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Saipan, MP 96950
Serving CNMI for 26 Years **50¢**



Saipan Rotary Club President Alex Sablan proudly displays a poster for the club's community activity "The Community Giving Tree" which started yesterday at participating stores.
Photo by Lalla C. Younis

Suwaso execs face racketeering raps

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

A LAWYER has filed a lawsuit in federal court alleged a pattern of racketeering activity by certain top officials of the Coral Ocean Point (COP) Resort Club involving millions of dollars.

Attorney James H. Grizzard sought damages against Japanese businessmen Minoru "Mike" Imai and Kiyoshige Terada and Japanese firm Hyakumata Kabushiki Kaisha.

Terada is currently the chairman of the board of directors for Suwaso Inc., doing business as COP, while Imai, a former adviser of then governor Froilan C. Tenorio, is president of the corporation.

Grizzard, through counsel William M. Fitzgerald, sued the defendants for alleged violation of



Minoru Imai

the Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations Act (RICO), breach of fiduciary duty, common-law fraud, and conversion of money for their own use.

Imai in a telephone interview yesterday expressed disappointment with Grizzard for filing the lawsuit against him.

"I did many things for him...it's

just unbelievable. We didn't do anything wrong. We spent a lot of money and time just to improve the business. But this American lawyer did not invest even his time. I gave him an office, but he just played golf," Imai said.

Eric Smith, counsel for Terada and Hyakumata, said he has not seen the complaint yet.

Grizzard in his lawsuit filed Monday asked the U.S. District Court to issue an order requiring a full and complete accounting of Suwaso's finances.

According to the complaint, Terada and Imai along with a Japanese promoter, approached Grizzard, requesting to assist them in their goal of developing a golf course and hotel in Saipan.

Grizzard agreed in exchange for a 10 percent share in the com-

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Task force to look into prison conditions urged

By Marian A. Maraya
Variety News Staff

YOUTH representatives should take time to observe how prisoners are being treated at the Department of Public Safety (DPS) Corrections facility, according to Senator-elect Ramon S. Guerrero (Ref.-Saipan).

Guerrero made the suggestion when the issue of campus safety was raised by a Marianas High School (MHS) student during the Close Up Club Conference yesterday at the Dia-

mond Hotel.

"What is the local government doing to ensure that prisoners are not able to escape? We fear this because MHS is just walking distance from the corrections facility," the student said.

But Guerrero said tackling the "escape" issue should not be taken at surface value.

"If prisoners escape, we should ask ourselves, are they being treated well? They have

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In Palau

Man meted 15 years for raping, beating Filipina

By Mar-Vic Cagurangan
For the Variety

KOROR (Palau Horizon) — A man who was convicted of raping and beating up a Filipina worker in Airai was sentenced Tuesday to 15 years and six months in prison.

Chief Justice Arthur Ngiraklsong ordered that Yoshiwo Tadashi be locked up "right away," ignoring the defense's plea for the court to consider the defendant's "re-

deeming qualities."

"Yoshiwo is not a bad man. He is a good man who has committed a bad act," Public Defender Gary Soberay told the court.

But the chief justice was not convinced, imposing a punishment term more severe than proposed by Assistant Attorney General Steven Carrara, who recommended only 12 years.

"Your victim was scared of

Continued on page 26

Tobacco money starts flowing

By Haldee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

THE CNMI has been initially awarded \$137,531 as part of the \$206 billion U.S. tobacco settlement, the Attorney General's Office (AGO) disclosed yesterday.

Acting Attorney General Maya B. Kara said the amount covers attorney's fees and costs for the CNMI's efforts in the massive tobacco settlement litigation.

The CNMI is expected to re-

ceive a total of nearly \$30 million in settlement proceeds over the next 25 years from key tobacco companies including Philip Morris, Inc., R.J. Reynolds Tobacco Company, Brown & Williamson Tobacco Corp. and Lorillard Tobacco Company.

"AGO attorneys worked long and hard to achieve this unprecedented award against the tobacco companies, many times participating in conference calls and planning strategy with other states and territories in the middle of the

night, due to time differences. The award of attorney's fees and costs is meant to compensate the Commonwealth for that effort," said Kara in a press statement.

The AGO chief said the money should be released and received in a few days.

The initial installment of the CNMI's share if the actual settlement proceeds, amounting to about \$207,000, should also be received shortly, Kara added.

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Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan join staffers from the Department of Public Health as well as patients during the Mental Health and Substance Abuse Awareness Month proclamation signing ceremony Monday.
Photo by Haldee V. Eugenio

Parent leave expansion mulled

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton is proposing that states subsidize work absences for new parents using the same system that now pays temporary benefits to the unemployed, the White House said.



President Clinton

Under the system, parents could draw at least a portion of their regular salaries during leaves timed to the birth or adoption of a child, the White House said.

"We're in a time of prosperity, when we have the ability to look at more ways to help support working parents," a senior administration official involved in the proposal said Monday. "I think in a time like this we've got a responsibility to give working parents the tools they need to balance their responsibilities at home and at work."

Clinton was set to announce the proposal before leaving for a three-day trip to the West Coast and Pennsylvania. Democratic fund-raising events in California and Philadelphia will bracket Clinton's address to the World Trade Organization in Seattle on Wednesday.

Wednesday.

The proposed parental leave rules would allow states to experiment with their differing unemployment insurance systems under a voluntary pilot program. Advocates say the program would be inexpensive for states, which already collect payroll taxes and distribute unemployment benefits.

The new proposal, which would take effect early next year, require no congressional action. Parents now are entitled to up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave with the guarantee of job protection.

terms and duration of those payments.

At least four states — Massachusetts, Vermont, Maryland and Washington — already are considering extending unemployment benefits to new parents.

At the urging of those states, Clinton in May directed the Labor Department to formulate regulations that would allow states to legislate changes under which surplus unemployment funds could be used for parental leave.

The unemployment insurance system, set up in the 1930s, allows states considerable flexibility in determining eligibility for benefits. But federal law now bars states from using unemployment insurance funds for other purposes.

The new proposal, which would take effect early next year, require no congressional action.

Parents now are entitled to up to 12 weeks of unpaid leave with the guarantee of job protection.

News Briefs

Crimes against kids underreported

WASHINGTON (AP) — Violent crimes against children are reported to police much less often than those against adults, even when a weapon is used or the victim is injured, the Justice Department says.

Citing data from 1995 and 1996, the department's Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention said Monday that only 28 percent of violent crimes against children are reported to police, compared with the 48 percent of violent crimes against adults that police are told about.

"Serious categories of juvenile victimization that should be coming to the attention of police and other authorities are not," wrote David Finkelhor and Richard Ormrod in the office's study, "Reporting Crimes Against Juveniles."

Court looks into cable TV anti-smut law

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Supreme Court is taking a new look at free speech on cable television in deciding whether the government's effort to shield children from Playboy Television and other sex-oriented cable networks went too far.

The Clinton administration wants the justices to revive a 1996 law that let cable systems show sex-oriented networks only during nighttime hours if they did not fully scramble the signal for non-subscribers.

After hearing arguments today, the justices will decide by next summer whether the law swept too broadly in trying to keep children from hearing and seeing raunchy programs.

S. Korean prime minister to resign next month

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — The coalition partner of South Korean President Kim Dae-jung will resign as prime minister late next month to prepare his minority conservative party for next spring's parliamentary elections, his office said Tuesday.

Prime Minister Kim Jong-pil's resignation is expected to set off a major reshuffle within President Kim's government, which has been rocked by an influence-peddling scandal.

President Kim is working to create a new ruling party ahead of next April's parliamentary elections, where he hopes to win a majority in South Korea's 299-member National Assembly.

Tipper Gore defends Wolf's hiring

WASHINGTON (AP) — Tipper Gore said Monday that although her husband is relying on feminist adviser Naomi Wolf for help with his campaign, he doesn't agree with her views promoting masturbation as an alternative to sex with a partner or abstinence.

"Those are her views and they are not my husband's views," Mrs. Gore told reporters, adding that Vice President Al Gore needed such media advisers in today's politics.

"The advice that she and other people give has nothing to do with those (sexual) matters but have everything to do perhaps with campaigning, and particularly campaigning in our modern society with a lot of media attention and media coverage," she explained.

Russia urges Chechens to flee

GROZNY, Russia (AP) — Russian officials on Monday urged civilians hiding in basements beneath ruined homes in Grozny to flee the Chechen capital — a risky endeavor with Russian rockets screaming relentlessly into the city.

Federal forces showed no signs of easing up raids on the breakaway republic of Chechnya even as a top international mediator held talks in Moscow to arrange a visit to the republic. The Kremlin has dismissed international criticism of its campaign in Chechnya as meddling in Russia's internal affairs.

The Russians have intensified their bombardment of Grozny in the past week, leaving hundreds dead or wounded and destroying scores of buildings and homes. Russian officials estimate 50,000 civilians remain in the city, many of whom are old, infirm or lack transportation to leave.

Astronomers find 6 new planets

WASHINGTON (AP) — An international team of astronomers has found evidence of six new planets orbiting distant stars, bringing to 28 the planets known to exist outside of the solar system.

The astronomers announced Monday that all the newly discovered planets are about the size of Jupiter or larger and they all orbit stars 65 to 192 light years from Earth.

At least five of them, given their distance from their stars, could have liquid water, a fundamental requirement for life, the researchers said.

The planets' presence was discovered by measuring a very slight motion distortion, or wobble, of the target star. The wobble is caused by the gravitational pull from a planet that orbits the star.

Ruling may compel gov't to appropriate land payments

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

A RECENT court ruling upholding a Chalan Lulau family's claim for compensation on the use of a portion of its property for public purpose may finally compel government to enact legislation appropriating funds to repay other landowners with similar stakes.

And with barely a month left for the current Legislature, the task falls on the 12th one, which convenes in January next year to buckle down and work on the matter among other pressing concerns, said Rep. Karl T. Reyes (R-Saipan).

"We are still waiting for the Attorney General and the (House) legal counsel to come up with some kind of a plan to address that (compensation). It has become even more important (to look into the matter) now

that the court has awarded a particular family (for land use)," said Reyes.

"It is more incumbent upon this Legislature to find ways with the (support) of the administration to find ways to address the situation. We can not just continue to sit back and tell the people to wait and wait," added Reyes.

Appropriating funds for the purpose would entail legislation. "The next Legislature has to buckle down and look into it," Reyes said.

Initial estimates prepared by the Division of Public Lands (DPL), he said, pegged the total amount government has to come up to pay the landowners at nearly \$100 million.

Most current DPL figures, Reyes noted, has however brought it down to \$35.5 million following a review of the list of indebted landowners and their properties' value.



Karl T. Reyes

Reyes had earlier said plans are afoot to float a special bond so that money can be made available for the purpose.

He said that with the amount reduced by more than half, government will have to float less bonds — \$25 million — enabling it to pay all the landowners at least 70 percent of their claims. Repayment will be derived

partly from the Marianas Public Land Trust (MPLT).

"The thing is," he said, "we don't have to float a bond and pay everybody 100 percent."

"It has to be that everybody will get 70 percent of their (claim) so that no one person gets 100 percent (compensation) and the other gets 30 percent."

In his ruling, Superior Court Presiding Judge Edward Manibusan issued a decision stating that government should be liable for the use of land from private owners for public purposes.

The ruling was made in connection with a case involving a certain Leon Taisacan whose family property in Chalan Lulau has been taken by the defunct Marianas Public Land Corporation (MPLC) which is now being used as public right of way under supervision of the government.

DPH urges locals: Avail of medical scholarships



Roca Quitugua

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

WHILE scholarships abound to help local individuals in the CNMI pursue education on health-related fields, there seems to be a few who are interested.

Roca Quitugua, the first Chamorro in the CNMI to graduate from the Fiji School of Midwifery, is thus urging locals to take advantage of available scholarships to be able to reach their goals and at the same time help the community.

"I am very proud (as the first Chamorro to graduate from Fiji) and now I am able to help the people of Saipan. I am also encouraging people out there to avail of scholarships, just like the World Health Organization fellowship program so that they, too, can help."

"I didn't pay anything, the scholarship took care of my expenses," said Quitugua who just got back on Saipan after a seven-month course in Fiji.

Quitugua is also a National Council Licensing Examination (NCLEX)-certified nurse and is now working at the Commonwealth Health Center's Labor and Delivery unit.

"I am very excited about my job. I love taking care of pregnant women, especially when they are about to deliver their babies," said the 24-year old lady.

The course went on from March 29 to Oct. 28, 1999.

Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez, in a separate interview, called on local residents to enter the midwifery and nursing profession, citing scholarships available for them and the contribution they will have on the general well-being of the community.

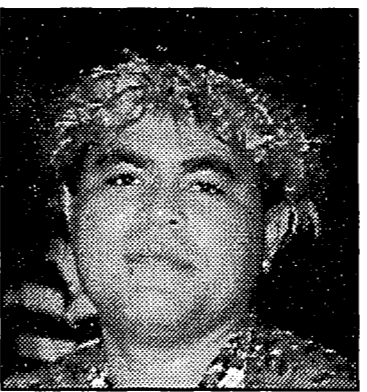
"I say this not because she is from here but she's a local product that has gone out to succeed. I hope the message gets out to other people in the community, to pursue their dreams of entering the profession of nursing and go on, and even specialize at this one — in midwifery," said Villagomez.

"We are obviously very proud of her (Quitugua)," added the health secretary.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, on separate occasions in the past, publicly urged local CNMI residents to enter the nursing profession as the CNMI's health care needs continue to increase.

"There is no question that we must continue to attract more of our local people into the profession," said Tenorio during the 21st Annual Conference of the American Pacific Nursing Leaders' Council held in Saipan a few months ago.

Heinz seeks to address concerns on reef fishing



Heinz S. Hofschneider

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

RE-ELECTED Representative Heinz S. Hofschneider (R-Saipan) yesterday said concerns about the adverse effects of commercial reef fishing may be considered in the bill he has introduced seeking to

designate certain portions of the Saipan lagoon as a marine sanctuary.

Hofschneider, who chairs the House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare (HEW), said House Bill 11-500 will be up for a public hearing soon for inputs from some quarters who have similar concerns about the Northern Marianas fisheries and aquatic resources.

The bill, if eventually enacted into law, will allow only "passive activities," said Hofschneider, adding that "any movement in the area in terms of motoring and activities that will have effects on the corals will be prohibited."

There are growing concerns, said Hofschneider, that fish and coral stocks at the islands' waters

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Youths rap 'bad laws'

By Marian A. Maraya
Variety News Staff

THE MARIANAS High School (MHS) yesterday played host to the annual Close Up Foundation conference attended by some 110 CNMI high school students at the Diamond Hotel in Susupe.

The main thrust of the conference was at orienting youths on the way the local government works, including trying their hand at distinguishing between "good" and "bad" laws.

Close Up Club members from the islands of Saipan, Rota, and Tinian at yesterday's conference expressed concerns regarding CNMI laws which are doing the Commonwealth more harm than good.

An MHS student specifically asked Rep.-elect Benigno R. Fitial at the conference to pin-

point concrete examples of "bad" laws that past and present legislators have allowed to become part of the local system.

Fitial explained to the youths that "bad" laws are bills that made it into law without going through the "checklist."

"These are bills that got through without public scrutiny, without a clear statement of purpose...lacking general applicability," said Fitial.

Some "bad" laws that pose as obstacles to CNMI's economic growth are the minimum wage equivalent act and the \$100,000 fee imposed on foreign investors, Fitial said.

Fitial explained that these laws are negatively affecting the economy and that the only way to correct them is to remove them from the books.

Continued on page 23

Saipan Rotary Club elects new officers

By Marian A. Maraya
Variety News Staff

CURRENT Rotary Club of Saipan Vice President Bill Michling was yesterday elected as the new Rotary President for year 2000 at the club's weekly meeting held at the Hyatt Regency.

Michling has been an active Rotary member for the past 19 years and has occupied top positions in the club except for the presidency.

Michling said he has even held some positions multiple times.

He has been a resident of Saipan since 1986, the same year that he started Marianas Electronics which he owns and manages.

Having been with the club for almost two decades, Michling has recently been promoted as a senior active member.

Incoming Rotary Vice President

Continued on page 23



New Saipan Rotary Club officers are all smiles after their election yesterday. From left, treasurer Ed Salas, Community Service director Maggie George, Vocational director Agnes Andres, secretary Agnes McPhetres, president Bill Michling, vice-president Hermie Queaja and director of International Services Alex Sablan.

Photo by Laila C. Youniss



STRIKE HARD. Criminals are paraded in handcuffs outside a shopping center in central Beijing yesterday. Ten men convicted of theft and burglary were paraded and their sentences read out publicly. The public parade was part of China's ongoing "Strike Hard" campaign against increasing crime. AP

PUBLIC NOTICE

Please take notice that Tin Lung Yung aka (Haymen Yung), and Pat Lin Tong aka (Patrick Tong), are no longer connected to La Mode Inc. effective November 23, 1999.

The above individuals have no authority to act on behalf of La Mode, Inc. as of November 23, 1999.

The Management

Wellstone leaves options open

ST. PAUL, Minn. (AP) — Sen. Paul Wellstone said Monday he might run for governor in 2002 and wouldn't rule out a run for a third term in the Senate despite his pledge to serve only two terms.

When asked Monday on WCCO Radio about a gubernatorial bid, Wellstone said he "can't rule it out. I love the state." The decision "will all be based on how I can make the biggest difference in people's lives."

On Saturday, in an interview with the Mesabi Daily News, the liberal Democrat laid out several scenarios where he might seek a third Senate term. He also said, however, that "right now I have no change in plans" to not seek a third Senate term.

Wellstone was in Seattle on Monday at the World Trade Organization's global trade talks and did not make himself available for an interview.

On Y2K reporting:

NMI will do good—FEMA

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff
THE FEDERAL Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) yesterday expressed confidence on the CNMI's ability to report Y2K-related incidents according to procedures set by Pres. Bill Clinton's Y2K Information Coordination Center (ICC) in Wash-

ington DC at the turn of the century.
Following a 45-minute briefing yesterday held at the Emergency Management Office (EMO), a four-member FEMA team off the Region IX office in Honolulu, Hawaii gave representatives of mission critical CNMI agencies an "overview" of how ICC works.

"It is basically a brief overview of what the reports are and the procedures to be followed, to make the national picture complete... Yes we do believe the CNMI will be able to report accordingly," said Ken Brown, one of the FEMA representatives.

Brown, together with Terrie Zuiderhoek, Chris Robert and Dee Myers arrived Monday night for the ICC briefing which covers proper information collection, reporting system and transmission, and agency coordination, among others.

The FEMA team led by Zuiderhoek, will be heading to Guam to conduct the same briefing.

ICC has been put up to monitor all Y2K-related system failures or problems at the turn of the century, with FEMA as the lead agency responsible for carrying out this function. Under ICC rules, all states and territories including the CNMI need to submit its Y2K-related report to Washington on a periodic basis during the critical roll over period, from Dec. 30, 1999 to Jan. 1, 2000.

Brown and Iris Spanski of FEMA will be staying in the CNMI during the critical days leading to the year 2000 to assist local agencies in handling potential Y2K problems and on how to transmit reports to the regional offices and to Washington DC.

Anthony Calvo, EMO planner, said CNMI officials "have gotten all the information they need" to



Officials from FEMA's Region IX office in Hawaii Terrie Zuiderhoek (center), Dee Myers (2nd left), Chris Robert (2nd right) and Ken Brown (far right) yesterday held a briefing on Pres. Bill Clinton's Y2K Information Coordination Center which will be activated towards and during the turn of the century. Also in photo is Dino C. Palacios, from the CNMI's EMO.
Photo by Haidee V. Eugenio

be able to report and transmit Y2K-related incidents to ICC.

The EMO official also pointed out FEMA is keen on monitoring the events in the CNMI during the roll over period as the CNMI — not Guam — is the first U.S. territory to welcome Year 2000 as it is further east by three degrees.

Every FEMA regional office is responsible for coordinating with their state emergency management agencies. FEMA's regional operation center is going to be activated on Dec. 28 to start monitoring and reporting Y2K-related problems.

At the same time, the FEMA team branded CNMI's Y2K-preparedness as a good one. The Millennium bug or Y2K bug threatens systems run by old computer programs which will interpret the Year 2000 as 1900, which has the same last two digits. As a result, any program with a date such as billing, payroll, inventory, and bank accounts, among others, could crash or give misleading answers starting January 1, 2000.

The briefing was attended by representatives from the CNMI Y2K Task Force, EMO, Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, Department of Public Safety, Department of Public Health, Commonwealth Ports Authority and Department of Finance.

Despite not seeing any major system or service disruptions once Year 2000 strikes, EMO has prepared contingency plans.

The critical hours are placed from 10 pm of Dec. 31, 1999 to 6 am of Jan. 1, 2000.

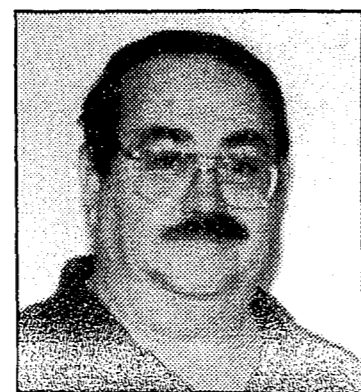
Ingram hits back at Cepeda

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

SAIPAN—Commissioner Charles W. Ingram Jr. yesterday said Rep. Frank Cepeda's (R-Saipan) complaints regarding his supposed lack of leadership at the Department of Public Safety is "stale."

The commissioner said he was disappointed that Cepeda is now "resorting" to attacks on his race and ethnicity.

