

Speaker looks forward to wage hike proposals

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

HOUSE Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Saipan) yesterday expressed hopes the Wage Review Board can soon come up with proposals for a higher minimum wage.

"We are looking forward and I hope to see an increase in the minimum wage being recommended by the Wage Review Board," said Benavente, in an interview.

Benavente said the Board, an inter-agency body dominated by the private sector, has been looking for funding to finance a study that is expected to accurately figure out whether there needs to be a wage hike or if the current minimum level — \$3.05 an hour — should remain until such time that the commonwealth's economy rebounds.

"We've allowed the adminis-



Diego T. Benavente

tration and the Wage Review Board to complete a necessary review... in which it is requesting at this time. They are looking for some resources and funding to allow them to do a little bit more study before it makes recommendations to the Legislature... a more realistic recommendation whether to increase (wages) or leave it at status quo," said Benavente.

Continued on page 30

Gov't seeks to pay 189 landowners

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

GOVERNMENT is looking at issuing a special bond to finally compensate some 189 landowners a total of about \$80 million for having portions of their properties taken for public use.

Repayment of the bond may be taken from the Marianas Public Lands Trust, which, according to Rep. Karl T. Reyes, has an estimated \$60 million to its account, as there is no money allotted under the Fiscal Year 2000 budget for the purpose.

Reyes noted that since a sizable portion — \$15 million — of the \$60 million to be initially used to finance capital improvement projects will be spent for the Kagman homesteads' power,



Karl T. Reyes

water and sewer lines, MPLT may be tapped to use some of its funds meant to develop homestead sites to pay back the bonds.

"We can address the repayment (of the bonds) through the land leases," said the chair of the House

Committee on Ways and Means. "Instead of using land leases for homestead development, (we can use it to pay the bonds) because when we pump in \$15 million in Kagman, that is going to help a lot of this homestead areas and we won't be needing that much money again for the development (homesteads)," Reyes explained.

The legislator said he is set to meet with Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's financial adviser Michael S. Sablan, Finance Secretary Lucy DLG. Nielsen and lawyers of the affected landowners within the week "so that we can address the issue and the possibility of using money from land leases" to pay the affected people.

Continued on page 30

Young tries to block move to divert Covenant money



Don Young

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

CONGRESSMAN Don Young (R-AK) has asked Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio to immediately submit a finalized list of capital improvement projects (CIPs) to help lobby Congress against moves to take

away \$9 million from the \$11 million infrastructure grant for the CNMI in the coming fiscal year. According to Rep. Karl T. Reyes (R-Saipan), NMI critics in Congress plan to have the money given to the U.S. Virgin Islands instead.

Reyes, in an interview with reporters yesterday, said problems could arise in implementing CIPs that have been lined up should Congress successfully deduct the amount that was supposed to be for the Northern Marianas.

"We will have more money than we wanted to match, but (will) not there," said the Chair of the House Ways and Means Committee.

Reyes nonetheless expressed hopes Young will be able to block

Continued on page 30

Gov't to close Tanapag cemetery

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

THE GOVERNMENT yesterday said it will be closing the Tanapag public cemetery until measures have been put in place to cut the risk of exposure from polychlorinated biphenyl.

The Office of the Governor said the temporary closure will remain in effect until members

of the United States Army Corps of Engineers have secured the cemetery by encapsulating the affected area.

Army engineers are expected to arrive on the island within this week to undertake the temporary barrier project.

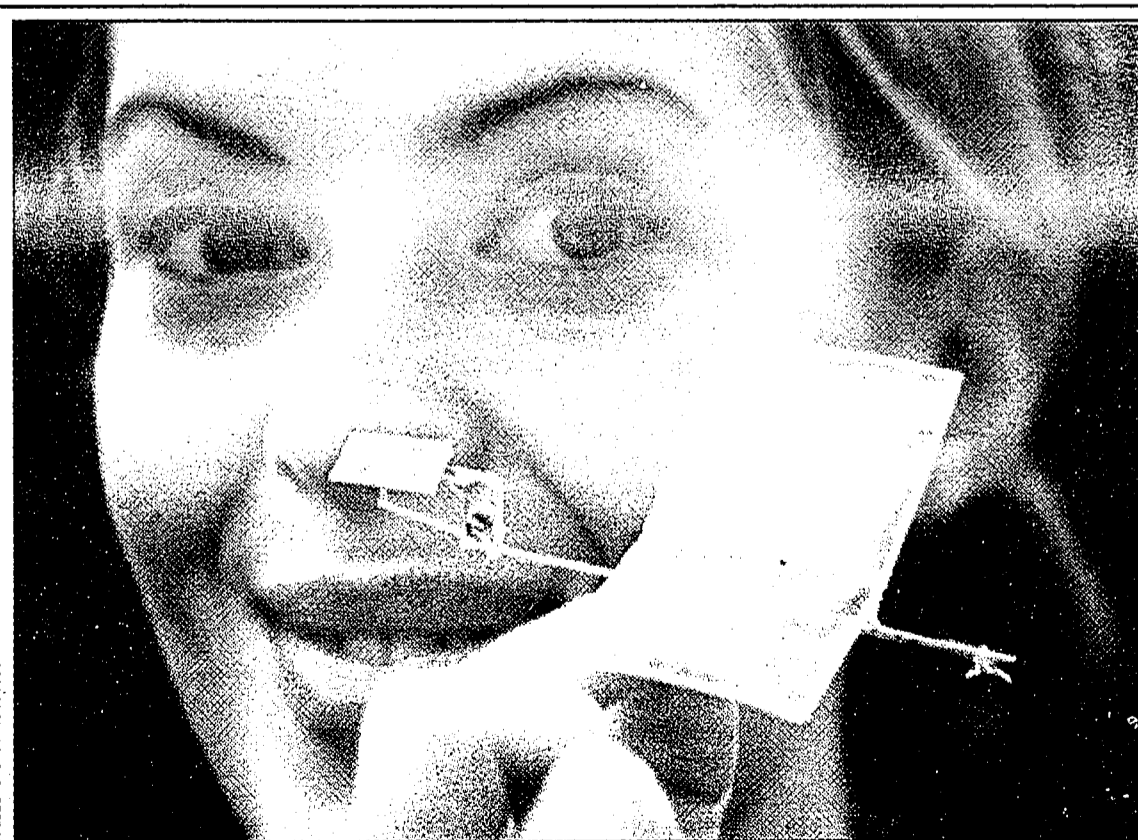
However, as the engineers were not yet around and with All Soul's Day coming in just few days, the

government has decided to close down the cemetery until the temporary protection has been installed.

The Corps is planning to install a temporary cap of plastic and crushed stone on the cemetery's affected area as a temporary remediation.

In closing the cemetery, the

Continued on page 30



The world's smallest remote-controlled indoor model gliding plane is presented by model Sarah in Munich, Germany. The tiny model measures 109 millimeters in length. Its constructor Dirk Brunner hopes for an entry into the Guinness book of records. AP

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE FEDERAL government should "seriously" look at appropriating money to reimburse the Northern Marianas for the cost of accommodating citizens from the Freely Associated States if it really wants to live up to the commitment it made to help the islands, said Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

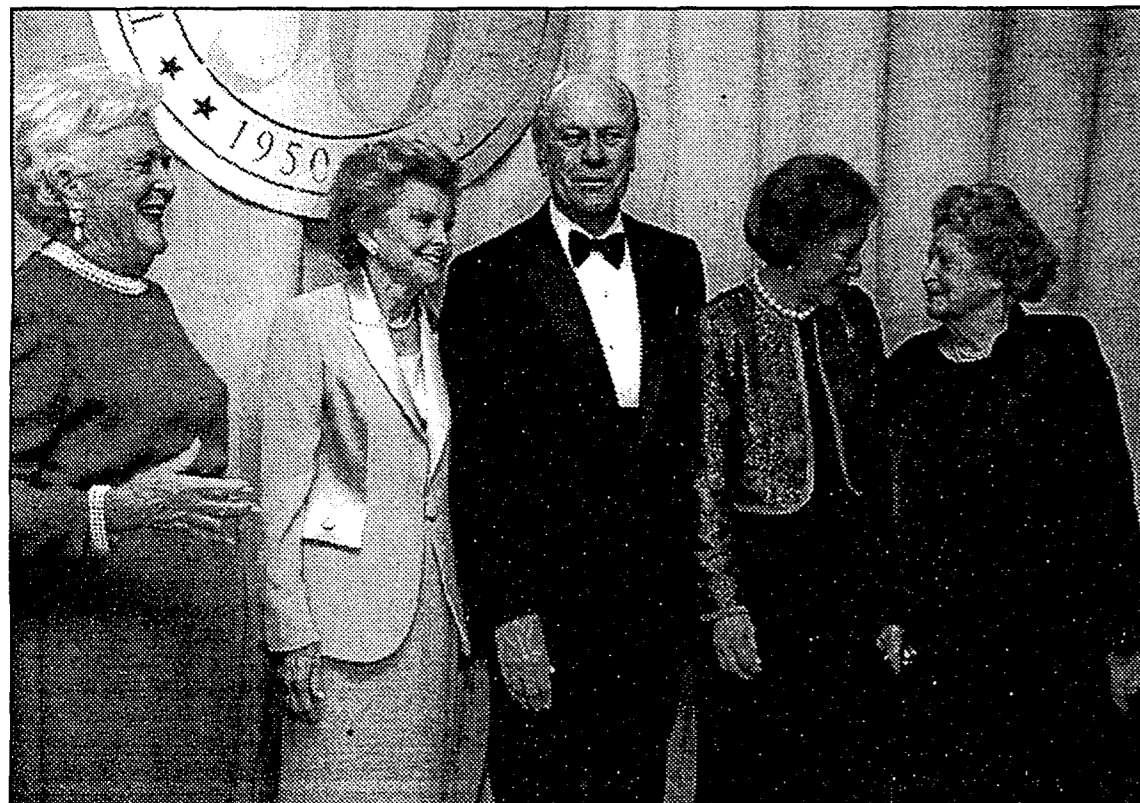
"It is costing us a lot of money for Compact impact. We are also submitting our expenses. We are providing how much it is costing us (to accommodate FAS citi-

zens)," said Tenorio in an interview with reporters yesterday.

"I think they made a commitment the territories will get Compact impact money. If they are really (intent on paying us back), then they should take the issue seriously and help the territories, especially Guam, the CNMI and Hawaii," the governor added.

Insular Affairs Director Ferdinand Aranza recently visited the Northern Marianas during which he said there currently is no "specific" money to reim-

Continued on page 30



Former first ladies (from left) Barbara Bush, Betty Ford, Rosalynn Carter and Lady Bird Johnson pose with former president Gerald Ford at the 50th anniversary celebration of the Charles A. Dana Foundation Tuesday. The four women, along with Nancy Reagan who was unable to attend, are honored for their lifetime contributions to health and education. AP

Puerto Rico fears conflict with US

SAN JUAN, Puerto Rico (AP) — Supporters of U.S. statehood for Puerto Rico fear the Spanish-speaking territory's relationship with the United States is being jeopardized by a dispute over the U.S. Navy's bombing exercises on populated Vieques Island.

The lead statehooder, Gov. Pedro Rossello, has joined those opposing the exercises, adamantly advising a Senate panel last week that the Navy's bombings on the small island, suspended since an April accident killed a civilian security guard, have reached "the point of no return."

The Vieques cause has tapped a tremendous reservoir of Puerto Rican nationalism, becoming so popular that opposing it could have been political suicide for Rossello's party ahead of an election in 2000.

But to make Puerto Rico the 51st state, Rossello's New Progressive Party needs more than local votes. It must convince mainland Americans—particularly Congress—that Puerto Rico is ready. And that's getting harder.

"We are very concerned," pro-statehood local Sen. Orlando Parga said. "Lately we have been the topic of news projected to the mainland that gives the impression that Puerto Ricans are renouncing their identity as American citizens."

To correct this, Parga is trying to organize a "pro-American march" next month.

The bad times for statehooders started in June 1998, when the sale of the Puerto Rico Telephone Co. to a GTE-led consortium sparked anti-American protests.

Among other setbacks: • The Federal Emergency Management Agency was loudly denounced for using English speak-



Pedro Rossello

ers when it set up aid hotlines after Hurricane Georges.

• A nonbinding referendum 10 months ago resulted in a defeat of statehood.

• A series of corruption trials revealed colossal mismanagement of federal funds.

• This year's Fourth of July was marred by massive anti-American demonstrations over Vieques.

• Puerto Rican militants pardoned last month were welcomed here as heroes even as President Clinton endured criticism for having set "terrorists" loose.

"But nothing seems to symbolize the growing nationalist consensus better than the canonization of boxer Felix 'Tito' Trinidad," commentator Ed Morales wrote in The Nation magazine of New York.

After Trinidad's welterweight victory over Oscar de la Hoya last month, tens of thousands greeted him here with Puerto Rican flags, then angrily forced the removal of a U.S. flag from his stage.

"The masses of Puerto Rico have decided, once and for all, to be Puerto Ricans first," wrote J.M. Passalacqua in The San Juan Star.

Statehooders insist they can keep their separate national identity even as a U.S. state. "Independence is not a goal we can keep their prosperity as an inde-

pendent state. And supporters of the 47-year-old commonwealth status quo say they can—and should—keep "the best of both worlds."

Under commonwealth, the 4 million residents of Puerto Rico are U.S. citizens who receive \$11 billion in federal funds annually without paying federal taxes.

But there are disadvantages, chiefly that Puerto Ricans cannot vote for the U.S. president and congress, which exercise ultimate sovereignty here and can—because Puerto Ricans serve in the military—send them to war.

Statehooders portray Vieques, where 9,300 people live in close range of the live bombings, as another disadvantage. Washington would never treat a state this way, they say.

Navy officials have countered that the Vieques training is unique and crucial in today's era of precision-bombing warfare, and U.S. citizens should be more conscious of the need to contribute to the national defense.

Puerto Rican leaders have rejected a Pentagon-proposed compromise for a five-year transition period while the Navy looks for alternatives—presenting President Clinton with a difficult choice between Puerto Rico and his defense establishment.

For Puerto Rican statehooders, such a collision course "is a risky proposition," admitted Progressive Sen. Kenneth McClintock.

"We can be perceived as being anti-American. We can be perceived as not being willing to share the national defense, and as seeing the relationship as a one-way street with money flowing down and nothing flowing up."

US not ready for quakes

DENVER (AP) — The ability of the United States to respond to major earthquakes in its cities is hindered by an out-of-date network of seismic instruments, according to geology experts.

In contrast, a new digital seismic network in Taiwan alerted officials to the scope of its magnitude 7.2 earthquake on Sept. 21 while the ground was still shaking.

Geologists who met in Denver on Tuesday for the annual convention of the Geological Society of America said Southern California is beginning to install digital monitoring equipment along some of the most notorious quake-prone faults that crisscross the region's underbelly.

The upgrade was prompted by the Northridge earthquake in 1994 that killed 57 people and caused more than \$20 billion in damage.

But similar monitors are not yet being installed around San Francisco, where geologists predict a 70 percent chance of a major earthquake occurring within the next 30 years.

Currently, most of the country is monitored by arrays of mechanical monitors that read a variety of seismic waves generated by earthquakes. The information is relayed to computers for analysis, but the digital systems use computerized sensors that are faster and more accurate.

Scientists said communities typically wait until after a natural disaster—what they describe as the "teaching moment"—to make improvements.

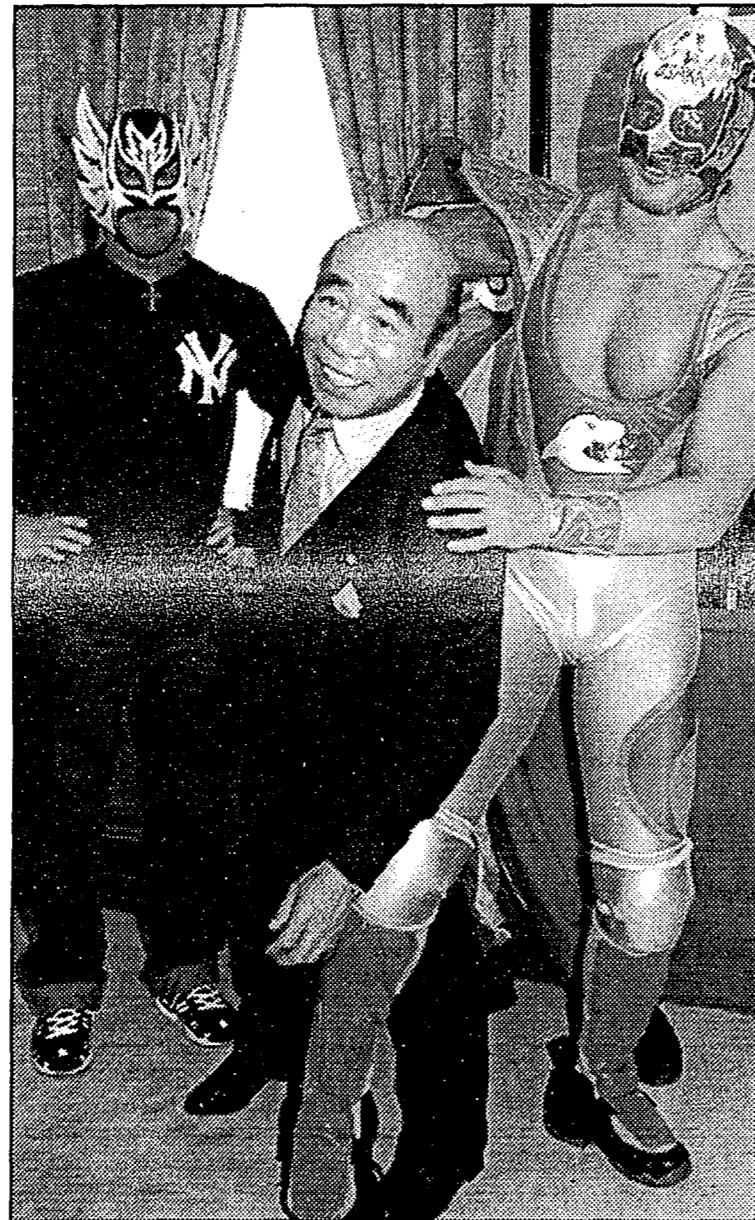
"If it wasn't for the Northridge earthquake, Los Angeles probably wouldn't have any of the technology in place," said Mary Lou Zoback, chief scientist of the Western Earthquake Hazards Team for the U.S. Geological Survey.

Congress is considering authorizing \$170 million to install a digital network in quake-prone cities across the United States, including the Pacific Northwest and the Midwest.

The measure has been approved by the House of Representatives. Even if it wins Senate support, the entire network would not be in place for another five years or more, scientists said.

Following the 1995 earthquake in Kobe, Japan that killed 6,000 and caused \$100 billion in damage, Japan and Taiwan installed dense arrays of digital seismic monitors in their countries.

The monitors cannot prevent damage by themselves, but provide public safety officials with a near-instant report of where an earthquake is most severe, or if less-severe shaking is occurring in an unstable area prone of landslides.



Osaka Gov. Knock Yokoyama (center) engages in a mock stunt with the masked Japanese pro wrestler Super Delin (right), as Tsubasa watches on at left during the wrestlers' courtesy call on Yokoyama in Osaka, western Japan. AP

Banking sector sees promise

By Haldee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

WHILE a number of business establishments have been hurting from the regional economic turmoil, the CNMI's banking activities have shown considerable growth, according to Bank of Hawaii's October 1999 CNMI Economic Report.

Deposits increased by 8.7 percent to \$522.8 million in 1998,

from \$418 million in 1997.

During the first quarter of 1999, bank deposits were pegged at \$529.4 million, much better than the \$517.2 million registered on the first quarter of 1998.

Loans, meanwhile, posted a healthy 27.3 percent in 1998.

Wali M. Osman, BOH's regional economist and author of the report, pointed out, however, that the large number of

non-resident workers having bank transactions may have given an inaccurate picture of the CNMI banking performance in recent years.

"Since most foreign workers deposit their wages, even if temporarily, in local banks, this large work force, most of which is employed, may have distorted CNMI's banking activity," Osman said.

The BOH report also stated

that the average standard of living on Saipan has not actually improved from 1990 to 1999 because of an increasingly larger number of non-resident workers at the lower end of the pay scale.

Commercial loans jumped 22.9 percent in 1998 and reached their peak of the decade.

Consumer loans were up 16.3 percent and real estate loans an incredible 72.6 per-

cent in 1998.

The CNMI's gross business revenue, saw a 14.3 percent decline in 1998 as a result of the year's dramatic decline in tourist arrivals.

Bank of Hawaii's October 1999 Economic Report provides an overview of current economic condition and an analysis of factors that are likely to influence the CNMI's economic future.

Gutierrez endorses Cing



Carl T.C. Gutierrez



David M. Cing

GUAM Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez has thrown his support on Tinian Sen. David M. Cing's (D-Tinian) re-election bid, saying the lawmaker is "committed heart and soul to ensuring that Tinian and all of the CNMI have a future that is bright and full of hope."

"In order for us to survive in the new global economy, we must have elected leaders who

put regional focus first. Sen. David M. Cing is a leader who understands the challenges that lie before us and has the courage and vision needed to embrace them," said Gutierrez, in an open letter to Tinian's electorate.

Gutierrez described Cing as a "strong and solid voice for Tinian" who has the "ability to work... on a wide range of diffi-

cult and complex issues."

"Although he has a remarkable ability to forge consensus and... build legislative compromise, he is always willing and able to stand his ground and fight for what he believes in when his principles are at stake—this is real leadership in action," said Gutierrez.

The Guam governor said he "admires" Cing's dedication to standing by his word."

"I have often had to rely on him during important and sensitive discussions and negotiations with the federal government, the White House and other political leaders in Washington D.C. His experience, good humor and wise counsel have always come through when I needed them most," said Gutierrez.

Cing is running against Rep. Jose Hocog in the coming November elections. (DD)

Froilan fights to compel gov't to pay for his legal expenses

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

FORMER Governor Froilan C. Tenorio said he will take appropriate action to compel the CNMI government to pay his attorney's fees in fighting the \$12.4 million court ruling issued against him for "mispending" public funds.

Tenorio in his declaration asked the Superior Court to postpone the hearing on his motion for reconsideration until the issue pertaining to his right to government compensation for legal fees is resolved.

"I do not have the substantial financial resources to pay for the cost of my legal defense for actions taken in my capacity as governor of the CNMI," Tenorio said.

The former governor said that last Oct. 19 Assistant Attorney General L. David Sosebee informed him in writing that the Attorney General's Office (AGO) would no longer continue its representation of him.

Sosebee also told him that

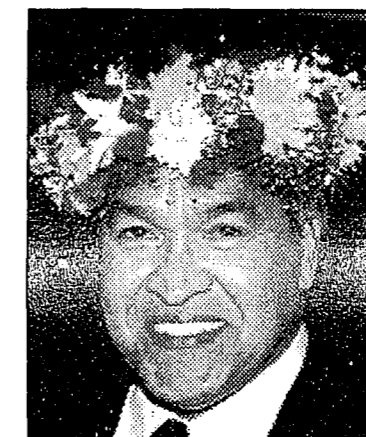
the government would no longer accept any responsibility for paying for his private legal representation in the case, Tenorio said.

Tenorio explained that he contacted several attorneys, but each of them has either requested a substantial retainer's fee or claimed that he would have a conflict of interest in representing him.

"In view of the high cost of legal representation, I have no choice but to move to stay reconsideration and to postpone the hearing on reconsideration...." he said.

According to the law office of Tim Skinner which is representing Tenorio only in the legal representation matter, the complexity of the issues and the extent of the enormous potential liability confronting the former governor necessitate that the reconsideration motion be taken off-calendar.

Tenorio in an earlier interview stated that he has hired Skinner as his own attorney because he can't trust the AGO



Froilan C. Tenorio

anymore to represent him in the case.

Tenorio reportedly wanted to replace Assistant Attorney General Robert Goldberg as his attorney in the case, which had the Superior Court holding him accountable for breach of fiduciary duty and abuse of power in connection with the appropriations and expenditures of public funds.

Lawyer Jeanne Rayphand sued the former chief executive in 1994 for alleged illegal reprogramming and expenditure actions.

PSS Food Services face 'operational constraints'

By Marian A. Maraya
Variety News Staff

THE PUBLIC School System (PSS) Food and Nutrition Services (FNS) Program is presently experiencing "operational constraints" due to additional schools that have recently entered the program, Administrator Jesus Dlg. Sanchez said yesterday.

"I must admit that it is straining our operations because there are more schools that have enrolled with the program, and there are also new schools built, and this provides us more coverages," said Sanchez.

But the administrator said FNS is doing what it can, to monitor the program's implementation in all three islands.

"We have four people monitoring for Saipan, two on Rota, and two on Tinian," he said.

The PSS program is not only limited to catering public schools. Several private schools have also joined the bandwagon.

"We monitor the private schools that enroll with the program such as St. Joseph and Grace Christian Academy on Tinian.

"On Saipan, we are now also servicing private schools—Sister Remedios, Saipan International School, Mt. Carmel, and Eucon," he said.

Abayari to submit to drug rehabilitation

By Eric F. Say
Variety News Staff

PHILIPPINE movie actress Anjanette Abayari will be turning herself in to officials of the Department of Mental Health and Substance abuse today to undergo drug rehabilitation.

"AJ," as family and fans in the Philippines commonly refer to her, tested positive for "ice" prior to pleading guilty on possession charges, after residue drugs were found in her luggage.

Abayari was caught after a routine search at the Guam International Airport on an arrival flight from Manila.

The actress was supposed to perform at the grand opening of a nightclub in Harmon, earlier this month.



Anjanette Abayari

Upon hearing of the film star's arrest on drug charges, Philippine President Joseph Estrada initially barred Abayari from returning to the country.

Later, Estrada lifted the ban. Continued on page 27

CHC resumes mammograms

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

THE COMMONWEALTH Health Center's (CHC) mammogram program has been given a three-year certification by the American Radiological Society after almost four months of temporarily not providing the service.

This means the mammogram service resumes.

The certification took effect on Oct. 19, according to Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez. Mammogram is a special x-ray examination of the breasts.

Despite the certification, however, Villagomez said the Department of Public Health (DPH) still



Joseph Kevin Villagomez

needs to expedite the replacement of the lone mammogram machine bought way back in 1989 to ensure better service to the patients. "We have a three-year certifi-

cation. But we are still working on purchasing a new mammography machine because ours is already 10 years old. The next three years will probably be the last three years of the life of this machine," Villagomez said during yesterday's press conference.

Funding source for the purchase of a new mammography machine, however, is yet to be ascertained. "We will find it," said Villagomez.

Mammogram service has been temporarily unavailable at the local hospital since June 1st of this year.

"There was just a change in the procedure. It got much more strict but now we are certified,"

said Villagomez, adding that DPH will no longer send people somewhere else to receive mammogram service.

Villagomez earlier said the delayed certification also stemmed from bureaucratic error.

"We were given the wrong materials to make the test image. We used it as directed, and sent it back. When it was received, the American College of Radiologists said it was the wrong one," he said.

The health chief explained it is under U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA) regulations to require mammogram machines to undergo regular testing.

The absence, or temporary

absence, of mammogram services at CHC is considered a huge impediment to the community due to a high rate of breast cancer among women in the CNMI.

DPH said Chamorro women are three times more likely than white women in the U.S. to die of breast cancer because of late diagnosis.

While CNMI has a 76.8 breast cancer death rate, U.S. only has 21.6 rate.

Mammogram is the best way to detect early breast cancer in women over 40 years of age. It can detect cancer that is as small as a grain of rice and cannot be felt ordinary means.

DPH moves to address curb increase of hemodialysis patients

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

FOR THE last five years, the CNMI's yearly growth rate in the number of hemodialysis patients is 20 percent, much higher than the U.S. national average of 10 percent.

In 1996, for example, there were only 44 patients on dialysis. In a period of three years, the number of patients increased to 72.

Despite this, however, the Department of Public Health (DPH) has been able to maintain a good treatment rate for patients on dialysis as the California-based Trans Pacific Renal Network (TPRN) recently bestowed a recognition to the Commonwealth Health

Center's (CHC) Hemodialysis Unit headed by Dr. Hilmer Negrete.

This was disclosed during yesterday's press presentation of the TPRN recognition.

The recognition makes CHC's Hemodialysis Program one of the top programs in keeping up with the core indicators to ensure proper care of hemodialysis patients.

This has been the first time DPH has exceeded national average for patient treatment rate.

Moreover, approximately 65 percent of the total number of hemodialysis patients in the CNMI since 1980 are diabetics, exceeding the U.S.' figure of 35 to 40 percent.

Health Secretary Joseph Kevin

Villagomez said DPH has never stopped in preventive education to put a halt on the increasing number of patients on dialysis. With or without the first TPRN recognition, he said DPH continues to provide the best possible care to patients on dialysis.

"There has been a lot of hard work. Dr. Negrete and his staff and the whole department did not do it to get recognition but mainly to ensure we have the best possible care to our people. But in that light it is always nice to get a recognition award from a key organization," said Villagomez.

Negrete said the whole Hemodialysis Unit staff had put too much efforts to address the needs

of patients on dialysis.

"We've had a great improvement... The levels are over the national standard," said Negrete, but added that prevention programs are much more important.

DPH needs to report to TPRN every three months for the status of their Hemodialysis program, and the patients' conditions.

"Diabetes prevention is very important. Our number indicates that about 65 percent of patients on dialysis since the establishment of the program in the CNMI in 1980 is diabetics. In the States, it's about only 35 percent to 40 percent," said Negrete.

To meet the demands of the growing hemodialysis patient

population, DPH's Hemodialysis Unit underwent at least three expansions since 1980. Villagomez said the expansion of the Hemodialysis Unit will meet the growing number of patients in the next five years or more.

DPH also purchased a new reverse osmosis system equipment and hired key medical staff to get Medicare certification for the unit.

CHC's Hemodialysis Unit currently has 14 units.

Earlier, the California Pacific Medical Center (CMPC) said some 24 CNMI patients with end-stage renal disease (ESRD) are candidates for kidney transplant operations in California in one or two year's time.

Man caught with cocaine, LSD at airport is charged

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE ATTORNEY General's Office yesterday filed charges against a man who was allegedly found in possession of cocaine and lysergic acid diethylamide (LSD) at the Saipan International Airport.

Makoto Ibuka, a Japanese national, was charged with two counts of illegal possession of a controlled substance.

Assistant Attorney General Marvin J. Williams stated in the complaint that the 53-year-old Ibuka was found in possession of cocaine and LSD last Aug. 21.

No other details were given in the complaint.

The Superior Court summoned the defendant to appear and answer the charges on Nov. 1.

Court documents showed that prior to the arrest, Ibuka, an incoming passenger, approached the inspection counter no. 9 at the airport last Aug. 21 at 4:30 p.m.

