

Cigarette price hike seen

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

ANOTHER increase in prices of tobacco products is imminent next month as vendors are expected to pass on to consumers additional costs that would be incurred in obtaining licenses required by a newly-enacted law.

License fees, according to Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control (ABTC) Administrator Andrew Salas, will be \$300 for wholesalers to \$100 for retailers, \$75 to those owning vending machines and \$100 for each of the machines leased.

"Any business that comes across added expenses will al-

ways pass it to the consumers... there is nothing we can do. We are expecting prices of cigarettes to increase. I think they (vendors) will raise (prices)," Salas said in an interview yesterday.

The government expects to bring in some \$100,000 in license fees from over 1,000 retail stores in the CNMI.

The money would be used for government anti-smoking programs for minors, Salas said.

Salas said Public Law 11-75, which was drafted by the Department of Public Health (DPH), was actually meant to discourage minors from chewing or smoking cigarettes. The law took effect,

March 26. Vendors have 90 days to start complying with the new measure.

"(The) public health (department) was the one that drafted the bill. They have looked up at a lot of statistics about minors taking tobacco (by)... chewing... or smoking it.

"And since they were at DPH,

they know the risk tobacco has on people. (Thus), they came out with this (law)... to help our minors. We don't want our kids to have lung cancer," said Andrews.

Penalties for stores found selling cigarette products to minors, according to him, are "very, very steep."

Salas said a warning will be

issued on first offense while \$500-fine is imposed on the second one.

Third offense will be dealt with a seven-day suspension while a license revocation notice will be given on fourth offense.

"Our main concern... is that we want to stop minors from smok-

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Six reported killed in Hawaii landslide

HONOLULU (AP) — A large landslide at Sacred Falls State Park killed six people and injured more than 50 others.

The landslide in the popular hiking area occurred around 2:30 p.m. Sunday near the pool at the base of the waterfall in the Koolau Mountains, about 30 miles (50 kilometers) north of Honolulu on

the northeast side of the island of Oahu.

Paul Takamiya, plans and operations officer at Oahu Civil Defense, confirmed the deaths but had no details. He said 27 of the injured were taken to four hospitals.

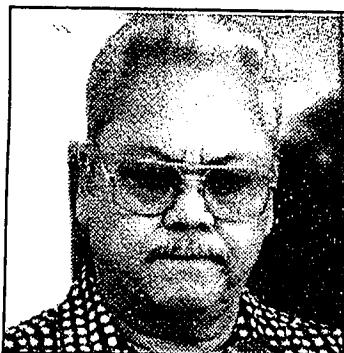
Witnesses told television station KHON they heard a low rum-

bling sound, then saw boulders and trees toppling over.

"There was a lady standing in the middle of the rock clearing, and I guess she knew what it was," said injured hiker Stephen Michael. "She said to run, get out of here. And everybody started taking off. And that's when the

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Bombing of China embassy shifts focus from alien woes



Pedro P. Tenorio

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE ANIMOSITY between the United States and China resulting from NATO's accidental bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade is feared to cause a delay in the repatriation of close to 500 illegal Chinese immigrants now being held on Tinian.

But Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio is maintaining a positive outlook

for the expeditious deportation of the illegal immigrants who are already creating a bottleneck in the temporary holding facility on Tinian's North Field.

This, even as he admitted that no official word has been relayed yet to his office with regards to the communication between the federal government and China which will have to issue travel documents for the captured illegal immigrants before they can be repatriated to China.

"I haven't heard anything about communications between the State Department and the Chinese government but I'm hoping that Washington is working with the Chinese government to fast-track repatriation," Tenorio said.

At the same time, the governor said he does not want to think that the arguments sur-

Continued on page 23



Representative Heinz Hofschneider leads students in Micro Beach as he spray-paints a stenciled sign asking people not to dump waste into the sewer system. Photo courtesy of CUC

Honolulu clinic offering low cost service to Micronesians

By Giff Johnson
For the Variety

HONOLULU — For nearly 10 years, Dr. Neal Palafox practiced medicine in the Marshall Islands as a U.S. Public Health Service physician. Now, based in Hawai'i with the University of Hawai'i's John A. Burns School of Medicine, he and other medical professionals are offering low-cost medical services for Marshall Islanders and Micronesians, many of whom do not have health insurance and have little access to medical care in Hawai'i.

The Mililani Physicians Center — which is the base for the University of Hawai'i's Family Practice Department that Palafox co-chairs — is providing services for Marshall Islanders and Micronesians at a low cost — for Hawai'i — of \$10 per visit. Palafox pointed out that they are providing these services to all Micronesians.

But the program focuses on Marshall Islanders because of

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Fitial eyeing House seat

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

CNMI Republican Party Chair Benigno R. Fitial has expressed willingness to seek a Precinct 3 House seat, a move that political observers say can influence the selection of the House leadership early next year, it was learned.

Fitial, the House speaker from 1982 to 1984, is expected to submit his letter of intent and, as required by party rules, will resign as party chair, it was learned.

The party's Precinct 3 Club chair, Frank Q. Guerrero, yes-



Benigno R. Fitial

"But we have not received any letter of intent from him, and if he does resign, it still has to be accepted by the party's general membership [which will meet tonight]," Guerrero said.

He added that party will complete its slate of candidates by next month, but incumbents are usually "automatically" endorsed.

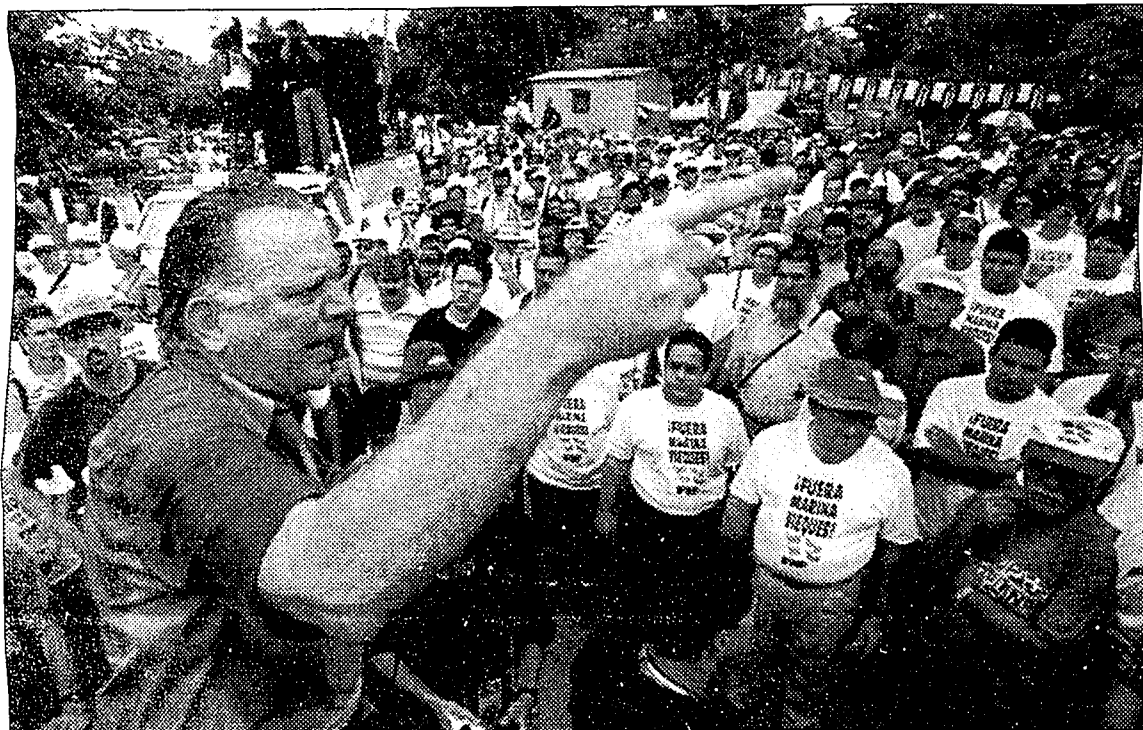
The Variety tried but failed to get a comment from Fitial, who is currently vice president of Tan Holdings.

A delegate to the 1976 Con-

Continued on page 23

terday confirmed that Fitial has said he will step down as party chair and run for office.

Puerto Rico protest grows



Sen. Ruben Berrios, leader of the Puerto Rican Independent Party speaks to a group of over one thousand demonstrators protesting the presence of the U.S. Navy on the island municipality of Vieques, Puerto Rico Saturday.

By John Marino
SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (Reuters) — Members of Puerto Rico's independence party have set up camp on U.S. Navy land in a growing protest of U.S. war games that killed a civilian and injured four other people on the island of Vieques.

About 100 people from the Puerto Rican Independence Party trespassed on U.S. Navy property on Vieques on Saturday.

Amid cheering crowds, they joined a ragtag band of protesters who have camped at the site since civilian security guard David Sanes Rodriguez was killed by an errant bomb during war games on April 19.

"We are going right into the middle of the firing line," said party President Ruben Berrios. "They only have two choices: stop bombing or arrest us."

Residents have long opposed the Navy's presence on the 33,000-acre (13,200-hectare) island of Vieques off Puerto Rico's east coast. On Vieques, the Navy runs the North Atlantic Fleet Weapons Training Facility, one of the largest live weapons training grounds in the world.

Vieques' 9,300 residents say the bombing harms the environment, destroys marine life, stunts economic development and may be linked to an above-normal cancer rate. They also worry about the

danger presented by the bombs themselves.

"It shows how much danger Vieques residents are in each day," said Robert Rabin of the Committee for the Development of Vieques, an economic development and environmental group that opposes the military presence.

The protesters remained camped on Navy site on Sunday and enjoyed wide community support, with fishermen ferrying out supplies donated by local residents.

Navy officials said the site is filled with unexploded live ordnance that poses a danger to the protesters.

The controversy has created a rare political unity on the Carib-

bean island, where the debate on whether Puerto Rico should seek U.S. statehood, seek independence or maintain its U.S. commonwealth status usually keeps the three main political parties from agreeing on anything.

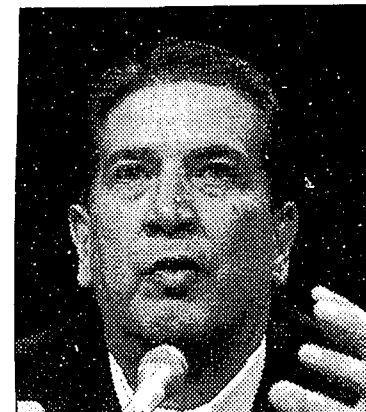
Gov. Pedro Rossello of the ruling pro-statehood New Progressive Party has called for a permanent halt to live weapons training.

"There must be a viable alternative to the shelling, bombing and strafing of populated areas," he said in an April 20 letter to U.S. President Bill Clinton.

And Anibal Acevedo Vila, president of the pro-commonwealth Popular Democratic Party, has written to House Speaker Dennis Hastert urging a Congressional investigation.

The Navy is still looking into the accident, in which two Marine F/A-18 Hornet jets accidentally bombed an observation point, killing Sanes Rodriguez and injuring three other civilian workers and a Navy officer.

The Navy apologized and said it would indefinitely halt military manoeuvres using live ammunition. But Navy officials said the



Pedro Rossello

Vieques target range was essential to national defence because it is a unique location where planes and ships can bomb, and troops can be deployed.

Several U.S. lawmakers have called for an end to Navy bombing in Vieques or have called for hearings on the matter.

Sen. Charles Schumer, a New York Democrat, said in a letter to Navy Secretary Richard Danzig, "The U.S. Navy cannot, and should not, force the people of Puerto Rico to live in fear for their lives by continuing to use their island for target practice."

Bombing linked to CIA's mistake

US-China relations take turn for the worse



Stanley Roth

By JIM ABRAMS
WASHINGTON (AP) — The bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade that has sparked anti-American demonstrations in Beijing and other Chinese cities was the result of misinformation from CIA target planners, a U.S. government official says.

Meanwhile, American diplomatic officials and lawmakers warned that those demonstrations, which the Chinese government has sanctioned and at times assisted, could seriously affect U.S.-China relations if they are allowed to grow out of control.

Those relations took a further downturn Monday when China suspended high-level military contacts with the United States and postponed talks on human rights, arms control, international security and arms proliferation. Assistant Secretary of State Stanley Roth also canceled a planned visit to Beijing.

The State Department also has issued an advisory cautioning Americans against travel in China.

The intended target in the air attack Friday was a military sup-

ply office. But due to faulty information provided by the CIA and reviewed by NATO and the Pentagon, the pilots mistakenly bombed the Chinese Embassy several hundred yards (meters) away, the U.S. official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Sunday.

"They went through all these hoops, but for whatever reason it was not detected," the official said. He said the CIA was reviewing its published and clandestine sources of information to determine how the mistake was made.

The Washington Post on Monday quoted a senior NATO official, not identified further, as saying "the tragic and embarrassing truth is that our maps simply did not show the Chinese Embassy anywhere in that vicinity." The current embassy was opened three or four years ago and the old one was several miles (kilometers) away, the newspaper said.

It was unusual for the CIA to be involved in target planning in the air campaign, the U.S. official noted. More often that is the responsibility of NATO, the U.S. European Command or the Pentagon.

The Chinese said three people, all journalists, were killed and 20 wounded in the attack.

U.S. officials, led by President Bill Clinton, have apologized to China for the error, and Defense Secretary William Cohen and CIA Director George Tenet acknowledged in a joint statement that the bombing resulted from faulty information.

CHC gets 7 specialists

By Haldee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

AT LEAST seven specialist-doctors are expected to arrive on Saipan before the end of fiscal year for the diagnosis and treatment of hundreds of patients instead of referring the latter to Hawaii medical institutions.

Since October 1998, there were already four specialists who arrived here and attended to over a

hundred patients, thereby saving the Department of Public Health-Medical Referral Office thousands of dollars.

These specialists include a neurosurgeon, an ENT (eyes, nose, throat) doctor, urologist, and a doctor specializing in plastic surgery.

For the entire FY 1999, DPH expects at least 11 specialists and one more doctor is currently be-

ing invited to come here. This figure is almost double the number of specialists who visited the Commonwealth Health Center the previous fiscal year.

Joseph C. Santos, MRO administrator, said the fifth specialist will be arriving on the second week of June.

"We are expecting at least 11 but we are still looking at another doctor for a total of 12 doctors in

a year. So that's an average of one doctor per month," said Santos.

DPH brought seven specialists in FY '98 to treat and diagnose 355 CNMI patients, which translated to some \$1 million savings.

Santos said the doctors' arrival saved DPH money that could have been used for round trip air fare for both the patients and the escorts, five-day worth of hotel accommodations, daily

subsistence allowance, and medical bills.

The top three reasons for referral of CNMI patients are heart-related problems, cancer and kidney problems.

Hawaii-based medical firms accepting CNMI patients include Straub Clinic and Hospital, Inc., Queen's Medical Center, Tripler Army Medical Center and St. Francis Hospital.

US takeover to make garment sector demise tougher for NMI

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

ANY TAKEOVER initiative will aggravate the adverse impacts to the CNMI's ailing economy of the impending relocation of garment manufacturing industry to Asia and Latin America," according to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

Tenorio was reacting on renewed proposal by the Clinton Administration to extend federal immigration and minimum wage policies into the Commonwealth during the time CNMI is faced with worsening economic conditions and the possible demise of the garment sector.

He disclosed that the CNMI government would continue to insist that it be allowed to control its own immigration and minimum wage. "We maintain that we would continue to lobby to the Clinton Administration that we will control our immigration and minimum wage."

He said Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan has discussed with members of the local Covenant Section 902 negotiating team and is already crafting a letter in response to White House negotiator Edward Cohen's letter.

Tenorio said appropriate local

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Smuggled cigarettes may jeopardize tobacco money

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE COMMONWEALTH's efforts to secure settlement money from the US tobacco industry may be jeopardized by smuggled cigarette products flooding the CNMI, the Department of Commerce said yesterday.

The tobacco companies mark their products with health warning signs indicating to which market they are intended, according to DOC Alcoholic Beverage and Tobacco Control (ABTC) Administrator Andrew Salas.

The label reads "US Surgeon General's warning" or "Surgeon

General's warning," which respectively means they are intended only for the international and domestic markets.

Salas said "there is a lot" of cigarette products in the CNMI with health warning signs labeled "US Surgeon General."

He said the smuggled cigarettes — believed coming from the Philippines, China and Korea — could derail CNMI's efforts to get a huge sum in settlement money because the tobacco companies is expected to check with their exclusive distributors in the commonwealth and count only

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Issue of residency gets raised, but Tomokane says Precinct 2 is home

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

THE INCUMBENT Republican House members of Precinct 2 yesterday described as "interesting" the candidacy of former Marianas Visitors Bureau managing director Anicia Q. Tomokane, but added that she resides on Capitol Hill, which is in Precinct 4.

But Tomokane, who will run against Speaker Diego T. Benavente and Rep. Oscar M. Babauta as the Reform Party candidate, yesterday said she has already moved to Precinct 2, which she called the "home" of her family.

"This is where I grew up," she said. "And I'm registered here."

Tomokane, a former Democrat, said she is grateful to Reform Party members for giving

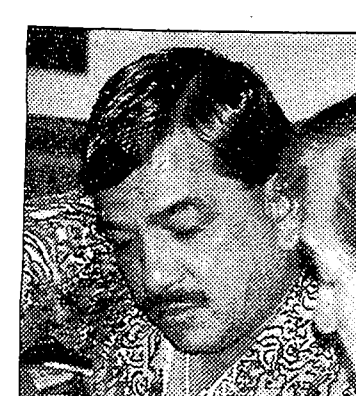


Anicia Q. Tomokane

her "their faith, confidence and support."

She said the name of her running mate will be known in the next three weeks.

"I'm looking forward to working for my home precinct, and I hope our friends, relatives and family will give us their support," Tomokane said.



Oscar M. Babauta

She said she will discuss her plans for Precinct 2 once Reform completes the party platform.

Babauta, in a separate interview, said qualified residents can always run for office.

"This is a democracy," he said, "but the real question is the

Continued on page 22

OPM: No police promotions for now

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

BLAME everything on the islands' bad economy. It's always the culprit.

The head of Office of the Personnel Management hinted that members of the Department of Public Safety may never expect any promotion unless the islands' economy improves.

OPA Director Mathilda A. Rosario said Friday that the government has temporarily put on hold prospective promotion at DPS because of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's austerity policy.

Rosario's pronouncement came in response to complaints made by some police officers who claimed they never get promotion despite long years in the

service. The policemen who asked not to be identified said the lack of rank adjustment system at DPS is "creating a big hole in the morale" of the department's personnel.

One police officer said that like most of DPS members, he too had graduated from the police academy

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Governor defends DOLI

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday shielded the labor and immigration department against criticisms hurled by the business community, as he expressed confidence in the capabilities of Secretary Mark Zachares to handle DOLI issues.

At the same time, the governor urged the Saipan Chamber of Commerce to let their predicaments known by the government in order to properly address problems hounding the commonwealth's business community.

Tenorio said his Administration is willing to work things out with the private sector but said the government's hands are tied unless businessmen offer sugges-

tion on areas which they think need further improvement.

"The business sector should come to us and sit down so we will be able to try to find out what are the deficiencies or the areas that we should improve. DOLI is trying its best too," he said.

He added that the DOLI is mandated to enforce and implement existing laws and regulations relating to the proper protection of both local and nonresident workers, and that the Chamber should not take that against the department.

"We have laws and regulations that we have to follow. I hope they will let us know if they have any issue they want to bring up with us, so we can do every possible thing to rectify that," he

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Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

Food and Nutrition Council

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, the CNMI Food and Nutrition Council hereby gives notice that the regular meeting of the Food and Nutrition Council will be held on Wednesday, May 12, 1999, at 1:30 p.m. at the Northern Marianas College campus. A tour at Aqua-Culture followed by a meeting in building "G".

The following items are on the agenda for the above referenced meeting:

Preliminary Matters

- Call to order
- Roll Call
- Adoption of Last Meeting minutes

Chairwoman's conference report

Old Business

(None)

New Business

- Discussion of the tour at Aqua-Culture
- Administration of Native American grant proposal
- Dr. Isamu Abrahams
- Council Progress Report
- Annual Food and Nutrition Conference

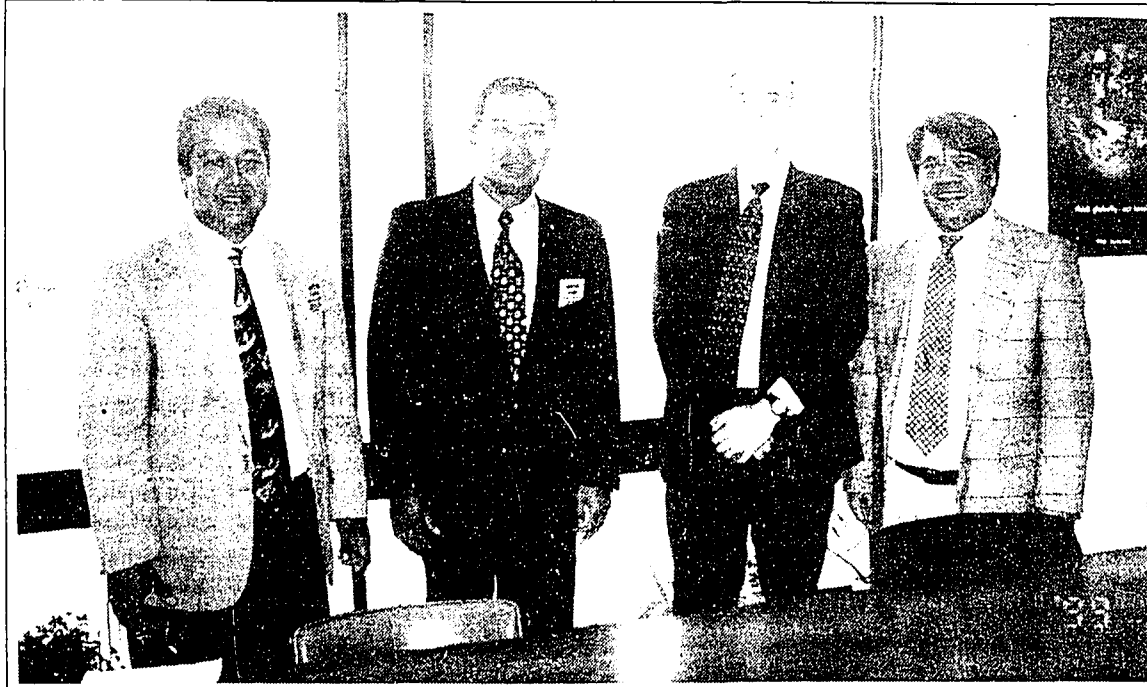
Next Meeting - Wednesday, June 9, 1999

Adjournment

All interested persons are welcome to attend.

/s/Pamela Mathis, Chairwoman

Date: May 10, 1999



Resident Representative Juan N. Babauta (second left) and his Washington, D.C. staffers Frank Taitano (left) and Joaquin Omar (right) join Dr. John Smith for a photo after a briefing on the health and environmental risks of polychlorinated biphenyls (PCB). Babauta has recently raised concerns with Pentagon over PCB contamination in Tanapag.

Contributed photo

FORUM

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

BREWED

By Jojo Dass

Funny things

IF I got it right, cigarette smokers are headed for another "budgetary adjustment" brought about by an impending increase in prices of tobacco products caused by Public Law 11-75.

The new law, which takes effect on June 26, requires vendors to obtain licenses.

Vendors, who will be paying fees for the permits, will pass on the added cost to consumers, like me.

Funny thing is while the Department of Commerce maintains the law was drafted by the Department of Public Health, and was meant to discourage minors from buying cigarettes, government will actually be raking in more than \$100,000 in new license fees.

I understand tobacco companies are reportedly cashing in on the youth as their target clientele. A 14-year old seduced into smoking will most probably be hooked on nicotine until he or she finally contracts tuberculosis, emphysema, acute bronchitis, lung cancer or other costly respiratory problems associated with nicotine addiction.

Fine. The youth should not be made to smoke, I agree. But should not there been simply a law disallowing vendors to sell tobacco products to minors? And if one already exists, should not government be just actively enforcing this?

I get the feeling we've been had.

I was at the Department of Labor and Immigration yesterday where I gathered that Filipino nationals compose nearly half of the over 2,500 overstayers that have sought amnesty.

Funny thing is only 169 of them have actually managed to obtain a one-year employment contract, while the rest, if not all, are still looking for jobs or convincing their temporary employers to take them.

Well, there were 208 Bangladesh nationals who signed up for "limited immunity," and only 20 of them got contracts; there were 960 Chinese nationals who also signed up and only 139 of them got it.

Altogether, only 352 of the 2,562 illegals who have come out of hiding — a mere 14 percent — got real jobs.

They've been had.

The Department of Commerce yesterday disclosed that smuggled US tobacco products are flooding the islands.

