

Tinian golf courses eyed

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

IT SEEMS there's no other way to go but up for Tinian nowadays. Three groups of developers, including one led by former governor Froilan C. Tenorio, has asked the Board of Public Lands (BPL) if they can build golf courses on the island, BPL Chair Tomas B. Aldan disclosed.

In an interview, Aldan said Tinian Dynasty Hotel and Casino (TDHC) has asked the Board whether there is still enough public land on the island for it to build a golf course.

"They (TDHC management) are asking for public land. They are interested in acquiring (land) to build a golf course," said Aldan. Tenorio, said Aldan, is work-

Dynasty, Froilan-led group seeking land, says BPL chair



Froilan C. Tenorio

ing with a businessman connected with the Saipan-based Coral Ocean Point (COP) Resort Club.

"We received a letter from the former governor, Froilan Tenorio,

who is interested in building a golf course," said Aldan.

The third group, said Aldan, has yet to formally submit an application to the Board but has also asked if there is any available land for the same purpose.

Aldan said the Board will discuss the proposals in its upcoming meeting this week.

He said government "will make (the public land) available (for lease)" if an ongoing inventory proves there is still enough to accommodate three golf courses.

"As soon as we have mapped out what areas on Tinian is avail-

able for golf course development... we will make it available," he said.

Aldan said the Board will be working with the Tinian delegation on the matter. There are still no golf courses on the island.

In light of these developments, Aldan expressed hopes Tinian residents "can start looking ahead and start planning."

"Certain businesses will be in demand. I hope the economy will improve for Tinian," he said.

Aside from the 400-room TDHC, another firm--the Tinian Marine Resort--is also set to start

groundbreaking rites within the next two months for the construction of a 1,000-room hotel.

Government, anticipating an increased economic activity on Tinian, has been working on putting the necessary infrastructure in place on the island.

Recently, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. (CUC) broke ground for the construction of its 10-megawatt power plant seen to augment the island's current power supply.

Also, studies are in the works for the modernization and expansion of the island's airport to accommodate direct flights from Guam and Hongkong.

Saipan hillside burns

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

A FIRE of still undetermined origin burned several hectares of forested land on the hillsides of Kannat Tabla over the weekend.

No one was reported injured in the blaze, according to Department of Public Safety deputy commissioner Claudio K. Norita yesterday.

Norita said firemen had a hard time to respond to the fire because the blaze occurred "deep in the jungle" and access was difficult.

The fire started Saturday and it stopped only yesterday morning, the Variety gathered.

The fire just died down, Norita said.

But thick smoke reached San Jose, Susupe, Gualo Rai and Garapan as of 10 p.m. Saturday.

Norita said he received information that some bush fires on the mountains were intentionally set off by unscrupulous deer hunters.

Norita said he has no information whether the weekend's bush fire was triggered by El Niño drought conditions.

El Niño is a weather phenomenon characterized by the warming of the ocean. It has caused bush fires and flash floods in other parts of the world.



Former Miss CNMI International Ma. Theresa Acosta serves as Reyna Elena during the Flores de Mayo procession Saturday night in Garapan. The "Santacruzán," sponsored by Saipan's Cabalen organization, kicks off the Philippine Centennial celebration in the CNMI.

Photoby Ferdie de la Torre

CUC pays off \$2.8M yen portion of Mitsubishi debt

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THE COMMONWEALTH Utilities Corp. announced Friday it has paid off its remaining \$2.8-million debt in yen to Mitsubishi Corp. to take advantage of the low value of the Japanese yen against the US dollar.

CUC incurred the debts in connection with the acquisition of four power engines way back in 1989 for the Saipan Power Plant I.

Because of previous financial problems, CUC became remiss in its payment and defaulted its debt in 1994, according to CUC Public Infor-



Timothy P. Villagomez

mation Pamela A. Mathis.

The government had to shoulder CUC's obligation with Mitsubishi since then.

The CUC completed payment

for Engines 5 and 6 (Phase I) in 1994, but not for Engines 7 and 8.

The total cost of the installation of Engines 5 and 6 (Phase II) was \$9.2 million, and that for Engines 7 and 8 was \$18 million, which was in yen.

The total remaining debt payment that the CUC made was ¥360,924,066, of which ¥357 million was the principal and ¥3,924,066 was interest.

Mathis said the payment was made ahead of schedule because the value of the dollar against the yen is favorable now. The strength of the dollar made it able to purchase more

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Sablan says NMI 902 panel ready for talks

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

AFTER finalizing possible areas of discussions on the 902 negotiating table, the CNMI panel on Wednesday sent a letter to its US counterpart inviting the latter to come over to Saipan to resume the talks.

Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan, head of the CNMI 902 panel, told the Variety that his group sent a letter on Wednesday to President Clinton's special 902 representative after identifying possible areas of discussion.

"We will try to offer them the areas of discussion my group had decided upon. This include how best we can enforce Federal laws applicable to us, and social and economic coopera-



Jesus R. Sablan

tion between the US and the CNMI," Sablan said.

The letter was addressed to Edward Cohen, the deputy solicitor of the US Department of Interior. Preliminary talks are

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After twin nuclear tests

Pakistan tries to allay global fears

By Kathy Gannon
ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Seeking to extinguish any doubts about its nuclear capabilities, Pakistan set off another blast Saturday and then tried to assuage global concerns about a runaway arms race in South Asia.

As with Pakistan's earlier tests on Thursday, the world reacted with shock and condemnation. But Pakistan's Foreign Secretary Shahmshad Ahmed said other nations have to adjust to a new reality, one in which both India and Pakistan have the capacity to launch nuclear weapons.

Immediately after its nuclear blast Saturday, Pakistan offered talks with

India to resolve a dangerous dispute over Kashmir, which already caused wars in 1948 and 1965 — and urged world leaders to help in that effort.

"Genuine contribution to peace and security can be made by constructive engagement in the search for permanent solutions," most notably to the Kashmir, Ahmed said.

There was no immediate response from India to the offer. But the overtures from Pakistan did not dull the wave of criticism from around the world.

"Both India and Pakistan need to renounce further nuclear and missile testing immediately and take decisive steps to reverse this disastrous arms race," President Clinton said in

Washington on Saturday.

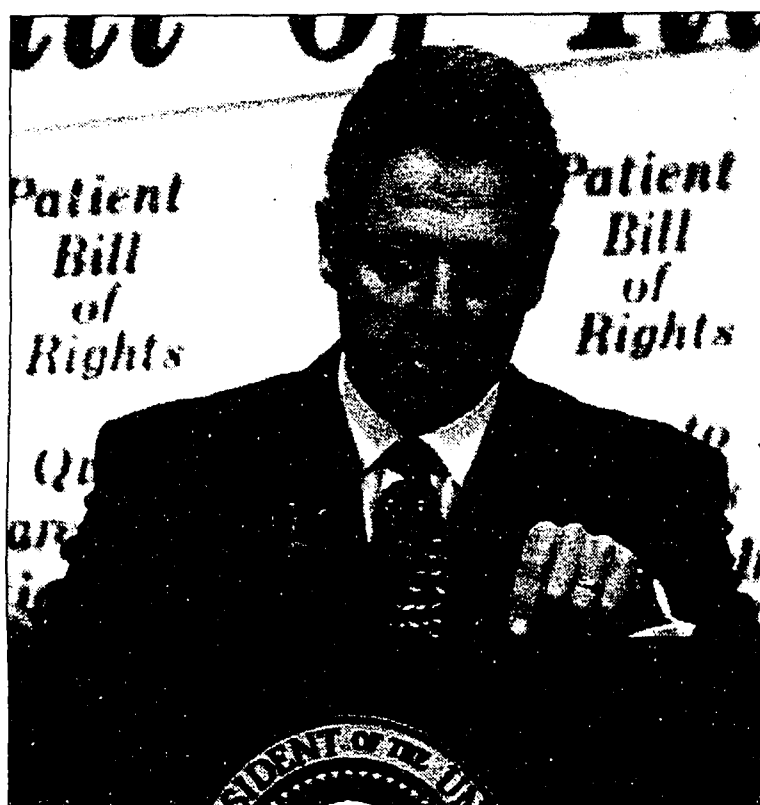
Pakistan said Saturday's device was 18 kilotons — the same size as the bomb dropped on Hiroshima at the end of World War II — but U.S. intelligence sources speaking in Washington said the actual figure was closer to 2 kilotons.

While Pakistan didn't announce a moratorium on testing, the foreign secretary said it "has completed its current series of tests."

Ahmed congratulated Pakistan's scientists, said there had been no radioactivity released and reported that all this week's tests were successful.

Saturday's nuclear explosion followed a series of blasts by Pakistan on

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President Clinton talks about Pakistan's nuclear tests during a ceremony on patients' rights in the Old Executive Office Building in Washington Thursday. The President deplored Pakistan's tests and said the U.S. has no choice but to retaliate with sanctions. AP

Report: Dengue in Indonesia kills more than 1,000

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — A dengue fever outbreak has killed more than 1,000 people over the last four months in Indonesia, the official Antara news agency reported Sunday.

The mosquito-borne disease has hit Indonesia especially hard this year, striking people in the capital, Jakarta, and provinces all over the nation of 200 million people.

Dengue fever killed 705 people in 1997, Antara quoted Dr. Thomas Suroso of the health ministry as saying.

He released statistics on dengue victims at a seminar Saturday in the Java Island city of Semarang.

Dengue has also thrived elsewhere in Southeast Asia, too: Malaysia, Singapore, Vietnam and Thailand have all reported a surge in cases.

One bite from the striped Aedes aegypti mosquito, carrier of the den-

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Northwest will launch non-stop Tokyo-Las Vegas air service soon

TOKYO (AP) — Capitalizing on a surge in Japanese tourists to Las Vegas, Northwest Airlines will start non-stop flights between Tokyo and America's gambling mecca, news reports said Sunday. Northwest will introduce two flights a week and the new service will cut the travel time between the cities by 3 1/2 hours, Kyodo News reported.

The maiden flight is scheduled for Monday.

Northwest officials were not immediately available for comment. Northwest is the first airline to provide a Tokyo-Las Vegas service, Kyodo said.

More than 400,000 Japanese visited Las Vegas in 1997, a 30 percent increase from the previous year, Kyodo said, quoting Las Vegas tourism officials.

DPH plans on assuming private clinics' task:

CHC may do health screening

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE PUBLIC health department is now looking at the possibilities of delegating the medical examinations of nonresident workers to the government, following reports that private clinics are violating local and federal laws.

In an interview, Health Secretary Joseph Kevin Villagomez said DPH initially saw the business sector as the potential problem to the full implementation of

the health screening regulation since the process would mean additional expense.

"But as I see things right now, it seems that the clinics are causing more problems than the business sector," Villagomez told Variety.

The newly-confirmed health chief also hinted the possibilities of passing over the health screening of the more than 40,000 guest workers in the Northern Mariana Islands to the Commonwealth Health Center.

He has said that some of the private clinics have conducted rapid reactionary tests to a still undetermined number of non-resident workers, which he said, leaves room for false results.

This may mean that some of the screened contract workers are actually virus carriers or infected but were tested negative, or those who are not actually sick yielded positive results.

Villagomez, who was confirmed by the Senate Thursday last week, said some of the private clinics were actually doing laboratory tests of specimen on the island, when they were not certified by federal laws to do so.

Of the four private medical clinics on Saipan, only the Pacific Medical Center has accreditation under the Clinical Laboratory Improvement Act of 1988. Other private clinics have to send specimen



Joseph Kevin Villagomez

to laboratories in Hawaii where the tests will be conducted.

Earlier, DPH hinted the possible recall of health certificates issued to nonresident workers tested by private medical clinics without proper accreditation from the federal government.

Villagomez said some of the clinics have indicated that the

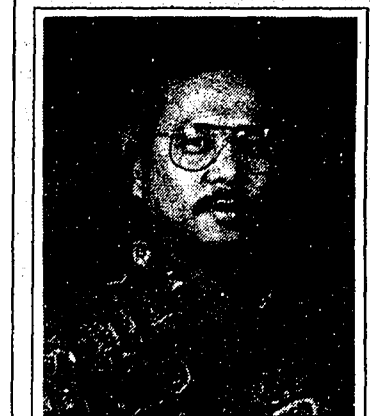
non-acceptable tests were carried on to an insignificant number of nonresident workers, but added that the 'DPH will start its own investigation.

Public Health director Jon Bruss said some of the clinics and private medical practitioners on the island have been conducting the Rapid Reactive Test (RRT) which leaves room for false negative and false positive results.

Villagomez said measures will be instituted to keep false positives and false negative results at a minimal level, stressing that the health department is no longer accepting results from non-CLIA accredited clinics.

Villagomez said his department is concerned about the increasing number of erroneous test results for HIV and syphilis being reported by private clinics.

Judiciary considers ways to utilize old courthouse



Edward C. De Leon Guerrero

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE judiciary is looking at alternative ways on how to utilize the old Superior Court facilities once the trial court moves to the Judicial Complex in Susupe.

Courts Director Edward C. De Leon Guerrero disclosed that Supreme Court Chief Justice Marty W. K. Taylor, Superior Court Presiding Judge Alejandro Castro, and the rest of the judges are planning to use the old trial court facilities for family mediation center and

for other judicial services.

De Leon Guerrero said the Superior Court facilities will be used for judicial services like counseling center, probation supervision office, among other things.

He said on the other hand the old law library located near the Department of Public Safety building will be converted to a mediation program center.

The Supreme Court moved last week to the Judicial Complex, but the Superior Court's transfer to the same building remains uncertain due to, among other things, some minor construction issues.

De Leon Guerrero added that he was also informed that the law revision commission is asking to move to the clerk of court.

"That decision in my opinion should come from the chief justice, and the presiding judge in consultation with the governor," he said. "The court has every intention of using these facilities (old courthouse) because there are several things that are not figure out here (new complex)."

