



Marianas Variety

Micronesia's Leading Newspaper Since 1972

Vol. 25 No. 18
©1998 Marianas Variety

Thursday • APRIL 9, 1998

Saipan, MP 96950
Serving CNMI for 26 Years **50¢***Tenorio to ask Clinton Administration:*

'Lets convene 902'

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday announced he will ask for Covenant Section 902 discussions with the Clinton administration.

Tenorio, in a media conference, said the request for 902 discussions will be sent to President Clinton's 902 representative Edward B. Cohen, who wanted the talks held last month.

A deputy solicitor of the US Interior Department, Cohen had insisted that discussions should deal with the White House's "federal takeover" proposal, but Lt. Gov. Jesus R. Sablan yesterday said the CNMI panel intends to take up the issue of federal assis-

tance when the 902 talks push through.

Sablan, who heads the CNMI panel, said discussions should "explore the possibility of having federal agencies assist" their local counterparts in enforcing labor and immigration laws.

"The idea is to find ways of overcoming the (labor and immigration problems) before the CNMI," Sablan said. "Can the US government help us? We are appealing to them."

Other items that could be discussed, Sablan said, include:

- A clarification of the self-government status enjoyed by the CNMI and the extent of this autonomy.

"We should clean up the water



Pedro P. Tenorio

in this issue," he said.

- A clarification of the Covenant's Section 701, which states that the US will assist the Northern Marianas "in its efforts

to achieve a progressively higher standard of living...as part of the American economic community, and to develop the economic resources to meet the financial responsibilities of local self-government."

Sablan said the Tenorio administration wants to know if the CNMI is getting this assistance.

Tenorio postponed the 902 talks

scheduled for last month, saying that there should have been discussions between the CNMI government and the White House prior to the Clinton administration's submission of its "federal takeover" proposal to Congress.

It was the previous administration that suspended the 902 talks

Continued on page 20

CDA's delinquency rate up to 9 percent

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THE DELINQUENCY rate among borrowers from the Commonwealth Development Authority has grown from four percent to nine percent, the chairman of the CDA board disclosed Tuesday.

Juan S. Tenorio said the jump is traced to the present bad economy brought about by the Asian economic turmoil.

Tenorio said the delinquent borrowers include both individuals and big and small companies.

Some are entities who borrowed directly from CDA while others are those who borrowed from local banks with guarantees from CDA.



Juan S. Tenorio

Tenorio said CDA and the banks are helping the borrowers by restructuring their loans.

"I'm glad the banks are helping them," Tenorio said.

He said that in the absence of good economy, "there's nothing we can do but to help these

Continued on page 20



Senior citizens perform the "Batsu" at the Tinian Mini Arts Festival held recently at Kammer Beach Park. The event was organized by the Commonwealth Council for the Arts and Culture. Photo courtesy of CCAC

Jones seeks pullout of DOI officials

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

MINORITY Leader Dino Jones said yesterday he will urge the U.S. Congress to investigate the Department of Interior's activities related to CNMI affairs, and ask that its field representatives on Saipan be pulled out.

"I've totally lost my trust and confidence in them and the agency that they represent," said Jones, who is drafting a related resolution to be sent to Congress.

Jeff Schorr and Keith Aughenbaugh, DOI's field representatives to Saipan, are here



Dino M. Jones

to monitor CIP projects and at the same time, to serve as the liaison between CNMI and Washington. Both officials could not be reached

for comment.

"This is not their state. They (DOI officials) don't belong here," Jones said.

Local officials perceive DOI as Commonwealth's "nemesis," being the lead agency that pushes for the federalization of the CNMI's immigration and labor control.

Allen Stayman, director of DOI's Office of Insular Affairs, has been throwing charges of labor abuse and human rights violations at the CNMI.

"Instead of following their mandate to help us, the Depart-

Continued on page 20

DOI inspections to continue after Lent

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

GOVERNMENT will resume its "unannounced inspections" of factories and workers' housing facilities after the Lenten week, acting Labor and Immigration Secretary Gil San Nicolas said Tuesday.

San Nicolas bared the plan following a two-week lull in the inspections, which led to the discovery of at least 1,200 nonresident workers without Alien Registration Cards (ARCs) and 34 overstayers.

The "raids" also found close to 100 different violations of health and safety regulations.

San Nicolas explained that the Department of Labor and Immigration (DOLI) had to hold off the raids to enable them to prepare appropriate charges against the management of six factories and

a housing facility that had been inspected since March 9.

"We will resume after the Lenten week," said San Nicolas in an interview.

Continued on page 20

WEATHER Outlook



Partly cloudy skies

US Congressmen say:

'NAFTA clearly a failure'

By MICHELLE KOIDIN
TIJUANA, Mexico (AP)—Three U.S. representatives met with border factory workers Tuesday on a mission to highlight the deficiencies of

the North American Free Trade Agreement.
The three congressmen, led by House Minority Whip David Bonior of Michigan, spent more than five

hours listening to Mexican workers who say they have been hurt by the NAFTA pact.
"It's unjust for other people to come to this country and violate our rights,"

said Francisco Javier Sanchez, who said he was fired for forming an independent labor union at the Han Young plant just across the U.S.-Mexico border.

Bonior, along with California Rep. George Miller and Michigan Rep. Bart Stupak, said the 1994 NAFTA pact leaves low-paid Mexican workers open to exploitation while making it difficult for Americans to compete for the jobs.

He said the accord lured U.S. factories south of the border but did not mandate that Mexico adopt the more expensive U.S. workplace standards.

Later Tuesday, the congressmen headed north and were joined by California Reps. Maxine Waters and Julian Dixon at a closed Guess Jeans' subcontractor in East Los Angeles. There, the delegation met with former workers who told of their hardship since

the textile factory shut down last year.

Christina Vasquez, a spokeswoman for the Union of Needle Trades, Industrial and Textile, said as many as 50 contractors have left the area in the last year, prompted by the less stringent labor laws in Mexico.

Bonior said NAFTA has been a policy doomed to failure.

"It has benefited multinational corporations at the expense of workers and people who are concerned about the environment. It's intolerable."

The Han Young automotive plant has been viewed as a test case for NAFTA. A small group of workers at the assembly-for-export factory won the right to form an independent labor union in December, but the Korean-owned factory, which makes truck chassis for Hyundai Precision America in San Diego, has refused to recognize the group.

Bono's widow wins his House seat

By MICHELLE DeARMOND
PALM SPRINGS, California (AP)—Sonny Bono's widow won his seat in the House of Representatives by beating the actor who played the patriarch on "The Waltons" television series in a special election.

"I believe it's really very simple — running a positive campaign on the issues," Mary Bono, a Republican, said at a victory party.

Her husband died in a skiing accident earlier this year.

"He'd be proud and he'd be thinking, 'I knew you could do it,'" she said.

The race attracted national atten-



Mary Bono, wife of the late U.S. Congressman Sonny Bono, addresses supporters Tuesday after learning of her victory in a special election for the seat held by her husband. AP

tion as both major parties looked to build momentum going into November's congressional elections.

With more than half of the precincts reporting, Mrs. Bono had 31,994 votes, or 66 percent, while actor Ralph Waite, a Democrat, had 12,963 votes, or 27 percent. Four other candidates trailed.

Mrs. Bono is the second widow to succeed her husband in Congress this year. Last month, voters in the Santa Barbara area elected Democrat Lois Capps to fill out the term of her husband, Walter Capps, who died of a heart attack in Octo-

Continued on page 20

Clinton is an effective president, says McCain



Bill Clinton

OTTAWA (AP)—U.S. Sen. John McCain praised President Bill Clinton for his trade policies Tuesday, calling him the "most effective president, in many respects, that I've seen in my lifetime."

The Arizona Republican offered his praise of the Democratic president after lamenting the lost opportunity for fast-track negotiations on hemispheric free trade in the Americas.

"I believe one of the great successes of President Clinton's first term was the way he was able to lead the country in the ratification of NAFTA. I believe he can and will do it again," McCain told reporters following a speech to the Canadian Club.

"I believe he's totally committed to free trade and that after this election he and all of us who are supporters, on both sides of the aisle, will readress this issue. It's of crucial importance."

McCain's praise of Clinton was in sharp contrast to comments made by Dick Armey, the House majority leader and No. 2 Republican, who told high school students in Texas that Clinton is a "shameless person" who should resign over the sexual scandals surrounding the White House.

McCain said fast-track negotiating authority for the Clinton administration — considered essential to making significant headway — wasn't pitched properly before being voted down last year.

Continued on page 20

DOF starts processing rebates

By Aldwin R. Fajardo

Variety News Staff

THE FINANCE department has issued a memorandum seeking a list of civil service employees who have been receiving special benefits from the CNMI government, in efforts to compare with the income tax returns filed by the workers.

The department has also started with the processing of individual income taxes filed by local and nonresident workers to the Tax and Revenue Division.

Acting Finance Secretary Lucy Nielsen said the directive was issued in a bid to consolidate information and identify who among the government employees are getting housing and vehicle use benefits.

The list will be used as a reference in comparing information with the declared individual income tax returns filed by government employees, according to Nielsen.

"The information will just be for comparison with the declared income tax of government workers," she told Variety.

The acting DOF chief has issued the memorandum seeking for the list of government employees receiving government housing, vehicle use benefits and housing benefits paid directly to the lessor.

The finance department is asking a list of the employees' names, their social security number and the fair market value or fair rental value of the housing provided the workers and the

number of days vehicle had been used last year.

The DOF is also asking for information with respect to employees using government vehicles after working hours.

The department also wanted an inventory of the amount of payment made on behalf of the employees who are using government cars after working hours and the number of payments made last year.

The DOF is trying to release the first batch of tax rebates as scheduled. No other information was immediately available.

The finance department has started accepting income tax returns during the first week of March, following an almost two-month delay in the re-

lease of 1040 forms.

Last year, the forms were issued during the first two months and taxpayers have started filing their income taxes by February, while rebates were released by May.

Speculations were rife that DOF has intentionally delayed the issuance of the 1040 forms to give the CNMI government enough time to

produce the necessary amount to pay for the rebates.

Such speculations, however, have remained unconfirmed.

A preliminary report prepared by the executive transition committee on budget and finance showed that the special trust fund has depleted to \$2 million from \$31 million as of end-1997.

Hofschneider defends emergency health regs

By Mar-Vic C. Munar

Variety News Staff

REPRESENTATIVE Heinz Hofschneider yesterday defended the government's controversial emergency health screening requirement being imposed by the Department of Health and Services on nonresident workers.

"This is only aimed at ensuring public health," said Hofschneider, chairman of the House Committee on Health Education and Welfare.

Hofschneider made the remark in reaction to the business sector's complaint that the new requirement is giving employers too much financial burden.

Employers spend at least \$130 per employee for the medical examination, health certification and alien registration card.

Hofschneider said the financial issue raised the business sector in opposing the new regulations is "unacceptable."

"Our concern is to ensure that our community is free of contagious diseases. The state's health interest is higher than the privilege of doing business here," Hofschneider said.

He reminded employers that the health screening regulation is part of the labor law.

"All the new regulation does is give more teeth to that law," the congressman added.

The new regulation was adopted by the public health department last



Heinz Hofschneider

February, following a report from Atlanta's Communicable Disease Center which found that the CNMI had the highest tuberculosis rate in the Pacific.

"This finding indicated that the old health screening requirement was not observed properly. The new regulation is being done only on an emergency basis and not as an annual requirement," Hofschneider said.

Some critics view the new regulation as discriminatory as it is imposed only on a certain group of the CNMI population.

"It's not discrimination; it's just that residents here have access to our hospitals and health services, but guest workers don't necessarily have that access," Hofschneider said. "It is a general rule that guest workers should undergo medical tests if they want to work here."

Gov't to form wage review board with seats for federal gov't reps

By Zaldy Dandan

Variety News Staff

THE ADMINISTRATION will create a wage review board with federal participation, Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio said yesterday.

Tenorio, in a media conference, said the board will be a "credible" one and will come up with recommendations on what is the "best wage rate" for the CNMI.

"We want a study on the impact of a wage hike (because) we don't want to raise it only to reduce it if the economy continues to worsen," he said.

The governor added, however, that if the board recommends a wage hike, "we'll do it."

Federal participation on the board is needed, he added, "so they could see the impact of any wage hike."

The governor at the same time said

the board could use the Hay Group report on CNMI wages as a "working document."

But Tenorio noted that the Hay Group report, which advised against a wage hike, was drafted when the CNMI economy was still "good."

"Now with the Asian currency crisis and with the Japanese economy hurting it's going to hurt us more," he said.

Hay Management Group received \$899,000 for this comprehensive study of CNMI wages, but the report was totally ignored by the White House and its allies in Congress.

The creation of a wage review board with federal participation is among the recommendations of the Legislature, which has pledged support and cooperation with the administration in its efforts to address federal concerns over local immigration

and labor policies.

The US Interior Department and other proponents of "federal takeover" are urging for the gradual increase of the minimum wage—currently pegged at \$3.05 per hour—until it reaches the federal rate of \$5.15.

The CNMI minimum wage was \$2.15 per hour in 1992, but under pressure from Congress—particularly in the wake of widely publicized reports of exploited garment workers—then governor Lorenzo I.D.L. Guerrero signed a bill raising the rate by 30 cents every year until it reaches the then federal rate of \$4.25 per hour.

In 1993, the minimum wage was raised to \$2.45, and to \$2.75 in 1995.

In early 1996, however, the Legislature passed a bill "freezing" the gradual increase, and exempting the

Continued on page 20

Homestead list now before BPL

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

THE DIVISION of Public Lands (DPL) is set to submit before its Board a list of five homesteaders up for issuance of land deeds.

"I have yet to get a listing of the names of those people (candidates) but we have five who will be issued deeds," said Louise S. Morisheta, DPL's Homestead Administrator.

Most of the homesteaders, she said, are from Kagman III.

Morisheta said the homesteaders have satisfactorily complied with government's regulations on

the issuance of land deeds.

She said more homestead "permittees" may soon be also receiving deeds pending completion of ongoing investigations on the status of their lots.

Morisheta said there are close to 1,000 homestead permit holders currently being checked by DPL for compliance on requirements for land deeds.

"We are still doing our inspections on the homesteaders that will be given their deeds," she said.

The bulk of these permit holders, Morisheta said, is in Kagman

III, Dandan, and As Matuis.

The Board of Public Lands (BPL) will hold a meeting on April 23. The granting of deeds to the five homesteaders will be among matters to be discussed.

Close to 50 permit holders have been issued deeds last month after a review of their lots qualified them for land titles.

Henry Hofschneider, DPL Deputy Director, said the land deeds were given to those whose review has been pending since 1995 and 1996.

Hofschneider, in an earlier interview, said

Continued on page 20

Camacho sues over land dispute

By Ferdie de la Torre

Variety News Staff

FORMER Office of Personnel Management Director Luis S. Camacho has filed a lawsuit before the Superior Court against 15 persons over a land dispute.

Camacho, through counsel Pedro M. Atalig, named as defendants Pedro I. Lucas, Maria I. Teregyo, Juan Ilo, Isabel Kalen, Adela Quitigua, and Does I to 10.

Camacho asked the court to issue an order restraining the defendants from preventing him entry to the

subject land located in Falipe on Saipan.

The complaint said in 1976, the Trial Division of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands determined that Lot 1556 in Falipe is owned by Concepcion I. Lucas, Carmen I. Chaco, Maria I. Teregyo, Juan I. Ilo, and Isabel I. Kalen, all heirs of Sylvestre Iliari and Carmen Chaco Iliari.

Atalig in the complaint said the land is owned in equal but undivided interest of 2,719.25 sq. meter each of

Continued on page 20

TIRES AS LOW AS
\$29.95*

EXPRESS TIRE & LUBE
TRIPLE J
THE NO. 1 NAME IN TIRES

Our Tire and Rim Prices Include Mounting & Computerized Balancing

Customer First

AUTO SERVICE CENTER

WE SERVICE ALL MAJOR BRANDS

Mitsubishi • Hyundai • Isuzu • Toyota • Nissan • Honda • Ford • Chevy • Chrysler • Jeep • BMW • Mercedes • Mazda & more!

BRAKE SERVICE

FREE BRAKE INSPECTION

with every PURCHASE OF 4 TIRES!

OIL & FILTER CHANGE

Drain old oil & add up to 5 quarts of Castrol or Shell Oil

Install new name-brand oil filter

Disposal fee \$3.00 extra

\$29.95

FRONT-END ALIGNMENT

Inspect front & rear suspension

Adjust caster, toe & camber (when applicable)

Most cars

\$59.95

RADIATOR FLUSH

Evacuate old coolant

Check for possible leaks

Refill with new coolant

\$50.95

MAINTENANCE SERVICE

Oil & filter change

Lubricate chassis

Top oil all fluids

Rotate & balance tires

Service battery terminals

Inspect brakes

Most cars & light trucks

\$65.95

CAR WASH

Brushless Car Wash

Starting at **\$5.99**

COMPLETE TIRE OUTLET

MARSHAL TIRES

PASSENGER TIRES	HIGH PERFORMANCE TIRES	4X4 TRUCK TIRES	LIGHT TRUCK TIRES
*155R12 \$29.95	185/60R13 \$59.95	LT27/8.50R14 \$89.95	LT155R12 \$54.95
175/70R13 49.95	195/60R14 73.95	LT30/9.50R15 119.95	LT165R13 54.95
185/70R13 53.95	195/60R15 84.95	LT31/10.50R15 149.95	LT185R14 89.95
175/70R14 59.95	195/65R15 94.95	LT31/11.50R15 154.95	LT195R14 99.95
185/75R14 62.95	215/65R15 109.95	LT33/12.50R15 159.95	LT205/75R14 99.95
185/70R14 64.95	225/60R15 104.95	LT35/12.50R15 169.95	LT215/75R15 104.95
195/75R14 69.95	205/50R15 109.95	LT265/75R16 169.95	LT215/85R16 129.95
195/70R14 74.95	205/55R16 119.95		LT225/75R16 134.95
205/70R14 79.95			LT235/85R16 149.95
205/75R15 79.95			LT245/75R16 159.95
P215/75R15 84.95			
P225/75R15 89.95			

YOKOHAMA PERFORMANCE RADIALS

AS LOW AS \$89.95*

	*185/60R13	*215/40R16
175/50R13	225/40R16	
185/60R14	245/45R16	
205/60R14	215/40R17	
195/45R14	235/40ZR17	
205/50ZR15	255/40ZR17	
205/45R16		

COMPLETE WHEEL OUTLET

ENKEI NOW IN STOCK

AS LOW AS \$129.95

(*NOT EXACTLY AS SHOWN)

EUM-3 14 X 7 UNIVERSAL 4 LOG

G-ZERO 17 X 7.5 UNIVERSAL 4 LOG

WAVE 3 16 X 8 UNIVERSAL 5 LOG

FINANCING AVAILABLE!

Apply for a Triple J Express Tire & Lube Card. Available Soon!

Shell Gas Station on Middle Road, Gualo Ra
Hours: Mon-Sat 7:30A.M.-7:00P.M.
Open Sun 8:00A.M.-5:00P.M.

234-TIRE (8473)
235-4455/6550

Prices valid from April 2 - 16, 1998 only while supplies last. Not with any other offer. Tread design varies by tire size and brand.

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

STRIKE THAT!
By Ferdie P. de la Torre



STALLER
OFFICE - C. HANNAN EST. 1972



Lessons from a 'deportable' alien

RICARTE M. Ular, a long-time guest worker in the CNMI, arrived last Feb. 7 to work for a private firm as maintenance man. At the airport's Immigration Office, his entry permit was handed to him. On Feb. 25 Immigration officers arrested him because he was allegedly a deportable alien.

*** **

Does Ular deserve to suffer in jail? Court records showed that on Dec. 18, 1997, the Department of Labor and Immigration filed a petition asking Ular to show cause why he should not be deported considering that his work permit expired in 1994. The court then set the deportation hearing on Jan. 21.

*** **

After learning about the hearing, Ular went to the Immigration Office on Dec. 29, 1997, to inquire more about his deportation case. Assistant Atty. Gen. Nancy Gottfried, counsel for DOLI, told him it was okay for him to depart voluntarily, but first she should examine his airline ticket and passport. Gottfried advised him to see investigator Tom Barcinas.

*** **

DOLI Deputy Secretary John Joyner reviewed the case and referred the matter along with a written request from Ular for voluntary departure to Gottfried. Subsequent to that meeting, Joyner stated that Gottfried informed him that she had authorized a voluntary departure for Ular.

*** **

Last Jan. 7, Joyner saw Ular and two companions at the DOLI premises. Ular explained that he wanted to see Barcinas who would sign his voluntary departure papers. Ular was set to depart the following day.

*** **

After 12 hours, Joyner saw Ular still waiting for Barcinas. Since Ular had a valid airline ticket and had waited an entire day to have the papers signed, Joyner concurred with the voluntary deportation decision of Gottfried. He instructed Ular to leave on his scheduled flight. Ular exited the following day as his employment papers were processed at DOLI.

*** **

While Ular was in the Philippines, DOLI, however, pursued the deportation hearing last Jan. 21. The court entered last Jan. 27 a default order of deportation and a bench warrant for the arrest of Ular. When they learned that Ular was back, Immigration agents picked him up and locked him in jail.

*** **

Ular, through former counsel Antonio M. Atalig, asked the court to set aside the default judgment because he was not aware of it. Atalig said after Ular received the notice of deportation hearing, the worker communicated with the Immigration officials who informed him he could leave voluntarily.

*** **

DOLI counsel Assistant Atty. Gen. Robert Goldberg argued that the court's order should be respected and enforced as Ular did not receive a voluntary departure. Atalig pointed out that while there might have been preliminary discussions concerning a possible voluntary departure, the parties did not finalize any agreement. Judge Miguel Demapan granted Atalig's motion and arranged for another deportation hearing.

*** **

Ular's case is a clear evidence of an apparent lack of coordination among DOLI officials and the agency's poor system. We respect Goldberg's position. Ular shall learn a lesson. But let us not forget the point that Ular obtained assurance from the Immigration that he could depart the CNMI voluntarily. Ular thought that such an assurance was sufficient.

*** **

How can a man show up at a deportation hearing when he already voluntarily left the Commonwealth? Can you imagine how a poor man who managed to get the necessary entry and work permits ended up in jail because he is a "deportable" alien? Gentlemen, proper coordination please! It's not easy for a family man to come to work, only to land in jail because of a "screwed up" system. I'll bet you, this is another lawsuit in the making against DOLI and the government.