One of the Customs officers inspected the defendant's black pants and discovered a small clear plastic zip-lock bag containing white powdered substance suspected to be illegal drugs.

A field test on the substance later found to be presumptive positive for cocaine and the other for LSD, court papers said.

PSS: No early bus pick up

By Marian A. Maraya
Variety News Staff

THE PUBLIC School System (PSS) has scrapped a proposed measure to move the school bus waiting time 30 minutes earlier than the original time set due to safety concerns raised by parents and PSS officials.

The proposal was earlier looked at as a possible solution to the increasing tardiness of students due to the delay of students' pick up.

"The concern is on the safety of the kids. Our normal procedure here is the kids have to

be at the bus stop at 6:30 a.m. I tried to move it down to 6 a.m. because we're not meeting the target time.

"There's daily tardiness of kids because each bus has to make 3 routes, back and forth...and that's a lot considering the distance especially with the island wide school," Food Services Administrator Jesus Dlg. Sanchez said.

Sanchez, who has also been tasked by the education commissioner to temporarily oversee PSS' busing services, said the delay of pick ups is a result of the limited busing fleet

that the school system has right now.

Currently, PSS has some 16 buses, four of which are non-functional.

Sanchez said the four service buses are being fixed and are awaiting parts from off island to get the vehicles going.

School bus drivers operating the 14 buses are even covering more routes than normal, said Sanchez.

Furthermore, the 14 operational school buses are reportedly not on their best conditions.

"Majority of them have outlived their life span...and we're trying our best, with our two skilled mechanics to get broken buses back on the road as quick as possible," he said.

Sanchez expressed that the suggestion to move the pick up hours 30 minutes earlier was designed to ensure that bus drivers cover more students, and get the kids to school before the bell rings.

"By moving down to 30 minutes early, the child would be required to be at the bus stop no later than 6, and the system is concerned with that because

of the issue of child safety especially as we bus the elementary kids first," said Sanchez.

Another main concern is on the bus waiting areas where Sanchez pointed out that some of the bus stops are without built-in shelters, which is a problem when it rains.

"The bus drivers really look out for the children's safety...and we're trying our best.

"Hopefully, we're anticipating three additional fleet this coming December, one for special education and two regular buses," he said.

Food stamp recipients slightly up in number

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

THE NUMBER of food stamp program recipients increased by mere one percent in September, or from 4,987 in August to 5,064 last month, the Nutritional Assistance Program (NAP) disclosed yesterday.

Saipan remains to account for most of the food stamp recipients with a total of 4,630, while Rota had 283 and Tinian had 151.

The NAP report, released by Director James Kintol's office, also showed a marginal increase in the amount of benefits paid. From \$381,510 in August, the figure went up to \$386,618 in September.

A two percent increase in the number of food stamp cases reconciled was also seen, or from 1,488 in August to 1,517 in September.

Chamorro continue to com-

prise the bulk of food stamp recipients with 2,621, followed by Carolinians with 1,147 and Filipino nationals with 556.

The federally-funded food stamp program is geared towards assisting the CNMI's nutritional needs, and to ensure the absence of malnutrition in the islands.

Although funded by the U.S. Department of Agriculture, the CNMI's NAP is being operated and managed by the local government pursuant to a memorandum of understanding between the two governments.

With the federal court's recent ruling issuing a decision declaring that the CNMI government is not required under federal law to provide food stamp benefits to citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the number of recipients is expected to decline.



Japanese tourists seal their wedding vows in a traditional Watabe wedding yesterday at the Hyatt Regency. Photo by Marian A. Maraya

Special Ed teachers see a big challenge in diverse studentry

By Marian A. Maraya
Variety News Staff

CNMI Special Education teachers constantly face everyday challenges in dealing with students, a difficulty which is attributed to the diverse type of students they handle in the schools.

This according to Doty Kelly, a visiting Technical Assistant from the Center on Disabilities Studies (CDS) of the University of Hawaii.

Kelly further said that the diversity in the student population is not only limited to racial or ethnic differences.

"There's also diversity in terms of the needs of the children. And with this growing diversity of the student population, it makes it even harder for the teachers," Kelly said in an interview.

A new special education grant which CDS and the Public School System (PSS) are currently concocting is projected to provide some answers to some of these con-

cerns.

With the completion of the five-year Personnel Preparation Grant, CDS is set on assisting PSS in coming out with a modified version of the old program which will focus on training personnel in special education, and at the same time create new ways by which schools can serve all children more effectively, including children with disabilities.

"So it's more of a systems change, systems reform, and it's also going to be looking at the compliance issues that CNMI PSS has, in meeting the needs of children with disabilities...and we are going to work on those issues and also strive to provide quality education to all kids, including kids with disabilities," said Kelly.

The federal government awarded 22 grants of such nature to applicants all over the States last year. But this year, because of the limited funding, the government is

only open to seven recipients for the state grant, said Kelly.

"So it's even more competitive this year. But we believe that CNMI, given its eligibility does have a good chance of getting it. And so we're currently working with the State of Hawaii since they got an award last year and we helped write that grant," she said.

"We're hoping that we can write a good grant and gather enough data here this week to show that CNMI that has a great need in this area," she added.

The deadline for the application is on Dec. 15, 1999.

Meanwhile, having worked with CNMI for the last 15 years, Kelly admits to seeing a great improvement in the CNMI instructional program provided for kids with disabilities.

"CNMI has provided leadership across the whole region of Micronesia in providing inclusive services to kids," she said.

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

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

ALL DIGITAL SOUND DOLBY EX DTS
THURSDAY, OCTOBER 28, 1999

STIGMATA 4:30 - 7:15 - 10:00pm	R
Blue Streak 4:45 - 7:00 - 9:30pm	PG-13
Lake Placid 5:00 - 7:00 - 9:45pm	R
Notting Hill 4:30 - 7:15 - 10:00pm	PG-13
Deep Blue Sea 5:15 - 7:45 - 10:30 p.m.	PG-13
For the Love of the Game 7:30	PG-13
Three Kings 5:00 - 7:30 - 10:15pm	R
Ekis 4:45 - 10:15pm	R

24 HOUR SHOWTIME: 234-9000

Worker fined, but allowed transfer

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

AN GUEST worker who was involved into an employment twice with an expired entry permit has been fined by the Division of Labor.

The order was issued by Labor Hearing Officer Jerry Cody against Edilberto Carino over an administrative complaint lodged against the latter.

Cody however, agreed to let Carino stay in the NMI and work with Misamis Construction (Saipan) Ltd., his new found employer.

A record of the administrative

complaint stated that the foreign worker was employed with B and V Enterprises from January up to December 1998, although his permit is only valid up to November.

On March 1999, the respondent received a 15-day authorization from the director of labor to seek transfer and find another employer.

On May 1999, despite possessing no valid permit, Carino reportedly worked with a certain Engineer Alfredo Camarillo.

During the actual hearing, the Division of Labor manifested no disagreement over Carino's wish

to legally seek an employer as long as he would pay a total of \$1,000 fine for the illegal act.

Barrie Ladd, a representative of the Misamis Construction testified that their company is ready to accommodate Carino.

Cody ordered the construction firm to immediately file a labor application for Carino, including his other necessary paper.

If the employer fails to meet the regulations, the hearing officer said the worker will be repatriated at the company's expense.

Also, the construction firm should pay Carino a \$500 penalty prior to the repatriation.



Children take time to pose for the camera while playing at one of the rooms of the newly-opened Multi-Disciplinary Response Team Center in Capitol Hill. Photo by Haidee V. Eugenio

FORUM

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

JACK ANDERSON and JAN MOLLER
WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

CRACK

WASHINGTON — A controversial program to decrease the number of children born addicted to crack is sparking both cheers and cries of genocide. Called CRACK (Children Requiring a Caring Community), the California-based group pays crack-addicted women and men \$200 to be sterilized or go on a long-term birth-control method.

At this date, 86 women have accepted the money and the birth control, 59 have opted for the surgery. While hundreds of men have responded to the billboards located in California and key cities like Minneapolis and New York, none have as yet actually been sterilized.

The nonprofit group has been around for two years and has received handsome funding from people like Dr. Laura Schlessinger (who has donated both \$10,000 and plenty of air time to the group) and bigger donations from businesses and individuals like Aldous Huxley, the author of "A Brave New World."

"We get checks for \$10; we get checks from very wealthy people, too. We have received sustained attention for the last two years from people from all walks of life. We don't have a problem with money," Barbara Harris, the organization's founder, told us. Harris has no idea what the annual operating expenses are or what kind of intake the group has seen this year.

Harris, the adoptive mother of four crack babies, tells us she doesn't take a paycheck for her nationwide labor, which is to "put a chapter in every major city in the country and a billboard in every town."

She acknowledges that her program is controversial, including the recent firestorm in Oakland, Calif., when a CRACK billboard was pulled down by an angry crowd. The crowd accused Harris' group of racism and attempting to neuter the poor.

Federal sterilization statutes have been on the books since 1979 that require informed consent and explanation of contraceptive alternatives, but there appear to be no other legal roadblocks to CRACK's program.

"It is not like we drag women off the street and force them to be sterilized," Harris told us. The women are sent literature to read, they make their choice, and CRACK picks up the medical costs and cuts a check for \$200. "What is ironic," Harris says, "is that we have nothing to do with the decision, but critics don't trust a crack-addicted woman to make a decision about whether or not to be sterilized. But she is in a position to be a mother? It is ridiculous."

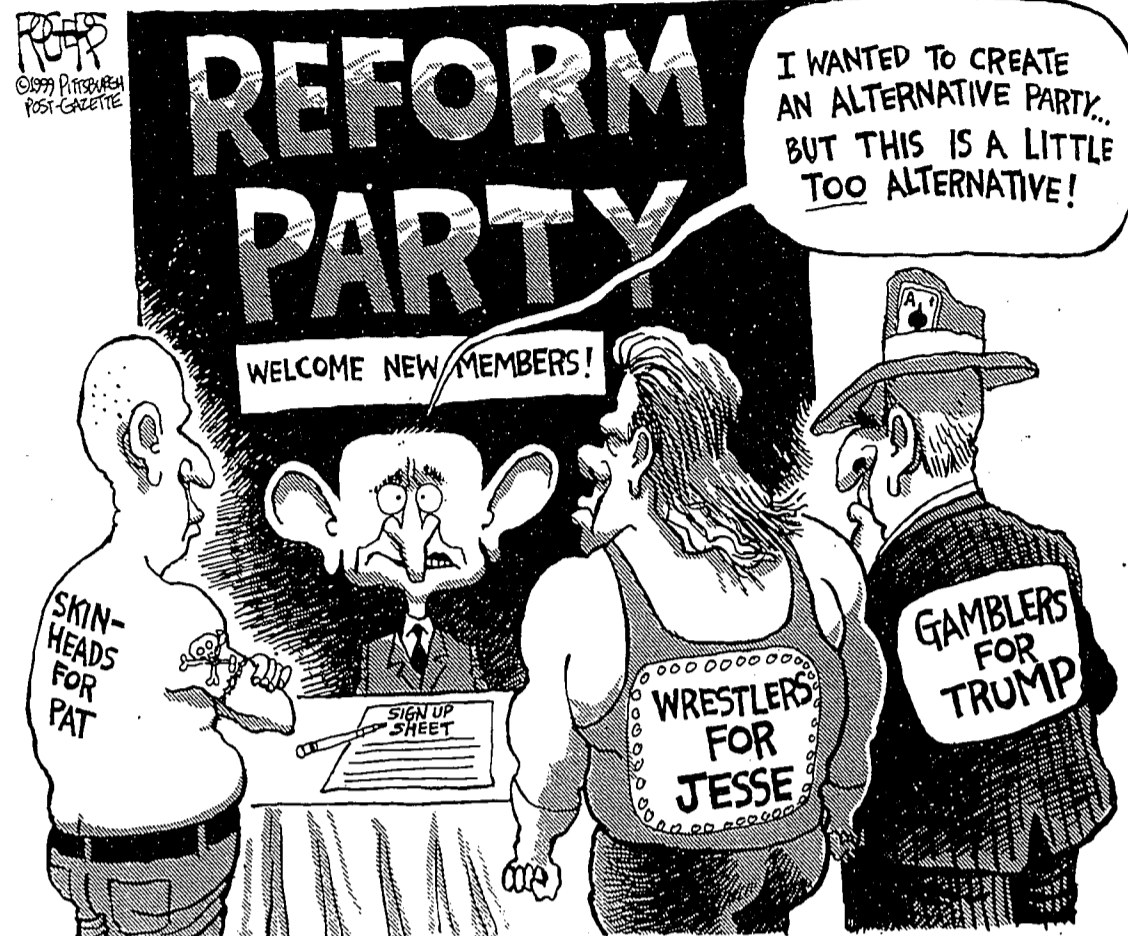
Or is it? The idea of paying people for mutilation may or may not be illegal, depending upon the interpretations of various federal, state and local laws, but it certainly should give us pause. After all, to the extent that the sterilization is irreversible, it amounts to a life sentence for a drug user. This is all the more interesting when considered in the context of Harris' own admitted drug use.

However, a serious problem does exist. Of the 86 women who participated in the CRACK program, 37 are Caucasian, 34 are African-American and 15 are Hispanic. The great majority of these women are from California. Those 86 clients had a combined 622 pregnancies among them. Of those pregnancies, 232 were aborted, 390 were brought full-term and of those births, 64 died and 240 are in foster care.

Between 1992 and 1996, 12,338 crack babies were born in Los Angeles alone. And of the babies that are taken from their mothers to be raised by foster parents, only 25 percent are reunited with their birth parents, meaning that 75 percent of crack-addicted mothers never recover sufficiently to care for their children.

Harris pushed for legislation in 1995 to make it a felony crime for women to bear a crack-addicted baby. A California state senator drew up the law with her, providing a provision for forcing the crack-addicted mothers to participate in a long-term birth-control program. The measure was struck down.

Clearly, the problem needs to be addressed, but paying people for sterilization cannot be the answer. As one women's advocate said, "The essence of this campaign is profound hatred against poor people. It presupposes that addicted poor women have no redeemable qualities and their children have no contribution to make."



COMMENTARY

In defense of the Commonwealth

By Benjamin T. Mangiona
Mayor of Rota

A POTENTIALLY explosive constitutional case is now before the United States Supreme Court. Commonwealth unity is at risk.

A ruling adverse to our Covenant would deny U.S. Congressional power for custom made political arrangements. Covenant promises collapse. Claims to a "unique" self-government end.

A ruling against our Covenant would radically change the balance of Commonwealth political power. Separatists' movements may emerge. A cry for new political status negotiations may echo.

The right of indigenous land ownership, Article XII, could be history.

Torres v. Sablan challenges the composition of the CNMI Senate. It takes an ax to our Covenant and Constitution to allow three Senators for each island.

Litigants seek re-apportionment of the CNMI Senate on one man, one vote principles. Saipan ends with eight Senators. Rota and Tinian share one senator.

In May of this year, a three-judge-court held that Congress exercised lawful authority when it agreed to NMI negotiators' demand for a federal-style Senate.

The United States Supreme Court could disagree. It could say one man, one vote is a fundamental right in the Commonwealth. If so, say good-bye to the unique Commonwealth which has been the pride of this generation.

If Torres v. Sablan succeeds, the political deck is reshuffled. Tinian and Rota get a single card. International statecraft will no longer be a Congressional prerogative.

The United States, if it were to honor its treaty obligations under the Trusteeship Agreement, had no choice but to grant the Northern Marianas the Senate arrangement desired by its people.

Torres v. Sablan would plow under the foundation of political promise that made the Commonwealth possible.

And sadly, if one man, one vote is fundamental, then surely reserving land ownership based on race will also take the ax. Article XII falls into the fire.

It's no secret that some people favor a dismemberment of Tinian and Rota influence in the Senate. Don't be tempted to this. Failure to defend one part of the Covenant will mean loss of other parts all hold dear.

Resistance to Torres v. Sablan is in all our interests. Unity is needed.

The CNMI House and Senate affirm union. In a Joint Resolution both chambers declare Torres v. Sablan a direct challenge to the Covenant. Elected leaders from Saipan agree that the case strikes a blow at the heart of the Covenant.

"Disintegrating its very foundation and vitiating the fundamental principles, premises, and mutual trust on which it was grounded."

The legislature calls for defense of the present Senate: "Because of the critical public interest of this case and the potentially dramatic impact it would have on the legislature and the basic constituent document of the Commonwealth, the Covenant."

In the mid 1970s, the voters of Saipan, in the Covenant plebiscite, overwhelmingly approved a bicameral legislature with the federal-style Senate. Then Saipan voters decisively ratified our CNMI Constitution, requiring equal representation in the Senate for each island.

The federal-style senate was a sine qua non for the formation of the Commonwealth. It was a compromise between the larger and smaller islands. It averted a deadlock which had threatened to abort the birth of the Commonwealth.

Don't abandon our Covenant. Speak out against Torres v. Sablan. You can be sure Rota and Tinian won't be the only losers. Indigenous land ownership and our jury trial system are also on the chopping block.

Don't let these litigants tear down with a lawsuit what you built with your vote.

An anti-Covenant ruling by the Supreme Court may begin a stampede to the courts to challenge other controversial parts of the Covenant.

Litigants embolden by a "fundamental rights" declaration will challenge indigenous land ownership. Such a movement would destroy years of work, in and out of court, to settle to cloud on CNMI land titles.

The adverse impact on indigenous claims and the inevitable blow to CNMI economic security, demand that all people, all island, unite to support the Covenant.

Please don't think this case just affects Rota and Tinian. It affects your Commonwealth up and down the line.



Where America's Day really begins

GUAM is reportedly gearing for a big celebration to welcome the millennium under its "Where America's Day Begins" campaign. We heard that the Philippines and other countries around the world too will have their own grand events to greet Y2K. But why is it that we haven't heard anything about CNMI-style millennium activities? There is something special to Year 2000 because the present generation of the population around the world are going their first and last time to witness the millennium celebration. Before the next one comes, we are all gone. In other words, this is a once in a lifetime global event.

Our leaders in the tourism, business community, and government should at least look at capitalizing on such event. Our neighbors are saying: "Welcome to Guam where the U.S. day begins." But it's no longer the case. Although 120 miles a distance, CNMI is further east by three degrees than Guam. Given the International Date Line, we are also about 15 hours in advance of Washington D.C., for example. So this is really where the day begins for the U.S. Maybe its either we are short of financial resources or simply lack of foresightedness to put something together—a grand-slam celebration to attract tourists not only from Japan but from around the world.

To say CNMI will be included in a special package tour that will enable some 200 tourists to welcome and experience the new millennium twice is not enough. There supposedly more. Let's say if you're from the U.S., you can celebrate the millennium here today, then you just go cross the international date line and again you celebrate the millennium. That's a historical moment. You can go down the history with one of the few people who celebrate the millennium twice. It's going to take a great deal to put something together. We should have planned earlier to come up of some sort of *Mardi gras* type of celebration. Maybe some people would think that's a crazy idea. But put that into a positive attitude. We can foresee that we can generate revenues from that. That will surely help our ailing economy. In addition, that will also contribute in terms of advertising CNMI around the world as a tourist spot.

To realize the *mardi gras* type of excitement is simple enough. We just bring in professional dancers or the people who can coordinate in such kind of event. We may bring in, for example, dancers from Brazil if we want a real Brazilian style of festivities. Or we take dancers from the U.S. and other various countries. And just what like the Marianas Visitors Authority did last year, there shall be a food concession at the American Memorial Park. And the grand finale will be fireworks and things like that. We bring in performers from other countries side by side with our local entertainers to amuse the people and tourists alike.

Our friend told us that we used to have here this *skota* during Christmas and New Year celebrations. By *skota* means the families of some households build fire outside their homes. They bake *bonelos* from yam. The guys are dress up like women and put lipsticks on while the women are wearing attires for men. They go from house to house and they would dance with the homeowners. The homeowners in turn, would pass out *bonelos* and everybody have a good time. That was long time ago. That custom or culture is long dead. Perhaps, it was the local way of *mardi gras*.

That real *mardi gras* is something that we have never done here before. It's something that we can add to our year-long community activities. And who knows if that is successful, maybe we can make it an annual event. It's just like one of the July 4th parade, but instead of having CUC utility trucks or whatever, Beach Road is going to be lined up with costumed merry-makers. Let's begin where the July celebration starts at Cristo Rai Church. People would then dance all the way to the American Memorial Park. As soon as the Bell Tower strikes at 12 midnight or New Year's Eve the fireworks would go on. And the dancing continues with loud music to welcome the millennium. Then perhaps, we ask the military to have their three logistic ships out there to do their own fireworks. But with more than 60 days to go, do we still have time to realize such grand event? Well, it's too late unless somebody is willing to commit a large amount of money. Or unless somebody is willing to take a shoot of it, example the local business sector or the government.

ANALYSIS

Japan election sked may spell bigger debt

By Linda Sieg

TOKYO (Reuters) — Japanese ruling politicians, faced with the certainty of a general election in the next 12 months, are scurrying to woo voters with economic policies - and risking a bigger government debt burden into the bargain.

The result, analysts say, will spell more political pressure on the Bank of Japan to ease its already hyper-loose monetary policy to help foot the electioneering bill.

Japan's tripartite ruling coalition agreed on Monday to go ahead with the launch of a planned public insurance scheme for nursing care for the elderly, but said it would consider suspending plans to collect premiums from the public to help pay for the scheme.

Policy-makers were meeting again on Tuesday to figure out how long the suspension would last, domestic media said.

"The only thing in ruling politicians' heads at the moment is the election," said Muneaki Shindo, a political science professor at Rikkyo University in Tokyo.

Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi's ruling Liberal Democratic Party (LDP) holds a majority in parliament's Lower House and his new three-party mega-coalition has a lock on the Upper House as well.

But a Lower House poll must be held by October 2000 at the latest, and with many voters believed wary of the new ruling bloc due to the presence of the Buddhist-backed New Komeito, the LDP will be hard pressed to hold on to a majority by itself.

"Few analysts are expecting the LDP to win a majority on its own and if it gets fewer than the 240 seats it won in the 1996 election, Obuchi will be in trouble," Shindo said.

In a clear sign of election priorities, the LDP is pushing to scuttle a ban on corporate donations to individual politicians that was supposed to take effect from January 2000, although coalition partner New Komeito wants the ban to begin as planned.

Foremost in voters' minds are likely to be the twin questions of whether the nation's long-sought economic recovery stays on track and how much pain they will be forced to suffer as firms cut payrolls and investment to boost profitability.

In an effort to soothe such worries, ruling politicians are wrapping up details for a stimulus package worth over 10 trillion yen (\$95 billion), to be funded partly by an extra budget for the fiscal year to next March, to be enacted in a parliament session which starts on Friday.

Policy-makers are juggling the political pressure to beef up public spending in the budget to lure votes with concerns about an over-supply of government

bonds which could push up long-term interest rates and thus deal the recovery a blow.

Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Tuesday declined comment on the budget's size but added it seemed to be growing apace.

Politicians may also be tempted to inflate the initial budget for 2000/2001, starting next April, but could wait and see if another extra budget is needed next autumn, just before going to the polls.

Budget bulge aside, ruling politicians have long admitted that forcing voters to pay for the elderly nursing care scheme - although a must for Japan's rapidly ageing society - would throw cold water on their election prospects if implemented as planned.

Worries about extra government bond issuance to fund the premium gap - estimated at around 1.6 trillion yen if the suspension lasted a full year - pushed up Japanese government bond yields on Tuesday morning. The yield on the 217th 10-year JGB at 1.945 percent at midday, up from 1.895 percent on Monday.

Smaller firms and their workers, which form the backbone of Japan's economy and its electorate, clearly top the list of political priorities.

Officials have hinted that about two trillion yen will be allotted for small and medium-sized firms in the extra budget in addition to a minimum 3.5 trillion to be spent on infrastructure.

The government has also pledged to expand an existing loan guarantee for small and medium-sized firms by 10 trillion yen, allow more firms to be eligible, and extend the programme for another year to March 2001.

Optimists hope politicians will forge ahead with structural changes to foster new growth ventures and labour mobility while bailing out existing firms and soothing restructuring pain.

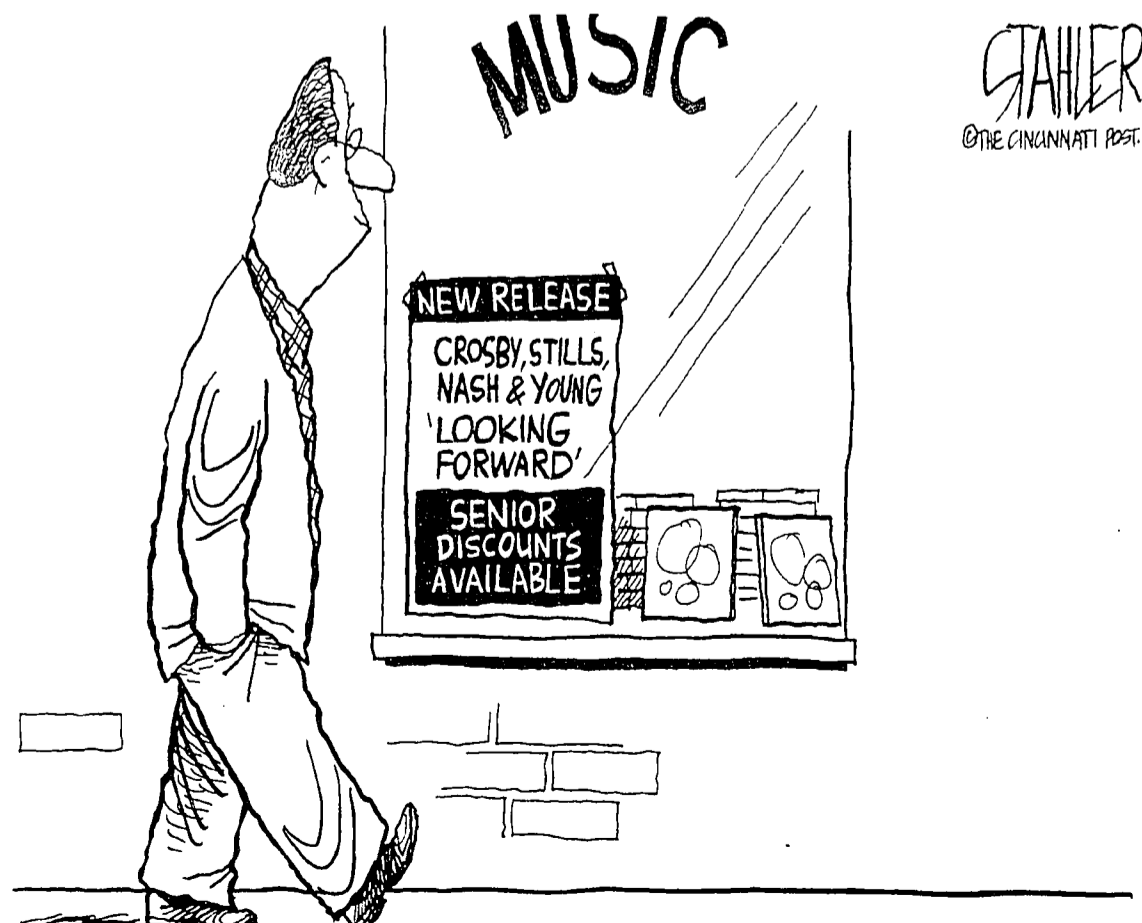
Others are less sanguine.

"They're focusing on money - how to support existing small and medium-sized businesses rather than on creating an environment for new ones to grow," said Ron Bevacqua, chief economist at Commerz Securities.

All of which means that if the public spending bill mounts, Japan's central bank, already committed to a zero-interest rate policy, is likely to be back in the hot seat if long-term interest rates start to climb.

Some politicians and economists have already loudly urged the Bank of Japan to adopt a quantitative monetary policy, which would target an increase in money supply and inflation, as the only way left for a further credit easing.

"As supply goes up, we do expect bond yields to go up to 2.5 to three percent over the next six to 12 months, and over that period the pressure will increase on the BOJ," Bevacqua said.



Marianas Variety

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

Publishers:
Abel and Paz Younis

Rafael H. Arroyo
Zaldy Dandan Editor
Associate Editor

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

© 1999, Marianas Variety
All Rights Reserved

Member of
The Associated Press (AP)
MEMBER SINCE 1985
NATIONAL
NEWSPAPER
ASSOCIATION

At Guam forum

Gutierrez raps legislators

By Eric F. Say
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA—Gov. Carl T. C. Gutierrez criticized the Legislature over plans to reorganize GovGuam, during an invitation to speak before the University of Guam's Communication Society yesterday.

The governor seized the opportunity to talk about his perspectives on present problems facing Guam and possible solutions while faculty members, students and the general public listened.

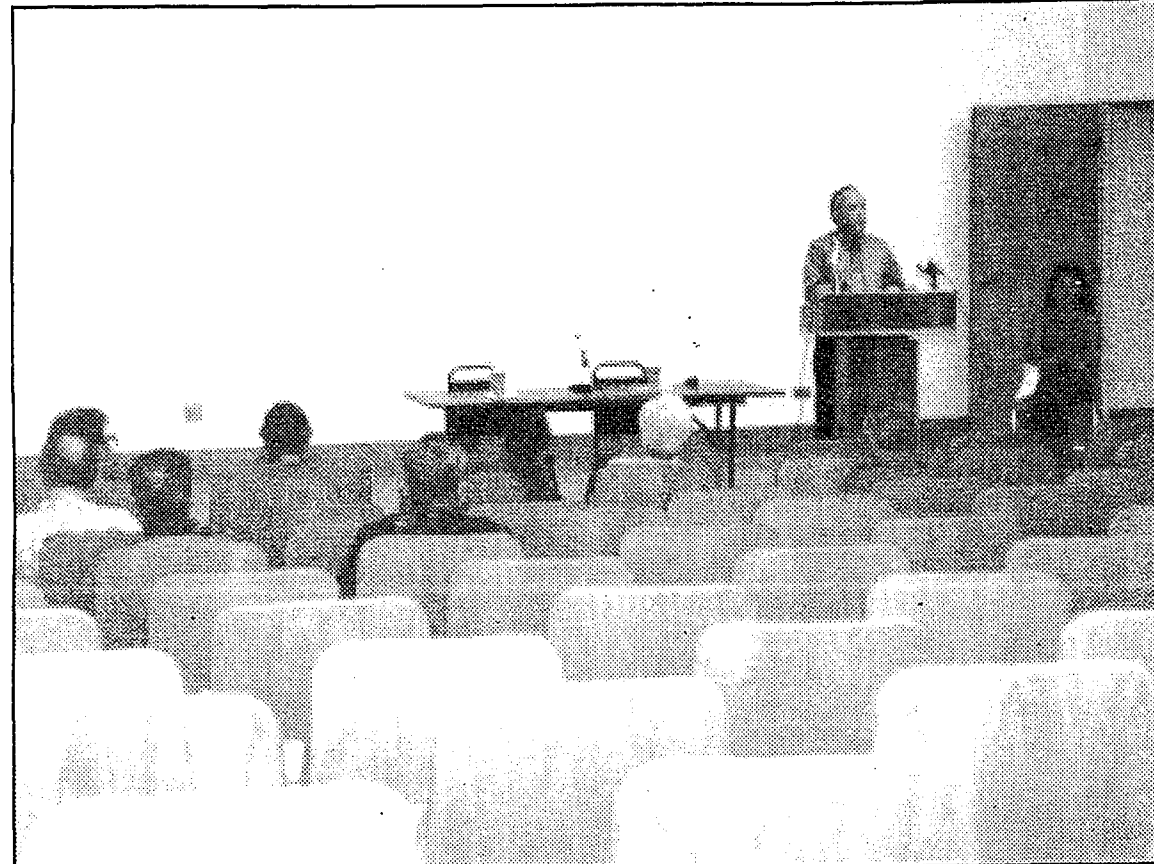
According to Gutierrez, the public needs to see and hear the chief executive's side on how things are within GovGuam.

