

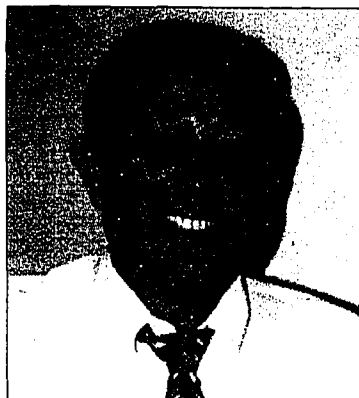
Gutierrez takes oath

By Eric F. Say
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez and Lt. Gov. Madeleine Z. Bordallo took their oaths of office yesterday despite the pending legal questions surrounding their election victory.

Gutierrez and Bordallo were sworn in by Superior Court Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood after members of the 25th Guam Legislature were inducted into office earlier yesterday.

Gutierrez and Bordallo were facing lawsuit before a Guam local court in connection with alleged election fraud, and another election protest at the US District Court.



Carl T.C. Gutierrez

Ginger Cruz, Gutierrez's spokesperson, explained that the oath-taking was conducted upon advice of the governor's legal counsel, to avoid any legal chal-

lenge to the authority of the Office of Governor in the future.

The governor's office said last week that the gubernatorial inauguration has been put on hold "out of respect to the ongoing federal court process relating to the November 1998 election."

Cruz said legal counsel Mary

Louise Wheeler advised Gutierrez to take the oath prior to resolution of any of the three lawsuits concerning the Nov. 3 general election.

The suits are the two poll fraud complaints filed by former governor Joseph Ada and his running mate Felix Camacho, and the

Gutierrez-Bordallo team's petition to overturn the ruling of District Judge John Unpingco's to have a runoff election last Dec. 19.

Wheeler said should the courts decide that the results of the election were not valid, then Gutierrez

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Speaker: 'We'll prove OIA's Stayman wrong'



Diego T. Benavente

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

HOUSE Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Prec. 2, Saipan) yesterday described as "nothing new" the Clinton

administration's highly critical report on the CNMI's immigration, labor, and trade problems.

Benavente said the US Interior Department has been "saying the same things" over the past years.

He said the commitment of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio and the Legislature to address labor and immigration concerns while maintaining local control will prove Interior wrong.

"(Interior) doesn't want to see new alien workers coming in, and that's their main concern, which we continue to disagree with," the speaker said.

"That's why I'm glad the governor came out publicly to clarify reports that he has agreed to (ending new)" the Clinton

Continued on page 23

AGO lawyer: Senate seems to prefer 'weak, passive' AG

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

AN ASSISTANT attorney general who has just resigned from office said the Senate's "highly damaging and personal attacks" on Acting Atty. Gen. Maya B. Kara boils down to the issue of "control."

Diane McDevitt, who resigned effective Jan. 2, 1999 and who has served the CNMI government for two and a half years, said that until now, the Senate has failed miserably in justifying its actions involving Kara.

"The only possible reason is the issue of control... For motives that defy logic, the Senate seems intent in ensuring a weak, passive AGO, and what better way to achieve this than to remove a strong, proven leader from the helm of the AGO," McDevitt said in a statement.

She stressed that the only reason offered thus far is the Senate's view that Kara acted improperly in the I&S settlement issue.

McDevitt said that shortly after assuming office, Kara delegated

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Takeover tied with Guam's status quest?

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE CLINTON administration is more likely to strongly pursue a takeover of the Commonwealth's immigration and minimum wage control unless Guam backs out from its status quest, a ranking government official said.

The Capitol Hill official insists that the federal government's persistence to take over CNMI's control of minimum wage and immigration is intertwined with Guam's crusade for a redefinition of its status.

"The US government does not want to give Guam the control over its own minimum wage and immigration and they [federal officials] can justify this refusal by taking over the CNMI's," the source explained.

The source added that there are no other apparent reasons behind

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CNMI financial system to undergo a major overhaul

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

GOVERNOR Pedro P. Tenorio's special finance advisor has expressed optimism that the implementation of the Financial Management Improvement Plan (FMIP), will enhance the cash-strapped government's financial resources, without imposing higher taxes or license fees.

Mike Sablan said given the current economic condition, the government cannot solely rely on finding new revenues to refill its emptied coffers, as well as to improve the management of its resources.

He stressed that it is equally important to improve existing financial systems.

"The FMIP is a pro-active approach to financial management. It ensures that the benefits from current financial and human resources are maximized," Sablan



Mike Sablan

said.

The plan, which was implemented towards the end of 1998 and will take effect until Year 2000, targets six priority areas that need immediate financial management improvement.

These areas are information technology, hospital information system, human resource

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Members of the 25th Guam Legislature pose for an official photo shortly after being sworn into office by Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood. Front (from left): John Salas, Tony Lamorena, Mark Forbes, Carlotta Leon Guerrero, Speaker Tony Unpingco, Joanne Salas Brown, Lawrence Kasperbauer and Frank Aguon Jr. Back (from left): Simon Sanchez, Marcel Camacho, Eloy Bermudes, Eddie Calvo and Kaleo Moylan. Not present for the photo is Sen. Ben Pangelinan.

Photo by Eduardo C. Siguenza

Macau casino partner shot dead over profits

MACAU (AP) — A casino executive — and reputed gang boss — went shopping for tropical fish but ended up shot to death in the latest assassination apparently linked to gambling profits in the Portuguese enclave, police said Monday.

Lee Bing-shing, a partner who ran a high-stakes VIP gambling room in the Hotel Lisboa, the biggest casino operator in Macau, was dead on arrival at a hospital after being shot in the head late Sunday night in an aquarium shop, authorities said.

Lee, 42, also was believed to be a leader of the so-called 14K triad gang that has been caught up in a deadly turf war as Macau casino profits dwindle amid Asia's economic crisis.

Another man, whom police identified only by the surname Hui, was shot in the hand and hospitalized in stable condition.

It was not immediately clear whether Hui, 38, had any ties to Lee or whether he was just a bystander who got shot, police said.

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Train problem strands travelers

TOKYO (AP) — A mechanical malfunction forced over 1,000 passengers to spend the last night of their New Year's vacation aboard stalled trains, an official said Monday.

About 1,500 people were stuck beginning Sunday night for nearly six hours on 3 trains when one of them traveling the 212 kilometers (131 miles) from Minami-Otari in Nagano prefecture, or state, to Tokyo, developed brake trouble, said

Kazuo Izumi of East Japan Railway Co.

The express train, which had to be towed away, also forced the cancellation or delay of several other trains, Izumi said. Altogether, 2,300 people were affected, he said.

Trains were filled to capacity Sunday with people returning to Tokyo and other destinations from travels over the New Year's holidays.



A car lies up-side-down on the Hathaway Bridge on U.S. 98, Panama City Beach, Florida Sunday. Tornadoes and severe thunderstorms that whipped through parts of the state left some residents without homes, caused traffic crashes and cut off power to at least 1,000 households. AP

Saddam says Iraq to resist no-fly zones

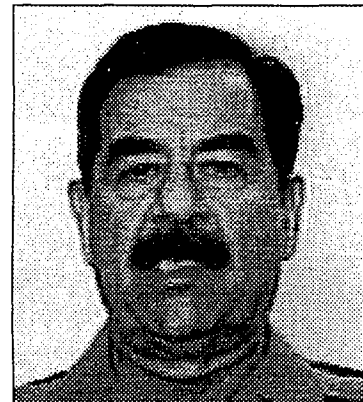
By Dominic Evans

BAGHDAD (Reuters) — President Saddam Hussein slammed Western-imposed no-fly zones over northern and southern Iraq as illegal and said his people would resist them with "bravery and courage," the Iraqi News Agency said on Sunday.

It said Saddam, maintaining Iraq's recent strong challenge to the no-fly zones, told a cabinet meeting they were "flagrant and clear-cut violations of international laws, accords and norms, particularly the United Nations charter."

The news agency did not say when the cabinet meeting took place.

Saddam's statement was his first public comment on a series of clashes between Iraqi air defense units and warplanes patrolling the zones, set up by Western



Saddam Hussein

forces after the 1991 Gulf War to limit his military power in northern Kurdish and southern Shi'ite regions.

Iraq has repeatedly challenged the no-fly zones since the end of a four-day campaign of air strikes by United States and British forces two weeks ago.

The strikes were launched after U.N. weapons inspectors charged with eliminating Iraq's weapons of mass destruction reported that Baghdad was not cooperating fully with their work.

Senior Iraqi officials have said Baghdad will continue to defy the no-fly zones and an Iraqi government newspaper on Sunday predicted confrontation with Washington and London would escalate after a pause over the New Year.

Saddam described the no-fly zones as "an aggressive operation which violates the will of the Arab people and the Iraqi people, which rejects them and is determined to resist them with all bravery and courage."

"Arabs and just people all over the world are asking what these planes are doing flying in the skies

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RP senator on stay of execution:

'Lady justice took Echegaray's place in the death chamber'



Ramon Revilla

SAIPAN-Philippine Senator Ramon Revilla expressed disappointment yesterday over the Supreme Court's decision to delay the execution of death convict Leo Echegaray.

The senator, one of the original proponents who restored capital punishment for heinous crimes in January 1994, is on-island as a guest of former Saipan congressman Benjamin A. Sablan.

In an exclusive interview with the Variety, Revilla said the reprieve granted Echegaray three hours before his scheduled date with death sends the wrong signals to criminals.

"Unless we execute him (Echegaray), we cannot truly deter heinous crimes," Revilla told the Variety.

"Criminals may think that the law is slanted in their favor if they are poor, can effectively play on the emotions of even a minority and blur the beastial

nature of their crime," he added in a statement.

Echegaray was to die via the lethal injection chamber of the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa yesterday, the first since the reimposition of the capital punishment.

But in an en banc decision, the Supreme Court granting the petition for a temporary restraining order filed by Echegaray's lawyer, stayed the execution for six months.

Revilla who earlier announced that he was more than willing to execute Echegaray himself, if the appointed executioners will heed calls from various sectors to boycott the execution proceedings said, "it

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NMI to get Y2K funding

By Haidee V. Eugenio

Variety News Staff

THE CNMI is set to get funding from the federal government to review the status of its computer systems, particularly to address concerns associated with the so-called Year 2000 glitch (Y2K).

Insular Affairs Director Allen P. Stayman said that his office received a special one-time grant from the U.S. Office of Management and Budget to help island governments, like the CNMI, review their Y2K systems status.

The financial assistance, however, will only be limited to certain areas of the computer systems overhaul.

"Because of limited funds and the fact that we are operating on a compressed time schedule, our

focus will be on reviewing only the status of your mission critical systems," Stayman said in a letter to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

Stayman said that the Office of Insular Affairs will work jointly with the USDA Graduate School to have a group of systems specialists work with CNMI Y2K officials regarding the issue.

The group will provide assistance to help the Commonwealth government identify potential problems in mission critical areas such as public health and safety, and financial management.

"I believe that a professional assessment of the problems you may face will help your government identify and address those systems that are most likely to pose a danger to public safety or



Pedro P. Tenorio

major government functions because of the Year 2000 problems," said the OIA chief.

Meanwhile, Bob Webb, the governor's special assistant for telecommunications, yesterday lauded the federal government's move to assist the CNMI regard-



Allen P. Stayman

ing the Y2K problems.

He, however, stressed that the computer systems of critical CNMI government offices have already been overhauled to make them Millennium Bug-proof.

"We've already upgraded most

of the critical systems, but if we need to have systems specialists to assess what we have done here, we really need to have funding for that," he said.

Among these Y2K compliant agencies are the Department of Finance, the Department of Public Health, the Emergency Management Office, the Office of Personnel Management and the Commonwealth Development Authority, according to Webb who was appointed by the governor as his representative to the Y2K committee.

"We see improvements in this area and some government agencies are also in the process of upgrading their systems to make

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Rota Health Center gets ready for more patients

By Haidee V. Eugenio
Variety News Staff

THE ONGOING expansion of the two-decade old Rota Health Center is smoothly rolling down as planned to address the increasing number of patients coming in daily.

Terry Santos, RHC resident director, yesterday said that the hospital's average daily patient volume these days ranges from 60 to 70, which is far greater than the 15 to 20 patients it used to attend a few years back.

Santos said the skeletal structure is almost complete, from the foundation to the walls and floorings. The project is expected to be completed by December this year.

"We're moving on as planned. The new construction company

(Sablan Construction) is continuing on from where the former company left. We're sure this will be completed this year," she said.

The expansion project will house 13 patients' bedrooms, each having two beds. The ground floor will have 21 patients' rooms, one doctors' room, one nurses station and one nurse supervisor office.

Occupying the basement part will be the five patients' beds, the physical therapy room, the hearing diagnostic room, the housekeeping room, the sanitation office and the central supply room.

The lower basement will have the morgue with four freezers, a small chapel, a viewing room

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Judge Frances Tydingco-Gatewood of the Superior Court of Guam administers the oath of office to Gov. Carl T.C. Gutierrez as First Lady Geri, daughters Hannah and Carla and son Tommy look on.
Photo by Eduardo C. Siguenza

Guam senators sworn in

By Jojo Santo Tomas
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — Guam's newest lawmakers took their oath of office yesterday, becoming the first 15-member legislature in Guam's 50 years of self-government.

The ceremony, attended by more than 200 people who sat in the Session Hall, the Legislative Public Hearing Room and on chairs set up in the parking lot, started some 40 minutes late, but took less than two hours to complete.

After being sworn in, the legislators, not surprisingly, elected Antonio R. Unpingco as Speaker

by a unanimous vote. However, when it came to the Vice-Speaker nomination, the body voted for Sen. Lawrence F. Kasperbauer, with Sens. Ben Pangelinan and Eddie Calvo abstaining.

Republicans had earlier announced that former Vice-Speaker Tony Blaz would retain his post, in addition to his Committee on Finance and Taxation. Blaz was visibly shocked at the new development.

No Republican would comment on the specifics behind the surprise move. Sen. John Salas, who nominated

Kasperbauer, said, "We changed our minds."

When asked, Kasperbauer would not comment, but said instead, "All I know is that I am extremely honored by the trust placed in me by my colleagues. If the Speaker wants to go off-island, it's all right."

Sen. Joanne Brown, who retained her seat as Legislative Secretary, would not comment on the Republican caucus either.

"I will say this. It's important to have leadership we can depend on for the 25th Legislature," she said.

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AG: US citizen kids can't be used as deportation shields

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

OVERSTAYERS can not use their US citizen children as a shield against deportation, according to the Attorney General's Office (AGO).

"Like the child who kills his parents and then pleads for mercy as an orphan, respondents are in no position to complain about their self-created plight. The children are a diversionary tactic," Asst. Attorney General Robert Goldberg said.

Goldberg said children of foreigners who have become automatic US citizens because they



Robert Goldberg

were born in the CNMI should not be used as a reason to avoid being sent home.

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CNMI tourism expected to start picking up by late 1999

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE NORTHERN Mariana Islands braces for another dusky year with all indications pointing to the slow rally of the Commonwealth's largest revenue-generating tourism industry, business leaders said.

This, as the Japan economy

manifests turtle-paced growth which may mean fewer Japanese visitors to the CNMI and lower revenues for tourism-related businesses and the government.

But Ron Sablan, president of the Hotel Association of the NMI, is optimistic that tourist arrivals to the Northern Mariana Islands will pick up by the end of the year,

citing intensified promotional efforts.

Sablan said industry people are hoping that deplimentary figures will remain steadfast as a result of the various promotional programs carried out by the Marianas Visitors Authority (MVA).

He added that the growth of the local tourism industry clings on

how well major economies in the Asian Region, where the Commonwealth is largely dependent, will perform this year.

"It's going to take long for the tourism industry to stabilize. We foresee our industry to start picking up toward the end of the year," Sablan said.

But he promptly added that

MVA and the business community in the islands are working closely together to come up with programs that would encourage increased inbound movement to the CNMI.

"What we are trying to do here is improve the arrivals so that we can at least shorten the economic

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BREWED

Jojo Dass

Back to Normal

HAVE you ever had that strange feeling hanging around whenever it seems there was something you wanted but did not have or did not get enough?

I got up from bed early yesterday morning and it was with me. Just a few nights back, I was with Gemma Casas, a colleague, joining the rush for new year's eve. We went to a supermarket where we found people busy buying things — fruits and something else for the table, among others.

Driving to a Finasisu party organized by another colleague, we noticed how thick the air was with excitement as the people readied themselves for the celebrations.

But it was over after a few boring firecrackers blown here and there when the clock struck midnight.

And that was it.

It's kind of depressing some times to know that the holidays are over and you will once again be grinding your nose for the next 12 months, making a living in a place where you need an Alien Registration Card to be employed.

Driving home from work the other night, I noticed the Christmas lights are still all over the place, blinking.

But they won't be for long.

People will soon be putting them off and rolling them back to their boxes as the new year gradually sinks in on them.

At the office, I watched as Teré, our cleaner, started scrubbing down that white foamy thing you spray on glass doors to make it look like there is snow (I don't know why people in tropical places always try to make it appear like it is actually snowing in these parts of the world).

For Teré, the worst of the holidays perhaps is when she has to report for work, bring down the office decorations and clean the place. It doubles her workload, I understand.

We improvised a Christmas tree using pieces of the Variety's masthead at the Editorial room. We took some pride in our creativity — as we prefer to call it — having made something from old newspapers that was on display.

Yesterday morning, I saw that Christmas tree in a plastic trash bag, ready to be hauled away.

The guys next door at the Arts & Layout section made a Santa Claus and a snowman while those at the Accounting section improvised a diorama of the birth of Jesus Christ — what Philippines call "Belen."

Well, I could not find Santa Claus nor the snowman, and the diorama must have already been demolished.

Looking back, I wonder if the holidays on Saipan — and almost anywhere else around the world — would have been the same if there had not been contests launched for the best lighted building or decorated room, for instance.

In the Philippines, the whole stretch of Ayala avenue in Makati transforms into a grand display of Christmas decorations hanging or sitting by tall buildings for the yearly contest.

On Tinian, the community utilities agency spearheaded a contest for the best lighted house.

The utilities agency would have held a similar contest on Saipan had it not been for the power supply problem.

People just will not bother so much putting up decorations for nothing, I guess.

There's a whole new year ahead and I will once again be putting down marks on my calendar at every day's end as the wait for the next holidays begin.

Meantime, there're lots of work remaining to be done.

The economy is still as it was last year.

Puerto Rico dump is still open and the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) may still be frowning on us for it.

We may see a serious utilities problem — power and water supply — in the coming months.

And there is still a host of other pressing federal and local concerns that need to be addressed.

I got up from bed feeling like I wanted to get back to the new year's eve - I missed something there, thus the strange feeling.

But with CNMI's problems piled up like this, I wonder how the governor felt the morning he woke up duty-bound for work.

Back to normal, governor?



"LADY HERE WANTS TO KNOW IF SHE DIVORCES HER HUSBAND CAN SHE KEEP THE HOUSE???"

JACK ANDERSON and JAN MOLLER

WASHINGTON MERRY-GO-ROUND

McCain learned from S&L-scandal mistakes

WASHINGTON — Anyone can make a mistake, especially a politician. Only an idiot fails to learn from it.

John McCain is no idiot.

It's hard to believe that the Republican senator from Arizona was practically finished as a politician a mere six years ago. That's when the wreckage of his relationship with financier Charlie Keating ended in a rebuke by his fellow senators. It was a veritable slap on the wrist, but it could've been mortal.

Last week, the same John McCain announced that he was forming an exploratory committee for a presidential run in 2000. It was hardly big news; political pundits have speculated for years that McCain would make an attractive candidate.

At a time when our current president is facing a Senate impeachment trial, it's worthwhile to look back on the Keating episode and the lessons it holds for politicians trying to put their pasts behind them.

Keating met McCain before he had ever been elected to anything. It was at a 1981 Navy League dinner, and Keating took an instant liking to the Vietnam War hero who had spent five-and-a-half grueling years in the Hanoi Hilton as a prisoner of war. In the years that followed, Keating would often recite McCain's wartime heroics as the young politician looked on, embarrassed.

They grew closer as the 80s dragged on. McCain and his wife would vacation with Keating at his beachfront estates. One of McCain's aides was fixed up with Keating's daughter, and the two ended up marrying.

In the meantime, Keating was becoming the prototype of the high-flying 80s financier. He was the owner of American Continental Corporation and Lincoln Savings & Loan, which was using federally insured deposits to make a complex series of risky loans and direct investments. Keating had seen the potential of a deregulated thrift industry and was pushing the new rules to the limit.

It wasn't long before Washington banking regulators began taking a dim view of Keating's risky schemes. Led by Ed Gray, the chairman of the Federal Home Loan Bank Board, regulators began closing in. Rather than cooperate with Gray, Keating decided to launch a holy war against the meddling regulators and their rules.

He fought back by doing what came naturally — buying things, in this case politicians. He could buy anything else he wanted; why not a few senators? So he poured campaign contributions to a few select friends, among them McCain, who collected \$110,000 from Keating. And like any businessman, Keating expected a return on his investment.

The payoff came in April, 1987, when the Keating Five senators agreed to meet with regulators on Lincoln's behalf.

At first, McCain was reluctant to interfere. He didn't want anyone given special favors. But Keating was a constituent, and part of a senator's job is to help his constituents.

Sen. Dennis DeConcini, D-Ariz., met with Keating and said he sensed hesitation on McCain's part. "McCain's a wimp," Keating told DeConcini. "We'll go talk to him."

When the wimp comment got back to McCain, he held a private meeting with Keating and gave him a thorough dressing-down. "I didn't spend five years in Hanoi to have my courage questioned by you," said the senator who rarely brought up his war wounds.

But despite his reservations about Keating, McCain soldiered on, joining the other four senators in meeting with the regulators. And it all blew up in his face when the affair became a front-page scandal, a symbol of the S&L debacle and the financial hubris that resulted in a half-trillion dollar government bailout. Once regarded as a rising star, McCain looked like he was finished.

What's remarkable is what happened next. As soon as the news broke, McCain returned to Arizona and held a press conference. He told reporters everything he knew about the affair, and then some. He owned up to his error in judgment. He released every relevant document in his possession, answered every question. He cooperated fully with the resulting ethics probe, despite being the least culpable of the five senators snared in the mess.