*** **

THE quick response of our police officers to a reported kidnaping and raping of two Chinese women at the Suicide Cliff was commendable. Our sources said Police Officer I Andrea Ozawa, last year's valedictorian in the police's academy, was the first to arrive at the crime scene. When she saw the victims, Ozawa immediately sought backup from her colleagues. Police Officers Roger Camacho, Norbert Mettao, Jesus Cepeda, and Misael Romoloz, all of the patrol section, responded. As a result, one of the four suspects was immediately arrested during a chase. Nice job, officers!

*** **

Another person who played hero in that incident was a Korean national. The Korean who happened in the area saw the rape incident and immediately called the police through the emergency callbox at Grotto. These solar-powered emergency callboxes have proven to be very useful in crime prevention. Let us maintain and safeguard these devices. If the Korean failed to seek assistance, maybe those women would have been thrown from the cliff. It would have been another possible unsolved murder case.

Continued on page 20

Letters to the Editor

Signs of impending doom?

Dear Editor:

SO we've heard, a handful of "Americans" (local or stateside?) are folding up tents and packing pick, shovel and shifting pan and heading back to the U.S. of A. Leaving the mule behind perhaps? Economic doom looms over the CNMI, sounded the alarmed economist and since these folks are "professionals" this could very well be the seventh sign.

That is probably the most misused and misunderstood word in the English language. In sports, a professional is one who plays for money and it appeared that was the intended meaning. Well, fine then.

From boom to doom, all in a span of a short decade. We saw it come and we will watch it go, both the money and the "professionals" with it.

Good riddance. We were here 500 years ago when the first westerners washed up on our shores, sick, starving and dying.

Remarkably, we were here to watch them leave 400 years later after the onslaught of diseases and war. We were here when the Germans, Japanese, Americans and the tourists came.

The economy's downward spiral, it was reported, will send us reeling back to the 1990 \$1.2 billion economy.

That was a good year. Before the arrival of the "tired, huddled masses" (yearning to be free?).

Before the ugly garment factory conditions with their fully fenced-in premises and contract to lobby Washington D.C. and before the Bangladeshi slept on the doorstep of the Horiguchi Building, hungry, jobless and destitute.

Just how long do we as a people, intend on carrying on with this double standard, one for citizens and the other for non-citizens?

We even have two distinct categories of U.S. citizens - those who can own land and those who cannot.

We have planted the seeds of racism in the minds of our quest workers and are cultivating it in the hearts of their children.

Someday our children will reap that which we

have sown. Read the writings on the wall. We must make real and tangible changes to become more democratic in our treatment of people and in our tolerance thereof.

We have projected an image of government sponsored discrimination based on race and national origin.

We have even devised laws that discriminate people on the basis of economic status.

We have managed to devise phrases like "lawful intent" to disguise our less than benign intentions.

This assertion is predicated on the ill-gotten notion that the CNMI government has no intention of ever allowing these people the full and free exercise of their inalienable rights guaranteed all citizens in a free society: to own land, build a home, raise a family, vote and pursue happiness.

Our sense of human decency should not permit us to tolerate the substandard conditions imposed on those less fortunate.

Let's stop doing the right thing for the Feds and start doing it for ourselves! It's going to take more than a moratorium and some surprise inspections to get us thru federal scrutiny; it's going to take some very fundamental reforms.

"My eyes have seen the glory..." cried the fallen civil rights leader, Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. Have yours?

I take comfort in knowing that when this economic storm finally blows over we will still be here, minus of course the doomsday sayers, the professionals, economists and the ruthless (wolf?) capitalists.

They, I hope will continue to follow the dinero in search of cheap human labor.

We will once again find a niche in our own little corner of the world and keep on doing what we've always been doing, making the best of it all, no thanks to them.

And I hope that someday, when the children of the CNMI finally set foot in El Salvador, they'll be coming off a cruise ship and not a hostile ship of bad intentions.

JOSE C. MAFNAS

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

To turn economy around:

Everyone of us needs to 'sacrifice,' says Sablan

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

LIEUTENANT Gov. Jesus R. Sablan said Tuesday that all the sectors of the community may have to "make sacrifices" to help pump up the sluggish economy.

Sablan reiterated that his proposal to temporarily scrap the Commonwealth Ports Authority's (CPA) landing fees could help entice airlines to the CNMI, but added that "CPA can't do it alone."

"Everyone has to chip in," he said, adding that scrapping the fees is not sufficient incentive for tourists to visit the islands.

The tourism industry, for its part, should also come up with discounts for tourists, as well as tapping other markets such as Taiwan, which has been "untouched" by the currency



Jesus R. Sablan

crisis afflicting other Asian countries, notably Japan and South Korea.

Sablan, who also suggested the reduction of the room tax, admitted that his proposed measures could mean less revenues for the cash-strapped government.

But, he added, "We could get these revenues back through the multiplier

effect of more economic activity once more tourists visit us."

"Instead of just sitting down and hoping that the economy would turn around we should come up with ways to deal with this slump," Sablan said.

In a separate interview, acting CPA Executive Director Carlos Salas said scrapping the landing fees could mean a loss of \$1.9 million a year, based on the expected collection for fiscal year 1998.

"That's a pretty big amount," he said. "We need to assess the impact first, especially on our ability to pay CPA's debts."

Salas said he has made arrangements to meet with Sablan and discuss the landing fees.

"Maybe we can provide other incentives or other options for airlines," he said.

Room rates already dropping-- HANMI



Lynn Knight

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE HOTEL Association yesterday said room rates have already started dropping and further reduction would drive businesses to the edge, which may lead to bankruptcy.

"It's already happening. They will know if they would only talk with hotel managers," said HANMI spokesperson Lynn Knight when asked to comment on a government's call for Saipan hotels to reduce room rates.

She said the downfall on room rates in Saipan hotels is a "market driven situation," when industry players normally reduce unit costs to compete and eventually get a bigger portion of the market.

Knight said there is no reason to compare room rates on Saipan with Guam because of the difference on the cost of doing business between the two islands.

The Hotel Association spokesperson was reacting to a statement issued by Development Authority Chairman Juan Tenorio, claiming hotel

room rate on Saipan is higher than on Guam and "local hotels should consider lowering their rates."

Tenorio said the average room in a four-star hotel here costs \$160 per day, whereas in Guam is \$135. He pointed out that it should be the other way around since the minimum wage and hotel room tax here are lower.

He also mentioned that unlike Guam, there is no property tax on Saipan.

But Knight said the comparison between Guam and Saipan makes no sense since Guam is getting more direct flights from Continental Micronesia than Saipan does.

"Saipan is not more expensive than Guam. What makes Saipan expensive is the airline," she said, adding that the reduction in nonstop flights must also be looked into when considering a fair mark up for tour packages.

She explained that Saipan suffered a more critical plunge in tourist arrivals because of the Korean economy's stumble. At least 30 percent of the Northern Mariana Islands' visitors were from Korea.

Knight said Saipan is more dependent on Korean tourists than Guam, citing the several Korean investments in the Northern Marianas, including a number of small hotels which have either reduced rates by \$30-\$40 per day to survive the crunch or ceased operations.

"Our Korean market is larger proportionally than Guam's market. The serious downturn in tourist arrivals has nothing to do with the room rate but because we lost [many] direct

flights and the Korean market," she added.

The CDA said Guam hotels are still enjoying between 75-80 percent occupancy, compared with Saipan's 60 percent range.

At the same time, Knight explained that room rates are higher on Saipan than they are on Guam because "it is more expensive doing business in the CNMI than in Guam."

In a position paper, HANMI said most medium to large hotels on Saipan must provide for their own infrastructure. It said the cost of water desalination and power plant ranges as high as \$3 million per resort hotel, with more than \$800,000 in annual maintenance.

A significant factor in recovering the cost of investments on Saipan is that most businesses cannot own the land they are built on, according to the HANMI paper, unlike Guam where anyone can own land.

It said construction costs are high due to the necessity of building typhoon-proof facilities. Imported construction materials cost 30 percent more than the mainland, or 10-15 percent higher than Guam, due to economies of scale, added shipping expenses and excise taxes.

Knight said Saipan hotels may be able to reduce room rates "slightly" but "too much reduction" may push businesses to the brink "and they can't go in the nail very long."

HANMI president Ron Sablan said it would take at least four months to make room rate adjustments since these were quoted by Japanese tour agents six months in advance.

11-year old girl 'sexually molested'

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

AN 11-year-old girl has been allegedly sexually molested by a man over a year now in an apartment on Saipan, police said yesterday.

Public Safety Information Officer Maj. J. J. Castro said the girl confessed that a gardener has been molesting her when her father confronted her Tuesday morning.

Castro said the father noticed that his daughter came out from a

gardener's room.

The girl allegedly stated that she was afraid to tell the incident because the suspect threatened her.

A medical examination showed that the girl was indeed sexually molested, Castro said.

No arrest was made yet.

Meanwhile, the Attorney General's Office charged on Tuesday a 19-year-old boy who allegedly sexually abused a girl last March 5.

Assistant Atty. Gen. Barry A. Hirschbein charged Jesus Cabrera Camacho with sexual abuse of a child.

Camacho was summoned to appear in court on April 27.

In another report, unidentified person/s broke into a private firm in Gualo Rai and stole \$580 in three company checks and \$50 cash from a cash box Tuesday morning.

Papers were scattered all over the office, police said.



Miller Lite PRESENTS

Night OF THE ISLANDERS

An Evening of Live local Music

FRIDAY, APRIL 17TH

7:00PM - 1:00AM

AT



\$22.50

TICKETS AVAILABLE AT
PTC and Beach Bar

FEATURING

Marianas Rhythm

Olomway Band

Candy Taman

Alfred Saures &
the CM Serenaders

Maliu Band

For the benefit of
"All For One Catering"

THINK WHEN YOU DRINK

US 'query' puzzles Teno

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff
GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday described as "puzzling" the US House Interior Appropriations Subcommittee's question on how the CNMI could gain its independence, saying that the Northern Marianas has no intention of dissolving its political union with the United States.

"I don't know what's the reason (behind that question)," he said in a media conference.

"The CNMI is a proud member of the US and I doubt whether the (people of the commonwealth) would want

independence," he added.

In a 14-item questionnaire forwarded to the governor, the subcommittee asks, "What steps would be required in order for the CNMI to gain its independence? What discussions have you had on this issue with the Department of the Interior or with congressional officials on this matter?"

However, it was then governor Froilan C. Tenorio who first brought up the idea of an independent Northern Marianas during a media conference on Aug. 6, 1997.

Saying that he "had had enough" of

the Clinton administration's unfair criticism of CNMI's labor and immigration policies, Tenorio told reporters that he would ask the federal government to grant independence or a "freely associated state" status to the Northern Marianas.

He said "maybe it's time (Guam and the Northern Marianas) get together (again) and form our own country, the Republic of the Marianas."

Tenorio's proposal drew flak from his political opponents, including from his uncle, the then Republican gubernatorial candidate Pedro P. Tenorio, who said that independence can never be an option for the Northern



Pedro P. Tenorio

Marianas.

Meanwhile, the subcommittee, which is reviewing the Interior Department's proposed fiscal year 1999 budget, also wants to know

where the CNMI government got the millions of dollars paid to consultants and lobbyists such as Preston Gates, and how the commonwealth expended federal funds earmarked for labor and immigration reforms.

Questions were also raised on the CNMI's need for a new prison facility and crime lab, as well as the unused \$90 million in federal CIP funds.

The subcommittee, moreover, wants to know the composition of the CNMI's population, the number of garment factories and the total tax revenue received by the commonwealth government from these factories.

Gov't urged to cut expenses

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THE chairman of the Commonwealth Development Authority board the other day called on government and its officials and employees to resort to austerity measures in the absence of a good economy.

Juan S. Tenorio suggested such measures as car pools among employees and cutbacks on office expenditures including off-island trips.

"The government should look into cutting more cost at least on office supplies and equipment, and travel," Tenorio said.

He said that the government should also cut on overtime.

Tenorio said the people of the CNMI should look for ways to help the government.

He said wasteful lifestyles can be done away with. "Everybody is driving individual cars. We should have car pools."

If nothing is done to help do away with unnecessary expenses the government, he said, would have no other choice but remove or cut down the number of employees.

At least one government agency, the Commonwealth Utilities Corp., has undertaken austerity measures to "deal with the financial situation facing the CNMI government."

As early as February, a month after the new administration took over, Executive Director Timothy P. Villagomez

issued a memorandum to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio stating that the CUC had initiated the austerity move since "each agency must do its part to address the current crisis."

Among the austerity measures, according to Villagomez, were restrictions in overtime and travel, the recall of five cellular phones, a freeze in the hiring of new employees, and salary increase deferment.

Villagomez said new hirings would be limited to those were previously announced and to replacements "necessary to maintain operations."

"He added that the CUC was deferring salary increases except for annual increments until such time that the financial outlook for CUC and the CNMI government improves."

OPA faults Tinian lease

By Mar-Vic C. Munar
Variety News Staff

THE OFFICE of the Public Auditor is recommending that former Procurement and Supply Director Edward Palacios be sanctioned for approving an anomalous two-year lease contract signed in 1995 by then Tinian Mayor Herman Manglona for office use.

In a report released yesterday,

Public Auditor Leo LaMotte said the Mayor's lease contract with James Fleming, who used to "own" the property in question, was forged "without either a competitive bidding or, at least, a sole source justification."

The contract involved some office spaces at the KBC Building in San Jose Village, which the Tinian government

rented for \$5,000 per month, or \$1.19 per square foot.

OPA found that the rate charged by Fleming was higher by 19 percent compared to other rates for similar office spaces.

For example, OPA said, "the Tinian Mayor's office pays \$6,000 monthly for the use of its main office building with an area of 6,000 square feet,

or an equivalent of \$1. per square foot."

Other than rental rate differences, OPA also faulted Palacios for failing to assess Fleming's legal capacity and authority to enter into a two-year lease agreement.

OPA found that when Fleming signed a lease contract with the government, his rights to use the property had already expired.

"This occurred because J. Fleming willfully agreed to a renewal of a lease contract with the Tinian Mayor's Office despite knowing that his rights in the property had already expired," OPA said.

The initial contract between the Mayor's Office and Fleming was signed on Jan. 1, 1995.

Fleming knew that his rights over the property was to expire on Feb. 26, 1997 by virtue of a 1992 Ground Lease Agreement he had entered into with another lessee.

On March 10, 1997—12 days after his rights over the property expired—he signed an amended contract with the Mayor's Office.

On March 22 of the same



Leo LaMotte

year, Fleming entered into an agreement with the Commonwealth Development Authority wherein he assigned all his rights as lessor of the property, including entitlement to the then \$5,000 monthly rent to CDA.

As of May 1997 both Fleming and CDA still continued to receive monthly rental payments, each receiving \$5,000.

"As a result Fleming violated the provisions of the Ground Lease Agreement to which he was a party, and has led the Tinian Mayor's office and CDA to believe that he still retained rights as lessor of the property, thereby resulting serious conflicts."

Gov't urged to create task force to oversee 'reforms'

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE BUSINESS community yesterday called for the institution of an independent body that would oversee the implementation of measures aimed at correcting labor and immigration flaws.

Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Joe C. Ayuyu suggested the organization of a group of people that would list down all the areas of problems confronting the Northern Mariana Islands' labor sector.

"Now is the time not to let up and get together a group of people, like a Task Force, maybe comprising of three or four people, to list down all these areas of problems and what are we doing in terms of correcting them," Ayuyu told reporters.

He said some of the concerns raised by the Department of Interior during the US Senate hearing were not backed up by facts, giving the Commonwealth an opportunity to clarify that these are not in existence.

"But moving beyond the hearing, we still need to take care some of the problems that we have," he added.

The Chamber president also urged Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and the Legislature to articulate the concerns raised by the federal government "and perhaps appoint someone that will coordinate the implementation of programs to correct these problems."



Joe C. Ayuyu

He also emphasized that importance of a clear regulation that penalizes erring employers who continue to maltreat or abuse both nonresident and local workers.

"We want to make sure that we

have a program at the Department of Labor that if you don't pay your employees on time, you will be subjected to some kind of penalty," Ayuyu said.

The business sector leader said penalties may range from obligating the employer to immediately address the problem like the swift payment of salaries or the revocation of the businessmen's permit to run a business.

"Examples like these on an ongoing basis must be implemented. After

Continued on page 20

Disbarred lawyer asks court to set ruling aside

By Ferdie de la Torre
Variety News Staff

A LAWYER who was disbarred last year because of alleged professional misconduct has asked the Superior Court to set aside the ruling.

Dennis J. O'Shea told the court that said his physical, financial and personal problems have prevented him from defending the complaint against him.

"I am acting pro se in this matter as I am still unable to afford counsel due to the fact that my wages were garnished to the maximum amount permissible to cover current and back child support within a month of being employed," said O'Shea in the affidavit.

Presiding Judge Alexandro Castro ordered the disbarment of O'Shea following a complaint by the CNMI Bar Association for 18 counts of violations of Model Rules of Professional Conduct.

The lawyer defaulted the complaint by not answering the it as required by law.

Castro ordered O'Shea to pay \$750 as restitution to his five "abandoned" Filipino clients and reimburse \$4,850 to the CNMI Bar Association for attorneys' fee and \$55 for court costs.

In his answer, O'Shea, now an entry level prosecutor, stated that the health problems he was experiencing made it difficult to run his law practice and take care of his family on the mainland.

"Over the time the situation worsened and, being unable to generate any income to meet my financial obligations, I lost my apartment, office, furniture, and the vehicle I was driving and was forced to meet clients in hotel lobbies or the hospital cafeteria while I lived on food and shelter provided by Karidat," he said.

Continued on page 20

Frederick's Bar & Grill

is now open for business;

We serve,

- * Breakfast 6:30 a.m. - 10:00 a.m.
- * Lunch 11:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.
- * Dinner 6:00 p.m. - 12:00 a.m.

Bar Hours:

11:00 am - 12:00 am	Monday-Thursday	} HAPPY HOURS 11:00AM-7:00PM
11:00 am - 2:00 am	Friday-Saturday	
11:00 am - 10:00 pm	Sunday	

* Daily Special Lunch \$5.00
* We accept Take-out Orders
* We are located in Garapan "Hotel Street" between former Ninos Pizza and Kimchi Cabana. 1st floor Evergreen Plaza Building

Fan Matto!!
Au Toto!!

Telephone # 233-5861

We are very pleased to serve you...

PUBLIC HEARING NOTICE

The Coastal Resources Management Program (CRMP) will be holding a public hearing regarding Coastal Permit Application No. SMS-98-X-70 submitted by Micronesian Environmental Services on behalf of Silver Trading Co., Ltd. for the conversion of the Silver Resort Hotel from a commercial building into a commercial/hotel operation. Silver Resort Hotel is located in Chalan Kanoa, Saipan.

The public hearing is scheduled for April 9, 1998 at 6:30 pm at the Multi-Purpose Center in Susupe, Saipan. This is the second and final notice of this public hearing.

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

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

PETER J. BARLAS
Acting Director
Coastal Resources Management

TENT RENTAL SPECIAL

Guerrero Trading Corporation

\$56

Package One!
1 TENT 10'X20' / 1 TABLE 2'X8'
PLUS YOUR CHOICE OF 1 SACK OF RICE OR 1 CASE OF SODA!!!

\$95

Package Two!
2 TENTS 10'X20' / 8 CHAIRS
1 TABLE 2'X8' PLUS YOUR CHOICE OF 1 SACK OF RICE OR 1 CASE SODA

FREE DELIVERY + SET-UP
FREE TAKE DOWN

TAKE ADVANTAGE TODAY!!! DIAL!!!

Ph.#322-2112/Fax#322-2113

HAPPY EASTER!

Budweiser

Presents:

Hot Saipan Nights & Cool Bud Specials!

Easter Celebration
at the
DISCOTHEQUE GIG
N15'12'
Garapan

APRIL 3 - 18
8pm to Closing

Entrance: \$10 (with local ID)
Includes 5 Bud Family beers!

Budweiser

FRESH BEER TASTES BETTER

MAX PAC

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

CHC, EMS team up for Public Health Week

By Laila C. Younis
Variety News Staff

AS PART of the Public Health Awareness Week, several CNMI government agencies got "health check-ups" from volunteers of CHC Public Health, CHC Nursing Staff, and the Emergency Medical Services.

"We visited government agencies this year, such as Department of Public Works, Commonwealth Utilities, and even the Governor's Office to give free blood pressure and glucose testing," said CHC Public Health Coordinator Chailang Palacios.

"This program is part of our Public Health Awareness Week from April 6-12th, and it serves to educate and

prevent serious illnesses like diabetes and high blood pressure," she said.

"It is very important to watch your health, cut down on the fat and exercise regularly. Being aware of your health helps prevent serious health problems," she added.

According to Palacios, the volunteers went to each government department and set up an area for testing and registering.

"Each employee had to register, so we can have a data base and then the nurses performed the tests. After the results were in, we would talk to the employees about important health information," said Palacios.

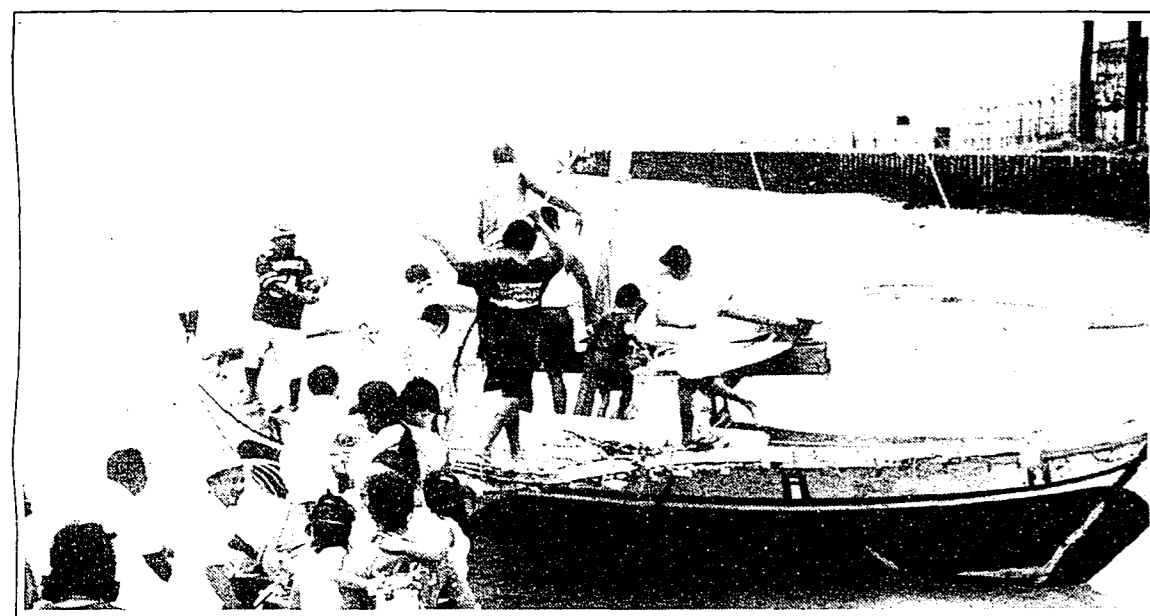
"There were more than a hundred

employees each time we visited, and it is wonderful to see that kind of turnout," she said.

