this week.

About 300 people stalled traffic in Lesak, 20 miles north of

the ethnically tense industrial city of Kosovska Mitrovica, demanding that NATO peacekeepers find the missing men and prosecute any possible kidnappers. The men vanished after going to work Tuesday in Kosovska Mitrovica, a NATO statement said.

"No one is doing anything to find them," said Goran Lazarovic, 30, of the nearby town of Leposevic. "The last we had heard, they are still alive, but we don't know where they are."

The U.N. police commander in Leposevic, William Thwaites, set up a meeting with protest leaders Wednesday to try to persuade the Serbs to clear the road, the main artery linking northern Kosovo to the rest of Serbia.

"People around here feel they are being neglected," Thwaites said. "They believe that nothing is being done to help them find the missing people."



NATO peacekeepers guard outside their barracks in the western Kosovo town of Pec, where 34 Serbs who were in a KFOR-escorted convoy, were mobbed by ethnic Albanians as it was passing through this town, took refuge late Wednesday. AP

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COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANAS ISLANDS**

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PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC §9910(a) and (b), Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Board of Elections, hereby gives notice that the Board of Elections will meet on Saturday and Sunday, October 30 and 31, 1999. The meeting will convene at 10:00 a.m. at the Office of the Board of Elections, Garapan, Saipan. Additional information concerning this meeting is available at the Office of the Board of Elections, Garapan, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - a. Roll Call
 - b. Adoption of Agenda
- II. Executive Director's Report
 - a. Report on status of activities related to 1999 election
- III. New Business
 - a. Assignment of board members to senatorial districts
 - b. Appointments of election workers for 1999 regular general election
- IV. Miscellaneous
- V. Adjournment

/s/GREGORIO C. SABLAN
Executive Director

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Beyond the call

Britain: No French meat ban

LONDON (AP) — Prime Minister Tony Blair on Wednesday ruled out banning imports of French meat, saying it would be illegal despite France's refusal to lift a ban on British beef.

"The issue is how do we deal with the French action, which is itself unlawful," Blair said during angry exchanges in the House of Commons. "We say

the best way to deal with it is to play it straight by the rules to make sure we have the law on our side, quality on our side and science on our side."

Opposition Conservative Party leader William Hague demanded a ban on imports of French meat.

Under European Union rules, Britain could impose a ban only if there was a "serious and demonstrable threat" to the health of humans or animals. The EU says that even though some French animal feed plants use prohibited substances, including sewage, French beef is safe.

The sewage report that was released last week fanned British anger at France's refusal to join the rest of the 15-nation EU in lifting a ban on British beef exports. That ban was imposed in 1996 because of an outbreak of mad cow disease, which medical researchers linked to a new strain of the fatal human brain ailment Creutzfeldt-Jacob disease.

An EU committee on Thursday begins a two-day examination of claims by France that it has its own scientific evidence that British beef is still unsafe. Britain says the EU will find that France has no new evidence.

European Commissioner David Byrne called on France and Britain to take a reasoned approach to the dispute.

"I would urge that calm and reason prevail pending the outcome of the scientific committee's opinion," Byrne said after meeting with British members of the European Parliament in Strasbourg, France. He said the committee's opinion would be "an important and defining step toward a resolution of this difficult issue."

French and British leaders say they don't want a trade war.

But in Britain, the dispute has sparked angry campaigns by newspapers against French goods, and some department stores are boycotting French goods. And on Tuesday French farmers blocked British freight trucks at the Channel Tunnel.



Demonstrators carry an assortment of banners, during a protest against the importation of French food outside Devon County Hall in Exeter, England Wednesday. A confrontation has erupted between France and Britain, following France's refusal to import British beef. AP

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Division of Public Lands

PUBLIC NOTICE

10/29/99

Pursuant to 1 CMC§ 9910, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio, Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, and the Board of Public Lands, through the Division of Public Lands (DPL) of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, are hereby giving notice that the meeting of the Board of Public Lands scheduled on Wednesday, October 27, 1999 was unavoidably postponed.

THE MEETING HAS BEEN RESCHEDULED FOR WEDNESDAY NOVEMBER 3, 1999 AT 5:00PM, AT THE DIVISION OF PUBLIC LANDS CONFERENCE ROOM IN AS LITO.

- AGENDA
- Roll Call
 - Adoption of Minutes - September 1, 1999
 - Communications - House Resolution No. 11-202
 - Report of the Director
 - Public Comments
 - Unfinished Business
 - World Corporation
 - Joaquin M. Mangiona - Marianas Fruit Land & Wildlife Habitat Park - Rapugao
 - New Business
 - Public Land lease
 - Presentation by Mr. Takahisa Oguma, President of Saipan Laulau Development, Inc.
 - Presentation by Mr. Pete A. Tenorio, Consultant for BIDI
 - Saipan Cultural Center - Marpi
 - MTC - Amendment to Lease Agreement for Tinian and Rota
 - Hyatt Regency Saipan - Request to sublease to DFS Saipan Limited
 - CNMI Government Public Land Request
 - CUC, Tinian - Maggo well expansion
 - CUC, Tinian - Power plant expansion for firelane, ponding basin and fuel line
 - DLNR, Tinian - Agricultural station (Maggo)
 - DCCA - Request for the designation of Susupe Sports Complex
 - Tinian Legislative Delegation - Request for Grant of Public Domain on the Old MPLC Office (Lot No. 002 T 35)
 - Encroachment - Review for ratification of prior MPLC Board approval for the Heirs of Daniel T. Borja
 - Land Exchange/Land Problem Issues
 - Pending
 - Maria D. Aguon
 - Antonio B. Cabrera
 - Joaquin C. Duenas
 - Nicolas C. Sablan
 - Lucy T. Sablan
 - J.C. Tenorio
 - Estanislao T. Torres
 - Land Claim
 - Heirs of Pedro G. Sablan - Short Exchange
 - Heirs of Maria Iginara - Short Exchange
 - Heirs of Juan M. Mendiola - Songsong Village Lot No. 007 R 16/23
 - Homestead Issues
 - Deeds
 - Miscellaneous
 - Adjournment
- /s/ MANUEL P. VILLAGOMEZ
Chairman, BPL

Mystery of missing Lord continues

LONDON (AP) — Twenty-five years ago, the case captivated the nation: The dashing Lord Lucan abandoned a bloodstained car near the English coast and disappeared, days after his children's nanny was bludgeoned to death and his wife beaten with a lead pipe.

For decades, the mystery has stubbornly lingered: Did Lucan drown himself in the English Channel, or did he sink off to live the high life undetected?

A ruling indicating he is dead for probate purposes at least won't stop the speculation.

The High Court probate ruling, filed in August but not revealed until Wednesday, allows the executors of Lucan's will to deal with his paltry estate, but falls far short of evidence of death.

"Be it known that the Right Honourable Richard John Bingham, Seventh Earl of Lucan, of 72a Elizabeth Street, London SW1, died on or since the 8th day of November 1974," it reads, according to The Times, which broke the news.

"Lucky Lucan" has not been seen since the night of Nov. 7, 1974, when Sandra Rivett was battered to death in the family's home in the wealthy London borough of Belgravia.

Lucan's wife, Veronica, Lady Lucan, was hit in the head repeatedly when she ran downstairs to investigate. Scotland Yard believes Lucan intended to murder his wife - his marriage has been described as "grimly unhappy" - and killed the nanny by mistake.



Lord Lucan

At least 70 Lucan "sightings" have been reported since his disappearance, but their credibility is hampered by occasionally recurring his simultaneous presence in such far-flung places as Melbourne and Johannesburg.

Some conspiracy theorists speculated that he might be tempted to sneak an up-close peek at his daughter's London wedding last year, but even the most avid watchers failed to spot him.