Even more extraordinary is what happened next. McCain learned from his mistakes, and then some. He became a tireless crusader against the nefarious influence of big money on the political system. He violated Republican orthodoxy by fighting for campaign-finance reform and taking on the tobacco industry. He became a favorite of jaded journalists because he is one of the few politicians who will say exactly what's on his mind, damned be the consequences.

Compare that to the current White House, where revelations come in dribs and drabs; where long-lost billing records suddenly reappear and memories are jogged as new evidence emerges; where decisions are made on the basis of overnight polls.

Now McCain faces a giant hurdle. To mount a credible presidential run means raising about \$20 million. Much of that will have to come from men like Charlie Keating, men who expect a return on their investment.

Deloitte & Touche to audit CPA

By Aldwin R. Fajardo

Variety News Staff

A PRIVATE accounting firm has been commissioned by the Commonwealth Ports Authority to conduct a regular internal audit of the cash-strapped agency, in apparent move to save CPA from outright bankruptcy.

Under its bond covenant, the Ports Authority is obligated to tap the services of an accounting company which has the expertise and recognition that only six of the largest international accounting firms in the world can provide.

CPA board chairman Roman S. Palacios said one of the conditions stipulated in the bond agreement is that the agency would commission the services of a big and respectable accounting firm



Roman S. Palacios

to do the Ports Authority's internal audit.

Palacios said Deloitte & Touche, being nationally recognized, qualifies to be the official private auditing firm for CPA, adding that the Office of the Public Auditor [OPA] has to consider the us-

ers of CPA's financial statements when determining which auditor to select.

Users of CPA's financial statements include bond underwriters, Standard & Poors, bond trustees, the Federal Aviation Administration [FAA], and the Department of Interior's Office of the Inspector General.

The Ports Authority coughed out \$30,000 for the auditing contract which requires Deloitte & Touche to perform desk reviews for years ending September 30, 1998, 1999 and 2000.

Deloitte & Touche, during the course of previous audits, obtained for CPA representation from the Army Corps of Engineers related to the value of existing port facilities. The auditing

firm had also assisted the Ports Authority in the preparation of a cash flow statement

The accounting company performed financial audits of CPA from 1977 through 1985. It also conducted financial and compliance audits of CPA for fiscal years 1987 through 1989, and 1991 through 1997.

Company officials said they are aware of the Ports Authority's commitment to have the fiscal

year 1998 audit finalized by February 15 and "[we] will commit a significant amount of time and resources to help CPA achieve this goal."

"We believe that we have demonstrated a high level of commitment to CPA in the past and will continue this commitment for fiscal year 1998 by issuing our final reports on or before February 15, 1999," the officials said.

Marpi site to be used while Puerto Rico is being readied

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

THE SOLID waste management task force is looking into the possibility of temporarily using a Marpi site as a dump so that Puerto Rico can be closed while design of the landfill project is being done.

In an interview, Timothy Villagomez, the task force's deputy director, likewise revealed that the special body's review team has narrowed down its selection of the 10 firms vying to prepare a design for the Marpi landfill to one and is set to start negotiations for the project.

The moves apparently are being done in a bid to pre-empt an impending action from the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) which has warned it will issue a second

administrative order against the Commonwealth government if the Puerto Rico dump continues to be in operation.

The EPA has been seeking for the dump's closure, citing environmental hazards it poses on Saipan's lagoon and immediate vicinity.

"They are going to see if they can expedite... see if there is something that can be done over at Marpi while the design is being completed," said Villagomez.

Once the design has been completed, a second request for proposal will be issued for the actual construction of the landfill, which will be built with an incinerator.

There have been concerns the Puerto Rico dump may have to be used for a longer period of time as

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Regents OK new NMC policies

By Louie C. Alonso

Variety News Staff

THE Northern Marianas College's Board of Regents will start imposing restriction on off-island travels by college employees, according to NMC President Agnes McPhetres.

McPhetres said the travel restriction is part of NMC's newly approved austerity measures.

McPhetres said that instead of receiving per diem, a traveling employee would receive only the exact amount equivalent the travel expenditures.

NMC will be providing the trav-

eler a maximum of \$40 a day for meal and \$125 a day for lodging.

The board also approved a self-evaluation policy through which employees would assess their work performance.

The board has created a personnel committee which would be tasked to review all plans, monitor the implementation of equal employment opportunity and to ensure that personnel policies are updated.

According to McPhetres the committee would also be tasked to hear employees' grievance, and to review employment contracts.



Agnes McPhetres

The board amended the role of the fiscal committee and gave it legislative responsibility.

Tenorio hopes to open public market during his term at DLNR

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

DEPARTMENT of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR) Secretary, Joaquin A. Tenorio yesterday expressed hopes his project on a centralized Saipan public market can be completed before his term ends, conceding that it can not be done overnight.

"I hope I can accomplish this within my four year term. I hope that something will develop before my term is over," said Tenorio in an interview.

"This thing is going to take a long time to develop. It is not going to take just overnight or even a year," Tenorio added.

Tenorio explained he still needs

to iron out the flagship project's funding and specifications.

For one, he said the project was not included in the government's list of capital improvement projects.

He explained it was already too late for him to submit it before the special body reviewing CIP proposals.

"It was too late to include it in the CIP. I did not get the chance to include it there. The idea developed after (the CIP deadline). Of course, it was developing before, but there was not enough information to get it done," Tenorio said.

Also, he added that a "fairly

Continued on page 22

Senator wants CUC power plant project to proceed



Thomas P. Villagomez

By Zaldy Dandan

Variety News Staff

SAYING that the CNMI's need for a new power plant is pressing, a ranking senator yesterday expressed willingness to introduce legislation allowing the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. to award the contract to Marubeni-Sithe despite the protests filed by the 12 other companies that offered bids for the \$120 million project.

"We need the power plant, and we have to act now," said the chair of the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications (PUTC), Senate Vice President Thomas P. Villagomez (R-Saipan).

He said he will either introduce the legislation giving CUC the "go-ahead," or ask his counterpart in the House of Representatives, PUTC Chair David M. Apatang (R-Prec. 1, Saipan), to sponsor the bill.

"We should address this issue," Villagomez said. "We need to support the CUC board, and I think it's very insulting that their decision to award the project (to Marubeni-Sithe) is being unfairly questioned."

He described the CUC board members as "experienced and competent" public servants who are aware of their fiduciary duty, and who went through the review process before deciding what bid to

Continued on page 21

US 9th Circuit affirms Munson ruling on Angello

By Rene P. Acosta

Variety News Staff

THE appellate court of the United States has affirmed the dismissal of a lawsuit filed by a school principal from Tinian against the Public School System (PSS).

The US Ninth Circuit court has dismissed in full the appeal of former school principal John A. Angello against the PSS and its officials.

The ruling on the case, the third lawsuit by Angello against the appellees, was issued last December 10, but was only made public yesterday by the Office of the Governor through its information and protocol office.

A media release from the governor's office said the US appellate court has found US District Court Judge Alex Munson correct when he granted the PSS motion for summary judgement on

Continued on page 21

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Court rules against recusal

By Eric F. Say
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — Superior Court Judge Steven S. Unpingco last night denied a motion filed by the counsel of former governor Joseph Ada to recuse Judge Joaquin Manibusan from the ongoing electoral fraud lawsuit against Gov. Carl Gutierrez and his running mate Lt. Gov. Madeleine Bordallo.

Citing what he called well-settled principles in common law, Unpingco said, "this Court expresses no reservations that, based

on Judge Manibusan's track records, he too can fairly and impartially decide this case and despite the fact that the plaintiffs have alleged numerous grounds for disqualification, each ground is individually, and in their totality, insufficient to support a finding of an appearance of bias."

Unpingco said he found it "compelling that while plaintiffs make arguments that are not entirely implausible regarding the appearance of bias, their position is not supported by case law." He added,

"Plaintiffs point to no cases based on similar facts regarding a court's indirect or distant familial relations to parties, resulting in a judge's disqualifications."

Unpingco heard arguments from opposing parties earlier yesterday.

During the hearing, Curtis Van de veld, attorney for plaintiff Ada, argued that although a third degree affinity (relationship) does not technically exist between Manibusan and defendant Gutierrez, it is an overall issue that familial contacts ex-

ists.

In his initial complaint Van de veld stated that Manibusan's sister, Marilyn, held close ties to the incumbent governor and that she served as the Assistant Director for Public Health and Social Services in the Gutierrez administration.

He also argued that the issue of impartiality was raised with regard to some members of the Bordallo clan.

Philip Carbullido and Randy Cunliffe, who represent the Gutierrez-Bordallo team, ar-

gued that if Van de veld's argument were to be taken literally regarding family relationships, "We might not find a judge, and this matter needs to move forward quickly."

Cunliffe told Variety that they are prepared for an immediate trial of the election fraud lawsuit.

"We have done our homework and have combed through the list of alleged non-citizen, underage and deceased voters supplied by the Ada/Camacho camp," he added.

No special treatment for MCV, MTC-- CUC

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

COMMONWEALTH UTILITIES Corp.'s chair for telecommunications has advised the House Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications not to grant special consideration to Micronesian Telecommunications Corp. and Marianas Cable Vision when it acts on the telecommunications regulatory bill.

Jesus T. Guerrero, in a letter to Committee Chair David M. Apatang (R-Prec. 1, Saipan), said the changes proposed by House Bill 11-22 are acceptable, "except for the proposed exclusion of MCV from regulatory oversight...and the geographical service exclusion for MTC."

Special consideration for the two companies should be declined in the public interest,

Guerrero said.

He noted that MCV is already a virtual monopoly and has raised rates twice last year and may raise it again.

At the same time, Guerrero said MTC's request that "(location) be excluded as the basis for refusing service should (also) be denied."

He added, "This was the basis for rate integration and federal subsidies. How can you fully implement the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) rules regarding the handicap and emergencies?"

Guerrero's letter also contained his comments on some of the bill's provisions.

Meanwhile, the chair of the Senate Committee on Public Utilities, Transportation and Communications said he will push for the passage of H.B. 11-

Continued on page 22

GEPA to permit incinerator

By Tanya M.C. Mendiola
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — A local environmental company will be issued a permit from the Guam Environmental Protection Agency (GEPA) for a solid waste incinerator to dispose of MARPOL waste for the Port Authority of Guam.

The solid waste incinerator facility will be used specifically for the disposal of MARPOL waste

which consist of discarded food material and food packaging from foreign vessels. Incineration will ensure the proper disposal of the waste.

MARPOL waste poses a threat to the ecology because it carries exotic plant and animal diseases. Pacific Environmental Resources, Inc. (PERI) is set to start operations of an incinerator facility in Piti by mid-February, said PERI General Manager David Taitano.

Commercial Sanitation, a private business, provided solid waste incineration services for the port service until two years ago when they decided not to renew their permit, said GEPA spokesperson Grace Garces.

After Commercial Sanitation discontinued the incineration service, Taitano said, Port Authority officials approached PERI inquiring about solutions for

Continued on page 22

ABC 14 set to air weather forecasts

By Jacob Leon Guerrero
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA—ABC 14 (KTGM) announced yesterday that it will start to air weather forecasts from its facilities starting today.

ABC 14 will do a daily weather forecast for Guam on ABC's "Good Morning America."

"Good Morning America" airs satellite tape delayed, Tuesdays

through Saturdays and was previously on Guam Cable TV.

"We will soon be airing the most sophisticated, top of the line, high resolution satellite imagery, as well as local weather radar images," said weather reporter Barbara White.

In addition, under White's supervision "ABC 14's Weather Center" will provide up-to-date weather information called "Weather Watch" on the hour every hour during ABC 14's broadcast day.

Currently ABC 14's broadcast day is from 7 a.m. to 12 midnight seven days a week.

The station is scheduled to roll out the rest of "ABC 14's Weather Center" throughout the month.

According to Phala Murray, sales/marketing manager, weather information will soon be available via the Internet, telephone, and on Secondary Audio Program (SAP).

ABC 14 broadcasts over-the-air on Channel 14 and is on Marianas Cable Vision Channel 14.

Hotel faces ADA suit

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

THE PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB (PIC) was yesterday sued for allegedly failing to provide support structures for persons with disabilities.

Bill "Nick" Nicholson, filed the complaint against the Interpacific Resorts (Saipan) Corp. Inc. which owns PIC hotel in San Antonio.

Nicholson, who filed the complaint before the clerk's office of the US District Court, asked that an injunctive relief and a declaratory judgment be issued against

the hotel.

Nicholson also asked the court to award him damages, including a sum to cover the attorney's fee and the overall cost of the litigation.

The Variety called up the hotel but was told that its public relations officer, Kanai Quinn, is the only one allowed to issue statements.

However, when the office of Quinn was reached, only an answering machine responded yesterday.

Continued on page 22

2 caught with 'ecstasy'

By Jacob Leon Guerrero
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — Two people face possible drug charges after Customs and Quarantine officers found them in possession of the drug "ecstasy."

Customs spokeswoman Alicia C. Perez said Maria Leon Guerrero, 18, was in Seattle, Washington several weeks ago. Prior to boarding a plane bound for Guam, she mailed a toothpaste tube containing the drug to another person on Guam.

namely 18-year-old Min He Son.

Aware of the contents, officers monitored the delivery of the shipment, and later apprehended Leon Guerrero, along with three other people, one of whom is a minor.

As officers searched the suspects they also found less than an ounce of marijuana contained in the purse of the female minor.

Leon Guerrero was charged

Continued on page 22

Free trade zone top priority for House

By Zaldy Dandan
Variety News Staff

HOUSE Speaker Diego T. Benavente (R-Prec. 2, Saipan) yesterday said the passage of legislation creating free trade zones in the CNMI will be a top priority for the Legislature this year.

A member of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio's task force on economic recovery and revitalization, the speaker said he will either introduce or co-sponsor a free trade zone bill, preferably one that aims to attract non-labor intensive industries that pose no major environmental impact.

He said the bill is currently being drafted by the task force's subcommittee on free trade zone, and will likely be introduced before the end of the month.

To ensure the bill's quick passage, Benavente said he will ask the chair of the House Commit-



Diego T. Benavente

tees on Commerce and Tourism, Natural Resources and Ways and Means to co-sponsor it.

"Enacting this bill into law could help the government improve the economy, and that is why we consider its passage a top priority," Benavente said.

In a free trade zone, industries

will be allowed to pay a lesser amount of tax—or even no tax at all.

Businessman Bob Jones, who is also a member of the task force, has said that a free trade zone would attract firms aware of the advantages of doing business under the stability provided by the US flag, and by the US judicial and banking systems.

The CNMI, moreover, has a low income tax rate, a low crime rate, modern medical facilities, US mail services at US rates, and public lands available for new development projects.

Jones said a CNMI free trade zone could also benefit American and Asian firms with trading ties in both continents.

The Northern Marianas could be the commercial transshipment crossroads of the Pacific, Jones said.

Bangladeshis attacked in CK

By Rene P. Acosta
Variety News Staff

A GROUP of Bangladeshi nationals were attacked with stones and cans of beer by five suspects said to be locals in Chalan Kanoa, injuring four of the foreigners.

The incident occurred on New Year's Day while the Bangladeshis were celebrating their holy month of Ramadan.

Those injured during the attack were identified as Mohammed Abdul Wahab, 32; Ashraf Ali; Nur Mohammad; and Enemul Haque. They sustained injuries in the different parts of their bodies.

Ali and Muhammad were taken to the hospital by a police ambulance. His nose was broken after he was allegedly punched by one of the suspects.

Three of the suspects were

arrested by responding policemen.

The victims and their fellow nationals said they are filing charges against the suspects.

They however expressed fear for their lives after the suspects' group allegedly threatened to kill them and other Bangladeshi nationals in retaliation for the arrests.

"We now fear for our lives and safety since the companions of the suspects in their group have threatened to kill us and our brothers," said Sumon, a Bangladeshi national, when interviewed by Variety.

"This is not our land. We don't stay here for long. We just came here to earn money and when we have a little we will just go home," said Sumon, who speaking for the victims.

Sumon is hiding Wahab in

his house, while the other three victims have already sought refuge at the houses of their other compatriots.

The four victims were with 26 other Bangladeshis who got up at 4:00 am last Friday to prepare their food for the Ramadan when attacked.

They were inside their living quarters when assaulted.

According to Wahab, the five suspects who belonged to a group in the area entered the gate which was opened and, without any word, rained them with big stones and cans.

They caught one of the suspects and turned it over to the responding policemen. The suspect later pointed to his companions who were also arrested.

"We don't know why are they doing this thing to us. We came here to work. We want peace," said Sumon.

CDA borrowers yet to close \$2.5M loans

By Aldwin R. Fajardo
Variety News Staff

THE COMMONWEALTH Development Authority (CDA) is now inquiring about the status of some \$2.5 million worth of loans approved in November and are still not closed, it was learned.

Joaquin Q. Dela Cruz, CDA loan manager, said the Development Authority has approved loans amounting to \$2.5 million two months ago but borrowers are yet to close the transaction.

Under existing regulations, borrowers have to close a loan transaction at least 90 days following approval.

Dela Cruz said the \$2.5 million approved in November are just a portion of the \$6.9 million loans okayed by the Development Authority last year which remained unclosed, despite the 90-day grace period.

He said the Development Authority is now processing one direct loan amounting to \$25,000, and an application for a 90-percent CDA guarantee.

He explained that a loan guarantee involves another financial institution, which is normally a bank, which releases the money on condition that CDA should come in as guarantor.

"The borrowers are still yet to meet the terms and conditions of both the banks and the CDA. Unless they do, the loan transaction will not be closed. They have to fulfill those things in order for the banks to execute the loan document and in order for us to execute the loan guarantee to the bank,"

He added that CDA has also approved the guarantee statement requested by the commercial banks for the \$6 million loan.

But Dela Cruz explained that the Development Authority normally grant borrowers extra time to meet all the terms and conditions both by CDA and the banks before loans are executed.

Dela Cruz explained.

Development Authority chairman Juan Tenorio earlier called for an immediate review of credits which remain unclosed despite approval. Tenorio was inquiring about reports that a number of borrowers have failed to close their loans within the 90-day grace period.

He said he would want to know if there really are loans that have been approved and remain unclosed which exceeded the 90-day period. The CDA chief said he just wants to find out the reason behind the apparent delay in the closure of the credits.

Dela Cruz, at the same time, said that there is around \$6.9 million in total CDA guarantee loans that are not executed yet. "We have more than \$6 million in total loans that are still pending. We need to write to them to inquire about the status. If they fail to close the loans within the grace period, we may have to cancel," Dela Cruz said.

He said that the total amount has already been approved by commercial banks which are helping the Development Authority carry out its tasks in helping CNMI residents acquire credits.

He added that CDA has also approved the guarantee statement requested by the commercial banks for the \$6 million loan.

But Dela Cruz explained that the Development Authority normally grant borrowers extra time to meet all the terms and conditions both by CDA and the banks before loans are executed.

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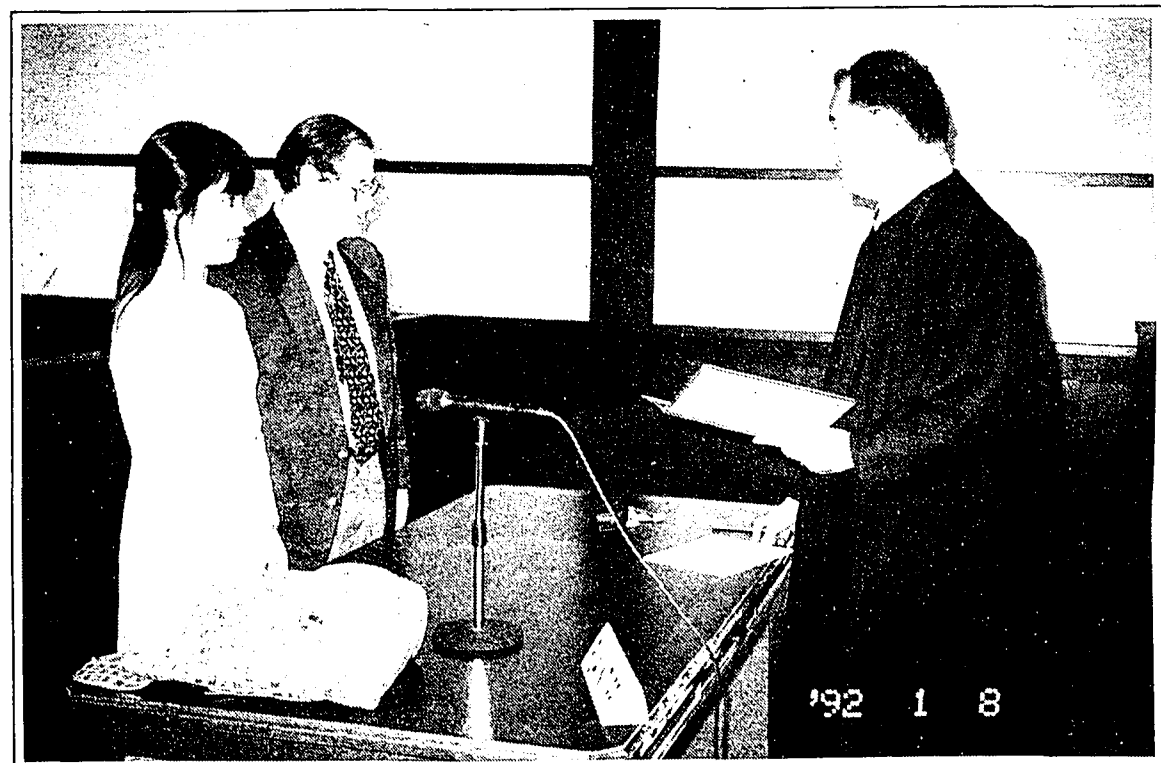
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Superior Court Associate Judge John Manglona performs civil wedding rites for Anthony Bottone and his girlfriend Loan Hong. The two opted for a yearend marriage on Dec. 31. Bottone is a psychiatrist at the Division of Mental Health and Social Services.