Palacios also pointed out that the CHC Public Health staff "really appreciate the partnership with EMS and the CHC nurses."

"They volunteered their time which was difficult for them because of their schedules. But we all worked together and without this partnership, we could not have done it," she said.

"Next week, we are planning to target the high schools for informational visits, including preventing teenage pregnancy and also parental education," she added.



The Canoe Federation offers a ride to visitors at the recent 1998 Tinian Mini Arts Festival sponsored by the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture. Photo Courtesy of CCAC.

Rota Health Walk a success

By Marc Hizon
For the Variety

ROTA (RDSU) — The Rota Elementary and Junior High School Science committee has organized a fundraising for the upcoming Science Fair, a one week event starting April 27 to May 1.

Part of this drive is "Walk for Health," in line with the awareness on health and physical fitness program of the school.

The Science Fair organizers and committee are composed of Rizalina Maratita, Genevieve Atalig, Lisa Riesling, Loleta Barrion and Tina Hocog. The "walk for health" event held last April 04, 1998 started at 6:30 a.m. from the Tatachog pavilion all the way to the Round House at Songsong village.

The two-and-a-half mile walk was participated in by students from grades K-8th; teachers; parents; Jovita Taimanao, RE & JHS, principal; Teresita Santos, Rota Public Health Resident Director; Lt. Ricardo Taimanao and walk and run enthusiasts.

"I am elated that this event was successful, specially that it is health oriented and a very good thing for our children to be hooked on. Also, I would like to commend the Department of Public Safety, the organizing committee and all parents for their support of our school activities," said Taimanao.

The fundraising proceeds would cover the expenses for purchasing trophies, medals and other prizes for the upcoming Science Fair which will be held at the Rota Elementary Campus.

"It is of the Science committees goal to promote the concept that 'Science is Fun'. An awareness saying to let the children know and understand that science is not a difficult subject. It is associated with fun and a lot of experience," emphasized Rizalina Maratita, Science teacher.

"I would personally want to encourage the people of Rota, the young and old alike to start being health conscious. This event has so far demonstrated the enthusiasm of our youth and parents to keep their body fit," said Teresita Santos, Public Health Resident Director.

OPA offers Ethics briefings for government employees

THE OFFICE of the Public Auditor has announced it is available to make presentations covering all aspects of the Government Ethics Act to any government agency, group of employees, or private citizen groups who are interested in learning more about the law.

The presentation, which is about two hours in length, covers a range of subjects including "Political Activity," "Gifts and Gratuities," "Conflict of Interest," "Complaints on Ethics Violations," and "Filing Financial Disclosure Statements."

This presentation will en-

able government employees and others to not only gain broader in-depth working knowledge of the Ethics Act, but will afford them the opportunity to ask those questions they always wanted to ask by haven't.

The Public Auditor can give the presentation either at an agency or at any designated facility available in Rota, Saipan and Tinian.

If an agency or group of employees or citizens is interested in the Public Auditor providing this presentation, please contact Jack Remke at the Office of the Public Auditor at 234-6481.

Rota NMC campus on track

By Marc Hizon
For the Variety

ROTA (RDSU) — Rota campus Administrator Aniceto H. Mundo is optimistic about development on the proposed Campus at the Tatachog area which is one of the major projects of Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona.

Clearing and ground leveling is in progress and the work performed has been going on full scale.

The Rota NMC administrator together with Mayor Manglona testified before the DPL panel on Saipan saying the proposed site is expected to be decided to NMC in the soonest possible time.

Portions of the proposed campus are privately-owned

and negotiations with the Division of Public Lands to resolve this issue is underway.

According to Mundo, proposed deal for landowners having 700 sq. meters or less shall be compensated (monetary), while larger parcels shall be dealt thru land exchanged.

"We for sure want to see the actual construction of the facility, it has been quite some time now that our campus has been on the drawing boards.

"Our present building has been condemned and we have to vacate this in the most feasible time. Besides, the retirement fund is planning to commence construction of their own building and this is the site allocated for that."

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

MOA provides employment for students with disabilities

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

STUDENTS will be afforded the opportunity to develop their academic, social and vocational skills to prepare them for employment under a memorandum of agreement signed between the Public School System Special Education Program (Sped) and the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation.

Under the MOA, the Special Education Program shall schedule Indi-

vidualized Educational Plan meetings with students, families, teachers and other agency team members on an annual basis.

It shall present to students participating in the Sped on-the-job training program, appropriate job matches according to their abilities, interests and training needs.

On the other hand, the Office of Vocational Rehabilitation, under the MOA, shall meet with stu-

dents, families and other individuals to discuss the results of the students' vocational assessments, to provide consumers the opportunity for informed choice, and to explore possible vocational options.

The OVR shall also complete an individual written rehabilitation plan for each student with disability before he or she leaves the school system.



Grace Christian Academy Elementary students perform a lively tamourine number at the recent Tinian Arts Festival sponsored by the Commonwealth Council for Arts and Culture. Photo Courtesy of CCAC.

I Taotaota to feature Taimanao

PROGRAMAN I Taotaota is featuring a continuation of Chamorro Orthography with Carmen S. Taimanao, PSS Chamorro Bilingual Program Manager and CNMI Language Policy Commission Board Member, and Bill Macaranas.

CNMI Language Policy Commission Executive Director on Thursday, April 09, 1998, hosted by Frances M. Sablan on Marianas Cable Vision (MCV).

So watch the pre-recorded version of Programan I

Taotaota for April 9th only, on Channel 7 at 7 p.m., and its reruns from April 10th-16th.

Dear Mom, Dad, and all grown ups,

Being happy is healthier. I watch you a lot. I haven't seen you smile and say anything funny in a long time. I can tell if you are sad, happy, or worried. It makes me smile when you try to make things better. Thank you for trying your best.

Thanks For Listening.

Help prevent Child Abuse & Neglect. If you need assistance please call the Division of Youth Services at 664-2550

Collect all 16 messages from the Children's Declaration and win a prize for your family. Call "For The Children" at 664-2566 or stop by their office in Garapan after you collect all messages

Island Tastes

A Taste of India on Saipan

By Laura L. Post
Judith E. Avery

WE HAVE partaken of a new restaurant, "A Taste of India" on three occasions recently and each time the conclusion is the same: great new restaurant, friendly hospitality, reasonable prices and some of the finest and authentic Indian food we've ever sampled.

Managed by Sunny Kallungal, president and his wife, Baby Kallungal, A Taste of India delightfully blends savory spices, fresh preparation by five-star chefs and homey service.

The Kallingals hail originally from southern India and started in the restaurant business several months ago.

Their elder son, Tony sometimes serves as impromptu and attentive maitre d'hote and the entire family (with other son Sabu) plan on remaining in Guam, their home for 18 years while keeping Taste operational here.

The eatery has been so popular since the "soft" opening that the Kallingals are already even contemplating expansion from the main room in Chalan Kanoa.

The menu is typical of the region. Appetizers include samosas (egg roll-like filled and deep-fried savories) served with mint and tamarind chutney. We were warned away from those our first time out because the strong flavors might have conflicted with those of the entrees we had chosen. Other appetizers are pappadum, crispy-thin pepper bread and pakoras, distinguished from samosas by the vegetarian content, non-pyramidal shape and special flour crust of the former.

The entrees are something truly special. Everything tandoori—the staff invites patrons to inspect the genuine oven and other food preparation through the large window designed especially for that purpose—was superb: moist, succulent, redolent of charcoal and Indian taste.

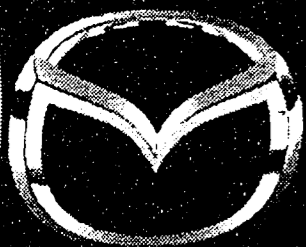
The naan bread—unleavened, buttered was a spongy complement to the don't want-to-leave-a-drop sauces, particularly the hot, vinegary Vindaloo and the creamy tomato Makhni.

For non-carnivores, the Thali plant and Vegetable Curry were rich and filling. Lots of other non-meat dishes as well; one outstanding example was the Biryani, with Basmati rice and all the aforementioned gravies are available meatless.


The most special items were the Poori bread—puffy, buttery, chewy (not on the menu but available if you ask); and the Indian Chai tea. Containing ginger and cardamom, it is the perfect end to a wonderful meal or a terrific and tasty treatment for a cold or flu.

Take-out is available, also home or business delivery. The phone number is 234-8448 and they are located for now on Beach Road a block from the turnoff for the Movie House.

Until then, we are your rambling restaurateurs.



The New 1998 Sedan




mazda® 626

Midway Motors

ROTA 532-7524 • SAIPAN 234-7524 • TINIAN 433-0007


In Susupe across Grand Hotel



NEW Restaurant!

We Serve:

K'S DIMSUM & NOODLE HOUSE



DIMSUM • siopao • siomai • squid balls • dumplings	NOODLE SOUPS • wonton • ravioli • chicken • beef brisket	CONGEE/RICE SOUPS/LUGAW • Pork ball (bola bola) • halo halo • chicken ball • sliced beef and many more
---	---	--

TOP QUALITY FOOD AT LOW PRICES

\$1.75 AND UP

Try our new dishes:
 1. Shrimp ball/squid ball noodle soup
 2. Beef ball noodle soup
 3. Spicy goto

We are open until midnite during weekdays & 3:00 a.m. during weekends

For Take Out Service, Please Call Tel. No. 234-3307

\$21.7M for snake eradication

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff

A TOTAL of \$21.7 million is needed to continuously finance current efforts to prevent the spread of brown tree snakes in the Pacific region over a five-year period, documents showed.

According to the Brown Tree Snake Control Plan, at least \$4.4 million is needed annually to fund operational program needs and ongoing research.

The BTSCP is a blueprint being used by a multi-agency task force composed of the US Departments of Defense, the Interior, and Agriculture as well as governments of Hawaii, Guam and the Commonwealth.

The task force recently met to upgrade BTSCP.

Under BTSP, operational program needs have been broken down into at least eight "tasks." These are:

- * The reduction of the snake species' populations over large geographic areas of which a yearly fund of \$175,000 is needed.

- * The elimination of the snakes from transportation network which is covered by a yearly \$1.3 million fund.

- * The eradication of snakes in recently established populations which needs a yearly fund of \$200,000.

- * The control of snakes to reduce predation on threatened and endangered species which uses up an average of \$300,000 in yearly spending.

- * The reduction of human contacts to prevent snake bites and emotional trauma which costs an average of \$50,000 a year.

- * The reduction of electrical outages and damages to equipment. This item has no funding.

- * Education and Outreach which is seen to cost \$100,000 a year.

- * The evaluation of the effectiveness of control actions where an average of \$50,000 a year is to be spent.

The research needs is subdivided into three components:

- * Basic control technology de-

velopment where \$1.1 million is seen to be spent on the first year; \$1.4 on the second; \$763,000 on the third; \$277,000 on the fourth and \$420,000 on the fifth.

- * Biological control technology where \$600,000 is seen to be

spent each on the first and second years; and \$1.05 million for the third, fourth, and fifth.

- * Basic snake technology where \$330,000 is spent on the first year; \$235,000 on the second; \$160,000 on the third; and \$100,000 each

on the fourth and fifth years. The multi-agency task force, by virtue of a five-year renewable memorandum of agreement that binds it, are also obligated to find fund source for the control plan.

Governor says he's not aware of Preston Gates plan to rap Stayman

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio yesterday said he was unaware of Preston Gates' plan to attack and discredit Insular Affairs Director Allen Stayman and his office for supporting "federal takeover" legislation.

Tenorio said Preston Gates worked with the CNMI panel before and during the March 31 US Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee hearing, but added that he never discussed "attacking" Stayman with the Seattle-based law firm.

Quoting from a leaked memo written by Jack Abramoff, Preston Gates' chief lobbyist for the CNMI, the Washington Post reported last March 31 that the firm's new lobbying plan "was aimed primarily at using congressional hearings...to impeach Stayman and his campaign against (the commonwealth), enabling us to then go to the appropriations process and either defund or severely restrict his activities."

Preston Gates' other planned activities included "preparing the Stayman attack" and "pre-



Allen Stayman

paring legislation to be introduced into the appropriations process...."

But the governor said it was the CNMI that was subjected to a spate of negative publicity in the national media, which intensified days before the hearing.

"(Stayman) could have notified us (about the allegations he related to the media), and we could have investigated or looked into these charges," Tenorio said.

However, he denied "snubbing" Stayman, who asked for an audience with the governor after the hearing.

"I told him I would be happy to meet with him on a latter date because I was scheduled to go to

Honolulu (on the day he requested a meeting)," Tenorio said.

Happy, sort of

At the same time, the governor expressed relief that the hearing is now over, saying that he is pleased with its results.

"I'm confident that the committee will review our testimony and will make a decision that is good for the CNMI," he said.

"(Committee Chair Frank Murkowski [R-Alaska] said) he would like to see more coordination and cooperation between the federal and commonwealth governments (to resolve the CNMI's labor and immigration problems)," Tenorio said.

But, he added, there is no cause for celebration until the committee's report is completed.

He reiterated that his administration's commitment to reforms has nothing to do with the hearing.

"This administration (has vowed) neither to condone nor tolerate abuses and violations of our laws," Tenorio said, referring to his campaign promise.

PATA conference cites need for gov't-industry alliance

By Rick Alberto
Variety News Staff

THE recent annual conference of the Pacific Association of Travel Agents held in Manila underscored the need for closer alliances between government tourism-related agencies and the tourism industry, Marianas Visitors Bureau Managing Director Anicia Q. Tomokane said yesterday.

Tomokane led the CNMI delegation to the conference held last March 29-April 2 at the Philippine International Convention Center.

The conference's theme was "Inspiring Progress: Influencing Prosperity."

Asked what the CNMI learned from the conference based on the theme, Tomokane said, "There's a need for us to work together very closely...with the airlines, tour operators, organizations such as dive operators, the hotels, and the golf associations."

Tomokane said alliances should be formed, although these have been done in the past.

These present alliances, she continued, should "work together even more closely in this difficult time."

"There is room for us to share each company's or organization's strength and build a greater campaign if we align ourselves to-

gether," Tomokane said.

Tomokane said that the need to reinvest in new tourist attractions was emphasized during the conference, as well as the need to organize more media visits and educate tour agents on each region's situations.

Delegates were also advised on the importance of surveys to know a destination's strengths and shortcomings and what visitors think about the place.

Tomokane reported that during the second plenary session on "Turning Problems into Opportunities," a factor that was found to be of utmost importance is the provision of funds to carry out the PR campaigns and plans of consultants.

If the recommended strategic plans and campaigns are not carried out, the money spent on the PR company or consultants is otherwise wasted, it was pointed out.

The CNMI was represented by nine delegates. Aside from Tomokane, the delegates included MVB Marketing Manager Norman Berg, MVB board member Kaishun Nishigaya of Japan Airlines, Sens. Juan P. Tenorio and David Cing (who was accompanied by two staffers), Rep. Karl Reyes, and three board members of the Commonwealth Development Authority.

Nena responds to school's water woes



Jacob Nena

PALIKIR (FSMIS) — President Jacob Nena has responded to Senator Simeon Innocenti's call for assistance in delivering water to the island of Fananu where the Halls Junior High School is located.

Senator Innocenti told Nena that the drought has endangered Fananu's water supply and requires additional water from Weno.

However, Chuuk State has been slow in delivering water for the island community and the student population of Hall Island Junior High School.

Innocenti requested Nena to use on of the FSM Surveillance Ships to transport water from Weno to Fanafu to alleviate the water shortage there.

Nena, however, recommended to Innocenti to coordinate his request with the Chuuk State's El Nino Task Force.

The FSM El Nino Task Force, Nena stated, is making water schedules, prioritizing on the most

critical areas.

Nena requested for information on the level of water currently available to help the FSM El Nino Task Force to decide on the order of water delivery.

Nena also stated that because of the heavy schedule on the ships for water trips, there is need for fuel assistance for the ships.

The Election District No. 5, of Chuuk State, consisting of the Halls, Nomunweito, and Pattiw areas received \$317,000, as its share of the Chuuk State's share from the \$5 million appropriation under PL No. 10-53.

Of that \$317,000, just \$20,000 was specifically earmarked for water improvement. However, an amount of \$60,000, was for other grants, not specifically designated for any particular project.

This could, easily be used for drought relief as the other grants for this Election District No. 5 area.

2 named to FSM Social Security service Board

PALIKIR (FSMIS) — Vice President Leo A. Falcum has nominated Mohnner Esiel and Gideon Doone to the FSM Social Security Board.

Falcum transmitted the draft resolutions for his nominations to Congress Speaker seeking favorable action.

Esiel of Pohnpei will represent the FSM National and Doone, the State of Chuuk on the Board.

"These gentlemen are well qualified and experienced to serve as members of the said Board," Falcum stated, adding, "I ask that the Congress confirm these two nominations."

Esiel is the chief, Division of Immigration and Labor in the FSM Department of Justice while Doone is Chief of Staff for Chuuk Governor Walter.

Title 53 of the FSM Code on Social Security and Prior-Service Benefits stipulates that the five member Board must adequately represent the geographical configuration of the FSM with staggering terms to ensure continuity.

Other members are Nena Ned representing Kosrae, Bellarmine Ioanis representing Pohnpei and Charles Chieng representing Yap State.

New German envoy to FSM takes his post

PALIKIR, Pohnpei (FSMIS) — Ambassador-Designate of the Federal Republic of Germany to FSM, Wolfgang Gottelmann presented his credentials last week to FSM Vice President Leo A. Falcum.

Gottelmann also presented German President Herzog's letter of recall of the former Ambassador Dr. Karl-Friedrich Ganssauer.

In his prepared statement for the occasion, Gottelmann expressed his honor and privilege to be appointed to be his country's ambassador.

"Our two people and countries have maintained close and friendly ties since the late nineteenth century, and I find it particularly fascinating to discover the traces in physical landscape as well as in your culture which still bear witness of those early days of German-Micronesian relations," says Gottelmann.

Gottelmann pledged he will do his utmost to further facilities such exchange to the mutual benefit of the people and governments of both FSM and Germany.

"Germany is committed to shoulder greater responsibility in the world and to contribute to global dialogue and political stability," he stated, adding, "I am pleased to note that Germany and the Federated States of Micronesia actually do cooperate successfully in this way at the United Nations and we are looking forward to continuing this practice."

In response, Vice President Leo Falcum, welcomed Gottelmann to Pohnpei and told him that the FSM values and takes pride in its relations with Germany based on their historical ties.

FSM and Germany have enjoyed close support and cooperation on areas of common interest, including disarmament, sustainable development, human rights and environment.

On a bilateral level, Falcum said the FSM is grateful for the past generous assistance in the area of radio broadcasting equipment and expressing his hopes that such assistance will continue to further the nation-building efforts in fishing, agriculture and human resources development.

Falcum recalled that contact between the two peoples dates back to late 19th century when Germany administered these islands.

Today, he stated, the tangible imprints of German legacy can be found in the peoples and the landscape.

In Phone alone, people of German descent and with German names as Kohlers, the Carls, Weilbachers and Vahlkomphs and in Chuuk, the Fritz and Hartmans, etc.

Ambassador Gottelmann is the Resident Ambassador of Germany who resides in Manila, Philippines.

Experience the New Diamond Life!

A luxury hotel experience, without a 5-star price. Spacious, refreshing rooms overlooking Soipan lagoon. All 265 guest rooms have been newly renovated.

\$99

per night*
double occupancy

Special offer includes:

- Free airport pickup
- Free welcome drink
- Use of all sports facilities, including tennis, windsurfing, sailing, pool
- Free long distance phone card courtesy of

ETB PACIFIC "Always a great value!"

*Includes tax. Offer for residents of the Marianas only. Offer good through 5/31/98.

SAIPAN DIAMOND HOTEL (670) 234-5900, Ext. 269, Fax 234-5909

Kristo Rai Catholic Church

Garapan, Saipan

Holy Week Services

Holy Thursday, 9 April

- Confessions 4:00 p.m.
- Evening Mass of the Lord's Supper 6:00 p.m.

Good Friday, 10 April

- Confessions 10:00 a.m.
- Siete Finiho 12:00 noon
- Stations of the Cross 1:00 p.m.
- Celebration of the Lord's Passion 2:00 p.m.

Holy Saturday, 11 April

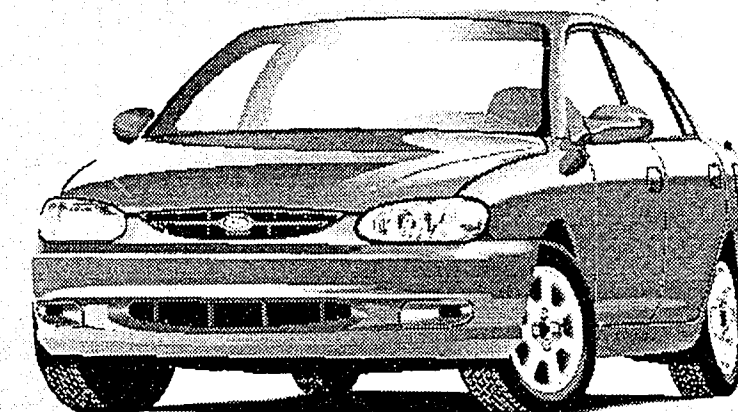
- Confessions 5:00 p.m.
- Vigil of the Lord's Resurrection 8:00 p.m.

Easter Sunday Morning, 12 April

- Eucharist 9:30 a.m.

