

# US, Palau to address nine Compact issues

By Eileen O. Tabaranza  
*For the Variety*  
**KOROR (Palau Horizon)** — The Republic of Palau and the United States are set to discuss at least nine broad-based issues concerning the Compact of Free Association (COFA) in an annual economic consultation slated Monday in Honolulu, Hawaii.

The Palau delegation headed by President Kuniwo Nakamura left Palau last Nov. 27 for a trip to Taipei, Taiwan at the invitation of Republic of China President Lee Teng Hui, after which Nakamura and his delegation will travel to Honolulu, Hawaii where they will meet with the U.S. government officials.

Topics in the agenda include Palau economic performance and



Kuniwo Nakamura

prospects, status report on national development plan, investment fund performance, encouraging private sector growth, criminal activity and countering financial crime, overview of U.S. programs and project assistance, compact road project, U.S.-Japan common

agenda project (Palau International Coral Reef Center) and immigration issues.

Legal Counsel to the President David Perrin, who will be joining the delegation, said the topics were suggested 50-50 by both parties. He added that topics in the agenda are fairly broad that there are still room for parties to bring up additional matters in those subjects.

The president is expected to address a variety of issues, including the most pressing request of Palau to sit down as observer in the upcoming compact negotiations between the U.S. and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) and the Republic of Marshall Islands (RMI).

Nakamura, Perrin said, would take advantage of the meeting to

discuss this issue with U.S. high level team.

"The reason why Palau wants to sit in the talks is because the three countries (FSM, RMI and Palau) are being lumped together by the U.S. legislation. Whatever bargains to be made by FSM and RMI regarding their eligibility for programs, Palau would be affected when it comes to negotiate its terms for compact," Perrin said.

He said the president's concerns on this matter is that Palau would have a hard time to negotiate a deal different from that of RMI and FSM because the U.S. links these countries. Palau, RMI and FSM are grouped into so-called Freely Associated States.

On the other hand, he said the

## Sablan off to Hawaii

By Jojo Dass  
*Variety News Staff*  
LIEUTENANT Gov. Jesus R. Sablan is headed for Hawaii, along with the head of the local government's solid waste task force, to meet with officials of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife and try to convince them to approve the CNMI's permit application on the construction of a landfill in Marpi, site of some protected bird species that needs to be mitigated before such project could proceed.

Also, Sablan said he will ask USFWS officials on the specific steps that need to be taken so that the required habitat mitigation site meets federal standards.

Sablan is making the move after the federal government

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## Torres complaint vs. Bellas may just gather dust

By Jojo Dass  
*Variety News Staff*  
RE-ELECTED Rep. Stanley T. Torres' (R-Saipan) move to have Superior Court Associate Judge Timothy Bellas investigated for alleged unethical practices may yet end up gathering dust as there currently is no government agency that can do the job.

In a phone interview from Rota yesterday, Bellas explained the judiciary does not anymore have an Advisory Commission which has jurisdiction on complaints raised against judges.

This, Bellas explained, happened as a result of the 1997 amendment to the Constitution which also provided for judges'

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## HANMI calls for closure of P. Rico dump

By Haidee V. Eugenio  
*Variety News Staff*  
THE HOTEL Association of the Northern Mariana Islands (HANMI) has urged Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and members of the Legislature to set a firm deadline and ensure such deadline is met for the closure of the Puerto Rico dump.

The site is currently considered Saipan's biggest eye sore and potential health hazard.

In a resolution adopted last week, HANMI also pressed the Tenorio administration to use the \$16 million appropriated under Public Law 9-1 for the construction of the sanitary landfill in Marpi.

Despite "thousands of words written and spoken about the dump," HANMI said the closure of the said dump site has been a pending issue for more than a decade now.

Ron Sablan, HANMI president, urged elected officials to "take immediate action," particularly by setting a firm deadline and give a real committed priority to meeting such deadline for the dump's closure.

"For the health of our citizens..."  
Continued on page 26



First Lady Sophie Tenorio and Mrs. Annie T. Sablan, the Lt. governor's wife, prepare to turn on the main switch to the lighted sculptures and decorations that adorn Beach Road, during the Millennium Lighting Project ceremony Saturday.  
Photo by Haidee V. Eugenio

## Judge: Police must inform foreign offices about arrest of nationals

By Ferdie de la Torre  
*Variety News Staff*  
THE SUPERIOR Court has ruled that CNMI law enforcement authorities shall inform without delay any foreign consulate or office here about the arrest of any of its national in the NMI.

Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama said Article 36 of the Vienna Convention applies in

the CNMI which mandates authorities to immediately tell the consulate or office if somebody from that state is committed to prison or to custody pending trial, or is detained in any other manner.

"Moreover, any communication addressed to the consular post by the person arrested, in prison, custody, or detention shall also be forwarded by the said authorities

without delay," said Lizama in his decision to a motion filed by defendant Sergio Inabangan, a Filipino national.

Court records showed that on July 12, 1998, a police officer responded to a call in Kannat Tabla regarding a reported stabbing incident near the barracks of North Pacific Builders, Inc.

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## Guam election case before US high court soon

By Eric F. Say  
*Variety News Staff*  
IN LESS than 24 hours, Guam history will be made as the nation's highest court will hear oral arguments by high powered lawyers regarding the 1998 gubernatorial election case which has been in limbo for over a year.

It was on Dec. 9 last year when U.S. District Court Judge John S. Unpingco called for a run-off election, saying that the Democratic incumbent team of Gov. Carl T.C.

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# Man kills kids, self

**SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP)** — A man shot and killed five of his children in their apartment before fatally shooting himself in the head Saturday afternoon, police said.

Two of the man's other children managed to escape, one by jumping out a bathroom window, Lt. David Poroli said. Neither was injured.

Police went to the apartment after receiving 911 calls from neighbors shortly after 4 p.m., Poroli said. The officers forced open the locked door and found the six bodies.

"I can tell you this: It was a

gruesome, gruesome scene," he said.

The man, identified by television station KTXL as Kao Xiong, apparently got into an argument with his wife before the shootings. Police said the five children were aged between 2 and 8 years old. The youngsters who escaped were 9 and 14.

The man used a rifle and shotgun, both of which were found in the apartment, Poroli said.

The wife had apparently left before the shootings occurred and did not know what happened until she arrived home, he said.

According to police, the man,

who was in his early 30s, had been on the phone with relatives before the shootings.

A neighbor, Lao Thao, said the man had worked with him as a golf course maintenance worker. The family came to the United States from Laos about seven years ago, he said.

Building manager Lao Lee said the family moved in four months ago to the one-bedroom apartment, located in the low-income Del Paso Heights district north of Sacramento.

"They get along with people here," Lee said. "They do not have any problem."



Taiwanese Vice President and ruling party candidate for president Lien Chan shakes hands with supporters outside the Lung Shan temple after attending a celebration of the Taipei landmark's 260th anniversary on Sunday. AP

## No amnesty for HK migrants

**HONG KONG (AP)** — The Hong Kong government said Saturday it won't grant amnesty to 4,000 Chinese migrants facing deportation a day after Hong Kong's highest court ruled that only those whose parents were Hong Kong citizens at the time of the migrant's birth can stay in the territory.

"These people who are now staying in Hong Kong have already breached our immigration law," Timothy Tong, deputy security chief, said on a radio phone-in program.

On Friday, the Court of Final Appeal reversed its ruling in January that any mainland Chinese with at least one Hong Kong parent could live in the affluent territory, regardless of when the parent became a resident.

The government had warned that under that ruling more than a million mainland Chinese would flood into the territory and weigh heavily on Hong Kong's overcrowded schools and housing facilities, as well as overburden the social welfare system.

## Kohl says probe into alleged graft unnecessary

**BERLIN (AP)** — In his first comments since parliament approved an investigation against his party, former German chancellor Helmut Kohl said the probe into secret payments and alleged graft will not unearth anything incriminating.

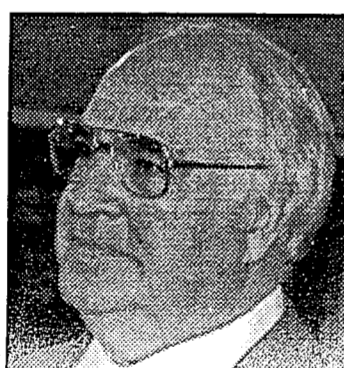
In a late-night television interview Friday, Kohl said he hoped the inquest wouldn't be used as a political weapon against his Christian Democrat party.

"These accusations and suspicions will collapse," Kohl said on MDR.

Kohl also called "absurd" a suggestion by a whistleblower in his party that all parties forego receiving campaign contributions. Kohl said that would mean that all parties would have to be financed by the state.

Kohl, who ran the Christian Democratic Union from 1973 until his election defeat last year, has acknowledged that he set up secret funds to channel money to party officials and campaigns. While conceding that the practice may have broken party financing laws, Kohl has denied any of the money involved bribes or kickbacks.

In a newspaper interview, Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder criticized Kohl for giving the impression in



Helmut Kohl

the television interview that formal rules are less important than personal connections.

"In private life, that could be acceptable - but when one declares disregard for laws, that is not unproblematic," Schroeder told the Tagesspiegel newspaper in an interview to be published Sunday.

But Schroeder still said he finds it "oppressive" how Kohl is being handled in the situation, "even if he himself is responsible."

Parliament also wants to examine if there were kickbacks for the construction of an oil refinery in eastern Germany by France's Elf Aquitaine in the early 1990s, as well as several other business deals while Kohl was in power.

## News Briefs

### Iraq wants decision on UN sanctions

**BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP)** — The U.N. Security Council must choose between trade sanctions on Iraq and disarmament inspections, the deputy foreign minister said Saturday.

"We have always said that we cannot take both the sanctions and the inspectors... one of them will have to go," Nizar Hamdoon told Associated Press Television News.

"Without removing the sanctions entirely, it is impossible for us to deal with any inspection activity," said Hamdoon, who is the previous Iraqi ambassador to the United Nations.

His remarks came as the United States pressed U.N. Security Council members to reach agreement on a new policy toward Iraq that would restart U.N. disarmament inspections as well as upgrade the humanitarian program in the country.

U.N. arms inspectors left Iraq almost a year ago on the eve of U.S.-British airstrikes. The government had vowed not to let them return. But Hamdoon made clear that Iraq would allow the inspectors back if the sanctions were abolished. The sanctions have been in force since Iraqi forces invaded Kuwait in 1990.

### Libya rejects US monitoring

**CAIRO, Egypt (AP)** — Libya criticized the United States on Saturday for saying it would monitor the Libyan government's policy on terrorism.

"The Great Jamahiriya (Libya) rejects the monitoring of its behavior, whether by America or anyone else," the official Libyan news agency, JANA, said in a report faxed to The Associated Press in Cairo. "America should know well that it is a country like any other country."

The Libyan government said Thursday during a visit of the Italian prime minister that it would deny "sustenance and protection to those responsible for terrorist acts."

Hours later, State Department spokesman James Rubin said Washington recognized that "Libya has made statements indicating their intent to change their behavior, but we obviously want to monitor that very carefully."

Washington has not had diplomatic relations with Libya for more than two decades. The United States says there can be no improvement until Libya renounces all forms of terrorism and pays compensation to the families of the victims of the Pan Am airliner blown up over the Scottish town of Lockerbie in 1988. Two Libyans are about to stand trial on charges of planting a bomb on the aircraft.

### Turkey may lift death penalty

**ANKARA, Turkey (AP)** — Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit on Saturday signaled that Turkey might abolish the death penalty in order to win membership in the European Union.

Turkey has not executed anyone since 1984, but the idea of capital punishment has come under intense fire because of the death sentence meted out in June to Kurdish rebel leader Abdullah Ocalan.

The European Parliament told Turkey this week that its human rights record must improve before membership negotiations can start. It mentioned neither Ocalan nor capital punishment, but the message was clear.

"It is clear that the capital punishment cannot go with EU membership," Ecevit said. "God willing, we will overcome this contradiction soon."

Last week, a Turkish appeals court upheld the death sentence against Ocalan. The Turkish parliament and President Suleyman Demirel would have to approve the death sentence before it could be carried out, but there is widespread support among Turks for Ocalan's hanging.

### Bangladesh opposition stages strike

**DHAKA (Reuters)** — Bangladeshis awoke yesterday to another trade-mark strike by the country's political opposition, trying to force the government to resign and call snap elections.

Little traffic moved in the capital Dhaka except for pedal rickshaws and some town-service buses on the first day of the two-day strike.

Police said security had been tightened to prevent violence by pickets trying to enforce the strike, which disrupted communications and business across the country.

It was the first nationwide stoppage since the opposition formalized an alliance of four parties led by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party (BNP) of former prime minister Begum Khaleda Zia at a meeting on Tuesday.

Earlier, one person was killed and 50 injured in overnight clashes in Dhaka between police and opposition activists who were calling on people to enforce the strike on Sunday and Monday.

"A transport worker was crushed to death under the wheel of a bus that passed rushing through the scene of the violence near the National Press Club," policeman Saiful Islam said.

Witnesses said the violence began when police broke up the noisy demonstration by nearly 2,000 opposition activists.

# JAL arrivals up 17%

**By Haidee V. Eugenio**  
*Variety News Staff*

FUELLED by stronger market demand and charter flights, arrivals brought in by Japan Airlines (JAL) recorded a 16.7 percent increase in November compared to the same month last year, it was learned over the weekend.

Kaishun Nishigaya, JAL-Saipan district sales manager, disclosed that of the total arrival figure of 17,583 last month, 10,723 origi-

nated from Tokyo, while 5,621 from Osaka. The airline's charter flights brought in additional 1,239 passengers to the CNMI.

The Osaka market grew by 20 percent from last year, while Tokyo went up by 3.2 percent.

JAL is also projecting close to 100 percent passenger load for December.

At the same time, Nishigaya said a charter flight off Narita, Japan will be operated in January 2000.

"Charter flight from Narita is unusual. The market is very crowded that's why the Head Office decided to have charter flights from Narita to Saipan," Nishigaya said in an interview.

JAL continues to command over 50 percent of the Japanese visitors here. Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) figures showed JAL got the lion share of the market in October with 53.8 percent share.

From January to October, JAL's

market share ranged from 51.2 percent to 59.9 percent.

"We attribute this (over 50 percent market share) to holiday promotions and marketing, charter flights, and expanded market," added Nishigaya.

The JAL official said there will be a total of 12 charter flights in December 1999 and January 2000. These charter flights will originate from four major cities in Japan: Nagoya, Fukuoka, Osaka and Narita.

JAL has set a total of 25 charter flights from October to end-March 2000.

From January to November, JAL's monthly arrival record ranged from 16,072 to 19,671, and has continued to get the lion share of the total monthly Japanese arrivals into the CNMI.

Aside from JAL, Northwest Airlines and Continental Micronesia also bring in visitors from Japan to the CNMI.

## MVA says goals achieved in JATA Tokyo conference

**By Haidee V. Eugenio**  
*Variety News Staff*

WITH A firm belief the CNMI contingent to the recently-concluded Japan Association of Travel Agents (JATA) conference in Tokyo reached its main goal, the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA) said it is able to "maintain the CNMI's presence" in Japan as a tourist destination.

Perry Tenorio, MVA managing director, said officials from the CNMI led by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio himself were able to make the presence of the Marianas felt in the biggest conference of travel agents in Japan.

"JATA is important in the sense that we have to maintain our presence... The important thing is we are participating. We are reminding travel agents that the CNMI still exists as a travel destination," Tenorio said during the "Switch On Light" ceremony on Saturday evening at the 13 Fishermen's Memorial in Beach Road.

The CNMI had pointed out main goals achieved in taking part in JATA, said the MVA official.

"We went out there and we believe we accomplished our goals and that's to maintain our presence and also to meet with our travel industry partners and tell them 'thank you' for their support and also requesting how we can work closer together to

ensure that we are going down the same road.

"We would also like to continue our efforts with airlines, like JAL, Northwest and Continental," said Tenorio.

The four-day event which ended on Dec. 3 paved the way for direct marketing with consumers, and an opportunity for Japan travel agents who are interested in selling the CNMI as a tourist destination to get more information about the place they would want to promote.

JATA is held every two years, and has remained the largest tourism promotional event for Japan travel agents and consumers.

Aside from the governor and MVA's Tenorio, the other members of the CNMI contingent to JATA include First Lady Sophie Tenorio, House Speaker Diego T. Benavente, Rep. Bernadita T. Seman and Senate Floor Leader Pete Reyes.

In related news, the Garapan Street Market soft opening kicked off Thursday night with a large crowd turnout and a total of 35 booths which offered a wide variety of specialties like food, handicraft, novelty items.

Rhoda Smith, Garapan Street Market subcommittee chairperson, estimated the people who took part in the soft opening at about 2,000.

**Continued on page 23**



Cultural dancers perform during the soft-opening of CNMI's first street market in Garapan Thursday night. Photo by Marian A. Maraya

## Medical board defers Aldan's case

**By Haidee V. Eugenio**  
*Variety News Staff*

WITHOUT a clear evidence yet on whether Dr. Vicente Aldan has indeed violated any medical regulation or not — among other reasons — the CNMI Medical Profession Licensing Board (MPLB) deferred the case's discussion during Friday afternoon's meeting.

Instead, the Board decided to take up the issue next meeting with Vice Chairperson Dr. Helen Taro's presence and with more certainty on what to do with the case. Taro presides over the Board meeting when Aldan's case is

being discussed.

While the Board members (excluding Aldan) present during the meeting constituted a quorum, one of the Board members said it would be better if a physician like Taro would be present.

The other three members consist of an eye doctor, dentist and a pharmacist.

Dr. David Hardt, who has been chosen to be the spokesperson of the Board on matters concerning Aldan's case, however, assured the issue is being studied upon carefully.

"The case is about a physician so it would be better if there is

also a physician who is part of the meeting. The same goes with a case involving a dentist, for example. I would recommend not to discuss about it if Dr. (Todd) Johnson is not around," said Hardt.

The Board is not yet firm on what action to take, citing lack of evidence that Aldan has indeed violated any law or regulation for not informing the whole Board of a prior disciplinary action received from a medical board of another state.

"We have not concluded that he did (violate any regulation) that. That's something I don't

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Rep. Manuel A. Tenorio (front, holding plaque) presents a resolution by the 11th CNMI Legislature commending retiring NMC President Agnes McPhetres for her outstanding 18 years with the college. Photo by Marian A. Maraya

## Guerrero says he won't join Senate Republicans

**By Jojo Dass**  
*Variety News Staff*

SENATOR-elect Ramon S. Guerrero, on Friday, maintained he will not be joining the Republican-dominated 12th Legislature as has been claimed by Sen. David M. Cing (D-Tinian).

"I will not become a Republican. In fact, I left the Republican (party) because they (members) did not appreciate what I did when I was a Republican working like crazy day and night, spending money for them..." said Guerrero, in an interview during his visit to defeated Rep. Herman T. Palacios' (R-Saipan) office. Cing, last week, said Guerrero

should not be bragging too much about how he got 4,500 votes in the midterm elections — the highest garnered by a candidate — because "six months from now, the Reform party stalwart will end up joining the dominant party at the Legislature."

"That is not going to happen," vowed Guerrero.

Guerrero also took off from Senate President Paul A. Manglona's (R-Rota) call for lawmakers to set aside politicking and instead work together in this time of unprecedented economic crisis.

"The point here is like Senate

**Continued on page 23**

# House sees budget passage

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**SUPERSTAR** PG-13  
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**DOUBLE JEOPARDY** R  
 4:30 - 7:30 - 10:00  
 Ashley Judd Suspense

**TOY STORY** PG-13  
 4:30 - 7:00 - 9:30  
 Walt Disney Animated

**Sleepy Hollow** R  
 5:00 - 7:30 - 10:15  
 Johnny Depp Action Thriller

**THE WORLD IS NOT ENOUGH** PG-13  
 11:30 - 9:00 - 7:45 - 10:30  
 Bruce Willis Drama Suspense

**THE SIXTH SENSE** PG-13  
 4:45 - 7:15 - 9:45  
 Bruce Willis Drama Suspense

**House on Haunted Hill** R  
 7:30  
 Suspense Horror

**UNFAITHFUL WIFE** NR  
 4:45 - 10:15  
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By Jojo Dass  
 Variety News Staff  
**HOUSE** Ways and Means Chair Karl T. Reyes (R-Saipan), on Friday, said the Lower Chamber may finally be able to pass its version of the proposed FY 2000 budget this week, even as he stressed that incumbent Republicans defeated in the recently-held midterm polls still have their hands wet on the matter.

"It is not the losing candidates that are not showing up. It is the candidates that are yelling and saying they provided money that did not show up (in a recent House session called to tackle the budget among other important bills)," said Reyes.

"These people are not showing

up because of their other agenda and that is hurting the government," he added.  
 Reyes explained though that defeated Rep. Herman T. Palacios (R-Saipan) was not able to attend the session held two weeks ago because he was ill.  
 Reyes said the House may be calling a session this week once Speaker Diego T. Benavente returns from Japan where he, along with other ranking government officials and the first couple, attended a conference of Japanese tour agents.

"We are looking at putting the (budget) package together when the Speaker comes and calls the session," he said.  
 He added though that another delay may arise of the House again



Karl T. Reyes

fails to muster the needed two-thirds vote to pass the budget bill. Final touches were made on the proposed \$206-million budget last week to appropriate funds for the inauguration of the 12th Legisla-

ture, according to Reyes.  
 "We have to have a budget for that (inauguration) otherwise who is going to pay for it. It is associated with a little cost for donuts and coffee and the programs," he said.  
 Senate President Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota) last week said the Upper Chamber "understands" that the House may have difficulty mustering the needed votes to pass the budget.

The House, according to Reyes, has agreed to add changes into the proposed appropriation.

Some quarter have raised concerns the House, with 10 of its members on their way out, may not be able to get the needed votes, as they may not anymore be as interested in passing it.

## Students air problems about NMC in class survey

By Rene P. Acosta  
 Variety News Staff  
**NORTHERN** Marianas College should advertise more to lure in more students, preferably from the 14 to 30 age bracket, a college class has proposed based on a recent survey it has conducted.

According to the eight students of the Fundamental of Advertising Class under Instructor Rik Villegas, the island's lone postsecondary institution should target those in the 9th up to 12th grades by informing them of what NMC has to offer.

The class presented last Friday the results of its survey—An Advertising Plan—to college officials headed by retired college president Agnes McPhetres and Board of Regents Chairman Ramon Villagomez at the Pacific Islands Club.

The class wants to sell the college more to prospective students.

The survey was conducted involving two independent groups, with the first survey conducted on 350 students from the Marianas High School, Mount Carmel High school, and the Northern Marianas College.

The second one involved 271 students from Grace Christian and Mount Carmel High Schools; Marianas Baptist Academy; Grace Christian Academy; and the Northern Marianas College.

In both surveys, only foreign students from NMC were asked or handed out with a survey form.

Based on the results of the first survey, the class members said that most of the high school students want to major in Business and Hospitality, which entailed the highest number of respondents; Trades and Technical; Public Safety Administration; Liberal Arts; and Nursing.  
 However, students in both surveys, based on the overall response, find that the college is not giving enough information about its programs to high school students.

The advertising class also made mention the result of the second survey wherein the question of whether or not the students liked the college, 18 percent responded in the negative.

Out of the 67 percent which stated that they would not be attending the NMC, 57 percent stated that the college lacked what other institutions have to offer.

In order for the college to sell more itself, the class has pro-



Regents Fermin Atalig, Chairman Ramon Villagomez and Teresa Taitano intently listen as students from the advertising class present Friday the result of their survey on the College Advertising Plan proposal.

posed that billboard signs about the NMC which are now posted around the island should be continued along with the newspaper advertisements, not only on the schedule of its classes but also what is being offered. The same billboard should also be placed in Rota and Tinian.

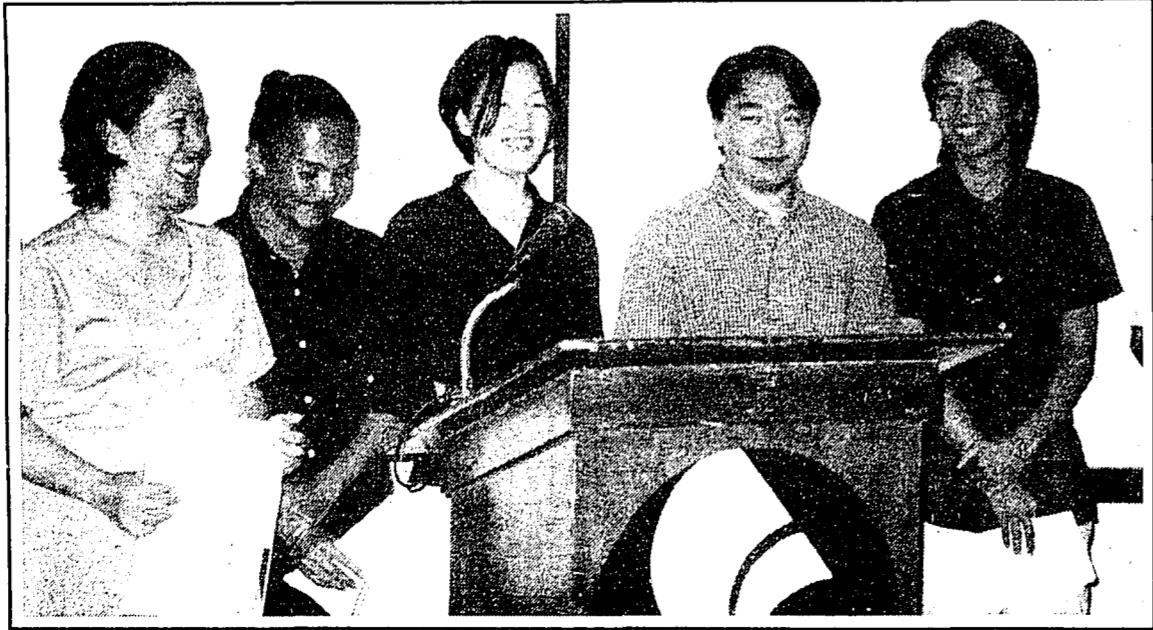
While the catalog, brochures, and other printed materials are okay, some of them "are just too complicated to understand," the survey said, even noting that some of these materials only appealed to some specific groups.

The class members also proposed that NMC advertise itself on the internet.

Other problems that were identified in the survey were lack in quality education and instructors;

insufficient parking and small classrooms; complicated registration procedures; not enough courses being offered; and too much fees being applied to the students; not enough student activities and functions—no school spirit; tuition fees are too high; not a four-year college; lack of financial aid for internal students; no dormitory; lack of government support; course scheduling inappropriate for working individuals; and too slow pace.

On the other hand, the NMC is seen as the only college on the island which is part of the US; good place to start; ease in attaining visa for international students; secure environment; friendly environment; and diversity in student ethnicity.



Five of the eight advertising class members gather onstage after their Advertising Plan presentation. Photos by Rene P. Acosta

# Tinian special election set

THE BOARD of Elections announced Friday that the special election to fill in a vacancy in the Senate will be held at the Tinian Elementary School Cafeteria on January 22, 2000, a Saturday.

The BOE set the date after it received a certified copy of Senate Joint Resolution No. 11-17, calling for the special election in light of the recent resignation of former Tinian Senator Herman M. Manglona.