Photo by Rene P. Acosta

CAVITE ASSOCIATION OF SAIPAN CHRISTMAS RAFFLE BONANZA DECEMBER 27, 1998 OFFICIAL LIST OF PRIZE WINNERS

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3rd Prize	21" Color TV	Alyssa Danelle Abadam	13485
4th Prize	VCR 4-Head	Solly Santos	12517
Consolation			
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	2 Cases Soda	Ernie B. Urcia	16438
	Ovenware	Moises Flores	07117
	Hedge Trimmer	Bonifacio Tuazon	07934
	Brunch For 2 SDH	Rey Pacano	15011
	Gift	Gregorio Arellano	04393
	Gift	Arthur Abadines	07495
	Flat Iron	Kristian Rafael C. Alarcon	15518
	1 Sack Rice	Solly Santos	12514
	1 Sack Rice	Iowie Teves	07076

The Cavite Association of Saipan, Inc., would like to thank Town House Inc., and the sponsors, MEMBERS, friends & all individuals who have contributed for the SUCCESS of the 1998 CHRISTMAS RAFFLE BONANZA.

Guam entrepreneurs get adjusted to crisis

Variety News Staff
HAGATNA — Due to the downturn in Guam's tourism industry, the Small Business Administration (SBA) Guam Branch Office is reporting more applications for loans to start non-tourism businesses or diversify existing tourism-related businesses. As a result, SBA loan specialist Michael P. Arriola said the amount of loans the SBA has been processing over the last several months has been double that recorded during the same period last year.

"That indicates several things. First of all, this shows that there is a huge demand for credit on the part of entrepreneurs and small businesses wanting to start out either small businesses or expand their existing businesses. This also indicates a strong willingness of our lending partners, there are seven of them locally, to be of assistance and to help out with providing financial assistance to these small businesses," he said.

In examining SBA loans over the past several months, Arriola said the agency discovered that entrepreneurs are being more creative about the type of businesses they want to start. He said many new businesses are focusing

more on local consumers, rather than tourists. Arriola said this is a good development considering that the tourism industry is still experiencing a slowdown. "The tourism numbers are not only down, the tourists coming to Guam are also not spending so much. Most tourists nowadays are looking for discounts. So entrepreneurs are also adjusting their strategies to accommodate not only existing local demand but also the preference of tourists for more affordable goods and services."

According to Arriola, Guam can expect the effects of the Asian economic crisis to continue for at least several more months. "We are not going to see as many Japanese tourists and certainly not as many Korean tourists as we have seen in the past."

Arriola said things are going to be a little challenging for small businesses. As such, Arriola is advising those small businesses oriented towards the tourism industry to consider adjusting their strategy to focus more on the consumer market and the U.S. military.

"There is a good potential for the military's outsourcing program. There are still a lot of opportunities for small businesses in 1999. And the SBA

is taking a leadership role in that," said Arriola. Arriola said he believes more people are taking out loans because there are many people who have been laid off due to the downturn in the economy. "These are highly trained, highly qualified, and highly educated people. These are people from large companies who have the ability and are now faced with the free time to strike out on their own. We are seeing a lot of inquiries from these people."

Arriola added that people who are reaching retirement age are also looking at starting their own businesses. "Our local population is relatively young but it is beginning to age. We're seeing a lot more early middle age people wanting to go ahead, take early retirement, and start their own businesses."

According to Arriola, the SBA welcomes the increase in people wanting to take out loans to start their own businesses. "The more small businesses we get off and running, the greater the tax base that is developed for the island. And this means more revenue for the government of Guam to use for crucial services."

SBA Guam gears up for Navy outsourcing

Variety News Staff
HAGATNA — The Small Business Administration (SBA) Guam Branch Office is gearing up for the Navy's upcoming decision on outsourcing certain military contracts to the local business community. According to SBA loan specialist Michael P. Arriola, the military outsourcing program may begin in earnest this year and the SBA is adding to its existing preparations to assist companies which may be chosen for the outsourcing program.

This year, the Navy will decide whether to choose the bids they have received from the private sector or to remain status quo, that is, to retain their existing contractual relationships and their existing workforce.

"If outsourcing becomes a reality, there are a lot of opportunities for Guam businesses to take advantage of and we at SBA are ready to help."

Arriola added that Andersen Air Force Base is also examining opportunities that may exist for the Air Force to save on costs through outsourcing. "So there might be additional opportunities there as well for Guam small businesses."

In any event, we maintain close contacts with contracting officers of both the Navy and the Air Force.

According to Arriola, SBA can help not only those taking advantage of military outsourcing but also those businesses interested in getting federal government contracts.

"The SBA has been at the forefront of helping local businesses have access to federal contracts." In partnership with the Guam Economic Development Authority (GEDA), Arriola said SBA has been able to set up a database of several hundred local Guam companies that are interested in getting federal contracts.

Through this database, we can do mass mailings and follow-ups. This data base can also be used by off-island prime contractors who are interested in contracting work to local businesses. Obviously, it makes sense for the military or off-island concerns to hire local businesses on Guam.

These businesses are already here. They don't have to worry about set-up costs and start-up costs. So it makes economic sense for them to look at local firms

Continued on page 23

Guam patients happy with hospital

By Tanya M.C. Mendiola
Variety News Staff
HAGATNA — Patients traveling abroad to receive specialized medical treatment have praised the service and treatment provided at the Good Samaritan Hospital. Alfredo Quintanilla, who suf-

fered from complications of diabetes, recently received treatment at the Los Angeles hospital. Quintanilla was referred to the hospital by the Guam Medical Referral service and underwent a series of complicated operations to correct severe blood circulation problems to his feet on-set by diabetes.

The hospital was billed as one of the nation's best hospitals in the July 1998 issue of U.S. News & World Report July 1998 issue. State-of-the-art medical equipment, and a staff of 550 nurses and more than 650 physicians helped the medical facility garner the honor.

Quintanilla and his family traveled to California for treatment and although they usually went to Hawaii for medical procedures, they were very happy with the quality of health care he received at the hospital.

President of Good Samaritan Hospital Andrew Leeka said the hospital staff tries to create an environment that is welcoming to patients that travel there to receive treatment.

"With several of our doctors on a rotation schedule to visit patients in Guam and the vast number of services we offer, we find that more and more Guamanians feel the distance and the travel is well worth it," said Leeka.

The hospital offers a comprehensive heart care program, a neurosciences program, women's health services, surgical specialties, and nasal and sinus disorder treatments among other medical services.

CNMI economic conference slated for March

By Louie C. Alonso
Variety News Staff
THE Northern Marianas College-Business Development Center (NMC-BDC) is getting ready for the economic conference in March, the center's director, Jack Peters said, clarifying "rumors" that the conference would be postponed to due unavailability of pertinent data. Peters, the conference coordinator said, the study would start early this month, and that the individual contract negotiations in the economic study would be finished next week.

The organizers said the economic conference committee is expecting to get the preliminary reports on the study by mid-February.

The final report, according to Peters, will be completed in a month or two after the conference.

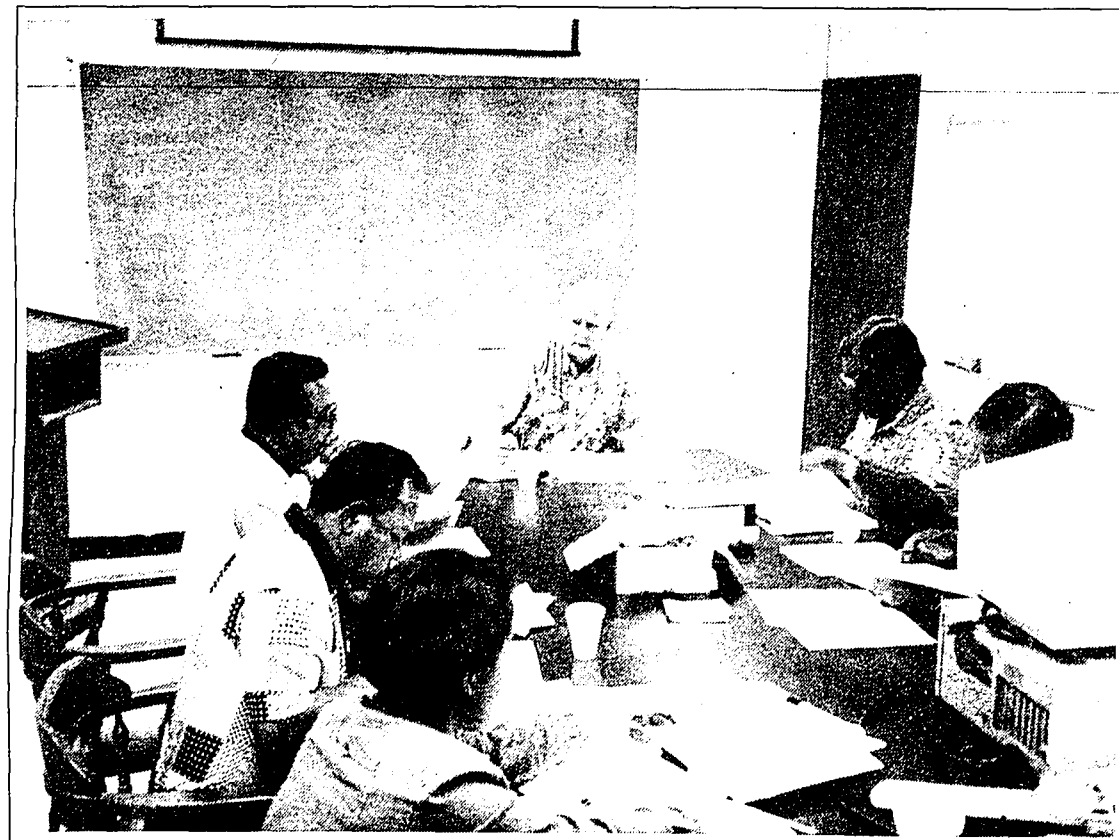
Peters added that the complete report in the study is not needed in the conference on March as other people believe.

"What we are going to do is gather together all the information including the recommendation and suggestions that are tentative. We will make the presentation and it is the conference people, the people from the CNMI, who would then have

the input that would be gathered and incorporated in the resolution of the conference and then put all the details in a final report," Peters said.

Those who will join the economic study committee include Dr. Richard Conway and Associates, Juan Borja, Don Farrell, David J. Burger, David M. O'Brien and Robert W. Rudolph. The committee facilitating the

economic study will be conducting another village meeting on Saipan early this month. The village meeting will be hosted by Rep. Dino Jones and Rep. Frank Cepeda.



The contract subcommittee of the CNMI Economic Conference discusses the groups involved in a planned economic study. From left are conference coordinator Sharon Tudela, Rep. Manny Tenorio, Sen. Juan P. Tenorio, NMC-BDC Director Jack Peters, Rep. Oscar Babauta and Rep. Karl Reyes. Contributed Photo

Few avail of CUC program

By Jojo Dass
Variety News Staff
VERY FEW residents have availed of a program by the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. (CUC) on the free repair of broken water installation systems since it started two years back, according to CUC PIO Pamela Mathis.

Mathis said this was despite CUC's findings indicating that about 90 percent of houses in villages on the island has a broken water pipe.

Under the program, a resident whose plumbing system is broken need to spend for the needed parts while CUC does the repair for free.

"Since we started with the program, very few people have taken advantage of it. You can count it by your fingers," said Mathis.

"On the other hand, in our leak detection of about just a few days in any village, we discovered that 90 percent of houses have leaks," she added.

Mathis said most of these villages are in the southern part of the island, including Koblerville which has a relatively new waterline installation, and Chalan Kanoa.

"They need to understand that they can save money if they fix the leaks," said Mathis, noting that with the dry season coming in the next few months, "the water they save is very precious."

The utilities agency embarked on the free repair and leak detection program as part of measures to conserve the island's rapidly depleting water resources.

The program came after a recent study revealed that more than 50 percent of potable water that is lost comes from the consumer's end of the system.

Homeless man is doing well

By Jacob Leon Guerrero
Variety News Staff
HAGATNA — The homeless Pohnpei man who was struck by a drunk driver last Saturday in Anigua is in stable condition.

According to the Don Weakley, assistant administrator of the Guam Memorial Hospital, the man is doing fine although he sustained a number of bruises to his body.

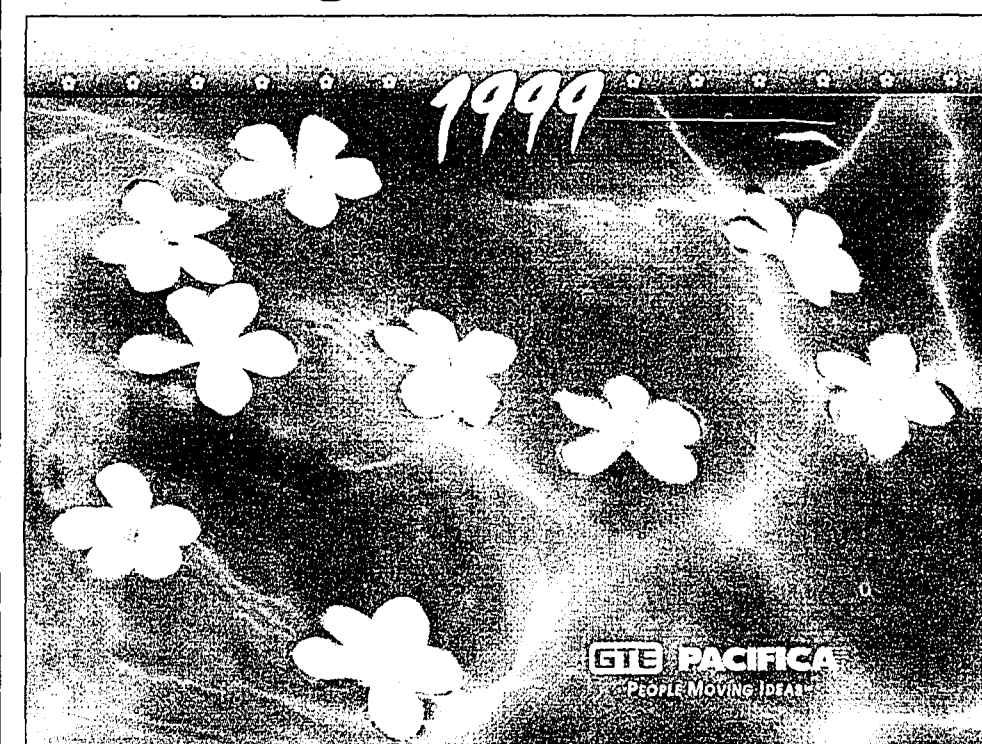
The man did not have any fractured or broken bones, but might have sustained a minor concussion.

The man, currently listed as a John Doe (no official identification determined), was hit by a vehicle driven by 19-year-old Adam Karl Foster of the USS Frank Cable.

Foster, arrested for driving under the influence, was booked and released.



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

Hasso Guam set for January 30

By Tanya M. C. Mendiola
Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — The quarterly Hasso Guam household hazardous waste collection program is slated for Jan. 30, Saturday.

The Hasso Guam Campaign started in the 1980s as an alternative for island residents to dumping hazardous wastes into the island landfills.

Chemicals from hazardous materials may leech into the ground and contaminate the Guam's drinking water supply and soil.

Three collection sites will be spread out methodically throughout the island. A site will be stationed in the north at the Yigo Mayor's office.

A station in central Guam will be at the Barrigada Library parking lot and a third site will be located in the village of Inarajan at the office of the mayor.

Household wastes will only be accepted in limited amounts.

Businesses and government agencies with large amounts of waste must obtain permits for disposal.

Hazardous waste workers from Guam Environmental Protection Agency, private environmental companies and the military will collect the waste at the sites and prepare them for proper disposal.

GEPA encourages the public to take advantage of the free program as a deterrent from dumping in the landfill or illegal dump sites.

Waste that will be accepted include used motor and cooking oil, gasoline and diesel fuel, degreasing solvents, coolant, paint, car batteries, fluorescent light bulbs, dry cell batteries, and aerosol spray paint cans.

Those who drop off waste at the sites are asked to fill out a survey. The collection sites will accept waste Jan. 30 from 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

FLAG to boost membership

Variety News Staff

HAGATNA — The Filipino Ladies Association of Guam (FLAG) is planning to enlarge its membership and affiliate with other women's organizations not only on Guam but also from the Philippines and other places.

"The year will be very interesting to each one of us. As the new FLAG officers, we look forward to the responsibilities," FLAG President Chet Neri said during the FLAG induction held over the weekend.

In addition, Neri said FLAG

also plans to initiate more cultural projects such as musical presentations in coordination with other cultural groups on island.

"In this connection, we were fortunate to have for our keynote speaker, Boots Anson-Roa who is one of the stalwarts of Philippine culture having been an artist herself and having worked abroad to promote Philippine culture."

Roa, a former movie actress and consular officer of the Philippine embassy in Washington, is now the officer in charge of IBC

Continued on page 22

NMC registration for Spring Semester starts

REGISTRATION for new students planning to attend Northern Marianas College this spring began yesterday through next Wednesday, January 11-13, but current NMC students get an edge; they can register for classes beginning this Tuesday through Thursday, January 5-7. Registration hours are from 8-12:00 a.m. and from 1:30-5:00 p.m.

"With this schedule, we hope to avoid long lines," Director of Admissions and Records Janice Tenorio said.

However, she added that, to save time, all students should first make sure they have all the necessary advising and academic and financial aid paperwork taken care of before they plan to register.

"It's important that students allow time to process appropriate forms and records," she said in a news release.

For example, all new students seeking degrees at NMC must take free English and Math placement tests. The English placement test will be given today from

1:00-4:00 p.m. and the Math test from 5:30-6:30 p.m.

The Math placement test will be given today, January 5, from 1:00-2:00 p.m. and the English test will be given from 5:30-8:30 p.m.

All the tests are free and will take place in Rooms A-6 and A-7 on a walk-in, space available basis. Additional tests will be offered as needed.

"NMC has many courses available to meet a variety of students' needs," Public Information Officer Philip Swett said.

"We offer professional degree programs in nursing and teaching, both high-demand, good-paying careers, all the arts and sciences courses needed for a solid foundation for transfer to bachelor's programs elsewhere, as well as classes about current issues in the CNMI, computer applications, aerobics and journalism," he said.

The information officer pointed out that, in addition to regular academic and vocational

classes, NMC also offers courses in basic adult education (leading to a GED or otherwise), short community classes in many topics, and a variety of skills-oriented continuing education courses.

For more information about what NMC offers this spring semester, pick up a copy of the class schedule at the As Terlaje campus or call the Office of Admissions and Records at 234-5498, extensions 1401/03, for more information.

In academic year 1997-98, a total of 1,884 different residents attended one or more college academic or vocational courses at NMC on Saipan, Rota and Tinian.

In addition, approximately 1,300 others attended adult, community or continuing education courses as well.

Northern Marianas College has been continuously accredited by the California-based Western Association of Schools and Colleges since 1985.

GES Students of the Week



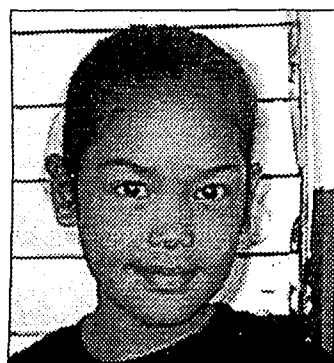
Eric Slyter, fifth-grade student from Ms. Riva's class, is an excellent worker and proves this point to be true as he made the "A" Honor Roll and Perfect Attendance lists for the first quarter. He always assists Ms. Riva and his classmates when needed and doesn't hesitate to ask questions or correct others.



Aye Jay Bermejo, second-grade student from Mrs. Wells' class, comes to school neat and well-groomed. He is always prepared to work without being told. Aye Jay completes his work on time and turns his homework in everyday. His writing is very neat.



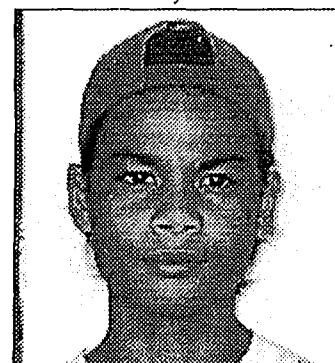
Leodine Atalig, first-grade student from Mrs. Ignoel's class, shows a lot of positive traits in the things that she does and says. She completes her classwork efficiently and promptly. She makes good use of her time by reading books and writing in her response journal. She arrives to school early and ready for class. Leodine is courteous and presents a beautiful smile always.



Lorenza Manglona, third-grade student from Mr. Aldrich's class, is a friendly and bright young girl. She is a leader and other students turn to her for help. She sets a great example by coming to school with a positive attitude and a smile. Besides being on the "A" Honor Roll, Lorenza is very polite.



Regor Sumpay, fourth-grade student from Mr. Etison's class, is a good role model in his class. He is a bright young man and has good moral character. He has perfect attendance and has completed all homework assignments. Regor was on the "A" Honor Roll for the first quarter.



Eric Santos, sixth-grade student from Mrs. Gallardo's class, is one of the smartest kids in Room D202. Evidence shows in the way he answers questions knowledgeably and how he does reports orally and in writing. Possessing leadership ability, Eric can handle his classmates with ease by helping them with their schoolwork.



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

NMHC helps NMI families

By Rene P. Acosta

Variety News Staff

THE GOVERNMENT has begun implementing the new United States Welfare Reform Law with the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation taking a part of the "drastic" law via its new housing program.

The NMHC has already initiated the long delayed Family Self Sufficiency Program (FSSP) which will give homeowners five years to occupy government housing which they would give back after the prescribed period.

According to program coordinator Bill Agulto, within those five years, family members will be supported by the government in obtaining a diploma or necessary trainings, for them to be able to find jobs.

"The program encourages self sufficiency. The government will help any member of the family or the homeowner himself within that five year period to obtain education or training, but after five years they will leave their homes," said Agulto.

He said that since some of the homeowners are already too old to

go to school, they can let their children replace them as long as they are 18-years old and above.

The education and training of the homeowner or his children will be supported under the government's General Equivalency Degree or DEQ, according to Agulto.

Late last week, the first batch of program participants composed of about 21 homeowners received their certification from the NMHC.