He then went on to state the seeming large-scale uncertainty, relative to the financial condition of the government.

Gutierrez said the Legislature has decided to use as its basis for reorganizing GovGuam a business model.

Failure of the members of the 25th Guam Legislature to take into account that basic civic principles of the government are being thrown away, poses a problem, said the governor.

"What really scares me is



Gov. Carl Gutierrez wished more people would show up to hear his views on past problems, future solutions during a forum held at the University of Guam lecture hall. Only 38 students, 10 UOG officials and 8 Adelup staffers and 7 news people were present yesterday morning.

Photo by Eduardo C. Siguenza

that we do not know where certain [lawmakers] went to school, and they are saying that government must be run as a business only looking at the so-called bottom line.

What about the social impact?" Gutierrez said emphatically.

The governor challenged the decisions made by the law-making body, saying, "People

who were the backbone of this government have been let go only to line up on the welfare and food-stamp lines.

"The Legislature has failed to recognize that poor people

are being hurt—those that worry about doctor's bills, paying rent or a mortgage, or even fixing the family car—so that the bread-winner of a young family can go and earn a paycheck," the island's chief executive said.

Gutierrez also emphasized the Legislature's inability to pass a fiscally responsible budget which has already undergone a number of changes.

"The social impact of lawmakers' indecisiveness, evidenced by a month-to-month operational budget is totally irresponsible," he said.

He also said he has been fielding many questions from both the public and private sector on the present health of GovGuam's financial condition.

Gutierrez cited the report released by the Bank of Hawaii shows his administration's efforts to establish new industries on Guam—including the creation of a telecommunication hub between Asia and the U.S. as well as new tourism attractions.

He said these indicate that revenues are now on the upswing.

Munson stops transfer of money

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE FEDERAL court has enjoined the transfer of Larry Hillblom's money unless the grandmothers for Hillblom's two kids have paid \$4.2 million in arbitration award.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Judge Alex R. Munson prevented Naoko Imeong and Milagros Feliciano, including Hillblom estate executor Bank of Saipan, from removing any funds from the estate distributable to the two grandmothers until such payment in court.

Munson said the \$4.2 million payment is needed in order to comply with the award

issued by arbitrator Susan M. Ichinose.

Munson in a separate order confirmed the decision of court-appointed arbitrator Ichinose finding Imeong and Feliciano, grandmothers for Hillblom's children Junior Larry Hillblom and Mercedita Feliciano, jointly liable to pay to the guardian for a Vietnamese boy for breaching their sibling DNA testing agreement.

The arbitrator ruled that Imeong and Feliciano have caused at least \$3 million in loss of James Hollman pursuant to the sibling testing protocol.

Hollman, is guardian for Vo

Minh Tan, a Vietnamese who claimed to be son of Hillblom, but failed to prove such claim through DNA testing.

The arbitrator also ordered Imeong and Feliciano to pay Hollman's camp \$617,564 as reimbursement of their reasonable attorney's fees, including costs incurred.

Hollman in his lawsuit claimed that defendants or some of them breached provisions of the agreement by disclosing and indeed selling confidential information including DNA test date to third parties, to the detriment of Tan in settlement negotiations.

Guam expects rise in arrivals

Variety News Staff

HAGATNA—Bank of Hawaii (BOH) yesterday released its economic report for Guam which predicts a rise in visitor arrivals for the rest of the year.

The report, researched and written by BOH Regional Economist Dr. Wali Osman, forecast that total visitor arrivals for the year should rise by 2.5 percent.

Osman based his forecast on the small but encouraging turnaround in Guam tourist traffic last June (a 5 percent increase over the previous year) and the rise in bookings for August and September.

If last quarter bookings fol-

low the third quarter's, Osman said total arrivals may rise even more than 2.5 percent.

According to Osman, the turnaround in overall June arrivals occurred mainly as a result of gains in arrivals from Korea (up 92 percent from June 1998) and Taiwan (up 114 percent from June 1998).

In addition, the number of flights between Guam and Korea is scheduled to go up this month from three a week to daily flights as Asiana Airlines begins regular flights to Guam.

Osman said this new schedule alone will substantially increase arrivals from Korea, following

a decrease in Korea's market share to 1.8 percent in 1998 from 8.6 percent in 1997 and 14.3 percent in 1996.

Osman added that seat capacity to and from Japan, Guam's main tourism market, will also rise, although slowly.

Northwest Airlines announced in late July that it would add weekly seats to and from Tokyo beginning Oct. 1 by switching from DC-10 jets to Boeing 747 aircraft.

Although the increased number of seats is relatively small, Osman said the change signals the expectation that the tourist market is returning to normal.

Bellas brings dispute up to Bar association

By Ferdie de la Torre

Variety News Staff

THE SUPERIOR Court has referred to the Bar Association a small claim filed by a lawyer against his client who in turn accused the attorney of abusing his profession.

Associate Judge Timothy H. Bellas asked the Bar president to review the dispute between attorney Russell H. Tansey and businesswoman Yun Hee Kim as to the internal procedure to be followed for arbitration.

Bellas said the referral would assist the court in resolving the matter fairly and in a manner that is consistent with the ranges of fees for legal services in the CNMI.

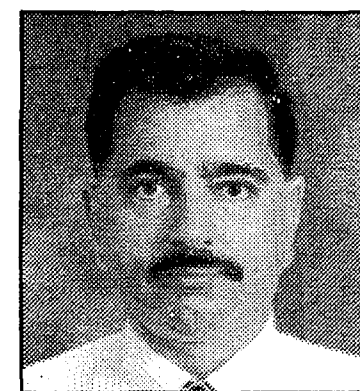
"Furthermore, such a procedure will allow the Bar an opportunity to resolve such cases in a manner that may promote better good will between the profession and the community," Bellas said.

Tansey filed a small claim against Kim for alleged non-payment of \$2,000 in legal services in connection with the appeal of the businesswoman's civil case.

Kim, however, told the court that at no time did she get a clear and detailed explanation of what work Tansey was to do for her.

"I was not told by Tansey what total fee I was expected to pay. I did not receive a record of whatever services he maybe did for me. There was no written contract agreement," said Kim in her declaration.

Kim stated that although she believes Tansey started to follow her appeal in her civil case in Sept. 1998, he did not give her any invoice or a case status report



Timothy H. Bellas

until last April.

"In that invoice he said he would file suit immediately against me. In the invoice, he made a mistake in the way he totalled the 'balance due'. He did not say what work he did and did not show what time period was covered," she said.

Kim said her record shows that she has given Tansey a total of \$6,450 for legal services.

"During all this time, he never gave me a written understanding about the basis or rate of earning his fee or the work he's done. He never gave me an explanation so I do not know if he charged me by the hour charges, a fixed amount, or charged an estimated amount," she said.

Kim also claimed that on Oct. 13, 1998, she gave the lawyer \$1,500 as an advance payment, but he wrote on a receipt that she only gave him \$1,000.

"When I asked him about it, he shouted at me to not worry about that, and to just let him do the case," she said.

Kim said Tansey did not inform her what was happening in the case and her telephone calls

were not answered.

"He closed his office without notice. I did not know and do not know where to find him," she said, adding that last March 23 she asked to take back her documents and told him he was discharged as her attorney.

"I believe that I overpaid him for his abuse of me as a person and the quality of legal practice that I expected from him," she said.

Bellas in his order said Tansey does not appear to have entered into a written fee agreement with the client specifying the hourly rate to be charged or the flat rate for the work, although there does appear to be a prior course of dealing between the parties.

"The court finds that in view of the nature of this case and the long established precedent in other jurisdictions of referring such cases to the local Bar association for arbitration, that such a procedure would be appropriate in this case," Bellas said.

The judge said the Bar will have until Nov. 30 to accomplish the arbitration and should the procedure prove unsuccessful, the court will hear the matter on Dec. 15.

DEQ investigates oil dumping report



Ignacio Cabrera

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

THE DIVISION of Environmental Quality is investigating an incident involving the dumping of about 220 gallons of used motor oil at a residence in San Antonio.

The environmental office, however, did not identify the owner of the property pending the completion of the investigation.

In a statement, DEQ said it is currently in the middle of a probe on the alleged illegal dumping of some 220 gallons of used motor oil which allegedly happened last week.

The division discovered the dumping last week when it searched the resident's compound where it found a substantial amount of used oil that were buried beneath 12 inches of loose, sandy soil.

The division said it also unearthed larger amounts of "dark liquids."

A preliminary test had shown that the contaminant also allegedly contained another chemical, chlorine.

The search was initiated through the strength of a search warrant issued by the court.

"Because the investigation is continuing throughout the week, a decision regarding the issuance of a citation or fine has not been made," the DEQ said.

Director Ignacio Cabrera said his office will make the determination as soon as they have already collected the data and information.

He also said that they will be giving the report to the court before deciding whether they should issue an administrative or a court order, so that the penalty may come from his office, the court, or both.

Unpingco to help lead Guam Bush campaign



Antonio Unpingco

Variety News Staff

HAGATNA—Speaker Antonio Unpingco (R-Santa Rita) and Sen. Kaleo Moylan (R-Tamuning) have been selected co-chairmen of Republican presidential hopeful George W. Bush's Guam campaign.

Bush recently announced his formal entry into the U.S. presidential derby. He said his campaign is organized with 3,296 people serving as state leaders in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands, Guam and American Samoa.

According to Unpingco, Guam regularly sends delegates to the Republican National Convention.

"We've always sent sizable delegations to the Republican National Convention. And of course, the Republican Party values the participation of Guam as well as the U.S. Virgin Islands, Puerto Rico, and other

territories," Unpingco said.

He added that Guam delegates can actually make a difference because Guam votes count during the convention unlike during the presidential election.

"I'm very honored that they chose us. Of course, the U.S. Congress has a Republican majority. And if we have George W. Bush as president, we'll have a Republican president. Thus, response on Guam issues can be expected to be swifter," the Speaker said.

Unpingco said Bush is the front-runner in the current U.S. presidential race.

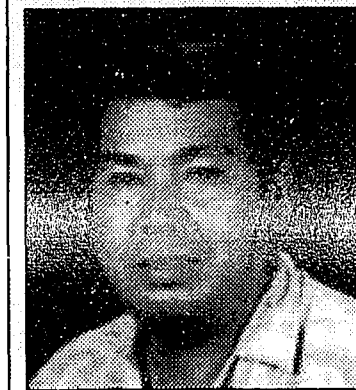
"He's very popular. So he stands a good chance of being elected. He is a very intelligent and competent man and he could be very helpful to Guam if he is elected president," Unpingco said.

All 55 states, territories and commonwealths will have delegations at the Republican National Convention.

"I am grateful to the thousands of people across America who are volunteering time and energy to help spread my message of improving schools, cutting taxes, strengthening our national defense and ushering in the responsibility era," Bush said in his letter to Unpingco.

"A strong grass roots organization is an important part of a successful campaign," Bush added.

12 FTES for Mayor's office get funded



Mayor Jose C. Sablan

By Rene P. Acosta

Variety News Staff

SAIPAN Mayor Jose C. Sablan has disclosed that the 12 full-time employees whose salaries have been a problem for the municipal government over the past months now have been funded with the money appropriated by the Saipan Legislative Delegation.

However, only nine of the 12 original employees will be benefiting from the fund as three of the workers have already resigned some months ago.

According to Sablan, the nine employees have already returned to their job more than two weeks now, after members of the delegation managed to legislate money for their salaries.

One employee decided to resign some months back after the Office of the Mayor announced that it no longer have funds to pay his and his colleagues' wages. Eventually, two others followed.

The municipal government, several months ago, complained that it may not be able to hold the 12 employees since it is running out of funds, especially that the funding which was first set by the members of the delegation was not acted upon by the finance office due to technicalities.

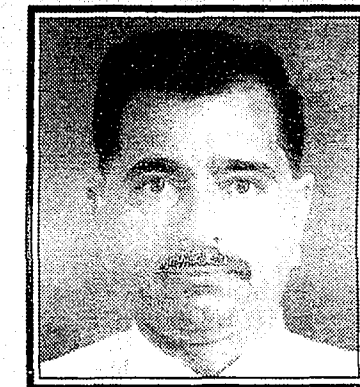
The delegation again passed a legislation which was approved. Meanwhile, Sablan disclosed that the municipal government has already made representations with the public lands division regarding its request for a land to build the mayor's office.

On November 6, 1999
PLEASE VOTE

YES
HUNGGAN
AWAR

TO KEEP

TIMOTHY H. BELLAS



ON THE CNMI SUPERIOR COURT

JUDGE BELLAS is:

✓ Honest
✓ Hard-Working
✓ Fair
✓ Experienced

Thank You

Si Yuus Maase

Olomway

Educators train on family literacy

TWENTY two educators and social service providers attended a week-long workshop sponsored by the NMC Adult Basic Education Program last week.

The workshop provided training and information on the design and implementation of a family literacy program in the CNMI.

"Family literacy is a new element in our instructional program and is designed to merge adult and early childhood education with a joint component — Parents and Child Time — where parents serve as their children's teachers," explained ABE Director Fe Calixterio. "This is now a major element in federal education, manpower development and welfare reform policies."

The four-day all-day workshop was conducted at the Pacific Gardenia Hotel by Read To Me International Foundation Executive Director Kalen Kitagawa and Sandra Ishikawa of the Even Start Special Programs Management Section of the Hawaii Department of Education, NMC Adult Basic Education Program director Fe Y. Calixterio and educators and social service providers who attended the Family Literacy Workshop.



(Seated from left) Read To Me International Foundation executive director Kalen Kitagawa, NMC president Agnes M. McPhetres, Sandra Ishikawa of the Even Start Special Programs Management Section of the Hawaii Department of Education, NMC Adult Basic Education Program director Fe Y. Calixterio and educators and social service providers who attended the Family Literacy Workshop.

Start Special Programs Management Section of the Hawaii Department of Education. Both are family literacy train-

ers certified by the National Center for Family Literacy in Louisville, Kentucky. Workshop participants came

from a variety of institutions: San Vicente, San Antonio, Oleai and Koblerville Elementary Schools, Saipan Interna-

tional School, Ayuda Network, Inc., Office of Women's Affairs, Parents As Teachers Program, and Adult Basic Education faculty and staff from Rota, Tinian and Saipan.

Calixterio said the workshop is to prepare those interested in establishing family literacy programs as collaborative efforts with her office.

"We are looking forward to developing model programs on which we can build future collaboration," Calixterio added. "Integrating adult and early childhood education and adding a 'parents as teachers' component, Family Literacy offers greater potential benefits than previously achieved by efforts focused on the two separate groups."

NMC President Agnes McPhetres presented certificates of completion to those who completed the workshop, stating that investments in educators continue to pay benefits to the community for years to come.

The workshop was funded by the Division of Adult Education and Literacy of the U.S. Department of Education under the terms of the 1998 U.S. Workforce Investment Act.

VIDEO STOCK
Good selection of over
7,000 movies and
all equipment at
reasonable prices.
For (671) 721-0414

COMMUNITY SERVICE SPECIAL

Boonie Dog or Cat

Free Exam on First Visit

**Spays and Neuters \$5 less than any
Clinic with Purchase of Health Value Pak™**

NOW OPEN SATURDAYS 2:00-5:00 P.M.

SAIPAN VETERINARY HOSPITAL
Phone: 233-7387

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION

INVITATION TO BID

ITB00-0004

OPENING DATE: November 15, 1999

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors and the Division of Procurement and Supply, are hereby giving notice that NMHC is soliciting sealed bids from licensed companies in the Commonwealth engaged in providing building maintenance services to provide Building Maintenance of Twenty (20) Section 8 Housing Units - "AS NEEDED BASIS" in San Jose Village, Tinian, MP, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Sealed bids in duplicate must be marked "ITB00-0004, Building Maintenance of NMHC Housing Units in Tinian", and must be submitted to the Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than 3:00 P.M., local time, Monday, November 15, 1999, at which time and place all bids will be publicly opened and read aloud. Any bids received after the above time will not be accepted under any circumstances.

Bid specifications and Scope of Work for the project are available on or after Monday, October 18, 1999 at the NMHC Central Office in Saipan or at the NMHC Field Office in San Jose, Tinian, MP 96950, from 7:30 a.m. through 4:30 p.m. Monday through Friday, except CNMI holidays.

A Pre-Bid Conference for this project will be held at the Tinian NMHC Office on Wednesday, October 20, at 9:30 a.m. Bidders will have the opportunity to tour housing subdivision project site and/or inspect units upon request.

NMHC hereby notifies all proposers that it will affirmatively ensure that, in any contracts entered into pursuant to this advertisement, small business enterprises will be afforded full opportunity to submit bids and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, disabilities or national origin.

The Commonwealth government reserves the right to reject any and all bids for any reason and to waive any defects in the said bids, if in the sole opinion to do so would be in its best interest. All bids will become the property of the Commonwealth government.

For information, contact Frances H. Diaz, Field Office Representative, NMHC Office at 433-9213 during regular business hours, 7:30 p.m. - 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

/s/ JUAN S. TENORIO
Chairman of the Board

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

"NMHC is an equal employment and fair housing public agency"

SBA awards Bank of Hawaii

Helping entrepreneurs with their financial needs, one company was recognized yesterday.

The U.S. Small Business Administration (SBA) named Bank of Hawaii its Lender of the Year for 1999.

The award ceremony held on the fourth floor of the Hagatna branch was attended by BOH's top executives, SBA officials, and members of the Guam Legislature.

Bank of Hawaii was awarded the 1999 Lender of the Year honors for having attained 32 SBA

loans for the fiscal year, which ended on Sept. 30.

In addition to generating the highest number of loans, Bank of Hawaii secured approval for the highest number of SBA loans to women-owned businesses, totally 18.

The number of loans given by the financial institution determines the points earned in the Lender of the Year point system. Each SBA loan is worth one point, except loans to women-owned and veteran-owned business, which are one and one-half points.

Under the point system, Bank

of Hawaii earned a total of 41.5 points, edging out Citizens Security Bank with a total of 28.5 lender points. Citizens Security Bank recorded a total of 25 SBA loans.

Citizens Security Banks was SBA's Lender of the Year for 1998.

The Lender of the Year award is given annually to an SBA participating bank which receives the highest number of SBA-guaranteed loans to small business borrowers in a given fiscal year.



Small Business Administration Regional Manager Kenneth Lujan (center) presents a plaque to Bank of Hawaii's Franilla, Shelly, Brian and Kevin Yang during a ceremony yesterday morning in Guam.

Photo by Eduardo C. Siguenza



Gerard of Customs and Quarantine displays his department's travel guide recently published by Guam Customs.

Photo by Eduardo C. Siguenza

Guam Customs issues travel guide booklet

By Tim de La Cruz
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA—A Travel guide recently produced by the Guam Customs and Quarantine Agency will help residents understand what can be imported and exported through Guam's ports.

Officer III Gerard Aflague of the Customs' research and development section said the booklet will be a guide people can turn to regarding port regulation and laws.

The Customs official said travelers can look up to the book on what regulations exist regarding the importation of fruits and vegetables, medicine and narcotics, live animals, plants, currencies in excess of \$10,000, and trademarked articles.

Aflague, who has been with Customs for 10 years now, said fruits and vegetables may be imported to the island depending on the country of origin and the item's pest status.

He said mangoes from Asia are not permitted because "mango seeds contain larvae" harmful to the environment.

Aflague said confiscated fruits and vegetables are transferred to the Department of Agriculture for further inspection.

The trip to Las Vegas was part of Borja's policy to promote Tinian's gaming industry.

Although somewhat interested in investing in Tinian, Las Vegas casino executives feel dissatisfaction with the current gaming initiative and to the fact that Tinian as a destination is reliant in the junket market.

Tinian gets Las Vegas advice for its casino

LAS VEGAS casino executives recently hailed Tinian's proposal to amend casino gaming initiatives to lure more investors and visitors into the island.

David Mitchell, senior vice president of Development for Caesars World, laid out some suggestions for Tinian Mayor Francisco M. Borja.

He said if Tinian's gaming jurisdiction is going to lure investors, it needs to offer tax incentives that are enticing enough for the investors to operate in the region.

"You are on the right track with your proposed changes to the amendments and the timing is now to reflect the change," said Mitchell.

Mitchell said the only way to show investors they can increase their bottom line is by lowering taxes or offering tax incentives.

He cited as an example Caesars World's investment in the Philippines due to the government's offer "we could not refuse."

"We only pay 10% of net not gross. This sort of tax gives us room for the bottom line and also more revenue to market our investment," said Mitchell.

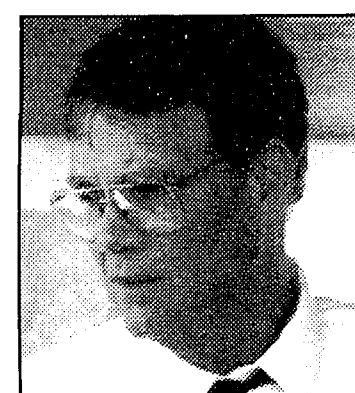
Borja, accompanied by his legal counsel Loren Sutton and others, attended the 1999 World Gaming Congress and Expo in Las Vegas and was able to meet with casino executives from the Mirage, MGM, Legend's Resorts and Caesars.

The trip to Las Vegas was part of Borja's policy to promote Tinian's gaming industry.

Although somewhat interested in investing in Tinian, Las Vegas casino executives feel dissatisfaction with the current gaming initiative and to the fact that Tinian as a destination is reliant in the junket market.



Francisco M. Borja



Loren Sutton

Ken Rosevear, president of MGM Grand Development, Inc., said it is unfortunate that Tinian has no local market to sustain a large investment.

"My advice is to look toward smaller investors. The only problem is that you would have to change your current initiative so that it is friendlier to the smaller investor."

"(But) your proposed changes to the initiative are sound and are a good starting point," said Rosevear.

Kelvin Tan, senior vice president of Business Development for Legends International Resorts said offering "low taxes" is the only way investors will come in.

"Essentially all costs involved in bringing in a high roller is tax deductible. This is the only way for a casino to survive in the junket market."

"Lower your taxes and pass these proposed changes to the initiative then they will come. If you do not, you will be stuck with the Dynasty and frankly, everyone in the industry knows they are in trouble," said Tan.

Bruce Aguilera, vice president of Mirage Gaming Inc. was a little more optimistic.

"I like the changes that are proposed for the initiative. This is the

only way for your island to lure investors in," he said.

The resounding agreement among the four casino executives was that the proposed amendments are necessary for Tinian's casino industry to progress forward.

Although some of them would like more in the form of lower taxes, all agreed that it is a start and might encourage people to look at Tinian's market potential.

"I cannot stress to the voters of Tinian how important it is to our industry that we make the proposed changes to the initiative. We must have two-thirds of the vote for the changes to be approved. This is not a Democrat or Republican issue. This is a Tinian issue."

"Our island's economy depends on this to pass. We must put politics aside and listen to those who have the experience. With investors like the four that we met in Las Vegas all telling us the same thing, I think it is vital that we listen to them."

"For the sake of the casino industry and for the economic sake of our island, I ask everyone to vote 'yes' on the proposed amendments," Borja said.

MOYLAN'S INSURANCE • HOME OF THE GOOD GUYS & GALS

COMBINE & SAVE



Combine your home and auto policies and your family will enjoy up to **15% savings** on your premiums. And with this, you can receive up to **\$1,000,000** in **Personal Liability** coverage, as well.

**COMPREHENSIVE
PERSONAL
PROTECTOR**
INSURANCE POLICY

General Agents for
MMI General Insurance, Inc. & Allianz AG



**20 YEARS
SERVING SAIPAN**

P.O. Box 658 Saipan, M.P. 96950
Tel: 670-234-6442, 7185, 6129, 2490, 2489, 6571
Fax: 670-234-6641
www.moylansinsurance.com

Palau prosecutor faces suit

By Malou L. Sayson
For the Variety
KOROR (Palau Horizon) — This time, it is the special prosecutor facing prosecution.

A complaint was filed last week by Presidential Chief of Staff Temmy Shmull against Special Prosecutor Michael J. Rosenthal for alleged unlawful conduct for spending government funds allocated to the Office of the Special Prosecutor (OSP) to recruit and hire an "assistant special prosecutor."

The complaint for money damages and injunctive and declaratory relief was lodged before the Supreme Court Trial Division.

Rosenthal has been charged with three counts of illegal acts.

A complaint for disciplinary action was also filed on the same

day by Shmull pursuant to the Supreme Court of the Republic of Palau disciplinary rules and procedures for attorneys and trial counselors.

Shmull in the complaint for disciplinary action alleged that the special prosecutor has "repeatedly used official government property to conduct personal business during official working hours, specially the drafting and preparation of documents concerning the purchase and maintenance or repair of a boat and the sale of an automobile, both constituting his personal property."

In an affidavit, Rosenthal's former assistant special prosecutor Gary Soberay last Oct. 19 said he was made to review and offer legal opinion on a contract during regular business

hours.

"Mr. Rosenthal acknowledged to me that he understood that such review was not official government business, but still wanted my legal opinion on the contract," noted Soberay in the affidavit.

Rosenthal also made his assistant to make court appearances in several cases, prepare investigative subpoenas, interview witnesses and conduct legal research.

Shmull further alleged that respondent on occasion has required public employees under his authority to assist him in the conduct of his personal business during normal working hours.

In a number of instances, Rosenthal was alleged to have used his office and position to issue threats and attempt to intimidate citizens and residents

of Palau without any legitimate or legal basis in order to extort his own private gain.

Shmull said in the complaint that when Rosenthal's former landlord refused to grant his request for special treatment, the respondent attempted to "intimidate the landlord" with the threat of issuing subpoena for the latter to produce certain private contracts to which the landlord is a party.

In the eight-page complaint, Shmull said the Special Prosecutor's Act does not provide for the creation of the office of "Assistant Special Prosecutor" and that the Olbiil Era Kelulau (OEK) has never appropriated public funds for recruitment, hiring or retention of an assistant special prosecutor.

Asked for comment about the

case, Rosenthal said: "The complaint has no merit. I am confident that Mr. Shmull will not prevail."

Rosenthal also refuted the charge of "improper hirings" saying that as special prosecutor, he is given the authority "to hire such staff as may be necessary to carry out OSP's functions."

He noted that Shmull was cited in a criminal case filed by the special prosecutor last Oct. 13 for alleged public misconduct and other illegal acts under the color of office.

Shmull, however, deposed in his complaint for disciplinary action that the special prosecutor filed as criminal charges certain allegations which do not describe criminal activity on Palau.

Guam gets prepared for aviation disaster

By Jay Pascua
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA—The Air Force said its emergency response teams, the Navy, the Red Cross, and the Government of Guam are training together to minimize the effects of a possible aviation disaster. The Air Force said Civil Defense, Guam Fire Department, and Guam Police Department employees have participated in the training.

The emergency personnel are taking part in an Aviation Disaster Management Workshop this week. The training will end with an exer-

cise this morning.

Chief of Media Relations Staff Sergeant Bob Pullen said the exercise would have crews responding to a commercial aircraft accident on Andersen Air Force Base. "The scenario involves a commercial aircraft being diverted from the Guam airport, for some reason, to Andersen but not quite making the runway," Pullen said.

Andersen officials said the purpose of the workshop is to ensure local agencies, Air Force, and Navy personnel are able to work together in the event of a plane crash.

Chief justice denies motion of insurance firm in KB Bridge case

By Malou L. Sayson
For the Variety
KOROR (Palau Horizon) —

The Supreme Court chief justice has denied the motion filed by the insurance firm with which several settling defendants in the KB Bridge collapse case have assigned their indemnity claims after the April 1998 settlement agreement.

Chief Justice Arthur Ngraklsong handed down the order last Oct. 14 denying Winterthur Insurance Company's motion to alter the judgment entered by the court

allowing the insurance company to "seek immediate appellate review of the Court's order."

The chief justice also turned down the request of third-party defendants; namely, Leo A. Daly and Alfred A. Yee, for costs and fees in the four-page order.

The insurance company had sued the firms responsible of designing and building the K-B Bridge in 1975, arguing that [they] were actually answerable for the bridge's collapse.

A summary judgment was granted for third-party defendants' motion, holding that Winterthur was "not entitled to sue for indemnity" because it had not discharged the third-party defendants' liability to the plaintiffs.

Winterthur, however, asked the court to "alter its judgment" based on alleged "errors of fact and law," contending that the court erred in failing to consider a November 1998 indemnity agreement between the insurance company, itself, the Republic of Palau; and one plaintiff-intervention."

The indemnity agreement was not referred to by the court because it added nothing to the analysis.

The agreement, according to the court, did not discharge the

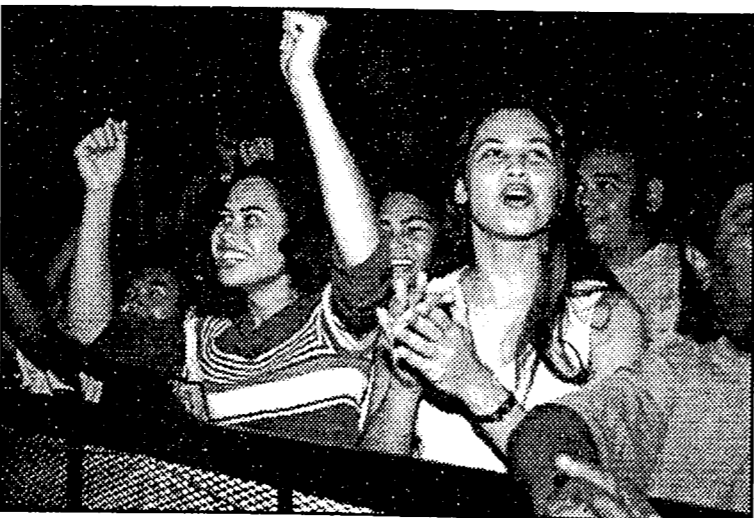
third-party defendants' liability to the plaintiffs, but merely enabled Winterthur to pursue its indemnity claims "without interference" from the republic. Winterthur countered that by agreeing not to interfere, the republic "effectively discharged or waived" its claims against the third-party defendants.