And they are easy to spot, says DOC. Just look on the health warning label. If you're holding a pack with a health advisory that reads, "US Surgeon General's Warning," you're holding a hot merchandise.

These cigarettes are supposedly intended solely for the US tobacco companies' international market.

The legitimate ones that we should be having have an advisory that reads "Surgeon General's Warning."

These smuggled cigarettes are putting exclusive distributors — which sells packs with advisories that read "Surgeon General's Warning" — at a disadvantage.

Funny thing is I'm not sure I have come across a pack with a "Surgeon General's Warning" on it since I got here three years back.

Which means whoever have been smuggling the merchandise must be having a field day for so long without government making any move to stop it.

They've been had.

But what's even funnier is that vendors are actually given until June 26 to clean up their shelves.

No, they won't have it coming hard if they're caught selling the smuggled goods beyond June 26.

Not even a fine.

Commerce department wants to take good care of them like a nanny does a brat.

We've been had.

Inagadadavida wants to say hello.



Letters to the Editor

Falun Dafa practitioners write

Dear Editor:

We are practitioners of Falun Dafa (Falun Gong) in Saipan. We read the Variety report of "Thousands protest in China" recently, so we would like to let you know more about "Falun Gong".

Falun Dafa (Falun Gong) is a high order Chinese exercise of body and mind of a long history and was made public by Master Li Hongzhi in 1992.

Since its introduction, it has been rapidly recognized worldwide for its effects on health improvement and stress relief, and more importantly, for its profound teaching that guides practitioners towards higher levels.

Today, there are more than 100 million practitioners who have become healthier both physically and mentally. Every morning, one can find people practicing Falun Dafa in almost every park in China. In the US, there are Falun Dafa groups in almost all major cities and universities.

Master Li Hongzhi has held numerous classes in more than 20 cities in China, and has given many public lectures in Singapore, Australia, France, Germany, Sweden, Canada, and America.

In particular, Master Li gave a public lecture in

Houston on October 12, 1996. That date was proclaimed as "Li Hongzhi Day" by the Mayor of Houston, and Master Li was named "Honorary Citizen" and "Goodwill Ambassador" of the city of Houston.

Falun Dafa has five sets of exercises. The movements are elegant, slow, and smooth, but are simple and easy to learn, and are good for all ages. While the first four exercises are to be practiced while standing, the last one is sitting meditation in nature. The time, location and frequency for doing these exercises are very flexible.

The main reason for the effectiveness of Falun Dafa is that it is guided by profound and enlightening principles that had never been made public before. Two major works of Master Li expounding these principles are "China Falun Gong" and "Zhuan Falun," which have been translated into more than 10 languages including English.

Everyone is welcomed to learn Falun Dafa and to practice together with us. Every Falun Dafa group offers voluntary instructions regularly. All Falun Dafa activities are free of charge. We practice every Sunday 8:30 am to 12:00 am at American Memorial Park.

LEUNG YIC & BILL XIE

Kudos to airport police and personnel

Dear Editor:

I arrived in Saipan on Thursday evening, April 29 from Chuuk via Guam.

I had inadvertently left my small back pack on one of the counters at the baggage claim area and left the airport unaware of this.

The next morning, I realized that I had forgotten this very important item which has my two cameras, and over a dozen rolls of films which I needed to develop for a newsletter I have printed in Chalan Kanoa three times a year.

I immediately went to the airport and one airline ground employee helped me to look in

the area for my back pack. With no sign of it in the baggage claim area, we resorted to the airport police officers, and sure enough they had a written record of this item and after giving a brief description, I was able to claim it.

I want to give my special thanks to the officers who found my "short term lost item" and turn it in for safe keeping until claimed.

I also want to congratulate the airport police personnel for saving the day for me. Si Yuus Maase ya si Yuus infanbinendise!

SISTER MARY CABRINI TAITANO, RSM

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.

Taitano brothers charged

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday filed 14 counts of charges against the two brothers who were arrested in connection with Tuesday's kidnapping of a woman and gunslaying of a man in San Vicente.

Nestor C. Taitano a.k.a. Nestor Manglona and George Taitano a.k.a. George Manglona were charged for the killing of Joaquin Dela Cruz and kidnapping and attempted murder of Lydia Sanchez.

The information charged the defendants with first degree murder, voluntary manslaughter, unauthorized carrying of firearm,

two counts of use of firearm in commission of crime, unauthorized possession of firearm, kidnapping, attempted first degree murder, attempted manslaughter, two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, aggravated assault, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Barry Hirshbein in the complaint filed in Superior Court stated that the killing of Dela Cruz was done "willfully, deliberately, and with premeditation..."

With regards to the kidnapping, Hirshbein said the defendants "did remove Sanchez a substantial distance from the vicinity where they found her and the removal or con-

finement was accomplished by force or threat and the victim was injured."

According to documents submitted by police investigators in court, prior to the killing of Dela Cruz, the Taitano or the Manglona brothers kidnapped and mauled Sanchez.

Sanchez later managed to run away from the gun-wielding brothers and sought police's assistance, said the affidavits.

Court papers showed that before those incidents, the defendants along with one Joaquin Namauleg went to the house of Sanchez in Dandan, looking for her son.

When Sanchez confronted George Taitano about the disturbance incident sometime ago involving the latter, the suspects' car backed up with her body partly

inside the vehicle.

The defendants armed with a knife and guns, punched and kicked Sanchez as the vehicle sped off towards the Manglona residence in San Vicente.

Dela Cruz and two men, in-

cluding Sanchez's common-law husband, went to the Manglona house, looking for the woman.

During an argument, one of the suspects shot Dela Cruz with a shotgun, prompting the victim's companions to escape.

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May 10 - 31, 1999

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Meiji, Curry Flavor 35x10pc/cs \$26.00/cs	Toilet Tissue 60 rolls/cs \$25.00/cs	Tortilla Chips, 2pk/bx 6 lbs. \$9.95/bx
Foam Container Dart Food 8 oz. 20pk/50pc \$2.25/pk	UCC Sugar Stick Portion 300ct/bx \$9.35/bx	Trashbag, Clear Bio-Hazard 250ct/cs 31-33 gal \$15.00/cs
EEZ Oven Cleaner \$10.95/gal	Purine, Sanitizer For sanitizing restaurant, taverns, hotel & similar restaurant \$10.25/gal	Degreaser, Kleenol 30 It removes baked on grease, called on grime, old accumulated waxes and hard to clean dirt. \$7.50/gal

Dueñas back at DPS

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

MORE than a year after fading from government service, former Public Safety deputy commissioner Frank Dueñas is back.

Dueñas, who served during the administration of former Gov. Froilan Tenorio, was found guilty last year of obstructing justice and was sentenced to one year suspended imprisonment.

He has now been assigned at the Bureau of Motor Vehicle.

Dueñas was supposed to start yesterday with still unknown duty at the BMV, but his superior, Major Bertha C. Tudela, said he still did not report for work.

As of this writing, it was not clear who appointed Dueñas.

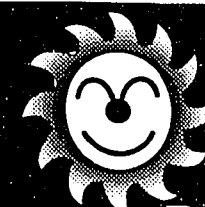
Dueñas' conviction came as a result of his failure to return DPS items such as files, equipment, ammunition, radios, batteries and manuals. The court said the absence of these items interfered with the operation of the office of the deputy commissioner.

Dueñas' appointment was a mystery at the public safety.

The Variety contacted the Office of the Personnel Management, but the official who was supposed to have gone through his papers said he did not see Dueñas' appointment papers.

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Continued on page 21



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FORUM

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

BREWED

By Jojo Dass

Funny things

IF I got it right, cigarette smokers are headed for another "budgetary adjustment" brought about by an impending increase in prices of tobacco products caused by Public Law 11-75.

The new law, which takes effect on June 26, requires vendors to obtain licenses.

Vendors, who will be paying fees for the permits, will pass on the added cost to consumers, like me.

Funny thing is while the Department of Commerce maintains the law was drafted by the Department of Public Health, and was meant to discourage minors from buying cigarettes, government will actually be raking in more than \$100,000 in new license fees.

I understand tobacco companies are reportedly cashing in on the youth as their target clientele. A 14-year old seduced into smoking will most probably be hooked on nicotine until he or she finally contracts tuberculosis, emphysema, acute bronchitis, lung cancer or other costly respiratory problems associated with nicotine addiction.

Fine. The youth should not be made to smoke, I agree. But should not there been simply a law disallowing vendors to sell tobacco products to minors? And if one already exists, should not government be just actively enforcing this?

I get the feeling we've been had.

I was at the Department of Labor and Immigration yesterday where I gathered that Filipino nationals compose nearly half of the over 2,500 overstayers that have sought amnesty.

Funny thing is only 169 of them have actually managed to obtain a one-year employment contract, while the rest, if not all, are still looking for jobs or convincing their temporary employers to take them.

Well, there were 208 Bangladesh nationals who signed up for "limited immunity," and only 20 of them got contracts; there were 960 Chinese nationals who also signed up and only 139 of them got it.

Altogether, only 352 of the 2,562 illegals who have come out of hiding — a mere 14 percent — got real jobs.

They've been had.

The Department of Commerce yesterday disclosed that smuggled US tobacco products are flooding the islands.

And they are easy to spot, says DOC. Just look on the health warning label. If you're holding a pack with a health advisory that reads, "US Surgeon General's Warning," you're holding a hot merchandise.

These cigarettes are supposedly intended solely for the US tobacco companies' international market.

The legitimate ones that we should be having have an advisory that reads "Surgeon General's Warning."

These smuggled cigarettes are putting exclusive distributors — which sells packs with advisories that read "Surgeon General's Warning" — at a disadvantage.

Funny thing is I'm not sure I have come across a pack with a "Surgeon General's Warning" on it since I got here three years back.

Which means whoever have been smuggling the merchandise must be having a field day for so long without government making any move to stop it.

They've been had.

But what's even funnier is that vendors are actually given until June 26 to clean up their shelves.

No, they won't have it coming hard if they're caught selling the smuggled goods beyond June 26.

Not even a fine.

Commerce department wants to take good care of them like a nanny does a brat.

We've been had.

Inagadadavida wants to say hello.



Letters to the Editor

Falun Dafa practitioners write

Dear Editor:

We are practitioners of Falun Dafa (Falun Gong) in Saipan. We read the Variety report of "Thousands protest in China" recently, so we would like to let you know more about "Falun Gong".

Falun Dafa (Falun Gong) is a high order Chinese exercise of body and mind of a long history and was made public by Master Li Hongzhi in 1992.

Since its introduction, it has been rapidly recognized worldwide for its effects on health improvement and stress relief, and more importantly, for its profound teaching that guides practitioners towards higher levels.

Today, there are more than 100 million practitioners who have become healthier both physically and mentally. Every morning, one can find people practicing Falun Dafa in almost every park in China. In the US, there are Falun Dafa groups in almost all major cities and universities.

Master Li Hongzhi has held numerous classes in more than 20 cities in China, and has given many public lectures in Singapore, Australia, Grance, Germany, Sweden, Canada, and America.

In particular, Master Li gave a public lecture in

Houston on October 12, 1996. That date was proclaimed as "Li Hongzhi Day" by the Mayor of Houston, and Master Li was named "Honorary Citizen" and "Goodwill Ambassador" of the city of Houston.

Falun Dafa has five sets of exercises. The movements are elegant, slow, and smooth, but are simple and easy to learn, and are good for all ages. While the first four exercises are to be practiced while standing, the last one is sitting meditation in nature. The time, location and frequency for doing these exercises are very flexible.

The main reason for the effectiveness of Falun Dafa is that it is guided by profound and enlightening principles that had never been made public before. Two major works of Master Li expounding these principles are "China Falun Gong" and "Zhuan Falun," which have been translated into more than 10 languages including English.

Everyone is welcomed to learn Falun Dafa and to practice together with us. Every Falun Dafa group offers voluntary instructions regularly. All Falun Dafa activities are free of charge. We practise every Sunday 8:30 am to 12:00 am at American Memorial Park.

LEUNG YIC & BILL XIE

Kudos to airport police and personnel

Dear Editor:

I arrived in Saipan on Thursday evening, April 29 from Chuuk via Guam.

I had inadvertently left my small back pack on one of the counters at the baggage claim area and left the airport unaware of this.

The next morning, I realized that I had forgotten this very important item which has my two cameras, and over a dozen rolls of films which I needed to develop for a newsletter I have printed in Chalan Kanoa three times a year.

I immediately went to the airport and one airline ground employee helped me to look in

the area for my back pack. With no sign of it in the baggage claim area, we resorted to the airport police officers, and sure enough they had a written record of this item and after giving a brief description, I was able to claim it.

I want to give my special thanks to the officers who found my "short term lost item" and turn it in for safe keeping until claimed.

I also want to congratulate the airport police personnel for saving the day for me. Si Yuus Maase ya si Yuus infanbinendise!

SISTER MARY CABRINI TAITANO, RSM

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.

Taitano brothers charged

By Ferdie de la Torre

Variety News Staff

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday filed 14 counts of charges against the two brothers who were arrested in connection with Tuesday's kidnapping of a woman and gunslaying of a man in San Vicente.

Nestor C. Taitano a.k.a. Nestor Manglona and George Taitano a.k.a. George Manglona were charged for the killing of Joaquin Dela Cruz and kidnapping and attempted murder of Lydia Sanchez.

The information charged the defendants with first degree murder, voluntary manslaughter, unauthorized carrying of firearm,

two counts of use of firearm in commission of crime, unauthorized possession of firearm, kidnapping, attempted first degree murder, attempted manslaughter, two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, aggravated assault, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Barry Hirschbein in the complaint filed in Superior Court stated that the killing of Dela Cruz was done "willfully, deliberately, and with premeditation..."

With regards to the kidnapping, Hirschbein said the defendants "did remove Sanchez a substantial distance from the vicinity where they found her and the removal or con-

finement was accomplished by force or threat and the victim was injured."

According to documents submitted by police investigators in court, prior to the killing of Dela Cruz, the Taitano or the Manglona brothers kidnapped and mauled Sanchez.

Sanchez later managed to run away from the gun-wielding brothers and sought police's assistance, said the affidavits.

Court papers showed that before those incidents, the defendants along with one Joaquin Namauleg went to the house of Sanchez in Dandan, looking for her son.

When Sanchez confronted George Taitano about the disturbance incident sometime ago involving the latter, the suspects' car backed up with her body partly

inside the vehicle.

The defendants armed with a knife and guns, punched and kicked Sanchez as the vehicle sped off towards the Manglona residence in San Vicente.

Dela Cruz and two men, in-

cluding Sanchez's common-law husband, went to the Manglona house, looking for the woman.

During an argument, one of the suspects shot Dela Cruz with a shotgun, prompting the victim's companions to escape.

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May 10 - 31, 1999

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Meiji, Curry Flavor 35bx/10pc/cs \$26.00/cs	Toilet Tissue 60 rolls/cs \$25.00/cs	Tortilla Chips, 2pk/bx 6 lbs. \$9.95/bx
Foam Container Dark Food 8 oz. 20pk/50pc \$2.25/pk	UCC Sugar Stick Portion 300ct/bx \$9.35/bx	Trashbag, Clear Bio-Hazard 250ct/cs 31-33 gal \$15.00/cs
EEZ Oven Cleaner \$10.95/gal	Purine, Sanitizer For sanitizing restaurant, tavern, hotel & similar restaurant \$10.25/gal	Degreaser, Kleenol 30 It removes baked on grease, baked on grime, old accumulated waxes and hard to clean dirt. \$7.50/gal

Dueñas back at DPS

By Rene P. Acosta

Variety News Staff

MORE than a year after fading from government service, former Public Safety deputy commissioner Frank Dueñas is back.

Dueñas, who served during the administration of former Gov. Froilan Tenorio, was found guilty last year of obstructing justice and was sentenced to one year suspended imprisonment.

He has now been assigned at the Bureau of Motor Vehicle.

Dueñas was supposed to start yesterday with still unknown duty at the BMV, but his superior, Major Bertha C. Tudela, said he still did not report for work.

As of this writing, it was not clear who appointed Dueñas.

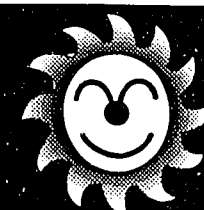
Dueñas' conviction came as a result of his failure to return DPS items such as files, equipment, ammunition, radios, batteries and manuals. The court said the absence of these items interfered with the operation of the office of the deputy commissioner.

Dueñas' appointment was a mystery at the public safety.

The Variety contacted the Office of the Personnel Management, but the official who was supposed to have gone through his papers said he did not see Dueñas' appointment papers.

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	UCC Cinnamon 30cn./cs \$15.50/cs
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	UCC Caffe Latte 30cn./cs \$15.50/cs

Guam alien invasion issue catches Post's attention

Variety News Staff
HAGATNA — Guam's alien invasion problem has reached the pages of The Washington Post, one of the most influential papers in the nation's capital.

In an article entitled "Guam's Own China Beach" which appeared in the May 6 edition of the Post, staff writer William Branigin cited a confidential internal document prepared by the governor's office stating that as many as 2,000

illegal Chinese immigrants may already be at large on Guam after landing undetected.

"While national attention is focused on the plight of Albanian refugees fleeing Kosovo, illegal Chinese immigrants swamp the U.S. territory of Guam," Branigin quoted the internal document as saying.

"Catching the 600 was proportionally equivalent to apprehending 57,000 illegal aliens coming

Continued on page 21

Basto pleads guilty to hostage-taking

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

AN INMATE who was convicted for the 1996 murder of an old Japanese woman pleaded yesterday guilty of the charges in connection with the March 9 hostage standoff in Susupe jail.

Arcel Lizama Basto waived reading of the indictment and admitted the charges of conspiracy to take hostages and felon in pos-

session of a firearm.

US District Court Judge Alex R. Munson accepted Basto's change of plea and set the sentencing on Aug. 19. The judge also ordered the US Probation Office to submit a presentence investigation report on July 15.

The defendant is facing a maximum penalty of life imprisonment and \$250,000 fine for the charge of taking hostages.

Under the plea agreement, the US government would recommend to the court an imposition of 15 years in jail against Basto.

Basto agreed to cooperate with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco and Firearms, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, and the Department of Public Safety which are jointly investigating the hostage-taking incident.

Continued on page 22

Slay suspect tagged as man in another case

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

MURDER suspect Nestor C. Taitano was also tagged by authorities as the same gun-wielding man who allegedly damaged a car belonging to other person last month.

The Attorney General's Office filed yesterday a complaint charging Taitano with criminal mischief, disturbing the peace, unauthorized carrying of firearm, two counts of use of fire-

arm in commission of crime, and unauthorized possession of firearm.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Barry Hirshbein in the complaint stated that Taitano a.k.a. Nestor Mangiona damaged the windshield and other parts of a car owned by another person last April 24.

Hirshbein said the 24-year-old Taitano, armed with a gun, disturbed the peace of one Juan Aquino and other persons on the same day.

The AGO also filed yesterday 14 charges against Taitano and his half brother George Taitano in connection with the gunslaying of a man and kidnapping of a woman Tuesday night in San Vicente. (See related story)

Nestor Taitano has a pending criminal case for allegedly attacking and injuring a man with a machete on May 8, 1998 in San Vicente, court records indicated.

Procurement requests face tougher scrutiny

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

THE Department of Finance's Procurement and Supply Division has announced it will thoroughly review all procurement requests to ensure that "brand names" are not used in place of "generic" descriptions of required supplies and materials.

Failure to comply with said new regulation will mean disapproval of the request.

Generic names relate to characteristics of a whole group of items, while brand names refer to specific names like Bayer aspirin, Hershey's chocolate or Toyota automobiles.

Herman S. Sablan, DP&S director, said the imposition of this regulation will ensure that the government will be able to save money from purchasing certain products that may not be as popular as other brands but actually have the same quality and a much lower prices.

"Brand names are popular with consumers, but almost always cost more than non-brand name or generic items," Sablan said in a memorandum to his staff.

Sablan said this regulation is strictly enforced in line with the recommendation from Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's Financial Management Improvement Plan (FMIP) which is aimed at enhancing the cash-strapped government's financial resources without imposing higher taxes or license fees.

"In complying with (FMIP), for example, we should not approve requests for Bayer Aspirin, a brand name of aspirin. "We should simply approve requests to buy aspirin, the generic name for this natural pain

killer, at the price most favorable to the government," said Sablan.

The same goes with a request to buy a 10 horsepower Yamaha outboard boat engine, a particular brand name of boat engine. Sablan said the government will only approve a request for a 10 horsepower outboard boat engine at the price most favorable to the government.

The DP&S director, however, offered an easier way for a certain request to be approved.

"One method which is helpful in ensuring competition where we may only know brand names, and want to develop a range of available items, including generic items, is to solicit 'brand name or equal,'" he said.

For example, a certain government agency may seek to purchase "100,000 aspirins, coated, at 350mg each, Bayer Aspirin, or Equal."

In this way, the Bayer's brand name and product is used to describe the standard of quality, performance and other characteristics which the government wants to purchase.

"This type of solicitation provides for the submission of equivalent products, and the most cost-effective can be selected," he said.

Aside from the issue on generic versus brand names, the DP&S also issued another memorandum aimed at overhauling the rules on sole-source procurement.

Sablan stressed the need to make sole-source procurement "the exception rather than the rule" to maximize the government's limited resources.

Difficulty in identifying heirs hampers land compensation

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

DIFFICULTY in tracing legitimate heirs is hampering government's efforts to compensate a number of Carolinians who originally owned beach front properties in Saipan, according to Ray Salas, land exchange director of the Division of Public Lands (DPL).

"Those are private lands mostly owned by Carolinians," said Salas, in an interview yesterday.

"We have not compensated them because we do not know who their heirs are," he added.

Salas explained immediate relatives of the beach front property owners "never check on us."

He added that there are no appropriate documents that could provide government with a lead on who to compensate.

The unpaid beach front properties are mostly near the vicin-

ity of the 13 Fishermen Memorial and some sites were pavilions have been set up.

"A lot of those strips are private properties. For many, many years, they are owned by Carolinians. They lived as fishermen in the past so they lived there," explained DPL Director Bertha Leon Guerrero in an earlier interview.

"Because they were fishermen, they settled on the beaches," Guerrero added.

The Carolinians' properties, she said, included those in Chalan Kanoa.

Salas identified the supposed original owners of the properties along Beach Road as a certain Dominina Olopai, Antonia Satur, Carmen Chaco, Feliciania Lisua, Dolores Selepeo and Manuel S. Villagomez.

Salas said government does not know who Selepeo's and Satur's heirs are.

Clinton Gov't ready to move takeover bill

Deadline set for NMI input

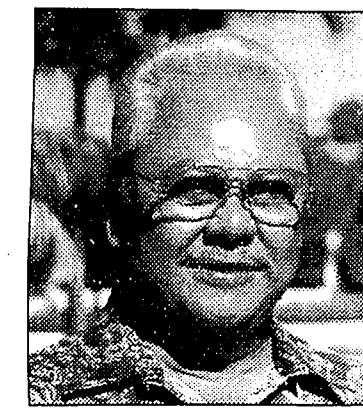
By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE US government has expressed firm intentions to immediately act on its proposal to extend federal immigration and minimum wage policies to the CNMI, as it gives the Teno Administration until Thursday to submit inputs on a takeover bill.

While Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said the Clinton Administration's move to sponsor another federal takeover legislation did not surprise him anymore, he indicated that the CNMI will not give up its stand against efforts to strip the commonwealth of its control over immigration and minimum wage.

Tenorio is firm in saying that the commonwealth will persistently tell the federal government that CNMI remains opposed to the proposed extension of immigration laws into the Northern Marianas.

According to White House 902



Pedro P. Tenorio



Edward Cohen

negotiator Edward Cohen, the Clinton Administration is interested in proceeding with its sponsored legislation in the next several weeks. He is seeking comments and views from local officials by May 13, 1999.

In his letter to Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan, Cohen said he would be prepared to seek economic development initiatives including modification of the current match-

ing formula for capital infrastructure funds.

"Your comments on this draft legislation would provide useful input in the Administration's formulation of legislation that addresses some of the CNMI's concerns," he said.

But as the Clinton Administration stands firm on its plan to extend US immigration laws to the CNMI, Tenorio continues to

argue against proposals to federalize the Commonwealth's minimum wage and immigration control amid reform policies enforced by the CNMI government.

The governor had consistently said his administration would rather ask the federal government to withdraw its plan to strip the CNMI of its immigration and minimum wage control.

The CNMI chief executive cited the adverse effects a federal takeover of immigration and minimum wage would have on the local economy, especially at a time of plunging visitor arrivals and slow business activity.

"We maintain that we would like to see that the federal government would consider our request to that we continue to control our immigration and minimum wage," Tenorio said.

He said the government has instituted labor and immigration reforms that would address

the concerns raised by the federal government when strong federalization proposals started to surfaced last year.

"We are working so hard in trying to resolve some of the problems that happened in the past. We hope the federal government would finally see the merits of these labor and immigration reform programs," he added.