The wedding invitation already had attracted its own attention, archly describing the bride as it did as "Camilla, younger daughter of the 7th Earl of Lucan, where-soever, and the Countess of Lucan."

At the time, retired Detective Chief Inspector David Gerring, who worked on the case, said he was sure Lucan remained alive. The earl, he imagined, was living "a colonial lifestyle in an obscure world with his plastic surgery and his bottle of whiskey." Lady Lucan, however, has long

held that her husband is dead. "I hope that will put an end to it," she said to the Times of the High Court ruling.

Lucan, who was 39 when he disappeared, gambled away the family fortune, and the probate court put the value of his estate at only \$23,535.

Lucan's three children, who are estranged from their mother, have kept mostly silent about the case. But they are said to believe the earl killed himself by slipping over the side of a boat in the English Channel.

Those who are convinced he absconded find that theory hard to square with a letter he wrote a friend shortly before he disappeared: "The circumstantial evidence against me is so strong that V (his wife) will say it is all my doing and I will lay doggo for awhile."

Inside the car he left behind, police found a length of lead pipe and bloodstains matching the types of both Lucan and Sandra Rivett.

Earlier this year, Lucan's son, George Bingham, sought permission to take his father's seat in the House of Lords, insisting Lucan was dead. But he was refused because no definitive proof exists.

"What George wants to do and what the family wants to do is draw a line under the whole thing," one of Bingham's friends, William Sitwell, said Wednesday. "I am sure he is pleased that this has happened. Perhaps it will stop all the speculation about his father."

Afghan opposition soldiers advance

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Afghanistan's opposition soldiers advanced on the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif on Wednesday, after ousting Taliban fighters from strategic mountain heights, an opposition commander said.

Scores of Taliban soldiers were killed, and more than 200 were taken prisoner in fighting that started Tuesday night, opposition Cmdr. Hussain Anwari said by satellite telephone from the war region.

He said opposition soldiers were just 24 miles from Mazar-e-Sharif, the Balkh province's capital that was a major opposition stronghold until it was captured by the Taliban in August 1998.

The city, about 180 miles north of the country's capital, Kabul, is dominated by ethnic Uzbeks.

"Intense fighting is on at

Sholgara, and we are inching forward," Anwari said.

There was no immediate comment from the Taliban, mostly ethnic Pashtuns who govern 90 percent of the country, including Kabul, under strict Islamic rule. They are pushing to capture the rest of the country from the opposition, comprised mainly of ethnic and religious minorities.

The opposition's breakthrough came when a Taliban commander deserted his orthodox militia, along with 500 men, Anwari said. The opposition then seized three mountain heights in the northern Samangan province, and moved into the neighboring Balkh province, he said.

The opposition has scored a number of victories in recent weeks, retaking several northern towns and villages.

Grozny's elderly await their fate

GROZNY, Russia (AP) — The old woman crouched over the fire in the empty courtyard, patiently waiting for the water in a battered metal pot to boil. Russian artillery was pounding the city, but she didn't take her eyes away from the weak, flickering flames.

"I'm not going to leave. There is nowhere to go and I haven't got any money," said Azvu Akhmadova, 72, whose entire family was killed in the last Chechen war three years ago.

She continued to watch the flames. It was as if she feared the fire would go out if she looked away. If the water boiled, she would make tea. A neighbor had promised to bring bread, so there was a chance she would eat.

With Russian forces closing in on Grozny, much of the city is deserted. Apart from Chechen fighters, most of the people left in the capital of the breakaway republic are old and poor, with nowhere to run.

The streets are empty and many of the homes lining them have been abandoned. In empty apartment buildings in the city center, a few elderly people sit and wait. Most are resigned, shrugging off questions about how they feel.

They know what's coming. Twice before, Grozny has witnessed major battles between Chechen and Russian forces. Much of the city is devastated, a graveyard of blackened piles of brick and rubble.

The city has no electricity or natural gas, and people cook over open fires in the open or eat cold food. Water is taken from outdoor pumps despite the danger of artillery fire. Many people have little or no food.

Inna Sotnikova, 62, was trying



Refugees get free bread, before getting on a train which will take them to a Chechen region. AP

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Francisco dlq. Demapan (Mr. D)

BIO-DATA

FAMILY & PERSONAL BACKGROUND

Wife - Manuela Aldan Demapan

Children - Ann Elaine, Michelle, Frank, Jr. Joseph Frank, and John Paul

Father - Francisco Borja Demapan (deceased)

Mother - Ana Salas de Leon Guerrero (deceased)

Father-in-law - Jose Blas Magofna

Mother-in-law - Elena Cristostomo Aldan Diaz

EDUCATION

Bachelors, Elementary Education, UOG
Associate of Science, Elementary Education, CCM
Mount Carmel High School

GOVERNMENT SERVICES

Vice Principal, San Antonio Elementary

Classroom Teacher - WSR, GES, SV, & MHS

Assistant Executive Director - Senate, 4th Legislature

Assistant Political Affairs Office - Office of the Governor

Assistant Teacher Training Coordinator - NMC

Assistant Trainee and Employee Development Officer - Personnel Management Office

Acting Principal & Vice Principal - Garapan Elementary

District Commissioner - Susupe Village

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There will be three age categories for the competition:

- Class A is 3 months to 18 months
- Class B is 19 months to 3 years
- Class C is over 3 years and up to 6 years.

Registration is going on now at Price Costco, and there is no fee to register. Photography sessions will begin Friday, November 5 at Price Costco. For details call SPL at 322-7754.

Zambian official sues UK airline

LUSAKA, Zambia (AP) — Zambia's dapper foreign minister, deeply embarrassed that he had to wear the same suit for 10 days during an African summit, is suing British Airways for losing his luggage.

Keli Walubita said he looked "shabby" and his "status was reduced" at the July summit of the Organization of African Unity in the Algerian capital, Algiers.

Walubita delivered a briefing at the summit on Zambia's efforts to mediate an end to the yearlong Congo civil war.

In a statement released Wednesday, Walubita said he instructed his lawyers to begin legal proceedings against British Airways

for failing to compensate him for the loss of clothing and property worth \$15,000.

He said the airline denied responsibility for losing the luggage and took what he described as an "uncompromising stand" when he complained.

British Airways did not immediately respond to phone calls requesting comment.

Walubita, regarded as Zambia's best dressed minister, said he flew to Algiers through Johannesburg and London.

He said airline officials claimed they handed over the luggage to Zambian protocol officers in Algiers, but he later received a suitcase that did not belong to him.



A firefighter and a woman carry children during a fire at an asylum seekers shelter in Langenhagen-Schulenburg, northern Germany, early Wednesday morning. Eight of 180 asylum seekers were injured. AP

Ex-East German leader nixes guilt

LEIPZIG, Germany (AP) — Rejecting personal guilt, East Germany's last communist leader went to court Wednesday to appeal his conviction for shooting deaths at the Berlin Wall and along the rest of the east-west German border during the Cold War.

Egon Krenz, who ruled the former communist country for six weeks during the turbulent autumn of 1989, and two former Politburo colleagues, Guenther Kleiber and Guenter Schabowski, are seeking to overturn their 1997 manslaughter convictions and sentences.

Krenz has repeatedly argued that their actions were in accordance with East German law and united Germany had no right to prosecute them.

Despite his high position, he was unable to influence the shoot-to-kill border policy be-

cause East Germany was a satellite of the former Soviet Union, Krenz testified Wednesday.

He said it was his "biggest personal defeat that I could not prevent the dead and the injured," but he insisted both sides in the Cold War were to blame for the victims' deaths.