But the court said, the republic "could proceed with its own claims against the third-party defendants and still not interfere with Winterthur's indemnity claim," and that the republic could join Winterthur's indemnity action.

The court further pointed out that the indemnity agreement was not signed by all the plaintiffs who signed the settlement agreement, and therefore was considered only as a "partial" discharge.

According to the court, the parties agreed to dismiss all lawsuits upon settlement, but did not affect the third-party defendants' liability to the plaintiffs and that the former remained liable to the plaintiffs.

It follows, the court further said, that Winterthur may not sue the third-party defendants for indemnity.



Tara and Tammy Taitano cheer the UB40 reggae band last Thursday night at the UOG Fieldhouse. UB40 was brought to Guam by Ambros Inc., Shimbro's Production and Budweiser. Photo by Eduardo C. Siguenza

DPS/Drug Abuse Resistance Education (DARE) Program

MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION

THE DARE PROGRAM WOULD LIKE TO THANK ALL THE FOLLOWING DONORS FOR THEIR GENEROUS DONATIONS AND SUPPORT OF THE 1ST ANNUAL DARE GOLF TOURNAMENT. AND TO THE 1999 WSR ELEM. SCHOOL DARE GRADUATES, THEIR PARENTS, DPS STAFF, AND TO ALL OTHERS THAT HELPED FOR THIS 1ST ANNUAL DARE GOLF TOURNAMENT FOR THE BENEFIT OF OUR YOUTH. YOU ALL MADE THIS TOURNAMENT A SUCCESS. SI YU'US MA'ASE AND THANK YOU.

PACIFIC TRADING COMPANY, LTD.
BUDGET RENT A CAR
AMBYTH SHIPPING
PACIFIC ISLAND CLUB (PIC)
TRIPLE J MOTORS
MICROL CORPORATION
CONG. HEINZ HOFSCHEIDER
SEN. ED MARATITA
LT. NICK GUERRERO (DPS)
MELINA BENAVENTE
ROSE PANGELINAN
16TH CYCLE POLICE ACADEMY CADETS/STAFFS
PACIFIC FINANCIAL CORP.
DUTY FREE SHOPPERS-Saipan
IT&E
MTC
HAKUBOTAN
LOLLIPOPS

COMMUNICATION SPECIALISTS, INC.
CONG. FRANK CEPEDA
MAJOR CLAUDIO K. NORITA (DPS)
CAPT. JUAN SALAS (DPS)
ANA TAITANO
LEO DUENAS
GOLF ASSOCIATION IN CNMI
SAIPAN OCEAN VIEW HOTEL
SAIPAN STEVEDORE SHIPPING
SAIPAN DIAMOND HOTEL
SHELL MARIANAS
PACIFIC GARDENIA
SPEAKER DIEGO BENAVENTE
CONG. TIMMO OLOPAI
LT. LAWRENCE CAMACHO (DPS)
OFGR. JESSE STOLE (DPS)
BEN & LINDA BABAUTA
ROWINA TAITANO
LAOLAO BAY GOLF RESORT

FROM: The DPS/DARE Program (Ofcr. Arnold Seman, Ofcr. Ed Maratita, Jr. and Ofcr. Sandy Hambros).

Estrada popularity drops

MANILA, (Reuters) - Philippine President Joseph Estrada's popularity rating suffered a drastic plunge in a new poll released on Tuesday, and analysts said this could increase political risk and damage investor confidence in the economy.

The percentage of people satisfied with Estrada fell to 56 percent in September-October compared to a high 78 percent in June, top pollster Social Weather Stations (SWS) said.

The percentage of those dissatisfied with his performance rose to 27 percent in September-October compared to 12 percent in June, according to the SWS survey, regarded as the best index in the country of presidential popularity ratings.

"The decline in President Estrada's ratings occurred across all socio-economic classes," it said.

The SWS was the third pollster in recent weeks to report a big drop in the popularity of Estrada, a former movie actor who took office 16 months ago by posting the biggest winning margin in the history of free presidential elections in the Philippines.

Stock market traders have said sentiment has been affected by the previous polls although the main index recovered some

losses on Tuesday, rising 0.37 percent to 1,927.65 points after three consecutive sessions of losses.

Tuesday's survey, which was announced after the market closed, may cast a damper on trading on Wednesday, traders said.

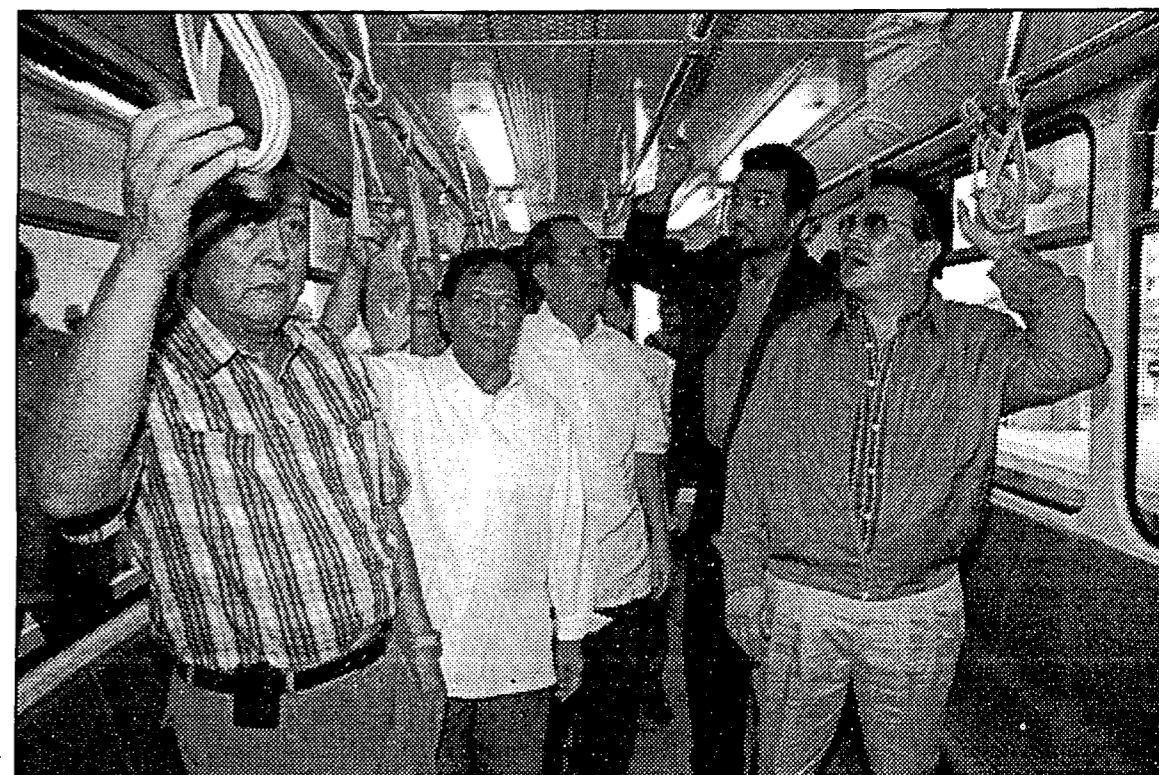
The 56 percent public satisfaction rating which Estrada got was also the lowest he had obtained in any SWS survey since he took office in June 1998.

"It's a sign of creeping pessimism that this administration can pull us out of our present difficulties," Alex Magno, political science professor at state-run University of the Philippines, told Reuters.

"It should worry business," Magno added. "Immediately our political risk rating goes up. Secondly, investor confidence is really on the brink."

Estrada was unfazed, blaming the poll results on what he called a campaign of "disinformation" waged by critics who are opposed to a proposal to revise the nation's constitution.

Asked how he intended to recover his popularity, Estrada said: "By just being myself. There's nothing to change...The people will know the truth in the end. The truth will always come out in the end."



Philippine President Joseph Estrada (right) hangs on a strap as he and other government officials ride on a new Metrostar Express train of the Metro Rail Transit Corporation in suburban Quezon City Tuesday. The new railway is set to open late December. AP

Analyst Teodoro Benigno said two main factors brought down Estrada's approval rating - "one affects the stomach, the other the heart".

"The stomach issue is the most devastating because it means that people think the economy is getting worse," the political commentator of the Philippine Star newspaper told Reuters.

He said the "heart issue" was Estrada's insistence in pushing for amendments to the constitution, which has sparked rallies by tens of thousands of people across the country in recent months.

Estrada has called for the abolition of what he said were restrictive constitutional provisions that deter foreign investors but his critics say the pro-

posed amendments might eventually include scrapping a provision limiting a president to one term of six years.

"Certainly business should worry," Benigno said. "This plunge in the presidential ratings leads to political instability because more and more people believe the leadership is not effective at all."

BREAST PUMPS • CAR SEATS • BATH TUBS • PACIFIERS • TEETHERS • NIPPLES • STERILIZER • DIAPER PINS • WIPE • TOWELS

• BLANKETS • SHEETS • CLOTHING • BOOSTER CHAIRS • CAR SEATS • HIGH CHAIRS • PLAYARD

HALLOWEEN SPOOKY SALE

10% OFF

Single regular or sale
priced items

No facsimile copy,
One coupon per customer

CARMEN'S BABY NEWS

Friday, Oct. 29, '99

15% OFF

Single regular or sale
priced items

No facsimile copy,
One coupon per customer

CARMEN'S BABY NEWS

Saturday, Oct. 30, '99

20% OFF

Single regular or sale
priced items

No facsimile copy,
One coupon per customer

CARMEN'S BABY NEWS

Sunday, Oct. 31, '99

Carmen's Baby News

Chalan Kanoa, Beach Road
Tel: 235-7314

BUSINESS HOURS:

Mon-Fri. - 10:00-7:00 • Saturday - 9:00-7:00
Sunday - 10:00-6:00

*Cannot be combine with other offers or coupons....

Everything in store, including sale items.

FREE CANDIES FOR KIDDIES • Sunday, October 31 (1st 50 kids only)

• LAYETTE • TOYS • BOTTLES • WALKERS • CRIBS • CHESTS • DRESSING TABLE • CLOTHING • DIAPERS • STROLLERS •

Confusion of roles for SPC and Forum

BANGKOK (Pacnews) — The Pacific Islands caucus held immediately after the end of the main plenary session of the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action currently underway in Bangkok entertained two major concerns of some of the national delegates present in Bangkok.

Co-ordinated by the Pacific YWCA, the caucus first questioned the presence of a paper prepared by the Head of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community's (SPC) Women's Resource Bureau, which is to be delivered at the meeting by the Gender Issues Adviser of the Forum Secretariat.

National delegates' representatives said the paper was full of gross generalisations. In addition they also stated all but one of the work elements contained in the paper had not been implemented.

Pacific delegations are formulating a regional statement, which will be delivered to the meeting after the last Pacific country presentation.

There were some concerns raised by Pacific national delegates that contradictions exist between their national reports and the SPC paper.

They were also concerned that the SPC paper would be confused with the regional paper they are drafting.

New aircraft for Tonga airline

NUKU'ALOFA (Pacnews) — Royal Tongan Airlines (RTA) may soon add another aircraft to its domestic fleet.

The Company sent a team to the Bahamas in the Caribbean early this month to assess the aircraft and discuss with Bahamas Air the possible lease of the Shorts 360 aircraft.

The team included the Secretary for Civil Aviation, Va'inga

Palu, an Australian aircraft engineer, Colin Miller and RTA Corporate Affairs Manager, Afeaki.

The aircraft has a capacity of 36 seats and was manufactured in 1986 in Belfast, Ireland.

It would primarily operate from Fua'amotu Airport to Ha'apai and Vava'u.

RTA currently operates two planes for its domestic services.

Pertaining to radioactive shipments

Fiji calls for nuclear compensation accord

BANGKOK (Pacnews) — Fiji has used an international forum to call on the Government of France, Japan and the United Kingdom to immediately implement a compensation and liability regime on the shipment of radioactive materials and mixed oxide fuels through the Pacific region.

In addition, Fiji also called countries that have not done so to immediately sign and ratify the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty (CTBT) in the name of genuine nuclear disarmament.

The call was made by Lavenia Padarath, Fiji's Minister for Women, Culture and Social Wel-

fare while delivering Fiji's national statement at the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review Regional Implementation of the Beijing Platform for Action.

She made the statement after outlining the achievements and constraints Fiji has faced in the implementation of the Beijing Plan of Action.

Padarath reminded the meeting that the Pacific region is the place where the largest numbers of atmospheric and underground nuclear tests are carried out. She said under one of the major issues of the Beijing Platform for Action

-Political Empowerment - "there is a need to focus on matters that threaten the very existence and life of our region."

She also tackled the issue of decolonisation, by urging the colonial powers in the Pacific region to recognise the right to self-determination of the colonised Peoples of the South Pacific and requested the support of the Bangkok meeting.

The ESCAP-organised meeting currently underway in the Thai capital is in preparation for the Special Session of the General Assembly to be held next year.

Fiji mulls putting up media tribunal

SUVA (Pacnews) — The Fiji Government has warned media organisations it is considering setting up a media tribunal to adjudicate on cases where "mem-

bers of the public have been personally injured or subjected to character assassination".

Prime Minister Mahendra Chaudhry warned about the possible media legislation while launching the Fiji Media

Council's "Code of Ethics" in Suva, last night.

He said in instances where people have been personally injured or subjected to character assassination, the State "had the right to swift justice instead of waiting for years to go through the conventional law."

"The media tribunal will have powers to adjudicate and impose damages," he said.

Chaudhry said the media was "not above the law, and media freedom was not total freedom". However, the Prime Minister reiterated that he was committed to a free and unfettered media.

This latest criticism of the media follows a string of attacks against media organisations by the new Government since it came into office in May.

Region hosts largest segment of global population in poverty

BANGKOK (Pacnews) — The Asia Pacific region as a whole has the largest segments of the world population living in abject poverty.

Executive Secretary of the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), Adrianus Mooy said this situation continues to exist despite sustained economic growth and well targeted public policies that have led to a marked reduction in the worst forms of poverty in several countries of the region.

In his opening address to the High-level Intergovernmental Meeting to Review the Regional Implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Mooy said of those living in abject poverty, poor women suffered extreme deprivation.

Seven Pacific Island country (PIC) delegations are attending

the ESCAP-organised meeting, which opened Tuesday, in Bangkok.

As host and Chairperson of the meeting, her Excellency Khunying Supattra Masdit, Minister to the Office of the Prime Minister of the Royal Thai Government, cautioned the more than one hundred national and NGO delegates to be wary of 'Globalisation'.

"While globalisation provided for the integration, liberalisation and interdependence of the world economy, it has also led to international labour migration, especially the rising proportion of women workers," she said.

The Thai Minister said this has resulted in the network of organised crime and growth of the illegal business of the sex trade and trans-boundary trafficking, particularly of women and children.

Tonga bank realizes loss

NUKU'ALOFA (Pacnews) — The Tonga Development Bank has recorded its second successive loss.

The Bank's 1998 Annual Report recorded a net loss of 3.7 million Pa'anga (\$US2.3 million) at the end of last year.

The previous financial year it recorded a net loss of 400,000 Pa'anga (\$US247,620).

According to the Annual Report the continuous loss was caused by the falling quality of the Bank's loan portfolio, increased cost of borrowing, higher

write-offs, a big increase in provisions for loan losses and decrease in loan approvals.

Loan approvals in 1998 was low at 11.5 million Pa'anga compared to the 15.8 million Pa'anga in 1997.

Bad debt expenses increased from two million Pa'anga in 1997 to six million Pa'anga last year.

Lending to the industries and business sector experienced a declining trend, particularly in the processing and manufacturing sector, and restaurants and hotels.

Candidates spending big



Texas Gov. George W. Bush greets MOC Floyd Valley student Andrew Lundgren (left) after speaking at an assembly at the school, Tuesday in Orange City, Iowa. Bush is seeking the 2000 Republican presidential nomination. AP



Steve Forbes

WASHINGTON (AP) — It's a chilling stat for the lesser-funded Republican presidential candidates: Even with no delegates at stake, George W. Bush and Steve Forbes each spent at least \$800,000 to compete in the Iowa straw poll.

The other GOP candidates, who are getting taxpayer help for their campaigns in exchange for limiting their spending, can spend a total of about \$1.1 million in the state.

Bush and Forbes, who have declined the federal funds, can spend as much as they want in their quests for the Republican presidential nomination. Since July, Bush has spent more than \$4 million per month from his record-breaking campaign treasury while the self-financed Forbes has spent \$3.5 million monthly.

The money that the Bush and Forbes campaigns each estimate was spent on the nonbinding straw poll is two-thirds of the total that candidates who accept federal matching funds are allowed to spend in Iowa. Because Bush and Forbes aren't accepting the money, they don't have to abide by the spending limits.

Bush won a decisive first place with 7,418 votes, at a cost of about \$108 for each.

Forbes placed second with 4,921 votes, spending about \$160 for each.

According to his campaign finance report, Bush spent \$279,450 on tickets, each costing \$25. Many went unused. He chartered \$82,532 worth of buses to get voters to the polls. He paid

\$43,500 for a prime spot near the polling place for a campaign tent, where he fed supporters \$64,719 worth of pork barbecue.

Forbes spent \$8,000 to rent his site and \$81,110 on buses, hiring some from Kansas, Minnesota and Wisconsin. He spent \$192,500 on tickets and served 9,000 barbecue meals at a cost of \$27,589.

In contrast, conservative activist Gary Bauer, who finished fourth, reported spending \$12,275 on tickets - enough to cover about one-fourth of his 2,114 voters - and \$4,700 on rent.

"We had a lot of people pay their own way," Bauer campaign manager Frank Cannon said.

Former American Red Cross President Elizabeth Dole, who spent \$5,500 on rent and didn't report buying any tickets, finished third with 3,410 votes. She recently withdrew from the presidential race, saying it came down to "money, money, money."

Bush and Forbes campaign officials said they got their money's worth in Ames.

"You had to be competitive," Forbes campaign manager Bill Dal Col said. "That's how you get your viability."

Indeed, disappointing finishes in Ames contributed to two candidates' decisions to quit the Republican race: former Tennessee Gov. Lamar Alexander, who came in sixth, and former Vice President Dan Quayle, who was eighth.

Bush needed to win to meet skyrocketing expectations.

"It was an early test of our organization in the state," Bush campaign spokeswoman Mindy Tucker said. "It showed us we were doing something right."

For the well-heeled Bush and Forbes campaigns, there were other, bigger expenses for the quarter that ended Sept. 30, according to campaign reports filed with the Federal Election Commission.

Bush - who has raised a record \$57 million thus far this year - spent \$2.4 million to attract more

of the nation's first contests. The campaign also produced commercials designed to look like an opponent's attack ads for test

purposes. In all, Bush spent \$12.8 million over the three months, compared with \$10.6 million by Forbes.

Get your \$ value at

Blossoms Floral Depot/Novelties
this All Soul's Day

- Candle arrangement (with flowers) starting from \$15.00
- 15% off on all cash paid orders on silk flowers

our competitive price
never compromises with quality!

Visit our showroom today!

All major credit cards accepted

Store Hours:
8:00AM - 8:00PM
Friday, Saturday, Sunday

JET Bldg., Gualo Rai, Beside City Trust Bank & J's Restaurant
Tel. 235-2276, 235-7372 • Fax 235-7371
e-mail: blossoms@gtepacifica.net

GO DIGITAL!

IT WILL CHANGE THE WAY YOU USE CELLULAR

Nokia 5120
Enhanced Features!
• Up to 200 hours of digital battery standby time
• Built-in calendar
• 5-line LCD display
• Games
• Alarm clock

Nokia 6160
Enhanced Features!
• Up to 200 hours of digital battery standby time
• Built-in calendar
• 5-line LCD display
• 5-line LCD display
• 5-line LCD display

Motorola Startac ST-7790
Enhanced Features!
• Up to 90 hours of digital battery standby time
• Vibrate call alert
• Smart button

Ericsson KF-788
Enhanced Features!
• Callers ID for 40 numbers
• Vibrate call alert
• 14 ring styles
• 200 number storage capacity

CLEARER CONNECTIONS

LONGER BATTERY LIFE!

SEE THE LATEST IN DIGITAL TECHNOLOGY NOW
AT AAA CELLULAR

Some restrictions apply. See store for details

AAA Cellular
Exclusive authorized agent of SOUTHERN PACIFIC Cellular

Tel: (670)233-8888 Fax: (670) 235-8808
Next to Subway in Gualo Rai

Coca-Cola Sports Watch

Always know what time it is with the Coca-Cola Sports Watch!

ONLY \$9.95 WHILE SUPPLIES LAST!

FEATURES INCLUDE:

- 12/24 hour display
- Alarm with snooze
- Month & date
- Lap/split timer
- And more...

AVAILABLE AT THE FOLLOWING LOCATIONS

STORES:

- All Joeten Stores
- Price Costco
- Classic Design
- XO Market
- H Mart
- San Jose Mart
- Dolphin Wholesale
- McDonald's Middle Road
- McDonald's Garapan Express

Liao's Store

- Highway Market
- Jenny's Mart
- Island Market
- Tony's Store
- Nikko Market
- Mingli's Store

SODA FOUNTAIN OUTLETS:

- Subway Gualo Rai
- Subway Chalan Kanoa
- Winchell's Garapan
- Winchell's Susupe
- Price Costco Pizza Parlor
- Golden Lobster Restaurant
- Dairy Queen
- Moby Dick Restaurant
- LSG Luthansa Cafeteria

Distributed by **Coca-Cola BEVERAGE COMPANY** Micronesia) INC. P.O. BOX 266 SAIKAN, MP 96950 TEL: (670) 235-COKE

Poll: Gore makes gains

WASHINGTON (AP) — For much of the year, polls have not been the bearer of good news for Al Gore. But that may be changing, less than a month after the vice president shook up his campaign and moved its headquarters from Washington to Tennessee.

Gore widened his lead against Democratic presidential rival Bill Bradley and gained ground on Republican front-runner George W. Bush in a poll released Monday.

Gore has stretched his lead over Bradley, a former New Jersey senator, to 25 points — 57 percent to 32 percent in the CNN/USA Today/Gallup poll.

Bradley had narrowed the national margin in that same poll to 12 points earlier this month, and has been running even with Gore in recent polls in the key states of Iowa, New

Hampshire and New York.

Gore also closed the gap on Bush, narrowing a head-to-head matchup from 16 points behind the Texas governor earlier this month to 9 points down, 52 percent to 43 percent. Bush was 15 points ahead of Bradley, 54 percent to 39 percent.

If Pat Buchanan is included in the mix as a Reform Party candidate, Gore trails Bush by 6 percentage points, 48 percent to 42 percent. Buchanan gets 5 percent in that hypothetical race.

Buchanan made his switch to the Reform Party official Monday. By a 3-1 margin, Republicans and those leaning Republican said Buchanan's Reform candidacy would hurt Republicans rather than help them, 37 percent to 12 percent.



Vice President Al Gore jokes with Tom Shurtleff of Hillside Middle School in Manchester, N.H., Tuesday at the State house in Concord, N.H. Gore helped students celebrate an anti-drug campaign. AP

The poll asked whether people would prefer to see Pat Buchanan or businessman Donald Trump win the Reform Party nomination and, by a wide margin, Americans want to see Buchanan get the nod, 48 percent to 29 percent. When the question is asked only of Reform Party supporters, Buchanan gets an even wider margin of support.

Bush had a wide lead over his Republican rivals for the nomination, 66 percent to 11 percent for Sen. John McCain of Arizona and 7 percent for businessman Steve Forbes. The other candidates were in the low single digits.

The telephone poll of 1,005 Americans was taken Oct. 21-24 and has an error margin of plus or minus 3 percentage points, higher for subgroups.

Poverty politics back in style as campaign staple

WASHINGTON (AP) — The politics of poverty are back in style, with the leading presidential candidates staking out territory on one of the nation's most persistent problems.

But the debate has changed, with welfare reform making it safe for candidates to talk about the poor without having to rail against or defend a broken system. Now, even the most liberal of the pack is talking about programs that revolve around working, albeit poor, families.

Last week, Democrats Bill Bradley and Vice President Al Gore offered plans, and GOP front-runner Gov. George W. Bush made headlines by chastising congressional Republi-

cans for trying to "balance their budget on the backs of the poor."

"It's clear that poverty is in," said Douglas Besharov, who studies welfare policy at the conservative American Enterprise Institute.

Some of it is simple politics. Bradley and Gore are locked in a Democratic primary, where liberals hold significant sway. Fighting poverty is certainly popular with liberals.

Bush, the Texas governor, is campaigning as a "compassionate conservative" trying to break from the harsh reputation that bedevils fellow Republicans.

But analysts suspect something deeper is afoot.

"I ask myself the question, is

this purely political positioning?" said Robert Greenstein, director of the liberal Center for Budget and Policy Priorities. "I think there's something more fundamental going on. There seems to be a change in the public mood."

Much of it can be traced to the 1996 welfare overhaul, which allowed states to design their own programs, required recipients to work and limited cash assistance to five years.

The strict rules, combined with a thriving economy, have helped drive welfare rolls to a 30-year low. At the same time, there are new perceptions of welfare recipients as people struggling to make it, rather than as lazy loaf-

ers milking the system.

Each of Bradley's major proposals - increasing the minimum wage, putting more money into child care and boosting the earned income tax credit - are aimed at the working poor.

He does not urge rolling back welfare reform. He doesn't advocate more training for recipients or allowing more people into education programs. And while he voted against the welfare bill when he was in the Senate, the plan he introduced last week would build on it.

"I'm trying to make the best of where we are today," Bradley said Tuesday on NBC's "Today."

"I'm going to monitor it very carefully," he added. "But if the

governors take care of it, fine."

Meanwhile, Gore is taking another post-welfare reform angle, focusing on the role of fathers now that the new system forces most mothers into the labor force.

"Poverty in the United States is now driven in significant measure by the breakup of families," Gore told The Associated Press in interview last week, echoing a common refrain of conservatives.

Bush, meanwhile, has proposed tax incentives to encourage Americans to contribute money to groups that fight poverty. And he wants religious organizations to qualify for more government contracts.

To get Republicans back at Congress' helm

Business budgets \$5M lobby

WASHINGTON (AP) — Trying to answer labor unions and trial lawyers, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce wants to spend at least \$5 million to help keep Republicans in control of Congress by aiding pro-business candidates in competitive races next year.

While the chamber still plans to endorse hundreds of candidates, the business lobby was to announce today that it will target its resources on 35 to 40 House races and 12 Senate races. The chamber plans to spend \$100,000 for each House race and possibly more for the Senate contests.

The money will go to educate voters, host fund-raisers and mobilize the business community, particularly the self-employed and small- and medium-sized businesses. Some money also may be spent on advertisements supporting the pro-business candidate.

"Our goal is clear," president Tom Donohue said. "We need a Congress that will unleash business owners and entrepreneurs from the shackles of big government and senseless regulations that reduce incentives, sap time and energy, and put an enormous drag on the U.S. economy."

The chamber's effort comes at a time when the trial lawyers have boosted their campaign contributions to Democratic candidates, and labor leaders have pledged

their own \$40 million campaign to help Democrats recapture the House. The party needs to win only five Republican-held seats next fall to regain the control it ceded in 1995.

"There has never been a greater need for the chamber to marshal its resources to fight for a pro-business Congress," said Republican fund-raiser Ted Welch, who is heading the chamber's political effort. Welch had been Lamar Alexander's chief money man until the former Tennessee governor withdrew from the GOP presidential race in August.

While chamber officials emphasized their efforts were bipartisan, they conceded that most of the beneficiaries would be Republicans by virtue of their pro-business voting records. Accordingly, GOP officials applauded the chamber's plan.

"It's certainly going to help the pro-business candidates," said Jill Schroeder, spokeswoman for the National Republican Congressional Committee. "Every dollar is going to count next year."

While a final decision on which races to target is still months away, likely beneficiaries of chamber support include Sens. Rick Santorum, R-Pa., and John Ashcroft, R-Mo., and former Virginia Gov. George Allen, who is challenging Democratic Sen.

Charles Robb.

One of the House races on the chamber's radar is Western Connecticut's 5th District rematch between Democratic Rep. Jim Maloney and Republican Mark Nielsen, who was endorsed by the chamber in 1998.

On the other side, organized

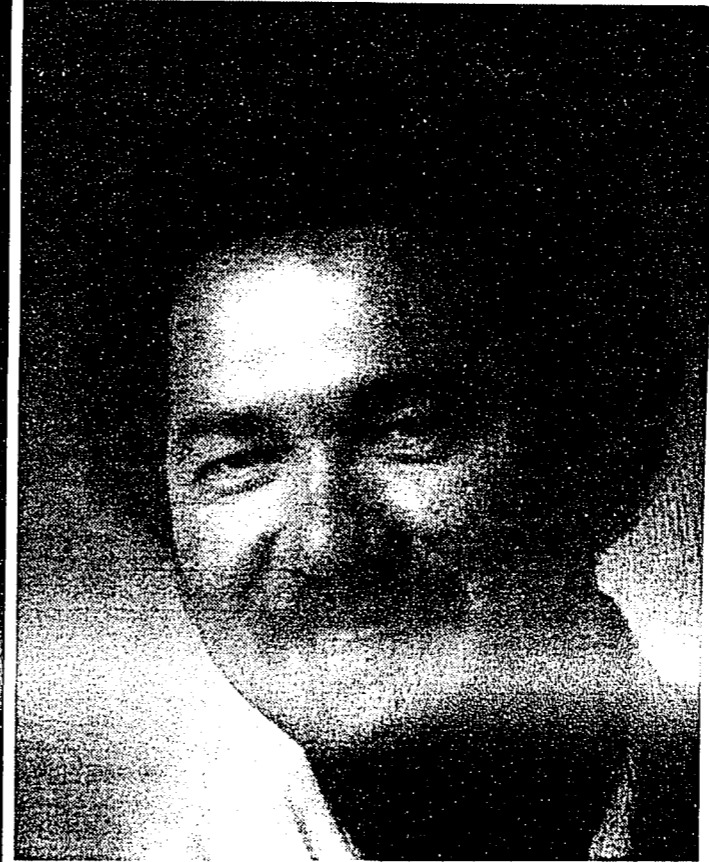
labor plans leafleting, voter registration, issues education, phone banks and door-to-door campaigning to help the Democrats recapture Congress.