Manglona resigned in September after he was charged with and pleaded guilty to bribery in federal court, for transactions he made when he was Tinian mayor in 1996.

Since he has not finished half

his four-year term as senator, a special election will be held for his replacement as provided by law.

SJR 11-17, the BOE said in a press release, clearly constitutes a notice of vacancy, prompting Board Chairman Miguel M. Sablan to call for the special election in the Second Senatorial District pursuant to applicable CNMI laws.

The board reminds all registered voters who will be prevented from voting in person by reason of absence from the Commonwealth that they have until January 12, 2000 in which they could apply to the Board of Elections to vote by absentee ballot.

Applications shall be submit-



Herman M. Manglona

ted in writing and shall indicate the full legal name, date of birth, social security number, and the address to which they want the ballots forwarded.

Eligible voters who have not

registered to vote and wish to do so may register at the Office of the Board of Elections in Garapan, Saipan, or with Carmen DLC, Farrell or Matthew Masga on Tinian.

To be eligible to vote in the January 22nd special election, a person must be a United States citizen or national, domiciled in the Commonwealth, be of sound mind, not be serving a sentence

for a felony, be 18 years of age or older (by January 22, 2000), and be a resident of Tinian and Aguiguan for 45 days prior to the day of the election.

The last day to register is December 23, 1999.

Anyone requiring more information in regards to this special election may visit or call the Office of the Board of Elections in Garapan, Saipan.

## PSS: Network learning advantageous

By Marian A. Maraya  
 Variety News Staff  
**WITH** the advent of new technology also comes numerous advantages for education, Education Commissioner Rita H. Inos said over the week-end.

Computer networking among schools would encourage more inter-island communication without having to leave the classroom, according to Inos.

"Students on Rota could interact with students from here through networking. A fifth grader on Saipan could easily interact with another fifth grader on Tinian or Rota," said Public School System (PSS) Acting Technical Coordinator, Nic Sablan.

"It would be very convenient. Schools could share guest speakers through this new technology and learn from these interactions," he added.

Sablan who is also the coordinator for PSS's e-rate (education rate) application said this is one of the main reasons why the school system needs to acquire up to 90 percent of the e-rate discount.

In the process of posting its e-rate application, PSS recently submitted a "wish list" to the U.S. School and Library Division (SLD), enumerating the list of schools targeted for inclusion in the connection.

"It basically outlined what we want for the CNMI. And my understanding is, the window for sending it the wish list is mid December. . .and we want to meet that time because there'll be looking at the first batch of people that come in with their wishes and we want to be in there," said Inos.

The next step to the application, according to Inos, is now being executed.

"It is the actual application of the form 471 and those are all technical specifications. . . what are we going to be doing in that connection. . .and it looks at potential services. In this stage, we are also telling SLD who are the awarded bidders," Inos said.

With the popularity and tested effectiveness of the new computer technology through networking as a sound means of communication, PSS is hoping to give this great piece of advantage to its students.

Today's generation of students in schools are now more computer literate, according to Sablan.

"But we have to encourage more learning in that aspect," said Sablan.

Students in public schools are exposed to the fundamentals of computers as early as kindergarten, Inos revealed.

"They are introduced to computer assisted instruction.

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NMC students waiting for their turn to say goodbye gather in front of the President's office last Friday while Agnes McPhetres gave her last interview to the media. Photo by Rene P. Acosta

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# FORUM

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

## EDITORIALS

### Run

ALTHOUGH hardly unexpected, Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan's recent statement regarding his plans for 2001 should be welcome news to voters who are itching to tell this administration what they think of its handling of the economy and the government's finances.

Indeed, someone from this administration should face the voters and explain the glaring discrepancy between the 1997 GOP ticket's promises and its, for lack of an apt word, "accomplishments" halfway through its term. The voters, in addition, would want to know why, more than two years after the gubernatorial election, this administration sounds as if it's still running against its predecessor. The people, moreover, are dying to know why an administration whose political allies are in full control of the Legislature is unable to enact its supposedly revenue-raising measures.

Likewise, they want to know what exactly did the governor's special task forces achieve since their much publicized creations. We are referring to the groups that were supposed to address pressing concerns regarding solid waste management, aviation, economic issues and capital improvement projects.

We think voters and taxpayers would appreciate Mr. Sablan's explaining why this administration could, on the one hand, claim it is observing austerity measures and, on the other, allow several government offices to remain—or to be moved into—privately owned buildings. And how is it, incidentally, that elected government officials can tell public school students that there is not enough funding for their educational needs just before going on yet another junket?

Mr. Sablan should also field questions regarding the government's obligations to the Retirement Fund, and how the administration will reduce the \$80 million (and counting) deficit, or if it has any intention of doing so.

Finally, Mr. Sablan should tell the public whether he considers it politically wise to retain an acting attorney general whose nomination has been twice rejected by the Senate, and a public safety commissioner who has been repeatedly urged by key lawmakers to resign.

Mr. Sablan, in other words, has much to discuss with voters. We hope he would run.

### Your job's not done

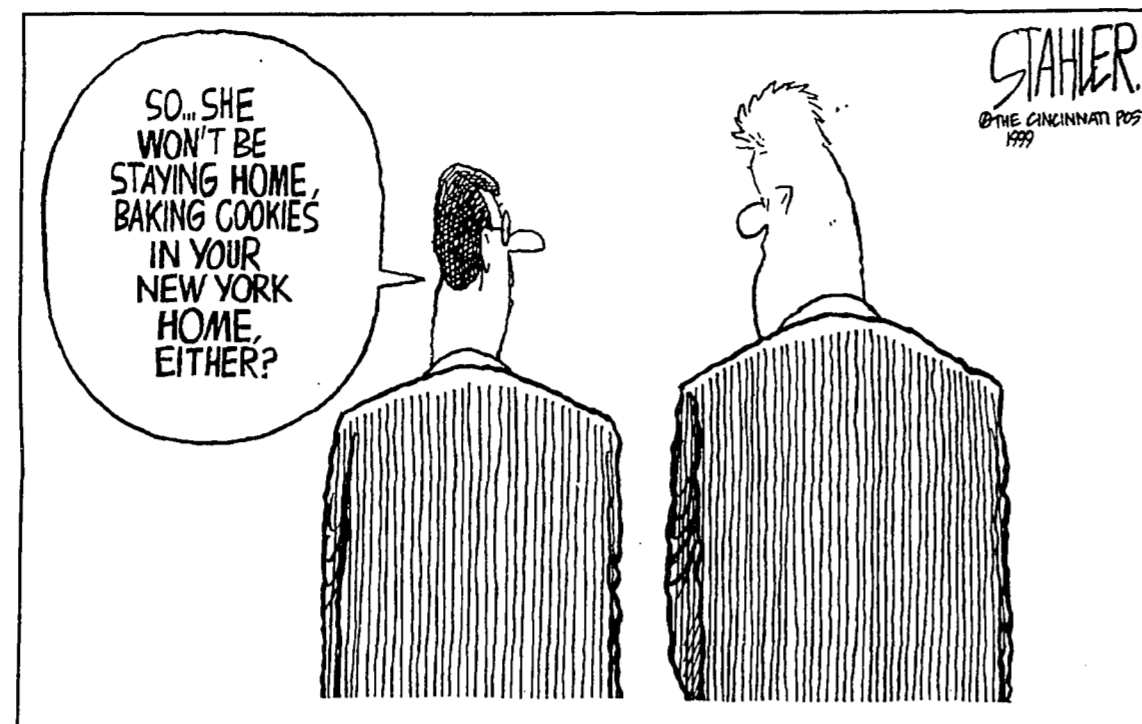
TEN OF the 27 incumbent lawmakers will not serve in the 12th Legislature. Seven representatives and one senator failed to get re-elected, one representative sought a Senate seat and lost, while another representative wants to retire.

Still, someone should remind these lawmakers that their term in office has not yet ended, and that they are expected—and obligated—to perform their duties until their successors are sworn in.

There are several major pieces of legislation that could still be enacted, and there are several concerns that are aching to be raised.

Being lame duck lawmakers is not an excuse for acting like sore losers.

Now if some of these legislators find it difficult to continue with their tasks, then they should not only desist from going on junkets, they should stop collecting their pay checks.



Haidee V. Eugenio

### • Rush



### Delay tactic?

THOUSANDS of words have been heard and written about the controversial, long-awaited \$120 million Saipan power plant project in the past months. But that seemed to be just like that—mere words of promises and sweet talks.

What has taken it so long to finally get off the ground?

With all these delays and controversies surrounding the biggest project so far undertaken by the CNMI, it has become an open secret that an anomaly does exist in the bidding process. Well, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation's (CUC) Board of Directors is in the best position to convince us otherwise.

Crossed fingers. It would have been simple. CUC hired independent evaluator Burns & McDonnell to determine the firm who has the best offer for the 80-megawatt power plant project from which the Board will decide whom to award the contract. But it wasn't as logical as we thought.

The evaluator already released on October the result of its best and final evaluation of bidders' proposals where Enron International's offer was ranked first, closely followed by Tomen Power, then HEI Power Corp. It is surprising to note that Marubeni-Sithe, to whom the CUC Board was about to award the project contract in 1998 which resulted in the filing of several protests by other bidders, was not even included in the top three companies vying for the project.

Citing the need for a more sound decision, the CUC Board said it would make a decision after 90 days or until January 2000 before awarding the contract.

But then, the CUC Board—again—made another surprising move in November. It expanded its contract with Burns & McDonnell to determine CUC's financial ability to move on with the project, and to determine the current and future power supply needs on Saipan.

Come again? Well, the CUC already had a comprehensive study on the power supply needs of the CNMI two years ago, thereby giving us a reason to think this new study—which cannot be as sound as the old one due to the short period of time allotted to conduct it—is

only a waste of money, time and effort. And with or without an economic recession, the CNMI's power supply needs will continue to increase, thus the need to put up a new power plant.

It does not matter whether CUC would start with 30 MW or 50 MW new power plant, as long as the CNMI has a sure source of additional power way before it could experience a series of outages.

What if the study, especially when things go beyond control and comprehension, does not warrant a new power plant? Does that mean all of these are nothing but scam? Urg!

And what's more ironic, CUC has not only once—but a dozen times—insisted in the past that Saipan needs a new power plant and suddenly there's a change of heart. The Board said it needs to re-think the project.

What exactly is the CUC Board up to? Oh yes, a project with so much money involved needs to be thought out well. In every manner possible. Whether that's taken in bad or good light, that depends.

And while CUC seemed so discreet in every move towards the awarding of contract, is there no other way the public would at least know what exactly is going on? The media can only get as much.

It is about time perhaps both the Senate and the House of Representatives adopt resolutions compelling CUC Board to award the contract to the firm independently evaluated as having the final offer. Of course the Board has every right to refuse the results of the independent evaluation; but that's only if it has compelling reason to do that. Now that the election is over, would it be more difficult for the legislators to do that?

Besides, if CUC has second thoughts on the reliability of Burns & McDonnell's evaluation, it would not pay the firm an additional \$45,000 to do another 'interesting' study.

With all these issues surrounding the project, the public cannot be blamed for either thinking there's a deliberate attempt to delay the awarding of the contract or the Board really is just taking its own sweet time.

Well, I'd like to believe taking your own sweet time at the expense of the public's common good is questionable enough.

### FEATURE :

## Latin American writers call for Pinochet trial

By Martin Roberts  
MEXICO CITY (Reuters) - Latin American writers these days face as many questions about Chile's former dictator Augusto Pinochet as they do about their books.

The Pinochet case has stirred conflicting passions around the world, with human rights groups hailing it as a new era in international justice but some governments decrying it as a possible precedent for cross-border interference.

But in Latin America's literary world, most agree he should stand trial on torture charges and not be allowed to evade justice on health or national sovereignty grounds.

"He's not a poor old man. When he was a bit younger he gave orders to do terrible things that are a disgrace to humanity," said Chile's Ariel Dorfman, scriptwriter for Roman Polanski's film "Death and the Maiden."

"And it is all of humanity that has the right and the duty to judge them," added Dorfman, who fled into exile after the 1973 coup that brought Pinochet to power.

Pinochet has been under house arrest near London since October 1998 pending an extradition request from Spain, where he is wanted on charges of torture. More than 3,000 people died or disappeared during his 17 years of ironfisted rule after he took power in a bloody 1973 coup.

The Chilean government has asked Britain's Home Secretary (interior minister) Jack Straw to intervene to cancel extradition proceedings on compassionate grounds, saying the 83-year-old general is in poor health. Latin American writers are used to answering questions about social and political matters and seeing their replies become Page One news. They often have more prestige than politicians and several have held high office.

For the past year their opinions have been sought on every new twist in the long-running legal battle over Pinochet.

Isabel Allende, one of whose bestselling novels was filmed as "The House of the Spirits," noted recently that Chile was one of Latin America's most mature democracies in 1973 and said Pinochet plunged the country into a reign of terror.

"He will go down in history alongside Caligula and Idi Amin as a byword for brutality and ignorance," Allende told Reuters in an interview this year. Her uncle, Salvador Allende, was the president overthrown by Pinochet in 1973. His death in the coup has yet to be fully explained.

Mexican novelist Carlos Fuentes, winner of the prestigious Cervantes prize, agrees. Pinochet was "a repugnant man whom justice has finally caught up with," he told Reuters this year.

Dorfman poured scorn on calls for clemency from former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher and, according to recent British press reports - later denied - the Archbishop of Canterbury, head of the Anglican church.

"I think if that archbishop's daughter had been raped, if she'd had rats shoved in her vagina, then perhaps he would find it more difficult to ask for forgiveness," Dorfman said in Mexico, whose government broke diplomatic relations with Chile while Pinochet was de facto president.

Dorfman, who is also a literature professor and novelist whose latest novel is "The Nanny and the Iceberg," doubted that Pinochet was genuinely ill but said he should be allowed to return to Chile if he really was dying. "But Straw should not be seen to allow Pinochet to return to Chile, for him to turn up strutting around the Senate," he said.

Pinochet became a lifetime senator last year after stepping down as armed forces chief, a post that has so far made him immune from prosecution in Chile.

Pinochet's supporters say his coup was needed to keep Chile from descending into chaos or becoming a communist state under elected socialist President Allende. Thatcher, who entertained Pinochet shortly before his arrest, has also defended him as a valuable military ally and called for his release.

In Chile, Pinochet's backers say the decades-old world outcry against him is due to a left-wing conspiracy.

But conservative Peruvian novelist Mario Vargas Llosa hailed Pinochet's arrest when the news broke, saying dictatorships were bad, whatever their ideological stripe.

"Would to God that a dictator, for once, were internationally punished for his crimes. It would be a warning and make aspiring dictators think twice," said Vargas Llosa, author of "Aunt Julia and the Scriptwriter."

Pinochet's supporters also argue he can face only Chilean courts and call Spanish Judge Baltasar Garzon's bid to try him under international law a blow to Chilean sovereignty. But many Latin American writers say dictators like Pinochet just pay lip service to sovereignty in order to avoid justice.

"Pinochet's situation is that of a new global ethics that the world is beginning to unveil," Chile's Antonio Skarmeta said in Mexico recently. Skarmeta is the author of a play about Nobel poet Pablo Neruda filmed as "El Cartero" (The Postman).

Fuentes said Pinochet's crimes were not confined to Chile, recalling how Chilean agents assassinated Pinochet's opponent, Allende's former Defence Minister Orlando Letelier, along with an American assistant in a car bombing in Washington in 1976.

He added that globalizing justice had lagged behind a globalized economy, which has beaten down national barriers to trade and investment, especially in Latin America.

"How convenient it is to invoke sovereignty to protect domestic crimes," he said. "But when it comes to being more or less manipulated by the International Monetary Fund, then we don't give a damn about sovereignty, do we?"

## • Rlene Steffy

"Angel Santos may be able to manipulate the media, but to mock the court and to mock the Chamorro judge who sits there as one of the most accomplished of our people spits in the face of everything that embodies what we as Chamorros are."



## Santos turning to a life of protest... for publicity's sake

WHY DOES the media give a lot of attention to Angel Santos?

The reasons are many and as varied as the opinions that those in the media have of the former senator. But there is no denying that the media does give a lot of attention to Santos.

Even I have devoted some shows on Santos and to the topic that he champions, because I think as others do, that the return of lands is a worthwhile cause.

But I have to admit that I have been reserved talking about Santos and especially writing about him because I have the opinion that he is more interested in media attention than anything else.

Admittedly, I have spoken to the man only once, face to face. But I don't agree with many things that Santos does, because he threatens the values that I have built my life on. He stands for conformity and I for diversity.

Santos promotes exclusivity of nationality and I prefer integration. He wants federal lands to be returned to the original landowners and we differ in our definition of "original" and whether heirs of those should get the lands. Whether, in addition, all lands should go back to private hands or for the benefit of the people of Guam.

Santos has stated publicly that he doesn't respect the laws of the United States and I have a reverential fear of it. He defies the authority of the District Court judge whom I am proud of. And I believe in the ideals that his authority is based on.

Santos wants to lead the brush fire and I want to prevent it.

When Santos orchestrated the media event at Mogfog on the day that he failed to show up for a contempt of court hearing scheduled in the District Court, I didn't go.

I got a call from Ed Siguenza at the Variety saying that everyone had gathered at Mogfog and was waiting for Santos to arrive. I said, "Why is everyone there?" He said that the media was called to the

property because Santos's followers believed that U.S. marshals were expected to arrive and arrest Santos for failing to show up at court.

That was when I lost my sense of humor over Santos.

Not only did he defy the authority of the District Court judge, now he is trying to outmaneuver the Judge by stating that the media's reporting of the incidents at Mogfog and on other occasions involving him and his stance are inaccurate.

Santos may be able to manipulate the media, but to mock the court and to mock the Chamorro judge who sits there as one of the most accomplished of our people spits in the face of everything that embodies what we as Chamorros are and everything I believe and stand for.

Regardless of what Santos does and whether he wants to lead a life of protest, protesting against accomplished Chamorros defeats his purpose and discredits him as far as I am concerned.

One of the most oppressive, controlling, colonizing objects impeding Guam's progress is Angel Santos. That in, and of, itself is bad enough.

But what is worse is that he wants to bring down anyone and everyone who doesn't agree with him. He is not able to tolerate differences and especially when the difference is against him.

Now he is trying to bring down Judge John Unpingco yet it was this judge who tried to keep him out of jail.

I have never known a person who insists on being jailed against the judge's best efforts to release him. Santos did. He wanted to be put behind bars instead of being a free man. Then once in jail, he couldn't understand the meaning of confinement.

Once an activist turned senator then activist again, Santos is now the court jester.

He may get media attention, but I am not sure he bargained for the exposure that he is about to receive. He has become the media's puppet.

## Letter to the editor

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

### He wants to know what 'eds' means

READING your comment on Romy M. Ordas's letter to the editor Friday has prompted me to write, although I doubt that you have the courage to print my opinion.

In my opinion, your reply is counter-productive and does not belong in this forum. Stick with the facts.

If the garment industry did not generate the revenue it did for the CNMI during the Asian crisis, then it is true that many overseas contract workers would have had to return to their homeland—including yourselves.

So give credit where credit is due. You simply failed to identify that the garment industry saved countless jobs. Now that's worth giving thanks.

Another thing, why don't you impose the same type of rules and standards you placed upon others who submit their opinions for publication.

Show some journalistic courage and identify yourself. And let us debate this knowing who everybody is.

**JOHANN SOBREDO**  
Manager  
Emery Worldwide (Saipan), Inc.

The Variety replies

As most of our readers know, this section has consistently printed a variety of opinions, including those that are critical of our editorial stand on certain issues. Our readers also know that whenever we reply to a particular letter, it is signed "eds." As

every one but you knows, it means "editors," whose names are on the staff box on page 6, which is printed in every issue of this paper.

Stick with the facts? Well, let's begin with the largest settlement in U.S. Labor Department history. The several nasty articles and editorials published in this nation's major newspapers. The denunciations from high-ranking national officials. All depicting the CNMI as the land of sweatshops and imported slaves. If you were from this island, would you want to thank the industry that is the cause of this unfortunate, well, "publicity"? And as you have pointed out, the garment industry is saving jobs—of the aliens. That is something to be thankful for if you live here and are aware of the growing population of foreigners who already outnumber your own people?

We strive to be journalists first in this newspaper. And that means "getting and reporting truthful news" and "remaining independent of forces that would pollute the channels of communications." It means that we are here primarily to serve the local community. And, as every one knows, this community does not appreciate the "sweatshop" and "slavery" labels.

And no, we would not have to return to our homeland if the garment industry folds up. Speak for yourself.

Which reminds us. Do you people know that there are no awards given out to those named in our Thanksgiving list? It was just a list. Our list. Don't tell us who to thank. If you want to thank the garment industry, do so but don't tell us to do it for you—eds.

## Marianas Variety

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

**Publishers:**  
Abed and Paz Younis

Rafael H. Arroyo Editor  
Zaldy Dandan Associate Editor

P.O. Box 231, Saipan MP 96950-0231  
Tel. (670) 234-6341/7578/9797/9272  
Fax: (670) 234-9271

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# NMC bids Agnes goodbye

By Rene P. Acosta  
Variety News Staff

FOR AGNES McPhetres. Friday was one of the saddest days of her life. For it was her last day as president of Northern Marianas College, which she served for 18 years.

McPhetres spent her last day with college staff, students, and friends who gathered to pay her tribute and to say goodbye.

A bigger celebration, a farewell party, was also held for her Saturday.

McPhetres, whose career at the NMC was characterized by numerous successes and controversies, was misty-eyed when she faced the media for her last press conference as NMC head.

"I feel very good. I will be leav-



Retired NMC President Agnes McPhetres (right) shows off the portrait specially made for her by the retirement party committee during Saturday gathering in honor of the outgoing college president.

Photo by Marian A. Maraya

ing the college with a job well done," said McPhetres when asked about how she felt about leaving the institution she served for the last 18 years.

McPhetres said she also feels sad that people whom she had worked with still wanted her to stay.

As a plain citizen, McPhetres said she will take a long vacation before pounding on her next plan, adding there had been a lot of job offers both here and off-island, especially in the private sector.

She said she is also considering the idea of going into graduate studies.

When asked how she wants to be remembered by the students, she said she wanted them to remember her as "somebody who

gave them their opportunity."

McPhetres, during the interview said she was leaving NMC without rancor in her heart, despite recent controversies which nearly blemished her career.

She said she was glad that the college had controversies since it has taught both the students and the staff to solve problems.

For now, McPhetres said she wanted the college and its officials to work for the four-year accreditation of the college.

The former college president joined NMC in 1981. She was named president in 1983.

NMC Board of Regents Chairman Ramon Villagomez said Vice President Jack Sablan will be acting president while they look for McPhetres's replacement.

## 17 mainlanders eye NMC's helm

By Rene P. Acosta  
Variety News Staff

SEVENTEEN of the more than 20 people who are seeking to replace Agnes McPhetres as Northern Marianas College presidency are from the U.S. mainland. Board of Regents Chairman Ramon Villagomez said Friday.

Villagomez said the 17 individuals were among those whose papers are currently being screened by the board in search of McPhetres's replacement.

Meanwhile, McPhetres expressed support for NMC vice president Jack Sablan to succeed her.

"He's very qualified. He



Ramon Villagomez

has been here from beginning so he's very, very qualified," said McPhetres, although she insisted she was not endorsing anyone.

The former president had re-

fused to endorse anybody, and even shunned talk about the selection process, until she learned about the Legislature's endorsement of Sablan.

Members of the Legislature recently endorsed the application of Sablan, saying he was highly qualified to assume McPhetres former post.

Villagomez said the committee will see if it can narrow the list of aspirants within this week.

The screening committee will then narrow down its choices to three finalists who will be subjected to a rigorous process.

## Palau asks for US help in drive against drugs

By Eileen O. Tabaranza  
For the Variety

**KOROR (Palau Horizon).** — As drug trafficking is becoming prevalent on the island and that current resources remained insufficient for the republic to combat such operations, on-island anti-drug advocates are clamoring to let the United States Drug Enforcement Agency (US-DEA) "run the show."

"To me, the drug world is overtaking the republic and the most dangerous part of it is that people have started to believe that it's not bad," Joel Toribiong said, pressing the need to bring some of the experts from US-DEA to enforce drug laws in the republic.

Toribiong, a strong anti-drug advocate, asserted that "Palau is no longer safe since it is becoming a haven for drug trafficking in the Pacific."

"There are more drugs than ever and there are more arrests than ever that it takes a lot to verify the substances," Toribiong said speaking on behalf of other anti-drug advocates, Belau Family School and Community Association and Parents Teachers Association.

Toribiong said the big volume of drugs present on the island right now can be determined on how many does the Bureau of Public Safety (BPS) has arrested and how many drug-related cases are under investigation.

People dealing in drugs are more smarter than our police officers. The reason why we are dealing with these problems is because nobody is stopping the drug trafficking," Toribiong said, adding that shipment of drugs is not just limited and evident in the Philippines-Palau route, but it has been spread out through the use of boats to tourists.

In spite of the stiff penalties imposed against anti-drug law violators, Toribiong said kids are still visibly smoking and pushing drugs everywhere.

Toribiong even claimed that Palau is the number one among South Pacific island nations when it comes to drug problems. He supported his claim by saying that "Palau has been struggling so much and the leadership is not keeping everybody in a fair manner so there are some people who are struggling so they go out of their way to try and survive and this (drug trafficking) is the closest and best deal that they can get money with without the government knowing."

The seemingly growing and unabated drug problem on Palau has prompted anti-drug advocate groups, including Senator Roman Yano, to urge President Nakamura to request assistance of the US-DEA to combat drug trafficking within the republic and between Palau and foreign nations and to provide training for local drug enforcement personnel.

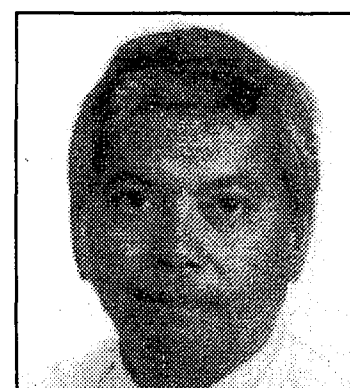
In a Senate Joint Resolution being readied by Yano, who chairs the Senate Committee on Resources and Development, it has reasoned out that the US-DEA has the resources and technology to assist the republic in drug enforcement operations and to train local personnel in advanced techniques of law enforcement.

Having this expertise, according to Yano, would reduce the adverse effects of international drug trade on both nations and increasing the republic's self-sufficiency in this effort.

He noted that by just having attended a workshop and grasped a little knowledge on enforcing drug laws are "below drug lord's mentality" so a need for a tough agents from US-DEA is being sought.

"Because if you arrest a suspect with substance, it requires the government to send it over to laboratory somewhere outside of Palau for verification and it would take a long time," Toribiong cited.

## Court rules on lease dispute



Juan T. Lizama

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

THE SUPERIOR Court has issued a ruling over a building lease deal between two firms that ended in court battle due to alleged prostitution activity in Garapan.

Associate Judge Juan T. Lizama said plaintiff Stringstone Enterprises, Inc. is not entitled to return of the security deposit in the amount of \$21,000.