Cepeda, the other day, claimed that the morale problem faced by DPS officers is caused by Ingram's assumption of his post, adding that by taking the position, Ingram was able to overshadow some officers who have



Charles W. Ingram Jr.

been aspiring for promotions. "What morale does... Cepeda allude to? Is this the morale problem from DPS personnel being overworked and underpaid?" the

commissioner said in a statement.

The DPS chief said Cepeda, who chairs the House Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Operations, does not have a clue as to what DPS does.

"He spent three days dragging DPS over the hot coals of [his committee's] oversight hearing. Didn't he get anything out of it?" "There was about a three-foot stack of documents and testimony generated. Didn't he even look at them?" said Ingram.

The commissioner said that by "attacking" his race and ethnicity, Cepeda has insulted all the residents of the CNMI who are not from the islands.

Man charged for 'child abuse'

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE ATTORNEY General's Office has charged a man for allegedly beating a child and resisting arrest.

Joseph Jones Villagomez, 25, was charged with child abuse, resisting arrest, and criminal contempt.

Assistant Attorney General

Nicole Forelli stated in the information that Villagomez on or about last Oct. 25 "did willfully and intentionally struck, beat and otherwise inflicted physical pain, injury and mental distress upon a child under the age of 18 who was in his custody..."

Forelli added that such pain and injury being clearly beyond the scope of reasonable corporal punishment...

The prosecutor said that Villagomez "resisted, delayed and obstructed law enforcement officers in the discharge of a duty of their office."

In addition, the AGO said the defendant failed to comply with a court order in his 1998 and 1997 criminal and traffic cases in that he did not obey all laws.

Munson sentences one of two in telecom fraud

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE U.S. District Court yesterday sentenced one of two persons who were charged in connection with the Federal Bureau of Investigation's probe into alleged scheme to defraud the Micronesian Telecommunications Corporation (MTC).

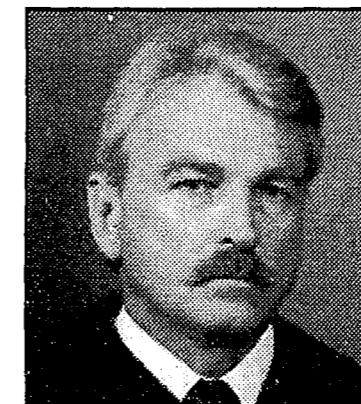
Judge Alex R. Munson sentenced Roland Kaipat to time already served in jail and placed him in three years' supervised release.

Munson ordered the 18-year-old Kaipat not to possess any firearm or dangerous weapon and required him to submit to a random drug test.

The judge also asked the defendant to pay restitution to MTC and to two other victims.

FBI agents arrested Kaipat and Joey C. Duenas last July. Kaipat was charged for making false statements to a lawful authority.

Duenas on the other hand, was



Alex R. Munson

indicted with fraud by wire and fraud by an unauthorized access device. In a separate indictment, Duenas was charged with persuading another person to provide false information to a lawful authority and making false statements to a lawful authority.

Kaipat and counsel Jeanne Rayphand entered a plea agreement with the U.S. government

represented by Assistant U.S. Attorney David T. Wood. The defendant then cooperated with the FBI and the U.S. Attorney's Office's probe.

According to court records, last June 18 Kaipat allegedly "willfully make false, fictitious and fraudulent statements and representations to an FBI agent concerning material to a federal criminal investigation."

Duenas allegedly persuaded Kaipat to provide false information to the FBI agent "with intent to influence the latter's testimony in an official proceeding."

Duenas allegedly acquired possession of a hand held cellular telephone belonging to another person.

Duenas then transmitted wire communications to overseas locations outside the CNMI knowing that a telephone service provider would suffer a loss of payment for such services between April 25 and May 6, 1999.

Boat captain sentenced to 18 months for alien smuggling

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

FEDERAL Court Judge Alex R. Munson yesterday sentenced a boat captain to 18 months' incarceration over a human smuggling to Guam case.

Munson, however, gave Yi Zhu Xiao credit for time already served in jail. The defendant has been detained since last May 30.

Munson said upon release from jail, Xiao shall be turned over to immigration authorities for deportation proceedings.

The jail term, the judge said, is appropriate to deter other people from committing such offense and considering the defendant accepted responsibility for his actions and coordinated with the authorities.

Xiao was among four crew members charged with conspiracy to commit an offense against the U.S.—alien smuggling for financial gain, attempted alien smuggling for financial gain, and attempted alien

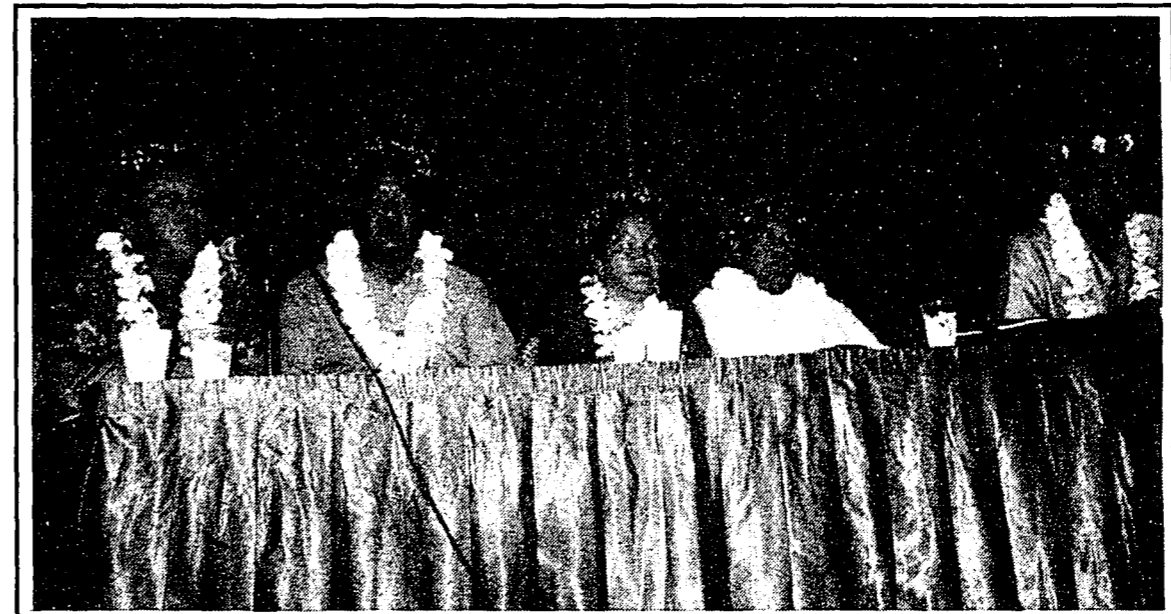
smuggling to a place other than at a designated port.

The defendant pleaded guilty to attempted alien smuggling to a place other than at a designated port. The court dismissed the remaining charges following recommendation by Assistant U.S. Attorney Gregory Baka as part of the agreement.

Baka said there was no evidence that Xiao was involved in organizing or planning of the gang's human smuggling activity.

Court documents showed that on or between April to mid-May 1999, one or more of four defendants met with other co-conspirators in China and made arrangements to sail a vessel from Fujian Province to Guam with Chinese nationals on board.

One or more defendants assisted and aided by steering the boat in the operation and the sailing of a fishing vessel which was carrying 151 undocumented Chinese, the court papers said.



From left: Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan, Rep. David M. Apatang, Rep.-elect Brigida Ichihara, Rep.-elect Benigno Fitial, and Sen.-elect Ramon Guerrero were yesterday's panelists at the 4th annual Close Up conference at Diamond Hotel.
Photo by Marian A. Maraya

Sobriety checkpoints

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Safety will conduct sobriety checkpoints during the weekend as part of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's proclamation of December as anti-drunk and drugged driving month.

Aside from the checkpoint, DPS will also be initiating saturation patrols meant to deter and apprehend traffic violators.

Based on the US record, there were about 400,000 people die each year due to motor vehicle crashes while another three million are getting injured.

Of the death and injuries, 40 percent involved alcohol-related crashes.

Tenorio, in signing the proclamation, urged residents to avoid impaired driving, especially as the island is now observing the countdown to the year 2000.

The governor said CNMI residents should welcome the new millennium in peace and harmony, and safety.

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FORUM

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EDITORIALS

On junkets...

THE GOVERNMENT, which tells students that there is not enough funding for education because of "austerity," is spending \$20,000 for the trip of 11 officials to Japan after paying for the still unspecified travel expenses of other officials, including such lame duck legislators as Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio (R-Saipan), who were recently in Manila.

These and similar trips are junkets. There is no immediate benefit to taxpayers that will result from them. And even if there is, it is likely that it could have been achieved by just one or two officials.

Taxpayers, moreover, do not believe that sending a large delegation to the tourism conference in Japan will "effectively promote" the Northern Marianas. If that were true, then all that is preventing Japanese tourists from flocking to Albania is that country's failure to send a, say, 100-man delegation to the Tokyo conference.

We believe our junketing officials know this, otherwise they would not resort to such acrobatic feats in logic in justifying the unjustifiable. They know that there are several factors that will determine whether a destination is attractive to tourists. They know that \$20,000 would have gone a long way in, say, improving the Department of Public Safety's ability to safeguard tourists here from thieves. They know, too, that the Japan Association of Travel Agents (JATA) has already projected that more Japanese will not travel overseas this holiday season due to concerns over the so-called Year 2000 bug and high tour prices. (Mainly because of this, our more affluent neighbor, Guam, has reportedly adjusted to the poor year-end projections by scaling down its holiday promotion this year.)

Are our junketing officials actually saying that their presence at the JATA conference is enough to make the Japanese forget Y2K?

In any case, if these officials are *really* concerned about promoting the cash-strapped, debt-ridden CNMI, then they should pay for their own plane tickets and accommodations. If they *really* want to locate funding for the public services that they repeatedly promise to deliver, then they should be helping the government save money.

Voters, please remember that they are doing neither.

...and lame ducks

REPRESENTATIVE Tenorio flipped the birdie at the Variety's editorial last Friday mainly because it mentioned something about "lame ducks." This reminds us of another lame duck legislator who, several years ago, called our office to tell us that he is not a disabled person, let alone a duck. We are not kidding.

It is, at any rate, not our fault that there is such a term as "lame duck" and that it is used to refer to elected office-holders who are on their way out.

Charles E. Funk, the editor-in-chief of the Funk & Wagnalls Standard Dictionary Series, wrote in 1955 that "lame duck" has its roots in the 18th century woodsman maxim, "Never waste powder on a dead duck." A "dead duck" is usually a person or an article that is "done up, played out." Mr. Funk says that a bright wit more than a hundred years ago saw a chance for a slight modification. Before the 20th Amendment was ratified in Feb. 1933, members of Congress who might fail to get reelected in November would hold office until March 4 of the following year. Such outgoing "ducks" were therefore not yet "dead," merely "lamed." Hence the term.

Now if certain elected officials have a problem with being called "lame ducks," then they should convince voters that they are worthy of another term in office.



Catherine Cruz-Norton

"When Fire Chief Gil Reyes said 'I'm cleaning house,' I was skeptical as to whether he possessed the wherewithal or the tendencies toward political suicide to do it."



Good call chief

IN MY house, mom and dad were the law of the land. Against our wishes they perfected the art of knowing when we were hiding something. Like true investigators, they would, in no time at all, figure-out what it was. Keeping secrets in my house was futile and breaking the "law-according-to-Mom-and-Dad" was beyond reproach.

When Fire Chief Gil Reyes said to a Variety reporter "I'm cleaning house," having dealt with the Chief, I was skeptical as to whether he possessed the wherewithal or the tendencies toward political suicide to do it.

The chief was referring to the Nov. 5th drug raid at the Astumbo Fire Station that led to the arrest and subsequent grand jury indictment of a fire captain and a firefighter on charges of drug possession.

In its first joint raid of the Fire Department, police and Customs officers discovered drug paraphernalia in the lockers of Fire Captain William Santos and firefighter Norman Fernandez.

The mere mention of alleged drug possession by public servants didn't surprise me; nonetheless how it was to be handled by the higher-ups struck at a few of my nervous chords.

The public soon turned its scrutinizing gaze on outgoing Fire Chief Reyes as he tried to sift through the facts, and decide how to administratively handle the future careers of the two fire fighters.

The perception that the chief was not acting decisively enough gave way to public scrutiny fast and furiously.

Yet there were still those in the community who would have preferred that the issue be swept under the rug and forgotten.

Just who are they trying to protect? If our firemen are found guilty they will need the community's help. A recovery program or an intervention program will need to be administered to get them back into society's mainstream. Sweeping it under the rug does not make it go away; it only exacerbates the problem.

Besides, isn't the public better served by knowing? The public has a right to demand that mem-

bers of its government do not hold themselves above the law. The public demands that its government suffer the consequences if a law is broken, or rights are infringed.

Any public servant, these firemen included, by the very nature of their professions and their tax-dollar-salaries ought to be held to a higher standard. Never mind the fact that their jobs as fire fighters demand complete sobriety, consciousness and awareness.

While a grand jury indicted the men on drug possession charges, it was still, at least up until yesterday morning, unclear how the Fire Department would handle the matter. It seems to me that the case led many on a soul-searching mission. Initially, Chief Gil Reyes's hesitation led me to believe that the very creators of our government system designed to protect the people it serve were living a dual life.

But like a well-oiled machine, finally, some evidence that the system works.

On his way to retirement, exiting from the Guam Fire Department following many years of public service, Fire Chief Reyes provided us with one last reminder that attempts are being made to serve the public well. During "Rlene Live" on K57 Radio Tuesday morning, Chief Reyes announced the termination of Fire Captain William Santos and the demotion of firefighter Norman Hernandez.

I don't advocate unemployment, but drug abuse is a real part of what destroys this community. Reyes's move is a necessary step in our community's desire to cure the sickness.

There was a question as to how the chief would leave his long-held post at the department; there was speculation as to whether it would be a bang or a whimper. I think that question has been answered.

Perhaps it is due to the very fact that he is retiring that only then could such a bold and powerfully decisive call come. Either way it doesn't matter. Point being the call was made. Congratulations Chief Reyes on cleaning house.

FEATURE:

With drumbeats, Colorado remembers Indian massacre

DENVER, (Reuters) - Descendants of American Indians massacred 135 years ago prayed and beat drums on Monday in a ceremony at the Colorado state capitol meant to usher their ancestors' spirits to "the happy hunting grounds."

Monday marked the anniversary of the Sand Creek massacre in southeastern Colorado in which about 800 militia members killed 163 Arapaho and Cheyenne, mostly women and children.

The slaughter occurred at dawn on Nov. 29, 1864 even as the victims waved an American flag and raised a white truce flag. "This has been a long time coming. It's a spiritual healing for people that suffered losses."

And today we're starting so their spirits can carry on into the spirit world - you might say to the happy hunting grounds," Don Shoulderblade of the Northern Cheyenne tribe told about 200 people in front of the Colorado state capitol building. "Today is a day of remembrance."

Today is a day of healing," Colorado's Lt. Gov. Joe Rogers said at the ceremony that capped several days of observances including a Sunday night candlelight vigil. About 50 tribal members, one as young as 6 years old, undertook a "Spiritual Healing Run," retracing the 187-mile route taken in 1864 by the Colorado First and Third Volunteer Cavalries from the massacre site to Denver, where the cavalry members displayed body parts of the victims as trophies.

In late Aug. 1864, Territorial Gov. John Evans had received permission from the Department of War to establish a 100-day volunteer army after an Indian attack on a ranch south of Denver that left a family of four dead.

The volunteers were led by former Methodist minister and Civil War veteran John Chivington. Chief Black Kettle was sure he would not be harmed because he had just made peace with white settlers, according to "Cheyenne Memories," a history by John Stands In Timber and Margot Liberty.

Black Kettle would be killed four years later by Lt. Col. George Armstrong Custer. Another chief, White Antelope, was among the first to be killed at Sand Creek.

According to legend, his mutilated body was found after the attack still bearing peace medals bestowed upon him by President Abraham Lincoln.

At Monday's ceremony descendants chanted the song that White Antelope sang as he was struck down: "Only the mountains stay firm, only the rocks stay on earth forever."

Steve Brady, president of the Northern Cheyenne Sand Creek descendants' group, told the group the attack "was the ultimate act of genocide."

This was the ultimate act of racism." As he spoke, teenagers held up replicas of the white truce flag and the 33-star U.S. flag of the 1860s.

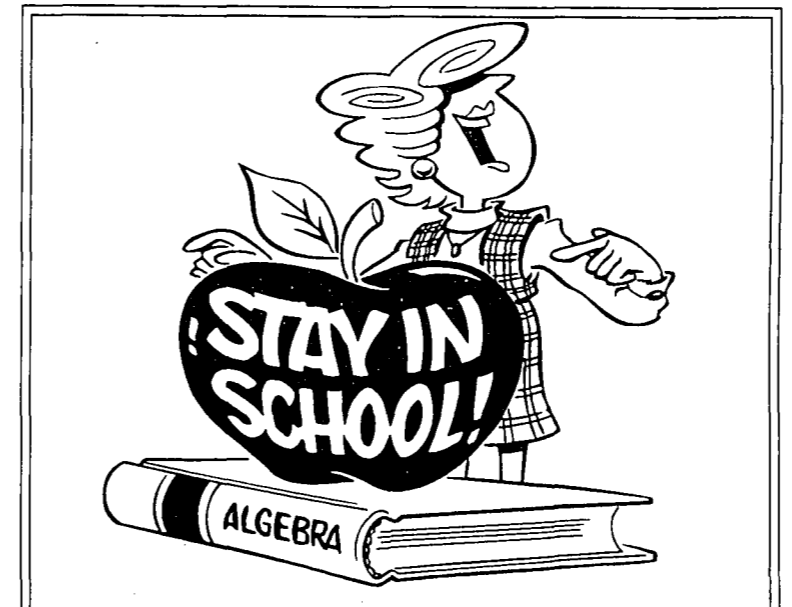
Descendants of the victims want Congress to dedicate the massacre site as a national monument.

The site is privately owned and several of the owners are willing to sell the land, said Barbara Sutteer, Indian Affairs Coordinator for the National Park Service. "The way that history is written is from the non-Indian point of view," said Sutteer.

Sutteer is on a committee to study the Sand Creek massacre site, where archaeological studies have been conducted.

The Sand Creek massacre is not as well known as the 1876 battle at Little Bighorn, when Custer and his men were trounced by Sioux and Cheyennes warriors, or the 1869 battle of Washita in what is now western Oklahoma.

A congressional study after the massacre condemned it. In a treaty signed in 1865, the federal government promised the Indians reparations in the form of horses and land. But the treaty terms were never fulfilled.



William L. Flood, MD
Pediatrics, Saipan Health Center

A 'Flood' of medical info



Teenage parties—some guides for parents

PARTIES are a wonderful part of life. For teens, though, they can become a time when drugs, alcohol or other drugs or unsafe behaviors can lead to tragedy. Here are some guidelines from the American Academy of Pediatrics to help you.

If your teen is giving the party:

- Plan in advance. Find some fun things to do. Card or board games, ping pong or pool, whatever.
- Keep parties small, 10 to 15 teens for each adult. Be sure at least one adult is present at all times. You should stay out of the way, but still be there where you can keep an eye on things and keep them from getting out of hand.
- Have a guest list. No "open" parties or crashers allowed.
- Set a time limit for beginning and ending. Stick to it.
- Set reasonable rules for the party and discuss them with your teen in advance.
- No tobacco, alcohol or other drugs. No one can leave and then return.
- Lights on at all times.
- Certain rooms in the house are off-limits.
- Know your responsibilities. Remember that you, the parent, are legally responsible for

anything that happens to a minor that has been served alcohol or other drugs in your home. Anyone bringing alcohol, tobacco or drugs should be asked to leave. If anyone is intoxicated, they should leave (you need to call their parents to be sure they get home safely. You are still responsible.)

- If your teen is going to a party:
 - Call the host's parents to verify the party, offer to help or whatever. Be sure a parent will be present at all times and that drugs and alcohol will not be allowed.
 - Know where your child is going. Have the phone number and the address. Agree with your teen that they will call if the location of the party changes. Be sure your teen knows where you will be.
 - Be sure your teen has a safe way home from the party. Tell them they can call home for a ride at any time, for any reason. They must never drive while drinking, or ride with a driver who has been drinking.
 - Stay awake and greet your teen when they get home. This tells them you really care, and gives you the chance to congratulate them on being on time, or be available if there have been problems.
- Little things. But little things make a difference.

ANALYSIS

Clinton's drive for peace is back on track

WASHINGTON (AP) — One of President Clinton's main foreign policy goals, peace in Northern Ireland, is back on track, boosting his record as a peacemaker.

The new Northern Ireland Assembly began forming a government Monday in which Protestants and Catholics will share power. The hurdles to peace after 30 years of sectarian strife are high.

For one thing, the Irish Republican Army has not said publicly it will destroy its weapons.

But under the patient oversight of Clinton's special emissary, former Sen. George Mitchell, the main Protestant party on Saturday softened its demands for IRA disarmament and set Northern Ireland on a course to home rule.

No U.S. president has given peace in the province higher priority than Clinton. The regard for Clinton among the Irish north and south was unmistakable when he traveled there last September, a welcome respite from the Monica Lewinsky scandal.

Irish Prime Minister Bertie Ahern credited the president with pointing a way to peace and prosperity in the north. "He's laid down for us — for all of us — that there is a path to follow and if we are sensible, if we're brave and we follow that path, then the reward is peace and stability and confidence. If we don't, well, then the future is as gloomy as the past."

Clinton began his intervention in the Irish conflict in 1994, authorizing a visa that permitted Gerry Adams, president of Sinn Fein, the IRA's main political ally, to visit the United States. The president twice visited Northern Ireland and placed peace in the province on his list of high foreign policy priorities, topped only his No. 1 goal: peace between Israel and the Arabs.