The Reagan, Bush and Clinton administrations have previously urged the CNMI to reform its labor and immigration practices and to end transplanted Asian garment industry's alleged abuse of General Note[3][a][iv].

US officials said the lack of progress in the last decade and the range of problems have forced the Clinton administration to propose that Congress pass legislation that would extend federal control over CNMI's labor and immigration.

Night club owner, wife attacked by 2 suspects

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

TWO men attacked the owners of a night club in Garapan early Sunday morning.

Ernest Strange, 63, was taken to Guam for treatment. His wife, Thelma, 41, was unscathed although her dress was ripped off.

The couple, who own Club Jama, were attacked at the parking lot of Joeten in Chalan Piao. It was learned that the attackers followed them all the way from the club.

Strange was transported to Guam for treatment of a damaged artery on his left leg.

Police are still conducting follow-up investigations while tracking down the suspects who escaped.

One of the suspects used the victims' car which was recovered in Dandan hours later.

Initial investigation disclosed that the suspects had followed the couple as they emerged from their office.

Noticing that they were being chased, the Strange couple pulled over at the parking lot of Joeten store.

Although not sure why the chase ended at the parking lot of Joeten, DPS spokesperson Rose Ada said the couple might be occupying a room at the store building.

There Strange reportedly confronted the suspects. One of the suspects pulled out a screw driver and attacked him.

The wife got off the car but she was stopped by the other suspect who tried to stab her with a knife.

An unidentified companion of the couple, reportedly got off the car and ran toward the road to flag a vehicle and seek assistance.

Businessman sues land owner for damages

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

A BUSINESSMAN has filed a lawsuit against a land owner for allegedly occupying his apartment unit and harassing some of his tenants.

Jung Seob Yun, through counsel Perry B. Inos, asked the Superior Court to order defendant Jesus F. Tesiro to pay \$250,000 in punitive damages.

Yun also requested the court to order the ejection of Tesiro

from the premises for breach of covenant of quiet enjoyment, unjust enrichment, trespass to premises, and wrongful eviction.

Inos in the complaint said that in 1990, Tesiro entered into a 55-year lease agreement with Soo Young Kim for the 940 square meters of land on Saipan.

Kim then assigned all his interest in the lease agreement to Jung Nam Yoon who in 1996 also transferred his interest to Hong Cheol Yoon.

In Aug. 1998, Yoon through his attorney-in-fact Kang In Lee, entered into a sublease agreement with plaintiff Yun.

Inos said the term of the sublease agreement is for three years commencing Sept. 1, 1998 and terminating Aug. 31, 2001.

Upon entering the sublease agreement, Inos explained that Yun expended time and money to develop the premises into apartment units.

The lawyer said the defendant

agreed, through the various assignments, to afford "plaintiff quiet enjoyment and peaceable possession of the premises."

Inos said that last month, plaintiff discovered that Tesiro moved into and his occupying one of the apartment units in the premises without permission.

Plaintiff demanded Tesiro to vacate the unit, but he refused, according to Inos. Plaintiff is renting other apartment units in

Continued on page 21

CITY TRUST BANK

STATEMENT OF CONDITION
(at the close of business December 31, 1998)

ASSETS

Cash and due from banks	\$ 574,510
Interest bearing deposits with banks	2,259,739
Loans receivables, net	8,431,442
Accrued interest receivable	81,645
Subscription receivable	371,791
Premises and equipment, net	233,326
Other assets	911,815
	<u>\$12,864,268</u>

LIABILITIES AND STOCKHOLDERS' EQUITY

Liabilities:	
Deposits	
Non-interest bearing	\$ 1,691,312
Interest bearing	9,487,012
Total deposits	<u>11,178,324</u>
Accrued interest payable	177,107
Accounts payable and other liabilities	575,806
Total liabilities	<u>11,931,237</u>
Stockholders' Equity	933,031
	<u>\$12,864,268</u>

The audit report of City Trust Bank, Inc. is available for public review at the Office of the Director of Banking, Department of Commerce and Labor, Capitol Hill, Saipan.

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Ingram proposal irks Teno

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday expressed disappointment over public pronouncements by Public Safety Commissioner Charles Ingram support for the transfer of some police functions to municipal mayors.

Tenorio said such a proposal

never surfaced in any of his meetings with the public safety chief. The governor also indicated that he is not likely to agree with Ingram's proposal.

"That issue was never discussed in my office. It came out in local papers first. I was surprised because I never discussed that issue with the DPS commissioner," he

said.

He explained that a lot of things will have to be considered before moves to delegate some police functions to municipal mayors are taken. One of which is the possibility of coming out with different laws for each of the three municipalities.

"This is one government and I

hate to see different laws in different islands. There has to be a standard law for the whole of the CNMI," he said, adding that Ingram's proposal is more likely to serve big countries with big cities better than it will serve the Northern Marianas which has a very small population.

The CNMI chief executive also

pointed out the need to have a strong and solid police organization for the Commonwealth in order to properly safeguard public safety in all of the islands' municipalities.

"We should have strong public safety organization so all the islands will be protected equally.

Continued on page 22

A. B. Won Pat Guam International Airport Authority
(ATURIDAT PUETTON BATKON AIREN INTERNASIONAT GUAHAN)
P.O. Box 8770, Tamuning, Guam 96931 • Telephone: (671) 646-0300/17

PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS INSURANCE BROKERAGE SERVICES

The A.B. Won Pat Guam International Airport Authority (GIAA), an autonomous agency of the Government of Guam, invites interested insurance brokers, licensed to conduct business on Guam, to submit formal proposals for providing Insurance Brokerage Services to GIAA singularly or in partnership with others. These proposals will be received as authorized by GSA Procurement Regulations.

The process will consist of the receipt and evaluation of sealed proposals for technical services followed by oral interviews with each of the proposers. The proposals should demonstrate the ability of the brokers to perform and provide the services enumerated in the Scope of Work. At the conclusion of the evaluation process, the highest ranked broker, or team of brokers, will be selected to negotiate a fee for services with the Authority, and will be appointed as the Authority's exclusive Broker of Record on a year-to-year basis for a period not to exceed four years.

Request for Proposal (RFP) packages may be obtained beginning Monday, May 3, 1999 at the GIAA Administration Office from Monday through Friday, excluding holidays, between 8:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m. **DEADLINE FOR RECEIPT OF PROPOSALS IS 4:00 PM, Tuesday, May 18, 1999.** All proposals must be submitted to the attention of the Executive Manager.

For additional information, contact our Property Management Office at (671) 646-0300 during the hours stated above.

/s/ GERALD P. YINGLING
Executive Manager

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Government of Guam
1026 Cabras Highway
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Piti, Guam 96925
477-5931

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP No. 99-0013

For: MANAGEMENT AUDIT

Pre-RFP Conference
Date: May 13, 1999

Time: 2:00 p.m.

Submission Date: May 28, 1999

Time: 4:00 p.m.

Location: PORTH AUTHORITY OF GUAM Board Conference Room

INTERESTED PARTY MAY PICK UP RFP
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General Manager

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Legislators, BPL at loggerheads over hotel land lease extension

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

CERTAIN legislators believe that the Legislature can go ahead and approve the 15-year land lease extension of Rota's SNM Resort even if the application was not reviewed by the Division of Public Lands.

Board of Public Lands (BPL) Chair Tomas B. Aldan disagrees.

To resolve the controversy, Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez (R-Saipan) yesterday said he will urge his colleagues and BPL to "sit down" and "discuss things over."

"We have to meet and talk about this before acting on the lease extension," he said. "It is irresponsible of us not to."

Villagomez, together with other legislators, met recently

with representatives of SNM on Rota, which triggered a letter from Aldan, requesting the legislators not to approve the lease extension.

"He thought we're having a joint session on Rota, but that was never the intent—it was just a meeting," Villagomez said.

Aldan, in a May 6 letter to House Natural Resources Committee Chair Manuel A. Tenorio (R-Prec. 1, Saipan), said there is a pending lawsuit involving SNM that should first be resolved before any request for lease extension can be heard.

Further, SNM should first submit its application to the Department of Lands and Natural Resources' Division of Public Lands (DPL), which is responsible for the management and disposition of public lands, but

subject to the supervision of BPL.

Aldan said DPL is also currently reviewing the SNM lease for compliance of the terms and conditions of the lease.

The approval of the land lease extension should not be rushed, he said, as it may only "compromise" the "people's land."

SNM was granted a 25-year land lease in 1990. In 1992 and 1996, SNM applied for a 15-year extension but did not agree with the terms proposed by the Rota legislative delegation.

This time, however, the delegation has not set out new terms and is fully supporting the extension, which has to be approved by the 3/4 vote of the members of the Senate and the House of Representatives in a joint session.

Fund concerned on money sources for future retirees

By Haldee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

WHILE the NMI Retirement Fund assured current pensioners that they will not be having problems receiving their regular retirement benefits, concerns are now focused on the availability of resources for future retirees.

This has been disclosed in light of the government's unpaid contribution to the Fund.

The government's outstanding obligations to the Fund now stands at about \$19.3 million after the government obligated some \$1.7 million to the Fund on Wednesday — its first payment since February 1998.

However, the government is yet

to ascertain when the next payment will be made although Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio told reporters obligations to the Fund will be one of the priorities as soon as revenues start to pick up.

Fred F. Camacho, acting Fund administrator, yesterday said the primary thing that the pension system would want to avoid is to use the investment monies to pay for current members.

"Our main concern is the future members. We want to continue to make retirement benefit payment from the contributions we get from current employees, (while) we need the investment (monies) for payments to future retirees," he

Continued on page 22

Senate, AGO can't agree on Kara

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

THE LAWYERS of the Senate and the administration have yet to agree on what legal question should be presented to the Supreme Court regarding the status of Maya B. Kara's appointment as acting attorney general, it was learned yesterday.

The civil litigation chief of the Attorney General's Office (AGO), Sally Pfund, has recently replied to the Senate's April 6 letter requesting the administration to name its legal counsel in the "certification of question" to be brought before the Supreme Court.

But Senate legal counsel Steve Woodruff yesterday said AGO appears to be "still stalling" on the issue.

"AGO is asking for more time to discuss things," he said, noting that the Senate adopted the resolution for the "certification of question" three months ago.

"We are, of course, open to suggestions from AGO about how we could bring this to the Supreme Court, but what we can't accept is the phrasing of the question in a manner that is favorable to them," Woodruff said.

He said the question should be whether Kara can remain as act-

Continued on page 21

Immunization drive pushed



Sophie Tenorio



Joseph Kevin Villagomez

should not pose as a roadblock. Although these diseases are now uncommon in the U.S., the

CNMI has many people who come and go from countries with these diseases and where recent

outbreaks of measles, mumps, hepatitis and other diseases have occurred, said DPH.

ANNOUNCEMENT

A general membership meeting of the CNMI Republican Party will be held on Tuesday, May 11, 1999 at 6:30 pm at the Garapan Central Park Complex.

AGENDA

1. Re-election of GOP officers
2. Report on Precinct Club re-organization
3. Other matters

All members of the CNMI Republican Party and other interested individuals are urged to attend.

/s/ Benigno S. Fitial
Chairman

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Guam Summer Fest slated

Variety News Staff
HAGATNA — The kick-off party for this year's Guam Big Summer Festival will be held at Ypao Beach Park to accommodate more visitors and vendors for the event.

Last year's kick-off party was held in the area in front of the DFS Galleria in Tumon but organizers said moving the party to Ypao will be more manageable logistically and provide for easier access.

The Big Guam Summer Festival attracted 15,000 visitors last year. With the more abundant space offered by Ypao Park, the Guam Visitors Bureau (GVB) is

optimistic that this year's festival will be just as successful.

"This year we can expect no less with the expansion of the festival to four full days of activities culminating in the street party and Mardi Gras parade at Ypao Beach Park on July 4," GVB Chairman Tony Sgro said.

He added that the festival is a big opportunity to bring the local community and the island's visitors together for an evening of dancing, good food, family fun, and great hospitality.

The kick-off party will be held from 3 p.m. to 10 p.m. on Sunday, July 4. Food and beverage will be sold through the assistance of the

Guam Hotel & Restaurant Association (GHRA).

However, the booths will not be limited to just GHRA members. GVB said the booths will be open to interested GVB members wanting to sell food, beverage, or arts and crafts.

Transportation and parking sites are currently being coordinated between GVB staff and the Japan Guam Travel Association while entertainment is being reviewed and coordinated by GVB, Jimmy Dee, and various entertainers.

A cultural parade will kick-off the party with a separate children's parade (in ethnic costumes) being planned.

A local awareness and media plan is likewise being developed for launching by mid-June while off-island awareness and marketing will be conducted (especially in Japan) to increase visitor awareness and arrivals during the summer months.

Just like last year, an "illumination" program will be adopted to provide a festive atmosphere for the event. The GVB campaign logistics committee is currently reviewing several areas where GVB can place the illumination pieces.

The illumination program will include art sculptures used in 1998's summer festival and other smaller art pieces.

Participating companies include the Guam Hilton, Sun Route hotel, Pacific Islands Club, Pacific Star, Guam Dai-Ichi, Onward Beach Resort, Leo Palace Resort, Ashton Inn On The Bay, Guam Plaza, Hotel Nikko, Ladera Tower, Palace hotel, Tropicana, Westin Resort Guam, Hyatt Regency Guam, Outrigger Guam Resort, and The Plaza.

Former DOLI inspector cleared, seeks job back

By Ferdie de la Torre
 Variety News Staff

THE SUPERIOR Court has dropped the criminal case against a former Department of Labor and Immigration inspector who was charged for allegedly stealing money from a Korean last year.

Associate Judge John A. Manglona dismissed with prejudice the case against Peter Anthony Maratita after the Attorney General's Office moved to drop the charges on the grounds that its principal witness is not on Saipan.

The Attorney General's Office charged Maratita with theft and misconduct in public office for allegedly stealing \$100 cash from a certain Yong Kee Kwak on Aug. 7.

The complaint stated that Maratita in his capacity as DOLI inspector "did an illegal act under the color of office, to wit: while an inspector at DOLI the defendant did unlawfully take the property of Kwak."

A bench trial for the defendant was set Wednesday before Judge

Manglona.

Perry B. Inos, counsel for the defendant, told the court he was ready to proceed with the trial, but Assistant Atty. Gen. Marvin Williams asked the court to dismiss the case.

Williams said he made about four attempts to contact Kwak in South Korea in January and April 1999, but was unsuccessful.

Manglona said based on Williams' representations and the fact that defendant was ready to proceed at the scheduled trial time, "it is hereby ordered that this criminal action is dismissed with prejudice."

Meanwhile, Inos wrote a letter yesterday to DOLI Secretary Mark Zachares, requesting that Maratita be reinstated to his former position prior to his suspension and subsequent termination with benefits and retroactive pay.

"Mr. Maratita is ready to get back to work as soon as possible. Please inform my office of the date that Mr. Maratita is to report to work," Inos told Zachares.



Hiroshi Nishimoto slips a ring onto the finger of his bride, Yukiko Uchida, after they exchanged vows in an early morning wedding ceremony at the Gov. Joseph Flores beach park in Tumon. Both ran the 5K race earlier then dashed to their hotel to change and made it back to the park in time for the wedding witnessed by several hundred other racers.

Photo by Eduardo C. Siguenza

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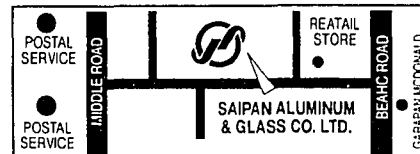


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PSS strengthens FNS

By Louie C. Alonso

Variety News Staff

THE FEDERALLY-funded Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) of the Public School System continues to strengthen its health program in school level as its official disclosed plans of hiring a nutrition educator to assure that CNMI public schools are strictly implementing the mandatory food and nutrition program.

Food Services Administrator Jesus Dlg. Sanchez of PSS said public schools can expect to have a health nutrition educator in approximately two weeks time.

According to Sanchez, the program's lone nutritionist Tina Pham Goodwin cannot afford to visit all schools in the CNMI to monitor the eating habits of students as well as the implementation of school-based nutrition assistance program (SNAPP).

The health nutrition educator, Sanchez said will make sure that healthy food choices and proper physical activity will be taught to students.

The nutrition educator will be visiting schools in Tinian and Rota along with Goodwin to monitor the development of the eating

habits of students.

FNS will be working with different task force in schools as well as the Parents Teachers Association to teach the program.

Sanchez also said that FNS will

be asking the USDA region office in San Francisco for some additional money to continue the implementation of the Commonwealth's program.

"I am also encouraging all pub-

lic schools to join us in the implementation of SNAPP program that would benefit the health and nutrition development of our students in the Commonwealth," he added.



Students look at "cancer carriers" being displayed at the Joeten Kiyu Conference Hall in Susupe during the 1999 Health & Fitness Fair over the weekend.

Photo by Maria C. Alonso

Northern Islanders will meet with EMO on seismic devices

By Louie C. Alonso

Variety News Staff

THE UNITED Northern Mariana Islands Association (UNMIA) is pushing for the installation of seismic-monitoring device in the Northern Islands to help determine the safe resettlement of the islands.

The group, formerly known as the United Northern Islanders Association (UNIA), is scheduled to meet with officials of the Emergency Management Office on the update of the seismic-monitoring equipment installation on the islands.

According to association president Cinta Kaipat, a scientist from Hawaii has suggested the installation of the device on the islands to monitor the condition of the volcanoes.

Kaipat added that her group wants to know if the government has a timetable for the installation of the monitoring devices.

"If the government could not afford to install seismic monitoring device, we want them to let us know so we could help by raising funds," Kaipat said.

She said the association called

for the meeting to have a face-to-face communication with people who are going to install the seismic monitoring devices.

"As far as we are concerned, this (installation of seismic-monitoring devices) is one of our priority issue because we truly believe that installing such monitoring devices is one of the keys to the safe resettlement of the Northern Islanders," Kaipat added.

The association is also concerned with the present situation of the Alamagan island.

In explaining the group's name change, Kaipat said the members also want to participate in issues other than those that deal with Northern Islands and its people.

"With the new name, we could also participate in other issues affecting the whole CNMI. But at present, our main concern is the resettlement of the Northern Islanders. We want to be as inclusive as we could get," Kaipat said.

UNMIA's meeting will be held tonight at the Carolinian Utt 7 pm.

Westpac: Protect gold coral beds

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

PLANS are afoot to impose restrictions on the harvesting of "gold coral beds" in the North-western Hawaiian islands to ensure that habitats of the endangered monk seals are not disturbed, according to the Western Pacific Regional Fishery Management Council (WESTPAC).

In a report, WESTPAC said the harvesting restrictions may be imposed on Brooks Bank and French Frigate Shoals, areas where the seals are known to forage.

The recommendations were made during a recent meeting of WESTPAC's Precious Corals Advisory Panel and Plan team.

Other recommendations made include the proposed establishment of a minimum size for black corals and restrictions on allowable gears for precious coral harvesting.

In a separate meeting meanwhile, WESTPAC's Bottomfish Plan team reviewed a proposal to add

more than two dozen species to its list of bottomfish managed by the Council. These include a variety of trevallies, groupers, emperors and snappers.

The Plan team also addressed recent amendments to the Magnuson-Stevens Act regarding measures to determine overfishing.

In the past, WESTPAC said, authorities used the spawning potential of a fish stock, derived from the sizes of the fish being caught as well as the total catch and effort used to obtain that catch.

Under the new requirements, the measurement to determine overfishing is based on "maximum sustainable yield," which can be derived from catch and effort alone.

Even though the new measure no longer requires the recording of the sizes of fish being caught, the Plan team will recommend to the Council that collection of the data and calculation of spawning potential continue for the bottom fisheries under its jurisdiction.

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The Around the Islands section covers community stories, local events, and cultural activities. Should you have a story you would like to share, or an event that needs to be covered, contact Laila at 234-6341

Cultural Heritage Week at WSR

By Louie C. Alonso

Variety News Staff

WILLIAM S. Reyes Elementary

School will celebrate Cultural Heritage Week which starts on May 17, a school official said.

According to event organizer Carmen Taimanao, WSRES teachers have come up with pro-

grams to encourage students into knowing, understanding, appreciating the diverse cultures in the Northern Marianas.

Taimanao said other public schools usually celebrate this event to coincide with the Commonwealth-wide celebration of Cultural Heritage Month spearheaded by the Indigenous Affairs Office and the Carolinian Affairs Office.

But to educate WSRES students on the various cultures in the CNMI, the school will have its own celebration.

On May 17, teachers will have different classroom activities showcasing the various cultures

on Saipan.

At the culminating activity on May 21, students will be tasked to present some performances and sharing of different games.

"We are trying to make the final event as a lesson-type activity. There will be a lot of performances and we will have our ethnic fiesta," Taimanao said.

The WSRES administration is also planning to hold essay and poster contests in various grade levels as part of the celebration.

Taimanao added the school is expecting a large amount of parental support for the success of the annual cultural heritage celebration.

COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

PUBLIC NOTICE

NOTICE OF FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT AND NOTICE OF INTENT TO REQUEST RELEASE OF FUNDS

Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Governor
Saipan, MP 96950 Tel. (670) 664-2000

These Notice shall satisfy two separate but related procedural requirements for activities to be under taken by the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

REQUEST FOR RELEASE OF FUNDS

On or about May 24, 1999 the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands will submit a request to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) for the release of Federal Funds under Title 1 of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1974 (PL 93-383) for the purpose of the following project:

Project : Community Base Residential Facility
Purpose : Construction Halfway House for Mental Health

Location : Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Island, Saipan, MP

Federal Funds : Federal Community Development Block Grant will finance 100 % percent or \$400,000 of the Total Cost of the project.

FINDING OF NO SIGNIFICANT IMPACT

The Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has determined that the project will have no significant impact on human environment. Therefore, an Environmental Impact Statement under the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) of 1969 is not required. Additional project information is contained in the Environmental Review Record (EER) on file at the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Central Office in Garapan, Saipan and may be examined or copied weekdays 7:30 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

PUBLIC COMMENTS

Any individual, group, or agency disagreeing with this determination or wishing to comment on the project may submit written comments to the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), P.O. Box 514 Central Office in Garapan, Saipan. All comments received within fifteen days or by May 24, 1999, will be considered by the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands prior to submission of a request of funds. Comments should specify which Notice they are addressing.

RELEASE OF FUNDS

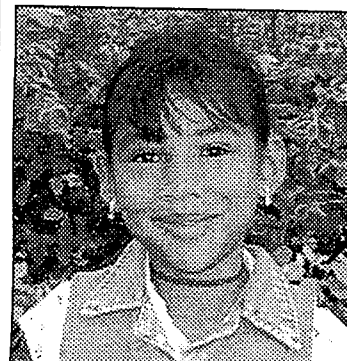
The Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certifies to the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) that the Government of the Northern Mariana Island in its and the Governor, Pedro P. Tenorio consents to accept the jurisdiction of the Federal Courts if an action is brought to enforce responsibilities in relation to the environmental review process and that these responsibilities have been satisfied. The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) acceptance of the certification satisfies its responsibilities under NEPA and allow the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands to use Program funds.

OBJECTION TO RELEASE FUNDS

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) will accept objection to its release of funds and the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands certification for a period of fifteen days following anticipated submission date or its actual receipt of the request (whichever is later) only if it is on one of the following bases: (a) the certification was not executed by the Certifying Officer of the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands; (b) the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands has omitted a step or failed to make a decision or finding required by HUD regulations at 24 CFR Part 58; (c) the grant recipient has incurred cost not authorized by 24CFR Part 58 before approval of the release of funds by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD); or (d) another Federal agency acting pursuant to 40 CFR Part 1504 has submitted a written finding that the project is unsatisfactory from the standpoint of environmental quality. Objections must be prepared and submitted in accordance with the required procedures (24 CFR Part 58) and shall be addressed to U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), Honolulu Area Office, Seven Waterfront Plaza, 500 Ala Moana Boulevard, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813-4918. Potential objectors should contact the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) to verify the actual last day of the objection period.

PEDRO P. TENORIO
Governor

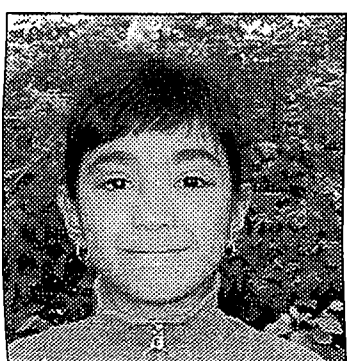
GES Students of the Week



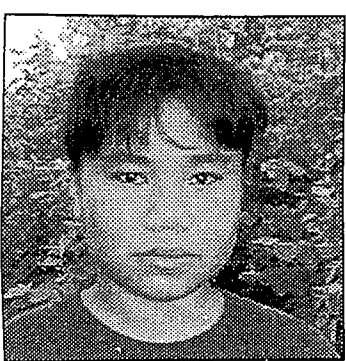
Daphne Mafnas, fourth grade from Mr. Tilson's class is a hard-working and conscientious student. Her excellent behavior in class and her respect for her classmates and her teacher make Daphne an excellent choice for Student of the Week.