KIA SEPHIA RS

\$217.00
Monthly

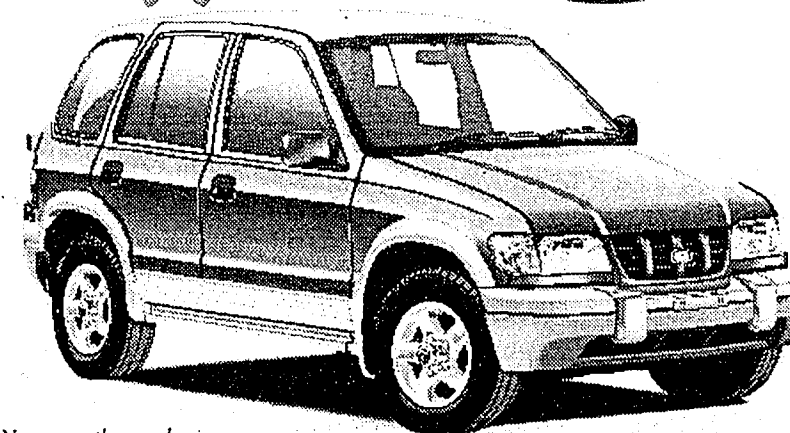


Not exactly as shown

\$10,995 less \$2748.75 DOWN at 11.75% APR for 48 months.

\$315.00
Monthly

KIA SPORTAGE EX



Not exactly as shown

\$15,995 less \$3,998.75 DOWN at 11.75% APR for 48 months.

KEICO MOTORS
THE POWER OF CHOICE



LOCATED ON AIRPORT ROAD ACCROSS FROM ISLAND APPAREL

Airport Rd.

ISLAND
APPAREL

HERMANS

KEICO Tel. 234-0173

Elsewhere in the Pacific

Australia reviews its relations with Pacific

CANBERRA (Pacnews)—Australia's foreign minister, Alexander Downer, and his senior diplomatic staff from the South Pacific are reviewing Australia's relations with the island countries of the region at a two-day conference in Canberra which opened Tuesday.

Downer told the conference the Australian government had a strong and continuing commitment to the Pacific Island countries, and would continue to sup-

port them in their development of improved economic and resource management policies and good governance practices.

He said the meeting would provide an opportunity to consider developments in the regional reform process, ahead of the Forum Economic Ministers' meeting to be held in Fiji in July.

Australia's aid program to the South Pacific, totalling more than \$Aus440 million (\$US289m) in 1997/98, will also be discussed

along with the agenda for the South Pacific Forum in Pohnpei in August.

Deputy Prime Minister Tim Fischer is attending some of the conference sessions along with the Parliamentary Secretaries for Trade and Foreign Affairs.

The diplomats include the heads of Australian diplomatic missions in Apia, Honiara, Noumea, Nuku'alofa, Pohnpei, Port Moresby, Port Vila, Suva, Tarawa and Wellington.

Solomons cuts budget for trade, investment promos

HONIARA (Pacnews)—Solomon Islands will no longer have to spend millions of dollars on trade and investment promotions overseas.

Permanent Secretary for Commerce and Tourism Moses Mose said this as Solomon Islands launches a Website on the Internet for the promotion of business opportunities available in the country to the world.

Mose says not only is the internet

promotion project more cost-effective, but it also increases accessibility to the millions of internet viewers worldwide.

The several hundred thousand dollars spent by the Solomon Islands government each year on trade promotions is now expected to be reduced dramatically with only about \$US17,000 expenses for the internet promotion costs.

Fiji parties seeking coalition

SUVA (Pacnews)—Fiji's main opposition party the National Federation Party has now joined a number of other parties wooing the newly formed Party of National Unity to form a coalition for next year's general election.

Secretary of the Ba Provincial Council backed party, Apisai Tora, says he's already held discussions with the deputy leader of the NFP.

Harish Sharma and other new parties, Island Networks Corporation reports.

Tora says he has sent words to some members of the Soqosoqo Vakarisito Party, as well as the Takolavo Party, the Fijian Association Party and the National Federation Party, on the need of a coalition in respect of the next government after the general elections in 1999.

El Niño affects Hawaii's leis

HONOLULU (Pacnews)—The leaves for making traditional maile leis in Hawaii are in short supply this year because of the continuing drought caused by the El Niño weather phenomenon.

The fragrant maile leaves, which grow in the wild where rain and humidity normally are plentiful, are a

particular favorite of graduating high school and college seniors, promgoers and wedding bridegrooms.

This year substitute leis are increasingly common.

Not only is Hawaii grown maile affected, so are imports from the Cook Islands, which are estimated to make up half of the state's maile supply.

WHO exhorts region to uphold trends in health

NUKU'ALOFA (Pacnews)—The World Health Organisation's (WHO) regional director for the Western Pacific, Doctor Han, said in his World Health Day message Tuesday that people can make a difference to their own health.

And as WHO turned 50 Tuesday, the past half-century has seen remarkable progress in the field of health.

He says at least one in four infants died during their first year of life during the past 50 years in the region, and another one in four died before their 5th year on pneu-

monia, respiratory infections or diarrhoea, Radio Tonga reports.

Doctor Han acknowledged the WHO's effort to boost the standard of quality health for the people.

He also praised the tremendous efforts by most countries together with the help of WHO in the near eradication of diseases such as smallpox, polio and leprosy.

Doctor Han also urged countries to continue implementing strategies to uphold the current trend.

He says we can look back with pride on what has been achieved.

Tongan exporters set prices even before planting season

NUKU'ALOFA (Pacnews)—Two squash pumpkin exporters in Tonga have named a price level for the current season.

Squash Export Company Limited and Toulaki Trading Enterprises Limited have announced a two-tier price tag while efforts are still being made for a higher price, Radio Tonga reports.

This is the first time ever that any exporter has been able to guarantee a price before the planting period begins.

Spokesman for the two compa-

nies, Dr Feleti Sevele says 50 percent of the growers squash will be fixed at 55 senti (US 36 cents) a kilogram or 550 pa'anga (\$US363) a tonne.

The price for the remaining half will range from a guaranteed minimum of 35 senti (US 23 cents) or 350 pa'anga (\$US230) a tonne to a maximum of 85 senti (US 56 cents) or 850 pa'anga (\$US559) a tonne.

The final price will be dependent on the market conditions at the time of shipment

Canada seeks SPF support

SUVA (Pacnews)—South Pacific Forum member countries have been visited by a Canadian special envoy in a bid for Canada's candidature for a non-permanent seat on the United Nations Security Council.

At a meeting in Suva, Fiji this week between the secretary general of the South Pacific Forum Secretariat, Noel Levi and the visiting Canadian Special Envoy, Royce Frith, the secretary general advised that the Forum commended Canada's bid for favourable consideration by its

members when the matter was discussed last year at the South Pacific Forum Meeting in Rarotonga, Cook Islands.

Levi said Frith's visit to the region is also opportune as it will allow him to visit Forum members and discuss Canada's candidature at bilateral level, while at the same time gain further insight into the regional issues of concern to Forum members.

Canada is one of nine countries which engage in formal consultations with Forum members at the annual Post-Forum Dialogues.

NZ army in Vanuatu mission

PORT VILA (Pacnews)—Eight members of the New Zealand army are currently in Vanuatu's capital Port Vila on a three month mission, to assist in the implementation of the new strategic review of the police force.

Three of the force members would be attached with the Vanuatu Mobile Force in areas of

mechanic, clerical staff" and catering, Radio Vanuatu reports.

The other five members will be conducting various classes for assistant physical training instructors and junior noncommission officers leadership training.

Police spokesman Inspector Pakoa Samuel says this operation is part of a mutual assistance program between the two countries.

Ramos sees Asian recovery

By RICHARD PYLE

NEW YORK (AP) — Philippines President Fidel V. Ramos said Tuesday that the economic crisis in Asia will run its course and his own country, which has survived better than most, can help show the way to greater financial stability in the region.

Ramos, who is in the United States to promote foreign investment and to meet with President Bill Clinton in Washington, told a banking and finance seminar that the recovery will be "slower than its onslaught" and vary from one country to another.

"The first to recover will be those countries that remain resolutely committed to transparency in the conduct of business — allowing the market system to function freely — and generally depoliticizing the economy," Ramos said.

"There can be no backtracking from reforms that foster competition, efficiency and productivity."

Ramos, whose six-year term as president ends in June, said a commitment to those principles had enabled the Philippines, though one of the region's weaker economies, to weather the crisis better than the Asian Tigers, Indonesia, Thailand, Malaysia and South Korea, whose more robust economies nearly collapsed in October.

He said the Manila stock market had held fast, there was no "wholesale closure" of companies and banks, the peso fared better than some other currencies, and, as other governments were signing bailout deals totaling \$100 billion with the International Monetary Fund, Manila was ending its more than three decades under IMF management.

"While the Philippines has not escaped the contagion, we have avoided its worst consequences," said Ramos.

"Even in the middle of the crisis, some of us could appreciate the irony of our country — known before as the 'sick man of Asia' — getting out from under 35 years of IMF supervision while some of our neighbors are entering new rescue programs with the IMF."

The Philippines has asked the IMF for "precautionary" credit of up to \$1.4 billion to back up its economic programs for the next two years, as a new administration takes over.

Ramos is barred by the constitution from seeking another term.

"Whoever wins the presidential elections in May, I am confident our country will stay the course of economic reform and liberalization," Ramos said.

"We admit we are tightening our belts, but we are lucky we have belts to tighten and that we still have our pants to belt."

He predicted that the Philippine economy will grow in the next two years at more than twice the rate of East Asia's



Philippine President Fidel V. Ramos, who is in the United States to promote foreign investments and to meet with President Clinton in Washington, speaks at a banking and finance seminar Tuesday in New York. AP

"tiger economies."

In the first two months of 1998, he said, exports totaled \$4.4 billion, a 24 percent increase over the same period last year.

Ramos, a West Point graduate and career military man, sided with Corazon Aquino in the 1986 "people power" revolt that ousted longtime President Ferdinand Marcos. He served as Aquino's vice president before succeeding her in 1992.

He said the Philippines fell far behind other Asian nations in the Marcos years and recovered only by sweeping reforms that included making peace with political dissident groups, lifting economic and investment barriers and dismantling family-run cartels and monopolies.

Ramos said the island nation was perhaps better able to weather the latest crisis because its economy had been dragged down for so long while neighboring countries forged ahead.

"Effectively our country lost more than a decade of growth. Since then, we have been taking the bitter medicine to get rid of protectionism, authoritarianism and crony capitalism," he said.

"Economic humiliation can be very effective rehabilitative therapy."

Calling himself "an optimist with an umbrella," Ramos said the crisis had shown that governments are linked by trade and capital flow and must act together rather than independently to "contain contagion" when a crisis develops.

SURGEON GENERAL'S WARNING: Smoking By Pregnant Women May Result in Fetal Injury, Premature Birth, And Low Birth Weight.

Full Kings, 16 mg. "tar", 1.2 mg. nicotine av. per cigarette by FTC method.



presents

6PM, April 11, 1998



1998 Spring/Summer
Collection Fashion Show

"FEATURING LOCAL & OFF ISLAND MODELS"

"DA MISS, A New Sportswear Brand on Saipan Featuring Cute & Sexy Sportswear"



TICKETS
\$35.00
includes dinner

Power 94 fm



Chinese paid \$3B in personal income tax

BEIJING (AP) — China collected 26 billion yuan (\$3.1 billion) in personal income taxes in 1997, accounting for almost 3.5 percent of its industrial and commercial tax revenue, state media said Tuesday.

China is in the midst of a long-term enforcement effort to persuade or compel Chinese to report incomes honestly and pay taxes. Billboards declare paying taxes a patriotic duty, and tax collectors are getting better at uncovering income.

The government is desperate for revenue to close a multibillion-dollar budget deficit and pay for overhauling failing state industries.

The report Tuesday by the newspaper Economic Daily did not say how 1997 revenues

compared with the previous year, or how much of total economic output they accounted for.

The government said last year it expected taxes to account for more than 11 percent of gross domestic product, up from 10.9 percent in 1996.

The single biggest source of personal income taxes last year was the prosperous southern province of Guangdong at 3.6 billion yuan (\$434 million) in revenues, the Economic Daily said. Other leading sources were Jiangsu and Liaoning provinces, Beijing and Shanghai.

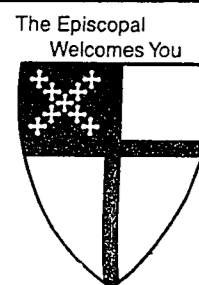
The biggest increase was recorded in the northwestern region of Xinjiang, where revenues rose 29.4 percent to 395 million yuan (\$47.6 million), the newspaper said.



Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, right, raises his hand to stop a photo session prior to talks with Thomas Foley, U.S. ambassador to Japan, at the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo Tuesday. Hashimoto and Foley spoke about Asia-Europe summit meeting. AP

HUMANITIES COUNCIL 1998 GRANT CYCLE

The CNMI Council for the Humanities announces the availability of funds for the 1998 grants cycle and is now accepting applications for funding. Deadlines for 1998 major grants (\$2,000 and above) are: 1 May; 3 July; and 2 October. Mini grants (under \$2,000) and planning grants (up to \$1,500) may be submitted any time. The Council is particularly interested in humanities projects that focus on improving literacy through reading and discussions groups for preschool, elementary, secondary and the out of school population. Grant funds may be used to purchase books and related materials, for fees, stipends, honoraria and travel costs for speakers, discussion leaders and other scholars associated with the project. The Council encourages applications to fund workshops, seminars and symposia for teachers, parents, school administrators and students to explore various methodologies, curricula and the use and application of computer technology and the internet to improve and enhance literacy throughout the Commonwealth. The Council welcomes applications from public and private schools, teachers and parent associations, church groups, colleges and other nonprofit organizations. For more information or for application forms, please call or visit our office at 235-4785, Ground Floor of King's Plaza, Dandan. The CNMI Council for the Humanities is a nonprofit, private corporation funded, in part, by the National Endowment for the Humanities.



YOU ARE INVITED

To Share in the Holy Eucharist this Easter Sunday at 6:00 a.m. at the residence of Mike and Bea Troup in San Vicente.

Father Grov Needem from Guam will be here to celebrate the Sunrise Service.

All are welcome to Mass and the Fellowship that follows, especially members of the Anglican Community including the Philippine Independent Church, Aglipayans, and the Nippon Seiko Kai.

For more information, Please call Mike Troup at 235-1129

Heads of Japan banks apologize for scandals

TOKYO (AP) — The presidents of Japan's nine leading commercial banks apologized Tuesday for a series of recent scandals over bribery for confidential information from the nation's most powerful ministry and central bank.

In a rare appearance by such a number at one time, the presidents were called before a lower house Finance Committee session as part of Parliament's investigation of the scandals.

All nine banks have been implicated in bribery scandals involving the Finance Ministry or the Bank of Japan.

Two top Finance Ministry officials, including the minister and a senior bureaucrat, have resigned and four other ministry officials have been arrested.

Also, a senior Bank of Japan official has been arrested for allegedly giving information on the central bank's money market operations to several banks involved in exchange

for lavish entertainment.

The scandal led the Bank of Japan president to resign last month to accept responsibility.

None of the nine commercial bank presidents offered to resign over the scandals.

"The biggest responsibility for management is to restore a stable financial functioning," Satoru Kishi, head of Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Bank Ltd., said in reply to a question from the committee.

Also attending the daylong session were the heads of Fuji Bank Ltd., Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank Ltd., Sakura Bank Ltd., Asahi Bank Ltd., Sumitomo Bank Ltd., Sanwa Bank Ltd., Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd. and Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan Ltd.

In a related development, the Tokyo Summary Court has ordered eight senior officials from five banks to pay fines ranging from 300,000 to 500,000 yen (\$2,200 to \$3,700) for bribery, a court spokesman said.

The court spokesman, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the eight officials charged with winning and dining central bank and Finance Ministry officials were from Sanwa Bank, Sumitomo Bank, Industrial Bank of Japan, Asahi Bank and Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi.

Last month, 21 Japanese banks, including the nine major banks, received money from a special fund set up under a government program designed to stabilize the nation's shaky financial system.

With the new money, the nine major banks have said they were able to attain a capital adequacy ratio equal to 8 percent or more of their outstanding loans, a requirement by the Bank for International Settlements for banks operating internationally.

Most Japanese banks have been struggling to cope with a mountain of bad loans, mostly secured by real estate, which went sour after the collapse of a speculative "bubble" in the early 1990s.

S. Africa gains from Asian crisis

By PAUL HARRIS
CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — With Asia's "tiger" economies no longer roaring, South Africa has emerged as a haven for investment money formerly poured into the Far East.

A sophisticated economy, market-friendly policies and political stability make South Africa attractive to investors who favor emerging markets but got their fingers burned in Asia.

"With Asia in a mess, it does mean that there is a lot of money looking for a home," said David Shapiro, chief dealer at merchant bank Societe Generale Frankel Pollak. "Quite a lot of that money seems to be coming here."

Latest figures from the Johannesburg Stock Exchange show foreigners have bought a

net 13.57 billion rand (\$2.71 billion) of South African shares so far this year, up 265 percent over the same period last year.

The injection of foreign money has boosted local share prices, helping the JSE's all-share index close Tuesday at a record high of 7,982 points.

That scenario is exactly what President Nelson Mandela and other southern African leaders wanted in the wake of the region's push toward democracy and stability in recent years.

While widespread poverty and political instability still exist, the end of civil wars in Angola and Mozambique, along with newly elected governments in South Africa, Zambia, Malawi and Lesotho, have attracted attention.

Investors say South Africa is reaping the rewards of a tight fiscal policy

under Mandela that has strangled inflation and looks set to put interest rates on a firm downward trend.

Among the market heavyweights selectively pursued on Tuesday by local institutions and offshore investors were Anglo American Corp., South African Breweries and insurance conglomerate Liberty Holdings.

Asia, meanwhile, has in the past nine months plunged into a crisis of spiraling prices, collapsing currencies and battered stock markets.

Gordon Smith, an economist at bank Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said Asia's problems have made investors better appreciate the strength of South African shares. "Speaking to our foreign clients,

Myanmar bars US envoy

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Myanmar's military government says it will not permit an American envoy to visit its capital of Yangon as long as Myanmar leaders are barred from entering the United States.

Bill Richardson, the American ambassador to the United Nations, had hoped to visit Myanmar, also known as Burma, on a South Asian tour beginning Saturday that will take him to Bahrain, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

"Mr. Richardson is not outrightly refused permission to visit Myanmar," a Myanmar government spokesman, who speaks only on condition of anonymity, said Tuesday.

"If the executive order imposed on Myanmar be either waived or lifted, Myanmar is willing to reciprocate in the same manner," he said in a fax to The Associated Press in Bangkok.

In October 1996, President

Clinton barred members of Myanmar's military government and their families from visiting the United States.

The executive order was imposed after the military government's mass arrests of members of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's political party, the National League for Democracy.

No senior member of Myanmar's military government, which has ruled in various forms since 1962, has ever visited the United States.

The military government responded by issuing its own ban on senior U.S. officials visiting Myanmar. It chose not to enforce the ban, however, when several U.S. congressmen and former ambassadors toured Myanmar on trips sponsored by lobbying groups funded by U.S. oil companies.

Unocal of California is a partner in a \$1.2 billion gas pipeline in Myanmar. The company has been



William Fisher, Ambassador of Australia to Thailand, left, pays his appreciation to Thai army commander Gen. Chettha Thanajaro, right, for its efforts to save Nicholas Cheesman at the Army Headquarter in Bangkok. Cheesman along with his Thai friend, Ngamsuk Rattanasathien, returned to Thai soil at Mae Sod after about seven days of being hostages in Myanmar side by the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA). AP

Dalai Lama, Asian Buddhist leaders to propagate religion

By ERIC TALMADGE

KYOTO, Japan (AP) — In a rare meeting of Asia's highest Buddhist priests, the Dalai Lama and more than a dozen other holy men vowed Tuesday to restore several sacred sites to boost the sagging popularity of their religion.

The Buddhist leaders from 15 Asian countries were gathered in this ancient Japanese capital for the First World Buddhist Propagation Conference, held to coincide with the celebration Wednesday of the Flower Festival, or the birthday of Buddha.

The two-day conference underscored an identity crisis facing the ancient religion, which in many areas is suffering from a poorly trained clergy and is losing its following to the more aggressive missionary efforts of Christians.

A long history of squabbling between Buddhism's many sects has also taken its toll on the religion's appeal — and that was apparent Tuesday.

The conference received only a lukewarm welcome in this city, which has for centuries been the center of Buddhism in Japan.

None of Japan's main Buddhist sects was represented at the two-day conference. A new and largely unknown Japanese sect called the Nembutsushu, which claims about 20,000 followers, was co-host for the meeting.

"I didn't even know the Dalai Lama was coming until the other day," said Junna Nakada, abbot of the Daigo-ji, one of Kyoto's major mainstream temples.

"It is very disappointing that we were not invited to join."

There are an estimated 300 million Buddhists worldwide, but their number has been on the decline throughout much of Asia,



The Dalai Lama, right, is welcomed by Ven. D. Rewatha Maha Thero, left, general secretary of the Maha Bodhi Society of India and Ven. Mapalagama Wipulasara Maha Thero, president of the Maha Bodhi Society of India, upon his arrival at Kyoto International conference center, Tuesday. The Tibetan spiritual leader is attending a two-day international meeting of Asia's highest Buddhist priests in Kyoto. AP

which has traditionally been the religion's stronghold.

"The time has come to think of our inner development," said the Dalai Lama, who is revered by followers as a living incarnation of the Buddha.

"This was a very significant meeting," he added. "This is something we need to do."

In a joint statement concluding the two-day conference, the participants — including several supreme patriarchs, the highest priests in their countries — vowed to promote the restoration of seven holy sites in India and one in Nepal.

"It is crucial for the future of Buddhism to restore these sites," said Mapalagama Wipulasara, president of India's Maha Bodhi Society, one of the conference sponsors.

The statement also called for in-

creased efforts to spread the word of Buddha.

"Buddhism is on the decline in South Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan," said Malaysian high priest K. Sri Dammananda Maha Thera. "Every day we are losing our youth to Christianity."

Only about 1 percent of the population of India, the birthplace of Buddhism, is Buddhist. Political suppression has taken a severe toll on worship in such places as China and Southeast Asia.

Buddhism remains strong in Thailand, but is in a bit of a crisis because of criticism over the sometimes opulent lifestyles of powerful priests and monks.