In Northern Ireland, the goal is step-by-step progress toward self-rule, but if the IRA fails to begin disarming, David Trimble, the Nobel Prize-winning leader of the Ulster Unionist Party, has vowed to resign from the provisional government, which could stop the peace process again.

John Hulsman, senior European policy analyst at the Heritage Foundation, a private research group, said Monday he credited Clinton "up to a point" with advancing peace in Northern Ireland.

"The administration has devoted sufficient political capital to doing this, and that much has to be said," Hulsman said in an interview. "But if the forces on the ground aren't headed in the direction of peace, it wouldn't matter."

Peter Rodman, director of national security programs at the Nixon Center, a private research group, praised Trimble as a courageous leader, and said the onus now was unmistakably on Sinn Fein and the IRA to disarm.

"That's been an obstacle for 30 years," Rodman said. "There is no more room for indulging the IRA."

While not praising Clinton, the former White House and State Department official said he was impressed Mitchell had the confidence of both sides and "the Americans have done well on this."

Leslie H. Gelb, president of the private Council on Foreign Relations, credited Mitchell for using the power of the United States, "What is shows underneath," Gelb said, "is that presidents of the United States are very powerful in this post-Cold War world, and when they decide they want to help bring about a solution to a problem, they can still make a difference."

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Street market opens tomorrow

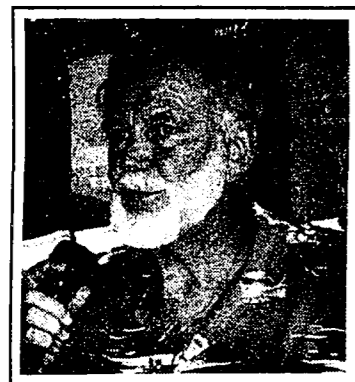
THE INAUGURAL evening of the Garapan Street Market is slated for tomorrow, Thursday, Jack Hardy, the chairman of the Publicity and Marketing committee said yesterday.

In a news release, Hardy said the members of the general planning committee, have dedicate hundreds of hours in preparation for the event.

The committee has representatives from many government agencies and a wide diversity of private businesses.

Hardy expressed thanks to those who made the endeavor possible, including Commonwealth Utility Corporation for providing the electricity to the vendors and entertainers at no charge.

"I also appreciate that the line-men of CUC have set aside time to hang our banners announcing the event. You can see those across the Beach Road in Garapan, in Susupe, and along the road to the airport," he said.



Jack Hardy

He also thanked Pacific Trading for donating banners and underwriting the cost of the live entertainment for several evenings in December.

The entertainment will be on two stages, one of which is a permanent structure that will be available throughout the year to other events.

The street will be closed to vehicle traffic at 3 p.m. on market day each week, to allow the vendors to set up their tents and

for the farmers and fishermen to bring their vehicles as a sales platform.

"We are expecting small livestock and fish to also be available for sale," said Hardy.

The control of access will be provided by planters, which will be moved onto the sidewalk after each market night, providing beautification to the Third Street area throughout the year.

DPS and the Fire Division will assist in traffic and crowd control, and have been instructing the vendors in fire and safety measures in setting up their tents.

The Division of Public Health has given training in proper food handling to those vendors serving food prepared on site. The Health Department will also visit the premises of vendors preparing food off location.

The Arts Council is coordinating the scheduling of entertainment, with many orga-

nizations volunteering their skills.

Applications are still being accepted for space, for both permanent vendors and those who want to participate on a week to week basis. Forms are available at the MVA office, the Carolinian Affairs office, the Arts Council and the Garapan Koban.

Saipan children's choir set to perform at Salon

THE DECEMBER musical salon sponsored by the Friends of the Arts will feature the new Saipan Children's Choir under the direction of Denise Hewitt with a performance of holiday music.

This month's salon is being held one week early in order to give the community an advance taste of the concert of the Saipan Chorale which will be held on Dec. 11 and 12 at the Kristo Rai church in

Information about participation can be obtained by contacting Martin Duenas at 664-3200 or Rhoda Smith at 233-5650.

Meanwhile, Hardy said Santa Claus will be available at a special tent every Thursday until Christmas and will have candy and small gifts for the children who visit.

Garapan and the SDA Center in Chalan Laulau respectively.

Featuring the Children's Chorus, the salon program will also include solos and small group performances.

The whole family is invited to enjoy the latest exhibit at the museum as well as featuring photos and artifacts of the German Period (1899-1914) as well as other exhibits.

Normally held every second Sunday of the month at the Commonwealth Museum of History and Culture, the friends of the Arts takes pride in sponsoring informal afternoons featuring professional and amateur musical talent from the pool resident on Saipan and the occasional visitor.

The salons are open to the public and take place inside the museum from 2:00 p.m. to 4:00 p.m.. There is no admission fee for members.

The regular museum admission fee will be charged to non-members at \$3.00 for adults and \$1.00 for students and those under 18.

Non-members over 54 and under 12 are free.

Calling FSM citizens

THIS IS to inform all FSM citizens residing in the CNMI that there will be an important meeting tomorrow, December 2, at 6:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the Garapan Central Park.

There will be delegations coming from FSM to meet with FSMers.

DFW relocates

THE Division of Fish and Wildlife has relocated to a new office building located in front of the old commonwealth utilities corporation (CUC).

The new telephone and fax number are 664-6000 (Tel) and 664-6060 (Fax).

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According to CNMI Gov't:

'MTC fights on to hike rates'

MICRONESIAN Telecommunications Corporation and its parent, GTE Corporation, continues to pursue its appeal against the Federal Communications Commission's rate integration policy, the Tenorio Administration said.

According to a press release from the office of the Governor's special assistant for telecommunications, MTC GTE's lawsuit could result in significant rate increases for CNMI consumers who make off-island telephone calls to Guam or the mainland U.S.

Under FCC's rate integration policy, carriers operating in the CNMI (as well as Hawaii, Guam and American Samoa) are required to conform their long distance telephone rates with the generally lower rates charged consumers in the U.S. mainland.

The policy was initially applied to Hawaii, Alaska, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands in the early 1970s to promote national unity and to stop telephone companies from charging higher international rates to these more distant geographic U.S. points.

The policy was subsequently applied to the CNMI and Guam in 1997 by order of the FCC, and resulted in an immediate and significant drop in-off island rates for calls to U.S. points.

Castle Resorts appoints Reed

CASTLE Resorts & Hotels has named Elaine M. Reed sales manager of its newest property, the Royal Orchid Guam Hotel at Times Square.

Reed will be responsible for managing and coordinating sales for this 200-room hotel, which is located on the hillside overlooking Tumon Bay, a media release said.

"Reed's more than 10 years of travel industry experience and sales expertise is the perfect combination for success as the Royal Orchid Guam celebrates its grand opening," said general manager Tom Liu.

"We look forward to her sales efforts which will focus on two very important markets for Guam — leisure travelers and corporate business."

Originally from Hawaii, Reed has held titles ranging from consumer sales and service manager to advertising administrator in the hospitality, banking, advertising and retail industries.

Recently, she served as consumer sales and service manager for Bank of Hawaii on Guam.

The Royal Orchid Guam at Times Square is managed by Castle Resorts & Hotels, a hotel and resort management company based in Honolulu, Hawaii.

It is the third property in Micronesia for the company's international division, establishing its growing presence in the region.

GTE immediately appealed the 1997 FCC ruling, and after procedure delays, the case is now moving forward.

Last November 23, 1999, MTC and GTE filed an initial brief in the pending appeal before the U.S. court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

MTC/GTE are joined in their appeal by MCI WorldCOM, Bell Atlantic Mobile, Bell South Corporation, SBC Communications, and three other parties which also filed appeals of the FCC's 1997 rate integration ruling.

MTC/GTE had also been joined

in the appeal by IT&E Overseas, Inc.

However, last November 22, IT&E filed a motion with the court asking that its appeal of the FCC's rate integration ruling be dismissed. The court is expected to grant IT&E's request to drop its challenge.

When sought for comment, MTC's Sales & Marketing manager Tony Mosley said the challenge is not so much about raising rates as it is about enabling MTC to be more competitive.

"Competition is key here. It is competition that mainly drives

rates down, not FCC's policy of rate integration," said Mosley.

Stressing that raising rates is counter-productive, Mosley said that is not MTC's primary motivation as "customers are already used to the rates they have now."

In their brief, MTC/GTE advance two fundamental arguments under the Telecommunications Acts of 1996.

First, they contend that the FCC lacked the legal authority to require MTC to conform its rates with the comparatively lower rates charged by the other GTE compa-

nies in the mainland U.S.

Second, MTC/GTE argues that the FCC improperly extended the obligation to integrate rates to wireless services.

Opposing briefs are expected to be filed over the next several weeks by the CNMI and other parties which support the FCC's 1997 rate intergration ruling.

These parties include the FCC itself as well as Hawaii, Alaska and Guam.

Oral argument in the case is set for April 4, 2000 and a final ruling expected several months after that.

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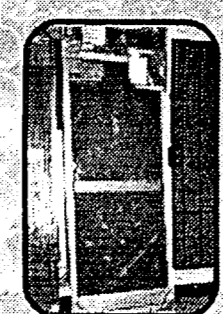
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Everyone can be Y2K victim

By Mar-Vic Cagurangan
For the Variety
KOROR (Palau Horizon) — Housewives sit at the Y2K Community Preparedness forum; some of them frowning and wondering as they listen to speakers talk about what seems to them as a strange computer lingo. Y2K? Millennium bug? Most of these women don't use computers at all. They thus can't imagine how two digits in the computer can affect their food on the table and their daily household chores.

But if doomsayers are right, Y2K is more than a technical problem. Everyone can be a victim of the possible computer system disruptions. If ignored, it could hamper one's ability to feed his family or run his business. This is why the President CiTY 2000 Task Force has stepped up its campaign to encourage community-level preparations. The CiTY 2000 Task Force, headed by Project Manager Lolita Gibbons, reported that the government has been "work-

ing aggressively" to assess all public equipment, prioritize critical risks, and develop back-up plans to ensure effective management of direct or indirect problems. The Palau government, nevertheless, has been speeding up its efforts to improve its Y2K compliance as the countdown closes in to Jan. 1, 2000. Last Tuesday, the task force organized a Y2K awareness forum for heads of families to help them prepare contingency plans in their respective house-

holds. Business owners are urged to consider installing back-up systems and protecting electronic information. The possible computer breakdown will most likely affect power, telecommunications, health care services, banking system, and the delivery of high demand commodities including petroleum and general goods. Although ordinary Palauan don't use computers as much as their neighboring countries, the

country's economy is dependent on this technology because Asia and the United States use computers to ship food and other commodities into the country. Hospital equipment and banking, and airport facilities are all hooked on computers. The task force urged the community to contact the project management office, the National Emergency office, the Palau Red Cross Society and the Bureau of Public Health for emergency needs arising from the potential Y2K crisis.

Korean national charged over 'illegal' deal with Palauan governor

By Mar-Vic Cagurangan
For the Variety
KOROR (Palau Horizon) — A Korean national is facing several criminal charges at the trial court for engaging in a series of allegedly unlawful transactions, including a consulting agreement with Ngarchelong Gov. Tobias Aguon. Special Prosecutor Michael Rosenthal filed eight counts of criminal charges against Young Ho Kim on Nov. 19 for violation of foreign investment and labor laws.

An investigation report by the Foreign Investment Board revealed that Aguon entered into an agreement with Kim last Sept. 9, hiring him as a consultant and authorizing him to bring in investors interested in oil and gas exploration in Ngarchelong State. Such transaction requires a foreign investment approval certificate, which the government prosecutor said Kim does not have. Kim's consulting business in Ngarchelong State allegedly violated not only Palau's foreign investment law, but the

national labor law as well. An FIB investigator's affidavit indicated that Kim's labor permits do not cover the consulting job for the Ngarchelong governor. Rosenthal has charged Kim with three counts of violating foreign investment laws, two counts of engaging in prohibited employment, two counts of failure to timely file return and pay taxes, and one count of failure to obtain business license. Records disclosed that Kim has been conducting different business transactions in Palau

since December 1997, without first having obtained foreign investment permits. It was also found that Kim never filed returns nor did he pay any taxes throughout the period he was conducting his business transactions. Aside from the Ngarchelong oil exploration deal, Kim is also facing prosecution in connection with his 25-year lease agreement with the State of Ngchesar for a real property in Ngemingel. Kim entered into the agreement on behalf of Mizi World, Inc. in December 1997. Investigation found that on March 10, 1998 Kim subleased the Ngemingel property to Myung Woo Huh, who had turned the area into a rock quarry site.

Based on the lease agreement between Kim and Huh, Mizi World would be entitled to one-third of the lessee's business profits. Records showed that Kim did not have the necessary permits for conducting such business until March 18, 1998. But according to FIB investigator Ellender Ngirameketii, the foreign investment ap-

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The Association would also like to thank all the people who supported this fund raising effort by buying raffle tickets.

Thank You!

Air Nauru flights will boost trade, tourism

By Eileen O. Tabaranza
For the Variety
KOROR (Palau Horizon) — The reactivation of Saipan-Palau-Manila route by Air Nauru is expected to fuel the growth of the country's trade and tourism industries, according to a senator.



Santos Olikong

This optimistic projection was made by Senator Santos Olikong, who chairs the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Affairs and also one of the strong forces behind the negotiations with Air Nauru officials.

fish, fish (exports) can go to Hong Kong through the Philippines," Olikong said.

In an interview, Olikong said once the Saipan-Palau-Manila route is reactivated, tourist traffic and trade activities between Manila and Palau will be in a high gear due to the accessibility of moving these in and out between these destinations.

The senator pointed out that Air Nauru can possibly start flying Palau and Manila destinations like the Continental Micronesia twice a week flights, but added that it would all depend on the traffic.

"They are capable of a combination of cargo and passengers like Continental Micronesia used to do before when they were flying the same route two years ago with the 727 Boeing aircraft," Olikong said.

He added that flight schedule is in the agenda during their several meetings, but it was being held awaiting the conclusion of the service agreement. After the Manila meeting on Nov. 20-25, according to Olikong, the next step would be getting a plane for Air Nauru to fly the said route.

He said Air Nauru and the Philippine government are now into the discussion on the shipment of goods, especially vegetables, to Palau, Saipan and the Federated States of Micronesia.

As to the tourism aspect, he said Palau can capture a lot of European tourists who make Manila as their stop over before going to Palau.

Olikong stressed that Air Nauru is committed to ship these produce from Manila to Saipan and Palau even if the flights are not fully booked with passengers. "Air Nauru is amenable to that. If there are a lot of cargoes to justify one flight, they are willing to fly," the senator pointed out.

"In fact, there are a lot of European tourists who come to the Philippines and then to Palau, but got stuck in Manila because the Continental could not give them a confirmed ticket to Palau. So instead of going to Palau, they would rather go to Bali, Indonesia and spend their remaining days there," he stressed.

He stressed that fishing companies on Palau can aggressively export fish to Hong Kong through the Saipan-Palau-Manila route because connections out of Guam are not really liable. "It maybe through this ser-

Air Nauru executives and officials from Palau and Saipan met in Manila to wrap up the air service bilateral agreements between these destinations.

House OKs \$6.7M CIP funding

By Eileen O. Tabaranza
For the Variety
KOROR (Palau Horizon) — The House of Delegates has appropriated a total of \$6.732 million funds for Capital Improvement Projects (CIP) for fiscal year 2000, representing a \$1.142 million increase over Senate's total appropriation of \$5.59 million.

The House version, or Senate Bill No. 5-349, SD4, HD1 has also appropriated an additional \$157,000 funding for the Ministry of Justice to retain 20 police officers for Babeldaob.

According to House Committee on Ways and Means Chairman Alan Seid, the funding includes only those CIPs that did not receive previous consideration under the fiscal year 2000 National Budget Act.

In the FY2000 National Budget Act, the Olbiil Era Kelulau appropriated sufficient funding to hire an additional 10 police officers. The additional funding represents the amount necessary to hire an additional 20 officers for the remaining nine months of the current fiscal year.

The biggest of which is the \$300,000 funds appropriated for the operations of the Palau International Coral Reef Center in addition to the partial \$25,000 budget allotted in the FY2000 National Budget Act.

Seid said the House version also increased CIP funding for Ngarchelong's Olleil water tank repair and Ngatpang's procurement of an additional water pump to increase the water's pressure in that state by \$5,000 and \$15,000, respectively.

AGO accused of yielding to executive branch pressure

By Eileen O. Tabaranza
For the Variety
KOROR (Palau Horizon) — The Senate Committee on Judiciary and Governmental Affairs (SCJGA) had disclosed that the Attorney General's Office (AGO) has compromised its professional integrity as the republic's representative in the civil suit lodged against Captain Hideo Tell.

against Tell for leasing a land, which he sub-leased from the Airai state for \$250,000. The land was used as staging area for the demolition and removal of the bridge and a temporary landing site for the construction of a replacement bridge.

"I feel that the Attorney General's Office, in its conduct of this lawsuit, is very plainly responding to some form of inappropriate pressure from the Executive Branch to simply let the Republic's money go in this instance," SCJGA Chairman Santos Olikong said in his letter to Attorney General (AG) Jennifer Young.

The AGO had certified the lease agreement entered into by Tell and the Ministry of Resources and Development on April 29, 1999 allegedly without verifying first whether the lessor actually owns the property to be leased, Olikong said.

Olikong has strongly demanded for the second time that the representation be transferred to the Office of the Special Prosecutor since the case should be represented by an attorney who is not subject to such influences. But, the AGO has reportedly turned down the first request of the Senate.

The senator reiterated that the AGO has a duty in "certifying" any contract to which the republic is a party to verify those representations that are material to the contract.

A civil case docketed as Civil Action No. 99-282 was filed

The failure to make this minimal effort not only results in a void contract, but gives rise to strong defenses against the republic claims in the ensuing litigation, he added.

Olikong pointed out that the defendant has an excessive leverage in settlement negotiations and the AGO has irreparably compromised the republic's interests, which would not have been the

case if the AGO had done its duty before the lease was signed, Olikong pointed out.

"The necessary efforts of your office now to correct its prior mistakes destroy the AG's efficacy as the republic's representative in the lawsuit," he said.

Contrary to AG's belief, he stressed that the AG's duty is not merely to ensure that the republic will have remedies available in litigation, but also to avoid the necessity of litigation by seeing to it that the republic's interests as a contracting party are properly and professionally represented.

"She's a smart lawyer. She writes and analyses good. But this one, it doesn't seem her talent is present. I believe she's getting instructions from somewhere because she's not the same Attorney General that the SCJGA knew," Olikong admitted in an interview.

Olikong went on to lambast the AG, saying that her office "cannot properly represent the republic's interest when it is willing simply to turn a blind eye to determining the reasonable value of the Airai State land and Tell's property."

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In Western Pacific region

HIV cases near 1M mark

SUVA (Pacnews)—The World Health Organisation (WHO) warns that by the year 2000, the total number of HIV-infected individuals is expected to exceed one million in the Western Pacific region. WHO also warns that the annual number of new AIDS cases in this region would have doubled between 1998 and 2000.

The projections on HIV/AIDS cases in the region were highlighted by WHO's Western Pacific Region in a fact sheet for World Aids Day which will be celebrated on December 1.

"WHO estimates that each year there are more than 35 million new cases of curable sexually transmitted infections (STIs) in the Western Pacific region - the majority of which are among 15-30 year olds," the fact sheet on "Facts and Figures about HIV/AIDS/STI" said.

"It is estimated that over 700,000 individuals were living with HIV in 1998. This includes at least 70,000 cumulative cases of AIDS, of which more than 80,000 new cases occurred in 1998."

"In the region, 17 per cent of reported AIDS cases and 43 per cent of reported HIV infections have occurred in the 13-29 age group".

The fact sheet highlighted four patterns of HIV prevalence in the region, one of which shows that Australia and New Zealand have registered declining HIV prevalence.

"Countries with increasing HIV prevalence due to heterosexual transmission include Cambodia and Papua New Guinea".

This year's theme for World Aids campaign is "Listen, Learn, Live! World AIDS Campaign with Children and Young People".

There are altogether 27 member states in the Western Pacific region, 14 of which are from the Pacific Islands region.

Protesters burn a prototype seal of ASEAN and other "anti-people" laws during a rally Tuesday in Manila. The country hosted the recently concluded the 3rd ASEAN informal summit which was attended by heads of its member states.



Protesters burn a prototype seal of ASEAN and other "anti-people" laws during a rally Tuesday in Manila. The country hosted the recently concluded the 3rd ASEAN informal summit which was attended by heads of its member states.

Workers end strike at RP's biggest shopping mall chain

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Striking employees at the Philippines' largest department store chain announced Sunday they will return to work after the company agreed to increase their wages.

The 14-day strike at six of 11 Manila branches of the Shoemart department store chain hardly affected operations because most employees of the chain are non-union members.

The strike, however, drew attention to the company's practice of hiring temporary employees employed for only three to five months during peak shopping periods.

The company employs about 20,000 workers at 14 branches nationwide, but around 85 percent are temporary workers. About 1,400 workers are considered regular employees, of which 938 are union members.

The company said the strike was illegal since no strike vote was taken by union members and it was called before the end of a required 30-day "cooling off" period during collective bargaining.

The strike was marred by clashes between security guards and the strikers, who were backed by outside activists. No serious injuries were reported and no arrests were made.

Muslim rebels urged not to postpone peace talks

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine Defense Secretary Orlando Mercado urged Muslim separatists Sunday not to postpone the scheduled start of formal peace talks to keep the peace process going.

"We are really in earnest in having a negotiated political settlement," Mercado said.

He said he could see no reason why the talks should be postponed, after a formal opening ceremony on Oct. 25.