Nena creates FSM visitors board via executive order

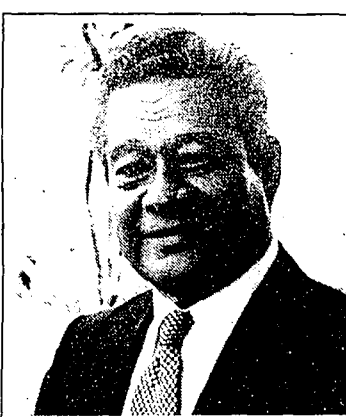
PALIKIR (FSMIS) — FSM President Jacob Nena has issued an executive order last May 19th establishing the FSM Visitors Board (FSMVB) and designating its duties responsibilities and internal organization.

Presidential Order No. 16 came on the recommendation by the FSM National Tourism Conference held in Palikir from May 4 to 7 of this year.

The FSMVB membership include the Secretary of the Department of Economic Affairs or his designee, two representatives from each FSM State, one of whom represents the duly designated organization or agency responsible for tourism promotion for the State, and the other representing the hospitality industry.

Under the order, the Secretary of Economic Affairs or his designee shall chair the first meeting and a chair of subsequent meetings will be elected at the convening of each meeting.

There shall be a total of seven members of whom five members



Jacob Nena

present at a meeting shall constitute a quorum and may conduct Board's business.

FSMVB shall meet on a quarterly basis and in conjunction with the scheduled quarterly meetings of the Micronesian Chapter of the Pacific Association of Travel Agencies (PATA).

The new Board shall adopt its own

Continued on page 20

Aviation policies discouraging air carriers to fly Pacific, APIL told

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

TINIAN — COMPLEXITIES in existing aviation policies in the Western Pacific are discouraging airline companies to operate in an economically environment, a senior industry official said.

Air Nauru corporate lawyer Leo D. Keke, during the general assembly of Pacific lawmakers here, urged the region's legislators to take an active role in the regulation of the aviation industry.

"Airline and aviation service providers must work under regulations and rules that are clear and effective. The legal regime should allow the industry to operate in an environment conducive to economic growth sustained at optimum levels," Keke said.

He said airline companies that would want to operate in the Pacific region are subjected to at least four

or five legal regimes which may require different application and compliance requirements.

"New legal regimes may now be required but to conclude a new convention would be a lengthy and arduous process," he said, adding that the most acceptable process at this point is to harmonize the different legal aviation regimes within the principles of the Chicago Convention of 1944.

This convention is primarily based on the principle of bilateralism and the basic five freedoms of the air.

For five decades now, the bilateral arrangements between states, based on fair and equal opportunity for airlines to compete and ownership and control of designated airlines have worked comparatively well, according to him.

Keke said problems occur because operators may not be aware of the differences in regulations applying in the jurisdictions they operate. He

stressed that extra costs are also involved to ensure compliance with different regulations.

He pointed out that restricted operational capabilities and outdated national safety requirements may increase the costs of travel.

"There is a need to update aviation legislation and harmonize regionally. It is encouraging that this is taking place in leading aviation countries such as Australia, New Zealand, US and Canada," he said.

He said integrated legislation and policies as management tools will enhance safe and economic operations. It will also allow for more efficient use of resources and be responsive to industry and technical changes.

Keke explained that airline business and management decisions are sometimes constrained because of the different requirements of na-

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PUBLIC NOTICE

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT
DEPARTMENT OF LANDS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

2ND FLOOR, MORGAN BUILDING, SAIPAN
COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL. NO. 234-6623/7320/3970 • MAY 29, 1998 • FN:PN0598ACA.29

THE FOLLOWING IS A PUBLIC ANNOUNCEMENT OF COASTAL PERMIT APPLICATIONS RECEIVED BY THE CRM OFFICES:

APPLICANT	DATE RECEIVED APPLICATION	APPLICATION PROJECT DESCRIPTION	LOCATION	TYPE	STATUS
1. TAN HOLDINGS CORP.	08/14/98 SMS-98-X-234	APARTMENTS	SAN VICENTE	MAJOR SITING	APPROVED(05/12/98)
2. TAN HOLDINGS CORP.	04/02/98 SPm-98-X-98	CANOPY EXTENSION	LOWER BASE	PORT & INDUSTRIAL APC	APPROVED(05/11/98)
3. MARINE REVITALIZATION CORP.	05/07/98 SSm-98-X-104	BOLLARD	SMILING COVE MARINA	SHORELINE APC	CANCELLED(05/19/98)
4. BURY LIVING CO., LTD.	05/11/98 SSm-98-X-109	FILMING	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(05/11/98)*
5. S2 CLUB	05/11/98 SSm-98-X-110	FILMING	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(05/12/98)*
6. MABU CORPORATION	05/11/98 SSm-98-X-111	FILMING	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(05/12/98)*
7. MAGAZINE MAGAZINE	05/12/98 SSm-98-X-112	FILMING	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(05/13/98)*
8. MARINE TECH SPN, INC.	05/14/98 SLRm-98-X-113	MARINE SPORTS ACTIVITIES	AQUA RESORT CLUB	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED (05/20/98)*
9. LIGHTS SAIPAN	05/15/98 SSm-98-X-114	FILMING	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(05/18/98)*
10. PARKS AND GROUNDS	05/14/98 SSm-98-X-115	PLAYGROUND EQUIPMENT	PAUPAU BEACH AND AFETNA BRANCH	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(05/20/98)*
11. CUC	03/23/98 TSm-98-X-116/117	WATERLINE PROJECT	SAN JOSE, TINIAN AND ROTA	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(05/19/98)*
12. SAHON DEVELOPMENT	05/18/98 SMS-98-X-118	APARTMENT/OFFICE BLDG.	FINA SISO	MAJOR SITING	UNDER REVIEW
13. GEO CO., LTD.	05/20/98 SSm-98-X-119	FILMING	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(05/21/98)*
14. BUNKA-SHA CO., LTD.	05/20/98 SSm-98-X-120	FILMING	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(05/21/98)*
15. GEO HAKUSEN-SHA CO., CORPORATION	05/20/98 SSm-98-X-121	FILMING	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(05/21/98)*
16. S2 CLUB	05/21/98 SSm-98-X-122	FILMING	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(05/22/98)*
17. AMERICAN HONDA ASIA DEVELOPMENT	05/21/98 SMS-98-X-123	APARTMENT/OFFICE BLDG.	CHALAN PIAO	MAJOR SITING	UNDER REVIEW*
18. MARIANAS TUG & BARGE	05/20/98 SLRm-98-X-124	ASPHALT PAVING	SAIPAN HARBOR	LAGOON & REEF APC	APPROVED(05/22/98)*
19. GOOD DAY COORD.	05/21/98 SSm-98-X-125/6	FILMING	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(05/28/98)*
20. HIT TOURS, INC.	05/21/98 SSm-98-X-127	FILMING	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(05/28/98)*
21. VISTA INTERNATIONAL INC.	05/28/98 SSm-X-128	FILMING	SHORELINE AREAS	SHORELINE APC	APPROVED(05/28/98)*

Publication of the above list is in accordance with CRM Regulations which require all permit applications to be published in a local newspaper within 15 days of receipt of application. The list reflects recently received permit applications and those with a recent change in status. New applications are marked with an asterisk (*).

The Public is invited to submit written comments regarding any of the above projects for which a permit decision has not been issued. All permit comments should identify the project by application number. Your comments should be mailed or hand-delivered to the CRM Office. All persons who desire a public hearing regarding any project may do so by submitting a written request for a public hearing to the CRM Office within fourteen (14) calendar days of publication of this notice. Residents of Rota and Tinian may submit comments and hearing requests to their local CRM Coordinators. Persons wishing to retain the right to appeal a CRM Permit decision must file a notice of appeal with the CRM office within thirty (30) days of the issuance of the CRM permit decision as provided in CRM Regulations, Section 8 (G).

\$1.2M facelift on for Two Lovers' Point

By Variety News Staff

TWO Lovers' Point will be closed for at least four months while it undergoes a facelift that will cost at least \$1.2 million.

The project joins government and private efforts to improve the popular tourist attraction at the Harmon cliffline.

Lt. Gov. Madeleine Bordallo, as chairperson of the Gutierrez Administration's Beautification Task Force and VISION 2001 implementation, worked with Calvo Enterprises, which owns a portion of the site, in planning the project, according to a news release issued Friday.

"We have worked hard on the plans to turn this Guam landmark into a

high-quality attraction. With all of the five-star hotels, new restaurants like the Hard Rock Café and world-class shopping, it is important that our government invest our resources into our natural attractions," Bordallo said Friday.

The public portion of the million-dollar project is funded by the Tourist Attraction Fund, while Calvo Enterprises will invest its own resources in improving its part of the site.

BME and Sons, Inc., will build the government-owned improvements, while Black Construction Corporation will erect the privately owned structures.

The Department of Public Work's

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

FOOTLOOSE

Rick Alberto

Pagan residents find a voice

THE people of the northern island of Pagan has found a voice in Cinta Kaipat in their struggle to go back to their island of endeavor. Cinta, who herself spent part of her childhood on Pagan and who desires to resettle there, is leading the opposition to a House bill seeking to permanently prohibit the habitation of Pagan.

How Cinta came to lead this opposition is an interesting story in itself.

She says she found out about an emergency meeting called "at the last minute" for the people of Pagan. "It was very unusual because Northern Islands people usually don't call a meeting," she recalls. "I was intrigued." She decided to attend the meeting and learned that a proposed bill seeking to permanently prohibit the habitation of Pagan had been introduced at the House of Representatives. This means, former residents of Pagan may never return to their island because according to House Bill 11-142, it "can no longer be considered safe for permanent habitation" because of the "presence of long-term volcanic activity."

Cinta finds it inconsistent that the bill prohibits people from living on the island and yet declaring it a protected area for the propagation of endangered species and as a destination for ecotourism. "It's very painful when they're saying it (Pagan) is dangerous. If they're claiming that Pagan is so dangerous, then how can they designate it as an endangered species sanctuary and for ecotourism. If the volcano erupts, it could easily wipe out the endangered species population. Fact of the matter is we, the Northern Islanders, are the endangered species," she says.

Cinta says she decided to get involved in the Pagan residents' cause because she has the ability to speak for them who "normally are shy or intimidated by the whole process to speak out their minds." Cinta says the former Pagan residents had been wanting to go back their island but that they had not been provided the mechanism to make their voices heard. "Basically I'm providing these people an opportunity to use me as a vehicle to articulate their desires and what they want to do, namely to return to the Northern Islands, namely to get a reliable form of transportation so they can return."

Cinta, who graduated with a law degree at the US mainland, says that if she wants to, she can go anywhere, find a job, and make a decent living. What she is doing now is a sacrifice on her part, she says. Cinta was born on Agrigan island, and her family later relocated to Pagan. She spent part of her childhood on Pagan until she was 10 years old when her family relocated to Saipan in 1972 following the murder of her late father. Cinta's father studied in Hawaii, and after finishing his studies, he came back to Saipan and started his agricultural program. He entered politics and relocated his family to Pagan. He became Pagan's district representative. On the night he was killed, he was arranging a rescue operation for a little girl who had fallen from a tree in Alamagan, an island south of Pagan. "He was busy attending to that when some domestic violence situation erupted and this woman came to our house. My father went to her aid and he ended up losing his life because her husband's friend came and shot him to death," she recalls.

Cinta studied on Saipan until the 11th grade and then finished her high school studies in Chicago. She went to De Paul University in Chicago for her liberal arts degree and then pursued her law degree at the University of Minnesota Law School. After she graduated, she went to Colorado to finish a documentary film on the Carolinian people. She came back to Saipan and held a successful premier of the documentary and took it on tour. She was about to report to work on that Monday that she learned about the meeting of the former Pagan residents. She decided to back off from the job since "I knew that I couldn't be involved in a conflict of interest situation."

Cinta says it is difficult for the congressmen to take the Northern Islanders seriously because these people are "invisible." "The Northern Islanders complain about 'their miseries but they're not heard. They complain to themselves or they complain to the wrong people," Cinta says. "This (organizing the Northern Islanders) is an effort to become visible, to bring these people out, to show those who are trying to propose this legislation that these are real people whose lives they're trying to affect."

The Pagan people and other Northern Islanders held their third meeting last Saturday at the Susupe Beach Park. Cinta says those who came to the meeting reacted "very harshly. They feel violated by this bill." "Basically it's like somebody comes into your home and tells you to get out because he has other plans for your home," she says.

Diego Kaipat, Cinta's first cousin, was one of those who attended the Saturday meeting. "This is the beginning of the people of Pagan getting together to try and look for ways to go back to the island where we grew up. Our gathering today is to bring us closer so that we can come up with ideas to present to the legislature during the hearing on June 3rd," said Diego, who works at the Commonwealth Health Center. He says he has been dreaming to go back to Pagan ever since the volcano stopped erupting. "I'm just waiting now. As soon as they say we can relocate back there, I'll be the first to be on the way," he says. Although his life here now is okay, he says, he'd prefer that he go back to Pagan and "live as freely as I used to." Diego says he and other residents of Pagan did not worry about food at all. "There was an abundance of food. Unlike here, if you don't work then you're going to have to go on food stamp or find another source of means to get food," he says. Diego is eligible to retire in a four months, and this fact whets more his desire to go back to his native island and stay there for the rest of his life.

The Pagan that Diego remembers is a "very quiet place." "It always brings back the memories of our families being together. It was a cozy place to be, where you don't have to worry about the fast pace of living that we're going through now," he says. He says that Pagan had about 300 people before the island was vacated in 1981 when the volcano erupted. The island was also depopulated when some of the residents came to Saipan for their schooling, as the island had no junior high school.

BRIEFS. Many habitués of Lexxus miss Madz, the bubbly and good-voiced soloist of the D'Jame band. They wonder whatever happened to her as she hasn't been singing for the past couple of weeks or so... The island will see within the week the birth of a new weekly magazine which is the first of its kind to be published locally. The magazine is called Islands Variety, edited by Mar-Vic Munar.



JACK ANDERSON and JAN MOLLER

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

State Department can't pass hacker test

THERE'S growing evidence that what Sen. Fred Thompson, R-Tenn., ominously refers to as "the darker side of the information revolution" might turn out to be even darker than previously thought.

But the problem, which should be a top national security priority, has gone largely ignored by government officials, the general public and the media.