In addition, trial lawyers are ratcheting up their financial support of Democratic candidates, angered at Republican-led efforts

to curb lawsuits and limit damages. A computer analysis of contributions conducted for the Associated Press by the Campaign Study Group found trial lawyers giving \$3.7 million to Democrats during the first six months of 1999, up from \$1.7 million during the same period in 1995.



Firefighters look at one of two buses involved in an accident with a tractor pulling two trailers Tuesday morning. About 70 people were injured, at least three of them seriously, including the truck driver. AP



PLEASE VOTE / POT FABOT BOTA

QUITUGUA / JQ

USTO S.

PRECINCT#4 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

TOGETHER, ENSURING OUR FUTURE

OFFICIAL GENERAL ELECTION BALLOT
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
NOVEMBER 6, 1999

S P E C I M E N

INSTRUCTIONS:

1. Make an X or ✓ within the box before the candidate's name.
2. If you wish to vote for a person whose name does not appear on the ballot, write in the name of the person make an X or ✓ within the box.

CNMI REPUBLICAN PARTY	INDEPENDENT	CNMI REFORM PARTY
CANDIDATES FOR THIRD SENATORIAL DISTRICT (SAIPAN AND THE ISLANDS NORTH) - VC		
<input type="checkbox"/> TENORIO, Juan Pangelinan (Morgen) (Incumbent)		<input type="checkbox"/> GUERRERO, Ramon Santos
WRITE -IN		
CANDIDATES FOR HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES FOURTH ELECTION DISTRICT - VOTE		
<input type="checkbox"/> PANGELINAN, Thomas Basa (Tom)	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> QUITUGUA, Justo S. (JQ)	<input type="checkbox"/> MESTA, Josephine Deleon G
<input type="checkbox"/> CEPEDA, Frank Guerrero (Incumbent)	Benigno Magofna	
WRITE -IN		

POT FABOT BOTA

PLEASE VOTE

Visit the Marianas 99
at Hotel Nikko!

\$99
+ 10% TAX
per night double occupancy*

Enjoy a relaxing vacation right here on Saipan with our "Visit the Marianas 99" room rate special. Beautiful gardens, an exciting waterpark, sumptuous meals and luxurious rooms are what await you at Hotel Nikko Saipan. Stay with us and be pampered.

Package includes:

- Welcome drink
- Gift fruit basket
- Late checkout at 2:00 p.m.

RESTAURANT
&
BAR
La Fresta

Where East meets
West, taste our
magical specialty
called **SOUTHEAST
ASIAN STEAMBOAT.**

20% off on all meals

Happy Hour
5:00 pm-7:00 pm nightly

50% off Beer and well drinks
Enjoy Chef's special chasers
and free appetizers.

Open 7 days a week
5:00 pm- 10:00 pm



SUNDAY BRUNCH BUFFET

Every Sunday
11:00 am - 2:00 pm

Only \$20.00 per adult
and \$12.00 per child
(4 to 12 yrs. old; 3 and under FREE)

All-You-Can-Eat & Drink!
Miller Lite and other drinks!
FREE POOL PASSES with brunch!

hotel nikko saipan

322-3311 • fax 322-3144
e-mail: hnsrsv@itecnmi.com

*Residents of the CNMI, Guam and USA, ID required. May not be combined with any other discounts. Rates available through Dec. 15, 1999.

US frees Reno 'slay plotter'

NEWARK, N.J. (AP) — The Justice Department has dropped its efforts to deport a Palestinian immigrant suspected of plotting to kill Attorney General Janet Reno.

The decision announced late Monday led to the immediate release of Hany Mahmoud Kiarledeen, who had been jailed for 19 months on the basis of allegations in secret evidence.

Immigration judges this month found that evidence "unreliable" and a federal judge ruled last week that it was unconstitutional.

Kiarledeen, 31, who managed a Passaic electronics shop before his detention on charges he overstayed his student visa, was never charged with a terrorist act. The FBI closed its investigation in July.

Until Monday, however, the



Hany Mahmoud Kiarledeen

Immigration and Naturalization Service maintained that Kiarledeen posed a threat to national security.

After his release, Kiarledeen went to a brother's home in Garfield and enjoyed "his first good plate of food in 19 months," his lawyer, Regis Fernandez, said today.

"This is it. No more court," Fernandez said. "He's a permanent resident, and he's been released."

After the rulings in Kiarledeen's favor, the INS urged federal and immigration judges to keep him in jail while it appealed those rulings.

A panel of the Board of Immigration Appeals had ruled Wednesday that Kiarledeen could be freed after paying \$1,500 bond, but the INS won a stay until midnight Monday.

The INS had wanted the appeals board to stay the release until Friday to give it time to determine whether it will ask Reno's office to assume jurisdiction of the case.

But a Justice Department statement issued late Monday declared that "extraordinary step" would not be taken. The



Janet Reno

INS is part of the Justice Department, which Reno heads.

INS Commissioner Doris Meisner and the Justice Department "believe that by submitting the evidence to an immigration judge and (an appeals board), the process has taken its course," the statement said.

Non-classified summaries of

the secret evidence collected by the FBI said Kiarledeen made a "credible threat" to murder Reno because of her role in prosecuting the bombers of the World Trade Center and that he is a suspected member of an unnamed terrorist organization.

Kiarledeen has testified that he does not know any of the men convicted in the Trade Center bombing and did not know who Reno was until he was arrested.

Kiarledeen's lawyers believe it is the first time a judge has rejected the government practice of detaining immigrants based on evidence it shows only to immigration judges.

Based on non-classified summaries of the secret evidence, the lawyers believe it stemmed from vindictive lies told to the FBI by Kiarledeen's ex-wife.

Ex-CIA chief: US appeasing China

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former CIA Director R. James Woolsey has accused the Clinton administration of pursuing a policy of appeasement toward China and likened it to the way Britain and France dealt with Nazi Germany on Czechoslovakia before World War II.

"It is wrong-headed and dangerous," Woolsey said as a House committee prepared to hold a hearing on legislation that would authorize the sale of conventional submarines, a theater missile defense and other military assistance to Taiwan.

The House International Relations Committee separately approved a bill that would increase military links with Taiwan by promoting U.S. training of Taiwan's military officers and opening up lines of communication with the Taiwan military during times of crisis.

Committee Chairman Ben Gilman, R-N.Y., said the bill was in response to "Beijing's outright refusal to renounce the use of force against Taiwan"

and its "overwrought saber-rattling."

The measure, approved 32-6, was weakened from the original version of the bill that authorized the sale of specific weapons to Taiwan. But it was still opposed by the administration, which says that it is both unnecessary and could increase tensions in the area.

"These types of changes can be particularly destabilizing given the current environment," Assistant Secretary of State Stanley Roth told reporters.

Woolsey, central intelligence director for President Clinton in 1993-1994, said the administration policy is a potentially tragic attempt at "strategic ambiguity" like the failed effort by Britain and France to discourage Hitler from seizing Czechoslovakia.

"The executive branch needs to be forced to change its short-sighted policy," Woolsey said in backing the legislation at a seminar at the Nixon Center, a private research group.

Woolsey said Clinton's declaration of a "strategic relationship" with China, his adoption of a one-China approach on the dispute between Beijing and Taipei and repeated U.S. apologies for NATO's mistaken bombing of the Chinese Embassy in Belgrade in May have encouraged hard-line factions in Beijing.

Appeasement is "a proper word to describe the administration's stand," Woolsey said.

A former deputy, Robert Suettinger, said he also was troubled by Clinton's declaration of a "strategic relationship" with China, which could imply some form of military alliance.

But he said "to accuse the administration of appeasement is to substitute rhetoric for reality."

Suettinger opposed the legislation, saying foreign policy should be left to the executive branch and that the bill encroaches on that constitutional authority.



Republican Illinois Gov. George Ryan leaves the Havana cathedral after a mass Sunday during a tour of Old Havana, Cuba.

US budget fight rages on

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Clinton's signing of the \$268 billion defense spending bill averts a major budget blowup with Republicans, but still leaves the two sides battling over domestic programs and foreign aid.

Clinton signed the Pentagon measure on Monday after considering vetoing it to make it a bargaining chip in his quest to win more money from Republicans.

The president complained that the bill financed projects the Pentagon did not want and used budget gimmicks like declaring \$7 billion in base maintenance an "emergency" that would not count against spending limits. But he said that "in good conscience," he could not block the legislation.

"I have signed it because it's crucial to our national security and our military readiness, because the troops who defend our interests abroad deserve the strongest support we can provide here at home," he told reporters.

Republicans congratulated him for his decision.

"Our nation's defense is too important to politicize," said House Majority Whip Tom DeLay, R-Texas.

A Clinton veto would have intensified bitter feelings between the two parties and escalated and prolonged the budget fight.

The signature leaves Clinton fighting Republicans over five spending bills, in which he wants \$5 billion to \$10 billion more for hiring teachers and police officers, buying park land, foreign aid and other programs. Those differences, plus administration opposition to provisions helping the mining, ranching and oil industries, seem unlikely to be resolved until next month.

In the end, the defense bill proved too laden with popular spending for a veto to be politically feasible. Costing \$4.5



Bill Clinton



Tom DeLay

billion more than Clinton requested, the bill included money for a 4.8 percent military pay raise and scores of projects for lawmakers' home districts. Some Democrats, including the influential Rep. John Murtha, D-Pa., had said they would work to override the veto.

Failure to uphold a veto would have weakened Clinton's hand in budget talks and been a stinging foreign affairs defeat, especially after the Senate's Oct. 13 rejection of the global nuclear test ban treaty. For his veto to prevail, Clinton would have needed one-third of those voting in either the House or Senate, plus one vote.

Clinton told reporters he believed he could have won but worried that Democrats would be "attacked by the Republicans for being against the defense budget that the Democratic Party has basically pursued."

White House officials also hope the signing will focus attention on Clinton's battle with Republicans over his budget proposals and the GOP's plan to cut federal agencies' spending by 1.4 percent.

"I will not allow Congress to raise its own pay and fund its own pork-barrel projects, and still make devastating across-the-board cuts in everything from education to child nutrition to the FBI," Clinton said Monday. "I will

not sign any budget that puts special interests above the national interest."

Republicans say the across-the-board cuts will be aimed at eliminating waste.

At the insistence of Senate Appropriations Committee Chairman Ted Stevens, R-Alaska, Republicans were considering reducing the size of the cut in agency spending to about 1 percent.

A move also was afoot by some rank-and-file Republicans to try to include lawmakers' salaries in the across-the-board reduction. Their pay, set to rise 3.4 percent to \$141,300 next year, currently would not be cut, because money for their salaries is not controlled by the spending bills.

Besides building up equipment depleted by the air campaign against Yugoslavia, the defense bill would curtail production of the Air Force's F-22 stealth fighter and provide billions for weapons that would be spent from coast to coast.

Included is \$375 million to begin building a helicopter carrier in the home district of Senate Majority Leader Trent Lott, R-Miss., including electrical equipment built by Pennsylvania subcontractors; \$275 million for five F-15 fighters to be built by Boeing Co. in the St. Louis area, represented by the House minority leader, Rep. Dick Gephardt, D-Mo.; and electronic equipment for missile defense systems built

in Massachusetts.

Clinton said he would sign a third, short-term measure keeping agencies open while spending bills are completed, saying, "We are making some progress." The second one expires Friday night.

Clinton also vetoed a \$39 billion measure financing the departments of Commerce,

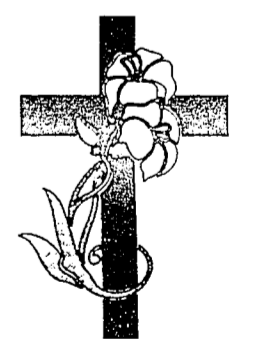
Justice and State.

That bill, which lacked most of the \$1.3 billion Clinton requested to help communities hire thousands of police officers, is the third of the 13 annual spending bills for fiscal 2000 that he has vetoed. He has threatened to veto two others, and he has signed eight into law.



Michael Graham, accompanied by his wife Gail, leaves Elizabeth Kee Federal Building in Bluefield, W. Va., Tuesday. A federal magistrate ruled there is sufficient evidence that Graham, who performed accounting work at the First National Bank of Keystone, interfered with a federal investigation by burying three truckloads of bank records.

FIFTH DEATH ANNIVERSARY



In loving memory of our late husband, father, grandfather & great grandfather

JULIAN NORITA (FELIPE)

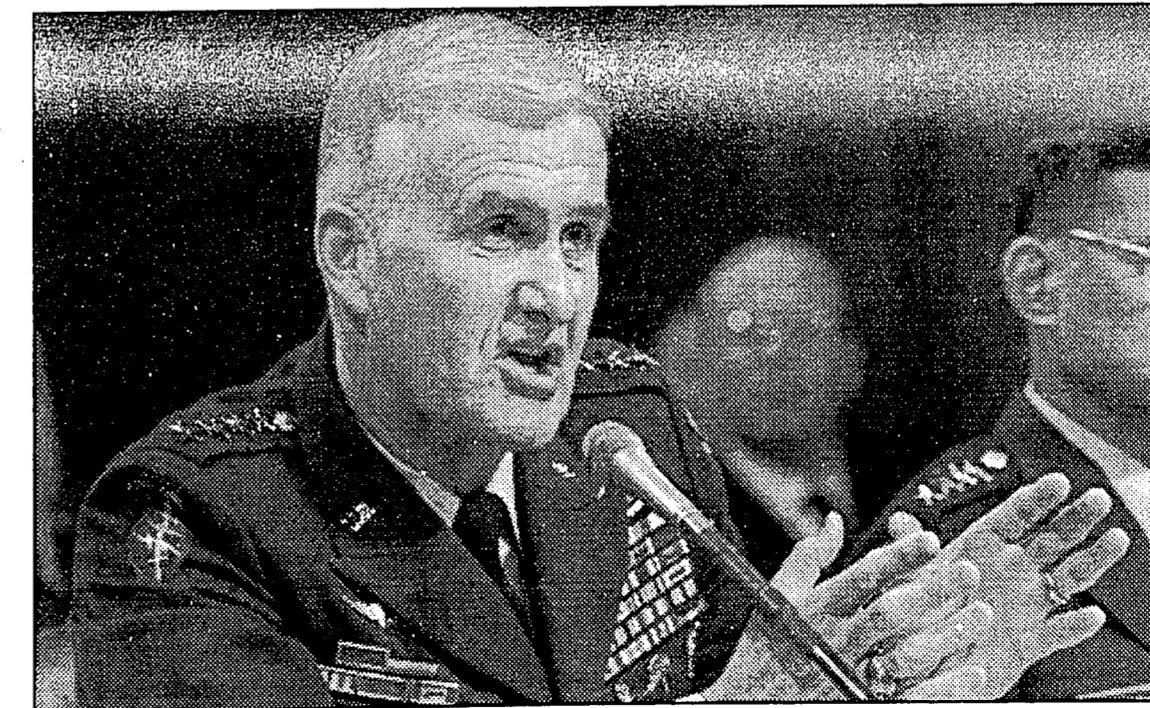
Mrs. Julia K. Norita and children would like to invite all their friends and family to join them as they commemorate the Fifth Year Anniversary of his passage unto eternal life.

Daily Memorial Masses will be offered at Kristo Rai Church at 6:00 a.m. beginning on October 20 to October 28, 1999.

On Thursday, October 28, Mass will also be celebrated at Santa Remedios Church at 6:00 p.m. Dinner will be served at Mrs. Julia K. Norita's residence in Tanapag.

Your prayers and presence are greatly appreciated. Dangulo na Si Yu'us Ma'ase.

GINEN I FAMILIA



Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff Gen. Henry H. Shelton testifies before the Senate Armed Services Committee on Capitol Hill in Washington Tuesday. The status of the U.S. military, its readiness, training and the deployment of troops were issues examined during the hearing.

Many Gulf War vets compensated

WASHINGTON (AP) — A higher percentage of Gulf War veterans are receiving disability compensation than veterans of any other period, the Clinton administration said Tuesday. The No. 1 complaint is knee injuries.

Of the 700,000 Gulf War veterans, roughly 16 percent are receiving disability compensation, said Joseph Thompson, Veterans Affairs undersecretary for benefits.

That compares with 8.6 percent of the remaining World War II veterans, 5 percent of Korean veterans and 9.6 percent of Vietnam era veterans, Thompson told the House Veterans Affairs Committee. Benefit checks also go to 9.5 percent of veterans who served during peacetime.

Of the total 202,272 Gulf War claims processed, Thompson said in prepared testimony, only 11,407 - under 6 percent - have been for "undiagnosed illness."

Veterans' groups and advocates

for those suffering from Gulf War ailments complained that the report continues an administration practice of understating the problem.

Of the processed claimed for "undiagnosed illness," 3,077 were granted and 8,330 denied, Thompson said.

"Most denials resulted from a finding of no disability, a diagnosis that was not service-connected or a diagnosis that was service connected," he said.

The number one service-connected condition claimed is "impairment of the knee," he said, followed by skeletal system disability, lumbosacral strain, arthritis due to trauma, scars, hearing loss, hypertension, intervertebral disc syndrome, tinnitus and osteoarthritis.

Joy Ilem, associate director of the Disabled American Veterans, suggested that many physicians, reluctant to provide a report of "undiagnosed illness" because of pressure within the Department

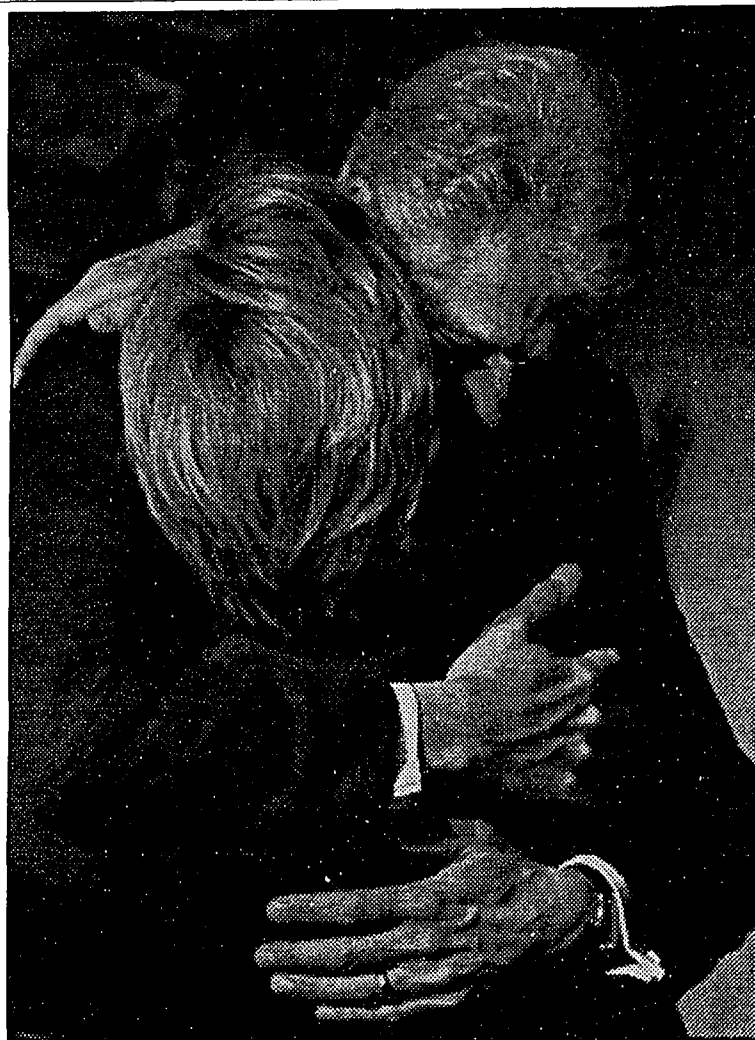
of Veterans Affairs health care system, enter a diagnosis they believe is a "reasonable probability."

"The plight of Persian Gulf War veterans suffering from unexplained illnesses related to the service in the Persian Gulf continues to be one of our foremost concerns," Ilem said.

"The bottom line is that thousands of Gulf War veterans with serious physical illnesses and conditions have been left unattended to," said William Frasure, deputy director for the Vietnam Veterans of America.

Congress passed legislation in 1994 granting Veterans Affairs the authority to compensate those with difficult-to-diagnose and ill-defined illnesses.

"VA has failed to implement the law, and thousands of Gulf War veterans remain without compensation for these service-connected disabilities," said Matthew Puglish, a representative of the American Legion.



President Clinton embraces his wife, first lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, on the stage of the Ford Center for the Performing Arts in New York Monday after praising her as the most committed public servant he knew. AP

No student loans for drug offenders

WASHINGTON (AP) — Students convicted of drug offenses will be barred from receiving federal college tuition aid for one year from date of conviction and, in some cases, permanently under rules taking effect next summer.

The regulations are based on a law enacted last year to reduce waste in the student loan system. They do not apply to juvenile records, and some students will be able to retain eligibility by completing drug rehabilitation or by having their convictions overturned.

Students must report any drug convictions on forms for federal financial aid, including Pell grants and student loans. Some student groups complain that the new rules are counterproductive.

"It's kind of backward to deal

with a drug policy by denying people an education," said Jamie Puschel, a 1998 college graduate who is now legislative director of the Washington-based U.S. Student Association.

Justice Department officials say there's no database designating student drug offenses, but a statement released by Sen. Judd Gregg, R-N.H., cites a University of Michigan study that said 33.5 percent of college students had used illegal drugs in 1995.

A recent nationwide survey indicated that drug use among young adults ages 18 to 25 has risen in the last five years, with 16.1 percent, or 4.5 million, saying they were current users of an illegal drug, meaning they had used the drug in the month before they were surveyed.

D. Jean Veta, the Education Department's deputy general

counsel, had no estimate for how many students the regulations could affect, but added: "If we find out a student has lied, we not only require repayment of any aid received, but the student would be at risk for prosecution for lying to the federal government."

"We are very concerned about students being truthful about all aspects of the financial aid application," Veta said.

Rep. Barney Frank, D-Mass., who unsuccessfully sought to limit the student loan legislation, said such provisions could unfairly affect young people who were not serious drug users.

"Obviously if someone is a drug dealer or a serious user, that is a reason to say no," Frank said Monday. "This kind of blanket ban is a mistake."

Census launching huge ad campaign

NEW YORK, (Reuters) - In an effort to reach the millions of Americans who fail to respond to its once-in-a-decade effort to count the U.S. population, the Census Bureau is launching its biggest-ever advertising campaign, with a budget of \$167 million.

On Wednesday, the Bureau will unveil the multicultural, multilingual advertising in the campaign, which will include television, radio and print ads in English and 17 other languages.

They will especially target Hispanics, black Americans, Asian and Pacific Islanders, American Indians, Alaska Natives and other ethnic groups who have failed to respond to the bureau's mailed surveys in past census years. The campaign, led by Young & Rubicam Inc., will start early next month and run through May 2000.

According to the Bureau, there has been a steady decline in household response rates, which have fallen from 78 percent in 1970 to 65 percent in 1990, when the last census was held. Based on those rates, the Bureau's Census 2000 plan anticipates a drop in the response rate to 61 percent, leaving an estimated 42 million households to be canvassed door-to-door.

The theme of the advertising spots is the tagline: "This is your future. Don't leave it blank." It will be modified slightly for different ethnic groups. For example, spots targeted at black Americans and Asian Americans will read:

"This is our future. Don't leave it blank." For American Indians, the pitch is: "Generations are counting on this. Don't leave it blank."

In addition to Young & Rubicam, participating agencies and the population segments they will target are: G+G Advertising, of Albuquerque (American Indian/Alaskan Native); The Bravo Group (Hispanic); The Chisholm-Mingo Group (black American, Haitian and Caribbean); and Kang & Lee Advertising, Inc., of New York (Asian and Pacific Island).

There will be more than 130,000 announcements in 17 languages, 11 of which are Asian - Chinese (Mandarin and Cantonese); Korean, Vietnamese, Tagalog (Philippines); Asian Indian (Hindi, Japanese, Cambodian, Thai; Hmong (Cambodia); and Laotian. Additional languages are: Creole, French, Arabic, Polish and Russian, as well as Spanish.

The campaign emphasizes that Census data can affect the annual allocation of more than \$185 billion in federal funds and impact decisions by state, local and tribal governments on new schools, hospitals, roads and community centers. The data also determine congressional districts.

In the 1990 census, the Bureau relied entirely on free public service announcement ads, which were not always targeted where most needed, and, like most public services ads, were often broadcast when few people were likely tuned in.

Australia referendum nears

Howard: 'No' to Republic

CANBERRA, Australia (AP) — Prime Minister John Howard on Wednesday urged Australians to vote against their nation becoming a republic at a referendum next month.

In a statement, Howard said the proposed changes to Australia's constitution would not make the nation's system of government better or more effective, rather they would make the office of head of state less secure.

"There is nothing to be gained from tampering with a system of government which has contributed to our country being one of only a handful of nations which has remained fully demo-

cratic throughout the 20th century," Howard said.

Howard's statement, while much anticipated, contained no surprises. A conservative, he has long opposed Australia becoming a republic.

On Nov. 6, Australia's 12.3 million voters will be asked if they want to turn the nation from a constitutional monarchy into a republic and replace the queen and her representative in Australia, the governor general, with a president elected by a two-thirds majority of both houses of parliament.

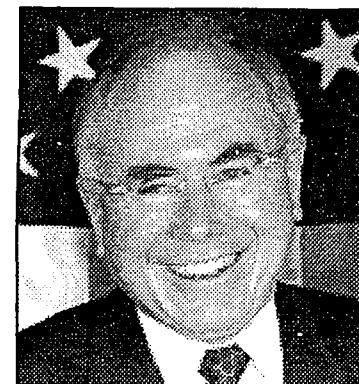
Australia has been independent since 1901, but like many Commonwealth nations, it still

recognizes the British monarch as its head of state.

Howard promised to allow the referendum before he was elected, and urged all Australians to support the outcome whatever it may be. But he said Australians should reject the current republic option.

Howard said the main argument for a republic was that an Australian should be the country's head of state. But because the governor-general was the effective head of state, and the office had been filled by an Australian since 1965, there would be no change.

Howard said the present system ensured the role of gover-



John Howard

nor-general was separate from the government, but "I do not believe that the republican proposal would be as effective as present arrangements in deliv-

ering that outcome," he said.

Only the queen can dismiss the governor-general, but under the republic plan the prime minister would be able to dismiss the president, Howard said. This lessening of the head of state's "security of tenure" could compromise the president's independence.

"My support for a constitutional monarchy is not based on nostalgia," Howard said. "Rather it is based on a belief that we will not give ourselves a better system of government if Australia becomes a republic and, in all probability, will give ourselves a less effective one."

Japan, France urge WTO negotiations

TOKYO, (Reuters) - Japan and France on Tuesday urged that a new round of global trade negotiations to be launched in early December be comprehensive and seek not only improved market access but stronger world trade rules.

In a briefing paper issued during French Finance Minister Dominique Strauss-Kahn's visit here, the two nations also called for the World Trade Organisation (WTO) talks to recognise the European and Japanese models of "multifunctional agriculture."

Preparations for the new trade round, to start in Seattle at a four-day plenary WTO conference, have been dogged by strong differences over the areas it should cover.

Food exporters including the United States want farm issues to be at the fore, while the European Union, Japan and South Korea want a much wider approach in-

cluding industrial tariffs, competition and investment policy.

"In order to reach balanced results which would satisfy every member's interests, especially the developing countries, the new round should be comprehensive and conducted under a single-undertaking principle," the joint French-Japanese briefing paper said.

Both Paris and Tokyo are keen to protect domestic farm interests.

"The Japanese government has a responsibility to protect its own farmers and we can't sit by and do nothing when Japanese farmers' rights are going to be taken away by a flooding of the market by imported products," Akitaka Saiki, a spokesman for Prime Minister Keizo Obuchi, said last week.

Strauss-Kahn is in Tokyo for a two-day official visit. He met with Japanese Finance Minister Kiichi Miyazawa on Monday.



Newly appointed Defense Minister Juwono Sudarsono (left) shakes hands with Col. Syafei of the Indonesian Army who had come to congratulate Sudarsono at the Education Ministry where he had been the Education Minister. President Abdurrahman Wahid's new "national unity" cabinet is being touted as being free of corruption from the authoritarian past. AP

Civilian named by Wahid as his new defense minister

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — In a move to sharply reduce the military's political dominance, Indonesia's new president took the radical step Tuesday of appointing a civilian to run the Defense Ministry.

President Abdurrahman Wahid, whose election by parliament last week marked Indonesia's transition to democracy, announced a Cabinet filled with political neophytes, Islamic party politicians and fewer military officials than ever before.

Juwono Sudarsono, Indonesia's first civilian defense minister in four decades, faces the huge task of reforming a military widely accused of human rights abuses and meddling in politics and of keeping restive parts of the country from trying to break away.

Juwono, education minister in the Cabinet of just-ousted President B.J. Habibie, once served as vice-governor of the National Defense Institute, the military's main think-tank.

"He's nonpartisan but has a good relationship with the armed forces," said analyst Salim Said. "He would not be considered a

threat to the military. He would be a good bridge between the president and the military."

Juwono will take over the Defense Ministry from Gen. Wiranto, the powerful military leader who also was replaced as commander of Indonesia's armed forces.

Wiranto, like many Indonesians, uses only one name. Wiranto, who was awarded the senior post of political and security affairs minister, played a major political role in Indonesia's bumpy and sometimes bloody transition to democracy after the ouster of authoritarian President Suharto in May 1998.

Wahid said Juwono was appointed at Wiranto's suggestion. "Don't think that the military are crazy," Wahid said. "They know that the whole society is changing now. Because of this, Gen. Wiranto also knows that the military has to change its attitude toward society."

The new Cabinet includes only six active or retired generals - the fewest ever.

In an unprecedented move, Wiranto will be replaced as military chief by a navy officer, Adm.

Widodo Adisutjipto, who was Wiranto's deputy. The navy is regarded as less corrupt and brutal than the army.

Indonesia's military long has served a major political role that was trimmed back since Suharto's departure. It has 38 of the 700 seats in the People's Consultative Assembly, the country's highest legislative body, half its total from past assemblies.

Juwono raised the possibility Tuesday that those seats could be eliminated as well. He also said he was considering appointment of other civilians to top defense posts.

Wahid described his new Cabinet as a "national unity" Cabinet that would focus on pulling Indonesia out of its worst economic crisis in more than three decades.

"We have to make economic recovery our prime goal," Wahid said in a nationally televised address. "Second is to maintain our territorial integrity."

Despite demands he choose a completely new team, four of the 35 ministers were holdovers from the corrupt, autocratic regimes of Suharto and Habibie.