"The momentum will be lost," he said. "The pace at this time must be in earnest, if not frenetic. The (MILF's) approach is too lackadaisical."

He said President Joseph Estrada "wanted something substantive" from the peace talks by the end of this year, but the rebels "have been postponing and postponing for a long time."

On Saturday, Ghazali Jaafar, vice chairman of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and head of its negotiating panel, said the two sides should postpone the scheduled start of peace talks on Dec. 13 and instead formulate rules and procedures for the negotiations.



Former Philippine President Corazon Aquino (2nd from right) gestures during her courtesy call with Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid (left) and First Lady Sinta Nuriyah Wahid (seated) at the Manila Hotel Monday. At right is Indonesian Foreign Minister Alwi Shihab.

Aquino says Wahid wants Suharto to return wealth

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Indonesian President Abdurrahman Wahid wants former Indonesian leader Suharto to repent and return his vast wealth to the nation, former Philippine President Corazon Aquino said Monday.

In a meeting Monday, Mrs. Aquino told Wahid about the ordeals she faced in leading the Philippines to democracy after years of dictatorship, including several attempts by military rebels to oust her, said Mrs. Aquino's son, Benigno, who accompanied her in the one-hour meeting.

Wahid told Mrs. Aquino that Indonesians were inspired by the "people power" revolt that toppled Philippine dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, she said. Mrs. Aquino succeeded Marcos after the revolt, which helped inspire political change in many authoritarian regimes around the world.

Wahid is likely to pardon Suharto, Mrs. Aquino's son said. Suharto, a former army general, was forced to end his 32 years in power last year after a wave of protests and riots shook Indonesia, the world's fourth most populous country.

An investigation of Suharto, 78, was launched but abandoned just before last month's presidential election, which Wahid won.

Wahid, a Muslim cleric who is Indonesia's first democratically chosen president, has said he believes Suharto hid vast amounts of money abroad in the names of his children and friends.

Mrs. Aquino and Wahid also briefly discussed the situation in the restive Indonesian province of Aceh and in East Timor, which was devastated by pro-Indonesia supporters after voting to become independent from Indonesia in August.

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In Vanuatu

Quake death toll rises

PORT VILA (Pacnews) — The official death toll from the earthquake and tsunami, which hit Vanuatu at the weekend, has risen to 10.

Five people died when an earthquake struck the central part of Pentecost island shortly after midnight on Saturday morning, and another five when a tsunami hit the southern tip about half an hour later.

Supplies of temporary shelter have been flown to the island, and officials are discussing with

resident diplomatic missions and aid agencies to seek financial and material assistance.

The Chairman of the National Disaster Council, John Sese, says one thousand people have been affected by the disaster.

It is our estimation that about 1,000 people have been affected. Their homes have collapsed or have been washed away by the tsunami. Also infrastructure on the island has been damaged.

There have been reports of road-blocks and landslides around the

island. Water is also a major problem for the islanders," Sese said.

The Police and Health departments have set up an operating base on the island to assist in carrying out more ground surveys and treat casualties.

Police spokesman, Inspector Pakoa Samuels told PACNEWS a patrol boat from Port Vila is stationed on Pentecost to facilitate communication and provide any manpower need for rehabilitation.

"The people have started to

build temporary shelters while waiting for help. In Bay Mateli, where only the Catholic Church was left, the villagers have picked up the pieces and started building temporary homes. The worry now is the possible outbreak of water borne diseases. A medical team from Vila is there to try and prevent the spread of any disease and treat casualties," Inspector Samuels said.

Meanwhile, embassies and aid agencies are continuing discussions with the Vanuatu govern-

ment about assistance following the weekend earthquake and tsunami.

Supplies of temporary shelter have been flown to the island, but officials are concerned about water and food supplies, especially to remote areas, cut off by landslides.

The Australian High Commission in Port Vila says the Australian, New Zealand and French Consulates are waiting for a final decision from Vanuatu on what the government needs.

German envoy to the region leaves Samoa

APIA (Pacnews) — Germany's Wellington-based Ambassador to Samoa, Eberhard Noldeke, visited the capital Apia last week for the last time in his official capacity.

Noldeke was in Apia on an official visit to inform the Samoan Government about his departure. He visited Samoa on five occasions during his four-year posting in Wellington.

In an interview with the local newspaper, Samoa Observer, Noldeke said: "Coming to Samoa is like coming home for me".

"You come across German names and old houses still re-

maining from German times. Samoa is my most favourite island country of the five in the Pacific I've been serving, so I hope to be back, but in a private capacity," he revealed. The other four Pacific countries he is responsible for are Fiji, Kiribati, Tonga, and Tuvalu.

Noldeke said he would remember Samoa from a German project to upgrade the museum during his term in Wellington.

"That is a very good move. Those art works, photos are good. Archives scattered all over the place should be taken care of," he said.

Fiji concerned about regional security

SUVA (Pacnews) — Fiji's Acting Prime Minister and Minister for Foreign Affairs, Dr Tupeni Baba, has told Parliament there are a number of troubled and potential hot-spots in the region which need analysis as any spill-over effects will have an impact on security of Pacific Island states.

Dr Baba said: "We live in a region that is vulnerable to external pressures and hence the matter of regional security is of importance to us".

Dr Baba did not pin point the troubled hot spots in the region.

The Acting Prime Minister said there are other non-military threats to security of which the region has a fair share.

"Some of these problems which include maritime passage and seabed boundaries, climate change, sea-level rise, refugees and population flows, and the recent growing commercial exploitation of chil-

dren and youths for sex trade, can impact severely on the stability of our region," he said.

"Concerns such as the spread of contagious diseases from the illegal land of people, drugs and goods and the consequences of environmental changes also impact on our security as a region. That global warming remains likely to pose a long-term threat to the region cannot be over-emphasised. It has significant impact on the livelihood of Pacific Islanders."

"Low-lying island countries may cease to exist within the next two decades with the rising sea level. This could result in loss of lives, and submergence of landmasses. That we may have environmental refugees is a real possibility, in the not too distant future. Fiji has strongly opposed the conduct of nuclear tests in the Pacific region, the dumping of toxic waste and the use of drift nets for fishing."

Woman charged in death of tattoo expert in Samoa

WELLINGTON (Pacnews) — New Zealand police have charged a 53-year-old South Auckland woman with the murder of one of the world's tattooing experts.

49 year old Paulo Suluape, was found beaten to death in his home in Otara late last week.

The name of the woman charged with his murder has been suppressed and she'll appear in court again tomorrow.

Samoa-born Suluape was a tufugataatata, a hereditary tradesman, who practised the dying art of navel-to-knee tattooing, still in use in Samoa.

Fiji wants to join APEC

SUVA (Pacnews) — Fiji has revealed its intention of joining the Asia Pacific Economic Co-operation (APEC), through its membership of the Melanesia Spearhead Group (MSG).

Speaking in Parliament this week, Deputy Prime Minister and Foreign Affairs Minister, Doctor Tupeni Baba said: "the reason for joining the MSG were both political and economic."

"The Fiji Government noted that close association with the MSG could possibly pave the way for Fiji to join APEC, with initiatives to open the APEC sub-regional office in Papua New Guinea. It was also envisaged that opportunities could be created for local entrepreneurs and investors to exploit these markets with about six million people and abundance in natural resources," Dr Baba said.

Papua New Guinea is a member of APEC and there has been push that a sub regional office be established in Port Moresby. Fiji has only been an observer at APEC meetings.

On membership of MSG, Dr Baba said Fiji hoped joining the group would help improve the region's trade and economic base and counter any negative influences by bigger nations.

Also Fiji could also be an influential contributor to maintaining peace and harmony in the region with the experience in international peacekeeping duties.

Mahathir's party by landslide

KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters) — Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad's coalition Tuesday won Malaysia's bitterly contested election but Asia's longest serving elected leader faced a resurgent opposition dominated by Islamic fundamentalists.

Mahathir's 14-party Barisan Nasional achieved its goal of clinching a two-thirds majority needed to amend the constitution and considered crucial for pushing through the prime minister's economic development policies.

With one race for the 193-member parliament still to be officially decided, the country's election commission said Mahathir's powerful alliance had won 148 seats after the most hotly contested polls in 30 years.

The national Bernama news agency reported that the remaining seat had gone to the opposition, but this was not immediately confirmed.

"Clearly the Barisan Nasional is still the party of choice of the people of Malaysia," a relaxed Mahathir, wearing an open collar shirt and blue blazer, told a victory news conference.

But his United Malays National Organization (UMNO) lost ground to the Islamic fundamentalist Parti Islam se-Malaysia (PAS) in a shift that analysts attributed to anger over the firing and jailing of Mahathir's former deputy Anwar Ibrahim.

Anwar's wife, Wan Azizah Wan Ismail, won her debut political race in her husband's former constituency in Penang state, but her Parti Keadilan Nasional took only a handful of seats, trailing far behind its opposition partner PAS.

Pas retained power over the Kelantan state assembly and

wrested control of oil- and gas-rich Terengganu from Mahathir's coalition in a shift of allegiance in the Muslim Malay heartland.

At least four of Mahathir's cabinet ministers, including Second Finance Minister Mustapa Mohama and four deputy ministers, went down to defeat.

A potential successor to Mahathir, Education Minister Najib Razak, won by a mere 241 votes.

Although final figures were not yet in, partial returns pointed to a sharp drop in the Barisan Nasional's popular vote, which exceeded 65 percent in the last polls in 1995. The opposition, led by PAS, doubled its 1995 score, winning at least 44 seats, while the Barisan Nasional fell short of its 1995 tally of 162. PAS, with 27 seats, more than doubled its previous best score of 13 in 1959.

The mixed verdict for Mahathir's coalition and the PAS gains seemed certain to cause rumblings within UMNO, which holds triennial leadership elections in mid-2000. "The Malays are seeking revenge on UMNO," an aide to a cabinet minister said. "Somebody has to answer for this."

Wan Azizah goes to parliament carrying the political torch of her husband who is now serving a six-year term for abuse of power after falling out with Mahathir.

"This is a victory of the people. It showed that the people dared to choose change," Wan Azizah told supporters.

Anwar's firing in 1998 and subsequent jail term triggered anti-government protests and spurred the usually divided opposition to put up an unprecedented common front against Mahathir under the Barisan Alternatif (Alternative Front) banner.

The Barisan Nasional (BN) is a secular coalition representing Malaysia's major ethnic groups.

PAS wants to institute an Islamic state with "hudud" laws

prescribing such measures as death by stoning for adulterers, but it says the laws would only apply to Muslims.

"Now we have the secular, in-

dustrializing and modernizing BN against the Islamizing and traditional PAS," said William Case, a senior lecturer at Australia's Griffith University.



Malaysia Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad (center) and Deputy Prime Minister Abdullah Badawi (left) cut the cake together with their wives, as they celebrate their landslide victory ushering in another five years of National Front rule.

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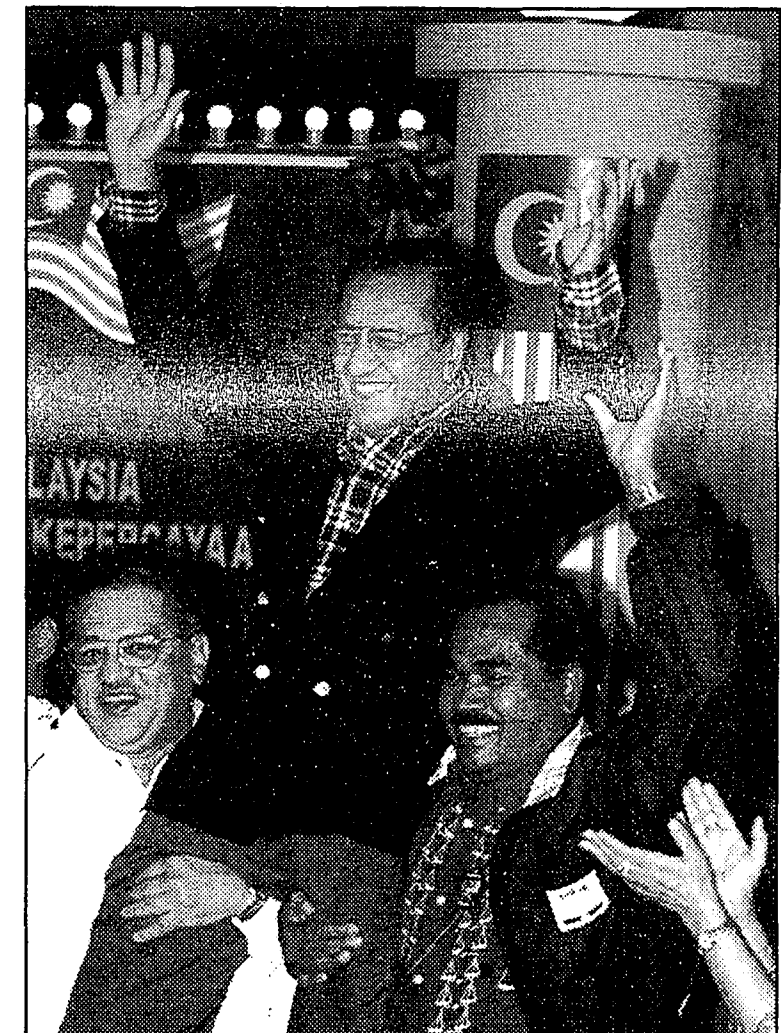
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Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad is raised by jubilant supporters after his coalition seized two-thirds of the seats in Parliament early Tuesday in Kuala Lumpur.

Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino
and
The Municipality of Tinian and Aguiguan
TOGETHER WITH
BLACK SPUR ARENA
PRESENTS
COCKFIGHTING DERBY
SECOND ANNUAL EVENT

Friday, December 10, 1999	Saturday, December 11, 1999
3-COCK DERBY	5-COCK DERBY
Entry Fee: US\$330	Entry Fee: US\$1,500
Minimum Bet: US\$200	Minimum Bet: US\$500
Option - any Two: US\$110	Option - 123, 234, 345: US\$300 each
Bonus: US\$1,000	Any Four: US\$300
Weighing Time: 4:30PM - 6:30PM	Weighing Time: 12:00PM - 2:00PM
Fight Starts: 8:00PM	Fight Starts: 6:00PM
Derby Weights: 4-8 to 5-12	Derby Weights: 4-8 to 5-12

PRIZES TROPHY
Will be raffled among the winners

US\$5,000
Bonus will be split among the winners

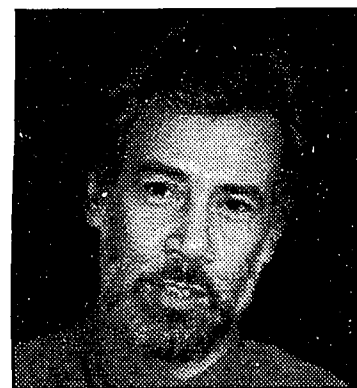
Entrance Fee: \$10.00 No Children. 20% of the proceeds will go to the municipality of Tinian for Local Scholarship. Complimentary room will be extended to all derby participants. Venue inside the Tinian Dynasty Hotel & Casino.

For more information or to reserve a cockhouse contact:
Senator David M. Cing Tel (670) 433-3289 or Fax: (670) 433-3574
Councilman Tony H. Borja Tel. (670) 433-2208

For 'orgy of violence' in E. Timor

Gusmao blames Wiranto

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — East Timor's independence leader on Monday called for friendly ties with Indonesia even though he blames its top generals for the devastation of his homeland.



Jose Alexandre "Xanana" Gusmao

Jose Alexandre "Xanana" Gusmao singled out Gen. Wiranto, the former military commander who is now a senior minister in Indonesia's new democratic government, as being ultimately responsible for the orgy of violence that followed an Aug. 30 U.N.-supervised referendum.

"I believe that Gen. Wiranto as (then) minister for defense was responsible," said Gusmao, who is conducting his first visit to Indonesia since being released from a Jakarta prison after the ballot.

Gusmao said he had asked Wiranto several times to take action to prevent the wave of destruction, which he said had

been planned and organized.

He also blamed senior officers in Kopassus, Indonesia's elite Special Forces Command, for the mayhem carried out by anti-independence militiamen.

"I have to say that the Kopassus generals were very, very involved in the destruction," he said.

U.N. officials and a state-appointed Indonesian human

rights probe say the Indonesian army and police were behind the September rampage that devastated the territory and its people.

State-appointed Indonesian investigators in West Timor said Monday they were examining the role of top generals, including Wiranto.

Wiranto and other senior officers would soon be summoned to testify before Indonesia's Investigative Commission for Human Rights Violations in East Timor, commission member Munir said.

Last week the group dug up the bodies of 26 people, including three Roman Catholic priests, who were massacred during September's violence. They had been buried in mass graves after being trucked in from East Timor to Indonesian-controlled West Timor.

Munir, who like Wiranto and many other Indonesians uses



Wiranto

only on name, said the group would dig up three sites later this week.

"I can't disclose the locations because the military might get to them first," he said in a telephone interview from Kupang, West Timor's capital.

Wiranto, stepped down as armed forces chief last month, when he was appointed coordinating minister for political

and security affairs in the month-old government of President Abdurrahman Wahid.

He has denied any direct link with abuses and atrocities in East Timor.

Gusmao is scheduled to meet Wahid on Tuesday.

The former guerrilla leader is likely to be the first president of a new independent East Timor. He last met Wahid earlier year when he was still in prison, where he had served seven years of a life term.

Gusmao said East Timor want to establish new and friendly relations with Indonesia, which invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1975. About 100,000 East Timorese died in 24 years of Indonesian rule.

"We can choose our friends, but not our neighbors and Indonesia is an important neighbor for East Timor," he said.

"We want to start with the new government a new future of friendship and cooperation."

He said he wanted to fix diplomatic and security problems between the two sides and even invited Indonesian businesses to invest there.

Jose Ramos Horta, the independence movement's foreign affairs spokesman and Nobel Peace laureate, said he hoped National Council for East Timorese Resistance, which is likely to be the basis of a new government, hoped to open a representative office in Jakarta soon.

Gusmao called on Wahid to release immediately 18 East Timorese political prisoners still serving time in Jakarta's maximum security Cipinang Prison.

He said East Timor's priority now was to rebuild its infrastructure and institutions so it can assume independence within two years.

Currently, the half-island territory, is being administered by the United Nations.

Hundreds of thousands of people fled their homes in terror after the independence ballot and many were forcibly sent to camps in Indonesia-held West Timor. An estimated 130,000 East Timorese are still there.

Gusmao called on Indonesia to help return the refugees as soon as possible.

He said displaced people were being told lies about the security situation in East Timor, including claims that international peacekeepers had raped and killed East Timorese after the withdrawal of Indonesian troops last month.

Human rights groups and U.N. officials accuse anti-independence militiamen of terrorizing the refugees and blocking their repatriation.

"They want to go home," Gusmao said of the refugees.

Japanese parliament stuck on pension bill

TOKYO, (Reuters) - Japanese opposition parties boycotted parliamentary business on Monday, demanding the government nullify a vote in the Lower House to cut retirement benefits in reforms to Japan's pension system.

Tsutomu Hata, secretary-general of the Democratic Party, said the opposition would not take part in any parliamentary deliberations unless the coalition government nullified the Lower House's approval of controversial reforms that would cut pension benefits and raise over time the age at which benefits.

"We will not yield to any easy compromise," Hata told a news conference. Late on Friday the three-party ruling coalition, which controls some 70 percent of the seats in both houses of parliament, approved in a Lower House panel the bills aimed at curbing the

cost of pensions for Japan's fast ageing population.

Parliament was forced to cancel a debate scheduled for Monday on an extra budget to fund Japan's latest mammoth stimulus package. Ruling politicians have charged that the opposition will be committing political suicide if it delays passage of the extra budget at a time when Japan is striving to ensure the nation's emerging recovery does not falter. Apparently seeking to deflect such criticism, Hata said: "We are not refusing to engage in deliberations."

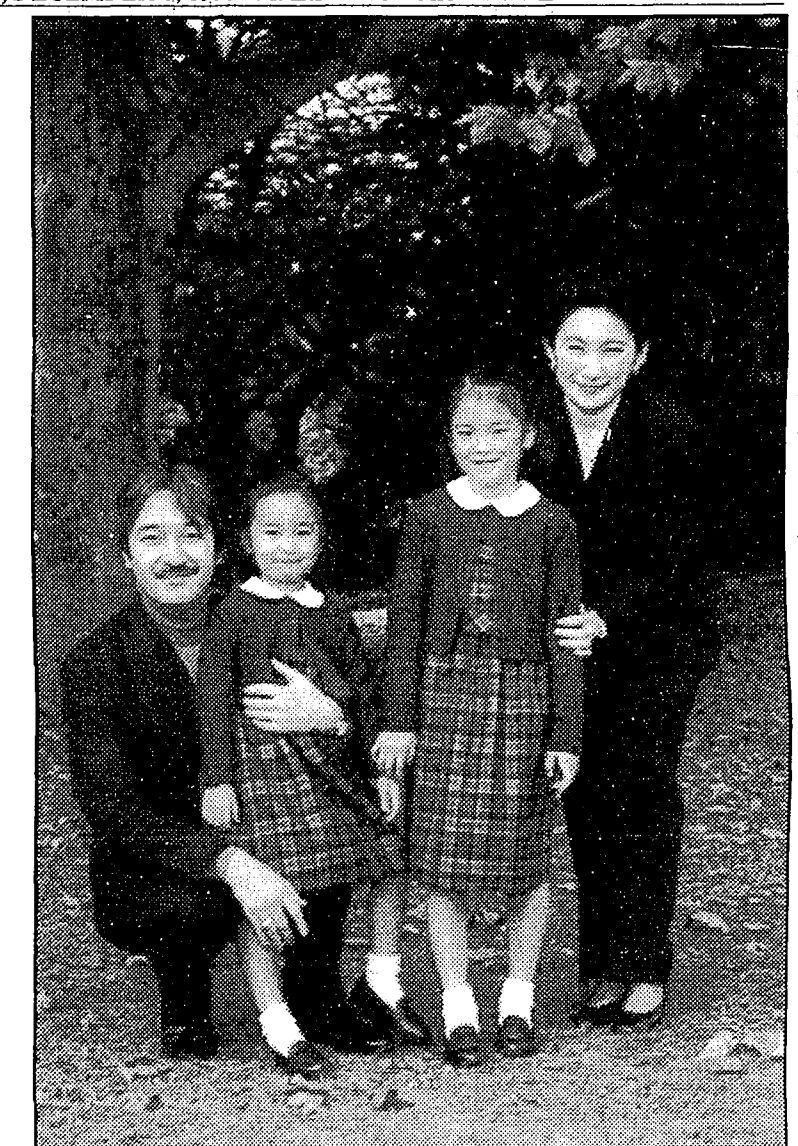
All we are asking for is more time for full deliberations (on the pension bills)."