Our associate Aaron Karp has reviewed numerous government reports and expert testimony regarding the security of the federal government's various computer systems. We're sorry to report that the United States is becoming increasingly vulnerable to a devastating cyber-attack by terrorist hackers.

"We must ask whether we are becoming so dependent on communications links and electronic microprocessors that a determined adversary or terrorist could possibly shut down federal operations or damage the economy simply by attacking our computers," said Thompson at a recent Senate hearing he called to examine this issue more closely.

Peter G. Neumann, a leading private-sector computer scientist who's had experience with federal computer programs dating back to the 1950s, warned Thompson and his colleagues that they'd better start taking the threat of cyber-terrorism seriously.

"The situation is becoming unstable," Neumann wrote in testimony submitted to Thompson's Governmental Affairs Committee. "The list of threats (to the government's computer infrastructure) is long and multidimensional. ... Malicious attacks can come from anywhere in the world, via dial-up lines and network connections, and often anonymously."

Neumann characterized the Pentagon's Internet computer security as "flimsy," and expressed concern that lawmakers and government officials won't grasp the "magnitude of the potential risks until we are hit by devastating attacks that demand immediate attention."

Federal agencies are scrambling to solve the Year 2000 glitch that threatens to shut down computers at the stroke of midnight on Dec. 31, 1999. But the Year 2000 problem, wrote Neumann, "is just the tip of an enormous iceberg" of computer difficulties we will face in the coming century. "If you are overly concerned with the Year 2000 fiasco, you may be blindsided by deeper problems," warned Neumann.

Just ask officials at the State Department. Congressional investigators from the General Accounting Office conducted a mock attack on State's computer systems, and the results proved to be quite embarrassing for department bigwigs.

"Unfortunately, our penetration tests were largely

successful," reported the GAO. "They demonstrated that State's computer systems and the information contained within them are very susceptible to hackers, terrorists, or other unauthorized individuals seeking to damage State operations or reap financial gain by exploiting the department's information-security weaknesses."

"For example, without any passwords or specific knowledge of State's systems, we successfully gained access to State's networks through dial-in connections to modems. Having obtained this access, we could have modified, stolen, downloaded, or deleted important data, shut down services, and monitored network traffic such as e-mail and data files."

The GAO was also able to dupe several State employees into giving up passwords and other information that would enable hackers to gain access to information that's normally off-limits to all but high-ranking department officials. GAO investigators called one State employee claiming to be "systems maintenance personnel" and were able to convince her to disclose her password.

And "in several instances" investigators were "able to enter a State facility without required identification." In one "unlocked office, we found unattended personal computers logged on" to State computer networks. One careless bureaucrat had taped his password and user identification to his computer. Using these computer terminals, the GAO was able to "download a file that contained a password list," which gave investigators easy access to State computer networks.

The GAO "attack" on State Department computers is just one example of how easily access can be gained to sensitive government information.

The first step to strengthening the security of federal computer networks, experts agree, is simply to admit that there's a problem. We've become so enamored with the many positive aspects of the computer revolution that we've blindly become dependent on the new technology without seriously considering the potential risks that come along with it.

As Neumann points out in his testimony, it's "unpopular" to talk about threats to computer security "openly, and thus the risks tend to be largely downplayed — if not almost completely ignored."

But we'd better start paying attention to these hazards before it's too late. "We as a nation cannot wait for the 'Pearl Harbor' of the information age," Thompson cautioned at the Senate hearing. "We must increase our vigilance to tackle this problem before we are hit with a surprise attack."

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DOLI raids 3 night spots

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

AT LEAST three night bars have been inspected over the past weeks, resulting to the arrest of 11 illegal workers and the seizure of a karaoke system among others, government announced on Friday.

In a press conference, the Department of Labor and Immigration (DOLI) said five

11 alleged illegal workers nabbed; karaoke system seized

female Chinese nationals were arrested during a raid at the Top One bar in Garapan, while a Filipina singer, who allegedly only had a tourist permit, was nabbed at Club Lexus in Chalan Kanoa.

Five female Korean nationals were also "discovered working... without the proper

work or entry documentation" during a government raid at Club 1004 at the Koresco Hotel in Koblerville.

All were undergoing deportation procedures.

Meanwhile, the department is still documenting thousands of dollars worth of karaoke equipment, including at least



Rob Goldberg

items were confiscated, Rob Goldberg, the department's legal counsel, said there is a "specific immigration forfeiture statute which states that government can seize any personal property that is used in connection with (the) violation of immigration laws."

The club's owners, identified as a certain Song Jong Choun, Kim Sang Hee and Han Gi Won, the department said, are facing "possible prosecution under Public Law 9-5 which provides criminal penalties for the illegal hiring of nonresident workers."

The raid on Club 1004 began from initial investigation back in April this year which stemmed from a "tip provided by a confidential informant," said DOLI.

Ongoing investigation is being done through coordination with the Attorney General's Office (AGO).

10 television sets and some furnitures seized in connection with the Club 1004 raid.

"The items were seized as part of (a) criminal investigation of Club 1004 (owners) for the illegal employment of nonresident workers," read a government release.

Asked to explain why the

leaving their country for tourism purposes.

"The... Secretary or the legal counsel are the only persons authorized to reverse or modify an exclusion," the memo said.

Sen. Pete Reyes earlier filed a bill seeking a ban on the entry of Bangladeshi nationals into the CNMI.

Senate legal counsel Steve Woodruff explained that although the Immigration Code authorizes the

department secretary to issue an exclusion order, a legislation to that effect may also be enacted if necessary.

"Under the immigration code, the only people with the right to enter the CNMI are US citizens," Woodruff said. "Anyone in an alien category may be excluded."

He added that the immigration statute only gives limited number of people with entry rights.



Mark Zachares

By Mar-Vic C. Munar

Variety News Staff

THE DEPARTMENT of Labor and Immigration has imposed a ban on the entry of citizens from Bangladesh, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and China into the CNMI.

According to a March 9 memorandum issued by Labor and Immigration Secretary Mark Zachares, the exclusion order was prompted by "the tremendous difficulties in repatriating these persons through Guam."

"These persons may appeal their exclusions to the Secretary of labor and immigration or the legal counsel," the memo said.

The memo also said the department will not issue tourist entry permits to Chinese citizens who are not allowed by their government from

SESAP to hold June 9 meet

THE Public School System Special Education Program would like to announce that there will be a meeting of the Special Education State Advisory Panel (SESAP).

The meeting is on June 9, 1998 at 9:00 a.m. thru 11:30 a.m. at the Office of the Aging Conference Room.

The meeting is open to the public and the public is invited. The agenda will be passed out at the meeting.

Any person wishing additional information regarding SESAP and this meeting, please call Margarita Olopal-Taitano, Chairperson, at 234-6004 or fax to PSS at 664-3796.

Any person desiring to attend the meeting who needs special accommodations, please contact Suzanne Lizama the acting Coordinator for Special Education Program at 664-3732 or fax 664-3796 by March 24, 1998.

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OSHA is back in town

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

A TEAM of operatives from the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) is back conducting on-site inspections on the island. Variety learned Friday.

A government official, requesting anonymity, said the OSHA team, which arrived last week, is led by Connie Hunt, an OSHA Region IX official.

The team, said the official, has been coordinating with the Department of Labor and Immigration (DOLI). But no joint inspections have been done so far.

"We are sharing information," said the official. "We are trying to help each other."

Variety repeatedly tried to reach Hunt for comments from the hotel where the team is billeted but failed.

The last time OSHA was on the

island was in January where visiting Regional Administrator FRank Strassheim expressed concerns "labor camps" still abound in the Commonwealth.

While he said that there may be a "marked improvement" among a third of the garment sector in terms of compliance, Strassheim nonetheless stressed his "overall impression" is that there "still is a lot of work to be done."

Strassheim had expressed willingness to work with DOLI which, for its part, and upon orders of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio, forged an agreement with the federal agency regarding the conduct of inspections at factory sites and workers' living quarters in the Commonwealth.

The two parties eventually agreed that:

* Joint inspections by OSHA and DOLI operatives will be scheduled

"when it is helpful to both organizations."

* OSHA will train DOLI inspectors on applicable codes and procedures;

* OSHA will notify DOLI of impending inspections;

* DOLI will be invited to attend any OSHA trainings abroad;

* DOLI will provide OSHA with names of employers and corresponding firms it may recommend for inspection;

* DOLI will also provide OSHA with a list of employees' living quarters that need "follow-up inspection" to ensure that compliance is being maintained;

* DOLI will give technical assistance in the form of help in locating targeted business establishments, translating foreign languages and providing office space to OSHA; and that

* DOLI will coordinate with OSHA on safety and health trainings being conducted on the island.

Guam Insitute of Aviation Technology seeks to attract students from Asia

By Jacob Leon Guerrero
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA—The Guam Institute of Aviation Technology located on Tiyan is currently working to attract students from all over Asia.

The school has been in operation for over two years with about half a dozen graduates employed locally.

According to Eric J. Untalan, The Guam Institute of Aviation Technology, has been approved by the United States Immigration and Naturalization Service to process and accept M-1 Non-Immigrant Foreign Student Visas.

"When Foreign-students arrive here we want to take care of them completely," Untalan said.

Five dormitory buildings are available to Guam Institute students.

Each dormitory holds up to 72 individuals.

The normal room loading of 3 students per room reduces this capacity to 66 students per dormitory.

The dormitories are within walking distance of the training

facilities.

A shuttle bus will also be available to transport students to and from training facilities.

A complete cleaning and laundry service maintains the individual rooms, leaving students free to concentrate on their work.

According to school officials complete meal service will be provided, with three meals a day, seven days a week. All cultural appetites are considered in the planning of menus.

The Dining Hall hours are such to allow the student adequate time to eat, without interfering with their training schedule.

The Student Store stocks food items and amenities.

Vending machines are also available throughout the dormitory complex.

The student body is made up of individuals who represent a wide spectrum in age ranges.

The scale goes from just out of high school to about the late fifties, school officials said.

The Institute of Aviation Technology offers a complete course in Aviation Maintenance. Successful graduates will be certified by the Federal Aviation Adminis-

tration (FAA) as Aviation Maintenance Technicians (AMTs).

The school states that Aviation Maintenance Technician training is the most comprehensive vocational education an individual can receive.

"The education an individual receives here enables a graduate of the Institute to pursue a career in any number of jobs and is not limited to a career in aviation," said Scott Bachelder, Director of Educational Services.

Aside from technical instruction the institute offers courses geared at the customer service side of the aviation industry.

The Guam Institute Travel Academy is a ten-week course that covers the Worldspan Computer Reservation System, World Geography, Customer Relations, Ticketing, Professional Presentation and Demeanor, and many other areas.

For more information you may call the institute at 477-0212, or visit their home page at www.guam.net/home/guainstitute, the school is located at Bldg. 17-80 Admiral Sherman Blvd. on Tiyan.

Saipan Veterinary Hospital owners file counterclaim versus pet owner

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

THE OWNERS of Saipan Veterinary Hospital have filed a counterclaim in connection with a customer's complaint that they refused to return a dog and threatened to kill the animal for alleged non-payment of bills.

Dr. Eugene Clothier and wife Mona Taisacan Clothier demanded damages from Mauricio Rodriguez for fraudulent misrepresentation, wrongful use of civil proceedings, violation of civil rights, breach of contract, and conversion.

The Clothier couple, through counsel Timothy H. Skinner, asked the Superior Court to conduct a jury trial on all claims contained in their counterclaim as well as in Rodriguez's complaint.

Rodriguez had sued the Clothiers and SVH after the defendants allegedly refused to return his dog, Scrounchy, and even allegedly threatened to euthanize the animal when he failed to pay the full amount of the bills.

The lawsuit had prompted Superior Court Associate Judge Timothy Bellas to issue a temporary restraining order asking the po-

lice to get Scrounchy and give it back to Rodriguez.

According to the counterclaim, Rodriguez and Dr. Clothier entered a verbal agreement on Feb. 26, 1998 by which plaintiff promised to pay \$500 in exchange for veterinary surgical services to the dog.

At the time, Skinner said in the countersuit, Rodriguez already owed the Clothiers \$66.70 as a result of prior services provided to the pet.

Skinner said Rodriguez paid the Clothiers \$116.50, thus reducing the total bill to \$450.

Skinner said the following month, Rodriguez signed a release form which, states, among other things, that if the animal appears to have been abandoned, written notice will be mailed to its owner's address.

Under this release, the lawyer explained, if the owner does not respond in five days, the animal will be deemed abandoned and may be disposed of, or destroyed as SVH deems best.

Last April, plaintiff brought the dog to SVH for an exam and treatment. But, although he was aware

of the clinic's hours and despite numerous calls to him from SVH staff, Rodriguez did not pick up his dog as promised, Skinner said.

Mona allegedly rejected Rodriguez's offer to modify the agreement by paying \$50 because it was inconsistent with the earlier payment schedule and insufficient in light of his existing breach of the agreement to make bi-weekly payments.

Mona allegedly told Rodriguez that if he did not pay his bills and subsequently abandoned the dog by leaving it at the clinic indefinitely, at some point SVH might have to take measures that might include putting the dog to sleep.

Skinner said Rodriguez insisted on speaking to Dr. Clothier, but when he heard Mona calling the police, he decided to cooperate and left the hospital.

"Mr. Rodriguez misrepresented facts to his counsel and the court in a sworn declaration for the express purpose of interfering with the Clothiers' common law lien on the dog, so he could avoid paying his dog's medical bills, to cause the Clothiers to suffer from emotional distress," Skinner said.

Aldan says Maratita bill is supported by 'encroachers'

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

ENCROACHERS of public lands on Rota are allegedly behind Sen. Edward Maratita's bill seeking to compensate "good faith occupiers" for improvements made on questioned properties, according to the Board of Public Lands (BPL).

In an interview, BPL Chair Tomas B. Aldan said there is "a lot of people that are asking for (the) bill to be entertained because they are encroachers of public land."

He described these "supporters" as "CNMI descents who have occupied public lands without authorization."

He also confirmed that a certain Efrén Taimanao, who operates the Jo-Tina Inn on Rota is among possible supporters of the bill as his establishment allegedly sits on public land.