Cambodia wants illegal aliens out

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — The Cambodian government has offered cash rewards for exposing illegal immigrants, part of a tough initiative to force foreigners to obtain proper visas or leave the country.

Illegal immigrants and their employers have until Nov. 4 to comply with immigration laws or face punishment, under an order from the newly formed Commission for Monitoring Foreigners.

The government will not fine "those who voluntarily present themselves on time to the competent authority," says the order, which was made public Tuesday.

Rewards of up to \$100, a large sum in Cambodia, are offered to anyone who turns in illegal immigrants after the deadline.

More than 500 Chinese have been arrested in Phnom Penh in recent weeks in what municipal leaders say is an effort to break up a smuggling ring that provides Cambodian travel documents to immigrants trying to reach a third country.

The U.S. Embassy has pressed Cambodia to strengthen its immigration policies, fearing that the country is becoming a major transit point for people trying to reach the United States.



Secretary of the Interior Bruce Babbitt answers a question from Sen. Frank Murkowski, R-Alaska, before the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources hearing on Capitol Hill in Washington Tuesday. AP

To discuss E. Timor's future

Wahid to meet Gusmao

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesia's new president said Tuesday he plans to meet soon with East Timor's guerrilla leader to set a new course for relations between the neighbors.

"I will meet him at the airport," President Abdurrahman Wahid said after announcing his Cabinet. "This is important for East Timor's people to know; that we respect the international community."

East Timor people voted overwhelmingly in an Aug. 30 U.N.-supervised election to break away from Indonesia, which invaded the former Portuguese colony in 1975.

Independence leader Jose Alexandre "Xanana" Gusmao was released several days later



Abdurrahman Wahid

after seven years in custody in Jakarta for leading a guerrilla war against Indonesia's occupation.

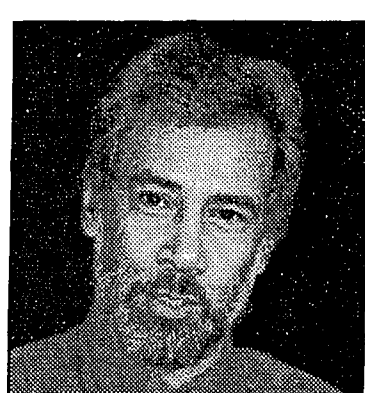
He made a joyous return to his homeland on Friday and is tipped to become its first presi-

dent after two to three years under a U.N.-established transitional administration.

Joao Carrascalao, a spokesman for East Timor's pro-independence umbrella organization, CNRT, did not confirm any scheduled meeting, but said Gusmao hoped for talks with the new president soon.

"We have a long relationship with Gus Dur," he said, using the Indonesian leader's nickname. "If he wants to meet Xanana Gusmao, it shows he wants to smooth relations, to regain credibility in the international community and adopt a more sensitive attitude."

Wahid was elected on Oct. 20, heralding a new era of democracy after decades of



Jose Alexandre "Xanana" Gusmao

authoritarianism. The revered Muslim leader visited Gusmao several times before his release.

Wahid said he sent a letter to U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan saying Indonesia ended its administration of East Timor

and "hopes that East Timor will become an independent state."

Indonesian officials have said that effectively cedes Indonesia's control of the half-island territory to the world body and that there would be no need for a formal handover ceremony.

Earlier Tuesday, the U.N. Security Council unanimously approved the U.N. takeover and sending more than 9,000 troops to maintain order, the biggest U.N. peacekeeping operation in five years.

A wave of violence and destruction swept across East Timor after the independence referendum. International peacekeepers were sent in in September to re-establish law and order.

Singapore wants to can 'Singlish'

SINGAPORE (AP) — Singapore's local brand of English mixed with Malay and Chinese idioms has got to go, the city-state's most influential politician says.

And such complaints are not taken lightly in this closely run Southeast Asian nation when they come from Senior Minister Lee Kuan Yew, who was prime minister for 31 years.

Lee has stirred things up by calling the national dialect of "Singlish" a handicap that is stifling the country's economic development. He lambasted TV comedies for popularizing Singlish, saying that wrongly leads Singaporeans to believe they don't need to speak proper English.

Singlish consists of clipped sentences like "you eat yourself, we eat ourself," which means "you eat by yourself and we'll do the same." The ever-present word "lah" ends many sentences.

Though English is the language of government and business in multiethnic Singapore, many of the 3.2 million citizens of the former British colony speak Singlish at home and with friends and enjoy local TV comedies featuring Singlish-speaking characters.

Lee may not be the top government official anymore, but his words still have the weight of an official decree.

Within days of his criticisms, the wheels of Singapore's media and education system, largely controlled by the ruling People's Action Party, were set in motion against Singlish.

The chief target became the widely watched sitcom "Phua Chu Kang Pte Ltd." The show centers on a Singlish-speaking contractor named Phua Chu Kang, played by popular comic Gurmit Singh, who is set against his better educated younger brother and his snobbish wife.

Phua and his favorite phrase,



Lee Kuan Yew

"Don't pray pray" (don't play around), are being blamed for the less than perfect English of young Singaporeans.

"In trying to imitate life, Phua Chu Kang has made the teaching of proper English more difficult," Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said in a speech. "We cannot be a first-world economy or go global with Singlish."

The prime minister said he had taken his criticism directly to Phua's creator, the Television Corporation of Singapore.

The series ended its season in September with Phua promising to take classes to learn proper English so he can become a better role model for his impressionable young nephew.

In a further effort to eliminate Singlish, the government urged schools to maintain a higher English language standard.

The government, which has successfully affected public attitudes in a series of campaigns promoting kindness, courtesy, health and cleanliness, announced it will begin a "Speak Good English" campaign by early next year.

But some Singaporeans think this may be one campaign that fails with their traditionally law-abiding compatriots.

Several letters to The Straits Times, the country's leading newspaper, argued that Singlish helps connect the different races and languages.

ASIA

HK 'crime boss' to be extradited

HONG KONG (AP) — A Hong Kong court has ordered an alleged crime boss be sent to the United States to stand trial, throwing out his contention that an extradition treaty couldn't work because Hong Kong is not a sovereign state.

The Court of First Instance ordered the extradition of Peter Chong, 56, who was indicted by a San Francisco grand jury in 1995 on various charges, including conspiracy to murder, drug dealing and arson.

Chong argued he could not be sent to the United States because of a Connecticut district court ruling last month that people wanted in Hong Kong could not be extradited out of the United States.

The extradition treaty would need to work both ways to be valid, Chong's lawyers argued, and it is not because the Connecticut court recognized

extradition treaties only if they are made with sovereign states. Hong Kong is now part of China but has an extradition agreement with the United States dating to its British colonial days.

Justice Frank Stock dismissed Chong's arguments, saying the U.S. court decision had no effect in Hong Kong.

An alleged leader of Chinese gangs known as "triads," Chong was arrested in Hong Kong upon arriving from Taipei in July last year, and has been in police custody ever since. He was initially arrested in 1993 in Hong Kong and released.

A former British colony, Hong Kong was handed over to China in 1997 as a "special administrative region" that enjoyed a high degree of autonomy. All treaties entered into by the British colonial government were still effective.

India, Pakistan in clash at border

SRINAGAR, India (AP) — Indian troops used artillery and small arms to fend off the most serious border incursion by Pakistani troops since a military coup in Pakistan two weeks ago, the army said Tuesday.

Four Pakistani soldiers and an Indian civilian were killed and three other Indian civilians injured during Monday's battle in the mountainous Uri sector of Kashmir. Houses in several villages also were damaged in the daylong artillery duel.

Indian soldiers prevented a squad of Pakistani soldiers from seizing two fortified positions inside India, said a statement issued in Srinagar, the summer capital of the Himalayan territory. It did not mention Indian casualties.

In Pakistan, army spokesman Col. Salaut Raza had no comment on the report.

On Sunday, Indian military officials said three people were wounded by Pakistani artillery fire in the same sector, 15 miles west of Srinagar.

In May, Indian soldiers launched a major campaign to oust Pakistan-backed fighters who had sneaked across the cease-fire line and seized mountain tops in Kashmir. The 11-week battle left hundreds of fighters from both nations dead or wounded.

India and Pakistan have fought two wars over Kashmir, which is split between them. Both claim it in its entirety. India says Pakistan is fueling a 10-year Islamic insurrection with arms and train-

ing, which Pakistan denies.

Border clashes have become routine over the volatile cease-fire line in Kashmir, but there had been a slackening after Pakistani army chief Gen. Pervez Musharraf ousted the elected government of Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif in a bloodless coup Oct. 12.

Last week, Musharraf withdrew reinforcements moved to the international border during the summer fighting. But the pullback did not include the cease-fire line that divides Kashmir.

India reacted coolly to the gesture, saying there was not as much tension along the border as on the cease-fire line.

Musharraf also said Pakistan would continue its diplomatic and moral support for Kashmiri militant groups fighting Indian authorities. The decade-long insurrection has left 25,000 soldiers, guerrillas and civilians dead.

India has voiced "grave concern" over the coup in Pakistan. In a policy speech to a joint session of Parliament Monday, President K.R. Narayanan said "democracy alone can best guarantee peace, understanding and co-operation."

Also Tuesday, the army said it recovered 440 pounds of plastic explosives in downtown Srinagar. The statement did not say if anyone was arrested.

Officials said the explosives could have been used to disrupt the annual move of the state government from Srinagar to the winter capital of Jammu, due to take place in the first week of November.

Jiang in Portugal



Chinese President Jiang Zemin (left) talks with his Portuguese counterpart Jorge Sampaio during welcoming ceremonies for Zemin Tuesday in Lisbon.

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Chinese President Jiang Zemin arrived Tuesday in Portugal for a two-day visit during which he was to hold talks on the transfer of Macau from Portuguese to Chinese rule, relations with the European Union, and bilateral trade.

Portuguese and Chinese leaders are keen to settle outstanding issues on the enclave's handover, which is to take place Dec. 20 after more than 400 years as a Portuguese colony.

Like Hong Kong, Macau will be set up as a so-called Special Administrative Region with its own legal and economic systems after it returns to China. Macau has 420,000 residents.

The transfer talks, which began in 1987, have mostly gone smoothly, Lisbon officials say, but recently stalled over disagreements on China's plan to station troops in Macau after the handover.

Jiang was to meet officials in the capital Lisbon on Tuesday and travel to the northern industrial city Oporto on Wednesday.

Dozens of protesters, denouncing human rights abuses in China, gathered near Lisbon City Hall where Jiang received the keys to the city. But police kept them from reaching the building.



Something New Is In The Air...

Call 682-2745 to find out what it is!

GTE PACIFIC
We're Connected To You™



Wide assortment of weapons are hauled in Timor by peacekeepers

DILI, East Timor (AP) — Weapons seized by the international peacekeeping force in East Timor include the homemade and the high-tech: everything from bows and arrows to fragmentation grenades.

Five weeks into its mission in the half-island territory, the multinational force released a breakdown of weapons it has confiscated from civilians, some of whom were members of paramilitary groups.

The haul ran to hundreds of items, including a nunchuk — a martial arts weapon — and 43 long, machete-like knives called parangs. Also on the list: two

bows and 23 arrows, 15 sling-shots, 68 homemade pistols, 72 homemade pipeguns, 18 swords and six axes.

And there were more standard weapons of war, such as a machine pistol, 1,500 fragmentation grenades and a variety of ammunition magazines.

"There is a clear need to remove weapons from the community," the peacekeeping force said in a statement.

East Timorese aren't willingly giving up their weapons, though. Last week a weapons-collection drive by the peacekeepers netted no armaments of any kind.

Throughout the appointed day at

collection points scattered around the capital, Dili, peacekeeping soldiers sat forlornly at tables piled with receipts meant to be given to people who voluntarily turned in weapons. No one did.

Many civilians had weapons to protect themselves against the anti-independence militias who laid waste to the territory last month after East Timorese overwhelmingly voted for independence.

The militiamen themselves were heavily armed, with some carrying Indonesian army or police weapons.

Peacekeepers are destroying the confiscated arms, they said.

Dutch legalize brothels

THE HAGUE, Netherlands (AP) — Parliament on Tuesday overturned a 1912 ban on brothels, voting to clean up the oldest profession by turning bordellos into legitimate establishments in the booming Dutch sex industry.

By a vote of 49 to 26, the Upper House approved the bill that officially made it legal to run a brothel anywhere in the country, subject to local zoning ordinances. The Lower House passed the bill in February by an overwhelming majority.

Queen Beatrix must sign the bill within 30 days for it to become law, which is just a formality.

Tuesday's vote went along party lines, with the opposition Christian Democratic Alliance as the major opponent, supported by a bloc of small conservative Christian factions. The CDA was not opposed to brothels as such, but wanted to reserve the right of local authorities to make their communities brothel-free.

"I understand the need for improved working conditions for the

prostitutes, but this will give towns and cities too few options," said CDA member Pieter Jan Biesheuvel, who crafted the party's response to the bill in Parliament.

The new law is aimed at guaranteeing cleaner and safer working conditions for the country's estimated 30,000 prostitutes and allowing police to focus their crackdowns on the employment of illegal immigrants and underaged girls. Prostitution is already legal in the Netherlands.

"This proposal overturns the ban on brothels and replaces it with a ban on child prostitution and exploitation of involuntary prostitution," said an official summary of the law. "It will enable municipalities to regulate voluntary prostitution and the position of prostitutes will be improved."

The Red Thread, a major national prostitutes association, welcomed the vote, but was concerned the law would prioritize law enforcement over improving the working conditions of prostitutes.



Prostitutes stand behind red-lit windows, waiting for customers in Amsterdam's Red Light district in this September 28, 1997 photo. The Dutch Upper House approved the bill that officially made it legal to run a brothel on Tuesday.

"We want them to be treated as well as people in any other sector," she said, adding that the organization would lobby for government-mandated benefits in-

cluding sick pay, maternity leave and fair wage scales.

Although bordellos have been illegal, they have long been allowed to operate in clearly de-

fined areas such as the red light districts of Amsterdam and most other major cities, as long as they follow strict standards for health and fire safety.

Pope gives upbeat assessment of his 'twilight years'

VATICAN CITY (AP) — In a letter addressed to "my elderly brothers and sisters," Pope John Paul II gave an upbeat assessment Tuesday of his own life in the "twilight" of his years.

At the same time, the 79-year-old pope offered hope through faith in an afterlife, saying "I find great peace in thinking of the time when the Lord will call me: from life to life."

The letter, written to coincide with the U.N. year of the elderly, is a "very personal" message by the pope, said his spokesman, Joaquin Navarro-Valls.

"Despite the limitations brought on by age, I continue to enjoy life," John Paul said. "It is wonderful to be able to give oneself to the very end for the sake of the Kingdom of God."

A robust 58-year-old cardinal when he assumed the papacy, John Paul has been slowed in recent years



Pope John Paul II

by a series of ailments that may include Parkinson's. He just began his 21st year as leader of the world's 1 billion Roman Catholics.

"As an older person myself, I have felt the desire to engage in a conversation with you," the pope wrote, encouraging the elderly to live their lives to the full.

The elderly should neither be

relegated to the fringes of society nor face the threat of euthanasia, John Paul said.

He recalled that church law allows the rejection of extraordinary medical means to keep a patient alive, but that euthanasia was different.

"Regardless of intentions and circumstances, euthanasia is always an intrinsically evil act, a violation of God's law and an offense against the dignity of the human person."

The 35-page letter touched on themes the pope has spoken about increasingly.

"The line separating life and death runs through our communities and moves inexorably nearer to each of us. If life is a pilgrimage toward our heavenly home, then old age is the most natural time to look toward the threshold of eternity," the pope wrote.

Britain planned to kill Rommel

LONDON (AP) — Britain plotted the assassination of German Field Marshal Erwin Rommel, the brilliant World War II general known as "The Desert Fox," but balked after deciding the plan would likely fail, according to files released Tuesday.

The British plan, code named The Doctor Project, was hatched in March 1943 when Allied forces received information pinpointing the whereabouts of the secret headquarters for Rommel, commander of German forces in Africa.

The headquarters was said to be near the sea and therefore was thought vulnerable.

The plan called for four

agents from Britain's Special Operations Executive to attack the headquarters, according to the files from the Public Record Office, which periodically unseals records.

The files said the plot was abandoned when the information was later viewed as "so inadequate that to base a plan upon it would merely be the murder of the four agents concerned."

Other significant factors were "moral considerations in view of the waning state of Axis (enemy) fortunes in North Africa and possible retaliation," the files said.

Rommel became a military legend after leading Germany's

Afrika Korps. into battle against Allied forces in Libya in February 1941. He succeeded in forcing the Allies to retreat into Egypt, but his advance stalled.

He was defeated at El Alamein, Egypt, in the fall of 1942 and forced to retreat to Tunisia. Before his forces in Africa were finally crushed, he was sent to northern France to defend against the expected Allied invasion.

Rommel killed himself after being implicated in a plot to kill Hitler in July 1944 and being offered a choice of taking poison or standing trial, with threats hanging over his family.

Drug chief see Europe as new traffickers haven

LONDON, (Reuters) — The U.S. and UK's top anti-drug officials warned on Tuesday that drug trafficking in Europe was booming and the area could soon replace the United States as the world's safest haven for South American-based dealers.

Britain's Anti-Drugs Coordinator Keith Hellawell and his American counterpart General Barry McCaffrey joined forces to warn European teenagers about the dangers of cocaine in a bid to curtail their growing use of the illegal drug.

"It's a very real, huge threat and it's under the radar screen at the moment. It's a real disaster...cocaine is not a 'soft' drug, it's ferociously addictive," McCaffrey, director of the U.S. Office of National Drug Control Policy, told Reuters.

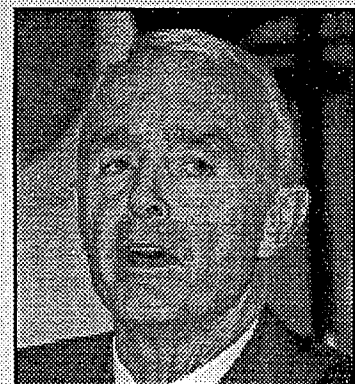
He said around 700 tonnes of cocaine were produced in South America each year - 280 of which went to the United States, the world's largest single drug consumer.

"The rest of it is looking for new markets and it's coming to Europe. We don't want Europe to follow the historical example of the U.S. so we're trying to educate people away from that."

Drugs use in the United States had fallen sharply over the past 20 years, with just six percent of the population currently taking drugs versus 14 percent in the late 1970s, he said.

And cocaine use had fallen some 70 percent in the past two decades, according to McCaffrey, a retired Army general who has led the U.S. war on drugs since 1996.

But more European teenagers are suddenly trying the drug.



Barry McCaffrey

"Western Europe is a very lucrative market where there's lots of money so there's a potential for cocaine in particular to be marketed here," Britain's Hellawell said.

"Over the last two years there's been a threefold increase in the use of cocaine in the 15-20 age group...it's a very worrying trend."

McCaffrey, in London as part of a six day whistlestop tour of Europe to get financial support for new American drug control schemes, hopes to persuade Europe to agree to fund a Colombian government plan to stem the flood of drugs from South America.

The scheme, devised with U.S. backing, would cost \$3.5 billion over the next four years.

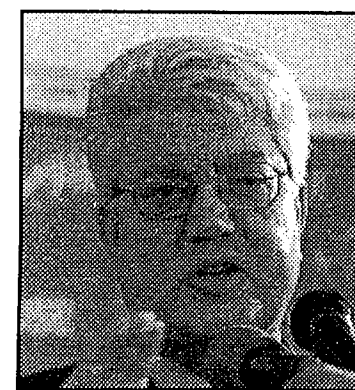
"We have to stop the stuff piling into Europe - the amount of cocaine coming in is astonishing," he said.

"CLEAN" OLYMPICS Both McCaffrey and Hellawell also pledged to build international support for a plan to guarantee drugs-free future Olympic Games, especially year-round testing by an independent agency instead of the International Olympic Committee (IOC).

Levy to go on US visit

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Foreign Minister David Levy will leave Wednesday on a previously unannounced visit to Washington, for what Israel radio reported was an effort to revive talks with Syria.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright issued the invitation in the past few days, Foreign Ministry spokesman Daniel Saada told The Associated Press on Tuesday. The talks will probably last until



David Levy

the end of the week, he said.

He would not say what Levy and Albright would discuss. Israel radio said the talks would probably focus on the efforts, so far unsuccessful, to revive peace negotiations between Israel and Syria.

Prime Minister Ehud Barak was elected in May on a platform of reviving frozen peace talks with the Arabs. So far he has succeeded with the Palestinians, but not with Syria.

Levy's visit was announced shortly after the government named David Ivri, the chairman of Israel's National Security Council, as the country's next ambassador to Washington.

Ivri, a former air force commander and a major general in the reserves, has also served as director general of the Defense Ministry and special adviser to the minister.

Over the years he has been

closely involved in Israel's purchases of American weapons and other aspects of security cooperation with Washington.

Barak made the choice in consultation with Levy, the ministry said in a press release.

Ivri will take over from Zalman Shoval, an appointee of the previous government of Benjamin Netanyahu. Shoval asked to be relieved of the post.

Palestinians throw rocks at Israel troops

BETHLEHEM, West Bank (AP) — Hundreds of Palestinians hurled stones at Israeli troops on Tuesday, the day after an Israeli soldier killed a Palestinian souvenir vendor outside a Jewish shrine.

Israeli troops fired rubber-coated steel pellets at the crowd. Ten Palestinians were injured, two of them seriously, paramedics said. One soldier was hit in the eye by a rock.

In widespread rioting Monday, 15 Palestinians and two Israeli were injured.

The clashes were triggered by the death of Mousa Abu Hilail, who had been selling postcards and souvenirs near Rachel's Tomb, a site revered by Jews as the burial place of the biblical matriarch.

The Israeli soldier who fired the fatal shots said the vendor tried to stab him. But Palestinian officials said Abu Hilail was shot without provocation.

Palestinian merchants closed their shops Tuesday, and hundreds

of Palestinians marched to Rachel's Tomb. Protesters, some masked, threw rocks and empty bottles and fired slingshots at Israeli soldiers guarding the site.

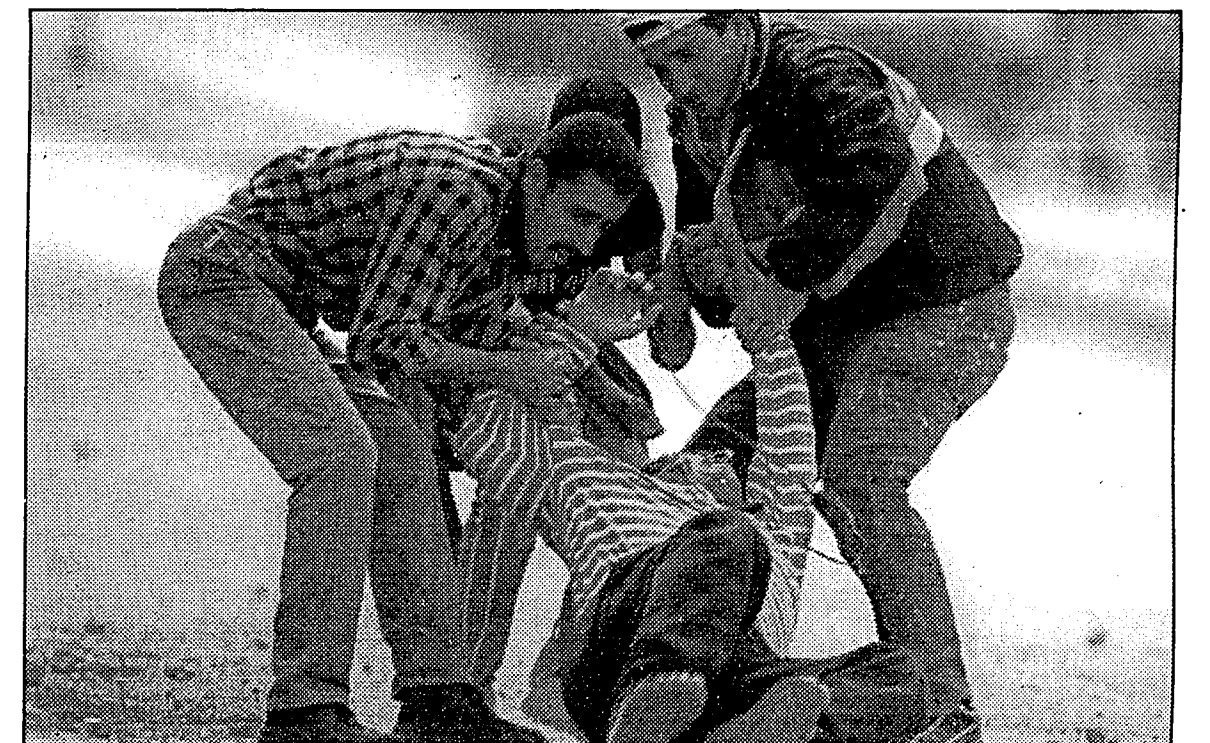
Palestinian police arrived but did not intervene.

One of the stone-throwers said he was angry about Monday's shooting as well as restrictions on Palestinian movement in and out of Bethlehem.

"We are protesting to let the world know that we are still under occupation and there is no peace," said Khaled Azza, a 19-year-old student at Bethlehem University.

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook canceled a visit to Bethlehem on Tuesday.

There has been concern in Bethlehem, where the Bible says Jesus was born, that ongoing violence could hurt the millennium tourist season. Bethlehem has been preparing for the influx of millions of visitors, starting around Christmas.



Palestinians in the West Bank town of Bethlehem come to the aid of a comrade who was hit by a rubber bullet fired by Israeli soldiers during disturbances Tuesday. Palestinians staged marches and hurled stones at Israeli soldiers.

UN should separate relief and weapons issues in Iraq

UNITED NATIONS (AP) — Facing a Security Council deadlock on a new policy toward Iraq, the U.N. humanitarian chief in the country urged council members to consider relief for ordinary Iraqis separately from disarmament issues.

Hans von Sponeck told a news conference Tuesday that it is time to take politics out of the council's debate and focus on the plight of Iraqis now in their ninth year of trying to cope with economic sanctions.

"I would argue one should ... try and delink the humanitarian discussion from the disarmament discussion," he said. "And if you do that, maybe you can introduce again longer-term vision into this whole business of how 23 million Iraqis are being treated."

But the Security Council is deadlocked over provisions of a resolution to restore arms monitoring in Iraq that would offer greater humanitarian support in return for cooperation on weapons inspections.

Von Sponeck, who has drawn the ire of the United States for calling for an end to Iraqi sanctions, said he didn't want to talk about the issue. Iraq has demanded that all sanctions be lifted.

"If I talk about sanctions I put (cq) my finger at a party," he said. "I prefer to talk about deprivation because then I put my finger at two parties."

Von Sponeck oversees implementation of the U.N. oil-for-food program, which allows Iraq to export \$ 5.2 billion worth of oil every six months as an exemption to the sanctions imposed after Iraqi troops invaded Kuwait in 1990. The revenue is primarily earmarked to buy food and medicine, but has been expanded to include other sectors including water, utilities and spare parts for the oil industry.

Steeped in politics since its inception in 1996, the program was initially resisted by Iraqi leaders, who feared it would ease international pressure on the United Nations to lift sanctions. Over the years, the United States and Iraq have traded accusations that each is trying to undermine the effectiveness of the program.

Von Sponeck, who marked the first anniversary of his appointment on Tuesday, said rising oil prices and exports have made more money available for humanitarian relief — and he said 88.8 percent of goods arriving in Iraq were being distributed.

But von Sponeck echoed U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan's concern that an increasing number of contracts that could relieve humanitarian suffering are being held up. He said the prime reason for the delay was inadequate technical information.

In a letter to the Security Council circulated Monday, Annan said 572 contracts worth about \$ 700 million are awaiting approval.

"These holds are having an undesirable impact on our humanitarian activities," Annan told reporters Tuesday. "I would want to see the U.N. run a smooth humanitarian operation in Iraq with a capacity to deliver more than the council has approved."

While Annan didn't name any names, the letter was clearly directed at the United States, which at the end of August had placed holds on more than 450 of the 500 contracts that hadn't been approved. Britain had holds on the rest.

U.S. deputy ambassador Peter Burleigh defended the U.S. holds, expressing concern that dual-use items could be directed to weapons production. Washington has also put holds on contracts from "questionable firms," he said.

Dozens of Palestinians stand behind barricades as they wait to be processed and receive the proper documents to cross into Israel from the Palestinian side of Erez Checkpoint to travel along the safe passage route linking the Gaza Strip and the southern West Bank Monday.

Mitsubishi to cut jobs

TOKYO (AP) — Major Japanese automaker Mitsubishi Motors Corp. will cut 10,000 jobs in a bid to boost competitiveness, a Japanese newspaper reported Tuesday.

The cuts will be achieved mainly through attrition, including reducing the number of new hires and utilizing early retire-

ment programs offering special benefits, the mass-circulation Asahi newspaper said.

The Asahi said that under the plan, Mitsubishi Motors' total group work force will be reduced to 78,900 employees from the current 88,800 by March 2004, for a reduction of about 11 percent.

The move by Mitsubishi Motors, Japan's fourth-largest automaker, would be the latest in a wave of corporate restructuring announced by some of Japan's top companies amid a long economic slump.

A Mitsubishi Motors spokesman, who gave only his surname of Sekino, said the company is

planning to intensify an ongoing restructuring program. But he said how many jobs would be affected on a group basis has yet to be decided.

Sekino said Mitsubishi was already implementing a goal of reducing 1,400 engineering and clerical jobs at the company by March 2000.

Faced with poor sales in Japan and the rest of Asia, Mitsubishi posted its first-ever earnings loss on a group, or consolidated, basis in the fiscal year ended March 1998.

The company then began implementing its restructuring program. Mitsubishi rebounded to a slight profit the following fiscal year.

TV Guide profit falls

TULSA, Okla. (Reuters) - TV Guide Inc. reported Tuesday third-quarter profits fell sharply due to costs associated with the merger between TV Guide Magazine and the United Video Group, owner of the Prevue cable TV channel.

The company reported a third-quarter profit of \$1.3 million, or 1 cent a diluted share, compared with last year's third-quarter profit of \$21.1 million, or 24 cents.

Wall Street analysts expected a break-even quarter, according to First Call/Thomson Financial.

In March, TV Guide merged with United Video Group, combining the magazine with United's assets, which include the Prevue Channel, later renamed TV Guide Channel.

The company said earnings per

share were diluted by the impact of 66.5 million additional shares of common stock issued on March 1 to complete the acquisition of TV Guide Magazine, which has 11 million subscribers.

The third quarter was also affected by the amortization of intangible assets recorded as a part of that acquisition. A company spokesman had no details on the amortization.