A ruling coalition source said Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi's coalition would likely go ahead with deliberations on the extra budget from Tuesday even if the opposition refused to take part.

LDP Secretary-General Yoshiro Mori told a news conference that the ruling camp will wait to see how the negotiations among party officials will progress, but said they can't wait forever.

"It's not right to have parliament stay like this," he said. The pension reform legislation, which was opposed by the opposition Democrats, Communists and Social Democrats, would reduce core public pensions by five percent and raise the retirement age over time to 65 from 60.

The legislation would also raise from April 2004 the government's share of the burden for the basic pension to which all Japanese are entitled to half from the current one-third, but does not clarify the source of funding for that change, largely because the ruling camp itself is divided on the issue.



Prince Akishino (left) second son of Emperor Akihito, celebrates his 34th birthday on Tuesday with his family at Akasaka Palace in Tokyo. From left: Prince Akishino, second daughter Kako, first daughter Mako, and Princess Kiko.

Divers recover 14 more bodies in ferry tragedy

BEIJING (AP) — Divers on Monday recovered 14 more bodies of victims of the wreck of the ferry Dashun that killed an estimated 280 people, the state-run Xinhua News Agency reported.

About 100 navy and civilian divers from around the country also found four bodies on Sunday in the icy waters off Yantai, in eastern Shandong province, bringing the total to 136, Xinhua said. The Dashun caught fire, broke up and capsized in a storm off Yantai on Wednesday with 262 passengers and 40 crew members aboard. Only 22 survived.

Towering waves and gale-force winds prevented navy and other vessels near the ferry from getting close enough to save many on board the ferry.

More than 5,000 people have been involved in the rescue effort, Xinhua said.

Efforts to recover the remains of victims would continue, said a letter of sympathy to victims' families sent by a special investigation panel of the State Council, the highest government body, and the provincial and city governments.

It said an intense investigation was under way and those responsible would be "dealt with seriously," Xinhua reported.

"The letter called on the people to turn grief into strength and work more diligently to promote the country's reform, opening-up and socialist modernization drive," Xinhua's report said.



A State Council official inspects the site where the rescue operations for the sunk ferry Dashun continue Monday. Divers found 14 more bodies of the victims on Monday with the death toll estimated at 280.

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to the Provisions of 2 CMC 4141 et seq, the PUBLIC PURPOSE LAND EXCHANGE AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1987, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Division of Public Lands (Division), under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, hereby gives notice that the Division intends to enter into an exchange agreement involving the parcels of land described below. Concerned persons may request a hearing on any proposed exchange by contacting the Division of Public Lands on or by December 6, 1999. If so requested, hearing on the transactions listed below will be scheduled on December 9, 1999, at 9:00 a.m. in the Conference Room of the Division of Public Lands.

Public Purpose	LAND EXCHANGE
Private Land	- Saipan Tract/Lot No. 018 B 132-R/W, located in Achugao, containing an area of 1,656 square meters.
Public Land	- Saipan Tract/Lot No. 053 A 107, located in Marpi, containing an area of 5,197 square meters.
	- Saipan Tract/Lot No. 144 E 02, located in Capitol Hill, containing an area of 2,030 square meters.

NUTISIAN PUPBLIKO

Sigon gi probension siha gi 2 CMC 4141 et seq i PUBLIC PURPOSE LAND EXCHANGE AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1987. (sino i tulaikan tano para proposition pupbliko na akton 1987) si magalaha as Pedro P. Tenorio yan i segundo magalaha as Jesus R. Sablan, ginen i Division of Public Lands (Division), gi na'pa' Department of Lands and Natural Resources, ma intencioiona humalom gi kontratan atulaikan tano ni ha afekta i pedason tano siha ni manmadeskribi gi sampapa. Man interesante siha na petsona sina manmamaisen inekungok put maseha manu'hafa na priniponi put tulaikan tano. A'agang i Division of Public Lands antes pat osino gi December 6, 1999. Yanggen guaha inekungok marikuesta, i inekungok siempre para i sigiente siha na transakson u fan makondakta gi December 9, 1999, gi oran alas 9:00 gi eggan gi halom i Kwarton i Konfrensian i Division of Public Lands.

PROPOSITON PUPBLIKO	LAND EXCHANGE
TANO PRIBATE	- Sitio Numiru 08 B 132-R/W, giya Achugao, ya ha konsistise 1,656 metro kuadrao na area.
TANO PUBLIKO	- Sitio Numiro 053 A 107, giya Achugao, ya ha Konsistise 5, 197 metro kuadrao na area.
	- Sitio Numiru 144 E 02, giya Capitol Hill, ya ha konsistise 2,030 metro kuadrao na area

ARONGORONGOL TOWLAP

Reel ayleewal me bwangil 2 CMC 4141 et seq, PUBLIC PURPOSE LAND EXCHANGE AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 1987, nge Division of Public Lands e arongaar towap, igha e mangiyi ebwe lliiwelo faluw iye e toolong faluw kka faa. Aramasye e tipali nge emmwel ebwe tingor ebwe yoor hearing, reel inamwo lliiwelil falaw fa Aramasye e (tinali nge emmwel ye re tinali reel kkanasal faluw, nge rebwe aghuley ngali Division of Public Lands, under the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, wool me ngare mmwal December 6, 1999. Ngare eyoor tingor bwe ebwe yoor hearing, nge rebwe ayora reel tali faluw kka faal, nge rebwe tooto wool December 9, 1999, otol ye 9:00 a.m. melloi Division of Public Lands Conference Room.

AMMWELEER TOWLAP	LAND EXCHANGE
LU'W PRIBET	- Saipan Tract/Lot Numuro 018 B 132-R/W, Achugao, llapal bwuley yeel nge 1,656 square meters.
FALAWEEER TOWLAP	- Saipan Tract/Lot Munuro 053 A 107 Marpi, llapal bwuley yeel nge 5,197 square meters.
	- Saipan Tract/Lot Numuro 144 E 03, Capitol Hill, llapal bwuley yeel nge 2,030 square meters.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

SIXTH CNMI STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Notice of Public Hearing

This is to inform the general public that the State Board of Education will conduct a public hearing to discuss the site for the new high school. The hearing will be conducted at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe on Wednesday, December 1, 1999 at 6:00 p.m.

Nutisia Para Huntan Pubbleku

Este na nutisia put para u ma enfotma i pupbleku na para U ma kondukta huntan pupbleku ni Board of Education put para u ma ekkungok i minalago' i pupbleku siha gi ayu na asuntu i manu ni para u mahatsa i nuebo na high school. Para u ma kondukta este na hunta guato gi Multi-Purpose Center giya Susupe gi Huebes na ha' ane Disembre diha 1, 1999 gi oran alas sais (6:00) gi pupuenge.

Arongorong Towlap

Yaasch State Board of Education emwuschel orongaar towap me aramas iye emwuschel ebwe issiissilong mangemang reel igha rebwe ayuuwta imwal High School iye. Ebwe yoor yeelagh me Multi-Purpose Center me Susupe wool Metkolis, December 1, 1999 atol 6:00 p.m.

Myanmar asylum-seekers leave for the United States

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Thirty-three Myanmar dissident refugees have departed Thailand for resettlement in the United States this month, a U.S. embassy spokesperson said Monday.

They are being received by sponsor groups and individuals across the United States. A further 23 will leave Dec. 2, the spokesperson said on customary condition of anonymity.

Thailand wants to find third countries for all of the estimated 3,000 Myanmar dissidents on its soil, following the siege of the Myanmar embassy in Bangkok by rebel pro-democracy students Oct. 1-2.

Most of them are students who fled from Myanmar after a crackdown against a popular uprising for civilian rule in 1988 in which thousands were gunned down by the military.

The hostage-taking incident at the embassy by armed raiders has prompted Thai authorities to clampdown on the movement of student exiles, many of whom are encamped near the Thai-Myanmar border.

The spokesperson said the 56 refugees had applied for asylum four months ago and their acceptance this month was unrelated to Thailand's wish to speed up resettlements.

But the United States was interested in taking more Myanmar exiles in the future, although no fixed quota has been set, she said.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees has said at least eight countries, mostly in Europe, have expressed willingness to accept Myanmar students, whose democratic leanings are believed to still make it dangerous for them to return to military-run Myanmar.

Taiwan: China missiles are closer than reported

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — New Chinese missiles that can threaten Taiwan are being deployed closer to the island than previously reported, a newspaper quoted intelligence officials as saying Monday.

China is building a new missile base at Xianyou in China's southeastern province of Fujian, 200 kilometers (124 miles) from Taiwan, the United Daily News quoted the unidentified officials saying.

The base's location puts all of Taiwan, including islands off the east coast, within the reach of the advanced CSS-7 short-range missiles, also known as advanced M-11s, the paper said.

Last week, The Washington Times reported China is deploying nearly 100 of the missiles at the base, which the newspaper said was 445 kilometers (275 miles) from Taiwan.

The U.S. paper misidentified the location of the base, but the rest of the report was "basically correct," the United Daily News quoted the official as saying.

The Times could not be immediately reached for comment early Monday because of the 13-hour time difference between Taipei and Washington.

Last week, Defense Minister Tang Fei said Taiwan's spies had already detected plans by China to make the new deployments, and said the missiles were clearly aimed at Taiwan.

Miao Yung-ching, deputy chief of the general staff, on Monday refused to confirm the United Daily News report on the location of the base.

But he said Taiwan's intelligence gathering network "fully ascertains" deployments of new Chinese missiles.

Taiwan and China divided amid civil war in 1949, and Beijing continues to consider the island a breakaway province that must be reunified with the mainland by force if necessary.

China rattled nerves on Taiwan by lobbing missiles into waters near the island in 1995 and 1996 as part of a campaign of intimidation against supporters of the island's sovereignty.

The threat of missile attack has fed calls here for an anti-missile shield to use air defense missiles to knock down incoming Chinese missiles.

Clinton signs 2000 budget

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton, after a year of quarreling with Congress, got the last word on the budget Monday as he signed a mammoth \$390 billion spending plan. He said it represents progress but "leaves some challenges unmet."

Sitting at a wooden table in the Rose Garden, the president was surrounded by police officers and teachers as he used 20 pens to write his name. It was a chilly day and he wore a sweater vest under his suit.

Clinton passed out 11 pens to members of Congress at the ceremony. The measure earmarked \$1.3 billion for a seven-year plan to hire 100,000 teachers to reduce class size in early grades.

It also included \$595 million for the first installment of a program to hire 50,000 community police by 2005. Further, it provided \$926 million for unpaid U.N. dues and \$1.8 billion to implement the Middle East peace accord reached at Wye River, Md. But the year ended with a long list of disappointments for Clinton.

He failed to win any increase in the minimum wage, was denied an increase in cigarette taxes and lost battles for tougher gun controls and stronger rights for patients in managed care programs.

Congress also rejected his proposals to extend the solvency of Social Security or Medicare programs or to add a prescription drug benefit to Medicare.

"As we celebrate what we've accomplished," Clinton said, "I ask us all to be humble and mindful of what we still have to accomplish."

However, prospects for cooperation between Republicans and Democrats likely will diminish next year amid partisan campaigns for the White House and control of Congress. There were pointed reminders of the bruising battles of the past year.

Clinton boasted that the budget "avoids risky tax cuts that would have spent hundreds of billions of dollars from the Social Security surplus and drained our ability to advance education and other important public initiatives."

Republicans still are angry about Clinton's veto of their prized \$792 billion tax cut. "We'll be back next year," Sen. Pete Domenici, R-N.M., said as he left the signing ceremony. "We'll have another major tax cut without touching Social Security and we'll see where we go." Domenici shrugged off Clinton's list of administration achievements.

"I was wondering where he got such a long list of things that he accomplished," the senator said. "I wasn't paying attention to what he wanted to do next year." But Clinton got a more enthusiastic response from Sen. Patrick Leahy, D-Vt., who came to the microphone after Domenici.

Leahy said the bill Clinton signed shows "the president is a long way from being a lame-duck president. ... He still has a great deal of clout in this town." Clinton, in his remarks, said, "Though it



President Clinton smiles following the signing of the Consolidated Appropriations Act for Fiscal Year 2000 during a bipartisan ceremony in the Rose Garden Monday in Washington. AP

leaves some challenges unmet, it represents real progress.

It is a budget for a government that lives within its means and lives up to the values of the American people. ... It maintains the fiscal discipline that has turned deficits into surpluses and gives us what will be in February the longest economic expansion in the history of the United States."

The president signed the bill even though he had accused the Republicans of budget gimmickery.

"There's some less-than-straightforward budgeting in this, and we think there is some wasteful spending in this bill," White House press secretary Joe Lockhart said.

But he said Clinton decided, on balance, it was a good bill.

Before signing the measure, Clinton met with budget advisers for a broad economic review to begin work on the fiscal 2001 budget he will send to Congress in February.



Younis Art Studio, Inc.

HABA ADAI AND HAPPY HOLIDAYS!

IN CELEBRATION OF THIS YEAR'S HOLIDAY SEASON, YOUNIS ART STUDIO, INC. WOULD LIKE TO ANNOUNCE THAT THE MARIANAS VARIETY AND GUAM VARIETY NEWSPAPERS WILL NOT BE PUBLISHED ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

- DECEMBER 27, 1999 (MONDAY)
- DECEMBER 28, 1999 (TUESDAY)
- JANUARY 3, 2000 (MONDAY)

THANK YOU FOR YOUR UNDERSTANDING AND HAVE A WONDERFUL CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

PROCUREMENT & SUPPLY CNMI GOVERNMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP00-0015

Governor Pedro P. Torio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Director of Procurement and Supply, are soliciting competitive proposals from qualified individuals or firms consistent with governmental procurement and acquisition processes, for the development and implementation of a comprehensive, systems based, fixed asset management program.

The scope of work for the project may be obtained at the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan.

All proposals must be signed. One (1) original and two (2) copies for each proposal must be submitted to the Division of Procurement and Supply in a sealed envelope marked RFP00-0015. The opening will be on December 10, 1999 at 10:00 a.m. Any proposals received after the deadline will not be accepted.

Proposals will be evaluated on the basis of the following:

- Technical Proposal
 - 40% Experience in similar or related projects
 - 25% Demonstrated understanding of requirements
 - 20% Technical expertise of principals and proposed staff
 - 15% Approach to the project

Price is also a factor for consideration and price will be evaluated in comparison with the overall merit of proposals. Technical merit is more important than price and the Government reserves the right to award to other than the lowest priced proposal. As proposals become more equal in technical merit, the importance of price will increase.

The CNMI Government reserves the right to reject any or all proposals or to waive any defects, if it is the best interest of the government. All proposals will become the property of the Division of Procurement and Supply.

Inquiries should be directed to Robert Florian, Executive Assistant to the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply at telephone number (670) 664-1514, fax number 664-1515.

LUCY D.G. NELSON
Secretary of Finance

HERMAN S. SABLON
Director, Division of Procurement & Supply



Taiwanese soldiers stand on top of M-42 anti-aircraft tanks as they fire shells during practice drills Thursday off the southeastern coast of China's Fujian province, to prepare for aggression by the Communist regime in Beijing. AP

Ex-Kim legal adviser is under scrutiny in corruption scandal

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — A former presidential legal adviser was questioned Monday by an independent counsel in an alleged furs-for-favors scandal involving the wives of some ex-Cabinet ministers.

Park Ju-sun resigned as the chief presidential legal adviser last week amid allegations that he covered up the scandal, which has tarnished the image of President Kim Dae-jung's reformist government.

Park admitted that he passed an internal government report on the

case to an ex-justice minister whose wife was implicated in the scandal, dubbed "Furgate" by local media.

The report, leaked to the press last week, cleared the ex-justice minister's wife of involvement in the scandal, contrary to findings by the independent counsel.

Before leaving for Manila for a meeting of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations last weekend, President Kim ordered a thorough investigation and punishment of anyone found guilty in the scandal.

The scandal stems from Choi Soon-young, the chairman of South Korean life insurance giant Shindongah Group who is under trial on corruption charges. He was arrested in February on embezzlement and other charges.

The businessman's wife allegedly offered fur coats and other expensive clothes to the wives of some former Cabinet ministers to seek leniency for her jailed husband.

The justice and unification ministers resigned last summer after the scandal was widely reported by local media.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Office of Vocational Rehabilitation

PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENT

The Office of Vocational Rehabilitation counselor will be making a monthly visitation to the island of Tinian on:

Date: December 03, 1999
Day: Friday
Time: 8:30 am to 4:30 am
Place: Tinian Health Center

Contact Person: Lorenda Cruz
433-9333

If you or anyone you know have a disability and wants to know more about our program and services we provide, such as rehabilitation for employment, transition, supported employment and independent living services, you may contact us at these numbers:

- * Toll Free: 433-2010 (call will ring at the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation in Saipan)
- * TDD: 322-6449
- * Fax: 322-6536

Or you may contact the respective person listed above.

Internet battle in Congress

WASHINGTON (AP) — When Mike McCurry was spokesman for President Clinton and Susan Molinari was a congresswoman from New York, they often were on opposite sides. McCurry pushed the Democratic president's agenda and Molinari was a leader of the new House Republican majority.



Mike McCurry



Susan Molinari

Today, they are working together, pushing legislation that would allow regional telephone companies, including Bell Atlantic and SBC Communications, to provide high-speed Internet connections.

Their lobbying of Congress and federal regulators could help determine how millions of consumers receive high-speed Internet access - dozens of times faster than today's dial-up connections - and a new generation of telephone and television services.

"It's a classic battle," said Rep. Billy Tauzin, R-La., chairman of the House telecommunications subcommittee that is at the center of the fight.

"It's a race to the doorstep of America. Whoever can get there first is going to win." Aligned against them are another pair of former political opposites: former Rep. Bill

Paxon, R-N.Y., who is Molinari's husband; and former Rep. Vic Fazio, D-Calif.

In 1994, Paxon and Fazio led their parties' House campaign committees. Now they represent a coalition led by AT&T, which is spending more than \$100 billion to buy cable television companies and upgrade their lines to provide high-speed Internet access and local phone service.

A third coalition, which wants to open the cable lines to all comers and is spearheaded by America Online, features two others from opposite sides of the political spectrum: Richard Bond, a former chairman of the Republican National Committee, and Greg Simon, onetime domestic policy adviser to Vice

President Al Gore.

Hiring these big names is like buying a skeleton key: It opens doors. And they're helping the communications companies force their issues onto the legislative agenda. "It impresses members that this is a subject matter they ought to pay attention to," Tauzin said. "They say, 'I've got to learn something about this.'"

Most of the lobbying centers on how much the Federal Communications Commission should - or should not - do to regulate cable and phone lines. Some interests want Congress to modify the law

in their favor.

All of the companies believe consumers eventually will choose one supplier for local and long distance phone service, cable TV and high-speed Internet access, and they are jockeying for that business.

Molinari, who left the House for a short-lived job on a TV news show, and McCurry are featured in newspaper and radio ads.

They also visit newspaper editorial boards and travel to Capitol Hill together to make their pitch.

"It's just another campaign," Molinari said. "It's strategy, it's believing in your argument, it's timing, it's negotiation."

In many ways, it is a campaign, whether it's a campaign to get yourself elected or to get a bill passed." Molinari and McCurry spent a couple of weeks learning the jargon and technical issues.

"I haven't seen as dense a subject matter since I first stepped up to the State Department podium," said McCurry, who was department

spokesman before going to the White House. "It was learning a whole new language."

You feel completely inadequate as you listen to all these 30-year-old guys breeze through this stuff."

On the other side, Paxon and Fazio were in Congress when the telecommunications deregulation bill passed in 1996; Paxon was a member of the House Commerce Committee that drafted the legislation. "Not only do we know the system and the players, we know the issue," Paxon said.

"We've been actively involved in the legislation and we have a personal interest in making sure that the telecommunications act we helped shepherd through Congress works." Still, how effective these big-name lobbyists are remains to be seen.

"It's always nice to see your former colleagues," said Commerce Committee chairman Thomas Bliley Jr., R-Va., "but I disagreed with them when they were here, so it's no different than disagreeing with them when they're not here."

Former Houston mayor indicted

BATON ROUGE, La. (AP) — Former Houston Mayor Fred Hofheinz was indicted Monday on charges he paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in bribes to advance ventures such as building a juvenile prison and bringing a pro basketball team to New Orleans. Hofheinz, 61, was indicted along with two businessmen on bribery, conspiracy and extortion charges as a result of a long-running investigation of former Louisiana Gov. Edwin Edwards' administration.

The federal grand jury said one of the indicted businessmen, longtime Edwards associate Cecil Brown, demanded and received bribes from Hofheinz over three projects Hofheinz was planning in Louisiana during the mid-1990s, while Edwards was in office.