However, Lizama ordered defendant J. Lee Investment Corporation to return the prepaid rent in the amount of \$61,492, less the costs incurred by the firm to re-let the premises and any amount of previously unpaid rent.

In denying both parties' motion for summary judgment, Lizama said there is a genuine issue as to material fact and that the two firms are not entitled to judgment as a matter of law.

Court records showed that on May 20, 1991, Yang Hun Lee entered into a lease agreement on behalf of Lee Investment with Stringstone Enterprises.

Pursuant to the agreement, Stringstone then took possession of the ground floor of a commercial building located in Garapan for the purpose of operating a restaurant.

In 1998, Stringstone informed Lee Investment that it was having financial difficulties due to adverse economic conditions, prompting the firm to reduce the lease payments.

Stringstone also notified Lee Investment that other tenants in the building were interfering with Stringstone's business by allegedly promoting prostitution in front of the restaurant.

Lee Investment terminated in Sept. 1998 the lease of Club I, one of the establishments which was allegedly engaged in promoting prostitution.

The lease agreement was further modified to allow for monthly rather than quarterly payments. The amended agreement was executed for five consecutive months.

Lee Investment, however,

## Man charged for 'attack'

By Ferdie de la Torre  
Variety News Staff

THE ATTORNEY General's Office has charged a man for allegedly attacking an alien worker who demanded payment from him for cutting grass services in Rota.

Prudencio Manglona Jr. was charged with assault and battery, and theft of services.

Assistant Attorney General James Benedetto stated in the

complaint that on or about last Feb. 1, Manglona "did unlawfully strike, beat, wound, or otherwise do bodily harm to Jamal Jamal."

Benedetto said that in Aug. 1998, the defendant "did purposely obtain services which he knew were available only for compensation and obtained said services by deception or threat, or by false token or other means to avoid payment."

Stringstone then sued Lee Investment for alleged breach of an implied covenant of quiet enjoyment and contract.

Stringstone also filed a counterclaim demanding \$125,989 in damages for breach of the lease agreement, lost rents, and costs incurred in re-letting the premises.

Lizama in his order said pursuant to the terms of the lease agreement, Lee Investment is entitled to retain the security deposit as the possible costs incurred due to the failure or alleged failure to fulfill any of the terms, covenants, and obligations of Stringstone have yet to be determined.

Therefore, Lizama said, Stringstone's request for a declaratory judgment ordering the return of the security deposit is denied.

Lizama said the lease agreement does not state that Lee Investment may retain the prepaid rents for any costs incurred due to the failure of the tenant to fulfill any of the terms, covenants, and obligations of Stringstone.

Lizama said the Court therefore orders that Lee Investment return the prepaid rent in the amount of \$61,492 to Stringstone, less the costs incurred by Lee Investment to re-let the premises and any amount of previously unpaid rent.

With regards to both parties' motion for summary judgment, Lizama said such request may only be rendered if there is "no genuine issue as to any material fact and that the moving party is entitled to judgment as a matter of law."

In this case, Lizama said, there is a question of material fact regarding whether Stringstone vacated the leased premises due to the alleged illicit business practices of the neighboring tenants or whether the firm vacated the premises because it was having financial difficulties due to the adverse economic conditions in the Garapan area.

The factual determination of which of these events caused Stringstone to vacate the premises will determine which party, if any, breached the lease.

Therefore, the judge added, granting summary judgment would be improper at this time as there are genuine issues of material fact which must be examined by the trier-of-fact at trial.

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The lease agreement was further modified to allow for monthly rather than quarterly payments. The amended agreement was executed for five consecutive months.

Lee Investment, however,

## King named Insular Affairs deputy chief

WASHINGTON, D.C. —

The Director of the Interior Department's Office of Insular Affairs Ferdinand Danny Aranza welcomed Sandra Salevasaasomoa King as his new Deputy Director.

King, a native of American Samoa, was appointed Deputy Director of the U.S. Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs in October of this year. This is the highest level of federal service in the Executive Branch that a native Samoan has ever assumed, and Director Aranza praised King's arrival.

"I know I speak for the entire office in welcoming Sandra. As a native Samoan, her insight will be important, and with her background and credentials, I expect she will hit the ground running. This is a good fit, at a great time for our office."

"Sandra's experience with the Senate Committee on Rules and Administration will prove invaluable to the



Danny Aranza

office and our clients. In her first staff meeting she displayed enthusiasm and passion for the work of the office, and I am looking forward to our term together."

King worked as a special assistant to Senator Inouye from 1991 to 1993. After her assignment with Senator Inouye, King spent four years as a lobbyist for a law firm specializing in maritime, transportation and environmental law.

She was then tapped by Senator Inouye to serve as a

member of his professional staff on the U.S. Senate Committee on Rules and Administration where she comes from to the Office of Insular Affairs.

In response to her political appointment, King said, "It is an honor to serve the people of the U.S. territories and freely associated states. As a native of the Pacific Islands, I care genuinely about the affairs of the U.S. territories and freely associated states and look at their general welfare."

"I hope to add significantly to the professional team already in place at the Office of Insular Affairs."

She obtained her Juris Doctor degree from The George Washington School of Law, and was a member of the GW Journal of International Law and Economics.

King is an avid golfer and is the Founder and President of the Women's Congressional Golf Association in Washington, D.C.

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### Village meeting to tackle family violence slated

THE Family Violence Task Force is inviting all residents of Chalan Kanoa and any interested individuals to a village meeting about family violence tomorrow, Tuesday at 7 p.m. at the Karidat Youth Learning Center.

Also, all residents of Koblerville and any interested individuals are invited to attend a village meeting about family violence tomorrow, Tuesday, at 7 p.m. next to the Koblerville Fire Station.

For more information, please contact Blumel Ada at 664-2366.

### EAP applications now being accepted

THE Scholarship Office is currently accepting Educational Assistant Program (EAP) application for the Winter 2000 & Spring 2000.

Application must be submitted or postmarked no later than December 15th, 1999.

Application can be obtained at the Scholarship Office or call 664-4750/1 if you want it faxed to you.

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# Saipan hosts Catholic bishops for Jubilee 2000

By Rene P. Acosta  
Variety News Staff

WHAT could be a more blessed way to welcome the coming of the new millennium than hosting a group of holy dignitaries from around the world.

Saipan will host the Roman Catholic Bishops Conference, which will be held tomorrow at the Grand Hotel.

Isla Financial Services said it is honored to serve breakfast to the bishops.

"It's the first time ever that such a big group of bishops will be coming in and we want to show to them that Saipan is a good community. Just imagine the blessing that we will be getting from their presence here," said Anne Demapan-Castro. Isla's vice president and general manager.

Castro said Isla considers it

a privilege to be of service to church leaders, some of whom are the highest Catholic officials in their countries.

The service, according to Castro, will not only be given in behalf of the business community, but also in behalf of the island and its people who are eagerly awaiting for the arrival and presence of the church officials.

Castro said the "reward" in hosting such service to the bishops is immeasurable.

"It's a worthy and blessed undertaking," she said.

About 50 to 60 bishops will be meeting at the hotel to discuss preparations for the Great Jubilee Year 2000.

The event, which will be led by no less than Pope John Paul II, will be one of the Catholic Church's biggest world-wide celebrations.



First Lady Sophie P. Tenorio (left) receives a donation for the Year 2000 project from J.C. Tenorio Enterprises, Inc., represented by its President Clarence T. Tenorio. Contributed Photo

# PacifiCare donates to DES

PACIFICARE Asia Pacific donated six computer units to DanDan Elementary School (DES) Friday as part of its community outreach.

The health maintenance organization chose DES among all schools on Saipan since it is the only school that lacks computers to run a computer education program.

"We donated to this school because they didn't have any computers and all kids which came from schools did have computers," said Pacificare Asia Pacific Plan President Daniel E. Geary.

"Pacificare is always sensitive to the needs of our local community. Our 25 years in health care have taught us that there is no substitute for our relationship with the local community. It's about all the people we serve and the people we live with.

"We hope that this small donation will give Saipan's children the skills to thrive in the next generation," he added.

The company also donated a total of five computers to Northern Marianas Academy (NMA). Sandy McKenzie of NMA said

the systems donated to the school helped create NMA's "Computer Center."

In the process of upgrading its system, Pacificare decided to donate some of its old computers to schools.

"We are getting some new computers. And the old computers were not that old so we had the opportunity to put them to good use in our community," said the Pacificare general manager.

The computers are said to be Y2K compliant.

Frances Taimanao of DES said that her school has yet to implement a computer education.

"We are still planning on having a computer laboratory as soon as we have an extra classroom," said Taimanao.

The six computers for now would have been used by 20 students in each class.

DES is still set on acquiring on more computers.

"This coming December 18, we will be having a carnival . . . hopefully the proceeds we get from this would be used to buy computers," she said. (MRAM)



PacifiCare Asia Pacific officials, headed by President Danie Geary (3rd from right) accepts an appreciation plaque given by Dandan Elementary School last Friday for the company's generous computer donation to the school. Photo by Marian A. Maraya

# Nakamura urged to tap new climate coordinator

By Mar-Vic Cagurangan  
For the Variety

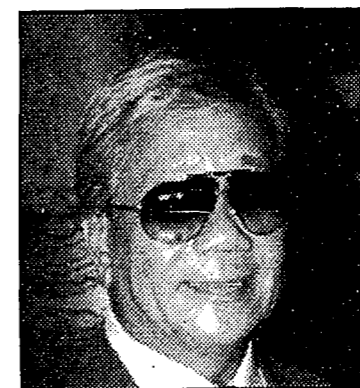
**KOROR (Palau Horizon)** — Echoing Sen. Roman Yano's call for the government to take a unified stand on the climate change issue, House Del. Surangel Whipps has urged President Nakamura to appoint a Climate Change National Coordinator who would lead all efforts aimed at addressing environmental problems arising from climate change.

"Palau has many committed individuals who could fill this position," Whipps said.

Whipps proposed that the coordinator be tasked to form a team that will undertake pertinent programs and to manage the money which Palau will receive from the United Nation's Climate Change Convention Fund.

Palau expects to receive \$350,000 from the Fund, which was established by the Convention to enable developing countries to deal with climate change.

"While there is a substantial amount of money available to developing countries like Palau, competition for this money will be great," said Whipps. "Over 100 countries throughout Africa, Asia, and the rest of the world



Kunio Nakamura

will all be attempting to obtain as much funding as possible."

The House delegate said Palau should start planning a climate change-related program so that the country can position itself for its financial assistance request.

The appointment of a Climate Change National Coordinator is "the first step" toward this goal, Whipps said, urging the President to "take action quickly."

Whipps also proposed that the money to be received by Palau be used to establish new sources of fresh water, build sea walls to prevent salt water from entering mesei, and perform research into ways to mitigate coral bleaching.

Whipps spoke at the Climate Change Convention held in Bonn, Germany last Nov. 10. The con-

vention was attended by 5,000 representatives from 173 countries.

Climate Change refers to changes in global weather patterns as a result of emissions of carbon dioxide and other greenhouse gases. Power plants, factories and automobiles are the major sources of these gases.

Local environmental experts said the climate change has started affecting Palau. It has caused coral bleaching which kills coral reefs; the rising of sea levels which causes salt water to enter mesei and kill taro plants; increased sea water temperatures which kills the jellyfish; and the 1998 drought which damaged local crops and required water rationing.

During the convention in Germany, Whipps called on the industrialized nations, specifically the United States, "to reduce their emissions of greenhouse gases."

Noting that the U.S. accounts for 35 percent of the world's greenhouse gas emissions, Whipps said Palau "must use our excellent relationship with the U.S. to encourage it to reduce its emissions of CO2 and other greenhouse gases that cause climate change."

# January start for Air Nauru flights seen

By Eileen O. Tabaranza  
For the Variety

**KOROR (Palau Horizon)** — Air Nauru may start its trial flight on the Saipan-Palau-Manila route in January following high expectations that the Philippine government may issue a new landing permit for the former to fly these destinations.

This possibility was raised during the recently-concluded Manila meeting between Air Nauru executives and officials from Palau, Saipan and the Philippines.

Chairman of the Senate committee on transportation and communications Sam Masang, who is involved in these series of negotiations, said the planned trial flight in December was aborted since the existing routes that they are serving are already full.

The actual flight of the planned twice a week, Tuesday and Sunday may start in March this year, Masang said.

"I am confident that the Philippine government would give them a landing permit as I have been told by the Alvarez group," Masang said. The Alvarez group led by Jose Alvarez, owner of Centennial Air, is the agent for Air Nauru.

"The Alvarez group said Air Nauru can be able to get a (landing) permit. He (Jose Alvarez) said 99 percent the Philippine government will give whatever

consideration to the request of Air Nauru. He seems to be saying that there is no reason why they can't they be able to get a permit," Santos Olikong, who also went to Manila, said.

Olikong explained that Air Nauru used to serve the Guam-Palau-Manila route from 1980 to 1985 or 1986 and that the airline might just revive the landing permit which was given by the Philippine government in 1980.

Olikong added that Air Nauru would either revive the landing permit for the particular destinations or ask a new permit if it has become obsolete or has been terminated.

Masang said the next step would be a bilateral agreements to be done by Air Nauru for Palau and Saipan governments, which would be discussed in the next meeting.

"We're getting close to the final stage of our discussions between the airline and Palau and Saipan. One last step before we go to bilateral agreements is we need a confirmation from Air Nauru if they are able to get a permit or not," Masang said.

The senator stressed the Palau government may give the same landing rights since it was mandated by President Nakamura, the Congress and the Ministry of Commerce and Trade.

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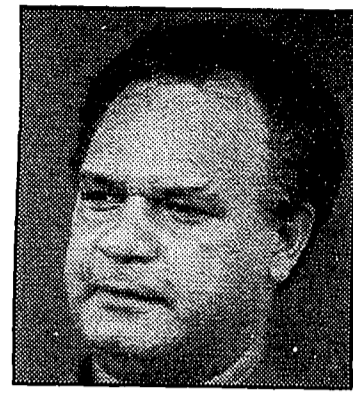
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*Best Wishes to Miyuki Coretta Hill on your participation in the 1999 Miss International Pageant in Tokyo, Japan.*

From Representative **Karl T. Reyes**

## PNG's Skate storms out of Parliament

PORTMORESBY (Pacnews)— Papua New Guinea's (PNG) Opposition Leader Bill Skate yesterday stormed out of Parliament in protest after he was denied permission to table what he labelled as "important" documents relating to the current saga at the National Capital District Commission's (NCDC) City Hall.



Bill Skate

This was the second time in two days that he was not allowed to table separate documents on NCDC. On Wednesday Skate was not allowed to table documents pointing to alleged illegal practices by NCDC's caretaker administration in awarding lucrative contracts.

Yesterday the Speaker did not give him permission to table documents alleging the illegal engagement of a foreign investigator to look into the books of the city hall.

Skate during question time asked Prime Minister, Sir Mekere Morauta if he was aware that former Sir Lankan national, Carlyle de Silva's engagement by NCDC's principal investigator, TSK International, was a breach of labour and immigration laws of PNG.

The Speaker, Bernard Narokobi ruled that the Prime Minister should not answer the question.

Skate linked de Silva's illegal entry to a tough power play by a former prominent politician linked to the ruling Peoples Democratic Movement Party.

Carlyle de Silva was blacklisted from entering PNG by the

former Chan government in 1995 after serious allegations were raised against him.

The former Sri Lankan was first employed by the Police Department in 1980 and then moved to the Correctional Institutional Services.

He later joined the Department of Civil Aviation and ended up at the National Forestry Office before he was expelled.

Skate said the ruling was unfair on a matter of public importance.

"The Speaker's ruling is not in order. It is biased, unfair it has no respect for democracy and parliamentary decorum."

"We have to attend to a Sri Lankan who has violated and has no respect for our laws. I am calling on the Prime Minister what action will he take to deal with this Sri Lankan because he is still here illegally with a business permit and is employed by the TSK and carrying out an investigation where he should not be."

## Population growth seen as A. Samoa's biggest problem

PAGOPAGO (Pacnews)— A state of the environment assessment by a local scientist has identified "overpopulation" as the most serious environmental concern facing American Samoa today.

Scientist Peter Craig says the annual population growth rate of 2.7 per cent is simply not sustainable for a small island with limited land resources.

The territory has an estimated population of 65,000, up almost 1,800 people since last year. Population density is 817 people per square mile (2.6 square kilometres).

Craig pointed out about 90 per cent of the 'new people', babies were born in American Samoa, are dependants who will pay no taxes but will require vast public services for many years.

The remainder, the immigrants, also increase the overall need for public services such as health care, road repairs and schools, he said.

"Even if we begin to tackle this issue now and slow our growth rate even further, it seems unavoidable that we will reach 150,000 people in the next few decades," Craig predicted. Overfishing of coral reefs was

identified as another pressing concern. According to the environmental assessment giant clams and parrotfish are clearly over-fished, there is heavy fishing pressure on surgeonfish and popular local species of fish such as groupers and snappers are in small supply.

On the upside, coral reefs are finally recovering from three hurricanes, a warm water bleaching event, and a crown of thorns starfish invasion.

Craig said that while a full recovery will take more time "it is exciting to see large corals again".

## Solomon tables balanced budget

HONIARA (Pacnews)— The Solomon Islands Government has tabled a balanced Budget in Parliament for the year 2000.

Finance Minister Alpha Kimata said S\$396 million (US\$78.9 million) will be for recurrent expenditure while S\$30 million (US\$5.97 million) has been allocated for development projects.

Kimata revealed while there will be no internal borrowing, and external borrowing will only be restricted to concessional and development projects. He said the World Bank and Asian Development Bank will be providing funds for the 2000 Budget, but for investment purposes only.

An interesting aspect of the

2000 Budget was the presence of an expenditure report by the Treasury Department, which were not published in previous years.

Like previous budgets, the new Budget discourages salary increases, describing it as a catalyst for inflation in the current economic environment.

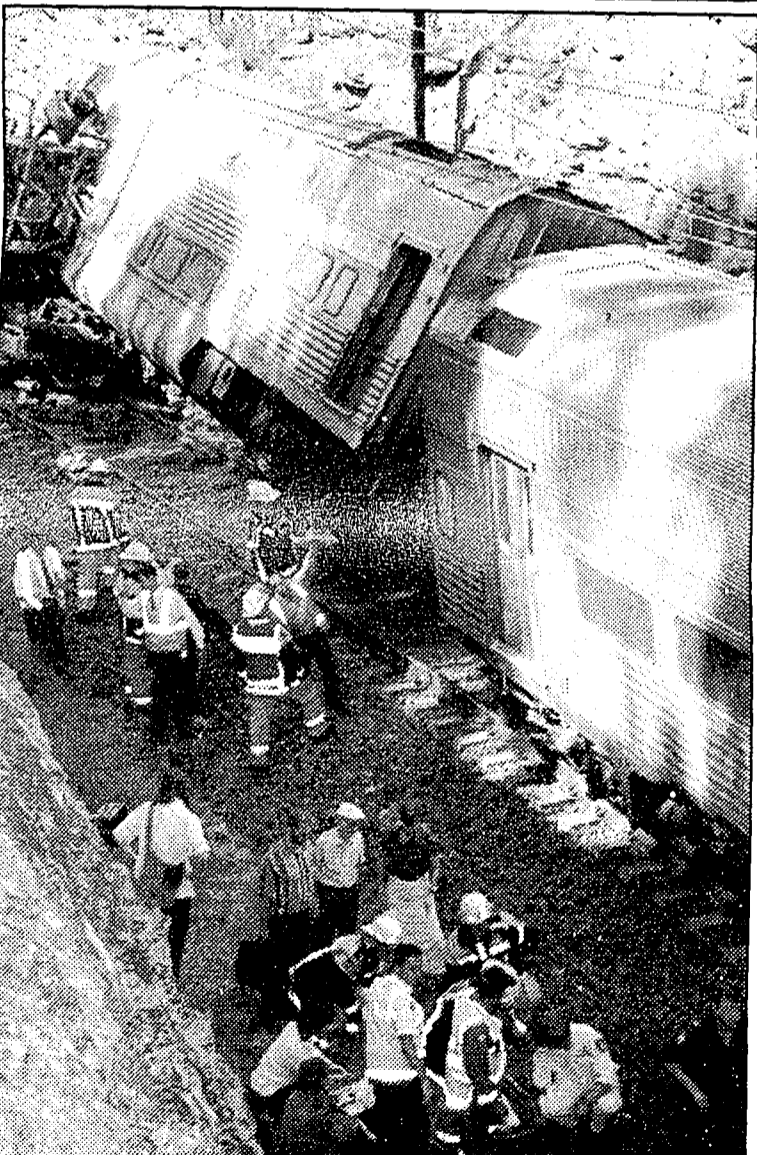
Payroll expenditure is at S\$150 million (US\$29.9 million) but the budget could not reach the S\$44 million (US\$8.77 million) surplus mark reached last year because of a slow-down in economic activity resulting from the ethnic problems on Guadalcanal.

Meanwhile the Government accounts will be clear of domestic debts when it enters the new mil-

lennium. This will be achieved through an arrangement with the National Provident Fund (NPF) which has bought 48.1 per cent government shares in Solomon Telekom.

The arrangement is that the S\$30.3 million debt incurred by the government from the Investment Corporation of the Solomon Islands, Solomon Islands Printers and Solomon Airline's to the NPF, will be settled.

The Investment Corporation, on behalf of the Government last week received a cheque of more than S\$18.6 million while more than S\$30.3 million was used to offset government debts with the fund.



Emergency workers and passengers gather after two trains collided west of Sydney, Australia, Thursday. At least six people were killed and 40 were injured when a commuter train carrying 1,000 people slammed into the back of the cross continental Indian Pacific train. AP

## Samoa attorney seeks changes to rape laws

APIA (Pacnews)— A Samoan attorney, Suzanne Tiapula, wants to change local laws to enable wives who are raped by their husbands to file charges against them.

At present, a woman who is sexually assaulted by her husband cannot bring charges of rape against him. Tiapula, an Assistant Attorney General with the Department of Legal Affairs, was preparing to file charges against a man who allegedly raped his wife at knife point, when she discovered that local laws prevented her from doing so.

This is because the law books state that rape and sexual assault crimes are committed if a person has sexual intercourse with another person "to whom he is not married."

There is no mention of what happens if the same act is committed to a person to "whom he is married."

Tiapula, who joined the Attorney General's Office earlier this year after a three year stint as prosecutor of child abuse and domestic violence cases for the Honolulu District Attorney's Office said the laws were "archaic, barbaric."

She said she had seen the provisions before her current case and had assumed that amendments had been made to the laws. But to her dismay this was not the case.

The attorney said that in the past women were considered the property of their husbands, so it would not be considered a crime to destroy your own car, it was similarly not considered a crime to assault your wife.

Another old legal theory, she said was that wives were mere extensions of their husbands and it was not possible to rape oneself, so therefore it was not a crime to rape one's wife.

The attorney said there is "no excuse for keeping laws on our books, which are based on those discredited theories," and she will do her part to correct the situation.

She is drafting changes to local laws to enable prosecutors to charge husbands who sexually assault their wives with rape, like the wife who was raped at knife point by her husband.

She hopes to gather support from women's groups and church organizations to get the proposed changes approved by the Legislature early next year.

## Tonga to assess its trash woes

NUKU'ALOFA (Pacnews)— The Tongan Government has established a Committee to look into the problems associated with the Popua rubbish dump located along the waterfront, east of downtown Nuku'alofa.

The Committee has also been assigned to seek a new site for the relocation of the rubbish dump. The Committee, among other things, will study the living standards of people in the vicinity of dump and its effects on them.

The Minister for Lands, Survey and Natural Resources, Honourable Tu'i'afitu is the Chairman of the Committee.

Other members include the Directors of Health and Works, General Manager of Tonga Water Board, and Dr Savae Latu, the Secretary for Lands and Survey. Dr Latu said the immediate task of the Committee is to identify a new dump site.

He said 12 sites have been identified including Sopa, a temporary site used in 1989 but which closed the following year.

The Tapuhia quarry in the central part of the main island of Tongatapu is the most likely site for a new dump.

# 13 killed in N.M. crash

EDGEWOOD, N.M. (AP)— A van that had been stripped of its rear passenger seats and packed with 17 people crashed into a tractor-trailer rig on an icy interstate near Albuquerque early Saturday, killing 13 people.

The van's driver apparently didn't notice traffic had slowed for an accident ahead and plowed under the back end of the tractor-trailer, Santa Fe County Undersheriff Benjie Montano said.

He said there didn't appear to be any signs of braking by the van. "It was gruesome," said towing company owner Michael Tavenner. There was about an inch of ice on the road where the crash occurred, Tavenner said.

An overnight storm had left 2-3 inches of snow in the region and wind had blown snow into drifts 16 inches deep.

U.S. Border Patrol spokesman Doug Mosier said authorities found documents in the van that suggest the occupants were

Mexican nationals from Chiapas and Oaxaca. Investigators were working with the Mexican Consulate to identify the occupants and determine whether they had entered the United States legally, Montano said.

The Mexican Consulate did not immediately return a telephone message left at its Albuquerque office by The Associated Press.

The crash occurred about 2 a.m. on a straight stretch of Interstate 40 about 35 miles east of Albuquerque.

Three surviving passengers, two men and a woman, were in satisfactory condition at University Hospital and another man was listed in critical condition, hospital spokeswoman Cindy Foster said. All 13 killed were men.

The driver of the tractor trailer didn't require hospitalization. Kris Klinek, general manager at a travel center near the highway, said the stretch was notoriously dangerous in poor weather.



Boxes of television sets lie strewn about the shoulder of east bound I-40 near Edgewood, N.M., Saturday after they fell out of the top of a tractor-trailer rig that rolled over due to icy conditions. Thirteen people died in an unrelated accident near this one when a van collided with the rear of a tractor-trailer rig that had stopped on the interstate. AP

## Ex-mayor's suit tossed

MIAMI (AP)— A judge has thrown out a former mayor's suit against The Miami Herald, saying that it is a columnist's right to call a politician "loony."

Florida Circuit Court Judge Amy Dean said Carl Hiaasen's characterization of former Mayor Xavier Suarez as "loony," "deranged," "crazy" and "paranoid" in a December 1997 column were opinion and were not purported to be fact.

Dean, in a decision issued Thursday, also dismissed Suarez's allegations against former Herald political editor Tom Fiedler.

He had written that Suarez "likened the state's control

over (Miami) to the Nazi takeover of France in World War II."

Suarez said he never made such a comment. Dean said Fiedler, now the Herald's editorial pages editor, was offering "rhetorical hyperbole" and "a libel suit must be based on fact." Nor did the comment defame Suarez, she said.

Suarez, who was mayor through most of the 1980s, filed the suit earlier this year shortly after the Herald won a Pulitzer Prize for exposing fraud in the 1997 municipal election that returned him to office.

The scandal led to Suarez's ouster as mayor by a state appeals court.

## 2 bonfire collapse dead were drunk

COLLEGE STATION, Texas (AP)— Two of the 12 killed in the collapse of the Texas A&M University bonfire were legally drunk, prompting an investigation by the state Alcoholic Beverage Commission.

Toxicology reports released Friday show the blood-alcohol level of two male students killed in the Nov. 18 accident exceeded the legal limit, the Bryan-College Station Eagle and The Dallas Morning News reported.