There have also been some notorious cases of monks accused of sexual misbehavior and drug abuse.

sharply criticized for its involvement in the country, and some ethnic minorities have said they were used as forced labor to build infrastructure for the project.

Unocal has denied the charges.

In 1994, as a Democratic congressman from New Mexico, Richardson was the first non-family member the military government allowed to visit Suu Kyi during her six years of house arrest.

The military refused his second request to meet her on a subsequent trip in 1995, and he accused the regime of "repression, regression and retrenchment."

Since becoming ambassador to the United Nations, Richardson has been sharply critical of human rights abuses by the Myanmar government.

Also Tuesday, Myanmar's state-run newspapers accused Suu Kyi's party of sowing unrest between the military government and ethnic minorities.

Government officials were un-

happy that copies of a letter of complaint written by the ethnic Shan State Army to intelligence chief Gen. Khin Nyunt were circulated during a celebration at Suu Kyi's compound March 27.

The day is observed by the military government as Armed Forces Day, while democracy campaigners call it Resistance Day to commemorate the struggle against British and Japanese colonial rule.

The article said the letter was distributed to "create misunderstanding between the government and nationalities and undermine peace."

The government has tried to limit contact between Suu Kyi's party and the ethnic groups to prevent them from forming a united alliance against military rule.

The Shan State Army is composed of remnants of the military force once commanded by Khun Sa, an opium warlord who surrendered in 1996.



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL
SAIPAN

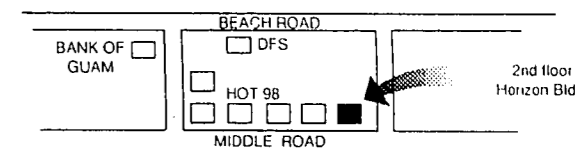
NOW INTERVIEWING

Pre Screening For All Applicants
One Day Only!

Servers, Merchandise Sales, Host/Hostess, Bartenders,
Bussers, Line/Prep Cooks, Expeditors, Dish Washers

Fill Out Applications Monday, April 13 at
The Horizon Building - Middle Road, Garapan
10AM-8PM No Phone Calls Please!

Local Hire (US Passport, Greencard & I.R.), Consensual Transfers,
and Agency Employees Welcome



Chinese paid \$3B in personal income tax

BEIJING (AP) — China collected 26 billion yuan (\$3.1 billion) in personal income taxes in 1997, accounting for almost 3.5 percent of its industrial and commercial tax revenue, state media said Tuesday.

China is in the midst of a long-term enforcement effort to persuade or compel Chinese to report incomes honestly and pay taxes. Billboards declare paying taxes a patriotic duty, and tax collectors are getting better at uncovering income.

The government is desperate for revenue to close a multibillion-dollar budget deficit and pay for overhauling failing state industries.

The report Tuesday by the newspaper Economic Daily did not say how 1997 revenues

compared with the previous year, or how much of total economic output they accounted for.

The government said last year it expected taxes to account for more than 11 percent of gross domestic product, up from 10.9 percent in 1996.

The single biggest source of personal income taxes last year was the prosperous southern province of Guangdong at 3.6 billion yuan (\$434 million) in revenues, the Economic Daily said. Other leading sources were Jiangsu and Liaoning provinces, Beijing and Shanghai.

The biggest increase was recorded in the northwestern region of Xinjiang, where revenues rose 29.4 percent to 395 million yuan (\$47.6 million), the newspaper said.



Japanese Prime Minister Ryutaro Hashimoto, right, raises his hand to stop a photo session prior to talks with Thomas Foley, U.S. ambassador to Japan, at the prime minister's official residence in Tokyo Tuesday. Hashimoto and Foley spoke about Asia-Europe summit meeting. AP

HUMANITIES COUNCIL 1998 GRANT CYCLE

The CNMI Council for the Humanities announces the availability of funds for the 1998 grants cycle and is now accepting applications for funding. Deadlines for 1998 major grants (\$2,000 and above) are: 1 May; 3 July; and 2 October. Mini grants (under \$2,000) and planning grants (up to \$1,500) may be submitted any time. The Council is particularly interested in humanities projects that focus on improving literacy through reading and discussions groups for preschool, elementary, secondary and the out of school population. Grant funds may be used to purchase books and related materials, for fees, stipends, honoraria and travel costs for speakers, discussion leaders and other scholars associated with the project. The Council encourages applications to fund workshops, seminars and symposia for teachers, parents, school administrators and students to explore various methodologies, curricula and the use and application of computer technology and the internet to improve and enhance literacy throughout the Commonwealth. The Council welcomes applications from public and private schools, teachers and parent associations, church groups, colleges and other nonprofit organizations. For more information or for application forms, please call or visit our office at 235-4785, Ground Floor of King's Plaza, Dandan. The CNMI Council for the Humanities is a nonprofit, private corporation funded, in part, by the National Endowment for the Humanities.



YOU ARE INVITED

To Share in the Holy Eucharist this Easter Sunday at 6:00 a.m. at the residence of Mike and Bea Troup in San Vicente.

Father Grov Needem from Guam will be here to celebrate the Sunrise Service.

All are welcome to Mass and the Fellowship that follows, especially members of the Anglican Community including the Philippine Independent Church, Aglipayans, and the Nippon Seiko Kai.

For more information, Please call Mike Troup at 235-1129

Heads of Japan banks apologize for scandals

TOKYO (AP) — The presidents of Japan's nine leading commercial banks apologized Tuesday for a series of recent scandals over bribery for confidential information from the nation's most powerful ministry and central bank.

In a rare appearance by such a number at one time, the presidents were called before a lower house Finance Committee session as part of Parliament's investigation of the scandals.

All nine banks have been implicated in bribery scandals involving the Finance Ministry or the Bank of Japan.

Two top Finance Ministry officials, including the minister and a senior bureaucrat, have resigned and four other ministry officials have been arrested.

Also, a senior Bank of Japan official has been arrested for allegedly giving information on the central bank's money market operations to several banks involved in exchange

for lavish entertainment.

The scandal led the Bank of Japan president to resign last month to accept responsibility.

None of the nine commercial bank presidents offered to resign over the scandals.

"The biggest responsibility for management is to restore a stable financial functioning," Satoru Kishi, head of Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi Bank Ltd., said in reply to a question from the committee.

Also attending the daylong session were the heads of Fuji Bank Ltd., Dai-ichi Kangyo Bank Ltd., Sakura Bank Ltd., Asahi Bank Ltd., Sumitomo Bank Ltd., Sanwa Bank Ltd., Industrial Bank of Japan Ltd. and Long-Term Credit Bank of Japan Ltd.

In a related development, the Tokyo Summary Court has ordered eight senior officials from five banks to pay fines ranging from 300,000 to 500,000 yen (\$2,200 to \$3,700) for bribery, a court spokesman said.

The court spokesman, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said the eight officials charged with winning and dining central bank and Finance Ministry officials were from Sanwa Bank, Sumitomo Bank, Industrial Bank of Japan, Asahi Bank and Bank of Tokyo-Mitsubishi.

Last month, 21 Japanese banks, including the nine major banks, received money from a special fund set up under a government program designed to stabilize the nation's shaky financial system.

With the new money, the nine major banks have said they were able to attain a capital adequacy ratio equal to 8 percent or more of their outstanding loans, a requirement by the Bank for International Settlements for banks operating internationally.

Most Japanese banks have been struggling to cope with a mountain of bad loans, mostly secured by real estate, which went sour after the collapse of a speculative "bubble" in the early 1990s.

S. Africa gains from Asian crisis

By PAUL HARRIS
CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP) — With Asia's "tiger" economies no longer roaring, South Africa has emerged as a haven for investment money formerly poured into the Far East.

A sophisticated economy, market-friendly policies and political stability make South Africa attractive to investors who favor emerging markets but got their fingers burned in Asia.

"With Asia in a mess, it does mean that there is a lot of money looking for a home," said David Shapiro, chief dealer at merchant bank Societe Generale Frankel Pollak. "Quite a lot of that money seems to be coming here."

Latest figures from the Johannesburg Stock Exchange show foreigners have bought a

net 13.57 billion rand (\$2.71 billion) of South African shares so far this year, up 265 percent over the same period last year.

The injection of foreign money has boosted local share prices, helping the JSE's all-share index close Tuesday at a record high of 7,982 points.

That scenario is exactly what President Nelson Mandela and other southern African leaders wanted in the wake of the region's push toward democracy and stability in recent years.

While widespread poverty and political instability still exist, the end of civil wars in Angola and Mozambique, along with newly elected governments in South Africa, Zambia, Malawi and Lesotho, have attracted attention.

Investors say South Africa is reaping the rewards of a tight fiscal policy

under Mandela that has strangled inflation and looks set to put interest rates on a firm downward trend.

Among the market heavyweights selectively pursued on Tuesday by local institutions and offshore investors were Anglo American Corp., South African Breweries and insurance conglomerate Liberty Holdings.

Asia, meanwhile, has in the past nine months plunged into a crisis of spiraling prices, collapsing currencies and battered stock markets.

Gordon Smith, an economist at bank Deutsche Morgan Grenfell, said Asia's problems have made investors better appreciate the strength of South African shares.

"Speaking to our foreign clients,

Myanmar bars US envoy

BANGKOK, Thailand (AP) — Myanmar's military government says it will not permit an American envoy to visit its capital of Yangon as long as Myanmar leaders are barred from entering the United States.

Bill Richardson, the American ambassador to the United Nations, had hoped to visit Myanmar, also known as Burma, on a South Asian tour beginning Saturday that will take him to Bahrain, Bangladesh, India, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

"Mr. Richardson is not outrightly refused permission to visit Myanmar," a Myanmar government spokesman, who speaks only on condition of anonymity, said Tuesday.

"If the executive order imposed on Myanmar be either waived or lifted, Myanmar is willing to reciprocate in the same manner," he said in a fax to The Associated Press in Bangkok.

In October 1996, President

Clinton barred members of Myanmar's military government and their families from visiting the United States.

The executive order was imposed after the military government's mass arrests of members of Nobel laureate Aung San Suu Kyi's political party, the National League for Democracy.

No senior member of Myanmar's military government, which has ruled in various forms since 1962, has ever visited the United States.

The military government responded by issuing its own ban on senior U.S. officials visiting Myanmar. It chose not to enforce the ban, however, when several U.S. congressmen and former ambassadors toured Myanmar on trips sponsored by lobbying groups funded by U.S. oil companies.

Unocal of California is a partner in a \$1.2 billion gas pipeline in Myanmar. The company has been



William Fisher, Ambassador of Australia to Thailand, left, pays his appreciation to Thai army commander Gen. Chetha Thanajaro, right, for its efforts to save Nicholas Cheesman at the Army Headquarter in Bangkok. Cheesman along with his Thai friend, Ngamsuk Rattanasathien, returned to Thai soil at Mae Sod after about seven days of being hostages in Myanmar side by the Democratic Karen Buddhist Army (DKBA). AP

Dalai Lama, Asian Buddhist leaders to propagate religion

By ERIC TALMADGE
KYOTO, Japan (AP) — In a rare meeting of Asia's highest Buddhist priests, the Dalai Lama and more than a dozen other holy men vowed Tuesday to restore several sacred sites to boost the sagging popularity of their religion.

The Buddhist leaders from 15 Asian countries were gathered in this ancient Japanese capital for the First World Buddhist Propagation Conference, held to coincide with the celebration Wednesday of the Flower Festival, or the birthday of Buddha.

The two-day conference underscored an identity crisis facing the ancient religion, which in many areas is suffering from a poorly trained clergy and is losing its following to the more aggressive missionary efforts of Christians.

A long history of squabbling between Buddhism's many sects has also taken its toll on the religion's appeal — and that was apparent Tuesday.

The conference received only a lukewarm welcome in this city, which has for centuries been the center of Buddhism in Japan.

None of Japan's main Buddhist sects was represented at the two-day conference. A new and largely unknown Japanese sect called the Nembutsushu, which claims about 20,000 followers, was co-host for the meeting.

"I didn't even know the Dalai Lama was coming until the other day," said Junna Nakada, abbot of the Daigo-ji, one of Kyoto's major mainstream temples.

"It is very disappointing that we were not invited to join."

There are an estimated 300 million Buddhists worldwide, but their number has been on the decline throughout much of Asia,



The Dalai Lama, right, is welcomed by Ven. D. Rewatha Maha Thero, left, general secretary of the Maha Bodhi Society of India and Ven. Mapalagama Wipulasara Maha Thero, president of the Maha Bodhi Society of India, upon his arrival at Kyoto International conference center, Tuesday. The Tibetan spiritual leader is attending a two-day international meeting of Asia's highest Buddhist priests in Kyoto. AP

which has traditionally been the religion's stronghold.

"The time has come to think of our inner development," said the Dalai Lama, who is revered by followers as a living incarnation of the Buddha.

"This was a very significant meeting," he added. "This is something we need to do."

In a joint statement concluding the two-day conference, the participants — including several supreme patriarchs, the highest priests in their countries — vowed to promote the restoration of seven holy sites in India and one in Nepal.

"It is crucial for the future of Buddhism to restore these sites," said Mapalagama Wipulasara, president of India's Maha Bodhi Society, one of the conference sponsors.

The statement also called for in-

creased efforts to spread the word of Buddha.

"Buddhism is on the decline in South Korea, Malaysia, Taiwan," said Malaysian high priest K. Sri Dammananda Maha Thero. "Every day we are losing our youth to Christianity."

Only about 1 percent of the population of India, the birthplace of Buddhism, is Buddhist. Political suppression has taken a severe toll on worship in such places as China and Southeast Asia.

Buddhism remains strong in Thailand, but is in a bit of a crisis because of criticism over the sometimes opulent lifestyles of powerful priests and monks.

There have also been some notorious cases of monks accused of sexual misbehavior and drug abuse.

sharply criticized for its involvement in the country, and some ethnic minorities have said they were used as forced labor to build infrastructure for the project.

Unocal has denied the charges.

In 1994, as a Democratic congressman from New Mexico, Richardson was the first non-family member of the military government allowed to visit Suu Kyi during her six years of house arrest.

The military refused his second request to meet her on a subsequent trip in 1995, and he accused the regime of "repression, regression and retrenchment."

Since becoming ambassador to the United Nations, Richardson has been sharply critical of human rights abuses by the Myanmar government.

Also Tuesday, Myanmar's state-run newspapers accused Suu Kyi's party of sowing unrest between the military government and ethnic minorities.

Government officials were un-

happy that copies of a letter of complaint written by the ethnic Shan State Army to intelligence chief Gen. Khin Nyunt were circulated during a celebration at Suu Kyi's compound March 27.

The day is observed by the military government as Armed Forces Day, while democracy campaigners call it Resistance Day to commemorate the struggle against British and Japanese colonial rule.

The article said the letter was distributed to "create misunderstanding between the government and nationalities and undermine peace."

The government has tried to limit contact between Suu Kyi's party and the ethnic groups to prevent them from forming a united alliance against military rule.

The Shan State Army is composed of remnants of the military force once commanded by Khun Sa, an opium warlord who surrendered in 1996.



LOVE ALL SERVE ALL
SAIPAN

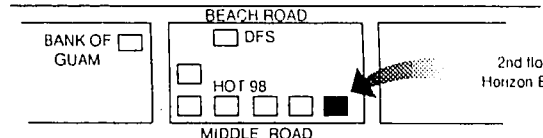
NOW INTERVIEWING

Pre Screening For All Applicants
One Day Only!

Servers, Merchandise Sales, Host/Hostess, Bartenders,
Bussers, Line/Prep Cooks, Expeditors, Dish Washers

Fill Out Applications Monday, April 13 at
The Horizon Building - Middle Road, Garapan
10AM-8PM No Phone Calls Please!

Local Hire (US Passport, Greencard & I.R.), Consensual Transfers,
and Agency Employees Welcome



Indonesia eyes IMF deal

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP) — Indonesia's Cabinet is scheduled to meet Wednesday amid expectations that the government is poised to strike a new deal with the International Monetary Fund over how to pull the world's fourth most populous nation out of its worst economic crisis in 30 years.

Indonesian and IMF officials have been meeting for three weeks in the capital, Jakarta, renegotiating terms for a \$43 billion IMF-sponsored rescue program. Government offices were closed Tuesday in observance of a Muslim holiday.

The bailout was first put together last October and then revised in January when the economy deteriorated dramati-

cally.

It broke down again in February when the IMF complained that the government of President Suharto had failed to live up to promises to make tough reforms to an economy dominated by his wealthy family and clique of associates.

Suharto countered that the IMF's prescription had failed to reverse Indonesia's fortunes. He argued that swift austerity measures had only inflicted misery on millions of struggling Indonesians, raising the potential for civil unrest.

The rupiah has fallen about 70 percent since the region's financial crisis hit Indonesia last July, bringing high inflation, company

closures and unemployment.

Earlier this year, deadly riots broke out over rising prices, and student protests have intensified.

Relations with Indonesia deteriorated to the point where the IMF last month withheld a \$3 billion loan installment under the bailout pending the outcome of the latest negotiations.

The installment is expected to be released within three weeks of the new deal being announced.

In a major concession, the IMF has indicated it will allow delays in the removal of subsidies for food and fuel.

Indonesian officials have also shown a new willingness to push ahead with reform.

In a move that drew IMF praise,

Indonesia announced this past weekend that it had frozen the operations of seven insolvent banks, some with connections to Suharto's family.

Another seven banks with major problems will stay in business under the management of a government-appointed restructuring agency.

A key obstacle to economic

recovery, Indonesia's private sector debt of \$68 billion, will be tackled in talks with 13 international banks in New York later this month.

Whatever the outcome, Indonesia is expected to face a long period of painful recovery. The economy is expected to shrink by 5 percent this year.

At the same time inflation is predicted to rise to 47 percent.

Cambodia blasts UN over report on killings

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia (AP) — The government attacked the United Nations on Tuesday for going public with a report of an estimated 50 new killings in Cambodia believed to be linked to politics.

"This is political propaganda," said Om Yeng Tieng, an adviser to Cambodian leader Hun Sen, who is believed to lie behind much of the country's political violence.

Thomas Hammarberg, the U.N. special representative for human rights in Cambodia, said Monday in Geneva that his investigators have amassed "reliable information" of some 50 killings between August and March that "appear to be political."

Om Yeng Tieng countered: "He never provides us with adequate evidence. Evidence does not mean just photos and fingerprints of those dead bodies."

The deaths are in addition to the 43 slayings that U.N. investigators say accompanied the coup Hun Sen staged against his co-prime minister, Prince Norodom Ranariddh, last July.

Despite Hun Sen's repeated pledges to bring the killers to justice, no one has ever been arrested or prosecuted for any of the killings, nor for a grenade attack against an opposition rally March 30, 1997, that killed 16 people and injured more than 100.

Om Yeng Tieng claimed that efforts to investigate the killings of Ranariddh's supporters after the coup had proven "as difficult as looking for needle at the bottom of the sea."

The more recent killings are believed to be an attempt to disrupt opposition to Hun Sen before elections slated for July 26.

Om Yeng Tieng said that Hammarberg and other human-rights workers were getting into "the bad habit" of going public with information before giving it to the government.

Hammarberg said the findings will be submitted in two weeks when he returns to Cambodia.



Indonesian women, right, beg for handouts as people exit Istiqlal Mosque after prayers for the Muslim holiday of Idul Adha in Jakarta Tuesday. Idul Adha marks the culmination of the Hajj pilgrimage and embodies the concept of sharing prosperity with the poor who are currently finding it harder to survive as Indonesia weathers its worst economic crisis in decades. AP

NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY FOR RUS LOAN AND PUBLIC MEETING

The Commonwealth Utilities Corporation (CUC) wishes to notify the public of its intent to apply for a loan from the United States Department of Agriculture, Rural Utility Service. This is for the construction of the GUALO RAI SEWER LINE EXPANSION, in the village of Gualo Rai, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.

A public meeting will be held to provide citizens an opportunity to become acquainted with the proposed project, and to comment on issues such as economic and environmental impact, service area, etc. All concerned citizens are invited to attend.

CUC personnel will hold the meeting at the Garapan Elementary School Cafeteria on Wednesday, April 22, 1998, at 7:00 p.m.

If you have questions regarding this proposed project, please call Mr. Edward Babauta, CUC Wastewater Division Project Engineer, at (670) 322-6706/7179.



Women's rights activists collect signatures in their campaign for equal property rights on parental property for both sons and daughters in Katmandu, Nepal on Tuesday. Activists said nearly 100,000 signatures have been collected. AP

Read to your child everyday.

Armey lambastes Clinton

Says President 'too shameless' to resign over scandals



Dick Armey



Bill Clinton

COPPELL, Texas (AP) — House Majority Leader Dick Armey said President Bill Clinton is too "shameless" to resign despite sexual misconduct allegations against him.

"I believe he's a shameless person," Armey told about 50 government students Monday at Coppel High School.

"If it were me that had documented personal conduct along the lines of the president's, I would be so filled with shame that I would resign."

"This president won't do that."

His basic credo in life is, 'I will do whatever I can get away with.'

Armey's remarks were some of the harshest yet by a top Republican since a federal judge dismissed Paula Corbin Jones' sexual harassment lawsuit against the president last week.

Since allegations surfaced that Clinton had an affair with a former White House intern and encouraged her to lie about it, Republicans have generally been restrained in their criticism, although many have said

Clinton to Reno: Consider probe panel on King slay

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton wants Attorney General Janet Reno to consider "very strong" arguments by the widow of slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King Jr. that a national commission be formed to probe his 1968 murder.

White House Press Secretary Mike McCurry told reporters Monday that while Clinton has not committed himself to such a course, he believes King's widow, Coretta Scott King, deserves a hearing.

"Given the president's respect for Mrs. King, given his concern about her strong argument, he felt it appropriate for the attorney general to hear that argument," McCurry said.

McCurry made his remarks two days after the 30th anniversary of King's assassination.

Justice Department spokesman

Bert Brandenburg said Monday evening that Reno had called Mrs. King earlier in the day at the request of White House counsel Charles Ruff. "She described Mrs. King as very gracious, and they hope to meet there later this week," Brandenburg said.

Last Thursday, Mrs. King called on Clinton to establish a national commission to investigate her husband's assassination.

The King family has said in recent months that they believe convicted assassin James Earl Ray was a scapegoat who did not act alone.

Ray, 70 and seriously ill from liver disease, pleaded guilty 11 months after the April 4, 1968, assassination, but immediately recanted and has maintained his innocence ever since. He has sought a trial.



