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News
& Views

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'Rebates to increase'

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Froilan C. Tenorio will sign a bill that would increase the rebates of individual taxpayers.

Tenorio said House Bill 10-406, or the Tax Equity Act, would cost the government \$6 million to \$8 million a year, but added that he will now sign "anything" the Legislature wants him to sign.

He has until Dec. 24 before the bill becomes law without his signature.

The outgoing governor has said that the CNMI government may soon run out of money, even as he blames the Legislature for passing bills that would only reduce the government's revenues and increase government spending, while at the same time making it difficult for new investments to come in.

He said he will be submitting a revised budget that will reflect



Froilan C. Tenorio

the sharply reduced amount of revenues the CNMI government is expected to collect.

The main sponsor of H.B. 10-406, however, said his bill would merely make the current tax law more equitable.

In addition, according to Rep. Michael P. Tenorio, it was governor who earlier told the Legisla-

ture to review the current tax rebate scheme in light of the strong economy.

H.B. 10-406, Representative Tenorio said, would only affect individuals and not corporations.

He said under the current tax rebate system, individual taxpay-

ers pay a higher rate.

Moreover, the bill was a product of consultations with certified public accountants and members of the tax task force, he said.

Acting Finance Secretary Dolores S. Guerrero has earlier said that the budgets for the ex-

ecutive departments should be reduced by some 25 percent to produce a balanced fiscal year 1998 budget that can pay for all the proposed increased spending.

Guerrero, in a letter to Senate Vice President and Fiscal Affairs

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No more firings, says Froilan

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

THE "FIRING spree" in Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio's outgoing administration is finally over.

Tenorio has said that "all positions" have already been filled, insisting, at the same time, that the purge had to be done to reward his loyal supporters in the Democratic Party with the vacated positions.

When told that his new ap-

pointees will only serve until the end of his term on Jan. 12, Tenorio said, "They're willing to take the risk."

"They may have a job for only a month, but they can take comfort (on the hope) that they might be back for another four years," he added, referring to the lawsuit challenging governor-elect Pedro P. Tenorio's eligibility to serve a third term.

He said the firings, which, he

added, were based on the recommendations of the Democratic Party leadership, will be no different from the expected revamp in the administration when the governor-elect is sworn into office.

The governor-elect's transition committee has expressed concern over the firings, saying that it may "hamper" the transition process.

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DPS believes it has solved Dandan slay

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

POLICE believe they have solved the murder of a Palauan man at New Dandan Homestead with the arrest of two suspects on Friday, the Variety learned yesterday.

A source said police officers served an arrest warrant against two suspects Friday night in Dandan in connection with the killing of Alan M. Obak.

The suspects, described as 20 and 21 years old, both locals and residents of Dandan, were taken to the Department of Public Safety, the source said.

The suspects were identified as one Sablan and Cabrera, said the source who requested anonymity.

Sablan and Cabrera are expected today to be brought to the Superior Court for a bail hearing, said the same source.

The 36-year-old Obak was found dead by a Filipino who was cutting grass near Domar's Store at about 3 p.m. last Nov. 29.

Obak's body was naked bolstering police's theory that the victim could have been killed elsewhere and dumped in the area.

The Variety gathered that two days before the incident, Obak and

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House of Manhoben. Dignitaries (from left) House Speaker Diego T. Benavente, DPW director Steven Lemieux, Rev. Gerard Sigler and Bishop Tomas Camacho smile as they cut the ceremonial ribbon marking the blessing and opening of the Karidat teen center in Chalan Kanoa.

Photo by Laila C. Younis

WEATHER Outlook



Mostly cloudy with scattered showers

Garment exports surge despite moratorium

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

DESPITE the existing moratorium on the granting of new licenses to foreign investors wishing to venture into the garments industry in Saipan, total commodity exports have been consistently increasing.

Statistics obtained from the Department of Commerce indicated that textile exports last year rose by \$94.6 million to \$513.7 million from the previous year's \$419.1 million.

The Central Statistics Division figure also showed an upward direction in total garments exports from textile plants in the Northern Marianas since 1987.

Earlier, the commerce department said the moratorium imposed on the garments industry has been causing a slight drop in the annual revenues collected by the CNMI government.

This, even as, newly-appointed Commerce Secretary Maria Pangelinan, in an earlier interview, said the sector have remained open in other islands of the Northern

Marianas, as the government is yet to make moves to lift the moratorium.

Pangelinan said secondary benefits such as land lease rental taxes and income taxes did not increase as a result of the moratorium.

She said the DOC has been referring investors to Rota and Tinian since the quota has not been reached yet in these islands.

At present, there are 35 garment plants on Saipan. The DOC has implemented conditional re-

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Typhoon Paka headed to NMI

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

TYPHOON Paka was forecast to be on a path towards the Mariana Islands and may pass the area Tuesday night or early Wednesday morning, according to the latest bulletin from the Emergency Management Office.

As of 5 p.m. yesterday, Paka was located 750 statute miles east southeast of Guam.

With a maximum sustained

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Netanyahu defiant

By DINA KRAFT

JERUSALEM (AP) — In the face of mounting U.S. pressure for an Israeli troop pullback from the West Bank, a defiant Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said the Jewish state won't

"commit suicide" to please others. Netanyahu and his Cabinet convened Sunday morning for what was expected to be a contentious daylong session to discuss principles of a final settlement with the Palestinians,

which in turn would be the basis for a decision on the troop withdrawal, Israeli radio said.

"Let's not commit suicide in order to please someone," Netanyahu said in a statement to Israeli media late Saturday. "The discussion on the final status is fateful for the future of the country, and it is the people of Israel — not the Americans or the Europeans — who have to live with it."

Outside the prime minister's office, where the Cabinet meeting was being held, about 500 settlers noisily protested against moving ahead with any pullback. They blew whistles and waved signs reading "No more concessions."

Netanyahu's statement strongly suggested no decision on a withdrawal would be made Sunday, despite U.S. pressure to bring a plan to the table when he meets with Secretary of State Madeleine Albright in Paris on Wednesday or Thursday.

Albright was to meet separately with Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat in London on Thursday, Palestinian officials said.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, right, exchanges ideas with Foreign Minister David Levy during a Cabinet meeting held in Jerusalem Sunday. The Israeli cabinet is expected to discuss the extent of Israel's redeployment from the West Bank ahead of a planned meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright this week. AP

At the Cabinet meeting, Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon were to present security maps outlining alternative troop withdrawals and possible arrangements for a final settlement, Israeli media reports said.

According to the Yediot Aharonot newspaper, Mordechai and Sharon were to propose that the government quickly begin construction on a road that would cut through the West

Bank. To build such a road, Israel would have to appropriate land from the Palestinians, and that proposal has already drawn angry reaction.

After the closed-door session, Netanyahu was to update U.S. envoy Martin Indyk on the meeting.

Sources in Netanyahu's government told Israel Radio that the timing of Indyk's visit was meant to put pressure on Israel to reach a decision on troop withdrawal.

2,000 protest in Seoul



South Korean labor protesters raise their clenched fists Sunday during a protest rally in downtown Seoul. AP

By Sang-Hun Choe

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — Pumping clenched fists into an overcast sky, 2,000 students and workers swore Saturday to resist South Korea's economic bailout deal, saying it will only inflict more suffering on the nation.

"We oppose IMF trusteeship! Abolish the IMF agreement!" the protesters chanted.

Saturday's rally — held in downtown Seoul's bustling Myeongdong commercial district — was the first major protest since South Korea signed a record-breaking \$57 bil-

lion bailout agreement with the International Monetary Fund on Dec. 3.

Hundreds of black-helmeted riot police with shields stood guard over the crowd, while labor songs blared from loudspeakers mounted on a minivan. No clashes or arrests were reported.

The protest highlighted the challenges facing the winner of next Thursday's presidential election, being held at a time of acute economic crisis. The bailout mandates belt-tightening that

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Feds, CNMI discuss assistance

By Gerr R. Cayabyab, Jr.

Variety News Staff

PROCESSING of federal loans may start within this week for super typhoon Keith victims after weeklong planning and coordination consultations between the Federal Emergency Management Agency and CNMI government.

This development is the result of President Clinton's CNMI disaster declaration last Dec. 8 making available federal assistance funds to supplement local recovery efforts in areas raked by Keith last month.

Representatives from FEMA, Small Business Administration, American Red Cross, Northern Marianas Housing Corporation and key government officials on Thursday discussed thorough and effective case analyses to avoid duplication of assistance to every victim.

Acting Emergency Management Office Director Greg DL Guerrero said the discussions are essential.

"Meeting with other agencies is an opportunity to air concerns and come to a better understanding."

"Before disaster relief operations begin, a meeting with other government officials must take place to address financial criteria and concerns by both the local and federal governments," Guerrero said.

FEMA Coordinating Officer William L. Carwile on Friday said five FEMA representatives are now on the island to help facilitate the operations' planning procedures and other needs.

"By January next year, we expect a total of 60 FEMA representatives from off island. The CNMI government is also looking for at least 40 volunteers from qualified government offices," Carwile said.

Carwile said FEMA designated the islands of Rota, Saipan and Tinian eligible for federal assistance to help meet the recovery needs of stricken residents and business owners.

"The assistance that would be coordinated by FEMA includes grants for temporary

housing needs, minor home repairs and other serious disaster-related expenses," Carwile said.

He said low-interest loans from the U.S. Small Business Administration will also be available to cover residential and business losses not fully compensated by

insurance plan coverage.

SBA Branch Manager Stan Poe said that before SBA can issue a loan application, a disaster victim must register first with the FEMA.

"Registration will allow the Keith victims to take advantage of available federal disaster pro-

grams," he said.

Within the next few days, Poe said, FEMA will be announcing the opening of registration centers, and all disaster victims are encouraged to monitor radio, television and newspapers for further announcements.



NEWEST BANK ON SAIPAN. Pedro P. Tenorio (second from left) makes his first ribbon-cutting activity as governor-elect during the grand opening rites for the First Hawaiian Bank Saturday. Joining him are, from left to right, Senior Vice President and Guam Regional Supervisor John K. Lee, Kristo Rai parish priest Rev. Gary Bradley, Julie Attao, John Blas, and the bank's Gualo Rai manager Bob Gardiner. Photo by Dell Benson

HANMI expects hotel occupancy rates to surge for the holidays

By Aldwin R. Fajardo

Variety News Staff

THOUSANDS of non-resident contract workers in the Marianas will be leaving to reunite with their families during the holidays, but that will not render the island empty.

In fact, an equal number of visitors, mostly from nations with really cold weather, are expected to plane in to the Northern Marianas to escape from the freezing winds and snow in their countries during the season.

The Hotel Association of North-

ern Mariana Islands said there are bright indications of a high occupancy rate among five-star and three-star hotels on the island.

"From our indications, there will be a high occupancy rate during the holidays," said HANMI president Ron Sablan, who is now serving his second term.

Sablan, also the president and general manager of the Pacific Gardenia Hotel, said the influx of tourists during the Christmas season has always been in the history of Saipan.

He added hotel bookings are really high during the cold months, which peaks with the onset of the Yuletide season.

"Tourists come here (on Saipan) basically because of the weather situation in their countries. They are looking for a warmer weather which the Marianas proudly has," Sablan told the Variety.

Japanese tourists still dominate the number of visitors on the island, according to the Marianas Visitors Bureau.

The proximity of Saipan to Japan, where travel time can be compared to that of the United States east coast with the islands of Caribbean, is making the Marianas an appealing destination for Japanese travellers especially during the winter months.

At present, close to five percent of the Japanese are travelling overseas. This figure is expected to double over the next few years, the MVB said in a statement.

The Department of Commerce (DOC) has projected that visitor



Ron Sablan

expenditures for air arrivals in the Marianas will reach \$2.7 billion by year 2001.

The most conservative air visitor arrival projections made by the department for the same year was pegged at \$1.4 billion, which translates from 10,700 to 13,400 tourists on the Marianas Islands.

Saipan hotels, according to Sablan, have their respective activities for the holidays with the Pacific Gardenia holding a Christmas concert and a fireworks show.

But he said this has not been the primary reason for the high occupancy rate among Marianas hotels, while adding that these activities are undertaken mainly for the celebration of the holidays.

Earlier, traveling agencies in the Marianas have reported an increase in ticket sales to Manila, thanks to the Filipinos' family-oriented celebration of the Christmas season.

Tour agencies interviewed by the Variety confessed ticket sales

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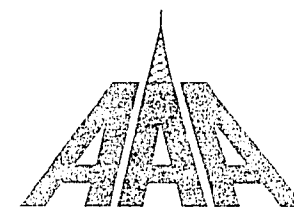
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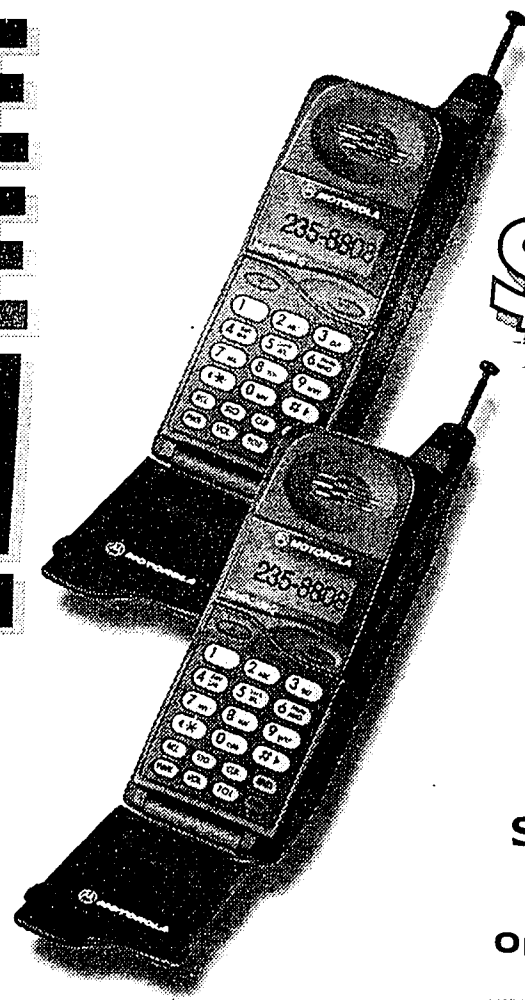
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STILL HAVE SOMETHING FOR ME? This seems to be the question of a unidentified La Fiesta Mall shopper Saturday as she passes by Santa who digs deep into his bag of giveaway candies. Photo by Rick Alberto

Jocelyn Enriquez: Proud 'Pinay'

By Laila C. Younis

Variety News Staff

SPORTING a coconut leaf hat and a gracious smile, Jocelyn Enriquez seemed at home here as she talked about her music before last night's concert at Hyatt Regency.

"It was very nice coming out to Saipan. We were welcomed with

open arms, especially by the Hyatt staff. A lot of fans have already come up to me," said Enriquez in an exclusive interview yesterday at the Hyatt, where she held a one-night concert.

"I believe that my music is positive energy that makes people dance and makes them happy. Because I think one of the great-



Jocelyn in one of his promotional photos.



The many moods of Jocelyn Enriquez: Pure energy

est things in life is music," she said.

"And I believe that because music is very fulfilling and it has fulfilled my life," she added.

The rising international star was quick to point out the large Filipino community on the islands.

"My heritage has made me a very proud 'pinay' (Filipino) because there are not a lot of Filipino performers, especially in the states," said Enriquez.

"It has been definitely an honor for me to represent Filipinos not only in the U.S. but internationally as well," she said.

Enriquez had just finished a three-day concert performance on Guam as part of her "Guam-Saipan Mini Tour" and planned to finish the tour here and head back to the U.S.

"I loved the concerts on Guam. There was a lot of support and we held basically the same structured show for three nights," she said.

"Unfortunately, my voice is going away because of the change of weather but I hope and pray that God will guide me and help me sing," she added.

According to Enriquez, she had



just completed a tour in the East coast and it was a drastic change of weather.

"It was 30 degrees and snowing. We had to wear scarves, ear muffs and gloves. Then we had to pack our summer clothes to come out here," she said.

"I also did a tour in the Philippines last summer and that was a dream come true for me. I always wanted to perform there," she added.

Born and raised in San Francisco, music has been a part of Enriquez's life since the tender age of three and she performed at church and family gatherings, according to a biography.

She also studied voice with the San Francisco Girls Chorus and the San Francisco Opera Company.

The "rigorous classical training gave her an invaluable musical foundation and helped her unleash the power in her supple voice, but Jocelyn's heart lay in more contemporary sounds," it stated.

Enriquez's most recent album is entitled "Jocelyn", a combined influence of "pop, dance, triphop and electronica", includes the smash hits "Do You Miss me"



and "A Little Bit of Ecstasy". It also contains a song in Tagalog called "Kailan man", according to the biography.

Enriquez's first album was "Lovely" produced by Classified Records in 1994 and included dance hits "I've Been Thinking About You" and "Make This Last Forever", it also stated.

Enriquez, in the interview, sent out her advice to aspiring young musicians and said "to stay focused".

"The most important thing is to believe in yourself. In the music industry, you will encounter things good and bad and it is up to you to take it in both and learn from it and continue to strive," said Enriquez.

"I would like to thank my fans and supporters here and I'm very happy to be here to visit the wonderful island of Saipan," she said. "I hope that I will be back soon to perform again," she added.

The concert which started at around 10:45 p.m. was SRO, prompting organizers to schedule another show at 12 midnight to accommodate the long lines of fans who were not able to get in.

Aldan hopes 'Teno' will support more autonomy for Public Lands

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

THE BOARD of Public Lands expressed hopes governor-elect Pedro P. Tenorio favors moves to grant the Division of Public Lands autonomy from the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

"I hope the governor-elect will support the idea and enact a law on the matter," said BPL Chair Tomas B. Aldan in an interview, Friday.

"I think it (granting DPL autonomy) is for the best interest of the CNMI," he added.

"We may then have clear directions," Aldan and Republican Representative Heinz Hofschneider, it will be recalled, have, last October, initiated talks and drafted a proposal to legislature to submit regarding the matter.

Aldan said the bill "may have a pretty big chance" of being en-

acted into law under the Republican governor-elect's administration.

Hofschneider, who was re-elected in the Nov. 1 elections, observers said, is expected to proceed with the bill's filing.

The bill, aside from pushing for DPL independence from DLNR, also seeks to give BPL powers including that on setting rental rates for vendors operating on public lands.

The bill, if enacted into law, is seen to address problems arising from DPL having become accountable to DLNR and BPL.

Such situation, Aldan has earlier said, proved to be "regressive" as a lot of decisions, like the recent proposal for DPL to transfer office to a new building, have remained pending for some time due to unresolved questions on funding and administrative jurisdiction.

DPL has nevertheless, moved office in As Lito last month.

DPL used to be known as the autonomous Marianas Public Land Corp. which was abolished through an executive order and placed under the executive branch.

Vets party

THE US Armed Forces Veterans and Veterans of Foreign Wars Association's annual Christmas Party will be held at the Royal Taga Beach Club, December 18, 1997 from 6:30 to closing.

Members and non-members are cordially invited to attend. Entrance fee is \$16.00 per person and includes food, beverages, entertainment and door prizes (\$1.00 per ticket).

Please come and join us, call the Veterans Affairs Office for reservation, Tel. no. 288-1150.

Cing raps TCGCC appointees

By Zaldy Dandan

Variety News Staff

DESCRIBING it as an "embarrassment" to Tinian and its people, Sen. David M. Cing (D-Tinian) is urging the island's municipal council to reject the appointments of Joaquin H. Borja and Jeffrey M. Hofschneider to the Tinian casino gaming commission.

Cing, in a letter to Municipal Council Chair Edward A. Villagomez, said he has nothing "personal" against the two appointees, but added that the appointees' "track records" raise "substantial questions about their competence and character."

Hofschneider, he said, was the customs supervisor at a time when a mayor's office employee assigned to Customs was involved in a shooting incident in which a police officer died.

"We should be painfully aware that this tragic incident could not have occurred if the employee involved had been properly trained and supervised," Cing said.

Hofschneider's sister, moreover, is the acting municipal treasurer, and this fact, according to Cing, poses a conflict of interest that should disqualify Hofschneider.

Cing said the Senate subpoenaed the municipal trea-

Asks Tinian council to reject Borja, Hofschneider



David M. Cing

surer for the Nov. 19 hearing, but she neither showed up for the hearing nor produced the documents requested by the Senate committee.

As to Borja's qualifications, Cing said he has a letter detailing "improper and unethical conduct of (Borja) in his post with the Tinian Labor and Immigration."

Cing said the letter reveals that Borja is "plainly unqualified to serve in such a sensitive position as (Tinian casino gaming commissioner)."

Further, Cing said he considers it "highly inappropriate" for outgoing Mayor Herman M. Manglona to make such "critical appointments during his final month in of-

fice."

Manglona ran successfully for the Senate, and is the Senate minority leader-designate.

Cing said mayor-elect Francisco M. Borja, who will be sworn into office in January, should appoint the replacements for the commissioners who are now under investigation for alleged "mispending and other improprieties" by the Senate committee chaired by Cing.

Cing said he has already asked Manglona to withdraw

the appointments, but "in the event he fails to do so...it will be necessary for the municipal council to act and reject the nominees."

"The success of Tinian's gaming industry requires competent, clear-sighted, dedicated and disciplined commissioners who are beyond reproach," Cing said.

"We need commissioners who understand the law and will apply and follow it without favoritism or self-interest.

"We need commissioners who know how to work with people, how to explain and educate not just intimidate, who are fair and treat everyone equally, and who will take the time to do the job right."

"Unfortunately," he said, "the present appointments do not further these goals."

Besides Hofschneider and Borja, Mayor Manglona has named Bernadita C. Palacios, Allen M. Perez, Serafina R. King-Nabors, Manuel P. Villagomez, Joaquin T. Castro and David Maratita as the new commissioners.

More overstayers taken in by DOLI

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

OPERATIVES of the Department of Labor and Immigration last week arrested two overstayers including a Filipino national whose entry permit has been revoked a month ago.

This developed as acting DOLI Secretary William Jones said more arrests may be forthcoming following DOLI's Immigration Enforcement Unit staff's moved to intensify the government's campaign against illegally employed and overstaying workers on the islands.

In a press briefing, John Taitano, DOLI-IEU officer, identified the arrested foreign nationals as Fernando R. Pinlac and Zhang Ji Zhe.

A third foreigner, identified as Alfonso E. Garcia has also been turned over to DOLI by the Department of Public Safety after having had served prison terms for robbery.

Taitano said the two were arrested during operations led by DOLI-IEU Capt. Ed Sablan and agents Vincent Pangelinan and Richard Lizama last Thursday.

Pinlac was nabbed in Chalan Kiya while Zhang was arrested in Chalan Kanoa.

Pinlac, according to Taitano, overstayed following the termination of his employment contract.

The arrests brought to three the total number of foreign nationals brought in by DOLI this month.

It will be recalled that another Chinese national has been arrested in Garapan a week ago after he was found selling merchandise along hotel street without the necessary business permit.

Taitano said DOLI is looking into the possibility of turning the Chinese national over to DPS.