Emil Santos, sixth grade from Mr. Middleton's class, has put out hard work, determination, and his pursuit of excellence. Emil Santos has earned Student of the Week for Room D-204.



Joanie Liwanag, third grade from Mrs. Thorpe's class always tries her best in school and her work is always beautifully done. She is learning to be a better listener, which enables her to follow directions.



Reinalyn Ben, fifth grade from Mrs. Borja's class is a hardworking student. She does her assignments neatly and correctly. She has made excellent progress in all areas. She is always polite and cooperative.



Joemma Igisaiar, second grade from Mrs. Pagapular's class went from a "B" Honor Roll last quarter to an "A" Honor Roll this quarter due to her tremendous progress. She is trustworthy. She does her work even without a teacher's supervision.



Rotessa T. Sumpay, first grade from Mrs. Iginio's class has come to school everyday for the first three quarters of school. Making sure she follows the Classroom Rules Agreement, Rotessa prepares to start on-time by sharpening her pencil and putting her 5 subject notebook in her cubby.

Britain hit for Fiji 'fallout'

SUVA (Pacnews) — The Pacific Concerns Resource Centre (PCRC) has lodged a case with the European Court of Human Rights to establish British responsibility for allegedly exposing Fijian soldiers to radioactive

Palau state gears for \$1M road project

By MALOU L. SAYSON

For the Variety

KOROR (Palau Horizon) — After hooking up to a 24-hour power supply just recently, the Ngaraard State government tackles one of its most important capital improvement projects, a \$100,000 Ngkkau-Ulimang road that will link up five villages.

Ngaraard Gov. Tadashi Sakuma told Palau Horizon that the bidding for the project is out to local players.

Initial works would focus on the design and the environmental impact study, according to Sakuma. "[This] is the first phase of road development in my state," the governor said while noting that the five villages from Ngkkau to Ulimang are currently connected by a dirt road.

When asked about the pace of development going on in Ngaraard, Sakuma retorted, "we're sailing slowly but surely together with our chiefs, legislature and citizens as we plot our course towards economic development."

In place are farmers' and fishermen's cooperative who are supplying and meeting the consumption requirements of the state.

The state so far has the best water system established four years ago. Only recently, [it] has hooked up to a 24-hour power supply which, according to the governor, improves living standards of his constituents.

Sakuma expressed optimism that the construction of the Ngkkau-Ulimang connecting road will commence in June this year. Other projects in the pipeline include the building of a boat ramp and a marina which will connect Ngkkau to the dock.

This project, he said, will hoist to further development the small-scale fishery industry which has so far benefited from the Japanese-funded \$1 million fishery development project put in place three years ago.

**Diabetics,
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material in the 1950s.

Centre Director Lopeti Senituli said they would use the case of a Fijian soldier as a test case before the European court. The centre wants the court to compel the British Government to carry out a full-scale investigation into the alleged exposure.

"We have conducted preliminary medical tests on the Fijian soldier which proved that he was exposed to radioactive material, but we will need a full-scale epidemiological test on others that were exposed," he said.

Senituli said the centre will launch a book on May 27 documenting the experiences of Fijian soldiers who were alleg-

edly exposed to radioactive material while taking part in the British nuclear testing programme on Christmas Island in the 1950s.

"Our hearing is scheduled in June or July," said Senituli.

The centre has hired New York-based Scottish lawyer, Ian Anderson, to fight its case. Anderson represented British soldiers in a similar case before the European Court.

The Fiji Times newspaper said there could be more memos the British Government concealed on the exposure of soldiers during the British nuclear testing on Christmas Island from 1957-1959.

Senituli said the shocking revelation that information was

concealed from Fijian authorities in 1957 over exposure of soldiers to radioactive material was not new.

He said after the British responsibility on these exposures is established, compensation costs would be discussed.

"We have looked at the compensation scheme the United States has set up for the Marshall Islands and hope to establish something similar," he said.

Senituli said the planned compensation claim would range between \$FID75,000 (\$US39,000) - \$FID225,000 (\$US117,000) for serious complications such as leukaemia and cancer.

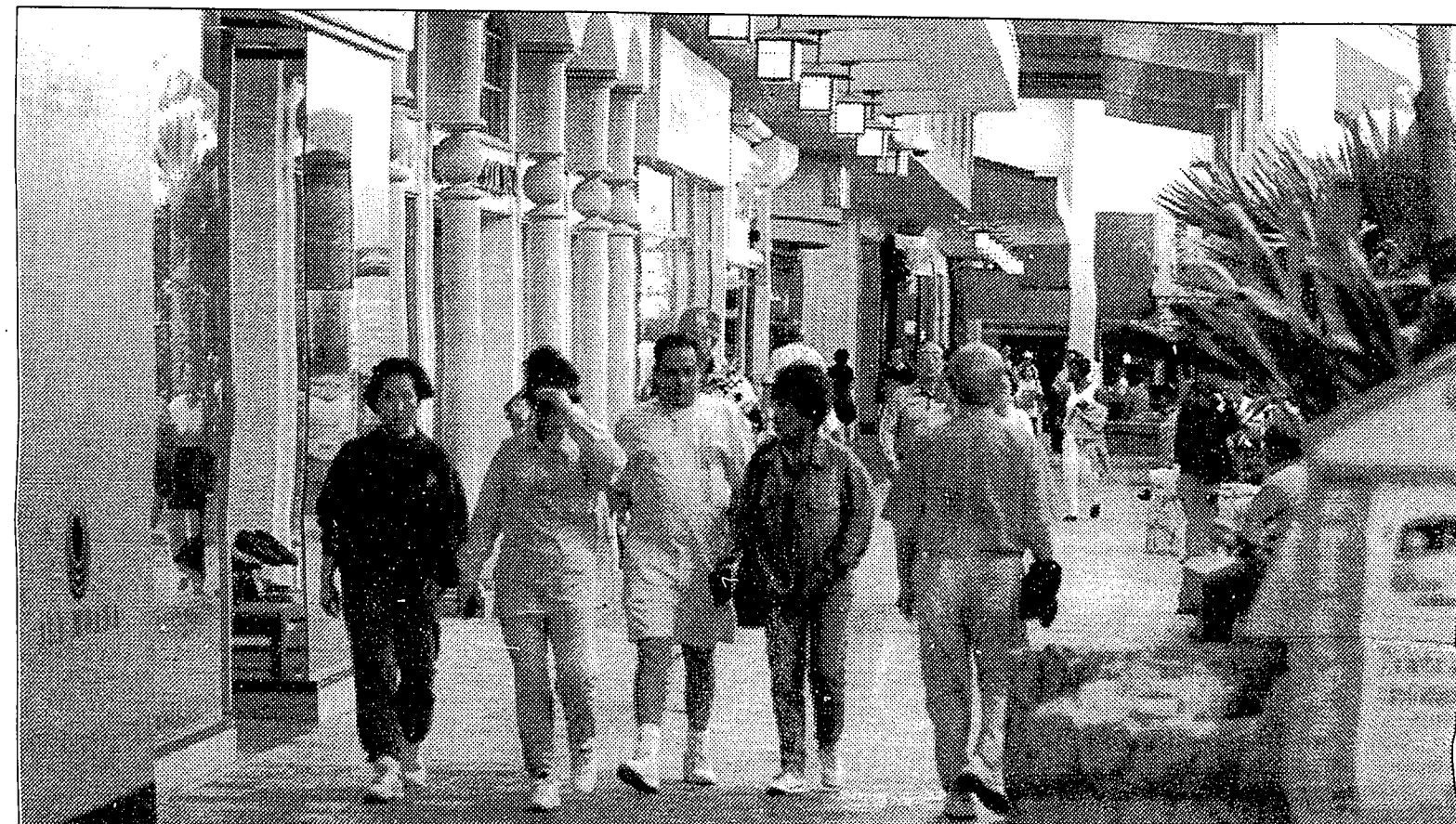
"We have interviewed many of our veterans and have seen that many suffer from various

ailments and health complications", Senituli said.

Senituli was reacting to newspaper reports in Fiji that Britain's Royal Air Force (RAF) exposed Fijians to dangerous radioactive material during the 1950's.

The report stated that a military memo found in the Public Records office in London, passed on to the New Scientist magazine showed RAF bomber crews were ordered not to tell Fijian soldiers that the engines of the bombers they landed at airports in Fiji for refuelling were radioactive.

New Scientist said five aircraft were contaminated while flying through radioactive cloud in Australia.



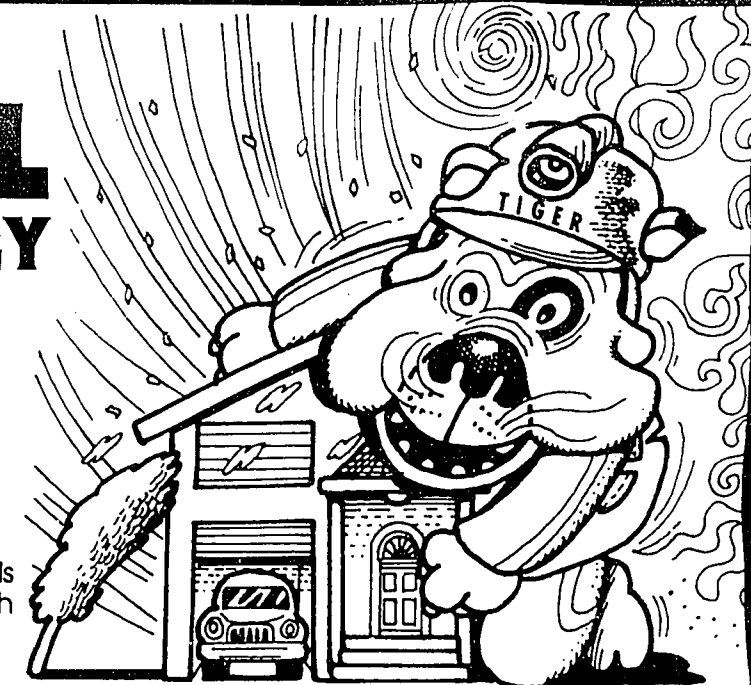
A view of stores along the diamond head side of Ala Moana Center is shown, as shoppers stroll through the newly-remodeled section in Honolulu. The Japanese owner of Hawaii's largest shopping mall has agreed to sell the mall to a U.S. firm for \$810 million. Daiel Inc. will complete the sale of the Ala Moana Center to Chicago-based General Growth Properties Inc. in late July.

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Weeklong polling underway in Fiji

SUVA (Pacnews) — Voting in Fiji's election, the first preferential election under a new racially-balanced constitution, began last Saturday.

Voting will continue across Fiji until next Saturday night (May 15), when counting begins.

The Elections Office said over 400,000 voters had registered for the elections. Voting is compulsory under the new electoral system.

The country's two daily newspapers reported long delays at polling stations around the country on Saturday.

In some cases frustrated voters went home without voting because polling stations ran short of ballot papers.

Several polling stations were also forced to extend voting hours

to accommodate the large number of voters.

The Daily Post reports Supervisor of Elections Walter Rigamoto said more people had been hired at polling stations to try and ease the problems faced on the first day of voting.

"After discussions with the Returning Officers I have given them the go-ahead to hire more personnel for polling stations," he said.

"We are taking all these additional measures to ensure that every person is given a chance to vote. We want to ensure that all voters who want to vote at polling stations will do so within the set time frame."

Over 300 candidates are vying for 71 seats in the House of Representatives.

PNG looks for hostages taken in Irian Jaya

PORT MORESBY, Papua New Guinea (AP) — Papua New Guinea's government is trying to find 11 people taken hostage after the separatist Free Papua Movement allegedly attacked a group of Indonesians in Irian Jaya, near the border.

The attack left three people dead and three wounded.

Papua New Guinea Minister for State, Sam Akoitai, confirmed Sunday that about 30 rebels attacked a group of Indonesians on Wednesday on the Indonesian side of the border, about 1.2 miles (2 km) from the

Papua New Guinea border post of Arso.

"Upon hearing of the incident, the National Security Advisory Committee was convened at my direction on Friday, 7 May, to assess the situation and advise the government on what strategy to adopt to resolve the matter," Akoitai said Sunday.

Akoitai said the government was trying to locate the hostages and a negotiating team had been established in case the hostages were being held on the Papua New Guinea side of the border.

Elsewhere in the Pacific Search is on for victims of Vanuatu plane crash

PORT VILA (Pacnews) — Seven people are still missing after a twin-engine plane with 12 people on board crashed in Vanuatu waters on Saturday night.

Radio Australia reports five people swam to safety, including a Swedish journalist, a Ni-Vanuatu man, and three Australian nationals.

The missing comprise four Ni-Vanuatu, two French nationals (including the pilot), and a British national.

A Vanuatu Government statement said the Twin Otter aircraft of Vanuatu's domestic carrier, Vanair, crashed while approaching landing at Bauerfield Airport in the capital, Port Vila.

The statement said the aircraft ditched into the waters of Mele Bay in poor weather conditions.

The search for the missing

passengers, involving six ships,

a helicopter and aircraft of Vanair, is being co-ordinated by an Emergency Operations Centre in the Police Headquarters in Port Vila.

A New Caledonian-based Guardian reconnaissance plane has also joined the search.

Vanuatu's Council of Ministers held an emergency meeting yesterday morning and asked development partners, France, Australia and New Zealand to assist with rescue operations.

started in 1994.

Tonga praises Samoa efforts to develop region's fisheries

APIA (Pacnews) — Secretary of Tonga's Ministry of Fisheries, Akauola, says Samoa has shown what can be done to develop fisheries in the region.

"This has not been done by gigantic tuna fleets, experts or expensive consultants," Akauola told the 39th Forum Fisheries Committee meeting held in the Samoan capital, Apia.

"It has been done on the backs of the fishermen and fisherwomen of Samoa," he said.

Akauola said Samoa had paid heavily in terms of loss of life to fishermen, in reference to an estimated 30 who disappeared at sea hunting tuna during the fishing boom that

started in 1994.

"But in this country it has also been told young men have always come forward in time of need to do things, to carry the burden and to develop what must be developed. And on the backs of these young people, has grown what to me is the most exciting fisheries project in the whole of the Pacific."

"I would like to use this opportunity to record my thanks to your Ministry of Fisheries for accepting some of our people from Tonga to come and to study your methods of fishing so that we might also share in the amazing development that has happened here in the last few years."

World Food Day focus is on 'youth against hunger'

NUKU'ALOFA (Pacnews) — The United Nations Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) has announced its theme for World Food Day to be celebrated in October.

FAO will focus on "YOUTH AGAINST HUNGER" to raise awareness in the struggle against hunger and malnutrition.

The event will coincide with the TeleFood campaign in ten countries around the world from October to December.

TeleFood campaign will culminate in a concert in Jamaica featuring renowned musicians from the Caribbean, Jamaica and Africa to be broadcast throughout the globe on December 4.

Fiji, US plan trade conference

SUVA (Pacnews) — The United States Embassy in Fiji is planning a major trade conference next month to enhance trade and investment between the US and Fiji.

Commercial Attaché of the Suva-based embassy, Ted Price, said the conference is being organised to enable American business people in Fiji to explore trade opportunities and

discuss issues of mutual interest like shipping, customs, quarantine regulations, freight consolidation and ways to enhance trade.

He said opportunities offered by the US-Pacific Island States Joint Commission will also be discussed.

The theme of the three-day conference is "Face to Face with American Business".

First time since 1986 uprising

Marcoses visit RP Palace

MANILA, Philippines (AP)

The late dictator Ferdinand Marcos's widow and children visited Malacanang presidential palace together for the first time Sunday, saying the trip brought back nostalgic, but not bitter memories of their days in power.

"It brings a lot of memories, beautiful memories," said Imelda Marcos as she stepped into a building in the river-side palace compound where she accepted a Mother's Day award from a private foundation.

Accompanied by her three children, Mrs. Marcos smiled and waved during the two-hour event. It was held in a hall near a balcony where Marcos and his family bade the country goodbye in a historic last public appearance before being overthrown in 1986.

An army-backed "people power" revolt toppled Marcos from power on February 25, 1986, sending him, his family and close associates into exile in Hawaii, where he died three years later.

Former President Corazon Aquino, the wife of slain anti-Marcos politician Benigno Aquino Jr., succeeded Marcos. She barred the dictator and his family from returning and initiated investigations into their al-

leged ill-gotten wealth.

Her successor, Fidel Ramos, a distant cousin of the strongman, allowed the Marcoses to return. Ramos also authorized the return of Marcos' corpse for burial in the country.

Mrs. Marcos said her husband had the power to stop the 1986 revolt but did not do so out of compassion for people who may have gotten hurt in the ensuing conflict.

"He sacrificed everything, so nobody, not a drop of blood or anybody was hurt," Mrs. Marcos told reporters. "And we suffered but not other people."

She said her husband's sacrifice during those tumultuous moments made him the real hero of the 1986 revolution.

The four-day uprising became a harbinger for political change in authoritarian societies around the world, inspiring pro-democracy movements in Europe, Latin America and Asia.



Former first lady Imelda Marcos (right standing) talks with her children (from left) Irene, Bongbong, and Imee inside the Kalayaan Hall of the Malacanang Palace before receiving a 1999 "Ulirang Ina" (Model Mother) special citation award Sunday.

Mrs. Marcos, wearing an orange dress and gold jewelry, said she was humbled by the award given to her and several

others, including the wife of President Joseph Estrada.

Estrada has been criticized in the past for his closeness to some

of Marcos's associates but he has reiterated several times he would not allow cronyism in his administration.

RP officials, Muslim rebels fail to agree on peace talks venue

ZAMBOANGA, Philippines (AP) — Philippine government negotiators and Muslim guerrillas failed to reach an agreement Sunday after two days of meetings to determine a venue for formal peace talks, rebel leaders said.

During the meeting in Maguindanao province, both sides also disagreed on procedures for identifying rebel-controlled territories in the southern Mindanao region in an effort to prevent clashes, Moro Islamic Liberation Front vice chairman Ghazali Jaafar said.

Representatives of both sides agreed to meet again later this month to try to resolve their differences, Jaafar said.

President Joseph Estrada's ad-

ministration wants formal peace talks to be held in the Philippines, saying the Muslim separatist rebellion is an internal problem. The rebels prefer a neutral, foreign venue.

"Our position is firm," Jaafar said. Shariff Jullabi, another MILF leader, said they want the opening and initial meetings to be held in Indonesia, Malaysia or Libya and subsequent sessions in a "neutral ground" in the country.

A neutral place would be a location where there are no government and rebel forces, or where they have an equal number of troops, he said.

Government negotiators were not immediately available for comment.

The weekend meetings were held in Sultan Kudarat town in Maguindanao, about 880 kilometers (550 miles) south of Manila.

The MILF is the larger of two Muslim rebel groups fighting for

an Islamic state in the southern Philippines. It maintains several camps in Mindanao and has about 13,000 guerrillas.

It broke away from the Moro National Liberation Front, which has accepted a measure of Muslim autonomy under a 1996 peace accord with the government.

The officials and rebels also failed to agree on procedures for identifying the MILF's camps across Mindanao, Jaafar said.

The MILF wants the govern-

ment to recognize its 46 camps in Mindanao and the government has tentatively agreed on condition such recognition would not mean ownership, but just an indication of rebel presence to allow coordination between the rebels and government troops.

So far, only two of the MILF camps have been recognized by the Manila government, including Camp Abubakar, the guerrillas' vast headquarters in Maguindanao, Jaafar said.

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Canada announces trade mission to Japan, Australia

OTTAWA (Reuters) — Prime Minister Jean Chretien said on Friday he will lead a trade mission to Japan and Australia in September.

Specific dates for the trip, the fifth so-called "Team Canada" mission led by Chretien to drum up overseas trade, were not released.

"This is the first time that Team Canada has visited Japan and Australia and the fourth time we have gone to the Asia-Pacific region," Chretien said in a statement.

"This is a sign of how serious we are about developing our commercial ties with the region."

Chretien has invited Canada's 10 provincial premiers and three territorial leaders, as well as a

business delegation, to join the mission. He will also be accompanied by International Trade Minister Sergio Marchi and Raymond Chan, the secretary of state for Asia Pacific.

"The Prime Minister, premiers and territorial leaders will meet with many of the two nations' leading political and business figures to explore ways to strengthen Canada's economic ties in the region," the statement said.

The business delegation will be drawn from seven sectors: space and aerospace; energy and national resources; agri-food and food biotechnology; health care; information technology and telecommunications; environment and education.

Malaysian gov't nixes part in Singapore stock dispute

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — The Malaysian government will not become involved in a dispute over frozen shares in the country's companies which are owned by Singapore stock investors, its finance minister said Sunday.

However, any developments concerning the latest spat between the two Southeast Asian nations will be "closely monitored," Malaysia's economic policy czar, Daim Zainuddin, was quoted as saying by the national news agency Bernama.

The shares, worth \$2.7 billion and mostly held by about 170,000 Singapore-based investors, were thrown into limbo last September when Malaysia banned external trading of its stocks.

The freeze effectively prevented Malaysian shares from being traded on Singapore's over-the-counter market, also called the Clob.

This was part of an effort to stop foreign speculators from influencing Malaysia's financial markets.

"We don't want to get involved, this is the affair of the party that created the Clob in the first place," Daim told reporters.

Daim was also quoted as saying it was up to the Kuala Lumpur Stock Exchange (KLSE), the stock exchange of Singapore (SES) and affected investors to find their own solution, despite the KLSE's statement late Thursday that it was "the duty and responsibility" of the SES to figure out what to do with the shares.

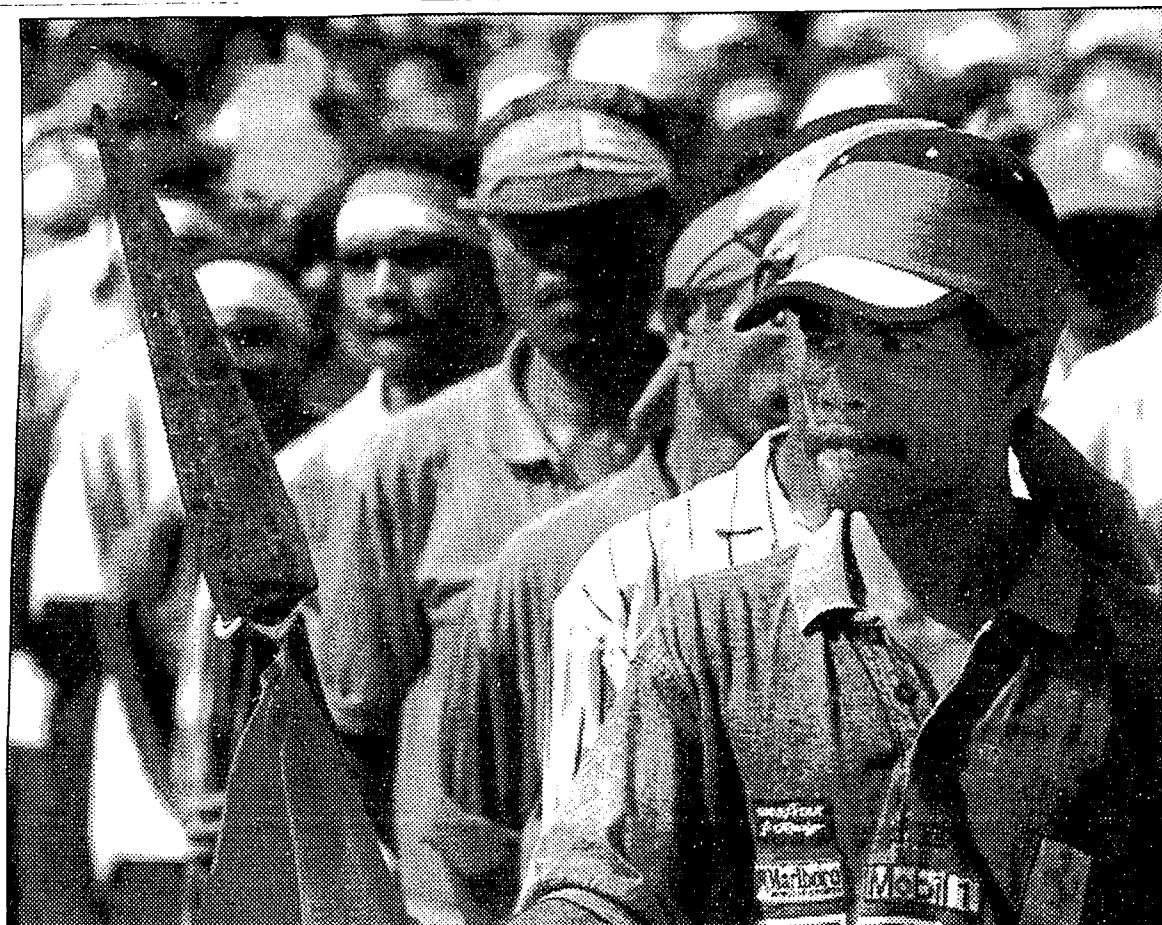
Commenting on an SES statement that a cash offer for the frozen shares by a Malaysia-based Singaporean businessman was inadequate, Daim told reporters that "it's up to those who wish to buy and sell the shares."