The Pilgrimage Choir sing during a service at Mason Temple in Memphis, Tenn. Friday night, commemorating the "Mountaintop" address delivered at the Temple by Martin Luther King Jr. in April 3, 1968. At the time of his death, the next day, King was in Memphis in support of striking sanitation workers. AP

YAS Signs System

"Let this sign build your profit"



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

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

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

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

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

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

For all signs need, please visit or call

YAS Signs System

at Younis Art Studio, Inc., in Garapan.

Telephone Nos. 234-6341 ☎ 234-7578 ☎

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

DON'T GAMBLE WITH DEATH...DON'T DRINK AND DRIVE

Israel is on 'high alert'

By Jack Katzenell
JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli forces went on high alert Tuesday after police shot and killed a Palestinian driver they said had ignored an order to stop at a Jerusalem checkpoint.

Stone-throwing clashes broke out late Monday in several Arab neighborhoods of the city after the shooting of Mohammed Salami, a 25-year-old driver. Arab residents also stoned buses and police cars, burned tires and threw a firebomb.

Police Minister Avigdor Kahalani said the police "did exactly what they are ordered to do." Salami should have obeyed the order to stop, he said.

The security alert came within days of the start of Passover.

Israel was expected to seal off

the West Bank and Gaza Strip before the start of the seven-day Jewish holiday, which begins at sundown Friday.

The alert also came the same day a senior Clinton administration official told The Associated Press in Washington that U.S. special envoy Dennis Ross would return soon to the Middle East to try to push forward the peace process.

Israel radio reported Tuesday that Ross would return to the region in 10 days.

Israeli officials could not be reached for comment on the report, but Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu said after a meeting with his Security Cabinet that "it is not a secret that we are in the middle of a process with the Americans... It is possible that it will be renewed."

after Passover.

Ross made a four-day trip to the region last month, shuttling between Netanyahu and Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat. No breakthroughs resulted.

Also Tuesday, Hamas leaders stepped up their criticism of the Palestinian Authority and said Hamas would go on with its own investigation of the death of the militant group's chief bombmaker, whose body was found at the scene of an explosion in Ramallah on

March 29.

The Palestinian Authority has concluded that bombmaker Mohiyedine Sharif had been shot by a rival Hamas member.

Palestinian official Tayeb Abdel Rahim said Arafat had decided on a speedy and public trial of the four Hamas members suspected in Sharif's death who are in custody. A fifth suspect is at large.

Though the authority cleared Israel in Sharif's death, Hamas continued to blame Israel and said it would

make good on threats to carry out revenge bombings in Israel.

In response, Israeli security forces have been patrolling markets, malls and bus stations in cities, and tightening controls at West Bank roadblocks.

Abdel Aziz Rantisi, a Hamas leader in the Gaza Strip, had insinuated earlier that the Palestinian Authority might have been involved in the killing, and he demanded Tuesday that the authority set up an independent committee to investigate Sharif's killing.



Militiamen from the Israeli-allied south Lebanon Army carry Abbas Atwi on a stretcher to awaiting ambulance on Monday. Atwi, a Lebanese civilian, was killed and three others were wounded when a roadside bomb exploded near the village of Markaba, less than 500 meters north of the Lebanese-Israeli border. AP

Syria is violating 1974 agreement, says Israel

By Gwen Ackerman
JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel has complained to the United Nations that Syria is building fortifications near the disputed Golan Heights that violate a 1974 ceasefire agreement, a top Israeli official said Tuesday.

"The fortifications are very obvious, even to the naked eye," said David Bar-Ilan, top aide to Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu. "We complained to the United Nations and expect the work to be stopped."

Israel's Channel Two television said the construction included dugouts and about 30 miles of embankments leading from Syria to the Golan Heights.

Syria has said the construction is for agricultural use only and that a U.N. envoy will be sent to the region to verify its purpose. Channel Two reported.

Syria seeks the return of the Golan Heights, captured by Israel in the 1967 Middle East War, in exchange for a peace agreement.

Israeli Infrastructure Minister Ariel Sharon charged Tuesday that Syria, seeking Israeli concessions on the strategic plateau, is encouraging violence in south Lebanon.

On Monday, a roadside bomb killed a Lebanese civilian and wounded three in south Lebanon and an Israeli soldier was wounded when guerrillas fired shells at an Israeli patrol.

Sharon added that the Israeli-Syrian peace talks, stalled for almost two years, should be kept apart from an Israeli proposal to withdraw its troops from south Lebanon.

Syria, the main power in Lebanon, has rejected the Israeli proposal.

Leaders meet over Tehran mayor

By Afshin Valinejad
TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Iran's moderate president has met with the country's supreme leader in an apparent attempt to persuade him to intervene in a corruption case involving Tehran's jailed mayor.

The jailing of Mayor Gholamhossein Karbaschi, a reform-minded politician allied with President Mohammad Khatami, is at the center of a power struggle between moderate and hard-line clerics.

Khatami and Iran's hard-line supreme leader, Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, met Monday evening, the Farsi-language newspaper Jameh reported Tuesday.

Details of the talks were not disclosed. Iran's judiciary, which reports only to Khamenei, has defended Karbaschi's arrest. The case has posed the biggest challenge to Khatami and his moderate supporters since he de-

feated a hard-line opponent in the 1997 presidential election.

Khatami's interior minister, Abdollah Nouri, assailed the judiciary on Tuesday, questioning the competence of the judges to prosecute embezzlement allegations against the mayor.

"I cannot conceal my concern over the process of judicial investigation of the municipality file and refrain from expressing my doubts over the competency of those in charge of the case," Nouri said in the statement carried by Iran's official Islamic Republic News Agency.

The statement was issued by Nouri's office while the minister was in Saudi Arabia, where he is on the annual Muslim pilgrimage.

Karbaschi, 44, is accused of instructing some City Council officials to misappropriate public funds. He was arrested on Saturday.

He was questioned at the

main Evin prison for six hours Monday by a judge from a court that investigates graft by government employees, according to the Farsi-language Iran daily, which supports the mayor.

His supporters say the allegations are politically motivated, and New York-based Human Rights Watch appealed for a fair public hearing in a statement faxed to The Associated Press in Cairo.

"We fear that the decision to arrest and prosecute Mr. Karbaschi may be a politically motivated act," the human rights group said in a letter to Chief Justice Ayatollah Mohammad Yazdi, a hard-liner.

The popular Hamshahri newspaper, which is run by the mayor, quoted Tehran residents as demanding that people show their support for Karbaschi by gathering in public — though it did not expressly call for any demonstrations.

showed the village only had 55 residents.

Most of the dead were in the provinces of Khuzestan and Chaharmahal-Bakhtiari, where Abkenareh was located.

There was no further details on the casualties.

81 dead in flooding in Iran

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — Eighty-one people have been killed and 19,000 homes damaged in a week of flooding in southwestern Iran, Iranian television reported Tuesday.

The dead included 55 people killed last Wednesday when a vil-

lage was completely buried in a landslide, the television reported, quoting relief officials. There were no survivors from the village.

Iranian media first reported that 60 people were killed in the village of Abkenareh, 250 miles south of Tehran, but later said new reports



NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT WEEK APRIL 1998



JOSE DELA CRUZ
Secretary



JESUS D. SABLÁN
Treasurer



JUAN S. TENORIO
Chairman



OSCAR QUITUGUA
Vice Chairman



PLASIO TAGABUEL
Board Member

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lieutenant Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through Juan S. Tenorio, Chairman of the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, wish to announce that the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD), has designated the month of April as National Community Development Week. NMHC, in conjunction with the HUD Honolulu Office wish to take this opportunity to highlight the contribution of the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG) under Title I of the Housing and Community Development Act towards the betterment of communities. CDBG provides direct financial assistance to eligible jurisdictions for a wide range of community development activities, principally benefiting lower-income families. While the entire community benefits from the completion of CDBG funded projects, targeted population of the grants is geared towards the lower income group.

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, then under the Trust Territory Government, first became eligible to receive financial assistance under the CDBG Program in 1975. To date, the Commonwealth's annual grant applications submitted by NMHC and approved by HUD, has amounted to \$10,516,215. During the years, the grants have provided needed funding for: planning and construction of water supply and distribution systems; sewer collection system; individual sanitary waste disposal systems; street and drainage improvements; housing for displaced families; rehabilitation of public housing units and recreational facilities. CDBG has made significant improvement in the Commonwealth's infrastructure system, multipurpose, recreational facilities and most especially, towards the betterment of our community, the general well being of our residents and our economy.

The contributions of HUD's funded CDBG Program has enabled the completion of the following projects (listed by program year) to the Commonwealth:

• **1997 Grant** - Construction of a community center in Kagman III: Dandan Baseball Field Bathroom Facility, Notice to Proceed has been issued to the contractor; Tinian Baseball Lighting - Notice to Proceed has been issued to the contractor to begin ordering of lighting supplies and the closing of bids is scheduled this month.

• **1996 Grant** - joint partnership with the Commonwealth Government of the Beach Road Pathway System, PHASE I, from Killi Beach to Chalan Laulau ending across the China House Restaurant; construction and upgrade of the Section 8 Septic Tank System in As Liyo, Rota; and the Rehabilitation of the Pinatag Park Swimming Pool in Songsong, Rota.

• **1995 Grant** - the Saipan Recreational Facility which soon will be constructed at the Northern Marianas College (NMC) Campus; and the expansion of the Saipan Multipurpose Center in Susupe which increased the stage area, provided for bathroom and dressing rooms, and a rear entrance for convenience in loading and unloading equipment into the building.

• **1994 Grant** - continuation of the rehabilitation of Section 8 housing units in Saipan, Tinian and Rota; construction of a children's park in Tinian Island; and funds reprogrammed for the As-Liyo Tank and Waterline Project to resolve existing water problems experienced by Section 8 tenants residing in Rota.

• **1993 Grant** - continuation of the rehabilitation of Section 8 housing units

in Saipan, Tinian and Rota, and construction of a children's park in Tinian Island. Note that HUD's allocation to the NMHC was rescinded and reallocated to other insular area grantees affected by Typhoon Omar, Hurricane Iniki and Hurricane Andrew.

• **1992 Grant** - construction of Saipan Multipurpose Community Center located in Susupe.

• **1991 Grant** - Rehabilitation of 80 Section 8 housing units situated at Kobleville Subdivision, Saipan (30 units); Tinian, (20 units); and Rota (30 units).

• **1990 Grant** - construction of the Multipurpose Gymnasium on Tinian in partnership with the Commonwealth Government.

• **1989 Grant** - water infrastructure at the Dandan Homestead Subdivision, consisting of over 550 residential lots.

• **1988 Grant** - completion of the Rota Multipurpose Center, which is being funded in part with the 1987 grant and Rota CIP funds.

• **1987 Grant** - construction of the Rota Multipurpose Center at Liyo, Rota; and the Emergency Sanitary facilities Project on Saipan and Tinian, involving construction of 148 septic tanks and accessories for the FEMA home recipients who do not have access to public sewer.

• **1986 Grant** - Saipan Multipurpose Gymnasium Project at Susupe, Saipan, to provide partial funding for the construction of the north and south wings of the facility.

• **1985 Grant** - Kobleville Street Improvement Project, involving street paving at the Kobleville Homestead Subdivision.

• **1984 Grant** - continuation of the Kobleville Water and Sewer Project

• **1983 Grant** - Kobleville Section 8 Street Improvement at Kobler area, Saipan, consisting of street paving in a 34-unit Section 8 housing subdivision; and the construction of the Kobleville Water and Sewer Project at Kobleville Homestead Subdivision, Saipan, which was initially funded with the 1982 grant.

• **1982 Grant** - Kobleville Water and Sewer Project at the Kobler Homestead Subdivision, Saipan, involving construction of water and sewer lines. The subdivision includes approximately 500 residential lots.

• **1981 Grant** - Pagan Disaster Assistance Project, consisting of construction of seven (7) replacement homes and related water, power, sewer, and street improvements on Saipan for families relocated following the volcanic eruption on Pagan Island. \$200 was reprogrammed to cover project shortfalls under the 1978 grant.

• **1980 Grant** - Rota Section 8 Street Improvement Project at Liyo, Rota, to provide supplemental funds for the street improvement and related work.

• **1979 Grant** - Mihaville Street Improvement in Garapan, Saipan, involving street paving and construction of curbs and gutters in a 48-unit Section 8 housing subdivision; Tinian Section 8 Street Improvement in Garapan, Saipan, involving street paving and construction of curbs and gutters in a 20-unit Section 8 housing subdivision; Rota Section 8 Street Improvement at Liyo, Rota, involving street paving and construction of curbs and gutters in a 30-unit Section 8 housing subdivision; Rota Section 8 Water Project at Liyo, Rota, involving construction of a 12,000-gallon water

storage tank for 30 Section 8 housing units; and, Liyo Sewer System at Liyo, Rota, for emergency repairs on the Section 8 housing subdivision septic tank and leaching field. \$36,748 was reprogrammed from the 1979 grant to cover shortfalls in the 1978 projects.

• **1978 Grant** - Garapan Annex II Street and Drainage Improvement in Garapan, Saipan, consisting of street paving, construction of curbs and gutters, drainage canal, ponding basin, and fencing of ponding basin; Puntan Muchot Drainage in Garapan, Saipan, involving construction of additional drainage canals and repair of the old Japanese drainage canal; San Jose Water Facility in San Jose, Tinian, to provide supplemental funds for the construction of water distribution pipelines and, Rota Water Facility on Rota, to provide matching funds for an EDA grant for the construction of the one-million gallon water reservoir. \$36,748 and \$200 were reprogrammed from the 1979 and 1981 grants, respectively, to cover 1978 projects shortfalls.

• **1977 Grant** - Preparation of the Chalan Kanoa/Susupe Redevelopment Plan, a feasibility study for the redevelopment of Chalan Kanoa and Susupe Village, Saipan; Sugar King Water Distribution System in Garapan, Saipan, involving construction of water distribution pipelines and service laterals at the Sugar King homestead site; and, Rota Park and Recreational Facility in Songsong, Rota, involving construction of a park and multipurpose court.

• **1976 Grant** - Puntan Muchot Street and Drainage Project in Garapan, Saipan, involving street paving, construction of curbs and gutters, and drainage system.

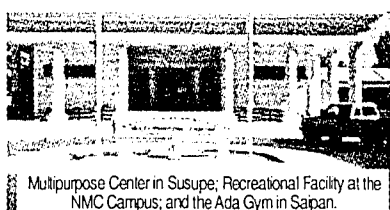
• **1975 Grant** - Puntan Muchot Sewer Line Project in Garapan, Saipan, involving construction of sewer pipelines.

Last month, NMHC held public hearings in Saipan, Rota, and Tinian, and citizen participation was quite outstanding. The public hearings provide the forum to hear comments for the Program Year 1998 CDBG projects. Residents from each island converged to present their prospective recommendations on what essential projects or activities need to be funded. All comments received will be analyzed by NMHC in terms of priority needs in benefiting the islands and its respective community.

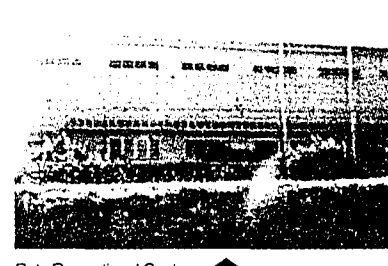
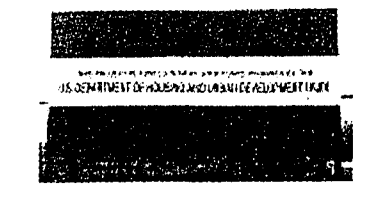
In celebrating Community Development Week, MaryLou S. Ada, Corporate Director of NMHC, praised the efforts and contribution of Patty A. Nicholas, Director, Community Development and Planning Division, her staff and the HUD Honolulu Office. Ms. Nicholas has been quite instrumental in providing technical assistance to NMHC concerning the grant process and consideration of key factors which surrounds the planning and award of CDBG projects in the Commonwealth. Mr. Andrew Smith, P.E., Director, Technical Services Division, DPW and staff have also been instrumental in providing the technical and engineering assistance for plans and specifications of funded projects. Ms. Ada also expressed that the Board of Directors of NMHC has given its utmost support and approval of projects, and its leadership and sensitivity to the needs of the community should not go unrecognized. The Executive Branch and the Commonwealth Legislature is worthy of recognition for its endorsements of projects.

For more information about the CDBG Program, contact the NMHC Office in Saipan, at 234-9447/7689/7670; in Rota at 532-9410; and in Tinian at 433-9213.

CDBG-funded multipurpose gyms in Saipan, Tinian & Rota, as follows:



Multipurpose Center in Susupe; Recreational Facility at the NMC Campus; and the Ada Gym in Saipan.



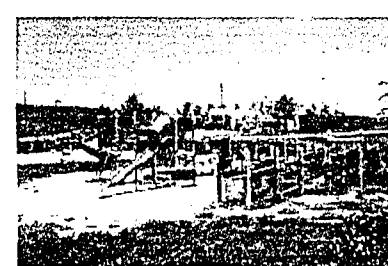
Rota Recreational Center



Children's Park in Tinian



Tinian Multipurpose Gym



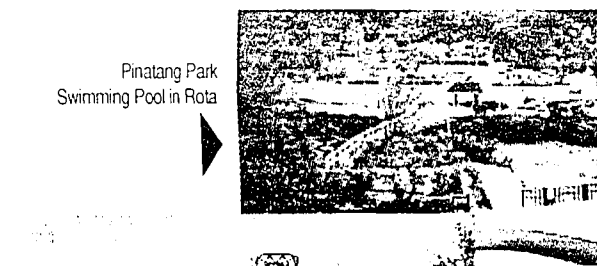
Saipan Multipurpose Gymnasium



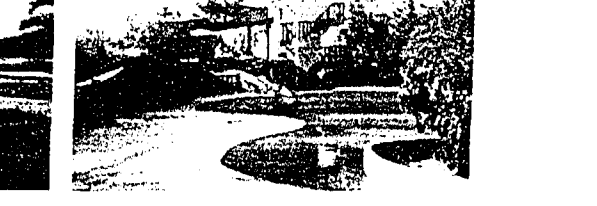
Saipan Multipurpose Gymnasium



Saipan Multipurpose Gymnasium



Pinatag Park Swimming Pool in Rota



Saipan Beach Pathway System



Rehabilitation of Housing Units, Mihaville, Saipan



A Palestinian youth holds his finger on the trigger of a toy gun in the West Bank town of Hebron Tuesday where a ferris wheel was brought in to celebrate the Muslim holiday of Eid al-Adha, or Feast of the Sacrifice. AP

Disbarred . . .

Continued from page 7

O'Shea said he was struck by an automobile while crossing a city street in a crosswalk in Spokane, Washington on Jan. 22, 1997.

On the evening of the accident,

O'Shea claimed, he was served with copies of individual complaints from the CNMI Bar and later served with the formal complaint.

He said he was unable to respond to the allegations during the 30-day extension he had requested because his medical and financial condition failed to improve.

Homestead . . .

Continued from page 3

terview, has said that government is conducting an inspection of homestead permit holders in Kagman III to have more deeds released.

Also, government has issued a "grant of public domain" to another 80 homestead permit holders to have them qualified for loans needed to complete construction of their homes from the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC).

Camacho . . .

Continued from page 3

the four children of Sylvestre Ilisari and Carmen C. Ilisari.

Atalig said in April 1996, Concepcion I. Lukas conveyed to Pedro I. Lucas by Deed of Gift her one fourth or 2,719.25 square meters interest in the land.

The lawyer said in June 1997, defendant Pedro Lucas transferred by warranty deed to Camacho, 1,010 sq. meters of land.

On information, Atalig said, Concepcion Lucas has used portion of Lot 1556 as her own share in the land.

"Defendant Lucas has partitioned

1,010 square meters of Lot 1556 for plaintiff including a right of way of 249 square meters," he stated.

Atalig said Camacho is the owner of 1,010 sq. meters of land including rights of ways in Lot 1556 while the defendants are the owners of the remaining 9,867 sq. meters of the land.

"Plaintiff and his agents have attempted on several occasions to survey part of Lot 1556, but were prevented from doing so by defendant Lucas in violation of his obligations under the warranty deed," Atalig said.

The lawyer pointed out that defendants should be enjoined and restrained from interfering with the quiet enjoyment of Camacho's partitioned property.

Clinton is ...

Continued from page 2

in Washington.

Democratic congressmen were among those who voted against

the Clinton request.

Hemispheric free trade, also known as the Free Trade Area of the Americas or FTAA, should have been sold with a wider pitch for political, security, human rights and law enforcement re-

forms, said McCain.

A trade summit in Santiago, Chile, later this month should provide a forum to "go back and re-emphasize the political and security aspects of our vision for the hemisphere," said McCain.

Bono's ...

Continued from page 2

ber.

Also Tuesday, voters in Alameda County, in the northern part of the state, chose a successor for Rep. Ron Dellums, a Democrat who retired in February after more than 27 years in Congress.

With 22 of 485 precincts reporting, Democratic state Sen. Barbara Lee — Dellums' former chief of staff — led with 7,651 votes, or 67 percent of the vote. Three others

split the remaining ballots. It appeared Lee — like Mrs. Bono — would also get the majority of votes needed to win without a runoff.

Mrs. Bono, 36, decided to run for her husband's seat at the urging of Republican leaders and her family — except her mother-in-law, who publicly chastised her for seeking office while raising two young children.

Waite, 68, best remembered for playing "Pa" on "The Waltons" in the 1970s, was largely a no-show candidate, starting in a production of "Death of a Salesman" in New Jersey during much of the

campaign.

He is a staunch supporter of abortion rights, while Mrs. Bono favors abortion only during the first trimester. Waite supports increasing the minimum wage, while Mrs. Bono opposes such an increase because she believes it would hurt free enterprise.

Besides criticism from her rivals, Mrs. Bono also was attacked by her husband's mother, Jean Bono, who said her daughter-in-law's election would make "orphans" out of 7-year-old Chianne and 9-year-old Chesare.

Gov't ...

Continued from page 7

the [US Senate] hearing, everybody feels good and everybody may just forget and then when there's going to be another hearing, everybody scrambles," he said.

Ayuyu said the Task Force will make sure that the concerned agencies, such as the DOLI for labor and immigration concerns, are doing their part in terms addressing the prob-

lems.

"The Task Force will oversee or make sure that what we are supposed to be doing are kept track so we can go to the governor and report that everything is in place or more should be done," he stressed.