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On how to deal with drunk customers

DPS 'train' bartenders

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT of Public Safety has conducted a workshop to train Saipan bartenders on how to serve alcohol responsibly to their customers.

A total of 32 bartenders and food and beverage staff from different hotels and nightclubs attended the workshop held at the Pacific Gardenia on Friday.

According to Maj. Claudio Norita, officer in charge of DPS special programs, the workshop called "Serving Alcohol Responsibly" was conducted

in conjunction with the DPS Drunk and Drugged Driving Prevention program.

Norita explained that the purpose of the workshop is to let the participants know the effects of alcohol and laws regarding selling of alcohol.

Norita underscored the importance of such workshop because the bartenders are the first persons who have contact with customers who are under the influence of alcohol.

"Bartenders should know about the establishments' liability...that



PO3 Ben Sablan shows to participants a form to be filled up to anyone arrested for driving under the influence of alcohol during a workshop on how to serve alcohol responsibly at the Pacific Gardenia on Friday.

Photo by Ferdie de la Torre

there is a law in the CNMI that prohibits serving customers who are obviously drunk," he said.

"If something happened to drunken customers, the establishment can be sued," Norita said, adding that the law requires bars to stop selling alcohol to drunken persons.

Norita said bartenders must limit the drinks to their customers and may call taxi or police to prevent drunken customers from going to the road.

"I'm happy that hotels and bars participate in the program. We have a very good response from the business community," he said.

The lecturers in the program were John McCollon of the Northern Marianas College and PO3 Ben Sablan, PO3 Eric Mafnas, and PO1 Peter Aldan of the DPS.



Police officers, from left, PO1 Peter Aldan, PO3 Ben Sablan, PO3 Eric Mafnas, and Maj. Claudio Norita oblige for a photo during an alcohol workshop attended by bartenders and food beverage staff from different bars and clubs on Saipan.

Guard in shooting case enters a plea, but may get 25 years

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

A SECURITY guard who was allegedly involved in a shooting and kidnapping incident at Herman's Bakery in Dandan last June has entered a plea agreement with the government.

Defendant Manuel Aldan Sablan and counsel John Chambers signed on Friday a plea bargain with Assistant Atty. Gen. Ross Buchholz.

Sablan was charged with attempted murder in the first degree, kidnapping, two counts of assault with a dangerous weapon, and obstructing justice.

The charges carry a maximum penalty of 51 years' imprisonment.

Under the plea agreement, Sablan will plead guilty to attempted murder in the first degree and one count of assault with a dangerous weapon.

In return, the government will recommend the dismissal of the remaining charges.

Both parties agreed that Sablan shall be detained 25 years, with credit for time served in jail.

The jail term will be consecutive with the sentence imposed against Sablan in another separate criminal case in the US District Court, stated the agreement.

After serving 10 years in jail, Sablan will be allowed to apply for parole or early release.

He was also required to pay restitution for medical ex-

penses to one of the victims who was shot and wounded.

The plea agreement is subject for court approval.

Court information showed that last June 9 Sablan, on board a pick-up truck, followed Joseph SN Cruz and Michelle Villagomez at the parking lot of Herman's Bakery along Airport Road.

After he confronted Cruz, Sablan took a .22-cal. rifle and shot him twice, hitting the victim in the head and hand.

Cruz's companion, Villagomez, ran away, but the suspect chased her and grabbed her into the truck.

The defendant threatened to shoot Villagomez, court records indicated.

In case of emergency, call 911

AIDS 'sparing' Pacific isles

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

NATIONS in the Pacific Islands are apparently being spared the brunt of the human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) epidemic which is plaguing most countries in the world.

This even as official statistics showed there was a 21 percent increase in the number of reported AIDS cases and a 32 percent rise in the number of reported cases of HIV infection for the Western Pacific region.

As of August 31, there was a cumulative total of 13,296 AIDS cases, 73,772 HIV infections and 8,895 AIDS deaths.

The 1997 sexually-transmitted diseases (STDs) surveillance report released by the World Health Organization

said the extent of HIV infection remains quite limited in most of the Pacific islands.

The report said five areas or countries in the Pacific — Cook Islands, Niue, Tokelau, Tuvalu and Vanuatu — have not reported any HIV infection or AIDS cases to date.

Excluding Australia, New Zealand and Papua New Guinea, the Pacific island countries reported a total of 185 AIDS cases and 510 incidents of HIV infection.

AIDS is a disease that destroys the human body's natural defense systems, thereby rendering an individual susceptible and defenseless to illnesses both rare and common, like cancer and cold.

The disease is caused by the entry of HIV into the body's internal tissues like blood vessels.

The HIV is a relatively weak virus which cannot survive outside the human body, yet once inside cannot be terminated. An individual contracts it through high-risk sexual activities blood transfusion, exchange of needles and syringes among drug-dependents, and from being born to an AIDS-stricken mother.

Over 80 percent of the 695 cases of both HIV infection and AIDS in the Pacific islands were reported from three areas, with French Polynesia posting the highest number at 211; while New Caledonia accounted for 200 cases; and Guam recorded 152 cases of AIDS and HIV infection.

The Northern Mariana Islands registered seven cases of AIDS and 12 HIV infection, while Marshall Islands

had 11 cases; Palau accounted for only one case each of AIDS and HIV infection.

Department of Health Director for communicable disease control Dr. Elsie Ramon, said there could be more unreported cases of HIV infection in the CNMI.

Ramon said there could be close to 150 cases of HIV infection in the Northern Mariana Islands which have remained unreported since the disease is most of the times asymptomatic.

AIDS was first detected in the Northern Marianas in 1983. The Center has validated only 12 cases since the disease surfaced on the island but global trend directs to increasing HIV infection.

The Federated States of

Micronesia, according to the WHO surveillance report, recorded two cases each of HIV infection and AIDS.

Governor Froilan C. Tenorio earlier said the global spread of HIV and AIDS necessitates a worldwide effort to increase communication, education and action to stop the spread of the disease.

"The CNMI observes December as a month to expand and strengthen the effort to stop the spread of HIV and AIDS," Tenorio said in a proclamation statement.

The WHO observes the World AIDS Day every year on December 1 to foster information exchange and to reinforce collaborative action between the various countries and areas in the world.

DOLI: 'Not much assets' to seize from security guard duty firms

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

THE TWO guard duty firms locked in an ongoing labor case with government over wage problems do not have much assets that can be seized for compensation of its employees, according to the Department of Labor and Immigration.

This was gathered as the estimated 100 Bangladeshi workers employed by the Benavente Security Agency and the Borja Security Services seem headed for a bleak Christmas as DOLI has only received only two job offers from prospective employers.

One, said Nancy Gottfried, Assistant Attorney General assigned to DOLI, was asking for a Backhoe operator for which none of the workers, she claimed, appears

to have the necessary skills.

The other, Gottfried said, was suggesting that DOLI seize BSA's and BSS's assets so that it can be converted to its monetary value and have the amount fund the fines imposed on the two firms over their workers' unpaid wages.

"But these companies do not have a lot of assets, that's the problem," said Gottfried.

Gottfried, who made a public statement asking employers to hire the workers early this month, said she is still waiting for responses.

She has also gone to a TV station to make the plea.

"I'm still looking... waiting," she said.

Linn Asper, DOLI's Administrative Hearing Office Supervisor, it will be recalled moved to allow BSA's employees to seek new

employment following the company's continuous failure to pay them on time.

Tina Kurtley, U.S. labor department investigator handling the case of the 43 BSS Bangladeshi workers who have recently sought federal assistance over similar wage problems, for her part, has said she is also asking the employees to seek new jobs.

But with no jobs on sight and assets to seize for their compensation, the next step government may take is to ask insurance firms covering the workers' bond to release the amount and have the latter flown home, a process that may yet take several more months depending on the insurance firms' ability to pay large amounts to a large number of workers.

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Ladder Beach dirty again

By Rick Alberto

Variety News Staff

MEMBERS of a beach cleanup brigade are dismayed to find that five days after Ladder Beach was cleaned up of its trash and litter, it is again dirty.

Brigade member Clarissa Tanaka, an environmental specialist from the Division of Environmental Quality, said about

half the quantity of the trash the 32 cleaners collected last Dec. 6 was observed scattered all over the beach. Tanaka went to Ladder Beach Thursday to get a sample of the beach's water to be tested on its coliform level.

"I was sad and discouraged that people don't consider the beauty of our island," Tanaka said.

"I hope that if anybody goes to any beach to have a picnic they will pick up their trash, put it in the trash bin or just take it home and when they throw the trash they could dump it at the dump site," she added.

Glenn Arriola, also of DEQ and who coordinated the latest monthly beach cleanup with col-

Continued on page 27

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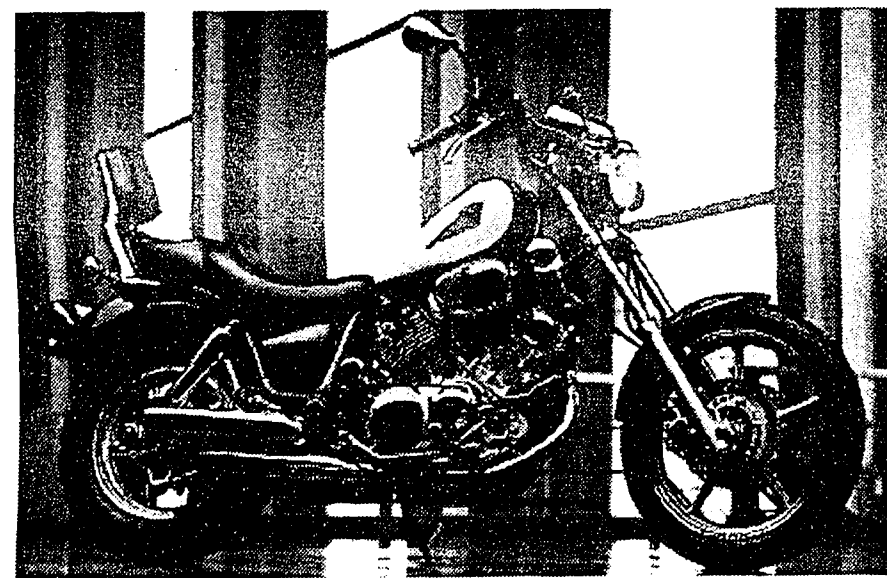
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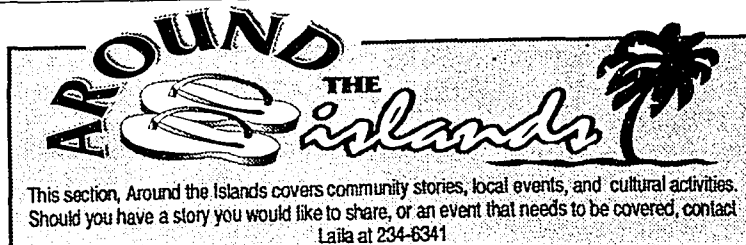
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This section, Around the Islands covers community stories, local events, and cultural activities. Should you have a story you would like to share, or an event that needs to be covered, contact Laila at 234-6341



An Unlikely Trio. A 'dragon', 'princess' and a 'knight' played by Amanda Van Lanen, Jennifer Cando and Suaad Younis, discuss plans to rescue the King during a dress rehearsal of NMC's comedic play "The Near-Sighted Knight and the Far-Sighted Dragon" Saturday.

Photo by Laila C. Younis

NMC play offers family fun and entertainment

WHAT HAPPENS when a visually impaired knight and dragon team up with a catholic princess to rescue her father the king? Come see the Northern Marianas College Drama Class/Club's production of "The Near-sighted Knight and the Far-sighted Dragon", a play for children by Eleanor and Ray Harder, and find out.

"This is a fun play that also has some meaning," NMC drama instructor and play producer Cheryl Treiber said.

"While it's designed for young people, it has something for everyone," Treiber said.

She said her 20 NMC and Northern Marianas Academy students have been studying their lines, rehearsing, and working on their costumes and sets for weeks.

Public performances will be held at the Joeten-Kiyu Library on Thursday, December 18 at 2:30 p.m. and again on Saturday, December 20 at 7:30 p.m.

Special performances for schools will be held Friday, December 19 at 8:30 a.m. at the Diamond Hotel ballroom and on Monday, December 22 at 8:30 a.m. at the Diamond Hotel ballroom and on Monday, December 22 at 8:30 a.m. at the Joeten-Kiyu Library.

Tickets are \$1 per person and the proceeds will be used to offset play

expenses.

Starting in the NMC production are: Suaad Younis, Jennifer Cando, Maranda Smith, Amanda Van Lanen, Zillah Wabot, Lizelle Torres, Miyuki Hill, Christina Zehr, Deric Kapileo, Anthony Magofna, and Kristina Casteel. The students are divided into two separate casts for different performances so patrons will have to check their programs to learn who is playing what role.

Treiber describes the plot as follows, "Our heroine, an unusual princess, who just loves math, has to save her father from the clutches of the evil duchess. An almost blind knight literally bumps into her and turns all her brilliant plans upside down.

"They soon meet up with the wise and ever hungry dragon and this unlikely trio teams up to release and king. However, they are not successful until the knight, who acts without thinking, and the dragon, who ponders too much, try on each other's point of view!"

"What happens is sure to make you laugh and maybe even think a deep thought or two!" she said.

This production of the "Near-sighted Knight and the Far-sighted Dragon" is funded in part through a grant from the National Endowment for the Arts and through assistance from the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture.

Aldan, Mettao top DFS employees



Kaiulani Aldan Vicente Mettao

MARIAN Aldan-Pierce, President of DFS Saipan Limited, announced the selection of Kaiulani Aldan and Vicente Mettao as DFS Employees of the Month for November 1997.

An awards ceremony was held last Friday, December 12, by members of Store Operations, Human Resources, and Administration with staffers Pauline Camacho and Miyuki Kamada

coordinating the ceremony held at the Galleria Coffee Shop, Garapan. Rick Lemaich, VP Store Operations, awarded Kaiulani and announced her selection from the Sales Category, and June Oyakawa, HR Director presented Vicente as the award winner in the Sales Support category.

Each recipient was awarded an Employee of the Month Certificate, award pin, and \$100 in cash. They now become candidates for 1997 Employee of the Year in their respective categories.

Kaiulani works in the Tiffany Boutique at the Galleria as a sales associate. She has been employed by DFS since June, 1994.

Continued on page 27

Typhoon pounds Marshalls

By Giff Johnson

For the Variety

MAJURO-Typhoon Paka, with winds gusting to 150 miles per hour, slashed its way through the western Marshall Islands Friday, inundating islands with waves and damaging hundreds of homes.

Continental Micronesia has been unable to fly into the Marshall Islands since Tuesday because of the typhoon, and Air Marshall Islands flights from Fiji were delayed.

Several islands in remote Ailinglaplap Atoll, where about 2,000 islanders live, reported 70 percent of the houses were blown down or had lost their roofs, while most of the

coconut trees were damaged or destroyed, said Clement Capelle, the head of the government's disaster response office in Majuro.

There were no reported injuries. Capelle said that waves washed over the runways on two of these low-lying coral islands early Friday morning, raising the spectre of salt water damage to food crop.

Hundreds of islanders living on Ebeye Island, a narrow strip of land about 200 meters wide and less than two kilometers long that houses 11,000 people, were evacuated Thursday from their ocean-side homes to the larger concrete church buildings on the tiny island.

Ebeye was being pounded by high waves from the storm, and heavy damage was expected to the ocean-side area of the island.

Power and telephone communications were knocked out by the high winds Thursday, and late Friday afternoon phone.

The U.S. Army's Kwajalein missile range three miles from Ebeye is reported to have sustained only minor damage to some roofs.

Majuro weather station officials indicated that despite Paka's high winds Thursday and Friday, the typhoon may be downgraded to a tropical storm as the wind strength is beginning to abate.

Majuro, the nation's capital, was without power to most of the atoll for almost 36 hours last Wednesday and Thursday.

As of Friday, residents were cleaning up in the aftermath of the storm, repairing damaged roofs and hauling downed trees to the dump for disposal.

There were no injuries, although dozens of homes and businesses sustained damage Wednesday and Thursday. Even 48 hours after the storm, some parts of Majuro have yet to get power fully restored.

Continental station manager John Hawley said the airline had to wait until the weather cleared before inter-

national flights could resume.

He was hopeful that service would be resumed Saturday. Kwajalein and Majuro serve as alternate emergency landing runways for each other, a Federal Aviation Administration safety requirement. "If weather affects both Kwajalein and Majuro, we can't fly in either direction (to Guam or Honolulu)," Hawley said.

Late Friday, Paka was 125 statute miles south/southwest of Kwajalein Atoll and moving west at about nine miles per hour, a path that would not directly pass over any other islands and would take the typhoon north of Pohnpei, according to Majuro weather officials.

Study on FDM fish population mulled by DFW

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

THE COMMONWEALTH Division of Fish and Wildlife will conduct an "extensive" study on the bottom fish population at the Farallon de Medinilla Island as part of its resource management program.

The study aims to identify available fish species in the area and draw up plans for its optimal use, said DFW Deputy Director Richard Seman in an interview.

The project, a joint effort with the U.S. National Marine Fishing Service, Seman said, is expected to kick off early next year.

"We're getting set to start with our bottom fish assessment on Farallon de Medinilla," he said.

"We don't really know what the fish stock is over there

"We know there is a lot of fish but in order for us to manage the fishery before it's too late, we have to know first at this point in time what condition it is in," Seman explained.

"So we have to do a thorough research."

The research, seen to take at least two months to complete, will provide the Department of Lands and Natural Resources, which has jurisdiction over DFW, a complete listing of the different fish species that abound around the island.

Seman, meantime, clarified that the study "has nothing to do" with efforts, also by DLNR, to put a permanent stop on the U.S. Navy's unhampered military exercises on FDM.

"This is a completely separate issue with the bomb runs," he said.

"People tend to confuse our project with the military exercises."

Outgoing DLNR Secretary Margarita Wonenberg, it will be recalled, has initiated moves seeking amendments to the Covenant which integrated the Northern Mariana Islands into the US political system.

The Covenant guarantees continued use of the FDM for military purposes.

Wonenberg said the bomb runs could pose a threat to the island's ecology and eventually destroy its reef formation, reportedly the biggest in this side of the Pacific Ocean.

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Ramos signs RP tax reform law

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—President Fidel Ramos signed Thursday the final portion of a tax reform package that will raise government revenues, broaden the tax base and reduce evasion.

The package is also one of the last requirements the Philippines must meet before exiting from more than three decades of economic supervision by the International Monetary Fund.

The law "sends another strong signal to the international community that our economic and financial fundamentals not only remain sound but are being reinforced," Ramos said during signing ceremonies at the presidential palace.

Ramos said that while the new tax law is "kinder" to poor Filipinos, it will still generate revenues to finance government projects.

He said the tax burden will be borne by those who have a greater

capacity to pay and who spend more.

Under the law, personal tax exemptions will be raised to 32,000 pesos (\$ 915) from 18,000 pesos (\$ 515) for married couples, while single individuals can claim exemptions of 20,000 pesos (\$ 570) instead of the previous 9,000 pesos (\$ 260).

Total exemptions for a family of six will rise to 98,400 pesos (\$ 2,810) from 56,000 pesos (\$ 1,600). Corporate income tax rates, on the other hand, will fall to 32 percent by 2000 from the current 35 percent.

Ramos said the long congressional debate on the law assures that it will be fair both to taxpayers and the government's need to raise funds to boost growth.

The Philippines, which has tapped 23 IMF borrowing programs, hopes to exit its latest program, a three-year extended fund facility, by the end of the year.

RP lawmaker convicted of rape



Congressman Romeo Jalosjos is surrounded by policemen on the way back to his cell Friday in suburban Makati City after the court hearing finding him guilty of rape. Jalosjos was sentenced to two life imprisonments for raping twice an 11-year old girl in a landmark case against child abuse. AP

Accidents halt construction in Makati district

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - Officials halted all major construction in Manila's financial district Thursday following a series of accidents that killed scores of workers.

Officials allowed some construction to resume later in the day after representatives of major construction companies promised to improve safety conditions at work sites.

However, Makati City engineer Nelson Irasga said construction of at least six buildings will remain suspended because of recent accidents at the sites.

About 1,000 construction projects are under way in Makati.

The traffic-choked city, part of metropolitan Manila, is home to hundreds of local and international companies.

In the latest accident, two construction workers were killed Tuesday when they fell from the 23rd floor of a building, crashed through plywood on the 17th floor and landed on the seventh floor. At least five other workers were injured.

Last week, a 1.6-ton piece of steel being moved by a crane on top of a building under construction tilted and plummeted onto a congested street, crashing onto several cabs and injuring at least five people.

In November, five workers were killed when a construction elevator plunged four floors.

Drive
Safely

Gov't intervenes in Rayphand case



Robert Goldberg

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff
THE Commonwealth told the federal district court Friday that it should be allowed to intervene in the case seeking to re-appportion the Senate seats so it can protect its interests.

In a reply to plaintiff Jeanne H. Rayphand, who is opposing the CNMI's motion to intervene, the Commonwealth, through Assistant Atty. Gen. Robert Goldberg, said in effect that there was no reason for Rayphand's opposition since she had welcomed the United States' intervention in the case.

Governor gives executive branch employees an extended leave

IT IS BEGINNING to look a lot like Christmas at the executive branch of government.

Gov. Froilan C. Tenorio has issued a memorandum to allow executive branch employees the use of their accrued annual leave to extend their holiday leave.

Noting that both Christmas Day and New Year's Day fall on a Thursday, the governor has authorized the liberal use of accrued annual leave for Dec. 23, Dec. 26, Jan. 31 and Jan. 2.

However, no administrative leave will be authorized for any time during those dates.

In addition, Tenorio said the granting of employees' use of annual leave should be done in a manner that will allow all essential government services to continue.

This includes offices responsible for receiving payments, applications and filings of any nature, which should remain open "with sufficient personnel to handle those matters." (ZD)

Happy
Birthday!!!
**Arsen
Hembra**

From
Variety Staff



Jeanne H. Rayphand

Rayphand, who says Saipan should be served by eight senators instead of the current three, had claimed that the CNMI was not a necessary party because the US, as intervener, and defendant legislature would adequately protect the Commonwealth's interests.

The CNMI, however, disputed this, saying the interests of the CNMI and US "sometimes differ sharply."

Also, it added, the interests and the CNMI and the legislature "are not congruent."

The Commonwealth says it wants to intervene in the case to support and defend the Covenant.

Citing *DeNueva vs Reyes*, the CNMI argued that it cannot be barred from the case as defendant since Rayphand's claims are not for damages but for declaratory and injunctive relief.

In its reply, the CNMI also opposed Rayphand's motion to add Rep. Stanley T. Torres as a party plaintiff.

"The Commonwealth's interest in participating in this...case far outweighs the proposed plaintiff's interest in participating in this case," the CNMI said.