U.S. EEOC IN SAIPAN

A representative from the U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC) will be in Saipan on May 10 through May 14 to meet with employees who feel that they have been discriminated against in employment because of national origin, sex (including sexual harassment), age (over 40 years), race, color religion, or disability.

The EEOC is responsible for enforcing Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, the Age Discrimination Act of 1967, the Equal Pay Act of 1963, and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990.

If you believe that you have been sexually harassed, denied employment, denied a promotion, denied benefits, denied wages, denied leave (including pregnancy leave), subjected to differential terms and conditions of employment, disciplined or discharged because of your national origin, sex, age (over 40 years), race, religion, color, or disability, you can speak with a representative from the EEOC on May 10 through May 14 from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., at the Horiguchi Building, 3rd Floor, U.S. Wage & Hour Office. If you would like further information, please call (670) 233-0740. Citizens and Non-Citizens may file an EEOC discrimination charge.



East Timorese villagers pledge their support to Indonesia during a pro-integration rally Saturday in Liquica, the site of a massacre last month where pro-Indonesian militiamen killed residents at a church. AP

Shots fired as hundreds riot in East Timor market

By GEOFF SPENCER

DILI, Indonesia (AP) — Anti-independence militia gangs fired shots and rampaged through the main market in East Timor's capital on Sunday, triggering hours of rioting that could undermine peace efforts by the United Nations.

One man was shot dead and several were wounded, doctors at a Roman Catholic clinic said.

The violence erupted as U.N. officials started preparations for a crucial August ballot on the troubled territory's future.

Witnesses said militiamen, accused of killing dozens of people in earlier attacks across East Timor, stormed Dili's Mercado Lama market and demanded money from vendors.

Others attacked people they accused of supporting a campaign to break away from Indonesia, which invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1975.

The attack happened after a dispute over money at a gambling stall inside the market, witnesses said.

Opposing groups of hundreds of mainly young men, either for or against independence, threw rocks and bottles at one another. Police intervened by firing warning shots and blocking streets.

"The police shot into the air but the militiamen fired at the people," said Aniceto Guteres Lopes, who chairs the Yayasan Hak human rights group.

The violence erupted as a U.N. advance team began planning international police protection for the Aug. 8 vote in which the East Timorese are to choose between staying part of Indonesia as an autonomous state or full independence.

Sunday's riot is the latest in a series of violent outbreaks in the half-island territory in recent months. There are fears that worsening trouble could endanger the poll.



Kofi Annan

Several foreign journalists said they were chased by knife-wielding gang members before police arrived in trucks. One was threatened with a pistol. Others were hit by rocks.

Witnesses said a 26-year-old student was fatally shot in the head while trying to defend one group of reporters.

Doctors at Dili's Motael Clinic said they operated on a 31-year-old man who had gunshot wounds to his left hand and abdomen.

Other wounded were treated at nearby hospitals. Some market stalls and piles of tires were set ablaze.

As night fell hundreds of pro-independence supporters gathered in nearby neighborhoods. They set fire to trash and chanted rebel slogans. Some carried machetes and sticks as well as pictures of jailed East Timor rebel commander Jose Alexandre "Xanana" Gusmao.

Residents, worried that there might be more attacks, erected makeshift roadblocks. Squads of police guarded the market

area and kept rival groups apart. Witnesses said shots were heard in several areas after dark.

U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan has said the August poll must be conducted in an atmosphere free of violence and intimidation. But he has resisted calls by pro-independence activists to call in a full U.N. peacekeeping force.

The U.N.'s chief police adviser, Om Rathor, arrived Saturday and estimated that between 250 and 300 senior police officers from several countries would be deployed to advise Indonesian police on how to maintain order.

Rathor said most details of the police presence have yet to be decided, including whether foreign officers would carry weapons for self-protection.

Under an agreement signed last week between Indonesia and Portugal at U.N. headquarters in New York, a major task will be the disarming of bitterly opposed factions.

Both sides, either for or against Indonesian rule, have a varied assortment of weapons. Neither seem ready to hand them over.

In recent days, anti-independence militiamen have staged a series of rallies at which they have surrendered a small number of guns to Indonesian authorities in what they said were symbolic gestures of peace.

Pro-independence activists, who claimed the vast majority of East Timorese want to break away from Indonesia, have also called for disarmament.

However, they have said the rebels won't surrender their weapons until Indonesia's military, accused of widespread human rights abuses over two decades, withdraws.



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Public Service Announcement - Availability of Federal Funds

The Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) kindly requests your assistance in announcing the availability of funds for the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) Formula, Supplemental, Title V, and Challenge, Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant (JAIBG), Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grant, and Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Programs. The amount available under these programs are JJDP Formula \$104,000, JJDP Supplemental \$97,000, JJDP Title V \$33,000, JJDP Challenge \$15,000, Agency (SAA) for these programs. The CJPA is the CNMIS State Administering Agency.

1. Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Program (Formula — \$104,000) (Supplemental — \$97,000). The JJDP program is a federal program created by the JJDP Act of 1974, as amended. The purpose of the program is to prevent juvenile delinquency and requires participating states and territories to comply with the requirements of (1) Deinstitutionalization of status offenders, (2) Sight and Sound Separation between juveniles and adult inmates, (3) Complete Jail Removal of juveniles from adult jails and lockups, and (4) the Minority Over Representation issue. The program intends to meet these requirements by providing seed money to states and territories for services targeted at juvenile delinquency prevention through education, training, recreation and other rehabilitative services. Such services may be provided by local educational agencies, law enforcement agencies, community-based organizations, community-based action agencies, state recreation agencies, and private non-profit organizations. The following represents the CNMIS's FY1998 Juvenile Justice & Delinquency Prevention (JJDP) program plan and the amount allocated for each program category:

a. Family Services — \$25,000. This category is aimed at families identified as having problems (by a referring agency or self-referral) and will provide counseling assistance for the families in dealing with resource agencies, teaching basic home management skills (budgeting, effective shopping, etc.), teaching parenting skills, and encouraging service agencies to consider the family rather than its individual members as the recipient of services. The program will also support activities targeted at status offenders where helping to improve the family situation is a significant aspect of the service provided to the status offender.

b. Youth Development — \$55,000. This category is about providing pre-delinquent or "at-risk" youth (those who show signs of troubles at home, school, or in the community but are not yet adjudicated as delinquents) and status offenders with activities which will help to develop in them a sense of participation in and responsibility to the community as well as develop a sense of self-respect and self-worth. Such programs should include community service, anti-drug abuse projects & activities, outward bound type projects, teen centers (in areas of special need), outreach, survival education, counseling, and other activities which foster the above characteristics. Included in this category are programs and projects that promote participation in organized activities, better self image and self-esteem, and programs that instill community involvement and a sense of belonging which recreational activities may be a significant part of the overall program. This grant is available under the Fiscal Year 1998 JJDP Formula and Supplement programs. Under this category, Saipan is allocated 60% or \$33,000, Tinian 20% or \$11,000, and Rota 20% or \$11,000.

c. Juvenile Rehabilitation Services — \$20,000. The category is designed to provide juveniles that are in the juvenile justice system with activities to allow access to family services (see program of same title), community service, probation supervision, restitution, counseling, and other rehabilitative programs and services. The services to be delivered vary from project to project but it is expected that counseling will be a common element of every project. Community service and related projects will need staff time for supervision of clients and coordination, scheduling, and arranging of program activities. It is desirable for the service provider to provide educational activities that will promote and instill community involvement and a sense of responsibility. It is also hoped that the rehabilitative services to be provided will include structured activities dealing with agricultural projects, handicraft and other cultural projects, fishing, trade, and any other rehabilitative services that will promote and enhance the participants' self image and self esteem. Most projects will require equipment and supplies in support of the project activities. Funds from this program category will also be made available to other programs or service providers for the purpose of providing counseling and social case work, and other rehabilitative services to juveniles who have been remanded to secure residential care. The funds may not be used to provide for the security and/or maintenance of juveniles in detention. This grant is available under the Fiscal Year 1998 JJDP Formula and Supplement programs.

d. Juvenile Police Unit — \$23,048. This category is aimed at assisting juveniles coming in contact with the justice system through the continued provision of specialized Juvenile Unit within the police department to make the initial response and screening. It is expected that projects funded under this category will serve as a resource to the CJPA, Courts, Department of Public Safety (DPS), Office of the Attorney General, and Division of Youth Services (DYS). Funding available under this category can be used to pay for training and partial operating costs of the unit.

e. Juvenile Justice Training — \$18,583. This category provides support for training activities for youth service providers currently employed within the Commonwealth by either a public or private agency which is involved in the delivery of social services to juveniles. Funds from this category can be used to provide tuition, instructor fees, travel for students or instructors and related per diem, registration fees, educational supplies and materials for agency staff, and room rental for presenting training activities.

f. Title V Program — \$33,000. The purpose of this program is to provide funds to government and private non-profit organizations to implement or continue existing programs to combat juvenile problems within the CNMIS. Grant requires a three-year plan, community involvement and advisory group. The Fiscal Year 1998 strategy proposed to use 5% or \$1,650 of the grant for administration and 95% or \$31,350 for direct services.

g. Challenge Program — \$15,000. The purpose of the Challenge program is to provide funds to government and private non-profit organizations to implement or continue existing programs to combat juvenile problems within the CNMIS. a. Challenge Activity E — \$7,000. This program is designed to develop and adopt policies to prohibit gender bias in placement and treatment and establishing programs to ensure that female youths have access to the full range of health services, treatment, education, and other vocational services.

b. Challenge Activity H — \$8,000. This program is designed to develop and adopt policies and programs designed to serve as alternatives to suspension and expulsion from school.

4. Juvenile Accountability Incentive Block Grant Program — \$229,959. The purpose of the JAIBG program is to provide States and units of local government with funds to develop programs to promote greater accountability in the juvenile justice system. This program has 11 authorized purpose areas. The FY1998 strategy proposed to use 10% of the grant for administration and 90% for the implementation of programs.

a. Juvenile Rehabilitation System Improvement (Detention Renovation/Training) — \$25,295. This program will aim at improving the environment and operation of the juvenile detention unit and the temporary processing facilities for the islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota. Funding available under this program can be used to pay for renovation, upgrading of operational equipment, training, training materials, and related operating costs. The proposed recipient of the program is the Division of Youth Services (DYS).

b. Alternative Intervention Program (Accountability Based Sanctions) — \$57,490. This program will aim at keeping status offenders, first-time nonviolent offenders, and at risk youth away from the formal court system. Primary interventions will include community services, academic education, counseling, and skill development. This program will also offer youth and their families an optional counseling program as an alternative to the court process. Youths and their families are referred to appropriate community based counseling services that provide case management and progress assessment.

c. Juvenile Supervision Program (Holding Juvenile Offenders Accountable) — \$34,494. The purpose of this program is to ensure juvenile offenders comply with their responsibility and obligations and to work collaboratively with the other youth service providers in monitoring delinquent youths. This program also identifies youths at risk so that they can get assistance before entering the criminal justice system. Youths referred to this program include monitoring, community service, supervision, restitution, counseling, and other rehabilitative programs and services.

d. Juvenile Prosecutor (Hiring Prosecutors) — \$64,389. This program is to hire a juvenile prosecutor to solely handle juvenile cases and will ensure juvenile cases are expedited and processed efficiently. As the juvenile prosecutor becomes more proficient and juvenile case backlogs are reduced, he or she will be able to provide technical assistance to law enforcement and DYS personnel to ensure that cases initiated are backed with concrete documents and evidence. The intended recipient of this program is the Criminal Division of the Office of the Attorney General.

e. Enhanced Juvenile Prosecutor Program (Technology/Training) — \$9,198. This program proposes to provide the juvenile prosecutor with the necessary juvenile training and resources in prosecuting juvenile offenders. The program includes purchasing or upgrading computers and other resources needed for the prosecutor to provide effective

outcomes. The intended recipient of this program is the Criminal Division of the Office of the Attorney General.

1. Juvenile Offender Control Substance Policy (Drug Testing Policy) — \$16,097. This program will plan and implement a policy of control substance testing for youths that are categorized as being under the influence and dependent on illegal drugs. All youth service providers will coordinate efforts in planning and implementing the policy. The program will provide training for front line personnel in identifying and recognizing drug use among the adjudicated youth population.

5. Edward Byrne Memorial State and Local Law Enforcement Assistance Program — \$474,023. The Byrne grant is the formula program administered at the federal level by the Bureau of Justice Assistance (BJA), Office of Justice Programs (OJP), U.S. Department of Justice. The program provides critical drug law enforcement and prosecution resources to state and local government. The FY1998 strategy proposed to use 10% of the grant for administration and 90% for the implementation of ten action programs, which include the following:

a. Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) — \$43,232. This program proposes to continue the improvement of the CNMIS Criminal Justice Information System, a project that would automate the criminal records and link via a computer network the CNMIS Criminal Justice Systems. The project further proposes to implement the Criminal Justice Record Improvement (CJRI) program for accurate, complete and timely reporting of criminal history records. This amount has a mandated set aside of 5% or 2,161 of the total awarded Byrne grant for the improvement of CJRI. An additional \$19,531 is added to supplement the mandated 5%. The lead agency for the CJRI program is the Criminal Justice Planning Agency.

b. Interagency Financial Crimes and Drug Enforcement Task Force — \$200,000. This program is designed to provide integrated interdiction, investigation, and prosecution activities to focus on drug offenses, drug-related violent crimes, organized crime, government corruption, and related offenses. The Drug Task Force is composed of the Department of Public Safety (Criminal Investigation Bureau), Department of Finance (Customs Enforcement Branch), and the Office of the Attorney General (Criminal Division).

c. Court Diversion Program — \$10,000. This program proposes to provide alternative to prevent detention, jail and prison for persons who pose no danger to the community. The program will operate out of the Probation Office and will be staffed by an administrator who, among other responsibilities, will provide intensive monitoring and tracking of eligible clients.

d. DARE Parenting Program (DPP) — \$20,000. The Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Parenting Program will strengthen the basic elements taught to DARE students in school by involving parents. The DPP will enhance and develop awareness among parents of drug trends in the community. The DPP will help families acquire the information and skills they need to reduce the risk of substance abuse among their children, and proactive communication and listening skills and identify self-esteem building techniques. The DPP will recognize the scope of the drug problem and the risk factors associated with drug use among young people and discuss community and cultural attitudes about the use of alcohol and other drugs in general and identify the consequences involved in using them.

e. Family Court Program — \$50,000. This is a new program designed to provide operational assistance to the newly established Family Court under the CNMIS Superior Court. The Family Court is tasked to handle family legal matters including adoption proceedings, child support, divorce, paternity, domestic violence, child abuse cases, delinquency cases, and temporary restraining orders against family members. The Family Court will also coordinate a Pretrial Alternative Dispute Resolution (ADR) that will act as mediators on family disputes. The intended recipient of this program is the Division of Family Court under the CNMIS Superior Court.

f. Court Case Management System — \$28,389. This project is to supplement existing automation efforts by the Commonwealth Judicial Branch. The court has begun its implementation of the court case management systems to enable electronic case tracking, case calendaring, data storage and retrieval, and related activities. The project is anticipated to enable the court to actively participate in the CNMIS Criminal Justice Information System (CJIS) by providing disposition data. The ability to computerize the processing and handling of cases that come before the court will enable the judiciary to retrieve, aggregate, sort, and report its data more efficiently. The resulting effect will be better planning opportunity and more efficient and effective administration of justice. The intended recipient of this program is the CNMIS Superior Court.

g. Community Crime Prevention — \$25,000. The Community Crime Prevention is a process driven by a cooperation effort between citizens and law enforcement officials. The program is created from existing law enforcement programs or community organizations. Participants take on the responsibility of insuring the safety of their homes, work places, and neighborhoods; protecting themselves, their families, and their communities against crime; and working cooperatively to solve problems. Law enforcement professionals point to citizen crime prevention activities as an important factor in curbing crime rates. Citizen participation is critical. While gathering information, the concerns or community members must be examined. Local residents need to be involved in prioritizing problems and developing solutions. Support can be built by increasing public awareness about crime prevention through door-to-door canvassing, community meetings, the media, or other means. The intended recipient of this grant is the Garapan Neighborhood Watch Program.

h. Batterer's Program — \$50,000. This project is designed to provide counseling and rehabilitative services for perpetrators of family violence, particularly domestic violence. The project will provide treatment program on self-esteem, parenting, drug and alcohol abuse, financial management, and other interpersonal relations.

The CJPA is also accepting sub-grant application for the remaining funds available under the following Fiscal Year 1998 program. The intended recipient is the DPS Criminal Justice Information System.

Byrne Program/Criminal Justice Information System \$ 19,305

6. STOP (Services/Training/Officers/Prosecutors) Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) Formula Grant — \$168,036. This program is intended to foster more widespread apprehension, prosecution, and adjudication of perpetrators of violence crimes against women through the criminal justice system. The FY1998 grant application proposed to use 5% or \$8,404 of the grant for administration and 95% or \$168,036 for direct services. At least 25% will be allocated, without duplication, to each of the following areas: prosecution, law enforcement, and nonprofit, non-governmental victim services.

1. Family Violence Task Force — \$168,036. The Family Violence Task Force is intended to provide a centralized, coordinated, and multi-disciplinary response to domestic violence, with an emphasis on victim safety and on the prevention of further and more serious violence or injury to women and/or juvenile family members. The Task Force includes the Criminal Division of the Attorney General, Medical Social Services of the Commonwealth Health Center, Division of Youth Services, Department of Public Safety, Division of Family Court, Criminal Justice Planning Agency, Ayuda Network, Karidat and other VOCA funded projects. The intended recipient of this program is the Family Violence Task Force.

7. Rural Domestic Violence and Child Victimization Enforcement Grant Program — \$14,365. The purpose of this program is to provide a unique opportunity for law enforcement and prosecution agencies, the courts, non-governmental victim services agencies, community organizations, and businesses in rural communities to develop a compensation strategy tailored specifically to the community. The intended recipient of this program is the Family Violence Task Force.

The funds will be awarded by the Northern Marianas Commonwealth Council for the Improvement of the Criminal Justice System (CJPA Supervisory Council) through a sub-grant process consistent with the project description outlined in the CNMIS's Fiscal Year 1998 applications and accompanying strategies for the JJDP, JAIBG, Rural Domestic Violence, VAWA and the Byrne programs. These programs will be administered by the Criminal Justice Planning Agency. The Youth Advisory Council is scheduled to meet Wednesday, May 26, 1999, while the Supervisory Council is scheduled to meet on Thursday, May 27, 1999. Both Councils will review all applications and proposals submitted to the CJPA on or before Friday, May 14, 1999.

Interested applicants should contact the CJPA at 664-4550-7 or stop by the CJPA Office on Capitol Hill (House #1314) to obtain the new formatted Sub-Grant Application Form. The Sub-Grant Application Form can also be downloaded at the CJPA Web Site at <http://www.saipan.com/gov/branches/cjpa> or <http://www.saipan.com/gov/branches/cjpa>. For more information, please contact Ms. Winnie Concepcion, at the above telephone numbers or e-mail (harry.cjpa@saipan.com) winnie.cjpa@saipan.com. Thank you.

US plans visit to North Korea site



Charles Kartman

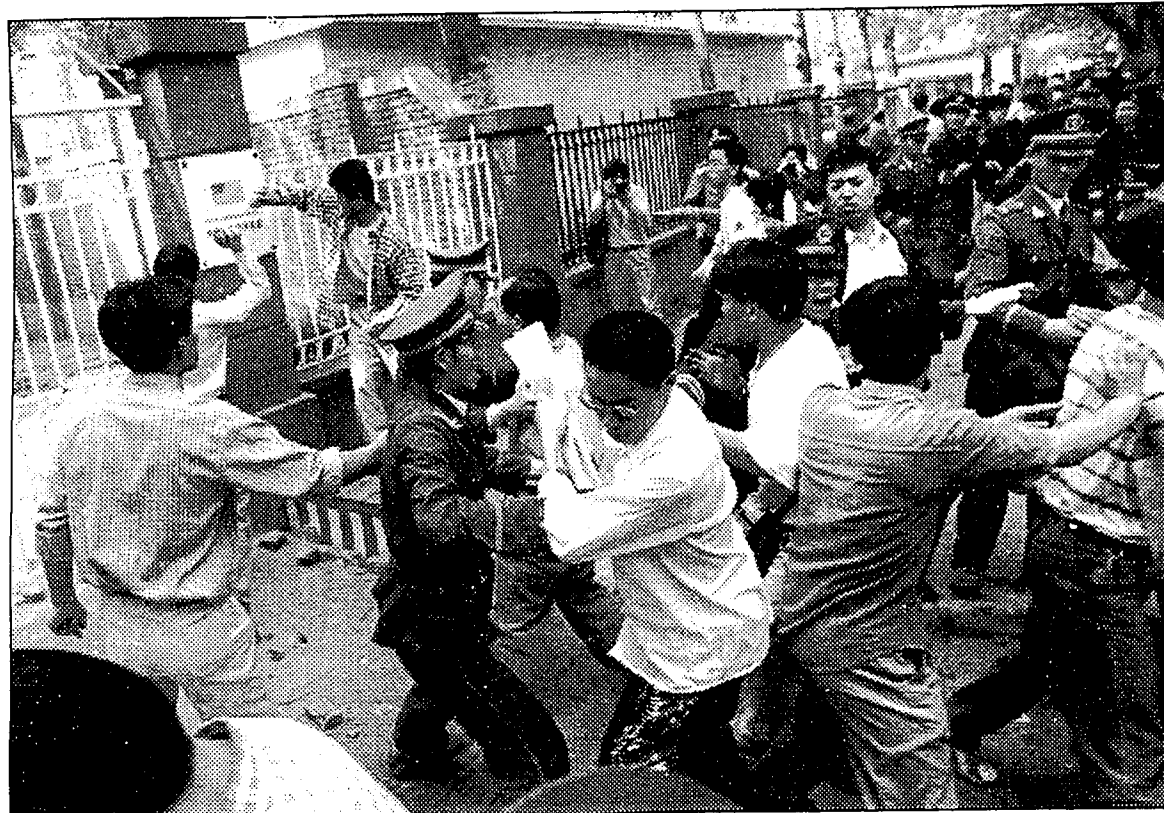
WASHINGTON (Reuters) — U.S. experts expect to visit an underground building site in North Korea on May 20 to check out suspicions that it may be part of a revived nuclear weapons programme, a U.S. State Department official said on Friday.

The technical experts will arrive in the country on May 18 in advance of the visit, which will be the first under an agreement reached in March, a State Department statement said.

"May 20 is the targeted date for the visit to the site," the official said. U.S. special envoy Charles Kartman, who negotiated the agreement, will visit the North Korean capital Pyongyang on May 13 and 14 to make last-minute arrangements.

"The purpose of the visit is to remove fully U.S. concerns about the nature of the site and about the activities there," the statement said.

The agreement in March ended months of negotiations in which North Korea failed to extract \$300 million as a fee for granting access to the site at Kumchang-ni, which is close to mothballed nuclear installations at Yongbyon.



Protesters scuffle with military policemen as they attack the gate of the U.S. Embassy in Beijing Sunday. Tens of thousands of students and residents protested in the streets around the embassy, in the second day of nationwide protests against the NATO bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Yugoslavia. AP

Seoul, Moscow OK plan for more intelligence officers

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Russia and South Korea have agreed to increase the number of intelligence officers assigned to each other's country to eight, officials said Monday.

Following a spy scandal involving a South Korean diplomat in Russia last July, both countries cut the number of intelligence officers in each other's country from eight to two.

"With President Kim Dae-jung scheduled to visit Russia later this month, the two sides have agreed to normalize all relations, including the spy scandal," said one government intelligence official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

A diplomatic row was touched off when Russia expelled a South Korean diplomat on spy charges. The diplomat was reportedly caught receiving classified documents from a Russian Foreign Ministry official.

It was the first time that a South Korean diplomat had been expelled by Russia since the two countries opened diplomatic ties in 1990.

Russia's predecessor, the old Soviet Union, was a longtime ally of Seoul's rival, communist North Korea.

Americans are enemy number one in China

By Matt Pottinger

BEIJING (Reuters) — Hurling rocks and wielding flaming poles, students turned Beijing's diplomatic quarter into a battlefield on Sunday, declaring Americans to be enemy number one.

"Kill Americans!" the crowds roared.

U.S. President Bill Clinton was depicted on hundreds of posters with a Hitler-like moustache. Students had Swastikas daubed on their T-shirts across the letters U.S.A.

American reporters at the scene were targets of student wrath.

"What is your nationality?" they demanded to know of the handful of foreign journalists who braved the crowds. Those who admitted being American or British were jostled and given an earful of abuse.

Witnesses reported attacks on Westerners, including one man who apparently piqued demonstrators by showing up with a Chinese woman.