Prosecutors filed appeals seeking stiffer sentences. Krenz had received 6 1/2 years, the others three years each, but they have been free pending the appeals.

Several supporters handed Krenz flowers as he entered the court, while a few demonstrators held a banner reading, "We don't want revenge, just justice."

Kleiber and Schabowski were represented by their attorneys in court Wednesday.

A ruling is expected Nov. 8, one day before the 10th anniversary of the fall of the Wall.

UN envoy wants \$1.2M for t-shirts

UNITED NATIONS, (Reuters) — Holding up a bright yellow and blue T-shirt with the Bosnian flag, a U.N. envoy said he was seeking \$1.2 million to distribute 300,000 of them to schoolchildren in the divided republic.

"We need to build a consensus among the population, especially the young people... that they have a future here," Jacques Klein, the U.N. representative for Bosnia, told reporters on Wednesday.

"What you want to do here is to make it reflective so children walking home are seen at night in a country with very bad lighting," he said. The back side of the T-shirt reads "our flag, our country, our future."

Klein, an American, said Bosnia's education system had a built-in divisiveness between ethnic groups that fought each other in the country's bitter 1992-1995 war.

The textbooks had flawed interpretations of history that favoured one faction or another. And now the Serbo-Croatian language, shared by all former Yugoslav republics, was being changed in Bosnia under the mistaken "notion that to be a people you have to have your own language," Klein said.

"At a time the rest of Europe is going to macro economic and political structures, we have people here trying to find ways to divide the population," he said.

Bosnia currently is made up of a Serb republic and a Moslem-Croat federation but Croat nationalists have called for a separate entity for themselves.

Klein dismissed as an election gambit Croatian President Franjo Tudjman's recent comments that the 1995 Dayton, Ohio, agreement that ended the Bosnian war was out of date because a third division, for Bosnian Croats, was needed.

"I wouldn't say that Dayton is out of date. Maybe the people who say Dayton is out of date are out of date," Klein said, adding that Tudjman's ruling party for the first time faced an opposition that "has its act together."

In Yemen

Kidnapped Americans freed

SAN'A, Yemen (AP) — Tribesmen freed an American teacher and her parents early Thursday, two days after kidnapping them in Yemen, Interior Ministry officials said.

The teacher and her parents, all from Portland, Ore., were on their way to Yemen's capi-

tal, San'a, from the northern province of Marib where they were kidnapped Tuesday, said the officials on condition of anonymity.

The Americans were freed following negotiations with the kidnappers, who belong to the Bani Jabr tribe, the of-

officials said. They gave no further details.

Marta R. Colburn teaches at the American Institute for Yemeni Studies in San'a and was being visited by her parents, Don and Gladys Colburn, when they were seized. Colburn was formerly deputy director

of Middle East studies at Portland State University.

Yemeni officials said Wednesday that the kidnappers were demanding the release of 25 fellow tribesmen who have been detained in connection with the blowing up an oil pipeline on Oct. 21.

Yemeni tribesmen often kidnap foreigners to pressure the government into providing money or better services, such as new roads, for their impoverished areas. The kidnappers usually treat the hostages as guests and release them unharmed.

US: Iraq guilty of crimes

WASHINGTON (AP) — The State Department, pressing for an international war-crimes tribunal for Iraq, said today Iraqi authorities have engaged in nine "major criminal episodes" that qualify as crimes against humanity.

"The criminal enterprise is undeniable and glares at anyone who cares to look closely at Iraq today," said David Scheffer, ambassador-at-large for war-crimes issues.

Among the nine are the use of poison gas against Iraqi Kurds in 1988, killing an estimated 5,000 people, and use of gas during the 1980-88 war with Iran. He also mentioned the activities of the Iraqi army during and after its takeover of Kuwait in 1990 and against the U.S.-led coalition that forced the Iraqis from Kuwait in 1991.

Scheffer commented during an appearance at the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace. His speech was part of an accelerating administration campaign to win approval for creation of an international war-crimes tribunal for Iraq.

He suggested the United States might have more success in winning U.N. Security Council approval for a tribunal if it were to pay the arrears on its U.N. dues.

Scheffer also noted that some governments, far from advocating a war-crimes tribunal, are seeking broader relations with Iraq.

"Before any government entertains further thoughts about deeper relations with the Iraqi regime, the factual record of this criminal enterprise needs to be fully appreciated," he said. "There must not be a memory lapse when it comes to the war crimes of Saddam Hussein and his inner circle."

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Palestinian Leader Yasser Arafat (center) laughs while holding hands with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Mousa (left), and Jordanian Foreign Minister Abdallah al Khateeb during their meeting at Arafat's office in Gaza City, Wednesday to discuss the issue of Palestinians displaced during the 1967 war. AP

Bethlehem in pre-millennium gloom

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (AP) — With less than two months to go before the birthplace of Jesus plays host to the millennial Christmas bash, the air is filled not with sweet smells of incense, but with stinging clouds of tear gas.

The little town of Bethlehem is struggling to pave roads and build new hotel rooms just as new clashes between Israeli soldiers and Palestinian stone-throwers are breaking out, and Palestinians complain that Israel is trying to scare off pilgrims with an intimidating new military checkpoint.

Bethlehem's business community watched in horror as the violence has unfolded so close to what many hope will be the best Christmas season in years.

"Palestinians get afraid and don't come. How can we expect foreigners to come?" said Karem Canavati, who owns a souvenir shop near Rachel's Tomb, an Israeli enclave in Bethlehem.

But an Israeli tour guide of

Christian pilgrims said his clients were not easily deterred because many have been saving all their lives to come to the Holy Land.

"They need to come here and see where Jesus walked," said the guide, David Dassa, adding that he has not had cancellations in recent days.

This week's violence was triggered by the death of a Palestinian souvenir vendor near Rachel's Tomb on Monday. An Israeli soldier said he shot and killed Mousa Abu Hilail because the man tried to stab him. Palestinian officials said he was shot without provocation.

When news of the death spread, hundreds of angry young Palestinians, some masked, others twirling slingshots, threw stones at Israeli soldiers who fired tear gas and rubber-coated steel pellets.

Several dozen Palestinians were injured in three days of rioting along the main road, through which tourist buses pass on their way to Manger

Square and the Church of the Nativity. This week, the road was closed and littered with rocks.

Almost half the businesses in the town of 50,000 - located just five miles south of Jerusalem - cater to tourists.

Bethlehem Mayor Hanna Nasser said the city is working "night and day" to meet the millennium deadline, but that his most pressing concern is an Israeli plan to replace a makeshift roadblock at the outskirts of town with a large army checkpoint.

"Pilgrims will think twice about coming when they see the violence and are forced to wait hours to get through a checkpoint," Nasser said in an interview at his office overlooking Manger Square.

He claimed the construction was part of an Israeli plot to keep pilgrims away.