The level of one student was nearly four times the .08 threshold, the newspapers said. School officials have

stressed no evidence points to student misconduct as a factor in the collapse, which also injured 27.

"A few students drinking could not have caused that accident," said Bob Wiatt, the university's director of security.

Tests show eight other students who died had not been drinking, while one former student had drunk a small amount. Toxicology results for the 12th student were not available on Friday.

Leo E. Linbeck, a Houston construction executive leading a separate, five-member investigative committee, said the toxicology reports will be added

to the data already under review.

The committee met for the first time on Friday.

Alcohol-related arrests long have been associated with the lighting of the bonfire, rather than the weeks leading up to the event, Wiatt said.

But in the past decade, law enforcement agencies cracked down on drinkers and student leaders urged other not to shatter the tradition with drinking, he said.

Those who worked on the project signed pledge cards promising they would not drink and climb on the bonfire, he said.

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**For cutting welfare rolls**

# States awarded \$200M bonus

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rewarding states where welfare recipients found and kept jobs, President Clinton spread \$200 million in bonus money Saturday to 27 states for doing more than simply cutting welfare rolls.

The president further refined what it means to succeed in welfare reform, saying next year's contest also will reward states that get medical benefits and food stamps to low-income families.

He said states will be rewarded, too, when more children live in two-parent families. In his weekly radio address, Clinton again trumpeted tumbling welfare rolls, announcing that the number of

people collecting monthly checks is now less than half that of 1994.

Fewer than 6.9 million people—about 2.5 million families—collected aid in June. The welfare bonus contest, created by the 1996 welfare overhaul, rewards states that move the most welfare recipients into jobs, whether or not they leave the system's rolls.

States also are rewarded when clients kept jobs for at least three months and receive higher wages.

"Most of the people who get jobs are keeping them. They're getting raises and paying taxes, and teaching their children to honor the dignity of work," Clinton said.

Each winner's share of the \$200 million this year is determined by the size of the state's annual welfare appropriation from Washington.

The money is added to other welfare funds and is subject to the same restrictions.

None of the bonus money can be used to cut taxes or build stadiums, for instance, but can pay for childcare or vans to take people to jobs.

The amount given to each state was not immediately available. But with 27 winners, the average bonus will be about \$7.4 million. The awards range from \$500,000 for South Dakota to \$45 million

for California.

The money goes to the top 10 states in four categories, based on data from 1998. Indiana was No. 1 in placing the most people into jobs.

Minnesota had the most people keep jobs and increase earnings, called "job success." Washington state had the most improvement in job placement from 1997 to 1998. Florida showed the most improvement in job success.

State reports show that nationally, 1.3 million people on welfare went to work in 1998, with 80 percent still working three months later.

On average, quarterly wages increased from \$2,088 to \$2,571, still short of the poverty line but more than they were getting from welfare.

These families also are eligible for the earned income tax credit that helps millions of working families move out of poverty.

Backers of the new welfare rules, which require recipients to work and limit the time people can collect assistance, have pointed to falling welfare rolls as proof of the new law's success.

Opponents fear many of the people leaving welfare may be slipping through the cracks and getting nothing. The contest rules were the administration's attempt to define success as moving into jobs and succeeding in them.

Many states with large caseload declines did not win the bonus. Of the 20 states with the biggest caseload declines in 1998, just nine were bonus winners.

Some of the states with large declines over the past several years, such as Wisconsin, failed to win.

That may be partly because some of these states already had

large drops in earlier years, meaning the population being measured in 1998 was disproportionately disadvantaged. Also, states like Wisconsin brag that their programs try to help families avoid welfare in the first place, meaning those most likely to work were not in the pool to begin with.

"State efforts to provide more help for working families or reduce poverty aren't very well reflected by the available numbers," said Mark Greenberg of the liberal Center for Law and Social Policy, which advises states on their welfare programs.

But Greenberg welcomed new categories meant to seek out about millions of low-income families and children who are eligible for but are not enrolled in the food stamp system, Medicaid or the new Children's Health Insurance Program.

While federal law encourages states to move people off cash welfare, these programs are to support families at work, often in low-wage jobs.

Clinton also is responding to conservatives who argue that marriage provides the stability and income that children need.

Next year states will be rewarded if they increase the portion of low-income children living in married-couple households.

"The old welfare system actually weakened families, by discouraging couples from marrying or living with their children. We want to change that," Clinton said.

"So starting next year there will also be bonuses for states that do the most to get poor children into two-parent homes, where we know they have the best chance of breaking the cycle of poverty."



President Clinton smiles as he talks about the 20 million new jobs created since he came to office in the Eisenhower Executive Office Building Friday in Washington. AP

## US woman first to row ocean alone

MIAMI, (Reuters) - Tori Murden, a 36-year-old from Kentucky, pulled into Bas du Fort Harbour in Guadeloupe on Friday after an 82-day Atlantic crossing to become the first woman and first American to row an ocean alone and unsupported.

"This land does wobble and my legs are tanned," said an exhausted but overjoyed Murden as she set foot on the French Caribbean island.

She had covered a distance of 2,961 miles (4,765 kms) since departing Tenerife, the Canary Islands, on Sept. 13, 1999, according to a statement from her sponsors.

During the Atlantic crossing in blazing heat and changing winds and currents, Murden averaged 36 miles (57 kms) a day.

She was held up for nearly two weeks in November by Hurricane Lenny and stifling headwinds.

## Militia reportedly mulled bomb plot

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — Federal agents have arrested two anti-government militia members in connection with a plan to blow up a massive propane installation in Elk Grove, a newspaper reported Saturday.

The Sacramento Bee, citing unidentified sources, said the arrests Friday by the FBI Joint Terrorism Task Force came after a nearly yearlong investigation into the alleged plot against Suburban Propane.

Federal officials told the paper that the threat to the plant, where 24 million gallons of liquid propane are stored, had been eliminated even before the arrests.

FBI spokesman Nick Rossi referred all inquiries to the U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of California, who did not immediately return a call seeking comment this morning. Authorities believe the alleged plan was designed to exploit Y2K fears among the nation's hate groups.

"We think we stopped a terrorist attack," a source close to the investigation told the Bee. "Can we be certain they would have carried it out?"

We don't know. We had to behave as though they were going to do it."

Authorities said the two men, whose names were not disclosed, were arrested on weapons charges and held while federal agents searched their El Dorado County homes for evidence. Storage lockers and homes in Reno, Nev., and Carson City, Nev., also were searched. Both were members of a San Joaquin County militia group and had been stockpiling large amounts of illegal weapons, law-enforcement sources said.



First lady Hillary Rodham Clinton walks past Santa Claus outside the White House Thursday prior to accepting the White House Christmas tree. AP

**In Massachusetts fire**

# 6 firemen feared dead

WORCESTER, Mass. (AP) — Six firefighters were missing and feared dead after becoming trapped as a five-story blazer roared through an abandoned industrial building. The fire was still burning at midmorning and Fire Chief Dennis Budd said investigators could not yet enter the gutted building to search for the cause or the missing firefighters. "This morning, the sun didn't rise.

It didn't rise because last night we lost six members of our family," Mayor Ray Mariano said at a news conference today.

"They were firefighters, but more importantly they were members of our family." Two of the firefighters had entered the maze-like, brick structure shortly after the fire began at 6 p.m. on Friday to scout out flames and search for two homeless people who reportedly lived there, authorities said.

Those two firefighters radioed for help after becoming disoriented, and four members of a rescue team sent after them failed to reappear after the team was ordered out, said Deputy Fire Chief Gerard Dio.

Someone radioed "'Mayday, Mayday, we're running out of air,'" said District Fire Chief Michael McNamee.

Budd said authorities hadn't determined whether any homeless people were in the building at the time of the fire. Dio had called the fire suspicious because firefighters initially fought two fires that appeared to have begun separately.

The lost firefighters ranged in age from 30 to 50, and had served as firefighters from three years to more than 25 years, Dio said.

As firefighters battled the flames, a steady stream of people came by the scene to see if family or friends were among the missing.

Among them was Kathy Perry, sister of uninjured district fire chief McNamee. "I keep thinking, there are mothers or wives out there thinking, 'Is it my husband, is it my son?'" Perry said.

"And some of them are right - it's them." Clergy and Red Cross workers were brought to the scene to counsel firefighters and families.

Twelve to 15 family members formed a circle to pray with a priest today as smoke billowed out of the building.

Witnesses told firefighters that the labyrinthine building, once home to a cold storage business, had become a refuge for the homeless who would build fires there for warmth. The structure of the building - thick brick walls with few windows - may have played a role in the firefighters' becoming disoriented, District Chief Walter Giard said.

"The same thing that keeps in the cold kept in the smoke," Giard said.

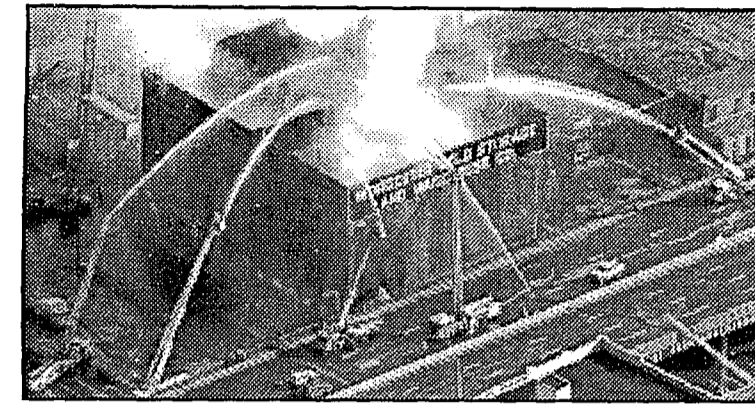
Interstate 290, so close to the building that fire trucks were parked on it to pump water on the

flames, remained closed in both directions Saturday morning. Worcester is about 40 miles west of Boston.

Fire Lt. John Baudin said firefighters were in a somber mood as they worked, forced to remain outside knowing that the missing firefighters were trapped.

"We've got 300 guys over there itching to get back in the building to try and find them," he said.

Worcester fire officials said the last time a firefighter was killed fighting a blaze in the town was in 1963.



Firefighters spray water onto a lingering general-alarm fire at an abandoned cold storage warehouse Saturday in Worcester, Mass., where six firefighters are believed to have perished. AP

If six firefighters are confirmed dead, it would be the country's deadliest building blaze for firefighters since six New York City firefighters died in a supermarket fire on Aug. 2, 1978, according to Firehouse.com, a Web site that tracks federal statistics on such deaths. Firefighters union officials said it was considered a reliable source.

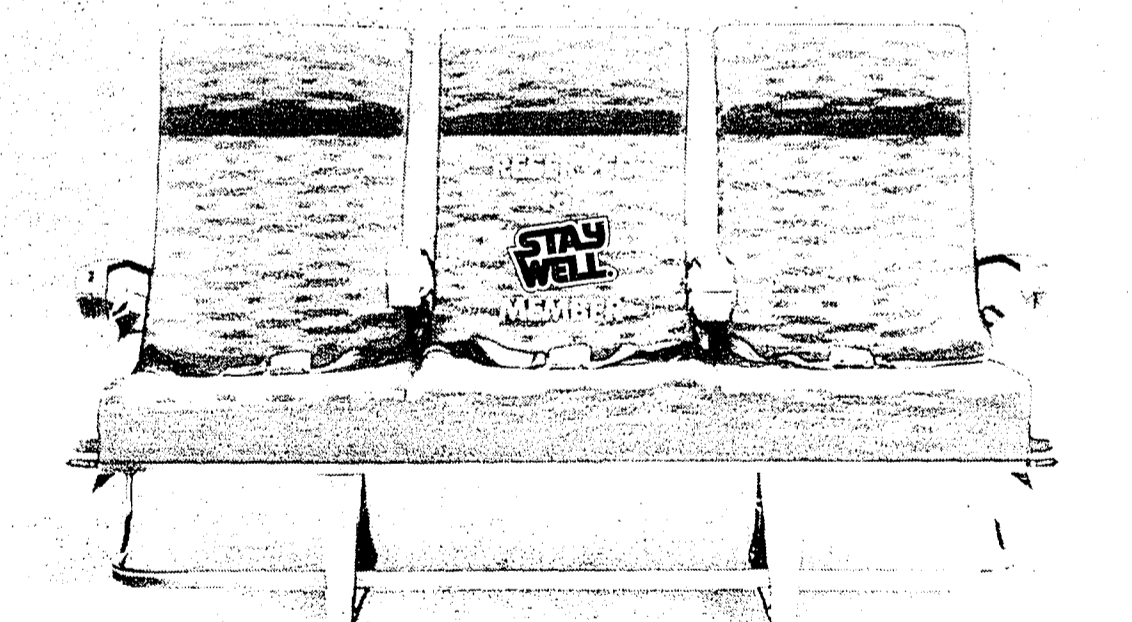
In addition to building fires, 14 firefighters died on July 6, 1994, while battling a forest fire on South Canyon Mountain near Glenwood Springs, Colo.

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## New Hampshire Gov. backs Gore



Al Gore

ROCHESTER, N.H. (AP) — Gov. Jeanne Shaheen formally endorsed Al Gore for president on Saturday, saying the Democrat was the best candidate to maintain the nation's economic growth.

"From the time he was elected to Congress in 1976, he's fought for the things that have mattered most to me, and to the families of New Hampshire," she said, surrounded by about 400 Gore

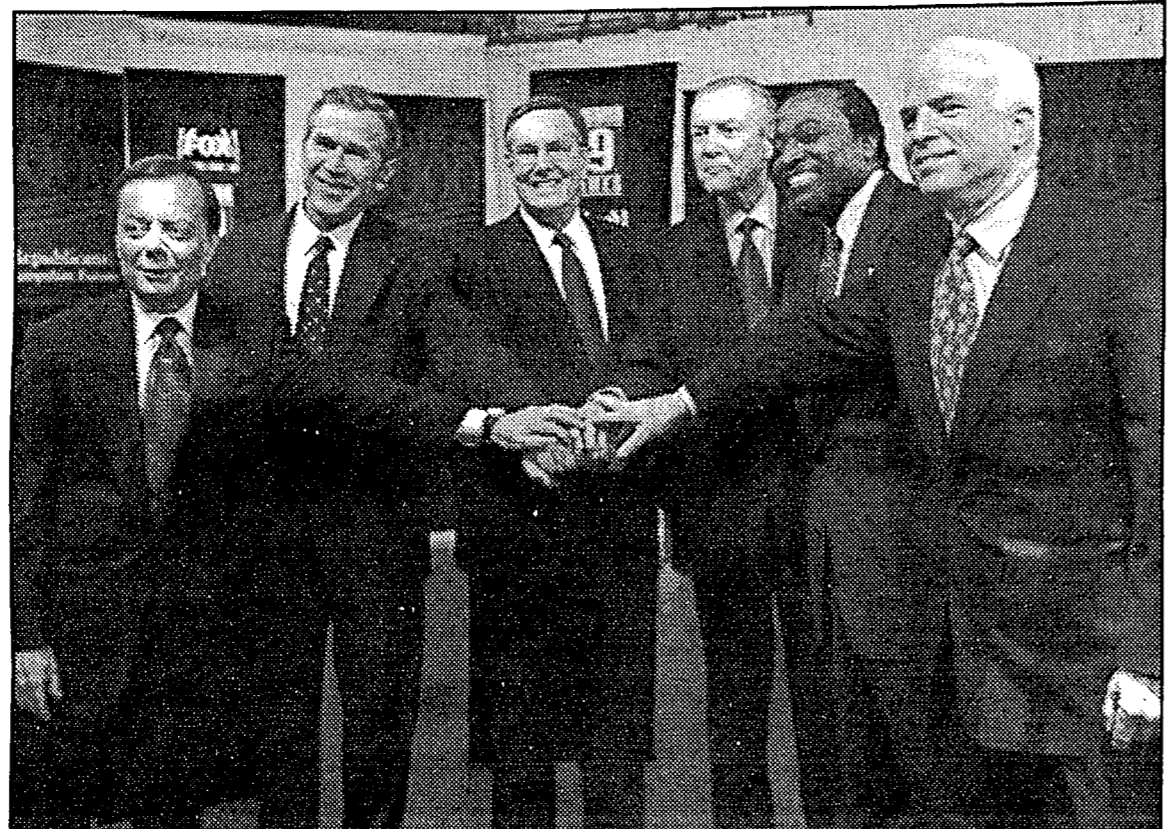
supporters waving signs. Shaheen praised the vice president's plan to expand health care coverage and said "there is no greater friend of the environment." Her announcement was widely expected, given that her husband has been running Gore's campaign in the state since March.

The governor planned to make the endorsement in October, but postponed it to deal with the state's education funding problems.

Also Saturday, a poll found Gore is in a statistical tie in New Hampshire with challenger Bill Bradley.

Bradley was favored by 47 percent of the likely Democratic voters who were polled to 40 percent for Gore.

The Newsweek poll, conducted Thursday and Friday, had a margin of error of 7 percentage points.



Republican Presidential candidates gather for a photo prior to their televised debate in Manchester, N.H., Thursday. From left are Gary Bauer, Texas Gov. George W. Bush, Steve Forbes, Sen. Orrin Hatch of Utah, Alan Keyes and Sen. John McCain of Ariz. AP

## Could McCain lose in Arizona primary?

PHOENIX (AP) — New Hampshire voters have taken a shine to Sen. John McCain, making him the only apparent threat to the front-runner, Texas Gov. George W. Bush, in the state's Republican presidential primary.

Back home in Arizona, though, not everyone is enthusiastic about the senior senator. It is a situation that threatens to embarrass McCain in Arizona's Feb. 22 primary and could force him to commit resources to defending his local turf instead of building momentum elsewhere.

McCain led Bush 39 percent to 31 percent in Arizona in a late-October poll by the Media Research Program at Arizona State University, but 18 percent of the voters were undecided. Among threatening signs for McCain:

Gov. Jane Hull, the highest Republican statewide officeholder, has endorsed Bush and is campaigning actively on his behalf.

The state's largest newspaper, The Arizona Republic, recently published an editorial questioning whether McCain's hot temper should disqualify him from being president.

After Bush skipped a November debate in Arizona attended by the other five GOP contenders, the governor called to say he would be available in Decem-

ber. On his behalf, the state Republican Party arranged a second debate Monday night.

The schedule is so last-minute that McCain will have to appear by television from New Hampshire, where he already had committed to a series of campaign appearances.

"Clearly there are a bunch of people in the Republican Party who don't like John McCain, and they're not doing him any favors," said Peter Goudinoff, a political science professor at the University of Arizona.

Party officials insist there has been no attempt to slight McCain. "Senator McCain has been an excellent senator for the state of Arizona," state GOP executive director Nathan Sproul said.

"Our job is to get the candidates in front of Arizona voters, and that's what we've done." To be sure, McCain has support in Arizona.

He has won five elections to Congress, two to the House and three to the Senate. During his most recent re-election campaign in 1998, he won with nearly 70 percent of the vote. While Bush has raised \$57 million nationally for his campaign, compared with \$9.3 million by McCain, the senator leads Bush 2-to-1 among Arizona donors.

Through September, the most recent reporting deadline, they had contributed \$1.1 million to McCain's campaign, compared with \$585,000 to Bush.

McCain backer Roger Neumeister, a retired engineering manager from Sun City, said: "He says he's going to do what I want him to do. I trust him; I don't trust a lot of politicians." But Roger Glovitz, a communications executive from Scottsdale, offers a glimpse of why Bush has made inroads.

Glovitz, who gave \$1,000 to Bush, 10 times more than he had ever given to a political candidate, said: "I believe we need some fundamental changes in the way we're doing things."

He said he was especially attracted by Bush's proposals to expand school choice options, build a national missile defense and revise the tax structure.

The McCain camp scoffs at talk of a home-court loss, pointing to his high approval ratings and endorsements such as one by the newly elected mayor of Tucson.

"We have all the (congressional) delegation, all the Republican mayors, literally 98 percent of the Republican officials, so I feel that we're doing fine," McCain himself said last week.

## Keyes: WTO threatens liberty

NEWFIELDS, N.H. (AP) — The World Trade Organization, abortion and the federal income tax are all examples of infringements on American liberty, Republican presidential candidate Alan Keyes said Saturday.

Keyes said that the WTO's ability to overrule domestic law on trade issues threatens America's sovereignty and ba-

sic constitutional freedoms. The Geneva-based organization, which sets international trade rules, unsuccessfully attempted this past week to start a new round of negotiations aimed at further lowering trade barriers.

"The WTO is not elected and we should not surrender our representative power to some international body," he said.

Keyes, who wants to abolish the income tax, ridiculed proposals to reform the Internal Revenue Service.

"They can call it the Tax User-Friendly Happy Face Institute. It will still be the IRS," he said. Keyes also said it will be difficult for a Republican to win the presidency in 2000 if the economy remains strong.

# Summers praises Brazil

RIO DE JANEIRO, Brazil (AP) — U.S. Treasury Secretary Lawrence Summers praised the resilience of Brazil's economy Saturday, but warned that much work remained to ensure lasting stability.

Brazilian authorities need to reform their tax and pension systems and to reorganize the financial relationship between states and the federal government if they are to steer the economy out of its recent slump, Summers said.

One has to be happy with the confidence returning so quickly



Lawrence Summers

in Brazil, "while at the same time recognizing that there are very large challenges," Summers said. The Brazilian economy skidded into recession last year, when a crisis of confidence in the South American country's ability to cover its debts caused investors to pull their money out.

The country's financial situation was shored up with a \$41.5 billion financial rescue package, led by the International Monetary Fund.

After a determined and costly defense of the currency, the gov-

ernment was forced to devalue the Brazilian real, which in turn caused inflationary pressures to return. Efforts toward fiscal reform and the adoption of conservative inflation targets since have restored calm to the currency market.

Summers said Brazilian authorities need to reassure markets that price stability was the primary objective of central bank actions.

Brazilian media reported that, during a breakfast with President Fernando Henrique on Sat-

urday, Summers reiterated President Clinton's criticism of Brazil's use of child labor. Clinton said Thursday at World Trade Organization talks in Seattle that the Brazilian shoe industry was employing children, which provoked angry reactions among industrialists and politicians in Brazil.

According to the O Globo news agency, Cardoso told Summers the best way to remedy child labor was for developed countries like the U.S. to open their markets further.

## Grisly search for bodies won't slow drug flow

EL PASO, Texas (AP) — A man is busted smuggling 137 pounds of marijuana in the fuel tank of his pickup.

The same day, across the Mexican border in Ciudad Juarez, authorities begin digging up graves believed to hold the enemies of a ruthless drug gang.

A day later, another man is caught at the border with 232 pounds of pot under the floor-board of his van.

At the grave site, body bags are being loaded onto a truck, also destined for the United States. As the grisly search for bodies unfolds last week on Mexican ranches outside Juarez, the smuggling of narcotics across the border into the United States continued uninterrupted.

Regardless of how many corpses eventually are unearthed, and what is learned of their deaths, experts warned that the drug trade isn't likely to feel an impact. They say that won't come without a renewed commitment to bring down the men calling the shots — and a decrease in Americans' insatiable appetite for drugs.

"The final test of this will be not that you just find the bodies and not that you find some low-level gunman, but that the leaders of these organizations and the corrupt officials that work with them are arrested, brought to justice and punished severely," said Thomas Constantine, retired head of the U.S. Drug Enforcement Administration.

"That will be the test of whether or not this will be successful," he added. "And that will not be easy."

The joint U.S.-Mexican search at four sites around Juarez, a bustling city of 1.3 million people, began after a former Mexican federal police officer told the FBI that 100 or more bodies may be buried there.

Mexican Attorney General Jorge Madrazo immediately pointed the finger at the notorious Juarez drug cartel, one of Mexico's largest and most violent gangs.

He noted that more than 100 people, including 22 Americans, had disappeared in Juarez over the past several years, presumably at the hand of the cartel, now headed by Vicente Carrillo Fuentes.

Carrillo Fuentes, who assumed control of the gang after the 1997 death of his brother, Amado, is among dozens of top drug lords and lieutenants facing U.S. indictments that could lock them up for life.

But such prosecutions have been hindered by the failure of honest Mexican officials — and, more significantly, the unwillingness of corrupt officials — to round up and extradite the wanted men.

"We know who they are. We know what crimes they have committed. The problem is that nobody can find them in Mexico," Constantine said.

"As long as they exist in a sanctuary, we will be unable to bring these people to justice."

Others note that even in the rare instance a cartel leader is caught, the successful prosecution of one man alone is not enough to cripple organizations that have a string of successors waiting in the wings.

Take the case of Juan Garcia Abrego, who after more than a decade of free rein over the Gulf cartel in Matamoros, across the border from Brownsville, Texas, was captured by Mexican police in 1996 and flown to Texas for prosecution.

The first international drug lord put on the FBI's Most Wanted list, Garcia Abrego was later convicted and given 11 life prison sentences.

His gang barely skipped a beat. "There was a temporary disruption because of the power struggle, but the amount of narcotics coming across the border has increased," said Phil Jordan, former head of the DEA's El Paso Intelligence Center, which tracks Mexican drug gangs.

The same thing occurred after the death of Amado Carrillo Fuentes, who molded the Juarez cartel into a thriving business that earned tens of millions of dollars smuggling drugs through El Paso to Dallas, New York and Chicago.

When Carrillo Fuentes died following plastic surgery meant to hide his identity, a bloody power struggle ensued between Vicente Carrillo Fuentes and a faction of the cartel aligned with the Tijuana-based Arellano Felix gang.



Mexican Attorney General Jorge Madrazo speaks to journalists as FBI Director Louis J. Freeh listens during a press conference in Ciudad Juarez Friday. AP

While smuggling activity dipped slightly during the turf war, the organization quickly regrouped and has since even branched out into other cities along the Texas border, Jordan said.

"They have to allow us to go around and pick up the big guys that can talk." Despite the spo-

grounds outside Juarez, and Mexico's invitation to the FBI to participate in the excavation, "is a minor step," Jordan said. "Those bodies cannot talk," he said.

"I've always thought it would take some dramatic event to change the dynamics of this situation," Constantine said. "I am hoping that this is so gross, so tragic, that all of the barriers will fall."

radic arrests, turf wars and leads, drug activity along the border from Texas to California continues to blossom.

In El Paso alone, U.S. Customs seizures have soared from 40,012 pounds of marijuana, cocaine and heroin in 1990 to 269,021 pounds in fiscal 1999.

The DEA estimates 500 pounds of marijuana purchased in Juarez for \$50,000 can be sold for \$400,000 in U.S. cities like St. Louis.

Still, many are hopeful the horror of the Juarez graves will prompt Mexican and U.S. officials to redouble their anti-drug efforts.

### COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

For a High-Speed Runway Vacuum Sweeper for the Saipan International Airport

The Commonwealth Ports Authority (CPA) is soliciting sealed proposals for the procurement of one (1) high-speed runway vacuum sweeper for the Saipan International Airport, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The proposed sweeper must be equivalent or more advanced than the following:

1. MAIN ENGINE
  - a. Diesel 6-cylinder engine
  - b. 80 or more horsepower
  - c. 12-Volt DC System
  - d. Automatic transmission
  - e. Power Steering
2. AUXILIARY ENGINE (Vacuum Sweeper Section)
  - a. Diesel 6-cylinder engine
  - b. 80 or more horsepower
  - c. Hopper: 4 or more cubic yard capacity
  - d. Minimum 200 gallon water tank

PRICE MUST BE CIF SAIPAN

Interested proposer should submit proposals no later than 4:30 p.m., December 10, 1999. Late proposals will not be entertained.