None of the projects material-

ized. In addition to the prison and basketball plans, Hofheinz allegedly was connected to Evergreen Global Resources, a company that was seeking a contract to convert New Orleans garbage into usable products.

The company was owned by Guy Thompson, the other man indicted. Hofheinz paid hundreds of thousands of dollars in cash and agreed to a \$1.3 million fee contract with Brown, according to the indictment.

Thompson agreed to Brown's demand for a 5 percent commission from Evergreen, the indictment said.

If convicted, Hofheinz and Brown could get up to five years on the conspiracy count and on each of three bribery counts.

Brown also could get up to 20 years on each of four extortion

counts. Thompson could face 21/2 years. Hofheinz served as mayor from 1974 to 1977 and has been practicing law in Houston ever since, though he made a failed comeback bid for mayor in 1989.

His father, the late Roy Hofheinz, served as mayor in the 1950s and later was largely credited with getting the Astrodome built. Fred Hofheinz was expecting Monday's indictments.

He told the Houston Chronicle on Sunday that the allegations are untrue and stem from the government's decades-long attempts to convict Edwards.

"This matter would not be happening if not for the U.S. attorney's interest in Edwin Edwards," Hofheinz said.

There was no answer at Hofheinz's house on Monday, and his lawyer did not return calls for comment.



Kweisi Mfume, president of the NAACP (far right), speaks during a hearing on racial diversity in network television employment and programming Monday in Los Angeles.

Dissidents blame Arafat

JERUSALEM (AP) — Despite a string of arrests and the threat of further punishment, Palestinian dissidents refused Monday to retract a stinging manifesto that blames Yasser Arafat for widespread government corruption.

Influriated by the allegations, the Palestinian leader moved swiftly to silence his critics. He ordered 11 of the signatories arrested hours after the document was released Sunday, and urged parliament to lift the immunity of the nine others, all lawmakers, at a special session Wednesday.

Arafat aides said he was stung because he was named directly. Past allegations of widespread government corruption have focused on Arafat advisers and Cabinet ministers, while sparing the Palestinian leader.

Nabil Amr, an Arafat adviser, said the lawmakers had refused to back down or sign a retraction and apology.

"This is a matter of principle," said legislator Rawiya Shawa, a signatory from Gaza City. "We are not seeking to create a revolution, but we seek to expedite the improvement of the management in the Palestinian Authority institutions."

At Bir Zeit University, the most prestigious in the West Bank, hundreds of students cheered signatory Abdel Jawad Saleh, a legislator and former Cabinet minis-



Yasser Arafat

ter. "We will not be silent about this corruption," Saleh said.

Arafat's critics say hundreds of millions of dollars in Palestinian Authority income are unaccounted for each budget year, including revenue from the government's monopoly on the import and sale of cement and fuel.

Public opinion polls have indicated that Arafat's government is widely perceived as corrupt by the Palestinians.

The complaints range from rampant nepotism to mismanagement to actual fraud. The declaration said "the president of the Palestinian Authority has opened the doors to corruption" and urged the Palestinians to "stand together against this tyranny and corruption."

Several of those arrested had long records of fighting against Israeli occupation of the West

Bank and Gaza Strip. Ahmed Qatamesh, a leader of the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine, a radical PLO faction, served six years in an Israeli prison without charges or trial.

Bassam Shaka, a former mayor of the West Bank's largest city,

Nablus, was under Israeli house arrest for five years.

Two of the 11, including Shaka, were placed under house arrest by Arafat. A Palestinian security official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said it was possible several of those arrested would be

tried by a state security court. The only woman among those held, Ismat Shahkshir, is permitted to spend nights at home, but has to report back to the Nablus police station each morning. Arafat's advisers said the dissidents had gone too far.

Historic week ahead for N. Ireland

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) — Northern Ireland's rival parties gathered Monday to form a Protestant-Catholic coalition that will bring together bitter enemies and, for the first time in a troubled generation, wield power in local hands.

Monday's session of the Northern Ireland Assembly — the only branch of local government yet formed under terms of last year's Good Friday peace accord — is to confirm who will hold which posts in a 12-member Cabinet drawn equally from the province's British Protestant and Irish Catholic parties.

The breakthrough came more than a year's deadlock after possible after the major Protestant party, the Ulster Unionists, narrowly voted Saturday to drop its long-held policy of requiring Irish Republican Army disarmament before the Cabinet's formation.

Ulster Unionist leader David Trimble has already received the top post of First Minister.

The posts are being allocated in accordance with the strength of the province's main four parties: four Ulster Unionists, four members of the moderate Catholic Social Democratic and Labor Party, including the No. 2 post; two from the hardline Protestant Democratic Unionist Party, and two for the IRA-linked Sinn Fein party.

Sinn Fein's two candidates are an Irish-language schoolteacher from Catholic west Belfast, Bairbre de Brun, and the IRA's reputed former senior commander, Martin McGuinness.

Both of the Democratic Unionists' likely candidates, Peter Robinson and Nigel Dodds, have been targets for IRA assassins and have vowed never to sit in the same Cabinet room as McGuinness.

The president of the neighbor-

ing Irish Republic, Mary McAleese, a Belfast-born Catholic said she was proud of Trimble and his Protestant followers.


"Trust is a big issue and they have taken a leap of faith," she said. "I know they will be repaid grandly by a new sense of relationship that, please God, we will create between us."

Sinn Fein leader Gerry Adams said the coming week "heralds the start of the possibility of new politics on the island of Ireland."

But Adams had harsh words for Trimble, who persuaded his skeptical party to change its policy only on condition that he convene another party voting session in February. In effect, Trimble made his party's participation within the Cabinet — and his own future as Ulster Unionist leader — dependent on a start to IRA disarmament in January.

First Anniversary Mass

We, the family of the late,



NANCY SABLAN IGINIOEF

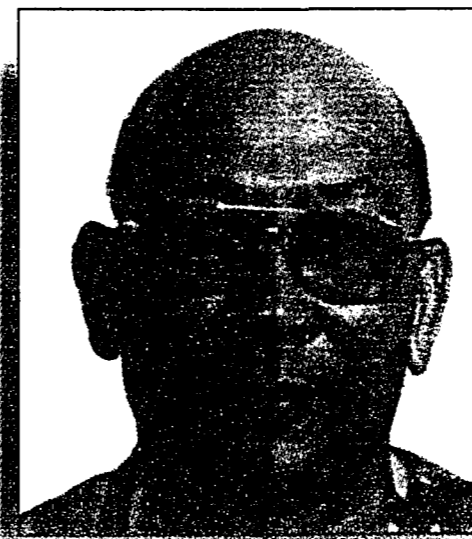
would like to invite all relatives and friends to join them in daily masses to be offered on December 03, 1999 to December 11, 1999 at the following Churches.

Daily Mass Schedule:

December 03, 1999	- San Antonio Church	- 6:00 p.m.
December 04, 1999	- Kristo Rai Church	- 6:00 p.m.
December 05, 1999	- San Antonio Church	- 8:00 a.m.
December 06, 1999	- San Vicente Church	- 6:00 p.m.
December 07, 1999	- San Antonio Church	- 6:00 p.m.
December 08, 1999	- San Antonio Church	- 8:00 a.m.
December 09, 1999	- St. Jude Church	- 6:00 p.m.
December 10, 1999	- San Antonio Church	- 6:00 p.m.
December 11, 1999	- San Antonio Church	- 6:00 a.m.

We also invite you to join us for breakfast. On the final day of Mass on December 11, 1999 at the San Antonio Church Pavillion.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT



GREGORIO SANTOS SABLAN

BETTER KNOWN AS "GORU POP/GABY"

Born: April 9, 1933
Died: November 27, 1999

PRE-DECEASED BY:

Wife: Victoria Manibusan Sablan
Son: Thomas C. Sablan
Grandson: Antonio S. Sablan (Jun Jun)
Parents: Tomas Palacios Sablan; Rita Santos and Isabel Cabrera Sablan
Parents-in-law: Jose, Antonia and Ana Benavente Manibusan
Brothers and Sisters: Vicente S. Sablan, Saledad S. Basa, Rita S. Mettao and Joaquin C. Sablan
Brothers/Sisters-in-law: Francisco C. Basa, Fernando M. Benavente, Francisca Vicenta M. Sablan, Nicolasa M. Cepeda, Rita M. Santos, Rufina and Pedro Tudela, Jeronimo and Candelaria Manibusan, Sylvia and Antonio Cabrera, Vicente and Maria Manibusan, Josepha and Santiago Camacho

SURVIVED BY HIS CHILDREN:

Rita S. and Juan Diego Celis
Edward and Lucy S. Sablan
Ramon and Lucy I. Sablan
Antonio and Mohana Sablan
Antonio S. and Serafin Tudela
Donald and Mary Sablan

Gregorio Jr. and Vicky Sablan
Roy and Esther Sablan
Rita Ann S. Magofna
Gerald, Richard and Marvin Sablan
Sharlyn, Shelley and George Sablan

Grandchildren, Great Grandchildren, Uncles, Aunties, Cousins, Nephews and Nieces
Brothers, Sisters & In-law: Maria M. Sablan
Faustina S. Benavente
Ana S. and Henry T. Indalecio
Jesus S. and Rita G. Sablan
Juana S. and Daniel T. Muna
Natividad C. Sablan
Matilde S. and Martin M. Taisacan
Manuel and Consolacion C. Sablan
Raphael M. Mettao
Maria and Juan L. Ada
Maria and Alfredo Gonzales
Thomas C. Sablan
Isabel and Melchor U. Maratita
Pedro and Ignacia M. Sablan

Margarita and Jose T. Castro
Bernadita and Isidro T. Cabrera
Grace C. Sablan
Vicente I. Cepeda
Juan and Daisy Santos
Abraham and Bernadita Manibusan
Luis and Violeta Manibusan
Casiano and Elsie Matsunaga
Francisco and Nelda Manibusan
Maria and Moses Sebatang
Inocencia and Francisco Palacios
Dolores Manibusan
Lydia and Sen. Paul Manglona

Nightly rosary is being said at San Antonio Church at 7:00 p.m. The body will leave CHC at 8:00 a.m., Saturday December 4, 1999 for viewing at San Antonio Church. Mass will be said at 2:00 p.m. followed by Christian burial at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase Ginen I Familia

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235-6516

6 new planets 'found'

WASHINGTON (AP) — An international team of astronomers has found evidence of six new planets orbiting distant stars, bringing to 28 the planets known to exist outside of the solar system.

The astronomers announced Monday that all the newly discovered planets are about the size of Jupiter or larger and they all orbit stars 65 to 192 light years from Earth. At least five of them, given

their distance from their stars, could have liquid water, a fundamental requirement for life, the researchers said. The planets' presence was discovered by measuring a very slight motion distortion,

or wobble, of the target star. The wobble is caused by the gravitational pull from a planet that orbits the star.

The astronomy team includes Steven Vogt and Geoffrey Marcy of the University of California; Paul Butler of the Carnegie Institution of Washington, and Kevin Apps of the University of Sussex, England. The group discovered many of the other extrasolar system planets.

A report on their findings will be published in the Astrophysical Journal. All of the newfound planets are thought to be giant balls of hydrogen and helium gas, similar to Jupiter.

Most of the extrasolar planets circle their parent stars in eccentric, oval-shaped orbits. One of the newly discovered planets dips to within 36 million miles (57.6 million kilometers) of its star and then swings out to more than 214 million miles (342.4 million kilometers).

"It is beginning to look like neatly stacked, circular orbits such as we seen in our own solar system are relatively rare," Vogt said in a statement.

The Earth orbits the sun in an almost circular orbit of about 93 million miles (148.8

million kilometers). The Earth-to-sun distant is called an astronomical unit, or AU, and is a value astronomers use to express planetary distances.

Five of the six new planets are within what is called the habitable zone.

This is a region around a star where temperatures would allow liquid water to exist. Planets and moons inside the habitable zone are thought to be too hot for liquid water, and those outside the zone are thought to be too cold.

"These planets are at just the right distance, with temperatures in one case around 108 degrees F — (42 C) like a hot day in Sacramento," said Vogt.

It is unlikely that an Earth-sized planet could coexist with the newly discovered planets, said Vogt. The presence of the Jupiter-sized planets at their orbital distance from the host stars would cause smaller planets to be ejected from around the star.

This does not happen to the Earth because Jupiter orbits far outside the Earth's orbital path.

Any moons orbiting the planets within the habitable zone, said Vogt, "offer the possibility of liquid water and the eventual emergence of life."

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Labor and Immigration Division of Labor PUBLIC NOTICE

ATTENTION:
LIMITED IMMUNITY REGISTRANTS AND EMPLOYERS.

December 2, 1999 will be the last day to submit One (1) Year Non-resident Worker Applications for registrants of the Limited Immunity Act. Failure to comply with this notice will result in referrals to the Division of Immigration for repatriation or deportation proceedings.

For more information, call #664-3191/2000 before the deadline date.

通告
注意:
有限制性免稅條例的登記者和雇主

在十二月二日一九九九年，將是最后一天提交一年有效的外籍勞工申請書，這只是對於那些有限制性免稅條例的登記者和雇主。如果沒有遵照以上通告內的日期申請，登記者和雇主的姓名將會轉交給移民局查辦，登記者將會被遣返回國或驅逐出境。

如果有任何疑問請在截止期限以前打 664-3191 或 664-2000。

GIJ M. SAN NICOLAS
Director of Labor

MARK D. ZACHARIS
Secretary of Labor & Immigration

GIJ M. SAN NICOLAS
勞工局長

MARK D. ZACHARIS
勞工局和移民局長

PAUNAWA

SA LAHAT NG MGA EMPLOYER AT MANGGAGAWANG NAGREHISTRO PARA SA LIMITED IMMUNITY.

SA DISYEMBRE 2, 1999 ANG HULING ARAW O DEADLINE NG PAG-SUMITE NG ISANG TAONG NONRESIDENT WORKER APPLICATION PARA SA MGA MANGGAGAWA NA NAGREHISTRO SA LIMITED IMMUNITY. ANG SINUMANG HINDI MAKATUPAD RITO AY MAAARING MAPAUWI O MAPADEPORT NG DIVISION OF IMMIGRATION.

PARA SA KARAGDAGANG IMPORMASYON, TUMAWAG SA TELEPONO: 664-3191/2000 BAGO SUMAPIT ANG DEADLINE.

PAUNAWA
公告

有限制性免稅登錄者及僱用者へ

来る1999年12月2日は制限付免稅法に基づく登録者のための、1年間有効の外国人労働許可申請書の提出の最終日となっています。この公告に述べたかった場合は、移民局の本国送還又は、国外送還指前部門に回付されることとなります。

なお、疑問がある場合は申請最終期限前日までに664-3191/2000にご連絡下さい。

ジル M. サンニコラス
労働局長

マーク D. ザカレス
労働・移民管理局長

PUBLIC NOTICE
공고
ATTENTION:
주의

LIMITED IMMUNITY REGISTRANTS AND EMPLOYERS.
고용자(종업원)와 고용주에게 사전 등록 의무 부과

December 2, 1999 will be the last day to submit One (1) Year Nonresident Worker Applications for registrants of the Limited Immunity Act. Failure to comply with this notice will result in referrals to the Division of Immigration for repatriation or deportation proceedings.

For more information, call #664-3191/2000 before the deadline date.

종이 자세한 정보를 원하시면 Tel. 664-3191/2000으로 마감일전에 전화하십시오.

GIJ M. SAN NICOLAS
Director of Labor

MARK D. ZACHARIS
Secretary of Labor & Immigration

노동부장
이민관리 노동청 장관

Hand transplant succeeds

LOUISVILLE, Ky. (AP) — Everyday tasks - right down to tying shoelaces - are becoming easier for Matthew Scott, the nation's first recipient of a hand transplant.

Scott, 38, is using his left hand to open doors without having to tell himself what he needs to do every step of the way, said Anne Hodges, who was his physical therapist during his three-month recovery in Louisville.

And, although it's a struggle, he has been using his new fingers to tie his shoes for about a month. "He can't do it fast, and he doesn't do it every day because it's not easy for him. But he can do it," Hodges said in a news release Saturday.

Hodges, who talks on the phone and writes to Scott every week or two, added that "his sensation is improving, and he's doing more with his hand that's automatic. He doesn't have to think about it."

Scott couldn't be reached for comment but said in a Thanksgiving news release that he was "most thankful for the courage and generosity of the donor family. It was their compassion that

made this unbelievable gift possible."

Scott, of Absecon, N.J., received his new hand during 15 hours of surgery performed by doctors from Kleinert, Kutz Hand Care Center and the University of Louisville medical school at Jewish Hospital in January.

Some doctors criticized the surgery, saying the risks posed by the drugs Scott must take for the rest of his life to prevent his body from rejecting the new hand outweigh the benefits. Scott lost his left hand in a firecracker accident almost 14 years ago.

Formerly a paramedic, he now is a manager for an emergency medical service, and he teaches paramedic courses at a college near his home.

Dr. Warren Breidenbach, head of the team of surgeons who performed the transplant, said Scott's recent progress is encouraging.

But Breidenbach cautioned that it's too soon to rule out the possibility that more surgery may be needed to make sure the progress continues. Scott was scheduled for a checkup in Louisville in January.

Yen gains, euro down

NEW YORK (AP) — Currency traders pushed the yen even higher and the euro even lower on Monday, undeterred by efforts from Japanese and European financial authorities to reverse both trends.

Despite a strong defense of the euro in a speech by European Central Bank president Wim Duisenberg, the unified currency for 11 European nations sank nearly to a level equal to the dollar, reaching a new low of dlr 1.0039 in early New York trading.

In later trading, the euro recovered somewhat to \$ 1.0095, which was still below its previous level of \$ 1.0156 late Friday.

Investors have been reacting nervously to a German government bailout of a lead-

ing construction company and to its opposition to a takeover bid for Germany's telecom company Mannesmann AG by Vodafone Airtouch PLC of Britain.

They see both moves as signs that Germany's left-leaning leaders, especially Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder, may not adhere to free-market economic principles.

In other trading, the dollar rose back against the yen but did not hold on to all its gains against the Japanese currency following dollar-buying intervention in markets Monday by Japan's central bank.

In late trading, the dollar was quoted at 102.35 Japanese yen, up from 101.64 yen late Friday. The dollar had risen as high as 104.05 yen after the Bank of

Japan bought dollars for yen, but the dollar soon fell back to where it had been before the intervention began.

Traders brushed off the efforts by the Bank of Japan to ease back the level of the yen, which has caused worry among Japanese exporters whose overseas profits are trimmed by an overly strong currency.

The dollar also was quoted at 1.5883 Swiss francs, up from 1.5791, and 1.4745 Canadian dollars, up from 1.4681. The British pound fell slightly to dlr 1.6054 from \$ 1.6069.

Currencies of the 11 countries participating in the euro are no longer traded separately and are tied to the euro by a fixed rate. Based on Monday's

euro rate, the dollar was worth: 1.9374 German marks, up from 1.9259; 6.4978 French francs, up from 6.4591; and 1,918.04 Italian lire, up from 1,906.62.

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D.O.B.: May 19, 1962
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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

IN THE MATTER OF THE ESTATE OF DOMINGO M. BLAS, Date of Death: 2/25/97 PROBATE ACTION NO. 99-686D

NOTICE OF HEARING

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Alejandra I. Blas has petitioned this Court for Letters of Administration in the matter of the Estate of Domingo M. Blas and that a Hearing on the petition will be held on the 7th day of December, 1999 at 1:30 p.m. in Courtroom 220A at the Courthouse in Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. DATED: 11/9/99

/s/CLERK OF THE COURT

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- Fenced location, aircon in each bdrm, refrigerator, stove, water heater
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- Electricity not included.

235-4341 after 5:30 p.m.

REVOKE

Name: YUAN HONG JUN
Nationality: CHINESE

D.O.B.: January 5, 1962
If found, please contact Tel. 235-1418

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IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

DOMINIC L. FLORES, Plaintiff, vs. MARIJE E. SAJO, Defendant. FCD-DI Action No. 99-0333

SUMMONS

TO THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint for Divorce being filed against you, a copy of which is given you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of this Summons upon you, and deliver or mail a copy of your answer to the LAW OFFICES OF JOSEPH A. ARIOLA, Attorney at Law, whose address is PPO 678, PMB 1000, Garapan, Saipan, MP 96950-9000, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Court for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at the Superior Court for the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, in the House of Justice - Guma Hustia - Imwell Avenue. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with the Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

BY ORDER OF THE ABOVE COURT.
Dated this 1st day of September, 1999.

JOVITA C. FLORES
CLERK OF COURT
By/s/Deputy Clerk

Saipan . . .

Continued from page 3

dent for the year 2000 is Micronesians Brokers General Manager Hermie S. Queja.

Queja has been an active Rotary member since 1995 and is the incumbent Secretary of the club.

Prior to his term as secretary, Queja has also served as the Rotary Treasurer from 1998 to 1999.

He is also a member of the

CNMI Food and Nutrition Council (FNC).

Rotarians yesterday also voted for outgoing Northern Marianas College (NMC) President Agnes McPhetres as club Secretary for the year 2000.

She has been president of CNMI's lone college for the last 18 years but is up for a retirement this month.

McPhetres is the current Director of the Rotary Club's Community Services Committee.

The Rotary Club's present Vocational Services Director, Ed

Salas was elected as the new Treasurer for year 2000.

Succeeding Salas as head of the Vocational Services Committee is Rotarian Agnes Andres.

Meanwhile, Rotarian Maggie George has been elected to head the Community Services Committee.

Rotarian Ed Camacho will lead Rotary's Club Services Committee beginning next year.