Agulto said they are targeting half of the 257 total registered family homeowners.

"By launching this project, we are transforming them to become productive members of the society," he said.

The coordinator for the project, however, admitted that the new project would be "a little bit" harsh, but it would even be more productive for them in the end.

The new Welfare Reform Law which was passed by the Clinton administration has affected all the federal aids which are being received from the United States.

According to Agulto, the law has put a cap of two years for the distribution or supply of food stamps to all its recipients.



FSSP project officers, from left, Martin Pangellinan and John Oliver Gonzales, along with NMHC Corporate Director MaryLou Ada and Chairman Juan S. Tenorio explain the program. Photo by Rene P. Acosta

Kagman farmers assured of ample water

By Jojo Dass

Variety News Staff

FARMERS at the Kagman commercial farm plots will have a sufficient water supply this year. Dr. Joaquin A. Tenorio, secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources (DLNR) yesterday assured.

In an interview, Tenorio said the government has completed the installation of a piping system which will be connected to at least two water well pumping stations.

The system will be augmented with at least two more water

wells which are now being drilled, a 500,000-gallon water tank, which is also currently under construction and a 17-million gallon water reservoir to be built at an abandoned quarry site.

At the same time, Tenorio said DLNR will be asking the farmers to sign a five-year program meant to assist them in observing conservation measures.

"Definitely we will be getting sufficient water supply and the farmers can farm through out the year. In the past, because of insufficient water during dry seasons farmers cannot farm. Now, the

farmers over there will have sufficient water through out the year," said Tenorio.

He said the irrigation project is being coordinated with DLNR's Soil and Water Conservation Service (SWCS).

"They (SWCS staff) have completed the piping system, now they are going to work on the water tank. As soon as they finish the water tank, they are going to work on a major reservoir which can hold 17 million gallons," said Tenorio.

He said the old quarry site to

Continued on page 23

NOTICE

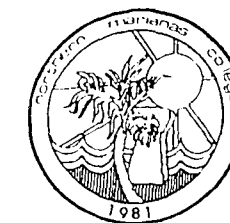
Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Pedro P. Tenorio and Lt. Governor Jesus R. Sablan, through the Marianas Visitors Authority, hereby give notice that the MVA Board will both reconvene the December 28, 1998 Special Board Meeting and also hold a regular Board Meeting on Thursday, January 7, 1999, at 9:00 a.m., at the Marianas Visitors Authority Conference Room, Professional Building in San Jose.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary Matters
 - a. Meeting to order
 - b. Roll Call
 - c. Adoption of Agenda
 - d. Adoption of Minutes - December 3, December 21 and December 28, 1998
- II. Ad Agency Selection
- III. Managing Director's Report
- IV. Committee Reports
 - a. Finance
 - b. Policy
 - c. Personnel
 - d. PR & Ad
 - e. Tourist Site Development
 - f. Visit 99
 - g. Legislative Affairs
- V. Executive Session
- VI. Miscellaneous/Announcements
- VII. Adjournment

/s/David M. Sablan
Chairman, MVA Board of Directors

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NEW STUDENTS JANUARY 11 TO 13

8:00 TO 12:00 A.M. ~ 1:30 TO 5:00 P.M.

PICK UP A COPY OF THE CLASS SCHEDULE AT THE AS TERLAJE CAMPUS. NEW STUDENTS SEEKING DEGREES MUST TAKE FREE MATH AND ENGLISH PLACEMENT TESTS.

CALL:
234-5498, EXT. 1401/1403
FOR MORE INFORMATION.

Guam Community Notes

UOG Planetarium

HAGATNA — The University of Guam Planetarium is once again opening the skies to the community of Guam.

Planetarium coordinator Pam Eastlick wants to invite the public to start off the New Year by viewing the free shows at the university planetarium located on the University of Guam Campus, second floor of the Math/Science Building.

The celestial tour runs for three nights starting Jan. 14 through Jan. 16. The two-part show is entitled "The Constellation Extravaganza." The first show "The Constellations" begins at 6:30 p.m. and the second show "Winter Skies" is set for 7 p.m. The shows feature star patterns relative to the island.

The first part of the show will feature 88 constellations. Eighty-five constellations can be seen from Guam.

The Zodiac Constellations will also be presented and Eastlick will provide tips on how to locate them on your own. Audiences will also get a chance to see pictures from the Uranometria, a 17th century atlas.

The second part of the show will feature the stars in Guam's winter skies and show why the island skies are different.

The free educational shows are open to the public and, according to Eastlick, another way to spend a relaxing evening.

For more details call 735-2783.

Guam Pollution

Three Guam beaches have been

identified as having bacteriological levels above the acceptable level. The public is advised from swimming, fishing or playing in the following areas:

- Namu Beach, Agat
- Talofofo Bay, Talofofo
- Toguan Bay, Merizo and Umatac border

Results for the northern recreational beach sites were unavailable for this report.

The Guam Environmental Protection Agency collects water samples weekly from the island's beaches for the pollution report.

Children, the elderly and those with medical conditions that weaken the immune system are more susceptible to becoming ill if they are in contact with the contaminated waters.

IT&E \$10,000 winners

Five lucky Guam residents bought in the New Year with abang as grand prize winners of the IT&E 15th Anniversary Raffle. The five people were awarded increments of \$10,000, Friday, Jan. 1.

The locally owned, long distance telecommunications company gave away \$1,000 weekly and a car and truck quarterly throughout the past year.

The winners' names were drawn from a database compiled since the beginning of the year.

IT&E gave away a total in excess of \$150,000 in cash and prizes. (Compiled by Tanya M.C. Mendiola)

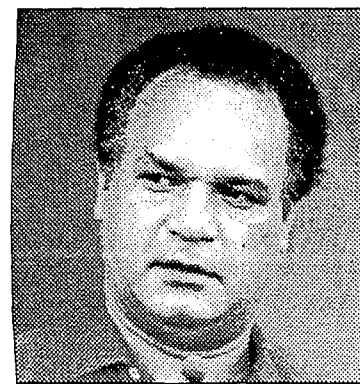
Elsewhere in the Pacific PNG Cabinet suspends Bougainville government

PORT MORESBY (Pacnews) — Papua New Guinea's cabinet has suspended the Bougainville provincial government, to ensure a smooth transition to the formal establishment of the Bougainville Reconciliation Government.

Cabinet endorsed the suspension at an emergency meeting at midnight, on January 1, soon after the new Organic Law on Provincial and Local Level Governments came into force in Bougainville.

Prime Minister Bill Skate said on Saturday the decision was made on the basis that it is acceptable to the people of Bougainville and within the laws of Papua New Guinea.

Cabinet has now assumed formal responsibility for enacting laws relating to provincial matters until the BRG has been set up and is able to ef-



Bill Skate

fectively take over its legislative role.

Bougainville Affairs Minister Sam Akoitai has been given the responsibility of carrying out executive functions, normally done by a premier or governor.

The Prime Minister described the grounds for suspending the provincial government are quite serious.

He says the rising tensions, threats and increasing incidents of lawlessness in Bougainville undermines national unity and there is no other way of remedying the situation.

Skate says the suspension creates a legal working space in which the BRG can be established on the principles set out in the basic agreement concerning the BRG which all the parties involved in the peace process have agreed to sign.

Rebel leader Joseph Kabui has welcomed the suspension.

He says the government's decision is in line with the spirit of the Lincoln Agreement, the consultation process, and in the best interest of the people.

Kabui says the people of Bougainville including the rebels had consolidated their trust and confidence in Skate's undertaking during the signing of the April 30 ceasefire last year that he would respect their (Bougainvilleans) wishes.

Robbery try at American Samoa Development Bank

PAGOPAGO (Pacnews) — A team of investigators from the police and attorney general's office is investigating an attempted robbery at the Development Bank of American Samoa over the weekend.

According to police, the burglars broke into the bank and tried to pry open the money safe without success.

The burglars caused quite a bit of damage to the money vault and offices.

Commissioner of Public Safety, Te'o Fuavai, says the joint investigating team is giving the at-

tempted robbery first priority despite the holiday season when officers are in the partying mood.

The Development Bank is located in Pago Pago village, where a poker machine parlor was robbed of between 10 and 12,000 dollars earlier this year by masked men using guns.

More than 20 years ago, an American Savings bank located in the same building housing the Development Bank was robbed of more than \$300,000.

The case was never solved and the bank closed shortly after the incident.

Speculation about Tongan crown prince's marriage

SUVA (Pacnews) — Tonga's 50-year-old Crown Prince Tupouto'a, who has said he will probably never marry, is being tipped for a political alliance with a powerful Samoan chief.

The monthly Matangi Tonga magazine has speculated Tupouto'a might marry Samoan Education Minister, Fiamme Naomi.

Her late father, Mata'afa Mulunu'u Two, was Samoa's founding prime minister in 1962.

In Polynesian terms, he and now his daughter, are considered royalty in Samoa.

The royal families of Tonga, Samoa and Fiji have often intermarried.

Tupouto'a and Fiamme were best man and bridesmaid at a royal wedding last month in Tonga.

Was this a rehearsal or a sign of things to come, asked the magazine with a picture of the two hand-in-hand.



Two coast guard choppers head for Barbers Point Naval Air Station after picking up three balloonists 15 miles north of Kahuku Point on Oahu, Hawaii, after a failed attempt to make the first nonstop round-the-world flight in a balloon last Dec. 25.

WB suggests Solomons forestry price monitor

HONIARA (Pacnews) — The World Bank has recommended that Solomon Islands re-establish a price monitoring system for its forestry sector.

In its 1998 report on Solomon Islands' economy, the World Bank says the monitoring system would strengthen revenue collection from country's forestry sector.

The bank acknowledges that

steps taken by the government including the canceling of remissions and exemptions effective November 1997, is a positive step towards addressing the issue.

However it says there are other measures Solomon Islands needs to consider such as not issuing new logging licenses and phasing out logging export tax exemptions.

Fiji PM hit over land deal



Sitiveni Rabuka

SUVA (Pacnews) — Fiji's Prime Minister has drawn criticism for an offer by the government to buy a freehold estate belonging to him.

Sitiveni Rabuka's 2000 acre estate is on Fiji's second largest island of Vanua Levu.

According to newspaper reports, the Ministry of Agriculture approached him last year to buy the land for

agricultural experiments.

Opposition Leader, Jai Ram Reddy, has described the government offer as a bad idea.

He says such a transaction would naturally attract public skepticism and there would always be doubts about whether it is an arms length transaction.

The opposition Fijian Association Party wants the government to justify its interest in the PM's property when there are other freehold estates available in the area.

The party has called for an independent valuation and a full feasibility study presented to parliament.

The Ministry has offered the PM 2500 dollars an acre.

Rabuka says he could sell for a lower price, but he would not sell the entire 2000 acres if he decides to sell the land.

Cancer has no cure, but can be prevented.

Court stays RP execution

By JIM GOMEZ

MANILA, Philippines (AP) — Just three hours before a convicted rapist was to be put to death, the Supreme Court ordered a six-month delay Monday in the Philippines' first execution in 23 years.

Leo Echegaray, a poor house painter, had been scheduled to die by lethal injection later Monday for repeatedly raping his 10-year-old stepdaughter. He had been waiting at a prison death chamber for his execution when he was told of the court's ruling.

About 100 anti-death penalty activists cheered outside the prison when they heard the news.

The Vatican, the European Community and Canada had also urged the Philippines not to resume capital punishment.

In recent weeks, several lawmakers had expressed doubts about whether capital punishment would deter crime and sought a congressional review of the law that restored capital punishment in 1994.

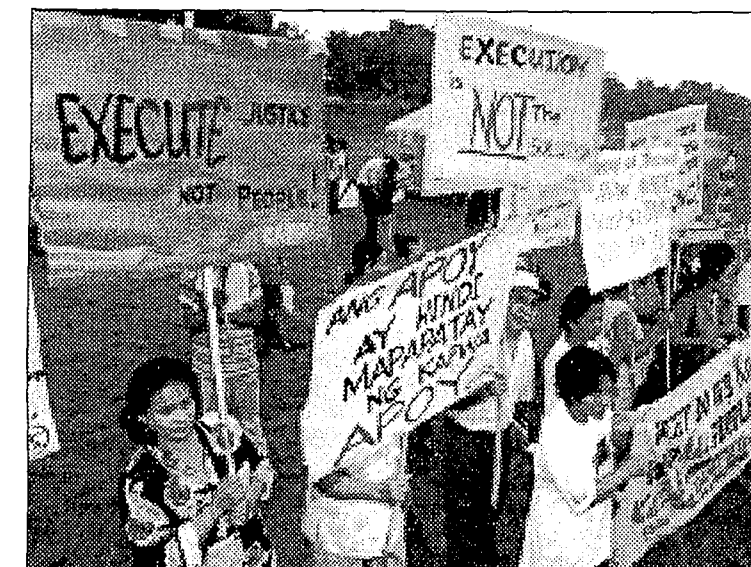
In its 8-5 ruling, the Supreme Court said "the merest chance that the Congress might reconsider" meant that Echegaray, 38, deserved a postponement of his sentence.

"This is definitely a victory, a significant first step in abolishing the death penalty in this country," said Echegaray's lawyer, Theodore Te.

Officials at the prison in Muntinlupa, a Manila suburb, had set up barbed wire roadblocks and deployed extra military and police guards to hold back large numbers of reporters and the anti-death penalty activists.

Echegaray, who was convicted in 1994, is the first among more than 800 death-row inmates to be scheduled for execution. More than 450 of those on death row were convicted of rape, including 159 who abused their own children or other relatives.

His scheduled execution set off a debate among many Filipi-



Anti-death penalty protesters gather at the National Penitentiary in Muntinlupa, south of Manila, to protest the scheduled execution by lethal injection of convicted rapist Leo Echegaray on Monday.

nos over the death penalty. Several Manila radio stations opened their telephone lines so listeners could express their views on capital punishment.

Some pro-death penalty activists also rallied outside the prison.

"They're saying that life is sacred," Elena Cirio, whose son was killed during hazing by fellow students in 1994, said of the death penalty opponents. "But what about the life of my son?"

President Joseph Estrada earlier turned down the appeals from the Vatican, the European Union and Canada, saying he was obliged to follow Philippine law.

Echegaray's 15-year-old stepdaughter, who was 10 years old when the alleged rapes occurred, visited Estrada last week and appealed to him not to pardon her stepfather.

"I felt nothing but compassion for her," Estrada said. "You can just imagine if she were your daughter."

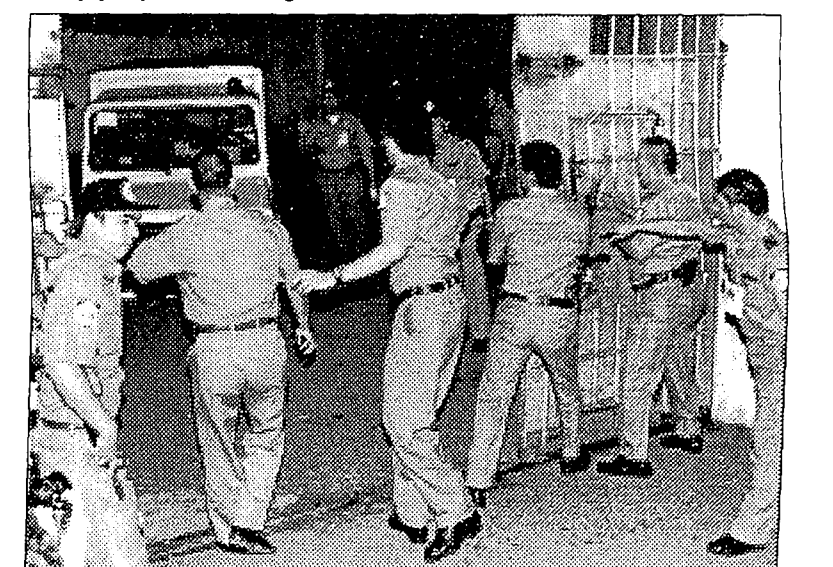
Between 1924 and 1976, the Philippines executed 84 people. In 1987, a new constitution abolished the death penalty but gave Congress the option of restoring it for "heinous" crimes such as murder, kidnapping for ransom,

proof capital punishment deters crime. They also say poor people are more likely to be sentenced to death because they cannot afford good lawyers.

Echegaray's stepdaughter said she was disappointed that many people, including church

officials, sympathized with Echegaray.

"I want him to die," she told a Manila radio station Sunday. "My suffering worsens because I feel they're glorifying him. What about me? I'm the victim, I was the one who was hurt."



Prison guards open the gates of the National Penitentiary as a van, reportedly carrying death convict Leo Echegaray leaves for the Death Chamber at dawn on Monday.

At least 10 killed, more than 70 hurt in RP grenade attack

ZAMBOANGA CITY, Philippines (AP) — Suspected Muslim rebels lobbed a grenade on a large crowd watching firemen fight a blaze on a southern Philippine island, killing at least 10 people and injuring 74, authorities said Sunday.

Among the injured in the grenade attack Saturday night on Jolo Island, Sulu Province, a Muslim rebel stronghold, were eight Marine soldiers and three policemen, police said.

Police initially said nine died, but the military's Southern Command said 10 people died and 74 people were hurt in the attack.

Sulu police chief Isah Hassan said the rebels tossed a grenade near people watching a fire engulfing a grocery store. Gun shots were also heard, he said.

Many soldiers and policemen rushed to the fire scene to prevent looting but several of them were also hurt. Witnesses said many of those injured crawled away from the scene of the crime.

The attack is suspected to have been carried out by Abu Sayyaf guerrillas avenging the recent death of its chieftain in a clash with authorities, Hassan said.

The attackers fled amid the commotion. Authorities could not launch offensives against the Abu Sayyaf because of the observance of the Holy Muslim period of Ramadan.

The Abu Sayyaf is the smaller but more violent of two Muslim rebel groups waging a war against the Manila government for an independent Islamic state in the southern Philippines.

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HK airport sees record number of passengers

HONG KONG (Reuters) — Hong Kong International Airport at Chek Lap Kok handled 100,000 passengers on one day, its highest number ever, during the Christmas and New Year holiday season, the Airport Authority said.

Daily passenger throughput in the final two weeks of December ranged from about 80,000 to an estimated 100,000 on December 27 and the average daily number of departing and transfer bags increased by 30 percent to 42,000, it said.

The Authority said the higher passenger throughput did not impact the efficiency of services, with 75 percent of all flights leaving on time or within 15 minutes of their scheduled departures.

Ninety percent of passengers

waited not longer than 10 minutes for their bags and 98 percent of all arriving and departing passengers completed immigration formalities within 15 minutes, it said.

The experience would prove useful in managing the even busier lunar new year period, the statement said.

In a separate report, the Authority said the HKIA had won the annual Critics' Choice Award of Travel and Leisure magazine.

The state-of-the-art airport, built on reclaimed land off Lantau Island, opened to weeks of chaos.

In the early days, some 10,000 pieces of baggage were lost and flights were delayed up to six hours.

The disastrous launch triggered a government inquiry.

HK stamp duty down by HK\$17-B claims report

HONG KONG (Reuters) — Hong Kong revenue from stamp duty plunged HK\$17 billion in the first eight months of 1998/99 (April/March) from a year earlier, a local newspaper reported on Sunday, quoting the territory's chief tax collector.

The Hong Kong Standard quoted Commissioner of Inland Revenue Wong Ho-sang as blaming the steep fall on weak stock and property markets battered by the Asian crisis.

The government collects HK\$2.5 million in stamp duty for every HK\$1 billion worth of share transactions, the daily said.

Total property transactions last calendar year were down 45 percent on 1997, with a mid-1998 freeze on land sales denting government income from taxes on property sales, Wong said.

Wong said he was optimistic his department could meet its HK\$114.9 billion target for total taxes in 1998/99, though this would be HK\$22.6 billion less than the previous year.

Last week the government said its budget was in deficit for HK\$35.56 billion for the eight months ended November 30.

Spending totalled HK\$148.07 billion and revenue HK\$112.51 billion.

The wise reader buys only one newspaper and saves

because;

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MY ONLY GIFT FOR YOU MOM/DAD, IS AN APPOINTMENT WITH YOUR DOCTOR.



A group of students from Taiwan's National Academy of the Arts demonstrate in a street in the island's northern port city of Keelung Sunday watched by hundreds of curious residents. AP

For Asia, sorry is no longer hardest word

By Mark Bendeich

SINGAPORE (Reuters) — Across Asia, apologies for the past are piling up.

In a region where "loss of face" is deeply humiliating, an extraordinary era of contrition has dawned as governments, an army and defeated guerrillas have all expressed remorse.

In 1998, Asia's year of regrets, Japan put an apology for World War II into writing and Cambodia's Khmer Rouge said sorry for the "killing fields" in which almost two million people died.

Indonesia's army apologised for suffering inflicted by its troops and South Korea regretted its role in the Vietnam War. Taiwan's premier said it had put to rest a massacre by troops which haunted it for half a century.

As the millennium closes, yet more apologies are sought for ugly chapters in Asia's history, including its recent economic crisis.

South Korea, a major casualty, plans to open an inquiry this month into its economic slump. Company officials and bureaucrats across the region have swallowed their pride amid allegations of mismanagement and corruption.

Not everyone who wanted an apology got one, however. Imelda Marcos continued to defend the record of her late husband Ferdinand, who ruled the Philippines with an iron hand until ousted in 1986.

China's President Jiang Zemin ruled out any revision of the party's official line that the 1989 Tiananmen Square massacre was prompted by a "counter-revolutionary rebellion."

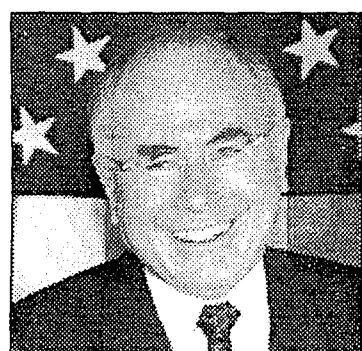
However, Nuon Chea and Khieu Samphan, top lieutenants of Cambodia's notorious Khmer Rouge leader Pol Pot, did apologise for the group's 1970s reign of terror.