Taimanao, in a phone interview from Rota, did not deny that Jo-Tina is on public land.

He however said he has not read nor seen Maratita's bill.

Taimanao did not comment when asked if he was supporting the bill.

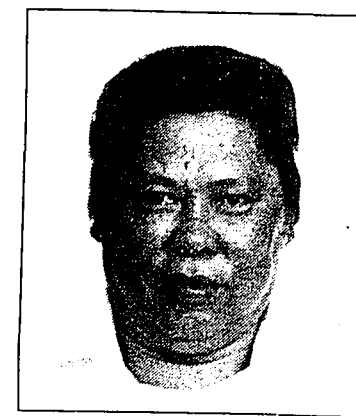
There reportedly is a pending litigation against Taimanao over land encroachment issues.

Another name mentioned who reportedly has a pending land case and may support the bill is former Mayor Prudencio Manglona.

This reporter repeatedly tried but failed to reach Manglona for comment on the issue.

Aside from Taimanao and Manglona, it was also gathered that there are nearly 100 people who have illegally occupied agricultural homesteads on the island and are backing Maratita's bill.

Aside from the compensation proposal, Maratita's bill also offers as alternatives to "good faith land occupiers" facing eviction, a land exchange set-up, land lease



Tomas B. Aldan



Edward Maratita

renegotiation and a 55-year lease agreement.

At the minimum, if Maratita's bill is enacted into law, "encroachers" as well as illegal agricultural homestead occupiers will, ironically, be paid back for occupying public land.

The bill has already passed the Senate.

Sacrificial lambs

The bill was filed at the heels of the recent controversy over the eviction of six Filipino-Americans who were found by the Division of Public Lands (DPL) to be encroachers. The group were later known as the "Dadang 6."

While it was largely believed that Maratita filed the bill to address Dadang 6's plight, Aldan, on the contrary, said the group will not benefit from it as they are not CNMI descents.

The Commonwealth Constitution bars non-CNMI descents from being eligible homestead applicants.

"And it (bill) would not have been filed had not (DPL) stumbled on (Dadang 6)," said a ranking government official requesting anonymity.

Asked if Dadang 6 was then, used as sacrificial lamb to protect encroachers from being held liable, Aldan said he "thinks so."

"Shelve it"

Aldan expressed strong oppo-

sition to the bill which he said, should be shelved by the Legislature.

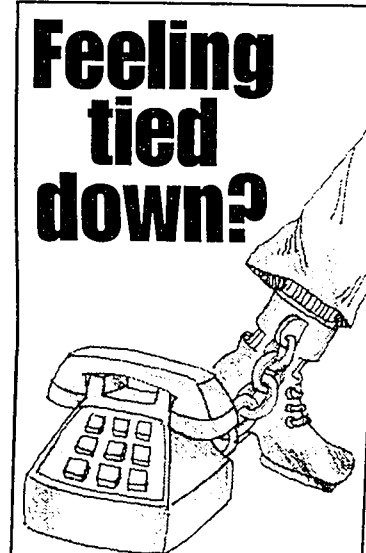
"I don't like that bill... it is a weird kind of bill. It is not a bill that should be entertained," he said.

"Most definitely..." Aldan stressed, "the House should shelve the bill, put it at the bottom row and don't entertain it."

He said Maratita's bill will "basically allow anyone to enter into a public land, build structures and then get paid for it."

He conceded though that the Board may not be faced with Maratita's bill had public land authorities in the past did "agood enforcement follow up on all the leases."

He said authorities may have failed to monitor "what they (encroachers) were doing with it (public land)... whether they're building when they're not supposed to."



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Joeten-Kiyu Public Library declares June Amnesty month

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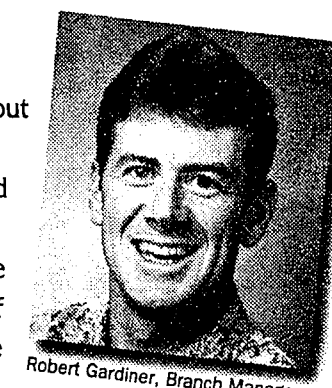
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Shorter pet quarantine pushed

By Jan Furukawa
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA—Pet owners who bring their dogs and cats to Guam face costly quarantine periods of at least four months, but a proposal before Gov. Carl Gutierrez changes that length of time to no more than two months.

Bill 478, sponsored by Vice Speaker Tony Blaz, was passed to the governor for his signature by I Liheslaturan Guahan during its May session.

It amends Guam law relating to rabies prevention and quarantine of dogs and cats, and appropriates \$10,000 for the implementation of the amendment.

The Committee on Finance and Taxation, chaired by Blaz, had heard testimony both favoring and opposing the proposal at its January public hearing.

Donna Rodriguez supported the original version of the bill, except for the section which gave the director of the Department of Public Health and Social Services discretion to determine the length of quarantine.

She proposed a 60-day maximum, and a 90-day, in-home quarantine as part of an alternate, 30-day program.

The committee accepted both recommendations.

DPHSS Director Dennis Rodriguez cautioned committee members against easing the 120-day quarantine.

"We believe the reduction of the 120 days' quarantine of dogs and cats from rabies endemic areas to 60 days is wrong and dangerous," he said.

The director noted that Guam has been rabies-free for more than 20 years, and warned the senators that "no one wants to see another rabies epidemic similar to the one that occurred on Guam in the latter 1960s where 14 rabies cases were confirmed by the U.S. Center for Disease Control Laboratory."

He also shared with the senators information he had gathered on a similar, recent reduction in quarantine period in Hawaii, and its 90-day home quarantine program.

"However, we still have strong reservation in putting faith in a program which is less than a year old."

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Bill's fate is now up to Gov. Gutierrez

"We cannot support the reduction of 120 days to 60 days for those animals who do not qualify for the '30-day Quarantine,'" said Rodriguez.

Despite the director's words of caution, senators passed the revised bill, which says the length of time that animals are quarantined "poses extreme hardship and additional cost to pet owners who have to endure the expense and separation from their beloved pets."

In addition to shortening the quarantine period, it also directs the health services department to develop rules and regulations within 90 days of enactment—for an alternate, 30-day quarantine program.

In order for pets to qualify, they must get the proper vaccinations "with an approved inactivated rabies vaccine, two rabies blood tests (one conducted prior to arrival, and the second conducted upon arrival on Guam), and the implantation of a microchip obtained from the department," the bill says.

The microchip would be used for identification in testing and validation of test results.

The proposal passed 15-4, with Sens. Felix Camacho, Mark Charfauros, Ben Pangelinan and Judy Won Pat-Borja dissenting.

Another proposal awaiting the governor's signature reorganizes the Department of Military Affairs by adding to it the offices of Civil Defense and Veterans Affairs.

The proposal, according to a report from the Committee on Rules, Government Reform and Federal Affairs, seeks to make the emergency planning and response mission an intra-agency effort rather than an inter-agency one.

Creating this linkage, it says, will streamline the government of Guam's emergency response capability.

Public expectations of the government of Guam's capabilities to fulfill emergency response functions have been steadily increasing but without a corresponding increase in budgetary resources.

In testimony given at a public hearing last June, John Rosario of Civil Defense/Guam Emergency Services Office opposed the bill, saying it vicescerates the governor's authority



Carl Gutierrez

and powers, supplants civilian control for the military, and creates a paramilitary, police state.

"The power of the government resides in the government (sic) and, through the democratic process of election, confer this power to the governor who is answerable to the people."

Thus, power should and must remain in the hand of the elected governor.

"The institution of such insular militia, while may be justifiable as an act of 'good government' is a step in the wrong direction."

The Department of Military Af-

fairs Reorganization Act of 1997, if signed into law, will take effect January 4, 1999.

The measure passed 12-7, with "nay" votes by Sens. Frank Aguiar Jr., Francisco Camacho, Mark Charfauros, Eduardo Cruz, Alberto Lamorena V. Carlotta Leon Guerrero and John Salas.

Senators also passed Bill 298, which sets a new number of votes required for the passage of bills, although no one testified at the March public hearing on the bill. Only its sponsor, former senator Elizabeth Barrett-Anderson, submitted written testimony.

Three committee members showed up for the hearing—Chairman Mark Forbes, Sen. Eduardo Cruz and Sen. Frank Aguiar Jr.

Currently, 11 affirmative votes are required to pass legislation.

The proposal takes into consideration the reduced number of senators who will compose the legislature, beginning with the 25th body.

It says that nobill shall be passed with less than a majority of "yea" votes of members present.

Seventeen "yea" votes sent the bill to Adelup for Gutierrez's signature.

Sens. John Salas and Eduardo Cruz voted "nay."

Atari ritual is held for eight canoe voyagers from Polowat

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

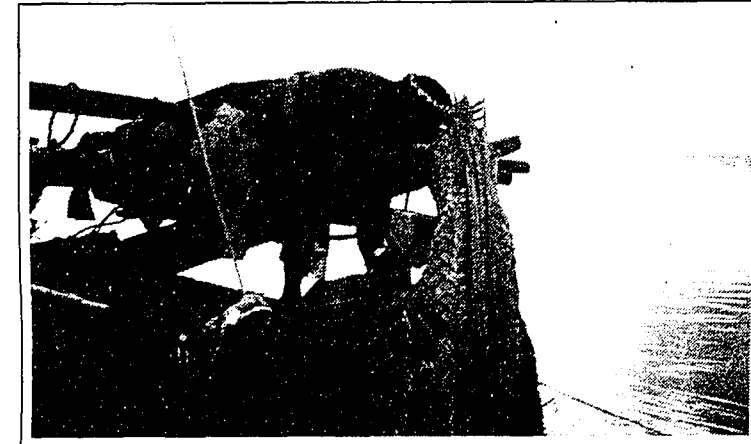
THE TRADITIONAL Carolinian Atari ritual was held on Friday afternoon for the eight canoe navigators who arrived on Saipan on Wednesday from Polowat Island.

The ceremony is performed after a long voyage to express appreciation and thankfulness to God and the spirit of the ocean for the safe voyage of the canoe navigators. It is done by offering foods to the spirit of the ocean.

Polowat master navigator Rappwi Yalwairh led the Atari ceremony which was held at the Carolinian Ut in Susupe.

The five-day canoe voyage from Polowat was believed to be the first since the tradition was banned by the Germans during their occupation of the Marianas in 1899.

Lino M. Olopoi of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs and the master of the ceremony for the event, said that it is a belief among Carolinians that if navigators do not perform the Atari ritual before visiting their family and friends, the latter and even the voyagers themselves



Rappwi Yalwairh, master navigator of the eight canoe navigators from Polowat Island, put food all over their canoe last Friday to thank God and the spirit of the ocean for their safe voyage. Photo by Heidi Eugenio

might get sick.

"When they visit other places, they bring in the spirit of the ocean. So if they don't do the Atari ceremony, they don't cleanse themselves and others will absorb that," Olopoi told the Variety.

The 66-year old Yalwairh led the ritual by putting prepared food all over the canoe which he and his men used. A canoe is a light, slender boat

with pointed ends, propelled by paddles.

The other Polowat navigators are Rommy Tilimwar, David Paulis, Tieter Tilimwar, Ratil Yalwairh, Kindy Houkul, Pifalio Ikeumar, and Berry Yalwairh. All of them are mastering the art of canoe navigating.

On the first day of the voyage, the group was met by strong winds

and big waves so they detoured to the island of Pikelot to reload the canoe with coconuts which were the main source of their food and water. Pikelot is about 80 miles away from Bolowat.

In an earlier interview, Rep. Melvin Faisao said that the Germans stopped the canoe navigating from Marianas because they thought men would spend more time sailing on the sea rather than working on copra which was German's main source of import at that time.

Yalwairh's group is the ninth canoe voyage to Saipan since the revival of the tradition. The first eight navigations were during 1970, 1973, 1974, 1979, 1986, 1987, 1989, and 1997.

DC&AC's Olopoi said that the navigators will be sailing back to Polowat as soon as the navigational stars indicate a favorable weather condition for the safety of the Polowat canoe sailors.

Also present during the Atari ritual were Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan and DC&CA Sec. Thomas Tebuteb.

Tanapag man gets 10 mos for drug raps

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

A MAN from Tanapag was sentenced to 10 months' imprisonment Thursday at the federal district court for drug distribution.

Pedro L. Taitano, 40, pleaded guilty to one count of distributing less than one gram of crystal methamphetamine, more popularly known as "ice."

After his release from prison,

Taitano will undergo three years of supervised release.

According to the information filed by the US government, Taitano, on Oct. 31, 1996, distributed "ice." No details were furnished.

Taitano had waived indictment by a jury.

He pleaded guilty to the charge, and during the sentencing he was informed that the court did not accept the plea agreement that his lawyer

and the US had prepared.

The government recommended imprisonment within the minimum guidelines, but the defense counsel recommended against incarceration.

The court eventually decided on the appropriate offense level of 12, category 1, whose imprisonment ranges from 10 to 16 months.

District Judge Alex R. Munson ordered that Taitano participate in a drug treatment program while in

prison.

During his supervised release, Taitano will have to render 200 hours of community service and participate in a program for treatment of narcotic addiction or drug or alcohol dependency, among other conditions.

Taitano, meanwhile, remains at liberty until notified by the US Marshal, upon the motion of the US government.

AROUND the Islands

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

Marianas Baha'is join convention

By Variety News Staff

FIVE members of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the Mariana Islands joined more than 1,000 Baha'is from 163 countries in Haifa, Israel early last month for the Eight International Convention of the Baha'i Faith.

The Encyclopedia Britannica shows the Baha'i Faith as the second most widespread religion on earth after Christianity. It has no clergy but is governed by democratically elected councils at the local, national and international levels.

The international gathering is held every five years to elect the Universal House of Justice, the international governing bodies of the Baha'i Faith.

The delegates are those elected as members of the National Spiritual Assemblies, national governing institutions in the Baha'i Faith.

At present, there are 175 National Spiritual Assemblies worldwide.

Hard Rock Cafe hosts musical grand opening

By Jan Furukawa
Variety News Staff

ABOUT 1,000 people took to the streets of Tumon Saturday afternoon to hear the Hard Rock Cafe and three stateside acts announce the grand opening of the restaurant, the chain's 87th worldwide.