Several Western reporters were punched and kicked. CNN correspondent Rebecca MacKinnon was struck while delivering a live telephone report from the scene. As some students hustled her to safety others yelled "kill her!"

Frequently the students broke into English to shriek four-letter curses.

The crude language was echoed even in the normally restrained official media. One newspaper said that U.S. talk of humanity, democracy and freedom were "goddamned

bullshit."

"Clinton is always talking about human rights. Well he is the world's number one offender!" said student Li Zehong, before hurling a grapefruit-sized chunk of concrete at the U.S. embassy.

A female student from Beijing University of Science and Technology, her face streaked with tears, screamed shrilly into a bullhorn: "Down with American Imperialism!" Hundreds of classmates joined in the chant.

Demonstrators carried Chinese signs reading "Return Blood Debts with Blood" and "Some brandished English signs reading 'Eye for an Eye.'" As bricks and hunks of concrete rained on the British embassy, a man and his adolescent son weaved through the crowds carrying a sign that read: "We beseech President Jiang (Zemin) to declare war on the United States."

A black-and-white target, worn by many protesters in Yugoslavia, has become the ubiquitous symbol of student anger in China, too. It appeared as punctuation in the headline of the Beijing Youth Daily: "Shock, Anger, Protest."

Newspapers have been fanning the emotion by calling the Belgrade attack deliberate and by publishing large pictures of bloodied Chinese diplomats. Vendors have been doing a roaring trade selling them.

In Shanghai, a man was spotted bolting out of a beauty salon, his hair still lathered in shampoo suds, to catch one passing newspaper seller on his way past.

One student handed out flyers, asking a journalist to deliver it to Clinton.

The shaky English read: "1.2 billion people on your back, Bill, we are ready to departure at any moment to Washington as soldiers!"

Japan may send police

TOKYO (Reuters) — Japan is considering whether to comply with a United Nations request to send police to help supervise the August autonomy ballot in East Timor, government officials said on Friday.

"I understand that an unofficial request (for civilian police) has been made by the United Nations," a Japanese Foreign Ministry official told Reuters. "We are currently considering that request," he said.

Indonesia, which invaded East Timor in 1975 and has held it ever since, reached an historic agreement with Portugal on Wednesday on arrangements for a referendum on August 8 allowing the territory to choose between enhanced autonomy and independence.

Under the agreement, the U.N. will send 600 civilians to organise the ballot, backed by an unspecified number of unarmed international police. No

foreign troops will be deployed, however, because of firm opposition from Jakarta.

Australia has said it may commit 50 police to the U.N. operation.

On Thursday, Japanese Foreign

Minister Masahiko Komura said in a statement that Japan welcomed Wednesday's deal and that the government was mulling measures to help the U.N. implement the accord. Jiji news agency reported that

some officials in the Japanese national police agency were cautious about sending personnel to such missions after a Japanese policeman who joined Cambodian peacekeeping operations was killed in 1993.



A thrill-seeker plunges 30 meters in a new attraction at the Biwako Tower amusement park in Otsu, western Japan. Going up the stairs, customers are hanged in the air with safety device, and then let to fall down without any safety rope. AP

Japan prime minister mull a visit to China this year

TOKYO (Reuters) — Japanese Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi may visit China later this year, perhaps during the summer, government officials said on Friday.

"You could say the issue is being investigated, but nothing firm has been decided as yet," a Japanese Foreign Ministry official said, adding that the visit could take place during the summer. She declined to give further details.

Obuchi told a plenary session of the Lower House of parliament on Friday that he would like to consider visiting China some time soon, but did not specify when.

Japanese media previously reported that the visit could take place in mid-July, perhaps around July 20.

Japan's relations with China have come under strain recently following the April 11 election

as Tokyo governor of nationalist politician Shintaro Ishihara, who has said he disapproves of the Beijing government.

Ishihara has also irked Beijing in the past by casting doubt on its account of Japanese wartime atrocities in China.

Another thorny issue between the two nations is the recent approval of a set of controversial defence bills by Japan's Lower House.

The bills, passed on April 27, would tighten Japan's defence cooperation with the United States and increase its military role in the event of a regional crisis.

One section in the bills refers to emergencies in unspecified areas surrounding Japan, and China has repeatedly expressed concern that this area could include Taiwan, which it considers a renegade province.

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Carolinian Affairs Office
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
Office of the Governor

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

On behalf of the Governor, the Honorable Pedro P. Tenorio and the Lt. Governor, Jesus R. Sublan, and the Carolinian Affairs Office, I would like to extend our sincere Olomua, Si Yu's Ma'ase, and heartfelt appreciation to the following special group of individuals, organizations, government agencies, private businesses, and all those who contributed to the Makali'i Canoe Voyage on April 22 - May 03, 1999 with monetary or in-kind donations, time and effort:

DONORS/CONTRIBUTORS

Bishop Tomas A. Camacho
Chief Justice Alex C. Case
Councilman David I. Hara & Family
Cong. Ana S. Sanchez
Cong. Horacio H. Sanchez
Cong. Malia I. Diaz
Cong. Melior V. Lopez
Cong. Marlene V. Lopez
Cong. Oscar V. Lopez
First Lady Susan P. Tenorio
Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio
Lt. Governor & Mrs. Jesus R. Sublan
Locally (Tribunal) Danes
M.C. Barrie Band
MJB Outrigger Canoe Club
Marianas Pride
Mayor & Mrs. Jose C. Sublan
Mayor Joseph T. Chamorro & Family
Mr. Dakay Billy & Family
Mr. Daniel W. Ignot & Family
Mr. Gus M. Tagbuel & Family
Mr. & Mrs. Luis M. Tames

Assisting Agencies/Organization

Aging Office
American Memorial Park
Bo-Bo's Taxi (Van)
Carolinian Affairs Inc.
CNMI Judiciary
CNMI Kanu Federation
Dept. of Public Works
Diocese of Chalan Kanoa
Division of Boating Safety, DPS
Division of Customs, DOF
Division of Immigration, DOF & I
Division of Traffic, DPS
Emergency Management Office
Indigenous Affairs Office

Hosting (Lunch/Dinner)

Chief Agthurbw Foundation
Diaz Family
Hawaiian Community
Makali'i Steering Committee
Marianas Visitors Authority
Napa Antigua Dancers
Office of the Lt. Governor
Palacios Family
Palau Association
Tapanag Community
Victorino N. Ignot & Family
Ben M. Sublan & Family
Juan I. Tenorio & Family

Also extend a sincere Olomua, Si Yu's Ma'ase and Thank You to those hard working individuals that contributed to this event and that were inadvertently left out.

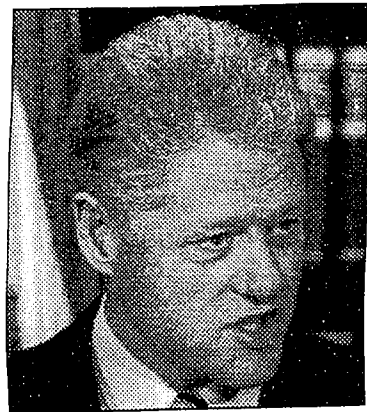
/s/FRANK M. KABAULIMAN
Executive Assistant for CAO



A protester holds a picture of Bill Clinton. AP

By Arshad Mohammed
WASHINGTON (Reuters) — President Bill Clinton wrote to Chinese President Jiang Zemin on Sunday to offer his regrets for NATO's bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade as the United States sought to quell Beijing's fury over the attack.

NATO leaders have apologised for the embassy bombing but have insisted they will continue the alliance's air campaign against Yugoslavia while also exploring



Bill Clinton

Belgrade attack. Long-simmering disputes over trade and human rights have also kept relations uneasy.

"No question that we're hostages here," Sasser told CBS's "Face the Nation" programme in a telephone interview, the din-



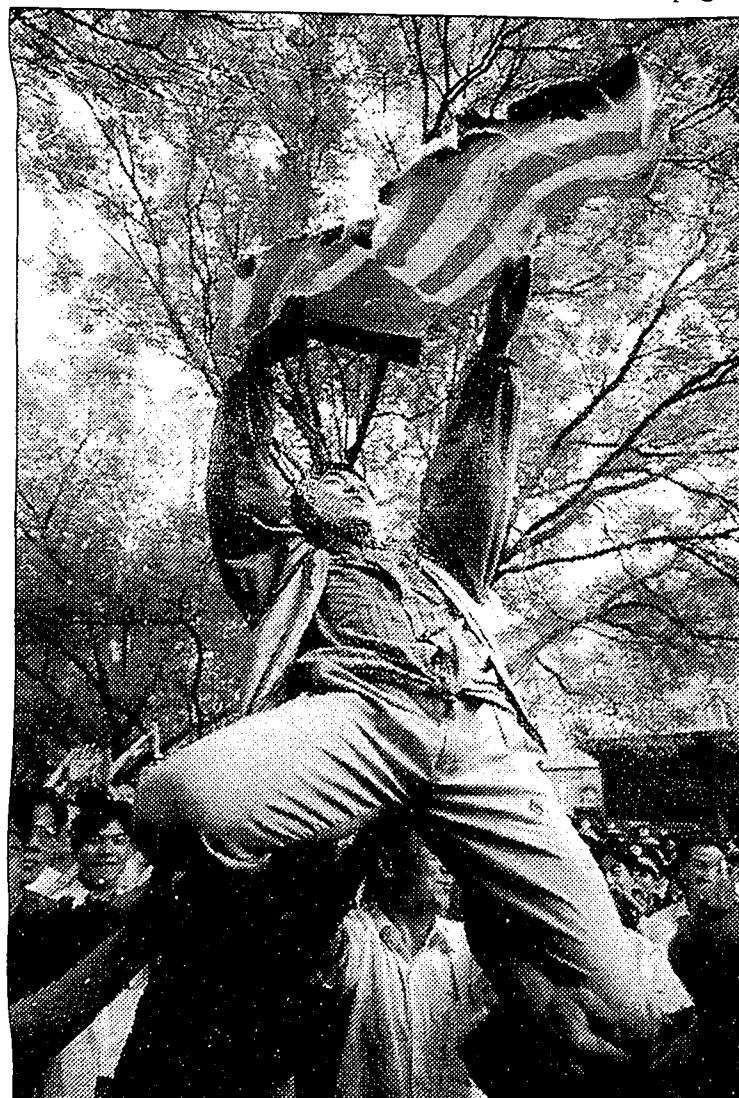
Jiang Zemin

encouraging them," he said. "The government itself may be running a risk here to some extent, because once this thing gets

They also reviewed the status of Russian efforts to negotiate a diplomatic solution to the Kosovo conflict.

BEIJING (Reuters) — Vice President Hu Jintao said on Sunday the Chinese government backed all legal protests against NATO's bombing of

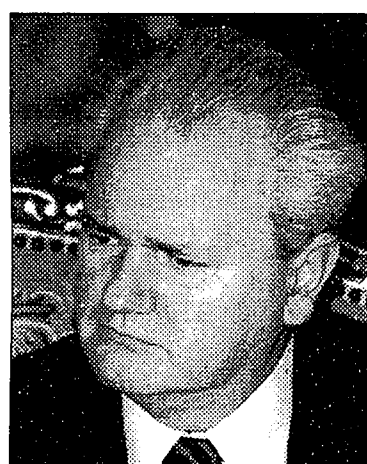
the Beijing embassy in Belgrade, but he urged restraint. He was addressing the nation on television as thousands of infuriated students rampaged



A protester is lifted up as he burns the U.S. flag outside of the U.S. embassy in Beijing on Sunday.

Protests have erupted in a dozen or so major Chinese cities, drawing tens of thousands of angry citizens onto the streets. State media has fanned the fury by saying the Belgrade attack was a deliberate act of

"The bombs launched at the Chinese embassy are bombs



Slobodan Milosevic

The source could not specify the date for Akashi's expected visit. ASHaski is a member of the ruling Japanese Liberal Democratic Party.

Nominated in July 1998,
Kara's name was withdrawn by

Kara in an earlier interview said she welcomes the Senate move to bring the issue of her appointment to the Supreme Court, but reiterated that she will only resign if asked by the governor or the court.

[illegible]

"I think it's very interesting these visits between Saudi

Bahraini Foreign Minister Sheikh Mohammad bin Mubarak al-Khalifa's visit to Iran earlier this month was de-

Gulf Arab analysts said world oil market conditions were not expected to be discussed at Monday's summit.



President Saddam Hussein receives last Wednesday from Vice President Taha Yassin Ramadan (right) the golden key of the new tourist city named after him "Saddamiyat al-Thartar." AP

Continued from page 8

Some 49, moreover, were sent in by the hotel industry while 146 were brought in by manpower placement agencies.

Continued from page 7

"Plaintiff's tenants are complaining that defendant is disturbing their peace and they are

Inos added that Tesiro breached the covenant of quiet enjoyment by harassing plaintiff's tenants.

Continued from page 6

Continued from page 5

official's documents have not yet reached his office.

Ada explained that except for

the DPS commissioner and the police director, who are being

He said the papers of the commissioner and police director

Continued from page 5

the DPS commissioner and the police director, who are being appointed by the Governor, the appointments of all public safety officials are supposed to be processed at his office.

He said the papers of the commissioner and police director directly go to the director of the personnel management, Mathilda A. Rosario, without his review.

US . . .

Continued from page 3

officials are now reviewing the proposed takeover legislation which is being advanced by the Clinton Administration.

But emphasized that his Administration will continue to urge the federal government to consider CNMI's request for continued control of local immigration and minimum wage.

"We want to maintain control of our immigration and minimum wage especially with the economic crisis that we are facing now. It will be very difficult for a small island. We have no other natural resources

or anything to fall into in the event the tourism and garment industries disappear," he said.

The CNMI chief executive cited the adverse effects a federal takeover of immigration and minimum wage would have on the local economy, especially at a time of plunging visitor arrivals and low business activities.

"We maintain that we would like to see that the federal government would consider our request to that we continue to control our immigration and minimum wage," Tenorio said.

He said the government has instituted labor and immigration reforms that would address the con-

cerns raised by the federal government when strong federalization proposals started to surfaced last year.

"We are working so hard in trying to resolve some of the problems that happened in the past. We hope the federal government would finally see the merits of these labor and immigration reform programs," he added.

The US government has expressed firm intentions to immediately act on its proposal to extend federal immigration and minimum wage policies to the CNMI, as it gives the Teno Administration until Thursday to submit inputs in a takeover bill.

Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio) wants to bring in someone to challenge us even if it's someone from another precinct," Benavente said.

"But we still believe that it's all about wanting to represent the people and not just wanting to oust someone from office," he said.

Benavente, who is already the CNMI's longest serving House speaker, has been representing Pre-

cinct 2 since 1990 and is seeking a sixth term in office in the upcoming midterm elections.

He and Vice Speaker Jesus T. Attao (R-Prec. 3, Saipan) are the House's most senior members.

Babauta, who currently chairs the House Commerce and Tourism Committee, has been Benavente's running mate for the past three elections beginning 1993.

tributors "because they are competing against cigarettes that are not supposed to be here."

According to Salas, the distributors have furnished government with a list of vendors selling smuggled cigarettes.

He however said government can only ask these vendors to "rectify" by June 26, until the 90-day grace period on Public Law 11-75 which requires cigarette vendors to obtain licenses, expires.

"I have instructed my people to go out there and (tell the vendors) that they have up to June 26 to rectify the problem. Come June 26 and those (smuggled) cigarettes are still in the stores, we will confiscate them and take them over (the Division of Customs (Service) and Customs will destroy them," said

Salas.

No fines will be imposed on the erring vendors because "our first duty is to take care of the business community," explained Salas.

Salas said DOC is coordinating with DCS on the matter, saying Customs "really knows what's going on."

"It is going to stop. Customs is really picking up on this. They really know what's going on and they know what they (smugglers) are doing. They got some guys that are trained. They are going to take care of this problem. As soon as they stop it from coming in, they'll make our job a lot easier," said Salas.

The CNMI stands to get \$16.5 million from the \$206-billion tobacco settlement.

OPM . . .

Continued from page 3

emy. But after more than eight years in service, he still holds the same rank which he has during his first year.

Another officer said he had considered resigning but eventually decided to stay for one more year, hoping for possible promotion.

The gripes on promotion was just among the problems facing members of the public safety department.

The department was forced to cut overtime due to funding problem. This despite the meager pay

received by DPS employees.

Local police officers claim they are the lowest-paid law enforcers compared to their counterparts in other insular islands.

A rank-and-file police officer is receiving between \$14,000 and \$15,000 while a counterpart in Guam receives \$24,000.

The problem on the police promotion was first relayed to then the DPS deputy commissioner Major Clyde Norita, but he believed OPM is in charge of promotion matters.

When asked since when the government decided to temporarily stopped police promotion, Rosario refused to answer.

Governor . . .

Continued from page 3

added.

Tenorio also defended Zachares' failure to attend his scheduled talk during the Chamber monthly meeting last week, pointing out that the labor secretary has been tasked to oversee the mass illegal migration of Chinese nationals to the Marianas which forced Tinian to be the temporary holding site of the captured aliens.

The Chamber has to understand that Zachares, among other equally important things, has been

tapped to take charge of the local government's participation in the ongoing hosting of captured illegal immigrants from China, according to Tenorio.

"I tasked him to be the contact person in Tinian so he's there most of the time. It is important that he's there because of the situation of Chinese migration, especially with the information that we receive about more boats that will be diverted to Tinian," he said.

He also said that he has confidence that Zachares has the capabilities to deliver what are expected of him as labor and immigration secretary. "I have confidence in my nominee."

Ingram . . .

Continued from page 8

One police organization is enough for the Commonwealth. Otherwise, we might have different laws," he said.

Ingram is proposing to delegate some police functions to mayors in what he described as a move that will help unburden DPS with responsibilities which could be handled by localities.

According to him, Saipan, Tinian and Rota have unique problems which could be dealt with better by their respective localities. "The DPS is so huge now, it's hard for one man to run it."

Existing laws mandate DPS to handle the police force, fire service and correction service. In recent years, it was tasked with additional functions like the Boating Safety Unit and the Bureau of Motor Vehicles.

Fund . . .

Continued from page 8

said in an interview.

Camacho said the present choices for the Fund to protect the welfare of future retirees are rather limited.

"The retirees must be paid and we will pay. (But) there aren't too many choices here. Either the government pay us or we will have to take money out from our investments," he said.

Since there was no assurance of regular payment from the government, the Fund's Board of Trustees is now contemplating on liquidating some of its dividends or earnings — an option which has its own downside.

"We are looking at probably dividends or earnings that we have

to take from our investments to make sure that our retirees get paid," said Camacho.

The Fund official likened the situation of liquidating earnings to an individual's savings account.

"You want to make every effort not to use your savings account (because) once you start taking money from your account, you will be tempted to continue that and before you know it, you have lost less than what you wanted. That's the danger of it," he explained.

Current pensioners, however, need not worry, said the Fund.

While the Fund gives out some \$27.6 million annually to pay for retirees' benefits, its fiscal year-to-date investment portfolio as of end-February is pegged at over \$330 million on top of the resources gained from the Fund's local investments.

Basto was serving a jail term for the murder of 60-year-old Kazuko Izawa when he allegedly joined Sablan's group in taking some hostages.

Earlier, Sablan, Sheldon I. Yano, Vicente M. Aldan Jr. changed their earlier plea of not guilty to guilty of the hostage-taking charges.

The case is pending against the remaining defendants Ryan T. Babauta, Jeffrey I. Celis, and Edwin P. Blas.

Russian envoy to fly to China to discuss Kosovo mediation

By BARRY RENFREW

MOSCOW (AP) — Russia's envoy for Kosovo headed for China on Monday for urgent talks on the bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade and ways to end the Yugoslav crisis, officials said.

The decision to send envoy Viktor Chernomyrdin came after President Boris Yeltsin talked by phone with his Chinese counterpart, Jiang Zemin, on Kosovo and the bombing of the embassy by NATO, Russian officials said. Few details were given on the talks.

"The leaders of both states dis-

cussed in detail the situation in Yugoslavia and its further aggravation due to NATO's barbaric action, which caused casualties among Chinese citizens who served in Belgrade," said a statement from Yeltsin's office.

Chernomyrdin, who has headed Moscow's efforts to find a diplomatic solution to the Kosovo crisis, was expected to try to calm China's anger over the embassy attack.

NATO's unintentional bombing of the Chinese embassy in Belgrade on Saturday killed three people and prompted the largest public protests in China since the Tiananmen

Square pro-democracy demonstrations 10 years ago.

Chernomyrdin criticized the embassy bombing, but insisted it should not derail progress toward resolving the Kosovo crisis. The attack "has thrown us backward and is not leading to peace," he said Sunday.

Russia has repeatedly denounced the NATO attacks against Yugoslavia, but is also keen to play a key role in finding a political solution.

NATO nations have encouraged Russia's diplomatic efforts and were jubilant when Moscow endorsed a tentative peace plan

in talks with G-7 nations last week. Russian officials said they were stepping up efforts to get China and other Asian countries to help work out a peaceful settlement to the conflict, Foreign Ministry spokesman Grigory Karasin said Sunday.

Chernomyrdin has said that progress is being made on the diplomatic front. Returning from Germany on Sunday, he said that serious new developments had emerged during peace talks, but gave no details.

Chernomyrdin said he told Yugoslav President Slobodan

Milosevic about the developments in a phone conversation and Milosevic was "very satisfied," Russian news agencies reported.

The reports did not elaborate on the developments or their conversation.

Chernomyrdin had planned to head for Belgrade on Sunday to deliver the plan to Milosevic, but instead returned to Moscow after the talks in Germany.

He said he came back because "new, very serious developments have emerged connected to the Balkan settlement" that he wanted to discuss with Russian leaders.

Fitial . . .

Continued from page 1

stitutional Convention, Fitial was a House member from 1980 to 1988, serving as minority leader from 1984 to 1986, and vice speaker from 1986 to 1988.

Meanwhile, Rep. Bennet T. Seman (R-Prec. 3, Saipan) said she is reconsidering her earlier decision not to seek a second term.

Seman, in an interview yesterday, said she is starting to find her job as legislator "challenging."

"I'm a rookie and I'm still trying to work my way around," she said. "I've said before that I may not run for another term, but now I may reconsider."

If Seman is not running, there will be three open seats for Republicans in Precinct 3.

Former Rep. Stanley T. Torres, an Independent since 1993 after he was expelled from the party, has already submitted a letter of intent to run as a Republican.

Likewise, Rep. Maria T. Peter, a former Republican who ran as Independent in 1997, is reportedly also returning to the party.

Bombing . . .

Continued from page 1

rounding the recent bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade will have any bearing on the repatriation efforts.

"I don't want to think that it has any bearing. But I hope that it will not [delay our repatriation efforts]. I'm sure the federal government will work with the Chinese government in a more diplomatic way," he pointed out.

In a related development, the CNMI chief executive confirmed that another vessel carrying 80 undocumented aliens arrived on Tinian Saturday, bringing to about 500 the total of illegal immigrants being held in the North Field tent city.

While saying that the CNMI government accepted another vessel for diversion of another vessel to Tinian, Tenorio said work is now underway to assess whether

the existing facility in the island can accommodate all of the 500 captured immigrants hoping to sneak into Guam.

He said the North Field tent city has a very limited facility that may not be able to accommodate all of the 500 undocumented aliens while continuously providing their needs.

"We accepted the new batch but we are assessing the tent city. With the limited facility that they have on Tinian, we want to make sure that they will be able to provide what are needed during this operation."

Tenorio said there may be a need for the Immigration and Naturalization Service to improve the facility and bring some more tents and couches in North Field.

Also, security problems posed by the presence of the undocumented immigrants in the temporary holding facility on Tinian remain an area of concern for the CNMI government, according to the governor.

Six . . .

Continued from page 1

rocks started falling."

"It was really hard to see coming out of there," said Darren Fredricks of Florida. "You just wanted to grab who you could and run."

Emergency crews used four-wheel drive vehicles to reach the scene of the slide, three miles (five kilometers) from the trailhead.

One man was in critical condition and three women were in guarded to fair condition among seven people taken to The Queen's Medical Center, said Cheryl Utendale, the hospital's administrative coordinator. She would give no more information.

Five or six of the 15 to 20 people taken to Kahuku Hospital were treated and released, said Carol Gonzales, the hospital's director of nursing. Of the rest, some were to be transferred and some were still being evaluated Sunday evening, she said.

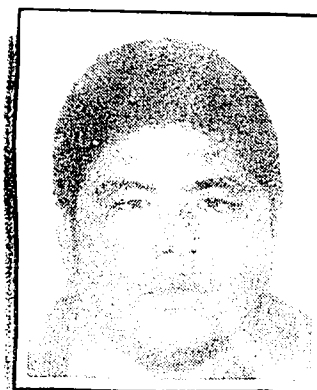
Officials of the other hospitals could not immediately be reached.

Cigarette . . .

Continued from page 1

ing," said Salas.

It will be recalled that prices of tobacco products increased late last year following a \$206-billion settlement cigarette companies entered into with the US government.