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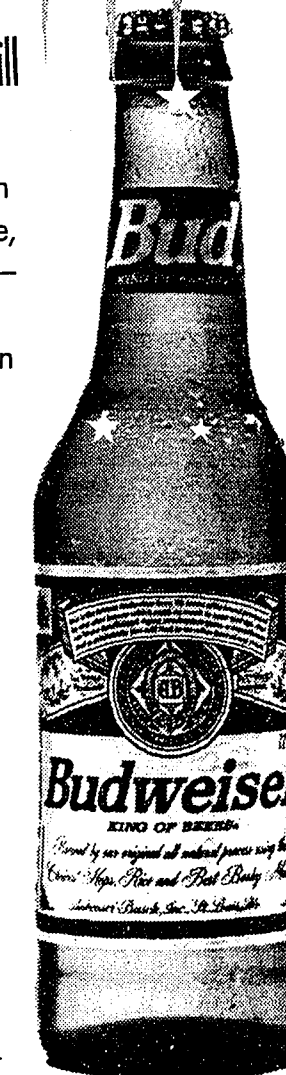
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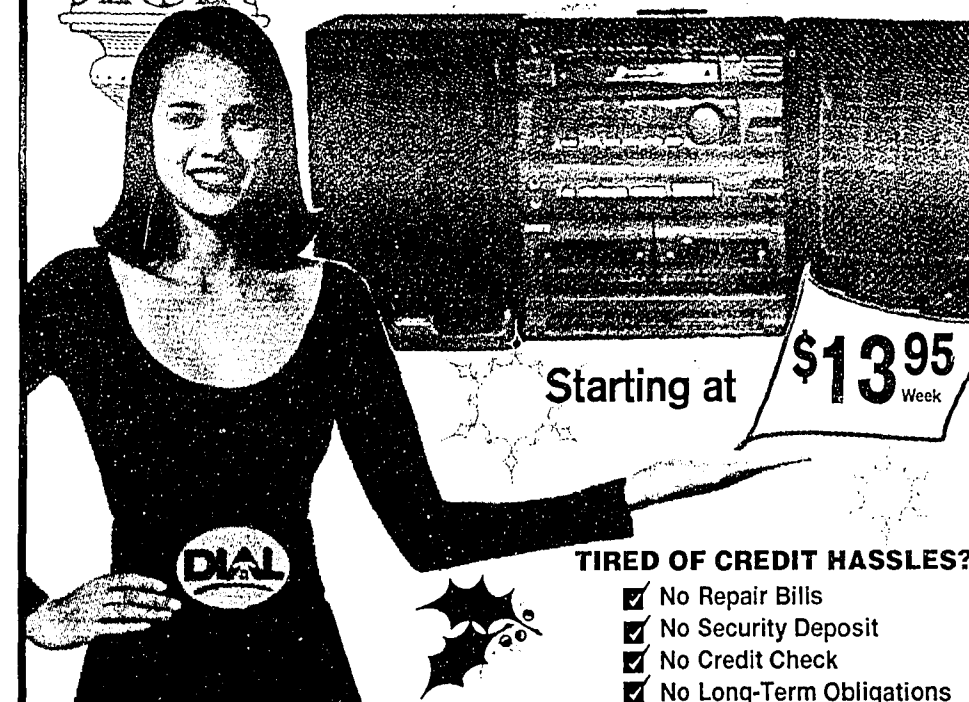
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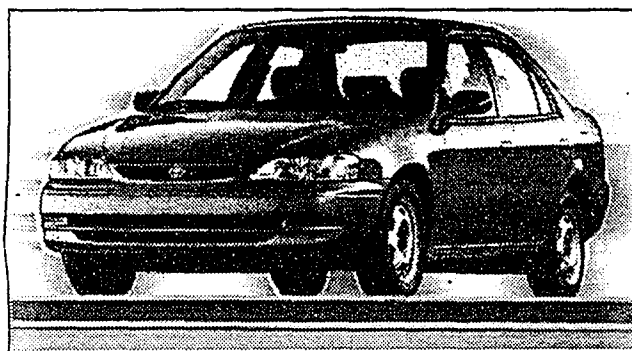


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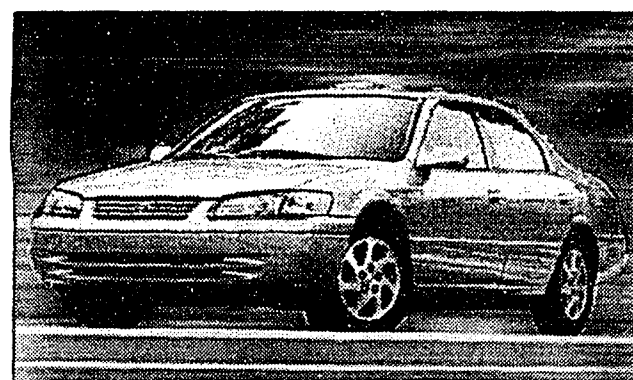


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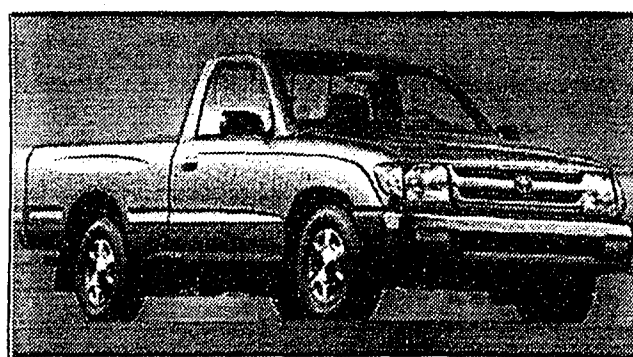


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Rota has until Jan. 4 to decide on 'Shogun'

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THE owner of the tanker that ran aground the reefs in Rota Harbor has given the municipality until Jan. 4 next year to accept the vessel and its equipment as donation.

Rota wants to accept the owner's offer, but the sinking of the vessel has to get both local and federal permits, and may take sometime to get the permits. The owner has suggested that M/T Shogun can be used as a diving attraction. The equipment in the vessel is said to be worth many hundreds of thousands of dollars.

Chembridge Tankers Ltd., in a statement Friday, said that if Rota cannot get the permits by Jan. 4 or chooses not to take the offer, the vessel would be towed to Southeast Asia to be "repaired, converted or scrapped."

"The vessel owner has entered into a contract of towage with a Saipan-based towing company to have the vessel transported to Southeast Asia or Far East Asia commencing by Jan. 15, 1998," the statement said.

Chembridge Tankers also clarified

that the towing of the vessel to Tinian last Dec. 9 was accompanied by the required berthing permit.

The removal of the tanker was necessary to prevent any damage to the environment, since Rota Harbor is not a safe harbor whereas Tinian is a refuge for small ships during inclement weather, the statement said.

Shogun, carrying some 5,500 barrels of petroleum products, ran aground last Nov. 6. It came from Tinian and was bound for Rota.

The statement also said Shogun was one of the safest ships to have traded in the CNMI, with a double-hulled construction using substantial amounts of stainless steel material.

It said the Nov. 6 incident happened by accident.

"Because of the double-hulled construction and other features, none of the cargo was lost and none spilled into the ocean," the statement said.

"Furthermore, all of the ships' bunkers were recovered and none spilled into the ocean," the statement added.

Telecom Fiji eyes new project

SUVA (Pacnews)—Telecom Fiji has launched a \$1.3 million (\$US\$850,000) project which allows for the fast installation of telephones in areas where there are no telephone cables. The minister for communications, Ratu Inoke Kubuabola, officially launched the project Thursday at the Nasinu Telecom Exchange in Suva, Radio Fiji reports.

The project named the Wireless Local Loop System, is a compact system which uses low powered radio technology for telephone coverage. The system covers a radius of five kilometres from the base stations.

Currently, two base systems installed at the Nasinu and Naulu stations are expected to cover areas from Four Miles to Nausori.

Elsewhere in the Pacific Skate set to announce deputy prime minister

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews)—Papua New Guinea's government whip, Peter Waieng, has called on Highlands MPs to rally together to win the post of Deputy Prime Minister of the country. The post was left vacant after Prime Minister Bill Skate sacked Pangu Pati leader Chris Haiveta after accusing him of collaborating with former advisor Mujo Sefa to release secretly-filmed tapes alleging bribery on the ABC, The

National reports.

Skate was expected to announce a new deputy at the weekend.

Among the strong contenders are PPP leader Michael Napi, PDM leader Iairo Lasaro, United People's Resources Party's Masket Iangalio and Western Highlands Governor Robert Lak. Haiveta is also quietly tipped to take back his old job.

Waieng said Thursday night the Highlands MPs needed to come together as a united force and approach

the Prime Minister to give them the job. He also called on the Prime Minister to recognise the commitment and support the MPs from the region had given him to form government and maintain a comfortable majority.

Pro-Gov't rally seen in Samoa

APIA (Pacnews)—Samoa's prime minister, Tofilau Eti Alesana, told protesters yesterday in Apia that they have no authority to call for his resignation and that only "God has the authority".

"If I feel a whisper from the spirit of God (that says), Tofilau, resign, then I will resign," he told up to 5,000 people who took part in the march. The marchers were demanding the resignation of the Prime Minister over rising cost of living and alleged corruption in government.

Tofilau also revealed that a pro-government march, "the size of which the country has never seen" will be held December 19.

The march was the second since October by a group calling itself Tumua ma Pule. They plan to continue holding protest marches until government resigns.

British Queen is rightful head of state—Rabuka

SUVA (Pacnews)—Fiji Prime Minister Sitiveni Rabuka has suggested that Queen Elizabeth ought to be the Head of State of Fiji. He said that making the queen Fiji's head of state will promote unity among all races in the country, The Daily Post reports.

Rabuka said by doing this, Fiji will avoid having one race choosing the head of state. Currently, the Head of State, the President, is being appointed by the

Great Council of Chiefs. He said in future other races living in Fiji would ask why they cannot be involved in choosing a Head of State.

The Prime Minister said the President Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara had a proven track record in the civil service and as a politician. But he said Ratu Sir Kamisese was uniquely different, a rare and outstanding individual in many ways and people paid him due respect and were united in honouring him.

Filipinos compensated by US firms over pesticides

By JIM GOMEZ

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - Thousands of Filipino banana workers began receiving compensation this week from three U.S. manufacturers of a pesticide that causes sterility, lawyers said.

About 6,800 Filipinos are among 13,000 agricultural workers worldwide who are eligible to receive payments from a \$41.5 million settlement fund from the three chemical companies, said Renato Callanta, a lawyer of the Filipino workers.

"We're very happy that we've been able to bring justice for the terrible injuries suffered by the workers around the world," said Michael Lee, a U.S.-based lawyer representing the workers worldwide.

More than 2,000 Filipinos have received their checks since the payments began last Monday, he said.

Lee, interviewed by telephone from Davao City, the banana-producing region where most Filipino claimants live, said affected workers are concurrently receiving payments in several other countries, including Costa Rica,

Honduras, Nicaragua, Ecuador and Guatemala.

The workers said they became sterile or were afflicted with other ailments following exposure to the pesticide dibromochloropropane, or DBCP, which was produced by Dow Chemical Co., Shell Oil Co. and Occidental Chemical Corp.

DBCP, a liquid fumigant, was injected into the ground to kill microscopic worms that destroy the roots of banana trees.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency discovered DBCP could cause cancer and sterility and severely restricted its use in 1977. It was banned in the United States in 1979 and a year later in the Philippines.

It was, however, still being used in the Philippines well into the 1980s, lawyers of the workers say.

A group of workers filed a damage lawsuit in the United States in 1993 and reached a multimillion-dollar settlement with the manufacturers last May, although the companies maintain they were not at fault. The makers say the pesticide was not used properly.

Callanta said the workers

dropped their suits against the three U.S. chemical companies in exchange for the settlement. However, they are still pursuing claims against American fruit companies which allowed the use of DBCP, known by the brand names Fumazone and Nemaclone, on Philippine banana plantations.

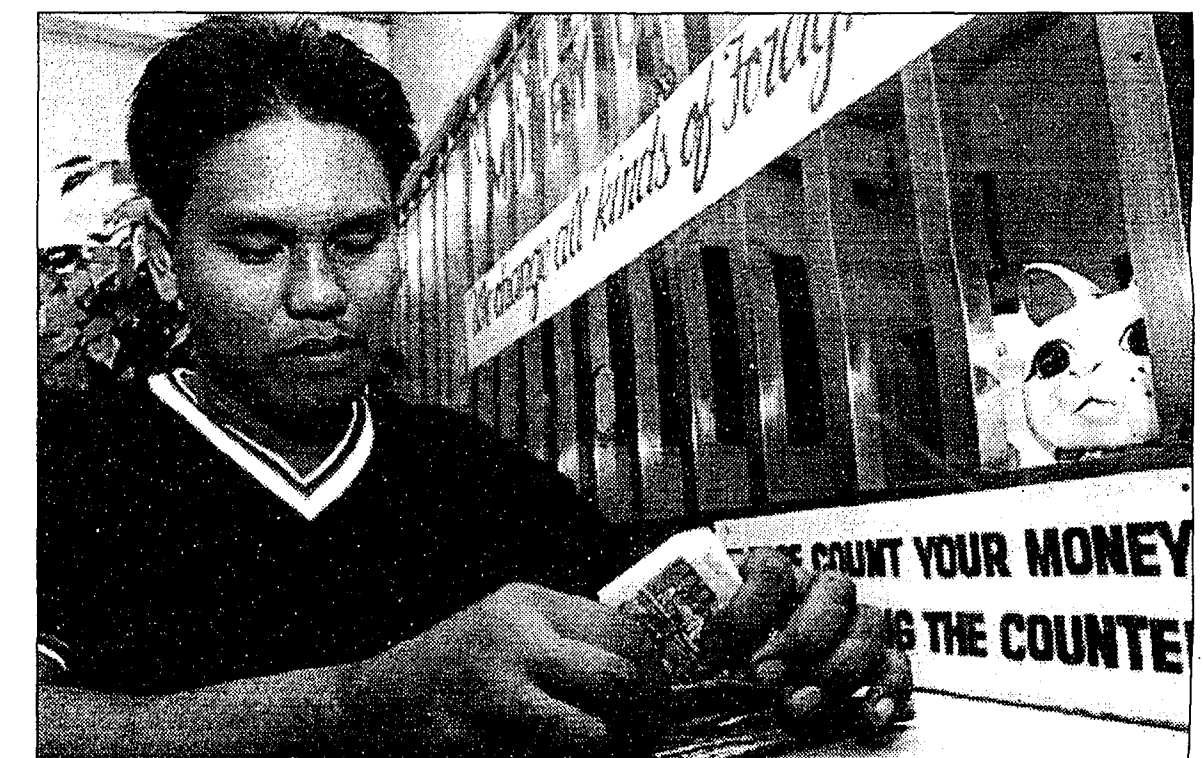
Lee said the payments to the workers range from about \$800 to nearly \$5,000 depending on the ailments caused by the pesticide.

Claimants who are not sterile but can prove they were exposed to the pesticide will receive \$100 each.

Callanta said they have cautioned the workers to be careful after six claimants were held up Tuesday in a bus after getting their payments from a bank in Davao. On the same day, another worker who had just collected his payment was stabbed outside a bank by suspected robbers.

In September, Filipino claimants underwent sperm tests to determine whether they are sterile and eligible for a share of the settlement.

About 30,000 Filipinos work on the plantations at an average daily pay of 160 pesos, or about \$4.60.



Esteban Bolocon counts Philippines' peso bills amounting to 37,360 pesos after changing his U.S. 1,000 dollars Friday at a money changer shop in Manila. Heavy demand for dollars triggered by the latest flare up in the regional currency crisis saw the peso fall to a record low of 37.360 pesos to the dollar.

ADB okays \$240M Indonesia loans

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - The Asian Development Bank last week approved two loans worth \$240 million for Indonesia to build and repair airports and improve water supplies, sanitation and roads.

A new airport will be constructed in Samarinda in Eastern Kalimantan and airports in Pontianak in West Kalimantan and Soring Daratan in West Irian Jaya will be improved with a \$124 million loan, the Manila-based bank said.

The bank said the airports will promote economic development and improve air safety in eastern islands that are included in a growth area being promoted by

Indonesia, Brunei, Malaysia and the Philippines.

With the improvements in the three airports, Indonesia expects air traffic in the area to increase by 7 to 9 percent annually.

The total cost of the project is \$278 million. The Indonesian government will provide \$74 million and Japan's Export-Import Bank will finance \$80 million.

The second loan, worth \$116 million, will be used to improve basic infrastructure in a key urban center in Indonesia's North Sumatra province.

The ADB said improved water supplies, sanitation, flood control, drainage facilities and roads in the municipalities of Binjai, Medan and Deli

Serdang will benefit more than 3 million people.

The area is part of a growth zone being improved by Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand.

The total cost of the project is \$198.2 million. The Indonesian government will provide \$135 million, the provincial government \$13 million, the local government \$25.7 million and water supply enterprises \$10 million, the bank said.

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A man rides his scooter beneath a billboard of Indonesian President Suharto in Jakarta Tuesday. After wild rumors of the Indonesian President's health panicked traders last week sending the rupiah and stock market into a downward spiral, many Indonesians were more worried about their dwindling incomes than the condition of their 76-year-old president. AP

Suharto discusses economy, Irian Jaya

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) - A Cabinet minister said he met with President Suharto at his home for more than one hour Thursday to discuss the economy and relief efforts in an impoverished Indonesian province.

The meeting indicated that 76-year-old Suharto is still involved in government business even though doctors told him to take a 10-day rest following a long overseas trip.

Rumors that Suharto was gravely ill or had died led to the rupiah's worst fall on record Tuesday despite government officials' assurances that he is in good health.

Ginandjar Kartasasmita, the development minister, said Suharto told him to step up aid to Irian Jaya, the western half of Papua island where more than 500 people have died of hunger and disease since July.

"I was ordered by the President ... that I cooperate with other officials and related government agencies to distribute food supply to the hunger-threatened villages," Kartasasmita said.

He estimated that more than

150,000 people in Irian Jaya's remote villages will suffer food shortages in the coming months unless supplies are distributed immediately.

Kartasasmita also said Suharto told him to take Indonesia's economic difficulties into account while planning the state budget for the 1998-1999 fiscal year.

"If (the economy) is sluggish, the state budget must reflect so. Do not cover up anything to avoid misinterpretations," Kartasasmita quoted Suharto as saying.

The remark, reported by the official Antara news agency, ap-

peared to be a call for spending cuts. The government has postponed some projects to comply with a \$40 billion bailout package set up by the International Monetary Fund.

The government has said Suharto will attend a regional summit in neighboring Malaysia on Monday and Tuesday.

Suharto has led Indonesia for 32 years and there is widespread uncertainty about political stability under any successor. The president is expected to be re-elected to a seventh five-year term in March.

Weak property market in HK

HONG KONG (AP) - Reflecting the weak property market, the government on Thursday sold the rights to a residential and commercial site for a lower-than-expected price in an auction marked by low turnout and quick bidding.

Hong Kong-listed Tai Cheung Holdings Ltd. paid 285 million Hong Kong dollars (\$37 million) for the 24,682-square-foot (2,200-sq. meter) in the New Territories after fewer than 10 minutes of bidding.

Analysts said the winning bid fell short of the low end of market expectations.

Strict seating arrangements and bidding procedures were in place

for Thursday's auction. In October, a woman who identified herself as a character in a Chinese movie and claimed to be the head of conglomerate Hutchison Whampoa Ltd. submitted a bogus — and winning — bid.

No such theatrics marred Thursday's land sale, which took place in the half-full auction hall.

Land auctions are closely watched as a barometer of property and business confidence in Hong Kong, which was returned to Chinese rule by Britain on July 1.

All land in Hong Kong is owned by the government, which leases it to developers.

Wife of former Thai PM paid no taxes on assets

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) - While former Prime Minister Chavalit Yongchaiyudh negotiated a \$17.2 billion bailout for Thailand from the International Monetary Fund, his wife paid no taxes on more than \$3.27 million in assets.

The tax information on the former premier's spouse was revealed in a report published by the Counter Corruption Commission earlier this week and carried in Friday's Bangkok Post newspaper.

Thai politicians have been forced to publicly reveal their wealth for the first time in history under the provisions of a new constitution passed in Sept.

The first list published was for Chavalit's Cabinet. Chavalit, who resigned in November, held office for 11 months, presiding over the country's worst economic crisis.

While more than a million people lost their jobs because of the economic slump, Chavalit's 48-member Cabinet had assets averaging \$14.5 million a person.

Most ministers' personal wealth paled in comparison to that of their wives. Chavalit, for instance, had assets of about 16 million baht (\$380,000) and paid about 400,000 baht (\$9,300) in taxes.

His wife, Phankrua, however, had assets of 141 million baht (\$3.27 million). She paid no tax be-



Phankrua

cause she was a housewife, the paper said.

Meanwhile, the country is receiving \$17.2 billion in loans from the international community to help repair the economy, which faltered under mismanagement, corruption and waste.

Two weeks ago, United States congressman Bernie Sanders (I-Vt.) attacked the Clinton administration for considering helping with bailouts to Asian countries, such as Indonesia, Thailand and South Korea, in the grips of a financial crisis.

"I find it very ironic that the hard-pressed taxpayers of this country are being asked to bail out Indonesia and other countries where the leaders of those countries are often extremely wealthy," Sanders said.

Sanders said using American taxpayers' money for that purpose is unconstitutional.

Korean Finance Minister confident:

'Crisis will ease soon'



A labor protestor displays placards calling for the IMF not to attempt to control South Korea's economy and the resignation of President Kim Young-sam during a street rally Saturday in Seoul. AP

By KYONG-HWA SEOK
SEOUL, South Korea (AP) - South Korea's finance minister said Sunday his country is fully abiding by conditions set by the International Monetary Fund, ensuring that the economic crisis will end soon.

A full implementation of conditions set by the IMF is prerequisite to South Korea receiving the world's record \$57 billion bailout fund.

"The IMF has no reservations about our pledge to implement its conditions," Lim Chang-yul said on KBS-TV.

Lim said he confirmed the IMF position in a telephone conversation Friday with its head, Michel Camdessus.

"Contrary to some negative reports, things are moving on schedule, some ahead of schedule," he said.

In accepting the IMF rescue on Dec. 3, South Korea agreed to cut government spending, lower economic growth, clear up insolvent financial institutions, raise taxes and keep interest rates high.

The IMF has so far disbursed \$5.6 billion and plans to provide \$3.6 billion more Friday after reviewing South Korea's performance on its commitment.

Lim said South Korea is moving

faster than its promised schedule to the IMF to restructure its financial markets.

South Korea has suspended 14 financially shaky merchant banks, or finance companies. Lim said five of them were suspended, although his government was not asked by the IMF to do so.

"Therefore, I would say the financial crisis will be over soon," he said. The minister also said South Korea opened its lucrative bond markets to foreign investors last week, about three weeks ahead of schedule.

Investors' worries that South Korea may renege on its commitment to the IMF have eased considerably after the leading presidential candidates for Thursday's election openly expressed support for the bailout, Lim said.

Two leading presidential candidates reversed themselves last week and voiced support for the deal.