"Naturally, we are sorry; not only for the lives of the people, but also for the animals. They all died because we wanted to win the war," said Nuon Chea, its ideological guru.

Australia has refused demands for a government apology for past



Jiang Zemin



John Howard

treatment of Aborigines. China badly wants from Japan the same written war apology it gave Seoul last year.

Many others in Asia and elsewhere are also seeking apologies from Japan for World War II. But from Sydney to Tokyo, governments face the ire of nationalists who want the apologies to stop.

China's Jiang, having failed publicly during a visit to Japan in November to secure the written remorse Tokyo gave to Seoul, made it clear relations would be fettered unless it was given.

"Some people in Japan, even those in high positions, have distorted history and beautified Japan's invasion of China," Jiang said, referring to Japan's 1937-1945 occupation.

The Sino-Japanese row highlights the political potency of history and the vital role of an apology in healing old wounds, said Hong Kong political scientist Joseph Cheng.

But the new mood might not have come about without the economic crisis, which threw millions back into poverty, he said.

"I think most of the leaders are sophisticated enough to understand that an apology is a good way to reduce dissatisfaction," City University's Cheng said.

"It reflects the development of democracy in the region and the demand for accountability," he added.

But he was cautious.

"You may have a scenario where you don't have any more apologies and have more violence and difficulties, such as in Indonesia with Moslems and Christians killing each other."

In Indonesia, where 32 years of autocratic rule collapsed along with the economy last May, the military apologised for suffering inflicted by troops on the restive province of Aceh.

But the nation's ruling Golkar party balked after a senior party official was quoted in local newspapers as saying it, too, sought forgiveness for past mistakes. The party chairman denied the reports, saying Golkar had never "officially" apologised.

In Taiwan, Premier Vincent Siew reiterated an apology for a 1947 crackdown by Nationalist troops which killed thousands.

In Australia, Prime Minister John Howard gave a personal apology to the so-called "Stolen Generation" of Aborigines but stopped short of a government apology, saying today's Australians were not responsible for the actions of past generations.

The calls for an apology grew after the 1997 release of an official report about the forced removal of tens of thousands of Aboriginal children from their parents from the 1880s to 1960s.

It called the practice "systematic racial discrimination and genocide." Since then, about 300,000 people have signed more than 1,000 "Sorry Books" to express sorrow to Aborigines for the past.

Some Asians have other reasons to be sorry, however.

"I am sorry it has come to this. I was thinking of retiring this year," Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said in September, six days after he sacked his deputy and heir-apparent, Anwar Ibrahim.

LDP-backed bet wins in Japan

TOKYO (AP) — An independent backed by the ruling party declared victory against the incumbent in a gubernatorial election in southwestern Japan on Sunday.

Turning the lagging economy around was the centerpiece in the race that pitted former Education Ministry official Moriye Kato, 64, against the incumbent, Sadayuki Iga, 73, in the Ehime Prefectural (state) race, 680 kilometers (425 miles) southwest of Tokyo.

But Kato urged voters they needed a change from Iga, seeking his fourth four-year term.

Also critical was that Iga lost the support of the ruling Liberal Democratic Party that he had in past elections.

In addition to the Liberal Democrats, Kato also had backing from the opposition Liberal Social Democratic and Komei parties.

With 38 percent of ballots counted as of late Sunday, Kato had 141,543 votes, while Iga had 113,140 votes, the election committee said. The official tally was not expected until Monday.

Japanese TV news showed Kato and his supporters lifting their arms in the traditional Japanese victory cheer

of "banzai," after Japanese media declared him the winner late Sunday.

The election was held during the New Year holidays — extremely unusual in Japan — underlining widespread sentiments that quick action was needed to fix the economy.

Japan has slipped into its

deepest recession in decades and unemployment has hit a postwar high. The government estimates the economy will shrink 2.2 percent in fiscal 1998, which ends in March.

Despite the unusual timing of the election, turnout among Ehime's 1,195,168 eligible voters was 63.10 percent, up

from 54.21 percent in the previous elections four years ago.

With 38 percent of the votes counted, independent Toshitaka Fujiwara, 47, had 17,672 votes; Keiko Tanida, 61, of the Communist Party of Japan, 15,167 votes and Eiji Fukuoka, 42, another independent, 2,023.

Opposition won't drag Taiwan into war over independence

By ANNIE HUANG

TAIPEI, Taiwan (AP) — In an unprecedented televised debate, leading opposition politicians assured the public Sunday their party will not bring the island to the brink of war with Beijing over its controversial call for independence from China.

The four participants were divided over whether the party's platform should be amended, but they agreed the Democratic Progressive Party must try to ease public wariness that it is heading toward military confrontation with China.

Former DPP Secretary General Chiu Yih-jen objected to revising the platform, which would require any declaration of independence be put to a public referendum.

"Establishing a sovereign Republic of Taiwan remains our goal, but it does not mean we will resort to any means to achieve that goal," he said.

"We must respond to voters' worries and assure them we will not ignore the reality and make any reckless moves."

Chiu pointed out that ruling Nationalists still cling to the goal of eventual reunification with China although they have in fact moved toward establishing a de facto sovereign state in Taiwan.

Lawmaker Lin Cho-shui also objected to changing the platform, saying it still will not appease Beijing.

Taiwan and China were politically separated in 1949, but Beijing claims sovereignty over the island and threatens to invade if Taiwan ever declares independence.

The main opposition party lost badly in last month's legislative elections to the Nationalists, and many DPP politicians realize its independence platform could cost them votes.

The debate will be followed by months of public and private talks before the platform comes up for formal discussion at the party congress in May.

Kuo Cheng-liang, a political scientist and a former DPP strategist, proposed changing the platform to reflect the DPP's position that it will not rush into declaring independence.

"Don't look at any proposed changes as a betrayal of our mission," Kuo said. "Our platform is outdated and has negative effects. It gives the public the misconception that we want to overthrow the status quo."

Lawmaker Sheng Fu-hsiung agreed changes are needed. "Most voters back the DPP's various reforms but are reluctant to support us because our platform leaves them with fears," he said.

"We are obligated to change its wording to show that we are a responsible party."

Fiji . . .

Continued from page 12

Zealand standards because Suva has a lot in common with New Zealand and because New Zealand is geographically closer to Fiji than other countries.

Work will focus on improv-

ing existing facilities such as footpaths, roads, street lighting and parks, among other things.

Councilor Bhika says it is time Suva changes its entire look, especially when it is expected to be a key part of millennium celebrations in Fiji.

He hopes ratepayers will share the council's enthusiasm and efforts.

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Euro makes Asia debut

By THOMAS WAGNER
TOKYO (AP) — The euro, the new common currency that is expected to increase Europe's economic power and eventually rival the U.S. dollar on world markets, enjoyed a quiet debut in international trading in Australia and Asia on Monday.

The day's first dealings in the euro had been expected to be cautious and subdued, and that was clearly the case in Sydney, where electronic trading began at the ungodly hour of 5 a.m. (1800 GMT), and in other markets such as Japan's and Hong Kong's.

It was still dark in the financial district of Sydney when trading started between banks via brokers, but lights could be seen from some of their offices in the skyscrapers.

At the Westpac Bank foreign exchange trading room, there was a hum of activity from traders and media taking pictures and television footage of the opening of trade in the euro.

Dressed in white shirts and ties, traders gazed intently at their computer screens, but many also took breaks in search of coffee and croissants for breakfast.

At one desk, an European Union flag and a Swiss flag were perched atop a terminal. Nearby stood a small Japanese flag.

In general, trading in the euro was light and uneventful.

"People are just having a small punt so they can say they dealt in the euro," said Wayne Raven, a senior manager of Westpac's corporate, currency and commodity division.

In Tokyo and Hong Kong, where euro trading also began early, Yasuhisa Morikuni, a Bank of America executive, said: "It has been quiet so far. We haven't seen any surprises this morning."

The infant currency was



Clerk Ayako Ogura displays traveler's check denominated in the euro at the main office of the Fuji Bank in Tokyo on Monday. The new European single currency made its debut in Japan and Asia on Monday with little fanfare.

launched at midnight Thursday in Europe, following the announcement of official fixed conversion rates for the euro against the 11 participating European currencies.

For example, the rates made the euro worth 1.95583 German marks, 6.55957 French francs, 1936.27 Italian lire and 166.386 Spanish pesetas. On Monday, the euro was expected to start trading around the world at 132.80 Japanese yen, 1.89 Australian dollars, 70 British pence, and 1.16675 U.S. dollars.

Several hours after trading began in Sydney, the euro was quoted by buyers and sellers at \$1.1747 and at 133.17 yen.



Sitting around a monitor with a small flag of the European Union on it, dealers work on the Tokyo foreign exchange market Monday morning. The euro, Europe's new single currency, made its debut on the Japanese market Monday, with the new currency traded at around 132 yen.

least one bank in Sydney reported minor problems with its screens as trading opened.

On Sunday, speculation ran high in Asian newspapers about just what the euro would do to the region's troubled economies.

"With the financial crisis in Asia and Russia causing anxieties about the dollar-dominated currency system, the eyes of the world are on the euro, which has a chance of rivaling the U.S. dollar," Japan's Mainichi newspaper said in a front-page story.

For those who might have missed the point, the article's headline read: "Topple the Dollar's Dominance!"

The European nations that launched the euro represent 20 percent of world economic output and 18 percent of world trade, and they will be a powerful player in the world economy.

In fact, one goal of the currency is for it to help the European Union forge a common market that is able to stand its ground against the United States and Asia.

For the first time in decades, the U.S. dollar will have a rival as the currency of choice for world trade and government reserves, a real change in Asia, where it has long been

dominant.

In Beijing, Sunday's official China Daily newspaper said that Chinese companies should find it easier to raise money and sell goods in Europe with its new currency.

That could be a real asset in Asia, where many countries are fighting brutal economic crises that began in July 1997, with huge devaluations in their currency and stock markets and a massive exodus of foreign investment.

But the China Daily also said the euro is creating new headaches, in part because exchange rate risks have increased as international markets adjust to the currency.

While trading in the euro began Monday, the first business day since New Year's, euro bills and coins will not be introduced until January 2002.

Euro trading was expected to get off to a slow start in Asia — and later in the day in Europe and New York — with few players apart from the big international banks taking positions.

It also could take weeks for large institutional investors to be confident enough to start taking large positions in the market.

Malaysia ready to trade in single European currency

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Malaysia believes a common European currency will enable the country to reduce its dependence on the U.S. dollar, a Malaysian newspaper said Sunday.

In the first Malaysian comment on the euro, Special Functions Minister Daim Zainuddin described its launch Friday as a good development, the New Sunday Times quoted him as saying.

He was quoted as saying that

it would provide competition to the greenback.

"We are ready to use the euro in trading with European traders and that will enable us to reduce the use of the dollar in our trade," he said.

Daim said 70 percent of Malaysia's trade now was conducted in the dollar. Asked whether the euro would affect the ringgit, the Malaysian currency, he said, "So far it has not affected the ringgit. We also have the euro in our reserves."

NO ONE DESERVES CANCER, SO BE SCREENED FOR IT.

Malaysia set to curb company directorship

By Jalil Hamid
KUALA LUMPUR (Reuters) — Malaysia has decided to rein in company directors who sit on too many boards, but the move is not expected to shake up corporate governance in the country.

The government announced on Friday that a person may only be a director for up to five publicly listed companies and 10 privately held firms, meaning a maximum of 15 companies.

In Malaysia, majority shareholders normally have seats on the board of companies they control and dozens hold directorships in more than five listed firms.

But share analysts said on Sunday that the new rules would not change the landscape of corporate governance or ownership.

"I don't think the move will lead to major structural change in the way corporates are governed or owned in Malaysia," said Yeoh Keat Seng, head of research at Smith Zain Securities, a Merrill Lynch associate.

Analysts said there were a number of majority shareholders who were not represented on the boards

of their companies.

Yeoh cited Malaysian tycoon Ananda Krishnan who was not represented in Tanjong Plc, which he controlled.

Second Finance Minister Mustapa Mohamed said on Friday about 50 businessmen were now known to be holding directorships in more than five listed companies.

No names were mentioned but analysts said Halim Saad, the executive chairman of diversified industrial group Renong, might be one of them.

Renong has nine listed subsidiaries or associates. A leading Malaysian newspaper said the ruling could answer long-awaited calls for corporate transparency.

"The investing public has long been heard complaining about the unsatisfactory situation of individuals being on the board of two many of these companies," the New Sunday Times said in an editorial.

But it also said the new policy was unclear.

"For instance, can a majority

Anwar's trial seen as Malaysia soap opera

By Reme Ahmad
KUALA LUMPUR, Jan 3 (Reuters) — "Sex Slave," screamed a newspaper headline. "We Were Sodomised," said another.

"Stains on Mattress Belong to Anwar, Shamsidar," said a third. Welcome to Malaysia, a predominantly Moslem country which cuts out kissing scenes in movies and frowns on rock stars with long hair.

The sex and corruption trial of ousted finance minister Anwar Ibrahim has unleashed lurid testimony wildly at odds with the nation's conservative ways.

The prosecution in the eight-week-old trial says it has exposed the alleged sordid lifestyle that doomed Anwar.

Prosecution witnesses have told of trysts involving Anwar, men and women in a posh apartment. Prosecutors have produced a mattress spotted with stains and a government chemist testified some of them were caused by Anwar's semen.

Anwar's ex-driver has told the capital's High Court he was the former cabinet minister's homosexual slave.

Television news shows daily footage of trendy women parading out of the courthouse into sports sedans.

"The whole thing is like watching 'Dallas', 'Falcon Crest' and 'Dynasty' rolled into one," a journalist who covers the trial said, referring to popular U.S. soap operas.

"I feel embarrassed at having my kids watch the news nowadays. Semen-stained mattresses,

homosexuals acts - that is a bit too much," said Alice, a financial manager and mother of two. "I already have trouble explaining to my children how we get babies."

Some academics are worried. "I don't know what all these revelations are teaching our children," said Mohamed Jamil, a university lecturer.

"My worry is what they read today they will do tomorrow."

"I've stopped reading the details in the newspapers after the mattress appeared," said Shereen Aziz, a school teacher. "It's quite embarrassing."

Anwar, sacked and arrested in September, has pleaded not guilty to five counts each of corruption and sodomy.

His dismissal and arrest triggered unprecedented protests by his supporters against Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, who has been in power for 17 years.

The demonstrations, broken up by riot police, have tapered off in recent weeks.

Anwar, 51, says he was framed by associates of Mahathir, 73. His lawyers have sought to discredit prosecution witnesses.

While a cabinet minister, Anwar was a highly-respected leader with a revered Islamic background.

Anwar is accused of turning his family's former chauffeur into a sex slave and sodomising his adopted brother and former speechwriter, who were each sentenced to six months in jail in September after pleading guilty to being sodomised by him.

Continued on page 22



A group of Malaysians, holding posters to welcome the year 1999, celebrate at Merdeka Square (Independent Square in English) Friday in Kuala Lumpur.

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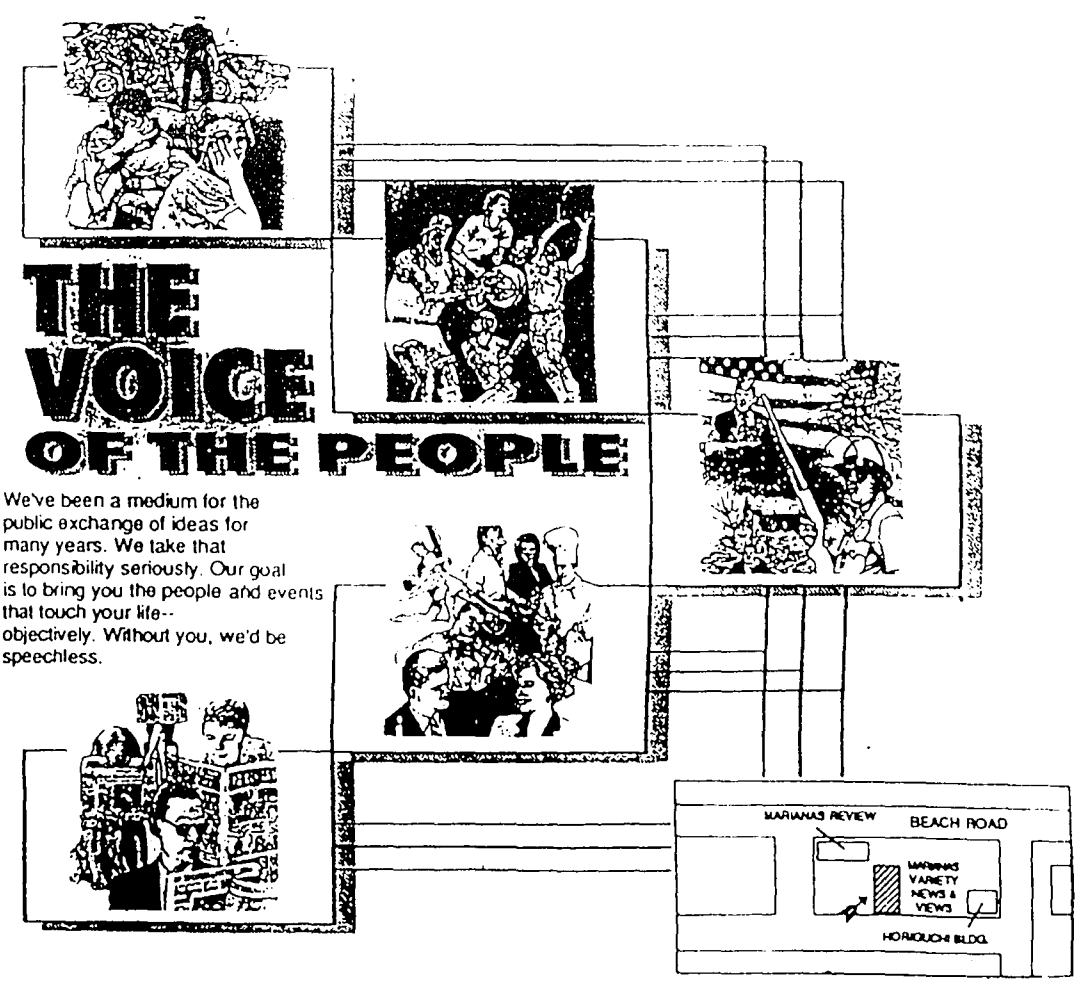
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Clinton to push tax cuts

By Arshad Mohammed
WASHINGTON (Reuters) — President Bill Clinton will propose "targeted" tax cuts in his new budget, including a tax credit that he will unveil on Monday for people who provide long-term care to relatives, a U.S. official said on Sunday.

"The tax initiatives will be paid for, as they were in the past, and they will be targeted to the needs that are most important to the American people," Office of Management and Budget Director Jack Lew told CNN's "Late Edition" programme.

Lew offered a brief preview of the president's budget for fiscal 2000, which begins on Oct. 1 and will be sent to the Republican-controlled Congress in several weeks.

He said Clinton would propose new spending as well as focused tax cuts, but said these would all be "paid for" - budget jargon meaning that their cost would be offset by cutting other programmes or raising other revenues.

The president himself announced one large spending increase on Saturday, saying he would ask Congress to boost military spending by \$12 billion in fiscal 2000, the first major rise in the U.S. defence budget in a decade.

Washington ended nearly three decades of deficit spending last year, announcing a surplus of about \$70 billion for fiscal 1998, which ended on Sept. 30. Propelled by the robust U.S. economy, surpluses are also expected for fiscal 1999 and 2000.

However, Lew said Clinton would stick to his pledge not to spend the budget surplus until the Social Security system is reformed and would continue to pursue fiscal discipline, saying this had led to "surpluses as far as the eye can see."

Although he would not offer many details, Lew said Clinton would put forward a proposal on Monday to give a tax credit to people who provide long-term care to aging or sick relatives.

"With the aging of the American population and the increasing level of disability amongst older people and others, long-term care and the burden on people taking care of relatives with disabilities has really been growing," he said.

"Tomorrow the president is going to announce an initiative that will include a tax credit for



Bill Clinton

people who provide long-term care," he said, giving no details. "That's just an example of the kind of initiative that you'll be seeing on the tax side."

Clinton has made a practice of proposing targeted tax cuts in recent years, tailoring them to benefit lower- and middle-income people in specific areas like higher educa-

tion.

Lew said Clinton would keep his promise not to spend the surplus until the Social Security system is reformed to avert its projected bankruptcy when the "Baby Boom" generation begins to retire in the next century.

"The centrepiece of last year's budget was the commitment to not spend the surplus until we fix Social Security first. That will also be the centrepiece of this year's budget," Lew said.

"This budget ... will focus on a combination of fiscal discipline and investing in our priorities," he said.

"We don't think that's a choice you can make. We have seen that fiscal discipline pays off. We have turned from a sea of red ink to a sea of black ink - surpluses as far as the eye can see."

Senators disagree on plan to speed up Clinton's trial

By Caren Bohan
WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Members of the U.S. Senate disagreed sharply on Sunday on a plan to expedite the impeachment trial of President Bill Clinton, as several Republicans urged a full-scale proceeding with witnesses.

With a trial to weigh Clinton's removal from office expected to begin within a week, one prominent Republican senator, Arlen Specter of Pennsylvania, said he believed Clinton himself should appear before the legislative body to testify.

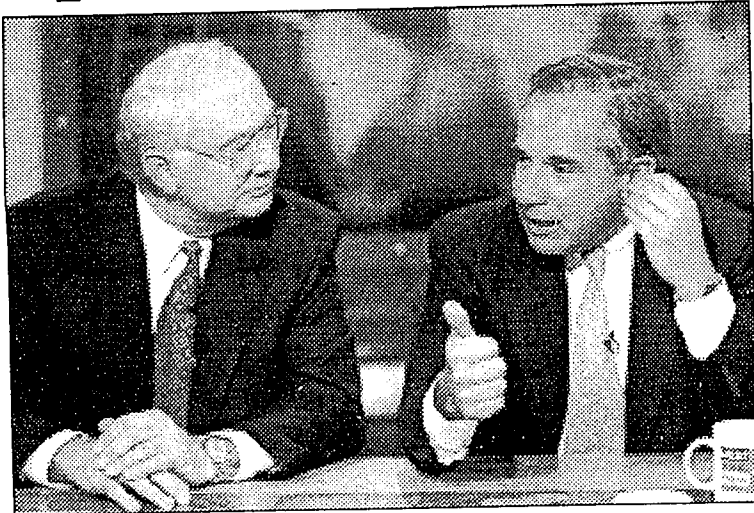
Meanwhile, several senators said the president should consider delaying his State of the Union address, planned for Jan. 19, if the trial is not wrapped up by the time he is to deliver the speech.