The CPA reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason, if in its sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest.

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

/s/ ROMAN S. PALACIOS  
Contracting Officer/Board Chairman

**INVITATION FOR BID  
PSS IFB00-001**

The CNMI Public School System (PSS) is soliciting competitive sealed bids to acquire leased telecommunication services, procure networking equipment and installing internal cabling at the schools and at the PSS Central District Office. Bid Package will be made available on or after December 13, 1999 at the PSS Procurement & Supply situated on the 3rd floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands during regular CNMI Government working hours. All bidders shall submit one (1) original bid proposal and two (2) duplicate copies and labeled "PSS-001" and delivered to the Public School System Procurement & Supply Office situated on the 3rd floor of the Nauru Building no later than 2:00 p.m., local time, January 05, 2000. The bid opening will be held at the PSS Conference Room situated on the 4th floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan at 2:00 p.m., local time, January 05, 2000. Any bid proposal received after the aforementioned date and time of the bid opening, will not be accepted under any circumstances.

A pre-bid conference will be held on December 14, 1999 at 2:00 p.m., local time at the Public School System Conference Room situated on the 4th floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan. Any and all questions pertaining to any non-calling line item of the bid package shall be submitted to the Commissioner of Education's Office Attn: E-Rate, situated on the 3rd floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan, MP or send via facsimile, or via E-Mail no later than 4:00 p.m., local time, December 16, 1999. Listed below are the facsimile number or E-Mail address:

Commissioner Of Education Attention: E-Rate Fax Number: (770) 664-3798	OR Commissioner Of Education Attention: E-Rate E-Mail Address: COE@SAIPAN.COM
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All bidders who are interested in submitting bids on the cabling portion of the bid package shall be required to attend the "Walk Through" Meetings on the island or islands to which they are submitting a bid on. Listed below are the "Walk Through" Schedules for each of the three islands. For the Purpose of this "Walk Through" Meeting, Saipan Schools are divided into two Groups: Saipan Northern Schools and Saipan Southern Schools as listed below:

Saipan Northern Schools Walk Through Starts at Date of Walk Through Time	(GTC Elementary, Tansapag Elementary, Garapan Elementary, Kagman Elementary, San Vicente Elementary, UAA Academy and Oksai Elementary)
Saipan Southern Schools Walk Through Starts at Date of Walk Through Time	Oksai Elementary School December 15, 1999 8:00 a.m.
Saipan Northern Schools Walk Through Starts at Date of Walk Through Time	Marianas High School, William S. Reyes Elementary, Hopwood Junior High School, San Antonio Elementary, Kobbike Elementary, and Dandan Elementary
Saipan Southern Schools Walk Through Starts at Date of Walk Through Time	Marianas High School December 16, 1999 8:00 a.m.
Rota Schools Walk Through Starts at Date of Walk Through Time	Rota Elementary, Rota High School, Sinapalo School December 17, 1999 11:00 a.m.
Tinian Schools Walk Through Starts at Date of Walk Through Time	Tinian Elementary and Tinian High School December 18, 1999 10:00 a.m.

Note: All in attendance at the first school location "Walk Through" Meeting shall proceed to the next school location after the first school location "Walk Through" meeting is completed.

The "Walk Through" Meeting that is to be held at the school locations shall be mandatory and shall be part of the specification requirement on the cabling portion of the bid package. Therefore, the Public School System cautions all bidders who are submitting bid proposals on the cabling portion of the bid package that non-attendance and non-completion of the "Walk Through" meeting for a respective island shall be determined as non-responsive for that particular island.

Any and all questions pertaining to any internal cabling portion of the bid package shall be submitted to the Commissioner of Education's Office Attn: E-Rate, situated on the 3rd floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan, MP or send via facsimile, or via E-Mail no later than 4:00 p.m., local time, December 21, 1999. Listed below are the facsimile or E-Mail information:

Commissioner Of Education Attention: E-Rate Fax Number: (770) 664-3798	OR Commissioner Of Education Attention: E-Rate E-Mail Address: COE@SAIPAN.COM
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All submitted written questions that are due on the deadline indicated above shall be responded to in writing no later than two days from the date the questions are due. Any addendum to be issued on the bid package by the Public School System shall be due no later than December 23, 1999 to interested bidders.

A bid bond of 15% of the total proposed price must accompany the bid proposal on the internal wiring portion of the bid package. This security may be a certified check, cashier's check, bid bond, or other form acceptable by the CNMI Public School System and made payable to the PSS Treasurer, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The bidder shall be required to submit with the bid proposal package a copy of a current General Contractor's License in compliance with the Contractor's Registration and Licensing Law of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The awarded bidder(s) on the internal cabling portion of the bid package shall be required to deliver performance and payment bonds equal to 100% of the price specified on the contract. Liquidated damages shall be assessed in accordance to the stipulation indicated on the bid package.

Bidders shall understand that the Contracts awarded shall be subject to the approval of the E-Rate Application by the Schools and Libraries Division of the Universal Administrative Company and the availability of matching funds from the CNMI Public School System.

The CNMI Public School System reserves the right to award on a single or multiple award or reject any or all proposals if it so is in the best interest of the CNMI Public School System. Inquires to this announcement may be directed to Louise Conception at telephone number 664-3752/3710.

/s/ Rita Hocong Inos, Ed. D.  
Commissioner of Education

/s/ Louise Conception  
Procurement and Supply Officer

# Montreal massacre remembered

TORONTO (AP)—With song, speeches, and a continuing push for gun control, Canadians on Saturday remembered the 14 women killed in the country's worst mass shooting ten years ago.

On Dec. 6, 1989, a 25-year-old man dressed in hunting clothes and firing a semiautomatic rifle shot the women in classrooms and the cafeteria of the Ecole Polytechnique at the University of Montreal. When he realized his final victim was still alive, Marc Lepine stabbed her to death with a knife, then muttered an expletive and shot himself in the face to end the massacre.

Ten years later, survivors and victims' families and friends have cited the tragedy as an example for why Canada needed to tighten restrictions on gun ownership and

outlaw automatic weapons like the one Lepine used. Montreal Mayor Pierre Bourque planned to unveil a monument to the victims Sunday at a park near the engineering school.

On Monday's anniversary, most Montreal schools will be closed so teachers and other school board employees can attend a conference on youth violence at the Molson Center sports arena. Special concerts by the Montreal Symphony Orchestra and Quebec performers were planned, and radio stations in Quebec were to play a song written for the anniversary called Quatorze - the French-language word for 14, the number of victims.

It was recorded by 14 female vocalists.

"When people hear the song, I

want them to become aware that everyone has a stake in reducing violence," said Jacques Thivierge, who wrote the words.

"It's not only special organizations, psychologists, schools and

teachers. It's everyone." Those most affected - the family of the victims - said they have gathered each year to commemorate their loved ones.

"Sometimes we wonder if we

should continue," said Claire Roberge, whose 21-year-old stepdaughter, Genevieve Bergeron, died in the massacre. "We always say yes. We want to keep our promises."

## Canada air war ends with takeover

MONTREAL, (Reuters) - Financially ailing Canadian Airlines bowed on Saturday to a takeover offer from Air Canada, the nation's largest air carrier, signalling what may be the end of a three-month battle for domination of Canada's airline industry. Calgary-based Canadian, the country's No. 2 carrier, said its board of directors recommended that shareholders tender their shares to Air Canada's offer of C\$2 a share before its Tuesday deadline.

Canadian's common shares ended trading on the Toronto Stock Exchange on Friday at C\$1.70.

In a brief statement released on Saturday evening, Canadian said Air Canada's offer was fair and the best of all options.

"This is a momentous decision for Canadian Airlines and represents the culmination of months of very public negotiation, speculation and uncertainty," said Canadian Airlines President and Chief Executive Kevin Benson. Shareholder acceptance of the offer, which values the cash-strapped airline at C\$92 million, would end a more than three-month battle for virtual monopoly control of Canada's regularly scheduled passenger airline sector. The battle swept up some of the world's biggest airlines and its top two ticket codesharing groups.

Star Alliance, led by UAL Corp.'s United Airlines and Germany's Deutsche Lufthansa AG, is financially backing its partner Air Canada. Canadian

is part of the Oneworld group fronted by AMR Corp.'s American Airlines and British Airways

AMR, a 25 percent voting stake holder in Canadian, funded most of Toronto-based conglomerate Onex Corp.'s hostile takeover bid for Air Canada, which a Quebec court ruled in early November could not proceed.

That left Air Canada free to proceed with its own bid to acquire Canadian and operate it as a separate subsidiary.

Air Canada also wants to withdraw Canadian from Oneworld and move it to the rival Star Alliance.

That could have important repercussions for American, which depends on Canadian to provide a key gateway to lucrative Asian destinations. Air Canada officials told Reuters that Canadian's acceptance of its takeover offer was "welcome news."

"We are getting very close to achieving a true global airline franchise that will realise the untapped air transportation potential for Canada," said Air Canada President and Chief Executive Robert Milton.

Air Canada spokeswoman Priscille Leblanc said the airline, AMR and Canadian had been in talks over the "last little while."

AMR officials were not immediately available for comment, but Canadian Airlines CEO Benson appeared to suggest that further talks were likely.

"We look forward to working with Air Canada ... the government of Canada and AMR Corp. to satisfy all conditions to permit the transaction to close as soon as

possible.

We believe this transaction will offer more choices to our customers, opportunities for our employees and value for our shareholders," he said.

Texas-based AMR previously said it would cost Air Canada C\$1 billion to withdraw Canadian from the commercial agreements it has with American Airlines and Oneworld. Cash-strapped Canadian also has a substantial debt load which likely will have to be renegotiated.

Air Canada's offer remains subject to various conditions, including Canadian government and regulatory approval.

Canadian's board also said its shareholder rights plan, commonly known as a poison pill, would not apply to Air Canada's bid. Air Canada's plan to acquire Canadian foresees about 2,500 job cuts from the airline's 17,000-person workforce as it would cut routes and withdraw a number of aircraft.

Air Canada expects no layoffs among its own 23,000 employees. Lufthansa and United, the world's largest airline, and Canadian Imperial Bank of Commerce provided about C\$630 million to fund Air Canada's just concluded C\$1.1 billion share buyback.

Air Canada's repurchase of 36.4 percent of its shares at C\$16 each was a defensive move against the failed AMR-funded Onex bid.

Air Canada shares ended trading on the Toronto Stock Exchange on Friday at \$10.25. (\$1=\$1.47 Canadian).

## Colombia cracks down on contraband

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP)—It is the largest concentration of illegally imported goods in all of Colombia: 12 square blocks of merchandise stands on the edge of a grimy factory district.

Hundreds of stands in open-air halls and stores bulge with everything from 21-year-old Scotch whisky to name-brand athletic shoes to luggage, costume jewelry, car stereos and electronic calculators.

The "San Andresito of 38th Avenue" has long been Bogota's favorite shopping destination. Only these days, the merchants are deep in despair.

Not only have sales been hurt by Colombia's worst recession since the 1930s, but after nearly a half-century of official toleration, the government has pulled the rug from under the contraband trade.

It is requiring that the mer-

chants pay import duties on all their goods, and customs officers make frequent raids looking for untaxed goods.

The result is higher prices. "There are more merchants than buyers these days," says Carmen Bolano, president of the Colombian Federation of San Andresitos.

Sales have plummeted by about 80 percent this year, merchants say as they gaze out on near-empty aisles that a year ago were teeming with shoppers.

Every major city in Colombia has at least one contraband market, known as San Andresitos after the Caribbean island of San Andres, which has been a tax-free port since the early 1950s.

Most Colombians have relied on these enclosed bazaars to buy consumer electronics, major appliances, footwear, liquor and cigarettes.

San Andresitos have grown over the years to encompass some 50,000-60,000 stands nationwide, creating about a half million jobs directly and indirectly, Bolano says.

But the government's tax and customs chief, Fanny Kertzman, contends that for every job the contraband business creates, four are lost in domestic manufacturers that lose sales.

In addition, the contraband business proved a perfect vehicle for cocaine cartels to launder the profits from their foreign drug sales.

Typically, goods are bought in Miami with cocaine dollars, shipped to Colombia and sold for pesos.

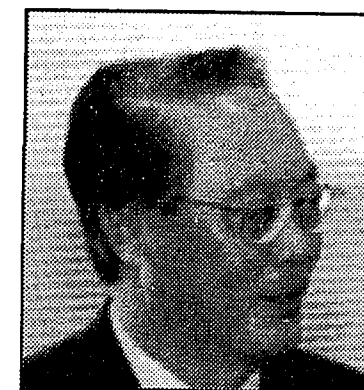
Black market peso brokers purchase the narco-dollars at a 15-20 percent discount in the United States - and the drug trafficker gets his pesos in Colombia.

# Report: Singapore eyes free trade with Japan

TOKYO, (Reuters) - Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong will propose a bilateral free trade agreement with Japan when he meets Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi in Tokyo next week, a Japanese newspaper reported on Saturday.

The Japanese-language Nihon Keizai Shimbun, in an interview with Goh, said the proposed pact would call for reductions in certain import tariffs and other barriers to trade between the two countries.

The deal would be a stepping stone towards implementation of international agreements to liberalise trade such as the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum or the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the newspaper quoted Goh as say-



Goh Chok Tong



Keizo Obuchi

ing.

Japan and Singapore are both members of APEC and the WTO.

Further details of Goh's scheme were not immediately available, but Singapore Trade and Industry Minister George Yeo told Reuters in October that his country would

work with regional partners to speed trade liberalisation and ensure a wider role in global commerce for Asian nations.

Singapore has entered into talks on similar free trade agreements with New Zealand and South Korea, the newspaper said.

## Japan OKs law to restrain cult

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's upper house of Parliament approved two bills Friday aimed at clamping down on the doomsday cult accused of a deadly nerve gas attack on Tokyo's subway.

One measure allows the government to monitor groups that have committed mass murder, said Hiroshi Sasamoto, an official in the upper house's bill division.

A target would be the Aum Shinrikyo cult, whose guru is on

trial for the 1995 nerve gas attack that killed 12 people and sickened thousands.

Under the law, Aum can be placed under surveillance and will be required to report on its activities every three months.

The Justice Ministry will be able to inspect Aum Shinrikyo's facilities whenever it deems necessary.

The other law approved Friday will make it easier to seize the assets of organizations that com-

mit mass murder, and use them to compensate victims, said Sasamoto. The laws take effect Dec. 27.

They are controversial in Japan because of the broad power held by police under the government in the years before and during World War II.

The bills were proposed after a resurgence in Aum Shinrikyo's activities, including recruiting efforts and events venerating the guru.

## Paper: Japan ready to lift NoKor sanctions

TOKYO, (Reuters) - Japan has unofficially decided to lift sanctions against North Korea which had been imposed after the Stalinist state launched a missile over Japanese territory in 1998, a Japanese daily reported on Saturday.

The Yomiuri Shimbun, citing government sources, said

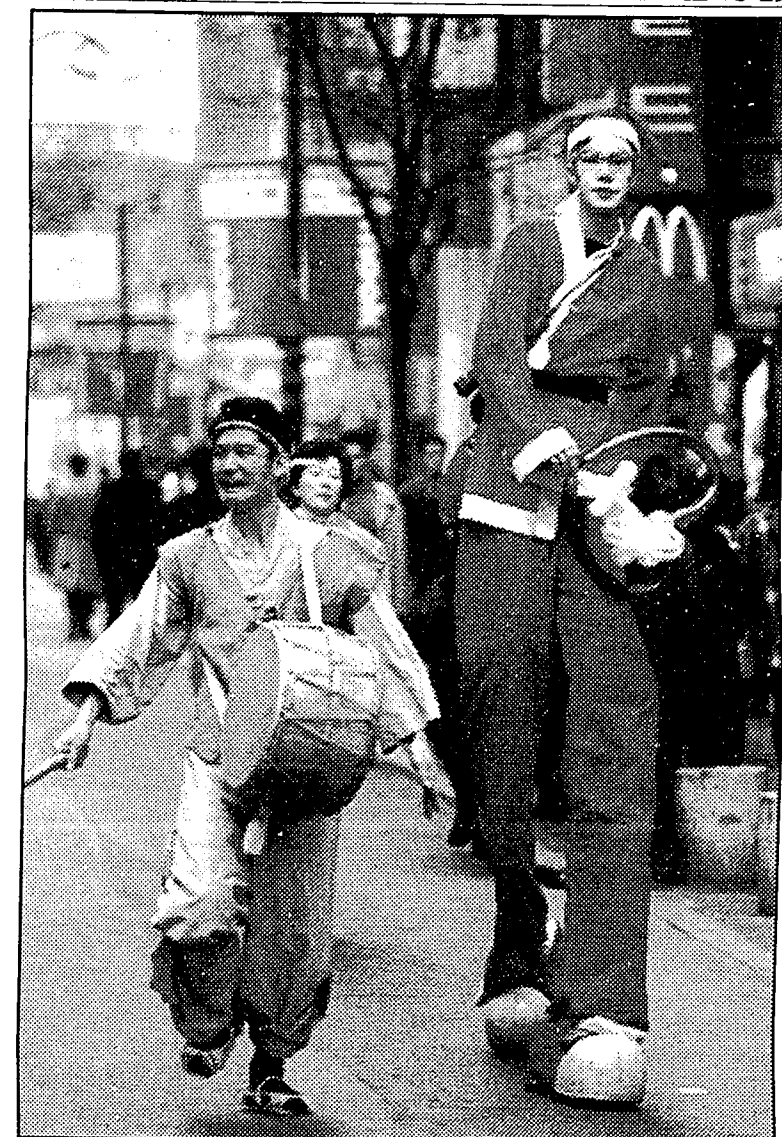
the decision was taken after a multi-party delegation of Japanese parliamentarians issued a statement with the ruling Workers' Party of Korea in Pyongyang asking the governments of Japan and North Korea to reopen talks to normalise diplomatic relations.

The government would lift two remaining measures - a ban on normalisation talks and a freeze on food aid - the paper said.

A ban on charter flights between the two countries and a halt in Japanese donations to the Korean Peninsula Energy Development Organisation and had already been lifted, it added.



Jordanian King Abdullah II (left) toasts with Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi during the dinner hosted by Obuchi at the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo Thursday. AP



A man dressed in traditional Korean costume, accompanied by another dressed as a Santa Claus, beats the drum to urge passersby to donate money for the poor in downtown Seoul, Sunday. AP

## Singapore to see more financial reforms— Lee

SINGAPORE, (Reuters) - Singapore will see more financial policy reforms and mergers of brokerages in order to keep up its competitiveness, Deputy Prime Minister Lee Hsien Loong said on Friday.

"More will come," Lee said, when asked by Reuters if recent moves to liberalise the city-state's capital markets were sufficient to sharpen its competitive edge against Hong Kong's financial markets.

"More will always come. The industry is moving rapidly," Lee, also chairman of the Monetary Authority of Singapore (MAS), was speaking after the launch of IDA, the Infocomm Development Authority of Singapore.

IDA resulted from the merger of the National Computer Board and the Telecommunication Authority of Singapore.

Lee said the government was closely monitoring changes taking place in the United States, where securities exchanges on Wall Street were under pressure.

"You read what is happening in America. (The) New York Stock Exchange is under pressure. Nasdaq is under pressure. The Securities Exchange Commission is also scrambling to make sense of it," he said.

"How much to centralise, how to allow competition, where you must deregulate.... We are watching all these. It is quite a breathless business," Lee said.

He said the government would not rule out the possibility of allowing non-financial institutions to participate in broking. "I

will not totally rule it out.

What we have said is you must have the reputation and the financial strength in order to make a contribution.

"The obvious participants will be financial institutions because they come already with that. But I will not say absolutely that it must only be financial institutions.

"If you have somebody come in with credibility and want to be in this business, we will have to think about it," Lee added.

He said authorities would have to think about considering newspaper group Singapore Press Holdings, if it were to make an application.

On Wednesday, MAS - Singapore's central bank - unveiled plans to further free up the securities market, including steps to eventually allow broker fees to be fully negotiable.

The same day, Vickers Ballas Holdings and G.K. Goh Holdings announced they would merge to form Singapore's largest stock brokerage firm.

Each of the two firms itself resulted from a merger of brokerages over the last year.

Lee also said more mergers of brokerages would have to take place with the opening up of the market.

"There will have to be consolidation," he said. "Our margins have been so much wider, commission so much larger than other jurisdictions that have opened up," Lee added.

"I am sure once we open up, the margins will fall dramatically and there will have to be a major restructuring."



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- 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.

# Thai King still revered

**BANGKOK, Thailand (AP)** — In an age when most monarchies have faded from view or tarnished under media scrutiny, King Bhumibol Adulyadej of Thailand is held in deep devotion by his 60 million subjects.

Bhumibol yesterday turned 72—a landmark birthday in Buddhist tradition—and was feted by the nation.

He has been a unifying force amid economic and political turmoil during his 53 years on the throne, a reign longer than any other living monarch.

But as democracy takes hold and concern grows over his health, change in the 70-year-old monarchy seems inevitable—a controversial concept in otherwise liberal Thailand, where comments seen as defamatory to the institution can bring 15 years in jail.

After minor heart surgery in 1995 and more recent back trouble, Bhumibol has passed many of his ceremonial duties to his anointed successor, Prince Vajiralongkorn, and popular daughter, Princess Sirindhorn.

The prince's troubled personal life has not endeared him to many Thais, underscoring the reality that his father will be a tough act to follow.

"His authority comes from his aura," said Busaya Snidvongs na Ayuthaya, a lady-in-waiting who has served the royal court for 50 years.

Bhumibol's portrait graces every street, from Bangkok's slums to spartan hill-tribe villages.

He is a source of national pride and a man of the people. The end of the sixth 12-year cycle of his life—an anniversary auspicious to Buddhists—is time for an outpouring of affection. To show respect, children promised good deeds on 9 million special postcards. Surgeons offered free ear operations.

The army chief led a mass for-



Thai King Bhumibol Adulyadej (2nd right) salutes the Royal Guard from the pavilion with Queen Sirikit (right) Crown Prince Maha Vajiralongkorn (2nd left) and Princess Bhajara Kittiyapa the Crown Prince's daughter (left) during the trooping of colors marking the King's birthday at Royal Plaza in Bangkok Thursday. King Bhumibol, the longest reigning monarch turned 72 on December 5. AP

tion parachute jump Thursday. "I don't know why I love the king, but I do," said Chuchart Boontung, 25, a security guard. "I think most Thai people think the same way I do."

I cannot imagine Thailand led by anybody else." While the constitutional monarchs of Europe and Japan have long lost political importance, the Thai king's stature is undiminished.

He stays above politics, but in times of crisis has stepped in to end civil strife. "He intervenes only when no one else can help," said Suchit Bunbongkarn, a political science professor at Bangkok's Chulalongkorn University.

The last time was in 1992, when dozens of pro-democracy protesters were gunned down by troops on the streets of Bangkok.

In a live television broadcast, Bhumibol reprimanded the two main protagonists, who kneeled before him.

A general who had assumed the premiership resigned, and civil-

Ananda Mahidol, who died after being shot in circumstances never satisfactorily explained.

In the decades that followed, Bhumibol managed to rebuild the monarchy into a stabilizing force in a country racked by factionalism.

Now, the prospects for enduring civilian rule are better than at any previous time. The military is back in the barracks and vows to stay out of politics.

Kevin Hewison, professor of Asian studies at the University of New England in Armidale, Australia, said Thailand's survival without upheaval during the financial meltdown in 1997 showed the parliamentary system is growing stronger. "In the past, an economic crisis was always an excuse for a coup," Hewison said.

Bhumibol lent tacit support to Thailand's first constitution that had grass-roots input in 1997, and has adapted to the country's transition from rice bowl to industrial magnet of the region.

He retains his regal aura, but personifies Thailand's aspirations to be a modern nation while keeping true to its rural traditions.

The king plays jazz and has penned Broadway show tunes. He has traveled tirelessly around the kingdom to promote rural development and survey his 2,000 royal

development projects.

Yet his personal life remains an enigma. A recent biography, "The Revolutionary King" by British spy novelist William Stevenson, who was granted extensive access to the court, is all but banned in Thailand.

The book portrays the king as a Buddhist social reformer, frustrated in his plans for Thailand by a corrupt hierarchy.

It also suggests a foreign power was behind the death of his brother. "He made clear he wanted the book to be published abroad," said Stevenson, who characterized the king as "very shy, enormously modest."

The public's loyalty to the king—in a country proud of having never been colonized like the rest of Southeast Asia—is perhaps the surest guarantee of the monarchy's long-term survival.

But Suchit, the political scientist, sees the Thai monarchy evolving along the lines of those in Europe.

"It's difficult to say to what extent our monarchical system will change," Suchit said.

"But if the democratic institutions become more efficient, I think that the need for the king to intervene in politics will be less and less."

## Ex-Korean Justice minister arrested

**SEOUL, South Korea (AP)** — A former justice minister was arrested Saturday on charges of leaking secret government documents about his wife's influence-peddling scandal, dubbed "Furgate."

Kim Tae-jung was accused of illegally giving a government report to a lobbyist for Choi Soon-young, a businessman jailed on corruption charges. The report cleared Kim's wife in the scandal. Kim, also a former prosecutor-general, also was accused of illegally altering the documents, erasing the report's recommendation to arrest Choi for corruption.

Choi, the chairman of South

Korean life insurance giant Shindongah Group, was arrested in February on embezzlement and other charges.

Soon after, his wife told local news media that she had given fur coats and other expensive designer clothes to Kim and the wife of another Cabinet minister. The incident was characterized as a lobbying attempt, and both men resigned.

Prosecutors said Saturday they planned to indict Kim on charges of violating a law designed to protect government secrets. The internal government report was prepared by Park Ju-sun, President Kim Dae-jung's chief legal adviser.

Park said he had passed the

report, which contradicted the findings of an independent counsel, to Kim at the minister's request. Park resigned last week. Both Kim and Park were questioned overnight at a Seoul prosecutor's office.

Kim said he handed over the documents to the businessman's lobbyist to prove his wife was not involved.

But before he passed the report, Kim erased the report's recommendation to arrest the businessman for corruption, prosecutors said.

President Kim had criticized media reports critical of the former justice minister and his wife a "witch hunt."



Former Prime Minister Tomiichi Murayama, who headed Japanese lawmakers' delegation to North Korea, announces that Japan will begin talks with North Korea aimed at setting up diplomatic relations Friday. At right is Hiromu Nonaka, a member of the mission. AP

# Charges vs Sharif delayed

**KARACHI, Pakistan (AP)** — A Pakistani court on Saturday put off a decision on whether to file formal charges against deposed Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who stands accused of treason and hijacking by the army that overthrew him.

The court said it would make a ruling next week. The charges could carry either the death penalty or life in prison, after it overthrew his government on Oct. 12. But the process of formally charging Sharif has been delayed several times.

The anti-terrorist court in Karachi issued the latest delay Saturday. The court ordered that charges be filed on Wednesday, Judge Rehmet Jaffery said.