They previously insisted that some "harsh" conditions set by the IMF, including a demand that the country curb next year's economic growth rate to 2.5 percent, be renegotiated.

The 2.5 percent growth rate, which compares with an expected 6 percent growth this year, would sharply raise unemployment, putting more than 1 million people out of work.

8 killed, scores injured in RP highway collision

MANILA, Philippines (AP) - A truck veered into the opposite lane of a busy highway and rammed into a jeep Sunday, killing eight people and injuring at least 15, police said.

Killed in the crash were passengers on jeep, who were on their way to work at factories in Cavite province, an industrial hub south of Manila.

Police officer Reinier Abo said the truck driver lost control

and swerved into the opposite lane of the South Luzon Expressway, in Muntinlupa City, a southern suburb of metropolitan Manila.

The truck collided with the jeep, which was carrying about 20 passengers. The jeep spun three times and struck another car, police say. The truck driver was also injured and hospitalized. Abo said.

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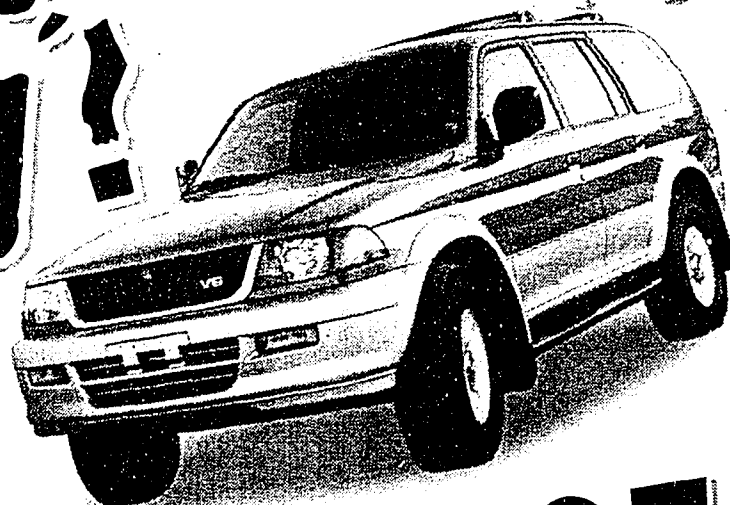
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A food shop owner talks on the phone in the Vietnamese capital of Hanoi as her daughter prepares soup for the lunchtime rush. Vietnam faces a shortage of land-based phones lines with only about 1.3 available for ever 100 people. AP

Two decades after the war

Vietnam conducts survey of victims

HANOI, Vietnam (AP) - At least one person was killed from every other household in the central provinces of Vietnam during war against the French and the United States, a government survey published Sunday said.

In central Quang Nam province, south of the demilitarized zone that separated the North from the South, 61.5 percent of all households lost at least one person in the fighting, the Ministry of Labor, Invalids and Social Affairs said.

Twenty-two years after the fall of Saigon and the end of decades of conflict in Vietnam, the ministry is conducting one of the most comprehensive studies of war victims, the official Vietnam News Agency reported.

"The findings show the losses in life are great and cause long after-

math," said a summary of the ministry findings.

The survey focused on five provinces in southern and central Vietnam and will be expanded to other provinces over the next several years, the news agency reported.

Of the five provinces — Quang Binh, Quang Tri, Quang Ngai, Quang Nam and Ben Tre — Quang Nam and Quang Binh suffered the most

losses in lives.

Some of the fiercest battles during the Vietnam War were fought in Quang Tri province near the DMZ and its strategic Highway Nine.

Quang Tri and Quang Binh stood on opposite sides of the 17th parallel that separated communist North Vietnam from the U.S.-backed South Vietnam.

Researchers: Burning may have changed the climate

BOULDER, Colorado (AP) - A University of Colorado scientist says systematic burning of vegetation by aborigines about 50,000 years ago may have changed Australia's climate and triggered

the development of deserts in the country's interior.

Gifford Miller of CU's Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research said his theory is hard to prove. But he said his research "should be an important lesson to us that an early human migratory group with low technology burning caused continent-sized climate change."

Miller's findings were presented Wednesday at the American Geophysical Union meeting at San Francisco.

Previous work in Australia on dating fossil eggshells of emus and ostriches led Miller to conclude that regular burning of the countryside was a traditional part of the aboriginal culture. Australia's indigenous people were trying to promote certain kinds of plant growth, to drive game and to signal each other, he said.

But Miller said he and his colleagues wanted to see whether lightning fires had an effect on climate.

The group found that fossils and other records showed Australia's interior was lush 60,000 years ago. An annual monsoon drenched the country each summer. Then humans began arriving in Australia about 50,000 years ago from southeast Asia, Miller said.

Miller said monsoon activity was increasing globally, so "something regional must have been modulating the Australian monsoon."

The CU researcher said the only mechanism that has enough punch to alter the Australian monsoon appears to be vegetation.

Humans' consistent burning during dry periods prevented the vegetation from recovering in wet periods, Miller said.

Miller and his group used a computer model in their research because Australia's interior has highly depleted alkaline soils, so little is preserved in the fossil and pollen record, he said.

The computer model was devised by the Boulder-based National Center for Atmospheric Research.

When researchers plugged in vegetation, the computer model showed precipitation would more than double. When they removed the vegetation, deserts proliferated.

ASEAN works on currency pact

By DAVID THURBER
KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) - Top Asian officials were crafting an agreement Sunday on how to deal with the region's currency crises but acknowledged it was unlikely to contain major new proposals.

"I think that at this time, all the things that we can do have been agreed upon," Philippine Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon said. "It's just a matter of trying to consolidate all the players."

Siazon and other leaders of the nine-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations began arriving Sunday, the first day of three-day summit, which will also be attended by China, Japan and South Korea.

Initially, the summit was planned to commemorate ASEAN's 30th anniversary and release "Vision 2020," a plan for the future of what has been one of the world's fastest-growing regions.

But that was before currency plunges and market turmoil devastated several countries in recent months. Some currencies have lost 40 percent or more of their value.

"You can't be talking about an ASEAN 'Vision 2020' years away without telling the people what we are doing right now to tackle a current crisis," Kobsak Chutikul, director of economic affairs in Thailand's Ministry of Foreign Affairs, said Saturday.

Ajit Singh, ASEAN's secretary-general, said there was a good chance a statement would be released later Sunday on the currency situation. But Siazon said no major new initiatives were likely beyond what was agreed upon at the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation summit of Pacific Rim leaders in Vancouver three weeks ago.

There had been speculation that new initiatives might be in the works to tackle the region's problems, which have continued despite multibillion-dollar bailouts by the International Monetary Fund for Thailand, Indonesia and South Korea.

Last month, top ASEAN finance officials met in the Philippine capital of Manila and agreed on a plan for tighter regional cooperation, including establishment of a watchdog agency to provide early warning of future troubles. That framework was endorsed by ASEAN finance ministers two weeks ago in Kuala Lumpur.

"What's important is effective implementation of the Manila framework," Siazon said.

Siazon also said it was in Washington's interest to increase its involvement because U.S. trade with ASEAN is higher than its commerce with the European Union, so further problems would have a major impact on America. Of the 12 countries attending here, only two — South Korea and Indonesia — are not sending their leaders.

South Korean President Kim Young-sam still is embroiled in the aftermath of the embarrassing decision to seek an IMF rescue package. Indonesian President Suharto has been recuperating from a long trip that officials said left him exhausted.

"It is with deep regret that he had to decide not to come," Indonesian Foreign Minister Ali Alatas said of



Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, right, consults with Mirzan Mahathir, a businessman and his son, during a private sector salute to ASEAN at a Kuala Lumpur hotel Saturday. Mahathir hosts three-day summit meetings on the regional economic crisis with other leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) from Dec. 14. AP

Suharto.

Also on the ASEAN agenda are China's growing role in the region, Cambodia's application for admission, and the regional dispute over the South China Sea's Spratly Islands, for which six countries have overlapping claims. The Spratly Islands are expected to be mentioned in the summit's final communique.

Siazon said ASEAN's links with China, which has said it will be making unspecified proposals at the summit, "are likely to deepen."

"China's participation with ASEAN is important," he said, pointing out that 1995 trade amounted to \$20 billion, with 3 percent of ASEAN's exports going to China and 7 percent of China's exports going to ASEAN. Asked about a timetable for Cambodia's admission, Siazon said: "Realistically, there is not a consensus here. Some of the ASEAN members would like to see elections before making a decision."

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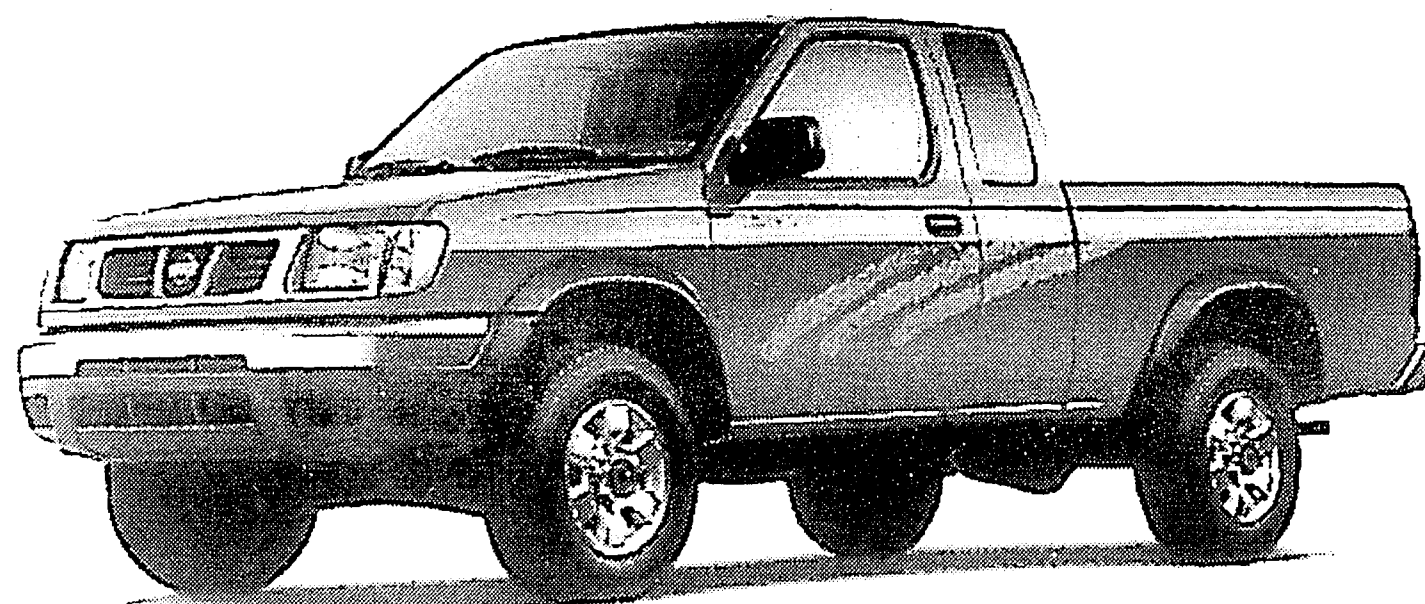
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18-MARIANAS VARIETY NEWS AND VIEWS-MONDAY- DECEMBER 15, 1997

Fire closes Heathrow

LONDON (AP) - Police on Friday closed Heathrow, Britain's main international airport, and evacuated passengers after a fire broke out at a burger bar.

Police said that no one was injured in the blaze, which started at 04.40 GMT in a restaurant in part of the airport's terminal one and spread throughout much of the building.

"The area has been evacuated," a police spokesman, speaking on terms of customary anonymity, said. "No one is thought to be injured. The fire brigade and the ambulance service

are in attendance."

Eye witnesses said smoke and flames were billowing through the roof of terminal one.

"We are not letting anyone near the scene at the moment because the fire is still spreading," Britain's domestic news agency, press association, quoted an unidentified police officer as saying.

The airport, 15 miles (25 kilometers) west of London, handles more international passenger than any other airport in the world. Last year, 57 million people used Heathrow's four terminals.

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Coastal Resources Management Program (CRMP) will be holding a public hearing regarding Coastal Permit Application No. SMS-97-X-341 submitted by H.K. Pangelinan and Associates, Inc. on behalf of Asia Pacific Hotels Incorporated for the construction of the Holiday Inn Hotel - Saipan in Garapan, Saipan.

The proposed project includes a ninety (90) unit hotel, swimming pool, convenience store, offices and project infrastructure including; back-up electrical generators, water treatment system, water storage tanks and other amenities.

The public hearing is scheduled for Thursday, December 18, 1997 at 6:30 pm at the Garapan Elementary School in Garapan, Saipan. This is the second and final notice of this public hearing.

The public is invited to attend and to submit written comments and/or to make oral comments regarding this project. All written and oral comments received will be made a part of the permit application record, and will be considered in any decision made concerning the proposed project.

Please contact Coastal Resources Management at 234-6623/ 7320 or 3907 if you have any questions or require further information regarding this project.

JOAQUIN M. AGUON
Director
Coastal Resources Management

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Coastal Resources Management Program (CRMP) will be holding a public hearing regarding Coastal Permit Application No. SMS-97-X-348 submitted by Pete A. Tenorio and Associates on behalf of Bird Island Development Incorporated for the Construction of the Bird Island Golf Course and Resort in Kalabera, Saipan.

The proposed project includes a twenty seven (27) hole golf course, practice range, clubhouse, visitor center, three hundred (300) room hotel, staff housing for 215 employees, horse stables and project infrastructure including; wastewater treatment plant, roadways, desalination plant, water distribution system and nursery.

The public hearing is scheduled for Tuesday, December 16, 1997 at 6:30 pm at the San Roque Elementary School in San Roque, Saipan. This is the second and final notice of this public hearing.

The public is invited to attend and to submit written comments and/or make oral comments regarding this project. All written and oral comments received will be made a part of the permit application record, and will be considered in any decision made concerning the proposed project.

Please contact Coastal Resources Management at 234-6623/ 7320 or 3907 if you have any questions or require further information regarding this project.

JOAQUIN M. AUGON
Director
Coastal Resources Management



British Prime Minister Tony Blair, second right, turns to speak to Spanish Prime Minister Jose Maria Aznar, second right top line, in a photo with European leaders following lunch at the palace of the Duke and Duchess of Luxembourg at the occasion of the EU summit in Luxembourg on Friday. AP

European Union opens doors to its former foes

By JEFFREY ULBRICH

LUXEMBOURG (AP) - Calling it "a moment of historic significance," the European Union opened its doors to former enemies in Eastern Europe but steadfastly blocked the entry of its longtime NATO ally, Turkey.

The 15 EU leaders ended a two-day summit Saturday with invitations to Poland, Hungary, the Czech Republic, Slovenia, Estonia and Cyprus to begin membership negotiations and offered a slower track to Romania, Latvia, Bulgaria, Lithuania and Slovakia.

EU leaders also declared their single currency firmly on track after they narrowly avoided a split over how to coordinate economic policies when they switch to euro-money a year from now.

The potentially damaging currency dispute pitted the 11 nations expected to adopt the euro against the four likely to keep their national currencies.

Under the agreement, the EU currency insiders can go ahead with plans for a special euro council to dovetail economic policies, but wider economic issues can be debated by all 15 members.

All 11 would-be EU members will participate in a March 30 kickoff meeting in London. Then, the first six will start detailed membership

talks while the EU will open "preparatory talks" with the rest to address some of the economic and political problems holding them back.

Turkey, on the other hand, was turned away.

Unable to overcome serious human rights problems, solve its territorial dispute with Greece or come to grips with myriad economic difficulties, Ankara was not even deemed ready for a spot on the second team.

"Everyone recognizes Turkey is a significant power, that it's a great people," said British Prime Minister Tony Blair. "The criteria that we apply to Turkey are the same criteria we apply to all the countries. Europe is willing and wants to work with Turkey for the future."

To mollify the Turks, EU leaders invited them to a "European Conference," essentially annual summits involving EU members and the 11 declared candidates. The gesture failed to excite Ankara and its acceptance of the deal was in doubt.

The others, however, were delighted.

"I'm sure there will be many technical problems," said Prime Minister Janez Drnovsek. "But I think Slovenia has clearly overcome some of the problems. I think the major problems have been

overcome."

Czech President Vaclav Havel called the integration of his country into the EU "a priority that has no meaningful alternative."

Getting the new members into the union will involve \$ 84 billion in economic aid, grants and soft loans in the 2000-06 period to help the aspirants come up to EU standards.

None of the prospects are expected to be ready to join for at least four or five years, some much longer.

The EU leaders said they expect the Cyprus' Greek and Turkish factions to form one negotiating team to bring all of Cyprus into the EU. The northern third of the island, home to 200,000 Turkish Cypriots, is occupied by 30,000 troops from the Turkish mainland.

Expanding the club, however, will oblige EU members to make major structural changes, including a change in costly farm subsidies, reallocating aid for poor regions and simplifying convoluted decision-making rules. Dealing with all these difficult issues also could take years.

"With the launch of the enlargement process we see the dawn of a new era, finally putting an end to the divisions of the past," the EU leaders said in their final statement.

IRA prisoner escapes from jail

BELFAST, Northern Ireland (AP) - An IRA member convicted of killing two men has escaped from the Maze prison, authorities said, sparking a major security operation to recapture him.

Liam Averell, 32, was thought to have slipped out of the Maze on Wednesday on board a bus

full of prisoners' wives and children leaving the annual Christmas party, according to the Northern Ireland Office, the British government department responsible for the province.

In December 1995, Averell was imprisoned for life after

being found guilty of murdering two men shortly before the Irish Republican Army's 1994 cease-fire.

Gerry Adams, leader of the IRA-allied Sinn Fein party, will hold talks with British Prime Minister Tony Blair at Downing Street on Thursday.

CHRISTMAS



Candle Light Parade

WHEN : December 20, 1997 (Saturday)
WHERE : Bank of Guam (Garapan) to American Memorial Park, Amphitheater
TIME : 6:00 p.m. to 10:30 p.m. Christmas Lighted
EVENTS : Christmas Caroling and Float Contest
SPONSOR : Marianas Visitors Bureau

Come and cheer on your favorite school as they sing merry songs for the Holiday Season. The parade will also feature christmas floats from individuals and organizations.

For more information. Please contact Marianas Visitors Bureau at 664-3200/1. Bring the entire family and watch students from public and private schools as they brighten up beach road with candles and songs

Missile goes 'wayward'

DUGWAY PROVING GROUND, Utah (AP) - An Air Force cruise missile went out of control and crashed during a test in western Utah, wrecking two unoccupied trailers containing computers that control Japanese cosmic-ray telescopes.

"Both of them (trailers) were essentially destroyed or received extensive damage as a result of the impact," said Lt. James Wilson, spokesman for the 388th Fighter Wing at Hill Air Force Base, which operates the Utah Test and Training Range in Utah's western desert.

Wilson said there were no injuries. He was quoted in a copyright story in The Salt Lake Tribune.

The 20-foot (6.1-meter) missile was launched from a B-52 bomber that had taken off from Minot Air Force Base, North Dakota, Wilson said. After failing to make a turn as planned, the missile crashed at 2:46 p.m. Wednesday in a remote area 2 miles (3 kilometers) from its target. Wilson said the missile's payload was an unarmed dummy warhead.

Air Force officials weren't im-

Hits, destroys Japanese researchers' trailer

mediately sure if the missile hit the two trailers or simply wrecked them by crashing nearby, Wilson said.

"We've already begun our investigation to figure out what went wrong with this test, and obviously we'll use that to prevent a future mishap," he said.

Hill spokesman Bill Omdorff said the trailers were "leased to the University of Tokyo, and the computers inside were their equipment."

Pierre Sokolsky, a University of Utah physicist, said seven Japanese telescopes, which operate only at night in western Utah, 60 miles (96 kilometers) southwest of Salt Lake City.

The missile did not damage the telescopes near the trailers, said Richard Koehn, vice president for research at the university, which helps run the Japanese project.

Cruise missiles can be fired from ships, ground launchers or planes. They are computer-controlled and follow land contours

to avoid detection.

Sokolsky said university physicists had been unable by Wednesday night to locate Japanese physicists who run the telescopes, so they "are at the moment unaware that this transpired."

The accident "is certainly a setback" for the Japanese cosmic-ray project, said Craig Taylor, physics chairman at the university.

He said the computers are "the brains for running the telescopes, and they (Japanese scientists) will have to reconstitute the comput-

ers that were lost in order to get the system up and running again."

The Japanese project is one of three existing or planned cosmic-ray observatories in Utah.

The U.'s Fly's Eye cosmic-ray observatory was built in western Utah in the early 1980s and is undergoing a \$10 million upgrade.

The seven Japanese telescopes in the area initially were meant to be prototypes for a \$50 million set of 100 telescopes named the Telescope Array. A third cosmic-ray observatory, the \$50 million Pierre Auger Project, has

been proposed in central Utah.

Funding problems in the United States and Japan have prompted physicists to consider merging Japan's Telescope Array and a proposed second upgrade to the Fly's Eye into a single project named the Snake Array, which would make observations jointly with the Auger Project. The Snake Array would include sets of cosmic-ray telescopes on 11 hills stretching 140 miles (225 kilometers) in western Utah.

Sokolsky said the Snake Array would not be built for several years, so the mishap's implications for the project remain uncertain.



Cuban President Fidel Castro speaks with his brother Raul during a plenary session at the Cuban Parliament in Havana, Cuba Saturday. Members of the Parliament, along with Castro, are meeting to discuss the Social and Economic Plan as well as the 1998 budget. AP

Colombian rebels free hostages

By Paul Haven

BOGOTA, Colombia (AP) — A small leftist rebel band released the presidential press secretary and a journalist nine days after taking them hostage, handing them a peace proposal Saturday to deliver to the government.

But a larger rebel group kidnapped four other journalists on a road in northeastern Colombia, according to the newspaper where two of the journalists work.

The small Jaime Bateman Cayon guerrilla band freed press secretary William Parra and RCN radio journalist Luis

Eduardo Maldonado in a rural area southwest of the capital, Bogota.

"Our fundamental goal continues to be peace with social justice," a rebel who called himself "Commander Simon" told RCN radio, reading from a communique. "As proof of this, (the hostages) are returning to the bosom of their homes, their work and their colleagues."

Parra and Maldonado were abducted in Bogota on Dec. 4, shortly after leaving the presidential palace.

The other four journalists — reporter Carlos Alberto Giraldo and photographer Jesus Abad Colorado of Medellin's El Colombiano newspaper, and television reporter Carlos Alberto Arredondo and cameraman Freddy Ocampo of TeleAntioquia — were kidnapped by 15 armed men on a road near San Francisco, 105 miles northeast of Bogota.

The four were reporting on the recent rebel kidnapping of six mayors in the region.

The Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC), the largest and oldest rebel group fighting the state, claimed responsibility in a note sent back with the journalists' driver.

"Greetings from the 9th front of the FARC. The journalists ... have been abducted. Don't worry, everything will be OK. We only need to send a communique to the public," said the note, El Colombiano reported.

The substance of the communique was not reported, and it was unclear when the journalists would be released.