Current Rotary President Alex Sablan was elected as Director of International Services for year 2000.

Youths . . .

Continued from page 3

Rep. David M. Apatang, in defense, said there is a rationale behind these laws.

"The \$100,000 fee was designed to eliminate small businesses on the CNMI since what we're pushing for are investors that would put in more than this amount," Apatang said.

Youth participants at yesterday's discussion were made to understand that there are no "perfect" laws.

Associate Justice of the CNMI Supreme Court, Alexandro Cruz Castro, a panelist at yesterday's event, assured students that "bad" laws can be changed, by a majority vote.

"You are our future leaders, you will be able to change it," Castro said.

Furthermore, Fitial pointed out

another "bad" law which he himself was instrumental in the making.

"The law on alienation of land (Article 12) is a bad law. It is very discriminatory. I was part of the drafting and we pushed for this because we felt that this was a protective discrimination and it was only going to be for 25 years," Fitial said.

Article 12 states that the acquisition of permanent and long-term interests in real property within the Commonwealth shall be restricted to persons of Northern Marianas descent.

Meanwhile, Apatang said that the only way any more "bad" laws can be made is if the community will continue to be non-cooperative in being part of such endeavors.

"If you want to introduce a good bill, come and participate. Attend public hearings at the Multi-Purpose Center. We need participation...bring your parents,

your family," Apatang told students.

Students during the discussion appeared mindful of what they heard from the leaders.

After the panel discussion, the organizing committee for the conference headed by Raena Bermudes assigned students into different groups for a team activity.

Each group engaged in a small debate on the pros and cons of the CNMI land alienation law.

Other dignitaries present at the conference were retired educator, now Rep.-elect Brigida DeLeon Guerrero Ichihara, Senator-elect Ramon S. Guerrero, and Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan.

The conference was put together through the efforts of the MHS Close Up Club with close collaboration with the CNMI Public School System.

The Close Up Club is an international foundation which has existed in the CNMI since 1987.

Heinz . . .

Continued from page 3

are fast dwindling due to commercial reef fishing activities.

"We are anticipating this discussion will be brought up during the public hearing and if that is the case, then we won't have any problem amending it to include restrictions on fishing within the lagoon and reef," said Hofschneider.

Hofschneider also expressed doubts on initial findings of the

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers which has indicated that the erosion going on at the pristine Mañagaha Island is "not that bad."

"Half of the pavilion (is gone) and it (erosion) is not significant? The erosion at the embankment is not significant?" he said, adding that he is still awaiting a report on the matter by the CNMI Coastal Resource Management.

Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, in October said Corps officials have told him that the erosion "is not as bad as some of the people thought."

Tenorio said the Corps has assured him they will be coming up with proposed projects that will best resolve concerns on the island's erosion.

It is being suspected that the dredging activity done by a contractor commissioned by the Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) at the Saipan channel last year has caused underwater currents near Mañagaha to change and gradually erode the island from below.

The dredging was done to enable CPA to accommodate bigger sea vessels.

Marianas Variety Classified Ads Section

Employment Wanted

Job Vacancy Announcement

PUBLIC NOTICE

All interested resident workers are urged to register at the Dept. of Labor & Immigration...

01 (ASSISTANT) TEACHER-Salary: \$5.00 per hour
01 CLASSROOM TEACHER-Salary: \$5.00 per hour

01 COST ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$800.00 per month
Contact: WESTERN SALES TRADING COMPANY

03 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 COOK-Salary: \$3.05-4.00 per hour

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

01 CARPENTER-Salary: \$4.75-5.75 per hour
Contact: GEORGE F. FLEMING dba FAS Moving & Storage Co.

01 MECHANIC, MARINE ENGINE-Salary: \$4.80 per hour
Contact: ISLANDS CRUISE LINE (SAIPAN), INC.

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$1,150.00 per month
Contact: DOLPHIN PACIFIC (SAIPAN), INC.

01 MASON-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: PUYAT & SON'S & CO., INC.

02 KITCHEN HELPER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MARIANA CORP. INC. dba Beach Garden Rest.

02 WASHING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 WELDER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$4.69 per hour
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02 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: CITY CORPORATION dba CNMI Jook Restaurant

02 PACKAGER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 ADMINS. ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

02 PACKAGER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: EXPRESS MANUFACTURING, INC.

01 ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN-Salary: \$3.05-4.00 per hour
Contact: CANDIDO M. MARTIN dba Topnots Audio-Video Shop

02 BEAUTICIAN-Salary: \$3.05-3.30 per hour
Contact: ROMAN T. TUDELA dba Tudela Enterprises

01 SPORTS INSTRUCTOR-Salary: \$2,250.00 per month
01 MARINE, MANAGER-Salary: \$2,000.00 per month

01 TRAVEL AGENT-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour
Contact: INTER-KAM CORPORATION dba Inter-Kam Travel Agency

01 INTERIOR DESIGNER-Salary: \$1,000.00 per month
Contact: CORAL OCEAN DESIGN, INC.

01 WAREHOUSE WORKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: DINGOLETTY A. JONES dba D/L Personnel Ser.

01 CHEF DE CUISINE-Salary: \$1,500-5,000.00 per month
01 MAINTENANCE BUILDING REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05-4.05 per hour

01 HEAVY EQUIPMENT MECHANIC-Salary: \$4.50 per hour
Contact: HAWAIIAN ROCK PRODUCTS CORPORATION

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN SDA ELEMENTARY SCHOOL

75 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
10 SEWING MACHINE REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 PUBLIC RELATIONS REPRESENTATIVE-Salary: \$580,000-1,400.00 per month
01 SOUS CHEF-Salary: \$580,000-1,400.00 per month

01 SUPERVISOR, FLOOR-Salary: \$3.30-4.80 per hour
Contact: HOTEL NIKKO SAIPAN, INC.

01 CLAIMS ADJUSTER-Salary: \$600.00-1,100.00 per month
Contact: MARIANAS INSURANCE CO., LTD.

02 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$955.00-1,300.00 per month
Contact: SAIPAN PLANT CENTER, INC.

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.50-4.00 per hour
Contact: JIM & ASSOCIATES

01 ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Plus \$100.00 housing allowance. Plus \$100.00 food allowance.

01 WELDER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
03 WASHING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 WAITRESS (RESTAURANT)-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: FENG ZE CORPORATION dba Yong An Restaurant

01 AUTO MECHANIC (MASTER)-Salary: \$6.50 per hour
Contact: JUAN M. BORJA dba MS Car Care

01 AUTOBODY REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 (ASST.) F&B MANAGER-Salary: \$500.00-785.00 bi-weekly
01 (ASSISTANT) FRONT OFFICE MANAGER-Salary: \$500.00-785.00 bi-weekly

01 (ASST.) MANAGER (OPERATION)-Salary: \$750.00-2,900.00 per month
01 WAITRESS, RESTAURANT-Salary: \$3.05-3.85 per hour

02 BARTENDER-Salary: \$3.05-3.85 per hour
03 MASSEUSE-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour

01 STORE MANAGER-Salary: \$4,000-9,000 per month
01 GENERAL MANAGER-CORPORATION dba Coral Ocean Point Resort Club

06 VIDEO CAMERA OPERATOR-Salary: \$550.00-1,700.00 per month
Contact: SAIPAN TV PRODUCTION, INC.

01 TECHNICAL OPERATOR-Salary: \$4.75-5.75 per hour
Contact: FAR EAST BROADCASTING COMPANY

02 CARPENTERS-Salary: \$3.15-3.50 per hour
01 PLUMBER-Salary: \$3.15-3.25 per hour

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary negotiable
Bachelor's degree preferably CPA
Duties includes: responsible for recording transactions, summarizing, analyzing & interpreting the result thereof.

04 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
02 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 AUTOMOBILE MECHANIC-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER BLDG.-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: BIRD ISLAND DEVELOPMENT INCORPORATED TEL. 235-6888

01 SUPERVISOR GARMENT-Salary: \$1,675.00 per month
02 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER BLDG.-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

10 IRONING (PRESSER MACHINE OPER.)-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
10 PATTERN GRADER CUTTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 FIRST AID ATTENDANT-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: UNITED INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION TEL. 235-6888

01 MAINTENANCE BUILDING REPAIR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: GOOD DAY COORDINATING INC.

01 ALUMINUM FABRICATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: RICHARD P. KAUTZ, JR. dba Kautz Glass

01 MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
02 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 MASON-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MICRONESIA WOODCRAFT ENT., INC.

DEADLINE: 12:00 noon the day prior to publication
NOTE: If some reason your advertisement is incorrect, call us immediately to make the necessary corrections.

01 COOK HELPER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: BOBBIE'S AMUSEMENT CO., INC.

04 REPORTER-Salary: \$950 per month
01 LAYOUT ARTIST-Salary: \$3.50 per hour
04 OPERATOR, PRINTING MACHINE-Salary: \$3.50 per hour

01 UPHOLSTERY REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05-4.00 per hour
01 SEWER-Salary: \$3.05-4.00 per hour

01 STEEL WORKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
03 MASON-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 SUPERVISOR, AUTO MECHANIC-Salary: \$1,090.00 per month
01 AUTO PAINTER-Salary: \$3.05-5.00 per hour

01 COOK HELPER-Salary: \$3.05-3.45 per hour
03 COOK-Salary: \$3.25-4.35 per hour

01 CHIEF COOK-Salary: \$3.25-5.60 per hour
01 (ASSISTANT) CHEF-Salary: \$3.25-4.25 per hour

01 PAINTER-Salary: \$3.25-3.35 per hour
01 F & B ORDER CLERK-Salary: \$3.05-3.80 per hour

02 CARPENTERS-Salary: \$3.15-3.50 per hour
01 PLUMBER-Salary: \$3.15-3.25 per hour

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary negotiable
Bachelor's degree preferably CPA
Duties includes: responsible for recording transactions, summarizing, analyzing & interpreting the result thereof.

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02 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 MASON-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MICRONESIA WOODCRAFT ENT., INC.

01 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 MUSICIAN-Salary: \$3.05 per hour

01 MAINTENANCE (BUILDING) REPAIR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MARCELO T. ADUCA dba Supana Hong Thai Rest.

01 MAINTENANCE MACHINE REPAIR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: JUAN P. TENORIO dba Morgen Enterprises

01 TECHNICIAN, AUTOMATIC-EQUIPMENT-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: EAST TELECOM CORPORATION

01 MANAGER-Salary: \$4.00 per hour
Contact: SUNLEADER CO. LTD. dba Sunleader Dept. Store

01 SUPERVISOR, AUTO MECHANIC-Salary: \$1,090.00 per month
01 AUTO PAINTER-Salary: \$3.05-5.00 per hour

01 COOK HELPER-Salary: \$3.05-3.45 per hour
03 COOK-Salary: \$3.25-4.35 per hour

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02 CARPENTERS-Salary: \$3.15-3.50 per hour
01 PLUMBER-Salary: \$3.15-3.25 per hour

HOUSES FOR RENT
FIVE (5) BEDROOMS, TWO BATHROOMS WITH GARAGE AND

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20' STEEL CONTAINERS @ \$1,500.00

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WANTED
LIVE-IN MAID
Good cook, cleaner and warm personality mid 30's to 45 yrs only, at least 12 months experience

FOR RENT
APARTMENT & COMMERCIAL SPACE
Location: Garapan near D/S/Hard Rock Cafe

FOR RENT
2 - Bedroom Fully Furnished
Split Type A/C on all bedroom including dining, living & kitchen

WANTED
LIVE-IN MAID
Must be able to cook & have good cleaning experience.

Computer Tutorial Services
Windows 95 & 98
Peacetime Accounting
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LOST PASSPORT
Name: CHEN YAN ZHEN
Nationality: CHINESE
Passport No.: [redacted]
D.O.B.: March 16, 1969

If found, please contact Tel. 287-8161

EEK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz



STELLA WILDER YOUR BIRTHDAY

Born today, you are one of those careful, circumspect individuals who takes stock of developments on a regular basis. You look back carefully over a given period and judge it with care and accuracy to assess any given variables in the future. Never one to take a chance when a little research can be done ahead of time, you are the perfect type to head up a major complex project consisting of many departments and many diverse people.

Also born on this date are: Simon LeBon, singer; John Cleese, actor, writer and comic; Sylvia Plath, poet and author; Dylan Thomas, poet; Theodore Roosevelt, U.S. president.

To see what is in store for you tomorrow, find your birthday and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

THURSDAY, DECEMBER 2 SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — You can expect an equitable distribution of responsibility today, but you may want to take on a little more later in the day.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You can use your imagination today to increase your own prestige and possibly add a little to your available funds as well.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — You may discover today that you've been remembered for something you did some time ago. Check your calendar and see if you're available again.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — Your willingness to go the distance will serve you well today. Someone is watching you and is ready to make an important decision about your future.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — A partnership may be threatened for a time today, but a little trust and even more hard work can keep a crisis at bay.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Someone from your distant past may appear suddenly today and make a surprise demand. You have what it takes to come through in spades.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — The unpredictable and the unconventional, though intriguing, are really not for you in the long run. Focus today on achieving more stability.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — You may be hard to pin down today, so interested are you in exploring all your options. There is no reason to limit yourself — just yet.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — You may be unusually accident-prone today, so you'll want to keep your wits about you as you travel here and there. Take precautions.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — You'll get a head start today, and enjoy a little more time off when you most need it as a result of putting in some early efforts.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You'll receive an important boost today from someone who will give your efforts a little more public credibility. Thank this person.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Any unusual behavior on your part today is likely to arouse suspicions in those closest to you at this time. Play it safe for now.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS
1 Hebrew leader
6 Baseball great
11 Flower child
12 Gap
14 — fresco
15 In — (routinized)
17 Anglo-Saxon serif
18 Agt.
20 Antique car
23 Cleo's nemesis
24 Entreat
26 Former TV host Bob
28 — "I, Brute"
29 Academy Award
31 Julia or Eric
33 Brother of Jacob
35 Actress Ward
36 Shorten
39 — "Every Mountain"

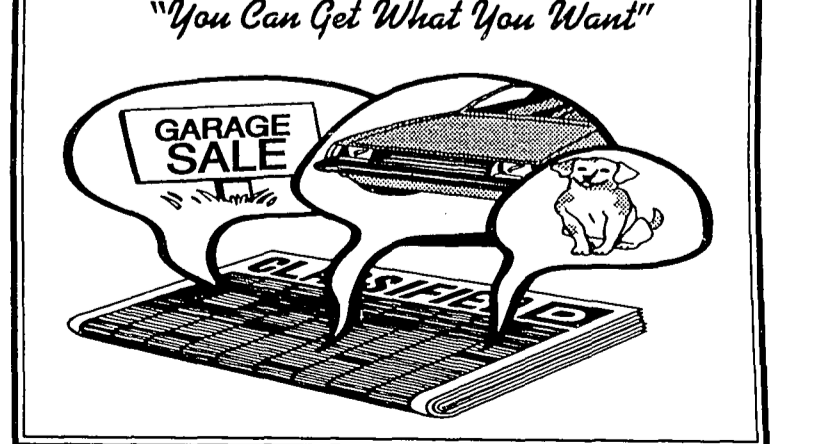
ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE
TOES DEED BSA
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AINE ERNE THAT

Crossword puzzle grid with numbers 1-39 and corresponding clues.

KidSpot™ SOLVE THE REBUS BY WRITING CLUES AND ADDING OR SUBTRACTING THE LETTERS.

Rebus puzzle featuring a pig, a car, a cat, a tent, a pencil, and a letter 'Y' with mathematical symbols.

Marianas Variety "You Can Get What You Want!"



WHEN IT'S OBVIOUS YOU NEED A NEW CAR... FIND ONE IN THE CLASSIFIED ADS!

Pete Rose starts web site petition

NEW YORK (AP)—Pete Rose is launching an Internet petition and may sue baseball to end his lifetime ban.

"You can't keep a guy from making a living," he said Monday in an interview with The Associated Press. "It's not the American way."

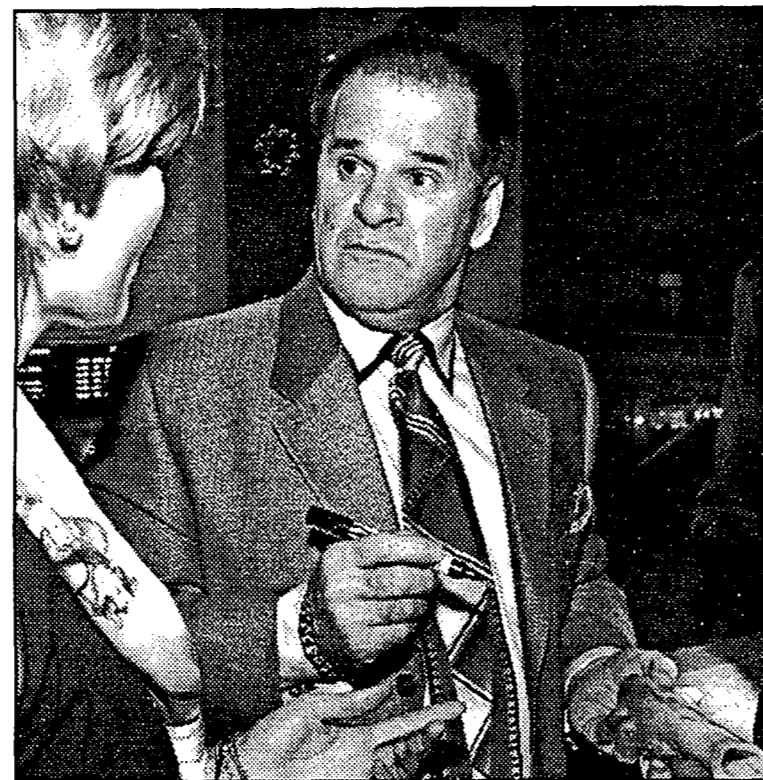
Following an investigation of his gambling, baseball's career hits leader agreed in August 1989 to a lifetime ban from the

sport. He applied for reinstatement in September 1997 and while commissioner Bud Selig has said several times that he has seen no evidence that would make him change the ban, he hasn't formally responded to Rose.

"If you find in your heart you didn't want to give me reinstatement, just write back and say, 'No,'" Rose said. "I know he has stationery. I know the

mail is delivered in Milwaukee."

Rose claimed baseball's lawyers "blackmailed" witnesses against him during its investigation 10 years ago. When pressed for details, he referred comment to his lawyer, Roger Makley, who declined comment when contacted at his Ohio office. Those who led the investigation at the time, Fay Vincent and John Dowd, denied Rose's accusation.



Baseball legend Pete Rose signs an autograph on a bone for Shyanna Moore at New York's Grand Central Terminal, Monday. Rose is launching an Internet petition and may sue baseball to end his lifetime ban. AP

Man. . .

Continued from page 1

you. She tried to run but you chased her. You are a dangerous rapist," Ngraklesong told Tadashi. "Unfortunately for you, your victim is a brave woman; she refused to let you get away with your crime."

Tadashi was convicted of rape and assault and battery after a four-day trial last month.

After the sentencing Tuesday morning, Tadashi was handcuffed and escorted to the patrol car on the way to the prison. The victim heaved a sigh of relief.

"I'm glad it's over," she told Palau Horizon after the sentencing hearing.

"It was a nightmare. It tortures my mind whenever I recall it," she added.

Tadashi sexually abused the 25-year-old woman in the early morning of Feb. 11, according to an investigation report.

She was stranded at the Crystal Palace in Koror after failing to get a ride home. Tadashi offered her a ride but instead of driving her home, he sped off toward Koror Bridge.

Despite the woman's repeated requests to be taken home, Tadashi drove towards Airai.

When Tadashi parked the car, the woman tried to run away, but her assailant chased and grabbed her. She fell to the ground, causing a severe injury that required stitches on her head.

Tadashi forced her to return to the car, and there, "forced her to engage in oral sex and sexual intercourse."

During the trial, Tadashi admitted to having sexual intercourse with the woman, but claimed it was

a consensual act. The court, however was presented with facts and evidence that contradicted Tadashi's claim. Bloodstains were found on the seat, floor and roof of the defendant's vehicle.

"I'm glad that justice prevailed," Philippine Consul General Antonio Curameng said. "I want to reiterate my admiration for [the woman] for pursuing the case to a successful conclusion. Where those similarly situated would not risk to come out in the open, she has relentlessly sought justice for herself and. If that is not courage, I don't know what it is," Curameng added.

Curameng also commended Carrara for "his dedication in handling the prosecution face to face with the forceful arguments of Gary Soberay, himself a dedicated public defender."

sign notes obligating Suwaso to pay Hyakumata, amounts in excess of \$20 million.

The complaint said the actual costs paid by Hyakumata, however, were only \$10 million.

"In the years since the construction of the project, Hyakumata and Terada have repeatedly misrepresented to Grizzard that the cost of construction was \$20 million and supported that figure with various documents that have been sent over international wire facilities and through the mail," Fitzgerald said.

Based on Hyakumata's claim, Hyakumata and Terada caused Imai to remit more than \$11 million from Suwaso in Saipan to Hyakumata's accounts at the Umeda Branch of the Sumitomo Bank in Osaka, Japan through international wire facilities.

During the same period, Fitzgerald said, Hyakumata, Terada and Imai conspired to transfer large amounts of Japanese yen to Terada and Hyakumata by personally carrying the money in cash on their person through the Saipan airport and on to Osaka without filing the customs report required by federal and local law.

The complaint said Terada permitted Imai to misappropriate large amounts of Suwaso funds, and convert them to his own use, and in fact to use the Suwaso accounts as if they were his own personal accounts.

Court papers said that in the

summer of 1998, Imai reported to Grizzard that he had discovered that Hyakumata and Terada had made misrepresentations to the company and had been defrauding the firm.