IN CELEBRATION OF HIS NEW LIFE**Joaquin Pangelinan CRUZ**

May 20, 1974 ~ May 04, 1999

**Predeceased by:**

Grandparents: Maria P. Dela Cruz, Joaquin Sn./Juana P. Reyes; Jesus N./Remedio A. Leon Guerrero
Auntie: Rita P. Santos
Brother: Joaquin P. Cruz

His quiet loving memories will live in the hearts of his:

Parent: Ignacio P. and Angelina P. Cruz
Daughter: Angeline Lee Santos
Grandfather: Joaquin G. Dela Cruz
Brothers: Edward P. Cruz (Tinian) Elma P. Cruz & Aaron Yobech (Saipan)
Sisters-in-law: Rosa P. Cruz (Guam) Michael P. Cruz (Saipan)
Uncles & Aunties: Jose T. Pangelinan (Maria); Moises T. Pangelinan (Kathy); Pedro P. Reyes (Angie); Felipe P. Reyes (Lani); Antonio P. Reyes (Connie); Maria R. Kaainoa (Juan); Juan P. Reyes (Lorna); Juana S. Dela Cruz (Fermin); Piding B. Camacho (Oscar); Rosa LG. Keene; Maria DLG. Mattox; Vicente A. Leon Guerrero; Carmen LG. Cruz; Margarita LG. Flores; Ignacio A. Leon Guerrero; Ana LG. Noble; Juan A. Leon Guerrero; Rosario A. Leon Guerrero; Ramona LG. Acejo; Elizabeth LG. Fabros; Jesus A. Leon Guerrero
Godparents: Cecilia P. Matagolai/Anthony B. Camacho, Jr.
Special Friends: Shirley S. Santos

He is also survived by numerous aunts, uncles, cousins, in laws, nieces and nephews.

Daily Mass is offered at Mt. Carmel Cathedral at 6:00 a.m. Nightly rosary is said at the family residence at Kohlvile at 7:00 p.m. His remains will be removed from CHC morgue to the family residence for final viewing on May 13, 1999 at 7:30 a.m. Responso will be at 12:00 noon. Mass of Christian Burial will be at 3:00 p.m. at St. Jude Church. Burial will follow immediately at Mt. Carmel Cemetery. Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated.

SI YU'US MA'ASE

Marianas Variety Classified Ads Section

Employment Wanted



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 QUALITY CONTROL CHECKER-Salary:\$3.05-6.00 per hour
02 QUALITY CONTROL MANAGER-Salary:\$1,000.00-1,800.00 per month
Contact: LI & FUNG (EXPORTS), LTD. Tel. 322-0419/(5/11)T30838

01 POKER ATTENDANT-Salary:\$3.25 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN INVESTMENT DEV. CO. dba Saipan Poker Tel. 322-5595/(11)T30843

01 (GOLF COURSE MAINTENANCE LABORER) GROUNDKEEPER II-Salary:\$3.20-3.50 per hour
01 KITCHEN HELPER-Salary:\$3.05-3.35 per hour
01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:\$3.10-3.40 per hour
01 CARPENTER-Salary:\$3.15 per hour
01 CLEANER, HOUSEKEEPING-Salary:\$3.05-3.35 per hour
Contact: KAN PACIFIC SAIPAN, LTD. Tel. 322-4691/(5/11)T78293

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Contact: BREEZE SAIPAN, INC. dba Breeze Diving Academy Tel. 235-0500/(5/11)T30840

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01 DRIVER, SALES ROUTE-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: M & P CORP. Tel. 234-1361/(5/11)T78294

01 DRESSMAKER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: NATIVIDAD P. JORDAN dba Jordan Business Unlimited Tel. 288-1858/(5/18)T30916

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Contact: MANUEL & MARIE DELA CRUZ Tel. 234-6978/(5/18)T30914

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Classified Ads FIRST

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Contact: CHINA HOASHI ENT. CORP. Tel. 234-2347/(5/11)T30829

01 MANAGER, (BUS TRANSPORTATION)-Salary:\$1,000.00-2,300.00 per month
Communicate with Japanese customers in speaking, writing & reading preferred and make reports to mother company in Japan.
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Contact: SHIMIZU CORPORATION Tel. 234-5438/(5/11)T30834

01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
03 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: PARK'S CORPORATION dba Kung Chun Restaurant Tel. 234-1249/(5/11)T30833

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Contact: FABRICLEAN OF CNMI, INC. dba Marianas Cleaners Tel. 234-6239/(5/11)T30839

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01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05-3.25 per hour
Contact: J & JEV ENTERPRISES, INC. dba Cate de France Tel. 233-2031/(5/11)T78296

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01 WAREHOUSE WORKER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 OFFICE CLERK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour

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Contact: UNITED INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION Tel. 235-6888/(5/18)T30906

01 SALESPERSON-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: HO XING CORPORATION Tel. 233-1128/(5/18)T30907

01 (FILMING COORDINATING) CAMERAMAN-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:\$3.50 per hour
Contact: TRAP PLANNING INC. dba Use Us Rental Tel. 235-2060/(5/18)T30908

01 MASON-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: EMILIO P. QUIACHON SR. dba EQ Construction Tel. 234-8827/(5/18)T30920

01 (ASSISTANT) MANAGER-Salary:\$5.00 per hour
01 BARTENDER-Salary:\$3.20 per hour
Contact: PACIFIC MANAGEMENT, INC. dba Mariana Restaurant Tel. 322-3324/(5/17)M30902

01 MAINTENANCE, BUILDING & REPAIR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: K2 CORPORATION Tel. 322-2312/(5/25)T30995

01 BUILDING MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: ROBERT RICHARDS Tel. 288-1830/(5/25)T31008

01 CIVIL ENGINEER (LIATWA)-Salary:\$600.00 per month
06 CONSTRUCTION WORKERS (LIATWA)-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: FORTUNE INTERNATIONAL Tel. 234-6070/(5/25)T31009

01 MAINTENANCE BUILDING, REPAIRER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
06 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: CANICE PATRICK M. DIAZ dba Marianas Maintenance Services Tel. 234-0863/(5/25)T31010

06 DANCER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: WAYNE A. SHIMABUKURO dba Stop Light Tel. 235-7817/(5/25)T31011

02 PRESSER MACHINE-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
23 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: EXPRESS MANUFACTURING, INC. Tel. 322-6743/(5/25)T31012

06 MASON-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 CONSTRUCTION WORKER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: HUGH HARGROVE dba Landmark Limited Tel. 235-1257/(5/25)T31005

01 AUTO MECHANIC-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: TM CORPORATION Tel. 234-2700/(5/25)T31004

01 CIVIL ENGINEER-Salary:\$850.00 per month
01 COOK-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: E.C. GOZUM & CO., INC. Tel. 256-0331/(5/25)T31007

01 CREDIT MANAGER-Salary:\$2,500.00 per month
Required fluent in Japanese reading, writing and speaking.
Contact: PACIFIC MICRONESIA CORPORATION dba Dai-ichi Hotel Tel. 234-6412/(5/25)T78560

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: MIDWEST TRADING CORP. dba Kareena's Retail Tel. 235-8752/(5/25)T31002

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:\$3.50 per hour
Contact: ATOM'S CO., LTD. Tel. 233-8880/(5/25)T31000

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:\$3.05-6.25 per hour
Contact: ISLAND PLUMBING & MAINTENANCE SERVICES, INC. Tel. 288-3533/(5/25)T30998

01 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: AMERICAN ANGEL FLYING CO., LTD. Tel. Gui Fei Club Tel. 233-0488/(5/25)T30999

08 FAST-FOOD WORKER-Salary:\$3.05-5.50 per hour
Contact: J.C.A. INC. dba McDonald's of Saipan Tel. 235-8761/(5/25)T78559

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.

01 CHOREOGRAPHER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: A.S.C., INC. dba Nagoya Star Night Club & Karaoke Lounge Tel. 235-7648/(5/25)T30996

01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
02 WELDER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: JOEL I. PARAS dba Reliance Electromechanical Services Tel. 235-2469/(5/25)T30997

THE LAW OFFICES OF
O'CONNOR BERMAN DOTTIS & BANES
HAS AN IMMEDIATE OPENING FOR AN

ACCOUNTANT (LOCAL HIRE ONLY)

Qualified applicants must be proficient in Lotus, Excel and Word Perfect, must have knowledge on computation of interest and the ability to handle collections. Must be College graduate with 2 years experience. Experience in legal environment a plus. Salary negotiable based on qualifications.

Interested applicants may submit their application and a detailed resume at the Law Offices of O'Connor Berman, Dotts and Banes located at Second Floor Nauru Bldg. Susupe, Saipan.

APARTMENT FOR RENT

Quiet Two (2) Bedrooms • Swimming Pool Tennis Court

KANNAT GARDENS

(NEAR NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE)

235-5686 (8:30 AM to 5:30 PM, Weekdays) 235-9620, 234-3849 (6:00 PM to 9:00 PM, Everyday including Sat. & Sun.)

FOR RENT

1-Bedroom Apartment

Fully Furnished
\$260.00 + Utilities

PLEASE CALL ANA AT 235-1629

CAR FOR SALE

'89 Mitsubishi Montero
4x4, Aircon, Like New,
Asking Price: \$4,900
Call: Tel. 235-4833

CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVES

Looking for friendly, professional, customer service focused individuals to fill the positions of cashier and pump service attendants. Local hire only.

Application can be picked up at Shell Escape.
NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

6 UNITS APARTMENT FOR LEASE/SALE

3 Units - 1 Bedroom apartment
3 Units - 2 Bedroom apartment

Location:
Chalan Kanoa District II

Contact: Imelda
Tel. No. 235-2222

Diabetics, to prevent foot amputation, join the foot clinic.

EKK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



Garfield® by Jim Davis



PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz



STELLA WILDER YOUR BIRTHDAY

TUESDAY, MAY 11, 1999
Born today, you are sure to be remembered for doing things that are bold, daring, experimental and highly controversial. You're sure to win more than your share of enemies throughout your lifetime as a result of this tendency toward rocking the boat both in your professional life and your personal affairs. However, you'll also have more than your share of admirers in your life, because no matter what you do, you will always win people over with your energy and your positive spirit.

You may not know when you are young just where you are headed, yet you will have a sense that you're made for "great things" in some regard. Indeed, no matter what you do during your youth, and no matter how many mistakes you make, observers will feel that they are watching the development of something "big".

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.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12
ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You're likely to have trouble today getting in touch with someone you've been thinking about a lot lately. Keep trying!
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You may not be able to avoid

those who would be critical of you today, but this needn't result in any negative feelings. Keep things in perspective.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — A close friend may become more of a competitor than a supporter before the day is out, but this is likely to be true for only a short time.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — What's expected today is not likely to be the most interesting thing that happens. Be willing to surprise yourself and others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — You're sure to be in the spotlight at least during a portion of the day, but there's no reason to behave in any way out of character. Be yourself!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Style is everything today. You have a firm grasp of substance right now, so you can concentrate more on how things are "coming across" to others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — You'll learn the difference between doing something right and stopping short of the mark. You'll understand a recent error as a result.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — You're likely to meet someone today who will figure prominently in your life on at least two occasions in the future. Get ready for a surprise!

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You'll find yourself waiting, waiting and wait-

ing some more today for something that is unclear. When it comes, you'll know.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Don't let yourself be fooled by those who would have you believe that you cannot change things for the better. You can make a difference!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — A bargain is available to you and only you today, but you've got to act fast. You can't expect this offer to last forever!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — This is a good day to take time out from your busy schedule to get back in touch with the way you're really feeling, even if only for a few moments.



CROSSWORD PUZZLER

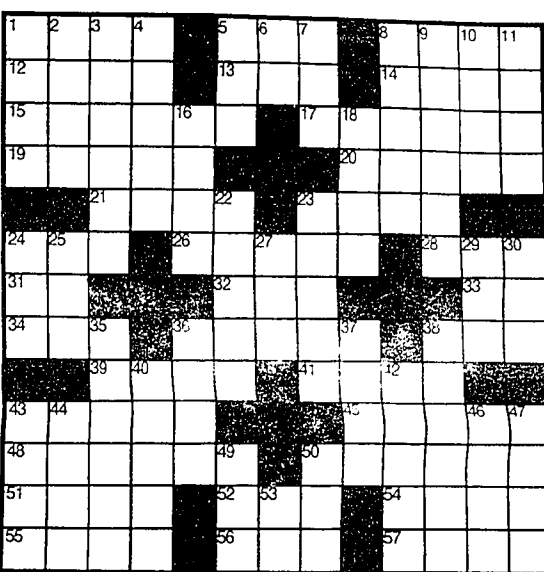
ACROSS

- 1 Beasts of burden
- 5 Kapek robot
- 8 Alphabet sequence
- 12 Yes —
- 13 Yoko
- 14 Twelve months
- 15 Sponsor
- 17 Appetizer
- 19 Middle Eastern nation
- 20 — food cake
- 21 Facilitate
- 23 Celtic
- 24 Quarterback
- 26 Arizona city
- 28 — Roy
- 31 Warhol ID
- 32 Cheering word
- 33 Roman 501
- 34 Set
- 36 Ms. Shore
- 38 Damp

DOWN

- 1 Fumbler's exclamation
- 2 Aid in diagnosing
- 3 Main course at dinner
- 4 Water wheel
- 5 Man's name
- 6 NYC
- 7 Mythical bird
- 8 Redgrave, et al.
- 9 Thin
- 10 Neck part
- 11 — Hershiser

Answer to Previous Puzzle



KidSpot™ SOLVE THE REBUS BY WRITING IN THE NAMES OF THE PICTURE CLUES AND ADDING OR SUBTRACTING THE LETTERS.

What do you call a computer superhero?

1. + - TT = - W

2. + + - A = - W

3.

Marianas Variety

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Job Vacancy Announcement

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01 CREDIT MANAGER-Salary:\$2,500.00 per month
Required fluent in Japanese reading, writing and speaking.
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STELLA WILDER YOUR BIRTHDAY

TUESDAY, MAY 11, 1999
Born today, you are sure to be remembered for doing things that are bold, daring, experimental and highly controversial. You're sure to win more than your share of enemies throughout your lifetime as a result of this tendency toward rocking the boat both in your professional life and your personal affairs. However, you'll also have more than your share of admirers in your life, because no matter what you do, you will always win people over with your energy and your positive spirit.

You may not know when you are young just where you are headed, yet you will have a sense that you're made for "great things" in some regard. Indeed, no matter what you do during your youth, and no matter how many mistakes you make, observers will feel that they are watching the development of something "big".

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.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 12
ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You're likely to have trouble today getting in touch with someone you've been thinking about a lot lately. Keep trying!
TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You may not be able to avoid

those who would be critical of you today, but this needn't result in any negative feelings. Keep things in perspective.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — A close friend may become more of a competitor than a supporter before the day is out, but this is likely to be true for only a short time.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — What's expected today is not likely to be the most interesting thing that happens. Be willing to surprise yourself and others.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — You're sure to be in the spotlight at least during a portion of the day, but there's no reason to behave in any way out of character. Be yourself!

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Style is everything today. You have a firm grasp of substance right now, so you can concentrate more on how things are "coming across" to others.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — You'll learn the difference between doing something right and stopping short of the mark. You'll understand a recent error as a result.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — You're likely to meet someone today who will figure prominently in your life on at least two occasions in the future. Get ready for a surprise!

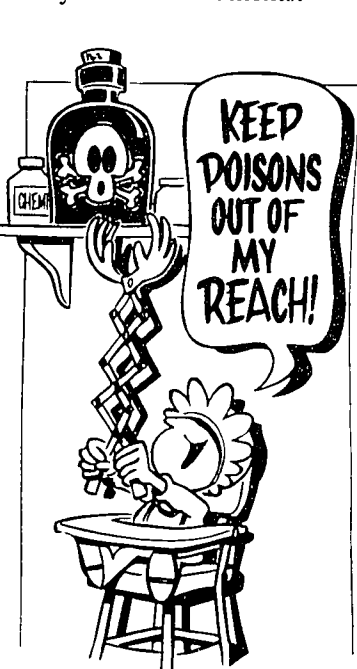
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You'll find yourself waiting, waiting and wait-

ing some more today for something that is unclear. When it comes, you'll know.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Don't let yourself be fooled by those who would have you believe that you cannot change things for the better. You can make a difference!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — A bargain is available to you and only you today, but you've got to act fast. You can't expect this offer to last forever!

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — This is a good day to take time out from your busy schedule to get back in touch with the way you're really feeling, even if only for a few moments.



CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Beasts of burden
- 5 Kapek robot
- 8 Alphabet sequence
- 12 Yes —
- 13 Yoko —
- 14 Twelve months
- 15 Sponsor
- 17 Appetizer
- 19 Middle Eastern nation
- 20 — food cake
- 21 Facilitate
- 23 Celtic
- 24 Quarterback Montana
- 26 Arizona city
- 28 — Play
- 31 Warhol ID
- 32 Cheering word
- 33 Roman 501
- 34 Set
- 36 Ms. Shore
- 38 Damp

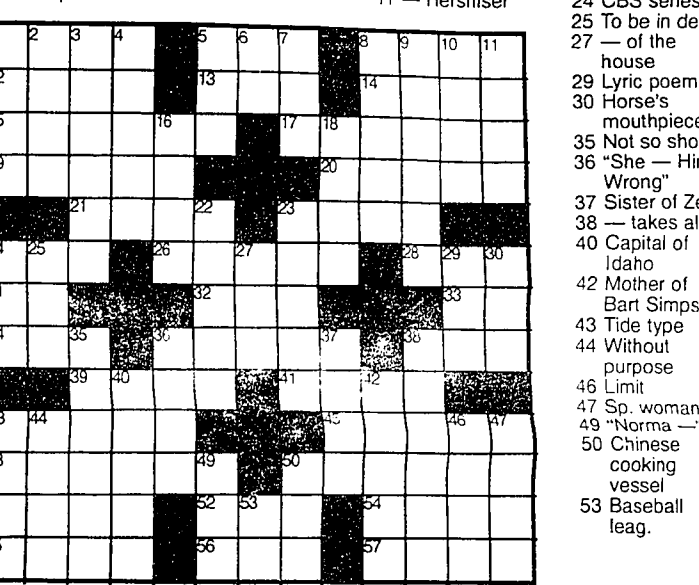
DOWN

- 1 Fumbler's exclamation
- 2 Aid in diagnosing
- 3 Main course at dinner
- 4 Water wheel
- 5 Man's name
- 6 NYC
- 7 Mythical bird
- 8 Redgrave, et al.
- 9 Thin Hebrew measure
- 10 Neck part
- 11 — Hersher's

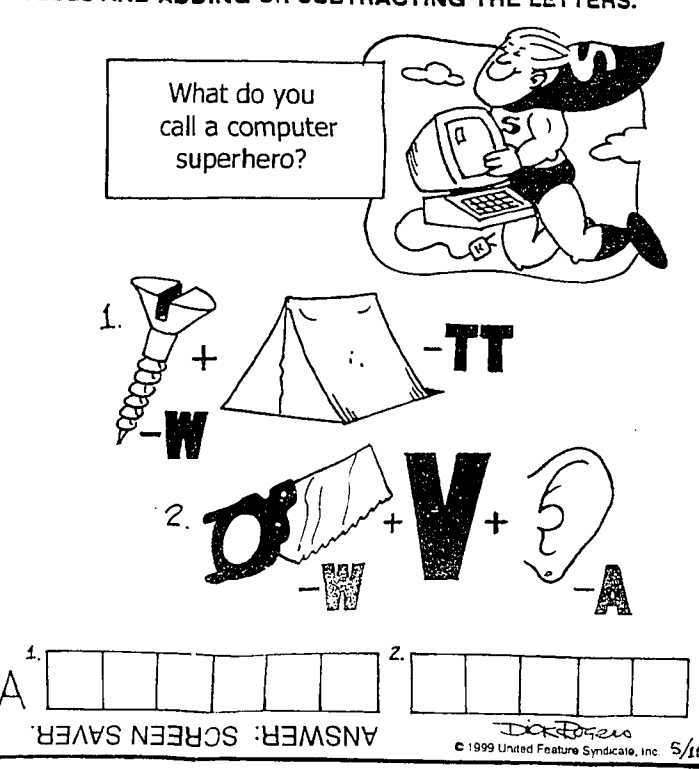
Answer to Previous Puzzle

GORES SAFER
WEERENT LLAMAS
TIREDAVIONAMAS
LAS EPODE SNA
ML ALLIE THEM
ADOPTED MOORE
PROS CAGE
LATIN REPASTS
HAIL DOLLS EW
ARCHALLE HAI
SO MILLIT BOSS
ANYONE SCORES
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Inoue captures Gunze Cup

INAGI, Japan (AP) — Japan's pro Yoko Inoue shot a one-under-par 71 for a six-under 282 total and won the 60 million yen (\$500,000) Gunze Cup World Ladies Sunday by one stroke.

It was the 27-year-old Inoue's second victory this season and fourth in her six-year career.

South Korean Se Ri Pak, who won two major titles last year as a U.S. LPGA Tour rookie, shot a 72 and tied for sixth place at 290 with Marnie McGuire of New Zealand

and four Japanese — Michie Oba, Kaori Higo, Shiko Oyama and Midori Yoneyama.

Inoue, who started Sunday's final round two strokes ahead of her fellow Japanese Yuki Fudo, carded four birdies and three bogeys on the 6,414-yard (5,837-meter), par-72 Tokyo Yomiuri Country Club course in the outskirts of Tokyo.

Fudo shot a 70 with four birdies and two bogeys and finished at 283.

Inoue received the first prize

money of 10.8 million yen (\$90,000) and Fudo collected 5.28 million yen (\$44,000) for second place.

"I tried the best, but I couldn't make good results," said Pak who carded three birdies and three bogeys on Sunday.

Yuka Irie shot the day's best score of 69 and tied for third place at 288 with Megumi Matsuo, who shot a 72 Sunday.

Natsuko Noro of Japan was fifth with 289 after shooting 73 Sunday.



Japan's Yoko Inoue holds up her trophy after winning the Gunze Cup World Ladies golf tournament at the Tokyo Yomiuri Country Club course Sunday. Inoue finished with a four-day tournament total of 6-under 282. AP

SML team...

Continued from page 28

Player	Team	AB	Hits	Bat/Ave.
James Soback	Aces	37	18	.486
Tony C. Camacho	Brewers	48	23	.479
Michael C. Guerrero	Pirates	41	19	.463
Peter B. Sablan	Pirates	41	19	.463
Bruce Norita	Glazers	37	17	.459
Ben Hocog	Aces	54	24	.444
Manny Evangelista	Glazers	41	18	.439
John Reyes	Pirates	48	21	.438
Ned Norita	Glazers	56	23	.411
Peter Tomokane	Brewer	50	20	.400
Ben Mesa	Brewer	46	17	.370
Inoske Yamada	Aces	55	20	.364
Manny C. Sablan	Brewers	47	17	.362
Mariano Sablan	Pirates	37	13	.351
Chris Palacios	Pirates	40	14	.350

Runs: (19) Tony Camacho, Inoske Yamada (18) Ben Hocog, Ben Mesa, Mike Guerrero (16) John Reyes.

Doubles: (8) Ben Hocog (7) Tony Guerrero (6) James Soback (5) Tony Camacho, Peter Sablan, Peter Tomokane.

Triples: (6) Ben Mesa (4) Tony Camacho, Mariano Sablan (3) Steve Coleman, John Reyes.

Home runs: (3) Tony C. Camacho (2) Mike Guerrero, Ned Norita, Ben Hocog, Steve Coleman.

RBIs: (19) Peter Tomokane, Ned Norita (15) Ben Hocog, Ben Mesa, Mike Guerrero.

Pitching leaders, based on 12 or more innings:

Player	Team	G	Inn.	ER	Hit	W/L	ERA
Chris Nelson	Aces	3	18	5	13	2-1	2.50
Peter Sablan	Pirates	6	27	9	30	3-2	3.00
Chris Aida	Aces	7	40.1	16	40	4-0	3.57
Tony Benavente	Pirates	5	23.2	11	25	1-1	4.18
Eddie Diaz	Pirates	6	22.2	12	28	1-1	4.77
Elmer Sablan	Brewers	6	52.2	28	75	5-1	4.78
Roy Celis	Brewers	5	20	12	31	2-0	5.40
John Paul Flores	Aces	6	40.2	25	45	3-1	5.53
Roy Magofna	Glazers	8	19	13	37	1-1	6.16
David Kapileo	Pirates	5	19.1	14	33	0-1	6.52

Strikeouts: (48) Elmer Sablan (41) Peter Sablan (39) John Paul Flores (33) Tony Benavente (28) Patrick Guerrero.

ICBL...

Continued from page 28

After halftime, GTE Pacifica's Ricky Itas relied on his experienced players to control the momentum of the ballgame.

Dado Vistal led GTE Pacifica with 24 points.

For STS, Mike Doodge had 20 points.