Parra and Maldonado were released in a mountainous area in Ortega, 95 miles southwest of Bogota, after walking for three hours, RCN radio reported. They were in good condition.

The tiny rebel group has less than 200 fighters. The FARC and the National Liberation Army, the nation's larger leftist guerrilla groups, have thousands of fighters and have been battling the government since the 1960s.

They have refused to negotiate with President Ernesto Samper's government, which they accuse of being illegitimate because of allegations Samper won office with drug money.

Colombia has the world's highest kidnapping rate, with about three people abducted every day. It is also the most dangerous country in the hemisphere for journalists. Seven have been killed so far this year.

According to UN arms inspector:

Iraq bans too many sites

By WAIEL FALEH

BAGHDAD, Iraq (AP) - Iraq has declared too many sites off-limits to U.N. arms inspectors and the sites cover too large an area, the deputy chief inspector said.

American inspector Charles Duelfer told The Associated Press on Saturday the Iraqis have abused a 1996 agreement on the disarmament inspections signed by Rolf Ekeus, then chief inspector, and Iraqi Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz.

Meanwhile, Iraqi newspapers called Duelfer's boss, chief U.N. inspector Richard Butler, a "mad dog" on Saturday, warning him to stay away from presidential palaces, which are among the off-limits sites. Butler arrived Friday to press for access for his investigators.

The inspectors are charged with monitoring Iraq's compliance with Security Council orders that Iraq get rid of all long-range missiles and its nuclear, chemical and biological weapons. Until Iraq

complies, U.N. sanctions imposed after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait will stand.

The United Nations had promised its inspectors would respect Iraq's "sovereignty, dignity and integrity," but did not agree to stay away from certain sites, Duelfer said.

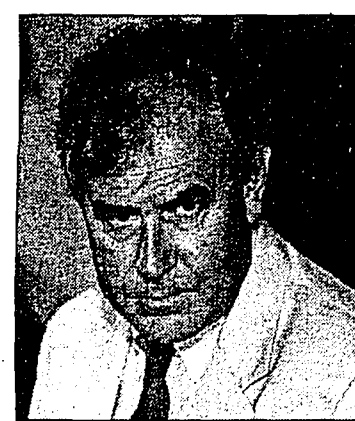
Iraq has banned inspectors from some 60 key sites, including about 40 presidential palaces, citing protection of its national security.

"We need to go to these sites to inspect, otherwise we will not be doing our job," Duelfer said.

Iraq, he said, also is allowing too few inspectors into certain areas.

At one of those, Duelfer said, "Only 4 people and 2 interpreters are allowed to inspect this site, which is as big as maybe Central Park in New York."

Iraq has argued that it could not possibly have effective chemical and biological weapons because any that existed before the Persian Gulf War would no longer be



Richard Butler

usable.

But Duelfer rejected that contention Saturday, saying that ammunition loaded with the nerve gas VX, which lasts several years, is among materials the inspectors are looking for.

Duelfer also said the biological weapons files Iraq gave the U.N. inspectors were inadequate. Pointing to the dossier containing what Iraq called its complete declaration on biological arms, Duelfer

said: "It may be that there is no biological agent left in Iraq ... but we cannot verify it."

Butler is expected to press for full access in his talks Monday with Deputy Prime Minister Aziz.

On Saturday, Butler met with top U.N. arms monitors for a briefing on Iraq's disarmament progress.

"Mad dog Butler arrives in Iraq," declared a headline in Babel, Iraq's most influential newspaper, owned by Saddam

Hussein's son, Odaï.

Butler's four-day trip is his first visit to Iraq since he pulled out his inspection team last month to protest Iraq's expulsion of its U.S. members.

The expulsion order touched off a three-week international crisis, which eased when Iraq allowed the Americans back in Nov. 21 under a Russia-brokered deal. Inspections resumed the next day, and there have been no major confrontations since.

JOB VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE
(LOCAL HIRE ONLY)

NOTICE OF PUBLIC HEARING

The Coastal Resources Management Program (CRMP) will be holding a public hearing regarding Coastal Permit Application No. SMS-97-X-342 submitted by Dan Wooster on behalf of Grand Development Corporation for the construction of the Grand Development Hotel in Garapan, Saipan.

The proposed project includes a thirty one (31) unit hotel and project infrastructure including: back-up electrical generator, water catchment/treatment system, water storage tanks and other amenities.

The public hearing is scheduled for Wednesday, December 17, 1997 at 6:30 pm at the Garapan Elementary School in Garapan, Saipan. This is the second and final notice of this public hearing.

The public is invited to attend and to submit written comments and/or to make oral comments regarding this project. All written and oral comments received will be made a part of the permit application record, and will be considered in any decision made concerning the proposed project.

Please contact Coastal Resources Management at 234-6623/7320 or 3907 if you have any questions or require further information regarding this project.

JOAQUIN M. AGUON
Director
Coastal Resources Management

Group claims Iraq executed over 800 in two weeks

CAIRO, Egypt (AP) - An Iraqi opposition group on Thursday claimed that Saddam Hussein's government has executed more than 800 prisoners during the last two weeks.

The executions were ordered by Qusai Hussein, the younger son of Saddam and the head of Iraq's security apparatus, said a statement by the Iraqi Broadcasting Corporation, the information wing of various dissident groups in exile. "The death toll is expected to increase as the executions are still continuing," said the statement faxed to The Associated Press in Cairo from London.

The claims could not be independently verified. The Iraqi government tightly controls news and does not comment on claims by dissident groups.

IBC, which operates from London and an autonomous Kurdish area in northern Iraq, did not say how it obtained its information.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands DEVELOPMENT APPEALS BOARD

NOTICE

Governor Froilan C. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus C. Borja, through the Development of Appeals Board, hereby give NOTICE that a Second Regular Meeting will be held on December 18, 1997, at 3:30 p.m. at the Governor's Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan. The Agenda is set forth as follows:

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS
 - A. Call to Order
 - B. Roll Call
 - C. Adoption of Agenda
 - D. Adoption of Minutes
 1. September 15, 1997
- II. CHAIRMAN'S REPORT
- III. OLD BUSINESS
 - A. Certification of final regulations
 - B. Compensation of two members of the board
- IV. NEW BUSINESS
 - A. Civil Action N. 97-1003-A (Petition for Judicial Review Pursuant to ICMC Section 9112 and 2CMC Section 1541 (B), Lucky Resort Hotel, CRM Coastal Permit Decision SMS-97-X-01 DAB-97-002)
 - B. Approval for board's report to Governor Froilan C. Tenorio, Lt. Governor Jesus C. Borja and the new elected-Governor Pedro P. Tenorio, Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan
- V. PUBLIC COMMENTS
- VI. MISCELLANEOUS
- VII. ADJOURNMENT

/s/ Jose P. Cruz
Chairman



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Applicants must be a High school graduate or equivalent with schooling in basic Electricity (AC-DC theory). Demonstrated proficiency in one or more of the following areas: Installation/Maintenance, Cable Maintenance, or line Maintenance.

Human Resources Office
MTC
P.O. Box 306
Saipan, MP 96950
Phone: 234-6600
Fax: 235-9559

MTC is an Equal Employment Opportunity/Affirmative Action Employer. Application must be received in the Human Resource office on or before December 16, 1997.

Mandela quits as ANC head

By Tom Cohen
JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP)—Nelson Mandela begins his descent from power this week, stepping down as head of the African National Congress at a convention that will set South Africa's course into the next century.

Mandela will remain president of the country until 1999. But he and other longtime ANC leaders are starting to make way for the governing party's next generation, led by ANC president-in-waiting Thabo Mbeki.

Mandela, appearing Saturday with visiting Secretary of State

Madeline Albright, acknowledged his diminished role, saying of Mbeki: "He is the man who is already in control of the current issues, and I play a ceremonial role."

The ANC is picking leaders at a five-day meeting that begins Tuesday in the northern town of Mafikeng.

Impatience among grassroots supporters has been growing. Any challenge to the leadership at the conference would signal that delegates representing impoverished blacks hungry for housing, power and jobs want more forceful policies and more pressure on wealthy



United States Secretary of State, Madeleine Albright, right, poses with South African President Nelson Mandela after thirty minutes of talks in Pretoria Saturday on the penultimate leg of her African tour. AP

whites to help out.

Paid-up party membership stands at just under 135,000, believed to be well below the total in 1994 at the height of the ANC's election campaign. Labor unions, a key element of ANC support, don't like the government's fiscal austerity in trying to reduce the budget deficit at the short-term expense of creating jobs.

Earlier this year, grassroots supporters sent a wake-up call by

choosing local activist Mathole Motshekga as premier of Gauteng province over the preferred candidate of the ANC leadership, the Rev. Frank Chikane, a long-time anti-apartheid leader.

Some leaders warn the ANC must start listening to its members.

"It does not escape the masses that some of us were last seen addressing serious matters of the organization just before the last elections," said Matthew Phosa, premier of Mpumalanga province. Mbeki calls the perceived impatience a normal stage in the development of the ANC from a liberation movement to a political party.

"I don't think there's any problem with the ANC," he told journalists Thursday.

He said the ANC would continue its collective approach to develop policies and make decisions.

"There's continuity in the organization," he said. "I don't think we should approach the matter as one generation out, new generation in."

Normally a jumble of unified disorder, full of sloganeering and pedantic discourses on political theory, the ANC national conference will decide policies for the party's platform for the 1999 election. Leaders chosen will head the government after the expected ANC victory until 2004, at least.

The change in leadership reflects the changing ANC role. Outgoing stalwarts like Mandela, Walter Sisulu and Govan Mbeki, Thabo Mbeki's father, were underground revolutionaries who spent decades in prison and will be honored for their contributions

at the conference.

Thabo Mbeki, 55, is an erudite activist who spent almost three decades in exile. Party chairman Jacob Zuma, the lone candidate for deputy president, is another former exile and the highest-ranking Zulu in the ANC. His ascendancy is considered a move to attract support from Zulus, the nation's largest tribe with 8 million people.

Zuma could face a floor revolt for the deputy presidency led by Mandela's ex-wife, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela. Called the "mother of the nation" by her supporters, she is revered for her visible defiance of white rulers during the decades her husband and other ANC leaders were in exile or jail.

Pressure from the mainstream leadership, including Mandela, kept her off the ballot for deputy president. To make a nomination from the floor more difficult, the party is likely to adjust its rules.

Current rules require 10 percent of the 3,000 voting delegates to second a floor nomination by show of hands. Proposed rule changes would require 25 percent of the delegates — 750 — to sign a seconding petition.

Mbeki insisted Thursday the changes were proposed long before Madikizela-Mandela's ambitions were known. He said the motivation was to make it difficult for newcomers or outsiders to circumvent the party's tortuous nomination system through its local and regional structures.

Madikizela-Mandela's standing has been hurt by her public criticism of the ANC in a November newspaper interview and nine days of hearings by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission on killings and torture she allegedly ordered a decade ago in the Soweto black township.

Despite her continuous public and political troubles — a kidnapping conviction in 1991, her divorce from Mandela last year — she still remains a hero to downtrodden black women and youths who cling to her populist message of immediate gratification for apartheid's victims.

While unlikely, a successful floor campaign by Madikizela-Mandela would cause jitters among foreign investors coaxed by the ANC's market-friendly policies under Nelson Mandela after decades of promoting centrist socialist doctrine.

"There would be a large outflow of capital" if Madikizela-Mandela gained the second-ranking ANC post, said Sampie Terreblanche, an economist and political analyst at the University of Stellenbosch. "It would destroy all the ANC has done to build itself up abroad."

Clinton mulls child-care plans

NEW YORK (AP)—President Clinton plans to soon propose new federal subsidies and tax breaks intended to make it easier for working families to obtain child care, The New York Times reported Sunday.

The proposals, to be included in the president's State of the Union message in late January and in his budget request to Congress a few days later, are aimed at increasing the supply of child care and improving its quality, the newspaper said.

White House spokesman Barry Toiv told The Associated Press that "the details have not been decided on yet" and he thus could not comment on specifics in the story.

"The president has already made it clear that he believes it's very important that we make child care safer, more available and more affordable," Toiv said. "He's also said he plans to propose a child care initiative in his State of the Union address."

Clinton's proposals, which would require congressional approval, would include an increase in the federal income tax credit parents can take for child care expenses, a new tax credit for businesses that build or operate child care centers for employees and an increase in federal money given to states to subsidize child care, the Times said.

The proposals would also call



President Clinton speaks during a fundraising luncheon at the Radisson Mart Hotel in Miami Thursday. Clinton raised about \$250,000 at the event to endorse Florida Lt. Governor Buddy MacKay for next year's Governor's race. AP

for a new federal program to help states check the criminal history of day care center employees and scholarships for child-care workers to subsidize their training and increase their pay, the story said.

The paper said Clinton has decided not to propose national child care standards, an issue that has provoked bitter clashes in the past.

Democrats said they saw child care as an excellent election-year

issue. They said it appealed to voters, especially working women, and split Republicans, some of whom will be receptive to Clinton's ideas.

A bipartisan group of Senate aides has been meeting to draft child care legislation since Congress adjourned for the year Nov. 13.

Sen. Christopher Dodd, D-Conn., who is coordinating the

meetings, said he hopes to give Clinton the group's proposals before the State of the Union address.

It appears that Democrats and moderate Republicans would have the 60 votes needed to assure Senate approval of child care proposals, such as the president's, conservative lawmakers told the Times. In the House, the outlook is not as bright. Democrats and some moderate Republicans are pushing legislation as well.

Rahm I. Emanuel, a senior adviser to the president, told the Times that Clinton's proposals would build on "previous accomplishments," such as family and medical leave, an increase in the minimum wage and a \$500-a-child tax credit.

"Our child care proposals will help the most hard-pressed working families, who are trying to balance work and family," Emanuel said.

Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II, Governor C. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus C. Borja, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission, are hereby giving notice that the regular meeting for the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees will be held on Thursday, December 18, 1997, at 6:00 in the Fund Conference Room, Saipan.

AGENDA

- A. CALL TO ORDER
- B. ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- C. ADOPTION OF THE MINUTES
- D. REPORT OF THE HEARING OFFICER
- E. REPORT OF THE LEGAL COUNSEL
- F. REPORT OF THE ADMINISTRATOR
- G. REPORT OF THE INVESTMENT COMMITTEE
- H. CORRESPONDENCE
- I. OLD BUSINESS

1. Loan Purchase Agreement
2. Draft Bill for Office of Administrative Hearings
3. Judicial Courts Complex
- a) Change Order No. 02 - WECCO
- b) Change Order No. 04 - Woosung Const., Co.

J. NEW BUSINESS

1. Appeal of J.R. Matagolai
2. New Member Home Loan Contractor
3. Request to Use Public Land
4. The Center for Investment Training

K. MISCELLANEOUS

1. Report of the Money Managers for October 1997
2. Invesco - Contingent, Containment and Differentiation
3. George D. Bjurman & Associates - Portfolio Report Ending 10/31/97
4. Renaissance - Portfolio Asset Allocation Ending 10/31/97

L. NEXT MEETING

M. ADJOURNMENT

Commonwealth Utilities Corporation

CUC-RFP-98-0006
December 15, 1997

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) is soliciting competitive sealed proposals from firms for the design and construction of a repeater building/station on the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

The scope of work is available for pick-up at the CUC Procurement & Supply Office in Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950, during normal working hours, 7:30-11:30 a.m. and 12:30 - 4:30 p.m.

Proposals will be evaluated and selections made based on Cost (35 points), Experience on Similar Projects (25 points), Overall Plan (20 points), and Project Schedule (20 points).

Six (6) sets of proposals must be submitted in a sealed envelope marked CUC-RFP-98-0006, to Mr. John C. Malinas, Acting Chief for Procurement & Supply, P.O. Box 1220, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950, no later than 11:00 a.m., local time on January 15, 1998.

The award of this project is contingent upon receipt of the necessary funding and/or required approval to enter into legally binding arrangement to complete the entire project.

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

CUC reserves the right to reject any or all proposals for any reason and to waive any defect in the proposals if, in its sole opinion to do so, would be in its best interests. All proposals shall become the property of CUC.

For more information, please contact Mr. Fred Prosser at telephone no. (670) 322-4033, ext. 14 or facsimile no. (670) 322-4323.

TIMOTHY P. VILLAGOMEZ
Executive Director

Despite GOP, Clinton is bent on Lee

By Lawrence L. Knutson
WASHINGTON (AP)—Barring an unexpected change of heart by Republican opponents, President Clinton plans to sidestep the Senate and make Asian-American Bill Lann Lee the nation's top civil rights enforcer, White House officials said Saturday.



Bill Lann Lee

A show of flexibility by GOP senators is not anticipated and Clinton could act as early as Monday, the officials said.

"We still would like to see the Senate fulfill its responsibility by giving Mr. Lee a fair up-or-down vote" on his nomination to be assistant attorney general for civil rights, said a White House official who spoke on condition of anonymity.

"We are considering a number of options," the official said. "As we've said repeatedly, President Clinton is determined that Bill Lann Lee be in a position to enforce the nation's civil rights laws. We would prefer that he be able to do that through Senate confirmation of his nomination."

But in the end, Clinton will act. "A president's got to do what a president's got to do," another White House official said.

Senate Republicans, led by Sen. Orrin Hatch, R-Utah, chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, object to Lee's support of affirmative action. Any decision by Clinton to

place Lee in the job under his own constitutional authority could ignite outrage on Capitol Hill, possibly including retaliation against other Clinton nominees and legislative initiatives.

Clinton has several ways to make Lee the top civil rights prosecutor without Senate approval. With Congress out of session, Clinton could grant Lee a recess appointment, placing him in the job for a year. That is the option most commonly discussed. The authority dates to the 18th century when Congress met infrequently and the president needed a way to fill vacancies.

Another route is to place Lee in the job in an acting capacity, allowing him to hold the post until the end of the Clinton administration but without the authority Senate confirmation brings. Appearing late Saturday on CNN's "Capitol Gang," Hatch said "it would be a direct slap at

the Senate" for Clinton to place Lee in the job via a recess appointment, but it "would not be the same finger in the eye" if Clinton were to name Lee acting head of the division. Clinton himself said Friday he is having "certain difficulties with the options available to me" but that he is "working on it." He said he believes Republicans, by blocking a vote on Lee's nomination, have "made a terrific error here."

Although Republicans say any unilateral action by Clinton would represent a slap at the Senate's role and authority in confirming nominees, administration officials said he has used his recess appointment authority far less than the two previous presidents, both Republicans. Clinton has made just 38 recess appointments his first five years in office, compared with 78 over four years by George Bush and 239 by Ronald Reagan over eight years, the officials said. Where Clinton has averaged about five per year, Bush averaged 20 and Reagan 30.

However, few if any of those appointments came after Senate refusal to confirm the nominee in question.

Lee, 48, is a veteran NAACP attorney. He said last week he would accept the job if Clinton named him to it without Senate confirmation.

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Trial begins for 'The Jackal'

By Christopher Burns
PARIS (AP) — Portly and graying in a cream polo shirt and ascot, he sauntered into the courtroom looking more like a debonair banker on holiday than an international terrorist. Yet Carlos the Jackal quickly dispelled any doubts Friday about his revolutionary zeal.

"My profession is professional revolutionary," he declared, demanding that the murder charges against him be dismissed. "The world is my domain."

It was the first time the public had a close-up look at the man who, while eluding authorities for decades and carrying out attacks that by his own count left 83 dead, existed for decades only in grainy photographs.

The insouciant defendant acknowledged his real name, Ilich Ramirez Sanchez, at the start of his trial for the 1975 killing of two French intelli-

gence agents and a Lebanese colleague.

Ramirez, 48, gained international notoriety as the Cold War-era mastermind of deadly bombings, assassinations and hostage dramas.

He carried out the 1975 seizure of OPEC oil ministers and was involved in the 1976 Palestinian hijacking of a French jetliner to Entebbe, Uganda, that ended with an Israeli commando raid.

Very early in his career, he was also linked to the 1972 massacre of 11 Israeli athletes at the Munich Olympics, but Israel later said he was not involved.

After eluding capture for decades, Ramirez now is being tried for the Paris killings of two French investigators and a man in the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine whom Ramirez suspected as an informer.

With thinning hair and mustache, the native Venezuelan

once known as a ladies' man beamed at the six women in the nine-member jury as they took their places, drawing muffled laughter from the public.

But the ruddy-faced Ramirez then grew serious, taking his defense into his own hands to argue that the case should be thrown out.

"I can't be judged because of the conditions of my arrest," Ramirez said, referring to his capture in Sudan in August 1994. He was reportedly given an injection before French agents spirited him in a sack to France.

After two brief recesses, the judge adjourned the trial without ruling on the request. The trial resumes Monday.

Ramirez, faces 30-year prison term for each killing. He was convicted in absentia in 1992, but French law requires a retrial upon returning.

Repeatedly describing himself as a "professional revolutionary in the old Leninist tradition,"

Ramirez said he was fighting "for humanity, for the people of Palestine, for the people of France" and against what he called "American imperialism and the Zionist state."

Sharpshooters were deployed around the courthouse for the weeklong trial and all entrances were equipped with body scanners. The jurors, their alternates and the three judges were given two bodyguards and a chauffeur each.

Once known as a crack marksman with a flair for dancing and seduction, the son of a wealthy Communist lawyer fell hard after French authorities captured him in Sudan and spirited him to Paris, putting him in solitary confinement.

Carlos lived beyond the grasp of Western governments behind the Iron Curtain for years, but life on the run became harder when his East bloc protectors vanished with the fall of the Berlin Wall in 1989. And when his main Middle Eastern protectors no longer wanted him, the French made their

move.

Ramirez, who speaks Spanish, Russian and Arabic, has sat behind bars reading up on French law and studying the language in preparation for the trial. French legal procedures are complex and time-consuming.

Back on June 27, 1975, Ramirez was posing as a 26-year-old student in a tiny Latin Quarter apartment in a side street near the Sorbonne, when the two unarmed investigators knocked.

Raymond Dous and Jean Donatini, of the Direction de la Securite du Territoire — France's FBI — were investigating an attack on Israel's El Al airlines at Paris' Orly Airport in January that year.

Arriving at 9 Toullier St. with the two investigators was Michel Moukharbal, a fellow militant from the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine who was arrested earlier that month. Moukharbal pointed to Ramirez as a suspect and Ramirez opened fire, killing him and the two agents before fleeing the country.

Ramirez's fingerprints on the pistol and his own description of the killings later have given the prosecution a strong case. But observers say he might use his knowledge of terrorist networks to eventually deal his way out of jail.

Turkey, US, Israel joint maneuvers set for January

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Turkey will conduct joint naval and air exercises in the Mediterranean with Israel and the United States between Jan. 5-9, the Turkish General Staff announced Thursday.

"The aim of the maneuvers is to conduct search and rescue operations involving navies of the three countries," a statement said. "During the exercise, each navy will learn other's capability in case of an emergency."

The warm relationship developing between Turkey and Israel has worried the Muslim world. On Monday, Turkey and Israel pledged to improve ties further during the visit of Israeli Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai to Ankara.