It also ordered Sharif to appear



Pervez Musharraf

on Tuesday at the Supreme Court in the federal capital of Islamabad, where he faces contempt of court charges in another case.

While waiting for the judge to make his announcement, the still-jailed Sharif accused the army of

being vindictive and vengeful. He told reporters that his conditions in the jail were "inhuman."

"They are treating us like common criminals and we have committed no crime," Sharif said. "We are still being kept in solitary confinement." Outside the Karachi court, policemen with rifles stood guard on the rooftops of nearby buildings.

The road was blocked to traffic. Afterwards, scores of Sharif supporters tried to reach the armored personnel carriers that were taking the deposed leader, his brother Shahbaz and six other codefendants away.

About 35 of the demonstrators were former lawmakers in Sharif's government. Paramilitary rangers pushed them away.



Nawaz Sharif

Witnesses said some of Sharif's supporters showered the khaki-colored personnel carriers with rose petals.

The army has accused Sharif of trying to kill army chief Gen. Pervez Musharraf on Oct. 12, the

day of the army coup that ousted Sharif's government. Sharif conspired with his codefendants to stop Musharraf's plane from landing in Karachi, the army says.

The plane eventually landed after the army took control of the airport.

The army says the plane, carrying 200 passengers and crew, had only seven minutes of fuel remaining.

The army also has accused Sharif of conspiracy to commit murder and physical endangerment, charges that carry a lesser prison sentence.

Sharif has denied the allegations. He accuses the military of hijacking democracy in Pakistan and says the charges were cooked up by a military seeking to justify its takeover.

## Chinese police said targeting another spiritual movement

**HONG KONG, (Reuters)** - Police in China's central Shaanxi province have shut down the largest base of Zhong Gong, a spiritual movement similar to the outlawed Falun Gong and dispersed around 2,000 practitioners, a rights group said.

The Hong Kong-based Information Centre of Human Rights and Democratic Movement in China said on Saturday this could mean the government had branded Zhong Gong an "evil cult".

China has declared Falun Gong "an evil cult" and has vowed to wipe out what it sees as a threat to communist rule. Some

of the movement's leaders have been jailed.

Zhong Gong, which claims about 20 million followers in China and overseas, was founded in the early 1990s by Qi Gong master Zhang Hongbao, now 40.

He is under close watch in Xian city, Frank Lu, founder of the rights group said.

The Zhong Gong centre in Shaanxi is called the China Traditional Culture Training Institute. The movement combines classical Qi Gong with elements of traditional Chinese culture.

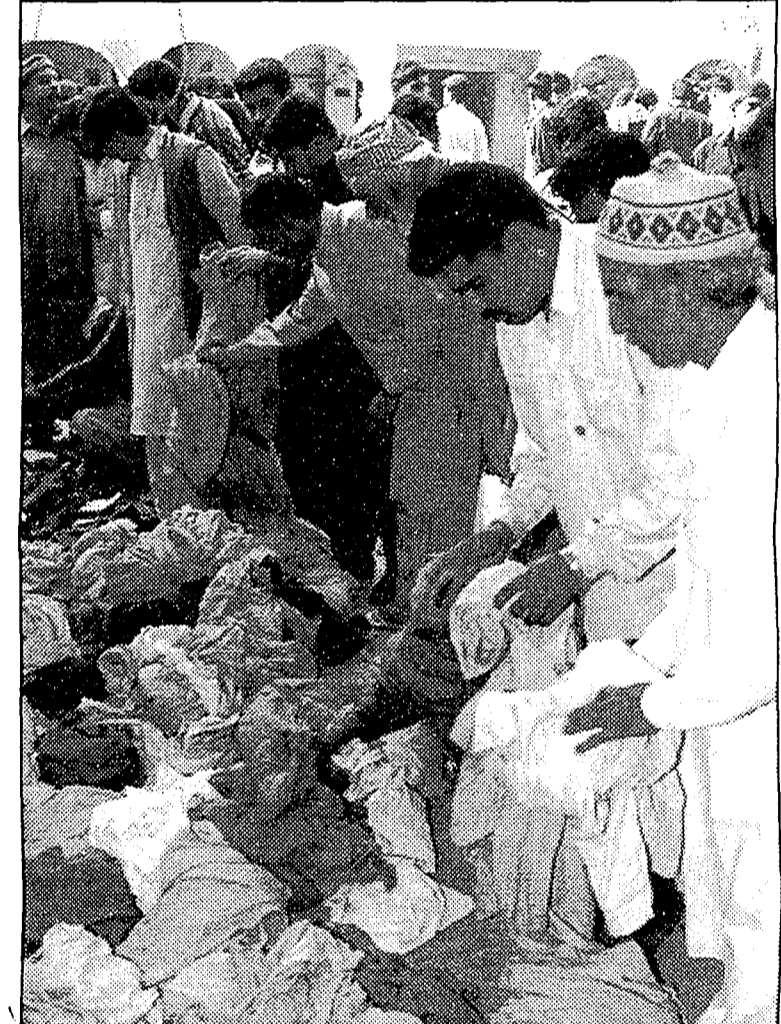
It has eight levels of development, stressing the diagnosis and treatment of disease. Those who

reach the fourth level are said to acquire powers such as greatly enhanced vision and hearing.

Falun Gong, banned in July, mixes Buddhist and Taoist beliefs with meditation and breathing exercises.

The group stunned the central government in April when more than 10,000 members protested outside Beijing's Zhongnanhai leadership compound.

China last week denied reports it had detained more than 35,000 members of Falun Gong, saying the figure represented those followers prevented by police from holding gatherings in Beijing.



People are looking for clothes of their missing children Saturday at a police station in Lahore. Police received a letter in which a man said he "killed 100 children and put their bodies in acid containers." AP

## Family of confessed killer arrested

**LAHORE, Pakistan (AP)** — Hoping to bring a man who confessed to killing 100 children out of hiding, police in this Pakistani city arrested his ex-wife, daughter and son on Saturday, the state-run news agency said.

On Thursday, police received a letter from a man who identified himself as Javed Iqbal. In the letter, Iqbal said he sexually assaulted the 100 children before killing them. He said he is a trained chemical engineer, and that he used chemicals to dispose of the bodies.

In his letter, Iqbal gave instructions that led police to a large blue barrel in a home in Lahore, the capital of eastern Punjab province, where they found the remains of two bodies.

The 40-year-old Iqbal apparently rented the home for the past eight months, according to a police report seen by The Associated Press. Iqbal said in his letter most of the pictures were taken in that house, but some were taken in the hills outside the capital of Islamabad. He also led police to pictures and clothes of his alleged victims.

Police have not found any more bodies yet. But parents or relatives of 57 of the children have

recognized clothing or identified photographs of missing boys and girls, police spokesman Riaz Shafqat said.

Police are trying to identify the other children. "We are working around the clock to try to find this man and identify the other children," said Shafqat.

In their report to military leaders, police said they suspect more than one person may have been involved.

Iqbal's family members were arrested in an attempt to lure him out of hiding, Pakistan's state-run news agency reported Saturday. Police earlier interrogated Iqbal's brother, father and brother-in-law. "The family feels disgraced," the agency quoted police official, Tariq Kamboh, as saying.

Iqbal was last seen on Oct. 18 at his father's home in Lahore where he went to get his passport, his brother Saeed was quoted as saying in the police report. Saeed said Iqbal had thousands of dollars in his possession.

On Saturday, the faces of the dozens of children stared out at parents who arrived at a police station in eastern Lahore to see if their children's pictures or clothes were among the collection.

Sophia Satar doubled over cry-

ing, clutching a small white shirt. "My God. It's my boy's," she kept repeating. Her 12-year-old son Imran disappeared in October. "He went out in the afternoon and never returned," Satar cried.

"We called the police. We searched everywhere." Hafeez Khan rummaged through the clothes on a table in the police station. He picked up a shirt and pants and said they belonged to his 7-year-old son Amir.

"But I still hope and I pray he is alive," he said. Some of the children whose picture or clothes were identified by relatives were among the city's poorest, Shafqat said.

Some were beggars, and others were among the army of children in Pakistan who work on the streets selling goods. Still others had left home and never returned, he said.

Pictures and stories about the children dominated the front pages of Urdu-language newspapers Saturday as police issued an appeal for assistance.

In the letter sent to police, Iqbal said he killed the children after being wrongly picked up by police and badly beaten while in custody. The letter said he went on a killing rampage in retaliation for the police abuse.

for the police abuse.

## South Korea to support Sakakibara as IMF chief

**SEOUL, (Reuters)** - South Korea will back former Japanese vice finance minister Eisuke Sakakibara's bid to be the next chief of the International Monetary Fund (IMF), an official at the South Korean Ministry of Finance and Economy said on Saturday.

Finance Minister Kang Bong-kyun gave his endorsement to the former top financial diplomat in Seoul on Friday, the official said.

"During talks with him (Sakakibara), Minister Kang pledged his support for the Japanese official if he officially declares his candidacy for the IMF job," he said.

Sakakibara attended a conference on Friday to commemorate the second anniversary of the

\$58.35 billion loan programme led by the IMF for South Korea in the wake of the Asia financial crisis of 1997.

Sakakibara, who in government was known as Mr Yen for his ability to influence foreign exchange markets, retired earlier this year.

Media reports said he was seeking support for his candidacy from Asian countries, including members of the Association of South East Nations (ASEAN). Meeting with Korean reporters on Friday, Sakakibara said his candidacy was up to the Japanese government.

"The Japanese government is trying to contribute to increasing Asian influence over international financial institutions," he added.

### FIRST ANNIVERSARY ROSARY

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#### Guam Nightly Rosary Schedule:

Santa Teresita Church, Mangilao at 7:00 p.m. beginning Sunday Dec. 5, 1999 through Dec. 13, 1999. Memorial Mass on Dec. 13, 1999 at 6:30 p.m., at Santa Teresita Church, Mangilao. Dinner will be served nightly.

#### Tinian Nightly Rosary Schedule:

Petra & Henry Cabrera Residence at 8:00 p.m., Dec. 5-12, 1999. Rosary at 6:30 p.m. at Petra & Henry Cabrera Residence. Dinner will be served after the rosary.

Kindly Join Us  
THE FAMILY

# NASA holds hope on Mars

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — Anxiously waiting for a second day, NASA scientists hoped Saturday for a signal from the still-silent Mars Polar Lander, a craft some say may have been in trouble even before it left the launch pad 11 months ago.

Weeks before the \$165 million craft began its descent towards the Red Planet, questions were being raised about the mission and whether it might be doomed by tight budgets and understaffing.

Attempts to detect signals from the spacecraft were to continue with a transmission window opening Saturday night. It has not been heard from since Friday, when it began its fiery descent toward Mars.

Mission controllers say they have not exhausted all the simple explanations for the lack of a signal, like a mispointed antenna or a computer reset.

The spacecraft was in good shape and on course just before communications ended as expected before the descent.

"We're remaining upbeat," said Richard Cook, the spacecraft's project operations manager at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory.

"We have prepared for various scenarios, and we're trying all the options." But the embarrassing Sept. 23 loss of the lander's \$125 million sibling spacecraft, the Mars Climate Orbiter, is not far

from the minds of engineers and scientists at JPL, the space agency's lead center for planetary exploration.

NASA investigators later determined that engineers failed to convert data into metrics in a critical navigation program, causing the satellite to fly far too close to Mars.

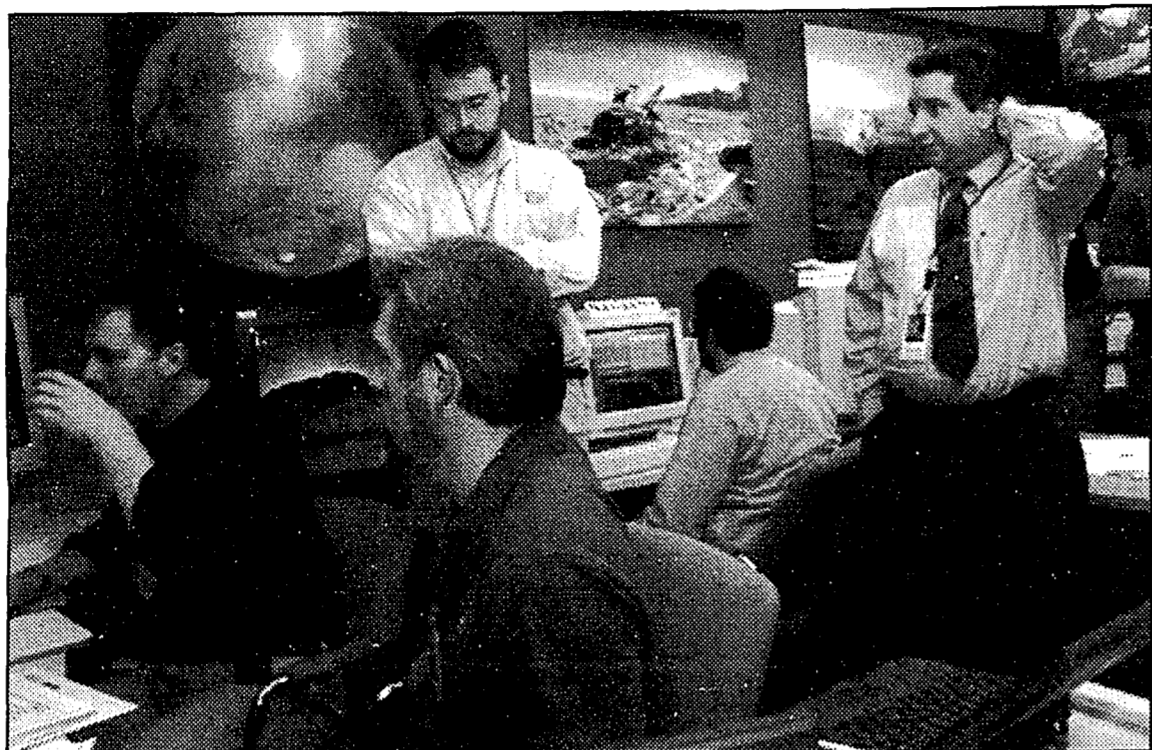
It's believed to have burned up in the atmosphere it was to study. The 43-page report released Nov. 10 did not stop with the metric mix-up, however. It faulted navigators for taking short cuts and not knowing enough about the lander.

It also found that too few people worked on the program, and that they were overworked and undertrained.

Investigators also reported that questions about the orbiter's trajectory raised by navigators were not relayed to other groups within the project, including the spacecraft's builders at Lockheed Martin Astronautics in Colorado.

The Polar Lander's mission also came under unprecedented scrutiny because the same organizations and people who flew the orbiter were behind the latest mission as well.

"This report was sort of a preview of coming attractions for all things that could go wrong with Polar Lander," said analyst John Pike of the Federation of American Scientists a week before its arrival.



Mars Polar Lander team scientists sit in the mission control room Friday at NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory in Pasadena, Calif., as they wait for a signal from the 1,270-pound lander scheduled to land on Mars. AP

"I would hope that would force them to think again whether they're trying to do too much with too little."

Officials denied the report was an indictment of the agency's mantra of building "faster, better, cheaper" spacecraft to explore the solar system. They pointed to successes like 1997's Pathfinder and Global Surveyor missions.

NASA Administrator Dan Goldin said Friday the agency would stick with its approach. "Would you rather go back and spend \$2 billion to \$3 billion a spacecraft and send them up every 10 years and lose one of them?" he said.

"When we started, we said we'd push the boundaries and we'd lose some, but we haven't lost this one yet."

The lander and orbiter that were to have explored climate history and search for water this year are part of a Red Planet campaign that launches an orbiter and lander every 26 months, when the orbits of Mars and Earth are properly aligned.

The policy, in fact, was implemented after NASA's \$1 billion Mars Observer probe vanished near the planet in 1993.

Even if both this year's missions to the Red Planet have failed, the total loss is only a fraction of Mars Observer.

In the wake of the investigation report, more navigators were added to the lander project and every aspect of the lander mission was reviewed.

Another concern - the cold start of thruster rockets during descent

- was addressed by turning on heaters before the lander's mission began.

The unprecedented scrutiny of the project after the orbiter disaster, in fact, is one of the reasons mission controllers remain optimistic about hearing from the lander.

"There would seem to be greater cause for anxiety that they have publicly conveyed thus far, although I would not question their observation that there are several more days' worth of opportunities to hear from the lander," Pike said Saturday.

"They do have a whole sort of sequence of things that would allow them to establish contact," he said.

"They're not just whistling past the graveyard."

## Thousands await signal from Mars

PASADENA, Calif. (AP) — While scientists and space fans waited for a signal from the Mars Polar Lander, school principal Douglas Hogg was on a mission to give two dozen students an insider's view of the potential encounter with the Red Planet.

The principal, who heads the Pinewood Academy in La Canada Flintridge, took the students to join nearly 2,000 others on Friday who packed an auditorium at Planetfest '99 where they waited for the signal. "I view this as our first step to colonizing Mars," said Hogg, 53.

"For mankind we won't have all our eggs in one basket. It would be nice if we could have another base for mankind." The lander, however, failed to make contact with scientists Friday and left engineers and space enthusiasts alike in suspense while deep-space antennas scanned for a signal from the \$165 million probe.

Hogg left the auditorium looking a bit dejected. "I'm really pulling for these guys," he said. "Man needs to be adventurous

and reach out for frontiers. I have a little prayer going for them."

Teen-agers Matthew McCabe and Ooma Zimmerman drove two hours Friday morning to make it to Planetfest. Despite their frustration, they kept faith that NASA would connect with the Polar Lander.

"I'm disappointed," said McCabe, 19, wearing a jacket decorated with space agency patches.

"But NASA has proven over and over that we should have faith in them." "There's no reason to give up hope," added Zimmerman, 17.

With the excitement of the Polar Lander a key attraction, about 15,000 people were expected to attend the three-day event that runs through Sunday.

Tickets cost \$18 per person for a single day, or \$30 for three days. The Planetary Society, a nonprofit group founded by scientists who favor exploration of the solar system, held Planetfest.

The event featured lectures with astronauts and authors, and booths with educational material and games for children.

While awaiting word from Mars, the crowd was entertained by Bill Nye, the "science guy" who is host of a science show for children and a board member of The Planetary Society.

He said an unknown variable could have foiled NASA's plans. "You have to understand that if we hit a boulder, that would be bad," Nye said.

Planetfest drew an eclectic group. Children ran around enjoying science-related arts and crafts while older folks anxiously looked forward to another breakthrough in space exploration.

Many of the younger children seemed oblivious to the events 157 million miles away. Some played video games on Internet terminals set up for educational purposes, but others had fun making "straw rockets" out of paper and tape.

"This is a great way to introduce science to kids," said Karen Evans of Pasadena as her 9-year-old son blew a paper rocket across the room. "My son wants to be a scientist so we need to expose him to as much as possible."

# Bethlehem events kick off

BETHLEHEM, West Bank, (Reuters) - Church bells pealed in the town of Jesus's birth on Saturday, interspersed with the call to Moslem prayer from the mosque across Manger Square.

From a stage erected in the centre of Bethlehem, speakers launching the start of Palestinian millennium celebrations spoke of their hopes for peace in 2000.

But standing in the shadow of a Christmas tree next to the Church of the Nativity, Moslem souvenir seller Mohammad Abu Halael was reminded only of

the funeral of his brother, postcard seller Moussa, shot dead by an Israeli soldier in October.

"I don't believe in any of this," said Abu Halael. "The Jews don't want peace and the West Bank is like a prison."

They have us like this," he said, putting his hands together like he was choking the neck of an imaginary enemy. Under the slogan the "Star of the Millennium", Palestinian President Yasser Arafat on Saturday opened festivities to mark what officials hope will be a year that places on the map the territories

Palestinians want as the basis for a state.

Meanwhile, Israeli soldiers and Palestinians uneasily man checkpoints on opposite sides of the northern entrance to Palestinian-ruled Bethlehem, where Moslems comprise 70 percent of the population of 50,000 population.

Tourist buses had to make a lengthy detour on Saturday after Israeli soldiers blocked off the northern entrance to the town. Palestinian sharpshooters stood on rooftops near Manger Square.

Sullen souvenir sellers bitterly dismissed official hopes that the two million visitors expected to visit in 2000 would give the tourism-dependent economy the lift it needs.

"In fact, I might even close on December 24," said one souvenir seller in Manger Square, peddling life-size plaster dolls of a cherubic Baby Jesus for \$200.

"None of the tourist guides bring their groups here unless

we pay them a 35 percent commission."

The tourists just come and spend 15 minutes to go through the Church of the Nativity and we don't even see them here," he said. Some souvenir sellers tried to capitalise on Arafat's trademark keffiyeh scarf by selling replicas for \$5.

"Arafat scarves, Arafat scarves," hawked Khader Salah. A way from the celebrations, it was business as usual. Brows furrowed in concentration, barbers scraped clean the faces of clients with flat razors while sandwich makers shaved slices of lamb rotating on rotisseries.

At the Umar ibn al-Khattab mosque, which faces the Church of the Nativity, worshippers filtered in for noon prayers. The soprano strains of the millennium choir singing hymns of hallelujah echoed in the background.

"Police here are afraid that there will be some sedition

between Christians and Moslems," said resident Moussa Hijazi. "They told us to stay in our homes or away from the mosque after what happened in Nazareth," he said, referring to a dispute between the two religious communities in the northern Israeli town where Moslems are to build a mosque near a church.

The millennium celebrations paused at the call to noon Moslem prayers to allow the reading of a passage from the Koran.

"We were all a little bit irritated," Kaare Schelde, a theology student from Aarhus, Denmark, said of the interruption.

In the dimly-lit Church of the Nativity, nuns in black robes purchased bundles of slender candles and Swedish tourist Daniel Hedman gazed unbelievably at his surroundings.

"This is where it all started. This was the beginning," he whispered in awe.

## Indian woman new Miss World

LONDON (AP) — A 20-year-old from northern India was chosen Miss World 1999 Saturday over 93 other contestants.

Yukta Mookheve, a slender brunette who wore a pale blue evening gown, won \$100,000 and a year of travel around the world.

Miss Venezuela, 24-year-old Martina Thorogood, was runner-up, and Miss South Africa, Sonia Raciti, 21, won third place. While a panel of judges at London's Olympia Theater watched nearly 100 young women parade in evening gowns and answer such questions as "What is your favorite food?"

about 20 women's rights activists gathered outside holding placards that read, "Stop this sexist cattle market."

In an apparent effort to update a fundamentally old-fashioned competition, the organizers avoided a swimsuit competition and instead showed viewers a film of the contestants at play on a beach in Malta.

During the judging, Miss Mookheve said she would like to have been born Hollywood film star Audrey Hepburn, whom she admired for her "inner beauty, compassion and great aura." She told the judges that Thai food was her favorite and that she would love to go to Paris.

She was crowned by her predecessor, Linor Abargil, 20, from Israel. Miss Mookheve graduated from college with a degree in zoology and has worked in computer software



Yukta Mookheve

programming.

Her family is from northern India but she was educated at a British School in the Persian Gulf region. She has studied classical music in India for three years. Indian women won both Miss Universe and Miss World in 1994.

The seven judges include boxer Lennox Lewis, Formula 1 motor racing driver Eddie Irvine and Dean Cain, who plays Superman on television.

The pageant was created in 1951 by a public relations executive for a small leisure and entertainment company.

It was envisioned as a single event that year, but was kept going after the United States started the rival Miss Universe contest in 1952. It has been held in many countries and was last held in London in 1988.

## Guerrero . . .

Continued from page 3

President Manglona said, we have to work together. They (Republicans) have their own principle. I have also my own principle.

"I know I am going to be a minority in the Senate but I will

support my views. Whether they will support it or not (is up to them)," said Guerrero.

Guerrero said that with his participation in the 12th Legislature "we are going to come up with better laws."

"We are going to find a better way of solving the economic problems and

if politics is going to be involved, it is not going to help anybody," he said.

Cing, in an earlier interview, also "reminded" Guerrero that it "does not really matter how big your (vote) is or if you have (renowned scientist Albert) Einstein's brain. What matters is your ability to work with the other members."

## MVA . . .

Continued from page 3

"We didn't expect this to be this successful. We want a mixture of people here, from tourists to local residents to make us all understand each other in terms of culture," said Smith, adding that the live entertainment shows

made the event more appealing.

The first to be put up in the CNMI, the Garapan street market opened at 6 pm and closed at 10 pm. It will now be open every Thursday, with the grand opening scheduled on Dec. 9.

The street market is aimed at providing local businesses and emerging entrepreneurs an alternative place to market their prod-

ucts, services and food to the buying public. The taxes coming from the participating small and big businesses will help generate revenues for the government, the subcommittee said.

The market is situated on the 3rd Street, commonly known as "The Little Ginza" in Garapan, along the Chamorro House Restaurant and Maytenth Building.

## Medical . . .

Continued from page 3

think we have completely resolved," said Hardt.

Aldan's surrender of physician's and surgeon's certificate No. G 72216 to the Medical Board of California became effective on Feb. 17, 1999, under a stipulation dropping accusations against Aldan.

The surrender of license came after Aldan was accused of violating the Medical Practice Act, including "gross negligence," "repeated negligent acts" and "incompetence" which allegedly resulted in the death of a 28-year old male patient in California in 1992.

Aldan, one of the few local doctors in the CNMI, graduated from the University of Hawaii School of Medicine in 1990 and is currently practicing as a family physician at the Saipan Health Clinic.

Hardt said the Board is still gathering information to determine what particular regulation Aldan violated.

Aldan refused to comment on

the issue.

While the American Medical Association (AMA) states that there are reported court decisions upholding the right of a State Medical Licensing Board to revoke the license of a physician who failed to report a disciplinary action by the State Medical Licensing Board in another jurisdiction, the CNMI Board is yet to find out whether such holds true for Aldan's case.

In this case, the CNMI MPLB may revoke the license of Aldan who failed to report the surrender of his license issued by the California's own medical board. "What I want to know as a Board member is whether there's a regulation or law in the CNMI that requires him to do that (report past disciplinary action)"

"The other things we want to think about is not only what the requirements that we need to know to talk about things about Dr. Aldan, and what we should we require people to report," said Hardt.

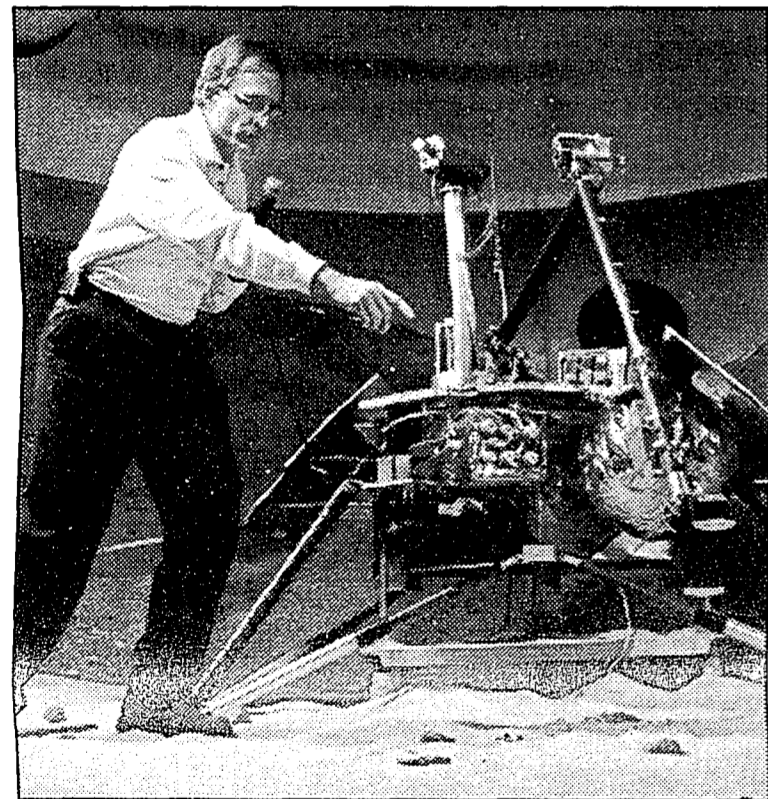
Once the local board is able to decide on Aldan's case, Hardt said it would be easier for the Board to resolve similar cases in the future.