Saipan Water & Ice 92, AON Ins. 71

Saipan Water & Ice beat AON Insurance Huskies 92-71 in the first ballgame on Saturday. Brothers, Ric and Tom Alegre along with Abong and Peter Camacho led Saipan Ice throughout the

ballgame.

Camacho (Abong) led the boards as Alegre (Tom) provided the scoring attack with 29 points.

AON's Jess Dela Cruz had 20 points.

Wild Eagle 99, MDX 75

Wild Eagle defeated MDX on Sunday's final ballgame at the Civic Center.

With the aggressive playing of Jason Rafael who out-hustled his man Wild Eagle won easily over MDX.

Rockball...

Continued from page 28

four sets (juice-out) only if they win the fourth set with a total score of three more points than the opponent. If the winner of fourth set, does not lead by the three point margin, than overtime is called," said James Feger.

MHS's Lorna Ogumoro and Jennifer Samol were the ballgame's heavy hitters. Ogumoro scored two aces, one xunk, two kees and a goal for a 13 point total.

Samol added with two kees, and three goals, also for 13 points.

Three-way tie for lead in LPGA tour

By DOUG FERGUSON

DAYTONA BEACH, Florida (AP) — The U.S. LPGA Tour's Titleholders Championship, a tournament that almost didn't happen because of financial problems, has turned into one that might never end.

The third storm delay in as many days forced a Monday morning, back-nine shootout with Australia's Karrie Webb and Americans Becky Iverson and Chris Johnson tied for the lead at 14 under.

Iverson started the fourth round with a four-stroke lead over Sweden's Annika Sorenstam, but dropped two strokes under conditions that symbolized a bizarre final round.

She had to hit a tee shot in the driving rain just before the start of a 3 1/2-hour storm delay and almost lost the club out of her hand, the ball landing in an awkward position left of the greenside bunker. Then she bogeyed her final hole, No. 10, after she and Sorenstam pleaded with a rules official to stop play because of the darkness.

Sorenstam missed a 3-meter (10-foot) birdie putt on the 10th hole and remained one stroke back at 13 under.

"It was spooky out there," Sorenstam said. "I couldn't

even see my drive land on the ninth hole. I had a hard time seeing the ball in the rough. And all the putts looked straight."

Meg Mallon was at 12 under, with Kris Tschetter and England's Laura Davies another stroke back. Among those at 10 under was Rosie Jones, who won the Wegmans Rochester International last year when it had to be completed Monday.

What has been a marathon week now becomes a sprint to the finish. Play is to resume at 7:30 a.m. EDT (1130 GMT).

"Everybody has a chance," Sorenstam said. "It's going to be an exciting finish."

Iverson could have walked away with \$135,000 for her first victory in four years if lightning had not moved out of the area.

If the final group had not finished nine holes before darkness set in, the tournament would have reverted to 54 holes and Iverson would have been declared the winner. It had to carry over to Monday when she missed a 2-meter (6-foot) putt on the ninth hole and tapped in for par.

Still leading by one stroke, Iverson overshot the green on No. 10 and missed another 2-meter (6-foot) putt to finally lose her lead in the fading twilight.

Morales wins by TKO

By TIM DAHLBERG

LAS VEGAS (AP) — It looked like another easy night for Erik Morales. It turned into his longest title defense ever against a substitute who proved tougher than expected.

Morales knocked down Juan Carlos Ramirez four times and battered him for nine rounds Saturday night to make the sixth successful defense of his WBC super bantamweight championship.

Despite the beating, Ramirez was still willing to fight when referee Jay Nady called an end to the bout with the challenger sitting on his stool after the ninth round. He and his corner bitterly complained to no avail.

"I wish they would have stopped it sooner," Morales said. "He is very courageous but he took a very bad beating."

Morales, who had gone a total of only eight rounds in his three previous title defenses, appeared as though he would stop Ramirez early, too.

He knocked down Ramirez once

in the second round and twice in the third. But Ramirez kept fighting and stayed on the attack, surviving one more knockdown in the ninth round.

Although Ramirez protested, Nady said he had simply taken too many punches in the fight.

Ramirez, 122 pounds (55.3 kilograms), of Juarez, Mexico, was a substitute for Wayne McCullough, who was injured in training. He fell to 17-2.

Morales, 121 1/2 pounds (55.1 kilograms), of Tijuana, Mexico, remained undefeated in 33 fights, 27 of which have not gone the distance.

"I had to be careful," Morales said. "He kept using his head, butting me."

It was the sixth straight defense of the title that the 22-year-old Morales won in September 1997 from Daniel Zaragoza.

In a second 122-pound (55.3-kilogram) title fight on the card, Nestor Garza made a successful first defense of the WBA title he won from Enrique Sanchez on Dec.

12.

Garza was leading on all three cards when he battered Carlos Barreto with a series of punches in

the eighth round that finally prompted referee Mitch Halpern to stop the fight at 2:00 of the round.

Garza, 121 pounds (54.9-kilo-

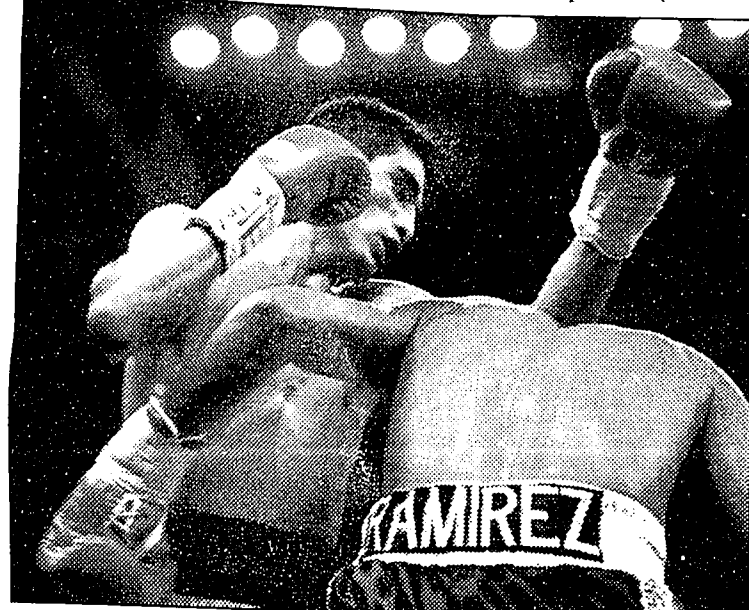
grams), of Mexico, improved to 36-1 with 28 knockouts. Barreto, 121 pounds (54.9-kilograms), of Venezuela, suffered his first loss to go to 12-1-1.

In an entertaining fight, Augie Sanchez used a devastating left hook to knock out former champion Jorge Paez of Mexico in the seventh round of a scheduled 10-round junior lightweight bout.

Sanchez dominated much of the bout against the colorful veteran Paez, finally stopping him with a three-punch combination that ended with a left hook that put Paez on his back at 2:26 of the seventh round.

Sanchez, 127 1/2 pounds (57.8 kilograms), of Las Vegas, improved to 22-1, while Paez, 128 pounds (58.1 kilograms), dropped to 62-13-4. Paez announced his retirement after the fight.

Earlier, Danny Romero, fighting for the first time in more than six months, made his return to the ring a successful one Saturday night with a 10-round unanimous decision over David Vazquez.



A view of stores along the diamond head side of Ala Moana Center is shown, as shoppers stroll through the newly-remodeled section in Erik Morales (left) looks at Juan Carlos Ramirez during the WBC super bantamweight title fight at the Las Vegas Hilton on Saturday. Morales knocked down Ramirez four times and battered him for nine rounds to make the sixth successful defense of his title. AP

Williams wins Italian Open

By VANIA GRANDI

ROME (AP) — Venus Williams always had the power. Now, with the French Open looming, it seems she has the patience as well.

For the second straight week and against the same opponent, Williams won a clay-court title — routing France's Mary Pierce 6-4, 6-2 on Sunday in the Italian Open.

And not even a host of on-court distractions — bees in the grandstand, ringing cell phones, car horns from a soccer stadium — could stop the 18-year-old American.

Supposedly lacking the finesse and deliberation for clay courts, Williams had plenty of both — along with 12 aces — against a player limited by a strained groin.

"It's exciting. I'm not sure I'm a clay-court specialist, though," Williams said. "You just have to play well, no matter what the surface is. I just always play to win."

Last week in Hamburg, Germany, Williams beat Pierce for her first clay title. She has won more than any other woman in 1999, with four WTA Tour titles to three for No. 1 Martina Hingis. Williams eliminated Hingis in

the semifinals and used similar tactics against Pierce, the 1997 champion in Rome.

Williams set up points, waiting for Pierce to err. She took few risks, anticipating the right moment to unleash her commanding strokes. She punished Pierce's pedestrian serve.

"When her first serve is on, she's tough to beat," Pierce said. "The thing about playing Venus is that she's powerful. If you give her short balls, you put yourself in a difficult position."

Add it all up — back-to-back titles, the victory over Hingis, a 57-minute rout of Russia's Anna Kournikova in the third round — and Williams figures to contend in Paris. The French Open, the only major on clay, starts May 24.

Williams lost to Hingis in the quarterfinals at Roland Garros last year. Williams' best Grand Slam showing is a spot in the 1997 U.S. Open final on hard courts.

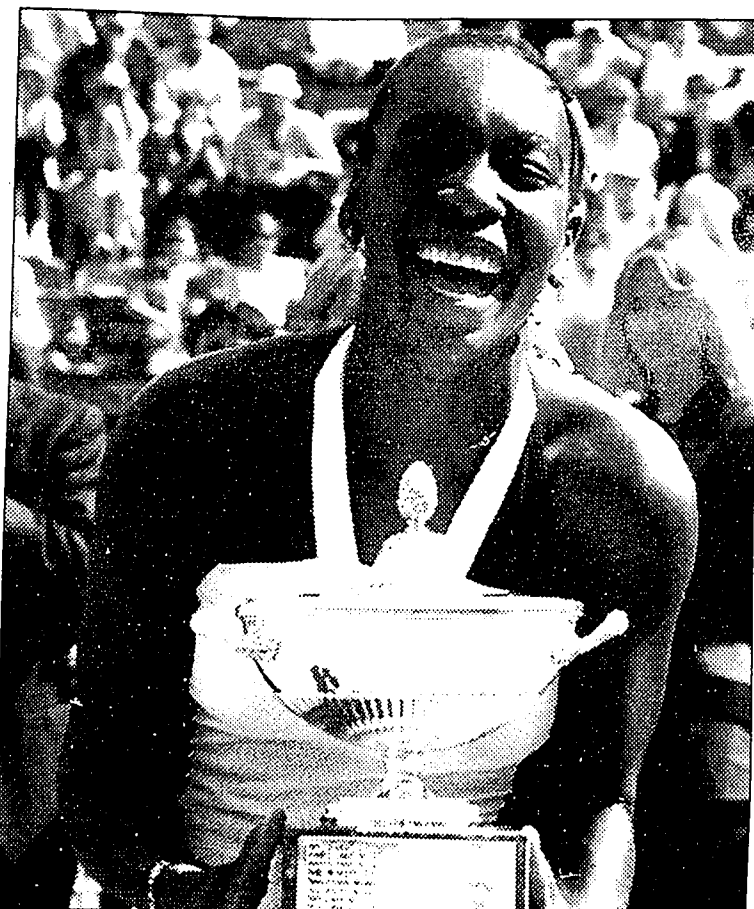
"My main problem on clay before was that I hadn't hardly played on it," said Williams, who lost to Hingis in the Rome final a year ago.

"I was learning some tough lessons, basically. ... My first year at the French Open, I lost to Nathalie Tauziat in the third round. If I played that match now, what a difference there would be."

She says her biggest adjustment to clay — used mainly in Europe — was getting used to the unsure footing. On Sunday, though, her biggest problem was the commotion.

In the first set, a swarm of bees invaded a section of the grandstand, sending fans scurrying or waving newspapers in defense.

Amid the fuss, Williams double faulted to give Pierce three break points, then double faulted again as Pierce tied it 3-3.



A view of stores along the diamond head side of Ala Moana Center is shown, as shoppers stroll through the newly-remodeled section in Venus Williams of the United States is all smiles as she holds her Italian Open trophy at Rome's Foro Italico after beating Mary Pierce of France, Sunday. Williams beat Pierce 6-4, 6-2. AP

Sampras draws tough competition in Rome

By HOWARD FENDRICH

ROME (AP) — Pete Sampras and the man who currently holds the No. 1 ranking, Yevgeny Kafelnikov, both were assigned tough routes through the Italian Open at Sunday's draw.

Sampras, seeded second behind the Russian, is coming off a four-week layoff because of a back injury and will certainly have his game tested at the \$2.4 million Rome tournament, which starts Monday.

The tournament features its strongest field ever, with 29 of the world's top-30 men entered. Sampras opens against Bohdan Ulihrach. The Czech is most effective on clay, but he knocked off Sampras on hard courts at Indian Wells, California, two years ago.

If he gets past that test, Sampras faces potential hurdles in the third round (Spain's Felix Mantilla, a French Open semifinalist last year) and the quarterfinals (Marcelo Rios, the defending Italian Open cham-

panion).

Rios briefly overtook Sampras last year as the world's top-ranked player, but the diminutive Chilean has battled a series of injuries since and his ranking has dropped to No. 8.

But Rios beat reigning French Open champion Carlos Moya in straight sets in the semifinals at Hamburg, Germany, on Saturday — a sign his smooth strokes could be back on track.

Kafelnikov, seeded first at the Foro Italico, ascended to the ATP's top spot despite losing his last seven matches.

Even if the Australian Open champion manages to stop that streak by beating Chris Woodruff of the United States in the opening round here, Kafelnikov's quarter of the draw includes 1997 French Open titlist Gustavo Kuerten, another former Roland Garros conqueror and three-time Italian Open winner in Thomas Muster, plus rising Russian star Marat Safin.

South Korea to represent Asia in Sydney Olympics

KUSANAGI, Japan (AP) —

South Korea will represent Asia in next year's Summer Olympics in Sydney, Australia, as it beat Japan 68-65 and won the 18th Asian Women's Basketball championships Sunday.

In an earlier match, Taiwan beat China 68-57 and placed third in the tournament. China was fourth and Japan placed second.

Playing at Kusanagi gymnasium in central Japan, defending champion South Korea, headed by Chun Joo-weon, led 37-30 at

half time.

Japan rallied to tie the score at 45-45 seven minutes into the second half on Taeko Oyama's two-point goal and free throw.

But South Korea again took the lead on a three-point goal by Yoo Young-joo.

With two minutes and 46 seconds left in the game, Japan took a 64-63 lead. It stayed ahead 65-64 until South Korea's Chung Eun-soon scored a two-point goal and a free throw, leading her team to victory.

Cepeda...

Continued from page 28

Roppull, Jacob Fagalmoon, Peter Yoramad, Randy Marino, Isamu Jones and Christopher Calimlim. The lone female, also from MIIS, was Betsy Cepeda.

Cepeda is a member of the CNMI National Weightlifting team. Jacob Fagalmoon has also made the team.

"They were very nervous. For almost all of them that was their first time ever to compete in front of an audience," said Mario.

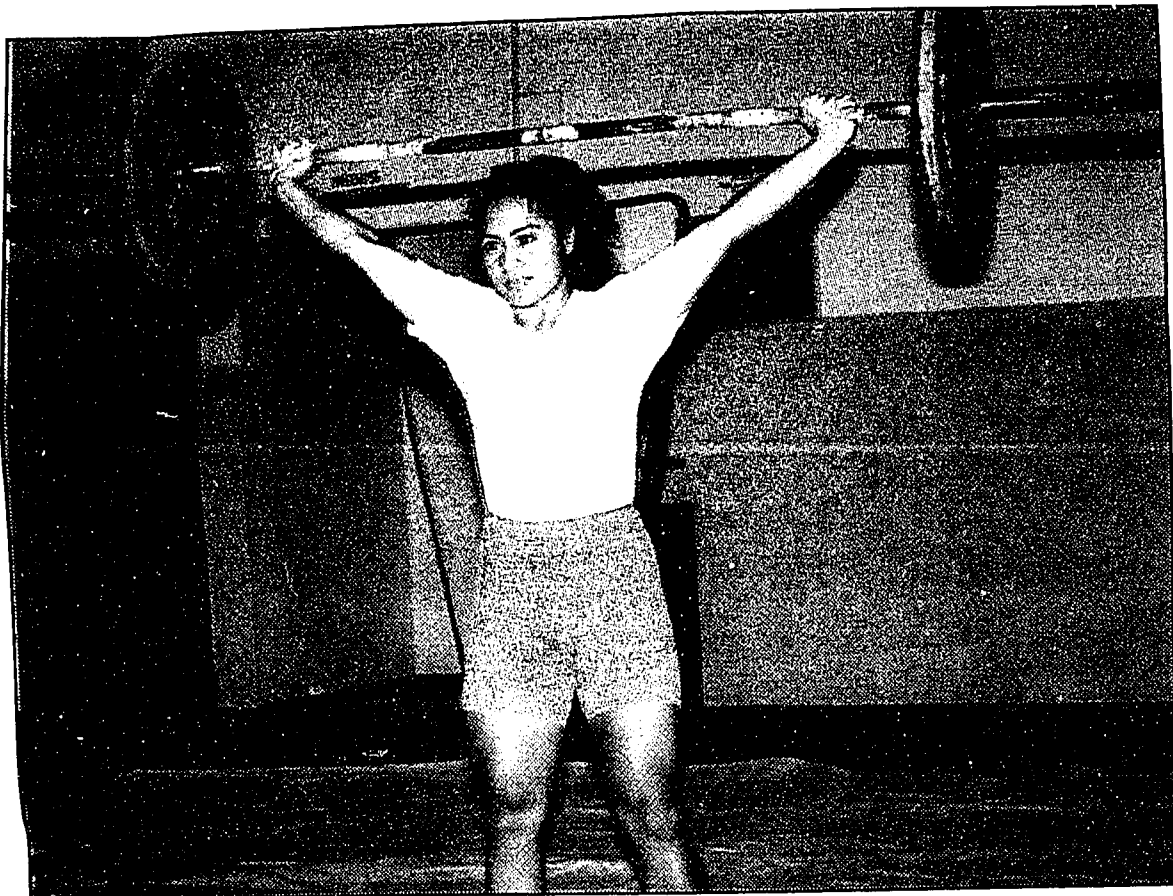
Mario may hold similar competitions prior to the SPG.

"They need to get used to performing in front of watchful eyes," added Mario.

As the SPG is less than 20 days away any further competition would need to be scheduled very soon.

SPORTS

Brewers shut out Pepsi



On her second attempt, Betsy Cepeda successfully lifted 55 kg at Ada Gym Saturday. Cepeda will compete in the SPG which starts May 29. Photo by Tony Celis

Weekend tournament to raise money for SPG baseball team

By Tony Celis

Variety News Staff

THE CNMI South Pacific Games' (SPG) National Men's Baseball team has scheduled a "softball tournament" to help raise funds for the team.

The tournament is scheduled

to on Friday, May 14 and continue until Sunday, May 16 at Susupe softball field.

Player waiver forms are now available at the DCCA office, at Ada Gym. The team roster will be due on Thursday.

Organizers Tony Rogolofoi and

Newman Techur are hoping for maximum participation from the public.

A meeting will be held Thursday to discuss the final preparations. Also to be discussed is the possibility of including a

Continued on page 26

Rocball All-Stars avenge early loss

MARIANAS High School All-Star rocball squad avenged an earlier loss to the CNMI Womens' Volleyball team, as MHS All-Star team defeated the National team in double overtime, with goals by Ruslyn Billy and Lorna Ogumoro, Saturday at Ada Gym.

The match was forced into overtime (o-kon) as neither team was

able to "juice out" the other.

National team won the first two sets 12-3 and 12-2. All-Stars won the third and fourth sets, 14-2 and 15-11.

At the end of four sets National team had 37 points, MHS All-Stars collected 34.

"In rocball a team can win in

Continued on page 26

ICBL/Shark basketball round-up

GTE Pacifica 91, STS 81

GTE PACIFICA won its second ballgame in the Inter-Commercial Basketball League (ICBL) by defeating STS 91-81, at the Civic Center basketball court, Saturday.

GTE held on to a nine-point lead at the half.

Continued on page 26

SML team standings

1999 Saipan Major League baseball, regular-season team and individual (final) standings:

Team	Win	Loss	Pct.	GB
Miller Lite Brewers	11	1	.917	—
U.M.D.A. Aces	9	3	.750	2
Stevedore Pirates	5	7	.417	6
Kautz Glass Glazers	3	9	.250	8

Continued on page 26

By Tony Celis

Variety News Staff

THE MILLER Lite Brewers opened the 1999 Saipan Major League round of playoffs by shutting out Pepsi Saipan, 19-0 before a large crowd, Friday night at Francisco Palacios Baseball Field.

Ton Camacho hit a fourth inning grand slam giving the Brewers an 11-run lead.

The only other player to hit a playoff grand slam was Tony Satur, in the Seabees-4 vs. Datsun Royals game in 1985.

Camacho went 4-for-5 at bat, with four-RBIs.

Connecting for triples were Bob Lizama and Ben Mesa. Lizama's

triple came in the first inning as he lead the Brewers' batting lineup. Mesa hit his triple in the third inning, as the Brewers rallied for six runs.

Joe Guerrero pitched five innings, for the win, fanning two, walking two and gave up just two hits.

He was relieved in the fifth inning by Roy Celis. In his two complete innings, Celis struck out two and gave up two hits.

The losing pitcher went to Bill Camacho, who gave up 16 hits for 15 runs, seven of those earned, struck out four batters and walked one, in his four innings at the mound.

Cepeda: Good chance at SPG medal, says coach

By Tony Celis

Variety News Staff

THEY LOOKED nervous, and they were as, it was later learned from weightlifting coach John Mario.

Over the weekend a group of Hopwood Jr. High and high school students from MHS and Tinian gathered at Ada Gym for the First All-Schools Weightlifting competition.

From Hopwood Jr. High competed ten boys and two girls.

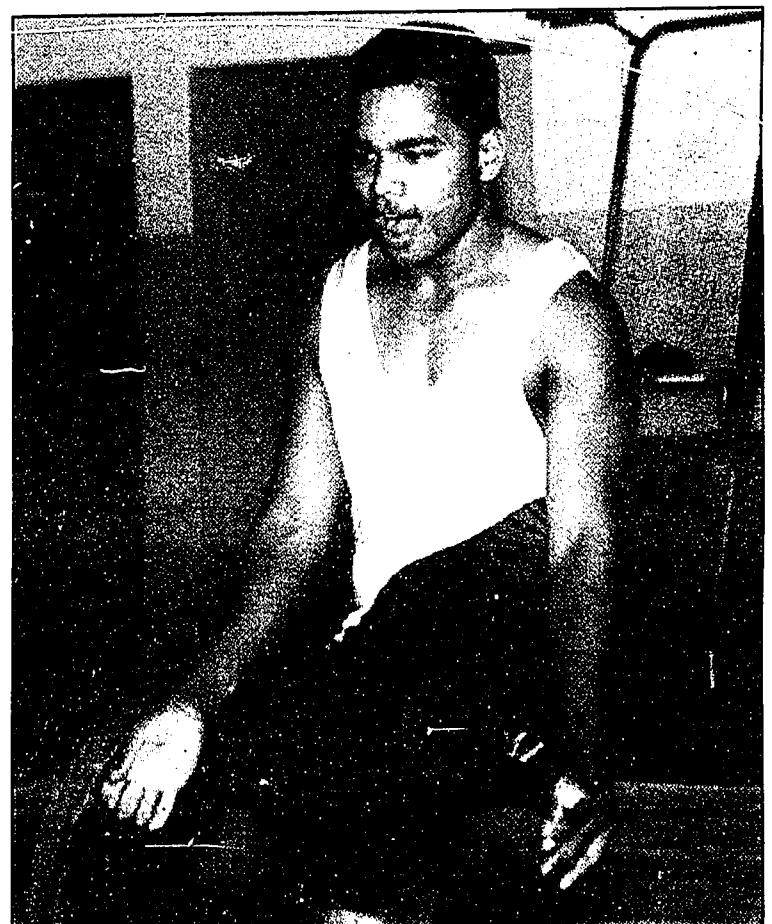
Exact body weight were not available so the junior high con-

testants were all placed in the 56kg weight class.

The junior high boys are William Cabrera, Jon Cabrera, Billy Crisostomo, Osaky Keiler, Tyrone Mafnas, Don Mendiola, Angel Raqueno, Dennis Reyes, Welmon Mad and Bill Benaventé. The two girls are Ilayza Matagolai and Akemi Degrazia.

From Tinian in boys division are Alvin Castro and George Cabrera. From MHS, also in boys division were Alvance

Continued on page 26



Jacob Fagalmoon failed in his first attempt at 60 kg. He was successful in his next try. Fagalmoon, a Yapese, has made the CNMI National Men's Weightlifting team. Photo by Tony Celis

Marianas Variety News & Views

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