Third-quarter revenues totalled \$302.6 million, up 90 percent from last year, with the inclusion of TV Guide's magazine group accounting for the increase.

Earlier this month, the company announced plans to merge with Gemstar International Group Ltd. in a deal worth \$9.2 billion.

Japan biggest investor in Thailand

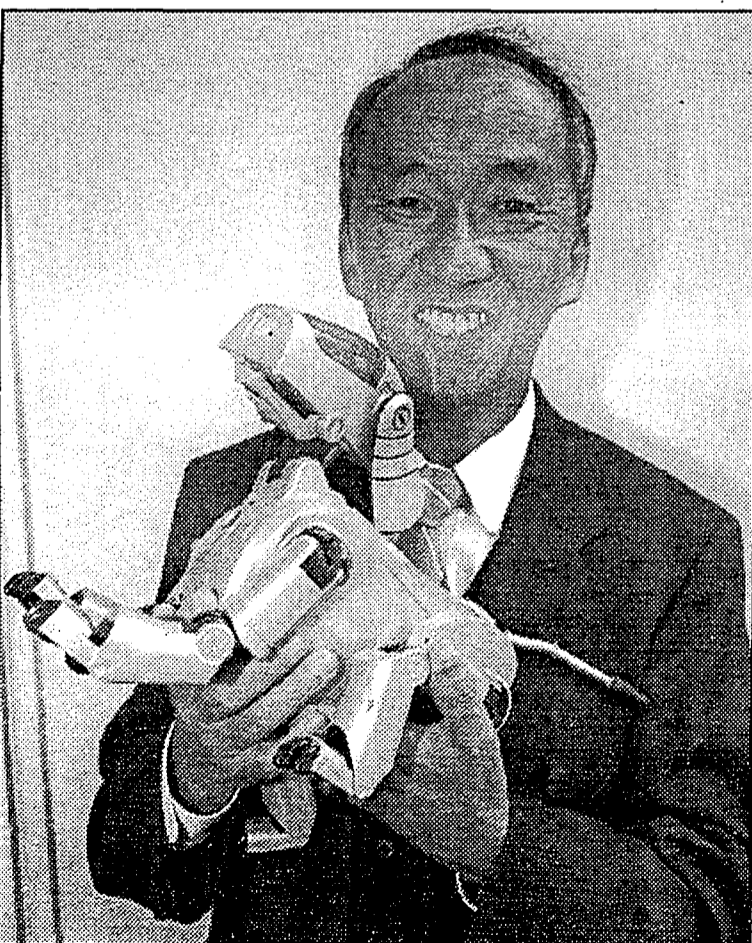
TOKYO, (Reuters) - Japan remained the largest investor in Thailand in the first nine months of this year, mainly through investments in the electronics sector.

Thai Board of Investment (BOI) Secretary-General Staporn Kavitanon said on Tuesday.

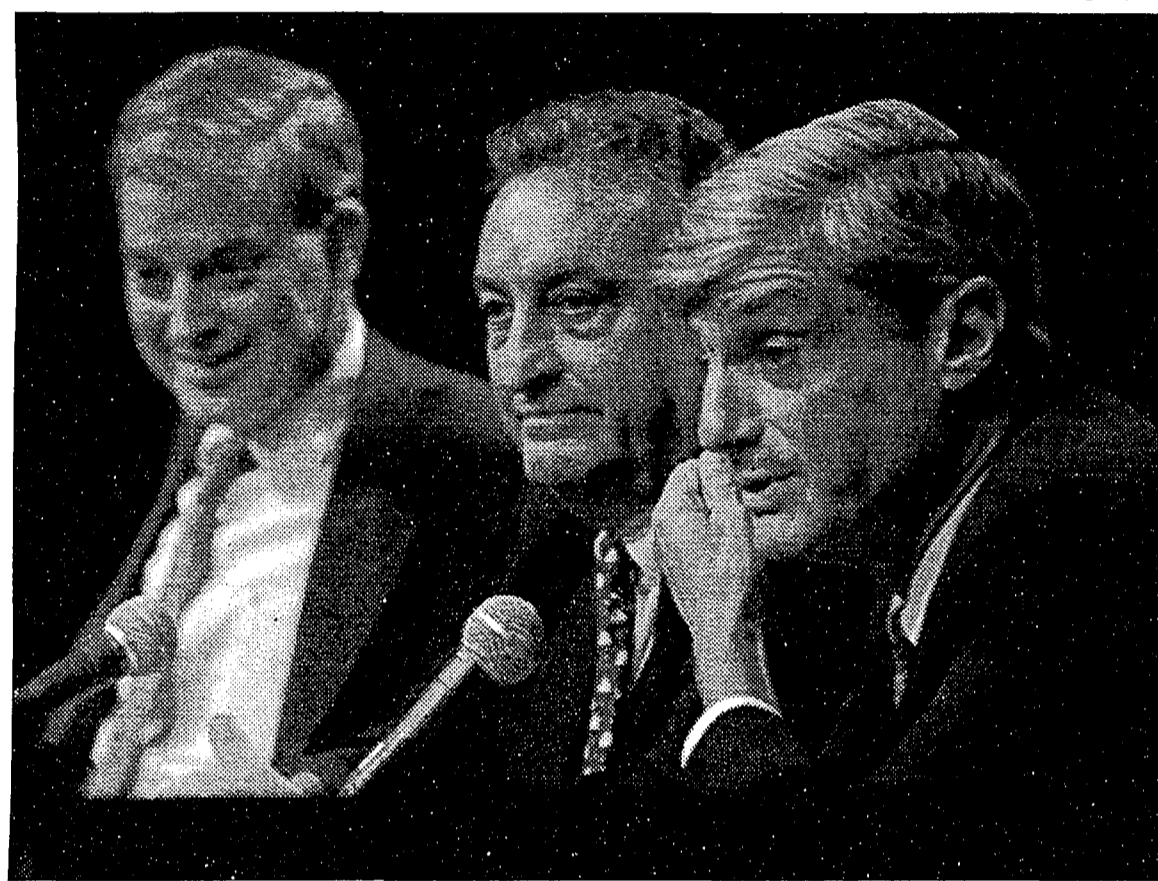
"Through September we have approved 141 Japanese projects, almost as many as in all of last

year, and these figures rank Japan number one in terms of both applications and approvals," Staporn told a seminar in Tokyo.

Japanese projects that Thailand approved this year included a 1.9 billion baht semiconductor project by Oki (Thailand), a unit of Oki Electric Industry and a 1.1 billion baht electronic apparatus project by Seiko Instruments, Staporn said.



Sony Corp. senior vice president Toshitada Doi presents the entertainment robot dog AIBO in Paris Tuesday. About the size of a Chihuahua, the robotic canine has sensors in its paws and an antenna-like tail and 10,000 units go on sale on the internet for US \$2,500. AP



Former Secretary of the Treasury Robert Rubin joins Citigroup co-chairmen and co-CEOs John Reed (left) and Sandy Weill, as he addresses a New York news conference Tuesday. Rubin will serve as chairman of the executive committee of the Citigroup's board. AP

Motorola, Sprint to offer wireless travel planning

CHICAGO, (Reuters) - Have cell phone, will travel.

Motorola Inc. and Sprint PCS Group, two big names in the wireless telephone industry, each hooked up with partners on Tuesday to offer travel services over wireless phones.

Motorola said it forged an agreement with online travel reservation system WORLDSPAN, while Sprint PCS separately said it linked with GetThere.com, which was formerly known as Internet Travel Network.

Both agreements allow the com-

panies to offer travel information on wireless phones that have Internet access.

Terms were not disclosed for either deal.

Starting in the first quarter of 2000, Motorola said people using its phones will be able to check airline flight availability, buy airline tickets and change itineraries through WORLDSPAN, the Atlanta-based travel reservations system.

A spokeswoman for Schaumburg, Ill.-based Motorola said it would be up to each carrier

to determine how much to charge for the service.

Under the Sprint PCS deal, Wireless' Web customers can track flight departures and arrivals and other travel-based information from a mini-browser on their Internet-ready phones, Sprint PCS said.

Kansas City-based Sprint PCS said the service would be available immediately, and there was no extra cost for wireless Web subscribers. Wireless Web prices start at \$9.99 per month, a spokeswoman said.

UAW members ratify Ford agreement

DETROIT, (Reuters) - The United Auto Workers union said on Tuesday its members overwhelmingly approved a new contract with Ford Motor Co., the last of the tentative deals with Detroit's Big 3 automakers to be finalized.

The ratification closed out a peaceful round of bargaining with Detroit's automakers that gave workers generous wage gains and unprecedented job security, while allowing the companies to pump out new cars and trucks without

interruption in what will be a record sales year.

The 4-year UAW pact with No. 2 automaker Ford, which was approved by 85 percent of members, mirrored agreements reached last month with General Motors Corp. and DaimlerChrysler AG.

The pact includes wage gains of 3 percent per year, a \$1,350 signing bonus, higher pensions and job protection measures for workers at Ford's Visteon parts unit, which is likely to be spun off.

Ford shares rose 3/16 to 54-1/4

on Tuesday on the New York Stock Exchange.

The contract with Ford covers 101,000 UAW members, including 23,500 at Visteon. Ford's desire to spin off the supplier subsidiary was a major stumbling block in the talks and led to brief wildcat strikes by angry union members.

In the end, the UAW agreed to not block a Visteon spinoff, and Ford agreed to lifetime job guarantees for current and future Visteon workers.

Leibovitz 'Women' show opens in D.C.

WASHINGTON (Reuters) - Annie Leibovitz, known for her eye-catching photographs of celebrities, unveiled an exhibit Tuesday focusing on American women, from Alabama coal miners to Vegas showgirls to Hillary Rodham Clinton.

There were the requisite glamour shots - notably an arresting photo of model Jerry Hall, wearing a black dress, a fur coat and her naked, breast-feeding son - but the show called "Annie Leibovitz: Women" at Washington's Corcoran Gallery of Art was for Leibovitz a celebration of individuals.

"It is a little bit like walking through a dream," she said at a press preview. "This has been an emotional project over the last three years."

Walking through the gallery before Wednesday's public opening, Leibovitz told reporters half seriously she had at least one guideline for selecting certain images over others: "If it makes you cry, it goes in the show."

She said she teared up when she took the picture of her mother, Marilyn Leibovitz, who is photographed in black and white with a serious expression and clouds overhead.

"It's very hard for me to photograph people that I know," the photographer said.

There were also tears when she went into a coal mine in Brookwood, Alabama, to photograph five women miners. What made her misty was the story of Shirley Hyche, who

made a point of telling Leibovitz her work in the mine helped put her four daughters through college.

Not far from the miners' grimy, open faces was the composed countenance of the U.S. first lady, Mrs. Clinton, with a cup of coffee and a speech draft on the Truman Balcony of the White House.

On an opposing wall was a color photo of Las Vegas showgirl Susan McNamara, in her working outfit: Cleopatra wig, beaded headdress, gold pleated cape and skimpy bikini bottom. Alongside it hung a black-and-white picture of McNamara in her off hours, with short-cropped hair, glasses and a tank top.

Leibovitz said it was difficult not to be able to include more photographs of showgirls in the museum show. She also had to cut out a sexy and powerful picture of actress Sigourney Weaver at 50, she said.

Leibovitz seemed to revel in the story behind every picture, even though some were self-explanatory, like the photo of tennis stars Serena and Venus Williams, staring straight into the camera lens.

"It's really very strong, (they seem to be saying) we're invincible," Leibovitz said of this image. "And it's just powerful. I was pretty impressed."

Another athletic shot that captured what Leibovitz called "a glamorous moment" was the picture of Ila Borders, the first

woman to pitch an entire season on a men's professional baseball team.

There was also a pair of pictures of women with the AIDS virus, in which the virus was in no way evident because the women appeared in full body paint. Other photos show victims of domestic abuse.

For a photographer who cut her professional teeth in the infancy of Rolling Stone magazine, then moved on to the glossy pages of Vanity Fair and Vogue, Leibovitz described the show with a notable modesty and nervousness.

"There were a lot of pictures that were left out," she said. The thrilling part of it was that in the long run, we really did have a feeling of how big and varied we (women) are.... I didn't learn anything new particularly about women, it was just a visual feast. It was breathtaking to see the breadth of how we look and who we are."

There are some 70 poster-sized photographs in the show, and more in the accompanying book "Annie Leibovitz: Women" with an essay by social critic Susan Sontag.

"Nobody scrutinizing the book will fail to note the confirmation of stereotypes of what women are like and the challenge to those stereotypes ... models of beauty, models of self-esteem, models of strength ... models of victimhood, models of false consciousness, models of successful ageing," Sontag wrote.



Actor Matthew McConaughey is swamped by reporters at the municipal courthouse in Austin, Texas on Monday after being released from police custody. Police accused McConaughey of possession of marijuana, possession of drug paraphernalia and resisting transport after answering a public disturbance call at his Austin home Monday morning. AP

Danes to ban porn models under 18

COPENHAGEN, Denmark (AP) — The government on Tuesday presented legislation to ban the use of models younger than age 18 for any kind of pornographic material.

Under Danish law, it already is illegal to have sexual intercourse with anyone under age 15. Possession of photographs and film of children also is banned.

The penalty for conviction of using anyone younger than age

18 in adult material would be up to two years in jail.

The proposal followed newspaper reports that Danish and foreign film makers have used Danish teen-agers for commercial films.

"Society should not accept the sexual exploitation" of these young people, the justice ministry said. The bill will be presented to legislators later this year. Parliament was expected to approve the legislation.

Abayari . . .

Continued from page 3

after Abayari wrote him a letter insisting she did not test positive for drugs.

Last week, Presiding Superior Court Judge Alberto C. Lamorena III, in an unscheduled hearing, lifted Abayari's house arrest condition. He also ordered her to begin drug rehabilitation therapy as a condition of her probation.

"As long as Abayari remains on Guam she will have to follow the same steps as any other convicted felon would, which means

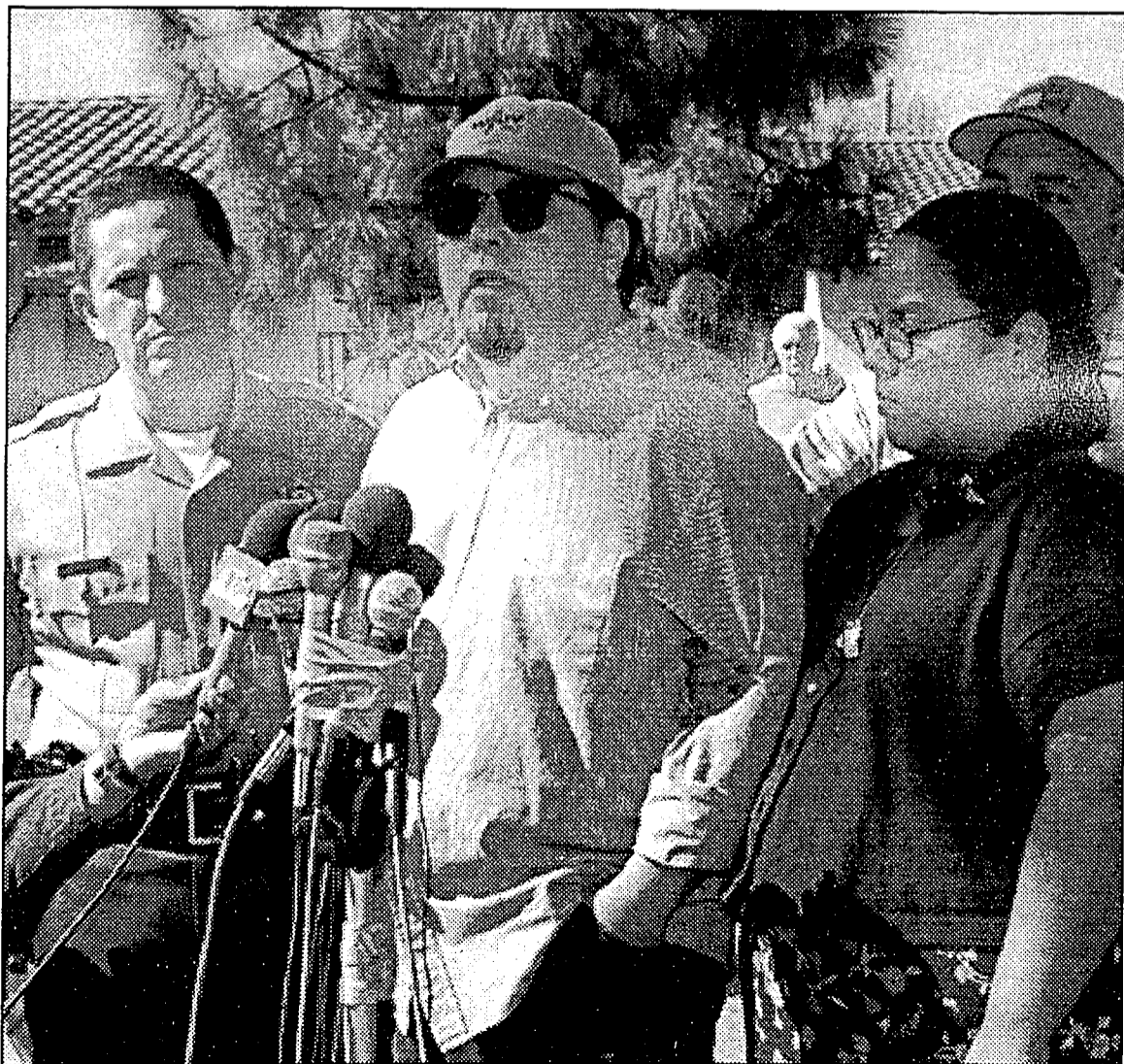
she must adhere to the court's rules and undergo substance abuse therapy," Lamorena said last week.

The actress pleaded guilty to a single third Degree Felony charge of possession of the illicit drug.

Lamorena accepted the guilty plea and sentenced Abayari to five years probation, and imposed a \$10,000 fine and 150 hours of community service.

As a condition of probation the actress must undergo substance abuse therapy which is to start today.

Abayari is scheduled to appear before Lamorena on November 7th to check on how the rehabilitation program is going.



Cesar Rosas (center), singer-songwriter for the band Los Lobos, talks about his missing wife, Sandra Ann Rosas, during a news conference at his home in the Rowland Heights section of Los Angeles, Monday. AP

You can avoid accident, if you...

Drive Safely



Marianas Variety

Classified Ads Section

Employment Wanted



Job Vacancy Announcement

PUBLIC NOTICE

All interested resident workers are urged to register at the Dept. of Labor & Immigration, Division of Employment Services for the job/s being advertised in which you are qualified and available. For further assistance, please call Alfred A. Pangolinan at Tel. 664-2078.

01 WAREHOUSE SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
02 SEWING MACHINE SUPERVISOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 PRODUCTION MANAGER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
27 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
02 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
03 CUTTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 (PACKING) SUPERVISOR GARMENT-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 O.C. (INSPECTOR) CHECKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: EUROTAX (SPN) INC. Tel. 234-5273 (11/4)Th81236

02 SEWER (HAND)-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: FRANCISCO T. DELA CRUZ dba Dela Cruz's Dress Shop Tel. 235-8251 (11/11)Th33253

02 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.70-3.80 per hour
Contact: TANO GROUP, INC. Tel. 235-6652 (11/11)Th81355

01 STORE MANAGER-Salary: \$1,800.00 per month
Contact: SHIN YANG CORP. dba7-Shopping Tel. 235-7979 (11/11)Th33249

01 SALESPERSON-Salary: \$3.55 per hour
Contact: ALPEX CORPORATION dba Apex Market Tel. 235-1444 (11/11)Th33248

01 CASHIER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: BLANCO VENDE, INC. dba Kiosk & Coral Reef Logo Shop Tel. 232-3313 (11/11)Th33241

01 WRITER-Salary: \$528.00 per month
Contact: TRIPLE M CORPORATION dba Sunshine Publishing Co. Tel. 235-1071 (11/11)Th33246

01 SINGER-Salary: \$1,000.00 per month
Contact: AQUA RESORT CLUB SAIPAN, CO. LTD. dba Aqua Resort Club Tel. 322-1234 (11/11)Th81336

02 CASHIER-Salary: \$3.05-4.00 per hour
01 CLEANER, HOUSEKEEPING-Salary: \$3.05-4.05 per hour
01 CLEANER, COMMERCIAL-Salary: \$3.05-4.05 per hour
05 COOK-Salary: \$3.05-4.05 per hour
01 GARDENER-Salary: \$3.05-4.05 per hour
01 MASON-Salary: \$3.05-4.05 per hour
01 WAITER (RESTAURANT)-Salary: \$3.05-4.05 per hour
01 WAITRESS (RESTAURANT)-Salary: \$3.05-4.05 per hour
01 SUPERVISOR, LINEN ROOM-Salary: \$4.00-5.30 per hour
01 CHEF (KITCHEN)-Salary: \$4.00-5.30 per hour
01 AUDITOR-Salary: \$4.00-5.30 per hour
01 CHEF DE CUISINE-Salary: \$580.00-4,000.00 per month
Contact: HOTEL NIKKO SAIPAN, INC. Tel. 322-3311 (11/4)Th81225

01 FILM MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: HANG YU CORP. dba Marianas Photo & Fashion Tel. 235-3028 (11/4)Th33158

10 SECURITY GUARDS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: JOSEPH DLG. VILLAGOMEZ dba KGC International Tel. 235-6267 (11/4)Th33157

01 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MI WON CORPORATION dba Mi Won Restaurant Tel. 235-5044 (11/4)Th33152

01 GRAPHIC ARTIST-Salary: \$3.65 per hour
Contact: YOUNIS ART STUDIO, INC. dba Marianas Variety News & Views Tel. 234-6341 (10/21)Th81034

01 STENOGRAPHER-Salary: \$6.50 per hour
Plus \$350.00 housing allowance per month.
Contact: BRIAN W. McMAHON dba Law Offices of Brian W. McMahon Tel. 234-9314 (10/28)Th81141

03 (ASSISTANT) SCREEN PRINTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: CAPITOL CORPORATION Tel. 288-8788 (10/28)Th33062

01 STORE KEEPER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MEI SAN MINI MART, INC. dba Mei San Mini Mart Tel. 234-5518 (10/28)Th33063

01 CIVIL ENGINEER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: U.S.A. FANTER CORP., LTD. dba G.C. General Construction Contractor Tel. 234-5828 (10/28)Th33064

01 (ASST.) PRODUCTION MANAGER-Salary: \$5.00-10.00 per hour
Contact: EXPRESS MANUFACTURING, INC. Tel. 322-6742 (10/28)Th33066

02 COOK-Salary: \$1,000.00 per month
Contact: PACIFIC RESORT SERVICES dba E'sy Kitchen Tel. 235-3550 (10/28)Th33058

01 SEWER MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05-3.50 per hour
01 SILKSCREEN PRINTER-Salary: \$3.05-5.50 per hour
01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary: \$3.05-4.25 per hour
Contact: ISLAND APPAREL, INC. dba Island Apparel Tel. 288-3442 (10/28)Th33060

04 EMBROIDERY MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: SUNG KYUNG EMBROIDERY, INC. dba Yoo Sung Industrial Tel. 288-8012 (10/28)Th33056

01 AUTO MECHANIC-Salary: \$3.05-5.00 per hour
02 TINSMITH (AUTO)-Salary: \$3.05-5.00 per hour
01 AUTOBODY REPAIRER-Salary: \$3.05-5.00 per hour
Contact: B & R CORPORATION dba Beach Road Auto Repair Tel. 234-7184 (10/28)Th33054

05 DELIVERER, MERCHANDISE-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: KAY'S CORPORATION dba Kay's Express Cargo Tel. 234-8100 (10/28)Th33050

01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary: \$650.00 per month
Contact: ASIA PACIFIC OVERSEAS, INC. dba BJ Garden Rest.; Marine Sports; Room Rental Tel. 235-3879

01 (ASSISTANT FINISHING) SUPERVISOR GARMENT-Salary: \$3.05-5.00 per hour
Contact: NEO FASHION INC. Tel. 234-9642 (11/4)Th33161

03 STEEL WORKER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
02 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER BLDG.-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
08 MASON-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: E.C. GOZUM & CO., INC. Tel. 256-0331 (11/4)Th33163

01 FILM MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: HANG YU CORP. dba Marianas Photo & Fashion Tel. 235-3028 (11/4)Th33158

01 SECURITY GUARDS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: JOSEPH DLG. VILLAGOMEZ dba KGC International Tel. 235-6267 (11/4)Th33157

01 WAITRESS-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: MI WON CORPORATION dba Mi Won Restaurant Tel. 235-5044 (11/4)Th33152

01 ELECTRIC MOTOR REWINDER-Salary: \$3.05-3.55 per hour
Contact: ARTHUR S. ANULAO dba Arthur's Enterprises Tel. 234-0692 (11/4)Th33151

01 (DIVING) SPORTS INSTRUCTOR-Salary: \$1,100.00 per month
Plus \$200.00 housing allowance per month.
Contact: BLUE HORIZONS ENT., INC. dba MSE Diving Tel. 233-7871 (11/4)Th33150

01 BLDG. MAINTENANCE REPAIRER (INDUSTRIAL)-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: KINSHIP ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. 233-8181 (11/4)Th33149

01 COOK-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$600-800 per month
01 MAINTENANCE REPAIRER BLDG.-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: CHANGSHIN RESORT SAIPAN CORPORATION dba Riviera Hotel Tel. 235-4991/94 (11/4)Th33148

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$3.05 per hour
Contact: VISION 21 CORP. dba Smart Phone Cards Tel. 233-7755 (11/4)Th33146

01 (SUPERVISOR) SALES-Salary: \$4.00 per hour
Contact: BASIC CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY Tel. 234-8779 (11/4)Th81228

90 SEWING MACHINE OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05-3.60 per hour
15 CUTTER (HAND)-Salary: \$3.05-3.60 per hour
15 IRONER (PRESSER) (MACHINE)-Salary: \$3.05-3.60 per hour
03 QUALITY CONTROL CHECKER-Salary: \$3.05-3.60 per hour
04 COOK-Salary: \$3.05-3.60 per hour
01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$10.00-15.00 per hour
Contact: MICHIGAN, INC. Tel. 234-9555 (11/4)Th33156

02 MASON-Salary: \$3.15-3.30 per hour
02 ELECTRICIAN-Salary: \$3.15-3.30 per hour
01 PLUMBER-Salary: \$3.15-3.35 per hour
01 CARPENTER-Salary: \$3.15-3.30 per hour
02 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR-Salary: \$3.05-3.40 per hour
03 CIVIL ENGINEER-Salary: \$3.50-6.50 per hour
Contact: WESTERN EQUIPMENT, INC. Tel. 322-9228 (11/4)Th81231

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$650.00-1,100.00 per month
Contact: ROBERT C. NARAJA, APPO-FESSIONAL CORPORATION dba Law Offices of Robert C. Naraja Tel. 322-1392 (11/4)Th33162

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.

2 BEDROOM APARTMENT FOR RENT

Very spacious 2 bedroom in one of the quietest areas of Saipan, Located on the East Side of Capitol Hill with a nice ocean view and cool breezes. Fully furnished, carpeted, with air-conditioning, free trash service, great water, typhoon shutters, garbage disposal, laundry hookups and security lights. Room to BBQ, good parking and close to markets and laundry facilities. Price has been reduced from \$800 to ONLY \$650 PER MONTH

Call 234-7193 and ask Mike for viewing.

NOTICE TO HUI FEN WU

Sun Mei Corporation is giving you ten days to come back and report to work.

If you do not report to work within ten days after this notice, your contract will be terminated and the company will no longer be responsible if something happen to you.

WANG ZHOU MIN
SUN MEI CORPORATION

APARTMENT FOR RENT

Quiet Two (2) Bedrooms • Three (3) Bedrooms • Swimming Pool Tennis Court

KANNAT GARDENS

(NEAR NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE)

235-5686 (8:30 AM to 5:30 PM, Weekdays) 235-9620, 234-5849 (6:00 PM to 9:00 PM, Everyday including Sat. & Sun.)

APARTMENT FOR RENT

VESTCOR VILLAGE CAPITOL HILL

2 BEDROOM APARTMENT

FOR MORE INFORMATION

CONTACT TEL. # 322-3797/3798

Immediate SURVEYOR OR CIVIL FOREMAN NEEDED

Able to operate levelling, and / or Surveying Instrument.

Call 322-9228 or 322-0529 but must apply in person

"BUSINESS OPPORTUNITY"

Be your own Boss. S-mart available at SACRIFICE PRICE

of \$75,000 about 50K below book value. Call Nik at 234-9890

or e-mail gmlies@foxinternet.net

'91 SUZUKI VITARA 4x4

Convertible Jeep, Reliable, 5 Speed, Cold Aircon, w/Stereo. \$3,500.00/OBO

Call: Kraig at 235-4665

MILLER ESTATES APARTMENT FOR RENT

- 2 BEDROOM - FULLY FURNISHED - ONE AIRCON (18,000 BTU) - 24 HOURS WATER - BACK-UP GENERATOR

Contact No. 322-3793

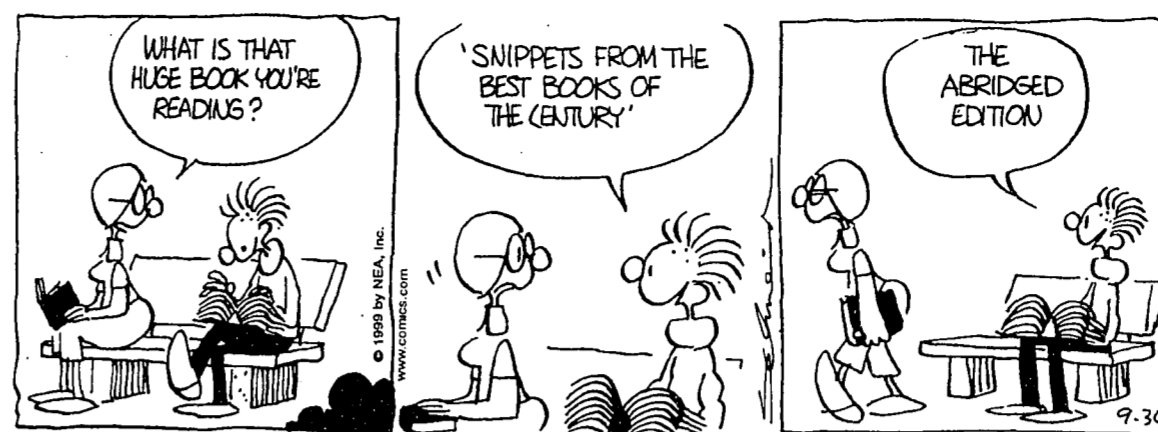
The wise reader buys only one newspaper and saves because;

Marianas Variety

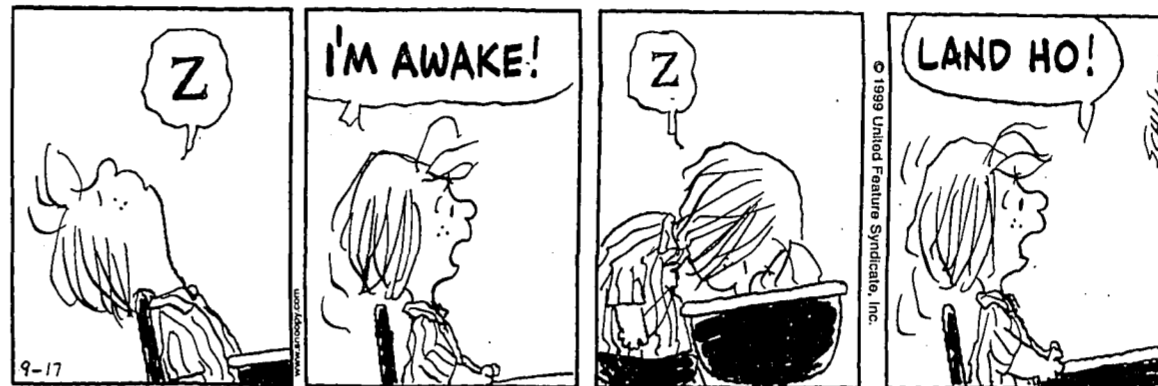
has it all!