The Chamber was proposing the creation of a Joint Law Enforcement Task Forces comprising members of both US and local officers in each of the areas where assistance is needed.

Ayuyu said such Task Force must

operate on the principle of joint responsibility and accountability.

"We would recommend that for a period of at least one year, each CNMI employer with more than five guest workers would be inspected for compliance with all federal and local laws," he said.

He said the federal offices would enforce federal laws and the CNMI would implement local laws, adding that all inspections would be done with each partner present.

Jones ...

Continued from page 1

ment of Interior is destroying us," Jones said.

Jones said the DOI had a hand in the 1992 CNMI-US agreement which had established the requirement for the CNMI to come up with matching local money for

every federal grant given to the CNMI for capital improvement projects. The Covenant has been amended for this purpose.

The federal government has pledged the CNMI \$77 million CIP money spread over seven years, starting in 1996.

The CNMI is to receive \$11 million each year, which it has to match with its own money.

"There may be nothing illegal about that, but I question the morality of that move because we're entitled to the federal money under the Covenant in exchange for our decision to give up our sovereignty," Jones said.

"We're allowing the US to use our air space, ocean and mineral resources; we deserve our money for giving up our rights over these things," he added.

DOLI ...

Continued from page 1

"Everybody is working on reports (of previous raids) and determinations (of violations). There is no point in doing the inspections and let the paperwork lag," e added.

DOLI source told Variety that the new round of inspections

will also focus on an alleged scheme purportedly employed by garment factory officials on the hiring of nonresident workers for \$200, which in turn, are listed under a local-sounding name.

The modus operandi was to facilitate compliance to the 20-percent hiring requirement on the employment of resident workers.

Several factories, the source said, have been identified as "in-

spection sites."

Meantime, San Nicolas said DOLI is also busy devising a new regulation in connection with the enactment, last March 27, of Public Law 11-6.

The new law allows "consensual" employment transfers. Thus far, DOLI's Administrative Hearing Office (AHO) has formulated a transitory regulation for employees hired by manpower agencies who want to transfer employment and employers who want to hire them.

The department's series of raids last month elicited criticism from both the business sector, which decried the "Gestapo-like inspections," and the nonresident workers' community, which maintained that, contrary to DOLI's position, they should not be deported for failure to acquire ARCs.

To date, a debate is still in progress on whether failure to obtain an ARC is a deportable offense.

CDA's ...

Continued from page 1

borrowers."

Tenorio said this is the first time that "everybody is feeling the pinch" of the economic downturn.

He pointed to the "for rent" signs hung on commercial spaces to show the magnitude of the crisis.

The CDA imposed a moratorium some six years ago on direct loans for commercial and apart-

ment buildings.

What it does is guarantee loans of this kind to banks.

Direct loans are made to commercial farm and other developmental projects.

The CDA has in the past declared borrowers in default, including the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. whose defaulted debt now amounts to over \$80 million.

The debt is now in the process of being converted into equity, making the CDA the controlling owner of the utilities firm.

Lets ...

Continued from page 1

shortly after President Clinton, in May 1997, recommended an end to the CNMI's control over its immigration and minimum wage.

Then governor Froilan C. Tenorio branded the talks "useless," citing the President's announcement, which he said was made without consulting the CNMI through the 902 process.

Lessons ...

Continued from page 4

ONE morning at the Beach Road Pathway, three persons were talking about dead dogs found along the streets. The first man, a local, complained that it takes several days before authorities here pick up the dead dogs from the highways after being run over by vehicles. The second man said that in their country, 15 minutes after the accident, people do not wait for the authorities to clean the street. The people themselves get the dead dogs because they like to eat them. The third man then said, "You know in our country, 15 minutes before a vehicle can hit a dog, bystanders kill the animal with a piece of wood or pipe for food."

Marianas Variety Classified Ads Section

Employment Wanted



01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$3.05-4.25 per hour
Contact: MYUNG SUNG CORPORATION dba International Insurance Agency Tel. 234-1941(4/9)Th25986

01 ASSISTANT MANAGER-Salary:\$3.15 per hour
02 WAITER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: ROWENA L. O'CONNOR dba K's Dimsum & Noodle House Tel. 234-5684(4/9)Th25988

01 SALES ASSOCIATE-Salary:\$3.15 per hour
01 FLORIST-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: CARMEN SAFEWAY ENTERPRISES, INC. dba C-Mart, Carmen's Baby New, Hair Salon, Wholesale Dist.; CSE Properties; Pacifica Funeral Services; The Floral Lane Tel.234-7313(4/9)Th1437

02 TEACHER-Salary:\$4.80 per hour
02 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:\$5.54 per hour
Contact: GRACE CHRISTIAN ACADEMY dba Grace Christian Tel. 322-3320(4/16)Th171545

01 BOAT CARPENTER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
02 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour
Contact: QUINCY CORPORATION dba Micronesia Marine Tel. 234-9696(4/16)Th2606

02 STORE MANAGER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: KAM MANO CO. LTD. dba Kam Mano Store Tel. 234-7868(4/23)Th26138

01 ELECTRICAL ENGINEER-Salary:\$600.00 per month
Contact: ROLANDO G. BIGALBAL dba RB Electrical & Const'n. Tel. 234-9855(4/23)Th26145

01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$3.05-3.50 per hour
Contact: MIN ENTERPRISES, INC. Tel. 234-3300(4/23)Th26146

01 GENERAL MANAGER-Salary:\$5.00 per hour
Contact: DUK-SOO DEVELOPMENT Tel. 234-3300(4/23)Th26144

01 ELECTRONIC TECHNICIAN-Salary:\$6.50 per hour
Contact: MARIANAS ELECTRONICS COMPUTER SYSTEMS dba Marianas Electronics Tel. 234-5424(4/23)Th26143

01 BEAUTICIAN-Salary:\$6.80 per hour
Contact: HATAMATA INTERNATIONAL, INC. dba Dolce Hair Mode Salon Tel. 233-2338(4/23)Th26142

01 CASHIER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$1,000.00 per month
Contact: BLT AMUSEMENT dba Fun Zone Tel. 232-4577(4/23)Th26141

01 STORE MANAGER-Salary:\$1,000.00 per month
Contact: BONG ENTERPRISES, INC. dba Esther Fashion Tel. 234-1899(4/23)Th26140

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05-3.40 per hour
Contact: SUSANAT. MAFNAS dba One Call Service Tel. 235-5121(4/23)Th26150

03 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: ANITA LIZA S. MAFNAS dba Island Yard & Janitorial Serv. Tel. 234-2697(4/23)Th26151

Classified Ads FIRST

03 CUSTOMER SERVICE REPRESENTATIVE-Salary:\$3.20-6.25 per hour plus \$425.00 per mo. housing allowance
Assists customers to select and purchase specified merchandise.
Answers any questions pertaining to merchandise by customers.
Japanese skills required.
01 MANAGER, BOUTIQUE (DEPARTMENT)-Salary:\$1,500.00-4,000.00 per month plus \$425.00 per mo. housing allowance
Responsible for sales training to include individual product knowledge, customer service and sales techniques.
Effectively communicate, implement and monitor strategies with division operations staff providing guidance and feedback. Japanese skills required.
01 SHOP SUPERVISOR-Salary:\$800.00-2,500.00 per month plus \$425.00 per month housing allowance
Assists sales manager in providing direction and motivation to department personnel to work towards accomplishments of department objectives. Assists in maximizing sales and improving profits through control of operating expenses, sales, payroll, overtime and PCHS. Japanese skills required.
Contact: DFS SAIPAN LTD. Tel. 234-6615(4/16)Th1533

02 MASON-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
02 CARPENTER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
Contact: MARYLEE P. AQUINO Tel. 233-6099(4/16)Th171549

01 STORE MANAGER-Salary:\$1,000.00-2,400.00 per month
01 SALES REPRESENTATIVE-Salary:\$3.05-6.75 per hour
Contact: LOUIS VUITTON, INC. dba Louis Vuitton Saipan, Inc. Tel. 233-0637(4/16)Th26065

01 MANAGER-Salary:\$1,000.00 per month
Contact: MARIANAS EXCHANGE, INC. dba Marianas Auto Parts Tel. 234-9531(4/16)Th26067

01 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
01 ASST. OFFICE MANAGER-Salary:\$4.00 per hour
Contact: PELICANA INT'L. ENT. INC. Tel. 288-1885(4/16)Th26068

01 WAITER-Salary:\$3.05-3.75 per hour
01 CUSTOMER SERVICE AGENT-Salary:\$1,000.00-2,000.00 per month
Contact: MICRONESIA SYSTEMS INC. dba Plumeria Resort Tel. 322-6201(4/16)Th26069

01 COST ACCOUNTANT-Salary:\$4.25 per hour
Plus \$225 monthly housing allowance
Contact: TOWN HOUSE, INC. dba Town House Shopping Center Tel. 235-6351(4/16)Th1546

01 ADMINISTRATIVE ASSISTANT-Salary:\$3.05-3.90 per hour
01 CHEF DE CUISINE-Salary:\$2,000.00-5,250.00 per month
01 DORMITORY SUPERVISOR (HOUSEKEEPER)-Salary:\$600.00-870.00 per month
01 WAITRESS-RESTAURANT-Salary:\$3.05-3.55 per hour
01 WAITER (RESTAURANT)-Salary:\$3.05-3.55 per hour
01 MAINTENANCE (PLUMBER)-Salary:\$3.05-3.55 per hour
01 HEADWAITER-Salary:\$3.05-3.55 per hour
01 ELECTRICIAN-Salary:\$3.05-4.15 per hour
01 DRESS MAKER-Salary:\$3.05-3.55 per hour
02 COMMERCIAL CLEANER-Salary:\$3.05-3.55 per hour
01 ASSISTANT MANAGER, BAR-Salary:\$3.50-4.93 per hour
03 COOK-Salary:\$3.05-3.55 per hour
03 CLEANER HOUSEKEEPING-Salary:\$3.05-3.55 per hour
01 GARDENER-Salary:\$3.05-3.55 per hour
01 HELPER, KITCHEN-Salary:\$3.05-3.55 per hour
Contact: HOTEL NIKKO SAIPAN Tel. 322-3311(4/16)Th26074

01 PAINTER-Salary:\$4.00-5.00 per hour
Plus \$225.00 housing allowance
Contact: SAIPAN SUNSET CRUISE, INC. Tel. 234-8230(4/22)W1640

01 ASSISTANT PURCHASING MANAGER-Salary:\$700.00-1,300.00 per month
01 ASST. RESTAURANT MANAGER-Salary:\$700.00-1,300.00 per month
01 WAITRESS, REST.-Salary:\$3.05 per hour
02 CARPENTER-Salary:\$3.05-3.30 per hour
Contact: MICRO PACIFIC DEVELOPMENT, INC. dba Saipan Grand Hotel Tel. 234-6601(4/23)Th1680

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

KIM YOUNG JIN, Plaintiff, vs. UNITED ENTERPRISES INC. Defendant.
Civil Action No. 98-0287 D

SUMMONS

TO: UNITED ENTERPRISES INC.

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of the Summons upon you and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to Antonio M. Atalig Law Office, the Plaintiff's counsel, whose address is AAA 122 Call Center, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at the Civic Center, Saipan, MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, Judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By Order of the above Court.

/s/Clerk of Court
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

BANK OF GUAM, Plaintiff, vs. JOSEPH JUAN MAFNAS CRUZ, Defendant.
Civil Action No. 96-1170

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

TO: THE ABOVE-NAMED DEFENDANT:

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you herewith, within twenty-one (21) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of your answer to White, Pierce, Mailman & Nutting, the Plaintiff's Attorneys, whose address is P.O. Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan. It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above court:

/s/Deputy Clerk of Court
Dated, this 29th day of December, 1997

CENTRALLY LOCATED IN GARAPAN

HOUSE FOR RENT

3 Bedrooms, Semi-Furnished, Washer & Dryer, 24 hrs. water, Private fenced yard.

For more info. Call: 322-7733 or Beeper 236-1374

DEADLINE: 12:00 noon the day prior to publication

NOTE: If some reason your advertisement is incorrect, call us immediately to make the necessary corrections. The Marianas Variety News and Views is responsible only for one incorrect insertion. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time.

IMMEDIATELY NEEDED VACANCY FOR LOCAL HIRE ONLY GREENSKEEPER

- HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATE PREFERRED BUT NOT REQUIRED.
- THREE (3) TO TWELVE (12) MONTHS EXPERIENCE AS A GREENSKEEPER
- SALARY COMMENSURATE WITH EXPERIENCE AND QUALIFICATIONS

Please apply and pick up application in person during office hours. Monday through Friday. NO PHONE CALLS PLEASE

MICROL INSURANCE, INC. Needs MOTOR CLAIMS ADJUSTER

Successful candidate must have sound mechanical knowledge, office skills and able to work within a team environment. Insurance experience preferred.

ACCOUNTING CLERK

Successful candidate must have 4 years accounting experience. office skills and able to work within a team environment.

Please submit your resume at Microl Insurance office at Ground Floor, Lim's Office Bldg., cor. Beach Road, San Jose, Saipan. No phone calls please.

An Equal Opportunity Employer

IMMEDIATE OPENING MAINTENANCE MECHANIC

\$3.50-4.00/HOUR

Knowledge with Light & Heavy Equipment, Gas & Diesel Mechanic preferred. Must be able to work 5 days a week/8 hours a day. Must be able to work weekends & holidays as scheduled.

Apply in person at the 2nd Floor

BASIC CONSTRUCTION SUPPLY
Chalan Lualua, Saipan.

FOR SALE

AT VERY LOW PRICES!

- Used Refrigerator 14.3 to 19.1 Cu. Ft. Whirlpool & Westinghouse Brand
- Small Refrigerator National Brand
- Used Mattresses

For more information please call 234-2467 or visit us in San Jose Beach Road at the back of Oleai Mobil Station

FOR SALE "RUSH"

1995 ASIA BUS (45 Passengers)	\$25,000
1994 ASIA BUS (45 Passengers)	\$19,000
1994 ASIA BUS (35 Passengers)	\$17,000
1995 TOYOTA WAGON	\$6,500
1996 DODGE RAM 350 (15 pas.) 40,000 miles	\$14,000
1992 DODGE RAM 350 (15 pas.) 40,000 miles	\$4,500
1988 CHEVROLET (15 passengers)	\$2,700
1990 TOYOTA CAMRY (Airon Good)	\$3,300

Please contact: MR. PARK 234-2340

LOST PASSPORT

The passport of MS. JIN, JINFU was lost while she was at Micro Beach last March 5, 1998. She noticed that it was lost when she was already at her barracks.

USED CARS RUSH SALES

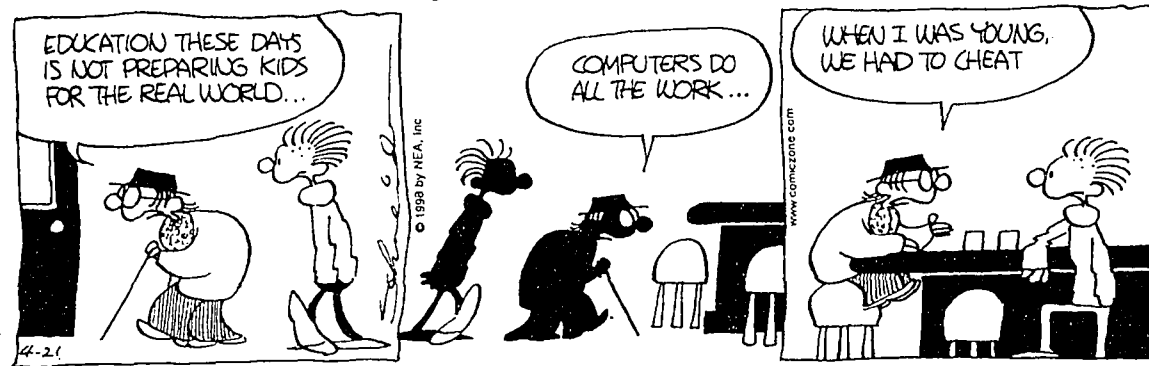
1990 Toyota Corolla AT, AC	\$3,500
1991 Toyota Camry AT, AC	\$4,500
1996 Mitsubishi Pajero-Sid, AC	\$12,000
1995 Toy Camry XLE V-6	\$12,000

Please Contact Rudy at Tel 235-1242

FOR SALE

1993 YAMAHA MOPAD
RED COLOR WITH BASKET \$600

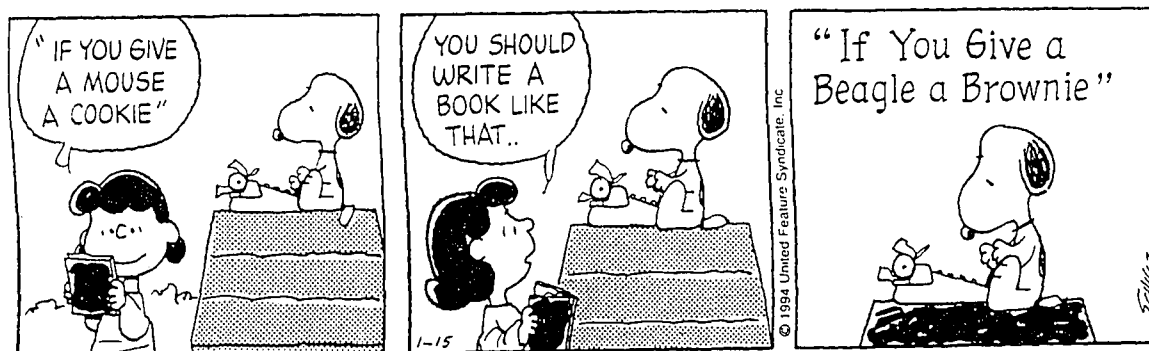
EEK & MEEK® by Howie Schneider



Garfield® by Jim Davis



PEANUTS® by Charles M. Schulz



STELLA WILDER

YOUR BIRTHDAY

THURSDAY

BORN today, you are a strong, powerful and noteworthy individual with tremendous potential in a wide variety of professional endeavors. Despite all the talents you may have, you are far more interested in personal contentment and inner harmony than in any worldly success. You will find, much to your delight, that the more you develop your talents and allow them to pay off for you professionally, the more likely you are to enjoy the kind of contentment you seek. Your happiness is the direct result of doing everything you can to develop yourself.

You are very likely to enjoy at least two complete and fully-developed careers in your lifetime. You do not like to be limited to one endeavor, and you insist on exploring all

options as they arise. It is never enough for you to say you're too old, too inexperienced or too anything to stay in the game!

To see what is in store for you tomorrow, find your birthday and read the corresponding paragraph. Let your birthday star be your daily guide.

FRIDAY, APR. 10

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) — You are likely to discover something about a close friend today that makes you realize just what has been going on behind your back.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) — You may have to search high and low in the future for the kind of opportunity that can be yours this very day. Do not hesitate to explore it fully.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) — Form and function must be combined today if you're to enjoy the kind of success you seek. You must do it well, and look good doing it, too!

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) — You may be getting so caught up in peripheral or even trivial issues at this time that you're overlooking one or two key concerns.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) — Get back to basics today and you should be able to increase profit and enjoyment while engaging in all the old endeavors. Have fun again!

CANCER (June 21-July 22) — You can do things in

more than one fashion today, but you must strive to find the one that works best for you. You can maximize your results.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) — Follow in someone else's footsteps today and you can learn a thing or two about a topic that, in the past, was only of fleeting interest.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) — Now is the time for you to make a more concerted effort to engage in meaningful conversation with those around you. Forget about small talk!

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) — Take the time to study details carefully today and you'll enjoy a greater yield as a result of your efforts. Get facts and figures.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) — You may not be able to do things entirely on your own — nor are you likely to want to, anyway! Your choice of partner will make all the difference.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) — You will want to make an early start today in order to give yourself more time later in the day for a private pursuit.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) — You mustn't let an unexpected development take you too much by surprise. Look back and you'll see that you could have anticipated it.

Copyright 1998, United Feature Syndicate, Inc.