Their action followed a draft resolution passed a day earlier in Tehran at the 55-member Organization of the Islamic Conference, which indirectly denounced Turkey for its growing ties with Israel.

Turkish President Suleyman Demirel walked out of the Islamic Conference on Wednesday, apparently to avoid facing criticism of his country's ties with Israel in the closing session on Thursday. In the closing session, Muslim leaders were expected to issue several resolutions, including one that criticizes Muslim countries' military ties with Israel. Upon his return to Ankara early Thursday, Demirel told reporters that Turkey will make clear its opposition to the resolution regarding Israel.



Commonwealth I Sangkattan Siha Na Islas Marianas Dipattamenton Hotnalero yan Imigrasion Dibision Setbisiun Manempleha

P.O. Box 1007
Saipan, MP 96950
Tilifon: (670) 664-2085/86
Fax: (670) 664-3183



NUTISIAN PUPBLIKU

I Dipattamenton Hotnalero yan Imigrasion un Cabinet-level na eskalera dipattamento ni dibidi entre singko ni mamprisinsipat siha na dibision: i Dibision Hotnalero, Dibision Imigrasion, Dibision Setbision Administrasion, Dibision Hotnalero yan Sistem Aidentifikasion yan Dokumento Imigrasion yan i Dibision Setbisiun Man Empleha. Kada dibision kinabesasya ni Direktot ni gaige gi papa Sekretarium Dipattamenton Hotnalero yan Imigrasion, ya mañeñetbe sigon gi minalago' i Gobietno.

I Direktot Setbision Manempleha as Siñot Joseph B. Dela Cruz, ha na fanmanhahasso' i pupbliku hinerat, espisiatmente i RESIDENT WORKERS. (tat komu i taotao tano', Siuidanan U.S., Siuidanan Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of Marshall Islands yan Republic of Belau) na i Dibision Setbisiun Manempleha guiya responsaple para u asigura i ma emplehan-niha i Resident Workers gi Praibet siha na Bisnis gi halom i Commonwealth. Este ha engklulusu i para u ma pribeniya ayudun riniferen cho'cho', i ma settefikasion na ti siña i mambakante siha na cho'cho' manma sodda'i ni manresidente siha na hotnaleru, i minanehan programan emplehao siha, prinebiyen teknikat siha na ayudu yan i ma satban hafa guaha na yinaoyao gi entalo' i manemplepleha yan i Resident Workers.

Para mas infotmasyon yan ayudu, put fabot bisisita i Ofisinan-mami gi Dipattamenton Hotnalero yan Imigrasion, Mina' Dos Bibenda, Afetna Square, Sengsong San Antonio osino a'agang maseha hayi na taotao Setbision Manempleha gi tilifon numiru 664-2085 pat 664-2086 osino gi Fax 664-3183.

Depattamentool Aweeweel Schóól Angaang Llól CNMI me Schóól Tooto Angaang Llól CNMI Bwal Eew Peighil Bwulasiol Angaang

ARONGORONGOL TOWLAP

Depattamentool Labor me Immigration nge ebwal lo eskeleral Cabinet-nil Gobietno nge eyoor limooow ráaráál: 1) Peighil Bwulasiol aweeweel Schóól Tolong Tooto Angaang Llól CNMI, 2) Peighil Bwulasiol Schóól Tolong Wóól Falúw, Wóól Falúw, 3) Peghil Bwulasiol Atministarasion, 4) Peighil Bwulasiol Aidentifikasional meeta, me 5) Peighil Bwulasiol Schóól Angaang Llól Gobietno me Bisnis. Eew me eew bwulasiol kkaal nge eghal eyoor aschay samwool ye re ghal ira bwe Direktood ye e lo faal Seketariyal Depattamentool Aweeweel Schóól Angaang Llól CNMI me Schóól Tooto Angaang Llól CNMI nge sekeretariya yeel nge e angaang Llól tippal Gobietno.

Direktoodul Peighil Bwulasiol Schóól Angaang Llól Gobietno me Bisnis nge Samwer ye Joseph B. Dela Cruz ye e mwuschel ebwe amengi ngeliir towlap me far schókka re tooto angaang falei ye re ira bwe resident workers (Schóól falei, U.S. CITIZENS, schóól Federated States of Micronesia, schóól Republic of the Marshall Islands me schóól Republic of Belau) ye Peighil Bwulasiol Schóól Angaang Llól Gobietno me Bisnis e kke apayú bwe bwulasiyo yeel nge angaangil schagh private mille emmwel rebwe amwuri bwe rebwe scheli resident workers le angaang. Rebwe scheliir reel rebwe abwáárló iya igha eyoor angaang, bwungúwlo bwe angaang we nge esóór schóól falei ye emmwel ebwe toolong Llól, me amwuri tetel angaang kka eyoor me ikka aramasal falúw emmwel rebwe toolong, alisir schóól angaang me bisnis me bwal lepatateer schóól angaang me schóól atarabwaaghoor.

Ngare eyoor maas tipómw me rebwe scheliigh, au ghal llól llól bwulasio kka Llól Depattamentool Aweeweel Schóól Angaang Llól CNMI me Scheoól Tooto Angaang Llól CNMI, Aruwowwal Bibendaal Afetna Square, San Antonio ngere faffaingi inaaawo bwulasiyo kkaal mellól tilifona kkaal #664-2085 ngere 664-2086 ngere yááyá FAX INQUIRIES llól 664-3183.

Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Department of Labor and Immigration Division of Employment Services

P.O. Box 10007
Saipan, MP 96950
Telephone: (670) 664-2085/6
Fax: (670) 664-3183

PUBLIC NOTICE

The Department of Labor and Immigration is a cabinet-level department with five main divisions: Division of Labor, Division of Immigration, Division of Administrative Services, Division of Labor and Immigration Identification and Documentation System and Division of Employment Services. Each Division is headed by a Director who is directly subordinate to the Secretary of Labor and Immigration, and serves at the pleasure of the Governor.

The Director of Employment Services Mr. Joseph B. Dela Cruz would like to remind the general public, especially RESIDENT WORKERS (Locals, U.S. Citizens, citizens from the Federated States of Micronesia, Republic of the Marshall Islands and Republic of Belau) that the division of employment services is primarily responsible for securing employment for resident workers with the private sector in the Commonwealth. This includes providing job referral assistance, certifying that job vacancies cannot be filled with resident labor, coordinating employment programs, providing technical assistance, and resolving disputes between employers and resident workers.

For more information and assistance, please visit our office at the Department of Labor and Immigration, 2nd floor, Afetna Square, San Antonio Village or contact any of the employment services personnel at telephone numbers 664-2085 or 664-2086 or Fax Inquiries to 664-3183.



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION



REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS

The Directors of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC), through its Chairman, Mr. Juan S. Tenorio, is soliciting sealed proposals from licensed companies in the Commonwealth, engaged in providing ground maintenance services. Areas to be maintained include common grounds described in Proposals Specifications which are available at the NMHC Office, anytime between the hours of 7:30 a.m through 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except holidays.

Sealed proposals, in duplicate, will be received until 10:00 a.m., January 16, 1998 at NMHC's Office in Garapan, Saipan, at which time and place all proposals will be publicly opened and read aloud. The proposal documents shall be signed by the owner or authorized representative of the firm, and shall be enclosed in an envelope which shall be responsible for the proper placement of its firm's name, address, telephone and fax number on the outside of the proposal envelope.

A Pre-Proposal Conference will be held on Wednesday, December 18, 1997 at 10:00 a.m. at the Central Office in Garapan.

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 proposals and will not be discriminated against on grounds of race, color, religion, sex, handicapped/disabling conditions, or national origin.

Questions or additional information may be directed to Edith C. Fejeran, Office Manager, at 234-0447/7689/7670.

NMHC reserves the right to waive any informalities and to reject any and all proposals in the best interest of NMHC.

/s/MARYLOU S. ADA
Corporate Director

Crisis draws ASEAN, China closer

By RANJAN ROY
KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) - Despite worries about China's regional ambitions, Southeast Asian leaders are trying to win an ally to help combat their economic downturn.

President Jiang Zemin's presence at a three-day summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations marks a significant step in overcoming the hostility that helped forge the group.

China's participation was important because it would help stabilize the "security and political situation in the region," Philippine Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon said Sunday.

ASEAN was formed in 1967 against a backdrop of the Vietnam War and the expansion of Chinese communism. All through the early 1960s, most countries in the region were preoccupied with securing their borders against communism.

Some fought left-wing insurgencies, often backed by China. China has tried to court ASEAN for years. But members have been concerned about Beijing's large-scale military build-up, its claims to large swaths of the South China Sea, the lifeline for regional shipping; and its occasional shows of force to back up the claims.

ASEAN admitted China as a dialogue partner in 1994, but no Chinese leader had ever been invited to a summit of the nine countries before the one that opened Sunday.

Now ASEAN's nine members are hoping that friendship with Beijing will help stem a crisis that threatens to wipe out three decades of achievements and impoverish their once-roaring economies.

China has said it is willing to help with "further actions to ensure financial security and stability," Assistant Foreign Minister Chen Jian said last week.

China has provided \$1 billion to the International Monetary Fund-led rescue of Thailand and is considering helping Indonesia.

China and ASEAN will commit to a "partnership of trust and good-neighborliness for the 21st century," said Tang Guoqiang, China's foreign office spokesman.

Economic ties have been growing.

Chinese annual trade with ASEAN was \$20 billion in 1995, with 3 percent of China's exports going to the region and 7 percent of ASEAN's exports going to China, Siazon said.

The draft of a communiqué to be issued after Tuesday's meeting between Jiang and ASEAN leaders calls for more trade and investment in ASEAN and greater market access.

But Asian diplomats said worries over China's growing might were not over, especially when it comes to the Spratly Islands, a potentially mineral-rich group in the South China Sea to which six countries have overlapping claims.

Indonesia has been trying

for eight years to broker a settlement of the rival claims, but China has not responded to invitations to attend the annual meetings, said one diplomat, speaking on condition of anonymity.

It was difficult to take Chinese overtures seriously because these often alternated with statements reiterating its territorial claims, he said.

Although Indonesia itself has no claims, it is worried that the Chinese claims might infringe on its control of the Natuna Islands and the rich natural gas deposits beneath them.

Worries have been compounded by muscle-flexing by the Chinese military toward Taiwan, which Beijing views as a renegade province.

As before, China isn't likely to allow disputes to dominate discussions in Kuala Lumpur.

A draft of the joint communiqué said both sides "reaffirmed in particular their respect for each other's independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity."

It also spoke about promoting "good-neighborly and friendly relations" and mentioned increasing official contacts as part of the confidence-building measures.

"They undertook to resolve their differences or disputes through peaceful means, without resorting to the threat or use of force ... (and) resolve their disputes in the South China Sea through friendly consultations and negotiations," the draft said.

When Tang, the Chinese spokesman, talked to reporters about Jiang's trip to Kuala Lumpur, he reiterated China's claims to the Spratlys.

"If it cannot be settled in one stroke, we should put aside the differences and go in for common development," he said.

ASEAN comprises Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Laos, Burma and Vietnam.

Russian jet crash death toll up to 68

MOSCOW (AP) - A 14-year-old girl died Thursday from burns suffered when a military cargo plane clipped a Siberian orphanage before smashing into an apartment house, bringing the death toll to 68, a news agency said.

Anna Zernis, a resident of the orphanage, died during the night after she had been transferred Wednesday to an intensive care unit in the Siberian city of Irkutsk, the ITAR-Tass news agency said.

The orphanage was set afire when a giant An-124 military cargo jet crashed Saturday moments after tak-

ing off. It struck the orphanage, three houses and a school before crashing into the apartment house.

Zernis' death brings the number of confirmed deaths to 68, with 17 people unaccounted for, according to Sergei Shoigu, the Minister for Emergency Situations.

On Wednesday, Shoigu said the crash was caused by the failure of three of the aircraft's four jet engines seconds after takeoff from an aircraft factory's airport near Irkutsk.

The Defense Ministry has grounded all An-124s until the cause of the crash is determined.

China claims noodle record

BEIJING (AP) - A Chinese chef is claiming to be the world's premier noodle-stretcher after whipping up thousands of ultrathin strips of pasta that stretch 99,600 meters (328,680 feet) when joined end-to-end.

The chef, Li Enhai, who once cooked for Chinese leaders, took

just 20 minutes to stretch one kilogram (2.2 pounds) of dough into 65,536 noodles as thin as hair, China's state-run Xinhua News Agency said Thursday.

Li, who now works in a five-star hotel in the Xinjiang region of northwest China, said part of the secret was in the dough.

"Proper temperature and moisture content in the dough are very important," Xinhua quoted the 49-year-old as saying.

Xinhua claimed the feat, which resulted in a noodle 11 times the height of Mount Everest - set a new Guinness world record. But Phillip Littlemore, at Guinness'

London office, said they had no such category.

"We don't have a Guinness world record for that," he said.

Li has stretched noodles for more than 20 years, including eight years in Beijing's Diaoyutai State Guesthouse, where visiting dignitaries are entertained, and

the Great Hall of the People, where the government and ruling Communist Party meet, Xinhua said.

Noodles, often stretched by hand, are a staple in China and are often favored at celebrations like birthday parties because many Chinese associate long noodles with longevity, Xinhua said.

Hostages taken in S. Carolina

CHESTER COUNTY, S.C. (AP) - A man suspected of robbing a restaurant in North Carolina took two people hostage on a South Carolina interstate Saturday night, forcing a standoff with police.

An eight-mile stretch of Interstate 77 was closed in both di-

rections after the standoff began late Saturday and continued into Sunday morning.

The man, who was not identified, allegedly stole a truck after robbing the restaurant in Charlotte. He was spotted and chased across the state line by North Carolina police, and South Carolina

State Troopers joined the pursuit.

Police tried to stop the man by blocking the truck, but the suspect crashed into a patrol car and another vehicle. In the scramble, he apparently took the hostages and told police he had a gun.

L.A. Film critic are saying "L.A. Confidential" best '97 movie

LOS ANGELES (AP) - From coast-to-coast, "L.A. Confidential" was the best movie of 1997 as the Los Angeles Film Critics Association added its vote to those already bestowed by the New York Film Critics and National Board of Review.

Curtis Hanson also was chosen Saturday by Los Angeles film critics as best director for the film noir about crooked cops in 1950s Los Angeles, which was adapted from the James Ellroy novel.

"L.A. Confidential" also took nods for best screenplay (Hanson and Brian Koppelman); and best cinematography (Dante Spinotti).

On Thursday, the New York Film Critics gave "L.A. Confidential" best film and director nods. On Tuesday, the National Board of Review of Motion Pictures, which is made up of critics, teachers, actors, writers, movie production workers and others, gave

best movie and director honors to "L.A. Confidential."

National Board of Review also gave best screenplay to "L.A. Confidential."

Other best picks by Los Angeles Film Critics Association:

Actress — Helena Bonham-Carter, "Wings of the Dove."

Actor — Robert Duvall, "The Apostle."

Supporting Actress — Julianne Moore, "Boogie Nights."

Supporting Actor — Burt Reynolds, "Boogie Nights."

New Generation — Paul Thomas Anderson, "Boogie Nights," "Hard Eight."

Foreign Film — Jean-Pierre and Luc Dardenne, "La Promesse."

Documentary — Michael Uys, Lexy Lovell, "Riding the Rails."

Production Design — Peter Lamont, "Titanic."

Animation — John Musker, Ron Clements, "Hercules," and Trey Parker, Matt Stone, "The Spirit of Christmas."

Music/Score — Philip Glass, "Kundun."

Career Achievement — Joseph H. Lewis.

Special Citation — Peter Bogdanovich, for contributions since 1960, interviews of directors and his 1997 book, "Who the Devil Made It."

HANMI. . .

Continued from page 3

among Manila-bound passengers reached sky-high, though this has been expected because of the \$399 roundtrip promotional travel opportunities offered by the tour firms.

Myra Santos of the World Tour and Travel said she has noted a sudden increase in ticket sales, especially for Manila-bound workers. "It shows in my present commission," she quipped.

Pacific Sky and Travel Service's Vivian Bernabe, in a telephone interview, said their agency has also noted an increase in ticket sales, not just because a number of US citizens are going back to the mainland but also because of Filipino workers returning home.

Aldan, Mettao. . .

Continued from page 8

She was recommended by Boutiques Manager Wolf Mojica and Tiffany Coordinator Teresa Duenas for her outstanding customer service and her collaborative work attitude.

Vicente has been employed as a bus driver since July, 1995. He

was recognized for his initiative to take extra responsibilities and exceptional cooperative attitude.

*Vicente was recommended by Supervisor Gus Tagabuel.

DFS Employee of the Year will be selected from the special list of 1997 Employee of the Month winners. The ceremony will be held on December 19, during the company Christmas Party.

Reports say Israel will withdraw at least 10%

JERUSALEM (AP) - In response to U.S. pressure, Israel has improved its offer and is now ready to withdraw troops from at least 10 percent of the West Bank, Israeli media said Thursday.

Israel radio said a map of final borders to be presented at a Cabinet meeting Sunday by Defense Minister Yitzhak Mordechai and Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon would allow Israel to hand over up to 13 percent of the West Bank in the upcoming redeployment.

The report was denied by the Defense Ministry.

The Maariv daily reported that Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Foreign Minister David Levy decided in a 90-minute meeting Wednesday that they will hand over at least 10 percent of the West Bank in the upcoming redeployment.

The initial plan floated by Israeli officials said Israel would hand over only 6 percent to 8 percent of the West Bank to the Palestinians in the upcoming pull-back, one of three Israel has promised to carry out by mid-1998.

The Palestinians now have full or

partial autonomy over 27 percent of the West Bank.

The Palestinians have been agitating for a much larger pullback than even the 13 percent figure suggested Thursday.

U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright has said she expects Netanyahu to present her with a significant and a detailed withdrawal proposal at a meeting on Wednesday at an undisclosed European city.

However, Netanyahu will not present percentages to Albright next week, said Cabinet Secretary Danny Naveh.

Israel will only make a detailed offer once it has sketched a map of the final borders with the Palestinians, Naveh told Israel radio. Such a map is to be discussed in a Cabinet meeting Sunday, but agreement after one session is very unlikely.

Netanyahu, however, is under pressure from right-wing coalition allies to hold firm and not yield too much land. Netanyahu met Thursday with settler leaders to try to reassure them, but did not outline his withdrawal offer in detail, said Shlomo Silber, a spokesman for the Jewish Settlers' Council.

2,000. . .

Continued from page 2

is expected to push up unemployment, taxes and prices.

"The government and rich company owners ruined the economy, and now they tell us to take all the pain. We never will!" one labor leader shouted.

"Fight! Fight!" the protesters chanted, sitting on pavement wet from melting snow. Some carried signs that read: "Arrest (President) Kim Young-sam for Ruining the Economy."

They promised to stage a bigger protest Sunday.

Earlier Saturday, Kim and the nation's three key presidential candidates reaffirmed support for the IMF bailout.

"We will do our best to boost international confidence by honoring the

terms of the agreement," a joint statement from the four men said.

South Korea's economy has further deteriorated since the deal was announced, with currency and share prices continuing to fall and foreign lenders reportedly refusing to roll over their loans.

Fears that South Korea may renege on the promises it made to the IMF have eroded investor confidence. Those fears escalated when two leading presidential candidates said they would renegotiate the bailout conditions if elected, in an apparent attempt to translate popular dismay into votes.

Both of them backed down Friday and pledged full support.

Most Korean economists agree the IMF mandates are bitter but necessary to rescuing the failing economy. But many Koreans who have painful memories of foreign intervention consider the bailout humiliating and too harsh.

STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION PUBLIC SCHOOL SYSTEM

INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB 98-003

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bid from interested firms for the procurement of Food Items for SY 1997-98 for the island of Tinian. All items to be delivered must be C/F Tinian Public School System. The specification package is now available and can be obtained at the Procurement and Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan during regular working hours, Monday through Friday except Holidays.

All bids submissions must be submitted in duplicate and sealed in an envelope labeled "IFB 98-003", and submitted to the Procurement and Supply Office situated on the 3rd Floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan no later than 2:00 p.m. January 15, 1998 at which time and place all bids will be opened and read aloud. Late submission will not be considered under any circumstances.

The CNMI Public School System reserves the right to reject any or all bids if in its sole opinion is to the best interest of the Public School System. All inquiries to this bidding announcement may contact Mr. Jess Sanchez at the Food Services Program at telephone # 664-3709/3705.

/s/William S. Torres
Commissioner of Education

/s/Louise Concepcion
Procurement & Supply Officer

YAS Signs System

"Let this sign build your profit"



VINYL SIGNS: For indoor/outdoor with colors, style and quality, on wood, glass, metal, plastic cloth and walls, designed in computer graphics, artistically drafted, composed with a lot of talent and knowledge, is now available at Younis Art Studio, Inc.

VINYL BANNERS: On cloth and plastic materials, from 1-5 feet wide and length from 3 feet to 50 or 75 feet and more, with any color, letters size and style and rich graphics.

Also hand painted signs and banners, artistically designed and colored on any material surface of all sizes.

DIGITAL PRINT: Signs for inside markets/stores/shops in full colors with print of the goods/merchandise on plastic sheets/boards or on transparencies on special paper or cloth for ceiling hang for display or above shelves, counters and merchandise stands, can easily be produced by the talented and capable sign makers at YAS Sign System.

Full color digital print for back light in shops window or special display in the outdoor, such as food items, drinks cosmetics, perfumes, jewelry and many more.

Vinyl signs are durable, colorful and guaranteed to last for five to seven years in all weather conditions and stands heat temperature 40-180 degrees Fahrenheit.

For all signs need, please visit or call

YAS Signs System

at Younis Art Studio, Inc., in Garapan.

Telephone Nos. 234-6341 & 234-7578 &

234-9797 & 234-9272 or Fax No. 234-9271.

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE
COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDSBank of Saipan
Plaintiff,
vs.
John T. Sablan and
Gloria D.L.G. SablanCIVIL ACTION NO. 93-1300
THIRD NOTICE OF SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on December 15, 1997, the Pacific Mediation Center, through John Joyner, will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of John T. Sablan and Gloria D.L.G. Sablan's right, title, and interest of Defendants in and to the following properties: real properties situated in Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, as described below:

A. Lot 005 D 06 (originally Block 1, Lot 6), containing an area of 697 square meters or more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 005 D 00 the original of which was recorded 27 November, 1970 as Document No. 551 at Land Registry Saipan.

B. Lot 1625 New-8 (formerly part of Lot 1625 New-R1, which was part of original Lot 1625, T2 605), containing an area of 1,000 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2004 B9, the original of which was recorded 21 February, 1989, as Document No. 89-0529 at Commonwealth Recorder's Saipan.

C. Lot 1827 (T.D. 442), containing an area of 13,092 square meters, more or less as more particularly described on Asia Mapping Sketch No. 11 (Located in Garapan, District)

D. Lot 005 D 04 (formerly Lot 4, Block 1), Garapan, Saipan containing an area of 747 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 005 D 00, the original of which is registered 21 October 1970 at Land Registry Saipan.