Numerous would-be patrons approached the grand doors to the world-renowned establishment with the intention of sinking their teeth into some delectable, classic American fare.

But alas!—those doors were closed to the general public. Entertainers, their crews and friends monopolized the new cafe, while security personnel kept "unfriendly" out.

Hamburgers, cheeseburgers and a specialty pork sandwich—served with a small bag of chips and a brownie—were sold for \$5 and under canopies in the street.

Beer and other beverages also were available.

Guards and policemen along with business owners on the stretch between the Sandcastle and the Guam Reef Hotel, watched purposefully as people enjoyed the Pale Sanvitores Road affair.

Landscaping fronting the roadway was roped off, while the few portable toilets at a nearby construction site were open for use, with long lines outside their doors.

The California girl-group Wild Orchid, the "Red Rocker" Sammy Hagar and the "Pocket Full of Kryptonite" Spin Doctor wowed the audience with their rock'n'roll performances, while are restaurants, shops and bars enjoyed more traffic than usual.

Gov. Carl Gutierrez was seen backstage, all smiles and shaking hands with special guests and passer-bys. Several employees of the Guam Visitors Bureau also welcomed festival-goers at the event.

The night before, a VIP charity fundraiser was held in the cafe, with benefits going to People Helping People. Last night, the Hard Rock hosted travel industry officials at its final opening event.



Back row, left to right, are Philippe F. M. Cerling, Dr. Artin Mahmoudi, Philip W. Stalker and in front, left to right, are Mrs. Tahereh Golbarani and Dr. K. David Khorram, members of the National Spiritual Assembly of the Baha'is of the Mariana Islands, who attended the Eighth International Baha'i Convention held in Haifa April 23-May as delegates.



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Fund ready to help draft bill

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

NMI RETIREMENT Fund Administrator Edward H. Manglona said that the Fund's Board of Directors has already given a go signal for him to assist the House Committee on Health, Education and Welfare in re-drafting House Bill 11-71.

"The Board has already given me a blessing to assist the Committee. We are even offering them to use our own actuary," Manglona told the Variety.

He said that the Fund is just waiting for Committee chair Rep. Heinz Hofschneider to call them and start the rewording of the bill, known as the Commonwealth Health Trust Fund Act.

The Fund chief was first asked by Hofschneider to assist the Committee during the bill's public hearing on May 12. During the hearing, Manglona made a handful of com-



Edward H. Manglona

ments and recommendations which were welcomed by the Committee.

The bill, which is authored by Hofschneider, aims to establish a Commonwealth Health Trust Fund which will provide a health benefits plan for government employees and retirees. It requires alien workers to initially participate in the Commonwealth Health Trust Fund, and also allows for voluntary participation in



Heinz Hofschneider

the Commonwealth Health Trust Fund by private sector employees and other residents.

Manglona said that if the bill is enacted as it is, it will not be able to accomplish its objectives.

Among the recommendations that Manglona told the Committee was the need for a law to restructure the hospital as a Health Maintenance Organization (HMO). He also said

that the bill imposes some very strong requirements on members and employers but does not specify enforcement procedures or penalties for violations.

"Like any other law, this bill will do no good if it does not have the teeth for enforcement or the

authority to impose penalties for any violation of the requirements," he said.

Manglona also stressed the need for a separate board or authority in order for the Health Fund to do its operations in such a large scale operations as envisioned by the bill.

NMHC invites applicants for home loan programs

THE Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairman, Juan S. Tenorio, announces the availability of single-family residential loan funds under various loan programs it administers.

According to NMHC, a number of Commonwealth residents have begun taking advantage of the NMHC-MPLT Home Loan Program for low- and moderate-income families, to construct or refinance their family home with a 30-year loan and fixed interest rate.

The maximum loan authorized under the program is \$130,000.00. The interest rate for very low-income families is 7.5%, while the interest rate for low-income families is 8.5% and the interest rate for moderate-income families is 9.5%. This program was created primarily to make loan funds available to interested individuals, especially village lot homesteaders.

The intent of the program is to make home ownership a reality to as many residents as possible in the Commonwealth, NMHC said in a news release.

The Rural Development recently approved twenty-two Rural Housing 502 loan applications from Saipan, Rota and Tinian. These approvals will infuse more than a million dollars of federal funds into the Commonwealth's economy.

This agency has financed several hundred homes in the Commonwealth. It is currently reviewing nineteen applications, one of which is for a Rural Housing 504 loan.

Its payment assistance for eligible borrowers, fixed low interest rate and 33-year loan term makes it an ideal residential financing program for low income families.

Along with newly implemented and reactivated residential loan programs, the Guam Savings and Loan Association Loan Purchase Program remains active and has assisted dozens of families in the Commonwealth to construct, purchase, refinance or improve their homes.

Another residential loan program administered by NMHC, is the Veterans Affairs Native American Direct Loan Program, which provides residential financing to Commonwealth-descent veterans for construction, purchase or improvement of a primary residence.

A handful of veterans on Saipan and Rota have constructed or completed their homes with loan funds from this program, said NMHC. "Construction material and labor costs continue to rise. Fortunately, interest rates remain low. It is advantageous for prospective borrowers to take advantage of low interest rate loans," it said.

Interested individuals are encouraged to contact the NMHC offices on Saipan at 234-7689/7670/6866/9447, on Tinian at 433-9213 or on Rota at 532-9410 for more information.

APIL backs CNMI on FFA, EEZ issues

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

TINIAN — Legislators throughout the Western Pacific Region on Friday agreed to promote economic development in the area through regional cooperation.

Members of the Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) who gathered here last week adopted four resolutions aimed at boosting economic opportunities in the region, including a move authorizing the Pacific Islands Development Bank to operate in the member-states' banking systems.

APIL members also joined hands in pressing for the admission of the CNMI as among the members of the Forum Fisheries Agency.

The resolution seeks to grant the CNMI the sole responsibility and the right to explore and manage the resources of the exclusive economic zone adjacent to the Commonwealth's islands.

Rep. Manuel Tenorio said the CNMI has previously been invited to FFA meetings as part of the United States delegation, also citing the recent approval of membership application of New Caledonia and French Polynesia despite their association with France.

Tenorio said the waters surrounding the CNMI offer local residents the opportunities for diversified economic development, stressing that the Commonwealth should be responsible to protect, develop and manage its marine resources.

At the same time, APIL agreed to cooperatively press for the granting of permission to the PIDB, a bank established by the organization nine years ago, to operate in the member-states' banking systems.

Island legislators also vowed to "regionally" urge the United States government to intensify its efforts in promoting the economic development in the Freely Associated States, which include Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia and Marshall Islands.

APIL president and Guam Senator Carlotta Leon Guerrero said FAS and US governments have mutually acknowledged the need for improvements in the living conditions within the FAS entities.

Guerrero said the Compact of Freely Associated States contain pro-

Two Saipan reps. support Pagan residents' return

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

TWO Congressmen are supporting the return of former residents of Pagan to their island.

Reps. Rosiky Camacho and Frank Cepeda showed their support for the return-to-Pagan movement being led by Cinta Kaipat during a reunion of former Pagan and other northern islands residents at the Susupe Beach Park last Saturday.

A bill has been introduced at the House seeking the permanent prohibition of people from living on the island because of the "presence of long-term volcanic activity."

Camacho, in an interview, said the people who left Pagan in the early 1980s because of the eruption of the

Continued on page 20

Lawmakers unanimous in okaying 4 Guam bills

By Jan Furukawa
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — Senators have unanimously approved four bills, one of which authorizes the construction of a new building for the Inarajan Mayor's Office and a new Manamko center.

Bill 468 appropriates \$250,000 from the General Fund to the Department of Public Works for construction of new government facilities.

It authorizes the demolition of the existing structure due to safety reasons and for the erection of a new facility in compliance with rehabilitation plans of the St. Joseph's Church.

Design and construction of the building is expected to cost, \$200,000; the demolition of the existing structure, \$50,000.

Also approved was Bill 607 which authorizes the restoration of certain government buildings such as Old Legislative Building, the Manuel F.L. Guerrero Administration Building, and the purchase of permanent office space for senators.

Mark Forbes, chairman of the Committee on Rules, Government Reform and Federal Affairs, said funds for these projects may be taken from the unused Capital Improvement Fund which amounts to \$624,000.

Committee members and others agreed that renovation should be affordable, yet dignified and fitting to house Guam's legislature.

They also agreed that the ceiling on expenditures for the renovations should not exceed the amount spent

Continued on page 19

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Marianas Cable Vision bares channel changes

RECENTLY, Marianas CableVision subscribers welcomed back the return of KHNL, the NBC affiliate from Hawaii now seen on Channel 8.

Today, MCV has announced further improvements to their channel lineup.

Starting today, KGTF channel 12, the Public Broadcasting station from Guam, will be replaced by KHET, a PBS affiliate from Hawaii.

And KHON channel 10, a FOX affiliate from Hawaii, has been replaced by FOXNET, FOX network programming originating from California.

"As things around here get more and more back to normal after the consolidation of the former Saipan Cable, there has been more time to devote to fine tuning our reception and programming," says Joe Butters,

General Manager for Marianas CableVision.

"We felt that being a larger affiliate, KHET could provide a larger range of PBS programming, have better looking signal, and only be one week delayed, as opposed to 2 weeks for the Guam PBS station," adds Butters.

Viewers will notice less of a difference in the FOXNET-KHON switch, as airtimes for the programs are similar to what subscribers are accustomed to.

Butters says that the FOX affiliate change was due in part to an arrangement with FOX to secure rights for more live sports.

MVC advises subscribers that the changes to the lineup should be reflected in the PDN TV guide soon, however, the MCV Guam FOXNET schedule listed will be the same for Saipan.



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leg for two years. I hope and pray that you'll still be here so that I may come back whenever I needed the Reflexology and Chiropathy Therapy.

Sincerely,
 /s/ FRANCISCA L. KAPILEO
 P.O. Box 595 CK
 Saipan, MP 96950

Dear Manang Minda:

I am amazed by your herbal medicine and your soothing massage. It is really one of those believe it or not story that I used to read or see on TV. to tell you the truth I was one of those people who would have to see and feel in order to believe. When I had an accident on the job site, I had to be rushed up to the hospital, because I couldn't move by myself. I was given X-Ray and some pain killer. The pain killer did help for a short time. When I was released from the hospital, I was still in the same condition. That is when my mother took me to your clinic. I am writing you this special note to thank you from the bottom of my heart and also let people know that I am a believer. Thanks once again, I am now as good as new. May our Lord be with you always.
 Sincerely yours,
 /s/ FELIX V. TAITANO

Dear Ms. Dornila:

Thank you very much for helping me last week with the bad flu that I have been going through. My back and chest were really painful due to my cough and colds. What was worse was that I was experiencing chills even while you were giving me the steam bath and the physical therapy. I was about to give up but after the treatment I felt so warm inside that I began to sweat profusely! Then before I left your clinic my blood pressure was back to normal. Your treatment is really marvelous and I would always recommend it whenever I can to my friends. Meanwhile more power to you and your growing clinic.
 Sincerely yours,
CHITO SANTOS
 Maintenance Department

Dear Doctor:

A few months before I hurt my back from lifting some heavy load in my job. This plus the many times perspiration would dry off my back have given me troubling backaches. I have tried to relief myself of the pains through medication and exercise but to no avail. Luckily a friend told me about your clinic and it is only through your herbal steam baths and reflex massage treatment that my back pains left me. I feel so relieved and healthy now. For this I thank you very much and wish that you could help many others with your simple but effective therapies.
 Sincerely
 Tony Villanueva
 Maintenance Department
 Saipan Diamond Hotel

Dear Ate Minda:

I am so grateful that the healing power God has given you is truly a gift to help many who are in need of help. I got married in 1991 and that year I became pregnant. After seven months, I miscarried. For almost five years I felt hopeless and thought I wouldn't have a baby again because I was 42 years old. One day, my employer took me to your clinic to work for you. I asked if you could help me and massage me. You did, and then advised me to continue massage treatments every month after my menstruation period. I took your advice and after only 5 treatments, I felt changes throughout my body. For two months my menstrual periods were delayed and you confirmed that I was already two months pregnant! I couldn't believe that at the age of 44 years old, I was going to have a baby! On April 09, 1995, I gave birth to a baby girl. Of course, you Minda D. Cullen was one of my baby's godmothers. My sincere thanks to GOD and especially to you Ate Minda, for you have made me happy throughout my life. I am very proud to make a recommendation to those couples who can't have a baby and I encourage them to see you. You are always willing to help to try your best and heal every body. I thank GOD for you Minda! You truly are an "instrument of my life."
 Gratefully yours,
 Filomena U. Caringal

of the region, and thus, result to a favorable negotiation for the island states.

The Federated States of Micronesia has already created a Compact renegotiation team spearheaded by FSM's former foreign minister.

Guerrero said Compact nations are very anxious of what will happen to their areas, as well as the issues which the US government will be putting on the table for next year's renegotiations.

"FSM and the Marshall Islands are going to be pushing for continued compact dollars during the renegotiations, while the governments of Guam, the CNMI and Hawaii, I'm sure are going to be pushing for reimbursements for the impacts caused by that open door migration policy," she disclosed.

According to the senator, Guam has a total population of about 150,000 while the FSM has over 100,000.

She said the US government allowed the migration of more than a hundred thousand Micronesians to Guam, CNMI and Hawaii "because for the federal government, 150,000 people will cause no harm, compared with the 250 million US population."

"They promised to reimburse us for whatever expense incurred because of the migration policy and then when it comes to getting the reimbursements, they are nowhere on that issue," she stressed.

Guerrero pointed out that the very basic root of this problem is that the US does not understand what it means to have an open door migration policy of unlimited numbers.

She said APIL previously passed a resolution creating a task force that will look into specific problems associated with the Compact of the Free Association and how will the open door migration affect Guam and CNMI.

The first issue that was brought up was the US immigration department's plan to change the definition of a habitual resident, and therefore, limit the number of people from Micronesia that could come in to Guam and the CNMI.