CROSSWORD PUZZLER

ACROSS

- 1 Revolvable devices
6 Kin to an ape
11 "Remington"
13 Friendly
14 Tantalum symbol
15 Electrified
17 Maiden loved by Zeus
18 Ms. Thurman
20 Female
21 Cotton St.
22 Physically repulsive
24 Yellow ocher
25 "By the time — to Phoenix"

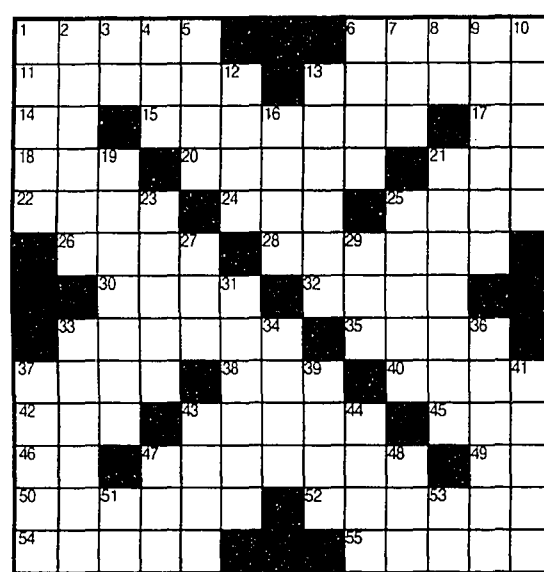
DOWN

- 2 African river
28 Approached
30 Ms. Sorvino
32 Sea in Asia
33 Magazine published by John Kennedy, Jr.
35 "Let it stand!"
37 Clue
38 "One Day — Time"
40 Actual being
42 — deco
43 — one in the face
45 Scheduled meeting (abbr.)
46 That thing
47 It's the law of —
49 Thulium symbol
50 — "Company"
52 Tissue analysis
54 Small bodies of land
55 June 6, 1944 and July 4, 1776

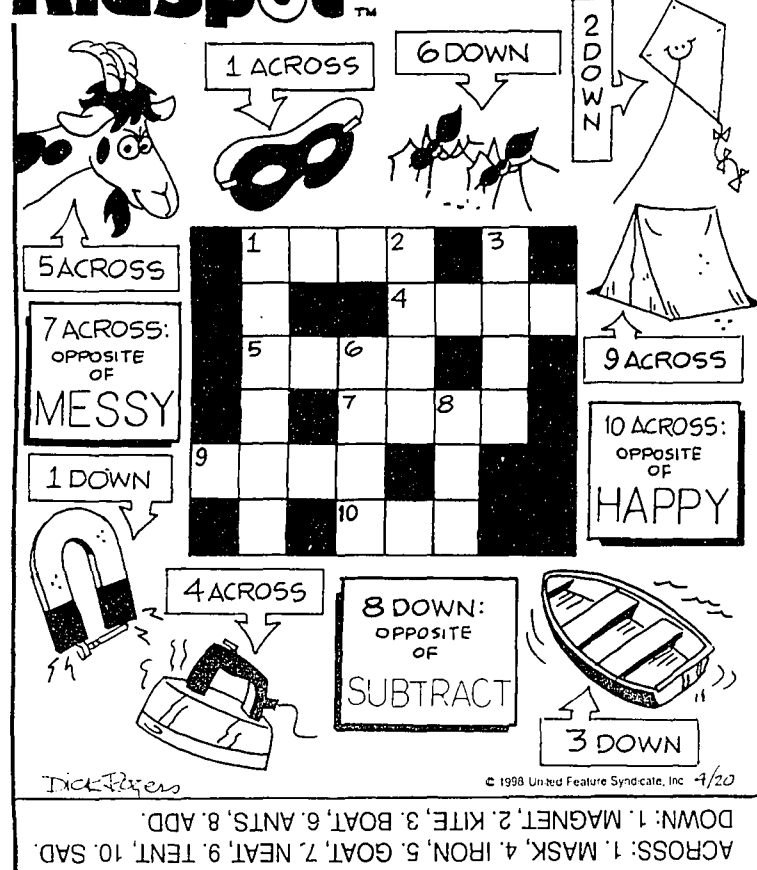
Answer to Previous Puzzle

REE BANGS BOA
ONS OPRAH AWA
MASCOT RESTED
EOS ERECT
ESNE VM NOLITE
RTE SEEM LEON
IR YEARNED DE
COLA LAOS BAR
AMISS LP YOYO
FIORD PAD
BETRAY FAMILY
IRE RATES COO
TED SNOBS EMU

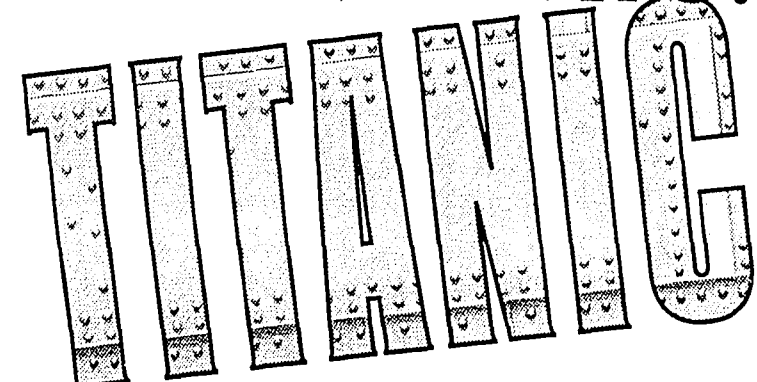
1998 United Feature Syndicate



KidSpot™ by Dick Rogers



FINAL 4 DAYS!



Thu, Fri 7:00 Sat 12:00-4:00-8:00 Sun 12:00-4:00-8:00

Woods-Els rivalry on at Masters



Ernie Els, of South Africa, catches a ball tossed by his caddy during practice for the 1998 Masters Tournament in Augusta, Ga., Tuesday at the Augusta National Golf Club. AP

By RON SIRAK
AUGUSTA, Georgia (AP)—The green jacket of the Masters champion hangs in Tiger Woods' closet. The winner's trophy sits in his living room.

The closet, presumably, has space for many more coats and the living room undoubtedly can hold more hardware.

Still, storage space could become a problem for Woods.

Virtually everyone assumes he will win at Augusta National Golf Club many more times.

And when play begins Thursday

for the 62nd Masters it will truly be the beginning of Year II of the Tiger Woods Era.

But it may also be the beginning of something else. It may be the beginning of an intensely competitive period in the major championships.

If last year was the appetizer, then bring on the full course.

If last year—with Woods, now 22, Ernie Els, 28, Justin Leonard, 25, and Davis Love III, 33, winning major championships — was the warmup, let's see the top banana.

Bring in the main act. The only thing that was missing last year was a

good, old fashion shootout among the young guns down the stretch on Sunday.

"We haven't really played well together in a major championship," Els said Tuesday, speaking of his rivalry with Woods.

"Maybe this is the start of it," Woods ranked No. 1 in the world and Els is No. 2, though they are virtually deadlocked.

"But we're two of 20 really good young players out there," Els said. "So we'll just see how we go."

There was Walter Hagen, Bobby Jones and Gene Sarazen in the 1920s followed by Sam Snead, Byron Nelson and Ben Hogan from the 1930s into the '50s.

Jack Nicklaus, Arnold Palmer and Gary Player carried golf to unprecedented popularity in the 1960s.

It is a sport that needs rivalries and right now it appears to be on the verge of some wonderful ones.

Woods and Els are joined by Leonard, Phil Mickelson, Jim Furyk, David Duval and Lee Westwood as great players, the oldest of which is 28. None of them would be a surprise winner this week.

"Right now there is a very large group of very good young players that are taking it to the hoop every week," said Tom Kite, the 48-year-old who was the almost forgotten runnerup to Woods in last year's Masters.

"It's fun to watch." Asked what it would take to stop the young stallions from going to the hoop, Kite said: "You don't have to be 7-foot-1, but you do have to make a few 20-footers."

Kite, Tom Watson, Nick Faldo, Nick Price and Greg Norman are among those in the over-40 crowd who still have the talent and the belief

in themselves to contend with the youngsters here this week. "We're not dead and buried yet," Faldo said.

Still, this year's tournament clearly revolves around Woods. There is a feeling that he could run away with it again.

Asked if he could better last year's record score, Woods said: "Who knows? Anything is possible."

But there is also the feeling that others will sprint with Woods if he tries to break from the pack.

"Will he be in contention?" Els said. "Definitely, even if he doesn't play well. The golf course just suits him that well."

"But I don't believe it's Tiger Woods against the field," Els said. "I think it's Tiger against the Augusta National golf course and it's for the rest of the field to do the same."

Woods, who shot a 59 on his home course at Isleworth near Orlando, Florida, the week before last year's Masters, practiced at home again this year but with not nearly that gaudy of a number.



Surrounded by the gallery defending Masters Champion Tiger Woods hits off the eighth tee at the Augusta National Golf Club during practice for this year's tournament Tuesday in Augusta, Ga. AP

Dodgers ...

Continued from page 24

the Cardinals won, anyway.

Tom Lampkin homered and drove in four runs, and St. Louis had nine extra-base hits in a 12-11 victory Tuesday.

St. Louis built a 9-1 lead off Pedro Astacio (1-1) and Mike DeJean, withstood a seven-run sixth inning and the Cardinals scored three more runs in the seventh.

McGwire, who hit 58 homers last year and homered in each of his first four games this season, went homerless for the second straight game but drove in two runs with a groundout and sacrifice fly.

Brewers 6, Expos 4
In Milwaukee, on the day National League baseball returned to Milwaukee for the first time in 33 years, the Brewers won with some American League long-ball.

Jeremy Burnitz and Jose Valentin homered and the Brewers won their sixth straight, beating the winless Montreal Expos 6-4

Tuesday before 51,408 at County Stadium.

The Expos fell to 0-7, extending their worst start in their 30-year history.

Homerunking Hank Aaron threw out the first ball, a one-hopper to the plate during pregame ceremonies.

It was the first NL game in Milwaukee since Sept. 22, 1965, when the Braves lost to the Los Angeles Dodgers in 11 innings. They moved to Atlanta the following season.

bounds and eight blocked shots from Ervin Johnson, and 20 points from reserve Jerald Honeycutt.

Doug Christie had 20 points, Gary Trent 18, John Wallace 17 and Dee Brown 16 for the Raptors, who played without Marcus Camby (neck) for the second straight game.

Hawks 92, Knicks 79
In Atlanta, Steve Smith returned from a four-game absence to score 24 points and Dikembe Mutombo had a season-high 19 rebounds.

17 points and six blocks to lead Atlanta over New York.

Alan Henderson added 20 points and Mookie Blaylock had 17 for the Hawks, who clinched a playoff spot and moved within two games of Charlotte for the fourth playoff seed and home court advantage in the first round.

Playing without Glenn Robinson (knee) for the 17th straight game, the Bucks got a season-high 24 points, 10 re-

quired him from the Mavericks in a draft-day trade.

Bradley finished with 22 points, 22 rebounds and 13 blocks for his sixth career triple-double and his first since Feb. 6, 1997. Michael Finley's 24 points paced the Mavericks' losers of four in a row and six of seven.

Bucks 114, Raptors 105
In Milwaukee, Ray Allen scored 17 of his 28 points in the first half as rejuvenated Milwaukee took control early to defeat Toronto.

The Bucks won for the fourth time in five games while the Raptors ended a four-game road trip by losing their 10th straight game, the longest current skid in the NBA.

Playing without Glenn Robinson (knee) for the 17th straight game, the Bucks got a season-high 24 points, 10 re-

bounds and 13 blocks for his sixth career triple-double and his first since Feb. 6, 1997. Michael Finley's 24 points paced the Mavericks' losers of four in a row and six of seven.

Bucks 114, Raptors 105
In Milwaukee, Ray Allen scored 17 of his 28 points in the first half as rejuvenated Milwaukee took control early to defeat Toronto.

The Bucks won for the fourth time in five games while the Raptors ended a four-game road trip by losing their 10th straight game, the longest current skid in the NBA.

Playing without Glenn Robinson (knee) for the 17th straight game, the Bucks got a season-high 24 points, 10 re-

bounds and 13 blocks for his sixth career triple-double and his first since Feb. 6, 1997. Michael Finley's 24 points paced the Mavericks' losers of four in a row and six of seven.

Bucks 114, Raptors 105
In Milwaukee, Ray Allen scored 17 of his 28 points in the first half as rejuvenated Milwaukee took control early to defeat Toronto.

The Bucks won for the fourth time in five games while the Raptors ended a four-game road trip by losing their 10th straight game, the longest current skid in the NBA.

Playing without Glenn Robinson (knee) for the 17th straight game, the Bucks got a season-high 24 points, 10 re-

bounds and 13 blocks for his sixth career triple-double and his first since Feb. 6, 1997. Michael Finley's 24 points paced the Mavericks' losers of four in a row and six of seven.

Bucks 114, Raptors 105
In Milwaukee, Ray Allen scored 17 of his 28 points in the first half as rejuvenated Milwaukee took control early to defeat Toronto.

The Bucks won for the fourth time in five games while the Raptors ended a four-game road trip by losing their 10th straight game, the longest current skid in the NBA.

Playing without Glenn Robinson (knee) for the 17th straight game, the Bucks got a season-high 24 points, 10 re-

bounds and 13 blocks for his sixth career triple-double and his first since Feb. 6, 1997. Michael Finley's 24 points paced the Mavericks' losers of four in a row and six of seven.

Bucks 114, Raptors 105
In Milwaukee, Ray Allen scored 17 of his 28 points in the first half as rejuvenated Milwaukee took control early to defeat Toronto.

The Bucks won for the fourth time in five games while the Raptors ended a four-game road trip by losing their 10th straight game, the longest current skid in the NBA.

Playing without Glenn Robinson (knee) for the 17th straight game, the Bucks got a season-high 24 points, 10 re-

"Maybe after 15 holes," Woods said when asked if he had a 59.

What Woods did do was spend some time studying film of his victory at Augusta to try to figure out "what made me hit the ball the way I did."

For a young man who was raised to be the greatest golfer ever, Woods has reacted to his Masters victory in a surprisingly low-key way.

Though as a champion he is now a member, Woods did not return to play Augusta National until Monday.

The green jacket hangs in his closet and the young man who fell asleep in that coat after last year's victory almost never takes it out.

Asked if he shows it to friends, he said: "Only if they ask."

"But I do have the champion's trophy in the middle of my living room," he said.

It could be that Woods is low key because that Masters victory was only a step on what he views as a very long road — accumulating more major titles than the 20 won by Jack Nicklaus.

SPORTS



Bulls win 13 in a row

CHICAGO (AP) — Michael Jordan scored 30 points and Dennis Rodman had 20 rebounds as the Chicago Bulls won their 13th straight game Tuesday night, beating Washington 103-85 and damaging the Wizards' playoff chances.

The loss dropped the Wizards (38-38) 1 1/2 games behind New Jersey for the eighth playoff spot in the Eastern Conference.

Chris Webber and Juwan Howard, the subjects of a sexual-assault investigation in Montgomery County, Maryland, led the Wizards with 25 and 16 points, respectively.

Wizards point guard and NBA assists leader Rod Strickland strained his left quadriceps late in the first half while driving to the basket and then played only two minutes in the third quarter.

Timberwolves 92, Heat 89

In Minneapolis, Alonzo Mourning scored 28 points in his return from a fractured cheekbone, but Kevin Gamett had 27 to lead Minnesota over Miami.

Wearing a clear facemask bordered by blue padding to protect the injury that kept him out of the last two games, Mourning didn't back away

from contact during a physical game.

He had nine rebounds and went to the line for 16 free throws, but the Heat were unable to improve upon the East's best road record as they dropped into a tie in the standings with Indiana, their likely second-round playoff opponent.

Gamett added 14 rebounds and Stephon Marbury had 18 points and matched a season-high with 16 as-

sists as the Wolves improved to 40-36, matching last season's franchise record for victories.

Pacers 82, Cavaliers 80

In Indianapolis, Reggie Miller broke a tie on a 22-foot (6-meter) jumper with 8.8 seconds left, and Indiana beat Cleveland in a game in

which Shawn Kemp was knocked unconscious.

Kemp was taken off on a stretcher late in the second quarter after being inadvertently elbowed in the chin by Derrick McKey. Kemp returned for the start of the second half.

Continued on page 23

Dodgers rout D'backs, Brewers down Expos

LOS ANGELES (AP) — Playing before their new boss for the first time, the Dodgers put on a big show for Rupert Murdoch.

Eric Young hit a two-out, two-run double as Los Angeles broke

out of a tie with a five-run fourth inning, and Chan Ho Park pitched six strong innings Tuesday in a 9-1 victory over the Arizona Diamondbacks.

Murdoch, whose Fox Group purchased the Dodgers last month after 48 years of O'Malley family ownership, was among the sellout crowd of 52,424, watching the home opener from the owner's box behind home plate on Dodger Stadium's press level.

The Dodgers, who hit just .172 and scored only 10 runs during a 1-4 start, had 13 hits off five pitchers and sent the expansion Diamondbacks to their sixth loss in seven games.

Cardinals 12, Rockies 11

In Denver, Mark McGwire didn't terrorize Coors Field in the Rockies' opener. It didn't matter,

Continued on page 23



St. Louis Cardinals' Mark McGwire watches the ball after hitting a sacrifice fly for an RBI in the fifth inning against the Colorado Rockies Tuesday. AP

Former champ Joe Frazier charged for drunk driving

PHILADELPHIA (AP) — Former heavyweight boxing champion Joe Frazier was arrested for drunken driving early Tuesday morning after being pulled over for driving erratically.

Frazier, a Philadelphia resident, was arrested around 3 a.m. after swerving his 1989 Jaguar, driving on the wrong side of the road, and running a red light, police said.

Police arrested him on charges of driving under the influence of alcohol after he took a breathalyzer test, said Cpl. Robert Apeldorn.

The ex-boxer, who also runs Joe Frazier's Gym in Philadelphia, was later taken to Thomas Jefferson University Hospital after complaining of problems related to his high-blood pressure, Apeldorn said.

Frazier's family requested that his condition not be released, said hospital spokeswoman Phyllis Fisher.

She also would not say when Frazier would be released from the hospital. Frazier, 54, won the world heavyweight title in 1971 over Muhammad Ali.

Continued on page 23

1998 Mens Major League Baseball

TEAM	WIN	LOSS	PCT	GB
Miller Lite Brewers	3	0	1.000	-
UMDA Aces	3	1	.750	1/2
Team Palau	1	2	.333	2
Kautz Glass Glazers	1	2	.333	2
San Vicente Young Guns	0	3	.000	3

BATTING LEADERS: (Based on 9 or more times at bat)

PLAYER	TEAM	AB	HIT	BATTING
Glen Palacios	ACES	16	1	.687
John Reyes	Glazers	9	6	.667
Melvin Teregeyo	ACES	10	6	.600
Manny Evangelista	Glazers	9	5	.555
Wilber Ada	Glazers	12	6	.500
Cowley Ngiraidong	Team Palau	10	5	.500
Jerry Ayuyu	Brewers	13	6	.462
Inosuke Yamada	Brewers	11	5	.455
Derron Flores	Young Gun	11	5	.455
Everette Ngiraidong	Team Palau	11	5	.455

RUNS: (8) Melvin Teregeyo (7) Tony Camacho (6) Greg Camacho, Mike Guerrero (5) Seven Players

DOUBLES: (4) Wilber Ada (3) Greg Camacho, Glen Palacios (2) Ben Hocog

TRIPLES: (2) Glen Palacios, Ben Aguon (1) Ten Players

HOMERUN: (1) Ben Hocog, Mike Guerrero, Gus Pangelinan, James Saback

RBI: (9) Ben Hocog (8) Wilber Ada (6) Ben Mesa (5) Mike Guerrero, Greg Camacho

PITCHING LEADERS:

PLAYER	TEAM	G	INN	ER	HIT	W/L	ERA
Bill Camacho	ACES	3	14	1	17	2-0	0.60
Elmer Sablan	Brewers	2	13	4	17	2-0	2.77
Dominic Chong	Brewers	2	6	2	7	1-0	3.00
Ryan Kennen	Team Palau	3	18	7	27	1-1	3.50
Norman Tenorio	ACES	3	12	7	14	1-0	5.25
Joe Terlaje	SV Young Gun	3	15.1	10	24	0-2	7.20

STRIKE OUTS:

(28) Ryan Kennen (16) Elmer Sablan (8) Joe Terlaje

Augusta honors Nicklaus

By JOHN DIAMOND

AUGUSTA, Georgia (AP) — Clad in a green jacket, basking in applause, Jack Nicklaus choked back tears Tuesday as Augusta National Golf Club honored his 40th appearance in the Masters.

It was, perhaps, the only choking he has done over this rolling landscape.

"The Masters was not just a golf tournament. It was really something special," Nicklaus said as Augusta National chairman Jack Stephens displayed a plaque summarizing the Golden Bear's exploits here.

"My wife, Barbara ..." Then he stopped, his voice cracking.

The scene was Augusta's practice chipping green, just to one side of Magnolia Lane, and a thousand or more spectators, many of them Augusta members in their own

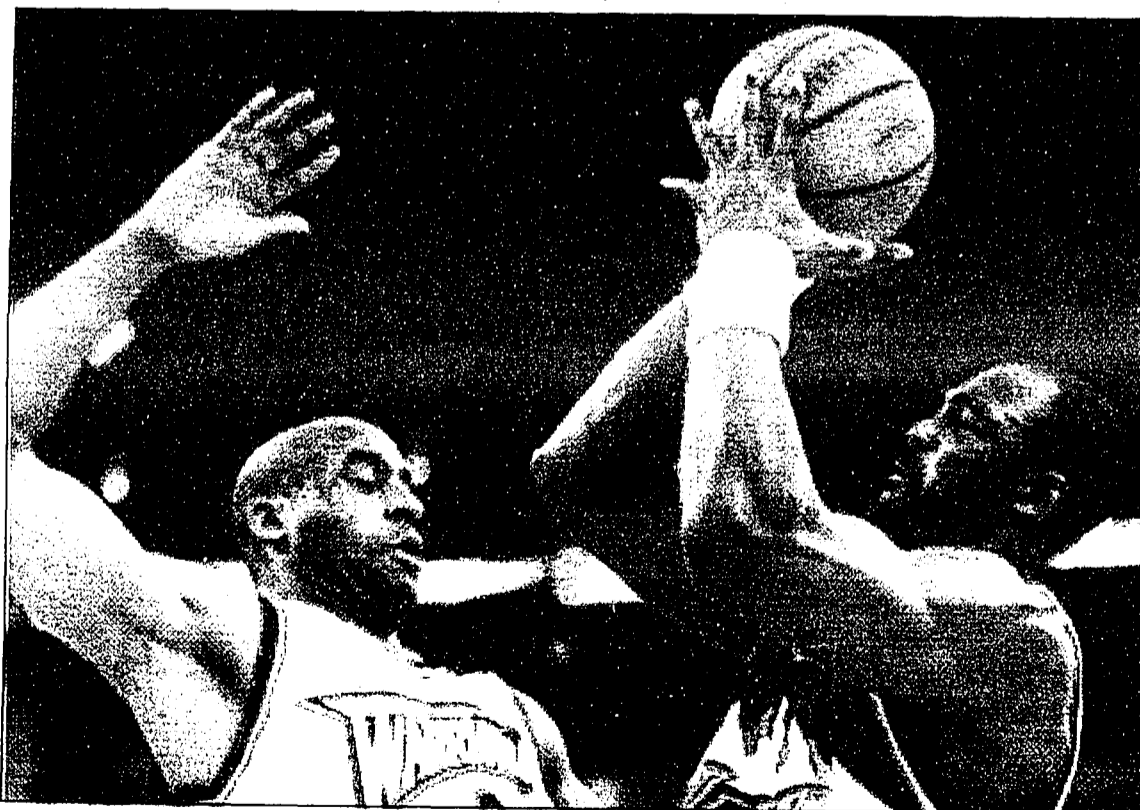


Jack Nicklaus

green jackets, choked back their own tears as they watched. Nicklaus stood at the lectern as his wife, Barbara, Stephens, and announcer Pat Summerall sat to one side.

"This doesn't happen very often in a lifetime, to be able to share something like what is happening to me at Augusta," Nicklaus said. Still the words wouldn't come.

Continued on page 23



Utah Jazz' Karl Malone (32) goes up against Golden State Warriors' Jason Caffey in their game Tuesday.

Marianas Variety News & Views

Marianas Variety's Leading Newspaper Since 1972

P.O. Box 231 Saipan, MP 96950 • Tel. (670) 234-6341 • 7578 • 9797

Fax (670) 234-9271

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12
7 6 9 2 11 00.780 PB 85 87 44 3
1 2 3 6 MAILED 7501 SAIPAN MP 96950
APR 09 98