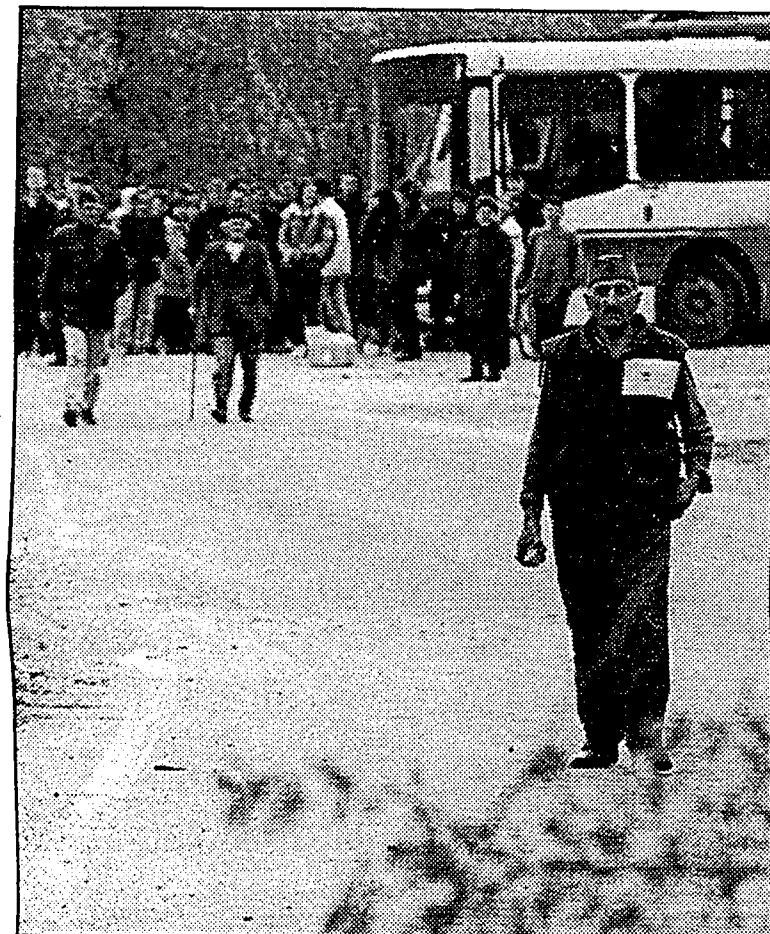
Israeli officials deny the allegations, saying they simply aim to untangle traffic. "What we will do is make it easier for people to come in and out of

Bethlehem," said Peter Lerner, a spokesman for the Israeli military government in the West Bank.

The Israeli checkpoint - now a collection of watchtowers, cinderblocks and movable barriers - is located just up the road from Rachel's Tomb. On workday mornings, hundreds of Palestinians who lack permits to enter Jerusalem simply walk around the roadblock, using a dirt path a few yards away.

Nasser charged that Israel now plans to build a half-mile fenced-in walkway for Palestinians that would look like a long cattle pen - similar to the ominous-looking Erez Crossing between Israel and the Gaza Strip.

But Peter Lerner, the spokesman for Israel's military government in the West Bank, said there would not be a walkway and that checking procedures remained unchanged. He said there would be shuttle buses to and from the checkpoint.



A local Serb villager holds a rock in his fist, to prevent journalists approaching a Serb barricade near the town of Leposavic, north of Pristina Wednesday. Local Serb villagers blocked the road as sign of protest for two kidnapped local villagers. AP

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RP needs \$28B for energy

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — The Philippines will need 1.113 trillion pesos (\$ 27.8 billion) over the next 10 years for energy development, and most must come from foreign sources, the government said Wednesday.

President Joseph Estrada's office released the figures to sup-

port his campaign for constitutional amendments that would reduce restrictions on foreign investment.

It said a Cabinet constitutional task force has determined that only 319 billion pesos (\$ 8 billion) of the total needed for basic energy development can be raised domestically.

Estrada has created a 25-member commission to study amendments to economic provisions in the constitution, which was ratified in 1987, a year after dictator Ferdinand Marcos was ousted in a popular revolt.

Estrada says a 40 percent limit on foreign ownership of key industries and a ban on foreign

ownership of land discourage international investment and threaten to leave the Philippines lagging behind other Southeast Asian countries.

Opponents of charter change say opening up the constitution could undermine its democratic provisions. Others say that allowing foreigners to own land

could threaten the government's land reform program.

Estrada has promised not to change any of the constitution's political provisions, such as term limits on officials aimed at avoiding dictatorships. He also says foreign land ownership should be limited to commercial and industrial land.

Scoutmaster convicted of sexual abuse of boy scout

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

— A Philippine court has convicted a 60-year-old male scoutmaster of sexually abusing a 10-year-old Boy Scout and sentenced him to up to eight years in prison, a court official said Wednesday.

Geronimo Ordinario was also ordered to pay 1.8 million pesos (\$ 45,000) in damages to the boy, who testified he was abused 12 times from November 1998 to February 1999 inside the Boy Scouts office at the Nicanor Garcia Elementary School in Makati City, part of metropolitan Manila.

Flordeliza Silao, clerk of the Makati Regional Trial Court, said Ordinario was convicted Tuesday of 12 counts of rape, each punishable by a maximum of eight years' imprisonment but which he will serve simultaneously.

Silao said the boy, who was in the fourth grade, was ordered by Ordinario to perform oral sex on him. Under a new law, the offense is classified as rape.

Ordinario, who is free on bail, was given 15 days to appeal.

He denied the charges and said that on one occasion when he allegedly committed the offense he was actually seeking a loan from a finance company. He also presented witnesses to show he was "a good man and he has no reason to commit this particular offense," Silao said.

Judge Sixto Marella Jr., however, dismissed Ordinario's defense, giving more weight to the testimony of the boy.

Other types of rape can carry the death penalty in the Philippines under a law restoring capital punishment for "heinous" crimes.

"Much as we wanted a higher penalty, we cannot go beyond what the law provides," Silao said.

Three of six men who have been executed in the Philippines this year were convicted of rape, including two who victimized their own children.

Philippine Boy Scouts are part of the international Boy Scouts movement.



A Malaysian Muslim couples walks past the pavement store vendor selling pirated CDs and video compact discs (VCDs) in Kuala Lumpur Thursday. The United States industry is concerned about the rise in counterfeit goods in Asia fearing \$200 million in potential sales loss. AP

RP firm buys out partner in project

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — ICTSI International Holdings Corp., a subsidiary of Philippine port operator International Container Terminal Services Inc., said Wednesday it has bought out its partner in its Argentina port operations.

ICTSI International said it bought the entire 50 percent stake of Bemberg Inversiones S.A. in Buenos Aires Container Terminal Services S.A., making the port operator a fully owned subsidiary. The company did not disclose the financial details.

However, ICTSI told Philippine President Joseph Estrada during a visit to the Argentine port facility in September that it had invested \$ 80 million in the project since 1994 and planned to add another \$ 80 million.

ICTSI and BISA, a subsidiary of Argentina conglomerate Bemberg Group, formed a joint venture in 1994 to participate in Argentina's port privatization program in Puerto Nuevo. The joint venture won an 18-year concession to manage terminal 5 in Puerto Nuevo.

ICTSI International said the operation remains viable despite the economic slowdown in South America.

Argentina is in the midst of a recession marked by double-digit unemployment and idling of activity that could shrink its economy by as much as 4 percent in 1999.

ICTSI also has port and container terminal investments in Mexico, Saudi Arabia and Pakistan.

Ireland's nurses end 8-day strike

DUBLIN, Ireland (AP) — Union leaders representing Ireland's 27,500 nurses ordered an end to their eight-day strike - the largest in the country's history - after winning key concessions from the government Wednesday.

Most of the Irish Republic's nurses walked off their jobs last week in hopes of winning higher pay and status.

The state proposed a plan Wednesday to give new ranks and extra wages to at least 6,500 of the nurses.

Nurses heeded the union's call to resume work while the union voted on the proposal in the next several days.

Prime Minister Bertie Ahern's government had resisted the nurses' original demands for fear of encouraging strikes by other state-paid workers.

But the government and union leaders accepted a compromise plan by an independent Labor Court Justice Finbarr Flood that proposed creating a new, highly paid grade of senior nurse.

Flood's suggestions addressed

one of the nurses' biggest complaints - that their current pay scale stops at \$30,000, regardless of their years in service or special training.

The new rank, which would apply to at least 2,000 nurses with at least 10 years' experience, would come with a salary increase.