"They threatened to change that but the proposal got hung up in their review process and was never reported out. The task force did not

Continued on page 19



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Drought conditions hike brush fires in A. Samoa

PAGO PAGO (Pacnews)—Drought conditions have caused an increase in brush fires in American Samoa. As of May 24 the fire division had responded to 22 brush fires for the month of May alone.

This compares with only five brush fires in the same month last year.

Commander Jack O'Brien says most of the fires occurring in the Tafuna area are caused by

people clearing land for plantations.

He says because of the lack of rain, the dried grass is highly flammable and a fire can get out of control in just a few seconds.

O'Brien has asked residents to refrain from burning dried grass and trash during this dry period to reduce the risk of fires and to save the large quantities of water needed to put out the fires.

Kiribati to hike land lease rates

TARAWA (Pacnews)—The Kiribati government has agreed to raise its land lease rates for the outer islands, but the increases, which will vary according to the use of the land, will be finalized by cabinet.

The government currently gives A\$800 to A\$1,000 (\$US503 to \$US628) per acre a year for land leased on South Tarawa compared

to the A\$100 (\$US68) per acre flat rate for all government leased lands on the outer islands, Radio Kiribati reports.

The Vice president Tewareka Tenta announced this in parliament Wednesday in reply to a request from outer island MPs that has also been voiced in many sittings of the house in the past.



Elsewhere in the Pacific

SPREP sees environmental concerns for satellite plan

HONOLULU (Pacnews)—The South Pacific Regional Environment Programme has concluded that the assessment of the multi-national Sea Launch company's plans to launch rockets and satellites from a platform near Christmas Island, just outside of Kiribati Exclusive Economic Zone, is insufficient to permit a finding of no significant environmental impact.

In formal comments, SPREP pointed out that the satellites, to be launched from a "semi-submersible oil rig platform using 1980s Russian Zenit rockets," each would result in 36 tons of carbon monoxide and 181 tons of carbon dioxide being emitted in the lower troposphere.

SPREP also pointed out that the

two rocket stages, weighing 36 tons and 11.5 tons respectively, and other equipment weighing an additional 2 tons, would fall back into the ocean.

Unused kerosene, approximately 4.5 tons, would form a slick several square miles wide.

While an administrator in the U.S. Department of Transportation's Federal Aviation Administration has found that Sea Launch poses "no significant impact" on the environment, SPREP recommends a comprehensive study before the project commences.

Sea Launch plans to launch two satellites in 1998 and six every year thereafter for 20 years. SPREP says

the Pacific Islands region "should not be used as a dumping ground for other countries' wastes."

Among other concerns is that there are no plans to warn shipping of launch times and "there is no mention of plans to warn Kiribati fishing boats of falling debris or potential kerosene slicks."

Sea Launch fails to provide adequate detail in a number of areas, says SPREP, "including potential impacts on rare and endangered species, marine mammals and migratory birds."

SPREP's comments have been forwarded to its 22 member countries for review and action.

FSM's Nena to students: 'Know your own gov't'

PALIKIR (FSMIS)—President Jacob Nena addressed participants of the 1998 FSM Close Up Local Program, at its opening ceremony last May 25th at Misko's Restaurant, Pwohmara Beach Resort in Pohnpei.

He said the purpose of the program is to introduce to the participants the workings of the National Government, the people in the National Government, the responsibilities they hold, the problems they face in their work and how they solve them.

By exposing the young program participants to such experiences, it is hoped they will gain the exposure and experiences that can prepare them if and when their turn comes to manage and run the government.

He also described the roles of the three branches of the National Government.

In his speech, Nena urged the participants to continue to pursue their education to become experts in agriculture, marine resources, engineering and law.

"If you obtain your doctorate degrees in these areas you will surely find jobs in private as well as the public sector. There is always opportunity in government if you become experts in your fields."

Nena concluded by advising the participants to learn about their people, their problems and potentials; to strive to be successful while refraining from smoking and drinking liquor and taking hard drugs.

"Learn your government, its people and make yourself a useful member of the society," Nena stated.

Skate's Indonesia visit moved

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews)—There is confusion over Papua New Guinea Prime Minister Bill Skate's proposed state visit to Indonesia next month.

The Prime Minister's department Tuesday issued a brief statement saying Skate's visit scheduled for June 3 to 6, had been deferred until further notice following a request from the office of President Bacharuddin Jusuf Habibie that all state visits to Indonesia be postponed. The Na-

tional reports.

The statement went on to say that Skate had expressed his disappointment at the postponement of the visit, which has been in the planning for the past two months, but he was looking forward to meeting Indonesia's new leader.

Skate also congratulated the president on the reforms he was now instituting adding that Habibie is taking the Republic of Indonesia in an exciting and fresh direction.

Vanuatu Ombudsman on tour

PORT VILA (Pacnews)—Vanuatu's ombudsman, Marie Noelle Ferrieux Patterson will this week make her first awareness tour to the outer islands of Vanuatu.

The tour to be made to the southern islands of Erromango, Tanna, Anietyum, Futuna and Aniwa is to raise public awareness of the role of the Ombudsman in relation to government offices and

the Leadership Code, and especially the rights and obligations of the citizens of Vanuatu provided by the constitution and laws of the country.

The tour is which is part of a "Governance in Vanuatu for Sustainable Growth and Equity Project" is jointly funded by the United Nations Development Programme and the European Union.

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Our faith is such that we believe
That all of us shall meet again.*

We, the family would like to extend an invitation to all our friends and relatives to join us in prayers as we commence the Second Anniversary Rosary of the passing of our dearly beloved one. The Holy Rosary is being said nightly at 7:00 p.m. at the residence of Irene Sablan Pinaula, Capitol Hill Homestead and will end on June 09, 1998. On the last day, the rosary will be said at 12:00 noon. A special mass of intention will be offered at Santa Remedio Church, Tanapag, at 6:00 p.m. June 09, 1998.

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Students held after Seoul protests

SEOUL, South Korea (AP) — About 200 militant students have been detained for staging sporadic street protests overnight to protest government suppression of their leftist group, police said Sunday.

Hundreds of students briefly occu-

piated streets in southern Seoul, holding up traffic late Saturday.

When police were sent, they quickly dispersed, using the subway, and reappeared in different streets.

No clashes or injuries were reported.

Busloads of police were seen around the city's subway stations.

They challenged many young pedestrians to show identification and searched their bags.

Police said they would release most of the detained students.

But several student leaders will be formally arrested for protesting illegally, police said.

The students belonged to Hanchongryon, a nationwide umbrella of student councils.

The government outlawed the group in 1996, accusing it of supporting North Korea, the communist rival of South Korea.

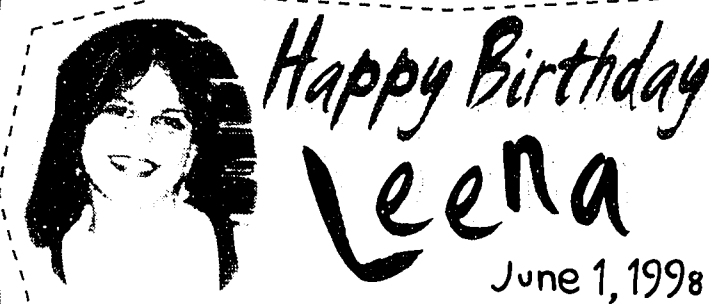
The student group has been responsible for many violent anti-government, anti-U.S. protests in the past. It supports North Korea's demand for the withdrawal of the 37,000 U.S. troops based in South Korea.

In a campus rally in Seoul on Friday, the students elected a new leadership to guide their group next year.

This year, they said they would join forces with labor unionists to fight rising layoffs.

The government has warned that labor unrest could worsen the nation's already ailing economy by scaring off foreign investors.

North and South Korea are technically in a state of war after their 1950-53 Korean War ended with an armistice, not a peace treaty. Their border is one of the world's most heavily armed.



Commonwealth Utilities Corporation Board of Directors

NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 12, the Chairman of the Board of Directors of the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) hereby calls a Special Meeting on Wednesday, June 3, 1998, at 10:00 AM in the CUC Conference Room in Lower Base, Saipan. The following will be discussed and/or acted upon:

- I. Saipan 80 Megawatt Power Plant Project (CUC RFP97-0025); and
- II. Litigation Matters.

Pursuant to Section 13, subsections (4), (5), (6) and (7), some discussion of the above may be under Executive Session.

All interested persons are welcome to attend and submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items.

/s/BENJAMIN A. SABLAN
Chairman

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Hong Kong leader Tung Chee-hwa, right, and election officials empty a ballot box for the 60-member legislature elections in the central counting center in Hong Kong early last Monday. Both Tung and Democratic Party leader Martin Lee called the 53 percent voters turnout in the territory's first election under Chinese rule, "tremendous." AP

Cathay Pacific to cut 1,000 jobs

HONG KONG (AP) — In the latest blow to Hong Kong's ailing economy, Cathay Pacific Airways said it will slash another 1,000 jobs, in addition to the 870 layoffs announced so far this year, a newspaper reported Sunday.

The Hong Kong-based airline hopes to cut staff by between 5 percent to 7 percent within the next 12 months, the Sunday Morning Post reported.

The job losses could save the company 500 million Hong Kong dollars (U.S. \$ 64.1 million) a year, it said.

The cuts will mainly be in commercial departments, the report said. The airline has about 15,000 employees.

Airline officials were not im-

mediately available for comment.

Cathay Pacific is facing a tough year as the economic and tourism downturn in Hong Kong shows no signs of abating.

Over the first four months of 1998, tourist arrivals were down 24.2 percent compared with a year ago, mainly because the strong Hong Kong currency is making the territory virtually unaffordable for many tourists from Southeast Asian countries, some of Hong Kong's biggest tourist markets.

Hong Kong's dollar, which is linked to the U.S. dollar, is the only convertible Asian currency not to have been devalued since the onset of the region's financial storm last year.

Other currencies have lost 50 percent to 80 percent of their value.

Cathay Pacific announced earlier this year a 55.5 percent fall in net profit to 1.69 billion Hong Kong dollars (U.S. \$ 217 billion) from 3.81 billion Hong Kong dollars (U.S. \$ 488 million) in 1997.

Passenger loads also fell to a 10-year low.

The airline is increasing the number of flights in an attempt to boost revenues and is recruiting crew and cabin staff for 13 new aircraft despite a general hiring freeze, the Post said.

On Friday, the government announced the economy contracted by 2 percent in the first quarter, the first contraction in almost 13 years. Unemployment is at a 14-year high of 3.9 percent.

Deadly quake hits N. Afghanistan

ISLAMABAD, Pakistan (AP) — A powerful earthquake rocked a mountainous region in northern Afghanistan Saturday, triggering landslides and burying entire villages in debris and rubble.

There were unconfirmed reports that at least 150 people had died in the quake, a spokesman for the International Committee for the Red Cross said from the group's headquarters in Geneva.

But an official for Afghanistan's opposition alliance known only as Abdullah said he feared thousands of people may have been killed in the quake, which had a preliminary magnitude of 6.9.

The United Nations' disaster relief agency, also in Geneva, said its representatives in the region had reported that 3,000 people may have been buried by debris and landslides caused

by the earthquake.

The quake was centered in a remote, mountainous area 45 miles west of Faisabad, the capital of Badkhashan province, the U.S. Geological Survey in Golden, Colo., said.

A plane carrying medical supplies to quake victims was unable to land late Saturday, the Red Cross official said on condition of anonymity.

In February, a devastating earthquake in the same region killed 2,300 people and left thousands of people homeless.

The hardest hit area in Saturday's quake was Shari Basurkh, a town 24 miles west of Faisabad and close to the epicenter, according to the anti-Taliban alliance, which controls the region.

"We think maybe 3,000 people were killed in Shari Basurkh," Abdullah told The Associated Press

in a telephone interview from his headquarters.

The remoteness of the region made it virtually impossible to verify the death toll.

Abdullah said the airport closest to the devastation is in Faisabad.

The airstrip is currently used by both the United Nations and the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Jacques Tremblay of Doctors without Borders, contacted in the northern city of Mazar-e-Sharif, said he had reports of four dead in Rustaq, an area heavily damaged by a powerful earthquake in February.

A spokesman at the Russian Ministry for Emergency Situations, who declined to give his name, said he had received no reports of deaths or injuries from Saturday's quake.

Clinton demand: End nuke tests



Bill Clinton

By Lawrence L. Knutson
WASHINGTON (AP) — Faced with a new Pakistani nuclear weapons test, President Clinton moved quickly Saturday to rally the world behind efforts to defuse "a self-defeating cycle of escalation" between Pakistan and India.

"Both India and Pakistan need to renounce further nuclear and missile testing immediately and take decisive steps to reverse this dangerous arms race," the president said hours after confirmation that Pakistan had again detonated an underground nuclear device.

"Pakistan and India are contributing to a self-defeating cycle of escalation that does not add to the security of either country," he said.

Clinton said in a statement issued at the White House that he intends to do whatever he can "to preserve the global consensus" on nuclear non-proliferation.

"I call on India and Pakistan to resume their direct dialogue, to sign the Comprehensive Test Ban treaty immediately and without conditions to reverse the arms race there, and to join the clear international consensus in support of nonproliferation," he said.

To back up his words, Clinton signed documents imposing a package of military and economic sanctions against Pakistan in retaliation for the South Asian nation's first series of nuclear tests Thursday.

He similarly imposed sanctions against India, as required by U.S. law in such cases.

Representatives of the five permanent members of the Security Council—the United States, Russia, China, Britain and France — planned to review the situation early in the week.

The Security Council expressed concern on Friday over "peace and stability" on the Indian subcontinent.

It also deplored Pakistan's tests — as it did India's two weeks ago — and demanded that both nations sign non-proliferation and nuclear test ban treaties.

British Foreign Secretary Robin Cook said foreign ministers of eight leading nations would convene June 12 in London to coordinate efforts to bring Indian and Pakistani nuclear activities under international supervision.

Cook said they would encourage the two countries to address the roots of the tension that has led to three wars since 1947.

Secretary of State Madeleine Albright was expected to take a prominent role in both sessions.

Riaz Khokhar, Pakistan's ambassador to the United States, said his country will "warmly welcome" efforts by the United States "in helping us resolve our problems."