"I think it would be unseemly and distracting for the president to be giving a State of the Union address to Congress while he was under trial in the Senate," Sen. Slade Gorton, a Washington Republican, told NBC's "Meet the Press" programme.

Gorton and Sen. Joseph Lieberman, Democrat of Connecticut, were the first to conceive of the bipartisan plan for a condensed impeachment trial.

The plan, which was later floated by the Senate's top Republican, Majority Leader Trent Lott, would allow for an early "test vote" to see whether the required two-thirds of senators would back the president's ouster if the substance of allegations in the Monica Lewinsky case were proven true.

The vote would be taken after summary arguments from both sides and no wit-



Sen. Robert Torricelli, D-N.J. (right), talks about a proposal to avoid a lengthy Senate trial of President Clinton as Sen. Phil Gramm, R-Texas, listens during NBC's 'Meet the Press' Sunday in Washington. AP

nesses would need to be called. If the preliminary vote failed to show support for expelling Clinton, the Senate could then move on to consider censure.

The Senate has been left to find a resolution to the impeachment issue after the Republican-dominated House of Representatives, in a vote cast mostly along party lines, last month approved two articles of impeachment charging Clinton with lying under oath and obstructing justice.

Democratic senators airing their views on Sunday political talk shows were generally supportive of the bipartisan proposal that Lott has been working on with Senate Democratic Leader Tom Daschle.

Sen. Robert Torricelli, a New Jersey Democrat, called the proposal a "working blueprint" that could help wrap up an issue many Americans say they have tired of.

But Republicans were divided.

Sen. Thad Cochran, Republican of Mississippi, said he personally would endorse the Lott

compromise, but said it will need to be discussed among other senators. "If it isn't acceptable then we may have to make amendments to it or changes to it to accommodate all senators," he told CBS's "Face the Nation" programme.

Sen. Phil Gramm, a Texas Republican known for his strong conservative views, said on "Meet the Press" that a trial was needed because the president, although acknowledging an improper relationship with Lewinsky, has disputed charges that he lied under oath and obstructed justice. "We've got to hear from both sides to do justice," he said.

Pennsylvania's Specter, a moderate who has said publicly in the past he did not think removing Clinton was in the nation's best interests, said senators nevertheless had a duty to hold a trial, complete with witnesses.

"The Constitution calls for a trial," he said, emphasising his desire to hear directly from the president.

To cope with crises

IMF seeks broader role

WASHINGTON (Reuters) — Bigger central bank reserves, more transparent financial systems and an enhanced role for the International Monetary Fund are possible responses to last year's financial crises, a senior IMF official said on Sunday.

IMF First Deputy Managing Director Stanley Fischer said countries with large reserves had, by and large, coped better with the turmoil than those with smaller ones, and this was likely to prompt countries to rethink their reserve policy.

But efforts by emerging market economies to create current account surpluses to build up reserves could have a deflationary impact on the world economy, he said.

The text of his remarks, prepared for delivery at the American Economic Association in

New York, was released in Washington in advance.

"While volatility and contagion will always be with us, we can surely do better in reducing the frequency and intensity of emerging market financial crisis, and the extent of contagion, than we have in the last five years," he said.

The IMF admits it was caught by surprise at the speed with which national financial problems spread, and at the way in which a crisis which started 18 months ago in Thailand became a plague infecting almost all the developing world.

The fund responded with a string of international rescue deals, using its own money and cash from other lenders to try to prevent the problems getting out of hand.

Economic output is slowing

around the world, although the IMF's last World Economic Outlook, released last month, still sees world growth of 2.2 percent this year.

Fischer said he expected fewer pegged exchange rates in the future as countries drew lessons from problems in Asia.

"The virulence of the recent crisis is likely to shift the balance toward the choice of more flexible exchange rate systems, including crawling pegs with wide bands," he said.

He said the IMF could build on its latest experiences to become an international lender of

last resort - like a national central bank which can provide unlimited funds to a bank which has short-term problems and can provide collateral.

"I would argue that the International Monetary Fund, although it is not an international central bank, has undertaken certain important lender of last resort functions in the current system - and that role can be made more effective in a reformed international financial system," he said.

Long-standing proposals for reform include more openness about transactions of central

banks and others, better rules on banks and bankruptcy and efforts to "bail in" the private sector to ensure private lenders share the burden of rescuing countries which get into financial trouble.

"The crises of the last five years have revealed major weaknesses in the structure of the international economy," Fischer said.

"It is urgent to start developing and implementing the solutions. Among them is the further development of the role of the international lender of last resort."

Fujimori names loyal Congress head as PM



Alberto Fujimori

By Alistair Scrutton
LIMA (Reuters) — Peruvian President Alberto Fujimori on Sunday named Victor Joy Way, the current head of Congress, as his new prime minister in the start of a major cabinet shake-up aimed at boosting his flagging popularity.

Joy Way, a former industry minister in Fujimori's government and considered one of the president's most loyal supporters, will replace Alberto Pandolfi, who headed the cabinet since August last year.

"Joy Way is the new head of the cabinet and with him we will study the new ministers and they will be named January 5," Fujimori told local CPN radio news while on tour in the northern region of Piura.

He gave no other details of any changes in the cabinet, which is comprised of 15 ministers.

Political analysts say Fujimori needs to make major changes to reverse a recent slide in the polls over the course of 1999 - a crucial electoral year if he decides to run for an unprecedented third term in early 2000.

Pandolfi, along with the rest of the cabinet, submitted his

resignation to Fujimori in December as part of a traditional yearly protocol that allows the president to change his ministers without firing them.

Joy Way, 51, who has been president of the country's Congress since 1996, is considered a more charismatic figure than Pandolfi and may help improve Fujimori's public image, political analysts say.

"I get the impression (Joy Way) will associate himself closer to the people's interests, he may head a cabinet more related to the people," Gustavo Mohme, an opposition congressman and editor of the left-leaning La Republica newspaper, said.

Fujimori's prime ministers have often acted as spokesmen for the government, taking political fire aimed at the president but wielding little real power.

Fujimori - whose approval ratings fell in December to their lowest level of his eight years in power as an economic crisis continued to bite - said last week he would announce a major shake-up in his cabinet in early January.

Peru's economy reeled in 1998 from the twin blows of freak El Nino weather and world financial turmoil. Gross domestic product growth slumped to an estimated one to 1.5 percent, down from 7.2 percent in 1997.

But the new prime minister is likely to continue promoting the government's free-market policies.

"I would not say that Joy Way is softer. He is as dogmatic as Fujimori in relation to economic policies ... a man totally identified with the government," Mohme said.



Bees are dusted off of Luis Gamboa, 50, after he holds a demonstration promoting his honey, in a zoo in Lima, Peru Saturday. Gamboa, who has sold honey for 20 years, performs his bee demonstration all over Peru. AP

Anunsion Finatai

Para u mana fanungo I man parentes yan man atungo Magdalena I. Taisakan, asaguan I defunto as Benedicto S. Taisakan na matai si Magdalena gi finero dia 4, 1999. I Lisayo para guato gi Kapiyan Ispitat CHC gi oran alas onse kuarentai sinko (11:45 a.m.) gi taloane yan alas siete kuarentai sinko (7:45 p.m.) gi pupunge.

Maneluna: Maria I. Litulumar (+Ignacio), Urdiano Teregeyo (Margie), Vicente Teregeyo

Famaguon-na: Joaquina T. Mendiola (+Ignacio), Rosa T. Joab (Theodore), Representative Malua T. Peter (David), Ignacia A. Taisakan, Antonio Satur (Susan), Doris T. Ogunoro (Hon. Mayor Joseph T. Ogunoro), Ramona T. Rebueng (Juan Diego), Valentino I. Taisakan (Cris), Domitilla Taisakan, Simforosa Taisakan (Pedro), Engrasia T. Pelisamen (Juan), Marina T. Iguel (Luis), Combin I. Taisakan (Mystica), Maria I. Taisakan.

I malagnosna para I Mietkoles, Enero dia Sinko (Jan. 5th) gi oran alas kuatro despues de taloane, ya para ma bela guato gi guma I Hagana as Doris yan Mayor Joseph T. Ogunoro giya Capitol Hill, guma numero #1203. I Misan Entero para alas kuatro (4:00 p.m.) gi despues de taloane guato gi Katidrat Biñen de Carmen.

I Misan finagpon Lisayon Linayan para Enero Dia Dosce, gi oran alas sinko (5:00 p.m.) despues de taloane guato gi guma Yu'us Kristo Rai giya Garapan.

I tinayuyut miyo yan I finaton miyu masen agradesi.

Si Yu'us Ma'ase yan I pas I Saena ugaige giya hita todos.

Ginen I Famagu'on yan I Familia

Mars lander launched to dig for frozen water

By MARCIA DUNN
CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — A Mars lander equipped with a robot arm and shovel rocketed away Sunday on a 470-million-mile (756 million-kilometer) quest to uncover frozen water near the planet's South Pole.

NASA's Mars Polar Lander took off aboard a Boeing rocket at exactly 3:21 p.m. (2021 GMT).

The rain that managers had feared stayed away, allowing NASA to meet the instantaneous launch window despite an overcast sky.

Less than an hour later, the final rocket motor fired, kicking the Polar Lander out of Earth orbit and putting it on an 11-month course for Mars. Launch managers cheered and applauded.

"My birthday is tomorrow and this is just about the best birthday present I've ever had," said project scientist Richard Zurek, who is turning 52. "Right now, I'm feeling a lot younger than that."

Israeli warplanes attack

By MORSHED DANDASH
BAALBEK, Lebanon (AP) — Israeli warplanes attacked suspected guerrilla positions in eastern Lebanon on Sunday, wounding six people, Lebanese security officials said.

The officials said the victims included a Lebanese woman and four daughters. In Jerusalem, the Israeli army said in a statement that its jets "attacked terrorist infrastructure targets" including a training base used by

Hezbollah and a radio station. "Both targets were outside populated areas," the army statement said. Hezbollah is leading a guerrilla struggle to try to oust some 1,500 Israeli soldiers and their allied Lebanese militia-

men from Israel's self-styled "security zone" in southern Lebanon.

Israel set up the zone in 1985 to try to shield its northern towns from cross-border guerrilla attacks.

The Lebanese security officials said Israeli jets fired two air-to-surface missiles at Hezbollah's Voice of the Oppressed radio station near the ancient Roman city of Baalbek, damaging its transmitter. The station went off the air.

The four raiding jets also fired four missiles at the hills around the villages of Nabi Sheet and Janta, about 23 kilometers (14 miles) southeast of Baalbek, they said. They spoke on customary condition of anonymity.

The officials said the mother, identified as 55-year-old Hamdah Ayyoub, was wounded during the raid on Janta along with four daughters. Witnesses said they were not badly hurt.

Ayyoub's husband, Ahmed, 60, told reporters that his wife and daughters were wounded by shrapnel from a missile that fell 50 meters (yards) from their house.

He said the house was badly damaged. Ahmed Ayyoub said he was not at home at the time of the attack.

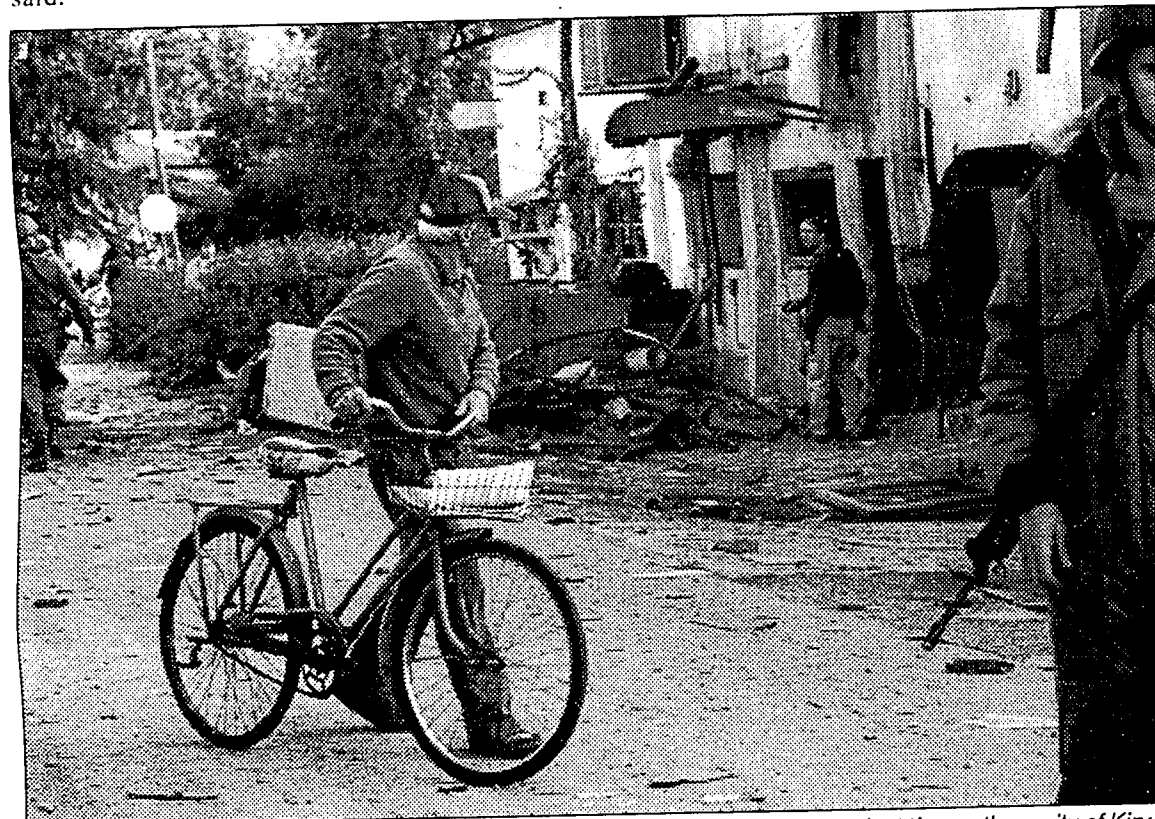
A man was wounded in the same raid, the officials said. The Christian Voice of Lebanon radio station said he was a Syrian soldier.

Anti-aircraft gunners of the Lebanese army and the Iranian-backed Hezbollah guerrilla group fired at the jets but apparently did not hit them, the officials said.

It was the second Israeli attack on Janta in less than two weeks. On Dec. 22, Israeli warplanes struck suspected guerrilla bases there, killing a Lebanese woman and six of her children.

Hezbollah, or the Party of God, retaliated with a barrage of Katyusha rockets into northern Israel that injured one person. Fifteen others were treated for shock.

Sunday's air raid came a day after Hezbollah's secretary-general, Sheik Hassan Nasrallah, warned that his group would bombard northern Israel with rockets again if the Jewish state carried out its threat to attack deep inside Lebanon.



An Israeli man looks at a bombed house that was hit in a Katyusha rocket attack at the northern city of Kiryat Shemona last Wednesday. Israeli jets this week conducted an air raid in eastern Lebanon. AP

Netanyahu ally forms party ahead of Israel elections

By Havakuk Levison
TEL AVIV (Reuters) — Israeli leader Benjamin Netanyahu's longtime ally Avigdor Lieberman launched a new party on Sunday, aiming to rally the support of Russian-speaking Israelis around the prime minister ahead of May elections. But political analysts differed on whether his Yisrael Baitanu party - Hebrew for "Israel is Our Home" - would help or hurt Netanyahu.

Michael Eitan, a loyalist in Netanyahu's Likud party, predicted Lieberman, who was instrumental in solidifying Netanyahu's control over Likud, would hurt the party by taking votes away in the May 17 elections. Promising a social revolution, Lieberman, who immigrated to Israel 20 years ago, told a news conference: "I intend to act with all of my power so that Benjamin Netanyahu is elected prime minister."

But Lieberman, formerly Netanyahu's chief of staff and a fellow survivor of a corruption scandal which ensnared them both, immediately ignited a public row by vowing to topple the "police state" he said Israel had become.

His opening salvo - an attack on police, state prosecutors and Israel's Supreme Court - prompted an outpouring of criticism across the political spectrum.



Benjamin Netanyahu



Avigdor Lieberman

Netanyahu's office issued a statement saying Lieberman spoke for himself alone.

"I was opposed to the formation of this list. I felt there is no room for more lists. It only increases the fragmentation in the public," Netanyahu told reporters.

Lieberman helped to chart Netanyahu's meteoric rise to power but failed as chief of staff to stop the Israeli leader from lurching from crisis to crisis.

When prosecutors finally closed the case against him in 1997 in connection with the short-lived appointment of a new attorney-general, they said suspicions lingered that he had had a role in the scandal.

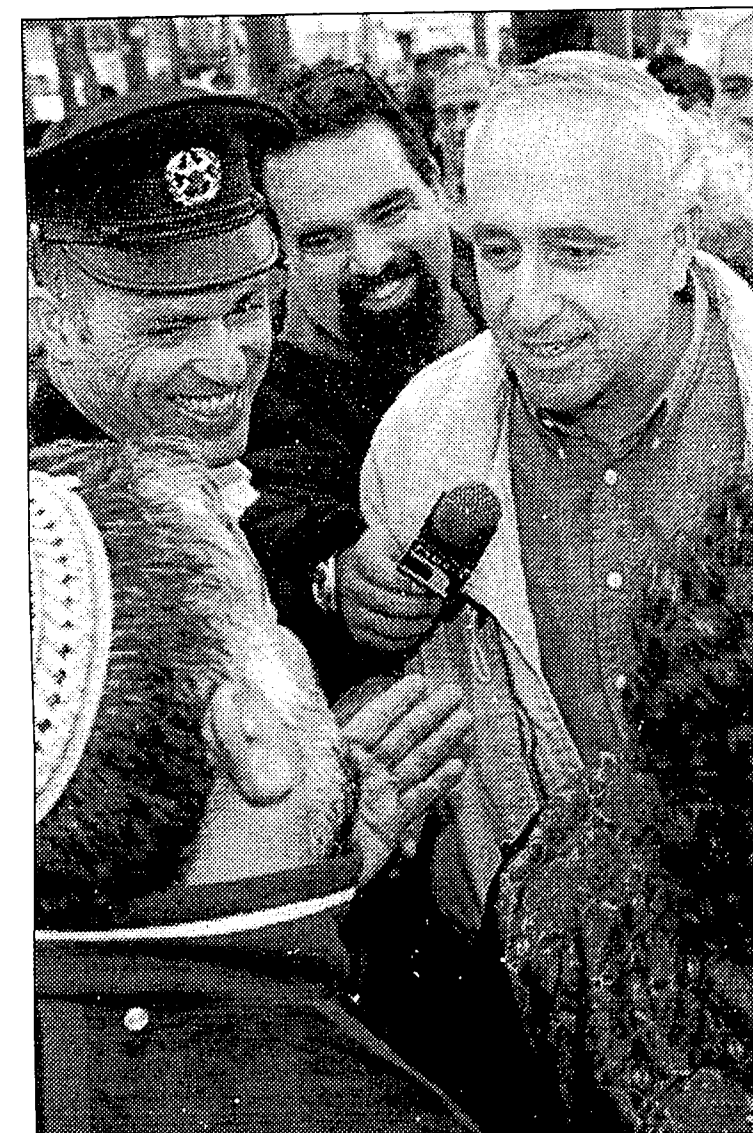
He resigned the chief-of-staff job two months later.

At his Tel Aviv news conference, Lieberman alleged that police had brought charges against three Israeli politicians not for suspected crimes but because of their

tated by splits in Netanyahu's rightist coalition over a land-for-security peace deal with Palestinians.

While still an aide to

Netanyahu, Lieberman - an opponent of ceding West Bank land - was quoted in 1997 as saying he opposed Israel's "sucking up" to Arabs.



Amnon Lipkin-Shahak (top right) tours the traditionally Likud party stronghold of Kiryat Shemona in northern Israel Thursday. Lipkin-Shahak, a retired general, kicked off his election campaign for prime minister. AP

Arabs meet on Iraq stand

By SALAH NASRAWI
CAIRO, Egypt (AP) — The foreign ministers of four Arab countries held secret talks in Egypt to try to forge a united strategy on Iraq, Arab diplomats said Sunday.

The diplomats said that the foreign ministers of Saudi Arabia, Syria and Yemen met at the invitation of Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Moussa on Saturday at the Red Sea resort of Hurgada, 415 kilometers (255 miles) southeast of Cairo.

They said the ministers agreed to lobby the Arab League to put off a meeting on Iraq indefinitely for fear that it will further split Arab ranks.

The diplomats spoke on customary condition of anonymity.

Arab League foreign ministers had been scheduled to meet at the league's headquarters in Cairo in December to discuss American and British airstrikes on Iraq. The Dec. 16-19 attacks were intended to punish the regime of Iraqi leader Saddam Hussein for failing to cooperate with U.N. weapons inspectors.

At the request of Gulf states, led by Saudi Arabia, the meeting was

put off until Jan. 24.

On Sunday, Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdel-Meguid told reporters that there were no moves afoot to further delay a foreign ministers' meeting on Iraq.

Talaat Hamid, spokesman for the 22-member league, said Sunday that there has been no formal request to cancel or put off the Jan. 24 meeting.

Spokesmen for the Egyptian and Syrian foreign ministers declined comment on the report of the Hurgada meeting. An official at the Yemen Embassy in Cairo would say only that Yemeni Foreign Minister Abdul-Kader Bajammal was in Egypt.

The Gulf states, especially Kuwait and Saudi Arabia, have not forgiven Saddam for his 1990 invasion of Kuwait, which sparked the 1991 Gulf War.

The diplomats said that Egypt and Saudi Arabia would prefer to see bilateral discussions or small meetings on Iraq.