1. Date, Time and Place of Sale: The Sale will be held on December 16, 1997, at the hour of 1:30 p.m. at the Pacific Mediation Center, Office, 2nd floor, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. (670) 235-6061 (tel/235-6070 (fax). The sale will be open to the general public.

2. Inspection of Properties: The properties described above are presently located in Garapan and Gualo Rai, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. It is the obligation of the bidder to inspect the properties. Failure to inspect the properties or any portion thereof will not constitute ground for any claim, adjustment, or rescission by any buyer.

3. Warranties and Covenants: All properties listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition, and at its current location. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether expressed or implied, including but not limited to warranties of merchantability, and/or title for any purpose whatsoever, all of which warranties and covenants are hereby expressly disclaimed. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant, express or implied with respect to the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the properties listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any other remedy on account thereof.

4. Conduct of Sale: a. Reserve: The auction sale may be held with reserve. The reserve price on any property offered for sale may or may not be disclosed to bidders in the sole discretion of the undersigned.

b. Rights and Duties of Bank of Saipan: Consistent with the laws, customs and usages of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the Bank of Saipan shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: 1) to withdraw the properties listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; 2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and (3) to reject any or all bids, for any reason.

c. Bids: Bids may be submitted in advance for any or all of the properties listed in this Notice. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the item. Advanced bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the John Joyner, Pacific Mediation Center, 2nd floor, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, certified mail. The Bidder assumes all risk of non-delivery, late delivery, or mis-delivery of bids. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted in advance bid.

d. Disputes: The Bank of Saipan may resubmit any property listed in this Notice if a dispute arises as to any bid thereon.

e. Order of Sale: The Bank of Saipan reserves in its sole discretion the right to sell the properties described above in order of its choice, until satisfaction of outstanding obligations is made.

5. Enforcement of Auction Sale: a. Deposit: Every successful bidder shall pay to the undersigned a deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price immediately after the sale is consummated. Payment shall be in cash or by certified check. The balance must be paid to the Plaintiff, in care of Pacific Mediation Center, within three (3) days from the date of sale, in cash or by certified check. If the balance is not so paid, Plaintiff will retain the deposit, as liquidated damages, and will again offer the property for sale.

6. Memorandum of Sale: If requested by the undersigned, every successful bidder must sign a Memorandum of Sale, immediately after the sale of any property is struck off at auction.

7. Court Approval Required and Deed: Every sale is subject to approval by the Court and any and all outstanding liens or defects of title. The Bank of Saipan/Pacific Mediation Center make no warranties or promises with respect to court approval of the sale, including but not limited to the time in which such approval may be granted. No delay in the granting of court approval shall be ground for any claim adjustment or rescission by any successful bidder. The successful bidder will be promptly notified if any court approval is granted and a deed will be issued pursuant to 2 CMC Section 4627 and 4629, executed by John Joyner.

8. Change of Terms and Conditions: The Bank of Saipan reserves the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or all the commencement thereof and such change or change, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

Dated this 23rd day of November, 1997.

PUBLIC NOTICE

July 23, 1997

Joseph Juan M. Dela Cruz
P.O. Box 934
Saipan, MP 96950

Re: Pacific Financial Corporation v- Dela Cruz, Joseph Juan M.

Dear Mr. Dela Cruz:

You are in default in your Promissory Note dated February 7, 1989, secured by a Real Estate Mortgage of the same date, executed and delivered by you to the Pacific Financial Corporation.

(a) Description of the Real property covered by Mortgage: Lot 005 H 35 (formerly known as Lot 24, Block 73), Chalan Kanoa Village, Saipan, containing an area 2,649 square meters, more or less, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 005 H 00, the original of which was recorded March 1, 1971 as Document No. 696 at the Land Registry, Saipan.

(b) Date and amount of Promissory Note and Mortgage: February 7, 1989, \$18,000.00 plus interest.

(c) Amount due for principal: \$1,377.55

(d) Amount due for interest: 733.09 as of July 22, 1996

(e) Daily accruing interest: \$3.612

(f) Late charges: 60.28

If the principal, interest, and late charges \$2,170.92, plus accruing interest, together with reasonable attorney's fees, are not paid within thirty (30) days from the date of service of this notice upon you, Court proceedings will be commenced against you to foreclose upon the said Mortgage because of the default.

Very truly yours,

WHITE, PIERCE, MAILMAN & NUTTING

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ.
Attorney at Law

July 23, 1996

Joseph Juan M. Dela Cruz
P.O. Box 934
Saipan, MP 96950

Re: Pacific Financial Corporation kontra Dela Cruz, Joseph Juan M.

Señor Dela Cruz:

Ti un komple i kontratan debimu (Promissory Note) ni un fitma gi Febroero 7, 1989, ni afabobot i Pacific Financial Corporation ma aseguro i lano yang guma ni un empeña gi mismo dia, un fitma yan un entrega i empeña (Mortgage) gualo gi Pacific Financial Corporation.

(a) I deskripsion lano ni ma empeña (mortgage):

Pidasun Tano Numero 005 H 35 (fine ne na kunisidu komo sitio) numero 24, pidasun number 73), Chalan Kanoa Village, Saipan, area a konsistise 2,649 quadra metros, mas pat menus, komo mas patikulamente madeskribe gi Mapan Tano Numero 005 H 00, i orihinal ni ma rehistrat Matso 1, 1971 komo Dokumentu Numero 696 gi Tano Rehistratyon, Saipan.

(b) I kantida yan i fechan este na debi yan empeña: Febroero 7, 1989, \$18,000.00 yan interes.

(c) Kantida un debi para principat: \$1,377.55

(d) Kantida un debi para interes: 733.09 asta julio 22, 1996

(e) Interes kada dia: \$3.612

(f) Apas pot atrasao (late charges): 60.28

Yangin ti un apasi i kantida na principat, interes, yan apas pot atrasao (late charges) \$2,170.92 yan i rasonable na apas abugado gi halom trenta (30) dias despues di fecha ni un resibe este na notisia, un ma konsidera komu ti un komple i kontratanu (default), ya siempre un matuluhun kontra hago i kausan kotli ni para uma kondena ya una bendi i propiadat lano nu ni un empeña gualo gi Pacific Financial Corporation.

Se Seguro, Servidor,

WHITE, PIERCE, MAILMAN & NUTTING

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ.
Attorney at Law

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

IN RE FCD AD CASE # 97-0200

ORDER TO SHOW CASE WHY PETITION FOR ADOPTION AND CHANGE OF NAME SHOULD NOT BE GRANTED AND PUBLICATION ORDER

On the reading and filing of the verified petition of Salud Saszha Gamboa for adoption and change of name to Saszha Gamboa Allison, and good cause appearing therefore;

It is hereby ORDERED that:

1. All persons who may be affected or prejudiced by such adoption or change of name appear in the Superior Court of the Northern Mariana Islands on January 13, 1998 at 10:00am.

2. A copy of this order is published in a newspaper of general circulation in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands for three (3) successive weeks preceding the date set for the hearing. Dated this 10 Day of December, 1997.

/s/ Virginia Sablan Onerheim,
Associate Judge

PUBLIC NOTICE

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

FCD AD CIVIL ACTION # 97-0195C

In Re the Adoption of
TANYA AGUILAR ADA,
A Minor Child.

AMENDED NOTICE OF
HEARING ON PETITION FOR
TERMINATION OF PARENT-
CHILD RELATIONSHIP
AND ADOPTION

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN THAT THOMAS I. SAURES and RITA L. SAURES have filed with the Clerk of this Court a Petition for Termination of Parent-Child Relationship and for Adoption of TANYA AGUILAR ADA, a minor child. The hearing on the Petition is set for 1:30 p.m. on Thursday, the 15th day of January, 1998, at the Commonwealth Superior Court, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

Dated this 11th day of December, 1997.

/s/Clerk of Court

Typhoon . . .

Continued from page 1

winds of 130 miles per hour with gusts up to 160 mph, Paka was plotted to be moving steadily in the west northwest at 18 mph toward the Mariana Islands and slowly intensifying.

Paka was forecast to pass west of south of Guam Tuesday night or early Wednesday morning.

EMO said a typhoon watch is now in effect for Guam, Rota, Tinian, Saipan, and Anatahan.

EMO said the onset of damaging winds can occur within 48 hours of time of typhoon watch. The weather service issued a hazardous surf warning or dangerous for small boats to navigate the Mariana waters.

It is expected today to have a partly cloudy with isolated light to moderate showers on Saipan and Tinian, said the weather service.

Rebates . . . Continued from page 1

Committee Vice Chair Paul A. Manglona (R-Rota), said the government can not expect much surplus or lapsed funds from FY 1997, and should therefore see to it that FY 1998 spending does not exceed the estimated revenue of

\$262 million.

With the FY 1998 budget bill still in the House of Representatives, the CNMI government is operating based on FY 1997's \$247 million budget since the end of FY 1997 last Sept. 30.

No . . . Continued from page 1

The new appointees, the committee said, may not be able to provide the information the committee needs for assessing the current state of the CNMI government.

But according to the governor, the transition committee has four years to learn about the government, adding that the new administration may even rehire those who have been recently fired.

Among those included in the purge that began last Nov. 14 and may have ended on Dec. 5, are Health Secretary Isamu J. Abraham, Deputy Health Secretary Greg Calvo, special assistant for youth affairs Lupe Borja-Robinson, Central Statistics Di-

vision Director Juan Borja, Public Safety Deputy Commissioner Frank Dueñas, Arts Council executive director Genevieve Cabrera, Office of the Job Training Partnership Act executive director Felix Nogis, special assistant for programs and legislative review Gloria Hunter, Joe Palacios of Veterans Affairs, Joe Guerrero of the Historical Preservation Office, Jack Taitano of the Medical Referral Office.

Patricia De Beers, the administrator of the Nutrition Assistance Program, was also asked to resign, but declined, saying that she is civil service-certified, and not just a political appointee.

DPS . . . Continued from page 1

his wife Prescilla Masga Delos Santos went to a relative's house in Fina Sisú to celebrate Thanksgiving Day.

That night Delos Santos went home in San Jose. Obak and two male companions, however, proceeded to a friend's house in Dandan.

In Dandan, a commotion happened and Obak was last seen shouting and running. His two

friends managed to get back home. An autopsy had confirmed that Obak was indeed murdered. He reportedly died as a result of injuries received to the upper portion of the body.

A source said Obak, whose real name is Alan Baie Amador, is son of retired Palau Judge Ngirkelau Amador.

In 1995, Obak moved to Saipan where he met his wife.

Garment . . . Continued from page 1

new for the sector, until the moratorium is lifted.

The CSD record, sourced from the Department of Finance, noted a continuous increase in total garment exports between the 1987 to 1996 period.

The biggest increase, registered at \$107.8 million, was reported between the 1990-1991 period from \$156.6 million in 1990 to \$264.4 million the following year.

There was a slight drop in total amount of exports during the 1988-1989 period from 1988's \$131.3 to \$121.7 in 1989.

The CNMI government registered the lowest increase at \$14.3 million in 1992's \$278.7 million from \$264.4 million during the previous year.

Total exports in 1993 reached \$296.7 million while textile exports in 1994 accounted for \$319.2 million.

Pangelinan said there are no plans yet to ask for the lifting of the moratorium, while adding that such moves will have to come from the legislative branch of the government.

"Few investors have expressed intentions to set up business in the garment sector but they can't come in because of the moratorium. The moratorium is still in effect," she

told the *Variety*.

She added that the moratorium was effected because the legislature felt the garment sector has already expanded at a point beyond Saipan can accommodate.

"The moratorium has some effects on the employment sector but there is also a need to balance the economy," Pangelinan said.

The moratorium was enforced after the government vetoed the law in May last year, apparently due to the influx of alien workers.

The garments sector has been tagged as a dying industry by Insular Affairs Director Allen Stayman, despite his confidence that the CNMI can continue to grow without heavy reliance on alien workers.

Stayman, in previous *Variety* reports, said provisions under the Headnote 3(a) of the US Customs Harmonized Tariff Code exempt from import duties to the US.

He said the purpose of these provisions was to allow the textile industry to grow in the CNMI and employ local US citizens.

The US government has imposed a quota to garment producers, in an attempt to protect its own textile industry and allow others to develop their own.

Marianas Variety
Classified Ads Section

Employment Wanted



Job Vacancy Announcement

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: M.S. VILLAGOMEZ INCORPORATED dba MSV PROPERTY MANAGEMENT Tel. 234-6108(12/22)M69793

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$800.00 per month
01 CARPENTER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: NORTH PACIFIC BUILDERS, INC. Tel. 235-7171(12/22)M24913

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$3.05-15.00 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN SEVENTH-DAY ADVENTIST CLINIC dba Family Dentistry/Optical Tel. 234-6323(12/22)M24915

01 SERVICE CUSTOMER MANAGER-Salary:\$3.50 per hour
01 STORE MANAGER-Salary:\$2,000.00 per month
Contact: CHO YOUNG JO/VISION K&S dba Tapo Shopping Tel. 234-2500(12/22)M24914

01 SURVEYING DRAFTSMAN-Salary:\$900.00 per month
Contact: CANDIDO I. CASTRO dba Castro & Associates Tel. 235-7410(12/15)M24812

01 BUILDING MAINTENANCE (REPAIR)-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: HUBLIN INVESTMENT CORPORATION dba Hublin Apartments Tel. 235-0526(12/15)M24811

01 MERCHANDISE MANAGER-Salary:\$650.00 per bi-weekly
01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary: \$520.00 bi-weekly
Contact: TOWN HOUSE, INC. dba Town House Dep't. Store Tel. 235-6352(12/15)M69664

01 ASSISTANT MANAGER-Salary:\$558.40 bi-weekly
01 BUTCHER-Salary: \$4.00-4.90 per hour
Contact: TOWN HOUSE, INC. dba Payless Market Tel. 235-6352(12/15)M69663

01 AIRCON TECHNICIAN-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Plus \$150.00 COLA per month
01 AIRCON SUPERVISOR-Salary:\$5.00 per hour
Plus \$150.00 COLA per month
Contact: CARRIER GUAM, INC. SAIPAN BRANCH Tel. 234-8330(12/22)M69792

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: JAC INC. dba Tropical Cleaning Services Tel. 235-5377(12/22)M24911

01 WAITRESS-Salary:\$3.15 per hour
Contact: JAIME G. AGUIPAY/GOOD SAMARITAN GENERAL CONTRACTOR dba Cocktail Night Club/Karaoke Tel. 234-1118(12/22)M24912

07 MASON-Salary:\$3.05-4.50 per hour
04 WAREHOUSE WORKER-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
03 CARPENTER-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
02 PAINTER-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour

02 BLDG. GENERAL MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour
02 FORKLIFT OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
02 ELECTRICIAN-Salary:\$3.05-4.50 per hour
01 PLUMBER-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour

01 SALES ENGINEER-Salary:\$1,000.00-1,100.00 per month
Contact: SABLAN ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. 234-1558(12/22)M69783

04 WAITRESS-Salary:\$4.00 per hour
Contact: DIVERSIFIED ISLAND INVESTMENT, INC. dba Bobby Cadillacs Tel. 234-3976(12/22)M69781

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: TALUNG'S APART. Tel. 235-5864(12/29)M24984

01 QUARRY SUPERINTENDENT-Salary:\$1,000.00-1,650.00 per month
01 ELECTRIC MOTOR REWINDER-Salary:\$3.05-3.60 per hour
01 MECHANIC HELPER-Salary:\$3.05-3.60 per hour
01 BULLDOZER OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05-3.60 per hour
02 BLOCK MAKER-Salary:\$3.05-3.40 per hour
04 CARPENTER-Salary:\$3.05-6.00 per hour

01 STEEL WORKER-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour
01 WAREHOUSE WORKER-Salary:\$3.05-3.40 per hour
04 MASON-Salary:\$3.05-4.70 per hour
04 HEAVY EQUIPMENT OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05-3.60 per hour
01 CONSTRUCTION WORKER-Salary:\$3.05-5.20 per hour
02 PLUMBER-Salary:\$3.05-4.70 per hour
02 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$3.75-6.00 per hour
01 DISPATCHER-Salary:\$3.05-3.60 per hour

01 AIR TRAC DRILL OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05-3.25 per hour
Contact: CONSTRUCTION AND MATERIAL SUPPLY, INC. dba CMS Tel. 234-6136(12/29)M69901

02 BROADCASTER (ANNOUNCER)-Salary:\$1,500.00-1,050.00 per month
Contact: SORESENSEN PACIFIC BROADCASTING dba Power 99 Tel. 235-7996(12/29)M69905

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$550.00 per month
Contact: JAPANESE INTERNATIONAL LTD. Tel. 234-5555(12/29)M24978

01 AUTO-MECHANIC-Salary:\$3.20 per hour
01 AUTOBODY REPAIRER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 AUTO PAINTER-Salary:\$ 3.05 per hour
Contact: PHILIPPINE EAGLE CORPORATION dba Philippine Eagle Auto Repair Shop Tel. 288-0928(12/29)M24977

01 CASHIER-Salary:\$3.15 per hour
Contact: STAR FOUR CORPORATION Tel. 234-5520(12/29)M24982

01 ADMINISTRATIVE CLERK-Salary:\$3.50 per hour
01 BRANCH MANAGER-Salary:\$2,500.00 per month
01 OPERATIONS MANAGER-Salary:\$1,200.00 per month
Contact: CLIPPER AIRFREIGHT INC. Tel. 234-0892

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$3.80-4.20 per hour
02 HOUSEKEEPING CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: KAN PACIFIC SAIPAN, LTD Tel. 322-4692(12/29)M69896

01 (GROUNDKEEPER) MAINTENANCE-Salary:\$275.00 bi-weekly
Contact: GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY dba Grace Christian Academy Tel. 322-3220(12/29)M69899

01 AUTO MECHANIC-Salary:\$3.05-3.30 per hour
Contact: SAIPAN AUTO SUPPLY CO., INC. dba Sasco Service Plus Tel. 234-8379(12/29)M24985

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$3.05-4.50 per hour
01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary:\$3.05-4.50 per hour
01 PLUMBER-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour
01 SALES ENGINEER-Salary:\$1,000.00-1,100.00 per month
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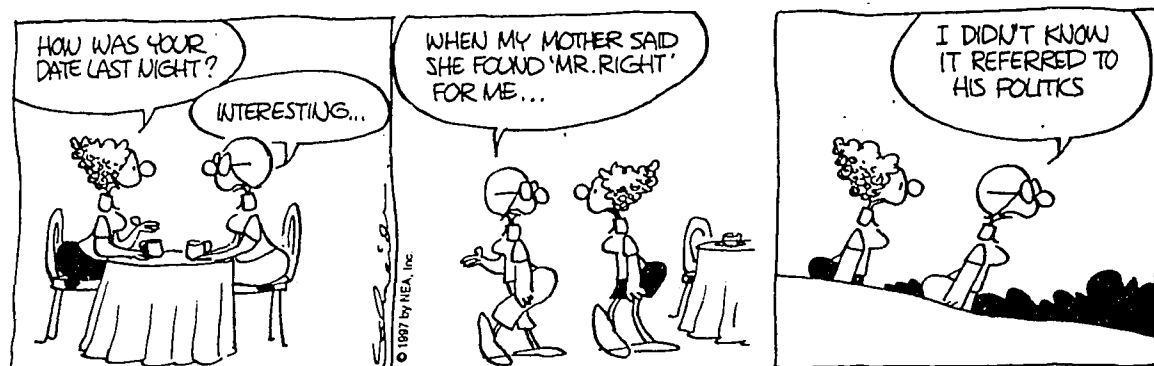
02 BLDG. GENERAL MAINTENANCE REPAIRER-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour
02 FORKLIFT OPERATOR-Salary:\$3.05-4.00 per hour
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01 PLUMBER-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour

01 SALES ENGINEER-Salary:\$1,000.00-1,100.00 per month
Contact: SABLAN ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. 234-1558(12/22)M69783

LOST PASSPORT

The passport of **REN, JIANG WANG** was lost in J's Restaurant in Gualo Rai. If found please call at 233-661
Passport # 142851861

EEK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



Garfield® by Jim Davis



PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz



STELLA WILDER

YOUR BIRTHDAY

By Stella Wilder

Born today, you have an exceptional ability to solve the kinds of problems that usually leave others wondering where to turn. You are creative, intuitive and always willing to try something new — and this, above all, is what gives you the edge in most situations. Though you have a healthy appreciation for history and tradition, you nevertheless strive to break the molds established in the past and forge a unique path for yourself. Your fresh take on life provides you with the ability to accomplish much that others only dream about.

You are not always what you seem, especially in social settings, but this may be simply a reflection on those around you — for as far as you are concerned you are quite consistent in your inconsistencies. Those who cannot accept change are sure to find you a difficult, perplexing individual.

Also born on this date are: Alexandre Eiffel, engineer & designer of the Eiffel Tower; Don Johnson, actor; Edna O'Brien, author; Daryl Turner, football player.

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.

TUESDAY, DEC. 16
SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You may feel as though you're nowhere near the completion of an important project, but today you should be able to make some major headway.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — Take care you don't accept too many responsibilities today. You don't want to find yourself in a position that precludes success.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — You must be sure that you finish what you start today, for there is much that remains to be done on a long-term project. Work quickly.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — Your timing may not seem quite right to you today, but in fact this should have little effect on your productivity. Keep up the pace.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Others may demand more from you than you think you can accomplish today. Prioritize, and make a schedule you know you can keep.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — Though you must work hard on a current project today, you have something in the wings which will demand

a certain amount of attention as well.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — There is no reason to say "yes" to every opportunity that comes your way today. If your schedule is full, then you have to decline.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — Superiors will understand if you come to them with concerns regarding your work schedule. Do not just mention problems, but suggest solutions as well.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — This is a good day to explore options — but not so much that you neglect an important duty that must be fulfilled before nightfall.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Money and relationships are likely to demand the same kind of attention today. Perhaps you've been taking things too much for granted recently.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — A project that you've taken on by yourself today may be served better if you accept the assistance of someone who wants to be a long-term teammate.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — Co-workers are waiting for you to supply them with a little more information before continuing with preparations for a major project.

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CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 The alphabet
- 5 Permit
- 8 Cain's brother
- 12 Gallop, e.g.
- 13 Yoko —
- 14 Vehicle (colloc.)
- 15 Bergen and Poe
- 17 Of foot bones
- 19 Slangy term of affection
- 20 "It must have — — pretty penny"
- 21 Raise
- 23 Actor Barry
- 24 Hardin and Cobb
- 26 "The — Truth"
- 28 — Lanka
- 31 Maiden loved by Zeus
- 32 Fondle
- 33 — hoc
- 34 Stanley —

(hockey)

- 36 Narrow-minded person
- 38 Star of 26 Across
- 39 "Diary of — Housewife"
- 41 — Archibald
- 43 Outer
- 45 Build
- 48 Hospital
- 50 Ms. Danner
- 51 From — to mouth
- 52 — constrictor
- 54 Actress Young
- 55 Singer Anita
- 56 Timid
- 57 Horse's gait

DOWN

- 1 Matured
- 2 Commanded
- 3 Gifts for new
- 4 Intent gaze

Answer to Previous Puzzle

EMOTE EDGAR
GAINLY MEANIE
ERSE EMILY SA
ALT ELITE MIV
RA CRIES TONE
SPREADS LONGS
ARTS HIDE
AUDIO LUNATIC
GRIN CANDY OE
ASI ERICA ADD
MI REACH BRIE
ANGELS ERIAND
EMMYS SHALE

4-14 © 1997 United Feature Syndicate



Japan wants sumo in Olympics

By ERIC TALMADGE

TOKYO (AP)—World middleweight sumo champion Taisuro Takahama came out of the ring victorious, but surprised.