Portraying his country as a victim to be helped rather than an aggressor to be punished, Khokhar dismissed U.S. sanctions as involving only a "paltry \$6 million."

But he acknowledged that U.S. opposition could affect a \$1.6 billion loan from the International Monetary Fund.

Commenting in response to viewers' questions on C-Span, Khokhar said his country's nuclear tests "sent a very clear message to India that the nuclear blackmail ... will not work."

"It's as simple as that," he said.

"We just tried to restore the strategic balance that India thought it had disturbed."

U.S. intelligence confirmed the second Pakistani test of a nuclear device but said its explosive yield was smaller than claimed.

No signs were seen that either India or Pakistan plan further weapons tests, intelligence officials said.

"Our information points to more like two kilotons and a single blast," said a U.S. official, speaking Saturday on condition of anonymity. Reports out of Pakistan were that the

weapon was 18 kilotons, or almost the same strength as the weapon the United States dropped on Hiroshima in 1945.

Questions about the yield of the Pakistani weapon echo suspicions raised by U.S. intelligence sources on Thursday that Pakistan may not have conducted five nuclear weapons tests, as claimed. U.S. officials say Pakistan may be inflating its claims to hide poor performance of its weapon, which might point to technical problems that would suggest a weakness in its nuclear program.

The Central Intelligence Agency has seen no evidence of unusual troop movements or concentrations that would suggest the tense situation between India and Pakistan in the disputed Kashmir region is about to explode into major war.

Clinton and U.S. officials, through telephone calls and personal diplomacy, were unable to stop the rival nuclear tests.

India conducted its tests two weeks ago.

Pakistan answered with its claimed five Thursday plus Saturday's blast.

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Moscow offers economic plan

MOSCOW (AP) — After meeting with the prime minister, Moscow's mayor predicted Saturday it will take Russia six to nine months to recover

from its current financial crisis. Mayor Yuri Luzhkov presented Prime Minister Sergei Kiriyenko with several ideas to bolster Russia's wob-

bling economy, including reducing energy prices and reforming customs regulations, Russian news agencies said.

Last week, Russia's stock market plunged after foreign investors lost confidence and the Central Bank intervened to prop up the ruble.

Kiriyenko has led efforts to contain the damage, and markets stabilized by week's end.

A major element of the government's plan to weather the

crisis is plugging holes in Russia's notoriously porous tax collection system.

Collections must be improved from private citizens and state enterprises alike, said Boris Fyodorov, the former finance minister appointed by President Boris Yeltsin on Friday to head the tax service.

"There are 150 million people in the country, but only 4 million filled out income declarations last year," Fyodorov told the

Kommersant daily.

He also said that state-owned enterprises "must be treated on an equal footing" and start paying their taxes on time.

"The measures should be the same for everyone," he said. "If an enterprise does not pay taxes, it should be declared bankrupt."

On Friday, Yeltsin signed a decree easing the procedures for tax inspectors to seize property from people owing back taxes.



A woman trader, without a commercial license, watches a Moscow tax police officer confiscate goods from her shop in one of Moscow's markets Thursday. President Boris Yeltsin and his prime minister attacked Russia's stubborn tax-dodging problem on Friday, calling urgent meetings with tax collectors in an effort to spur revenue growth. AP

20 die in South Africa pileups

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP) — Two traffic pileups blamed on poor visibility and speeding killed at least 20 people Saturday on highways near Johannesburg.

Sixteen people died when a truck slammed into cars that had slowed near the scene of an earlier accident.

Several of the 10 vehicles involved in the crash on the N1 highway south of Johannesburg burst into flames.

Body parts were strewn along the road as rescue crews tried to wedge open crumpled cars to retrieve charred corpses.

"I've never seen anything as horrible as this," a local radio reporter said.

The first pileup occurred at dawn and involved about 50 vehicles on the N12 highway outside Benoni, a suburb on Johannesburg's eastern out-

skirts. Four died in that crash and scores were hurt, the radio reported.

Besides the dawn's murky light, a mist and haze from regional grass fires cut visibility, Traffic Department spokesman Conel Mackay said.

Also Saturday, a bus overturned on a curve in eastern KwaZulu-Natal province and killed 11 people, including three children.

Plot to assassinate Paris mosque leader

By Pierre-Antoine Souchard
PARIS (AP) — Several suspects detained in a continent-wide sweep targeting an alleged plot to disrupt the World Cup have admitted to a plan to kill the head of the Paris' largest mosque, judicial sources said Saturday.

Sixteen of the 49 suspects detained in France on Tuesday were placed under formal investigation for "association with criminals in a terrorist enterprise."

Most of the 16 are Algerian or French, the sources said.

During the police sweep, investigators found a fatwa, or Muslim religious decree, dated 1995, in the trunk of a car in the Paris region ordering the killing of Dalil Boubakeur, the sources said, speaking on condition of anonymity.

They said several suspects admitted to a project to kill Boubakeur, 56, a Frenchman of Algerian origin and the rector since 1992 of the Mosque de Paris, funded in part by Algeria.

Boubakeur is perhaps the highest-profile Muslim leader in France's divided Muslim community, estimated at up to 5 million, and he often serves as a liaison between French officials and Muslims.

According to investigators, those detained last week are suspected of links to a dissident branch of the Armed Islamic Group, the most radical insurgency movement fighting to topple Algeria's military-backed regime.

The GIA, blamed for massacres in the North African nation, was responsible for a 1995 bombing spate in Paris that killed eight people.

Boubakeur, known for his moderate stance toward the Algerian conflict, is considered too close to Algeria's military-backed government and French authorities, said the sources.

At least 75,000 people have died in Algeria since the start of an Islamic insurgency that erupted after the military-backed regime canceled 1992

parliamentary elections an Islamic party appeared set to win.

European investigators involved in the sweep last week suspect an effort to revive "sleeping" GIA networks by dissident leader Hassan Hattab, who allegedly wants to take the conflict back to Europe.

Two men detained Tuesday, Abdallah Kinaï in France and Adel Mechat in Germany, are suspected of being top European lieutenants of Hattab.

Police in Germany, Belgium, Switzerland and Italy also made arrests in connection with what French authorities have said was evidence of possible plans to mount terrorist attacks during the monthlong World Cup, which starts June 10.

A total of 88 people were initially detained in Europe.

No further information was available on whether the arrests yielded any more evidence on the alleged plot.

Mexican drug lords take low profile

By Anita Snow
TIJUANA, Mexico (AP) — The gangland-style shootouts that plagued this drug-infested border city abruptly stopped.

Local elections and land disputes replaced reports about the Arellano Felix drug gang on the nightly news.

Apparently taking a cue from Colombian drug lords, the Arellano Felix brothers are replacing their attention-getting violence with a quieter, more businesslike style.

"They aren't seen in the discos and restaurants anymore," said newspaper publisher Jesus Blancomelias, who was almost killed six months ago by gunmen believed to work for the gang.

"Things are a lot more peaceful here now. It's almost like a normal city."

Experts believe that after the gang's top enforcer, Ramon Arellano Felix, was placed on the FBI's Most Wanted List and indicted on U.S. federal drug

charges last fall, members of Mexico's fastest-growing narcotics organization went underground for survival.

"They have definitely taken on a much lower profile," said Errol Chavez of the Drug Enforcement Administration in San Diego. "But there is no sign that their business is slowing down."

A similar shift occurred several years ago in Colombia, where the violent Pablo Escobar headed the Medellín cartel.

With his bombings of shopping malls, political assassinations—even the downing of a jetliner—Escobar sought to intimidate the government so it would leave him alone.

But his extreme violence made him a prime target of Colombian law enforcement. He was killed by authorities in December 1993.

With Escobar's demise, the rival Cali cartel grew in importance under the guidance of businessmen who preferred bribes over bullets.

The man once described as Mexico's No. 1 drug lord, Amado Carrillo Fuentes, learned from Cali mentors to keep phone conversations secure from snooping drug agents and to develop new ways of smuggling.

He died last year after plastic surgery.

The Arellano Felix brothers lived very publicly before Ramon was placed on the FBI list and a reward of \$2 million was offered for information leading to his arrest.

The brothers were often seen at Tijuana's upscale nightclubs and even appeared on the society pages.

About two years ago, law enforcers on both sides of the border launched an offensive against the juniors. Most are dead or behind bars.

In February, U.S. federal authorities indicted 10 members of the gang on a variety of charges, including drug trafficking and murder.

of Guam, Hawaii and the CNMI at the district court in Guam which has been appealed. "We just had our appeal in Hawaii on May 8 and we're waiting the decision," the senator continued.

"So that will help us gain a better grasp of where we stand in terms of using the court to resolve some of the issues of the compact," she said.

Award scholarships awarded during and after the current school year.

The bill, in order to be awarded a Merit scholarship, the student has to be a U.S. citizen or permanent alien who has completed four academic years in public or private high school on Guam.

The student also would have to be a resident for a continuous period of not less than five years immediately preceding the awarding of the scholarship.

Additionally, Merit recipients now must come back to Guam and work for one year for each year of off-island studies.

Region's ...

Continued from page 12

have that specific issue to work on," she said.

Guemero said they are expecting to come up with solutions to the problems stemming from the Compact during the three-day APIL Summit which concluded over the weekend.

Report ...

Continued from page 2

gue virus, can inflict fever, joint pains and chills for weeks. Another virus strain causes hemorrhaging and even death. Children are especially susceptible, and there is no vaccine.

Dengue is reaching the peak of a roughly five-year cycle in Southeast Asia, attacking people with low immunity levels.

Once this outbreak ebbs, experts say, more people will be resistant to the viral disease and the cycle will begin again.

Lawmakers ...

Continued from page 11

on senatorial and central office leases. The committee reports says \$60,000 is spent annually on senators' officespace and \$319,680 for the central office lease.

Also approved was Bills 106 which amends the law that created the wrestling and boxing commission.

Under the bill, the commission would have seven instead of five members.

Another proposal, Bill 630, amends the residency requirements for Merit

Cops hurt in clash with N. Ireland protesters

PORTADOWN, Northern Ireland (AP) — Catholic protesters and Protestant marchers turned on police trying to keep them apart Saturday, hurling gas and paint bombs, stones and bottles, injuring up to a dozen officers.

The violence, which also left three civilians injured, broke out on Garvaghy Road when up to 400 Catholics objected to the march by members of the youth wing of the Orange Order, Northern Ireland's main Protestant fraternal organization, police said.

Both sides began pelting the police, who responded by firing rubber bullets.

No one was seriously injured. The marchers eventually forced their way through.

It was the worst violence in the

British-ruled province since politicians from eight parties signed a compromise peace deal April 10, later approved by 71 percent of voters in a referendum.

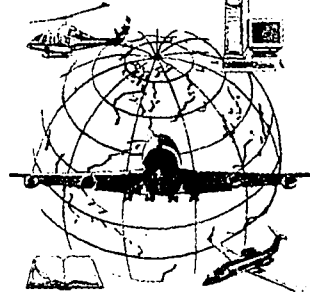
The clashes could signal trouble at bigger marches elsewhere in the province later this summer.

Portadown is a center of rural Protestant opposition to compromises with the north's Catholic community.

And Garvaghy Road has been turned into a sectarian battleground for the past three summers as hard-line locals try to block an annual march through the area by members of the main Orange Order.

People who live on the road have asked to meet Orange Order leaders to discuss plans for a later march, scheduled for July 5.

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Northern Mariana Islands RETIREMENT FUND

PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section II, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the NMI Retirement Fund Board of Trustees/Workers' Compensation Commission, are hereby giving notice that the Board of Trustees will hold a special meeting on Wednesday, June 3, 1998, at 6:00 p.m. in the Fund Conference Room, Saipan.

AGENDA

- CALL TO ORDER
- ADOPTION OF AGENDA
- NEW BUSINESS
 - TCGCC Former Employees' Benefits
 - Asset Allocation
 - Retirement Fund Building Lease
- NEXT MEETING
- ADJOURNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID PSS IFB98-004

SALES OF SURVEYED PSS PROPERTIES (Food Service Equipments, Vehicles, & Buses)

The CNMI Public School System is soliciting competitive sealed bids from individuals or firms interested in submitting a bid on the sale of surveyed PSS properties. Listing/Bid form of surveyed vehicles, buses, and food service equipments are available at the PSS Procurement & Supply Office situated on the third floor of the Nauru Building, Susupe, Saipan, Monday thru Friday except Holidays during regular working hours. The closing date of this bid is June 26, 1998 at 2:00 p.m. All bids must be in a sealed envelope and facemasked IFB98-004: Sale Of PSS Surveyed Properties. The individual or firm submitting the highest bid agrees to make the full payment within (3) three working days from date of notification, then the next highest bidder will be given the opportunity to from date of bid opening and must be made payable to the PSS Treasurer. Should the highest bidder fail to perform the said payment requirement within three working days secure his/her payment within three working days from date of notification. All surveyed properties listed are sold "AS IS" AND "WHERE IS" AND WITHOUT WARRANTY. All sold properties must be removed from the premise within 24 hours from date of payment. PSS will not become responsible of said property after the specified time frame.

All items listed maybe viewed at the specified location indicated on the listing. All interested individuals or firms are invited to participate. Any inquiry to this bid announcement may contact the Procurement Office at telephone number 664-3762/63.

/s/Margaret C. Dela Cruz
Acting Commissioner Of Education

/s/Louise Concepcion
Procurement & Supply Officer

CUC . . .

Continued from page 1

In relating the completed payment, CUC Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez told Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio in a letter dated May 26, on the same day that the payment was made: "I am pleased to inform you that through the improved management of the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., today, we have satisfied all outstanding loan obligations to Mitsubishi Corp. for the construction of Saipan Power Plant I."

Villagomez added that it was a "milestone accomplished ahead

\$1.2M . . .

Continued from a page 3

Capital Improvement Projects Division will manage the construction work.

The improved Puntan Dos Amantes will include a new latte stone plaza with drop-off pavilion, new entrance gate and sign, paved nature walk around the existing limestone forest, pedestrian bridge over the existing cavern, a new gateway to

of the loan payment schedule." The last payment would have been due in September 1999, according to Mathis.