Other new positions - clinical nurse managers and clinical nurse specialists - would be given to about 1,000 nurses along with pay increases. And about 3,500 other nurses would receive new expense benefits in recognition of their existing special roles.

But nurses with no special roles or new titles would get no benefit from the strike, which could incite opposition during the week's balloting.

"This is the best deal we're going to get," said Lenore Mrkwicka, deputy general secretary of the Irish Nurses' Organization, which represents 23,000 of the strikers.

Groups representing patients warned the nurses they should vote in favor of Flood's recommendations or risk losing public support.

French declines in Canada as Chinese rises

QUEBEC CITY, (Reuters) — The French language has entered a period of slow but steady decline in Canada in the face of a wave of Asian immigration and a growing number of so-called "allophones" in Quebec, according to two studies published this week.

Allophones are people who speak neither French nor English, Canada's official languages, at home.

The studies, undertaken by the Montreal-based Association for Canadian Studies and the Quebec government's Conseil de la langue française, predicted Chinese would soon be spoken more than French in English Canada while French would continue to decline slowly in Quebec, where it is now predominant.

The studies said the number of French speakers had been eroded by a combination of three years of rising immigration to the English-speaking provinces of Ontario and British Columbia and a rise in the number of allophones in French-speaking Quebec.

"Canada is becoming increasingly multi-ethnic and multilingual. Its identity will become more diffuse," said Jack Jedwab, the author of the Association for Canadian Studies' report.

He noted that half the popula-

tion of Toronto - the largest city in Canada and among its wealthiest - could be made up of "visible minorities" by 2010.

Jedwab added that the number of people speaking Cantonese and Mandarin at home would reach 600,000 in English-speaking Canada by the time of the next national census in 2001 from 555,000 in 1996.

In 1996, 590,000 Canadians outside Quebec spoke French at home, a number that is expected to decline.

"The rate of retention of Chinese at home from one generation to the next stills remains very high," Jedwab told Reuters.

French-Canadians have tended to assimilate more quickly because of the overwhelming English-speaking environment outside Quebec, Jedwab said.

"The language loss is greater for French speakers in most parts of the country outside Quebec, New Brunswick and some parts of Ontario," he said.

The study by the Conseil de la langue française also indicated the French language in Quebec, a province of 7.3 million people, was threatened. The study suggested the proportion of francophones in Quebec was continuing to drop especially in Montreal, the province's largest

city. The study predicted the number of Quebec residents speaking French at home on the island of Montreal could drop under 50 percent by 2021, a decrease of 2 percentage points. Marc Termote, who wrote the study, said the number of francophones in the province could drop by 2 percentage

points to 81 percent in 20 years. He said the slow decline of both French and English speakers in Quebec was caused by a weak birth rate and a rise in the number of allophones, who could account for 29 percent of the population in Montreal and 9.5 percent in the whole province.

Conseil de la langue française

president Nadia Bredimas-Assimopoulos said the study supported the separatist Quebec provincial government's view that the French language was threatened and needed legal protection.

She said the government needed "to be vigilant" in its bid to assimilate non-French speakers in Quebec, especially immigrants.

Belfast journalist can keep his notes

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — In a victory for press freedom in Northern Ireland, the province's senior judge ruled Wednesday that a journalist should not have to hand over his notes to police.

Lord Chief Justice Robert Carswell overturned two court rulings requiring reporter Ed Moloney to surrender notes of a 1991 interview with a Protestant extremist facing a murder charge.

The judge ruled the police had not "come close" to demonstrating why they needed the notes.

Moloney, senior Northern Ireland correspondent for the Dublin-based Sunday Tribune newspaper, had argued that it would undermine his professional credibility, and potentially place his life in danger, if he was seen to help police at the expense of a source.

He fought back tears outside Belfast Crown Court, saying he appreciated the support he received from journalists and civil rights groups worldwide.

"It will make the authorities think twice before they ever try to do this against a journalist again," he said of the ruling.

Moloney published a report in July based on a 1991 interview with William Stobie, who admits supplying guns to the outlawed Ulster Defense

Association, a pro-British paramilitary group.

Moloney had agreed to publish Stobie's account of his involvement in the 1989 killing of Roman Catholic lawyer Pat Finucane only if Stobie was charged with the crime or otherwise threatened.

The story appeared days after Stobie was charged with the slaying.

The murder of Finucane, who defended Irish Republican Army suspects, is one of the most controversial unsolved killings in the 30-year history of the Northern Ireland conflict. The British government this year reopened the investigation after fresh allegations that the police and British army both had advance warning of the attack but didn't stop - or even actively aided - Finucane's killers.

Moloney's article reported Stobie's claim that he had provided and disposed of a handgun used to kill Finucane, but had also warned police that a killing was imminent.

The police said they needed Moloney's notes to check against their own far lengthier interviews with Stobie.

Moloney could have received a prison sentence had his appeal failed. Instead, Carswell ordered the British government to pay the Sunday Tribune's legal expenses, which totaled more than \$400,000.

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KEEP SAIPAN CLEAN & GREEN



A Christie's telephone bidder raises her hand for an absentee bidder during the auction of Marilyn Monroe memorabilia in New York Wednesday for an eternity band, set with thirty-five baguette-cut diamonds, given to Monroe by Joe Dimaggio after their 1954 wedding. The ring went on to sell for \$772,500. AP

Oleg Cassini takes aim at fashion-conscious

WASHINGTON, (Reuters) - Fashion designer Oleg Cassini, who made real leopard-skin all the rage in the 1960s and still feels guilty about all those dead leopards, now hopes his new line of life-like fakes will convert the fashion-conscious to faux.

Optimistic that consumers will not be able to tell the difference between faux and real, Cassini will introduce more than 80 "Evolutionary Fur" creations at a fashion show on Thursday benefiting the Humane Society of the United States.

"Hopefully this will become a worldwide trend that saves millions and millions of animals," the 86-year-old designer said in a telephone interview.

"I just want to help stop the unnecessary killing of animals which die atrociously for the sake of fashion," he said.

Designers such as Miuccia Prada, Calvin Klein and Ralph Lauren have included real fur in their 1999 fall/winter collections.

Cassini's career skyrocketed when he was selected as the sole designer for then-first lady Jackie Kennedy in the 1960s.

After Cassini designed a coat for Kennedy made from leopards' fur, fur coat sales soared as women across the country raced to emulate the glamorous first lady.

The French-born Cassini said after he heard the rise in demand for fur resulted in 250,000 leopards being killed, he immediately stopped using fur in his clothing.

"I felt so terrible about my stupidity and many animals were murdered for this fur," he said. "I knew I had to do something to stop this nonsense."

Created from computer-generated manufactured material from Monterey Fashions in New York City, Cassini's alternative fur coats start with an artist's sketch or photo of an animal.

This is scanned to create a computer simulation of the fur. The computer maps a "recipe," and the fabric is woven to match.

Donald Eatz, president of Monterey Fashions, said the alternative fur is as warm, as elegant and as long-lasting as a real fur coat. The price for a Cassini design of a full-length chinchilla coat is approximately \$800, compared to \$25,000 for real animal fur.

"The fabric of these coats so convincingly matches animal fur that even Mr. Cassini has trouble distinguishing faux from real fur," Eatz said.

Stores such as Nordstrom, Saks Fifth Avenue and Neiman Marcus are expected to offer Cassini's line of clothing to the public some-

time in the near future, industry officials said.

However, it might be a while, if ever, for alternative to replace the real thing. Ever since Vogue rated fake fur as one of the Top Ten Fashion Misses of the '90s, fashion designers have thrown political correctness out the door for the look and feel of real fur.

"From Vogue to Town and Country, fur has been identified as the hottest trend of the winter season," said Carol Wynne, executive director for the Fur Information Council of America.