"These guys are getting really good," he said Sunday after narrowly defending his title at the sport's 6th world championships. "We Japanese had better be careful."

Make no mistake — the Japanese invented sumo wrestling about a millennium ago and still do it better than anyone else, winning the team honors and three of the four individual titles at this year's championships.

But Japan's amateur sumo ranks are facing a growing challenge from some serious and increasingly skillful — opponents hailing from everywhere from Tonga to Estonia.

"The level of the competition has improved dramatically," Takahama said after his bout against Brazil's Roberval Hayashi. "I think it's just a matter of time until the rest of the world catches up to us."

This year's championships featured athletes from 37 countries, which is fewer than last year, when 42 countries sent wrestlers, and the year before, when 39 countries were represented.

Even so, amateur sumo officials believe big things are in store for the sport.

"It's a big movement," said U.S. team coach Yoshisada Yonezuka, who also coaches the U.S. Olympic judo team. "Sumo is developing a

very good following."

America's team won two bronze medals — one in the team event and one from heavyweight Wayne Viera of Honolulu, Hawaii.

The steady growth of sumo outside Japan is due to its intense promotion by Japan's amateur sumo association, which wants the sport to win a worldwide following much like judo did decades ago and obtain a place in the Olympics.

Sumo is to make an Olympic debut of sorts when Japan's top professional wrestlers, including Hawaiian-born grand champion Akebono, join the opening ceremony of the Nagano Winter Games Feb. 7.

Amateur sumo officials hope Nagano will be a first step toward a slot in the Olympic sports list, possibly in 2008. And though that might seem a long shot, the push is being taken seriously by some powerful people.

In a message to the championships' sponsors, International Olympic Committee President Juan Antonio Samaranch noted that Japan is "highly successful in promoting its traditional sports."

As a result, 78 countries have joined the International Sumo Federation. The Japanese are holding workshops and exhibitions worldwide.

The 1999 world championships are to be held in Germany making them the first outside Japan.

At this year's championships, Mongolia's Sukhbat Agvaansamdan took the lightweight title over Brazil's

Marcio Takakura, and Japan's Yoshiyuki Kainai had to settle for a third-place medal.

Japan's individual winners were Takahama, Keiji Tamiya in the heavy division and Naohito Saito in the open division. Those three also joined forces to win the team event, beating Finland in the final.

The rise of Akebono and three

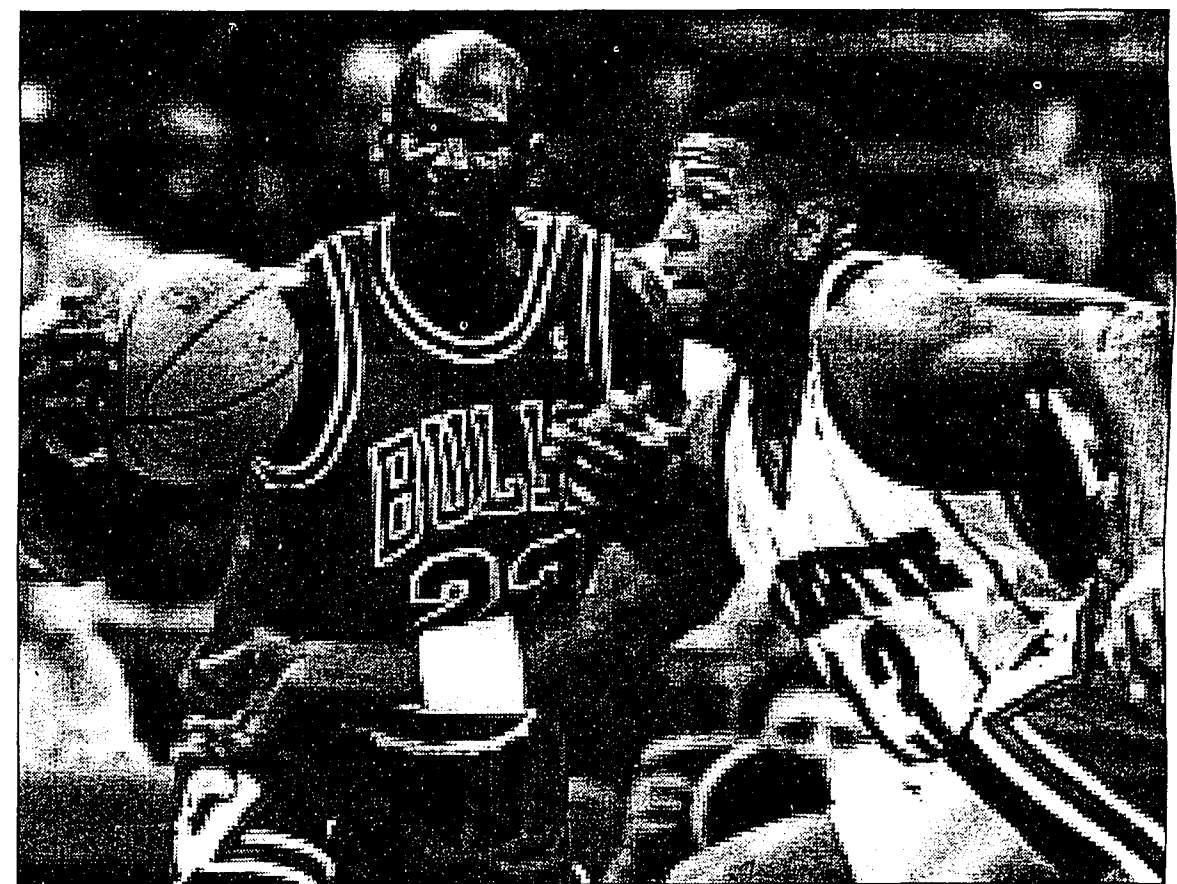
Not all sumo lovers are happy about the sport's expansion abroad.

While the amateurs expand their international base, the much more powerful Japan Sumo Association, which is strictly for professionals, has mixed feelings about bringing in foreigners.

Some coaches are afraid an influx of strong foreigners could make it harder for their Japanese proteges to continue winning.

other Americans to sumo's top echelons created a major stir in the late 1980s, and though the foreign wrestlers are generally popular with the fans, coaches have been reluctant to accept foreign disciples since.

Some coaches are afraid an influx of strong foreigners could make it harder for their Japanese proteges to continue winning.



Chicago Bulls' Michael Jordan (23) keeps the ball from Charlotte Hornets' Bobby Phillips (13) in first quarter action at the Charlotte Coliseum in Charlotte, N.C., Friday AP

Warriors stop Kings in OT

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP) — Joe Smith scored 25 points and the Golden State Warriors scored the first seven points of overtime to beat the Sacramento Kings 95-91 Saturday night.

After a 1-13 start, the Warriors are 3-3 since the suspension of star Latrell Sprewell.

Smith's two free throws with 3:09 left in overtime capped the 7-0 run that gave the Warriors their biggest lead of the game, 88-81.

The Kings pulled within 89-88 when Smith fouled out with 1:20 to

play, resulting in two free throws by Mitch Richmond. But Golden State's Brian Shaw sank an 18-footer to start a 6-0 run that put the game away.

Richmond led Sacramento with 30 points, while Olden Polynice had 18 points and 14 rebounds for the Kings. Donyell Marshall had 16 points and 12 rebounds for the Warriors.

Polynice's tip-in with 7.8 seconds left in regulation tied the game at 81, and the game went to overtime after Marshall missed a layup with less than a second remaining.

Golden State's Erick Dampier tipped in a missed shot by Shaw to tie it 79-79 with one minute left in regulation. Joe Smith's putback gave the Warriors an 81-79 lead with 19.1 seconds remaining.

Both teams shot poorly from the field. Golden State made 41 percent while Sacramento finished at 38 percent.

There were 17 ties and 14 lead changes in the first three periods, and neither team led by more than six points during regulation.

Toyota ...

Continued from page 32

Sanchez, made 16 points. Aside from Sanchez, Eric Atalig also helped his team win by contributing 10 points.

Kontrarios' top scorer, Dave Camacho, made 26 points. Oscar Masga contributed the next highest points, 17.

Island ...

Continued from page 32

combination of the following: two participants over the age of 40, two females, or two persons under 16 years.

All runners for the junior division must be 16 years and under, boys and girls separately or combined.

Each team must have its own

support vehicle and drinking water. There will be prizes for 1st, 2nd and 3rd places.

The entry fee is \$25 per team and is payable at the final entry on Dec. 27, from 5 a.m. to 5:45 a.m. The race will begin at 6 a.m. sharp.

The record for this event is 1:21.50.

Additional information can be had from Eli Rangamar or Bill Sakovich at tels. 234-1001/1002.

Records fall at Waikiki Mile race

HONOLULU (AP) — Running in light breezes and a temperature in the low 70s (20s Celsius), Graham Hood of Canada and Regina Jacobs of the United States set course records in their respective divisions Saturday at the Waikiki Mile.

Hood claimed the men's title in the mile (1.6-kilometer) run, sweeping past David Lelei of Kenya in the final quarter-mile to win in 3:55:66. The old record of 3:57:04 was set by American Mark Davis in 1994.

Lelei came in second at 3:57:42,

edging defending champion Marcus O'Sullivan of Ireland who placed third at 3:57:65.

Jacobs led the women's field with a time of 4:26:05, besting the mark of 4:26:43 set last year by Sonia O'Sullivan of Ireland.

Leah Pells of Canada was second at 4:27:34 and Suzy Hamilton of the United States was third at 4:31:14.

Hood and Jacobs both won \$18,000 — \$8,000 for placing first and \$10,000 in incentives.

Athlete ... Continued from page 32

May 1997
Xenaree Pangalanan
Greg F. Camacho
June 1997
Mertie Kani
John Reyes
July 1997
Mary Szabo
Henry Halverson
August 1997
Luis Cepeda

Swimming
Softball
Golf
Baseball
Running
Running
Basketball

September 1997
Steve Coleman
Hiro Fujimoto
October 1997
Mel Sakai
Brenda Haddock
November 1997
Craig Potter
Karen Halverson
For more information, please contact Bill Sakovich at 234-1001/1002.

Baseball
Tennis
Softball
Softball
Running
Body Building

CLOSERS

COLUMN CLOSERS

The basic monetary unit of Syria is the pound, and its chief fractional unit is the piaster.

The state flower of Arizona is the saguaro cactus.

The state bird of Pennsylvania is the ruffed grouse.

Virginia is also known as Old Dominion.

The state tree of Indiana is the yellow poplar.

In the fifth century B.C., the Greek city-state of Sparta took five years to end a slave revolt.

The sap of the giant sequoia tree is nonresinous, making the tree almost fireproof.

A human cell nucleus has 23 pairs of chromosomes; a shrimp cell nucleus has more than 100 pairs.

In 1610, potatoes were banned in Burgundy as they were believed to cause leprosy.

The Greek playwright Euripides wrote in the fifth century B.C. that slavery was evil.

A silicon chip just a fraction of an inch square has the same capacity as the original ENIAC computer which took up an entire building.

In the Middle Ages, some believed that church bells could ward off thunderstorms.

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KidSpot™ by Dick Rogers

THE PUZZLER

CHRISTMAS SHOPPING FOR ME SHOULD BE EASY FOR YOU. YOU'LL FIND OUT WHY WHEN YOU COMPLETE THE SENTENCE BELOW. USE THE CLUES TO REARRANGE THE LETTERS TO FORM WORDS. READ THE CIRCLED LETTERS.

"I CAN'T THINK OF ANYTHING

CEI GDO ETN

(SOMETHING COLD.) (CAT'S ENEMY.) (FISH TRAP.)

WSA TNA

(CARPENTER'S TOOL.) (P.C.NIC PEST)

SNV

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SPORTS



1997 Marpac / Buweiser BANMI

Toyota upsets Ol'Aces, 100-78

Team	Win	Loss
CNMI Nationals	3	0
Toyota Wheels	2	0
Lite	2	1
Get Covered Surf	2	1
Hi-Five	2	1
Kontrarios	1	2
Lebwel	1	2
L.A. Ol'Aces	0	3
Spoilers	0	3

scorer for the Toyota Wheels, contributing 34 points. Richard Brostrom added 20 points, Keith Garner 18 points, and Dado Vistal 10 point to place Toyota Wheels in second place, with two wins and no loss, in the team standings.

Frank Iglecias, Rodney Catalla, Jorge Deguzman, Cerele Torreon and Danny Vicera also contributed some points to their team to defeat the Ol'Aces.

In the second game the Hi-Five defeated the Kontrarios, 71-65.

Hi-Five's top scorer, Rick

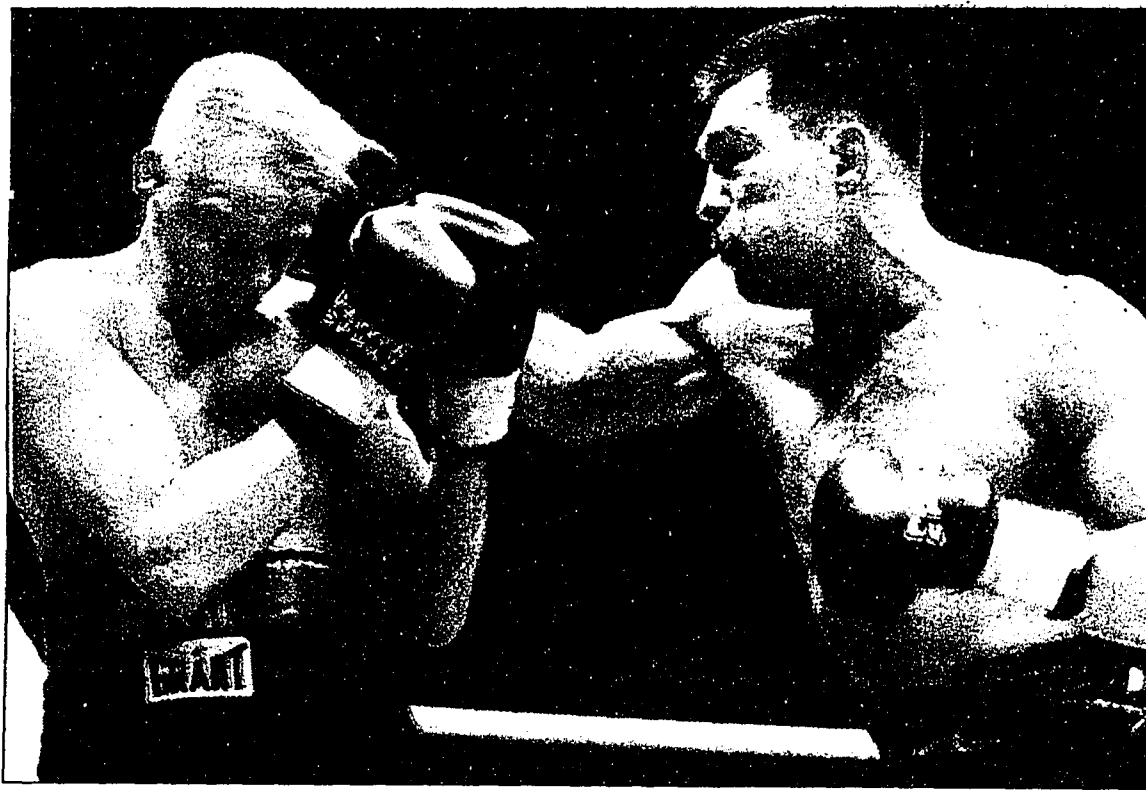
Continued on page 31

By Priscilla T. Castro

Variety News Staff

TOYOTA Wheels upset L.A. Ol'Aces, 100-78, during the BANMI League Wednesday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Edwin Bobos was the top



German boxer Dariusz Michalczewski, right, hits the face of his opponent Daren Zenner from Canada during a light-heavyweight world championship fight in Hamburg, Germany, on Saturday. Michalczewski won by technical K.o. after the sixth round. AP

Island Relay set

By Priscilla T. Castro

Variety News Staff

THE 19th Annual Island Relay will take place on Dec. 27, starting in front of PIC and finishing at the Last Command Post in Marpi. The 14.2-mile-long course will run through Beach Road.

Each participating team will be allowed a maximum of five runners. Each runner has to complete a minimum of two one-mile segments.

Each team for the senior division must have any two or a

Continued on page 31

Little League umpires clinic

By Priscilla T. Castro

Variety News Staff

THERE WILL be an umpire's clinic on Feb. 13-15 next year for the upcoming 1998 CNMI Little League Baseball season.

It was confirmed that Andy Konar, Little League International umpire from Pennsylvania, will conduct the clinic.

The umpires who will participate in the clinic will be certified by Konar.

Umpires from Palau, Rota and Tinian are also invited to attend this clinic.

All upcoming league officials have been required to attend this clinic, as well as those who will officiate off-island.

Likewise coaches were required to attend to enable them to get more knowledge of the rules and regulations of the Little League.

According to Sports and Recreation acting Director Bill Sakovich, the clinic is made possible by Little League Far East Administra-

Continued on page 31

Athlete of the Month banquet on Jan. 22

By Priscilla T. Castro

Variety News Staff

THE NORTHERN Marianas Amateur Sports Association will have its Athlete of the Month banquet on Jan. 22 next year at the Pacific Gardenia.

All Student Athletes and Athletes of the Month are requested to attend this banquet. The December Athlete of the Month will be announced second week of January when the NMASA members meet.

The Student Athletes of the Month and Athletes of the Month mentioned are the following:

Student Athletes of the Month:

January 1997	Sport	September 1997	
Names:		Peter Tomokane	
Gerald Boyer	Swimming	Little League Baseball	Basketball
Dionne B. Santos	Volleyball	Connie Camacho	
February 1997		October 1997	
Fred Pelisiman	Basketball	Ramsey Lemaich	Tennis
Jacoba Castro	Volleyball	John Reyes, Jr.	Baseball
March 1997		November 1997	
Jonathan Camacho	Little League Baseball	Daryl Ada	Flag Football
Colleen Maduff	Swimming	Jill Pierce	Swimming/Tennis
April 1997		1997 Athletes of the Month	
Herman Guerrero	Wrestling	January 1997	
Elizabeth Furey	Swimming	Xenavee Pangelinan	Swimming
May 1997		Patrick Pua	Volleyball
Kevin Kapileo	Sr. Little League Baseball	February 1997	
Jennifer Race	Swimming	Jessica Jordan	Swimming
June 1997		Mark Halstead	Bowling
Dane Lizama	Little League Baseball	March 1997	
Momoko Kobayashi	Tennis	Hiroe Fijimoto	Tennis
July 1997		Joe Guerrero	Baseball
No Nominee		April 1997	
August 1997		David Chesley	Basketball
No Nominee			

Continued on page 31

Tapia retains WBO title

POMPAÑO BEACH, Fla. (AP)—Johnny Tapia successfully defended his World Boxing Organization junior-bantamweight title with a unanimous decision over Puerto Rico's Andy Agosto on Saturday night.

Agosto was never a threat to Tapia's belt and unbeaten

record as he couldn't overcome head and body shots from the champion.

Although it took Tapia a couple of rounds to figure out the left-handed Agosto, he took charge of the 12-round.

Tapia won 120-108, 119-109 and 117-111.

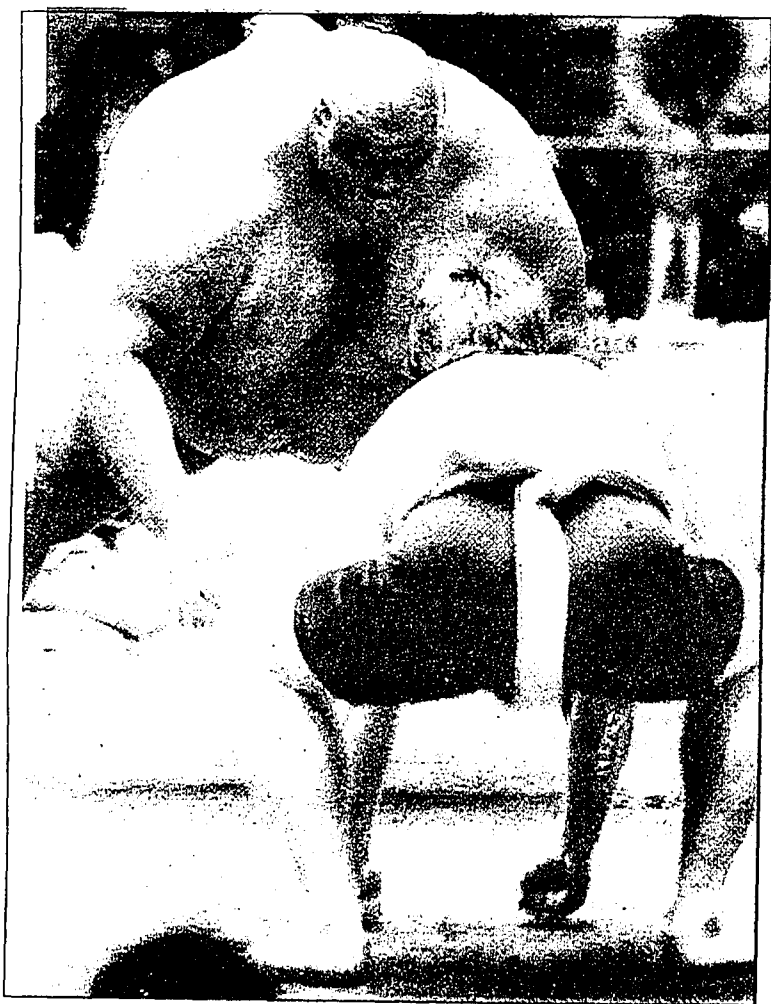
"He had one hell of a chin,"

Tapia said. "I told the referee to stop the fight. I wanted him to stop it because Andy wasn't throwing any real punches back at me."

Tapia, 30, of Albuquerque, N.M., is 42-0-2. Agosto fell to 14-2.

Tapia, who also owns the IBF

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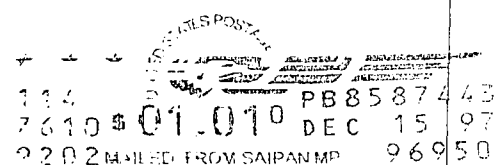
Yabrogh Emanuel of United States, stares at Lau Shing-Wah of Hong Kong, back to camera, during the first round of a team competition in the Sixth Sumo World Championships at Tokyo's Kokugikan sumo arena Sunday. Emanuel contributed for his team to win against Hong Kong team. AP

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