This, they said, would deprive Saddam's regime of possibly using the league as a platform for anti-Western rhetoric.

Iraq protested postponement of

the foreign ministers' meeting, accusing the government of Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak of masterminding the move on behalf of Kuwait and Saudi Arabia.

Iraq calls the airstrikes a violation of international law and has accused the United States and Britain of working to prolong the U.N. sanctions imposed after Iraq's invasion of Kuwait.

It wants Arab support in getting the sanctions lifted.

The sanctions, which limit the sale of oil and bar most trade transactions, have seriously damaged Iraq's economy.

The U.N. Security Council says the sanctions will not be lifted until Iraq fulfills Gulf War cease-fire resolutions that call for the elimination of its weapons of mass destruction.

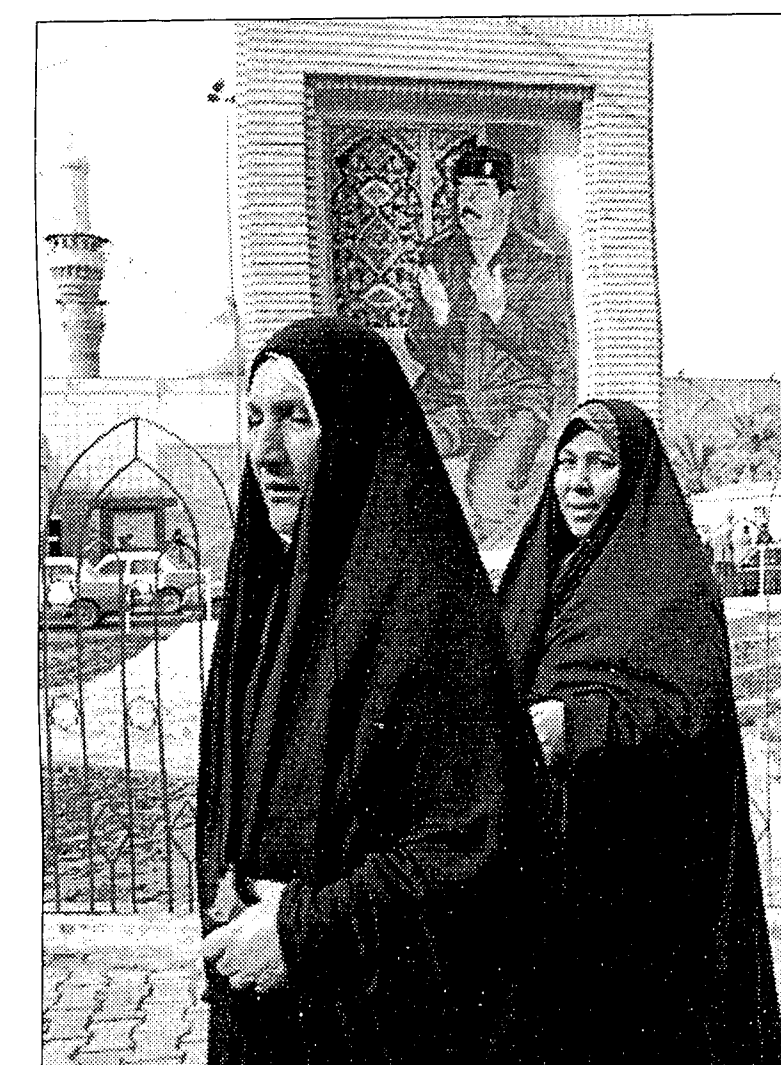
The Hurgada meeting came amid rising tension between Egypt and Iraq. Papers in the two countries have been trading insults since Mubarak strongly criticized Saddam last week.

Mubarak was quoted by Egypt's Al-Gomhuriya newspaper on Dec. 28 as saying that while he opposed the American and British airstrikes,

he felt Saddam was responsible for creating the situation that led to the attacks.

"The ruling regime is the reason

for all the problems ... and Egypt naturally does not support this regime," the paper quoted him as saying.



Iraqi women, in full Islamic black robes, pass by a portrait of President Saddam Hussein in front of the Imam Musa Al-Kadum mosque in Kadimiya district of Baghdad on Wednesday. AP

Senator . . .

Continued from page 5

choose for the power plant project.

"The board has already made a decision based on what they think would be the best deal for the CNMI. But then we have some people who disagree with the board and call them incompetent. That's not fair," Villagomez said.

Without a new powerplant, CUC Executive Director Timothy Villagomez earlier told the Variety that the CNMI may face a serious power problem beginning this year.

CUC projects a power shortfall of 12.93 megawatts by August 2000. However, the Office of the Pub-

lic Auditor (OPA) has upheld an appeal filed by one of the losing bidders, the Pacific Marine Industrial Corp. (PMIC), and called for a new round of selection process.

OPA said the process used by CUC was "flawed."

CUC officials said they may bring OPA's ruling to court.

CUC eventually decided to issue out a new request for proposal for an independent evaluator that will review the bids all over again.

CUC's Villagomez admitted that the process could further cause delay in the construction of the power plant, but added that the move will remove doubts regarding the selection process for the bids.

US 9th . . .

Continued from page 5

Angello's discrimination case.

The plaintiff had alleged the PSS and its officials had discriminated against him when they turned down his application to the position of education commissioner.

However, the defendants claimed that Angello was never interviewed nor hired because he submitted his application papers late.

They said the plaintiff passed his application two weeks after the deadline and the other applicant who was hired was more qualified.

Angello included in his appeal the discrimination case involving his nonhiring as vice principal of the Oleai Elementary School.

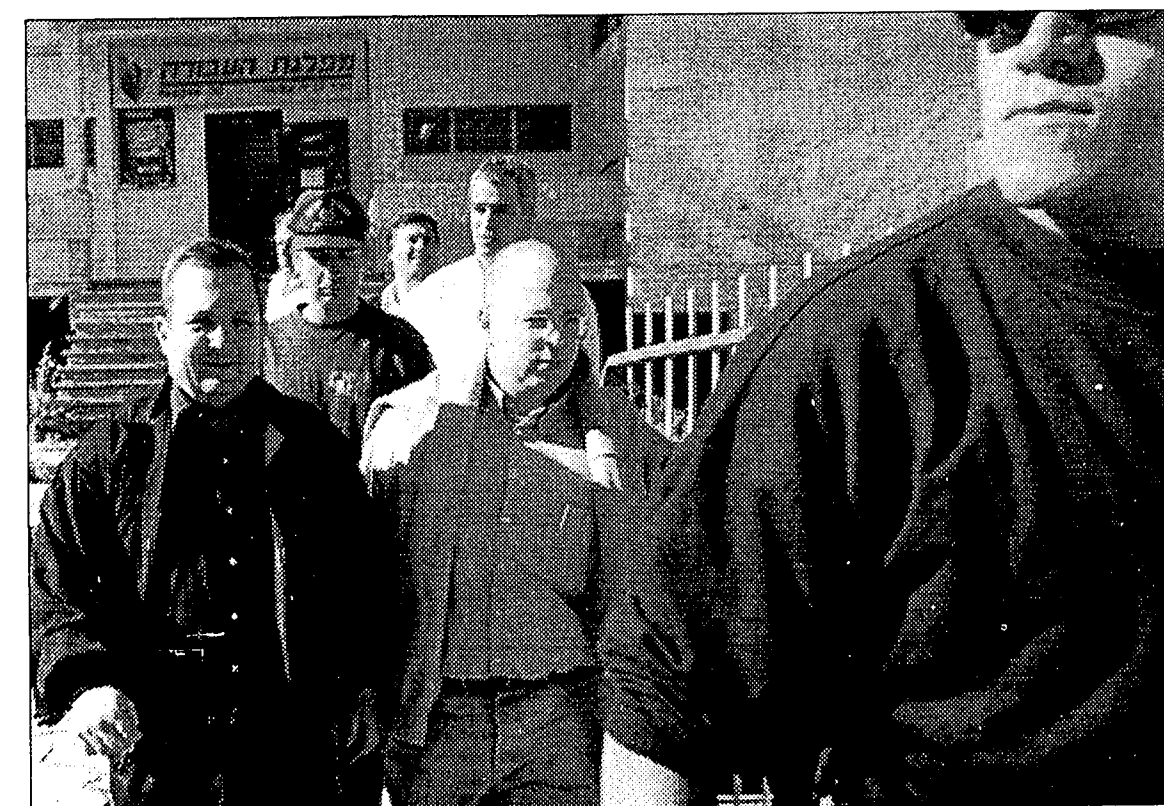
According to the statement, the appellate court "ruled that a multilingual Carolinian candidate with prior experience had better qualifications

and that the principal of the school who recommended the hiring had (legitimate) concerns because of her past contacts with Angello whether he could work well."

The plaintiff reportedly "failed to rebut these reasons with any evidence of pretext." He had also "failed to discredit the defendant's proffered reasons for not hiring him and failed to show that they intentionally discriminated against him," as to his first claim of action.

As to his motion to inhibit Munson because of conflict of interest since he alleged that the judge was renting a house from the CNMI government, the US Ninth Circuit had held that the issue is without merit.

The court had also upheld the judge's dismissal of the former principal's claims that his First Amendment and right to due process were violated.



Head of Israeli Labor party, Ehud Barak (left) is escorted by security during his visit up north. Earlier Sunday, a guard was arrested after he was overheard saying people like Barak "need to be murdered". AP

Anwar . . .

Continued from page 17

Both men have said they were coerced by police to lie and have appealed against their convictions.

A government doctor said last week there was no medical evidence that Anwar's adopted brother was a homosexual or had been sodomized.

Anwar is alleged to have slept with Shamsidar Taharin, the wife of his former private secretary. A witness told the trial last week that the mattress was stained with the pair's sexual fluids.

Women who are witnesses ei-

ther for or against Anwar provide a daily side-show for the media.

Aside from Shamsidar, television news programmes regularly depict two women - Nomala Yusof, a sultry looking ex-model, and Ziela Jalil, a former actress and wife of a minister accused by Anwar of plotting against him.

Another attention-grabber is Ummi Hafilda Ali. Shamsidar's sister-in-law and Anwar's main accuser. Anwar's lawyers have portrayed her as jilted by Anwar and jealous of Shamsidar.

A Singapore tabloid has labelled Ummi, who wears expensive clothes and heavy make-up, the "Walking Wardrobe."

FLAG to

Continued from page 10

Channel 13 in the Philippines. She was the keynote speaker at FLAG's induction ceremony.

In an interview with the Variety, Roa said she is glad to see that Filipino organizations abroad continue to hold the Philippines dear to their hearts.

She said she is fully supportive of FLAG's efforts to promote Philippine culture on Guam and will do her best to promote more cultural interaction between Guam and the Philippines.

During the FLAG induction ceremony, Neri said FLAG has helped numerable charitable causes over the years including the American Red Cross and the countless beneficiaries of the group's University of Guam scholarship grants.

"Up to now, FLAG continues to make tremendous strides in the area of public service. The secret of our

continuing success is our tireless members and officers who are the backbone of our organization. It is because of them that the Filipino Ladies Association of Guam today ranks as one of the most respected socio-civic organizations on island."

From its earliest years, Neri said FLAG has contributed in its own special way to the fabric of the island's history.

"Our organization has helped a lot in developing the Guam community. FLAG has also contributed immensely to the awareness of Philippine culture through the traditional Santacruzan that our organization holds annually. Through our little Miss Sampaguita and our other fundraisers, we have been able to make generous contributions to various charities on island."

As the new FLAG president, Neri promised to be ready to face the challenges and the responsibilities that the FLAG membership entrusted to her.

Nicholson also alleged that there have been no signs posted within the hotel's premises saying where the alternative accessible routes for PWDs are located.

Nicholson said the PIC management is discriminating against PWDs by denying them access to the hotel.

Nicholson asked the court to issue a declaratory judgement on each violation of the act and specify his rights to the hotel's public accommodations, facilities, goods and services.

He also asked for the issuance of a permanent injunction to order the PIC management to do all necessary modifications of its facilities to make it accessible to PWDs.

Nicholson's lawyer, William C. Campbell, II said the suit against the hotel would possibly be the first case to have been filed this year in the CNMI and the United States by virtue of the law.

Harder, the appointed solid waste program manager, will be arriving on Jan. 15 to begin work.

Harder will be coordinating with the special body and the newly-formed solid waste division at the Department of Public Works (DPW).

Tenorio said he envisions the project to be centralized public market system which will enable farmers to directly sell produce by renting stalls or through concessions.

"I don't have any idea yet where the funding may be coming. But some of this is going to come from the government," he said.

NMI to . . .

Continued from page 3

them Y2K compliant," he said. Experts warned that the millennium bug threatens systems run by old computer programs which will interpret the Year 2000 as 1900, which has the same last two digits.

As a result, any program with

a date such as billing, payroll, inventory, and bank accounts could crash or give misleading answers starting January 1, 2000.

The governor also instructed the director of procurement and supply to require that any further government purchase of computer hardware or software for the CNMI must have a certificate from the vendor that it is

March 31, 1998 which coincided with the 60th birthday of Rota Mayor Benjamin T. Manglona who is also one of the brains behind the project.

"This project is a product of collaborative efforts between

Guam . . .

Continued from page 3

Pangelinan, a Democrat, said the move was uncalled for.

"I was not involved in their caucus, but it's obvious that they

did not do what they said they were going to do. At least they could have told him (Blaz)," Pangelinan said. "Nobody deserves this kind of embarrassment."

Blaz did not respond to the

AG: US . . .

Continued from page 3

Goldberg was reacting to a court's order instructing AGO and the Department of Labor and Immigration (DOLI) to answer the opening brief of two respondents, a Chinese national and a Filipino national, who were the subjects of deportation hearings.

The respondents, Alicia Fabricante and Chi Min Yue allegedly capitalized on the citizen-

ship of their children and were asking Superior Court Associate Judge Timothy Bellas to allow them to go on a "voluntary departure" instead of being deported.

However, Goldberg said "it is a matter of dire practical necessity that the citizenship of the children does not affect the immigration status of their parents."

He lamented though that the argument has been rejected by every court in the Commonwealth.

Goldberg added that the two overstayers were allegedly ex-

we have, and although pricing is one of these [values] we should not be adjusting our prices because other people are adjusting theirs," he stressed.

Sablan also pointed out that the island's proximity to its target markets is a key component in efforts to make CNMI an attractive destination. "What makes us really competitive is the proximity of our destination to our markets."

While admitting that some non-dollar-based destinations in the Asia-Pacific Region have practically become cheaper due to the regional financial turmoil, the HANMI president said this should not be the same case for the CNMI.

"Pricing is market driven so we try to base ours on the existing trend in the market. What we should do is look at what values

Commonwealth Development Authority chair Juan S. Tenorio said the Northern Mariana Islands

leadership to consider the telecommunications regulatory bill as a top priority in the legislative agenda for this year, adding that it could help attract new investments.

Jones said H.B. 11-22 could bring in new investors in the local telecommunications industry, protect consumers from monopolies, and lower current rates.

He said the bill would promote more competitive market conditions and increase public

ronmental health specialist. Wong said the incinerator will be used to treat the waste from foreign vessels entering Guam's port.

Until the issuance of the incineration permit to PERI, the Navy had been handling the waste disposal for the port. The incinera-

2 caught . . .

Continued from page 6

with importation of a controlled

Y2K compliant.

Stayman also reminded that OIA intends to make Y2K planning a major component of a meeting in Honolulu on Feb. 3-5 that will be conducted for financial improvement management officials.

He then advised Tenorio to send a CNMI representative who is active with the government's Y2K program.

the Mayor, the Rota Legislative Delegation and the Municipal Council," Santos added.

The RHC has a total of some 60 employees, including seven local nurses, two doctors and 10 manpower-hired nurses.

Variety as of press time.

Meanwhile, the Legislative attaches remain the same. Douglas Moylan remains as legal counsel, as do Legislative Clerk Josephine Brénnan-Badley and Sergeant-at-Arms Victor Duenas.

plotting their children to get sympathy.

Fabricante's work permit has expired more than six years ago while Yue's 30-day business permit's effectivity ended on Nov. 23, 1995.

In his opposition, Goldberg said under the CNMI law the courts "lacks the power to grant a voluntary departure."

He said the court is only limited to determine whether there is proof for deportation, and if there is, it must order deportation.

remain an exciting destination for Japanese visitors, citing the Commonwealth's historical value.

"With regards to the Japanese tourists, CNMI has a sentimental value since we were once part of Japan. Veterans may have been telling the younger generation that they have lived here once which makes the islands special," Tenorio said.

But he admitted that the economic situation in the tourists' home country is also a major factor considered by travelers when taking outbound or overseas trips.

"This may be the reason why CNMI has been seeing a decline in visitor arrivals."

subscriptions.

Introduced last February by Rep. Melvin O. Faisao (R-Prec. 3, Saipan), the 30-page bill proposes the creation of a Commonwealth Telecommunications Regulatory Commission.

Since August 1997, FCC has been urging the CNMI to enact such legislation to allow the islands to comply with the 1996 Federal Telecommunications Act and thus receive the numerous benefits offered by the law.

tion facility will also free up space in the island's landfills.

PERI will also expand services, at a later date, to include the incineration of bio-hazard waste such as sharps and human waste which consist of human blood, tissues, body fluids, secretion and excretion.

The toothpaste tube contained five straws, one with five capsules of "ecstasy," and the others containing possible "mushrooms," a hallucinogen.

substance. She was booked and released. Son was booked and confined on charges of conspiracy to import a controlled substance.

Kagman . . .

Continued from page 11

be used for the reservoir will be walled up and filled with rain water so that the farmlands will actually have two water sources including the wells.

"I hope this year we will have

more rain," said Tenorio.

Kagman is a major supplier of farm produce in the island, which supplies up to about 80 percent of agricultural products sold to the market including the big hotels.

"I would say that a large amount of agricultural produce is from Kagman," said Tenorio.

SBA . . .

Continued from page 8

first.

He added that SBA has been working with GEDA to fine-tune this data base which is already in place.

In addition, Arriola said SBA has several tools available from the SBA's website which allows large prime contractors to access companies according to geographic locale or industry type.

"For instance, somebody in Houston can find out what Guam companies are available to do landscaping jobs here on Guam. And when we talk of federal contracting, we don't mean just construc-

tion. It can be service of any kind, like child care or health care."

Arriola said local businessmen can also avail themselves of SBA's entrepreneurial development programs. SBA already has the Small Business Development Center at the University of Guam which provides free consulting services and assists people with business plans free of charge.

"We also have a program that allows Guam's businesses to have access to federal contracts, outside of competitive bidding. We've even brought over several consultants here to help Guam businesses become registered as SBA concerns so that they can take advantage of federal opportunities."

Bordallo would serve a new four-year term beginning Jan. 4, 1999.

Gutierrez's attorney, Phil

Carbullido, said that after discussing the issue with the San Francisco attorneys representing the '98 team in the 9th Circuit Court case, he also advised Gutierrez and Bordallo to "proceed with a simple oath-taking."

Gutierrez . . .

Continued from page 1

and Bordallo continue to hold office "until the successors are elected and qualified."

If on the other hand, the courts ruled that the Nov. 3 election results were valid, then Gutierrez and

Speaker . . .

Continued from page 1

ing local control over immigration and minimum wage)," he said, referring to a "Dear Teno" letter from President Clinton dated Dec. 7, thanking the governor for "agreeing to work with us on the appropriate application of federal immigration and minimum wage laws to the commonwealth."

Tenorio has denied agreeing to a "federal takeover."

"I also didn't believe that he would have said that to the President. I'm sure there was a misunderstanding," the speaker said. "The administration and this Legislature remain opposed to a federal takeover, and I believe that a majority of the local people are also against it."

He reiterated that local control is the basis for the CNMI's economy, which is dependent on the free flow of alien workers who receive wages below the federal rate.

"We need the continued assis-

tance of alien workers, but at the same time we need to put in controls, which is what we have done—and we will maintain these controls," Benavente said.

And although the commonwealth and federal governments continue to disagree over the "takeover" issue, Benavente said cooperation and dialogue should continue.

The Fourth Annual Report of the Federal-CNMI Initiative on Labor, Immigration and Law Enforcement released by the Clinton administration last week acknowledges the reform efforts of the Tenorio administration.

However, according to the report, local reform efforts "have done nothing about the basic problems in the CNMI": continued dependence on foreign workers and failure to address the problems in the garment industry.

The report also reaffirmed the Clinton administration's determination to support legislation that would apply federal immigration and minimum wage laws to the CNMI after a transition period.

Lady . . .

Continued from page 2

was 'lady justice' that took Echegaray's place in the lethal injection chamber.

"It was justice for victims of heinous crimes that received the first lethal dose - intended by the law - for beasts that society will be better off without. I feel nothing but sympathy for the victim who seems to have been forgotten amidst all this.

"Apparently her claim for total justice has been denied and

she has been raped all over again."

The law, Republic Act 7659 or the Death Penalty Law, should have been allowed to come full circle before Congress reviews its merits according to Revilla.

"This stay in Echegaray's execution is ill-timed, just when the public's confidence in our law enforcers and courts is slowly being regained through recent victories against criminal elements particularly kidnapping syndicates, something like this crops up," said Revilla.

AGO . . .

Continued from page 1

her authority regarding the I&S matter to an assistant attorney general, and was cleared of any wrongdoing by the Office of the Public Auditor.

McDevitt also said that Kara's so-called "lobbying" of the bill appropriating funds for the settlement consisted merely of passing along another attorney's analysis to House Speaker Diego T. Benavente upon his request.

The former AGO lawyer also

made a pitch on the Commonwealth Constitution as it bestows power on the Senate to confirm the Governor's nominee for AG.

She, however, stressed that this power carries with it the mandate to act in a reasonable and responsible manner.

"That clearly is not the case here, as witnessed by the Senate's ill-reliance on the local press to pressure Ms. Kara to resign, and when all else failed, to take drastic, unprecedented step of calling a session . . . for the sole purpose of adopting a special report to state the obvious — that the Sen-

ate would never confirm Ms. Kara's appointment," said McDevitt.

She also said that the Senate's move to bar a passed House resolution to confirm Kara is not the will of their constituents.