After two dismal outerwear seasons as a result of warmer weather and a global recession, the fur industry is expecting a dramatic turnaround this winter based on designers' demand for more fur on the catwalk. Annual fur retail sales in the United States for 1998 was \$1.21 billion.

Cassini said he snubbed the fashion boardwalks of Los Angeles or New York for a reason. "I want the fur industry and the decision-makers in Congress to take note. The killing of animals for fur is inhumane and unnecessary," he said. "We are offering an elegant, stylish substitute."

The Humane Society said it expected several members of the U.S. Congress to attend.

Fords receive Congressional medal

WASHINGTON (AP) - Former President Gerald Ford and his wife, Betty, were awarded the Congressional Gold Medal, the highest civilian award given by Congress.

"It is fitting that these partners in life are being honored jointly, for their partnership has enriched our democracy and our time," House Minority Leader Dick Gephardt said during the Wednesday night ceremony on Capitol Hill.

It was just over 25 years ago —

on Aug. 9, 1974 — that Ford was thrust into the presidency when President Richard Nixon resigned in the wake of the Watergate scandal.

Ford served out the final 2 1/2 years of Nixon's second term. His pardon of Nixon earned him harsh criticism at the time from Democrats and Republicans alike. However, many now credit that action and Ford's quiet resumption of the United States' business with help-

ing the shocked country move forward.

"It was easy for us to criticize you because we got caught up in the moment," President Bill Clinton told Ford. "You didn't get caught up in the moment, and you were right."

Mrs. Ford was recognized for her candor about personal frailties, which has been a source of comfort and enlightenment to many Americans.

'Princess Mononoke' rich cartoon fable

HOLLYWOOD (Variety) - Japan's all-time box office champ, "Princess Mononoke," is a rich cartoon fable of bygone gods locking horns with man and with industry, which threatens to unbalance the forces of nature.

Though set in the 14th century, its ecological bias and feminist slant provide a modern resonance. But the picture - steeped in Asian folklore - will require shrewd translation to connect with Western audiences.

A few deft brush strokes could result in strong theatrical returns and extremely buoyant cassette sales. The ani could reap a bounty from all revenue streams as it ushers in a Japanese animation franchise.

Flying in the face of popular Western animation, "Princess Mononoke" is not a musical, nor is it primarily directed at preteens, even if that group can readily embrace it.

The film represents a bold experiment for Miyazaki, whose earlier work, including "Kiki's Delivery Service," "The Red Pig" and "My Neighbour Totoro," had more gentle, youthful themes.

The new film, which has

grossed more than \$150 million in Japan, is not only more sharply drawn, it has an extremely complex and adult script.

The tale begins in Japan's distant and sparsely populated north. In the opening section, young Prince Ashitaka is valiantly fighting off a demon god - a giant boar seemingly possessed by wormlike creatures.

After the prince slays the beast, the village oracle begs its forgiveness, but it has already left its curse on the prince and infected him with a fatal disease. He's told by the seer that he must venture to the west to have the malediction lifted.

The journey evolves into a mystical and violent pilgrim's progress. He encounters bloodthirsty samurai, a corrupt priest and cuddly, docile forest gnomes. Eventually, the prince arrives at the great forest and is befriended by Lady Eboshi, who operates a giant ironworks on its periphery.

Ashitaka finds himself thrust into the middle of several conflicts. Eboshi's clan is in danger of attack by rivals. The great struggle however, is between the factory

and the forest families of boars, wolves and the like who are being killed off to make way for industrial expansion.

For centuries, the woodland denizens have controlled their turf, but this woman has a powerful secret that's turned the tables - gunpowder.

Allegiances are further clouded by the arrival of the title character, also known as San. She not only runs with the wolves, she considers herself one of them.

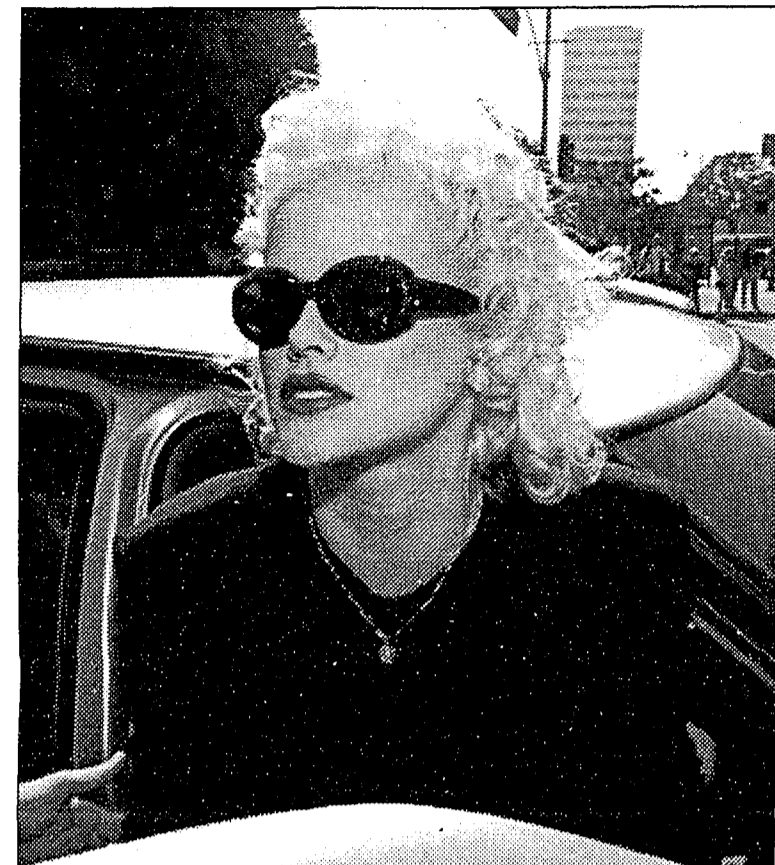
San does not know what to make of the young stranger. And though each side considers him friend or foe at various stages, Ashitaka ultimately wants to reconcile the two and find the deer god who can cure his affliction.

In keeping with the best of Disney's toon features, "Mononoke" develops full characters, obscuring the lines separating it from live-action fare.

Eboshi is not some cardboard villain; rather, she is a force of the future, employing society's misfits, such as lepers and ex-prostitutes, and giving them the chance to find dignity in work. She's also headstrong and incapable of backing down once she's thrust into battle.

Pic shares an eco theme with Miyazaki's earlier "Pom Poko," but it is much richer, drawing upon the nation's history and adapting folkloric legends for a highly original tale.

"Princess Mononoke" has the soul of a romantic epic, and its lush tones, elegant score by Joe Hisaishi and full-blooded characterisations give it the sweep of cinema's most grand canvases.



Actress and Playboy Playmate Anna Nicole Smith arrives at a federal courthouse in Los Angeles, Wednesday. Smith, claiming she was left penniless due to fraud in her billionaire husband's estate, began to present her case Wednesday in U.S. Bankruptcy Court. AP

Peter Pan singer dies

MUNICH, Germany (Reuters) - Rex Gildo, once one of the brightest boy stars of German pop music, has died three days after throwing himself from an apartment window, doctors said Wednesday.

Friends said he was despondent about the decline of his show business career as he grew older.

The singer, who turned 60 in July, had been relegated to performing at supermarket openings and office parties. His coffee-coloured tan, unnaturally thick black hair and determinedly youthful dress made him a figure of fun for some.

German media, for whom the country's indigenous pop stars are the stuff of exhaustive daily coverage, devoted


pages to Gildo's anguish and accounts of heavy drinking. He died in a Munich hospital on Tuesday night of injuries sustained in Saturday's fall.