EEK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz



STELLA WILDER

YOUR BIRTHDAY

Thursday, October 28, 1999

Born today, you have a knack for holding your own even in the most perilous and threatening of situations. You are sure to prove a role-model of sorts for those who feel they have much to gain in the areas of confidence, self-esteem, and poise under pressure. It may be that you do not choose your own career yourself, but though others may have influenced you and pointed you in a particular direction, your success at work is entirely up to you. You're not the kind to let a bad experience hold you back in any way, and you always try to look forward.

There are those who might suggest that you are really nothing more than a braggart, that you love nothing more than to hear yourself speak, and that you are, in fact, "full of yourself." Indeed, there is a confidence about you that borders on cockiness now and then!

Also born on this date are: Julia Roberts, actress; Bill Gates, high-tech businessman; Dennis Franz, actor; Annie Potts, actress; Jane Alexander, actress; Bruce Jenner, olympic decathlon champion.

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.

FRIDAY, OCTOBER 29

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21)

— Building castles in the air can only hurt your cause at this time. You must be sure to establish a strong foundation, rooted in reality.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — Details must not be ignored today, even as you tend to the larger issues affecting you and loved ones. Be aware of another's needs.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Someone who is opposed to your plans will have to admit that you do, indeed, know what you're talking about. It's only a matter of time!

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — You must be ready to make a difficult decision regarding your future involvement in a major project or campaign. Consider family issues, too.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — You must wait until the time is right today before you tell someone what you're really thinking. Are you considering letting go a little?

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — You're likely to finish a job well ahead of schedule today. The time you have on your hands can be put to good use in a

personal arena.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

— Don't be so stubborn that you do yourself out of an opportunity that you've been looking forward to for a long time. Accept that apology!

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — One of your more unusual ideas may actually prove a "pop hit" sooner than you think, and it may remain in style much longer than you expect.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — You and a close friend may have something "cooking" before the day is out, and its results may bring you both a little more notoriety.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — You can make your current relationship work, but you must be willing to compromise, and, perhaps, make a minor sacrifice.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — You may be searching for something to inspire you today, but you're looking a little too far from home. Try looking in your own back yard.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — You may find yourself getting wrapped up in a struggle you neither desire nor understand, but one which you can put to rest for good.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

1 Abstract being
4 Overhead
9 Cheer
12 Compass pt.
13 Oscar winner for "Two Women"
14 Japan ending
15 Hopkins role in "Silence of the Lambs"
17 Easily offended
19 — Lily
21 Tin symbol
22 Beatles film
25 Lump
27 Hostilities
31 Dine
32 — comedy
34 Q-T linkup
35 Dapper —
36 Three (It.)
37 Prefix with jingual
38 Christopher Wren

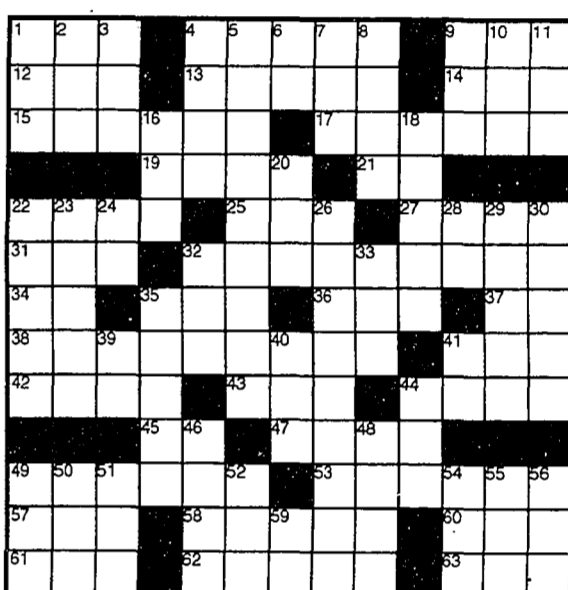
DOWN

1 Slippery fish
2 Opp. of SSW
3 Dry, as wine
4 Away from the wind
5 Actor Ernest and family
6 Do — die
7 Animal doc
8 Baseballer
9 Slaughter
10 Play (abbr.)
11 Expression to get attention
61 Man's name
62 TV awards
63 Mother

Answer to Previous Puzzle

NEG MOMS BREW
ATE ALAI LENA
CUL SETTLLINGS
LILLYS RAIN
AD NOR KATE
UT BON GENES
PER WIN SAD RA
FRIED ENS GU
FEES JAY TU
TIOS HOIST
STEERHIDE DAY
TOUR NEER EIN
DERN SRAIS DDE

9-16 © 1999 United Feature Syndicate



KidSpot™ by Dick Rogers

THE PUZZLER

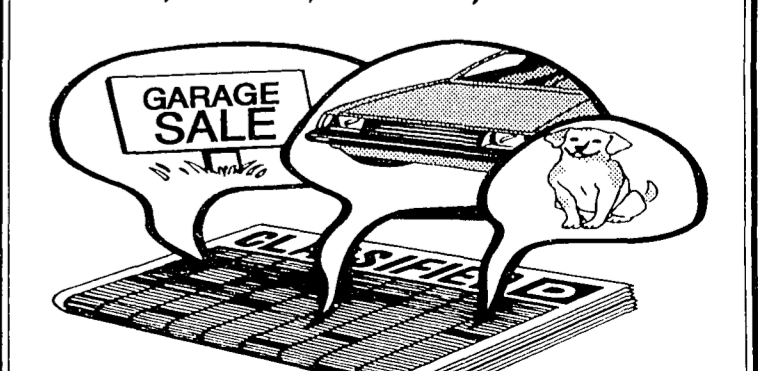
Some letters in the alphabet sound like words. I've picked out a few for your articulation.

B- _____ OR _____
C- _____ OR _____
I- _____
N- _____ OR _____
P- _____
Q- _____
R- _____
T- _____ OR _____
U- _____ OR _____

ANSWER: B-BEE, C-SEE OR SEA, I-EYE, N-NIN OR INN, P-PEA, Q-QUEUE, R-RARE, T-TEA, U-YOU OR EWE.

Marianas Variety

"You Can Get What You Want"



AIMING TO GET A NEW JOB? GIVE THE CLASSIFIED ADS A SHOT!

Sanders back in game

IRVING, Texas (AP) — With Steve Young, it's his head. With Michael Irvin, it's his neck.

With Deion Sanders, it could've been either. Or both.

Sanders was fortunate to avoid the serious injuries of his current and former teammates when he put himself back into Sunday's game about an hour after suffering a concussion.

Sanders supported his self-diagnosis by returning a punt 70 yards for a touchdown, sealing Dallas' 38-20 victory over Washington and adding another memorable moment to a career filled with them.

All the applause for his courageous performance has obscured the danger - and logic - of allowing

a player who has taken a blow to the head to overrule doctors and return to a game quickly.

Cowboys owner Jerry Jones said Tuesday he didn't question Sanders' decision because he believes the former two-sport star knows his body better than anyone. He noted that an MRI Sanders took Monday showed no damage, which indicates the injury probably wasn't too severe.

"An athlete of his stature and experience, someone of his instincts about his physical condition, probably knows better how far to extend himself than the average football player," Jones said. "That probably, subconsciously, was on everybody's mind."

Sanders was injured on a first-quarter punt return when he locked helmets and shoulder pads with Washington deep snapper Dan Turk, who outweighs the cornerback by nearly 100 pounds. The collision sent Sanders backwards into another big guy, full-back Mike Sellers, who sent Sanders to the ground.

Sanders was sent to the locker room and wasn't expected to return. Then, as Washington finished its fourth play of the third quarter, Sanders jogged out the tunnel and straight to his right cornerback spot without breaking stride.

He played six snaps, then went to the sidelines. Jones said no doctors

or trainers re-evaluated Sanders after he returned.

"Once he was out there and playing that was it," Jones said. "Everybody else was paying more attention to what was going on in the game."

"I don't want to talk about how we handle injuries on any type of policy basis because we don't have one. They're addressed to the situation, injury by injury and circumstance by circumstance."

Sanders made only one tackle after returning. It wasn't until resuming punt return duties that he put himself in a compromising position.

Sanders protected himself the best way possible - not getting hit. The Redskins didn't lay a finger on him as he raced to the end zone.

Cowboys coach Chan Gailey had assumed that doctors had cleared Sanders to return. It wasn't until the celebration of the touchdown that he learned the truth.

Gailey pulled Sanders soon after because Dallas had a big lead and Washington had little time to recover.

The coach said what Sanders did was fine by him, noting that players "take that risk every time they take the field."

Young...

Continued from page 1

this most recent move to cut CNMI's CIP money.

He said Young has written Tenorio for the final CIP list to prove before Congress that the local government is "serious" in matching the federal money to get projects off the ground.

"I think Rep. Young has already written to the administration to try to expedite that list so that he can prove to Congress that the CNMI is serious with all the

items that we want to spend the money on, under particular projects," he said.

Reyes recalled there had been similar moves in the past federal budget appropriation in which CIP funding for the Northern Marianas was being cut to accommodate neighboring Guam.

Young successfully lobbied against it, stressing that it is not good for the US Congress to be reneging on its stand to assist the CNMI through CIP funding, among others.

Reyes explained the moves may have been precipitated by the ig-

norance of some members of the US Congress on the CNMI's state of affairs, adding that all they still know is that the local government has not been able to spend past CIP funds that have been appropriated.

"Not all in the US Congress are familiar with this area. They are hearing only that we are lagging behind in spending our CIP money. They still don't have an updated information on most of the situation out here."

"They are simply saying, 'Well the CNMI is not using it, let's put it elsewhere then'," said Reyes.

Gov't closes...

Continued from page 1

government will be putting a barricade around the area and have asked the public, particularly those who have relatives buried in there, to observe the closure.

For those that would be insisting to go to the place despite the closure, the

government recommended that they call the Division of Environmental Quality about the risk and for precautionary measures.

While the affected area of Tanapag Village has been cleaned up from PCB contamination by the Corps, the lower base cemetery is still not.

Corps official Helene Takemoto

said during a recent public discussion that they have already recommended to the CNMI government to shut down the cemetery, while they are preparing to undertake permanent remediation process on the area.

However, the government told the Corps that the cemetery is still needed.

Gov't seeks...

Continued from page 1

Reyes assured the \$33 million initial MPLT fund, which was handed over by the US government in return for its use of Tinian and other sites across the Marianas, will not be touched as mandated.

He said other finances that are not centralized into the government's general funds may also be tapped.

The unpaid right-of-way compensations, according to Reyes, have been pending for nearly 10 years now.

He said the figure reached between \$72 million and \$80 million because value appraisal was pegged at the time government took the lands for road expansion and other projects.

The amount, he said, covers those not yet fully paid and are still not paid at all.

Reyes said the former adminis-

tration, attempting to address the matter, enacted Public Law 10-68 appropriating a mere \$2.5 million for the purpose.

"That (amount) is very little," said Reyes.

The lands taken by government for public use range from 24-sq.m. ones to a 7,367 sq.m. lot, which is now being used to house the Northern Marianas museum at the old Japanese jail house along Middle Road in Garapan.

said Benavente.

The Bank of Hawaii has just released a report giving an overview of the Northern Marianas' economy.

The report, authored by BOH's economist, Wai M. Osman, stated that the standard of living on Saipan has not improved over the past nine years.

Osman attributed this to an increasingly larger portion of the local labor force, including a big number of alien workers, employed under the lower end of the pay scale.

But Benavente said benefits, like health insurance coverage for guest workers as mandated by law, may not have been included in setting

living standards by the report.

The Board was created more than a year ago to look into the possibility of increasing minimum wage in the Northern Marianas. It was created as part of the local government's efforts to address labor concerns being raised by Congress.

The Office of the Insular Affairs had however criticized the Board for alleged failure to actually work on the wage issue. The Board's creation, OIA had stated in a testimony during last month's Congressional hearings on federal takeover bills, are among moves implemented by the local government that has caused more harm than good.

Boxing Club meeting

THERE WILL be a Boxing Club Meeting on Thursday 10/28/99 at 6:00 p.m. at the San Antonio Youth Center.

All registered and parents are urged to come.

Any interested youth from ages 15-25 are also encourage to attend or sign up.

The Boxing membership fee is \$10.00 likewise bring a copy of your birth certificate or passport with you.

Registered members who have not paid the registration fee are ask to do so.

If any question feel free to call Al Taitano at 234-1734.

No...

Continued from page 32

made it 5-3 with a solo drive in the seventh, and Glavine dropped his head in disgust.

Joe Girardi opened the eighth with a single and Knoblauch followed with a high drive to right field. Jordan jumped at the wall and the ball bounced out of his glove and into the stands for a tying home run.

"I knew I hit it pretty good," Knoblauch said. "Jordan, who's a great outfielder, jumped and I prayed, 'Come on. I got a break.'"

Last October, Knoblauch struck for a tying, three-run homer in the seventh inning of Game 1 against San Diego's Donnie Wall.

"We got beat with a pop to right field," Cox said.

Knoblauch's homer brought

John Rocker running from the bullpen, and Derek Jeter promptly singled. Paul O'Neill tried to sacrifice, but popped it up and then committed a more costly mistake.

With O'Neill standing at the plate and shaking his head in anger, the Braves let the ball drop and turned a double play.

Boone became the first player to hit three doubles in a Series game since Junior Gilliam for Brooklyn in 1953. Frank Isbell hit a record four for the Chicago White Sox in 1906.

Gerald Williams led off the game by reaching out and flaring a single to right field and Boone also went the opposite way, doubling off the wall in right.

Chipper Jones followed with a grounder that third baseman Scott Brosius bobbled, giving him no chance at the plate and leaving him only with a play at first as Williams scored.

however, the Silverbergs recently dropped the use of Jordan's name and renamed the restaurant for Chicago Cubs slugger Sammy Sosa.

The lawsuit was filed initially by the Silverbergs in November 1997, seeking to block Jordan from developing a new restaurant.

Jordan...

Continued from page 32

cago. They opened Michael Jordan's restaurant just north of downtown, and it became an instant magnet for tourists.

As a result of the legal battle,

NMI seeks...

Continued from page 1

burse the local government for accommodating FAS citizens.

Aranza said the federal government "does not have specific money" to reimburse CNMI's expenses for accommodating FAS citizens.

But "in the interest of fairness," he said, the federal government "ought to think seriously" about

the matter, noting that the Clinton administration already has something for neighboring Guam.

Aranza said OIA may approach other federal government agencies that provide social services to the CNMI to see if they can provide more money to alleviate the burden of hosting FAS citizens.

According to official local government figures, the CNMI spent some \$15 million for the FAS citizens in fiscal year 1999 alone.

Players mourn Stewart



Golf fan Anita Walz touches Payne Stewart's name plaque after leaving a condolence letter at the makeshift memorial at the site of the PGA Tour Championship in Houston Tuesday. AP

Caddie stayed behind, but designer joined Stewart

RALEIGH, N.C. (AP) — Neither man planned to fly with Payne Stewart. But one boarded the plane and died, and the other didn't, living to grieve his friend's death.

Mike Hicks had been Stewart's caddie for 12 years and has flown with him many times.

He was not scheduled to go with Stewart on this flight, although his mother said he very easily could have been.

Hicks learned about the crash while at the Champions Golf Club in Houston, where Stewart was to have played this week in the Tour Championship.

"I went in and watched television like everyone else. As soon as I knew what happened, I left for home," he said by telephone.

Stewart, his agents, Robert Fraley and Van Ardan, and the two pilots, Michael Kling and Stephanie Bellegarrie, were killed Monday. Their Learjet, on a flight from Orlando to Dallas, flew pilotless for 1,400 miles and plunged into a field in South Dakota.

Golf course architect Bruce Borland is believed to have been a sixth passenger. A senior design associate with a firm owned by Jack Nicklaus, Borland was scheduled to fly on a commercial plane, but apparently got on the plane with Stewart instead.

Hicks flew home to Mebane with his wife and three children instead of flying with Stewart to

Texas. His wife, Meg, almost balked at the trip because it was a big job traveling with young children, Hicks' mother, Faye, said Tuesday by telephone from her home in Hillsborough.

"But she went, and she said she was glad that she did because he had to come back with her," Mrs. Hicks said. "Really if she hadn't gone he probably would have flown on with Payne. That is usually their itinerary, that he flies with him to the next tournament from Disney."

Hicks said, however, that even if his family had not come to Florida, he would not have gone on the ill-fated flight.

Hicks returned to North Carolina on Sunday and flew to Houston on Monday to prepare for the Tour Championship.

Borland didn't plan to be on the flight, but appears to have been.

Scott Tolley, a spokesman for Nicklaus' Golden Bear International Inc., said Borland canceled a reservation on a commercial flight so he could fly with Stewart and discuss developing a golf course in Dallas.

"He had the opportunity to fly with Payne, so he drove from Jupiter in a rented car," Tolley said. While there was no official confirmation that Borland was among the crash victims, Tolley said, "The family is confident that he boarded the plane."



Golfer Ben Crenshaw (center) talks about Payne Stewart during a news conference at Barton Creek Country Club in Austin, Texas Monday. Others in photo are (from left) Ben's wife, Julie Crenshaw; Scott Sayers; Crenshaw; and Tom and Christy Kite. AP

Tour Championship on back burner

HOUSTON (AP) — Why even bother?

The Tour Championship is supposed to be a fantastic finish to the PGA Tour season. It almost always decides the money leader, player of the year, and winner of the Vardon Trophy for the lowest scoring average.

David Duval once referred to it as a party. The perks for the top 30 on the money list include the chance to win \$900,000 with a small field to beat.

There is no suspense this year. Tiger Woods is a lock to win every award that matters.

There is no celebration at Champions Golf Club, not without the man whom Tom Kite referred to as the "life of the party."

For one day this week, there will be no Tour Championship. The PGA Tour decided to cancel competition on Friday because of the memorial service in Orlando, Fla., for Payne Stewart, the U.S. Open champion who was among those killed in a freak plane crash Monday.

Perhaps there should be no Tour Championship at all. The way 22 players carried on like zombies, perhaps the tour should just divvy up the \$5 million and call it a week.

Flowers were placed in the parking spot with Stewart's name on it. Tour officials are making black ribbons for everyone to wear.

Phil Mickelson was on the driving range late Tuesday afternoon when he stopped to watch a high-light reel of Stewart that was shown on the Jumbotron.

"I haven't really thought about the tournament this week," Mickelson said. Until Monday, he was pointing toward the Tour Championship as one of two last chances to keep alive his streak of winning at least once on tour every year since 1993.

"As far as golf is concerned, it



Payne Stewart

really takes a seat on the back burner."

David Duval won the Tour Championship at Champions two years ago. What would another victory mean this week?

"I don't know," he said. "I really don't know. The feelings will probably not be as great as they might have been."

He may find out. The Tour Championship will start with 27 holes on Thursday, the first time a score over 100 could be enough to lead after the first "round."

No golf on Friday for those who want to attend the Stewart's memorial service in Orlando, Fla. Then 27 holes on Saturday, followed by some degree of normalcy - an 18-hole final round - on Sunday.

Someone will hold the trophy and cash the check. And someone's joy will be tempered by the thought of Stewart - a great ambassador, a great friend, a great player who lost his life with shocking suddenness.

This is not the first time tragedy has interrupted a game.

Pete Rozelle lamented years later that he didn't cancel NFL games on the Sunday after John F. Kennedy was assassinated. Avery Brundage, the head of the IOC, was harshly criticized for insisting that the 1972 Olympics

in Munich continue after the deadly terrorist attack on Israeli athletes and coaches in the Olympic village.

The NCAA took it on the chin for playing the 1981 championship basketball game after President Reagan had been shot that day in Washington.

Whether Stewart's death is crushing enough to cancel a tournament - it usually takes a World War for that to happen in golf - is debatable.

But the look on the faces of 22 players Tuesday and the library-like setting on the golf course made it clear that golf, even at this level, was nothing more than hitting a little white ball, finding it, and hitting it again.

"I imagine everybody will be playing and doing the best they can," Duval said. "But I don't know how spectacular the golf will be."

Perhaps the mood will change by the time the first ball is struck Thursday morning, a short time after a brief service for Stewart on the first tee.

After all, the pro-am was canceled on Tuesday and no one had to show. Instead, all but seven players began their own rehabilitation by getting back inside the ropes, trying to get their minds back on golf.

Commissioner Tim Finchem has tried to create a time to play and a time to pay respects, giving the players a rare Friday off in Houston and in Mississippi, where the Southern Farm Bureau Classic will wrap up on Sunday.

Some have suggested a PGA Tour award in Stewart's honor, maybe naming the Tour Championship trophy after him.

Now that the game is on, perhaps the best way to honor Stewart is to play with the same tenacity that carried him to two U.S. Open titles.

SPORTS



No stopping Yankees

NEW YORK (AP)—One to go.

Chad Curtis hit his second home run leading off the 10th inning and the New York Yankees beat the Atlanta Braves 6-5 Tuesday night to move within one victory of another World Series sweep.

Just when everything seemed to be going Atlanta's way in Game 3, the Yankees still found a way to win.

Curtis homered in the fifth to begin their comeback from a 5-1 deficit, and homers off Tom Glavine by Tino Martinez and Chuck Knoblauch, the latter off right fielder Brian Jordan's glove in the eighth, tied it.

Then in the 10th, Curtis sent a 1-1 pitch from Mike Remlinger far over the left-field fence for the Yankees' 11th straight World Series victory. It was the first game-ending homer in the Series since Joe Carter's Game 6 shot won it all for Toronto in 1993.

"I have a tendency when I get up there in that situation, I try to hit a home run," Curtis said. "So I went up there and tried to hit it up the middle and I hit a home run."

Curtis made his first ever start in the Series and ended up as the hero.

"Always somebody you don't expect," Atlanta manager Bobby Cox said. "You never know where it's going to come from."

Roger Clemens, who joined the Yankees this spring in hopes of winning his first World Series ring, gets a chance to close it out in Game 4 Wednesday night against John Smoltz.

No team in baseball history has

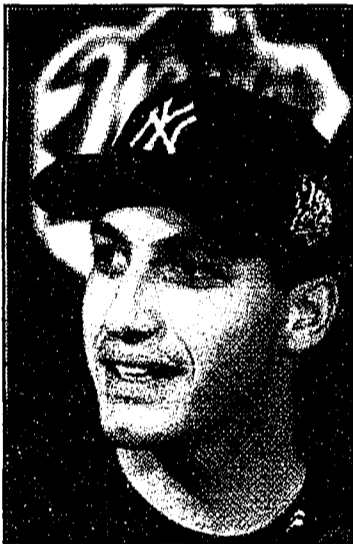
overcome an 0-3 deficit in postseason play. The Yankees are trying to win their third World Series in four years, a streak that began when they beat Atlanta in 1996.

Mariano Rivera, Mr. Automatic in October, pitched two innings for the victory. He has not allowed a run in his last 41 2-3 innings, and has a postseason streak of 24 1-3 scoreless innings.

While the Braves lost their seventh straight Series game, the Yankees moved within one victory of tying the longest winning streak ever. The record was set by their Murderers' Row teams of 1927, 1928 and 1932.

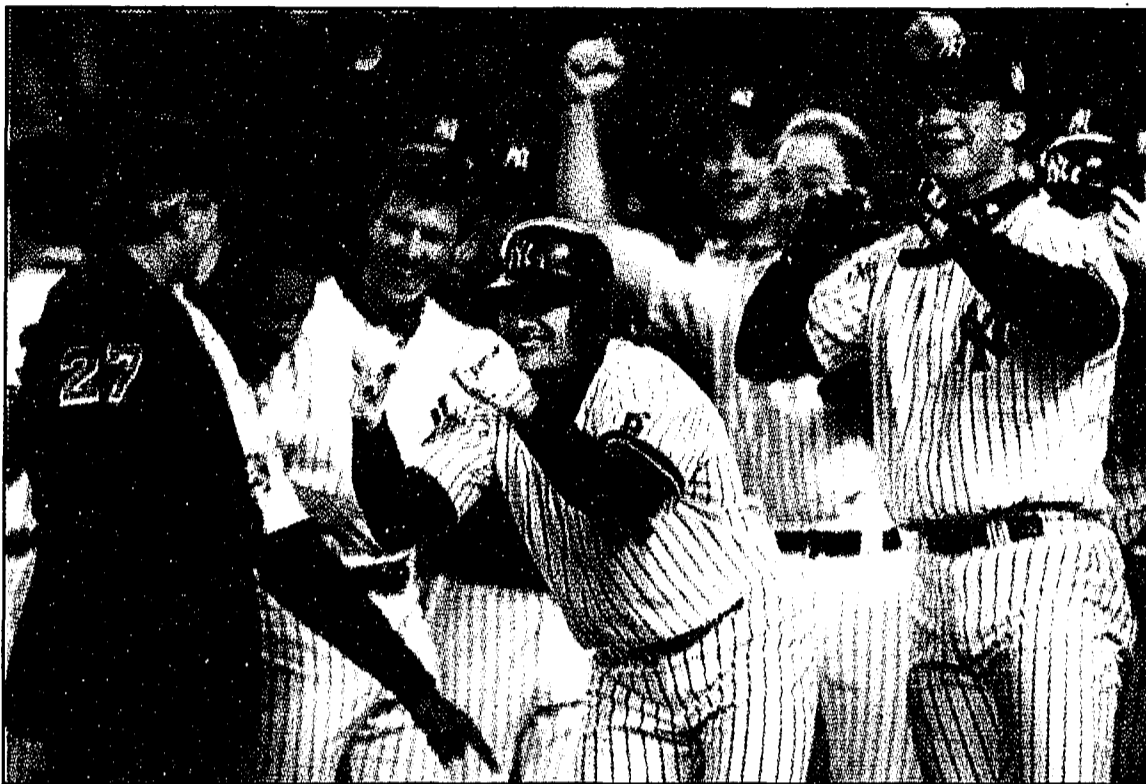
Up until the Yankees turned from singles hitters into the Bronx Bombers, the Braves were in control.

"It would have been nice to have won tonight," Cox said. "It would have gotten us going real



Yankees pitcher Andy Pettitte

AP



New York Yankee players stand at home plate waiting to congratulate teammate Chad Curtis after he hit a game winning solo home run in the 10th inning of Game 3 of the World Series against the Atlanta Braves Tuesday.

REUTERS

good. This was a big one to lose tonight."

Glavine, scratched from his Game 1 start because of the flu, fortified himself with a plate of ravioli and pitched like a two-time Cy Young Award winner. And Atlanta looked every bit like the team that led the majors with 103 wins.

Bret Boone hit three doubles in the first four innings against Andy Pettitte and every Braves batter had a hit by the fifth. By then, it was 5-1 and the sellout crowd of 56,794 was booing the home team.

Boone could be seen huddling

in the dugout with batting coach Don Baylor, checking out what appeared to be hitting charts. During Monday's workout, Baylor held an extended session of batting practice and stressed patience at the plate and emphasized hitting to the opposite field.

It all worked in the early going for a team that hit .121 in the first two games.

Then, though, the Yankees flexed their muscles.

Curtis hit the 11th game-ending homer in the Series history, and fifth in extra innings. It also was the Yankees' second such

shot in this postseason - Bernie Williams did it to Boston in Game 1 of the AL Championship Series.

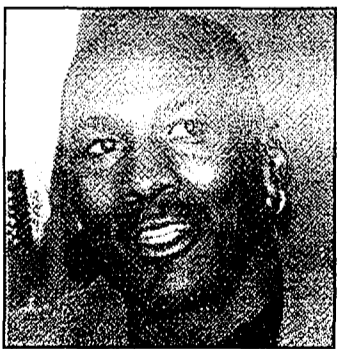
The Series win was the 11th in a row for manager Joe Torre, breaking the record set by Joe McCarthy of the Yankees.

New York won in its 200th World Series game - the Yankees are 120-79-1 overall, with the St. Louis Cardinals' total of 96 games ranking second.

Curtis hit New York's first home run of the Series, a solo shot with two outs in the fifth. Martinez

Continued on page 30

Jordan sues over the use of his name



Michael Jordan

CHICAGO (AP) — Michael Jordan asked a federal court Tuesday to end an agreement under which he sold two restaurants the use of his name for eateries in Chicago and surrounding counties.

In a federal court battle that has been waged for almost two years, attorneys for the former basketball star charged that companies run by Chicago businessmen Gene and Joe Silverberg "have breached their promise to protect Mr. Jordan's name and the good will associated with it."

"They have orchestrated a campaign to diminish the value of Mr. Jordan's name and its good will," they said in court papers.

Jordan signed an agreement with the Silverbergs in September 1990 allowing the use of his name for restaurants in the six-county area surrounding Chi-

Continued on page 30



Jess Wabol (right) receives from Arnold Seman a plaque for winning the championship flight of the 1st Annual DARE Golf Tournament held Sunday at LaoLao Bay Golf Resort.

SAIPAN

P.O. Box 231 Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. (670) 234-6341 • 7578 • 9797
Fax: (670) 234-9271
E-mail: younis@gtepacifica.net
mvariety@gtepacifica.net

Marianas Variety News & Views
Micronesia's Leading Newspaper Since 1972

174 174
GUAMOO.990 PB8587443
OCT 28 99
960 South Marine Drive, Suite 153, SAIPAN MP 96950
Tel. (671) 649-4678 • 649-1378
Fax: (671) 649-4687
E-mail: gvariety@ite.net

FIRST CLASS MAIL