Imai asked for Grizzard's support in uncovering the fraud and demanding an accounting.

Grizzard agreed and in the course of the litigation, he confirmed the fraud that had been perpetrated upon Suwaso by Terada, Hyakumata and Imai.

Fitzgerald said the defendants having conspired together in converting corporate funds to their own use, belatedly realized that the litigation would bring their misdeeds to light and settled the suit promising Grizzard that a full accounting would be provided to him.

"Suwaso over the past 10 years has brought in over \$100 million in revenue, yet no dividend has ever been paid because Hyakumata, Terada and Imai have converted substantial sums of Suwaso money to their own use," Fitzgerald said.

Terada and Imai assured Grizzard that a full accounting and investigation by the board would be conducted.

"The board, however, has refused to conduct an accounting and has ignored and hidden the evidence of the fraud, placing Imai and Terada, who had each accused the other of defrauding the company in the positions of president and chairman of the board of directors," Fitzgerald added.

R&F. . . Continued from page 28

Cartown Auto Shop and Sablan Construction Co. with 14.5 points, half-a-point behind Fortune.

On seventh is Computer World with 14 points. Saipan Supply is on eighth and last place with 11.5.

Sponsored by Coca Cola Beverage Co. Micronesia, Inc., the double round-robin tournament is held every Sunday at Afetia Square Building in San Antonio. Games begin at 1 p.m. Time control is two hours per player per game.

For more information, call Manny Domingo at 235-3030, or Almer Santos at 235-7320.

Task. . .

Continued from page 1

allegedly done wrong, yes, but they are still human beings," said Guerrero.

Guerrero proposed that the Governor's Office look into organizing a youth task force which would head to the corrections facility and get a close range account of what it is like to be an inmate.

"A special youth task force should experience how it is to be a prisoner...and see if they are being humanely treated out there," he said.

"Are the dietitians there doing their job in feeding the prisoners well? Are they being given milk and healthy meals?" Guerrero asked.

Guerrero was one of several elected leaders who guested as a panelist for the annual Close Up Club conference.

The jail break issue was just one of many issues discussed at the conference.

The annual conference was made possible through the

Public School System and Close Up Foundation in Washington D.C., CNMI Close Up Coordinator Ray Tebuteb, the MHS Close Up Advisors Weilei Tunoa and Fafefulu Tigilau, and the Close Up Club organizing committee, according to MHS Close Up President Ashlee Tenorio.

The conference was well attended by all five member schools of the Close Up Foundation, from the islands of Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

"This organization tends to promote participation in the community, as part of students' civic education...it helps students understand the importance of giving back to the community and getting involved.

"We believe that in order for them to get involved, they have to understand how the government works, what the functions are, how they can go about in participating. In this group, we're encouraging a lot of activities that would promote participation and volunteer services," said Tigilau.

Tobacco. . . Continued from page 1

The Master Tobacco Settlement offered by the manufacturers of Marlboro, Camel, Lucky Strike, Newport, Philip Morris, among others, is for the health costs incurred in treating sick smokers.

It mandates the most significant and widespread advertising and marketing reform to date in the tobacco industry, and the largest financial recovery in the nation's history.

The over 300-page national tobacco settlement also contains numerous provisions aimed at protecting children.

Some of the provisions of the settlement are: A ban on the use of cartoons in the advertising, promotion, packaging or labeling of tobacco products; and a ban on payments to promote tobacco products in movies, television shows, theater productions or live performances, live or recorded music performances, videos and video games.

Packers humble 49ers

SAN FRANCISCO (AP) — There was no miracle finish this time for the San Francisco 49ers, not even the hope of one. Instead, it was just one more bad performance in a season of failure.

Brett Favre passed for two touchdowns and Green Bay's defense held San Francisco's struggling offense without a touchdown as the Packers sent the 49ers to their seventh straight loss, 20-3 Monday night.

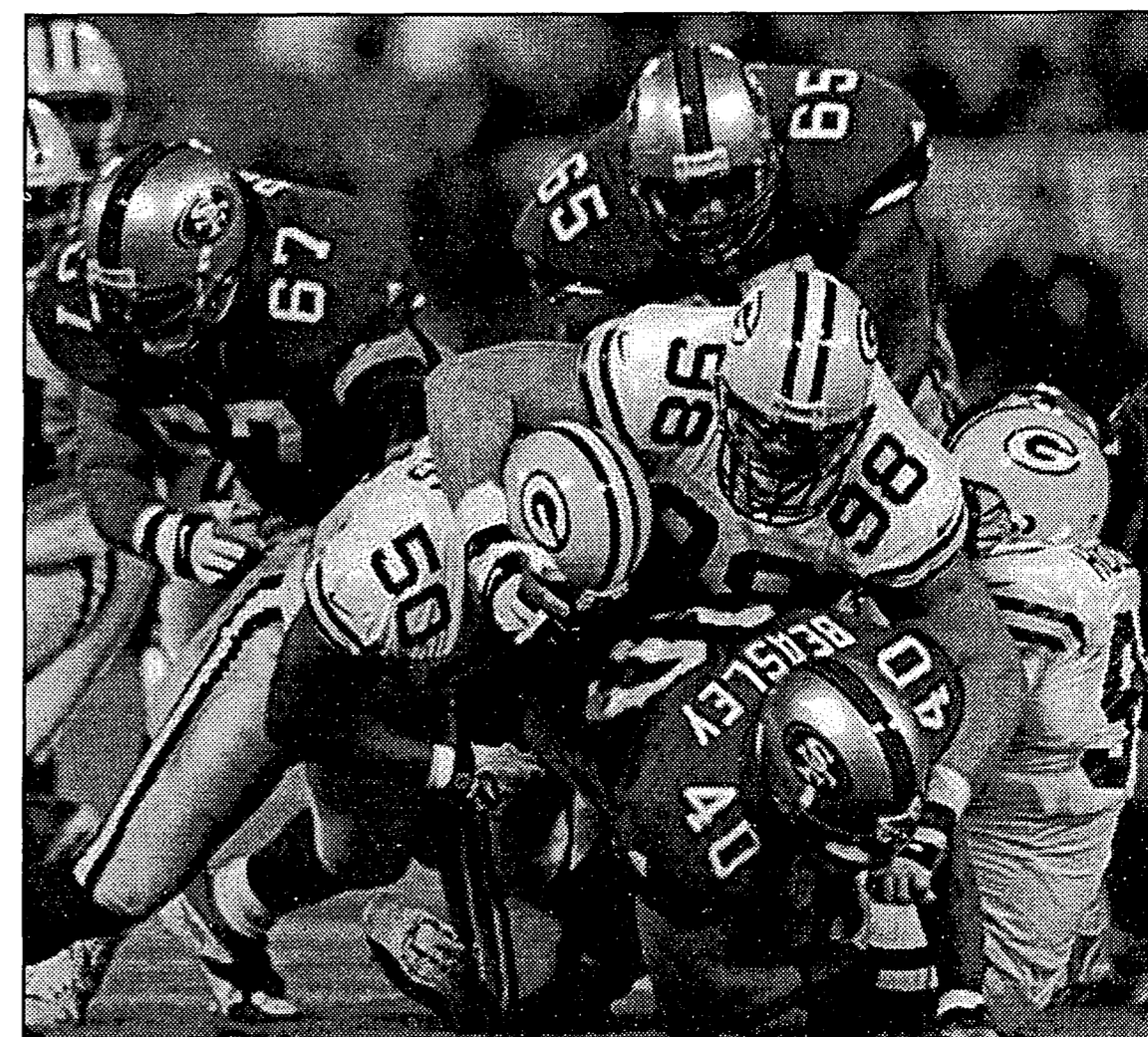
It's the longest skid for San Francisco (3-8) since losing eight in a row in 1980, and ensured the 49ers would finish with their first non-winning campaign since going 3-6 in the strike-shortened 1982 season. And a crowd used to seeing the 49ers win turned on the home team, showering them with boos even as the players were pelted by rain late in the game.

Green Bay (6-5) pulled to within a game of Detroit, Tampa Bay and Minnesota in the NFC Central with five remaining and ran its record to 6-1 against the 49ers since 1995, including four playoff encounters.

San Francisco's lone victory in that span came in last January's Wild Card playoff when Steve Young threaded a 25-yard touchdown pass to Terrell Owens through three defenders in the final seconds.

But this time, Young watched from the sidelines, probably out for the rest of the season with a concussion suffered Sept. 27.

First-year Green Bay coach Ray Rhodes, a former 49ers assistant, got his first win in eight Monday night games. The 49ers saw one



Fred Beasley (40) and the 49ers scramble for fumble. REUTERS

more streak end when San Francisco coach Steve Mariucci, a former Packers assistant, lost for the first time in eight Monday night games.

Steve Stenstrom, who began the year as the team's third stringer, threw an end zone interception to end one promising drive. On another occasion, he had the ball

slip out of his hands trying to pass, and the 49ers had to scramble to recover the fumble.

Late in the game, Fred Beasley lost a fumble and J.J. Stokes was flagged for offensive pass interference in yet more signs of San Francisco's free-falling offense. The 49ers reached the Green Bay 1, and had a third-

and-goal but Beasley was stopped short, then Stenstrom's fourth-down pass fell incomplete.

The lone bright spot was Jerry Rice's four receptions for 63 yards, boosting his career total to 18,025 yards receiving. He's the first player in NFL history to surpass the 18,000-yard pla-

teau. But Stenstrom has yet to throw for a score in his three starts.

San Francisco's offense has managed just one touchdown in its last five games, while failing to score in double figures in the past four games for the first time in franchise history.

Green Bay, seeking a playoff berth for a seventh straight season, was sluggish offensively at the start but drew a key pass interference penalty to get going. Corey Bradford blew by cornerback Ramos McDonald, who was forced to grab him to prevent a long touchdown. The 47-yard penalty took the ball to the San Francisco 33 and five plays later Bradford finished the drive with a 13-yard scoring pass from Favre.

Ryan Longwell, who missed a 30-yard field goal try earlier, came back to make a 23-yarder to put Green Bay up 10-3 at halftime and Favre extended the lead with a 10-yard scoring pass to Tyrone Davis with 3:43 remaining in the third quarter.

Longwell added a 22-yard field goal with 11:36 remaining.

San Francisco scored first, helped by an acrobatic over-the-shoulder catch by Rice that went for 32 yards, his longest reception of the season. But the drive stalled and Wade Richey kicked a 35-yard field goal.

Even though it allowed the 49ers to avoid their first shutout since 1977, it marked the fourth time in 11 games San Francisco scored only field goals.

Phillies may sign Jackson

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Free-agent closer Mike Jackson was close to signing with the Philadelphia Phillies, pending results of a physical, two baseball officials said Monday.

Jackson, who had 39 saves for the Cleveland Indians last season, was at Thomas Jefferson Hospital in Philadelphia on Monday for a series of tests. It is known that he has bad knees, but more serious problems may have caused the St. Louis Cardinals to last week rescind a contract offer to the 34-year-old right-hander last week.

"We have an understanding that we're close, but we want to see those results," said a Phillies source, speaking on the condition of anonymity.

A second baseball official, also speaking on the condition of anonymity, said a deal between Jackson and the Phillies was "done."

That source, who has knowledge of Jackson's physical history, said the closer has a damaged liga-

ment in his throwing elbow. Still, Jackson ranked among the AL leaders in appearances the last four years.

Phillies general manager Ed Wade said team doctor Michael Cicchetti gave him a favorable report on Jackson's clinical exam.

"Before we get too far ahead of ourselves, at this point I think it's appropriate to get the MRI results back before we have anything else to say," Wade said.

The Philadelphia Daily News reported Friday that Jackson was close to signing with the Phillies. Jackson's agent, Laurie Gildan, was out of the office on business Monday and did not immediately return a telephone call.

The Indians, who would have no proven closer if they lost Jackson, could not agree on a contract and planned to offer the right-hander salary arbitration if no one signed him by Dec. 7.

Jackson emerged as a dominant closer in Cleveland after years as one of baseball's best right-handed setup men. He

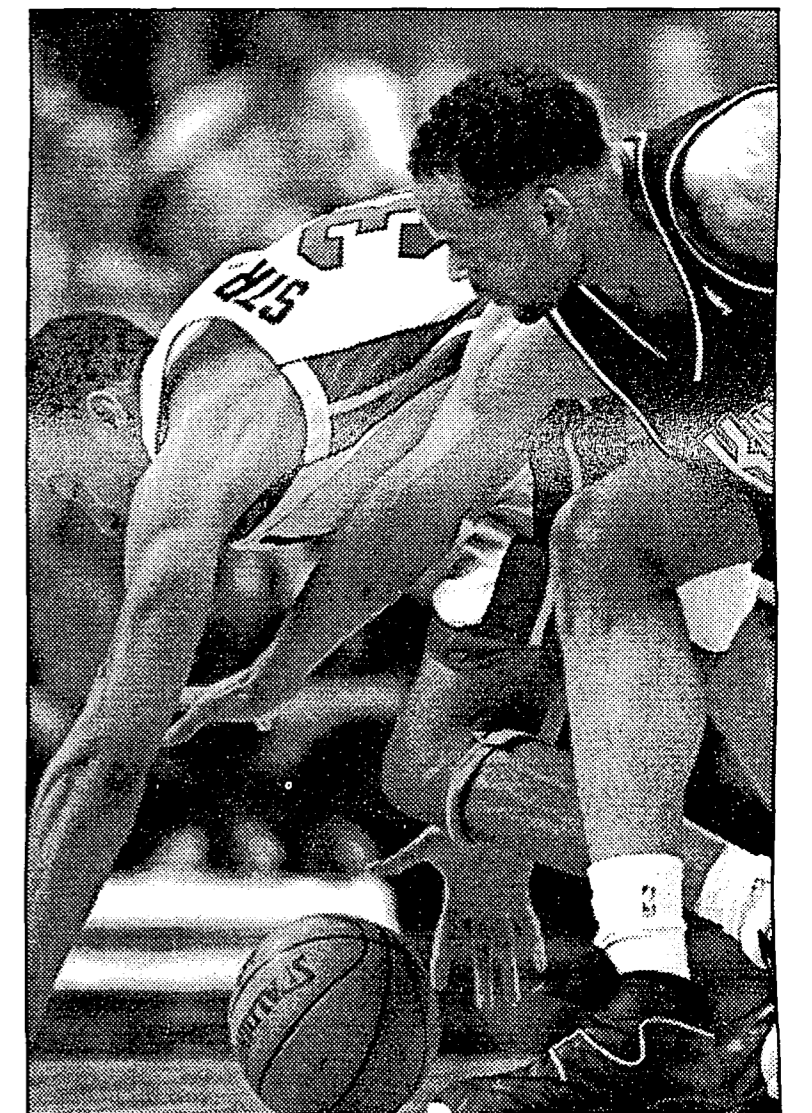
started his career with the Phillies in 1986 before blossoming into a quality reliever.

The Cardinals were thought to be offering Jackson a \$12 million, three-year contract and called a news conference Nov. 19, with at least one St. Louis official saying it was to announce Jackson's signing. But they called off the news conference without an explanation.

Jackson had 39 saves in 43 chances last season, the third-highest percentage in the American League behind Mariano Rivera of the New York Yankees and Roberto Hernandez of the Tampa Bay Devil Rays.

The Phillies have been looking for a closer since Jeff Brantley had season-ending shoulder surgery early last year.

The Phillies agreed to invite Brantley to spring training next year, but the 36-year-old has had several operations on his throwing shoulder.



Sacramento King's Lawrence Funderburke (right) and Miami Heat's Mark Strickland (left) fight for a loose ball during the first half Monday at the Miami Arena in Miami. AP

SPORTS



In BANMI basketball

Len's stops Get Covered

GEORGE Poquiz and Allan Libria combined for 28 points to lift Len's Bar & Grill over Get Covered, 75-67, in BANMI basketball action Monday at the Gilbert C. Ada Gym.

Leading the winners in rebounds were Mark Rozic and John Raulerson who grabbed 10 and 7 rebounds respectively. Rozic also dished out 3 assists.

Len's Bar & Grill began the game with a ten-point lead due to a penalty imposed on Get Covered. It was seen as a main factor in Len's victory.

For the losers, John Acosta and Jun Aaron led the offensive with 17 and 16 points respectively.

Tim Wesley had 10 points, 1 block shot, and 2 steals while Derrick Reyes also grabbed 10 rebounds with 4 steals also for the losers.

In the second game, defending champions Brothers proved better and steadier, beating GTE Pacifica, 80-69.

Enjoying a 10-point lead at half time, 40-30, Ed "Jordan" Diaz and Jess "The Hustler" Dela Cruz had 14 and 10 points, respectively.

Coming into the second half, the Brothers sparked a rally on a 6-point run with 18 minutes remaining in the ball game.

Technical fouls were called against Jerome Jerome (1) Jess Dela

Cruz (2) for delaying the game and unsportsman-like conduct.

Jess Dela Cruz fouled out with 9 minutes remaining in the ball game.

Brothers' key players Ed Diaz, Jay Moreshta, Steve Rasa and Jerome were all in foul trouble but coach Pat Tudela right away sent in his back up players Darren Butteris, Jeff Diaz, Tom Diaz, Dennis Camacho and Tom Tudela to the rescue.

GTE Pacifica coach Tony Sablan capitalized on the foul troubled Brothers until GTE was only 1-point behind, 65-64.

However with 3:45 minutes remaining, coach Pat Tudela once again relied on his star

player Ed Diaz to deliver the needed shots and seal the Brothers' victory.

Ed Diaz finished with 31 points, 2 assists, 2 steals, 3 three-pointers, and 9 rebounds for the winners. He was chosen as the player of the game.

Dennis Camacho had 8 points, 1 assist, 3 steals, and grabbed 22 rebounds.

Mark Wallace having an off night had 26-points, dishing out 3 assists, 1 block shot, 2 steals, 3 rebounds and converting 3 three-pointers.

Ed Cosino helped out GTE with 14 points, 1 assist, 1 block shot, 6 rebounds, 1 steal.

This early, many are saying

that Team Brothers could repeat history and become the pennant champions if it remains undefeated for the remainder of the regular season.

The only team that had two undefeated seasons in the BANMI and were crowned as pennant champs were the 1995-96 Toyota Wheels which was coached by Tony Sablan.

The original players of that Toyota Wheels team are still playing in the BANMI.

Games on tonight, Wednesday are the OI' Aces vs Cong. Benavente & Babauta Diamond Auto Care followed by Lite vs Len's Bar & Grill in the second game.

SGA '99 championship tour

THE SAIPAN Golfers Association will be holding its 1999 Club Championship this coming Saturday and Sunday, December 4th and 5th, to determine SGA's best player of the year.

This tournament event will be held at the Laolao Bay Golf Resort at the west course day one and east course on the second day.

Tee off time is at 6:24 a.m.. All players must be at the country club no later than 6:00 a.m. for instruction and rules.

There will be 12 monthly winners vying for the title and the perpetual trophy.

Cash prizes will be awarded to the top three winners, in addition to a color TV and

gift items.

Closest to the pin contest will be open to all members.

A banquet is being planned to be held at Saipan Grand Hotel on Monday, December 6th for all members starting at 6:00 p.m. at the Southern Cross banquet room.

All members go in free while guests will be charged \$25.00 per head.

All other members are welcome to join the tournament as there will be cash prizes and other gift items to be awarded.

SGA T-shirts are now available for sale.

Please contact Brian Reyes at tel. no. 234-9127 for more information.

RGA Turkey Shoot winners

THE REFALUWASCH Golf Association announces it will hold its Two-Man Team Scramble Tournament at 10:30 a.m. Sunday, December 5 at the Marianas Country Club.

Reservations are available for 24 players on a first come basis.

The following are scores and prizes for the RGA Turkey Shoot held at the Laolao Bay's west course November 21, 1999:

Rank	Gross	Handicap	Net
First Place: Eli Rangamar	86	22	64
Second Place: Jess Wabol	69	04	65
Third Place: Joe Demapan	79	10	69
Fourth Place: Ben Norita	91	21	70
Fifth Place: Ben Duenas	82	11	71

Other prizes include the following:

Low Net Front: Eli Rangamar 31/Jess Wabol 32

Most Pars: Tony Satur 10

Most Boggies: Tom Saures 10

Less Putts: Jess Wabol 25

Most Putts: Donicio Fitial 41

A special award for most senior player went to Tony Taitano. Every member who showed up took home a turkey for Thanks Giving.



Computer World's Rey Villamor (left) ponders his next move against Yana Law Office's Rey Yana during one of the matches in the ongoing Coca Cola chess team tournament. Photo courtesy of CNMI Chess Association

R&F widens chess lead

BANKING on its third straight match shutout Sunday, R&F Enterprises has pulled away from the pack, amassing 21 points—four full points ahead of nearest pursuer Dollar Days Wholesale with three more rounds left in the 1999 Coca Cola team tournament.

Against Saipan Supply, R&F's Manny Domingo, Nick Cayetano and Doming Villamor notched victories against Ronnie Alfonso, Nick Cayetano

and Ronnie Cornejo.

R&F, which only scored 7.5 points out of a possible 18 in the first six rounds, has notched an impressive 13.5 out of 15 in the succeeding six rounds.

Half-a-point behind Dollar Days, which is on second place, is Yana Law Office, which has one rescheduled game in its Sunday match with fourth placer Fortune International.

Sharing fifth-sixth places are

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Aikido at the Nauru Bldg.

TO MARK its fifth anniversary, the Saipan Aikido Association will hold a public demonstration—free of charge—on the fifth floor of Nauru Building in Susupe from Dec. 3 to Dec. 5, a media release said.

The public is invited to the demonstration, which will begin at 4 p.m.

For more information, call Mutsuko Minegishi at tel. nos. 235-6660 and 322-0567.

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