"He wore his makeup ever thicker and wiggled his hips like he'd just turned 18," pop expert Thommi Herrwerth said. "Rex Gildo looked like a bad copy of himself."

Born Alexander Ludwig Hirtreiter, he had his first hit in 1960. One of several Germanized versions of American '60s idols who fused rock with the sing-along traditions of German folk music, his records sold millions of copies into the 1980s.

Best known was the clap-along favourite "Fiesta Mexicana."

First Anniversary Rosary
We the children of the late,



ANA TUDELA TORRES


would like to inform our relatives and friends that the first anniversary rosary for our beloved Mother, Grand-Great-Grand Mother, will be said nightly at 7:30 p.m. beginning November 2, 1999 thru November 9, 1999, at the residence of Stanley and Arlene Torres in China-Town, across Angel House & Barney's Pizza House.

On November 10, 1999, the final day, Rosary will be said at 12:00 noon at the above residence and mass at 5:00p.m. at Kristo Rai Church. Dinner will be served immediately after mass at Stanley & Arlene's residence.

Please join us... Your prayers and your presence will be greatly appreciated.

Ginen I Famaguon-nia siha: Stanley, Emilio, Tony, Ling & Ben and Grand-Great-Grand Children.

SECOND DEATH ANNIVERSARY



We, the family of the late **IGNACIO OGO PANGELINAN (Pangie)** would like to invite all relatives and friends to join us and share in our prayers as we commemorate his Second Death Anniversary.

Daily Masses will be offered at Mount Carmel Cathedral on the following dates and times:

Sunday, October 24 & 31, at 9:00 a.m.
Monday, October 25 to Saturday, October 30 at 6:00 a.m.

On the final day, November 1, 1999, Mass will be celebrated at 6:00 a.m. Breakfast will be served immediately after the Mass behind Mount Carmel Cathedral.

Thank You & Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

Cecilia C. Pangelinan, Children & Granddaughter

New slang bible dips into sheep dung, others

LONDON, (Reuters) - A new dictionary of slang shows drink and drugs spawn the most street synonyms - 65 for alcohol alone - and nicknames for sex and money don't lag far behind.

Starting with 'aarvark' (hard work) and ending at 'zymotic' (repellent), the dictionary contains some 8,000 words to prove contemporary slang is alive, kicking - and often very rude.

"The main obsessions among slang users of all ages, as revealed by word counts, have not changed; intoxication by drink or drugs throws up, no pun attended, the largest number of synonyms," according to Tony Thorne, author of Bloomsbury's "Dictionary of Contemporary Slang".

From 'bollers' to 'squirt' to 'beer token', Thorne lists a whole range of obscure synonyms for money, saying such nicknames have spread far and wide since the materialistic 1980s.

Less explicable is a growing interest around the English speaking world in fluff balls, animal droppings and wigs.

"Why do speakers in post-industrial Britain and Australia still need a dozen or more terms for flakes of dung that hang from the rear of sheep?" asked Thorne, who is director of the language centre at London's King's College.

Amongst the terms cited for dangling dung are dags, dangelberries, dingleberries, jub-nuts, winnets and wittens.


"Other obsessions are more curious," said Thorne.

"Is it the North American housewife's hygiene fetish which has given us more than a dozen words (dust bunny, dustkitty, ghost turd etc) for the balls of fluff found on an unswept floor, where British English only has one, beggars velvet?"



Actress Milla Jovovich stars in "Joan of Arc," by French film director Luc Besson, in this undated photo released Tuesday. The story of the French woman handed over by the church, judged as a heretic and burned at the stake at Rouen, France in 1431 by the English goes on screening Wednesday. AP

ANNIVERSARY ROSARY
We, the family of the late



ANA (ANITA) TORRES CABRERA

would like to inform our relatives and friends that the first death anniversary of our beloved will be said nightly at 7:30 p.m. beginning October 23, 1999 until October 31, 1999, at the residence of Ms. Josephine T. Cabrera in San Jose, Saipan.

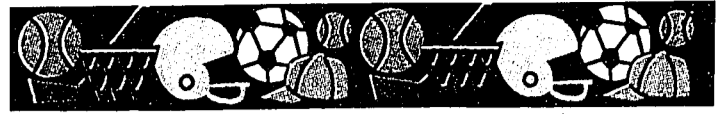
On October 30, 1999, Rosary will be said at 12:00 noon and the anniversary mass will be offered at 6:00 p.m. at San Jose Church, Saipan. Dinner will be served immediately after the Mass.

Daily Masses of intention will be offered at the following churches.

October 23, 1999 (Saturday) San Jose Church at 6:00 pm
October 24, 1999 (Sunday) San Jose Church at 7:30 am
October 25 to October 29, 1999 (Monday to Friday) San Vicente Church at 6:00pm
October 30, 1999 (Saturday) San Jose Church at 6:00 pm
October 31, 1999 (Sunday) San Jose Church at 7:30 am

Please join us in Prayers
Si Yu'us Ma'ase
The Family

SPORTS



Yankees win World Series

NEW YORK (AP) — The Rocket can rest now. The ring is his.

Roger Clemens pitched the New York Yankees to their second straight World Series sweep, shutting down the Atlanta Braves 4-1 Wednesday night and ending his quest for the one and only prize that eluded him.

With raucous fans waving yellow, plastic brooms all over the ballpark and Clemens bouncing around on the mound, the Yankees won their record 25th championship and third in four sea-

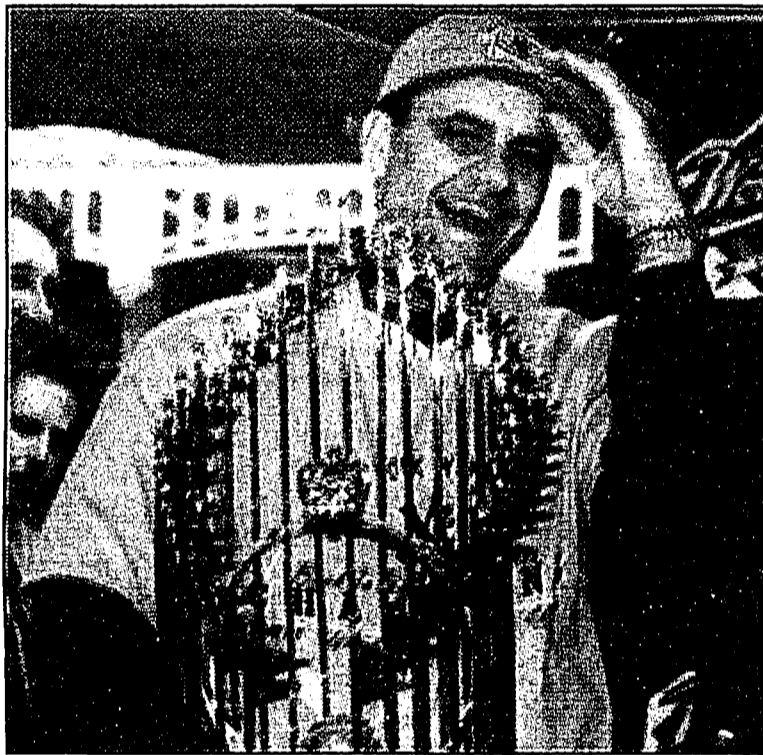
sons.

"This must be what it's like to be a Yankee," Clemens said.

Game 4 marked New York's 12th Series victory in a row, matching the mark set by its Murderers' Row teams.