Hardt also pointed out the Board earlier raised concern on the advertisement that came out stating Aldan is licensed for medicine in California months after his license from that state was surrendered. This concern was resolved following the Board's decision the misleading content of the advertisement was placed unintentionally, adding all the information were based on old data.


Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio earlier said he would want to see Aldan "consider" the local Board's decision. The chief executive said any action concerning Aldan's issue will have to come from the Board, adding he will be supportive of the local Board's decision.

Under CNMI laws, any appointed Board member may be removed from his post by the governor in accordance with prescribed procedures, including a recommendation by a majority of the board that the member be removed.

Furthermore, any Board member may be removed only on grounds of gross neglect or dereliction of duty, breach of fiduciary duty, conviction of a felony, or mental or physical incapacity, the CNMI Constitution states.



Robert Bonitz, a robotic arm engineer on the Mars Polar Lander project, prepares to show how the robotic arm, seen at center right, will perform a variety of functions during a demonstration on a full-scale model of the spacecraft at UCLA in Los Angeles. The arm is also equipped with a 500-cc capacity soil scoop, soil temperature probe and digital camera. The Mars Polar Lander was scheduled to land on Mars Friday after a journey of some 470 million miles that began Jan. 3. AP



Happy  
10th Birthday!  
**Christopher  
Scott Phipps**  
December 6, 1999  
From your family and friends

**BIG SALE**

**KIMCHI**

(1) 33LBS/Drum/\$30.00 (2) 16.7 LBS/Drum/\$17.00

**Hailan Market**  
Free delivery over two drums  
Middle Road Chalan Lulau Tel. 234-5958, 234-2978

# Marianas Variety Classified Ads Section

**DEADLINE:** 12:00 noon the day prior to publication  
**NOTE:** If some reason your advertisement is incorrect, call us immediately to make the necessary corrections. The Marianas Variety News and Views is responsible only for one incorrect insertion. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time.

## Employment Wanted



## Job Vacancy Announcement

**PUBLIC NOTICE**  
All interested resident workers are urged to register at the Dept. of Labor & Immigration, Division of Employment Services for the job/s being advertised in which you are qualified and available. For further assistance, please call Alfred A. Pangelinan at Tel. 664-2078.

**01 HOUSEKEEPING SUPERVISOR**-Salary: \$3.05-4.00 per hour  
Contact: KAN PACIFIC SAIPAN, LTD. Tel. 322-4692(12/6)M81765

**01 DENTAL ASSISTANT**-Salary: \$8.00-10.00 per hour  
Contact: DR. TODD K. JOHNSON dba Toothworks Tel. 234-3810(12/6)M33575

**02 HAND SEWER**-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: TOP FASHION CORPORATION Tel. 322-1611(12/6)M33576

**18 HAND SEWER**-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
**04 PRESSER MACHINE**-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
**02 PRESSER MACHINE**-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: HANDSOME TEXTILE (SPN) CORP. Tel. 322-1611(12/6)M33577

**01 WAITRESS (RESTAURANT)**-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
**02 COOK**-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: JNM KINTOL INC. dba Auntie Mag's Diner Tel. 288-0375(12/6)M33579

**03 COOK HELPER**-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: AIDA L. GARONG dba MJ Kitchennette Tel. 234-6854(12/6)M33581

**01 FREIGHT CLERK**-Salary: \$5.00 per hour  
Contact: AMBYTH SHIPPING MICRONESIA Tel. 322-0970(12/6)M33580

**01 CEMENT LOADER**-Salary: \$3.50 per hour  
**01 SUPERVISOR(CEMENT)**-Salary: \$5.00 per hour  
Contact: MICRONESIA CEMENT CO., INC. Tel. 322-3333(12/6)M81754

**01 (ASST.) F&B MANAGER**-Salary: \$500.00-785.00 bi-weekly  
Contact: PACIFIC MICRONESIA CORPORATION dba Dai-Ichi Hotel Saipan Beach Tel. 234-6413(12/08)W81801

**02 WAITRESS**-Salary: \$3.50 per hour  
Contact: DIVERSIFIED ISLAND INVESTMENT INC. dba Bobby Cadillac Tel. 234-3976(12/6)M81766

**01 ELECTRICIAN-SALARY:** \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: ARSENIO N. FLORES dba Arsenio Enterprises Tel. 234-3572(12/6)M33585

**01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER, BUILDING**-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
**02 WASHING MACHINE OPERATOR**-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: Y.K CORPORATION Tel. 288-0471(12/20)M33740

**01 PURCHASING (MANAGER) AGENT**-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: NAINA ENTERPRISES, INC. dba Roshis Variety Store Tel. 234-6533(12/20)M33743

**02 COOK**-Salary: \$3.05-3.25 per hour  
Contact: 729 RESTAURANT Tel. 234-5520(12/6)M33587

**01 CASHIER**-Salary: \$3.25 per hour  
**01 DANCER**-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour  
Contact: STAR FOUR CORPORATION dba Starlite Disco/Karaoke Club Tel. 234-5520(12/6)M33586

**01 (SUPERVISOR) SALES**-Salary: \$3.30-4.50 per hour  
Contact: YCO CORPORATION dba YCO Servistar Hardware/Liberty Plaza/YCO Construction Tel. 233-3112(12/6)M81762

**01 VIDEO (ATTENDANT) RENTAL CLERK**-Salary: \$3.25 per hour  
**01 CUSTOMER SERVICE CLERK**-Salary: \$3.50 per hour  
Contact: CYPRESS ISLAND CO. dba SAITEC Tel. 234-8622(12/13)M33653

**01 (ASST.) PRODUCTION MANAGER**-Salary: \$7,000-15,000 per hour  
Contact: MICHIGAN, INC. Tel. 234-9555(12/13)M33652

**01 PARALEGAL (ASSISTANT)**-Salary: \$1,000.00-\$2,750.00 per month  
Law school graduate required.  
Contact: O'CONNOR BERMAN DOTTS & BANES Tel. 234-5684(12/13)M81882

**01 TRAVEL COUNSELOR**-Salary: \$4.50 per hour  
Contact: WESTERN INTERNATIONAL TRAVEL, INC. Tel. 235-8744(12/13)M81879

**01 WAITRESS**-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: EASTERN HOPE CORPORATION dba Keeraku & Rakuen Rest. Tel. 233-4242(12/13)M33656

**01 ACCOUNTANT**-Salary: \$700.00-1,000.00 per month  
Contact: BIG BOY MARINE SPORTS INC. dba Big Boyz II Marine Tel. 234-3358(12/13)M33655

**01 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR**-Salary: \$3.05-3.15 per hour  
Contact: BLACK MICRO CORPORATION dba Tel. 234-6549(12/20)M82040

**01 (HOUSEKEEPER) HOUSE CLEANER**-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: TAPA BAR INC. dba Hotel Sun Palace Tel. 234-6639(12/20)M33749

**02 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (BUILDING)**-Salary: \$640.00-950.00 per month  
**01 CASHIER**-Salary: \$650.00-720.00 per month  
Contact: DIEGO'S MART, INC. Tel. 234-6153(12/20)M33750

**02 WAITRESS**-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
**02 COOK**-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: FAR EASTERN GENERAL MERCHANDISE INC. dba Diamond Chinese Restaurant Tel. 234-8188(12/20)M33748

**01 ELECTRICIAN**-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Plus \$30.00/mo. housing allowance.  
Plus \$100.00/mo. food allowance.  
Contact: JRP ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. 234-6614(12/20)M33747

**01 (SUPERVISOR) NIGHT CLUB**-Salary: \$800.00 per month  
**02 WAITER/WAITRESS**-Salary: \$3.05 per hour  
Contact: US HUA YING CORP. dba Cu Night Club & Restaurant/Sun Island Paradise Karaoke Tel. 233-6868(12/20)M33745

**01 CIVIL ENGINEER**-Salary: \$900.00 per month  
Contact: ALICIA E. ABUEME dba AE International/Viralco/Miggy's Home-Made Cuisine Tel. 233-1296(12/20)M33744

**01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER, BUILDING**-Salary: \$677.00 per month  
Contact: KANNAT GARDENS, INC. Tel. 234-5684(12/20)M82035

**01 ACCOUNTANT**-Salary negotiable  
Bachelor's degree preferably CPA  
Duties include: responsible for recording transactions, summarizing, analyzing & interpreting the result thereof. Pay close attention to the cash position and look primarily at the monetary assets & liabilities. Prepare monthly bank reconciliation general ledger trial balance & financial statement as a basis of preparing a budget for the coming year. Calculate NMI taxes & others. Know how to use accounting programs such as Peachtree for windows and other programs.  
Contact: ANTONIO S. CAMACHO dba Westpac Freight Apply in person, No Phone Calls Please (12/1)W33536

**01 SUPERVISOR**-Salary: \$4.00 per hour  
**01 CABLE SPLICER**-Salary: \$4.00 per hour  
Contact: SAIPAN COMMUNICATION & PROFESSIONAL SERVICES, INC. dba Saipan Communication Services Tel. 235-2383(12/20)M33742

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(2) Bedroom, (1) Bedroom Apartment, Fully Furnished, Laundry Room, Security Gate w/ Intercom, 24 hrs. hot water, High quality and cheap price. Located in Koblenzville.  
Modern Apartment  
Contact person: Mr. Wu 288-8484 or page 234-4228

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Established Cabinet Shop, Excellent Reputation, Same Location Since 1986. All equipment & inventory \$45,000/offer  
Phone/Fax 322-3221

**WANTED LIVE-IN-MAID**  
Must be able to cook & have good cleaning experience.  
Contact: Mr. Camacho at 322-9010 (12:00 p.m. - 2:00 p.m.)

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FIVE (5) BEDROOMS, TWO BATHROOMS WITH GARAGE AND FOUR (4) BEDROOMS, TWO BATHROOMS WITH GARAGE, LARGE YARD CLOSE TO THE OCEAN AT LOWER ASTEO ARE AVAILABLE FOR RENT.  
PLEASE LEAVE YOUR NAME AND TELEPHONE NUMBER AT TELEPHONE NO. 235-1839

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ONE BEDROOM APARTMENTS San Vicente Estates is located on the cliff line overlooking majestic Lau Lau Bay. All units are fully furnished with on site laundry facility and roof top barbecue area. 24 hrs. water and security guard. \$400.00-\$750.00 per month  
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1-BEDROOM Completely Furnished with Aircor \$260.00 & \$360.00 plus utilities  
One Month Security Deposit Required  
Laundromat on Site, 24 Hrs. Water  
Please Call: Ana at 235-1629

**WANTED IMMEDIATELY**  
WE ARE LOOKING FOR  
**One (1) Accountant - CPA/Admin.**  
AT LEAST WITH (4) YEARS WORK EXPERIENCE AND COMPUTER LITERATE (EXCEL, WORD, PEACHTREE ACCOUNTING)  
Local/I.R./Transfer/Non-Alien is welcome  
Please fax your resume at (670) 322-7378 or contact LEE DELOS SANTOS at Tel. (670) 322-2847 to apply & interview.

**APARTMENT FOR RENT**  
2-BRm near Coral Ocean Point and Koblenz Elementary School  
\*Fenced location, aircon in each brdm, refrigerator, stove, water heater  
\*Water, trash collection and sewer paid  
\*Electricity not included.  
235-4341 after 5:30 p.m.

**APARTMENTS FOR RENT**  
Must see to appreciate (only two units available)  
**ONE BEDROOM APT. - \$350.00/mo.**  
\*Ideal for couple or single \*Fully concrete \*Fully Furnished \*24-hour water \*Water Heater \*Trash Service Included  
Location: As Lito (close to Valley Inn & Lucky Supermarket)  
For Inquiries call: 288-755 or 235-3884

**WANTED SECURITY GUARD**  
SALARY: \$3.75 PER HOUR  
US/LOCAL/IR HIRE ONLY  
Apply at: ISLAND SECURITY SERVICE, INC.  
PHONE: #322-7490

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2 Bedroom, 2 T&B, 24 Hrs. Water  
Spacious Living & Kitchen Area  
Location: Susupe across Grand Hotel

**COMMERCIAL OFFICE SPACE**  
Susupe along Beach Road across Grand Hotel Area: 2500 sq. ft.

**2nd Flr. of Modern Stationery Building** in San Jose with ample Parking Space  
Area: 1000 sq. ft.

**NITE CLUB & KARAOKE SPACE**  
Susupe along Beach Road across Grand Hotel  
Area: 2200 Sq. Ft. and 5000 Sq. Ft.

**APARTMENT FOR RENT**  
1 Bedroom for rent \$350.00/month  
Pls. contact at tel. # 234-1233 or 288-2222

**FOR SALE**  
20' STEEL CONTAINERS @ \$1,500.00  
Please call: 234-6329/6331 ask for Raffy

**NOTICE TO DEPT. OF COMMERCE AND OTHERS**  
**I MICHAEL E. UREY have Resigned as the Registered Agent for the XU LAN CORPORATION of Saipan effective October 21, 1999 since my moving to China. No replacement has been designated at this time.**

**WOOD WORKING BUSINESS FOR SALE**  
Established Cabinet Shop, Excellent Reputation, Same Location Since 1986. All equipment & inventory \$45,000/offer  
Phone/Fax 322-3221

**WANTED IMMEDIATELY**  
WE ARE LOOKING FOR  
**One (1) Accountant - CPA/Admin.**  
AT LEAST WITH (4) YEARS WORK EXPERIENCE AND COMPUTER LITERATE (EXCEL, WORD, PEACHTREE ACCOUNTING)  
Local/I.R./Transfer/Non-Alien is welcome  
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**FOR RENT**  
2 Bedroom, 2 T&B, 24 Hrs. Water  
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**COMMERCIAL OFFICE SPACE**  
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**2nd Flr. of Modern Stationery Building** in San Jose with ample Parking Space  
Area: 1000 sq. ft.  
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Susupe along Beach Road across Grand Hotel  
Area: 2200 Sq. Ft. and 5000 Sq. Ft.

**FOR RENT**  
2-BR Apartments w/large rooms Located right on Beach near Mc-Donald Garapan, \$600.00 per month. Furnished. Utilities not included. Deposit required.  
Call: 234-7723

**DUPLICATE FOR RENT**  
2 BR duplex located in Chalan Kanoa walking distance to Mt. Carmel School, North of Sister Remedios Pre-school. Semi-furnished: Ref, Stove, beds, Aircon. \$550.00 a month. Deposit required. Utilities not included. Call 234-6108

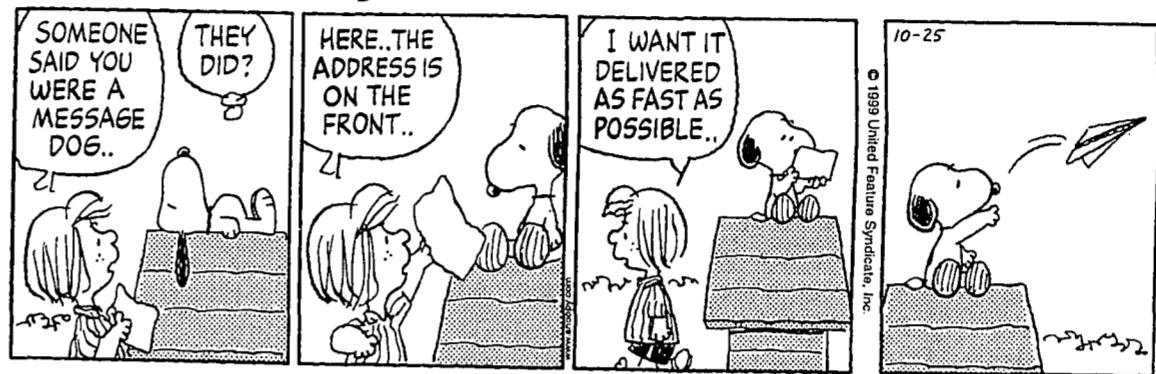
**COMMERCIAL SPACE**  
1st and 2nd Floor Commercial Space 850 s.f. Chalan Kanoa, Beach Road. Deposit Required.  
Utilities not included.  
Call 234-7723

**FOR SALE**  
20' STEEL CONTAINERS @ \$1,500.00  
Please call: 234-6329/6331 ask for Raffy

## EEK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



## PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz



## STELLA WILDER YOUR BIRTHDAY

Born today, you have a special affinity for others born under your sign, even though you may utterly fail to understand them — or yourself, for that matter! Though you give the impression of being "together" and on top of even the most complex situations, the fact is that you are only so far from losing control completely at any given time. Needless to say, you have a flair for the dramatic, and you will always use your expressive skills to get what you want, both personally and professionally. Some may say you are spoiled and that you have never grown up.

You may be rather controversial at times. You are never overly concerned with how you are viewed, especially by your peers. When it comes to the public at large, however, you are always eager to please, though you will always do so in your own inimitable fashion.

Also born on this date are: Tonya Harding, ice skater; Nadia Comaneci, olympic gymnastic champion; Neil Young, singer and musician; Princess Grace of Monaco, formerly Grace Kelly, actress.

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.

**MONDAY, DECEMBER 7 SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)** — Your emotions may be polarized today, making it difficult for you to see things from an objective point of view. Avoid lasting decisions.

**SAGITARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)** — It may fall to you to tell someone close just what you think of his or her new plans. Are you willing to tell it like it is?

**CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)** — Now is the time to put yourself in a position which will allow you to maximize what you receive from others as a matter of course.

**AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)** — Personal matters will seem more urgent than usual today. Indeed, there are some issues you won't want to put off any longer!

**PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)** — You are proud of what you have to offer, and there is no reason for you to withhold it in any way today. Others will be eager to "buy."

**ARIES (March 21-April 19)** — You may be unusually responsive today, and others are likely to come to you with everything from timid questions to aggressive demands.

**TAURUS (April 20-May 20)** — You're in no mood to be told what to do today, so you'd better be ready to take the initiative and score some important points on your own.

**GEMINI (May 21-June 20)** — You're likely to prefer your way of doing things today, and you'll be in no mood for experimentation for a while. Keep emotions in check.

**CANCER (June 21-July 22)** — A subtle change in your job description is likely to open one or two very important doors for you today. You're off and running!

**LEO (July 23-Aug. 22)** — Concentrate on what you know today, and keep your feet on the ground as you deal with hard-and-fast realities. Avoid any unnecessary wagers.

**VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)** — Delay can be costly today, and you don't want to find yourself throwing good money after bad or wasting your time on an impossibility.

**LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22)** — It may take you some time today to free yourself from an some sort of emotional trap. A new level of honesty will be required as a result.

**LISTEN TO THIS CLASSIFIED AD! UGLY GUY WITH BAD COMPLEXION AND A BORING PERSONALITY SEEKS GIRLFRIEND...** YUCK! YUCK!

**SHE MUST BE UNDERSTANDING AND WILLING TO HELP ME SPEND MY FORTUNE!** YUCK! YUCK!

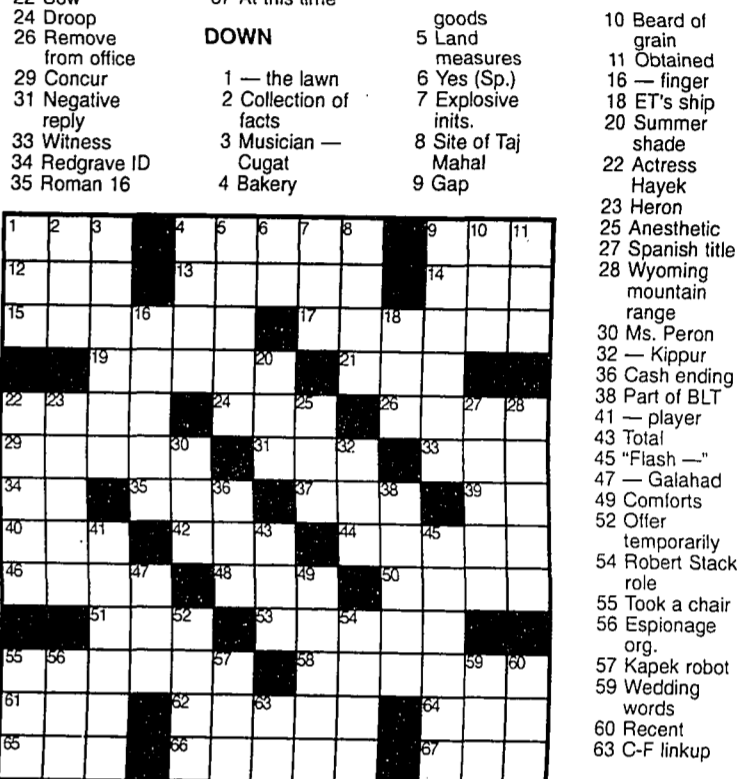
**LET ME SEE THAT!** HE SOUNDS PERFECT FOR ME!

**FIND THE PERFECT DATE! CHECK OUT THE CLASSIFIED ADS!**

## CROSSWORD PUZZLER

**ACROSS**  
1 Jazz musician  
4 Macaroni or spaghetti  
9 Witch  
12 — Clear Day  
13 Frosting  
14 Jima  
15 Mors  
17 undulating  
17 — officer (school official)  
19 Illustration placed within another  
21 Toward the stern  
22 Sow  
24 Droop  
26 Remove from office  
29 Concur  
31 Negative reply  
33 Winness ID  
34 Redgrave ID  
35 Roman 16

**DOWN**  
1 — the lawn  
2 Collection of facts  
3 Musician — Cugat  
4 Bakery  
5 Land measures  
6 Yes (Sp.)  
7 Explosive initi.  
8 Site of Taj Mahal  
9 Gap  
10 Beard of grain  
11 Obtained  
16 — finger  
18 ET's ship  
20 Summer shade  
22 Actress Hayek  
23 Heron  
25 Anesthetic  
27 Spanish title  
28 Wyoming mountain range  
30 Ms. Peron  
32 Kippur  
36 Cash ending  
38 Part of BLT  
41 — player  
43 Total  
45 — Flash  
47 — Galahad  
49 Comforts  
52 Offer temporarily  
54 Robert Slack role  
55 Took a chair  
56 Espionage org.  
57 Kapek robot  
59 Wedding words  
60 Recent  
63 C-F linkup



## KidSpot™ by Dick Rogers

**THE PUZZLER**  
Here's a quiz that may require your attention. Question: "What's worse than a centipede with sore feet?"  
To check your answer, fill in the missing words and put the numbered letters in the matching boxes below.

1. A place to keep a pet bird  
2. High-flying toy  
3. Lock valuables in this  
4. What we eat  
5. Part of a fish  
6. \_\_\_\_\_ engine

9 16 13 19  
10 4 3 11  
2 1 18  
5 12  
17 7  
6 14 15 8

ANSWER: A STIFF-NECKED GIRAFFE

**Marianas Variety**  
"You Can Get What You Want"  
GARAGE SALE  
A cartoon illustration showing a car being sold at a garage sale.

# Knicks cut Nets, 92-82

EAST RUTHERFORD, New Jersey (AP) — Allan Houston scored 14 of his 24 points in first quarter and came up with a big loose ball in the final two minutes Saturday in leading the New York Knicks to a 92-82 victory over the woeful New Jersey Nets. Latrell Sprewell added 20 points and Kurt Thomas had 16 points and 11 rebounds as the Knicks won for the fourth time in five games. The Nets have lost five straight and 15 of 17.

Stephon Marbury had 19 points and Jamie Feick grabbed a career-high 23 rebounds for the Nets, who shot only 31 percent from the field. **SuperSonics 102, Clippers 89** In Los Angeles, Gary Payton scored 19 points as the Seattle SuperSonics beat the Los Angeles Clippers for the 11th straight time. Maurice Taylor and Derek Anderson each had 19 points for the Clippers, who have lost five straight overall. Vin Baker made a short hook

shot and Horace Grant added a driving layup and four free throws during an 8-0 run that helped extend Seattle's five-point halftime lead to 75-59 with 5:21 left in the third quarter. The Sonics used a 7-2 run to take a 92-74 lead early in the fourth quarter, and the Clippers never got closer than 11 points after that. In Philadelphia, Tyrone Hill had 14 points, including four in the final two minutes, as Philadelphia defeated Boston.

# Judge...

Continued from page 1

Cepeda arrived at the scene at 1 a.m. and arrested Inabangan for alleged aggravated assault. Defendant was detained pending investigation of the incident and later was interviewed at the Criminal Investigation Bureau by Detectives Eddie Chen and Jose Cepeda. Chen advised Inabangan of his Constitutional rights. Inabangan was also presented with a Constitutional rights form, which he signed. Chen testified that he advised defendant of his right to contact the Philippine Consulate before being interviewed. Inabangan, through counsel Assistant Public Defender Robert T. Torres, questioned the police's interrogation without informing the Philippine Consulate Office. Torres claimed that Inabangan was never interviewed by either Chen or Cepeda of his right to communicate with the Philippine Consulate. Torres argued that Inabangan's statements made during an interview with Chen and Cepeda should be suppressed on the ground that he was not informed

of his right to contact the Consulate as required by the Vienna Convention. The government, through Assistant Attorney General Nicole Forelli, contended that Chen did inform Inabangan of his right to contact the Consulate. Lizama in his order denying Inabangan's motion to suppress and for discovery said the Court finds defendant's testimony to be credible that he was not informed of his right to contact the Consulate. Lizama citing a 9th Circuit decision stated that Article 36 of the Vienna Convention requires a detaining state to inform a detained foreign national of his right to consult with consulate officials. The judge said the Convention also "requires the detaining state, if requested by the prisoner to inform consular officials of the arrest and to allow consular officials to visit and consult with the prisoner." The U.N. Nations adopted the Vienna Convention in 1963 and the U.S. and the Philippines are signatories. Lizama said the Convention applies in the CNMI pursuant to the Covenant. The failure to inform Inabangan of the right to communicate with the Consulate was in violation of the Vienna Convention, the judge

noted. Lizama said the question remains, however, as to the appropriate remedy for such a violation as "the Convention itself prescribes no judicial remedy or other recourse for its violation." Defendant argued that the appropriate remedy is the suppression of the statements he made during the police's interview. Lizama said the federal court has held that suppression is not an appropriate remedy for a violation of the Convention. Even if suppression were an appropriate remedy, Lizama said Inabangan would carry the initial burden of showing that he suffered prejudice from such violation. Lizama said the defendant did not meet his burden of producing evidence that he would have availed himself of his right to contact the Consulate had he known of such right. Further, the judge said, defendant failed to show that there was a likelihood that the contact would have resulted in assistance to him. As such, Lizama said, suppression of Inabangan's statements is not appropriate. With regard to Inabangan's request for additional documents, Lizama said the government has already provided the defendant in excess of 50 pages of discovery materials.