"Barring a rational reason articulated by the Senate for its outrageous actions of late in Ms. Kara's case, it is highly unlikely that the Senate is carrying out the will of the Commonwealth people," she said.

McDevitt, who used to be the legal counsel of the AGO Consumer Division, will be replaced by Lucy Blanco of Rota.

Takeover . . .

Continued from page 1

the US government's stubborn claims that worker abuse continue to plague the Northern Marianas despite the labor reforms initiated by the administration of Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

The source stressed that there was no mention of the labor reform programs implemented by the present CNMI administration on the new report released by the Department of the Interior's Office of Insular Affairs.

"The Government of Guam [GovGuam] will, of course, argue why the CNMI is allowed to

have control of its own immigration and minimum wage and Guam isn't. Because of this, OIA is pursuing the federal takeover initiative," the source said.

The US House of Representatives had rejected a proposal made by Guam to grant the island commonwealth status. And in desperate attempt to redefine the territory's status, Guam Gov. Carl T. Gutierrez has embarked on a draft commonwealth status bill with the US Senate.

Guam Sen. and APIL president Carlotta Leon Guerrero earlier said the most important part of the Commonwealth Act for Guam is the section on mutual consent.

"And what we have learned

CNMI . . .

Continued from page 1

management, procurement, performance-based departmental budgets, and management controls and vulnerability analyses.

"We really need to improve the hospital's billing and collection system to avoid long-delayed accounts. That will help us with our collections."

"A major revamp in the CNMI procurement system will also save the government money for other priority needs," said Sablan.

The finance advisor also said that even within the Governor's Office, a certain department's computer is not compatible with

another department's computers.

He cited, for example, that while the boss is using a Macintosh, the secretary is using an IBM.

"We need to improve this area for efficiency," Sablan said.

What also makes the FMIP more useful is that it sets target dates to address each one of the six target areas.

The FMIP also said that tax collections and enforcement are high on the list of financial management priorities, but separate plans have already been formulated and are being implemented to address these issues.

A fully integrated business licensing, gross revenue, income and excise tax system is also cur-

Macau . . .

Continued from page 2

Macau authorities made no immediate arrests.

The man who killed Lee fired at least three shots before fleeing on a stolen motorcycle that later was recovered not far from the aquarium shop, according to a report in the Hong Kong Standard that cited a police source who was not identified by name.

The gunman appeared to be in his early 20s, the Standard reported.

Earlier Sunday, a gunman in Macau fired three shots at another

man, Ng Por, 25, as he played the popular Chinese game mahjong at a mahjong parlor, police said.

According to the Standard's report, Macau police could not immediately say whether the two shootings were connected.

Macau, a gambling and tourist spot on the tip of south China with a population of 450,000, has been hit by a spate of gangland-style shootings, arson and other attacks that last year killed at least 24 people, including several government officials.

Police say the triads, or Chinese gangs, bring in money by

Saddam . . .

Continued from page 2

of an independent country, and why have they been violating the air space of this country for eight years without a U.N. resolution permitting this." The Iraqi agency quoted him as saying.

Since the end of the air strikes last month Iraq has twice said it "almost

certainly" shot down Western aircraft but blamed them for opening fire.

Saddam said the United States was trying to placate Arab anger over its "colonialist aggression" by claiming to have acted in self-defence.

Washington and London have both denied losing any planes.

He also criticised Arab nations for delaying until January 24 a proposed summit meeting to discuss the U.S.-

British attacks on Iraq, saying the delay aimed at reducing the sense of urgency in tackling the air strikes.

"The purpose of delaying the summit... was to drown (the issue of the attacks) in a long list of issues, so it would no longer be the single issue as it would have been if the summit were held while the enemy rockets were falling on the Iraqi people," the agency quoted Saddam as saying.

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Guerrero said there is a need to retain the right to determine if commonwealth is the ultimate status that Guam should have or there would be another status "that we choose down the road."

from the CNMI experience is that if you don't have mutual consent, then, you do not have the type of relationship with the federal government that you think you have," she told Variety.

"Mutual consent is absolutely critical. And the other sections in there that I feel very strongly which have to do with is the right of Chamorros to self-determination and that's absolutely essential to indigenous people of Guam," she stressed.

Guerrero said there is a need to retain the right to determine if commonwealth is the ultimate status that Guam should have or there would be another status "that we choose down the road."

rency being developed and thus, it is not included in the FMIP.

However, the funding necessary to complete this separate project has not been identified, and possible external funding would likely be dependent upon the agreement of several U.S. flag territories to use the core system, said the FMIP.

Comprising the FMIP oversight committee are Mike Sablan (chair), the acting director of EDP, director of OPM, Public Health secretary, special assistant for Management and Budget, secretary of Finance, project implementor/leader and members of the FMIP strategic planning team.

skimming profits from casinos, but the profits — and the gangsters' take — have been shrinking as fewer people visit the gaming houses that are Macau's biggest industry.

The Standard, quoting the Chinese press in Macau, said hitmen could be hired for about 50,000 Macanese patacas (\$6,410) per killing.

The gang warfare has prompted officials in mainland China to announce they will send an elite detachment of soldiers to try to halt the violence after Macau reverts to Chinese rule in December.

Marianas Variety

Classified Ads Section

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.

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Job Vacancy Announcement

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All interested resident workers are urged to register at the Dept. of Labor & Immigration, Division of Employment Services for the jobs being advertised in which you are qualified and available. For further assistance, please call Alfred A. Pangelinan at Tel. 664-2078.

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05 COOK HELPER-Salary:\$3.05 per hour

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Contact: TASI TOURS & TRANSPORTATION INC. Tel. 235-9373(1/19)T76342

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Boxing's Jerry Quarry dies



Jerry Quarry stands in front of photographs documenting his boxing career on the wall of his brother's home in Hemet, Calif. Quarry, a popular heavyweight who fought Muhammad Ali and Floyd Patterson died Sunday, in Templeton, Calif. AP

TEMPLETON, California (AP) — Jerry Quarry, a popular heavy-weight who fought Muhammad Ali and Floyd Patterson then eventually lapsed into a punch-drunk fog, has died after being taken off life support. He was 53.

Quarry was hospitalized Dec. 28 with pneumonia, then suffered cardiac arrest while at Twin Cities Community Hospital. He died at 3:52 p.m. Sunday after family members directed doctors to remove life support, said Claude Sutherland, a longtime family friend.

"It was a family decision to take him off life support when they were told he would probably be bedridden," Sutherland said. "They're pretty distraught." Quarry, who earned \$2.1 million in purses as a top contender in the 1960s and '70s, later was living on money provided by the federal government.

By the age of 50, the pounding he had taken in the ring turned him into a confused, childlike man whose relatives had to take care of him.

"He won the last fight of his life by going home to God," Quarry's mother, Arwanda, said, according to Sutherland.

The medical name for his condition was dementia pugilistica, severe brain damage caused by repeated blows to the head.

Among the highlights of Quarry's career were two fights against Patterson, the former heavy-weight champion. Both bouts were in Quarry's hometown of Los Angeles, and the first ended in a draw and he won the second on a controversial split decision.

Quarry, a 6-foot (1.83-meter), 195-pound (88-kilo), blond who seemed to be easy to cut, earned his biggest payday, \$338,000, by fighting Ali when Ali returned from his banishment in 1970.

Early in the fight in Atlanta, the two butted heads and a gash opened above Quarry's left eye. Ali peppered the spot with jabs, spraying blood, and stopped Quarry in three rounds.

Quarry futilely pleaded with the referee not to stop it.

Ali cut Quarry again to win a rematch in seven rounds, and Joe Frazier bloodied him badly in the second of their two fights, winning in five at Madison Garden in 1974.

Quarry turned to cocaine and alcohol on the downslopes of his career, dulling his reflexes and leaving him virtually defenseless in the ring. He finished his pro career with a 53-9-4 record after having fought more than 200 bouts as an amateur.

population. However, none has kept a lower profile in this IVYBL as Congressman Heinz Hofschneider.

A longtime supporter of numerous youth activities, Con. Hofschneider had quietly assisted a great deal to get the IVYBL this far.

the 1997 SSA Co-ed champions TC Clan, to get to the championship play.

Opposing them will be Mix-A-Lot. A tough and durable team Mix-A-Lot, will be looking to get this year's championship title.

The ballgames will continue to be played at the Susupe Softball Field.

Game one will be played tonight beginning at 6:30 p.m.

Games two and three (if needed) are scheduled for Thursday Jan. 7.

ing doubt whether Pete Carroll will return for a third season. Carroll could not rely on quarterback Drew Bledsoe, receiver Terry Glenn and middle linebacker Ted Johnson, all sidelined with injuries.

After winning their first home playoff game, the Jaguars (12-5) travel to New York to play the Jets next Sunday.

It will mark coach Tom Coughlin's first meeting with his old mentor, Bill Parcells, since the Jaguars lost to the Parcells-coached Patriots in the 1996 AFC Championship game.

Each of them rushed for more than 1,000 yards this season.

New England's up-and-down season ended at 9-8 and with a rash of injuries, players are young, many of them have shown the willingness to learn, and the commitment needed to make a strong CNMI women's volleyball team," said Barcinas during an earlier interview.

SPG . . . Continued from page 28

and Beth Nepaive have all survived the first team cut.

"While many of our aspiring

Sampras to miss Australian Open

ADELAIDE (Reuters) — Dual U.S. Open champion Patrick Rafter said on Sunday world number one Pete Sampras' decision to miss this month's Australian Open might boost his chances of taking the top ranking.

Rafter, ranked fourth in the world, said his New Year's resolution was to claim the number one spot by year-end.

"I would like to think I can be number one by the end of the year, hopefully," Rafter said.

"Pete, as you know, is not coming to the Australian Open now, so it might give me a little bit more of a chance... Him missing from the Australian Open just makes it a little more promising."

Australian Open officials said on Saturday that Sampras would take a break from the game. They had been told by his agent that he was too tired to vie for the year's

first grand slam event.

The decision means Sampras, who pleaded fatigue after an exhausting end-of-season campaign to retain his top ranking, could lose it after the Australian Open, starting in Melbourne on January 18.

Rafter, who was challenging Sampras for the top spot at the end of 1998, is among the leading contenders for the crown.

But Rafter expressed surprise Sampras would pass up a chance to equal Australian Roy Emerson's record of 12 grand slam singles titles.

"He's obviously very tired, he's had a very heavy year last year and he doesn't like to play too much," said Rafter, in Adelaide for the Australian men's hardcourt tournament starting on Monday.

"We've all seen that before, so he's struggling with that."

"He's had those sort of problems for a long time, when he does play a lot of tennis he does seem to break down a bit."

Rafter, returning to competition after recuperating from a knee injury, said Sampras' absence would not lead to a change of tactics on his part for the Australian Open.

He will be striving to become the first Australian male to win the singles title at his home championship since 1976 when Mark Edmondson upset compatriot John Newcombe.

"You take one match at a time," said Rafter. "I realise I can lose to anyone at any time, so (I will) just knuckle down and hopefully get a good draw."

Rafter is scheduled to play in Adelaide and then a tournament in Sydney as warmups to the Australian Open.



Sampras pulled out of the Australian Open Friday, citing fatigue from a relentless schedule which allowed him to remain No. 1 for a record sixth straight year. AP

Marino, Elway meet again

By DAVE GOLDBERG
LIKE twins separated at birth, John Elway and Dan Marino met just once since being drafted in that great quarterback class of 1983.

Next week, they meet for the second time in four weeks.

Marino at Elway (well, Miami at Denver). That matchup was set up when Jacksonville beat New England 25-10 Sunday, sending the Dolphins, who beat Buffalo 24-17 on Saturday, to Mile High Stadium.

"We know it's going to be an uphill battle playing on the road when they have two weeks to prepare and an opportunity to

get their team healthy," said Jimmy Johnson, whose Dolphins beat the Broncos 31-21 in Miami on Dec. 21.

"That's why teams with a bye playing at home have such a high winning percentage in the playoffs. By the same token, anything can happen, and we like the opportunity to go take a few chances."

The Dolphins-Broncos game will be late next Saturday, preceded by San Francisco at Atlanta, a matchup set up by Steve Young's 25-yard touchdown pass to Terrell Owens with three seconds left that beat Green Bay 30-27.

The Jaguars will be at the New York Jets on Sunday. Then Minnesota, which finished with the NFL's best record, will host Arizona, which upset Dallas 20-7 for its first playoff victory in 51 years.

According to the early odds, only the 49ers-Falcons is expected to be close. Atlanta is favored by 3 points, the margin the oddsmakers generally provide for home field.

Minnesota is favored by 14 1/2 over the Cardinals; Denver is an 11 1/2-point favorite over Miami; and the Jets are a 7-point favorite against Jacksonville.



Swiss Christina Nigg receives a hit in her face from Canadian Katie Burton during their IBC Super featherweight World championship bout in Aarau, Switzerland, Saturday. Katie Burton gained the title due technical knock out in fifth round. AP

NBA lockout expected to end

By RICK GANO
CHICAGO (AP) — Clyde Drexler, who retired as a player after last season, expects the American National Basketball Association lockout to end with an abbreviated season to follow.

"I'm looking at a 41-game season and playoffs. The owners really wanted that. The players wanted a full season."

"I'd be very much surprised if there is not a season," said Drexler, who played in the NBA for 10 years and was voted one of

its 50 greatest players, said the players' union is solidified and won't crack. The deadline for canceling the season is Thursday.

"The players' union represents the voice of the players," he said. "I don't think there will be a (full) vote. Don't try to divide the union."

Krajicek questions ITF handling of Korda case

SYDNEY, Australia (AP) — Former Wimbledon champion Richard Krajicek has questioned the International Tennis Federation's handling of the Petr Korda drug case and says players deserve more details on the incident.

Korda is free to defend his Australian Open crown this month despite testing positive to the banned steroid Nandrolone at Wimbledon in July. Most major sports, under International Olympic Committee guidelines, ban first-time steroid offenders for two years.

The ITF has yet to toe the IOC line but has provision for a maximum one-year suspension.

The ITF opted for its minimum penalty in sentencing Korda, accepting the player's claim that he took the drug unknowingly.

The 30-year-old Czech was stripped of 199 rankings points and \$94,529 prize money he earned at Wimbledon.

Krajicek said Monday the ITF needed to fully explain its lenient stance.

"Now is the time for the players to start asking questions about what really happened," the world No. 10 said after a practice session at White City, venue for next week's Adidas International.

"It's a very sensitive issue to talk about but I don't understand it. If he tested positive maybe he must have done it but maybe there must be another side to the story."

Moss breezes to rookie award

NEW YORK (AP) — It is just like Randy Moss to run away from the competition.

The game-breaking wide receiver for the Minnesota Vikings was a landslide winner of The Associated Press' American National Football League Offensive Rookie of the Year award Sunday.

Moss, who led the NFL with 17 touchdown receptions and averaged 19 yards per catch, received 44 votes from a nationwide panel of 47 sports writers and broadcasters.

Indianapolis quarterback Peyton Manning, the top overall

pick in the 1998 draft, received two votes.

The other vote went to Jacksonville running back Fred Taylor.

Moss, who refused to be interviewed after learning he won the award, was chosen 21st in the draft.

Although he was an All-American and a dangerous receiver at little-known Marshall University, off-field problems made most NFL teams leery of selecting him.

Regardless, the Vikings did and were rewarded with an All-Pro year in which Moss made 69 receptions for 1,313 yards.

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

In loving memory of

Ambrosio Reyes Camacho

Born: December 7, 1947 Died: December 27, 1998

PREDECEASED BY:

Mother: Maria Reyes Camacho Father: Jose Rios Camacho
Brother: Francisco R. Camacho Father-in-Law: Napoleon Legaspi Poblete

SURVIVED BY:

Wife: Ma. Theresa Poblete Camacho Son: Charles Evans Poblete Camacho
Brother & Sisters-in-Law: Sister & Brother-in-Law:
Vicente & Malou Camacho, June C. Poblete,
Daniel & Maggie Camacho, Marie Ann C. Poblete
Jose Rios San Miguel, Juan Reyes Castro
Mother-in-Law: Ambrosio Angel:
Virginia Cerniaz Poblete Trishia Dianne C. Poblete

Nightly Rosary is being said at 8:00pm at the family residence in Kagman II. Viewing, last respect and funeral will be announced at a later date.

Thank you,
THE FAMILY

SPORTS



IVYBL opens in Koblerville

By Tony Celis
Variety News Staff

THE ISLANDWIDE Village Youth Basketball League (IVYBL) is set to open its youth basketball season tonight at the Koblerville basketball court.

Having postponed the league's opening twice during December, Tony Rogolofoi is now very optimistic about the success the league will have.

Opening ceremony is slated for, 4 p.m. at the Koblerville village basketball court.

After the ceremony, the first basketball games will be



Patrick Tudela

played.

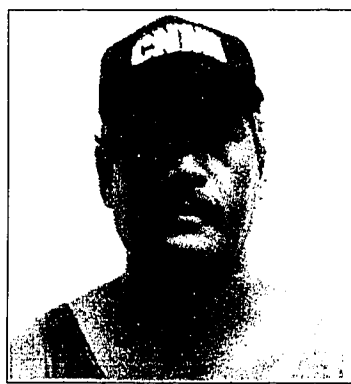
The first basketball game will feature Koblerville youths hosting the team from Capital Hill.

Other basketball games are scheduled for play throughout the island villages.

During the past couple of months many of the island's village basketball courts have undergone some renovations. Backboards have been repaired, new basketball rims and nets installed, and boundary lines painted.

The IVYBL begun months ago as only an idea of Patrick Tudela. Tudela, a Public School System (PSS) employee, perceived the need for a basketball league to cater to the island's 12-14 year old.

"I wanted to give these young



Tony Rogolofoi

boys something to keep themselves busy, especially during their school vacations. It is also a way to keep them away from the

streets and away from drugs," said Tudela in an earlier interview.

Tudela's idea was shared with Tony Rogolofoi.

Rogolofoi an employee of the Department of Community and Cultural Affairs (DCCA) was the right man to seek assistance from, as he has a great deal of experience in the sports activities of the island, both as a player and an organizer.

Rogolofoi had been busy with getting this league off the ground. Besides the repairs of the village's basketball courts, he was also busy getting other

Continued on page 26

SSA Co-ed '98 championship best-of-three starts tonight

By Tony Celis
Variety News Staff

JUST-4-FUN's Carol Ngiraidis is crossing her fingers, for tonight's first ballgame, of a best-of-three, championship series in the Saipan Softball Association (SSA) Co-ed League.

"We won two ballgames to reach the championship series. We won our first ballgame just before Christmas, and then we won the second ballgame just before New Year, so I feel pretty good going into this championship series.

"But, really this league is mostly for fun," added Ngiraidis.

It may be a surprise for many co-ed softball fans, but the two teams going into the championship series are first timers in this league.

Continued on page 26

Jaguars upset Patriots

NEW YORK (AP)—Fred Taylor ran for 162 yards and Jimmy Smith caught a momentum-shifting 37-yard touchdown pass Sunday, leading the Jacksonville Jaguars to a 25-10 victory over the New England Patriots in the American National Football League wild-card playoffs.

The game was the first of two "wild-card" playoff games Sunday, with Green Bay playing the 49ers in San Francisco in the other.

Returning from a sprained ankle he sustained five weeks ago, Jacksonville quarterback Mark Brunell never performed as expected, finishing 14-for-34 for 161 yards.

But his 37-yard scoring strike to Smith, who simply outran New England's Pro Bowl cornerback Ty Law on a sideline pattern, gave the Jags control after Patriots cut a 12-point halftime deficit to 12-10.

"It was a little difficult,"

Continued on page 26



Spanish rider Joan Roma rides his KTM through a pool of water during the second stage of the Dakar Rally between Rabat and Agadir, Morocco, Saturday. Roma leads the race. AP

SPG women's volleyball team continues practice

By Tony Celis
Variety News Staff

FIFTEEN aspiring volleyball players continue to pursue their goal of making the CNMI National Women's Volleyball team. The team is being put together for the upcoming South Pacific Games (SPG) beginning in May. The 1999 SPG will be hosted by Guam.

According to the women's volleyball team headcoach Jonas Barcinas, the players were evaluated in numerous areas of volleyball that the coach feels is desirable for a competitive team. Those areas include; ball serving, rolling and diving, blocks, spikes, and attitude. A total of 135 possible points was used to evaluate the players.

The final team cut will be made later this month.

Eun Lee, Cathy Attao, Iris Calvo, Moses Kadya, Aurora Santos, Olai Uludong, Beny Remarii, Emy Quitugua, Lani Buckis, Klans Rey, Percy Body, Hiroko Amemiya, Robin Lizama, Martha Satur,

Continued on page 26

Bowling Friday Night League team and individual standings

Team	W	L	Pct.
Mark Sharks	47.0	21.0	69.12
JG Sablan	46.0	22.0	67.65
Micro Toyota	46.0	22.0	67.65
The Onabs	39.0	29.0	57.35
Joeten Enterprises	35.0	33.0	51.47
Saipan Stevedore	34.0	34.0	50.00
Wushin Corporation	32.0	36.0	47.06
No Contest	31.0	37.0	45.59
Int'l Marketing	27.0	41.0	39.71
Ambyth Shipping	26.0	42.0	38.24
NMBA Youths	24.0	44.0	35.29
Calculators	21.0	47.0	30.88

High Scratch Games		High Scratch Series	
Team	Score	Team	Score
Mark Sharks	993	JG Sablan	2798
JG Sablan	973	Mark Sharks	2734
High Handicap Game		High Handicap Series	
Mark Sharks	1104	Mark Sharks	3067
Joeten Enterprises	1049	Joeten Enterprises	3062
High Scratch Games	(ind)	High Scratch Series	(ind)

Yasu Irinaka	268	Mark Halstead	620
Simon Manacop	242	Paul Pangelinan	610
Alex Castro Jr	235	Yasu Irinaka	600
High Handicap Game		High Handicap Series	
Yasu Irinaka	294	Yasu Irinaka	678
Simon Manacop	253	Pedro Pangelinan	651
Alex Castro Jr	247	Jack Cruz	643
Janathan Tenorio	247		

SAIPAN

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