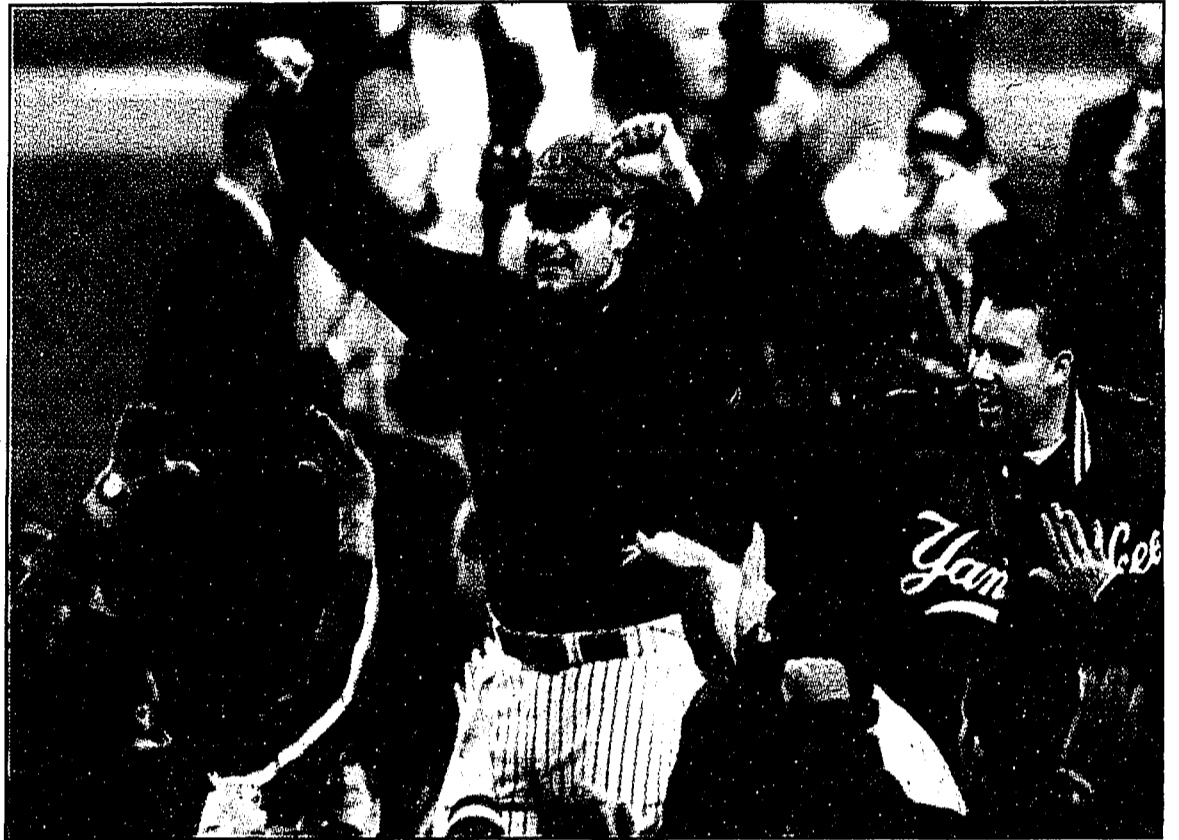
Clemens waited his entire career for this moment and, at last, commanded the October stage. Showing the form that earned him five Cy Young Awards and 247 wins in 16 seasons, Clemens shut out Atlanta into the eighth to outduel John Smoltz.

Brought to the Bronx this spring



New York Yankees manager Joe Torre holds the championship trophy after the Yankees defeated the Atlanta Braves 4-1 to win the World Series via a 4-game sweep.

Reuters



New York Yankees pitcher Roger Clemens celebrates with fans on top of the dugout after the Yankees defeated the Atlanta Braves 4-1 to win the World Series Wednesday. Clemens was the winning pitcher in Game 4.

Reuters

from Toronto in a trade for David Wells that many Yankees fans disliked, Clemens walked off the mound to rousing cheers, tipping his cap and holding both hands high to acknowledge the ovation.

Mariano Rivera, who had two saves and a win in the Series, was selected MVP.

"I wasn't thinking about it," he said. "It just happens."

The Yankees finished off a week in which they simply over-

whelmed the club that had best record in the majors, and accomplished a lot more along the way they:

- Became baseball's first repeat champion since Toronto in 1992-93.

- Posted the first set of consecutive Series sweeps since the Yankees in 1938-39. New York beat San Diego four straight last year.

- Completed an incredible run in which they won 18 of 19

postseason games. The only loss came when Clemens was beaten by Pedro Martinez at Fenway Park 11 days earlier.

- Overcame a year of adversity, from manager Joe Torre's prostate cancer in spring training to the death of outfielder Paul O'Neill's father early Wednesday. Scott Brosius and Luis Sojo also lost their fathers, Hall of Famers Joe DiMaggio and Cat-

Continued on page 62

Pepsi/MGD advances to SML championship series

BANKING on experience, Pepsi/MGD humbled the Northern Yankees 8-5 Wednesday night to advance to the first SML Summer League best-of-5 championship series. They eliminated the Northern Yankees from the postseason.

Peter Tomokane's 3 for 4 offensive output, including 2 doubles and a towering homerun over center field backed by Pat Guerrero and Manny Sablan's timely hitting proved that experience could be a factor in critical game situations.

Besides Tomokane, Guerrero and Sablan, most of the players on the Pepsi/MGD roster had played in the Saipan Major League, while the contingents on the Yankee squad are fairly new.

Pepsi/MGD wasted no time improving their superiority over the Yankees as they quickly scored 3 runs in the first inning when lead offs John Acosta and Mark Toves boarded on walks. Pat Guerrero next came to the plate and greeted Joshua Muna's fastball with a double to drive in Acosta for the first run of the game.

Manny Sablan then slapped a single to right-center to bring home Toves and Guerrero for a 3-0 lead. After Tony Guerrero was caught on a third strike call, the Yankees executed a perfect double play to get Tomokane and Sablan out to end the inning.

The Yankees tied the score in the bottom half of the inning courtesy on costly errors by

Continued on page 62



THE TANAPAG Elementary School will host its Third Annual Halloween Fun Run/Walk tomorrow, Oct. 30 at 8 a.m.

The Fun Run/Walk will begin at the Cowtown Turnoff in Marpi and will lead the participants through a winding trail in the woods. There will be both a one-mile and five-kilometer competition.

In the one-mile event, participants are encouraged to come in costume. There will be a prize for Best Costume, Scariest Costume and Funniest Costume.

The trail itself leads the participants off into the jungle on a course decorated with tombstones, snakes, bats, ghosts and all kinds of monsters. This will be a very fun event for children and adults

Continued on page 62

Country House beats Team Natibu, 80-73

COUNTRY House Restaurant Basketball Team advanced to the championship round in the BANMI 35 and Above League by defeating Team Natibu, 80-73.

Team Natibu still has a chance to get avenge the loss if it wins its next game.

Team Natibu will be playing the winner of the Budweiser Go 4Broke vs. Second Hands game. Whoever wins on the next two games will battle it out with the defending champions for the first game on Nov. 5, 1999.

Team Natibu built up a 10-0 run in the opening minutes of the game. Country House had a hard time stopping Juan Diaz who scored 15 points in the first half. Team Natibu players got in foul trouble as early as the first half and lost the game due

to most of their players fouling out.

With 15 minutes before half time, Country House capitalized on the fouls committed by Natibu.

Cerello "Aloy" Torreon was perfect on the charity line, 6 for 6, to help Country House and cut down Natibu's lead by 8 points 38-30 at half time.

Country House's "triple towers" Richard Brostrom, Aloy Torreon, and Ed Cosino controlled the boards in the second half to get the win.

Natibu's Juan Diaz only made 6 points in the second half, while Oscar Masga had 18 points before fouling out.

Country House relied on their height advantage to win the game. Cerello Torreon had 27

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