# Sablan...

Continued from page 1

rejected the commonwealth's proposal that the mitigation site be placed at any of the Northern Islands. "The (USFWS) disapproved our request to have the other islands as mitigation site. I think there is a need to discuss that (CNMI proposal) further because between the islands there is just water," said Sablan. "We will need to find out from

them (USFWS officials) the how's. The goal is to comply," he added. Local officials, including Sablan and Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, have been raising concerns plans to construct the landfill and have the Puerto Rico dump closed permanently is being hampered by the federal government's law on endangered species. Sablan and the governor has said that USFWS regulations on the matter should allow for consideration about protecting humans as well, stressing that the

continued operation of the Puerto Rico dump could jeopardize the health of people living around its immediate vicinities as well as the environment including the lagoon. Keeping the dump open could also result to another administrative order from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which had issued at least two ones against the local government over the matter in the past years. Sablan is tentatively scheduled to be in Hawaii on Dec. 14 and 15.

# US...

Continued from page 1

US is terribly concerned about the way Palau government is requiring American citizens to get a working permits which were not required to RMI and FSM nationals. Under the compact, he said Americans should be treated as favorably as FSM and RMI nationals. The U.S. is also expected to caution Palau about its vulnerability to international financial

crimes through opening up of its market to offshore banks. "The U.S. is terribly concerned that Palau might become such a haven and we'd like to avoid that situation because virtually every country that is going on that route has opened themselves to offshore investment," the legal counsel said. On the compact road project issue, both parties have agreed that it deserves more study and further more discussions, or specifically examine the progress and timing of the project. The Palau delegation is composed of the president, Resources and Development Minister Marcelino Melairei, Financial Adviser to the President Rich Minaker, Presidential Chief of Staff Temmy Shmull, Perrin, and two special assistants. The U.S. delegation will have Deputy Assistant Secretary of State for East Asian and Pacific Affairs Ralph Royce, and senior representatives of the Department of Interior's Office of Insular Affairs and the Department of State's Office of Compact Negotiations.

# 16th...

Continued from page 28

top 27 to 21. In the Jammers and Gymless game, Tyce Mister was the heavy hitter with 1 ace, 1 kunk, and 3 kees for 10 points. Tarness Kapwich of the Jammers was his team's heavy hitter with 3 kees and a goal for 9 points. In last week's third game, the Bwilsbils and NOYB exchanged the lead on several occasions before the Bwilsbils were able to edge out the obstinate NOYB 30 to 28 in three sets. Lorna Ogunmoro of the Bwilsbils was the games

heavy hitter with 1 ace, 4 lees, and 3 goals for 19 points. In the fourth and final game of last week's competition, No-Fear surprised and defeated the Chuukanos 35 to 19 in three sets. No-Fear pretty much dominated this game by outscoring the Chuukanos 8 to 6 in aces, 1 to 0 in xunks, 7 to 1 in kees, and 2 to 0 in goals. Three of No-Fears players scored heavy with Gyles Ruluked leading the pack with 1 ace and 4 kees for 10 points. Teammates Ed Arriola and Ad Arriola came in with the combination of 3 aces, 1 kee, and 2 goals for another 14 points.

# Guam...

Continued from page 1

Gutierrez and Lt. Gov. Madeleine Z. Bordallo failed to receive the majority of votes cast. The case was brought before the federal court by the Republican team of former Gov. Joseph F. Ada and former Sen. Felix Camacho. Immediately following Unpingco's ruling, lawyers representing the Gutierrez/Bordallo team blocked the run-off election by filing an appeal with the Ninth Circuit Court in San Francisco. In April, the appellate court upheld Unpingco's ruling saying that "votes cast" include blank ballots. The Ninth Circuit Court was

again asked to reconsider its decision, which it denied while granting a request by the Gutierrez team to delay the run-off. This allowed an appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court, which accepted the case in early September. Today, Washington, D.C. lawyers will ask the U.S. Supreme Court to decide what constitutes a majority of votes cast in any election and whether blank ballots should be counted as "votes cast." Parties from each side will have 30 minutes to give their position and then will be asked questions by justices of the U.S. Supreme Court. Once oral arguments are presented, the court has until the end of June of next year to issue its decision.

# HANMI...

Continued from page 1

zens who live and work near the area, as well as for the image of our tourism industry, it is time to close Puerto Rico dump once and for all. Our hotels have been concerned about this for years and by passing this resolution, we hope it will keep the new sanitary land fill project moving forward as quickly as possible," said Sablan. The resolution pointed out that the dump not only poses a significant health risk to Saipan residents, but also may cast an "irreversible and negative image" for the CNMI tourism industry, which caters to highly-sophisticated

tourists. Masafumi Sano, HANMI officer and general manager of the Sanai Palms Hotel, cited complaints from tourists regarding the growing mountain of exposed garbage at the dump. "Visitors have been asking why the trash is piling up and it is not being covered over. It is an embarrassing situation and I don't know what to tell our guests," said Sano. HANMI is a professional association made up of the 20 leading hotels representing over 3,400 rooms in the CNMI. It aims to support and encourage cooperation among member-hotels by providing a forum for sharing ideas on issues of common concern.

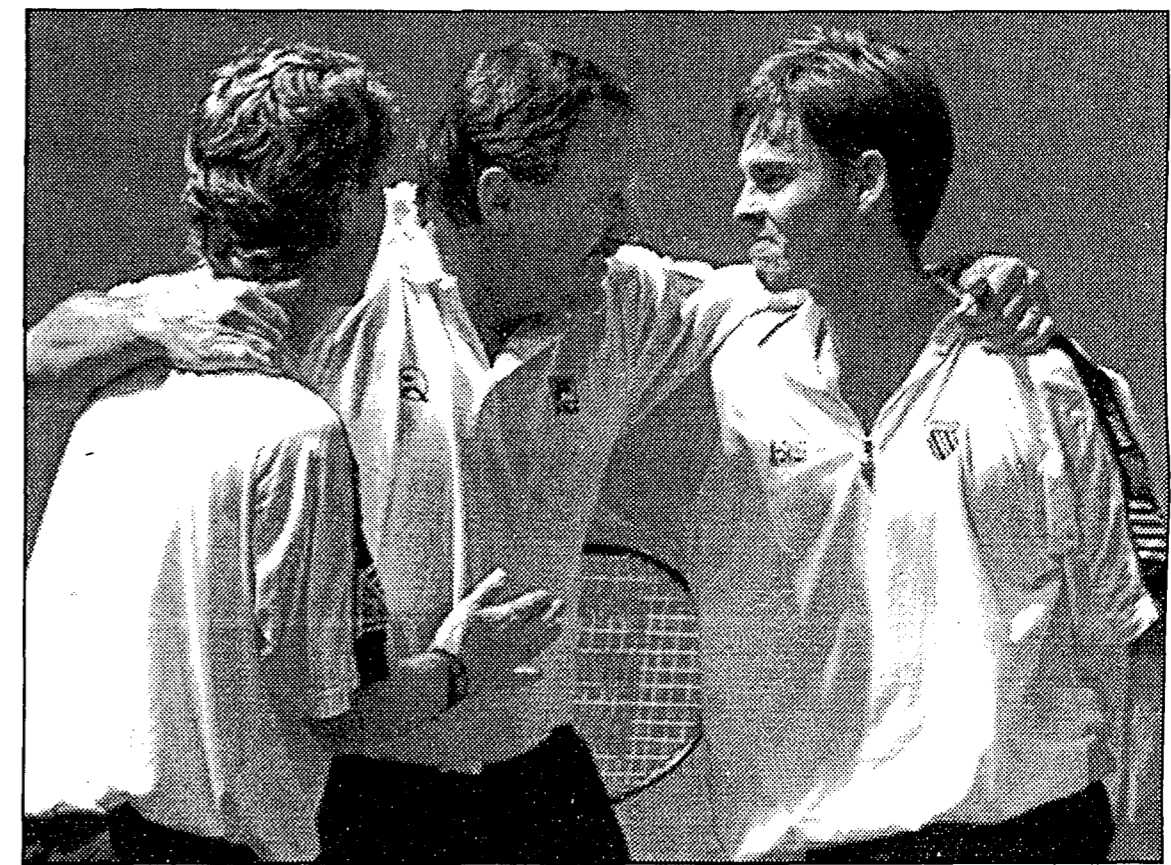
# Torres...

Continued from page 1

retention vote. Torres sent the Attorney General's Office a letter last November 24 asking that Bellas be investigated for alleged acts of "improprieties and appearance of improprieties, extra-judicial activities, conflicting judicial duties and political activities." The AGO is supposed to send the letter to the Advisory Commission, which is no longer in existence. Torres submitted a list of such actions that he has gathered "over the past two years" which, among others, includes allegations that Bellas was "often seen with his lawyer friends in public places socializing over bottles of beer, and sometimes, shots of tequila." Torres also alleged that Bellas

campaigned for his retention during an Oct. 13, 1999 public gathering on Rota. "So many things are pretty non-specific," countered Bellas, not denying that he has been drinking, but stressing though that he only does on social occasions. "I don't drink very often," said Bellas. The judge, whose retention bid was defeated in the Nov. 6 mid-term polls, denied he engaged in political campaigning in Rota, saying he merely spoke about the retention election issue before a gathering. More to the point, Bellas said the Constitution's amendment in 1997 has made Torres' basis for his complaints obsolete. "Things have changed (following the amendment). Everything is so new that we (now) don't know what is right or wrong," said Bellas.

# Aussies win in Davis Cup



Australian Davis Cup captain John Newcombe (center) congratulates his players Mark Woodforde (left) and Todd Woodbridge after their doubles win in the Davis Cup final against French Davis Cup players Fabrice Santoro and Olivier Delaire Saturday in Nice, French Riviera. AP

NICE, France (AP) — Mark Woodforde and Todd Woodbridge staged a brilliant comeback to beat France's Fabrice Santoro and Olivier Delaire on Saturday and take Australia to within one victory of a Davis Cup final triumph. The 2-6, 7-5, 6-2, 6-2 victory silenced French fans and gave Australia a 2-1 lead in the best-of-5 final. Australia, playing its 44th final, goes for its 27th Cup championship Sunday when Mark Philippoussis plays Cedric Pioline and Lleyton Hewitt faces Sebastien Grosjean. Woodforde and Woodbridge, now unbeaten in 11 Davis Cup matches spanning five years, used all their experience to claw back into the match after the French pair came to within just one point of taking a 2-0 lead. "We came back from the dead," Woodbridge said. "At 5-3 and a set down it felt like we were two sets down. It was an incredible feeling to win from where we were." "I hadn't missed a ball in practice by more than a foot and suddenly today I was missing by 10. But we started to settle and that was the key," he added. Both teams knew the importance of the match: ever since 1978 the winner of the doubles match in the Davis Cup final has gone on to win the trophy. Initially, the thunderous sup-

port that unnerved Grosjean on Friday only served to inspire France's doubles team, who raced to a 4-0 first-set lead. Santoro's left lob to break Woodbridge's service indicated their early dominance. Santoro and Delaire, a team that has won five doubles titles, looked unstoppable taking the first set in just 38 minutes and

moving to a 4-2 second-set lead. In the fourth game of the second set, the crowd was brought to its feet when Delaire won a point with an instinctive volley played from behind his back. But the Aussies refused to buckle, saving four set points at 2-4 and a set point when Santoro was serving for the second set at 5-4.

Suddenly France's volleying lost its sparkle. The Woodies broke service again to take the second set before dominating the third to the delight of the Australian fans decked out in green and gold. Santoro's service faltered in the third game of the fourth set and despite fervent home support, the visiting team eased to

victory, winning 16 of the last 20 games. Woodforde sealed the 3 hour, 8-minute win with a smart high backhand volley and the Australian camp immediately began celebrating. "It is so satisfying because a lot of people thought we couldn't win before and during the match. I have never seen Mark so emotional," Woodbridge said. Team captain John Newcombe was full of praise for his players. "I haven't seen Mark react so fast for about four years. He was like a man possessed," he said. With Sandon Stolle playing in place of Woodbridge, Australia lost its quarterfinal and semifinal Davis Cup doubles matches. Santoro and Delaire had won the two previous meetings against Woodforde and Woodbridge, both last year, but Newcombe had no hesitation in reuniting the experienced pair, five-time Wimbledon champions, twice winners at the U.S. Open and Australia's most successful Davis Cup doubles pair with 13 wins. The French captain said his team would come out fighting Sunday. "Tonight I will tell the team that they have their backs to the wall," he said. "We will have to be aggressive and creative."

# Lions sign Desmond Howard

PONTIAC, Mich. (AP) — Former Super Bowl MVP Desmond Howard, cut by the Green Bay Packers on Tuesday, signed with the Detroit Lions on Saturday. The Packers had cut Howard because he had been ineffective and tentative as a return man and had not caught a pass as a receiver. He also had been inactive three weeks because of dislocated ring fingers on both hands. Howard, 29, who won the Heisman Trophy at Michigan in 1991, averaged 19.2 yards on 19 kickoff returns this season and

7.8 yards on 12 punt returns. Howard's best season came in 1996, when he set the NFL record for punt return yardage and set a Packers record by returning three punts for touchdowns. He had 244 return yards in the Packers' 35-21 Super Bowl win over New England, including a 99-yard kickoff return for a touchdown. He became the first special-teams player to be named Super Bowl MVP. Seeking more playing time at receiver, he signed with the Raiders before the 1997 season. After two disappointing seasons with the Raiders during which he

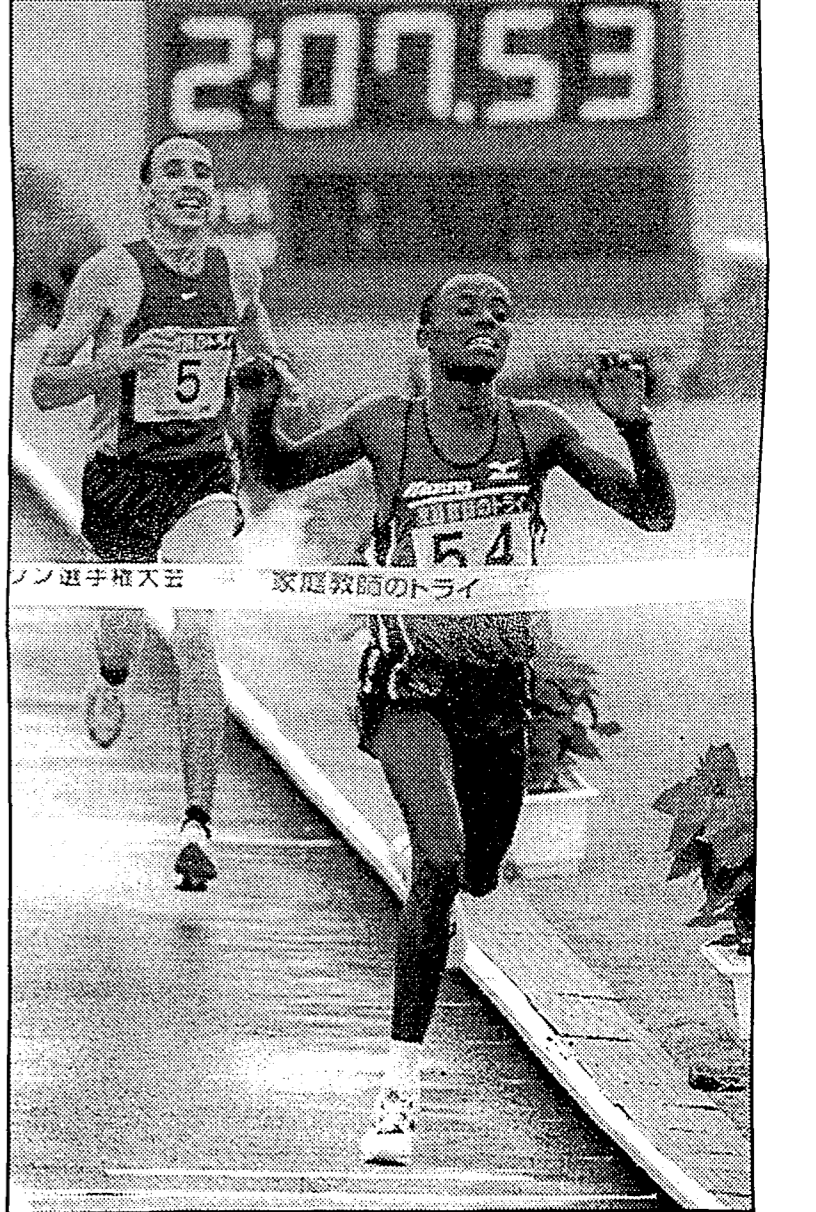
caught just six passes, Howard signed a four-year, \$5.71 million contract with the Packers in June. But the first two years of the deal with the Packers were for just \$1.21 million, and he won't receive the final \$4.5 million because he failed to stay with the team. Terms of his deal with the Lions were not disclosed. To make room on their 53-man roster, the Lions released linebacker Andre Collins. Collins was signed by the Lions on Aug. 31 and was a reserve in three games, recording eight tackles and an interception.

# Els builds lead in South Africa

SUN CITY, South Africa (AP) — South African Ernie Els shot a course-record-equaling seven-under-par 64 today, and stretched away from the field to lead the Million Dollar Golf Challenge by six strokes after the third round. Trailing him is European No. 1, Colin Montgomerie, who had four birdies in a flawless round, but was powerless to stop the South African's surge to win his first Million Dollar title in eight tries. Els finished the third

round at 197. Montgomerie was stung not only by the brilliant play of Els — but also by a wasp at the 14th tee. Still, he shot a 68 for three-round total of 203. Also equalling the course record set by Nick Faldo in 1994 was Northern Ireland's Darren Clarke. He is at 205. Earlier, lightning forced the players off the course after the leaders had played nine holes of the third round. Els had started the day with three birdies in the

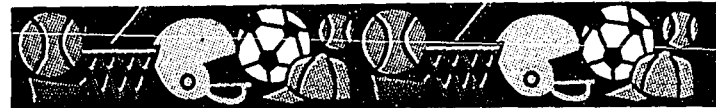
first four holes, but then dropped two shots over the seventh and eighth to tentative play. Montgomerie was just a shot off the pace, and looking menacing. But a huge drive of and, a 2-iron and a 15-foot meter putt gave Els, the world's fifth-ranked player, an eagle to take him three clear of Montgomerie again. American Jim Furyk came close to matching the course record, finishing with a 65. He's fourth, nine shots behind.



Ethiopian Gezenge Abera crosses the finish line ahead of France's Mohamed Ouadi during the Fukuoka International Marathon at Fukuoka, southern Japan, on Sunday. The little known Abera shook off Ouadi's challenge in the final strides to take the trophy. AP

**JUST SAY 'NO' TO DRUGS!**

# SPORTS



## Sunrisers, Hi-5 win in BANMI

SAN Vicente Sunrisers won over Saipan Stars while Hi-5 handed Mark Sharks their second defeat during the Basketball Association of the Northern Mariana Islands (BANMI) tournament at Ada Gym.

The Saipan Stars made an 18-2 run in the opening minutes of the ball game. But Sunrisers took advantage of Stars' many turnovers to tie the score at 41 with 1:28 minutes.

The Sunrisers then grabbed the lead, 48-41, going into the half and subsequently won the game, 92-82.

Sunrisers' Jawn Joyner had 21 points, 2 assists, 5 block shots, 3 rebounds and 4 steals to bag the player of the game award. George

Masga had 19 points and older brother Oscar Masga had 1 assist, 9 rebounds, 4 steals.

Saipan Stars' Aaron Burch had 17 points, followed by Mike Doodge & Casey Cummings with 14 and 13 points respectively. Cassey Cummings also had 1 block shot, and grabbed 17 rebounds. Jorge De Guzman contributed 2 assists, 1 block shot, 5 rebounds, & 2 steals.

In the second game, Hi-5's John Acosta and Jun Aaron scattered 26 points to win over Mark Sharks. Acosta also had 1 assist, grabbed 12 rebounds, and made 5 steals to win the player of the game award. Teammate Derek Reyes contributed 13 rebounds and a steal.

A new comer, Tetsu Ochiyama,

hit from the perimeter range and sank 3-3 pointers to score 13 points for the Sharks. He blocked 3 shots, grabbed 7 rebounds, and got 5 steals.

Gus Palacios & Ed Arriola each had 10 points for the Sharks.

Gyles Ruloked IVBL Most Valuable Player and Student Athletes of the month of October, had 4 points, 1 assist, 4 block shots, 5 rebounds, and 3 steals. Mr. Stoney Villagomez another upcoming star from Youth League did not play due to a knee injury.

For today's game, Pacific Trading Co. Lite Beer will go against Ol'Aces in the first game. In the second game, GTE Pacifica, with a 10 points disadvantage, will face Diamond Auto Care.

## 16th World Rocball season on

AFTER two months of pre-season and practice games, Rocball officially opens its sixteenth annual world championship season on Monday, November 29 at Marianas High School as a lunch time activity.

As in the past, teams are made up of not only high school students, but also college students and village players from around the community who love the game enough to make the extra effort to be at MHS during this

time.

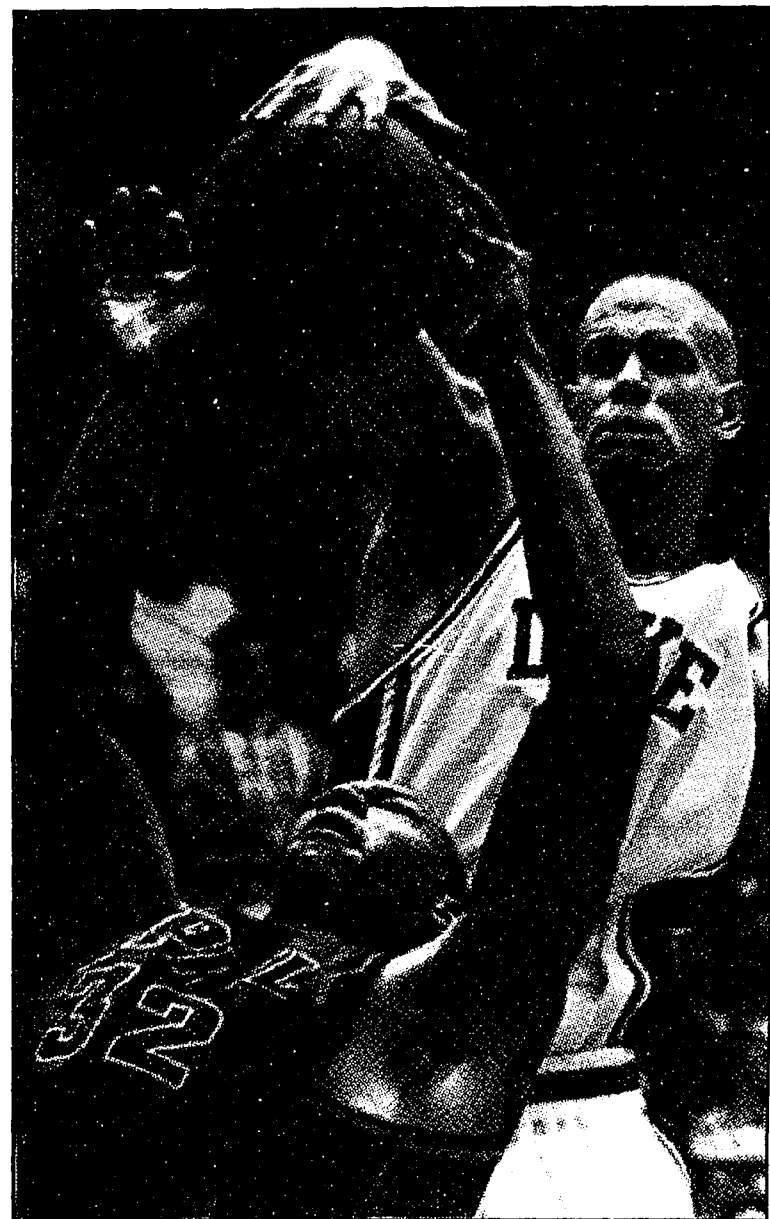
In this year's season opener, DX played the Brotherhood, DX and the Brotherhood were the last two teams that played in the 1998/99 Rocball season and, it was DX that came away from that series of games with the Rocball World Championship title.

However, in Monday's season opener, it was the Brotherhood who won. The Brotherhood not only defeated DX, they won the game in four sets "juice" 41 to 26.

Freddy Pelisamen of the Brotherhood was the games heavy hitter with 1 ace, 1 xunk, 1 kee, and 1 goal for 9 points.

In the second game of the year, the best offensive and defensive teams of this year's pre-season games were pitted against each other. The best offensive team, the Jammers and Gymless, the best defensive team, played a three set game with Gymless coming out on

Continued on page 26



Duke's Shane Battier (back) blocks the shot of DePaul's Bobby Simmons (32) during overtime in Saturday game played at Cameron Indoor Stadium, in Durham, N.C. Duke's Nick Horvath hit a three-point shot near the end of overtime to give the Blue Devils an 84-83 win. AP

## BANMI to hold weekly three-point shootout

BASKETBALL Association of the Northern Mariana Islands (BANMI) will be having a 3 point shoot out very Fridays effective December 10 at Ada Gym.

Interested participants are urge to come before 7 p.m. first game and 8:30 p.m. second game & register with the table officials for the half time shoot out. There will be prizes for adult and children so bring the whole family.

Prices will be awarded to the

winner(s). It's free of charge, all you need to do to be eligible is show up. It's a way of BANMI says Thank You to untiring fans.

Special thanks to Get Covered - Surf and Lens Bar & Grill as the main sponsor of this events.

For more inquiries in regards to this matter please see the following members, Ray Lizama, president, Juan V. Diaz, vice president, or Abner Venus Mondays, Wednesdays, & Fridays 7-10 p.m. at the Ada Gym.

## Suit vs Rodman dropped

LAS VEGAS (AP) — A former adult entertainer has agreed to dismiss the federal lawsuit she filed in June 1998 against former basketball star Dennis Rodman.

Dixie Johnson, 48, claimed Rodman sexually assaulted her in April 1998 by grabbing one of her breasts at the Las Vegas Hilton.

Johnson's case is one of several lawsuits filed against Rodman during the past 18 months in Las Vegas.

Gregory Hafen, a Las Vegas attorney who represented Rodman in the case, would not say whether the dismissal meant the parties had reached a settlement.

A judgment of dismissal, signed by Senior U.S. District Judge Lloyd George, was entered in the case late last month.

Johnson had asked for compensatory damages of \$300,000 and punitive damages of \$3 million, plus attorney fees and costs of the lawsuit.



Mr. Ikenaga (middle) became the 100,000th customer of LaoLao Golf Shop located at Lao Lao Bay Golf Resort last Nov. 26. Shown from left are shop supervisor Ms. Ogiwara, Saipan Grand Hotel president Mr. Uemura, Lao Lao Golf Resort president Mr. Oguma, and shop front manager Ms. Kawaiba.

Contributed photo

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