Villagomez also sent the same letter separately to Senate President Paul A. Manglona and Speaker Diego T. Benavente.

"The fulfillment of this obligation acts as a complete release of the Commonwealth Government from its CUC loan guarantee to Mitsubishi," Villagomez told the governor.

Villagomez said the payment of the loan ahead of schedule was "one of the most gratifying accomplishments I have achieved during my time as executive director."

a medication plaza with amphitheater seating, new sundial and seating, a wedding garden, a new visitor's center, bus stops, parking lot and landscaping.

Calvo Enterprises will upgrade the existing lookout post and build vendor shelters, a new lookout pavilion and a cantilevered walkway, according to the release.

Architectural design of the scenic spot improvements was produced by Taniguchi-Ruth-Smith & Associates.

Aviation . . .

Continued from a page 3

tional legislation and policies.

Developments in international trade and services will require coordinated laws and policies to ensure that certifications and operation specifications and maintenance procedures are not barriers to trade.

During the recently concluded Forum Aviation Ministers Meeting in Fiji, Keke said liberalization has solicited significant support, under which platform steps would be taken towards a Pacific Islands Aviation market.

"This would assist island airlines not only to trade fifth freedom rights and codesharing but would lead eventually to multilateral agreements," he said.

He disclosed that this platform has been contemplated in the subregional airline concept, which is at present, the subject of a study being conducted by the Asian Development Bank.

He emphasized that simplification of the regulatory framework is essential for continuing viable economic operations on the routes served. "Simple, reliable and easily understood laws and policies are required though not placing in jeopardy safety of operations."

In such a regulatory framework, according to the airline executive, Air Nauru can enter into a cooperative arrangements with other airline operators, freight forwarders and others involved in the air transport industry

in the region.

Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) president and Guam Sen. Carlotta Leon Guerrero on Wednesday said island legislators have raised concerns over the apparent deviation of Continental Micronesia's commitment to the region.

"The anxiety that islanders have is that they've seen this airline company used to be called Continental Air Micronesia, and then they took the 'Air' out it became Continental Micronesia, now they have new planes which just said Continental, so we want to find out [what their plans are]," she said.

Guerrero said APIL members are soliciting a recommitment from Continental Micronesia with regards to its flight services to different islands in the Western Pacific region.

"We want to know how the airline feels about the region and what they have planned for the region. This airline was instrumental in developing the economies here and everybody gets a little nervous when they see them making moves and decision and do not exactly say why they're doing that," she stressed.

She added that Continental will have to explain why it is "reshifting" routes and increasing its airfares. "The islanders are very anxious of what they have to say."

Guerrero also mentioned that Nauru Air may add just one or two flights in the region's service routes, adding that it will help supplement some of the unserved routes in the Pacific.

Sablan . . .

Continued from page 1

expected to resume once the Federal representative responds to the letter.

The talks have been scheduled in March but was indefinitely postponed in light of the Federal takeover legislation hearing in the US Senate.

Sablan said that in order for the CNMI and the US to have a good and healthy relationship, the two must have mutual goals agreed upon.

"What we want is for the United States to give its cooperation and to respect the provisions of the Covenant that we agreed upon. We want to make an impression that we are not a foreign government," Sablan said.

Sablan pointed out that the CNMI is politically stable, saying that it is part of the US, as "guaranteed by the

Covenant."

"What we are talking about here is to conform to the Covenant. Enforce the laws applicable here because we are not a foreign country. We should not be penalized because we don't have access to enforce these laws. We can only do so much with our little resources and limited experience," Sablan said.

He added that the CNMI recognizes its limitations since it became a commonwealth in 1978.

"Changes in the Covenant may cause anxiety," said Sablan.

He added that the results of the 902 talks are detrimental to both the US and CNMI's social and economic development, especially to the latter.

"We will remove economic instability of the CNMI through these talks," Sablan pointed out when asked how the CNMI may benefit from the talks.

He explained that local and foreign investors are anxious on investing billions of dollars in CNMI because of the pending talks.

"If businessmen find that there are serious matters happening in the island, and that is whether or not by next year, a new set of labor and immigration policies will take place, they will be uncomfortable in putting up investments," said Sablan.

"Investors nowadays have second thoughts on whether to come in and invest now or wait until everything is settled before setting up businesses.

"If this area of concern is laid on the negotiating table, then investors will be more reasonable with whatever will be the outcome of the talks," Sablan said.

He added that results of the talks will be reported immediately to the media and the people.

Pakistan . . .

Continued from page 2

Thursday.

Pakistan said there were five tests on Thursday; the United States said it counted only two.

This week's spate of blasts was a response to five nuclear tests by India two weeks ago.

"Our decision to exercise the nuclear option was an expression of self-defense," said Ahmed.

All the tests were conducted underground in the Chagai hills of southwestern Baluchistan province, and did not release any radioactivity into the atmosphere, he said.

"Today we have proved our credibility. There are no doubts left any more," he said.

While Pakistan was defiant in its comments Saturday, it was at the same time conciliatory.

The time has come for the India and Pakistan to sit at the negotiation table and "talk peace," Ahmed said.

Both countries lay claim to united Kashmir, India's only Muslim majority state. Pakistan wants a vote held on both

sides of the disputed border to let Kashmiris decide whether a united Kashmir would join Pakistan or India, whose majority is Hindu.

India says its half of Kashmir is non-negotiable.

The insurrection began in 1989 and has left more than 16,000 people dead.

In New Delhi on Saturday, Indian Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee promised not to retaliate for Pakistan's latest test.

"We have already declared a moratorium on testing and are willing to formalize this into an obligation through negotiations," he said, responding in writing to questions from The Associated Press.

Pakistani Prime Minister Nawaz Sharif, who returned to his hometown in the Punjab provincial capital of Lahore a hero, offered to sign a non-aggression pact as well as the Comprehensive Test Ban Treaty — if India does the same.

he treaty, passed by the U.N. General Assembly on Sept. 10, 1996, has been approved by 149 nations.

Pakistan had been under terrific domestic pressure to match India's five tests.

Camacho said the danger that the volcano allegedly poses to the people is cannot be made an excuse for permanently banning the return of the island's former residents.

The "big eruption" has already happened and volcanic eruptions can be monitored through modern devices now, he said. "We do have the monitoring capability, modern communications facilities and modern transportation."

Cepeda, on the other hand, said it is

Foreign governments used threats and enticements to try to dissuade it from retaliating, to no avail.

Countries around the world deplored Pakistan's latest test, and international meetings were planned among foreign ministers of the eight leading nations to discuss a coordinated effort to reduce the nuclear threat.

The U.N. Security Council urged Pakistan and India to end their testing and sign nuclear arms control treaties — unconditionally and immediately. Iranian Foreign Minister Kamal Kharrazi said his country would try to create a nuclear weapons-free zone, the official Islamic Republic News Agency reported Saturday.

While the United States, Japan and Canada slapped immediate sanctions on Pakistan and India, many other governments have declined to follow suit.

Sharif on Saturday shrugged off the threats of sanctions against his poor country.

"I have smashed the begging bowl," he said upon his arrival in Lahore.

"From today we have begun a policy of self-reliance and independence."

not fair for the people of Pagan to be prevented from going back to their native island.

Cepeda himself was born in Alamagan, another northern island.

He said he was supporting the cause of Pagan's former residents not for any selfish motive because he is a Northern Islander himself.

"I'm involved because I see that the public interest is at stake here," he explained.

Nena . . .

Continued from a page 3

rules and procedures of operation. It shall also coordinate and support tourism promotion efforts; review and recommend funding for tourism and related tourism human development activities.

Likewise, the FSMVB shall coordinate with external funding institutions in channeling to State Visiting Bureau, and or Associations or private tourism operators; review policies instituted by State and National Government and their impact on tourism and recommend actions to appropriate authorities and identify actions for the achievement of nationwide tourism goals and objectives.

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SPORTS



Record set in Cocos meet

By EDDIE SIGUENZA

For the Variety

HAGATNA — A record-breaking performance by Dan O'Keeffe and a valiant effort by Joshua Taitano over-shadowed an exceptional outing by swimmers from Saipan yesterday in the Annual International Cocos Island 2.2-Mile Swim Crossing in Merizo.

The 25-year-old O'Keeffe shattered his course record set two years ago by finishing in 45 minutes and eight seconds, 16 seconds better than before and just one tick ahead of Taitano.

They were neck-and-neck from start to finish among the 345 swimmers — majority of them from Japan — who dared to stroke from Cocos Island to Merizo in moderately calm waters.

Three Saipan swimmers were

Saipan swimmers among top finishers

in the Top 6 finishers. Youngster Seung Jin Lee was fourth overall in 51:00, while 15-year-old Audra Winkfield was the first female finisher (and fifth overall) in 51:14.

Right behind her was Tracy Feger, also of Saipan.

Taitano, who swam with the Saipan Swim Club as well for seven years, just ran out of water.

Another 100 meters or so could have changed second place into a victory, he said.

"In the back of my mind, of course I wanted to win," said Taitano, 16.

"I wanted to at least finish in the Top 10. At first I was thinking what kind of stroke he had. But

about half way, he broke me."

O'Keeffe never led by more than five meters.

He said this race was similar to the 1996 event, when he was neck-and-neck with another swimmer all the way to the end.

"When you have a lead, you really don't want to give it up," O'Keeffe said.

"To be honest, I really didn't think I would go as fast as I did two years ago. I didn't know what kind of shape I was in. Usually I

would wait to see which guys going out strong; I would wait to see who was fast. I noticed he (Taitano) and I were the only ones who went out fast."

Chris Hansen, a water polo player, was third overall in 50:05.

Winkfield, a sophomore at Marianas High School, said part of her strategy was to swim with her teammates.

But once they were clear of other competitors, it was a matter of staying patient.

"I saw the pack behind me, I saw Josh and the other guy, so I just followed their splash," she said. "I wanted to swim with Tracy. I also saw Seung Jin. All I was thinking was just to follow the splashes of the leaders."

A two-mile swim isn't hard for the Saipan swimmers, she said. "It's kind of like practice because we do ocean swims in Saipan," Winkfield added. "I've been swimming since I was 10. About every year, we do ocean swims."

Jennifer Pierce is the other

Continued on page 23

Hit 'N' Run captures Marpac Memorial title

By Louie C. Alonso

Variety News Staff

A GAME of fly balls. That is probably how most people characterized the championship match between Miller Lite's Hit n Run and I Luv You Man at Susupe field last Friday night.

The Hit n Run prevailed, 14-12, to capture the Marpac Memorial Championship.

If the softball championship battle between Spec and Hit n Run in the last Saipan Softball Association was filled with home runs, last Friday night was quite different.

The championship battle proved to be on of the stiffest of all softball games.

At the final half of the event, the score remained 13-7 after 5 innings in favor of Hit n Run.

The score remained unmoved until 6 innings. It was only on the

Continued on page 23



Philippine Consul Julia Heidemann make the ceremonial toss marking the opening of the Budweiser-RP Centennial Basketball Conference yesterday at the Civic Center. O' Douls and Bud Light were the first teams that played.

Photo by Louie Alonso

Giants, Tritons to play for 3rd GML finals in a row

By EDDIE SIGUENZA

For the Marianas Variety

HAGATNA — For the third straight year, the Pepsi Giants and Kraft Tritons will decide which is the best team in the Guam Major League.

Friday, the Giants won the right to play for their second championship in three years after rallying to beat the Miller Lite Islanders 10-8 at Paseo Stadium.

The victory clinched Pepsi's semifinal series 2-0 over the Islanders after winning the first game 7-1 last Sunday.

Kraft swept its semifinal series over the Continental Golden Jets 2-0. The Tritons and Giants began their Best-of-7 Championship Series last night and will play Game 2 tomorrow.

Pepsi, the three-time pennant winner, won the championship in 1987 but lost to the Guam Greyhound Tritons last year.

The Tritons will try to become the first team since the 1983-84 University of Guam Tritons to win back-to-back titles.

"We have a strong, mutual respect for each other," Pepsi Manager Ray Aguon said of his rivals. "We won't take them for granted. We know it's going to be a competitive series."

Not even a 7-1 lead after two innings was enough for Miller Lite to hold down Pepsi.

The Islanders watched their lead — and hopes for a Game 3 — dwindle as Pepsi rallied for five runs in the fourth inning and six more in the fifth to take the lead.

"We had the lead," said Miller Lite

Manager Willie Brennan. "But we just couldn't deliver the knock out blow. We missed some key fundamental plays. I still feel we could have gone further than how we ended this year. Nobody really gave us a chance. Nobody expected us to be here (in the playoffs)."

The Islanders reached the playoffs by winning five of their final six games, including a 10-9 triumph over Pepsi.

The last time the Islanders won the championship was in 1995, when they beat Pepsi four games to one under the sponsorship of Atkins Kroll.

Pepsi's four-run, sixth inning came after Islander pitcher Chris Nelson relieved Derek San Miguel, who hit and walked a batter. Nelson

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RP centennial cage loop opens

By Louie C. Alonso

Variety News Staff

THE FILIPINO Amateur Sports Association and the Philippine Centennial Organizing Committee opened the Budweiser-RP Centennial Basketball yesterday at the Civic Center.

Six teams participated in the event that include Budweiser, Bud Lite, O' Douls, Bud Ice, Michelor and Halina's Kitchenette.

The ceremony kicked off with Jun Fidelino as the sport and

games coordinator and Rudy Santos as the tournament chairman.

Special awards were given during the event. Budweiser's muse, Jenny Barnes was hailed as the Best Muse while Halina's Kitchenette as the team in the Best Uniform.

Philippine Consul Julia Heidemann made the ceremonial toss between the first two teams who will play in the event, Bud Light and O' Douls.

Continued on page 23

SSC offers swim lessons

By Louie C. Alonso

Variety News Staff

CNMI's premier swim club has opened its doors to people interested in taking lessons in swimming.

Registration for swimming lessons starts on June 1 and goes

through June 12, 1998.

Classes will be conducted daily from 7:45 to 8:45 a.m. at the Kan Pacific Swimming Pool.

Lessons will be conducted in different levels, and classes are limited.

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